

COAGB - COUNCIL ON AGING GREY BRUCE NOVEMBER 13, 2020 Teleconference

‘AT A GLANCE’

Below are the key points of discussion shared during our November 2020 teleconference, including Wally’s report, sent as a separate attachment.

WELCOME: Chair: Tanya S

PRESENT: via teleconference: Wally H., Ann M., Jan C., David B., Tanya S., Pam Mc. Randy H., Kincardine SAC, Amber S. Public Health, Sharron C., Sandra H.,

REGRETS: Lynn S.,

GREY COUNTY & THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

GUEST SPEAKER: HIBA HUSSAIN, PLANNER, GREY COUNTY & PROJECT MANAGER OF THE COUNTY OF GREY'S CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN (CCAP).

Hiba shared that, as part of Grey County’s Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), she is reaching out to various stakeholder groups to discuss their opinions and experiences on the impact of climate change. This feedback will help shape new policy for Grey County focused specifically on climate change.

An overview of Grey County’s CCAP was shared, which includes the six key themes - Agriculture, Land-Use, Waste, Transportation, Buildings, and Energy. The following Grey County initiatives based on these themes were shared.

- a master cycling plan (although there are not any plans for mandatory bike lanes at this time, new bike lanes are being phased in, with some connecting to the Bruce Trails)
- proposed building retrofits to make buildings more energy efficient, and requests to new developers to put in energy efficient infrastructure
- an increased number of charging stations for electric vehicles
- support to municipalities for more sustainable waste management through waste divergent programs such as composting etc.

Hiba relayed the many benefits of developing and implementing a CCAP including “measuring emissions, setting GHG reduction targets, establishing a clear vision and goals, and then defining strategies and an effective implementation approach to ensure the plan can be put into action”.

Attention on the individual benefit of a CCAP will ensure more success in its implementation said Hiba (e.g. lower energy bills for residents, the preservation of our natural heritage including the protection of our trail systems and beaches with the added benefit of sustaining tourism, creating infrastructure to prevent flooding, etc.). Both the COAGB and Hiba stressed the importance of education at both ends of the sector on the 'grass roots' benefits and positive outcomes of the CCAP. The COAGB noted the natural 'fit' between the CCAP and the Age-Friendly Communities plan. As well, the COAGB asked that Grey County's transit schedule, (which is currently geared more to those who work and not on the needs of seniors), and the fact that there are currently no restrictions on the development of big homes, but there are for small homes, be considered when shaping the CCAP.

David B.: TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in the COAGB bank account remains unchanged at \$2201.91.

Tanya S.: ONTARIO HEALTH TEAMS & GREY BRUCE

Tanya spoke to the fact that the former LHINS (Local Health Integration Networks) are in the process of being switched to Ontario Health Teams (OHT) at the direction of the provincial government (2019). She stated that Walkerton and Kincardine have been leads on the Grey-Bruce OHT planning team, and an application to become an official OHT will be sent to the Ministry of Health in a few short weeks. The model will positively change the face of health care in Grey Bruce, and offers a great deal of autonomy and a strong voice to create health care specific to our needs. The Grey Bruce OHT model offers a much more efficient approach to health care, with home care reform and reshaping home care delivery, and embedding the CCAC into primary care to reduce wait times as proposed examples of that efficiency. An integral part of the planning process is to solicit feedback from patients, clients, etc. through an online survey. Tanya spoke to the survey available at <https://www.greybruceoht.ca/> and encouraged the COAGB to note the Council on Aging in their responses, thus reinforcing that the COAGB is a strong voice to be reckoned with. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete, and some members of the COAGB have already done so. Survey results will be posted on the above Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team website.

Pam Mc. provided clarification on the Grey Bruce OHT survey vs. the online Ontario Health Care Experience Survey, which are two separate entities, the latter of which is an initiative of the Ford government to end hallway medicine.

ROUNDTABLE

PAM MC.: TOWN OF BLUE MOUNTAINS

Pam spoke to the success of the Senior Centre Without Walls (SCWW), established in the fall. This is a phone-based program for seniors who do not have a computer. SCWW has been received with enthusiasm. Bingo is offered

every week, along with guest talks (e.g. Sandra H. will be speaking) and flu prevention strategies, exercise and meditation, are all available through the SCWW over the phone. As well a test series on preventing elder abuse will occur in January 2021 over a period of four weeks using the Granny play podcast as a way of getting the message on elder abuse out to many people. There will be a 30 second public service announcement, a 20 second scene from the play, plus a 10 second tag from a sponsor, broadcast on 4 radio stations, 5 times a day through Bayshore Broadcasting at a cost of \$480 plus HST. Currently says Pam, there is a need for sponsors says Pam. For further information contact Joan Chandler, Artistic Director of Sheatre at <https://sheatre.com/contact>.

DAVID B.: BROCKTON

David reported on the upcoming November 18th event, and the West Grey presentation, and also noted that he completed the Grey-Bruce OHT survey.

WALLY H.: BROCKTON

See Report

RANDY H.: KINCARDINE

Randy also completed the Grey-Bruce Health Survey. He noted that municipalities are preparing their budgets, so asked the COAGB about the process to provide input to Council on specific initiatives for seniors. He also noted that he was unable to connect to the launch of SCWW in Northern Bruce Peninsula and will try next time. Sharron will send the November and December calendar to Randy

TANYA S.: GREY HIGHLANDS

Tanya spoke about the presentation on Age Friendly Communities she made to the Town of Blue Mountains SAC network, which she adapted to address the composition of municipal leaders and planners present. The group seemed to think the presentation was helpful said Tanya, and added that there is interest in seniors retiring in the area and also on the health equity piece.

SHARRON C.: NORTH BRUCE PENINSULA

Sharron had her interview with staff from the Seniors and Accessibility ministry where she profiled the positive work of the COAGB. She also reported on the SSWW in North Bruce Peninsula. She spoke to the issue of the grant money being available only for a phone service and not an online service. She will have a conversation with Pam Mc. on this. She also spoke to the 72 hour emergency kits that were compiled and distributed with the support of Retired Teachers of Ontario and others.

JAN C.: OWEN SOUND

Jan spoke of her interest in following up with Hiba, and having her speak to the COAGB today on both housing and transportation, after earlier conversation on

these topics with a group. Regarding housing, there is much progress with both the Strathcona development and affordable rentals.

ANN M.: OWEN SOUND

Ann reported that she listened to Natalie Mehra, Executive Director of the Ontario Health Coalition, speak on long-term care and she was excellent. Ann will see if Natalie is available to speak to the COAGB at the December meeting. Ann participated in the Age Friendly Communities webinar out of Australia, with information provided by Sharron C.

MURIEL S. SOUTHGATE SAC

Muriel reported that the new seniors' building has started development. She completed the Grey-Bruce OHT survey and will be sending Wally's email on the survey to the SAC and CAO for Southgate. She also participated in two webinars, the one out of Australia as well as one on Climate Change. The SAC has not met in person and they are unable to use the township technology to meet online.

Tanya S. reported for LYNN S. of GREY HIGHLANDS. Lynn is Chair of the SAC for Grey Highlands. Tanya sits as a non-voting member. Lynn did a great job organizing a short online 25-minute meeting.

AMBER S.: GREY BRUCE HEALTH UNIT

Amber continues to be fully involved in COVID-19 work, and delivered the important message that we all remain vigilant, and adhere to the rules regarding gatherings and households. At the time of this meeting Grey Bruce was in the green category.