

Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee (BAAC) 2016 Activities

Public Education

The BAAC participated in public education activities throughout 2016 including the organization of an awareness event to celebrate International Day of People with Disabilities on December 3. The activity was hosted at the Central Library and included a film about guide dogs and a guide dog demonstration.

Accessibility Awards

In 2016, the Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee worked to organize the 5th annual awards ceremony that was to be held in November. The awards celebrate individuals, business owners, service providers and community groups that have made significant steps toward improving accessibility for people with disabilities in Burlington.

During the organization of this event the committee concluded that the goal of reaching out to new areas of the community was not being achieved and they re-evaluated the awards process. As a result, an Accessibility Award category was created as part of Burlington's Best in June 2017.

Site Plans

The committee reviewed 12 site plans and developed a formal review process for the site plan subcommittee to use while evaluating each plan.

Involvement with other Citizen Committees

Throughout the year BAAC had representation on the following committees:

- Inclusivity Advisory Committee
- Seniors Advisory Committee
- Integrated Transportation Advisory Committee (ITAC)

Consultations

As part of our mandate, BAAC is invited to consult on projects to provide our input about improvements to accessibility. Projects included:

- Ireland Park
- Downtown Streetscaping Project
- Iroquois Park
- Central Arena
- Spencer Smith and Burloak Waterfront Parks
- Participation in Canada 150 events through Parks and Recreation

Other Activities

In addition to the above BAAC was involved in a number of other activities:

- Participated in Festivals and Events Strategy Meeting – March 29, 2016
- A member participated in the Burlington Age-Friendly Community Action Plan Project (Active Aging Project)
- Participated in the Burlington Transit Users Forum – April 2, 2016
- Reviewed the Seniors' Transit Paper
- A member received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award on March 30, 2016

Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee (BAAC) 2017 Workplan

New and Continuing Initiatives:

- Public education through, participation in trade shows and resource fairs, submissions to appropriate newsletters
- Provide advice to Council on City of Burlington by-laws, policies programs and services
- Review and provide input on the City's Accessibility Multi-Year Plan, Transit Master, and Plan Official Plan Review
- Liaise and participate with other citizen advisory and staff committees
- Review and comment on site plans
- Participate/consult on new construction and renovation/renewal projects when requested
- National Access Awareness Week (May 29 to June 4) – BAAC to develop activities throughout the week to mark NAWW
- Terry Fox Run (Sept 23) – BAAC to promote committee by organizing an activity at event
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3) – BAAC to organize an event in order to promote an understanding of disabilities
- Work with city staff to develop a BAAC specific orientation package and ensure presentation to new members before their first meeting.
- Sponsor Burlington Accessibility Award as part of Burlington's Best Awards