

What is the Age-Friendly Committee all about?

The Hanover Age-Friendly Committee was created in 2017, in response to one of the stated priorities of the Town of Hanover's Strategic Plan in 2010. The planners identified the need to consult with older adults to determine social and recreational needs, improve accessibility, and how best to make Hanover an age-friendly community. Considering that about 44% of Hanover's population is over 55 years of age, meeting the needs of our aging population is simply good planning.

The key themes that emerged during this consultation period were:

- Co-ordination of activities;
- Communication improvements;
- Transportation options;
- Accessibility.

This committee of council is made up of representatives of agencies as well as community members. The role of the committee is to develop action plans to make Hanover a better place to live for older adults and others. The committee provides input for the Town council so they can make good decisions to improve the town's culture, recreation, infrastructure, and programs. Over the years, the Age Friendly Committee has been able to accomplish a number of things for the people of Hanover:

- Senior Star newsletter;
- Walkability assessment with improvements to sidewalks and seating
- Age-friendly speaker series
- 'Coffee With' in partnership with the Hanover Public Library
- Active Aging Expos at the P&H Centre (2019)
- Hanover Seniors Resource Guide
- Active Aging Mental Health Expo (2023)

The current project the Committee is working on is the development of an Age Friendly Business Initiative. This project includes an e-learning and physical guide that will assist businesses in Hanover to improve their services for older adults so that anyone of any age can feel comfortable and confident when entering shops, offices, and other places of business.

If you have any thoughts or ideas on what the Town of Hanover can do to improve our community for our aging population, please get in touch. Contact Brandan Dobson at Hanover Parks & Recreation: bdobson@hanover.ca or call (519)364-2310, extension 2128.