



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Accessibility Advisory Committee Agenda

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

1:00 PM

**Regional Headquarters Building
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby**

Please note: In an effort to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to generally comply with the directions from the Government of Ontario, it is requested in the strongest terms that Members participate in the meeting electronically. Regional Headquarters is closed to the public, all members of the public may [view the Committee meeting](#) via live streaming, instead of attending the meeting in person. If you wish to register as a delegate regarding an agenda item, you may register in advance of the meeting by noon on the day prior to the meeting by emailing delegations@durham.ca and will be provided with the details to delegate electronically.

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
- 4. Adoption of Minutes**
 - A) Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on November 23, 2021 (Attachment #1)
 - B) Minutes of the Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory Committees held on November 23, 2021 (Attachment #2)
- 5. Presentations**
 - A) Judy Christianson, Program Coordinator, re: Accessibility Widget Pilot
 - B) Mitch Mcfarlane, Museum Team Leader, Ontario Regiment Museum, re: Accessible Tank Ride Project

- C) Mohammad Saifan, Keegan Dsouza, Henik Patel and Ugesh Chitram, Ontario Tech University Students, re: Accessible Tank Ride Project

6. Discussion Items

- A) 2022 Accessibility Advisory Committee Workplan – for Review and Approval (Attachment #3)

7. Correspondence

There are no items of correspondence

8. Information items

- A) Education Sub-Committee Update
- B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)
- C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

9. Reports for Information

There are no reports to consider

10. Other Business

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 1:00 PM.

12. Adjournment

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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at Regional Headquarters, Council Chambers, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:02 PM. Electronic participation was permitted at this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: D. Campbell, Whitby, Vice-Chair
A. Beach, Oshawa
H. Hall, Participation House, attended the meeting at 1:08 PM
D. Hume-McKenna, DMHS
Councillor R. Mulcahy
R. Purnwasie, Ajax
M. Roche, Oshawa
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: C. Boose, Chair
S. Sones, Whitby

Staff

Present: J. Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit
S. Austin, Director of Corporate Policy and Strategic Initiatives
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Labriola, Eligibility Coordinator, Transit Specialized Services, Durham Region Transit
C. Norris, Deputy General Manager, Transit Operations, Durham Region Transit
J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by M. Roche, Seconded by A. Beach,
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on September 28, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Jamie Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services re: Whitby Autonomous Electric Vehicle

Jamie Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, provided a presentation with regards to the Whitby Autonomous Electric Vehicle Electric shuttle (WAVE).

J. Austin advised that some committee members were provided with an overview of the vehicle and its accessibility features ahead of the launch. He advised that a media day was also held to provide the media with a sneak peek and service was launched on November 8, 2021 with approximately 80 passengers in the first week.

J. Austin provided a video that highlighted some of the key aspects of the Whitby Autonomous Vehicle Electric shuttle (WAVE) pilot.

J. Austin responded to questions with regards to the WAVE being the first in Canada; the kind of feedback DRT has received; and whether DRT has developed a smooth braking operation.

B) Christopher Norris, Deputy General Manager, Transit Operations re: On-Demand Service

Christopher Norris, Deputy General Manager, Transit Operations provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to the transition to an amalgamated demand responsive service.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Transition to an Amalgamated Demand Responsive Service
- Demand Responsive Transit Study
- Findings
 - service delivery and operations
 - culture and collaboration
 - technology and analytics
 - external communications and education
 - strategy and key partnerships
- Recommendations

C. Norris advised that DRT initiated a demand response study in early fall of 2021. He advised that the objective of the study was to help DRT with the following:

- ensure compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements specific to Specialized Services;
- reorder demand responsive services (On Demand and Specialized Services) as required to be client centric and outcome focused;

- ensure the equity of access of Specialized Transit is comparable to scheduled and On Demand service models;
- recalibrate the roles and responsibilities of parties throughout the transit system;
- identify opportunities for efficiencies and values; and
- ensure the service model aligns with the strategic priorities of the Region and Durham Region Transit.

C. Norris provided an overview of the findings with regards to service and operations; culture and collaboration; technology and analytics; external communications and education; strategy and key partnerships. He advised that with regards to specialized services processes and practices and AODA considerations, the study confirmed that the following practices comply with the AODA:

- application of AODA criteria for unconditional, conditional and temporary eligibility;
- origin to destination services using integrated services approach;
- mandatory requirement for a customer to provide and travel with an attendant when the customer is unable to use the service independently; and
- current booking practice requiring pre-booking of trips.

C. Norris also provided an overview of the following recommendations of the study:

- further integrate specialized services and on demand services in compliance with AODA;
- examine existing workforce communication channels and tools for effectiveness, invest in cross-training, and implement new feedback mechanisms to drive ongoing dialogue and improvements;
- consider and plan for investments in technologies that enable customer relations management, workforce management, and analytics;
- engage stakeholders to access to proposed future state model and design for Demand Responsive transit and allow time to implement educational initiatives; and
- establish a “One DRT” strategy.

C. Norris responded to questions with regards to specific examples of the objectives provided and how this will improve things for customers; whether the study parallels other transit systems; the importance of understanding that transportation is an issue for those with non-visible disabilities; and the process involved when booking on demand and specialized service.

C) Andrea Labriola, Eligibility Coordinator, Transit Specialized Services,
Durham Region Transit re: Specialized Services Application Process

Andrea Labriola, Eligibility Coordinator, Transit Specialized Services provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to the Specialized Services Application Process.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Specialized Transit Eligibility Review and Appeal Process
- Eligibility Review
- Eligibility Outcomes
- Eligibility Appeals
- Appeal Process
- Role of the Appeal Panel
- Composition of Eligibility Appeal Panel
- Appeal Panel Decisions

A. Labriola stated that the eligibility review is required for customers registered prior to January 2015. She advised that the purpose of the eligibility review is to determine the best way to provide mobility to customers and the review is based on current abilities in accordance with the AODA requirements. She provided an overview of the following eligibility outcomes: unconditional eligibility; conditional eligibility; and temporary eligibility.

A. Labriola also provided an overview of the Appeal Process and stated that an appeal must be initiated by the customer or representative within 30 days of the eligibility decision. She reviewed the process involved with regards to the completion process of the appeal form.

A. Labriola also stated that the role of the Appeal Panel is to deliver an objective, consensus-based decision on eligibility through a review of the applicant's specialized services application; supporting documentation and assessments; results of any functional assessment; appeal materials; and appeal interview. She advised that the appeal panel has final authority on all DRT decisions. She further advised that decisions are based on the applicant's ability to use conventional transit and appeals based solely on compassionate grounds are not considered.

A. Labriola provided answers to questions previously asked by the committee with regards to: the number of customers that had to reapply for the eligibility review; the number of customers that were reclassified to integrated service; whether extra time is granted to have forms completed due to lack of appointments; the number of customers that did not submit documentation and were made ineligible; the number of customers that were told that they cannot access specialized services after going through the appeal process; the purpose of the appeal hearing; and barriers to the appeal process.

A. Labriola responded to questions with regards to how many of the 90% of people who did qualify to be on the list for specialized services were approved to be on the service with an attendant as well as without an attendant; whether there is a transition period for customers who no longer qualify to use specialized service to help them adjust to using conventional transit.

Moved by H. Hall, Seconded by A. Beach,
That the Committee recess.
CARRIED

The committee recessed at 2:23 PM and reconvened at 2:30 PM.

Following the recess, the Committee Clerk conducted a roll call and all members of the Committee were present except C. Boose and S. Sones.

5. Discussion Items

There were no items of discussion.

6. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

7. Information Items

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

J. Traer advised she's looking into having a presentation at the January meeting on the accessibility of tank rides at the Ontario Regiment in Oshawa. She advised that she's also looking into having more presentations with regards to cognitive disabilities.

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

H. Hall advised that DRT has added more conventional buses on high priority ride times.

M. Roche advised that he is hoping to get an answer at the next TAC meeting with regards to the appeal process and the 210 people who did not submit applications for eligibility of specialized services.

C) Accessibility Coordinator Update

The following update was provided:

- C. Boose is on a temporary personal leave
- L. Schisler is no longer with Community Care Durham and another representative will be appointed.

- S. Austin provided an update on the reopening of Regional headquarters. She advised that they are looking at having staff return in a gradual and hybrid approach to the office in January 2022. She advised that committee members attending meetings would have to comply with the Region's visitor policy and provide a covid screening prior to attending.
- J. Traer advised that she is currently working with Department representatives to complete the Compliance Report to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility. She advised that the Report has to be submitted before December 31, 2021.
- J. Traer advised that she is working with the Works Department with regards to the design standards for the Region. She advised that they are looking at improving the signage at Regional headquarters as well as all buildings owned and operated by the Region.
- J. Traer advised that the site plan subcommittee met with Works Department staff to review site plans for the outdoor play spaces of four regionally operated childcare centres. She advised that the play spaces are being redesigned and will be incorporating natural materials instead of standard playground equipment.
- J. Traer advised that accessible Electric Vehicle Charging Stations have been installed at the west entrance of the accessible parking area at Regional Headquarters. She also advised that the electric vehicle charging station policy will be updated to include specific language on the use of this space.
- The Joint Accessibility Advisory Forum is scheduled for November 23, 2021 from 5 to 6:30 PM and will be held virtually. The Honourable David C. Onley has been scheduled to speak at the Forum. A representative from the Robert McLaughlin Art Gallery will also provide a presentation with regards to a current exhibit that highlights accessibility.

8. Reports for Information

There were no reports to consider.

9. Other Business

There were no items of other business.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 1 PM.

11. Adjournment

Moved by A. Beach, Seconded by M. Roche,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 PM

D. Campbell, Vice-Chair
Accessibility Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to
Council

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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

JOINT FORUM OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

A Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at Regional Headquarters, Council Chambers, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 5:10 PM. Electronic participation was permitted at this meeting.

Present: Region of Durham AAC
Dawn Campbell, Whitby, Vice-Chair
Aly Beach, Oshawa
Heather Hall, Participation House
Doreen Hume-McKenna, DMHS
Councillor Rhonda Mulcahy
Rosanne Purnwasie, Ajax
Michael Roche, Oshawa
Sandra Austin, Director, Strategic Initiatives
Janet Traer, Accessibility Coordinator
Nela Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council
Kaitlin Smith, Committee Clerk

Town of Ajax AAC
Councillor Lisa Bower
Kathreen Smith
Heather Steeves
Barb Dowds
Kailey Danks
Ray Smith
Sarah Moore, Accessibility Coordinator

Township of Brock
Councillor Campbell
Jolene Munro
Jodi Foreman
Maralee Drake, Accessibility Coordinator

Municipality of Clarington
Councillor Janice Jones
Shea-Lea Latchford

City of Oshawa AAC
Julia McCrea
Dot McFarlane
Vonnie Parks
Lisa Knowlton
Tanya Jewel
Steven Moenster

Olga Leyenson
Lynda Lawson, Accessibility Coordinator

City of Pickering AAC

Saima Fatima
Tammy Lyle-Gravlev
Phyllis Milton
Tim Higgins, Accessibility Coordinator

Township of Scugog AAC

Candace Morgan
Robert Rock
Bonnie Blackstock
Julie Harris
Gillian Daly
Christy Harrison, Accessibility Coordinator

Town of Whitby AAC

Dave McKinnon
Ayse Yuksel
Denise Laframboise
Liam Lacy
Naji Hassan
Poonam Khanna
Michele Cotton, Accessibility Coordinator

Other Attendees

Judy Christianson, Program Coordinator
Roger Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

2. Welcome/Opening Remarks

S. Austin, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, welcomed everyone to the 17th Annual Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory Committees. She acknowledged that the meeting is usually hosted in person, but the pandemic had put a halt on that so after not having this event last year, Durham Region decided it was important to adapt and host it virtually.

3. Presentation – Robert McLaughlin Gallery Exhibit – Undeliverable

S. Austin introduced Sean Lee and Leila Timmins. S. Austin stated that S. Lee is the Director of Programming at Tangled Art + Disability and is also a member of the Ontario Art Council's Deaf and Disability Advisory Group and Toronto Art Council's Visual Arts / Media Arts Committee and that L. Timmins is the Senior Curator at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery and has over ten years of curatorial experience and currently sits on the boards of directors for Don Area Cooperative Housing Inc., the Durham College Fine Art Advisory Committee, the Education and Community Engagement Committee at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), and is a founding member of EMILIA-AMALIA feminist working group.

S. Lee and L. Timmins provided a video presentation of the group exhibition "Undeliverable", curated by Carmen Papalia and presented in partnership with Tangled Art + Disability. The exhibition brings together work from six artists from the Deaf and disability community: Vanessa Dion Fletcher, Chandra Melting Tallow, Jessica Karuhanga, Jes Sachse, Aislinn Thomas, and Carmen Papalia with Heather Kai-Smith.

L. Timmins thanked the Committee for inviting them to share about their exhibition. She stated that the Robert McLaughlin Gallery is located in downtown Oshawa across from Oshawa City Hall and is the largest public art gallery in the Region. She stated that they want to increase their access offerings and ways in which they are doing interpretation.

S. Lee stated that Tangled Art + Disability (Tangled) was formerly called Abilities Arts Festival and founded in 2003. In 2016 they relocated their operations to a permanent gallery space in the historic 401 Richmond Building. He stated Tangled has shifted towards the style for disability justice and wants to be more accessible for artists and for a broader audience. S. Lee stated that Tangled offers a new way to experience the exhibits by offering zoom tours.

L. Timmins and S. Lee responded to questions regarding costs for the exhibition and hours of operation; whether they are working with artists in Durham Region who are addressing disability justice issues; the accessibility features that have been implemented at their gallery; and recognized the loss of The Living Room Community Art Study in the City of Oshawa.

S. Austin thanked S. Lee and L. Timmins for their presentation and video about the exhibit, "Undeliverable".

4. Presentation – The Honourable David Onley

S. Austin introduced the Honourable David Onley and stated that D. Onley was Ontario's first Lieutenant Governor with a physical disability, was appointed Ontario's 28th Lieutenant Governor in 2007 with his term ending in September 2014; and that his seven years of service makes him the second

longest-serving Lieutenant Governor of Ontario since the office was constituted in 1791.

D. Onley is the recipient of the Rick Hansen Award of Excellence, the Courage to Come Back Award, and holds 11 honorary degrees. He is also a member of the Order of Canada, the Order of Ontario, and a recipient of both the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and has been inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame and the Scarborough Walk of Fame.

D. Onley provided a Powerpoint presentation entitled: Inclusion and Accessibility: Ensuring Disability is Included. He provided the definition of Ableism which is the belief that people with disabilities have less worth than people without disabilities.

D. Onley discussed diversity and inclusion and stated diversity and inclusion without disability is neither diverse nor inclusive but discriminatory and exclusionary. He stated that 23% of the population have some kind of disability and that 25% of Indigenous people are disabled. He added that if immediate family members are included, the percentage climbs to 53% of the population.

D. Onley spoke about Mona Minkara and referenced her website: Vision is More Than Sight. He stated that she is legally blind and has doctoral training in physical and computational chemistry. He also stated that M. Minkara is a blind graduate student in charge of the implementation of protocols to enable doctoral training in physical and computational chemistry of the blind.

D. Onley provided information on the Union of Physically Impaired Against Segregation which was developed in the mid-1970s in the United Kingdom. He believes that their definition of disability is brilliant in its clarity of thought as it changes the focus of disability away from the individual to society.

D. Onley referenced Thea Kurdi of DesignABLE Environments which points out the fundamental principles of disability, and that we all experience changing abilities throughout our lifetime. He stated there is a very narrow window in the middle of the age groupings that virtually all things are being designed for which is the physically able bodied from the late 20s to early 40s.

D. Onley encouraged members to read the article from 1981 entitled "Obstacles" which is a Report of the Special Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped. He also encouraged members to read the book "Rethinking Normalcy: A Disability Studies Reader", written by Tanya Titchkosky and Rod Michalko, which is made up of 21 separate essays by a range of authors which raise a range of thoughts about limitations facing disabled people.

D. Onley discussed The Eugenics Archive and stated that in the 1920s and 1930s, the policy and concept of eugenics was alive and well in Canada. He stated that there are still many people whose lives were suffered because of the upbringing they received under eugenics regimes.

D. Onley also discussed the article A Review of Disability Policy in Canada from the Canadian Disability Policy Alliance. He advised there are many organizations and groups who are fighting to bring equality of opportunity for people with disabilities. He stated he does not believe that equity will be achieved for persons with disabilities because the range of disabilities is too great and that it is incumbent upon all levels of government to seek equality of opportunity.

D. Onley spoke about Maayan Ziv, founder and CEO of AccessNow who has muscular dystrophy and uses a power wheelchair. She is also an accomplished photographer of fashion and nature who stated that disability is not something we overcome, it is part of human diversity. D. Onley also spoke about Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn who stated it is time to challenge the status quo for meaningful and full participation of persons with disabilities in our society. D. Onley stated that the continuation of ableism and the inability or unwillingness of politicians at all levels to address ableism means that persons with a disability remain in the status quo and are denied meaningful and full participation in our society.

D. Onley stated he believes if Canada were to make transcendence, equality, and integration an official policy, Canada would be a far better country. He stated that transcendence is to go beyond; equality expresses the reality of all peoples being equal; and integration reflects the active pursuit of providing equal access to all.

D. Onley discussed accessibility versus accommodation and stated that accessibility is the baseline of equal service, and accommodation is the second step to take when accessibility alone isn't enough.

D. Onley responded to questions regarding his latest review of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act for the Provincial government; and, how municipalities can be encouraged to increase their roster of accessible and affordable housing and address income security for all.

S. Austin thanked D. Onley for his presentation.

Moment to Remember

S. Austin called upon Linda Lawson and Michele Cotton to take a moment to remember a few individuals who were important people in the AAC work in Durham.

Linda Lawson paid tribute to Linda Tamburro. Linda served as a member of the Ontario Accessibility Advisory Committee from 2006 to 2020 and was a committed and enthusiastic member of the Committee. Linda was

instrumental in the development of an accessible community for people with all abilities living in Oshawa. She had a passion for the built environment and provided valuable feedback on how to make the buildings more accessible for everyone.

Michele Cotton paid tribute to Jeff Beaton. Jeff was the Chair of the Whitby Accessibility Advisory Committee for eight years and was a dedicated, insightful, action-oriented volunteer. He will be missed by not only the Whitby AAC, but the Boys and Girls Club of Durham Region and Lakeridge Health Foundation. M. Cotton thanked the Committee for allowing the opportunity to remember and acknowledge the hard work and dedication for Jeff Beaton.

5. Accessibility Awards Presentation

A video was presented showcasing the amazing people and initiatives that are being accomplished in the communities to enhance and improve accessibility.

S. Austin stated that The Regional Municipality of Durham recognizes the importance of an accessible community and that a key goal in the Regional Strategic Plan is to build a healthy, inclusive, age-friendly community where everyone feels a sense of belonging. S. Austin recognized that this past year has been very challenging for many people, especially those with disabilities. She stated that each year the Regional Municipality of Durham honours individuals, services or local businesses that have improved accessibility in their community, and that nominations for the Awards are made by the local Accessibility Advisory Committees of the municipalities within Durham Region. S. Austin stated that each award recipient has succeeded in removing or preventing barriers and their efforts have helped to ensure that citizens have access to meaningful involvement and full participation in their community.

Town of Ajax – Liz Wallis

In April 2021, the Town was contacted by Ajax resident Liz Wallis who brought the idea of the installation of communication boards to some Ajax parks and playgrounds. She identified that many children have communication challenges and use CORE boards or PECS (Picture Exchange Communication Systems), which is a way of communicating through pictures and that this could be a great way to make parks and playgrounds more accessible and inclusive to all. Staff in Ajax are actively pursuing the project and funding has been included in the 2022 budget. Others around the region are also exploring the installation of these boards.

Liz Wallis accepted the award and congratulations from J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator.

Township of Brock – Nourish and Development Foundation – Zoe and Tiffany

In 2021 the Nourish and Development Foundation took their farmers market on the road. The Mobile Food Market went to numerous locations around Brock Township, including many seniors buildings, and surrounding areas twice per week to provide fresh local produce, meal kits and prepared meals at an affordable price to everyone. Their purpose was to ease the “food desert” mostly found in rural areas where getting to a local grocery store may be difficult and/or access to nutritious food, quality and quantity, may be limited. The pandemic highlighted these barriers, especially for people with disabilities.

Zoe and Tiffany of the Nourish and Develop Foundation accepted the award and congratulations from J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator.

City of Oshawa – Oshawa Seniors Community Centres 55+ – Sandy Black

The Oshawa Seniors Community Centres 55+ makes the safety, health and well-being of seniors a top priority. This was evident as they demonstrated the relentless commitment to this goal, particularly during the pandemic. The Oshawa Senior Community Centres 55+ rapidly and creatively modified the services they provided due to the COVID-19 limitations, while partnering with others in the community to implement a new programming schedule. They provided such things as online programs, grocery and frozen meal order and delivery service, telephone outreach, social connection through Facebook, Zoom chats, porch visits, outdoor programs when permitted, activity packages, and free rides to the Oshawa Vaccine Clinic.

Sandy Black of the Oshawa Seniors Community Centre 55+ accepted the award and congratulations from J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator.

City of Pickering – Community Care Durham – Colleen Paris

Colleen Paris and her staff at the Community Care Durham, Pickering location, took it upon themselves to figure out what can be done when a pandemic hits, and no in-person programing can take place. Initially at lockdown, there no was backup plan for the Adult Day Program so Colleen called all participants to see how they were doing. They arranged Zoom meetings with activities, sent out baskets of food and activities, and organized a calendar of events that included most of the activities they provided before the pandemic hit. When permitted by the regulations of the pandemic, day programs were arranged with physical distancing in place and the requirement to wear a mask to start bringing in a few participants at a time.

Colleen Paris of the Community Care Durham accepted the award and congratulations from J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator.

Township of Scugog – Applewood Farm and Winery – Stephanie and Matt

Applewood Farm and Winery located in Seagrave has shown a commitment to accessibility and disability rights. Learning from personal and professional experience, and as a business who serves the public, they have been looking for new ways to make their farm more accessible and have created wheelchair access to wagon rides, accessible washrooms, and in the patio area there is an accessible picnic table. The farm just opened at this location in the past year, and they continue to plan other ways of making it accessible and inclusive to everyone, so the experience of going to the farm is enjoyed by all.

Stephanie and Matt of the Applewood Farm and Winery accepted the award and congratulations from J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator.

Township of Uxbridge – Terry Baskin

As a previous member and Chair of the Uxbridge Accessibility Advisory Committee, Terry Baskin has demonstrated a persistent and passionate commitment to advancing accessibility in his community. As a rotary member since 2007, he's used this platform to promote and engage the larger business community in advancing disability awareness. He is an active consultant and advocate for the Downtown Revitalization Committee and the Uxbridge Lions Playground Committee, where he provides education and expertise around the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and requirements for compliance. Terry's commitment and dedication to accessibility and disability awareness has allowed him to share his knowledge with such organizations as Grandview Children's Centre, Easter Seals, Eric Lindros Hockey Classic, and the Durham Steelhawks Sledge Hockey Organization.

Terry Baskin accepted the award and congratulations from J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator.

Town of Whitby – Redwood Employment – David and Kara

J. Traer advised that Redwood Employment is a family who is inspired by individuals living with autism and have partnered with the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work to help individuals with autism gain and keep meaningful employment. From their own journey, their charity AutismsAngels.com was born. Over the years they have raised hundred of thousands of dollars and donated it back to charities of choice who support the autism and special needs community. Redwood Employment are a powerhouse team with over 25 years of industry experience. Driven by their strong values and dedication to helping others personally and professionally, Redwood was founded with intention and giving back in everything they do.

David and Kara of Redwood Employment accepted the award and congratulations from J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator.

S. Austin thanked all the recipients for their leadership in making Durham a more inclusive and accessible region through it all.

6. Closing Remarks

S. Austin recognized the Accessibility Advisory Committee volunteers for their time, commitment, and hard work. She stated that municipalities far exceed other organizations in the implementation of the accessibility standards due to the dedication and input from the Accessibility Advisory Committees.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.



If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact
1-800-372-1102 extension 2009

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Annual Work Plan 2022

Activity	Start Date	Projected Completion Date
Provide advice and review 2021 Accessibility Report	March 2022	June 2022
Facilities and site plan review	Underway	As needed
Subcommittees in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Plan Review • Traffic/roads • Awards • Education • Transit • Ad hoc as needed 	Current	Ongoing
Education development (AODA Standards) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors and staff • Committee Members (presentations by different ability groups) • Awards • Integrated Accessibility Regulation Standard changes (presentations by staff) 	Current	Ongoing
Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Council (via minutes of meetings) • Staff (e.g. newsletter) • Community (e.g., newspaper articles) • Other AACs • Communication Support 	Monthly Periodic As needed Annual As needed	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
Community Outreach - Awards Program	Current	Fall 2022