



HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: C. DILLON, ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR

NOTED: A. M. LANGLOIS, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES
R. BUNN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INNOVATE BARRIE
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
AND PROJECT FINAL REPORT – UPDATE ON 2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

JUNE 18, 2018

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning the progress made in 2017 on the City's Age-Friendly Community implementation plan.

The City of Barrie developed an Age-Friendly Community (AFC) plan with assistance from a grant received from the Government of Ontario. An Age-Friendly Community (AFC) is one where policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environments are designed to support and enable older people to live in a secure environment, enjoy good health and continue to participate in their communities. The Age-Friendly Community Plan final report was supported in principle by City Council on February 27, 2017 and the City's Senior's Advisory Committee (SAC) has been supporting and monitoring progress on plan implementation.

The City's AFC plan was developed to link closely to existing work plans and strategic priorities throughout the corporation, recognizing that a significant amount of existing work conducted already aligns with or supports the goals of the AFC plan. The AFC plan implementation goals and strategies were also developed to align well or build on community priorities and stakeholder organizations strategic plans, over several years. Aligning the AFC plan goals and strategies with existing City and community stakeholder plans and priorities has helped to ensure identified goals and strategies are supported within existing work plans and budget cycles, thus helping to make the majority of the AFC goals achievable within our existing municipal framework.

The Age-Friendly Community Plan currently consists of six priority areas, 22 goals and 60 individual strategies to achieve the goals. Page two of this memo provides a summary of the 22 goals, followed by the Age-Friendly Community Plan's Implementation Plan for 2017, which is a breakdown of the goals and individual strategies that were targeted for implementation or investigation in 2017. There were 19 strategies in the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan's Implementation Plan that were targeted for 2017 and all but three of these targeted strategies were investigated or addressed in 2017.



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Age-Friendly Community Plan Long-Range Goals

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

- 1.1 Improve roads and sidewalks to increase year-round accessibility and safety
- 1.2 Continue to improve building accessibility throughout the city
- 1.3 Make the downtown and waterfront areas more amenable to the needs of seniors
- 1.4 Provide education about availability and utilization of open space options

Transportation

- 2.1 Ensure public transit routes address the needs of seniors and all users
- 2.2 Increase transportation options for seniors
- 2.3 Expand specialized transit

Housing

- 3.1 Increase the stock of affordable, accessible housing appropriate for seniors
- 3.2 Increase long-term care beds for seniors
- 3.3 Improve access to housing

Social and Recreational Opportunities

- 4.1 Increase educational options available to seniors
- 4.2 Increase employment opportunities for seniors
- 4.3 Promote intergenerational programming
- 4.4 Leverage technology as a lifestyle enabler

Health

- 5.1 Develop a patient-driven integrated social, health and safety plan
- 5.2 Increase home health care supports and provide caregiver respite
- 5.3 Increase support for seniors with dementia and mental health issues
- 5.4 Establish a specialized geriatric clinic

Community Life

- 6.1 Increase the level of involvement of seniors in all aspects of community life
- 6.2 Identify and engage isolated and vulnerable seniors, diverse groups and marginalized populations
- 6.3 Provide financial support and assistance for seniors in need
- 6.4 Increase knowledge, awareness and uptake of available services and activities



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Age-Friendly Community Plan Implementation Plan – 2017 Implementation

This section describes the strategies, proposed accountabilities and proposed time frames for achieving the AFC goals. The template is a preliminary draft that will be reviewed and adjusted, expanded, edited and refined as AFC implementation proceeds in consultation with the Seniors Advisory Committee, staff, and community stakeholders.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

1.1 Improve roads and sidewalks to increase year-round accessibility and safety

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
1.1.2	Review in-town speed limits	City of Barrie	2017	Traffic & Parking Services staff review speeds for roadways listed as having speeds over 50 km/hr and transition roadways from 50 – 80 km/hr. In Town Speed Limits (urban areas) are 50 km/hr unless posted otherwise and rural areas are 80 km/hr. City of Barrie policy requires roadways in front of elementary schools and community safety zones to be 40 km/hr.



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Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
1.1.3	Review sidewalk crossing times	City of Barrie	2017	City crosswalks are reviewed regularly and calculation changes are made for areas like schools, senior centers where it is anticipated that a significant number of community members will be using the crosswalk at a slower pace. The City of Barrie uses 1.1 meters per second walking speed at most locations and 0.9 meters per second walking speed at areas where it has been indicated that a slower walking speed is needed.

1.2 Continue to improve building accessibility throughout the city

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
1.2.2	Review and mitigate ambient noise levels in buildings	Local businesses	2017	No action was taken on this item in 2017. This item/strategy is being reviewed and may be revised or deferred.

1.4 Provide education about availability and utilization of open space options

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
1.4.2	Provide education on bike, pedestrian, care and e-bike/scooter etiquette, and 'share the road' issues between drivers, cyclists and pedestrians	City of Barrie ATB Committee Barrie Police Services	2017-2018	The Seniors Advisory Committee met with representatives from By-law Services and Barrie Police Services to learn more about issues facing individuals using mobility devices on City of Barrie streets. The SAC is open to collaborating with community members and other advisory committees working to bring greater awareness of these issues to the community.



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Transportation

2.2 Increase transportation options for seniors

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
2.2.1	Explore cost reduction strategies for seniors using taxi services	City of Barrie Taxi companies	2017	Legislative and Court Services, initiated a pilot program looking at Driver for Hire, Rideshare & Taxicab services in Barrie to address the responses to the Age-Friendly Community Plan, which identified that more affordable taxis are required within the community. By removing the City's involvement in the establishment of the rates for these services will allow the law of supply and demand to operate. City staff are monitoring the pilot as the taxi industry are able to set its own rates, which could include discounts for seniors and/or price surging.

2.3 Expand specialized transit

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
2.3.1	Increase awareness and utilization of existing services	Barrie Transit MVT	2017	Barrie Transit has added and improved public information and they are continuing to do so by meeting with and working with community groups such as the CNIB and seniors residences, in order to ensure that community needs are met as practicable.



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Housing

3.1 Increase the stock of affordable, accessible housing appropriate for seniors

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
3.1.2	Provide home repair and maintenance supports	Volunteers High schools Neighbourhood Associations Local businesses	2017	Staff is working with community stakeholders to compile listing of age-friendly service providers within Barrie. Information will be made available through Service Barrie and other community resources.
3.1.3	Provide information on seniors' property tax deferrals, subsidies and other housing cost-relief initiatives	City of Barrie County of Simcoe	2017	Property tax deferral programs are available in Barrie and through the County. Information is currently available on both the City and Simcoe County website.

3.3 Improve access to housing

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
3.3.2	Create a housing registry for shared space for seniors	CARP City of Barrie County of Simcoe Private housing providers	2017	This item/strategy is currently being reviewed. Meanwhile, City staff, the Seniors Advisory Committee, and all community stakeholders are continuing to work collaboratively to find innovative solutions for affordable housing issues faced by older adults within our community.



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Social and Recreational Opportunities

4.3 Promote intergenerational programming

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
4.3.2	Utilize high school volunteer credits in providing services to seniors	School Boards	2017	Community stakeholders working on age-friendly community projects with the Seniors Advisory Committee were advised in 2017 not to advocate approaching high school students to assist seniors to obtain volunteer hours. Instead, it was recommended that individuals with organized programs or projects to assist seniors within the community, work directly with high school administration staff on a case by case basis. Intergenerational volunteer opportunities and options will continue to be explored and promoted wherever practicable.



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4.4 Leverage technology as a lifestyle enabler

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
4.4.1	Provide user-friendly training for seniors in use of technology for information, health, finances and communication	Public Library Technology providers Family Health Centre Local Businesses Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit	2017-ongoing	The Simcoe Muskoka Integrated Fall Strategy (SMIFS) received funding through New Horizons for Seniors to purchase iPads to assist seniors in learning about using computer technology and social media through intergenerational opportunities. Students from local schools are partnered with seniors at a local seniors residence, so that the students can mentor the seniors in computer technology and communication (i.e. email, facebook, skype).
4.4.2	Establish sources of low cost/subsidized computers and devices for seniors	Public Library Local Businesses Private Sponsors Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit	2017	

5.3 Increase support for seniors with dementia and mental health issues

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
5.3.1	Enhance education and training for front-line responders	Alzheimer's Society CMHA Seniors and Dementia-Friendly Organizations	2017-ongoing	In 2017, Barrie Fire and Emergency Services trained 95% of its suppression staff, fire prevention officers, and most of their communications dispatchers on Alzheimer's and Dementia through training offered by Seniors Helpers. The training focused on identifying persons with dementia and how best to communicate with them through various stages of the disease. BFES staff are committed to working with the Seniors Advisory Committee to ensure that age-friendly community planning initiatives and training are supported and that BFES staff.



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Community Life

6.1 Increase the level of involvement of seniors in all aspects of community life

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
6.1.2	Establish a seniors volunteer registry and talent bank	Public Library Community Connections Private Industry Seniors Advisory Committee	2017	This item/strategy has not yet been formally established. The Seniors Advisory Committee will work with community stakeholders to explore options and opportunities.

6.2 Identify and engage isolated and vulnerable seniors, diverse groups and marginalized populations

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
6.2.1	Establish and maintain a registry of people living alone	First Responders Home Care Service Providers Alzheimer's Society Seniors Advisory Committee	2017	As the Vulnerable Persons Registry has been established and is promoted well within community by organizations and community stakeholders, this item will be reviewed to determine utility.
6.2.2	Expand outreach programs	Home Care Service Providers 55+ Centres Churches	2017-ongoing	Greater clarity is needed on the intent of this item/strategy. Seniors Advisory Committee to review, revise or remove from Action Plan.



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6.3 Provide financial support and assistance for seniors in need

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
6.3.1	Assemble and provide information to seniors on existing grants and subsidies available	City of Barrie Simcoe County Social Service Agencies	2017	While provincial grant and subsidy information for seniors is shared widely through email listservs with community organizations, seniors groups often miss this information and the grant opportunities. The Seniors Advisory Committee, community stakeholders and contacts throughout Simcoe County have been sharing this information informally through email and community networking. More formal methods of information sharing will continue to be explored to improve information sharing regarding senior's grants and subsidies.
6.3.2	Promote seniors' discounts for goods and services	Chamber of Commerce	2017	Local businesses demonstrate ongoing support of seniors within our community as well as the development of an age-friendly community.



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6.4 Increase knowledge, awareness and uptake of available services and activities

Strategies		Potential Champions/Partners	Suggested Timing	Comments/Status
6.4.1	Increase dissemination of information about seniors services through electronic and conventional media	211 – Community Connections North Simcoe Muskoka Health Line Local Media City of Barrie Public Library 55+ Centres	2017	The Seniors Advisory Committee has been working on creating and disseminating a small seniors specific resource directory that will be available in an online format as well as in a hard-copy flyer format. Previous partnerships with local media providers have necessitated the Seniors Advisory Committee to re-evaluate their approach to developing this resource directory; however, they are committed to making this resource directory available to community members as soon as practicable.