

## **Livable Communities Project ~ Disabilities and Aging**

### **February 13, 2009 Community Meeting What have we learned? What do we know?**

Thirty representatives interested in the City of Waterloo and/or Township of Woolwich came together for the afternoon on February 13 to share information about inclusive elements in these communities. Participants included people with lived disability experience, service providers and municipal leaders. Together they endeavoured to identify the extent to which various indicators exist in Waterloo or Woolwich to accommodate the changing needs of those with disabilities who are aging and those aging who are experiencing disabilities.

Whether from Waterloo or Woolwich, many participants are aware of policies, programs or practices related to housing, transportation, support services, health and well-being, and leisure and recreation. For many less is known about cultural and spiritual areas, the outdoor environment, education and training, employment and jobs, and volunteering. Through lively discussion those in attendance on February 13<sup>th</sup> helped to piece together a picture of the community in both Waterloo and in Woolwich.

What was gathered through the discussions on February 13<sup>th</sup> will be combined with information compiled by staff and volunteers at the Social Planning Council and Community Information Centre of Waterloo Region. The outcome will be community snapshots of the City of Waterloo and Woolwich Township. These will help us understand how livable each community is for those who must deal with disabilities and aging.

What is collected will be used to base the discussion on the afternoon of February 27<sup>th</sup> to determine community strengths and what needs to be changed to make Waterloo and/or Woolwich more livable.

**Please join us February 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Add your voice to identify priorities to improving community livability.**

**Let others know who would be interested in attending too!**

*The Livable Communities Project is supported by the Social Planning Council Kitchener-Waterloo in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Disability Studies in Winnipeg Manitoba. What is learned through the Waterloo and Woolwich projects will be incorporated with learning from two communities in each of British Columbia and Manitoba to develop tools to assess communities and to plan action to improve communities for those who are dealing with disabilities and aging.*