

Memorandum

Date: February 15, 2022

To: Members of Council

From: Katie Sawyers, Adults 55+ Coordinator, Customer Service and Communications

Subject: Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan – Annual Progress Report - 2021

The purpose of this Memorandum is to present Council with an Annual Progress Report for the Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan for the 2021 year. Staff Report 2021-0157 outlined that staff will provide Council with an annual report and status update for the deliverables and progress of the approved plan.

Background

In 2021 Council approved the Age-Friendly Caledon (AFC) Action Plan as an updated 10-year strategic plan to support and enhance the community's ability to age-well and age-in-place. This action plan was developed based on the World Health Organizations (WHO) eight domains for an age-friendly community, anticipating the increase challenges our communities will face as our population ages. To ensure accountability and progress, annual reports are key components of the Age-Friendly Communities guiding principles and are encouraged by the WHO and Government of Ontario to support implementation and accountability.

The AFC Annual Report for 2021 (Schedule A), outlines high level progress for the year and provides anticipated goals for 2022 broken down into the eight domains of focus. Additionally, as key progress indicators are essential for long-term tracking, each domain outlines components that have been established and recorded. It is important to note that not all deliverables have been initiated at the time of the report. Additional ongoing projects and initiatives identified may have also been transitioned from the work developed through the Adults 55+ Strategic Plan (2015-2020) which the AFC document derives from.

Overview

As outlined in the Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan, successful implementation of the deliverables identified requires:

- 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.

During 2021 the AFC project team made tremendous progress on many key deliverables of the Action Plan. Throughout the year there was significant increase in internal and external collaboration and teamwork and increased awareness of Age-Friendly principals across Caledon. It must be noted that initiating an Age-Friendly Action plan is a long-term endeavor as it takes years to build momentum and support from the community, however it is felt that during this year the community support increased significantly.

2021 was also a year of unique challenges due to the persistent struggles of COVID-19. Focus continued to shift away from long-term needs to those of immediate and emergency. Social supports providing services shifted focus to basic needs such as food and housing security, safety, and ensuring that residents were adequately supported. Social programming and valuable in-person programs and services were transitioned to virtual which created barriers for individuals without technology or internet access. Additionally, many unique programs, community events, and engagement opportunities have been placed on hold until the threat of COVID-19 has lessened.

Highlights

It is hard to predict what some of these programs will look like once we begin to emerge from the pandemic and transition into a new normal but it is safe to say that as the inaugural year for the AFC Action Plan, much was accomplished. Key success highlights and 2022 goals are summarized below, for more information and a full list please review the AFC Annual Report attached as Schedule A.

Key highlights for the AFC accomplishments in 2021 are as followed:

- Support and advocacy for Affordable Housing initiatives.
 - Igniting Affordable Housing projects moving forward in partnership with the Region of Peel.
 - Advocacy for Affordable Housing at all levels of Government.
 - Supported the Affordable Housing Strategy outlining key recommended actionable items to support change.
- Development of an Age-Friendly Caledon monthly eNewsletter.
- Increased engagement of older residents in Seniors Month and International Day of Older Persons activities.
- Increased community collaboration in support of the more vulnerable older adults.
- Advocacy and support for increased snow removal supports throughout the community.
- Budgetary approval for a Snow Removal Subsidy program launching in 2022.

Key highlights for the 2022 AFC goals are as followed:

- Continued advocacy and supporting staff and projects that encourage increased Affordable Housing options.
- Continue promoting and building awareness of housing retrofit programs that support ageing-in-place.
- Work with key transportation services to develop program(s) to grow and expand on-demand, ride-share, and volunteer driver opportunities that support an age-friendly approach and a low carbon future.
- Continue to advocate for safe, walkable communities for older adults.
- Continue to increase awareness of the Age-Friendly Caledon eNewsletter to increase subscribers.
- Work with the Region of Peel and Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team programs to support the needs of local caregivers.
- Continue to maintain collaborative partnerships with key community supports and health service providers across Caledon and the hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team to ensure that program modifications, service gaps and information updates are proactively addressed.
- Work with staff and community champions to continue advocating for increased diverse, equitable and inclusive accommodations and supports for all residents.
- Continue to support program innovations for Older Adults within Caledon facilities, especially those that encourage greater participation from new Canadians, recent immigrants and members of our LGBTQ2+ community.
- Continue to monitor financial funding opportunities to support the growth and expansion of programs and improve the Town's position as an Age-Friendly Community.

Attachments

Schedule A: Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan - Annual Progress Report 2021

Schedule B: Seniors Task Force Letter of Support