Bruce County
Long Term Care & Senior Services

Gateway Haven News

Together we *make* a difference! November 2026

Autumn Adventures at Gateway

October was filled with opportunities for residents to stay active, be creative, and connected while enjoying the many sights, sounds, and traditions of the fall season. Whether participating in programs within the home or venturing out into the community, residents embraced all that the month had to offer.



Residents stayed busy with a variety of exercise programs, and fun games designed to promote movement and social connection. One activity that made a welcome return this month was bowling. Residents were eager to test their skills, celebrate strikes and spares, and cheer one another on from the sidelines. The friendly competition and encouragement shared among participants made for a fun experience!

Creativity was also on full display throughout the month. Residents enjoyed a variety of hands-on artistic and recreational programs, expressing themselves through crafts and seasonal projects. In addition, many residents took part in baking activities, helping prepare an assortment of fall favourites. The comforting aromas of pumpkin spice tarts and freshly baked cookies filled the home, creating opportunities to socialize, reminisce, and enjoy some delicious treats together.





The arrival of fall also brought opportunities to connect with nature. Residents enjoyed participating in horticulture activities, transplanting and caring for plants while helping prepare for the changing seasons. These programs provided a wonderful chance to get their hands dirty, spend time together, and continue nurturing their love of gardening.









One of our favourite annual traditions, the Fall Leaf Tour, was once again a great success. The bus was filled with residents eager to take in the vibrant fall colours and scenic countryside. The outing offered a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the season while sharing stories, laughter, and conversation along the way.

Music continued to be an important part of life at Gateway Haven this month, and we were delighted to welcome back several talented entertainers following their summer break. The variety of musical styles offered throughout the month ensured there was something for everyone to enjoy, and residents loved each performance. One particularly memorable performance featured the Joy Duo, whose unique blend of saxophone, clarinet, and piano created a warm and inviting atmosphere throughout the home. The beautiful sounds of these instruments gave their performance a timeless feel and were thoroughly enjoyed by residents and staff. We are pleased to share that they will return for a special holiday-themed performance later this month.



Of course, October would not be complete without Halloween festivities. Residents embraced the spirit of the season during our Witches and Warlocks Social, where costumes, themed refreshments, festive decorations, and plenty of laughter made for a memorable celebration. The beautifully decorated room provided the perfect setting for residents to let loose, share some fun, and enjoy the lighter side of the season. Handing out candy on Halloween was another highlight of the occasion!

As we say goodbye to October, we are already looking ahead to the holiday season. Many residents have already volunteered to lend a helping hand as we begin decorating the home, and we look forward to the joy, traditions, and special moments that the holidays bring.













Holiday Season Is Approaching



The holiday season is just around the corner, and before long we'll be decking the halls and transforming Gateway Haven into a festive and welcoming space for residents, families, staff, and visitors.

As we prepare for the season, we'd like to inform families that we have several holiday events that help make Christmas a meaningful and memorable time for residents who celebrate. In the coming weeks we will be sharing more information about these initiatives and ways families can help spread holiday cheer. Be sure to keep an eye on your inbox for important holiday communications kicking off later this month.

Families who are planning holiday visits or celebrations are encouraged to book gathering space early. The Library and Special Events Room are available for private family celebrations and tend to be in high demand during the holiday season. To reserve a space, please contact Reception Services at gatewayhavenreception@brucecounty.on.ca as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.

Please note that while families are always welcome to visit together in the Café, this space remains a shared community area for all residents and visitors and is not available for private group bookings. Families planning larger gatherings are encouraged to reserve one of our designated meeting spaces.

We look forward to celebrating the season together and creating many special holiday memories!

November Program Highlights

5: Music with Dave the Piano Man
9: Bruce County Museum Presentation
10: Music with Blue Sky Day
11: Remembrance Day Service
14: Step Dancers
16: Music with Bruce
17: Mexico Travelogue
19: Bus Trip – Walmart *Sign-Up Required
19: Resident's Council
23: Music with the Joy Duo
26: Music with Leavin Tracks
26: Social Hour

For a full list of monthly activities please visit our website at Gateway Haven. Monthly calendars can be accessed on the first Monday 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.

Balcony Accessibility Project Update

Earlier this year, we shared plans to enhance balcony accessibility through the installation of automatic door operators and a new, wider custom balcony door designed to improve access for residents using wheelchairs.

While we had hoped to complete this project in early fall, the custom door has taken longer than anticipated to manufacture. As cooler weather approaches, we have made the decision to postpone the installation until spring 2027.

Completing this work requires the balcony doorway to remain open for periods of time during the installation process. Moving the project to the warmer months will help minimize disruption and ensure a more comfortable environment for residents while the work is underway.
We remain excited about this important accessibility improvement and look forward to sharing updates as the project moves ahead in the spring!

Visitor Awareness & Resident Safety

We would like to share a friendly reminder about the important role visitors play in supporting the safety and well-being of all residents.
Many residents enjoy spending time throughout the home and may access common areas, elevators, and entranceways. For this reason, we ask all visitors to remain mindful when entering and exiting the building.



To help maintain a safe environment, please:

- Ensure that only members of your visiting party leave with you.
- Be mindful of residents who may be near entrance or exit doors.
- Avoid allowing residents to follow you into elevators or through exit doors unless they are accompanied by a staff member.
- If you are unsure whether someone is a resident or visitor, please check with a member of our team before exiting.

As temperatures begin to drop, the risks associated with an unattended resident leaving the building increase. A moment of awareness when entering or exiting the home can make a meaningful difference in helping to keep residents safe!

Understanding Changes to Ontario's Immunization Records System

You may have seen notices posted throughout the home regarding changes to how immunization records are managed in Ontario.
Panorama is Ontario's secure provincial immunization system that stores vaccination records. A new tool called Panorama Guided Workflow allows health care providers to view an individual's immunization history in one place when providing care. Information shared with residents and long-term care homes explains that the Ministry of Health is now an additional health information custodian for immunization records stored within Panorama. This change also includes the integration of COVID-19 vaccination records into the system.



Having immunization records available in one secure location can help health care providers access a more complete vaccination history, supporting informed care decisions and helping to prevent missed or duplicate immunizations.
Residents continue to have choices regarding their personal health information. Individuals who do not wish health care providers to access their immunization history through Panorama Guided Workflow may withdraw their consent by contacting their local public health unit. Choosing to withdraw consent will not impact access to health care services or immunizations.

Upcoming Family Palliative Care Education Session



Join us on Thursday, November 12 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Gateway Haven Auditorium for an informative and compassionate education session led by two external palliative care experts.

Whether your loved one is currently receiving palliative care or you simply wish to better understand what support and planning can look like in the future, this session offers valuable information about comfort, quality of life, advance care planning, and the resources available to residents and families. There will also be opportunities to ask questions and participate in discussion.

Complimentary refreshments will be provided. We encourage all family members and caregivers to join us for this meaningful learning opportunity. Please RSVP to Visitor Support Services gatewayhavenreception@brucecounty.on.ca if you can join us.

Remembrance Day Service

On November 11, Gateway Haven will hold a Remembrance Day Service at 2:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. We are pleased to welcome representatives from the local Legion who will help support this time of reflection and remembrance.



Residents, families, staff, and visitors are also invited to support the annual Poppy Campaign. Poppies are available at the Front Reception/Visitor Reception Desk, and donations of any amount are appreciated. Proceeds help support veterans and their families through programs offered by the Royal Canadian Legion.

As we remember those who have served and sacrificed, we also extend our gratitude to the members of the Canadian Armed Forces who continue to serve our country today.

Lest We Forget.

Enhancing the Home Inside and Out

Last month, we shared several enhancements taking place inside Gateway Haven, including new high-low dining room tables, furniture updates, and other improvements designed to enhance comfort.

Last week, our focus shifted outside as masonry repairs were completed on portions of the building's exterior. The work involved repairing mortar cracks and restoring areas of brickwork on the front and courtyard sides of the home. These repairs help protect the building from weather-related wear and are an important part of preserving Gateway Haven for years to come. The project was completed with minimal impact to residents, aside from some minimal outdoor noise and dust.

Looking ahead, residents can expect to see additional improvements inside the home. With the recent addition of staff to the Maintenance Department, plans are underway to begin a fall painting program. This work will include repairing walls and refreshing paint in resident common areas throughout each neighbourhood, while also eventually addressing resident rooms that would benefit from painting and cosmetic touch-ups. These updates will help create a brighter, refreshed environment and support our ongoing commitment to maintaining a comfortable and welcoming home for residents.

Winterizing Outdoor Spaces



As the colder season approaches, we begin the process of winterizing our outdoor spaces. Patio furniture and outdoor furnishings will be safely stored for the winter months to protect them from the elements, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to enjoy these spaces in the spring!
Residents who enjoy spending time outdoors will still have access to the covered front entrance area, which is maintained throughout the winter and provides an opportunity to enjoy fresh air and sunshine when weather conditions are favorable.
Our balcony spaces may also continue to be enjoyed when weather and site conditions permit. While these areas offer some protection from the elements, access may be limited during periods of snow and winter weather to ensure resident safety.
We thank everyone for their understanding as we prepare for the season ahead.

Annual Family Satisfaction Survey



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Annual Family Satisfaction Survey. Following our recent survey extension, we received an additional fifteen responses, nearly doubling our participation and providing valuable feedback to help guide future planning.
We will also be making a final push to complete the Resident Satisfaction Survey in the coming weeks. Once both surveys have concluded, we will tabulate and review the results to identify key themes, strengths, and opportunities for improvement. The survey findings will be shared with residents and families in the New Year.
Thank you for taking the time to share your experiences and perspectives. Your feedback plays an important role in helping us enhance life at Gateway Haven.

Investing in Learning and Excellence in Care

Recently, long-term care team members from both Brucelea Haven and Gateway Haven came together for staff education and training, reflecting the County's ongoing commitment to learning, collaboration, and professional growth.
Staff from all departments participated in engaging sessions on topics including the relational approach to care, building team culture, and skill building sessions. The training also included fun team-building activities that encouraged teamwork while providing staff with an opportunity to build relationships with colleagues from across both homes.



One of the most meaningful moments of the day was a special presentation featuring video messages and words of appreciation from family members and residents. Hearing firsthand stories and expressions of gratitude was incredibly moving and served as a powerful reminder of the impact our teams have on the lives of residents and their loved ones.
To the families who participated, thank you. Your kind words lit up the room and left a lasting impression on everyone in attendance!

RNAO Spotlight



As a Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO), Gateway Haven remains committed to advancing evidence-based practices that support high-quality resident care and positive outcomes. Through our ongoing partnership with RNAO and implementation of the Nursing Advantage Clinical Pathways, we continue to strengthen clinical excellence and comply with our legislative and regulatory requirements under the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021.

Preparation for the implementation of the Pain Management and Palliative and End-of-Life Care Clinical Pathways is well underway. Staff education and training activities are in full swing, with nursing team members actively participating in learning sessions and using the RNAO training platform to practice new assessments in a simulated environment. This valuable opportunity allows staff to build confidence and competency with the assessment tools before implementation in the live clinical database, helping to support a smooth and successful transition to these new best practices.

We are also excited to share that two of our nurses will be attending the RNAO Clinical Pathways Symposium in Toronto this November. The symposium theme, *Pathways to Clinical Excellence: Advancing Quality, Outcomes and Resident-Centred Care*, aligns closely with Gateway Haven's commitment to evidence-informed practice and continuous quality improvement. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from leading experts, share experiences with other organizations, and bring back valuable knowledge to support pathway implementation and ongoing practice improvements within our home.

As we continue this journey as a BPSO with the RNAO, we are encouraged by the engagement, enthusiasm, and dedication demonstrated by our team members. Their commitment to learning and embracing best practices will help ensure residents receive timely, person-centred, and evidence-informed care. We look forward to continuing to build momentum as we advance through the RNAO Clinical Pathways and strengthen outcomes for residents, families, and our community.

Dietary Updates

There are exciting things happening in Dietary Services at Gateway Haven this fall.

Beginning November 21, Gateway Haven will be implementing the International Dysphagia Diet Standardization Initiative (IDDSI), an internationally recognized framework used to support individuals who require texture-modified foods or thickened beverages due to swallowing difficulties. For residents affected by dysphagia, IDDSI helps ensure foods and drinks are prepared safely and consistently, reducing the risk of choking and aspiration while supporting a positive dining experience.

While this change will primarily affect dietary processes behind the scenes, residents and families can feel confident knowing that our team is adopting best practices that promote safety, quality, and consistent care. Staff training and education are underway to support a smooth transition.



You may also notice our new digital menu boards throughout the home. These displays provide easy-to-read daily menu information, featured items, and dining updates, helping residents, families, staff, and visitors stay informed about what's being served and enhance the overall dining experience.
Our dietary team continues to take great pride in creating meals and treats that bring comfort, enjoyment, and a touch of creativity to each day. This month, our cooks embraced the Halloween spirit by decorating festive cupcakes for residents. The creative desserts were a welcome challenge for the team and brought plenty of smiles to residents throughout the home. We are grateful for the care, talent, and dedication our dietary staff bring to every meal they prepare.

Join Us for the Caregiver Support Group

When: November 2
Time: 3-4PM
Gateway Haven Library

A reminder that the Caregiver Support Group will be hosted in the Gateway Haven Library at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2nd.
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.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting

The second Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting of 2026 is scheduled for Thursday, November 26th from 11:00am-12:30pm. The meeting will be held in the main floor library and will be available for attendance both in person and virtually. Further details, including a link to join the meeting virtually, will be shared with families via email.

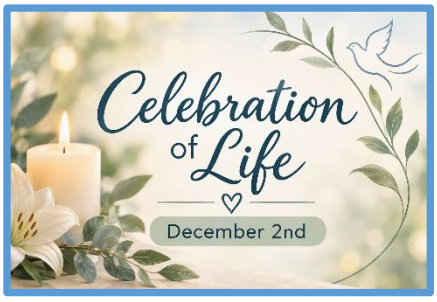
Visitor Reception Services Updates

Please note that Visitor Reception Services will be closed Wednesday, November 11th for Remembrance Day. Regular business hours will resume on Thursday, November 12th.
Thank you for your understanding.



Celebration of Life Service

At Gateway Haven, we believe it is important to remember and honour the residents who have been part of our home and community. Our next Celebration of Life Service will be held on Wednesday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium. Family members, friends, residents, volunteers, and staff are warmly invited to attend.



November Family Council Meeting

Join us for our next Family Council meeting on Monday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gateway Library. Virtual participation will also be available for those unable to attend in person, making it easy to stay connected and take part in the conversation.

This month, we are pleased to welcome Dietary Manager Ash Thapa, who will provide an overview of the Meal Suite paperless kitchen program and its benefits. Families will have an opportunity to learn more about the program and ask questions during a question-and-answer session.
We will also share a variety of updates about initiatives and changes taking place around the home. Family Council offers a welcoming opportunity to hear what is happening at Gateway Haven, share ideas, and contribute to conversations that support the resident experience.
All family members are welcome, whether you have attended before or are joining us for the first time. For more information about Family Council or how to participate virtually, please contact Stacey Goldie at sgoldie@brucecounty.on.ca. We look forward to welcoming familiar and new faces!

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 November Clinic



Taylor from the Tooth Studio is scheduled to return to Gateway Haven on November 16 for the next clinic.
Taylor will continue to offer monthly clinics, provided there are enough appointments booked. If there is insufficient interest to proceed with a clinic, bookings will be moved to the following month. Monthly dates are therefore subject to demand rather than guaranteed visits.
If you would like your loved one to be seen at an 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.

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