

# **Message from the Amherstburg Accessibility Advisory Committee**

In the 2017 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan it was reported that 15.5 % of Ontarians or 1.86 million persons were persons with a disability. The more recent data reported in 2020 indicates this has increased to 2.6 million persons. This means one in four persons in Ontario is living with a disability.

This shocking statistic is expected to increase as people become older as many disabilities occur in older adults.

Our committee enjoys the opportunity to review site plans for new buildings and renovations or repurposing of properties to make recommendations concerning a number of accessibility elements including barrier free routes of access and accessible parking. We also make recommendations concerning assignment of funds from AODA Compliance Reserve Fund.

However, considering the exponential growth in persons with disabilities in the province, we believe it is time to collect more targeted data regarding the citizens of Amherstburg to provide the opportunity to create an enhanced, targeted work plan providing information and identifying existing and available supports for persons with disabilities in our community. Information sharing and collaboration within the Accessibility community will enable us to bring forward the best practices and latest trends to effect change to reduce barriers and increase access to goods and services in the Town of Amherstburg.

Sincerely,

Shirley Curson-Prue,

Chair of the AAAC, on behalf of the Committee