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City of Temiskaming Shores

2024

Accessibility Status Report

City of Temiskaming Shores
P.O. Box 2050
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Haileybury, Ontario
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Overview

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act was passed in 2005. Under the Act, organizations must meet accessibility requirements in the areas of Customer Service, Employment, Information and Communications, Transportation and Design of Public Spaces, with staggered compliance dates.

The City of Temiskaming Shores has most recently approved a multi-year accessibility plan, 2024-2028 (By-Law No. 2023-134) to provide a framework to meet these deadlines. The City will publish an Annual Accessibility Status Report to define our annual progress in meeting these goals.

The City of Temiskaming Shores strives to meet the needs of its employees and residents with disabilities, and is working to remove and prevent barriers to accessibility and to fulfill the requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. The 2024-2028 Accessibility Plan, in conjunction with the Annual Accessibility Status Report will demonstrate the Municipality's role in making Ontario accessible for all Ontarians by 2025.

The City's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan primarily focused on the five (5) Integrated Accessibility Standards. These standards were established to prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities. The standards are:

- Information & Communication;
- Employment;
- Transportation;
- Design of Public Spaces; and
- Customer Service.

Below is a summary of the City's accessibility achievements in 2024.

Information and Communication

Compliance Reporting

As a bi-annual requirement, the City completed an Accessibility Compliance Report, for submission to the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario under the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility at the end of 2023. This report has been posted to the City's website.

Council Meetings

The City of Temiskaming Shores continues to use audio/ visual equipment upgrades to offer the live streaming of Regular Council meetings. The upgrades also provide the City with an opportunity to host both Council and Committee meetings virtually or through a hybrid model. As such, the City's Procedural By-law includes provisions to ensure Council members or members of a local board can participate in meetings electronically (including

closed session), and can be counted in determining whether or not a quorum of members is present at any point in time.

The live-streaming and hybrid meetings provide many benefits, including more opportunities for community participation, options for accessibility measures such as closed captioning and increased flexibility for Council members. All Council meeting documents are available in an accessible format on the City's website.

Procurement

The City of Temiskaming Shores continues to include an AODA Compliance clause regarding accessibility requirements in procurement documents (i.e., Request for Proposals, etc.).

Recreation

The City of Temiskaming Shores All Age Friendly Community Committee continues to meet with a mandate of leading initiatives aimed at making the City a more age friendly community, enabling all residents to participate as full and meaningful community members. Some of the focus areas for the Committee is to improve social participation, such as advertising the accessible features of programs and modifications that can be made for older adults with physical challenges; to improve outdoor spaces and public buildings, such as creating partnerships with local businesses to increase access to washroom facilities in public areas (especially businesses with accessible washrooms), and creating partnerships for ramp projects to assist businesses with one or two stair entrances/exits.

Site Plan Control

The Accessibility Advisory Committee continues to provide feedback on Site Plan Control applications prior to approval, for the purpose of providing input on a variety of City and private developments.

Employment

The City continues to comply with the requirements of Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation by including the training requirements as part of the City's onboarding package during orientation.

In addition, the public is notified of accommodations for applicants with disabilities during the recruitment process.

Transportation

The City ordered one (1) new accessible transit bus in 2024, with a delivery date in early 2025. When this bus is delivered, the Temiskaming Transit fleet will continue to have four (4) accessible busses.

Public Spaces

The City continues to focus on removing barriers which may exist in our buildings, facilities, roadways and sidewalks while ensuring that new buildings, leases and renovations do not create any new barriers.

The Public Works Department continues to collaborate with the Accessibility Advisory Committee and local businesses to identify areas where accessible parking spaces within the City may require modifications or relocation; along with ensuring the proper curb cuts and sidewalk modifications are completed in a timely manner.

In 2024, there were five (5) curb cuts completed at the roadway intersections of Whitewood Ave. and Wellington St., Whitewood Ave. and Armstrong St., Main St. and Ferguson Ave., and the Haileybury Beach and Marina area. There was also various sidewalk improvements completed and the installation of tactile plating at Whitewood Ave. and Wellington St. and the school crossing zone at New Liskeard Public School.

City Council continually allocates \$25,000 annually for accessibility-related projects related to curb cuts, sidewalk repairs and accessible parking spaces.

The STATO Trail is a paved path approximately 17.4 km in length and is wheelchair accessible to provide recreational opportunities to all people. In 2024, the Trail was extended by 400m along Albert St. from Bruce St. to Georgina Ave. which provides additional accessible space to all residents and visitors. The extension of the paved path from Colette St. to the rear entrance of St. Michel school was also completed.

The formal Grand Opening of the Temiskaming Shores Rotary Splash Pad was held in June of 2024. This recreation installation includes accessible features for all children's enjoyment. Work was also completed to upgrade the pathways around the Spurline building and to the access pathway to the Splash Pad. The City purchased two water wheelchairs for use in each New Liskeard and Haileybury Beach areas, and Mobi-mats, which are portable nonslip roll-up beach access mats to assist people with disabilities, walkers and elderly visitors, or parents with strollers.

As an identified project from the 2024-2028 Accessibility Plan, the Shelley Herbert Shea Memorial Arena underwent basic design for potential accessibility upgrades to this well-used facility.

Customer Service

The City continues to review customer feedback and takes appropriate action. In addition, the City of has statements on the website informing people that accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request.

We Welcome Your Feedback

Members of the public are encouraged to provide comments on the City of Temiskaming Shores Multi Year Accessibility Plan, the Accessibility Status Reports, and any other accessibility related matter.

To request a copy of this report in an alternate format, please contact us at:

Call

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