



CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SUNDRIDGE

ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2001 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN OCTOBER 2014 – SEPTEMBER 2015

Submitted to:

Mayor & Council
Village of Sundridge

Submitted by:

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Deputy Clerk

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Introduction

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) is to improve opportunities for persons 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 annually an accessibility plan.

This document is an annual accessibility plan as prepared by Bettyann Muir, Deputy Clerk of the Village of Sundridge. It highlights achievements of the 2013-2014 plans and outlines commitments for 2014-2015 so that no new barriers are created and existing ones are removed over time.

Aim

This report will describe the measures that the Village of Sundridge took for the 2014 year and the measures that the Village will take for the 2015 year to identify remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities who utilize the facilities and services of the Village of Sundridge, including staff.

Objectives

This report:

1. Describes the process by which the Village of Sundridge will identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities.
2. Review earlier efforts to remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities.
3. List the facilities, policies, programs, practices and services the Village of Sundridge will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describe the measures that will be taken in 2015 to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
5. Describe how the Village of Sundridge will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

Description of the Village of Sundridge

The Village of Sundridge is located in Northern Ontario in the District of Parry Sound. The Village of Sundridge is surrounded by the Township of Strong. With the neighbouring townships of Strong and Joly the population increases to approximately 2800.

The Village of Sundridge has a population of approximately 900 persons. It houses Christian Horizons, Almaguin Highlands Community Living, a Mental Health Centre, HANDS – a Family Help Network and a Public School that houses children from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 with approximately 160 children.

The Sundridge Community Centre is located at 110 Main Street and is utilized by many groups and the public for MTO Drive Tests, Seniors Seminars, bridal and baby showers, teas, meetings, seminars, etc. The Sundridge Municipal Office is located in the upper level. There is a Senior Citizens Room in the lower level and offers many activities for seniors. Our Public Library is also located in the lower level of the Community Centre.

The Sundridge and District Medical Centre is located at 5 Park Street. It houses two physicians, a nurse practitioner, a dentist and a part time optometrist.

The Sundridge, Strong & Joly Arena & Hall is located at 14 Albert Street. It has an upper and lower level. It is utilized by many groups and individuals for weddings, dances, dinners, meetings, provincial court, etc.

The Sundridge, Strong & Joly Arena and Hall and the Sundridge and District Medical Centre are owned by the three municipalities - the Village of Sundridge, the Township of Strong and the Township of Joly. (Shared Jointly).

Council Commitment to Accessibility Planning

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge is committed to:

- The continual improvements of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services
- The provision of quality services to all members of the community with disabilities.
- The provision of training for administration staff so they can adhere to applicable legislation requirements

Recent barrier removal initiatives

An addition to the Sundridge and District Medical Centre in 2001 allowed us to install a chairlift to accommodate the upper and lower floor. We installed a handicap washroom for the dental offices. In 1998 we installed a handicap washroom to service the ground floor level of the Medical Centre.

In the fall of 1999 we received a grant which allowed us to install an elevator to accommodate the upper and lower floor of the Arena. In 2001 we received another grant which allowed us to make the arena ice surface readily accessible to persons with disabilities.

Various sections of the village sidewalks have been upgraded from concrete to interlocking brick which allowed us to ramp the ends of sidewalks easier and also repair heaving to keep the sidewalks smoother. In 2003 another section was replaced. This makes the sidewalks much smoother and there is not as much heaving. In 2008 another section of old sidewalks on Main Street was replaced with interlocking brick. In 2009 we received a grant through the G8 Beautification and were able to replace a large stretch of sidewalks from the CN track easterly to Paget Street and William Street easterly to Belmont Street. We also built a new sidewalk at Main Street north side to Highway 11 south side on John Street.

Designated marked handicap parking spaces have been indicated in the downtown area one to accommodate the Post Office and one to accommodate the Pharmacy and other small businesses in the downtown corridor. A designated handicap parking space was indicated in the public parking lot on Main Street. The By-law Enforcement Officer enforces these handicap parking spaces under our Parking By-Law. These spaces were all repainted in 2014.

The Sundridge Community Centre which houses the Public Library, the Municipal Office and the Seniors Lounge and a rental hall also has a designated handicap parking space and it is also enforced. In September 2011 a grant was submitted to renovate the main entrance doors and to make the downstairs and upstairs doors all handicapped accessible. We received confirmation that we did not receive funding. We are continuing our search for funding to improve the entrance.

Some residents do not have access to computers at their home. This type of barrier is technology. The CAP unit is set up at the Library for residents to utilize. A grant was applied for in 2006 through the Library and this year they changed the shelving and made the aisles wider to allow wheelchairs to go down the aisles. New computer stations were built with moveable keyboards for handicap use. Large print books and talking books are available. In April 2008 an automatic door opener was installed to assist seniors and persons in wheelchairs. Approval had been awarded for 2011 to purchase a new keyboard with larger print. One more new keyboard was purchased in the Library in 2014. It has large numbers and letters on it.

Informal site audit of the municipally owned buildings

In 2006 Council and the various committees discussed the municipally owned buildings and in particular to assess any barriers that may exist and determine any solutions that could be implemented for 2007-2008 to remove these barriers in order to comply with the current legislation under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

There have been barriers identified. They will be discussed further in this document under Barriers Identified. Each year council will look at the barriers and decide what can be placed in the budget for that particular year.

Barrier Identification Methods

In order to identify barriers the following methods were used:

Method

Council and committees went over the list of barriers for each municipally owned building.

Description

Each year council and committee will look at placing monies in the budget to allow for further correction of identified barriers.

Status

Each time a barrier is discussed we will go through the CBO to make sure that we are in compliance with the Building Code.

Barriers Identified

Over the next several years council will decide which barriers should be addressed each year keeping in mind budget restraints and feasibility.

SITE INSPECTIONS

Sundridge and District Medical Centre

Outside

Barrier – Cracked Sidewalk – Main Street Entrance

Type of Barrier – Physical

Strategy for removal or prevention – repair the sidewalk (2004 this has been repaired)

Barrier – Nurse Practitioner Entrance – There is a handicap parking sign on building but there is no designated painted handicap parking spot

Type of Barrier – Communication

Strategy for removal or prevention – paint the handicap parking area to show the parking spot. (Two designated parking spots were painted on in 2005).

Barrier – Nurse Practitioner/Dentist Entrance – There is the old existing ramp at the Nurse Practitioner’s Entrance with railing and the new ramp at Dr. Starr’s entrance.

Type of Barrier – Physical

Strategy for removal or prevention – Old ramp is not acceptable and where the railing is situated on it makes the ramp too narrow. Remove old ramp entirely. The old ramp is to be turned into a flowerbed in 2007. New ramp is fine except it requires a railing. Place a railing on north side of the ramp. Railing installed in 2005.

Barrier – Park Street Entrance – There is a handicap parking spot painted and marked on the pavement. There is a handicap parking sign to the left of the parking spot.

Type of Barrier – Communication

Strategy for removal or prevention – A double handicap parking spot was marked and painted to allow for someone to pull into one spot and open the door and have enough room for the door to be opened and help assist the removal of the person from the vehicle.

Inside

(Doctor #1- Right hand side of hallway)

Barrier – Hallway Doorway with door – too narrow, fire extinguisher in way

Type of Barrier – Architectural

Strategy for removal or prevention – Widen doorway and replace the door and relocate fire extinguisher

Barrier - Handicap Washroom – Door knob, requires a coat hook

Type of Barrier – Physical and Architectural

Strategy for removal or prevention – Replace doorknob with lever type handle and install a coat hook. In 2005 lever type handle installed and coat hook installed.

(Doctor #2 – Left hand side of hallway – new part)

Barrier – Hallway Doorway with door – too narrow

Type of Barrier - Architectural

Strategy for removal or prevention – Widen doorway and replace the door

Both doctors purchased new examination tables in 2012. These tables can be raised or lowered making them more accessible for the patients.

(Dentist Office)

Barrier – 1st doorway off of reception area – Hallway Doorway with door – too narrow

Type of Barrier – Architectural

Strategy for removal or prevention – Widen doorway and replace the doorway

Barrier – Handicap washroom door too narrow in Dentist office hallway and there can't be a doorknob, requires a coat hook. In 2005 lever type handle and coat hook installed.

Type of Barrier – Architectural

Strategy for removal or prevention – Widen Doorway and replace the door, replace door knob with lever type handle, install a coat hook

Barrier – Handicap washroom in Dentist office hallway – no signage to designate as handicap washroom. This signage was installed in 2005. It is also brail.

Type of Barrier – Communication

Strategy for removal or prevention – install handicap washroom sign

(Nurse Practitioner's Entrance)

Barrier – down stairs from dentist office – doorway too narrow

Type of Barrier –Architectural

Strategy for removal or prevention – Widen doorway and replace the door

There is a chairlift located at the Sundridge and District Medical Center for the Dentist Office and for the Optometrist's office in the basement.

Sundridge Community Centre

(Outside)

Barrier – No ramp at entranceway, wedge at threshold of doors

Type of Barrier – Physical

Strategy for removal or prevention – Move bicycle rack over and pour either cement or asphalt ramp. Fill in wedge at threshold of doors and smooth out. After going over the building code requirements with the Chief Building Official we realized this could not be done. The entrance way is accessible from the sidewalk at the front of the building and a handicapped marked spot was painted on at this location. A new entrance in the future may have to be considered at the entrance to allow a ramp and automatic door opening. We have applied for grants but did not get accepted.

Barrier – No way to open and keep doors open

Type of Barrier – Physical

Strategy for removal or prevention – Install automatic door openers at same time as new entrance is constructed.

(Inside) (Bottom Level)

Barrier – No sign to show location of handicap washroom downstairs

Type of Barrier – Communication

Strategy for removal or prevention – install handicap washroom sign (Installed in 2004)

Barrier – Handicap washroom requires a coat rack.

Type of Barrier – Physical

Strategy for removal or prevention – Install a coat rack. (Installed in 2004)

(Upper Level)

Barrier – No sign to show location of handicap washroom

Type of Barrier – Communication

Strategy for removal or prevention – install handicap washroom sign (Installed in 2004)

Sundridge Municipal Office

Barrier – Tax bills are designed so that sight impaired persons would not be able to read the bills

Type of Barrier – Technology

Strategy for removal or prevention – Because of the legislative requirements by the Province on the wording etc. on the bills they will have to look at the requirements in order to also be in compliance with the Act. We have enlarged the tax bill on the photocopier for some sight impaired residents who have requested it.

There is a keyed elevator located at the Community Centre with an alarm at the main level to get the attention of the staff to use the elevator or it indicates that there is a problem. There is also an alarm in the basement level. In 2009 an emergency phone was installed in the elevator and a monitoring station will monitor any problems.

S.S.J. Arena & Hall

(Upper Level) (Inside)

Men's/Ladies Washroom

Barrier - Doorway at washroom - too narrow

No handicap washroom/stall

Basin unsuitable – skirted at the front and the taps have knobs – not accessible to anyone in a wheelchair

Type of Barrier – Architectural

Strategy for removal or prevention - Widen doorway and replace the door
Change the vanity and basins and change the taps to levers

(Lower Level) (Inside)

Men's/Ladies Washroom

Barrier – Doorway too narrow

No handicap washroom/stall

Basin unsuitable – shirred at the front and the taps have knobs not accessible to anyone in a wheelchair

Type of Barrier – Architectural

Strategy for removal or prevention – Widen doorway and replace the door
Change the vanity and basins and change the taps to levers

The Arena Board applied for a Trillium Grant in 2007 and was awarded monies. With part of this grant the Arena put new washrooms upstairs and downstairs. The new washrooms on both levels are handicapped accessible.

There is an elevator in the arena to use for the upper level.

(Outside)

Handicap Parking

Barrier – Signage to show handicap door opening not real visible where located now

Type of Barrier – Communication

Strategy for removal or prevention – Replace the existing sign and have one made that is larger or closer to the actual entrance

Barrier – Not enough handicap parking spaces

Type of Barrier – Physical

Strategy for removal or prevention – Have two more parking spaces beside the two existing ones installed with proper signage

Barriers to be addressed in 2015

Council and Committees will look at their budget for 2015 and will allow them to address for the next year. Councils will review municipal decisions made related to by-laws, planning, building and the creation of municipal services.

Review and monitoring of the process

The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge is committed to following through with this plan. This plan will be created annually allowing council, staff and the public to monitor the barriers identified and the direction to which the Village of Sundridge is moving to remove the barriers under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001.

Communication of the Plan

The plan will be available at the Sundridge Municipal Office and also on the website. The Village will make every attempt 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 by having staff contact the CNIB to inquire if it could be translated. In any situation staff will assist to the best of their ability.