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Grey Roots Museum & Archives Accessibility Plan

Purpose

Guided by the principles of Dignity, Independence, Integration and Equality of Opportunity, this plan sets out the current actions and future goals at Grey Roots Museum & Archives to provide high quality accessible and inclusive services to people of all ages and abilities.

Governance

Grey Roots Museum & Archives is mandated and managed by the Corporation of the County of Grey. Grey County has developed corporate policies, a Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee to make sure across all County departments, including Grey Roots, are accessible.

Corporate Policies

Grey County is committed to providing accessible and inclusive services to people of all abilities in a timely manner. Grey Roots is required to comply with the following Grey County Policies: Accessible Customer Service Policy and the Pets and Service Animals Policy.

Grey County Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

The goal of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is to set out Grey County's strategies for identifying, removing, and preventing barriers that challenge people with disabilities from fully participating in society. The plan also identifies the way Grey County will be compliant with the rules and standards of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee advises Grey County Council and staff members, as well as participating municipalities, on ways to identify, prevent, and remove barriers from municipal services, by-laws, policies, programs and facilities. The committee is formed in compliance with the AODA and ODA to include 50% plus one of people with disabilities. Other members include political representatives, staff and interested members of the public.

Human Resources

Grey County is committed to providing an inclusive, barrier-free work environment for all abilities. The County strives to eliminate barriers for staff members with a medical condition or disability as defined under the Ontario Human Rights Code and Workplace Safety and Insurance Act. Grey Roots is required to comply with Grey County's Corporate Workplan, Accommodation, and Accessibility Policies.

Digital Access to Collections and Programs

1. Grey Roots Museum and Archives holds a collection of over 15,000 artefacts in its permanent artefact collection and these objects can be explored online at greyroots.pastperfectonline.com . Presenting the historic artefact collection online provides broad access to the collection, as researchers and visitors have the option of searching the collection from anywhere.
2. Grey Roots Archives can also be searched online at greyroots.com/collections-and-research/archives-research/search-archives . Assistance can also be reached by calling the Archives staff.
3. [Grey County Stories](#) is a section of the Grey Roots website that showcases dozens of searchable articles highlighting the people, places and events that make up Grey County's history.
4. Grey Roots has produced a number of online exhibits such as [Pearls and Politics Inspiring Women of Grey County](#) and virtual tours such as, [Facing the Flames: The History of Firefighting in Grey County -Virtual Tour](#) . New additions to the website can be found at greyroots.com/whats-on/exhibits .
5. Grey Roots website also includes a variety of online programming materials such as [Black history and anti-racism resources](#), [Truth and Reconciliation resources](#) and links to Indigenous-led educational sites focused on history and culture, the [Voices of Grey Video Archive](#), recorded lectures and [education program materials](#) .
6. Online visitors can also explore stories, images and locations on these interactive GIS (geographic information system) maps:
 - a. [Grey County Historic Communities](#)
 - b. [Grey County Communities- Century + Sampler Map](#)
 - c. [Black History of Grey County](#)

Admission by Donation

To remove the financial barrier of the cost of admission at Grey Roots, regular 'pay by donation' days are offered during special occasions such as Family Day, Welcoming Week for newcomers, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

General Provisions currently at Grey Roots Museum and Archives:

Training

All Grey Roots Staff and volunteers are required to take the County's Accessible Customer Service Training. The Training includes an introduction to staff responsibilities under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, The Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Human Rights Code. It reviews Grey County policies and procedures associated with the corporate Accessibility Policy. Staff and volunteers are informed of types of disabilities and barriers, guiding principles for accessible customer services, and specific best practices for accommodation of various abilities.

Communication

When communicating with a person with a disability, staff are instructed to; be flexible in the provision of services in order to meet the needs of the individual; identify, remove and prevent barriers; be respectful by serving the person first while considering their disability. Information about the site layout and accessibility can be found in advance by calling the museum's Visitor Services team or online at greyroots.com/visit/accessibility.

Assistive Devices

Grey Roots staff are trained on the various types of assistive devices and that visitors are welcome to use any device they need to access our site. Staff are reminded not to touch or move assistive devices without permission.

Service Animals

Service Animals are welcome at Grey Roots Museum and Archives and Moreston Heritage Village in any location that is open to the public.

Support Persons

A person with a disability may be accompanied by a support person to help them get around or complete tasks. The support person is not charged admission at Grey Roots. Staff are reminded to assist the customer, not the support person.

Feedback

Grey Roots looks to the public to help us improve accessibility at our site. Feedback can be provided online by email or through the County of Grey's Accessibility page: www.grey.ca/government/accessibility. Visitors can reach Grey Roots by phone, mail or in person.

Improvements to general provisions planned for Grey Roots:

Next Two Years:

1. An invitation to the Grey County Joint Accessibility Committee to conduct an accessibility audit at Grey Roots Museum & Archives.
2. An improved and more detailed *Accessibility* page on greyroots.com with online or downloadable feedback form.

Next Five Years:

1. Where possible, implement changes recommended in the accessibility audit.
2. Developed specialized tours in collaboration with community organizations to provide meaningful and engaging experiences of Grey Roots programs and exhibits for persons of all abilities.
3. Develop an access strategy to remove financial barriers from visitors to Grey Roots, such as a consistent schedule of pay by donation days.

4. Continue to provide online access to collections, exhibitions, and historic houses at Grey Roots.

Specific Provisions at Grey Roots Museum and Archives

Access for persons with physical disabilities:

1. The entrance to Grey Roots main building and Moreston Heritage Village have automated door entry systems
2. There are four accessible parking spaces.
3. Exhibit areas have space for movement of wheelchairs, walkers, and other mobility devices.
4. There are three electric mobility scooters available for visitors at no charge.
5. There are two accessible washrooms in the main building and one in schoolhouse building in Moreston Heritage Village.
6. The theatre has accessible seating areas for mobility devices.
7. The main building has exterior lighting at all entrances and emergency exits.
8. The following buildings in Moreston Heritage Village are accessible either by ramp or ground level access:
 - a. Moore and Muir Engine Works
 - b. Woodworking Shop
 - c. Log House
 - d. Orange Hall
 - e. Barn (upper and lower levels)
 - f. School House
 - g. Herb Miller Sawmill
 - h. Historic Machinery and Equipment Building
 - i. Bluewater Garage
 - j. George Rice Blacksmith Shop
 - k. Arnott General Store
9. Historical Interpreters can engage visitors outside the buildings if they cannot enter. Artefact information binders, or portable artifacts are shared with visitors.

Access for persons who are blind or who have visual impairments:

1. Magnifying glasses are kept on site for use by visitors who are vision impaired
2. When leading a tour, opportunities will be offered to handle objects where safety and the condition of the artifacts allow.

3. Strips of paint in high contrast colours have been added to the edges of stairs or platforms in the Log House and School House.
4. The Grey County Gallery includes several auditory experiences to hear interpretation of artifacts and oral histories. There are five rotary phone listening stations and three cascading sound speakers with seating areas.
5. Written information is presented in large font sizes.
6. Audio wands are available that correspond with 13 locations in Moreston Heritage Village.

Access or persons who are deaf or hard of hearing:

1. Staff are trained to assist by speaking clearly and facing the visitor to assist those who may be lip-reading.
2. Information on the museum's exhibits is provided in print form.

Access for persons with intellectual disabilities or learning disabilities

1. Exhibit content is presented in plain language and includes images and objects for a variety of age levels and abilities.
2. Staff are trained to be patient and to speak clearly and directly.
3. Hands-on experiences are offered to engage a variety of senses and learning styles.

Access for person with language barriers

1. For ESL (English as a second language) group tours, the teacher or interpreter are provided with free admission.
2. French language tours can be arranged.

Access for young visitors

1. Grey Roots education programs are developed on the principal of experiential learning. Hands-on activities are integrated into all programs.
2. Programming is designed to be adaptive to the audience at a variety of ages and abilities.
3. Grey Roots travelling exhibits provide interactive experiences.
4. Zouz's Place, Grey Roots' children's gallery, provides an activity center for families to explore with young children. A comfortable area is provided for nursing or bottle-feeding.

Age-Friendly Access

1. Ramp and ground level entries are available at most buildings on site to support wheeled devices
2. Rest areas are provided throughout the main building and heritage village at Grey Roots.
3. Three electric mobility scooters are available for visitors at no charge
4. Written information is presented in large fonts sizes.

Plans for future improvements to specific provisions:

Next Two years

1. Virtual Tours of inaccessible heritage village buildings will be developed to share with visitors online or on-site using a tablet.
2. Permanent exhibition object and image information sheets translated for different languages and age levels.
3. Interactive “activity carts” will be added to the Grey County Gallery permanent exhibits to provide play-based learning opportunities for young people and families.

Next Five Years

1. Any new builds in Moreston Heritage Village will be accessible as per the Ontario Building Code.
2. Accessible interpretive panels will be produced to accompany the village buildings so that visitors can be engaged in the history of the building even if it is not accessible or if a staff person is not available to provide service.