**Accessibility**

**Annual Status Report**

**2021**

The **Township of Hilton** continues to make efforts to improve upon its provision of services to ensure the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities are met in a timely manner, consistent with the specific requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA 2005) and its regulations.

In 2020, we were successful with our application under the Enabling Accessibility program, to provide us with financial support towards renovating one of our existing washrooms to make it accessible. In addition, the funding was to assist in changing the front door entrance to our municipal building so that it would provide an accessible entrance for all individuals. Given the impact of Covid-19 and the Municipal Office remaining closed to the public from March 2020, no Requests for Quotes were sent out. The Municipal Office continues to remain Closed and given the current escalating Covid-19 cases in our area, such work will not proceed until it is considered safe to do so. There is a September 2022 deadline for the work to be completed in accordance with the grant requirements. The Clerk will investigate whether any extensions will be granted in consideration of the impacts of Covid-19.

We did complete the revamping of our municipal website early in 2021 to ensure compliance with WCAG 2.0 Level AA standards.

To provide residents with mobility issues additional payment options, we now accept *etransfer* payments for fees associated with building permits, tax certificates, shoreroad allowance and zoning amendment applications. This form of electronic payment is in addition to acceptance of online bill payments for property taxes. We will continue to review other areas where the needs of residents can be fulfilled electronically.

December 1, 2021