

HISTORY OF THE BARRIE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

The Barrie Native Friendship Centre (BNFC) started in September 1987 and was incorporated in April 1988. Since its inception, BNFC has grown to serve specific community needs through programs and services ranging from recreational, education, social and cultural activities. BNFC has hosted numerous social gatherings and fundraising activities. These activities assisted in gathering support for BNFC as well as raising the consciousness of the whole community by attempting to bring people together. BNFC has existed solely on the efforts of volunteers and supporters who believe in the common vision that the Native and Non-Native communities in Barrie would benefit greatly from this multi-service Centre. BNFC is a developing Friendship Centre and is not in receipt of core funding. In spite of this, BNFC has continued to grow at a rapid pace throughout its existence. The key factor in the vision is to promote and reaffirm a strong sense of identity and self-worth through cultural awareness and education. Over the past few years, BNFC has received much encouraging support from within the Barrie community and surrounding area. Through the assistance of the OFIFC BNFC was able to purchase a building that will serve our purposes for the upcoming years.