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Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee's MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE

2020 Accomplishments

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

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.

Site Plan Reviews

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee has been actively engaged with Municipal and 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 subcommittee's time and commitment. The Committee reaches out to each local municipalities to review facilities. Recommendations were made for each review. Examples of completed and/or current site plan reviews in process for the year of 2019:

Huron East – Main Street Seaforth Phase 2 road project, Township of ACW building renovation and expansion, Huron County Museum outside entrance, Court House entrance and Historical Gaol outside photo-op feature.

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 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.

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 TownsendTire
Blyth Pharmacy
DEAMS Property Management
GJAJ Holdings

Non-Business Category

Huron Christian School
Maitland River Community Church
County of Huron

Continued Relations with County Council, Lower Tiers and Businesses

- Due to Covid-19 impacts on curtailing events and activities, contact in 2020 with municipalities and the community has been via phone/virtual meetings, and email.

Continued use of Resources

- The Committee continues to keep Huron County Building Officials updated on new legislation with regards to DOPS (Design of Public Spaces)

- The Committee is continuing to promote and engage local businesses with the Huron County Stop Gap program, which encourages businesses to get involved in creating barrier free communities while receiving recognition for their efforts and participation.
- Members of the Committee virtually participate in workshops and Conferences offered by the AODA on Accessibility.
- Information regarding Government funding was forwarded to members of the Municipal Working Group for assistance in renovating existing buildings, or building new, for a more inclusive environment.
- County staff and IT Department Website accessibility updates to meet January 1, 2021 AODA requirements. Content posted after January 1, 2012 must meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA. Beginning January 1, 2020: 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)
 - Municipal Working Groups representatives also working on their websites
- The HCAAC continues to promote 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:
 1. Customer Service
 2. General Requirements
 3. Human Rights
 4. Employment
 5. Information & Communication
 6. Design of Public Spaces
- All new County staff received all required training within an appropriate time frame. All staff are required to receive training on accessibility standards for customer service and 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.
- Continue to work with IT and Human Resources departments to train staff on Accessibility Standards.