



The Municipality of Powassan
MUNICIPAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Revised November 30, 2008

Submitted to: Council on December 2, 2008
Submitted by: Accessibility Committee

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MUNICIPALITY OF POWASSAN ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

1.0 Definition of a Disability

Disability: The AODA definition:

The AODA uses the definition 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.

A disability may be visible or not visible.

2.0 Background

Preparation of an annual Municipality Plan is a requirement of local governments in Ontario under the provisions of the Ontario with Disabilities Act (ODA), 2001 and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005. Legislation requires that municipalities with populations of over 10,000 establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee. The Municipality of Powassan, under Council's Motion No. 2002-243 established an Accessibility Advisory Committee in 2002.

3.0 Municipal Jurisdiction Participating in this Plan

Municipality: The Corporation of the Municipality of Powassan

Address: P.O. Box 250, 466 Main Street
Powassan, Ontario P0H 1Z0

Key Contacts:

Councillor Blair Beatty, Chairperson **Kimberly Bester-Melanson, Secretary**
Accessibility Advisory Committee Accessibility Advisory Committee

705-724-2813 Phone, 705-724-5533 Fax info@powassan.net Email

Population: 3,278
 1,349 Households

4.0 Municipal Highlights

The Municipality of Powassan is located along the Highway 11 corridor, 30 kilometres south of the City of North Bay. The municipality was amalgamated on January 1, 2001 to include the former Town of Powassan, the Town of Trout Creek, and the Township of Himsworth South. The Municipal Office is located at 466 Main Street in the former Town of Powassan. Public Works buildings are located at 750 Main Street in Powassan. The municipality also has two arenas, two fire halls, a pool, a library, two parks, a municipal beach and boat launch, two seniors' halls, rental halls and other municipal buildings.

The Municipality of Powassan has a medical centre housing two family doctors, a dentist and a chiropractor. In Powassan there is a Seniors' apartment complex – The Pines, and the Eastholme Home for the Aged. In Trout Creek, there is the Lady Isabelle Nursing Home. There are two fire stations, one located in Powassan, Station 1, and one in Trout Creek, Station 2.

The Municipality of Powassan has a Recreation Committee which provides a variety of programs during the year. A program called "Get off the Couch" Campaign is geared to increasing the activity level of all ages of our residents. Through this program some of the programs offered include swimming lessons, aqua fitness, ball hockey, archery, and exercise classes. There is also a facility, DLB Academy, within the municipality which offers various recreational programs to residents, as well as an equestrian centre which offers recreational riding programs to residents, especially children.

5.0 Consultation Activities

In preparation of a municipal accessibility plan, each municipality is required to consult with people with disabilities for advice and recommendations.

Target Groups

We targeted the general public, seniors and people with disabilities.

Activities Conducted for Research

A survey was provided directly to local senior's residences (Eastholme Home for the Aged and Lady Isabelle Nursing Home), for completion by residents, staff and visitors, and to local seniors' organizations (Golden Sunshine Club and Trout Creek Seniors) to encourage feedback from local seniors regarding what they see as barriers to accessibility and any issues that should be focused upon. This survey was also placed on the Municipal website and community channel and advertisements were put up throughout the municipality advising residents that the survey was available for completion at the municipal office or could be downloaded, completed and then dropped off at the municipal office.

Accessibility Advisory Committee members were also asked to identify any accessibility concerns that they were aware of.

The results of the survey, along with committee member identification of concerns, were used to create the list of priorities for the 2008 plan.

Summary of Information Collected through Consultation:

- Trout Creek Community Centre (TCCC) is in the process of improving accessibility to the outdoor portion of the rink (around ice surface) via Trillium funding to replace existing cement skirt. Focus will also be on ensuring that the back entrance of the arena provides easy access to this area.
- Disable Parking Spaces at Medical Centre would be better situated on outside edges of parking lot. It is difficult for people to get out of their vehicles and into a wheelchair because disabled parking spaces are right in front of the building, and other vehicles are parked closed by.
- The ramp leading in to the TCCC is accessible but the door leading into the building is not always unlocked. Installation of a buzzer might be a solution to this issue.
- The post offices in both Trout Creek and Powassan do not have automatic doors and are very heavy and difficult to open. There also isn't enough room between the two doors at the Powassan post office.

- The Municipality may consider becoming a proponent to provide information/education to local businesses regarding their responsibility to ensure that they are in compliance with the Customer Service portion of the Accessibility Standard by 2010. Many businesses in our municipality are currently not accessible to all residents, or washroom facilities within businesses are not accessible – i.e. drug stores, grocery store, Clark House, insurance offices, some local churches. Consideration might also be given by businesses to having electronically operated doors installed.
- The counter in the reception area of the Municipal building is too high.
- Municipal elevator requires two staff members to operate.
- Steps inside municipal office are very narrow.
- There is no paved or bricked pathway to the gazebo from the sidewalk along Main Street and the gazebo itself is not accessible. This makes it difficult for those with mobility issues.
- There is no sidewalk or paved shoulder from the Pines to Big Bend Avenue, and seniors/pedestrians must walk on the road at this time.
- There is no accessible pathway from Eastholme to the soccer field at Glendale Heights.
- Disabled parking spaces within the municipality are often used by those without disabilities. Can we enforce this or is this a policing matter?
- Installation of a paved shoulder/sidewalk leading from Lady Isabelle in Trout Creek to either former Highway 11 or Highway 522 (Main Street) would make it easier for residents and their families to access local businesses, etc.
- Sidewalks in Trout Creek along Main Street are in very poor condition. Can these be repaired or replaced to make usage available to all, including those in wheelchairs and on scooters?

6.0 Plan Development Working Group

Working Group Member	Mailing Address	Phone Number/ Email
Beatty, Blair	Box 250, RR 2, Powassan, ON P0H 1Z0	724-3422 maplehill@sympatico.ca
Busch, Burton	RR 3, 695 Oakwood Road Powassan, ON P0H 1Z0	724 9080
Ewin, Oneita	Box 3, 306 Sweezy St.W. Trout Creek, ON P0H 2L0	723-5735
Loy, Wendy	Box 625, 109 King St. Powassan, ON P0H 1Z0	724-2872
Reichstein, Shaun	Box 6, 515 Sweezy St. Trout Creek, ON P0H 2L0	723-1048
Topham, Laura	559 Main St., Powassan, ON P0H 1Z0	724-1975
Young, Beverly	c/o Angie Punnett, Box 122 Powassan, ON P0H 1Z0	724-6760
Young, Calvin	As above	as above
Bester-Melanson, Kimberly	Box 357, 409 Morrison St. Trout Creek, ON P0H 2L0	723 5036 Kbester-melanson@powassan.net

Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Backgrounds:

Three of the members have physical handicaps, so they have personal experiences to draw on. Mr. Busch is an amputee, having an artificial leg. Mr. And Mrs. Young have mobility concerns. The personal experiences with accessibility are helpful in reviewing the municipal buildings and programs. As well, Mr. Reichstein works at the Lady Nursing Nursing Home, so has daily contact with seniors and has knowledge of their accessibility concerns. Mrs. Topham's partner is in a wheelchair.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee meets every three months on the second Thursday of the month, at 2 p.m. at the Municipal Office in Powassan.

7.0 Barriers identified in the Municipality (2008)

Following are barriers which were identified in the Municipality of Powassan. Focus in the coming year will be on identifying ways to solve these issues.

- Use of disabled parking spaces within the Municipality of Powassan. Police Services Board to be contacted regarding enforcement options.
- Disabled parking spaces to be relocated at medical centre. (Done)
- TCCC Board to have rink skirt repaired in 2009.
- Options regarding having a portion of the counter made lower for easier customer service to be determined.
- MTO to be contacted to address sidewalk repair/replacement issues in Trout Creek and to inquire regarding feasibility of installing paved shoulder from Lady Isabelle.

8.0 Decision-Making Review

The Accessibility Plan will be presented to Council for approval. Council will then deal directly with respective departments on any concerns which it deems need to be addressed.

9.0 Monitoring Progress

The Accessibility Plan will include targets that are to be achieved within a specific time period (1-6 months, 7-12 months and 13-24 months). The working group will monitor projects identified to ensure that targets identified within the plan are achieved.

Appropriate departments will be followed up with and asked to report to the committee on the status of targeted projects. The community will also be monitored to ensure that concerns regarding accessibility are brought to the committee's attention and that necessary action is taken.

10.0 Annual Accessibility Plans

Plans in the following years will focus on the targets achieved and work completed and will provide an update on the plans for the next year.

SCHEDULE A – PAST BARRIERS IDENTIFIED AND ADDRESSED

List of Barriers Identified

Barrier Details	Action Completed
Parking-various locations	Handicapped parking signs COMPLETED
Elevator – office building	COMPLETED
Elevator-Sportsplex	Not feasible at this time.
Sportsplex-Front door	-small ramp required to get rid of step COMPLETED
Trout Creek Community Centre-ramp door	-small ramp required to get rid of step COMPLETED
Trout Creek Sidewalks	-clean sand and grass, repair cement MOP Maintained MTO to be contacted regarding sidewalks on highway 522 leading west.
Curbs and sidewalks in Powassan-scooter users are having trouble getting on and off sidewalk	-raise roadway(paving stones) so that curbs are not so high Curbs ground down 2006 for Clark and Main, Memorial Park and Main
Big Bend Avenue-shoulders of road are very rough, no sidewalk and have to walk on rough shoulders dangerous	-public works department can smooth out the shoulders Gravel added and shoulders smoothed out and maintained 2006
Golden Sunshine Hall-steel roof releases snow suddenly right onto the ramp-dangerous	-public works department will look at it. Roof repaired 2005
Parking-Variou locations	2 new spots made at Medical Centre, signs posted
Lift-Municipal office	Project complete and operational
Elevator-Sportsplex	Not feasible at this time, to be revisited.
Sportsplex front door ramp	Complete 2006
Trout Creek Community Centre front door ramp	Complete
Trout Creek Sidewalks	Winter maintenance to be monitored.
Curbs and sidewalks in Powassan	Curbs all eased to ramp form for ease of use with wheelchairs and scooters
Big Bend Avenue	Currently maintained.
Golden Sunshine Hall-Steel Roof	Renovations complete.