

FINAL DRAFT 2010



The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
Accessibility Action Plan 2010

January 2010

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 ODA expected to be repealed when standards under AODA are in place.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. Lorna MacDonald, Chair, Mr. Walter Ruggles, Ms. Jean Finlayson, Councillor Sandy Latchford, Ms. Kendra Lough, Mr. Gary Rorabeck and Ms. Barbra Stock.

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.

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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.	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
	The AAC will review the wording of the existing policies within the County Official Plan for the appropriateness and effectiveness of	Ongoing

	dealing with the issue of accessibility within the community and provide their input and recommendations to Planning Staff.	
	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.	Ongoing
	A sample of works/initiatives undertaken or to be undertaken by Recreation, Parks & Culture Department include: i) A capital analysis to be undertaken for all County Town Halls to promote improved access.	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	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: (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'.	Ongoing

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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Additional improvements to signing and flashing lights to be made at all crosswalks. 	2010

	Public Works staff includes budgetary considerations for audio signals at key intersections such as the Tim Horton's intersection in Picton in the 2009/10 Departmental Budget.	2009/2010
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Department ► Corporate Services

Item	Initiative	Time Line
	<p>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;</p> <p>ii) Post the adopted Accessibility Action Plan on the County's website once adopted by County Council.</p>	<p>2010</p> <p>2010</p>
	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
Initiate and Complete Staff	Human Resources to complete staff training to comply with January 1, 2010 deadline for A.O.D.A.	2010

Training.	Customer Service Standards.	
Shire Hall – Accessibility Audit	Recreation, Parks and Culture has completed an accessibility audit of Shire Hall and will meet with Corporate Services staff to review and implement action items, initially through the 2009 budget process and continue in 2010.	2010
Develop Municipal Election Standards	The Clerk will develop Election Accessibility Standards and an action plan for further review by the Committee	2010

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 reviewed and provided input to Planning Staff on the draft County Zoning By-law with respect to general provisions regarding parking standards and spaces for the disabled. (2005)
- ▶ 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

- ▶ Many of the sidewalks at intersections, particularly along the main streets, have been ramped by Public Works as part of an ongoing program of reconstruction/replacement of sidewalks in the County. (2004)
- ▶ Miscellaneous sidewalk repairs along Main Street, Picton. (2004)
- ▶ 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

- ▶ 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'.(2007/8)

▶ 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 parking space at the Shire Hall Administration Building was relocated to a more appropriate location in the parking lot.(2005)

▶ Policies in the Prince Edward County Official Plan stress the importance of supporting a continuum of care within the County, including day care, home care, nursing homes and the Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital for our aging society – see Part III, Sections 4.1.2 and 4.6 of the County Official Plan. Part III, Section 4.6.5 identifies the transportation of the physically disabled, the elderly, the sick and socially disadvantaged as a social issue within the County. The policy encourages a co-operative venture amongst those institutions and businesses with vehicles, some having wheelchair accessibility, as a possible way of meeting this need.(2005)

▶ 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

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

- ▶ 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.

- ▶ Permanent ramps were constructed in Ameliasburgh to assist voters

during the municipal election by the Recreation, Parks & Culture Department (Physical Properties). (2003)

▶ Installation of two new picnic shelters at Wellington Beach and Cherry Valley Town Hall and new accessible washroom/showers at Wellington Beach. (2007)

▶ County Council authorized use of the millennium trail by motorized vehicles to allow alternative forms of accessing this recreational feature for those people unable to walk, run, hike or ski. (2003)

▶ Recreation, Parks & Culture Department staff removed the 2-3" lip leading into community halls/facilities. (2003)

Physical Properties

▶ Initiated replacement of the elevator at Shire Hall. The new elevator will have no accessibility restrictions and be universally accessible. To be installed in 2010.

▶ Initiated replacement of the stair lift at the Picton Town Hall with a new elevator, similar to Shire Hall. Also to be installed in 2010.

▶ 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. (2009)

▶ 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.

Parks

- (i) 18 playgrounds upgraded to the current CSA standard that promotes accessibility. (2005)
- (ii) Two barrier-free playgrounds (Wellington and Delhi) have been installed. . (2005)
- (iii) Wood fibre surfacing for play areas at Wellington, Rotary and Delhi Parks. . (2005)
- (iv) Elder play equipment installed at Delhi Park to promote activity for all ages. . (2005)
- (v) Jack Taylor Park (Hillier Ward), gazebo was completed and accessible. . (2005)
- (vi) Updated lighting at Wellington Park and Benson Park has increased safety. . (2005)

Arenas

- ▶ Higher glass and netting to be installed at the Picton Arena. . (2005)
- ▶ Higher glass and netting installed at Wellington Arena as a safety measure to protect the seating area. Netting installed at Picton arena. (2005)

Wellington Museum

- ▶ New Ramp and walkway (2005)

Libraries

- ▶ A multi-branch library structure is mandated to provide access to all residents of the County of Prince Edward. (2004)

- ▶ Library Staff currently offer home and nursing home delivery for all patrons within Prince Edward County. (2004)

- ▶ The Picton Branch of the County of Prince Edward Public Library system has installed an elevator, automatic doors and moved shelving to allow for wheelchairs and scooters. The Branch has an existing wheelchair accessible washroom. (2004)

- ▶ The Consecon Branch has a level entry access and a ramp up to the platform that leads to the washroom area. (2004)

- ▶ The Ann Farwell Branch in Milford is ramped together with an automated door. (2004)

- ▶ All County library branches are examining signage, shelf height, print size and recorded materials in terms of accessibility. Further, public computer access is offered free of charge at all branches with assistance offered. Large computer screens assist the visually impaired. (2005)

- ▶ The current disabled parking space situated in front of the Picton Library was re-located and re-signed in June, 2005 to a more appropriate location that better suits the needs of accessing the back of a van with a wheelchair or scooter.

- ▶ All municipal halls are ramped including the Picton Library whose elevator was also made accessible. Additionally, ramps with viewing platforms have been installed at the Picton and Wellington arenas. (2005)

A sample of works/initiatives completed by the County Library include:

- i) A building addition with an elevator, accessible shelving, accessible washroom, improved lighting and 1 accessible parking space for the Wellington Library. (2005)
- ii) An automatic door opener to assist patrons at the Ann Farwell Branch in Milford. (2004)
- iii) Upgrading some library light fixtures.
- iv) Improved accessible parking at the Picton, Wellington and Bloomfield Branches.
- v) Bloomfield Branch ramp improvements.
- vi) Addition of an accessible washroom completed 2006 for Ameliasburgh Library.