

Gateway Haven News

Together we *make* a difference!

August 2026

Oh Canada, What a Month!

July was filled with more fun, creativity, learning, and connection here at Gateway Haven!

One of the highlights to kick off the month was our Canada Day celebration. Residents enjoyed festive games, patriotic outfits, plenty of laughter, and the opportunity to celebrate together. It was wonderful to see so many smiles and residents embracing the spirit of the day with a little silliness and a lot of fun.

Residents also tapped into their creative side through a variety of craft activities. A favourite this month was painting and decorating rocks, which will be used as colourful garden markers and decorative accents throughout our outdoor spaces. These activities not only encourage creativity but also give residents the chance to contribute to the beauty of the home.

Music was another highlight in July as we welcomed another new entertainer to Gateway Haven. Residents thoroughly enjoyed hearing songs from a variety of decades, including some more recent rock-and-roll favourites. The program sparked singing, reminiscing, and plenty of toe tapping.

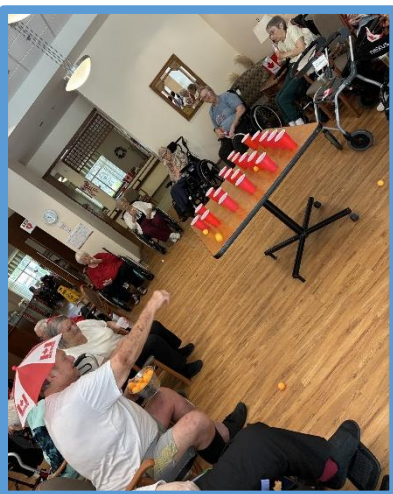
We were also fortunate to enjoy a special travelogue presentation from our Administrator, who shared photos and stories from her spring trip to Vancouver. The presentation inspired lively conversations and brought back many memories for residents who had visited Vancouver themselves or travelled to other parts of Canada over the years.

Residents had the opportunity to connect with local first responders during our Touch a Truck event. Seeing the emergency vehicles up close and learning more about the equipment was a memorable experience that generated lots of interest and conversation.

Of course, these highlights are only a small snapshot of the month. Residents continue to enjoy a wide variety of recreation, social, physical, spiritual, and leisure programs each week, helping ensure there is something meaningful and enjoyable for everyone.



We hope you enjoy the photos included with this update. As we look ahead to August, we are excited to continue making the most of the summer season with outdoor activities, special events, and many more opportunities for fun, friendship, and connection.



Update: JBS Final Clearance Sale

We are pleased to share that the previously scheduled JBS final clearance sale, which was unfortunately cancelled, has now been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd.

This is a blowout clearance sale, as JBS is going out of business. Residents and families can look forward to significant markdowns on a variety of clothing items.

Adaptive clothing will also be available, although quantities are limited. We encourage everyone to stop by early to browse the selection and take advantage of the savings. The mobile boutique will be open from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Happy Shopping!

Resident Pick of the Month

Residents continue to enjoy the bookmobile program and have suggested another thriller for you to consider for your next read! This month, we are highlighting *The President's Daughter* by Bill Clinton and James Patterson. This fast-paced political thriller follows a former U.S. President as he races against time to rescue his kidnapped daughter. Filled with suspense, unexpected twists, and plenty of action, it's a book that keeps readers engaged from beginning to end.

One resident who recently finished the book shared: "*It was absolutely excellent and suspenseful. You had to keep reading, and every time you thought you had it figured out, it would surprise you again and again.*"

August Highlights

4: Music with Bernie
6: Grandfriend Visit
10: Music with Lori
12: Celebration of Life
13: Music with the Spirit Singers
17: Residents' Council
17: Music with Bruce
20: Bus Trip

25: Music with Cathy
27: Calendar Planning Meeting
27: Social/Meet & Greet
28: Food Committee

For a full list of monthly activities please visit our [website at Gateway Haven](#). Monthly calendars can be accessed on the first day of the month.

Activity Spotlight: Resident Outings

Throughout the year, our Recreation team is pleased to offer a variety of outing opportunities for residents to enjoy time in the community, explore new and familiar places, and create memories together.

Please keep in mind that wheelchair-accessible spaces and transportation seating are limited. To help make outings as fair and equitable as possible, we do our best to rotate interested residents throughout the year. We also keep a waitlist for residents who would like to join additional outings, and if a last-minute space opens due to a cancellation or change in plans, we are happy to refer to that list whenever possible. Advance sign-up is required, so please connect with a member of the Recreation team if a resident is interested in participating.

Families are also encouraged to be part of these special experiences by meeting us at the outing destination whenever they are able. This is a wonderful way for families and their loved one to enjoy the outing together and create special memories.

Our recent trip to Storybook Park was a lovely example of this. Residents enjoyed exploring the park, taking in the sights, and for some, even going on the rides. We would also like to extend a big thank you to Storybook Park for generously offering free admission and a special treat to everyone from Gateway that day. This unexpected kindness was such a thoughtful gesture and helped make the outing even more memorable.

This month we will be visiting Harrison Park in Owen Sound on the 20th; you can contact a member of the recreation team at extension 3146 or email

GatewayHavenRecreationLeisure@brucecounty.on.ca to express interest.



A Friendly Reminder About Pets



Summer is a wonderful time for visits, and we love seeing families bring their furry friends to spend time with loved ones at Gateway Haven. Pet visits bring comfort, joy, and plenty of smiles to residents and families alike.

As a friendly reminder, all visiting pets must have current vaccination records on file with Reception. Records are required annually and can be provided to Lesley in person at the visitor services desk or by email at GatewayHavenReception@brucecounty.on.ca.

To help keep visits safe and enjoyable for everyone, pets must always remain on a leash and under the handler's control. Please be mindful that not all residents, visitors, or staff are comfortable around animals, and some individuals may have allergies. As per Public Health regulations, pets are not permitted in dining and food service areas. Thank you for helping us ensure that pet visits continue to be a positive experience for all. We appreciate the joy our four-legged visitors bring to the home!

More Home Enhancements Coming Soon!

We are excited to share that installation of our new Sensory-Scapes murals and Art-Scapes artwork collections will begin on August 5th, with completion expected by mid-August.

This project has been a long time in the making, and we are thrilled to see it come to life. Guided by resident and family feedback, the selected themes and artwork reflect what is meaningful to the people who live here while supporting our ongoing efforts to make the home feel warm, welcoming, and engaging. Check out a few concept images that provide a glimpse of some of the designs planned for the home below.



The Sensory-Scapes murals are large, colourful scenes designed specifically for long-term care homes. Featuring familiar places, nature, and nostalgic imagery, they are intended to spark memories, encourage conversation, and help residents feel more connected to their surroundings. They may also serve as visual landmarks, making it easier to find one's way through the home.



Alongside the murals, the Art-Scapes collections will bring the look and feel of framed artwork to hallways and common areas. These pieces are printed as finished wall décor features, offering the beauty of traditional artwork without glass, heavy frames, or loose items. The collections will add warmth, colour, and interest throughout the home, helping to create a more comfortable and homelike atmosphere.

We look forward to welcoming families and friends to experience these new additions. During your next visit, we invite you to take a stroll through the home, explore the refreshed spaces, and enjoy the conversations, memories, and moments of connection they may inspire with your loved one.

Additional updates are also planned for later this fall, including new furniture pieces in resident common areas and resident rooms. These updates are part of our ongoing commitment to creating comfortable, inviting spaces where residents can relax and where families and friends can enjoy meaningful visits together. Residents were involved in conversations about how they would like these spaces to feel and were open to a variety of ideas, including adding a few pops of colour here and there. Stay tuned for the final design! Improvements are also planned for the 2nd Floor East patio. The current shade structure will be removed due to safety concerns, and the patio may be temporarily out of service while this work is completed. During this phase, residents and families are encouraged to enjoy the many other outdoor spaces available throughout the home. Once the area reopens, a table and umbrella will be added, along with new landscaping features to help make the space safe, comfortable, and welcoming for residents and families to enjoy.



Save the Date: Resident and Family Courtyard Celebration

Throughout the year, we look forward to bringing residents and families together for special events and seasonal celebrations. One tradition we especially enjoy is our larger fall gathering, previously known as our Big Tent event. This year, thanks to the wonderful upgrades and rejuvenation of our courtyard, we are excited to begin a new chapter by planning our outdoor celebration in this beautifully renovated space.

Although residents have already been enjoying the courtyard throughout the summer for activities, visits, and special moments, this event will be a wonderful opportunity to formally celebrate and recognize the refreshed space. It will also be a chance for residents, families, and team members to come together and mark this exciting new chapter for our home.

This celebration will be held in conjunction with Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day, a province-wide initiative that encourages long-term care homes across Ontario to open their doors, strengthen community connections, and celebrate the important role long-term care homes play in the lives of residents, families, team members, and the broader community.

While final details are still being determined, we invite families to mark their calendars and join us on Friday, September 18 in the afternoon for lively outdoor entertainment by Midnight Blue. Please



stay tuned for more details as planning continues — we are excited to share this special celebration with you.

Friendly Reminder: Keeping Cool During August Heat

As summer heat and humidity continue into August, this is a friendly reminder to please keep resident room windows closed on hot days.

Keeping windows closed helps our air conditioning system work more efficiently, allowing us to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature and reduce humidity levels throughout the home. Thank you for your continued support in helping everyone stay cool, safe, and comfortable during the warm summer weather.

Courtyard Closure - September 8th

We would like to let you know that the Gateway Haven courtyard will be closed on Tuesday, September 8th to accommodate a Bruce County Staff Appreciation Event.

We are grateful for the opportunity to host this event in our beautiful outdoor space and to share it with Bruce County staff. We apologize for any inconvenience this temporary closure may cause and appreciate your understanding. The courtyard will reopen for regular use following the event.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the home.



RNAO Spotlight

Gateway Haven is proud to continue our journey as a Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) in partnership with the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO). Maintaining our BPSO designation reflects our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, evidence-informed care for every resident.

Since going live with the foundational RNAO Nursing Advantage Clinical Pathways in May, our team has been focused on embedding these best practices into our daily care. We continue to review, refine and align our processes to ensure we are providing best practice care and meet all legislative and regulatory requirements. This ongoing work supports a culture of continuous quality improvement and helps us provide the best possible care for our residents.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for the next phase of our BPSO journey with the implementation of the Pain, Palliative, and End of Life Clinical Pathways scheduled to go live in November 2026. In preparation, our team has submitted our education plan and gap analysis to the RNAO as part of the implementation process. Additionally, our nursing team has been working closely with the Palliative Pain and Symptom Management Consultant from St. Joseph's Health Care to provide education and training.

Together we are building a culture of best practice that enhances the quality of life and care for everyone at Gateway Haven.

Help Us Recognize Gateway Haven Staff

This fall, Gateway Haven staff will come together for a Staff Development Day focused on learning, reflection, and celebrating the important work they do every day. As part of the event, we are creating a special appreciation video featuring messages from residents, families, and friends.

How to Participate

- Record a short video message (30-60 seconds).
- Share a thank you, positive memory, words of encouragement, or how staff have made a difference to you or your loved one.
- Submit your video by **September 4th** using the following link:
[Upload Your Video](#)

Your heartfelt message will help recognize the dedication, compassion, and care provided by the Gateway Haven team. Thank you for helping us celebrate our staff!



Join Us for the Caregiver Support Group

Please note that our August Family Support Group meeting will be held on Monday, August 31st.

We are excited to continue growing this group and warmly welcome both returning and new members to join us. This month, we will be discussing "letting go of comparison" and hope you can attend and be part of the conversation.

The Family Support Group provides a welcoming space for families to connect, share experiences, learn from one another, and discuss topics that impact residents and their loved ones. It is an opportunity to exchange ideas, ask questions, build relationships, and help strengthen our community.

We would love to have you join us, please RSVP to the Social Worker, Lauren, at lkieswetter@brucecounty.on.ca or by emailing Reception services at GatewayHavenReception@brucecounty.on.ca

When: August 31
Time: 3-4PM
Gateway Haven Library
Topic: Letting Go of Comparison

Dietary Updates

Residents have been enjoying some wonderful new dining experiences this summer!

Thursday lunches have become a special weekly highlight, with residents enjoying hamburgers and hot dogs fresh off the grill. The reviews have been very positive—so much that we are planning to continue the weekly barbecues throughout August.

Although the summer weather has not always cooperated, residents have still been making the most of the experience. Rain, heat, and humidity have meant that the barbecues have been enjoyed in the Auditorium so far, but we hope that if the weather allows, residents may eventually be able to enjoy a barbecue lunch outdoors. Regardless of the location, residents love the experience!



We would like to extend a big thanks to our Dietary team, PSW's and Recreation staff, for helping make these events feel special for residents. Their teamwork, flexibility, and care have helped create a fun and enjoyable summer dining experience.

Last month, we also shared that residents were enjoying some new updates to the afternoon refreshment cart. These continue to receive rave reviews, with Thursday smoothie day and Friday near beer being especially big hits. We are pleased to share that these refreshment cart favourites will continue throughout the summer as well.

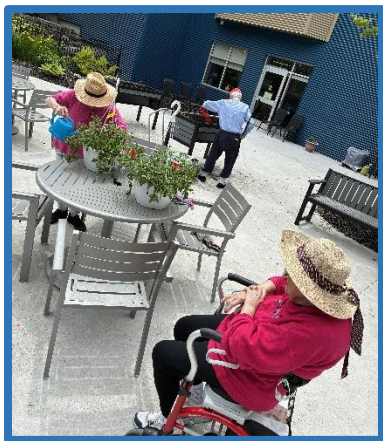
A Fond Farewell & Looking Ahead

This month, we are saying goodbye to two valued team members. Lenin has moved on from his role as Physiotherapy Assistant, and Rav has accepted a new Recreation opportunity outside of Gateway Haven. Both have made meaningful contributions to the lives of the residents and will be greatly missed by us all. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

We are pleased to share that a new Physiotherapy Assistant is expected to join our team soon, pending onboarding and orientation requirements. In the meantime, the Recreation Department will continue to offer physical activity programs to support residents during this transition. Recruitment for the vacant Recreation position is also underway. As a result, residents may notice some minor adjustments to programming, including fewer evening recreation programs at times. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to fill these positions and continue providing meaningful opportunities for resident engagement.



Still Needed: Summer Hats



With plenty of summer sunshine still ahead, we'd like to share a friendly reminder about sun protection for residents enjoying time outdoors.

Please help keep your loved one comfortable and protected by ensuring they have appropriate sun protection, such as a hat, and sunscreen. We have noticed that several residents are still without a sun hat, and it's not too late to bring one in. We have many sunny days and outdoor opportunities still to enjoy in the months ahead!

If your loved one needs a hat, we kindly ask that you bring one during your next visit. To help ensure it can be easily returned if misplaced, please have it labeled through our laundry department.

Thank you for helping us keep residents safe this summer.

Visitor Reception Services Updates

Please note that Visitor Reception Services will be closed on Monday, August 3rd for the Civic Holiday.

From Tuesday, August 4th to Friday, August 7th, limited services will be available as we support summer vacation schedules and staff training days. Regular business hours will resume on Monday, August 10th. Thank you for your understanding, and we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable long weekend!

Stakeholder Quality Meeting

Our semi-annual Stakeholder (Quality) Advisory Committee meeting was held on June 24th, and meeting minutes were sent out on June 26th. Our next Stakeholder Advisory meeting will be held in November 2026. We will keep you informed of meeting details closer to the date.

Family Council

The countdown is on! After a summer break, Family Council meetings will resume next month. The next meeting will take place on Monday, September 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Family Council provides an opportunity for families to connect, share feedback, ask questions, and stay informed about life at Gateway Haven. Should you have any questions about Family Council or upcoming meetings, please reach out to the Family Council President, Mandi, via email at lamb114@uwindsor.ca or Family Council Assistant, Stacey Goldie, at sgoldie@brucecounty.on.ca.

Community Events

We are always pleased to share local community events that may offer residents and families an opportunity to enjoy time together outside of the home. Whether it is a seasonal activity, live entertainment, a community gathering, or a local attraction, these events can provide a meaningful way to connect, explore the area, and create new memories with loved ones.

If you'd like to check-out some area events there are lots of opportunities for your consideration listed on [Festivals & Events in Wiarton Ontario | Waterfront, Trails & Local Attractions](#). Feel free to check them out!

Dental Care - Upcoming August Clinic



Taylor from the Tooth Studio is returning for another dental clinic on Monday, August 31st. If you are interested in having your loved one seen during the upcoming clinic, please contact Visitor Reception Services or email gatewayhavenreception@brucecounty.on.ca to make an appointment.

Leadership Contact Information

You can reach Gateway Haven at 519-534-1113. Our phone system has prompts to connect you with the appropriate department, nurses' station, or leader.

Emmy Seeley
Administrator
Ext. 3105
eseeley@brucecounty.on.ca

Heather Martin
Administrative Supervisor
Ext. 3104
hmartin@brucecounty.on.ca

Lesley Prowse
Visitor Services/Reception
Ext. 3102
lprowse@brucecounty.on.ca

Rachel Rowney
Director of Nursing
Ext. 3141

rrowney@brucecounty.on.ca

Jodi Simonato
Nurse Manager- 2nd Floor
Ext. 3251
JSimonato@brucecounty.on.ca

Robyn Wilson
Nurse Manager -3rd Floor
Ext. 3250
rwilson@brucecounty.on.ca

Tina Beniuk
Clinical Care Coordinator- 3rd Floor

Tashynna Nault
Clinical Care Coordinator- 2nd Floor
Ext.3543
tnault@brucecounty.on.ca

Stacey Goldie
Recreation & Leisure Manager
TBeniuk@brucecounty.on.ca

Ext. 3147
sgoldie@brucecounty.on.ca

Ash Thapa
Dietary Services Manager
Ext. 3106
AThapa@brucecounty.on.ca

Trevor McFadden
Environmental Services Manager
Ext. 3134
tmcfadden@brucecounty.on.ca

Callie Jewell
Infection Control and Staff Education Lead
Ext. 3350
cjewell@brucecounty.on.ca

Lauren Kieswetter
Social Worker
226-909-2308
LKieswetter@brucecounty.on.ca