

Municipality seeking citizens for newly established Seniors' Advisory Committee

By Sheila McBrayne

The Municipality of Leamington is looking for interested citizens to serve on its newly created Seniors' Advisory Committee. Committee members will provide Council with advice on different issues and help contribute to the development of policies, programs and initiatives that improve the community.

Instead of aggressively developing senior programming, Mayor Hilda MacDonald suggested reaching out to the senior community for input. "Let's see what our seniors want before we tell them what they want...Let's check the temperature of the water first. Give us some time to get some meetings under our belts and see the wants and needs," said MacDonald.

Adults 55 and older in Leamington represent 35.1% of the population, with 22% of the population in the over 65 category. This is higher than the provincial rate of 16.4%, but comparable with other rural Southwestern Ontario areas. It is expected that the senior population in Ontario will double from 2.3 million seniors in 2016 to 4.6 million by 2041. Older people in Ontario now outnumber

younger ones for the first time in Canadian history, according to the report to council by Brenda Percy, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk and Ruth Orton, Legal and Legislative Services.

"I think it's an excellent idea, looking at the present number of seniors and future numbers," added Councillor Bill Dunn.

- 1) Engage
 - Consult with residents about issues affecting seniors
 - Provide opportunities for seniors to engage with and help address local concerns
 - Provide a forum for Leamington seniors to exchange information about current issues and emerging concerns
- 2) Educate
 - Improve awareness of services available to seniors in Leamington and area
 - Form partnerships in the community to educate, inform and improve quality of life for seniors
- 3) Plan
 - Define what an "Age-Friendly Community" looks like in the local context
 - Identify barriers to access by seniors

in municipal programs and make suggestions for improvement

• Develop and bring forward recommendations to Council on how to make Leamington a more age-friendly community, relating to matters within the Municipality's jurisdiction (e.g. transportation, communications and civic participation)

The Seniors' Advisory Committee will be composed of:

- Four Leamington residents/rate-payers

• Community stakeholders / representatives from an organization that serves seniors in the Municipality, such as retirement/long term care facility, residential homes or senior's apartment complexes (maximum two members)

Meetings will be once every two months.

For more information, please contact the Clerk's Office at 519-326-5761 or email at clerks@leamington.ca

The application deadline for Committees is Thursday, April 9, 2020.

Lightning tracker displays high-risk lightning areas

Every year in Canada, lightning causes a large number of injuries and sometimes even death.

Lightning awareness is particularly important for outdoor workers and those engaged in outdoor activities, such as sports,

camping and boating. Lightning is an occupational hazard, and those who work and play outdoors are vulnerable to lightning strikes.

Many thunderstorms develop in the afternoon, between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Dark clouds and increasing wind speeds indicate an approaching storm. When you hear thunder, lightning is within striking distance and it is time to seek shelter immediately in an enclosed building or hard-topped vehicle.

The Canadian Lightning Danger Map is one way to track thunderstorms.

The map displays high-risk lightning areas in red, with animation showing the movement of storms. These maps are updated every 10 minutes and are based on recent lightning observations. The lightning tracker can be found at weather.gc.ca/lightning/index_e.html

Remember: When thunder roars, go indoors!

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