

2023



Accessibility Status Report

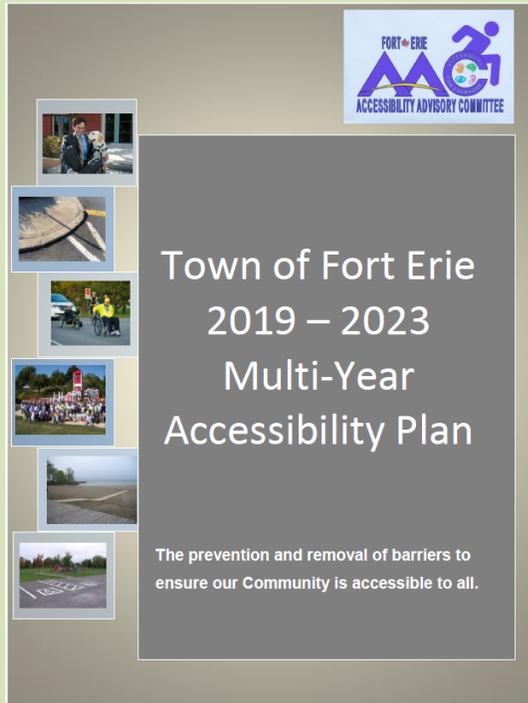
Town of Fort Erie



An update on actions by the Town of Fort Erie to prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities and implement the Town's 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Town of Fort Erie ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Please visit the Town's web-site at www.forterrie.ca to view the Town of Fort Erie's 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan or contact the staff resource to request a copy.



The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)* aims to have an accessible Ontario by 2025. To accomplish this, five mandatory accessibility standards have been developed that affect the most common areas of our daily lives:

- Customer Service
- Information and Communication
- Employment
- Transportation
- Design of Public Spaces

Both public and private sector organizations must implement these standards.

The AODA requires the establishment, implementation, maintenance and documentation of a multi-year accessibility plan, which outlines the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its requirements under the legislation.

By-law No. 40-13 adopted the Town of Fort Erie's first Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2013-2018. By-law No. 157-2019 adopted the Town of Fort Erie's second Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2019-2023, which is currently in effect.

This Accessibility Status Report is the annual update that the Town is required to provide in order to inform members of Council and the community of the measures taken to improve accessibility and implement the Province's legislated accessibility requirements.

The Status Report also provides an update on the actions taken to implement the 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

The following chart highlights actions taken by the Town of Fort Erie to comply with the individual standards within the Regulation from January 1, 2010 to October 31, 2023. They are organized under the accessibility standards of the AODA.

The Report also provides details of achievements made by the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) from November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023.

Town of Fort Erie

ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Compliance Actions: AODA Standards January 1, 2010 to October 31, 2023

Requirement	Action	Status: Completed
CUSTOMER SERVICE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible Customer Service 	The Town of Fort Erie is committed to offering excellent accessible customer service. Ongoing compliance with the customer service standard includes the training of new hires as part of their orientation and volunteers who interact with the public on the Town's behalf.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GENERAL		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility Policies 	By-law No. 128-2012 adopted the Town of Fort Erie's Accessibility Policy. The Accessibility Policy guides efforts to achieve compliance with AODA requirements and establishes the Town's core accessibility principles. The Policy's statement of commitment affirms the Town's commitment to meet the accessibility needs of all people. The Policy was updated in 2016 (By-law No. 73-2016) to include revisions related to service animals and support persons that were effective July 1, 2016.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 	By-law No. 40-2013 adopted the Town of Fort Erie's first Multi Year Accessibility Plan. By-law No. 157-2019 adopted the second Multi Year Accessibility Plan 2019-2023. The Plan outlines the Town's accessibility planning strategy to remove barriers and meet the compliance requirements of the AODA. Annual status reports are provided to Council.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible purchases 	Accessibility requirements are included in all Request for Proposals, tenders and contracts, where applicable.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate accessibility features into self-service kiosks 	The Accessibility Policy includes this requirement. The new admissions kiosk at Bay Beach is accessible; however, the Parking Pay and Display machines are still inaccessible and tickets are not issued to those with an accessible parking permit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Compliance Actions: AODA Standards January 1, 2010 to October 31, 2023

Requirement	Action	Status: Completed
GENERAL, continued		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation (IASR) and the Ontario Human Rights Code 	All employees, including new hires, members of Council, volunteer fire fighters, boards and committee members have been trained on the IASR Standard and on the Ontario Human Rights Code, as it relates to persons with disabilities. An e-module and pamphlet were also created.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible Information 	Accessible formats and communication supports are provided upon request, including emergency and public safety information made available to the public. Town administrative staff have participated in accessible document creation training and developed accessible templates for the most frequently used documents. Compliance requirements are also included in the Accessibility Policy.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making feedback processes accessible 	The Accessibility Policy outlines the feedback process. Staff are also trained to respond to feedback in a way that takes into account the individual's needs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make all new internet websites and new web content on those sites conform to WCAG 2.0, Level A 	AODA compliance requirements were to be met by December, 2021 and include conformance with Website WCAG Level AA. The Town entered into a compliance agreement with the Province as they did not meet the compliance requirements by the December 2021 date. The new website was unveiled in July 2023 and meets WCAG Level AA compliance requirements. The Accessibility staff resource was part of the review team for the new website. The new platform (E-Scribe) for Council minutes and agendas also provides a higher level of accessibility.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Compliance Actions: AODA Standards January 1, 2010 to October 31, 2023

Requirement	Action	Status: Completed
EMPLOYMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individualized Work- place Emergency Response Information for Employees 	<p>The Safe Work Standard for a Workplace Emergency Response Information Plan was developed and distributed to all staff and is included in all Fire Safety Plans. The Standard is reviewed with new staff during accessibility training.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make employment practices accessible including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment - Employee accommodation - Returning to work - Performance management, career development and redeployment 	<p>Administrative Police Directive ERC-006 “Accommodation in Employment” describes the accommodation procedures available to employees and applicants with disabilities to enable their full participation in employment activities. The Directive is reviewed with new staff during accessibility training.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TRANSPORTATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility equipment on Transit vehicles 	<p>The Transportation Standard of the Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation (IASR) has specific requirements that need to be met, such as brightly coloured on-vehicle grab rails, on-board announcements, handrails and stanchions, courtesy seating, lighting features, signage, visual differentiation of platform edges and lowered stop request buttons. Between October 4, 2021, and January 1, 2023, the Town offered an “On Demand” Service that provided transit ridership with an enhanced service and included two accessible vans. As of January 1, 2023, transit services throughout Niagara were amalgamated and the Town no longer has compliance requirements under the IASR as it relates to this requirement. Niagara Region Transit now oversees both conventional (on-demand) and specialized transit within Fort Erie.</p>	No longer applicable with the “On Demand” Service

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Compliance Actions: AODA Standards January 1, 2010 to October 31, 2023

Requirement	Action	Status:
TRANSPORTATION, continued		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus stops and shelters 	<p>The IASR requires that a municipality that provides conventional transportation services consults with the Accessibility Advisory Committee, the public and persons with disabilities in the development of accessible design criteria to be considered in the construction, renovation or replacement of bus stops and shelters and provides provisions if a municipality contracts out these services. The Town no longer provides a conventional transportation service as it is now under the direction of the Niagara Region, more specifically Niagara Region Transit. Bus stop signs were previously erected and the Town has built the Municipal Hub shelter at the Leisureplex and shelters in the Bridgeburg BIA area (funded by the Niagara Region) and the Ridgeway BIA area. Other shelters have been phased in. The consultation requirements under the Transportation Standard were met at the time. Some of the bus shelters and Municipal Hub are still utilized by the On Demand Service.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Categories of Eligibility 	<p>Since 2015, the Town's FAST application form and process has included the eligibility requirement per the Standard. This work is considered compliant with the Regulation. Specialized transit is now handled by Niagara Region Transit.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Preparedness and Response Policies 	<p>The AAC staff resource worked with both the conventional and specialized transit providers to develop the required emergency preparedness and response policies. This requirement is not applicable for the new On Demand Service.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fare and hour parity 	<p>Under the legislation, conventional and specialized transit must provide the same operating schedules (days and hours) and same fares. This requirement is now the responsibility of Niagara Region Transit.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Compliance Actions: AODA Standards January 1, 2010 to October 31, 2023

Requirement	Action	Status:
DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational Trails and Beach Access Routes • Outdoor Public Use Eating Areas and Play Spaces • Exterior Paths of Travel • Accessible Parking • Obtaining Services 	<p>The Design of Public Spaces (DOPS) Standard became effective as of January 1, 2016. The Standard covers any new construction or redevelopment of public spaces.</p> <p>The Standard provides compliance requirements related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational Trails and Beach Access Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slope, Surface, Ramps ○ Rest Areas, Passing Areas ○ Viewing Areas ○ Signage - Outdoor Public Use Eating Areas and Play Spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Picnic Tables, Slope, Surface ○ Play Equipment, Play Features - Exterior Paths of Travel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sidewalks or walkways, Ramps ○ Stairs that connect to an exterior path of travel ○ Pedestrian curb ramps (or curb cut-outs) ○ Accessible pedestrian signals ○ Rest areas - Accessible Parking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surface, Curb ramps, depressed curbs, curb cuts ○ Maintenance of Physical dimensions of spaces, Signage - Obtaining Service including service counters, fixed queuing guides and waiting areas 	<p style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The Town's Accessibility Policy (By-law No. 73-2016) confirms that the Town is committed to designing new construction or redevelopment of public spaces in accordance with the <i>Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation</i> (Ontario Regulation 413/12) under the AODA.</p> <p>The Bay Beach redevelopment includes accessible beach access routes, accessible eating areas and play spaces, accessible washrooms and changerooms.</p> <p>Planning staff continue to consult with the AAC on playground features to ensure compliance with the legislation.</p> <p>Accessible Parking, which was updated in 2012, addresses accessibility requirements. The DOPS requirements are reviewed with any new construction or remediation.</p>

Town of Fort Erie

ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

AODA Implementation continues

Annual status reports on the implementation of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2019-2023 are provided to Council each year, as required, and made available on the Town's web-site and in alternative format, upon request.

In 2019, the second Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2019-2023 was developed and included extensive public consultation. As the Town had met all compliance requirements under the AODA up until that time, the 2019-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan included what was heard from the consultations and focus groups. The AAC will continue to audit both our municipal buildings and parks/playgrounds to ensure any barriers are identified and a plan put in place for removal. Comprehensive audits are planned for the spring of 2024 to ensure that the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan update includes any identified barriers. Any new public facility or park will also include consultation with the AAC members.

Creating an Accessible Fort Erie

Our vision of the Town of Fort Erie is that of a well-designed community that is safe, convenient and comfortable for all persons, with or without disabilities. By implementing the requirements of the AODA, we are all working towards creating an accessible Town and Province.

Town of Fort Erie

ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Report on Achievements (November 2022 to October 2023)

The Town of Fort Erie Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) conducts a great deal of work behind the scenes to ensure the removal of barriers throughout the community. The main purpose of the AAC is to advise Municipal Council about the requirements and implementation of accessibility standards; the identification, removal and prevention of barriers in the municipality's by-laws, policies, programs, projects and services; advise Council on the accessibility of buildings, structures or premises that the Council purchases, builds or renovates as well as reviewing and commenting on site plans and drawings for new buildings or developments.

In recent years, the AAC has also encouraged local businesses to correct identified barriers and have had great success working with business owners to create a more inclusive environment.

The following report on achievements is broken down into specific categories:

- 1) Commitment of Funding by Council;
- 2) Review, comment and implementation of AODA Legislation;
- 3) Review of Site Plans/Secondary Plans/Park Development;
- 4) Removal of Barriers;
- 5) Representation/Interaction with other Organizations; and
- 6) Other Accomplishments.

1) **Commitment of Funding by Council**

Council continues to commit funding for training and conference attendance to various accessibility events throughout the year. Post-pandemic, the Accessibility Coordinator has participated in many on-line sessions with her Provincial counterparts and attended the Fall Conference, hosted by the City of Brampton.

Training funds were also used so that AAC members could participate and network at the Community Living Annual Event taking place on November 18, 2023.

The AAC also sponsored the Parasport Niagara 2023 – Community Event that took place in Pelham on June 1, 2023. AAC member, Marilyn Abbs, also provided instructions on wheelchair tennis during the event and helped educate students on the use of a para canoe and paddle erg with a flywheel that is used to train athletes for Sprint racing in in Dragon Boats, Sprint Canoe and Va'a.

Town of Fort Erie ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Report on Achievements (November 2022 to October 2023), continued

1) Commitment of Funding by Council, continued

In 2023, the AAC moved forward with the StopGap Ramp initiative, with funding received from the Economic Development and Tourism Services department.

Due to the limited funding, a pilot project took place in the Ridgeway and Crystal Beach downtown cores.

After a door-to-door visit by AAC members in the downtown areas, the Chair of the AAC and Accessibility Coordinator presented at the BIA meetings and then unveiled the program through an on-line application process. In all, 12 ramps were applied for and 9 met the eligibility requirements and have been ordered that are specific to the individual property. Photos and measurements were completed by Town staff. Further details about the program's success will be part of the unveiling, once the temporary ramps are delivered.



One of the largest expenditures that the Town undertook, related to accessibility, was the new web-site (www.forterie.ca). As noted under the Compliance Requirement Section of this report, the Town did not meet the 2021 AODA Compliance requirements and had to enter into a compliance plan with the Province. The new website meets the WCAG Level AA standards and the new platform (E-Scribe) for minutes and agendas also provides a higher level of accessibility.

2) Review, comment and implementation of AODA Legislation

The Province's Accessibility Compliance Report was completed by the Accessibility Coordinator on October 2, 2023 and the Town was notified that the report indicates that the organization is in compliance with Ontario's accessibility laws. This reporting requirement takes place every second year.

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ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Report on Achievements (November 2022 to October 2023), continued

2) Review, comment and implementation of AODA Legislation, continued

The 4th Review of the AODA was undertaken by Richard Donovan and AAC members and the Accessibility Coordinator participated in a virtual Town Hall and were able to provide feedback. The final report is expected to be received by the Province shortly. Of note, one of the statements contained in the Review reads “It hardly needs repeating that AODA outcomes have been poor. Persons with disabilities report continued disappointment in the AODA since its inception, and as has been indicated in previous reviews, progress has been painfully slow and uneven”.

As described previously in the “Compliance Action” chart, the AAC also has an outstanding agenda item entitled “Multi-Year Accessibility Plan” and the Committee is updated on various processes taking place to ensure implementation of the legislative requirements. They also provide comment on the Annual Accessibility Status Report. Based on the feedback garnered during the public consultation for the second Multi-Year Plan, the AAC reviews comments during its meetings, as time permits, to determine if any action can/should be taken on each comment received from the public that didn’t apply to the Plan itself.

The Government of Canada has also released several draft standards for review and comment (Employment; Outdoor Space; Information and Communication Technology). The links for each review were shared with AAC members for their review and comment but mainly focus on Federal Government services (airports, telecommunications, etc.).

Several AAC members and the Accessibility Coordinator also participated in a webinar series during National AccessAbility Week, presented by the Government of Canada.

Council proclaimed the week of May 28 - June 3, 2023 as “National AccessAbility Week”.

The Committee also reviewed and discussed the impacts of Bill 23 – *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*

Report on Achievements (November 2022 to October 2023), continued

3) Review of Site Plans/Secondary Plans/Park Development

One of the duties of the AAC is to review, in a timely manner, the site plans and drawings described in the *Planning Act* and recommend accessibility improvements on the plans.

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ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Report on Achievements (November 2022 to October 2023), continued

3) Review of Site Plans/Secondary Plans/Park Development, continued

While developers are required to meet standards legislated under the *Ontario Building Code*, including barrier free requirements, the AAC suggests improvements that relate to making the development more accessible and universal in design.

The following site plans were reviewed by the AAC between November 2022 and October 31, 2023. The Committee's recommendations and comments are contained in the AAC minutes, available on the Town's website:

- 3819 Hibbard Street (townhouse units)
- 0-13459 North Service Road (two hotels, drive through restaurant)
- 255 High Street
- 0-10972 Seymour
- 430 Ridge Road
- 143 Ridge Road North – John Brant School
- 1640 Garrison Road – Greater Fort Erie Secondary School
- 625 Garrison Road (self storage facility)

The Project Manager, Engineering Division, presented designs for the two accessible parking spaces in downtown Ridgeway and received the AAC's comments on suggested improvements.

The Manager, Community Planning, provided the AAC with updates related to the proposed Douglas Park Playground Design (together with Michael Barker from SHIFT Landscape Architecture).

The Landscape Architect for the Town provided updates to the AAC on:

- the Douglas Park Master Plan – the first rubberized playground in the Town;
- Sugarbowl Playground RFP; and
- Ridgeway Battlefield site improvement.

The AAC reviews and comments on all Park Development – new and reconstructed. The Manager, Facilities and Parks, and Accessibility Coordinator are also part of the selection committee for Request for Proposals.

Town of Fort Erie ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Report on Achievements (November 2022 to October 2023), continued

4) Removal of Barriers

As part of the Multi-Year Plan public consultation, the most common concern shared was the lack of accessible parking in the downtown cores of Ridgeway and Crystal Beach. Recommendations that were approved by Council included two additional accessible parking spaces in downtown Ridgeway and one on Erie Road in Crystal Beach. The construction of the accessible parking spaces was delayed in 2020. Engineering staff then targeted 2021 for the construction of the new accessible spaces, but again was delayed due to budget constraints and the redirection of traffic that was proposed for Erie Road. In 2023, Engineering staff moved forward with the construction of one space in front of the Ridgeway Post Office and an additional space in front of the former CIBC Bank. Working with AAC members, Engineering staff also were able to save an additional parking space that would have been lost due to the initial configuration. Engineering staff have advised that they will await direction on the space for Erie Road.



At the March 2023 AAC meeting, Councillor Noyes brought forward a request from a resident for additional accessible parking spaces at the Leisureplex. The Facilities Manager took into account comments from the AAC related to crossing the parking lot during busy times and undertook the addition of four accessible parking spaces and extension of the sidewalk (not shown in the picture) on the north side of the lot.

Town of Fort Erie

ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Report on Achievements (November 2022 to October 2023), continued

4) Removal of Barriers

During the door-to-door campaign for the StopGap Program, it was noted that accessible parking spaces in several of the Town-owned lots required improvements as they were becoming indistinguishable. Operations staff undertook improvements in the Erie Road lot and Lincoln Road East lot and AAC members have requested that additional signage be placed at the Lincoln Road East lot so that it is visible as a municipal parking lot.

The Planning Department has been working on accessibility improvements at the Battlefield Park in Ridgeway, which will include a new accessible limestone walkway and the creation of a slope to access the pavilion.

The Planning and Parks Department are working on the replacement of the adult size change table at Bay Beach as the original unit did not fit into the space. The new unit will be installed prior to the 2024 beach season.

5) Representation/Interaction with other Organizations

A number of the AAC members represent the Committee by participating on committees or organizations throughout the Town, Region and Province. The Committee was represented in 2022/2023 on the following committees and at the following events:

- The AAC Chair was also the Chair of the Town's Fort Erie Active Transportation (FEAT). The FEAT Committee was not continued for the new term of Council as the Active Transportation Master Plan has been approved and is being implemented.
- The AAC Vice-Chair is also a member of the Niagara Health System Accessibility Committee.
- An AAC member was also a member of the Region of Niagara's Accessibility Advisory Committee and acted as a liaison between Committees (up until the new term of Council). Currently, there are no Fort Erie AAC members on the Region's AAC and there are no members from Fort Erie; however, the AAC does review the Regional AAC's minutes as part of the "outstanding matters" on monthly agendas in order to be kept aware of what is taking place.
- The AAC Coordinator is an acting member of the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals (ONAP) that meets quarterly and is in constant contact electronically to support each other on issues that affect municipalities and share best practices.
- An AAC member is also a member of the Fort Erie Not For Profit Housing and brings accessibility issues and concerns to the Board, such as accessible parking and washrooms.

Town of Fort Erie

ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Report on Achievements (November 2022 to October 2023), continued

5) Representation/Interaction with other Organizations, continued

- The AAC has in the past sponsored the Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Award for Accessibility, which normally takes place every other year, but has not taken place since COVID-19. The sponsorship also includes reviewing and commenting on the applications that are received from local businesses.
- The AAC Coordinator presented the power point presentation provided by the Niagara Parks Commission on the review of their Annual Accessibility Plan, as no members were able to attend in person in 2023.
- AAC members received an update on the transfer of transit services to the Region of Niagara and how it will impact riders accessing specialized transit.
- As part of the Rick Hansen Foundation network, the Accessibility Coordinator shared “The Power of an Inclusive Mindset” highlights that were part of a webinar sponsored by the Rick Hansen Foundation. “It should be a choice to be an advocate”, stated Yvonne. “It shouldn’t be something that’s put on the disability community – that you should advocate for everyone. The reality is, in my experience, that you can only advocate for you but passing on that skill set of advocacy is something that everyone needs. And I think it’s important to ask yourself why do you want to be an ally before you can ask how you can become an ally”.
- An AAC member is also an employee of Community Living and participates on their Strategic Planning Committee and training that is inclusion-related.
- An AAC member represented Ontario and our community at the Canadian Dragon Boat National Champions (winning gold) and also participated in competitions in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, racing in the kayak and VAA races and came home with 6 medals! She also participated in the Birmingham Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament and in the Canadian National Wheelchair Tennis Tournament in Dartmouth, winning monetary prizes at both.
- The AAC Chair is participating on the panel for the Mayor’s Diversity Coalition event being held on November 10, 2023.
- AAC members will be attending Community Living Fort Erie’s Annual Christmas Event and have sponsored a table.



Town of Fort Erie

ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Report on Achievements (November 2022 to October 2023), continued

6) Other Accomplishments, continued

The AAC continues to work in the community to approve access to buildings and services. The following are a few of the accomplishments that the AAC has partnered on or is working with other organizations/companies to improve access.

- Continue to work with the local Re/Max office on “Treat Accessibly” that shows where houses provide barrier-free access for children that may not be able to navigate inclines, stairs or curving walkways when trick or treating. In 2022 they handed out 10 signs. Promotions for 2023 signage started in early October and includes tips for accessible trick or treating;
- As noted in the 2022 Annual Accessibility Status Report, Wendy’s is currently undertaking the accessibility improvements that were noted, including accessible washrooms and a barrier free entrance;
- Working with Stevensville Garden Gallery to improve the main access with the installation of automatic doors;
- Working with the Deputy Clerk, Terms of Reference for the AAC were created. Originally, the AAC was established by By-law; however, no formal Terms of Reference were created at the time. The AAC composition was also increased by one additional member in 2022. The AAC has also reviewed the ABC Handbook for Boards and Committees, in particular how it relates to planning accessible meetings;
- An AAC member provided details on the new Niagara Hearing and Health Clinic and distributed information pamphlets and bookmarks;
- An AAC member brought forward details on the increased threshold for the Ontario Disability Support Program;
- The AAC acknowledged the passing of the Honourable David C. Onley, who worked tirelessly to break down barriers for people with disabilities;
- The AAC is currently working with many commercial properties throughout Town to improve access to their buildings (Barrel Restaurant, Arby’s and Beatties);
- AAC members reviewed details on the “Checkered Eye Project”, related to persons with low vision that may have difficulty using a cane;

Town of Fort Erie

ACCESSIBILITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Report on Achievements (November 2022 to October 2023), continued

6) Other Accomplishments, continued

- The businesses that were successful in their applications for the StopGap Ramp Pilot Project in Crystal Beach and Ridgeway are: Planks Canada, Erie Beach Clothing, Tangl'd Hair Salon, Kingshead Pies Inc. (Comet Subs), Lakeside Books, Three Ferrises Boutique, Frydaze Chips, Sunlife Office and Wines with a Twist. Ramps are anticipated to be available for pick-up in mid November.

“I wish for a world that views disability, mental or physical, not as a hindrance but as unique attributes that can be seen as powerful assets if given the right opportunities” – Oliver Sacks