

Staff Report

Presented By: Dawn Mittelholtz, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk

Meeting Date: April 14, 2025

Subject: StopGap Community Ramp Program Policy Review

Attachment(s): StopGap Community Ramp Program Policy
List of Participating Businesses
Window Decal

Recommendation

That Council receive the StopGap Community Ramp Program Policy Review report for information.

Report Summary

The intention of [StopGap](#) is to create a world where every person can access every space, raising awareness and removing barriers. The Town's StopGap Community Ramp Program aims to improve accessibility in the municipality by providing free or low-cost deployable ramps to businesses with single-stepped storefronts, which can prevent access for individuals with mobility challenges, including people using wheelchairs, mobility devices, or strollers. This Policy is reviewed every five years.

Background/Analysis

A review of this policy was conducted by the Accessibility Advisory Committee (the Committee) in 2023, confirming that all qualifying and willing businesses have received ramps, with no new businesses requiring ramps at that time. The list of participating businesses included established businesses with barriers stemming from older infrastructure or limited space, which made it difficult to upgrade and meet accessibility requirements. Newer buildings, however, are required to comply with accessibility standards as outlined in the Ontario Building Code.

As recommended by the Committee, a letter will be sent to participating business addresses to gather feedback on the Program and to request an update on the condition of the ramps. This letter will also serve to raise awareness of the StopGap initiative among new business owners and offer the opportunity to distribute new window decals. In the past, StopGap ramps were constructed by volunteers, including students from Saugeen District Senior School. Moving forward, options will be explored for replacing ramps that are reported to be in poor condition.

Linkages

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 4: Fostering a Vibrant Place to Live and Visit
- Business Plan Alignment: Corporate Services Division Highlight

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

No costs or revenue is associated with this report.

Prepared By: Dawn Mittelholtz, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk

Reviewed By: Jim Bundschuh, Director, Corporate Services

Approved By: Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer