Canada’s Oldest Town takes steps towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Community

Laura Booi
Budapest, Hungary
Alzheimer's Disease International Conference
April 22\textsuperscript{nd} 2016
Qualicum Beach

• Oldest average population in Canada (mean age 65)

• Population: 8’900

• Project conducted alongside dissertation (P140)
Phase 1
Establish vested commitment from research site (LTRC)
Establish vested commitment from community

Phase 2
1st Town Hall Meeting about Dementia Friendly Communities
Establish vested commitment from local government and businesses

Phase 3
Establish ‘Qualicum Dementia Council’*

Phase 4
2nd Town Hall Meeting about Dementia Friendly Communities

* ‘Qualicum Dementia Council’ will include community members and advisors from outside the community
Phase 1: Establish Vested Interest

Research site:
• Long-term Care Facilities 300 residents: 90 moderate- later stage dementia
• Largest Employer in Town
• Campus of Care
• 300 residents: 90 moderate- later stage dementia
• Micro-example of larger society
Phase 1: Establish Vested Interest

Community:
• Meeting with Mayor
• Small Business Association
• Senior Centre
• Individual community members
Phase 2: First Town Hall Meeting

• Key speakers at this event were Elena and Nico Bins from Bruges, Belgium

• Local Dementia resources and Alzheimer’s societies

• Attended by:
  • 150 community members
  • Mayor of Qualicum Beach
  • All Members of Town Council
  • Members of Qualicum Downtown Business Association
Phase 3: Establish Qualicum Dementia Council

• Based off the formation of the World Dementia Council

• Advocacy Group with Key Stakeholders in the Community:
  • Health Care Professionals
  • Senior Centre Members
  • Small Business Board Members
  • Engaged Youth from Community
  • Members of First Nation’s Band
Current Outcomes

• After 1\textsuperscript{st} Town Hall Meeting Town Council voted and passed a motion put forward for the town committing both staff and resources to becoming a Dementia Friendly Community 😊

• Town Council is concerned that the label “Dementia Friendly Community” will steer young families from moving to community

• Concerns over economic impact of the Dementia Friendly Label

• Proposes ‘Everyone Friendly Community’
Qualicum is Running Out of Time...

• In February a community member of Qualicum Beach, living with dementia, walked into the forest...

• 2 week long extensive search for individual

• He was never found
Stigma

• This community is arguably ALREADY age friendly based on the population it caters too

• The Label of ‘Dementia Friendly’ is a HUGE hurdle
Next Steps...

- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Town Hall Meeting
  - Requesting person living with dementia or their care-partner to speak

- Practice Patience
Laura Booi
Vancouver, Canada
Simon Fraser University
Lbooi@sfu.ca