

January 8, 2021

Cobourg Accessibility Advisory Committee

In the recent past we have been made aware of a problem with a person being stranded at the mall. Recently Troy Mills of this committee encountered a similar problem which he has reported to this committee since the last meeting. I also have experienced this, requiring me to spend a night in the hospital instead of at my home. I went to emergency as instructed by my doctor, using Wheels, and my situation was resolved after 8 PM with no way to get home.

All of these situations are different, but they do have one common element: people were at a significant disadvantage because of their disability. People without a disability do not face these problems, and we need to address this imbalance. This is not a theoretical problem that can be added to our list of things that it would be nice to have, it is an urgent necessity that must be fixed before a serious problem develops.

The preferred solution would be accessible taxis, but that is not economically viable because there is not a critical volume of need. For this reason it is also impractical to consider the solution is to be found in our transit system.

I request that this be added to our agenda for the January meeting.

Sincerely,

Jerry Ford