

Gateway Haven News

Together we *make* a difference!

October 2026

From Summer Smiles to Fall Fun

September was filled with meaningful experiences, new adventures, and plenty of opportunities for residents to connect with one another and the community. A highlight of the month was an engaging visit from the Bruce County Museum, where residents donned white gloves and had the unique opportunity to handle and learn about a variety of antique artifacts. The interactive presentation sparked lively discussion, curiosity, and many shared memories.

Residents were also delighted to welcome Four Paws Entertainment for the first time. Four talented canine performers showcased their agility, tricks, and playful personalities, capturing the attention of residents from start to finish. The opportunity to spend one-on-one time with the dogs after the show was especially meaningful and brought countless smiles to residents!



Music continued to be a favourite pastime, with a variety of entertainers providing opportunities to sing along, reminisce, and socialize. Residents also enjoyed browsing the JBS Blowout Clothing Sale and finding some great bargains. To mark International Coffee Day, residents gathered for a Tim Horton's coffee party. There's nothing quite like enjoying a Timbit and washing it down with a classic cup of Timmy's coffee, some residents enjoyed it so much they went back for a second!

To welcome the arrival of fall, several residents enjoyed a scenic outing to Smith's Apple Orchard, where they spent a beautiful afternoon taking in the season and enjoying warm homemade apple pie. Intergenerational programming continued to be another highlight, with visits from our daycare and little friends from the Early Years Daycare. These visits brought joy, laughter, and meaningful moments that residents always look forward to. It was certainly a wonderful month filled with learning, entertainment, and cherished connections, creating many memorable moments for residents!



Rooted in Community: Residents Shine at the Wiarton Fall Fair

When the opportunity arose to participate in the local Wiarton Fall Fair, residents were eager to get involved. The fair provided a meaningful way to contribute to a cherished community tradition while staying connected to the wider community.

Residents enthusiastically entered a variety of categories, including baking, horticulture, floral arranging, poetry, and the scarecrow competition. Creating entries together sparked conversation, creativity, and many fond memories. A particular highlight came from the kitchen, where residents' oatmeal raisin cookies proved to be a winning recipe, earning first place at the fair.

Teamwork was also on full display as residents collaborated to create a fall centrepiece and design a scarecrow that proudly took home first place. In addition to these top finishes, residents earned several other ribbons across a range of categories.



While the awards were exciting, the greatest reward was the opportunity to share talents, work together, and be part of a valued community tradition. Given the enthusiasm surrounding this year's fair, participation is likely to become a much-anticipated annual event.

Long Term Care Community Engagement Day

Gateway was proud to participate in our first Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day last month. We were pleased to welcome community members, families, and Day Away Program guests into our home to experience firsthand what makes Gateway such a special place to live.

Visitors enjoyed viewing residents' Fall Fair entries and achievements, touring the home, and exploring features such as our SensoryScapes and artwork displays. It was especially rewarding to hear positive feedback from guests who had not visited in many years and were impressed by the warm, welcoming environment.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the day a success. We look forward to building on this momentum and making next year's event even better.



Fall Fest Celebration

Despite the weather moving our celebration indoors, residents, families, and friends came together for a wonderful Fall Fest on September 30th. The afternoon was filled with laughter, conversation, dancing, and seasonal treats, including delicious pumpkin-inspired goodies and cookies home baked by our dietary team!

It was heartwarming to see so many loved ones join us as we welcomed the fall season together. Surrounded by family, friends, and our beautiful autumn décor throughout the home, residents enjoyed an afternoon focused on what matters most, meaningful connections and shared memories.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event so special, with a big round of applause to Dave and Rob of Midnight Blue for an outstanding performance that had everyone singing along, toe-tapping, and dancing. Families are also invited to enjoy our fall photo backdrop, which will remain available through Thanksgiving weekend for photos with loved ones.

We always cherish opportunities to gather together, and we are already looking forward to creating more special moments with residents and families throughout the upcoming holiday season.



New Mobility Equipment Service Partner



Gateway Haven is pleased to announce a new mobility equipment service partnership with Align Home Health Care. Align is Ontario's largest Ontario-owned mobility provider, with eight locations across the province, including Owen Sound. They have extensive experience supporting residents in long-term care homes and have been selected by the County as our new service partner.

Effective October 2, Align will provide repair and maintenance services for wheelchairs, walkers, and other mobility equipment within our home. Representatives from Align will visit Gateway Haven twice weekly to complete repairs and adjustments, with additional visits available as needed for urgent situations.

Residents will not be charged for service calls, delivery, or labour, including emergency repairs. In addition, replacement parts with a manufacturer's suggested retail price under \$50 will be provided at no cost. Align will also offer regular wheelchair cleaning and preventative maintenance clinics to help keep equipment in good working condition.

Residents and families continue to have the freedom to choose the mobility equipment vendor that best meets their needs. We are pleased to offer access to Align's services and look forward to working together to support the comfort, safety, and mobility of our residents.

October Program Highlights

5: Music with Lori
7: Music with Hawthorn Hackers
14: Music with Blue Sky Day
15: Bus Trip - Leaf Tour
19: Creative Expressions with Michelle
19: Music with Bruce
22: Resident's Council
23: Food Committee

26: Music with the Joy Duo
27: Calendar Planning Meeting
29: Halloween Themed Social Hour

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.

While we make every effort to follow the published activity calendar, programs are subject to change and occasional last-minute cancellations may occur. This is especially important during cold and flu season, as we ask program providers, volunteers, entertainers, and visitors to stay home if they are feeling unwell. Thank you for your understanding as we prioritize the health and well-being of our residents and community.

Hairdressing Service: Temporary Closure

Please be advised that the Hair Salon will be closed from October 5 to October 16. We apologize for any inconvenience this temporary closure may cause.

Deb looks forward to welcoming everyone back to the Salon upon her return on October 19. Thank you for your understanding and patience.



National Truth & Reconciliation Day

Several residents gathered on September 30 to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Together, we took time to reflect, learn about the history and lasting impacts of residential schools. The thoughtful discussion gave everyone an opportunity to deepen their understanding, and each person walked away having learned something new.

Residents also learned about Bruce County's journey toward reconciliation and the thoughtful development of its Land Acknowledgement Protocol with guidance from the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. The acknowledgement is grounded in truth, respect, recognition, responsibility, and collaborative relationships.

As part of this learning, we shared *Aki Ogichidaa*—an Ojibway phrase meaning “Protectors of the Land”—created by Saugeen First Nation artist Kennedy Cameron-Nashkewa to commemorate the County's Land Acknowledgement Protocol. A copy of this meaningful artwork will be displayed by the elevators at our main entrance as an ongoing invitation to reflect, learn, and continue the work of reconciliation.



Sharing Creativity, Sharing Time: The Gift of Volunteering

We are delighted to welcome Michelle, a wonderful new volunteer who is sharing her artistic and creative talents with residents. Once a month, Michelle and residents will come together to explore their creativity and make new pieces. We are grateful for the time, ideas, and encouragement she brings, and we look forward to many fun creations in the months ahead. Michelle's contribution is also a wonderful reminder that everyone has something meaningful to share. Whether you can visit once a week, once a month, or once every few months, we would love to explore the possibilities with you. Volunteer opportunities can be shaped around your availability, interests, skills, and comfort level.

You might share photos and stories from your travels, offer musical or creative talent, help with a program or special event, or simply spend time visiting with residents. There is a volunteer opportunity for everyone, and even a small gift of time can create connection, joy, and purpose! Please reach out to Stacey Goldie at sgoldie@brucecounty.on.ca if you or someone you know are interested in exploring the possibilities.

Municipal Election 2026

The 2026 Municipal Election opens on October 19, 2026.

Gateway Haven continues to work with the municipal office to finalize information and voting arrangements for residents. Once additional details are available, we will share separate communication with residents and families outlining the voting process and available support. We appreciate your patience and look forward to providing more information in the coming weeks.

Bookmobile Service

The Bruce County Bookmobile continues to visit Gateway Haven every other Thursday, helping residents enjoy books and other library materials delivered right to the home. Currently, about twelve residents use the service, and we would be delighted to help more residents get involved. We are also pleased to welcome Alaina Noble, our new Bookmobile representative, who is happy to assist residents with their library needs. If your loved one is interested in participating, please contact a member of the Recreation Team and we will gladly help them get connected.



Enhancing the Home Environment

We are pleased to share several recent updates that are enhancing comfort, functionality, and quality of life throughout the home.

New adaptive dining tables have been added to support residents during mealtimes, along with new chairs and end tables in resident lounge areas to create more comfortable and welcoming gathering spaces. We have also replaced several dressers and bedside tables that reached the end of their life cycle, helping to maintain a warm and homelike environment.

Our activity spaces are also receiving updates. New stacking chairs have been introduced, and new activity tables are expected to arrive soon. These additions will enhance our programming spaces and support both organized activities and independent leisure pursuits.

In the coming weeks, the home will also receive new hand sanitizer stations, which will be installed outside resident rooms. These updated units are designed to operate more quietly while offering improved monitoring capabilities, including usage tracking, refill alerts, which will support infection prevention and control practices.

These investments reflect our ongoing commitment to providing comfortable, safe, and engaging spaces for residents to enjoy.

Annual Family Satisfaction Survey

Our Annual Satisfaction Survey is underway, and we would like to thank everyone who has already taken the time to participate. To date, we have received seventeen completed surveys, which is a good start.

The survey is one of the most important ways residents and families can share their experiences, recognize what we are doing well, and help identify opportunities for improvement. Every response helps us understand better what matters most and supports our efforts to continuously enhance the resident and family experience.

If you have not yet completed the survey, we encourage you to take a few minutes to do so. Depending on the amount of detail you choose to provide, it can take as little as 5 to 15 minutes, and your feedback can make a meaningful difference.

Please mark your calendar for October 12, the survey deadline. The more feedback we receive, the better equipped we are to ensure that resident and family voices help shape future planning and priorities.

The survey can be completed anonymously online using the link below, and paper copies are available at Visitor Services for anyone who prefers a printed version.

Survey Link: [InterRAI Family QOL Instrument - Bruce County | QOL PRO](#)

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and help us continue to grow and improve.



Resident's Council Week

From September 14 to 18, Gateway Haven celebrated Resident Council Week by highlighting the significant role Resident Council plays in shaping life within our home. Throughout the week, residents, families, staff, and visitors enjoyed informative displays and fun trivia that shared interesting facts about Resident Council and its impact. The week concluded with our Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day, a fitting celebration of resident voices, community connections, and the many ways that life happens here at Gateway Haven.

RNAO Spotlight



As a Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO), Gateway Haven remains committed to advancing evidence-based practices that support high-quality resident care and positive outcomes. The RNAO Nursing Advantage Clinical Pathways support the home through evidence-based tools and assessments to ensure compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements while enhancing the quality and consistency of care provided.

Over the coming months, the home will continue preparing for the next phase of the RNAO Nursing Advantage Clinical Pathways implementation which goes live on November 3, 2026. The next pathways will focus on Pain Management, Palliative and End-of-Life Care, helping ensure residents receive timely, person-centred, and evidence-informed care. This important work will include extensive staff education and training to support successful adoption of new best practices.

Last month Gateway Haven team members attended RNAO Champions Training which helps increase awareness of RNAO Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs), build engagement among team members, and support the use of change management and social movement approaches to strengthen the uptake and sustainability of best practices within our Long-Term Care home. Gateway Haven Champions leverage their knowledge, enthusiasm, and dedication to clinical excellence, help foster meaningful practice changes that benefit residents, families, and the broader community we serve.

We look forward to continuing to grow and learn as we move through the RNAO Clinical Pathways and implement new best practices across Gateway Haven!

Join Us for the Caregiver Support Group

A reminder that the Caregiver Support Group schedule change takes effect this month! Moving forward, the group will meet on the first Monday of each month. You are encouraged to join us from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Gateway Haven Library.

The group offers a welcoming space for family members and caregivers to connect, share experiences, receive support, and learn from one another. Whether you attend regularly or are joining for the first time, all are welcome. Please RSVP to Social Worker Lauren at lkieswetter@brucecounty.on.ca.

When: October 5
Time: 3-4PM
Gateway Haven Library

Dietary Updates

Our Dietary Services team has been busy enhancing the dining experience for residents. In September, residents enjoyed a special Grandparents Day lunch, which was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and make residents feel appreciated.

We are also pleased to share that the hardware installation for our new Meal Suite paperless kitchen system is now complete. The program will be rolled out over the upcoming months with a full transition expected by the end of the year. To learn more about Meal Suite and how it will support meal service and resident dining preferences, families are invited to attend the next Family Council meeting, where Dietary Manager Ash Thapa will provide an overview of the program.

Residents may have also noticed new plates, cups, and glass bowls throughout the home. In addition, our menu will soon transition to a Fall/Winter rotation, bringing seasonal variety while continuing to reflect resident preferences and nutritional needs.

Finally, families are reminded that reservations are being accepted for our Thanksgiving Dinner, served at 5:00 p.m. on October 12. Family members wishing to join their loved one are asked to make reservations and purchase their meal tickets with Visitor Reception Services by October 9.



Infection Prevention & Control

We are preparing for our annual COVID-19 and Influenza vaccination clinic for residents. Consent forms have been distributed to Substitute Decision Makers (SDMs) and families via email. If you have not received your consent form, or would prefer a paper copy, forms are available at the reception desk and can be completed and returned at your convenience.

At this time, we anticipate the vaccination clinic will take place in mid-October, pending delivery of vaccine supplies from Public Health. We will communicate the confirmed clinic date as soon as it has been finalized.

Vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to help protect residents from serious illness during respiratory virus season. We encourage families and SDMs to return completed consent forms as soon as possible to support timely vaccination once vaccines become available.

If you have any questions regarding the vaccination program or require another copy of the consent form, please contact the home. Thank you for your continued support in helping keep our residents healthy and safe.

Save the Date: Family Education Session

Families are invited to join us for an educational session focused on pain management and palliative care on November 12. This informative session was recently held at our sister home, Brucelea Haven, and received positive feedback from attendees.

Whether you are looking to learn more about these important areas of care or simply want to better understand the support available to residents, we encourage you to attend.

More details will be shared in next month's newsletter. For now, please save the date!



Visitor Reception Services Updates

If you are planning to stop by Visitor Reception Services for help with resident account banking or to top up a trust account, please keep in mind that the desk is typically closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Whenever possible, we kindly suggest visiting before or after this time so a team member will be available to assist you. Thank you for your understanding!

Please note that Visitor Reception Services will be closed on Monday, October 12th for Thanksgiving Day. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, October 13th. Thank you for your understanding, and we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday!



Family Council Welcomes New Faces

Our Family Council was pleased to reconnect this fall and warmly welcomed several new faces around the table. It was wonderful to see both familiar and new members joining the conversation and sharing their insights.

Family Council meetings are open to all family members, and new participants are always welcome. The group has chosen to resume meetings on a bi-monthly basis, providing regular opportunities to connect, share ideas, and support the resident experience at Gateway Haven. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gateway Library. For those unable to attend in person, an online participation option will also be available.

We look forward to continuing these valuable conversations and hope to see many familiar and new faces at future meetings. If you are interested in learning more about the Family Council, please contact Stacey Goldie at sgoldie@brucecounty.on.ca

Fall Food Drive

Our Fall Food Drive is currently underway and will continue until October 8. Donations of non-perishable food items can be placed in the collection box located in our front lobby.

As we embrace the season of gratitude, we invite residents, families, staff, and visitors to help support individuals and families in our local community. Together, we can share kindness, generosity, and the spirit of giving this fall.

Community Events

At Gateway Haven, we are always looking for ways to help residents stay connected to the broader community and learn about opportunities happening throughout Bruce County and beyond.

Do you know of an upcoming community event, local attraction, exhibition, concert, festival, or seasonal activity that residents and families may enjoy hearing about? We would love to know so it can be shared in a future edition of our newsletter.

If you have a suggestion, please reach out to Stacey Goldie at sgoldie@brucecounty.on.ca We look forward to hearing from you!

Dental Care - Upcoming October Clinic

Taylor from the Tooth Studio is returning for another dental clinic on Monday, October 19th. 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.



Sweet Appreciation for Students & Preceptors

We were pleased to celebrate our students and preceptors with a special Ice Cream Appreciation Day for all staff. Sweet treats were enjoyed while recognizing the dedication of our students and the exceptional preceptors who help guide and inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals. Thank you to everyone who plays a role in learning, teaching, and making a difference each day.



Celebrating Environmental Services

Last month, we recognized Environmental Services Week and the dedicated team members who work hard every day to keep Gateway Haven safe, clean, and comfortable for residents, families, staff, and visitors.

As a small token of appreciation, our Environmental Services team enjoyed a barbecue lunch in recognition of their contributions. Thank you to this exceptional team for all that you do to support our home and community!

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

Rachel Rowney
Director of Nursing
Ext. 3141
rrowney@brucecounty.on.ca

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

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

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

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

Tina Beniuk
Clinical Care Coordinator- 3rd Floor
TBeniuk@brucecounty.on.ca

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

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

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

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

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

Lauren Kieswetter
Social Worker
226-974-2592
LKieswetter@brucecounty.on.ca