



TOWN OF INGERSOLL 2007-08 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

People with disabilities represent a significant and growing part of our population. According to Statistics Canada, about 1.9 million Ontarians have disabilities – about 16% of the population. It is estimated that 20% of the population will have disabilities in two decades.

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province. The ODA mandates that all municipalities prepare annual accessibility plans.

The Town of Ingersoll is committed to promoting a barrier-free municipality for employees, citizens and all who live, work, visit and invest in Ingersoll.

This report describes the measures that the Town of Ingersoll took to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities and recognizes past commitments to accessibility planning.

AIM

The aim of this report is to describe measures that the Town of Ingersoll will undertake during 2006-07 to identify, remove and prevent barriers to all

Ontarians, including staff, who utilize the facilities, services and programs provided by the Town of Ingersoll.

OBJECTIVES

This report describes:

- Monitoring the actions that the Town of Ingersoll has taken to remove barriers to persons with disabilities;
- The process for identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities;
- List the facilities, policies, programs, practices and services that the Corporation of the Town of Ingersoll will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities;
- Describe the ways that the Town of Ingersoll will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

Municipal Departments included under the scope of this plan are:

Clerk's Department

- **Technology Services Division**
- **Museum**
- **Paratransit System**
- **Parking**
- **General Administration**

Parks & Recreation Department

- **Arena**
- **Parks**
- **Victoria Park Community Centre**
- **Thames Centre**
- **Cami Suzuki House**

Treasury Department

- **Property Taxes**
- **Animal Control**

Building Service

- **Building Permits**
- **Facilities Manager**
- **Property Standards**

Engineering Service

- Design & Construction of Roads & Transportation
- Review of Subdivision Plans

Public Works

- Maintenance of Roads
- Waste Management Liaison

Fire Service

- Fire Protection
- Fire Safety
- Fire Inspection

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

Council approved the establishment of an Accessibility Advisory Committee on July 8, 2002 to review and monitor the Town's Accessibility Plan.

Voting Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

- Beverly Bean
- Janet Muller
- Rick Debackere
- Chris McLelland

Non Voting Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

- Elaine Clark, Clerk/Deputy Administrator and Recording Secretary
- Don Johnson, Chief Building Official & Resource

TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING

Town of Ingersoll is committed to accessibility planning and has appointed the Town of Ingersoll Accessibility Advisory Committee to review and monitor the Town's accessibility plan.

The following previous barrier removal initiatives and achievements include:

1. Paratransit system for visually and physically impaired since 1992

2. Core downtown sidewalks have curb cuts & majority of sidewalks within Town.
3. Winter Control on the all sidewalks within the Town.
4. Continuous investigation of parking standards
5. All municipally owned facilities are handicapped accessible
6. Recreational programs
7. Review of Fire Evacuation Plans
8. Review of Accessible parking
9. Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning By-law updated
10. Lift installed at Arena
11. Removal of snow at all downtown core intersections
12. Commencement of Accessible Website
13. Review of Municipal Facilities
14. Reconstruction of sidewalks along Thames St. S. from Canterbury to Bell St. – removal of interlocking brick and concrete stampings. – reconstruction of sidewalks with accessible markings at intersections
15. Relocation of Accessible Parking Space to provide greater access
16. VPCC – Wellington St. removal of rough sidewalk material
17. Museum & Washroom Facility – Sidewalks installed for easy access.

BARRIER IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

The Accessibility Advisory Committee holds regular monthly meetings to identify existing barriers to people with disabilities. The Committee undertook an audit of each municipal department inviting all Departments and staff to participate in the audit and make presentations and recommendations to the Accessibility Committee. The committee will review the audits and make recommendations to Council by identifying the barriers and the department responsible for implementing the amendments to the facilities or programs. In past, site audits, consultations with staff and consultation with community organization were utilized.

BARRIER REMOVAL INITIATIVES 2007-2008

BARRIER	STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION/REMOVAL	STATUS
Facility – 118 Mutual St.	Power assisted door & step impediment at rear door entrance	2008
Sidewalks – Downtown core area	Concrete barrier markings for visually impaired	Completed
Transportation	Traffic Lights for visually impaired	Signals to be equipped with system when replaced
Facility – Fire Station	Accessible work station	Completed
Telephone System Software for expanded services	Consideration to be given when new system is purchased/leased	Completed in 2007
Develop a policy for corporate construction of municipal facilities	Initiate the development of a policy	Completed – adopted County standards (City of London)
Museum – Harris St.	Sidewalks to all buildings Identification of handicapped space Closed-captioned video on cheese making	Completed 2007 Completed 2007 Completed 2007
Parks -	Sidewalk to Outdoor Washroom located on Harris St.	Completed 2007
130 Oxford St.	Elevator – Audio/Braille	2008
Parks -	Assessment of Equipment and accessibility	2008-9

BARRIER REMOVAL INITIATIVES IN 2004-06 STATUS REPORT

BARRIER	STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION/REMOVAL	STATUS
Communication plan – to educate the general public and staff	Following interviews of Department Heads and facilities, prepare a plan	On Hold
Municipal policy to accommodate employees with disabilities, including recruitment, funding policy for technical aids	Initiate the development of a policy	CAO to develop

Museum – Harris St.	Repair to existing ramp Wheelchair to be provided Audio Tours Inadequate working space	Long Term Capital Long Term Capital Long Term Capital Long Term Capital
Fire – 110 Mutual St.	Power-assisted/automatic door Widened curb cut	2007 Long Term Capital
Town Centre – Oxford St.	Braille Sign Board Braille in Elevator	2008 Operating Outstanding Issue
Arena – Mutual St.	Braille sign Board Braille in Elevator	2008 Operating Outstanding Issue

Due to circumstances beyond the municipality's control, the inventory of the parks and recreation and hard services as it pertains to accessibility was temporarily suspended. During the summer of 2008, the Town intends to undertake an inventory of the parks and hard services as it pertains to accessibility.

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN REVIEW AND MONITORING PROCESS

The Town of Ingersoll Accessibility Advisory Committee meets on a regular basis to review and monitor the progress of the plan with an annual review being completed by June of each year.

COMMUNICIATION OF THE PLAN

Copies of the Accessibility Plan for the Corporation of the Town of Ingersoll will be available at the Town Centre, 2nd Floor, 130 Oxford St. Ingersoll, On as well as posted on the Town's website, at www.ingersoll.ca. The Plan will be available in alternate formats upon request.

CONCLUSION

The Town of Ingersoll is committed to continuously addressing past and current accessibility barriers to allow people with disabilities to fully participate in our communities and gratefully acknowledges the assistance and guidance provided by the Accessibility Committee members.