

FEBRUARY 21, 2018

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT NO. AAC-001-2018

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS/2018 WORK PLAN

**ANDREA BOLTON,
DEPUTY CLERK AND ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR**

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Report AAC-001-2018, 2017 Accomplishments/2018 Work Plan be forwarded to Council for information purposes.

BACKGROUND

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, (the ADOA) requires all Ontario municipalities with a population of 10,000 or greater to establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC).

The AODA and *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation* (the IASR) also state designated public sector organizations shall prepare an annual status report on the progress of measures taken to implement their five year plan set out in the IASR, as well as other actions taken to comply with the Regulation. Report AAC-006-2017 will be posted on the Counties' website, as per the AODA/IASR.

DISCUSSION/ALTERNATIVES

2017 Accomplishments

In 2017, the Accessibility Advisory Committee worked to merge the Counties' policy on the IASR and the Customer Service Standard policy into one document. Streamlining the policies into one makes it simpler for the Committee and staff to access the information. In addition, the Committee reviewed the five year plan and will provide it to Council for information.

In 2017, Committee held meetings five times and in a number of locations around the Counties in 2017. In April the Committee met at 375 William Street, Gananoque, in June

at the Town Hall, Merrickville, and in October at the Limerick Forest Chalet, Oxford Station. The Committee also met in February and December at the Counties' building at 25 Central Avenue, Brockville.

During the April meeting in Gananoque, the Committee conducted an accessible building audit. The findings of the Committee were submitted to Council for consideration.

The October meeting at Limerick Forest gave Committee members the opportunity to learn more about the Forest and the work of staff and the Friends of Limerick at developing accessible trails. This meeting provided an opportunity to share technical information on recreational trails not only with Limerick staff, but with Committee members who wish to share the information with the Merrickville Trails Society.

Approximately 99 new hires to the Counties moved through the Onboarding orientation program in 2017. Part of Onboarding includes training in the General Requirements and Customer Service Standard of the AODA and IASR. Depending on the responsibilities of the new employee, additional training relevant to their position was administered.

2018 Work Plan

The Accessibility Advisory Committee has budgeted to meet four times in 2018.

The five year accessibility plan will be brought before Council in January 2018 for consideration/approval. Following Council's consideration, the plan will be posted on the Counties' website.

2018 will see a stronger focus on volunteer training and strengthening their understanding of the relevant parts of the AODA and IASR. For example, staff will meet with the Friends of Limerick Forest in January.

Similarly, the Onboarding Program for new employees will continue in 2018, welcoming new employees to the Counties with all orientation material they require, including the basic AODA/IASR information.

The AAC will continue to monitor the development of federal accessibility legislation.

The AAC will continue to conduct accessible building audits in 2018; at least one Counties owned/leased building will be inspected for compliance with the Design of Public Spaces, using the previously developed audit checklist.

The Committee will work with the Friends of Limerick and staff at Limerick Forest in order to review the maintenance and further development of accessible trails at Limerick Forest.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

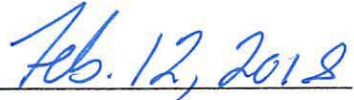
Costs are included in the 2017 and 2018 budgets.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.



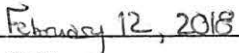
**ANDREA BOLTON,
ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR**



DATE



**ANDY BROWN,
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**



DATE