

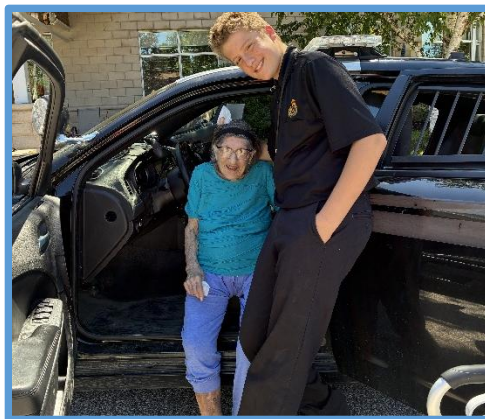
Gateway Haven News

Together we *make* a difference!

September 2026

A Look Back at Some Highlights

Before we dive into August highlights, we'd like to share a few photos from the Touch a Truck event held at the end of July. While we briefly mentioned the event in last month's newsletter, the timing didn't allow us to include photos. Residents thoroughly enjoyed meeting members of our local Paramedic Service, Fire Department, and OPP Detachment, exploring the vehicles, and even riding shotgun in a police cruiser. The smiles say it all!

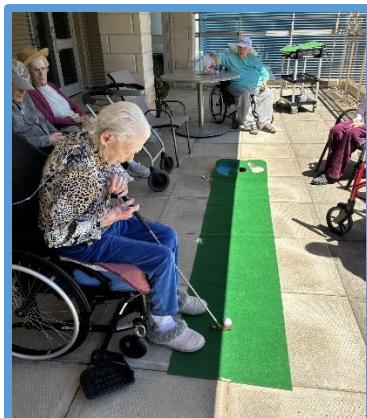
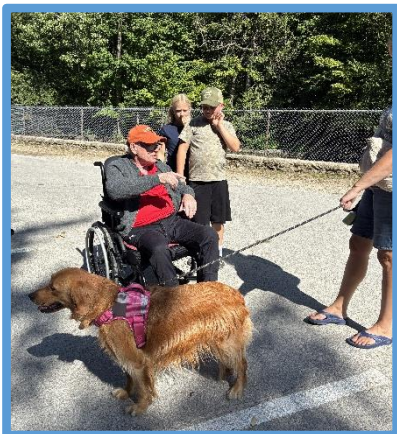


Summer fun continued throughout August and gave residents lots to smile about!

Several residents enjoyed a scenic bus trip to Harrison Park in Owen Sound, where family members met us there for a lovely afternoon outdoors with their loved one.

The beautiful August weather allowed us to spend plenty of time outside, enjoying games, fresh air, and a few silly moments along the way.

Residents have also been taking advantage of the new large-screen TVs throughout the home, enjoying interactive trivia games, videos, and other engaging activities that have quickly become a popular addition to our recreation programming.



Music continued to be a favourite activity, with weekly performances drawing enthusiastic crowds. It's always a joy to see residents tapping their toes, singing along, and enjoying familiar tunes together. To support resident preferences, we continue to bring in new entertainers, adding greater variety and enjoyment each month. As always, our visits with the daycare children remain a cherished part of life at Gateway Haven. We are fortunate to have such wonderful young neighbours nearby, and Friday visits continue to be something residents eagerly anticipate each week. There is something truly special about the smiles, laughter, and connections that are shared when generations come together.

Looking ahead, residents are already getting into the Wiaraton Fall Fair spirit. Once again, they will be entering a variety of creations at this year's fair, and we hope to showcase many of these items in the main lobby before they are submitted. Be sure to stop by and admire the creativity, skill, and care that residents have put into their entries. The display will remain available for viewing until the morning of September 18, when the items will head off to the fair. Best of luck to all of our participants!

Resident's Laugh of the Month

One of the highlights of our Resident Council meetings is starting things off with a few jokes. Here are a few of last month's favourites:

Why do golfers wear two pairs of pants? *Because they might get a hole in one!*

How do lumberjacks know how many trees they've cut down? *They keep a log!*

Why did the pony ask for a glass of water? *Because it was a little horse!*

A good laugh is a wonderful way to begin a meeting, and these lighthearted jokes certainly brought plenty of smiles, chuckles, and a few playful eye rolls this month. Have a good groaner to share? Email sgolide@brucecounty.on.ca and we may feature it at an upcoming Residents' Council meeting.

Little Moments Have Big Impact

At Gateway Haven, not all the fun happens on the calendar. Just like in our own homes, life has a way of creating unexpected moments that bring people together.

This month, one of our most talked-about visitors has been a mystery cricket who has apparently taken up residence somewhere inside our large elevator. For weeks, residents, staff, and visitors have enjoyed his daily serenades (which seem to be getting louder by the day) while trying to solve the mystery of exactly where he's hiding. Despite many attempts to locate our tiny musician, he remains remarkably elusive. His cheerful chirping has sparked plenty of smiles, laughter, and conversations throughout the home. So far, the cricket is winning.

We were also reminded of how meaningful shared memories can be following the recent passing of country star Dolly Parton. Residents and staff found themselves reflecting on the music, stories, and memories associated with the beloved icon. What began as conversations and reminiscing soon led to favourite songs being played, stories being shared, and residents and staff singing along together.

These moments remind us that while we enjoy planned programs and events, some of the best memories happen unexpectedly. Whether it's a mystery cricket in the elevator or an impromptu Dolly Parton singalong, it's often the little things that bring people together. Many of these moments are made possible by staff who take the time to connect, listen, and create meaningful experiences. They're the everyday difference makers who help make Gateway Haven feel like home.



LTC Community Engagement Day - Join Us for an Open House

On September 18, Gateway Haven will join other long-term care homes across Ontario in celebrating Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day, an initiative that opens our doors to the community and helps tell a more complete story about life in long-term care. The day highlights the meaningful relationships, innovative programs, community partnerships, and everyday moments that make Gateway a place where life continues to happen.

To mark the occasion, Gateway Haven will welcome visitors to enjoy tours of the home, live music, displays showcasing resident life and programs, and light refreshments. We invite families, friends, community members, and local partners to stop by, connect with residents and staff, and see firsthand how we strive to create a place that truly feels like home. We hope you can join us.



Reminders for Families & Friends:

Our upcoming Staff Development Day will include a special appreciation video celebrating the dedication and compassion of our team. We are still accepting short video messages from residents, families, and friends. If you would like to participate, please record a brief message (30-60 seconds) sharing a thank you, positive memory, or words of encouragement. Videos can be submitted through the provided upload link by September 4th [Upload Your Video](#)



If your loved one moved to Gateway Haven within the past year, there's still time to complete our Move-In Experience Survey. The survey takes about five minutes and will help us continue improving the experience of new residents and families. Responses are requested by September 4. Survey Link: [Move-In Experience Survey - Gateway Haven - Fill out form](#)

Don't forget that JBS Clothing will be returning to Gateway Haven on September 23rd for their final clearance sale as they prepare to close their business. Residents and families can browse a variety of clothing items at significant markdowns. The boutique will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lastly, a reminder that the main courtyard will be closed on September 8 to accommodate a Bruce County Staff Appreciation Event. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding. Residents and visitors are welcome to enjoy the many other outdoor spaces during this time, including the front entrance, patios and balconies.

September Program Highlights

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1: Bruce County Museum Presentation | 22: Music With Cathy |
| 3: Music with Dave the Piano Man | 23: JBS Clearance Clothing Sale |
| 9: Four Paws Dog Shown (Rain date: 10 th) | 24: Social Hour |
| 10: Leavin Tracks | 25: Dietary/Food Committee Meeting |
| 14: Classy Sax Lady Entertainment | 30: Fall Fest * Please RSVP |
| 14: Residents' Council | |
| 17: Bus Trip - Orchard | |
| 18: LTC Engagement Day Event | |
| 21: Music with Bruce | |

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.

Family & Friend Fall Gathering

While Long-Term Care Community Engagement Day will take place on September 18, we will hold our Family Fall Gathering separately on September 30. This allows us to give each event its own focus while creating meaningful opportunities for both community connection and family celebration.

This year, we'll be celebrating in our refreshed courtyard, a welcoming space that residents have been enjoying and are excited to share with their loved ones. As Thanksgiving approaches, it feels like the perfect time to gather, reconnect, and enjoy the fall season together.



Guests can look forward to music by Midnight Blue, dancing, refreshments, and some fun photo opportunities.

We're planning for a rain-or-shine celebration. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll simply move the festivities indoors and continue the fun. While space may be a little more limited than our courtyard setting, we're sure to have a great time together regardless.

An official invitation with event details and RSVP information will be sent to our family contacts and will be arriving shortly. In the meantime, be sure to save the date. We look forward to celebrating the season together!

Unable to attend? As we head into the Thanksgiving season, we want to remind families that there are many welcoming spaces throughout the home to enjoy time together with loved ones. In addition to our café, front patio, balconies, and courtyard, the Special Events Room and Library may be reserved for private family gatherings. Whether you're joining us for the Fall Gathering or planning a visit at another time, we encourage you to make the most of these spaces and create meaningful moments together. If you'd like to reserve the Special Events Room or Library, please reach out to Lesley at Visitor Reception Services at GatewayHavenReception@brucecounty.on.ca

Four Paws Entertainment Coming to Gateway Haven!

We are excited to introduce a new resident-requested program this month with Four Paws Entertainment. Residents have shared how much they enjoy spending time with animals, and we are pleased to bring this special experience to Gateway Haven.

On September 9, residents will enjoy an outdoor presentation in our courtyard featuring talented dogs demonstrating tricks, agility activities, and interactive entertainment. A rain date has been scheduled for September 10. The program will be visible from the courtyard and from the balconies above, allowing more residents to enjoy the experience. If you are visiting this day, you are welcome to take in the show!



Around the Home Updates

Last month, we shared news about the installation of our new SensoryScapes and ArtScapes murals, designed to spark memories, encourage conversation, and create a more engaging environment for residents. We are delighted to report that the early response has been everything we hoped for and more. The murals have quickly become a topic of conversation throughout the home, with residents sharing memories and stories inspired by the familiar scenes. In particular, the large mural outside the elevator has attracted a great deal of attention and has already earned the title of the home's "showstopper" among residents.

While most of the installation has been completed, a small portion of the project remains unfinished. The artists will be returning on September 8 to complete the remaining work, and we look forward to sharing the finished project with everyone soon.



For those wondering about the daily activity boards, installation is expected on September 11 following completion of the mural project. See the photo for a preview of the finished look. Until then, printed daily schedules are posted and individual resident calendars remain available. If you haven't seen the murals yet, be sure to take a look during your next visit. They are already proving to be a wonderful addition to our home.

Annual Family Satisfaction Survey

Next week, we will be officially launching our annual Family Satisfaction Survey, and we'd love to hear from you! Consider this your early invitation to participate. Whether you're a family member, friend, or regular visitor, your feedback helps us celebrate what's working well and identify opportunities to improve. The survey takes just 5 to 15 minutes depending on the level of detail you wish to provide. The survey covers topics such as quality of life, care and services, communication, and your overall experience with the home.

A formal survey invitation will be emailed to our family contact list, but you're welcome to get started right away using the link below. Paper copies are also available at Visitor Services upon request.

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

Thank you for helping us make Gateway Haven the best it can be!



A Friendly Reminder About Visiting Pets

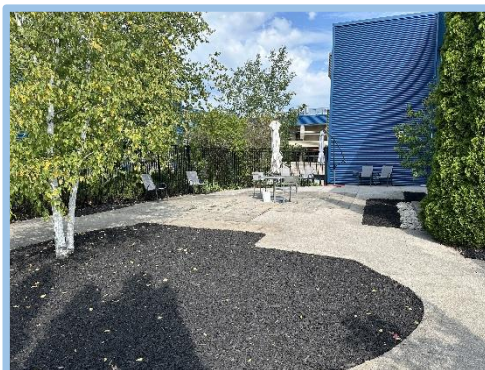
It's been wonderful to see residents, families, visitors, and their furry companions enjoying our beautiful new courtyard this summer. Pets can provide comfort, companionship, and meaningful moments of connection, and we are happy to continue being a pet-friendly home.

As a friendly reminder, all pets must always remain on a leash while on Gateway Haven property, including inside the home, during visits in resident rooms, and throughout the courtyard and common areas. This expectation applies even during quieter visits or when spaces appear empty. Keeping pets leashed helps ensure our shared spaces remain comfortable and safe for everyone. While many residents, visitors, and team members enjoy animals, others may feel uncertain or uncomfortable around them.

Thank you for helping us maintain a welcoming environment for all while continuing to support the positive role pets can bring to life at Gateway.

2 East Patio Enhancement

Last month, we shared that improvements were planned for the 2 East back patio area, and we're pleased to report that much of that work has now been completed. As you'll see from the before-and-after photos, the space has already undergone a significant transformation with the clear out of overgrown plants and the addition of fresh mulch and river rock along with updated seating.



Future enhancements will include concrete touch ups, low-maintenance plants and ornamental grasses, along with added colour and sensory features to help create a welcoming and calming environment that is dementia friendly.

Families are encouraged to enjoy the space with their loved ones as we continue adding the finishing touches. While some elements may extend into spring, we're excited to see this area gradually evolve into a beautiful and meaningful outdoor retreat for residents.

RNAO Spotlight



At Gateway Haven, we are always looking for ways to strengthen the care and support we provide for residents and families. As a Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO), we continue to implement evidence-based practices that help ensure residents receive high-quality, person-centred care.

Since May, we have introduced several new assessment tools and processes that support residents during admission, help identify potential risks, and strengthen our focus on resident and family-

centred care. These best practices help us provide consistent, individualized care while supporting positive outcomes for residents.

Over the coming months, our team will continue preparing for the next phase of this work, with a focus on Pain Management and Palliative and End-of-Life Care. Staff will participate in education and training opportunities to support the successful implementation of these important best practices and further enhance the care experience for residents and families.

We are also excited to share that several Gateway Haven team members will be attending RNAO Champions Training next month. This training will help build leadership skills and support staff in sharing best practices with their colleagues. Their knowledge, enthusiasm, and commitment to excellence will help drive meaningful improvements throughout our home.

We are proud of the dedication our team continues to show as we learn, grow, and embrace new best practices. Together, we are building on the great work already happening every day at Gateway Haven and ensuring residents receive the highest quality care possible.

Join Us for the Caregiver Support Group

Please note that we are making a change to the monthly Caregiver Support Group schedule.

Beginning in October, the group will meet on the first Monday of each month from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Gateway Haven Library.

As we transition to the new schedule, there will be no Caregiver Support Group meeting in September. Our next gathering will take place on Monday, October 5.

We offer 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 the Social Worker, Lauren, at

lkieswetter@brucecounty.on.ca or by emailing Reception services at GatewayHavenReception@brucecounty.on.ca

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

Dietary Updates

Our summer BBQ program continued through August and remained a resident favourite! While the weather kept us guessing at times, we were pleased to have one beautiful day that allowed a group of residents to enjoy their meal outdoors in the courtyard.



As we wind the program down this week, we're hopeful the weather will cooperate. It's been a wonderful summer initiative, and we're already looking forward to bringing it back again next year.

We're also excited to share an update on our MealSuite project. Installation of the new dining and kitchen screens is underway, with additional equipment continuing to be added over the coming weeks. This new system will help support meal choices, dietary needs, and communication between the dining room and kitchen teams, creating a smoother dining experience for residents. The project is progressing well, and once all the boards are installed, we intend to roll out the Fall/Winter menu. Residents and families with questions or who would like to learn more are welcome to connect with Ash Thapa, Food Services Manager at AThapa@brucecounty.on.ca

Infection Prevention & Control

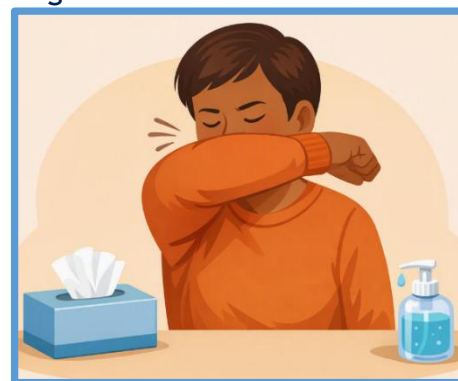
As we enter the 2026-27 influenza season, we would like to remind families and visitors of the importance of helping us keep our residents safe and healthy. The 2026-27 influenza vaccine is expected to be available in October, pending delivery from Public Health.

Consent requests for vaccination will be emailed to POAs in the coming weeks. Paper copies of the consent form will also be available at Reception.

We encourage everyone to practice good respiratory etiquette during flu season:

- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Dispose of used tissues promptly and perform hand hygiene afterward.
- Clean your hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- If you are feeling unwell, experiencing respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, or have a fever, please postpone your visit until you are feeling better.

Thank you for helping us protect the health and well-being of our residents, staff, and visitors throughout the influenza season. As always, you can reach out to Callie our Infection Prevention & Control Lead, if you have any questions!



Municipal Election 2026

Gateway Haven is working with the Municipality's Director of Legislative Services/Clerk to explore the voting process for the upcoming municipal election and support residents in exercising their right to vote.

Further information will be shared with residents and families as details become available.

Visitor Reception Services Updates

Please note that Visitor Reception Services will be closed on Monday, September 7th for Labour Day. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, September 8th. Thank you for your understanding, and we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable long weekend!

Family Council Returns!

Family Council

RETURNS THIS SEPTEMBER!

After a summer break, **Family Council** is back! Family Council provides an opportunity for family members and friends to connect, share ideas, ask questions, and contribute to ongoing discussions about **life at Gateway Haven**.



NEXT MEETING:
Monday, September 28

 **6:30 PM**

 **In the Library**

All family members are welcome to attend!



Connect
with others



Share ideas
and ask questions



Help shape the
experience for
residents



For more information, please contact
sgoldie@brucecounty.on.ca



We look forward to seeing you there!



Community Events

Looking for a fun fall outing? The Wiarton & District Agricultural Society Fall Fair returns September 18-19 with this year's theme, "Country Charm on the Farm."

Enjoy a variety of activities including exhibits, entertainment, children's games, sheep shearing, heavy horses, market vendors, music in the park, and much more. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season and enjoy a traditional fall fair with family and friends. Events are being held at the local arena and Bluewater Park. For more information, visit the Wiarton & District Agricultural Society Facebook.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On Wednesday, September 30, we invite residents, families, and staff to wear an orange shirt in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. By wearing orange, we honour Survivors, remember the children affected by residential schools, and participate in a meaningful act of reconciliation. Every Child Matters.

Dental Care - Upcoming September Clinic

Taylor from the Tooth Studio is returning for another dental clinic on Monday, September 28th. 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

TBeniuk@brucecounty.on.ca

Tashynna Nault

Clinical Care Coordinator- 2nd Floor

Ext.3543

tnault@brucecounty.on.ca

Stacey Goldie

Recreation & Leisure Manager

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