

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Township Developing Age-Friendly Community Plan

Oro-Medonte, ON – In a time where Ontarians are living longer, healthier lives and with the adult population expected to more than double by 2036, the Township of Oro-Medonte is working with the County of Simcoe and the community to develop the right strategies for an Age-Friendly Community. Ontario's aging population also brings with it opportunities for businesses to play a key role in delivering and creating age-friendly services and goods that boost economic prosperity for all.

The Age-Friendly Community Planning Initiative is funded by the Government of Ontario for which the Township received \$24,606 in grant funding. This planning initiative will involve health and service providers working together to create social and physical environments to enable every person to participate fully. It takes into consideration World Health Organization's age-friendly aspects, such as outdoor spaces, transportation, housing, social participation, community support and health services.

"Our collective challenge is to ensure our communities grow to meet the evolving needs of every person regardless of their age or ability. This is why age-friendly planning is so important and it's why we are continuing to work with municipalities, seniors' organizations and other community partners, to help ensure that seniors can participate fully in community life," Mario Sergio, Minister Responsible for Seniors Affairs.

As part of a multi-phase process, the Township will be establishing an Age-Friendly Community Committee and obtaining public input to develop a custom needs assessment while exploring opportunities to partner with neighbouring municipalities to provide the required services.

"We are delighted to launch this project in Oro-Medonte," said Mayor Harry Hughes. "Our residents and businesses enjoy the many recreational and social services our community has to offer. This project is an opportunity to develop a plan around age-friendly services and work with the community towards making Oro-Medonte more accessible," he said.

Interested in volunteering for this project or to be a part of the Age-Friendly Community Committee, please contact Marie Brissette at 705-487-2171 ext. 2135 or email mbrissette@oro-medonte.ca. Information booths will be set up at community events the week of November 6-10, 2015. For more information visit www.oro-medonte.ca, look for progress updates on the Township's Twitter, Facebook and monthly on Council agendas.

Oro-Medonte is a diverse and beautiful community with a central location in Ontario. A community of 20,078 full-time residents, Oro-Medonte covers a land area of 61,000 hectares, stretching from the northern border of Barrie and Lake Simcoe to the southern fringes of Orillia and north to Tay and Severn Townships. For more information, please visit our website at www.oro-medonte.ca.

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