

2006

JOINT ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

**County of Middlesex
Township of Adelaide-Metcalf
Township of Lucan-Biddulph
Township of Middlesex Centre
Municipality of North Middlesex
Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
Township of Strathroy-Caradoc
Municipality of Thames Centre**

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Municipal Jurisdiction (S) Participating In This Plan

County of Middlesex

399 Ridout Street North, London ON N6A 2P1
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Telephone: (519) 434-7321 Fax: (519) 434-0638

Township of Adelaide-Metcalfe

2340 Egremont Drive, R.R.# 5, Strathroy ON N7G 3H6
Fran Urbshott, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk
Telephone: (519) 247-3687 Fax: (519) 247-3411

Township of Lucan-Biddulph

33351 Richmond Street, P.O. Box 190, Lucan, ON N0M 2J0
Ron Reymer, Administrator-Clerk
Telephone: (519) 227-4491 Fax: (519) 227-4998

Township of Middlesex Centre

10227 Ilderton Road, R.R. #2, Ilderton ON N0M 2A0
Cathy Saunders, Manager of Corporate Services & Clerk
Telephone: (519) 666-0190 x232 Fax: (519) 666-0271

Municipality of North Middlesex

229 Main Street, P.O. Box 9, Parkhill ON N0M 2K0
Shirley Scott, Administrator-Clerk
Telephone: (519) 294-6244 Fax: (519) 294-0573

Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

153 McKellar Street, P.O. Box 218, Glencoe ON N0L 1M0
Betty Ann MacKinnon, Administrator-Clerk
Telephone: (519) 287-2015 Fax: (519) 287-2359

Township of Strathroy-Caradoc

52 Frank Street, Strathroy, ON N7G 2R4
Jim Fairlie, C.A.O. Angela Toth, Director of Corporate Services
Telephone: (519) 245-1070 Fax: (519) 245-6353

Municipality of Thames Centre

4305 Hamilton Road, Dorchester N0L 1G3
Stewart Findlater, Director of Community Services & Development
Telephone: (519) 268-7334 Fax: (519) 268-3928

Time Frame

The time frame covered by this accessibility plan is January 1 and December 31, 2006.

Population

66,635 - 2001 Census (including the Village of Newbury)

Municipal Partner Description

The County of Middlesex is an upper tier municipality located in Southwestern Ontario, adjacent to the City of London. The municipality consists of eight local municipalities of which all but one (Village of Newbury) have agreed to the development of a joint accessibility plan.

Each municipality participating in the plan delivers a set of core services which it delivers based on the policies and by-laws of their respective municipal councils. The goal of joint plan is to promote consistent practice where it makes sense, and to retain local autonomy in areas where there is no consensus at that time. Part of each year's planning process will identify areas of common and divergent interests based on the decisions of each municipal partner.

The distribution of municipal services between the upper tier and local municipalities are outlined below:

Table A: Core Services

County of Middlesex	Adelaide-Metcalf, Lucan-Biddulph, Middlesex Centre, North Middlesex, Southwest Middlesex, Strathroy-Caradoc and Thames Centre
Transportation (County Roads) Library & Information Services Family & Social Services Planning & Economic Development (shared)	Transportation (Local Roads) Culture, Parks Recreation & Heritage Treasury & Taxation Services Planning & Economic Development (shared) Building and Property Standards Weed & Animal Control Drainage and Flood Control Fire & Emergency Services Sewage Collection & Treatment Police Services (Strathroy-Caradoc only) Parking

Municipally-funded services under contract with third parties include:

Table B: Contracted Municipal Core Services

Contracted Service	Contractor
Police Services	Ontario Provincial Police Services
Social Housing	City of London
Provincial Offences Administration	City of London
Public Health	Middlesex-London Health Unit
Land Ambulance	Thames EMS
Waste Management	Contact Municipality for Details
Water Production and Distribution	Contact Municipality for Details

Consultation Activities

Middlesex Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Middlesex Accessibility Advisory Committee was consulted in the preparation of this Joint Accessibility Plan. As part of their review of the first plan, the Committee identified the following priorities for 2006 and beyond:

- Conducting accessibility audits on municipal facilities
- Supplement Chief Building Officer training with an orientation to accessibility issues
- Increase awareness activities through public education
- Develop a site plan review process that targets input on selected site plans of interest to the Accessibility Committee
- Create an Accessibility page on the County web site, including a Life Event Bundle for families faced with accessibility needs for disabled and elderly family members
- Encourage new minimum standards for public washrooms in public and private facilities
- Encourage local municipalities and private landowners to adopt and active enforcement program for parking by-laws
- Encourage the creation of minimum standards for handicapped parking spots, particularly in public and privately owned facilities which are regularly used, eg. medical facilities
- Provide sensitivity training for municipal staff

2006 Joint Middlesex Accessibility Plan

Accessibility Working Group

The following working group members were involved in a review of the handbook for Accessibility Advisory Committees, and worked with their Councils with respect to the development of the 2006 Plan:

Working Member	Group	Municipality/ Agency	Department Represented	Contact Telephone & email
Donald Hudson		Middlesex County	All	(519) 434-7321 ext. 245 dhudson@county.middlesex.on.ca
Cathy Saunders		Middlesex Centre	All	(519) 666-0190 saunders@middlesexcentre.on.ca
Angela Toth		Strathroy-Caradoc	All	(519) 245-1070 atoth@strathroy-caradoc.ca
Shirley Scott		North Middlesex	All	(519) 294-6244 shirley.scott@northwestmiddlesex.on.ca
BettyAnn Mackinnon		Southwest Middlesex	All	(519) 287-2015 bamackinnon@southwestmiddlesex.ca
Fran Urbshott		Adelaide-Metcalfe	All	(519) 247-3687 furshott@bellnet.ca
Michelle Casavecchia		Thames Centre	All	(519) 268-7334 ext. 232 mcasavecchia@thamescentre.on.ca
Ron Reymer		Lucan-Biddulph	All	(519) 227-4491 rreymer@lucanbiddulph.on.ca

2005 Measures Taken To Identify, Remove and Prevent Barriers Among the Municipal Partners

Middlesex County Accomplishments

County Administration Offices, 399 Ridout Street North, London

As a result of an accessibility audit completed for 399 Ridout Street North, London, the County's Administration Offices, a number of changes were made to the building, including improved access in the washrooms, the installation of hand rails on the outside heading towards the entrance and improved signage.

Strathmere Lodge

The development of the new Strathmere Lodge incorporated features to accommodate elderly and disabled individuals. Opened in March 2006.

Human Resources Policies & Procedures

An internal assessment of all HR Policies and Procedures was conducted to identify compliance with the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and measures recommended to Council where necessary.

Adelaide-Metcalfe Accomplishments

There are few municipal facilities in Adelaide-Metcalfe. The Township office is accessible by means of a ramp and automatic door opener. As there are no urban areas in the municipality, there are few site plans to review, and little infrastructure in the way of sidewalks, crosswalks and the like.

Lucan-Biddulph Accomplishments

Lucan Biddulph undertook a "March of Dimes" audit regarding accessibility issues at the Lucan Community Memorial Centre on March 23, 2005.

In 2005 an additional handicap parking space at the Lucan Community Memorial Centre was added in response to a citizen's request.

Investigated the possibility of sensitivity training but there were no opportunities in 2006. Registered three people for the upcoming training session in London, April 26, 2006.

Middlesex Centre Accomplishments

Automatic door openings were installed at the Municipal Office in Coldstream.

The Parking By-law and Zoning By-laws were finalized and in place in 2005 to include provision of barrier free parking spaces.

The Ilderton Arena has been renovated to provide for a lift device to the second floor of the building.

The former Ilderton Fire Station has been converted to a dental office which provides barrier free entrances.

The Site Plan review process continues to include the provision of barrier free features. Sub dividers are now required to provide barrier free sidewalks. Building permits for commercial, industrial, institutional and multi-residential buildings continue to be reviewed to ensure barrier free compliance with the Ontario Building Code.

North Middlesex Accomplishments

During 2005, the Nairn Playground was made wheelchair accessible. Ramps were installed and some of the equipment was made "user friendly" for children with special needs.

Accessibility was considered with the new development of "Tim Hortons" during Site Plan approval.

The Chief Building Official considered the appropriate changes during any Commercial and/or Industrial renovation or reconstruction of building sites.

Contour shaping for wheelchair accessibility is considered with the replacement of any community sidewalks.

With the Aid of Trillium Funding, a volunteer group and the municipality started the construction of a lift to aid in entering the upper stories of the old Ailsa Craig Municipal Offices, now known as Ye Olde Towne Hall. This facility is now a community meeting place with part of it being rented as a business and another part being operated as a community hall.

Strathroy-Caradoc Accomplishments

- Grab bar installed at the Strathroy Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- Installed ramp to washroom at Strathroy Fire Hall.
- Reviewed as a Management Team new commercial big box construction in Strathroy to ensure accessibility.
- Installed the following new sidewalks with curb cuts for wheel chair access
 - Carol Street to new commercial development, Strathroy
 - Saxton Road from Twin Elms Mobile Park to Carol Street, Strathroy
 - Glendon Drive to new senior's apartment, Mt. Brydges
 - Albert Street with new curb cuts with ramps at all intersections from Frank Street to Victoria Street, Strathroy.

Thames Centre Accomplishments

Thames Centre reviewed its semi-annual municipal newsletter and all ratepayer inserts to ensure that they are printed in an appropriate font for individuals with sight impairments. The Municipality will also include educational items in the municipal newsletter to promote awareness. This measure was not completed in 2005. The municipal newsletter is under review by Council.

An accessibility audit of the various municipal facilities will be completed in 2005. The Five-year Capital Budget includes provisions for entrance renovations to the Dorchester community Centre & Arena to install automatic door openers for easier access. Although an audit was not completed, a number of items were identified by staff and have been included as capital projects in the 2006 recreation budget.

Thames Centre will participate in seminars and joint measures being undertaken by the Accessibility Advisory Committee. This item was not accomplished in 2005 and will be considered for 2006.

2006 Measures In Place To Identify, Remove And Prevent Barriers Among the Municipal Partners

and

2006 List of By-laws, Programs, Policies and Services Contemplated for Review by the Municipal Partners & Measures Contemplated to Identify, Remove and Prevent Barriers by Municipal Partners.

Joint Measures for 2006

For each municipality, the priority setting process incorporates input from the Middlesex Accessibility Advisory Committee and from each Municipal Council in addition to public comment.

Training Session will be conducted for municipal staff to sensitize them to accessibility issues.

Improvements to municipal web sites relating to accessibility.

Site Plan Review Protocol

The municipalities will work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to develop a protocol for the Accessibility Advisory Committees to comment on selected priority site reviews within the established approval timeframe. Planners from the effected municipalities will be invited to a meeting of the committee to develop a protocol which will be ratified by the respective municipal Councils for implementation in 2006.

Middlesex County List for 2006

- Training Session will be conducted for municipal staff to sensitize them to accessibility issues.
- Improvement to the County's web site as it relates to accessibility.

Adelaide-Metcalf List for 2006

- The ratepayer newsletter will be reviewed to ensure it is legible to elderly and sight impaired individuals.

Lucan-Biddulph List for 2006

- Training Sessions will be conducted for municipal staff to sensitize them to accessibility issues.
- Modification of washrooms in the Leprechaun Hall at the Lucan Community Memorial Centre to make them handicap accessible.

Middlesex Centre List for 2006

- The Township will be installing automatic door openings at the Coldstream Community Centre in Coldstream.
- The Township is undertaking a five year review of our Official Plan and will review current barrier free policies and determine if further policy changes are required.
- The Township will be requesting the March of Dimes to undertake an audit of municipal facilities.

North Middlesex List for 2006

- The Recreation Department plans to install outdoor automatic openers to their recreational facilities. Plans are in place to make the entrance to the North Middlesex Community Centre, accessible, also.
- The lift at Ye Olde Towne Hall will be finalized making that facility accessible to all stories.
- When possible, sidewalks will be shaped for accessibility.
- Any commercial or industrial renovations or construction will be viewed with the accessibility issue in mind and encouraged wherever possible.

Southwest Middlesex List for 2006

- The ratepayer newsletter will be reviewed to ensure it is legible to elderly and sight impaired individuals.

Strathroy-Caradoc List for 2006

- Handrails and new wider washroom doors to be installed at the Strathroy Fire Hall
- Grab bars to be installed in the washroom at the Albert Street Pump Station, Strathroy
- New Sidewalk repairs with curb cuts to accommodate wheel chairs in various areas
- Wheel Chair ramp for Middlesex Community Living, Thomas Street, Strathroy

Thames Centre List for 2006

- The following items have been approved in the 2006 Capital Budget.
 - Installation of automatic sliding door at the Dorchester Community Centre and Arena
 - Installation of new sidewalks and ramps at the Dorchester community Centre and Arena
 - Installation of an Accessible playground swing at the Dorchester Community Park.

- An accessibility audit of the various municipal facilities will be completed in 2006 to provide further guidance on future capital items.

- Thames Centre will participate in seminars and joint measures being undertaken by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

- Thames Centre will review its semi-annual municipal newsletter and all ratepayer inserts to ensure that they are printed in an appropriate font for individuals with sight impairments. The Municipality will also include educational items in the municipal newsletter to promote awareness.