

The Corporation of the  
Township of Uxbridge



## 2020 Accessibility Progress Report



## Update to the 2020-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

## Celebrating access and ability in Uxbridge

To say that 2020 was a challenging year for everyone is an understatement. Each and every one of us was forced to find unconventional ways to adapt to everyday life. But what makes Uxbridge a great place to live, work, and play, is our resolve to find innovative ways to eliminate obstacles within our community and our resilience in moving forward, together. Enhancing the lives of our residents and ensuring that no one gets left behind is paramount, especially now.

The Township of Uxbridge is proud to usher in a new era of commitment to accessibility. With the help and guidance of our Accessibility Advisory Community, local businesses, and our many community stakeholders, the Township of Uxbridge is more accessible than it has ever been.

In 2020, our organization enhanced communications, undertook process reviews, and enhanced partnerships to further strengthen our commitment to accessibility. It was a collaborative effort that allowed us to:

- Introduce a new and fully accessible Township Website.
- Facilitate Council and Committee meetings online allowing residents to participate and engage in the civic process from the comfort of their own home.
- Partner with the Uxbridge and District Lions Club to build a universal playground at Elgin Park as soon as 2023.
- Partner with Canadian Tire and Jumpstart to build a fully accessible multi-sport court in 2021.
- Complete numerous pathway and trail improvement projects.

It has been incredible to see community spirit in action across the Township this past year. Local businesses and our residents have gone above and beyond to protect our most vulnerable residents and to ensure every one of all abilities can participate in our community with dignity and independence.

Let's continue moving forward together; looking at our community through an accessibility-based lens.



# An Update from the Township of Uxbridge Accessibility Advisory Committee

It is fair to say that 2020 has been a year of unprecedented change. Our committee has remained committed to working with the Township to support our legislative roles and responsibilities.

In 2020, we have several projects that have been reviewed by the committee. These projects are pending, however, consultation and recommendations have been provided to the municipality:

- Universal Playground – Elgin Park, Lions Club initiative
- Elgin Park – Accessible Seating and Pathway Paving
- Kennedy Fields – Skate Park / Baseball Diamonds
- Winter Sidewalk Clearing
- Uxbridge Historical Centre – Accessible Updates with Trillium Grant Funding
- Provision of “Letters of Support” to support grant applications that address accessibility within the Township (Uxbridge Seniors Centre, Uxbridge Youth Centre)
- Nomination and Acknowledgement of Local Builder who demonstrated commitment to accessibility above and beyond the Ontario Building Code.

We remain committed to our core responsibility: advocacy, knowledge of accessibility standards and providing education to the municipality and key stakeholders about accessibility, equity, and inclusion from a broad lens.

We look forward to working with the Township on several new initiatives in 2021. While working collaboratively with our municipal council, the AAC will remain proactive, responsive and committed to ensuring a barrier free Uxbridge.

Regards,  
Jodie Winnitoy, Vice-Chair

# 2020 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Progress Report

The Township of Uxbridge believes in building a community where every person can fully participate.

The Township of Uxbridge 2020 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Progress Report is our annual update, an opportunity to identify how we continue to improve accessibility in our community by implementing the standards outlined in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and the 2020-2025 Multi Year Accessibility Plan.

To review the Township's 2020-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and other accessibility standards, please visit [Uxbridge.ca/accessibility](http://Uxbridge.ca/accessibility).



In 2020, the Township upheld its commitments outlined in the 2020-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, including:

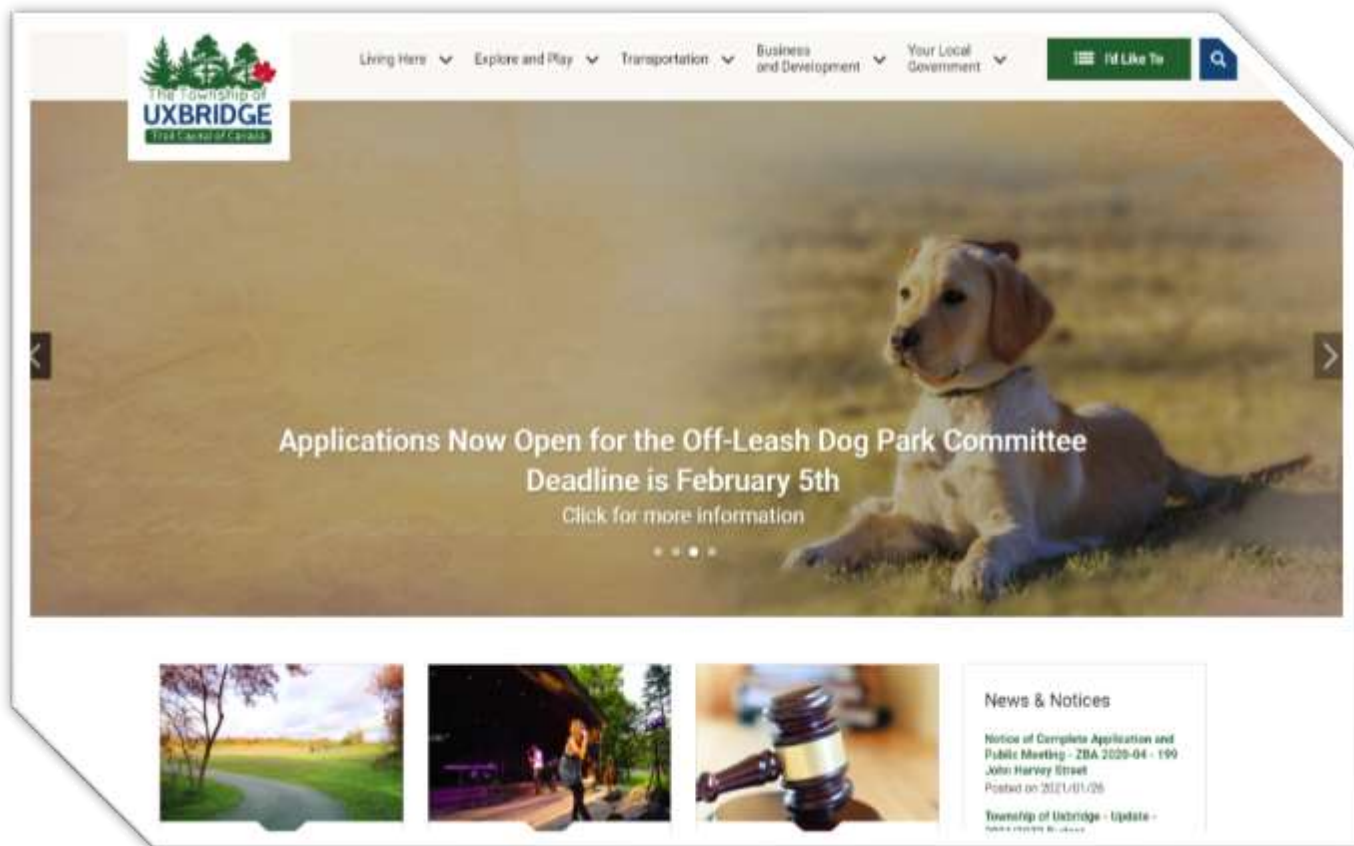
- ✓ The expansion of digital services resulting in an improved customer experience, including the digitalization of fire permits.
- ✓ Implement a new user-friendly Township website, in compliance with WCAG 2.0 Level AA criteria.
- ✓ Improve support to Township employees in the areas of mental health and wellness through a range of supports and resources.
- ✓ Continue to prioritize accessibility in every element of infrastructure projects at Township owned facility and public spaces through rigorous consultation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- ✓ Digitalize our bids and tenders process to improve the opportunity of doing business with the Township for all suppliers, including those with disabilities.
- ✓ In conjunction with the BIA and Accessibility Advisory Committee, work with local businesses to identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility to make the entire Township holistically accessible.
- ✓ Continue to recognize local businesses that show leadership in improving accessibility and promoting inclusion by nominating an award winning local business for the 2020 Region of Durham Accessibility Award (Brandon Bird, CEO, Bernard Cole Corp.)

# Township of Uxbridge's 2020 Highlights

## New Township Website

In February 2020, the Township launched its new, fully accessible website. The website conforms to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Level 2.0 AA criteria. The website allows users with a broad range of disabilities, particularly those with hearing and visual impairments, to navigate with ease.

In partnership with various online platforms, the Township is now able to offer accessible meeting agendas and minutes in a variety of formats, as well as accept online payments and easy-to-submit forms and applications. The website has also allowed the Township to offer a fully digital and accessible procurement platform – improving opportunity of doing business with the Township for all suppliers, including those with disabilities.



The Township of Uxbridge is proud to offer a fully accessible digital platform for our residents, and we are looking forward to expanding what we offer online, including an expanded library of online forms and increased opportunities to make payments online.

## Partner with the Uxbridge & District Lions Club to Build a Universal Playground at Elgin Park



The Township of Uxbridge and the Accessibility Advisory Committee have partnered with the Uxbridge & District Lions Club to plan and build a universal playground at Elgin Park.

The Universal Playground is a “first” for the Township, highlighting our dedication to finding new and innovative ways to remove barriers and allow everyone to participate

meaningfully in all aspects of our community.

The Universal Playground will have a rubberized surface with ramps for mobility access, and interactive panels for children of all abilities. The Universal Playground is being designed with the developmental importance of particular playground equipment at top of mind, ensuring that all children, and their caregivers, regardless of ability, can play and participate.

The Township thanks the Uxbridge & District Lions Club and the Accessibility Advisory Committee for their ongoing support and effort on this exciting project!

# Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 Compliance

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) became law in 2005. Under the Act, organizations must meet the requirements of the AODA in the areas of information and communications, employment, transportation, design of public spaces and customer service. The summary below highlights the AODA requirements that are now part of the Township of Uxbridge's day-to-day operations.

- ✓ Provide accessible customer service
- ✓ Provide emergency and public safety information in accessible formats
- ✓ Provide employees with accessible and customized emergency information
- ✓ Create accessibility policies and a multi-year plan
- ✓ Buy accessible goods, services or facilities
- ✓ Make new website accessible
- ✓ Train employees on Ontario's accessibility laws
- ✓ Make it easy to provide feedback
- ✓ Make employment practices accessible
- ✓ Make public information accessible, when requested
- ✓ Make new or redeveloped public spaces accessible
- ✓ Consult regularly with the Accessibility Advisory Committee on all matters related to accessibility within the Township

## Dedication to Continuous Improvement & Celebrating Success

The Township of Uxbridge is committed to improving accessibility beyond legislated requirements. We are continuously working on our internal processes to create better efficiencies, which ultimately benefit residents. Staff who are responsible for posting information attend AODA training sessions. Project charters are being developed for all new operational and capital projects to help identify barriers to accessibility and engage with relevant stakeholders.

As always, we want to hear from you about accessibility!



## Review & Monitoring Process

The Accessibility Plan is intended as a working document. Comments and recommendations will be noted throughout the upcoming year and will be reflected in annual updates to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

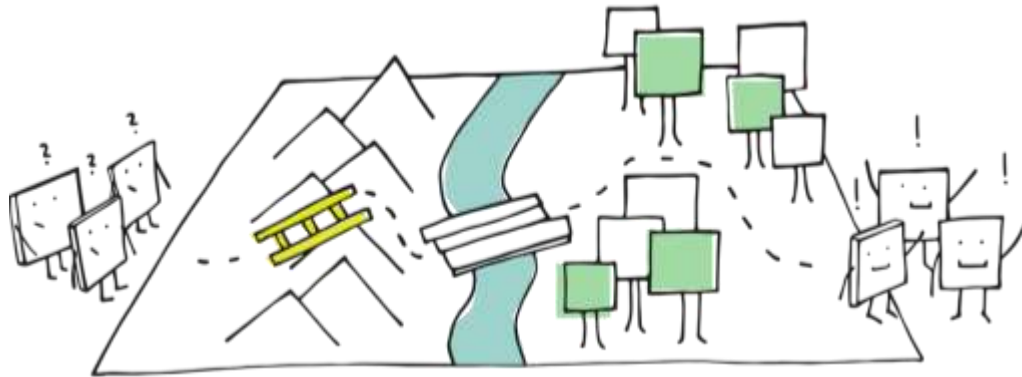
Accessibility improvements and changes to accessibility legislation will also be reflected in updates like this.

Additional evaluation and reporting efforts include compliance reports submitted annually to the Province of Ontario.

## Communication of the Plan

Feedback is an integral part of the evaluation process. The Township of Uxbridge will continue to review and expand consultation strategies to engage key groups in providing accessibility related feedback, including people with disabilities.

Members of the public are encouraged to make comments on the Township of Uxbridge Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and accessibility matters in general. There are a number of ways you can contact the Township of Uxbridge to express your accessibility related comments including contacting the undersigned.



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Email: [accessibility@uxbridge.ca](mailto:accessibility@uxbridge.ca)

The 2020 Progress Report on the 2020-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will also be available in the following locations:

Report to Council: Initially, this Progress Report will be made available through a report to Council.

Website: The 2020 Progress Report on the 2020-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility can be accessed through the Township of Uxbridge website <http://www.uxbridge.ca/accessibility>