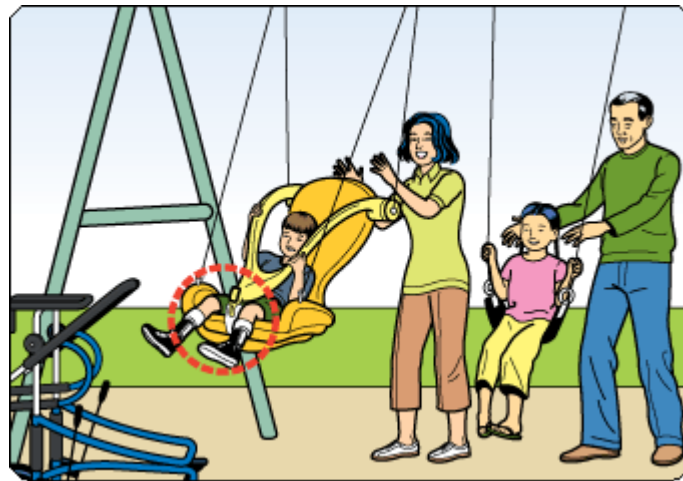




THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEAMINGTON



2009/2010 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

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Municipality of Leamington 2009/10 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

SECTION 1: MUNICIPAL JURISDICTION PARTICIPATING IN THIS PLAN

Municipal Information

The Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington
38 Erie Street North
Leamington ON
N8H 2Z3

Phone Number – (519) 326-5761
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Web Site:

www.learmington.ca

Key Contact

Douglas E. Morrish
Director of Development Services
1-519-326-5761
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Municipal Highlights

The restructured Municipality of Leamington was incorporated on January 1st, 1999. The combined former Town of Leamington and Township of Mersea is estimated to have a population of 28,883 in the year 2006 and a land area of approximately 261.92 square kilometres.

Leamington is primarily an agricultural community with most types of agriculture being present in the area. The Municipality also has over 600 acres of greenhouses producing tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and flowers. In addition to agriculture, a substantial sand and gravel industry also exists in the rural areas of the Municipality.

The varied residential environment has a mixture of older and newer housing of low, medium and high densities. Also, due to the greater diversification of services such as recreation, shopping and in particular health care services, which include a local hospital and a county rest and nursing home, Leamington has experienced significant growth in its retirement aged population.

The Municipality acts as a sub-regional service centre serving a trade area of approximately 55,000 people. As a result, there is strong and diverse commercial base including a strong uptown, two shopping mall areas which have recently enjoyed additional big box type expansion as well as three highway/service commercial developments and has the potential for attracting even more as further development and redevelopment occurs along the waterfront area.

Industrial development within Leamington is primarily related to food processing, dominated by the H.J. Heinz Company of Canada Limited (tomato based products) and Omstead Foods Limited (fish and vegetable products). However, secondary feeder plants to the major auto industrials are also becoming major employers in the area.

MUNICIPAL STRUCTURE

Council

The Municipality of Leamington is governed by an elected council consisting of a Mayor, Deputy Mayor and five councillors serving a four-year term. The actual governing of the town follows the rules and regulations set down by the Provincial Government in the Municipal Act. Leamington offers a comprehensive range of municipal services including fire and police protection, electric and water services, sewage treatment and storm servicing, residential garbage, waste removal and recycling programs for structures with five or less units, a public transit system and the construction and maintenance of municipal infrastructure.

Management Committee

The Management Committee is composed of the Chief Administrative Officer and 4 Directors. It deals with matters of administrative nature; make any necessary recommendations to Council on any such matters. The committee reviews recommendations and reports enroute to Council prior to insertion into agendas.

Chief Administrative Officer

The Municipality of Leamington operates under a Council/Chief Administrative Officer form of municipal government. The Chief Administrative Officer, William J. Marck, is responsible and accountable to the municipal council and he has reporting to him four Directors.

The procedure, which is used by the Municipality of Leamington to deal with municipal matters, is that reports are developed by the Directors and the Chief Administrative Officer utilizing respective staff and (where appropriate) outside consultants. These reports are submitted to the Management Committee where they are reviewed by members of that Committee for consistency with municipal policy, by-laws and regulations. Once reports are approved by the Chief Administrative Officer, they are forwarded to Council for its consideration.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS

Department of Corporate Services

Corporate Services deals with matters related to legal, council, committees, Police Services Board and Human Resources. They also deal with matters directly related to vital statistics, licensing, municipal elections, municipal by-laws, by-law enforcement, crossing guards and property standards. The Director of Corporate Services is Brian Sweet.

Department of Finance and Business Services

The Department of Finance and Business Services deals with information systems and technology, taxes, budgets, payroll, accounts receivable and payable, audit control, banking, assets and liabilities. The Director of Finance is Cheryl Horrobin.

Department of Community Services

The Department of Community Services is responsible for general matters related to maintenance, transportation, roads, parks, recreation, animal control, weed control, pollution control, municipal water services, parking, cemeteries and waste collection. This department is also responsible for matters directly related to engineering, bridges, roads, design, traffic control and drainage.

Community Services is also responsible for matters directly related to the Leamington Kinsmen Recreation Complex, Marina, transit service, recreation programming, culture, and permits in relationship to baseball diamonds, soccer pitches, picnic shelters and special events. The Director of Community Services is John Tofflemire.

Department of Development Services

The Department of Development Services is responsible for general matters relating to planning, building and fire. Planning includes official plans, zoning by-law and committee of adjustments. Building includes enforcement of the Building Code, issuing building permits, septic system approvals and potable water protection through backflow prevention. Fire includes fire prevention, public education, training fire personnel, fire suppression and rescue and emergency planning and management. The Director of Development Services is Douglas E. Morrish.

SECTION 2: OTHER ORGANIZATIONS & AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THIS PLAN

Leamington Police Services

Leamington and Mersea police services amalgamated their operations July 1st, 1998. Leamington Police Services is responsible for providing a vast range of police services to the entire new municipality. The police headquarters is located at 9 Clark Street West in Leamington and the Chief of Police is Chief Dean Gow.

Leamington Public Library

The Essex County Library-Leamington Branch is located at 1 John Street in Leamington. It offers area residents a broad-based and comprehensive collection of books (including large print and foreign language), videos, books on disc, music cassettes and CD's, newspapers, census records on microfilm, word-processing computer stations, DVD's and public Internet access. The Library has recently acquired a scanning and reading appliance (SARA) for the visually impaired. The Library is also now offering downloadable databases and books on their website:

www.essexcountylibrary.ca The Supervisor is Susan Tuck.

Windsor- Essex County Health Unit

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit is located at 215 Talbot Street East in Leamington. The Board of Health follows Mandatory Programs and Service Guidelines set by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, which is regulated by the Health Promotion and Protection Act, legislated by the Government of Ontario. On behalf of the Board of Health, the Medical Officer of Health administers the public health programs and services with the guiding principle that "Under the authority of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit promotes and protects the health of our community."

Currently, Dr. G. Allen Heimann (Medical Officer of Health) and the 164 employees of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit continue to take the direction of the Board of Health, which is composed of 4 representatives from the City of Windsor, 4 representatives from the County of Essex and 7 provincial representatives.

Leamington District Memorial Hospital

The Leamington District Memorial Hospital is located at 194 Talbot Street West in Leamington. The hospital was established in 1950 by the residents of Essex County to meet the diverse needs of the community. As the only hospital located outside the City of Windsor, it serves as the primary medical centre for approximately fifty thousand residents. The hospital also manages a nursing station on Pelee Island to serve its seasonal and permanent residents.

Leamington District Memorial Hospital currently manages sixty five, forty-four that serve medicine and surgery, fifteen that serve complex continuing care, three that provide for patients in obstetrics and gynaecology and three that are specified for intensive care. It offers a 24hr emergency service.

The hospital offers expert and skilled professionals in its Medical Staff Departments. These departments include Anaesthesia, Continuing Care, Dentistry, Emergency, General Practice, Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Pathology, Radiology, and Nuclear Medicine.

In addition, Outpatient Clinics in Internal Medicine, Oncology, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, Pre-Admission, Surgery, and Dietary Counselling compliments the hospitals contemporary approach to treatment.

The hospital is considered progressive in its Diagnostic Services as it offers General Radiology, Ultrasound, CT Scan Nuclear Medicine, Mammography, Pulmonary Function Testing, Holter Monitoring, ECG's, Stress Testing, and Echocardiography. The Hospital Administrator is John Stenger.

SECTION 3: PLAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Accessibility Working Group

Working Group Member	Municipality/ Agency	Department Represented	Contact Telephone & Email
Councillor John Paterson Alternate – Councillor Rick Atkin	Leamington	Council	(519) 326-5761 jpaterson@leamington.ca ratkin@leamington.ca
Douglas Morrish	Leamington	Development Services	(519) 326-5761 dmorrish@leamington.ca
Judy Van Roie	Leamington	Development Services	(519) 326-5761 jvanroie@leamington.ca

SECTION 4: INITIATIVES TO IDENTIFY, REMOVE AND PREVENT BARRIERS IN THE ORGANIZATION

BARRIER REMOVAL INITIATIVES

Accessibility planning will help the Municipality think strategically about identifying, removing and preventing many different types of barriers. Through accessibility planning, the Municipality will have the opportunity to take a comprehensive look at their by-laws, services, policies, procedures, practices and programs to determine which need to be addressed so that they may be accessible to everyone.

The Municipality of Leamington took the initiative to provide barrier free access to the municipal office by installing a barrier free path of travel, barrier free parking areas and a barrier free entrance.

Town Hall – Architectural Barriers

At Council's meeting of November 26, 2009 Council awarded the contract to Oscar Construction to construct a new Accessible Municipal Administration Building at 111 Erie Street North. It is envisioned the new facility will be ready for occupation in early 2011.

Communication Barriers

Correspondence is typically designed so that a sight impaired person would not be able to read it. Any resident can contact the Municipality to request information in an alternate format.

Sidewalks in the Municipality

All sidewalks and ramps at intersections are constructed to comply with the Ontario Provincial Standard specifications including barrier free design. The Accessibility Committee has recommended a design change from directional saw cuts to a pebbled surface. Municipal staff are reviewing the Ontario Traffic Manual for design guidelines.

Accomplishments in 2009

The Municipality of Leamington has carried out a number of projects to help make this community more accessible. Some of the accomplishments are:

1. Audible signals at Wilkinson Drive and Erie Street North;
2. Sidewalks installed on Alderton from Bennie to Danforth;
3. "We Assist" project launch;
4. Barrier free bus shelters;
5. Wheelchair ramps installed at the intersections of Elliott & Wilkinson, John & Albert, John & Baird, Hazelton & Queen and Russell at Chestnut;
6. New elevator at the Arts Building;
7. Accessible customer service training for municipal staff to be completed by January, 2010;
8. Municipal mini-transit bus calling out stops for visually impaired;
9. Creation of brochure to educate the private sector on how to make their businesses more accessible;
10. Defined crossing and signage installed at the Princess Centre;
11. Erie Street North/Highway 77 road widening including sidewalks and bike lanes;
12. Increasing LAAC public awareness exposure through published newspaper articles and local TV station CFTV34;

Projects for 2010

1. Audible signals for uptown;
2. Construction of an Accessible Municipal Administration Building;
3. Sensitivity Training for all new municipal staff;
4. More curb cuts for sidewalks to be added in the 2010 budget;
5. Encourage participation on the committee.

SECTION 5: CLOSING REMARKS

The Municipality of Leamington has already identified and removed some barriers and realizes that there is more work to be done. The Municipality is dedicated to making Leamington a barrier free community so that everyone who lives or visits the Municipality may enjoy all Leamington has to offer. Council of the Municipality of Leamington encourages private industry and businesses to embrace accessibility and become barrier free.

Communication of the Plan

Copies of the plan will be available at the Town Hall and will be posted on the web site www.learmington.ca. This document will be made available in alternate formats upon request.