



## TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

## REPORT

Item No.

**REPORT TO:** Reeve Vincent and Members of Council  
**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Molenhuis  
**DATE:** 03/04/2017  
**SUBJECT:** StopGap Program Policy – Follow up Report  
**ATTACHMENTS:** StopGap Program Policy and Waiver of Liability Form

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accepts the StopGap Program Report for information purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron approve and adopt the “StopGap Ramp Policy” for use in North Huron.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, Council heard from Julie Sawchuk through a delegation. Julie is a resident of Blyth, a teacher at FE Madill, and a member of Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee. At the March 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, staff brought forward a draft policy and the following motion was passed:

**MOVED BY:** B. Vodden

**SECONDED BY:** B. Knott

*THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accepts the Director of Public Works report regarding a StopGap Program for information purposes;*

*AND FURTHER THAT Council endorse the StopGap program in North Huron through the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee;*

*AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron direct the Director of Public Works to further refine the attached draft “StopGap Ramp Policy” and report back to Council with a formal policy for adoption.*

**CARRIED**

### **DISCUSSION**

The Community Ramp Project was developed by the StopGap Foundation to allow communities to supply free deployable entry ramps to businesses with single stepped storefronts which prevent access to some people including those in wheelchairs, with mobility devices or strollers. In the older, more historic downtown cores, accessibility to buildings is an issue. This initiative is an easy, straightforward fix to increase accessibility.

Staff have been in contact with our insurance provider, BFL Canada and our legal counsel, and have been advised on specific liability limitations and indemnification clauses to limit the Township's

liability while allowing this program to proceed. The sole purpose of the application would strictly be associated with allowing business owners to place the ramp on the Township sidewalk when required by a patron, and that responsibility and liability for such would be that of the business owner only.

Staff met with Julie Sawchuk on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the draft policy and discuss ways to collaborate on the initiative while addressing the Township's need with respect to temporary sidewalk occupancy. In discussions, it was determined that the StopGap program for North Huron would be administered by the Huron County Accessibility Committee to allow for a centralized process. The process would include the Township's policy with respect to insurance requirements, as well as the liability waiver. The Accessibility Committee will administer the process in full, and provide the Township with documentation once the waiver form and proof of insurance are complete for Township staff to verify.

The attached policy was refined with Julie's input and is provided to Council for formal adoption.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There will be no financial impact to the Township of North Huron for the ramps. Township staff are recommending the insurance and waiver requirement in order to limit the Township's potential liability due to this particular activity in the right of way.

#### **FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

None at this time.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal 3 the Township is healthy and safe. Goal 4 the administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.



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Jeff Molenhuis, Director of Public Works



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Sharon Chambers, CAO