



MEDIA RELEASE

New Accessible/Companion Washrooms in the Merritt Island Building



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Welland – As part of its mandate to continue on the path to making the City the first fully accessible municipality, the City of Welland and its Accessibility Advisory Committee (the “AAC”) announces the near-completion of a new accessible/companion washroom in the Merritt Island building.

“The washroom is state of the art as far as accessible washrooms go, and includes features such as an automatic door opener, touchless faucets, touchless toilet flush mechanism, drop down adjustable grab bars, and plenty of room to manoeuvre,” said Russ Findlay, Chair of Welland’s AAC. “We are very happy that the completion of this project is just around the corner. People with disabilities will be able to include Merritt Island on the growing list of accessible places in the City of Welland.”

It was unanimously decided by the AAC to renovate the washroom after the committee received authorization from the Welland Recreational Canal Corporation (the “WRCC”). The decision was made two years ago following the last year the Niagara Food Festival was held on Merritt Island. Even though subsequent Niagara Food Festival events have been moved from the Island, the AAC felt that the project was still a good idea and would provide Merritt Island as a safe recreational outlet for people of all abilities.

“This project has been a combined effort of the City’s Accessibility Advisory Committee, the WRCC, and the City of Welland,” continued Herstek. “This companion washroom is another success for the City’s Accessibility Advisory Committee, making this building barrier-free.”

The WRCC’s Business and Operations Manager, Steven Fischer, noted that public input regarding areas of improvement to Merritt Island included upgrading the washroom facilities as well as other improvements that have also been implemented this year, such as the installation of security cameras. “The WRCC is pleased to be a partner in improving the quality and extended availability of the washroom amenities on the Island.”

“The finishing touches – painting and installing the towel dispensers – still need to be done,” said Chris Herstek, Facilities Manager for the City of Welland. “The automatic door openers are being installed today and the lights on Friday, with an expected completion date April 25.” Once complete, the washrooms will be available seven days a week from sun-up to sun-down – approximately 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For more information about how the City of Welland’s Accessibility Advisory Committee is removing barriers around the City, visit www.welland.ca to find the most recent accessibility plan for the City.

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