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## *Town's Annual Accessibility Plan unveiled* TOWN OF CALEDON TAKES PROACTIVE APPROACH TO ACCESSIBILITY



***Mayor Marolyn Morrison and members of Caledon Council have completed the Town's Accessibility Awareness Training in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. The Town has provided training for over 1,100 people, which includes all Town staff, volunteers and third-party contractors who had not already had Accessibility Training.***

The government of Ontario's legislation for accessibility compliance is front-and-centre for all Ontario municipalities, yet the Town of Caledon has already been proactive in making services and facilities accessible.

"Our planned, concentrated approach of implementing the requirements of provincial legislations will help ensure we create a Caledon that is safe, barrier-free and accessible for all," noted Mayor Marolyn Morrison.

To help reach that goal of a barrier-free Caledon, the Town developed and delivered an extensive training program, created an Accessibility Advisory Committee and recently launched the 2010 Annual Accessibility Plan which identifies barriers and presents options for removal or prevention.

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The Accessibility Advisory Committee, formed in the summer of 2008, currently consists of four members, including one member of Council. To be eligible, members must be over the age of 18, be a resident of Caledon and either have a disability or have an interest in matters relating to persons with disabilities. Prior to creating the Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Town was a part of the Joint Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Working with staff, the Accessibility Advisory Committee assists the Town in adhering to the standards and regulations set out in the *"Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001"* (ODA) and the *"Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005"* (AODA).

Additionally, with the recent release of the 2010 Annual Accessibility Plan, the Town continues to build on the progress made toward an accessible community.

Highlights of the 2010 Plan include:

- develop a process for reviewing site plans to identify appropriate locations for curb cuts, designated accessibility parking spaces, etc.;
- develop Facility Accessibility Design Standards for the Corporation;
- obtain assistive devices to better serve customers;
- explore additional recreational opportunities for people with disabilities;
- explore additional ways to network with local agencies sharing the common objective of serving those with disabilities;
- perform an Accessibility Audit on all Town facilities and parks.

The Accessibility Audit is a key initiative which will identify areas requiring accessibility improvements. The Audit is scheduled for completed in the fall of 2010. A yearly plan will then be developed to remove the identified barriers, ensuring full accessibility across the municipality.

The AODA, which will eventually replace the ODA legislation, identifies five key standards to meet in order to achieve acceptable accessibility standards: Customer Service; Communication and Information; Employment; Built Environment; and Transportation.

The Town of Caledon has already met compliance with the first standard, Customer Service, through training sessions, new policies and procedures on accessible customer service, providing Caledon-owned documents in alternative formats, and utilizing the Town's website for notification and feedback purposes.

For more information about the Accessibility Advisory Committee, or the Town's Accessibility Program, contact the Town's Accessibility Program Co-ordinator at 905.584.2272 x.4288 or e-mail [accessibility@caledon.ca](mailto:accessibility@caledon.ca).

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