

Staff Report 2021-0157

Meeting Date: May 18, 2021

Subject: Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan

Submitted By: Katie Sawyers, Adult 55+ Coordinator, Customer Service and Communications

RECOMMENDATION

That the Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan 2021-2031 attached as Schedule A to Staff Report 2021-0157, be approved.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Town's Adult 55+ Strategic Plan approved in 2015 required review.
- urbanMetrics Inc. was retained to develop the 10-year Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan.
- The Action Plan identifies key priorities and deliverables in the form of short, medium and long-term goals.
- Implementation will begin immediately, and action items/tactics are summarized in the implementation component of the plan.

DISCUSSION

The number of older adults (55+) in Canada now exceeds the number of youth and are represented as one of the fastest growing segments of the population. Between 2021 and 2031 the number of older adults is expected to increase by over 10,000 in Caledon. The Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan (Action Plan) is intended to ensure that the Town of Caledon and its community partners are fully prepared to meet the needs of an ageing population base.

Caledon Council's workplan, corporate strategic plan, and many departmental workplans reflect the importance of our older adult resident and the need for an Action Plan that encourages ageing-in-place.

In 2013, in anticipation of future growth, the Town retained the services of urbanMetrics Inc. in to work with the community in development of the Adult 55+ Strategic Plan. In September 2015 Council approved the strategic plan as the first step towards becoming an age-friendly community. Over the five (5) years of the plan, significant progress was made, however as the community changed, the Seniors Task Force recommended that the existing strategy be updated into an Age-Friendly Action Plan, following suite of over 80 Ontario communities.

In July of 2020, the Town again retained the services of urbanMetrics Inc. to develop an Action Plan that would build on the progress of the Adult 55+ Strategic Plan and guide Caledon to the next steps towards becoming an Age-Friendly community. This Action Plan is intended to formalize the changes the Town of Caledon will make to residents age 55+ in building a truly supportive, and inclusive Age-Friendly Community.

The primary goals and outcomes of the Action Plan are to:

- Remove barriers to participation.
- Strengthening programs and supports.
- Enable Healthy Ageing.
- Build Partnerships.
- Allocate resources.

The Action Plan, attached as Schedule A, provides a vision for Caledon as a safe, welcoming and inclusive community. One that celebrates the diverse needs of all residents regardless of age and encourages connections through the promotion of active-living, social engagement, respect, stewardship and life-long learning. Valuing and prioritizing the health and well-being of residents throughout the Town.

Project Methodology

The Action Plan is built on the insights of residents age 55+, Town elected officials, Town and Region Staff, local volunteers and older adult community leaders. The Caledon Seniors Task Force (project steering committee), provided key oversight and direction to ensure that this action plan fully reflects the needs of residents, both urban and rural, today and well into the future.

The Action Plan is designed to prove the Town of Caledon with a significantly improved understanding of the needs of older adult residents. Ultimately, implementation of the Action Plan will create a community that values life experience and appreciates the contribution of older residents, making Caledon a place where people want to move to and live, in all stages of life.

Research Highlights

Age-Friendly Caledon Background Report (Phase One), attached as Schedule B.

Over the course of the last nine (9) months, staff consulted the community including:

- One-on-One interviews with Mayor, and Councillors;
- Thirty (30) Local Community Service Providers through community engagement sessions;
- Sixty (60) Town and Regional Staff through departmental meetings and engagement sessions;
- Over Three Hundred (300+) residents over the age of 55+ through a comprehensive survey, and public engagement sessions.

Age-Friendly Caledon Survey Results (Summary Report), attached as Schedule C.

Age-Friendly Dimensions for the Town of Caledon to become an Age-Friendly Community.

Age-Friendly communities, developed by the World Health Organization, focus their efforts on policies and programs that support eight (8) community dimensions. The feedback from the engagement is incorporated into the eight (8) dimensions for the action plan and the deliverables for each.

Full deliverables are provided in the Action Plan in Schedule A.

1. **Housing** – Advance policies and programs that expedite a full range of affordable housing options suitable to the needs of Older Adults across Caledon.
2. **Mobility** – Advance policies and innovative funding partnerships that enable more transportation and mobility options for Older Adults throughout Caledon.
3. **Communication** – Deliver robust communication and partnership materials that promote Older Adult awareness and engagement in community programs, events and services.
4. **Community & Health Supports** – Support and promote the expansion of Community Support & Health Services that deliver critical programs to Older Adults as well as their caregivers.
5. **Respect & Inclusion** – Ensure that residents are respected and included in the decision-making process, and that their insights are valued.
6. **Participation** – Build, support and advocate local programs that promote social participation with an emphasis on health, friendship, environmental stewardship and life-long learning.
7. **Safety & Accessibility** – Remove barriers and impediments that limit the use of Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings for residents with mobility challenges or safety concerns.
8. **Community Engagement** – Provide resources and supports that connect Older Adults with meaningful volunteer and employment options in Caledon.

Implementation

As outlined in the Action Plan, implementation will require:

- Collaboration with a broad range of community stakeholders, local municipalities, regions, Ontario based Age-Friendly networks, and Caledon residents.
- Leveraging all departments throughout the Town of Caledon and working collaboratively with the Region of Peel.
- Ongoing engagement and involvement with community networks and stakeholders providing supports and services to residents.
- Resources to support Age-Friendly programs, and/or initiatives in alignment with the Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan.

Staff will provide Council with an annual report and status update.

Additional information and detailed tactics including timelines and resources will be finalized through annual workplans and the budget process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications associated with this report. Financial implications associated with the implementation of these strategic recommendations will be determined and brought forward for Council's consideration as part of future annual budget cycles.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Sustainable Growth

- Official Plan Review
- Ongoing implementation of Transportation Master Plan
- Development of housing plan that allows for increased community diversity
- Community safety and wellbeing plan.

Connected Community

- Promote community enrichment through support of local groups, enhances partnerships and events.
- Promote and Age-Friendly community through the formation of youth and senior retention plans.
- Understand community needs and provide services based on urban/rural differences.
- Increase quality of life through shared experiences.
- Break down barriers for volunteers at local community groups to enable and help empower volunteer groups.

Improved Service Delivery

- Plan and fund recreation infrastructure that meets the needs of the community.
- Apply a diversity lens through the Town's operations and services.
- Promote locally provided mental health services.
- Increase education and awareness of available services and accessibility options.

Good Governance

- Manage reasonable community expectations.

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule A: Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan (2021-2031) for the Town of Caledon

Schedule B: Age-Friendly Caledon Background Report (Phase One)

Schedule C: Age-Friendly Caledon Survey Results (Summary Report)