

GREATER ARNPRIOR SENIORS COUNCIL – RECORDS OF DISCUSSION
Wednesday, November 20, 2019 – 9:00 AM
Island View Retirement Sites

Present

Darrel O'Shaughnessy, Chair	Angie Heinz, Arnprior Regional Health
Laurel Reid, Vice-Chair	Graeme Ivory, Town of Arnprior Recreation
Sandra Elliott, Secretary	Rick Gwalchmaj, Town of Arnprior, Recreation
Ralph Chown, GASC Member, McNab-Braeside	Mandy Stinson, Seniors-at-Home
Pam LeMay, GASC Member	Tracey Foster, Island View Retirement
Eleanor Hotchkiss, GASC Member	Audrey Edwards, Dementia Society
Zander Abercrombie, Youth Representative	

Regrets

Glenn Arthur, ARH/SALC	Alexandra St. James, Island View Retirement
Robin Paquette, Town of Arnprior, Planner	Caroline McGee, Hospice Renfrew
Eric Hanna, Arnprior Regional Health	Dennis Harrington, Seniors-at-Home
Karen DeLuca, Town of Arnprior, Library	Karen Simpson, Arnprior Family Health Team
Geoff Patterson, Township of McNab-Braeside	

1. Call to Order

The October meeting of the GASC was called to order at 9:05 am.

2. Roll Call

All members of the Greater Arnprior Seniors Council were present except as noted above.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as presented with additional items addressed under New Business. Item 5.4 ICIP Grant Opportunity will be moved forward as Graeme has to leave the meeting early.

4. Approval of Records of Discussion from meeting of October 16, 2019

The Records of Discussion were approved as previously presented.

5. Program Updates

5.1 Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Grant Opportunity (ICIP)

Graeme thanked the GASC for our support in applying for this grant the purpose of which is to upgrade accessibility and improve infrastructure at the Nick Smith Centre. \$1.9 M was the ask. 40% from the Federal Government, 33.33% from the Provincial and 26.3% from Municipal. The Municipal component will be directed to paving the parking lot and Carmen Gould from the Province was most helpful in providing input for this portion of the grant application. The other components of this application were:

- 4 additional dressing rooms for Arena A
- Accessible washroom
- Redesign of the pool change rooms to allow for families, mens and ladies.

An Architect from Ottawa has provided conceptual Class C drawings to accompany the application. Graeme doesn't expect to hear the results of the application until late Winter or early Spring.

Christmas Lights Contest- The Recreation Department has introduced this inaugural event to recognize residents for the hard work and Christmas spirit put into their homes, businesses and organizations. Residents must register and complete an application by December 11. Top 3 locations will be selected by a panel of judges made up of volunteers from 5 local committees. Judging criteria will be First Impression, Originality and Design. Prizes will be Live Local Gift Cards in the amount of \$150, \$100 and \$75. Graeme is asking for judge(s) from the GASC. Eleanor Hotchkiss and Sandra Elliott agreed to participate. Judging will take place December 13-15 with the winners announced December 16.

5.2 Men's Shed

"To You it may only be a Shed – but to me it's a Sanctuary"

This statement pretty well sums up the feelings of Darrel O'Shaughnessy and the participants of the Men's Shed which continues to be a hub of activity and a fun and active place to be. The fellows have met their deadline with the Town of Arnpror and delivered the Little Puddle Rinks constructed for Caruso and Olympia Parks. It is noted also that ADHS Shop students have made small nets for these Town rinks as well. This bodes well for the Intergenerational component of the GASC and we are thrilled that ADHS students are actively participating in projects initiated by the GASC.

The Arnprior Public Library will soon have on display the Little Lending Library prototype designed and developed by the Men's Shed. Local media will be on hand to promote.

Over the last few weeks, the Men's Shed elves have been preparing for the Seniors-at-Home Christmas Craft Fair on November 23. They are building wooden toys and games, child sized picnic tables and Muskoka chairs, small cutting boards, carved birds, wooden bowls and Christmas tree ornaments. All for sale at the Fair. Ralph Chown noted that the Medallions the Men's Shed made for the recent Life for Life fundraiser were extremely well received. They were made from sumac and had a motto engraved on them. Graeme suggested consideration be made to also making these for the Dragon Boat Festival as they would be a unique representation.

5.3 Arnprior Regional Health

a) The Grove Redevelopment

On November 14 the Minister of Long Term Care was present for the sod turning ceremony for the Grove Redevelopment. Approximately 100 people were in attendance for this event and the speeches by the Minister, Darrel and others were poignant and well received. It is noted that the Town held a meeting with the Norma St. residents bordering the site in order to keep the lines of communication open with those who may be affected during the 2 year construction period. Angie Heinz advised that she is extremely proud of the community who are strongly supporting this redevelopment.

b) Ontario Health Team

Angie reiterated that the LHIN model is shutting down as the province moves to local Health Teams. This will be a slow transition as service providers take hold of this new concept. Laurel asked what happens to those LHIN employees who are being let go and Angie advised that these, mostly senior, employees will be shifted to the Health Teams restructuring.

5.4 Seniors Affordable Housing Sub-Committee

This sub-committee has not met since last reported. It is noted that the local Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness will be holding an Open House on November 28 and 29 at Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church to discuss Poverty and Homelessness in the Arnprior area. The public is invited to participate on November 28 from 5-7 pm.

On November 27, Renfrew County Housing is holding a Town Hall Session on Poverty and Homelessness in Pembroke and Laurel and Robin plan on attending on behalf of the GASC. GASC members are asked to complete an on-line survey on Poverty and Homelessness and to feel free to forward the survey to friends and family members.

5.5 **Island View October Activities**

Tracey Foster advised that the Halloween pumpkin carving was a great success with 19 businesses participating. The pumpkins were incredible and \$240 was raised for the Men's Shed. The Island View residents did the voting. The residents were also thrilled to welcome over 60 trick or treaters between 4:30 and 7 pm on Halloween who interacted with the residents and provided a fun and entertaining evening.

On December 3 the Island View is hosting an Ugly Sweater Euchre party.

On December 3 and 4 the local OPP and Firefighters are presenting a Winter Safety and Awareness presentation.

The Island View have opened 5 suites for winter stays.

5.6 **Seniors-at-Home**

The Ministry of Transportation "New" Para-Transit vehicle is now ordered and Seniors at Home are hoping to add it to their fleet before the new year.

The Annual Christmas Craft Sale is being held Saturday, November 23 at the NSC and the Masonic Hall from 10-4 pm with over 50 vendors.

Once again the Agency is hosting their annual "Angel Tree" campaign with every dollar being put back into the care of seniors. The Angel Tree has provided financial assistance to over 93 individuals over the last 4 years to assist with many needs, some of which are frozen meals, transportation, emergency housing, foot care and household repairs.

The Annual Seniors Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 13 at 12 noon at St. John Chrysostom Parish Hall with a roast turkey dinner catered by Jim's Restaurant, entertainment and door prizes. Only 240 tickets available at \$25.

5.7 **Succession Planning**

An article outlining the activities of the GASC is currently being prepared for the local media by Laurel Reid and Melissa McDermid (ARH communications consultant). Darrel has reached out to a couple of potential new members to join the GASC but with less than positive results. Everyone is so busy. All current members are asked to do everything possible to recruit new members. It is important the new members get a feel for what this Council is attempting to accomplish. In that way we can build resources for succession planning.

Zander will solicit resumes from ADHS students to replace him as youth representative going forward.

5.8 **GASC Website**

Darrel and Laurel acknowledged the special skills and tremendous effort Robin provides in keeping our GASC website (agefriendlyarnprior.ca) updated and current. We appreciate Robin's commitment and encourage all GASC members to use the site.

6 **New Business**

6.4 **Scholarships.** Darrel has provided a letter of support on behalf of the GASC for Zander's efforts in obtaining a TD Scholarship for community leadership and for his application for a Loran Scholarship. The Loran Scholarship (Long Range Aid to Navigation) is awarded using points for the values of character, service and leadership. The GASC wishes Zander the best of luck in applying for these scholarships.

6.5 Darrel has applied to the Town of Arnprior for a Municipal Grant for \$1,000.00 to cover expenses incurred by the GASC. Robin will present to Council. Darrel has been asked to give a talk on the Men's Shed to a group in Niagara Falls and he also has expenses to attend the Annual Meeting of the OACA of which he is a Board member. There are also some expenses incurred in maintaining our website.

6.6 **Student/Seniors Interviews** – Eleanor advised the first round of interviews 2 years ago unfortunately have not turned out. The more recent ones done this year have been archived by Jim Austin of the Waba Museum who has been a great asset in helping the Grade 10 History students prepare for their interviews with local seniors and in preserving these interviews. There is a new History teacher this year and Eleanor is having difficulty getting in touch with him/her and has also had no response from the Vice Principal who she has been referred to. Zander will attempt to obtain contact information for this teacher.

6.7 Dementia Society – Audrey Edwards has given a Dementia Friendly presentation to the Rotary Club and is booked to give a similar presentation to employees of the Bank of Nova Scotia in January. She is opening doors with the OPP, Fire Department and Paramedics in the new year. She is also working with Karen Simpson of the AFHT. Audrey has tried to reach out to the Arnprior Chamber of Commerce but as we all know, they are unapproachable. Darrel advised that the OACA are giving similar dementia friendly presentations across Ontario.

6.8 Seniors Games – Last Spring the Senior Swimming event at the Renfrew County Seniors Games was not successful and Ralph was asked at the AGM to re-design the swim event format. Ralph has taken on this project and has re-written the rules based on those of the Master Swim Event. Ralph also feels it is inherent to encourage both Novice and Accomplished swimmers and it is hoped that these changes will reflect that. He has forwarded his changes to Glenn Arthur for input and Glenn was very positive.

7 Other Business

Darrel once again thanked Tracey Foster for hosting this meeting and providing such appetizing refreshments and treats.

8 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

The next meeting of the GASC will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 9:00 am at the Island View Suites, lower level activity room.