

May 9, 2005

Joann Simmons

Commissioner of Community Services and Housing

Region of York

17250 Yonge Street

Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Ms. Simmons;

Recently, I was given the opportunity to visit the Community Safety Village on the Stouffville Side Road with Sheila Millenaar from the CNIB. The focus of our visit was to provide feedback as to how the Village could be more accessible for blind and visually impaired individuals. Please find attached a copy of this report. A draft copy was submitted to Gary Phillips at the Village. Although our focus was on accessibility for the blind and visually impaired several issues were noted that would be of concern to individuals in a wheelchair.

As the Village will be a York Region responsibility at this time I would respectfully request, as a member of the York Region and Whitchurch Stouffville AAC, that the attached recommendations be taken into consideration by the appropriate department. I would also recommend that a subsequent site visit be made by members of the AAC and appropriate staff to ensure adequate accessibility to persons of all disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Kirsten Hill

Community Safety Village

Outside of Main Building

- Paint curb cuts at front of building yellow so that they are clearly identified
- Push buttons for automatic doors placed in an accessible location
- Assess which doors should be automated to allow for smooth traffic flow in and out of the building
- One button to open both doors as there is not enough space between doors to press the button without getting hit by the door
- Push buttons to have colour contrast with the surface they are mounted on so that they are easily identified
- Thick rubber mats difficult to negotiate over, in a wheelchair possible tripping hazard for the visually impaired
- Outside of the doors leading to the village the concrete is not flush with the door or the rest of the sidewalk area – perhaps a mat has already been designed to fit this indented area

Inside Main Building

- Corners of walls painted a contrasting colour to identify them
- Base of walls painted stripe in a contrasting colour
- Install a barrier from the top of the water fountains, to the floor to the right of the fountains
- It was discussed that the fountains be removed
- Black paint around handles on yellow doors
- Contrasting door frame on the doors to the classrooms

Bathrooms

- Yellow paint/tape around handles of stalls
- Black paint/tape around button to flush

Teaching Areas

- Table cloth on kitchen table to allow it to stand out visibly from floor
- Adjustment of lighting with blinds to reduce glare
- Use black clock radio on white tub for contrast
- Cushion of a contrasting colour on bench near window
- Contrasting colour around the window opening that is used to teach emergency fire exiting

Village

- Yellow paint on sloped curbs
- Ramps to buildings which are going to be accessed by children
- Floor inside building to be flush with floor rather than having to step down
- Door frames of buildings to be accessed painted in a contrasting colour to the doors
- Adjust speakers for audio traffic signals into the intersections not away from it (as noted May 6, 2005)
- Map of village – visual and tactile
- Tactile model of hydro poles/wires/tower

Great Job

- Washroom signs with good contrast and Braille
- Contrast of grey door frames with yellow doors
- Countertops in washrooms contrast with sinks
- Bright soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers contrast
- Change of flooring in bathrooms and in classrooms
- Mats in front of doors to identify exits
- Painted lines on road to distinguish crosswalks