

## Manotick Walk Audit January 10, 2018

### Introduction

The Manotick Village Community Association (MVCA) with support of the Council on Aging undertook a walkability survey of selected streets on January 10, 2018 from 1000-1100hrs. We had six participants ranging in age from 40s - 87 along with a Public Works - Environmental Services representative. We used the All Season Age-Friendly Pedestrian Safety and Walkability Checklist developed by the Council on Aging to assess the **Safety , Accessibility , Convenience & Connectedness and Comfort & Attractiveness** of the sidewalks on our selected route. This audit is one tool to use in engage our councillor , city staff, businesses, institutions and our citizens to identify walkability and access issue resulting in short and long-term improvements to year safety and accessibility in Manotick. This survey conducted on this date is specific to only one part of the Manotick core. It is planned to do more surveys in other areas identified with walkability issues and as well in other seasons.

Members of our community are encouraged to identify any walkability issues and forward these to Public Works. At Annex A, is a Sidewalk Hazard Report Form which can be completed by residents who feel unsafe as a pedestrian, using a wheelchair or a walker. One can email this form to [311@ottawa.ca](mailto:311@ottawa.ca) , drop a copy off to any client service centre or mail including the following address:

*Public Works Department 100 Constellation Cres, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor West  
Ottawa K2G 6J8*

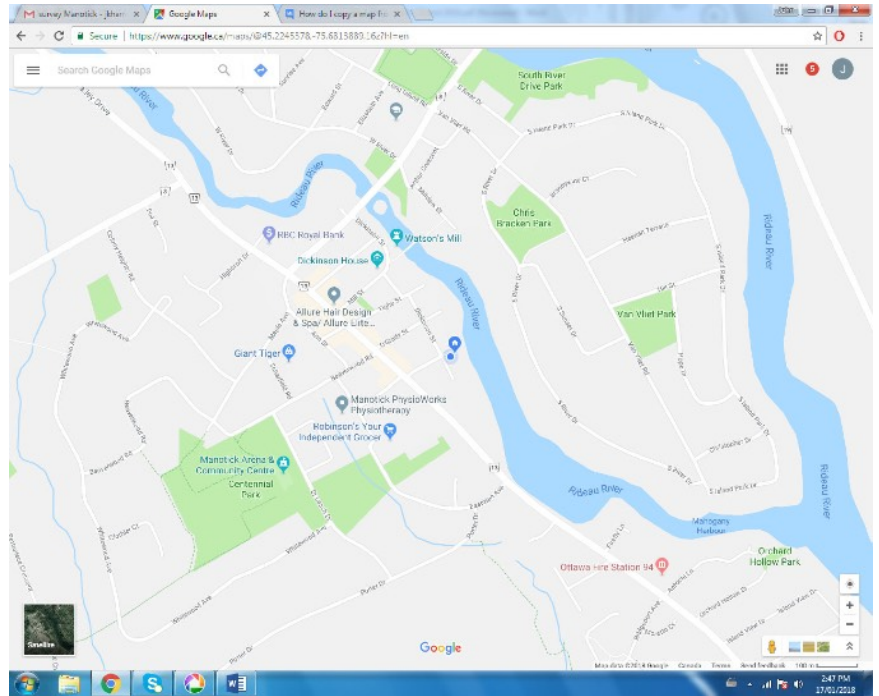
### Route

Our route detailed at Annex A, consisted of Dickinson Street from Bridge St to Currier St and then to Main St north to Bridge St, east on Bridge St to Dickinson St. There are many elderly people many of whom many have mobility issues at the Manotick Place Retirement Community on Bridge St and at the ROSSS building with elderly persons seeking care and advice.

As indicated above, this audit was conducted after a heavy snowfall . Despite this, roads and sidewalks with the exception of two streets were in good condition for able bodied pedestrians however with many noted hazards. Individuals with mobility issues requiring a cane , walker etc would have **not** been able to transit our route due to the snow cover. Most of Dickinson St and Currier St and Currier St have no sidewalks but are wide enough to be accessible. However where there are sidewalks on Dickinson St and on Currier from Main St leading into the Mews, they are impassable due to snow cover having **never** being plowed or cleared thus hazardous for pedestrians. Annex B list the findings along with photographs.

## Annex A

Dickinson St to Currier , north on Main to Bridge St and Dickinson St



## Annex B

### Safety

#### Introduction

As able bodied persons, we took precautions on some of the areas on our route but any person with mobility issues or children would be placed in serious jeopardy as detailed below:

#### Issue No 1

Between Mill and Tighe St on Dickinson St, the sidewalk is covered with snow having never been shovelled. The street is very narrow as parking is allowed on the west side. One has to watch for vehicle traffic and dart in between the parked vehicles to avoid being hit. At the corner of Mill and Dickinson St , there is a pick up place for school buses. Although this was a winter audit, it was pointed out that in the summer, there are significantly more people due to day camps for children , visitors to the Mill , the market and special events. This is a hazardous street.

#### Recommendations

Ban parking or have vehicle parking on the opposite side and shovel the sidewalk.

#### **Issue No 2**

There is no stop or yield sign at the corner of Currier and Dickinson St.

#### **Recommendation**

Install a stop or yield sign

#### **Issue No 3**

Currier St leading into the Mews is not passable. The only sidewalk is not shovelled and apparently private , the road is narrow and there is ice on the shoulders. It is perilous to use this as a pedestrian.

#### **Recommendation**

Sidewalk be installed .

#### **Issue No 4**

There is only one cross walk thus forcing pedestrians to use the one cross walk at Tighe St and Main St

#### **Recommendation**

Install another cross walk preferable at Currier and Main St. Note: Issue No 3 needs to be resolved beforehand.

#### **Issue No 5**

The corner of Main St and Bridge is considered unsafe due to trucks turning right into Main St. from Bridge St at the lights. Some of the trucks have extra long loads which at times cross into the sidewalk endangering pedestrians.

#### **Recommendations**

Staff re- assess this corner with a view to lessen any danger to pedestrians.

#### **Issue No 6**

Vehicles turning left from the Mall at Bridge and Main onto Bridge St are causing traffic hazards

#### **Recommendation**

Lengthen the current medium to prevent vehicles from turning left

#### **Issues No 7**

a. The lights at Dickinson St and Bridge St have no audible signal devices

- b. The pole itself was covered with deep snow preventing a mobility impaired person from using the signal button.

#### **Recommendations**

- a. Install audible signal devices
- b. City staff to clear around the pole.

#### **Issue No 8**

The shovelled sidewalk along Dickinson from Bridge St ends at the War Memorial The walk way beside the Mill is not shovelled at all. Our Public Works advisor stated that this sidewalk from the War Memorial to the Mill is the responsibility of City Parks not Public Works. There is no alternative but to use the road which is hazardous.

#### **Recommendation**

The city clarify who has the responsibility for this walkway and action.

#### **Issue No 9**

Traffic along Dickinson St pass the Mill towards the ROSSS building travels too fast. There is parking allowed on both sides of the road thus creating more safety issues especially in the summer with more people and children in this area. As well this route is used as a cut through by drivers wanting to avoid the lights and traffic at Bridge and Main St.

#### **Recommendations**

- a. Install 3 way stop signs at the corner of Dickinson and Mill St.
- b. Ban parking on one side of the road
- c. Request more of a police presence to enforce the speed limit.
- d. Traffic calming measures be considered

### **Accessibility**

As indicated above, this audit was conducted after a heavy snowfall . Despite this, roads and sidewalks with the exception of two streets were in good condition for able bodied pedestrians. Individuals with mobility issues requiring a cane , walker etc would have **not** been able to transit our route due to the snow cover. Most of Dickinson St and Currier St have no sidewalks but are wide enough to be accessible with the exceptions of Issues No 1 and 3 .

#### **Issue No 10**

- a. At the lights at Main and Bridge Streets the time for the walk signal is too short to allow pedestrians to cross safely
- b. There is no audible sound signal for visually impaired pedestrians.

### **Recommendations**

Lengthen the time for the walk signal and add audible signal devices

### **Issue No 11**

At the lights at Bridge St and Dickinson St , there is no audible sound signal for visually impaired pedestrians.

### **Recommendation**

Install audible sound signal device

### **Convenience and Connectedness**

We found that there is little connectivity and convenience on Dickinson St; and between the west and east sides of Main St. There is no connection from Main St into the Mews using Currier St . See Issues and Recommendations above.

### **Comfort and Attractiveness**

### **ISSUE No 12**

There are three benches: on Main St , in front of the Mill and in front of the Manotick Retirement Residence. All were snow covered. It is unclear who is responsible for maintaining these

### **Recommendations**

Clarify responsibility and request Mill to keep theirs cleared of snow.

### **Conclusions**

Our group agreed that this walk was **not** enjoyable due to the many safety hazards and accessibility issues.



Annex C



Dickinson St between Mill and Tighe Streets. Sidewalk is buried and has never been shovelled.





Walking on Dickinson between Mill and Tighe Streets is hazardous. Brave pedestrians have to dart in between cars to avoid being hit.



Corner of Currier and Dickinson where there is no stop or yield sign to slow traffic.





There is no public sidewalk in Currier into the Mews. This is a very busy corner, likely the busiest second to Main and Bridge and the most dangerous as there is no sidewalk, cross walk or stop signs.



Dickinson St in front of the Mill. Parking on both sides , no sidewalks and cars going too fast is dangerous.







The sidewalk in front of the Mill is not shovelled forcing pedestrians to use the road





Sidewalk on Dickinson St towards the Mill ends at the Memorial forcing pedestrians to use the road jumping over a snow bank



Traffic signal light is not accessible



One of three benches on the route which is snow covered

