

Town of Whitby

Staff Report

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

Report to: Committee of the Whole

Date of meeting: December 2, 2024

Report Number: CMS 17-24

Department(s) Responsible:

Community Services Department

Submitted by:

John Romano, Commissioner,
Community Services

**Acknowledged by M. Gaskell,
Chief Administrative Officer**

For additional information, contact:

Kim Evans, Director of Recreation
905.444.1768

1. Recommendation:

1. That Council approve and appoint the following members to the Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee effective January 1, 2025:

Sharon Bagatto (term ending December 31, 2026)

Jane Hilton (term ending December 31, 2026)

Carol James (term ending December 31, 2025)

Deborah Nanton (term ending December 31, 2025)

Mary Poirier (term ending December 31, 2026)

Joanne Smith (term ending December 31, 2026)

Lise Watt (term ending December 31, 2026)

2. Highlights:

- Annually, Council appoints members recommended by Staff and the 55+ Committee Chairs 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.
- For 2025, there are:
 - five 2-year committee terms to be appointed, with terms ending December 2026, and
 - two 1-year terms, vacant from the previous year, to be appointed, with terms ending December 2025.
- This staggering of terms ensures consistency in the committee and uninterrupted flow of committee work with half of the committee (5 of the 10 spots) expiring each year.
- The roles of Chair, Vice-Chair are selected at the first committee meeting in January, along with various appointments to sub-committees including the Programs, Special Events and New Members 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.

According to Statistics Canada, approximately 28% of Whitby's population is 55 years of age or older and of that group, 7% (2,800) 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 2024, 33 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 Director 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 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee consists of up to ten (10) voting members for two (2) year terms. Terms are staggered with up to five (5) new members being appointed annually, which assists with knowledge retention, planning and continuity of the committee.

In September, the Committee, in conjunction with Staff, updated the Terms of Reference through Staff Report [CMS 11-24](#). This included changing the previous

practice of electing Committee members to a selection process by Staff and current Committee Chairs, to ensure representation across a variety of programs and bring varying diverse perspectives. New members were selected through an interview process, prior to receiving approval by Council.

5. Financial Considerations:

The 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee generates revenue through the operation of drop-in programs and fundraising events. This revenue offsets program operating expenses and a summer student position. In 2024, the 55+ Advisory Committee's net contribution to the 55+ Recreation operation is budgeted at \$5,598.

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, the newly appointed Advisory Committee introduce themselves at designated 55+ events.

Minutes from each meeting of the Advisory Committee are posted monthly in the 55+ Recreation Centre and on the 55+ Recreation website.

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