

Housing Advisory Committee

Annual Report - 2015

The Housing Advisory Committee members have had a busy and exciting time since their first meeting on March 12, 2015. In a four month period we developed a survey with 43 questions, distributed it to residents over 60 years of age in Deep River and the surrounding communities of Laurentian Hills; Head, Clara, and Maria; and Les Rapides des Joachims (Swisha), and achieved an impressive response rate of 30%.

In the weeks leading up to the launch of the survey the Committee contributed articles to the NRT outlining several types of seniors housing that have been built and now operate successfully in other communities. The purpose of the articles was to give residents some important background information prior to completing the survey; and to provide community groups, churches, developers, and residents with ideas for potential projects for our area.

Committee members distributed and collected the surveys in Deep River, while the other municipalities undertook this task in their respective communities. 11% of the surveys were completed on line. Committee members shared the task of entering the data from the hardcopy surveys for computer analysis.

The Committee produced a comprehensive sixty-one page report based on the results of the survey. The report presents up-to-date data on seniors' needs and preferences, and will be of great value to the participating municipalities, the county, developers, and funders. The Committee presented the findings from the survey to Council in July, and to a large group of interested residents in the following week. The survey report and the NRT articles can be found at: <http://www.deepriver.ca/projects/housing-advisory-committee/>

NEXT STEPS

- Undertake a market rent survey of the current rental stock in Deep River
- Participate in the Official Plan process
- Plan a Housing Symposium to be held in the Spring of 2016 to be co-sponsored with the Accessibility Advisory Committee