



Accessibility Advisory Committee Agenda, September 11, 2024

2:00-4:00 PM

In-person and via Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 880 3793 1737

Passcode: 858453

[Youtube livestream link](#)

1. Meeting called to order
2. Chair's comments
3. Approval of Minutes – AAC meeting June 12, 2024
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
5. New Business
 - 5.1. Accessibility site visits
 - 5.2. Alternate space for AAC meetings
6. Old Business
 - 6.1. Sledge repairs completed
 - 6.2. Compilation of AAC barrier removal successes
 - 6.3. Accessibility Plan update
 - 6.4. Accessible kayak dock update
 - 6.5. Sinclair Field Site Visit
 - 6.6. Adult Change Table at Plaza update
 - 6.7. Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Fund
 - 6.7.1. Whereas there is no barrier free seating at the John Rhodes Community Centre Arena 2, and whereas the new Northern Community Centre accessible seating has been well received, therefore be it resolved that the AAC recommend a funding application to the Green and Inclusive Communities grant to install

Barrier Free Seating Platform with the municipal \$20% share to be taken from the barrier removal reserve.

Moved by Derrick, seconded by Craig

7. Barrier Removal Updates

7.1. Pointe Des Chenes update

7.2. Youth Water Wheelchair update

8. Site Plan Sub-Committee Report

8.1. Site Plan Sub-Committee Report attached

9. Adjournment

Next meeting October 9, 2024

In-person and via Zoom 2:00 to 4:00 PM



Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: June 12, 2024
2:00-4:00 p.m.
In Person & Via Zoom

Minutes

In Attendance: Councillor Lisa Vezeau-Allen, Councillor Sandra Hollingsworth, Don McConnell, Diane Morrell, Diana Gerhart, Craig Kohler, Carol Magnan, Wayne Scharfenberg, Kerri Tucket.

Regrets: Derrick Lavallee, Andree Labonte, Jordan Derochie.

Guests: Peter Tonazzo – Director of Planning

Recorder: Stephanie Perri – Planning, Samir Thapa - Planning

1. Meeting called to order 2:05 p.m.

2. Chair's Comments

- Youth water wheelchair (Otter chair) received for splash pads(Manzo, Downtown Plaza, Bellevue)
- Approximate cost \$1,100

3. Approval of Minutes – AAC Meeting May 08, 2024

Moved by: D. Gerhart

Seconded by: K. Tucket

All in favour.

CARRIED

4. Conflict of Interest – None.

5. New Business

5.1 Chamber of Commerce Leader in Accessibility Award Nomination

- CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) won the award
- Employment program with emphasis on accessibility

5.2 Benches for Downtown Design; combination of two designs.

- silver/nickel colour for benches
- Benches with backrest and arm rests will be implemented
- Purchased from Hauser

5.3 Inclusive Communities Grant and Trans Canada Trail Grant

- Trans Canada Trail Grant provides up to 35% of costs for accessibility features along Trans Canada Trail
- Cost of repair accessible kayak dock is \$20,000

- Inclusive Communities Grant may be another stream of funding – up to \$60,000 for accessibility features
- Projects for remaining funds:
 - 2 accessible parking spots at Bellevue Marina
 - Washroom upgrades with more accessibility features(actuators)
 - Accessible picnic tables
- Successful with Trans Canada Trail Grant
- Have not heard back from Inclusive Communities Grant
- Commitment from Barrier Removal reserves for kayak dock projects for \$5,500 will guarantee project can start
- Public Works agreed to supply materials and labour in kind
- Open to suggestions on where to place accessible picnic tables

5.4 Sledge Repairs Required

- Increasing interest in sledge
- Cost per sledge \$700-\$800 (new)
- \$2,500 repairs for 15 – 18 sledges (existing)

Resolved that the budgeted contingency be used to pay for repairs to the sledges in the amount of \$2,500

Moved by: C. Kohler.

Seconded by: W. Scharfenberg.

All in favour.

CARRIED

5.5 Contingency Fund Projects

- Adult change table
- Proposed for City facility (GFL or Plaza)

Resolved that the Accessibility Advisory Committee support the use of \$7,500 from the 2024 Contingency Fund to be used for the purpose of an adult change table at a municipal facility.

Moved by: L. Vezeau Allen

Seconded by: S. Hollingsworth

All in favour.

CARRIED

6. Old Business

- None

7. Barrier Removal Updates

7.1 Barrier free parking violation update

- New signage for access aisles is working
- Update to zoning by-law expected to include signage for access aisles

8. Site Plan Sub-Committee Report

- Two major projects; Algoma University and Pino's development (Great Northern Road)

9. Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.

Moved by: C. Kohler.

Seconded by: D. Gerhart.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2024 In Person and Via Zoom 2-4 p.m

Compilation of AAC barrier removal successes 2004 to 2024

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2004 Plan - Barrier removal initiatives included since 2000

Cemeteries

- Washroom and chapel modifications done (no specific details)

Civic Centre

- Handrails installed in public elevators
- Installed lowered counter at payment centre
- Ergonomic workstations introduced
- Introduction of TTY
- Automated door openers installed

Clerk's Office

- Additional advanced voting days added
- ASL and other communication supports introduced, upon request

Community Services Department - Memorial Garden

- Added yellow nosings to stairs
- Accessible customer service counters added

Library

- The library operates a homebound "Outreach" service that delivers library materials to library patrons who are unable to come to the library
- Bestsellers Café at the Main Library where students from St. Basil's Secondary School Independent Living Program gain valuable living skills and working skills volunteering at the Café
- Library programs for children with special needs are planned on an ongoing basis
- Library provides:
 - Described videos for persons with a 'visual disability' (vision loss),
 - Closed-captioned videos and DVDs for persons with a 'hearing disability' (Deaf or deafened or hearing loss)
 - Large Print books for persons with vision loss
 - Talking Books and Audio for persons with a vision loss or 'manual disability' dexterity issues
 - Juvenile books in Braille
- One set of doors was retrofitted with door actuators
- Edge of the curb and the step at the north entrance of the Main Library was painted with a bright yellow strip

- In partnership with the Ontario Libraries Services North, offered free access to VISUNET CANADA, the CNIB network library service
- Purchased a hand-held Talking Books cassette player that is available to VISUCAT patrons free of charge
- Ten public Internet stations with user profile for large print were introduced at the three library locations and some public Internet stations also fitted with keyboards with large print keys

Municipal Day Nurseries (Day Care Services, no longer part of City Services)

- Installed doorbells at entries to accommodate door opening
- 'Handicapped parking spaces' (accessible parking spaces) added

Ontario Works (No longer part of City Services)

- Sliding front door installed

Parks

- Bellevue Park washrooms accessible
- Greenhouse doors widened to accommodate wheelchairs
- Paved waterfront walkway provides wheelchair access to waterfront
- Pavilion is ramped and paved for full access and wheelchair accessible picnic tables are provided
- An accessible play structure with paved access has been constructed

Police Services

- Ergonomic workstations were introduced

Public Works

- All new curb cuts are constructed to an accessible standard
- Catch basin grates are replaced with chevron pattern grates

Social Housing Division

- Automatic Door Openers installed in apartment buildings to facilitate access to the buildings
- Braille buttons installed on elevator panels in apartment buildings
- Auditory warning systems installed
- Ramps installed at exit doors where at grade access did not exist
- Hold-open devices installed on public area doors in apartment buildings
- Corridor handrails installed in most apartment buildings to assist those who require some support when walking
- Designated handicap parking spaces provided at most apartment buildings

2005 Plan

The Accessibility Audit was referenced

Point Des Chenes mention

AAC Initiatives

- Ontario-wide Accessibility Conference hosted in SSM
- Development of Not-For-Profit Foundation “Barrier Free in Algoma Association “
- Active membership and involvement with the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals (ONAP)
- Development of a Sensitivity Training Program to be rolled out to staff beginning January 2005

Bay Street Senior’s Centre

- An accessible Restroom installed on the second floor of Bay St. Senior Citizens’ Centre

Bellevue Park

- Bellevue Park has added some accessible picnic tables

City Website

- City Website has been made more accessible and a new section on accessibility has been added

Civic Centre

- Council Chambers made accessible with a ramp and speakers’ podium
- Contrast strips on outdoor stairs
- West entrance lighting improved
- West entrance call button lowered to accessible height
- Civic Centre Lobby Level restroom converted to a Unisex Accessible Restroom
- Braille installed in the Civic Centre Elevators
- Purchase of a portable ramp for use at the Civic Centre
- Tax office counter modifications
- Stair Chairs made available through the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board for Evacuation of persons with disabilities
- Braille installed in the Civic Centre Elevators
- Purchase of a portable ramp for use at the Civic Centre
- Tax office counter modifications
- Discussions about ‘Handicapped Parking violations’ (Accessible Parking Permit violations)
- Policy Reviews with Senior Staff on Evacuation, Communication and Parking and Enforcement

John Rhodes Community Centre - Accessibility Centre

- Renovations in the John Rhodes Community Centre to create an accessible office space for new accessibility office staff
- John Rhodes Community Centre hallway fire doors modified with auto closure mechanism installed (set as open for improved traffic flow)

John Rhodes Community Centre – Arena

- Arena steps painted with contrast strips
- More inclusive seating in the arena

John Rhodes Community Centre - Pool

- Enlarging a cubicle in the universal change room to allow room for attendants
- Adding a ceiling lift in the universal change room
- Adding a portable lift
- Adding a pool commode and aquatic wheelchair
- Padding pool benches
- Installing yellow stair nosings throughout the center
- Lowering a section of the arena canteen counter
- Larger signage
- Sliding doors at the arena entrance
- Door actuator at pool

Main Library

- New lighting
- Redesigned Website
- Large Print Format Annual Library Report
- Revisions to the Fire Evacuation Plan

McMeeken Arena

- McMeeken Arena entrance was repaired and made accessible

Parking

- Audit the City's handicapped parking spaces; Increase percentage of handicapped parking spaces
- Adopt the standard of 1 space per 20 vehicle spaces
- Widen spaces according to building code requirements

Police Services

- An upgraded “above code” ramp
- 2 Modified Van accessible parking spaces added to existing accessible parking spaces and relocated adjacent to the building

Public Works

- Many new Depressed Curbs at strategic locations in the City.
- This was a coordinated effort using supports from Transit Services and summer students.
- Numerous paved pathways throughout Bellevue Park
- A loop pathway recently completed along the waterfront, up to Lake and Queen Street intersection and back to west parking lots
- The Cemeteries Chapel and washrooms more accessible
- Graveside services access available

Transit

- Older vehicles were retrofitted with proper equipment and all new vehicles are equipped with brightly coloured on-vehicle grab bars and hand rails
- Complete replacement of all 700+ bus stop signs using highly visible colours for visual recognition at night
- Automatic door opener was installed
- Designated parking for the accessible parking created
- Second Para Bus Dispatcher hired
- New telephone system was installed at the Transit Services to assist staff in tracking incoming and abandoned calls
- Introduction of 10 low floor kneeling buses in the late 1990's – 40% of the fleet is currently low-floor accessible
- Older vehicles retrofitted with proper equipment and all new vehicles are equipped with brightly coloured on-vehicle grab bars and handrails
- All new busses purchased will be low-floor busses
- Eligibility criteria were changed in September 2003 to include all individuals unable to walk 175 metres or climb the stairs onto a city bus
- Transit Services route maps and schedules are available on the City website and was designed to provide a user-friendly site for the visually impaired
- Signage posted in all of Para buses for riders to provide suggestions and comments regarding the service
- Public notice signage was placed on all full-size buses asking the public to leave the seats at the front of the bus for disabled and elderly passengers
- Municipal parking lot signs have been updated to the Highway Traffic Act signage for Accessible Parking

2006 Plan

AAC Initiatives

- Disability awareness training

- Recommend full time staff for Accessibility Coordinator

Bellevue Park

- Accessible playground equipment added (donated by the Rotary Club)
- Accessible ground cover (provided by the City)
- Accessible paved path of travel through park

Civic Centre

- An FM sound system installed in Council Chambers
- Braille installed in both elevators, and numbers outside the elevator doors on all floors
- Yellow contrasting strips painted on all outside stairs
- Portable ramp available in Civic Centre
- Participation in a Fire Drill resulting in the update of the Evacuation Plan to include the needs of persons with disabilities

Engineering and Planning

- A designated staff person was assigned to work with the Site Plan Sub-Committee

Fire Services – ongoing

- An evacuation practice held October 2005 involving people with disabilities
- Follow-up meeting resulted in valuable discussion about redesigning pieces of the Civic Centre's Evacuation Plan to better meet the needs of persons with disabilities in the case of an emergency.
- This information will be used to support other Corporate buildings evacuation plan reviews

John Rhodes Community Centre - ARENA

- Motion sensor sliding doors installed at the arena entrance.
- Yellow contrasting strips installed on the stairs leading to the second floor

John Rhodes Community Centre - POOL

- An aquatic wheelchair acquired
- Larger accessible signage installed on the washrooms doors
- One cubicle in the family change room enlarged
- Two stationary change tables with padding added
- A donated lift installed in the pool change room
- A ceiling track lift being installed in the pool area (2006)
- An automated door installed at the pool entrance
- Improved signage on the pool cubicle doors

Library

- Yellow contrasting strips on all stairs
- Accessible restrooms signage posted

- Two wheelchair accessible Internet workstations (Main Branch)
- Alternate format books and materials purchased
- An automatic door opener installed at the Main Library south entrance

McMeeken Arena

- Entrance repaired

Police Services

- A new ramp
- Barrier free parking enlarged and moved to the area immediately in front of the new ramp
- Main door replaced with an automatic sliding entrance door
- Barrier free door sills have been added to the entrances
- Yellow contrasting strips have been painted on stairs

Public Works and Traffic

- Depressed curbs installed on a continuum
- Responds to public requests for service repairs (Call: 759-5201)

Transit

- Ongoing purchase of low floor busses
- Community bus increased to 3 days/week
- Queen Street Terminal renovated to includes accessible washroom, curb cuts and motion sensor doors
- Attendant fees are waived for persons requiring an attendant on Conventional and Parabus

Social Services

- Social Housing and Community Childcare divisions moving to an accessible site in 2006

Strathclair Park

- Asphalted access in front of the soccer service building.
- Barrier-free parking space created adjacent to the asphalted area.

2007 Plan

Clerks

- Completed significant work to enable persons with disabilities to participate in municipal elections
- Council Chambers FM system installed and put to use

Community Services Department

- Steelback Centre (now GFL) designed in full cooperation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Steelback Centre (now GFL) Hearing Assist Equipment purchased and pending installation
- Ramp installed to Bellevue Park stage

Police Services

- Evacuation Stair Chairs and cabinets purchased and installed

Library Services

- Library purchased two Victor Reader DAISY readers and is making them available for borrowing by print-disabled persons
- Acquire a deposit collection of CNIB talking books in the DAISY format
- The handle on one staff washroom was replaced with an L-shaped handle and lock
- Library purchased an Internet Station at the Main Library that is equipped with JAWS and ZOOM Text software
- Purchase of Library Materials in Accessible Formats
- The Library contracted with the CNIB for the CNIB VISUNET CANADA PARTNERS program

Social Services Department

- Social Housing and Community Childcare moved to accessible location

2008 Plan

Public Works

- Snow removal service for seniors and persons with disabilities provided by Red Cross
- Installed visual fire alarms at Public Works centre
- Improved stair safety visibly and slip related with contrast marking
- **Bellevue Park:** Paving Stone installed at formal area in front of stage and linking up two walkways. Formal drop-off area for Para-Bus: asphalted link to existing walkway adjacent Duck Pond; minor crack repairs to entrance onto stage and installation of grab bars in two washrooms
- Queen Elizabeth Sports Complex received repairs of paving stone in front of concession area

Transit

- Transit Services: Queen St Terminal automatic doors and restroom completed
- Christmas Day bookings 48 hours in advance to better service clients needs
- One Para Bus dispatcher completed Sensitivity Training
- Purchased one Orion 40' Low Floor (total 14 low floor buses)
- Moved the front automatic door at Terminal to rear entrance

- Washroom facilities functional
- Expansion of Community Bus to 5 days per week. We now have two separate routes servicing the different areas of the Sault.

Clerks

- The Corporate Style Guide is complete. Documents provided in large print upon request. Provision of documents in Braille could be provided through the Accessibility Office upon request
- Website meets priority level 1 of W3C standards. Further enhancements for accessibility pursued once provincial standards for website accessibility have been developed.
- Elections - ASL interpreter services provided for additional advanced polling days
- Public counter at the Civic Centre being redesigned with lowered section

Community Services Department

- Steelback Centre Hearing Assist Equipment installed
- John Rhodes Pool upgrades include: Pool lift and slings, newpool chair, personal flotation devices
- John Rhodes entrance curb cuts have been repaired
- Sledges on order for recreational skating

Fire Services

- New Fire/EMS center designed with accessibility considered

Library

- In 2007 library conducted fire drill, testing evacuation plan in "real world" scenario. Members of Accessibility Advisory Committee attended and provided feedback to improve existing plan
- Installed strobe lights at Main Library as part of library's fire alarm emergency system
- Library staff received sensitivity training from the Canadian Hearing Society (serving persons with hearing loss/deafness)

2009 Plan

Community Services Department

- Public sledges recreational skating established Mondays and
- Wednesdays at 11:00 AM; Portable lift for transferring to sledges and artificial ice sheets are set up from change room to ice
- John Rhodes Pool door actuators added to both men's and women's change room doors, grab bars added in shower stalls, hand held shower head added in one stall in family change room

- Contrast strips added to staircases and checked annually for contrast
- Essar Centre – website updated – seating charts identify accessible seating, stanchions ordered to create a ‘soft’ gate between standing room and accessible seating
- Accessible drinking fountain added at Bellevue Park concession
- Bellevue Naturalist Viewing Platform – materials funded by the Naturalist Society and labour provided by Parks Division. All work was completed with accessibility in mind
- Bellevue Park Walkway extension from picnic shelter to greenhouse; extension from picnic shelter to Para-Bus drop off; removal and replacement of walkway in front of Concession
- Upgrades to Queen Elizabeth track area (North field) including paved path of travel to north field, access to North track area leveled and asphalted and accessible bleacher installed

Engineering and Planning

- Civic Centre third floor (single) restrooms upgraded to become more accessible with stall doors removed and improved door locks installed, further improvements underway
- Contrast strips installed on all interior staircases and exterior stairs will be monitored for annual refresh
- Civic Centre new elevators
- Barrier Free Parking

Finance Department

- Council approval of Purchasing Bylaw 2007 – 187 Procurement Policies and Procedures makes specific reference to having regard to accessibility for persons with disabilities to goods, services and construction purchased by the City of Sault Ste Marie

Police Services

- Public phone lowered

Transit Services

- Senior and nursing centres information sessions. These were conducted in the spring and will be reviewed this fall with annual visits by the Travel Trainer planned to each center
- Installation of AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) at Terminal and all supervisory personnel trained by qualified instructor
- Purchase two new Para Buses
- Purchase two new Community Buses

Library

- Strobes added to Main Library fire alarm
- Elevator purchased and installed at Main Library

2010 Plan

- Wellington Street East Major Intersections Development Project reviewed and issues identified for correction
- Strathclair Park Phase Two asphalted paths to level two and level soccer fields were not completed due to other staff commitments
- Civic Centre third floor now has a fully accessible restroom
- An audit of major parking facilities throughout the city was initiated to identify requirements for accessible parking spaces
- Accessible Customer Service Standards training was completed at little cost

Ermatinger Old Stone House

- Ramp repairs complete

Civic Center

- Lower part of counter outside of Tax Office
- Lower part of counter in CSD office
- Civic Centre and Ontario Works entrances non-slip surface application
- Ontario Works – Grab bars added in accessible restrooms
- Clerks Public counter being redesigned. There will now be a section of the counter with the appropriate height and dimensions to accommodate
- Adoption of City of London's Facility Accessibility Design Standards
- Strobe lights installed at the Civic Centre and Ontario Works office
- Civic Centre accessible fountains added

Police Services

- Add railing to ramp – reviewed and determined that a railing is not necessary – regarding landscaping
- Actuators to public restrooms
- Strobes added to fire alarms

Transit Services

- Extended Community Bus Service to 52.5 hours of service per week
- Digital Display Announcement System installed

2011-2016 Plan- (First Multi-Year Accessibility Plan)

Community Services Department

- The Essar Centre covered the stairs on the West Side of the building at the Bay Street outdoor stairwell

Planning Division

- Sustainable Site Plan Guidelines for commercial and institutional developments finalized which include barrier free design and accessible parking requirements

Police Services

- New accessible front reception station installed
- Strobes added to fire alarms

Public Works

- Installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals:
 - Third Line at Great Northern Road
 - Bay Street at East Street
 - Cambrian Mall Main Entrance on Great Northern Road
 - All new intersections along Wellington Street as part of Capital
- Two new APS intersection installs at Bay/ East
- Streets and Queen/ East Streets added as part of the priority listing

Transit Services

- New Transit phone system, to provide clients with waiting times while on hold
- New Para Bus dispatch software developed, to provide a more efficient
- scheduling system
- Requisition and delivery of four new conventional, low floor buses

Social Services Department

- **Vulnerable Persons Registry Project** – Official launch - Autumn 2011

2016 – 2021 Plan

Accessibility

- **Report a barrier tool** - The City of Sault Ste. Marie's website Accessibility page has added a link that allows people to report barriers to accessibility. These can be barriers within the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie offices, facilities and/or services. The barriers reported are addressed with the identified City Department and feedback is provided.
- **Bellevue Park** - The City was successful in its application to the EnAbling Accessibility Fund and received a grant of \$50,000. June 2016 will see the installation of playground equipment for children of all abilities.
- **On Demand Taxi** - All on demand taxicab companies are now required to have a wheelchair accessible taxi as a condition of licensing.

- **Parking Lots** - City operated parking lots and facility lots were upgraded to barrier free parking spaces inclusive of an access aisle. The number of barrier free spaces was increased at the JRCC and Essar Centre.
- **Parking Lot Accessible Parking Signage Project** - Accessibility office summer students worked with City Police Service summer students in the summer of 2013 and assessed all parking lots in the City of Sault Ste. Marie for proper accessible Parking Signage. Where improper signage was being used the business/organization owner were given an information sheet outlining requirements, along with local businesses where proper signage could be purchased. A letter was also given to the businesses/organizations stating follow-up would be done by City Police Service with an expectation of completion.
- **Public Restroom Map** - Accessibility office summer students (2) in the summer 2014 assessed and researched public restrooms. An interactive Google Map was developed in order that residents and visitors can access public restroom information, such as whether restrooms include barrier free facilities, hours, location and directions. This was determined to be a priority project as accessing appropriate restroom facilities is a significant barrier to people with disabilities.
- **City Website** - The Province requires municipalities to deliver content that meets the criteria described by Level A of WCAG 2.0. The City of Sault Ste. Marie constantly reviews its website and its content to ensure this standard is met, and works hard to reach Level AA of WCAG 2.0 compliance where possible.
- **Curb Cuts** - The Public Works and Transportation Department consults with the Accessibility Coordinator for annual curb cut repair.
- **APS** - formerly known as audible pedestrian signals, advise pedestrians who are visually impaired when they have the right-of-way, and in which direction they may cross at a signalized intersection. Each year priorities are addressed for additional accessible pedestrian signals. Priorities are dictated by a Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre study which assessed traffic and pedestrian use.
- **John Rhodes Community Centre (JRCC) Fire Alarm System** - Through accessing the barrier removal reserves, the fire alarm system was upgraded to include a visual component. This barrier was brought forward by a member of the AAC and through a public input session.
- **Essar Centre** - Two benches were added to the west side parking lot to enable persons with mobility disabilities to sit after exiting the building. This barrier was brought forward through the public input session and by a member of the AAC.
- **Senior Services** - The Senior Citizens' Drop-In Centre and the Steelton Senior Citizens Centre had all public toilets replaced with newer raised toilets. This barrier was identified by the users of both Centres. All entrances and doors throughout the facilities now have actuators (automatic door openers) allowing for barrier free passage.
- **Bondar Pavilion** - Actuators (automatic door openers) were added to the three accessible restrooms at the site. Grab bars were replaced within the restrooms to

the more functional “L” shaped. This barrier was brought forward via the Report a Barrier Tool on the Corporate Website.

- **Access 2 Entertainment; An Easter Seals of Canada Program** - City of Sault Ste. Marie Community Services Department, in conjunction with the Accessibility Coordinator, are assessing what areas within the community could use this program to benefit people with disabilities.
- **Sledge Skating – John Rhodes Community Centre Arena** - Sledges were purchased and are maintained by the City of Sault Ste. Marie for the purpose of Public Skating. Sledge Skating times are posted on the City website along with other public skating times. Sledges are also available for use for other user groups upon request.
- **John Rhodes Community Centre Pool** - The JRCC pool has barrier free entry with actuators on all doors. An accessible family change room has a ceiling lift with high/low adult change table as well as an accessible shower station and washroom. The competition pool has a ramp providing for access using one of the three available water wheelchairs. Also available is a portable aquatic lift that will lift directly into the pool without the use of a water chair. It is anticipated that an Otter Bathing Chair will be purchased this year. It will allow caregivers of persons with many different physical disabilities easier access into the pool in the instances where a traditional wheelchair would not be appropriate.
- **Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Centre** - The newly constructed addition of the Heritage Discovery Centre to the Ermatinger Clergue property is barrier free. The facility offers accessible restroom with adult change table.
- **TextNet** - TextNet service enabling community members with speech and hearing disabilities to contact City Departments is now in place in all City locations.
- **Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations (IASR) Compliance**
 - All City staff trained and new staff training in place
 - Establishment of accessibility policies
 - Accessibility plans – maintain a multi-year plan
 - Procuring or acquiring goods, services or facilities
 - Training – implemented web based training including IASR and the Ontario Human Rights Code as it pertains to people with disabilities
 - Feedback – all departments that have a process for receiving feedback will, upon request, provide accommodation for persons with disabilities to enable all persons the opportunity to provide feedback
 - Accessible formats and communication supports for persons with disabilities
 - Emergency procedure, plans, or public safety information
 - Accessible websites and web content to WCAG 2.0 Level A and higher where possible
 - Employment Standards – including:

- Recruitment, assessment, selection process and notice to successful applicants
- Informing employees of supports
- Accessible formats and communication supports for employees
- Workplace emergency response information
- Documented individual accommodation plans
- Duties of Municipalities – Accessible taxicabs
- Design of Public Spaces Standard:
 - Recreational trails and beach access routes
 - Outdoor public use eating areas
 - Outdoor play spaces
 - Exterior paths of travel
 - Accessible Parking
 - Obtaining Services
 - Maintenance of accessible elements.

2016 – 2020 Transit Plan

- Strive for 100% low floor accessibility
- Established a process to manage, evaluate and respond to customer feedback
- Held, and will continue to hold, one public meeting annually to involve persons with disabilities to review the Transit Accessibility plan as well as to provide feedback
- Developed a process for estimating demand for specialized transportation services
- Developed steps to reduce wait times for Parabus Service
- Developed policies and procedures for dealing with accessibility equipment failures in both conventional transit buses and Parabuses
- Established a process to provide information to affected passengers of service delays
- Cultured and planned for accessible bus stops and shelters in the community with Sault Ste. Marie's AAC (Accessibility Advisory Committee)
- Increased specialized service:
 - Seven hours per day have been added Monday to Friday
 - Five hours per day have been added Saturday and Sunday
 - Five trips per day added to Taxi Service

2021 – 2025 Transit Plan

- Accept and respond to customer feedback in an effort to continually improve service. Each complaint is reviewed in depth based on the type of complaint by either analyzing the booking through the scheduling software, pulling video from the bus; discussing the complaint with the Operator; reviewing training practices and following up with the individual who filed the complaint.

- Participate in a public consultation meeting annually alongside the Accessibility Office to receive input from persons with disabilities;
- Developed steps to improve efficiency, including reduced wait times for Para bus Service, through upgrades to the scheduling software program;
- Developed policies and procedures for dealing with accessibility equipment failures in both conventional transit buses and Para buses. Policies and procedures are available on the website;
- Consulted and planned for accessible bus stops and shelters in the community with Sault Ste. Marie's AAC;
- Updated the SSM Transit Para bus application to ensure compliance with IASR. This application is available in fillable format and alternate formats upon request;
- Travel training sessions conducted as requested with various groups across the community as well, new Para bus user training is available upon request;
- Through PTIF and ICIP application, SSM Transit has secured funding for the following projects through to 2020, all in accordance with AODA to replace aging infrastructure:
 - Purchase and receipt of 2 new 40' fully accessible buses
 - Purchase of an additional:
 - 6 new 40' fully accessible Buses
 - 4 new 35' fully accessible Buses
 - 3 new low floor Para Buses
 - 3 new low floor Community Buses
 - Replacement of 15 bus shelters with fully accessible bus shelters
 - Update and replace current AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locator) and interior call out system and signage as well as update and replace fare box systems
 - Construction of Northern Transfer Point to reduce travel times and will have a fully accessible concrete pad and shelter

2022 – 2025 Plan

Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR)

- The City supports the VPR with an annual financial commitment.

Stop Gap Ramp Initiative

- The City of Sault Ste. Marie and the DSSAB partnered for StopGap Foundation's Community Ramp Project in 2019 and offered to businesses, the opportunity to order a custom-built, safe and portable ramp, free of charge. Eighteen (18) ramps were constructed and donated to one-step businesses in the City, making these businesses accessible.

Municipal Autism Strategy Development

- An autism strategy working group was developed to provide input in the creation of roadmaps and autism services inventory.
- The roadmaps are to assist community members in navigating the many steps when moving towards an autism diagnosis.
- Planning staff created “Sensory Spaces – Design guidelines for the spatial and perceptual needs of individuals with autism”. This document will assist city staff when developing public spaces.

Bellevue Park

- The Bellevue Park Interactive Outdoor Sensory Playground is the first of its kind available to our community. Enhanced accessible play options eliminate barriers to play, provide sensory stimulation and promote family bonding. This project was made possible through funding from Employment and Social Development Canada (Enabling Accessibility Grant) and donations from the Algoma Autism Foundation, the Rotary Club of Sault Ste. Marie, Community Living Algoma and the City.

Greenwood Cemetery

- The cemetery chapel doors were replaced, making the chapel barrier free so all community members can access this space independently.

Topsail and Prince Island Paths

- Topsail Island at Bellevue Park had a paved pathway added to encompass the island and Prince Island had pathway replaced due to high water damage. In total 1.62 km of paved paths that are 2.5 metres wide were constructed. In addition, many benches were placed at rest spots along the paths. The barrier removal reserve account funded this project.

Strathclair Sports Complex

- The expansion of the Strathclair parking lot and pathways was identified by the Accessibility Advisory Committee as a priority in 2017 and 2018. This project was created through funding from Employment and Social Development Canada (Enabling Accessibility Grant), Sault Youth Soccer Club and Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Bellevue Marina

- Dock improvements at the Bellevue Marina took place in 2019 and 2020. The main docks are 6 feet wide with a 4.5 foot wide ramp that has a double railing leading to the 1 metre wide fingers. The surface is constructed of slip and wear resistant materials. There is a social gathering with a poured concrete surface and will contain accessible seating.

- The accessible kayak dock was added in 2019.

Parking Lots

- City operated parking lots and facility lots were upgraded to barrier free parking spaces inclusive of an access aisle. All new private lots must adhere to this standard.

Public Restroom Map

- Accessibility office assessed and researched public restrooms. An interactive Google Map was developed for residents and visitors can locate accessible public restroom information, hours, location and directions.

Corporate Website

- The Province requires municipalities to deliver content that meets the criteria described by Level AA of WCAG 2.0. The City of Sault Ste. Marie constantly reviews its website and its content to ensure this standard is met, and works hard to reach the higher levels of compliance.

Curb Cuts

- The following is the list of repairs in the past five years as a result of input:

23 McMeeken Street, 27 McMeeken Street, 146 Heavenor Street, 20 Cunningham Road, 4 Cunningham Road, 164 Poplar Avenue, 148 Poplar Avenue, 220 Poplar Avenue, 6 Montgomery Avenue, 34 Routledge Avenue, 130 Brien Avenue, 80 Curran Drive, 208 Prentice Avenue, 416 Farwell Terrace, 424 Farwell Terrace, 706 Korah Road, 159 Wilson Avenue, 608 Lake Street, 86 Moluch Street, 134 Moluch Street, 83 Laronde Avenue, 130 Churchill Blvd (2), 560 Shannon Road, 1 Cambridge Place, 9 Texas Avenue, 1265 Queen Street East, 1235 Queen Street East, 78 Moluch Street, 43 Smale Avenue, 55 Smale Avenue, 75 Smale Avenue, 112 Wawanosh Avenue, 122 Wawanosh Avenue, 65 Poplar Avenue, 103 Poplar Avenue, 87 Campbell Avenue, 88 Campbell Avenue, 80 Wawanosh Avenue, 70 Wawanosh Avenue, 8 Van Daele Street, 5 Van Daele Street, 1025 Lake Street, 3 Charlotte Avenue, 61 Elmwood Avenue, 248 Northern Avenue-both Sides, 6 Koprash Court, 7 Koprash Court, 83 Koprash Court and 84 Koprash Court

Accessible Pedestrian Signals Proximity Sensors

- Proximity sensors will begin being added in 2022. This will enable people with vision or mobility disabilities to activate the lights without having to press the button.

John Rhodes Community Centre (JRCC)

- Accessible parking and sidewalk improvements. The curb in front of the barrier free parking on the pool side of the lot was removed. This allows people to exit their vehicle and travel straight up to the sidewalk without having to enter the path of traffic.

City of Sault Ste. Marie Senior Services

- The ramp to access the Seniors Drop in Centre was repaired and accessible parking was added.

John Rhodes Community Centre Arena – Sledge Skating

- Sledges are owned and maintained by the City of Sault Ste. Marie for the purpose of Public Skating. Sledge Skating times are posted on the City website along with other public skating times. Sledges are also available for use for other user groups upon request.

John Rhodes Community Centre Pool

- The JRCC pool has barrier free entry with actuators on all doors with elevator access to the second floor viewing area. Barrier free parking is conveniently located just outside the pool main entry door. An accessible family change room has a ceiling lift with high/low adult change table as well as an accessible shower station and washroom. Both the beachfront and competition pool have ramped access. Two water wheelchairs and an otter bathing chair are available for use. Also available are portable aquatic lifts that will lift directly into the pool without the use of a water chair. Mobility device charging areas are available for use.

Accessible Outdoor Seating

- Accessible seating, in the form of benches or accessible picnic tables, will be added throughout the community. Locations will be chosen by the Accessibility Advisory Committee considering all public input received.

Canadian Hearing Services – Video Remote Interpretation (CHS-VRI)

- The addition of the CHS - VRI will begin in 2022. This service enables people who are Deaf to interact on site with a live sign language interpreter using a tablet screen. The locations for this service will be chosen with input from the Deaf community



Site Plan Report – September 11, 2024

Committee members: Derrick Lavallee - Chairperson, Donald McConnell – Chairperson AAC, Carol Magnan, Wayne Scharfenberg

Diane Morrell – Staff Resource

Site Plans:

1. 551 Korah Road – 2-24-SPC – Proposed multi-unit residential development

Site Plan Sub-Committee comments:

- Parking: Please ensure all Barrier Free spaces follow the requirements outlined in Section 5.5 of Zoning By-law 2005-150, including HTA signage
- Walkways & Sidewalks: Please ensure all exterior paths of travel comply with the IASR - Design of Public Spaces standards, and Sidewalks conform to the City of Sault Ste. Marie sidewalk standards.
- Transit Access: Confirm with Transit that turn radius provided meets Transit Parabus needs as per Transit's safety standards
- Other: These types of units are very attractive to seniors. Please consider including the following so that tenants can age in place.
 - Zero step entrances and emergency exit provide safety for seniors Roll-in showers or step-free showers provides the highest level of accessibility for most seniors
 - Install electrical outlets at a higher level to reduce persons need to bend
 - Bathroom doors that swing outward, or have pocket doors/barn-style doors to accommodate use of a mobility device
 - Levered door handles are easier to use for persons with grip issues/arthritis

- Low effort door closers are more age friendly for many seniors
- If self-serve kiosks are to be used in building (i.e. entrance controls), please ensure accessibility for persons with vision loss and cognitive function loss can use. See CAN/CSA-B651.2-07, Accessible Design for Self-Service Interactive Devices

2. 1125 Pine Street – 3-24-SPC – proposed three 6-storey apartment buildings (47 dwelling units)

Site Plan Sub-Committee Comments:

- For a multi-residential building it is helpful to have building layout to assist with assessment for accessibility. Comments may change.
- The sidewalks at the front of Pine Street must be barrier free with an accessible path of travel into/out of the building.
- Consider moving the loading zone away from the building to provide an accessible outdoor seating/amenity space alongside the building.
- All emergency exits must be accessible. During an emergency, everyone needs to exit the building at the closest emergency exit.
- Is there an elevator to the basement for underground parking?
- Require underground parking to include BF parking.
- Drawings do not show any barriers at the loading zone to the parking ramp for safety.
- Design the loading zone for Parabus access
- Balcony doors must be accessible for units (no step).
- Swing doors to balcony provide a more barrier free surface for persons with mobility disabilities than sliding doors with tracks.
- Verbal elevator announcements for persons with vision loss

3. 676 Second Line West, Development Control Agreement – Proposed 2-Storey, 11-unit residential building

Site Plan Sub-Committee Comments:

- Signage: Ensure barrier free parking uses HTA signage
- Other: These units will be built by Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation, and the following are interior features that are strongly recommended by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

- Although not part of the Ontario Building Code (OBC), all emergency exits must be accessible, with level access out and accessible path of travel to a safe space. Everyone should be able to exit the building in an emergency.
- Consider employing use of colour contrast for features such as to delineate ground surfaces from wall surfaces, doors from walls, switches or other amenities with colour contrast from surfaces
- Consider implementing the following:
 - Powered door openers in barrier free units so that persons using a mobility device can enter/exit their unit safely. At the least, low effort door closers are age friendly for many seniors.
 - Roll-in showers in the barrier free units are essential for many people with mobility devices, but very few apartments have roll-in showers as it is not a requirement of OBC. At the very least step-free showers provides the highest level of accessibility for most seniors.
 - Electrical outlets installed at a higher level to reduce people's need to bend.
 - Bathroom doors that swing outward or have pocket doors/barn-style doors to more easily accommodate the use of a mobility device.
 - Levered door handles are easier to use for people with grip issues/arthritis.
- Because this is a Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation project, highest consideration should be given to implementing as many universal/inclusive design principles as possible in every aspect of the building, including inside individual units. Universal Design provides a level of accessibility, often without any additional costs.
- For your reference, this website contains many documents which show examples of Universal Design principles in homes (Ireland) <https://universaldesign.ie/built-environment/housing> (there may be some contradictions between guides and the OBC)

Sincerely,

Derrick
Lavallee

Derrick Lavallee
Chair, Site Plan Sub Committee