

Through Their Eyes 2017



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This map gives a summary of Bernadine's favourite places and places that she had always wanted to explore but did not feel comfortable doing so on her own. This map shows areas where she accesses different services, such as the transportation system or public services such as the library. It also shows some of the places that she frequently visits or other places that she likes to go to. She likes to walk down the main street of downtown Thorold and into some of the shops, such as The Post Office or Figg Street Co. She also likes to just walk up and down the street and admire the architecture of some of the older buildings. Her first husband was a construction worker, so she really appreciates finer details that a lot of the older buildings show. We walked down the Welland Canal pathway, she likes to walk around the area and get to know the area a bit better, especially since she moved to the area 4 months ago. One of her discoveries on her walks was The Post Office, a clothing store that she really loves and mentioned multiple times throughout both interviews. This map also shows the journey she takes to get from her apartment to other places. She said in the second interview that she appreciated the journey as much as the destination, but what you don't see in the map is some of the difficulties that she faces when she gets to these places. For example, she sometimes trips on the sidewalks, since they are cracked and uneven. She also mentioned that she needs to stop frequently to go to the bathroom, and sometimes things are too far away with nowhere to stop and take a break. This prevents her from walking, but she is very comfortable using the transportation system so this is not much of a barrier for her. This map also doesn't show her interactions with people in some of these public spaces. She liked talking to the sales associates in the shops but had a somewhat negative experience with the server in the coffee shop. Overall though she had positive experiences with the personnel in these third places. Even while walking down the sidewalk she felt welcomed by the community and she said hello to other people walking down the street and other people said hello to her.

We can learn from these experiences as they show us some of the places that are seen as comforting, such as the library, the coffee shop and her favourite stores. It also teaches us that some of the areas that we may not think about, such as sidewalks and bus stops that allows for social interaction in their day to day lives. Furthermore, I think this map shows where Bernadine's favourite third places are and the context of the map tells us about the day to day aspects of her life that show the age-friendly aspects of her community.