

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEW – ELDERLY ASSISTANCE</b>
<b>REPORT NO.</b>	<b>SDR-23</b>

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council of the Municipality of Greenstone approve the following:

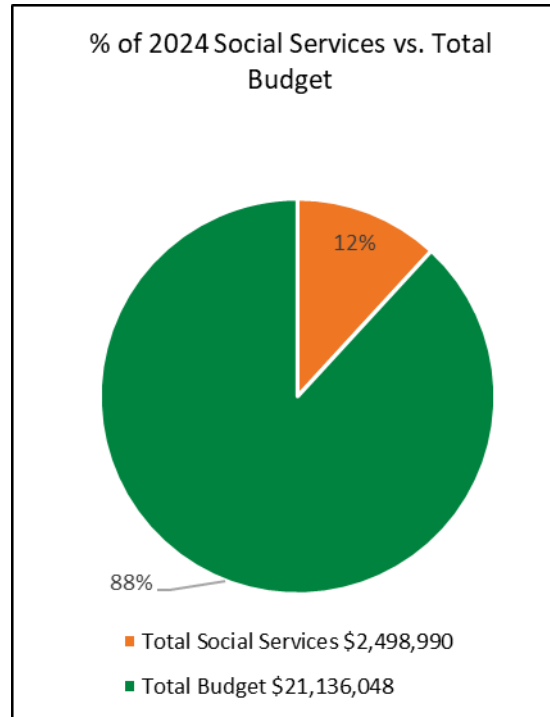
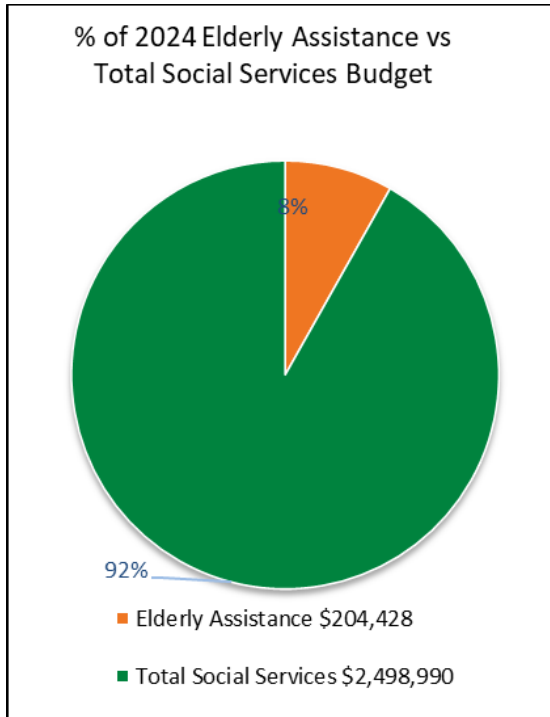
1. **THAT** Council direct staff to apply for the maximum SALC funding for the Geraldton Elderly Person Centre of \$50,000;
2. **THAT** Council direct staff to engage with Ministry representatives regarding SALC program enhancement funding for consideration in future budgets and to determine interest in programming within Greenstone;
3. **THAT** Council direct staff to have further discussion with the Longlac Seniors regarding funding opportunities and models, and report back to Council by September 2024;
4. **THAT** Council direct staff to explore other funding options for virtual and teleconferencing programming for Seniors’ Centre Without Walls;
5. **THAT** Council direct staff to bring back a report by September 2024 if no further funding options are available with further options for the SCWW program.

## SERVICE SUMMARY

SERVICE	ELDERLY ASSISTANCE
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Community Services
<b>SUMMARY</b>	The Municipality of Greenstone operates and subsidizes a number of seniors programs.
<b>MANDATORY</b>	No
<b>LEGISLATION</b>	N/A
<b>BY-LAWS</b>	By-law 21-47 Nakina Home Support Worker Program
<b>FEES/CHARGES</b>	N/A

## 2024 BUDGET SUMMARY

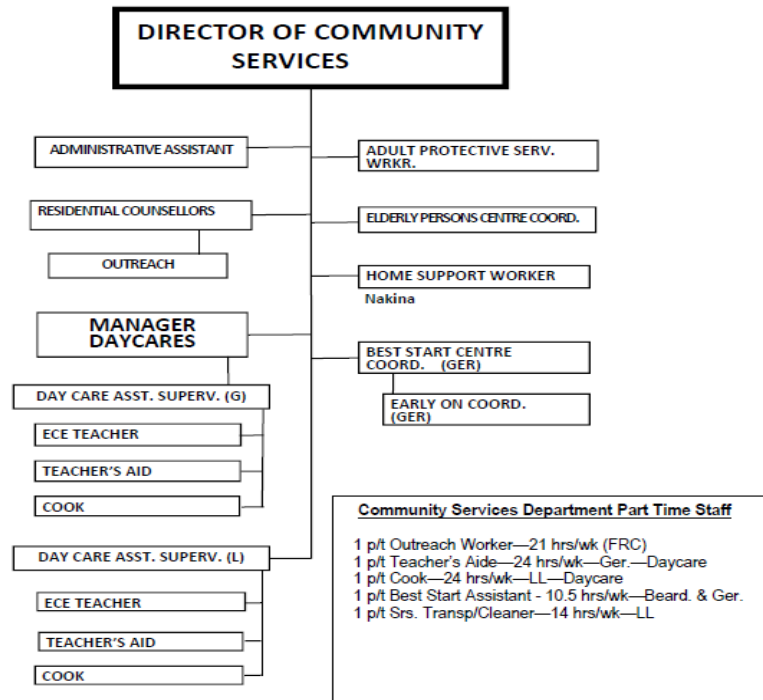
<b>2024 Expenditures:</b>	\$204,428
<b>2024 Revenues:</b>	-\$139,244
<b>Net Budget:</b>	\$65,184



## STAFFING

	Positions	Hours Worked per Year
Full-Time Positions	1	1820
Part-Time Positions	1	1248 +
Administration by COMS Administrative Assistant		2%
Director of Community Services		2%

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## SERVICE BACKGROUND

Senior's Transportation has been reviewed in a previous service delivery review.

### GERALDTON

#### Geraldton Elderly Person Centre

The Geraldton Elderly Person Centre (EPC) is a Municipal run program by a full-time coordinator who plans and implements activities through discussion with seniors. The program is located in the Geraldton Community Centre. The Geraldton Elderly Person Centre program provides in-person services (in the community of Geraldton) as well as virtual and teleconference programs to all seniors in Greenstone. The program is well communicated through monthly calendars shared within the community, via social media, and on the Municipal Website. Funding is through the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility via Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC) and Municipality ratepayers.

In 2023, program revenues were \$85,314.50 and expenses were \$91,083.34. The program had higher than anticipated repairs and maintenance to the space, and benefits were budgeted lower than anticipated.

The Municipality received a small increase to our budget for 2024. In 2024, revenues have been budgeted at \$86,400 (\$42,700 from Province and Municipality). Expenses have been budgeted at \$92,720. Therefore, an additional \$7320 will be offset by

ratepayers which was allocated within the approved budget.

Annually, SALC can apply for special grant funding up to \$15,000 and are generally awarded 60%. This money is used for special activities, equipment, furniture, etc. Since COVID-19, the Geraldton EPC has also used this money for video and teleconferencing to deliver the Seniors' Centre Without Walls program to all seniors in Greenstone. This year the Municipality saw a 90% reduction in funding and received \$1131. It had been anticipated that there would be some decrease to this funding given the Ministry's expansion of SALC in the province; however, it was not anticipated to this magnitude.

Geraldton Elderly Person Centre has partnered with Seniors' Centre Without Walls program that provides the Municipality with SCWW staff who assist with resources, training opportunities, etc. This is a free partnership. The Municipality of Greenstone began virtual, and telephone-based programming for seniors during the pandemic to allow seniors the opportunity to socialize and decrease isolation. Data has shown a decrease in the use of these services since the end of the pandemic; however, programming has continued to be offered to give all seniors within the Municipality of Greenstone the opportunity to participate in some form of seniors programming. It also gives seniors the opportunity to engage in activities during the winter months versus in person activities. Teleconferencing costs had been annually built into the annual Special Grants Applications with Seniors Active Living Centres funding. The Municipality does apply annually for funding via Good Companion Grant program that assists us in some of the funding for the SCWW program.

The Geraldton Elderly Abuse program actively seeks grant funding to enhance programming for seniors in Greenstone. The program annually applies for grants to assist with offering unique opportunities to seniors regarding abuse, learning about services offered within Greenstone and the District of Thunder Bay for Seniors and their families, and increasing our equipment and supplies.

### Geraldton Elderly Person Centre Stats

Definitions:

- # of Individual Activities - Specific singular activities i.e. bingo
- # of Registered Participants - Number of seniors who signed up or registered for programming
- # of Individual participation - Number of times those registered individuals participated in activities i.e. 1 individual may have participated in 6 activities and this data is counted as such
- # of Times Individual activities ran - Number of times a specific activity such as bingo was ran

# of Activities in 2023	# of Registered Participants	# of Individual Participation	# of Times Activities Ran
27	141	3867	676

**Greenstone Seniors' Centre Without Walls Stats**

2023 SCWW Activities		
Telephone Activities	Video Activities	Planning Meeting
129	132	12

2023 Registered SCWW Participants		
Ward	# of Participants	# of Activities Participated in
Geraldton	28	537
Longlac	6	234

Surveys were conducted for this SDR with 141 responses received.

**Question 1:** Do you prefer in person Senior's activities or virtual Senior's activities?

In person	40.43%
Virtual	0.071%
Not applicable	58.87%

**Question 2:** The Senior's Centre Without Walls (SCWW) is a virtual interactive support group and learning centre designed to reach Seniors who either prefer to stay home or have limited mobility. Have you ever used the program?

Yes	11.35%
No	36.88%
I am not a senior	51.77%

**LONGLAC**

**Longlac Seniors' Club**

The Longlac Seniors' Club is a private group with a board governance, that plans and implements its own activities according to the interests of the group. The Longlac Seniors' Club receives funding from the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility via Seniors Active Living Centre and Municipality ratepayers. The Municipality provides the administration of the program, and the Municipality pays all operating expenses with the funding received through the Ministry and the Municipality. The Municipality provides the building for the Longlac Seniors' Club. The Longlac Seniors have a lease agreement with the Municipality for the space. The Longlac Seniors' Activity Centre lease agreement will expire in December 2024. An amendment to the agreement was approved by Council on June 13, 2022. This amendment removed the weekly cleaning provided by the Municipality and reduced the monthly user fee to the Longlac Seniors' Club from \$150 per month to an annual fee of \$1.

The Longlac Seniors' Club has been leasing the Municipal property at 121 Indian Drive by way of lease agreement since the 1990's. The terms of the lease have not changed significantly during this time. The terms of the agreement, prior to its amendment in

June 2022, provided for weekly and annual cleaning of the building. As noted previously, the agreement is up for renewal in December 2024 and will include significant changes as it will need to conform with the Municipal Lease Policy adopted by Council in 2023.

The space utilized is an asset of the Municipality; therefore, any costs associated with the building are absorbed within other Municipal budgets such as building repairs and maintenance, upgrades, etc.

In 2023, we had a total recovery owing to the province in the amount of \$8,112.70. This was due to no wages and benefits for the Municipal staff who provided support via cleaning.

In 2024, revenues have been budgeted at \$47,076 (\$23,538 from Province and Municipality). Expenses have been budgeted at \$26,579 (include snow removal and minor maintenance). The difference in the budgeting is due to the Municipality no longer providing staffing for cleaning of the Longlac Seniors' Club. Based on last year's Provincial Recovery and this year's budgeted expenses, the Municipality received a decrease in Provincial funding to \$11,769. Annually, SALC can apply for special grant funding up to \$15,000 and are generally awarded 60%. This money is used for special activities, equipment, furniture, etc. Since COVID-19, the Longlac Seniors have also used this money for video and teleconferencing to deliver the Seniors' Centre Without Walls program, via Geraldton EPC. This year the Municipality saw a 90% reduction in funding and received \$961. It had been anticipated that there would be some decrease to this funding given the Ministry's expansion of SALC in the province; however, it was not anticipated to this magnitude.

### Longlac Seniors' Club Stats

Definitions:

- # of Individual Activities - Specific singular activities i.e. bingo
- # of Registered Participants - Number of seniors who signed up or registered for programming
- # of Individual participation - Number of times those registered individuals participated in activities i.e. 1 individual may have participated in 6 activities and this data is counted as such
- # of Times Individual activities ran - Number of times a specific activity such as bingo was ran

# of Activities in 2023	# of Registered Participants	# of Individual Participation	# of Times Activities Ran
27	124	1217	626

\*Information supplied by Longlac Seniors' Club

## NAKINA

### Nakina Home Support Worker Program

The Nakina Home Support Worker Program provides services to eligible seniors (55+) and individuals with complex medical conditions of all ages, who can often stay in their own homes if they need some support. This program is funded by Ontario Health and the Municipality. The funding only allows for a part-time worker. Currently there are 9 clients who have a worker coming into their home weekly to do laundry, housecleaning, pick up of medication and mail, and light meal preparation. There is a waitlist of 6 seniors. The services provided are that of a homemaking program and not a Personal Support Worker Program (PSWP). A PSWP is a more specialized program that provides for the client's health care needs, such as medication dispensing, bathing, etc.

To the extent possible, services are provided in an accessible and equitable manner within the fiscal capabilities of the program budget as funded in accordance with the Ontario Health standards. Service recipients will receive up to 3 hours per week of services based on need and available resources. Under exceptional circumstances, additional hours may be approved by the Director of Community Services or Designate.

Currently, there is no new funding via Ontario Health to expand the Nakina Home Support Worker Program. Requests up to this point have been made to Ontario Health to review our base funding; however, the only potential funding available may be one time funding. This type of funding only allows staff to provide additional services for a short period of time and then the Municipality would need to reduce those services to clients once the funding is exhausted. Staff have completed an Ontario Health Proposal Intake Form to be considered for additional permanent funding to enhance the current services to decrease referrals to alternative levels of care outside of Nakina. There is no guarantee that funding will be approved as it is based on government Ministry budget increases. Council has directed, by way of By-law 21-47 on May 13, 2021, that services are provided in an accessible and equitable manner within the fiscal capabilities of the program.

Surveys were conducted for this SDR with 141 responses received.

**Question 3:** The Nakina Home Support Program is referral based and provides individuals with high quality support and client-centred services to assist those who require assistance to live as independently as possible within the community. The program (approx. \$53,000) is funded in part by Ontario Health (80%) and in part by Municipal ratepayers (20%). Which statement do you agree with?

Municipal funding should stay the same	75.18%
Municipal funding should increase	18.44%
Municipal funding should be reduced	6.38%

### **Nakina Senior Citizen's Sunrise Club**

The Municipality provides \$6000 in the way of funding through the recreation budget. This was a historical funding decision as the Nakina Seniors' Club is an independent club that receives funding directly from the Provincial government.

### **BEARDMORE**

#### **Beardmore Evergreen Inc. Seniors' Club**

The Municipality provides bookkeeping and reporting support and administers the funding for a Home Maintenance Program in the Beardmore Ward.

The Beardmore Evergreen Centre contracts services to assist seniors with identified needs in areas of daily living such as grass cutting and snow shoveling. Funding comes from Ontario Health North in the amount of \$10,609. The Municipality also provides \$6000 in the way of funding. This funding is historical and is allocated within the recreation budget.

### **GREENSTONE**

Surveys were conducted for this SDR with 141 responses received.

**Question 4:** The Municipality of Greenstone operates the Elderly Person Centre in Geraldton and provides partial funding for three other Seniors Organizations (Beardmore Evergreen, Longlac Seniors' Club, and Nakina Sunrise Club). Understanding that an increase in funding would be required, would you support the Municipality offering mobile seniors programming (i.e. outdoor carpet bowling, bingo, etc.) in all wards?

Yes	71.63%
No	28.37%

### **Lifeline**

Lifeline is a personal response system. It is connected to telephone lines and the subscriber wears a personal help button which they can activate at any time. The Municipality of Greenstone is a referral service for Lifeline and for this service we receive a small referral payment. To date, we have received \$200 total in referral service fees. The last payment was received in 2022.



## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- ④ Ability to Age in Place: Maintain or increase the amount of support hours provided to seniors in Nakina who have the ability to age in place through the Nakina Home Support Worker Program.
- ④ Seniors' Centre Attendance: Attendance tracks the number of people utilizing public seniors' centres and reflects their popularity.
- ④ Number of Seniors Participating in In-Person/Virtual Programs: Counting the number of seniors who participate in programs year-round tracks the popularity of offered programs.

## ASSET USE

### **The Geraldton Elderly Person Centre**

This program is located within a Municipal space which has a valuation of \$293,512. All other assets consisting of computer equipment, furniture, supplies, etc. has an approximate valuation of \$41,700.

### **Longlac Seniors' Club**

The recent facilities condition assessment valued the Municipal property located at 121 Indian Road at \$974,584.18. Longlac Seniors' Club has purchased furnishings, supplies, etc. with monies through special grants from Senior Active Living Centres and profits from various activities such as bingo.

### **Community Services Administration**

Community Services Administrative Assistant and Director of Community Services are involved in the administration of the seniors programming and work out of the main administrative office. General office space and office furniture along with telephone and IT resources are used including the IT network, printers, and desktop/laptops.

## ANALYSIS

### **OPTIONS**

### **NEW REVENUES:**

#### **Nakina Home Support Worker Program**

In 2023, revenues for this program were \$42,664.24 from Ontario Health and \$8,489.25 from Municipal portion for total revenues of \$51,153.49. Expenses in 2023 totalled \$54,824.23. As per our negotiated Collective Agreement, staff received a 2.5% wage increase in 2024 which will increase our projected expenses. This means that there will need to be a decrease in services to clients to stay within the fiscal capabilities of

the program or more funding comes from ratepayers to offset differences. This program is not a core Municipal program, it is a Provincial health program.

At the Regular Meeting of Council on May 27, 2024, Council directed staff to complete the Ontario Health North East/West Proposal Intake Form and request a permanent funding increase to assist with existing service pressures and expand services. If the Municipality is successful in receiving funding, an increase from ratepayers in the amount of approx. \$8500 will be added to the budget. It is also important to note that Ontario Health has not historically made annual operating increases to the budget allocation for inflation. Our Collective Agreement does have annual wage increases which will eventually result in ratepayers subsidizing the program if Ontario Health does not give annual operating budget increases as per inflation.

Clients are assessed for the number of hours required for the homemaking program. If a client requested additional hours or homemaking services above what is minimally required, a market value fee could be charged for those additional hours of service. Market value for basic housecleaning services ranges between \$25 to \$28 per hour. Market value for housecleaning services that include cleaning of appliances and washing walls is approximately \$120 for the service. This increase in service is not recommended as Council has already directed that Administration seek additional funding for the program, the Municipality would essentially be in potential direct competition with private business, and Municipal costs would be above the market value.

On May 31, 2024, staff submitted for Ministry consideration the Ontario Health North East/West Proposal Intake Form for a permanent funding increase to assist with existing service pressures and expand services.

### **ADJUSTING SERVICE LEVELS:**

Geraldton Elderly Person Centre has the potential to adjust their current service structure and provide some mobile seniors services in other wards. Seniors Active Living Centres will have expansion funding available; therefore, there is additional funding available. SALC funding usually requires 20% to also be provided by the Municipality which would impact ratepayers. This could provide other wards, that do not have active seniors' centres, with the opportunity to participate in outdoor carpet bowling, bingos, etc. The Geraldton Elderly Person Centre Coordinator would adjust their current scheduling to include mobile seniors' services in other wards.

Recommendation: That if this enhancement came with no additional funding requirement to the Municipality, Council direct staff to engage with Ministry representatives regarding SALC program enhancement funding for consideration in future budgets and to determine interest in programming within Greenstone.

## **COST AVOIDANCE: OPERATING COSTS AND CAPITAL INVESTMENTS:**

### **Geraldton Elderly Person Centre**

Additional annual funding will need to come from ratepayers as wages and benefits continue to annually increase as per our Collective Agreement as funding levels have not increased with inflation rate or with the Collective Agreement wages and benefits.

### **Nakina Home Support Worker Program**

Council has previously passed a by-law in respect to the Nakina Home Support Worker Program that this program must operate within its fiscal capabilities. Funding levels have not increased with inflation rate or with the Collective Agreement wages and benefits. As annual wages and benefits increase, services to clients will have to decrease to operate within the budget. The Nakina Home Support Program is a program under the umbrella of Ontario Health that is delivered via the Municipality. Their mission is to support better care for all by connecting and coordinating Ontario's health system.

## **ENHANCING AND EXPANDING SERVICE LEVELS:**

### **Geraldton Elderly Person Centre**

In January 2024, the Municipality was provided with an opportunity to request additional funding for operating and maintenance up to the amount of \$50,000 for each of our two programs. However, SALC funding also requires a contribution of an additional 20%. SALC further advised that there may be potential for our annual special grants to be reduced if we entered into a new agreement to increase our budget to the maximum to offset the request for additional funding. Council had already approved the 2024 budget prior to the SALC announcement of increased funding opportunities.

In recent discussions with the Ministry, they advised that the Municipality contributes 50% which is above the required 20% contribution: therefore, if the Municipality made application for the additional funding up to \$50,000, the Ministry would not expect an additional contribution. The Ministry further clarified that the 20% municipal contribution is 20% of our operating budget as of 2007/2008; therefore, the Municipality has already exceeded what is required for both Geraldton Elderly Person Centre and Longlac Seniors' Centre.

The Municipality provides a contribution of 50% for this program in the amount of \$42,700.

The 2024 approved budget included an additional \$7320 to be offset by ratepayers to balance the budget.

Additional annual funding will need to come from ratepayers as wages and benefits continue to annually increase as per our Collective Agreement as funding levels have not increased with inflation rate or with our Collective Agreement wages and benefits. The 2025 staff wage increase is 2.4%.

If Council chooses to remain with the current model, the Geraldton Elderly Person Centre will need to be further subsidized by ratepayers in the amount of \$50,020 in 2024. If Council chooses to direct staff to apply for the maximum \$50,000 funding, with no additional Municipal contribution, the Municipality could see a balanced budget except for annual staff wage increases. Municipal contribution would remain at \$42,700.

Recommendation: That Council direct staff to apply for the maximum SALC funding for the Geraldton Elderly Person Centre of \$50,000.

### **Longlac Seniors' Club**

The Longlac Seniors' Club is a private group, board governance, that plans and implements its own activities according to the interests of the group. Longlac Seniors could apply for additional monies via the SALC program to operate their program like Geraldton Elderly Person Centre program. However, this would mean that the club would operate quite differently, and the position would be that of a Municipal staff member who plans and organizes activities, within specified times, with seniors' input.

Correspondence was sent to the President of the Longlac Seniors Board with an opportunity to begin a discussion with the Municipality and the SALC Program Advisor as to what options were available if they wanted to change the program model and funding available.

The Ministry for Seniors Accessibility has advised the Municipality that the Ministry is investing more dollars into seniors programming through creation of more Seniors Activity Living Centres and increases (if requested) to current SALC operating and maintenance budgets.

In January 2024, the Municipality was provided with an opportunity to request additional funding for operating and maintenance up to the amount of \$50,000 for each of our two programs. However, SALC funding also requires a contribution of an additional 20%. SALC further advised that there may be potential for our annual special grants to be reduced if we entered into a new agreement to increase our budget to the maximum to offset the request for additional funding. Council had already approved the 2024 budget prior to the SALC announcement of increased funding opportunities.

In recent discussions with the Ministry, they advised that the Municipality contributes 50% which is above the required 20% contribution: therefore, if the Municipality made application for the additional funding up to \$50,000, the Ministry would not expect an additional contribution. The Ministry further clarified that the 20% municipal contribution is 20% of our operating budget as of 2007/2008; therefore, the Municipality has already exceeded what is required for both Geraldton Elderly Person Centre and Longlac Seniors' Centre.

Additionally, it is expected that SALC will also have available expansion dollars for current Senior Active Living Centres.

### Longlac Seniors' Club Options:

1. Do nothing - funding and service remains the same. Council needs to be aware that the way in which the Longlac Seniors' Club is ran is a subsidiary of the Municipality.
2. Sever the relationship with the Municipality and enter into their own transfer payment agreement with the Ministry. The Municipality would still be required to contribute 20% of the operating budget or could continue to contribute 50%. The Longlac Seniors then could request additional funding up to \$50,000 if they chose to change their model to that of a program coordinator.
3. Dissolve their board and the Municipality operates the Longlac Seniors' Club. A request for additional funding up to \$50,000 to hire a program coordinator would be made.

Recommendation: That Council direct staff to have further discussion with the Longlac Seniors regarding funding opportunities and models and report back to Council by September 2024.

### **Nakina Home Support Worker Program**

In 2023, revenues for this program were \$42,664.24 from Ontario Health and \$8,489.25 from Municipal portion for total revenues of \$51,153.49. Expenses in 2023 totalled \$54,824.23. As per our negotiated Collective Agreement, staff received a 2.5% wage increase in 2024 which will increase our projected expenses. This means that there will need to be a decrease in services to clients to stay within the fiscal capabilities of the program or more funding comes from ratepayers to offset differences. This program is not a core Municipal program, it is a Provincial health program.

If Council chose to decrease the waitlist by making the position full-time, the additional funding would come from Municipal ratepayers and still would not provide service to everyone on the waitlist.

If Council chose to make the Nakina Home Support Worker position that of full-time, without additional funding, the wages and benefits for a 7-hour day would be \$66,471.92; therefore, a \$15,318.43 shortfall to ratepayers. An 8-hour day would be a \$23,870.13 shortfall to ratepayers.

While there is a current need in Nakina for this program to ensure that seniors wanting to stay in their home community can continue to age at home, the population will not continue to need this program. This needs to be taken into consideration and the implications if Council chose to make this position full-time in a unionized environment.

At the Regular Meeting of Council on May 27, 2024, Council directed staff to complete the Ontario Health North East/West Proposal Intake Form and request a permanent funding increase to assist with existing service pressures and expand services. If the Municipality is successful in receiving funding, an increase from ratepayers in the amount of approx. \$8500 will be added to the budget. It is also important to note that

Ontario Health has not historically made annual operating increase to the budget allocation for inflation. Our Collective Agreement does have annual wage increases which will eventually result in ratepayers subsidizing the program if Ontario Health does not give annual operating budget increases as per inflation.

Clients are assessed for the number of hours required for the homemaking program. If a client requested additional hours or homemaking services above what is minimally required, a market value fee could be charged for those additional hours of service. Market value for basic housecleaning services ranges between \$25 to \$28 per hour. Market value for housecleaning services that include cleaning of appliances and washing walls is approximately \$120 for the service. This increase in service is not recommended as Council has already set the policy to the number of staff hours as the level of service.

On May 31, 2024, staff submitted for Ministry consideration the Ontario Health North East/West Proposal Intake Form for a permanent funding increase to assist with existing service pressures and expand services.

## **ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY INCLUDING SHARED SERVICES OR CONTRACTING OUT:**

### **Geraldton Elderly Person Centre**

Due to the 90% decrease in the Municipality of Greenstone's Special Grants funding, staff will work on developing more partnerships with various community agencies who provide services to seniors. This will allow collaboration within Greenstone to ensure that seniors can continue to receive services that have been cut by funding reductions. Staff will also broaden the search for other grant opportunities to promote more one time programming or project opportunities for seniors within Greenstone.

### **Nakina Home Support Worker Program**

Prior to COVID-19, discussions had begun with Paramed about taking over the program. They were having their own recruitment issues and our wages and benefits surpassed what they could pay.

## **DISCONTINUING THE SERVICE (IF APPLICABLE):**

Senior's services within Greenstone are important for seniors and their families to ensure that their social and emotional needs are being met through the various seniors' programs offered. The programs provided also allow seniors to age at home within their own community. Without them they may need to relocate outside of Greenstone.

### **Geraldton Elderly Person Centre**

Discontinuing services is not recommended as there is a high population of seniors within Geraldton. SALC programs offer social, cultural, learning, and recreational programs for older adults that promote health, well-being and social connections.

### **Longlac Seniors' Club**

Discontinuing services is not recommended as there is a high population of seniors within Longlac. SALC programs offer social, cultural, learning, and recreational programs for older adults that promote health, well-being and social connections.

### **Nakina Home Support Worker Program**

Discontinuation of services is not recommended. The Nakina Home Support Worker Program offers seniors in Nakina the opportunity to age at home. With new changes to long term care, seniors could be given a bed outside of their home community away from families and supports. This program also decreases referrals to other alternative care models which also results in Nakina seniors not having to leave their home community.

### **Nakina Senior Citizen's Sunrise Club**

Discontinuation of funding is not recommended as this funding assists Nakina's SALC program to offer social, cultural, learning, and recreational programs for older adults that promote health, well-being and social connections.

### **Beardmore Evergreen Inc. Seniors' Club**

Discontinuing funding would result in Beardmore no longer receiving home maintenance programming. This is the only funding that is provided solely to Beardmore seniors by the Municipality. Discontinuing this funding would not provide any equitability within Greenstone.

### **Greenstone – Seniors' Centre Without Walls via Geraldton Elderly Person Centre**

In October 2020, Council had approved a pilot program, during the pandemic, of Seniors' Centres Without Walls to decrease isolation for seniors. At that time, the Municipality did not qualify for additional funding for this programming; however, we could reallocate funds within our current budget and utilize our special grant application(s) to offset any additional expenses or costs (technology, conference costs). Funds could be reallocated at this time as in-person programming was not occurring and the operational funds were available.

Pandemic restrictions have now lifted, and seniors are once again utilizing in-person programming; however, albeit minimal there continues to be participation by seniors in the bingo and exercise programming.

The Municipality has historically been successful in receiving two small grants, through SCWW Expansion Project - Small Grants Program via Good Companions Seniors Centres, to assist with supplies and some technology expenses as we could no longer continue to use our existing funding to offset the SCWW programming. The Municipality was also using some Special Grants funding received by Geraldton Elderly Person Centre and Longlac Seniors to fund the teleconferencing and virtual conferencing costs. Special Grants saw a 90% reduction in funding for the 2024/25 fiscal year; therefore, there is

no longer funding for telephone and videoconferencing expenses for the remainder of this year which leaves approximately \$3215 not accounted for in the budget.

Funding applications for Good Companions will not be made available till fall and the funding in the past has been a maximum of \$4000. In 2023, combined teleconference and video conference costs were \$4516.10.

Another Community Services program has a Zoom account. The account information has been shared with the Geraldton Elderly Person Centre which will reduce the videoconference costs.

Seniors' Centre Without Walls is the only program that the Municipality offers that is available to all Greenstone seniors. If the program is discontinued, Greenstone seniors who are not able to attend in-person programming would be impacted.

Recommendation: That Council direct staff to explore other funding options for virtual and teleconferencing programming for Seniors' Centre Without Walls. It is further recommended that Council direct staff to bring back a report by September 2024 if no further funding options are available with further options for the SCWW program.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

### **Geraldton Elderly Person Centre - Expansion Funding**

Geraldton Elderly Person Centre has the potential to adjust their current service structure and provide some mobile seniors services in other wards. Seniors Active Living Centres will have expansion funding available; therefore, there will be additional funding available. SALC funding usually requires 20% to also be provided by the Municipality which would impact ratepayers.

Recommendation: That if this enhancement came with no additional funding requirement to the Municipality, Council direct staff to engage with Ministry representatives regarding SALC program enhancement funding for consideration in future budgets and to determine interest in programming within Greenstone.

### **Geraldton Elderly Person Centre**

The Municipality provides a contribution of 50% for this program in the amount of \$42,700.

2024 approved budget included an additional \$7320 to be offset by ratepayers to balance the budget.

Additional annual funding will need to come from ratepayers as wages and benefits continue to annually increase as per our Collective Agreement as funding levels have not increased with inflation rate or with our Collective Agreement wages and benefits. 2025 staff wage increase is 2.4%.



If Council chooses to remain with the current model, the Geraldton Elderly Person Centre will need to be further subsidized by ratepayers in the amount of \$50,020 in 2024.

If Council chooses to direct staff to apply for the maximum \$50,000 funding, with no additional Municipal contribution, the Municipality could see a balanced budget except for annual staff wage increases. Municipal contribution would remain at \$42,700.

Recommendation: That Council direct staff to apply for the maximum SALC funding for the Geraldton Elderly Person Centre of \$50,000.

### **Longlac Seniors' Club**

In recent discussions with the Ministry, they advised that the Municipality contributes 50% which is above the required 20% contribution; therefore, if the Municipality made application for the additional funding up to \$50,000, the Ministry would not expect an additional contribution. The Ministry further clarified that the 20% municipal contribution is 20% of our operating budget as of 2007/2008; therefore, the Municipality has already exceeded what is required for both Geraldton Elderly Person Centre and Longlac Seniors' Centre.

Historically, the Municipality has made contribution in the amount of 50% of the provincial funding received. If Council chose to direct staff to make an application to increase the funding to the maximum amount and continued with making the 50% contribution, there would need to be an increase to the budget in the amount of \$35,190 plus the current \$14,810 budgeted Municipal contribution to be offset by ratepayers. Additionally, Council could direct staff to remain with their current Municipal contribution amount as it meets the funding requirements of the Ministry.

If Council remains with the current model, the Municipality contribution for 2024 is \$14,810. This contribution amount includes minor repairs and maintenance to the building as well as snow removal. The building used by the Longlac Seniors' Club is a Municipal asset; therefore, any additional capital costs would be allocated under facilities.

Recommendation: That Council direct staff to have further discussion with the Longlac Seniors regarding funding opportunities and models and report back to Council by September 2024.

### **Nakina Home Support Worker Program**

Council has previously passed a by-law in respect to the Nakina Home Support Worker Program that this program must operate within its fiscal capabilities. Funding levels have not increased with inflation rate or with our Collective Agreement wages and benefits. As annual wages and benefits increase, services to clients will have to decrease in order to operate within the budget. 2025 staff wage increase is 2.4%.

If Council chose to make the Nakina Home Support Worker position that of full-time, without additional funding, the wages and benefits for a 7-hour day would be

\$66,471.92; therefore, a \$15,318.43 shortfall to ratepayers. If the Municipality is successful in receiving funding, an additional increase to ratepayers in the amount of approx. \$8500 will be added to the budget. It is also important to note that Ontario Health has not historically made annual operating increases to the budget allocation for inflation. Our Collective Agreement does have annual wage increases which will eventually result in ratepayers subsidizing the program if Ontario Health does not give annual operating budget increases as per inflation.

With the current model, the Municipality contributes \$8,489.25 of the funding.

If the Municipality is successful in their funding application for a permanent position, ratepayers would be contributing \$15,318.43 as well as the Municipal contribution of \$17,000, totalling \$32,318.43.

### **Nakina Senior Citizen's Sunrise Club**

The Municipality provides \$6000 in the way of funding through the recreation budget.

### **Beardmore Evergreen Inc. Seniors' Club**

The Municipality provides bookkeeping and reporting support and administers the funding for a Home Maintenance Program in the Beardmore Ward.

The Municipality also provides \$6000 in the way of funding through the recreation budget.

### **Greenstone - Seniors' Centre Without Walls via Geraldton Elderly Person Centre**

Funding applications for Good Companions will not be made available till fall 2024 and the funding in the past has been a maximum of \$4000. If Council chose to continue to operate the Seniors' Centre Without Walls programming, without any external funding, there would be an increase to ratepayers in the approximate amount of \$4516.

Recommendation: That Council direct staff to explore other funding options for virtual and teleconferencing programming for Seniors' Centre Without Walls. It is further recommended that Council direct staff to bring back a report by September 2024 if no further funding options are available with further options for the SCWW program.