

# **Town of Oxford - Accessibility Plan**

## **Achievement Report Card – March 31, 2025**

### **Services & Built Environment**

- Council meetings are live streamed and recorded with closed captioning, making them more accessible when posted on Facebook.
- Council meeting videos are now also shared to YouTube
- **Town Hall**
  - Deck has been temporarily repaired to repair weak boards at the main entrance area.
  - Customer service area has now been updated with a secure entrance into the office and a customer service window for the safety of staff and residents.
  - Lighting has been improved throughout with the installation of LED lighting to replace aged fluorescent lighting on the main floor.
  - Heat pumps have been installed to provide additional comfort for residents, visitors and staff.
- Establishment of the Oxford Accessibility Committee.
- **Capitol Theatre**
  - Ramp into Oxford Theatre.
  - Accessibility architectural consultation completed and sent in.
  - Bariatric bench has been ordered (March 2025) for accessible seating.
  - Organizing the installation of movable accessible seating at the theatre and designation of accessible seating areas for mobility assist devices (ie. Walkers).
- Arena entrance has been upgraded.
- Winter Maintenance upgrades, for example clear snowbanks where crosswalks are designated and adopted Snow Removal Policy that reflect priorities of safe snow removal for public safety and accessibility.

- 2025 – purchase of a used trackless public works vehicle to replace current sidewalk plow. The unit will also offer multi attachments for things like sweeping and grading, etc.

## **Recreation**

- March 2025 - Purchase of a skate assist device for the arena.
- Purchase of helmets for skating at the arena.
- Updated practices to identify the most accessible spaces to host events and meetings such as the Walk and Wheel public information session of 2024.

## **Information and Communication**

- People can listen to or watch live-streamed Town Council meetings, with closed captioning, live on social media via the Town of Oxford Profile on Facebook. Videos of Council are also uploaded to YouTube the next day and linked on social media for those that are not following the Town of Oxford Profile on Facebook.
- The Town of Oxford website (<https://www.oxfordns.ca>) has been redeveloped to be more accessible to people.
- Town Council meetings are open to the public to attend in person.
- Agendas and minutes of all Town Council meetings are posted on the Town website.
- The Emergency Management office (EMO) Coordinator has worked with the Town of Oxford and the public to develop a contact list for use in the event of an emergency.
- Oxford Fire has invested in facility upgrades including upgrades to the kitchen, seating and installation of upgraded heating and air conditioning to act as a comfort centre in times of emergency as an accessible building (2024).
- Municipal Election 2024 included paper, telephone and online voting options and was held at the Oxford Fire Hall.
- Multiple options for more accessible information sharing are now possible including posts to our website, social media pages, printed media, community, town calendars and radio.

- Training in fall of 2024 for Accessibility and Plain Language, accessible communication and colour contrast in documentation.
- Improvements in receiving and responding to concerns, complaints requests via customer service forms, and suggestions about accessibility, and the Accessibility Plan.

## **Transportation**

- Oxford Walk and Wheel-Ability Report completed in 2024 highlighted some of the concerns for the walk and wheel-ability of the Town of Oxford and highlights active transportation opportunities.
- 2024/25 – sidewalk installation and upgrade on Water St. by the ballpark including installation of dimple plate.
- 2024/25 – sidewalk repairs on Rideout St and Foundry St.
- Sidewalk repairs in other areas.
- 2024/25 – repainting of crosswalks and added signage on Water St and crosswalks repainted throughout town twice-yearly.
- Installation of flashing red-light stop signs at the main intersection of Oxford to aid in visibility of the intersection by drivers and increase the safety of pedestrians.
- Continued crossing guard position at the main intersection to assist students and pedestrians of all ages safely cross the street during school times (morning, lunch and afternoon).
- Installation of accessible parking spaces at Black River Park and on Water and Main Street with identifiable paint markings offering wider and longer parking spaces (2024)

## **Employment**

- Members of the Council receive tablets for reading agendas and Town documents. This makes reading more accessible because

users can zoom in on text and change the font size.

- Staff have access to dual monitor setups and use of laptops for easier visibility, portability, and flexible working options.
- 2025 – More ergonomic desk purchased for the Public Works Supervisor.