



County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26,
Midhurst, ON
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Main Line 705-726-9300
Toll Free 1-866-893-9300
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simcoe.ca

MINUTES

SUBJECT: Age-Friendly Advisory Committee

MEETING DATE: June 29, 2021 **TIME:** 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

LOCATION: Zoom

CHAIR: Jane Sinclair

ATTENDANCE:

Deputy Mayor Anita Dubeau, Council Representative
Catherine O'Connor, Hearing Care Counsellor
Christina Strong, Public Awareness Coordinator, Independent Living Services, Barrie
Carolyn Jones, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
Arfona Zwiers, Director, Social and Affordable Housing, County of Simcoe
Åsa Klint Piggott, Manager, Performance, Quality & Development, County of Simcoe
David Parks, Director, Planning, Economic Development & Transportation, County of Simcoe
Gayle Hall, Chief Librarian, County of Simcoe
Jane Sinclair, General Manager, Health & Emergency Services, County of Simcoe
Jim Gough, Seniors' Representative
Judy Contin, Executive Director, Askennonnia Senior Centre
Maggie Off, Community Recreation Coordinator, Seniors Advisory Committee, Township of Tiny
Ron Coutts, Seniors' Representative
Mayor Sandie Macdonald, Council Representative
Sharon Youell, County of Simcoe

GUESTS

Sherry Teeter, Project Lead, Reducing Senior Social Isolation, Community Connection
Kristin Pechkovsky, Senior Policy Advisor, County of Simcoe
Anna Dankewich, Planner III, County of Simcoe

REGRETS

Andrea Roylance, Matthews House Hospice
Carly Murphy, Essa Township
Cate Root, Tay Township Representative
Chris Greer, Tiny Township Senior Advisory Committee
Christy Skelly, Independent Living Services
Dawn Hipwell, Director, Procurement, Fleet & Property County of Simcoe
Greg Bishop, Director, Social and Community Housing, County of Simcoe
Heather Hollingshead, Spinal Cord Injury Ontario (SCIO)
Jamie Moran, Director, Ontario Works
Jennifer Marshall, Legislative Coordinator, County of Simcoe
Kari Warnar, Community Safety and Wellbeing, Avail Consulting
Kelley Swift Jones, County of Simcoe Museum
Kris Houston, Project Champion, Project LifeSaver
Laura Lynn Borassa, Alzheimer's Society



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Lucia Ricardo, Seniors Advisory Committee and CNIB Simcoe Muskoka
 Linda Flemington, Collingwood
 Lori Crossan, Collingwood Public Library
 Mary Warnock, Chair Seniors Advisory Committee, Tay Township
 Maria Borczyk, Matthews House Hospice
 Marie Hartman, South Georgian Bay Community Health Centre
 Marlene de Jesus, Helping Hands Orillia
 Margaret Adolphe, Chair Accessibility Committee of Collingwood
 Melissa Mei, LHINS
 Merideth Morrison, Director, Performance, Quality & Development, County of Simcoe
 Michelle Puzé, Director Seniors Services, County of Simcoe
 Nancy Esson, Right At Home Canada
 Rosslyn Junke, United Way Greater Simcoe Muskoka
 Ruth McArthur, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
 Sandra Easson Bruno, Director North Simcoe Muskoka Specialized Geriatric Services Program
 Sarah Orr-Shaw, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
 Susan Plewes, LHINS
 Tami Tarini, Independent Living Services
 Tina Christman LHINS
 Tom Johnston, Seniors for Seniors

Age-Friendly Advisory Committee presentations:



AFC Advisory
 Committee - June 25

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>All were welcomed to the meeting.</p>	
<p>2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>Agenda approved as presented.</p>	
<p>3.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES – September 15, 2020</p> <p> Age-Friendly Advisory Committee</p>	
<p>4.0 Presentation: Reducing Senior Isolation - Community Connection/211 - Sherry Teeter, Project Lead, Reducing Senior Social Isolation</p> <p>Definition of a social isolated individual - a person is socially isolated if they have few social contacts (i.e. lack of companionship and networks for support) and limited access to meaningful interactions and relationships.</p>	<p>Help promote this through the County.</p> <p>Extend an invitation to Jim Gough to the Seniors Focus</p>



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<p>Consider those with hearing loss. Seniors over the age of 55 with hearing loss may have the potential to develop dementias due to social isolation. Suggest to include CART (communication access real time translation), ASL interpreters, lip reading capability (virtual) and education for those who are communicating virtually.</p> <p>Take into consideration that seniors who are willing to participate in the survey may be limited due to physical and transportation barriers. Will reach out to non-profit organizations to connect with seniors.</p> <p>Seniors on the leadership table - Many of the board members at seniors centres are older adults themselves and it might be of value to consider adding older adults to the leadership table. Discussions are in place for representation from the senior/older adult population at the leadership table to enable them to participate and pass on their feedback. Seniors focus groups will be held prior and will then invite them to participate with the leadership group once they feel more comfortable. COVID has been a barrier for this as many may not be able to do this virtually. There are plans to make this happen in 2022.</p> <p>Note: Jim Gough would like to be involved. Currently experiencing some isolation due to living in a remote area and very dependent on Zoom to remain connected.</p> <p>Simcoe County's Social and Affordable Housing Department will be happy to help circulate this information among our Social Housing staff who work directly with Simcoe County Housing Corporation and will share among our non-profit Social Housing providers across the County of Simcoe. We have found that social isolation has been an issue with many, both seniors and non-seniors. Many mental health associations are only doing virtual visits and not doing the in-person visits. We are finding that many of our tenants require the in-person visits more so than prior to pandemic.</p> <p>Simcoe County Community Paramedics have been educated in referrals through the Community Paramedicine Program. There is a set criteria that is implemented. The County also offers campus continuum activities, adult day programs and other programs for increasing awareness, identification and to help increase reach to isolated seniors.</p> <p>Depending on capacity and funding, mental health referrals would be beneficial. Community navigators do have resources for mental health supports and will refer clients when needed. The infrastructure is already in place and the key is to expand this to reach the isolated seniors to get them connected back into the community. There will be relationship rapport ad relationship building and boundaries set.</p> <p>There is a potential to create a volunteer repository for organizations to go to for volunteers. A volunteer passport was created on the website along with a</p>	<p>Groups and Leadership Table.</p> <p>The Simcoe County Library offered to assist in distribution of Survey materials. Contact Gayle Hall.</p>



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<p>generic volunteer application. This repository would be accessible to all organizations. However, the funding was not available to keep this site.</p> <p>Currently, there is work being done on ensuring webpages are senior friendly re: contrast, fonts, interests, locations so seniors are able to intuitively and easily find something of interest to them. Activities can be difficult to find. In South Georgian Bay, we are working on a centralized activity calendar. It is housed on the South Georgian Bay Health Team website . A group is looking at where these programs are happening virtually to put on one calendar. How can we create a centralized calendar so it's a "one-stop shop".</p> <p>The Library Cooperative can help to disseminate the survey and information out across Simcoe County.</p>	
<p>5.0 Presentation: Age-Friendly County Official Plan Amendment - Kristin Pechkovsky, Senior Policy Advisor, Anna Dankewich, Planner III</p> <p>Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) approval was issued June 21, 2021 and the 20 day appeal period is ending July 12, 2021.</p> <p>The development framework tool is still to be completed. These policies outlined in this presentation will enable the County Planning Department the ability to move forward to develop the framework tool.</p> <p>It was noted to seek participation Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit when developing the framework.</p> <p>The Age-Friendly County Official Plan Amendment sets an umbrella approach to help municipalities use this as guidance to work to customize their own policies for their own areas. The municipalities meet quarterly and we will be connecting with them to help develop framework and policies. Some municipalities have already started collecting age-friendly tools, conversations have started and we will be providing more opportunities for further discussions. Regionally, the County of Simcoe does meet on a regional basis with several committees – Regional Municipality, the Development Planners and the Policy Planners across Ontario. The County will present this framework at the next quarterly meeting.</p> <p>It was suggested to consider enquiring with AMO (Association of Municipalities Ontario) to add this to next year's annual convention.</p>	
<p>6.0 What's Happening (local community initiatives) – Roundtable</p> <p>A roundtable discussion took place regarding local community initiatives. A summary of the discussions are below:</p> <p><u>Deputy Mayor Anita Dubeau, Council Representative</u> – We are looking forward to things opening up in our communities. The Health Unit is</p>	<p>Add GoQuiplt (ILS) website link to County Age-Friendly website resources webpage.</p>



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<p>working in getting everyone vaccinated. Penetanguishene will be doing a small virtual Canada Day and recognizing our Indigenous population. The Chamber of Commerce is returning to Penetanguishene. We are currently working on the Age-Friendly Plan and looking forward to sharing.</p> <p><u>Jim Gough, Seniors' Representative</u> - Have been through the transplant assessment and have passed and now on the list. Will link with Sherry Teeter to volunteer on Reducing Seniors Isolation project.</p> <p><u>Ron Coutts, Seniors' Representative</u> – Transportation is the most important thing as many clients are in rural areas and transportation is the way out of isolation.</p> <p><u>Arfona Zwiers, Director, Social and Affordable Housing, County of Simcoe</u> – Successful items over 2020 include: Affordable Housing development in Wasaga Beach opened up with 99 units and approx. two thirds targeted to older adults/seniors; Victoria Harbour Affordable Housing build opened up at the end of 2020 with 41 units completely dedicated to seniors and those with disabilities; Recent Council approval for the Orillia development to go forward for 130 units in Orillia including two thirds of those units dedicated to bachelors and one bedrooms primarily to seniors and other vulnerable populations and will open by end of 2024; Approval for a build in Bradford for a build in Bradford with approx.. 50 units with two thirds targeted to seniors which will open by end of 2023. On another note, we recently have approval for additional funding in our secondary suite program. This may be of interest to seniors where their existing house it too large for them. They will be able to get grant/forgivable loan over a period of years as long as they agree to rent the second suite out at an affordable rent, then at the end of the time period, the money is forgiven. Information is on the Simcoe.ca website under Social Housing.</p> <p><u>Åsa Klint Piggott, Manager, Performance, Quality & Development, County of Simcoe</u> – The Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant Program has received approximately 63 applications to date. The Application process closes end of day June 30th. The applications will be evaluated by the end of July and will send out approval letters thereafter. The Municipal Grant is delayed slightly and will be out by end of September this year as we are working on revising the documents. This will also give local municipalities more time to plan. The County is looking forward to continuing with the AFC Business Recognition Program in 2022.</p> <p><u>Catherine O'Connor, Hearing Care Counsellor</u> – The Canadian Hearing Society has been very busy with virtual sessions. Through Ontario Telehealth, we managed to visit 250,000 clients virtually and offer counselling. A scholarship has opened up for deaf and hard of hearing students of \$3,000. American sign language is now an official language in high school.</p>	



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<p><u>Christina Strong, Public Awareness Coordinator, Independent Living Services, Barrie</u> – Independent Living Services (ILS) supports 168 clients (seniors) in their homes with PPE and healthcare services. Accessibility resource centre remains busy. The centralized funding pool has been taxed and it has been a difficult time raising funds to help individuals pay for those devices. We have received hospital beds from Grove Park Home and were able to give those away. ILS has launched Quiplt.com (https://www.goquipit.com/) where people sell and give away any number of used devices. ILS has relaunched our own website with our new strategic plan our vision is “full life living” and the mission is “partnering for possibilities”, with values being “excellence, collaboration and respect” (https://www.ilssimcoe.ca/).</p> <p><u>Carolyn Jones, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU)</u> – The SMDHU has been focused on vaccinations and many of our staff have been redeployed. Continue to support the Independent Living Centre, dental support and long-term care review where we can. The new Orillia Recreations Centre opened January 2020 and will benefit vulnerable population and the Open House has been moved to October 2021. The Community Vet Outreach for Seniors program is ongoing and forming a committee on how to support seniors with pets who don’t have the ability.</p> <p><u>David Parks, Director, Planning, Economic Development & Transportation, County of Simcoe</u> – Route 6 of our final route of our implementation plan is now in process. This was delayed due to delays in manufacturing. This will connect the LINX from Midland, Victoria Harbour, Waubaushene, Coldwater, Warminster and Orillia with specialized services. This will connect in Orillia through Lakehead University and will connect through RVH. This begins August 3rd with free service for the first month. We are updating our transportation master plan and looking at what more additional services we can do with public and municipal input.</p> <p><u>Judy Contin, Executive Director Askennonia Senior Centre</u> – Have not yet returned to indoor services. Next week, we’ll be starting the outdoor programs with educations, social and recreational activities outdoors at Little Lake Park in Midland. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Askennonia Senior Centre has distributed 65 free tablets to seniors in North Simcoe through various grants. More grants are available for another 15 tablets. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have offered free virtual programming with no membership fees and outdoor programming last summer. We are involved in the social prescribing through the Older Adults Association of Ontario with cooperation through the Family Health Team in North Simcoe. We have another new program through New Horizons called “Reach Out and Touch Someone” with a community navigator helping to provide assistance virtually to help seniors fill in applications for grants (i.e., Age-Friendly Housing Grant Program), as well as food security, social programming, etc. This will allow people to age in place in their homes.</p>	



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<p><u>Gayle Hall, Chief Librarian, County of Simcoe</u> – As everyone knows, libraries have been closed to the public for almost the entire pandemic. The County and various libraries have been offering virtual programs depending on staff, curbside programs, etc. Most libraries are excited to reopen their doors on Monday, July 5th with limited capacity. We no longer are required to quarantine our materials. Most libraries are also going fine-free for the interim and we’re looking at this to be permanent. Our readers advisory has been extended over this time as the public has become dependent on staff to offer suggestions.</p> <p><u>Maggie Off, Recreation Department and Seniors Advisory Committee for Township of Tiny</u> – The Seniors Advisory Committee completed their local Aging Plan in 2017 and since then have been working on plan objectives. We are now using a scorecard to help us determine next steps and priorities making note of our accomplishments so far. Currently, we are planning a fall program and doing tech workshops at the Wyebridge Community Centre and a Coffee and Connect Program We have done three virtual fraud and scam workshops during Seniors Month. Completed a North Simcoe Directory of Seniors Services available in English and French on our website (https://www.tiny.ca/) and hard copies are available. We now have a column in the local Springwater Newspaper highlighting our seniors and activities . Contact us if you want to highlight any activities in your area.</p> <p><u>Mayor Sandie Macdonald, Council Representative</u> - Our message from day one has always been to be a good neighbor and we are very proud of the work that our residents are doing for one another. Our library runs programs continuously such as pen pal programs, seniors night, crafts that can be picked up and virtual classes to do the crafts. We have noticed an increase in enthusiasm in seniors when they come in to pick things up. We are looking forward to be able to connect with our seniors again.</p>	
<p>1. Adjournment: 12:30</p>	
<p>2. Next Meeting: September 21, 2021 (10:30-12:00)</p>	