



ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

2008/2009

TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

October 2008 – September 2009

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Executive Summary

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) 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. To this end, the ODA mandates that each municipality prepare an annual accessibility plan.

The report describes the measures that the Township has taken in the past, and the measures that will be taken during the year 2008-2009 to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities that use the facilities and services of the municipality, including staff and other members of the community.

Aim

This report describes the measures that the Township of Warwick has taken in the past and the measures to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities that use the facilities and services of the municipality including staff and other members of the community.

Objectives

This report:

- 1) Describes the process by which the municipality will identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- 2) Reviews earlier efforts to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- 3) Lists the facilities, policies, programs, practices and services that the municipality will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
- 4) Describe the measures the municipality will take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- 5) Describe how the municipality will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

Description of the Township of Warwick

The Township of Warwick is a newly restructured municipality (1998) comprised of the former municipalities of the Village of Watford and the Township of Warwick. The new municipality has a population of approximately 4060 residents. There is no seasonal population in the municipality.

The municipality is responsible for the provision of municipal services throughout the municipality including (1) arena, (2) community halls, (1) library, (3) ball diamonds, (2) fire halls, (2) works depots, (1) tennis courts and (1) municipal office.

The Township of Warwick commitment to accessibility planning

- The continual improvement of access to municipal premises, facilities and services for its ratepayers and staff with disabilities.
- The provision of quality services to all ratepayers and members of the community with disabilities.

The Mayor and Council authorized the Administrator/Treasurer to prepare an accessibility plan that will enable the Township of Warwick to meet these commitments and was given the mandate:

- Conduct research on barriers to people with disabilities in all facilities, regulations, policies, programs, practices and services offered by the Township of Warwick.
- List facilities, regulations, policies, programs, practices and services that may cause barriers to people with disabilities.
- Identify barriers that will be removed or prevented in the coming years.

A. RECENT & PREVIOUS BARRIER-REMOVAL INITIATIVES

During the last years, there have been informal initiatives to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.

i) Sidewalks

- During 2008 residential sidewalks were replaced on St Clair St. to handicap width. The total length replaced was approximately 500 meters.
- New sidewalks were installed in Warwick Village on the south side of Egremont Line for approximately 700 meters which now provides wheelchair accessibility to the Warwick Village Park
- Works Department has continued to address sidewalk irregularities in Watford that have arisen over the last year since the major work completed the summer of 2004 were corrected.

ii) Recreation

- New handicap ramp deemed necessary at Centennial Hall in Watford will be installed during 2009 to access two floor levels.
- Consideration is being taken to provide a land level access to this building and coordination is needed with the County of Lambton
- The old Watford Fire Hall/Museum was approved to be renovated in 2008 to place handicap washrooms etc. on the main level as well as to add entrances and provide additional room for access.
- Children's playground equipment was replaced in both Watford and Warrick Village parks to provide the latest in equipment etc.
- A new soccer complex started construction in 2008 and will carry over to 2009. The new club house/change rooms, washrooms and parking are all designed for handicapped.

iii) Handicapped Parking

All these spaces were repainted in 2008

ii) **Municipal Banking Options**

The municipality continues to offer a range of banking options for residents conducting business with the municipality. Water and tax bills can be paid by computer banking.

RECENT BARRIER-REMOVAL INITIATIVES continued

iv) **Informal site audit of municipally owned buildings**

October, 2006

vi) **Web Site / E-mail**

Council retained a company in September, 2003 to develop a new web site which was released in June of 2004 and new e-mail addresses were installed for employees.

vii) **Handicapped Parking Spaces**

During this period additional handicapped parking spaces were considered by council but the existing locations are deemed adequate in Watford .

B. Barrier Identification Methodologies

Barrier identification methods were examined in the following ways:

Staff	Staff reviewed the properties and facilities to evaluate accessibility and barriers at each location.
Operational Review	Staff visited various sites to check each facility's accessibility.

C. BARRIERS IDENTIFIED

The informal site audit identified some barriers in all municipally owned facilities. Over the next several years, the municipality has decided to review and focus on the removal of these barriers. Barriers have been divided into two groups ie: Systemic Barriers and Facility Barriers.

<i>Systemic Barrier</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Strategy for Removal/prevention</i>
1) Municipal Road Signage	Information	The municipality phase out existing road signage with small print and replace with larger print signs that will meet code. Continue to install signs that warn motorist of persons with disabilities
2) Handicap Parking Spots	Information	Recent study completed - Improve painting and signage for all spots

Barriers that will be addressed in the future

As indicated during 2008 plan period, Senior Management Advisory Committee will proceed to identify further systemic barriers and prepare a report for council's consideration.

Review and Monitoring Process

The Township of Warwick plans to consult with people with disabilities through the Upper Tier Accessibility Advisory Committee to further identify accessibility issues and update the local accessibility plan to meet the accessibility guidelines in the future.

Services of the County Planning and Building Inspection Department will be utilized to advise the code and accessibility guidelines during retrofit procedures.

COMMUNICATION OF THE PLAN

Copies of the plan are available in the Municipal Office and Libraries in the Township of Warwick. The plan will be included on the Township website www.warwicktownship.ca. On request, the report will be made available on hard copy, in large print or computer disk.