



The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
Accessibility Action Plan 2011

March 2011

Presented by:
Recreation, Parks & Culture Department
& The Prince Edward Accessibility Advisory Committee

**BACKGROUND - Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA)
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)**

AODA and ODA: the relationship to each other

ODA Planning

Accessibility planning for government and broader public sector still applies.
No standards. Limited enforcement. ODA expected to be repealed when standards under AODA are in place.

AODA Accessibility Standards

Provides for standards with timelines for compliance, in accessing goods, services, buildings and employment. Standards will foster integrating accessibility into regular business and capital planning.

Accessible Customer Service

Standards Development Committee (SDC) established in February 2006
Customer Service regulations were approved by the government on July 31, 2007. The regulations come into force on January 1, 2010.

Accessible Transportation

Final standard completed and now before the Minister

Accessible Information & Communications

Final standard completed and now before the Minister

Employment Accessibility

Final standard completed and now before the Minister

Accessible Built Environment

Final standard completed and now before the Minister

Prince Edward County Accessibility Plan

Introduction/Background

County Council formed the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on November 6, 2003. To provide advice to Council each year about the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of the municipality's accessibility plan.

Annual Municipal Accessibility Plan ► Goal & Objectives

The accessibility plan is intended to identify (inventory) existing barriers within all Departments or areas of operation within the Municipality, address the removal of those barriers in a prioritized manner and to prevent new barriers from being established, in making Prince Edward County a comfortable place for people with disabilities to live, work and visit.

Accessibility Advisory Committee ► Membership

The current membership includes Ms. Sandra Latchford Chair, Ms. Lorna MacDonald Vice-Chair, Mr. Walter Ruggles, Ms. Hilary Whitney, Ms. Barbra Stock and Councillor Barb Proctor.

The Recreation, Parks and Culture Department Manager of Properties is the primary contact for the Municipality to handle inquiries related to accessibility and the key staff member to co-ordinate and facilitate the agendas and activities of the Committee, including the preparation and implementation of the annual accessibility plan.

Contact Information: Mr. Ron Dubyk, Manager of Properties
Recreation, Parks & Culture Department
Location: 72 King Street **Mail:** 332 Main Street
Picton, ON K0K 2T0
Tel: (613) 476-2148
Fax: (613) 476-9835
E-mail: rdubyk@pecounty.on.ca

IDENTIFYING, REMOVING & PREVENTING BARRIERS

Department ► Recreation, Parks & Culture

Item	Initiative	Time Line
Accessibility Advisory Committee Review	A policy of the County of Prince Edward is to have any draft site plans for the construction, renovation or lease (where required) of any County owned buildings reviewed by the members of the AAC for their comments and input in an advisory capacity, including leased offices spaces.	Ongoing
Evaluation of Physical Properties	Recreation, Parks & Culture Department, together with input from the Planning and Building Department as necessary, will prepare a draft report for the consideration of the Accessibility Advisory Committee that will: i) Conduct an accessibility audit of all respective municipal buildings (i.e. Both entry/exit to and from the building and ease of movement once inside). ii) Evaluate accessibility in public parks for meeting the needs of the disabled, especially the needs of disabled children and the visually impaired/blind. iii) Evaluate the accessibility of identified priority public restrooms.	2010/11
	The AAC will review the wording of the existing policies within the	Ongoing

	<p>County Official Plan for the appropriateness and effectiveness of dealing with the issue of accessibility within the community and provide their input and recommendations to Planning Staff.</p>	
	<p>The AAC, and RPC Staff, will promote awareness with regard to raising public consciousness to the needs/challenges of disabled persons in the community and promote sensitivity awareness of disabled persons' needs, in partnership with Community Care organizations.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>A sample of works/initiatives undertaken or to be undertaken by Recreation, Parks & Culture Department include: A capital analysis to be undertaken for all County Town Halls to promote improved access.</p>	Ongoing

Department ► Planning

Item	Initiative	Time Line
Building Code Act	Planning Staff and Building Officials currently review site plans and building permits for construction compliance to Section 3.8 of the Building Code Act on private properties, in relation to matters concerning the disabled.	Ongoing
Sign Bylaw	Chief Building Official and the AAC will monitor and review the County Sign By-law with respect to the placement and number of sandwich board signs with Picton merchants and BIA.	Ongoing
Displays	Chief Building Official and Public Works Staff, together with the AAC, will monitor and review the appropriateness of the 1m merchandise displays by-law along Picton's Main Street.	Ongoing
Pedestrian Routes in Urban Areas	<p>County By-law Enforcement Staff actively monitor and enforce the following By-laws in an effort to prevent obstructions to the disabled along main commercial streets, and allows for safe pedestrian movement:</p> <p>(i) The Sign By-law as it relates to the regulation of the placement of freestanding signage; and,</p> <p>(ii) The By-law that regulates the</p>	Ongoing

placement of 'merchandise for sale'.

Department ► Public Works

Item	Initiative	Time Line
	<p>Public Works Department Staff will review/monitor and annually update a plan focusing on the main public area of the municipality in order to address the condition/placement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Sidewalks, alleys and brick crosswalks to determine where improvements can be made to promote ease of travel for wheelchairs, scooters and disabled pedestrians.ii) Lighting in public places as it relates to accessibility and safety issues.iii) Public Works Staff will advise the AAC annually before the end of June on the plans for the upgrades/replacement of items.	Ongoing
Sidewalks & Walkways	<p>Public Works will review with the AAC, designs and options for sidewalks, alleys and crosswalk upgrades/replacements so as to establish agreed standards for ongoing scheduled work as approved by Council. Public Works has annual plans for upgrades/replacement of sidewalks and walkways. A sample of works undertaken or to be undertaken by Public Works include:</p>	

	Additional improvements to signing and flashing lights to be made at all crosswalks.	2011

Department ► Corporate Services

Item	Initiative	Time Line
	i) Post the Draft Accessibility Action Plan in a text-based format on the County's website once recommended by the AAC and received by County Council; ii) Post the adopted Accessibility Action Plan on the County's website once adopted by County Council.	2011 2011
	The Corporate Services Office together with Planning Staff will continue to arrange to have a number of municipal directories available in larger print.	Ongoing
	County Administration and Council will continue to plan for the construction and occupation of new buildings that will be designed and built barrier-free and user-friendly. For example, the County needs a Council Chamber and meeting rooms of various sizes that are accessible and easily used by the disabled.	Ongoing
Customer Services Staff Training	Human Resources will continue staff orientation for new employees and summer students to comply with A.O.D.A. Customer Service	Ongoing

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ The Prince Edward Accessibility Advisory Committee hosted four public meeting feedback sessions, in the fall of 2007 extending an invitation to all interested citizens, organizations & businesses within Prince Edward County, that advocate for people with disabilities. The purpose of the meeting(s) was to share information and create awareness of accessibility issues with the long term goal of improving accessibility within Prince Edward County.
- ▶ The Prince Edward Accessibility Advisory Committee initiated the installation of timing information for pedestrian crossings in Picton at the Main St., Chapel St., Ferguson and Walton St. signalized intersection. (2009/10)

Public Works

- ▶ Audio Signals were installed at key intersections such as the Tim Horton's intersection in Picton as per the 2009/10 Department Budget.
- ▶ Signal times for pedestrian crossing at signalized intersections and installation has been reviewed and determined to be inadequate. Audio signal review is on Public Works project list. (2006)

Planning Department

- ▶ Additional monitoring of sandwich board signage and enforcement of related infractions (2010)
- ▶ County By-law Enforcement Staff continue to actively monitor and enforce the following By-laws in an effort to prevent obstructions to the disabled along Picton's Main Street, and allows for safe pedestrian movement:
 - (i) The Sign By-law as it relates to the regulation of the placement of freestanding signage; and,
 - (ii) The By-law that regulates the placement of 'merchandise for sale'. (2010/11)

▶ Chief Building Official and appropriate County staff monitored and reviewed the height of fixtures (e.g. hanging planters) and location of trash receptacles along Picton Main Street with Picton merchants and BIA. (2006)

▶ The numerous existing County Parking By-laws were replaced with a new consolidated By-law No. 1475-2005. The new Bylaw, among other things, provides for municipal enforcement of parking violations on posted disabled parking spaces on public and private property with the consent of the proprietor for the County to enforce. The input of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was solicited prior to the passing of By-law No. 1475-2005. (2005)

Corporate Services

▶ The Clerk developed Election Accessibility Standards and an action plan for the 2010 Municipal Election. (2010)

▶ Accessibility signage improvements were made at the H.J. McFarland Memorial Home. (2010)

▶ Magnifying sheets were provided to vision impaired persons & audio assisted voting machine was available, at election time by the County Clerk's office. (2006/10)

▶ County of Prince Edward has undertaken a county-wide community broadband communications initiative (ongoing), to serve County persons informational needs. (2006)

▶ Posted the Draft Accessibility Action Plan in a text-based format on the County's website as recommended by the AAC and received by County Council ; (Annually)

▶ Posted the Accessibility Action Plan on the County's website as adopted by County Council. (Annually)

▶ The information Technology Department, in association with the other internal Departments within the County, will be exploring and implementing e-commerce on the County's website thereby making it easier for people with disabilities to pay their bills and acquire permit applications and communicate with the Municipality. (2006)

Human Resources

▶ Human Resources facilitated staff training to comply with January 1, 2010 deadline for A.O.D.A Customer Service Standards. (2009)

▶ The County of Prince Edward has committed to be an equal opportunity employer who acknowledges our legislative obligations and recognizes requirements for building accessibility. (2006)

Recreation, Parks & Culture

▶ Recreation, Parks and Culture completed an accessibility audit of Shire Hall and have met with Corporate Services staff to review and implement action items, initially through the 2009 budget process and continued into 2010.

▶ Recreation, Parks & Culture Department has addressed the issue of accessible transportation in the County. Council appointed the Specialized Transit Advisory Committee to implement a transit service. Specialized transit county wide service was established on June 5th, 2007.

▶ Consultation with the Picton Business Improvement Association and municipal by-law enforcement was undertaken regarding the monitoring of sandwich board signage; sidewalk sales and placement of merchandise to avoid potential barriers. (2010)

▶ The R.P.C. Hall Application form was amended to include Reg.562 customer service and used of service animals. (2009)

▶ Recreation, Parks & Culture Department Physical Properties Division installed and a new A.L.D (Assisted Listening Device) in Council Chambers to assist persons with a hearing disability, in 2009.

Physical Properties

- ▶ An Accessibility Audit was undertaken for all Town Hall facilities. (2009/10)
- ▶ Accessibility signage improvements were implemented at all Town Hall facilities and Shire Hall. (2010)
- ▶ Initiated parking lot improvements in proximity to the Wellington Town Hall. (2009)
- ▶ Completed counter renovations for the Tax Office at Shire Hall, lowering the counter height to accommodate accessibility needs. (2008)
- ▶ Installed a power door assist on the 2nd Floor entry to the Planning/Public Works Department at the new Edward Building. (2009)
- ▶ The Accessibility Advisory Committee reviewed the plans for the Wellington & Picton Arenas, drawing numerous items to the Manager of Parks & Arenas for implementation during construction. (2010)
- ▶ The Accessibility Advisory Committee also reviewed and approved the following;
 - i) Design plans/drawings for the proposed new Wellington Park Washrooms. (2009)
 - ii) Design for the Community Greenspace beside Shire Hall. (2009)
 - iii) Clubhouse plans for the new Youth Park Project. (2009)
 - iv) Job description for a proposed Accessibility Coordinator position in 2010.