

TO: COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF WEST ELGIN  
FROM: NORMA BRYANT, CLERK  
DATE: APRIL 28, 2005  
RE: ONTARIO DISABILITIES ACT

**INTRODUCTION:**

On September 25, 2003 Council approved the Municipal Accessibility Plan. The purpose of this report is to satisfy the requirement for an annual report to be submitted to Council.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Accessibility Committee consisting of the Road Superintendent, Recreation Superintendent, Water Superintendent and Clerk met on April 6, 2005.

**ADDITION TO PLAN:**

The Committee inspected the old Rodney Jail in order to add to our inventory. The following section should be added to our accessibility plan. As the Old Jail is an historical building, the Committee did not address the two interior rooms in the building, just the main entrance room and exterior elements.

**5.12 OLD RODNEY JAIL**

BARRIER	BARRIER TYPE	STRATEGIES FOR REMOVAL OR PREVENTION
Entrance door too narrow	Architectural	Widen doorways when renovations are being done
Entrance door	Physical	Install automatic door opener
Stairs	Physical/ architectural	Change when renovations take place
Light switches	Physical	Lower light switch when renovations take place

## PAST ACTIVITIES

In 2004, the handicapped ramp at the old Rodney Town Hall was completed. Handicapped parking spaces have been signed and limits painted at the municipal office, West Lorne Arena, Rodney Recreation Centre and old Rodney Town Hall.

## 2005 INITIATIVES

1. The Accessibility Act requires policies and procedures to be reviewed. The Clerk will review human resources policies and by-laws for compliance with the Act.
2. The Committee discussed the installation of automatic door openers at municipal buildings. It was felt that priority should be based on number of users and type of activity. As staff are available at the municipal office to assist, an automatic door opener is not considered a priority for this building. At the West Lorne complex the doors are too small and when these doors are changed would be an appropriate time to install automatic door opener for this building. The arena and Rodney Recreation Centre are used by the public for various activities and therefore the Committee suggests that automatic door openers be installed for these buildings.

## RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Section 5.12 be added to the Municipal Accessibility Plan.
2. That Council accept the report of the Accessibility Committee dated April 28, 2005 and that this report be attached to the Municipal Accessibility Plan.
3. That Council consider the following projects for 2005:
  - a) Change entrance doors at West Lorne Complex
  - b) Installation of automatic door openers at the West Lorne Complex and Rodney Recreation Centre.

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Norma I. Bryant,  
on behalf of Accessibility Committee