



**PRELIMINARY AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SUMMIT REPORT
GATHERING #1 – OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS
 May 29, 2015 – Brant Sports Complex**

PARTICIPANTS

City of Brantford

Organizations (Participants live in City)

- Brant County Health Unit
- Alzheimer Society
- Seasons Retirement Home
- City Parks and Recreation
- Seniors Resource Centre
- CARP Chapter
- Eastward Community Hub

Retirees **21**

Why they Attended

- Bicycling concerns
- Walkability suggestions
- Integration of seniors into neighbourhood hubs
- Signage Recommendations
- Electric scooters concerns/suggestions
- Rest spots in shade in city parks

Other – Ontario Seniors Secretariat

County of Brant

Organizations (Participants live in County)

- Brant County Health Unit
- County of Brant – 3 staff
- John Noble Home
- Grand River Community Health Centre
- Business - Homeinstead
- County Councillor

Retirees – 14 (Paris, St. George, Mt. Pleasant)

Why They Attended

- Safe Environment Priorities
- Curbs
- Accessible doors/entrances
- Sidewalks
- Roadways/walkways
- Health/Fitness

Other – 1 from Ohsweken

SUMMARY

Participants sat at tables indicative of where they lived. There were four City and three County tables. Discussion was facilitated by Core Planning Committee Members and **focused on identifying opportunities to maximize “age-friendly” planning into opportunities for enhancing the effective use of Outdoor Spaces and Buildings by all ages.** Participants were encouraged to think “outside of the box”.

The following concerns, together with their suggestions and/or recommendations, were reported for consideration by the municipalities and/or community organizations. Of interest is that many of the suggestions can apply to all of the various aspects of outdoor spaces and buildings. ***Continued.....***

GREEN SPACES

ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY

BENEFITS

Community Gardens

- Facilitate Intergenerational Programmng
- Use of extra land in parks/municipal grounds
- Provide Food to gardeners and to community
- Offer food preparation workshops

- Older adults teaching younger generations
- Provides social opportunities for isolated persons
- Ensures healthy food for many
- Ensures safe cooking and storage

Walkability

- Sidewalks should be standardized
- Remove all cobblestone sidewalks
- Accessible walking spaces
- Rural areas to consider pedestrian/bicycle needs
- Provide Pedestrian Crossings where appropriate
- Provide Lighting on Trails
- Provide plastic bag dispenser/garbage cans for animal waste
- Tree Trimming to be maintained over paths, streets
- Promote Paved sections of trails

- To prevent falls
- To ensure safety and prevent falls/twisted ankles
- Promotes healthy living through exercise
- To ensure safe options for other than drivers
- To reduce risk of injury
- To reduce misuse and promote safety
- To promote cleanliness on trails/streets
- To prevent head/facial injuries
- To increase usage

Municipal Parks

- Paved walkable paths
- Shady Rest Spots
- Activity Spaces – Playgrounds for Children
 - Examples: - Chess/Checkers Play area
 - Tai Chi Area
 - Picnic Area
 - Water Availability
- Public Washrooms – Open and Accessible
- Well placed shelters
- Clear Directional Signage/Information
- Partner with Community Organizations
- Post rules for bicycles/scooters
- If higher elevations, provide safe steps/ramps and railings
- Provide bicycle lanes and stands

- To ensure safe walking-attract walking groups
- To encourage all ages to visit – can rest while there
- Something for everyone

- Available during park hours/visits
- To protect against weather
- Offers and promotes choices
- Share the Cost of enhancements
- Ensure safety for all
- To provide safe access for all ages
- To encourage usage by cyclists

ROADS/STREETS/SIDEWALKS

ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY

BENEFITS

Sidewalks (also see Green Spaces)

- Sidewalks should be standardized in width and surface
- Remove all cobblestone sidewalks
- Accessible walking spaces
- Rural areas to consider pedestrian/bicycle needs
- Provide Pedestrian Crossings where appropriate
- Tree Trimming to be maintained over streets
- Provide benches in busy areas
- Review snow and ice removal policies
- Provide sidewalks in all residential areas

- To prevent falls
- To ensure safety and prevent falls/twisted ankles
- Promotes healthy living through exercise
- To ensure safe options for other than drivers
- To reduce risk of injury
- To prevent head/facial injuries
- To provide rest stops
- To promote accessibility and prevent falls
- To reduce risk of injury

Traffic

- County to move gravel pit entrances
- More advanced left turn green arrows at busy intersections
- Allow minimum of 15 seconds for Pedestrian cross lights
- Left and right turn lanes at busy intersections
- License Scooter Drivers
- Develop like rules of the road for scooters/bicycles
- Increase size and print in street signs
- Ensure active transportation routes in new developments
- Enforce speed limits
- Install pedestrian cross walk light at Beckett Building

- To reduce dust and improve residential air quality
- To promote accident prevention
- To promote safe crossing at lights
- To facilitate traffic flow
- To ensure safety rules for all drivers
- To prevent accidents and promote safety
- To enhance readability without stopping traffic
- To facilitate traffic flow to amenities
- To promote safety and prevent accidents
- To ensure safe crossing

Parking

- Offer alternate sizes of handicap parking spaces
 - wide for unloading assistive devices or strollers
 - normal for other mobility issues
- Correct short elevated handicap parking at Brant Sports Complex
- Do away with angular parking
- Implement Provincial Legislation along with AODA legislation
- Use of Transponder to access handicap spaces

- To facilitate access to streets, buildings, etc.
- To remove dangerous angle for unloading devices
- To eliminate backing out into traffic
- Eliminate confusion re different municipal by-laws
- Ensures access to those who need it

Roads/Streets

- Incorporate bicycle/scooter lanes on all roads/streets
- Install appropriate lighting in all residential areas

- To take off sidewalks and promote safety on roads
- For safe walking at night

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY

BENEFITS

Accessibility

- Standardize** National Building Codes – all buildings, all provinces
i.e. entrances, ramps, doors, stairs, railings, elevators,
washrooms -to accommodate wheelchairs AND scooters
- Public Service Buildings close to transit options
- All doors to be wide, have automatic option and lever handles
- Well placed external and internal lighting
- Arenas, etc. – railings for aisles in order to access seats
- Ramp option to entrances and parking lots with a step or steps
- Entrances with two doors should both open in the same direction
- One button for automatic opening of two sets of doors with time
to access both doors before they close
- Place directional signage at level for all to view (youth,
wheel chairs, normal height)
- Encourage architects, engineers, builders to involve users in
design processes
- Place parking identifiers on posts in municipal parking lots
- First aid station with defibrillator and proper signage
- Appropriate Garbage collection and building maintenance

- Efficiency for architects, builders, etc.
- Reduced costs
- Comfort for all ages
- Accessible to non-drivers
- Provides ease of access for all ages
- To facilitate safe access
- To prevent falls
- Accessible to all
- To prevent isolation between the doors
- Provides safe entrance
- Assists in reaching the right location
- To gain knowledge from experience and incorporate
it into the design
- To help locate vehicles
- In case of emergency
- Maintain cleanliness and prevent illness

Public Washrooms (in buildings, parks and downtown)

- Open to Public
- Maintained cleanliness
- Well lit
- Different Height toilets/sinks
- Minimum of one Handicap Stall to handle scooter/chair
- Lever Door Handles with push locks on easy open doors
- Emergency Call Button
- Automated flush toilets
- Grab bars in all stalls
- Institute a "co-gender" option separate from the other stalls

- Accessible when needed
- Prevent illness
- To accommodate children and older adults
- To provide safety and privacy
- For easy opening and confidence in safety
- In case of emergency
- Ensures flushing
- Provides a safety option
- To assist family members i.e.children/spouse

SERVICES

ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY

BENEFITS

Health and Social Services

- Most not available in County and requires transportation to City
 - Suggestion was made re working with School Boards to utilize school buses when not in use
- All health care professionals should have "age-friendly" access
- Support services to assist people to "age" in their homes
- Mobile health services to County locations

- Would provide option to those without cars or subsidies for disabilities
- Equity in patient service
- Reduction in health service cost and development of self-confidence in personal living needs
- Could address some of the transportation problems

Miscellaneous

- Recruit Youth as volunteers for organizations serving seniors
- Customer Service Sensitivity Training re dealing with aging adults
- Orientation to hearing, sight, language differences
- Involve youth in planning intergenerational services
- Signage re available pay phone
- Public services and businesses should have a work station assigned to people in wheel chairs
- Education systems should include communication skills re the language most effective in dealing with older adults
- Encourage Secondary school system to direct youth to community volunteer hours with seniors
- Arm chairs in waiting rooms, lounges, etc.

- Promotes awareness and effective communication
- Respect and courtesy results in the same in return
- Improves communication and facilitates problem solving
- Creates awareness of all ages and positively impacts the results of future planning
- For those without cell phone
- Provides confidence and comfort to clients
- Prepares youth for the workplace and community life
- Practical experience heightens awareness in preparation for their future
- So clients can "push" themselves out of them