

The Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore



Municipal Accessibility Plan 2010





**The Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore
419 Notre Dame
Belle River, Ontario
N0R 1A0**



**Accessibility Advisory Committee
Municipal Contacts**

**Mayor Tom Bain, ex officio
Deputy Mayor – Bob Sylvester
Director of Corporate Services - Kirk Foran
Clerk - Mary Masse**

The Town of Lakeshore is a vibrant municipality of over 30,000 residents located in South Western Ontario. Lakeshore is one of seven lower tier municipalities in the recently restructured County of Essex, which also includes the single tier City of Windsor.

Lakeshore is comprised of 52,850 hectares of land having approximately 500 kilometers of roads and streets within its boundaries servicing both our urban and rural residents.

Our Engineering & Infrastructure Department, Public Works Division maintains two road garages located at opposite ends of the municipality to service our rapidly expanding infrastructure.

The municipality operates several parks, twin pad arena and marina facility for the recreational enjoyment of our residents.

Five fire halls are administered by our Fire Department under the direction of a full time Fire Chief and Deputy Chief and approximately 120 volunteer firefighters.

Community policing is provided through contract with the Ontario Provincial Police.

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore is committed to:

- The continual improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for all those with disabilities.
- The provision of quality services to all members of the community with disabilities.

The Council has authorized the Accessibility Advisory Committee to prepare an accessibility plan that will enable the Council to meet these commitments.



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Town of Lakeshore Accessibility Advisory Committee

Preamble

In recognition of the almost 1.9 million Ontarians that have disabilities, the Provincial government has taken a step towards their goal of creating a fully accessible Ontario. On December 14, 2001, Royal Assent was given to the Ontarians With Disabilities Act, 2001. The stated purpose of the Act is to “improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the Province”.

Under the Act, onus is being placed on all municipal governments, transportation providers, the Ontario Public Service, hospitals, universities, colleges, schools and various other agencies in the public sector to put accessibility issues on their agendas.

The municipal sections of the Ontarians With Disabilities Act (ODA) was proclaimed in September 2002 at which time municipalities with populations of over 10,000 were required to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee.

1. Mandate

The primary purpose of the Town of Lakeshore Accessibility Advisory Committee shall be to consult with and provide advise to Council on the annual municipal accessibility plan for the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore. The Accessibility Advisory Committee will also be responsible to review and advise Council on accessibility issues including:

- Site plans of new and existing municipal buildings where approval is required by the Town of Lakeshore (as described in section 41 of the Planning Act);
- New and existing municipal by-laws of the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore;
- Purchasing goods and services for the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore;
- Significant renovations of structures designated for municipal use by the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore;
- Leased facilities or any other facility used as a municipal building by the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore;
- Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore capital facilities under the Municipal Act;

- Goods and services provided by the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore or agents providing services under contract with the Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore.

The Town of Lakeshore Accessibility Advisory Committee shall carry out all other duties that are established in the regulations and duties that the Town of Lakeshore Council may deem appropriate following consultation from the public on the role of the Town of Lakeshore Accessibility Advisory Committee.

2. Size and Membership

The Committee shall consist of members appointed by resolution of Council. The composition of the Committee shall be as follows:

- 1 member of Council
- 3 or more members who are people with disabilities
- The Director of Corporate Services
- The Municipal Clerk
- The Manager of Recreation and Facilities

Municipal staff and members of the public deemed necessary shall also attend meetings for technical support to the Committee.

3. Committee Procedures

The term of the Committee shall coincide with the term of Council.

The Committee shall meet at a time and location to be determined by the Committee or at the call of the Chair.

A Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected from Committee members on an annual basis at the first meeting of the year to preside over meetings and committee business.

The Corporation of the Town of Lakeshore rules of parliamentary procedure and meeting conduct stipulated in Procedural By-Law 9-2007 shall be adhered to by the Committee.

Administrative support to the Committee including the recording of minutes, staff support with meeting preparation, support necessary to convening an accessible meeting and other required supports shall be provided by the Corporate Services Department.

Agendas shall be distributed to Committee members in advance of the scheduled meeting date and shall be provided in an alternate format, upon request.

ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Duties of Municipalities

Section 11. Municipal Accessibility Plans

- (1) Each year, the Council of every municipality will:
 - a. Prepare and/or review an accessibility plan; and
 - b. Either:
 - i. Get advice from its Accessibility Advisory Committee; or
 - ii. Consult with people with disabilities and others if the Council doesn't have an Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Contents

- (2) The accessibility plan will consider barriers to people with disabilities and ways to remove and prevent them. These barriers can include the municipality's by-laws and its policies, programs, practices and services.
- (3) The accessibility plan must include:
 - a. A report on the steps the municipality has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities;
 - b. How the municipality assesses its proposals for by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services;
 - c. A list of by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services the municipality will review in the coming year to identify barriers;
 - d. How the municipality intends to identify, remove and prevent barriers in the coming year; and
 - e. All other information required by the regulations.
- (4) Municipalities will make the accessibility plans available to the public.

Section 12. Accessibility Advisory Committees

- (1) Municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more must establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee. Any municipality with a population of less than 10,000 may also set up an Accessibility Advisory Committee. In either case a municipality may continue the activities of a Committee that is already in place.

Duty of Committees

- (2) The Accessibility Advisory Committees will advise the Council about preparing an accessibility plan, how it will work, or is working, and if it achieves its goals.

Members

- (3) More than half of the members of the Committee must be people with disabilities.

Duty of Council

- (4) The Council will get advice from the Committee on the accessibility of buildings, structures or premises that:

The Council purchases, builds or significantly renovates;
The Council leases; or
A person makes available as a municipal building (for example, an arena).

Functions

- (5) The Committee will:
 - a. Review selected site plans and drawings for new buildings or developments (as described in section 41 of the Planning Act); and
 - b. Carry out all other duties that are in the regulations.

Supplying Site Plans

- (6) If requested by the Committee, the Council will supply site plans to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for review without delay.

Section 13. Municipal Goods and Services

The Council of every municipality will take into account how accessible any equipment, supplies or services to be bought by the municipality, for use by itself, its employees or the public, is to people with disabilities.

COMMUNICATION OF PLAN

- Municipal Web Site.
- Copies available through Corporate Services Office.
- Report made public through Council meeting.

CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

In the preparation of this accessibility plan the municipality has consulted with people with disabilities who reside in the municipality. Their comments and ideas are incorporated into this report.

Community Members of Committee

Linda Cassidy
Steve Kwasnycia
Mike Reaume
Lois Caldwell – Special Advisor

Lydia Williams
Mary Lou Hamelin
Earl Brownell

Staff Members of Committee

Kirk Foran
Mary Masse
Todd Shoemaker

Member of Council

Deputy-Mayor Bob Sylvester
Mayor Tom Bain – ex-officio

Support (Non Voting-Members)

Tracey Bailey – Lakeshore Community Services
Janel Gagnier - Belle River B.I.A.

DISABILITY: THE ODA DEFINITION

The ODA draws on the broad definition for disability 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.
- 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.

DISABILITY BARRIERS

People with disabilities face unnecessary barriers almost everywhere: at home, at work, at school, in parks, in recreational facilities, in the streets, in theatres, in stores and in restaurants – and even in municipalities.

A “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 informational or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy or a practice. Barriers prevent people with disabilities from going to school and to work.

Types of Barriers

Barrier Type	Example
Physical	A door knob that cannot be operated by an elderly person with limited upper-body mobility and strength. A medical condition that requires access to services within a limited time frame.
Architectural	A hallway or door that is too narrow for a wheelchair or scooter.
Informational	Typefaces that are too small to be read by a person with low vision.
Communicational	A professor who talks loudly when addressing a deaf student.
Attitudinal	A recreation swimming program which discourages people with developmental disabilities from participating.
Technological	Information on a municipal Web site, which cannot be accessed by a person who is blind who has reading software for a computer.
Policy/Practice	A practice of announcing important messages over an intercom that people with hearing impairments cannot hear clearly.

BARRIER REMOVAL INITIATIVES 2009

Barrier Removal and Repair			
ITEM	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	APPROX. COST
1	Training and Workshops	In accordance with Customer Service regulation 439/07	\$1,740.00
2	Millen Centre	Accessible washrooms.	\$2,948.40
3	Accessibility Awareness Program	Door stickers.	\$410.40
4	Centennial Park	Accessible washrooms.	\$6,901.20
Total			\$12000.00

Parks and Recreation

- Entrances to Comber Community Centre and Millen Centre were improved.
- Accessible Picnic tables are being made available in all parks in Lakeshore.
- Rubberized material has been placed under the accessible swing at Lakeview Park.
- Washrooms at the Millen Centre and Centennial Park have been made accessible.

Zoning By-law

- The Municipality's new Zoning By-law is in a draft stage as of the writing of this plan.
- The Municipality fully intends to address matters of accessibility in its Zoning By-law in accordance with the new amendments.

The Planning Act and Accessibility

Accessibility is a provincial interest.

- I. Section 2 of the Planning Act, requires decision makers under the Act to have a regard to accessibility for persons with disabilities to all facilities, services and matters to which the Act applies.

- II. Paragraph 1 of subsection 41(4), subparagraph 2(f) of subsection 41(4) and paragraph 4.1 of clause 41(7) (a) of the Planning Act makes provisions for accessibility for persons with disabilities as part of the site plan process.
- III. Subclause 41(8) (a) (v) of the Planning Act provides for a possible requirement under site plan approval of facilities that are designed to have regard for accessibility for persons with disabilities where the land abuts a highway under the jurisdiction of the upper-tier municipality.
- IV. Subsection 51(24) of the Planning Act requires that, in considering a draft plan of subdivision, regard shall be had to accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- V. Subsection 53(12) of the Planning Act requires that in reviewing applications for consent to sever property, regard shall be had to accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The Provincial Policy Statement, 2005 (PPS, 2005) and Accessibility Section 1.0 Building Strong Communities sets out the policies relating to efficient land use and development patterns. The statement provides policies regarding:

Improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and the elderly by removing and/or preventing land use barriers which restrict their full participation in society (1.1.1(f)); and

Permitting and facilitating all forms of housing to meet the social, health and well – being requirements of current and future residents, including those with special needs (1.4.2(b))

The definition of “Special Needs” in the PPS, 2005 provides examples of “special needs” including, but not limited to, housing for persons with disabilities such as physical, sensory or mental health disabilities, and housing for the elderly.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL 2010

It is the recommendation of the Lakeshore Accessibility Advisory Committee that:

1. Council adopt the 2010 Accessibility Plan and make it available to the public.
2. Improvements to access municipal facilities and washrooms throughout Lakeshore be undertaken in 2010 as recommended by the Accessibility Committee and in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department.
3. Accessible picnic tables be provided in various parks throughout Lakeshore.
4. Training be provided in accordance with the Ontarians With Disabilities Act regulations.

2010 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN APPENDIX "A"

FACILITIES		
ITEM	FACILITY	DESCRIPTION
1.	Various parks in Lakeshore	Accessible picnic tables
2.	Facilities owned by Lakeshore	- accessible washrooms - improved access
3.	Training	- In accordance with the AODA
TOTAL COSTS NOT TO EXCEED:		\$12,000.00