



**Hearst Accessibility Committee**  
**Report of the November 10th, 2015**  
**Public meeting**  
**Heritage Sawmill Marketplace**

**1. Opening comments**

Anne-Marie Portelance welcomed those present and introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Sergeant Baldassare Nuccio from the Ontario Provincial Police.

**2. New business :**

- The Chair informed the people that two evaluations were carried out during the month of September; Johnson's Lake beach on September 10, 2015 and the J.D. Lévesque Park on September 29, 2015. She thanked all the volunteers who participated: Julie Lanoix, Chantal Dillon, Jean-Paul Grondin, Michelle Côté, Kent McRae, Sandra Blanchard and Ghislain Allard.
- Claire Forcier, Julie Lanoix and Anne-Marie Portelance explained about the project that is currently underway in order to mark the 10th anniversary of the 2005 Accessibility Act. Mrs. Rachel Mercier's grade 11 students from École secondaire catholique de Hearst are putting a video together which features a disabled person and incorporates a little bit of humor. Everything will be unveiled December 3, 2015 on the International Day of the Disabled Person.
- A.M Portelance announced that new parking spaces are now available. First, the medical center now has two parking spaces painted in green for scooters. Second, following the committee's audit, the René Fontaine Municipal Airport now has a disabled parking space.

**3. Tips of the month : (attached)**

- **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)**  
<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/social/odsp/index.aspx>
- **Car manufacturers' "Mobility" program**  
This is a discount offered on the purchase of a new accessible vehicle.
- **GST/HST Specially Equipped Motor Vehicle Rebate Application**  
<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/gf/gst518/>

#### 4. Sergeant Baldassare Nuccio's presentation :

Anne-Marie Portelance provided various situations that people with disabilities may face which were commented on by Sergeant Nuccio:

- **Concerning manual or electric wheelchairs and scooters :** Sergeant Baldassare Nuccio indicated that they circulate the same as pedestrians, therefore they are allowed to be at the same place as pedestrians.
- **Regarding possible frauds, whether from people going door-to-door, over the phone or on internet :** Sergeant Nuccio advised people not to answer these individuals or not to disclose any of their personal information.
- **For people with disabilities who fly:** Our guest suggested they go to the designated counter for disabled persons. At that location, help is available for the following: registration, mobility aids (wheelchairs), accompaniment to boarding area, boarding the plane, landing and baggage claim. Whenever possible, travel with a friend or relative and always be careful with your money.
- **Concerning prescribed narcotics:** His advice was to not talk about it openly, because people are willing to steal to get them. Never give your medicine to anyone else because they are prescribed for you only.
- **For those of you who are victims of abuse (physical, verbal, money ...):** He said that you must agree to testify in court because the officer must have a witness in order to support the charges.
- **Concerning self-defense tips for people with disabilities:** Sergeant Nuccio said that no one has the right to lay hands on anyone unless it's a case of self-defense. As a precaution, you may always take self-defense courses.

#### 5. Open forum : Questions, comments or concerns

6. **Next Executive committee meeting :** November 12, 2015  
**Next public meeting:** April 2016.

#### 7. Adjournment

President adjourned the meeting at 9 :10 p.m.