

Municipality of Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee

Previous Years' Achievements 2005-2016

Accomplishments

Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee's (AAC) activities of previous years include the following:

2016

On February 16th, 2016 the Accessibility Awards were presented at Alexander & Houle Funeral Home, 345 Wellington Street West in Chatham. The event was well reported by the media and presented as one of the great things happening in our community.

- The "Dr. Veronica Vaughan Most Accessible Business of the Year Award" was presented to Alexander & Houle Funeral Home at 345 Wellington Street West in Chatham. After fire destroyed their original building they worked to replace it with a fully accessible facility. Every detail of the planning and construction was made to allow people of any ability access to their facility and services. That, plus the staff's dedication to providing accessible customer service allow someone of any ability to be part of the service.
- The "Sheila Lindsey-Powers Accessibility Advocate Award" was presented to Melissa Fernandes - Visual Arts and Dance teacher at UCC Secondary School. Melisa was chosen for her work that brings out the creative talents in students of all abilities. Special recognition is given for organizing the "Rhythmic Souls Dancers" which is inclusive of students of all abilities.

The "Dr. Veronica Vaughan" and the "Sheila Lindsey-Powers" awards recipients names were added to the respective plaques which are on display in the atrium of the Civic Centre.

- At the Blenheim Seniors Fair on June 16th the committee set up a display table of our work.
- We continue to promote safe use of mobility scooters. The Personal Mobility Device User Safety Tips brochure that we developed and published continues to be distributed to users, retailers, care givers, therapists, police and anyone else who may find it useful. It was also included in C-K Council's meeting notes for them to best respond to a citizen's complaint.
- The Chatham Hospice hosted the committee to a tour of their new facility. They showcased the accessible features incorporated into the facility. These accessible features plus great accessible customer service allows people of any ability to spend valuable time with their loved ones.
- We've received complaints of bicycles on sidewalks creating a dangerous situation for pedestrians. In response we promoted an initiative to make the public aware of bicycle safety.
- Met with the Erieau Partnership Association to review their plans to develop and Inclusive Playground.

Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee Previous Years Achievements

- The Live Active Initiative coordinators attended our meeting to update the committee on their work. Together we reviewed accessibility features of trails, walkways, bike paths, parks etc.
- The C-K Transit conventional bus service provider brought one of the busses to our meeting location to showcase the accessible features of the buses.
- A presentation of the C-K Plan 2035 was made to the committee. We followed up with a submission suggesting changes that promote increased accessibility.
- Tom Curtin, Snow Angels Coordinator met with the committee to update us on the status of the program. The no fee service has volunteer's clear snow from sidewalks and porches of residents who are not able to do it themselves. It is a great service allowing people with limitations to get out of their homes.
- Members of the committee were hosted to a tour of the C-K Children's Treatment Centre. The centre staff showcased the accessible features of their facility. It is a well-planned, accessible facility.
- We met with Marsha Coyne, C-K Senior Planner to suggest accessible features for site plans. A check list of accessible features for site plans was developed for the Technical Advisory Committee to use when reviewing site plans.
- The Committee met with John Norton of C-K Legal Department to get an overview of good legal practices for our work. Observations and experiences of situations in the community were shared back and forth to assess legal responses.
- Continue working with the municipal staff Integrated Accessible Standards Committee (IASC) to assure that the municipality meets the requirements of the AODA Accessibility Standards.
- Have representation on the Chatham-Kent Workforce Planning Board to assure that jobs, education and training are considered for people of all abilities.
- Continue to partner with C-K Health Alliance Accessibility Committee. One of our committee members is also part of the Health Alliance committee and acts as a liaison between the two.
- The [Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee webpage](#) is maintained on the Chatham-Kent Portal to keep the community up to date on our activities and receive feedback.
- We maintain a C-K AAC Facebook site to keep the community informed of the committee's activities and monitor the needs of the community.
- The C-K Accessibility Report and C-K AAC Terms of Reference are updated annually for presentation to Council.

2015

- Committee continues to monitor sidewalk construction and repairs to assure smooth runs and saw cut joints are used.
- Collected nominations for recipients of the "Accessible Business of the Year Award" and "Accessibility Advocate Award", that are presented in February.
- In February, the Accessibility Awards were presented at the McLauchlin Wellness Clinic at 110 Talbot Street in Blenheim. The event was well reported by the media and presented as one of the great things happening in our community.
 - The "Dr. Veronica Vaughn Most Accessible Business of the Year Award" was presented to McLauchlin Wellness Clinic, 110 Talbot Street,

Blenheim. The clinic was chosen for its outstanding customer service and ongoing work to assure that anyone of any ability is able to receive treatment there. The recent addition of a new accessible entry with a ramp to the door and large treatment room at the back of the clinic has made them even more accessible.

- The “Sheila Lindsey-Powers Accessibility Advocate Award” was presented to Ralph Roels, Chair of the Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee. Ralph was chosen for his work to enable people of all abilities to get out into the community and live their lives.

The “Dr. Veronica Vaughn” and the “Sheila Lindsey-Powers” awards recipients’ names were added to the respective plaques which are on display in the atrium of the Chatham-Kent Civic Centre, 315 King Street West, Chatham.

- The AAC is working to have access to the dock at the Government Dock Boat Launch in Jeannette’s Creek changed, so people with limitations can board a boat.
- On April 15, five of the members of the Committee took part in the AODA 10th Anniversary Celebration and Forum hosted in Chatham – it was a great learning experience and networking opportunity.
- On June 19, the Committee had a display table at the Blenheim Senior’s Fair, which included the logo, award plaques, activities display board, feedback sheets, committee information brochure, award nomination forms, scooter safety brochures and door prizes – it attracted a lot of interest and informed the attendees about accessibility and the AAC.
- In response to sightings of many dangerous situations, a Personal Mobility Device User Safety Tips brochure was developed and published by the Committee and has been distributed to users, retailers, care givers, therapists, police and anyone else who may find it useful – all were thankful to have it as a tool to promote safe scooter/wheelchair use.
- The Committee suggested that Braille be placed on the Civic Centre lobby elevator buttons, and this would also avoid accidental activation of the fire button, which is just above the elevator floor selection buttons.
- To assist in procurement of Employment and Social Development Canada’s “Enabling Accessibility in Communities” grant, letters of support were submitted for the following projects:
 - New accessible washrooms/change rooms at Wallaceburg Sydenham Pool washroom/change room.
 - The construction of accessible soccer field canteen and washroom facilities on Courthouse Lane and Keil Drive, which was a joint project by Chatham-Kent Community Living and the Chatham Soccer Association.
 - New accessible entry to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority office.
- The plans for the washroom/change rooms at Sydenham Pool and the soccer field canteen and washroom facilities were both reviewed by the committee.
- The Committee is kept updated by C-K Transit about the accessible features of the tender award provider for the conventional and accessible transit service and

in order to preserve the efficiency and reduce cost of the accessible transit service; together we will try to reduce the “no show” problem.

- On June 15, a member of the AAC and the Age Friendly Committee participated as a panelist in the C-K Living Well, Aging Well, Living Active presentation to Council held in Council Chambers prior to the Council meeting – the event was broadcast live on Cogeco TV and was a great opportunity to let the community know about the work the Committee does to provide access for people of all abilities.
- Recommendations were made to place “no parking” signs and hash marks on Phyllis Avenue where the sidewalks meet the street at Jaycee Park – these solutions were suggested in response to complaints that people in wheelchairs, pushing buggies, pulling wagons or with mobility issues were unable to access the sidewalks from the street due to parked cars blocking them during ball games.
- The Chatham-Kent Hospice accessible features were outlined to the Committee along with proposed changes to increase accessibility, and a tour of the facility is in the works.
- Made recommendation at the St. Clair Tech and Trade Building to move the entry power door activator back, so the door doesn't open onto the user.
- Continue working with the municipal Integrated Accessible Standards Committee (IASC) to assure that the Municipality meets the requirements of the AODA Accessibility Standards.
- Representation on the Chatham-Kent Workforce Planning Board to assure that jobs, education and training are considered for people of all abilities.
- Committee has representatives on the Age Friendly Committee working with the Built Environment and Outdoor Spaces Sector to assure accessibility.
- Continue to partner with the C-K Health Alliance Accessibility Committee – one of our committee members is also part of the Health Alliance committee and acts as a liaison between the two.
- [Accessibility Advisory Committee webpage](#) is maintained on the [Chatham-Kent Portal](#) to keep the community up to date on activities and receive feedback.
- Committee maintains a [C-K AAC Facebook](#) site to keep the community informed of the committee activities and monitor the needs of the community.
- The C-K Accessibility Report and C-K AAC Terms of Reference are updated annually for presentation to Council.

2014

- Committee continues to monitor sidewalk construction and repairs to assure smooth runs and saw cut joints are used.
- Collected nominations for recipients of the. “Accessible Business of the Year Award” and “Accessibility Advocate Award” that are presented in February.
- In February, with the assistance of Acting Mayor, Councillor Marjorie Crew, the Accessibility Awards were presented at Target Canada Thames-Lea Store on Grand Avenue West in Chatham. The event was well reported by the media and presented as one of the great things happening in our community.

- **The “Dr. Veronica Vaughan Most Accessible Business of the Year Award”** was presented to two local businesses this year:
 - Heritage Dental, 363 Baldoon Road, Chatham, Dr. Bernardi. The Dental Clinic was chosen for the construction of its new building where anyone of any ability can easily get into the building and receive dental care.
 - Target Canada, Thames-Lea Store on Grand Avenue, was chosen for the general accessibility of its store and the service given to customers with limitations.
- **The “Sheila Lindsey-Powers Accessibility Advocate Award”** was presented to Michelle Schryer-Executive Director of the Chatham-Kent Sexual Assault Crisis Centre. Michelle was chosen for her dedication to assisting people not only in her job, but as a volunteer at numerous groups, in her personal life and anything that she does.
- The “Dr. Veronica Vaughan” and the “Sheila Lindsey-Powers” awards recipients names were added to the respective plaques, which are on display in the atrium of the Civic Centre 315 King St. West, Chatham.
- At the request of the Chatham-Kent Family Health Team, the Committee toured and provided accessibility assessments at the locations in Wallaceburg, Dresden, Ridgetown, Blenheim and Chatham.
- AAC assessed access to the dock at the Government Dock Boat Launch in Jeannette’s Creek. Changes were recommended that would enable people with limitations to access the dock and board a boat.
- The AAC was host to a presentation on behalf of Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) put on by Ann McKenzie and Tracey Sheppard called “Accessibility Includes Communication”. It outlined how to communicate with people who are nonverbal. The Committee recommended the presentation be presented to the Executive Management Team and the Municipal Learning and Organizational Development Department to use as part of their accessible customer training module.
- Reviewed how the accessibility standards put forth in the new Ontario Building Codes (OBC) mesh with the Chatham-Kent Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS).
- Assisted with organization of the Canadian Hearing Society Hearing Awareness Day held on the 15th of May.
- Reviewed the accessible voting methods offered by Chatham-Kent Elections for the October municipal election.
- On the 12th of May, the Committee Chair participated as a panelist at the C-K Health Forum held in Council Chambers before the Council Meeting. It was broadcast live on Cogeco TV and was a great opportunity to let the community know about the work the committee does to provide access for people of all abilities.
- To assure accessibility with the Chatham Cultural Centre’s planned renovations, the Committee toured the facility and submitted recommendations.
- The AAC is working with the C-K Police and C-K Transit to promote safe use of pedestrian mobility devices on sidewalks and streets.

Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee Previous Years Achievements

- Reviewed the Downtown Chatham Streetscape Proposal to assist with the goal of making the downtown as accessible as possible.
- Continue working with the municipal Integrated Accessible Standards Committee (IASC) to assure that the Municipality meets the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).
- The AAC has a representative on the Age Friendly Committee working with the Built Environment and Outdoor Spaces Sector to assure accessibility.
- Two AAC members have held positions on the Active Communities Committee working to make their projects accessible to people of all abilities.
- The AAC is represented on the Chatham-Kent Workforce Planning Board and ensures that people of all abilities are included in the plans of employers and educators.
- Continue to partner with C-K Health Alliance Accessibility Committee. One of our committee members is also part of the Health Alliance committee and acts as a liaison between the two.

2013

- The AAC continues to monitor sidewalk construction and repairs to assure smooth runs and saw cut joints are used.
- Collected nominations for recipients of the “Accessible Business of the Year Award” and “Accessibility Advocate Award” that are awarded in February.
- In February, with the assistance of Acting Mayor Councillor Bob Myers, the Accessibility Awards were presented at TJ Stables on Gregory Drive in Chatham. The event was well reported by the media and presented as one of the great things happening in our community.
 - The “Dr. Veronica Vaughn Most Accessible Business of the Year Award” was presented to the Chatham Minor Baseball Association, Rotary Park for the work they have done to construct new accessible bleachers, dugouts and ball diamond which allows people of varying abilities to watch and play the game of baseball. They also host a “Challenger” baseball league allowing people with limitations to play ball. Jason Chickowski, President of the Association received the award on its behalf.
 - The “Sheila Lindsey-Powers Accessibility Advocate Award” was presented to Terry Jenkins of TJ Stables on Gregory Drive in Chatham. Terry was chosen to receive the award for promoting horse riding for people of any ability and the “Acceptional Rider Program” she hosts at TJ Stables.

The “Dr. Veronica Vaughn” and the “Sheila Lindsey-Powers” awards recipients names will be added to the respective plaques, which are on display in the atrium of the Civic Centre.

- The AAC assessed and gave recommendations on a request to council for creation of physically-challenged parking spaces in Ridgetown, in Blenheim at a doctor’s office and medical centre and a church in Erieau. These spaces would

allow closer access to the building for people with physical challenges. After reviewing the sites, approval was recommended for the Blenheim and Ridgetown requests. The Erieau request, however, proposed a gravel base and would not be suitable for use by people with mobility issues.

- The AAC was hosted to a tour of the Employment Resource Centres in Chatham at the Federal Building and in Wallaceburg at the Municipal Centre to provide an accessibility assessment of each location.
- Director/Chief Building Official, Municipality of Chatham-Kent attended our meeting to update the committee about the new building codes coming into effect for 2014.
- AAC reviewed the display boards from the public input meetings for the Transit Contract proposal for 2014. The presentation included Conventional, Inter-Urban, and Accessible Transit. The engineering technologist from the Engineering and Transportation Division, of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent made the presentation and highlighted the accessible features included in the proposal.
- Kelly Johnston, Manager of the Eden Villa Retirement Home hosted the Committee to a tour of the facility and provided the venue for one of our regular meetings. Kelly showcased what they have done to ensure accessibility with renovations in the old part of the building and in construction of the new addition.
- A special meeting was held for the Committee to introduce themselves to the new Manager of Infrastructure and Engineering, Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The mandate of the AAC, its accomplishments over the years and what hopes to achieve going forward was shared. A list of talking points led us in sharing ideas back and forth to maximize accessibility in Chatham-Kent.
- To assist in attracting people to choose Chatham-Kent as their home, we are working with Chatham-Kent Citizen Attraction and Retention to identify unique selling points of accessible work and life for people of all abilities in Chatham-Kent.
- Assessed the ramp from the parking lot to the sidewalk at a local private business. A recommendation was made to the owner to mark the ramp with hash marks and place a no parking sign in front of the ramp on the building. This would deter parking in front of the ramp, leaving it open for use by people who need it to get up to the sidewalk.
- Committee assessed the Mitchell's Bay pavilion for accessibility. Recommended ramping from the gravel based parking area to a newly constructed sidewalk.
- Conducted a requested accessibility assessment of the new walking path at Legion Villa Retirement Home in Blenheim.
- Committee is working with Licencing Services of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent on Tax Licences to assure service complies with the upcoming AODA Transportation Accessibility Standard.
- Continue working with the newly formed municipal staff Integrated Accessible Standards Committee (IASC) to assure that the Municipality meets the requirements of the AODA Accessibility Standards.
- We have two of our members with positions on the Active Communities Committee working to make their projects accessible to people of all abilities.
- Committee representation on the Chatham-Kent Workforce Planning Board. We look to assure that people of all abilities are included in the plans of employers and educators.

Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee Previous Years Achievements

- Continue to partner with the C-K Health Alliance Accessibility Committee. One of the AAC members is also part of the Health Alliance committee and acts as a liaison between the two.
- Webpage on the Chatham-Kent Portal to keep the community up-to-date on our activities and receive feedback. The committee webpage can be accessed at [Chatham-Kent Accessibility Website](#).
- C-K AAC Facebook website to keep community informed of committee activities and monitor the needs of the community.
- The C-K Accessibility Report and C-K AAC Terms of Reference are updated annually for presentation to Council.

2012

- Continue to monitor sidewalk construction and repairs to assure smooth runs and saw cut joints are used.
- Collected nominations for recipients of the "Accessible Business of the Year Awards" and "Accessibility Advocate Award" that are awarded in February. In February, with the assistance of Mayor Hope the awards were presented at the new Chatham YMCA on Courthouse Lane. The event was well reported by the media and presented as one of the great things happening in our community.
 - The "Dr. Veronica Vaughan Most Accessible Business of the Year Award" was presented to Chatham YMCA, 101 Courthouse Lane, Chatham; Galaxy Cinemas, 706 St. Clair Street N., Chatham; ONroute Service Centres, Tilbury (401 Highway)
 - The "Sheila Lindsey-Powers Accessibility Advocate Award" was presented to Claudette Meriano

The "Dr. Veronica Vaughan" and the "Sheila Lindsey-Powers" awards recipients names will be added to the respective plaques which are on display in the atrium of the Civic Centre.

- A tour and accessibility assessment was conducted at the C-K Community Health Centre on Richmond Street. Recommendations were submitted, that could be done to increase accessibility at that facility.
- Reviewed the prints detailing planned renovations to the municipal Senior Centre in Wallaceburg. Recommendations were then made that would make the facility more accessible.
- Members of the committee visited the Dog Park, on Water Street in Chatham to assess the changes done to increase accessibility there. The changes will make it easier for people of varying abilities to use the Dog Park.
- Conducted an assessment in response to concerns about the lack of accessible customer service at the Capitol Theatre. The assessment determined that many of the staff and volunteers had not received the Chatham-Kent Accessible Customer Service Training. As a result they were all promptly given the required training.
- Social Housing hosted our committee to a tour of their newly completed Riverview Terrace on Tecumseh Street in Chatham. They showcased the facility and the accessible features incorporated into its construction.

Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee Previous Years Achievements

- The newly constructed John D. Bradley Centre hosted the committee to a tour of their facility to conduct an accessibility assessment.
- By request of the Active Communities Committee a tour of the O'Neil Nature Reserve (Paxton's Bush) was conducted to assure accessibility of the entry and trails. Planned changes and additions to the entries and trails were also reviewed to assure that people of any ability can enjoy some recreation on the nature trails.
- The planned Chatham Rotary Park Baseball practice facility prints were reviewed. Some changes were recommended to better accommodate users of varying abilities. Submitted letter of recommendation for the group to obtain funding through the Enabling Accessibility Grant.
- The Blenheim Legion Villa Board of Directors requested we tour and do an accessibility assessment of their facility.
- The Downtown Tilbury Revitalization proposal was reviewed by our committee and recommendations were made to increase accessibility on the downtown streets.
- Committee members met to assess the accessibility of the new dock and boat launch at Thames Grove Conservation Area.
- Gave support by letter and petition at council for the new sidewalk funding bylaw, which fully funds the construction of sidewalks by the municipality rather than shared by the adjoining property owners. The new funding model gives council the power to expedite the elimination of barriers encountered by people requiring sidewalks to access our community.
- Submitted a letter of support for the Kingston Park Revitalization Project to be the recipient of the Parks and Recreation Ontario's Design Excellence Award.
- In preparation for the AODA Transportation Standard we are working with the Chatham-Kent Taxi Licensing department to assure our service complies with the upcoming standard.
- Working with the newly formed municipal staff Integrated Accessibility Standards Committee (IASC) to assure that the municipality meets the requirements of the AODA Accessibility Standards.
- Two committee members have positions on the Active Communities Committee to assist in making their projects accessible to people of all abilities.
- We have representation on the Workforce Planning Board to ensure that people with limitations are included in the plans of employers and educators.
- Webpage on the Chatham-Kent Portal to keep the community up to date on our activities and receive feedback from the community. The committee webpage can be accessed at [Chatham-Kent Accessibility Website](#).
- New Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee Face Book site also keeps the community informed of our activities and monitor the needs of the community.
- Newsletter is published twice a year which highlights some of our work and activities.
- Continues to partner with C-K Health Alliance Accessibility Committee. One of our members is a part of their committee and acts as a liaison between the two.
- The C-K Accessibility Report and C-K AAC Terms of Reference are updated yearly for presentation to council.

2011

- Conducted an Accessibility Assessment of the St. James Anglican Church and the Senior Centre in Wallaceburg.
- Assisted with the creation of a Municipal Special Events Barrier Free Checklist.
- Conducted an Accessibility Assessment on the United Way offices on McNaughton Avenue and the Health and Family Services offices at 435 Grand Avenue West, Chatham.
- Were successful to get curb cut, ramp and sidewalk installed to the picnic area/soccer field at 435 Grand Avenue location.
- Committee continues to monitor sidewalk construction and repairs to assure smooth runs and saw cut joints are used.
- Worked with municipal election staff to ensure that people of all abilities were able to vote independently in the municipal election.
- Collected nominations for recipients of our "Accessible Business of the Year Awards" that are given out in February.
- In honour of two of our departed members who stood out as being strong advocates for accessibility in our community, we have changed the names of two of the awards we present.

- The "Most Accessible Business of the Year Award" is now called "The Dr. Veronica Vaughn Most Accessible Business Award" and,
- The "Special Service Award" is now called "The Sheila Lindsey-Powers Accessibility Advocate Award".

In February we conducted award presentations at the new Holiday Inn Express on Richmond Street.

- The "Dr. Veronica Vaughn Most Accessible Business Award" was presented to Holiday Inn Express.
- The "Sheila Lindsey-Powers Accessibility Advocate Award" was presented to Mickey Puddicomb.

Plaques have been created for each of the Dr. Veronica Vaughn and Sheila Lindsey-Powers awards. The plaques are displayed in the atrium of the Civic Centre. Each year the names of the award recipients will be added to the respective plaques.

- The Mitchell's Bay Park Pavilion was also nominated as a recipient of an accessible facility award. This park is on municipal property and falls under the inventory of Chatham Parks Manager, Deb Veccia. The committee worked with Deb this past year on the Kingston Park reconstruction, Rotary Park ball diamond/bleachers and Thames Grove Conservation Area boat ramp/dock the award was named the "Dedication to Accessibility Award". Deb was presented the award at a Chatham-Kent Council Meeting.
- Conducted an onsite Accessibility Assessment of the Dog Park, on Water Street in Chatham. Recommendations were given for changes that would allow people using mobility devices or with limited strength easier entry to the park.
- Recommended to the Capitol Theatre that barring any better access to the stage a railing be installed on the present stairway to the stage.

Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee Previous Years Achievements

- This past September we were hosted to a tour of the new YMCA facility and had our meeting at their location.
- In response to a concern, 3 of our members conducted an onsite assessment of the sidewalk condition and any possible sidewalk needs at the St. Clair Street North business area.
- For the Rick Hansen “Many in Motion” celebration we partnered with the Rick Hansen Committee submitting a request to Council for extended hours of the Accessible Transit Service on the night of the celebration. Council very generously granted the extension of service.
- Committee worked with the Rick Hansen celebration committee and C-K Special Events Coordinator to plan and put on the celebration.
- We have two of our members actively involved with Active Communities Committee to assist in making their projects accessible to people of all abilities.
- We have representation on the Workforce Planning Board. We look to ensure that people with limitations are included in the plans of employers and educators.
- [AAC webpage](#) on the Chatham-Kent Portal to keep the community up to date on our activities and receive feedback from the community.
- Also keep the community informed of the AAC activities and monitor the needs of the community by maintaining a Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee, Face Book site.
- Newsletters highlighting some of the committees work and activities are published twice a year.
- Accessible Customer Service training session was held for the Housing Services Division. The afternoon included training about how to recognize various limitations, what people with these limitations needs may be and how to best assist them. A segment to the program had the trainees participate in simulations of vision impairments, wheelchair use, mental impairments and tactile difficulties to better empathize with the difficulties a person with these limitations encounters.
- Our committee continues to partner with C-K Health Alliance Accessibility Committee.
- Yearly update of the Accessibility Report and C-K AAC Terms of Reference for presentation to Council.

2010

- Seeking opportunities for public exposure of our newly created logo.
- Reviewed Accessible Customer Service course module required for the municipal employee’s training.
- Completed the Accessible Customer Service Training using the Municipal Accessible Customer Service course module.
- Presented certificates of appreciation to the “Ackion Club” and “Making it Happen” groups for their assistance at the Education Fair held in June.
- Committee continues to monitor sidewalk construction and repairs to ensure smooth runs and saw cut joints are used.
- Nominations for recipients of the “Accessible Business of the Year Awards” were presented in February 2010 to:
 - Home Building Centre on Keil Drive, Chatham
 - Sydenham Community Curling Club, Wallaceburg

Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee Previous Years Achievements

- The “Accessible Service Award” (new this year) was presented to Kentucky Fried Chicken on Queen Street in Chatham, for their dedication and generous donation of time and dollars to the ‘Snow Angels Program’.
- The “Special Appreciation Award” (new award this year) for a citizen who works to assist people with limitations was presented to Bev Perrin for her work coordinating the Snow Angels program.
- Committee made accessibility assessments/recommendations for the following projects:
 - The United Way office on McNaughton Avenue, Chatham
 - Construction of the new ball diamond and bleachers at Rotary Park, Chatham
 - Civic Centre patio proposed usage
 - Civic Centre facility
 - Forsyth St., Chatham reconstruction
 - Chatham Capitol Theatre sidewalks
 - Renovations to Council Chambers, Civic Centre
 - New boat dock/launch at Thames Grove Conservation area, Chatham
- Chatham-Kent Human Resources attended a meeting to discuss their policies towards accessible employment and “fragrance free zones” within municipal offices.
- Committee was chosen by Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) to have our committee featured in a video for the MCSS ‘Access ON’ website. The video was taped at the Home Building Centre on Keil Drive who was one of the recipients of the “Accessible Business of the Year Award”. The video featured some of our committee members receiving a tour of the Home Building facility and highlighting the accessible features of their business.
- Two committee members are participants on the Active Communities Committee to provide assistance in creating projects accessible to people of all abilities.
- AAC web page on the Chatham-Kent website keeps the community up-to-date on AAC activities and to receive feedback from the community.
- AAC newsletter is updated twice a year highlighting some of our work and activities and is posted on the web page.
- Worked with the elections department to test the new Accessible BMD (Ballot Marking Device) which allows people with vision or dexterity problems to vote independently.
- Our 3rd annual Educational Fair at the Kinsmen Auditorium was held June 1st. This event featured over 30 exhibitors consisting of agencies and businesses who provide assistance to people with limitations and simulations of vision loss and wheelchair use.
- An Accessible Customer Service training session for the “Women’s Crisis Centre” was held in June. A number of other crisis agencies also participated in this training session. The afternoon included training on how to recognize various limitations, what people with these limitations require and how to best assist them. A segment to the program had the trainees participate in simulations of vision impairments, wheelchair use, mental impairments and tactile difficulties to better empathize with the difficulties a person with these limitations encounters.
- Working with the “Workforce Planning Board” to assure that the employment needs of people with limitations are considered.

Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee Previous Years Achievements

- Committee continues to partner with Chatham-Kent Health Alliance Accessibility Committee.
- Presented to Council the 2010-2011 Accessibility Report for Chatham-Kent and the Terms of Reference.

2009

- Presented to Council the 2009-2010 Accessibility Report and Terms of Reference.
- Representation on the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance Accessibility Committee.
- Maintained committee representation on the Chatham-Kent Active Communities Committee, to assure all projects are accessible to all citizens of all abilities.
- Reviewed plans for and completed an accessibility assessment for the renovations to the Gable Rees Rotary Pool.
- February 2009 – Presented the ‘Most Accessible Business of the Year Award’ to three businesses in Chatham-Kent. ‘Motion Specialties’ was one recipient for the accessibility of their facility and the dedication to customer service for people of all abilities. ‘Golden Acres Curling Club of Blenheim’ and ‘Wendy’s’ restaurant on St. Clair Street in Chatham were also presented the award for constructing new accessible facilities after fire destroyed their old buildings.
- Completed an accessibility assessment for the construction of an accessible boat launch and dock at Thames Grove Conservation Area in Chatham.
- Held an Accessibility Education Fair in June of 2009 at the Kinsmen Auditorium. This event was far bigger than the previous one with 34 assistive agencies displaying their services and three interactive activities for people to experience life with certain limitations. The event was well attended by the public and four grade 5/6 classes attended the event as part of their curriculum.
- Developed Parking Awareness Warning Tickets with the assistance of Chatham-Kent Police Services. The tickets were developed to remind citizens not to park in signed designated handicap parking spots unless they had a permit to do so.
- Reviewed plans and submitted comments for a new ball park at Rotary Park, Chatham.
- Reviewed plans and submitted comments for renovation of the Council Chambers in the Civic Centre to increase accessibility.
- Monitored and assessed sidewalk construction in various locations to assure they were constructed with saw-cut joints.
- Reviewed and provided comments on the training modular that municipal staff will receive in accordance with the Accessible Customer Service Standard which is to be implemented before January 1, 2010.
- Committee members were invited to meet with the Honourable David C. Onley, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario during his visit to Chatham on October 21, 2009.
- Development of a logo to represent and brand the Committee that will be used on various committee brochures and newsletters.
- Updated the newsletter in the spring and fall which was posted to the web page to keep the public updated of activities.
- Reviewed the proposed plans for a new facility for the Golden Eagles Gymnastics Club in Blenheim.
- Continued to educate the public that there are people of all abilities living in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

2008

- Continued to partner with the C-K Health Alliance accessibility team to assist with their “Way Finding” project.
- The committee is represented on the "Active Communities" committee to ensure that projects are accessible to all citizens.
- In partnership with Chief Building Officer, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, the Chatham-Kent Facility Accessibility Design Standards for municipally owned/leased properties was brought forward and approved by Council in October 2008.
- Held a Summer Kickoff Education Fair at St. Andrew’s Church Hall. This event showcased to the public the services available to people with limitations.
- Spread the word that “all people of all abilities” are out and about in Chatham-Kent living their lives.
- Presented to Council the 2008-2009 Accessibility Report for Chatham-Kent and the Terms of Reference.
- Created and published our own AAC brochure showcasing our committee.
- Worked with Public Works to develop a sidewalk obstruction bylaw.
- Partnered with Infrastructure and Engineering Services to create a new policy for sidewalk construction methods. The new method creates a smoother run and includes using saw-cuts rather than tooled joints.
- Awarded “Most Accessible Business of the Year” to Master Cuts and Parks Blueberries. An honorable mention went to Swiss Chalet.
- Committee has begun working on the development of a Snow Angel Program.
- Committee information is available to the public through our web pages on the Chatham-Kent portal.
- Seized numerous opportunities to access media coverage of our activities.

2007

- Continued to partner with the C-K Health Alliance accessibility team.
- Assisted to fill the void of a therapeutic pool in Chatham-Kent. The Committee Liaison with the Prism Centre to make their facility available to citizens in need of such treatment.
- Performed an accessibility assessment of the Wheatley Arena.
- Explored the issue of transporting a mobility-challenged person when their accessible vehicle breaks down.
- Consulted on the installation of an adult change table at Kinsmen Auditorium.
- Some committee members attended the Essex County AAC accessibility workshop held in Essex.
- In partnership with Chief Building Officer, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, the Chatham-Kent Facility Accessibility Design Standards for municipal properties is in process. The report will be brought forward to Council in early 2008.
- Presented to Council the updated 2007-2008 Accessibility Report for Chatham-Kent and revised Terms of Reference.
- Presented the Tim Hortons, Lacroix Street, Chatham location, “Most Accessible Dining Establishment of the Year Award” in recognition of the wonderful job they did in constructing the new facility. Mayor Randy Hope assisted with the

presentation. The event drew extensive media coverage spreading the message that people of all abilities are in the public living their lives.

- The Capital Theatre project hosted the committee to tour and to showcase the progress and to share ideas pertaining to accessibility at the Theatre.
- Worked with the Traffic Department to address a petition submitted requesting more accessible parking in specific areas of Chatham, resulting in Council approving a fully-accessible parking space at the front door of the Civic Centre.
- Held a Summer Kickoff wheelchair recreation event at the Wheels Inn. This event placed media personalities, Mayor Hope, C-K staff members, C-K Council members, along with various other local dignitaries in wheelchairs while going to and participating in various recreation activities. The event drew full media coverage and achieved the goal of educating participants and the public of the needs of those who require the use of wheelchairs.
- Partnered with the Rondeau Bay Watershed Coalition to procure Council funding for construction of an accessible boardwalk to the beach at Laverne Kelly Park in Erieau.
- Worked with the planning committee for the conversion of part of the WISH Centre to a Health Centre to assure full accessibility to all people of all abilities.
- Assessed accessibility and helped ensure access for people of all abilities to the new entry and lobby at the Gable Rees Rotary Pool.
- In a response to a request from the caregiver of a child who uses a wheelchair; the Municipality installed curb cuts and crosswalks adjacent to the daycare at the corner of McNaughton and Reaume Streets in Wallaceburg.
- Completed an accessibility assessment of the Chatham-Kent Council Chambers and offered suggestions that would allow all citizens access to attend meetings.
- Committee information is available to the public through our web pages on the Chatham-Kent portal.
- Presented to Council the 2007-2008 Accessibility Report for Chatham-Kent and the Terms of Reference.
- As a networking and educational tool, at our meetings, the Committee has hosted numerous speakers such as, Mayor Hope, representatives from other Accessibility Advisory Committees, representatives from some of the various support agencies in Chatham-Kent, representatives of municipal departments and key staff.

2006

- Working with Chatham-Kent Housing to ensure accessibility and participating in the Social Housing Needs Task Force.
- Advising on accessibility during construction of the Municipality's new Riverview Gardens long-term care facility and were hosted to a preview tour on completion before the clients were moved in.
- Recommending repair of existing initiatives as encountered.
- Hosting Ken Tremblay, CEO of Chatham-Kent Health Alliance at one of the AAC meetings to meet with the Committee and to share ideas of accessibility at the Chatham facility. The Committee in turn participated at one of the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance's Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings. The result is a commitment to a continued partnership of accessibility ideas between the two committees.

Chatham-Kent Accessibility Advisory Committee Previous Years Achievements

- Working with the Engineering and Traffic Division to review the proposal of adding accessible mini-vans to the Handi-Transit fleet and adjusting the eligibility criteria for riders of the Handi-Bus.
- Holding one of our meetings in a meeting room at the Civic Centre. While there, we took the opportunity to assess some of the parking facilities, entry areas and washrooms, then relayed some resulting recommendations for increased accessibility at that location.
- Awarding “Accessible Business of the Year” to The Laura Secord Store, Downtown Chatham Centre with a certificate presentation including media coverage of the event.
- Touring of the Chatham Library, Chatham-Kent Museum and Thames Art Gallery and offering suggestions for improvements that would make these facilities more accessible.
- Being hosted to a tour of the new Real Canadian Superstore on St. Clair Street. Following the tour, the AAC made recommendations to improve accessibility in the store and at the Walk-in Clinic on the second level.
- Working with the Chatham-Kent Police Department to circulate media releases announcing Chatham-Kent Council’s decision to raise disabled parking violation ticket fees from \$75 to \$300.
- Partnering with Municipal Properties to source and install a DC Bench fold-up adult change table in a washroom at the Kinsmen Auditorium. Ontario Works generously funded the purchase of the unit. A Chatham-Kent Health Alliance representative recognized the usefulness of this unit while attending the AAC meeting and took the initiative to source one for their Chatham facility.
- Working together with Chatham-Kent Tourism to develop a method of giving recognition to dining facilities listed in the Entertainment Guide who meet certain accessibility requirements.
- Performing an Accessibility Assessment at the Wheatley Area Arena. The report generated was a contributing factor towards installation of automatic doors at all 10 Chatham-Kent arenas.
- Hosting a “Day of Fellowship & Education” at the Chatham Cultural Centre. This included a tour of the Thames Art Gallery followed by a craft demonstration by committee members and invited guests in which they all wore goggles that distorted their vision. This gave participants an idea as to the difficulties that can be encountered with vision loss.
- Updating the annual municipal Accessibility Report and Terms of Reference which were presented to Council in May, 2006. In order to update the Accessibility Report all municipal departments are contacted and requested to submit their accessibility achievements of the past year along with their initiatives for the coming year.
- Constantly monitoring access to municipal properties and services by all citizens.
- Presented to Council the 2006-2007 Accessibility Report for Chatham-Kent and the Terms of Reference.
- Working with private businesses, the public at large and the media to create awareness of the AAC and their initiatives. The goal is to inform all citizens of Chatham-Kent about potential barriers and the methods of eliminating them.
- The addition of a link on the Chatham-Kent website to the newly developed AAC site. The site highlights some of the special events that have taken place over the

past year as well as a feedback form that can be completed. The site will be updated two or three times per year.

2005

- Working with Public Works and Traffic Departments to change disabled parking spaces standards to accommodate the wider side-loading wheelchair lift vans.
- Holding a public demonstration with media coverage of the loading and unloading process of wheelchair access vehicles to provide awareness to municipal departments and the public of difficulties encountered.
- Advising towards accessibility during construction of the Municipality's new long-term care facility.
- Recommending repair of existing initiatives as encountered.
- Provided accessibility suggestions during renovations at the Tilbury Library.
- Working with CK Health Alliance to assure accessibility at the hospital.
- Working with Traffic Department to extend criteria for riders in new tender for Handi-Bus.
- Awarding "Accessible Business of the Year" to a large retail merchandiser, restaurant and a smaller retail store highlighted with presentation of certificates and media coverage.
- Touring one of the recipients of "Accessible Business of the year" facility with media coverage of the event.
- Working with Council to raise parking ticket fee for Disabled Parking spaces from \$75 to \$300.
- Hosting an "Accessible Parking Awareness Day" including public demonstration of loading wheelchairs, radio interview, media coverage and Police coverage attended by the public, municipal departments and the Committee
- Constantly monitoring Municipal access to properties and services as well as working to make private businesses and the public at large aware of potential barriers.