



# **2021 Annual Accessibility Plan**

**Accessibility Advisory Committee**

**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 9 municipalities be it mandated by legislation or inspired by local community groups and people from across Huron County sharing the vision of Huron County's Accessibility Advisory Committee.

It is the responsibility of the Huron County Accessibility Committee to advise Huron County Council about the requirements and implementation of accessibility standards. Since inception, the Huron County Accessibility 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 lower tier 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.

For additional information, please contact:

Accessibility Coordinator at

**[accessibility@huroncounty.ca](mailto:accessibility@huroncounty.ca)**

Phone 519-524-8394, Extension 3257

Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee

1 Courthouse Square

Goderich, ON N7A 1M2

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

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

## Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	2
CONTACT INFORMATION .....	3
ONGOING GOALS .....	6
BACKGROUND .....	8
MESSAGE FROM THE HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S CHAIR .....	9
COUNTY COUNCIL (2021) .....	10
HURON COUNTY ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HCAAC)	11
<i>OUR VISION</i> .....	11
<i>OUR MISSION</i> .....	11
<i>OUR MANDATE</i> .....	11
<i>GOALS &amp; OBJECTIVES OF THE HCAAC</i> ....	12
<i>LAST YEAR'S GOALS</i> .....	12
<i>2020 ACHIEVEMENTS</i> .....	12
<i>2021 GOALS</i> .....	14
<i>BARRIER FREE COMMUNITIES BETTER BUSINESSES AND BOTTOM LINES</i>	15
<i>RETURN ON INVESTMENT</i> .....	15
<i>QUICK FACTS</i> .....	15
APPENDIX 1: 2021 Priorities for Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee Objectives Mandated by Legislation.....	17
1. <i>Multi-Year Accessibility Plan</i> .....	17
2. <i>Annual Accessibility Plan</i> .....	18
3. <i>Alignment of Both Plans</i> .....	18
4. <i>Review of Building Plans for Renovation, Construction, Purchase, Lease and Exterior Site Plans</i> .....	19

5. *Provide Information to the County and local Municipalities on Accessibility Directives and Regulations relating to the status of persons with disabilities* 19

Objectives Driven by Passion to Accomplish the Committee’s Vision of Informing and Inspiring People from Across Huron County on Making Huron County Accessible for People of All Abilities .....21

- 1. *Connect with local School Boards*.....21
- 2. *Develop relationships with County Council, Municipalities, and local businesses*21
- 3. *Accessibility Awards of Merit for Barrier-Free Design Program* 22
- 4. *Promotion of the Stop Gap Ramp Project to Municipalities* 23
- 5. *Training for business*.....23
- 6. *Accessible Websites* .....23
- 7. *Events*.....24

APPENDIX 2 Consultation with the HCAAC..26

Development Requiring Consultation with the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee Under the Design of Public Spaces Standard, AODA 2005 26

Development under the Design for Public Spaces Standard that require consultation with the HCAAC and the public:.....26

APPENDIX 3: Municipality Summary.....28

## ONGOING GOALS

Huron County continues bettering its communities for all abilities including those with disabilities.

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) believes in taking action. That action today will improve tomorrow and strengthen our communities 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 provide Huron County businesses with the knowledge and information needed to create barrier free communities and economies.



The HCAAC created 3 sub committees to assist with removing barriers. They are:

- Accessibility Education Sub Committee
- Accessibility Review Sub Committee
- Directive and Regulation Review Sub 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 Chambers of Commerce/BIA's to raise awareness of the AODA and the responsibility of businesses and not-for-profit organizations.

The Accessibility Review Sub Committee is responsible for advising Councils, within 30 days, 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 on or after January 1, 2016.

Ontario's Building Code has been amended to include enhancements to accessibility in buildings.

This Sub Committee is responsible for drafting, periodically reviewing and updating the document titled "Huron County Universal Design and Accessibility Guidelines" and providing it to local 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 Sub Committee is continually increasing the number of site plan reviews to the public which breaks down barriers before they are made during construction of new buildings and renovations of old buildings. In 2017 and 2018 a building plan review form was added to our website. Site Plan Review Checklists have been developed to assist in the reviews. Forms and checklists are updated / reviewed regularly to adapt to 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 were some reviews of plans and/or spaces from 2020:

Huron East- Main Street Seaforth Phase 2 road project; Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh addition and renovation Brussels Medical-Dental Building, Huron County Museum outside entrance, Court House entrance and Historic Gaol outside photo-op feature.

This Sub Committee reports back to Council, advises participating municipalities and public businesses 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 will provide County staff with valuable information on items that need to be addressed during building upgrades.

The third and final Sub Committee that assists the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee in breaking down barriers is the Directive and Regulation Review Sub Committee.

The Directive and Regulation Review Sub Committee will review any relevant regulations and directives and identify concerns, provide solutions, and provide recommendations to the Accessibility Coordinator, such as drafting new policies identified in IASR.

The Accessibility Coordinator will gather input from the Directive and Regulation Review Committee, the Municipal Working Group and the Senior Management Team and draft a

response to the Ministry of Economic Development Employment, Job Creation and Trade and write 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.

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

## **BACKGROUND**

Disability impacts the lives of many Ontarians, and the numbers of people with disabilities is increasing as the population ages. Today, over 15% of Ontario's population has a disability, including more than 40% of people over age 65. About 1.85 million people in Ontario have a disability. That is one in seven people. Over the next 20 years, as the population ages, the number will rise to one in five Ontarians. More than half of the population has a friend or a loved-one with a disability and is influenced by them when deciding which businesses to solicit. Creating municipalities 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 dedicated tremendous resources towards 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**

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.

Despite Covid-19 impacts from March 2020 and unknown future impacts, the HCAAC has continued to meet virtually via ZOOM to discuss, review and focus on accessibility.

The HCAAC has continued to invest a lot of 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. These learning opportunities were customized into six modules:

- 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.

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 in 2020. It is our hope to also increase engagement between HCAAC and local businesses.

### **GOVERNANCE**

We successfully ushered in a newly elected Committee with a nice blend of energized individuals mixed with a couple experienced Committee members that have brought their past knowledge and experience to the Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those past members that contributed years of volunteering and their passion for creating an inclusive society.

Thank you.

Warden Jim Ginn, Committee Chair

## COUNTY COUNCIL (2021)

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.

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)

In the 2021 Plan, each of the 9 municipalities will be providing a summary of their local accessibility projects, achievements, and proposed activities. A template will be developed in the 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 the

- 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.

Voting Members                      Warden, Member of Council and 7 Committee members

Non-Voting Members              Meighan Wark, Susan Cronin, Jeanette Zimmer, Celina Whaling-Rae, Rebekah Msuya-Collison, other Huron County Staff as needed.

### **OUR VISION**

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee will inform and inspire people from across Huron County on making Huron County accessible for people of all abilities and ages. Age-Friendly Community Planning and the removal of barriers for persons with disabilities go together.

### **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 regards 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.

The HCAAC is the advisory committee to Huron County Council and participating municipalities fulfilling the purpose of the ODA and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (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 also 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 informing and inspiring people from across Huron County on making Huron County accessible for people of all abilities.

## **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 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, local businesses and County Council 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.
- 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 Regulation. 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 Committee continued to enhance relationships with County Council, local municipalities, businesses.
- The Committee will join forces with many volunteers and members of Huron County council and staff at events to promote inclusion for all.
- The Committee will keep Huron County Building Officials updated on "new" legislation with regards to the built environment, public spaces, and site plans.

## **2020 ACHIEVEMENTS**

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

- HCAAC welcomed a new vice chair to the Committee.

- **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 November 2020 County Council meeting. These documents were also shared with the 9 local municipalities for their review and approval.
- **Site Plan Reviews:** The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has been actively engaged with county staff as well as private businesses and organizations 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 developed checklists to assist in Site Plan Reviews.
- **2020 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 Non-Business/Public Sector organizations.

The following is a listing of the 2020 Award Nominees/Recipients:

#### Business Category

- Wingham Foodland
- MGM Townsend Tire
- Blyth Pharmacy / Deams Holdings Inc.
- Pic a Posie / Deams Holding Inc.
- GJAJ Holdings

#### Non-Business Category

- Huron Christian School
- Maitland River Community Church
- County of Huron

- The Committee continued to promote the Stop Gap program that was started in Huron County in 2014. This program encourages businesses to get involved in creating barrier free communities.
- The Committee reviewed over 10 site plan reviews of plans and/or spaces.
- **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.

- Staff members and members of the Committee attended Virtual Accessibility Forums, held by the AODA, sharing training and knowledge received with the AAC. The HCAAC Accessibility Coordinator attended the Virtual 2020 ONAP (Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals) Conference
- Continued Relations with County Council, Lower Tiers and Businesses: The Committee has reached out to the community aside from regular Council updates shared by County Council representatives with their respective municipalities.
- All new County staff received all required training within an appropriate time frame.
- All County staff received an updated policy on Accessibility Standards for Customer Service & Use of Assistive Devices
- Upon request, provide information in accessible formats and with communication supports at the same cost charged to other. Publicized the availability of accessible formats and communication supports on website and documents.
- Accessibility Standards for Customer Service is part of Huron County's procurement process.

## **2021 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 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and an Annual Accessibility Plan that contains the goals of Huron County and last year's successes.
- Under the requirements of both the ODA and the AODA, the HCAAC will continue to review in a timely manner and advise municipalities and local businesses 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.
- 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.
- Continue to incorporate and enhance an annual awards program in conjunction with National Access Awareness Week 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.
- To increase awareness and create a stronger presence in the community, the Committee will continue to host a National Access Awareness Week Celebration/event.
- 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. Example, Stop Gap, a program that encourages businesses to get involved in developing barrier free communities while getting recognized in the community for their efforts and participation.

- The HCAAC will work with the County's IT department by providing recommendations, making the County's website much more user friendly for persons of all abilities. 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.
- Each of the 9 Municipalities to add a summary of their accessibility projects in the Appendix for 2021.

## **BARRIER FREE COMMUNITIES BETTER BUSINESSES AND BOTTOM LINES**

People with disabilities regularly face barriers that prevent them from working, shopping, travelling and simply living in their communities. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 was passed leading to the creation of five standards in accessibility in the areas of Customer Service, Information and Communication, Employment, Transportation, and the Built Environment. Recognizing the leadership role of our government by passing the act in 2005, its local communities and private businesses that are now tapping into new customers while harnessing a larger, more diverse work force.

## **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



## **APPENDIX 1: 2021 Priorities for Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee Objectives Mandated by Legislation**

### **1. Multi-Year Accessibility Plan**

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 five-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 Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

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

#### **Committee Responsibility**

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 lower tier 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.

### **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.

### **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 Ontario Government.

##### **HCAAC Responsibility**

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

##### **Council Responsibility**

Huron County Council is responsible for keeping appropriate lower tier 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.

##### **Committee Responsibility**

The Municipal Working Group is responsible for keeping appropriate lower tier 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, not being any longer than 30 days.

Ongoing

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

### **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**

Ongoing

## **Objectives Driven by Passion to Accomplish the Committee's Vision of Informing and Inspiring People from Across Huron County on Making Huron County Accessible for People of All Abilities**

### **1. Connect with local School Boards**

The Committee will continue to enhance relationship with the Avon Maitland District School Board and Huron Perth Catholic District School Board and focus on the importance of changing societal stigmas associated with individuals living with a disability. The greatest change starts with our youth.

#### **HCAAC Responsibility**

The Accessibility Education Subcommittee encourage joint ventures with the local school boards.

The Subcommittee will explore options for participating with the School Boards for National Access Awareness Week.

#### **Council Responsibility**

County Council will be consulted with in the development stages.

#### **Committee Responsibility**

The Accessibility Education Subcommittee will consult with the Municipal working group during development stages.

#### **Timeline Targets**

Ongoing

### **2. Develop relationships with County Council, Municipalities, and local businesses**

Develop information packages regarding new legislation

Presentations at BIA meetings, lower tiers and to agencies and business by individuals with disabilities, putting a face to the issues at hand.

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 Subcommittee will develop an information package for local businesses.

### **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.

### **Committee Responsibility**

The Accessibility Coordinator will work with the Municipal Working Group on scheduling speaking engagements at their Council Meetings.

### **Timeline Targets**

Ongoing

## **3. 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.

### **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.

### **Committee Responsibility**

Municipal Working Group 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**

Ongoing

#### **4. Promotion of the Stop Gap Ramp Project to Municipalities**

The Ramp Project provides free deployable entry ramps to businesses with single stepped storefronts that prevent access to many people.

##### **HCAAC Responsibility**

No action required.

##### **Council Responsibility**

Be aware of Program

##### **Committee Responsibility**

No action required.

##### **Timeline Targets**

Ongoing

#### **5. Training for business**

Prepare a list of training options on accessibility for local businesses.

Explore opportunities to host events to bring awareness of accessibility.

##### **HCAAC Responsibility**

The Accessibility Education Subcommittee and the Accessibility Coordinator develop Information Pkg on Governments Regulations.

Explore social media options to use when providing the training.

##### **Council Responsibility**

County Council to review Information Package

##### **Committee Responsibility**

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

##### **Timeline Targets**

Ongoing

#### **6. 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.

### **Committee Responsibility**

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

### **Timeline Targets**

January 1, 2021 completion and ongoing

## **7. Events**

Actively participate in local events such as Dream Big and Discovery Abilities.

### **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 request.

### **Committee Responsibility**

Municipal Working Group will approach their Council to attend events.

### **Timeline Targets**

TBD



**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

### Development Requiring Consultation with the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee Under the Design of Public Spaces Standard, AODA 2005

Design of Public Spaces Standard, Integrated Accessibility Standards 191/11  
[http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcass/accessibility/DOPS%20Guidelines%20\(short\)%20FINAL%20April%202014%20EN-s.pdf](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcass/accessibility/DOPS%20Guidelines%20(short)%20FINAL%20April%202014%20EN-s.pdf)

#### Organization Compliance Dates

Affected Organizations	Compliance Dates
Ontario Government and Legislative Assembly	January 1, 2015
Designated public sector organizations with 50+ employees	January 1, 2016
Designated public sector organizations with 1-49 employees	January 1, 2016
Private and not-for-profit organizations with 50+ employees	January 1, 2017
Private and not-for-profit organizations with 1-49 employees	January 1, 2018

#### Development under the Design for Public Spaces Standard that require consultation with the HCAAC and the public:

Development Requiring Consultation with HCAAC	Design Elements	Page Number
<b>Recreational Trails and Beach Access Routes</b> (all compliance dates apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail slope</li> <li>• Need for, and location of ramps on trails</li> <li>• Need for, location and design of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rest areas</li> <li>○ Passing areas</li> <li>○ Viewing areas</li> <li>○ Amenities on trail</li> <li>○ Any other pertinent feature</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Consultation on Beach Access Routes</p>	23-24
<b>Outdoor Play Spaces</b> (Private and not-for-profit organizations with 49 or fewer employees are not required to comply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needs of children and caregivers with various disabilities</li> </ul> <p>Accessibility Features</p>	50-51

<b>Development Requiring Consultation with HCAAC</b>	<b>Design Elements</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
<b>Exterior Paths of Travel</b> (Private and not-for-profit organizations with 49 or fewer employees are required to comply)	• Design and placement of Rest Areas	81
<b>On-Street Parking</b> (Only Designated Public Sector organizations of 1-49 and 50+ employees are required to comply)	• Need for, location and design of accessible on-street parking spaces	99-101

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 new section of the Annual Plan.

It is anticipated that each of the 9 municipalities will 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 3's and share this Section with other municipalities to show examples of what is being done throughout Huron County to provide universal accessibility!

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

1. Accessible Projects Completed in 2021
  -
  
2. Accessible Projects Ongoing in 2021-2022+
  -
  
3. Accessible Projects Proposed in 2022
  -