

## **Port Colborne Seniors Advisory Committee**

### **Report to City Council**

During its current term, Council has approved revisions to the Terms of Reference and a Strategic Plan for the Seniors Advisory Committee. This report is presented as a update and progress report to the members of City Council.

The goals that we proposed in our strategic plan were :

To play a more active role in encouraging general support to older adults;

1 To promote alternative solutions to independent living for older adults;

2 To increase the Age-Friendliness of our city;

3 To be an inspiring model for operating with the principle that we are all connected and therefore, interdependent on one another for our individual and collective success.

The Committee has worked hard to achieve its goals over the past number of months. The goals are, as they should be, both broad and deep. Unlike the strategies, they are harder to measure. Nevertheless the Committee, which is still very young, has played a more active role in encouraging the general support of senior citizens. We did this through sending a number of resolutions to Council. One such resolution on the support of home care services for frail elders results in our local Member of Provincial Parliament asking a pointed question in the House which moves the issue forward. Other resolutions dealt with employment, transportation and housing issues as they affect older citizens in this city.

The achievement of a designation as an Age Friendly city by the World Health Organization is a major achievement to which we owe thanks not only to a hard working committee but to the Age Friendly initiative of the Niagara Region led so ably by Virginia Steward.

It is our hope that we offered an inspiring model for operating with the principle that we are all connected and therefore, interdependent. Our working with community partners in various ways, but especially with our spring Forum series, may be evidence of our work on this goal.

Our strategies were:

To provide Spring Forum Series

To hold a Farmer's Market Events for Senior's Month

To work on obtaining an Age-Friendly Designation

To continue production of Committee Brochure(s)

Our Spring Forum Series wrapped up on Wednesday June 18 at Le Centre des Aines Francophones (French Golden Age Club) focused on Senior Motorist Driving. The first session, held at the Friends Over 55 Senior Centre, featured the same topic but was for an Anglo phone audience. The session on Consumer Right: Scams and Frauds was held at the L.R.Wilson Archives Building on King Street. The speaker from Community Legal Services was well received. Unfortunately, a fourth seminar on Wills and Powers of Attorney was cancelled due to a last minute cancellation of a Community Legal Services speaker. Attendance at the sessions was good and built over the four months. A more detailed evaluation of each session is available on request.

June is Senior Citizens month and for those of you who frequent the weekly Farmer's Market

will know our committee has been present each Friday providing copies of our popular brochure on services and programs available to senior citizens in Port Colborne and recruiting new members to the committee. We have had a groups of seniors buskers entertaining shoppers and farmers both and both senior centres have has tables available to show their stuff and recruit mew members.

As you all are well aware, Port Colborne has been designated an Age Friendly community by the World Health Organization through the work of the Senior Advisory Committee, its capable staff and the work of a Niagara region wide initiative that enjoyed the support of a Trillium grant and the work of Virginia Stewart, its project leader.

Our popular information brochure has been reprinted and is in the process of revision and enlargement.

A feature of this year's efforts has been partnerships with various community organizations. The two senior citizen centres mentioned above were helpful to us in providing advice as to topics for the seminars and both hosted a seminar. The staff at Port Cares has provided invaluable advice as to topics, logistics and advertising tools for our seminar series, The staff at Bridges Community Health Centre developed and circulates all our publicity material including e blasts, brochures, posters and messaging. The Niagara Regional Police Services, Community Legal Services of Niagara South, Gatekeepers Niagara, Boggio Pharmacy, Aapex Driving Academy, a local driver training school and East Side Pharmacy in Welland all provided speakers for the forums at no cost. We found the partnerships rewarding and beneficial to our work and cannot thank our partners enough.

Respectfully submitted

Richard Moore,  
Committee Chair