

Brucelea Haven News

Together we *make* a difference!

September 2026

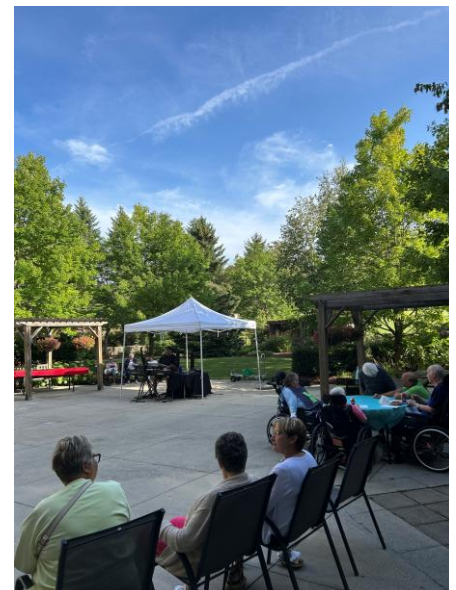
Goodbye Summer!

We said goodbye to summer in true 80s style with a fun-filled end-of-summer party! Residents and staff dressed up in bright colours, retro outfits, and classic 80s accessories as we celebrated together and partied like it was the summer of 1980.

The celebration featured live music that had everyone tapping their toes, singing along, and enjoying the lively atmosphere.

It was wonderful to see residents and staff come together to laugh, dance, reminisce, and make new memories.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our end-of-summer party such a memorable celebration. It was the perfect way to wrap up a season of sunshine, connection, and fun at Brucelea Haven!



Paisley Steam Show!

Residents recently enjoyed a wonderful outing to the **Paisley Steam Show**, taking in the sights, sounds, and excitement of this popular community event.

During the visit, residents received a guided bus tour through the show, giving everyone the opportunity to see many of the displays, equipment, and demonstrations from the comfort of our bus.

It was a great way to experience the event, spark conversation, and reminisce about farm life, machinery, and community traditions from years gone by.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this outing possible. We are thankful to facilitate our residents participating in special local traditions.



September 18th 2:00-4:00pm
Brucelea's Community Engagement Day:
Harvesting Memories, Celebrating Legacy

We are pleased to invite residents, families, friends, neighbours, and community members to our upcoming **Community Engagement Day**. Join us for a Fall Fair gathering as we celebrate the stories, contributions, and legacies of the remarkable residents who have helped shape our communities.

This event is open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend. Our event will feature local community displays, live entertainment, resident story boards, and opportunities to connect with team members to learn more about Brucelea Haven.

We encourage everyone to stop by and join us as we celebrate connection and community engagement in long-term care.

If you would like to contribute to the event through participation, an exhibit, decorations, or another way of sharing with our community, please RSVP to Raelynn by **September 11th**.
RALjoe@brucecounty.on.ca



A note to families regarding our Community Engagement Day...

As part of our LTC Community Engagement Day: Harvesting Memories, Celebrating Legacy on September 18th, we are inviting families to help us celebrate the lives, skills, and accomplishments of our residents.

Many of our residents spent years creating, collecting, building, farming, crafting, sewing, knitting, woodworking, volunteering, and contributing to the communities we know today. We would love to showcase those stories through meaningful items that reflect their lives and interests.

Families are invited to lend items that can be displayed during the event, such as:

- Quilts, knitting, crochet, or other handmade crafts
- Photographs of family, farms, businesses, community involvement, or special accomplishments
- Woodworking, artwork, or collections
- Fair ribbons, awards, or certificates
- Farming, gardening, or agricultural memorabilia
- Military, volunteer, church, or community service items
- Any other treasured item that helps tell your loved one's story

We recognize that many residents may no longer have access to these items or may need family assistance gathering them. Your participation can help ensure their story is represented and celebrated.

All items will be clearly labelled and displayed with care as part of our fall fair-inspired celebration. If you would like to contribute an item or have questions, please contact Emily MacDonald at emacdonald@brucecounty.on.ca.

Together, let's celebrate the memories, talents, and legacies that make our residents such an important part of our community. 🍁

Family Education Seminar Opportunity

We invite all families to join us for an informative and supportive education session on palliative and end-of-life care. While this topic is often associated with individuals who are currently receiving palliative care, this seminar is intended for **all families**, regardless of their loved one's current health status.

Understanding palliative and end-of-life care before it is needed can help families feel more informed, prepared, and confident when faced with future healthcare decisions. This session will provide valuable information about palliative care and end-of-life care, the roles and responsibilities of Substitute Decision Makers (SDMs) and Powers of Attorney (POAs), the care and support available within Brucelea Haven, and which members of our interdisciplinary team can best assist families throughout the journey.

Whether you are looking to better understand the services available in long-term care, learn how to advocate for a loved one, or simply gain knowledge for future planning, this presentation offers an excellent opportunity to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussion.

The seminar will be presented by Tiara Gibbs, Palliative Pain and Symptom Management Consultant for Grey and Bruce Counties, and Taylor Deakin, Palliative Care Transformation Lead with the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team. We encourage all interested family members to attend.

September 8th at 4:00pm in the CAA.

Resident's Council with Emily M

Resident's Council meeting on **September 24th 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.

Sensory Scapes Project Update

We are excited to share the next phase of our Sensory Scapes project at Brucelea Haven! Our dining room projects are complete, and installation for our next area will take place on **September 10th and 11th**. The 2nd floor will soon feature a wonderful farmers market installation, creating a bright, engaging, and meaningful space for residents, families, and team members to enjoy.

What are Sensory Scapes?

Sensory Scapes are designed to create familiar, welcoming environments that spark memories, conversation, and connection. These spaces can help residents feel more engaged, provide meaningful opportunities for reminiscing, and support comfort, orientation, and enjoyment in everyday life. By bringing recognizable themes and scenes into our home, Sensory Scapes help create moments of joy for residents, families, and team members alike.

Come see our Sensory Scapes in person during a guided tour on our Community Engagement Day event!



GPA Training

We are pleased to share that members of our team are continuing to complete Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA) training. GPA is an evidence-informed education program that helps staff better understand and support individuals living with dementia in a respectful and person-centered manner.

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.

Topic for September: Stress

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



Upcoming Family Town Hall

Our next Family Town Hall meeting will be hosted on **September 15th at 4pm the CAA**. During this meeting our new Recreation & Leisure Manager, Emily MacDonald, will be attending the meeting to introduce herself to families. This will be a wonderful opportunity to get to know Emily, learn more about her vision and goals for the Recreation & Leisure Department, and discuss some of the exciting initiatives being planned for our home.

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!

September's Birth Flower - Aster

Asters are cheerful, daisy-like flowers that bloom in late summer and early fall, bringing bright shades of purple, pink, blue, and white to the garden. Their name comes from the Greek word for "star," inspired by the flower's star-shaped appearance. Asters are often associated with love, wisdom, faith, and patience, making them a meaningful symbol for September birthdays.

Fun Fact: Asters are especially loved by butterflies and bees, making them an important late-season flower for pollinators!



IMPORTANT: Annual Satisfaction Surveys!

At Brucelea Haven, we value the important partnership we share with residents and their families. This September, we invite you to share your feedback and perspectives on the care, services, and experiences provided within our home.

Your feedback helps us recognize what we are doing well and identify opportunities for improvement. Both positive comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated, as they guide our efforts to enhance the quality of life for residents and strengthen the experience of families and loved ones.

The survey includes questions about your loved one's quality of life, your experience as a family member, and the services provided at Brucelea Haven. Depending on the level of detail you choose to share, the survey may take approximately 5 to 15 minutes to complete.

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 me at 519-881-1570 ext. 315 or emacdonald@brucecounty.on.ca.

ANNUAL SURVEY

FEEDBACK IS A GIFT

SCAN ME



Scan the QR Code to complete the survey online.



Paper copies are also available at the Front Desk and from Recreation staff.



Your experiences, ideas, and feedback help us improve the quality of life for our residents and strengthen our community.

Closing Date Oct 12th

International Plowing Match

We are excited to recognize the International Plowing Match Opening Day on our September calendar. At this time, our ability to attend the event as a group is still being reviewed as we continue to gather information about accessibility, safety, staffing support, and weather conditions.

We know this is a special community event that many residents may enjoy, and we encourage families who are interested to consider attending with their loved one.

If our outing proceeds, we kindly ask that families meet us at the event to provide support for their own family member. Having family assistance will help ensure residents can safely enjoy the event, while allowing our staff to support residents who may not have family available to attend with them. Families are also welcome to make their own arrangements to take their loved one to the IPM.

Please stay tuned for further details as we continue to iron out accessibility, safety, staffing, and weather considerations. We will share more information once we know whether we are able to safely attend as a group.



For residents who remain at Brucelea Haven, we will be joining in the spirit of the IPM with our own themed activities in the home that afternoon. We look forward to celebrating this special local event with our residents, volunteers and families!

Calling All Volunteers! If you are interested in joining us at the International Plowing Match to help support residents during the outing, please RSVP to the home in advance. Extra hands will help us ensure residents are able to enjoy the event safely and comfortably.

A Message from Jena
Infection Control & Staff Development Lead

We are pleased to share that the Respiratory outbreaks on 4 South and 2 West were officially declared over by Public Health on August 16th 2026 and August 19th 2026.

As we come into September and the colder seasons, we encourage everyone to continue practicing infection prevention measures, such as regular hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when feeling unwell, and following any outbreak guidelines that may be in place. Stay tuned in the coming months for information regarding influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations to help prepare for the upcoming fall and winter respiratory illness season.

Keeping our residents safe and healthy is a collaborative effort, and I truly appreciate everyone's participation and diligence in following infection prevention practices. Thank you to the Brucelea Haven community.

A Message from Jason
Dietary Services Manager

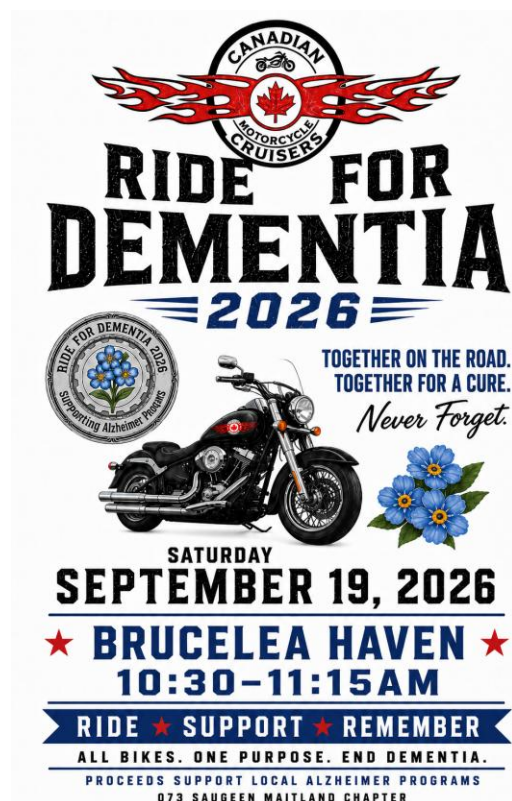
We are excited to share another update on MealSuite, our new electronic dining and kitchen management system that will enhance both resident safety and the dining experience at Brucelea Haven. MealSuite will support a more personalized, resident-centered approach to mealtimes by providing access to nutrition information and helping ensure meal selections align with individual dietary needs and preferences. We are pleased to report that the hardware installation has now been completed. Over the coming weeks, our team will participate in education and training sessions to prepare for the rollout of the system.

We look forward to sharing more information as implementation progresses and are excited about the opportunities MealSuite will provide to enhance mealtime choice, safety, and enjoyment for our residents. Together, we continue to make every dining experience as enjoyable and meaningful as possible

Brucelea Haven Welcomes the CMC Ride for Dementia

On **Saturday September 19th** Brucelea Haven is proud to once again be a stop along the Canadian Motorcycle Cruisers (CMC) Ride for Dementia. Riders from across the region will visit our home as part of their fundraising ride in support of individuals living with dementia, their care partners, and families. Our residents always enjoy seeing the motorcycles and greeting the riders as they pass through. If you would like to support this important cause by making a pledge, please contact Emily MacDonald at emacdonald@brucecounty.on.ca for more information.

We look forward to welcoming the riders and showing our support for this meaningful community event. ✨



Upcoming Election Voting

As we look ahead to October, Brucelea Haven is committed to supporting residents in exercising their right to vote. The Municipality of Brockton will be providing on-site voting assistance for residents on **October 20, 2026**, helping eligible residents participate in the municipal election. Staff will work alongside municipal election officials to ensure residents have the opportunity, support, and accommodations they need to cast their vote. Respecting and promoting resident choice, independence, and citizenship rights is important to us, and we are proud to help facilitate this opportunity.

Move in Experience Survey

As a home, we are committed to continuously improving the experience of residents and their loved ones. If your loved one has moved to Brucelea Haven within the last year, Lauren has sent you an invitation via email with the link to complete our survey.

Moving into long-term care is a significant life transition, not only for residents but also for the people who care about them. The first days and weeks in a new home can shape how residents and families feel about their relationships with the care team, their sense of belonging, and their overall experience in the home. As our home continues our work toward a relational approach to care, we want to ensure that residents and families feel welcomed, heard, supported, and valued from the very start of their journey with us.

Your feedback will help us:

- Identify what is working well during the move-in process.
- Better understand the experiences of residents and families.
- Learn how we can improve communication, support, and connection.
- Shape future changes that align with a relational approach to care.

Feedback is a gift and helps us understand what is working well and where we can continue to improve. When sharing your ratings, we kindly encourage you to include comments or details in the comment box. This helps us better understand your experience and identify specific areas where we can make meaningful improvements.

Special Events in September...

- 3rd – Denim and Diamonds for Dolly Parton at 2pm - CAA**
- 8th – Birthday Party with Cathy Kempert at 2pm – 2nd floor**
- 9th – Lang’s Fishing Trip**
- 9th – Anglican Church Chicken Dinner (RSVP)**
- 10th – Super Citizens Gospel Choir at 2pm - CAA**
- 11th – Music Entertainment with Leavin Tracks at 2pm – CAA**
- 13th – National Grandparents Day**
- 15th – Thank you to our Students and Preceptors ice cream cart**
- 18th – Harvesting Memories, Celebrating Legacy**
Brucelea Haven’s Community Engagement Day 2-4pm
- 19th – CMC Motorcycle Ride for Dementia 10:30-11:15am**
- 22nd – International Plowing Match Opening Day**
- 25th – Hanover Bus Drive and lunch outing 10-3pm**
- 28th – September Birthday Party at 2pm – CAA**
- 30th – National Truth & Reconciliation Day**

