



Hearst Accessibility Committee
Report of the October 25, 2016
Public meeting
Heritage Sawmill Marketplace

Présent

Anne-Marie Portelance
André Rhéaume
Marcel Dillon
Julie Lanoix
Chantal Dillon
Mark Callaghan (INCA)
Cynthia Barty (INCA)
Melanie Brenn (INCA)
Brenda Wheeler
Claire Forcier
Olive Côté
Thérèse Vachon

Maurice Carrier
Lise Côté
Ernest Desgroseilliers
Réal Desgroseilliers
Léo Blais
Huguette Blais
Janine Drouin
Lucille M. Bouley
Valérie Pominville
Line Lamarche
Fanny Roy
Victor Granholm

1. Opening comments

Anne-Marie Portelance welcomed those present including the evening's guest speakers from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). Julie Lanoix who will act as interpret, presented each guest followed by their respective function. The President explained that she will start by making a summary of the Committee's recent activities, then the guest speakers will make their PowerPoint presentation.

2. New business

Since the last April 2016 public meeting, the Committee conducted three audits.

- ✓ The first one was the George Street sidewalks (between 8th and 10th Street) on July 5, 2016. The President thanked Fanny Roy, Julie Lanoix and André Rhéaume for all their help and Marcel Dillon for taking the picture.
- ✓ The second evaluation was the 9th Street sidewalks, conducted on August 16, 2016. Anne-Marie Portelance thanked the volunteers Chantal Dillon, Claire Forcier and Julie Lanoix for taking part in this evaluation.
- ✓ The third evaluation performed was that of Arthur Bernard Park, on September 21, 2016. The President thanked Michelle Côté, Julie Lanoix and Claire Forcier for taking part. Several recommendations were formulated such as to add unisex accessible portable toilet, to install synthetic coverings in play areas, to pave a small path to have easy access to the games and create a little "Graffiti Paradis" on the park's rocks.

- A.M. Portelance reminded all people who have " Accessible parking permits " (APP) to always display their permit on the dashboard or sun visor of their car so the permit number and expiry date is clearly visible.

3. Tips of the month

- Disability-Related Information – 2015
This guide is for persons with disabilities and their supporting persons. It gives information on tax credits and other related information.
<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4064/rc4064-15e.pdf>
- **Canada Post's Cecogram services :**
A.M. Portelance explained that this is a service allowing specific items used by the blind people, to be mailed **free of postage**, for example Braille documentation. Every item of material for the use of the blind people shall be accepted by registered mail or, in Canada, Xpresspost mail **at no charge**.
<https://www.canadapost.ca/tools/pg/manual/pglitblind-e.asp>

4. Guest speakers : Cynthia Barty, Melanie Brenn and Mark Callaghan from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

CNIB PowerPoint summary

- The CNIB is a registered charity and Canada's primary provider of vision support services. They provide community support, information and national representation to those who are blind or partially blind to ensure that they have the confidence, skills and opportunities to lead the lives they want.
- Nearly 200,000 Ontarians are blind or living with partial vision and more than two million Ontarians have a major eye disease that may cause them to lose their eyesight if it's not already the case.
- Every 10 minutes, a person in Canada learns that they are losing their sight.
- The prevalence of vision loss in Canada is projected to jump by 30% by 2024.
- CNIB offers adapted technology services ranging from accessible book readers to audio-visuals to screen readers.
- The CNIB Library, Caéb, houses more than 80,000 accessible books produced in braille and audio versions.
- The CNIB's Eye Van provides essential eye care to residents of rural areas of Northern Ontario who do not have access to such services.

- The S.C.O.R.E. program for children and adolescents is based on knowledge, self-confidence and opportunity through recreational activities and education.
- The Lake Joseph Center (located in the heart of the Muskoka area) is a totally accessible lakefront facility. It offers a unique range of recreational and visually impaired rehabilitation activities in a safe and open environment.

A few demonstrations :

- Cynthia Barty explained how to use a white cane.
- Mark Callaghan and Cynthia Barty demonstrated how to walk with a blind person and with a guide dog.
- Melanie Brenn demonstrated the different electronic loupes that are available on the market.
- Mark Callaghan (who is a blind person) tried to identify different dollar bills presented by some of the participants.

5. Next Executive Committee meeting : November 25, 2016
Next Public Meeting: April 2017.

6. Adjournment

President adjourned the meeting at 9 :09 p.m.