

# OLDER ADULT STRATEGY: HIGHLIGHTS

It's projected that Guelph will have almost 53,000 adults aged 55 years and older by 2031\*. That's close to 23,000 more older adults than in 2011. The City of Guelph has developed an Older Adult Strategy using the World Health Organization age-friendly cities framework to make Guelph a great place to live and age well.

Stewarded by the Age Friendly Guelph Leadership Team, the Older Adult Strategy includes 64 recommendations and a 10-year action plan. Here are some highlights of what has been accomplished in the first 2 years.



## **Making Guelph buildings and outdoor spaces safe and accessible.**

The City of Guelph uses Universal Design Principles that consider usability and respect the dignity of persons with disabilities when designing, renovating and constructing buildings.

## **Offering health and community services that fully support the wellbeing of older adults.**

Guelph/Wellington Paramedic Services offers in-house Community Paramedic programming specific to identifying and supporting vulnerable individuals that are encountered in 911 responses through referrals to community services and programs.

## **Ensuring older adults have easy access to information about services and supports.**

The City of Guelph website meets Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act standards. Content can be read by screen readers and colours are chosen to aid those with visual disabilities.

## **Making housing available so older adults can choose where they live as they age.**

The City of Guelph is close to finalizing an Affordable Housing Strategy which recommends that the zoning by-law review consider regulatory and other barriers that might discourage the creation of affordable housing.

## **Making Guelph's transportation system age-friendly.**

The standard for pedestrian crossing time at signalized locations is based upon a slower walking speed than most municipalities. Both audible and visual walk-don't walk signals are installed at all new signalized locations.

## **Treating older adults with respect.**

The Guelph-Wellington Gatekeeper Project received funding from the Government of Ontario to train community members to identify at-risk older adults and make a referral.



## **Volunteer**

with Age Friendly Guelph and help Guelph become a great place to live and age well. For information, visit [guelph.ca/agefriendly](http://guelph.ca/agefriendly)

