



Age-friendly British Columbia

Saanich

Becoming Age-friendly

The District of Saanich was involved in the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Age-friendly Cities project in 2006/2007. The information gathered in the WHO project helped define the eight features of an age-friendly community and remains the guiding approach for age-friendly strategies around the world.

Saanich used the WHO work to inform their strategic planning and have since worked to integrate age-friendly principles into all District operational, budgetary and strategic planning processes.

Seniors are regularly consulted and engaged in the work of the municipality through several Committees of Council. Service-delivery partnerships are achieved through the creation of a network of senior serving agencies called Saanich Partners in Seniors Services.

Saanich was recognized as an Age-friendly BC community in 2012.

“Our vision is for a community where people can live healthy and active lives well into their senior years; where older people are valued for their skills and life experiences and where they participate in the community in ways that they choose.”

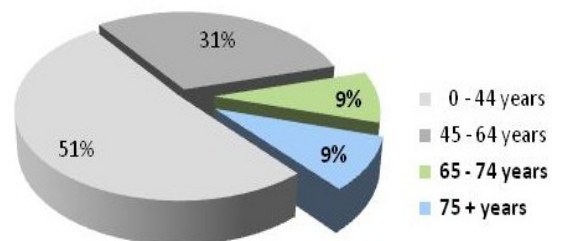
- Retrieved February 6, 2013 from www.saanich.ca/parkrec/community/seniors.html



The District of Saanich is on Vancouver Island. It is located north of the provincial capital, Victoria and is the largest of the municipalities making up Greater Victoria. It contains a wide variety of rural and urban landscapes and neighbourhoods stretching north to the Saanich Peninsula.

To learn more about the District of Saanich visit www.Saanich.ca. For more information on age-friendly actions in Saanich contact sandra.pearson@saanich.ca.

2011 Population: 109,752



Statistics Canada. (2012). *Cumulative Profile, 2011 Census*. Retrieved February 5, 2013, from <http://bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx>.

Age-friendly Features

Public Spaces



- Accessibility audit of recreational facilities which precipitated additional disabled access change rooms, handrails and other amenities to support access for all
- Free walking programs and guided group walks for seniors in local parks
- Shelbourne Corridor Action Plan, prepared with active involvement of seniors to improve walkability and access to services

Transportation



- Access to Transit study to improve travel to/from bus access points
- Streetscape improvements for safety and visibility at crossings
- Pedestrian and cycle infrastructure to promote active transportation with annual commitments to add 10km of additional sidewalks and new bus shelters
- Centennial Trails project to improve mobility between rural and urban Saanich

Housing



- Adaptable housing guidelines encouraged for all new residential development and required for certain new multi-family residential construction
- Development of the Mt. View Campus of Care in partnership with the Vancouver Island Health Authority and Baptist Housing, among others, which includes park space and a 260 bed care facility, mixed with family and low-income housing

Participation



- Seniors gardening and community kitchen programs
- New low cost and free program options for seniors under the Leisure Involvement-for Everyone (L.I.F.E.) program
- Partnership with the InterCultural Association to promote recreation for new immigrant seniors
- Cordova Bay Community Place seniors' centre housed in an active elementary school

Employment Volunteerism



- Intergenerational community dialogues bringing teens and seniors together to work on community projects
- Involvement of older persons in advisory committees, design panels and task forces
- Transportation, companion shopping and income tax assistance volunteer service programs offered to seniors through partnership with Saanich Volunteer Services Society

Services Communication



- Resource guide that lists organizations offering services to seniors in Saanich
- Health education workshops and seminars on health issues, including fire safety, elder abuse and fraud awareness provided by Saanich Police and Fire services
- Audio system in Council Chambers and Committee rooms to accommodate those with auditory challenges



AgeFriendlyBC

For more information on creating an age-friendly community visit:
www.seniorsbc.ca/agefriendly or email AgefriendlyBC@gov.bc.ca.
(Published April 2013)