

SEPTEMBER 2019

AJAX Accessibility BUZZ



Ajax receives \$17,700 in federal accessibility grant funding!

Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund, the Town has purchased beach access mats for Paradise Park, installed automated door operators for the Ajax Community Centre HMS Room, and assist in the construction of a new universal staff washroom at Ajax Town Hall, improving accessibility for all in Ajax!



Become a Youth Accessibility Leader with the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund!

Are you a young Canadian between 15 and 30 who is passionate about making Canada's public spaces more accessible for persons with disabilities? If so, apply to [become a Youth Accessibility Leader](#) with the Enabling Accessibility Fund. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2019. The Town of Ajax would love to hear the ideas you have to share! Apply online at www.canada.ca/accessibility-fund.

Get involved - #AccessTogetherAjax!



**#ACCESS
TOGETHER
AJAX**

Let's move towards a community that promotes inclusivity and accessibility. What ideas do you have to create a more accessible Ajax community? We're encouraging you to visit our online forum and post an idea about accessibility in Ajax. Or share on social media what action YOU will take to create a more accessible Ajax, using the hashtag #AccessTogetherAjax.

Join the 150 people who've shared ideas to date, by registering your profile and joining the conversation! Visit ajax.ca/accesstogether for full details.

September is National Guide Dog Awareness Month

Guide dogs are specially bred and trained to provide mobility assistance to people who are blind or partially sighted. They are a partner in independence, but there needs to be a better understanding about what to do when encountering a guide dog pair. Following 4 simple rules will ensure appropriate social behaviour in the dogs and reduce the risk of dangerous situations for the guide dog pair.



- Harness on means hands off. A guide dog in harness means "Please don't distract me, I'm working."
- Don't feed them. Especially when guide dogs are working in harness. Offering food can result in antisocial behaviour such as begging and scavenging off the ground.
- Contain your excitement. Don't encourage excitable play. Guide dogs are given access to public places where other dogs are not permitted, so they must stay calm.
- Say "hello" another time. If you're walking your pet dog and you approach a guide dog pair, take your dog away from the guide dog.

CNIB is committed to advocating with and for guide dog users to increase public awareness and break down barriers that impede accessibility. For more information, visit www.guidedogchampions.ca. Or check out one of the Guide Dog Meet & Greet events taking place at the Ajax Public Library this month!

The Accessibility Advisory Committee Joins #ShaunsExcellentDRTAdventure



On July 23, Mayor Shaun Collier's #ShaunsExcellentDRTAdventure continued with Councillor Ashmeed Khan, town staff, and members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee - Kathreen, Ray and Heather. The group rode two routes throughout Ajax and discussed accessibility experiences and suggested improvements.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST



- [Wheelchair Barbie: The doll I've been waiting my entire life for](#)
- [New Emojis are coming and they are more accessible than ever!](#)
- [How Actors are Changing the Disability Narrative in Hollywood](#)

Canada's first accessibility legislation comes into force!

The Accessible Canada Act applies to the federally regulated private sector, which includes the banking, transportation and telecommunications sectors, as well as the Government of Canada, Crown corporations and Parliament.

Under the Act, these organizations will be required to develop and publish accessibility plans that describe how they will identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility. They will also be required to establish a mechanism for receiving and addressing feedback on accessibility from anyone who interacts with their organization. Finally, they will have to develop regular progress reports on the implementation of their plan and addressing any feedback they receive.

The Accessible Canada Act also establishes new structures and positions, including:

- the Canadian Accessibility Standards Development Organization (CASDO), led by a board of directors comprised of a majority of persons with disabilities that will develop accessibility standards in collaboration with the disability community and industry;
- a Chief Accessibility Officer, who will advise the Minister of Accessibility and monitor systemic and emerging accessibility issues; and
- an Accessibility Commissioner, who will spearhead compliance and enforcement activities under the legislation.

The next phase of implementation will include the development of standards and regulations that will provide clear guidance on accessibility requirements.



THE ACCESSIBLE CANADA ACT
HAS **COME INTO FORCE!**

Canada

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Movies at the Main - A Dog's Journey (Guide Dog Meet & Greet)

September 22, 2019

1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Ajax Public Library, Main Branch

55 Harwood Ave. S.

Family Story Time - Raising a Hero (Guide Dog Meet & Greet)

September 24, 2019

6:15 - 6:45 p.m.

Ajax Public Library, Main Branch

55 Harwood Ave. S.

Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

October 16, 2019

6:00 p.m.

River Plate Room, Ajax Town Hall

65 Harwood Ave. S.

Pumpkinville -

Visit the Sensory Zone!

October 19, 2019

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Ajax Downs

50 Alexander's Crossing

Ajax Diversity Conference

November 16, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Audley Recreation Centre

1955 Audley Road

55+ Let's Do Lunch Event with Unstoppable Tracey

November 26, 2019

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

HMS Room, Ajax Community Centre

75 Centennial Road

Contact Accessible Ajax

Have an accessibility question or concern?

We want to hear your feedback. Contact us today!

Accessible Ajax

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