

Age-Friendly Community Action Plan for Haldimand County

Request for Haldimand County Council Approval

Presented by Valerie Bailey-Phillips, Chair, Seniors Advisory Committee
Council in Committee Meeting - June 17, 2025

What is an Age-Friendly Community (AFC) Action Plan?

- A community plan that promotes well-being, healthy aging in place and social inclusion of older adults (and all who are aging).
- Guided by the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Framework
 - Focuses on eight domains for living well.



Benefits of an Age-Friendly Community Action Plan

- Improves the well-being of older adults and all residents.
- Guides community and municipal planning, policies, programs and future infrastructure.
- Supports access to federal, provincial and other third-party grants for Haldimand County and its community partners (not having an AFC Action Plan can limit funding opportunities).
- Integrates age-friendly considerations in all major municipal planning strategies and processes.

Evidence-Based Impact of Age-Friendly Communities

- 1. Enhanced Health and Well-being** – AFCs are associated with improved physical and mental health, increased social participation and better access to services for older adults.
- 2. Systemic Community Benefits** – Studies suggest AFC initiatives can lead to systemic changes including improved organizational practices, enhanced resource distribution, stronger community partnerships and positive shifts in perceptions about aging.
- 3. Importance of Community Engagement** – Literature suggests active involvement of older adults in planning and implementing AFC initiatives fosters a sense of purpose and community belonging, which are crucial for the success and sustainability of AFCs.

Sources: 1) Keating, N., Scharf, T., & Hunter, A. (2023). Age-Friendly Community Interventions for Health and Social Outcomes: A Scoping Review. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*, 20(3), 2334. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20032334> 2) Brown, C. J., & Fitzgerald, K. G. (2024). Age-Friendly Communities as Systems Change: Six Areas of Impact. *The Gerontologist*, 65(1), gnae149. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnae149> 3) Rantanen, T., Portegijs, E., Viljanen, A., Eronen, J., & Saajanaho, M. (2020). The Role of Community Engagement in Age-Friendly Cities. *Front Public Health*, 8, 544573. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2020.544573>

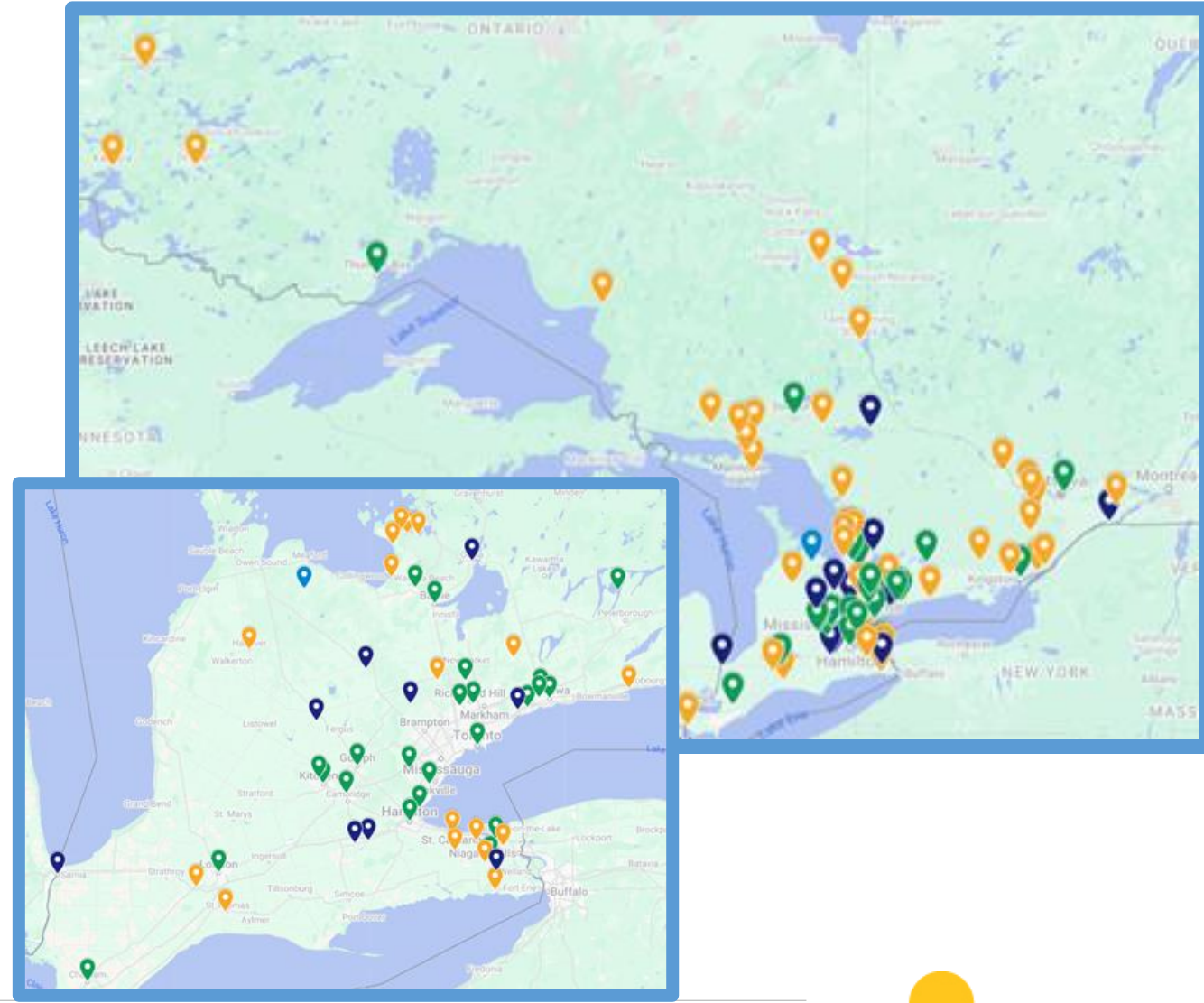


Comparable Age-Friendly Communities

<p>County of Brant</p> <p>Population: 39,474 (2021)</p> <p>Funding: municipal funding (ongoing), provincial Seniors Community Grant (2020-21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed, adopted and approved its first Age-Friendly Community Plan in 2021. 	<p>Town of Hanover</p> <p>Population: 7,967 (2021)</p> <p>Funding: municipal funding (ongoing), provincial Seniors Community Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016 Age-Friendly Needs Assessment was approved by Council, leading to the formation of the Hanover Age-Friendly Advisory Committee in 2017.
<p>Town of Lincoln</p> <p>Population: 25,719 (2021)</p> <p>Funding: municipal funding (ongoing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Community Age-Friendly Survey. Successful membership application to the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities. 	<p>Municipality of Middlesex Centre</p> <p>Population: 18,928 (2021)</p> <p>Funding: federal Enabling Accessibility Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed and launched Age-Friendly Community Action Plan in 2022.

Why an Age-Friendly Plan for Haldimand?

- Growing older adult population in Haldimand County.
- Aligns Haldimand with provincial and federal age-friendly priorities and guidelines for municipalities.
- Join 100+ Ontario communities that have or are developing Age-Friendly Community Plans (26 in southwest Ontario region).
- Access to funding and support.



Source: <https://sagelink.ca/age-friendly-communities-ontario/age-friendly-communities/>


The Corporation of Haldimand County's Key Strengths and Assets

1. **Strong Community Advisory Infrastructure** – (e.g. Accessibility, DEI and Youth Advisory Committees) .
2. **Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC)** – Consistent, dedicated and connected Committee prepared to steward and sustain this collaborative work for the long term.
3. **Collaborative Culture and Organizational Capacity** – Established commitment, willingness and capacity to align strategic initiatives and leverage partnerships.

The Corporation of Haldimand County's Key Strengths and Assets

4. **Alignment with Council Priorities, Strategic Initiatives & Community Partnerships** – Unifies existing municipal and community efforts, e.g. 2025-2045 Strategic Plan, Community & Recreation Facilities Strategy, Public Arts & Culture Strategy, planning and growth strategies, master servicing plans, Greater Hamilton Haldimand Health Network (GHHN), etc.
5. **Foundation of Community Engagement** – Build on recent public consultations, community-led projects and engagement efforts (e.g. telepresence robotics project, heritage/culture initiatives, parks and recreation planning).
6. **Regional Leadership and Opportunity for Recognition** – By initiating and facilitating an AFC Plan, Haldimand can join other Ontario municipalities recognized as age-friendly, signalling a proactive commitment to an aging population and positioning Haldimand as a regional leader in inclusive planning.

Readiness Indicators for Age-Friendly Success

Indicator	Description
 Council Commitment	Council has passed or is prepared to pass a resolution to support AFC planning.
 Inclusive Leadership Group(s)	A diverse advisory or working group is established with older adult representation.
 Designated Staff Lead	A municipal staff member is assigned to coordinate the age-friendly process.
 Community Engagement Capacity	Resources/plans/processes in place to meaningfully engage older adults and caregivers.
 Collaborative Partnerships	Local stakeholders (e.g. health, social services, non-profits) are engaged and committed.
 Data Availability	Access to local demographic/service use data; readiness to conduct a needs assessment.
 Strategic Alignment	Age-friendly priorities are supported by or embedded in other municipal plans.
 Knowledge of AFC Principles	Key staff and partners understand the WHO's 8 domains and age-friendly planning process.
 Equity & Inclusion Focus	Commitment to engaging diverse older adult populations (rural, Indigenous, 2SLGBTQ+).
 Resources Identified	Budget or in-kind resources are allocated for planning and early implementation.

Haldimand's Age-Friendly Community Action Plan: Not Just Another Document

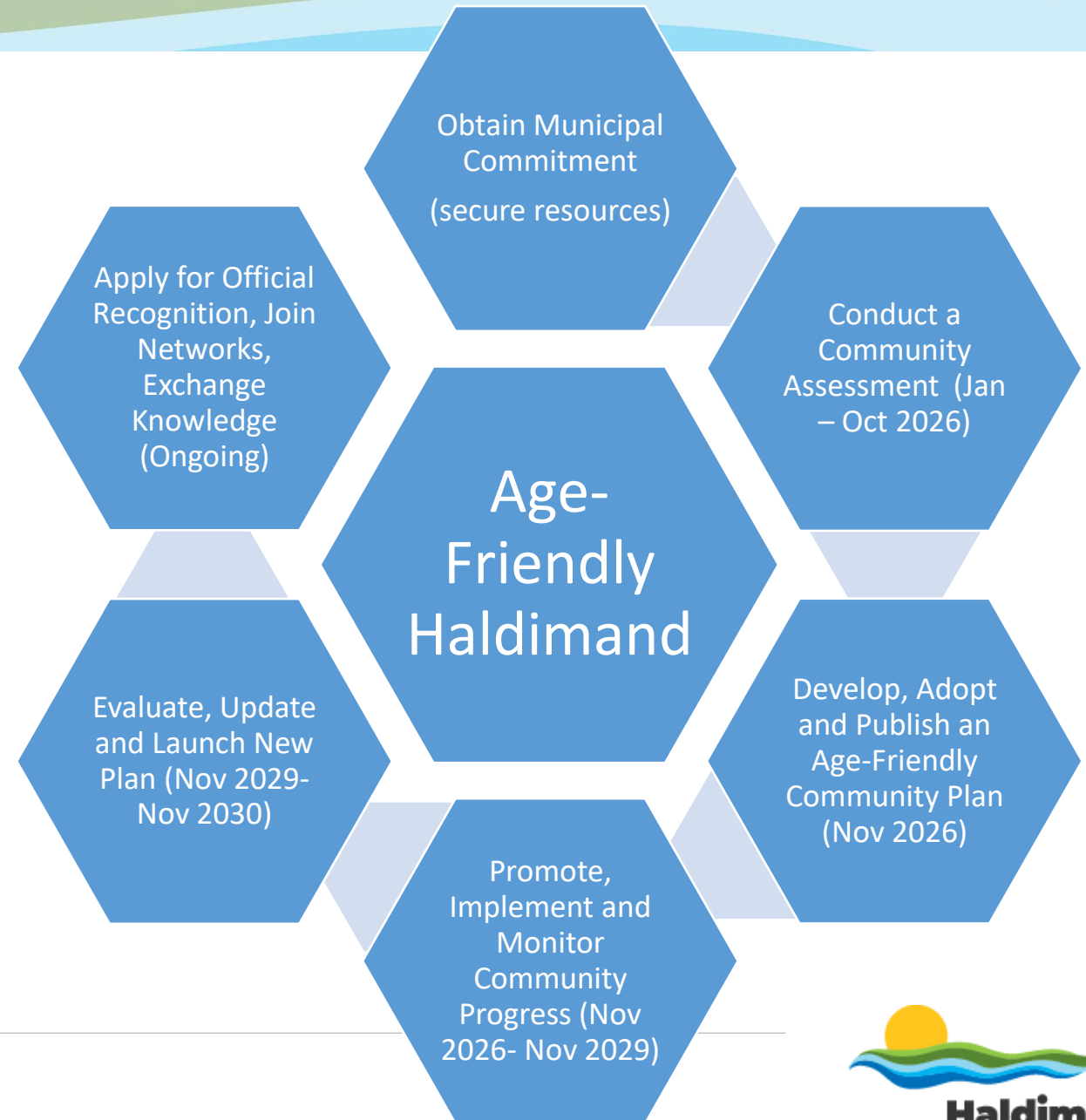


“An age-friendly vision can only be generated and sustained by the widest possible ownership of it.”

Dr. Alex Kalache
President, ILC-Brazil

Proposed Development Cycle (2025-2026):

Age-Friendly Haldimand County



AFC Planning – Potential Third-Party Funding

1. **Inclusive Communities Grant** (provincial): Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility helps communities become age-friendly. Grants of up to \$60,000.
2. **Seniors Community Grant Program** (provincial): Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, Seniors Community Grants (SCG) support programs and opportunities that encourage greater social inclusion and community engagement for older adults. Grants up to \$25,000.
3. **New Horizons for Seniors Program** (federal): New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) supports community-based projects that are designed by seniors for seniors aimed at improving health and wellbeing. Grants up to \$25,000
4. **Ontario Trillium Foundation** (provincial): The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. Support is provided to projects that work towards improving the well-being of people across the province.

Other Funding Agencies: HelpAge Canada, United Way, Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario (OACAO), RTOERO Foundation Grants

Seniors Advisory Committee – Request to Council

1. THAT Report CDP-07-2025 Seniors Advisory Committee Request – Development of an Age-Friendly Community Action Plan, be received;
2. AND THAT the delegation presentation by the Haldimand County Seniors Advisory Committee regarding the development of an Age-Friendly Community Action Plan in Haldimand County be received;
3. AND THAT the delegation presentation and associated recommendations regarding Haldimand County's support for the development of an Age-Friendly Community Action Plan be approved;
4. AND THAT Council support the Seniors Advisory Committee and County staff in investigating and applying for third-party funding, including the Mayor and Clerk executing any associated applications and/or agreements to support the initiatives outlined in CDP-07-2025.

Thank You!

Questions?