

The Town of Oakville

Department of Recreation & Culture

Seniors' Working Action Group (SWAG) - We're Age Friendly

Minutes – March 22, 2023 via ZOOM

In Attendance: Julie Pennal, Beth Robertson, Margaret Kirwin, Pierre Wong, Pat Moore, Ted Lambert, Nabeel Rahman, Heather Thompson, Michelle Nichols, Kelly Meeussen,

Regrets: Councillor Cathy Duddeck, Ruth Sheridan, Jennifer McPetrie, Bev Cathro, Darlene Cox

Guest: Heather Thompson – Director of Age-Friendly Initiatives at Community Development Halton and a member of the Older Adult Isolation Action Table.

1.	Call to Order by Julie Pennal – 1:45 p.m.
2.	Attendance / Regrets – Regrets as noted.
3.	Acceptance of previous Minutes / Agenda Margaret, seconded by Pat. Carried.
4.	Update from Jen McPetrie <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new Oakville.ca website launch was on Sunday. It will have a new refreshed look and easier to navigate. Senior Services page /easy to use.
5.	Guest Speaker: Heather Thompson -Director of Age - Friendly Initiatives at Community Development Halton and a member of the Older Adult Isolation Table. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last day – March 31st. After 10 years of service.• Funding is a challenge with the not-for-profit sector and the role will not be replaced.• Age Friendly Initiatives in Halton: engaging the community in advocacy for change, we are building a diverse, equitable and inclusive age friendly Halton that contributes to optimal aging, improving life for all. Encourages and promotes active aging by optimizing opportunities for health, participation, and security to enhance the quality of life as people age.• Pleased to hear that Oakville will have free transit 24/7 as of May 1st.• The census shows that older adults (55+) in Burlington is 35% and in Oakville is 29%. We need to be the voice for older adults.• Research shows that isolation is a global public health issue, statistics show that over four million people feel lonely.• CDH is the backbone of this initiative with focus on social supports for older adults. The goal by 2025 is to increase connectedness, identify individuals at risk, provide awareness and empowerment to access resources and strategies available.• Senior Connector Program: brings resources to seniors and families, education and training, face to face contact and connection with available services. Standing Agenda Items <ol style="list-style-type: none">Older Adult Isolation Table Update – LITE Training: Nabeel Rahman<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research documents and articles around older adult issues in the indigenous and immigrant communities. Shared with minutes.• Using this information for inclusion training in MayCouncillor update: Cathy Duddeck

- The Town of Oakville budget was approved - in the budget the free transit for seniors and teens 13 – 18 are free. They do require a Presto card to be eligible. This program comes into effect on May 1, 2023
- The Region of Halton is introducing a pilot project with household waste and recycling. The program would enable the homeowner's garbage to be retrieved with a lift truck (versus manual labor as it currently is). Special wheeled bins are provided according to the size of the household (small , medium, large). This is taking place in the 4 municipalities and only in select areas as it is a pilot only.
- Town Council provided their "Pledge" to the province regarding housing and the demands for increased density in the community to meet the needs of increased population. The province maintains they will cover the loss of revenue/expenses that will be born by the town – there is concern as to how that will work.
- This past season there has been considerable snow plough damage along the municipal road edge. This happened as a result of warmer temperatures prior to the snowfall (the ground was not as frozen as previous years). If you have damage in front of your home, you can call Service Oakville to request assistance. Public Works will have someone attend the area in the first few weeks of April.
- Comments from meeting participants indicated that response time from Service Oakville was very prompt and efficient.

c. Oakville Meals on Wheels – Michelle Nichols

- a. Launched March for Meals campaign raising awareness for Meals on Wheels, flag raised at Town Hall, March for Meals month proclaimed by Mayor, community celebrities supporting through delivery of meals.
- b. On Saturday night at Woodbine/Mohawk Casino to raise awareness.

d. Senior Connector Update – Pat Moore

- Monday Quilting group have been making quilts for Indwell (Hamilton, Mississauga, Streetsville, London locations). Have a video being shown on Thursday, March 30 at Meadowvale Community Church to talk about homelessness and supportive community housing.
- Julie to forward document with information.
- Employment and Social Development Canada – Survey due April 14. To be sent to members with minutes. Want to hear about ways to support those wishing to age in their home.
- Police are launching No Hate in Halton. Information to be included in minutes.

e. enVISION Oakville Update – Ruth Sheridan

- a. Joe filling in for Ruth while in recovery. Six participants on Monday. CNIB has replaced Ryan Van Preet as Supervisor of Supports. As a result, there will be a new dial in number to access for support.
- b. Ruth is doing well, and all good wishes are helping her to heal.

	<p>f. OAAC – Darlene Cox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Report as OAAC has not yet started for 2023
6.	<p>New Business Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWAG Event: March 2nd – Consumer Protection. Recording emailed out. Some positive feedback. Information was helpful especially the information about a Consumer Beware List. https://www.ontario.ca/page/search-consumer-beware-list Not all problematic Businesses are included but worth checking before making a purchase. • Reminder of the third and final part of series, Identity Theft & Fraud Awareness, Thursday, April 13 at 1:30 p.m., please use the link to register. • AMICA in person community presentation. Thirty or forty people attended at Colborne Centre. • NORC presentation (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community): Ted said they did a lot of work with a small number of resources and people. Not sure why they had to do it and not sure of the outcome or success. Focus was on operating procedures and not action oriented. • Cannabis: Darlene is working on this currently. • Paramedic Referral Form: Nancy Beddoe sent form to Julie. Purpose: if you know someone in your life who tends to call 911 regularly due to fear and/or loneliness. This form can be completed and assists in alerting the paramedic team that they may call and add them as part of their rounds to check that they don't have isolation issues or hygiene issues.
7.	<p>Information Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new information shared
8.	<p>Date of next meeting – Wednesday, April 26 at 1:30 PM via Zoom.</p>
9.	<p>Adjournment – Julie thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned 2:25 p.m.</p>