



Long-Term Care
and Seniors Services

2025-2030 Age-Friendly Planning Framework



**SIMCOE COUNTY
POSITIVE AGING STRATEGY:**
Older Adults Strengthening Our Communities

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Glossary of Abbreviations

AFC	- Age-friendly Community
LTAH	- Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy
SCHC	- Simcoe County Housing Corporation
CMHC	- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
AMO	- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
LIP	- Local Immigration Plan
HES	- Health and Emergency Services
LTCSS	- Long-Term Care and Seniors Services
S.A.L.T	- Seniors and Law Enforcement Together
EDO	- Economic Development Office
HR	- Human Resources
WHO	- World Health Organization
AF	- Age-Friendly

Land Acknowledgment

The County of Simcoe acknowledges that the land on which we gather today is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek Nation, which includes the Ojibwe, Odawa , and Pottawatomi Nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy.

We also recognize the Huron-Wendat, who occupied these lands prior to the middle of the 17th century.

We embrace the enduring presence and partnership of the Indigenous Peoples of this region including the Chippewa Tri – Council First Nations, comprised of the Beausoleil First Nation, the Chippewa's of Rama, and the Georgina Island First Nation.

We would also like to recognize the diverse Métis and Inuit communities within our region.

The County of Simcoe is dedicated to honouring our Indigenous history and culture and is committed to coming together to learn, heal, and create future prosperity, respect and understanding in all of our communities.



Age-Friendly Communities

An Age-friendly Community (AFC) is a place that encourages “active aging” by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. In 2007, the World Health Organization (WHO) conducted a comprehensive study of older adults that identified eight (8) key dimensions that are both important and central to creating an Age-friendly Community.

These include:

- Communication and Information
- Transportation
- Housing
- Community Support and Health Services
- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion

Therefore, with this research and an improved understanding of what’s important to older adults, including the eight (8) principles of AFC, there are essential components in the creation of an aging strategy. The County recognizes the wide range of resources and capacities among older people, and wants to anticipate and respond to the needs and preferences of its aging population.

Key Steps for Your Age-Friendly Journey

1. Engage and Understand

Listening to and engaging stakeholders including older people to understand their needs and preferences and the existing barriers and opportunities for healthy and active aging is key to ensuring efforts to become more age-friendly respond to local priorities.

2. Plan

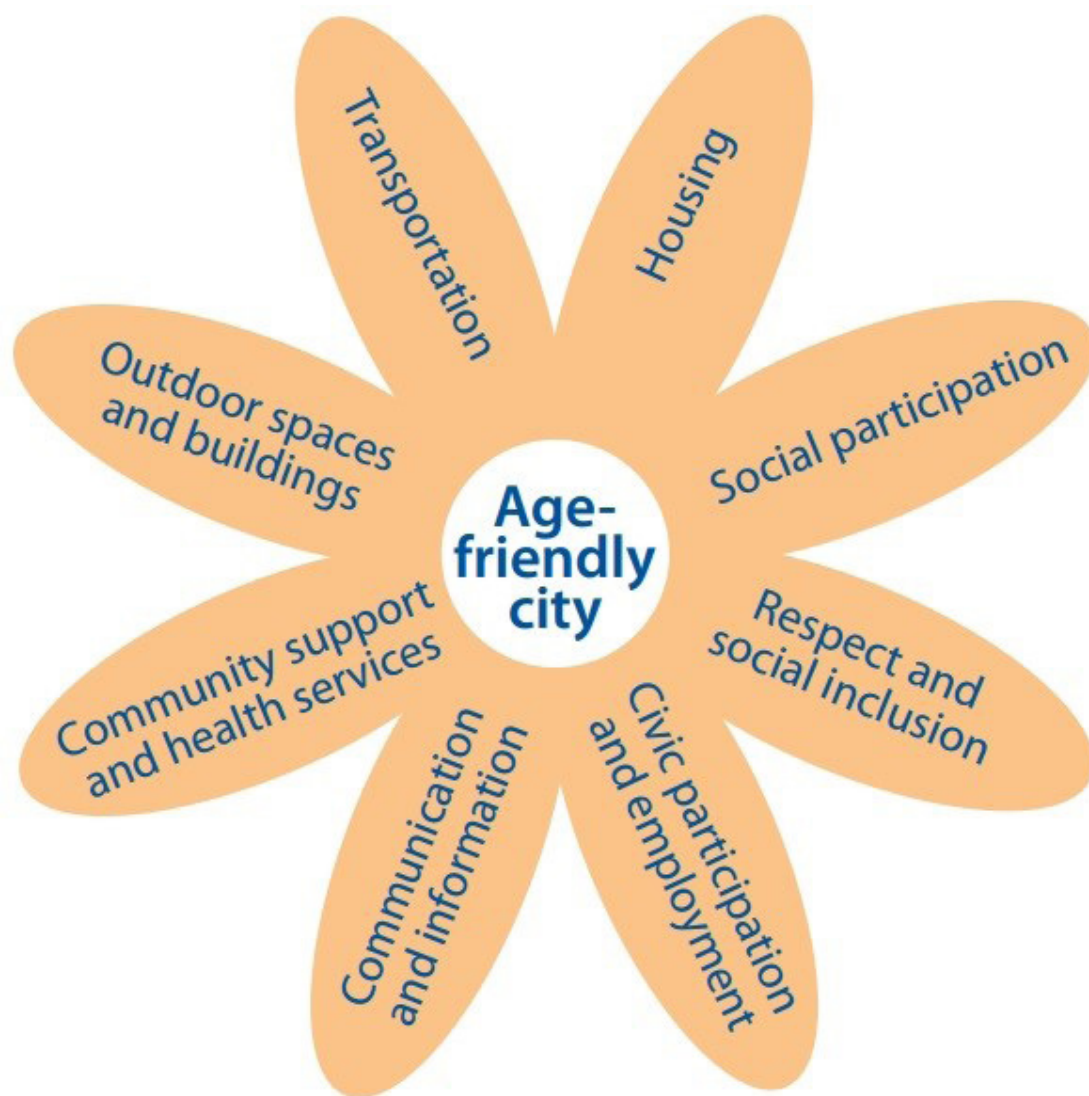
Planning strategically enables all stakeholders to develop a shared vision, to determine the priorities for action and to plan and resource how the city or community will achieve the age-friendly outcomes they seek.

3. Act

Implementing the Action plan is at the heart of creating an age-friendly city or community. Even small steps can go a long way. The Guide to creating Age-Friendly cities and the AFEE Handbook list many possible actions.

4. Measure

Collecting evidence on both the progress of implementing the age-friendly approach as well as its impact on people lives is crucial to the success and sustainability of a city or communities’ efforts to become increasingly age-friendly. Monitoring and evaluating progress will help to identify successes (which must be celebrated) and challenges, provide results that can be communicated to local stakeholders, and serve as the basis for defining priorities for future improvements.



Source: WHO (2007) Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide, page 9

According to Margaret Neal et alⁱⁱⁱ, Age-friendly communities are “economic engines” and older adults can provide fuel. If we are going to get anywhere building lifelong communities that work for everyone, we must be able to show that older people, far from being the economic drain they are sometimes painted to be, are actually an economic boon and valued members of our community.

In her report, she explains that older adults are consumers who may have more disposable income. Older adults often work whether they stay in traditional paid work, start second careers or contribute as volunteers and mentors. Their contribution provides a boost to local work forces that is often needed. Older adults are twice as likely as Millennials to start new businesses which also helps grow local economies. They often provide support to their extended family and may use fewer local services. Finally, they help communities maximize resources by utilizing services at different times than office workers or young families, equalizing service flow for businesses.

Introduction

Simcoe County is a rapidly growing municipality, investing in innovative strategies to foster positive aging and creating more sustainable and healthy communities.

As a municipality, the County of Simcoe is well positioned to understand and address the increasing needs of its older adults beyond legislative responsibilities.

Following a comprehensive engagement study of older adults in 2016/2017, the County of Simcoe established its first Seniors Strategy entitled “Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy: Older Adults Strengthening our Communities.” This strategy contained a planning framework based on the World Health Organization (WHO) guide, that included 141 individual action items to create a more Age-Friendly region.

The County’s annual strategic planning process ensures it is continually providing leadership through its programs and services to align with communities’ needs, including supporting vulnerable populations.

Subsequent to the release of the Building an Age-Friendly Simcoe County - 2016 Community Needs Assessment, in the summer of 2017, this paper entitled the Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy is a document that focuses on the recommendations and actions that were identified in the assessment report and are within the County of Simcoe’s municipal authority to plan, manage and deliver.

In 2023, County staff reintroduced the Community Needs Assessment Survey. The insights gathered from this survey were crucial in shaping the 2025-2030 Age-Friendly Positive Aging Strategy.

This document builds on the information garnered from the Initial assessment report and is a corporate-wide strategy developed in collaboration with all the departments at the County of Simcoe.



Our Vision

Let's build an Age-friendly Simcoe County together by valuing and supporting older adults in our communities and, at the same time, celebrating diversity, refuting ageism and reducing inequities by recognizing their contributions to our region.



Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy

Over the next 12 years, our older adult population will more than double. It is, therefore, imperative that the County and partner municipalities continue to respond to this demographic shift. This is vital to sustaining a safe and positive place for older adults to feel respected and valued in Simcoe County. The Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy comprised of the Planning Framework will assist this region in planning for its aging population.

On May 30, 2025, the County of Simcoe was formally approved by the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Communities and Cities. A public profile page has been created on the WHO website, and will showcase the work of this strategy at simcoe.ca/age-friendly.

Strategic Alignment with Others

Building Age-friendly Communities with multi-level governance is paramount.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Worldwide, WHO regards active aging as a lifelong process shaped by several factors that, alone and acting together, favour health, participation and security in older adult life. By working with groups in 33 cities around the world, WHO asked older people to describe the advantages and barriers they experience. The results from the focus groups led to the development of a Guide to engage cities to become more age-friendly and, in practical terms, defined an age-friendly community as one that adapts its policies, structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people with

varying needs and capacities. In addition to the Guide, the WHO created a Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities. The checklist evaluates age-friendliness eight (8) dimensions: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Transportation; Housing; Social Participation; Respect and Social Inclusion; Civic Participation and Employment; Communication and Information; Community Support and Health Services.

Canada

On the federal level, the Public Health Agency of Canada is a key partner in the WHO Age-friendly Cities and Communities Initiative and provides a number of resources to help engage older adults and their communities. This work is further augmented through the National Seniors Strategy that claims that age-friendly design of our communities and physical settings is an important component in creating a healthy aging environment and has developed four (4) pillars that support our older Canadians, ensuring they:

1. Remain independent and engaged within the community
2. Lead healthy and active lives
3. Have access to person-centered, high-quality, integrated care close to home
4. That their informal caregivers such as family and friends are acknowledged and supported. (Alliance of a National Seniors Strategy 2016)^{xx}

20%
of seniors live in social isolation

Ontario

Provincially, in 2017, the Government of Ontario established Canada's first stand-alone Ministry of Senior Affairs (MSA). In 2018, the Ministry expanded to the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility. The MSA's Action Plan, called *Aging with Confidence, Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors*, is committed to promoting the development of Age-friendly communities and programs.^{xxi}

County of Simcoe

In 2016, after receiving funding from the Government of Ontario as part of its Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant Program, a comprehensive needs assessment was conducted including 3,048 survey responses, 16 categorized community focus groups and 12 key informant interviews with service providers, francophone, aboriginal groups, and older adults who were less likely to participate and at risk of isolation.

This served to establish a baseline assessment of Simcoe County's Age-Friendliness to determine the priorities for actions according to scope of community responsibility, the cost and benefits, and the potential for engaging seniors and aligning with partners in the public and private sector.

Our research was enhanced by following the Finding the Right Fit: Age-Friendly Community Planning Guide issued by the government of Ontario, which is based on the WHO eight

(8) dimensions central to creating an age- friendly community. As well, community public consultations that engaged a broad cross section of 120 participants were held and the results were included in the Building an Age-friendly Simcoe County 2016 Needs Assessment Report released in the summer of 2017.

In 2023, County staff reintroduced the Community Needs Survey, gathering 2,587 responses. Additionally, 10 focus groups were conducted with a total of 48 participants. This effort resulted in the creation of an Executive Summary Report unity Needs Assessment Detailed Report, and 18 Municipal Profiles, alongside the 2025-2030 Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy.

Detailed reports can be found at <https://simcoe.ca/residents/seniors/age-friendly-communities/>

Development of a Principle-based Age-friendly Strategy in Simcoe County

1. Access

When planning, reviewing, and delivering services, the County will endeavor to ensure that older adults, their families and caregivers can access the services and supports they need in an efficient and timely way.

2. Equity

Simcoe County recognizes diversity and wants to ensure that older adults from different ethno-cultural groups are acknowledged, but also those from our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and queer (LGBTQ) communities and those whose abilities are limited,

and those requiring special needs.

3. Choice

We acknowledge that older adults should be supported even if they make informed decisions that allow them to live at risk. Therefore, when planning, reviewing and delivering services to them, we want to ensure older adults, their families, and their caregivers have as many choices as is possible, and they are supported and empowered with information to make informed choices.

4. Value

We want to ensure that spending County tax dollars is done in the most effective and efficient way to help ensure sustainability of our programs, and services when delivering services.

5. Quality

We will ensure quality is central to the work at hand.

Policy and Advocacy Role

According to the WHO, traditionally, old age has been associated with retirement, illness and dependency. Policies and programs that are stuck in this outdated paradigm do not reflect reality. In many developing countries, people over age 60 continue to participate in the work force. (*World Health Organization Active Ageing*)

As a regional-level government, the County plays a strong role in setting effective policy

15.7%
of the senior population are immigrants

and advocating on behalf of its citizens, including older people. A policy and advocacy role requires establishing collaboration and partnerships and building a reputation as one of the principal actors in a regional dialogue. The diversity of issues facing older adults in our communities requires that an age-friendly lens be used to guide policies, practices and program to ensure that limited resources are being used as efficiently as possible. This means staying connected to current issues and model practices, as well as methodical data collection and analysis, including research, to understand the trends that impact the quality of life for older adults and to meet their emerging needs.

Consequently, the County will take on a leadership role in:

- Providing information about the aging population and community services
- Bringing together communities of interest
- Establishing collaborations among organizations
- Submitting innovative ideas and stimulating others to share their ideas for all to consider
- Incorporating AFC concepts in all core business areas of the County
- Enabling local municipalities to adopt AFC options, where possible
- Encouraging local businesses to become more age-friendly

By establishing a *Positive Aging Strategy and Planning Framework*, the County is putting in motion new policy to embrace age-friendly development and to help guide and support similar planning at the local municipal level.

PLANNING FRAMEWORK PROCESS AND EVALUATION

Knowledge derived by research and experience may be of little value unless it is put into practice. xxv The evidence is clear. Older adults can live longer, healthier lives by staying socially connected, increasing their levels of physical activity, eating in a healthy way, taking steps to minimize their risks for falls and refraining from smoking. Healthy aging depends on a variety of influences or “determinants” that surround individuals and their families. Understanding the evidence we have about these determinants helps us design policies and programs that work. By providing age-friendly environments and opportunities for Simcoe County’s older adults to make healthy choices, we strive to enhance their independence and quality of life.

With Our Vision and course of action defined, the final component of our Positive Aging Strategy is to utilize a planning framework to operationalize our strategic directions and work to bring Our Vision to life. The following Planning Framework is a living document developed for community planning and action over the coming five (5) years, organized around the eight (8) WHO dimensions of:

1. Communication and Information
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Community Support and Health Services
5. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
6. Civic Participation and Employment
7. Social Participation
8. Respect and Social Inclusion

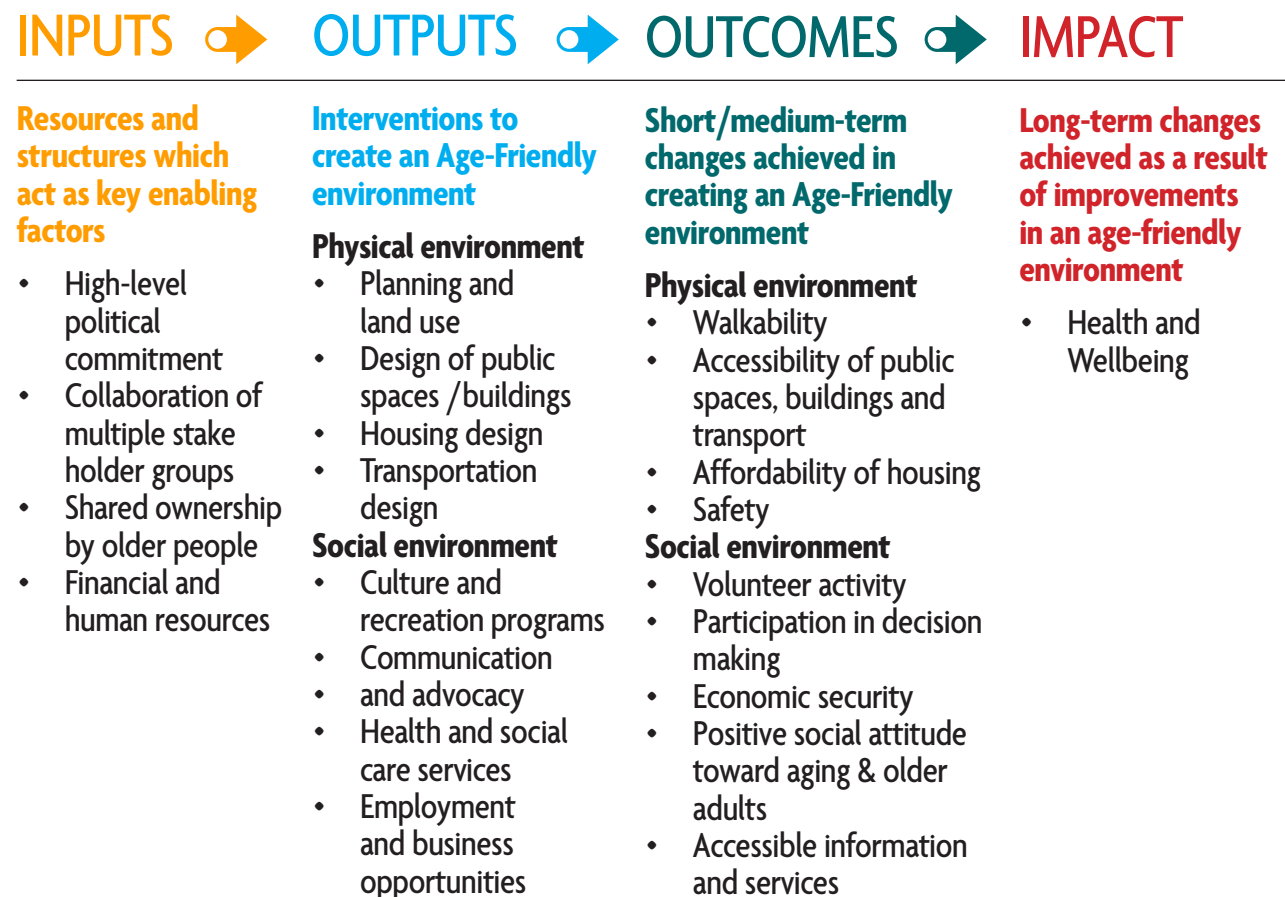
This Planning Framework includes a comprehensive action plan to deal with issues that fall within the

scope of municipal responsibility based on the World Health Organization (WHO) consultation and protocol (see Table: Framework for Selecting an Age-Friendly Measurement Strategy) and on the government of Ontario, Finding the Right Fit: Age-Friendly Community Planning Guide.

The County initiates and undertakes actions in

some areas as well as seeks other groups to take the lead where appropriate. Work will be advanced in close collaboration directly with its surrounding municipal partners, AF Advisory Committee, external organizations and internal departments of the County. It should be noted that the actions are preliminary and require refinement through additional dialogue with broader groups internally and externally.

A FRAMEWORK FOR SELECTING AN AGE-FRIENDLY MEASUREMENT STRATEGY ^{xxvi}



Predominant Themes

While Simcoe County is seen as a positive and supportive environment for older adults, outcomes from the survey identified specific areas for improvement to enhance age-friendliness. The eight (8) dimensions are both independently important and interconnected. However, the main overarching themes that emerged as particularly significant in the Simcoe County needs assessment process were: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Transportation; and Communication and Information.

Top Three (3) Themes

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings **- Building Accessibility**

An item brought to attention in the community survey and then verified through focus groups was the accessibility of buildings in Simcoe County. The survey data shows that there is general satisfaction for public building accessibility but there is need for improvement. Focus group data showed that there was a general dissatisfaction of building accessibility. Participants mentioned accessibility standards that were lacking were ramps, bar rails, and doors not being wide enough/staying open long enough. Participants also mentioned parking for older adults can be an issue considering distance to the building, and lack of parking spaces designated for seniors.



Transportation

- Transportation Accessibility

A transportation item brought to attention in the community survey and then verified in the focus groups was the lack of public transportation in rural areas as well as accessibility and safety standards of public transportation. The survey data showed that 88% of participants do not use public transportation and 24% of them indicated that the reason was that there was no public transportation available. A total of 22.71% expressed dissatisfaction in public transportation which indicates a need for improvement in service quality and accessibility.

Communication and Information

- Internet Accessibility

The most prevalent item from the communication and information domain is internet accessibility for older adults. The survey found that there was an increased usage of the internet post-pandemic with 69% of respondents claiming increased reliance on online platforms. The most preferred option of receiving information was through the internet. Concerns were expressed of not being able to access and afford internet, as well as not knowing how to navigate the internet. Focus group participants found that they could not access latest information due to lack of knowledge on how to use the internet safely.



AFC INITIATIVES

This framework is structured under key priorities identified within each dimension. Each dimension includes: a goal statement; a list of initiatives with outlines; the lead person or group responsible for the initiative and the time frame. In addition, under Appendix A – Future Considerations, you will find initiatives/actions that can be considered in the future. Under Appendix B – Model Practices/Resources, you will find information on existing good practices already adopted in other organizations.

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

GOAL #1 - Remove communication barriers that progressively cut older people off from others, particularly barriers related to accessibility, affordability, low literacy and diminished capacity by providing timely, practical information to manage life and meet personal needs vital for active aging.

Priority 1.0

Improve the communication services, programs and events in the community for older people.

Priority 2.0

Increase the coordination of information and services among service agencies.

Priority 3.0

Increase access to information and computer literacy training in libraries and community centres.

 **Short-term**  **Medium-term**  **Long-term**

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.1 Simcoe County AFC Advisory Committee Increase awareness and dissemination of community services, programs and events via engagement of a broad-based membership and associated networks.	AFC Champion	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.2 Refresh of County Branding and Communication Guidelines Incorporate AFC accessibility-based principles within the County branding guidelines, communications and publications.	Service Simcoe	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.3 Municipal AFC Champion Network Identify local Municipal Champions and establish a County-wide planning forum to promote age-friendly concepts, exchange ideas, share local success stories and strengthen overall planning.	AFC Champion	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.4 Simcoe County AFC Website Template - Municipal AFC website template developed, implemented on County site and extended to all 18 local municipalities to assist in content management, AFC public messaging, and information dissemination. (13 municipal partners have adopted template to date).	Corporate I.T. Department	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.5 Regional Digital Health Care Coordinator Ontario Health funds one full-time position to work with and support the 26 Long-Term Care homes and Community Health Services in the North Simcoe catchment area. This Coordinator provides technical support for the use and expansion of virtual health services for older adults throughout the region.	Health Systems Integration & Planning	Priority is in Progress

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.6 Aging Demographic Profiles for Local Municipalities Collaborative partnership with Georgian College Research Analyst Program to create individual municipal profiles to support effective AFC planning. 2023/2024 Engagement Study results – reported with individual municipal profiles 2023- aging demographic profiles show as a new initiative.	AFC Champion, Georgian College	Priority is in Progress
1.7 Simcoe.ca/Age-friendly Website The AFC website, created in 2016 and updated in 2023 to include a new Seniors Services section, communicates AFC information and planning updates, local successes, linkages to community information resources, funding opportunities, and connections to service providers, businesses, government sites, and other useful resources.	AFC Champion, Corporate I.T., Service Simcoe	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.8 Promote 211 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting 2-1-1 awareness through Paramedic referrals and Community Paramedicine Program. Investigating more ambulance branding to direct the public toward appropriate use of 9-1-1 versus 2-1-1. 	Paramedic Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.9 Age-friendly Information Dissemination Share Age-Friendly Communities education, events and activities across all 14 libraries, including 27 branches in Simcoe County in Simcoe County.	Corporate	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.10 Seniors' Events & Celebrations Annual event planning, public communications, and proclamations focus on Seniors Day and Month each year to promote age-friendly communities and celebrate our older adults. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	LTCSS Department	Priority is complete and ongoing

Priority 2.0	Lead	Time frame
2.1 AFC Communication Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness of age-friendly activities within Simcoe County. Encourage/recognize age-friendly planning by engaging municipalities and public. 	AFC Champion	Priority is complete and ongoing
2.2 Age-friendly Toolkit for Business Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To extend the reach of AFC activities and engage businesses in recognizing age-friendliness. To promote businesses displaying their accessibility level on the outside of buildings. Expanded in 2023 to include individual nomination program. 	AFC Champion	Priority is complete and ongoing
2.3 Expand AFC Recognition Program Develop an “Individual AFC Champion” component in addition to the existing “local business” category for AFC recognition. Establish a larger recognition event hosted by the County of Simcoe for the region. Expanded in 2025 to include a Youth Champion recognition award.	AFC Champion	Priority is complete and ongoing
2.4 Simcoe County Customer Service Department Knowledgeable repository of information of Simcoe County age-friendly services. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	Corporate Customer Service	Priority is complete and ongoing
2.5 New Regional Age-Friendly Activity Calendar Working with 211, Community Volunteers, County of Simcoe IT and Communications Departments, launch and support a region-wide Age-Friendly Activity Calendar for older adults.	I.T., AFC Champion, Service Simcoe, 211 Community Connection	Priority is complete and ongoing
2.6 LINX Plus Bookings Develop and enhance communication campaign to promote the use of an accessible transportation service, provided by the County of Simcoe LINX system.	Service Simcoe Planning Department (Transit)	Priority is complete and ongoing
Priority 3.0	Lead	Time frame
3.1 Future Senior Safety Prevention and Education Module Development Expansion of public safety prevention education programs for older adults that is based on the core components of the Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.) and Citizen’s Police Academy.	Emergency Management	Priority is complete and ongoing
3.2 Senior Fairs, Forums In collaboration with local service providers, host senior fairs/forum in local communities – opportunities to provide Paramedic File of Life, Paramedicine Program, emergency preparedness, safety and abuse prevention information, dementia, health and home support services available to local residents. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	County & Local Municipalities	Priority is complete and ongoing

TRANSPORTATION

GOAL #2 - Provide transportation options that are accessible and affordable to promote active aging. Being able to move about support social and civic participation and access to community and health services.

Priority 1.0

Improve public transportation options in and around the County that are offered at affordable rates

Priority 2.0

Make transportation schedules accessible and easy to understand

Priority 3.0

Increase accessible parking spaces near buildings and include drop off zones in front entrances

Priority 4.0

Increase reliability and frequency of public transportation, offer bi-weekly shuttle service, and increase capacity of volunteer-based transportation organizations

 Short-term  Medium-term  Long-term

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.1 Public transit to key communities and hubs In 2017, the County of Simcoe established a Simcoe County Transit Plan that will provide a network of transit connections that offer affordable rates and will link transit systems across communities throughout the region. The Transit Plan is premised on strengthening partnerships and connects urban centers; facilitates local, inter-municipal and inter regional commuter travel; and supports broader economic, environmental and social objectives of development in Simcoe County. The initial 5-year program phases in intra-municipal routes beginning in 2018 as follows: Route 1- Penetanguishene/Midland, Barrie Route 2- Wasage Beach to Barrie Route 3 - Orillia to Barrie Route 4- Collingwood to Wasage Beach Route 5- New Tecumseth to Bradford West Gwillimbury Route 6 - Midland to Orillia	Planning Department (Transit)	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.2 Continuing to expand Public transit to additional communities and hubs	Planning Department	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.3 Shuttles to and from local towns Options to be considered by the Transportation Coordinating Council to further discuss this recommendation and look into feasibility.	Corporate, Health & Emergency Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.4 Community bus to go on outings at a reasonable rate To consider under the new Transit Plan regarding opportunities to further enhance partnerships in collaboration, with Local Municipalities to shuttle participants to local events.	Planning Department	Priority is complete and ongoing

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.5 Transit Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and scoping of three new age-friendly transit initiatives • Integration of feedback from the 2023 Community Needs Survey and the WHO's eight domains • Engagement sessions with senior services, local municipalities, and community agencies • Consultations with other key stakeholders to ensure transit solutions meet community needs 	Planning Department (Transit)	Priority is in Progress
1.6 Public Transit to Key Communities and Hubs <p>The second five-year phase for intra-municipal routes begins in 2025, with planning as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 (2027): Bradford, Innisfil, Barrie • Phase 2 (2028): Alliston, Adjala-Tosorontio, CFB Borden, Essa, Barrie. 	Planning Department (Transit)	Priority is in Progress
Priority 2.0	Lead	Time frame
2.1 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Compliance <p>Transit bus schedules are being developed by AODA requirements to ensure accessibility for all users.</p>	Planning Department (Transit), Accessibility Committee	Priority is in Progress
2.2 Transportation Accessibility and Awareness <p>Work in collaboration with Corporate Communications, LINX staff, and the Age-friendly Community Advisory Committee to develop enhanced marketing and promotions of the LINX public transportation service to older adults across the County.</p>	Planning Department (Transit), Accessibility Committee	Priority is in Progress
Priority 3.0	Lead	Time frame
3.1 Increase accessible parking spaces near buildings <p>Include recommendations in County of Simcoe Official Planning Guidelines to encourage local municipalities to include age-friendly considerations in parking standards in their zoning/design guidelines.</p>	Planning Department	Priority is in Progress
3.2 Enhanced Parking for Older Adults <p>Based on 2023/2024 Age-Friendly Study update planning guide to include recommendations for better lighting, more spaces, and affordability of parking fees for older adults.</p>	Planning Department	Priority is in Progress

Priority 4.0	Lead	Time frame
4.1 Ensure more routes and stops in communities As per Transit Plan, include recommendations in County of Simcoe Official Planning Guidelines to encourage local municipalities on the benefits of implementing more bus routes and stops in their communities. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	Planning Department (Transit)	Priority is complete and ongoing
4.2 Regional Transportation Services Regional transportation services proposed to operate 12-hour days with regular routes every hour beginning Monday – Friday. Provision of external services will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.	Planning Department (Transit)	Priority is complete and ongoing
4.3 Increase capacity of voluntary transportation organizations Promote awareness of “211” as an agent that promotes volunteer opportunities through their website under “Community Connections. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	Health and Emergency, Social Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
4.4 Co-ordinated Transportation Portal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simcoe County is implementing a Coordinated Transportation Portal that provides community-based transportation service providers in the county with a web-based coordinated intake/booking/one-time referral system to identify transportation availability between agencies. This increases overall capacity in coordinating across multiple services. 211 serves as a central contact number to facilitate referrals based on the client’s needs. Partner Community Organizations include: County of Simcoe Community Services Department, Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle, Helping Hands, Canadian Red Cross, Community Connection 211, Community Reach North Simcoe, (registered charitable organizations), NSM LHIN. Goal to expand in participating providers. 	Health and Emergency, Social Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
4.5 Future of Regional Transportation Collaborating with the Government of Ontario, Toronto Transit Commission, Metrolinx/GO Transit, and 18 other municipal/ local governments in the Greater Toronto Area and Greater Golden Horseshoe Area to assist in the long-term planning of the transportation system in these regions. Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS) survey completed in November 2016. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	Federal, Provincial, Municipal	Priority is complete and ongoing

HOUSING

GOAL #3 - Ensure sufficient, appropriate, and affordable housing dedicated to older people is provided and located close to essential services and transportation. Ensure older people are well informed of these housing options across Simcoe County.

Priority 1.0

Develop more affordable housing in alignment with the County's Affordable Housing Strategy.

Priority 2.0

Promote more age-friendly housing developments with accessible amenities. Education with respect to barrier-free design for those involved in the design and construction of homes for older persons.

Priority 3.0

Promote more diverse housing options that are suitable for older adults.

Priority 4.0

Improve awareness of housing options for older adults

 **Short-term**  **Medium-term**  **Long-term**

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.1 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to increase the inventory of affordable rental housing in alignment with the County's original 10-year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy (Housing Strategy). A new strategy under development pending further direction from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Continue with approved Affordable Housing projects in alignment with the Simcoe County Housing Corporation Affordable Housing Master Plan. Promote additional services that may be of assistance to seniors that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario Renovates (urgent home repairs, accessibility modifications and secondary suites); Rent subsidies; Rent geared to income Social Housing; Affordable housing program eligibility criteria for low-moderate income households; and Rapid Re-Housing Program for Seniors Continue to explore innovative opportunities for alternative types of affordable housing; e.g., home-sharing. 	Housing and Homelessness Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.2 Age-Friendly Housing Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop criteria to incorporate age-friendly community concepts into the County's Housing program. 	AFC Coordinator	Priority is complete and ongoing



In my volunteer work I encounter so many people who lack affordable housing. This is one of our communities' greatest challenges.



Priority 2.0	Lead	Time frame
2.1 Affordable Housing Development Master Plan (2024-2034) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to increase inventory of affordable rental housing. Continue to build more diverse housing types incorporating universal design; Continue to promote modernization and accessibility upgrades to existing social housing stock. Continue to include walkable neighborhoods and proximity to stores, services and amenities for older adults in plan. (e.g., proximity to main transit routes, 500 meters to a bus stop, walkable to mall, etc.) Continue to ensure SCHC redevelopment selection includes access to amenities. Continue to promote green space design with a focus on all ages' components. Continue to expand partnerships with Community agencies for service delivery in SCHC buildings 	Community Housing	Priority is complete and ongoing
Priority 3.0	Lead	Time frame
3.1 Homelessness Prevention and Poverty Reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage community stakeholders to assist in further planning and alignment of homelessness prevention and poverty reduction funding, considering older adult complex needs. Consider the needs of indigenous seniors homeless community 10-Point Homelessness Prevention Strategy (2024) 	Social & Community Services	Priority is in Progress
3.2 Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (Sub-Committee of Council) established 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews and guides the implementation of the strategy. Can request informational reports on innovative approaches to housing, policy alignment, data on local demographics and special populations to inform decision making 	Housing and Homelessness Services	Priority is in Progress
3.3 Long-Term Care Redevelopment and Expansion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximize provincial/federal funding to support aging infrastructure and increased demands associated with seniors housing and services, subject to funding guidelines. Release "White Paper" to promote the seniors housing continuum "Hub" model for other municipalities. Complete the redevelopment and expansion of Simcoe Manor and Village within a large seniors campus continuum to open in 2027. Campus to include nine (9) different models of independent housing, a 160 bed long-term care home, and a Village Center with commercial space to include a continuum of health and wellness services and amenities. Develop and implement capital redevelopment plan for Trillium Manor in Orillia to address aging infrastructure and increased demand for long-term care and seniors housing. 	Social & Community Services, HCCSS, Mental Health Sector Services	Priority is in Progress

Priority 3.0		Lead	Time frame
3.4 Advocacy for Appropriate and Sustainable Long-Term Care Operational Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Ministry of Long-Term Care 4 Hours Direct Care Funding Program (2020-2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with human resources stabilization strategies post-pandemic (retention and recruitment) Continue to implement enhanced staffing levels as per new program. Renew advocacy strategy for County Council to promote increased funding for LTC to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased salary, wage and benefit cost escalation post-pandemic ongoing capital maintenance costs Continue with staff leadership in AMO health services task force and AdvantAge Ontario Board and Committees. 		LTCSS	Priority is in Progress
3.5 Paramedicine Program – Community-based Health Assessment Clinic (CP@Clinic) Continue to build suitable housing capacity through wellness clinics in subsidized seniors' apartment buildings. Residents receive regular health assessments, education, and active lifestyle promotion to maintain wellness and independence.		Paramedic Services, Community Housing	Priority is in Progress
3.6 Age-Friendly Housing – Grant Program Continue with the County of Simcoe Age-Friendly annual grant program to promote further development of suitable housing for older adults throughout the County. Grant eligibility criteria to include: Barrier-free design; Accessibility to amenities; and Support services for older adults.		AFC Initiative	Priority is in Progress
Priority 4.0		Lead	Time frame
4.1 Increase Awareness of Housing Options via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued information sharing with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Resource Centres; Municipal Liaison Groups; and Library Co-operative for dissemination at local Libraries 		Housing and Homelessness Services	Priority is in Progress

HEALTH SERVICES & COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

GOAL #4 - Remove barriers that older adults experience with accessing and utilizing community and health supports. Ensure services offered address the needs and concerns of older people to enhance quality of life and meet personal health needs.

Priority 1.0

Foster enhanced co-ordination of health services and community supports to assist older adults to age-in-place.

Priority 2.0

Promote improved communication of information about 211 and existing health services

Priority 3.0

Promote the improvement and expansion of health-care services in Simcoe County

Priority 4.0

Enhance transportation services to get to medical appointments

 Short-term  Medium-term  Long-term

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.1 County of Simcoe Paramedic Services Paramedic Referral Program 2024 Paramedics responding to 9-1-1 calls assess the need to link their patients to relevant health and community services to help maintain their health and independence at home. In 2024, our paramedics have identified 970 instances of patients who could benefit from additional support at home. In turn, our Patient Navigator facilitated 1972 referrals to various services.	Paramedic Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.2 Paramedicine Program – Community Health Assessment Program (CP@Clinic) Continue to build health care capacity for seniors by hosting wellness clinics in congregate seniors' housing and subsidized seniors apartment buildings - as well as vulnerable wellness clinics. Residents receive regular health assessments, education, and active lifestyle promotion to maintain wellness and independence.	Paramedic Services, Social & Community Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.3 Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Program PADs are being provided in all LTC homes across region to promote timely, lifesaving care to residents, staff and visitors within the home.	Paramedic Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.4 Advocacy and Support for Senior Issues in Simcoe County The County of Simcoe participates in many local and provincial advocacy organizations to support seniors' issues that include such agencies as the Ontario Retirement Communities Association, North Simcoe Muskoka Community Support Services Collaboration, the Adult Day Network, AdvantAge Ontario, and AMO.	Health & Emergency Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.5 Older Adult Assistance Programs Older adults may be eligible (income-based testing) for the provision of emergency dental, dentures and eyeglasses assistance. Assistance for rental, mortgage and utility arrears also available.	Social & Community Services	Priority is complete and ongoing

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.6 Community Paramedicine Home Visit Program Deployment of targeted Rapid Response Units that provide patient in-home visits when not responding to 9-1-1 calls. 2020 Ministry of Long-Term Care approved the County of Simcoe for an expansion of our Home Visit Program for those eligible on a Long-Term Care home wait list. Staff continue to advocate for this multi-year one-time funding to move to base funding for ongoing program sustainability. Collaborative partnership with primary care providers and the OHAH.	Paramedic Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.7 Seniors Wellness Programming in SCHC Properties (Bradford, Beeton, Alliston) Collaboration with CONTACT Community Services to provide space for seniors' wellness services. Supports social participation of seniors to improve quality of life, form friendships, and reduce isolation.	Social & Community Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.8 Seniors Health Project Team Member - Specialized Geriatric Services (SGS) County participates on the Team to support development of an integrated Seniors Health Program and helps to guide planning and implementation of a regional SGS program focused on frail seniors and their caregivers. This program continues to receive funding for continued expansion, with 38 staff on the team to meet growing demands.	NSM OHAH Waypoint	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.9 Sustainable Long-Term Care Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with external consultants to enhance documentation for more appropriate Nursing and Personal Care funding In collaboration with Advantage Ontario and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renew advocacy strategy for County Council to promote increased funding for LTC; Continue to engage the Ministry in funding discussion and future planning. 	Health & Emergency Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.10 Advocate for Seniors Campus Continuum Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote 2-1-1 access for community services via the County website and information pamphlets. Emergency Management promotes 211 at workshops and in the development of senior's safety programs. Paramedics provide 211 information as part of the 9-1-1 response and the Community Paramedicine Program. Enhanced Paramedic vehicle branding is being developed for awareness of appropriate use of 2-1-1 versus 9-1-1. 	Health & Emergency Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.11 Seniors Discount Days A designated section on the Age-Friendly website will host all Seniors Discount Days available in Simcoe County, ensuring easy access to savings opportunities.	Age-friendly Community Advisory Committee	Priority is in Progress
1.12 Affordable Produce Market Intergenerational program that is ran by youth providing affordable produce to members of the community, with a special focus on older adults residing at Georgian Village.	Health & Emergency Services	Priority is complete and ongoing

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.13 Community Paramedicine Home Visit Program Deployment of targeted Rapid Response Units that provide patient in-home visits when not responding to 9-1-1 calls. 2020 Ministry of Long-Term Care approved the County of Simcoe for an expansion of our Home Visit Program for those eligible on a Long-Term Care home wait list. Staff continue to advocate for this multi-year one-time funding to move to base funding for ongoing program sustainability. Collaborative partnership with primary care providers and the LHIN.	Paramedic Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.14 Community Paramedicine Post Fall Pathway Community Paramedicine, in collaboration with the North Simcoe Ontario Health Team (NSOHT), the Rehabilitative Care Alliance (RCA), and University Health Network (UHN), has launched a pilot of the Post-Fall Pathway (PFP) specifically designed for our community. The goal of this initiative is to enhance the well-being of older adults in Simcoe County by supporting frail individuals who have experienced a fall, helping prevent further functional decline and future fall risks.	Paramedic Services	Priority is in Progress
1.15 Behavioral Transition Support Unit (2022) Georgian Manor received approval and one-time funding in 2022 to operate a 16-bed specialized behavioral support unit as a pilot to support individuals across the region. In 2024, the County received based funding to continue to operate the regional program on an ongoing basis.	Health Systems Planning & Integration	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.16 Paramedic Patient Follow-Up Program - Frequent Callers Frequent 911 callers, such as those making three (3) calls in six (6) months, will be identified for outreach. Our Community Paramedic Patient Navigator will contact these individuals to further assess their needs and connect them with appropriate resources, including primary care, mental health services, and social support. This proactive approach addresses underlying issues, enhances overall patient well-being while reducing the reliance on emergency care.	Health & Emergency Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
Priority 2.0	Lead	Time frame
2.1 Community Services Awareness - 211 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote 2-1-1 access for community services via the County website and information pamphlets. Emergency Management promotes 211 at workshops and in the development of senior's safety programs. Paramedics provide 211 information as part of the 9-1-1 response and the Community Paramedicine Program. Enhanced Paramedic vehicle branding is being developed for awareness of appropriate use of 2-1-1 versus 9-1-1. 	Emergency Management, Paramedic Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
2.2 Digital Health Health Services - French Language Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deliver French Language services and support to LTC homes and other health services in the region and continue to advocate to Ontario Health and the province for annual base funding for Long-Term sustainability. Community Paramedicine Home Visit Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> funded by the MOLTC and OH, community paramedics provide chronic disease management in home to seniors eligible or on a wait list for LTC to help support their needs. In 2025, this program has a patient roster of over 800 individuals, and the program continues to expand. continue advocacy with the provincial government to establish existing one-time funding to base funding to ensure long-term sustainability of this program. 	Corporate, Health and Emergency Services	Priority is complete and ongoing

Priority 2.0	Lead	Time frame
2.3 Aging Demographic Profiles for Local Municipalities Increase awareness of the characteristics of our aging demographic through a partnership with Georgian College Research Analysts to create individual municipal profiles utilizing the most recent Statistics Canada information. Priority is in progress.	AFC Champion	Priority is complete and ongoing
Priority 3.0	Lead	Time frame
3.1 Seniors Safety Prevention and Education Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with local police services to promote senior safety and prevention issues. • Work continues with community leaders to select initial implementation activities across the region. • Distribution of Safety Tips booklet to provide education specifically to older adult populations. This program will be revamped in 2025, with a lens to vulnerable population and local community resiliency. 	Emergency Management	Priority is complete and ongoing
3.2 File for Life program Initiated by Paramedic Services provides valuable information about existing medical problems and in-home support services that Residents can keep on their fridges for emergency access. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	Paramedic Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
3.3 Convalescent Care Continue to operate five (5) “Assess and restore” beds at Georgian Manor for persons recovering from illness or injury and require short-term rehabilitation to return to the community. (Ontario’s Action Plan for Seniors). Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	LTCSS	Priority is complete and ongoing
3.4 Universal Influenza Immunization Programs for Older Adults In 2001, 76.6% Ontarians were getting their influenza immunizations, then despite government marketing campaigns, immunization rates slipped to only half (50.1%) by 2010. LTCSS & Paramedic Services examine all options to increase influenza immunization rates of seniors, vulnerable residents, and employees whose job involves providing healthcare to older adults. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunization for vulnerable populations is being added to Community Paramedicine Home Visit Program for patients enrolled in this program. • Immunization is being added to Community Paramedicine Vulnerable Population Wellness Clinics in congregate seniors’ housing, subsidized seniors apartment buildings, and homeless shelters 	LTCSS, Paramedic Services	Priority is complete and ongoing
3.5 Emergency Preparedness and Seniors It is crucial to understand the factors that can place older people at risk and to consider their potential needs and contribution in all stages of emergency management. The Emergency Social Services Plan, Vulnerable Populations Emergency Response Plan and our Psycho-Social Recovery Plan focus on the needs of seniors.	Emergency Management Services	Priority is complete and ongoing

OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS

GOAL #5 - Provide pleasant, clean, secure and physically accessible outdoor spaces and public buildings by increasing accessibility and removing barriers that limit opportunities for people with disabilities or age-related impairments to participate in healthy, active living activities and to access services in their communities.

Priority 1.0

Improve overall accessibility of public and private buildings

Priority 2.0

Improve pedestrian safety

Priority 3.0

Increase hours and access to public wash-rooms in the community, along walking routes including parks and downtown core areas.

Promote accessibility and extended hours in washrooms in local businesses.

Priority 4.0

Improve sidewalk safety and access by ensuring they are barrier free and have regular maintenance including winter snow removal.

Priority 5.0

Install more bench seating in the community and park areas to allow for greater social participation and rest periods.

 **Short-term**  **Medium-term**  **Long-term**

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.1 Age-friendly Tool Kit for Businesses Develop accessibility materials for local businesses highlighting the importance of ensuring the physical environment is easy to navigate and includes a variety of wayfinding landmarks such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> front door access; width of isles; accessible washrooms; ramps and automated doors are installed in all public buildings; design of entrance to commercial/public buildings with no step entry to main entrance; paint stairs/walk ups a bright color to ensure visibility; and display accessibility level on the outside of buildings 	AFC Champion Economic Development	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.2 Age-friendly Community (AFC) Recognition Program In 2018, staff developed an annual recognition program that acknowledges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local businesses that have become “AFC Qualified” through application of the AFC Business Tool Kit Local municipal AFC innovations and key milestones Individuals in the community who are contributing to outstanding age-friendly work or volunteerism. In 2023, the County expanded this program to recognize Age-Friendly Individual Champions as well as businesses. In 2024, the County hosted an inaugural recognition event to celebrate the contributions of individuals and champions as well as offered a complementary marketing package to award recipients.	AFC Champion	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.3 Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) The Committee’s overarching mandate is to provide advice and recommendations to Council with regard to the removal of barriers for persons with disabilities (as it relates to County facilities, programs and services).	Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee	Priority is complete and ongoing

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.4 Planning – Official Plan Development (OP) The County to bring Official Plans into conformity with Provincial policies to encourage the planning for complete communities including the provision of housing and services for meeting the needs of older persons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in the County's Official Plan AFC principals and concepts to help guide local municipal OP documents. 	Planning Department	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.5 Age-Friendly Community Planning Priority The County Planning Department works with local municipalities to update local OP policies and encourages the inclusion of AF policies with these particular focus areas.	Planning Department	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.6 AFC Buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote and grow the Defibrillator Program and public buildings across the region. • Promote indoor walking clubs for periods of walking clubs for periods of poor weather. • Advocate to have private businesses display notice of accessibility level on the outside of their buildings. 	Paramedic Services, AFC Coordinator	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.7 Regional Plans All Planning, Tourism and Economic Development Plans are striving to achieve age-friendly walkable and complete communities for all segments of our population.	Planning Department, EDO, Tourism Simcoe County	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.8 Simcoe County Trail Strategy - Grant Program Municipalities can apply for annual grant to enhance trail system to connect across the County.	Planning Department	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.9 Universal Development Design Guidelines (UDDG) The County is creating a Universal Development Design Guidelines document that local municipalities may use to inspire and/or require high quality design in new development proposals. This document will include community design guidance related to active transportation, pedestrian friendliness, and accessibility.	Planning Department	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.10 Accessible Trail at the Museum In collaboration with Planning, Forestry and the Museum on the new Accessible Trail at the Museum.	Tourism Simcoe County	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.11 Map of Age-Friendly Business Recognition The Age-Friendly website will feature an interactive map listing Age-Friendly businesses offering essential services, including public wash-rooms, wide and clutter-free aisles, large print signage, accessible washrooms, respectful staff, and good lighting. This map will be updated annually following the awards ceremony to ensure accuracy and relevance.	Health and Emergency Services, Age-friendly Champion, Service Simcoe	Priority is in Progress

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.12 Healthy Community, Healthy Climate Development Application Assessment Tool The County will create a 'Healthy Development Framework Tool', which may be implemented in full or in part by local municipalities through their development application process, to assess the health impacts of land-use development in order to support independent, healthy aging for all residents, through a standardized approach. Refer to Simcoe County Official Plan policy 4.10.8.	Planning Department	Priority is in Progress
Priority 2.0	Lead	Time frame
2.1 Process Development The County Planning Department will continue to work with local municipal staff to provide support and encourage Process Development applications to be more pedestrian friendly. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	Planning Department	Priority is complete and ongoing
Priority 3.0	Lead	Time frame
3.1 AFC Advisory Committee – Older Adult Feedback Include older adult feedback in the development, review and update of AFC plans through ongoing input of the AFC Advisory Committee and the Municipal AFC Champion Network. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	AFC Champion	Priority is complete and ongoing
Priority 4.0	Lead	Time frame
4.1 Planning – Official Plan Development (OP) The County will include recommendations for local planning to improve sidewalk safety and access by ensuring they are barrier free and have regular maintenance including winter snow removal. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	Planning Department	Priority is complete and ongoing
Priority 5.0	Lead	Time-frame
5.1 Bench Seating Program Recommendation to increase bench seating (with arm rests) along walking routes in core community areas, including park areas, downtown, and within existing public trails systems. The implementation of an “Adopt-A-Bench” program will provide an opportunity for community members to both honor their loved ones, establish trust funds dedicated to the installation of benches in public areas to promote older adults participating in active lifestyles. These benches will provide places for the aging population to sit for a rest, reflect, remember, and share memories. The County program will facilitating this program County-wide and where already exists, link with prevailing programs to direct donors to their respective sites. Examples of this type of program can be accessed at the following sites: http://www.centralparknyc.org/about/about-cpc/womens-committee/adopt-a-bench.html https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/44413 http://www.grpf.ca/how-can-you-help/adopt-a-bench-program . Priority is in progress.	Age-friendly Initiative	Priority is in Progress

CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EMPLOYMENT

GOAL #6 - Increase awareness of the impact of an aging demographic, forms of ageism, and provide opportunities for employment, volunteerism and intergenerational programming that cater to older adults' interests and abilities.

Priority 1.0

Improve access to information for employment and volunteer opportunities

Priority 2.0

Create awareness with local businesses about the value of hiring older workers

Priority 3.0

Provide more opportunities for intergenerational interaction

 Short-term  Medium-term  Long-term

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.1 Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) The Committee's mandate is to provide advice and recommendations to Council regarding the removal of barriers for persons with disabilities (as it relates to County facilities, programs and services).	Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.2 AFC Communication Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness of age-friendly activities within Simcoe County. Encourage and recognize age-friendly planning by engaging local municipalities, businesses and service providers. 	AFC Advisory Committee	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.3 Volunteer Enhancement Project 2017 Intra-departmental volunteer enhancement project that is a collaborative initiative between several County departments to support and enhance volunteer opportunities for older adults. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	LTCSS, Public Affairs Department	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.4 Late Career Nurse Initiative The County LTC homes have successfully applied to the Late Career Nurse Initiative offered by Health Force Ontario of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. This initiative provides opportunities for late career registered nurses, registered practical nurses, and nurse practitioners who are 55 years of age or older, to spend a portion of their work time in less physically demanding nursing roles. This allows the Home to use their knowledge, skills, and expertise to advance projects that improve patient care and the quality of work environments.	LTCSS	Priority is in Progress
1.5 Age-friendly Career Development/Recruitment Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human resources will be conducting a review of the job posting and application process to ensure that it is accessible and age-friendly. A review of the job development process and position descriptions will be led by human resources to incorporate age-friendly principles and support employment of older adults in the workplace The County has established and continues to expand the application of "Health Care Accounts" for older workers 65+ years to help supplement benefit coverage and support continued employment. 	Human Resources	Priority is in Progress

Priority 3.0	Lead	Time frame
3.1 Youth Volunteer Coordinator for the County's Long-Term Care Homes The County LTCSS department has incorporated the Youth Volunteer program into an existing permanent Volunteer Coordinator position and has reallocated associated funding to support an On-boarding Coach program to help with the employee experience and staff retention. To continue to expand this program to include all departments with LTCSS.	LTCSS	Priority is complete and ongoing
3.2 Intergenerational Programing Intergenerational programming is included as part of the ongoing activities scheduled for the LTC homes residents. Partnerships are in place with local primary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions. Activities include promotion of the "Intergenerational Day" on June 1st of each year. Priority is complete and an ongoing practice.	LTCSS	Priority is complete and ongoing
3.3 Entrepreneurship Ecosystem To support entrepreneurs and start-ups in Simcoe County who are developing products or services that address the needs of the aging population, and to foster partnerships between these ventures and age-friendly initiatives to consider solutions that enhance quality of life and economic participation for older adults.	Economic Development Office	Priority is complete and ongoing
3.4 Growing Together Mentorship Program Ensure that the Growing Together Mentorship Program engages an aging population to facilitate the transfer of knowledge (from both an employment and business ownership transition stand-point) and experience across industry in Simcoe County.	Economic Development Office	Priority is in Progress
3.5 Workplace Inclusion Promote and encourage businesses in Simcoe County to adopt the Workplace Inclusion Charter to foster inclusive work environments, ensuring that all employees are treated with respect, fairness, and equity.	Economic Development Office	Priority is in Progress

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We need more pedestrian crossings. Streets need repairs.
 I can walk unassisted but my husband uses a cane or walker.
 As an aging person with somewhat impaired hearing and no sidewalks,
 I would not feel safe trying to walk on such a busy street. Therefore
 eliminating a beneficial form of exercise for older people.

”

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

GOAL #7 - Remove barriers that prevent older adults from participating in their community such as: inaccessible buildings; personal safety at night; transportation needs; affordability; and sometimes restricted admission. Social participation and support are strongly connected to good health and well-being throughout life.

Priority 1.0

Ensure spaces where programs and services are held are accessible

Priority 2.0

Provide information about activities/events, including details about accessibility of facilities and transportation options. Use multiple formats to advertise social events such newspaper, radio, television, Internet, email, and community bulletin boards

Priority 3.0

Find ways to encourage a variety of people to come out to social events and activities—including those on fixed incomes, less mobile and who live alone. Include accessibility information, transportation options and programs such as neighbour home visits to support isolated older adults

 **Short-term**  **Medium-term**  **Long-term**

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.1 Tourism & Culture Grants Tourism and Culture grant recipients must comply with County standards for age-friendliness and AODA Standards.	Tourism, Statutory & Culture	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.2 Promoting Active Transportation E-Bike Charging Stations & marketing of the Simcoe County Loop Trail as E-Bike friendly is “Age Friendly”, the promotion of e-bikes allows an older demographic the ability to utilize the loop trail	Tourism, Statutory & Culture	Priority is in Progress
1.3 Enhance Accessibility Communications Doors Open Simcoe County lists the accessible venues.	Tourism, Statutory & Culture	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.4 Accessible Attractions in Simcoe County Tourism Farm Guide will feature a wheelchair icon for accessible locations to visit.	Tourism, Statutory & Culture	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.5 Cycle Simcoe Cargo bike program at the Long-Term Care Centres in the past and are currently helping LTC homes recruit volunteers through @CycleSimcoe socials.	Tourism Simcoe County	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.6 Phone-in-a-Box Program To support seniors living in isolation and rural communities, we will advertise this initiative on the Age-Friendly Activity Calendar and collaborate with Municipal Champions to facilitate and promote the program effectively.	Municipal Champions	Priority is in Progress

Priority 2.0	Lead	Time frame
2.1 Use of Multiple Formats in Advertising The County of Simcoe Service Simcoe department recognizes the requirements of the AODA and use multiple formats and media sources to advertise County events.	Service Simcoe	Priority is complete and ongoing
Priority 3.0	Lead	Time frame
3.1 Dissemination of Event Information The Simcoe County Museum is expanding its event planning to older adults by disseminating information to a broader reach of seniors' facilities and across all communities to promote social participation by older adults.	Simcoe County Museum	Priority is in Progress
3.2 Age-friendly Events Tourism will ensure age-friendly and accessible events are posted on their website.	Tourism Simcoe County	Priority is complete and ongoing
3.3 Simcoe County Loop Trail E-Bike Charging Stations & marketing of the Simcoe County Loop Trail as E-Bike friendly is "Age Friendly", the promotion of e-bikes allows an older demographic the ability to utilize the loop trail.	Tourism Simcoe County	Priority is complete and ongoing
3.4 Dementia Friendly Program New dementia friendly programming that will take place at the museum one morning each week over a period of four weeks. The program is being piloted this September 2025. We have been working with North Simcoe Muskoka Specialized Geriatric Services to establish the program.	Simcoe County Museum, NSMSGs	Priority is complete and ongoing

“ The cost of programming presents a significant barrier to participating in social, recreational and organized activities. Participants were concerned about membership fees, transportation costs, and the commitment of paying for a program ahead of time. ”



RESPECT & SOCIAL INCLUSION

GOAL #8 - Simcoe County Older adults will be treated with respect, recognition and inclusion.

Priority 1.0

Encourage and celebrate the inclusion of older adults in the community

Priority 2.0

Actively recruit to increase the involvement of older adults in community consultation and decision-making processes

Priority 3.0

Work with community organizations, volunteers, LHIN's and Family Health Teams to extend personal invitations, buddy systems and regular check-ins for people who are socially isolated. Promote the availability of subsidized recreation fees and programs that are low-cost or free to community members.

Priority 4.0

Increase intergenerational programming

 **Short-term**  **Medium-term**  **Long-term**

Priority 1.0	Lead	Time frame
1.1 Simcoe County Museum Activities for Older Adults The Simone County Museum offers a range of activities that include: a Diversity Tool kit (including ageism); Recollections Kit; Artifact trivia; and different historical talks.	Simcoe County Museum	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.2 Intergenerational Program Youth Ageism & Workforce Training Work with grade 9 students entering the workforce, providing education and training on interacting with older adults, including dementia and ageism awareness. The initiative will feature a mock store where seniors in Seniors Services can shop while youth gain hands-on customer service experience. Participants will receive a certificate from Age-Friendly upon completion.	AFC Champion	Priority is in Progress
1.3 Senior Fairs & Forums In collaboration with local service providers, the County supports senior fairs/forums in local communities through staff participation and focus on various services such as the Paramedic File of Life, Community Paramedicine, emergency preparedness, safety and abuse prevention, dementia, and health and home support services available to local residents.	LTCSS, Social Services, Paramedic Services, Emergency Management	Priority is complete and ongoing
1.4 Age Sensitivity Training Provide education to all departments within the County regarding the ageing population, associated needs, and consideration of older adult needs in the annual department planning processes.	AFC Champion	Priority is in Progress

Priority 2.0	Lead	Time frame
2.1 Older adults Participate in Simcoe County AFC Advisory Committee The Committee oversees the successful roll out and ongoing implementation and evaluation of the planning framework, with the purpose to continue to promote and raise the concept of more accessible, inclusive and age-friendly communities as it relates to the aging population across Simcoe County.	AFC Champion	Priority is complete and ongoing
2.2 Input from Older Adults The County of Simcoe will continue to recruit older adults to engage in decision-making by inviting them to participate on various committees such as: Resident Councils, Family Councils, and Resident Associations.	LTCSS	Priority is complete and ongoing
Priority 3.0	Lead	Time frame
3.1 Adult Day Program Expansion Adult Day Programs (ADP) are offered by the County in Penetanguishene and Elmvale and exist through partnership with the V.O.N. in the Collingwood and Beeton seniors campus locations. They provide a mechanism to help keep older adults in their communities. The County continues to work with the HCCSS to seek additional funding to expand this service into evening and week-end respite services. Advocate with Ontario Health and the provincial Government to obtain increased base funding to support ADP 5 days per week, as well as weekend and overnight services.	LTCSS	Priority is complete and ongoing
Priority 4.0	Lead	Time frame
4.1 Seniors – Intergenerational Programming All County of Simcoe Long-Term Care Homes have formed partnerships with high schools to promote intergenerational programs and offer volunteer opportunities to students as part of their regular programming.	LTCSS	Priority is complete and ongoing

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High school kids getting their volunteer hours by reading and helping out the aging population on how to get connected with social media! Just the interaction with old and young would be so wonderful! Older people are the most undervalued!

”

Completed Priorities

Planning – Buildings

Within the County OP, promote adopting building and site design features that support physical accessibility to social, cultural and recreational spaces, such as community centers, libraries, museums, theatres and public facilities.

Optimize Satellite Offices Locations in Local Communities

- Examine options for co-location opportunities with community partners to support AFC programs
- Examine options for barrier-free, accessible office space

Planning – Land Budget

Looking at the amount of land needed and available for accommodating residents and future growth and consideration of a mix of housing types.

Cyber Seniors

- Connecting Generations through the use of technology.
- Intergenerational Program where students help older adults bridge the digital generation gap.

Joint Advisory Accessibility Committee AFC Project

To create a one-page accessibility guideline sheet to provide to County departments and share with municipal partners to use when planning events to ensure accessibility features are offered.

The Simcoe County Accessibility Group

This group is comprised of staff from the County of Simcoe, 16 member municipalities, and the cities of Barrie and Orillia who are responsible for accessibility activities and legislative compliance at their respective organizations. Meetings are generally held on a quarterly basis, or as necessary, at the County of Simcoe Administration Centre and are organized and hosted by the County of Simcoe. The group was established by the County's Accessibility and Development Consultant to provide an opportunity for staff to network, share resources, and brainstorm on topics related to accessibility.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)

Ontario has set standards for accessibility under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. The Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (Ontario Regulation 191/11), under the act, includes accessibility standards for Customer Service, Information and Communications, Employment, Transportation and the Design of Public Spaces. These important standards are designed to create a barrier-free and accessible Ontario by 2025. The County is committed to following the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 and its Regulations.

Simcoe County Age-friendly Community (AFC) Logo Project

- The County of Simcoe Tourism Department will use the AFC logo to advertise events that are suitable and accessible to older adults in their 2018 Annual Simcoe County Events Guide.
- The AFC logo will also be used on posters and any other print relating to older adult participation.
- The County Museum will use the new logo to brand all of their events that are appropriate for older adults.

Easy to Read Resources

The County provided large print books, audio books and electronic media that appeal to older adults.

Completed Priorities

Age-friendly/Dementia-friendly Outings Including Transportation

Provide organized activities that are inclusive for all community members including people living with dementia. Collaborate with County of Simcoe Long-Term Care Homes and Seniors Services to coordinate transportation options for older adults.

Bus Tours & Packages for Seniors

Tourism will be creating Age-friendly bus tours/packages that are age-friendly and accessible.

Simcoe County AFC Website Template - County

Establish a separate URL to host the County of Simcoe AFC website for easier access and increased awareness.

Simcoe County Internet Service

Southwestern Ontario Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) initiate continuing to work toward expanded internet services to areas not currently available. Joint Federal/Provincial funding initiative to support 20 counties and single-tier municipalities in the area. <http://switfnetwork.ca/>

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

- OTN established in all 4 County of Simcoe LTC Homes and 3 Community campus locations.
- County led implementation of OTN equipment in all 26 LTC Homes in the North Simcoe Muskoka (NSM) LHIN.
- NSM LHIN awarded funding to the County for one Full-time OTN Coordinator beginning in 2017. To assist with program expansion in LTC homes and home and community care.
- OTN compendium developed to provide guidelines for staff and primary care practitioners to promote increased use and effectiveness of technology as well as decrease transportation needs.
- OTN brochure developed for our Residents and their families.
- OTN Paramedic Services pilot project (Alternate Pathways Project) under consideration with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
- Enables real time physician assessment to reduce avoidable emergency department visits.

Library Information Hub Model for Newcomers and Older Adults

Collaborative with Library Cooperative and Municipal Public Libraries to create local information hubs. Applied for New Horizon 2017 Grant and awaiting response.

Cyber Seniors

Connecting generations through an intergenerational program where students help seniors bridge the digital generation gap. The County purchased licensing to manage 45 devices on behalf of the Public Health Cyber Senior Initiative.

Mental Health and Addiction Services Initiative for Vulnerable Persons

Program available to support persons with disabilities, mental health, and substance abuse.

- Continued implementation of year two (2) of targeted monitoring of initiative on a monthly basis.
- Report outcomes to Ministry of Community and Social Services and adjust program according to data.

Ontario Telemedicine Network Education Pilot Project (OTN)

Continue with the 2017, 8-week program that held weekly OTN educational sessions for any clients to attend. Focus was on How Lungs Work, Know the Symptoms of Heart Failure and COPD, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Stress, Know your Heart and COPD Medications, Smoking Cessation. Attendance of 15-25 clients per session.

Completed Priorities

Simcoe Muskoka Integrated Fall Strategy

Public Health provides Falls Prevention Programs, Services & Resources as well as Falls Prevention training to health and allied health professional working with older adults.

Blood Pressure Clinics

Targeted wellness Blood Pressure Clinics performed by Nurses and Paramedics during National Nurses Week.

Homemakers and Nurses Program

- Provides light housekeeping, laundry, shopping and meal prep to a number of individuals annually.

Dementia and AFC

AFC and Dementia share some fundamental objectives to help older adults remain independent and in the community as long as possible by creating a supportive enabling environment. (Better Together: A comparative Analysis of Age-friendly and Dementia-friendly Communities, AARP)

- Work in collaboration with Alzheimer's Society of Simcoe County to integrate dementia-friendly strategies and statistics into Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy.

Simcoe County Library Co-operative

Provide special displays of materials and information that are helpful for older adults.

Ontario Library Association's Cultural Diversity & Inclusion Committee

The Chief Librarian of the Library Cooperative is a member of Ontario Library Association's Cultural Diversity & Inclusion Committee. This work includes advocacy and programming to combat ageism.

Ageism – Campaign Against Discrimination

Currently seeking funding to create a public awareness campaign to fight ageism and to improve communications of services and programs for older adults (IT STARTS).

Seniors Events

Approximately \$3,000 in provincial funding has been provided to Georgian Village's Adult Day Program in Penetanguishene to support five (5) events during the summer of 2017. The funding helped to organize events to engage older adults, not only within the day program but also from the community at large. The County will continue to apply for funding for enhanced programming and to keep older adults active and engaged in its communities.

Eliminate Social Participation Barriers in Communities

Newcomers can find it particularly difficult to integrate and older adults can sometimes face social isolation due to them losing their friends/spouses and are in need of supports or companionship. Through Local Immigration Program (LIP), explore opportunities to match newcomer to older adult for companionship and support. Priority is complete.

Seniors Partnering with Immigrants in Conversation Exchange (SPICE)

The Simcoe County Library Cooperative is awaiting approval from the 2017 New Horizon Grant application to support the project Seniors Partnering with Immigrants in Conversation Exchange.

Library Outreach Program

Mobile library service for older adults in their communities. This service is currently offered in most libraries.

Completed Priorities

Library Information Hub Model

Collaboration between the Library Cooperative and local municipal Libraries to create local information hubs and Community Service Hubs. To deliver community services and programs more efficiently and effectively by locating multiple programs within the same “hub” location.

Host Complementary Seniors Education Sessions

Through the Library Co-operative, coordinate with the local libraries, LTC homes, and Paramedic Services to host free education sessions on health matters such as diabetes, stroke, and medication management and coordinate wellness clinics in the libraries to check blood pressure and blood glucose, etc. of attendees.

OTN and SKYPE Communications:

Establish OTN/SKYPE communication sessions at the County’s various seniors’ locations to renew family/social ties and support regular contact with others. Residents have shown definite therapeutic benefits, especially sensory/memory stimulation, and less agitation and negative behaviours with socialization.

Neighbours Helping Neighbours Program

Foster disaster-resilient communities while simultaneously enhancing the overall engagement of a community by bridging isolation that often exists where people have few opportunities to get to know one another.

Cyber Senior Intergenerational Program

- This Public Health initiative is offered in LTC and retirement homes across Simcoe County through the support of the County’s Information Technology department.
- The County Library Cooperative through their partnership with municipal Libraries are working to expand this Intergenerational Program by promoting Skype, Facebook, and other social media connections.

Ontario Tele-Homecare Pilot Program - Simcoe Village Supportive Housing

Tele-homecare introduced with 6 clients living at Simcoe Village in 2015 that offered daily health monitoring via Ontario Tele-networking and educational wellness programs. Future use available based on client needs.

Simcoe.ca/Age-friendly Website

The County maintains an Age-friendly Community website that promotes awareness of:

- 211 / CommunityConnections.ca;
- VolunteerConnections.ca;
- AFC information and planning, meeting minutes, reports, best practices, and useful tips;
- AFC Funding Opportunities;
- County of Simcoe Activity Calendar;
- Links to service providers, businesses, and government sites; and
- Other useful resources for older adults to access.

Ontario Tele-Homecare Pilot Program - Simcoe Village Supportive Housing

Tele-homecare introduced with 6 clients living at Simcoe Village in 2015 that offered daily health monitoring via Ontario Tele-networking and educational wellness programs. Future use available based on client needs.

Completed Priorities

Non-Urgent Inter-facility Transportation Initiative

A system-wide transportation collaboration established between Health and Emergency Services, local hospitals, and LTC homes to study best practices in non-urgent transportation services and recommend options for consideration within this region. Current activity is focused on the implementation of a pilot to provide non-urgent intra-facility transportation through a new branch within paramedic services.

Community Transportation Link - Community Transportation Collaborative

In 2015, the County was one of 22 provincial pilots funded for a community transportation pilot program. The program started with four (4) community transportation providers sharing referrals through an electronic portal to increase transportation capacity from a system-wide approach. Funding has been extended in 2017 and the program continues to expand and work toward Long-Term sustainability.

Ageism – Campaign Against Discrimination

Currently seeking funding to create a public awareness campaign to fight ageism and to improve communications of services and programs for older adults (IT STARTS).

40 Completed; 83 Complete & Ongoing; 29 In Progress

PROGRESS REPORTING

Finally, under the guidance of the Simcoe County Age-friendly Advisory Committee, staff will monitor progress achieved and submit an annual report card to the Simcoe County Council Officials over the next five (5) years. As part of their role, AF Advisory Committee will review, identify and recommend to County Council any subsequent projects that may ensue from this initial process.

The development of Simcoe County Age-friendly Report Card is intended to:

- Communicate progress towards the actions identified in the Planning Framework;
- Allow an opportunity to evaluate and revise the supporting strategies and actions;
- Inform Council Officials on progress to date and help inform future activity.

CONCLUSION

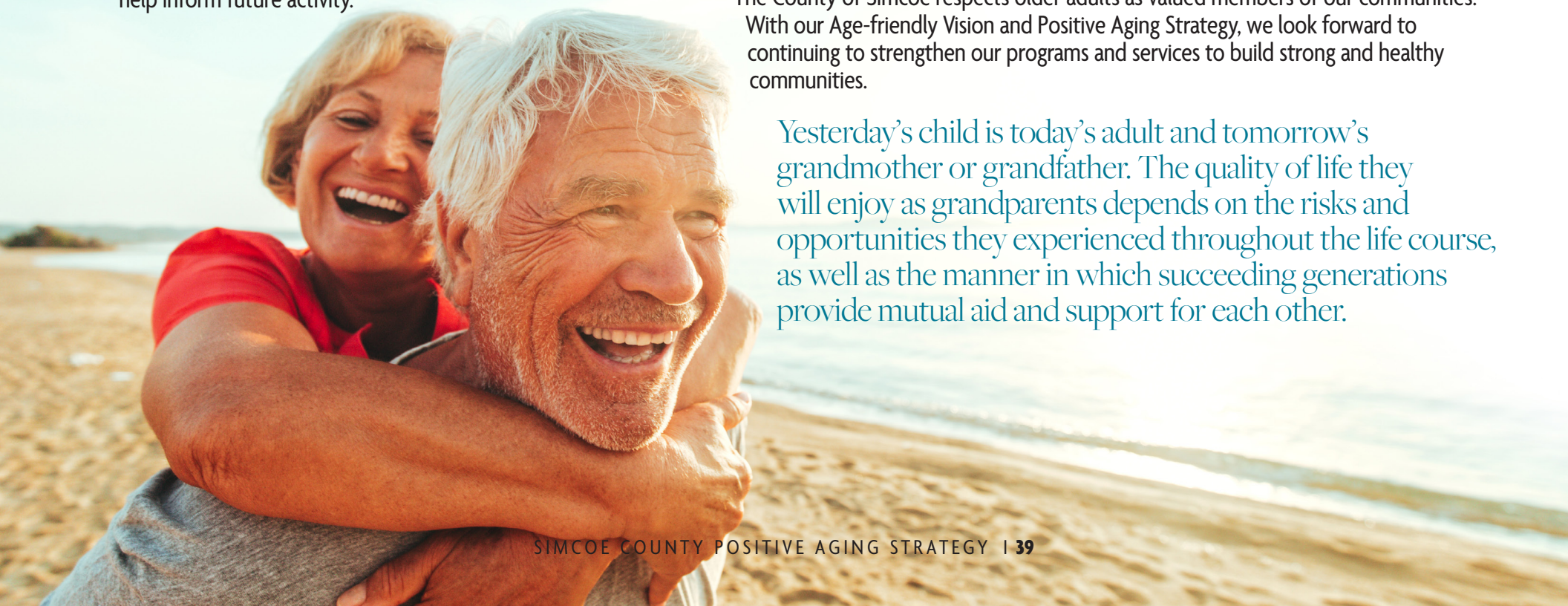
The establishment of the Simcoe County Positive Aging Strategy: Older Adults Strengthening our Communities has provided the first step towards laying an age-friendly foundation for the County of Simcoe. This foundation will serve as a critical platform to build upon in the future. It identifies priorities, establishes goals, and provides a pathway to achieve these outcomes that will ultimately strengthen our support for the increasing population of older adults in our communities.

What we have since learned from this work is that successful planning for a growing aging population is something that can only be accomplished through a collaborative approach to be included and integrated into ongoing operational and business processes.

This Positive Aging Strategy has been prepared and vetted by the Simcoe County Age-friendly Advisory Committee and endorsed by the County of Simcoe Council officials. It will be distributed across Simcoe County to all municipalities, older adults, organizations, businesses and service providers who work with our elder residents to assist others in this principled work.

The County of Simcoe respects older adults as valued members of our communities. With our Age-friendly Vision and Positive Aging Strategy, we look forward to continuing to strengthen our programs and services to build strong and healthy communities.

Yesterday's child is today's adult and tomorrow's grandmother or grandfather. The quality of life they will enjoy as grandparents depends on the risks and opportunities they experienced throughout the life course, as well as the manner in which succeeding generations provide mutual aid and support for each other.



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APPENDIX A:

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS:

Communication/Information - Future Considerations

Best Practice Resources:

- Age-friendly Communication: Facts, Tips and Ideas by Public Health Agency of Canada
- Communication Toolkit – The AdvantAge Initiative: Improving Communities for an Aging Society www.agingindiana.org

Technology Support for Older Adults

- Utilizing a staff person as an alternative to computerized options may better address older adult technology inquiries.

Roadmap for Informed Decision Making

- A Starting Point to help seniors get information on health-related topics, affordability, access to services, and more on the Journey of Life provided by Ontario Society of Senior Citizens' Organizations. www.ocsc.co.ca Added to County of Simcoe AFC Website

Age Sensitivity Training

- For public and private sector providers who work directly with seniors or who have contact with them

Senior Health Transition Guide

- A guide to support seniors during health transitions such as the move from hospital to home (print).

Newsletter

- Develop a regular newsletter that could act to promote AFC planning and awareness.

AFC Communication/Information Sharing Guidelines

- Work with pharmacies and other health providers to act as key locations to distribute information on services for older adults. E.G. Utilizing family physician offices for marketing information is a good method.
- Utilizing Seniors Social Clubs is useful for circulating information rurally
- Work with partner agencies such as the Alzheimer's Society and 211 to enhance communications
- Use multiple formats to disseminate information, services and events to older adults such as local newspapers, radio, Internet, bulletin boards, social media, and email.

Seniors Education Programs

- Facilitate symposiums, presentations, seminars, on health information programs, computer training, workshops such as resume writing, e-books, audio visual, formats suitable for older adults.

Financial Management Program

- Financial independence promoted through workshops on retirement planning and money management.

Ageism

- Seek funding to create public awareness campaign to fight ageism and to improve communications of services and programs.

Community Hubs

- Repurposing schools to enable community hub development (Community Hubs in Ontario Strategic Framework and Action Plan and funding opportunities). Community hubs are about bringing together multiple services to meet local needs. For example, Elderly Persons Centre serve as local community hubs. Communities helping Communities.

AFC Information Dissemination

- Establish partnerships with LTC homes, churches, colleges, and social clubs for sharing of AFC information.

Creative Aging Facebook Virtual Community

- Join Creative Aging Facebook Virtual Community to post updates and share information on the Creative Age Network. This encourages older adults to participate in arts and cultural events including isolated seniors. This programs can be offered through public libraries and the community.

Transportation – Future Considerations

Affordable taxi service

- Encourage municipalities to seek affordable taxi rates for older adults. Some municipalities within Simcoe County are offering subsidized taxi service fares for seniors.

Ontario Community Transportation Network (OCTN)

- The OCTN will connect individuals, organizations, and transportation providers interested in exchanging information.
- Collaboration with Rural Ontario Institute and Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition, with funding support from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to develop the Ontario Community Transportation Network
- Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program provides support to municipalities to partner with community organizations to coordinate local transportation services, and share resources to serve more riders, provide more trips, and reach more destinations.

Sensitivity and Accessibility Training

- Provide an education program to transit and taxi drivers on sensitivity of older adult needs; dementia, mobility restrictions and devices.

Driver Cessations Programs and Support

- Identify driving cessation programs that can support the older driver in making a transition to be a non-driver.

Volunteer Driver and Companion Programs

- Promote travel companion programs that arranges for a companion to accompany passengers who require assistance due to mobility or disability; travel companions travel for free.
Example: Community Reach - 705 528-6999 Orillia

Examine Public/private partnerships for enhanced transit

- Work with existing bus lines to extend routes and times to enhanced transportation services in an affordable manner.
- Ensure all bus shelters are accessible (seating, ramps)

Disseminate Best Practices

- Promoting municipalities to use best practices such as the Collingwood Urban Design Manual and Active Transportation Plan

Subsidized Transportation

- Provide alternative affordable pricing for transport to medical appointments for older adults who cannot afford the cost.

Housing - Future Considerations

Incentives to Create Seniors Housing

- Density bonus programs provide incentives for development of accessible, special needs housing units. (Best Practice: Age- friendly and Disability-friendly Official Community Plans B.C.)
- Provide ongoing education with respect to barrier-free design for those involved in the design and construction of homes for older persons with a particular focus on affordable housing.

SMART Home Technology in Senior Housing

- Home automation that focusses on making it possible for older adults and people with disabilities to remain at home, safe and secure and provides relief to caregivers when they are not able to be around. Examples include: direction services; medication reminders; household appliance monitors; voice activated lighting; high-visibility phone displays; motion-activated monitoring; keyless entry for arthritic hands; remote operated curtains or blinds; and thermostats to increase efficiencies.

Housing Option Guide:

- Recommendation to create Housing Options in a Simcoe County Guide for Older people to assist in finding accessible, affordable housing near essential amenities and transportation. (Halton & Hamilton)

Housing - Senior Representative(s)

- Invite senior (s) to participate on the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee to provide input to this initiative.

Housing Website

- Include Housing Options for Seniors information on website
- Links to cmhc.ca/aginginplace (housing options and funding opportunities)

Research Simcoe County Statistics of Seniors that are homeless and isolated.

Adaptability Canada

- A company that specializes in accessible construction solutions for large public and private organization ranging from residential, commercial, not for profit and public sectors. Canada's first and only full-service company for accessible renovations. Goal to help organizations improve service to all stakeholders regardless of ability and ensure a positive experience within buildings and public spaces. www.Adaptabilitycanada.com , <http://www.ageathomecanada.com>, <http://gaates.org/>

Discharge Planning

- Partner with hospitals to improve on discharge planning from hospitals and supporting people beyond discharge planning (Hamilton)

Subsidized Maintenance / Home Repair

- Offer reduced maintenance services or all-season home maintenance services for older adults.

Health & Community Services - Future Considerations

Dementia and AFC

- Collaborate with Alzheimer's Society of Simcoe County to support Dementia-friendly within the Age-friendly Toolkit for communities.
- Set up safety home programs - a program developed for cognitively impaired people through Alzheimer Society.
- Transportation services can be adapted to needs of people with dementia, including schedule reminders and help at destinations.

Primary Care Availability

- Perception is that there are not enough doctors. Recent Stats show 99% of residents in NSMLHIN are attached to a healthcare provider. However, timely access to providers is a challenge. Encourage best practices in same day or 24 hours appointment bookings.

Dental Care for Seniors

- Advocate to province to have dental care added to OHIP for low-income older adults.

Transition Planning Support to Seniors (Brantford and Brant County)

- Educate and provide transition planning support to seniors and their families by supporting/sustaining social worker positions in LTC homes.

Assisted Devices Program

- Develop a program to facilitate the lending/borrowing and training of assistive devices

Regional Caregiver Support Network

- High risk of caregiver burnout due to older age of caregivers. Creating a regional caregiver support network would provide advice on options available to provide relief to caregiver as well as connect them to other services they may require for their partner.

Senior Wellness Education Programs

- Library, malls and community centre service classes for seniors that allow them to get multiple things done in one visit
- Presentations, seminars, on health information programs, computer training, workshops such as resume writing, e-books, audio visual, formats suitable for older adults.
- More education sessions are needed targeting caregivers and seniors.
- Provide Estate Planning and Advance Care Planning to older adults
- Establish elder care information sessions to learn about available community programs

Newsletter

- Develop a monthly newsletter section in the local newspapers that could act to inform local older adults on what is available to them and provide information on availability of caregiving and supports as well as to highlight relevant emergency preparedness items

Information Distribution and Dissemination

- Work with pharmacies, health providers and physicians to act as key locations to distribute information on services for older adults
- Establish partnerships with Long-Term Care facilities, churches, colleges, social clubs for sharing of information

Increase Volunteer Driver Programs

- People need flexibility in arranging travel times for last minute appointments but most driver programs required rides to be booked at least one (1) week in advance. Example Orillia "I Run For You" errand and shopping and prescription delivery services in Orillia.

Suicide Prevention

- Older adults, particularly non-Hispanic white men, have the highest risk of suicide. This risk increases exponentially after age 75, and recent data suggest that men in the Baby Boomer generation have a higher suicide risk than previous cohorts. Many risk factors including social isolation, feelings of disconnection to society, and lack of social supports and close confidantes. Develop interventions for family members or residents who are transitioning into long-term care facilities to mitigate risk.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings - Future Considerations

Policy (Planning AFC Guidelines)

- Recommendation that all public parks and recreation space have accessible washrooms, signage, lighting, pet facilities, garbage cans, and seating.

Sidewalk Improvements (AFC Guidelines)

- Planning Policy: Recommendation that all municipalities have a “Sidewalk Maintenance Program” for all seasons.
- Develop an improved process for dealing with public complaints and hazard identification <https://www.dnv.org/programs-and-services/request-sidewalk-and-street-improvements>

Washrooms (AFC Guidelines)

- Increase washroom facilities along walking routes within core community area, including park and downtown core areas.
- Increase hours of public washroom facilities usage and encourage businesses to allow public access to washrooms.

Pedestrian Safety (AFC Guidelines)

- Extend crossing times, use of countdown signals, clearly mark crossings, and paid curbs a brighter color for better visibility.

Accessible Priority Parking for Older Adults (AFC Guidelines)

- Increase the number of Accessible Parking spaces to promote the independence and active participation of seniors.
- Promote inclusion of features such as curb cuts on sidewalks or ramps to enhance accessibility.
- Promote simple, explicit signs with unambiguous graphics to give essential information at key decision points.

Trails

- Distance markers and directional signage on pathways to identify location in case of emergency and enhanced crime prevention
- Good lighting
- Post signage that indicates the location of public restrooms open year round.
- Walking Clubs for healthy active living lifestyle
- Increase sharing of pathways and trails systems by posting enforced speed limit on paths as well as bike lanes to increase safety.

Community and Recreation Centers (AFC Guidelines)

- Provide arm chairs to assist older adults when getting up from sitting position.

Snow Clearing (AFC Guidelines)

- Increased snow clearing and coordination of efforts between road clearing and sidewalk clearing.
- Boxes around filled with sand and grit that are self-serve to allow the public to sprinkle sand near cross walks, bus stops, and sidewalks that have become icy making it safer for older adults to get around.

Waste to curb (Waste Management)

- Consult older adults in design of age-friendly containers.
- Invite older adults and people with disabilities to participate in the development or revision of local plans and in other government public participation processes. (Local Municipalities)

Signage (AFC Guidelines)

- People with dementia have specific requirements as it pertains to signage and understanding where they are going and where they are.
- Larger font size on signage to improve readability.
- Optimal height for a sign is 4-5 foot regardless of the individual's height: people with memory loss are more likely to look slightly down, rather than up or straight forward. <http://www.new-vision.co.uk/health/products/dementia-signage>

Design (AFC Guidelines)

- Age-friendly park design as a gathering place and community focal point. An Age-friendly Park is one that is inviting and accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Example features include shaded areas, railings along stairways, wide and firm sidewalks for wheelchairs, and more. <https://myphillypark.org/what-we-do/programs/age-friendly/>

Civic Participation, Employment & Volunteerism - Future Considerations

Create Age-friendly Workplaces (strategic planning, governance vision change)

- Include a commitment to accessibility and inclusion in the Strategic Vision or mission sections of the County's Strategic Planning document.
"By including a commitment in our vision or mission sections or in a list of community values, we make a commitment to being more inclusive and welcoming for everyone. Such an inclusion formalizes and reinforces the community's vision of what it means to be an accessible and inclusive community." Rebekah Mahaffey et al., Planning for the Future: Age-friendly and Disability-friendly Official Community Plans, Union of BC Municipalities and BC Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, 2010.

Mentorship Programs

- Create training and mentorship opportunities for older adults.

Job Re-entry Fairs

- Provide a template to local municipalities to host job "re-entry" fairs for older adults.

Council on Aging Committees

- Invite older adults to participate on local committees.

Volunteer Literacy Tutoring

- Homework help for children/youth.
- Publicize opportunities through information fairs and employment centers.

Volunteer Guide

- Develop a Brochure highlighting 211 and other volunteer websites, organizations, success stories, effects on mental and physical health, etc.

Community Volunteer Driver Programs

- A program that is flexible in arranging travel times for last minute appointments.
- Promote existing services available.

Seniors Education Programs

- Host presentations, seminars, on health information programs, computer training, and workshops such as resume writing, e-books, audio visual, formats suitable for older adults and financial management programs on retirement planning, money management and filing tax returns.

Age-friendly Community Principles

- Increase awareness of potential aging demographic and foster collaboration with local education institutions to incorporate Age-friendly Community principles.

Corporate Training

- Enhance corporate training curriculum to include opportunities for staff to build skills related to engaging and providing service to older adults as well as understanding what is "ageism" and how to avoid it.

Social Participation - Future Considerations

Seniors Campus

- In Eastern provinces, several organizations have created a new concept called a "Seniors Campus" that provides non-credit education programs exclusive to older adults 50+. These colleges are not-for-profit organizations that are volunteer based and are delivered in various locations through in kind support of the communities.

Seniors Volunteers of Ontario

- A seniors' talent bank was established gathering what a senior WISHES to do such as going back to school or taking an art course or travelling. A computer system was developed to assist seniors to meet their goal.

Telephone Support

- Establishing outreach programs such as telephone assurance programs that are being used in some other cities.

Respect & Social Inclusion - Future Considerations

24/7 Support Telephone Service

- The Silver Line is a U.K. charity that runs a national helpline whose goals and services are tailored to help support the growing social needs of the aging population and reduces stigma of loneliness and social isolation.
- It is the only national free and confidential helpline that is available 24/7, 365 days a year for those age 60+ to call in moments of loneliness. Around 2/3 of 10,000 calls/week come

- overnight and on weekends when other services are unavailable.
- It offers callers friendship, information and advice. Other services include weekly friendship calls, facilitated group calls and pen pal letter correspondence.
- In less than three years of its official launch in 2013, the Silver Line has received over 1.3 million calls from older citizens across the UK. The Silver Line helps connect callers and reduces the stigma of loneliness and social isolation.

APPENDIX B:

MODEL PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

Housing Model Practices and Resources

10-Year Affordable Housing & Homelessness Prevention Strategy <http://www.simcoe.ca/SocialHousing/Pages/ourahhps.aspx>

Simcoe Housing Resource Centres: <https://accesstohousing.simcoe.ca/default.aspx>

Housing for Older Canadians:

The Definitive Guide to the Over-55 Market:

- Volume 1: Understanding the Market
- Volume 2: Responding to the Market
- Volume 3: Planning the Project
- Volume 4: Designing the Project
- Volume 5: Services and Amenities

Website: cmhc.ca/aginginplace

Other CMHC documents:

- Maintaining Seniors' Independence: A guide to Home Adaptations
- Accessible Housing by Design (Universal Design and Visitable Homes)
- Housing Observer: Laneway Homes (Detached secondary dwelling-granny suite)
- Housing Options for Seniors
- Housing Options for People Living with Dementia
- Preventing Falls on Stairs
- Seed Funding for Affordable Housing

Canadian Mental Health Association: Mental Health and Addictions for Older Adults Strategic Framework

- Expand available supportive housing to include seniors with mental illness
- Extend services linked to supportive housing into the community to prevent at-risk seniors from becoming homeless.
- Establish transitional services to facilitate re-integration of seniors with mental illness from hospital back to the community.

World Health Organization website provides examples of creative senior housing programs from all over the world

Visitability in Social and Affordable Housing: Manitoba Housing Experience

- Recommendation to include Visitability guidelines in zoning by-laws. (Planners)

Universal Design Links

- Centre for Inclusive Design <http://idea.ap.buffalo.edu/Home/index.asp>
- Design resources <http://udeworld.com/dissemination/design-resources.html>
- Inclusive housing <http://udeworld.com/levels-of-inclusive-housing>
- Rural aging in place <http://idea.ap.buffalo.edu/Projects/>
- GAATES built environment <http://gaates.org/027BuiltEnvironment.php>

- Architects <http://www.quadrangle.ca/design/servicesmarketsexpertise/universal-design>

Health & Community Services – Model Practices and Resources

Developmental Services Ontario Tel: (1-855-277-2121)

- Links specialized services and professionals to pool their expertise to treat and support adults with developmental disabilities and mental health needs and/or challenging behaviors where they live.

Georgian College Oral Health for Seniors

- \$30 for seniors to have a comprehensive oral health examination, polishing, Xrays, diagnosis and cleaning but no treatment. During month of November partner with Public Health cost is \$20.

Waypoint

- Provides specialized services to meet the mental health needs of individuals 65 years of age and older. Seniors suffering from dementia and/or complex mental illness who present challenging behaviors receive recovery-oriented care in a safe and therapeutic environment.
 - Horizon Program for Geriatric Psychiatry: Inpatient Assessment and Treatment Unit and Home Visiting Geriatric Program,
 - Behavioral Support Services: Enhance services for older people with responsive behaviors linked to cognitive impairments and people at risk and their caregivers; providing them with the right care, at the right time and in the right place (at home, in long-term care or elsewhere).
 - Senior-friendly Hospital Initiative: Goal to enhance the care of seniors within hospitals and reduce the risk of functional decline while they recover from illness.

Community Service Guide

- A guide to support seniors during health transitions such as the move from hospital to home (print).
- Create a central information directory of services with information about how and where to access community services and supports for older adults.
- <https://issuu.com/goodlifemagazine/docs/rvh-vital-signs-webv2/2>

Roadmap for Informed Decision Making

- A Starting Point to help seniors get information on health related topics, affordability, access to services, and more on the Journey of Life provided by Ontario Society of Senior Citizens' Organizations. www.ocscsco.ca
- Added to County of Simcoe AFC Website.

Home for Life Program

- A partnership between providers, volunteers and those who require care. The specific focus is to help seniors, who want to stay in their own homes access the services they need.
- South Georgian Bay Area matches seniors to volunteer opportunities locally. <http://www.homeforlifegb.com/>

Promote Elder Abuse Prevention Training Programs

- Increasing elder abuse awareness to doctors, faith based leaders <http://www.programsforelderly.com/index-elder-abuse-prevention.php>
- Doctors and other health care professionals in the USA screen seniors during routine visit for signs of elder financial abuse since illnesses and aging can make many elderly vulnerable to investment fraud.

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings – Model Practices/Resources

Best Practice: Age-friendly and Disability-friendly Official Community Plans

- Complete Compact communities with a wide range of mobility options (e.g., transit, cycling, walking) are generally more accessible for everyone, including seniors and people with disabilities. Complete compact communities also include a diversity of land uses (e.g., residential, retail, office, recreation, and community facilities).
 - Encourage complete compact settlement patterns and mixed land uses where appropriate.
 - Move towards a land use pattern that results in a more compact, complete and connected community, with new residential development occurring in locations accessible to services.

Best Practice: Park Champions <https://myphillypark.org/support/become-a-member/>

- Looking for a simple way to champion parks? Become a member so you can help ensure that your community parks are enhanced for generations to come. Plus, members can enjoy FREE events in the park including guided hikes, runs & more

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Increase seating at businesses and big box stores

Access Now App

- An “app” that helps people with disabilities know which buildings/areas are accessible <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/access-now-app-1.3467854>

Community Revitalization

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/community-development/lmi-benefit-scrapbook/>

Employment, Civic Participation and Volunteerism – Model Practices/Resources

Best Practice: Age-friendly Workplaces: Promoting Older Worker Participation.

- Document jointly prepared by the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Seniors Forum.

Best Practice: Age-friendly Workplace

- A Self-Assessment Tool for Employers. Document ensures that older workers can access workforce development initiatives.

Develop Seniors Employment Strategy

- Recruitment strategies/guidelines recognizing aging workforce.
- Improve access to application process to attract a diversity of older adults.



Long-Term Care
and Seniors Services

simcoe.ca