The Seniors Advisory Committee presently has 19 members. We meet the first Friday of each month except July and August. Councillors Morelli and Jackson, assigned to this committee, are a great help and resource.

The committee has four subcommittees – Housing, Transportation, Seniors Groups and Age Friendly City. The use of subcommittees helps to streamline the SAC meeting so that we get more accomplished.

SAC representatives also sit on the following committees – Community Heat Response, Gore Park, ACPD Transportation Subcommittee, Walk Ability Committee, Senior of the Year Event Committee and Hamilton Health Sciences AODA Committee. The LRT Committee was completed in 2013 and the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program stopped in 2013.

SAC formally responded to seven of the KPMG options for service delivery that affect seniors. The committee agreed with 4 items, disagreed and provided comments on 2 items and requested further information on 2 items.

SAC was concerned with adequate staffing to facilitate an emergency evacuation and the need for sprinkler systems in Long Term Care facilities. A motion was passed and a letter sent to the Provincial Health Minister and LHINs dually signed by the Mayor and the Chair of the Seniors Advisory Committee. A response was received from LHIN advising that our request had been forwarded to the Provincial Compliance Improvement Branch. The letter also stated that the Ministry encourages Long Term Care Homes (LTCH) to obtain professional technical advice and consult with their local fire officials for recommended measures that would improve fire safety in the LTCHs.

Letters were sent to HSR on a number of issues, as follows:
- a request for the addition of a park ’n ride location in the east and west ends of the City
- a request that the $6 fee for a first time buyer of a senior pass be waived
- a request for a bus shelter on Rymal Road to connect with the TransCab
connection to Binbrook

As a result of fare parity legislated by the AODA, the Golden Age Pass was extended to ATS passengers.

SAC members attended HSR public meetings in October. Many questions were raised. The meetings mainly focussed on Accessible Transportation Services.

The Seniors Advisory Committee passed several motions and submitted recommendations, as follows:
- the starting age for Old Age Security benefits remain at age 65, not age 67
- the City of Hamilton not incorporate 100% accessible taxis as they don’t meet the need for all. The Committee does feel, however, that accessible taxis should be available on demand for those who require them.
- comments regarding Pedestrian Mobility Plan
- supporting the importance of the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan
- requesting that the Recreation Division broaden the scope of their programs and activities, particularly for ethno-cultural seniors, by offering diverse, culturally sensitive and appropriate activities

The following delegations were received by the committee members for interest or to obtain feedback. They included:
- John Verbeek, Assistant Chief Fire Prevention Officer re Fire Safety/Prevention, Suggestions for Fire Plans
- Sally Radisic, Public Health Services re Air Quality Health Index
- Shawn DeJager re Accessible Taxi Request for Proposal
- Jane Soldera and Mark Weingartner, Community Services Department re Senior Strategy
- Bill Atanas and Erica Brimley from Ontario Works Benefit Eligibility Division re special supports for seniors provided by the City of Hamilton
- Nancy Purser, Transit Support Service re Presto Card as it relates to seniors’ fares
- Bea McDonough on behalf of the SAC Housing Subcommittee with a report on Seniors Housing
- David Brodati, Housing Services re the report - What We Heard … Talking to People about Housing & Homelessness in Hamilton
- Dr. Margaret Denton and Denise O’Connor from the Hamilton Council on Aging regarding report Hamilton: A City for ALL Ages – Three Years On
- Dan Hara, Jason Dowlatabadi from Hara Associate, Jim Bruzzese from BMA Management Consulting and Ritta Nazi from Parking & Bylaw Services re Taxi Study
- Ritta Nazi, Parking & Bylaw Services re Accessible Taxis and Driver Training
- Nancy Purser from Transit re Golden Age Presto Pass
- Mark Weingartner, Colin McMullan and Paul Johnson from Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives Division re update on Senior Strategy
Bernice Price and Mary Sinclair were presented with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal.

The winter season is here again and snow clearing remains a problem. Snowplows block the corners at intersections making it difficult, if not impossible, for seniors to cross the road.

On behalf of the Seniors Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton, I would like to thank the Emergency & Committee Service Committee for allowing me to present you a summary of the Seniors Advisory Committee activities for 2013.