

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN
for the
**WELLINGTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD**

APRIL, 2009

Prepared by the
Wellington Catholic District School Board
Accessibility Working Group

This publication is available on the Board's website
www.wellingtoncssb.edu.on.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Title	Page
1.	Executive Summary.....	3
2.	Aim	3
3.	Objective	3
4.	Commitment to Accessibility Planning	3
5.	Description of the Wellington Catholic District School Board	4
	WCDSB Mission Statement.....	5
6.	The Accessibility Working Group Members	6
7.	Barrier-Removal Initiatives To-Date	6
8.	Preventing New Barriers	8
9.	Barrier-Identification Methodologies	9
10.	Barriers Identified	9
11.	Barriers that will be Addressed 2008-2009	9
12.	Review and Monitoring Process	9
13.	Communication of the Plan	9

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of **The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005** is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province. To this end, the ODA requires each school board to prepare an annual accessibility plan; to consult with people with disabilities in the preparation of this plan; and to make the plan public.

This plan is prepared by the Accessibility Working Group of the Wellington Catholic District School Board. The plan describes:

- (a) the measures the Board has taken in the past
- (b) the measures the Board will take during the 2008-2009 year to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities

The Wellington Catholic District School Board is committed to the continuous improvement of access to school board facilities, policies, programs, practices and services for students, faculty, parents/guardians, volunteers and members of the community with disabilities.

2. AIM

This plan describes the measures that the Wellington Catholic District School Board has and will be taking during the course of the next year (2008-2009) to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities who work in, use or attend school board facilities and services.

3. OBJECTIVES

This plan:

- describes the process by which the Wellington Catholic District School Board will identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities;
- reviews efforts at the Wellington Catholic District School Board to remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities lists the policies, procedures programs, practices and services that the Wellington Catholic District School Board will review in the coming year to identify barriers for people with disabilities describes the measures the Wellington Catholic School Board will take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities describes how the Wellington Catholic District School Board will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

4. COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING

The Wellington Catholic District School Board is committed to:

- establishing an Accessibility Working Group;
- consulting with people with disabilities in the development and review of its annual accessibility plans; and

- ensuring school board policies and procedures are consistent with the principles of accessibility improving access to facilities, policies, programs, practices and services for students, staff, parents/guardians, volunteers and members of the community.

The Director of Education, with the support of trustees, has authorized the Accessibility Working Group to prepare the accessibility plan that will enable the Board to meet these commitments.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE WELLINGTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

The Wellington Catholic District School Board offers a complete Catholic education program to students from Junior Kindergarten to Adult Education.

We operate 16 elementary school and 3 secondary schools in the County of Wellington. As the only provider of publicly funded Catholic education in this jurisdiction, we provide education to over 9000 students and employ over 750 people.

Our mission is to celebrate each individual by fostering a love of learning through QUALITY education experiences that enable our students to respond in a Christian way to the challenges of life. Our motto is “We Have Faith in Education”.

We consider our role to be pivotal not only to the development of the individual student but also to the enhancement of the quality of life in both Wellington County and the City of Guelph.

MISSION STATEMENT

To continue to build a vibrant Catholic community committed to the celebration of each individual by fostering a love of learning, through quality educational experiences, enabling all to respond in a Christian way to the challenges of life.

GOVERNING VALUES

We Know

That witnessing the Good News of Jesus Christ is the foundation of Catholic Education.

That each learner is entitled to quality Catholic education.

That Catholic education is a shared responsibility of home, Church, school, and community.

That we are all unique and precious gifts of God.

That our commitment is to foster the dignity and growth of each person in a nurturing, safe environment. That positive attitudes lead to success and happiness.

That as Catholics we are called by our faith to serve others. That as an educational system we are committed to the official languages of Canada.

6. THE ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

The accessibility working group was formally constituted in September 2003 and consists of the following members:

MEMBER	POSITION	DEPARTMENT / SCHOOL	CONTACT INFORMATION
Nancy Culham	Chair, Environment, Health & Safety Officer	Human Resources	(519) 821-4640 x. 231 nculham@wellingtoncdsb.ca
Dan Duszczyzyn	Superintendent, Corporate Affairs	Finance	(519) 821-4640 x. 205 dduszczyzyn@wellingtoncdsb.ca
Peter Rodway	Maintenance Supervisor	Plant & Operations Department	(519) 821-4640 x. 224 prodway@wellingtoncdsb.ca
Natasha Short	Human Resource Officer	Human Resources	(519) 821-4640 x. 218 nshort@wellingtoncdsb.ca
Wes Inett	Supervisor of Technical Support and Services	Information Technology	(519) 763-7333 x. 302 winett@wellingtoncdsb.ca
Elly Lambert	Educational Assistant	Bishop Macdonald Catholic High School	(519) 843-4043 ecrowe@di8osstf.com
Corey Malone	Principal	St. John Brebeuf Catholic School (Erin)	(519) 833-9994 cmalone@wellingtoncdsb.ca

7. BARRIER REMOVAL INITIATIVES TO-DATE

During the last several years, there have been a number of formal and informal initiatives at Wellington Catholic District School Board to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.

Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School, Guelph

- This is a two-storey school with passenger lift to move people between floors. There is a handicap lift to access the Theatre Arts stage area. The school is wheelchair accessible throughout. Wheelchair accessible washrooms, automatic doors and main entry doors have been installed as per codes.

St. James Catholic High School, Guelph

- The school has had a handicapped lift since 1992. The addition is two storey with new floors at same elevation as the old floors and accessible from the existing lift. The gym entry doors are fitted with an electric push-button operator. Wheelchair accessible washrooms are in place. Modifications were made to three sets of washrooms in 2007 to make them more accessible. An automatic door opener was added to the main entrance and the entrance to the library. The ramp to the North entrance will improve accessibility from this entrance.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic High School, Guelph

- The school has had a handicapped lift since 1990. Washrooms, lift, automatic doors, etc. are installed as per codes. Wheelchair ramp serving SERT room and main building added August 2004.

Holy Rosary Catholic School, Guelph

- Existing school has two floor elevations without ramp or lift between floors. Other physical accommodations will be installed if student needs are identified. Washrooms, automatic doors, etc. have been installed as per codes.

Sacred Heart Catholic School, Guelph

- The school has a handicapped lift, which allows wheelchair access to all levels of the entire building excluding the gymnasium area. The new front doors are fitted with an electric push-button operator. Wheelchair accessible washrooms are in place.

St. John Catholic School, Guelph

- Entire school is one storey with one floor elevation. The school is wheelchair accessible throughout. Wheelchair accessible washrooms, automatic doors and main entry doors have been installed as per codes.

St. Joseph Catholic School, Guelph

- School has multiple elevations and does have a handicap lift that moves occupants between all levels except one classroom wing at the opposite end of the school. A wheelchair accessible washroom was installed and ramp installed between other elevations. The school is due for demolition at the end of the current school year and a new school built will be built on the same site, to open in September 2010.

St. Patrick Catholic School, Guelph

- This is a two-storey school with handicapped lift to move people between floors. Wheelchair accessible washrooms, automatic doors and main entry doors have been installed as per codes. A wheelchair ramp was added to one of the two portables.

St. Joseph Catholic School, Fergus

- Wheelchairs can access the school and wheelchair washroom facilities are in place. The main entry doors are fitted with an electric push-button operator. Accessible washroom has been fitted with change table and lifting device. Lifting device also installed in JK classroom.

St. Mary Catholic School, Elora

- Building is single storey with a single storey addition completed in 2008 with all floors at same elevation. The front doors have been fitted with an electric push-button operator. Wheelchair accessible washrooms are in place.

St. John Catholic School, Arthur

- Building is a single storey with all floors at the same elevation. Wheelchairs can access the school and wheelchair washroom facilities are in place. The main entry doors are fitted with an electric push-button operator.

St. Mary Catholic School, Mount Forest

- Building is one storey. Wheelchair accessible washrooms are in place. The main entry doors are fitted with an electric push-button operator.

Mary Phelan Catholic School, Guelph

- Single storey building with ramp between new and old school floor elevations. The new front doors have been fitted with an electric push-button operator. Wheelchair accessible washrooms are in place.

St. Peter Catholic School, Guelph

- This is a two-storey school with handicapped lift to move people between floors. The main entry doors are fitted with an electric push-button operator. The school has wheelchair accessible washrooms are in place.

St. John Brebeuf Catholic School, Erin

- Entire school is one storey with one floor elevation. A single storey addition was completed in 2005. The school is wheelchair accessible throughout. Wheelchair accessible washrooms, automatic doors and main entry doors have been installed as per codes.

St. Michael Catholic School, Guelph

- Building is two-storey with a handicapped lift to move people between floors. The school is wheelchair accessible throughout. The front doors have been fitted with an electric push button operator. Wheelchair accessible washrooms are in place.

Holy Trinity Catholic School, Guelph

- This is a two-storey school with a two-storey addition completed in 2008. There is a handicapped lift to move people between floors, wheelchair accessible throughout. Wheelchair accessible washrooms are in place. Three entry doors are fitted with electric push-button operators.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, Guelph

- This is a two-storey school with handicapped lift to move people between floors. The school is wheelchair accessible throughout. Wheelchair accessible washrooms are in place. The main entry doors are fitted with an electric push-button operator.

St. Paul Catholic School, Guelph

- School opened in 2004. This is a two-storey school with handicapped lift. The school is wheelchair accessible throughout. Wheelchair accessible washrooms, automatic doors and main entry doors have been installed as per codes.

New St. Joseph Catholic School, Guelph

- Currently in construction stage. Projected to open in September 2010 and will replace the existing St. Joseph School on the same site. Accessible washrooms, lift, automatic doors etc., will be installed as per codes.

New St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School, Guelph

- Currently in construction stage. Projected to open in September 2010 at the South End of Guelph. Accessible washrooms, lift, automatic doors etc will be installed as per codes.

St. Stanislaus, Guelph

- Wheelchairs can access the main floor of the school, including all classrooms and offices. Wheelchair washroom facilities are in place. The gymnasium is on a lower level and not wheelchair accessible. The main entry doors are fitted with an electric push-button operator.

8. PREVENTING NEW BARRIERS

School board programs, policies, practices and services will continue to be reviewed in light of the principles of inclusionary practice. We will strive to create an environment that is accessible to all people. Through the annual accessibility planning process, Wellington District Catholic School Board's programming, policies and practices will be assessed to ensure continuous improvement in accessibility.

9. BARRIER-IDENTIFICATION METHODOLOGIES

The Accessibility Working Group used the following barrier-identification methodologies:

Methodology	Description	Status
Senior Administration	Opportunity for input and feedback	Ongoing
Presentation to Principals & Vice Principals	Opportunity for input and feedback	Ongoing
Special Education Advisory Committee	Opportunity for input and feedback	Ongoing
WCDSB Accessibility Working Group	Opportunity for input and feedback	Ongoing

10. BARRIERS IDENTIFIED

Holy Rosary Catholic School, Guelph

- Existing school has two floor elevations with no ramp or lift between floors.

Sacred Heart Catholic School, Guelph

- The school has a handicapped lift, which allows wheelchair access to all levels of the entire building excluding the gymnasium area.

11. BARRIERS TO BE ADDRESSED IN 2008-2009

The Accessibility Working Group will be working to address the barriers, procedural changes, updates and training as required by the Customer Service Accessibility Standard as per the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 in 2009.

12. REVIEW AND MONITORING PROCESS

The Accessibility Working Group meets regularly during the planning year to review progress. Throughout the year, evaluation of the effectiveness in implementing the barrier-removal and prevention strategies will be ongoing in preparation for next year of accessibility planning.

13. COMMUNICATION OF THE PLAN

The Wellington Catholic District School Board's Accessibility Plan will be posted on the board website at www.wellingtoncossb.edu.on.ca and hard copies will be made available to each school and trustees.