

Who we are

- The Accessibility Advisory Committee is authorized under the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.
- The Committee is responsible for the following:
- Providing advice, recommendations and assistance to Council to develop and facilitate strategies for the identification and elimination of barriers for citizens with disabilities.
- Promoting accessibility related public outreach, education and awareness initiatives

What Is the AODA?

- The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) developed in 2005, requires businesses and organizations in Ontario to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility. The goal of the law is for Ontario to be accessible by 2025 so that people with disabilities can participate more fully in communities.
- So why is this important?

Why Your Business Needs to be Accessible

- Accessibility Benefits Everyone
- People with disabilities have a buying power of over \$50 billion in Canada and \$1 trillion globally ¹
- There are 2.6 million people in Ontario with a disability – that’s 24% of Ontario’s population.²
- About 45% or 1.12 million Ontarians with disabilities have mobility related disabilities.³
- More than 40% of this population is over the age of 65. As the population ages, this number will only grow.⁴
- A business that commits to accessibility sends a strong message that people with disabilities are welcome. For this reason, it is much more likely to attract people with disabilities and their families as your customers.
- Achieving the goal of the AODA by making Ontario accessible by 2025.
- Accessibility brings additional buying power to benefit your business.

Sources:

1. 2016 Annual report – The Global Economics of Disability, The Return on Disability Group 2. Statistics Canada (2017), Canadian Survey on Disability 3. Statistics Canada (2017), Canadian Survey on Disability

4. Statistics Canada (2017), Canadian Survey on Disability

The Business of Accessibility

How to Make Your Main Street Business Accessible

The Business of Accessibility

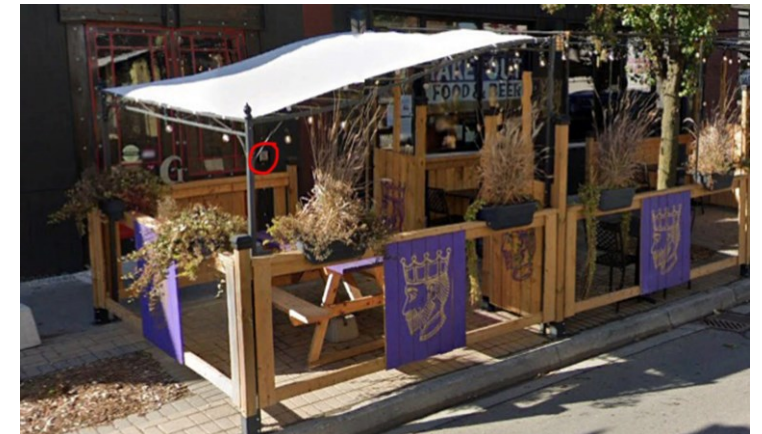
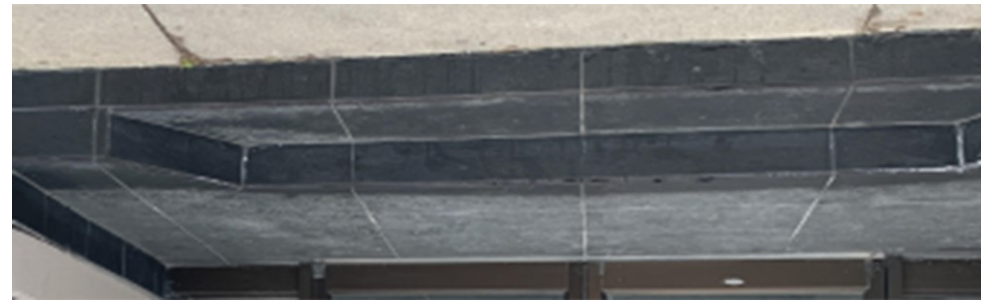
How to Make Your Main Street
Business Accessibility Smart



- Download or order your copy of The Business of Accessibility
- www.obiaa.com
- The accessibility committee has put forth a motion to have council include Accessibility as part of the Financial Incentive Program
- Providing an opportunity for High school students to earn their volunteer hours through their experiential education
- Request an interior and exterior accessibility audit from a Member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

AODA Requirements for Small Business

In the fall of 2019 members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, town staff, Councilor Grace Simons and Tom Hempen took part in a walk through of Main St. noting both the accessible and not accessible areas.





2018 – 2022 Council Strategic Priorities



EXTRAORDINARY PLACES AND SPACES

Creating an environment for an engaged, accessible and inclusive community.



ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP AND JOB CREATION

Attracting, retaining and expanding jobs through innovation, collaboration and urbanization.

“Where innovation meets open mind”

“On behalf of the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) students in YRDSB we are looking forward to the **opportunity to come together and address the issue of barrier free accessibility for residents and business owners in downtown Newmarket.** We have approximately 280 YRDSB SHSM in the area that have a keen interest in **exploring this issue** from either a **Business, Arts and Culture or a Construction/Design perspective.** These students are in grades 11 and 12 and have a mandate to **work with industry and community to apply their skills outside of school** to help inform their career path decisions.”

Chris Tucker (he/him)

*Pathways Consultant | SHSM Board Lead | Technological Education K-12
York Region District School Board, Education Centre - Newmarket*



Next Steps

- Funding opportunities
 - Town Program – Financial Incentive Program
 - Federal Grant - Enabling Accessibility Fund (Summer 2021)
 - Trillium Foundation
- Contact the AAC to book audit by emailing Jaclyn Grossi, Legislative Coordinator at jgrossi@newmarket.ca
- Please share this presentation and accompanying material with the General Membership