

# Accessibility Planning Renovation underway on Fairy Lake dock

By Neil McKenzie-Sutter  
Special to the IFP

people with physical disabilities is heightened because she is a Lyme disease sufferer, which can leave her needing a cane or wheelchair for mobility.

Knowing the barriers in front of myself, I can really see and reflect on what other people see, McQuade said. If I do end up in a wheelchair, I want to still enjoy working here as a disabled person.

In summer/fall 2015, McQuade started a social media campaign and wrote a letter to the Town of Halton Hills concerning the declining state of the dock, which attracted the Town's attention.

What they're looking for as well is the ability for people in wheelchairs to be able to get into their canoes or kayaks, and do that either on their own or with minimal aid, said Mark Taylor, Senior Landscape Architect with the Town of Halton Hills. Taylor is leading the Town's Fairy Lake's dock renovation project.

In the past, Fairy Lake's dock would have been more accessible seeing as, instead of having steps, it features an asphalt ramp leading down to a flat dock at the waterline. Today, however, both the dock and ramp have deteriorated so much that they are becoming un-navigable for people with physical disabilities.

The Town is already planning more than a renovation, however.

In addition to modifying the shoreline and improving access to the dock via the parking lot, Taylor also talked specifically about building a launching ramp, a device that would improve safe access to the lake for people with physical disabilities.

It's trying to look at alternative styles to just the traditional dock that you'd see up in cottage country, said Taylor. We're trying to find something that works much better than what's there right now, and certainly serves to make the area accessible, wheelchair accessible, and then also serves to give the waterfront area there a facelift, Taylor said.

Some of this research has included looking at examples of other accessible docks, especially the new dock accessible dock/kayak launch in Beaverton, Ont.

Taylor is planning for the new dock with McQuade and Holy Cow Canoe because the



Susan Jerome and her granddaughter Madison Jerome are pictured at Fairy Lake in Prospect Park in Acton recently, renting a canoe from Naomi McQuade.

Photo by Neil McKenzie-Sutter

company has interests in the project, but the Town is also open to working with other people or organizations and financial partnerships with interested parties.

Taylor says the town could begin construction in spring/summer 2017, but planning is still on-going.

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