



July 2021 Newsletter

The Council on Aging Grey Bruce (COAGB) thanks the Active Lifestyles Centre Grey Bruce (ALCGB) for the use of their facilities and your help to facilitate our monthly meetings. Your ongoing support continues to be very much appreciated.

COAGB appreciates the support of the Community Foundation Grey Bruce (CFGB) for financial support in the form of grants and the ALCGB for administrative support for the creation of the COAGB website.

- ❖ Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the COAGB has held monthly teleconference calls on the second Friday of each month to maintain contact and keep all our CAC members and partners abreast of the activities of the member organizations, seniors groups and partner organizations as well as any new government initiatives. The membership has monitored the Long Term Care (LTC) industry throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and has shared that information with the COAGB network so all members and their respective seniors groups are aware of the crisis that LTC residents and families have experienced and what they may be facing in the future.

Executive & Local Community Advisory Committees:

- ❖ **COAGB 2021-2022 Executive:** Tanya S., Chair; Wally H., 1st Vice-Chair/Communications Chair; Sharron C., 2nd Vice-Chair & Alternate OACA Rep; Frank E., Secretary & RTO Rep; David B., Treasurer & OACA Rep; Randy H., Member at Large.
- ❖ **Website:** Website www.coagb.com is active as of September 14th, 2018. Thanks to the Community Foundation Grey Bruce for a \$3000 grant to facilitate the creation of the COAGB website. **Board Minutes, Summaries, Events & News are posted to the website.**
- ❖ **Partners & Contact Organizations:** Active Lifestyles Centre Grey Bruce, Alzheimer Society Grey-Bruce, VON Canada, Home & Community Support Services Grey Bruce, Community Foundation Grey Bruce, Grey Bruce Health Unit, Beaver Valley Outreach, County of Grey, South East Grey Community Health Centre, County of Bruce, Ontario Association of Councils on Aging, United Senior Citizens of Ontario, Seniors for Social Action Ontario, Community Connections/211.
- ❖ **Saugeen Shores:** As of July 26th, 2021 Dave Wenn is the representative from Saugeen Shores attending COAGB meetings. There was a representative in the past but that person was unable to continue. Due to the pandemic, COAGB has not been in a position

to pursue another representative. COAGB does however maintain perusal of the housing initiatives within Saugeen Shores and is happy to see council has agreed in principle to hire a contract Housing Coordinator to focus on immediate and short-term priorities identified in the Attainable Housing Task Force recommendations. David & Wally had a very productive meeting on July 26th 2021 with Connie Barker, President of Saugeen Shores Chapter 55 Seniors Group and Dave Wenn, Program Director of ALCGB Seniors Ask Program, member of the Saugeen Shores Housing Task Force, member of the Saugeen Shores Chapter 55 Seniors Group and various other groups in Saugeen Shores. At that meeting Dave W. has volunteered to represent Saugeen Shores on COAGB. Both Dave W. and Connie B. will be added to the COAGB member email list.

- ❖ **Kincardine:** Randy H. is the representative from the local Kincardine Area Seniors Advisory/Action Committee (KASAAC) and has made great progress with local committee initiatives. KASAAC with the support of the Municipality of Kincardine have invited the community to participate in a needs assessment survey that will assist in measuring the need for accessibility to safe and affordable local transportation for all area residents. KASAAC is very active in pursuing initiatives that will make a difference in the lives of the all the residents and is fortunate to have a municipal councillor acting as a liaison between KASAAC and the Municipality of Kincardine Council.
- ❖ **Brockton:** David B. and Wally H. represent the Brockton area. David is a past United Senior Citizens of Ontario (USCO) Zone 9 representative and as such was a member of the original steering committee for the creation of the Council on Aging Grey Bruce (COAGB). We continue to work on forming a local advisory committee in this area. We have met with the municipal recreation staff and discussed producing a local asset management list of people resources, physical infrastructure resources, funding resources and a community needs assessment in preparation for future grant opportunities. Due to the pandemic and numerous changes within the municipal staff, we must re-evaluate our endeavors moving forward.
- ❖ **South Bruce:** At present we do not have a representative from South Bruce at COAGB meetings. David B. and Wally H. made a presentation to the South Bruce Council and received an underwhelming response to forming a local committee. We also made presentations to a couple of local seniors groups but have not as yet received any positive response to forming a local advisory committee from this area.
- ❖ **Huron-Kinloss:** There is no representative from this area. As yet we have not been able to make an in-person presentation to the council or any seniors groups due to the pandemic restrictions. This was on our agenda but time and the pandemic changed our plans. We hope to be able to schedule a presentation prior to the end of 2021.
- ❖ **Arran-Elderslie:** Doug W. is the representative from Arran-Elderslie as well as the Zone 32 Representative for the United Senior Citizens of Ontario (USCO). Doug was a member of the original steering committee that created the COAGB. Doug made a presentation to council and they are favourable to the idea of a local advisory committee. Doug has maintained a liaison contact with a staff member of the municipality and they have been working on some local initiatives. Again due to the pandemic there has not been

much activity and some initiatives are on hold pending in person consultations and gatherings.

- ❖ **South Bruce Peninsula:** Linda I. is the representative for South Bruce Peninsula. Linda maintains contact with local seniors' issues and initiatives. COAGB provided input for the Sauble Sandpipers regarding programming and funding resources for their Seniors Active Living Centre, which is funded through the municipality with Ontario Government grants. Sauble Sandpipers provides a wealth of programs and initiatives.
- ❖ **Northern Bruce Peninsula:** Sharron C. is the representative in Northern Bruce Peninsula. Sharron is the Chair of the Northern Bruce Peninsula Community Support Advisory Action Committee (NBPCSAAC). As well Sharron runs the Bruce Grey Seniors Centre Without Walls (BGSCWW) program in partnership with the United Way Bruce Grey (UWBG). Sharron has done a tremendous job with the NBPCSAAC and the BGSCWW. She runs weekly programs via ZOOM and teleconference calls to help residents maintain contact and learn new ideas for their better health and well-being.
- ❖ **Owen Sound:** Jan C. is the representative in Owen Sound. Jan was also a member of the steering committee for the creation of the COAGB. Jan monitors the housing issues within Grey and Bruce Counties and is a member of the Glassworks Cooperative Sustainable Housing Project in Owen Sound. Jan has served on the COAGB Board since the inception and has only recently stepped down to spend more time on the Museum and Glassworks initiatives.
- ❖ **Grey Highlands:** Lynn S. is the representative for Grey Highlands along with Tanya S. of the South East Grey Community Health Centre (SEGCHC). Lynn has served as a councillor and presently sits on the Police Services Board. Lynn, Tanya and the Grey Highlands Advisory Committee have remained active via ZOOM and teleconference calls throughout the pandemic and continue to promote AFC initiatives.
- ❖ **Georgain Bluffs:** Mary-Beth L. is the representative for Georgian Bluffs. Mary-Beth made a very impassioned presentation to the council and was well received by all council members. She was encouraged to maintain contact with the municipal staff. Since then she has been providing input for different strategic planning initiatives when called upon by the municipal staff. Again the pandemic has curtailed some activities.
- ❖ **Southgate:** Muriel S. is the representative for Southgate and a member of the Dundalk Seniors Club. The Southgate Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is very active and have provided input to the local developers on housing options to incorporate into the new subdivisions being built in Dundalk. As well the local CAC helps with programs for all residents, in partnership with the South East Grey Community Health Centre (SEGCHC).
- ❖ **West Grey:** Loretta D. is the representative in West Grey. She also represents VON as one of our partner organizations. David B. and Wally H. made a presentation to the local council prior to the last election and was on the agenda to make another presentation to the new council but timing and pandemic put that on hold. We have been in constant contact with the municipal office with very favourable responses and anticipate another presentation date to be arranged in the very near future.

- ❖ **Hanover:** Hanover Age Friendly Committee is run by the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, Town of Hanover. They do not at present have a representative to attend COAGB meetings but the COAGB Executive does liaison with the Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture Department in order to stay abreast of their activities. The Hanover Age Friendly Committee has engaged the COAGB for some presentations at community workshops.
- ❖ **Meaford:** Meri-Diane C. of the Meaford 55+ Friendship Club and Frank Emptage of the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) represent the Meaford area. Unfortunately the COAGB presentation by David B. and Wally H. to the Meaford Council was met with an underwhelming response to creating an advisory committee or a liaison contact with municipal staff. Thanks to Meri-Diane, as one of the original steering committee members of the inaugural COAGB, maintains an ongoing presence in the community and continues to this day as a representative from the Meaford area and advocates for seniors at every opportunity.
- ❖ **Chatsworth:** At present we do not have a representative from Chatsworth that attends COAGB meetings. There was a representative but due to personal reason was unable to continue to be the representative. We are presently on hold pending pandemic restrictions being lifted so that we can make a presentation to Chatsworth Council and seek a representative from the municipality.
- ❖ **Blue Mountains:** Pam McD. represents the Blue Mountains area. Pam also represents Beaver Valley Outreach (BVO) in Thornbury and their “Answers 4 Seniors” Program (providing information for seniors in Blue Mountains). As well, Pam sits on the Grey County Age Friendly Community Strategy & Action Plan Committee representing COAGB. Pam is a very strong advocate for all residents that the BVO serves in the area. Pam holds numerous programs for seniors from income tax information sessions to fraud alert programs and the list goes on. Pam is a strong advocate for the socially disadvantaged in our society and provides an enormous amount of assistance where ever possible.

Again on behalf of the entire board of the Council on Aging Grey Bruce (COAGB), I wish to thank the Active Lifestyles Centre Grey Bruce (ALCGB) for their ongoing support and encouragement in promoting healthy community initiatives for the wellbeing of all Grey Bruce residents as well as to the Community Foundation Grey Bruce (CFGB) for their financial support for the website.

Thanks & Have a Great Day,
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