

**CORPORATION
of the
TOWN OF TECUMSEH**



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

2010

Approved by:

Accessibility Advisory Committee

March 31, 2010

Adopted by:

Tecumseh Town Council

June 22, 2010

Submitted by:

Michael Voegeli, Area Manager Building Services

Town of Tecumseh Accessibility Plan

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

TOWN OF TECUMSEH ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PREAMBLE

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) and The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 (AODA) 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.

Town of Tecumseh Council has authorized the Area Manager, Building Services to prepare this report. The aim of this report is to describe the measures that the Town of Tecumseh took during 2003 through to 2009 and will take in 2010, to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities, including staff who use the Town's facilities, services and programs.

The report also recognizes the Town Council's past commitments to accessibility planning by identifying previous barrier removal initiatives that are currently in place.

MANDATE

The primary purpose of the Town of Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee shall be to consult with and provide advice to Council on the annual municipal accessibility plan for the Corporation. The Accessibility Advisory Committee will also be responsible to review and advise Council on accessibility issues including:

- ❖ Site plans of new and existing municipal buildings where approval is required by the Town of Tecumseh (as described in section 4.2 of the Planning Act):
- ❖ Significant renovations of structures designated for municipal use by the Town of Tecumseh.
- ❖ Goods and services provided by the Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh or agents providing services under contract with the Corporation as defined under the new Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 (OADA).

OBJECTIVES

This report:

1. Describes the process by which the Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh identifies, removes and prevents barriers to people with disabilities.
2. Identifies previous initiatives that the Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh has undertaken to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
3. Lists the facilities, policies, programs, practices and services that the Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describes the measures the Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh will take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.

5. Describes the ways that the Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN OF TECUMSEH

The Town of Tecumseh is an amalgamated Municipality created from the former municipalities of the Village of St. Clair Beach, the Township of Sandwich South and the Town of Tecumseh.

The amalgamated town is strongly characterized by its spirit and volunteerism. Tecumseh's low municipal taxes, small town appeal, its proximity to the City of Windsor, the waterfront and two major transportation routes make it one of the more popular municipalities in the county, with a population of approximately 24,500.

Within the Town of Tecumseh is the Hamlet of Oldcastle which is one of the area's largest industrial parks. It houses many tool and mold shops which service the auto industry.

Agricultural is also a very important industry in the new Town of Tecumseh as a majority of its 12,000 hectares is used for corn, wheat and soybeans.

Recreational facilities offered to community residents include baseball, softball, soccer, 3 golf courses, hockey, tennis, swimming, sailing clubs, private marinas and recently a mobile skateboard park. A new addition in 2004 was the installation of a "Boundless Playground" in the Town's largest park, Lacasse Park, funded by the Town of Tecumseh, the Rotary Club of Windsor-St. Clair and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This new playground equipment is available to all children regardless of ability or disability.

In 2009, The Town of Tecumseh and ERCA have partnered along with the Province, to construct a new wheelchair accessible trail at McAuliffe Park. This 860 metre trail has been paved to allow full access to a beautiful woodland lot, Tecumseh's only conservation area.

The annual Tecumseh Corn Festival is held at Lacasse Park in late August and features a large parade, festival tents, outdoor stage shows, live bands, a carnival midway, food vendors, arts and crafts.

The Town's mission statement is "maintaining our traditions of dynamic growth and leadership while managing efficient and effective delivery of services for sustainable prosperity. +A community proud of the past, confident in the future".

DISABILITY: THE AODA DEFINITION

The AODA draws on the broad definition for disability that appears in the Ontario Human Rights Code. "Disability" is:

- (a) any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device,
- (b) a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability,
- (c) a learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language,
- (d) a mental disorder, or
- (e) an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997; ("handicap")

THE TOWN OF TECUMSEH ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The first Town of Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee (TACC) was appointed by Town Council on October 8th, 2002 for a one year period. Council has approved the term of office to be three (3) years effective in 2003-2006 and four (4) years effective

April 10, 2007 and ending December 1, 2010. The term of the Committee shall coincide with the term of Council.

The Committee shall meet quarterly at the Town of Tecumseh municipal offices. Administrative support to the Committee including the recording of minutes, staff support with meeting preparation, support necessary to convening an accessible meeting and other required supports shall be provided by the Building Services and Corporate Services Departments.

Agendas shall be distributed to Committee members in advance of the scheduled meeting date and shall be provided in an alternative format, upon request.

Committee members are not compensated for meetings attended.

The current Committee consists of the following members for the term expiring on December 1st, 2010.

Gary McNamara	Member and Mayor of town council
Joie Reyner	Member and Member of town council
Marcel Blais	Member and Member of town council
Linda Stanczak	Community member
Ron Doherty	Community member
Ken Lemire	Community member
Mary Ann Askin	Community member
Bob Ramsay	Community member
Peter Smith	Community member
Carole Tomajko	Community member
Linda Brownlee	Community member
Rina Guarascio	Tecumseh BIA
Eleanor Tillson	Recording secretary and Building Services Secretary
Michael Voegeli	Technical support and Area Manager, Building Services

The role of the Committee is to advise Council in each year about the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of the Town's Accessibility Plan.

The Committee also serves as the accessibility working group which was used to identify barriers to people with disabilities and make recommendations to Council.

TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING

Town of Tecumseh Council is committed to accessibility planning and has appointed the Town of Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee to review and monitor the Town's accessibility plan. This will enable the Council to meet that commitment.

The following previous barrier removal initiatives, show Town Council's past commitments to accessibility planning:

1. The Tecumseh Arena Community Centre, built in 1997 with full wheelchair accessibility
2. The Essex County Cada Library Complex, renovated in 2001 with full wheelchair accessibility
3. The Tecumseh Leisure Pool, built in 2002 with full wheelchair accessibility
4. The Town of Tecumseh Fire and Rescue Station No. 1, built in 2002 with full wheelchair accessibility
5. The Town of Tecumseh Municipal Complex, renovated in 2003 with full wheelchair accessibility.
6. Golden Age Club – 2004 with full wheelchair accessibility.
7. Town of Tecumseh Municipal Offices – renovation in January 2006 with full wheelchair accessibility.

BARRIER IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

The Council of the Town of Tecumseh is committed to:

- the continual improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for all those with disabilities.
- The provision of quality services to all members of our community with disabilities.

The Town of Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee held regular meetings to identify existing barriers to people with disabilities. Various representatives from Town Departments were invited to make presentations, reports and recommendations to the Committee. The Committee itemized these barriers, identified the appropriate department required for implementation and incorporated them in the Committee's minutes, which were sent to Town Council for adoption.

The Accessibility Plan, agendas and minutes of TAAC meetings are posted on the Town's website.

BARRIER REMOVAL INITIATIVES

The Town of Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee has identified the following barriers, all of which have been recommended to Town Council for implementation:

Barrier	Strategy for removal/prevention	Status
Snow removal from public sidewalks	Discussion with BIA Town By-law in place	Enforcement within 2 days of reporting
Sensitivity Training Workshop	Town Hall Personnel	Completed
Barrier Free Ramp Town Hall Front and power doors	Referred to Building Services	Completed
Private handicap parking space enforcement	Referred to Clerk By-law in place	Completed
Overhead Crosswalk on Tecumseh Road	Referred to Public Works	Denied

Tecumseh & Shawnee by St. Cecile School; bushes blocking traffic view	Referred to Public Works	Completed
Sidewalk curb cuts	Referred to Public Works	Completed
Tecumseh. & Southfield – curb cuts	Referred to Public Works	Completed
White line on St. Jacques off Lesperance to be repainted	Referred to Public Works	Completed
Uneven sidewalk on St. Dennis	Referred to Public Works	Completed
No signage to direct disabled persons to police station parking lot	Referred to Public Works	Completed
Improvement on snow removal on municipal parking lots	Referred to Public Works	Completed
Railroad tracks on Manning not accessible	Referred to County	Completed
Proper signage and painting of handicap parking spaces at Municipal Office	Referred to Public Works	Completed
Arena – replace taps in buildings	Referred to Rec. Director	Completed
Arena – improve access in washrooms	Referred to Rec. Director	Completed
Arena – better signage for direction for wheelchairs – more seating	Referred to Rec. Director	Completed
Arena – more parking spaces	Referred to Rec. Director	Completed
Arena – improvement in parking space size	Referred to Rec. Director	Completed
Pool – relocate handicap parking	Referred to Rec. Director	Completed
Accessible Website	Referred to Information Services Director	Completed
Golden Age Club – Barrier Free Doors	Referred to Rec. Director	Completed
Park access posts	Referred to Parks Director	Completed
Installation of wheelchair access at Gouin St. to Rocheleau Park	Referred to Public Works	Not feasible now – deferred to later date
Replacement of accessible swing in Rocheleau Park	Referred to Parks Director	Completed
Boundless Playground construction in Lacasse Park	Town to partnership with Rotary Club	Completed
Accessible gate to McAuliffe Park from St. Peter School	Referred to Parks Director	Completed
Removal of posts from walkway on Papineau Ct. to Gauthier Drive	Referred to Public Works	Completed

Cut curb on Papineau Ct.	Referred to Public Works	Completed
Reader informer on internet for the blind	Referred to Information Systems Department	Pending
Installation of auditory traffic lights	Referred to Public Works	Pending consult with CNIB
Replacement of interlocking brick on municipal property	Referred to Public Works	Completed
Uneven grade at Gouin & Hebert – possible hazard	Referred to Public Works	Completed
3 Year Term for committee members	Referred to Council & Approved by by-law	Completed
Identification of well travelled sidewalks by committee members	Referred to Rec. Director	Completed
Installation of sign posts in all handicap parking spots on municipal property	Referred to Public Works	Completed
Property tax discount for barrier free design availability	Advertised in Bldg. Dept. and in town newsletter	Completed
Turf grade too low at Rochleau Park; manhole cover too high	Referred to Parks and Water Depts.	Completed
Sidewalk incomplete on Lesperance Rd. near Expressway	Scheduled for completion 2005	Completed
Presentation at BIA meeting to private sector businesses for snow removal, handicap parking enforcement, improved accessibility	Scheduled for Oct. 13/04	Completed
Appointment of BIA member to TAAC	Referred to Council	Completed
Barrier Free ramp requested to replace steps at Arena entrance	Director of Building Services	Completed
Walkway posts at St. Thomas & Gauthier too narrow for wheelchairs	Referred to Public Works	Completed
Barrier-free ramp requested to replace steps at Arena entrance	Director of Building Services to review	Completed
Recruitment of new TAAC member with low vision	Dr. Anna Juricic to assist Advertising in Town newsletter	Dr. Juricic (optometrist) attended meeting 5/03/05
Walkway posts at St. Thomas & Gauthier should be widened for wheelchairs	Referred to Public Works – will move posts in spring of 2005	Completed

Handicap parking spots	Referred to Planning Dept. for enforceability in future developments Referred to Clerk for review of legislation	Planning Mtg of 5/03/05 – agreed to incorporate handicap parking registration in future development agreements
Appoint Linda Brownlee to replace Ann Laramie on Committee	Recommendation to go to Council – Sept/2005	Approved 9/27/05
3 rd Annual County Workshop held in Essex	Request sent to Council for approval – Sept 14/05	Approved 9/27/05
2005-2006 Accessibility Plan	Request sent to Council for approval; Sept 14/05	Approved 9/27/05
Snow removal program for base of driveways and municipal sidewalks	Request for Council to review feasibility of implementing a program	Under investigation
Post Office on Tecumseh Road providing full service & accessibility to residents.	Committee to write letter of commendation	Letter sent in November 2005 - pending
Request by L'Essor High School to implement Snow Angels Pilot Project & kits be purchased to aid in operation of program	Deferred to Council Policies & Priority Mtg. of Jan. 25/06	Budgeted \$1,000 to assist L'Essor High School with Volunteer Snow Angels Program operating in 2006-2007
Wheelchair spots with companion seating at arena near main doors & closer to general public – Required for Rinks A & B	Arena Manager to visit Windsor Arena for a model & to procure costs and time frames	Installed April/06 – 3 companion seats with the wheelchair spaces in both Rinks A & B
Letter sent to Essex County	Expressed our views on more focus on solving barriers by municipalities	Received response in County letter soliciting input for future workshops
Post Office on Tecumseh Road lacks power doors to allow access to full service facility	Letter sent to Canada Post Corp. and local MPP Dwight Duncan requesting power doors	Pending
Accessible Parking Permits Program – “Traveller Permits” good only at airports – TAAC would like to see extension to VIA Rail	Letter sent to MTO @ c.c. to MPP Dwight Duncan to expand program	Pending
Power doors installed in front entrance at Home Hardware	Letter of commendation and thanks sent	Completed
Broken walkway between Lacasse Blvd. & A. V. Graham School	Referred to Pub. Works for investigation & repair	Responsibility of School Board

Request to Separate School Board for improvements to accesses to St. Pius School from Lacasse Park	Dir. Of Environmental Services to investigate with other municipalities for access sizes, etc.	Recommendation for Council to write letter to School Board
Walkways requiring repairs in 2007	TAAC members requested to compile list	Completed
Snow removal between sidewalks and roads	Public Works to respond	Too costly and difficult to implement
Snow Angels Program	L'Essor to report success - end of season	Deferred to 2009
Small Business Report	Discussion at 1 st 2007 meeting	Deferred to 2009
New Committee appointed by by-law	First meeting held on Oct. 2/07	Term runs from A04/10/07 to 12/10-/07
5 th Annual County sponsored One-Day Workshop	Council approved sending two members	Completed
Reminder to residents to not park in handicap parking spots	Publication in next Town Newsletter	Completed
Signage in Arena lobby to be placed at eye level for directions to wheelchair & companion seating	To be presented to Arena Manager to explore	Completed
Railroad tracks at Lesperance Rd. needs repair	Referred to Public Works	Completed
Traffic light at Green Valley & Tecumseh Rd. not accessible to wheelchair users	Parks Dept. cemented area to access light button	Completed
Non-navigable sidewalk in front of construction at Tecumseh & Southfield Rds.	Public Works to be notified	TD Canada Trust construction completed, problem resolved
Curb in front of Southfield Tim Hortons inaccessible to wheelchairs	Public Works notified	Curb cut - Completed
Pathway at Michael Dr. walkway to Lacasse Park requires repair	Public Works notified	Completed
Dirt pathway around Town's largest park (Lacasse Park) replaced with asphalt for better wheelchair access	Parks Dept.	Completed
Curb cut requested at Carling Park to allow for wheelchair access to the ball diamond	Parks Dept.	Pending decision on location
Large pot hole at St. Anne & Tecumseh Road	Public Works to be advised	Completed
Crosswalk at the south-east corner of Lesperance & #22 By-pass does not line up with the curb cut	To be corrected by town by end of November/08	Completed on October 30, 2008
6 th Annual County sponsored One-Day Workshop	Council approved sending two members	Two Members attended on October 23, 2008

Tecumseh Museum accessibility	Referred to Chief Building Official & grant applied for (denied)	Future construction
Presentation made on reconstruction of Manning Rd. and the Waterfront Park	Town Engineer and Dillon Consultants	Committee satisfied with accessibility features
New member Bob Ramsay appointed to Committee	Council approval given on June 23, 2009	Completed
Relocation of Dog Park to Town Hall area	Park to be barrier free	Draft plan to be made available to Committee
7 ⁿ Annual County sponsored One-Day Workshop	Council approved sending delegates	One member attended on October 8, 2009
Six approaches at Dresden and Arlington Rds. Replaced providing wheelchair accessibility	Public Works	Completed
Handicap parking signs and improved snow plowing in parking lot requested at Windsor-Essex Cty. Housing Corp. housing on Arbour.	Site visit with Deputy Mayor.	Referral to County Council responsible for snow removal
Draft copy of Arbour/Shawnee Rd. project presented to Committee	Town Director of Environmental Services	Alternate 2 proposal recommended

BARRIERS TO BE ADDRESSED IN 2010

The Town of Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee will review the following in 2010:

Barrier	Objective	Criteria and means for removal/prevention	Resources and/or Responsibility
Enforcement of handicap parking	Ticket offenders at private businesses	Businesses to register on By-law Schedule	Business Improvement Association (BIA) Ontario Provincial Police
No wheelchair ramp at Tecumseh Museum	Provide wheelchair access to a public building	Arrange for installation of wheelchair ramp	Building Department
Snow covered sidewalks	Provide snow free sidewalks for seniors and physically disabled residents	Expand use of sidewalk snow removal machinery	Public Works Department

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA 2005) purpose is to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities by January 1, 2025. Several standards are being developed in 5 key areas:

1. Customer Service (Accessibility standards in effect January 1, 2010)
2. Transportation
3. Information and Communication
4. Built Environment
5. Employment

2010 will see the Town of Tecumseh focusing on the creation, implementation and enforcement of these new standards. The Town will ensure compliance with the new legislation that came into force on January 1, 2008 to be completed by January 1, 2010. Municipal Staff have received training in customer service. A new transit system will be in place in 2010 providing accessible ridership for all residents.

In addition to the above, the Committee will review all existing by-laws, programs, practices, policies and services provided by the Town to determine their effect on the accessibility for persons with disabilities; and the methods the Town currently has in place to remove existing barriers.

REVIEW and MONITORING of the PROCESS

The Town of Tecumseh Accessibility Advisory Committee will meet on a regular basis to review and monitor the progress of the plan. The Committee will then report to Town Council on the plan's status and make any necessary recommendations to ensure that the plan is implemented.

COMMUNICATION OF THE PLAN

Copies of the Accessibility Plan for the Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh will be available at the Town of Tecumseh Municipal Complex, 917 Lesperance Road, Tecumseh, Ontario and will also be posted on the Town's website, at www.tecumseh.ca. The plan will be available in alternate formats upon request.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

In addition to Tecumseh's accomplishments since the inception of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, many in-roads have been made to encourage the private sector to become more accessible. Schools have now registered handicap parking spots for by-law enforcement and the local BIA is involved with urging its business members to register as well.

Town staff has completed a Sensitivity Training Awareness Program to better serve the disabled sector of our community. In addition, Customer Service Training has been provided to all Town staff.

A Boundless Playground, spearheaded and financed by the Rotary Club, has been constructed at one of the Town's largest parks. This has been a huge success for the integration of all children into our playgrounds.

The Town has assisted in the establishment of a Snow Angels program at a local high school to provide sidewalk snow removal for seniors and/or disabled persons.

The presence of Ontario Provincial Police monitoring and enforcing handicap parking has greatly reduced the number of offenders. All public facilities and most private businesses in the Town have handicap parking spots.

Transportation services will be provided with the new transit system expected to be up and running in 2010 which will be fully accessible.

The Town's website is currently accessible (evaluation satisfactory through AChecker) and the process of updating information is ongoing with our IT Department.