

## **Schedule 'A' to By-law No. 646-08**

### **Ontarian's with Disabilities Fifth Annual Accessibility Plan December 2007**

---

#### **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 fifth 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 2007 and those recommended for the year 2008 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 2007 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 2007**

This is the fifth year plan (2007) prepared by the Township of Stirling-Rawdon. The report describes the measures the Township has taken in 2007 to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities of the Township.

1. Wheelchair accessible ramps were constructed on all identified sidewalks.
2. Repainting of all handicap parking spaces took place in 2007 and set fines are in place for illegal parking in a handicap space.
3. An additional railing was installed at the entrance to the Municipal Office.
4. An automated front door was installed at the Library.

### **Barriers to be addressed**

Website improvements will be undertaken in 2008 to provide ongoing access to information.

A review of wheelchair accessibility at the municipal buildings will be undertaken in 2008.

Staff will participate in accessibility workshops.

Council and staff should continue to review all municipal facilities and services for the purpose of identifying and prioritizing existing and potential barriers. The 2008 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.