

## **Municipality of St.-Charles Age-Friendly Community Action Plan Website Text**



The Municipality of St.-Charles has retained MMM Group Limited, a WSP company, to assist the Municipality with the preparation of an Age-Friendly Community Action Plan. This Action Plan will be used to help the Municipality improve its age-friendliness and ensure all residents can remain active members of the community at every stage of life.

Age-friendly action plans generally focus on the following eight dimensions of community living, identifying gaps and opportunities for improvement in each one:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Communication and Information
- Community Support and Health Services

This project is funded by the Government of Ontario.

### **Q. What is an age-friendly municipality?**

A. The concept of an age-friendly municipality was identified by the World Health Organization (WHO), in response to data indicating that the proportion of the global population aged 60 or older is expected to double from 11% in 2006 to 22% by 2050. As people age and their needs change, communities must also change in order to remain desirable places to live.

The WHO has published a document entitled *Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide* (WHO, 2007), which presents barriers and opportunities in daily living identified by older adult focus groups across 33 cities in 22 countries. In addition to the guide, the WHO has created a Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities. The checklist is meant to be used by municipalities to evaluate their age-friendliness across the eight domains of daily life listed above, and to use the results to create improvement plans.

The WHO defines an age-friendly municipality as one that encourages active aging by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security, in order to enhance quality of life as people age (WHO, 2007). What that means is that all older people, regardless of ability, need or capacity, should not only be included in all aspects of community life, but be recognized for the valuable contribution they make.

### **Q. Who will benefit from this Action Plan?**

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A. The opportunities for improvement listed throughout the final Action Plan are meant to be used by municipal officials and community partners alike. Stakeholders and decision-makers within municipal administration and within various departments may use the Action Plan to help inform their decisions. Additionally, community agencies, businesses and groups may use it to make age-friendly improvements to their work. Non-for-profit groups may use it as support for grant applications. Members of the general public may use it to engage in age-friendly grassroots endeavours.

**Q. What will the Age-Friendly Action Plan look like?**

A. The plan will include an introduction to the eight dimensions of age-friendly cities; a review of St.-Charles’s changing demographics and existing municipal policies, an assessment of the Municipality’s age-friendly strengths and opportunities for improvement, and recommendations for action.

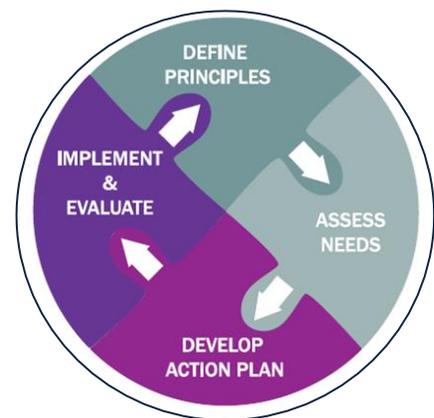
The plan will also include an implementation matrix that will identify:

- Action Items
- Targeted Groups
- Timing/Priorities
- Responsibility (e.g. municipal department)
- Funding Sources
- Implementation Indicator (i.e. monitoring mechanism)

**Q. What is the planning process?**

The plan will be developed in two phases based on the 4 steps of the Ontario Seniors Secretariat’s Age-Friendly Communities (AFC) process:

Phase 1	Phase 2
1. Define Principles	3. Develop Action Plan
2. Assess Needs	4. Implement & Evaluate



*Ontario Seniors Secretariat’s Age-Friendly Communities (AFC) process*

The project started in July 2016 and is taking a bottom-up approach to developing the plan. An Age-Friendly Committee was established shortly afterwards to guide and review the project as it progresses. The Age-Friendly Committee includes representatives from Council, municipal staff, health and social services organizations, local seniors’ groups, and the community at large. A Visioning Workshop with the Age-Friendly Committee, facilitated by MMM Group, will take place on September 27, 2016, and will result in a Draft Vision

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Statement and Draft Goals. The Committee will also provide input into the Community Dimensions and identify strengths and opportunities for improvement. An extensive community audit will also be conducted with municipal staff.

**Q. I'm interested! How do I get involved and participate?**

We want to hear from you! There will be numerous opportunities for public engagement, including:

- To learn more about age-friendly needs within the St.-Charles community, a community-wide survey was launched in October 2016. It is accessible online at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/St-Charles\\_Age-Friendly\\_Amies-Aines](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/St-Charles_Age-Friendly_Amies-Aines), in paper format at key public buildings and locations, and is being distributed to residents by mail;
- A Seniors' Expo in November 2016 (date TBC);
- An opportunity for public review of the draft plan in January 2017; and
- A presentation to Council for adoption in March 2017.

To learn about these opportunities, watch for notices on this website, posters and other notices in the community, or contact Jonathon Condratto at the information provided below.

**Q. Who can I contact if I have questions?**

Please contact Jonathon Condratto, Economic Development Officer, Municipality of St.-Charles, at 705-867-2032 ext. 201 or [jcondratto@stcharlesontario.ca](mailto:jcondratto@stcharlesontario.ca).