

# Town of Whitby

## Staff Report

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**Report Title:** Appointment of Members to the Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee

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**Report to:** Committee of the Whole

**Date of meeting:** February 26, 2024

**Report Number:** CMS 03-24

**Department(s) Responsible:**

Community Services Department

**Submitted by:**

John Romano, Commissioner,  
Community Services

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| <b>Acknowledged by M. Gaskell,<br/>Chief Administrative Officer</b> |
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**For additional information, contact:**

Sharon Meredith, Senior Manager of  
Recreation 905.444.1808

Kim Evans, Manager of 55+ Recreation  
905.444.1768

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### 1. Recommendation:

That Council approve and appoint the following members to the Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee effective immediately for a term ending December 31, 2025:

- Lena Ebrekdjan
- Lynda Kruitiz
- Susan Lythgoe

### 2. Highlights:

- Annually, Council appoints members elected from the Whitby 55+ Recreation Services general membership to the Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee.

- The Committee provides advice and assistance to Council and staff regarding adult 55+ recreation programs offered through the Town of Whitby.
- The term for the Committee is two (2) years and ends on the last calendar day of the second year.
- The roles of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary are selected at the first committee meeting in January, along with various appointments to sub-committees including the Programs, Fundraising, Special Events, Nominations, New Members and Sustainability sub-committees.

### 3. Background:

The 55+ Recreation Services Division of the Community Services Department offers programs, services and volunteer opportunities to enhance the quality of life for residents aged 55 years and older.

Currently approximately 28% of Whitby's population is 55 years of age or older and of that group, 7% (2,810) are members of Whitby 55+ Recreation Services.

The Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee offers several drop-in programs, events and services. These programs, events and services augment the programming provided directly by the 55+ Recreation Services Division.

In 2023, 30 drop-in programs were offered throughout the week to members who pay a nominal drop-in fee to participate in activities ranging from cards, games, hobbies, table tennis and shuffleboard.

### 4. Discussion:

In accordance with the Committee's [Terms of Reference](#) and Council Resolution #492-17, the 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Commissioner of Community Services, the Senior Manager of Recreation and the Manager of 55+ Recreation, Accessibility & Diversity provides advice and assistance to Council regarding the various 55+ services and programs offered by the Town of Whitby. The guidance includes but is not limited to, social and leisure drop-in programs, fundraisers, summer student programs and special events.

The members appointed by Council to the 55+ Advisory Committee are elected by the membership of the Whitby 55+ Recreation for a two-year term. The 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee consists of up to ten (10) elected voting

members. Terms are staggered with up to five (5) new members being elected annually which assists with knowledge retention, planning and continuity of the committee.

## **5. Financial Considerations:**

The 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee generates revenue through the operation of drop-in programs and fundraising events. This revenue off-sets program operating expenses and a summer student position. In 2023 the 55+ Advisory Committee's net contribution to the 55+ Recreation operation was budgeted at (\$19,260).

## **6. Communication and Public Engagement:**

The appointments will be communicated to the 55+ Recreation membership through electronic and printed material posted throughout the program areas, in the membership newsletter and on the Town's website. Annually, an event is organized for the membership to meet the newly appointed Advisory Committee.

Minutes from each meeting of the Advisory Committee are posted monthly in the 55+ Activity Centre and the Brooklin Community Centre and Library.

## **7. Input from Departments/Sources:**

N/A

## **8. Strategic Priorities:**

The recommendations contained within this report align with Corporate Strategic Plan Pillar 1: Whitby's Neighbourhoods

Whitby's Neighbourhoods – Safe, Health, & Inclusive

1.3.3 Expand recreation opportunities and increase participation in recreation programs and activities, specifically for 55+ and youth.

The 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee provides advice to staff and assistance to Council regarding the various 55+ recreation programs and services offered by the Town of Whitby. The Committee provides ideas on continually improving 55+ recreation programs and engaging the 55+ community. The work of the Committee focuses on meeting the needs of residents in Whitby and helps to provide a consistent and positive customer service experience for adults age 55+.

## **9. Attachments:**

N/A