



Photograph © Jonathan van Bilsen

2010 Accessibility Plan

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Mayor's Message

Marilyn Pearce, Mayor, Township of Scugog



The Annual Accessibility Plan is developed in accordance with the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (ODA) and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act of 2005* (AODA) to highlight the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities in the Township of Scugog.

Ontarians with disabilities experience many kinds of restrictions including barriers to customer service, information and communication, physical environment, employment and transportation. Approximately one in seven Ontarians have a disability and as the population ages this number will increase.

The Township of Scugog is committed to taking the necessary steps to increase its accessibility for persons with disabilities. The Township has made some exciting advancements in accessibility and will continue to identify, remove and prevent barriers for persons with disabilities. The Township of Scugog is committed to being fully accessible to persons with disabilities, in accordance with the AODA, by 2025.

Message from the Chairperson

Edie Forsyth, Scugog Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Scugog Accessibility Advisory Committee shares the Government's vision of making Ontario accessible by the year 2025. This vision can be made possible with municipalities like ours taking the initiative to remove barriers and making accessibility happen.

Our passionate volunteer committee has worked hard and accomplished much over the years. We continue to create awareness around the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act as we follow and implement the five standards:

Accessible Customer Service Standard,
Information & Communication Standard, Employment Standard,
Built Environment Standard, and Transportation Standard

The Scugog Accessibility Advisory Committee has become a valuable resource of knowledge and expertise. We are proud of our 2009 Accomplishments and look forward to working towards our 2010 SAAC Workplan.

We are fortunate to have the support and commitment from the Township of Scugog's Mayor, staff and Council, enabling us to create an accessible community. As Chair of the Scugog AAC, I personally thank our committee members, council representative and staff for their hard work and commitment.

TOWNSHIP OF SCUGOG.....Goal and Mandate

The Township of Scugog is currently in the process of accessibility planning and our commitment and goal is:

TO BE A BARRIER FREE MUNICIPAL SERVICE PROVIDER

And our Mandate is:

**TO IDENTIFY, REMOVE AND PREVENT BARRIERS TO
MUNICIPAL
SERVICES AND FACILITIES WITHIN REASONABLE TIME
FRAMES.**

SAAC'S VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

THE SCUGOG ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S

VISION

**SCUGOG TOWNSHIP WILL COMMIT TO BE A
WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
BY EMBRACING ACCESSIBILITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL**

MISSION

**THE SCUGOG ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL
WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY TO IDENTIFY
AND ELIMINATE BARRIERS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.**



Scugog Accessibility Advisory Committee

Chairperson	Ms. Edie Forsyth
Council Liaison	Councillor Cecil Lamrock
Members	Mr. Dan Brown Ms. Diana Fletcher Ms. Samantha Hillis Mrs. Fiona Hunter Mr. Chris McLean Ms. Kathy Payne-Mercer Mr. Clem Scanes Ms. Erika van Harten Ms. Lindsey Young
Committee Coordinator	Mrs. Sandra Frey

The Scugog Accessibility Advisory Committee consists of residents from the Township of Scugog and each member has been appointed by Council for a 4 year term, to act in offering guidance and advice to Council and Township Staff in the development of the Annual Scugog Accessibility Plan. Many hours of service are required in the establishment of the Scugog Accessibility Plan and the Community is very fortunate to have such dedicated individuals come forward to volunteer their time and efforts to ensure

Accessibility for All

Legislation

Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA)

People with disabilities have experienced unfairness and inequality in many aspects of their lives. In order to address this injustice within communities, the Ontario Human Rights Code has defined disability and outlines that we cannot discriminate based on a disability. From this, in 2001 the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA)* was proclaimed and uses this same definition of disability.

The purpose of the ODS is to help organizations identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities. As a public sector organization, the Township of Scugog, by law, has been required to develop Accessibility Plans taking into account various disabilities in all aspects of the Township's operations, including by-laws, practices, facilities, programs and services.

This legislation required that an Accessibility Advisory Committee be formed. The Township of Scugog's AAC has a majority of members with disabilities along with representatives from the community in the disabilities sector. Staff representatives actively support the committee with the lead being from the CAO's office.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)

Building on the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001*, requirements, the AODA will help ensure full accessibility for people with various disabilities. This legislation differs from the ODA in that accessibility standards will be enforced with specific timeframes for implementation. By law, compliance reports will be completed to outline that the necessary requirements are being implanted. The definition of disability under the Act also follows that of the Human Rights legislation. Until AODA is fully enacted, the ODA will also remain in effect.

Accessibility Standards

In order to achieve full accessibility for people with disabilities there have been five standards established under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)*. Standards were developed by provincial committees that involved over 50% of people with disabilities as well as professionals in the particular service sector or industry relating to the standard. Each of the standards will help address barriers for people with various disabilities and have specific timeframes to comply.

Customer Service Standard

The Customer Service Standard is the first of the five standards to become law. It pertains to the way in which we provide our goods and service to the public. This law came into effect in January 2008 with a compliance deadline of January, 2010 for the municipal sector. The Township is well underway in its compliance requirements having made many achievements thus far. A full compliance report will be completed upon implementation of the Customer Service Standard in 2010.

Information and Communications Standard

The proposed Information and Communication standard involves the removal of barriers to information and communications for people with disabilities. There are many kinds of limitations for people with disabilities such as visual, mobility, hearing, and understanding. Depending on the context in which information and communication is provided, the barriers can vary greatly.

Barriers can occur in providing, sending or receiving knowledge, data or facts. The standard defines communication as the process and information as the content. As a public organization, the implementation of this standard will be comprehensive. The

Township of Scugog has provided reports on the proposed requirements during the public feedback period. To date, the final proposed standard has now been submitted to the Minister of Community and Social Services for consideration as law.

Transportation Standard

The Transportation standard proposes accessibility requirements in areas such as stop announcements, retrofitting vehicles, specialized transit, eligibility, service delays and visitor service. In addition to these obligations, under this proposed standard the establishment and implementation of accessibility training policies and procedures will be required.

The final proposed standard has now been submitted to the Minister of Community and Social Services for consideration. There is no public review period set for this proposed standard, leaving final revisions to the government before being enacted into law.

Employment Standard

The purpose of the proposed Employment standard is to ensure dignity and respect for employees with disabilities throughout the employment life cycle. Accessible employment policies and procedures will allow for a culture of inclusion in the workplace for people of all abilities. Identification, removal and prevention of workplace barriers will allow the necessary accommodation for persons with disabilities.

During the public review period, the Township of Scugog provided its comments by way of a report. The Standards Committee has just submitted the proposed standard to the Minister of Community and Social Services to be considered.

Built Environment Standard

The proposed Built Environment standard is the last of the five AODA accessibility standards to be considered. The requirements of the standard include accessibility in areas of buildings, site development, public ways along with parks and trails. Accessibility in these areas will allow for greater independence for people with disabilities.

The proposed Built Environment standard was recently sent out to the public for review with a deadline for feedback of October 16, 2009. The Township's report has been completed which provided an overview analysis and implications of the proposed standard for the Township of Scugog.

2009 Accomplishments

Department	Accomplishment
Corporate Services – Clerk's	Made provisions to provide Accessible Customer Service Training for staff and volunteers.
	Provided comments to the province relating to proposed AODA Information & Communication Standard and the Built Environment Standard.
	In conjunction with the staff working group, developed Accessible Customer Service Policy and Standard Operating Procedures.
Library	Provided Accessible Customer Service Training for staff and volunteers.
	Developed Accessible Customer Service Policy and Standard Operating Procedures in accordance with Township Policy & Procedures.
Fire Department	All employees received Accessible Customer Service Training
	Maintained database of Scugog residents with special needs in the event of a fire or other emergency
Parks and Facilities	\$50,000 Enabling Accessibility Grant to install new digital visual accessible sign, new sliding doors for full accessibility to the centre and relocated older mechanics to Heritage Centre entrance
	Fully accessible Heritage Centre – washrooms, ramps, counter height, colours
	Grass ramp at Museum Village Barn improved for accessibility
	New accessible playground and splash pad at waterfront
	Automatic accessible entry to Blackstock Arena; two disabled parking spots enhanced with signage
	New parking lot at Heritage Centre including 2 additional accessible parking spots
Planning and Public Works	Constructed 280m of new sidewalk on Old Simcoe Road between Chimney Hill Way and Reach Street
	Installed “bump outs” at Queen Street and John Street, Queen Street and Perry Street and Queen Street and Water Street to reduce pedestrian walking distances

	Removed 900m ² of old sidewalk and installed 1,350m ² of new sidewalk on John Street in conjunction with road reconstruction project
	Installed/replaced 730 m ² on Water Street in conjunction with road reconstruction project
	Replaced 760m ² of sidewalk in various locations
	Replaced approximately 75 street name signs with larger font versions
	Completed 3 site plan reviews with sub-committee

2010 Initiatives

Department	Brief Description of Initiative
Corporate Services – Clerk's	Lease of an Image Cast ballot marking device for the 2010 Municipal Election so that persons with disabilities can cast their ballots independently
	Expand contents of accessibility web page
	Oversee development and implementation of new AODA Standards and staff working group to make recommendation on the development of policies, procedures and practices.
Corporate Services – Finance	Improve the corporate website to ensure that it is W3C (world wide web consortium) compliant.
Parks & Facilities	Promote the trail system, parks, waterfront pathways and boardwalks through the new Trails brochure
	Carry out pre-audit of facilities to meet built environment standards in conjunction with SAAC
	Nestleton Community Hall renovations to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy access entry (elimination of steps) • Barrier-free access to washrooms and showers • New washroom facilities with access from exterior • Accessible width doorways and hallways
Library	A number of accessibility designs have been incorporated in the expansion/renovation plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of automatic door openers at main entrance, accessible washroom and exit to reading terrace • Accessible/family washroom • Adult size change table in accessible/family washroom • Circulation desk with adjustable counter • Ramp access from north parking area to entrance and from walkway to reading terrace • Accessible computer workstation/desk • Accessible computer terminal with large screen monitor and accessibility software • Signage enhancements

Fire Department	Continue to maintain database of residents with special needs in the event of a fire or other emergency; aim to increase database by 10%
	Ensure new volunteer firefighters receive Accessible Customer Service Training
	Inspecting and preplanning major occupancies
	Ensuring response times meet acceptable standards; per resource list
	Reviewing and maintaining municipal Emergency Plan
Public Works	Continue sidewalk repair (wider and more accessible sidewalks); improve on Old Simcoe Road in Prince Albert; continue to reduce trip ledges occurrences. Continue with winter maintenance programs
	Continue to seek input from Scugog Accessibility Advisory Committee on sidewalk and road reconstruction projects
	Implement built environment standard provisions of <i>Accessibility of Ontarians Disability Act</i>
Planning and Building	Implement built environment standard provisions of <i>Accessibility of Ontarians Disability Act</i>
	Continue to seek input from Scugog Accessibility Advisory Committee on site plan applications
	Complete waterfront trail, Queen Street public square and boardwalk replacement components of the Port Perry Downtown Revitalization Project



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