

Date: February 23, 2006
 To: Council
 From: Municipal Accessibility Plan Committee
 Re: Annual Update of the Municipal Accessibility Plan

The Municipal Accessibility Plan Committee met on February 2, 2006 to update the Municipal Accessibility Plan as mandated. The committee is comprised of these members;

Robert Point- Chair, Donald Champagne- Co-Chair, Raymond Champagne- Secretary, Paul Gervais- Member and Angela Hurrell- Member.

The meeting dealt with updating the barriers that were identified in the original plan as well as newly identified barriers. A feasible solution to one of the barriers was also found at the meeting.

Updated Barriers Identified

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
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>
Lack of awareness of disability issues and participation by disabled persons - Communication	Post Municipal Accessibility Plan on the Web site and invite the public, persons with disabilities and groups and agencies to the annual review meetings.	Short term <i>(Completed)</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	Investigate the use of international signage	Short term

municipal buildings - Communications	system for all municipal facilities.	<i>(On going)</i>
Lack of understanding of accessibility issues in Building Code administration - Facility/Design	Promote accessibility issues in Building Code administration and design all municipal facilities and alterations for accessibility.	Medium term <i>(On going/Completed)</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>

New Barriers Identified

The following are barriers that were brought to the attention of the committee and the committee's recommended goals;

Barrier & Type	Strategy for removal/prevention	Timeline Short 0 - 1 yr. Med. 1 - 3 yrs. Long 3 - 5 yrs.
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
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.	Long
Local business should be made aware of forthcoming legislation.	Make local businesses aware of forthcoming legislation regarding accessibility.	Long
Approach to the ramp at the Government Dock Beach has deteriorated.	Advised Parks & Recreation staff to repair and maintain problem area.	Short
Washrooms at Government Dock Beach are difficult to use.	Make washroom accessible.	Medium
Washrooms at Arena are difficult to use.	Make washrooms accessible.	Short
A wheelchair should be made available for people visiting the arena.	Obtain a wheelchair to loan to arena visitors	Short

Solution to Transportation Issues

Committee member Angela Hurrell brought a solution to the issue of transportation for the disabled and seniors within the municipality. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the North Bay and Area Disabled Adult and Youth Centre (D.A.A.Y.). This is a non-profit organization that is run by and for people with disabilities in the area since 1978. Among the services they provide, Angela identified transportation as a service that

was being provided to municipal residents. D.A.A.Y. operates a vehicle equipped to take passengers with wheelchairs and will drive the passenger to medical appointments, shopping and special occasions for a donation. D.A.A.Y. asks for 48 hours notice. They have also taken people for medical appointments to places like Toronto and Sudbury for treatment for a special fee unless (they have a travel grant). Angela thinks there may be approximately as many as 12 to 20 people in the Township of East Ferris using this service. The Committee recommends that information about D.A.A.Y. be passed on to municipal residents via the web site, Insight and possibly in the notice/newsletter sent with the tax bills in March. Angela will bring documentation to the committee to be passed on to residents and inclusion in the Municipal Accessibility Plan. See attached letter.

February 22, 2006

To: Committee Members-Municipal Accessibility Plan
Robert Point
Donald Champagne
Raymond Champagne
Paul Gervais

From: Angela Hurrell

Re: Transportation Issue

On Tuesday February 7, 2006 I met with Pat Robinson and Don Summers from the D.A.A.Y center to discuss the transportation issue, which was brought up at our meeting on February 2, 2006.

The D.A.A.Y center has been, and will continue to provide transportation to the North Bay surrounding areas disabled residents and seniors for medical appointments, shopping and other events. There is no fee for this transportation however a donation is greatly appreciated and a 48 hour notice is recommended to better accommodate. Also, we do provide out of town transportation (i.e. Toronto) for medical appointments, however a fee is charged for these special trips unless your doctor has provided you with a travel grant, which we will accept.

For further information or to book an appointment for transportation, please contact Angela Hurrell @ 752-3488 or the D.A.A.Y center @ 474-3851.

Lastly, the D.A.A.Y center has gratefully offered the use of their van for disabled residents and seniors so they can attend special occasions and events such as "The East Ferris Winter Carnival". The van will be left at Angela's house for the duration of the event and she would be the contact person. The center will however need a notice of 1 month before the event in order to arrange for a volunteer driver. This service is provided and all that is asked in return is a good contribution from the committee putting on the event to the D.A.A.Y. center for the use of their van. If anyone from East Ferris is interested in becoming a volunteer driver, they must become a member of the D.A.A.Y center in order to add them to our insurance policy. Members pay an annual fee of \$6.00 to the board.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Angela at the above phone number.

Sincerely,
Angela Hurrell