



# COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	March 24, 2022
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly Community - 2021 Progress Report (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Angela Burden General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

In 2021, a new Age-Friendly Community Plan for Hamilton was developed. The implementation of Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly Community (2021-2026) is well underway. The plan, which includes seven strategic goals, 21 objectives and 61 actions provides a valuable roadmap to guide the City's ongoing Age-Friendly initiative. The goals include the following:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Information and Communication
- Health and Community Services
- Social Participation: Recreation, Learning, Arts and Culture
- Civic Engagement, Volunteerism and Employment
- Outdoor Spaces

## Implementation Strategy

The City of Hamilton, the Seniors Advisory Committee and the Hamilton Council on Aging, as well as other key community stakeholders, have made significant progress in advancing the Age Friendly Plan.

In 2021, the Hamilton Council on Aging received a one-year Ontario Inclusive Communities Grant to develop an implementation strategy. An initial governance review resulted in a new organizational structure that better enabled and supported the

implementation of the plan. This included the organizing of the Age-Friendly Collaborative Committee (AFCC) which included 14 goal champions, two for each strategic goal. Eleven new AFCC members were recruited and oriented to the committee from various City of Hamilton departments and community organizations.

Some of the activities that occurred in 2021 include the AFCC's participation in the Ontario Age-Friendly Communities Outreach Program's Pilot Workshop Series on Evaluation for Age-Friendly Community Initiatives and the development of an Age-Friendly Action Planning Toolkit that was designed in partnership with the Social Planning and Research Council (SPRC). By the end of 2021, six action and evaluation plans were developed to address key recommendations in the plan.

A primary focus of implementation has been the adoption of a cross sector outreach approach to better understand what Age-Friendly practices are currently occurring in the community. To engage the broader community two surveys were conducted in July and December 2021. These Age-Friendly Hamilton Surveys were launched to acquire a better understanding of Age-Friendly practices that were taking place or planned for in the community. The results indicated that 35 organizations are engaging in or implementing 105 Age-Friendly practices. These findings demonstrate that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, organizations, groups and individuals are committed to advancing Age-Friendly practices in Hamilton.

### **Highlights of Age-Friendly Practice**

Examples of Age-Friendly practices that have been identified include:

#### **1. Dementia-Friendly Education Workshops**

The Empowering Dementia-Friendly Communities project is a collaborative initiative, led by the Hamilton Council on Aging and funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Dementia-Friendly Education Workshop was designed in partnership with people living with dementia. It is available to all sectors and community groups seeking more information about how to create dementia inclusive social and physical environments.

#### **2. Seniors Centre Without Walls**

Initiated and facilitated by the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, the goal of this program was to engage the community in programs that were offered in person prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is facilitated over the phone for Urban Indigenous older adults age 50+. Food security and wellness supports are also offered through this program.

### **3. Online Registration Training**

The City of Hamilton's Recreation Division redesigned their website along with the registration process for programs. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic older adults registered for programs in person using a registration form, as a result of the pandemic restrictions the registration process moved online. In order to support older adults during this transition Recreation Division staff offered workshops on how to set up an account and how to access and register for programs.

In 2021, many lessons were learned and plans for addressing them have been developed. These include:

- More intentional outreach to the private sector to ensure all sectors of the community are included in the implementation of the plan.
- Offering programs and services virtually to increase accessibility for all seniors.
- Listening to the wants and needs of older adults and involving them in the planning of programs and services.

Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly Community Progress Report for 2021 will be launched at the end of March 2022. The report will be accompanied by a production in partnership with Cable 14. The production will be broadcast on March 29, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. on Cable 14. It can also be viewed at [cable14.com](http://cable14.com) and via the [City of Hamilton's YouTube channel](#). The purpose of the broadcast is to provide viewers with an update on our progress, highlight Age-Friendly practices that are occurring in the community and create awareness of the importance of Age-Friendly work in Hamilton and the positive impact that it has on making Hamilton the best place to raise a child and age successfully. The Age-Friendly Progress Report will also be presented at an upcoming Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting.

If you have any questions about Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly Community and/or the upcoming Cable 14 production please contact Lisa Maychak, Project Manager Age-Friendly City, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1721 or via email at [Lisa.Maychak@hamilton.ca](mailto:Lisa.Maychak@hamilton.ca).

### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None