



safe & well

OXFORD COMMUNITIES

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, March 24th, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Oxford County Administration Building - Room 129

1. Call the Meeting to Order
2. Review of Agenda for meeting of March 24th, 2025
3. Review of Minutes of January 27th, 2025 meeting ([attached](#))
 - Meeting Notes of February 24th, 2025 ([attached](#)) – no resolution required as there was no quorum (for information purposes only)
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - Area Municipalities DEI Charter follow-up – Norwich
 - 2025 Summit: Location and date determination
 - Website Update & Communication Plan
 - Use of Space Policy Update
 - Steering Committee Meeting Location
 - Vice-Chair selection (deferred from January 27th meeting)
Suggested Resolution:
RESOLVED that the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee appoint _____ as the Vice-Chair for 2025.
5. Action Coalition Updates (Round Table)
 - Oxford Housing Action Collaborative – on hold
 - Oxford Mental Health & Addictions Network - Peter Heywood (no update)
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Coalition - Ayesha Sajid ([attached](#))
 - Domestic Abuse Resource Team - Diane Harris ([attached](#))

. Next Steps & New Business:

- Age-Friendly Community - Meagan Lichti, Southwest Public Health & Kelly Gilson, United Way Oxford [attached](#)
- Vision Zero Policy and Good Roads Rural Road Safety Strategy Resolution ([attached](#))

. Upcoming Meeting Dates – Oxford County Administration Building – Room 129:

- April 28th
- May 26th (room 222)
- June 23rd

. Adjournment



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 27th, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Oxford County Administration Building
Room 129

1. **Call the Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcus Ryan at 10:04 a.m. and a quorum was present.

Attendees:

Marcus Ryan, Bernia Martin, Tony Hyman, Diane Harris, Ayesha Sajid, Amy Humphries

2. **Review of Agenda for meeting of January 27th, 2025**

Resolution No. 1 Moved by: Ayesha Sajid
 Seconded by: Diane Harris

RESOLVED that the agenda for the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting of January 27th, 2025, be approved.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

3. **Review of Minutes of December 2nd, 2024, meeting**

Resolution No. 2 Moved by: Ayesha Sajid
 Seconded by: Diane Harris

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting of December 2nd, 2024, be approved as presented.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Area Municipalities DEI Charter follow-up – EZT and Norwich
 - EZT has endorsed the Charter. Norwich staff will be reporting back to Council to request further direction.
 - A. Sajid advised that the DEI Action Coalition discussed its role if Norwich does not endorse the Charter. Warden Ryan commented that the accountability falls to the area municipal Councils and that the Charter was meant to be adapted to the specific needs of the community and used as a guiding document. By Council adopting it as a guiding document, municipal staff will work to move it forward as per their individual Council's direction. The Committee commented that area municipal staff are looking to the DEI Action Coalition for resources and guidance to share amongst their own staff and communities.

- 2025 Summit: Location and date determination
 - This discussion was deferred to the February 24th, 2025 meeting as S. Hamulecki was not in attendance.

- Website Update & Communication Plan
 - Woodstock is waiting to hear back from Oxford County IT staff for training to post agendas and minutes to the SWO page.
 - Further updates are planned for the SWO website.
 - The DEI webpage is now live.

- Suggested Resolution from Warden Ryan
 - The Committee discussed the need to provide a list of the Safe and Well Oxford partners along with the resolution and that the partners could be the members of each Action Coalition.

Resolution No. 3 Moved by: Bernia Martin
 Seconded by: Diane Harris

Whereas the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee has heard from several community partners that there is a need for space to expand the offering of their services more broadly throughout Oxford County; and

Whereas all nine Safe and Well Oxford municipal partners own or operate spaces that at various times are under-utilized;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Safe and Well Oxford Steering

Committee recommends to all nine municipal partners that policies be developed whereby identified Safe and Well Oxford partners could make use of these under-utilized spaces at no cost, to deliver services consistent with the Safe and Well Oxford plan; and,

That the nine Safe and Well Oxford municipal partners be invited to collaborate with the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee, and specifically the SWO Co-lead, to develop the relevant policies; and

That this recommendation be circulated to all nine SWO municipal Councils asking for their support and participation.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

5. Action Coalition Updates (Round Table)

- Oxford Housing Action Collaborative (*TBD*)
 - The Committee has been paused until the Housing and Homelessness Plan is complete.
- Oxford Mental Health and Addictions Action Coalition (*Peter Heywood*)
 - Not in attendance.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Action Coalition (*Ayesha Sajid*)
 - The DEI webpage is now live. The details will continue to be worked on and populated. The Coalition has been discussing the best way to promote the page and that the focus for the first year is education and awareness. Further consideration is being given to promoting events and dates of significance.
 - The Coalition is considering expanding its membership to include more diverse groups.
- Domestic Abuse Resource Team (*Diane Harris*)
 - Femicide Prevention Leadership Table continues to meet monthly
 - Starting the Madame table under the Femicide Prevention Leadership Table – focusing on confidentiality
 - Offering online training called “Make It Your Business”
 - The larger community agencies are seeking in-person training for their GBV specialists
 - Grant money was received to provide this training to Oxford County agencies – up to 2000 participants
 - Ingamo received Trillium Funding for a GBV podcast
 - Waiting to hear if the Nation Access Grant/NAP application was successful
 - Connecting with other Counties for learning
 - The operations side of the DART table is working on events – a blanket exercise will be open to all of Oxford County

- Household Food Insecurity – Income Intervention (Peter Heywood)
 - This item will be carried over to the February 24th, 2025 meeting as Peter Heywood was not in attendance.

7. **Upcoming Meeting Dates – Oxford County Administration Building – Room 129**

- 2025 Meetings dates

Resolution No. 6 Moved by: Diane Harris
Seconded by: Tony Hyman

RESOLVED that 2025 meeting dates for the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee be adopted as presented.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

8. **Adjournment**

Resolution No. 7 Moved by: Diane Harris
Seconded by: Bernia Martin

RESOLVED that the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting adjourn at 10:55 a.m.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Monday, February 24th, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Oxford County Administration Building

Room 129

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Chair Marcus Ryan began the meeting at 10:04 a.m. **No quorum was present.**

Attendees:

Marcus Ryan, Tony Hymers, Peter Heywood, Ayesha Sajid, Sarah Hamulecki

The members in attendance discussed the following items:

Business Arising from the Minutes

- Area Municipalities DEI Charter follow-up – Norwich
 - Norwich staff will be reporting back to Council to request further direction.
 - The CAO position in Norwich Township is still vacant. Current approach is to follow up following the hiring of the new CAO.
 - M. Ryan discussed the option of returning to do another delegation.
 - Speaking with individual Councillors may be a more effective approach.

- 2025 Summit: Location and date determination
 - Oxford Centre worked well for the event in 2024.
 - T. Hymers commented that the event should move around Oxford for it to be truly representative of the whole County.
 - Potential dates to consider: October 17th and November 7th

- Website Update & Communication Plan
 - Upcoming training between City of Woodstock staff and Oxford's Web Team to facilitate the posting of minutes and agendas.
 - Communications Team sourced out a potential new logo for updated Plan.

Logo options were circulated with the agenda. S. Hamulecki will work with Communications for selection.

- Use of Space Policy Update
 - Resolution was passed at last meeting.
 - Sarah has not received feedback from the Area Municipal Clerks.
 - Could provide virtual link for meetings on the website for ease of public attendance.
 - It is discussed to have Steering Committee meetings throughout the County. To what extent/cost is there a benefit?
 - Suggested to add this item to the next meeting with a quorum.

Action Coalition Updates (Round Table)

- Oxford Housing Action Collaborative (*TBD*)
 - The Committee has been paused until the Housing and Homelessness Plan is complete.
- Oxford Mental Health and Addictions Action Coalition (*Peter Heywood*)
 - The OMHAAC met on January 30th
 - Update from CMHATV
 - Some members have expressed concern about the accessibility and availability of programs and services offered by CMHATV in Oxford County
 - As a result Pam Tobin the CEO of CMHA Thames Valley Addiction & Mental Health Services was invited to provide an update to the Action Coalition to address these concerns
 - Pam highlighted the organization's shift in supportive housing from a lease and landlord model to an ownership model - the organization is investing in themselves by having ownership over their properties.
 - Pam mentioned the creation of five new supportive housing units in Ingersoll, which will be available for clients this year. This is part of the broader effort to enhance supportive housing in the region.
 - There were concerns highlighted from some members about the reduction in concurrent case managers and its impact on service delivery, particularly for medium to high acuity patients. Pam acknowledges of some challenges in this area mostly related to the amalgamation and the movement that comes along with that. There will be further discussions between interested parties to address this.
 - Megan Hostland explained the walk-in counselling program, which provides short-term counselling services. The program is expanding and will be fully funded by CMHATV, allowing United Way to allocate funds to other organizations. Walk-in counseling was able to grow with United Way's support.

- OHT Strategic Plan: Update on published Strategic Plan
 - Strengthen and Expand out OHT Partnership
 1. Advance the Primary Case Network to inform and champion OHT decisions and initiatives
 2. Improve Board to Board communication and engagement
 3. Facilitate Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Cultural training for an all-partnerships providers
 4. Increase and diversity community member representation within OHT leadership, planning, and decision-making
 - Create and sustain integrated, comprehensive Team-Based Primary Care Across Oxford
 - Provide the community with access to in-person, episodic primary care to address the gap in Tillsonburg
 - Working closely with the Town of Tillsonburg

- FamiliesCARE
 - A 12-week educational support group brought to you by family members with lived experience supporting those with substance use concerns.
 - This 12-week model is based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and also includes a one-year membership to valuable safety and de-escalation training.
 - Families CARE is a group-based program that helps family members cope and relate effectively with the person who has a substance use concern.
 - Very successful in Oxford County. Pattie is speaking about how we can get this program to Elgin and Middlesex.

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Action Coalition (*Ayesha Sajid*)
 - The monthly DEI Action Coalition Meeting will take place on 24th Feb after the Steering Committee Meeting in the late afternoon. So, there will be no updates for this meeting.

- Domestic Abuse Resource Team (*Diane Harris*)
 - DART is currently undergoing a restructuring process to enhance our ability to respond to high-risk cases of gender-based violence. A key focus of this restructuring is the development of a high-risk table, which will operate using a multi-agency risk assessment framework. This table brings together representatives from healthcare, youth services, justice, shelters, and other key sectors to collaboratively identify and support women at risk of femicide – before they enter the justice system.
 - The high-risk table is currently working toward:
 - Establishing a shared understanding of femicide risk factors across sectors
 - Developing a memorandum of understanding and terms of reference
 - Aligning with privacy commissioner guidelines to ensure safe and

ethical information sharing

- These tables have been strongly recommended in domestic violence death review inquests following the murder of women in Ontario by current or former intimate partners. Across Southwestern Ontario, similar tables have been developed, with fully operational Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Model (MARAM) tables in Huron and Perth. This work is guided by Western University's Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children (CREVAWC), which will play an integral role in both the implementation and evaluation phases.
- This high-risk table meets on the first Thursday of every month. For a full list of participating agencies, please contact amaddress@ingamohomes.com
- DART is awaiting the results of a grant proposal to the Ontario government to secure funding for the development of this table. If successful, the funding would support a full-time coordinator and a comprehensive training plan, ensuring the table operates effectively and sustainably.
- While the high-risk table is a new focus, DART continues to run its awareness campaigns, educational events, and advocacy initiatives through separate monthly meetings. Each DART member agency has designated a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Specialist to participate in these meetings. The role of the GBV specialist is to:
 - Develop capacity within their organization to recognize, respond and refer disclosures of intimate partner and gender-based violence
 - Understand the process for referring service users to the high-risk table for risk assessment
 - Serves as both internal knowledge holder and an external representative at the MARAM table and in the broader community
- In addition to their core responsibilities, GBV specialists have formed ad-hoc working groups focused on specific areas of prevention, such as:
 - Sexual violence
 - Elder abuse
 - MMIWG
- These groups will meet on an as-needed basis, as campaigns and events arise.
- Current working groups and initiatives:
 - Sexual Violence Prevention and Awareness Month (May). The sexual violence prevention group is working on a campaign strategy to raise awareness about available resources
 - Anti-human trafficking Awareness StoryWalk. In partnership with the Woodstock Public Library System, the anti-human trafficking awareness group is developing a StoryWalk to educate community members on how trafficking happens locally and what resources exist for those seeking to exit exploitation. The StoryWalk is designed to spark discussions and build public awareness.
 - Youth Groups at Wellkin Brightside Youth Hub – DART runs bi-annual eight-week youth groups at Wellkin Brightside Youth Hub, each spring and fall. This will be our fourth series, beginning in April, with a focus

on assertive communication styles to help youth build healthy relationship skills.

- Snapshot – every year, DART develops a community Snapshot, gathering local data from IPV partner agencies to identify systemic gaps and advocate for policy changes at all levels of government. This initiative is part of a larger regional project, with Snapshots from Oxford and other regions available on the Building a Bigger Wave website.

2. Next Steps & New Business

- Household Food Insecurity – Income Intervention (Erica Arnett)
 - P. Heywood - Some municipalities have been declaring an emergency within their respective communities regarding household food insecurity.
 - M. Ryan – comments Action Coalition would be best course to bring to the Steering Committee.
 - It is mentioned that food insecurity isn't necessarily in the current scope of the committee.

The discussion concluded at 11:09 a.m.



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OXFORD COMMUNITIES

Action Coalition Update

Meeting Date:	March 24 th , 2025
Action Coalition:	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Coalition
Representative:	Ayesha Sajid
Update:	<p>Chelsea Martin seeks the Coalition's members' perspectives and input on the effects of climate change on equity-seeking groups- Oxford County's Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>Regarding education and awareness, Coalition members suggested having an informative document for the public, e.g., a DEI pamphlet/postcard explaining DEI's connection with the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.</p> <p>Inclusion Charter and Township of Norwich Action Coalition members look forward to the possibility of Marcus's meet-up with the Norwich Councilors to discuss the reason behind the real hold-up of not endorsing the Inclusion Charter.</p> <p>DEI Action Coalition Webpage Action Coalition members have volunteered to pick an article to be shared on the DEI Action Coalition page monthly, leading to education and awareness. Articles would have preambles introducing the person and providing insight into why and for what reasons this person chose this particular article.</p>



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OXFORD COMMUNITIES

Action Coalition Update

Meeting Date:	February 24th 2025
Action Coalition:	Domestic Abuse Resource Team (DART)
Representative:	Diane Harris
Update:	<p>DART continues to undergo a restructuring process to enhance our ability to focus on high-risk femicide prevention while maintaining the momentum of our awareness and advocacy work. The regular DART Operations Group has moved through a period of learning and realignment and is now entering a phase of high productivity, with renewed energy for campaigns, events, and awareness initiatives.</p> <p>As part of this restructuring, several ad-hoc sub-groups have formed to advance work in sexual violence awareness and anti-human trafficking prevention. The sexual violence awareness group has developed a campaign for Sexual Violence Prevention and Awareness Month in May, aiming to highlight resources and educate the community. Meanwhile, the anti-human trafficking awareness group was the successful recipient of a Department of Justice Grant, which will fund the creation of a StoryWalk for Victims of Crime Week in May.</p> <p>The StoryWalk, developed in partnership with the Woodstock Public Library, is designed to spark community conversations about human trafficking and increase awareness of how it occurs locally. This initiative will serve as an interactive learning experience for families and community members, guiding them through key information and pointing them to Oxford County’s Anti-Human Trafficking Response Protocol—a resource for those seeking pathways to exit exploitation. Additionally, we are actively recruiting an artist with lived experience to collaborate on this project, ensuring survivor voices are central to its development.</p> <p>In other exciting news, the Brightside Youth Hub groups are set and ready to launch on April 22nd! This eight-week series will focus on assertiveness and will provide youth with tools to build healthy communication and relationship skills. These groups are open, meaning youth do not have to attend every session to participate. We encourage everyone to check out DART’s Instagram and Facebook to learn more about registration and how to get involved.</p>

Looking ahead, we are in discussions about how to approach this year's Community Snapshot. We aim to make this process more collaborative and iterative, inviting more agencies to be part of the conversation that shapes the story we tell through the infographic. Rather than focusing purely on quantitative data, this year's Snapshot will emphasize qualitative insights, highlighting the importance of community coordination and identifying ways agencies can strengthen referrals and prevent more women from falling through the cracks.

This update follows last month's announcement regarding our efforts to develop a high-risk femicide prevention table using a multi-agency risk assessment model. This table, guided by Western University's Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children (CREVAWC), continues to build momentum as we work toward establishing shared risk assessment practices, developing formal agreements, and aligning with privacy regulations.

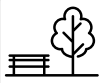
We are excited about these new developments and remain committed to strengthening community coordination, advancing prevention efforts, and advocating for systemic change. We look forward to continuing this work in collaboration with our community partners and allies.



Age-Friendly Communities

An **Age-Friendly Community (AFC)** is a community where policies, services, and physical spaces are designed to enable people of all ages to live in secure and accessible physical and social environments.

Age-Friendly Community Domains



Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings

- 01** Neighbourhoods that are safe and accessible enable outdoor activities and community engagement.



Community Support and Health Services

- 05** Availability of various services to help promote, protect, and maintain independence and mental and physical health.



Transportation

- 02** Access to reliable, affordable public transit and infrastructure supports for personal mobility and active aging.



Civic Participation and Employment

- 06** AFCs encourage older people to participate more in their city's social, civic, and economic life.



Housing

- 03** Appropriate, affordable housing options are available with a choice of styles and locations that incorporate adaptive features.



Respect and Social Inclusion

- 07** AFCs encourage community attitudes of respect and recognition to the role older adults play in our society.



Communication and Information

- 04** Information about community events and services are readily accessible and in formats that are appropriate for older adults.



Social Participation

- 08** Participation in leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities helps older adults stay engaged and informed.



Benefits of Age-Friendly Communities



Economic Benefits

- Generate tourism revenue and economic growth
- Strengthen the workforce
- Retain and attract older adults to the community:
 - Many older adults have economic influence as consumers
 - Older adults are more likely to make donations
 - Many older adults provide support to their families by caregiving for younger generations



Social Capital Benefits

- Reduce barriers for older adults to volunteer
- Strengthen community connections
- Create vibrant, intergenerational communities



Health Benefits

- Promote healthy behaviours
- Contribute to inclusion
- Reduce falls, dementia and depression



Opportunities Related to Housing

- Promote cost savings and delayed health expenditures by offering a continuum of housing options to allow for aging-in-place



Opportunities Related to Physical Infrastructure

- Connect neighbourhoods
- Create accessible communities for all



Oxford County Age Friendly Strategy

Meagan Lichti, Public Health Nurse,
Southwestern Public Health

Kelly Gilson, Executive Director, United
Way Oxford



Agenda

- Background and Data
- Evidence
- Age Friendly Communities
- Next Steps

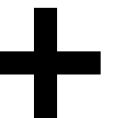


Background

- Injuries are a significant issue for our region.
- Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) is significantly higher than the province for emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to injuries
- SWPH has statistically significant higher rates than the province in every age category for falls (1)

Southwestern at a glance

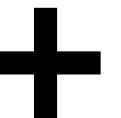
- The number of annual **ED visits** for falls among older adults has increased from **2,254 in 2013 to 3,146 in 2021** and increased from **6,673** per 100,000 population in **2013 to 7,170 in 2021**.
- The number of annual **hospitalizations** has also increased from **546 in 2013 to 724 in 2021** and increased from **1,616 per 100,000 in 2013 to 1,650 in 2021**.



The Cost of Injury

- The costs for all injuries in Ontario was 12.2 billion for 2019.
- The absolute cost of injury has increased 30% in less than a decade.
- The per capita cost of injury in 2010 was \$667, rising to \$838 in 2019.
- When looking specifically at injury hospitalization data for 2022, SWPH is the 3rd worst health unit region in Ontario

The Cost of Injury in Ontario





Our Population

- According to the 2021 census, the population of Oxford County was 121,781
- Oxford County experienced a higher population growth at 9.9% compared to the province at 5.8%.
- When examining population growth by municipality between 2016 and 2021, Tillsonburg and Woodstock experienced the highest population growth at 17.3% and 13.6%, respectively(4). In fact, Statistics Canada named both Tillsonburg and Woodstock as two of the top 10 fastest growing small urban centres across Canada (5)

The Population is Aging

Between 2011 and 2021, the proportion of the SWPH population aged 65 and over grew from 16.1% to 20.2% while the proportion of children and youth aged 19 years and under decreased from 25.6% to 23.8%. (4)

The working age population of 15 to 64 years has also never been older. In 2021, the baby boomer generation included people aged 57 to 75 and by 2029 this whole generation will be of retirement age. (4)

Examining age groups by municipality, Tillsonburg had the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over (29.3%) (4)

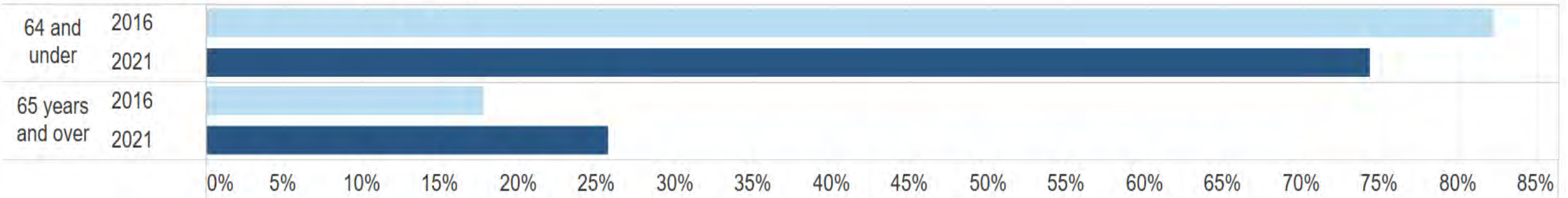
Additional Health Equity Considerations

- 2021 Census data shows that 12% of the population in Oxford County are immigrants with 7.41% being new immigrants in the last 4 years(6)
- In SWPH's region, almost half of recent immigrants (44%) lived in Woodstock (4)
- The most common place of birth among the new immigrant population has changed from Mexico in 2016 to India in 2021 (4)



The Rural Ontario Institute's data dashboard which includes 2016 and 2021 census data shows the proportion of the population 65+ yrs living in low income increased from 18% in 2016 to 26% in 2021 (3).

Proportion of people in low income by age group



In Oxford County, 25% of the 65+ population are living with a low income. The highest proportion of seniors living with a low income in Oxford County is in Tillsonburg at 37%, The following table breaks down each municipality

Census subdivision	Classification	Proportion of seniors (2021)	2016 seniors	2021 seniors	Change in senior population 2016-2021	Proportion of seniors in low income (2021)	Households with senior household maintainers (2021)
Tillsonburg	Rural	29%	4,410	5,450	24%	37%	41%
East Zorra-Tavistock	Rural	20%	1,385	1,595	15%	28%	31%
Woodstock	Rural	20%	7,775	9,145	18%	25%	29%
Zorra	Rural	18%	1,360	1,555	14%	21%	29%
Blandford-Blenheim	Rural	17%	1,130	1,315	16%	24%	28%
Ingersoll	Rural	17%	2,015	2,340	16%	24%	27%
South-West Oxford	Rural	17%	1,110	1,260	14%	17%	25%
Norwich	Rural	15%	1,520	1,705	12%	17%	27%



Additional Considerations

- One in five older adults (55 years and older) in the SWPH region reported living alone.
- A higher proportion of female older adults lived alone compared to males
- In 2016, over half (63.5%) of people 65 years and older living in the SWPH region were married and about one-fifth (21.0%) were widowed.
- A higher proportion of females 65 years and older were widowed compared to males 65 years and older (31.3% versus 9.2%).
- 3.7% of older adults (65 years and older) who were living alone were also living with a low income based on the low income measure after-tax (8).



The Evidence

Level	Factors that make the situation better	Factors that make the situation worse
Public Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly Community Plans/Strategies⁵ • Embedded fall prevention strategies have better chances of attracting political attention and resources⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPC policies are typically siloed health sector policies and may be missing opportunities for a systems approach and collaborative funding from equally relevant sectors (i.e., aged care, housing and transport) to raise the political priority of Fall prevention in community living older adults⁶ • Ineffective implementation⁶
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved accessibility of neighbourhoods and public spaces (age friendly public spaces)^{5,7} • Enforcement of building standards^{5,7} • Requiring landlords to make necessary modifications⁷ • available and accessible local evidence based groups in the community⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of safe transport options (crack/uneven sidewalks)^{5,7} • Insufficient lighting^{5,7} • Poor building design^{5,7} • Inadequate housing^{5,7} • Lack of social interactions^{5,7} • Limited access to health and social services⁷
Organizational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falls screening⁵ • Staff training⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not completing falls risk assessments at HCP visits⁵
Interpersonal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong family networks, marriage⁵ • Organized systems of checking in on older adults who live alone⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalization and urbanization also result in the separation of families, and the removal of family-based support systems⁷ • Living alone⁵
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tai Chi/strength and balance exercise programs^{5,7} • Home assessment and modifications⁷ • Multicomponent interventions⁷ • Education about falls and risk factors⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple medication use^{5,7} • Improper footwear/clothing^{5,7} • Low SES/income^{5,7} • Excess alcohol⁵ • Muscle weakness, lack of exercise^{5,7}



Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Meagan Lichti	Southwestern Public Health	Robin Kish	VON
Kelly Gilson	United Way Oxford	Jillian Stephenson	Woodstock Hospital
Diana Handsaeme	Tillsonburg Multi Service Centre	Katie Grigg	Community Member
Chris Cunningham	Southgate Centre	Crystal Finch	Community Member / Long Term Care Home
Kristy Van Kooten-Bossence	Ingersoll Services for Seniors	Lindsay Wilson	United Way Oxford
Nancy Boutin	Tillsonburg Seniors Centre	Rebecca Wallace	Southwestern Public Health
Karen Devolin	Community Member	Rebekah Lindsay	Alzheimer's Society
Maureen Ross	Community Member	Emily Porchak	Oxford Ontario Health Team

Steering Committee Members



What is an Age Friendly Community?

An Age-Friendly Community (AFC) is a community where policies, services, and physical spaces are designed to enable people of all ages to live in secure and accessible physical and social environments.



Age-Friendly Community Domains



Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings

- 01** Neighbourhoods that are safe and accessible enable outdoor activities and community engagement.



Transportation

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Housing

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Communication and Information

- 04** Information about community events and services are readily accessible and in formats that are appropriate for older adults.



Community Support and Health Services

- 05** Availability of various services to help promote, protect, and maintain independence and mental and physical health.



Civic Participation and Employment

- 06** AFCs encourage older people to participate more in their city's social, civic, and economic life.



Respect and Social Inclusion

- 07** AFCs encourage community attitudes of respect and recognition to the role older adults play in our society.



Social Participation

- 08** Participation in leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities helps older adults stay engaged and informed.

Benefits of Age-Friendly Communities

	<p>Economic Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate tourism revenue and economic growth • Strengthen the workforce • Retain and attract older adults to the community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Many older adults have economic influence as consumers ◦ Older adults are more likely to make donations ◦ Many older adults provide support to their families by caregiving for younger generations
	<p>Social Capital Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce barriers for older adults to volunteer • Strengthen community connections • Create vibrant, intergenerational communities
	<p>Health Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote healthy behaviours • Contribute to inclusion • Reduce falls, dementia and depression
	<p>Opportunities Related to Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote cost savings and delayed health expenditures by offering a continuum of housing options to allow for aging-in-place
	<p>Opportunities Related to Physical Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect neighbourhoods • Create accessible communities for all



Relevant Resources

These are the Pan-Canadian Age-Friendly Community Milestones

- Establish an advisory committee that includes the active engagement of older adults.
- Secure a local municipal council resolution to actively support, promote and work towards becoming Age-Friendly.
- Establish a robust and concrete plan of action that responds to the needs identified by older adults in the community.
- Demonstrate commitment to action by publicly posting the action plan.
- Commit to measuring activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly.



Local Considerations

- We had an older adult strategy in 2011 which had some untimely circumstances which led to not being fully implemented
- New considerations including health equity, social isolation and ongoing impacts from the pandemic. Looking at offering our survey in Punjabi and English
- Emerging issues such as climate change and projected increase in extreme heat days. We have continued to work closely with the local work around climate change to ensure older adult needs are prioritized
- Will look for future alignments with Planet Youth activities as intergenerational activities have many potential benefits



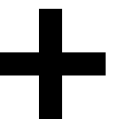
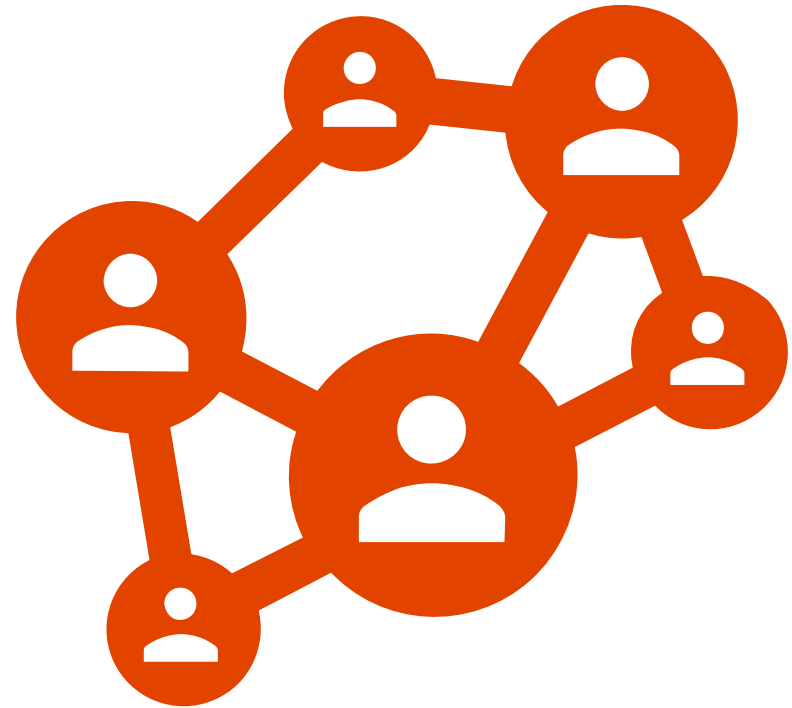
Our plan moving forward

- Complete a needs assessment in May-August including a survey for adults 50+, focus groups for service providers who provide services to adults 50+, and interviews with caregivers
- All data will be analysed, and a literature review will be completed to see what our best actions will be
- An environmental scan will be completed to see what existing services we can enhance and where we have gaps
- Steering committee focus group to review all data and potential actions and prioritize actions based on local considerations, feasibility, effort, and impact
- Create a report summarizing the above steps to share with the community



Next Steps

- We want to ensure our plan is aligned with and is embedded in community plans to ensure success
- We want to collaborate with our local committees and municipalities to support successful and sustainable implementation



References

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February 25, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Via email: premier@ontario.ca

At the regular meeting of Woodstock City Council held on February 20, 2025, the following resolution was passed:

“Whereas speeding, distracted driving, and impaired driving are among the leading causes of driving related collisions, injuries, and fatalities in Ontario; and,

Whereas municipalities are called upon to modify driver behaviour through expensive infrastructure and even more expensive policing; and,

Whereas infrastructure and policing are inherently limited in their effectiveness at reducing speed and distracted driving, and entirely ineffective at reducing impaired driving;

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Woodstock calls on the Provincial and Federal governments to do everything in their power to limit speeding, distracted driving, and impaired driving, and thereby reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities in our communities; and,

That the City of Woodstock specifically requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead, which will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and,

That City of Woodstock Staff work with Oxford County and all Oxford municipalities on the feasibility of implementing a long term Vision Zero Policy and the Good Roads Rural Road Safety strategy across all of Oxford; and,

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Premier, Ontario Minister of Transportation, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Ontario Minister of Rural Affairs, Ontario Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Ontario Minister of Health; and,

FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all Oxford police services boards, Safe

and Well Oxford, Good Roads, and all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.”

Yours Truly,

Jeff Bunn
Manager, Legislative Services/ Deputy City Clerk
City of Woodstock

Cc.

The Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation - prabmeet.sarkaria@pc.ola.org

The Hon. Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure - kinga.surmaco@pc.ola.org

The Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture - minister.omafra@ontario.ca

Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response - trevor.jones3@ontario.ca

The Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health - sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Woodstock Police Services - nnovacich@woodstockpolice.ca

Police Services Board - oapsb@oapsb.ca;

Safe and Well Oxford – safewelloxford@gmail.com

Good Roads - info@goodroads.ca

Association of Municipalities Ontario - amo@amo.on.ca

Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) - roma@roma.on.ca

And all municipalities in Ontario