

MUNICIPALITY OF TWEED

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

December 2012

Forward

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 requires the Council of every municipality to prepare each year an Accessibility Plan which addresses the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities in the municipality's by-laws, and in its policies, programs, practices and services.

The 2012 report describes the measures the Municipality has taken in the past year, and those proposed for the following year, to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services of the Municipality of Tweed.

Council Commitment

The Council of the Municipality of Tweed is committed to:

- i. the continual improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for people with disabilities;
- ii. the provision of quality services to all members of the community with disabilities.

The Council of the Municipality of Tweed has authorized the CAO/Clerk to prepare an accessibility plan which will enable Council to meet these commitments.

Aim

The aim of the Accessibility Plan is to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities in the Municipality's by-laws and in its policies, programs, practices and services. The plan describes the measures undertaken in the year 2012, and those proposed for the year 2013 to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who utilize the facilities and services of the Municipality of Tweed, including staff.

Objectives

The objectives of the 2012 Accessibility Plan are as follows:

- i. Review and describe the measures undertaken in the previous year to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- ii. List the facilities, policies, programs, practices and services the Municipality will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.

- iii. Describe the measures to be undertaken in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- iv. Describe how the Accessibility Plan will be made available to the public.

Description of Municipality

The Municipality of Tweed is an amalgamated municipality within the County of Hastings, comprised of the former Village of Tweed, Township of Hungerford and the Townships of Elzevir and Grimsthorpe. The Municipality of Tweed has a population of approximately 5,200 and total households of more than 2,900. Approximately 30% of the Municipality's population resides in the urban centre (Village of Tweed); the balance of the municipality consists of a large rural / farming area, five hamlets, and a large area of vacant land, both private and Crown owned.

The following municipal facilities are used by staff and members of the public:

- i. Municipal building including municipal offices and Council Chambers
- ii. Public library
- iii. Firehall
- iv. Arena;
- v. Park, including washroom facility and playground equipment
- vi. Outdoor swimming pool / changeroom facility
- vi. Four community halls, one in the Village of Tweed and one each in three hamlets
- vii. Four public works buildings
- viii. Waste disposal site and recycling depot.

Previous Initiatives

The following initiatives were undertaken by the Municipality of Tweed in 2012 to address and improve barriers to people with disabilities:

Location	Barrier Initiative	Type of Barrier Addressed
Municipal building	Instal signage on outside of building and designate one handicapped parking space in parking lot	Physical and Information/communication
Municipal website	Ongoing improvements and addition of information to provide easier access	Information and communication
Thomasburg Hall	Complete installation of wheelchair ramp	Physical

Municipal building	Budget allocation for two automatic doors and new wheelchair ramp for Council Chambers and extra office	Physical
Municipal building	Grant application for voice amplification system for Council Chambers	Hearing and Information/Communication
Staff	Staff training on new accessibility guidelines	Information

Barriers to be Addressed

The following initiatives are suggested for the upcoming year:

Municipal building	Instal two automatic doors and new wheelchair ramps at Council Chambers and extra office	Physical
Municipal Website	Continuation of website improvements to provide ongoing access to information	Information
Council Chambers	Voice amplification system to allow public to hear meetings	Hearing and Information / Communication

Council and staff should continue to review all municipal facilities and services on a regular basis for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing existing and potential barriers. A complete review and updated survey should be undertaken in 2013 to identify barriers and determine methods of addressing them. Additional effort should be made to obtain comments from members of the public.

The 2013 municipal budget should include provisions for addressing these barriers. Subsequent years should include a continuation of barrier identification and corresponding budget allocations.

Review of Process

The Accessibility Plan and process will be reviewed annually to allow Council, staff and the public to monitor the barriers identified and the direction in which the Municipality of Tweed is moving to remove all barriers in accordance with the requirements of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Communication of Accessibility Plan

The Municipality of Tweed Accessibility Plan will be made available on the municipal website and at the municipal office. Every effort will be made to make the plan available to persons with disabilities.