

Gateway Haven News

Together we *make* a difference!

November 2025

Harvesting Joy This Fall - October Highlights

October was a month full of fun, festivities, and fall excitement for residents! With the changing colours of the season, residents enjoyed a Fall Leaf Tour around the area, taking in the beautiful sights and crisp autumn air. This is always a favourite from year to year at Gateway!

Music filled our home this month with a special performance by an Elvis impersonator—a program that came as a resident request! We were thrilled to make it happen, and the show did not disappoint. Residents clapped and sang along to familiar hits, smiling from ear to ear as memories came flooding back. Our Elvis fans enjoyed the upbeat energy and variety of songs performed!



Thanksgiving festivities brought warmth and reflection to the Home. Residents took part in festive crafts and baking activities, and shared words of gratitude by writing what they were thankful for on a decorative pumpkin for everyone to enjoy. The celebration continued with a delicious, traditional Thanksgiving meal, which was a highlight for many.

Halloween was filled with laughter, creativity, and plenty of imagination! The activity staff and residents had a blast piecing together costumes from our “trunk of treasures”— an assortment of costume pieces and quirky accessories. Residents showed off their



creativity by mixing and matching items to design their own unique looks, and the results were fantastic!



Our in-house daycare friends joined in for a lively costume parade, which quickly became a highlight of the day. Together, residents and children also tried something new – decorating pumpkins by gently hammering nails into them to form fun and unique Halloween designs! It was a creative twist on traditional pumpkin carving and sparked lots of smiles and laughter.

Residents also enjoyed a spooky-themed social hour, donning their festive costumes while sharing Halloween trivia, jokes, and plenty of good laughs. It was a wonderful way to wrap up the day's celebrations with fun, friendship, and community spirit.



Staff and visitors joined in on the fun too, parading through the Home dressed in themed costumes and helping make Halloween an extra memorable celebration for everyone!



A Taste of Fall in Horticultural Therapy



Our horticulture therapy sessions were in full swing this month, celebrating the best of the fall season! Residents explored the world of apples – learning about different varieties, their unique flavours, and how they grow right here in Ontario.

The highlight was pressing fresh apples into delicious homemade cider. The sweet aroma filled the room as residents worked together to create and enjoy their special fall treat. Horticulture therapy continues to be a meaningful program for our residents – combining hands-on learning, sensory experiences, and a wonderful sense of community. It was a pleasure watching

residents proudly enjoying their freshly made apple cider!

A Purr-fect Visit



We had some very special surprise visitors recently - tiny, furry, and full of energy! Residents were delighted by a surprise visit from a litter of kittens, accompanied by their much larger, grown-up counterpart!

The kittens turned our activity rooms into a playful paradise, entertaining everyone with their antics before making a few special door-to-door visits. Smiles and laughter filled the halls as residents enjoyed every moment.

A big thank-you to Jessica, one of our wonderful team members and proud caretaker of these adorable Maine Coon kittens. She brought them in to help socialize the little ones as they prepare for their forever homes. If you would like to see more of her beautiful cats, visit *J&R's Maine Coons* on Facebook; they are adorable!



Courtyard Construction Update

October brought a sense of curiosity and excitement as we began construction on the courtyard. Residents, along with our daycare friends, had a wonderful time watching all the action unfold. We are happy to share that the concrete has now been poured, marking a big milestone in the project. The next phase of the redesign will begin in Spring. We look forward to seeing the vision continue to come to life.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all stakeholders, residents, families, and team members who shared their ideas and input throughout the planning process. Your contributions have helped shape a space that will be welcoming, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone.



Thank you for Your Kindness

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our Thanksgiving Food Drive! Your generosity helped support our local community and made a meaningful difference for those in need. We deeply appreciate your kindness and participation, and the foodbank was incredibly grateful!

November Activity Highlights

Nov 3: Music with Joy Duo

Nov 6: Music with Dave the Piano man

Nov 11: Remembrance Day Service

Nov 13: Music with the Classy Sax Lady

Nov 13: Resident Council

Nov 17: Music with Dave

Nov 18: Shopping Trip

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.

Nov 20: Music with Amber

Nov 24: Social Hour

Nov 26: Bus Trip - Light Tour

Nov 27: Music with Leavin Tracks

Mobile Clothing Sale a Big Success

Last month, our residents enjoyed a wonderful on-site mobile clothing sale, offering a fun and convenient shopping experience right here at the Home. The event featured a wide selection of beautiful fashions, jewelry, winter accessories, and more, giving everyone the chance to browse and shop for new favorites.

We are not expecting another mobile clothing sale as the vendor is retiring. Families who wish to purchase adaptive clothing for their loved ones can explore online retailers such as Silverts and Geri Fashions for specialized clothing needs.



Holiday Room Bookings

With the holiday season right around the corner, we are now accepting holiday room bookings from residents and families. The home has a few options that can facilitate a small to mid-size gathering or celebration. Rooms are booked on a first-come, first-served basis, so please avoid disappointment and make your reservation asap. Inquiries and reservations can be arranged via Visitor Reception Services at 519.534.1113 or GatewayHavenReception@brucecounty.on.ca Thank you!



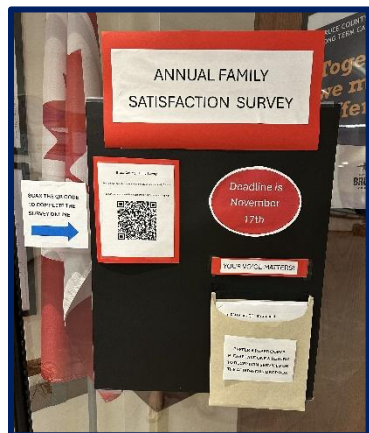
Fall Preparedness - Vaccinations

This month, we successfully launched our annual Immunization Campaign as part of our fall preparedness efforts. Staying up to date with vaccines especially for influenza and COVID-19 helps protect both residents and team members from illness.

We remind all visitors to wash or sanitize their hands when entering the Home, before and after visiting residents, and before leaving. Hand hygiene remains one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. If you are feeling unwell, please postpone your visit to help keep our care community safe.



We Want to Hear from You!



A friendly reminder to all families and friends — please take a few moments to complete our Annual Family Experience Survey **before November 17th**.

Your feedback helps us understand what we are doing well and where we can continue to improve the care and services we provide. The survey is confidential and takes approximately 5-15 minutes, depending on how much detail you wish to share.

Paper copies are available at the front desk and can be returned to Visitor Services or placed in the drop box at the front office.

To share your feedback electronically, please click the following link [InterRAI Family QOL Instrument - Bruce County | QOL PRO](#)

Your voice matters!

News From the Nursing Department

Gateway Haven was successful in becoming a Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) designated site. The BPSO designation is awarded to health service and academic organizations that implement and evaluate evidence-based practice guidelines to improve health outcomes. BPSO is a global recognition for Gateway Haven's commitment to evidence-based practice, high quality healthcare, and continuous improvement in resident care practices. As a BPSO, Gateway Haven hosted the RNAO Champions workshop in the month of October and will be hosting another Champions workshop in November. The Champion's training is designed to raise awareness about RNAO best practice guidelines (BPG), mobilize the team, and use change management processes and social movement approaches to influence uptake and sustainability of BPGs in our practice settings to benefit the community we serve.

We are equally excited to share that Gateway Haven created its first ever IV Team which consists of a group of nurses who are IV Champions that will support residents requiring IV Therapy or Venipuncture when needed. This embedded team is supported with routine refresher training on IV management and venipuncture. This supports our nurse's professional growth and skill development, maintenance of clinical competencies and contributes to enhanced resident care as our home continues to require more clinically complex services.

Family Council

Our Family Council continues to meet monthly in the library at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 26 and will be the last meeting of the year. The Council has decided not to meet in December due to the busy holiday season. Meetings will be reconvened in the new year.

All families are invited and encouraged to attend, either in person or virtually. Family Council meetings are a terrific opportunity to receive updates, share feedback, ask questions, and connect with other families who share a commitment to enhancing life in our home.

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 November on the following days:

- Monday, November 10th
- Tuesday, November 11th - Remembrance Day

Leadership Announcements

We are excited to announce that Lauren Maus will be joining our team as the Social Worker for Bruce County Long-Term Care Homes starting December 1st. Lauren brings a passion for supporting residents and their families, and we look forward to the expertise and care she will provide. Families are invited to stop by and welcome Lauren when she joins us next month!

Dental Clinic

Did you know Gateway Haven offers dental hygiene services on-site through a contracted provider? These services are designed to support the oral health of residents, ensuring they can access this service in a convenient setting.

An upcoming dental hygiene clinic is scheduled for November 18th. If you would like more information about the services offered or wish to add your loved one to the appointment list, please reach out to Visitor Services/Lesley extension 3102.

Community Events

As we head into cold and flu season, keeping ourselves healthy is important. A community COVID-19 and flu vaccination clinic will be held on Wednesday, November 19th at the Wiarton Arena from 12-6 p.m. This clinic is open to the public and we encourage families, friends, and community members to take this opportunity to protect themselves and others this winter season.

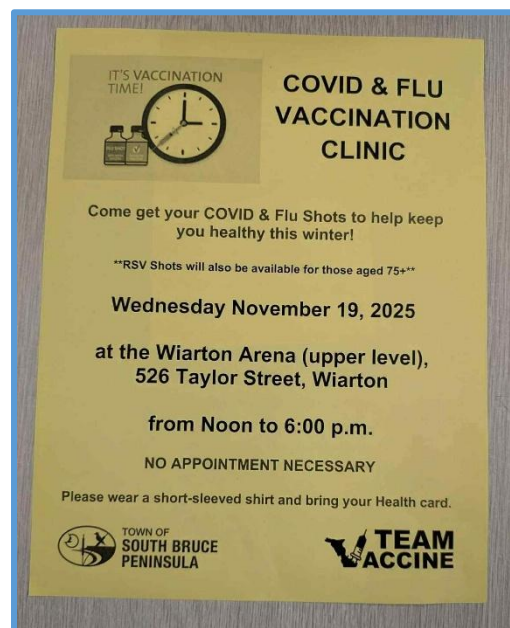
If you know of any upcoming community events that you would like to see featured in future newsletters, please reach out to our Recreation and Leisure Manager, Stacey Goldie - we would love to share them!

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 17th)
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

Lauren Maus (December 1st)
Social Worker
226-909-2308