



Town of Kearney Accessibility Plan

1. **Executive Summary**

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement with the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province. The ODA mandates that each municipality prepare an accessibility plan.

The Town of Kearney is committed to promoting a barrier free municipality for all employees, ratepayers, stakeholders, visitors and investors.

This report outlines the Town of Kearney's commitment to improvement of access to municipal facilities; both physical and electronic.

2. **Purpose**

The aim of this report is to identify all barriers to people with disabilities who utilize the facilities and services of the Town and to prepare a forecast for the correction of such barriers as determined.

3. **Objectives:**

This report describes:

1. The process for identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities;
2. Review previous initiatives undertaken to remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities;
3. List the facilities, policies, programs, practices and services the Town of Kearney will need to review in the coming year to identify barriers for people with disabilities; and
4. Describe ways in which this plan will be made available to the public

4. Barrier Identification Process

Council and staff will review barriers for people with disabilities, during the formulation of policies and the capital budgeting process and through participation in an annual audit of the Town's facilities and Accessibility Plan.

A copy of the plan will also be posted on the Town of Kearney web-site with an e-mail link to encourage public input. Recommended changes will be implemented where feasible and/or as extracted from the website for the next annual revision period. This plan is not considered to be comprehensive in nature and therefore is subject to continuous updates.

5. Initiatives Previously Undertaken to Remove Barriers

- Reconstruction of sidewalks and curb cuts in the downtown core
- Winter control on sidewalks in the downtown core
- Removal of snow at core downtown intersections
- Appropriately assigned accessible parking space(s) provided at Community Centre
- Community Centre is equipped with an accessible washroom and power assisted doors throughout the interior and exterior of the building.
- Railings installed along boardwalk at Lion's Park Pavilion

6. Facilities

The Kearney Community Centre located at 8 Main Street, is a wheelchair accessible building, with power assisted doors and designated handicapped parking space(s).

The Community Centre consists of the follow:

- Municipal Office;
- Council Chambers/Seniors Room;
- Kitchen(s)
- Washrooms/showers
- Library;
- Gymnasium; and
- Ministry of Natural Resources Parks Office

Additional Town Facilities:

- Public Works Garage
- Fire Hall
- Lion's Park Pavilion,
- Transfer Station
- Town docks, and
- Parks and Beaches

Listed below are barriers identified under this plan:

Facility	Barrier Removal Strategy Requirements	Proposed Action
Council Chambers	Assisted listening device	2010
Municipal Office	Customer Service Window lowered and wheelchair accessible door installed	2010
Community Centre	Additional exits need to be made wheelchair accessible	2012
Lion's Park Rink	-Portion of parking lot paved and ramps installed to rink surface -Handicapped washrooms	2010 Budget consideration
Parks and Beaches	Assessment of equipment for accessibility purposes; including playground equipment	2010
Trails and Beaches	Parking and accessibility	2010
Public Works Garage	Portion of parking lot paved and power assisted door installed	2010
Transfer Station(s)	Paving Ramps and Parking Areas	2010
Town Dock	Accessible paved pathway leading to dock	2010
Sand Lake Dock	Reconstructed walk way	2010 or relocation of dock/walkway
Telephone System Software	Consideration of accessibility to be given when new system is purchased or leased	2010
Fire Hall	Ramp construction for wheelchair accessible Parking Lot Paved	2010 2009
Roads	Designated handicap road crossing	2010

7. **Elections**

The 2006 municipal elections were held using a Vote by Mail system. No accessibility issues were identified. It is anticipated that future elections will be held using this same method and the municipality shall request public assistance in identifying accessibility requirements, if any, for the 2010 election. This request will be communicated through various media announcements prior to the election.

8. Customer Service Accessibility Policy

The Customer Service Accessibility Policy was presented and approved on November 4, 2009.

9. Communication of the Plan

Copies of the Town of Kearney's Accessibility Plan will be available at the municipal office, 8 Main Street, Kearney, ON, P0A 1M0, as well as posted on the town's web-site at www.townofkearney.com. The plan will be available in alternate formats upon request.

10. Conclusion

The Town of Kearney is committed to annually addressing past and present accessibility barriers in order to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to fully participate in the community. This plan is not considered to be comprehensive in nature and therefore is subject to on-going revisions, as required.