

Aging in Place of Choice

Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) are a contemporary and specialized solution created to meet the challenge of “aging in place of choice.” Ideal for infill within existing communities, the concept is to design a micro-neighbourhood that provides an accessible mix of housing choices, support services and care options for a wide range of resident ages and needs.



The Next Wave

“Research suggests that communities need to give more thought to the implications of an aging society for housing and on the way our communities perform.”

Ontario’s population is aging. Recent estimates project the senior population to double by 2030.

Mississauga has the second-largest population growth rate in the GTA. Its oldest community, Port Credit, has the highest ratio of senior citizens at 17 percent. Clearly we must adapt to accommodate this burgeoning, diverse and aging segment.

The Silver Economy

“An aging population should be viewed as a positive force and catalyst for community development and renewal.”

Research indicates that supporting the aging baby boomer generation brings with it tremendous opportunity for prosperity and urban renewal. The new “silver economy” is driven by wealthier, more highly educated and discerning consumers who want better housing options than their parents had.

Innovative Neighbourhood Design

“Aging in place of choice is the ability of individuals to choose to live in their own communities for as long as possible, and to have access to home and community services that will support this ability.”

The majority of older adults prefer to age in their own communities while maintaining their health, autonomy and dignity.

“Within urban areas, there will clearly be a greater need for multiple infill housing, both rental and condominium, where more seniors can be close to available services and public transportation, and existing infrastructure can be more efficiently used.”

The increasing desire to “age in place of choice” necessitates innovative and diverse housing options, pedestrian-friendly streetscapes and reliable transportation alternatives to the private automobile.

A Menu of Lifestyle Options

Imagine a multi-faceted adult community that enables our baby boomers to experience a timely and dignified transition from fully independent living, including luxury town homes and adult lifestyle apartments, to independent supportive living, assisted living and memory care support (should the need arise). CCRCs provide diversity and offer superior onsite amenities. Perhaps the best part is that this approach leverages but need not overtax existing infrastructure while still attracting new investment and creating local jobs.

Our seniors belong among us. Their continuing presence enriches our lives, supports our local businesses and helps to preserve our sense of place and context.

The sources for the quotations above were two reports: “Impacts of the Aging of the Canadian Population on Housing and Communities,” Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, cmhc.ca.; and “The Chief Public Health Officer’s Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2010,” The Public Health Agency of Canada, phac-aspc.gc.ca.