



Accessibility Advisory Committee Agenda

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 880 3793 1737

Passcode: 858453

[Youtube livestream link](#)

Date: March 13, 2024

2:00-4:00 p.m.

In Person and Via Zoom

- 1. Meeting called to order**
- 2. Chairs comments**
- 3. Approval of Minutes** – AAC meeting February 14, 2024
- 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**
- 5. New Business**
 - 5.5. Consultation from Easter Seals Ontario, Liza Stortini, Community Engagement Officer
 - 5.6. Parks update, Accessibility Coordinator on behalf Virginia McLeod, Manager Recreation and Culture
 - [We Go Round Inclusive Merry Go Round](#)
 - Request for barrier removal reserves for accessible park equipment and benches with 2023 allocated funds
 - 5.7. Process for use of splash pad youth water wheelchair
 - 5.8. SSM Airport Site Visit
- 6. Old Business**
 - 6.1. Accessibility Coordinator Annual Status Report
- 7. Barrier Removal Updates**
 - 7.1. Barrier free parking violation update
- 8. Site plan Sub Committee Report** – none
- 9. Adjournment**

Next Meeting April 10, 2024 In person and Via Zoom 2:00 – 4:00



Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: February 14, 2024

2:00-4:00 p.m.

In Person & Via Zoom

Minutes

In Attendance: Councillor Lisa Vezeau Allen, Diane Morrell, Donald McConnell, Jordan Derochie, Diana Gerhart, Craig Kohler, Dree Labonte, Derrick Lavallee, Carol Magnan, Wayne Scharfenberg, Kerri Tucket,

Regrets: Councillor Sandra Hollingsworth

Guests: Peter Tonazzo – Planning, Pat Henderson – Soo Minor Baseball, Maggie McAuley – Engineering, Daryl Maahs – AECOM, Rick Talvitie - AECOM

Recorder: Stephanie Perri – Planning

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

2. Chairs Comments

3. Approval of Minutes – AAC meeting January 17, 2024

Moved by: D. Lavallee

Seconded by: D. Gerhart

CARRIED

4. Conflict of Interest

Jordan Derochie declared a conflict in the matter of Soo Minor Baseball League as the Association is seeking FedNor funding for this which reasonably could end up needing my approval.

5. New Business

5.1 Sinclair Field accessible update; Soo Minor Baseball; Pat Henderson

- Paved parking, washrooms with adult change table, paths
- Challenger Baseball
- Looking for different funding streams – grants etc.
- Letter of Support from AAC – February 20 Council Meeting

Resolved that: The AAC recommend to City council the expenditure of \$6000 for the purchase of an adult change table as part of the proposed barrier free improvements at Sinclair Fields to enable the proposed Challenger Baseball program.

Moved by: D. Lavallee
Seconded by: K. Tuckett
CARRIED

5.2 Queen Street Reconstruction Presentation – Rick Talvitie, AECOM

- There has been lots of dialogue re: accessibility
- Paving stones 1.8m wide concrete sidewalk on either side adjacent to storefronts
- Shorten crossing distance, eliminate some turning lanes
- Phase 1 – Pim to Gore Street
- Phase 2 – Bruce to East Street (depends on budget)
- Tactile warning panels at all crossings, parallel to curb
- Times crossings, longer walking signals
- Sidewalk expansion joints –will be constructed to meet provincial standards
- Removing signals and Spring Street
- Accessible parking bay alternates by block
- 4 accessible parking spots from Bruce to East
- Bike path on north side
 - Continuation of path on Queen Street
 - Issues – bus, parabus pulling in to parking bays
- Reduce speed limit on Queen Street
- Construction to start this year, pending approval
- Street furniture – Planning to finalize

6. Old Business

6.1 Curb Cuts/sidewalk repairs for accessibility

- 12 curb cuts in 2023
- Send any suggestions to Diane
- Second Line – at Michaels

7. Barrier Removal Updates

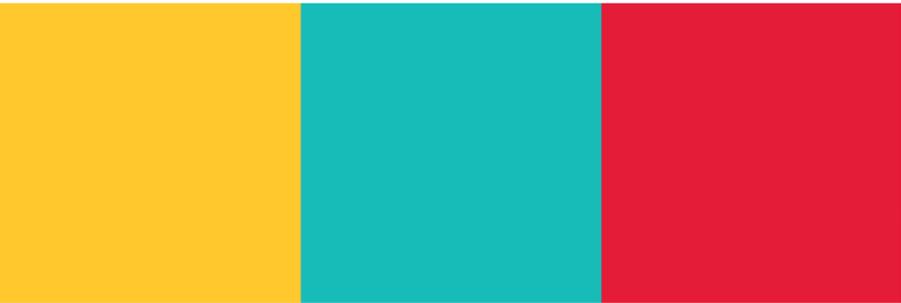
7.1 Barrier Free Parking violation update

- January – 1 ticket
- February 2 tickets
- Meeting re: enforcement
- Review parking standard

Adjourn – 4:00 p.m.

Moved by: D. Lavallee
Seconded by: K. Tuckett

Next meeting **Wednesday, March 13, 2024** in person & Via Zoom 2:00 – 4:00



Easter Seals Ontario

March 13th, 2024



100 YEARS 2022
Helping Kids with
Physical Disabilities
Succeed

About ESO

Who we are, what we do, who we help



Who We Are

- Easter Seals Ontario is a charitable organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth with long-term physical disabilities.
- We believe that every child, regardless of their abilities, should have the chance to overcome obstacles and make their mark on the world.
- With our programs and services, we aim to create a more inclusive and accessible society where kids with physical disabilities are valued, respected, and given the ties they need to succeed.



Who We Serve

- Easter Seals helps kids with a wide range of physical disabilities and medical conditions, including cerebral palsy (CP), spina bifida, muscular dystrophy (MD), spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), spinal cord, brain injury and genetic abnormalities.
- In 2022, over 1,200 kids across the province benefitted from our programs and services.



We are advocates for children and youth with physical disabilities and believe in their ability to achieve great things.



ESO in SSM



Fundraising in SSM

- Snowarama
- Telethon
- Challenging year for SSM – No snow for Snowarama, no Telethon, working on new things for our local families, seeing what works in our market
- What do we need?



Goal for SSM: Send more Kids to Camp!



Easter Seals Summer Camps

- Easter Seals is a leader in providing inclusive, specialized recreational programming through its two fully accessible camp properties near Perth (Camp Merrywood) and London (Camp Woodeden) and remote camp platforms.





Camp Woodeden

- Camp Woodeden is located on 107 acres of scenic woods overlooking the Thames River in London, Ontario. Originally known as “Woodholm,” Easter Seals acquired the property in 1946 to create a camp in southwestern Ontario for Easter Seals kids. A truly unique feature to Woodeden is its fully accessible tree house. Overlooking the Thames River, the house provides a safe place for campers to participate in a variety of activities

Camp Merrywood

- - Easter Seals Camp Merrywood sits on 30 acres between Smiths Falls and Perth in eastern Ontario and is located on a breathtaking peninsula stretching out into Rideau Lake. Built in 1948, the camp began as a camp for kids with polio with only six campers attending in its first year. Campers get to experience a variety of trips off of the camp property. There are three to six-day canoeing trips and white-water rafting expeditions with Owl Rafting.





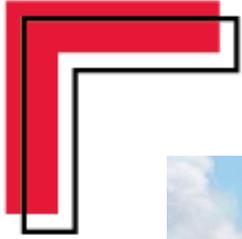
Where we need help

- Education and awareness – minimal visibility of Easter Seals in Sault Ste. Marie
- Resources
- Volunteers!!!!!!!!!!

Red Shirt Day™ of Action for Accessibility and Inclusion

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024 | RedShirtDay.org





Thank you!



SAULT STE. MARIE

Registration for use of the youth water wheelchair at (Bellevue, Plaza and Manzo splash pads)

Please note: Your information will not be shared and will be used only for registration to use the water wheelchair.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Nature of the disability: (describe why the water wheelchair is required):

Forms will be reviewed Monday to Friday during business hours, and you will be contacted as soon as possible for use of the water wheelchair.

For questions, or to provide feedback on this process please call:

705-541-7310

accessibility@cityssm.on.ca



SAULT STE. MARIE

Process to access use of the Splash Pad water wheelchair

1. **PLEASE NOTE:** The water wheelchair is first come, first served.
2. We expect people to be courteous and share the use of the water wheelchair if more than one person would like to use it on the same day and time.
3. Register at ([website](#)) or call 705-541-7310 to receive a registration form.
4. Return the registration form to accessibility@cityssm.on.ca or deliver to the Accessibility Centre in the John Rhodes Community Centre.
5. You will be notified of approval for the use of the water wheelchair and will receive a code to access the lock on the water wheelchair.
6. **PLEASE DO NOT SHARE THIS CODE WITH ANYONE.**
7. Return the water wheelchair to the space where you retrieved it from and re-lock for the next person.
8. The use of the water wheelchair for use at City owned splash pads is a trial and we may need to adjust the process.

If you have suggestions or feedback:

Please call 705-541-7310

Or email accessibility@cityssm.on.ca



SAULT STE. MARIE

Accessibility Status Report, Year Ending 2023

This Accessibility Status Report and all documents referenced within, are available in accessible formats upon request by contacting:
Diane Morrell at d.morrell@cityssm.on.ca or 705-541-7310

The purpose of this report:

To prepare an [annual status report](#) on the progress of measures taken to implement the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, including steps taken to comply with the [Ontario Regulation 191/11 Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation](#).

Accessibility Legislation

[Ontarians with Disabilities Act \(ODA\), 2001](#)

[Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act \(AODA\) 2005](#)

[Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations \(IASR\), 2011](#)

- Customer Service Standard (updated in 2016)
- Information and Communication Standard
- Transportation Standard
- Employment Standard
- Design of Public Spaces Standard (DOPS) added in 2015

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Mandate, Mission, and Vision

Mandate: The Accessibility Advisory Committee advises City Council in promoting and facilitating a barrier-free Sault Ste. Marie for citizens of all abilities.

Mission: We are committed to continually strive towards identifying, removing, and preventing barriers in our community.

Vision: Promoting and facilitating a barrier-free Sault Ste. Marie for citizens of all abilities.

Ontario Statistics on Disability

People with Disabilities (PWD) are one of the largest population categories in Ontario. **Approximately 2.9 million Ontarians aged 15+ currently have one or more disabilities.** By 2040 this number will increase by another one million. The majority of these functional disabilities are also not visible.

The above information is from the [Public compendium for the 4th review of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act \(AODA\)](#), by Rich Donovan.

Barrier Removal Projects in 2023

Project	Amount	Status	Notes
Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR)	\$20,000	complete	Financial contribution to maintain the VPR
Support to improving curb cuts	\$10,000	complete	The Accessibility Coordinator maintains a list of all feedback received regarding curb cut repairs. Public Works administers repairs.
Pedestrian crossing proximity sensors	\$10,000	complete	Recorded message at all PXO's updated for consistency
JRCC pool adult change table and ceiling lift replacement	\$10,000	complete	Replacement complete. Cost overrun of \$3700; Unused budget amounts covered overrun.
Parks; 2 accessible swings and 2 instruments	\$10,000	To be completed in 2024	This line item will be combined with the 2024 project for efficiencies in shipping. This will go to Council for approval.
Accessible outdoor seating (benches)	\$10,000	To be completed in 2024	This line item will be combined with the 2024 project for efficiencies in shipping. This will go to Council for approval.
Captioning city council meetings	\$ 6,000	Complete; no cost	Captioning is currently done with current platforms (via Zoom and YouTube).
Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)	\$ 5,000	Not started	Service provider encountered a delay in implementation. Program to proceed in 2024.
John Rhodes Community Centre	\$ 2,000	Complete	Used for cost overrun of pool equipment.
Contingency	\$ 2,000	Complete	Youth water wheelchair purchased for Bellevue splash pad and cost overrun of pool equipment.

Barrier Removal Reserves:

Uncommitted balance: \$57,800

Committed projects are as follows:

- Pointe Des Chenes accessibility updates - \$29,387
- New City website - \$21,667

Total commitments: \$51,054.00

Challenges in implementing the Accessibility Plan include:

- Infrastructure limitations to implement some projects in the plan (Accessible Pedestrian Signals require infrastructure updates)
- Cost of some upgrades/updates exceed barrier removal funds (John Rhodes accessible viewing area)
- Lack of design options to implement barrier removal projects (John Rhodes space constraints for accessible viewing area)
- Program implementation being delayed (Video Remote Interpreting had a delayed release of this program)

Accessibility Advisory Committee Activities in 2023

The Accessibility Advisory Committee meets monthly' on the second Wednesday of the month, except for July and August.

The committee has participated in annual elections (current positions):

- Chair, Don McConnell
- Vice-Chair, Derrick Lavallee
- Site Plan Sub-Committee Chair, Derrick Lavallee

AAC Meetings involved presentations on:

- Meeting Procedures
- Accessibility Training
- Bondar Marina Boardwalk Extension
- Downtown Patios, Small Street Furniture and Outdoor Displays
- Active Transportation Master Plan
- Civic Centre Lobby updates
- Manzo Splash Pad
- Pointe Des Chenes Accessibility Updates
- Transit Umo App presentation
- Queen Street redevelopment consultations
- Bondar Marina Boardwalk Extension
- Accessibility in the Ontario Building Code
- Disability Inclusive Language Guidelines
- Grow the Sault

Site Plan Sub-Committee:

- The Site Plan Sub-Committee is very active and have reviewed and provided comment on accessibility for Planning Applications that fall under Site Plan Control
- Members are:
 - Derrick Lavallee
 - Don McConnell
 - Carol Magnan

Accessibility Advisory Committee Site Reviews:

- Northern Community Centre
- Downtown patio review for accessibility

National AccessAbility Awareness Week, May 28th to June 3, 2023:

- Proclamation and presentation to Council
- Health and Wellness Fair hosted by the Canadian Council of the Blind
- AccessAbility Awareness virtual events

Accessibility Coordinator

The Accessibility Coordinator is responsible for liaising with the Accessibility Advisory Committee and City Departments in the development and implementation of the Corporate Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The Accessibility Coordinator can also provide information and resources for departments and the community regarding accessibility when requested.

Design of Public Spaces Standard (DOPS)

The Accessibility Coordinator has participated in the Design of Public Spaces Standard Standards Development Review Committee. The Draft Standard is currently with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility for their approval to send out for public comment.

Autism Strategy/Neurodiversity Services Directory

Update to the Autism Strategy was done over the course of the year. This update includes the name change to '**Neurodiversity Services Directory**' to reflect the contents of the document more accurately. The directory includes resources for families who live with neurodiversity.

Creation of Disability Statistics Maps for City of Sault Ste. Marie:

The Accessibility Coordinator, in partnership with the Planning Department and the Innovation Centre, has created maps using Census and other available data to inform planning decisions in the City. The Planning Department houses these maps.

Other Activities this past year include:

- Consultations on accessibility:
 - Brain Injury Association Resource and Vendor Meet and Greet
 - Canadian Council of the Blind
 - Brain Injury Association Peer Support Group
 - Consultation with Deaf community
 - Thrive Children's Centre
 - Down Syndrome Society
 - Vision Loss Rehabilitation Ontario
 - Thrive Child Development Centre
 - North-East Home and Community Support Services
 - Autism Ontario

Looking forward:

The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan outlines barrier removal initiatives as a result of ongoing consultations with the public, the Accessibility Advisory Committee, and City Staff.

When funds remain in the barrier removal reserves after planned projects, the Accessibility Coordinator, with input from the Accessibility Advisory Committee, will seek approval from Council to proceed with other barrier removal initiatives.

Using the consultation information gathered last year, as well as input from the Accessibility Advisory Committee, we will create a new Accessibility Plan that reflects the priorities of our community.

We will inform the new Accessibility Plan by using:

- Information gathered during the consultation process.
- Disability Statistics Maps
- Active Transportation Master Plan
- Ongoing feedback from the Accessibility Advisory Committee

Other projects 'On The Radar' for barrier removal are:

- Accessible viewing area at the John Rhodes Community Centre Arena
- Adult change tables in City facilities and Parks, where facilities exist
- Accessible Customer Service Policy Statement Update
- Explore options to provide City owned sledges for persons with disabilities at outdoor municipal skating rinks
- Explore options to provide a youth and adult water wheelchair at Splash Pads
- Update to the Bellevue Marina accessible kayak dock

Transit

Sault Ste. Marie Transit expects demand for its services will continue to grow in the coming years and that in conjunction with this growth there will be increasing demand for increased accessibility, and we will continue to improve accessibility in the community. These demands will be driven by both customer expectations and the requirement to comply with existing and emerging legislation.

Transit Outreach:

- Updated Parabus application in compliance with accessible formats.
- Transit conducts ongoing public outreach including Travel Training
- Open House with the Brain injury Association
- Vision Loss Rehabilitation Ontario
- Canadian Council of the Blind
- St. Mary's School
- Bay Street Senior's Centre
- Public Open House at the Accessibility Centre
- Presentation at the Bayt Street Senior's Centre
- Consultation with Accessibility Advisory Committee
 - Umo passes
 - New buses 41 & 42
 - Now curbs need to be lined up with the ramps
 - Discussion about conditions for use of Support Person cards

Prepared by:

Diane Morrell

Accessibility Coordinator

City of Sault Ste. Marie

d.morrell@cityssm.on.ca