



Corporation of the County of Huron 1 Courthouse Square
Goderich, ON N7A 1M2 Canada **Tel:** 519.524.8394 Ext. 3257
Fax: 519.524.2044 **www.huroncounty.ca**

MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE

Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee's 2016 Accomplishments

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has worked diligently to achieve the goals defined within the approved plan. Recognized achievements include:

- **Accessibility Plans:** The County of Huron has created an Annual Accessibility Plan under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001 and a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan update under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005, with annual updates on successes. The County of Huron has completed both requirements with the documents approved by County Council at the December 2016 County Council meeting.
- **Site Plan Reviews:** The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has been actively engaged with county staff as well as private businesses and organizations in conducting Site Plan Reviews in a timely fashion. The committee believes public awareness will continue to stimulate community participation and the subcommittee's time and commitment. Recommendations were made for each review. Examples of completed site plan reviews for the year of 2016:
 - Town of Goderich playground equipment and other playgrounds in the area.
 - Huron County Economic Development renovation plans for new office space on the second floor of West Street.
 - Exeter Legion inquired how to make their doors and elevator accessible.
 - Accessibility information was sent to Blyth Church regarding accessibility for their seating and stage area.
 - Information to West Wawanosh Insurance for their accessible parking spaces.

- Wingham Medical Clinic - accessibility at their office and accessible fonts on signage.
 - The Township of Howick information on their Automatic Door Opener Project.
- **Government Directives and Regulations:** The Accessibility Advisory Committee has provided updates and advice about new government directives and regulations to County Council and the Working Group. The Working Group is made up of one volunteer/staff member from each lower tier. Each member of the group reports back to and shares newly developed resources and material approved by County Council to their Mayor/Councillors.
 - **Continued Relations with County Council, Lower Tiers and Businesses:** The Committee has reached out to the community. Aside from regular Council updates shared by County council representatives with their respective municipalities the committee has contacted lower tiers and private business to participate in committee organized awareness events and various speaking engagements with a noticeable increase in Councillor participation in community events.
 - **Annual Awards Program.** The Annual Awards Program has been expanded and well received. The awards program was created to promote public awareness of the importance of barrier-free design, and to recognize excellence in accessibility design. Four awards were presented in 2015 (which is double the awards awarded in 2014) in conjunction with National Access Awareness Week to the owner(s) of a building or facility that has been designed or renovated with special regard to accessibility for persons with a disability. Two awards will be presented to private businesses and two to public sector organizations.
 - **Continued use of Resources:** The HCAAC & Huron County Council have approved the “Illustrated Technical Guide to the Accessibility Standard for the Design of Public Spaces” as the official document for Building Officials to ensure that Huron County is in compliance with the standard. The HCAAC provided each lower tier with two printed hard copies of the document (one for each Building Official and one to be kept in the office for residence to use), one copy for each of the Site Plan Review Subcommittee and 2 copies for Huron County residence to use. This additional resource can be found online at: <http://www.gaates.org/DOPS/default.php>

- Huron County's Planning Department consulted with the HCAAC, County Council, appropriate County Staff and public businesses on Design Elements we are required to be in compliance with and when. (See Appendix 2)
- Huron County's Planning Department received County Council approval on the revised document entitled "Universal Design and Accessibility Guideline for Site Plan Control, 2015 Edition". In the interest of assisting municipalities in Huron County, the HCAAC committee has prepared this document, outlining standards for accessibility that can be adopted by municipal councils and implemented locally through the site plan control approval process. The HCAAC committee firmly believes that it is important to implement the same standards of accessibility throughout the province and region; as such, the 2008 guideline has been updated to be consistent with the Design of Public Spaces Standard, a standard under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.
<http://www.huroncounty.ca/administration/downloads/Site-Plan-ControlAccessibility-Guideline-2016.pdf>
- The Huron County and Perth County Accessibility Committees will be assisting in an advisory capacity for the 2017 International Plowing Match.
- The HCAAC has continued to invest a lot of time and effort into the development of accessibility training to employees/staff of all kinds through continuous learnings on training requirements defined in the Integrated Accessibility Regulation. These learning opportunities were customized into six modules:
 - Customer Service,
 - General Requirements,
 - Human Rights,
 - Employment,
 - Information & Communication, and
 - Design of Public Spaces.
- All new County staff received all required training within an appropriate time frame. All staff are required to receive training on accessibility standards for customer service and use of assistive devices.
- Building Plan Review, Site Plan and Physical Architectural Assessment Committee – has developed and posted a Public Request Form on the Huron County website.
- Successfully completed a File Review – Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 by the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure Standards, Policy and Compliance Branch, Accessibility Directorate of Ontario

- Launched new Huron County website incorporating accessibility features in the design and conforming to WCAG 2.0 Level AA and Level A.
- Upon request, provide information in accessible formats and with communication supports at the same cost charged to other. Publicized the availability of accessible formats and communication supports on website and documents.
- Continue to work with IT and Human Resources departments to train staff on accessibility standards.