

Brucelea Haven News

Together we *make* a difference!

October 2026

Welcome, October!

October has arrived, bringing crisp air, colourful leaves, and the start of the cozy season at Brucelea Haven. As the days grow cooler, we look forward to filling our home with warmth, laughter, and plenty of autumn cheer.

There is lots of seasonal fun ahead! We will gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, enjoy some not-so-spooky Halloween festivities, and take part in fall-inspired crafts, baking, music, games, and more. These special moments offer wonderful opportunities to connect, reminisce, and make new memories together.

We are grateful to share this beautiful season with our residents, families, friends, volunteers, and team members. Stay tuned for all the fun to come and have a warm and wonderful October!



IPM Fun!

This month residents had the opportunity to attend the **International Plowing Match** and experience one of the area's most exciting community events. The outing offered plenty to see and enjoy!

The day brought back many fond memories of farming, rural life, and community traditions. Residents enjoyed sharing stories, taking in the displays, and spending time together in the fresh autumn air.

Outings like this are an important part of helping residents stay connected, involved, and active in the wider community. Taking part in local events gives residents meaningful opportunities to enjoy familiar traditions, build connections, and continue to be active members of the community.

Thank you to the team members, volunteers, and families who helped make this special outing possible. It was a wonderful day filled with conversation, connection, and community spirit!



Important Update: New Mobility Equipment Provider

We are pleased to share that County of Bruce will be transitioning from Ontario Health at Home to **Align Home Health Care** as our mobility equipment provider. Align will support our residents' mobility equipment needs and work with residents, families, and care teams to help make the transition as smooth as possible. More information about timing, appointments, and any next steps will be shared as details are finalized.



About Align Home Health Care: Align is a 100% Canadian-owned provider serving communities across Ontario. The company offers mobility, home-care, and home-access products and services, including support for wheelchairs and other mobility solutions, and works with long-term care homes, rehabilitation hospitals, clinics, and other community partners.

Residents and families do not need to take any action at this time.

We will provide further updates and contact information before the transition takes effect. If you have questions in the meantime, please speak with a member of the care team.

Resident's Council with Emily M

Our next Resident's Council meeting will take place on **October 21st at 2pm in the CAA**. Whether you have ideas to share, questions to ask, or feedback to provide, your opinions help us create the best possible living experience for everyone. These meetings are an opportunity for residents to help shape programs, services, and daily life in our home. We value your input and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Hairdresser Update

We are sorry to share that our hairdresser has resigned. We understand how important this service is to our residents and will work diligently to find a replacement as soon as possible. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during this transition and will share an update when more information is available.

**Upcoming Education Opportunities**

We have received requests from families for additional educational opportunities. We are currently working to develop these sessions, so please stay tuned for more information in the coming months!

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 3-4pm 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.

Please RSVP to Maia or Lauren
BruceleaHavenReception@brucecounty.on.ca
LKieswetter@brucecounty.on.ca



Municipal Elections Voting

October brings us into municipal election season—a time to make our voices heard and take part in shaping our local community. To help ensure residents have the opportunity to participate, voting assistance will be available onsite.

Municipal election staff will be onsite in the CAA on **Tuesday, October 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, to assist residents with internet voting using a touch-screen computer.

We encourage all eligible residents to take part and have their say. Every vote is an important opportunity to make your voice heard and help shape the future of our community.

A Flower from Mary

Each month, our newsletter will feature the birth flower associated with that month's birthdays. Just like birthstones, birth flowers have special meanings and traditions that have been passed down through generations.



Thank you to resident Mary for inspiring and helping bring this feature to our newsletter!

October's Birth Flower - Marigolds

With their rich shades of gold, orange, and yellow, marigolds bring warmth and colour to our autumn gardens. This cheerful flower is known for its strength and ability to bloom well into the cooler months. Marigolds symbolize creativity, affection, remembrance, and resilience - wonderful qualities to celebrate those born in October.



Fun Fact: Marigolds are often planted near vegetables because their strong scent can help discourage some garden pests!

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Annual Surveys Are Almost Closed!!

Reminder that the annual resident and family survey closes on **October 12**. If you have not yet completed the survey, please take a few moments to share your feedback before the deadline.

Your input is extremely important to us. **It helps us understand what we are doing well, identify opportunities for improvement, and guide decisions that support the best possible experience for residents and families.** Every response matters, and we sincerely appreciate your time and participation.

To reduce our environmental impact, the survey will be **available online**. Paper copies will also be available at the **front desk**. Paper copies of the survey may be submitted at the Front Desk during regular reception hours. After hours, when reception is closed, completed surveys can be dropped off in the Front Administration mailbox.

Survey Link: <https://brucecounty.qolpro.com/surveys/family>

Survey Dates: The Surveys will launch **September 4th** and close on **October 12th**

If you have any questions or require assistance accessing the survey, please contact Emily at 519-881-1570 ext. 315 or emacdonald@brucecounty.on.ca.

A Message from Jena
Infection Control & Staff Development Lead

In preparation for the seasonal respiratory illness season, residents will be offered influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccinations this fall. Vaccine information will be provided to residents and families, and consent will be obtained prior to administration.

In September, there were some behind-the-scenes changes to how COVID-19 vaccinations are documented and managed. The provincial COVaxON system, which was previously used across Ontario to record COVID-19 vaccinations, has been replaced with Panorama Guided Workflow (PGW), a new platform that allows health care providers to manage vaccine inventory and record immunizations in a more streamlined way. Vaccine records will continue to remain accurate, secure, and available to authorized health care providers across the province. These changes will not affect residents directly and are intended to improve how vaccination information is recorded and managed.

A small change residents and families may have noticed is the new IPAC information board located on the main floor to the left of the elevator lobby. This board includes monthly hand hygiene and personal protective equipment compliance rates, outbreak frequently asked questions, and the home's current outbreak status.

As we enter respiratory illness season, we encourage residents, families, staff, and visitors to stay informed, practice good hand hygiene, and consider recommended vaccinations to help protect themselves and the vulnerable individuals who live and work in our home.

Car Show

Start your engines—the Brucelea Haven Car Show is finally here! After our July event was postponed because of smoky conditions, we are thrilled to bring it back on **October 2 at 1:30pm** in the Brucelea Haven parking lot.

Residents and families are invited to join us for a fun-filled display of classic cars, great conversation, and a trip down memory lane.

Family members with a vintage or special-interest vehicle are encouraged to bring it along and be part of the show!

Come out, admire the vehicles, share your favourite car stories, and help us make this long-awaited event one to remember. We can't wait to see everyone there!



Special Events in October...

1st – Happy Seniors Day!

2nd – Annual Car Show at 1:30pm – Front Parking Lot

5th – Oktoberfest Lunch – 2W and 3S home areas

6th – Fall Leaves Drive (one in the morning, one in the afternoon)

7th – October Birthday Party with Al Crawford at 2pm- CAA

8th – Super Citizens Gospel Choir at 2pm - CAA

9th – Turkey Tunes with Joe Passion at 2pm – CAA Music

12th – Thanksgiving Monday

14th – Fall Leaves Drive (one in the morning, one in the afternoon)

15th – Letter Delivery from Sacred Heart Highschool – CAA

16th – Halloween Visit with EarlyOn – CAA

20th – Township of Brockton Municipal Elections 9am – Noon – CAA

Entertainment with PJ Mack at 2pm – CAA

21st - Residents Council at 2pm – CAA

- Dave the Piano Man at 2pm – 2S home area

23rd - Resident Memorial Service at 2pm – CAA

Halloween Week

26th – Black and Orange Day with Halloween Bingo at 2pm – CAA

28th – Pumpkin Painting at 2pm – CAA

31st – Halloween Party with Dave & the Retros at 2pm – CAA