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**Corporation of the Township
of
South Algonquin**

Accessibility Plan

Revised June 3, 2010

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Executive Summary

The purpose of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)* 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 *AODA* mandates that each municipality prepare an annual accessibility plan.

This plan was prepared by the Township of South Algonquin. The plan describes the measures the Township has taken in the past, and the measures the Township will take during the current year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services of the Township, including staff and members of the community at large.

This year the Township will commit itself to the continual improvement of access to municipal facilities including the electronic (world wide web) premises as well as the actual physical premises.

Barriers to people with disabilities have been identified. The most significant findings indicated that a few of the Township-owned facilities were not fully wheelchair accessible. Over the next several years, Council will focus on removing any barrier that would deny access to these facilities by developing an annual plan and budgeting for the implementation of same.

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Goal

This report describes measures that the Township of South Algonquin completed in 2009 and the measures that the Township has/will undertake for the ensuing years to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who utilize the facilities and services of the Township of South Algonquin.

Objectives

1. Review earlier efforts to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
2. List the facilities, polices, programs, practices and services the Township will review in the coming years to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
3. Describe the process by which the Township of South Algonquin will identify, remove and prevent barriers affecting people with disabilities.
4. Develop a plan outlining measures Council will take in the coming years to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
5. Make this accessibility plan available to the public.

Description of the Township of South Algonquin

The Township of South Algonquin is located in the District of Nipissing and is comprised of the former incorporated Township of Airy and the former unincorporated Townships of Dickens, Lyell, Murchison and Sabine. The Township is bordered by Algonquin Park on the west and north side, to the south is Hastings County, while to the east is Renfrew County. Located within the Township are the communities of Madawaska and Whitney, the two major centers where Township facilities are located.

The Township of South Algonquin has a full time population of approximately 1200. However during the tourist season the population reaches well over 3000.

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The following are the facilities within the Township of South Algonquin

Airy (Whitney)

1	Medical Centre / Post Memorial Public Library Complex
2	Public Works Department / Fire Hall
3	Human Resource Centre
4	Lester B. Smith Community Centre / Outdoor Rink / Children's Playground / Baseball Diamond / Outdoor Privies
5	Public Beach / Parking Lot / Change Rooms / Outdoor Privies
6	Public Boat Launch / Parking Lot / Outdoor Privy
7	Centennial Park / Picnic Area / Outdoor Privies
8	Municipal Office / Seniors Complex

Dickens

1	Public Boat Launch / Parking Lot / Outdoor Privy
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Lyell

1	Tom & Mick Murray Millennium Park / Children's Playground / Public Beach / Change Rooms / Outdoor Privies / Parking Lots
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Murchison (Madawaska)

1	Municipal Office
2	Murchison & Lyell Community Hall
3	Murchison & Lyell Fire Hall
4	Mervin Dupuis Memorial Building / Outdoor Rink / Children's Playground / Baseball Diamond / Outdoor Privy / Boat Launch
5	Madawaska Public Library
6	Public Beach

Sabine

1	Hay Lake Public Boat Launch
2	McKenzie Lake Public Boat Launch

Council's commitment to accessibility planning

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The Council of the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin is committed to:

- a) The continual improvement of access, within the scope of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services.
- b) The provision of quality services to all members of the community with disabilities.

Recent barrier – removal initiatives

In the year 2000 Council constructed a new Municipal Office in Madawaska which was essentially designed and built to accommodate persons with disabilities. In 2001 Council authorized the construction of a new Recreation Centre in Whitney, which was also designed and built to accommodate persons with disabilities. In 2004, Council renovated the Human Resource Centre in Whitney, which offers wheelchair accessibility with an electric door opener, and provides a barrier free washroom. Additionally in 2004, two new barrier free boat docks were constructed, one is located at Aylen Lake and the other at Lyell Lake providing seasonal residents and visitors to the Township boat docking facilities and the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Since 2001, Council introduced electronic banking for the payment of municipal taxes. Additionally, a Web Site has been established to convey Township information. In 2007, all accessibility renovations were completed at the Whitney Library. The Medical Centre strategies were complete in 2008. All designated parking signs have been purchased and are targeted for installation in 2010. Lester Smith Building washroom renovations were completed in 2008.

In November of 2008 tenders were awarded for the relocation of the municipal office from Madawaska to Whitney. The new office was completed in May of 2009. The new office was designed and constructed to accommodate persons with disabilities. In October of 2009 a contract was awarded to build a new multi-use building in Madawaska. The new building is to accommodate a library, fire hall and a recreation centre. The building was designed to be totally barrier free to accommodate persons with disabilities.

Informal site audit of the municipally owned facilities

In 2009 an on-site evaluation was conducted to assess any barriers that may exist and develop recommendations to remove those barriers in order to comply with the current legislation under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*.

The barriers that have been identified will be discussed further in this document under “Barriers Identified”.

Barriers Identified

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In order to identify barriers the following methodology was used:

Methodology	Description	Status
Survey of Facilities	An on-site survey/inspection of all facilities owned by the municipality was conducted to identify barriers.	The survey identified a number of barriers that require Council's consideration during the budgetary process in order to comply with the <i>AODA</i> .

A visual inspection identified the following barriers listed below. Over the next several years, Council will decide which barriers should be addressed each year, keeping in mind budgetary restraints, and also the feasibility of each project.

Airy (Whitney)

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Strategy for removal or prevention	Completion
<i>(1) Medical Centre</i>			
Front entrance requires new walkway.	Physical	Upgrade walkway to conform to O.B.C. requirements.	Completed 08
No automatic door openers or sounding device.	Architectural	Install automatic door opener.	Completed 08
<i>(1) Post Memorial Public Library</i>			
Ramp showing signs of aging. Approach needs realignment at lower and upper level.	Physical & Architectural	Grant funding was applied for to undertake the required improvements.	Completed 07
Washroom not handicap accessible.	Architectural	Grant funding was applied for to undertake the required improvements.	Completed 07
Front entrance not handicap accessible.	Architectural	Install an approved sounding device.	Completed 07
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate an area for handicap parking.	Completed 07
<i>(2) Public Works Department</i>			
No barriers were identified.			n/a

Barriers Identified (continued)

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Airy (Whitney)

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Strategy for removal or prevention	Completion
<i>(2) Fire Hall</i>			
No barriers were identified.			n/a
<i>(3) Human Resource Centre</i>			
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate an area for handicap parking.	Sign to be installed 10
<i>(4) Lester B. Smith Community Centre</i>			
Foyer at front door too restrictive. No automatic door openers.	Architectural	Install automatic door opener as per O.B.C.	
Handicap washrooms incomplete.	Architectural	Install signs on doors. Install grab bars to O.B.C. standards. Remove barrier from bottom of vanities restricting wheelchair access. Install mirror to O.B.C. standards.	Completed 08
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate an area for handicap parking.	Scheduled For 2010
<i>(4) Outdoor Rink</i>			
No barriers were identified.			n/a
<i>(4) Children's Playground</i>			
No barriers were identified.			n/a
<i>(4) Baseball Diamond</i>			
No barriers were identified.			n/a
<i>(4) Outdoor Privies</i>			
Does not meet the O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	Renovate building to O.B.C. requirements.	
<i>(5) Public Beach</i>			
Designated swimming area not wheelchair accessible.	Physical	Construct a level path to the designated swimming area.	
<i>(5) Parking Lot</i>			
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate an area for handicap parking.	Scheduled For 2010

Barriers Identified (continued)

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Airy (Whitney)

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Strategy for removal or prevention	Completion
(5) Change Rooms / Outdoor Privies			
Does not meet the O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	Renovate building to O.B.C. requirements.	
(6) Public Boat Launch			
Docks not designed for wheelchair access.	Architectural	Renovate to O.B.C. requirements.	
(6) Parking Lot			
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate and area for handicap parking.	
(6) Outdoor Privy			
Does not meet the O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	Renovate building to O.B.C. requirements.	
(7) Centennial Park / Picnic Area			
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate an area for handicap parking.	
(7) Outdoor Privies			
Does not meet the O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	Renovate building to O.B.C. requirements.	
(8) Municipal Office/ Seniors Complex			
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate an area for handicap parking	Scheduled For 2010
No automatic door openers.	Architectural	Install automatic door opener per O.B.C.	Completed 2009
Lower level entrance not handicap accessible. Does not meet O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	Renovate building to O.B.C. requirements.	Completed 2009

Dickens

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Strategy for removal or prevention	Completion
(1) Public Boat Launch			
No barriers were identified.			n/a
(1) Parking Lot			
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate and area for handicap parking.	Sign to be installed
(1) Outdoor Privy			
Does not meet the O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	Relocate and renovate building to O.B.C. requirements.	

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Barriers Identified (continued)

Lyell

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Strategy for removal or prevention	Completion
<i>(1) Tom & Mick Murray Millennium Park / Children's Playground / Public Beach</i>			
No barriers were identified.			n/a
<i>(1) Change Rooms / Outdoor Privies</i>			
Does not meet the O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	Renovate building to O.B.C. requirements.	
<i>(1) Parking Lots</i>			
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate an area for handicap parking.	Sign to be installed 2010

Murchison (Madawaska)

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Strategy for removal or prevention	Completion
<i>(1) Municipal Office</i>			
Ramp does not meet O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	Renovate to O.B.C. requirements.	Building/closed
Foyer at front door too restrictive.	Architectural	Install an approved sounding device.	Building /closed
Rear fire exit does not meet O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	Renovate to O.B.C. requirements.	Building /closed
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate an area for handicap parking.	Building /closed
Handicap washroom does not meet O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	Renovate to O.B.C. requirements.	Building /closed

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Barriers Identified (continued)

Murchison (Madawaska)

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Strategy for removal or prevention	Completion
(2) Murchison & Lyell Community Hall			
Front entrance not handicap accessible. Does not meet O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	New Building	July 2010
Entrance to washrooms and washrooms do not meet O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	New Building	July 2010
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	New Handicap Parking	July 2010
(3) Murchison & Lyell Fire Hall			
No barriers were identified.		New Building	July 2010
(4) Mervin Dupuis Memorial Building			
Entrance does not meet O.B.C. requirements	Architectural	Renovate to O.B.C. requirement and install an approved sounding device.	
Washrooms do not meet O.B.C. requirements	Architectural	Renovate to O.B.C. requirements.	
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate an area for handicap parking.	Sign to be installed 2010
(4) Outdoor Rink			
No barriers were identified			n/a
(4) Children's Playground			
No barriers were identified.			n/a
(4) Baseball Diamond			
No barriers were identified.			n/a
(4) Outdoor Priyv			
Does not meet the O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	Renovate building to O.B.C. requirements.	
(4) Boat Launch			
No barriers were identified.			n/a

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Barriers Identified (continued)

Murchison (Madawaska)

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Strategy for removal or prevention	Completion
<i>(5) Madawaska Public Library</i>			
Entrance ramp does not meet O.B.C. requirements	Deterioration	New Building	July 2010
Front entrance does not meet O.B.C. requirements	Architectural	New Building	July 2010
Washroom not handicap accessible. Does not meet O.B.C. requirements.	Architectural	New Building	July 2010
Meeting room not wheelchair accessible.	Architectural	New Building	July 2010
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	Designate an area for handicap parking.	Sign to be installed 2010
<i>(6) Public Beach</i>			
No designated handicap parking area.	Architectural	New handicap parking.	Sign to be installed 2010

Sabine

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Strategy for removal or prevention	Completion
<i>(1) Hay Lake Public Boat Launch</i>			
Boat launch not designed for wheelchair access.	Architectural	Renovate to O.B.C. requirements.	
<i>(2) McKenzie Lake Public Boat Launch</i>			
Dock/Boat Launch not designed for wheelchair access.	Architectural	Renovate to O.B.C. requirements.	

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Barriers to be addressed

In light of the identified barriers, Council will prioritize the improvements required and establish a time frame that will ensure the eventual removal of all barriers.

Review and monitoring of the process

Council is committed to implementing this plan. This plan will be reviewed and updated annually thus allowing Council, staff and the public an opportunity to monitor the barriers identified and the direction to which the Township is moving to remove all barriers under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*.

Communication of the Plan

This plan will be available on the Township Web Site, as well as at the Municipal Office for review.

Revisions
2010– Updated with completion information
2008 – Updated with completion information
2006 – New Plan
