

Age-Friendly Rural Municipality of Macdonald Community Consultation Summary

Rural Municipality of Macdonald, Manitoba

May 20, 2010

Community consultations are being held with seniors and community members across Manitoba as part of a larger Age-Friendly Initiative. The goal of these community consultations is to assist communities with prioritizing issues that will help them form action plans to make their communities age-friendly. On May 20, 2010, 35 individuals from the Rural Municipality of Macdonald, Manitoba (Starbuck, Brunkild, Domain, LaSalle, Oak Bluff, and Sanford) came together to talk about age-friendly priorities and issues within their community. Participants also had the opportunity to complete a survey of the age-friendliness of their community. The following is a summary of the age-friendly priorities identified at the meeting.



Summary of Group Discussion

Age-Friendly Rural Municipality of Macdonald Benefits

- Safe, friendly communities
- Close to family
- Medical services close by
- Each community has their own newspaper or newsletter to share information



Priority: Improve Road Crossing, Parking, and Sidewalk Safety

Potential Actions:

- Install handicap parking signs in front of businesses and public buildings, e.g., the store in Starbuck
- Review the dangers of angled parking, e.g., large trucks blocking views
- Place handicap parking signs and paint curbs to designate reserved parking for those with a handicap parking permit
- Add lighting to the corner of Mandan Drive & Blythefield Road in Sanford and at Arena Road in Starbuck
- Install crosswalks in key locations to increase safety of crossing roads, e.g., Provincial Road 305 at the Brunkild Community Hall and St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- Improve the crosswalk in LaSalle on the main road as it is the route children cross to go to school
- Rebuild the sidewalk in Starbuck that is often flooded and impassable
- Even the surfaces of sidewalks and pave gravel sidewalks for safe and easy use by everyone
- Repair sidewalks in front of senior residences , e.g., Riverdale Apartments and Starview Manor in Starbuck
- Place sidewalks on the same side of the street of senior residences so seniors do not have to cross the road, e.g., Starview Manor



Priority: Create Walking Paths with Benches to Rest

Potential Actions:

- Build a path to the bridge that is parallel to the road into LaSalle (south side)
- Develop a path from the Kingswood Golf Course to LaSalle
- Establish guidelines for the use of paths, e.g., regarding ATVs
- Create a walking path around the recreation park in Sanford



Priority: Increase Communication of Community Services and Programs Within the R.M.

Potential Actions:

- Review the need for a central directory reference of community services within the R.M. that would be available to all residents of the R.M.
- Prepare and distribute a checklist or summary that informs residents of what to do and where to go during a community emergency, e.g., flood, ice storm, wind storm, or tornado
- Request that high speed Internet be expanded within the R.M. as it is close to Winnipeg and the communities are growing



Priority: Provide Seniors With a Wider Choice of Housing so They Can Remain in Their Communities

Potential Actions:

- Create assisted living housing with daily meals, housekeeping, and activities for seniors throughout the R.M.
- Provide supportive living and personal care options in some communities



Priority: Ensure Public Washrooms are Accessible

Potential Actions:

- Redesign the handicap bathroom door at the Oak Bluff Hall so it can be opened from the inside
- Change the bathroom doors at the Starbuck Community Hall so they are not so heavy



Priority: Offer Community Services for Seniors

Potential Actions:

- Review the need for a handi-van service for transportation to medical appointments and activities, e.g., have handi-van available in each of the communities at least one day per week or as needed
- Offer meal programs for seniors where needed
- Review the need for increased home care services



The views expressed herein reflect the opinions of the participants and do not necessarily represent the views of the Age-Friendly Communities Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) or the Centre on Aging.

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