

Northumberland Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

May 8, 2025

10:00 – 11:30 am

Via Zoom

Members present: Bob Robertson, Hope Bergeron, Lorraine Gordon, Rae Deschamps (Chair), Selena Forsyth (Vice Chair), Stephanie Ash, Mike Gibson, John Logel (County Councillor), Andrea Nicholson (staff liaison)

Regrets: Christine Bayer

Guest: Abigail Miller, Archivist

Quorum was confirmed and the meeting called to order at 10:02

1. **Approval of meeting notes from March 13, 2025 (revised) and April 10, 2025**

Moved by Lorraine, seconded by Selena that the meeting minutes for March 13, 2025 be approved. **Carried.**

Moved by John, seconded by Lorraine that the meeting minutes for April 10, 2025 be approved. **Carried.**

2. **Action items and follow-up from April 10, 2025**

Action item 1: Andrea will photograph Helping Hands Award recipients with their certificates. **Complete.**

3. **New Business**

i **Northumberland Archives and Museum** (Abigail Miller, Archivist)

Abigail Miller provided an overview of NCAM services and the plans for the newly constructed NCAM and pointed out accessibility features such as accessible and universal washrooms, and wheelchair charging station

Abigail invited the Committee to review NCAM's public spaces and provide feedback on the user experience from a disability perspective after the construction work and inaugural exhibit installation have been completed. This will likely be in August or September.

ii National Access Ability Week (May 25 – 31, 2025) awareness update –

Andrea reported that all activities are on track. The awareness scenarios, graphics and Helping Hands Award postings are complete for various social media and internal website. The Proclamation went to Corporate Support Committee this week and will go to Council on May 21, 2025

iii Accessibility Coordinator's Update –

Andrea reported the following:

- Andrea worked with NCAM and CNIB to arrange for the braille in NCAM signage to be confirmed for accuracy.
- The bidding for the emergency exits ramp project has begun.
- Andrea attended the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals (ONAP) conference. Some highlights were that changes to the barrier-free design rules in the Ontario Building Code took effect on January 1, 2025. Andrea will investigate this further to gather information on the changes. A session on artificial intelligence (AI) talked about how AI can be biased, especially when it collects information about people with disabilities and other marginalized groups."
- Andrea will be on vacation May 16 – 26 inclusive returning May 27.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was terminated at 11:11am.

Next Meeting: June 12, 2025 at 10:00am in person at 555 Courthouse Road and will include a light lunch.