



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
Location: VIA ZOOM
Members: Councillor M. Albano, Chair, Councillor D. Keene, L. McKenzie, J. Pearce, W. Farrow-Reed, S. Calvert, C. Power, R. Kellas

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY/CONFLICT OF INTEREST
3. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING
 - a. Minutes of the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting held on May 28, 2025.
4. SCHEDULED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
 - a. Voice Print (Jon Hurst)
 - b. Park Design & Accessibility Presentation (Mark Taylor)
 - c. Park Accessibility Audit Report (Sarah Calvert)
 - d. Raised Crosswalk On-site Visit
5. ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MEETING
6. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, May 28,
2025 Via Zoom

Members Present: Councillor D. Keene, Chair, L. McKenzie, J. Pearce, W. Farrow-Reed, C. Power, R. Kellas

Regrets: Councillor M. Albano, Chair

Staff Present: D. Locey, Transit Supervisor, C. McLeod, Manager of Culture and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, R. Kotev, Supervisor of Transportation, J. Ancona, Recreation Supervisor – Community Programs, M. Roj, Traffic Coordinator, R. Brown, Deputy Clerk - Administration

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor D. Keene, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

1.a Introduce New Committee Members - Christopher Power & Robert Kellas

Councillor D. Keene introduced new committee members, C. Power and R. Kellas.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of conflict or pecuniary interest.

3. SCHEDULED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.a Update Taxi Scrip Program (D. Locey)

D. Locey provided the committee with an update on the taxi scrip program and the partnership with the local taxicab companies. The taxi scrip program is an ad hoc program that provides taxi services for seniors, people with disabilities and youth 13-24 years of age at the same cost as the Town's ActiVan Service. The Town enters into agreements with the local taxicab companies to provide this service. The new 5-year

agreement requires the taxicab companies to have Commercial General Liability Insurance, only G'Town Taxi has this insurance so they are the only taxicab company at this time that will be able to sign the agreement and provide this service. EZ taxi is still interested in being part of this program but until they provide the required insurance, they will be ineligible.

D. Locey noted that staff will continue to monitor the situation and explore other means to maintain service levels.

3.b Inclusive Recreation (J. Ancona)

J. Ancona provided the committee with an overview of the supports and resources that the Town of Halton Hills has in place to provide Inclusive Recreation. The Town provides professional instructors, inclusion facilitators and programming. The Town utilizes the intake process to work with families ahead of camps and programs to ensure inclusivity.

3.c Safe and Welcoming Communities Initiative (C. McLeod)

C. McLeod provided the committee with an overview of the Safe and Welcoming Communities Initiative. C. McLeod advised that as part of the initiative the Town of Halton Hills will be doing a survey regarding Town services, as well as focus groups and pop-up booths at the Georgetown and Acton Farmers Market. C. McLeod will let the committee know when the survey is available.

3.d Proposed Raised Crosswalk Design (R. Kotev)

R. Kotev showed the committee the proposed raised crosswalk design based on a raised crosswalk that is in the City of Hamilton. The raised crosswalk is to be used instead of speed humps to slow down neighborhood traffic. The implementation of the raised crosswalks commences mid-June or early July. The first raised crosswalk will be installed on Rexway Drive in front of Harrison Public School. The next two installations are to be located at Centennial Public School and McKenzie Smith Bennett School, Acton. R. Kotev is interested in committee feedback on the first installation to assist with future installations.

3.e Update Accessible Pedestrian Signals (M. Roj)

M. Roj explained that when installing accessible pedestrian signals the Town smooths out gutters and curbs to account for both accessibility and mandatory water channeling. M. Roj showed the committee the latest accessible pedestrian crossings.

4. ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MEETING

NIL

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Accessible spaces - Outdoor Halton Hills
May 2, 2025
Sarah Calvert
Accessibility Committee.

Starting this past summer I decided to go to outdoor spaces in the Town of Halton Hills in order to see how accessible those spaces were and what could possibly be done to improve the spaces for those with accessibility issues. I will go through each space with my opinion of the space and suggestions for improvement. I did 11 of these spaces in my wheelchair as so this does emphasize accessibility based on that experience.

Gellert Centre

The Gellert Centre is in Georgetown. I found it quite easy to navigate the pathways. There is a playground that has adapted swings and sensory activities that include touch and sound. The splashpad is easily accessible and presbytery flat and so I did not see any tripping hazards. There are accessible bathrooms inside and outside. The pathways are well maintained and swept when there are a lot of leaves on the pathways.

The issue I found with the Gellert is not actually in the centre itself but in the side roads that it connects to that lead to houses around it. These paths are not well maintained. They are not labelled in anyway but the worst is a side road that leads through the marsh area and ends at 10th side road. Tree roots have grown under the path which has caused cracks in the paving and even some potholes or cracks large enough for the wheels of my chair to be stuck. This would also be a tripping hazard for someone who was visually impaired or had mobility aids like a walker or canes.

Someone did at some point mark some of the worse cracks with blue paint. I am hoping this was done by the town for future maintenance. This photo is the change from a Gellert pathway to an adjoining pathway.



Cedervale Park

Cedervale Park is in Georgetown. The pathways are well maintained. the access path to the centre have been hanged from wood chips to gravel this makes them easier to navigate in a wheelchair. There is a new playground that has better activities for children with disabilities including activities for climbing, sound and touch. There is not much else to do at the park if you have issues with mobility but it is a nice place to walk. There is a dog park but it has wood chips on the ground and so I cold not get into it in my chair. There are no washroom facilities at the park but I did notice port-a-potty that was brought in during the soccer season when the fields are being used. What was interesting was the frisbee golf that some with accessibility issues could participate in. There are also weekly activities for children that can be adapted according to the needs of the group. These activities are provided through the town

Hungry Hallow Trail Network

Hungry Hallow is a series of trails that are in Georgetown. There is only one trail that is accessible by wheelchair and that is the main trail. I entered the trails through access by Cedervale park. This main trail goes to ninth line and had a boardwalk for about half of the trail. There are no washroom facilities but I believe a port-a-potty is brought in during he summer months.

The issue with the trail is a hill just before the trail joins the boardwalk. the hill has gravel on it. When I started to go down the hill I lost control of my chair as it started slipping on the gravel. In front of me was the boardwalk with a three foot drop on either side. I had no control of my chair and so could not steer it the way I needed to. Luckily I did stop before the boardwalk and was able to continue. the gravel also means that I would not be able to do the trail in nth other direction and I would no be able to get my chair up the hill.

My recommendation would be to pave the hill to make it easier to navigate. I think this would be easier than regrading the hill so that it is a gentler slope.







The first photo is the entrance to the trails that I took. The second is the hill. The third photo is the hill from the top. It doesn't look like much but by the time I got to the trees my chair was sliding toward the boardwalk. You can see the drop on each side. If just this was paved then the trail would be completely accessible but tight now it isn't.

Dominion Gardens

Dominion Gardens has my top vote in Georgetown. There is a fully accessible children's playground that has a series of ramps and a flooring that is more of a rubberized carpet. Much easier to navigate than wood chips. There is also a regular playground as well and plenty of activities to address a variety of children's needs. The splash pad is easily accessed and I could not see any tripping hazards. There is an outdoor accessible bathroom by the splash pad. All the pathways throughout the gardens are accessible and quite beautiful to walk through the gardens that are maintained by volunteers. You can see them hard at work on Tuesday Mornings. There is a bandshell and weekly concerts in the park. A lot to do if you are in a wheelchair and a peaceful outdoor space to be in.



The Fairgrounds - Georgetown

The Fairgrounds in Georgetown, in my opinion, needs the most work to make the space accessible. The actual track around the baseball diamonds is easy to navigate. You will see many people walking or riding bikes around the 500 m track. It is gravel but a pretty flat surface, it was not difficult to walk the track in my wheelchair. There is a children's playground that does have some adapted activities and swing. There are two entrances to the playground, one is paved (From the street) and one is gravel (From the track). The accessibility issues have to do with the washroom and access to it. When you enter the fairgrounds there are a couple of gates to go through. The first gates have a pedestrian access and are easy to get around if the gates are closed. If you want to go to the washroom you have to pass through a second gate that does not have a pedestrian entrance. To get around the gate is to go over sand and grass. As I went around the gate my chair slid on the sand,





The first picture is of the second gate. It is difficult to get around in a wheelchair. The second picture is the first gate from the parking lot which is accessible.

To access the washroom and the paved entrance to the playground there is no proper pathway to go from the track to the washroom.



This is a picture of the only pathway which is incomplete. You can see my wheelchair track in the picture as the ground is sometimes soft. I went to the fairgrounds one day when there was a baseball tournament going on. The Marshall had asked cars to park behind the fence completely blocking this path. When I asked why I was told they didn't want cars driving through. This completely blocked the only access I had as the other way meant going around the second gate.



I would like to suggest something like this pathway at Cedervale park. The metal barrier moves so that you can open it for access or close it for pedestrian access only. If these barriers are closed then it is easy for chairs or strollers to pass through.

There are no designated accessible bathrooms at The Fairgrounds. I did look into the washrooms and it is possible for a chair to manoeuvre in the space but the doors are heavy and not easy to open. I think something needs to be done about access to the washrooms from the track. There are ramps up to the washroom area that would be difficult for anyone with balance issues. The ramp is steep enough that I would not try it in my wheelchair, You can also see in the picture the doorway to the men's side of the washroom.



To make the fairgrounds more accessible I would address the fence and access issues first, then I would address having an accessible option for a bathroom. I would address the bathroom second as the washrooms are locked a lot of the time, only really being opened for tournaments or events at the fairground.

Rotary Park / Prospect Park - Acton

I have given both names. If you enter the park near the playground it is called Prospect park and the Entrance near the Track says Rotary park.

There has been a lot of consideration made in this space to make it accessible. The Children's playground has accessible features and activities that include touch and sound. I liked that the roundabout is flat to the ground and so you could access it with mobility issues.

The track itself is well. Maintained and similar to the track at the fairgrounds in that it has baseball diamonds in the centre. I think having it by the lake and having benches places around gives space for people to enjoy the space, rest and fish. There is a band shell and older swings near the back end of the track. The bandshell is accessible but not the swings. I wouldn't change it as there are still plenty of accessible spaces to use swings on the other end of the track. There is a fully accessible dock that even has a special loading area for people who would have difficulty loading into a boat, including a hoist to help lift someone from a wheelchair to the boat.

The splashpad does have an area that has a step down to it. I was pleased to see a ramp into that area. The only suggestion I would have would be to paint the edge of the step as a visual cue that a step is about to happen.



This picture was taken in the splashpad (It is fully accessible) on a sunny day with the reflection on the surface of the splashpad it would be difficult to see the step.

There is a second part to the park. Behind the buildings past the tennis courts and dog park there is a bridge and a paved walkway. This has soccer fields in the centre and allotment gardens at one end but it is a peaceful space to walk and well maintained. It is also easy to access downtown Acton from the park and there are accessible crosswalks.

Rotary park in Acton is certainly a space where there is a lot to do whatever challenges you might face within accessibility.

Conclusion

I enjoyed looking at the outdoor spaces in Halton Hills. I have focused on the main ones. There has certainly been a lot of work done to make accessible outdoor spaces. I hope my experience can refine them a little.