

Seniors and those with special mobility needs plan ahead as winter is on its way

EMC News - With winter quickly approaching and the cold weather drawing near isolation and loss of independence is a reality for too many senior citizens and those living with special mobility needs in Ottawa.

To ensure this is not you or your loved one, it is important to start planning a safe and reliable mode of transportation, for example, to attend medical appoint-

ments, social outings and complete errands.

Knowing what methods of transportation are available to suit your specific needs is very important. Particularly, for the loved ones and caregivers of people suffering from any form of dementia or Alzheimer's because the current city offered transportation, unfortunately, cannot and do not accommodate these

people.

That being said, transportation options are scarce at the best of time for people with special mobility needs and in many cases is left up to family and friends.

Stop taking days off work: using vacation time, driving your car, using your gas and missing important meetings, now you can leave you loved ones in the hands of the qualified team at Wheels for the

Wise.

Wheels for the Wise is a new innovative solution for seniors and people with special mobility needs to travel safely to and from their weekly responsibilities, errands and appointments.

The Chauffeur - Companions at Wheels for the Wise stay with the clients for the duration of their outing offering any physical and emotional assistance as required.

Furthermore, they are: CPR, First-Aid and AED certified, have been cleared by an Ottawa Police records check for working with vulnerable individuals, and hold a clean drivers abstract issued by the Ministry of Transportation

This unique service is happy to accommodate people with dementia or Alzheimer's including, offering these client's power of attorney the option of having an audio

recording of their loved ones medical appointments, so they will never again wonder what exactly the doctor said.

The service that Wheels for the Wise offers is much more than just getting a dive. It's about making a friend: preventing isolation, prolonging independence and getting people with special mobility needs where they have to go.

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To highlight the organizations commitment to improving the transportation options for seniors and people with special mobility needs in Ottawa, Jana Mitchell, Owner and CEO of Wheels for the Wise, is one of the service providers that has been invited to participate in the round table discussions being held by the Council on Aging on November 23, 2011.

These Age Friendly Focus Groups have been co-

ordinated as a continuation of the recent Seniors Summit held Oct. 3 at city hall. The information and recommendations gathered during these round table discussions will be used toward an older adult plan that's to go before council next year.

Taking into consideration the time it will take to implement such recommendations, Wheels for the Wise has launched a new donation and sponsorship program, in conjunction with their new website, that allows business and

individuals to sponsor seniors and people living with special mobility needs who lack sufficient income to access their services.

Wheels for the Wise, allocates all donated funds based on a waiting list of recipients desperate to use their services and who have been screened though an application process to confirm their financial need and eligibility.

For more information about their services call 613.709.WISE (9473) or visit www.wheelsforthewise.com.