



# Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee

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January 2024

**This document is available in alternative formats, upon request.  
Please see Page 3 for details.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee is an established community resource that creates, develops, and implements the objectives of Huron County and its nine (9) municipalities be it mandated by legislation or inspired by local community groups and individuals from across Huron County sharing the vision of Huron County's Accessibility Advisory Committee.

It is the responsibility of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee to advise Huron County Council about the requirements and implementation of

accessibility standards. Since inception, the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has been promoting and developing a barrier-free Municipality for citizens of all abilities including persons with disabilities. Through local media, public events, award ceremonies and speaking engagements the Committee continues to educate and advise on accessibility issues while broadening awareness within Huron County and its partner municipalities.

As the provincial legislation and regulations mature, the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will continue its efforts in promoting awareness, while implementing educational and training guidelines, policies and standards defined by The Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Communication supports and accessible formats are available upon request. (e.g., digital, large print, braille)

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This report is available online at: **<http://www.huroncounty.ca>**

If your inquiry is specific to a municipality, please contact them directly.

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## **ONGOING GOALS**

Huron County continues to strive toward ensuring that at all levels of decision making there is consideration of those with disabilities. The betterment of the community must involve everyone.

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) believes in taking action. Action taken today will improve tomorrow and strengthen the community for all. By improving the quality of life for people with disabilities today we ensure access for those who face disabilities tomorrow.

The HCAAC is determined to make available to Huron County business owners the knowledge and information needed to create barrier free communities and economies.

The HCAAC created three sub committees to assist with removing barriers:

- Accessibility Education Sub Committee
- Accessibility Review Sub Committee
- Directive and Regulation Review Sub Committee.

### **The Accessibility Education Committee**

The Accessibility Education Committee meets as required to develop and implement programs to educate agencies, businesses, and the broader private sector and to plan for special events that will bring awareness to the community regarding accessibility. This Committee will develop resources for the private sector about the AODA, Huron County's Universal Design and Accessibility Guideline for Site Plan Control, and the importance of identifying, preventing, and removing barriers and challenges faced by people with disabilities.

In the past, this Committee has partnered with local Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) to raise awareness of the AODA and the responsibility of businesses and not-for-profit organizations.

The Committee has increased awareness and advanced understanding about accessibility by creating the Business Award of merit to Barrier Free Design, the Public Sector Award of Merit for Barrier Free Design and Programming and the "Accessibility Champion" Sandra Thompson Memorial Award. Nominations for these awards are encouraged by the public and consideration and decisions on the awardees is the responsibility of the Committee.

### **The Accessibility Review Sub Committee**

The Review Committee is responsible for advising municipalities on the accessibility for persons with disabilities to a public municipal building prior to purchasing, construction, renovation, or lease. The Accessibility Standards for the built environment focuses on removing barriers in four areas:

1. Public Spaces
2. Buildings
3. Trails and beaches
4. Outdoor play spaces

This is intended to make it easier for all Ontarians- including those with disabilities, seniors, and families to access the places where they work, travel, shop, and play.

As a large public sector organization, the Design of Public Spaces Standard only applies to new construction and planned redevelopment.

Ontario's Building Code has been amended to include enhancements to accessibility in buildings and the Committee is cognizant that this is an insufficient standard to adhere to and seeks to ensure that the Code is complied with as well as a firm view of the future use of people with disabilities. This often results in recommendations from the Committee exceeding the Code standard.

This Committee is responsible for drafting, periodically reviewing and updating the document titled "Huron County Universal Design and Accessibility Guidelines" and providing it to its Municipalities to assist in their review of site plans under section 41, Site Plan Control Area, of the Planning Act. The Committee may, if requested by a local Municipality, review a site plan under Section 41 of the Planning Act to ensure facilities designed are accessible for persons with disabilities.

This Committee does site plan reviews which helps to remove barriers before they are made during construction of new buildings and renovations of old buildings. A building plan review form may be found on our website. Site Plan Review Checklists have been developed to assist in the review process. Forms and checklists are updated and reviewed regularly to adapt to continual changes in current standards.

Plans and spaces such as municipal offices, libraries, arenas, washrooms, additions, renovations, etc. have been reviewed. The word is out in Huron County on the importance of accessibility in ensuring inclusion for all.

The following is a selection of reviews completed at time of publication in 2023:

- Blyth Intersection reconstruction
- Main Street and Sanders Street Intersection, Exeter
- Gibbons Street Assisted Living facility construction
- Sanders Street apartment construction
- North Huron Council Chamber
- Huron County OPP Station in Clinton
- Huron County Economic Development / Planning Department located at 57 Napier Street in Goderich - 2 new accessible parking spaces
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in County of Huron
- Seaforth Post Office Ramp
- Wingham Patrol Yard new build-preliminary review of parking spaces
- Review of Accessibility Lift in a municipal Facility
- Playground in Hensall
- Clinton Library space audit
- Wingham Trail Extension
- Ashfield Park Washroom Project
- Goderich Public Library
- Hay Tract Accessibility Assessment
- Huron County Supportive Housing Build in Goderich plans review

The Committee reports back to Council, advises municipalities and others that requested a review on the accessibility of buildings, structures or premises in relation to the updated Building Codes and Huron County's Universal Design and Accessibility Guideline for Site Plan Control document. These reports provide County staff with valuable information on items that need to be addressed during the architectural phase, pre-construction phase and during construction or renovation.

### **Directive and Regulation Review Sub Committee**

The Committee reviews any relevant regulations and directives and identifies concerns, provides solutions, and recommendations to the Accessibility Coordinator, such as drafting new policies identified in IASR.

The Accessibility Coordinator gathers input from the Directive and Regulation Review Committee, the Municipal Working Group and the Senior Management Team and drafts a response to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility and writes to County Council identifying areas of concern and possible solutions and recommendations.

This Sub Committee will review the draft response and provide final feedback to the Accessibility Coordinator.

### **Summary**

In summary, with the implementation of the Accessibility Education Sub Committee, Accessibility Review Sub Committee, and the Directive and Regulation Review Sub Committee, the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has been very successful in removing and avoiding barriers in our communities. The activities that are undertaken by the sub committees ensure that the conversation around Accessibility is active and vibrant and penetrates deeply into the community.

### **BACKGROUND**

Disability impacts the lives of many Ontarians, and the numbers of people with disabilities is increasing as the population ages. In Ontario, approximately 1.85 million people identify as having a disability. This means roughly one in seven Ontarians live with a disability and face various types of accessibility challenges in their everyday life. Also, as the aging population is expected to grow in the next 25 years, it is projected that the number of people living with a disability is also expected to grow in our province. This is why it is more important now than ever to remove all barriers that impede accessibility. Designing our municipal spaces where every person who lives or visits can participate fully makes good sense — for our people, our businesses, and our communities.

Although our governments have the vision of a barrier free Ontario, the reality is that persons with disabilities still face barriers which prevent them from participating in all aspects of society. As a community we must learn to see barriers as our fellow citizens with disabilities live with them.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 calls on the business community, public sector, not-for-profit sector and people with disabilities or their representatives to develop, implement and enforce mandatory accessibility standards. Accessibility standards are the rules that businesses and organizations in Ontario will have to follow to prevent or remove barriers to accessibility for all citizens.



## **MESSAGE FROM THE HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S CHAIR**

### **AWARENESS & ENGAGEMENT**

People with disabilities regularly face barriers that prevent them from working, shopping, travelling and simply living and volunteering in their communities.

One of Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee's (HCAAC's) greatest strengths lies in our Committee Members, who pursue so passionately a vision of informing, educating and inspiring residents from across Huron County on making Huron County accessible for people of all abilities and ages, eventually leading to a fully inclusive society for all.

The HCAAC has continued to invest time and effort into the development of accessibility training to employees/staff of all kinds through continuous learnings on training requirements defined in the Integrated Accessibility Regulation and focus on:

- Customer Service
- General Requirements
- Human Rights
- Employment
- Information & Communication, and
- Design of Public Spaces

What training each staff is required to take is based on the job responsibilities, for example, if you are a Facilities staff you are required to take the minimum training which includes Human Rights, General Requirements and Customer Service. If you have a management position you are required to complete all training modules. All staff are required to receive training on accessibility standards for customer service and use of assistive devices (magnifying glass, large print, voice to text, etc.).

It is a goal of the HCAAC to continue to provide businesses with training opportunities and provide training material to increase their awareness and knowledge of the Government Legislation. It is our hope to also increase engagement between HCAAC and local businesses.

### **GOVERNANCE**

The Accessibility Committee has been working together virtually since 2021 and looks forward to continuing that work in 2024. We have a great blend of energized individuals mixed with some experienced Committee members that have brought their knowledge and experience to the Committee. In the fall of 2022, we selected new Committee members to join us in 2023 as several Committee members have reached the end of their maximum number of terms they can participate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Committee members for their dedication, commitment and passion for creating an inclusive society.

Thank you.  
Trevor Bazinet,  
Committee Chair

## COUNTY COUNCIL (2023)

Huron County is governed by County Council, which is made up of fifteen (15) members from area municipalities. Each municipality located within Huron County, is represented at County Council by their representatives - Mayors or Reeves, Deputy Mayors or Deputy Reeves.

At their Inaugural Session in December (every 2 years), County Council elects a Warden from among the Councilors. The Warden is the executive officer of the Corporation and the head of County Council. The Warden chairs County Council meetings, sits as an ex-officio member on all Standing Committees, and represents the County at a wide range of functions and activities.

In 2022, there was a Municipal election which has resulted in some new members of County Council and local Municipal Councils.

Huron County includes the following nine lower tier, or local municipalities:

- Corporation of the **Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh**  
(Formerly Ashfield, Colborne and West Wawanosh Townships)
- Corporation of the **Municipality of Bluewater**  
(Formerly Hay and Stanley Townships, plus the Villages of Bayfield, Hensall and Zurich)
- Corporation of the **Municipality of Central Huron**  
(Formerly Goderich and Hullett Townships, and the Town of Clinton)
- Corporation of the **Town of Goderich**
- Corporation of the **Township of Howick**
- Corporation of the **Municipality of Huron East**  
(Formerly Grey, McKillop and Tuckersmith Townships, Village of Brussels, and Town of Seaforth)
- Corporation of the **Municipality of Morris – Turnberry**  
(Formerly Morris and Turnberry Townships)
- Corporation of the **Township of North Huron**  
(Formerly Village of Blyth, Township of East Wawanosh, and Town of Wingham)
- Corporation of the **Municipality of South Huron**  
(Formerly Stephen and Usborne Townships and Town of Exeter)

Starting in 2021, each of the 9 municipalities are encouraged to provide a summary of their local accessibility projects, achievements, and proposed activities in the Annual Accessibility Plan. A template for this summary is located in this Appendix.

## **HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HCAAC)**

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee is made up of 9 voting members including:

- 5 persons with a disability as defined in the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA)
- 1 person from professional discipline
- 1 citizen representative
- 1 elected official
- Warden as ex-officio

The HCAAC is supported by 6 non-voting members including:

- chair of the ODA Municipal Working Group
- 1 person from County Planning Department
- 1 Municipal Building Official
- Huron County CAO
- the Accessibility Coordinator
- and the County Clerk

Other Huron County staff may support the committee in various capacities.

For 2023 the HCAAC includes:

Voting Members: Warden, Member of Council, and 7 Committee members

Non-Voting Members:

- Chairperson Municipal Working Group: Rachel Anstett 2023
- County Planning Department: Planner Hanna Holman
- Municipal Building Official: Jeanette Zimmer
- Huron County CAO: Meighan Wark
- County Clerk: Susan Cronin
- Accessibility Coordinator: Oonagh Vaucrosson

### **OUR VISION**

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will inform and inspire people from across Huron County on making Huron County accessible for everyone.

### **OUR MISSION**

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will assist Huron County Council and participating municipalities to fulfill the purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act by providing vision and advice to council in regard to the removal of barriers by 2025.

### **OUR MANDATE**

The authority to establish the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) originated from the provisions of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) and will continue to exist under the provisions of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

The HCAAC is the advisory committee to Huron County Council and participating municipalities fulfilling the purpose of the ODA and the AODA.

## **GOALS & OBJECTIVES OF THE HCAAC**

The objectives of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee are revised and updated annually in November and are used as a resource that outlines the role and responsibilities of the HCAAC and provides a monitoring tool to ensure all tasks are completed and not forgotten. (See Appendix 1) This document is divided into two sections:

- Objectives mandated by legislation under the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standard (IASR)
- Objectives driven by communities to accomplish the committee's vision of creating a County that is accessible to everyone.

## **LAST YEAR'S GOALS**

- Under the requirements of the Ontarians with Disability Act 2001, the HCAAC continued to create and post a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and an Annual Accessibility Plan Update that contains the goals of Huron County and last year's successes.
- Under the requirements of both the ODA and the AODA, the HCAAC continued to review, in a timely manner and advise municipalities and County Council on the accessibility of building plans and drawings for renovation and new construction, and review exterior site plans as requested.
- The HCAAC provided advice to County Council and participating municipalities with respect to government directives and regulations relating to the status of persons with disabilities including regulations for the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and more specifically the Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulations. The HCAAC will continue to provide advice, tools, and direction to Huron County Council and participating municipalities on obtaining full compliance within timelines set out in the Regulation.
- The HCAAC continued to enhance relationships with County Council, local municipalities, businesses.
- The HCAAC joined forces with volunteers and members of Huron County council and staff at events to promote inclusion.
- The HCAAC kept Huron County Building Officials updated on "new" legislation and best practices with regards to the built environment, public spaces, and site plans.
- The HCAAC strengthened its partnerships with public works officials, recreation and facility staff, planning officials and local architects concerned with designing new municipal buildings by widening the embrace of consultation.

## 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has worked diligently to achieve the goals defined within the approved plan. Recognized achievements include:

- **Accessibility Plans:** The County of Huron has created an Annual Accessibility Plan under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2001 and a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Update under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005, with annual updates on successes. The County of Huron has completed both requirements with the documents approved by County Council at the December 2022 County Council meeting. These documents were also shared with the 9 local municipalities for their review and approval.
- **Site Plan Reviews:** These reviews were done virtually via ZOOM in 2022 with some site visits starting to occur in September 2022. The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has been actively engaged with municipalities and organizations, county staff as well as private businesses in conducting Site Plan Reviews in a timely fashion. The committee believes public awareness will continue to stimulate community participation and the sub-committee's time and commitment. The committee has developed checklists to assist in Site Plan Reviews.
- The HCAAC began a process of sharing its experience and learning with other County's to help them as they strive to align their County with the ODA, AODA and Integrated Standards Regulations.
- The Committee reviewed many plans and/or spaces.
- **2022 Accessibility Awards of Merit for Barrier-Free Design:** This Award promotes public awareness of the importance of barrier-free design and recognizes excellence in accessibility design. Awards are presented to the owner of a building or facility that has been designed or renovated with special regard to accessibility for persons with a disability. There are 2 award categories – Business and Public Sector organizations.

The following is a listing of the 2023 Award Nominees/Recipients:

### **Business Category Award**

The Riverview Local Eatery

### **Public Sector Category Award**

The Municipality of Central Huron

The Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh

- **Government Directives and Regulations:** The Accessibility Advisory Committee has provided updates and advice about new government directives and regulations to County Council and the Municipal Working Group. The Municipal Working Group is made up of one volunteer/staff member from each lower tier. Each

member of the group reports back to and shares newly developed resources and material approved by County Council to their Mayor/Councillors.

- Sandra Thompson Memorial Accessibility Champion Award

The Accessibility Champion Award was established in 2022 to honor the memory of Sandra Thompson and to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Sandra Thompson was dedicated to promoting accessibility in Huron County, was a leader in inspiring others to improve accessibility in our community and worked as the Accessibility Coordinator for the County of Huron until 2016. She was from the Bluevale area.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities falls on December 3 each year. This day is endorsed by the United Nations and is important because we need to realize just how many people there really are who are impacted by disability.... World-wide there are currently one billion people! That's essentially saying that one in every seven people in the world are facing challenges and barriers due to some specific type of disability. In Ontario, the data tells us that 1 in every 7 people (age 15 and older) identify as having a disability.

The Accessibility Champion Award recognizes and honours an individual in Huron County who:

- has shown dedication and commitment to promoting accessibility in our community
- has demonstrated exemplary commitment & leadership towards advancing accessibility
- is working to build a more inclusive community
- is making a difference in the lives of people living with a disability

Nominations included: a detailed description of the nominee's work and initiatives; A signed testimonial(s) that speak to the contributions and impact of the individual to accessibility in the County of Huron. Carol Leeming was the award winner for 2023.

- Continued connectivity with County Council, partner Municipalities and Businesses. This contact with municipalities and the community has been via phone/virtual ZOOM meetings, email, and in person.
- The Municipal Accessibility Working Group continues to meet via ZOOM two times per year. Topics related to accessibility were discussed including municipal accessibility projects, review of Accessibility Plans for the 2022 municipal elections, and ideas for providing training on accessibility to their new Councils.
- The Huron County Economic Development Department continues to support small businesses with an accessibility lens for physical spaces and virtual presence. The Committee approved a Huron County Accessibility Policy in connection with a Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility Desk Audit.
- The HCAAC continued in 2022 to participate in the Back Alley Artist Extravaganza in Clinton. Our 4'x4' art board was created to promote the HCAAC, accessibility and that 'everyone is welcome' in Huron County. The art board has been donated to the Clinton

Public Library for display at their facility after the Art Show finished in the fall. It is now housed in the Huron County Museum.



- Portable Accessible Washroom has been a continued focus of discussion for HCAAC and a special Sub-Committee formed. A funding application was made to the Inclusive Community Grants Program of the Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility. On October 31, 2022 the Committee was informed that the application was not successful. We are looking for other sponsorships and partners to proceed with an accessibility education video series proposal.
- The HCAAC submitted an application for funding for a video project proposal. The Huron County Public Accessibility Standards Simplified (PASS). This project is a series of videos used to easily display best practices of outdoor spaces such as parks, parking, EV charging Stations, trails, etc. There is currently nothing like this available.
- County staff and IT Department: Website accessibility is an important focus. Accessibility training is required by all County employees.
  - Background: New public websites and significantly refreshed websites were required to be compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines WCAG 2.0 Level A by January 1, 2014. Furthermore, by January 1, 2021, all public websites and web content posted after January 1, 2012, must meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA.
  - WCAG 2.0 is an internationally accepted standard for web accessibility developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). Following the WCAG 2.0 guidelines makes content accessible to people with a wide range of disabilities, including:
    - Blindness and low vision
    - Deafness and hearing loss
    - Learning disabilities
    - Cognitive impairments
    - Mobility impairments
    - Speech impairments

Huron County IT staff run reports on a regular basis on the standard of accessibility of the Huron County website. Internal website audit structure is being considered and will commence when a strategy has been sufficiently developed. The HCAAC continues to promote the development of accessibility training to employees/staff through continuous learnings on training requirements defined in the Integrated Accessibility Regulation. These learning opportunities are customized into six modules:

1. Customer Service
  2. General Requirements
  3. Human Rights
  4. Employment
  5. Information & Communication
  6. Design of Public Spaces
- All new County staff have received required training within an appropriate time frame. All staff are required to receive training on accessibility standards for customer service and use of assistive devices.
  - All Councilors, committee and board members received training upon their appointment in 2022/2023. Ongoing virtual training is arranged for 2024.
  - Upon request, provide information in accessible formats and with communication supports at the same cost charged to others. Publicized the availability of accessible formats and communication supports on website and documents.
  - Continue to work with IT and Human Resources departments to train staff on Accessibility Standards.
  - The “Huron County Universal Design and Accessibility Guidelines” is being reviewed and updated with the assistance of the Planning and Development Department. This review started 2022. An updated version will be provided to local Municipalities in 2024. This document assists in their review of site plans under section 41, Site Plan Control Area, of the Planning Act.
  - Accessibility Standards for Customer Service is part of Huron County’s procurement process. The procurement policy will be reviewed in 2024.

## **2024 GOALS**

- Under the requirements of the Ontarians with Disability Act 2001 (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 (AODA), the HCAAC will continue to create and post a Accessibility Plan Update an Annual Accessibility Plan that contains the goals of Huron County and the previous year's achievements.
- Under the requirements of both the ODA and the AODA, the HCAAC will continue to review in a timely manner and advise municipalities on the accessibility of building plans and drawings for renovation and new construction, and the purchase or lease of public buildings as well as review exterior site plans as requested.
- Establishing a protocol to advise on accessibility standards that are municipally owned facilities within Huron County.
- The Committee will continue to enhance relationships with County Council, local municipalities, businesses, the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board, and the



Avon Maitland District School Board and Service Organizations.

- The 2024 County Council Tour of Huron County will include a focus on accessibility
- The Huron County Library locations will continue to be reviewed for accessibility.
- Awards Program for Businesses and the Public Sector will continue to be enhanced to celebrate organizations and individuals who are working to build a more inclusive society. The award program promotes public awareness of the importance of barrier-free design and to recognize excellence in accessibility design.
- Continue to celebrate accessibility champions in Huron County through the Sandra Thompson Memorial Accessibility Champion Award. This individual will be recognized along with the International Day of Person with Disabilities (which happens on December 3 every year).
- To increase awareness and create a stronger presence in the community, the Committee will explore ways to promote National Access Awareness Week in May 2024 in partnership with our local municipalities.
- The Committee will keep Huron County Building Officials updated on all new legislation with regards to the built environment, public spaces, and site plans.
- Develop new programs and promote existing programs to engage local businesses in developing barrier free communities.
- To continue to explore the Portable Accessible Washroom project by seeking sponsors and funding opportunities.
- Have submitted an application for funding for the creation of an accessibility video training program called Huron County Public Accessible Spaces Simplified (PASS)
- Will continue to assist Ontario municipalities in sharing what has been learned and experienced by way of presentations about Huron County best practices.
- The HCAAC will work with the County's IT department by providing recommendations to help make the County's website user friendly for persons with disabilities. A continued key focus within Huron County is training staff to create documents in accessible formats.
- Continue to work with IT and human resources departments to train staff on accessibility standards.
- 5-year Multiyear Plan will be updated and presented to Council.
- The activities for 2024 will be summarized in the 2024 Accessibility Update Report
- Each of the 9 Municipalities are encouraged to add a summary of their accessibility projects in the Appendix for 2024.

## **RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

What is the return on investment or benefits to employers for hiring people with disabilities? The following are some of the benefits as reported by employers.

Hiring people with disabilities:

- Contributes to a better rate of attendance, punctuality, employee morale, teamwork, and safety in the workplace.
- Often leads to a reduction in staff turnover; people with disabilities have proven to be skilled and loyal employees.
- Shows that the company values diversity and is a tangible example of good corporate citizenship.

- Increases the purchasing power for individuals with a disability and their families.
- Reflects the demographics of your community and enhances the community's understanding of people with disabilities.
- May free up resources to complete other tasks and increase productivity.
- Allows the person with a disability to be a role model to the staff and community and others with a disability.
- May include free corporate marketing when your new employee talks about where they work.
- May require accommodations for your new employee, but the change may make your company more robust, innovative, and adaptive.

### **QUICK FACTS**

- Improved accessibility in Ontario can help generate up to \$9.6 Billion in new retail spending and 1.6 billion in new tourism spending.
- Currently, Canadians with disabilities influence the spending decisions of 12-15 million other consumers.
- In the next 20 years, an aging population and people with disabilities will represent 40% of total income in Ontario-that being \$536 Billion
- 1 in 7 people in Ontario have a disability. That is 1.85 million Ontarians.
- By 2036, as our population ages, 1 in 5 people in Ontario will have a disability

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## **APPENDIX 1: 2024 Priorities for HCAAC**

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### **Objectives Mandated by Legislation**

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#### **1. Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and Annual Updates**

Under the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standard (IAS), the County of Huron is required to establish, implement, maintain, and document a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The Plan outlines the organization's strategy to identify, prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities in the County's programs, services, and facilities, over a 5-year plan.

#### **HCAAC Responsibility**

Huron County's Accessibility Coordinator will review and revise the Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan highlighting the previous year's successes in consultation with the HCAAC and County staff annually.

Once approval is obtained from County Council, the revised Multi 5- Year Accessibility Plan will be posted on the County website as directed in the Integrated Accessibility Standard (IAS).

#### **Council Responsibility**

County Council will approve the revised Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan and send a copy to the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility.

The Clerk will share the plan with the CAO and Senior Management Team to ensure all departments work towards implementation of the Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan.

Local Municipal Councils will approve the revised Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan and staff will ensure that all departments work towards implementation of the Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan

#### **Municipal Working Group**

HCAAC Municipal Working Group Representatives will present the revised Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan to their Councils for approval.

Once approval is obtained for the revised Multi 5- Year Accessibility Plan, it will be posted on partner municipal websites and will be implemented.

#### **Timeline Targets**

Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan written every 5 years, effective January 2014.

The Multi 5-Year Accessibility Plan update will be reviewed, maintained, updated and successes reported on and posted on the website annually.

County Council to approve by January 1<sup>st</sup>

Local Municipal Councils to approve by January 1<sup>st</sup>

## **2. Annual Accessibility Plan**

Under the requirements of the ODA, the County of Huron is required to create and post an Annual Accessibility Plan that contains the goals of Huron County and last year's successes.

### **HCAAC Responsibility**

Huron County's Accessibility Coordinator will create the Annual Accessibility Plan in consultation with the HCAAC and County staff as appropriate and will present annual plan to committee by December each year.

### **Council Responsibility**

County Council will approve and send a copy of the Annual Accessibility Plan to the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade as directed in the ODA, 2001.

### **Municipal Working Group Committee Responsibility**

HCAAC Municipal Working Group will present the Annual Accessibility Plan to their Councils for approval.

### **Timeline Targets**

County Council will approve the Annual Accessibility Plan by January 1 each year.

Local Councils will approve the Annual Accessibility Plan.

## **3. Alignment of Both Plans**

The identified goals of the Annual Accessibility Plan are in alignment with the Multi-Year Plan

### **HCAAC Responsibility**

Once approval is obtained from County Council, the Annual Accessibility Plan will be posted on the County website as directed in the ODA 2001.

### **Council Responsibility**

The Clerk will share the plan with the CAO and Senior Management Team to ensure all departments work towards implementation of the Annual Accessibility Plan.

### **Municipal Working Group Committee Responsibility**

Municipal Working Group member: Once approval is obtained; the Annual Accessibility Plan will be posted on lower tier websites and will be implemented.

### **Timeline Targets**

The identified goals are in alignment with the Multi-Year Plan.

#### **4. Review of Building Plans for Renovation, Construction, Purchase, Lease and Exterior Site Plans**

Under the requirements of both the ODA, 2001 and the AODA, 2005 the HCAAC must review in a timely manner and advise municipalities and businesses on the accessibility of building plans for renovation and new construction, and the purchase or lease of public buildings as well as review exterior site plans as requested.

The Committee will use the Illustrated Guide of the Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Spaces produced by GAATES and supported by the Ontario Government.

##### **HCAAC Responsibility**

The HCAAC ~ Accessibility Review Committee is responsible for meeting and reviewing site plans and providing comments and recommendations in a timely manner.

##### **Council Responsibility**

Huron County Council is responsible for keeping appropriate partner municipality staff informed of their duty to request site plan reviews with the HCAAC prior to purchasing, construction, renovation, or lease.

County Council to review and approve if appropriate.

##### **The Municipal Working Group Committee Responsibility**

The Municipal Working Group is responsible for keeping appropriate partner municipal staff informed of their duty to request site plan reviews with the HCAAC prior to purchasing, construction, renovation, or lease.

If approved, the Municipal Working Group will share the resource with building officials.

##### **Timeline Targets**

The HCAAC Accessibility Review Committee will accommodate as quickly as possible.

Ongoing

#### **5. Provide Accessibility Information to the County and local Municipalities**

Provide info on Accessibility Directives and Regulations relating to the status of persons with disabilities in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

##### **HCAAC Responsibility**

To gather comments on proposed regulations and standards, the Accessibility Coordinator will work with the Directive and Regulation Review Subcommittee. The Accessibility Coordinator will also work with staff from various departments across the County and the Municipal Working Group to further identify concerns on how the proposed regulation may be implemented.

##### **Council Responsibility**

The Accessibility Coordinator will prepare regular updates for County Council. The update will provide a summary of the requirements outlined in the regulations and standards and an overview of the County's readiness to meet the requirements.

**The Municipal Working Group Committee Responsibility**

The Municipal Working Group will provide comments and concerns with the Accessibility Coordinator on the requirements of the regulations and standards.

The Municipal Working Group will share updates with appropriate staff at their Municipality.

**Timeline Targets**

Timelines will be applied on an ongoing basis.

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## **Objectives Driven by HCAAC and Community**

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### **1. These objectives are driven by Passion to Accomplish the Committee's Vision of Informing and Inspiring People from Across Huron County on Making Huron County Accessible for everyone. Develop relationships with County Council, Municipalities, and local businesses.**

Develop information sources for new legislation.

Webinars / Presentations to BIAs, partner municipalities and to agencies and business by individuals with disabilities.

Provide regular council updates.

Review municipal facilities and make recommendations to improve accessibility.

### **HCAAC Responsibility**

The Accessibility Coordinator will provide regular County Council updates keeping Council informed.

The Accessibility Education Committee will promote the use of accessibility apps such as AccessNow. This information will be accessible online / weblinks / and therefore always available. Information to businesses to be shared on request.

### **Council Responsibility**

County Council will encourage municipalities to participate in and host a presentation at one of their Council meetings.

County Council will provide their feedback and suggestions on the content of the information packages.

### **The Municipal Working Group Committee Responsibility**

Presentations to be arranged for local municipalities. Any updates on material or information that the AAC designs and creates will be shared via presentation with our local municipalities.

### **Timeline Targets**

These endeavours happen on an ongoing basis.

### **2. Accessibility Awards of Merit for Barrier-Free Design Program**

Continue to implement our annual awards program to celebrate organizations and individuals who are working to build a more inclusive society. The award is to promote public awareness of the importance of barrier-free design and to recognize excellence in accessibility design.

The awards are incorporated with National Access Awareness Week or other events.

To increase awareness and create a stronger presence in the community, the Committee will continue to host National Access Awareness Week Celebrations and media events in partnership with our local municipalities.

### **HCAAC Responsibility**

The Accessibility Education Subcommittee will continue to implement an annual awards program recognizing public sector organizations and private businesses or individuals.

### **Council Responsibility**

County Council to promote National Access Awareness Week.

### **The Municipal Working Group Committee Responsibility**

Municipal Working Group will continue to suggest nominees and to share nomination forms with County Building Inspectors as they have the greatest knowledge of who is building and/or renovating with barrier-free design being a focus.

### **Timeline Targets**

Awards are issued on an annual basis.

### **3. Accessible Websites**

The HCAAC will work with the County's IT Department and other staff by providing recommendations on making the County's website more accessible.

Beginning January 1, 2014: new public websites, significantly refreshed websites and any web content posted after January 1, 2012 must meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level A

Beginning January 1, 2021: all public websites and web content posted after January 1, 2012 must meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA other than criteria 1.2.4 (live captions) and 1.2.5 (pre-recorded audio)

### **HCAAC Responsibility**

The Accessibility Coordinator, Clerk, Corporate Communications Specialist, and Information Technology Staff to review options for staff training on creating accessible documents.

### **Council Responsibility**

County Council to support accessibility update requirements to County websites.

### **The Municipal Working Group Committee Responsibility**

The Municipal Working Group Representatives will share the material with the Council, local business organizations and Economic Development staff.

### **Timeline Targets**

Ongoing



#### **4. Events**

Actively participate in and assist in arranging local events.

#### **HCAAC Responsibility**

The Accessibility Education Sub-Committee and the Accessibility Coordinator to outline activities.

The Coordinator will organize volunteers to support the events.

#### **Council Responsibility**

County Council will receive requests.

#### **The Municipal Working Group Committee Responsibility**

Municipal Working Group will approach their Council to arrange and attend events.

#### **Timeline Targets**

These timelines will coincide with the planning of events during the course of the year.

### **5. Sandra Thompson Memorial Accessibility Champion Award Program**

The Accessibility Champion Award was established in 2022 to honor the memory of Sandra Thompson and to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Sandra Thompson was dedicated to promoting accessibility in Huron County, was a leader in inspiring others to improve accessibility in our community and worked as the Accessibility Coordinator for the County of Huron until 2016. She was from the Bluevale area.

The award is to promote public awareness of the importance of accessibility and to recognize an individual in our community who is an accessibility champion.

The award has been designed to be a Huron County with The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3 each year) or other events.

#### **HCAAC Responsibility**

The Accessibility Education Subcommittee will continue to implement this annual award program recognizing an individual in our community.

#### **Council Responsibility**

County Council to promote The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3 each year)

#### **The Municipal Working Group Committee Responsibility**

HCAAC and sub-committees, and Municipal Working Group to suggest nominees.

## **Timeline Targets**

The Nominations for the Award are to be received by the end of September and the Award is issued by the HCAAC in its November 2024 meeting.

**Note: The HCAAC Objectives will be reviewed annually (November by the Committee) to assess progress and to update and add new initiatives accordingly.**

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Consultation with the HCAAC**

HCAAC uses the following resource:

The “Illustrated Technical Guide to the Accessibility Standard for the Design of Public Spaces” can be found online at: <http://www.gaates.org/DOPS/default.php>

Or at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2c3Xbwb7aY3aUFpd3ZReUJzbG8/view>

### **Overview of Appendix 3**

This following Appendix 3 is a section of the Annual Plan. Where each of the 9 municipalities can add their own Appendix 3 to summarize the accessibility actions/ activities/ accomplishments in their own municipality.

Pictures are encouraged to be added to this Section. Each picture will be described in alt text.

The HCAAC will gather Appendix 3s and share this Section with other municipalities to show examples of what is being done throughout Huron County to provide universal accessibility.

The following information has been submitted by our partner municipalities and has not been edited/amended by the HCAAC.

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### **APPENDIX 3: Municipality Summary Summary of Accessibility-Related Projects**

#### **Municipality of CENTRAL HURON Summary of Accessibility-Related Projects**

##### **1. Started and Completed in 2022**

- Holmesville Playground Equipment
- 2022 Municipal & School Board Election - Online/Phone Voting

##### **2. Started in 2022 and continued into 2023**

- Tourist Booth Accessible Washroom
- Website Updates – to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA (ongoing)

##### **3. Started, In Progress or Completed in 2023**

- Isaac Street Reconstruction Project (accessible features)
- Library Lift
- Downtown Additions: • Automatic Door Openers - 16 stores
- Stores provided doorbells and a wheelchair sticker
- Stores had grab bars installed
- All downtown stores were provided with a chair to place on the sidewalk
- Yellow visibility strips were painted on stores with steps and received a StopGap ramp



Photograph shows several store fronts with yellow wedge ramps at each entrance. White middle aged man is standing at nearest store front entrance on yellow ramp. Blade signs indicate type of store above man's head and reads Cannabis.

#### 4. Started in 2023/Planned for 2024

- Library Lift
- Website Updates – to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA (ongoing)

## Municipality of South Huron 2022 update and progress on the AODA Regulations

The following outlines our progress in 2022 and goals and next steps in meeting the accessibility standards in five key areas, all of which are part of the [Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation](#) (IASR), ON Reg. 191/11.

- Customer Service
- Information & Communications
- Employment
- Transportation
- Design of Public Spaces (and Built Environment)

There are also a number of General Requirements that apply across all of the accessibility standards. Any updates to the IASR will be reflected in the Annual Status Update Reports to the Accessibility Plan.

### Customer Service

- All new and seasonal staff receive training upon hire or return, a refresher course will be provided every 5 years for full time staff.
- Staff across the organization have been trained in the functions of the website to conform to the World Wide Web Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, level AA.
- The website is monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure its functionality and content remain accessible.
- The municipality continues to provide accessible formats and communication supports upon request.
- South Huron is a member of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) and also attends Accessibility working group meetings.

### Information and Communications

- South Huron records and where possible live streams its Council meetings on the municipal website. Watching the meetings online or a recording of a meeting is an effective way that we are reaching our residents who are not able to attend our meetings in person.
- South Huron uses eScribe software in the creation of agenda packages. The software meets the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA. to ensure compliance with WCAG 2.0 Level AA when producing Council Reports.
- South Huron Council chambers has an audio system, including microphones and speakers.
- Staff continue to attend computer and in-house training to continue the development of accessible forms and documents and continue to update templates for accessibility on the website.
- Every webpage contains a small caption within the footer of every page about alternative formats/accessing information.
- Bi-weekly hub in newspaper states that our information is accessible and to contact municipality about receiving information in alternative formats.

### Feedback

The Municipality of South Huron welcomes input from the public in order to help identify ways in which we can improve accessibility in facilities, goods and services. Members of

the public are encouraged to share their comments or suggestions by contacting the Municipal Clerk or complete the [Customer Service Feedback](#) form on the municipal website.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available, upon request to the Clerk.

### **General Requirements**

- Procurement
  - The Municipal Procurement By-law incorporates accessibility criteria into the procurement of goods and services.
- Reporting
  - Reports are produced annually on the progress and implementation of the multi-year Accessibility Plan, and this information is posted on our website and available in alternate formats, upon request.
  - The multi-year Accessibility Plan will be reviewed and updated once every five years.
  - The Municipality, as legislated, will file Accessibility Compliance Reports with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility. As a public sector organization, our last reporting deadline was December 31, 2021 and our next reporting deadline is December 31, 2023.
  - The Corporate Accessibility Policy has been updated to reflect changes to any of the standards
  - Records will continue to be maintained for training provided on accessibility, including the dates of the training and the number of individuals who attended.

### **Employment**

- All employment advertisements inform applicants of our ability to make accommodations throughout the recruitment process, if required.
- All of the requirements in the Employment Standard continue to be maintained by the Municipality including those pertaining to the following:
  - Recruitment, assessment and selection
  - Accessible formats and communication supports for employees
  - Workplace emergency response information
  - Documented individual accommodation plans
  - Return to work process
  - Performance management
  - Career development and advancement
  - Redeployment
- Human Resources continuously monitors the status of employee training.
- Employees are assigned training in AODA Customer Service Standards, Understanding Human Rights and, Information and Communication Standards and Employment Standards as required.
- All new employees regardless of their employment status (full-time, part-time, contract, seasonal and Council) take the following online training courses:
  - AODA Customer Service Standards Training
  - Understanding Human Rights (AODA Edition)
- New employees who have access to editing the corporation's webpage are assigned

the following online training course: IASR (Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation): Information and Communications Standards and Employment Standards Training.

- When conducting interviews:
  - On all recruitment postings the following is included in the posting: Accommodations are available upon request for all parts of the recruitment process.

### **Design of Public Spaces (and Built Environment)**

- As per standard operational practices, the following is conducted on a regular basis either through legislative or municipal policy requirements:
  - Repair, maintenance, and removal of barriers on municipal trails, sidewalks and public spaces
  - Fire Code inspections of private, public, and municipal facilities
  - Building Code inspections of new or renovated facilities
  - Health and safety inspections of all municipal facilities
  - Emergency management measures to promote the safety of the community within times of emergency

### **Goals and Next Steps for Accessibility**

- Ensure the Municipality of South Huron continues to meet compliance with the AODA, its regulations and all other related pieces of legislation and continue with organizations commitment to accessibility.
- Review Municipality of South Huron's policies and practices to ensure accessibility compliance as part of normal policy review process.
- Strive to ensure that new facilities, programs and services are designed and created with accessibility features incorporated.
- Continue to develop resources and training materials for staff, volunteers and contractors and promote awareness and education regarding accessibility requirements and obligations throughout the corporation.
- Work with corporate departments to explore new and innovative ways to remove and prevent barriers to access.
- Ongoing training for staff on the Customer Service Standard and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Policy
- Continue to monitor accessibility issues, trends and legislative changes.

### **Highlights and Initiatives**

- Accessibility Consultant Review – Stephen Arena and South Huron Recreation Centre projects during design and construction phases.
- 2022 Election Accessibility Plan was provided to the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee for review prior to the election. Accommodations provided to electors upon request including personal assistance at election help desks. More details to be included in separate Post Election Accessibility Report.
- Worked with Huron County Accessibility Committee on Huron County Accessibility Plan and updates.
- On-Line permitting for building and planning live in 2022, that is accessible to anyone with any device, browser, and operating system.
- Conducted hybrid virtual meetings for Council and Committees



- During the pandemic, the municipality continued to be in compliance with the standard and ensuring that goods and services are accessible for everyone, including people with disabilities. Service delivery had to be innovative, agile and responsive to the ever-changing restrictions. For example, many services moved online and staff continued working and communicating digitally to provide accessible services remotely.
- Accessibility Audit at Kirkton-Woodham Pool and associated priority list and budget document provided to South Huron and Perth South Councils.
- During the COVID19 pandemic when interviews for recruiting were primarily conducted over remote video conferencing, all correspondence to candidates included the below. This has also become a standard piece of correspondence to potential candidates to ensure we can meet any accommodation needs since we have returned to in-person meetings as follows:
  - “If you require any specific accommodation needs, please discuss them with Human Resources so that we can make any reasonable adjustments necessary to enable you to attend and take part in the interview process.”
- The Council Chambers has been upgraded with new televisions, speakers and audio equipment to improve sound quality and visual displays. Long microphone booms have also been installed.

### **Township of North Huron – Summary of Accessibility-Related Projects**

- The Township of North Huron continues to implement accessible features into the services, buildings and programs that we offer. In 2023, the Township saw the completion of a number of projects to improve accessibility in municipally owned/operated facilities.
- The new Township of North Huron Council Chambers is located at the Royal Oaks Building and is a fully accessible and newly renovated space where Council meetings will be held. The space includes accessible seating, sufficient turning radius for mobility devices, and will allow for more accessible virtual participation in meetings.
- The reconstruction of the front entrance at the North Huron Municipal Office in Wingham was completed as well. Accessible features of this project include a new mobility ramp and three sets of accessible doors to better serve and accommodate patrons and employees using the facility.
- Construction has also started on accessibility upgrades to the Wingham Firehall washrooms. With the completion of the project, accessible features will include fully accessible washrooms and showers within the building for the firefighters.
- The Township of North Huron continues to make accessible documents a priority. All documentation that is provided on the Township’s website is in an accessible format and can be provided in another format, upon request. The Township is spending significant time converting a number of frequently requested by-laws into an accessible format for the benefit of the public.

## Municipality Summary

### Town of Goderich

#### Summary of Accessibility-Related Projects

##### 1. Accessible Projects Completed in 2022

- **Goderich Waterfront and Boardwalk** – The Boardwalk was designed and built adhering to and exceeding accessibility standards. This design provides for greater use by a wider demographic.
- **Employment** – All employment advertisements inform applicants of our ability to make accommodations throughout the recruitment process, if required. All of the requirements in the Employment Standard continue to be maintained by the Town including those pertaining to the following: recruitment, assessment and selection.
- **Municipal Website** – The website has been updated to comply with all mandated features required under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, specifically Ontario Regulation 191/11 standards to be met by large organizations. It conforms to the World Wide Web Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, level AA. The website is monitored weekly to ensure its functionality and content remain accessible and the Town continues to provide accessible formats upon request.
- **Goderich Municipal Airport Website** - The website has been updated to comply with all mandated features required under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, specifically Ontario Regulation 191/11 standards to be met by large organizations. It conforms to the World Wide Web Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, level AA. The website is monitored weekly to ensure its functionality and content remain accessible and the Town continues to provide accessible formats upon request.
- **Goderich Tourism Website** - The website has been updated to comply with all mandated features required under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, specifically Ontario Regulation 191/11 standards to be met by large organizations. It conforms to the World Wide Web Consortium Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, level AA. The website is monitored weekly to ensure its functionality and content remain accessible and the Town continues to provides accessible formats upon request.
- **Customer Service** – All new hires receive training upon hire or return in AODA Customer Service Standards.
- **Information and Communications**
  - Council meetings are livestreamed and recorded
  - eScribe software is used in the creation of agenda packages. This software meets the WCAG 2.0 Level AA requirements to ensure compliance when producing Council Agendas and reports.

- **2022 Municipal Election** – Voting was held by telephone or via internet allowing for greater accessibility.
- **Design of Public Spaces**
  - As per standard operational practices, the following is conducted on a regular basis either through legislative or municipal requirements:
    - Repair, maintenance, and removal of barriers on municipal trails, sidewalks, and public spaces.
    - Fire Code inspections of private, public, and municipal facilities
    - Building Code inspections of new or renovated facilities
    - Health and safety inspections of all municipal facilities
    - Emergency management measures to promote the safety of the community within times of emergency
- **On-line permitting for building permits** – This on-line system is accessible to anyone with any device, browser, and operating system.

## 2. Ongoing Accessible Projects

- Regularly reviewing and updating the various websites to ensure compliance with WCAG 2.0, Level AA standards
- Continue to develop resources, training and continuing education materials for staff, volunteers and contractors to promote awareness and education regarding accessibility
- Ongoing training for staff regarding the WCAG 2.0 Level AA requirements in preparation of reports and documents
  - Continue to monitor accessibility issues, trends and legislative changes.

## Municipality of Huron East

### Summary of Accessibility Related Projects

#### Accessible Projects Completed in 2023

- Council Chamber Equipment - Live stream of Council meetings to YouTube, including installation of A/V equipment (OWL's) and 3 tv's mounted to the wall, also helps with hybrid participation in Council meetings
- Completion of tours and trails guide – guide is available in various formats.
- Hiring of a Communications Coordinator – will be working on the website to ensure that is up to WCAG compliant.

#### Ongoing Accessible Projects

- Audio walking tours - includes trails in Vanastra and Seaforth
- BMGCC addition
- Accessible documents – staff are continuing to work ensure that all documents are compliant with AODA standards.

## Accessible Projects Proposed for 2024 and Beyond

- Adding Huron East businesses to the Access Now App.

### APPENDIX 3: Municipality Summary Municipality of Bluewater

#### Summary of Accessibility-Related Projects

1. Accessible Projects Completed in 2023
  - Replacement and upgrade of approximately 300 metres of existing sidewalk with AODA compliant sidewalks, with tactile plates installed at the intersection of Goshen Street and Main Street. A new, AODA compliant sidewalk of approximately 450 metres was built along Main Street from the Zurich Lions Park to the bowling alley, connecting the bowling alley, park and additional services to the rest of downtown Zurich.
  - AODA compliant sidewalks were constructed along Bayfield Main Street from the Square to just beyond Catherine Street. Tactile plates were installed at intersections. These sidewalks replace the gravel pathways that were there previously.
  - Accessible play structure installed in Hensall Kinsmen Park to replace existing structure.
  - Seven commonly requested by-laws were added to the municipal website as webpages, allowing for easier navigation with screen readers.
2. Accessible Projects Ongoing in 2023-2024
  - A new, AODA compliant sidewalk is scheduled for installation in Bayfield in spring of 2024 (approximately 150 metres) which will run from Cameron Street, along Highway 21 to the Foodland complex.
  - Soon to be completed Active Transportation Master Plan will include recommendations for AODA compliant sidewalk design for new subdivisions.
3. Accessible Projects Proposed in 2024 (*next year*)
  - Replacement of sidewalk on Richmond St. North. Hensall from Highway 4 to Lorne Ave with AODA compliant sidewalks.
  - Continued remediation of content on the municipal website to increase accessibility.