



2019 Annual Status Report - Accessibility

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 new Accessibility Advisory Committee was appointed in January 2019 until November 2022. Throughout the year, the Committee held four meetings and considered a wide variety of items. The AAC provided input to staff on the new accessible Meaford Public Library, accessible picnic benches, washroom renovations and supported accessible grant opportunities.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee also engaged residents at the municipal Health & Wellness Fair on September 7, 2019 including setting up an 'accessible' obstacle course for participants.



Photo credit: Bob Buckton

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 2019.

Municipal Facilities

Meaford Public Library

- Construction started in August 2019 for the new accessible Meaford Public Library



- The new Library project was awarded a contribution of \$366,064 through the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund with the intention to help create a barrier-free, inclusive library building. The funds will be used to help offset costs to ensure the new Meaford Public Library is accessible for all patrons and staff, including a universal washroom, accessible entrance, accessible library stacks and shelving, and accessible meeting space.

Memorial Park Beach Washroom

- Automatic door operator with updated signage
- Off-set door hinges to allow proper opening width



Blue Dolphin Pool

- A new accessible entrance ramp was installed with the proper slope and width, metal handrails and tactile warning strip.
- Properly sized washroom stalls in male and female change rooms c/w grab bars, dispensers and signage
- Accessible changing stall
- AODA compliant plumbing fixtures
- Lowered front counter to meet AODA standards



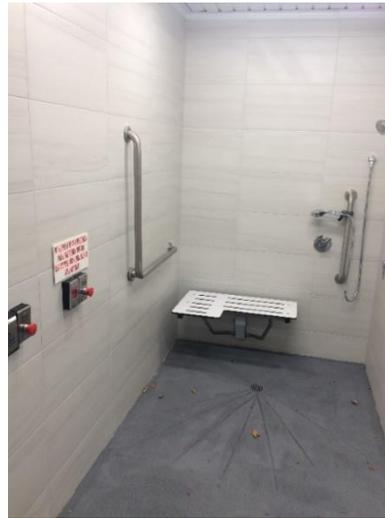
Meaford and St. Vincent Community Centre – Railing Project

- Railings installed at the top of the mezzanine were installed with proper dowel spacing and accessible railing heights
- All railings were adjusted along stair cases to proper heights and terminations for AODA compliance



Memorial Park Entrance Washroom and Shower

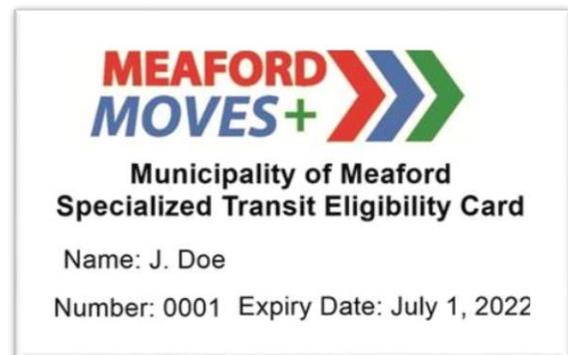
- Two universal washrooms complete with auto door operator and auto door locking
- Emergency call light to indicate occupant distress
- AODA plumbing fixtures and washroom accessories
- Accessible shower room with auto door operator, auto door locking and emergency call light
- AODA compliant shower heads and grab bars
- Fold down shower seat
- All rooms have automatic light sensors



Transportation

Meaford Moves

- New transit card for Meaford Moves + cardholders
- Expanded hours for Meaford Moves + 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. to help with scheduling for medical appointments and to meet increased demand.



Information and Communication

Meaford Public Library

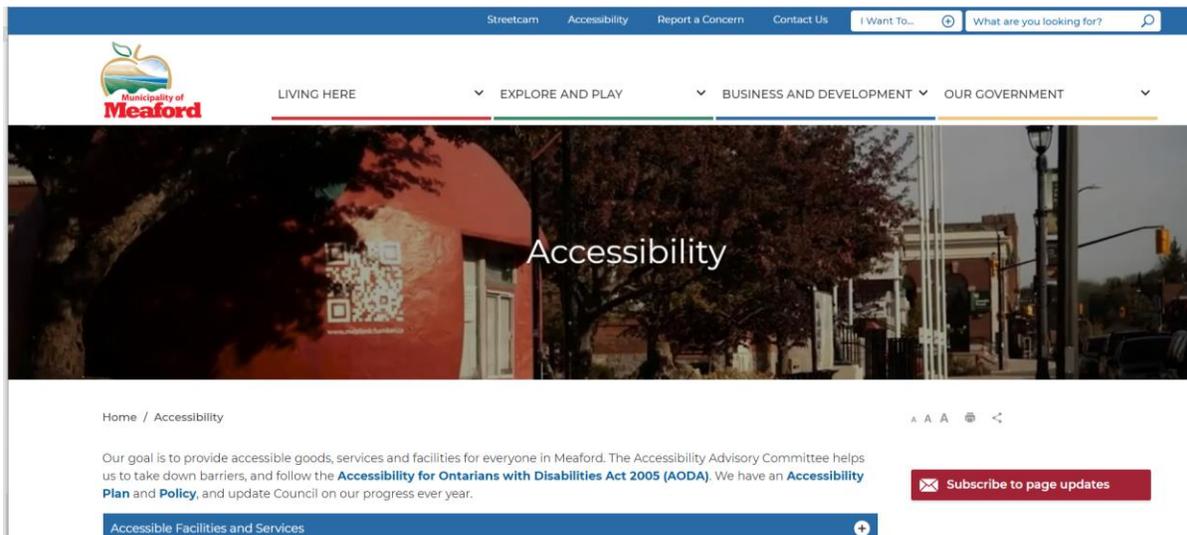
- Library re-formatted patron registration forms to make them easier to read, i.e., usage of Arial 14 font rather than 11
- Offered to provide ASL interpreter for Georgian Bay Reads 2019 if there were any requests.

Website - Meaford.ca

The new Meaford website, www.meaford.ca, was launched on March 26th, 2019. The new site includes many accessibility improvements including:

- better colour contrast between fonts and backgrounds
- responsive design to resize for mobile devices
- a built-in text resizer
- improved image alt-text
- enabled keyboard shortcuts

At launch, the site was scanned by a third-party software and confirmed to be 100% WCAG 2.1 level AA compliant.



Events

The Municipality of Meaford celebrated National AccessAbility week for the third year. Initiatives during the week included social media posts, with topics such as profiling the New Library building, promoting Meaford Moves+ accessible transit, showcasing our accessible pool lift, and highlighting our new website.

The Municipality of Meaford also awarded the Accessibility Recognition Award to Len Neal, Louise Stewart-Potts, Meaford Museum, and Bill's Valu-Mart.



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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