

THE TOWNSHIP OF SMITH-ENNISMORE-LAKEFIELD

DATE: September 27, 2005

TO: Reeve Millen and Members of Council

FROM: Angela Chittick, Deputy Clerk

RE: Year 3 – Joint Township and County Accessibility Plan

STATUS: For Direction

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report of the Deputy Clerk, regarding the Year 3 – Joint Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield and County of Peterborough Accessibility Plan be received for information; and that the Objectives as outlined in the stated report be adopted and incorporated into the Year 3 Joint Accessibility Plan as required by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 and submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

BACKGROUND:

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001 and the new Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) 2005 require municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) and to consult on the creation and maintenance of an annual municipal accessibility plan. These Acts require AAC's to advise Council annually about the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its accessibility plan. The initial AAC plan in 2003 was the subject of a comprehensive update in 2004. The recommendations and format of the Year 2 Plan will be retained with the following objectives as identified by the Committee to be included to create the Year 3 2005 Plan:

- § **Reporting Process** (Item 10.1 – Year 2 Plan) – Development of a more comprehensive reporting process to keep AAC informed throughout the recommendation stage through to decision-making/implementation.
- § **Parking Review** (Item 10.2 – Year 2 Plan) – Identified in the Year 2 Plan with recommendation to retain for further development in Year 3.
- § **Bridging the Gap – Enhancing Communications/Public Relations** (Item 10.3 – Year 2 Plan) – Identified in the Year 2 Plan with recommendation to retain in Year 3 for further follow-up. The Committee discussed the specific need to offer assistance to the following organizations on community events/projects: Bridgenorth Beautification Committee, BEL Rotary, Jazz and Art and Literacy Festival, and continued participation in the City of Peterborough's Accessibility Awareness Week. Also discussed was the possible development of a brochure/pamphlet that could be made available and distributed at events such as Accessibility Awareness Week to highlight the work and responsibilities of the AAC. Committee wishes to continue issuing Recognition Certificates for developments that improve accessibility. Committee suggested working with Marshall Elliot and the Social Planning

Council to coordinate efforts in raising awareness of accessibility issues. Committee suggested representation from the following community agencies to further enhance communications:

- Canadian Hearing Society
 - Canadian Mental Health Association
- § **Site Inspections** (Item 10.3 – Year 2 Plan) – Add site inspections of the Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield Township office, the Lakefield-Smith Community Centre Parking Lot, on-street parking and parking lots on Queen Street in Lakefield, and municipal recreational trails as well as offering feedback on accessibility needs for the 2006 International Plowing Match.
- § **Public Resources** (Item 10.4 – Year 2 Plan) – As the County has recently re-designed its website, Committee requested staff ensure the current year’s accessibility plan was posted to the County site.
- § **Building Code Checklist** (Item 10.6 – Year 2 Plan) – Retain in Year 3 for further development.

Once again I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the members of the AAC who have worked very over the last year and committed a great deal of time to provide input and make recommendations to remove barriers in our Community.

Prepared By: Angela Chittick
Deputy Clerk

Reviewed By: Norman K. Kyle
C.A.O.

____ Endorsed
____ Not Endorsed