

TO: COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF WEST ELGIN
FROM: NORMA BRYANT, CLERK
DATE: APRIL 9, 2009
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 consists of the Road Superintendent, Recreation Superintendent, Water Superintendent and Clerk.

PAST ACTIVITIES

The 2008 budget included the replacement of front doors and installation of automatic door openers at the West Elgin Recreation Centre. This project was not completed in 2008.

2009 INITIATIVES

The Committee supports the installation of exterior automatic door openers at all municipal buildings. It is recommended that this program be continued and that these openers be installed at the West Elgin Recreation Centre and West Elgin Arena.

The Committee recognizes that major renovations would be required to install automatic door openers at the Rodney Library and recommend that the replacement of the door and installation of automatic door openers be investigated further.

With the completion of the new water treatment plant in Eagle, the Committee recommends that this facility be added to Section 5.1 of the Accessibility Plan. That is, the facility would not be site-inspected, as there is no formal public access to this building.

It is further noted that the Accessibility Standards for Customer Services (O.Reg 429/07) must be complied with by January 1, 2010. This requires the development of policies, practices and procedures on providing goods and services to people with disabilities and staff training. The Clerk has been in contact with the County Human Resources Department. We will be able to utilize their resources to meet these requirements. Council will be kept apprised of progress.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council accept the report of the Accessibility Committee dated April 9, 2009 and that this report be attached to the Municipal Accessibility Plan.
2. That Section 5.1 of the Accessibility Plan be amended as follows:
"It is noted that the public works/recreation storage buildings and the water treatment plant at Eagle have not been site-inspected as part of this report, only the administrative areas where the public would require entrance have been reviewed at this time."
3. That Council consider the following project for 2009:
 - a) Installation of automatic door openers at the West Elgin Recreation Centre.

Norma I. Bryant,
on behalf of Accessibility Committee