



2018 Accessibility Status Report

Alternative accessible versions of this document are available upon request

Contact us at accessibility@meaford.ca or 519-538-1060 x 1100.

Overview

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) became law in 2005. Under the Act, organizations must meet accessibility requirements in the areas of customer service, information and communications, employment, transportation and the design of public spaces, with staggered compliance dates to 2021.

The Municipality of Meaford is committed to creating a community where every person can participate fully in all aspects of community life. For this reason, it is important that the Municipality continue to plan for the future to ensure its services, programs and/or facilities are fully accessible for all.

This Accessibility Status Report is the annual update that the Municipality of Meaford provides on the measures taken in improving accessibility and implementing the AODA. This Report highlights the steps the Municipality has taken to meet the AODA requirements and highlights the strategies and actions approved by Council to identify, prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities in our programs, services and facilities.

It also provides an update on actions taken to implement the Municipality of Meaford's 2016-2018 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, which details the municipal strategy for meeting AODA requirements.

Meaford Accessibility Advisory Committee



In 2015, the Municipality of Meaford established its own Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) comprised of five members and in compliance with the AODA to include 50% plus one of persons with disabilities. The AAC advises the Municipality of Meaford Council and staff members on ways to identify, prevent, and remove barriers for persons with disabilities with regards to municipal services, programs and facilities.



The AAC met bi-monthly and considered a wide variety of items. The AAC provided input to staff on purchasing documents, trails, and accessible transit, supported grant opportunities, created an Accessible Postcard to help profile accessibility at the Municipality and generally promoted Accessibility throughout the Municipality.



Municipality of Meaford – Changes with Regard to Accessibility

With support from staff, the Accessibility Advisory Committee and resident input, there have been some important changes throughout the Municipality of Meaford in an effort to reduce and eliminate barriers during 2018.

Municipal Facilities

- A second wheelchair was purchased for Meaford Hall that will be available where needed for use at municipal facilities
- Grey County Economic Development Fund money was received to install door openers for the washrooms at McCarroll Park
- Facility Condition and Accessibility Assessments were completed at 24 municipal facilities and focused on many of the municipality's seasonal washroom facilities
- An accessible parking spot was added at Blue Dolphin Pool
- Renovations to the existing Council Chamber washrooms were undertaken to improve accessibility
- The Municipality purchased the former Foodland on January 2, 2018 with the process started to renovate this location to a fully accessible Meaford Public Library facility, with estimated move-in date of December 2019



Polices and Plans

- Extensive revision of the training offered to Seasonal and Summer students was undertaken in early 2018
- A new Specialized Transit Policy was considered by Council
- A new Multi-Year Plan (2019-2022) was developed for Council's consideration
- An accessibility pre-elections report was created to help identify and address accessibility considerations during the 2018 Municipal & School Board Election

Information and Communication

- The municipal Accessible Facilities online map was updated
- The proposed new Municipal & Library website has made the inclusion of accessibility features one of the main priorities. The sites are now in the development stages, with a go-live estimated date of March 2019.
- Through funding received from the Enabling Accessibility Fund - Community Accessibility Stream, the Library made a number of purchases to help improve patron ability to access information. Items include:
 - 3 daylight lamps installed in the Reading Room to improve poor lighting. One lamp includes a movable magnifier.
 - 3 hand-held magnifiers – 2 with lights.

- JAWS screen reader software installed on a Public Access Computer
- 1 Victor Stratus eReader device that plays DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) audiobooks supplied at no cost from CNIB/CELA (Centre for Equitable Library Access). The Library's DAISY collection expands by approximately 50 items per year.
- 70 Playaways – MP3 digital audiobook players – a portable audiobook on one device

Transportation

- The first tactile plate was installed in the Municipality with the construction to the sidewalk up Edwin Street
- The Bakeshop bridge sidewalk was brought up to code by increasing the sidewalk width to 1.5 m
- A Specialized Transit van was added in July 2018 to increase the level of service to include Tuesday-Friday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- The hours for the Specialized Transit van were increased to accommodate the job fair (March 7) and the Health & Wellness Fair (September 8)
- The Specialized Transit van operated on Saturday July 7 for the 4th Canadian Division Training Centre Open House



Outdoor Spaces

- One new accessible playground structure was install at the Memorial Park lower playground area
- Pea gravel playground surfacing was replaced with engineered wood fibers at the Memorial Park lower playground area
Engineered wood fibers are the recommended soft surface materials for playground surfaces.
- A new playground structure ideal for ages 18 months – 5 years was installed at McCarroll park that includes accessible features
- All six portable washrooms used at seasonal parks have been upgraded from standard to fully accessible units
- With funding assistance from the Meaford Kinsmen Club, stone dust surfacing was replacement with concrete underneath the Memorial Park pavilion, including the extension of sidewalks to the viewing platform and to the washroom facility



National AccessAbility Week

We were also proud to celebrate National AccessAbility Week in the Municipality between May 28 and June 2 with a series of events, including flying a National AccessAbility Week flag and changing the water tower colours to blue and yellow to match.

The Meaford Public Library added a new photo to Facebook, Instagram, and our in-house display highlighting an accessible resource or service that we provide here at the library. Through the Municipal social media accounts, accessible features and events were also profiled daily.





Feedback

The Municipality of Meaford is committed to providing high quality programs, facilities and services to all members of the public it serves. Feedback is welcomed as it may identify areas requiring change and encourage continuous service improvements.

Please visit meaford.ca/accessibility to fill out a feedback form or provide feedback directly to:

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