



# FRONTENAC

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The Corporation of the County of  
Frontenac

## Annual Accessibility Status Report 2025

ACCESSIBILITY  
**IN FRONTENAC**

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# **Welcome to the Frontenac’s Annual Accessibility Status Update**

This report provides an annual update on the progress made and work completed by the County and Townships in 2024 to improve accessibility and implement the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR), Ontario Regulation 191/11.

In 2022, the Frontenac Accessibility Advisory Committee recommended to Council the approval of the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The Plan included additional paragraphs related to the County’s focus on continuous improvement, which includes accessibility. A section regarding Barriers was also included as well as a more high level overview of the Standards and how the County and Townships will work towards meeting the goals of those standards and ensuring compliance

Significant achievements have been seen in 2025 by all of the Frontenacs in part by the significant work and direction of the Joint Frontenac Accessibility Advisory Committee.

## **Statement of Commitment**

Through accessibility planning and with the advice of the Frontenac Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Frontenacs (County of Frontenac and the Townships within the County) will strategically identify, remove, and prevent as many barriers to persons with disabilities as possible.

The Frontenacs are committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. We believe in integration and equal opportunity. We are committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner and will do so by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting the accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

# Joint Frontenac Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Joint Frontenac Accessibility Advisory Committee (JFAAC) worked hard in 2025! Providing input and recommendations on several municipal projects and initiatives, the JFAAC accomplished its goal towards improving accessibility in our community through the continual removal of barriers, including:

- Awarding of the Celebrating Accessibility Award.
- Provided continued guidance on the K&P Trail, as the County continues to develop this trail system.
- Received quarterly updates on the County's K&P Trail, including providing input to staff on accessibility requirements/enhancements of the trail.
- Aided and guided the Townships on creating barrier free communities, through site plan review and consultation on accessibility improvements.

## Accessibility Achievements in 2025

### Accessibility Updates to the K&P Trail

With the completion of core infrastructure on the Frontenac K&P Trail between the City of Kingston and Sharbot Lake in 2019, and with subsequent trail development to Clarendon Station in 2020 the County now actively manages 70 kilometers of multi-use trail daily. As a result of this work, and with the influence of the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic on recreational behaviour, the Frontenac K&P Trail has seen a significant increase of use by walkers, cyclists, and ATV users.

The Committee continued to guide staff and make recommendations for the accessibility of the K&P trail in 2025 in infrastructure improvements including preliminary discussions on road crossings in order to make some improvements which will guide staff in 2026. The Committee also provided input and recommendations on the request in front of County Council regarding permitted motorized uses on the trail, specifically on E-bikes, E-Scooters and Mobility Scooters.

### Site Plans and Building/Renovation drawings and upgrades/improvements at the Townships

#### County of Frontenac

The following accessibility updates have been carried out at Fairmount Home:

- Carpet removal is an obvious IPAC improvement but the residents who ambulate in wheelchairs and walkers have less resistance on the vinyl floor which makes it easy to ambulate
- Garden bed is here: <https://wishboneltd.com/site-furnishings/planters/item/rutherford-4-space-wheelchair-accessible-planter> which will allow up to four resident in wheelchairs to participate in our gardening

program. We have additional wooden garden beds to accommodate more residents who wish to participate as well. But the wooden beds would require the resident to sit beside the garden bed, while the new garden bed allows them to face the garden bed.

- Nursing stations have been redesigned to provide an accessible seating for residents at the nursing stations

## **Township of North Frontenac**

### **2025 Achievements**

- Accessible door installation at the Clarendon Miller Community Hall.
- Accessible door installation at the Barrie Community Hall
- Accessible door/ramp retrofit at the Plevna Public Library

### **Key Focus for 2026:**

- Submitting a grant Application to make some beaches in North Frontenac Accessible
- Rink/Pickleball Courts Rehabilitation

## **Township of Central Frontenac**

### **2025 Achievements:**

- Commencement of the development of a Trail Head Washroom at Sharbot Lake Beach
- Upgrading of the door to Arden Hall by adding a card reader to have the ability to remotely lock and unlock doors, the door will continue to have an operator.
- Creation of a Website Advisory Committee which will make recommendations on the new design of the Township website, including accessibility

### **Key Focus for 2026:**

- Mountain Grove Hall Renovation

## **Township of South Frontenac**

### **2025 Achievements:**

#### **Keeley/Bowes Ball Diamonds**

- Designated Accessible Parking
- Paving of all pathways from parking to the bleachers
- Paved surface area next to bleachers that provide sufficient space for people using assistive devices, strollers, or service animals.
- Installation of a paved pathway all the way to the Playground structure

#### **Centennial Park Washroom**

- New fully accessible universal washroom
  - Barrier free access that includes power operated opener

- Manual pull stations
- Adult change table
- Baby change table
- We plan to have this project completed by early May

### **Sydenham Point Park Washroom Renovations**

- The Township is working on the specifications to renovate the washrooms next to the Canteen/Ball Diamond so that they are barrier free Universal/Accessible. This will be completed by Fall 2025

### **Centennial Park (future plans)**

- The Township is working on the specifications to increase connectivity via paved pathways to all amenities in the park meeting accessibility requirements.
- Creation of dedicated accessible parking
- Preliminary plans for an additional public building that includes barrier free Universal/Accessible washrooms closer to the Grand Pavillion.
- Preliminary plans for a new accessible/inclusive play structure
- *Note: these items are part of a grant application*

### **Key Focus for 2026:**

- Continue with focus on accessible document creation/training
- Continued corporate awareness focus on accessibility for AODA compliance and better service to all residents and visitors of South Frontenac.

### **Township of Frontenac Islands**

#### **2025 Achievements:**

- Further accessible upgrades and Committee consultation for the Pat Norris park on Howe Island with installing an accessible ramp for easier access into the washroom

## **Celebration of Accessibility Award**

The joint Frontenac Accessibility Advisory Committee works all year to make sure that Frontenac County is as accessible as possible for people living with disabilities. Each year since 2013 the committee has bestowed the Frontenac Access Award on groups or individuals who have worked to those ends during the year.

“Access” can include designing new or renovated buildings, an employment program; a transportation system, a recreational or leisure program; or anything that contributes significantly to persons with disabilities living independently.

For the 2025 Award, the Committee chose the following recipient.

### **The Hotel Wolfe Island**

Hotel Wolfe Island, like many historic buildings in Frontenac County, played a memorable role in the lives of grandparents and parents of many Kingston area families. At one time it was the place to go for a romantic or celebratory dinner with a view of the sunset over downtown Kingston. Over time, it declined. Under new management, it has rebranded and reimagined both the hotel and the waterfront patio area, creating accessible spaces that are enjoyed by the community year round.

To improve accessibility to the hotel for individuals with mobility impairment, sturdy metal handrails have been installed beside all exterior steps. A rear door providing an accessible entrance to the bar and dining room for wheelchairs and rollators is clearly marked and staff ensure it is open for use at any time. Staff readily swap out chairs and reconfigure tables to accommodate individual needs.

In the exterior waterfront patio area, in addition to superb accessible washrooms that are available for public use, a covered pergola has been added to provide a large and level seating area for seasonal diners who cannot negotiate the stepped sections of the patio. The hotel also makes its spacious parking lot available for use as the Wolfe Island Commons, a fully accessible space that hosts waterside picnics, seasonal farmer's markets and indigenous events. The furnishings include tables and chairs and planter boxes with integrated seating, making it a perfect all ages family gathering spot for viewing the fireworks shows produced by the City of Kingston.

In August 2024 the Kingston / Wolfe Island ferry service returned to the village of Marysville after a four year absence, making it possible for visitors to once again access the village of Marysville easily. We have noticed an increase in social media questions about accessibility in the village and suitability for visitors with wheelchairs and walkers. Hotel Wolfe Island offers one of the largest accessible entertainment spaces on Wolfe Island, and the only dining establishment accessible to wheelchairs. Its ongoing improvements will allow families with diverse needs to enjoy dining and entertainment options. The hotel also welcomes local charities to use its interior spaces for meetings at no cost, allowing a wider group of volunteers to actively work with charities and community members to participate in events hosted by those charities. The rebranding of the hotel itself has communicated a message of reconciliation and welcome to all who live on or visit Frontenac Islands.

# The Standards

## Information and Communications

Topic	Barrier or Goals Identified	Accessibility Updates
Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove barriers that may be preventing the County website from being fully compatible with assistive technology and ensure web content meets W.C.A.G.2.0 level AA compliance requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ All PDFs are remediated to ensure all web content on the County of Frontenac website is accessible.</li> <li>✓ County of Frontenac began in late 2025 the process of upgrading to a new website, ensuring compliance with the AODA</li> </ul>
Information and Communication Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase training and awareness and clarify expectations for creating or procuring accessible information and communications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Adobe Acrobat Pro DC used to ensure all PDFs are in an accessible format</li> <li>✓ Staff trained on how to create accessible documents including Word and PDF</li> </ul>

## Transportation

The County of Frontenac and its member municipalities do not provide a conventional transit system and the Howe Island Ferry and the Township Ferry do not meet the minimum tonnage under the Standard; however the County of Frontenac provides annual funding in the amount of \$96,000 to ensure seniors and those with accessibility needs receive rides to appointments.

## Design of Public Spaces

Topic	Barrier or Goals Identified	Accessibility Updates
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to make accessible improvements to the K&amp;P Trail</li> <li>• Continue to work jointly with the JFAAC on ensuring the development of the K&amp;P Trail, as it continues to move north, meets the standards set out in the AODA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In 2025, staff continued to review pieces of the K&amp;P Trail such as road crossings, signage, and barrier protection in order to continue with infrastructure improvements which the Accessibility Advisory Committee provided comments on.</li> <li>✓ In 2025, the County continued its development of the K&amp;P Trail through the Township of North Frontenac.</li> </ul>

## Customer Service

Topic	Barrier or Goals Identified	Accessibility Updates
Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote public engagement and use of accessible feedback channels</li> <li>• Solicit and respond to community feedback to help direct accessibility planning efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ With the implementation in 2021 of the County’s new Engage Frontenac community engagement tool, the site features a “Help promote accessibility in Frontenac County” project. In addition, the County continues to encourage members of the public to submit their comments or concerns through one of our feedback channels: online “accessibility feedback” forms, speaking with a County staff member, or reaching out through all of its social media channels.</li> <li>✓ The County will continue to ensure feedback channels are in accessible formats and will</li> </ul>

		respond to feedback, upon request, in a manner that considers individual preferences and abilities.
Staff training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support training initiatives to equip staff with knowledge and skills to deliver high quality customer service to all residents and visitors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ All new staff receive training on the AODA and the Human Rights Code through the County's New Hire Orientation, delivered once a month.</li> </ul>

## Employment

Topic	Barrier or Goals Identified	Accessibility Updates
Commitment to accessible employment practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing efforts to encourage a diverse work force by identifying and removing any barriers to employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continue to promote and support a diverse work group through our hiring processes and our accommodation plans.</li> </ul>

### The Frontenacs, The Employer

In addition to the County's municipal goods, services, programs, and facilities, it is important to remember that we are also an employer with over 400 full and part-time employees. The County is committed to maintaining a barrier-free recruitment and hiring process and recognizes the strength of a diverse workforce. In keeping with our Multiyear Accessibility Plan, the County will make continuous upgrades to our policies, procedures, and workplaces to foster a safer, more accessible, and inclusive work environment. Some highlights from 2025 include:

- Continue to advertise on all employment opportunities that, upon request, accommodations and alternate formats are available throughout the recruitment, assessment, and selection processes.
- Continue to use Individualized Work Modification Plan's and Individualized Emergency Response Plan worksheets.
- The County of Frontenac Human Resources now provides Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training for the Management Team to address aspects of equity, diversity and inclusion for the County of Frontenac.
- The County has also established and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

- Staff, including Council, Committee and public meetings, moved back into the newly redeveloped County Administration Building in February 2024. The opening of the new building involved the FAAC and accessibility played a key focus

## **Training**

- Trained all County administrative staff on the use of Adobe Acrobat Pro, the County's remediation tool for creating accessible PDF content posted to the County's website.

## **What's up for 2025**

### **County of Frontenac**

- The County will continue to work jointly with the JFAAC on ensuring the development of the K&P Trail, as it continues to move north, meets the standards set out in the AODA
- Continue to make accessible improvements to the K&P Trail
- Continue to work with and support the Townships in the continuation of a barrier free Frontenac.