



Staff Report

Report To: Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer
From: **Scott Currie, Manager of Community Services**
Date: November 18 2019
Report: CSD 15.2019
Subject: Age-Friendly Community Plan 2019 Update

Recommendations:

That South Huron Council receives the report from S.Currie, Manager of Community Services titled "Age-Friendly Community Plan 2019 Update" for information.

Purpose:

Information.

Background and Analysis:

An Age-friendly community plan supports and enables older people to enjoy good health and continue to participate fully in their communities. Developed with extensive community input starting in 2016, the Municipality's Age-Friendly Community Plan was formally adopted by Council in July of 2018. The plan has guided the actions of staff and community partners for several years. The purpose of this report is to:

- A) Update Council on the status of the Age-Friendly Community Committee recruitment process;
- B) Update Council on the status of the Municipality's implementation of the Age-Friendly Community Plan; and
- C) Outline new age-friendly initiatives for implementation in 2020.

A) Age-Friendly Community Committee Recruitment

Since receiving direction from Council at the July 18, 2018 meeting (motion #375-2018), staff have twice attempted to recruit for the Age-Friendly Community Committee – once in the fall of 2018 and once in the summer of 2019. However, to date, the Municipality has been unable to attract enough interest to establish a committee. Staff recommend that a third recruitment attempt be made in the spring of 2020 at which time a number of age-friendly initiatives underway will hopefully attract greater interest.

B) Status of Age-Friendly Community Plan implementation

The summary in Appendix I identifies the plan's goals, strategic priority, status and further actions, where appropriate. These actions will form part of the 2020 staff work plan.

C) New initiatives for 2020

The following initiatives are included in the 2020 budget package for deliberation by Council.

1) Senior's Social Program

To address the issue of socially isolated seniors, staff are developing a weekly agenda for the winter of 2020 to provide opportunities for socialization, inclusion and information sharing. This work will be supported by a grant received from the province, which will cover transportation and meeting costs.

These weekly get togethers will see participants receive training (i.e., how to use the MOSH website to access information, OPP presentation on how to recognize telephone/online fraud scams, etc), listen to guest speakers, play games, and share stories via social media - ideally with the assistance of youth 'buddies'. Local partnerships are being sought to support this program.

2) Recreational Urban Polling

To enhance recreational opportunities for seniors, staff are piloting an Urban Polling Program in South Huron. This would involve the purchase of a dozen sets of walking poles to be distributed to communities in South Huron for free rental on a weekly basis. Walking poles assist individuals with mobility/stability issues to increase their confidence and be more active. These poles are strong, lightweight, and adjustable in height.

3) Birding Week at the Exeter Sewage Lagoon.

To coincide with spring migration, staff are organizing a Birding Week during the second week of May to engage seniors in a new, low-impact outdoor activity. The added benefit of this initiative is it can also be marketed as a broader tourism event to attract eco-tourists/naturalists to our community – birding is a large industry in other Southwestern Ontario municipalities (i.e., Leamington, Saugeen Shores). The Exeter Lagoon is a very important bird watching asset in our municipality.

4) Senior's Initiative of the Year Award

Staff are developing a Terms of Reference for an annual award recognizing community initiatives that enable older people to enjoy good health and continue to participate fully in their communities.

Operational Considerations:

None.

South Huron's Strategic Plan:

7.2.1 Strategic Objective: Improved Recreation and Community Wellbeing

- Create an Age-Friendly Community Initiative

Financial Impact:

Included in the 2020 budget package for Council's deliberation, the new initiatives in this report are estimated to cost the following amounts:

1. Senior's Socials: Province of Ontario grant of \$10,800 + MOSH contribution of \$1,000 = \$11,800 Total
2. Urban Polling: \$1,400
3. Birding Week: \$700
4. Seniors Initiative of the Year Award: \$500

Council previously directed staff to establish an Age-Friendly Community Committee, and \$600 is being requested as part of the 2020 budget to support this committee, once established.

Legal Impact:

None.

Staffing Impact:

None.

Policies/Legislation:

South Huron Age Friendly Community Plan, 2016

Consultation:

- Heather MacKechnie, Exeter United Church
- Brianne Maver-Turgeon, Alzheimer Society of Huron County

Related Documents:

- Appendix I: Age-Friendly Community Plan goals, strategies, status and recommended actions (see below)

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Currie, Manager of Community Services

Appendix I

Age-Friendly Community Plan goals, strategies, status and recommended actions.

Facilities and Infrastructure

1.1 Develop a new or upgraded year round recreation complex for use by all members of the community

Strategies		Status	Further Action
1.1.1	Update and continue to execute the Recreation Master Plan	Completed	None at this time.
1.1.2	Establish a working stakeholder committee representing all areas of the municipality	Completed	None at this time.
1.1.3	Complete design for recreation complex	In progress	Municipality continues to work collaboratively with stakeholders and community groups
1.1.4	Identify funding sources including government funds, reserves, donations, and South Huron Community Fund	In progress	Support the <i>Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program</i> application

1.2 Improve accessibility of buildings and outdoor space

Strategies		Status	Further Action
1.2.1	Improve walkability through continuous improvements in sidewalks, ramps, trails and snow removal	Ongoing	Continue to adhere to minimum maintenance standards as required by provincial regulations.

1.2.2	Increase availability and awareness of handicapped parking where feasible	Paused	In 2020, conduct an inventory of handicap parking available along urban mainstreets.
1.2.3	Remove barriers to accessibility in stores and buildings across the municipality	In progress;	Continue to implement the Exeter Main Street Revitalization project, which will see the installation of temporary ramps on participating businesses in 2020
1.2.4	Continue to ensure accessibility standards and AODA requirements are being met in all municipal facilities and properties	Ongoing	Work with the HC Accessibility Advisory Committee Working Group to complete regular audits of municipal facilities.
1.2.5	Continue redevelopment of Port Blake Park and Beach	In progress; Work began in October, 2019 to implement Phase 1 of Port Blake Revitalization Plan and will continue in spring of 2020.	Continue to implement Port Blake Revitalization Plan.

1.3 Increase range of transportation options for seniors

	Strategies	Status	Further Action
1.3.1	Expand awareness and utilization of special transit services	In progress	MOSH promotes services (i.e., Onecare's EasyRide Program) on social media, website.
1.3.2	Expand and coordinate volunteer, shuttle and pooled transportation options	Complete; Huron & Perth counties joined regionalrideshare.ca in 2015	MOSH promotes this ride sharing service using social media, website.

1.3.3	Explore feasibility of inter-municipal shuttle to area communities, services and facilities	Paused; MOSH submitted a pilot funding proposal in spring of 2018, which was declined by province	Continue to seek out and participate in regional initiatives.
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1.4 Increase supply of affordable and appropriate housing for seniors

Strategies		Status	Further Action
1.4.1	Research and communicate existing housing incentives and supports	In progress; South Huron has several housing developments underway.	Work with Huron County Economic Development to research and implement housing incentives.
1.4.2	Identify and repurpose existing housing stock including downtown vacant buildings	Ongoing	Work with Huron County Economic Development in 2020 to repurpose existing housing stock.
1.4.3	Assess need for additional retirement homes, RGI housing and LTC beds and submit proposals for funding	Ongoing	Work with SWLHIN to identify MOSH needs and solutions.

Services and Supports

2.1 Increase interagency collaboration of seniors' services

Strategies		Status	Further Action
2.1.1	Hold a stakeholder forum and regular meetings with key system players	Completed; MOSH hosted the <i>Health and Wellness Forum</i> in September of 2019	Continue to work with key system players on projects that improve the health and wellness of seniors.
2.1.2	Establish partnership agreements, resource sharing arrangements	Ongoing	Continue to work with partners and establish partnering

	and articulation protocols		agreements/MOUs, when appropriate.
2.1.3	Explore one-stop shopping hub options for seniors services throughout County	In progress	Work with partners to gather material to update MOSH webpage with senior's services in 2020.

2.2 Reach out to isolated seniors

Strategies		Status	Further Action
2.2.1	Increase availability of mobile services.	Paused	None at this time.
2.2.2	Disseminate information to home-bound and hard-to-reach seniors - ensuring clear language and addressing stigma	In progress; MOSH has received a provincial grant to support a Senior's Social Program, which will provide transportation to/from weekly opportunities for socialization and information sharing.	Staff prepare a Senior's Social Program for 2020 that includes an intergenerational component.
2.2.3	Explore feasibility of medical mobile team to service rural communities (flu shots, blood work, etc.)	Completed. Huron County Paramedicine program began in 2017.	None at this time.

2.3 Expand respite, palliative care and mental health supports

Strategies		Status	Further Action
2.3.1	Expand senior's day programs	In progress; MOSH has received a provincial grant to support a Senior's Social Program, which will provide transportation to/from weekly opportunities for	Prepare a Senior's Social Program for 2020.

		socialization and information sharing.	
2.3.2	Expand hospice and palliative care	Completed. Jessica's House opened in 2018.	None at this time.
2.3.3	Increase mental health services and supports for seniors	In progress; MOSH is hosting Alzheimer's Society to deliver <i>Minds in Motion</i> program in 2019.	Continue to partner with the Alzheimer's Society to deliver Minds in Motion program at MOSH facilities in 2020.

2.4 Address service affordability issues

	Strategies	Status	Further Action
2.4.1	Identify and communicate available existing subsidies, discounts and financial support programs	In progress	Work with partners to publish this information on the Municipality's seniors services webpage.
2.4.2	Approach businesses and utilities for expanded seniors discounts	Completed	None at this time.
2.4.3	Advocate for increased housing and social services subsidies	Paused	Work with Council to identify government relations strategy priorities in 2020.

Community Engagement

3.1 Formalize seniors leadership

	Strategies	Status	Further Action
3.1.1	Strike a permanent standing AFC Committee of Council	Completed; two attempts to recruit (fall of 2018 and summer of 2019) have not yielded	Work with interested volunteers on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis to identify and implement age-friendly community

		enough interest to form a committee	initiatives; re-try committee recruitment in spring of 2020
3.1.2	Explore options to assign a Seniors Coordinator to support the Committee's work	Completed	Community Services staff act as coordinators of implementing the municipality's plan.

3.2 Raise knowledge, awareness and uptake of available services and activities

Strategies		Status	Further Action
3.2.1	Expand the municipal recreation booklet to include transportation, health services etc. for seniors	In progress; staff are publishing more information on website.	Staff continue to update the municipal website.
3.2.2	Disseminate information about services through on-line data bases, pamphlets, notices, newspaper, e-mail, information fairs and websites	Ongoing	Staff continue to communicate services to the public.
3.2.3	Expand the speakers bureau to encompass seniors information and services	In progress; MOSH has received a provincial grant to support a Senior's Social Program, which will provide transportation to/from weekly opportunities for socialization and information sharing.	Staff be directed to prepare a Senior's Social Program for 2020 that includes a speaker series component.

3.3 Increase seniors involvement in all aspects of community life

Strategies		Status	Further Action
3.3.1	Identify and leverage existing activities where	Ongoing	Prepare a Senior's Social Program for

	seniors are already involved		2020 that leverages existing activities where seniors are already involved.
3.3.2	Introduce an intergenerational component to programs where feasible and appropriate	In progress	Prepare a Senior's Social Program for 2020 that includes an intergenerational component.
3.3.3	Celebrate and publicize seniors accomplishments and successes	In progress	Prepare a terms of reference for Council's consideration to establish a Senior's Initiative of the Year Award; Published relevant stories using MOSH social media, website.
3.3.4	Create a senior's volunteer registry and talent bank	In progress	Develop a Senior's Social Program for 2020 that includes the collection of a senior's volunteer registry.
3.3.5	Increase involvement of the business community in addressing seniors needs.	Ongoing	Continue to work with BIA and other stakeholders in age-friendly/ community development initiatives