



THE MUNICIPALITY OF

LAMBTON SHORES



# Municipal Accessibility Plan

2020 - 2022

August 2019



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**LAMBTON SHORES**

## **Multi-Year Accessibility Plan**

### **Municipality of Lambton Shores**

**2020 – 2022**

The Municipality wishes to thank the 2019 members of the Lambton Shores Accessibility Advisory Committee (LSAAC) for their guidance and input to the creation of this document.

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## Executive Summary

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The purpose of the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of Lambton Shores. To this end, the ODA mandates that each municipality prepare an annual accessibility plan.

This Accessibility Plan has been prepared with input from the Lambton Shores Accessibility Advisory Committee (LSAAC). The report outlines the measures that Lambton Shores has taken in the past, and the measures that Lambton Shores plans to consider during the forthcoming period of 3 years, to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities that use the facilities and services of Lambton Shores.

Lambton Shores is committed to the continual improvement of access to municipal premises, facilities, and services for residents, staff and visitors with disabilities; the participation of people with disabilities in the development and review of its annual access plan; and the provision of quality services to all members of Lambton Shores with disabilities.

Over the next year, the Committee recommends that Lambton Shores, once again, focus on accessibility improvements in our most publicly utilized facilities.

## Objectives

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This report:

1. Describes the process by which the Lambton Shores will identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
2. Reviews earlier efforts to remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
3. Lists the facilities, policies, programs, practices, and services that Lambton Shores will review in the coming year(s) to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describes the measures Lambton Shores will take in the coming year(s) to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
5. Describes how Lambton Shores will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

## Description of the Municipality of Lambton Shores

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Lambton Shores is an amalgamated municipality (January 1<sup>st</sup> 2001) comprised of the former municipalities of Arkona, Bosanquet, Forest, Grand Bend and Thedford. The new municipality has a population of approximately 12,000 full time residents and a large seasonal resident and tourist population during the summer months.

Lambton Shores is responsible for the provision of a wide range of municipal services throughout Lambton Shores and as a result, has a number of public facilities under its management and control to provide or deliver those services including: two (2) arenas, five (5) community centres, five (5) libraries, two (2) marinas, one (1) major beach facility, numerous parks and playgrounds, three (3) municipal offices, five (5) fire halls and three (3) Community Services depots.

## Lambton Shores' Commitment to Accessibility

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Lambton Shores is committed to:

- The continual improvement of access to existing and future municipal premises, facilities, and services for its ratepayers, staff and visitors with disabilities.
- The participation of people with disabilities in the development and review of its accessibility plan through the establishment of a LSAAC.
- The provision of quality services to all ratepayers and members of the community with disabilities through the adoption of Accessibility Guidelines for municipal facilities, roads, sidewalks etc.

The Mayor and Council of Lambton Shores have established the LSAAC as a statutory committee under the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001*, and the "*Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*". The mandate of the Committee is to:

1. Advise Council in each year about the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its accessibility plan.
2. Provide advice to Council on the accessibility for persons with disabilities to a building, structure or premises, or part of a building, structure or premises,
  - (a) that the council purchases, constructs or significantly renovates;
  - (b) for which the council enters into a new lease; or
  - (c) that a person provides as municipal capital facilities under an agreement entered into with the council in accordance with section 110 of the Municipal Act, 2001.
3. Review matters referred to the Committee by Council and make recommendations as appropriate.

## Past Barrier-Removal Initiatives

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During the last several years, there have been many initiatives to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities, including the following:

Vote by Mail – the vote by mail process allows residents with disabilities or who may have difficulty attending polling stations to execute their electoral rights.

Municipal Web Site – the municipal web site allows residents with mobility, auditory or visual issues to keep abreast of municipal activities by accessing the internet. The web site provides residents with information about Council meetings and the programs, activities and other special events taking place in Lambton Shores and has been upgraded to meet 2015 accessibility standards.

Municipal Banking Options – Lambton Shores offers a wide range of banking options for residents conducting business with Lambton Shores. Tax and utility bills can be paid by automatic bank withdrawal, direct deposit or computer banking, thereby providing persons with mobility issues access to those services.



Road and Sidewalk Design – Lambton Shores has established a standard for the construction of new roads and sidewalks that provides for wheelchair accessibility at crosswalks and intersections. New road or sidewalk construction includes these access points wherever possible. All new sidewalks are being constructed to a 5' width.

Municipal Handicapped Parking Regulations – Lambton Shores has prescribed the provision of handicapped parking spaces at municipal facilities and ensures that private sector commercial developments make provision for accessibility through site plan control. Public Handicapped parking areas are identified by signs and special coloured parking spaces.

Municipal Facility Design – Lambton Shores has provided that any construction or renovation of its municipal facilities must be in compliance with the Municipal Accessibility Guidelines. As a result these requirements are included with the design specifications of those projects.

Accessible Parks & Playgrounds – Often in partnership with local service clubs, community foundations and other organizations, Lambton Shores continues to develop accessible park and playground facilities throughout the municipality.



Firefighter/Disabled ID Programs – All fire departments in Lambton Shores are made aware of the location of persons with disabilities, and registered vulnerable occupancies in order to respond accordingly in the case of an emergency.

Open Hiring Policy – Lambton Shores has established a hiring policy that prevents discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Council/Committee Meetings – Council and Committee meetings are being held in fully accessible facilities to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate.



Access to Public Facilities – Lambton Shores has undertaken the installation of automatic door openers at all of its libraries, communities, arenas, and public washroom facilities.

Accessible Washroom Facilities – Lambton Shores continues to undertake the renovation of various public washroom facilities at all municipal offices, its community libraries, community centres and arenas.



Grand Bend Beach House & Rotary Community Stage – Lambton Shores has partnered with the Rotary Club of Grand Bend and the Grand Bend Community Foundation for the installation of an accessible stage and an elevator that gives access to the roof top viewing area for people with disabilities.

Community Recreation Complex – Forest – A new recreation facility was constructed in Forest which has extensive accessible features including automatic door openers, accessible viewing areas, accessible concession booth, barrier free washrooms and a new accessible walking track.



Community Recreation Complex – Thedford – A newly renovated and expanded recreation facility was constructed in Thedford which also has extensive upgrades to enhance accessibility and use of the facility including automated door openers, accessible viewing areas, and accessible and barrier free washroom facilities, community hall, library and day care centre. Dressing rooms, washrooms and showers are also fully accessible.

Community Recreation Complex – Grand Bend – As part of a project to renovate and expand the Grand Bend Public School, Lambton Shores partnered with the Board to incorporate an accessible new Community Library facility, Gymnasium and Common Room into the facility along with accessible washroom facilities and automated entrance doors.

Accessible Splash Pads – Fully accessible children’s Splash Pads that can safely accommodate children who may be confined to wheelchairs or have other disabilities have been established in Grand Bend, Forest and Arkona.



Accessible Parkette – Thedford – As part of a Community Improvement Strategy for the village a new “Village Green Park” was established in the downtown core area. The new parkette features an accessible playground, gazebo, walkways and gardens. Accessible washrooms are available in the adjacent village community centre.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee reviewed these past efforts of Lambton Shores and commends Council for making great strides to address accessibility issues. The Committee would like to challenge the community at large, including the business community, to do even more for those of its citizens who are unable to enjoy this freedom of access that is so freely available to the majority of its residents.

## **Informal Site Audit of Municipally Owned Buildings**

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In the fall of 2015, members of the LSAAC toured the Port Franks Community Centre and the Thedford Legacy Centre to identify areas for accessibility improvements. Furthermore, in June and October 2016, the LSAAC attended Lions Park in Grand Bend and the Arkona Seniors Centre. The findings of these inspections inform the committee’s recommendations in this plan. Staff also make note of any comments that have been made about accessibility to municipal facilities and include them in operational or capital budget planning as required.

## **Barrier-Identification Methodologies**

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The Committee uses four barrier-identification methodologies:

1. Brainstorming – Members of staff and the LSAAC conduct brainstorming on facility & community accessibility needs.
2. On Site Inspection of Facilities – Municipal staff and the LSAAC member tour facilities in Lambton Shores in order to identify accessibility improvements.
3. Research Other Municipal Strategies – As required, staff and LSAAC are encouraged to access municipal web sites to review other strategies for tackling accessibility issues.
4. Response to Requests – As required, the LSAAC responds to requests and recommendations on behalf of Council and the general public.

## **Barriers Identified**

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As previously discussed, Lambton Shores has put a primary focus on accessibility deficiencies in its public facilities. As such many of the completed efforts have been on the removal of physical barriers to persons with mobility issues. It must be kept in mind that there is a much broader range of accessibility issues yet to address as Lambton Shores moves forward, including visual, auditory, developmental, etc. and these issues will need to be addressed in the future.

As a result of the various barrier identification methodologies, the LSAAC provides and updates a list of future projects for the consideration of Council. This list is provided as Schedule A to this plan and is updated and revised as necessary.

## **Review and Monitoring Process**

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The Chief Administrative Officer will review progress on identified projects and will remind staff, about their roles in implementing the plan. The LSAAC will review progress and make further recommendations on issues for consideration.

## **Communication of the Plan**

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Copies of this plan are available in all Municipal Offices (Forest, Grand Bend & Northville) and on the Municipal web site. On request, the report will be made available on computer disk, in large print, or in Braille.

The Lambton Shores website link is [www.lambtonshores.ca/accessibility/](http://www.lambtonshores.ca/accessibility/)

Accessibility related issues or concerns can be reported through the contact link on that page.

## Schedule A

### Identified Barriers for Consideration

It is recommended that Lambton Shores address the following accessibility barriers during the coming year(s). This list is not in order of priority as it is left to Council to determine those priorities in relation to the other capital needs of Lambton Shores.

<i>Barrier</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Year Identified</i>	<i>Status</i>
Work with Forest Dog Park initiative to plan entrance	Ensure entrance is appropriate for Accessibility needs	2019	tbd
New Coultis Park washrooms to meet accessibility standards.	Provide input	2019	tbd
Grand Bend Beach House Family washroom	Automatic door opener	2019	tbd
Grand Bend Beach Access	Extend mobi-mat closer to water's edge	2019	tbd
Grand Bend Beach water access device	Accessibility float device	2019	Awaiting donation through Blue Flag
Port Franks CC Water Fountain too high	Consider 2-step fountain and fill station	2015	Fountain ordered and to be installed Q4
Port Franks CC Improve signage to site amenities and accessible washrooms	Improve visual aids	2015	TBD
Grand Bend Lions Park Accessible Washroom	Provide accessible option	2016	Accessible portable arranged for 2020.
Seniors Centre north sidewalk too narrow and possible conflict with air conditioner	Improved accessibility for wheelchairs	2016	Work order in place, awaiting contractor
Seniors Centre north exit door and deadbolts to be changed.	Improve emergency egress	2016	Replace door and include panic bar. 2020.