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Stuff-The-Ambulance Holiday Food Drives in Bruce County Communities

Join Bruce County's Paramedic Services and their local 911 Emergency Service partners for Stuff-The-Ambulance Holiday Food Drives across the region this December. All donations will be given to the local Food Banks.



November 29, 2023

Join Bruce County's Paramedic Services and their local 911 Emergency Service partners for Stuff-The-Ambulance Holiday Food Drives across the region this December. All donations will be given to the local Food Banks.

Help support your community this holiday season!

Kincardine Sobeys – Sunday, December 3, 2023 – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Warton Foodland – Saturday, December 9, 2023 – 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM

First Responders Holiday Food & Toy Drive
Saturday, December 9, 2023 – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Port Elgin Independent

Port Elgin Canadian Tire

Port Elgin Walmart

Southampton Foodland

“Thank you for joining our first responders in supporting the local food banks this holiday season,” says Bruce County Warden Chris Peabody, “Your generous contributions to this meaningful cause will support families in need in our communities.”

Discover more about [Bruce County Paramedic Services](#).

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HERE.



Bruce County is now recruiting nurses, personal support workers, recreation & leisure aides, housekeeping aides, and food service staff for our wonderful long term care homes in Walkerton and Warton.

[Explore a mix of career opportunities to fit your lifestyle!](#)



Work with us

View available opportunities with the county.

[OFFICIAL PLAN, AND ZONING BY-LAWS.](#)

[READ MORE ABOUT LAND USE PLANNING](#)



854

Length (km) of Bruce County's Coastline

Children's Services

[Discover what you need to know about the local child care system](#)

Museum & Library

Cultural Services in Bruce County. For more information please select the link.

[READ MORE ABOUT BRUCE COUNTY CULTURE](#) →

Bids and Tenders

Explore proposals, tenders, and other requests from county departments.



November, 16

Help Support Families this Holiday Season through Bruce County's Dorrell Young Christmas Program

November, 17

Notice of Passing of County-wide Development Charges By-law

November, 07

Bruce County Council Approves 2024 Capital and Operating Budget

[MASTER TRANSPORTATION PLAN](#)

[The Master Transportation Plan \(MTP\) Study is now complete. This MTP Study forms the basis to gui... READ MORE](#)

Let's Plan the Bruce. Together.

Getting ahead of social, built and environmental change takes professional planning and public pa... read more

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UPDATE: Temporary Intermittent Lane Closures on Paisley Bridge for Minor Works

Please take notice that there may be temporary intermittent lane closures on the new Paisley Bridge from December 4 to December 22, 2023 to complete minor works. The bridge will be open to vehicular and pedestrian use during these temporary lane closures.



December 01, 2023

Please take notice that there may be temporary intermittent lane closures on the new Paisley Bridge from December 4 to December 22, 2023 to complete minor works. The bridge will be open to vehicular and pedestrian use during these temporary intermittent lane closures. Please also take notice that the removal of the temporary bridge in Paisley, Ontario is underway. The temporary bridge successfully served as an in-town detour for motorists and pedestrians during the construction of the new Paisley Bridge, which officially opened on November 3, 2023.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we finalize this important infrastructure work in Bruce County. Motorists can continue to drive to and through Paisley while bridge construction is being completed. Paisley businesses are open.

Projected Timeline

New Bridge Opened to Traffic – November 3, 2023

New Infrastructure Construction North of New Bridge – Completed by November 3, 2023

Temporary Bridge Removal – Starting November 2023

Top Lift Paving – Occurring in the Summer of 2024

Need Support?

For Business Support, contact Business to Bruce at 1-800-268-3838 or info@businesstobruce.com

For Construction Inquiries, contact Bruce County Transportation & Environmental Services at 519-881-2400 or transportationinfo@brucecounty.on.ca

Additional Information

The Teeswater River Bridge in Paisley was constructed in 1935 and provided over 85 years of service to the community. Looby Construction Ltd. is the contractor for this construction project and BM Ross is the Project Engineer. Partial funding for this project is provided by the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF).

Discover more about [Road Construction in Bruce County](#).

Discover more about [Transportation & Environmental Services](#).

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Bruce County Announces New Director of Human Resources

Bruce County is pleased to announce the appointment of Jenn Robinson as the new Director of Human Resources, effective December 18, 2023.



December 06, 2023

Bruce County is pleased to announce the appointment of Jenn Robinson as the new Director of Human Resources, effective December 18, 2023.

As a member of the County's Senior Leadership Team, Jenn will administer collective agreement negotiations, policy and procedure development and implementation, employee relations, and will help the County ensure a positive, inclusive, and accountable work culture.

Jenn Robinson is a dynamic and experienced Human Resources leader with a demonstrated history of managing in complex unionized environments in the public sector. Jenn has sixteen years of management, labour relations, organizational development, talent acquisition, and health and safety experience. She has been the Manager of Employee Health and Labour Relations with Bruce County since 2022 and spent the previous 15 years with the Municipality of North Perth. She holds a Bachelor Degree of Psychology and Business and a Diploma in Human Resources Management.

“I am very pleased to offer congratulations to Jenn Robinson, our new Director of Human Resources, who will drive important employee relations and recruitment initiatives that will benefit our organization and the region,” said Warden Chris Peabody.

Discover more about [Human Resources in Bruce County](#).

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Local Entrepreneurs Awarded Funding to Make Innovative Tourism Ideas Come to Life

Bruce County is celebrating the success of its fifth annual Bruce County Spark Program.



December 07, 2023

Bruce County is celebrating the success of its fifth annual [Bruce County Spark Program](#). Held on November 21, this innovative event showcased three finalists who delivered winning pitches. Each finalist is now set to receive a \$3,000 grant along with a valuable three-month mentorship opportunity with a seasoned tourism innovator. This initiative aims to elevate their unique tourism ideas to new heights of development.

“Bruce County innovators continue to produce high quality tourism ideas that the Tourism Innovation Lab and our regional partners are excited to support,” says Justin Lafontaine, Program Lead for the Tourism Innovation Lab. “We are excited to see the ideas of this year’s “Spark” Program winners come to life.”

The 2023 Bruce County Spark Grant and Mentorship Program winners are:

Lisa Mills & Janice Vilaca, 173 High Street (Taste Like a Local)

Daniel Banko, Little Blue House Coffee Co. (Arts & Culture Program)

Courtney Morrison, Grassroots Farm Life (Farm Stay Accommodations)

“Congratulations to this year’s winners of the 2023 Spark Grant and Mentorship Program,” says Bruce County Warden Chris Peabody. “Every year we see a wide range of innovative ideas put forward by local entrepreneurs, small businesses and non-profit organizations. It is refreshing to see so many applications focused on creating new sustainable tourism ideas for the region.”

The goal of the “Spark” Program is to find, foster and support new sustainable tourism ideas in Bruce County. The Program exists to nurture new, innovative ideas that enhance current tourism offerings; create high-quality, low impact tourism experiences; address gaps in tourism products and service; motivate longer stays and repeat visits; and increase shoulder season visits and tourism spending.

The Bruce County Spark Mentorships and Grants Program is a partnership between the Tourism Innovation Lab, Bruce County, Bruce Grey Simcoe (Regional Tourism Organization 7) and Bruce Power. It is one of 15 regions in the province to offer the program.

“Bruce County is thrilled to announce the sixth iteration of the “Spark” Program and actively encourages tourism innovators to begin brainstorming their ideas for fall 2024,” says Jeff Loney, economic development manager for Bruce County. “Our aim is to transform these innovative concepts into tangible realities, igniting the potential within each unique idea.”

For more information, visit www.tourisminnovation.ca/bruce.

Bruce County is an upper-tier municipality in Southwestern Ontario, Canada, made up of 8 lower-tier municipalities and 77,221 residents. The explorers who visit, live, and work here are the dreamers who take roads less travelled and see tried and true as an invitation to try something new. Be an Explorer and call Bruce County home.

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Bruce County is Taking Action to Become Transit Ready!

The final Transit Demand and Feasibility Study was presented to Bruce County Council on Thursday, December 7, 2023.



December 08, 2023

Bruce County is taking action to become transit ready! The final Transit Demand and Feasibility Study was presented to Bruce County Council on Thursday, December 7, 2023. The study, completed by consultants from Arcadis over the past year, included significant public and stakeholder feedback and reviewed existing services, identified local travel needs, and now presents options for transportation solutions and services that could address identified needs across Bruce County.

This foundational study has identified seven areas of transit need and demand across Bruce County:

1. Connecting Smaller Communities to Jobs and Services
2. Connecting Seasonal, Service, and Occasional Workers to Jobs
3. Intercommunity Connections
4. Transportation within Larger urban Communities
5. Tourism-Oriented Transportation
6. Enhanced Coordination of Specialized Transit
7. Improved Communication, Collaboration, and Coordination of Transportation Solutions

These areas of need and demand were identified through stakeholder consultation and from 1,650 surveys completed by Bruce County residents and visitors during two public engagement phases in 2023.

“The transit needs across Bruce County are diverse and cannot be addressed by a one-size-fits-all traditional transit approach. The study provides a road map to move the County forward to be transit-ready, identifying short, medium, and long-term solutions over the next 10 years,” said Commissioner of Community Development Claire Dodds.

The County will be advocating to other levels of government to establish funding programs to help the County and member municipalities work to deliver medium to long-term transit solutions for residents in Bruce County.

“We understand that providing transit options is an important need across Bruce County. Obtaining long-term sustainable funding to be able to deliver transit solutions to meet the diverse needs of our communities is a priority for Council and staff,” adds Warden Chris Peabody. “Council thanks the public for participating so actively in the engagement work that has helped the County complete this foundational report that sets out a plan to get the County transit ready.”

While sustainable funding is not available to support establishing a traditional transit network in Bruce County at this time, the Transit Demand and Feasibility Study identified several low-cost and readily implementable transit solutions are available and are already being implemented by the County.

Examples of transit actions already underway include:

- Setting up a ride-sharing program that County residents and visitors can utilize;
- Collaborating with transit service providers who are already operating in the County
- Partnering with neighbouring transit services and municipalities to extend routes into Bruce County;
- Communicating what transit services are available in the County to the public; and
- Advocating to other levels of government for long-term stable funding.

Discover more about the Transit Demand and Feasibility Study at www.brucecounty.on.ca/TransitStudy.

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Bruce County Launches Licensed Child Care Expansion Toolkit

At the Thursday, December 7, 2023 Committee Meetings, Bruce County's Human Services department highlighted the Child Care and Early Learning Directed Growth Plan and showcased the newly launched Early Learning and Child Care Expansion Toolkit.



December 08, 2023

At the Thursday, December 7, 2023 Committee Meetings, Bruce County's Human Services department highlighted the Child Care and Early Learning Directed Growth Plan and showcased the newly launched [Early Learning and Child Care Expansion Toolkit](#).

Licensees who are interested in opening or expanding child care services are encouraged to visit the Bruce County website to explore the new Early Learning and Child Care Expansion Toolkit. This toolkit provides a step-by-step guide for supporting child care expansion projects.

Bruce County, as a Consolidated Municipal Service Manager, plans, funds and provides quality and inclusion supports for the local child care system. Bruce County has been allocated a notional target of 645 new child care spaces by the Ministry of Education.

Under the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system, Ontario has committed to support the creation of 86,000 new CWELCC licensed child care spaces by the end of 2026. The focus of this expansion will be in communities with populations that need them the most. This directed growth approach will support space creation in underserved communities and parts of the province who have historically low rates of space availability.

In alignment with Ontario's Access and Inclusion Framework, Bruce County's Directed Growth Plan will prioritize child care expansion to:

1. increase access equity by supporting child care expansion in municipalities with an access rate lower than the provincial average of 37%.
2. support child care access for low-income children, vulnerable children, children from diverse communities, children with special needs, Francophone, and Indigenous children.
3. Maintain or improve the proportion of not-for profit licensed child care spaces at 70% or higher.

In addition to reviewing the factors identified above by the province, child care expansion projects will be evaluated and prioritized by reviewing county-wide growth forecasts and licensed child care waitlist data.

"It is important for us to engage with our community in planning, funding, and delivering local child care and early years programs and services. Our priority is ensuring the local delivery of early years and child care services is collaborative and responsive in meeting the needs of children and families," says Tina Metcalfe, Director of Human Services.

The expansion of child care and early years services in Bruce County is not possible without additional Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs). We encourage all those interested in early childhood education to pursue this rewarding career in our beautiful, caring, and engaged communities.

To learn more about becoming an RECE, including information about Fanshawe College's part-time accelerated Early Childhood Education program offered in Port Elgin, please visit www.brucecounty.on.ca/BeAnECE.

Explore Bruce County's [Early Learning and Child Care Expansion Toolkit](#).
Discover more about [Children's Services in Bruce County](#).

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Council / Committee Meetings - Thursday, December 7, 2023

Bruce County Council met on December 7, 2023 beginning at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers and virtually through Teams. Video recordings of the meeting can be reviewed at www.brucecounty.on.ca/government/agendas-and-minutes



December 07, 2023

Bruce County Council Meeting

Council elected Mayor Chris Peabody as Bruce County Warden for 2024.

Council elected Mayor Luke Charbonneau as Bruce County Deputy Warden for 2024.

After a public meeting, Council approved that County Official Plan Amendment - C-2023-008 Implementation Amendment be received for information. Council directed staff to return to a subsequent Bruce County Council meeting with a report on the December 7, 2023 Public Meeting and a Recommendation regarding proposed County Official Plan Amendment - C-2023-008. [Report](#)

Council received a Community Development Office report on the Bruce County Transit Demand and Feasibility Study. [Report](#)

Council received a Planning & Development report on Employment Services Q2 Update. [Report](#)

Council received an update on Museum Information. [Report](#)

Council received a Human Services report on Q3 2023 Income and Support Services. [Report](#)

Council received a Human Services report on Q3 2023 Licensed Childcare and Early Years. [Report](#)

Council received a Human Services report on Q3 2023 Housing Services. [Report](#)

Council received a Human Services report on the Bruce County Child Care and Early Learning Directed Growth Plan. [Report](#)

Council received a Corporate Services report on EcoSystems Energy Savings and Performance Verification (Year 3). [Report](#)

Council approved the Asset Retirement Obligation Policy, effective January 1, 2023, as well as revisions to the Capital Asset Amortization Policy referencing the new Asset Retirement Obligation Policy. [Report](#)

Council approved that a by-law be introduced authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the Cross-Border Billing Agreement for the provision of land ambulance services between Bruce County and Huron County. Council approved that By-law 2013-015 be repealed. [Report](#)

Council approved to single source and order three ambulances from Demers Ambulances, consistent with the vehicle replacement schedule, and that a 30% down payment be made of approximately equivalent to \$228,582 + HST to secure the vehicles for delivery, at a total cost for three ambulances complete with Stryker Power Loads installed of \$761,940.00 + HST. [Report](#)

Council approved revisions to the Museum's Visitor Policy and the Serving & Consumption of Alcohol Policy. [Report](#)

Council approved that a by-law be introduced authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute a Project Funding Agreement between Bruce County and Russell Meadows Non-Profit Accommodations for the Ontario Priority Housing Initiative's repair component. Council approved that a by-law be introduced authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute a Project Funding Agreement between Bruce County and Formosa Senior's Non-Profit Accommodations for the Ontario Priority Housing Initiative's repair component. Council approved that a by-law be introduced authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute a Project Funding Agreement between Bruce County and Bruce County Housing Corporation (BCHC) for the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative's repair component. [Report](#)

Council approved By-law 2023-050, which is a by-law to provide for the installation of Stop Signs at intersections. [By-law](#)

Council received communication from Western Ontario Wardens Caucus on Resolution regarding Strong Mayors Powers.

Council received communication from the Municipality of South Bruce on Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services. [Communications](#)

Council received communication from the Town of South Bruce Peninsula on an Amendment to Highway Traffic Act - Automated Speed Enforcement Systems. [Communications](#)

Bruce County Housing Corporation

Committee accepted the resignation of Garry Michi as a Director of the Corporation effective August 29, 2023, approved that Jay Kirkland, being a resident of Canada, is hereby elected as a Director of the Corporation effective December 7, 2023 to hold office until the next annual meeting of the Shareholders or until their successors are duly elected, subject to the provision of the By-Laws of the Corporation and the provisions of the Business Corporations Act (Ontario), approved that the number of Directors comprising the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall consist of eight (8) Directors, being a number within the prescribed range per Section 3 of By-Law No. 1 of the Corporation, and approved that these Resolutions may be signed in one or more counterparts and transmitted by electronic means. Each such counterpart is deemed to be an original and together constitute one and the same set of resolutions. Transmission of electronic copies or signed originals has the same effects as delivery of such signed originals. [Report](#)

Committee approved the execution of the Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative Project Funding Agreement between Bruce County and the Bruce County Housing Corporation. [Report](#)

Committee authorized the Bruce County Housing Corporation authorizes the write-off of \$76,057.62 for bad debt for the year ending December 31, 2022. [Report](#)

Committee approved that the rent for Bruce County Housing Corporation, Community Housing units be increased by the Ontario 2024 Rent Increase Guideline of 2.5% and that rent geared to income assistance be provided immediately for all tenants currently paying market rent that now qualify for rent geared to income assistance due to the increase in the market rent. [Report](#)

Committee received a report on Q3 2023 Arrears. [Report](#)

This publication identifies highlights from recent Bruce County Council and Committee meetings. Bruce County's Office of the CAO maintains complete agendas and minutes from all Council and Committee meetings, which can be reviewed at www.brucecounty.on.ca/government/agendas-and-minutes

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☰ MENU

County Administration Buildings Closed for Christmas and New Year's

Please take notice that the Bruce County Administration Centre in Walkerton, the Lakeshore Hub in Port Elgin, the Peninsula Hub in Wiarton, and the Penetangore Hub in Kincardine will be closed from Saturday, December 23, 2023 to Monday, January 1, 2024 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.



December 08, 2023

Please take notice that the Bruce County Administration Centre in Walkerton, the Lakeshore Hub in Port Elgin, the Peninsula Hub in Wiarton, and the Penetangore Hub in Kincardine will be closed from Saturday, December 23, 2023 to Monday, January 1, 2024 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Virtual and in-person service will be available again on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 8:30 AM.

Bruce County Public Library Branches will be closed from Sunday, December 24, 2023 to Tuesday, December 26, 2023 and from Sunday, December 31, 2023 to Monday, January 1, 2024. Library Branches will be open for regular branch hours on Saturday, December 23, 2023, Wednesday, December 27, 2023, Thursday, December 28, 2023, Friday, December 29, 2023, Saturday, December 30, 2023, and Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Online resources are available 24/7.

www.library.brucecounty.on.ca

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre will be closed from Sunday, December 24, 2023 to Tuesday, December 26, 2023 and from Sunday, December 31, 2023 to Monday, January 1, 2024. The Museum will be open on Saturday, December 23, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Archives close at 4:30 PM), and on Wednesday, December 27, 2023, Thursday, December 28, 2023, Friday, December 29, 2023, and Saturday, December 30, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Archives close at 4:30 PM). BCM&CC will be open for regular business hours of 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 (Archives close at 4:30 PM). www.brucemuseum.ca.

EarlyON Child and Family Centre in-person programming will be closed from Saturday, December 23, 2023 to Monday, January 1, 2024. During the closure, activities are available on the [EarlyON Facebook page](#) and EarlyON schedules are available [online](#).

For essential services, please call 211 to assist with accessing community services and support. The service is 24/7 and multilingual interpretation is available.

For emergencies, please call 911. For less serious incidents, report online by visiting opp.ca/reporting.

For road conditions/closures, please visit www.brucecounty.on.ca/road-conditions.

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Bruce County Development Charges now in effect

Collecting Development Charges from new development will help pay for the new growth-related infrastructure and will reduce the need to increase property taxes.



January 05, 2024

Bruce County Development Charges (DCs) are now in effect as of January 1, 2024. The County did not receive any appeals to the DC By-law by the appeal period deadline of January 2, 2024.

Development Charges are being implemented on a graduated basis over a 10-year period, with only 25% of the charge being in effect in 2024.

Collecting Development Charges from new development will help pay for the new growth-related infrastructure and will reduce the need to increase property taxes.

For more information on Bruce County Development Charges, please visit www.brucecounty.on.ca/development-charges.

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Winter Road Safety Reminder for Bruce County Roadways

The Bruce County Transportation Department reminds the public about Winter Road Safety. All roadway users must travel safely, share the road, and respect others.



BRUCE

county

January 08, 2024

The Bruce County Transportation Department reminds the public about Winter Road Safety. All roadway users must travel safely, share the road, and respect others.

Stay informed on Winter Road Conditions!

Explore the Bruce County [Road Conditions webpage](#), which has been enhanced with new closure and conditions mapping, weather radar mapping, and detailed tables of closures and conditions on County maintained roads. This information is provided as a public service and therefore drivers are encouraged to use care and caution in winter weather as these conditions can change at a moment's notice. www.brucecounty.on.ca/road-conditions

Winter Road Safety!

Prepare for quickly changing conditions by having working winter tires, windshield wipers, and washer fluid. Stock your vehicle Emergency kit with a shovel, blanket, booster cables, flashlight, and more. Check road conditions and give yourself

extra travel time.

Avoid collisions by removing all snow and ice from your roof and windows, ensure windshield wipers are in working order, turn taillights on, reduce speed, leave extra space, avoid sudden braking and accelerating. Slippery conditions require caution. See and be seen!

Deciding to pass is a serious decision. Use your turn signals, consider conditions and obstacles, and look for approaching vehicles and vehicles passing from behind. Pavement lines are simply a guide and could be snow-covered. When there is ice and snow, take it slow.

Police close roads for safety. Do not drive on closed roads. In a whiteout, don't stop on the roadway. Find a driveway or parking lot to pull into. Vehicles parked or abandoned on roadways can be towed and fined. For winter road conditions, please visit www.brucecounty.on.ca/road-conditions.

When there's ice and snow, be patient and take it slow. Snow plow equipment travels at 25km/hr to 60km/hr working to keep roads safe. Passing a snow plow is never encouraged. If you pass, ensure adequate distance, road conditions, and space to return.

To drive or not to drive in wintery weather is a big decision. Ask yourself do you really need to travel, is it safe, and is it worth the risk? It's OK to stay where you are. Abandoned vehicles could be towed and fined. For road conditions, please visit www.brucecounty.on.ca/road-conditions.

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