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To: Kelly Lush
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REGIONAL TOURISM
ORGANIZATION 7

JANUARY 30, 2023

News, Events & Updates

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What's Going On...at RTO7

- **Introducing FREE 2SLGBTQ+ Training for BruceGreySimcoe Tourism Stakeholders**

RTO7 is pleased to announce a new partnership with Canada's LGBT+ Chamber of Commerce (CGLCC) to offer a FREE training course, "An Introduction to LBGT+ Diversity and Inclusion". In addition, RTO7 has partnered once again with STEM Consulting to present two more webinars on Diversity and Inclusion Training: 2SLGBTQ+ Identities. For more information on the training offered and to register, visit RTO7.ca. Information and links to the upcoming webinars can also be found listed in the Events below.

- **Typsy Training**

If one of your New Year's resolutions was to bump up your professional development skills, Typsy online training makes it easy. This program is FREE for all tourism stakeholders in BruceGreySimcoe – business owners, managers, and staff (full-time, part-time, and seasonal). Choose from thousands of online courses, offered in bite-sized segments and with certification upon completion. The courses are offered 24-7 and can be done on your phone, too. Learn more about Typsy and how to register on RTO7.ca.

Useful Tip: Don't be thrown off by the word "hospitality" – these courses are relevant and useful to everyone working in the tourism industry.

- **T3 Accelerator Request for Quote (RFQ)**

Technology Consulting Services for Tourism Small Businesses

Regional Tourism 7 (RTO7) in partnership with Community Futures South Georgian Bay seeks the services of a qualified technology consultant/organization to provide professional services to support tourism small businesses with their digitalization journey. Visit the [RFPs/RFQs page on RTO7.ca](#) for complete details. Deadline to submit is February 3, 2023.

Funding, Professional Development & Business Support

Consider Georgian College Students for 2023 Summer Staff

Georgian College in Barrie is a leader in hospitality, tourism, culinary and recreation training, and education. Students in these programs are enthusiastic and full of the latest knowledge in their field and can fill in for special projects, maternity/parental leave, vacation coverage and other short-term staffing needs. They are available from the end of April until Labour Day weekend 2023. For each student hired, employers may be eligible to receive a tax credit for up to \$3000. Find more information on the co-operative education tax credit [here](#).

Jobs may be posted at any time. To do so follow these steps:

- First, if you don't have an account, you'll need to register. Visit this [page](#) and click on EMPLOYERS in the top menu. Select "Employers Registration" and complete the required information, including your email address (required). Once your account is approved, you'll receive an email and can then post a job opportunity.
- To post a job opportunity, visit this [page](#) and choose "Login" under "Employers". Select either Co-op/Internship or Career, depending on the

type of recruitment you're interested in. Upload the posting and complete the required fields. Once the posting is approved and live, you'll receive an email.

For additional inquiries, please contact Richard Birch at Georgian College directly at richard.birch@georgiancollege.ca.

TIAC Tourism Town Hall

The 2023 Tourism Town Hall is an industry-wide event delivered by TIAC to reach all tourism Industry stakeholders across Canada. The series will be delivered in person and online in every province and territory and provides an opportunity to meet with TIAC and its partners to better understand efforts on national and local tourism issues and provide a forum for open dialogue, discussion, and constructive debate. For more details and to register for the Ontario Tourism Town Hall taking place on February 1, 2023, visit the [TIAC website](#).

Digital Transformation Grant Program – Applications Now Open

The application portal for the Digital Main Street Digital Transformation Grant program is now open! The Digital Transformation Grant (DTG) program is designed to assist small businesses with adoption of technologies. The program will provide training, advisory support and grants to brick-and-mortar small businesses looking to increase their capacity through digital transformation. The grant is administered by the Ontario BIA Association (OBIAA), and is not administered by Digital Main Street. Eligible brick-and-mortar small businesses can apply by creating an account and completing the digital assessment. The portal will be accepting applications until September 30th, 2023. To apply, please see [here](#).

Third Edition of Skode Program Launches

Indigenous Tourism Ontario (ITO) and the Tourism Innovation Lab (TIL) have launched the third edition of the Skode Program, an initiative to spark new Indigenous tourism ideas and experiences that authentically represent, celebrate, and promote Indigenous culture, heritage, language, cuisine, and communities in Ontario.

This year's special edition Skode program will reward a \$5,000 non-repayable financial contribution and 3-month mentorship to three winners from Northern Ontario and three winners from Southern Ontario. All six winners will then be invited to compete in a province-wide pitch session before a judge panel of Indigenous tourism leaders, entrepreneurs, and partner representatives for a chance to win the \$20,000 grand prize. Applications are being accepted until Monday, February 13, 2023 on the [Tourism Innovation website](#). Read the [Press Release](#).

Rural Economic Development (RED) Program Launches

Ontario's Rural Economic Development (RED) program provides cost-share funding to support activities that create strong rural communities in Ontario, and opens doors to rural economic development through two streams of funding:

- Economic Diversification and Competitiveness Stream
- Strategic Economic Infrastructure Stream

The current intake closes on February 23, 2023, at 5 pm (ET). For program details, visit the [RED program web page](#). For further information and questions, email ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca.

Job Fairs

- **Grey County Regional Job Fairs**

Four events are being held in various locations in Grey County and registration for employers is now open. Employers must be located in Grey County, hiring 3 or more people (contact YMCA representative heather.rourke@osgb.ymca.ca if less) and registration is limited to ONE location per employer. Space is limited and is provided on a first come, first served basis. For more information about the fairs and to register, visit [Made in Grey](#).

Job fair dates & locations:

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- February 22, 1 to 6 pm, Grey Highlands Secondary School, Flesherton
 - February 28, 1 to 6 pm, John Diefenbaker Senior School, Hanover
 - March 1, 1 to 6 pm, Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, Owen Sound
 - March 2, 1 to 6 pm, Georgian Bay Community School, Meaford
- **Work in Simcoe County Virtual Job Fair**
February 28, 2023, 10 am to 2 pm, online. Register to set up an online booth by visiting the job fair's [web page](#).
 - **Kincardine Job Fair & Career Expo**
March 2, 2023, 3 to 7 pm, Kincardine Davidson Centre, hosted by the Municipality of Kincardine. Reserve your booth and find more information by visiting the municipality's [website](#).
 - **Warton Job Fair**
March 2, 2023, 4 to 7 pm, Warton and District Arena Community Centre, hosted by the Warton District Chamber of Commerce. To register your business or learn more, contact Laura Lisk, info@wartonchamber.ca / 519-534-4545 or Koreen Ryan, ramsportnorth@bmts.com / 519-534-0000.

Events

Visit our [Facebook page](#), [@RTO7Connection](#), for other industry events taking place around the region and virtually. Also regularly check our tourism industry events calendar on [RTO7.ca](#) for updates.

- **February 1, 2023, Diversity & Inclusion Training: 2SLGBTQ+ Identities, 7 to 8:15 pm**
In partnership with RTO7, this FREE webinar is presented by Rachel Glover of STEM Consulting. The 75-minute session explores gender identities and sexual orientations, and outlines the variety of ways people can identify. To learn more about the webinar and to register, visit the [event listing on](#)

RTO7.ca. To submit your questions and ideas about the webinar ahead of time, complete the **three-question survey**.

- **February 14, 2023, Diversity & Inclusion Training: 2SLGBTQ+ Identities, 10:30 to 11:45 am**

Note that this webinar features the same content as the one on February 1, 2023.

In partnership with RTO7, this FREE webinar is presented by Rachel Glover of STEM Consulting. The 75-minute session explores gender identities and sexual orientations, and outlines the variety of ways people can identify. To learn more about the webinar and to register, visit the **event listing on RTO7.ca**. To submit your questions and ideas about the webinar ahead of time, complete the **three-question survey**.

- **March 2, 2023, Destination Bike: Rolling On Cycle Tourism Conference**

This is Ontario By Bike's 5th conference and is being held in Toronto at the Centennial College Event Centre. Learn from and join the conversations and discussions with keynote presentations and concurrent sessions from Canadian and international speakers that will feature the latest trends and opportunities relating to one of the fastest growing tourism sectors in Canada, and worldwide: cycle tourism.

Learn more and register on the **website**.

- **March 6 to 8, 2023, FEO 2023 Conference, "Celebrate"**

Registration is now open for Festival & Events Ontario's annual conference, taking place in Niagara Falls.

Learn more, book your hotel room and register on the **FEO website**.

Casting Call for Rural Businesses from HGTV Canada

HGTV Canada has put out a casting call for a brand new series. The series features Bryan Baeumler (host of renovation series, *Island of Bryan* and *Leave it to Bryan*) as he travels to rural areas to assist business owners who recently made a major lifestyle change to start up a unique business in a rural or remote location. If

you're a business owner who recently made this type of change in your life, need help with renovating, are energetic and outgoing, this might be the opportunity for you! If you're interested, visit the [HGTV Canada website](#).

In Case You Missed It

- Introducing FREE 2SLGBTQ+ Training for BruceGreySimcoe Tourism Stakeholders. Read the [RTO7 newsletter of January 12, 2023](#).
 - EmployerOneSurvey If you operator a business in Bruce or Grey counties, this short survey is for you! The local data collected is important to understand the landscape of the local labour market. The survey closes on January 31, 2023 and takes approximately 5 minutes to complete – all responses are anonymous. [Complete the survey here](#).
 - Grey County Regional Job Fairs. [Read the RTO7 newsletter of January 24, 2023](#).
 - T3 Request for Quote Posted on [RTO7.ca](#) Read the [RTO7 newsletter of January 20, 2023](#).
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Interesting / Must Reads

- [5 travel marketing trends for 2023, Frederic Gonzalo's Blog](#)
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News From Around the Region

Scandinave Spa Blue Mountain Wins Awards

Congratulations to Scandinave Spa Blue Mountain! It was recently announced that it achieved its highest placement on the annual Spas of America Top 100 Spas list.

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- #1 Spa in Canada in 2022
 - #1 Nordic Spa in North America in 2022
 - #2 Spa in North America in 2022

The spa and wellness travel website provides annual insight into consumers' favourite spas and wellness experiences across Canada, the US, and Mexico. If you haven't yet been to Scandinave, take a moment now to visit the spa's [website](#).

Business to Bruce Team Caters to County Businesses' Needs

The team at Bruce County is dedicated to helping business owners grow their start-up or long-running businesses. They specialize in local partnerships and building strong rural communities. Check out more about their services and book an appointment by visiting their [website](#).

Orillia & Lake Country is hosting a “Packages & Partnerships” Info Session

The event is taking place on February 16th, 1 to 3 pm, demonstrating the variety of ways you can establish partnerships and packages with other businesses. This in-person session features a presentation by RTO7's Kim Clarke, case studies from successful local partnerships, and opportunities to meet other tourism operators. Contact Kris Puhvel to register, executive@orillialakecountry.ca.

IN EVERY NEWSLETTER:

RTO7 Programs and Resources

RTO7 has other programs and resources to help your business recover from the effects of COVID-19, create video and image libraries and more! Click on the links below for more info:

- **Programs**
 - **Partnership Programs**
 - **BruceGreySimcoe Free Training** (click on the image below to learn more about Typsy)

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- **T3 Accelerator**
 - T3 Accelerator Podcast
 - **Tourism Biz Bites from the 7**
 - **Implementation Programs**
 - **Experience Implementation Program** (EIP)
 - Festival Implementation Program (See Operations Implementation Program)
 - **Operations Implementation Program** (OIP)
 - **Recruitment Implementation Program** (RIP)
 - **Sustainability Inclusivity Program** (SIP)
 - Tourism Implementation Program (See Operations Implementation Program)
 - **Resources**
 - **Careers in Tourism**
 - **RTO7 Industry Events Calendar**
 - Are You Listed?
 - **FREE Tourism Operator Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com**
 - Add Your Festival or Event!
 - **FREE Festivals and Events Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com**
 - Need Help Pushing Out a Promotion?
 - **FREE Promotions Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com** (complete and up-to-date operator profile required)





2SLGBTQ+ TRAINING

FREE

For tourism stakeholders in
BruceGreySimcoe

[Learn More](#)

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR THE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

[VISIT THE RESOURCE PAGE
ON RT07.CA](#)

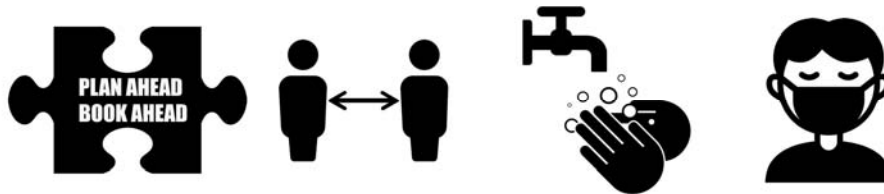
T3 Accelerator Podcast





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