



**Corporation of the County of Huron** 1 Courthouse Square  
Goderich, ON N7A 1M2 Canada **Tel:** 519.524.8394 Ext. 3257  
**Fax:** 519.524.2044 **[www.huroncounty.ca](http://www.huroncounty.ca)**

**MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE**  
**Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee's**  
**2018 Accomplishments**

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has worked diligently to achieve the goals defined within the approved plan. Recognized achievements include:

**Accessibility Plans:**

The County of Huron has created an Annual Accessibility Plan under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001 and a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan update under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005, with annual updates on successes. The County of Huron has completed both requirements with the documents approved by County Council at the November 2018 County Council meeting.

**Site Plan Reviews:**

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has been actively engaged with county staff as well as private businesses and organizations in conducting Site Plan Reviews in a timely fashion. The Committee reviewed and amended the document titled "HCAAC Building Plan Review Site Plan & Physical Architectural Assessment Committee Terms of Reference" in June 2017. It was then added to our Huron County Website. The Committee also amended the document titled "Public Request to the Building Plan Review, Site Plan and Physical Architectural Assessment Committee", and it too was added to the Huron County website. The Committee reached out to the local municipal building departments to have accessibility included in the building permit process. The Committee believes public awareness will continue to stimulate community participation and the subcommittee's time and commitment. The Committee reached out to each local municipalities to review facilities. Recommendations were made for each review.

Examples of completed and/or current site plan reviews in process for the year of 2018:

Municipalities of Central Huron (Town Hall, washrooms, entrances, library), Huron East (municipal office, Howick (entrance, public washroom, council chambers), South Huron (municipal office, library, washrooms), Ashfield-Colbourne-Wawanosh (municipal office), North Huron (municipal office, library), Morris Turnberry (municipal office).

Cowbell Brewery, Huron Residential Hospice, Brussels Four Winds Barn, The Edge of Walton, Bluevale Hall, Ben Miller Hall, OPP Station – Clinton, South Huron Recreation Centre.

## **Government Directives and Regulations:**

The Accessibility Advisory Committee has provided updates and advice about new government directives and regulations to County Council and the Working Group. The Working Group is made up of one volunteer/staff member from each lower tier. Each member of the group reports back to and shares newly developed resources and material approved by County Council to their Mayor/Councillors. A new Chair to this group was selected and the Group is meeting on a regular basis to maintain engagement with the Committee, and to network together in updating on new legislation and awareness.

## **Continued Relations with County Council, Lower Tiers and Businesses**

The Committee has reached out to the community. Aside from regular Council updates shared by County council representatives with their respective municipalities the committee has contacted local Municipalities and private business to participate in committee organized awareness events and various speaking engagements with a noticeable increase in Councillor participation in community events.

Successfully took part in the Dream Big Event - an evening of celebration of inclusion, reaching goals, overcoming obstacles and dreaming big! It was an opportunity to celebrate the strengths, gifts and talents of all people.

Successfully took part in the Discover Ability Event in partnerships with the Huron Chamber of Commerce and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to raise awareness of the AODA and the responsibilities of businesses and not-for-profit organizations. The event was to educate organizations about the resources available to help them comply with the AODA as well as to highlight the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities.

## **Annual Awards Program.**

The Annual Awards Program has been expanded and well received. The awards program was created to promote public awareness of the importance of barrier-free design, and to recognize excellence in accessibility design. At the Discover Ability Event the annual Awards of Merit for Accessibility Design were presented to 6 local businesses/organizations who were recognized for the excellence in being accessible by the HCAAC.

The 2018 Award of Merit winners:

- The International Plowing Match 2017
- Glassier's Physiotherapy Clinic
- Blyth Memorial Hall
- North Huron Health Team
- Cowbell Brewery
- Huron Midwives.

### **Continued use of Resources:**

Huron County's Planning and Development Department consulted with the HCAAC, County Council, appropriate County Staff and public businesses on Design Elements we are required to be in compliance with and when. (See Appendix 2)

- The Committee continues to keep Huron County Building Officials updated on new legislation with regards to DOPS (Design of Public Spaces)
- The Committee is continuing to promote and engage local businesses with the Huron County Stop Gap program, which encourages businesses to get involved in creating barrier free communities while receiving recognition for their efforts and participation.
- Members of the Committee attended workshops and Conferences offered by the AODA on Accessibility.
- Information regarding Government funding was forwarded to members of the Working Group for assistance in renovating existing buildings, or building new, for a more inclusive environment.
- Information was also shared with the working group to pass on to local municipalities.
- The HCAAC has continued to invest a lot of time and effort into the development of accessibility training to employees/staff of all kinds through continuous learnings on training requirements defined in the Integrated Accessibility Regulation. These learning opportunities were customized into six modules:
  1. Customer Service,
  2. General Requirements,
  3. Human Rights,
  4. Employment,
  5. Information & Communication, and
  6. Design of Public Spaces.
- Members of the Committee joined together for National AccessAbility Week that featured a local media awareness campaign with public announcements and a feature on the CTV news highlighting Wingham Hospital.
- All new County staff received all required training within an appropriate time frame. All staff are required to receive training on accessibility standards for customer service and use of assistive devices.
- Upon request, provide information in accessible formats and with communication supports at the same cost charged to other. Publicized the availability of accessible formats and communication supports on website and documents.
- Continue to work with IT and Human Resources departments to train staff on Accessibility Standards.