



**City of Vaughan**

**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**A G E N D A**

**Committee Room 244, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Vaughan City Hall  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, Ontario**

**Tuesday, June 26, 2012**

**7:00 p.m.**

- 1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**
- 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**
- 3. COMMUNICATIONS**
- 4. PRESENTATIONS AND/OR DEPUTATIONS**
- 5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE**  
Refer to Attached.
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, September 25, 2012**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Meenu Sikand, Chair  
Josie Fedele, Vice Chair  
Francesco Alaimo  
Michelle Brown  
Daniella DeGasperis  
Councillor Rosanna DeFrancesca  
Teresa Di Nardo  
Frank Maggisano  
Peter Pallotta  
Bob Santos  
Angelo Tocco

Please confirm your attendance at least 48 hours prior to each meeting by contacting  
John Britto (905) 832-8585 Extension 8637; or [john.britto@vaughan.ca](mailto:john.britto@vaughan.ca)

[www.vaughan.ca](http://www.vaughan.ca)

ITEMS

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Deferred from December 12, 2011 and January 31, 2012 meetings.

2. PROCEDURES AND THE COMMITTEE'S ROLE

Jeffrey A. Abrams, City Clerk.

3. SITE PLANS

Discussion item – Grant Uyeyama, Director of Development Planning and Leo Grellette, Director of Building Standards

## ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – JUNE 26, 2012

---

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Distributed June 21, 2012

- C1. The Coming Senior Housing Crisis from BUILDER 2012 dated April 5, 2012, submitted by the Chair, Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee
- C2. York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee Networking Breakfast Meeting – October 3, 2012, submitted by City Clerk
- C3. Making businesses accessible to all has its obstacles, thestar.com, dated June 15, 2012, submitted by the Chair, Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee
- C4. Markham Accessibility Fair & BBQ, invitation from Town of Markham Accessibility Advisory Committee, submitted by the Chair, Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee

#### Disclaimer Respecting External Communications

Communications are posted on the City's website pursuant to Procedure By-law Number 7-2011. The City of Vaughan is not responsible for the validity or accuracy of any facts and/or opinions contained in external Communications listed on printed agendas and/or agendas posted on the City's website.

Please note there may be further Communications.

From: BUILDER 2012

Posted on: April 5, 2012 11:45:00 AM

### **The Coming Senior Housing Crisis**

A new report by the Center for Housing Policy looks at the housing landscape for elderly Americans and what it means for the near future.

By: Claire Easley

By the year 2050, the population of Americans aged 65 and older will have more than doubled to nearly 90 million — a growth rate faster than any other age group in the country, according to the Center for Housing Policy. In a new report, whose title asks "Housing an Aging Population — Are We Prepared?" and concludes that as a country we are not, the center explores the implications of the ballooning number of seniors, what current demographic trends mean for the future, and what policies and actions might help abate "the coming crisis.

Many of the trends likely to be most formative among the senior population in coming years, according to the report, pivot on the financial implications of entering retirement years. Currently, one in four households with a member aged 85 or older — a group whose population will more than triple by 2050 — spends at least half of its income on housing, as do one in five households with a member aged 65 to 74.

This older population is also living longer, which will increase the number of elderly persons living with a disability. "Some studies indicate that one in four older adults is likely to have a lower body limitation that requires a modification to the entry to their homes, inside their home, or in the bathroom," the report says. And as lower-income households are the most likely to have disabilities, the need for accessible housing built for low- and moderate-income households will be great.

But while much of the solution will have to do with housing policies and zoning boards, the private home building sector will play a critical roll, says Jeffrey Lubell, executive director of the Center for Housing Policy and one of the study's authors. "It's important for the private sector to try to anticipate the need and respond with a product that will work," he says. "It provides an opportunity.

In communities where builders provide a mix of products that can accommodate aging citizens at a range of income levels while giving them access to the support they need, he says, demand will be great. "The key here is designing communities with services, reaching out and forming partnerships with service providers and agencies. ... The data suggest that people 85 and older are open to moving into some non-traditional housing types, such as multi-family housing with services."

Failure to do so will likely result in a growing percentage of this rapidly expanding group having to rely on social services for institutionalized care. "Medicare is paying for nursing homes, so it's a lot cheaper to provide services at home," he says.

The challenge for builders is the breadth of services required, which could include assistance with getting dressed to help cooking meals to transportation services. "Your standard home builder is not going to be in a position to provide these things directly, so if they want to really capture this market, they can partner with organizations that can provide those services," Lubell says.

Another part of the solution may be more multigenerational households, which are still a relatively small percentage of the population (currently only 4.4% of households have three or more generations living under one roof, according to the report), but the segment is growing more rapidly than households at large: Between 2000 and 2010, the total number of U.S. households increased by 11% while the ranks of multigenerational households were up 21%. However, given the complications of the Great Recession, "we're not entirely sure what's happening, and there are a lot of questions about what will happen once the economy improves," Lubell says.

One home design trend that "really has legs going forward," he says, is the increased focus on ultra-flexible floor plans able to accommodate a range of household scenarios. "It's not that traditional families won't be there. Really what we have going forward is a much more diverse housing market where there will be more demand for housing near transit centers and where older adults can get what they need without getting in a car or even getting on mass transit," he says. "The population is changing, and traditional homes might be harder to sell in some markets."

*Claire Easley is a senior editor at Builder.*

June 1, 2012

To: The Chairs of Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committees in York Region

From: Steve Foglia, Vice Chair, York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

Re: Networking Breakfast Meeting – October 3, 2012

**Mark the date!**

The York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee invites you to attend a  
Networking Breakfast Meeting  
for accessibility advisory committees in York Region

**Wednesday, October 3, 2012**

**8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

(continental breakfast will be available at 8 a.m.)

York Region Administrative Centre – Seminar Room  
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

Join your accessibility advisory committee counterparts from other local  
municipalities,  
learn what matters to them, share best practices and accessibility achievements

Featured presentation and discussion:  
Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities

Space is limited to the AAC Chair (or designate)  
plus two other members from each AAC

Full details to follow closer to the date

Please let us know if you need accommodations to participate in this event

For information and to register contact 905-830-4444 ext. 2149  
[kim.adeney@york.ca](mailto:kim.adeney@york.ca)



COMMUNICATION C3  
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
JUNE 26, 2012



Visit full site

Home › Living

Making businesses accessible to all has its obstacles



April 9, 2012 00:04:00

Barbara Turnbull Life Reporter

After four years of knocking on the side door of a local Starbucks to have her latte brought out to her, wheelchair user Joanne Smith was thrilled last October when the property owner installed an access ramp.

“It was a great ramp,” she says. “Built to (Ontario’s building) code, with two railings.”

She exchanged greetings with mothers pushing strollers, who also delighted in the new convenience of entering the Queen St. E. coffee shop in the Beaches. Other wheelchair users started frequenting the shop, too, says Smith.

“It finally gave people with disabilities a fully accessible place to go.”

But two weeks after it was installed, the ramp disappeared overnight. After receiving complaints, the City of Toronto issued a removal order, threatening hefty fines that would accumulate daily if the building owner, First Capital Realty, didn’t comply.

“We thought it was the right thing for us to do, to put the handicapped ramp along the west side of the building to access Starbucks,” says First Capital Realty vice-president Maryanne McDougald.

But the ramp was built on the city-owned sidewalk, forcing pedestrians to walk on the boulevard, says Kyp Perikleous, a city manager in charge of approving permits. “The city’s bylaw requires that the sidewalks be cleared of snow and ice in winter,” he says. “That kind of regulation is not in place for boulevards.”

The property owners were told not to build there when their permit was denied, Perikleous adds. “If we allow individual properties to start putting things right on the sidewalks, we’re not being fair to all residents.”

Under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), passed in 2005, businesses in Ontario will be required to be accessible to people with disabilities by 2025.

The Starbucks incident has shone a spotlight on a litany of potential problems that could accompany making businesses accessible.

With tight spots like the tiny storefronts and restaurants that dot not only the east-end Beaches but neighbourhoods across Toronto, City Councillor for Beaches-East York Mary-Margaret McMahan wonders if there is any wiggle room as building owners consider what it will take to implement this coming requirement.

“There is a bigger conversation that needs to be had with the cities, the province and the BIAs (Business Improvement Areas), so we can figure out how to do this in an efficient and not-so-costly, expedited manner,” says McMahan, who called the Starbucks experience a huge education “for me and hopefully for the city, the owners and the residents.”

McMahan is working with the BIA in her riding and planning an accessibility walk along the ward’s Queen St. strip to engage storeowners on the subject.

“It’s a lot of work and the sooner we get the message out, the better,” McMahan says, adding she’ll talk to other councillors to promote similar efforts.

One problem is convincing owners to accept responsibility for creating access with a deadline of 2025, says John Kiru, executive director of the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas, which includes 72 BIAs and 30,000 registered businesses.

“The urgency doesn’t seem to be there,” Kiru says. “Some of these guys feel they might not even be in business long enough to worry about it.”



He says his group holds information sessions about the legislation during conferences, to convince owners of the lucrative benefits of universal access.

However, thousands of businesses don't belong to BIAs and may not have heard of the new access law, says McMahon. Education and communication about how the government can assist small business owners provide accessibility will be key, she says.

David Lepofsky, chair of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance says it will be difficult to meet the 2025 deadline without cutting the bureaucratic red tape that makes each issue take months or longer to resolve. Lepofsky's group wants provincial standards to overrule any municipal by-laws that conflict or could delay proposed accessibility renovations.

"Provincial standards are needed to accomplish that," he says. "The building code has historically not been sufficient to meet all our needs." Lepofsky says the building code didn't cover all barriers, require even simple retrofits in existing buildings and failed to live up to accessibility requirements of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Money spent on accessibility is bound to have returns, supporters say. "Any of the businesses that adapt to this quicker there are billions of dollars that are spent by people that fall into that category," Kiru says. "It's only going to increase."

Accessibility is a wise investment, Lepofsky agrees. "Restaurants without an accessible washroom are losing money. They are losing business of customers with disabilities, their families, seniors."

Meanwhile, six months later, First Capital Realty has architects working with city officials to bring access to the front entrance of the Queen St. E Starbucks location.

**Markham Accessibility Fair & BBQ**

**Date: June 28, 2012**

**Time: 12 noon to 8 p.m.**

**Location: Markham Civic Centre – 101 Town Centre Blvd**

The Markham Accessibility Fair will feature several product and service organizations involved in the accessibility field including:

Link Up Employment Services

The Canadian Hearing Society

MED Plus Home Health Care

Markham Sustainability Office

Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

**Demonstration Activities:**

Accessible Ball Room Dancing – courtesy of Chance Dance Studios (4:00-5:30PM)

Accessible Tai Chi – courtesy of Dr. Jason Kwok (12:30PM-2:00PM)

**BBQ\***

A barbeque lunch will be available at a cost of \$5.00 per person from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Sign Language Interpretation will be provided during opening remarks.

\*All proceeds from the BBQ will go towards development of James Robinson Public School's accessible EcoSchoolyard

**Warren Rupnarain**

Accessibility Coordinator

Town of Markham

101 Town Centre Boulevard

Markham, Ontario L3R 9W3

(905) 477-7000 x.3542



**ACTION ITEMS LIST  
AS AT MARCH 27, 2012**

**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ACTION ITEMS LIST**

ITEM	ORIGINATING DATE	ACTION DEPARTMENT	TARGET DATE/STATUS COMMENTS
<p>That staff be requested to review the terms of reference from the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) of the City of London, the City of Vaughan and the Region of York, and bring forward to the February 21, 2012 meeting a summary of amendments to the terms of reference for the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC), to provide clarity of VAAC's role, mandate and responsibility to the Council of the City of Vaughan.</p>	<p>AAC meeting of January 31, 2012</p>		<p>February 21, 2012</p>
<p>That staff from the City Clerk's Department and Legal Services provide clarity to the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee with respect to the Committee's Terms of Reference, the requirements of the <i>Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA)</i> and Clerk's support to the Committee as per the City of Vaughan Procedure By-law Number 7-2011</p>	<p>AAC meeting of March 27, 2012</p>	<p>City Clerk Legal Services</p>	<p>June 26, 2012</p>
<p>That staff from Development Planning, Building Standards and Legal Services attend the June 26, 2012 Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting to provide clarity on the Committee's current mandate and its relationship to the requirements of Sections 11 and 12 of the <i>Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA)</i> and Section 41 of the <i>Planning Act</i>.</p>	<p>AAC meeting of March 27, 2012</p>	<p>Development Planning Building Standards Legal Services</p>	<p>June 26, 2012</p>