



Hamilton

# 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>	February 11, 2013
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Seniors Advisory Committee – Annual Presentation (Report #SAC13002)</b>

The Seniors Advisory Committee presently has 19 members. We meet the first Friday of each month except July and August. Councillors Morelli and Jackson, assigned to this committee, are a great help and resource.

The committee has created four subcommittees – Housing, Transportation, Seniors Groups and Age Friendly City. The use of subcommittees helps to streamline the SAC meeting so that we get more things accomplished in a 2-hour meeting.

In addition to the four subcommittees we have a SAC member on the following committees – Heat Alert, Gore Park, ACPD Transportation Subcommittee, Walk Ability Committee, LRT Committee and Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program.

In June, during Senior's Month, we staffed a booth at both Sackville Hill and the downtown YWCA with SAC members to let those attending the health show know about the Seniors Advisory Committee

This year we were successful in convincing Council of the need for a senior's monthly pass in addition to the yearly pass on HSR.

We raised the question why is there an expiry date on the Golden Age pass? Once you reach 80 years you are not getting younger.

The SAC committee agrees with the AODA fair parity for all City transportation.

There are answers needed from HSR like the need for bus service to senior recreation, better bus service to downtown entertainment facilities, safety on the buses, security cameras on buses like DARTS buses. A park and ride has been established at the HSR garage on Upper James Street. We feel there should be one in the east end and one west end of the lower city.

We were successful in convincing the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

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to change their thoughts on 100% accessible taxis. In talking to Tim Nolan we came to an agreement that there should be accessible taxis when demand requires them as there are needs for standard taxis.

A motion was submitted to the Planning Committee regarding the Regulation of Rental Housing requesting that the Planning Committee and Council consider the negative consequences to seniors living on a fixed income.

The Seniors Advisory Committee had several delegations throughout 2012.

We had two meetings with HSR staff – one with Andy McLaughlin and the other with Don Hull. They fielded questions but not all were answered satisfactorily.

We had a presentation from Gillian Hendry and Shabbir Muhammad on bed bugs. Their presentation was to alleviate the fears that bed bugs are not disease carriers. They did not say how they were going to eliminate the bed bug problem.

Maxine Carter took us through the Equity and Inclusion Policy to insure all members understand the policy we operate under.

We had a talk from Thomas Allan of St. John Ambulance celebrating 100 years of service. We also had a presentation from Bruce Quinn from the Red Cross on planning in the event of a disaster in the city. John Verbeek was invited to talk on fire prevention and especially where it would affect seniors in their home.

City communication is not friendly to seniors and we feel that the City's website needs a drastic overhaul. We feel the website could be a great tool for seniors to find out what senior events are going on in the city.

We feel that the snow clearing in the City is not friendly to seniors. Snow clearing is done by the City for the benefit of the vehicles on the road and not pedestrians. Snow is piled up at the side of the road and at the intersections which doesn't allow seniors to cross the street at the corners.

The committee is committed to an Age Friendly City for Hamilton and we are working with the Hamilton Council On Aging to achieve that goal.

The growth of seniors in this decade is going to increase drastically and we want to ensure there are sufficient facilities and transportation available to any and all activities.

The SAC committee is looking at the conversion of one way streets to two way streets. Our feeling is it may help car traffic but it is not good for seniors. Any street with four lanes of traffic should not be changed to two way traffic. With one way there is always a break in the traffic because of stop lights. Two way traffic the stop lights are not synchronized so there is always cars going one direction or the other

We have had discussions on elder abuse. This is ongoing.

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We have been asked to look at an information report regarding service delivery strategy. There is 34 items the city is looking at and 10 of those are related to seniors.

Four members of the SAC committee received awards this year. Carolann Fernandez and Carolyn Rosenthal received the Queens Jubilee Medal. Vi Morgan received a Community achievement award and a lifetime achievement award. June Noonan received a Lifetime achievement award.

On behalf of the Seniors Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton, I would like to thank the Emergency & Committee Service Committee for allowing me to present you a summary of the Seniors Advisory Committee activities.