

## TOWNSHIP OF SMITH-ENNISMORE-LAKEFIELD

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**DATE:** October 14, 2008  
**TO:** Reeve Millen and Members of Council  
**FROM:** Angela Chittick, Clerk  
**RE:** Year 6 – Joint Township and County Accessibility Plan  
**STATUS:** For Direction

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the report of the Clerk regarding the Year 6 Objectives – Joint Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield and County of Peterborough Accessibility Plan be received for information; and that the Council of the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield adopt the Year 6 Objectives into the Joint County/Township Accessibility Plan as required by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 for submission to the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Costs related to the Committee and its initiatives are included in the approved budget. Any future capital items or other initiatives would be considered by Council during the budget process.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Township and the County of Peterborough have a joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) in accordance with the Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001 and the new Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) 2005. These Acts require AACs to advise Council annually about the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its accessibility plan.

The AAC is recommending that the following Year 6 Objectives be adopted and incorporated into the joint Township/County Accessibility Plan:

1) Site Plan/Project Review for upcoming County/Township Projects (*Plan Reference Section 6.2: Review Methodologies*)

- Township – proposed expansion of the Township's Administrative Office
- Township – Applicable site plan reviews under the Planning Act
- County – Lang Pioneer Village accessibility upgrades (pending grant approval)
- County – County Court House and Douro Depot building condition assessment
- County- automated doors in the Human Resources Offices

2) Invitation to Local Businesses to Provide Feedback to Improve Accessibility  
(*Plan Reference Section 10.3 - Bridging the Gap – Enhancing Communications/Public Relations*)

- Build on the success of the 1/2 day accessibility information session held in June of 2007 by offering on-site feedback to local businesses on practical ways a business can improve the accessibility of its services and facilities.
- Work in cooperation with the local Chamber of Commerce to promote the service as well as providing information on accessibility related regulations and standards.

3) Participation in the Holnbeck Award Selection Process (*Plan Reference Section 10.3 - Bridging the Gap – Enhancing Communications/Public Relations*)

- AAC Chair to represent the Committee to select a recipient for the Holnbeck Award

4) Continue Outreach Efforts to Community groups/stakeholders by providing information and feedback on how to improve accessibility. (*Plan Reference Section 10.3 - Bridging the Gap – Enhancing Communications/Public Relations*)

- Shamrock Festival and Jazz and Art Committees
- Other Community Groups who may request assistance/resources
- Participate in the Annual Accessibility Awareness Activities held in Peterborough by the Council for Persons with Disabilities.
- Develop a pilot program to work with local schools to deliver a “Time in My Shoes” program in the spring of 2009 with the goal of implementing in other local schools.

5) Review and consider impacts of future Accessibility Standards imposed under the AODA 2005 (*Plan Reference Section 7: Decisions-Making Review*)

- Specifically the first two standards Customer Service Standard and Transportation Standard having regard for the impacts from these standards on County and Township policies, procedures and operations.

6) Work with Community Stakeholders to Understand and Promote Accessibility in Recreational Activities (*Plan Reference Section 10.3 - Bridging the Gap – Enhancing Communications/Public Relations*)

- Curling Clubs, Sledge Hockey, Sailing etc...

- 7) Through the planned update the Township web site and its Communication Strategy, promote “wheel chair friendly facilities”, accessibility initiatives and available resources. Incorporate accessible components, where possible, into web site design (*Plan Reference Section 10.3 - Bridging the Gap – Enhancing Communications/Public Relations*).

## **OVERVIEW OF OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES 2007/2008**

Thanks are extended to the Committee members who have shown commitment and dedication in making suggestions to improve accessibility in the Township and the County. Committee members include: Michael Townsend, Thomas Campbell, Alec Denys, Councillor Karl Moher (County representative), and Anita Locke (Township representative). The Committee participated in the annual Accessibility Awareness Event activities hosted by the Peterborough Council for Persons with Disabilities. Other Committee activities from the previous year are highlighted below:

### **Site Plan Review**

The Committee reviewed and provided comments on site plans for:

- Peterborough Affordable Housing Corporation Development - Lakefield
- Site Plan – Ridpath Junior Public School
- Kingdon Storage, 3335 Lakefield Highway

### **County/Township Initiated Projects**

The Committee reviewed and provided comments related to the following Township and County projects:

#### **County:**

- County – New office space for Emergency Management Services and Public Works -310 Armour Road
- County Courthouse Reception Area
- Court Offices

#### **Township:**

- Lakefield Community Centre – review of recent accessibility upgrades to entrance doors, parking, washroom and viewing ramp
- Township - Bridgenorth Library – included an in-depth review of the architectural drawings

### **Policy Recommendations**

The Committee sought and provided input to the County of Peterborough Technical Services Division relative to accessible pedestrian signals. This input was sought due a request from the CNIB who was representing a client living in Lakefield who was seeking a safe pedestrian crossing at the Queen and Bridge Street intersection. The County adopted a protocol for assessing the installation of accessible pedestrian signals and it is expected that the County will consider an accessible signal at the intersection of Queen and Bridge Streets as part of the 2009 budget process. Other signalized intersections were reviewed in the County and it is expected that the program will be expanded over time.

**Terms of Reference**

The Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference and subsequently made recommendations for changes which were approved of and adopted by both Councils.

**STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE**

Improving the accessibility of the Township's services and facilities aligns with the Strategic Plan's Quality of Life, Infrastructure Support and Organizational Excellence goals.

*Angela Chittick*

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Prepared By: Angela Chittick  
Clerk

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Reviewed By: Janice Lavalley, C.A.O.

Endorsed

Not Endorsed