



Community Celebrates Barrie's New Online Archive with Historic Mayoral Lineup

City Leaders from across the decades launch the Barrie Historical Archive digital museum

For Immediate Release September 21, 2016

Barrie, ON - On Wednesday, September 21, 2016, the Barrie Historical Archive, home to the largest digital collection of historical content related to Barrie, Ontario, Canada will open its virtual doors at approximately 8pm EST. The launch of Barrie's new online museum will take place during a historic event, the Mayors' Seat, featuring an interview panel with all the living City of Barrie Mayors since incorporation in 1959.

The first meeting of the Barrie Historical Archive took place January 13, 2016, but the idea for an archive came a year earlier. From the Facebook Group, *'If you grew up in Barrie you remember,'* it was clear there was a keen interest in the history of Barrie, and in sharing stories and personal memorabilia, but that a better platform to centralize this content was required. Out of this simple need and the belief in the existence of undiscovered artifacts from the past, the Barrie Historical Archive was born.

"I am an avid local historian, and, over the years, collected images and stories of Barrie. It has always been my dream that Barrie have its own digital online museum, and I knew the time was right," says Dr. Travis Doucette, Chair of the Barrie Historical Archive. "Our goal is to have an archive of Barrie's history that's available and accessible to everyone."

The Barrie Historical Archive online museum will open with more than 6200 images, videos, and documents – many pieces rare or never seen before, and most crowdsourced from local residents. This community project has brought citizens together – young and old – in the common purpose of capturing their city's heritage in an archive that everyone can enjoy.

"We're delivering a location-independent way to experience Barrie's past that visitors can explore whenever and wherever they are." adds Vice Chairman Deb Exel.

About the Barrie Historical Archive

The Barrie Historical Archive is a free online museum, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year from the comfort of home or phone. It is an ever-growing collection of historical content capturing Barrie's rich history in an archive where photos, videos, stories and events are promoted and celebrated.

For more information and updates visit www.barriearchive.ca , find us on Facebook/BarrieHistoricalArchive and follow @barriearchive on Twitter.

###