

2026 Municipal Election Candidate Brief



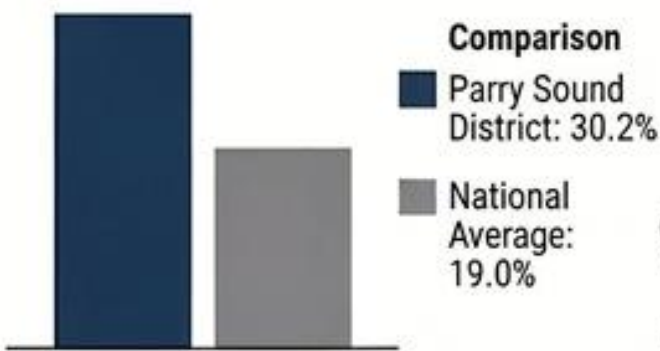
Prepared by:
District of Parry Sound
Age-Friendly Committee

A Roadmap for an Age-Friendly Parry Sound:

Guidance for 2026 Municipal Candidates

THE DEMOGRAPHIC & FRAMEWORK REALITY

Population 65+



Senior Growth (2013-2022)



Fastest Growing Local Cohort Ontario Average Age: 41.8

A Rapidly Aging Population: Significantly older than the national average, with senior population growth outpacing infrastructure demand.

The 8 WHO Domains of Age-Friendliness



A Framework for Sustainable Communities

ACTION PLAN & CANDIDATE PLEDGE

Strategic Municipal Actions



Inclusive Decision-Making
Partner with Indigenous communities and include older adults' voices in all local engagement.

THE 2026 CANDIDATE PLEDGE

"I support creating age friendly communities... and if elected will contribute to planned activities."

Signature

Commit to a sustainable, age-friendly future for Parry Sound. Join the commitment for 2026.

Age Friendly Community Committee Member Agencies:

The Friends

***West Parry Sound Health
Centre (WPSHC)***

***East Parry Sound
Community Support
Services (EPS CSS)***

***West Parry Sound
Community Support Services
(WPS CSS)***

***West Parry Sound
Ontario Health Team
(WPS OHT)***

***Ontario Provincial Police
(OPP)***

Victim Services

Community Volunteers

***North Bay Parry Sound
District Health Unit
(NBPSDHU)***

***Parry Sound District Social
Services Administration
Board (PSDSSAB)***

Canadore College

***Canadian Mental Health
Association (CMHA)***

What is a Healthy, Age-Friendly Community

An Age-Friendly community intentionally designs **policies, services, and spaces** to support people as they age. ****Ontario aligns with the World Health Organization's 8 Age-Friendly Domains:***



Municipal governments influence every one of these areas.

Why This Matters in Parry Sound

The District of Parry Sound is one of Ontario's oldest regions, making healthy aging a core municipal issue—not a niche concern.

Municipal decisions today will directly impact whether residents can:



**Age
independently
and safely**



**Remain in
their
communities**



**Avoid
unnecessary
pressure on
healthcare and
emergency
services**

Local Reality: Key Demographics (2021 Census)

30.2% and 1 in 3

30.2% of Parry Sound District residents are aged 65+—nearly 1 in 3 people.

Significantly higher than the national average of 19.0%

49.4

Average age: 49.4, well above provincial (41.8) and national (41.9) averages

+32%

The senior population grew by over 32% between 2013 and 2022, the fastestgrowing age group locally.

Adults aged 60–69 are the largest cohort, indicating continued growth.

Implication: Demand for age-friendly infrastructure, housing, and services will continue to rise significantly over the next decade.

Listening to Our Older Adults

Findings from the 2024 District Wide Needs Assessment (463 respondents aged 50+, 86% of respondents aged 61-80).

Key Challenges Identified by Older Adults



Accessible Transportation is a Critical Need: Many rely heavily on family for transport and are unaware of available services.



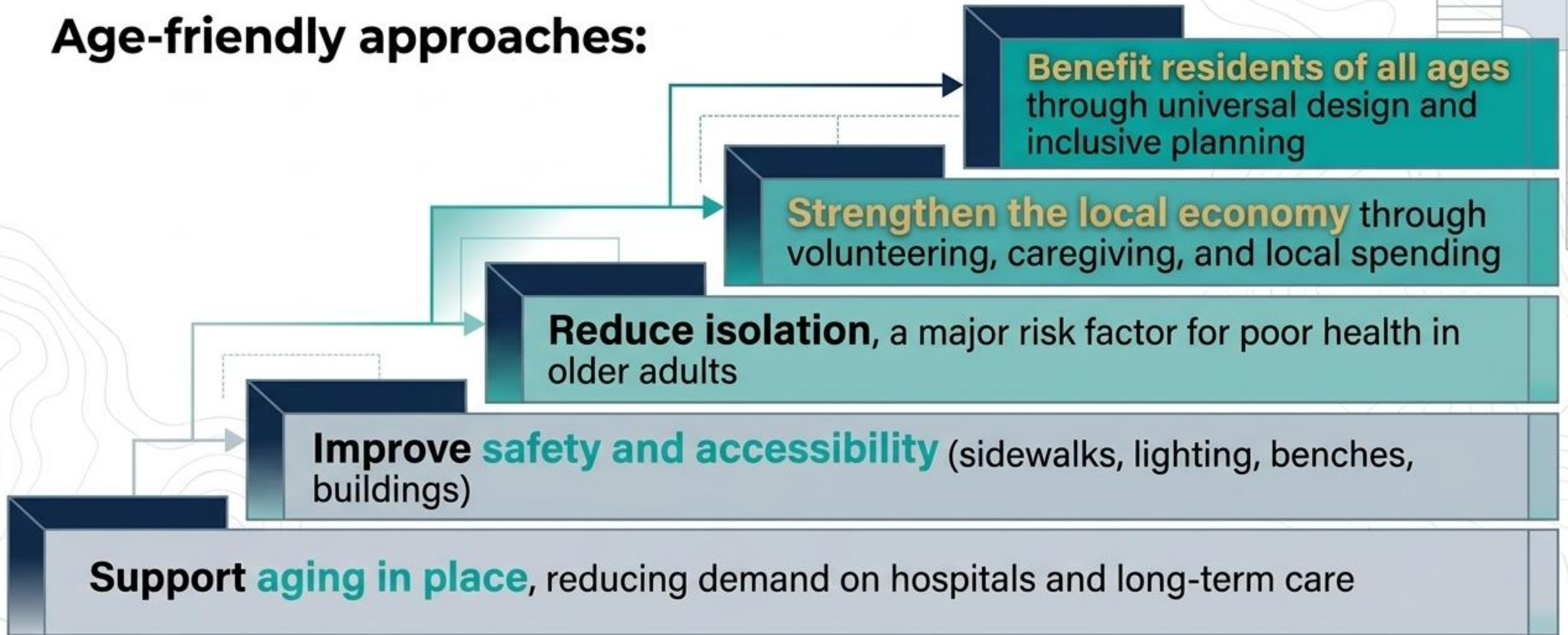
Information is Fragmented and Hard to Find: Residents expressed a strong need for a single, coordinated directory of services.



Desire for inclusion: While 64% feel included, many want stronger involvement in decision-making

Why Municipal Decisions Matter

Age-friendly approaches:



Failing to plan for aging populations leads to **higher costs**, **reactive decisions**, and **inequitable access** to services.

Practical Actions Municipal Leaders Can Take



Embed **age friendly principles** into official plans, zoning, and asset management



Prioritize **walkability**, continue focus on **accessibility**, and **transportation options**



Support **diverse and accessible housing choices**, including encouraging accessible and age-friendly design in new housing developments and retrofits



Include **older adults' voices** in engagement and decisionmaking



Partner with public health, Indigenous communities, and local organizations

Bottom Line for Candidates

Planning for healthy aging is good governance.

Communities that work well for older adults work better for everyone—and are more resilient, affordable, and inclusive in the long term.

Request for Support and Candidate Statement

As a candidate for the October 2026 Municipal Election, you are invited to demonstrate your support for age-friendly communities. We encourage you to:

- ✓ Incorporate age-friendly priorities into your platform
- ✓ Champion inclusive, accessible planning
- ✓ Support collaboration across sectors



Pledge Card

Optional Statement of Support

Candidates may choose to publicly endorse to this email:

"I support creating **age-friendly communities** within the District of Parry Sound, and, if elected, will contribute to **planned activities and initiatives** in ways that are appropriate for municipal council members."

Municipal Candidate

Candidate Signature

Date

For more information, please contact the District of Parry Sound Age Friendly Committee.

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