



# CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>To:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
<b>From:</b>	Ron D. Smithson, Chair Seniors Advisory Committee _____
<b>Date:</b>	April 13, 2015
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Seniors Advisory Committee – 2015 Annual Presentation (Report SAC15001)</b>

This report represents the actions, recommendations and accomplishments of the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) from January to December 2014. SAC has been very diligent in putting forth the concerns of Hamilton seniors to Council through its Emergency and Community Services Committee to ensure the accommodation of seniors' issues.

SAC's current structure is 19 members and meets the first Friday of each month (with the exception of July and August). SAC has four subcommittees – Housing, Transportation, Seniors Groups and Age Friendly City. The use of sub-committees helps to streamline the SAC meeting and more is accomplished.

The representatives also sit on the following committees – Community Heat Response, ACPD Transportation Subcommittee, Senior of the Year Event Committee and Hamilton Health Sciences AODA Committee.

One of SAC's goals is to have Hamilton declared an "Age-Friendly City". To that end, SAC has teamed up with the Hamilton Council on Aging and the City of Hamilton to move forward in having Hamilton declared an Age-Friendly City. Two of the SAC members sit on the Age-Friendly Steering Committee.

SAC's Housing Sub-committee has been working on a booklet titled "Housing Options for Seniors in Hamilton" and at the December meeting, presented the booklet to the SAC members for comments and feedback. The final version should be ready in the first quarter of 2015.

Some of the highlights of the Committee's accomplishments and recommendations are:

- SAC requested that elevator maintenance be included in the Vital Service By-law for the safety of people with special needs so that they are not put at risk. SAC also recommended that the City make it mandatory that landlords maintain an emergency generator to meet the needs where hydro is required for vulnerable tenants (i.e. respirators, dialysis).

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- SAC members toured the MacNab Street Terminal and requested that some signs be made more visible and comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA) standards.
- Members of SAC (through the Transportation Sub-committee) participated in providing comments for the completion of the SOS – Snow Off Sidewalks and the Walking Trails pamphlets.

On behalf of the Seniors Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton, we would like to thank the Emergency & Committee Service Committee for allowing us to present you a summary of the Seniors Advisory Committee activities for 2014. In addition, thank you to the staff who attended our meetings. They were a great asset in assisting us while making decisions on various items. Finally, thank you to Councillor Tom Jackson as he is a great advocator for seniors.