



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Monday, May 13, 2013, 1 p.m.
30 Centre Street, Orangeville – Dufferin Room

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

1. **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY – May 13, 2013 – ITEM #1**
AODA Training

Mr. Steve Gibson, Respect in the Workplace will address the Committee with respect to on-line AODA training for municipal staff.

2. **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY – May 13, 2013 – ITEM #2**
Tour of W. & M. Edelbrock Centre

A tour of the W. & M. Edelbrock Centre to look at accessibility issues.

3. **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY – May 13, 2013 – ITEM #3**
Access Dufferin: Barrier-free Businesses.

A report from Anne Jordan, dated May 13, 2013 to propose that the Committee host a half day workshop to raise awareness of accessibility needs in the County of Dufferin, and to assist businesses and service providers in their efforts to comply with the policies of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

Recommendation:

THAT the Access Dufferin: Barrier Free Businesses meeting be approved,

AND THAT funding be allocated from the Program Costs budget (12-00-35000-3600);

AND THAT a working group develop the details of the meeting and to coordinate the event.

Next Meeting: At the Call of the Chair
55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room



**REPORT TO
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

To: Chair Oosterhof and Members of the Accessibility Committee

From: Anne Jordan

Meeting Date: May 13th 2013

Subject: Access Dufferin: Barrier-free Businesses. A proposal for a breakfast information session to raise awareness of accessibility for citizens with disabilities.

Purpose

To propose that the Dufferin Accessibility Advisory Committee host a half day workshop with breakfast for local businesses and local public and private service providers, to raise awareness of accessibility needs in the County of Dufferin, and to assist businesses and service providers in their efforts to comply with the policies of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

Background & Discussion

The Dufferin County Accessibility Advisory Committee has developed a vision statement:

To make the County of Dufferin the leading example of a jurisdiction with full accessibility for all people with disabilities.

It also has a two-part mandate:

To raise awareness of employees and citizens of the County of Dufferin about the accessibility needs of people with disabilities: communicational, intellectual, sensory, physical and mental health related.

To provide support and training to employees to ensure that all citizens enjoy a barrier-free County.

With the timetable for implementation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), all small businesses, government and private service providers in the Province are required to prepare a plan to create access for people with disabilities. Part of the committee's mandate is to raise awareness of businesses and services in Dufferin County of the need to provide access, and to assist local businesses to comply with the AODA in a cost effective manner.

We propose that the Accessibility Advisory Committee conduct a workshop for local businesses and agencies to assist them to become familiar with the scope of disabilities, the requirements of the act, and to reduce their anxiety about what they need to plan and do to comply with the legislation. Our intent is to encourage local businesses to comply voluntarily with the provincial requirements and to do so ahead of compliance deadlines

The mandate of the Accessibility Committee to have Dufferin become a leading jurisdiction in Ontario for accessibility is therefore supported by this initiative. By not taking this or a similar initiative we risk failing in our mandate, which could result in exposing local businesses and agencies to the legal and financial implications of failing to comply with the AODA.

Therefore we propose that the Dufferin County Accessibility Advisory Committee host a meeting with breakfast for local businesses

- to assist them to create their policies and procedures and
- to ensure a better understanding of the AODA , its benefits and requirements.
- We further propose to conduct a survey to assess the impact of the event, and to collect information on how the participants hope to comply with the legislation, their concerns and what resources and supports they report as needing to assist them as they move forward

Local Municipal Impact

This will benefit all local businesses by

- assisting them to comply with the provincial regulations, in a proactive and low stress manner,
- raising awareness of accessibility provisions in the community, and
- enabling people with disabilities and their families to use the services of local businesses that have increased their access, thereby benefiting the businesses and the community.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

1. Financial impact: The cost of the workshop will include the rental of the room, a guest speaker, tools that participants can take back to their businesses and staffs and IT support. There will be a small charge to participants to supplement location and catering costs. Funds in the Accessibility Coordinator's budget could be allocated to this event.

2. IT and staffing implications: A minimal amount of support of IT will be required to support visual presentations and to record the proceedings. The clicker technology currently available in the county will be used to gather information from business and community participants attending this event. Staffing needs will be minimal. They include registering participants before and at the event, collating survey data, and preparing a report.

Recommendation

We recommend that

- The Access Dufferin: Barrier Free Businesses meeting be approved,
- Funding be allocated from the Program Costs budget – 12-00-35000-3600
- A working group develop the details of the meeting and to coordinate the event.