





Expenditures	AMOUNT	IN KIND RESOURCES		MEASURING UP FUND
		Amount	Source	Amount
Interior Automatic Doors	\$ 5,600.00			\$ 5,600.00
Princeton Childcare Services	64.90			64.90
Spare Time Holdings	259.88			259.88
Mike Grgich Holdings	2,434.16			2,434.16
Ken Carlson	317.14			317.14
PDCSS-Vermilion Court	609.72			609.72
Riverside Centre	2,000.00			2,000.00
Royal Canadian Legion	2,000.00			2,000.00
PDCSS - photocopying	250.00			250.00
Princeton Skills Centre	128.00			128.00
P&D Chamber of Commerce	164.00			164.00
Sr Citizens Branch 30	1,172.20			1,172.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>			<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>



**Section Five - Report Declaration**

I certify that:

- To the best of my knowledge all the information contained in this Report and any attachments is true and complete.
- Measuring Up, 2010 Legacies Now and the Province of BC were given appropriate recognition as a funding partner as per the Guidelines provided in the Contribution Agreement.
- I have submitted the Final Report in accordance to the approved deadline.

**Authorized Representative:**

Name (please print): Lynn Pelly

Position: Executive Director

Signature: *Lynn Pelly*

Date: 2008/08/29

**Mail completed AND signed Final Reports to:**

Measuring Up Fund  
2010 Legacies Now  
400 - 1095 West Pender  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 2M6  
Phone: 778-327-5153

Measuring Up was created by 2010 Legacies Now in partnership with the Vancouver Agreement, the Province of BC and over 80 disability organizations throughout the province. Measuring Up helps BC communities assess and improve how accessible and inclusive they are for people with disabilities.

**Final Report**  
**Princeton Accessibility Awareness Committee**  
**2010 Legacy - Measuring Up Initiative**

The goals of our committee are to raise awareness regarding accessibility issues and to move our community, Princeton, towards becoming an inclusive, accessible place for everyone.

Accessibility is an important issue. It is important not just for the elderly or for those with physical disabilities, but also for the families and people who are friends of the less physically advantaged. There are many reasons to make our community and society more accessible. We have an aging population, people are living longer, live independently longer, and our elderly are more active and demand more of life. Our physically challenged are living more active lives and have reached and are reaching for horizons previously thought impossible. As well as this important sociological value, the economic well being of our business community will be improved by becoming more accessible. An investment in accessibility today will pay dividends well into the future.

**Our Committee**

In developing our committee, we tried to involve as many community groups and segments of our population as possible. Our committee was composed of a representative from Town Council, the Regional District, the business community, seniors, youth, and several independent committee members, including representation from the visually impaired, cognitively impaired, and wheelchair users. Our committee is chaired by a wheelchair user.

**Process**

Prior to receiving the Measuring Up and Inclusion grant, the Princeton Accessibility Awareness Committee challenged Town Council to complete a variety of normal, everyday activities while using a wheelchair. Our objective was to raise awareness of accessibility issues and help our local political leaders better appreciate some of the obstacles that the elderly and physically challenged face in Princeton.

Using a follow-up survey of participants, many areas of concern were identified. The challenge for our committee became how to address these concerns, recognizing that this was a long term project and not all of the issues would be solved immediately, and that many of the problems were beyond the direct influence of our group. So we decided to focus on the issues we could directly impact.

As a result of our ongoing efforts, the Town of Princeton has budgeted funds to help address several accessibility issues including repairs and maintenance of street to sidewalk transitions, sidewalk lifts in front of stores with a one step entrance, and renovating the Town Hall washrooms to an accessible standard. New facilities that are in the planning stage, such as our library, museum, and town square will be wheelchair friendly.

Also, as a result of the 'walk-about', our group became more aware of other accessibility concerns. To help address these accessibility issues, our committee applied for, and received, a Measuring Up and Inclusion grant of \$15,000 from the 2010 Legacies Now Fund. Our aim was to provide financial subsidies to assist local organizations and businesses to initiate and complete projects that would improve accessibility. Through the media and local business organizations, we asked for project proposals. We also approached potential accessibility improvement partners, focusing mainly on community groups.

Our committee has submitted articles to our local newspapers and has presented updates on our activities at public Town Council meetings. Samples of the news articles are attached to this report.

## Initiatives

The Measuring Up and Inclusion grant has allowed us to fund several specific initiatives to improve accessibility and the quality of life for many people in Princeton.

### Chamber of Commerce

A committee member assessed the Chamber of Commerce / Tourist Information building and determined that the washrooms, while accessible to a wheelchair, were not wheelchair friendly. We funded the purchase and installation of toilet grab bars in each of the three washrooms.

### Community Services

Princeton Community Services responded to our request for proposals with two major projects and several minor renovations. The Committee assessed the proposals and agreed to fund these accessibility improvements.

The first proposal was to install an automatic door at their main office. This building is regularly used by people with mobility issues including wheelchair users. The second proposal was to install an automatic door at Mary Anne Court; a six unit apartment building lived in by clients of Community Services. Several clients of Community Services have mobility issues. Following an accessibility evaluation, Community Services also requested funding to do several renovations, including the relocation of washroom paper dispensers and the renovation of a sidewalk to make the Vermilion Court facility more easily accessible. Vermilion Court is a seniors' assisted housing development operated by Community Services.

### Family Place

A committee member assessed the Family Place building; a site operated by the Princeton Child Care Society, and determined that the washroom, while accessible to a wheelchair, was not wheelchair friendly. We funded the purchase of a toilet grab bar.

### Highway Crossing

Several committee members assessed the pedestrian highway crossing at Burton and Highway 3. We determined that this crossing is unsafe for all pedestrians, especially seniors and the less physically able. Activation buttons are not accessible to wheelchair users. We determined that a pedestrian activated, full red/amber/green light was required to better ensure pedestrian safety. We received letters of support from the Town of Princeton and the RCMP-Princeton Detachment. We contacted the Ministry of Transportation office in Penticton on January 28, 2008 and again on May 15, 2008, with our request. On August 12, 2008, we received a verbal response that a full red/amber/green light was not warranted. With the current pedestrian crossing light situation, vehicles often do not stop for pedestrians.

We will continue to pursue this initiative.

### Legion Hall

Several committee members were aware of accessibility issues at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, Branch #56. Branch #56 has recently become more wheelchair friendly with the redevelopment of the entrance. This initiative was in response to concerns raised by members of the accessibility committee. In addition, Branch #56, did not have accessible washrooms. We partially funded the construction of a wheelchair accessible washroom.

### People's Pharmacy

A committee member assessed People's Pharmacy, one of two pharmacies in town. It was determined that this business would be more accessible to the less able if an automatic door was installed. The business owner and landlord agreed and had an automatic door installed. We offered full funding of the project, but very generously the landlord funded most of the initiative.

### Princeton General Hospital

Over the period of several years, some committee members had written to the hospital about the lack of accessible public washrooms. This year, Princeton General Hospital built two wheelchair accessible washrooms off the lobby area. We provided no funding for this renovation.

**Budget Information**

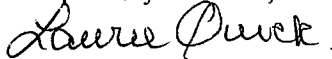
Total funds granted:		\$15,000
Chamber of Commerce	Washroom bars	\$164
Community Services	Automatic doors	\$5600
Community Services	Vermilion Court	\$609.72
Family Place	Washroom bar	\$64.90
Legion	Washroom renovation	\$2000
Office Supplies	Photocopying/binders	\$269.65
Peoples' Pharmacy	Automatic door	\$259.88
Riverside Centre	Washroom renovation	\$2000
Seniors' Hall	Washroom renovation	\$2434.16
Seniors' Hall	Automatic doors	\$1172.20
Signage	Parking/Accessible signs	\$297.49
Skills Centre	Washroom bars	\$128
Total funds spent:		\$15,000

**Committee Members**

Jim Arpe, Senior Citizens' Hall  
Ken Carlson, Community Representative  
Kael Glowacki-Sutter, Youth Representative  
Ray Jarvis, Town Council  
Brian Liberatore, New Beginnings  
Lisa Locke, New Beginnings  
Gerri Logan, Area H Regional District  
Nick Mills, Business Representative  
Laurie Quick, Community Representative  
Darrel Rose, Community Representative

On behalf of the Princeton Accessibility Awareness Committee

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie Quick, Chair

Cc: Princeton Community Services  
Town of Princeton

Attachment: Newspaper photographs and clippings

# Council faces wheelchair challenge

Members of Princeton Town Council and CAO Robins will tour downtown Princeton in wheelchairs on May 11. Two local residents, Laurie Quick and Ken Carlson challenge Council to discuss the difficulties faced daily by people in wheelchairs as they attempt to do business in banks, restaurants and other public places. Carlson reminded Council that it is not just people in wheelchairs who have problems accessing local buildings.

He noted the increase in older people using canes and walkers who would face some of the challenges experienced by people in wheelchairs.

May 11 has been proclaimed Accessibility Awareness Day in Princeton. If you see members of Council in wheelchairs on that day, give them some encouragement. They will be accompanied by an assistant (provided by a Community Services volunteer) who will ensure their safety.

## Letter To The Editor

# Organizers say 'thank you'

Dear Editor,

Thank you to Mayor Randy McLean and Councillors Ray Jarvis, Pam Jones, and Jim Manion, and Town Administrator Patrick Robins for rising to the challenge and participating in Accessibility Awareness Day.

Thank you also to Gordon Comeau, George Elliott, Joann Gabriel, Brian Liberatore, Lynn Pelly, Debbie Schwarz, and Tory Small for accompanying the participants.

The purpose of the day was to raise awareness of accessibility issues.

To help raise their awareness, we asked our elected leaders to move

around downtown Princeton while using a wheelchair.

It was a pleasantly warm morning to learn about accessibility in Princeton. For the most part, people greeted us with positive words of encouragement, and when necessary, assistance. Participants traveled with their support person, but independently of each other, to many different locations.

Each participant completed a feedback sheet about each specific location and a general feedback sheet regarding the condition of the streets, curbing, and other 'access' issues. As expected, some locations were easily and fully accessible, while other locations were not accessible.

A final compilation of this data and a summary report will be presented to Town Council at a later date.

However, at this time it can be reported that two members of Town Council earned blisters on

their hands, while a third member of Town Council had the unfortunate and dangerous experience of flipping the wheelchair.

Princeton is not yet an accessible community, but it does have several businesses and public buildings that are accessible. The challenge is to identify the attributes that make a location accessible and apply them to the inaccessible locations. Full accessibility will not be achieved in one year, or even in many years; it is a long term goal.

Is Princeton up to this challenge? We believe, without a doubt, that we are headed in the correct direction.

We thank Town Council for their participation and look forward to working with them to meet Princeton's accessibility challenges.

On behalf of the Accessible Community Committee,  
- Laurie Quick, Princeton  
- Ken Carlson, Princeton

To the Editor,

At the Town Council meeting on May 22nd, Princeton Town Council proclaimed May 31st, 2007 to be Accessibility Awareness Day.

Accessibility is an important issue to many residents of Princeton.

Accessibility is not important just for the elderly and those with physical challenges, but also for their friends and families.

Accessibility is important for many reasons. Our elderly are living more active lives and are living independently longer. Our physically challenged are also living more active, independent lives. Accessibility creates the environment that helps allow our aged and physically challenged to pursue independent, productive lives.

Over the past year, several changes have occurred to help make Princeton more accessible. These changes include improved designated parking areas, the new washrooms at the arena, and the recent sidewalk improvement outside the Legion Hall.

The purpose of Accessibility Awareness Day is to have our elected leaders experience Princeton from a different perspective, to perhaps better understand some of the obstacles the elderly and the physically challenged face

in our community.

On this day, Town Councillors in wheelchairs, accompanied by volunteers will follow different routes in town and engage in a variety of activities.

This event is not designed to be difficult, we have selected normal, everyday activities to give a real experience, some negative and many positive.

We believe that by noticing the positives, Town Council will better understand how to help remedy the negatives.

Full accessibility will not be achieved in one year, or even in many years.

This year our emphasis will be on moving about the town, accessibility to public buildings, and accessibility to some of our essential businesses, such as banks, pharmacies, and the grocery store.

Town Council has made an active commitment to Accessibility Awareness Day.

You might ask, as a citizen of Princeton, what can I do to promote accessibility?

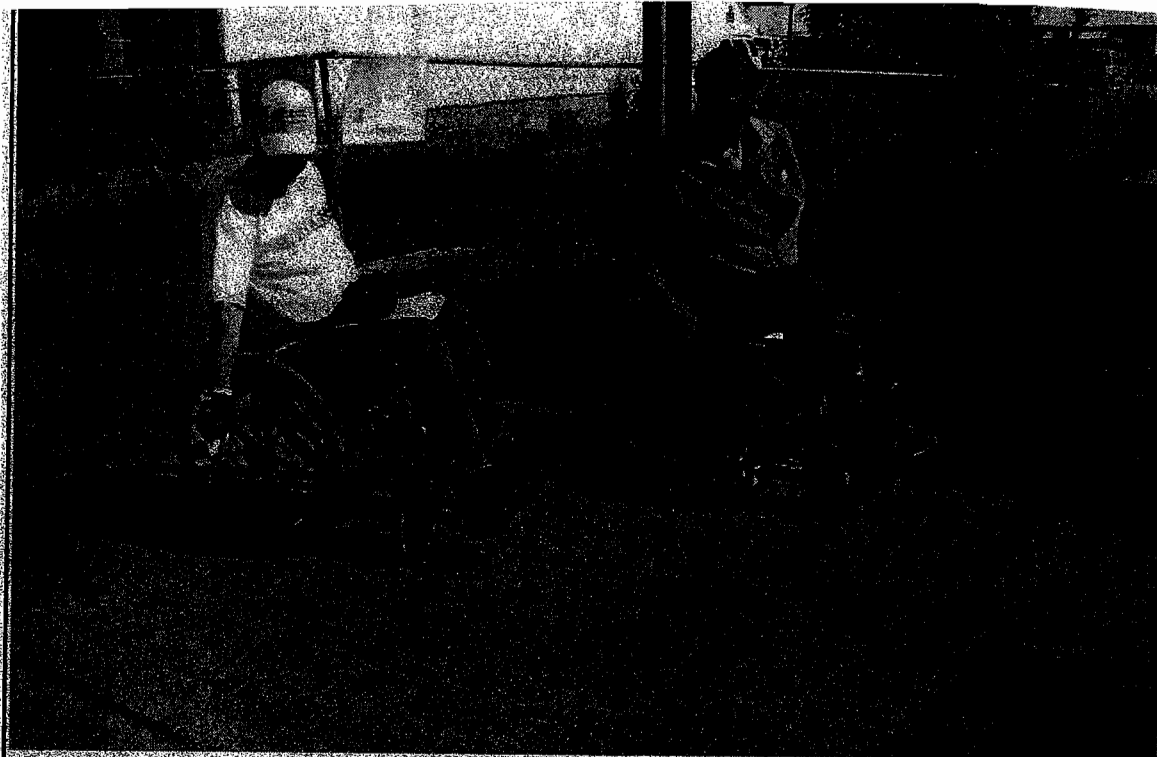
Perhaps on May 31st during your travels through the downtown area, you may pay special attention to the street curbing, or the small step at the entrance to a store, or the narrow aisles, or the list is limited only by your observation skills.

And if you observe something negative or positive regarding accessibility, mention it to the party responsible.

In the case of the negative, they might take note and work towards a remedy, and in the case of the positive you most likely will get a smile and a thank you.

Thank you for joining us in trying to meet the challenge of making Princeton an accessible community.

On Behalf of the Accessible Community Committee,  
Ken Carlson, Princeton



Accessibility Awareness Day organizer Ken Carlson discusses curbing with Councillor Jim Manion.

# Wheelchair challenge opens Council's eyes

"Going around town in a wheelchair was quite an eye opener," Councilor Pam Jones reported. Councilors who took the challenge to operate wheelchairs in downtown Princeton learned a lot. Councilor Jones admitted he fell out of her chair trying to negotiate one transition from spall to sidewalk.

Despite her difficulties, Councilor Jones said she was an excellent experience. Councilor Ray Jarvis found it's hard to get around town. He had problems with uneven paving bricks and curbs. "Curbs were hard to maneuver," he told Councilor Jones. Councilor Jarvis says a need for

more pavement repairs is needed. He commented on the difficulty of maneuvering on uneven pavement in a wheelchair and added, "I can't imagine what it would be like in winter." Councilor Jim Mannon learned, "The majority of places were not wheelchair accessible." Councilor Mannon said Councilor

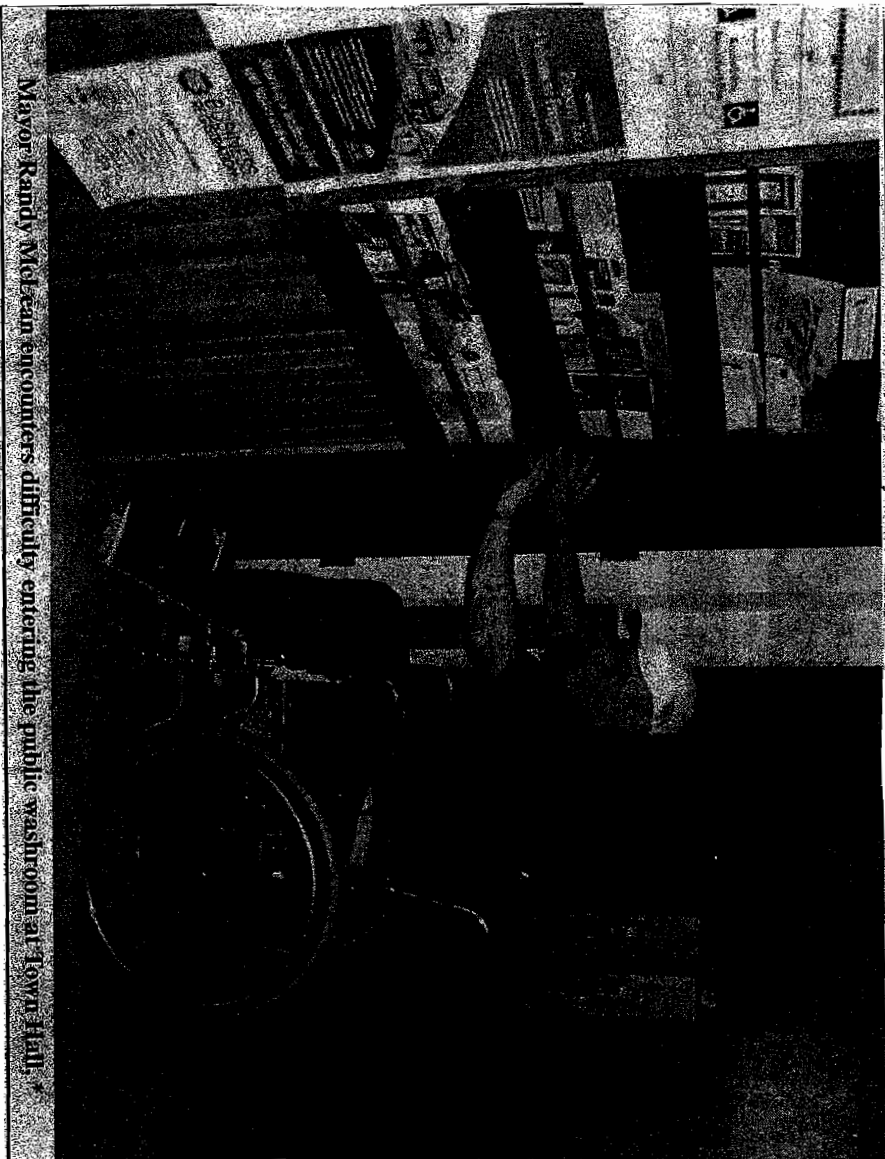
Wannert said he was going to take the time to look at the recommendations of Councilor Jones and Councilor Quick. Councilor Mannon said he was pleased with the steps many businesses have taken to

make their places wheelchair accessible. In accordance with Councilor Jarvis' remarks, Mayor McLean said he would like to try going around town in a wheelchair in winter. Council discussed the possibility of encouraging more businesses to make their premises more accessible by providing some financial assistance.

"If everyone got together maybe we could save some money on a bulk order of push-button doors," Mayor McLean said.

Elie Thomas advised there are grants of up to \$25,000 available for accessibility projects.

Council thought the grant money could be used as a dollar-for-dollar matching grant to businesses that upgraded their accessibility. There will be further action on the accessibility issue which affects not only those in wheelchairs but those depending on walkers or those using canes. As Council pointed out, those concerned with accessibility may include young mothers with



Mayor Randy McLean encounters difficulty entering the public washroom at Town Hall.



Councillor Jim Manton picks up the ramp into the Museum Library Building with Ken Carlson on Accessibility Awareness Day.

## What does accessible really mean?

Imagine you are in a public building and you need to use the wash room. You can get to the door, but you can't get through it as you can't enter a stall. Maybe you can't reach the sink to wash your hands.

Imagine shopping one day and the items you want are out of reach, either they are too high or too far back on a shelf.

Imagine you are travelling downtown and need to enter a building but you can't get over the step at the front door.

These are just a few of the challenges facing persons with limited mobility in Princeton today.

Ken Carlson and Laurie Quick organized an interesting exercise May 31st to share with members of town Council some of the challenges they face in their day-to-day travels in and around downtown. It was called Accessibility Awareness Day and a total of five teams followed a series of tasks designed to educate and inform participants.

The teams included Councillor

Jim Manton in a wheelchair joined by Ken Carlson and the News Leader's George Dillon, Mayor Randy McLean (wheelchair) with Terry Small, Councillor Ray Jarvis (wheelchair) with Brian Liberatore, Gordon Comeau and Debbie Schwarz, Councillor Pam Jones (wheelchair) with Lynn Pelly and Town of Princeton CAO Patrick Robins (wheelchair) with Laurie Quick and Joann Gabriel.

Each team had a list of down  
.....continued on Page 27

continued from Page 7  
town locations to visit with a series of tasks to perform or sites to inspect while at each place.

Carlson told the News Leader the exercise was not to specifically target any business to point out any problems but to trace the average day for someone in a wheelchair, which often means a trip to the post office, the bank, and a couple other chore-related stops in town.

Of the places visited on the downtown tour it became obvious that there is a lot of buildings and facilities within local buildings that are not wheelchair accessible. This was originally brought to light a couple years ago by Brian Liberatore who surveyed the entire downtown and submitted his findings to Town Council.

"The ultimate goal is to say this is an accessible community for everyone," Carlson says.

One may argue that point saying that on the surface the Town has ramps at the end of each downtown sidewalk and there are a lot of ramps leading into local buildings; however, negotiating some of those ramps are just downright dangerous. The paving blocks that make up the downtown sidewalks are pretty, but the sand below them shifts with time making some of the sidewalks a pretty rough ride and the odd ramp into a crosswalk a speed bump hazard.

Then there's the ramps into public buildings. Aside from being pretty steep at more than one location, they do the job they were meant to do. Automatic doors are helpful in other locations but counter tops designed for people standing upright become a problem.

Calling Accessibility Awareness Day a "small step" Carlson says it was important for Town Council members to be part of the process.

"They got to see it from a different perspective and I've been impressed with their response to this."

What were Carlson and Quick hoping to achieve?

"This is an awareness raising activity," Carlson says.

"Businesses will now be a little more aware of where they are falling short and where they are meeting accessibility requirements."

Each participant carried a questionnaire on their route which asked for comments ranging from whether or not there was accessible parking nearby and level entry with easy to open doors to whether or not the facility was 'wheelchair friendly' for shopping and was there a customer washroom available that was wheelchair accessible.

All data will be put into a final report to be presented to Town Council at a future date.

You may ask yourself why put able-bodied members of Town Council in wheelchairs and send them on a field trip around town.

Carlson says it was a simple decision.

"They are the political voice of the community. They are our elected officials and they create the bylaws."

Accessibility Awareness Day was built on three very simple points. First, 'Get to the building.' Second, 'Get into the building' and Third, 'Be able to move around inside the building.'

Town Hall, for example, has automatic doors and a sidewalk that rolls right up to the main door, which makes entry quite easy. The foyer can be crowded, but for a single wheelchair it's simple to use and access to staff is also good. The public washroom located there is a whole different story. Not only is it hard to get into with a wheelchair, but also the stall is virtually impossible to use.

There are other locations downtown that would increase accessibility to their front doors with changes to outdoor sidewalks similar to what has been done outside the Legion building.

Then there's other facilities downtown that would require a serious upgrading which would be costly.

And although the downtown core is not exactly 100 percent wheelchair accessible, local residents continue to show their character by offering to help with everything from opening a door to stopping at an intersection to let a wheelchair user use the crosswalk.

So there is a form of awareness present.

Carlson and Quick hope the exercise of Accessibility Awareness Day builds on that and makes Princeton easier for them to move around in along with others in wheelchairs, those who use walkers and the elderly.

# On being mobile in Princeton

By Carla Clark  
Staff Editor

On May 22, Princeton Town Council proclaimed May 31, 2007 to be Accessibility Awareness Day.

Organizers, Laurie Quick and Ken Carlson approached Council at the May 22 meeting urging the Council and residents of Princeton to be more aware of the difficulties in accessibility around town. They challenged members of the community and Council to take part in promoting Accessibility Awareness Day by experiencing for themselves the difficulties of navigating a wheelchair in most areas of town.

On May 31, Mayor Randy McLean, along with three members of the Council, Jim Stanton, Pam Jones, Ray Jarvis, CAO Patrick Robins, school board chair, Gordon Comeau, Community Services director, Lynn Pelly, Brian Laborator, organizers of the day, Laurie Quick and Ken Carlson and assistants George Elliott, Torry Small, Debbie Schwartz and Joann Gabriel met at the Town office to get started on their routes.

Each team had a list of tasks to complete, navigating to each point in the plan in a wheelchair.

The results were enlightening, to say the least.

"I was actually pleasantly surprised in a positive way," says Randy McLean of his assigned route. "I gave me kind of a positive feeling at the end of the day."

See Wheelchairs pg. 3

# Wheelchairs, cont. from page 1

Even though McLean made note of any problems he found within some of the buildings he visited, the others in the group had varying experiences.

"Very rough—very tough," says Councillor Ray Jarvis of his route. "The sidewalks are rough—they're not level. The chairs will lean to one side and the curbs—even a couple inches they are really hard to get over at times."

With respect to negotiating the Post Office ramp, all said they had difficulties with the steep angle of the ramp and often the doors weren't open, giving anyone in a wheelchair a difficult entry.

The Post Office [ramp], I found just getting onto the ramp was tough," Councillor Jarvis added, "because there was

a lip there, then, because my arms are so weak, I had to have a little help getting up."

Councillor Pam Jones found the course quite a challenge.

"The transition from the sidewalk to the road—the huge lips [on the sidewalks], they're too high. Actually, I fell—tipped over backwards going from the crosswalk from the Best Western—it was a real eye-opener."

Assistant to Ray Jarvis, Gordon Comeau had this to say.

"I think it was as much of an awakening for us who walked with them, as it was for them and I think the biggest thing is the transition onto the sidewalks is just terrible."

Another assistant, Lynn Pelly had this to say.

"From my perspective,

I think I'm somewhat enlightened with people with disabilities, but it was an eye-opener," she says. "It was difficult enough navigating on a nice, summers day—I can't imagine what it would be like in winter."

Princeton CAO, Patrick Robins took a minute to rest before expounding on his experience in a wheelchair.

"I'm exhausted—I am," Robins said wearily. When asked if he attempted entering a store, he replied, "we went into one particular store, yes. One of the few stores that has automatic doors, which, in this venture, really makes a big difference."

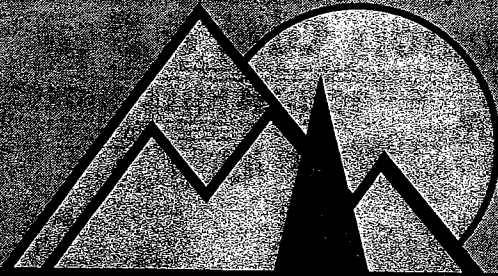
The whole group felt that we take far too much for granted being mobile around the community.

And they all agreed—it was an eye-opener.



Councillor Ray Jarvis gets assistance from helper, Gordon Comeau in negotiating the Post Office ramp. Comeau says, "From Jones' point of view, it's on her own."

Carla Clark photo



# SPO

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Wednesday, June 06, 2007

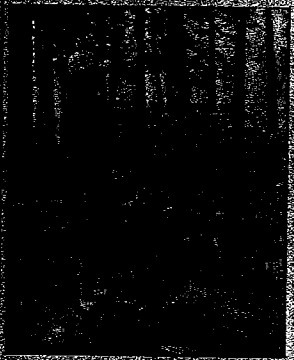
## INSIDE This Week

### Focus/A3



Mayor Randy McLean starts out on his wheel chair adventure by crossing the bridge.

### Sports/B1



Coach Pat Phelan aka coach Grumpy teaches students on the art of playing ball.

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## On being mobile in Princeton

By Carla Clark  
Assistant Editor

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As promised, on May 31 Mayor Randy McLean, along with three members of the Council, Jim Manton, Pam Jones, Ray Jarvis, CAO Patrick Robins, school board chair, Gordon Comcau, Community Services director, Lynn Pelly, Brian Liberator, organizers of the day, Laurie Quick and Ken Carlson and assistants George Elliott, Torry Small, Debbie Schwartz and Joann Gabriel met at the Town office to get started on their routes.

Each team had a list of tasks to complete, navigating to each point in the plan in a wheelchair.

# Accessibility Awareness Day Report to Town Council

This report is based on the written feedback and data provided by Mayor Randy McLean, Town Councillors Ray Jarvis, Pam Jones, and Jim Manion, and Town Administrator Patrick Robins. As typical in society, there is a variance in the physical abilities of these participants. For the purposes of an accessibility study, we suggest that it is important to work towards the abilities of the least able, not the most able.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Accessibility Awareness Day. We are pleased and encouraged by the positive feedback and support we received during and following the event, from participants, business people, and members of the community, local organizations, and the media.

Accessibility is an important issue to all residents of Princeton, including our business people, and also those who travel through our community. It is important to acknowledge that several changes, such as the increase in the number of designated parking areas, the sidewalk outside the Legion Hall, the sidewalk change at the strip mall, and the new electric doors at the CIBC, have occurred in the past year. These changes are a positive step towards improving accessibility in Princeton.

Accessibility Awareness Day was, in fact, but two hours on the morning of May 31, 2007. The weather was pleasant, getting closer to hot by noon. The purpose of Accessibility Awareness Day was to engage our elected community leaders, transporting themselves in wheelchairs, in a number of normal, every day activities selected to help them better understand some of the obstacles the physically chal-

lenged and elderly face in Princeton. The program was not designed to be difficult; it was designed to provide a real experience, including both negatives and positives.

As such, our emphasis was on moving about the town, accessibility to public buildings, and accessibility to some of our essential businesses, such as banks, pharmacies, and restaurants. Part of our intent, using comparatives, was to allow the participants to experience accessibility situations that are appropriate and acceptable, situations that are not, and to better understand the attributes of the positive situations and how these attributes could be applied to the less positive situations.

## Navigating the Town Sidewalks

In general, the sidewalks were considered to be satisfactory for wheelchairs provided the sidewalk was level and the interlocking paving stones were in good condition. Unfortunately, many sections of the sidewalk are not in a well-maintained state. Sections of the sidewalk, particularly a pot hole area near the Belaire Restaurant and Provincial Building, along a section of Vermilion Avenue between the Belaire Restaurant/Provincial Building and the former Goldion Restaurant, and some sections of Bridge Street were identified as in need of maintenance. Water valve stands were also identified as a hazard in the Belaire Restaurant area. The sidewalk in front of the Skills Center was identified as an area where the slope made it very difficult to use. The brick work around the trees often creates a barrier and potential tripping hazard. Areas of sidewalk difficult for wheelchairs

are also, most often, difficult for people who have compromised walking abilities. Since several sidewalks in town were not used during this activity, we suggest that each of the sidewalks be inspected, assessed, and adjusted/repared as necessary.

## Sidewalk to Street Transitions

The corners at Kenley and Bridge, Fenchurch and Bridge, Veteran's Boulevard and Bridge, and 3rd Street and Vermilion were specifically identified as being difficult. General consensus was that the majority of curbs used by the participants needed attention. Since many sidewalk to street transition curbs in town were not used during this activity, we suggest that all of the sidewalk to street curb transitions be inspected, assessed, and adjusted/repared as necessary.

## Location Accessibility

The findings on access to various locations seem to depend greatly on the individual ability and experiences of the participant. For example, one participant identified the Post Office ramp as the best in town, while another thought it was very steep. General consensus was that the Town Hall, Pharmasave, Canada Post, Community Services, CIBC, and Valley First are reasonably accessible. The Museum Library Building, and the Provincial Building have difficult ramps. On the day of the 'wheelabout,' wheelchair access to the sidewalk fronting the strip mall was very limited. The mall sidewalk has since been renovated and access is now very good. Accessibility to restaurants varied from location to location, with some being very accessible and others being totally inaccessible.

..... continued on Page 9

### Traffic Safety/Crossing Streets

In general, most participants felt safe crossing the streets. The corners of Billiter and Bridge, at the Home Hardware, and at the Loomie Bar were identified as three areas where, presumably for the sight-line reasons, some participants did not feel as safe crossing the street. While one participant noted that traffic was not heavy, motorists stopped for each of the participants when they were crossing the street. As with all pedestrians, caution must be used when crossing a street. Sometimes being in a wheelchair can limit one's vision due to the fact that when in a wheelchair one's eye level is much lower, making it more difficult to see over or around obstacles, and also making it more difficult for a motorist to see the wheelchair user.

### Accessible Parking

In general, participants indicated that accessible parking spaces were adequate near most visited location, but some improvements could be made. It was suggested that signage needs to be improved at some locations. Most of the visited locations had accessible parking nearby, either designated on the street or in the business's parking area.

Accessible parking for the Post Office is at the opposite end of the building from the wheelchair ramp.

### Washrooms

Accessible washrooms were in short supply in Princeton. Only one of the visited restaurants had an accessible washroom. The washroom at the Overwater is not accessible. The washroom at Town Hall, the Museum/Library, and the Legion are not wheelchair accessible. CIBC and Peoples Pharmacy do not have washrooms for public use. The Provincial Building, Pharmasave, Community Services, and Valley First (upon request),

have wheelchair accessible washrooms.

### Accommodations

One of the motels visited did not have an accessible lobby and another had an accessible lobby but no wheelchair accessible rooms. The other two motels had wheelchair accessible rooms. These rooms have washrooms with bath tubs and tub safety bars. None of the motels have wheelchair roll-in (wet floor) showers.

### Other Difficulties

It was noted that several of the businesses along Vermillion Avenue and Bridge Street were not accessible due to a step or steps. Some, but not all, of these situations could be resolved with a change similar to the change made in front of the Legion Hall. Alternative changes might be possible at the other businesses made accessible due to a step. It was suggested that a lift might be more appropriate at the Museum/Library and the Provincial Building. A ramp with less incline would likely be more economical and less vulnerable to abuse. At Canada Post mail access for wheelchair users is restricted to business hours as the ramp enters the end of the building opposite to the mail boxes requiring one to pass through the retail area. One sidewalk was identified as impassable due to a homeowner's clutter spread out on the sidewalk. Aggressive dogs were also identified as a hazard at this location.

It was mentioned by some participants that it might be illuminating to do a similar wheelchair activity during a winter month. Snow can often compound accessibility issues.

### Strategies

It is important to appreciate that full accessibility will not be

achieved immediately, this is a long term effort. Many projects to improve accessibility will be costly. Funding will be a factor and it is important to maximize the utilization of funds. As such, projects need to be targeted and prioritized based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, the location's need for accessibility, the number of people impacted by improved accessibility, and the cost of the project. With regard to projects, some needs, such as sidewalk and curb transition areas are recognized as the responsibility of the Town, while other needs, such as an accessible washroom or electric doors, might be considered the responsibility of the business owner or landlord. In terms of strategy, as suggested during the "wheel about," if electric door openers are identified as a priority, a bulk order and installation deal might be organized by the Town to take advantage of potential cost savings. A similar strategy might also be applied to other situations.

To encourage businesses to become accessible, we suggest the Town investigate possible incentive plans that businesses or building owners could use to offset the costs of accessibility renovations to existing structures. Changes to the rules and regulations regarding renovations and/or new structures, may be a cost effective way to address accessibility. It is better to build something correctly the first time rather than rebuild something later. We suggest the Town investigate bylaws that could be introduced to address this issue. We also suggest that the Town introduce a program to recognize locations that have become, or already are, accessible. This program could possibly include a presentation of the wheel-

..... continued on Page 10

# Quick and Carlson file report to Council

Members of Town Council placed themselves in wheelchairs on May 31 to find out what it is like to negotiate Princeton's streets. Laurie Quick and Ken Carlson, who are not mobile except in a wheelchair, were in charge of the project. They took reports from the Council members who tried wheelchair living.

At the August 20 Town Council meeting, Quick and Carlson filed their report with Council, adding their thanks to Council for participating.

Deputy Mayor Ray Jarvis told Quick and Carlson they had raised the awareness of those who participated.

"There are so many obstacles we didn't realize that are tough for you people who are in a wheelchair all the time," Deputy Jarvis told them.

Councillor Pam Jones said Council's experience was good for the community.

Councillor Jim Minter thanked Quick and Carlson for initiating the project and suggested they form a non-profit group through which Council could assist in applying for grants for improvements to accessibility.

Councillor Maria Saadegur said Council is looking into possible ways to make doorways to local businesses more accessible.

The report did not condemn any business for lack of accessibility. The purpose of the exercise was to make Town Council aware of locations needing improved accessibility.

One of the items on which everyone agreed was a need for upgrades to sidewalks in several areas, not just for wheelchairs but for people who may have difficulty

travelling. There was also concern about the number of public buildings which do not have wheelchair accessible washrooms.

There was criticism of the wheelchair ramps at the Court House, Museum/Library and the Post Office. The first two buildings have ramps with steep inclines, and the Post Office has a ramp at the opposite end from the post

boxes. There was no indication that any of the problems would be solved immediately, but there will be changes in the future. Quick and Carlson suggested another wheelchair adventure when there is snow on the ground, but this was done with a laugh.

See the full report on Pages 8 & 9 of this week's News Leader.



Joann Gabriel (standing) discusses sidewalk issues with Town of Princeton CAO Patrick Robins and Accessibility Awareness Day Organizer Laurie Quick. More on Page 27.



**Ken Carlson helps Councillor Jim Manion up a steep sidewalk ramp in downtown Princeton on Accessibility Awareness Day. \***



**Mayor Randy McLean climbs the wheelchair ramp into the Provincial Government building on Accessibility Awareness Day. \***



It was all smiles before they embarked on normal everyday tasks in wheelchairs in and around downtown Princeton on Accessibility Awareness Day.



Princeton Accessibility Awareness Committee attended the June 2nd Town Council meeting. They presented a brief update on their progress in addressing accessibility issues. The committee encouraged Town Council to continue to address issues identified in last year's wheelchair accessibility challenge, particularly the rough condition of sidewalk to street transitions at street corners. Town Council was appreciative of the committee's work and encouraged them to continue in their efforts to make Princeton a more accessible community. In photo, from left, Ken Carlson, Darrel Rose, Mayor Randy Mel cam, Councillor Ray Jarvis, Jim Arpe, Laurie Quick and Nick Mills. Photo: Susan Hamilton