

Date: July, 2008
To: Township of East Ferris Council
From: Municipal Accessibility Plan Committee
Re: Annual Update of the Municipal Accessibility Plan

Municipal Accessibility Plan 2004

10. MONITORING PROGRESS & ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY PLANS

This working group will act as both the technical advisor to Council and as a liaison to the special needs community. They will meet annually to review the accessibility plan as well as monitor project status to ensure that the goals and objectives of this plan and of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 are being accomplished.

The Municipal Accessibility Plan Committee met on June 2, 2008 at East Ferris Township offices to update the Municipal Accessibility Plan as mandated. The committee is comprised of these members;

Robert Point- Co- Chair, Rick Champagne- Co-Chair, Paul Gervais- Secretary and Angela Hurrell- Member. Mr. Champagne was absent from the meeting, John Fior attended the meeting.

The meeting dealt with updating the barriers that were identified in the original plan as well as newly identified barriers.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:15

2. **Old Business;**

(i) Carnival book/program

There was no advertisement in the Winter Carnival program for transportation of people with disabilities as expected. The committee will send a letter to the Carnival Committee to remind them to provide some arrangement to transport people with disabilities to the East Ferris Winter Carnival next year.

(ii) Update of what's been accomplished in 2007

(a) The shortage of Senior's housing is being addressed and is underway.

(b) Signage for B-F parking has been installed at the Corbeil Park Hall, however, the committee has concerns about the installation since the designated area (close to the entrance of the hall) may be a hazard in case of an emergency evacuation of the building, also, drivers are forced to reverse out of the lot which may prove difficult for some and cars parked in the area will make it difficult for emergency responders (ambulance, fire department etc...). The committee will send letters to Council and the East Ferris Golden Age Club asking that the area closest to the entrance to the hall be designated as a loading zone. Also, there is still no designated B-F parking at the municipal office.

3. Updated List of Identified Barriers

Barrier & Type	Strategy for removal/prevention	Timeline Short 0 - 1 yr. Med. 1 - 3 yrs. Long 3 - 5 yrs.
Shortage of senior's housing in the municipality - Policy / Practice	Complete a housing review to determine need and investigate funding opportunities available for the provision of senior's housing.	Medium term <i>(On going)</i>
Lack of awareness of groups and agencies providing services for seniors and disabled persons - Communication	Prepare a list of agencies, contacts and services they provide for our residents and include this information on the municipal web site.	Medium term <i>(On going)</i>
Lack of disabled parking for municipal facilities - Mobility	Provide a parking by-law designating sufficient parking spaces for all municipal facilities and provide for enforcement to ensure compliance.	Short term <i>(On going)</i>
Improper doors & no barrier-free washrooms at the East Ferris Community Centre - Mobility, Facility/Design	Install automatic doors and make washrooms accessible for persons with disabilities.	Long term <i>(On going)</i>
Inadequate doors & no barrier-free washrooms at the Public Works Garage - Mobility, Facility/Design	Make one washroom accessible for persons with disabilities and gender free and ensure one access to building is made accessible for wheelchair access.	Long term <i>(On going)</i>
Lack of proper signage for all municipal buildings	Install international signage system for all municipal facilities.	Short term <i>(On going)</i>
Lack of proper access and washroom facilities at public parks and beaches - Facility/Design	Make all municipal parks and beaches accessible for persons with disabilities.	Long term <i>(on going)</i>
Parking at Corbeil Park Hall adjacent to the Main entrance creates a hazard for everyone and vehicles are blocked in.	Install signage to make the area adjacent to the main entrance a <i>Loading Zone</i> (only), and create barrier-free parking spaces at the guard rail closest to the building.	Short <i>(On going)</i>
It is difficult for some residents to hear at meetings conducted in the Corbeil Park Hall.	Install a Public Address (P.A.) system when renovating of constructing new Council Chambers.	Medium
Ramps at local businesses become difficult or impossible to use.	Encourage local businesses to maintain access/ramps and approaches in good order.	Medium
Local business should be made aware of forthcoming legislation.	Make local businesses aware of forthcoming legislation regarding accessibility.	Medium
Approach to the ramp at	Advised Parks & Recreation staff to repair and	Short

the Government Dock Beach has deteriorated.	maintain problem area.	<i>(On going)</i>
Washrooms at Government Dock Beach are difficult to use.	Make washroom accessible.	Medium
Washrooms at Arena are difficult to use.	Make washrooms accessible.	Short <i>(On going)</i>

4. New Business

Resolution No. 4 from council (May 12/08 meeting) re: Ontario Regulation 429/07 (Accessibility Standards for Customer Service).

The resolution by Council, report by Paul Gervais and the regulation was discussed by the committee. The committee thought that since other municipalities have to comply as well, that it would be a good idea to pool the resources of several area municipalities to create a framework policy that all municipalities could use or alter to suit their needs. It was therefore suggested that this proposal be brought to Bill Vrebosch so that he could bring it to the next Mayor's meeting.

The committee also realized that Ontario Regulation 429/07 (Accessibility Standards for Customer Service) will remove the responsibility (from this committee) to inform and educate local businesses since the province will educate businesses as well as enforce the regulation.

5. Recommendations to Council

The committee is sensitive to the Housing Needs Study underway for the municipality's facilities and council's hesitation to cause renovations that would later become redundant. It is for this reason that many of the recommendations for municipal facilities were not updated. It is hoped that the Housing Needs Study will address the concerns of this committee and the requirements of Ontario Regulation 429/07 (Accessibility Standards for Customer Service).

The Committee wanted to make Council aware of the following concerns and makes the following recommendations to Council;

1. Angela Hurrell has offered to meet with Bob Mills at the arena and the government dock to discuss what corrections should be made.
2. Signage inside the Municipal Office is still required to be installed.
3. The washrooms at the Government Dock Beach on Big Moose Road need to be completed and or corrected.
4. Toilet paper holders in the B-F washroom of the Corbeil Park Hall is too high, as are those in the renovated stalls of the arena.
5. Accessible parking areas should be designated at the Municipal office and Astorville Fire hall.

6. The difficulty of audibility at meetings for the hearing impaired is still an issue.
7. Since the washrooms on the main floor of the arena have been corrected (and there are still minor issues with them), the washrooms at the upper floor should be corrected.
8. That other municipal web sites be checked for accessibility plans and/or policies that address Ontario Regulation 429/07 (Accessibility Standards for Customer Service).
9. That area mayor's be made aware of the requirements of Ontario Regulation 429/07 (Accessibility Standards for Customer Service) in the hopes of finding volunteers to create the required policy.

5. Adjournment

The committee is to meet again in late summer or early fall. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.