

# ACCESSABILITY PLAN

Made under the Ontarians With Disabilities Act  
c.32 S.O. 2001

February 2007

## **THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LAURENTIAN HILLS**

*Submitted to:*

Mayor and Council  
Town of Laurentian Hills

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## **Executive Summary**

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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 the life of the Province. To this end, the ODA mandates that each municipality prepare an annual accessibility plan.

This is the fifth year plan (2007) prepared by the Town of Laurentian Hills. The report describes the measures the Town will take during the past and 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.

The working group identified a number of barriers to people with disabilities. The most significant findings were that a number of the Town of Laurentian Hills buildings are not fully wheelchair accessible. Over the next several years, the working group recommends focusing on those barriers, which deny access to the municipal facilities on a day-to-day basis.

## **Aim**

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This report describes measures the Town of Laurentian Hills has undertaken since inception up to and including the current year of 2007 and the measures that the Town will take in the years 2007/2009 to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who utilize the facilities and services of the Town of Laurentian Hills, including staff.

## **Objectives**

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This report:

1. Describes the process by which the Town of Laurentian Hills will identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
2. List the facilities; policies, programs, practices and services the Town will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
3. Describe the measures the Town will take in the coming years to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describe how the Town will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

## **Description of the Town of Laurentian Hills**

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The Town of Laurentian Hills is the amalgamation of the former village of Chalk River and the Townships of Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie & McKay. The Town has a population base of 3,200 and comprises an area of 640.41 sq. km. Chalk River is world renowned as the home of Atomic Energy of Canada, the areas largest employer. It is also 20 minutes from Canadian Forces Base Petawawa. The geographic townships of Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie & McKay stretches from Rolphton to beyond the village of Chalk River and provides seasonal recreational opportunities such as fishing, swimming, boating, hunting, cross-country skiing as well as Pembroke/North Bay TOP Snowmobile Trails and the Temiskawawa Waterway.

## **Council Commitment to Accessibility Planning**

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The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Laurentian Hills is committed to:

- The continual improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for all those with disabilities.
- The provision of quality services to all members of the community with disabilities.
- The Town of Laurentian Hills has passed a new comprehensive Zoning By-Law. The Council has made provisions within the By-Law to ensure accessibility issues are addressed in buildings the Public will access.

## **Informal Site Audit of Municipally owned Facilities**

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In July/August of 2003 the Accessibility Working Group completed a survey of the municipal facilities in particular to assess any barriers that may exist and recommend solutions to removing those barriers in order to comply with the current legislation under the Ontarians With Disabilities Act.

There have been a number of barriers identified in the Municipal Administration Building in Point Alexander, Municipal Rink Facilities (East & West), Public Works Buildings (East & West) and the Chalk River Public Library.

### **Barriers to be addressed in 2003**

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It is recommended the first barrier to be addressed should be the design and renovation of the rear emergency exit ramps at the Point Alexander Public Library. This will involve re-directing the ramps to facilitate a walkway, which will access the adjoining parking lots.

This was done; the handicap washroom handle was changed. The front entrance to the administration building was replaced, first / outer door was provided with automatic opener and the inner door completely replaced and an automatic opener installed. The recreation facilities in Point Alexander were replaced with a new building which is fully accessible.

There is more to do in the coming years and this is in the planning stages

### **Review and Monitoring of the Process**

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The Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills is committed to following through with this plan. This plan will be reviewed and updated annually thus allowing the Public, Council and Staff to monitor the barriers and the progress of the Town in achieving the removal of all barriers under the Ontarians With Disabilities Act.

### **Communication of the Plan**

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This Plan is available at the Town Office and both the Point Alexander and Chalk River Public Libraries and posted on the Town of Laurentian Hills website. Every attempt will be made to meet the requirements of those with disabilities to ensure the Plan is available for their perusal and review.