



Hamilton

# CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

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<b>To:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
<b>From:</b>	Bob Thomson, Chair Seniors Advisory Committee _____
<b>Date:</b>	December 7, 2017
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Seniors Advisory Committee – 2017 Annual Presentation (Report SAC17-002)</b>

This report represents the actions, recommendations and accomplishments of the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) from January to December 2017. SAC has been 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 18 members and meets the first Friday of each month (with the exception of July and August). SAC has four working groups –Getting Around Hamilton (Transportation), Housing, Communications and Age Friendly City. The use of subcommittees helps SAC to accomplish much more.

SAC representatives also sit on the following committees - Older Adult Network, International Day of Older Persons, Social Isolation Network, ACPD Transportation Working Group, McMaster Institute of Research on Aging, and Hamilton Health Sciences AODA Committee.

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

SAC is teamed with the Hamilton Council on Ageing (HCoA) and the City of Hamilton to achieve the goals of the Age Friendly City plan. We have three members on the Collaborative Governance Committee.

In collaboration with HCoA, SAC's Getting Around Hamilton Working Group (GAHWG) is planning to conduct several senior bus transportation information workshops and developing a brochure "Let's take a Bus".

Application for an \$8000 grant from the Ministry of Senior Affairs in collaboration with public health and public Works to update to seniors pedestrian safety video was successful. Upon receipt several workshops have been held across Hamilton on pedestrian safety. As a result Public Works has extended light timing for at least three specific traffic lights.

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GAHWG was also successful in obtaining a HSR bus for Seniors Month Kickoff. It was very well received. Many positive comments were made.

SAC recommended not increasing HSR senior fare for 2017 beyond fare increases already established.

Because of overlapping concerns with respect to supportive housing, SAC Housing Working Group decided to merge with the ACPD Housing Working Group, The joint committee is developing a Guide to Finding Housing for People with Disabilities.

SAC Communications Working Group was created basically to assist with the Age Friendly Communications implementation. Information Hamilton who is the lead on the Age Friendly Communications goals is in the planning stage therefore there is little activity on our part thus far.

The Communications Committee did meet twice with Councilor Donna Skelly regarding hearing loops. While no direct SAC action has been given, the Committee and SAC have certainly supported fully her efforts to introduce hearing loops to Hamilton.

The following presentations were received by the Committee for interest or to obtain feedback.

- Hamilton Council on Ageing – Social Isolation
- Catholic Family Services – Seniors at Risk
- DARTS Service – 2016 statistics
- SPRC – Community Profile Report March 2017
- Evergreen – 100 in 1 Day Project
- Councilor Donna Skelly – Hearing Loops
- McMaster Institute for Research on Ageing – Overview
- Tom Hewitson – Property Tax Deferral for Seniors

We would like to thank the staff who attend our meetings. They are a great asset in helping us make decisions on the various items. We would especially like to thank Councilors Tom Jackson and Brenda Johnson as they are great advocates for seniors.