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Dear Barrie and Innisfil residents,
As we begin 2024, I am happy to share the good news in our region with you!

I invite everyone to come out to the **FREE Family Skate** on Saturday, February 17th, 10:15AM-12:15PM, at the Gold Rink in Innisfil YMCA/Recreational Centre, 7315 Yonge Street.

Lace up your skates and join me for a great time on ice!



JOHN BRASSARD

MP | BARRIE—INNISFIL



ANDREA KHANJIN
MPP FOR BARRIE - INNISFIL



FREE Family Skate

Saturday, February 17, 2024

10:15AM - 12:15PM



FREE for all community members!



Innisfil Recreational Complex/YMCA

Gold Rink

7315 Yonge Street

Innisfil, ON

L9S 2M6



Ontario's 2024 Pre-Budget Consultations took place in Barrie

In early January, I welcomed Ontario's Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy and my Queen's Park colleagues for the 2024 Ontario Pre-Budget Consultations.

Thank you to all residents, businesses and community leaders, who attended and provided valuable insights. Our government cares and listens to your voices and concerns, and I appreciate hearing about the need to expand healthcare services, establish a regional innovation center, and upgrade job creation for our region.



Royal Victoria Hospital receives additional funding as a part of Ontario's investment in Simcoe County's pediatric health services

Aimed at boosting programs and services at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (\$392,000) and the Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe-York (\$3,690,000), the funding will be used to:

- Hire a social worker at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre to support pediatric admissions for diabetes diagnosis, eating disorders and mental health treatment and increase access to treatment.
- Hire a Child Life Specialist at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre in partnership with Regional Women and Children's Network, to help avoid unnecessary emergency department visits as well as connect families to surgical recovery and mental health supports.
- Hire and retain more staff to increase access to children's rehabilitation services, including speech-language pathology, physiotherapy and occupational therapy at the Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe-York and Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre.



Our Government's Care Close to Home: Learn More

Maple Ridge Secondary School is now open in Barrie

I was happy to attend the Grand Opening and listen to the student presentation about the new school - a place, where they belong.

It was also a joyous occasion, as I ran into a former teacher, who sparked my interest in writing and journalism.

I am very proud of our government's efforts towards opening more schools and enhancing the quality of public education in Ontario.

The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act represents an unprecedented province-wide effort to enhance our education system, build schools faster, and empower our kids for life and to provide parents with additional transparency.

Ontario's new Back to Basics Kindergarten curriculum is now focused on learning expectations in Language, Mathematics, Science and Technology, with additional consistency and daily application of such skills and knowledge in the classroom.



Ontario to Build Modern Schools Faster: Read More

Great news for the City of Barrie: announcing the One Fare Transit Program

Ontario's new #OneFare Program is launching on February 26th to save commuters an average of \$1,600 per year. If you are transferring between Barrie Transit, GO Transit and the Toronto Transit Commission, you will only pay one fare.

Our government's #OneFare Program will help Barrie residents save money and make their commute more affordable.



Ontario's One Fare Program

Saving transit riders \$1,600 a year

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OUR GOVERNMENT IS STREAMLINING THE ONE FARE PROGRAM, AND IF YOU ARE TRANSFERRING BETWEEN BARRIE TRANSIT, GO TRANSIT AND THE TTC, YOU WILL ONLY PAY ONE FARE.

THIS WILL HELP MAKE TRANSIT MORE AFFORDABLE FOR BARRIE RESIDENTS AND SAVE AN AVERAGE OF \$1,600 A YEAR.



ANDREA KHANJIN, MPP BARRIE-INNISFIL

[Ontario's One Fare Program: Learn More](#)

In the News: I was delighted to contribute a [Guest column](#) to [BarrieToday.ca](#) and to record a [Year in Review Interview](#) with [CTV Barrie](#). It was a great opportunity to express appreciation for our region's growing economy and cultural diversity, and to pledge my unwavering support for protecting Lake Simcoe. Thank you to our community media partners for bringing Barrie-Innisfil into the spotlight and giving me a chance to address the community!



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