

## **Schedule 'A' to By-law No. 709-09**

### **Ontarian's with Disabilities Sixth Annual Accessibility Plan December 2008**

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#### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the Province. To this end, the ODA mandates that each Municipality prepare an annual accessibility plan.

#### **Council Commitment to Accessibility Planning**

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Stirling-Rawdon remains committed to:

- The continual improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for all those with disabilities
- The provision of quality services to all members of the community with disabilities.

The Council has authorized the Clerk-Administrator to prepare the sixth annual accessibility plan that will enable Council to meet these commitments.

#### **Aim**

The aim of the Accessibility Plan is to identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities in the Township's by-laws and in its policies, programs, practices and services. The plan describes the measures undertaken in 2008 and those recommended for the year 2009 to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who utilize the facilities and services of the Township of Stirling-Rawdon, including staff.

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of the 2008 Accessibility Plan are as follows:

- Review and describe the measures undertaken in the previous year to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- Describe the measures to be undertaken in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- Describe how the Accessibility Plan will be made available to the public.

### **Description of Municipality**

The Township of Stirling-Rawdon is an amalgamated municipality within the County of Hastings comprised of the former Village of Stirling and Township of Rawdon. The Township of Stirling-Rawdon has a population of approximately 4,500 and total households of approximately 2,000. Approximately 45% of the Municipality's population resides in the urban centre (Village of Stirling); the balance of the Municipality consists of a large rural/farming area, three hamlets and vacant land.

### **Barriers Addressed in 2008**

This is the sixth year plan (2008) prepared by the Township of Stirling-Rawdon. The report describes the measures the Township has taken in 2008 to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities of the Township.

1. Website improvements were made in 2008 to provide ongoing access to information.
2. Staff participated in accessibility training / workshops.
3. New accessible sidewalk on Allan Street and the west end of St. James Street.
4. Municipal Heritage Train Station is being renovated by the Rotary Club. The downstairs hall has been made wheelchair accessible and also has accessible washrooms.
5. Fire Alarm system installed at the Arena emits noise and lights for evacuation.

### **Barriers to be addressed**

A review of wheelchair accessibility at the municipal buildings will be undertaken in 2009.

Staff will participate in accessibility workshops.

Municipal staff will be trained in Accessibility Customer Service in 2009.

Council and staff should continue to review all municipal facilities and services for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing existing and potential barriers. The 2009 municipal budget should include provisions for addressing barriers. Subsequent years should include a continuation of barrier identification with corresponding budget allocations.

### **Review and Monitoring of the Process**

Council is committed to following through with this plan. This plan will be reviewed annually thus allowing Council, staff and the public to monitor the barriers identified and the direction to which the Township is moving to remove all barriers under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

### **Communication of the Plan**

This plan will be available on the web site as well as at the office and every effort will be made to make it available to those with disabilities for their perusal and review. Should a copy in Braille be requested, Council will try to accommodate the request by having staff contact the CNIB to enquire if it could be translated.