



**Hearst Accessibility Committee**  
**Summary of the April 23, 2015**  
**Public Meeting**  
**Heritage Sawmill Marketplace**

**1. Opening Statement:**

Anne-Marie Portelance welcomes the public.

**2. Guest Speaker: Véronique Tremblay**

The President introduces Véronique Tremblay, the Kapuskasing office representative for the *Self-Managed Attendant Services in Ontario - Direct Funding Program*. Ms Tremblay explains the program and answers the public's questions.

**3. New Business:**

- A. M. Portelance informs the public of the upcoming 10th anniversary celebrations of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (OADA)*. The Hearst Accessibility Committee has been asked to present its success story on May 6, 2015 in Timmins.
- The Town has purchased a lift for the Stéphane Lecours pool; in an email message, Mélanie Audet is asking for feedback on this. The participants suggested less intensive lessons that are better suited to their needs. They would also like more time to get prepared before and after lessons.
- A.M. Portelance states that Marie Lebel is open to having the Accessibility Committee perform a building evaluation at the Hearst Ecomuseum. A date will soon be set and members will be informed. Over the summer, the committee plans to evaluate the Johnson's Lake beach and the various town parks.
- The President reads André Rhéaume's e-mail in which he invited Judith Therrien of the Medical Centre to make a presentation on the step-by-step process used to get a family doctor. Since Mrs Therrien was unavailable to do a presentation, she sent the information by e-mail.
  - Each doctor tries to have a varied caseload with people of all ages. Whether a patient is handicapped or not has no bearing on patient selection.
  - Judith Therrien currently takes patients for Dr. Marjolaine Lemaire-Talbot. People seeking a family doctor can drop by her office or call 705-362-8262.
  - Ms. Therrien noted that local physicians sometimes accept new patients. These doctors do not go through provincial programs to choose their patients; you must go see them.
  - Dr. Michèle Jomphe should take new patients when she returns in July.

**3. Tip of the month : (see Appendix)**

**-Programs and services for people with disabilities**

[http://www.edsc.gc.ca/fra/invalidite/prestations/publications/mll\\_fev2015.shtml](http://www.edsc.gc.ca/fra/invalidite/prestations/publications/mll_fev2015.shtml)

Tel : 1-800-959-7383

**4. Open Forum : Questions, Comments or Concerns**

**Here are the comments that were shared:** This was the first time that the Heritage Sawmill was used to hold the public meetings. Participants enjoyed the space, atmosphere and equipment on site. However, two extra tables would have been useful.

Here are the problems encountered and the comments that were shared:

- We were unable to start the automatic door since we could not reach the button (on top of door frame). Would it be possible to do it in another, more accessible way?
- Furthermore, since the snow covered the ground, people were unable to see the wheelchair sidewalk and cars were parked as close as possible to the entryway.
- When the community bus and one other person in a wheelchair arrived, they could not park in the accessible lane. Would it be possible to install signs indicating the disabled parking location?

**4. Next Executive Committee Meeting:** June 12, 2015.

**Next Public Meeting:** October 20, 2015.

**5. Meeting Adjournment:**

The President adjourns the meeting at 9:15 pm.