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...

- 4. Also in Nov. 2020 a WW Satellite Position Paper was developed to create a partnership with Carefor and Renfrew Home Support. WW then applied for and received in Mar. 2021, a \$60,000 Inclusive Community Grant to create a WW Satellite Pilot Program & Office in partnership with Renfrew Home Support, Carefor and the location's new owner.
- 5. This fully accessible Satellite Office will be located in the former Beachburg Scotia Bank. A part time employee will be hired to coordinate, communicate and collaborate with all those invested in the needs of seniors. A plan is underway for a vehicle dedicated for WW Seniors. The hope is to begin by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

This office will be a Centralized Hub with information on how to access various services. A Hub that is easily accessible for the aging population by phone, in person as well as through the internet.

6. We also look forward to creating links with the recently announced Renfrew County Housing Strategies and the Ride Share Transportation Pilot program. As well, we are aware of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network internet proposal.

While our emphasis has been directed towards seniors, our goals and aspirations are inclusive of all WW residents – If it is safe and effective for those 80 years old, it is also likely safe and effective for those 8 months old!

7. In closing, I happened to notice the WW Mission Statement: "Mission What we do The Township of Whitewater Region delivers municipal services to

The Township of Whitewater Region delivers municipal services to a welcoming community."

It is my hope that by this time next year we may want to revise the WW Mission Statement to read: *The Township of Whitewater Region delivers municipal services to a welcoming Age Friendly community.*"

Thank you for listening and for the considerable support of Council, especially Neil, Cathy, Rob and Ivan.

And now, Sheila will fill you in further...

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.