

NEWS FROM

AGE
FRIENDLY
BRANDON**HOUSING AND OUR GROWING CITY**

By: Pamela McTavish

A key objective of the new 2024 City Plan is to provide housing choices that are safe, suitable, and accessible for all residents. The City of Brandon is working with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) on its action plan as part of the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF). HAF is a federal program administered by CMHC that provides funding to local authorities like Brandon to support initiatives that speed up housing development. Ryan Nickel, Director of the Planning & Building Department noted that “The City's Housing Accelerator Fund aims to quickly build more housing units, covering all levels of the housing continuum, for all ages”. Nickel mentioned two new incentive programs funded by HAF: one for downtown market housing and another for transitional and supportive housing. The City Council recently adopted By-law No. 7380 to establish a downtown housing incentive program to support the construction of new market dwelling units.

More information about the incentive can be found at <https://housingincentive.brandon.ca/>. The other incentive updates an existing affordable housing by-law to include transitional and supportive housing. This updated affordable housing incentive is currently being researched and developed.



Ground breaking ceremony for the new John Howard Society transitional housing being built at 353-16th Street North.

In addition to updating the affordable housing incentive, the city provided \$5 million of HAF funding to support the construction of 24 new transitional housing units in collaboration with the John Howard Society. *Continued on page 2.*

The Housing Continuum

HOUSING (CONTINUED)

Nickel also mentioned, “The city is exploring potential housing projects on city-held lands with Indigenous and First Nation organizations to help meet housing needs.”

“Significant changes to the city’s inclusionary zoning by-law were recently adopted by City Council,” stated Nickel. “These changes will promote density and allow for a greater variety of housing types in previously detached-only residential areas, including multi-dwelling units, secondary suites, and duplexes.”

Older adults have been part of previous community consultations, and the city will continue to engage with senior groups, such as Brandon Seniors for Seniors, as housing initiatives are rolled out. The City Plan also considers all transportation modes (active, transit, and access transit). City departments are sharing housing data to inform the current transit review (see article in the July 2024 edition of *News from Age Friendly Brandon*).

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After wrapping up two years of community engagement into the new City Plan, we hope residents see their feedback reflected in the developments so far.

~ Ryan Nickel ~

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Ongoing communication with senior groups will continue as the new city plan is put into action, ensuring that housing, transportation, and other needs are met.



Want to know more?



2024 City Plan: www.brandon.ca/images/pdf/planning/City-of-Brandon_City-Plan.pdf
Housing Accelerator Fund initiatives:
www.brandon.ca/housing-accelerator-fund

AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

National Immunization Awareness Month is an annual event in August. This event serves to highlight the importance of immunizations throughout the lifespan. The theme for 2024 is Protect your future. Get immunized! This month highlights how important vaccines are for preventing diseases and keeping people healthy.

Are you 50 years of age or older?

Have you got these shots?

Influenza

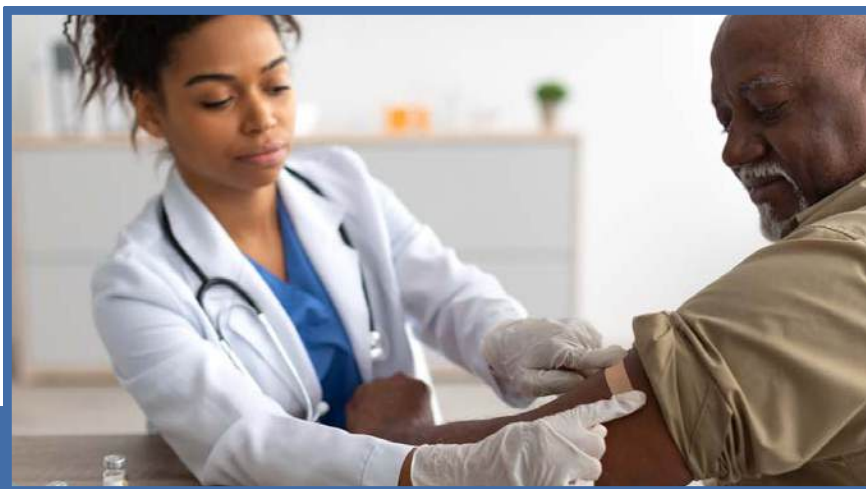
Pneumococcal

Shingles

Whooping cough



In Canada, health organizations and clinics share information about the benefits of vaccines, especially for older adults, children, and vulnerable groups. It's a great time to remind everyone to stay current with their vaccinations! For more information, visit <https://immunize.ca>



UPCOMING EVENTS - AUGUST

1	Music in the Park The Bromatics	Riverbank Discovery Centre Starts at 6:30 pm www.brandon.ca/music
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	River Roam Thursdays (kayak, canoe, SUP)	Riverbank Discovery Centre 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Bring your own or rent. Pre-book by contacting programs@riverbank.mb.ca
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Farmer's Market	Riverbank Discovery Centre 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
6, 13, 20, 27	Music in the Park	Princess Park Starts at 6:30 pm www.brandon.ca/music
6, 13, 20, 27	Tea & Tales (Every Tuesday for 6 weeks)	Brandon Seniors For Seniors 10:30 am to 12:00 pm For more info or to register, call Hannah at 204-717-9918
10, 24	The Great Brandon Mystery	Sportsplex 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm www.brandon.perfectmind.com
12, 14, 19, 21	Learn to Pickleball	Sportsplex - Pickleball court #1 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm www.brandon.perfectmind.com
17, 18	Doors Open Tours (Free)	Opportunity to access heritage sites that are usually not open to the public 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm https://brandon.ca/doors-open
23	Intro to Stand-Up Paddleboarding	Riverbank Discovery Centre Contact: programs@riverbank.mb.ca or (204) 717-8802
29	Practical Paint Night - Tote Bag	Recreation Program Space - Chez Angela Bakery and Café 5:45 pm to 7:45 pm www.brandon.perfectmind.com



Have an event you would like to see in an upcoming edition of News from Age Friendly Brandon? Email: agefriendly@brandon.ca



Age Friendly: Seniors
please inquire about
Silver SUPS!



Age Friendly
Brandon info line:
204-729-2525

ABOUT AGE FRIENDLY BRANDON

The Age Friendly Brandon Committee of Council 2024/25 action plan focuses on initiatives that support people to age safely, enjoy good health and participate fully in their community. Each edition of News from Age Friendly Brandon will highlight one of the eight age friendly domains.

MEET OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS - SYLVIA BARR

As I've aged, my desire to contribute to my community has grown. Active citizen engagement is essential; it takes more than a dedicated City Council and efficient administration to make a city a home. All citizens must actively contribute to create a welcoming, safe, and healthy environment for *all* people of *all* ages.

Since moving to Brandon and becoming involved in community service, I have also benefited by making many friends, learning new skills and abilities, and (hopefully) having an impact on the community. I initially volunteered for the Auxiliary at Daly House Museum; then became project leader of the team that built the Victorian Garden in 2011-2012. My gardening interests extend to volunteering at Eleanor Kidd Pollinator Park, Riverbank Discovery Centre, Stickney Garden, South End CC Garden, and a pollinator garden at Rotary Villas.

My latest project involves installing Brandon's first Little Free Pantry. I am hopeful that other citizens will pick up the baton and build a pantry in their community. It's a very direct way for citizens to become neighbours. I have chosen Brandon to be my final home and I plan to continue enriching Brandon through community service and my role on the Age Friendly Committee of Council.



HOUSING



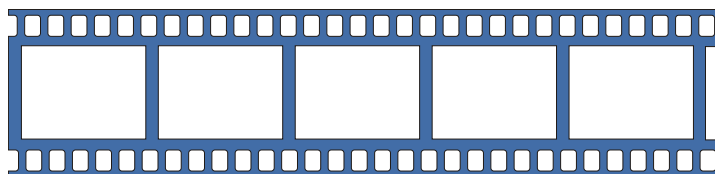
Action Item: Facilitate a broad community discussion to develop an inventory of existing housing stock across the continuum through an Age friendly lens and explore the provincial Age in Place initiative.



To view the full Age Friendly 2024/25 action plan, visit:



www.brandon.ca/images/Committees/2024_2025_Action_Plan_APRIL_2024_update.pdf



Filming is underway! Age Friendly is planning for a busy few months of filming with Westman Communications Group! Some of the Housing initiatives that will be showcased in the vignette project are:

- Housing options
- Aging in place supports
- Home renovations programs
- and more!

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Visit our website: www.brandon.ca/agefriendly

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