



2022 Annual Accessibility Plan

Accessibility Advisory Committee

**This document is available in alternative formats, upon request.
Please see Page 3 for details.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee is an established community resource that creates, develops, and implements the objectives of Huron County and its 9 municipalities be it mandated by legislation or inspired by local community groups and people from across Huron County sharing the vision of Huron County's Accessibility Advisory Committee.

It is the responsibility of the Huron County Accessibility Committee to advise Huron County Council about the



requirements and implementation of accessibility standards. Since inception, the Huron County Accessibility Committee has been promoting and developing a barrier-free Municipality for citizens of all abilities including persons with disabilities. Through local media, public events, award ceremonies and speaking engagements the Committee continues to educate and advise on accessibility issues while broadening awareness within Huron County and its lower tier municipalities.

As the provincial legislation and regulations mature, the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will continue its efforts in promoting awareness, while implementing educational and training guidelines, policies and standards defined by The Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Communication supports and accessible formats are available upon request. (e.g., digital, large print, braille)

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This report is available online at: **<http://www.huroncounty.ca>**

If your inquiry is specific to a municipality, please contact them directly.

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ONGOING GOALS

Huron County continues bettering its communities for all abilities including those with disabilities.

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) believes in taking action. That action today will improve tomorrow and strengthen our communities for all. By improving the quality of life for people with disabilities today we ensure access for those who face disabilities tomorrow.

The HCAAC is determined to provide Huron County businesses with the knowledge and information needed to create barrier free communities and economies.

The HCAAC created 3 sub committees to assist with removing barriers:

- Accessibility Education Sub Committee
- Accessibility Review Sub Committee
- Directive and Regulation Review Sub Committee.

The Accessibility Education Committee

The Accessibility Education Committee meets as required to develop and implement programs to educate agencies, businesses, and the broader private sector and to plan for special events that will bring awareness to the community regarding accessibility. This Committee will develop resources for the private sector about the AODA, Huron County's Universal Design and Accessibility Guideline for Site Plan Control, and the importance of identifying, preventing, and removing barriers and challenges faced by people with disabilities.

In the past, this Committee has partnered with local Chambers of Commerce/BIA's to raise awareness of the AODA and the responsibility of businesses and not-for-profit organizations.

The Accessibility Review Sub Committee

The Review Committee is responsible for advising Councils, within 30 days, on the accessibility for persons with disabilities to a public municipal building prior to purchasing, construction, renovation, or lease. The Accessibility Standards for the built environment focuses on removing barriers in four areas:

1. Public Spaces

2. Buildings
3. Trails and beaches
4. Outdoor play spaces

This is intended to make it easier for all Ontarians- including those with disabilities, seniors, and families to access the places where they work, travel, shop, and play.

As a large public sector organization, the Design of Public Spaces Standard only applies to new construction and planned redevelopment on or after January 1, 2016.

Ontario's Building Code has been amended to include enhancements to accessibility in buildings.

This Sub Committee is responsible for drafting, periodically reviewing and updating the document titled "Huron County Universal Design and Accessibility Guidelines" and providing it to local Municipalities to assist in their review of site plans under section 41, Site Plan Control Area, of the Planning Act. The Committee may, if requested by a local Municipality, review a site plan under section 41 of the Planning Act to ensure facilities designed are accessible for persons with disabilities.

This Sub Committee is continually increasing the number of site plan reviews to the public which breaks down barriers before they are made during construction of new buildings and renovations of old buildings. In 2017 and 2018 a building plan review form was added to our website. Site Plan Review Checklists have been developed to assist in the reviews. Forms and checklists are updated / reviewed regularly to adapt to changes in current standards.

Plans and spaces such as municipal offices, libraries, arenas, washrooms, additions, renovations, etc. have been reviewed. The word is out in Huron County on the importance of accessibility in ensuring inclusion for all.

The following were some reviews of plans and/or spaces from 2021:

Bluewater: Participated in the review of the reconstruction of Main Street Bayfield (roadway, sidewalks, parking). The HCAAC members participated at the on-line public meetings, met virtually with engineering and Municipal staff and provided written recommendations.

North Huron: Met virtually with the architect and staff to discuss the outdoor performance stage for the Blyth Festival (adjacent to the Blyth Community Centre)

Central Huron: Met with Central Huron Staff to do a virtual tour of the Clinton Main Street businesses. Comments were provided to improve their accessibility (visually / physical).

South Huron: provided comments and feedback about concerns from a resident and accessibility issues at a main highway corner and the neighboring plaza.

This Sub Committee reports back to Council, advises participating municipalities and public businesses that requested a review on the accessibility of buildings, structures or premises in relation to the updated Building Codes and Huron County's Universal Design and Accessibility Guideline for Site Plan Control document. These reports will provide County staff with valuable information on items that need to be addressed during building upgrades.

Directive and Regulation Review Sub Committee

The third and final Sub Committee that assists the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee in breaking down barriers is the Directive and Regulation Review Sub Committee.

The Directive and Regulation Review Sub Committee will review any relevant regulations and directives and identify concerns, provide solutions, and provide recommendations to the Accessibility Coordinator, such as drafting new policies identified in IASR.

The Accessibility Coordinator will gather input from the Directive and Regulation Review Committee, the Municipal Working Group and the Senior Management Team and draft a response to the Ministry of Economic Development Employment, Job Creation and Trade and write County Council identifying areas of concern and possible solutions and recommendations.

This Sub Committee will review the draft response and provide final feedback to the Accessibility Coordinator.

Summary

In Summary, with the implementation of the Accessibility Education Sub Committee; Accessibility Review Sub Committee; and the Directive and Regulation Review Sub Committee, the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has been very successful in removing and avoiding barriers in our communities.

BACKGROUND

Disability impacts the lives of many Ontarians, and the numbers of people with disabilities is increasing as the population ages. Today, over 15% of Ontario's population has a disability, including more than 40% of people over age 65. About 1.85 million people in Ontario have a disability. That is one in seven people. Over the next 20 years, as the population ages, the number will rise to one in five Ontarians. More than half of the population has a friend or a loved-one with a disability and is influenced by them when deciding which businesses to solicit. Creating municipalities where every person who lives or visits can participate fully makes good sense — for our people, our businesses, and our communities.

Although our governments have dedicated tremendous resources towards the vision of a barrier free Ontario, the reality is that persons with disabilities still face barriers which prevent them from participating in all aspects of society. As a community we must learn to see barriers as our fellow citizens with disabilities live with them.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 calls on the business community, public sector, not-for-profit sector and people with disabilities or their representatives to develop, implement and enforce mandatory accessibility standards. Accessibility standards are the rules that businesses and organizations in Ontario will have to follow to prevent or remove barriers to accessibility for all citizens.

MESSAGE FROM THE HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S CHAIR

AWARENESS & ENGAGEMENT

One of Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee's (HCAAC's) greatest strengths lies in our Committee Members, who pursue so passionately a vision of informing, educating and inspiring residents from across Huron County on making Huron County accessible for people of all abilities and ages, eventually leading to a fully inclusive society for all.

Despite Covid-19 impacts that began in March 2020 and have unknown future impacts, the HCAAC has continued to meet virtually via ZOOM to discuss, review and focus on accessibility.

The HCAAC has continued to invest 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 and focus on:

- Customer Service
- General Requirements
- Human Rights
- Employment
- Information & Communication, and
- Design of Public Spaces

What training each staff is required to take is based on the job responsibilities, for example, if you are a Facilities staff you are required to take the minimum training which includes Human Rights, General Requirements and Customer Service. If you have a management position you are required to complete all training modules. All staff are required to receive training on accessibility standards for customer service and use of assistive devices (magnifying glass, large print, voice to text, etc)

It is a goal of the HCAAC to continue to provide businesses with training opportunities and provide training material to increase their awareness and knowledge of the Government Legislation. It is our hope to also increase engagement between HCAAC and local businesses.

GOVERNANCE

The Accessibility Committee has been working together virtually over 2021 and looks forward to continuing that work in 2022. We have a great blend of energized individuals mixed with some experienced Committee members that have brought their knowledge and experience to the Committee. In 2022 we will be seeking new Committee members to join us in 2023 as several Committee members will be reaching the end of their maximum number of terms they can participate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Committee members for their dedication, commitment and passion for creating an inclusive society.

Thank you.

Warden Glen McNeil, Committee Chair

COUNTY COUNCIL (2022)

Huron County is governed by County Council, which is made up of fifteen (15) members from area municipalities. Each municipality located within Huron County, is represented at County Council by their representatives - Mayors or Reeves, Deputy Mayors or Deputy Reeves.

At their Inaugural Session in December (every 2 years), County Council elects a Warden from among the Councilors. The Warden is the executive officer of the Corporation and the head of County Council. The Warden chairs County Council meetings, sits as an ex-officio member on all Standing Committees, and represents the County at a wide range of functions and activities.

Huron County includes the following nine lower tier, or local municipalities:

- Corporation of the **Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh**
(Formerly Ashfield, Colborne and West Wawanosh Townships)
- Corporation of the **Municipality of Bluewater**
(Formerly Hay and Stanley Townships, plus the Villages of Bayfield, Hensall and Zurich)
- Corporation of the **Municipality of Central Huron**
(Formerly Goderich and Hullett Townships, and the Town of Clinton)
- Corporation of the **Town of Goderich**
- Corporation of the **Township of Howick**
- Corporation of the **Municipality of Huron East**
(Formerly Grey, McKillop and Tuckersmith Townships, Village of Brussels, and Town of Seaforth)
- Corporation of the **Municipality of Morris – Turnberry**
(Formerly Morris and Turnberry Townships)
- Corporation of the **Township of North Huron**
(Formerly Village of Blyth, Township of East Wawanosh, and Town of Wingham)
- Corporation of the **Municipality of South Huron**
(Formerly Stephen and Usborne Townships and Town of Exeter)

Starting in 2021, each of the 9 municipalities will be providing a summary of their local accessibility projects, achievements, and proposed activities in the Annual Accessibility Plan. A template for this summary is located in the Appendix.

HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HCAAC)

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee is made up of 9 voting members including:

- 5 persons with a disability as defined in the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA)
- 1 person from professional discipline
- 1 citizen representative
- 1 elected official
- Warden as ex-officio

The HCAAC is supported by 6 non-voting members including:

- chair of the ODA Municipal Working Group
- 1 person from County Planning Department
- 1 Municipal Building Official
- Huron County CAO
- the Accessibility Coordinator
- and the County Clerk

Other Huron County staff may support the committee in various capacities.

For 2022 the HCAAC includes:

Voting Members: Warden, Member of Council, and 7 Committee members

Non-Voting Members:

- Chairperson Municipal Working Group: Florence Witherspoon (2021) / Chandra Alexander (2022)
- County Planning Department: Celina Whaling-Rae
- Municipal Building Official: Jeanette Zimmer
- Huron County CAO: Meighan Wark
- County Clerk: Susan Cronin
- Accessibility Coordinator

OUR VISION

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will inform and inspire people from across Huron County on making Huron County accessible for people of all abilities and ages. Age-Friendly Community Planning and the removal of barriers for persons with disabilities go together.

OUR MISSION

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will assist Huron County Council and participating municipalities to fulfill the purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act by providing vision and advice to council in regards to the removal of barriers by 2025.

OUR MANDATE

The authority to establish the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) originated from the provisions of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) and will continue to exist under the provisions of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

The HCAAC is the advisory committee to Huron County Council and participating municipalities fulfilling the purpose of the ODA and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

GOALS & OBJECTIVES OF THE HCAAC

The objectives of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee are revised and updated annually in November and are used as a resource that outlines the role and responsibilities of the HCAAC and also provides a monitoring tool to ensure all tasks are completed and not forgotten. (See Appendix 1) This document is divided into two sections:

- Objectives mandated by legislation under the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standard (IASR)
- Objectives driven by communities to accomplish the committee's vision of informing and inspiring people from across Huron County on making Huron County accessible for people of all abilities.

LAST YEAR'S GOALS

- Under the requirements of the Ontarians with Disability Act 2001, the HCAAC continued to create and post a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and an Annual Accessibility Plan that contains the goals of Huron County and last year's successes.

- Under the requirements of both the ODA and the AODA, the HCAAC continued to review, in a timely manner and advise municipalities, local businesses and County Council on the accessibility of building plans and drawings for renovation and new construction, and the purchase or lease of public buildings as well as review exterior site plans as requested.
- Provided advice to County Council and participating municipalities with respect to government directives and regulations relating to the status of persons with disabilities including regulations for the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and more specifically the Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation. The HCAAC will continue to provide advice, tools, and direction to Huron County Council and participating municipalities on obtaining full compliance within timelines set out in the Regulation.
- The Committee continued to enhance relationships with County Council, local municipalities, businesses.
- The Committee will join forces with many volunteers and members of Huron County council and staff at events to promote inclusion for all.
- The Committee will keep Huron County Building Officials updated on "new" legislation with regards to the built environment, public spaces, and site plans.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

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 December 2021 County Council meeting. These documents were also shared with the 9 local municipalities for their review and approval.

- Site Plan Reviews: These reviews were done virtually via ZOOM in 2021. The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has been actively engaged with municipalities and organizations, county staff as well as private businesses in conducting Site Plan Reviews in a timely fashion. The committee believes public awareness will continue to stimulate community participation and the sub-committee's time and commitment. The committee has developed checklists to assist in Site Plan Reviews.
- The Committee reviewed 5 plans and/or spaces.
- 2021 Accessibility Awards of Merit for Barrier-Free Design: This Award promotes public awareness of the importance of barrier-free design and recognizes excellence in accessibility design. Awards are presented to the owner of a building or facility that has been designed or renovated with special regard to accessibility for persons with a disability. There are 2 award categories – Business and Non-Business/Public Sector organizations.

The following is a listing of the 2021 Award Nominees/Recipients:

Business Category

Award Recipient: Cait's Café, Goderich
Honourable mention: Arnold Morrison, Wingham building owner
BMO Goderich Branch

Non-Business Category

Award Recipient: Shoppability Project, Clinton, Central Huron
Honourable mention: Kingsbridge Centre, ACW
County Road 12 Reconstruction (Seaforth Main St), Huron
East

- The Committee continued to promote the Stop Gap program that was started in Huron County in 2014. This program encourages businesses to get involved in creating barrier free communities. See picture below of the stop gap ramp.



This picture shows an example of a Stopgap Ramp.

Please see their website at <https://stopgap.ca/> for more information.

- Government Directives and Regulations: The Accessibility Advisory Committee has provided updates and advice about new government directives and regulations to County Council and the Municipal Working Group. The Municipal 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.
- Staff members and members of the Committee attended Virtual Accessibility Forums, held by the AODA, sharing training and knowledge received with the AAC. The HCAAC Accessibility Coordinator attended the Virtual 2021 ONAP (Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals) Conference.
- A virtual ZOOM meeting was held with all Huron County Building Officials to discuss accessibility.
- HCAAC presented a “Accessibility Considerations for Business” webinar in June via ZOOM. This webinar was organized by the Huron Economic Development Department.

- The HCAAC participated in the 'Back Alley Artist Extravaganza' in Clinton during the reconstruction of Albert Street. Pictured below is the 4'x4' art board that was created to promote the HCAAC and accessibility with the title 'Everyone is Welcome' in Huron County.



- A Portable Accessible Washroom has been a focus of discussion for HCAAC and a special Sub-Committee was formed. They have met and want to make this project happen in 2022.
- 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.
- All new County staff received all required training within an appropriate time frame.
- All County staff received an updated policy on Accessibility Standards for Customer Service & Use of Assistive Devices
- Upon request, provide information in accessible formats and with communication supports at the same cost charged to others. Publicized the availability of accessible formats and communication supports on website and documents.
- Accessibility Standards for Customer Service is part of Huron County's procurement process.

2022 GOALS

- Under the requirements of the Ontarians with Disability Act 2001 (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 (AODA), the HCAAC will continue to create and post a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and an Annual Accessibility Plan that contains the goals of Huron County and last year's successes.
- Under the requirements of both the ODA and the AODA, the HCAAC will continue to review in a timely manner and advise municipalities and local businesses on the accessibility of building plans and drawings for renovation and new construction, and the purchase or lease of public buildings as well as review exterior site plans as requested.
- The Committee will continue to enhance relationships with County Council, local municipalities, businesses, the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board, and the Avon Maitland District School Board.
- Continue to incorporate and enhance an annual awards program to celebrate organizations and individuals who are working to build a more inclusive society. The award is to promote public awareness of the importance of barrier-free design and to recognize excellence in accessibility design.
- To increase awareness and create a stronger presence in the community, the Committee will explore ways to promote National Access Awareness Week.
- The Committee will keep Huron County Building Officials updated on all new legislation with regards to the built environment, public spaces, and site plans.
- Develop new programs and promote existing programs to engage local businesses in developing barrier free communities. Example, Accessibility and your Business webinars; Stop Gap, a program that encourages businesses to get involved in developing barrier free communities while getting recognized in the community for their efforts and participation.
- To proceed with the Portable Accessible Washroom project
- The HCAAC will work with the County's IT department by providing recommendations, making the County's website much more user friendly for persons of all abilities. A continued key focus within Huron County is training

staff to create documents in accessible formats.

- Continue to work with IT and human resources departments to train staff on accessibility standards.
- 5-year Multiyear Plan will be updated and presented to Council.
- Each of the 9 Municipalities to add a summary of their accessibility projects in the Appendix for 2022.

BARRIER FREE COMMUNITIES BETTER BUSINESSES AND BOTTOM LINES

People with disabilities regularly face barriers that prevent them from working, shopping, travelling and simply living and volunteering in their communities. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 was passed leading to the creation of five standards in accessibility in the areas of Customer Service, Information and Communication, Employment, Transportation, and the Built Environment. Recognizing the leadership role of our government by passing the act in 2005, its local communities and private businesses that are now tapping into new customers while harnessing a larger, more diverse work force.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

What is the return on investment or benefits to employers for hiring people with disabilities? The following are some of the benefits as reported by employers.

Hiring people with disabilities:

- Contributes to a better rate of attendance, punctuality, employee morale, teamwork, and safety in the workplace.
- Often leads to a reduction in staff turnover; people with disabilities have proven to be skilled and loyal employees.
- Shows that the company values diversity and is a tangible example of good corporate citizenship.
- Increases the purchasing power for individuals with a disability and their families.
- Reflects the demographics of your community and enhances the community's understanding of people with disabilities.

- May free up resources to complete other tasks and increase productivity.
- Allows the person with a disability to be a role model to the staff and community and others with a disability.
- May include free corporate marketing when your new employee talks about where they work.
- May require accommodations for your new employee, but the change may make your company more robust, innovative, and adaptive.

QUICK FACTS

- Improved accessibility in Ontario can help generate up to \$9.6 Billion in new retail spending and 1.6 billion in new tourism spending.
- Currently, Canadians with disabilities influence the spending decisions of 12-15 million other consumers.
- In the next 20 years, an aging population and people with disabilities will represent 40% of total income in Ontario-that being \$536 Billion
- 1 in 7 people in Ontario have a disability. That is 1.85 million Ontarians.
- By 2036, as our population ages, 1 in 5 people in Ontario will have a disability

APPENDIX 1: 2022 Priorities for HCAAC

Objectives Mandated by Legislation

1. Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Under the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standard (IAS), the County of Huron is required to establish, implement, maintain, and document a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The Plan outlines the organization's strategy to identify, prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities in the County's programs, services, and facilities, over a 5-year plan.

HCAAC Responsibility

Huron County's Accessibility Coordinator will review and revise the Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan highlighting the previous year's successes in consultation with the HCAAC and County staff annually.

Once approval is obtained from County Council, the revised Multi 5- Year Accessibility Plan will be posted on the County website as directed in the Integrated Accessibility Standard (IAS).

Council Responsibility

County Council will approve the revised Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan and send a copy to the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

The Clerk will share the plan with the CAO and Senior Management Team to ensure all departments work towards implementation of the Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan.

Local Municipal Councils will approve the revised Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan and staff will ensure that all departments work towards implementation of the Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan

Committee Responsibility

HCAAC Municipal Working Group Representatives will present the revised Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan to their Councils for approval.

Once approval is obtained for the revised Multi 5- Year Accessibility Plan, it will be posted on lower tier websites and will be implemented.

Timeline Targets

Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan written every 5 years, effective January 2014.

The Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan update will be reviewed, maintained, updated and successes reported on and posted on the website annually.

County Council to approve by January 1st

Local Municipal Councils to approve by January 1st

2. Annual Accessibility Plan

Under the requirements of the ODA, the County of Huron is required to create and post an Annual Accessibility Plan that contains the goals of Huron County and last year's successes.

HCAAC Responsibility

Huron County's Accessibility Coordinator will create the Annual Accessibility Plan in consultation with the HCAAC and County staff as appropriate and will present annual plan to committee by December each year.

Council Responsibility

County Council will approve and send a copy of the Annual Accessibility Plan to the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade as directed in the ODA, 2001.

Committee Responsibility

HCAAC Municipal Working Group will present the Annual Accessibility Plan to their Councils for approval.

Timeline Targets

County Council will approve the Annual Accessibility Plan by January 1 each year.

Local Councils will approve the Annual Accessibility Plan.

3. Alignment of Both Plans

The identified goals of the Annual Accessibility Plan are in alignment with the Multi-Year Plan

HCAAC Responsibility

Once approval is obtained from County Council, the Annual Accessibility Plan will be posted on the County website as directed in the ODA 2001.

Council Responsibility

The Clerk will share the plan with the CAO and Senior Management Team to ensure all departments work towards implementation of the Annual Accessibility Plan.

Committee Responsibility

Municipal Working Group member: Once approval is obtained; the Annual Accessibility Plan will be posted on lower tier websites and will be implemented.

Timeline Targets

The identified goals are in alignment with the Multi-Year Plan.

4. Review of Building Plans for Renovation, Construction, Purchase, Lease and Exterior Site Plans

Under the requirements of both the ODA, 2001 and the AODA, 2005 the HCAAC must review in a timely manner and advise municipalities and businesses on the accessibility of building plans for renovation and new construction, and the purchase or lease of public buildings as well as review exterior site plans as requested.

The Committee will use the Illustrated Guide of the Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Spaces produced by GAATES and supported by Ontario Government.

HCAAC Responsibility

The HCAAC ~ Accessibility Review Committee is responsible for meeting and reviewing site plans and providing comment and recommendations in a timely manner.

Council Responsibility

Huron County Council is responsible for keeping appropriate lower tier staff informed of their duty to request site plan reviews with the HCAAC prior to purchasing, construction, renovation, or lease.

County Council to review and approve if appropriate.

Committee Responsibility

The Municipal Working Group is responsible for keeping appropriate lower tier staff informed of their duty to request site plan reviews with the HCAAC prior to purchasing, construction, renovation, or lease.

If approved the Municipal Working Group will share the resource with building officials.

Timeline Targets

The HCAAC Accessibility Review Committee will accommodate as quickly as possible, not being any longer than 30 days.

Ongoing

5. Provide Accessibility Information to the County and local Municipalities

Provide info on Accessibility Directives and Regulations relating to the status of persons with disabilities in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

HCAAC Responsibility

To gather comments on proposed regulations and standards, the Accessibility Coordinator will work with the Directive and Regulation Review Subcommittee. The Accessibility Coordinator will also work with staff from various departments across the County and the Municipal Working Group to further identify concerns on how the proposed regulation may be implemented.

Council Responsibility

The Accessibility Coordinator will prepare regular updates for County Council. The update will provide a summary of the requirements outlined in the regulations and standards and an overview of the County's readiness to meet the requirements.

Committee Responsibility

The Municipal Working Group will provide comments and concerns with the Accessibility Coordinator on the requirements of the regulations and standards.

The Municipal Working Group will share updates with appropriate staff at their Municipality.

Timeline Targets

Ongoing

Objectives Driven by HCAAC and Community

These objectives are driven by Passion to Accomplish the Committee's Vision of Informing and Inspiring People from Across Huron County on Making Huron County Accessible for People of All Abilities

1. Connect with local School Boards

The Committee will continue to enhance relationship with the Avon Maitland District School Board and Huron Perth Catholic District School Board and focus on the importance of changing societal stigmas associated with individuals living with a disability. The greatest change starts with our youth.

HCAAC Responsibility

The Accessibility Education Subcommittee encourage joint ventures with the local school boards.

The Subcommittee will explore options for participating with the School Boards for National Access Awareness Week.

Council Responsibility

County Council will be consulted with in the development stages.

Committee Responsibility

The Accessibility Education Subcommittee will consult with the Municipal Working Group during development stages.

Timeline Targets

Ongoing

2. Develop relationships with County Council, Municipalities, and local businesses

Develop information sources for new legislation.

Webinars / Presentations to BIA's , lower tiers and to agencies and business by individuals with disabilities, putting a face to accessibility issues.

Provide regular council updates.

Review municipal facilities and make recommendations to improve accessibility.

HCAAC Responsibility

The Accessibility Coordinator will provide regular County Council updates keeping Council informed.

The Accessibility Education Subcommittee will develop accessibility information for local businesses. This information will be accessible online / weblinks / and therefore always available.

Council Responsibility

County Council will encourage municipalities to participate in and host a presentation at one of their Council meetings.

County Council will provide their feedback and suggestions on the content of the information packages.

Committee Responsibility

The Accessibility Coordinator will work with the Municipal Working Group to schedule presentations at a Council Meeting.

Timeline Targets

Ongoing

3. Accessibility Awards of Merit for Barrier-Free Design Program

Continue to implement our annual awards program to celebrate organizations and individuals who are working to build a more inclusive society. The award is to promote public awareness of the importance of barrier-free design and to recognize excellence in accessibility design.

The awards are incorporated with National Access Awareness Week or other events.

To increase awareness and create a stronger presence in the community, the Committee will continue to host National Access Awareness Week Celebrations and media events.

HCAAC Responsibility

The Accessibility Education Subcommittee will continue to implement an annual awards program recognizing public sector organizations and private businesses or individuals.

Council Responsibility

County Council to promote National Access Awareness Week.

Committee Responsibility

Municipal Working Group to suggest nominees and to share nomination forms with County Building Inspectors as they have the greatest knowledge of who is building and/or renovating with barrier-free design being a focus.

Timeline Targets

Ongoing

4. Promotion of the Stop Gap Ramp Project to Municipalities

The Ramp Project provides free deployable entry ramps to businesses with single stepped storefronts that prevent access to many people.

HCAAC Responsibility

No action required.

Council Responsibility

Be aware of Program

Committee Responsibility

No action required.

Timeline Targets

Ongoing

5. Training for business

Prepare a list of training options on accessibility for local businesses.

Explore opportunities to host events to bring awareness of accessibility.

HCAAC Responsibility

The Accessibility Education Subcommittee and the Accessibility Coordinator develop Information Pkg on Governments Regulations.

Explore social media options to use when providing the training.

Council Responsibility

County Council to review Information Package

Committee Responsibility

The Municipal Working Group Representatives will share the material with their Council, local business organizations and Economic Development staff

Timeline Targets

Ongoing

6. Accessible Websites

The HCAAC will work with the County's IT Department and other staff by providing recommendations on making the County's website more accessible.

Beginning January 1, 2014: new public websites, significantly refreshed websites and any web content posted after January 1, 2012 must meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level A

Beginning January 1, 2021: all public websites and web content posted after January 1, 2012 must meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA other than criteria 1.2.4 (live captions) and 1.2.5 (pre-recorded audio)

HCAAC Responsibility

The Accessibility Coordinator, Clerk, Corporate Communications Specialist, and Information Technology Staff to review options for staff training on creating accessible documents.

Council Responsibility

County Council to support accessibility update requirements to County websites.

Committee Responsibility

The Municipal Working Group Representatives will share the material with the Council, local business organizations and Economic Development staff

Timeline Targets

January 1, 2021 completion and ongoing

7. Events

Actively participate in local events such as Dream Big and Discovery Abilities.

HCAAC Responsibility

The Accessibility Education Sub-Committee and the Accessibility Coordinator to outline activities.

The Coordinator will organize volunteers to support the events.

Council Responsibility

County Council will receive request.

Committee Responsibility

Municipal Working Group will approach their Council to attend events.

Timeline Targets

TBD

Note: The HCAAC Objectives will be reviewed annually (November by the Committee) to assess progress and to update and add new initiatives accordingly.

APPENDIX 2

Consultation with the HCAAC

Development Requiring Consultation with the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee Under the Design of Public Spaces Standard, AODA 2005

Design of Public Spaces Standard, Integrated Accessibility Standards 191/11
[http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcass/accessibility/DOPS%20Guidelines%20\(short\)%20FINAL%20April%202014%20EN-s.pdf](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcass/accessibility/DOPS%20Guidelines%20(short)%20FINAL%20April%202014%20EN-s.pdf)

Organization Compliance Dates

Affected Organizations	Compliance Dates
Ontario Government and Legislative Assembly	January 1, 2015
Designated public sector organizations with 50+ employees	January 1, 2016
Designated public sector organizations with 1-49 employees	January 1, 2016
Private and not-for-profit organizations with 50+ employees	January 1, 2017
Private and not-for-profit organizations with 1-49 employees	January 1, 2018

Municipal Development under the Design for Public Spaces Standard that require consultation with the HCAAC and the public:

Development Requiring Consultation with HCAAC	Design Elements	Page Number in "Illustrated Technical Guide to the Accessibility Standard for the Design of Public Spaces"
Recreational Trails and Beach Access Routes (all compliance dates apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail slope • Need for, and location of ramps on trails • Need for, location and design of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rest areas ○ Passing areas ○ Viewing areas ○ Amenities on trail ○ Any other pertinent feature Consultation on Beach	23-24

Development Requiring Consultation with HCAAC	Design Elements	Page Number in “Illustrated Technical Guide to the Accessibility Standard for the Design of Public Spaces”
	Access Routes	
Outdoor Play Spaces (Private and not-for-profit organizations with 49 or fewer employees are not required to comply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs of children and caregivers with various disabilities Accessibility Features	50-51
Exterior Paths of Travel (Private and not-for-profit organizations with 49 or fewer employees are required to comply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and placement of Rest Areas 	81
On-Street Parking (Only Designated Public Sector organizations of 1-49 and 50+ employees are required to comply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for, location and design of accessible on-street parking spaces 	99-101

The “Illustrated Technical Guide to the Accessibility Standard for the Design of Public Spaces” can be found online at: <http://www.gaates.org/DOPS/default.php>

Or at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2c3Xbwb7aY3aUFpd3ZReUJzbG8/view>

Overview of Appendix 3

This following Appendix 3 is a new section of the Annual Plan.

Each of the 9 municipalities will add their own Appendix 3 to summarize the accessibility actions/ activities/ accomplishments in their own municipality.

Pictures are encouraged to be added to this Section. Each picture will be described in alt text.

The HCAAC will gather Appendix 3's and share this Section with other municipalities to show examples of what is being done throughout Huron County to provide universal accessibility!

APPENDIX 3: Municipality Summary Township of North Huron

Summary of Accessibility-Related Projects

1. Accessible Projects Completed in 2022

- New Municipal Website – Website complies with all mandated features required under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, specifically Ontario Regulation 191/11 standards to be met by large organizations. It features 'Accessibility Checking', a testing tool aimed at helping you fix accessibility issues before they happen. It also meets ADOA standards for accessibility and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
- Opening of the Blyth Fire Hall and Public Works Facility – The newly built Blyth Fire Hall and Public Works Facility is a full accessible building used for staff resources. The building includes accessible and automatic door hardware and an accessible floor plan to accommodate all patrons and meet AODA standards and requirements.

2. Accessible Projects Ongoing in 2021 & 2022

- Construction of Accessible Washrooms at the Wingham Fire Hall - Reconstruction of the Wingham Fire Hall washrooms will begin in 2022. The

construction will include constructing of a separate washroom and shower facilities for female firefighters, and installing accessible showers, doors, sinks and toilets. This reconstruction of the space will meet accessibility standards set out for public buildings under AODA requirements.

- Implementation of Accessible Documents - Administrative staff continue to convert existing Township documents into an accessible format. Staff have started by converting frequently used documents such as by-laws and policies and continue to implement accessible templates for various documents moving forward. These documents meet AODA standards for accessibility and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines in order to be displayed on the new Township of North Huron website.

3. Accessible Projects Proposed in 2022

- Construction of Accessible Ramp and Doors at North Huron Municipal Office - The construction of the accessibility ramp and three sets of accessible entrance doors at the North Huron Municipal Office is expected to begin in Spring of 2022 and be completed within the year. The project will include the removal and disposal of existing railings, concrete stairs and associated foundations and the build of a new accessibility ramp and three sets of accessible doors to better serve and accommodate patrons and employees using the facilities.
- Installation of Accessible Door Hardware - Additional accessible door hardware will be installed at the North Huron Westcast Community Complex to increase accessibility and use of the facility by all patrons. Automatic door hardware will be installed on the exterior access door at the rear of the facility as well as five interior doors. This update to the facility will exceed AODA's prescribed requirements.