

Whitby 55+ Recreation Advisory Committee (2025)



Minutes

Friday, November 14, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Whitby 55+ Recreation Centre, Boardroom

Present: Lise Watt, Lena Ebrekdjian, Jane Hilton, Carol James, Lynda Kruitz (until 10am), Susan Lythgoe, Deborah Nanton, Mary Poirier, Mayor Roy (until 10am), Kim Evans, Erica Mittag, Roz Puddester

Regrets: Joanne Smith, Sharon Bagatto

- 1) **Call to Order**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting - Carol**
- 3) **Approval of Agenda - Jane**
- 4) **Presentations/Delegations**
 - a) Whitby 55+ Centre – 50th Anniversary – Mural Ideas - Discussion: Meaghan Kehoe, Artist. Reviewed ideas, discussed components relating to the theme of mural. Set subcommittee date of November 28 at 10:00 am
- 5) **Council Update - Mayor Roy**
- 6) **General Business**
 - a) **Manager's Report**
 - Staffing Update – Madelyn McBride has joined our team on the front desk. Whitby Sports Complex opening 2026 – Jessica Fox will oversee the sports leagues and learn to play sports for 55+ at all locations, and Amanda Wood will add classes at Centennial Building to her portfolio. Jessica's office location will move to the Whitby Sports Complex. Plan to be put in place for coverage of Wellness Workshops at the 55+ Centre.
 - As of December 5, there is no more regular programming Friday evenings. Closing the Centre at 5pm on Fridays is being considered. The Centre could stay open later Fridays for special events and workshops. We can revisit reopening Friday evenings should a large program need space on a regular basis.
 - Fall Class Evaluations – From November 24 -28 class evaluations will be available to gather participant feedback. Paper copies of surveys will be handed out by instructors, as well as available at front desks, and also available online.
 - Winter Registration – A printed guide for 55+ programs will be available as of November 19. Aquatics registration opens for Whitby residents on December 2 at 9:00 am. Recreation programs registration opens for Whitby residents on December 4 at 9:00 am. Registration for all programs opens for non-residents on December 10. Registration help

will be offered to 55+ Members the week prior to registration.

- 2026 Event Schedule and Themes – the list of recurring events was circulated to the Committee. The 50th anniversary theme will be incorporated into as many existing events as possible. Once the subcommittee meets, additional 50th anniversary themes will be added to each month.

b) Sub-Committee Reports

• Program Committee:

- Drop-In Programs – Membership checks will be done in January. Information about the checks will be communicated to the Convenors as well as to the Members.
- Pickleball Convenor Meeting – Monday, December 1, 1:00 p.m. and will include dementia friendly training

• Special Events Committee:

○ Recent Events:

- Hallowe'en Social – had a small turnout. Remembering Veterans Tea – was a nice event and received positive comments, but the event was short. There were technical issues with the music. Event volunteers gave feedback that they have little guidance on how to set up for the events. They would find it helpful if a sample table were prepared by staff so they had a “template” to follow. The volunteers don't want to take over deciding how an event should be set up and run.
- Fall Market – It was nice to see young families attend! People expressed disappointment that there wasn't a bake sale (no donations of items were received). The Craft Group was unhappy with a lack of volunteers from their group to help. Perhaps the Convenor should require a minimum number of volunteers before confirming participation next time. Feedback that volunteers in general weren't feeling appreciated. This was the first year they didn't get a voucher for a free lunch. This needs to be looked at for future events.
- Fall market results: basket raffle - \$3590, Crafters - \$830 = \$8200 raised altogether.

○ Upcoming Events:

- Mindful Aging: Self-Care and Emotional Wellness – Thursday, November 27, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Almost full – Mary, Susan and Lynda are registered to attend and will assist with checking in people.
- Holiday Lunch – Thursday, December 11, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. – 50% sold so far.
- Holiday Tea @ BCCL – Thursday, December 18, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – 48 out of 50 spots filled to date.

- New Member Orientation - Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. – Lise and Susan will assist. Event is full with 12 persons registered. These have been better attended since reminder calls are being done.

7) Other Business (Committee/Staff)

- a) Committee Christmas Lunch – The Committee will go out for lunch after the January 9th meeting.

8) Community Information Sharing (Members) - Community Items/Events of interest to share with group.

- a) Lise – Holy Family Church is collecting warm clothing and outdoor equipment (tents, tarps, sleeping bags).
- b) Jane – has taken informative elder abuse courses, and mentioned that Ontario Tech is offering [AI Essentials for Lifelong Learners](#) this Winter.
- c) Lynda (reported through Erica) – attended the Older Adults Police Academy it was a good experience.

9) Action Item Review/Next Meeting: Friday, December 12, 9:00am at Whitby 55+ Recreation Centre. Sharon to provide snack.

- a) Confirm subcommittee mtg with Megan
- b) Provide more clarity for event volunteers
- c) Find the plates from the summer teas

10) Adjournment at 11:02 am.