

agefriendly
AJAX

Community Plan 2020



Message from Mayor Shaun Collier



The Town of Ajax
and Ajax Council
are committed to
building a thriving,
inclusive community
for all. Staff have
identified the emerging
need to anticipate and
plan for the challenges

associated with an aging population. I am proud to introduce the Age-Friendly Ajax Community Plan, which clearly lays out the enhancements we need to make in order to realize our vision. This plan underscores our continued emphasis on championing housing choices, including the redevelopment and intensification of our downtown, and building accessible, transit-supported community gathering spaces like Pat Bayly Square and the Audley Recreation Centre. I want to thank staff and every resident, business owner, community group and stakeholder that participated in the development of this plan, and Council for their unwavering support. Your expertise, creativity and leadership has created a document that will serve as the blueprint and guide as we move forward in planning our Age-Friendly Community for all.





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Introduction

As a municipality, Ajax is a community that is strongly committed to equity through its policies, services, programs, and spaces. It is our goal to ensure everything available to residents is inclusive and reflective of meeting the needs of the community as a whole.

Ajax has become known to many as being a place where people are welcomed, feel a sense of belonging, and are fully engaged to participate. We take pride in our capacity to be innovative and keep up with the ever changing demands that a growing municipality faces as we adapt and set continuing goals and standards to improve upon. When developing future plans for the municipality, a consideration has to be made in regards to our changing demographic.

In Canada, there are currently more seniors than youth. It is projected that by 2041, Ontarians aged 65 years and over will double. Ajax is no different and will also face the same demographic shift.



Ajax Snapshot

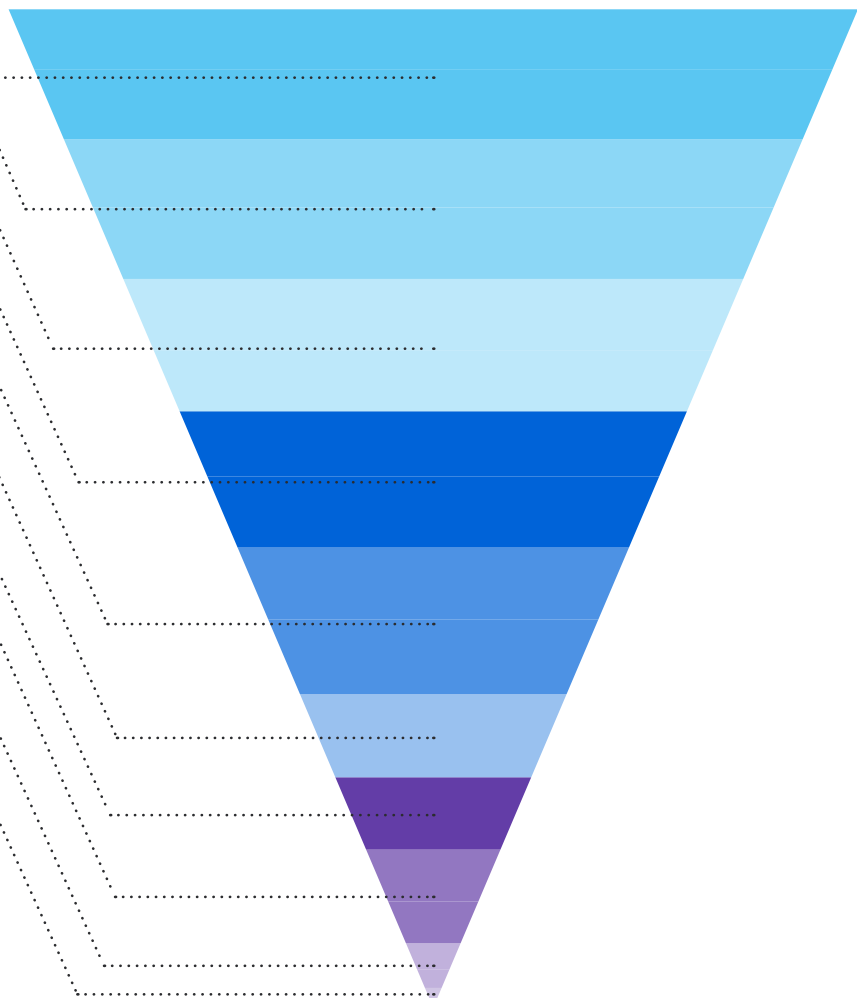
Ajax is the fastest growing municipality in Durham Region. Between 2008 and 2018, Ajax experienced the largest population growth with an increase of 22 percent. According to the Durham Region Health Department in 2018, the age group of 55 to 59 is the largest in Ontario, Durham Region and in many municipalities including Ajax. The 2016 Statistics Canada Census indicates

that 23.4 percent of Ajax's population is 55+ (see below). The older adult population in Ajax is the fastest growing! This trend is projected to continue over the next decade, as we see the largest segment of our population move into the next phase of life. By 2031, the older adult population will represent almost one third of the total Ajax community.

Ajax By Age

Ages 0-9	15,505
Ages 10-19	16,690
Ages 20-29	15,800
Ages 30-39	16,275
Ages 40-49	17,490
Ages 50-54	9,940
Ages 55-59	8,640
Ages 60-69	11,150
Ages 70-79	5,365
Ages 80+	2,825

Ages 55+
23.4%



Population based on 2016 Statistics Canada Census Data Profile.



39%
of Residents
are Immigrants*



57%
of Residents
are Racialized**



10%***
of Residents
are estimated to
identify as LGBTQ



25.3%
of Residents speak a
language other than
English or French

According to Statistics Canada, Census Profile 2016 ; *immigrants are someone not born in Canada. **racialized are Non-White or Indigenous. ***This number may be greater than represented, but Statistics Canada does not currently collect specific data on the LGBTQ Community.

The Town of Ajax is also the most diverse municipality in Durham Region, which is an important factor in creating a truly inclusive and age-friendly place to live. By 2031, Ajax will see an exponential increase in its visible minority seniors. We must recognize the increased vulnerability that exists when the experienced challenges of a variety of diverse demographics converge with the challenges of aging.

As the wave of Baby Boomers age and the older adult population continues to grow, the makeup and needs of this demographic becomes varied. Physical and cognitive development, isolation and depression experienced from losing a partner, the rise of seniors living with long-term health issues, and the increase of caregivers supporting aging parents, all create complex implications for how to approach the needs of our changing

community. On the other hand, past stereotypes and conventional concepts of old age must also change. People are living longer, are more active, civically and socially engaged, and will have different expectations than their older counterparts.

It makes this a pivotal time to ensure that we have the appropriate policies, services, programs and infrastructure in place to support our residents as we move into an era of change and growth. Aging in an equitable society should never be seen as a problem to navigate. We must become catalysts for positive action and remain leaders for truly inclusive positive change.

The Age-Friendly Ajax Community Plan identifies a clear path forward to enhance programs, services, and infrastructure for all ages in Ajax.

Background

In 2017, Ajax Council endorsed the Older Adults and Seniors Recreational Services Strategy that established recommendations guiding recreational programs and spaces for older adults and seniors. This was the first step in preparing for the changing demographic, positioning ourselves towards an age-friendly community planning initiative.

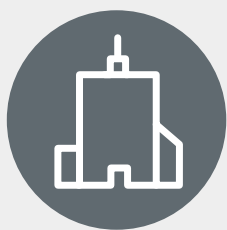
In April 2019, the Town of Ajax formed the Age-Friendly Ajax Steering Committee. Made up of community organizations, senior residents, advocates, and key Town departmental leads, this committee has been engaged in creating an Age-Friendly Community Plan. This active response will identify the direction and recommendations that will address the diverse needs of Ajax's older residents.

What is an Age-Friendly Community?

An age-friendly community is a community where policies, services and physical spaces are designed to enable people of all ages to live in a secure and accessible physical and social environment.

Age-friendly communities contribute to good health and allow people to continue to participate fully in society throughout their lifetime. Creating age-friendly environments requires a process that progressively improves the fit between people's needs and the environment in which they live. To achieve this, a coordinated response is required across many stakeholders, sectors and multiple levels of government.

The World Health Organization (W.H.O.) has identified key elements of an age-friendly community:



Outdoor Spaces and Buildings



Transportation



Housing



Social Participation



Respect and Inclusion



Civic Participation and Employment



Community Support and Health Services



Communication and Information



Ajax has utilized these elements to effectively determine the strengths, gaps and local priorities to establish a framework for implementation and next steps. In doing so, the Age-Friendly Ajax Steering Committee decided to combine the two W.H.O. categories of Social Participation with Respect and Social Inclusion as they are closely linked, and have applied this throughout the community planning process.

The global movement to create age-friendly communities is growing! In Canada, it is supported federally and provincially, and age-friendly communities are considered one of the most effective policy responses to support an aging population today.

Age-Friendly Community Planning for All

Age-friendly community planning tends to have a focus on the older adult and senior population, but in fact, age-friendly planning is all encompassing and is meant to have a more holistic effect on the community. From the way parks are constructed, the seating provided in public spaces, the programming available, and feelings of inclusion, to the way the transit system operates, should reflect the needs of our town as a whole and benefit everyone.

“If you design for the young, you exclude the old, but if you design for the old, you include everyone.”

Bernard Issacs, Geriatrician

Current and Future Initiatives

Currently, the Town of Ajax has multiple community plans that contribute to building a more age-friendly community. In addition, as a municipality, much of our planning is simultaneously being updated to include an age-friendly lens now and moving forward.

The plans that work together to achieve age-friendly initiatives include the following:

- 2018 – 2020 Ajax Strategic Plan – Stronger Together
- Older Adults/Seniors Recreational Services Strategy
- Diversity and Community Engagement Plan
- Recreation and Parks Master Plan
- Partnership-Based Community Safety Strategy
- Integrated Transportation Master Plan
- Transportation Demand Management Plan
- 2018 – 2022 Accessible Ajax Accessibility Plan
- 2020 – 2025 Economic Development Action Plan

Continuing to strive and adapt our existing priorities to ensure we are moving forward with age-friendly insights is key to ensuring all residents are thriving in Ajax.



Action Plan Framework

To create an informed Age-Friendly Ajax Community Plan, the Town facilitated multiple stages of community engagement and focused planning. The planning process incorporated the following phases:

1

PHASE 1

May – Sept. 2019

Community Engagement

- Assembly of Age-Friendly Ajax Steering Committee
- Needs Assessment of Town inventory according to the W.H.O. elements
- Community consultations
- Stakeholder consultations
- Data collection

2

PHASE 2

Oct. 2019 – Jan. 2020

Plan Development

- Data Analysis
- Development of implementation plan with key actions

3

PHASE 3

Feb. – Jun. 2020

Plan Approval

- Plan development
- Plan endorsement and approval
- Plan launch event
- Implementation planning

Methodology and Community Engagement

From May to September of 2019, the Town of Ajax spear-headed a needs assessment to determine our residents' thoughts and concerns in regards to the age-friendly categories.

The Ajax community was engaged in the following ways:



*takes into account attendance at Community Conversations & total Data Exchanges.

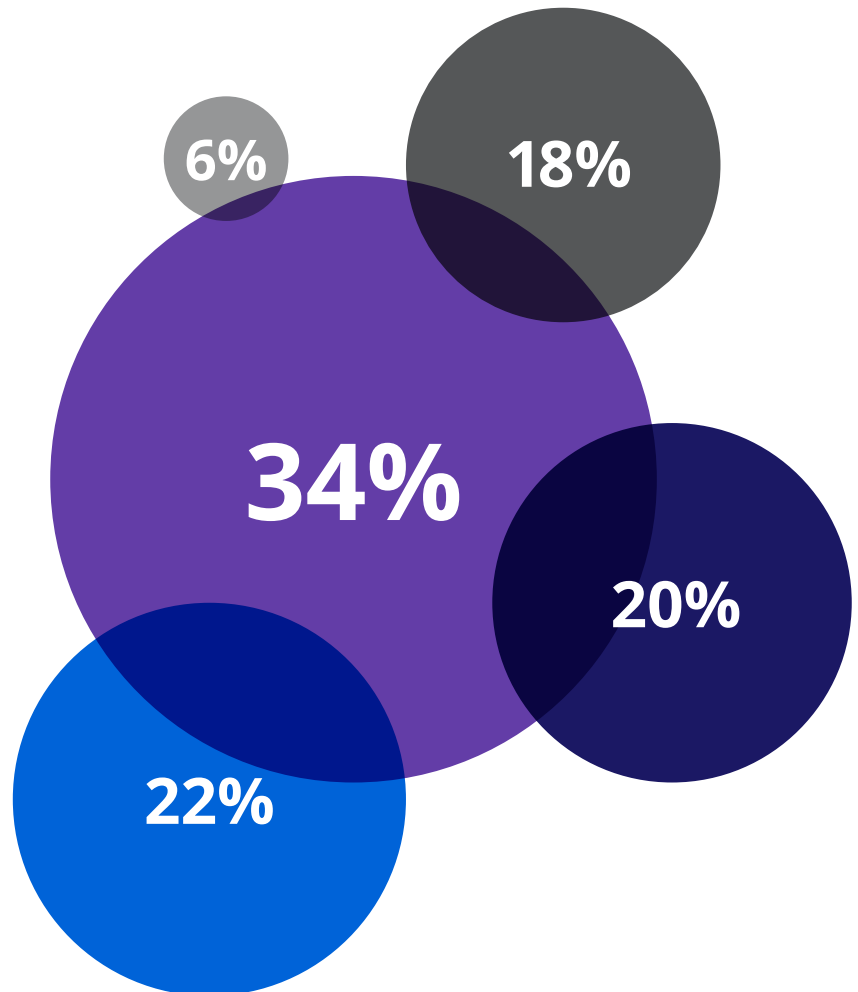
Community conversations were structured in a variety of ways to ensure an age-friendly presence was available at existing events throughout the needs assessment phase, inclusive of targeted community groups, stakeholders and across all geographic locations and wards. In addition, through the "In My Opinion" Hub (I.M.O.), the Town of Ajax's online engagement platform at www.ajax.ca/agefriendly, engagement data was collected via surveys, generating ideas, starting conversations, and pinning

areas of innovation or concern on an interactive map of Ajax. The I.M.O. Hub was useful in determining which age-friendly categories were to be of key focus moving into action plan development and future implementation planning. In keeping with an age-friendly lens, all online engagement initiatives were replicated in physical format and were made available at all community conversation activities, in all public building locations and at strategic seniors-affiliated locations throughout town.

Data Sample:

Through the engagement phase, the amount of resident feedback was impressive yet specific, and provided very detailed insights into what focus areas needed to be addressed. The demographic that provided the most feedback was 65-74 years of age, which is important to note, as senior civic participation in the planning process was a key priority.

- Under 55 years
- 55-64 years
- 65-74 years
- 75-84 years
- 85 and over



Because older adults and seniors know best what they need, they are at the centre of any effort by local governments to create a more age-friendly community.

World Health Organization

Vision

Ajax is a vibrant, innovative and connected community where all residents feel engaged, included and respected, empowering all individuals to age well, live with purpose and have opportunities to achieve their full potential.



Recommendations

The following timeframes will be used to achieve the recommendations outlined in the Plan:



Immediate
1-2 years

Future
3-5 years

**Future
Contingent
on Funding***

*Action on these items depends on attaining additional resources.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings



The outdoor environment and public buildings have a major impact on the mobility, independence and quality of life of older adults and affect their ability to age in place.

Goal 1: Provide age-friendly amenities within Town facilities, parks and trail systems.

- 1.1 Develop universal design standards to be used for future infrastructure development.
- 1.2 Create a municipally-operated seniors centre(s) with accessible, inclusive, multi-use age-friendly spaces and amenities.
- 1.3 Explore opportunities to enhance existing senior club(s) through expansion or renovations.
- ◆ 1.4 Annually assess appropriate locations for accessible outdoor public washrooms.
- ◆ 1.5 Consider the incorporation of age-friendly components within park design, including, but not limited to, seniors playgrounds, sports and recreation infrastructure and passive activity opportunities.
- 1.6 Continue to improve, create and expand shade structures near rest areas, in parks and on trail systems.
- 1.7 Incorporate bench/waste receptacles with additional concrete pads, arm handles and supports, into outdoor seating plans that are appropriately spaced throughout the community.
- 1.8 Actively encourage and engage the private sector to include accessible seating options and rest areas at/on privately-owned infrastructure through the development application review process.
- 1.9 Explore potential grant opportunities to enhance age-friendly infrastructure.



Goal 2: Explore opportunities to increase community accessibility and address community safety concerns.

- 2.1 Continue to implement the actions identified within the Town of Ajax multi-year Accessibility Plan.
- 2.2 Investigate the need for lighting additions and accessibility improvements at all municipal buildings and outdoor environments.
- 2.3 Encourage the private sector to incorporate age-friendly standards and best practices.
- 2.4 Encourage the inclusion of additional accessible parking spaces, beyond minimum legislative requirements, in new developments/facilities and those undergoing renovations and retrofits.

Goal 3: Ensure roads, paths, trails and walkways are connected and maintained.

- 3.1 Continue to improve snow clearing of sidewalks and paths of travel.
- 3.2 Review the Seniors Snow Removal Program.
- 3.3 Actively promote snow removal services available through local community-based organizations and explore additional volunteer snow removal models.
- 3.4 To ensure paths of travel are navigable and safe, continue to monitor and identify potential obstacles and barriers.



What residents are saying

“The snow removal program is great except it takes way too long. We need to do something to ensure seniors are not dealing with long wait times.”

“Beautiful outdoor spaces; clean and well-kept, always a pleasure walking the trails and exploring the lakefront.”

Transportation



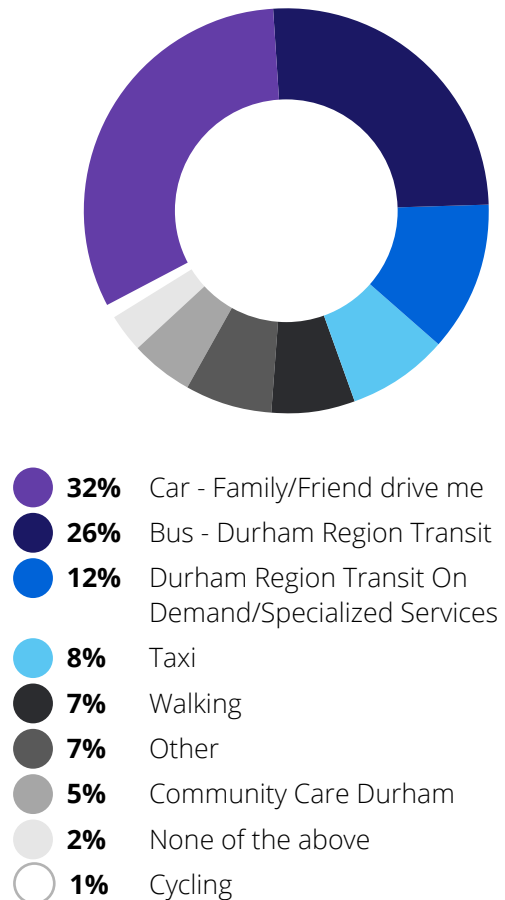
Transportation, including accessible and affordable public transit, is a key factor influencing active aging. Being able to move around the town determines social and civic participation and access to community and health services.

Goal 4: Improve accessibility of public transit services.

- 4.1 Advocate to Durham Region Transit Services, GO Transit, and other providers to improve weather protection and accessibility at transit stops and stations.
- 4.2 Collaborate with Durham Region Transit Services, GO Transit, and other providers to improve the quality of transit services including routes, reliability, frequency and affordability.
- 4.3 Work with transit providers to promote available, alternate and specialized transit options throughout Ajax and the Region and encourage clubs/organizations to investigate ride share programs.

Surveyed Seniors' Transportation Perspectives

Q. If in the future, you are not able to drive, which mode of transportation would be your preferred option?



Goal 5: Create safe routes for all modes of transportation.

- 5.1 Revise the Town's traffic calming warrant and implement traffic calming measures where appropriate.
- 5.2 Improve areas where there may be conflicts between different road and trail users.
- ◆ 5.3 Coordinate with Durham Region to improve traffic signal timing at major intersections, increase Accessible Pedestrian Signals (A.P.S.), and ensure accessible crosswalks and road crossings are appropriately located and promoted.
- 5.4 Review pedestrian connections, roadways, and access points to ensure safe and barrier free access.

Goal 6: Improve awareness of available transportation options for older adults.

- 6.1 Advocate to transit providers to develop user friendly access to schedules and updates through a variety of communication channels.
- 6.2 Encourage transit providers to attend existing community events to educate the older adult and senior demographic on available transportation options and navigation support.
- 6.3 Explore opportunities to develop specific marketing (i.e. parents and children, youth, seniors, etc.) to help promote available transportation options.

Goal 7: Expand and promote opportunities for active transportation options for older adults.

- 7.1 Improve awareness of current active transportation and mobility options for older adults.
- 7.2 Investigate opportunities for installing bike repair stations at various locations throughout the Town.
- 7.2 Continue engaging older adults in the Town's transportation awareness campaign, through both consultation and promotional opportunities.
- 7.4 Explore capacity to install power charging stations for recharging mobility wheelchairs and scooters at suitable locations in the community.

Housing



Accessible and affordable housing options have a major impact on the mobility, independence and quality of life of older adults and their ability to age in place.

Goal 8: Provide a range of appropriate and affordable housing options that are accessible and support aging in place for all residents.

- 8.1 Advocate to all levels of government to increase:
 - Long Term Care housing options
 - Funding for home-support services to foster aging in place
 - Affordable housing options for seniors with low to moderate incomes
- ◆ 8.2 Explore opportunities to include affordable housing options (i.e. “tiny homes” and co-housing) and related best practices into the Town’s Official Plan and Zoning By-law.
- 8.3 Encourage housing developers to provide homes with design layouts that are suitable for people to age in place.
- ◆ 8.4 Advocate to increase the number of rental units in areas close to facilities and services (subsidized and non-subsidized).
- ◆ 8.5 Encourage the establishment of retirement homes that offer a variety of housing for low, medium and high income seniors.
- 8.6 Advocate with social housing providers to ensure public housing and rental housing accommodations are well maintained.

Goal 9: Provide access to supports in order to inform seniors of available services to help them age in place.

- ◆ 9.1 Explore options to increase education and awareness of seniors assistance programs, housing subsidy programs and financial supports available to fund home modifications where needed.
- ◆ 9.2 Investigate collaborations with other organizations to develop a neighbourhood volunteer program that provides services to seniors (i.e. lawn maintenance, snow removal, social interactions and check-ins, etc.)



What residents are saying

“We should look into creative ways of handling the senior housing crisis; cohabitating, where seniors can rent out space in their homes and the tenants can help with household support.”

“There is not enough accessible, affordable housing for seniors.”



Social Participation, Respect and Inclusion



Social participation is strongly connected to good health and well-being. Leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities encourage all ages to exercise their intellectual capacity, keep active, enjoy respect and inclusion and maintain supportive relationships.

Goal 10: Provide a wide range of social opportunities that are inclusive, diverse, accessible and affordable.

- 10.1 Create a municipally-operated seniors centre(s) which would provide a variety of programs, services, educational opportunities and events.
- 10.2 Continue to provide a variety of inclusive and affordable programs, services, events and experiences that will support the needs of a diverse community.
- 10.3 Develop relationships with local recreation, arts, cultural, social and seniors serving organizations to establish programs and services that encourage cross-cultural opportunities.
- ◆ 10.4 Investigate opportunities to encourage and include isolated seniors to engage in community programs, services and events.
- 10.5 Engage with local school boards and youth groups to develop intergenerational programming/ opportunities.
- 10.6 Explore creative affordable transportation options for older adults to get to activities.

Goal 11: Continue to provide an inclusive environment where the customer service needs of all residents are considered, valued and respected.

- 11.1 Design customer service training opportunities for Town staff to improve and better serve all residents, meeting their specific needs.
- 11.2 Develop and promote existing Age-Friendly Business resources that provide information to local businesses on how to create accessible, comfortable and welcoming environments for seniors.



What residents are saying

“As a senior new to Canada, I have always felt overwhelmed with the care and help of others in the community; from simple directions, being included in activities and feeling like I belong.”

“We have fallen behind by not having a designated community centre specifically for seniors. Having a hub for seniors to access programming, services, information and resources in one place would be beneficial for all of us.”



Civic Participation & Employment



An age-friendly community provides options for older adults to continue to contribute to their communities, through paid employment or voluntary work if they so choose, and to be engaged in the political process.

Goal 12: Improve access to volunteer opportunities for older adults and seniors.

- 12.1 Review the existing volunteer portal with an inclusive lens to ensure that it accommodates older adults and all abilities, and training and supports are provided specifically for such groups.
- 12.2 Use a targeted communication strategy and campaign to encourage older adult volunteering.
- ◆ 12.3 Explore solutions for a Town-wide integrated volunteer/employment network where all available volunteer, employment, committee and club opportunities can be communicated, accessed and engaged by all.
- 12.4 Explore opportunities for increased multi-generational volunteer options.
- 12.5 Continue to recognize senior volunteer contributions via the annual Town of Ajax Community Awards, as well as individuals/groups/organizations that support seniors.



Goal 13: Improve access to employment opportunities for older adults who wish to work.

- 13.1 Investigate the most effective form(s) of communicating employment opportunities to older adults.
- ◆ 13.2 Identify training opportunities that exist for older adults and consider partnering with local organizations and businesses to deliver programs that offer employability skills for persons of all ages and abilities.
- ◆ 13.3 Develop a resource kit for employers and employees to learn about the value of older adults in the workplace.

Goal 14: Encourage older adults to participate in civic affairs.

- ◆ 14.1 Investigate mechanisms and opportunities for seniors to provide input to Council.
- 14.2 Encourage seniors to participate in engagement initiatives to ensure proper representation and input from all demographics (through meetings, surveys, committees, etc.)
- 14.3 Develop campaigns specific to older adults and seniors to encourage municipal voting.



What residents are saying

“Having the opportunity to give input about age-friendly community planning makes me feel engaged and included in the planning of something that actually will affect me as I age.”

“There needs to be a targeted approach to senior volunteerism.”

Community Support and Health Services



Health and support services are vital to maintaining health and independence in the community. The availability of sufficient good quality, appropriate and accessible health care and community supports are key to ensuring healthy aging and continued participation in the community.

Goal 15: Provide residents with improved access to health and social services within our community.

- ◆ 15.1 Advocate to all levels of government to encourage and facilitate increased general practitioners, specialists, and home care supports to improve service accessibility to the community.
- 15.2 Advocate for greater existing and alternative accessible transportation services which effectively aide in supporting attendance to medical appointments and procedures more seamlessly within and outside the community.
- 15.3 Work with all levels of government to open more local long-term care beds and assisted living environments for seniors with reduced wait times.
- 15.4 Explore opportunities to develop a seniors-helping-seniors program, where seniors can help others who need support navigating health and community support services.

Goal 16: Raise awareness of available community supports and foster education programs that encourage preventative measures to remain active, restore and maintain health.

- 16.1 Network and collaborate with community organizations to provide educational workshops on programs and support services available and develop information sessions on aging in place (i.e. living, transportation, health supports, senior safety, etc.)
- 16.2 Incorporate prevention and education topics and materials at the Town's annual 55+ Wellness and Information Fair.
- 16.3 Utilize a variety of communication strategies to relay information on educational components that encourage and support older adult and senior awareness of community supports and preventative measures.



What residents are saying

"The in-home supports I have received over the years have been such a help and allowed me to still stay active in my community."

"There needs to be some sort of directory of all the services and supports available, especially about programs and services and their eligibility."

Communication and Information



Staying connected to the community through access to information is vital for active aging. With the rapid evolution of information and communication technologies, supports are essential to ensure accessibility of information is relayed to society as a whole, ensuring everyone feels engaged.

Goal 17: Ensure information is available, accessible and produced in a variety of formats.

- 17.1 Provide and widely distribute information in a variety of tactics (print, social media, web), with a particular focus on locations where older adults congregate.
- 17.2 Investigate the feasibility of creating information kiosks for older adults in Town facilities including community centres, Town Hall and library branches.
- 17.3 Develop a monthly newsletter to include information from all areas and departments in the Town, to be distributed electronically and through print.
- 17.4 Develop a local network of various seniors serving organizations, and request these organizations further communicate with seniors in our community through joint networks and communication vehicles.
- 17.5 In consultation with an older adult focus group, create an Age-Friendly Ajax specific web page on ajax.ca, to become an online hub for information and include an opt-in newsletter feature.
- 17.6 Build a campaign that promotes a public-facing helpline and barrier free navigation platform for residents and service providers on information and referral details pertaining to community, social services, health and government services.
- 17.7 Investigate the feasibility of increasing electronic signage at various locations throughout the Town while slowing down the speed of messaging on existing signs.

- 17.8 Develop and enhance the Town's 55+ Information and Wellness Fair as the premier information event for older adults and seniors.
- 17.9 Maintain Town of Ajax document and website standards for accessibility and advocate these standards to community partners and agencies.
- ◆ 17.10 Develop Age-Friendly Ajax branded promotional items to give away at various events that promote the Town's main online information hub for age-friendly initiatives.
- ◆ 17.11 Investigate the creation of an "Ajax 101" information session open to all residents which would include information specific to the 55+ demographic.



What residents are saying

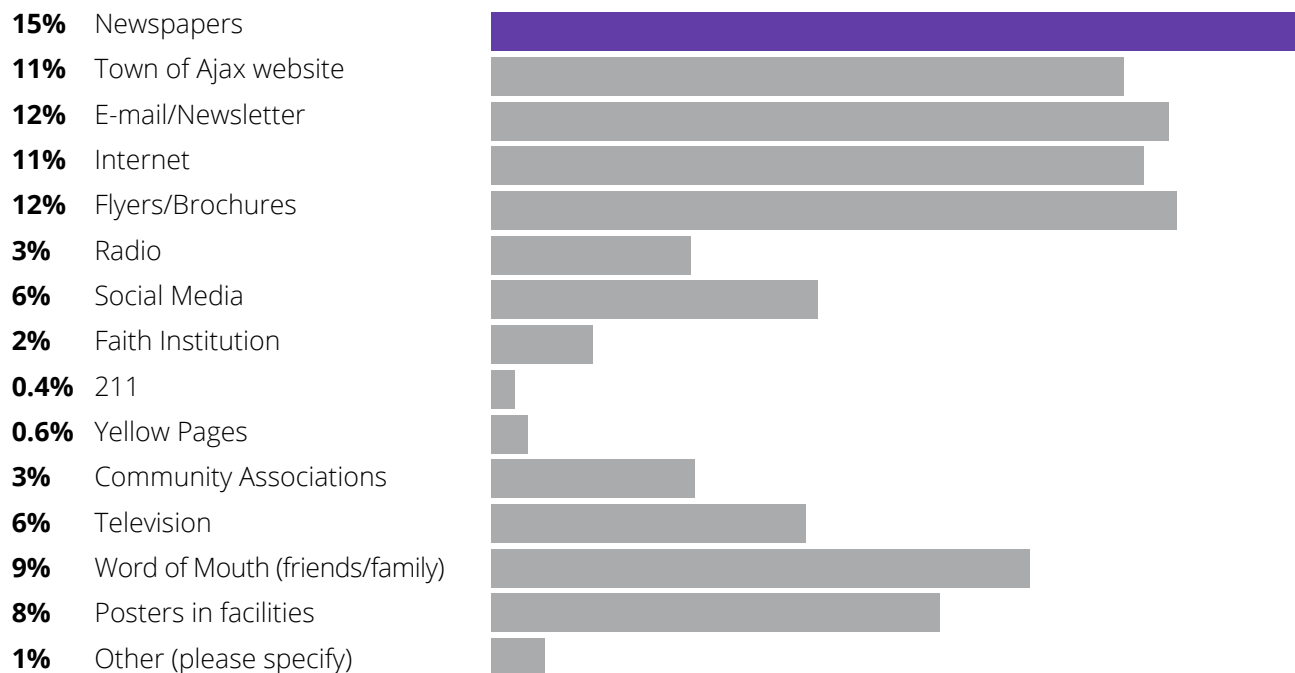
"The digital signage located throughout the town is an amazing feature to relay quick bits of information to the public."

"Cannot presume that everyone, especially seniors, can access information online and need oral and/or physical communication of information."



Surveyed Seniors' Perspectives on Communication

Q. How do you receive information?



Goal 18: Increase digital literacy and access to digital devices to assist with continuing changes in technology and access to digital information.

- 18.1 Support the delivery of computer literacy programs that teach older adults and seniors how to access digital information and use digital devices, including smart home devices.
- 18.2 Investigate opportunities for intergenerational programs that support digital literacy and knowledge sharing for older adults and seniors.
- 18.3 Investigate the addition of computer and digital device hubs in community centres.

GOAL 19: Strengthen communication with all levels of government to advocate age-friendly initiatives.

- ◆ 19.1 In cooperation with other age-friendly communities, explore creating a working group to advocate to all levels of government and the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) on age-friendly related issues/initiatives.

GOAL 20: Ensure information is readily received from seniors and opportunities exist for open dialogue on issues of their personal concern.

- 20.1 Utilize the Older Adult Task Force, consisting of volunteer Ajax seniors, to work with staff to assess the progress of the Age-Friendly Ajax Community Plan and assist in creating an annual report to Ajax Council and the community.
- 20.2 For existing resident engagement events, advocate that information pertaining to older adults be included.





Next Steps

Implementation

As a municipality, the Town of Ajax is making age-friendly initiatives a priority and is responsible for implementing the Age-Friendly Ajax Community Plan over the next five plus years with the collaboration of community stakeholders. The Plan recommendations will be incorporated into annual department workplans to ensure completion given the timeframes highlighted. The Town of Ajax also plays a key role in advocating and collaborating with other levels of government in accomplishing recommendations suggested that are outside our municipal purview.

In honour of our commitment to ensuring the implementation and evaluation stages are completed, the Town of Ajax will be applying to become a member of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Evaluation

Evaluation is a key component of the Age-Friendly Ajax community planning process. Progress towards the recommendations of this Plan will be measured on an annual basis with the formation of the Older Adult Task Force, consisting of volunteer Ajax senior residents who will work with staff to assess the progress of the Plan and assist in creating an annual report to Ajax Council and the community (see 20.1). Updates will be published to communicate annual achievements to community partners and members of the public. A full review of the Plan is anticipated to be undertaken in 5 years with consideration to the progress that has been made, and any major changes to the planning and service delivery context.

Public Transparency

Age-Friendly Ajax is committed to ongoing engagement with the public throughout the life-cycle of the Plan and its implementation. We welcome feedback and suggestions in working through the deliverables highlighted and invite the public who are interested in contributing to the Plan's implementation to visit www.ajax.ca/agefriendly.ca or call us at 905-619-2529, ext. 7231.



Age-Friendly Ajax Steering Committee

The Age-Friendly Ajax Steering Committee (A.F.A.S.C.), consisting of community stakeholders, local senior ambassadors and key Town department staff, were brought together to share their insights and start the conversation surrounding becoming an age-friendly community.

Their roles were fundamental in providing context in relation to the W.H.O.'s age-friendly dimensions and they were divided into working groups according to their expertise. The A.F.A.S.C. participated in all elements of the community planning process from community engagement opportunities, data analysis, the creation of key priorities, and overseeing the development of the community plan.

Without their passion, drive and insights this plan would not exist. It is truly amazing what happens when you bring together such a diverse group of people with so much knowledge and experience to work toward one goal; #StrongerTogether in action!

Committee Members

Jennifer Plishewsky | Recreation, Culture & Community Development
Laura Rae | Recreation, Culture & Community Development
Robert Gruber | Recreation, Culture & Community Development
Keith Haines | Age-Friendly Ambassador
Lisa Hausz | Planning & Development Services – Economic Development
Tim Field | Operations & Environmental Services
Fredrica Walters | Christian Faith Outreach Centre
Robbie Prochilo | Recreation, Culture & Community Development
Asif Patel | Planning & Development Services - Policy Planning
Lexie Halls | Age-Friendly Ambassador
Sarah Dodge | Ajax Public Library
Cerita Miller | The Lighthouse Retreat Inc.
Shane Christensen | By-Law Services
Linda Cork | Age-Friendly Ambassador
Nadia Sukovski | Planning & Development Services – Economic Development
Brian Lampole | Age-Friendly Ambassador
Ruth Bridge | Age-Friendly Ambassador
Shelly Langer | Ajax Fire & Emergency Services
Katrina Van Rhee | Community Care Durham
Sarah Moore | Legislative & information Services - Accessibility
Joyce Starkman | Age-Friendly Ambassador
Elaine Lievaart | Ajax Public Library
Armi De Francia | Planning & Development Services - Transportation
Rachael Wraith | Office of the CAO - Corporate Communications
Ray Smith | Age-Friendly Ambassador
Andrew Jackson | Operations & Environmental Services
Candice Janes | Community Care Durham
Harvey Brodhecker | Age-Friendly Ambassador
Valerie Silveira | Age-Friendly Ambassador

A special thank you to all participants and residents of Ajax who provided insight and guidance that helped to create the Age-Friendly Ajax Community Plan. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!



For more information, visit
ajax.ca/agefriendly

agefriendly
A J A X

Town of
Ajax
By the Lake