

Newmarket Accessibility Advisory Committee Accomplishments

Since the implementation of the Town of Newmarket's first Multi-Year Accessibility Plan in 2013, the Newmarket Accessibility Advisory Committee has been an integral part of the Town's strategy. The sections below provide an overview and highlight of the numerous projects on which the Committee has provided advice and assistance to Town Council and staff over the years.

2019

- Consulted, reviewed plans and provided recommendations for the initiatives and projects which include the following:
 - Pony Drive reconstruction Capital Project
 - College Manor Park Washroom Renovation Project
 - Main Street accessibility
- Participated in National Access Awareness week initiatives.
- Advised on accessible parking at Fairy Lake and Riverwalk Commons.
- Conducted audits of facilities including: Old Town Hall, and a Main Street Accessibility walk through.
- Advised on accessible washrooms at Town of Newmarket facilities.
- Provided advice regarding and promoted Upper Canada Mall's accessible washroom project
- Worked and advised on the 2019 to 2023 Multi-year Accessibility Plan and annual update.

2020

- Consulted, reviewed plans and provided recommendations for the initiatives and projects which include the following:
 - Stickwood Walker Farmhouse
 - Patterson Sidewalk
 - North West Quadrant Trail System Design Concepts
 - Electric Vehicle Parking
 - Fairy Lake Accessible Washrooms
- Conducted an audit of the entrances and exists to storefronts on Main Street in the Town of Newmarket, with a goal to make Main Street accessible for all.
- Reviewed Site Plan applications and provided recommendations on accessibility related conditions to staff.
- Participated in the annual National AccessAbility Week Celebrations virtually through recorded interviews and videos.
- Consulted with external partners and provided assistance with the Upper Canada Mall accessible washroom renovations.
- Provided recommendations for the downtown parking analysis and reviewed

planned short-term, medium-term and long-term options.

- Continually reviewed Federal and Provincial grant opportunities related to accessible projects.
- Worked with businesses in the Town of Newmarket to increase accessibility at the entrances and exists to stores.
- Reviewed plans to use the MobiMats for outdoor Town-led events to increase accessibility for all residents.
- Provided recommendations regarding accessible van parking signage surrounding Riverwalk Commons and Fairy Lake
- Provided advice on the Town of Newmarket's annual Accessibility Plan update
- Provided ongoing public awareness of accessibility.

2021

- Consulted, reviewed plans and provided recommendations for the initiatives and projects which include the following:
 - Mulock Property Design Concept
 - Newmarket Outdoor Skatepark
 - North-West Quadrant PH5 Parking Lot
- Worked with Economic Development staff to amend the Newmarket Financial Incentive Program (FIP) to include accessibility funding specifics
- Provided the Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management with a presentation regarding the Making Main Street Accessible initiative.
- Collaborated with the York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and their Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program to increase accessibility on Main Street.
- Created a brochure, notified and delivered it to 50 businesses, and conducted individual accessibility audits of 12 businesses so far on Main Street as part of the Making Main Street Accessible initiative.
- Reviewed Site Plan applications for the following properties and provided recommendations on accessibility related conditions to staff:
 - 1240 Twinney & 1250 Davis Dr Phase 2
 - 17600 Yonge Street (Upper Canada Mall)
- Reviewed and developed signage for accessible van parking signage surrounding Riverwalk Commons and Fairy Lake.
- Continually reviewed Federal and Provincial grant opportunities related to accessible projects, including the Fairy Lake Washroom project.
- Provided recommendations and feedback to staff regarding the Site Plan Application Accessibility Checklist.
- Consulted with external partners and provided assistance with the Federal Election polling locations in Newmarket and Aurora.
- Provided Council with a presentation outlining their various accomplishments throughout the term thus far at a Council Workshop in June 2021.
- Attended virtual events held by York Region regarding National Accessibility

Awareness Week and the Accessibility Advisory Committee Professional Development Forum, and a workshop regarding the Canadian Accessibility Standards.

- Promoted accessibility through short videos from community members on the importance of accessibility during National AccessAbility Awareness Week.
- Provided advice on the Town of Newmarket's annual Accessibility Plan update.
- Provided ongoing public awareness of accessibility.

2022

- Consulted, reviewed plans and provided recommendations for the initiatives and projects including:
 - 180 Main Street South; and,
 - Mulock Park; and,
 - Millard Church Elm Project; and,
 - Mulock Drive Multi-Use Pathway
- Reviewed the Site Plan Application Accessibility Checklist and provided recommended revisions to the sections outlining accessible parking types, signage, slope ratios, and handrails.
- Reviewed and provided recommendations regarding the 2022 Municipal Election online voting software, and the Voter Instruction Letter.
- Provided recommendations regarding accessible parking on Main Street.

2023

- Consulted, reviewed plans and provided recommendations for the initiatives and projects including:
 - Mulock Property; and,
 - Accessible trail enhancements; and,
- Provided advice to enhance accessibility at the following properties:
 - Ray Twinney Arena; and,
 - Main Street
 - TD Music Festival

2024

- Reviewed and amended the Accessibility check-list used by the Accessibility Advisory Committee for past Town facility audits.
- Toured Main Street for an accessibility audit, reviewed and discussed locations with accessibility concerns and challenges. These areas include: crosswalks, sidewalk grading, visual improvements, accessible patios, funding and grant opportunities, and opportunities to learn from other municipalities.
- Completed four site plan reviews of providing recommendations on accessibility improvements to site plan applications submitted to the Town.
- Provided recommendations to Council for downtown accessible parking improvements and additions including the increased time limit for accessible parking on Main Street and the addition of an accessible parking space on Main Street.
- Continued to review federal and provincial grants as made available.

- Provided comments and suggestions to staff to increase inclusion and accessibility at Town events.
- Visited facilities in nearby municipalities to gather information and insight to suggest accessible features at Town of Newmarket facilities including the York Region Annex Building.
- Provided comments to staff regarding barriers to accessibility around the Town of Newmarket including matters involving curb cuts and bollards.
- Provided comments to staff regarding improved accessibility at Town facilities (like the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex, the Municipal Offices at 395 Mulock Drive and the Magna Centre).
- Engaged the Newmarket – Aurora Member of Parliament and Member of Provincial Parliament to discuss how to make Main Street Newmarket more accessible.
- Consulted with staff regarding the Northwest Quadrant Project and Mulock Park project.
- Provided feedback as it relates to accessibility at a Newmarket Library brainstorming session.
- Completed training related to Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act legislation.
- Reviewed Fire and Emergency preparedness procedures for evacuation and emergencies for assistive devices users.