



2022 Huron County Awards of Merit for Accessibility Presented by the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Huron County Accessibility Awards Program celebrates organizations and individuals in Huron County who are working to build a more inclusive community and who are making a difference in the lives of Canadians living with a disability.

The Award of Merit for Barrier-Free Design promotes public awareness of the importance of barrier-free design, and to recognize excellence in accessibility design. Awards are presented annually to owner(s) of a building or facility that has been designed or renovated with special regard to accessibility for persons with a disability.

Award Categories

- private business
- public sector organization

Eligibility Criteria

Structures that qualify for this award include:

- New public/private buildings or facilities, design incorporates barrier-free accessibility
- Existing buildings or facilities that have been re-designed or renovated to incorporate barrier-free accessibility
- Satisfies the requirements of use and heightens the integration of people with disabilities
- Incorporates practical, useful, and innovative solutions to typical barriers

2022 Award Recipients - Summary

1. Business Category

Award Recipient	Sweets N' Treats, Blyth
Award Recipient	McDonald's, Wingham
Award Recipient	Deams Holdings Inc / Blyth Library

2. Public Sector Category

Award Recipient	Huron County Library & Museum
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1. Business Category AWARDS - Details

1.1 Accessibility Award Recipient - Business

Sweets N' Treats, Blyth
Colleen Jordan

Reasons for Nomination:

The front step has been removed, a power door opener has been installed, there is not a sloped entry.

The store space is level throughout, most displays are within reach.

There is a barrier free bathroom with an emergency call system is a good accessible location. This accessible washroom is open to the public and has a sign on the main street so people know that it is there.

1.2 Accessibility Award Recipient - Business

McDonald's, Wingham
Justin Reid

Reasons for Nomination:

This brand-new building offers customers barrier-free services for fast food take-out with an accessible counter and accessible design for the touch screen ordering system.

The washroom meets very high standards for accessibility with power activated door opener, emergency call system and accessible toilet and hand washing. There is a wave-to-activate door opener for the washrooms.

Seating is accessible within the eat-in area.

1.3 Accessibility Award Recipient - Business

Deams Holdings Inc / Blyth Library, Huron County Library
David Sparling, Trina Huffman

Reasons for Nomination:

This library branch has been renovated to improve the accessibility of the entry and washroom facilities.

The front entrance has been enlarged to accommodate more space to maneuver and the entrance door now has a power door opener.

The washroom was made large enough to accommodate an adult-size change table and the toilet was made to be accessible height and have fold-down barns on both sides.

2. Public Sector Category Awards - Details

Accessibility Award Recipient – Public Sector

Huron County Library / Museum

Jenni Boles / Beth Rumble

Reasons for Nomination:

For providing other methods for library and museum services to the public during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Library

Offered curb-side service for checkouts; at the door or brought to their vehicle; home delivery was also offered

Browse on-line catalogue / or speak to library staff to have them select books for them.

Books continue to be exchanged with residents in Huronlea, Exeter Villa and Bluewater Rest home. Also partnered with Greenway to load ebooks lending software onto ipads distributed to hospitals and care facilities in the area.

Posted on-line activities and book lists as the TD summer reading program was unable to run.

Also created Virtual Meeting Spaces on Zoom that community groups could use when they needed to have meetings that lasted longer than 40 minutes. Library staff booked and opened these meeting spaces which allowed people to meet while isolated at home and facilitated many of the community recovery groups that were beginning to form throughout Huron County. A variety of Virtual programming began in summer of 2020 including story time, reading programs, author talks for children and adults, book clubs, tech support, etc.

Museum

Once the full implications of the pandemic became clear, the Museum immediately enhanced its social media presence (ex. Posts of artifacts, BINGO, scavenger hunts, Stories from Storage, etc.).

New virtual offerings added as a result of the pandemic include:

- Creation of virtual exhibits to complement those at the Museum
- Online speaker series'
- Virtual research service
- Publication of a new book: Prisoner Profiles

Other ways in which they were able to provide contactless services was through already existing virtual resources which were highlighted and added to over the last two years. These include:

- Digitized Newspapers
- Museum's online collection
- Historic photo collections
- Historic walking tours

The Museum transformed their education programs into virtual programs and were able to offer virtual experiences to over 2,000 school children to date.