

Summer Accessibility Tip Sheet

Summer is here, and it's a time of year when it's easier for people with disabilities to get around town. But for those who use wheelchairs, scooters, walkers or canes, there are still hazards and other barriers in the summertime that we should all be aware of, and help to eliminate.

Here are a few:

Tree branches, shrubs and other vegetation can grow over sidewalks this time of year. They can cause serious harm to someone who is visually impaired or blind or who is in a wheelchair or uses a walker and is unable to move the branches out of their way.



Hoses across a sidewalk can become a tripping hazard for people with mobility issues, or who are visually impaired or blind.



Cars blocking the sidewalk force some people with disabilities out onto the road temporarily, which is a safety concern.



Children's bicycles, scooters, sidewalk chalk and other toys left on the sidewalk can become a tripping hazard.



People with hearing disabilities might not hear you ring your **bicycle bell**, and may not move out of the way when you ring it – talk to your children about this.

Perth County has a higher percentage of seniors than the Provincial average, and we need to be mindful that with aging often comes hearing, visual, physical or cognitive decline. Sometimes we just need a bit of patience as seniors park their cars, or get their change purse out in a shop, or when they ask us to speak a bit louder.