



Council on Aging Grey Bruce (COAGB) Meeting
Friday, January 10, 2020
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Location: Active Lifestyles Centre

1. **WELCOME**, introductions by Chair, Tanya S., and sign-in attendance sheet circulated.

PRESENT: David B., Sandra H., Amber S., Jan C., Ann M., Colleen B., Pam Mc., Meri-Diane C., Brian G., Sharon Mc., Doug W., Audrey W., Muriel S., Mary-Beth L., Sharron C., Frank E., Ed P., Lynn S., Tanya S., Wally H.,

REGRETS: Linda I., Colleen Baker and Cathe Mc. (Saugeen rep.)

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** additions or changes.
 Sharron C. to revisit bimonthly meetings after the Communication Report.
 CARRIED

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**
 CARRIED with the following amendments.

- Amber provided the Secretary with corresponding links to Lisa Alguire's presentation, and links and further clarification of the dental program.
- Sharon Mc. was not present at the meeting in December.
- Pam Mc.'s report provided.

4. **PRESENTATION:** No formal presentation planned

5. **REPORTS:**

- a) **Seniors Summit Highlights and Communications Plan:**

- Amber shared a draft Seniors Summit 2019 Highlights document with the group. If you would like a copy of the draft, let Amber know and she can send electronically or get a copy to you. Let Amber know if you have any questions, concerns or missing key messages to include. The draft will be finalized in the next couple of weeks and a presentation format will also be made available to members.

- The group discussed key audiences for the Seniors Summit highlights information, which include local age friendly / seniors groups, community partners, sponsors, and municipal leaders as well as provincial groups like OACAO.
- Note: Sharron C. reported that on Monday February 10/20 at 1 p.m. there will be a meeting in the Rotary Hall, at 59 Main Street, Lion's Head, with presentations by local and elected politicians Bill Walker and Alex Ruff, who campaigned to be "the voice for rural Ontario". Focus questions will be "What are their visions for programs for rural seniors?" and "What are your government's programs and services, which will ensure the well-being of seniors in rural isolated areas?" There will be a potluck lunch prior to the meeting, at the Rotary Hall.

b) **Housing Update:** Jan and COAGB

- Jan C. informed the group of an upcoming event organized by the Owen Sound Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) titled: Community Dialogue: Seniors, Housing and the Value of Elders in the Community, which takes place on Thursday February 27/20 at 7 pm at The Ginger Press Bookshop and Café (848 Second Ave. East, Owen Sound).
<https://www.facebook.com/1044349215/posts/10219066729032847/>
- It was re-emphasized that the COAGB together provide housing updates at COAGB meetings.
- A general discussion on housing ensued, which included the Midland housing initiative (and the suggestion that the COAGB invite a representative to speak to the COAGB), and the Georgian College housing initiative with seniors.

c) **Financial Update:** David B.

COA Balance:	192.17	
	1084.74	Revenue from Senior Summit
CFGFB Grant	<u>2000.00</u>	Funding for Seniors Summit
	-1423.98	Pathfinder Sound – Senior Summit Expense
	<u>- 576.02</u>	Marketing - Senior Summit Expense
	0000.00	Grant Balance
Total	1276.91	

d) **Executive Update:** Tanya S.

- The COAGB Executive is meeting with the Active Lifestyles Centre (ALC) staff following this meeting.
- Elizabeth O. has moved to Ottawa, Elvin M. has stepped down, with Lynn S. now in his place, Tanya S. is still working with Grey Highlands, and as Chair of COAGB she has received notice of the resignation of Ros Brooks. Tanya has sent letters of appreciation and thanks to each of these individuals.

e) **Communication Chair Update:** Wally H. - see report

Discussion following the Communication Report:

- It was reiterated that the COAGB continue with monthly COAGB meetings. Sharron C. noted that the information gleaned from these meetings is helpful for the SACs. Doug W. added that it is prudent to continue with meeting monthly until all 17 municipalities are represented on the Council.
- Tanya has booked the toll-free teleconferencing line until June.
- Tanya will continue as Chair until March.
- Frank E. of the Retired Teachers Organization (RTO) Unit 1, District 7, and the Political Advocacy Representative, reported that RTO, along with national pensioners, worked at the federal level at the last election and lobbied candidates on seniors' issues, including age-friendly communities, elder abuse, etc. and the need to train people in geriatrics to do the work for seniors. In addition retirement income security (defined pensions vs. target pensions (geared to stock market) were a focus.
- Bill C27 is an effort to change pensions to target pensions and the ramifications of this are huge, Frank reported.
- Frank spoke of the National Seniors Strategy (NSS), and its aim to ensure there is enough funding available, with clear goals set as to where that funding goes, as well as the National PharmaCare Program (with prescription drugs paid for).
- RTO ran a digital campaign that reached 3 million people
- November 8/19 was an Advocacy Day at Queen's Park, when politicians were made aware of the needs of seniors in Ontario.
- Frank stated that RTO has a small grant of \$4000 available, which Grey Bruce could apply for and put towards a project. Jan C. suggested the possible Housing Summit as a project.
- Sharron C. spoke of an additional \$100,000 grant available through the RTO foundation, which is being applied for at the university level to research programs for seniors.

- Frank P. is attending the provincial RTO meeting in September 2020, so would like to return to COAGB meetings as a guest prior to then, for input. He was welcomed by the COAGB.

f) **Roundtable:** ALL

David B.: Kincardine: The Kincardine Senior Action/Advisory Committee (**KSAAC**) held their 1st Workshop at Knox Church in Kincardine on Dec. 3rd. We had 24 people attend this very successful workshop. Lots of feedback, lots of flip charting for Mary Beth, and lots of interest in the COA, Age Friendly concepts and moving forward. Dec. 18th meeting, KASAAC adopted their amended Constitution and By-Laws and approved 4 standing Committees:

1. Transportation
2. Health
3. Housing
4. Safety and Accessibility

Next Meeting – Jan. 15th, 2020

OACA (Ontario Association of Councils on Aging): No New information to share at this time.

Sandra H.: reported that January is Alzheimer Awareness month. On the website found at <https://alzheimer.ca/en/greybruce> view the link 'Living with Dementia' <https://alzheimer.ca/en/greybruce/Living-with-dementia>, containing personal stories of individuals living with dementia, and the struggles faced, as well as positive experiences shared. Sandra has 'Sock it To Dementia' socks available at \$10 a pair. <https://alzheimer.ca/en/greybruce/Get-involved/Be-a-fundraiser/sock-it-dementia>. The primary focus of this initiative is to help local families living with dementia and raise awareness within communities in Grey Bruce. The Alzheimer Society Grey Bruce office is located at 753 Second Ave. East, Owen Sound, just past The Frog Pond. Sandra invited COAGB members to drop by the office and note the impressive artwork on the walls by individuals with dementia, as well as the strategies used in a Dementia Friendly office (i.e. door frames are painted in different colours).

Amber S.: – no further report

Jan C.: no further report

Ann M.: no report

Colleen B.: reported that a Coordinator has been hired, with the intent to recruit more volunteers to match clients on wait list.

Pam Mc.: distributed an information package on seniors' issues to those around the table. Pam also spoke of NICE (the National Institute for Care of the Elderly) and noted that she is willing to provide further information as requested.

Meri-Diane C.: suggested that the Meaford Council be presented with a list of those municipalities who successfully received funding (ie for ALC's) in Grey Bruce County.

Brian G: no report

Sharon Mc.: with Ros B.'s resignation there is a need for 2 new members from COAGB to sit on the board of the ALC, which meets once a month.

Doug W.: warned seniors to be cautious and avoid being victims of fraudulent emails. A rescheduled meeting with Carley will be held Monday, January 13/20 at 1:30 pm to start a strategic plan and schedule workshops. They have a compiled list of clubs of which there are 30 or so.

Audrey W.: no report

Muriel: no report except to highlight Elvin M.'s announcement about the September 16/20 Health Fair between Grey Highlands and Southgate.

Mary Beth L: no report

Sharron C.: distributed a copy of her report to members, which notes upcoming events, dates to remember, and progress achieved thus far with the SAC.

Ed P.: reported on the presentation to the Grey Highlands Council asking for relief on rent on the building their seniors use, Currently they pay over \$800 a month. It was suggested by the COAGB that they become an Active Lifestyles Centre (ALC) and thus apply for the same funding available to all ALC's. Anyone who wants to offer information or support, please exchange business cards with Ed. Tanya extended an open welcome to Ed to attend COAGB meetings as a guest at any time.

Lynn S.: reported that after the recent meeting on Monday, they are excited about partnering with Southgate. She also noted the successful collaboration with Grey Highlands for the upcoming Fair, and a committee is in place. There was discussion of COAGB's participation, and it was decided that COAGB would help promote it.

Tanya S.: no further report

Wally H.: no further report

Meeting Adjourned

NEXT MEETING: February 14, 2020 @ 9:30 (corrected from Agenda)

Location: Grey County, Valley Room

595 9th Ave E, Owen Sound ON N4K 3E3

Parking: Main lot in the back. Access the main doors on the second level, and proceed straight ahead to the Valley Room (beside the Council Chambers).

Teleconferencing: Toll Free Dial In: 1 866-602-6731

Conference ID: 3256741 (when prompted, key in Conference ID, when the moderator joins the meeting, we will all be joined).

Minutes prepared by: Ann M.