



Corporation of the Town of Arnprior
Municipal Accessibility Plan

2006 - 2007

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INTRODUCTION

The first year plan, the Town's 2004 Municipal Accessibility Plan, outlined the objectives of the Municipality. One of which was to conduct an informal staff survey of municipal sites to identify any barriers which may exist. In the process of compiling the survey, it was determined that staff did not have the experience or expertise to adequately comment on the existing barriers and solutions to those barriers.

In October of 2004, Council adopted the following resolution:

“That the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive a staff report dated October 12, 2004 providing the steps required to form a Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC);

And further that Council provide direction to staff to proceed with the process, including the preparation of a by-law to establish an AAC and confirmation of the terms of reference contained therein.”

In April of 2005, Council passed By-law 5328-05, appointing six (6) members of the community to an Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Also, there has been significant progress in two areas which affect the Act. Statistics Canada has released the results of the 2001 PAL (Participation and Activity Limitation Survey), information collected specific to disabilities – the first survey of its kind. This is importation information that will assist municipalities in accessibility planning and awareness.

Also the Ontario Human Rights Commission applied pressure on seven well-known restaurant chains to encourage them to make their establishments' barrier free. The message is clear: people with disabilities have the right to partake in society.

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act was replaced with the **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005**. It will improve accessibility in workplaces and public spaces and improve access to employment, customer service, communications and transportation. It allows for the setting of accessibility standards for both the public and private sectors and will enforce timelines for compliance. These standards will be developed in consultation with persons with disabilities and the organizations that will have obligations under the act. Until the standards are in place for the municipal sector, the requirements under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act are still in force.

This plan was prepared in accordance with Section 11(2) of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

DUTIES OF MUNICIPALITIES

Municipal accessibility plans

- 11.(1) Each year, the council of every municipality shall,
- (a) prepare an accessibility plan; and
 - (b) either,
 - (i) seek advice from the accessibility advisory committee that it establishes or continues under subsection 12 (1), or
 - (ii) consult with persons with disabilities and others, if the council has not established or continued an accessibility advisory committee under subsection 12 (1).

Contents

- (2) The accessibility plan shall address 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.
- (3) The accessibility plan shall include,
 - (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.

Availability to the public

- (4) A municipality shall make its accessibility plan available to the public.

Accessibility advisory committees

12. (1) The council of every municipality having a population of not less than 10,000 shall establish or continue an accessibility advisory committee and the council of every municipality having a population of less than 10,000 may establish or continue an accessibility advisory committee.

Duty of committee

- (2) The committee shall advise the council in each year about the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its accessibility plan.

Members

- (3) A majority of the members of the committee shall include persons with disabilities.

Duty of council

- (4) The council shall seek advise from the committee on the accessibility for persons with disabilities to a building, structure or premises, or part of a building, structure or premises,
 - (a) that the council purchases, constructs or significantly renovates;
 - (b) for which the council enters into a new lease; or
 - (c) that a person provides as municipal capital facilities under an agreement entered into with the council in accordance with section 110 of the Municipal Act, 2001.

Functions

- (5) The committee shall,
 - (a) perform the functions set out in this section, including reviewing in a timely manner the site plans and drawings described in section 41 of the Planning Act that the committee selects; and
 - (b) perform all other functions that are specified in the regulations.

Supplying site plans

- (6) If the committee selects site plans and drawings described in section 41 of the Planning Act to review, the council shall supply them to the committee in a timely manner for the purpose of the review.

Municipal goods and services

13. In deciding to purchase goods or services through the procurement process for the use of itself, its employees or the public, the council of every municipality shall have regard to the accessibility for persons with disabilities to the goods or services.

REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENTS

The measures the municipality has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities (Section 11 (3)(a))

The barriers identified in 2005 are attached as Schedule “D” to this plan.

1. Facility Tours

Between September 2005 and December 2005, the AAC inspected the Henry A. Murdoch Building (town hall), the Nick Smith Centre, the Arnprior Library/Archives, the Arnprior and District Museum, the Stanley Tourangeau Fire/Police Services Building, and considered the Town’s roads, parks and pathways for accessibility. The results of the tours have been incorporated into Schedule “D” – Facility Audits.

2. Automatic Door Openers

In the fall of 2005, automatic door openers were installed on the main entrance doors to the Nick Smith Centre. The 2006 Capital Budget includes \$4,500.00 for the installation of automatic door openers on the main area washrooms.

3. Large print books and audio tapes and CDs

The Arnprior Public Library continues to add large print books and audio tapes and CDs to its collection.

4. Computer tour of museum exhibits

The Arnprior and District Museum is working on a project to provide computer access on its main floor to view exhibits on the 2nd floor of the building. The project was started by volunteers and will hopefully be completed by opening day in the spring of 2006.

5. Library expansion

The Arnprior Public Library has been reviewed by an architect with respect to an expansion into the basement area, including the installation of an elevator. This elevator will also allow full access to the Arnprior and District Archives located in the basement of the building. The detailed design cost is included in the 2006 Capital budget, while the Library Board is fundraising for the cost of the elevator.

6. Audio traffic signals

Audio signals will be installed on the lights at John and Elgin as part of the 2006 Capital budget. The Council of the Town of Arnprior has also requested (by letter dated January 3, 2006), that the County of Renfrew consider the installation of audible sounding devices on the County's traffic lights (the remainder of the lights within the Town).

7. Town Hall Accessibility Reserve

The 2006 Capital budget has placed an additional \$25,000.00 into the Town Hall Accessibility Reserve. This brings the total amount in the Reserve to \$65,000.00. In 2005, \$10,000.00 was used to perform an architectural review of the existing Town Hall to determine what, if anything could be done to make the building more accessible, versus the construction of a new building.

8. Location of Public Meetings and Hearings

All Public Meetings required under the Municipal Act or Planning Act, as well as any hearings required under the Planning Act are now being held exclusively at the Stanley Tourangeau Fire/Police Services building.

The measures in place to ensure that the municipality assesses its proposals for the by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services to determine their effect on accessibility for persons with disabilities (Section 11 (3)(b))

The AAC will develop a checklist to rate facilities on accessibility. The procurement by-law will be reviewed during 2006 to add an accessibility component. The Official Plan 5-year Review will include comments from the AAC.

COMMITMENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR 2006-2007

List 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 (Section 11 (3)(c))

A recreation open spaces audit will be done over the next reporting period. The 5-year review of the Official Plan will include a review for identifying barriers. The Sign By-law and Procurement By-law will be reviewed.

The measures that the municipality intends to take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities (Section 11 (3)(d))

The AAC has undertaken to:

- Participate in the review of site plans and develop guidelines on which to base this review process
- Complete the facility/infrastructure tour

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Council continues to place money into the Town Hall Accessibility Reserve;

THAT reflective tape be placed on locations identified in the Facility Audit, with funds to be taken from the various Operational Budgets.

PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

The 2006-2007 Accessibility Plan will be available on the municipal website. Paper copies of the plan will be available in regular font size and large print at the Town Hall and the Arnprior Public Library.

SUMMARY

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 able to participate in all that the Town of Arnprior has to offer. The annual accessibility plan represents an important step in recognizing the needs of persons with disabilities that reside in the Town of Arnprior.

CONTACT/INQUIRIES

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**TOWN OF ARNPRIOR
MUNICIPAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN
2006-2007**

SCHEDULE “A”

**TOWN OF ARNPRIOR GOVERNANCE,
MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Town of Arnprior is a municipal corporation headed by an elected Council consisting of a Mayor, a Reeve and five councillors at large.

Council meets on the first and third Monday of every month. The majority of council business, discussion and debate are done at the four (4) Standing Committees of Council:

- Administration and Finance
- Public Works
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning, Promotion and Protective Services

As committees of the whole, the standing committees consist of all members of council. In addition, there are several sub-committees that provide a specialized mandate:

1. Negotiating Committee
2. Development Liaison Committee
3. Committee of Adjustment
4. Property Standards Committee
4. Arnprior Public Library Board
5. Arnprior & District Museum Board
6. Police Services Board (PSB)
7. Municipal Liaison Committee
8. Arnprior Airport Commission
9. Awards Ad Hoc Committee
10. Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC)
11. Arnprior & District Archives Board of Management
12. Ottawaska Housing Corporation
13. Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Town employs 128 full-time and part-time staff. It is organized into six departments, each with its own distinct responsibilities. All Department Heads report to the Chief Administrative Officer who in return, reports directly to Council. Some of the services are contracted out, such as animal control, garbage collection, police services, and septic inspections.

The departments are:

1. Clerks (Administration)
2. Public Works and Engineering
3. Recreation Services
4. Finance
5. Fire
6. Library

FACILITIES

The Town owns several public buildings/structures:

Arnprior Museum – 185 John Street North

Arnprior Library and Archives – 21 Madawaska Street

Henry A. Murdoch Building (Town Hall) – 105 Elgin Street West

Water Town – 433 Hartney Street

Stanley Tourangeau Fire/Police Services Building – 44 John Street North

Water Pollution Control Centre (WPCC) – 233 Albert Street

Water Filtration Plant (WFP) – 71 James Street

Public Works Garage – 73 James Street

Nick Smith Centre (Civic Centre) – 77 James Street

Canteen/Life Guard Building/Washroom/Gazebo – Robert Simpson Park, John Street

Pump Stations – numbers

Well Pump House

The Town does not lease any buildings for its own use, but does provide leased space to Cogeco Cable and the Mons Rebecca at the Henry A. Murdoch Building.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Advisory Committee has asked that municipal infrastructure be included in this section because for the most part, public buildings have a degree of accessibility because of the requirements contained in the Building Code. In many cases, it is the infrastructure leading to the buildings that cause accessibility-related problems.

Roads

There are 115 kms of roads in the Town of Arnprior. Most of the roads are hardtop, which includes paved and surface treated roads.

Water & Sewer

The Town has water and sewer services, with some limited historical private services still in existence.

Sidewalks

A majority of Arnprior streets have sidewalks, on at least one side, with the main roads, having sidewalks on both sides.

Streetlights

Street lighting exists on most streets in the urban area.

Landfills

Arnprior Municipal Landfill site is located in the Township of McNab/Braeside.

Cemeteries

The Town of Arnprior owns and maintains two “active” cemeteries and one future cemetery:

Albert Street - Arnprior

Malloch Road – McNab/Braeside

Arnprior Municipal Cemetery (Future) – McNab/Braeside

RECREATION PARKS/OPEN SPACES

Civic Centre Park/Skate Board Park – James Street

Caruso Street Park – Caruso Street

Edey Street Park – Edey Street

Allan Drive Park – Allan Drive

Atkinson Street Park – Atkinson Street

McLean Avenue Park/ABBA Diamonds – McLean Avenue

Robert Simpson Park/Beach/Picnic area– John Street, on the Ottawa River

Fourth Avenue Park – Fourth Avenue

Walter Zadow Park – Ottawa and Harriet Streets

Bell Park – Leo Lavoie Road

Hydro Park – Either side of the Madawaska River, Madawaska Bridge to the marina

Short Street Park – Short Street
Marina – Ottawa Street on Madawaska River
CN Trail Park – Daniel and John Streets

Millenium Trails:
Heritage - 2.9 km
McLachlin – 3.7 km
Gillies – 4.6 km

Macnamara Trail – 4.5 km
CN Trail (proposed) – 1.8 km

**TOWN OF ARNPRIOR
MUNICIPAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN
2006-2007**

SCHEDULE “B”

TOWN OF ARNPRIOR ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

Council adopted By-law No. 5328-05 on April 18, 2005, appointing the following members of the public to the Committee:

With Disabilities:

Leanne Code – Leanne played a major role in our committee before her passing in 2007. Leanne was a resident of Arnprior who was confined to a wheelchair and lived independently in the community. She was confronted on a daily basis with barriers that impeded her ability to participate fully in the community. Leanne volunteered at the local hospital and business offices. The Town appreciated her efforts to assist with this 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.

Professional/Community:

Tammy Bartel – Tammy is a resident of Arnprior and has been employed by L’Arch Arnprior for the past 14 years. L’Arche creates homes for people with developmental disabilities. Currently Tammy is the Vice Regional Coordinator of L’Arch 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 other 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.

ROLE:

The Committee's role is to:

- advise Council on the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its annual accessibility plan
- review site plans and advise on accessibility issues relating to public buildings with the Town of Arnprior
- advise Council on other accessibility related issues
- monitor federal and provincial directives and regulations
- conduct research and the collection of information
- liaise with other municipal accessibility advisory committees
- perform all other functions that are specified in the regulations

**TOWN OF ARNPRIOR
MUNICIPAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN
2006-2007**

SCHEDULE “C”

DEFINITION OF A BARRIER AND TYPES OF BARRIERS

Section 2(1) of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act defines a barrier as:

“barrier” means anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy or a practice; (“obstacle”)

Types of Barriers

Some barriers include:

1. Physical barriers such as a step at the entrance to a store;
2. Architectural barriers, for example: no elevators in a building;
3. Information or communications barriers, such as a publication that is not available in large print.
4. Attitudinal barriers, for example: assuming people with a disability can't perform a certain task when in fact they can;
5. Technological barriers such as traffic lights that change too quickly before a person with a disability have time to get through the intersection;
6. Barriers created by policies or practices, for instance: not offering different ways to complete a test as part of job hiring.