



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee**

From: **Mark Buffone, Accessibility Compliance Coordinator**

Meeting Date: **March 4, 2020**

Subject: **Report AAC20-010**
Accessibility Staff Report

Purpose

A report to advise the Accessibility Advisory Committee on the current work of Accessibility staff.

Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) approve the recommendation outlined in Report AAC20-010 dated March 4, 2020, of the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator as follows:

That Report AAC20-010 with respect to the current work of Accessibility staff be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Background

Accessibility Reviews

The best way to remove barriers is to prevent them. Accessibility staff provide formal reviews for various development applications and during the planning and design stages of City projects, including projects related to buildings, public spaces, services, documents, websites, by-laws, plans and policies. Recent reviews and research include:

- **Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications:**
 - a. 689 Towerhill Road (long-term care facility and residential condo)
 - b. 663, 689, 739 Lily Lake Road (Lily Lake subdivision)
 - c. 1289, 1295 Kawartha Crescent (up to 170 high density residential units)
 - d. 1045 to 1063 Armour Road (248 townhouse and apartment condo units)
- **Site Plan Control applications:**
 - a. 3789 Water Street resubmission (71 apartment building units)
 - b. 127 Hunter Street East (mixed use with 40 residential units above)

Status of Funding Applications

- **2018 Enabling Accessibility Fund: Accessibility upgrades to the Art Gallery**

The City received funding to complete accessibility upgrades to the Art Gallery of Peterborough. The project is currently out to tender and construction is expected to start in spring 2020.

- **2018 Enabling Accessibility Fund: Accessibility upgrades to Community Services**

The City received funding to complete accessibility upgrades to the Community Services Office at 210 Wolfe Street. The project is expected to be tendered and constructed in spring 2020.

Council for Persons with Disabilities

Sarah Mackillican attended the CPD board meeting on February 26, 2020, and reported on activities of Accessibility staff.

Accessible Document Training

In February 2020, 22 Social Services staff received Microsoft Word training on how to use the Styles tool to create document structure, use the accessibility checker, add document properties and save as a tagged PDF. Accessible document training is ongoing.

2019 Civic Awards and the Holnbeck Award

Council endorsed changing the annual [City of Peterborough Civic Awards](https://www.peterborough.ca/civicawards) to include the annual Holnbeck Award. Nominations for the 2019 Civic Awards are open until March 13, 2020. The Holnbeck Award recognizes volunteer work that enhances the quality of life for people with disabilities. Nominees for the Holnbeck Award may be residents of the City or County of Peterborough. [www.peterborough.ca/civicawards]

Transit Working Group

Peterborough Transit started a Transit Working Group to help enhance accessibility for transit service, address transit accessibility issues, and educate the public about accessibility features of transit. The group held their third meeting on February 20, 2020. The group is currently discussing travel training, a National AccessAbility Week event to promote accessible transit options, an “offer me a seat” program, the Handi-Van name, and general communication issues.

OBIAA Accessible Heritage Summit

The Accessibility Compliance Coordinator was selected to be a member of a project advisory committee for an EnAbling Change project called Accessible Heritage Summit. The summit will be held in October 2020 in Brampton, Ontario. The advisory committee will provide input into the development of a provincial gathering on the topic of accessibility and heritage. The summit aims to inspire action and build awareness for planners, architects, engineers, heritage leaders, media, BIAs, businesses, people with disabilities and more. The first meeting was held on February 27, 2020.

Downtown Vibrancy Project (Hunter to Simcoe Street alleyway)

The Accessibility Compliance Coordinator attended an alleyway revitalization design session on January 29, 2020 hosted by the DBIA. The session included an overview of the Downtown Vibrancy Project, a review of some recent projects, a walking tour of the site and break-out group conversations about the problems and opportunities of the site. Accessibility was at the forefront of all break-out groups. Accessibility was recognized as an important guiding principle for the project.

Public Consultation on Canada’s Accessibility Standards

Accessibility Standards Canada is a public organization created under the **Accessible Canada Act** to lead the development of federal accessibility standards. Accessibility Standards Canada is hosting a public meeting on April 6, 2020. This will be the first annual public meeting where Canadians are invited to participate in an open discussion on how to create a barrier free Canada. Canadians can participate in this free event in person or online. [Register with Accessibility Standards Canada](https://canada.ca/en/accessibility-standards-canada/campaigns/annual-public-meeting/registration.html) to participate.

[canada.ca/en/accessibility-standards-canada/campaigns/annual-public-meeting/registration.html]

National AccessAbility Week Plans

Current plans: The Communication Coordinator is working with Transit to coordinate two events at malls showcasing Transit services. The Transit Working Group is also aiming to launch the renaming of the Handi-Van during this week, likely with an event at the Transit Terminal. We will work with staff at the Wellness Centre to host a drop-in event featuring their new accessible exercise equipment. Suggestion brought forward at last AAC meeting to hold an event at one of the facilities that received funding through the Enabling Accessibility Fund may also be scheduled, pending completion of those projects. Time In My Shoes training for City staff may also be planned for this week, pending funding. Other suggestions may be brought forward for consideration at future meetings or

through email to the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator or the Communication Coordinator.

Resources

[AODA Toolbox, Ontario's Accessibility Newsletter, February 2020](https://mailchi.mp/ontario/aoda-toolbox-february-20-1390136?e=d58b30ac84)
[mailchi.mp/ontario/aoda-toolbox-february-20-1390136?e=d58b30ac84]

The February 2020 newsletter features articles on:

- Digital accessibility courses (through Ryerson University)
- Making communication design projects more accessible
- Employment mentoring for persons with disabilities
- Breaking the sound barriers at work
- Accommodating students living with episodic disabilities
- Promoting accessibility in retirement homes
- Awards honour people working to advance accessibility
- Increasing accessibility in creative spaces
- Legislative corner: standards development committees
- Promoting inclusive hiring in the sports sector
- Making your retail store accessible
- Invisible disabilities and use of service animals
- Accommodating employees throughout the employment cycle
- Emergency preparedness guide
- Accessibility obligations of housing providers
- Creating more inclusive violence against women shelters

Submitted by,

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