



Accessibility Accomplishments

1.0 Introduction

For further information on the Township's Accessibility Initiatives, please contact: Donna Hewitt, Director, Corporate Services at (705) 487-2171 ext. 2537 or dhewitt@oro-medonte.ca

2.0 Accomplishments

2.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee:

The Accessibility Advisory Committee ("AAC") members was appointed under By-Law No. 2015-080.

At the commencement of their term, the AAC toured the Township and its facilities and outdoor spaces as they developed their 2014-2018 Accessibility Plan. Many of the actions that the municipality has taken are a direct result of the endorsement of this plan.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, the AAC met to review policies and pursue the removal of barriers at Bayview Memorial Park. Specifically, their focus was on the redevelopment of the Park and providing input into the design and accessibility to areas within the park. They researched the potential for mobility mats, assisted with grant applications and reviewed the park concept design.

The Township was successful with two grant applications both of which enabled the municipality to remove accessibility barriers at Bayview Memorial Park. The first grant was through the Provincial "Enabling Accessibility Fund" and the second through the County of Simcoe's "Connecting Communities Program".

The AAC is consulted to review development concept plans such as that put forward for the Braestone residential development.

Following direction from Council and in partnership with the AAC in early 2015, staff successfully applied for an Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant through Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing. A member of the AAC participated on the steering committee for this project and provided regular reports to the AAC on progress. This project included an outreach to those in the community to solicit input regarding the World Health Organization's eight Age-Friendly Dimensions. The results of this research and report will provide primary findings to inform the next Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

2.2 OADA Standards

Accessibility Policy

In 2016, for ease of use and understanding our commitment and responsibilities related to accessibility, all policies were reviewed, updated and consolidated into one document. This policy was endorsed by Council and subsequent training has been provided to staff, Council and our volunteers.

Customer Service Standard

On an annual basis, Accessible Customer Service Training was provided to all new Staff, Volunteers and Firefighters.

As noted above, the Accessible Customer Service Policy was reviewed and consolidated into our updated comprehensive Accessibility Policy.

Information and Communications Standard

As noted above, the Information and Communications Standard Policy was reviewed and consolidated into our updated comprehensive Accessibility Policy.

Notification of the availability of accessible formats/supports have been added to the municipal website and on corporate publications made available to the public (Community Information Guide). All report formats, business cards and letterhead are compliant with the Policy.

Employment Standard

Recruitment

A statement was included in each job posting with respect to accommodation and a barrier free environment.

Selection

A statement was included in the job posting which provides the opportunity for an applicant to request accommodation at any point during the interview and selection process.

Offers of Employment & Informing Employees

New employees were provided copies of all Township policies including the consolidated Accessibility Policy.

Posters are in the workplaces offering employees the opportunity to request assistance at any time.

Accommodation Plans

Employees are welcome to request accommodation at any time. Discussions are held between the employee and their respective supervisor and Human Resources to determine the better course to assist an employee requiring accommodation.

2.3 Facilities

Oro-Medonte Community Arena

Accessibility modifications were incorporated into the renovation of the arena. A further series of modifications to the washroom's in the Banquet Hall area have been scheduled for installation in the first quarter of 2018 (additional grab bars and handles etc.) As well, visual strips have been added to the steps and bleachers within the ice arena viewing area.

Oro-Medonte Administration Building

A series of modifications to the public washrooms have been scheduled for installation in the first quarter of 2018 (additional grab bars and handles etc.)

2.4 Outdoor Spaces

Bayview Memorial Park

The picnic pavilion was reconstructed and is now accessible for those with mobility needs. Picnic tables have been included and situated such that they are accessible.

Additional hard surfaced walkways have been added in the park to promote access throughout the area.

2.5 Community Halls

A series of improvements for accessibility were identified in the 2014-2018 Accessibility Plan. Beginning in 2016 and through into 2017 a series of building condition audits were completed on each of the halls to review lifecycle, life safety/building code and accessibility needs in addition to community needs to determine feasibility of investment required and prioritization of works. A final report is being presented to Council in 2018.

