

GAAC 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Georgina Accessibility Advisory Committee (GAAC) 2022 -Cindy Clarke was re-elected Chair and Laurie Pangman-Carrier elected Vice Chair. GAAC met six times in 2022. The committee ceased operations after the June 2022 meeting as advised in preparation for the 2022 Municipal election.

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GAAC with The Town of Georgina purchased a beach wheelchair for De La Salle Park. The project came to a standstill during the pandemic. In 2021 GAAC members Michelle Radigan-Marriott, Tara Hillyer, Cindy Clarke and Staff Tim McClatchie prepared videos and a picture storyboard. Staff from communications, Tanya Thompson and Katelyn Moore, edited the media prepared by the GAAC and in 2022 disseminated the information. The GAAC was thrilled and very proud to see the beach wheelchair project prepared to launch for the 2022 summer season.

GAAC recommendation adopted by The Town of Georgina added additional accessible parking at De La Salle.

GAAC recommended and the Town supplied a portable accessible washroom at beach level to support the addition of the beach wheelchair activity and accessibility needs of the public.

GAAC identified a need for improved on-line communication to the public of Georgina's accessibility features. The Town of Georgina communications department continues to post accessible information on social media and has in 2022 created and launched an Inclusivity page on the town website that highlights many of these features.

With GAAC recommendation the Town's communications department added many of Georgina's accessible features at parks and facilities into Access Now, which is an online platform with the goal to establish a go-to resource for accessibility information. The link is accessible on the website. <https://accessnow.com>

GAAC identified ongoing signage needs for accessible navigation in Georgina facilities and parks. The Director of Community Services to initiate a needs assessment and review of the signage needs with Parks Manager.

GAAC offered financial support for the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification training. Council approved and the offer is open to staff responsible for building code and design. <https://www.rickhansen.com/become-accessible/professional-training>

GAAC guidance for better accessible features to playground structures in the new subdivision in Keswick, (Treasure Hill off Church St.) resulted in that structure being upgraded to having an accessible ramp access, a sign language panel, and an accessible family swing.

The GAAC's insistence on higher standards with the goal of inclusivity for all has led to the Town, spearheaded by Bob Ferguson, to adopt a standard for all new subdivision builds and replacement playgrounds to incorporate wheels-on as well as other accessible features into parks and playground.

GAAC received a presentation and had opportunity for review on the accessibility and AODA compliance of the new build Business Park off Woodbine Ave.

GAAC Recommended ongoing sponsorship of the Business Excellence in Accessibility Award through the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2022. This is an award to a business within the Town of Georgina that has gone above and beyond ensuring accessibility for all. The business is nominated by the public and recognized by GAAC based on AODA standards. Three GAAC members, Michelle Radigan-Marriott, Cindy Clarke, and Krista Wright reviewed the nominated businesses. Autism Unplugged Learning Centre was the 2022 recipient of this prestigious award.