

BARRHAVEN SENIORS' COUNCIL

Community Update: Proposed Senior Centre Advocacy

Hello everyone,

The "Barrhaven Civic Center and Library" Open House was held on August 10th under severe weather conditions—our area was under a tornado watch combined with a heavy downpour! This severe weather undoubtedly deterred many residents from attending. To ensure everyone stays informed, we are sharing all the information we currently have regarding the proposed Senior Centre details.

Key Findings & Floor Plan Layouts

We believe it is vital to share the data we have collected to date. The floor plans and figures below clarify the layout discrepancies currently under discussion:

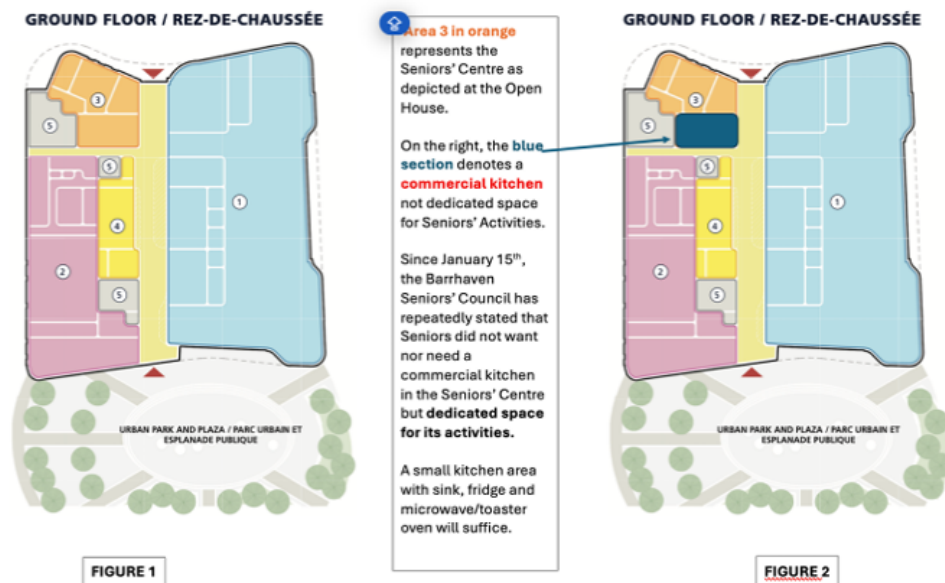


Figure 1: Represents the official information shared at the Open House on August 10th, 2026, which is available on the City's website.

Figure 2: Represents the layout details presented to us during a meeting held at Councillor Hill's office. This layout introduces a commercial kitchen space (highlighted in blue) that contradicts our community requirements.

Discrepancies in the Seniors' Space

The rectangle highlighted in blue details an area currently designated for a commercial kitchen. This layout was presented to the board members on January 15th, January 20th, and again on August 5th, 2026. On each occasion, the Barrhaven Seniors' Council explicitly stated that our community neither needs nor wants a commercial kitchen. Instead, we are advocating for dedicated multi-purpose spaces to host activities and render community services within the 3,000 sq. ft. allocation originally promised in the ICIP document and publicly announced in December 2024.

Additional unmapped interior details provided on August 5th include:

- Two city staff offices located on the right side of the main entrance.
- A large cloakroom located immediately on the left side of the entrance.
- A coffee lounge straight ahead equipped with sofas, featuring a maximum capacity of 12 seniors.
- Two or three bathrooms on the left side, directly across from the coffee lounge.
- An outdoor fenced-in patio designated specifically for senior activities further down the corridor.

Historical Context & The Shrinking Vision

There are clear misalignments between the floor plan presented on August 10th and the specific operational details discussed in January and early August. The current structural designs eliminate the 3,000 sq. ft. dedicated senior space guaranteed in the Transfer Payment Agreement under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP): Community, Culture, and Recreation Stream. This spatial requirement was formally locked in by the joint public announcement in December 2024.

Since 2019, the Barrhaven Seniors' Council has worked tirelessly to provide services to our rapidly growing senior population out of a highly restrictive, 500 sq. ft. room in the Ken Ross building. Operating in such a limited space, we focused on offering programs that promote social and mental engagement while fostering an environment where friendships can flourish.

The December 2024 announcement of a 3,000 sq. ft. dedicated space brought immense hope to our community. It validated years of hard work by the council and its former president, Don Winchester, who steered this initiative from its earliest developmental phase. We continue to hold fast to the foundational vision outlined by Don Winchester in a recent correspondence:

“Given the projected future population of seniors in Barrhaven, indeed the room needed for activities at the BTC must be much larger than Ken Ross (@500 sq ft) with flexible retracting walls to expand/contract like at Kanata Seniors that was always the vision shared by Phil and I, and was supported by politicians at all levels – 3,000square feet being specified by the MP Arya when the project receive Federal approval.

Current Status & Timeline Risks

On July 25th, 2025, City staff explicitly assured us during a meeting at Councillor Hill's office that our council would be directly consulted to outline our space requirements once the project reached the interior design phase. Regrettably, neither the City nor Councillor Hill's office have reached out to gather our functional requirements. We have learned that the deadline to lock in this internal design is fast approaching in November. Meanwhile, we are forced to watch the Barrhaven Seniors' community space shrink with every consecutive meeting.

This situation is extremely disappointing. It feels as though seniors are once again being marginalized or entirely erased from the municipal planning process. We will continue to actively investigate our options and demand an open dialogue with City officials. Time is absolutely of the essence.

It is important to emphasize that unless we secure the 3,000 sq. ft. space originally earmarked for seniors in the Barrhaven City Centre, there will be no Barrhaven Seniors' Centre at all. We have been formally notified that once the new City Centre opens, the current Ken Ross building will be fully repurposed into a sports facility. As a community, we are aware of how exceptionally difficult it is to secure alternative operational space anywhere in Barrhaven.

Take Action: How You Can Help

We need your thoughts, feedback, and active advocacy to help us secure the 3,000 sq. ft. seniors' space funded under the Barrhaven Town Center agreement. This space is vital to support our growing senior demographic.

Please forward your comments and support to: Barrhavenseniors2030@gmail.com

View the Full Presentation: [Barrhaven Civic Centre Open House presentation \(August 10, 2026\)](#)