

BURLINGTON SENIOR HOUSING RESOURCES

INDEPENDENCE

Adult Lifestyle Communities

Many people live in a home they bought years ago under different circumstances than those they are now living in. Adult lifestyle communities are growing in popularity for those 55 and older and are expected to continue to grow in numbers over the upcoming years as the population continues to age.

These adult lifestyle communities are created for active seniors:

- **The Heritage Place Bungalows:** <https://www.heritage-place.ca/bungalows>
- **The Williamsburg:** <https://www.reveralliving.com/retirement-living/locations/the-williamsburg>
- **Burlington Gardens:** <https://www.atriaretirement.ca/retirement-communities/burlington-gardens/>

Life Lease

The phrase “life lease” means that once an initial lump sum is paid out as a deposit, there is little change in rates, and the purchaser will own the home for life. In recent years, these communities have become increasingly popular, since they meet the housing and support service challenges faced by Canada’s aging population.

Life Lease communities allow residents to take an active role in managing the property and organizing activities and programs to help seniors have a sense of purpose that may not be possible if they are isolated in a single family home.

Additionally, a Life Lease community is restricted to adults 55 or 60 and older.

Life Lease community:

- **The Garden:** <https://maranathagardens.ca/>

Garden Suite/Secondary Suites

Garden Suites are a pre-made residential structure installed on a one unit basis (up to 20 years) in the backyard of an existing home, where a secondary suite may be contained within the primary residential dwelling of a family member. Both Garden Suites and Secondary Suites allow for independent seniors living while still being close for family support.

The Ontario Government is attempting to make it easier to create secondary suites and garden suites as proposed in their Housing Supply Action Plan.

Wellness Support

Many seniors wish to stay in their home; however, they may need some additional support to remain at home. There are many home and community healthcare services in Ontario that will help seniors retain their independence, while still providing some assistance.

Many of home and community healthcare services offer:

- Personal care services like companionship, meal prep, medication reminders, housekeeping, and fall prevention
- Medical facilities like nursing, wound care, and therapy

This at-home wellness support is offered by:

- **Bayshore:** <https://www.bayshore.ca/>

SAFETY

Home and Vehicle Modification Program

Offered through March of Dimes Canada, provides funding for necessary home modification and is intended to assist permanent Ontario residents with a substantial impairment that is expected to last one year or more.

The following must be accurate to be eligible for a grant or loan:

- You are a permanent Ontario resident
- Ongoing or recurring disability/impairment that is anticipated to continue more than one year
- Your disability/impairment impedes mobility and results in substantial restrictions in activities of daily life

It may be possible to qualify for up to \$15,000 towards home modification:

- If you have a gross annual income of over \$35,000, you may be required to contribute towards the cost of the requested home modification(s)
- If the applicant receive ODSP Income Support, Ontario Works, or the Old-Age Security Guaranteed Income Supplement as their only source of income, you are not required to complete the Financial Calculation Worksheet

For more information on the Home and Vehicle Modification Program visit the website at <https://www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/programs/hvmp/Pages/HomeandVehicle.aspx>

Exercise and Fall Prevention Programs

Seniors (65+) can join free classes to help maintain balance and strength to help prevent falls. A physiotherapist or other health professionals teach fall prevention classes and provide information on preventing falls for seniors.

There is no referral needed.

For exercise and fall prevention programs in Burlington visit the website at <https://www.hnhbhealthline.ca/listServices.aspx?id=10986>

AFFORDABILITY

Older Adults Property Tax Deferral Program

If you are an older adult and a homeowner living in the Halton Region on a fixed income, you may qualify for the Older Adult Property Tax Deferral Program. The goal of the program is to help older residents on fixed incomes to manage the rising cost of living and remain in their homes.

To qualify for the program, you must be able to meet the following criteria:

- You are at least 65 years old.
- You own a home in Halton Region.
- At least one registered owner must have lived in the home (as their principal residence) for the last four years.
- Your combined pre-tax gross annual income (the applicant plus the property's registered owners) must be less than \$50,900.
- You are not participating in any other property tax deferral or rebate programs.
- You have paid your previous years' property taxes in full.

The City of Burlington will review your eligibility for the program every year. Once deferral begins, you must submit a completed renewal by September 30 each year to stay in the program.

- If you do not apply for renewal by September 30, or if you are no longer eligible for the program, The City of Burlington will continue to defer your property taxes for that year.
- After this first year, you will have a one-year grace period to reapply and show your eligibility. The City of Burlington will continue to defer your taxes, interest-free, during this time.
- If you reapply during the grace period and are eligible for the program, your property taxes will continue to be deferred.

Unless you end participation, such as by selling your home, the program provides two full years to renew your application and show your eligibility before you must repay the remaining deferred taxes.

Enrolment in the program includes the following fees:

- Initial application fee of \$50
- One time administration fee of \$200
- Annual renewal application fee of \$0

Please visit the website for the eligibility and calculator tool at <https://www.halton.ca/For-Residents/Older-Adults/Older-Adults-Property-Tax-Deferral-Program-Eligibi>

Please visit the website for the application form at <https://www.halton.ca/Repository/Older-Adults-Property-Tax-Deferral-Application>

Please visit the website for the renewal application form at <https://www.halton.ca/Repository/Older-Adults-Property-Tax-Deferral-Renewal>

If you are a Hydro One customer in Burlington:

Home Assistance Program

Hydro One offers free energy-efficient upgrades to the home.

To be eligible for the program you have to be a Hydro One customer and:

1. Own or rent your home or live in an eligible non-profit housing property
2. Your gross household income for the last year is not more than these income levels

1 Person	\$32,843
2 People	\$40,886

Or you have received one of the following in the past 12 months:

- Allowance for the Survivor
- Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Allowance for Seniors
- Ontario Works
- Ontario Disability Support Program

Or you have received a Low-Income Energy Assistance Program Grant or were part of the Ontario Electricity Support Program in the past 12 months

For more information on the Home Assistance Program, visit the website at

<https://www.hydroone.com/saving-money-and-energy/residential/financial-assistance/hap>

Budget Billing

A program offered through Hydro One where you pay the same amount each month to more efficiently manage your household budget.

How Budget Billing works:

- Monthly budget billing is set based on your billing history to even out your energy cost over a year
- Pay the same amount for six months, and on the six and nine months, your monthly payment amount is reassessed to make sure you are not paying too little or too much
- Have to lock in for 12 months