

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries
Information Report

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Nathan Puchnatyj, Supervisor Recreation Facilities
Date: March 7, 2023
Subject: Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee 2022-2023 Accessibility Report and Terms of Reference

This report is for the information of Council.

Background

On December 2, 2002, Council approved the creation of an Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACC). The ACC has been working to address issues related to accessibility and to meet the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

On June 13, 2005, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was given Royal Assent. The legislation is as follows: "An Act respecting the development, implementation and enforcement of standards relating to accessibility with respect to goods, services, facilities, employment, accommodation, buildings and all other things specified in the Act for persons with disabilities."

The AODA is designed so that municipalities, hospitals, school boards, colleges, universities, public transportation providers, government ministries and agencies, the private sector, and people with disabilities can take part in making Ontario a more accessible province.

There are a number of municipal obligations under the AODA:

- All municipalities are to prepare accessibility plans and make them available to the public.
- Consult with persons with disabilities.
- Municipalities of 10,000 residents or more are required to establish accessibility advisory committees.
- The majority of members must have a disability.

Comments

Barriers for people with disabilities take many forms. The Municipality recognizes that the growth and prosperity of the community are founded on the diversity of its economy and vibrancy of its people. This includes people with varying abilities. The ACC, along with Council's leadership and the assistance of municipal staff, work together to understand the broad range of disabilities that exist. This includes knowledge of the barriers that are present for people with varying abilities. Making Chatham-Kent accessible is an on-going process. The Municipality works within its resources and priorities to eliminate or identify accessibility barriers in municipal facilities and amenities.

Administration reviewed and updated the 2022-2023 Accessibility Report (Attachment A), which reflects the initiatives that have been completed and future steps to be taken by municipal departments to remove and prevent barriers in municipally owned facilities and sites. The Committee created a Terms of Reference to define the parameters of its responsibilities to fulfill the aims of the Act (Attachment B).

Through the ACC, the Municipality's investment of time, resources, and funds towards the elimination of barriers is creating a community that is barrier-free and benefits all residents and visitors to Chatham-Kent. A copy of previous year's accessibility achievements is available on the Accessibility Advisory Committee's web page.

Areas of Strategic Focus

This report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

			
Economic Prosperity	Healthy & Safe Community	People & Culture	Environmental Sustainability
	2.4		

Consultation

The chairperson of the Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee has reviewed the Terms of Reference and Accessibility Report.

All municipal departments updated the initiatives for their respective areas.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ)

The ACC's purpose is to encompass all that is DEIJ. This is supported by awards and recognition given to both business and individuals who go above and beyond everyday practices to accommodate all needs. The ACC exists to support and encourage DEIJ within all communities and partnerships throughout the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from the approval of the Chatham-Kent Advisory Committee's 2022-2023 Accessibility Report. The accessibility of municipally owned buildings will be further researched and the projects that are identified will be brought back to Council for consideration.

Prepared by: Nathan Puchnatyj, Supervisor Recreation Facilities

Reviewed by:

Rob Pollock, Director, Parks, Fleet and Facilities

Edward Soldo, General Manager, Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Attachments:

A – 2022-2023 Accessibility Report

B – 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference