



The Corporation of
the City of Cambridge



**ANNUAL
ACCESSIBILITY
PLAN**

September 2003

City of Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee:

John Clelland
Committee Chair

Arlene Andrews
Vice-Chair

Heather Granger
KidsAbility

Lamine Diallo
Social Planning Council

William Brown
Constance Meyer
Tom Livingstone
Theresa Kolanko
Helen Kitchen

ODA Staff Team

Wanda Harding
Corporate Services Department

Dave Law
Transportation and Public Works Department

Ken Carnahan
Realty and Corporate Property Services

Hardy Bromberg
Planning Services Department

Andrea Riley
Community Services Department

2003 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

A. BACKGROUND

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act received final proclamation on September 30, 2002. The purpose of the Act is to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province. The act requires all municipalities of 10,00 or more residents to:

- Develop an annual accessibility plan.
- Seek advice from an Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on the plan.
- Ensure that the public is informed about the accessibility plan.

B. OBJECTIVES

The City of Cambridge is committed to the following:

1. Taking a leadership role in achieving and setting an example to the business, institutional and volunteer sectors in terms of access and integration, in accordance with the "Ontarians with Disabilities Act".
2. Establish a process to identify barriers and gaps in existing by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services.
3. Continuously improve the level of accessibility of existing by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services.
4. Actively encourage input from the community, and specifically the Accessibility Advisory Committee appointed by Cambridge City Council, in the design, development, and operation of new, renovated, purchased or leased municipal services and facilities.
5. Provide resources and support to give effect to these objectives.

C. EXISTING MEASURES FOR ACCESSIBILITY

Planning Services Department

1. Ontario Building Code - 1997 (Section 3.8 - Barrier Free Design).
2. Parking - present practice of requesting a specific number of handicap spots at "site plan stage". Also included are requirements to include access ramps into buildings and access aisles to the ramp.

Transportation and Public Works

3. Sidewalks - Transportation/Public Works Department has an ongoing program where the municipality provides ramp access at intersections when undertaking reconstruction or repairs. Ramp access has also been undertaken on a complaint basis, within approved budgets.
4. Prepared an inventory of access ramps still required on municipal sidewalks.
5. More detailed notices are now sent to residents prior to construction, encouraging people with disability issues to call project manager.

Corporate Services Department

6. Departments are responsible for considering accessibility issues when preparing Requests for Proposals (RFP's) with suggestions from Purchasing.
7. Financial highlights available on website - year 2000+.
8. Ability to pay invoices over the phone with VISA/MC.
9. Job postings available on website.
10. Wheelchair accessibility to Human Resources Division.
11. Ability to pay tax bill at bank.
12. Offer pre-authorized chequing so the public does not have to come to City offices.
13. A host of human resources policies.

14. Tenders/RFP's available on website.

Community Services Department

15. Inclusion and Access to Recreation Services Policy (developed in 1995 and updated in 2002).
16. Staff support and participate in Cambridge Access Awareness Committee and the task force for Inclusive Recreation in Cambridge.
17. Sunblast Summer Playground for children with disabilities.
18. PAL (Personal Attendance for Leisure Card) Program.
19. Some adaptive aquatic equipment available.
20. New playground structures have accessibility components.
21. Newer facilities fully accessible and reviewed in construction phase by recreation accessibility committee.
22. Inclusion and Access marketing in municipality's Activities Guide.

D. NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2003 - 2004

1. Improve communication with public concerning accessibility and the needs of the consumers. E.g. City to provide "hotline" or contact person for the public to contact regarding accessibility concerns, produce brochure outlining current practices supporting accessibility.
2. Prepare a report on possible transit service improvements and forward to the Regional Municipality for consideration.

Planning Services Department

3. Disabled Parking Guidelines to become mandatory through zoning by-law amendment (new and/or existing locations).

Transportation and Public Works

4. Discuss, with the Region of Waterloo, audible traffic signals at some locations (Regional responsibility).
5. Recommend that City Council pass a bylaw enforcing snow removal City wide.

Corporate Services Department

5. Awareness training for municipal employees.
6. When purchasing goods and services for the municipality, have regard to accessibility needs and issues. E.g. prepare purchasing check-list of accessibility issues.
7. Bigger print on invoices/tax bills for visually impaired.
8. Budget highlights available on website instead of coming in for a copy.

Public Access and Council Services

9. Consider adopting provincial/federal accessibility guidelines when entering new leases in privately owned buildings.
10. Enact by-laws where required, as recommended by Accessibility Advisory Committee within municipal jurisdiction.
11. Review ramps at municipal facilities and develop an ongoing program of ramp improvements at municipal facilities.
12. Accessibility Issues in administrative offices at Cambridge Place E.g. automatic door openers for Tax, Human Resources, Drafting; lower the counter areas for those in wheelchairs, i.e. Accounting, Tax, Drafting.
13. Improve accessibility of pay phones in city facilities.
14. Improve accessibility of present elevators and develop guidelines for future purchases (add Braille to all municipal elevators).

Community Services Department

15. Investigate the implementation of a Leisure Buddy Program to provide one-to-one support to recreation participants.
16. Enhance facilities and program equipment for municipal recreation programs (shower seats, grip bars, and accessible mirrors in the change rooms at the Johnson Centre; Installation of a wheelchair ramp at the Allan Reuter Centre II entrance; Automatic Door installed at the front entrance of the Dolson Centre; water lift installed at the John Dolson Centre). See Appendix A.

17. Determine an inventory of curb cut needs on park pathways and trails.
18. Paint the stairs of municipal buildings, allowing for better visibility for the visually impaired.
19. Prepare report on City Facilities outlining the findings of the 2002 Accessibility Audit done through the Task Force for Inclusive Recreation In Cambridge. Provide City Staff with findings and investigate facility improvements where necessary, to be implemented in future budgets.
20. Research existing accessibility standards used by surrounding municipalities. Review the standards, determining if they are applicable for use in Cambridge.

For additional information or copies, please contact:

Andrea Riley
Recreation Co-ordinator
The Corporation of the City of Cambridge
c/o The Allan Reuter Centre
507 King Street East
Cambridge, ON N3H 3N4

Phone: (519) 653-8822 ext 344

Fax: 9519) 653-4302

rileya@city.cambridge.on.ca

Appendix A

Financial Summary

Item	Cost
Shower Seat – Johnson Centre	\$2,500
Grip Bars – Johnson Centre	\$1,000
Accessible Mirrors – Johnson Centre	\$1,500
Handicap Door Operator – ARC II	\$6,000
Automatic Entrance Door – John Dolson Centre	\$10,000
Water Lift – Dolson Centre	\$6,000
Water Lift – Johnson Centre	\$6,000
Community Accessibility Pamphlet	\$2,000
Adaptive Recreation Equipment	\$2,500
Staff Awareness Training and Equipment Upgrades	\$4,000
Contingency Costs	\$8,500
Total	\$50,000
