

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2009-2010



Municipalité de
RUSSELL
Township

SUBMITTED TO:

Mayor and council members of the
Township of Russell.

SUBMITTED BY:

Accessibility Advisory Committee

April 6, 2009

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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 requires each municipality to prepare an annual accessibility plan; to consult with people with disabilities in the preparation of this plan; and to make the plan public.

The purpose of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA) is to benefit all Ontarians by achieving accessibility for people with disabilities. This will be done by developing, implementing and enforcing accessibility standards concerning goods, services, accommodation, facilities, buildings and employment. Improvements will be phased in, in stages of 5 years or less, moving towards an accessible Ontario in 20 years. Standards will address the full range of disabilities including physical, sensory, hearing, mental health, developmental and learning. That is, both visible and invisible disabilities will be included. This legislation covers both the public and private sectors.

This is the updated 2009-2010 annual plan prepared by the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) of the Township of Russell. It is the second year plan prepared by the AAC. The report describes the measures that will be taken during the next 2 years (2009-2010), to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services in the Township of Russell, including staff and members of the community at large.

AIM

This plan describes the measures that Township of Russell has taken in the past and measures that will be taken during the next 2 years (2009 - 2010) to identify remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities who utilize the Township of Russell' facilities and services.

OBJECTIVES

This report:

1. Describes the process by which the Township of Russell will identify, remove, and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
2. Reviews earlier efforts to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
3. Lists the facilities, policies, practices and services that the Township of Russell will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describes the measures the Township of Russell will take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
5. Describes how the Township of Russell will make this Accessibility Plan available to the public.

COUNCIL COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY

The council of the corporation of the Township of Russell is committed to:

1. The continual improvement of access to all municipal buildings, premises and services for all those a disability.
2. The provision of quality services to all members of the community with disabilities

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The members of the AAC for 2009-2010 are:

Jean-Paul St-Pierre	Councillor
Martin Larocque	Resident
Patrice Dagenais	Resident
Gregg Ball	Resident
Nathalie Bertrand	Resident
Melany Chretien	Staff representative

BARRIERS ADDRESSED

The Township of Russell is continually trying to improve its municipal buildings and tools to become more accessible. The creation of this committee, the Phenix accessible report produced in 2005 and other improvements with regards to some of our municipal buildings over the last few years are just a few examples of our commitment to becoming barrier free.

BARRIER-IDENTIFICATION METHODOLOGIES

The AAC uses the following barrier identification methodologies:

1. Hiring of Le Phénix who produced a complete report of possible barriers in and around the Township of Russell;
2. Regular meetings of the AAC to determine, review and set different approaches to a barrier free Township;
3. Visits of the main municipal buildings with disabled residents in order to periodically identify the improvements to be done in order to make the Township of Russell barrier free;
4. All identified barriers to be remove will be done in conjunction with the standards currently planned under the AODA that addresses accessibility in five different areas: customer service, transportation, the built environment, information and communications, and employment.
5. the AAC is currently studying different opportunities for accessibility training.

BARRIERS TO BE ADRESSED IN 2009-2010

The Accessibility Committee continues to identify barriers. This committee will focus on the following barriers over the next years: 2009-2010.

CITY HALL

PRIORITY	LOCATION	ITEMS	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
1	Exterior - front lot	Parking spaces	- Enlarge the accessible parking spaces awarded to people with disabilities
2	Exterior - Front entrance		- Repair difference in levels between the sidewalk and ground level. -
3	Front entrance	Front doors	- Paint a color strip or municipal logo on the glass doors - Correct differences in level on doorsills
1	Exterior	North entrance	- Construct a ramp from the parking lot to the sidewalk giving access to back entrance

			- Correct unevenness at the entrance with asphalt off the ramp and into the doorstep
2	Inside at reception	Handling counter at reception desk	- Adapt reception and information counters: one part of the counter should be lowered to a height of between 70 and 90 cm from the ground.
1	Washrooms	Public washrooms ground level	- Lower accessories - Mirror - Bring side grab bar closer
3	Coat rooms	Gaston Patenaude Hall	- A coat bars should be installed at 40 inches from the ground

PALAIS DES SPORTS

PRIORITY	LOCATION	ITEMS	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
	Outside close to the entrance	Ramp (cement and asphalt)	- Smoothen the cement entrance : from the entrance to 2-3 meters outward
	Entrance	1 st door to the entrance	- Automatic door (1 is sufficient)
	Accessible Bathroom	Door	- Change the tension - Automatic - Add grab pole handle - Change tap - Make room for the chair to wheel under: change for a pedestal sink or wall mounted - Lower paper dispenser - Put a wall mounted garbage can
	Men's bathroom	main floor ¹	- Door add a Accessible sign as it is more accessible than the Accessible bathroom - Door handle - Add a horizontal shaped handle in the last stall inside on the opposite side of the lock in order to close the door. - Change the lock on the stall for a more recent one (for a better grip) - Add grab pole handle - Change taps - Sink :Make room for the chair to wheel under: just remove the front wood panel. -
1	Women's bathroom	main floor	- Door handle - Change tension on door - Modify one stall to have an accessible stall with all above requirements. - Change taps - Sink :Make room for the chair to wheel under: just remove the front wood panel. - Lower paper dispenser - Put a wall mounted garbage can
1	Men's bathroom	upstairs daycare	- Extend the stall – remove 1 urinal - Add proper hardware - Door handle - Change the stopper for a newer one. - Change taps - Put a wall mounted can
1	women's	upstairs daycare	- Extend the stall up to the end wall

¹ Although these adjustments are important, the members agree that if we need to prioritize, the allocation should be done on both bathrooms upstairs as a start point.

2	bathroom		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add proper hardware - Change taps - Put a wall mounted can
	ICE rink	Close to the seats / emergency exit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add accessible ramp /space

EMBRUN COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRIORITY	LOCATION	ITEMS	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
1	EXTERIOR	Entrance parking lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ramp is too steep – modify accordingly - Correct unevenness at the entrance with asphalt off the ramp and into the doorstep - Correct the cracks and unevenness in the parking from the accessible parking to the building at least
1		Accessible bathroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Just change the door knob - Change taps - Make room for the chair to wheel under: just remove the front wood panel. - Bring the support bar closer - Adjust bathroom accessories
3		steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paint a textured ban in a contrasting color on the end of each step. - Install handrail on both sides.
1		Front doors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce the tension

RUSSELL ARENA

PRIORITY	LOCATION	ITEMS	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
1	Entrance	Doors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At lease add 1 door out of the set of automatic doors X3
1		Accessible bathroom ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add sign identifying the accessible bathroom.

TOWNSHIP OF RUSSELL'S PARKS

(Priority should be given to both ballparks - in Russell and Embrun as well as the entrance of the New York central path)

PRIORITY	LOCATION	ITEMS	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
3	All parks	Sign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add sign to identify the park
2		Access to parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correct unevenness from street - add pathway to travel in and out the parks - inside the park in wheelchair – gravel or paved path.
3	NY central parks	Entrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add accessible picnic table
1	Baseball parks Embrun & Russell	Bathroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build accessible bathrooms

COMMUNICATION PLAN

The Township of Russell accessibility plan will be posted on the Township's website. Hard copies will be distributed to local newspapers. In addition, exterior sign will be put in front of the municipal building that will undergo renovation and improvements for the purpose of making it more accessible.

² The members thought that the accessible bathroom in the community hall upstairs was perfect. It should become a template /model for all the accessible bathrooms in the Russell TWP municipal buildings.

ADDITIONAL RESSOURCES RELATED TO ACCESSIBILITY

1. Accessibility Ontario – Guide to Annual Accessibility Planning
www.gov.on.ca/citizenship/accessibility/english/accessibleplanningguide.htm
2. The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001
www.gov.on.ca/citizenship/accessibility/english/act2001.htm
3. Government of Ontario – Paths to Equal Opportunity A-Z index – Accessibility in Educational Environments
www.equalopportunity.on.ca/eng_g/subject/index.asp?action=search_4&dir_id=1071
4. Ontario Human Rights Commission Policy and Guidelines on Disability and the Duty to Accommodate
www.ohrc.on.ca/english/publications/disability-policy.shtml
5. Enable/link (Canadian Abilities Foundation) Directory of Canadian Disability Links
www.enablelink.org/resources/links_to.html
6. Directory for Accessibility
www.accessibilitydirectory.ca
7. Adaptive Technology Resource Centre
www.utoronto.ca/atrc
8. Ontario Interpreter Services (OIS)
www.chs.ca/services/ois.html
9. Canadian Standards Association: B6521-95 Barrier-Free Design B480-02-Customer Service Standard for People with Disabilities
www.csa.ca
10. Playability Tool Kit: Building Accessible Playspaces
www.opassoc.on.ca/toolkit.asp
11. A Few Key Ontario Disability Organizations: Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)
www.cnib.ca
12. Canadian Hearing Society
www.chs.ca
13. Canadian Mental Health Association – Ontario
www.ontario.cmha.ca
14. Community Living Ontario
www.oacl.on.ca
15. Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada – Ontario Division
www.mssociety.ca/ontario

16. Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
www.ldao.on.ca
17. Little People of Ontario
www.lpo.on.ca
18. Ontario Brain Injury Association
www.obia.on.ca
19. Canadian Paraplegic Association – Ontario
www.canparaplegic.org/on
20. Le Phenix
www.lephenix.on.ca
21. Ontario March of Dimes
www.dimes.on.ca
22. The Easter Seal Society – Ontario
www.easterseals.org
23. AboutFace International
www.aboutfaceinternational.org