

# Barrie Public Art Guide

*Outdoor art in the City of Barrie*





# Mayor's Welcome

On behalf of City Council and the residents of Barrie, I welcome you to our City. The City of Barrie is a four-season destination offering year round entertainment, recreation and lifestyle.

Our City is proud of our rich history and our vibrant arts and culture scene. Our downtown arts cornerstones the MacLaren Art Centre and Five Points Theatre alongside the public art featured here highlight our commitment to enriching our community through the arts. In this Public Art Guide, we feature works in public spaces for you to explore during your visit to Barrie. These pieces are from regionally and internationally renowned Canadian artists, and are not to be missed destinations on your tour of our City.

The valuable information contained in the Public Art Guide will help make your stay enjoyable and I hope you experience all that Barrie has to offer. Make sure you visit the jewels of our City, Kempenfelt Bay and Little Lake, where you will discover Barrie's breathtaking views, walking trails, parks and marina, and our historic downtown core with its shops, top restaurants, and special events and festivals. I encourage you to visit our website at [www.barrie.ca](http://www.barrie.ca) to learn more about our community.

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## Public Art in Barrie

Public art is essential to the fabric of a healthy community and Barrie is committed to growing our collection and developing programming that appeals to residents and visitors alike. The city's parks, suburban developments and downtown core are punctuated with art and installations that offer unique markers of place. This character roots our community, fostering identity and pride in the places we work and play while stimulating economic development through tourism and infrastructure investment.

## About the Barrie Public Art Committee

The Barrie Public Art Committee's (BPAC) goal is to enhance Barrie with art, and encourage residents and visitors alike to visit public spaces. Made up of volunteers from the art and design industry, and interested community members, BPAC secures art by commissioning new works, facilitating donations, and organizing temporary installations.

**Vision:** Connecting our community through public art

**Mission Statement:** "The Barrie Public Art Committee will enhance the City of Barrie by purposefully acquiring public art that inspires and connects the community in our public spaces. We will promote art appreciation and build lasting relationships through education, integration and activation that engages the community, creates conversation and demonstrates the value of public art".  
[www.barrie.ca/publicart](http://www.barrie.ca/publicart)

For more information about public art in Barrie, please contact the Creative Economy Department at 705-739-4299 or [creative@barrie.ca](mailto:creative@barrie.ca)

As our community grows, we encourage you to envision what future growth and diversification of community spaces looks like. The City of Barrie is in the process of creating a new Official Plan, we encourage you to add your voice to the conversation at [www.buildingbarrie.ca](http://www.buildingbarrie.ca)

# WATERFRONT

*Map and Guide for outdoor art in the City of Barrie*



1. *Sea Serpent*
2. *Spirit Catcher*
3. *Stay tuned for a new public art piece in 2020*



Ron Baird, *Sea Serpent*, 1986  
Collection of the City of Barrie.  
Gift of Mr. Alexander Sellers.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016

## ***Sea Serpent*, 1986**

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Corten Steel, Kinetic, 2x8x3 metres

Located in Heritage Park

The *Sea Serpent* was the winning design of an international sculpture competition for Expo '86. Placed in the centre of the pond in the Marine Plaza in Vancouver it was meant to represent the fear that follows our dream ship. It was donated to the City of Barrie in 2016 by the Sellers family and its transportation, storage and installation were generously provided by Pratt Homes. The City of Barrie would like to thank Karen Pratt Hansen and her team for their support in bringing the *Sea Serpent* to Barrie's waterfront.

**[www.ronbairdartist.com](http://www.ronbairdartist.com), [www.pratthomes.ca](http://www.pratthomes.ca)**



Ron Baird, *Spirit Catcher*, 1986  
Collection of the MacLaren Art Centre. Gift of  
the Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation, 1987  
Photo: Joseph Hartman, 2013

## ***Spirit Catcher*, 1986**

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Corten Steel, Kinetic, 22x24 metres

Located in Spirit Catcher Park

The *Spirit Catcher* has been sited on Barrie's waterfront, at the base of Maple Street, since 1987. Ron Baird created this sculpture for Vancouver's EXPO 86, responding to the theme of transportation and communication. Influenced by the iconography of Indigenous oral traditions in the Pacific Northwest, the work references the Thunderbird. Originally installed at False Creek in Vancouver, this 20 tonne steel sculpture took over six months to produce. The sculpture is 21 metres high, and has 16 kinetic quills, 2 wings, 3 legs and a pair of antennae. After EXPO '86, the sculpture was purchased by the Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation and donated to the Barrie Gallery Project in memory of Helen McCrae Peacock and Kenneth Westrup. It is the first work in the MacLaren's Permanent Collection.

**[www.ronbairdartist.com](http://www.ronbairdartist.com), [www.maclarenart.com](http://www.maclarenart.com)**

# DOWNTOWN

*Map and Guide for outdoor art in the City of Barrie*



- 1. Dividers Made Into A Juncture*
- 2. Simcoe Country Courthouse Sculpture*
- 3. Column of Valour*
- 4. Shlosha*
- 5. Dream Chamber*
- 6. Ascension*
- 7. Soapbox*



Jennifer Davis and Jon Sasaki, *Dividers Made Into A Juncture*, 2016  
Collection of the City of Barrie.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016

## ***Dividers Made Into A Juncture*, 2016**

**Artist: Jennifer Davis & John Sasaki**

Vintage, local wrought iron fencing

Located at Downtown Branch of  
Barrie Public Library

60 Worsley St, Barrie, ON L4M 1L6

The first commissioned piece of public art under the leadership of Barrie's Public Art Committee, *Dividers Made Into A Juncture* was selected with the aim of creating an original permanent outdoor sculpture that functions as a bicycle rack. By repurposing old fences, this piece encourages civic dialogue about the nature of public and private space within the city. In the case of *Dividers Made Into A Juncture*, fence sections that once divided neighbours from one another are repurposed as a community meeting place.

**[www.jenniferdavis.ca, jonsasaki.com](http://www.jenniferdavis.ca, jonsasaki.com)**



Ron Baird, *Simcoe County Courthouse Sculpture*, 1978  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016

## ***Simcoe County Courthouse Sculpture*, 1978**

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Corten Steel, Kinetic, 3 modules approximately 6x3x1.5 metres

Located at the Simcoe County Courthouses

Corner of Mulcaster Street & MacDonald Street

Moved to present location from another on the courthouse property in 2016

**[www.ronbairdartist.com](http://www.ronbairdartist.com)**



Marlene Hilton Moore, *Column of Valour*, 1998  
Collection of the City of Barrie.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016

## ***Column of Valour*, 1998**

**Artist: Marlene Hilton Moore**

Brass, Bronze & Limestone  
Located at the corner of Mulcaster Street & Collier Street

This monument is dedicated to the memory of the Volunteer Firefighters who protected the City of Barrie from 1844 to 1998. The monument sits on the site of the original Fire Hall. The brass poles of the monument, which support the bronze dates, 1844-1998, are the original poles of the Fire Hall. The bronze Maltese Cross on the top of the limestone column is a symbol which recognizes the great courage and valour of the Fire Service and is the Firefighters' badge of honour. Stories engraved in the limestone column and an engraved symbolic ladder complete the monument.

**[www.marlenehiltonmoore.com](http://www.marlenehiltonmoore.com)**

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Kosso Eloul, *Shlosha*, 1974  
Collection of the MacLaren Art Centre.  
Gift of Beverley Zerafa and Boris Zerafa, 2001.  
Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid

## ***Shlosha*, 1974**

**Artist: Kosso Eloul**

Stainless Steel, 119.5x307.3x143.2 cm  
Located at the corner of Mulcaster St & Collier St, at the MacLaren Art Centre

*Shlosha*, a public sculpture by internationally known artist Kosso Eloul (1920–1995), refers to Jewish law and the belief that the world is sustained through three principles: truth, justice and peace. The piece is comprised of three brushed steel blocks, the resiliency of the material offset by the delicate balance of the forms. This tension is central to Eloul's vision drive to capture the precariousness of life and the search for stability.

**<http://www.kossoeloul.net/>**



## ***Dream Chamber,*** 1976, ed 1/5

**Artist: Sorel Etrog**

Bronze casting, 150x60x60 centimetres  
Located at corner of Collier and Mulcaster  
Streets, at the MacLaren Art Centre

Sorel Etrog, *Dream Chamber*, 1976  
Collection of the MacLaren Art Centre. Gift of the Artist, 1999.  
Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid

Sorel Etrog (1933-2014) is one of Canada's pre-eminent artists, a sculptor with an international reputation, renowned for his use of hinge iconography. *Dream Chamber* is one of the most significant pieces of this kind in his oeuvre. Distinctly figurative, this work is evocative of an interlocked skull. It speaks to the transformative power of imagination and a belief in human potential.

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## ***Ascension,*** 1997

**Artist: Ted Fullerton**

Located at corner of Collier and  
Mulcaster Streets, at the MacLaren  
Art Centre

Ted Fullerton, *Ascension*, 1997  
Collection of the MacLaren Art Centre. Gift of the artist, 2000.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016

The concept for *Ascension* is based on the Judeo-Christian story of Job. Pious father Job is caught in a wager between God and the Devil as they test his faith in God by removing all the protections he enjoys as a follower of God. Despite the theft and destruction of all his possessions, the death of his children and the loss of his health, Job's faith in God persists. This work sees Job's story as a metaphor for the indestructibility of nature, which endures and regenerates despite abuse at the hands of humans. The figure of Job in this cast resin sculpture was first modeled from clay and fallen tree branches. The three steel sections that make up the vertical beam refer to the three trials that confronted Job.

**[www.tedfullerton.net](http://www.tedfullerton.net), [www.maclarenartcentre.com](http://www.maclarenartcentre.com)**



Chris Hanson & Hendrika Sonnenberg, *Soapbox*, 2006  
Lease to purchase by the City of Barrie.  
Photo: Nat Caron, 2017

## ***Soapbox*, 2006**

**Artists: Chris Hanson and Hendrika Sonnenberg**

Located outside the main entrance to City Hall near the  
Circle at the Centre

Evoking an ideal central to Canadian identity, *Soapbox* was installed as part of Art in Unexpected Places, a temporary art exhibition hosted for Canada 150. Ripe for public engagement, this installation celebrates freedom of speech and encourages visitors to exercise it. Painted in the blue and green pastel tones that Minden-based Hanson & Sonnenberg are known for, this piece makes a bright addition to the downtown core.

**[www.bucketofblood.info](http://www.bucketofblood.info)**

# BARRIE SOUTH

*Map and Guide for outdoor art in the City of Barrie*



1. *Scrimmage* 2. *Wheelie* 3. *Spirit Clock*



Ron Baird, *Scrimmage*, 2016  
Collection of Barrie Minor Hockey. Gift of the artist.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016

## ***Scrimmage*, 2016**

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Located at the Barrie Molson Centre – Near the corner of Mapleview Drive and Bayview Drive

Donated by the artist to the Barrie Minor Hockey Association. This sculpture celebrates 50 years of minor hockey in Barrie and contains a time capsule.

**[www.ronbairdartist.com](http://www.ronbairdartist.com), [barrieminorhockey.net](http://barrieminorhockey.net)**



Ron Baird, *Wheelie*, 2014  
Collection of Pratt Homes.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016

## ***Wheelie*, 2014**

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Located in the Yonge Station neighbourhood – Corner of Yonge Street and Madelaine Drive

Commissioned by Pratt Homes for the Yonge Station development. This dynamic but whimsical piece is pure steam punk and very dramatic in a high wind.

**[www.ronbairdartist.com](http://www.ronbairdartist.com), [www.pratthomes.ca](http://www.pratthomes.ca)**

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Ron Baird, *Spirit Clock*, 2014  
Collection of Pratt Homes.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016

## ***Spirit Clock*, 2014**

**Artist: Ron Baird**

Located in the Yonge Station neighbourhood – Corner of Yonge Street and Madelaine Drive

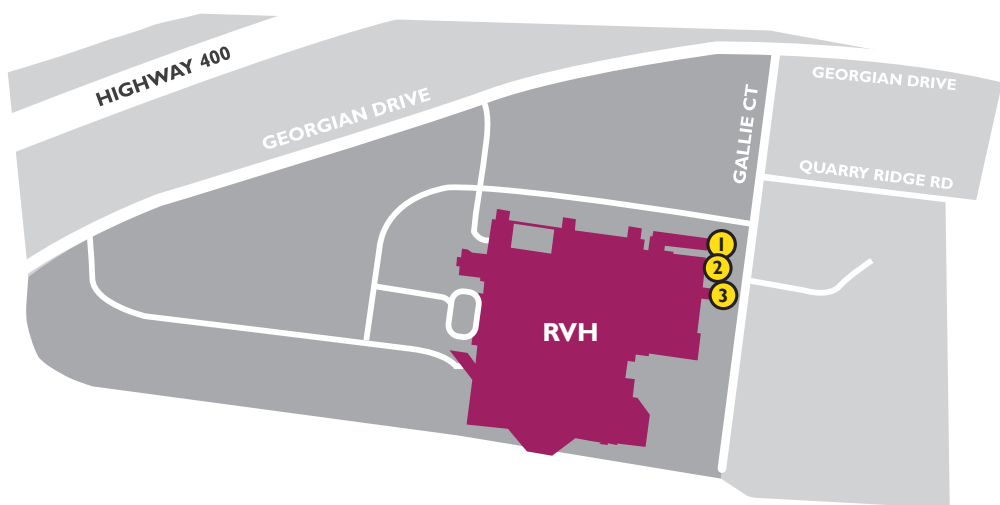
Commissioned by Pratt Homes for the Yonge Station development. This site-specific installation, located near the Barrie South GO Train Station honours Barrie's railroad history and features a functioning clock and lights and makes noise when the wind blows through it.

**[www.ronbairdartist.com](http://www.ronbairdartist.com), [www.pratthomes.ca](http://www.pratthomes.ca)**

*Art@RVH is transforming the idea of care and community through the selective acquisition and placement of contemporary fine art at RVH. The goal is to provide an enhanced and uplifting experience for patients, their families, staff and members of the community during their visiting or working hours.*

## ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL

*Map and Guide for outdoor art in the City of Barrie*



1. Aristotle's Square
2. Monarchs
3. Healing Circle



Ted Fullerton, *Aristotle's Square*  
Collection of the Royal Victoria  
Hospital.

Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016

## ***Aristotles Square, 2011***

**Artist: Ted Fullerton**

Cast resin and steel, 120x84x36  
inches

Located by main entrance to RVH  
off Gallie Court

201 Georgian Dr, Barrie, ON  
L4M 6M2

This sculpture is intended by the artist as a poetic metaphor for the four Aristotelian elements of creation—earth, water, air and fire. For many cultures the symbol/image of the square suggests birth with its balanced dimensions of the vertical (the mystical) and the horizontal (life experience). The male and female figures facing each other invoke the potential of life while their polar opposite positions suggest harmonic balance somewhat like the eastern symbols of Ying and Yang.

**[www.tedfullerton.net](http://www.tedfullerton.net)**



Derek Martin, *Monarchs*, 2015  
Collection of the Royal Victoria Hospital.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016

## ***Monarchs, 2015***

**Artist: Derek Martin**

Corten steel, 12x118x32 inches

Located in garden along RVH facing  
Gallie Court

201 Georgian Dr, Barrie, ON L4M 6M2

The artist's concept is a symbolic representation of our ability to overcome obstacles. The work is comprised of a large body or "flock" of over 500 corten steel butterflies encountering an invisible wall which is manifested by the density and proximity of the butterflies as they meet, rise and overtake the barrier. The idea of a barrier or wall is a suggestive device used in this composition to represent things and events which impede or arrest actions and ideas, while the physical surmounting of the barrier by the monarchs provides hope and inspiration.

**<https://mar-10house.com/>**



Timothy Laurin, *Healing Circle*, 2015  
Collection of the Royal Victoria Hospital.  
Photo: Mark Wanzel, 2016

## *Healing Circle*, 2015

**Artist: Timothy Laurin**

Concrete, Resin, Aluminum,  
Bronze, Dimensions variable

Located on outside patio  
adjacent to waiting area, main  
floor cancer centre

201 Georgian Dr, Barrie, ON  
L4M 6M2

In response to the health centre's smudging policy, Laurin, of Métis heritage, developed this multi-piece work in order to create a safe, regenerative space as a permanent sacred site for patients to conduct smudging ceremonies. There are two main components—a central piece that incorporates a ring of 36 flush-mounted, half-inch, bronze-filled circles in the limestone patio in the centre of which is a permanent ceremonial pedestal. The companion piece located on the nearby plinth is inspired by the idea of an inverted feather. Themes of ascension, the mystical and formal religion mingle with traditional first nation's references and the use of symbolic colour.

For more information about public art  
in Barrie, please contact the Creative  
Economy Department at:

705-739-4299 or  
[creative@barrie.ca](mailto:creative@barrie.ca),  
[barrie.ca/PublicArt](http://barrie.ca/PublicArt)

