

Age-Friendly Community Planning Initiative

Presentation for Committee

April 11, 2017

Summary

Background

What is an Age-Friendly Community?

What is involved?

Why get involved?

What's been done so far?

Proposed next steps

Concluding remarks

Background

Oldest members of baby boomer generation in North America and Europe turned 65 in 2011.

Ontarians are living longer, healthier lives than ever before.

Ontarians are seeking opportunities to stay active in their communities and in the economy.

One in seven people in Ontario has a disability.

As population ages, imperative for accessible communities will rise.

Individuals and organizations in communities across Ontario are working together to create age-friendly communities.

What is an Age-Friendly Community?

An age-friendly community responds to both the opportunities and challenges of an aging population by creating **PHYSICAL** and **SOCIAL** environments that support **INDEPENDENT** and **ACTIVE LIVING** and enable older people to continue **CONTRIBUTING** to all aspects of community life.

Age-Friendly Community Dimensions that have been developed from the province, consider both the physical and social dimensions that contribute to independent and active aging.



What is Involved?

The Province has developed a document entitled “Finding the Right Fit” which provides a four-step approach to encouraging the development of an Age-Friendly Community.

1. Define Local Principles
2. Assess Needs
3. Develop an Action Plan
4. Implement and Evaluate

Why Get Involved?

The median age of the population in Kirkland Lake based on Statistics Canada 2011 data is 45.6 years, compared to Ontario as a whole at 40.4 years.

In order to retain the population as it ages, it is essential to make the community as accessible as possible for the older population.

Provincial funding opportunities are available for municipalities/organizations attempting to implement their Action Plans.

What's Been Done So Far?

Town staff had applied to the Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant in 2015, but was unfortunately unsuccessful.

Town staff attended the Golden Years Expo held at Heritage North on October 15, 2016 and received great feedback from residents and several organizations who were also present.

Town staff have been participating on the Seniors Health Knowledge Network (SHKN) to stay up-to-date with new opportunities, challenges and discussions centered around municipal age-friendly community planning.

Recommendations at Council

Council is interested in having staff begin the process of promoting Kirkland Lake as an Age-Friendly Community. It is our intent to:

- Begin making contacts with various organizations throughout Kirkland Lake that focus on one, or several, of the eight Age-Friendly Community Dimensions.

- Set up a Age-Friendly Community Planning Advisory Committee to implement the “four-step approach” developed by the Ontario Seniors’ Secretariat, the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario and the University of Waterloo and McMaster University.

What we Intend to do Today?

Organize into sub-groups to tackle each of the eight dimensions.

Analyse the dimension by **Defining Local Principles** and **Assessing Needs**.

Determine what Kirkland Lake already has to offer, how can it be enhanced, what needs to be implemented, in order to improve the Dimension.

Concluding Remarks

“A society for all ages in multigenerational. It is not fragmented with youths, adults and older persons going their separate ways. Rather, it is age-inclusive, with different generations recognizing – and acting upon – their commonality if interests.”

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations

Questions?

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