

October 1, 2025

Re: Seniors One Day Ride Free Pilot Program

Dear Members of Council;

We were pleased to see in Guelph Today that the City of Guelph transit reports indicated that there was a 16% increase in senior ridership on Thursdays since launching in February.

We shared information about the City's 7-month pilot program with our members in our Sentinel newsletter but we found most seniors were unaware of the program's existence.

The GWSA commissioned a survey last summer to better understand the supports and services needed by older adults in Guelph which was completed by 2,249 seniors. We learned two things:

1. When we asked older adults how often they typically leave their home to travel somewhere else, the most common response was "most days in a week".
2. Our survey showed that there continues to be high reliance on personal cars but we also serve many older adults who are on fixed incomes and rely entirely on affordable public transit to get to the Evergreen Community Centre.

On behalf of our 2400 members, we would like to respectfully recommend that Council consider the following during their upcoming budget deliberations:

That City Council consider extending the pilot program to offer Seniors free transit from Monday to Friday in the 2026 Budget.

The Guelph Wellington Seniors Association wants to be part of a future where older adults thrive in a connected, inclusive and resilient community, supported by affordable programs and services that empower them to live with dignity and purpose.

Sincerely,

Pat Gage - President

Handwritten notes in blue ink:
- Sent to City Clerk
City Clerk
Oct 2, 2025
Budget Oct 29