

**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH**

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN
2008

Submitted to
Mayor and Members of Council
Corporation of the Town of Wasaga Beach

Submitted by
Accessibility Advisory Committee
for the Town of Wasaga Beach

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Policy Statement and Goals	Page 3
Municipality Description	Page 3
Introduction	Page 4
Accessibility Advisory Committee	Page 6
Municipal Objectives	Page 6
Accomplishments	Page 7
Municipal Assessment	Page 7
Future Endeavors 2008-2011	Page 8
Plan Communication	Page 8
Schedule "A" Municipal Facilities	Page 9
Schedule "B" AAC List	Page 10
Schedule "C" Accomplishments	Page 11-13

Formatted: French (Canada)

Formatted: French (Canada)

POLICY STATEMENT AND GOALS

The Town of Wasaga Beach is an innovative and caring community committed to being responsive to the needs of all people. We want Wasaga Beach to be a great place to call home for everyone who lives here and a welcome place for all visitors. To do this, we must recognize the diverse needs of our residents and visitors and respond by striving to provide facilities and services that are accessible to all.

Our vision of Wasaga Beach shows a well-designed community offering safety, convenience and comfort. To this end, the Town of Wasaga Beach has developed this Accessibility Plan.

The Town of Wasaga Beach, both as an employer and service provider, is committed to barrier free access and will:

1. Take a leadership role in achieving and setting an example to the business, institutional and volunteer sectors in terms of access and integration, employment equity, communications, recreation, transportation, housing and education.
2. Identify barriers and gaps in existing facilities and services.
3. Improve the level of accessibility of existing municipal facilities and services.
4. Actively encourage input from all segments of the community in the design, development and operation of new and renovated municipal facilities and services.
5. Provide resources and support to give effect to this Plan.

MUNICIPALITY DESCRIPTION

The Town of Wasaga Beach is a vibrant, young, growing community currently home to over 16,000 permanent residents and in excess of 18,000 seasonal residents. We estimate that about 2 million visitors come to Wasaga Beach annually. The municipality spans some 17 kilometers from its easterly to westerly boundaries and covers 61.13 km² in area. Current statistics indicate that there are in excess of 11500 private dwellings within Wasaga Beach. Our community is

especially unique in that a Provincial Park is contained within our boundaries.

Our neighbour to the west is the Town of Collingwood, while bordering us on the southerly side is the Township of Clearview, to the east is Springwater and to the northeast is the Township of Tiny.

Located within Wasaga Beach are two public elementary schools, one separate elementary school and two private elementary schools with a total of approximately 1,700 students enrolled. Secondary school students are bussed to neighbouring Collingwood Collegiate Institute, Jean Vanier Secondary School and Elmvale District High School. There are two retirement homes situated in the mid section of town providing accommodation for 28 persons.

INTRODUCTION

The original Wasaga Beach Accessibility Plan was approved in 2003 under the guidelines of Provincial Bill 125. Bill 125, The Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA), received Royal Assent on December 14, 2001. It is an Act to improve the methods for identification, removal and prevention of barriers faced by persons with disabilities. The Act states that, "The people of Ontario support the right of persons of all ages with disabilities to enjoy equal opportunity and to participate fully in the life of the province." Statistics indicate that there are some 1.9 million people in Ontario with disabilities.

The Town of Wasaga Beach is a municipal government empowered to provide goods and services to its residents and visitors. Some 94 full time and 30 part time personnel are employed by the Town of Wasaga Beach in various departments including Administration, Fire, Library, Parks, Facilities & Recreation and Public Works. Our municipality maintains several buildings and facilities as set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto.

New legislation, Bill 118, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was passed in May 2005. The purpose of the Act is to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities with respect to all goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment,

buildings, structures and premises on or before January 01, 2025, by developing, implementing and enforcing accessibility standards.

The Act would also provide for the involvement of people with disabilities, representatives of sectors of the economy and the Government of Ontario in the development of accessibility standards.

This is the second update of the original plan (2003) prepared by the Town’s Accessibility Advisory Committee. It will describe the actions taken by the Town to date, and also describe our plan for the future.

The Town of Wasaga Beach recognizes that all of its facilities are not fully barrier free which, of course, impacts our residents and visitors. Over a phased time frame, it is the Town’s intention to remove these barriers.

Some examples of the different barriers are outlined in the chart below:

BARRIER TYPE	as an example...
Physical	A door knob that cannot be operated by a person with limited upper body strength and mobility
Architectural	A door or hallway that is too narrow for a wheelchair or scooter/properly built ramps
Informational	Print fonts that are too small to be read by a person with low vision
Communicational	A staff person who speaks too loudly to a deaf resident/visitor
Technological	A paper tray on a printer/photocopier that requires two strong arms to open
Attitudinal	A staff member who ignores a resident/visitor with a disability
Policy/Practice	A practice of announcing important messages (fire drill) over an intercom that people with hearing impairments cannot hear clearly

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

The Town of Wasaga Beach has committed itself to the improvement of access to municipal facilities and has established an Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). The AAC's objective is to provide guidance and advice to the Municipal Council, to act as a liaison with other agencies and individuals on physical, architectural, informational, communications, technological and attitudinal barriers, a policy or a practice to participating in public life and to achieve the social, cultural and economic objectives of the Town's residents and visitors.

As outlined in the original plan, the AAC was formed in April, 2003. It now consists of at least 8 members from the Community, the majority being persons with a disability(ies), 1 member of Council and 2 senior staff persons who are resourced to the committee.

Committee members for term ending 2011 are named on attached Schedule "B" .

The creation and implementation of the 2008 Accessibility Plan is under the authority and approval of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Wasaga Beach.

MUNICIPAL OBJECTIVES

Objective #1

will describe the process by which the Town of Wasaga Beach will identify, remove and prevent barriers to those with disabilities...

Objective #2

will review past efforts for removal and prevention of barriers to disabled persons...

Objective #3

will list the facilities, practices and services that the Town of Wasaga Beach will review during the term of this plan in order to identify barriers to those persons with disabilities within the community...

Objective #4

will describe the actions intended to be taken by the Town of Wasaga Beach during the present year to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities...

Objective #5

will describe the method by which the Town will avail its residents and visitors of this Accessibility Plan...

Objective #6

to create a public and staff awareness program...

MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT **Accomplishments**

The Town of Wasaga Beach continues in its efforts to remove barriers from within Municipal facilities. As described in the original plan, many barriers have already been eliminated.

Since the inception of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, a great deal of progress has been made. The following actions have been completed:

- Site audits on all municipal facilities;

- Review of disabled parking spaces in municipal parking lots;
- Review of proposed site developments;
- Accessibility guidelines for the Town of Wasaga Beach were adopted;
- An accessibility awareness session was held for all senior town staff including staff from neighbouring municipalities.

In June 2005, the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) submitted a final report to Council together with a list of recommendations. The Council approved the recommendations and budgeted \$100,000 per year for accessibility issues.

Under the direction of the Town's Planning Staff and Facilities Manager, the following actions have been completed:

Completed in 2007 see attached Schedule "C"

Proposed Projects for 2008 see attached Schedule "D".

Future Endeavors (2008 – 2011)

The Municipality will continue its commitment to identify, remove and prevent barriers to those with disabilities.

As well as the ongoing projects identified in Schedule "D", an ongoing priority during this next period will be the education of all municipal staff, the public and businesses. There are also four (4) additional, fully accessible playground structures planned in the four-year capital budget forecast. The six (6) planned 2009 – 2012 future playgrounds will be accessible. For the existing playgrounds there is no requirement to change these.

The new AODA (Bill 118) builds on earlier Legislation, all obligations under the ODA (Bill 125) will remain in effect until new standards are developed. These new standards will now include the private sector. The AAC will be involved in identifying barrier issues for that area also.

See Schedule "D".

PLAN COMMUNICATION

Copies of the Accessibility Plan are available at the Town's Administration Building and Community Development Office and on the Municipality's web site www.wasagabeach.com. Upon request, the report may be made available on computer diskette in large print, audiotape and CD. Should the plan be required in Braille, the Town will request the assistance of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to translate the document. Consideration is being given to the improved access of our municipal web site.

SCHEDULE "A"

Municipal Facilities

Town Administration Office	30 Lewis Street
Library	120 Glenwood Drive
Fire Hall #1	16 Second Street
Fire Hall #2	3050 Mosley Street
Arena/Cabins/Hall	425 River Road West
Sports Park/Fernbrook Centre	1888 Klondike Park Road
Oakview Community Centre	1724 Mosley Street
The RecPlex	1724 Mosley Street
Oakview Woods	adjacent to 1724 Mosley Street
Chamber of Commerce	550 River Road West
Community Policing	550 River Road West
Public Works	150 Westbury Road
Medical Centre	1621 Mosley Street
Playland Park washroom building	

Spruce Street Parking Lot
Playland Parking Lot
Third Street Parking Lot
Nancy Parking Lot
Dunkerron Parking Lot
Main Street Parking Lot
Fourth Street Parking Lot
Mall Parking Lot
Municipal Parks

SCHEDULE "B"

Wasaga Beach
Accessibility Advisory Committee
January 2007 - 2011

Carol Creary 127 Silver Birch Avenue Wasaga Beach L9Z 1N2	429-8969 bcreary@allstream.net
Peggy McIntyre 672 Oxbow Park Drive Wasaga Beach L9Z 2V2	429-2737 peggy.mcintyre@sympatico.ca
Frank Nunnaro 1 Pridham Court Wasaga Beach L9Z 1M4	429-8339 no e-mail address
Mark Ruttan 86 Baywood Way Wasaga Beach L9Z 1R3	422-2400 429-2486 mark@markruttan.com
George Vadeboncoeur (Town Liaison) 30 Lewis Street Wasaga Beach L9Z 1A1	429-3844 cao@wasagabeach.com
Gerry Reinders (Town Liaison) 30 Lewis Street Wasaga Beach L9Z 1A1	429-? ?
Stan Wells (Councillor) 30 Lewis Street Wasaga Beach L9Z 1A1	429-3239 bs.wells@sympatico.ca
Martin Campbell (Chair) 208 Oxbow Park Drive Wasaga Beach L9Z 2V7	429-1646 martinjcampbell@gmail.com
Marilyn Douglas (Secretary) 21 Sunnidale Rd. N Wasaga Beach L9Z 2B4	429-2166 marilyn@secord.net
Ruth Madill 8 Portage Trail Wasaga Beach L9Z 1H2	429-5424 rockinana@sympatico.ca

Nancy Rogers
7 Fairway
Wasaga Beach L9Z 1C1

429-7742
naro2@sympatico.ca

SCHEDULE "C"

Accomplishments

*NB: Gerry, please revise Schedule "C" and "D" and return to me ASAP. Thanks. Marilyn

Wasaga Stars Arena:

- power assist doors installed on both sets of entry doors;
- a 24' wheelchair ramp and an 18' platform have been incorporated into the rink side seating area;
- wheelchair accessible elevator installed;
- hearing accessible public telephone installed;
- lighting at front entrance and lobby has been upgraded;
- driveway between cabins and recreation halls has been paved along with the entrances into each cabin and the hall in order to make them accessible;
- reconfiguration of the Arena parking lot is in the works. It will include additional handicapped parking closer to the front of the building;
- plans are being drawn up to make the food service area accessible.

Town Hall:

- improved signage installed at the town hall;
- three (3) additional handicapped parking spaces assigned;
- ramping has been upgraded;
- hearing accessible public telephone installed outside of building;
- accessible countertops ordered to upgrade reception area;
- new council chambers/court house are fully accessible.

Public Works Building:

- plans are being drawn up to add a ramp to the front entrance, install two (2) sets of power assist doors and install an accessible counter in the reception area;

- plans to upgrade parking space recommendations are in the works and handicapped parking spaces will be allocated when lines are applied.

Library:

- the reception area has been altered and is now totally accessible;
- a power assist door has been installed.

Chamber of Commerce:

- plans are being drawn up to improve accessibility to the upper level facilities. This will include wider accessible, power assist doors, removing door lips, upgrading handrail and rearranging the parking area.

Community Policing Office:

- plans are being drawn up to make this facility accessible. A ramp will be installed at the entrance and a wider accessible, power assist door will be installed.

Medical Center:

- back parking lot has been paved and handicapped parking spaces assigned. They are scheduled for painting in the spring;
- parking lot lighting has been upgraded.

The RecPlex:

This facility includes Oakview Hall and a swimming pool

- the RecPlex (our recreation center) is a newly built facility and is completely barrier-free;
- the swimming pool was completed in the fall and is totally accessible; it has a special lift for persons with disabilities to get in/out of the pool and an electronic table in the change room that raises and lowers to aid persons with disabilities;

- a complete re-fit of Oakview Hall (the original building) was undertaken making it totally accessible;
- there are a total of 16 handicapped parking spaces available and plans are in the works to reconfigure some areas to provide additional spaces;
- plans and budget approvals have been put in place to cover the icy sidewalk problem.

Municipal Parking

- installation of additional handicapped parking on Beach Drive;
- review of zoning by-law regarding handicapped parking is planned.

Playgrounds

- three (3) new fully accessible playground structures have been completed;
- two (2) new fully accessible playground structures will be built in 2007;

Other:

- the design for intersection crosswalks has been improved; sound alerts have been added to the stop light system and approximately 2 kms of sidewalks, including curb ramps have been added;
- a new by-law has been drafted that will enhance the placement and minimum sizes of handicapped parking spaces.
- participation in the 2007 Trade Show

SCHEDULE "D"

Proposed Projects for 2008

- That a clerical support person be employed and that the AAC standards guidelines being adopted.
- That there be education and awareness programs for staff and residents, starting with town employee education.
- That power assist doors, e.g. front door of Municipal Offices be installed.
- That the AAC develop its own logo and letterhead.
- That a new, more accessible, and easier to use elevator be installed at the Arena.
- That the Town's website be more accessible for vision impaired persons.
- That when installing new traffic signals, the Town ensures that audible traffic signals are also installed.

That the AAC develop a Public Awareness Education Session.

2 Playgrounds Planned