

The Corporation

of the Town of

Bruce Mines

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN



Submitted to:
Mayor and Council

Prepared by:
Judy Davis
Municipal Administrator

Contents of Plan

| | |
|---|---|
| Executive Summary..... | 3 |
| Aim..... | 4 |
| Objective..... | 4 |
| Description of the Town of Bruce Mines..... | 4 |
| Council Commitment to Accessibility Planning..... | 5 |
| Recent Barrier Removal Initiatives..... | 5 |
| Informal Site Audit of the Municipally Owned Buildings..... | 5 |
| Barrier Identification Methodologies..... | 5 |
| Barriers Identified..... | 6 |
| Barriers Addressed in 2020..... | 6 |
| Review and Monitoring Process..... | 6 |
| Communication of the Plan..... | 6 |
| Appendix ‘A’ – Barriers, Solutions and Time Frames | 7 |
| Appendix ‘B’ – Directory of Canadian Disability Links..... | 7 |
| Appendix ‘C’ - Compliance Info Under IASR..... | 7 |

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 their life in the Province. To this end, the ODA mandates that each Municipality prepares an annual accessibility plan.

This is a review of the original 2004 plan prepared by staff of the Town of Bruce Mines. The report describes the measures the Town has taken in the past and the measures the Town will take during the current year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services of the Town, including staff and members of the community at large.

This year the Town committed itself to identifying the barriers within the municipality and working towards continual improvement of access to municipal facilities including the electronic municipal web page (www.brucemines.ca), as well as the actual physical premises. The Simpson Mine Shaft requires renovations and remodelling and is being assessed for accessibility improvements in 2024.

Aim

This report describes the first step in establishing a plan and will identify measures to be taken for the balance of 2023 and subsequent years to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who utilize the facilities and services of the Town, including staff.

Objective of this Report:

1. Describes the process which the Town of Bruce Mines will identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
2. Review earlier efforts to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
3. List the facilities, policies, programs, practices and services the Town will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describe the measures the Town will take in the coming year (s) to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
5. Describe how the Town will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

Description of the Town of Bruce Mines

The Town of Bruce Mines would be best described as a rural northern Municipality, bordered by the Township of Plummer Additional, the Township of Johnson and Lake Huron.

The Town has a population of approximately 582. The town's municipal office is located at 9126 Highway 17 East, Bruce Mines, ON P0R 1C0. The town has several tourist attractions – Trailer Park, Simpson Mine Shaft and marina as well as many amenities: library, health centre, bank, Post Office, LCBO, grocery store, gas stations, restaurants, auto repair and body shops, real estate and insurance and law offices.

Council Commitment to Accessibility Planning

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bruce Mines is committed to:

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

The legislation requires that each municipality prepare an accessibility plan. Council has authorized the Clerk to prepare an accessibility plan that will enable Council to meet these commitments.

Informal Site Audit of the Municipally Owned Buildings

An informal audit was conducted in the fall of 2021 of the municipally owned buildings for existing barriers. Solutions will be identified to remove such barriers to comply with the current legislation under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

An addendum will be added to this report and listed as Appendix “A”, with barriers, solution identified and a projected *time frame* for completion.

Barrier Identification Methodology

In order to identify barriers, the following methodology will be used:

| <i>Methodology</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|--|---|---|
| A review of the community facilities followed by discussions of findings by the group. | A review will be done by staff, Council and selected members of the community to help identify any barriers at the Municipal Office, Hall, Fire Dept., Medical Centre, Shaft, Marina and Trailer Park | The next review will be completed by the end of 2024 and will be added to this document |

APPENDIX “A”

Barriers Identified

| <i>Barrier Identified</i> | <i>Type of Barrier</i> | <i>Strategy for Removal or prevention</i> |
|---|------------------------|--|
| Website: | Communication | Updates have been done to the website with consideration by Council regarding cost but meeting legislated requirements. New website in 2023 meeting legislated requirements. |
| Municipal Hall: | Communication | no issues identified |
| Ways of communication to residents. | Communication | Website and newsletters will advise of alternative methods of communication upon request. Accessibility plan to be uploaded to the website. |
| Simpson Mine Shaft | Architectural | Cost to make this site accessible makes it prohibitive. Closed in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 and 2022 /2023 due to needed upgrading. Upgrades are planned for 2024. A video will be produced to bring the shaft experience to the main level which is accessible. |
| Tax Bills are not designed to accommodate a sight-impaired person. | Communication | Based on the legislative requirements by the Province on the wording of the Tax Bills, council will review options upon request. The office provides a magnifying sheet for those visually impaired. |
| Chairs at Hall and Office are low for persons with difficulty getting up. | Physical | Town could purchase a few chairs that are higher to accommodate those finding regular chairs too low but there have been no requests to date. |
| Campground: Ramp identified as required | Architectural | Ramps to shower building were to be built for the 2020 camping season however doors were found to not meet requirement - funding needed as costly. There have been no requests to date. |

Barriers Addressed in 2023

New website
Medical Centre - ramp replaced

Review and Monitoring of the Process

Council is committed to following through with this plan. This plan has been created and will be updated annually to allow Council, staff and the public to monitor the barriers identified and the direction to which the Town is moving to remove all barriers under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Communication of the Plan

This plan will be available on the web site as well as at the office and we will make every attempt to make it available to those with disabilities for their perusal and review.

Should a copy of this plan be requested in an alternate format, Council will accommodate by having staff work with the person to find a solution and any associated cost.

Appendix 'A'

Barriers that have been identified along with proposed solutions and projected time frame for elimination of barrier.

Appendix 'B'

Directory of Canadian Disability Links

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/audiences/disabilities//index.shtml>

Appendix "C": Compliance under IASR:

s. 3 - Establishment of accessibility policies - policies shall be developed, implemented and maintained as required

s. 4 - Accessibility Plan has been established, implemented, maintained and posted

s. 5 - Accessibility criteria shall be incorporated into the procuring or acquiring goods, services or facilities practicable

s. 7 - Training - provided on an ongoing basis as required under Customer Service Standard and Human Rights Code

s. 11 - Feedback processes shall be made accessible to persons with disabilities by providing or arranging for them upon request

s. 13 - Emergency procedure, plans or public safety information shall be provided upon request in an appropriate format

s. 24 - Recruiting - notification shall be given to successful job applicants of policies for accommodating employees with disabilities

s. 25 - Employees shall be informed of support for employees with disabilities

s. 26 - Employees with disabilities, upon request, shall be provided with information in an accessible format or with communication supports

s. 27 - Workplace emergency response information shall be provided to employees who have a disability if requested/required

s. 28 - Individual accommodation plans shall be developed for employees with disabilities

s. 29 - Return to work process shall be put in place as required