

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SABLES-SPANISH RIVERS

BYLAW NO. 2003-37

**Being a Bylaw to Adopt a
Municipal Accessibility Plan**

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has passed the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act*;

AND WHEREAS the Ontarians with Disabilities Act mandates that each year the Council of every municipality shall prepare an accessibility plan which shall address the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities in the municipality's bylaws and in its policies, programs, practices and service;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers enacts as follows:

1. The "Municipal Accessibility Plan" attached hereto as Schedule "A" is hereby adopted.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME THIS 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2003.

READ A THIRD AND FINAL TIME AND FINALLY PASSED IN OPEN COUNCIL THIS 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2003.

MAYOR, Leslie GAMBLE

CLERK, Ellen JORDAN

TOWNSHIP OF SABLES-SPANISH RIVERS

Municipal Accessibility Plan

Municipality: Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers

Address: 11 Birch Lake Road
R.R. #3, Site 1, Box 5
Massey, ON
P0P 1P0

Key Contact: Ellen Jordan, Clerk-Administrator
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Population: 3,245 (2003 Ontario Municipal Directory)

Municipal Profile:

The Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers was incorporated July 1, 1998 and is located in the District of Sudbury in Northern Ontario, stretching along the Trans-Canada Highway No. 17 and the north shore of Lake Huron for approximately 40 km. The eastern boundary is approximately 80 km west of the City of Sudbury and the western boundary is approximately 200 km east of the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

The Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers owns and operates the following municipal facilities: The municipal office located at 11 Birch Lake Road also houses the Township Council Chambers. The municipal office is staffed by five full-time positions. Also located at 11 Birch Lake Road are two garages operated by public works as well as one sand/salt dome. The public works department employs eight permanent employees as well as casual employees and summer students. The municipality has a volunteer fire department with a complement of approximately 80 volunteers housed at five fire stations. The Township operates the Massey Community Centre and Arena, comprised of an ice surface, office, dressing rooms as well as a banquet hall/meeting room on the second level. This facility is staffed by one full-time employee and seasonal workers as required. Other recreation facilities in the Township are the Walford Community Centre and the Webbwood rink. The Webbwood rink is comprised of an outdoor ice surface and change building. An additional outside rink is located in the village of Walford and maintained by community volunteers. The Township operates a medical clinic staffed by two family physicians, one nurse practitioner, one registered nurse/office manager and support staff. The Township operates two libraries, located in Massey and Walford. The libraries are staffed by four part-time employees and a number of volunteers. Housed in the building containing the Webbwood Library is also a seniors' drop-in centre. The Township manages a recently constructed park located at the intersection of Highway #17 and Imperial Street. The park contains a washroom building that is fully equipped and accessible. Two landfill sites are currently being operated within the Township, these being approximately two km north of Webbwood on Agnew Lake Road and the other on the Tote Road, approximately twelve km north of Massey. Both sites are open to our ratepayers on designated days.

The Township Council consists of one Mayor and six Councillors all elected at large who govern for a three year term.

Other Organizations and Agencies Participating in the Plan:

The general public.

CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES:

Target Group: The general public

Activities:

Council and Staff consultation as well a public meeting to allow for participation by the public. Written and verbal comments and recommendations are encouraged.

Initiative:

To identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities with the implementation of policies on an ongoing basis. This Plan will be made available to the public through the municipal website and paper copies will be available at no charge by contacting the municipal office. The public is encouraged to contact any member of council or staff to provide input and suggestions in this important issue.

OPERATIONAL REVIEW:

Current Buildings:

1. **Municipal Administrative Building:** This building contains the administrative offices as well as council chambers. The chambers entrance is handicapped accessible but the office entrance is not. The washrooms are not wheelchair accessible. There are no designated handicapped parking spaces but all parking spaces provide for easy access to and from vehicles.
2. **Public Works Garages:** These buildings contain public works equipment, materials and vehicles and are not accessible to the public in general. The main garage is wheelchair accessible but washrooms are not equipped for easy access. There are no designated parking spaces.
3. **Libraries:** Entrances to both libraries are wheelchair accessible. Washrooms are accessible to some degree but there may be some difficulty accommodating larger motorized wheelchairs. Doors tend to be heavy and may be difficult to open depending on the degree of disability. Automatic door openers are not in place. There are no designated handicapped parking spaces but there is easy access to and from vehicles.
4. **Fire Halls:** The Township operates five fire stations. None of these buildings are generally available for access by the general public. They are not handicapped accessible.
5. **Massey and District Community Centre and Arena:** The building is fully accessible with wheelchair access at the side of the building. An elevator is available for transportation to the Sadowski banquet room on the upper level. Washrooms are handicapped accessible. A ramp provides access to the spectator area of the ice surface. Two handicapped parking spaces have been designated with appropriate signage. As the parking lot is gravel surfaced, it does not allow for easy access for persons confined to wheelchairs.
6. **Walford Community Centre:** The building including washrooms is wheelchair accessible. The parking lot has 2 designated handicapped parking spaces with appropriate signage. The parking lot is currently not a paved surface but is hard-packed gravel and not difficult to manoeuvre.
7. **Massey Medical Clinic:** The Clinic is fully accessible with a dedicated entrance at the rear of the building. Washrooms are fully equipped to provide easy access to the disabled. Currently there are no designated handicapped parking spaces. The parking lot is paved, thus allowing for easy access to and from vehicles.
8. **Heritage Park:** The washroom building is fully equipped and handicapped accessible.

Bylaws, Policies, Practices and Services:

The current bylaws, policies and programs of the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers have no identified barriers for people with disabilities.

Municipal Election:

The 2003 municipal elections will encompass the use of four voting places, these being **S. Geiger Public School**, 355 Government Road, Massey, **Walford Community Centre**, 402 Highway #17, Walford, **Webbwood Seniors' Centre**, 16 Main Street, Webbwood and the

Township Council Chambers, 11 Birch Lake Road which will be used for the advance vote on November 1, 2003 only. All voting places are wheelchair accessible.

List of Barriers Identified:

Municipal Administrative Building: Washrooms not handicapped accessible and no designated parking spaces.

Public Works Garages: Washrooms not handicapped accessible. There are no designated parking spaces.

Libraries: Entrance doors may be cumbersome and difficult to open. Washrooms not fully accessible to all degrees of disability.

Massey and District Community Centre and Arena: The parking lot is a loose gravel surface and difficult to navigate for handicapped persons.

Massey Medical Clinic: There are no designated parking spaces for disabled persons. Signage is not currently in place to direct handicapped persons to the back entrance. Entrance doors are heavy and difficult to open.

Targets and Actions:

Over the next several years, Council will decide which barriers should be addressed keeping in mind budget constraints, feasibility and priorities.

Areas of concern will be identified on an ongoing basis and the Plan updated annually. Policies, procedures and bylaws will ensure that barriers are eliminated and prevented.