



# Township of Tiny

## Age-Friendly Community Plan 2025-2030

November 2025



TOWNSHIP OF/CANTON DE  
**Tiny**

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## Territorial Acknowledgement

The Township of Tiny Acknowledges that we are situated on what was once the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat Nation and the Anishinaabek people. The Township of Tiny has been and will continue to be, an important homeland and gather place for Indigenous peoples and Métis citizens. Altogether, we are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and we are to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

Le canton de Tiny reconnaît que nous sommes situés sur ce qui était jadis le territoire traditionnel de la Nation huronne-wendat et le peuple Anishinaabek. Le canton de Tiny a été, et continuera d'être, une patrie et lieu de rassemblement important pour les peuples autochtones et les citoyens Métis. Ensemble, nous sommes les intendants et gardiens de ces terres et des eaux, et nous devons maintenir cette responsabilité afin d'en garantir la santé et l'intégrité pour les générations à venir.



## Introduction

The Township of Tiny is home to a rapidly growing older adult population. Since the launch of the first Local Aging Plan in 2017, the community has achieved much to enhance quality of life for seniors, from new programs and infrastructure to stronger partnerships and recognition as a World Health Organization (WHO) designated Age-Friendly Community. Building on these successes, the Township is now undertaking an update to its plan.

This update comes at an important time. The Township of Tiny (Township), like communities across Ontario and Canada, is experiencing demographic shifts as the population ages at an unprecedented rate. These changes bring both opportunities and challenges, requiring renewed focus on services, infrastructure, and social inclusion. Updating the plan ensures that Tiny remains proactive, responsive, and aligned with emerging needs and best practices.

The transition from a **Local Aging Plan** to a **Community Age-Friendly Plan** (Plan) reflects both the Township's WHO designation and its broader vision. This change signals that age-friendliness is not limited to older adults but is about building a community where people of all ages can live, work, and age with dignity, respect, and connection.

The purpose of this update is twofold: to reflect on progress made since 2017, celebrating community contributions and achievements, and to set a forward-looking direction for 2025–2030. The Plan identifies key priorities and strategies that will help Tiny adapt to demographic changes, address gaps, and continue to strengthen its reputation as a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone.

## **Celebrating Progress**

Since the launch of the Township of Tiny's first Local Aging Plan in 2017, the community has made significant strides in creating an age-friendly environment.

Guided by the vision of helping residents age in place with dignity, respect, and independence, the Township, together with its partners, has implemented many of the strategies set out in the original plan. These achievements highlight not only municipal leadership but also the critical contributions of volunteers, local service providers, the County of Simcoe, and community organizations.

### **A Recognized Age-Friendly Leader**

In January 2024, the Township of Tiny was the first Township in Simcoe County to be officially designated as a *World Health Organization (WHO) Age-Friendly Community*, an international recognition of Tiny's commitment to inclusive and accessible community development. This milestone reflects years of progress since the 2017 plan and underscores Tiny's leadership within North Simcoe and across the County of Simcoe.

### **Stronger Networks and Regional Collaboration**

Working in collaboration with Midland, Penetanguishene, and Tay, Tiny led the creation of the *North Simcoe Directory of Senior Services*. The directory, first made possible through funding from the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility and the County of Simcoe, is now updated and coordinated by Tiny every two years. It serves as a vital regional resource, connecting residents with health, recreation, and support services. The directory is available online, at community events, and in municipal offices, reinforcing Tiny's role as a regional coordinator of age-friendly information.

## Enhanced Communication and Information Sharing

The Township has expanded outreach through *Tiny Connect*, the enhanced [www.tiny.ca/seniors](http://www.tiny.ca/seniors) webpage, the *Senior Tiny Times* column, *Seniors in the Heart of Tiny* publication, Xplor Recreation (reaches seniors by email), and dedicated newsletters. Volunteer recognition has become a hallmark of Tiny’s age-friendly work, with the annual “Heart of Tiny” Senior of the Year Award, and Township volunteer awards celebrating contributions by older adults across the community.

## Empowering Local Seniors Organizations

Tiny continues to support Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs) and seniors’ clubs through annual subsidies, in-kind contributions, and active participation in events and open houses. The Township shares grant and funding opportunities, helps promote SALC programs across communications platforms, and works closely with partners to reduce duplication of offerings. This collaborative approach ensures that older adults across Tiny and North Simcoe can access diverse, coordinated opportunities for recreation and social participation.

## Volunteerism and Civic Engagement

Volunteerism remains at the heart of Tiny’s age-friendly success. The Township introduced *Better Impact*, an upgraded volunteer management platform that standardizes position descriptions, improves recruitment, and streamlines communication.

## Accessible Outdoor and Recreation Improvements

Investments in infrastructure have expanded accessibility and safety across parks, beaches, and public spaces. New crosswalks, accessible paths, benches, washrooms, water bottle refill stations, and shade structures have been added in key locations. Crushed limestone surfaces have also been incorporated in many parks and trails for increased ease of use. Speed bumps, enhanced crosswalks, wider shoulders in high pedestrian areas, and education programs enhance safety in high-traffic areas. The Township has also implemented recommendations from the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), including accessible such as *mobi-mats* that provide barrier-free access to beaches<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Mobi-mats have been added to Balm Beach and will be added to other beaches every year.

## Partnerships in Health, Housing, and Community Support

Partnerships with health and community service providers have been deepened through programs like the *Seniors Symposium* and *Senior Speaker Series*, which bring organizations such as Ontario Health, the Red Cross, Chigamik Community Health Centre, and Hospice Huronia into direct collaboration with residents. These partnerships strengthen local awareness of available supports and promote holistic healthy aging.

The Township has also taken proactive steps in housing and transportation, two of the most pressing needs identified by residents. Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) input helped shape the *Transportation Master Plan*, leading to improved multi-use lands, enhanced signage, and lighting. Community-based transportation programs such as *Wheels 4 Wheels*, *Community Reach*, and *LINX* continue to receive municipal support and promotion. In housing, the Township remains committed to working with the County and other levels of government to advocate for affordable, accessible, and supportive housing for older adults.

Taken together, these accomplishments reflect the Township's ongoing commitment to creating a community where older adults are valued, engaged, and supported. They also underscore the essential role of volunteers, businesses, and organizations whose contributions have helped make Tiny a recognized Age-Friendly Community.

## Annual Senior of the Year Award

The Senior of the Year Award, also known as the Heart of Tiny Award, celebrates an outstanding older adult who has made a significant impact on the social, cultural, or civic life of the Township of Tiny. Established to honor contributions made during or after the age of 65, this award recognizes individuals who have enriched our community through

fields such as arts, literature, community service, sports and recreation, volunteering, education, environment, fitness, and humanitarian efforts. Presented annually at the Senior Symposium during June is Seniors Month, this award highlights the dedication and spirit of seniors who inspire others and strengthen the fabric of our age-friendly community.



2024 recipient, Mona Desroches accepts her award presented Senior Advisory Committee Members Lynn Moon (Chair) and Councillor Kelly Helowka (Council Representative).

## Community Profile

The following section provides an overview and analysis of various demographic, socio-economic, and age-friendly indicators. This analysis establishes a current 'picture' of the status of age-friendliness in the Township, providing important guidance in setting the direction for the Age-Friendly Community Plan.

### Demographics and Socio-Economics

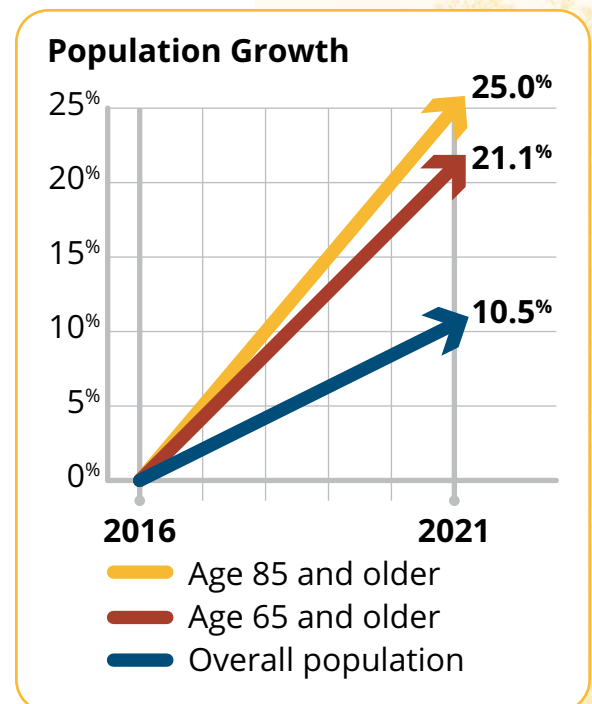
#### Seniors are growing at a faster rate than the overall population

As of 2021, Tiny was home to 3,730 residents aged 65 and older, reflecting a significant increase in its senior population over the previous five years. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of seniors grew by 21.1% (an additional 650 individuals), a pace that more than doubled the community's overall population growth of 10.5% during the same period. The increase in seniors in Tiny was similar to the overall rates for the County of Simcoe (22.8%). It should also be noted that adults age 85 and over increased at an even higher rate, of 25.0%.

Tiny Township's population aged 65 and over is projected to reach approximately 5,000 by 2031, roughly one in three Tiny residents. The trend of increasing seniors highlights the rapid aging of Tiny's population and the growing importance of planning for services, housing, and supports that meet the needs of older adults.

#### Neighbouring Beausoleil First Nation community contributes to the senior population context

According to the 2021 Census, 60 seniors aged 65 and over were living on Christian Island 30, which is home to the Beausoleil First Nation community. Christian Island 30 is located directly adjacent to Tiny Township, across the waters of southern Georgian Bay, and represents an important neighbouring community with strong geographic and social ties to Tiny. The Beausoleil First Nation also includes Christian Island 30A, a smaller mainland parcel near Coldwater, though this land base is farther from Tiny and less directly connected to the Township.



## Indigenous identities are represented among seniors, while recent immigration is minimal

In 2021, 290 seniors in Tiny (7.8% of the senior population) identified as Indigenous, the majority of whom were Métis (235), along with 35 First Nations seniors and 15 who reported multiple Indigenous identities. At the same time, no seniors were reported to have immigrated to the community within the ten years preceding the Census, indicating that recent immigration has not contributed to the growth of the older adult population in Tiny. The presence of Indigenous seniors highlights the importance of culturally safe and inclusive approaches in planning and service delivery.

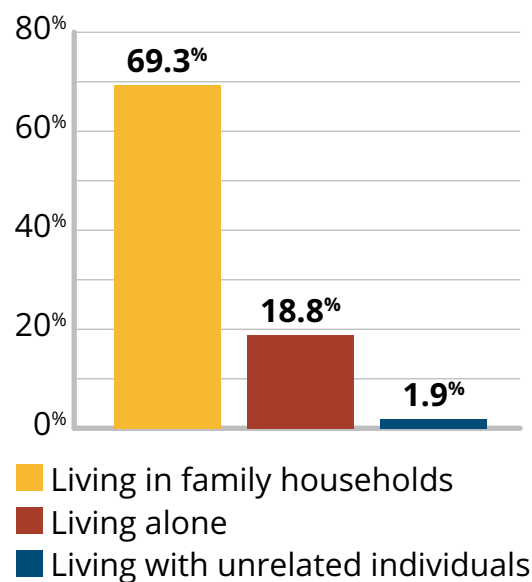
## English is the dominant language for almost all seniors

Among seniors in Tiny, English is overwhelmingly the dominant language. Nearly all (99.1%) report the ability to speak English, and the vast majority (89.7%) speak English most often at home, underscoring the limited presence of other languages within the older adult population. Of note, based on the Census, 1,980 residents speak French and English (the number of French only speaking residents was 15). The predominance of English may ease service delivery, but also signals limited language diversity, meaning even small numbers of non-English speakers could face barriers.

## Most seniors live in family households, though many live alone

In 2021, most seniors in Tiny (69.3%) were living in family households, reflecting a strong prevalence of seniors residing with a spouse, partner, or other relatives. At the same time, nearly one in five (18.8%) lived alone, highlighting a significant portion of the senior population who may be at greater risk of social isolation. A small share (1.9%) lived with unrelated individuals, representing a less common household arrangement among older adults in the community. The large share of seniors living alone increases the importance of social connection initiatives, volunteer supports, and services that reduce isolation.

Seniors' Living Situations



## Homeownership is nearly universal among seniors

Homeownership is nearly universal among seniors in Tiny, with 96.1% of those living in private households owning their homes. This compares to 80.3% for the province. This high rate of ownership suggests a strong attachment to place and long-term residential stability among older adults, while also indicating relatively limited participation in the rental market. High homeownership rates suggest strong roots in the community, but also indicate limited rental housing choices for those with changing financial or health needs.

## A portion of seniors remain active in the labour force, often in part-time roles

In 2021, a total of 530 seniors in the Township of Tiny were active participants in the labour force, accounting for 14.2% of the senior population. This group included 465 employed individuals and 75 unemployed individuals. Tiny's senior labour force participation rate closely aligns with the provincial rate of 15.6). Labour force participation among seniors may have been influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, as 640 seniors reported working at some point during the year, though not all were employed at the time of the census. The unemployment rate among seniors stood at 14.2%, notably higher than average, reflecting both pandemic-related disruptions and the more precarious nature of older workers' employment. Of those who worked in 2020, only 200 were employed full-year, full-time, while 355 worked part-year or part-time, suggesting that many seniors engaged in more limited or flexible work arrangements. The presence of seniors in the workforce underscores the importance of age-friendly employment practices, flexible work, and retraining opportunities.

## Many seniors hold postsecondary education, though some have lower formal attainment

Educational attainment among seniors in Tiny shows a mixed profile. Nearly one-quarter (23.6%) had not completed a high school education (in line with provincial average of 23.8%), while a majority (57.7%) held a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree. This indicates that while many older adults have advanced education and credentials, there remains a significant portion with lower formal educational attainment, which may influence employment opportunities, income security, and access to certain services.

## Senior incomes vary widely, with some experiencing financial vulnerability

In 2020, seniors in Tiny reported an average individual income of \$48,600, with a median of \$36,400, indicating that while some seniors earned substantially higher incomes, the typical income was much lower. Incomes were not significantly affected by COVID-19 income supports and benefits. Nearly one-third (29.5%) of seniors reported employment income, but government transfers were nearly universal, supporting 98.8% of seniors. On average, incomes were derived 63.6% from market sources, including 14.4% specifically from employment, and 36.4% from government transfers. Income distribution shows that the largest groups of seniors reported incomes between \$20,000 and \$29,999 (860 seniors) or \$10,000 to \$19,999 (560 seniors), with 55 seniors earning less than \$10,000. At the higher end, 140 seniors earned between \$100,000 and \$149,999, and 80 earned \$150,000 or more, though these represent a small share of the population.

Despite relatively high average incomes, 415 seniors in private households (11.1%) were living in low income after tax, based on the Low-Income Measure (LIM-AT), and 115 (3.1%) were in poverty as measured by the Market Basket Measure (MBM), underscoring the presence of financial vulnerability among a notable segment of the senior population. The mix of higher- and lower-income seniors points to the need for both affordable housing and services, as well as lifestyle and recreation opportunities accessible to those with greater means.

## Most seniors have remained in the same home over the past five years

In the five years prior to the census, most seniors in the community demonstrated strong residential stability, with nearly three-quarters (74%) remaining in the same dwelling. About one-quarter (25%) had moved, though only a small share (3% overall) relocated within the same municipality. The majority of moves represented larger changes in residence, with 22% of seniors migrating to a different municipality. Almost all of these were interprovincial moves (99%), suggesting that when seniors did relocate, they tended to stay within the province, reflecting ties to family, services, and familiar communities.

In 2020...

**415 Seniors**  
low-income after tax

*Low-Income Measure (LIM-AT)*

**115 Seniors**  
in poverty

*Market Basket Measure (MBM)*

Very few moved across provincial boundaries (2% of movers), and no international migration was captured in the sample. This pattern points to a relatively stable senior population, with mobility largely occurring within the provincial context. This stability means many seniors may want to age in place, reinforcing the importance of home support services and accessible housing options.

## Housing

### Some seniors live in housing that is unaffordable, unsuitable, or in poor condition

In 2021, 15.5% of seniors in Tiny were not living in acceptable housing, with affordability being the most common issue, lower than the provincial figure of 24.5%. A total of 410 seniors were spending 30% or more of their income on housing, placing them below the affordability threshold. In addition, 15 seniors lived in unsuitable housing based on household composition, and 170 lived in dwellings requiring major repairs. Overall, 215 seniors (8.1%) were in core housing need, meaning their housing was unaffordable, unsuitable, or inadequate and they did not have the financial means to access acceptable alternatives. The number of seniors in unaffordable or inadequate housing highlights the need for home repair supports, affordable housing development, and aging-in-place strategies.

### Seniors represent a large share of the subsidized housing waitlist

As of December 31, 2023, there were 4,696 applicants on the Centralized Waitlist for subsidized housing in Simcoe County, representing a 3.7% decrease compared to 2022. Seniors made up a significant share of the demand, accounting for 1,953 applicants, or 40% of the total waitlist. Over the course of the year, staff processed 2,208 new applications, underscoring the ongoing and substantial need for affordable housing options, particularly among older adults. The large share of seniors on the subsidized housing waitlist shows persistent affordability pressures and signals a need to expand affordable housing supply for older adults.

## Social Housing Waiting List

**40%**  
**Seniors**

*As of December 2023*

## **Seniors are among those experiencing homelessness, with many facing chronic homelessness**

As of September 12, 2025, Simcoe County was aware of 2,225 individuals experiencing homelessness, including 414 seniors. Among seniors, 39.6% were experiencing chronic homelessness, highlighting the vulnerability of older adults facing housing instability. While the number of individuals from Tiny specifically was too small to report, the lack of local homelessness service infrastructure means that some residents may be accessing supports and services in other parts of the County. The presence of seniors among the homeless population reflects both housing and health vulnerabilities, underscoring the importance of prevention and tailored supports.

## **Most seniors receive timely in-home care, though waitlists remain for some therapies**

Access to health services in the North Simcoe Muskoka area reflects both strengths and ongoing pressures. As of June 30, 2025, most patients received timely in-home care, at least for their initial service, with 96.1% accessing nursing services and 87.7% receiving personal support for complex needs within five days. However, waitlists remain for several in-home services, including physiotherapy (108 patients), occupational therapy (65), personal support services (57), and smaller numbers waiting for speech-language pathology (25) and nutritional services (1), while no patients were waiting for nursing or social work supports. Waitlists for rehabilitation therapies suggest gaps in services critical to maintaining independence and preventing hospitalizations.

## **Long-term care wait times are lengthy and vary by facility**

Long-term care access shows longer waits, with residents in 2023/24 waiting a median of 162 days to move into Stayner Care Centre and 304 days (2022/23) for Sara Vista in Elmvale. While wait time data was not available for the Villa Care Centre in Midland, there are currently over 400 people on the waiting list. These local waits are somewhat better or worse depending on the facility, but overall they compare against a Central Region median of 225 days and a provincial median of 200 days, illustrating ongoing strain on long-term care capacity. Long wait times for therapies and long-term care suggest a need to expand community supports and alternative care options. Extended wait times for long-term care highlight the importance of expanding community-based supports and alternative housing models to delay or avoid institutional care.

## Health Status and Other Indicators of Health and Social Well-Being

The following health data is only available at the Simcoe County level and was obtained from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's HealthSTATs portal. The figures are based on Statistics Canada survey data that has been combined from multiple years. Much of the health data is from 2015–2020 combined. These are the most recent available, but may not reflect post-pandemic realities.

### Seniors generally rate their mental health positively

Between 2015 and 2020, 72.5% of Simcoe County seniors reported their mental health as excellent or very good, while only 5.0% rated it as fair or poor. Seniors were more likely than other age groups to describe their mental health positively, suggesting that older adults in the community generally experience strong mental wellbeing, despite some reporting challenges. Strong self-rated mental health is a positive foundation, but ongoing supports are needed to address those reporting challenges.

### Most seniors report being happy and interested in life

From 2015 to 2020, 76.1% of seniors reported that they were usually happy and interested in life, while 23.9% indicated they were only somewhat happy or unhappy. These rates were similar to those reported by other age groups, suggesting that seniors in the community experience levels of happiness that are broadly consistent with the wider population.

### Seniors express high levels of overall life satisfaction

In 2019 and 2020, 91.5% of seniors reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their lives, a rate higher than that observed among younger age groups. Only 8.5% of seniors expressed neutral or dissatisfied levels of life satisfaction, indicating that the vast majority of older adults experience a strong sense of contentment and fulfillment in their daily lives. High life satisfaction among seniors can be leveraged by creating more opportunities for engagement, volunteering, and intergenerational activities.

## Many seniors report experiences of childhood maltreatment

Nearly half of seniors (48.6%) reported having experienced childhood maltreatment, a rate that is consistent with those reported among younger age groups. This finding highlights the long-term presence of adverse childhood experiences within the senior population, underscoring the importance of trauma-informed approaches in supporting older adults.

## Seniors report lower levels of stress than younger adults

In 2019 and 2020, only 13.9% of seniors reported experiencing life stress at levels they considered quite a bit or extremely stressful, a rate that was about half that of younger adults. This suggests that seniors generally perceive lower levels of stress in their daily lives compared to younger age groups, which may reflect differences in life stage, responsibilities, and coping strategies. Lower stress levels may reflect protective factors in later life, but ongoing affordability and caregiving pressures could change this picture over time.

## Fewer than half of seniors meet physical activity guidelines

Between 2015 and 2018, only 41% of seniors aged 65 and over met the recommended guidelines for physical activity, indicating that fewer than half were achieving sufficient levels of movement to support their health. At the same time, 35.4% reported no physical activity at all, highlighting a substantial portion of the senior population at risk of negative health outcomes associated with inactivity.

## Overweight and diet concerns highlight the importance of healthy aging supports

Based on data from 2015 to 2020 (combined), 39.7% of seniors were considered overweight according to body measures. Low physical activity rates underscore the importance of accessible recreation facilities, walkable communities, and active transportation options.

In 2015 and 2016 (combined), 72.1% of seniors reported consuming fewer than five servings of fruits and vegetables per day. This suggests that many older adults may not be meeting recommended dietary guidelines, pointing to the value of initiatives that improve access to healthy foods and support nutrition for seniors, such as food security programs, meal delivery services, and community gardens.

2015-2018...

Just **41%** of seniors

met the recommended guidelines for physical activity

**35.4%** of seniors

reported **no** physical activity at all

## Seniors generally report a strong sense of community belonging

Between 2015 and 2020, most seniors reported a strong sense of community connection, with nearly four in five describing their sense of belonging as very strong or somewhat strong. Only about one in five indicated a weak or somewhat weak sense of belonging. Seniors were more likely than younger adults to report feeling strongly connected to their community, highlighting the important role that community ties play in supporting wellbeing among older adults. Strong sense of belonging can be built upon to support social participation, volunteerism, and inclusive community spaces.



## Key Findings

### Strengths to Build On

- The senior population is growing rapidly.
- Most seniors are homeowners, reflecting a desire to age in their own homes.
- Seniors report strong mental health, high levels of happiness, and overall life satisfaction.
- A large majority feel a strong sense of belonging in the community, often more so than younger residents.
- Many seniors hold postsecondary education and some remain active in the labour force, contributing to the local economy and community life.

### Challenges Identified

- A significant share of seniors face housing challenges, including affordability, major repair needs, or unsuitable living arrangements.
- Seniors represent a large proportion of the subsidized housing waitlist, and some experience homelessness, often on a chronic basis.
- While most receive timely in-home nursing and personal support, waitlists remain for therapies, and long-term care waits are lengthy.
- Incomes vary widely, with some seniors experiencing financial vulnerability and living in low income or poverty.
- Many seniors do not meet physical activity or dietary guidelines, and a substantial share are overweight, increasing risks of chronic conditions.
- Nearly one in five seniors live alone, heightening the risk of isolation without strong social and community supports.



## Opportunities for Action

- Plan for housing that supports aging in place, expands affordable and supportive housing, and addresses repair needs.
- Strengthen community-based health and wellness supports to reduce pressure on long-term care and hospital services.
- Enhance opportunities for social participation, volunteerism, and intergenerational connection to combat isolation.
- Expand recreation, food security, and transportation initiatives that promote healthy, active, and connected aging.
- Ensure services are culturally safe and inclusive, recognizing the presence of Indigenous seniors and the diversity of lived experiences.

## Recreation Programming for Older Adults

The Township of Tiny offers a diverse range of programs to support healthy aging, active living, and social connection. From fitness classes like Aging Backwards, Chair Yoga, Tai Chi, and Pickleball to recreational activities such as Shuffleboard, there's something for everyone.

Local Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs) Bayshore Seniors Club and Georgian Shores Seniors Club, along with Le Club de l'Âge d'Or de Lafontaine further enrich opportunities with activities including arts and crafts, book clubs, woodworking, card games, fitness sessions, educational seminars, and seasonal social events. Whether it's staying active, learning new skills, or enjoying community gatherings, there are many inclusive and engaging programs that help older adults thrive in Tiny.



*Township of Tiny Aging Backwards Fitness class.*

## Framework for an Age-Friendly Community

Age-friendly communities support older people to age with dignity, respect and independence, and promote the inclusion of older adults in all areas of community life.

### Why This Matters

As people live longer, it is vital that communities adapt their structures and services so older adults can continue to thrive. An age-friendly community does more than respond to needs, it creates opportunities for older people to participate, connect, and contribute. When communities plan with this framework, they promote dignity, independence, and social inclusion while also strengthening the overall health and resilience of the municipality.



## Planning Context

### The World Health Organization Framework

The Township of Tiny's approach to age-friendly planning is guided by the World Health Organization (WHO) [Framework for Age-Friendly Communities](#), first established in 2007. The Township of Tiny has been designated an Age-Friendly Community by the WHO (January 2024).

At the core of this framework are eight domains of community life that shape the age-friendliness of a place. These domains are interrelated and improvements in one often strengthen others.



These domains provide a global standard for assessing and improving community age-friendliness, ensuring Tiny's plan is aligned with international best practice.

## Ontario's Priorities for Age-Friendly Planning

The Province of Ontario, through the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, has also developed its own [Age-Friendly Community Planning Guide and Toolkit](#) to help municipalities and organizations plan, implement, and evaluate local age-friendly initiatives. Ontario's priorities emphasize:

- **Local Leadership and Partnerships** – municipalities as champions, working alongside service providers, community groups, and older adults.
- **Inclusive Engagement** – ensuring diverse voices, including Indigenous, newcomer, Francophone, 2SLGBTQIA+, and persons with disabilities, are heard.
- **Planning Across the Life Course** – supporting not only older adults, but also making communities inclusive and accessible for people of all ages and abilities.
- **Measurable Action and Accountability** – linking plans to outcomes and using tools such as scorecards and dashboards to monitor progress.

## County of Simcoe Age Friendly Planning

The Township of Tiny is part of the County of Simcoe, a region recognized by the World Health Organization as an Age-Friendly Community and a member of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. The County's Positive Aging Strategy (2025-2030) provides a regional framework that promotes active, safe, and inclusive aging across all Simcoe County communities. Through initiatives such as Age-Friendly Seniors Housing Grant, age-friendly business recognition, and a County-wide Community Advisory Committee, Simcoe supports local efforts to create environments where older adults can live independently and participate fully in community life. The County also leads key regional responsibilities including housing and homelessness planning, long-term care, and the LINX public transportation system, that directly shape the experience of aging adults in Tiny. By aligning local priorities with this broader County framework, the Township of Tiny benefits from shared expertise, funding opportunities, and coordinated action to enhance quality of life for older adults throughout the region.

## Framing Tiny's Community Age-Friendly Plan

Together, the WHO Framework, and both Ontario's and Simcoe County's age friendly priorities create the structure for the Township of Tiny's updated Community Age-Friendly Plan.

The WHO's eight domains serve as the organizing framework, ensuring the Plan is comprehensive and comparable with age-friendly strategies worldwide.

Ontario's priorities emphasize local leadership, inclusivity, and accountability, guiding how these domains are applied in Tiny's context. By adopting this dual framework, Tiny ensures its Plan reflects international standards, provincial and county guidance, and local realities.

Moving forward, the Community Age-Friendly Plan (formerly the Local Aging Plan) will continue to use these frameworks, as well as local context and insight, to set priorities, measure progress, and support a vision of Tiny as a place where residents of all ages can live, work, and age with dignity, respect, and connection.



# Community Voices

## Acknowledgements

The Township of Tiny extends its appreciation to all those who contributed their time, perspectives, and ideas to this planning process. Sincere thanks are offered to residents, particularly our older adult and caregiver residents, who completed the survey, to members of the Senior Advisory Committee, Seniors Active Living Centres, Indigenous partners, municipal staff, and community organizations who participated in focus groups and interviews. Your voices, experiences, and insights have been central in shaping this updated Age-Friendly Community Plan.



## Consultation Process and Activities

The Township of Tiny undertook an engagement process to inform the update of its Age-Friendly Plan. Building on its 2017 Local Aging Plan and its designation as a WHO-recognized Age-Friendly Community, the Township worked to ensure diverse voices were included.

Engagement activities included:

**Community Survey:** A total of 376 residents participated in the Community Survey between August 1 and September 2, 2025. This included 200 telephone surveys with residents aged 55 and older and 176 online or hard copy submissions. The survey reached a broad cross-section of the community including older adults, caregivers, municipal staff, local organizations, and businesses, with representation from Indigenous, newcomer, 2SLGBTQIA+, and disability communities. The survey results provide a strong foundation of insights that highlight community priorities, identify gaps, and point to opportunities for enhancing age-friendliness in Tiny.

**Focus Groups and Interviews:** Focus groups and interviews provided opportunities for more in-depth dialogue with key stakeholders, including the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC), Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs), Township staff, and organizations serving Indigenous people. These discussions explored both strengths and challenges, ranging from valued community programs and volunteerism to pressing issues such as transportation and access to health services. The format allowed participants to share experiences, ideas, and practical recommendations. This qualitative input ensures the Plan reflects not only broad community trends but also the lived realities and priorities of those most engaged in supporting older adults.

**Communications and Outreach:** Engagement was supported by Township promotion through its website, Tiny Connect, social media, and printed materials (posters, newsletters, newspaper notices, road side signs).

This mix of broad-based and targeted approaches helped ensure that perspectives from residents, staff, and community partners informed the priorities and directions of the updated Plan.

## What We Heard by Stakeholder Group

### 1. Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs)

Conversations with two local SALCs (Bayshore Seniors Club and Georgian Shores Seniors Club) emphasized their strong role in providing programs, events, and social opportunities. They highlighted how activities such as exercise classes, coffee socials, and community events are contributing to improvements in seniors' health and well-being. However, they face challenges with declining membership, reduced volunteerism, transportation barriers, and the need for better coordination and cross-promotion between centres. SALCs also expressed interest in closer collaboration with the Township and suggested joint newsletters, shared calendars, and partnerships to reduce duplication and increase awareness of available programs.

### Coffee & Connect

Tiny's Coffee and Connect program is a six-week digital literacy series designed for adults 55+, offered twice a year. Since its launch in Fall 2021, this popular program has helped many older adults gain confidence with technology through hands-on learning in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

Participants explore practical features on phones, tablets, and computers while enjoying refreshments and socializing with peers. Guided by a small team of patient, knowledgeable instructors, sessions cover everything from basic device setup to texting, video calling, app management, password protection, photo organization, and more. Instruction is interactive and responsive to individual needs, with handouts provided for each class. All experience levels are welcome and tablets are available on

loan if needed. More than just a tech course, Coffee and Connect fosters social engagement and empowers older adults to stay connected and confident in today's digital world.



*Local resident Marian Gerus participates in the 2023 Coffee and Connect program.*

## 2. Municipal Staff

Township leadership and staff noted strong existing assets, including accessible boardwalks, trails and facilities, a variety of senior programming, Tiny Connect communications, and strong community volunteerism. They also identified gaps, such as declining interest in committees, lack of housing diversity, challenges with rural service delivery, and the need for more strategic partnerships with SALCs and other groups. Staff stressed the importance of building capacity within the community, supporting groups to lead programs, while maintaining the Township's role as a facilitator and coordinator.

## 3. Senior Advisory Committee (SAC)

The SAC emphasized Tiny's strong record of social participation and community support through events like the annual Seniors Symposium, Seniors Speaker Series and the newer "Ducks in a Row" program. Members praised accessible trails, mobi-mats, and volunteer-driven programming. However, they expressed concern about persistent barriers in transportation, technology, housing, and health care access. SAC members prioritized improved communication, stronger volunteer coordination, and the development of affordable seniors' housing options. They also underlined the importance of council updates and stronger connections with health organizations.

## Township of Tiny Senior Advisory Committee

The Senior Advisory Committee advises Council on all matters related to the well-being and quality of life for seniors, including the opportunities and challenges arising from a growing and diverse aging population. The Senior Advisory Committee consults and collaborates with seniors, seniors' organizations and others to gather information and provide advice regarding seniors' needs. The Senior Advisory Committee provides assistance in identifying new program development and delivery for seniors and aging adults in the Township. The Community is actively involved in community initiatives that support Older Adults.



*Committee members, Lynn Moon (Chair), and Kim Maticiw (Vice Chair), at Askennonnia Senior Centre's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Active Living Fair.*

## 4. Organizations Serving Indigenous People and Community

Discussions with the Georgian Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre and Beausoleil Family Health Centre highlighted specific barriers for Indigenous older adults. These include limited and costly transportation options, a shortage of home care workers and PSWs, and challenges accessing culturally safe services. There is strong interest in collaboration with the Township to expand transportation options, create culturally sensitive spaces, and improve outreach to the Island. Ongoing opportunities to include Indigenous voices in plan implementation were also highlighted.

## 5. Older Adults and Community (Survey Respondents)

Survey respondents consistently identified transportation, health care access, and housing as the most pressing challenges for older adults. While many praised recreation programs, community safety, and the Township's friendly atmosphere, 48.7% reported that housing options are inadequate and 45.7% felt health and community services are not easily accessible. Respondents also called for more events geared toward seniors, stronger communication about local events and activities, improved road and sidewalk maintenance, and increased public transportation options.

A full summary of survey results, by question, is provided in [Appendix A](#).



## A Vision

Tiny is a welcoming and inclusive community that celebrates diversity, honours the past, and plans for a sustainable future where people of all ages can age in place with dignity, safety, and respect.

The updated Community Age-Friendly Plan builds on the vision first established in 2017. Over the past several years, Tiny has made important strides in creating a supportive environment for older adults. At the same time, demographic changes, community voices have highlighted new and emerging needs, from transportation to access to health services and opportunities for social participation. This refreshed vision captures Tiny's ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly community, while ensuring that the Township is well-positioned to meet the priorities of residents today and in the years ahead.



## Guiding Principles

### Respect and Inclusion

Everyone deserves to be valued, included, and supported regardless of age, ability, income, or background.

### Accessibility

Services, spaces, housing, and communication should be easy to access, affordable, and designed with older adults in mind.

### Collaboration

Building strong relationships with community organizations, volunteers, Indigenous partners, service providers, and businesses ensures that supports are coordinated and responsive.

### Engagement

Older adults are leaders, volunteers, and contributors in community life, and their voices should guide decision-making and program development.

### Sustainability and Future Readiness

Planning needs to respond to demographic changes and balance current needs with long-term investments that ensure Tiny remains age-friendly for generations to come.



## Key Priorities and Strategic Directions

This section translates what we heard and what we know into clear, attainable actions. The strategies are organized by the eight WHO Age-Friendly domains. For each domain, we present a refreshed goal (building on Tiny’s 2017 Local Aging Plan) followed by targeted strategies that the Township and partners can advance over the next five years. This structure keeps continuity with the original plan and its scorecard “next steps,” while focusing effort where it will make the greatest near-term impact.

The content is grounded in three pillars: (1) continuity with the 2017 plan and its direction; (2) current needs and priorities identified by residents and stakeholders through the engagement process and analysis of recent data (e.g., survey findings, focus group input, community profile); and (3) recognized age-friendly best practices used across Ontario. Together, these pillars ensure the updated strategies are locally relevant, evidence-informed, and aligned with provincial and WHO frameworks.





## 1) Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

**Goal:** Ensure parks, beaches, trails, and public facilities are safe, welcoming, and universally accessible for older adults year-round.

**Strategies:**

- a) Ensure appropriate provision of seating, shade, and public washrooms on key routes, parks, and beaches.
- b) Continue to enhance accessible beach access (mobi-mats/boardwalks) and maintain accessible surfaces and trails.
  - Embed age-friendly design guidelines (lighting, contrast signage, handrails, door hardware) into municipal retrofits and new buildings.
- c) Consider including bookable senior space and public Wi-Fi.
- d) Continue efforts to incorporate age-friendly playground/functional equipment (e.g., Parkside Park, Toanche Park, Jackson’s Beach Park) with low-impact equipment and seating.
- e) Include accessible design features, such as raised beds, in new community gardens.



## Designing Outdoor Spaces for Older Adults

Designing outdoor spaces with older adults in mind helps ensure they are welcoming and usable for everyone. Best practices for age-friendly beaches, waterfronts, and parks include:

- **Accessible Pathways:** Firm, slip-resistant surfaces, boardwalks, and mobi-mats that make sand and natural areas easier to navigate with mobility aids.
- **Seating and Shade:** Frequent, comfortable seating with backs and arms, along with shaded rest areas, encourage longer visits and safe use during hot weather.
- **Wayfinding and Signage:** Clear, high-contrast signage with simple language and symbols to help older adults navigate trails, amenities, and beach access points.
- **Amenities for Comfort and Safety:** Accessible washrooms, change areas, hydration stations, and adequate lighting extend the usability of spaces across all seasons.
- **Intergenerational Design:** Features like walking loops and picnic areas encourage interaction between generations and support social participation.

These elements, when combined, create inclusive outdoor spaces that promote active living, social connection, and year-round enjoyment for older adults and the broader community.





## 2) Transportation

**Goal:** Improve access to safe, affordable, and coordinated transportation options, within Tiny and to regional services.

**Strategies:**

- a) Through the Transportation Master Plan Update, incorporate a seniors lens including well-connected, multi-modal, and inclusive transportation network for all users of all ages and abilities.
- b) Coordinate with County to add a Tiny “connector” stop where feasible.
- c) Promote Community Reach, Wheels for Wheels, and similar options through a “How to Get There” guide (print and online).





### 3) Housing

**Goal:** Support increasing housing diversity that enables aging in place, including affordable and supportive options for seniors.

**Strategies:**

- a) Review Township's Official Plan and Zoning By-law to encourage and remove barriers to creating seniors-friendly housing forms (e.g., accessible ground-oriented, small footprints, congregate/ assisted living).
- b) Consider fee rebates and other incentives where applicable for affordable seniors housing.
- c) Promote additional dwelling units (ADUs)/garden suites within Township.
- d) Promote and share information on housing grants, and funding opportunities for home modifications and upgrades.
- e) Explore opportunities to support County and local non-profits efforts to create seniors-oriented housing in Tiny (including affordable and supportive housing options).
- f) Advocate to the County of Simcoe and other levels of government for increased and sustained funding to support local housing initiatives, including targeted retrofit and home-renovation grants that enable older adults to safely age in place.





## 4) Social Participation

**Goal:** Create inclusive, accessible opportunities for older adults to participate in community life through recreation, learning, arts, and nature-based activities.

**Strategies:**

- a) Publish an expanded seniors guide with programs, locations, transport links, and subsidy info (print and online).
- b) Work with the local pickleball community to develop a Pickleball Strategy that identifies facility and programming needs, explores opportunities for shared spaces, and strengthens community capacity to deliver inclusive and sustainable pickleball programs.
- c) Expand outdoor/nature/adventure programming (guided trails, beach socials) with seasonal accessibility.
- d) Enhance outreach and pursue partnership opportunities with Beausoleil First Nations/Christian Island and seek representation on SAC.
- e) Continue learning webinars, Seniors Speaker Series, and Ducks in a Row program
  - Consider expanding learning programs to include sessions on governance, banking and finance, elder abuse, nutrition, home modifications, mental health etc.
- f) Continue to offer a needs-based program subsidy to remove financial barriers to social participation and seek out additional funding opportunities to enhance program reach and sustainability.
- g) Support SALCs/clubs with communications and small grants to trial new offerings (e.g., walking clubs, arts and culture collaborations).
- h) Enhance outreach and communication with Le Club de l'Âge d'Or and seek representation on SAC.



## Applying a Seniors Lens to Community Events

Taking a seniors lens in event planning helps ensure that Township and community events are inclusive, accessible, and welcoming for older adults. Small design and planning choices can make a big difference in encouraging participation, safety, and comfort.

Considerations include:

- **Accessibility:** Choose barrier-free venues with accessible washrooms, seating, and nearby parking.
- **Timing and Duration:** Schedule events during daytime or early evening hours and avoid long periods of standing or walking.
- **Transportation and Wayfinding:** Provide clear signage, directions, and accessible transportation or shuttle options.
- **Communication:** Promote events through multiple channels including print, online, radio, and community boards to reach those with varied access to technology.
- **Affordability:** Keep ticket or registration costs low and offer reduced rates or free options for lower-income older adults.
- **Engagement:** Involve older adults and the Senior Advisory Committee in planning to ensure programs reflect their interests and encourage intergenerational connection.





## 5) Respect and Social Inclusion

**Goal:** Build a culture that recognizes and celebrates older adults and ensures everyone feels welcome and included.

**Strategies:**

- a) Continue with Council updates on SAC initiatives to recognize contributions and share quick updates.
- b) Support Indigenous culture programming (beading, drumming, smudging) in partnership with Christian Island/GBIFC.
- c) Grow intergenerational opportunities (e.g., GrandPals, tech-help exchanges).
- d) Promote Simcoe's Age-Friendly Business practices locally.
- e) Apply a seniors lens in Municipal event planning to ensure Township events are inclusive, accessible, and welcoming for older adults.





## 6) Civic Participation & Employment

**Goal:** Support meaningful roles for older adults in civic life, volunteering, and work, highlighting and valuing their skills and experience.

### Strategies:

- a) Develop a Senior Volunteer Engagement Strategy to strengthen recruitment, retention and recognition of older adult volunteers across community programs and activities.
- b) Strengthen volunteer recruitment/matching through additional training on Better Impact (volunteer management software).
- c) Expand SAC representation (e.g., explore Indigenous, Francophone, and health partners)
- d) Run an annual Seniors Engagement Survey and publish a brief, annual, progress report from SAC.
- e) Provide civic literacy sessions (how to delegate to Council, voting options incl. assisted/in-person support) and enable sign-ups for notices.



## Considerations for Developing the Volunteer Engagement Strategy

- **Co-Design with Older Adults:** Involve seniors and the Senior Advisory Committee early in identifying motivation, barriers, and desired recognition.
- **Flexible and Inclusive Roles:** Offer opportunities suitable for varying abilities and schedules.
- **Training and Support:** Provide simple onboarding, role-specific orientation, and mentorship so volunteers feel confident and valued.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with local service clubs, SALCs, health organizations, and the County of Simcoe to share recruitment tools and coordinate volunteer promotion.
- **Recognition and Well-Being:** Highlight the wellness and social benefits of volunteering through Township communications and annual appreciation events.
- **Sustainability:** Position the strategy as a living framework to be further developed in the Plan's implementation phase, ensuring alignment with available staff capacity and community readiness.





## 7) Communication and Information

**Goal:** Make information easy to find, easy to understand, and available in multiple formats and languages.

**Strategies:**

- a) Enhance [tiny.ca/seniors](http://tiny.ca/seniors) as a comprehensive portal/hub, adding a local events calendar, complete seniors program guide, parks amenities map, health services guide, and a one-click “How to get there” link.
- b) Work with SAC to develop a Seniors Communications Strategy that integrates digital platforms (e.g., Tiny Connect, website), printed materials, phone support, and in-person outreach at community hubs and Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs), ensuring that information is accessible, inclusive, and easy to navigate for older adults with diverse needs.
- c) Continue to grow the Seniors Symposium and rotate short “info bursts” (elder abuse awareness, fraud/trafficking, caregiving) through multiple channels.
- d) Explore internet access hubs in weak-signal areas (library/partner sites, community rooms) and promote access points on [tiny.ca/seniors](http://tiny.ca/seniors).





## 8) Community Support and Health Services

**Goal:** Improve awareness of and access to local/regional health, home care, and community supports.

**Strategies:**

- a) Create a “Where to Start” seniors services guide with Ontario Health, SMDHU, VON, Red Cross, Chigamik CHC, GBGH, and promote 211.
- b) Promote caregiver supports (adult day, respite, education).
- c) Promote seniors-supporting-seniors initiatives (such as Red Cross Friendly Calls) and explore potential funding sources and models.
- d) Expand speaker series with health providers at community facilities, hubs, SALCs etc.
- e) Enhance involvement of local health agencies at annual Seniors Symposium.



## Partnerships and Shared Responsibility

Creating an age-friendly community is a shared effort. The Township of Tiny provides local leadership, but meaningful, lasting progress depends on collaboration with partners across all levels of government, community organizations, service providers, volunteers, and local businesses. This Plan recognizes that Tiny is not working alone. Our role is to lead, facilitate, collaborate and connect, while supporting partners to bring their mandates, resources, and expertise to the table.

### Who Does What

#### Township of Tiny

Sets the vision and priorities, coordinates partners, and defines budgets for investments in parks, facilities, and programs, supports communication and engagement, pilots local solutions, and reports on progress. Acts as a facilitator and connector so that efforts are aligned, complementary, and responsive to community needs.

#### Township of Tiny Senior Advisory Committee

The Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) plays an essential role in shaping Tiny's age-friendly direction. The Committee advises Council on matters that affect the well-being and quality of life of older adults, helping the Township respond to the opportunities and challenges of a growing and diverse aging population. SAC engages directly with seniors, community organizations, and service providers to gather input, identify emerging needs, and recommend practical solutions. The Committee also helps guide the development and delivery of new programs, events, and initiatives that support aging in place. SAC is made up of six community volunteers and one member of Council.

#### Federal and Provincial Governments

Establish policy frameworks and provide funding that underpins age-friendly communities, including health system services, affordable and supportive housing programs, transportation and infrastructure funding, and income supports for older adults.

## Indigenous Communities and Organizations

Beausoleil First Nation and Indigenous organizations such as the Georgian Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre are essential partners in building an inclusive, culturally safe, age-friendly Tiny. Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and service providers help guide programs, outreach, and health and social supports for Indigenous older adults both on and off Christian Island. The Township commits to relationship-based engagement, respect for self-determination, and co-design of initiatives where appropriate.

## County of Simcoe

Leads and coordinates regional responsibilities that impact older adults, including housing and homelessness system planning, long-term care, and regional transportation initiatives. The County's networks and programs are essential to advancing local priorities in conjunction with neighbouring municipalities.

## Local Service Providers

Community health providers and social service agencies deliver care and supports close to home. They help residents navigate and access services, and conduct outreach, wellness checks, clinics, and education sessions. This category includes Indigenous-serving organizations and partners.

## Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs)

SALCs and senior clubs offer social, cultural, learning and recreation programs that promote the health, well-being and social connections of older adults.

## Community Groups, Faith Organizations, and Local Businesses

Service clubs, community and cultural groups, faith communities, and businesses contribute space, volunteers, sponsorships, and in-kind supports. They are critical partners for outreach, intergenerational activities, recognition events, and age-friendly customer service practices.



## Implementation Framework and Governance

As stated, creating an age-friendly community is a shared effort. In this effort, the Township will lead locally while collaborating with partners across government, community organizations, service providers, volunteers, and local businesses to turn the Plan into action.

The Township's Recreation and Special Events Department will assume a corporate leadership role for implementation and reporting, coordinating with other departments as actions roll out across the eight WHO age-friendly domains. SAC is a key partner in making this Plan real. As the community's voice for older adults, SAC provides insight, leadership, and on-the-ground experience that help guide implementation, monitor progress, and strengthen accountability. To further enhance SAC's effectiveness, and support the Township's ongoing work to become an even more age-friendly community, the following recommendations are proposed:

### 1. **Establish a clear SAC workplan**

Develop an annual workplan linked to the priorities and timelines of the Age-Friendly Plan, with quarterly updates to track progress and maintain focus.

### 2. **Strengthen and broaden SAC membership**

Expand membership to reflect the diversity of Tiny's aging population by including Indigenous, Francophone, and health-sector representatives, while still maintaining a manageable committee size.

### 3. **Develop a simple annual Age-Friendly Progress Report**

Publish a simple annual "State of Age-Friendly Tiny" report summarizing accomplishments, participation, and upcoming priorities, helping communicate progress to Council and the community.

### 4. **Provide opportunities for training and capacity development**

Offer regular orientation for new members and periodic training opportunities on governance, municipal processes, communication, and engagement to support strong and confident participation.

### 5. **Formalize SAC participation across Township departments**

Create a clear process for SAC to provide input and feedback on Township projects, policies, and plans related to older adults.

Implementation will also rely on collaboration with the County of Simcoe, local health and community service providers, Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs) and seniors' clubs, Indigenous partners including Beausoleil First Nation and the Georgian Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, community groups, and local businesses.

The Implementation Framework organizes actions by the eight age-friendly domains and identifies timelines (Ongoing, Short Term (0-2 years), Longer Term (3-5 years)), an Action Lead, potential partners, cost considerations, and high-level indicators. This structure supports measurable action and accountability.

## Senior Symposium

The Township of Tiny hosts an annual Senior Symposium at the Township of Tiny Community Centre, a cornerstone event for older adults and caregivers in our community. Launched in 2017 following recommendations from Tiny's Senior Advisory Committee and Local Aging Plan, the Symposium has grown into a highly anticipated gathering. Held as part of June is Seniors Month, this event connects seniors and caregivers with senior-serving organizations across North Simcoe, offering valuable resources, educational sessions, and opportunities to get involved. Beyond information-sharing, the Symposium fosters social connections, encourages active participation in community life, and supports aging well in Tiny.



*2025 Senior Symposium*

## Implementation Framework

Strategy	Time-line	Action Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Cost Consideration	Indicator
<b>Outdoor Spaces and Buildings (4)</b>					
Ensure appropriate provision of seating, shade, and public washrooms on key routes, parks, and beaches.	S/O	Township (Planning)		Staff Time Potential increase to municipal budget for enhanced infrastructure	Availability of adequate rest spaces, rest spaces in shade, accessible washrooms  Safe walkways and trails (smooth surfaces, clear of ice and snow, well lit)
Continue to enhance accessible beach access (mobi-mats/ boardwalks) and maintain accessible surfaces and trails.	O	Township (Planning, Public Works)		Staff Time Potential increase to municipal budget for enhanced infrastructure	Safe walkways and trails  Access to beaches by people of all ages and abilities
Embed age-friendly design guidelines (lighting, contrast signage, handrails, door hardware) into municipal retrofits and new buildings.	S	Township (Planning, Building)		Staff Time	Guidelines prepared to direct the design of municipal buildings in meeting the needs of all residents, of all ages and abilities  Access to municipal buildings by people of all ages and abilities

Strategy	Time-line	Action Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Cost Consideration	Indicator
Continue efforts to incorporate age-friendly playground/functional equipment (e.g., Parkside Park, Toanche Park, Jackson's Beach Park) with low-impact equipment and seating	L	Township (Planning, Public Works, Recreation)		Staff Time Potential increase to municipal budget for enhanced infrastructure	Pilot initiated Access to outdoor play/fitness and gathering space
Include accessible design features, such as raised beds, in new community gardens.	S/O	Township (Planning, Public Works)		Staff Time Potential material costs	Access to community gardens by people of all ages and abilities
<b>Transportation (3)</b>					
Through the Transportation Master Plan Update, incorporate a seniors lens including well-connected, multi-modal, and inclusive transportation network for all users of all ages and abilities.	S	Township (Planning, Public Works)	Simcoe County	Staff Time	Municipal destinations are well connected Connectivity by walking, cycling, and public transportation
Coordinate with County to add a Tiny "connector" stop where feasible.	S	Township (Planning, Public Works)	Simcoe County	Staff Time	Additional transit stop(s) in Tiny
Promote Community Reach, Wheels for Wheels, and similar options through a "How to Get There" guide (print & online).	S	Township (Recreation, Corporate Services)	Community Transportation, Service Providers	Staff Time Potential printing costs for materials	Access to information on transportation options in Tiny

Strategy	Time-line	Action Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Cost Consideration	Indicator
<b>Housing (6)</b>					
Review Township's Official Plan and Zoning By-law to encourage and remove barriers to creating seniors-friendly housing forms (e.g., accessible ground-oriented, small footprints, congregate/assisted living).	S	Township (Planning)		Staff Time	Availability of affordable, supportive, senior-friendly housing options in Tiny
Consider fee rebates and other incentives where applicable for affordable seniors housing.	L	Township (Planning)		Staff Time Potential increased investment in housing (through incentives)	Investment in affordable seniors housing
Promote additional dwelling units (ADUs)/garden suites within Township.	S/O	Township (Planning)		Staff Time Potential cost of materials	Availability/supply of ADUs in Tiny
Promote and share information on housing grants, and funding opportunities for home modifications and upgrades.	S/O	Township (Planning, Corporate Services)		Staff Time	Access to information on housing related funding opportunities

Strategy	Time-line	Action Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Cost Consideration	Indicator
Explore opportunities to support County and local non-profits efforts to create seniors-oriented housing in Tiny (including affordable and supportive housing options).	L	Township (Planning)	Simcoe County Non-profit housing providers	Staff Time	Availability of affordable, supportive, senior-friendly housing options in Tiny
Advocate to the County of Simcoe and other levels of government for increased and sustained funding to support local housing initiatives, including targeted retrofit and home-renovation grants that enable older adults to safely age in place.	S/O	Township (Planning)	SAC Simcoe County	Staff and SAC Time	Investment in affordable, supportive, senior-friendly housing options in Tiny
<b>Social Participation (8)</b>					
Publish an expanded seniors guide with programs, locations, transport links, and subsidy info (print and online).	L	Township (Recreation, Corporate Services)	SALCS Le Club de l'Âge d'Or Beausoleil First Nation, GBIFC	Staff Time Potential costs for materials	Creation of seniors guide Access to information on older adult/senior programming in Tiny

Strategy	Time-line	Action Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Cost Consideration	Indicator
Work with the local pickleball community to develop a Pickleball Strategy that identifies facility and programming needs, explores opportunities for shared spaces, and strengthens community capacity to deliver inclusive and sustainable pickleball programs.	S	Township (Recreation, Public Works)	Local pickleball groups	Staff Time	Development of Pickleball Strategy Access to pickleball programs in Tiny Community capacity in program delivery
Expand outdoor/nature/adventure programming (guided trails, beach socials) with seasonal accessibility.	L	Township (Recreation)		Staff Time Potential increase to municipal budget for additional programs	Range and diversity of programs for all ages Participation in programs
Enhance outreach and pursue partnership opportunities with Beausoleil First Nations/Christian Island and seek representation on SAC.	S	Township (Recreation)	Beausoleil First Nation Health Centre	Staff Time	Indigenous inclusion on SAC Relationship with Beausoleil First Nations in program delivery for older adults and seniors

Strategy	Time-line	Action Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Cost Consideration	Indicator
Continue learning webinars and Speaker Series, and Ducks in a Row program, and consider expanding learning programs to include sessions on governance, banking and finance, elder abuse, nutrition, home modifications, mental health etc.	O	Township (Recreation)	SAC Community groups, health sector, service providers	Staff Time Potential costs for speakers, materials	Range of programs for all ages Participation in programs
Continue to offer a needs-based program subsidy to remove financial barriers to social participation and seek out additional funding opportunities to enhance program reach and sustainability.	O	Township (Recreation)		Staff Time Potential costs if program enhanced	Access and participation in Township programs by seniors in Tiny
Support SALCs/clubs with communications and small grants to trial new offerings (e.g., walking clubs, arts and culture collaborations).	O/S	Township (Recreation)	SALCs	Staff Time Potential increase to municipal budget for grants	Capacity of SALCs to provide seniors programing
Enhance outreach and communication with Le Club de l'Âge d'Or and seek representation on SAC.	S	Township (Recreation)	Le Club de l'Âge d'Or	Staff Time	Inclusion of SAC membership Outreach with Le Club de l'Âge d'Or

Strategy	Time-line	Action Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Cost Consideration	Indicator
<b>Respect and Social Inclusion (5)</b>					
Continue with Council updates on SAC initiatives to recognize contributions and share quick updates.	O	SAC		SAC Time	Council and community awareness of SAC
Support Indigenous culture programming (beading, drumming, smudging) in partnership with Christian Island/ GBIFC.	S	Township (Recreation)	Beausoleil First Nation GBIFC	Staff Time Potential increase to municipal budget for additional programs	Diversity of programs Participation in programs
Grow intergenerational opportunities (e.g., GrandPals, tech-help exchanges).	S	Township (Recreation)	Community groups, local service providers	Staff Time Potential costs for additional programs	Diversity of programs Participation in programs
Promote Simcoe's Age-Friendly Business practices locally.	L	Township (Recreation)	Simcoe County	Staff Time	Engagement in program
Apply a seniors lens in Municipal event planning to ensure Township events are inclusive, accessible, and welcoming for older adults.	S/O	Township (Recreation, Corporate Services)		Staff Time	Access and participation in Township events

Strategy	Time-line	Action Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Cost Consideration	Indicator
<b>Civic Participation and Employment (5)</b>					
Develop a Senior Volunteer Engagement Strategy to strengthen recruitment, retention and recognition of older adult volunteers across community programs and activities.	S	Township (Recreation)	SAC SALCS Le Club de l'Âge d'Or	Staff and SAC Time	Development of engagement strategy  Community awareness and engagement in program
Strengthen volunteer recruitment/matching through additional training on Better Impact (volunteer management software).	L/O	Township (Recreation)		Staff Time	Volunteer engagement and training
Expand SAC representation (e.g., add Indigenous, Francophone, and health partners)	S	Township (Recreation) SAC		Staff and SAC Time	Diversity of SAC
Run an annual Seniors Engagement Survey and publish a brief, annual, progress report from SAC.	S/O	Township (Recreation) SAC		Staff and SAC Time, printing, phone	Survey participation and reporting
Provide civic literacy sessions (how to delegate to Council, voting options incl. assisted/in-person support) and enable sign-ups for notices.	L	Township (Recreation)	Civic organizations, senior governments	Staff Time Potential costs for speakers, materials	Diversity of programs Participation of programs

Strategy	Time-line	Action Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Cost Consideration	Indicator
<b>Communication and Information (4)</b>					
Enhance tiny.ca/seniors as a comprehensive portal/hub, adding a local events calendar, complete seniors program guide, parks amenities map, health services guide, and a one-click “How to get there” link.	L	Township (Recreation, Corporate Services)	SAC	Staff Time	Access to information on older/adult events, programs, services in Tiny  Website participation
Work with SAC to develop a Seniors Communications Strategy that integrates digital platforms (e.g., Tiny Connect, website), printed materials, phone support, and in-person outreach at community hubs and Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs), ensuring that information is accessible, inclusive, and easy to navigate for older adults with diverse needs.	S	Township (Recreation, Corporate Services)	SAC	Staff Time	Creation of Seniors Communication Strategy  Access to information on older/adult events, programs, services in Tiny

Strategy	Time-line	Action Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Cost Consideration	Indicator
Continue to grow the Seniors Symposium and rotate short “info bursts” (elder abuse awareness, fraud/trafficking, caregiving) through multiple channels.	S/O	Township (Recreation)	SAC SALCS Le Club de l’Âge d’Or	Staff Time Potential costs for speakers, materials	Awareness of seniors’ services and programs Symposium participation
Explore internet access hubs in weak-signal areas (library/partner sites, community rooms) and promote access points on tiny.ca/seniors.	L	Township (Recreation) Information, Technologies (IT)	Libraries	Staff Time Potential costs for internet	Internet access
<b>Community Supports and Health Services (4)</b>					
Create a “Where to Start” seniors services guide with Ontario Health, SMDHU, VON, Red Cross, Chigamik CHC, GBGH, and promote 211.	S	Township (Recreation, Corporate Services)	Health sector partners, service providers	Staff Time	Creation of seniors’ health services guide Awareness of local health services
Promote caregiver supports (adult day, respite, education).	S/O	Township (Recreation), SAC	Caregiver support program providers	Staff Time	Awareness of caregiver support programs

Strategy	Time-line	Action Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Cost Consideration	Indicator
Promote seniors-supporting-seniors initiatives (such as Red Cross Friendly Calls) and explore potential funding sources and models.	S/O	Township (Recreation)	Local service providers	Staff Time	Awareness of seniors-supporting-seniors initiatives
Expand speaker series with health providers at community facilities, hubs, SALCs etc.	L	Township (Recreation)	SAC SALCS Le Club de l'Âge d'Or	Staff Time Potential costs for speakers, materials	Diversity of programs Engagement in programs

## Conclusion and Call to Action

The Township of Tiny's Age-Friendly Community Plan reflects the voices, experiences, and aspirations of residents across the community. It builds on the Township's commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and healthy aging, helping to ensure that Tiny remains a place where people of all ages can thrive.

While the Plan provides direction through clear strategies and an implementation framework, its success will depend on ongoing collaboration between the Township, the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC), community organizations, local businesses, and residents. Together, these partners will transform ideas into meaningful action that improves the quality of life for older adults today and for future generations.

Becoming a more age-friendly community is not a single milestone but a continuing process of listening, learning, and adapting. Through shared leadership, open dialogue, and sustained effort, Tiny will continue to grow as a community that values, supports, and celebrates aging well.



# Appendix A: Survey Results

## Overview of Survey

The Community Survey was completed by telephone and through an online link. Hard copies of the survey were also made available at Township facilities. The survey link was posted on the Township's website and was shared broadly with the community and local service providers through email and social media. Posters were also distributed in the Township.

Overall, 376 (n=376) respondents completed a survey. This includes 200 by telephone, 161 online, and 15 by hard copy survey.

All surveys conducted by telephone used live operators at the Oraclepoll call centre facility using random number selection (RDD). The sample frame included cellular numbers as well as landlines. All telephone respondents were 55 years of age or older.

Telephone surveys were conducted by between the days of August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Initial calls were made between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Subsequent call-backs of no-answers and busy numbers were made on a (staggered) daily rotating basis up to 5 times (from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.) until contact was made. In addition, telephone interview appointments were attempted with those respondents who were unable to complete the survey at the time of contact. The margin of error for the N=200 sample (telephone survey) is  $\pm 6.9\%$  19/20 times.

The online survey was open from the days of August 1<sup>st</sup> and September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

## Who We Heard From

Of the 376 total survey respondents, the vast majority were over the age of 55 (91% or 342 residents). The survey also heard from 10 members of Township Staff and Council, 5 local service providers, 5 local businesses, and 31 other residents and caregivers.

The survey also asked some additional demographic questions. Of the 376 respondents, 46 identified as having a disability, 13 identified as Indigenous, 6 as a newcomer to Canada (new to Canada in past 10 years), 3 from a racialized community, and 6 identified as 2SLGBTQIA+. By gender, 210 identified as female, 152 as male, and 5 as other.

## Which of the following age groups may I place you in?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
18-34	5	1.3
35-44	4	1.1
45-54	17	4.5
55-64	126	33.5
65-74	142	37.8
75-84	68	18.1
85+	12	3.2
Prefer not to answer	2	.5
Total	376	100.0

## What is your gender?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Male	152	40.4
Female	210	55.9
Other	5	1.3
Prefer not to answer	9	2.4
Total	376	100.0

## Do you identify with any of the following population groups? (check all that apply)

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Indigenous (First Nation, Metis, Inuit)	13	3.4%	3.5%
Person with a disability	46	12.1%	12.3%
Newcomer (new to Canada in past 10 years)	6	1.6%	1.6%
Racialized community	3	.8%	.8%
2SLGBTQIA+	6	1.6%	1.6%
None	277	72.9%	74.1%
Prefer not to answer	28	7.4%	7.5%
Unsure / don't know	1	.3%	.3%

## Results by Question

The following summary provides an overview of the results by question. Unless otherwise stated, all questions are n=376.

### What do you think are the Township's greatest strengths when it comes to supporting older adults?

Many respondents were unsure (151 respondents or 40.2%) as to the current strengths in supporting older adults or indicated nothing (28). For those who did identify a strength, many acknowledged the Township's recreation programs and clubs (55 respondents). Other top strengths include 'the people' (20), amenities (16), proximity to other centres (13), local events (12), Senior Advisory Committee (12), low density/quiet community (12), health care (12), and safety (10).

### What do you think are the biggest challenges or gaps for older adults in Tiny?

The top challenge identified by survey respondents was transportation (102 respondents or 27.1%). Other top challenges include lack of health care services (25), lack of facilities and programs (36), isolation (21), taxes (20), poor roads and sidewalks (14), and affordability and affordable housing (16). Sixty-nine respondents (or 18.4%) indicated they were unsure.

### How would you rate the availability and accessibility of outdoor spaces and public buildings?

Most respondents (52.6%) rated the availability and accessibility of outdoor spaces and public buildings as either very good or good.

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Very good	73	19.4
Somewhat good	125	33.2
Neutral	88	23.4
Somewhat poor	39	10.4
Very poor	20	5.3
Unsure / don't know	31	8.2
Total	376	100.0

## How would you rate the current transportation options in meeting the needs of older adults?

Almost half of survey respondents (48.1%) rated the current transportation options as poor in meeting the needs of older adults.

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Very good	29	7.7
Somewhat good	59	15.7
Neutral	48	12.8
Somewhat poor	59	15.7
Very poor	131	34.8
Unsure / don't know	50	13.3
Total	376	100.0

## Do you think there are enough housing options in Tiny that meet the needs of older adults?

Most respondents (48.7%) indicated that they do not think there are enough housing options in Tiny to meet the needs of older adults. Sixty-seven respondents (or 17.8%) do feel there are enough housing options available.

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	67	17.8
Somewhat	126	33.5
No	183	48.7
Total	376	100.0

## Do you feel there are enough opportunities for older adults to participate in social activities and events?

Responses are mixed for this question, with 35.6% (134) of respondents feeling that there are enough social activities and events, 37.8% (142) indicated that they feel there are somewhat enough, and 26.6% (100) indicated that there are not enough social activities and events.

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	134	35.6
Somewhat	142	37.8
No	100	26.6
Total	376	100.0

## Do you feel older adults are treated with respect and included in community events and activities?

Most people (47.6%) feel that older adults are treated with respect and included in community, and 38.8% feel they are somewhat treated with respect and included in community events and activities.

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	179	47.6
Somewhat	146	38.8
No	51	13.6
Total	376	100.0

## Do older adults have enough opportunities to volunteer, work, or participate in civic activities (i.e., voting and engaging with members of Council) if they want to?

Over half of respondents (54.5%) feel that older adults do have enough opportunity to volunteer, work or be engaged in community life.

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	205	54.5
Somewhat	103	27.4
No	68	18.1
Total	376	100.0

## Do you find it easy to get the information you need about Township programs, services or events for older adults?

About 20% of survey respondents do not find it easy to get information they need about Township programs, services or events for older adults.

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	152	40.4
Somewhat	149	39.6
No	75	19.9
Total	376	100.0

## Do you feel older adults can easily access the health and community services they need?

Most survey respondents (45.7%) indicated that they do not feel that older adults can easily access the health and community services they need.

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	54	14.4
Somewhat	150	39.9
No	172	45.7
Total	376	100.0

## What is one thing you would like the Township of Tiny to do to better support older adults in Tiny?

Top responses by survey respondents include:

1. Public Transportation (60)
2. More events, programs geared to seniors (34)
3. Health care and home care (30)
4. Lower taxes (22)
5. Build community centre (20)
6. More communication from Council/Community (17)
7. Road and sidewalk maintenance, snow removal (14)
8. Affordable housing (6)
9. Stop building of Administration building (6)
10. Amalgamate essential services with surrounding communities (5)

\*Additionally, 111 survey respondents indicated 'unsure' as their response to this question.