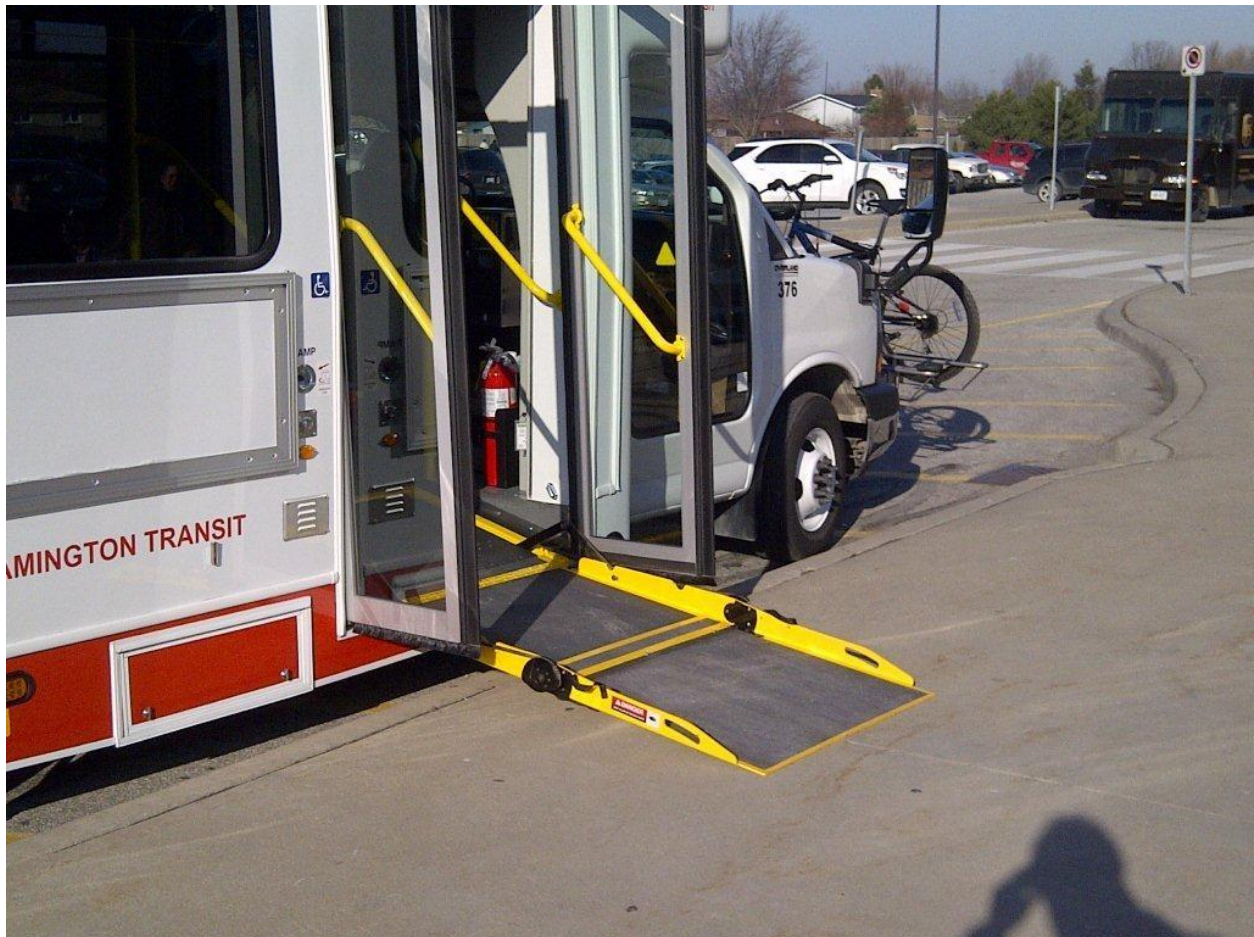


The Corporation of the Municipality of Leamington Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2013-2017



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Section 1: Municipal Authority Taking Part in this Plan

Municipal Highlights

The restructured Municipality of Leamington was incorporated on January 1st, 1999, combining the former Town of Leamington and Mersea Township. According to the 2011 Census of Canada, The Municipality of Leamington had a population of 28,403. The municipality has 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. Field crops include tomatoes, fresh vegetables, soy beans and grains and tender fruits. The Municipality currently has approximately 1000 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. Recently a “medical village”, which includes a family health care team and other related services, was constructed 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.

Industrial development within Leamington is primarily related to food processing, dominated by the H.J. Heinz Company of Canada Limited (tomato based products), Highline Mushrooms and Cavendish Foods Limited. Manufacturing related to the automotive and greenhouse industries also plays an important role.

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 municipality follows the rules and regulations set by the Municipal Act. 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 Municipality of Leamington operates under a 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.

Management Committee

The Management Committee is composed of the CAO and four Directors; Director of Community Services, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Development Services and Director of Finance and Business Services. The committee deals with matters of administrative nature and makes any necessary recommendations to Council on any such matters. The committee reviews recommendations and reports enroute to Council prior to insertion into agendas.

The procedure used by the Municipality of Leamington to deal with municipal matters is that reports are developed by the Directors and the CAO utilizing respective staff and (where appropriate) outside consultants. These reports are submitted to the Management Committee where they are reviewed by members of the Committee for consistency with municipal policy, by-laws and regulations. Once reports are approved by the CAO, 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, library, 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 Robert Sharon.

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 Tracey Pillon-Abbs.

Section 2: Other Organizations & Agencies Taking Part in this Plan

Police Services

On December 3, 2010 Leamington Police Services was disbanded and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) took responsibility for policing the municipality. The OPP are responsible for giving the same level of services previously given by the municipal force. The OPP police station is located at 9 Clark Street West in Leamington.

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 a scanning and reading appliance (SARA) for the visually impaired. The Library is also now offering access to online databases and books that can be downloaded from the [Essex County Library website](#). The Supervisor is Susan Tuck.

Windsor- Essex County Health Unit

The Leamington office of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit is located at 215 Talbot Street East. It provides health services to eligible children up to the age of 18 as well as nurse practitioner services for pregnant women and children without a family physician as well as sexual health clinic services. Appointments are required and the office can be reached at 519-326-5716.

Currently, Dr. G. Allen Heimann (Medical Officer of Health) and the 206 employees of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit in Windsor Essex and Leamington 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 a maximum of 7 provincially appointed representatives.

South Essex Community Council

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, "Working together to grow our community."

Services provided include: Community Home Support; Employment and Training; and Settlement Services. Mission: Helping people. Improving lives.

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 50 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 65 beds; 44 that serve medicine and surgery, 15 that serve complex continuing care, 3 that provide for patients in obstetrics and gynaecology and 3 that are specified for intensive care. It offers a 24hr emergency service. Of the 15 complex continuing care beds, 10 are currently allocated to a special project 'Assess Restore', focusing on rehabilitating seniors back into their home environment.

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, several Outpatient Clinics compliment 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: Accessibility Working Group

The working group together with accessibility committee members meet every two months to review accessibility issues.

Councillor appointed yearly

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send email to council@leamington.ca

Bechara Daher

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Section 4: Steps to Identify, Remove and Prevent Barriers in the Organization

Barrier Removal Initiatives

The following list shows some of the items planned to date:

Accessibility planning helps the Municipality think strategically about identifying, removing and preventing many different types of barriers. Through accessibility planning, the Municipality has 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.

Town Hall – Architectural Barriers

A new and fully accessible Municipal Building has been constructed at 111 Erie Street North. The new facility has been occupied since April, 2011.

Communication Barriers

Any resident can contact the Municipality to request information in an alternate format. A newly designed accessible website is currently under review and will be completed in 2013.

Sidewalks in the Municipality

All sidewalks and ramps at various intersections are constructed to comply with the Ontario Provincial Standard specifications including barrier free design. The Accessibility Committee had recommended a design change from directional saw cuts to a truncated dome surface. Engineering has adopted these changes for all large capital road projects.

Parking Spaces

The Accessibility Committee is working on guidelines for barrier free parking.

Post Office

The Accessibility Committee is working with the Post Office at 25 John Street to make the entrance barrier free. The attached photo shows that the door opens the wrong way so a person in a wheelchair has to pass the door and turn around in order to gain entrance.



Accomplishments

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

- Barrier free entrance to the Library at 1 John Street
- Hatching and signage for walking trails
- Curb cuts and new sidewalk construction
- Completion of the new accessible Administration Building
- Barrier free playscape at Seacliff Park
- Entrance from the parking lot to the Marina Picnic Shelter is fully accessible
- The We Assist Program was put into place at the grocery stores
- New elevator at the Arts Building
- Customer service, sensitivity training and website accessibility training has been completed
- Audible signals at intersections
- Low floor accessible buses
- Installation of barrier free signage
- Letter of support to ERCA for grant application to reduce barriers at Various conservation areas
- Accessible doors at the front of the Leamington Court Building, 7 Clark Street W
- Installation of cast iron detectable warning plates installed in the sidewalk ramps warning plates can assist the visually impaired in knowing they are approaching an intersection



Future Projects

- Detectable warning plates to be installed at intersections for all large capital road projects
- Revised standards for sidewalks
- Revised barrier free parking design and standards
- New accessible website
- Recruitment of new members
- Accessible Post-Secondary Educational Satellite School

Section 5: Closing Remarks

The Municipality of Leamington has already identified and removed many 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 are available at the Town Hall and are posted on the website www.learmington.ca. This document is available in an alternate format upon request.

Contact Information

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Key Contact

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