



TOWNSHIP OF EAST GARAFRAXA

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2010/2011

Submitted by: Township of East Garafraxa
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Purpose of the Plan

The ODA requires Ontario government ministries and key broader public sector (BPS) organizations to prepare annual accessibility plans. The intent of these accessibility planning requirements is to improve opportunities for all people, including people with disabilities. The Government of Ontario is committed to working with every sector of society to move towards a province in which no new barriers are created and existing ones are removed.

The purpose of the plan is to describe the measures that the municipality has taken during the previous year, and the measures the municipality will take during the coming year, to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.

The ODA specifies five requirements for the content of all annual accessibility plans:

- Report on the measures the organization has taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.
- Describe the measures in place to ensure that the organization assesses its Acts/by-laws, regulations, policies, programs, practices and services to determine their effect on accessibility for people with disabilities.
- List the policies, programs, practices and services that the organization will review in the coming year to identify barriers to people with disabilities.
- Describe the measures the organization intends to take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities.

Make the accessibility plan available to the public.

Background

There are 1.9 million people in Ontario with disabilities. This number is expected to increase as the population ages because the incidence of disability increases with age. On December 14, 2001, the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (the ODA) was passed to improve access and opportunities for people with disabilities.

The ODA is designed so that cities, towns and other municipalities; hospitals; school boards; colleges and universities; public transportation providers, government ministries and agencies; the private sector and people with disabilities can take part in making Ontario a more accessible province.

The ODA has several important provisions:

- An introduction to explain the goals of the act;
- Sections that outline the purpose and definitions covered in the act;
- Sections that outline the duties of the government of Ontario, municipalities, other organizations, agencies and others;

- A general part that describes accessibility plans; the roles of the Accessibility Advisory Council of Ontario and the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario; offences; regulations and review of the act;

Note: For other definitions, please refer to section 2 of the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001*.

This plan is based on a plan prepared by the County of Dufferin, through consultation with their Accessibility Committee.

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COUNCIL COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of East Garafraxa is committed to:

- The continual improvement, over time, of access to all Township-owned facilities, premises and services for all those with disabilities keeping in mind the financial constraints faced by the municipality
- The provision of quality Township services to all members of the Township with disabilities

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ACTIVITIES	
Prior to 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation of administration offices to fully accessible facility.
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans to upgrade Marsville Community Hall underway, pending funding. • Draft Accessibility plan for consultation. Adopted by Council September 23, 2003
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dufferin County Accessibility Committee review. Adopted by Council September 2004
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceeded with recommendations.
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation of Council meetings to fully accessible Administration Office. Adopted by Council Nov. 2005
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application to Trillium for Administration Office automatic doors.

2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of automatic doors for Administration Office.
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with Dufferin Accessibility Committee • Audit of Township facilities conducted and recommendations received by Council • One Council meeting per month held at Administration Office, which is fully accessible and one Council meeting held at Marsville Community Hall, which is not currently accessible. • Applied for an accessible Municipal/Recreation Facility Project under Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (denied)
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of Accessible Customer Service Policy • Training of all staff and service providers • Hiring of Joint AODA Co-Ordinator for the county of Dufferin and Member Municipalities • Posting of Accessibility Customer Service Signs • Application to Enabling Accessibility Fund for chair lift and accessible doors for Marsville Community Hall • Conducted a fully accessible Municipal Election, utilizing Vote by Mail

TARGETS 2010/2011	
Recommended Projects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with further Accessibility Standards as required • Review Accessibility of Township Website • Ongoing Accessibility training sessions for all new staff and service providers • Continue working towards addressing accessibility issues at Township facilities

PROPOSED PLAN CONSULTATION

Circulation of Plan

A draft plan will be mailed to various agencies in Dufferin County, ie. CNIB, Community Living. A complete list is attached as Appendix 2. They will have an opportunity to comment on the plan.

Posting on Web Site

A copy of the Plan will be posted on the Township's website with an e-mail link.

APPENDIX 1 TO ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Key Definitions

Barrier

A "barrier" is anything that stops a person with a disability from fully taking part in society because of that disability. Some barriers include:

- physical barriers, for example a step at the entrance to a store;
- architectural barriers, for example no elevators in a building of more than one floor;
- information or communications barriers, for example a publication that is not available in large print;
- attitudinal barriers, for example assuming people with a disability can't perform a certain task when in fact they can ;
- technological barriers such as traffic lights that change too quickly before a person with a disability has time to get through the intersection; and
- barriers created by policies or practices, for instance not offering different ways to complete a test as part of job hiring.

Disability

The following is the same definition as used in the Ontario *Human Rights Code*.

A "disability" is:

Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and includes, but is not limited to:

- diabetes mellitus; epilepsy; a brain injury;
- any degree of paralysis;
- amputation;
- lack of physical co-ordination;
- blindness or visual impediment;
- deafness or hearing impediment;
- muteness or speech impediment; or
- physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal, or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device;
- A condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability;
- A learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language;
- A mental disorder; or
- An injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*.

APPENDIX 2 – CIRCULATION LIST TO STAKEHOLDERS

Alzheimer Family Support Group
Arthritis Support Group
Breast Cancer Support Group
Canadian Hearing Society
Canadian Cancer Society
Canadian Paraplegic Association
Cerebral Palsy of Canada
Canadian Mental Health Association
Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation
Community Living Dufferin
Diabetes Society
Epilepsy Ontario
Heart and Stroke Foundation
Hospice Dufferin
Huntington Society of Canada
Kidney Foundation of Canada
Multiple Sclerosis Support Group
Ontario Lung Association
Osteoporosis Society of Canada
Parkinson's Foundation of Canada
Royal Canadian Legion
Schizophrenia Society of Ontario