



Town of Arnprior 2009-2010 Accessibility Plan

Introduction

The Ontarians with Disability Act requires that Municipalities prepare an accessibility plan annually and consult with persons with disabilities or seek advice from the Accessibility Advisory Committee that it establishes. The accessibility plan shall address the identification, prevention and removal of barriers to persons with disabilities in the municipality's by-laws and its policies, programs, practices and services.

As required under the Ontarians with Disability Act, the Town of Arnprior 2009-2010 Accessibility Plan includes the following:

- a) a report on the measures the municipality has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities;
- b) the measures in place to ensure that the municipality assesses its proposals for by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services to determine their effect on accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- c) a list of the by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services that the municipality will review in the coming year in order to identify barriers to persons with disabilities;
- d) the measures that the municipality intends to take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities; and
- e) all other information that the regulations prescribe for the purpose of the plan.

Council Commitment to Accessibility Planning

Council is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities share the same rights, freedoms and obligations so that they may live as independently as possible and be able to participate in all that the Town of Arnprior has to offer.

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior is committed to the continuous improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for all those with disabilities. As such, in April 2005, Council established an Accessibility Advisory Committee under By-Law No. 5328-05.

Town of Arnprior Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

The following are the current members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee:

David Furgosh –David has lived in Arnprior since 2003 and is legally blind. He is a computer programmer/analyst and worked with a number of high tech firms until recently. David is a sports and outdoor enthusiast. He is involved in the Arnprior Lions Club and serves as a director of the Choroideremia Research Foundation. As a visually impaired person, David brings to the Disability Advisory Committee the perspective of vision loss.

Robert A. Parsons - Bob has lived in Arnprior for nearly 30 years and played in the Old Timers Hockey League until he was diagnosed with Parkinsons and though unable to play served on the executive for another 10 years. He and his wife started a support group for those with Parkinson's several years ago. He keeps active with membership in the Arnprior Community Policing and served two years with the Police Services Board. With his disability he feels that he can be helpful in solving the problems of accessibility in the town of Arnprior.

Tammy Bartel – Tammy is a resident of Arnprior and has been employed by L’Arche Arnprior for the past 14 years. L’Arche creates homes for people with developmental disabilities. Currently Tammy is the Vice Regional Coordinator of L’Arche for the Province of Ontario. Tammy has a son with a neuromuscular disease and she has a keen interest in continuing to break down the physical and attitudinal barriers that people with disabilities face.

Ruth Ann McKie – Ruth Ann, her husband Robert and son Ryan, reside in the Township of McNab/Braeside. She has been a resident of both Arnprior and McNab/Braeside for over forty years. This Accessibility Advisory Committee is of particular interest to Ruth Ann as she is an Educational Assistant supporting children with special needs within the school system. She looks forward to working with others to make Arnprior as accessible as possible.

Sandy Shean – Sandy lives in the Township of McNab/Braeside and is employed by the Community Living Renfrew County South as a support worker for persons with developmental disabilities. She has done volunteer work with the Special Olympics. Sandy wants to become involved because of her work with people with disabilities. She believes there is a need to represent the children within our communities.

Councillor Nancy Black - Town of Arnprior Council Representative.

Demographics

The Town of Arnprior is a Municipal Corporation headed by an elected Council consisting of a Mayor, a Reeve and five Councillors at large. With a population of 7,158 residents and 3335 households, Arnprior is located in the Upper Ottawa Valley in the County of Renfrew.

The Town of Arnprior’s population for five census years between 1986 and 2006 indicate that its population is maturing, with the number of persons in the 65+ age group steadily increasing, while the percentage of persons in the 20 to 64 age group has remained fairly constant.

Municipal Public Facilities

The Town owns several significant Municipal Public Buildings / Structures:

- Arnprior Museum – 35 Madawaska Street
- Arnprior Library and Archives – 21 Madawaska Street
- Henry A. Murdoch Building (Town Hall) – 105 Elgin Street West
- Stanley Tourangeau Fire/Police Services Building – 67 Meehan Street
- Nick Smith Centre (Civic Centre) – 77 James Street
- Canteen/Life Guard Building/Washroom/Gazebo – Robert Simpson Park, John St.

In addition to the above-noted Public Facilities, the Town owns several Recreation Parks and Open Spaces, including several maintained Walking Trails.

Annual Compliance Report

In order to provide an adequate annual compliance report, municipal staff in consultation with the AAC conducts a full revision of the Accessibility Plan at least on a yearly basis. The annual revision of the plan is an important step in recognizing the needs of persons with disabilities, recognizing the progress that has been made, and ensuring that the proper planning is in place to address the identified barriers.

BARRIERS IDENTIFIED IN 2009

Henry A. Murdoch Building (Town Hall)

BARRIER	TYPE	STRATEGY FOR REMOVAL
No Disabled Parking	Physical	Review Parking By-Law
No contrasting colour strips on doors and/or stairs	Physical	Affix contrasting colour strips accordingly.
Front entrance door not wide enough – no automatic door opener – lip in front of door	Physical	Consider changing the door and installing an automatic door opener as well as minimizing the lip in front of the door.
Building not accessible – no accessible washroom	Physical	Consider implementing the required modification in the reception area.
No means of communication with the receptionist to request some assistance	Communication	Install an intercom system should budget restraints hold back the implementation of necessary modifications in reception area.
Council Chamber not accessible	Physical	Eventually relocate all Council meetings at the Fire Hall.

Stanley Tourangeau Fire/Police Services Building

BARRIER	TYPE	STRATEGY FOR REMOVAL
No contrasting colour strips on doors handles.	Physical	Affix contrasting colour strips accordingly.
No automatic door opener on washroom door.	Physical	Consider installing an automatic door opener on washroom door.
Lip in front of entrance door.	Physical	Minimize the lip in front of the door.

Library / Archives

BARRIER	TYPE	STRATEGY FOR REMOVAL
No contrasting colour strips on doors handles.	Physical	Affix contrasting colour strips accordingly.
No automatic door opener for meeting room and washroom.	Physical	Consider installing automatic door openers for meeting room and washroom.
No text-to-speech programs on computers	Information	Purchase and install text-to-speech programs on at least one computer.
Archives (basement floor) not accessible	Physical	Install an elevator and accessible washroom in basement.
No flashing/audible emergency exits	Information	Replace signs accordingly

Nick Smith Centre

BARRIER	TYPE	STRATEGY FOR REMOVAL
Disabled Parking – not enough	Physical	Review Parking By-Law
Water fountain not accessible with wheelchair	Physical	Move vending machines
Signs on washroom doors are too small	Information	Purchase and install larger signs
Snack Bar counter too high	Physical	Lower a portion of the counter
No window in doors –Rink B	Physical	Install window
No automatic door openers for dressing / weight rooms.	Physical	Consider installing automatic door openers.
Lack of contrasting colour in some areas	Physical	Add contrasting colour accordingly.
No accessible family washroom/change room	Physical	Convert an area into an accessible family washroom/change room.
Life jacket hooks too high	Physical	Lower the hooks.

BARRIERS ADDRESSED SINCE 2005

Henry A. Murdoch Building (Town Hall)

- Public Services previously available only on 2nd and 3rd floor of the building have been relocated to the 1st floor for better access.
- All public notices and reports are available on the Municipal Website.
- Public Meetings and Hearings required under the Municipal Act or Planning Act are held at the Fire Hall.
- Directional signage was installed.
- Contrasting colour strips were installed.

Stanley Tourangeau Fire/Police Services Building

- Disabled Parking was made available

Library / Archives

- Front entrance lighting was enhanced
- Shelves were spaced for wheelchair access
- Large print books and audio tapes and CDs are available
- Desks and catalogue were built to accommodate wheelchair access

Nick Smith Centre

- Contrasting colour strips were installed on all door handles and stairs.
- Automatic door openers were installed on the main entrance doors and on the Arena A doors.
- A bell/buzzer was installed at the front desk
- Arnprior Life information is available on the Municipal Website
- Washrooms were made fully accessible
- Clock in Community Hall was replaced with a large print clock.

Other Achievements

- Audio traffic signals were installed on the lights located at John and Elgin Streets;
- Library Expansion Project including the installation of an elevator (in-progress)
- Town Hall Condition Audit was completed
- Accessible Customer Service Policy was adopted by Council

BARRIERS TO BE ADDRESSED IN 2010

Henry A. Murdoch Building (Town Hall)

- The Town Hall Advisory Committee will be reviewing the Town Hall Condition Audit in order to determine how best to address the overall accessibility barriers at Town Hall and complete the work accordingly subject to financial capacity.

Stanley Tourangeau Fire/Police Services Building

- Contrasting colour strips will be placed on all door handles

Library / Archives

- Contrasting colour strips will be placed on all door handles
- Elevator will be installed as a component of the expansion project which is expected to be completed by May 2010

Museum

- Computer tour of museum exhibits (subject to funding approval);

Nick Smith Centre

- Water fountains will be made wheelchair accessible
- A family washroom/change room will be made available
- Automatic door openers will be installed for pool area access

By-laws, policies, programs, practices and services

- Accessible Customer Service Policies & Procedures and appropriate training will be provided to all Town employees, volunteers, contractors.
- Staff will be instructed to consult with the AAC before undertaking any projects including construction, renovation, redesigning and/or the introduction of new programs in an effort to address accessibility issues in the process.
- The Parking By-Law will be revised to ensure adequate Disabled Parking is made available.
- A new Meeting and Document Management Solution will be introduced in an effort to ensure public information is easily accessible via Municipal Website.
- The Official Plan will be reviewed

Communication

This Accessibility Plan / Compliance report will be made available on the Municipal Website as well as at the Town Hall.

Inquiries regarding this Plan / Report may be directed to:

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