

WW Regional Council Task Force Presentation Apr.21, 2021

Will & Sheila Combined FINAL

Mr. Mayor and Council Members,

1. I am Will Patterson, attending today with Sheila O'Brien.

We are two of the 7 volunteer members on the WW Task Force for Seniors and Older Adults - here to report on the just completed Seniors Community Needs Assessment and Age Friendly Community Plan. We are excited to be with you!

As you are aware, in WW, we have about 1500 Seniors over 65 (21% of pop.) and expected in 5 years to be 27%. In Ontario currently each and every day - 400 seniors turn 65!

2. As the hopes and plans for an Age Friendly Community have evolved, the TF has had conversations and letters of support with about 30 potential partners, providers, Senior's groups, faith groups and numerous individuals.

Endorsed by Council in Sept. 2019, chaired by Councillor Neil Nicholson, and introduced at the Mar.6, 2020 Council meeting, the Task Force has since been "zooming along" on your behalf with over 20 meetings, training sessions and focus groups.

3. In Nov. 2020 WW was awarded a \$24,000 Grant and selected the Barnes Management Group to develop a Needs Assessment which was completed Mar.31,2021 and is part of today's information package.

The Age Friendly Community Needs Assessment identified these key strategies and actions:

- Engaging Seniors
- Coordination of Services
- Transportation
- Internet & Cellphone services
- Addressing System level advocacy
- Communication
- WW Seniors Council

As I review the Report, these word pictures come to mind:

safe / healthy / home // sustain / support / belong / participate // involve / relational / trust / timely // intergenerational / interdependent / enhance / encourage // evolve / share / recruit / respect // centralize / concise / inform / revitalize // value / advocate / priority / together // access / friends / family / possibilities / preferences // real / simple...



- 1. Thanks Will.**
- 2. In support of this Pilot we will move forward to create a WW Seniors' Council to monitor implementation of the activities, to look for possible synergies between the various initiatives, evaluate the effectiveness of our strategies and to keep the Plan moving forward over time;**
- 3. We would like membership of the Council to include seniors, township officials and staff as well as representatives of those groups who provide service to seniors in our area;**
- 4. And as with any project of this nature, the key to its success will be much needed support along with proactive community partnerships and continuous communication with our seniors;**
- 5. Initial offerings such as information referrals, assistance with transportation and advice about home meal support can be made available fairly quickly, while other initiatives such as an Active Seniors' Centre, will no doubt take more planning & more time;**
- 6. Future funding will also need to be addressed and we are committed to working on identifying as many 'ways and means' as possible;**
- 7. It will be a continuous learning process as we move forward, but we do feel that if we all work together, the goal can be onwards and upwards all the way;**
- 8. On that note, thank you once again for having us to speak to you tonight;**
- 9. In closing we would be pleased to try to answer any questions you may have.**