

TOWN OF BRADFORD WEST GWILLIMBURY



A Growing Tradition

2010 ANNUAL REPORT ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury is pleased to present the 2010 Accessibility Advisory Report. Our Town is making efforts to become more accessible to people with disabilities within the areas of services and facilities.

Under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), municipal governments are among the key public sector institutions that are mandated to foster change and meet the specific accessibility needs of their own policies, programs and services. This Act lays out a comprehensive road map to make Ontario accessible to all people by 2025.

Over the last year, we have achieved milestones in implementing the AODA and the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury is working towards the goal of an accessible Ontario by 2025.

1. SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION

When the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) was enacted by the Province of Ontario in 2002, all municipalities were required to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee and file an annual Accessibility Plan. In 2005, the **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act** (AODA) was enacted providing a greater scope of legislative authority. This legislation provides a vision of making Ontario more accessible and offers timelines from 5 years to 20 years for achievements.

The Act provides for the development, implementation, and enforcement of accessibility standards in order to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities with respect to goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures and premises on or before January 1, 2025.

2. POLICY

Numerous policy decisions will need to be made by Council with respect to the manner in which AODA will continue to be implemented within the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

3. GOALS

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury's Accessibility Committee is committed to facilitate and improve accessibility on behalf of all disabled persons by:

- Promoting public awareness through customer service standards and sensitivity training
- Commitment to education, training, as well as programs and services.
- Using information, (access symbols, pamphlets/brochures re: accessibility) etc.
- Encouraging co-operation among all service and interest groups
- Making Town facilities more accessible
- Investigating and reporting on the use of assistive and technical devices.

The new 2010-2014 Accessibility Advisory Committee will review these goals at their first meeting and reassess their relevance.

4. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this 2010 Accessibility Report is to provide the Town's initiatives in implementing standards for the provision of services to people with disabilities, to ensure that we improve the quality of services.

5. ACHIEVEMENTS & SUCCESSES

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury has successfully deployed action for the following items:

- The Accessibility Advisory Committee reviewed and revised the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury's Accessibility Plan to include new legislation and written comments received
- Consulted with agencies, Ministry's, organizations, support services and departments for recommendations for inclusion within the 2010 Annual Report

- Continue to host all Council, Committee of the Whole, Committee, and Board meetings at accessible facilities
- Posted the Accessibility Plan and other pertinent updates to the Town's website
- Continue to update and increase information on the Town's website
- Updated our Support Services Agencies and Organizations Resource List
- Circulated site plan applications to the Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Public Works completed road construction, road and sidewalk repairs, grading improvements and curb cuts
- The Accessibility Advisory Committee has provided Public Works with a list of recommendations for upgrades to curbs cuts, repairs and replacements
- Audible traffic signals were installed
- All correspondence to the Accessibility Advisory Committee is produced in large print (Arial 14 pt font)
- Facilities and Parks installed park identification signs at several park locations and installed accessible playground equipment
- Staff continued to circulate to Members of Council and the Town's Accessibility Advisory Committee applicable existing and proposed legislation, correspondence and publications
- The Accessibility Advisory Committee recommended the development of an inventory of public and private disabled parking spaces within our community
- The Accessibility Advisory Committee recommended improvements for public access to private properties
- The Town obtained a number of large print books for the public library
- 'Sign Language' programs were offered to the public through the Town's Leisure Services Department.
- Construction began in 2010 for the new Library and Leisure Centre, both adhering to increased requirements of the Ontario Building Code
- The Town adopted a Accessible Customer Service Policy, in January of 2010 and all employees have received training in relation to this policy

5. TOWN AS AN EMPLOYER - EMPLOYMENT ACCOMMODATIONS

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury continued to support and accommodate the needs of our employees with disabilities, by offering:

- Training, advice & resource information to managers to help them meet their accessible accommodation obligations
- Assessment and evaluation of workstations

- Information on accommodation issues, administration, and implementation of the Return to Work Policy. Under this policy, managers are offered help, advice and information on how they may accommodate the needs of employees with disabilities who choose to remain on the job or return to work.

6. TRAINING

Sensitivity training was recommended by the Accessibility Advisory Committee for municipal staff in 2008 and has now taken place with the implementation of the Town's Accessible Customer Service Policy, Procedures and Practices in 2010. Training for current employees was done in groups and continues with new hires during orientation.

7. FACILITIES ACCOMODATION

The Town undertook limited renovations to current offices and has a new space at 100 Dissette Street Unit 4 where accessibility was considered during renovations. Construction of the new Library and Leisure Centre has met increased requirements of the Ontario Building Code.

8. COMMITMENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR 2010 – 2011

The Town will continue to develop its Accessibility Plan and improve accessibility in communications, facilities and technology. Annual reports will be prepared, presented to Council and published to the Town's website.

9. METHODS TO BE TAKEN TO PREVENT NEW BARRIERS

The Town will continue to develop processes to ensure that policies, programs and services are assessed to review their impact on people with disabilities and eliminate barriers.

10. AREAS TO BE REVIEWED

The Town will continue to develop policies, procedures, and processes which are accessible to individuals with disabilities. A recommendation to develop a "Planning for Barrier Free Development" Guide with standards to guide developers in considering accessibility issues and eliminating barriers to accessibility when designing public spaces was introduced. The Accessibility

Committee will continue to recommend improvements to services to achieve more accessible facilities, programs and services.

11. CONTINUED ACTION TO BE TAKEN

The Town will continue to develop and expand the Town's Accessibility Plan and public awareness. Our office will improve accessibility of facilities, enhance communication through assistive devices and maintain our commitment to accessibility with the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions, suggestions or comments regarding the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury's Accessibility Plan and Accessibility Advisory Committee Annual Reports are always welcome.

For more information, please contact the Town at the following address:

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Accessibility Advisory Committee, c/o Leisl McDill, Committee Coordinator
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Bradford, Ontario L3Z 2A7
Telephone: (905)775-5366 Fax: (905) 775-0153
E-mail: lmcdill@townofbwg.com
Town website: www.town.bradfordwestgwillimbury.on.ca

The Accessibility Advisory Committee encourages the public to visit the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Accessibility Ontario Web, www.citizenship.gov.on.ca

This site promotes accessibility and provides information and resources on how to make Ontario a barrier-free society. Alternate formats of documents are available free upon request from: Publications Ontario, 880 Bay Street, Toronto, ON M7A 1N8. (Tel) 416 326-5300, Toll-Free: 1-800-668-9938; TTY Service: 1-800-268-7095.

13. CERTIFICATION

The information required to be provided in this report under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, has been provided by the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury and the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

The information included within this report is accurate and a statement has been prepared and certified by the Town Manager as required under Section 15 of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved for agenda:

Accessibility Advisory Committee
Raj Sandhu, Committee Chair

Geoff McKnight,
Acting Town Manager

Date: January 27, 2011