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**TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF GENERAL COMMITTEE**

**FROM: B. ROTH, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION SERVICES**

**NOTED: P. ELLIOT-SPENCER, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**C. LADD, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: PARKS AND RECREATION ONTARIO - PLAYWORKS YOUTH FRIENDLY SILVER AWARD**

**DATE: APRIL 13, 2017**

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The purpose of this Memorandum is to apprise members of Council that the City of Barrie, Recreation Services Department was the successful recipient of the Playworks Youth Friendly Silver Award which was presented at the Parks and Recreation Ontario Conference held in Huntsville on March 30, 2017.

Recreation Services, with collaboration from other community groups including the Canadian Mental Health Association, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Youth Reach, YMCA, Youth Haven and Barrie Public Library submitted an extensive application which outlined the continued development of youth programming initiatives within the City of Barrie.

Playworks Youth Friendly defines a youth friendly community as: one that actively supports and provides opportunities for the growth and development of youth (13-19 years of age) through play. Play is described as: any non-school activity that has elements of choice, leads to satisfaction and encourages progressive learning and enjoyment. Activities can include but are not limited to: recreation, sport, leisure, arts, drama, dance, civic engagement, youth activism, volunteerism, social clubs and youth leadership.

Designation was achieved based on the successful submission surrounding 12 criteria. These areas included:

- ✓ Youth have options for play
- ✓ Youth are formally connected to the community
- ✓ Facilities are dedicated to youth play
- ✓ It is easy for youth to find information about play activities in the community
- ✓ The community supports public youth events
- ✓ The community celebrates and recognizes youth
- ✓ The community commits funding for youth play
- ✓ The community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development
- ✓ The community has effective community partnerships that support youth play
- ✓ Youth can get to the play programs that are offered
- ✓ Adults champion the cause for youth play
- ✓ Play is inclusive

Attached please find an image of the award that was presented to the City of Barrie. For more information please contact Steve Lee Young, Manager of Recreation Programs at extension 5166