



Municipality of
Leamington
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The Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2018 - 2022



Accessible Bus Shelter Located on Talbot Street West

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Section 1: Introduction to the Plan

Aim

The aim of this plan is to:

1. Comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act which requires all municipalities to develop an Accessibility Plan.
2. Describe progress the Municipality of Leamington has made to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities who live, work in or visit the Leamington community.
3. Describe the future goals and continuing steps the Municipality of Leamington will take to prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities.

Objectives

This plan:

1. Describes the process by which the Municipality of Leamington will identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities;
2. Reviews recent efforts at the Municipality of Leamington to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities;
3. Lists steps the Municipality of Leamington will take to identify barriers to people with disabilities including the facilities, policies, programs, practices and services the Municipality will review;
4. Describes measures the Municipality of Leamington will take between 2018 and 2022 to meet the AODA standards and regulations;
5. Describes how the Municipality of Leamington will communicate this Accessibility Plan to the public.

Background

In 2005, the Ontario Government passed the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act to make Ontario accessible by 2025.

Accessibility standards have been created as part of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. These standards are rules that businesses and Organizations in Ontario need to follow to identify, remove and prevent barriers so that persons with disabilities have more opportunities to participate in everyday life.

According to provincial statistics, disability impacts the lives of many Ontarians, and the numbers of people with disabilities is increasing as the population ages. Over 15% of Ontario's population has a disability, including more than 40% of people over age 65. About 1.85 million people in Ontario have a disability. That's one in seven people.

The 2018-2022 Municipality of Leamington Multi-Year Accessibility Plan provides progress as well as future initiatives to provide accessibility within the Municipality.

Section 2: Municipal Highlights

Municipal Structure:

The restructured Municipality of Leamington was incorporated on January 1st, 1999, combining the former Town of Leamington and Mersea Township. According to the 2016 Census of Canada, the Municipality of Leamington had a population of 27,595. The Municipality has a land area of approximately 262.01 square kilometres.

Leamington is primarily an agricultural community with most types of agriculture being present in the area. Field crops include tomatoes, fresh vegetables, soy beans and grains and tender fruits. The Municipality currently has approximately 2000 acres of greenhouses producing tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and flowers; a large portion of which is exported. 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. The Municipality offers a variety of services such as recreation, shopping and commerce, and health care services. Health care services include a local hospital; a county operated long-term care home, several private long term care homes and numerous retirement facilities. A 'medical village' which includes a family health care team and other related services is located directly across from the hospital. As a result of all these excellent community services, 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 a strong and diverse commercial base including a strong uptown; secondary shopping mall areas, which have recently enjoyed additional big box type expansion, as well as three highway/service commercial developments.

The Municipality has seen growth in residential, commercial, and industrial, institutional and especially in agricultural and greenhouse sectors.

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 Municipality follows the rules and regulations set by the Municipal Act, as amended. Leamington offers a comprehensive range of services and amenities including a marina, a recreation centre, soccer and baseball fields, community parks, splash pad, fire and police protection, electric and water services, sewage treatment and storm sewer servicing, residential garbage, waste removal and recycling programs for structures with five or less units, an accessible public transit system and the construction and maintenance of municipal infrastructure.

Chief Administrative Officer

The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer provides overall policy and operational support to the Mayor and Council. Four Directors, Infrastructure Services, Finance & Business Services, Legal & Legislative Services and Community Development and Corporate Communications report directly to the Chief Administrative Officer.

Department of Legal & Legislative Services

Legal and Legislative Services is responsible for general matters related to legal, Council, committees, Police Services Board, Human Resources, animal control and By-law.

Department of Finance & Business Services

The Department of Finance & Business supports the Municipal Corporation by assisting Council, advising other Departments and providing direct services to the citizens of Leamington. This department includes property taxes, budgeting and information technology.

Department of Infrastructure

The Department of Infrastructure is responsible for general matters related to transportation, maintenance of roads, parks, weed control, pollution control, municipal water services, cemeteries and waste collection and capital projects in regard to roads, sewers and drainage.

Department of Community & Development Services

Community & Development Services is responsible for general matters relating to Building, Planning, Fire Services, Recreation, Economic Development and Tourism & Culture.

Section 3: Other Organizations & Agencies

Police Services

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is responsible for policing the Municipality. The OPP police station is located at 9 Clark Street West in Leamington.

Leamington Public Library

The Essex County Library is located at 1 John Street in Leamington. The library provides free public Internet workstations; a public library service for all ages from pre-school to senior citizens; information; free programs; recreational reading; reference material; videos; large print books; downloadable e-book, e-audio books and online reference tools available 24 - 7 from your home computer or from your local branch; a scanning and reading appliance (SARA) for the visually impaired. The Library also offers access to online databases and books that can be downloaded from the library website.

Windsor- Essex County Health Unit

The Leamington office of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit is located at 33 Princess Street, Unit 120, Leamington. The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit promotes and protects the public's health under the authority of the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

South Essex Community Council

South Essex Community Council (SECC), located at 215 Talbot Street East, Leamington, is a non-profit community based service organization that recognizes and responds to the needs of diverse populations in our community through leadership in programming partnerships and volunteerism to enhance quality of life.

Leamington & District Half Century Centre

The Leamington & District Half Century Centre, located at 160 Talbot Street East is a multi-purpose community oriented non-profit centre aimed at keeping older adults active and living independently by providing social, recreational and educational programs.

Erie Shores HealthCare

The Leamington District Memorial Hospital now named Erie Shores HealthCare is located at 194 Talbot Street West in Leamington. As the only hospital located outside the City of Windsor, it serves as the primary medical centre for residents of Essex County. The hospital also manages a nursing station on Pelee Island to serve its seasonal and permanent residents.

Hospice Residential Home (Erie Shores Campus)

Hospice Residential Home (Erie Shores Campus) is located at 197 Talbot Street West, Unit 701, is a 10 bed facility which provides support services through Essex County with at-home call by palliative physicians, nurse educators, social workers, spiritual care providers and volunteers.

Section 4: Commitment to Accessibility Standards

Accessible Customer Service

The Municipality of Leamington has provided the staff with training on how to serve residents of all abilities.

The Municipality of Leamington has created accessible ways for residents to provide feedback. Any resident may contact the Municipality to request information in an alternate format.

Accessible Taxi Service

The Municipality of Leamington has passed a by-law for taxis operating within the Municipality to ensure taxis are licensed, regulated and governed. No Licensee shall charge a higher fare or a fee of any nature or kind to persons with disabilities and no Licensee shall charge a higher fare of any nature or kind for the carrying or transporting a passenger with mobility aids.

Accessible Emergency and Public Safety Information to Staff

The Municipality of Leamington has enacted a “Notice of Disruption Procedure”. This procedure describes how the Municipality of Leamington will provide notice of disruptions in service to people with disabilities. In the event that there is a disruption in the usual facilities or services that the Municipality of Leamington provides to people with disabilities, we will provide notice of such disruption as far in advance as possible, through a variety of means. The notice will be posted in conspicuous places where people with disabilities can easily access the information such as at the main entrance to the premises where the disruption is, on the municipal website, and on social media where applicable including the expected length of disruption.

Accessible Transportation Services

The Municipality of Leamington is dedicated to providing accessible public transportation. There currently is one handi-transit in operation and two city style buses with accessible seating that operates from Nature Fresh Farms Recreation Centre to St. Clair College having stops in Kingsville and Essex. These buses are equipped with ramps and 2 Wheelchair accessible spaces.

The Municipality is currently undergoing a review of the Leamington Transit Bus as it is due for replacement. The replacement buses will for 2 wheelchair accessible seats.



Accessible Public Spaces

All sidewalks and ramps at various intersections are constructed to comply with the Ontario Provincial Standard specifications including a barrier free design.

Seacliff Park: The Seacliff Park Waterfront Trail and Beachfront Beautification Project includes the expansion and reconstruction of Seacliff Park beach waterfront amenities including the construction of additional asphalt walkways, accessibility mats for beach paths, and a seating area designed to support wheel chairs and electric scooters. Once completed, the project will support and encourage activities along Leamington's beachfront and offer accessibility to the water's edge.

Accessible Sidewalks

All sidewalks and ramps at various intersections at time of reconstruction will include detectable warning plates be installed at the intersections. Engineering has adopted these changes for all large capital road projects.



Accessible Pedestrian Signals

The Municipality of Leamington continues to provide audible signals at crosswalks as the aging infrastructure is replaced. The audible signals advise pedestrians who are visually impaired when they have the right-of-way to cross at a signalized intersection and in which direction they may cross the intersection.



Section 5: Accessibility Advisory Group

Mandate:

The Leamington Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) meets quarterly or as needed to review accessibility issues. The mandate of the committee is to review and advise Council on the following subjects as they relate to accessibility:

- Site plans of new and existing buildings where approval is required by the Municipality;
- New and existing by-laws;
- Significant renovations of structures designated for municipal use;
- Municipal capital facilities under the Municipal Act;
- Goods and services provided by the Municipality or agents providing services under contract with the Municipality.

Members of the Accessibility Advisory Group

Councillor appointed yearly

Phone 519 326 5761

send email to council@leamington.ca

Angela Toole

Phone 519 326 5761

send email to atoole@leamington.ca

Section 6: Closing Remarks

The Municipality of Leamington will continue to identify and remove barriers and 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.

Communication of the Plan

Copies of the plan are available at the Municipal Building and are posted on the website www.leamington.ca.

Contact Information

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