

2015
Town of Gore Bay
Municipal
Accessibility Plan

As Submitted by
The Accessibility Steering Committee
December, 2014

Section 1: Municipal Jurisdiction Participating in this Plan

Municipality

The Corporation of the Town of Gore Bay
15 Water Street
P.O Box 590
Gore Bay, ON
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Key Contact

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Population

According to the 2011 Census the population of the Town of Gore Bay is 850 people. The population has decreased 8.0% from 2006. 30% of Gore Bay's population is 65 years of age or older.

Municipal Highlights

Gore Bay is located on the Western portion of Manitoulin Island, on the North Channel of Lake Huron, amid one of the best-known boating venues in North America. The town is the second largest community on the island and was incorporated in 1890.

Gore Bay is one of the few communities on the island without a native name. The name for the town probably came from the tapering gore that runs inland, or from a ship trapped in the bay during a winter storm, which was called the Gore.

The Town of Gore Bay has a volunteer fire department of 12 volunteers. They serve the town and the neighboring Townships of Gordon and Barrie Island. Gore Bay is also the base for an ambulance service on Manitoulin Island. Manitoulin Lodge, one of the three rest homes on Manitoulin Island is located in Gore Bay, with residents from all communities on Manitoulin Island.

Gore Bay also offers many attractions including the Gore Bay Museum, Harbour Centre, Pavilion, the boardwalk, swimming beach, playground, golf course, tennis courts and picnic area. Gore Bay offers a Drop in Centre for seniors at the Community Health Centre. There is also a basketball court, skateboarding park and soccer park located on the waterfront for the adolescents.

Gore Bay is also the home of one of the most beautiful, full service marinas located on the North Channel.

Section 3: Plan Development Working Group

The body that is coordinating the Accessibility Plan for the Town of Gore Bay is Gore Bay Accessibility Committee. Listed below are the group members and their contact information.

<u>Group Member</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Ron Lane	705-282-7241
Jack Clark	705-282-7725
Kevin Woestenenk	705-282-7582
Scott McDougall	705-210-0044
Annette Clarke	705-282-2420

Section 4: Consultation Activities

Target Group

The target groups in this Municipal Accessibility Plan are the concerned general public, persons with mobility impairment, seniors, persons with physical disabilities, persons who are deaf or blind and supportive stakeholders.

Activities

The following measures were undertaken by the Town of Gore Bay throughout 2014 to identify barriers to accessibility.

- 1) As identified in the 2010 Accessibility Plan, by-law and procedural reviews were conducted to ensure that accessibility was considered.
- 2) Consideration of accessibility was given with the construction of the new washrooms at the Gore Bay Arena.
- 3) Consideration of accessibility was given with the installation of a new door at the Gore Bay Medical Centre basement
- 4) Review and Training O Reg 191/11 – Integrated Accessibility Standards

Summary of Information Collected through Consultation

Entrance to many of the businesses in the Town continues to be a barrier to access. However, the Town of Gore Bay does not have jurisdiction to direct business owners. New legislation will address these issues. However, lack of space and architectural problems will definitely limit the abilities of the businesses to provide access for wheelchairs.

As well the Town of Gore Bay Public Works Department has continued to repair/replace sidewalks along the main business section to allow for easier access to the businesses.

However it has been noted that there is a great financial obligation attached to becoming a fully accessible community. Unfortunately financial constraints limit the ability of the municipality to complete many of these projects.

Section 5: Barrier Identification

Barriers Identified

BARRIER	BARRIER TYPE	STRATEGY FOR REMOVAL OR PREVENTION
<p>1.0 Gore Bay Marina</p> <p>1.1 No ramp access from boardwalk to ground</p> <p>1.2 No ramp access to Dock Office</p> <p>1.3 Space limitations with in dock office to allow easy accessibility for wheelchairs</p> <p>1.4 Space limitation in washroom and showers. No handrails</p> <p>1.5 Entrance doors are very heavy and have no lower access buttons.</p>	<p>Physical</p> <p>Physical</p> <p>Architectural</p> <p>Architectural</p> <p>Physical</p>	<p>Construct access ramps from boardwalk to ground</p> <p>Construct access ramp to dock office COMPLETED 2011</p> <p>Increase size of dock office and provide easier access to services COMPLETED 2011</p> <p>New barrier free construction. Increased size of washrooms and showers and installed handrails in new facilities. COMPLETED 2011</p> <p>Install lower access buttons for automatic door opening and closing. ENTRANCE DOORS WERE CHANGED TO ALLOW EASIER ACCESS. Done in 2011</p>
<p>2.0 Gore Bay Medical Centre</p> <p>2.1 No lower access buttons on entrance doors</p> <p>2.2 No handrails in the washroom in Drop in Centre</p> <p>2.3 No lower access buttons on basement entrance door</p>	<p>Physical</p> <p>Physical</p> <p>Physical</p>	<p>Install lower access buttons COMPLETED in 2012</p> <p>Install handrails COMPLETED in 2012</p> <p>Install new door & lower access buttons COMPLETED in 2014</p>

BARRIER	BARRIER TYPE	STRATEGY FOR REMOVAL OR PREVENTION
3.0 Gore Bay Community Hall		
3.1 Current exterior ramp is dangerously steep	Physical	Existing ramp removed, new barrier free addition that included an elevator to provide complete accessibility to the entire building COMPLETED in 2013
3.2 No lower access buttons at the entrances	Physical	New entrances have been installed. COMPLETED in 2013
3.3 No access to washroom facilities. Facilities are very tiny and do not allow for maneuverability	Architectural	Install lower access buttons on the entrance doors and elevator New barrier free washrooms installed COMPLETED in 2013
4.0 The Municipal Building		
4.1 No lower access buttons at entrances	Physical	Install lower access buttons COMPLETED in 2013
4.2 Only stair access to the basement	Architectural	Limit use by public – change committee meetings to alternate accessible location. COMPLETED
4.3 No designated disabled parking area	Policy	Designate a disabled parking space COMPLETED A DESIGNATED DISABLED PARKING SPACE AND MARKED IN 2013 COMPLETED 2014
4.4 Web page is not reading software applicable	Technological	Design web page for reading software. WEB PAGE UPDATED WITH LARGER TYPE OPTION

BARRIER	BARRIER TYPE	STRATEGY FOR REMOVAL OR PREVENTION
6.0 The Lapidary Building		THIS BUILDING IS CURRENTLY LEASED OUT
6.1 Ramps at both entrances are very steep	Architectural	Construct new ramps at the entrances
6.2 No hand railings in the washrooms	Architectural	Install hand railings in the washrooms
6.3 There is no designated disabled parking	Policy	Designate disabled parking
7.0 Gore Bay Memorial Arena		
7.1 No ramp access at the entrances	Physical	Construct a ramp at the entrances and add accessible doors
7.2 Only stair access to the upper and lower floor	Architectural	Install a chair lift between floors Downstairs is no longer used.
7.3 Very limited space in the washroom and no hand railings in the stalls	Architectural	Increase size of the washrooms and install hand railings in new facilities Note: Limited space available. New washroom facilities. COMPLETED in 2014
7.4 No lower access buttons at the doors	Physical	Install lower access buttons at the entrance. Plans to purchase and install new access doors in 2015
7.5 Installed barrier free change rooms and washrooms	Physical	COMPLETED IN 2011
8.0 The Pavilion		This Building is currently leased out.
8.1 No ramp access to the restaurant area	Physical	Construct a ramp to the restaurant floor or possible elevator access
8.2 Washrooms are only on the first floor and do not have hand railings.	Architectural	Install hand railings in the washrooms COMPLETED

BARRIER	BARRIER TYPE	STRATEGY FOR REMOVAL OR PREVENTION
<p>9.0 The Old Municipal Building</p> <p>9.1 No ramp access to the building</p> <p>9.2 Narrow doors to the offices and have no lower access buttons</p> <p>9.3 Heavy exterior doors to the public washrooms</p> <p>9.4 Washrooms are limited in space and do not have hand railings</p> <p>9.5 Only stair access to the upper floor</p>	<p>Physical</p> <p>Architectural. / Physical</p> <p>Physical</p> <p>Architectural</p> <p>Architectural</p>	<p>This building is rented out for commercial and residential space.</p> <p>Construct access ramps at the entrance</p> <p>Install wider doors with lower access buttons</p> <p>Install new doors with lower access buttons</p> <p>Construct new washrooms and add hand railings to the new facilities</p> <p>Install a chair lift to the upper floor</p>
<p>10.0 The Town Garage</p> <p>10.1 Washroom is not fully accessible</p>	<p>Architectural/ Physical</p>	<p>Employees Only</p> <p>Renovate washroom facilities to building code standards</p>
<p>11.0 The Streets</p> <p>11.1 Very few designated disabled parking spaces</p> <p>11.2 Spaces are not clearly marked</p> <p>11.3 Sidewalks are not wedged for easy access</p>	<p>Policy</p> <p>Informational</p> <p>Physical</p>	<p>Designate more disabled parking spaces COMPLETED in 2013 Added additional spaces in 2014</p> <p>Clearly mark available spaces ALL SPACES ARE CLEARLY MARKED</p> <p>Cut sidewalks at the ramps and at elevated locations</p>

Section 6: Operational Review

Organization

Town of Gore Bay Public Works

Department

The activities that take place within this department are road maintenance, maintenance of Town owned buildings, water and sewer repair, and to carry out construction assignments as directed by council and the municipalities priorities.

Rationale for Planned Review

The Public Works Department will conduct visual inspections through out the year as they do their regular inspections of the Town owned buildings. As they notice further accessibility barriers they will advise Council.

Organization

Town of Gore Bay Council

Department

Council is the body that will give direction with respect to the priorities of the Municipality. As well, council will consider the amount that will be in the 2015 budget to allow the Town of Gore Bay to increase accessibility by removing barriers in the community.

Rational for Planned Review

The Town of Gore Bay has made considerable advances in attaining barrier free access to municipally owned facilities. In 2014, donations and funding made it possible for the construction of new accessible washrooms at the Gore Bay Arena.

Also in 2013 the Industrial Building, now known as the Gore Bay Harbour Centre, was renovated and made accessible. First floor has accessible doors and the second floor has a ramp with additional parking spaces.

The Town of Gore Bay's future focus will continue to be the Gore Bay Arena. Council will take into consideration what strategies for removal can be conducted throughout 2015 to allow the Town of Gore Bay to become a more accessible community. This will become part of the 2015 budget process for the municipality.

Section 7: Targets and Actions

Actions

Actions for the next twelve-month review period are as follows:

ACTION	RESOURCES	COSTS	TARGET
Sidewalk repair	Staff time, necessary materials & equipment	Staff wages, material fees & equipment rental	2015, 2016, and 2017
Gore Bay Arena	Staff time, necessary materials & equipment	Staff wages, material fees & equipment rental	2015, 2016, and 2017

Resources Necessary to Undertake Action

Making adjustments to become an “accessible community” takes money and manpower. Unfortunately, we do not have the tax base to support the high cost of completing all tasks needed to make our buildings and services 100% accessible. Therefore, each year, Gore Bay will expedite funds and staff to complete tasks which will bring us closer to our goal of accessibility within our community.

Section 8: Decision – Making & Review

Organization

The Town of Gore Bay Council

Department

The Town council makes the final decision regarding the plans and priorities for the municipality. Council will review the recommendations from the accessibility plan and determine what amounts of monies should be allocated in the budget for accessibility issues.

Rationale for Planned Review

Budgeting is done on an annual basis. A draft of the budget is prepared by the Treasurer and presented to Gore Bay Council for review and recommendation to council for approval. 2015 budgeting process will commence in the fall of 2014.