
DATE: May 7, 2009

REPORT TITLE: **SENIORS' MONTH - JUNE 2009**

FROM: Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health Services
Keith Ward, Commissioner of Human Services and General Manager, Peel Living

RECOMMENDATION

That the month of June be proclaimed "Seniors' Month" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- June 2009 marks the 25th anniversary of Seniors' Month in Ontario. This year's theme is "Creating Age-Friendly Communities". The theme celebrates Ontario's seniors and recognizes the tremendous contributions they make to our communities.
- Seniors' Month is an annual celebratory tradition in which the contributions of seniors are acknowledged and honoured throughout the province.
- A number of activities will be taking place at Peel's Long Term Care Centres and in the community to recognize and celebrate seniors.
- Proclamations of Seniors' Month will be displayed in Regional buildings serving seniors.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

Seniors' Month in June is an annual celebratory tradition in which seniors are acknowledged and honoured throughout the province. This year's theme is "Creating Age-Friendly Communities". The theme celebrates Ontario's seniors and recognizes the tremendous contributions they make to our communities.

Ontario's population aged 65 and over is projected to more than double from 1.7 million, or 13.2 per cent of the population to 3.6 million, or 21.9 per cent, in 2031. The growth in seniors' share of the population will accelerate after 2011 as baby boomers begin to turn age 65.

More than 104,000 seniors made Peel their home in 2006. This accounts for nine per cent of the total population – an increase from 2001 when seniors accounted for eight per cent.

2. Seniors Participate in their Community

Seniors make significant contributions to our community through their knowledge, experience and active participation, including Regional programs and services.

May 7, 2009

SENIORS' MONTH - JUNE 2009

Seniors receive direct support or participate in programs including the following Regional services:

- Residential long-term care at five Regional Long Term Care Centres: Davis Centre, Malton Village, Peel Manor, Sheridan Villa and Tall Pines;
- Adult Day services at four Regional Long Term Care Centres: Davis Centre, Malton Village, Peel Manor, and Sheridan Villa, and a respite bed at the Davis Centre;
- Housing for 1500 seniors in Peel social housing accommodation; and,
- Many seniors volunteer at many Regional service sites and programs and participate on special purpose groups, such as the Peel Advisory Working Group on Older Adults' Housing, and the Public Health - Community Food Advisor Program.

3. Celebrating Seniors' Month

Special events will be held at the Long Term Care Centres throughout the month of June, including kick off celebrations, special social and educational events, awareness programs, and entertainment. Calendars of the events throughout June, at each Centre, are available upon request through the Director of Long Term Care. Copies of the proclamation will be displayed in Regional buildings serving seniors.

The Peel Advisory Working Group on Older Adults' Housing (PAWGOAH) will hold its second meeting of the year in June and will include a tour of the newly completed Peel Living Walker Road Seniors' Apartment building extension in Caledon. This project, as well as other Peel housing projects, will be acknowledged for the key role they play in creating age-friendly communities within Peel.

4. Creating Age-Friendly Communities

The Region of Peel has undertaken several activities and initiatives that complement this year's Seniors' Month theme "Creating Age-Friendly Communities". The following are some examples:

- Long Term Care introduced new Aging at Home initiatives through its Adult Day Services at four centres to promote independence and support to stay in the community, including personal support for activities of daily living and on site complementary health services.
- Volunteer partnerships designed to purposely bridge generations and to develop positive images of the elderly are under way with elementary and secondary schools, community colleges, and universities.
- Over the past few years, (PAWGOAH) has held sessions to encourage important stakeholders to provide and/or support housing that is suitable for older adults. The following are examples of the sessions:
 - In 2004 and 2006, forums were held for local builders and developers to encourage them to build housing for older adults.
 - In 2007 a forum was held for home renovators to share information on the need for older adults' home renovations that include accessibility features.

May 7, 2009

SENIORS' MONTH - JUNE 2009

- In 2007: A presentation was made to the Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario to encourage flexible planning approaches to allow a wider variety of housing forms.
- In 2003 and 2007, PAWGOAH made a presentation at the Annual conference of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.
- In 2008, PAWGOAH made a presentation to the Brampton Real Estate Board to provide real estate agents with information to assist them in addressing the needs of older adult homebuyers and sellers.
- PAWGOAH has provided input to the draft Regional Places to Grow Housing Strategy. In line with the Strategy's recommendations that promote a full range of safe, affordable, accessible and appropriate housing for Peel's current and future residents, PAWGOAH's input included suggestions to enhance Peel's support and promotion of housing for people of all ages and abilities including older adults.
- PAWGOAH has partnered with the Care Guide, which is Canada's most comprehensive guide to seniors housing and care services, to produce articles relating to older adults and their families in Peel who are interested in housing and relevant care services. The first of three editions is now in circulation and focuses on seniors' social housing in Peel, long-term care and new housing developments in Peel. Preparation is now underway for a new set of Peel articles to appear in the June Care Guide edition. Articles will complement the Seniors' Month theme of "Creating Age-Friendly Communities."

CONCLUSION

Proclaiming Seniors' Month in Peel with a focus on "Creating Age-Friendly Communities" provides recognition for the Region's long-standing focus on this important issue.



Janette Smith
Commissioner of Health Services



Keith Ward
Commissioner of Human Services
and General Manager, Peel Living

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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c. Legislative Services

Proclamation

SENIORS' MONTH

June 2009

WHEREAS, Seniors' Month is an annual nation-wide celebration;

AND WHEREAS, seniors have contributed and continue to contribute immensely to the life and vibrancy of this community;

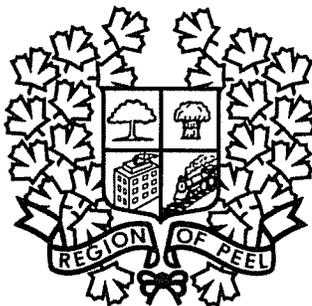
AND WHEREAS, seniors continue to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers and important and active members of this community;

AND WHEREAS, their contributions past and present warrant appreciation and recognition and their stories deserve to be told;

AND WHEREAS, the well-being of seniors is in the interest of all and further adds to the health and well-being of the community;

AND WHEREAS, the knowledge and experience seniors pass on to us continues to benefit all;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the month of June, 2009 be proclaimed "SENIORS' MONTH" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair