

# **ACCESSIBILITY PLAN FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BALDWIN 2011**

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the Province. The ODA mandates that each Municipality prepare an annual accessibility plan.

This 2004 plan, prepared by the Township identifies what measures have been taken and what measures will be taken in the future to ensure that all residents have accessible entry to Municipal buildings.

## **OBJECTIVES**

This report:

1. Describes the efforts made by the Township of Baldwin in identifying and removing any obstacles to people with disabilities.
2. List the facilities, programs and services the Township will review.
3. Describe the measures the Township will take in the coming year to remove barriers to people with disabilities.
4. Describe how the Township will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BALDWIN**

The Township of Baldwin is located in Northeastern Ontario. The Township is bordered on the north by the Township of Porter, northeast by the Township of Nairn/Hyman, the northwest by Shakespeare Township and the south by Merritt Township.

The Township has a population of 553 with 353 households. We have a Community Hall which hold our Council meetings and is rented out to small groups. The Fire Department is joined to the Community Hall and there will be a new Recreation facility with wheelchair accessible washrooms.

## **COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING**

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin is committed to the continual improvement of access to all municipally owned facilities, premises and services for those with disabilities

The Fire Department and Recreation Sites are ground level.

The Council has authorized the Clerk-Treasurer to prepare an accessibility plan which will meet these commitments.

## **RECENT BARRIER-REMOVAL INITIATIVES**

In 2002, a banister was installed on three stairs leading to the Community Hall.

In 2003, a washroom was changed over to make facilities wheelchair accessible.

In 2010, a new Recreation Facility was built with complete accessibility in all areas.

Due to budget constraints, the ramp at the Town Hall will be budgeted as funds become available.

## **REVIEW AND MONITORING OF THE PROCESS**

Council will be monitoring this plan annually to identify any obstacles or barriers under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

## **COMMUNICATION OF THE PLAN**

This plan will be made available to the public through a newsletter, on our website [www.townshipofbaldwin.ca](http://www.townshipofbaldwin.ca) and posted in the Community Hall.