2019

Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2019-2024

FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA

TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA | 2297 Highway 12, Brechin, ON LOK 1B0 | P. (705)484-5374 | www.ramara.ca

Table of Contents
INTRODUCTION
MUNICIPAL PROFILE
STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT4
ACCESSIBLE CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARD
Guide Dogs/Service Animals4
Support Persons
Disruption of Services5
Feedback Process
Assistive Devices5
Training for Staff5
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS6
Multi-Year Accessibility Plans6
Procuring or Acquiring Goods, Services or Facilities6
Self-Service Kiosks6
Training6
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION7
Emergency Information7
Feedback7
Accessible Websites and Web Content7
Accessible formats and communication supports7
EMPLOYMENT8
Workplace Emergency Response Information8
Recruitment, Assessment and Selection8
Information for Employees
Processes to Accommodate Employees9
Personal Workplace Emergency Response Information
Individualized Accommodation Plans9
Return to Work Process9
Performance Management, Career Development and Advancement, and Redeployment9

TRANSPORTATION	9
Accessible Taxicabs	9
DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES	. 10
Recreational Trails and Beach Access Routes	. 10
Outdoor Public Use Eating Areas	. 10
Outdoor Play Spaces	. 11
Exterior Paths of Travel	. 11
Accessible Parking	. 11
Obtaining Services	. 12
Maintenance Planning of Public Spaces	. 12
BARRIER IDENTIFICATION AND ACTION	. 12
PRIORITY LIST	. 18
ONGOING INITIATIVES	. 18
SHORT-TERM INITIATIVES	. 18
LONG TERM INITIATIVES (as identified by the public)	. 18
REVIEW AND MONITORING	. 19
COMMUNICATION OF THE PLAN	. 19

INTRODUCTION

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) came into force and effect to improve access and opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in identifying, removing and preventing barriers. The ODA mandates municipalities prepare an Accessibility Plan. The ODA continues to be in force and effect until it is repealed.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) reinforces the requirements of developing and enforcing of accessibility standards by all organizations to make Ontario fully accessible by the year 2025. A full range of disabilities are addressed by the Act including physical, sensory, mental health development and learning. The AODA identifies the following accessibility standards:

- 1. Customer Service Standard
- 2. Information and Communication Standard
- 3. Employment Standard
- 4. Transportation Standard
- 5. Design of Public Spaces Standard

The Accessible Customer Service Standard, Ontario Regulation 429/07, came into force and effect on January 1, 2008 and required municipalities to establish policies, procedures and practices on the provision of goods and services to people with disabilities.

On July 1, 2016, the Accessible Customer Service Standard went under a review and amendments were made to bring it in line with the Integrated Accessible Standards Regulation.

The next four (4) standards, Information and Communication, Employment, Transportation and Design of Pubic Spaces have been combined under one regulation – the Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation – is now law and is being phased in between 2011-2025.

MUNICIPAL PROFILE

Ramara Township is situated in Central Ontario along the northeastern shores of Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching. Ramara is located in Simcoe County, in the heartland of Cottage Country, offering a touch of urban lifestyle in beautiful rural surroundings.

Ramara is a gateway to relaxation, recreational activities, and retirement communities. The Township of Ramara has miles of shoreline properties, clean water, public beaches, cottage rentals, summer resorts, family camping, sporting activities, Casino Rama, conference centres (Geneva Park and Fern Resort), as well as, retirement/resort communities (Lagoon City and Bayshore Village). Ramara is proud of its strong agricultural and resource extraction industries.

Just imagine relaxing in a comfortable chair, reading a good book, enjoying the warm summer breeze, or perhaps watching the glorious sunset over a beautiful lake.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Ramara is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. Ramara believes in integration and equal opportunity. Ramara is committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner, and will do so by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

ACCESSIBLE CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARD

Ramara adopted the following policies under the Accessible Customer Service Standard November 2009, which have been amended from time to time:

Guide Dogs/Service Animals

Any person with a disability accompanied by a guide dog or other service animal is to enter the premises with the animal and keep it with him/her, unless the animal is otherwise excluded from the premises by law. If the service animal is excluded from the premises by law, the Township will look to other available measures to allow the person with the disability to obtain, use or benefit from the goods or services.

Support Persons

When a person with a disability is accompanied by a support person, both are permitted to enter together and are not prevented from having access to each other while on the premises. It may be a requirement of the Township that a person with a disability to be accompanied by a support person in order to protect the health and safety of the person with a disability while on the premises.

Where fees for goods or services are required as admission to the premises the Township will waive any fee or fare with respect to support persons.

Disruption of Services

In the event of a planned or unexpected disruption in a facility or service usually used by persons with disabilities, the Township shall give notice of the disruption to the public.

The notice shall include information about the reason for the disruption, its anticipated duration and provide alternatives, if available.

Feedback Process

The public is permitted to provide feedback on accessibility of the provision of goods and services by telephone or in person through the Customer Care Call Centre; correspondence; and the Annual Accessibility Public Meeting.

Assistive Devices

Persons with disabilities are permitted to use personal assistive devices in order to access goods or services of the Township. The Township may also provide assistive devices if available in order that persons with disabilities may access the goods or services.

Training for Staff

All employees, including volunteers, students and contractors shall receive training on the provision of its goods or services to persons with disabilities.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Multi-Year Accessibility Plans

The Township shall establish, implement, maintain and document this multi-year Accessibility Plan, which outlines the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its requirements under this Regulation; post the Accessibility Plan on the Township's website, and provide the Plan in an accessible format upon request; and review and update the Accessibility Plan at least every five (5) years.

The Township shall establish, review and update this Plan in consultation with persons with disabilities, and in consultation with Senior Staff.

The Township shall update this Plan following the Annual Public Meeting and report to Council on the progress of measures taken to implement the accessibility strategy. The updated Plan will be posted on the Township's website. Accessible formats are available upon request.

Procuring or Acquiring Goods, Services or Facilities

The Township shall incorporate accessibility criteria and features when procuring or acquiring goods, services or facilities, except where it is not feasible to do so. If the Township determines that it is not feasible to incorporate accessibility criteria and features when procuring or acquiring goods, services or facilities, it shall provide an explanation to the public, upon request, in accessible format or with the appropriate communication supports, as soon as practicable.

Self-Service Kiosks

If the Township begins providing public services through one (1) or more interactive electronic self-serve kiosks, it shall consider and incorporate accessibility features when designing, procuring or acquiring such kiosks.

Training

The Township shall ensure that training is provided on the requirements of the IASR and on the *Human Rights Code* as it pertains to persons with disabilities to all employees and volunteers; all persons who participate in developing policies; and all other persons who provide goods, services or facilities on behalf of the Township. The training shall be appropriate to the duties of the employees, volunteers and other persons.

Every person shall be trained as soon as feasible and such training shall be provided in respect of any changes to the policies on an ongoing basis. The Township shall keep a record of the training provided, including the dates on which the training is provided and the number of individuals to whom it is provided.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Emergency Information

Emergency procedures, plans or public safety information that is made available to the public will be provided in an accessible format or with appropriate communication supports, upon request, as soon as practicable.

Feedback

Ramara shall maintain its accessible feedback process as developed under O. Reg 429/07 – Accessibility Standards for Customer Service. Further, the Township shall ensure that the processes are accessible to persons with disabilities by providing or arranging for the provision of accessible formats and communications supports, upon request. Ramara shall notify the public about the availability of accessible formats and communication supports.

Accessible Websites and Web Content

2014-Ramara shall ensure that all new internet websites and web content on those sites conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, Level A.

2021-Ramara shall ensure that all internet websites and web content on those sites conform to the WCAG 2.0, Level AA.

Accessible formats and communication supports

Ramara shall provide or arrange for the provision of accessible formats and communication supports for persons with disabilities, upon request, and in a timely manner that takes into account the person's needs; and at a cost that is no more than the regular cost charged for the same information. The Township will consult with the person making the request in determining the suitability of an accessible format or

communication support. The Township shall notify the public about the availability of accessible formats and communication supports.

The Plan will be available to the public on the Township's website. The Plan is also available in alternate formats upon request.

EMPLOYMENT

The Township shall:

- Make reasonable effort to create an overall accessible work environment.
- Create a suitable accessible work environment for employees with disabilities as soon as practicable after the Township becomes aware of the disability.
- Consult with the employee to take into account their accessibility needs.

Employees are responsible to make the Township aware of their disability. However, if an employee appears to be struggling in the workplace or is clearly unwell, the employee's Supervisor/Manager can consult with the Chief Administrative Officer to obtain advice.

Workplace Emergency Response Information

Ramara will provide individualized emergency response information to employees who have a disability, if the disability is such that the individualized information is necessary and the employer is aware of the need for accommodation due to the employee's disability.

Recruitment, Assessment and Selection

Ramara will advise job applicants that people with disabilities will be accommodated throughout the recruitment, assessment and selection process. If a job applicant requests accommodations, Ramara will consult with them and make adjustments that best suit their needs. Successful applicants will be notified of policies for accommodating employees with disabilities.

Information for Employees

Ramara will provide information to employees with disabilities in a manner that meets with their disability.

Processes to Accommodate Employees

Ramara will work with employees to develop plans and processes that meet their needs.

Personal Workplace Emergency Response Information

In order to prepare for the specific needs of employees with disabilities in emergency situations such as fire, power outages, severe weather, natural disasters and security incidents, the Township shall work with employees with disabilities to develop individualized workplace emergency response information while discreetly respecting the employee's privacy.

Individualized Accommodation Plans

The Township will develop written Individual Accommodation Plans for employees with disabilities upon request. Individual accommodation plans are not required if the employee does not make the Township aware of their disability.

Return to Work Process

The Township shall ensure that the written Return to Work Process adequately supports employees who have been absent from work due to a disability and who require accommodations to return to work. The process will address steps to take to facilitate the return to work including the development of an individual accommodation plan.

Performance Management, Career Development and Advancement, and Redeployment

The Township shall take into account the accessibility needs of employees with disabilities and Individual Accommodation Plans in the Performance Management process, when providing career development and advancement opportunities, and when considering redeployment for an employee with a disability.

TRANSPORTATION

Accessible Taxicabs

If Council decides to licence taxicabs, Ramara will ensure they are prohibited from charging a higher fare or an additional fee for persons with disabilities than for persons without disabilities for the same trip; and from charging an additional fee for the storage of mobility aids or mobility assistive devices.

DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES

The Design of Public Spaces Standards applies to public spaces that are newly constructed or redeveloped on and after January 1, 2016.

Recreational Trails and Beach Access Routes

The Township will ensure that any new or reconstructed recreational trails and beach access routes will meet the requirements of the design of public spaces standard including minimum width and height measurements and surface material and shall consult with the public, persons with disabilities and the appropriate staff with regards to:

- i. The slope of the trail
- ii. The need for and location of ramps
- iii. The need for, location and design of: rest areas, passing areas, viewing areas, amenities and any other pertinent features of the trail

Trailhead signage must contain information about the physical characteristics of the trail (i.e. length, average and minimum width and location of amenities). Other media used to provide trail information such as website or brochure must contain the same information as the trailhead signage.

Note: Wilderness trails, backcountry trails, portage routes and trails meant exclusively for cross-country skiing, mountain biking or driving motorized recreational vehicles (i.e. snowmobiles and ATVs) are excluded from the Standard.

Outdoor Public Use Eating Areas

The Township will ensure that any new or reconstructed outdoor public use eating areas meet the requirements of the Standard including:

- i. Minimum 20% of new tables added, and no fewer than one, must be accessible to people using mobility devices;
- ii. Ground surface leading to accessible tables must be level, firm and stable for people using mobility devices;
- iii. Sufficient clear space surrounding accessible tables for people using mobility devices;

Outdoor Play Spaces

The Township will ensure that any new or reconstructed outdoor play spaces containing play equipment such as swings and/or play features such as logs, rocks, sand or water meet the following requirements:

- i. Consult with the public, people with disabilities and appropriate staff to identify the needs of users in the local community;
- ii. Incorporate sensory components to promote active play experiences (sand, water or sound);
- iii. Ensure there is sufficient space for children and caregivers to move through, in and around the play space;
- iv. Ensure ground surface is firm, stable and shock absorbing to prevent injuries;

Exterior Paths of Travel

Exterior paths of travel are sidewalks and walkways but do not include paths of travel regulated by the Ontario Building Code (from parking lot to building entrance). The Township will ensure that newly constructed or reconstructed exterior paths of travel will meet the technical requirements of the Standard:

- i. Minimum width and height measurements for sidewalks and walkways;
- ii. Minimum width, maximum steepness of slopes, size of landings and handrail requirements;
- iii. Stairs that connect to an exterior path of travel will be a certain size, have high tonal contrast and tactile walking surface at the top of each flight
- iv. Pedestrian curb ramps will align with direction of travel, minimum width and maximum steepness, tactile walking surface indicators;
- v. Accessible pedestrian signals will include features for people with vision loss and those who are deaf-blind;
- vi. Consult with the public, people with disabilities and the appropriate staff regarding the placement and design of rest areas;

Accessible Parking

Off and on-street parking requirements when building new or making significant modifications:

- i. Off-street accessible parking will include:
 - a. The required number of standard width accessible spaces and wider spaces identified as "van accessible";
 - Accessible parking spaces will include access aisles between the parking spaces;
 - c. Accessible parking space signage must meet the requirements of Regulation 581 of the Highway Traffic Act.

- ii. On-street accessible parking will include:
 - Consultation with public, people with disabilities and appropriate committee/staff regarding the need, location and design of accessible onstreet parking;

Obtaining Services

The Township will ensure that all new or replaced service counters, fixed queuing guides and waiting areas, whether inside or outside, include a section that is accessible to people with disabilities:

- i. An accessible service counter must be useable by someone sitting in a mobility aid and have enough clear space to approach the counter
- ii. Queuing areas need to be wide enough to accommodate people using mobility devices and if there is more than one queuing line, there must be least one clearly identified as an accessible queuing area.
- iii. New or significantly altered waiting areas must have at least 3% of the new seating area to be accessible and no less than one accessible seating space.

Maintenance Planning of Public Spaces

The Township will incorporate within its accessibility plan, procedures for preventative and emergency maintenance of the accessible elements in public spaces and procedures for dealing with disruptions when accessible elements required under the design of public spaces standards are not in proper working order.

BARRIER IDENTIFICATION AND ACTION

	2005
Archi	tectural
~	Zoning Bylaw 2005.85 was amended to include the requirement for Accessible Parking spaces
Х	Lack of sidewalks in Atherley identified as an issue for pedestrian /mobility device travel – planning study complete.
Physi	cal
\checkmark	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually
Comn	nunication
✓	Annual Public Accessibility Plan Meeting
2006	
Proce	dural
✓	Fines for parking in accessible spaces were addressed in the No Parking
	Bylaw
\checkmark	Audit from Independent Living Services on all Township owned facilities

\checkmark	Bylaw/ Policy Review – is ongoing. Accessibility is considered during
	preparation to ensure barriers are not created. Bylaws and policies are
	amended when barriers are identified.
Physi	
	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually
	nunication
	Annual Public Accessibility Plan Meeting
Attitu	
\checkmark	Sensitivity training for all staff from Marion Tizzard from Independent Living Services
	2007
Tech	nological
	Upgrade to Ramara Township website allowed for electronic accessibility of
	Council Meeting Minutes and Agendas
Physi	
\checkmark	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually
\checkmark	Ramara Centre library installs accessible computer workstation with large print
	keyboard and font
\checkmark	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually
\checkmark	Entrance to Admin building includes accessible doors and ramp
\checkmark	Entrance to Udney CC made accessible with parking paved at front accessible
	entrance
\checkmark	Accessible parking spaces designated and signed at Longford CC
Archi	tectural
\checkmark	Medical Centre renovations included accessible ramp, washrooms and
	automatic doors
\checkmark	Entrance to Udney Community Centre made accessible with automatic doors
	Entrance to Longford Community Centre made accessible with automatic
	doors and access ramp
\checkmark	Ramara Centre adds accessible door installations to access large hall and
	library
Proce	
✓	Site plan review for multiple unit residential, commercial, industrial and
	institutional buildings by persons with disabilities. Accessibility is considered
	during the staff review stages of site plans.
Comr	nunication
	Motion to Council to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee turned
~	down – NOTE: Not mandatory until population reaches 10,000
\checkmark	
•	Annual Public Accessibility Plan Meeting
T	2008
	nological
\checkmark	Identified need and added purchases of eBooks and audiobooks as part of the
	library collection

Physi	cal		
✓	Accessible parking spaces identified and painted in the Environmental		
	Services parking lot		
✓	Brechin Library branch renovations completed to accommodate accessibility -		
	ramp, doors, washrooms and aisle width		
✓	Curb cuts identified and completed to Brechin sidewalks during sewer project		
✓	Ramp purchased to allow wheelchairs and mobility devices to access stage at		
	the Ramara Centre		
-	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually		
-	tectural		
	Accessible entrance doors added to the Environmental Services building		
Attitu			
✓	Inclusion Facilitator hired for recreation (camp) programs		
\checkmark	Community Foundation grant received to purchase inclusion equipment for use		
	in recreation programs		
	nunication		
✓	Annual Public Accessibility Plan Meeting		
	2009		
Comr	nunication		
	Annual Public Accessibility Plan Meeting		
✓	Ramara Centre LED sign installed to serve as an information vehicle to the		
	public		
\checkmark	UPDATE – red bulbs are considered hard to read at night, staff looking into		
	options to replace (grants)		
Attitu			
✓	Inclusion Recreation and camp programs continue to grow		
Physi			
✓	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually		
✓	Fire alarm visual signals installed at Longford, Udney and Ramara Centre to		
	alert persons with hearing disabilities in the event of a fire emergency		
\checkmark	Access to Poplar Crescent mail bar improved ground conditions and snow		
_	clearing to aid in access		
Proce			
\checkmark			
	Committees, Staff and Volunteers on regular intake		
	2010		
Comr	nunication		
	Annual Public Accessibility Plan Meeting		
Attitu			
 ✓ 	Inclusion Recreation and camp programs continue to grow		
Physi			
\checkmark			
\checkmark	Walk signal installed at Creighton St & Hwy 12		

✓	Curb cuts identified as needed along Rama Rd trail to access at Floral Park –
	comments added to Active Transportation Plan and forwarded to County
	2011
Physi	cal
✓	Construction of accessible Council Chambers completed
	Construction of fully accessible workstations in the administration office will allow for a person with a disability to have an accessible workspace if hired
✓ ✓	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually Fire hall #2 reconstruction includes a fully accessible community rooms and washrooms (including shower)
Comr	nunication
 ✓ 	Annual Public Accessibility Plan Meeting
Attitu	
✓ ✓	Inclusion Recreation and camp programs continue to grow Community Foundation grant received to allow for accessible bussing for camp field trips – Summer 2011
	2012
Comr	nunication
	Annual Public Accessibility Plan Meeting Rural Broadband connection program information sessions held in October 2012. Township continues to work with the County and internet service providers to find alternatives for residents who cannot access reliable and affordable high speed internet.
Proce	edural
	Active Transportation Plan (ATP) adopted by Council and added to long term initiatives. Includes a section for bicycle safety along major corridors. Council receives Recreation & Parks Master Plan
Attitu	dinal
\checkmark	Inclusion Recreation and camp programs continue to grow
Physi	cal
√ √	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually Brechin Public Library shelving project completed – allows for wheelchair mobility around shelving units
~	
✓	Interior upgrades to the Environmental Services building include main floor meeting room, access to washroom, low counters
√	Brechin Community Centre Board completes the rebuild of the ball park building which now includes accessible ramp, meeting room and washrooms open to the public made possible by grant received from the EnAbling Accessibility Fund
~	Trail completed with matching grant from County of Simcoe Trails Connecting Communities Fund – included upgrades to inclines, resurfacing, trail widening and culverts to improve accessibility.

Techr	nological
✓ √	CNIB Partnership is established to borrow books on tape for children, teens
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	and adults
✓	Daisy Reader purchase to play books on tape
	Increase in eBook and audiobook selection
	2013
Comr	nunication
	Annual Public Accessibility Plan Meeting
Physi	
✓	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually
	New administration building was officially opened in July allowing for a fully
	accessible work environment, Council Chambers and public access point.
\checkmark	Line Painting completed at Brechin to Lagoon City trail across to Laguna
	Parkway.
Attitu	
	Recreation programs continue to foster an inclusive environment
✓	Change tables installed at Ramara Centre, Longford CC and Udney CC
	2014
Comn	nunication
✓	Annual Public Accessibility Plan Meeting
Physi	
✓	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually
\checkmark	Ramara Centre accessible parking spots identified as trouble spots as vehicle
	users would have to exit vehicle and travel to the back of the vehicle to get to
	the Centre. Bollards moved and concrete sidewalk added to the front of the
	parking spots to improve this issue.
\checkmark	Longford Community Centre – front door moved to provide a wider door for
	improved access.
Techr	nological
✓	EnAbling Access Grant received to update Simcoe County Library Co-op
	Libraries – including Ramara – to accessible status
	2015
Techr	nological
	New Township website is deemed WCAG 2.0 Level A Compliant
	nunication
\checkmark	Annual Public Accessibility Plan Meeting – changed to last Thursday in
	September (daytime) to accommodate seasonal residents or those going south
	for the Winter (before Thanksgiving)
Physi	cal
✓	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually
✓	Mara Medical Centre completes total renovation of the Centre –with help from
	CDC grant – to provide an accessible clinic space which will allow access to
	healthcare and aid in attracting a physician to the area for our rural population

	2016
Comm	unication
✓	Annual Accessibility Plan Public Meeting
Physic	al
✓	Street lighting is budgeted for 4 installations annually – 1 on Fairgrounds at
	McArthur, 1 at Fountain Drive, 2 on Hwy 12 at Ramara Centre
	Firehall # 3 – accessible access ramp added
	Lagoon City Mailbar access identified as inaccessible for those using mobility devices –referred to Council September 2016
Attitud	linal
	Recreation Dept. continues to seek programs that meet the rising population of seniors within the Township
	Recreation Dept. continues to seek programs that are FREE or low cost to allow everyone to participate in activities without a financial burden
	Positions for Leaders in Training were created for children with special needs who have aged out of the day camp environment – giving them opportunities for Community Service Hours for high school requirements, essential job skills and confidence in the workplace and social setting.
~	Recreation continues to encourage support persons or guide dogs to accompany persons with disabilities to recreation programs at no cost to the support person
Proced	
✓ 1	Amendments to the Accessible Customer Service Policy.
	Incorporate into the IASR;
	 Continue to train all members of the organization on accessible customer service;
	 Service Animals – expand to accept documentation from a regulated health professional;
	 Support Persons – to waive admission fee or fare for support person, if one exists;
	 Feedback – ensure feedback process is accessible by providing or arranging for accessible formats and communication supports, on request; Documenting policies, practices and procedures – continue to put accessible customer service policy in writing and make it publically
	available.
	2017
Physic	al
	Curb cuts in trail along Simcoe Road
	Street Lighting – Ramara Centre
✓	Identified need for a Township Facility Checklist for accessibility.
	2018
	unication
✓	mplementation of online newsletter

✓ New Human Resources Manual

Technological

✓ Implementation of iCompass (electronic meeting management software)

2019

✓ Internet Voting for Municipal Election

Technological

- X Implementation of Bang the Table (online participation software)
- ✓ Audio recordings of meetings available online

PRIORITY LIST

Recommendations to Council:

ONGOING INITIATIVES

- Continue to include 0.5% of the total levy towards accessibility initiatives
- Continue to educate owners of public buildings when applying for renovations for permits that all structural renovations must be accessible
- Continue to investigate Rural Broadband sources
- Continue to receive public and staff feedback regarding barriers to accessibility and act upon it when deemed necessary by staff and Council
- Continue to improve access for all services for people of all abilities
- Continue with inclusion recreation for people with special needs
- Recreation & Parks Master Plan recommendations ongoing
- Annual Autism Awareness Flag Raising Ceremony
- Continue to implement Age Friendly programs and initiatives
- Support Physician Recruitment ongoing

SHORT-TERM INITIATIVES

Implementation of software initiatives to allow more online participation by residents;

LONG TERM INITIATIVES (as identified by the public)

- Act upon recommendations received by the Active Transportation Plan for safe bicycle and pedestrian routes
- Accessible chirping signals suggested at traffic lights in Brechin and Atherley on Provincial Highway 12
- Public access to beach at Lagoon City Suggestion- Boardwalk
- Accessible Trails and Open Spaces
- Continue to investigate transit options

REVIEW AND MONITORING

This plan will be reviewed and updated annually following the Public Meeting, which will be held following the Committee of the Whole meeting in September of each year.

As barriers are identified, further recommendations will be made to Council. Township policies, bylaws, programs and services will continue to be reviewed, monitored and added throughout the year and years to come. The Township will strive to become barrier free to persons with disabilities.

COMMUNICATION OF THE PLAN

This plan will be available at the Township Administration Building, the Ramara Centre, both libraries and on the Township's website at <u>www.ramara.ca</u>. This plan will also be available in an alternate format or with the appropriate communication support as soon as practicable, upon request.

If you have any questions regarding the Accessibility Plan for the Township of Ramara, please feel free to contact:

Township of Ramara 2297 Highway 12 P.O. Box 130 Brechin, ON L0K 1B0 (705) 484-5374 Cathy Wainman, Ext. 256 <u>cwainman@ramara.ca</u>