

Mayor's Committee on Building more Homes

Ideas from Voices with Lived Experience:



- Build near bus routes, on flat land
- Everyone if they are fortunate, will get old (and older bodies change!)
- It's the responsibility of an older person to make changes before you need them
- I don't need a lot of space, I just need MY space
- Build more rental units designed for solo singles, rather than for just couples
- Need a welcoming, pride of ownership entry area, with seating (for chatting with neighbours)
- Need a dedicated social area (indoors) for apartment buildings
- Make space for outdoor congregating area with seating and shelter, room for garden.
- Create indoor shared social space by eliminating laundry room space (and adding stacked small size washer dryer in each unit)
- Neighbourhoods Matter! We need to know some neighbours!
- "People are attached to homes, communities, landscapes, neighbours..." Dr. Siobhan O'Sullivan, University College Cork, Ireland
- Someone with impaired sight can manage in their own home better because they know the layout so well.
- Don't put new housing in industrial parks. Consider community where people of all ages live. Looking out the window is something I enjoy!
- Seek locations that are near public transit; ease of getting to grocery stores, banks and drug stores, coffee shop, community hall; also near sidewalks and green spaces (we love parks!);
- Locate housing with good evening street lighting
- Core floor living OR main floor living with bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and laundry room.
- I don't want to keep living in the basement. LIGHT!
- I have a house currently, and would be prepared to sell and downsize, but the major issue is that unanswered question "where do I go?" and will that be affordable over time?
- Do landlords seek long term, older adult renters? I don't want to move every few years.
- Stability when downsizing is a key factor.

- To age in my own home, I need: a reliable handyman person, affordable, and trusted; outdoor help for grass cutting and snow removal; potential need for health care support
- I'd consider house sharing, but where do you start to find a trusted room-mate?
- People have to be realistic with aging. We need to have the BIG talks that aging people need a team to help them live in their homes as they age. Friends, neighbours, handypersons, grass cutter, Task Rabbit contact etc. Team of Eight is what we shoot for. A list with at least 8 people who help you age at home.
- Build with energy efficiency and conservation in mind, to reduce operating costs for renter
- In 4-plex, 6-plex design, or 3 story builds, allow for a small shared outdoor space
- Address need for security indoors & outdoors
- Remember the "Lost Middle" in planning
- We want to be independent as long as possible - build homes that help us "age-in-place" with all ages of neighbours
- Include a community room with kitchen facility and washroom for communal living
- Consider pod living with shared living room and kitchen, but private bedroom and washroom
- Help us understand and master technology for aging-in-place (grocery delivery; transportation; bed transfers etc.)
- Adaptive Housing for Seniors is more economical and healthier than Emergency visits
- New build apartments are "luxury" with 1200-1600 sq feet. Not affordable for many solo seniors. Consider 700-750 sq feet with bedroom, bathroom, den for senior living.
- Remember 8-80. What's good in urban design for an 80-year old is good for an 8-year old too!

**Thank you for your efforts to continue to make Thunder Bay
a great community to grow up and grow old in!**

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