

Media Release

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Town introduces 2025-2029 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Georgina, ON – As part of the Town of Georgina's commitment to fostering a vibrant and livable community for all and providing equitable opportunities for people with disabilities, Council has approved the 2025-2029 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP).

"In Georgina, we are committed to building a community where everyone feels they belong," said Mayor Margaret Quirk. "Our goal is to become an accessible and barrier-free municipality – one where people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can thrive. Through our Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, we are working to ensure equitable access to all Town services, programs, facilities and spaces. Together, we are creating a more inclusive, welcoming Georgina for today and for future generations."

The MYAP is based on Ontario's accessibility legislation including the <u>Accessibility for Ontarians</u> with <u>Disabilities Act (AODA)</u>, the <u>Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC)</u> and the <u>Ontario Building Code (OBC)</u>. It outlines Georgina's commitment to identifying, removing and preventing barriers for people living with a wide range of disabilities.

The plan was informed by extensive consultation with the Georgina Accessibility Advisory Committee and a number of other accessibility partners, with more than 700 interactions in all. Many of the people consulted are either living with disabilities or are well acquainted through family and friends, and provided valuable feedback, suggestions and ideas that were used to inform the development of the MYAP.

The 2025-2029 MYAP provides a roadmap to ensure the Town continues to maintain compliance with Ontario's legislative accessibility requirements and also responsiveness to current and future accommodation needs of people living with a broad range of disabilities. The plan commits to the following four areas of focus:

- A Informed Staff
- B Informed Community
- C Informed Design
- D Coordinated Efforts

Advancing accessibility and inclusion throughout the Town will be a shared responsibility.

There will be annual reporting on the progress of the 2025-2029 MYAP, which will be posted on the accessibility <u>webpage</u>. The Town will continue to consult with the community, especially people living with a wide range of disabilities, to inform the MYAP implementation as it strives toward a fully accessible community for everyone.

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