



**2005 AND 2006
ACCESSIBILITY PLAN
UPDATE**

September, 2006

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Introduction

Proclaimed in September 2002, *The Ontarians with Disabilities Act* sets the foundations for establishing a working plan to improve access and opportunities, for people of all ages with disabilities throughout the entire province. It mandates that all municipalities, hospitals, school boards, colleges, universities and public transportation organizations have a legal obligation to prepare an accessibility plan and to ensure that the plan is made available to the public.

Bill 118, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 received Royal Assent on June 13, 2005. With the proclamation of this Act the obligations imposed upon municipalities to ensure that accessibility is improved for all persons with disabilities continues.

The Town completed its first accessibility plan in September 2003. The foundation of the Town of Caledon's accessibility plan is found as Appendix "I".

Subsequent to the submissions of the September 2003 Accessibility Plans, municipal agencies must submit an annual progress report that details annual accomplishments, and establishes a future plan.

The Town of Caledon deals with accessibility issues through a Staff Accessibility Working Group that meets every month. This staff group is charged with integrating accessibility into the business of the Town by identifying and evaluating barriers and, as result, strives to create a barrier-free community within the Town of Caledon where every citizen has equal access to the programs, services and facilities available. The Staff Accessibility Working Group is also responsible for this year's update to the 2005 Accessibility Plan.

This update has been prepared with the participation of the Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Town of Caledon Accessibility Initiatives Completed in 2005

Type of Barrier	Action required to remove barriers	How Barrier was addressed
Architectural		
	Establish an Accessibility Audit Tool to assist the review of Town buildings and facilities for barriers to accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff continue to use the audit tool to review Town buildings. This checklist includes architectural, attitudinal, physical and technological considerations, as well as communication, information and policy/practices.
Attitudinal		
	Established a sensitivity training plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Caledon staff participated in sensitivity training in late 2004.
	Identify bias associated with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Caledon Human Resources Department, in association with Region of Peel, has arranged for staff training regarding accessibility barrier awareness. • The Senior Management Team also participated in a two day workshop in order to better understand and address mental health issues. • The Town received an award from the Canadian Mental Health Association in 2005
Communication		
	Identify need for a communication plan that incorporates accessibility issues into planning and development of media-related materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Caledon Economic Development and Communications Department continues to incorporate accessibility issues into media materials.

Town of Caledon Accessibility Initiatives Completed in 2005 (cont'd)

Type of Barrier	Action required to remove barriers	How Barrier was addressed
Information		
	Identify agencies that assist persons with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town maintains contact with other community agencies and offers this information to public inquiries.
Physical		
	Review all playgrounds and playground equipment for accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town continues to review Town buildings and playgrounds to ensure accessibility. • The 2004-2005 design and construction of Adam Wallace Park accommodates persons with disabilities with a barrier-free splash pad, barrier-free walkways, curbs and washrooms.
	Review of all Town buildings and facilities for accessibility to public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washrooms at Victoria Parks Community Centre were renovated and are now accessible. • Automatic doors installed at the main entrance of the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness lobby. • An elevated stretch platform has been erected in the fieldhouse of the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness. • Barrier-free design of Community Rooms in Cheltenham and Valleywood. • Washrooms were upgraded at Lloyd Wilson Arena and are now accessible. • A new ramp was installed at Mayfield Arena.

Town of Caledon Accessibility Initiatives Completed in 2005 (cont'd)

Type of Barrier	Action required to remove barriers	How Barrier was addressed
	Lobby for increased Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Mayfield West Secondary Plan” proposed three sites for affordable housing: a site for a seniors’ development, a site for Peel Living and a site for a community service agency. • The Region of Peel’s seniors’ building on Walker’s Road in Caledon East will expand in Fall 2006 or Spring 2007
	New construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction of a new arena was approved by Council in 2006. This arena will be added to the Caledon Community Complex, with access for persons with disabilities to be incorporated into the plans • An addition to the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness was also approved in 2006. The addition will also be designed with accessibility in mind.
	Review Town programme sites for accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day camp locations were changed to permit better access.
	Review Town facility and park development standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff has started to use a facility audit tool to assess existing development standards.
	Review programmes to increase accessibility and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town has partnered with agencies that assist persons with disabilities and has increased one-on-one support within the recreation programmes to assist persons with disabilities:

		<p><i>Partners for Play Committee</i> <i>Community Leisure Integration Network Committee (Region-wide)</i> <i>Brampton-Caledon Community Living</i> <i>Reach for the Rainbow</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town’s programs have been expanded through a partnership with Reach for the Rainbow to allow year-round integrated recreation programme offerings • Summer camp placements increased to 7 youths with special needs in 2006 • In addition, a Snoezelen Room was created at the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness.
Policies/Practices		
	Incorporate ODA requirements into site plan processes for public buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town staff met with the Joint-Peel Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee to determine how best to incorporate the Committee into the Town’s site plan review process. All site plans are sent to the AAC for their review.
	Review all trail gates for accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed gates on Caledon Trailway and adjusted width to increase accessibility
	Review existing trail gradients and establish future standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed gradients and established standards on the Caledon Trailway • In 2003, the “Trails Master Plan” was adopted by Council which establishes the foundation for the evolution of a sustainable, multipurpose trail network across Caledon. The Plan focuses on publicly accessible trails, some being Town

		maintained, others developed with Town support and others fully cared for by community or trail associations
	Review companion/guide animal policy for facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft policies were established and are under review
	Subdivision design standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness regarding the placement of sidewalks, post office boxes and parking spots • Curb cuts updates are part of new policy
	Disabled Persons Parking By-law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New by-law improves the location, visibility and size of spots for vehicle parking. • It creates an offence for store owners not to comply with the provisions of the by-law.
	Review By-laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to revised Taxi By-law include provision for reduced license fees to taxi owners who provide a service to persons with disabilities.
	Project Lifesaver Pilot Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched in Spring 2006 in conjunction with Region of Peel, Brampton-Caledon Community Living and Caledon OPP. Project Lifesaver is a non-profit public safety organization that uses radio technology to locate vulnerable children and adults who have a history of wandering
	Accessibility Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance by staff at monthly Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings

Town of Caledon 2006 Accessibility Work Plan

Further to last year's Accessibility Plan, the Town of Caledon continues to eliminate barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating in the community. The Town of Caledon staff has worked with the Region of Peel Staff and the Joint Peel-Caledon Accessibility Advisory Committee to jointly develop the following objectives to guide the Town of Caledon's ongoing accessibility initiatives:

1. To develop and implement a staff training initiative that enables staff to effectively and proactively identify and address accessibility barriers;
2. To strengthen organizational process issues that will support accessibility;
3. To address policy issues and optimize advocacy efforts; and
4. To build public awareness and knowledge of accessibility issues.

The Town of Caledon in 2006 will retain and assign the resources necessary to eliminate barriers as described under the following work plan. The Town proposes:

1. That the existing accessibility planning and work programs be supported to:
 - Continue to address the key activities resulting from barrier identification review;
 - Continue to undertake a detailed review of identified barriers, including budget and implementation considerations in coordination with the service strategy and business planning cycle for each department;
 - Develop a formal process to identify which by-laws, policies need to be reviewed in greater detail;
 - Establish business practices to guide the assessment of all new programs, services and facilities to ensure the assessment of all new programs, services and facilities to ensure compliance with *The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*;
 - Continue consultation with area municipalities and public sector;
 - Report regularly to Council; and
 - Review accessibility interfaces with neighbouring municipalities.
2. That the Town maintain close communications with the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration to receive the standards for accessibility as developed by the Ministry and to develop work plans for implementation of these standards for Caledon.

Town of Caledon Accessibility Contact Information

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T. LeRoux
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E. Kolb, Regional Chair
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Appendix I – Foundation for the Town of Caledon Accessibility Plan

ODA Overview

The *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA) was proclaimed on September 30, 2002. The goal of the ODA is to improve access and opportunities for persons of all ages with disabilities. The ODA provides for the involvement of persons with disabilities in the process of identifying, removing and preventing barriers so that persons with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate fully in the life of the province. The Act also outlines new requirements for municipalities in Ontario to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to enable them to become involved in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers.

Under the ODA, all Ontario government ministries as well as municipalities, hospitals, school boards, colleges, universities and public transportation organizations have a legal obligation to prepare annual accessibility plans and to make these plans available to the public. Organizations with obligations under the ODA must consult with people with disabilities when preparing their plans to ensure that they reflect local needs, concerns and priorities. Accessibility plans are intended to address existing barriers to people with disabilities and to prevent new barriers from being established. The first plans were due September 30, 2003 with the intention of being made available to the public at that time.

Municipal Requirements

The ODA requires that municipal accessibility plans address barriers in the municipalities' by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services in the following ways:

- Report on the measures that the municipality has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.

- Describe 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 people with disabilities.
- List the by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services that the municipality will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
- Describe the measures the municipality intends to take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- Make the accessibility plan available to the public.

The ODA also imposes other obligations on municipalities either directly or through amendments to other Ontario statutes covering such matters as:

- Access to public buildings and facilities;
- Accessibility must be considered as part of planning, development and subdivision approval;
- Accessibility must be considered as part of the building permit process;
- Certain conditions covering business licenses;
- Misuse of designated parking spaces established in municipal by-laws;
- Improved access to municipal elections considering access when selecting locations for voting.

The ODA requires the establishment of an Accessibility Advisory Committee and the preparation and implementation of an annual accessibility plan. The ODA further stipulates that a minimum of 50% of the membership of the committee must be composed of persons with disabilities.

What is a Disability?

The ODA and the Ontario *Human Rights Code* define a **disability** as follows:

- a. Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and includes, but is not limited to:
 - 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*.

What is a Barrier?

A barrier is anything that stops a person with a disability from fully taking part in society because of that disability. Some barriers include:

- physical barriers, for example a step at the entrance to a store;
- architectural barriers, for example no elevators in a building of more than one floor;
- information barriers, for example typefaces that are too small to be read by a person with low vision;
- communication barriers, for example announcing important messages over an intercom that people with hearing impairments cannot hear clearly;
- attitudinal barriers, for example assuming people with a disability can't perform a certain task when in fact they can;
- technological barriers, for example traffic lights that change too quickly before a person with a disability has time to get through the intersection;
- policy/practice, for example a practice of convening public meetings in locations that are not accessible.

Town of Caledon Overview

The Town of Caledon is a lower-tier municipality located within the Region of Peel in the Greater Toronto Area. The Town is a geographically diverse municipality covering over 700 square kilometres and now has an estimated population of 55,000. The Town is the most northerly of the three area municipalities constituting the Regional Municipality of Peel and comprises 55% of the total land area in the Region. Located northwest of Toronto, the Town exhibits the characteristics of a distinct rural area under increasing pressure of development from the expanding urban area.

While the libraries are not part of the corporate structure of the Town, Council funds them. As such the Town libraries technically are a corporate body in its own right, but they are included in the Town's Plan.

The key services provided by the Town, both internally and externally, are as follows:

- Municipal Elections
- Commissioning of Documents and Affidavits
- Administration of Town Council meetings
- Day Camps and Children's Programmes
- Youth Programmes
- Community Hall Operations
- Arena and Pool Operations
- Fire Protection Services
- Police Station Property Management
- Roads
- Library services
- Animal Services
- Development Services
- Building Permits
- Heritage Services
- Industrial and Commercial Development
- Parks and Trails
- Litigation
- Subdivisions
- Corporate Budget and Accounts
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Parking Services
- Provincial Offences Court

As with all other municipalities in Ontario, the Town of Caledon will meet the requirements of the ODA by preparing and implementing an annual Accessibility Plan. The Town of Caledon has committed to review and identify barriers for persons with disabilities, which in turn will lead to the progressive removal of found barriers that may exist in its services, programmes, policies, procedures or facilities. It is important to realize that the removal of barriers is an ongoing process that may require refinement or revision based on consultation with those who use the Town's services, programmes and facilities.