

Transportation Options for Seniors in Town of Ste Anne & RMs of Ste Anne & LaBroquerie

Prepared by Seine River Services for Seniors

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Many seniors in our communities rely on family or friends to help with transportation if they are unable to drive themselves. Many seniors are uncomfortable driving in Winnipeg, others no longer have a valid driver's licence and others have mobility challenges. The majority of requests for transportation are for medical appointments. Other requests are for shopping or attending church, funerals, or social events. The best current option is a volunteer driver. The advantages of voluntary drivers are the door-to-door service, no charge for waiting during appointments, and the flexibility of the drivers. However, accessibility for seniors requiring wheel-chairs and the availability of volunteer drivers vary greatly and the cost of trips to Winnipeg using any option remains prohibitive for many low-income seniors. Reservation is required for all options

Volunteer driver options

- 1. Seine River Services for Seniors (SRS):** See attached 5-year report. Volunteers are recruited and trained by our SRS Senior Resource Coordinator. Orientation of drivers is formal and requires a police safety check, confidentiality & conflict of interest documentation. Training videos are provided for our volunteer drivers from online resources including respectful interactions with seniors (ageism). Drivers are paid \$0.47 per km by the passenger and the cost is **\$50-75 round trip to Winnipeg**. In the 2-year period 2022-2024, 32% of trips were subsidized by a special transportation SRS fund from a local business. The majority of trips are for medical appointments (65-78%) to Winnipeg or local clinics. Advertising for the transportation program is by Manitoba211, website, and SRS brochures.
- 2. Villa Youville:** volunteers are recruited by senior staff at Villa Youville from the residents living at Villa Youville. The cost is "pay as you can". Villa Youville also rents vans from surrounding communities for group social events.
- 3. Paradise Village:** volunteers are recruited by the Paradise Village residents association (PVRA). Names and contact information are published in the monthly PVRA newsletter. There are currently 5 drivers.
- 4. Car-sharing.** This model is being explored by RM Ritchot (with Villa Youville). A pilot program currently being evaluated in RM Piney/Buffalo Point with a federal grant for an electric vehicle.

Commercial options

- 1. Southeast Shuttle** www.seshuttle.ca
This business in Steinbach was established as an airport shuttle to Winnipeg in Sept 2023 with a 9-passenger van. The service also now includes stops at St Boniface Hospital, HSC (CancerCare), Polo Park and the airport. There is no wheelchair ramp but fold-up devices can be accommodated. There are pick-up and drop-off stops across our region. The schedule currently (May, 2024) includes 4 trips to Winnipeg on weekdays. **Seniors rate is \$37.00 one way per person Ste Anne to Winnipeg and \$43.00 one way per person LaBroquerie to Winnipeg.**

- 2. Taxi:** Steinbach Taxi has a 24-hour door-to-door service and can accommodate wheelchairs. The cost from Ste Anne to Winnipeg one-way is **\$120** per person plus a 30-minute stand-by-fee. After 30 minutes, the stand-by fee is \$10 for each 30 min. There are no commercial ride-sharing (eg UBER) or car-sharing (car co-op) options in our area.
- 3. Ontario Northland www.ontarionorthland.ca**
Commercial bus service for all of Northern Ontario. The Thunder Bay to Winnipeg route along TransCanada highway stops at Richer 3x per week at 4:05pm. There are 2 stops in Winnipeg arriving Southland Mall (on Fermor) at 4:40pm and Health Sciences Centre at 5:04pm. **Rate is \$15.05 for seniors one way Richer to Winnipeg (Southland Mall).** The return trip from the same 2 Winnipeg sites is once daily in the morning with a stop in Richer en route to Thunder Bay. The bus is wheel-chair accessible with an elevator platform.

Other transportation options

- 1. Food delivery services.** The food banks in Ste Anne and LaBroquerie (Helping Hands) request volunteer drivers to deliver hampers when required for seniors. Ste Anne Grocer and LaBroquerie Coop food store deliver pre-ordered groceries 3x weekly.
- 2. Steinbach ACCESSIBLE transit (currently not available to seniors in our area):** The Handi-van owned by the City of Steinbach was available for residents of our area until Jan 2020. After January 2020, the city of Steinbach restricted it use to residents of Steinbach. The coordination and management (bookings) of the program was shifted to Pat Porter Active Living Centre in 2022. **Cost is \$70 one-way per person Steinbach to Winnipeg plus a stand-by fee of \$0.50/min or \$30/hr.** Caregiver is free.

Addendum (Sept 2024)

Transportation Options Network for Seniors (TONS) in MB has an excellent website at TONSMB.org that offers:

1. Volunteer driver training videos
2. Application for Volunteer driver facebook page
3. List of all "handi" van services that offer accessibility for wheelchairs
4. Rural Transportation Providers Resource Hub and Support Network site for handi-van drivers

Southeast Cancer Support Services (created September 2024)

This new organization based in Steinbach will offer transportation for seniors who require medical visits for cancer treatment. Volunteer drivers will be recruited. This new non-profit organization will be modelled on the Central Plains Cancer Services organization based in Portage la Prairie. See centralplainscancerservices.com