

Age-Friendly Roblin Community Consultation Summary

Roblin, Manitoba

March 1, 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 March 1, 2010, 19 individuals from the Town of Roblin, Manitoba came together to talk about age-friendly priorities and issues within their community. Participants also completed a survey of the age-friendliness of their community. The following is a summary of the age-friendly priorities identified at the meeting and survey results.

Summary of Group Discussion

Age-Friendly Roblin Benefits

- Sidewalks and streets are kept clear of snow on a regular basis
- Curb cuts are on every corner for wheelchair, walker and stroller access
- The Crocus Trail is a well used walking trail with benches
- Adequate handicap parking spots available
- Handi-Van use is affordable, constant and reliable
- Medical and wellness services are available at the medical clinic and attached hospital
- Intergenerational opportunity for seniors and high school graduates to get together once a year
- 50 and Over Club/Roblin Drop-In Centre is well run by volunteers and is the hub for seniors
- Well publicized notices on the community bulletin board
- Strong sense of community, very friendly, and helpful residents
- Safe community to live in
- Beautiful landscape to enjoy with many outdoor recreational opportunities



Priority: Enhance Interaction Between Seniors and Younger People

Potential Actions:

- Add a Wii game to the 50 and Over Club/Roblin Drop-In Centre to increase learning, fitness and intergenerational opportunities with seniors and school age children
- Embrace and recognize the contributions of younger volunteers
- Plan events that connect seniors with the younger generations
- Develop a Block Parent program



Priority: Increase Access to Buildings

Potential Actions:

- Assess the need for automatic doors to replace heavy doors in buildings used by seniors, e.g. residences and businesses
- Replace the arena steps by renovating the entrance with ramps or a lift
- Improve wheelchair ramp access at the Roblin Life and Art Centre



Priority: Improve Safety of Sidewalks and Parking Lots

Potential Actions:

- Raise awareness with businesses and the hospital to increase safety by sanding icy parking lots
- When Main Street is rebuilt through a partnership with the Province, lower the height of curbs so people can step up easily, and vehicle bumpers are not damaged and change the angled parking to parallel parking
- Clear snow promptly from streets so residents can leave their homes as they need rather than waiting for snow removal
- Increase the number of crosswalks by the business area on Main Street
- Ensure a safe, less slippery entrance at the Post Office
- Clear snow off the walking trails that are along the highways
- To reduce walking difficulties, provide a smooth surface on walking areas, especially Crocus Trail



Priority: Offer Housing Choices for Seniors as Their Needs Change

Potential Actions:

- Request provincial incentives to build independent and assisted living residences
- Increase housing for those who require mental health support
- Increase two bedroom housing units



Priority: Raise Public Knowledge of Available Services

Potential Actions:

- Inform residents of Roblin and District emergency plans
- Coordinate rides for people travelling to larger centres for medical appointments with residents who are travelling to larger centres and can provide rides
- Add computers to the 50 and Over Club/Roblin Drop-In Centre and provide Internet access
- Increase and coordinate notices of senior and other available services, events, and activities through the Public Access TV channel
- Provide isolated individuals with written and word of mouth information through their use of the Handi-Van and Meals on Wheels
- Invite members of the HERO Club to the 50 and Over Club/Roblin Drop-In Centre to participate in activities such as Bingo
- Offer an accessible central directory of services for older seniors
- Publicize town events listed on the Community calendar Web site on the Public Access channel



Summary of Survey Responses

As part of a community consultation held in Roblin on March 1, 2010, individuals were asked to complete a brief questionnaire designed to collect information on the age-friendliness of their community. Individuals attending the consultation completed a total of 19 questionnaires and one survey was completed after the consultation. This report summarizes the Age-Friendly Communities Survey findings completed by the 20 individuals; 40% identified themselves as a senior.

Most Age-Friendly Areas

All the residents who completed the survey, feel that seniors are generally treated with respect. Most residents feel that transportation for the public and individuals with disabilities, including Handi-Van is affordable and sufficient. They also feel there are enough handicap parking spaces close to services and stores.

Residents identified that health care services provided in town meet the needs of seniors. Many also feel that seniors volunteering receive enough official recognition and there are enough volunteer opportunities for seniors. Roblin residents feel that meal delivery services that bring meals to seniors' homes are sufficient.

Least Age-Friendly Areas

Through the survey completed during the community consultation, many Roblin residents identified that the waiting times to get into senior housing that provides supports to seniors are not reasonable. They feel that there is not enough subsidized housing for low-income seniors, nor are there enough housing that meets seniors' needs.

Residents feel that isolated seniors need to be contacted, visited or taken to activities more frequently and there are not enough intergenerational programs that bring seniors and children together.

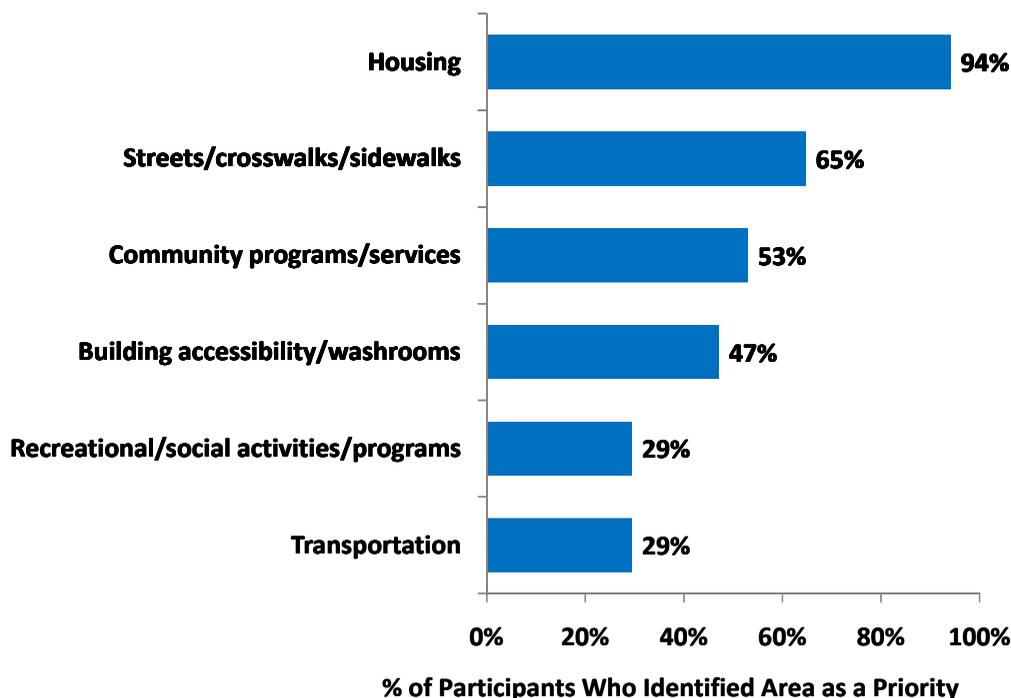
Priority Areas

Individuals were also asked to write down the top five issues they felt needed to be most urgently addressed in their community. Seventeen out of the 20 individuals (85%) identified at least one priority area.

These written comments were grouped into the priority areas as shown in Figure 1:

- housing (e.g., affordable housing, assisted living, subsidized housing for seniors, single dwelling housing-one level);
- streets/crosswalks/sidewalks (e.g., light controlled crossing at highway, Main Street crosswalks not enough, not enough sidewalks, sidewalks require repair);
- community programs/ services (e.g., personal home upkeep services-snow removal/lawn service, lack of meals, home care, nurse on duty in housing apartments);
- building accessibility/washrooms (e.g., accessible washrooms for wheelchairs/walkers/strollers, public washrooms in businesses, accessible doors to drug store, town office); recreational/social activities/programs (e.g., fitness programs, recreational activities to be more accommodating to seniors); and,
- transportation (e.g., transportation to distant medical appointments, Handi-Van not available on weekends and some weekdays)

Figure 1: Priority Areas Identified by Participants



Age-Friendly Survey Responses

Housing	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
There is enough housing that meets the needs of seniors.	15.0	80.0	5.0
Housing for seniors is affordable.	75.0	20.0	5.0
There is enough subsidized housing for low-income seniors.	15.8	57.9	26.3
The waiting times are reasonable to get into senior housing that provides supports to seniors (e.g., assisted living, nursing homes).	20.0	65.0	15.0
There is enough housing for younger people.	33.3	33.3	33.3

Transportation	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to shopping, senior centres, religious events, cultural events, and so forth is sufficient.	65.0	25.0	10.0
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to and from medical appointments is sufficient.	50.0	40.0	10.0
The transportation that is available for individuals with disabilities (e.g., Handi-Van) is sufficient.	75.0	15.0	10.0
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends), including Handi-Van that is available in my community is affordable for seniors.	85.0	10.0	5.0
There are volunteer drivers or an informal network of drivers available for seniors who need transportation.	75.0	5.0	20.0
There are enough parking spaces close to services and stores.	75.0	25.0	0.0
There are enough "handicap" parking spaces close to services and stores.	70.0	15.0	15.0

Respect and Social Inclusion	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Seniors are generally treated with respect.	100.0	0.0	0.0
Seniors serve in an advisory role to municipal government (e.g., there is a seniors' council).	30.0	45.0	25.0
Community consultations specifically include seniors.	45.0	10.0	45.0
Planning processes specifically consider the needs of seniors (e.g., planning for housing or transportation).	30.0	15.0	55.0

Safety	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Crime and vandalism are a problem.	15.8	68.4	15.8
Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the <i>day</i> .	85.0	5.0	10.0
Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the <i>night</i> .	45.0	15.0	40.0

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
The road signs are easy to read and large enough for older drivers.	80.0	10.0	10.0
There are sidewalks linking residences and essential services in most or all areas of my community.	70.0	20.0	10.0
Sidewalks in most or all areas of my community are well maintained (even surfaces or paved, not a lot of cracks).	45.0	50.0	5.0
Snow clearing is done in a timely manner so walking and driving is safe.	50.0	45.0	5.0
There are enough street crosswalks in busy <i>business</i> areas.	70.0	30.0	0.0
There are enough street crosswalks in busy <i>residential</i> and/or <i>recreation</i> areas.	50.0	40.0	10.0
There are enough public washrooms in key areas of my community (e.g., business and recreation areas).	35.0	50.0	15.0
Public washrooms accommodate people with wheelchairs.	52.6	36.8	10.5
Most or all businesses and public buildings are easily accessible to everybody (e.g., have wheelchair ramps, automatic doors).	30.0	50.0	20.0

Social Participation/Recreation	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
My community has enough pleasant places for walking (e.g., walking trails, parks, well-treed streets).	85.0	10.0	5.0
Local parks or walking trails are accessible and easy to use for seniors (e.g., paths with even surfaces).	57.9	31.6	10.5
There are enough resting areas with benches along paths or trails.	47.4	42.1	10.5
There are enough exercise classes specifically for seniors.	65.0	5.0	30.0
There are enough recreation programs specifically for seniors (e.g., card games, arts, crafts).	85.0	5.0	10.0
There are enough lifelong learning programs specifically for seniors (e.g., learning new things such as the use of computers).	55.0	35.0	10.0
There are enough programs in my community that bring seniors and children together (e.g., school reading programs, children spending time with seniors).	10.0	55.0	35.0
Recreational activities, such as exercise and other recreational programs, are generally affordable for seniors.	60.0	5.0	35.0
Isolated seniors (e.g., those who don't have anybody) are contacted, visited or taken to activities.	20.0	20.0	60.0

Community/Work Force Participation	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
There are enough volunteer opportunities for seniors.	70.0	15.0	15.0
There is enough official recognition for seniors who volunteer (e.g., an appreciation banquet or volunteer awards).	75.0	20.0	5.0
There are enough paid job opportunities for seniors.	15.0	35.0	50.0
The job opportunities in my neighbourhood accommodate the needs of seniors (e.g., part-time work is available).	20.0	15.0	65.0

Information/Advocacy	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Information about community events is readily available to seniors.	75.0	0.0	25.0
Information about the services and programs provided by various organizations is readily available to seniors.	70.0	10.0	20.0
Official, written information, such as forms or brochures is easy to read and understand (e.g., large print, clear language).	40.0	20.0	40.0
Public telephone answering services are adapted to the needs of seniors (e.g., instructions are given clearly and slowly).	21.1	26.3	52.6
There is enough assistance available for completing official forms (e.g., help with filling out government or income tax forms).	55.0	5.0	40.0
There are enough seniors' advocacy services available (e.g., an ombudsman to inform others of seniors' needs).	15.8	31.6	52.6

Health and Community Services	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
The home care services that support seniors in their own home (e.g., meal preparation, nursing care) are sufficient.	50.0	40.0	10.0
The services that help seniors around the home (e.g., snow removal, lawn care, garbage brought to the street) are sufficient.	25.0	50.0	25.0
The congregate meal programs available (e.g., lunch at a recreation or senior centre) are sufficient.	50.0	15.0	35.0
The meal delivery services that bring meals to seniors' homes are sufficient.	70.0	10.0	20.0
The health care services that are provided in my community meet the needs of seniors (e.g., hospital, physicians, eye care).	75.0	15.0	10.0
Public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to health care services that are <i>not</i> provided in my community is sufficient.	40.0	40.0	20.0
Access to health care that are <i>not</i> provided in my community is generally convenient (e.g., services not too far away, appointment times are convenient).	30.0	50.0	20.0

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.

This summary was prepared by the Age-Friendly Communities CURA. The Age-Friendly Communities CURA is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Summary authors: Louise Hutton and Rachel Ines

Team leader: Dr. Verena Menec, Canada Research Chair in Healthy Aging, Director, Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba

For more information contact:

Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba

338 Isbister Building

Winnipeg MB R3T 2N2

Phone: (204) 474-8754 | Fax: (204) 474-7576

Email: aging@umanitoba.ca | Web site: www.umanitoba.ca/centres/aging

Published: April 20, 2010