

## TOWNSHIP OF NIPISSING

General Delivery

Nipissing, ON P0H 1W0

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### **TOWNSHIP OF NIPISSING ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

Updated: December 20, 2016

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Population: 1,582 according to MPAC 2015

#### Municipal Highlights:

The Corporation of the Township of Nipissing was incorporated on February 10, 1888. On January 1, 1970, the Township of Nipissing annexed the unorganized Township of Gurd. The municipality is a rural community which promotes farming, forestry and tourism. The Corporation of the Township of Nipissing is located in the Northeastern Region of Ontario, in the District of Parry Sound, south of the City of North Bay and west of Highway 11 from the Powassan corridor.

The Township of Nipissing employs 8 full time positions and 8 part-time/seasonal positions. Located within the Village of Nipissing is the Township Office, Public Works Garage, Outdoor Rink and Nipissing Township Museum. The Municipal Council is composed of a Mayor and four Councillors. The Township operates a Community Centre for hall rentals and community events which includes a Fitness Centre. There are two Fire Stations within the Township, operated by the Township of Nipissing Fire Department.

The Township of Nipissing is a great municipality to enjoy the great outdoors and a rural way of life. Many residents commute to North Bay for employment, social and shopping activities. The median age in the Township is 49, with 840 residents aged 50 or over as per the 2011 Census data.

## **Other Organizations & Agencies Participating in this Plan**

There are no groups or organizations actively involved in the municipality at this time, therefore no participation from other organizations and agencies took place.

The Council and Staff of the Township of Nipissing have compiled this plan utilizing their personal experiences and the experiences shared with them from the residents of the Township. Council has an open approach for all residents to bring concerns forward to the Township Office for consideration, all suggestions and concerns will be received in this format and dealt with at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting in order to address all accessibility concerns that arise.

Inquiries regarding this plan can be directed to the Township Office:

Phone: 705-724-2144  
Fax: 705-724-5385  
Email: [admin@nipissingtownship.com](mailto:admin@nipissingtownship.com)

## **MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

The Township of Nipissing's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan outlines a phased-in strategy to prevent and remove barriers and addresses the current and future requirements of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

The Township will review the Accessibility Plan annually, to be completed no later than October 31. The review will be presented to Council for approval at the first regularly scheduled Council meeting in November. The approved Accessibility Plan will be posted to the Township website for public viewing as well a copy being available at the Township Office for review on request.

The Township of Nipissing maintains Accessibility Policies in a separate document. Please refer to the Policy document for specific policies covering:

- Customer Service
- Emergency Management Information
- Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations including:
  - Information and Communications Standard
  - Employment Standard
  - Design of Public Spaces
- Procuring or Acquiring Goods, Services or Facilities
- Training

At present, there are no barriers to accessibility that have been identified for immediate action. A notice will be placed for Accessibility Concerns in the Fall Newsletter being mailed to all property owners for feedback. The only remaining item for consideration is an entrance ramp to the Fitness Centre. Funding options will continue to be explored for this project.

### Current Buildings:

1. Municipal Office  
45 Beatty Street, Nipissing, ON P0H 1W0

The office building has an accessibility ramp leading to the back door of the building. An automatic door opener is installed on this door. The building consists of the Council Chamber, office and reception spaces and an accessible washroom available for public use.

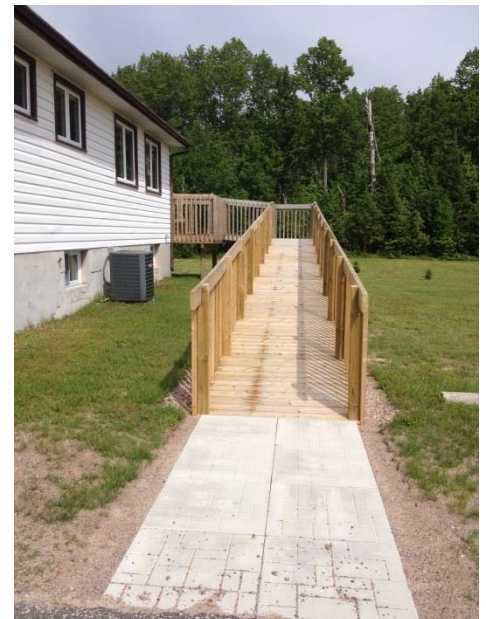
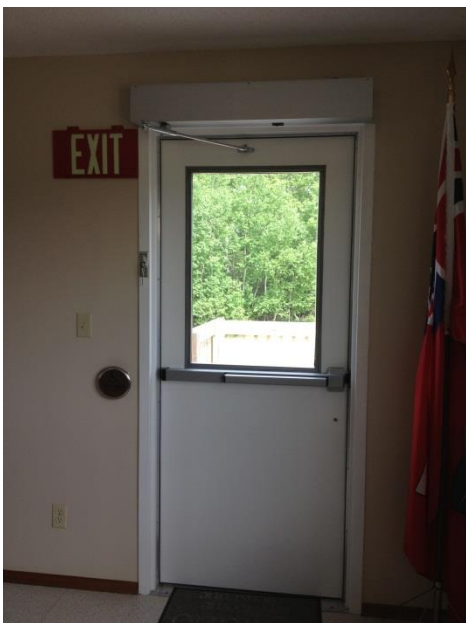
### *Identified Issues:*

- Council meetings are held using voice and limited written materials, presenting a challenge for those with a hearing impairment to follow along with the meeting

This building is used for elections at all levels of government as well as providing an important venue for all residents to participate in local government. Adequate accessibility is a priority for Council.

### *Opportunities for Improvement:*

- closed captioning can be made available at the office for those requesting the service in advance; a projector can be purchased and there are staff resources to perform this duty.  
**\*Projector has been purchased as of July 23, 2009 and can be utilized upon request.**





2. Nipissing Community Centre  
2381 Hwy 654, Callander, ON P0H 1H0

The Community Centre has an accessibility ramp to the main hall entrance. An automatic door opener is not installed on this door. This building consists of the main reception hall, kitchen, fitness centre and Fire Station #1. This facility is rented for functions and used for municipal events.

The washrooms at this facility are available for public use and each of the, men's and women's washroom, has a larger cubicle with an outward opening door and mobility aid bars are mounted on the walls within the stalls. The entrance ways are all suitable for all mobility concerns. The entrance to the hall is accessible for all mobility concerns as well.

*Identified Issues:*

- there are 2 steps down into the kitchen area
- there are no paddle type fixtures in the kitchen to aid those with mobility concerns – **Updated 2010.**
- fitness centre has fixed equipment and can only be accessed down 2 flights of stairs
- floor tiles are lifting which could cause a safety concern for mobility issues – **Floor replaced 2010.**
- parking areas need to be identified as handicapped spaces with signage – **Signage installed, areas designated in 2010.**

The kitchen area is rented out with the facility but is not considered a customer access area. Access to all events and washroom facilities are available on a flat and even surface, ensuring equal access to all who attend. Due to a kitchen

being present for the preparation of food, service animals are not permitted within the kitchen area but are welcome in the reception hall and washrooms.

The fitness centre cannot be equipped with a level access door due to drainage and landscape constraints. Alternate arrangements can be made to have portable weights and exercise balls brought to the main hall for use for those who cannot access the fitness centre. The stairs leading to the fitness centre have contrasting and raised strips at the edge of each stair to aid those with visual concerns.

A grant has been applied for to improve the access ramp, to have automatic door appliances installed and to have the tile floor replaced with an improved flooring option. Upgrades to the kitchen such as paddle type fixtures have also been applied for. – **Upgrades to the kitchen sinks and fixtures were completed as well as the floor replaced, however funding was not adequate to replace the current access ramp or install automatic door openers. 2010**

**October 2015 – Quotes for an automatic door opener and new door with window are being obtained and will be reviewed for installation in the early Spring of 2016. This will improve the safety and accessibility of this entrance.**

***2016 - Grant opportunities did not approve the funding application. It will be re-applied for on the next available grant initiative to update the door and automatic opener.***

*Opportunities for Improvement:*

- an application for a grant to improve the accessibility ramp with an automatic door, fixtures within the hall and improved flooring has been approved for 2009.  
**This grant was approved in July 2009.  
Floor was replaced and kitchen renovated in 2010, funding was not adequate to replace the current access ramp or install the automatic door openers.**
- posted notification of areas service animals are welcome and restricted areas due to health regulations.
- notification on the website stating the alternate arrangements available for fitness equipment would be educational to all residents. **Completed in 2010.**
- signage to assign designated handicapped parking spaces.  
**Completed in 2010.**





3. Heritage Rink (Outdoor Seasonal Skating Rink)  
Blake & Beatty Street, Nipissing, ON P0H 1W0

This facility is a seasonal rink which is flooded and maintained by the Township. There is a current schedule for family skating and hockey, to allow for equitable use for all residents, safely. An ice ramp is created from the building to the ice surface in the season.

At this time there has been no request for special use such as sledge hockey or a designated time for a person with visual concerns however these times can be scheduled for the rink at any request submitted to the Township Office.



1. Nipissing Township Museum  
Hwy 654, Nipissing, ON P0H 1W0

The Museum consists of three main buildings accessed by the public. Accessibility ramps have been constructed for the main office and the church building. The Museum has a Curator and two student assistants to the curator during the operational season. All tours are personally guided by a staff member, ensuring that individuals with any concerns are personally attended to with all items being described or discussed as necessary.

This facility offers a unique accessibility feature by providing personal attention to all visitors and ensuring that all concerns are addressed and overcome. The Museum has three main seasonal events which include a Strawberry Social, Yard and Craft Sale and Heritage Day. These events take place on the grounds of the museum and there are many volunteers and staff members present to ensure that all visitors are attended to if required. The festivities on the lawns are accessible to all and enjoyed by many.

*Identified Issues:*

- the current ramps used are aging and no longer secure, they are removed each season and stored but they require replacement for this season as they are longer safe for use and have been disposed of. – **Replaced with new ramps 2013.**
- signage for handicapped designated parking spot to be installed. – **Installed 2010.**
- **Visual definition strip to be painted or installed on the stairs in front of the main office. Priority for 2017.**



*Life the way it should be*

Items for further action:

- purchase a projector for office use **\*\* Purchased July 23, 2009.**
- renovate washroom at Township Office **\*\*Completed 2011.**
- doorbell notification for ramp **\*\* Grant application awaiting approval. – no grant approved. **Automatic door opener installed in new door on new ramp instead, 2012.****
- pavement paint for parking designation and parking designation signs x 2 for the Township Office **\*\*Installed signs 2010.**
- ramps for museum x 2 **\*\* Brought to the attention of the Museum Board for consideration of design and contract. **\*\*Ramps replaced and small removable ramps constructed for all entrances 2013.****
- parking designation signs x 2 for Community Centre **\*\*Installed 2010.**
- parking designation sign x 1 for Museum **\*\*Installed 2010.**
- notification signs for service animal entrance at Community Centre, Museum, Township Office **\*\*Installed 2010.**
- post Accessibility Plan on Township website **\*\* **Resolution of support from Council received July 14, 2009, posted as available on our website as of July 24, 2009.****

Update completed October 31, 2015 for 2015 review.

Update completed December 20, 2016 for 2016 review.