

**Township of Chapple  
54 Barwick Rd.  
Barwick, ON P0W 1A0**

**July 2003**

**Creating a Barrier Free Community  
Municipal Accessibility Plan**

ByLaw No. 1304  
Passed August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003

## **Introduction**

There are 1.9 million people in Ontario with disabilities. This number is expected to increase as the population ages because the incidence of disability increases with age.

On December 14, 2001, the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (the ODA) was passed to improve access and opportunities for people with disabilities.

The ODA is designed so that cities, towns and other municipalities; hospitals; school boards; colleges and universities; public transportation providers, government ministries and agencies; the private sector and people with disabilities can take part in making Ontario a more accessible province.

Under the Ontario *Human Rights Code*, people with disabilities have the right to be free from discrimination in employment, services, goods, facilities and housing. The right to equal treatment is also addressed in a number of Ontario statutes and regulations, which include:

- \_ The *Assessment Act*
- \_ The *Blind Persons' Rights Act*
- \_ The *Building Code Act, 1992*
- \_ The *Corporations Tax Act*
- \_ The *Income Tax Act*
- \_ The *Education Act*
- \_ The *Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997*
- \_ The *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*

## **Interpretation**

The purpose of the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* is to improve access and opportunities for people with disabilities. The act provides for their involvement in identifying, removing and preventing barriers so they can fully take part in the life of the province.

## **Contact**

If you have any questions, please contact the Barwick Municipal Office.

## Some Key Definitions

### Barrier

A "barrier" is anything that stops a person with a disability from fully taking part in society because of that disability. Some barriers include:

- \_ physical barriers, for example a step at the entrance to a store;
- \_ architectural barriers, for example no elevators in a building of more than one floor;
- \_ information or communications barriers, for example a publication that is not available in large print;
- \_ attitudinal barriers, for example assuming people with a disability can't perform a certain task when in fact they can ;
- \_ technological barriers such as traffic lights that change too quickly before a person with a disability has time to get through the intersection; and
- \_ barriers created by policies or practices, for instance not offering different ways to complete a test as part of job hiring.

### Disability

The following is the same definition as used in the Ontario *Human Rights Code*.

A "disability" is:

Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and includes, but is not limited to:

- \_ diabetes mellitus;
- \_ epilepsy;
- \_ a brain injury;
- \_ any degree of paralysis;
- \_ amputation;
- \_ lack of physical co-ordination;
- \_ blindness or visual impediment;
- \_ deafness or hearing impediment;
- \_ muteness or speech impediment; or

- \_ physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal, or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device;

A condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability;

A learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language;

A mental disorder; or

An injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*.

## **DISABILITY BARRIERS**

People with disabilities face unnecessary barriers almost everywhere: at home, at work, at school, in parks, in recreational facilities, in the streets, in theatres, in stores and in restaurants - and even in municipalities.

A "barrier" means anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of his or her disability, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an informational or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy or a practice . Barriers prevent people with disabilities from going to school and to work.

Types of barriers

<b>Barrier type</b>	<b>Example</b>
Physical	A door knob that cannot be operated by a elderly person with limited upper-body mobility and strength
Architectural	A hallway or door that is too narrow for a wheelchair or scooter
Informational	Typefaces that are too small to be read by a person with low vision
Communicational	A professor who talks loudly when addressing a deaf student
Attitudinal	A recreational swimming program which discourages people with developmental disabilities from participating.
Technological	Information on a municipal Web site, which cannot be accessed by a person who is blind who has reading software for a computer.
Policy/Practice	A practice of announcing important messages over an intercom that people with hearing impairments cannot hear clearly

## **Duties of the Township of Chapple**

### **The Township Responsibilities**

The Council for Township of Chapple will each year:

Prepare and/or review the accessibility plan; and

Either:

Get advice from its accessibility advisory committee; or

Consult with people with disabilities and others if the council doesn't have an accessibility advisory committee

AND

Make their Annual Accessibility Plans available to the public.

## **Location**

Chapple Township is located at a latitude of 48°N 39' and a longitude of 93°W 59' and has an approximate area of 55,238 Hectares. The township is situated approximately 50 km west of the Town of Fort Frances. Chapple Township borders Emo Township to the east; and Morley Township to the west, the Rainy River to the south and the unincorporated areas of Rowe and Menary to the North. It is located within the District of Rainy River.

## **Population**

The population of Chapple Township is 854 based on the 2000 Census.

## **Housing Units**

The residential housing units in this township are either single detached dwellings or mobile homes. The residential housing is privately owned. There are no multi-dwelling residential housing units.

## **Institutional Facilities**

Sturgeon Creek School, is maintained and run by the Fort Frances Rainy River District Board of Education. Approximately 225 students from Chapple and surrounding townships attend grades JK through Grade 8 at this facility.

Pineview Mennonite School is maintained and run by the Mennonite families in the area. Approximately 100 students from Chapple and surrounding townships attend grades 1 through Grade 8 at this facility.

## **Community Facilities**

Chapple Museum, located at 112 Main Street in the Village of Barwick. The museum is operated by a Board of Directors. This museum contains historical artifacts demonstrating how the area has changed since the early 1900's.

Chapple Community Centre, located at 140 Main Street in the Village of Barwick. The community centre is operated by the Chapple Recreation Council. This Community Centre is used for community activities, and rented to various groups and individuals for many different venues.

St. Paul's Heritage Church, is a small Heritage church located at 64 Agnes Street in the Village of Barwick. The church is a heritage church operated by the Chapple Heritage Committee. Functions can be held in the church with permission from the committee.

Barwick Church is located at 7 Main Street in the Village of Barwick. The Church holds weekly services.

The Mennonite Church is located at 318 Hele Road. The church holds weekly services.

The Off Lake Covenant Church is located at 27A Hwy. 615 and also holds weekly services.

Chapple Cemetery is maintained by the Township of Chapple.

Finland Cemetery is maintained by the Township of Chapple.

Chapple Volunteer Firehall, located at 62 Queen Street in the Village of Barwick, houses a tanker truck, pumper, and a First Response vehicle for use by the Chapple Volunteer Fire Department.

Chapple Volunteer Firehall (Chapple North) #2 is located at 3562 Hwy 71, and houses a pumper truck.

Chapple Township Garage, located at 54 Barwick Road, houses some of the Township roads equipment for example trucks and graders.

Chapple Municipal Office, located at 54 Barwick Road, is owned and operated by the Township as the general business office of the township. It is also used for council meetings, and public meetings.

Chapple Township also owns property known as Riverview Park which is developed for picnic areas with a view of the Rainy River.

Library facilities are provided by the Township of Emo.

### **Commercial**

Commercial businesses in Chapple Township are privately owned and operated. Most are small home-based rural businesses; most are part-time seasonal to supplement the owners income. Some may have up to 5 employees. These businesses include: autobody repairs, mechanics, greenhouses, crafts, bed and breakfast, welding shops, consultants, log homes construction, convenience stores, (one with gasoline pumps) and a Post Office.

### **Industrial**

Voyageur Panel an OSB manufacturing plant is located at 181 Nighswander Road. There are approximately 130 workers in the plant. The only other industrial assessment within the Township are small gravel pits located throughout the Township.

## **Township Services**

Services provided by the township are as follows:

- Water and sewer is provided to the Village of Barwick and to Voyageur Panel.
- The Township provides services available to the public at the Chapple Municipal Building only. These services include functions such as Council meetings, payment of taxes, issuing building permits, issuing fire permits, information regarding compliance with municipal by-laws, etc.
- The Township provides care and maintenance to the system of roads that are throughout the Township of Chapple.

The municipality employs a small staff to conduct the day-to-day business of the township. One full-time Clerk Treasurer and one full-time Deputy Clerk Treasurer are employed to address concerns of the public, answer questions, provide support to council, collect taxes, and perform office duties. In addition, the municipality employs one full-time Roads Superintendent, three full time roads employees, one part-time road employee, and one full time Water Treatment and Distribution Plant Operator, and one part time Water Treatment and Distribution Plant Operator..

## **Past Initiatives to Remove Barriers to people with disabilities**

- wheel chair access to the Chapple Recreation Centre
- ample parking near wheelchair access ramp
- employees respond to telephone inquiries
- e-mail service available
- voting site has wheelchair access
- Park has a level area allowing access to those with mobility disabilities
- When asked, the Township of Chapple verbally provides the information contained in written material distributed to the public
- Waste disposal site attendants assist unloading of garbage to those in need at the Chapple Waste Disposal Site
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## **Measures to Identify Barriers to people with disabilities**

- Prior to approving the annual Accessibility Plan, Council will request input from the public on their concerns through the municipal newsletter in August.
- Employees will be asked to record any apparent barriers to individuals with disabilities in areas where the public may require access to municipal services or buildings so that Council can take into account how accessible any equipment, supplies, or services provided by the municipality, for use by itself, its employees or the public, is/are to people with disabilities
- Administration will review by-laws passed since January 2000 identifying apparent barriers, strategy for removal, and status. This report will be presented to Council
- Council will examine any new or proposed by-laws with consideration of individuals with disabilities

## **Operational Review to Prevent Barriers to people with disabilities**

- The Municipality will examine our suppliers annually before buying equipment, supplies or services for itself, its employees or the public, to consider the accessibility of the equipment, supplies and services to people with disabilities.
- The council of every municipality will take into account how accessible any equipment, supplies or services to be bought by the municipality, for use by itself, its employees or the public, is to people with disabilities.
- The Municipality will examine the municipal owned building that is open to the public for accessibility
- The Municipality will examine municipal services for barriers

## **Review of Decision-making Practices**

- The Township of Chapple will use the Government of Ontario barrier-free design guidelines that promote accessibility for people with disabilities to buildings that the Township buys, leases, builds or significantly renovates. The barrier-free design guidelines used will ensure the level of accessibility for government buildings is at least as good as or better than the level of accessibility required by the

*Building Code Act, 1992.*

- Council will consider amending by-laws to prevent barriers to people with disabilities
- Council will accommodate the employment-related accessibility needs of people with disabilities who apply for jobs with the municipal government, as required by the *Human Rights Code*.
- The Township of Chapple will accommodate the accessibility needs of its employees as required by the *Human Rights Code*.
- The Township of Chapple will make sure that its managers and supervisors have access to information necessary to meet the government's duties to employees with disabilities.
- The Township of Chapple will review by-laws created since January 2000 to identify barriers to programs, practices, and services.