



North Stormont Accessibility Plan

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Prepared By: Amanda Lang- Administrative Assistant

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Key Contact:

Amanda Lang
Administrative Assistant
Township of North Stormont
15 Union Street, P.O. Box 99, Berwick, ON, K0C 1G0
Phone: 613-984-2821 Toll Free: 1-877-984-2821 Fax: 613-984-2908
E-mail: alang@northstormont.ca

Plan Development Working Group

Working Group Member	Title	Department	Contact
Karen McPherson	Clerk	Administration	613-984-2821
Amanda Lang	Administrative Assistant	Administration	613-984-2821
John DeBoer	Arena Manager	Recreation	613-984-2024
Ron Sabourin	C.B.O/ Zoning Administrator	Building/Zoning	613-984-2821
Cheryl Irven	Advisory Committee Member	N/A	613-448-2724

S.D. & G. Accessibility Advisory Committee

Committee Member	Township	Address	Telephone Number
Cathy Groves	South Dundas	5520 Bridlewood Court, Iroquois, ON, K0E 1K0	613-652-1631
Al Lummiss	North Dundas	545 Church St., Winchester, ON, K0C 2K0	613-774-2603
Roderick Tyo	North Glengarry	3395 Loch Garry Rd., Apple Hill, ON, K0C 1B0	613-527-5111
	South Glengarry		
Cheryl Irven	North Stormont	14240 Concession 10-11, Chrysler, ON, K0A 1R0	613-448-2724
Stephen Middleton	South Stormont	57 Dickenson Dr, Ingleside, On, K0C 1M0	613-537-8240

Background

The Township of North Stormont is one of the six lower tier municipalities that make up the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. The Corporation of the Township of North Stormont was created in 1998 with the amalgamation of Roxborough Township, Finch Township and Finch Village. With the merger of these three municipalities into one, there were seven recreation facilities, sports fields with canteens, two pools, and four libraries, two medical facilities and more. The recreation facilities are run by volunteer committees and are mainly funded through activities, donations, and some financial aid from the Township. Many of the buildings and recreation facilities which were passed onto North Stormont are older and lacking in accessibility requirements where some have been closed and others are being renovated to meet accessibility standards.

North Stormont provides essential services to its residents such as: Roads, building inspection/planning, property standards, by-law enforcements, fire protection (Volunteer Fire Departments), municipal water & sewer in Finch, Crysler, and Moose Creek, administration, treasury/taxes, drainage, garbage and recycling, and public works.

Staff provide council with reports and recommendations of actions to be taken, where seats are held by a Mayor, Deputy Mayor and three Councilors. Elections are held every four years, in accordance to the *Municipal Elections Act, R.S.O. 1996*.

The Township of North Stormont has a population of approximately 6,538 residents, approximately 3,200 households and a land area of 123,213 acres. The economy is predominately agricultural, with some small commercial businesses and the majority of residents make the commute to Ottawa and Cornwall for employment. The main income for the municipality is the small tax base, which is greatly depleted by the farm tax credit due to the significant amount of farmland.

The aging infrastructure is an ongoing issue within the Municipality, but there has been a plan created to help with the financial burden and to ensure that there is every effort made to increase accessibility. The plan was made to deal with demands downloaded from the province with the reality of a stagnant population base which, has historically, and continues to serve six distinct recreation communities.

In the mid 2000's Trow Associates Inc. was retained to prepare a Recreation Master Plan as well as a Building Condition Assessment on the seven centres (Finch has a small hall and the arena complex) to enable Council to make informed critical decisions. The Building Condition Assessment was presented to Council in April, 2007. Construction probable cost estimates identified in this latter report to repair the above-mentioned buildings totaled \$641,000. This covers repairs only, and did not include structural alterations necessary to affect accessibility.

Update Summary Since 2006 Accessibility Plan:

- The arena in Finch has undertaken a complete retrofit to meet accessibility standards. This was made possible through government and municipal funding, donations and money provided by the recreation group. The lobby, washrooms, shower facilities and change rooms and the county library located at the east side of the building have all obtained alterations to meet accessibility standards. An agreement with Storm Internet to place their equipment on the Finch Water Tower will provide high speed internet service to the Library and Arena Office. This was completed in 2009.
- After the closure of the Avonmore Medical Centre, a unique partnership was entered into between the Moose Creek Chamber of Commerce and the Township, which saw the Township invest \$170,000 in an expansion of the Moose Creek Medical Centre. Four new examining rooms have been added to the building (for a total of eight), which now houses two doctors, a pharmacy, and a dental hygienist, in a clinic which is fully accessible and has a room for other professional services to be added.
- North Stormont Place in Avonmore is a brand new building which meets accessibility standards and has been created to replace the Avonmore Community Centre & the Public Library. North Stormont Place has a Board Room, Hall, Doctors office, Library, Kitchen, and Bathrooms which are all fully accessible. The construction of the new facility was final in 2009 and was made possible by the volunteers of the Avonmore Recreation, funding and donations.
- The change rooms and main building for the Moose Creek pool have been re-built and now meet accessibility standards for the entrance, washrooms/change rooms and handicap parking. The building is also accessible for the outdoor rink which is attached to the building as well. The Moose Creek Recreation, Trillium, the Province, Municipality and donations and much other funding has made the completion of this project possible.
- 2012 application to the Enabling Accessibility Fund for accessibility improvements to the Chrysler Community Centre and Chrysler Library. The plan is to have all the doors at the facility to be replaced and or improved to be accessible.
- Sidewalks in Finch, Avonmore and Chrysler have been updated various sections and they have been formed so there are slats at corners to make it more acceptable

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* states requirements to help achieve a fully accessible Ontario before the year 2025. There are specific regulations for different sectors of government, where North Stormont would fall under the category of Municipality or public sector organization with 1(one) to 49 (forty nine) employees. The accessibility standards are set to consider a wide range of disabilities including physical, sensory, mental health, developmental and learning. The regulations range from having staff trained on accessibility awareness and sensitivity to implementing changes in procedures to updates in infrastructure to accommodate accessibility. The act also states that any new facilities or buildings are to be fully accessible.

North Stormont has set standards in their previous accessibility plans which take into consideration new and existing buildings to become accessible before the year 2025. There have also been policies put into place to insure accessible customer service, accessibility when voting. The following two pages are the recreation buildings in North Stormont with goals and achievements to become more accessible.

Township of North Stormont Accessibility Report 2012											
Barrier	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Moose Creek Community Hall											
No wheelchair ramp; door too narrow and heavy							TARGET				
Washrooms not handi-cap accessible							TARGET				
No handi-cap parking	COMPLETED										
FULLY ACCESSIBLE WITH RENOVATIONS TO OUTDOOR RINK AND POOL											
Moose Creek Pool											
Monkland Community Hall											
Front walkway cracked and uneven										TARGET	
Washrooms not handi-cap accessible										TARGET	
Front doors not wide enough										TARGET	
Back entrance not wide enough; ramp not proper										TARGET	
NEW BUILDING MADE FULLY ACCESSIBLE											
North Stormont Place											
MADE MOOSE CREEK POOL ACCESSIBLE											
Avonmore Pool											
No handi-cap parking			COMPLETED								
FINCH ARENA NOW THE NORTH STORMONT ARENA											
Install automatic door; level step	COMPLETED										
Designate and sign parking	COMPLETED										
Washrooms not handi-cap accessible	COMPLETED										
NEW ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, NOV/08											
Install new accessible washroom	COMPLETED										
Install accessible entrance (ramp)	COMPLETED										
Designate and sign parking	COMPLETED										
Install lift to make Council Chambers accessible							TARGET				
Supervisors to receive training re accessibility	ON-GOING										

Barrier	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Finch Ball Park Canteen						TARGET					
Toilets too low; no grab bars											
Berwick Ball Park Canteen					TARGET						
Washroom stalls too small; toilets too low; no grab bars; sink too high					TARGET						
Crysler Park Canteen											
Washrooms not accessible; toilets too low; no grab bars; mirrors too high				TARGET	TARGET						
Finch Community (Arena) Hall											
Provide signs that elevator is available	COMPLETED										
Lower mirrors, towel dispensers; Target 2008	COMPLETED										
Crysler Community Centre											
Front doors too heavy		TARGET									
Washrooms not handi-cap accessible					TARGET						
Mirrors, paper towel & soap dispensers too high					TARGET						
Washroom counters too high					TARGET						
Finch Library											
Avonmore Library											
Crysler Library											
Push bar on inside of doorway; door heavy		TARGET									
Door threshold too high; handles high		TARGET									
Washroom not handi-cap accessible					TARGET						

MOVED TO NORTH STORMONT ARENA-NOW FULLY ACCESSIBLE

MOVED TO NORTH STORMONT PLACE- NOW FULLY ACCESSIBLE

Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations

Through the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* there were standards set to create a more accessible built environment and now additional standards are set and required by law in the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations (IASR)*. These regulations affect customer service, transportation needs, information and communication, employment and hiring policies. Below is a table representing timelines for requirements to be completed by law and North Stormont's actions and provisions to meet them.

Requirement Time Lines for a Public Sector Organization with 1-49 Employees (Municipality)	
<i>Year and Requirements</i>	<i>Comments</i>
January 2012	
Emergency and public safety information	"Employment Standards Policy"
Workplace emergency information	"Employment Standards Policy"
January 2014	
Accessibility Policies	By-Law 44-2009-Customer Service Municipal Elections 29-2010
Accessibility Plan	On Going
Procurement and Acquiring goods, services or facilities	Need to research and make changes to incorporate accessibility.
Internet Websites and content to conform to WCAG 2.0 level A	New website being developed and will meet set standards.
January 2015	
Staff training on accessibility	On going
Accessible feedback process	Need to develop forums for residents and staff to provide feedback. Forms, Website, etc.
Educational and training resource materials	Need to make flyers and forms more accessible
Recruitment	"Employment Standards Policy"
Employee accommodation	"Employment Standards Policy"
Employees returning to work	"Employment Standards Policy"
Performance management, career development and redeployment	"Employment Standards Policy"
January 2016	
Accessible formats and communication supports	Need to incorporate accessible communication, Staff need to be trained on necessary changes
January 2021	
Internet websites to conform to WCAG 2.0 level AA (excluding live captioning and audio description)	In future development of website need to meet set standards.