



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE
Mayor's Office

PROCLAMATION

I, ALEX NUTTALL, Mayor of the City of BARRIE,

do hereby proclaim

October 2023

as

Rett Syndrome Awareness Month

- WHEREAS;** Rett syndrome is a rare genetic neurological disorder that occurs almost exclusively in girls and leads to severe impairments, affecting nearly every aspect of the individual's life. Rett syndrome occurs worldwide in 1 of every 10,000 female births and is even rarer in boys, but not impossible. Rett syndrome is usually recognized in children between 6-18 months of age as they begin to miss developmental milestones or lose abilities they had once gained; and
- WHEREAS;** Throughout their lives these courageous individuals will need total care and constant support from their family; they will combat many medical challenges. They may have seizures, osteoporosis, scoliosis, breath holding, hyperventilation, nutritional problems and so much more. Apraxia, which is the inability to motor plan, is one of the most challenging aspects of Rett Syndrome along with loss of speech; and
- WHEREAS;** In 1999 it was discovered that Rett Syndrome is primarily caused by a sporadic mutation in the MECP2 gene on the X chromosome, and since this discovery there are many research projects taking place across Ontario and Canada; and
- WHEREAS;** As there is no Canadian Rett Syndrome Association, the Ontario Rett Syndrome Association (O.R.S.A.) has members from many provinces across Canada and through donations and fundraising efforts have been able to fund the Canadian Rett Syndrome Registry, fund over \$678,000 in Canadian Rett syndrome research, and fund and support Rett clinics in Ontario. Currently, the Rett syndrome clinics provide direct critical support to families and their loved one regarding care and management issues; and
- THEREFORE,** I, Alex Nuttall, Mayor of the City of Barrie, do hereby proclaim the month of **October 2023** as "**Rett Syndrome Awareness Month**" in the City of Barrie.


Alex Nuttall
Mayor