

2004

Corporation of the
Village of Merrickville - Wolford



Accessibility Plan

June 2004



ACCESSABILITY PLAN

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES/ INFORMATION PROGRAMS

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Soccer Fields

Rinks

Community Centers

Library

Garages

Fire Hall

Fire Hall meeting Room

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Park Facilities - Woford

Sewage and water Treatment Facilities

Parking areas at CC, Halls, Fire, Roads, Field

Streets Roads and Sidewalks.



ACCESSABILITY PLAN

Executive Summary

The Plan is to meet with the requirements of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) and is an opportunity to improve the accessibility of Municipalities to persons with disabilities. Part of the objective is to identify and remove barriers to allow for full participation in the facilities and services offered by the municipality, equally by all of it's residents.

This report identifies the measures that the Municipality will taking in the time frames indicated to identify, remove and prevent such barriers to persons with disabilities who may wish to use the facilities of the municipality.

The working group consisted of the members of the Management Committee, Ms. Ruth Dimopoulos a Registered Physiotherapist with the Merrickville District Community Health Center and the CAO/Treasurer.



ACCESSABILITY PLAN

Goal

The goal of this report is to identify all barriers to persons with disabilities who wish to have access to any and all Municipal Facilities.

Objectives

1. Describe a process by which the Village of Merrickville - Wolford can reduce or eliminate barriers to persons with disabilities.
2. Review efforts made to date to eliminate such barriers.
3. Identify and list all facilities, programs, services and practices of the municipality and to identify impediments to any person wishing access to them.
4. After identifying such restrictions, outline a reasonable course of action to remove or improve access in the coming years.
5. Define the public information process and outline practices to make the plan available to the general public and interested organizations.

Village of Merrickville - Wolford

The Village of Merrickville (Founded 1883) and the Township of Wolford (Founded 1883) were amalgamated on January 01, 1998. The new municipality is located in the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville midway between the Towns of Kemptville and Smith's Falls. It is 35 km south of the former City of Ottawa. The municipality shares boundaries with the County of Lanark, the Township of Montague, the municipality of North Grenville, the Township of Elizabethtown - Kitley and the Township of Augusta. There is a permanent population of 2500 persons with additional seasonal residents in the summer months.

Primary facilities within the boundary of the municipality is a private sector foundry and two rent to income housing apartments. There are three elementary schools, two English Public and the French Language Catholic. The primary economic reliance, of the community, is tourism drawn by the influence of the Rideau Canal Locks and the numerous artisans in the village. Approximately 60% of the residents live in the rural areas of the Village.

Municipal Facilities include the Community Center, beach, ball diamond and soccer fields included in the fair grounds within the Village. There is one works garage in the rural area and one in the Village. There are two Town Halls. One is located in the rural area, at Easton's Corners, which is now used as primarily a Community Hall. It has tennis courts, two ball fields and one large storage facility on the property. The main town hall is a new building, constructed in 2001, in the Village. It forms part of a Fire Hall, Roads Garage and Town Hall complex. The municipality operates it's own Landfill site, located 2 km outside the Village on County Road 16.

Methodology

A site visit was conducted by the CAO and the Physiotherapist from the Merrickville District Community Health Center. The plan was subsequently reviewed by the Chief Building Official and the Fire Chief. The overall

ACCESSABILITY PLAN

plan was reviewed by the Management Committee of the Municipality prior to submission to Council.

Many of the Municipal structures are fairly old and we have identified some areas which we will address. The former municipalities have tried to meet the requirements of their residents. However, some of the improvements which they made are now inadequate or outdated.

PAST MITIGATION EFFORTS

The Village has made past efforts to bring buildings and facilities into a state whereby they are accessible by all members of our society. Sidewalks have ramps at the corners, there are handicapped parking facilities at the new Town Hall and most facilities have at least some ground level flat entrance.

In 2001 a new Town Hall was constructed in the Village of Merrickville to serve the newly amalgamated municipality. The building is completely accessible including the elevator to the second floor and one automatic door opener. The public washroom is set up to assist those needing special accommodation. The General service area has a lower service counter and all doors meet or exceed standards for accessibility.

The other main facility in Easton's Corners has been renovated to allow for access. The challenge is that the structure dates from the 1800's and modifications are limited unless a major reconstruction of the facility is done.

Our Web site has a text format to make it more easily read by anyone with a sight challenge.



| Location | Identified Impediment | Remedial Action |
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| EASTON's CORNERS | | |
| Municipal Hall | <p>Access Ramp :- The ramp requires a railing or other safety device to prevent persons from going off the side. There is a significant lip at the bottom of the ramp. At the top a sharp turn is necessary to enter the building and it is a narrow space.</p> | <p>The original ramp was constructed in 1997. It met the need at the time but has deteriorated over time as the building has limited usage at this time.</p> <p>Corrections will be addressed as part of the 2005 - 2010 capital Budget..</p> |
| | <p>There are no automatic opening doors. The existing door opens outward taking up all of the available space.</p> | <p>Correction will require considerable reconstruction of the overall facility. An attempt has been made to have the building accessible but space and the age of the building (built in 1882) limit what can be done</p> <p>The impediment will be addressed by Council as part of the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget.</p> |
| | <p>Washrooms are too small, access doors too narrow and the taps are not the wing type.</p> | <p>OBC states that washrooms stalls, useable area, is to be 4"x 11". Current areas are about 4'x 4' and the doors are too narrow.</p> <p>There are no assist bars which should be mounted 9" above the toilet and 2" in front of the bowl. There are additional regulations concerning all aspects of the washroom area.</p> <p>Repairs to the facilities will require major structural changes to the building and cannot be accommodated in the existing area.</p> <p>Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget.</p> |
| | <p>Toilets do not have support handles on wall.</p> | <p>See comments above.</p> |

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| | Hallways have limited access, are too narrow and have sharp turns. | The hall ways will be kept as clear as possible. The best solution would be to widen the halls but that will require a complete reconstruction of the building Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget. |
| | Kitchen counters are too high for wheelchairs. | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget. |
| | Kitchen door is too narrow for wheelchairs | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget. |
| | Kitchen sinks and taps need to be wing type. | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget. |
| | Steps at the front of the building hamper access. | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget. |
| | Front doors require automatic opening devices. | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget. |
| | No Handicapped Parking Sites | Sites are to be designated and the appropriate signs installed in 2004 |
| PLAYGROUND/PARK AREAS | | |
| Ball Diamonds | Fence entrances and bleachers limit access. | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| Tennis Courts | Fence entrances limit access | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| Playground equipment | Limited Access | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| Storage Facility - Indoor Rink | Floors are uneven. | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| | Boards hinder access to ice surface when it is in place. | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |

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| | Lip on the door sill at the main entrance. | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| | Man doors or large access doors require some form of automatic opener. | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| | No Handicapped Parking Site | Sites are to be designated and the appropriate signs installed in 2004 |
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| Location | Identified Impediment | Remedial Action |
| MERRICKVILLE | | |
| Fire Department | Access to the hall by heavy steel fire doors which requires automatic doors. | Doors in the Hall must met the Fire code. We are aware of the need and one door will be modified as part of the 2005 operation fiscal year. |
| | Washrooms are not accessible and lack assist devices. | Washrooms are not open to the public. Staff have access to the suitably constructed washrooms in the adjoining Town Hall. To make these units accessible would require significant structural modifications to the building as a whole. |
| | Some areas, while off limits, have limited access. | The upstairs radio room and the kitchen, while not open to the public, would require major structural changes to make them accessible. This will be reviewed as part of the 2005 -2010 Capital Budget. |
| Streets and Roads | | |
| Easton's Corners Garage | | |
| | Doors too narrow to permit access to office | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| | Second level not accessible due to stairs. | This area is off limits to the general public. Adequate supplies are maintained on the first level for staff needs. |

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| | | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| | Washrooms lack assist devices. Door too narrow for access. Area of washroom too small for use. | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| Merrickville Garage | | |
| | Washrooms lack assist devices. Door too narrow for access. Area of washroom too small for use. | Fully accessible washrooms are available in the attached Town Hall. |
| | Doors too narrow to permit access to office and there is a considerable lip or rise in the floor | Staff have access to the offices in the attached, accessible Town hall if needed. Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| Environmental Services | | |
| Sewage Treatment Plant | Overall access is at the ground level but many areas are not accessible due to narrow halls and small facilities such as the washrooms and showers. | Most of the areas are off limits to the general public. We are in the process of doing an Environmental Assessment of the Sewage system with a view to upgrading the entire facility and treatment system. Time frames for upgrades are contingent on Government funding. |
| Water Pumping Station | This area is off limits to the general public due to limitations imposed by the Provincial Drinking Water Regulations. Access is limited due to narrow, nonautomatic doors and there are no facilities in the building. | The service is presently being renovated under the new Drinking Water Standards. There are no plans to make the facility open to the general public and staff have access to other nearby facilities should the need arise. |
| Landfill Site | | |
| | Entrance shelter has limited access. The doors are not automatic and they are too narrow. There is a step at the door and there is no ramp. | We are currently reviewing the operations at the site and are in the process of completing an update of the Certificate of operations approval from the MOE. When this is complete, probably early next year (2005) the existing facilities will have a |

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| | | complete analysis. |
| | Facilities are limited and there are no assist devices in the washroom. The area does not meet standard | See comments above. |
| Recreation Facilities | | |
| Grounds, Soccer Fields and Ball Diamonds | All areas are generally accessible. There are some limitations due to uneven terrain. | |
| | Opening in the fence at the Ball Diamonds restrict access | The use of these facilities is under review. It may be that the facility will be replaced by some other form of recreation facility. Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| Merrickville Community Center | | |
| | There are no automatic door openers. | The facility is slowly being renovated and brought up to standard. The doors will be upgraded in 2005. |
| | There is a step at the one entrance to the Hall | Ramps to be installed next year (2005) |
| | There are steps at two of the emergency exits. | Ramps to be installed next year (2005) |
| | Second floor is not accessible. | There is no room to install an elevator and the stairs have 180 degree turn half way up. Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| | Snack Bar area is too small and kitchen counters too high. The taps are not wing type. Sinks are not accessible | Council is aware of the problem and a decision will be made in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| | Washrooms have assist devices but taps are not all wing type. Counters are too high for easy access and use. | Up Grades to be installed next year (2005). The Counters will be repaired as part of general renovation in the 2005 - 2010 Capital Budget |
| Picnic Shelter and Beach | | |
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| | The shelter is at ground level and easily accessible. Sand in the area make access difficult. | A path will be built to the facility in the 2005 Budget. |
| | There are no lift devices or paths to the beach. | The beach is on the Rideau River. A path will be built down the side of the beach to the water. At this time plans are in the very preliminary stages for any type of access assistance. |
| Town Hall | | |
| | The inside doors in the front entrance do not have automatic openers. | This is a new building and this was overlooked at the time of construction. It will be corrected in the 2005 Budget, |
| Information Releases | | |
| | Bulletin Board does not have large print documents. | All documents can be made available upon request. If the need were to arise we will arrange for brail translation as requested. |
| MERRICKVILLE LIBRARY | | |
| | There is a step a the veranda entrance | See Comments. |
| | There is a sharp turn at the bottom of the access ramp | See Comments. |
| | There is no access to the second floor. Stairs are narrow, steep and have a turn in them on the way up. | See Comments. |
| | Space between the book shelves is too narrow | See Comments. |
| | Entrance doors are too narrow and there are no automatic openers | See Comments. |
| | Large print books are limited | See Comments. |
| | Computer areas are small and narrow. | See Comments. |
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| | <p>Washrooms are inaccessible and not device assist equipped. They are too small.</p> | <p>The Library building is a converted house donated to the municipality. It is therefore small and compact but suits the needs of the residents.</p> <p>While there are needs that we are aware of, most could only be fixed by major reconstruction or a new facility. Staff has made every effort to accommodate any special needs. They will deliver books if requested and obtain special requests in cooperation with area Libraries and the inter Library loan system. Large print books are available as are books on tape. CNIB talking book service is available on request.</p> <p>The renovations needed are beyond the fiscal capacity of the Library Board, The Municipal Organization and the community as a whole..</p> |
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