



Press Release August 13, 2020

Empowering Dementia Friendly Communities Hamilton & Haldimand

Hamilton – The recent announcement of a \$800,000 four-year grant will enable the Hamilton Council on Aging (HCoA) to continue and expand the development of dementia friendly communities in Hamilton and Haldimand. The Dementia Community Investment Fund grant is distributed by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

A Dementia Friendly Community is a place where people living with dementia are understood, respected and supported by others, and more importantly, able to contribute to community life.

The work will be led by HCoA in partnership with: GERAS Centre for Research on Aging, the Regional Geriatrics Program, Alzheimer Society, Senior Support Services of Haldimand, Haldimand War Memorial Hospital and McMaster University. They will engage people living with dementia and their care partners in conversations about how to create dementia friendly communities. Based on this input, action plans will be created which will support individuals with dementia to have choice and control over their day to lives and to engage in community life.

If you are a person living with dementia or a carepartner/caregiver to a Person living with dementia, the HCoA wants to hear about your experiences, challenges, and ideas on making the Hamilton and Haldimand communities' dementia friendly. To arrange an interview, please call 905-529-7030 ext. 211 or email: educationhamilton@alzhh.ca

For more information on the Dementia Friendly Communities Project, Hamilton & Haldimand, please contact Tracy Gibbs, Project Manager at 905-920-7705 or tracy@hamiltoncoa.com

QUOTES

“We are extremely grateful for this ongoing support from the federal government. The HCOA has been working with the City of Hamilton for the past ten years to create age friendly communities and this grant will allow us to expand our efforts in Hamilton and in our neighbouring community of Haldimand.”

David Mifsud, Hamilton Council on Aging (HCoA) Board President

“The focus will be on initiatives that support inclusion in community life for persons living with dementia and their caregivers, and education to help others better understand the disease. As the numbers of persons affected by dementia is growing, all activities of community living must become more dementia friendly.”

Mary Burnett HCoA Project Lead and CEO Alzheimer Society

“As an individual living with Alzheimer’s, I am so excited about this project as it will make my life, the lives of others living with Alzheimer’s and their care partners live easier in many ways. I can’t wait to see the outcome. I’m expecting to see changes in how people with dementia are perceived by others, how people interact with those with dementia and how our quality of life can be enhanced. This is about protecting and strengthening the rights of every individual who is affected by dementia. I hope that everyone gets involved.”

Phyllis Fehr, Patient & Family Advisor and Dementia Friendly Communities Advocate

“This partnership is a great opportunity for collaboration between sectors and communities with the goal of improving quality of life for Persons living with dementia in Hamilton and Haldimand. It is exciting to be working on a project that is informed by Persons living with dementia, and where their voices are part of community change.”

Wendy Renault, Director of Integration and Partnerships at Haldimand War Memorial Hospital