

## WHAT ARE THE AWARDS?

The Ontario Mainstreet Accessibility Awards are given to small businesses and communities across Ontario that have made a substantial effort to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities.

Eligibility is open to any small business or community within the province of Ontario that has improved service or access for individuals living with a disability. All nominees must provide service within the province of Ontario. The contribution does not have to be in the year previous to the award date.



Stills from the 3D animated video *Mainstreet Ontario* produced in partnership with Youth View Communications



**tabia**

Toronto Association of  
Business Improvement Areas

For more information Tel: 416 263-3295  
[www.toronto-bia.com/resources/OMAawards.php](http://www.toronto-bia.com/resources/OMAawards.php)

The Ontario Business Improvement Areas (OBIAA) and the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA), with the support of the Ministry of Community and Social Services have initiated the Ontario Mainstreet Accessibility Awards 2006.

Nominations can be mailed, emailed, or faxed by September 28, 2006 to:

TABIA  
2257 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M6S 1N8  
Attn: Ontario Mainstreet Accessibility Awards

Fax: 416 263-3125

email: [awards@toronto-bia.com](mailto:awards@toronto-bia.com)



Recognizing the efforts of small businesses and communities in Ontario that have improved accessibility and reduced barriers for people with disabilities.



[www.toronto-bia.com](http://www.toronto-bia.com)  
click on Accessible Mainstreet

## Category 1 SMALL BUSINESS

Small Businesses are divided into four groups.

- under 1,500 sq ft
- 1,500 to 3,000 sq ft.
- 3,000 to 5,000 sq ft
- 5,000 to 10,000 sq ft.



Awards in each group are divided into 2 categories:

### ➤ Customer Service

Demonstrate measures that have been taken to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities through customer service.

### ➤ Built Environment

Demonstrate measures that have been taken to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities through physical accommodations.

An **additional award** will be given to one business that has modified or adapted its working environment to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities as employees.

Examples for each category can be found at:  
[www.toronto-bia.com/resources/OMAawards.php](http://www.toronto-bia.com/resources/OMAawards.php)

## Category 2 COMMUNITIES

Demonstrate measures that have been taken to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities who live in or visit your community, including:

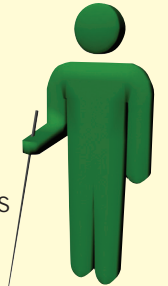
- Identifying and providing solutions for physical and other barriers within the community.
- Communicating a welcoming attitude to people who visit, for example:
  - Streetscape design accommodates people with disabilities.
  - Community's web site includes easy-to-find information for people with disabilities.
  - Phone book listings include TDD/TTY numbers.
  - New resident information is considerate of the needs of people with disabilities.
  - Local board of tourism or chamber of commerce specifically promotes the accessible features/attractions in the community.
- Building community partnerships to advise governments and businesses on improving accessibility.



## NOMINATIONS

Nominations must include:

- Nomination form detailing the contributions this small business or community has made to increase access and inclusion.
- Supporting materials, testimonials, and/or photographs related to the contribution made.



Download the nomination form at:  
[www.toronto-bia.com/resources/OMAawards.php](http://www.toronto-bia.com/resources/OMAawards.php)

### Who can be a nominator?

Nominators can be a person or group of people with direct knowledge of the nominee's contributions, self-nominations are acceptable as long as objective documentation is provided.

