

Brucelea Haven News

Together we *make* a difference!

April 2026

Lamb Visits are sure Signs of Spring!

At the end of March, residents received an impromptu visit from two spring lambs from a local farm. This visit brought a sense of joy, renewal and connection to the season. Residents were delighted with the soft, gentle animals, reminiscing about farm life and past springtime experiences. The visit encouraged meaningful interaction, sensory stimulation, emotional comfort and overall joy at the sounds of the lambs as residents observed and pet them. These moments created smiles, sparked conversation, and offered a calming, uplifting experience that brightened the day.



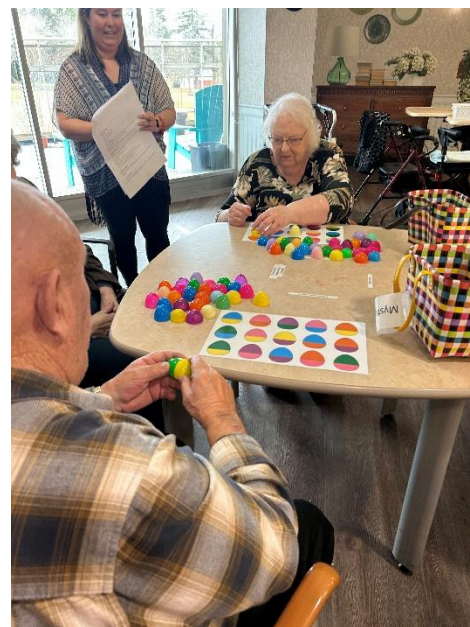
Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

We celebrated the 'Luck of the Irish' on St. Patrick's Day with music from Johnny Borton. Sharing in music together fosters a sense of community, laughter, and celebration, making the day feel special and meaningful for everyone. On St. Patrick's Day, everyone is a little Irish!



Minute to Win It Games - Easter Edition

Minute to Win It games offer a fun and engagement way for residents to stay active and connected. These short, simple challenges promote hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and gentle physical movement, while also encouraging cognitive stimulation through problem-solving and quick thinking. Importantly, they spark laughter, friendly completion, and social interaction, helping to boost mood and create a sense of accomplishment and community among our residents.



New Stronger Steps Walking Program on 4th Floor

We are excited for spring and looking forward to walking outdoors! In preparation, we have initiated a new 'Stronger Steps' walking group on 4th floor. Join us for scheduled walking groups to increase strength and enhance your walking endurance. Use the created Scavenger Hunt and look for signs of spring posted throughout the hallways - 16 pictures in total! Families are welcome to use the scavenger hunt with their loved one to add meaning and movement during family visits. Looking forward to the Spring we all deserve after that long winter!



Food Bank Donations

The Bruce County Events and Recognition Committee is hosting a Food Bank Drive from March 16-April 7 in support of the Walkerton Food Bank. Please bring non-perishable food items to the main floor entrance at Brucelea Haven to add to our donation box by April 7.

Lost & Found Rack

Families and friends of Brucelea Haven,
We invite you to browse our Lost and Found rack located at the base of the elevator on the main floor for items that may belong to your loved one. Please bring any found items to Reception or your Home Area nurse to ensure they are brought to Laundry for labeling. Thank you!



Resident Council Elections - April 7-10

Our Resident Council is experiencing a new round of leaders! Participating residents have made the choice to run for President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer of Brucelea Havens' Resident Council. Voting will take place the week of April 7-10 for residents wanting to exercise their right to vote for our internal Council members. Please join us on Wednesday, April 1st for our April meeting. Our new Resident Council leadership group will be announced at our May meeting. Good Luck to all candidates!



Monthly Caregiver Support Group for Family & Friends of Brucelea Haven

Brucelea Haven is excited to host monthly caregiver support groups on the last Thursday of each month from 2-3pm in the Conference Room, with Lauren Kieswetter, MSW. You are welcome to attend this group if you are someone who loves and cares for a resident residing at Brucelea Haven.



A Message from IPAC Lead - Jena March

Brucelea Haven experienced two outbreaks during the first quarter of 2026:

- A home wide Norovirus outbreak (February 22 to March 16) and
- A seasonal coronavirus outbreak on 2 South (March 18 to current)

Did you know that seasonal coronaviruses have been around for many years and are a common cause of the common cold? These viruses typically cause mild symptoms, and most people recover quickly. COVID 19 (SARS CoV 2) is different—it can be more contagious and may lead to more serious illness, particularly in older adults and those living with chronic health conditions. COVID 19 vaccines will be available this spring for residents living in long term care.

Practicing good hand hygiene, staying home when sick, and following infection prevention measures during visits are important ways families/visitors can help protect residents, staff, and fellow visitors from all respiratory illnesses.

As part of our Infection Prevention and Control program, regular hand hygiene and personal protective equipment (PPE) audits continue to be completed.

- February compliance rates: Hand hygiene 87.7%, PPE 92.2%
- March compliance rates: Hand hygiene 92.2%, PPE 95.4%

These improving results reflect our staff's continued commitment to keeping residents safe. Thank you to our staff, residents, and families for working together to support a healthy community.



Person-Centred Language

Person-centred language (PCL) refers to using language that puts people first rather than the disease, symptoms or conditions that they may have. In long-term care (LTC) this means focusing on the strengths and abilities residents have, rather than their disabilities. By using person-centred language, we honour, respect and dignify people in our society by being thoughtful and building up strengths and abilities.

This summary provides a brief overview of PCL but to empower yourself with information and practical strategies to adopt and use person-centred language when working with residents in LTC, it is strongly recommended that you complete the 45-minute *Person-Centred Language* e-course. The e-course can be found at: <https://clri-ltc.ca/orientation/>

What We Say and How We Say It Matters

The language we use reflects our mindset about the world. Our mindset in turn affects both our verbal and our non-verbal communication. Understanding how language impacts people’s thoughts, feelings and actions can lead to providing better care for residents. Language can reinforce negative stigma in LTC, for example describing someone with dementia as “senile” is negative and makes it seem like the person being described is just their disease.

Using more positive language helps to see the person first, and acknowledge their disease second. Consider the following two words, “institution” and “home”. When we hear the word “institution”, we may think of a restricted or locked place. When we hear the word “home” it may bring to mind belonging, community, sharing, or people. Where would you rather live? Making changes to words like this can have a big impact on the experiences of those living and working in LTC.

The following table outlines some examples of common language used and examples of options for alternative language that is person-centred.

Common Words Used	PCL Language Option
Institution or facility	Long-term care home
Unit or wing	Neighbourhood
Patient or client	Resident
Feeding	Support at mealtime
Toileting	Support in the washroom
Aggressive or difficult	Responsive behaviours or personal expressions
Cleaned	Support with bathing



Upcoming Family Town Hall

Our next Family Town Hall meeting will be hosted on May 19 at 4pm in the CAA. During this meeting we will provide a review of our Quality plans for both a Stakeholder Meeting and Family Town Hall.

A large focus of 2026 is changing the language we use in LTC to Person-Centred Language. We invite everyone, family members as well, to take part in the e-course found through the CLRI to further enhance their own understanding of person-centred language.

[Implementing Person-centred Language: An Overview for Long-Term Care Team Members - Ontario Centres for Learning, Research, and Innovation in Long-Term Care](#)

Clinical Pathways Update

Dear Community Members;

Brucelea Haven is committed to advancing evidence-based practices and improving the quality of care for our residents. To achieve this goal, we have partnered with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) to improve many of the processes in the home through the Clinical Pathways Program. We anticipate significant benefits to both the staff and Residents we serve. This is part of a three-year journey as we work through the various Clinical Pathways.

The first three areas that we will be focusing on are Admission, Delirium, and Resident and Family Centered Care. The project is lead along with our RAI coordinator, Clinical Care Coordinator, and other members of the nursing team who have completed train-the-trainer sessions as we prepare for the go-live date of May 5th. We have also started collecting NQUIRE data which monitors and evaluates the outcomes of implementing Clinical Pathways.

In addition, the home is moving towards becoming a Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO). Members of the leadership team will be attending a BPSO orientation workshop in April to learn more about how we can promote evidence-based best practices in each department and strive towards excellence!

Celebrating Nutrition Month

The Nutrition Care team is happy to announce that the new tables for the Home Areas dining rooms have arrived and maintenance is exchanging old for new.

The new tables are a mixture of adaptive two and four seat tables that allow for individual customization by allowing the table surface to be moved both vertically and horizontally to allow for a comfortable seating experience.

The additional tables are height adjustable 2 seat tables and four seat stationary tables finished in a dark brown base and a light maple top finish.

Dietary will also be reforming the Brucelea Haven Food Committee. We invite all residents to come out to the meeting and share their ideas and suggestions for the upcoming Spring and Summer menu, theme and Holiday menus and feed back regarding all of the Nutrition Care Department, first meeting Wednesday April 15th at 10:00am in the South Bruce (3W) Dining Room.

The Nutrition Care Team has also begun “M.I.C.” - Mealtime Improvement Committee

M.I.C is an interdisciplinary group that’s mandate is to improve the meal time experience for the residents of Brucelea Haven. As the committee progresses residents will be invited to be members of the Committee, to be an advocate for all residents within our home.

The Nutrition Care Team would also like to introduce new members to the team - Sandra Anderson, Cook; Jaqueline MacIntosh, Blessing Dankwah, Peace Onugha, Food Service Workers; James Filsinger, Student; and Co-op Student, Riley Knowlton.

We look forward to the warmer weather and the beginning of the BBQ season.



Welcome to Nursing Co-op Student - Felicity

Hello, my name is Felicity Dobson, I am a new starting co-op student at Brucelea Haven. I am from Teeswater and am happy to be here. I am in a program at Sacred Heart in Walkerton called Genesis. Genesis is a program where you get to do a lot of fun trips, make great memories with people, and learn many life skills. It includes a 4-week co-op placement. The career I am hoping to get into when I am older is Nursing, either in ultrasound or long-term care. From being at Brucelea Haven I hope to gain hands on experience as well as knowledge in the nursing/long term care field to see if it is really what I want to do.



Welcome to Nursing Student - Belle

My name is Belle, and I'm from Hanover. Before choosing the PSW program, I explored different career paths, but I knew I wanted to work in a role where I could support and care for others. Becoming a PSW felt like a natural fit, as I enjoy building connections and providing compassionate, person-centered care. Through my clinical placement at Brucelea Haven, I hope to gain confidence, improve my hands-on skills, and learn what it truly means to be part of a supportive healthcare team. I would like to thank my preceptors for their guidance, kindness, and support during my placement—it has made this experience both educational and rewarding.



April 20-24 is Disney Cruise Week aboard the S.S Brucelea Maiden

All aboard!! The residents at Brucelea Haven are packing their bags and getting ready for a week of fun in the sun aboard the S.S Brucelea Maiden! This year we are travelling Disney style with a Disney Themed Cruise Week! Watch for fun activities, decorations, and even some classic 'hidden Mickey's' throughout the home!

Special Events include the Formal Captain's Luncheon, Sail & Shout Bingo, Mickey's Magical Birthday Bash with Al Crawford, human Slot Machine Casino, Enchanted Spa morning, Sail Away Deck Party with Brent Meidinger, Mocktails and more!

Do you love to sing? Join us for a new Karaoke Program with 'Joesph J Entertainment' on Wednesday, April 22nd at 2pm.



Booking Appointment's with the Hairstylist

We would like to remind families and residents of the available options for booking hairstyling appointments with our on-site stylist.

To schedule an appointment, the *power of attorney or substitute decision maker* may use any of the following methods:

- Call Kimberly's salon directly at 519-881-1570 ext. 122.
- Contact Brucelea Haven's reception and speak with Maia to assist with forwarding booking inquiries at 519-881-1570 ext. 105.
- Speak with a Registered Nurse (RN) on the unit, who can also forward requests to reception or the hair salon.

If you have any questions regarding the booking process, please contact: Jessica, Administrative Supervisor, at extension 156.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Special Events in April...

1st – April Fools

1st – April Resident Council Meeting at 2pm

3rd – Good Friday

3rd – Stations of the Cross

5th – Easter Sunday

5th – Visits with the Easter Bunny

6th – Easter Monday

7-10th – Resident Council Elections Voting

8th – 2 South April Birthday Party with David Latham

10th – Resident Memorial Service

14th – Fischer Family Maple Syrup Presentation in the CAA

15th – Resident Food Committee Meeting 3W DR

17th – Music with Ray Richards 3S

April 20-24th – Disney Cruise Week!

20th – Welcome Aboard! Captain's Luncheon in all Dining Rooms

20th – Sail & Shout 'High Seas' Bingo in the Grand Ballroom

**21st – Mickey's Magical Birthday Bash with Al Crawford
in the Grand Ballroom**

22nd – Welcome to the Enchanted Spa! Manicures and Mimosas

22nd – Sing & Sail Karaoke with Joseph J in the Grand Ballroom

**23rd – Genie's Jackpot Casino Human Slot Machine Game
in all Dining Rooms**

24th – Sail-Away Deck Party with Brent Meidinger in the Grand Ballroom

24th – Cruise Departure Drink Cart by the Deckside

26th – Bingo on Sunday

27th – Grandfriends Visit in the CAA at 1:30

28th – Music with Helen Stewart in the CAA

29th – Bunny Visits with Rabbit House Rescue in the CAA



Wills and Power of Attorney

3-part series

Thursday, April 9, 16 & 23, 6pm
Walkerton Branch
Registration required



Join Angela Yenssen, Staff Lawyer from Grey-Bruce Community Legal Clinic, to learn about the importance of wills and powers of attorney.



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