

Date: January, 2009
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 January 5, 2009 at the Corbeil Park Hall 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. Point 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 3:10
2. **Minutes of June 2, 2008.**

Paul Gervais reminded the committee that the minutes of the previous meeting were given to Council in a short time frame due to time constraints but the Committee did have a chance to review them prior.
3. **Old Business;**
 - (a) Carnival book/program
Bob Mills spoke to the committee on behalf of the East Ferris Sports & Winter Carnival Committees. The Winter Carnival Committee was seeking clarification about what the Accessibility Committee wants in the way accommodation for the disabled at the Winter Carnival. This was discussed at length and it was decided that the Winter Carnival committee would make people reading the Carnival program aware that most of the events were accessible and Angela would contact D.A.A.Y. about transportation while Rick would seek transportation from other avenues. The accessible vehicle operated by Nipissing Manor was also discussed at length at why it couldn't be used. . The Winter Carnival Committee also made it clear that they had no funds to pay for these transportation costs. The Accessibility Committee will ask Council if they could cover the cost of such transportation as it shouldn't cost \$200 if anything at all.
 - (b) Update of what's been accomplished in 2007

(i) The shortage of Senior's housing is being addressed and is underway. John Fior advised the committee that the plan was for 20 living units and that construction would hopefully get underway in the spring (of 2009).

(ii) Council had decided to designate 3 Handicapped parking spaces in front of the Corbeil Park Hall to the dismay of the Accessibility Committee. This committee had made its concerns known to Council about the designated parking spaces' proximity to the entrance of the hall as a hazard and will ask Council to re-visit this issue.

(iii) Standards for Customer Service.

Subsequently to the last Accessibility Committee meeting, this committee asked Bill Vrebosch to bring this matter to the next area mayor's meeting. The committee thought that since other municipalities will have to comply as well, that it would be a better 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.

Paul Gervais advised the Committee that this report was on the agenda for a Mayor's meeting and was subsequently dropped from the agenda. The committee will ask again that this report be brought to the area mayors again.

4. 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 (On going)
Lack of proper signage for all municipal buildings	Install international signage system for all municipal facilities.	Short term (On going)
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 (on going)
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 (On going)
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 the Government Dock Beach has deteriorated.	Advised Parks & Recreation staff to repair and maintain problem area.	Short (On going)
Washrooms at Government Dock Beach are difficult to use.	Make washroom accessible.	Medium
Washrooms at Arena are difficult to use.	Make washrooms accessible.	Short (On going)

5. New Business

(a) Municipal Accommodation Study

John Fior advised the committee that the final draft of the Township's Accommodation Study had not been received by Council yet but it is expected soon. In the meantime, the Township has applied for a grant to renovate the arena and if the renovations are carried out, they will resolve some of the accessibility issues in that building.

(b) Winter Carnival Committee- Refer to item 3(a)

(c) Deadline for Public Review of the Initial Accessible Information & Communication Standard

Information was given to the committee about the proposed *Accessible information and Communications Standard*. This proposed standard was developed by a committee established by the Ontario government under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA 2005). This standard will require the organizations to provide

information (written, web site etc...) in other forms where an individual requires such in Braille for example. The municipality will have to comply before Dec. 31, 2011.

The Committee creating this standard is asking for comments from the public before February. 6, 2009. Information about this standard was given to the committee.

6. Recommendations to Council

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

1. The committee is not pleased with Council's decision to create disabled parking spaces in front of the Corbeil Park Hall and asks Council to reconsider its decision.
2. That Council considers paying for the costs of handicapped transportation for people with disabilities wishing to take part at the Winter Carnival.
3. That area mayors should 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.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.