



**The Corporation of the Township of Laurentian Valley
Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2019-2024**

Claus Trost

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Introduction

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act requires that Municipalities prepare and maintain multi-year plans to remove accessibility barriers in our municipality. The accessibility plan shall address the identification, prevention and removal of barriers to persons with disabilities. This is to be accomplished through the by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services of the Municipality.

This is the sixth accessibility plan completed by the Municipality. This report provides a baseline of the accessibility measures taken in the past, what barriers were removed since 2003 and identifies what measures need to be addressed in 2020 and the future. The inspections and report were completed by municipal staff.

Laurentian Valley Township Demographics

Laurentian Valley Township was formed by the amalgamation of the former Townships of Stafford-Pembroke and Alice & Fraser on January 1, 2000. 2016 Census Statistics indicate the Municipality has a population of 9,387 residents, with 3,992 households. The Township of Laurentian Valley surrounds the City of Pembroke and is south of the Town of Petawawa.

Land uses range from rural residential and farming properties on private water and on-site sewage disposal systems to suburban and residential and highway commercial on municipal water and sewer. There are several blocks of industrial properties in the municipality and regionally significant mineral aggregate resources. The Township has approximately 20 kilometres of Ottawa River frontage.

The Municipality has seven significant properties with structures; the Municipal Office and Public Works Complex, Highway 41 Multi-Use Building, Laurentian Valley Fire Hall, three Recreational complexes. The Township technically owns the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre Property, however the OVWRC has their own board which manages their site specific accessibility plan.

Council Commitment to Accessibility Planning

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Laurentian Valley is committed to the continuous improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for all those with disabilities. (Accessibility Policy & Plan– January 7th, 2014, Customer Service Policy January 19, 2010)

Council has instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to conduct the audits and prepare the accessibility plan to meet these commitments.

2019 Audit

Information Services

The Municipal website is mostly disabled accessible. It is in a text only format which allows the

visually impaired to use web reading software to navigate the site and read the graphics. There is however an increasing use of adobe formatted documents which are mostly in-accessible. Two pages of the current website were assessed through an online tool and found to be WCAG 2.0 compliant. The previous policies and plans are not posted on the web-site, as required by the current legislation.

By-Laws

The Municipality passed a Disabled Parking By-law No. 03-03-167 in March 2003. Short form wording has been approved by the Crown. The set fine is \$300.00 as required by the province. Disabled parking and access are considered when planning new developments.

The Building Department has enforced Section 3.8 since its introduction into the Ontario Building Code.

There are references to accessibility in the Official Plan and the Zoning -By-law.

Municipal Buildings

On September 9, 2003 staff completed an initial Part 3.8 Building Code audit of the municipally owned buildings and follow up inspections were completed on August 19, 2004, August 21, 2007, September 8, 2008 and November 2013. The audits were conducted to assess the existing compliance of the Municipal buildings and properties, to the AODA standards. Numerous barriers were identified in the older facilities that required remedial work to remove. The barriers previously identified and not yet corrected, and new barriers discovered will be discussed further in this document under *Barriers Identified*. The barriers that have been removed, can be identified by reviewing the 2014 Report.

Transportation & Roads

The Municipality now provides limited mass transit in the Stafford built up area. There are very few sidewalks in the Municipality. There are a couple of areas in the Municipality that are signed to caution traffic for local disabled persons. This signing has been done on a request basis in the past.

The Municipality provides grants to the Friends of the Disabled towards the expenses for operating the Pembroke Handi-bus service.

Barriers Identified

Municipal staff conducted an inspection of Municipal Properties and buildings in November of 2019. The following chart gives a list of deficiencies identified and the strategy for their removal, in the future.

Laurentian Valley Municipal Office

Barrier	Type	Strategy for Removal
None identified		

Public Works Complex

Barrier	Type	Strategy for Removal
None identified		

Highway 41 Complex

Barrier	Type	Strategy for Removal
Parking spaces are not painted and signed	Architectural	Paint lines for parking and install signs
There is a 1" bump at door threshold	Architectural	
There is no barrier free accessible washroom in this building	Architectural	If and when this building is renovated it will have to be redesigned to accommodate an accessible washroom
Lunchroom, shop area not accessible	Architectural	Redesign layout to provide a route to the lunchroom and shop area.

Stafford Recreation Centre

Barrier	Type	Strategy for Removal
Paved parking lot, not marked spaces	Architectural	Mark a couple of spaces
The washrooms are not signed as being accessible	Architectural	Municipal Staff to locate a supplier and obtain proper signs for all the Municipal buildings
Door knobs are round twist type	Architectural	When replacing door hardware, lever type hardware is to be specified
Faucet handles are round type	Architectural	When replacing faucets, lever type hardware is to be specified

Shady Nook Recreation Centre

Barrier	Type	Strategy for Removal
Door opening device has round knobs	Architectural	Change door knobs to lever type
Hall phone height is too high	Architectural	Lower phone so that it is accessible (not a public phone)

Laurentian Valley Fire Hall

Barrier	Type	Strategy for Removal
Parking spaces are not painted and signed	Architectural	Paint lines for parking and install signs
There is a 2" bump at door threshold	Architectural	Repair concrete walkway at door
Waste receptacle blocks access to water closet in the women's washroom	Physical	Relocate the waste bin
Hand dryers are too high in both washrooms	Physical	Relocate dryers lower
Mirrors are too high	Physical	Lower the mirrors

Alice & Fraser Recreation Centre

Barrier	Type	Strategy for Removal
Gravel parking lot, no signed spaces	Architectural	Order and sign some parking spaces. Install a paved parking area.
Entrance is not a level area at the door	Physical	Design and install a sidewalk with level entry at main door
Some doors have round knobs	Architectural	Replaced round knobs with lever
Men's washroom does not have a spring or gravity door closer or a pull door, soap dispensers are too high	Physical	Install a spring or gravity door closer, door pull and lower soap dispensers

New Recreational Facilities**Outdoor Skating Trail**

Barrier	Type	Strategy for Removal
Gravel parking lot, no signed spaces	Architectural	Order and sign some parking spaces. Install a paved parking area.
Signage Requirements	Architectural	Signs required indicating length, maximum grades, noting rest areas.

Splash Pad

Barrier	Type	Strategy for Removal
Parking, same concerns as Stafford Recreation	Architectural	Mark a couple of spaces

Barriers to be addressed in 2019 - 2024

Information Services

The administration will make enquires at the Clerks and Treasurers Association to see what other Municipalities are doing with their tax bills and notices, to make them more accessible, if possible. The Municipality will consult with the visually impaired when format changes to the website, tax bills and notices are contemplated.

Municipal Buildings

Staff will be instructed to include the other Municipal properties and Recreational complexes in any tenders for parking lot painting and signing.

The recreation facilities are managed by volunteer committees. The Municipality has advised them of their obligations under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the deficiencies found during the recently completed inspection.

The Stafford Works Garage/Highway 41 Complex is currently leased to two entities, enquiries should be made to establish their legislated requirements. Estimates could be sought to design and renovate to accommodate the disabled, for Councils and the tenant's decision to proceed.

Planning & Building

The Official Plan will include enhanced text, advising developers of the requirement for Accessibility Design in their proposals.

The Zoning By-law will require more specifications in respect of Accessibility Design, relating to parking and access to buildings (*the OBC does not stray more than 1 metre from the building proper in the regulations, so there are some gaps*)

Accessibility Policies

The Municipalities has an Accessible Customer Service Policy and Procedures in which Council, municipal staff, and as well as volunteers, agents and/or contractors who represent the Corporation of Laurentian Valley Township in any manner follow. This policy is now 10 years old and should be reviewed and updated, to remain in compliance with O.Reg 191/11

Communication

This report will be made available on the Municipal website as well as the Municipal Office. The report will also be circulated to the local groups that deal with the disabled for their review and comments. A section of the website will be established to post the Policies & Procedures and past Accessibility Reports

Review and Monitoring

Council is committed to following through with this plan. This plan will be updated semi-annually to allow Council, staff and the public to monitor the progress the Municipality is making to remove all barriers under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

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