

TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2006

**September 30, 2006
(Approved by Council on September 21, 2006)**

Purpose of the Plan

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 requires Ontario government ministries and key broader public sector (BPS) organizations to prepare annual accessibility plans. The intent of these accessibility planning requirements is to improve opportunities for all people, including people with disabilities. The Government of Ontario is committed to working with every sector of society to move towards a province in which no new barriers are created and existing ones removed.

The purpose of the plan is to describe the measures that the organization has taken during the previous year, and the measures the organization will take during the coming year, to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.

The ODA specifies five requirements for the content of all annual accessibility plans:

- S Report on the measures the organization has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities;
- S Describe the measures in place to ensure that the organizations assesses its Acts/by-laws, regulations, policies, programs, practices and services to determine their effect on accessibility for people with disabilities
- S List the policies, programs, practices and services that the organization will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities
- S Describe the measures the organization intends to take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.

Make the accessibility plan available to the public.

Background

There are 1.9 million people in Ontario with disabilities. This number is expected to increase as the population ages because the incidence of disability increases with age. On December 14, 2001, the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (the ODA) was passed to improve access and opportunities for people with disabilities.

The ODA is designed so that cities, towns and other municipalities; hospitals; school boards; colleges and universities; public transportation providers; government ministries and agencies; the private sector and people with disabilities can take part in making Ontario a more accessible province.

The ODA has several important provisions:

- S An introduction to explain the goals of the Act;
- S Sections that outline the purpose and definitions covered in the Act;
- S Sections that outline the duties of the Government of Ontario, municipalities, other organizations, agencies and other;

- S A general part that describes accessibility plans; the roles of the Accessibility Advisory Council of Ontario and the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario; offences; regulations and review of the Act;

Note: For other definitions, please refer to Section 2 of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001.

This plan is based on a plan prepared by the County of Dufferin.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

The Township of Melancthon is located north and west of the Town of Shelburne. Arterial roads are County Road 124 north to Collingwood, Highway 10 North to Owen Sound and Highway 89 West to Mount Forest. The Township encompasses approximately 31,264 hectares and is the Headwaters of five rivers. Within the Township there are three Hamlets: Riverview, Corbetton and Horning's Mills. A well known characteristic of Melancthon Township is the unique manner in which it was originally surveyed. The main occupation in the Township is farming. The growing and marketing of potatoes is a major industry. There is limited beef, dairy, sheep and horse farming carried out in the Township. The Township of Melancthon officially marked its 150 Anniversary in 2003. In March of 2006, the first major Ontario windfarm (Phase I) was put on-line in Melancthon to secure the needs of Ontario for hydro.

COUNCIL COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon is committed to:

- S The continual improvement, over time, of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for all those with disabilities keeping in mind the financial constraints faced by the municipality
- S The provision of quality services to all members of the Township with disabilities

2002 , 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ACTIVITIES	
DATE	INITIATIVES
Prior to 2002	- municipal office built in 1993 which is fully accessible to persons with disabilities
Summer of 2003	- draft Accessibility plan for consultation
September 30, 2004	- Accessibility plan available to Public
Fall 2004	- Designated Parking Space - Municipal Office Parking Lot
September 30, 2004	- 2 nd Year Accessibility Plan available to Public
Spring/Summer 2005	- Parking Space at the Municipal Office was dedicated
September 30, 2005	- 3 rd Year Accessibility Plan available to the Public
September 30, 2006	- 4 th Year Accessibility Plan available to the Public

TARGETS FOR 2007

Working Group

Continue to work with the working group of key Township Staff to conduct audits of Township facilities to identify any barriers and suggest remedial action if necessary.

Audits

Further Audits will be conducted on Township Facilities by the members of the working group to identify accessibility barriers, if any. It is anticipated that staff will conduct reviews of their own areas and input to the working group.

As part of the plan each year, the list of achievements for the previous year will be listed.

TARGETS 2007	
Working Group to report findings and make recommendations to Council if necessary	2007
Recommended Projects for Review in 2007 - Buzzer for the Front Door of the Municipal Office - Parking Spot to be designated at the Horning's Mills Community Hall - Continue with an overall audit of facilities owned by the Township of Melancthon	2007

PLAN CONSULTATION

Consultation

N/A

Availability of the Plan

The plan will be made available to residents through the hard copy available at the Township of Melancthon Municipal Office, 157101 Highway No. 10, R.R. # 6, Shelburne, Ontario, L0N 1S9 or the web-site.

APPENDIX 1 TO ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Key Definitions

Barrier

A “barrier” is anything that stops a person with a disability from fully taking part in society because of that disability. Some barriers include:

- S physical barriers, for example a step at the entrance to a store;
- S architectural barriers, for example no elevators in a building of more than one floor;
- S information or communications barriers, for example a publication that is not available in large print
- S attitudinal barriers, for example assuming people with disability cannot perform a certain task when in fact they can
- S technological barriers such as traffic lights that change too quickly before a person with a disability has time to get through the intersection; and
- S barriers created by policies or practices, for instance not offering different ways to complete test part of job hiring

Disability

The following is the same definition as used in the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

A “disability” is:

Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and includes, but is not limited to:

- S diabetes mellitus; epilepsy; a brain injury;
- S any degree of paralysis;
- S amputation;
- S lack of physical coordination;
- S blindness or visual impediment;
- S deafness or hearing impediment;
- S muteness or speech impediment; or
- S physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal, or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device;
- S A condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability;
- S A learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language;
- S A mental disorder; or
- S An injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*.

APPENDIX 2 - CIRCULATION LIST TO STAKEHOLDERS

S County of Dufferin, Accessibility Committee