

Communication : C 1
Committee of the Whole (1)
February 7, 2023
Presentation # 1



City of Vaughan and Bridges of Love of York Region
Seniors Landscaping Project

May 2023 - September 2023
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Who are we?

Bridges of Love of York Region, is an incorporated not for-profit organization that meets the needs of seniors in everyday living and communities, in an effort to help them age in place as long and as safely as possible.

Our organization bridges the gaps in government services; we have provided snow removal and grass cutting services free of charge for approximately 15 applicants per season, over the past three years. We are looking to increase the number of seniors we support through the help of the City of Vaughan. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we delivered food, PPE, prescriptions and exercise equipment to seniors to help them feel safe, engaged and stay physically active.

Our Board of Directors is made up of members of the community, that are known for investing their time in helping and advocating for the well-being of our seniors.



Background

As our population ages, it is important that we consider the needs and well-being of seniors in our communities. By 2031, one in five residents in York Region will be over the age of 65. Many of which will face hardships such as loneliness and isolation, along with many physical, financial and emotional issues. One of the areas with which seniors require assistance, is lawn maintenance. Mowing the lawn and performing other yard work, can be physically demanding tasks that may become increasingly difficult for seniors as they age. In this proposal, we will discuss the benefits of providing lawn maintenance for seniors, and how with the partnership of the City of Vaughan we can support more seniors.

Our Proposal

Bridges of Love of York Region is proposing a one-year pilot project with the City of Vaughan to provide subsidized lawn maintenance to seniors based on income.

With the financial support of \$20,000, Bridges of Love of York Region seeks to support 60 seniors across the city with lawn maintenance.

Reasoning

1. Physical challenges: As people age, they may experience physical challenges that make it difficult for them to perform tasks such as lawn maintenance. These challenges can include issues with mobility, strength, and balance. Providing lawn maintenance for seniors would help to alleviate the burden of these physically demanding tasks and allow seniors to age in place with dignity.
1. Health benefits: When seniors attempt to take care of their lawns, they are putting themselves at risk of cuts and lacerations, dehydration, heat stroke and fractures. Having a well-maintained lawn can create a safer environment for seniors by reducing the risk of tripping or falling.
1. Pride of Home Ownership: Many seniors live alone and may not have the support of family or friends to help with yard work. Providing lawn maintenance will create a sense of pride of home ownership for the homes they have worked so hard to maintain.



Property Standards/Yard Maintenance

City of Vaughan by-law states that:

- Grass, ground cover and weeds should be maintained at less than 20 cm in height; if this is not done, the City may issue an order to mow the lawn within 72 hours, which if not done may result in the City doing so at the owner's expense, as well as monetary fines.



Property Standards/Yard Maintenance

Laws that regulate property and lawn maintenance can affect seniors in a number of ways. If a senior is unable to maintain their property and lawn due to physical or financial limitations, they may be at risk of receiving fines or penalties for noncompliance with these laws. This can create a burden and cause stress for seniors who may already be struggling to meet their basic needs. On the other hand, property and lawn maintenance laws can also help to ensure that neighborhoods remain clean and safe, which can be beneficial for seniors and other members of the community. These laws can help to prevent health and safety hazards, such as overgrown grass and weeds, which can harbor pests and create a risk of fire.

How It Will Work

Bridges of Love of York Region is currently partnered with GroundScapers, a local community lawn maintenance company. GroundScapers currently charges \$30-\$35/week depending on the size of the property. For a full season that estimates between \$540-\$630.

The pilot project will run from May 31, 2023 - September 30, 2023 servicing up to 60 seniors on a financial needs basis.

Upon completion of the pilot project, Bridges of Love of York Region will report back to the City of Vaughan with our findings.



Subsidy Breakdown

After completing an application, seniors will be required to submit a Notice of Assessment.

| Senior Income (Single) | Senior Pays (Season) |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Under \$22,200 | \$0 |
| \$22,201 - \$28,753 | \$135 - \$157.50 |
| \$28,754 - \$35,306 | \$270 - \$315 |
| \$35,307 - \$41,859 | \$405 - \$472.50 |
| \$41,860+ | Full Amount |

Subsidy Breakdown

After completing an application, seniors will be required to submit a Notice of Assessment.

| Senior Income (Couple) | Senior Pays (Season) |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Under \$37,100 | \$0 |
| \$37,101 - \$43,653 | \$135 - \$157.50 |
| \$43,654 - \$50,206 | \$270 - \$315 |
| \$50,207 - \$56,759 | \$405 - \$472.50 |
| \$56,780+ | Full Amount |

Proposed Funding to Service: Up to 50 Seniors

| Budget | COV 2022-23 |
|----------------|-------------|
| Total Funds | 20K |
| | |
| Landscaper | 15K |
| Administration | 3K |
| Advertisement | 2K |

Conclusion

Providing lawn maintenance for seniors is a responsible and compassionate action that can have numerous benefits. It can help seniors to maintain their independence, improve their health and well-being, have pride in home ownership, all while maintaining property standards within the City of Vaughan. By supporting seniors in this way, we can help to create a more inclusive and supportive community for all of its members.



Thank you for your time.

For more information,

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