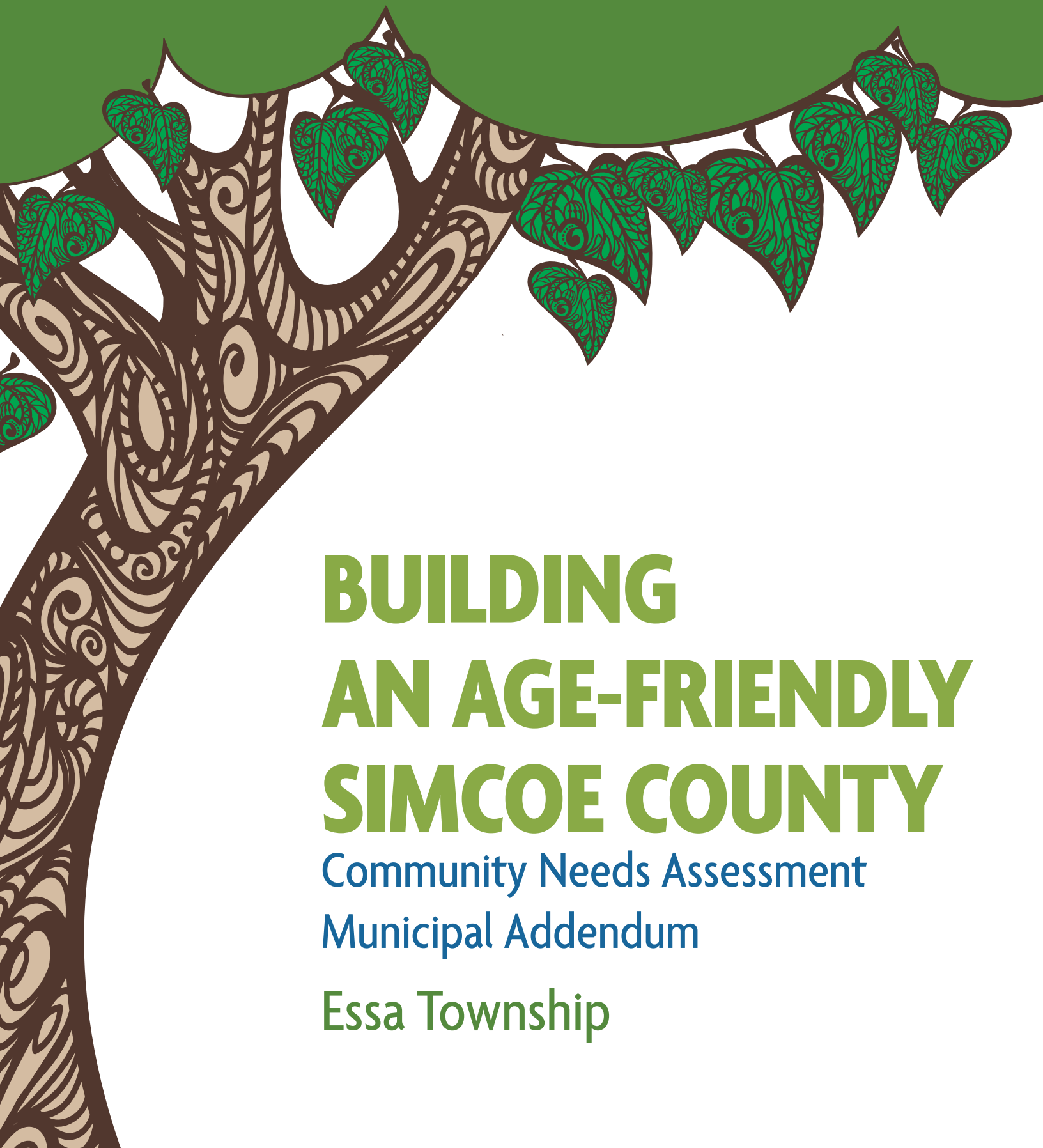




Long-Term Care  
and Seniors Services



# **BUILDING AN AGE-FRIENDLY SIMCOE COUNTY**

Community Needs Assessment  
Municipal Addendum

Essa Township

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## Municipal Profile Introduction

The Age-Friendly Community Needs Assessment: Municipal Profile Reports are Addendums to the full Age-Friendly Community Needs Assessment Detailed Report. Based on certain limitations in knowing where all respondents of surveys came from, it is highly encouraged to use both the Detailed Report along with the Municipal Profile to inform specific Age-Friendly Community strategies within your area.

### Method of Data Segmentation

These profiles provide analysis of an extract of data pulled from the responses received in the Age-Friendly Community Survey. To get specific information by area, researchers segmented the data based on answers received within Question 44 of the survey that asks, “Where do you live in Simcoe County?” Respondents who chose to answer this question were provided with a list of all municipalities and two separated cities to choose from. A total of 71% of respondents chose to answer this question, with 29% choosing not to answer.

As in the Age-Friendly Community Needs Assessment Detailed Reports, the Municipal Profiles provide analysis grouped by Age-Friendly domains. Wherever possible, additional Focus Group information is included within each domain section, along with potential recommendations.

The findings and recommendations as summarized fully in the County of Simcoe Age-Friendly Community Needs Assessment Detailed Report, along with the Municipal Profiles, will provide information for developing a

Positive Aging Strategy: Older Adults Strengthening Our Communities to be released in early summer 2025.

## Municipal Analysis: Township of Essa

Based on 2021 census data, there are 2,725 individuals aged 65+ in this municipality, which is 12% of the total population. The Age-Friendly Simcoe County 2023 Community Survey has garnered significant feedback from Essa, with 68 responses. The distribution of responses primarily concentrated within the age groups of 65-74 years and 75-84 years. Interestingly, there are responses from individuals aged 85 years and above in comparison with the 55 and above population, signaling targeted data collection and participation within this segment of the aging population. Additionally, the survey showcases diverse respondent profiles, ranging from imminent retirees to caregivers, family members, and concerned citizens, providing multifaceted perspectives on the challenges and opportunities faced by older adults in Essa.

## Findings by Domain

### Respect and Social Inclusion

This segment delves into the sense of respect and inclusion experienced by participants within their community.

Based on the gathered responses, it was found that 56% of participants acknowledged the negative impact of COVID-19 on their social lives.

Regarding feelings of respect and value in the community, 48% of respondents from Essa expressed these sentiments, while 41% regarded their local area as an ideal environment for aging adults. However, a notable portion of respondents held the view that the local environment was not suitable for aging adults.

In Essa, 38% of participants felt there were insufficient opportunities to engage in community programs, and 27% believed that community decisions did not adequately address the needs of aging adults.

Looking ahead, the top four aspirations among aging adults included enjoying hobbies and interests (66%), increased time with loved ones (53%), travelling (38%), and participating in physical and cultural activities (35%).

Notable concerns regarding the future among aging adults included declining physical health (71%), apprehensions about losing independence (46%), difficulty getting around (43%), and declining mental health (41%).

The Key Themes in Essa regarding Respect and Social Inclusion are as follows:

1. Sensitivity towards language used when addressing seniors.
2. Concerns with age-related discrimination and stereotypes.
3. Concerns about social isolation due to advanced technology.

To further enhance the well-being and quality of life for aging adults in Essa, several suggestions and information can be considered:

1. Strengthen Community Engagement Initiatives:

Develop and promote programs that encourage active participation and social connection among aging adults, fostering a sense of belonging and community support.

2. Support Mental Health and Well-being:

Invest in mental health services tailored to the needs of aging adults, including counseling, therapy, and support groups addressing issues such as loneliness, grief, anxiety, and depression. Encourage regular social engagement and activities that promote mental stimulation and emotional well-being.

3. Ensure Inclusive Decision-Making:

Involve aging adults in community decision-making processes to ensure that their voices are heard, and their needs are considered. This may involve establishing advisory councils or committees specifically focused on aging issues, consulting with seniors on policy matters, and conducting regular feedback surveys.

## Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Inquiring into the community's perceptions of frequently utilized outdoor spaces, the survey revealed notable trends in satisfaction levels among respondents. The top four areas of satisfaction include the number of parks, street maintenance, snow removal on streets, and signs on streets with satisfaction rates ranging from 61% to 71%. Conversely, dissatisfaction primarily stems from inadequate seating along sidewalks, limited washroom availability in parks, limited garbage cans along sidewalks, and available water fountains in parks with dissatisfaction rates ranging from 34% to 54%.

Transitioning to indoor spaces within the locality, respondents expressed the highest satisfaction levels regarding proper lighting, number of parking spaces and ease of opening doors with satisfaction rates ranging from 52% to 63%. Conversely, dissatisfaction arises from accessible washrooms and the number of accessible parking spaces dissatisfaction rates ranging from 15% to 19%.

To further enhance Outdoor Spaces and Buildings for aging adults in Essa, various suggestions and information can be considered:

### 1. Improving Seating and Amenities in Public Spaces:

To enhance public spaces, more benches and seating should be installed along sidewalks to offer pedestrians additional resting spots. Park washrooms should have extended hours while remaining well-maintained and accessible to all visitors. Increasing the number of garbage cans along streets and in parks will help minimize litter and promote cleanliness.

Additionally, adding more water fountains in parks will ensure visitors have convenient access to hydration.

## 2. Enhancing Accessibility:

To enhance accessibility, existing washrooms should be equipped with features such as grab bars, wide doorways, and accessible sinks to better accommodate individuals with disabilities. Additionally, increasing the number of accessible parking spaces in public areas, ensuring they are clearly marked and conveniently located near amenities, will improve accessibility for all. Public buildings and facilities should also consider automatic door openers or adjustments to door mechanisms to ensure easier entry for visitors.

## 3. Accessibility Standards Compliance:

Ensure that all new construction and renovations adhere to accessibility standards to improve overall accessibility in the community.

## Transportation

Most respondents from Essa can walk unassisted. The rest of the participants' mobility is either relied on by a walker, wheelchair, or similar assistive devices.

They are most dissatisfied with Taxi services (36%) and private transportation companies (17%). None of the respondents use public transportation and the main reason for them not using public transportation is unavailability.

Furthermore, none of the respondents have used CT link services.

The Key Themes in Essa regarding Transportation are as follows:

1. Rural residents face significant challenges in accessing transportation services, leading to dependency on personal vehicles and financial burdens
2. Gratitude for existing services like LINX
3. There is a clear demand for improved and more accessible transportation options, including County-wide services and assistance for seniors and people with disabilities
4. Desire for expansion of transportation services, particularly between Angus and Alliston
5. Express concerns about driving at night due to low vision and advocate for more transportation options for nighttime events and activities

To address the transportation challenges faced by residents of Essa, particularly those with mobility limitations, as highlighted by the survey data and qualitative insights, the following suggestions and information can be considered:

1. Enhance Taxi Services and Accessible Parking:

Collaborate with local taxi companies to improve the availability, reliability, and accessibility of taxi services. This could involve increasing the number of accessible vehicles equipped with ramps or lifts for wheelchair users. Additionally, prioritize the creation of more accessible parking spaces throughout the community to accommodate individuals with disabilities.

2. Expand Public Transportation Options:

Work with relevant stakeholders to expand public transportation services and ensure accessibility to essential services for aging residents who may no longer be able to drive. This may include increasing the frequency of current routes, extending service hours, expanding public transportation routes, implementing on-demand transit services, providing subsidized transportation options for seniors and enhancing accessibility features such as wheelchair ramps and priority seating.

3. Promote Awareness of CT Link and LINX Services:

Increase awareness of CT Link services and LINX among residents through targeted outreach campaigns and community engagement initiatives. Provide clear information about the services offered, eligibility criteria, and how to access them.

## Housing

This section inquired about respondents' present housing situations as well as their future housing intentions.

From the responses gathered from the residents of Essa regarding their housing situation, several key points emerge. A total of 60% of respondents live with someone, with 80% living with family members. This suggests a sense of familial importance and impacts on their housing needs and preferences.

A sizable proportion (65%) of respondents own their housing, indicating a high level of homeownership within the community. However, 20% of respondents require modifications to their household to continue living safely.

### Awareness of Housing Programs

Awareness of housing-related programs, such as Simcoe County's Age-Friendly Housing Grant and Seniors Village Campuses run by the County of Simcoe, is relatively low. Only 10% are aware of the Age-Friendly Housing Grant, and 12% are aware of Seniors Village Campuses. This highlights a potential opportunity for increasing awareness and access to supportive housing programs within the community.

The Key Themes in Essa regarding Housing are as follows:

1. Affordability concerns and demand for grants to assist with rent
2. Accessibility and Aging in Place
3. Limited housing options

#### 4. Desire for housing information

Based on the statistical and qualitative data gathered from residents in Essa, the following suggestions and information can be considered to enhance the quality of living for the community:

##### 1. Increase Affordable and Diverse Housing Options:

Advocate for the development of more affordable housing options, including condo bungalows and one-floor housing with yard/garden settings, to address the growing demand and improve housing affordability for seniors.

Encourage the construction of smaller, more affordable homes suitable for downsizing seniors, addressing the shortage of smaller housing options, and facilitating independent living.

##### 2. Increase Subsidized Housing:

Advocate for an increase in subsidized housing units with accessibility features, prioritizing government-run senior residences with easy access to assisted living or long-term care facilities as needed.

##### 3. Address Accessibility Needs:

Address accessibility needs proactively by providing resources for home modifications, such as ramps and assistive devices, to enable seniors to age in place comfortably and safely.

## Civil Participation and Employment

According to the survey data, most respondents from Essa fall within income brackets ranging from \$30,000 to \$39,999, \$50,000 to \$59,999, and \$60,000 to \$69,999. The income brackets of respondents reveal a diverse economic background within the community. Those earning between \$30,000 to \$39,999 and \$50,000 to \$59,999 represent a mix of working individuals and retirees with pensions or other sources of income.

Most respondents are retired (88%), indicating a significant portion of the population in Essa is in their senior years and potentially reliant on fixed incomes or retirement savings. Among the respondents who are still working, a notable percentage (60%) are doing so out of necessity. This suggests that some individuals, particularly those in lower income brackets, may be working to supplement their retirement income or meet financial obligations.

### Civil Participation and Volunteerism

A significant portion of respondents express a willingness to volunteer, indicating a strong sense of civic engagement and community spirit.

However, barriers to volunteerism exist for some respondents, including time constraints, physical limitations, lack of interest, or health issues.

These barriers may be more pronounced among retirees or individuals with caregiving responsibilities.

Qualitative data further highlights the challenges faced by some respondents in maintaining their volunteer commitments due to caregiving duties or health-related issues, suggesting that personal circumstances can impact individuals' ability to participate in civic activities.

Respondents are actively involved in volunteering, with diverse roles ranging from service organizations to food banks and churches. There is appreciation for volunteers and a desire for more opportunities, including online volunteering options and part-time work suitable for seniors.

Preferences for short-term commitments, casual employment, and concerns about volunteering with unfamiliar persons are also highlighted, suggesting the importance of providing flexible and inclusive volunteering opportunities that cater to various preferences and needs within the community.

Based on the survey data and the interconnected factors affecting respondents from Essa, the following suggestions and information can be considered to address the identified challenges and promote economic stability, workforce participation, and civic engagement within the community:

1. Active Volunteering:

Several respondents mention their current volunteering activities, including roles at service organizations headquartered in Barrie, the VON SMART exercise program, St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Unit, food banks, and churches, showcasing a diverse range of contributions to their communities.

## 2. Appreciation for Volunteers:

There is admiration and gratitude expressed towards volunteers, indicating recognition of their valuable contributions.

## 3. Desire for Online Volunteering:

Some respondents express interest in online volunteering opportunities, particularly in areas such as research for city police, highlighting a preference for flexible and remote volunteering options.

## 4. Challenges for Seniors:

One respondent mentioned facing challenges in securing part-time employment, attributing it to age discrimination, and expresses a desire for more part-time options suitable for seniors.

## 5. Preference for One-off Opportunities:

Some respondents express a preference for short-term or one-off volunteer opportunities rather than long-term commitments, along with an interest in casual employment rather than part-time work.

## 6. Reluctance to Volunteer with Strangers:

One respondent indicates reluctance to volunteer with strangers, suggesting a need for initiatives that foster community connections and familiarity among residents.

## Social Participation

Based on the provided data and qualitative insights, it's evident that socialization among respondents in Essa, is a common practice, with approximately 44% engaging in social activities daily and 35% on a weekly basis. Conversely, only a small minority, around 4%, never socialize.

Aside from 45% of respondents being happy with their current level of socializing, the top five reasons cited by participants for limited socialization are, in descending order: lack of information about events, distance, costs, health, and a lack of opportunity.

Seniors reflect on the impact of COVID-19 on their lifestyles, with some finding comfort in solitude while others express a desire for more social opportunities. There's interest in specialized cooking classes for single individuals and appreciation for the support provided by family and church communities. However, respondents also note the limited social options available and suggest improvements such as expanding recreational activities and amenities like public pools in their communities.

To further enhance Social Participation for aging adults in Essa, various suggestions and information can be considered:

1. Impact of COVID-19:

Some seniors found solace in leading a more isolated life during the COVID-19 pandemic, adapting to a quieter lifestyle.

## 2. Interest in Cooking Classes:

There is a desire among seniors, to participate in cooking classes tailored to preparing meals for one person, suggesting a need for more specialized culinary programs.

## 3. Social Support from Family and Church:

Many seniors' express gratitude for their large families, church communities, and social opportunities they provide, indicating the importance of social connections in their lives.

## 4. Limited Social Options:

Some respondents highlight a lack of social options beyond specific activities like senior exercise groups or movie screenings, emphasizing the need for more diverse recreational opportunities in their area.

## 5. Community Recreation Desires:

Seniors in Angus express enjoyment of activities like senior exercise classes and pickleball at the local arena but express a desire for additional amenities such as a public pool to enhance their recreational experiences.

## Communication and Information

The data highlights the awareness levels regarding the 211 service among respondents. While a slight majority of 74% are not aware of its ability to connect them with community and social services.

Furthermore, the data reveals that the internet is a primary source of information for residents, with 74% reporting daily usage and an additional

The Key Themes in Essa regarding Communication and Information are as follows:

1. Absence of physical local newspaper
2. Accessibility of technology and services for seniors
3. Need in-person social events
4. Supportive of zoom calls
5. Request for Community Program magazine.

To further enhance Communication and Information for aging adults in Essa, various recommendations and information can be considered:

1. Preferred Information Dissemination Channels:
  - Internet
  - Social Media
  - Mail
  - Brochures
  - Television
2. Promote Awareness of the 211 Service
3. Consider bringing back Community Program magazines

4. Expand Access to Affordable Internet Services
5. Offer Digital Literacy Training

## Community Support and Health Services

### Community Support

This section focuses on inquiries regarding the types of assistance required and the availability of such support within the community.

Improvements noticed related to local initiatives/projects in the community to support older adults over the past few years:

1. Community Paramedicine
2. Daycare programs for seniors for socialization and respite care
3. Exercise programs and park upgrade
4. Pickleball at the arena

Other Concerns noted in the survey include:

1. Need for in-home care for aging in place
2. Rehabilitation facilities
3. Community Services

To further enhance Community Support for aging adults in Essa, various recommendations and information can be considered:

1. Enhance Access to:
  - Virtual Communication Tools
  - Transportation
  - House Cleaning
  - Preparing Meals
  - Social Services

## Health Services

The Health Services section focuses on how participants feel regarding their overall health, and if they are looking for any other health service options in the community. In Essa, 72% of respondents rated their physical health as ranging from good to excellent, while 77% rated the same for their mental health.

To further enhance Health Services for aging adults in Essa, various recommendations and information can be considered:

1. Increase Awareness of Available Services:

Address the apparent lack of awareness of available services among residents by implementing awareness campaigns and outreach efforts. Utilize various communication channels, such as local media, community events, and online platforms, to inform residents about the services and resources available to them.

2. Enhance Access to Primary Healthcare:

Respond to the demand for primary healthcare services by ensuring adequate access to family doctors and walk-in clinics within the community. Collaborate with healthcare providers to expand service offerings and improve accessibility for residents in need of medical care.

## Affordability and Accessibility

In Essa, the top three Affordability issues faced are:

1. Automobile Expenses
2. Food
3. Home Repairs

In Essa, the top three Accessibility issues faced are:

1. Public Transportation
2. Home Repairs
3. Community Transportation Services

The Key Themes in Essa regarding Affordability and Accessibility are as follows:

1. Transportation Concerns:

Losing the ability to drive can lead to increased dependence on others for transportation, limiting mobility and potentially impacting access to essential services, social activities, and healthcare appointments.

2. Financial Strain on Services:

The mention of services lacking sufficient resources for proper meals highlights a broader issue of financial strain on seniors and service providers.

### 3. High Cost of Living:

The observation about the high cost of living underscores the financial challenges faced by seniors, who may strain to cover essential expenses such as housing, food, healthcare, and transportation on fixed incomes.

### 4. Need for Transportation Services:

The suggestion for a comprehensive list of transportation services for seniors indicates a recognition of the importance of accessible transportation options for seniors.

## Appendix: Survey Results

### Respect and Social Inclusion

**Question 1:** How would you rate your agreement with the following statements: Percentage of Respondents who 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree'

	%
The COVID-19 Pandemic has Negatively Affected my Social Life	56%
I Feel Respected and Valued by my Local Community	48%
My Local Area is an Ideal Place for Aging Adults to Live	41%
There are Enough Opportunities to Participate in Community Programs	32%
Decisions Made in the Community Consider the Needs of Aging Adults	32%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 2:** In thinking about your future, what are you most looking forward to?

	%
Enjoying Hobbies and Interests	66%
Increased Time with Loved Ones	53%
Traveling	38%
Physical/Cultural Activities	35%
Taking up New Hobbies	26%
Volunteering	25%
More Free Time in General	22%
Continuing Education/Workshops	15%
Sharing Life Experiences/Mentoring	13%
Self-Directed Learning	12%
Prefer Not to Say	3%
Other (please specify)	3%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 3:** In thinking about your future, what are you most worried about?

	%
Declining Physical Health	71%
Losing my Independence	46%
Difficulty Getting Around (Transportation)	43%
Declining Mental Health	41%
Aging Alone	32%
Falling/Getting Injured	32%
Financial Concerns	32%
Difficulty Getting Around (Home)	18%
No One to Take Care of Me	16%
End-of-Life Care	16%
Moving Into More Suitable Housing	12%
Death	4%
Prefer Not to Say	4%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

## Outdoor Space and Buildings

**Question 4:** Please rate your level of satisfaction with outdoor spaces in your community on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Very Dissatisfied" to 5 being "Very Satisfied"? Percentage of Respondents "Satisfied" and "Very Satisfied"

	%
Signs on Streets	71%
Snow Removal on Streets	66%
Number of Parks/Trails	65%
Maintenance of Streets	61%
Lighting on Paths/Streets	60%
Safety Walking on Streets	58%
Quality of Parks/Trails	57%
Snow Removal on Sidewalks	57%
Maintenance of Parks	56%
Number of Accessible Parking Spaces Near Parks	46%
Lighting in Parks	45%
Pedestrian Crossings	45%
Available Garbage Cans in Parks	38%
Available Seating in Parks	33%
Pet Facilities in Parks	28%
Available Garbage Cans Along Sidewalks	28%
Available Seating Along Sidewalks	19%
Washroom Availability in Parks	17%
Available and Easy to Use Water Fountains in Parks	13%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>67</b>

**Question 5:** Please rate your level of satisfaction with indoor spaces in your community on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Very Dissatisfied" to 5 being "Very Satisfied"? Percentage of Respondents "Satisfied" and "Very Satisfied"

	%
Proper Lighting	63%
Number of Parking Spaces	53%
Ease of Opening Doors	52%
Availability of Washrooms	49%
Number of Accessible Parking Spaces	43%
Availability of Elevators, Escalators, and Ramps	41%
Accessible Washrooms	40%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>65</b>

## Transportation

**Question 6:** Please describe your level of mobility.

	%
I Can Walk Unassisted	85%
I Use a Cane or Walker	15%
I Use a Wheelchair or Similar Assistive Device	7%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 7:** Please identify the factors that impact your ability to travel.

Select all that apply.

	%
Services and Stores Within Walking Distance	50%
Access to a Vehicle You Can Drive	47%
Access to Public Transit	38%
Access to a Friend/Family Who Can Drive and/or Assist	34%
Taxi Services	24%
Access to Community Transportation Services (such as Red Cross, Helping Hands Orillia, Community Reach, etc.)	17%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>58</b>

**Question 8:** Do you use Public Transportation?

	%
No	100%
Yes	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 8a:** If yes, how satisfied are you with the public transportation in your community?

	%
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	50%
Dissatisfied	50%
Very Satisfied	0%
Satisfied	0%
Very Dissatisfied	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>2</b>

**Question 8b:** If no, kindly check the applicable options.

	%
Public Transportation is Not Available in the Area	50%
I Do Not Require Public Transportation	35%
It is Not Easily Accessible	11%
Other (please specify)	5%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>66</b>

**Question 9:** Rate your level of satisfaction with the transportation services in your community on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Very Dissatisfied" to 5 being "Very Satisfied"? Percentage of Respondents "Satisfied" and "Very Satisfied"

	%
Accessible Parking Spaces	31%
Private Transportation Companies	19%
Taxi Services (Rideshare Services)	15%
Availability of Wheelchair Transportation	11%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>62</b>

**Question 10:** Have you used any new public transportation introduced in the last few years?

	%
No	94%
Yes	6%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 10a:** If yes, how would you rate your experience?

	%
Good	100%
Excellent	0%
Fair	0%
Poor	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>4</b>

**Question 11:** Have you travelled through the Simcoe County LINX transit service initiated by the County of Simcoe?

	%
No	94%
Yes	6%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 11a:** If yes, how would you rate your experience?

	%
Excellent	50%
Good	50%
Fair	0%
Poor	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>4</b>

**Question 12:** CT Link is a community transportation service that provides accessible door-to-door transportation to non-emergency medical appointments for seniors and people with disabilities. Have you used CT Link? (To book a CT Link service dial 211)

	%
No	100%
Yes	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 12a:** If yes, do you find this service useful?

	%
Yes	0%
No	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>0</b>

## Housing

### Question 13: Do you live alone?

	%
No	60%
Yes	38%
Prefer Not to Say	1%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

### Question 13a: If no, who do you live with?

	%
Family Member	80%
Shared Dwelling	10%
Prefer Not to Say	8%
Friend(s)	3%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>40</b>

### Question 14: Your home is:

	%
Owned by You	65%
Rented by You	14%
Subsidized	12%
Owned or Rented by Family	6%
Community Living	2%
Prefer Not to Say	2%
Other (please specify)	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>65</b>

**Question 15:** Does your current living situation fit your needs?

	%
Yes	93%
No	6%
Prefer Not to Say	1%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 16:** Do you require modifications (better lighting, wheelchair ramp, grab bars) to your household to continue to live there safely?

	%
No	80%
Yes	20%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>64</b>

**Question 17:** Have you used or are aware of funding support through the County of Simcoe Age-Friendly Housing Grant for accessible enhancements?

	%
No	90%
Yes	10%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>67</b>

**Question 18:** Are you aware of the senior village campuses run by the County of Simcoe?

	<b>%</b>
No	88%
Yes	12%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

## Civil Participation and Employment

**Question 19:** Are you retired?

	%
Yes	88%
No	10%
Prefer Not to Say	1%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 19a:** If no, have you planned for your retirement?

	%
Yes	57%
No	29%
Prefer Not to Say	14%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>14</b>

**Question 20:** Are you currently employed?

	%
No	80%
Yes	17%
Prefer Not to Say	3%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>65</b>

**Question 20a:** If yes, how many employers are you currently working for?

	%
One	82%
Multiple	18%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>11</b>

**Question 20b:** If yes, what is the reason for your employment?

	%
Out of Necessity	60%
By Choice	40%
Prefer Not to Say	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>10</b>

**Question 21:** Are you looking for volunteer opportunities within the community?

	%
No	69%
Yes	31%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>64</b>

**Question 21a:** If yes, do you know where to find the information on how to volunteer?

	%
No Refer to Appendix A for Information	67%
Yes	33%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>21</b>

**Question 21b:** If no, what barriers are preventing you from volunteering?

Select all that apply.

	%
Health Issues	30%
I Don't Want to Volunteer	30%
I Don't Have Time to Volunteer	27%
Physical Limitations	23%
Unaware of Opportunities	16%
Transportation	14%
Limited Options	13%
Criminal Reference Check	5%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>56</b>

**Question 22:** On average, how many hours a week would you consider volunteering?

	%
1 - 5 Hours	41%
I Do Not Want to Volunteer	28%
I Prefer Not to Say	14%
6 - 10 Hours	10%
11 - 15 Hours	5%
16 - 20 Hours	2%
21+ Hours	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>58</b>

## Social Participation

**Question 23:** How often do you socialize with family, friends and others?

	%
Daily	44%
Weekly	35%
Monthly	9%
Once in a Few Months	7%
Never	4%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 24:** If you would like to socialize more, what prevents you from doing so?

	%
I'm Happy with my Level of Socializing	45%
Lack of Information About Events	25%
Distance	23%
Costs	22%
Health	16%
Mobility Issues	14%
Lack of Opportunity	14%
Lack of Transportation	13%
Event Scheduling	5%
Other (please specify)	3%
Safety Concerns	2%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>64</b>

## Communication and Information

**Question 25:** How informed do you feel about the local area?

	%
Very Informed	24%
Slightly Informed	55%
Not Informed	16%
Not Interested in Being Informed	3%
Prefer Not to Say	1%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>67</b>

**Question 26:** How do you learn about what is going on in your local area?

Select all that apply.

	%
Word of Mouth	60%
Internet	57%
Friends/Family	50%
Community/Bulletin Boards	29%
Television	28%
Radio	16%
Newspaper	12%
Mail	12%
Social Media	9%
Brochures	6%
Does Not Apply	0%
Other (please specify)	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 27:** Are you aware that dialing 2-1-1 will connect you to finding the right community and social services in your area?

	%
No	74%
Yes	26%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 28:** Would you like to be more informed about the local area?

	%
Yes	84%
No	16%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 28a:** If yes, how would you like to be informed? Select all that apply.

	%
Internet	59%
Social Media	54%
Mail	41%
Television	31%
Brochures	31%
Friends/Family	30%
Newspaper	26%
Bulletin Boards	24%
Radio	20%
Other (please specify)	4%
Does Not Apply	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>54</b>

**Question 29:** How often do you use the internet?

	%
Daily	74%
Does Not Apply	14%
2 - 4 Times a Week	3%
Less Than Once a Week	3%
Less Than Once a Month	3%
About Once a Week	2%
Prefer Not to Say	2%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>66</b>

**Question 30:** Since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, have you noticed an increase in your use of virtual communication tools (e.g., video calls, emails, telehealth).

	%
Yes	55%
No	33%
Not Sure	12%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>67</b>

## Community Support and Health Services

**Question 31:** How would you describe your physical health?

	%
Very Good	35%
Good	34%
Fair	21%
Poor	6%
Excellent	3%
Prefer Not to Say	1%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 32:** How would you describe your mental health and wellness?

	%
Very Good	34%
Good	31%
Fair	19%
Excellent	12%
Poor	3%
Prefer Not to Say	1%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 33:** Do you have a Family Doctor/Nurse Practitioner?

	%
Yes, Within the County of Simcoe	90%
Yes, Outside the County of Simcoe	7%
No	3%
I Don't Know	0%
Prefer Not to Say	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 34:** What services are you currently looking for? Select all that apply.

	%
Do Not Require	55%
Family Doctor	16%
Other (please specify)	13%
Urgent Care Clinic	9%
Prefer Not to Say	7%
Nurse Practitioner	5%
Counsellor	5%
Walk-in Clinic	5%
Personal Support Worker	4%
Other Health Professional	2%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>56</b>

**Question 35:** If virtual appointments were available in your home, would you consider using it?

	%
Yes	66%
No	34%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>65</b>

**Question 36:** What factors would encourage you to participate in virtual (video) appointments? Select all that apply.

	%
Eliminate Time in Waiting Rooms	55%
Overall Convenience	53%
Reduce the Risk of Exposure to Infection and Viruses	45%
Timesaving	45%
Ease of Access	41%
User-Friendly	28%
None of the Above	25%
Lack of Transportation	19%
Difficulty with Mobility	11%
Other (please specify)	8%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>64</b>

**Question 37:** What factors would prevent you from participating in virtual (video) appointments? Select all that apply.

	%
Lack of Personal Interaction	33%
Difficulty Understanding or Using Technology	30%
None of the Above	29%
Technical Issues (e.g., internet connectivity, device problems)	29%
Data Privacy Concerns	25%
Lack of Trust in Virtual Healthcare (quality of virtual assessment)	16%
Online Payment	13%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>63</b>

**Question 38:** Are you able to access the help you need for the services mentioned below?

	Yes	No	N/A
Income Tax Preparation	62%	11%	28%
Banking	59%	12%	29%
Collecting Mail or Parcels	59%	9%	32%
Grocery Shopping	58%	6%	36%
Accessing Health Services	57%	12%	31%
Filling out Forms	56%	6%	38%
Picking up Medicine from the Pharmacy	55%	13%	33%
Taking Medication	55%	12%	32%
Garbage Removal	55%	11%	35%
Yard Care	48%	12%	39%
Delivery Service	47%	13%	41%
Affording Enough Food	46%	14%	40%
Preparing Meals	44%	17%	39%
Accessing Social Services	44%	18%	39%
House Cleaning	44%	17%	39%
Accessing Virtual Communication Tools	42%	23%	34%
Transportation	41%	23%	36%
Pet Care	33%	13%	55%
Language Interpretation/Translation Services	15%	10%	75%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>67</b>		

**Question 39:** Have you noticed any improvements related to local initiatives/projects in your community to support older adults over the past few years?

	<b>%</b>
No	51%
Not Sure	31%
Yes	18%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

## Affordability and Accessibility

**Question 40:** Are you experiencing any challenges with affording the following services? Select all that apply.

	%
Automobile Expenses (car repairs, gasoline, insurance)	73%
Food	68%
Home Repairs	58%
Housing Costs (mortgage/rent, insurance/utilities)	53%
Activity Memberships (exercise/fitness class)	20%
Community Transportation Services (transportation service companies for non-urgent medical appointments, including dialysis, chemotherapy and regular check-ups)	18%
Public Transportation	18%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>40</b>

**Question 40a:** Are you experiencing any challenges with accessing the following services? Select all that apply.

	%
Public Transportation	60%
Home Repairs	40%
Community Transportation Services (transportation service companies for non-urgent medical appointments, including dialysis, chemotherapy and regular check-ups)	28%
Housing Costs (mortgage/rent, insurance/utilities)	24%
Activity Memberships (exercise/fitness class)	24%
Automobile Expenses (car repairs, gasoline, insurance)	20%
Food	8%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>25</b>

## Overall Satisfaction

**Question 41:** Considering all the age-friendly aspects we have discussed; how would you rate your overall satisfaction with living in Simcoe County?

	%
Satisfied	52%
Very Satisfied	26%
Neither	18%
Dissatisfied	3%
Very Dissatisfied	2%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>66</b>

## Demographic Information

**Question 42:** What is your preferred gender identity?

	%
Female	84%
Male	16%
Prefer Not to Say	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 43:** What is your age?

	%
65 - 74	49%
75 - 84	26%
56 - 64	10%
85 or Above	7%
55 or Under	6%
Prefer Not to Say	1%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 44:** Where do you live in the County of Simcoe?

All respondents are residents of the Township of Essa.

**Question 45:** What is your marital status?

	<b>%</b>
Married or Domestic Partnership	50%
Widowed	26%
Divorced	17%
Separated	5%
Single-Never Married	3%
Prefer Not to Say	0%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>66</b>

**Question 46:** What is your current total annual household / family income?

	<b>%</b>
Less than \$10,000	3%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	3%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	9%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	12%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	9%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	12%
\$60,000 - \$69,999	9%
\$70,000 - \$79,999	3%
\$80,000 - \$89,999	0%
\$90,000 - \$99,999	0%
\$100,000 +	3%
Prefer Not to Say	38%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>68</b>

**Question 47: Do you live in?**

	<b>%</b>
Rural Community	50%
Urban Community	38%
Prefer Not to Say	12%
<b>Total (n)</b>	<b>66</b>