

Gateway Haven News

Together we *make* a difference!

October 2025

September Spotlight: A Fall Fair to Remember!

This September, Gateway Haven was bursting with creativity, color, and community spirit as we hosted a Fall Fair event under the tent. The event brought together residents, families, staff, and visitors for an unforgettable afternoon of fun.

In the weeks leading up to the fair, residents were busy preparing their entries for the Fall Fair displays. The creativity on show was nothing short of inspiring – from scarecrows, painted pumpkin masterpieces and floral arrangements to paintings, crafts, and heartfelt poems. The dedication and enthusiasm were truly heartwarming, and on the day of the event, everyone was excited to see their work proudly displayed for all to enjoy.



Adding to the fun, a few of our wonderful staff members took on the role of judges, awarding ribbons for first, second, and third place in each category. The friendly competition sparked smiles and celebration!

The Fall Fair was inspired by our residents themselves, and it featured everything they asked for – and more! There was live music from Midnight Blue, adorable farm animal guests (including chickens, a bunny, and the star of the show, Benji the donkey, who charmed everyone with his gentle personality), and even a Photo Booth for residents and families to capture special memories together.

Of course, no fall celebration would be complete without delicious seasonal treats. Residents had requested apple-themed desserts, and the kitchen did not disappoint! We also welcomed a lineup of antique cars, which brought back fond memories and sparked great conversations among residents and guests.

The entire event was beautifully decorated with generous donations of corn husks, pumpkins, and hay bales, creating a perfect autumn atmosphere. Staff and residents embraced the western theme, donning cowboy hats, jeans and flannel shirts adding to the charm and festivity of the day. While we enjoyed many wonderful moments in September – from our trip to the apple orchard to visits from the daycare children and plenty of live music – the Fall Fair stood out as a true highlight. It was especially heartening to see so many family members able to join us and share in the joy, laughter, and community spirit that makes Gateway Haven so special.



Residents Shine at the Warton Fall Fair

After the excitement of our in-house Fall Fair, several residents proudly submitted their creations to the Warton Fall Fair on September 19. Leading up to the event, residents were busy preparing fresh flower arrangements and tending to their horticultural projects – and their hard work paid off!

We are thrilled to share that our community brought home several ribbons and prizes, especially in the horticultural categories. The pride and joy on our residents' faces said it all.

For those who could not attend the local Fall Fair, we kept the entries on display here throughout September. Families and residents loved visiting the tables, admiring the creations, and celebrating the awards together. It was a beautiful reminder of the creativity and spirit that lives at Gateway.



Resident Outings - A Season Full of Adventure

Outings are a much-loved part of life at Gateway Haven, offering residents a chance to enjoy the outdoors, visit local spots, and take part in community events. We recently enjoyed a lovely trip to the apple orchard, where residents took in the crisp fall air, scenic views, and of course, fresh apples!

Looking ahead, we are excited to share a few upcoming outings:

- Fall Leaf Tour - October 3
- Bluewater Park - Walk for Wenjack October 17

Outings are determined based on resident input and are typically in high demand. We do our best to make them fair and accessible for residents. Sign-up is required, and families or residents interested in participating should reach out to a member of the Recreation Team.

Due to limited space, especially for wheelchair seating, we aim to rotate participation, so all interested residents can take part overtime. A waitlist is kept for each outing in case of cancellations, so there is always a chance to join even if spots fill quickly. Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to offer meaningful and inclusive outings for all!



October Activity Highlights

Oct 1: Celebration of Life

Oct 2 Music with Dave the Piano man

Oct 3: Fall Leaf Tour

Oct 6: Spirit Singers

Oct 8: Music with Dave

October 14: Residents' Council

October 15: Mobile Clothing Sale

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.

Oct 18: Elvis Performance

Oct 20: Music with Bruce

Oct 22: Music with Bored of Education

Oct 28: Music with Cathy

Mobile Clothing Sale - October 15

Join us on Tuesday, October 15, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Gateway auditorium for a special pop-up clothing sale featuring Bella Boutique and JBS Clothing.

They will be offering a wide selection of adaptive clothing as well as regular fashions including:

- Tops, pants, sweaters
- Undergarments for men and women (by resident request)
- Accessories like earrings, bags, and more

This is a great chance to browse and shop for comfortable, stylish clothing without leaving home. All residents and families are welcome to attend and enjoy this convenient fall shopping experience! This is a suitable time to consider clearing your loved ones' closet of seasonal summer items and replace them with fall fashions in preparation of cooler weather.



Support Our Local Foodbank This Thanksgiving

This Thanksgiving season, we are proud to support our local food bank by participating in the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and we invite families, staff, and visitors to join us in giving back to our community.

Donation boxes will be available near the front elevators from October 1st to October 10th, where you can drop off non-perishable food items and household essentials.

Some of the most needed items include:

- Applesauce
- Jam
- Hot cereal
- Chunky soup
- Hamburger Helper
- Canned fruit
- Condiments (e.g., ketchup, mustard)
- Shampoo
- Dish soap

All donations will be delivered to our local food bank to help support individuals and families in need this season. Thank you for your generosity and for helping us spread kindness and care beyond our walls this Thanksgiving.



Gateway Haven Sign Complete



We are happy to say that the Gateway Haven sign is now fully complete, with the finishing touches recently added. Power was installed last month, and the sign now illuminates beautifully at night creating a warm, welcoming presence after dark. You can't miss it! A big thank-you to everyone involved in making it happen.

Courtyard Redesign



We would like to inform families that our centre courtyard is expected to be under construction effective October 20th as part of an exciting two-phase improvement project.

Phase 1 will include:

- Removal and replacement of existing concrete
- Removal of select plants (with efforts to preserve and replant where possible in Phase 2)

During construction, the courtyard will be temporarily closed, but residents will still have access to secure outdoor spaces in the home area patios. Those who enjoy people-watching or

being near the action are also welcome to use the outdoor space at the main entrance.

This work marks the beginning of our plan to refresh and enhance the courtyard. Phase 2 is anticipated for Spring 2026 and will focus on design elements, replanting, and creating a welcoming, accessible outdoor space for all to enjoy.

A resident stakeholder meeting was held in September to gather early input, and we will be continuing the conversation with our Family Council at the October meeting to include your feedback in the future design plans. You are welcome to join us!

We look forward to enhancing this valuable space.

We Want to Hear from You - Satisfaction Surveys Are Live!

We are currently in the process of delivering both the Annual Resident & Family Satisfaction Survey.

If you have not already completed the Family Survey, we invite you to share your feedback — your input is incredibly important to us. It helps identify what we are doing well and where we have opportunities to improve. Your experience and perspective play a key role in shaping the quality of care and services we provide.

- Paper copies are available upon request at the front visitor reception.
- If you prefer to answer electronically please access the survey here: [InterRAI Family QOL Instrument - Bruce County | QOL PRO](#)
- While there is no official closing date yet, we encourage families to complete the survey as soon as possible.



Survey results will be reviewed and summarized by the end of the year. From there, we will identify priority areas and develop action plans to support continuous improvement. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your thoughts – your voice truly matters.

Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters



On September 30, our home recognized Orange Shirt Day, a day of remembrance honoring the children who were forcibly enrolled in residential schools across Canada.

Staff were encouraged to wear orange shirts as a powerful symbol of support and solidarity, recognizing that every child matters.

We were proud to stand with communities across the country in acknowledging this important day.

Expanding Our Musical Performances

Through Resident's Council, residents have shared that they love the music in our home and that they would enjoy even more variety in the performances offered. We are happy to share that the Recreation Team has taken this feedback to heart, and over the past few months, we have welcomed new musical acts into our programming.

With a few of our regular musicians taking a summer break, it was the perfect time to explore new styles and performers, and the response so far has been positive.

Moving forward, we will continue to add diverse musical talent to better reflect the wide range of tastes among the residents. We are particularly excited for the upcoming Elvis impersonator scheduled for October 18th - you are welcome to join us.

Welcome to Our New Students

We are pleased to welcome two students who have recently joined our team! Kylie, a high school co-op student is working with our nursing department as she explores a future in healthcare. She chose long-term care to learn more about the challenges and rewards of supporting older adults. Kylie is especially interested in nursing and healthcare administration, and she is excited to gain firsthand experience.



We also welcome Shannon, a Nurse Practitioner student from Western University, completing her placement with Elijah, our NP. Shannon has 10 years of experience as a Registered Nurse and lives in Port Elgin with her husband and two children. She is enthusiastic about improving access to care in rural communities across Grey and Bruce.

We are proud to support student learning and are thrilled to have both Kylie and Shannon with us!

Safe Visiting - Feeling Unwell, Please Stay Home

As we look forward to welcoming families over the Thanksgiving long weekend, we want to take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of safe visiting practices to help keep our residents, staff, and visitors healthy.

If you are feeling unwell, even just a sniffle, please save your visit for another day. The risk of spreading seasonal illnesses, including colds, flu, and other respiratory viruses, increases at this time of year. While we know how much visits mean to our residents, we want to also protect their health.

When visiting the home, please remember to:

- Use the screening tool at the sign-in table when you arrive. If you have any symptoms listed on the tool, we kindly ask that you postpone your visit.
- Practice good hand hygiene. Hand sanitizer is available at all entrances, exits, and throughout the home.
- We are mask friendly, feel free to wear one.

We deeply appreciate your continued cooperation and understanding. Together, we can help keep our home safe, healthy, and joyful.



With influenza season upon us, consent forms will soon be sent out for resident influenza vaccine, COVID-19 booster, and RSV vaccine (if required). We expect vaccines to arrive in mid to late October. More information will be shared by Callie Jewell, the Infection Prevention and Control Lead in the upcoming weeks.

Quality Improvement Update

We are continuing our work to reduce potentially avoidable Emergency Room (ER) transfers. We have consistently maintained a level of potentially avoidable ER transfers that is below the provincial average. We are proud to share that in the month of August we had zero potentially avoidable ER transfers!

As part of this work, we are pleased to support the nursing team in enhancing their clinical skills. Recently, our registered staff completed blood draw and IV training, allowing us to provide more advanced care on-site and reduce unnecessary hospital visits. We will continue to focus on delivering high quality, resident centered care by investing in ongoing education opportunities for our team.

Family Council

Interested in joining the Family Council? Meetings are held monthly in the Gateway Haven Library at 6:30 p.m. We can also accommodate those who prefer to attend virtually. It is a great opportunity to receive updates, make inquiries, meet other members, and share feedback regarding home operations. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 22 - hope you can make it! If you would like to review Family Council minutes, they are posted on the information board beside Visitor services for your leisurely reading.

For more information you are welcome to 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

Holiday Office Closures

The Visitor Reception Services office will be closed in October on the following days:

- Friday, October 3rd
- Monday, October 13 - Thanksgiving Day

Leadership Announcements

We are excited to announce that Stacey Goldie has officially taken on the role of Recreation & Leisure Manager at Gateway! Stacey has already made a positive impact with her energy, creativity, and dedication, and we are thrilled she will continue leading our recreation programs with passion and purpose.

We are also pleased to share that Ash Thapa will be joining us next month as our new Dietary Services Manager. Ash brings valuable experience from her previous work in long-term care and is committed to enhancing the quality of our dining experience.

Please join us in welcoming both Stacey and Ash to their leadership roles!

Community Events

Remembering Wiarton is a community event taking place on October 7th, 11:30-3:00. This is a special community event designed for people living with memory loss or dementia, their families, and caregivers. You are invited to explore local shops, restaurants, and businesses specially trained to make your visit enjoyable. For more information contact Bruce Peninsula Hospice at 519-534-1260 ext. 5612 or info@bphospice.ca.



Developing
Compassionate
Dementia Inclusive
Communities



REMEMBERING
Warton

A special community event designed for people living with memory loss or dementia, their families and caregivers.

**Explore local shops, restaurants, and businesses
specially trained to make your visit enjoyable.**

**Tuesday, October 7th, 2025
11:30am - 3:00pm**

**Register at Revell Collaborative Workspace (582 Berford St.)
on October 7th and pick up your passport and map!**

What to Expect:

- **Passport & Map** – collect stamps at participating businesses to win prizes
- **Friendly Volunteers** – to assist when needed
- **Live Music** – at the Berford Street parkette

for more information contact Bruce Peninsula Hospice:
519-534-1260 ext. 5612 or info@bphospice.ca



Bruce
Peninsula
Hospice



Alzheimer Society
GREY • BRUCE



HCSS
HOME & COMMUNITY
SUPPORT SERVICES
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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 manager.

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

Jorya Foster
Administrative Supervisor
Ext. 3104
jofoster@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

Tashynna Nault
Clinical Care Coordinator- 2nd Floor

Ext.3543
tnault@brucecounty.on.ca

Vacant
Clinical Care Coordinator- 3rd Floor
Ext. 3443
n/a

Stacey Goldie
Recreation & Leisure Manager
Ext. 3147
sgoldie@brucecounty.on.ca

Ash Thapa (November 17)
Dietary Services Manager
Ext. 3106
TBA

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

Vacant
Social Worker
226-909-2308