
City Of North Bay
Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAC)
2013 Annual Report

Background

This report reflects activities undertaken by the North Bay Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee during 2013 and plans for 2014.

Summary of Activities – Year 2013

a) Committee Membership – 2013

Nora Long (Chair)
Emma Langdon (Vice-Chair)
Denise Alkins
Adam Miller
Sharon Moseley-Williams
Barbra Smith
Jo-Ann Wilson
Councillor Mac Bain (City Council Representative)

Staff: Kathleen Fralic (Secretary-Treasurer)
Remi Renaud (City Transit Representative)

Adam Miller joined the Committee.

Peter Carello, Senior Planner, acted as Secretary-Treasurer on an interim basis until Kathleen Fralic, Development Planner, took over in early 2013.

Dorothy Carvell retired in early 2013. Her successor Remi Renaud, Transit Manager, has taken over as City Transit Representative.

b) Meetings of the Committee

The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee met nine (9) times in 2013. Meetings generally take place the first Thursday of every month, at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

c) Guest Speakers

MAAC meetings are regularly attended by City Staff. Guest speakers in 2013 included Peter Chirico (Managing Director Community Services) and Cathy Conrad (City Clerk). Staff attendance at MAAC meetings encourages two-way discussion. MAAC members are given the opportunity to gather information directly from Staff and gain an understanding of the internal processes at City Hall. City Staff benefit from the Committee's feedback and gain a better understanding of accessibility concerns.

d) Consultations

City Staff consulted with MAAC throughout 2013. Some specific examples of projects or regulations that MAAC provided comments on include:

- The proportion of accessible taxicabs in North Bay;
- Memorial Gardens renovations;
- Pedestrian crosswalk timers in the downtown;
- Snow removal around accessible parking spaces in the downtown; and
- The paved Jane Street sidewalks.

In addition, nursing students from Nipissing University attended a MAAC meeting in 2013 to gather insight and feedback from the Committee regarding their research project on the topic of accessible transportation in North Bay.

The Committee was also made aware of a number of accessibility concerns from the public and directed these issues to the appropriate Departments in the City.

e) Awareness Initiatives

MAAC held their annual Accessibility Awareness Week Event at the North Bay Transit Terminal on June 5th, 2013. The event has been held annually for the past 5 years. The purpose of the event is to showcase City accessibility initiatives as well as inviting other community organizations to provide information on accessibility and accessibility related initiatives. This year's event celebrated North Bay Transit becoming 100 percent accessible.

f) Community Involvement Initiatives

MAAC members were invited to attend an Accessibility Advisory Committee forum presented by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario. The theme of the forum was "Engaging Effectively with your Community". Nora Long, MAAC Chair, attended this forum on May 7th, 2013, which brought together Accessibility Advisory Committee members from across Ontario.

MAAC also had the opportunity to tour the newly renovated Capitol Centre to see their accessibility upgrades.

g) Communication with City's Internal Accessibility Committee

Dorothy Carvell and Remi Renaud provided the MAAC with an update from the City's Internal Accessibility Committee at every meeting. This allowed the Committee to learn of progress made to increase accessibility within the City.

h) 2014 Work Program

The Committee and Staff are preparing a formal work program for 2014. This program may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Inform Council of Provincial Standards and Legislation, as they become available.
2. Continue to increase community awareness of accessibility issues.
3. Review and comment on plans for capital upgrades of municipal facilities.
4. Host guest speakers from various municipal departments and outside agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signature on File

Nora Long
Chair, North Bay Municipal Accessibility
Advisory Committee