

January 28, 2016

World Health Organization

Greetings,

On December 12, 2016 myself and members of Orangeville council unanimously voted to proceed on the path to become a member of the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities.

Orangeville has been a leader in the area of accessibility with its Access Orangeville committee. It won the 2015 David C. Onley Award for its work in making our town more accessible for those with mobility issues.

Becoming age-friendly is a natural and logical progression from the work we have done in accessibility. It continues towards making our community truly accessible, not just from an 'accessibility' viewpoint, but from the perspective of making our town accessible and friendly to all who live here, young and old alike.

Orangeville is a regional hub for the surrounding area and draws many visitors to it with our shopping and entertainment resources. Our population is nearing 30,000 and it will see continued controlled growth. Orangeville has a rich history, one we have worked hard to celebrate and maintain. A vibrant and growing community, we are 5 years older than Canada itself. Currently 11.5% of our residents are over the age of 65 and that number is growing. Between 2006 and 2010 we saw an 19 percent increase of those over 65. Our close proximity to Toronto makes it a great place to retire to, and we have a strong level of community engagement, in particular from our seniors.

Our council began to investigate the possibility of becoming a WHO Age-Friendly community in 2013. Our commitment to this goal has only strengthened over time and has been built on the hard work of many community partners. The Orangeville Seniors/Age-Friendly Community Committee is spearheading this initiative with active support from senior residents, local retirement homes, the Alzheimer's Society, the County of Dufferin, the Orangeville and District Seniors Centre, and the Orangeville Public Library. The work done towards this goal hasn't just been about helping our community, it has in fact been driven by it.

With the full and unwavering support of Orangeville Council, I am very pleased to provide this letter to show our commitment towards becoming a member of the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and to become a truly age-friendly community.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy D Williams
Mayor of Orangeville
Direct Line: 1-888-407-0727
<http://www.JeremyDWilliams.com>
