

# Item 7.1

## Accessibility Advisory Committee Accessibility Assessment of HRM Owned/Operated Buildings

### **Captain William Spry Comm. Ctr. - Nov 15/10**

Door for pool from family room needs to be automatic with button.  
Shower in family room step is too high.  
Exit lights out  
Washroom not signed  
Elevator buttons not tactile  
Parking lot signs not right ones.

### **Centennial Area Dec.9/10**

Doors on the outside should be sliders not button door for the wind.  
Paint for the spaces for parking  
Washrooms need sink & rail, and button on the doors.  
Signs for the canteen.  
Trends and paint on the stairs.

### **Forum & Civic Arenas Dec. 9/10**

Doors at Windsor & Young all marked for wheelchair, but not button on any door.  
Washroom door on men's (west side) needs to be removed.  
Washroom doors & tactile signage.  
At the rear end needs a ramp between them.

### **Halifax Forum Bingo Hall Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>**

Washroom doors buttons

### **Halifax Forum Multi-purpose Ctr. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>**

Washroom door buttons.

### **Bloomfield Jan. 11/11**

Main door, the floor as you go in needs to be replaced. (Broken tiles)

This building is used by seniors and disabled persons, all the door handles should be handle not knobs. The need for proper tactile signage all over the building is necessary. In the seniors room the coat rack hooks are up to high should have a second lower row. Washroom door should all have buttons to open them. Washroom should have at least one sink in all of them with the tap handles changed. Handles should be place by one of the urinals in the men washroom. On the first and second floor the step at the urinal should have a painted yellow strip.

The seniors that use the same room all the time would like to have something for the backdoor. As they have to walk around the building now. They also lost the handicap parking in the back and not replaced. They would like to see a door bell at the door and let it ring in the room, so they can go to the door.

The parking lot may not be in our mandate, but it has to be looked at. It is in bad shape (a lot of pot holes right at the main entrance) and the handicap parking that they lost must be replaced.

### **Centennial Pool Jan19/11**

Doors for the changing room have no buttons. (Automatic doors required)  
The steps needed in the deep end of the pool not just one end.

### **George Dixon Community Recreation Ctr. Jan. 19/11**

Door at the top of the ramp as you come in (the foyer) needs a button.  
Door handles on meeting doors need to be changed. (Lever type required)  
Washrooms on the second floor need buttons on the doors. (Automatic doors required)  
Ladies washroom needs paddle handles on sink (Second Floor)  
Hooks for coats on the second floor requires a second (row) on at a lower level.  
Locker room doors in the gym need buttons. (Lever type required)  
Both ladies and men locker room sinks need paddle handles.  
Tactile signage is needed though out the building.

### **Halifax North Memorial Public Library Jan. 19/11**

Tactile signage needed (washrooms etc.) to be replaced.  
Washroom needs a button on the door.  
Washroom need paddle handles on the sink,  
Sink needs to be assessable for wheelchairs.  
A keyboard with large keys for one of the computers is required to assist the blind.

### **Halifax Ferry Terminal Jan. 26/11**

All three washrooms need automatic doors and handles on the sinks.  
The audio message for the ferries has not had changed. (30 second audio signal) doors remain open with no audio signal for 5 minutes. (recommend a simple beep every 10 seconds while the green light remains on).

### **Gerald B Gray Arena Feb.10/11**

The main door of the rink needs an automatic door.  
The viewing ramp is too low for someone in a wheelchair.  
Signage needs to be tactile.  
The washroom for the referees is where anyone in a wheelchair uses, so it needs a button on the door and new handles for the sink.

### **Dartmouth Sportsplex Feb 10/11**

Some access doors with an automatic opener are old ones and the doors have no delay once they are opened. The automatic doors need more delay once they are opened.

The crash bars on some of the doors are the old hinged type. People are getting caught on them. The new push type crash bars are needed on the handicap doors.

At the door facing the parking lot the threshold has a raised lip a beveled edge inside the door could solve the problem.

The pool needs a lift. Max Chauvin, GM thinks there are new types available that could be used.

The arena needs the yellow painted lines on the steps.

The parking lot needs the walkway to go over far as the bus stop. There is a section that is not there.

The handicap washroom need new handles for the sinks.

### **Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Feb 10/11**

Handicap washroom at the waiting area inside the terminal is locked and the Commissioners must leave the ticket area to open it, an electric lock is needed so a button at the desk can be activated enabling it to be opened.

### **Alderney Landing Fe.10/11**

We noted that the door from the parking lot didn't have an automatic door, but speaking with staff, apparently they found a company that has one that will work, so this is on order.

The glass doors on the ferry terminal level, between the elevator and on either side of the base of the escalator needs automated doors.

### **Dartmouth Library Feb. 10/11**

The library needs new handles for the sink taps in the handicap washrooms. The door do not have an automatic door, but it is locked at all times for security reasons and they need a key to get in, but should be there.

NOTE At the meeting of February Phil Townsend asked to have the note for the new Four Pad to be added. They need an automatic door for the rink that accommodates sledge hockey.

### **Supreme Court of Nova Scotia – Family Division March 8/11**

Back door from the parking lot, there is a pane of glass broken. A request for repair has been made however, it needs urgent action.

Many areas need signage, for example at the automatic door entrance and bathrooms. They do not have a wheelchair in the building. A wheelchair would be useful much like the setup that City Hall has in the building.

NOTE: While visiting this building a repair man working for Royal Door was on site repairing the automatic entrance door, they have a contract with HRM. We mentioned the parking lot door at the ferry terminal in Dartmouth and the apparent problem of installing an automatic door. He mentioned that there are several easy inexpensive solutions available.

Further note: A letter was sent to Family Court on March 23, 2011 suggesting they purchase a wheelchair for the use of visitors to the building.

### **Rockingham Community Ctr. March 8/11**

In the washrooms, they need bars and paddle handles on the sinks. The steps should have yellow paint on them.

Please note that this may be one of the buildings that will be done over, after the meeting they had on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tallahassee Community March 18/11**

Automatic door button for the front door.

### **Sackville Sports Stadium - March 23, 2011**

Once again HRM the staff was terrific and provided us with excellent assistance.

Missing tactile signage through out the entire complex (for example assessable door, washrooms, elevators etc all need signage)

At the north end entrance doors to the arena has two sets of doors one set has an assessable automated door the second (outer set) does not have an automated assessable door.

The lift in the pool is old and requires ongoing repairs (a new one is needed)

Swinging gate barrier at aquatic entrance needs a handle for wheelchair assess.

Stairs in arena and through out the buildings need yellow step strips for the visually impaired

Fitness Centre assessable automated door needed at the entrance, and at both W/M locker rooms.

Fitness Centre locker rooms need wheelchair assessable sink, paddle tap handles, coat hangers (need to be low enough for people in wheelchairs).

Curling rink needs assessable automated doors.

W/M washrooms on main floor level in pool area needs wheelchair assessable sink, paddle tap handles, lever type door handles, in male washroom the spring on wheelchair stall door should be replace by cam type hinges; in the female washroom the wheelchair stall door swings into the toilet area ( in the wrong direction).

Pool locker rooms need assessable automated doors, wheelchair assessable sink, paddle tap handles, coat hooks (need to be low enough for people in wheelchairs).

Wet pool washrooms needs assessable automated doors.

Female gym toilet in washroom needs to be replaced with higher version.

Female gym washroom needs assessable automated door.

### **March 30, 2011 LeBrun Recreation Centre and Arena**

#### LeBrun Recreation Centre

Several doors in the Centre need lever type door handles.

Tactile Signage required through out the building.

Men's washroom at the entrance has a paper towel holder that is too high.

Both W/M washroom at the entrance requires second grab bar in stall.

Both washrooms need automated doors.

Morrison room needs coat hangers at lower level.

The lion's den both men's and ladies washrooms requires second grab bar in stalls.

The lion's den both men's and ladies washrooms requires paddle tap handles at the sinks.

The lion's den handicap entrance at the rear of the building requires assessable automated door.

The threshold at that entrance needs to be beveled for wheelchair access.

#### LeBrun Arena

Tactile signage is missing at entrance and washrooms.

The assessable automated doors at the arena they were not operating when we visited. It requires an Alan key to activate them. Apparently this is a common occurrence at the arena.

Both M/W washrooms require paddle handles at the sinks.

Both M/W washrooms doors require assessable automated doors.

Both M/W washrooms requires second grab bar in the stalls.

## **Cole Harbour Place – April 6, 2011 Theresa Horwill & Tom Boyd**

Note to HRM staff: Of all HRM buildings we have visited so far Cole Harbour Place is the most inaccessible building we have encountered.

Also to our surprise we were informed by the CHP management staff that someone from HRM staff was scheduled to meet with them on the following morning (Thursday today) to do some of their own investigating on accessibility. This was news to both Theresa and I; we were unaware that HRM staff have now become involved in doing their own accessibility audit.

### **Urgent**

**Management staff provided us with a copy of a quote from Economy Glass (dated Apr. 6,) to supply and install a new LCN pneumatic closer on an interior door at the rear of the complex. It is important that this work be completed urgently. This door is heavily used by wheelchairs. Money should be available through our budget.**

A suggestion; if HRM staff is interested, perhaps two members of our committee could join up with them to visit these properties together combining our efforts; as it is now, we are taking up building management's time having to show us around twice. Perhaps Phil can comment on this.

Here is what we found.

Tactile signage though out all areas of CHP is needed. None exist.

Lever type door handles are needed on many doors throughout the CHP complex, on both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. Full audit of accessible type door handle requirements is necessary.

Men's and women's public washrooms on two floor levels need sink taps either using paddle type or automated.

Men's and women's washrooms on two floor levels need stall doors with cam type hinges and proper safe locks.

Men's and women's washrooms on two floor levels need slanted mirrors and wheelchair accessible sinks.

Panic bars on several doors in areas such as in the arenas and entrances need to be replaced. They require updated push bars.

Many (eight) automatic accessible doors are needed throughout the complex for example at front entrance to arenas, the front hallway on the first floor, the blue hallway on second level, first floor rear entrance, the main entrance doors to Scotia 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level, the Stewart room Capital Health area, the pool viewing area and the administration offices.

Yellow painted strips on stairways in arenas are needed.

### **St. Andrew's Community Centre - April 21, 2011**

Interior door at the entrance needs to be an automatic access door installation.

First floor Women's washroom needs paddle sink taps, automatic access door, grab bar in handicap stall is mounted in reverse, and stall door lock requires adjustment so it locks properly.

First floor Men's washroom needs paddle sink taps, automatic access door and grab bar in handicap stall is mounted in reverse, the stall door needs cam type hinges in order to close properly.

Comment: if the grab bars were switched from the ladies to the men's and the men's to the ladies they would have it right.

Walking railing needed on the first floor along the hall wall to the seniors' meeting room.

Tactile signage needed throughout the building.

Lever type door handles on all doors are required throughout the building

Fire alarm system needs flashing lights for the hearing impaired.

Stairs need yellow strips.

Both exit doors in the Gym need ramps fixed both are uneven and not accessible.

In the seniors' meeting room coat hooks should be installed at lower level for wheelchair accessibility.

If an elevator is to be installed both washrooms on the second floor have to be made accessible.

### **Prospect Road Community & Recreation Centre - April 21, 2011**

An excellent accessible building only additional tactile signage is needed.

### **Bowles Arena -- April 27, 2011**

Automatic access door is not functioning requires a service call.



Fire alarm needs flashing lights for the hearing impaired.

Tactile signage required throughout the arena.

Stairs to the meeting room need yellow strips.

Comment:

On each of the dressing room doors there is a notice stating: "No Chewing Tobacco or sunflower seeds allowed." We are not sure what kind of tactile signage would be appropriate to indicate same message.

### **North Woodside Community Centre – April 27, 2011**

Automatic access door needed at the ramp entrance to the main floor, on the north side of the building.

On the main floor level in the hall way there is an interior door that requires an automatic access door.

Main floor washroom needs a second grab bar.

Tactile signage is required throughout the entire building.

Outside ramp on gym level (south side entrance) needs to be corrected (uneven).

Automatic access door needed at the ramp entrance on the south side entrance to the Gym.

A washroom on Gym level is needed with toilet, grab bars, sink with paddle taps, and slanted mirror etc. Some of the plumbing is already in place; a floor and drainage plumbing are needed.

Fire alarm needs flashing lights for the hearing impair.

### **Chocolate Lake Community Centre – May 5, 2011**

Tactile Signage needed throughout the building.

Lever type door handles needed on many doors.

Water fountain too high needs to be lower and accessible.

Fire alarm needs flashing lights for the hearing impaired.

Front reception counter needs to be lower for wheelchair accessibility.

Exterior side door entrance (ramp entrance) the intercom device is mounted too high not reachable for person in a wheelchair needs to be lowered.

Exterior ramp required at side entrance (pre-school side entrance).

Exterior automatic access door needed at side entrance (pre-school side entrance).

Interior automatic access door needed at interior entrance double wooden doors to the pre-school level.

Automatic access doors required at men's and women's washrooms/locker rooms (**men's swinging barroom door is dangerous**) ... **this needs urgent attention.**

Automatic access door needed at the interior entrance (double wooden door entrance to the accessible bathroom on gym level floor).

Youth project room needs lever type door handles.

Yellow strips needed on many stairs for the visually impaired.

### **Musquodoboit Harbour Arena & Community Centre – May 25, 2011**

Six Automatic Accessible doors required at the front entrance of the arena; i.e. doors from the foyer into the arena, and two sets of doors into the community hall.

The exterior entrance doors are full solid panels with no windows. While Dale (manager) prefers the solid panel doors for security reasons, they are unsafe and dangerous. The existing threshold requires repair for wheelchair access.

One automatic accessible door is required at the second entrance to the community hall,

This facility needs a new family washroom, preferably in the arena area with a fully accessible sink, taps, toilet, bars and stall with an accessible automatic door with a key.

The arena needs a ramp and viewing area for wheelchairs.

Stairs to the second level (meeting hall and viewing area) needs yellow strips for the visually impaired.

Steps in the arena need yellow strips for the visually impaired.

Fire alarm system needs flashing lights for the hearing impaired.

**Public Gardens' facilities – May 26, 2011**

Washrooms are fully accessible. They are in excellent shape.

**The ice cream shop has an automatic accessible inner door however the outer screen door is not accessible. In fact the screen door is spring loaded and rebounds back with unreasonable force. I witnessed first hand a lady in a scooter trying to open the screen door, before I could get to her; the door smacked her three time before she could get through the door. This needs Staff's immediate attention.**

**Halifax Police Department 1975 Gottingen St. May 31/11**

Cliff Falkenham & Theresa Horwill

No Notice that the handicap parking is in the police parking lot.

No public washroom in the front of the building.

The button at the door for booking to high. (I think Cliff said no??)

Signs should be tactile.

**Halifax Police Department Call Center, Regus St. May 31/11**

The button for the outside door is not in the right spot, you have a pole in front of it.

Signs need to be tactile.

**Keshen Goodman Library – June 2, 2011**

Tactile Signage needed throughout the library.

Emergency exit at the rear of the building (Regency Area) needs a level concert pad and access path at the exterior of that door.

Enlarged key board and flat screen visually impaired.

### **Canada Games Centre – June 2, 2011**

Tactile Signage needed throughout the building

Barrier needed in the front entrance main hallway where the stairs access the second floor

Barrier needed at the top of the “staff stairs “ the stairs that extend down to the area behind the front reception counter

Yellow strips required on all stairs.

Accessible automatic doors (3) need at the family locker room, ladies and men’s locker room (ground level)

Tactile numbers on lockers

Accessible automatic door (1) on handicap shower room in family locker room

Accessible automatic doors (2) at track (one at each end)

Accessible automatic doors (2) at ladies and men’s washrooms on 2<sup>nd</sup> level

Accessible automatic door (1) between the fitness room and the two washrooms

Accessible automatic door (1) between the family locker room and the pool area

Accessible automatic door (1) at the child minding centre

### **Police Station in Bedford - June 9 2011**

Cliff Falkenham & Theresa Horwill

There is no automatic door on the main entrance. (the handicap button **mark as**, on the inside is for staff after hours to release the door only)

There is not yellow strip on the steps.

There is only one bar in the public washroom.

### **Police Station in Dartmouth - June 9 2011**

Cliff Falkenham & Theresa Horwill

Signage is not tactile.

**Police Station in Spryfield - June 9 2011**

Cliff Falkenham & Theresa Horwill

There is no automatic door on the entrance.  
The counter is too high.

**Police Station in Halifax Shopping Center - June 9 2011**

Cliff Falkenham & Theresa Horwill

There is no automatic door on the entrance.

Phil: as this is the record check office for most of HRM, will you or do I make a call to the Shopping Ctr. to have this on the high to do list???

**Upper Hammonds Plains Community Ctr. - June 13 2011**

Thomas Boyd & Theresa Horwill

There is no automatic accessible door at the ramp entrance.

Threshold at the ramp entrance needs to be lowered.

Tactile signage is needed throughout.

No outside handicap signage for parking.

Lever handles on several doors are needed. (one door has a broken lever type handle, that needs to be replaced).

Yellow painted strips on the stairs needed.

Fire alarm flashing lights for the hearing impaired needed.

The washroom for the handicap needs a slanted mirror.

A concrete column or pillar located at the rear of the building that is located in a parking area making it difficult to access the rear door of the Centre (the wheel chair ramp area is at the rear of building). (added June 20, 2011)

**Wallace Lucas Community Centre - June 13 2001**

Thomas Boyd & Theresa Horwill

As there was no one at is location, we could only inspect the outside. The interior of the building needs to be looked at.

There is no automatic accessible door at the entrance.

Threshold at entrance may need to be lowered.

**Acadia School building Library & Customer Information Service Centre – Lower Sackville – June 28, 2011**

Thomas Boyd & Theresa Horwill

Theresa and I visited this facility as the result of being informed by staff that there was a complaint filed concerning a ramp being too narrow. This is what we found. The building has three wheelchair ramps. The Library is accessible through the Customer Information Service Centre by means of an elevator but only when the Centre is open (Library and Centre have different hours).

Library ramp at the front entrance measures approximate 32 inches in width at its narrow point. Turning radius is a max of 32". We were informed that HRM staff is aware of the problem and plans are to fix it. However, no mention of using our funds.

The front entrance is a double door. The accessible door opening is 29 inches from the center post door frame to the panic bar on the door. So if the ramp is fixed the door would need to be widen as well.

Tactile signage is lacking in most locations of the library.

Yellow strips on all steps are needed both exterior and interior of the library.

Library meeting rooms have one accessible washroom that needs a second grab bar.

No accessible coat racks in public meeting rooms.

Library's side exit has a book drop off box that is too high (approx. 48") for a person in a wheelchair.

Customer Information Service Centre has a ramp railing that over extends at both ends. It has what appears to be a temporary solution by covering the extensions with foam padding and red duct tape.

The ramp is approximately 35 inches wide with the wall side covered with protective plastic paneling to prevent damaging the walls from wheelchairs and baby strollers.

Tactile signage is lacking in the Centre.

Both the W/M washrooms on the Customer Info Service Centre are accessible but both need slanted mirrors.

Yellow strips on steps in the Customer Info Service Centre are needed.

Sidewalk cutaways are not painted.

Only one sign for three handicap parking spots.

### **Dartmouth North Community Centre & Library – July 7, 2011**

The ceiling in one of the meeting rooms has water damage and may have cause for possible mold. (HRM Staff might want to investigate if they haven't done so).

Front entrance to the library needs an automatic accessible door.

Tactile Signage required through out the building.

Strobe lights needed for hearing impaired fire alarm purposes.

An automatic accessible door needed at inside (second set of doors front entrance). Although these doors are propped open all year, there will be heat lost in the winter each time the front door is opened. An automatic accessible door would save its cost in a couple of years.

An automatic accessible door is needed at the multi-purpose room entrance.

Ramp is needed outside the fire exit door in the multi-purpose room.

Paper towel dispenser in Ladies washroom needs to be relocated for wheelchair accessibility.

Both M/W washrooms have doors that can be removed for easy access and security reasons.

Ramp & landing pad are needed outside the fire exit door in the library.

Handicap signs for the two spots in the parking lot are needed.

Question: In the men's washroom there is a "needle disposal box" it is unreachable for a person in a wheelchair. However, the danger of having it lower is children may be able to get little figures into the box. Does staff have any suggestions?

**(Facilities updated as of July 7, 2011)**





**Proposed Priority Sites (as of June 15, 2011)**

1. Cole Harbor Place
2. Dartmouth Sportsplex
3. Sackville Sports Stadium
4. Bloomfield Centre
5. North Woodside Community Centre
6. Chocolate Lake Recreation Centre
7. Musquodoboit Community Centre
8. Captain William Spy Recreation Centre
9. Halifax Forum/Civic Centre
10. Alderney Landing