

Committee advises council on accessibility issues

A committee of residents is working with council to identify and remove any barriers which could affect the mobility of people with disabilities in the community.

The mandate of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is to assist in improving opportunities for disabled

people by promoting the implementation of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act in the municipality, said committee member Heather Andrews. "The AAC will achieve this primarily by advising council each year, as required by the Act, on its annual Accessibility Plan, which will focus on the identification, removal and

prevention of barriers to people with disabilities."

Public input plays a vital role in the process, noted Mrs. Andrews. "When people are walking down the street, we ask them to look at the curb cuts from the sidewalk to the street. Think about being in a wheelchair, can you move smoothly from sidewalk to road and back

again? If you note a problem, please contact the town and leave a message for the committee."

A number of seniors in the community use scooters to get around town, and that can create a safety hazard, she said. "We see them on the street because they can't access sidewalks." Another area of concern is able-bodied people who use wheelchair parking.

"Do not use it, even if you have a permit, if the person who is disabled is not leaving the vehicle. Remember there's a \$300 fine for parking in a handicapped spot." What's more, the permit for the vehicle could be rescinded if it is being improperly used. "It's also really important to display the permit, or you risk getting a ticket."

Current projects include the installation of a new lift, which is being ordered and paid for by the Mobility Transit Committee. "This lift will allow access to both the main pool and the whirlpool," noted Mrs. Andrews. Last year Latcham Hall was modified to allow for wheelchair

access, "and the Ballantrae Community Centre will be modified this year to meet accessibility standards."

The AAC consists of 11 people, seven with disabilities, one member of council and three volunteers from the community. "We could use another member who is handicapped and has

experience of special needs," she said. And while the position is voluntary, all out-of-pocket expenses will be covered.

If you would like to learn more, or want to report potential problem areas, please call the town at 905-640-1900 and leave a message for the committee.

Ride towards cancer cure

Al's Tack Shop at 4812 Vandorf Sideroad is the venue for the 10th annual Great Canadian Ride for Cancer on Sept. 20.

Once again, riders are invited to bring their own horses, and as many pledges as they can collect, to participate in the event, which will take them on a 25 km. ride through part of the beautiful York Regional Forest. Registration is \$30, and Sept. 13 is the last day to register. Volunteers are also needed to help out on the day of the ride.

Morning refreshments, free lunch and horse holders at the start and finish of the ride and while you eat are provided for all

participants. To date, the ride has raised more than \$235,000 for cancer research. For information,

or to register, call the Holland River Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society at 905-830-0447.





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FAMILY FUN

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FUNDRAISING

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Monday, November 10

Signs are expensive. Harry has not accepted financial contributions through 11 campaigns. Because of this, and Harry's concern for environment, these signs will not be on the roadways of Ward 5 this election.

If you wish to volunteer in Harry's campaign, please call 905-640-3319 or email h.bowes@sympatico.ca

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