

**Kelly Lush**

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**From:** Community Living Kincardine & District <aswan@clkd.ca>  
**Sent:** February 1, 2024 10:00 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** CLKD's February 2024 newsletter is here!



February 2024 Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)



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An inclusive caring community.

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## February is Inclusive Education Month!

**February is Inclusive Education month**, where we celebrate inclusive learning environments and work together to make learning even more inclusive for all.

In recognition and celebration of all the amazing inclusive learning environments in our community, we are giving all schools, daycares, etc. in the Municipality of Kincardine and the Township of Huron-Kinloss a chance to WIN a PIZZA PARTY!

### **Entering is easy!**

Choose to learn about inclusive practices and share your new learnings with us, or, share what makes your learning environment inclusive and why.

Send your entry (project/video/photos etc) and contact information to [cmc@clkd.ca](mailto:cmc@clkd.ca) for your chance to win.

## Share Your Inclusive Classroom Practices

and you could

# WIN A PIZZA PARTY

for your class!



VISIT:  
[www.clkd.ca](http://www.clkd.ca)  
for Resources /  
Ideas, Lessons &  
Activities

Send us a video, photo, story or copy of a finished assignment showing how you & your class learned about inclusion at school. Students and teachers are welcome to submit multiple assignments and photos to be shared on our social media, however entries for the contest will be limited to one per class.

\*Contest open to Schools/Daycares in the municipality of Kincardine or Township of Huron-Kinloss. Winner will be contacted early March to arrange the pizza party.

**ENTRY DEADLINE:**  
**FEBRUARY 26th, 2024**

**Submit** your entry by email to:  
[cmc@clkd.ca](mailto:cmc@clkd.ca)

**Include:** School or Organization,  
Educator's name, grade &  
contact information

**COMMUNITY LIVING**  
Kincardine and District  
*Inspiring Possibilities*

## **ATTN: Teachers and Educators!**

### **We want to hear from YOU!**

We know you work hard to ensure your learning environment is inclusive for all. Share your inclusive classroom tips and successes so we can help bring awareness to how you support learners of all abilities.

Send us your information and a quote highlighting one way you make your classroom inclusive and we will create a custom Educator Card to share on our social channels and back with you.

Share Your Inclusive Practices!

# February is Inclusive Education Month



As part of Inclusive Education Month, we want to highlight educators who are incorporating inclusive practices into their classrooms and school communities!

## WE WANT TO KNOW:

What has had a positive impact on your students?

What training or resources would you recommend to other education professionals?

How have you set up your classroom to meet the needs of children of all abilities? (how have you empowered all children to be as independent as possible) to move around and navigate your space? Sit next to peers? Reach materials such as toys, games, supplies?

How have you helped all children feel welcomed and accepted while at school?

What elements, accommodations or features did you include in your classroom to meet the needs of a child with disabilities that ended up having benefits for ALL students? (for example, a visual schedule or calming corner)

What new skills or strategies have you learned in order to effectively communicate with a student with a disability?

What strategies do you use to foster peer relationships and build social skills within your classroom and/or on the playground?

“

Clearly displaying timetables (visual timetables are great, especially for younger learners) helps them, and all your children, feel involved in the school day.



Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name \_\_\_\_\_

## TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING:

- your name
- school and grade level you teach
- personal photo
- an inclusive practice or strategy you use in your classroom or school

February is Inclusive Education Month 

Information can be emailed to [cmc@clkd.ca](mailto:cmc@clkd.ca) by February 15th, 2024

## Innovation for Communication





TVCC SLP Mackenzie Marshall getting set up to talk about colours and feelings with M. on his new eye-gaze device

CLKD prides itself on working together with families to be a team of resilient and innovative problem solvers.

Recently, a family we support was told their young child would be a good candidate for an eye-gaze frame as a form of communication. This child ("M") has so much to say and needed a low-tech way of sharing his thoughts with those around him!

The device that was suggested to the family was pricey, so our Infant & Child Development worker, Jenny, collaborated with TVCC's speech and language pathologist, Mackenzie Marshall, and David Dadson on behalf of the Kinetic Knights, to put together a cost-effective, customizable alternative for the family.

After trial, error, and lots of adjustments, M.'s family was happy to receive their new communication device!

The eye gaze frame is a no-tech solution that allows M., aged 4, to choose from multiple picture options in different categories, and communicate his answer or request by moving his eyes. A communication partner (parent, teacher, etc.) can sit across from him and see where he is looking, following up with 'yes' or 'no' to make sure they've understood him.

M. was thrilled with the new opportunity to chat, and loved taking his time to look through all the pages at his many possibilities for making choices and telling people his ideas. He is a quick learner who took no time at all using the eye-gaze device to tell Mackenzie which songs he wanted to sing, and which animal they should sing about next.

M.'s family will be able to update and add more options as he becomes more proficient with the tool and has more to say. They are thrilled that M. will be able to use this team-built device to expand his abilities to communicate, as they know he has so much to share with those around him. M's family and supporters know that being non-speaking does not mean having nothing to say!

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## **Marianne, Mystery Reader**



Kasey Culbert, Vice Principal at Ripley Huron Community School and Huron Heights School, invited Marianne to celebrate Family Literacy Week as a Mystery Reader for their school's event on Friday January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Several members of the community were invited to bring a book of their choice, three clues about themselves and wait behind closed doors as students read the clues and decided which room they wanted to enter to hear the story from the Mystery Reader behind the door.

Excited students tried to guess the Mystery Reader in each classroom, enjoyed a story, and then got to ask the Mystery Reader questions about the clues they provided.

Marianne had this to say about the event:

*"I liked being picked for the mystery reader but I was nervous about reading because I can't see the words very well.*

*Candice [from the CLKD CPSS team] helped me choose a book with 2 and 3 letter words so I could read it independently.*

*We had 4 groups of 15-20 kids come in to the classroom. I read my story 4 times!"*

Marianne's clues she provided to the school were:

1. I live on a farm with horses and I love horses
2. I like watching the Bulldogs games on the weekends
3. I like going to the Bridge to hang out with my friends.

*"The kids loved asking me about my animals I have on my farm. They wanted to know all their*



*names. They also liked the story I picked.*

*I really liked reading and I want to do it again next year, or maybe I could do it at another school!"*

-Marianne

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## Staying Connected



Supporting people to connect is important to reduce loneliness and boost a sense of community, no matter what life throws your way.

Recently, Alyssa and Josh shared their experiences about how our CPSS team supported them to use technology to keep in touch and make in-person plans. Being able to connect on a regular basis has helped them build and maintain a meaningful friendship.

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"Just before the holidays I was able to connect with my friend Alyssa on a Zoom call. We had a great conversation about our shared experience staying in a hospital for an extended stay. The conversation brought up lots of emotions for me, and also for Alyssa. We decided that it would be great to have a visit in person, so that's what we did. My Mom and I went up to visit her.



My Mom crocheted a blanket for Alyssa. My Mom thought it would give her some warmth – not only physically, but emotionally as well.

When we went into her room, I saw that she had lots of amenities at her fingertips. She has an iPad with the sports package on TSN to watch her favourite shows and sports that she enjoys. She can even chat with her friends at anytime. It makes being in the hospital for months much easier. It made me think about my own experience being in the hospital for a long period of time and how lonely it can get. I teared up, but I did not cry.

It was great to see and hear from Alyssa about people visiting and checking in on her. Her room has a big window with a nice view of the gardens. I told her to think about getting back out into the world by looking outside her window and being able to see what's going on outside. I told her to think proactively and positively about getting back out into the world instead of thinking about the loneliness; to look forward to her life outside of the hospital walls.

Since our visit, Alyssa and I have been chatting on messenger once a week to keep in touch. I would like to try and visit her in person again soon because there is nothing like being there face to face so you can feel the emotions that runs through the person during your conversations.”

- Josh E

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“My friend Josh and I had a really good chat one day on zoom, we made plans to have a visit in person and then his mom brought him up to see me and they brought me a gift; a blanket that his Mom made for me.

David sent me a message on messenger and we have made plans for him to come up and visit sometime.

Bethany has been coming up to visit with on a regular basis, we just chat and sometimes we play games together.

Jeffrey, Catherine, Lindsay have also came up for a visit and it made me really happy to have friends visit; it helps to break up my day to have people come and hang out.”

- Alyssa

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**Registration is OPEN for the 2024 Lots of Sock Business Window Display event** in celebration of **World Down Syndrome Day on March 21st, 2024!**

Each year, businesses in the Municipality of Kincardine and the Township of Huron-Kinloss decorate their windows with Lots of Socks to spread awareness of World Down Syndrome Day and the importance of belonging.

On March 21st, World Down Syndrome Day, the community will vote for the best display and that business will be honoured with the coveted Golden Sock Award!

All participating businesses will receive a poster explaining the goals of World Down Syndrome Day and portrait of a community member living with Down Syndrome captured by [photographer Jamie Edwards](#) to incorporate into their display.

### **Why Socks?**

Down Syndrome International began using socks to help promote World Down Syndrome Day after discovering that, when two socks are placed heel to heel, they resemble a chromosome. Down Syndrome occurs when a person is born with an extra 21st chromosome.

### **Why Do We Hang Portraits?**

Each Lots of Socks Model chooses their own interest or hobby to theme their photo reminding us all that we are more the same than different. People of all abilities share the same hobbies and interests which makes inclusion and belonging easy!

To [learn more](#) about the campaign, the window display event and the goals of World Down Syndrome Day, visit our [website](#).

To register for a poster, portrait and your chance to WIN the Golden Sock Award, email [cmc@clkd.ca](mailto:cmc@clkd.ca).

Posters and portraits will be delivered early March.

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### Important Dates:

#### March 15th

- *Businesses* - Please have your Windows Decorated and start sending in your photos/video for judging. Files can be emailed to [cmc@clkd.ca](mailto:cmc@clkd.ca).

#### March 18th

- *Businesses* - **Deadline** for photos. You MUST submit a photo to compete for the Golden Sock Award. Please email photos or a short video to [cmc@clkd.ca](mailto:cmc@clkd.ca).

#### March 21st, World Down Syndrome Day

- *Everyone* - Voting is OPEN until noon and available to everyone.
  - Business window and Golden Sock Award winner will be announced!
  - *Everyone* - Wear your most colourful, patterned and even mismatched socks in support of World Down Syndrome Day. Take your "Sock Selfies" and post them to social media. Don't forget to email them to [cmc@clkd.ca](mailto:cmc@clkd.ca) so we can include them on our social channels.
  - *Everyone* - Use **#WorldDownSyndromeDay #LotsofSocks #WDS24 #RockyourSocks** and join the global conversation!
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## Upcoming Events & Activities

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## Baby & Me Groups

### Running the first 3 Thursdays of the Month!

Baby & Me programs will rotate each week through Baby & Me Music, Baby & Me Messy Art and Baby & Me Gross Motor and Movement.

Please visit our [website](#) and/or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to stay up-to-date!



To learn more about CLKD's services and events, visit our website!



[Like CLKD on Facebook](#)



[Watch CLKD on YouTube](#)



[Send us an email](#)

If this email has been forwarded to you, please consider subscribing to the Community Living Kincardine and District monthly e-newsletter by [signing up here](#).

**Our mailing address is:**  
Community Living Kincardine & District  
286 Lambton St.  
Kincardine, On N2Z 2Z3  
Canada

[Add us to your address book](#)

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**Kelly Lush**

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**From:** Lake Huron Coastal Centre <coastalcentre-lakehuron.ca@shared1.ccsend.com>  
**Sent:** February 2, 2024 11:07 AM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** An update from our Michigan based Coast Watchers and learn about bluff erosion safety



*February*

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**Hello from the Other Side**  
An Update from our Michigan Based Coast Watchers



**Huron Pines**, in partnership with Lake Huron Coastal Centre and the Lake Huron Forever initiative, concluded their second year with the Coast Watchers program in 2023. They doubled their number of volunteers who monitor sections of shoreline along the 168-mile stretch from Tawas City, MI to Rogers City, MI. This year they added in the option of monitoring for the endangered piping plover.

Michigan Coast Watchers were asked to keep an eye out for courting and nesting pairs. Two nesting pairs were identified along the Northwest coast of Lake Huron - one in Oscoda and one near East Tawas. Once the pair at Tawas Point State Park exhibited signs of courtship and breeding behavior, the pair was observed by volunteers to ensure their protection. An area was fenced off where a nest was possible, and once eggs were found an enclosure was erected by the **Great Lakes Piping Plover Conservation team**. A Coast Watcher volunteer monitored the nest almost daily, noting any predators nearby, human disturbance, or tracks around the enclosure. These observations were made throughout the breeding, nesting, and brooding phases until the chicks are fledged.



One of our volunteers recounts her favorite parts of the summer,

*“It’s been fun to learn the continuous ups and downs of our little bit of shoreline. To see how the atmospheric elements change from week to week, month to month. I appreciate our shoreline more. I became a Coast Watcher and a regular piping plover monitor at Tawas Point State Park. I haven’t had so much fun in years. I loved my volunteer hours on the dunes, observing the summer breeding season of one pair of endangered birds. I learned so much about these birds and about the delicate environment they require to thrive. Plus, I came to know other people who care just as much as I do about piping plovers.”*



Lake Huron Coastal Centre would like to offer a huge thank you to the Huron Pines team and our Michigan based Coast Watchers for an incredible season monitoring 600 meters of the Lake Huron shoreline! Learn more about the impactful conservation work happening at Huron Pines [HERE](#).

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## Our Coast Watchers Need You!

As a small charity, we rely on donations to help fund our conservation programs. Donate now to help us continue the important work of our Coast Watchers community scientists.

Donate now to support our  
Coast Watchers



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## Conservation Authorities Issue Notice to Advise Public to use Caution Near Shoreline Bluff Areas

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) and Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) are cautioning that shoreline bluffs continue to be at a high risk of collapse. They advise the public to continue to be cautious near these shoreline areas.



Erosion hazards are always present along shoreline bluffs but the conservation authorities want to remind the public the current risk of collapse remains higher than normal. This is because there can be a delay between erosion at the toe (bottom) of the bluff and subsequent bluff failure.

Lake Huron water levels reached an all-time high in 1986 and lake levels were near that record high in 2020. Those high lake levels and associated wave action resulted in extensive toe erosion. Although the Lake Huron water level has declined since then, many portions of the bluffs were left over-steepened and may still be unstable as a result.



The high risk of bluff failure will continue as the slope adjusts to the recent impacts of toe erosion and bluff over steepening. This makes some areas along Lake Huron's shoreline prone to collapse. This is a risk that can be further heightened due to seasonal rainfall and snowmelt that can saturate the ground and soften the bluffs. In this area, these are seasonal conditions that we typically experience during autumn and winter thaws and in the spring.

ABCA and MVCA continue to encourage landowners, the public, and municipal employees to stay away from the top of the lake bluff, especially where there have been signs of over-steepening or slope movement. Areas along the beach below these bluffs should also be avoided. Injury or loss of life could occur if a bluff collapses and beach users are caught in the deposition zone. The ABCA and MVCA continue to encourage landowners to monitor their property for signs of movement.

Unlike flood messages and low water advisories, that are issued and then expire as circumstances change, caution around shoreline bluff areas should always be practised as the risk of failure and collapse is inherent in a shoreline bluff system.



ABCA has created a fact sheet to help shoreline residents recognize signs of erosion. It also offers best management practices.

Fact sheet

ABCA website

**This article was written by Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. Please reach out directly to them if you have any questions related to this article. Staff contact information is available on the conservation authority websites at [abca.ca](http://abca.ca) and [mvca.on.ca](http://mvca.on.ca)**

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*The Lake Huron Coastal Centre is a registered charity founded in 1998 with the goals of protecting and restoring Lake Huron's coastal environment. We are the voice for Lake Huron.*

### **Donation options:**

**Online:** [www.lakehuron.ca/donate](http://www.lakehuron.ca/donate)

**Phone:** (226) 421-3029

**Mail a cheque to:**

Lake Huron Coastal Centre

PO Box 477

Goderich, ON N7A 4C7

***Charitable tax receipts will be provided  
Charitable Registration Number: 872138938 RR0001***

Donate here



[www.lakehuron.ca](http://www.lakehuron.ca)

Lake Huron Coastal Centre | PO Box 477, Goderich, N7A 4C7 Canada [www.lakehuron.ca](http://www.lakehuron.ca)

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**Kelly Lush**

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**From:** Regional Tourism Organization 7 <info@rto7.ca>  
**Sent:** February 1, 2024 5:02 PM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** February Updates from the RTO7

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**February 1, 2024**

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## **RTO7 February Newsletter**

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### **In This Newsletter:**

- What's Going On...at RTO7
  - Typsy Training Reviews
  - Recruitment Implementation Program
  - New 2024/25 Program Launch Info
  - Free Festivals & Events Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com
- Funding, Professional Development & Business Support
  - Federal Tourism Growth Program
  - Canada Digital Adoption Program
  - TIAO Tourism Workforce & Sustainability Program

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- Experience Simcoe County Tourism, Culture & Sport Enhancement Fund
  - Spruce The Bruce Grant
  - Indigenous Tourism Ontario SKODE Program
  - Job Fairs
    - Grey County Regional Job Fair
    - Saugeen Shores Job Fair & Career Expo 2024
    - Kincardine 2024 Job Fair & Career Expo
  - Events
  - Interesting / Must Reads
    - Destination Canada Tourism Outlook Report
  - In Every Newsletter
  - Not A Subscriber?

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## **What's Going On...at RTO7**

### **Typsy Training Reviews**

We are asking for reviews from stakeholders, operators, managers, and employees who have completed a Typsy course, lesson, or mentor session that they would recommend. This is to support our ongoing efforts to promote the incredible training content available (for FREE) on the Typsy hospitality training platform. As a thank you for your support, we can offer one of several attraction passes of your choice including Free Spirit Tours, Wasaga Adventure Park, Tobermory Wave Adventures, Par Fore Driving Range, or Treetop Trekking Barrie.

To see the format of previous RTO7 Staff Typsy Picks of the Month, visit the [RTO7 Connection Blog](#). If you would like to submit a review or have questions, please reach out to Robyn Hewitt anytime at [rhewitt@rto7.ca](mailto:rhewitt@rto7.ca).

### **Recruitment Implementation Program**

Need help recruiting staff for your tourism business? Now is the perfect time to



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apply for the Recruitment Implementation Program (RIP), which is designed to offer additional support for tourism operators to assist with hiring staff. Through RIP, leverage your operating expenses into a social media campaign. Eligible expenses include mortgage payments, rent, insurance, inventory purchases, etc. More information and the application form can be found [here](#).

### **New 2024/25 Program Launch Details**

Our team is preparing to launch the 2024/25 fiscal year programs in early March. To stay up to date with program details, look out for our upcoming newsletters and follow RTO7 Connection on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Kindly share this information with your network to help us spread the word.

*Please note that RTO7's offer of programs for 2024/25 is contingent upon the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports' approval of the RTO7 2024/25 Business Plan.*

### **Free Festivals & Events Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com**

RTO7 has launched a winter campaign that will be driving consumer traffic to our [Festivals & Events page](#) on BruceGreySimcoe.com. Review the criteria to determine whether your event is a “Featured Event” or “Local Colour”, then click on [“Send us your Event”](#) to fill out the form. Visit the BruceGreySimcoe website to add your festivals and events today!

A reminder to add your promotions to BruceGreySimcoe.com to take advantage of the increased traffic to the [Promotions page](#). If you have not yet registered as an operator, please register [here](#). Once your listing has been approved, you can add special offers to your profile. If you need assistance, please reach out to our team at [info@rto7.ca](mailto:info@rto7.ca).

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## **Funding & Business Support**

### **Federal Tourism Growth Program**

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The Tourism Growth Program (TGP) is a federal initiative set to provide \$108 million over 3 years to support communities, small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profit organizations in developing local tourism products and experiences. Applications are being accepted until February 29, 2024, 8:59 pm Eastern time. For more information, visit the FedDev for Southern Ontario website [here](#).

### **Canada Digital Adoption Program**

The Canada Digital Adoption Program (CADP) is available for small or medium-sized businesses and offers a grant as well as access to expert advice to increase online sales, reduce costs, better manage inventory, and more. To learn more about the program and find out which grant is right for you, visit the Government of Canada website [here](#).

### **TIAO Tourism Workforce & Sustainability Program**

Begin 2024 with TIAO's Tourism Workforce Sustainability Program, running until March 31st. This initiative aims to enhance and diversify Ontario's tourism workforce while assisting employers in fostering long-term sustainability. Click [here](#) for registration and more information.

### **Experience Simcoe County Tourism, Culture & Sport Enhancement Fund**

Applications are open for municipal corporations and not-for-profit organizations in funding streams including trail infrastructure, signage, marketing, workforce development, and more! Funding applications close at 5 pm on February 29. Review the guidelines [here](#) (application links can be found in the guidelines document). For questions and support, e-mail [tourism@simcoe.ca](mailto:tourism@simcoe.ca).

### **Spruce the Bruce Grants**

Applications are now open for 2024. Spruce the Bruce aims to build vibrant communities by supporting local businesses, municipalities and community partners with product and experience development, agri-food innovation, business accessibility adaptability, and more! Discover how to apply and check program eligibility on the Bruce County website [here](#).

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### **Indigenous Tourism Ontario SKODE Program (closes tomorrow)**

Indigenous Tourism Ontario (ITO) and the Tourism Innovation Lab have partnered to offer a fourth round of the **Indigenous Tourism Skode Program** in Ontario. The program matches selected applicants with a mentor and provides a \$5,000 non-repayable financial contribution to advance their new tourism ideas to the next level of development. Hurry! The application deadline is tomorrow, February 2. Click on the link above to apply now.

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### **Job Fairs**

#### **Grey County 2024 Regional Job Fair**

On Wednesday, February 14, from 1 – 6 pm, Grey County will be hosting a job fair taking place at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre in Owen Sound. Combining forces with their partners and member municipalities, the event will be open to 150 employers showcasing their employment opportunities. The \$65 (+HST) registration fee includes a booth for your business along with additional perks. Space is limited and booths will sell out fast. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

#### **Tourism Industry Association of Ontario: Flip the Fair**

Join TIAO on February 16 from 10 am to 4 pm, for the Flip the Fair Virtual Event! The event will showcase over 250 student candidates from the four hospitality, tourism, and culinary arts schools in Ontario. Whether you're looking to fill back or front-of-house positions, or you have openings for full-time, part-time, seasonal, or co-op positions, Flip the Fair will connect you with qualified candidates eager to fill the positions you are offering! Registration is available for members and non-members starting at \$450 per employer. Get more info and purchase your tickets [here](#).

#### **Kincardine 2024 Job Fair & Career Expo**

Taking place on Wednesday, March 6 from 3 to 7 pm at the Kincardine Davidson

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Centre. Registration is required with a fee of \$25 per business. For more information and to register, visit the Kincardine website [here](#).

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## Professional Development, Meetings & Events

- **February 6, Become A Certified Living Wage Employer, 2 to 3 pm**  
Attend this free virtual presentation to hear from owners in the restaurant and food service industry about the benefits of paying a living wage. Organized by the Ontario Living Wage Network and the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. [RSVP here](#).
- **February 6, Facebook and Instagram Ads: Grow Your Reach, 9 to 10:30 am**  
This FREE webinar hosted by Business to Bruce will teach attendees how to use Meta Ads Manager to create effective ad funnels for Facebook and Instagram that grow their reach and sales. [Secure your spot](#) today!
- **February 6, Master your Bookkeeping Essentials, 9:30 to 11 am (in-person) or February 8 (virtual), 6:30 to 8 pm**  
Join the South Georgian Bay Small Business Enterprise Centre for one of two workshops for an opportunity to improve your bookkeeping skills. There will be one in-person session at the Collingwood Public Library on Feb 6 and one virtual session on Feb 8 facilitated through Zoom. A small \$10 investment at registration. Grab your ticket today for [February 6](#) or [February 8](#).
- **February 6, 10, and 20, Accessibility for Ontarians Act (AODA) Information, various times**  
Breaking Down Barriers is offering a free webinar to assist the business community and private sector with AODA compliance. Various dates in February and March are available. Visit the [BDB website](#) to view available dates and register.
- **February 7, Business Systems: Unleashing Organizational Systems for Success, 7 to 8:30 pm**  
Discover the power of business systems. Offered by Business to Bruce, this



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FREE workshop is intended to reduce stress, boost efficiency, and scale your business with strategic organizational proficiency. Register for this online event [here](#).

- **February 7, SEO Strategies to Drive More Traffic, 10 to 11 am**

This free online workshop is presented by the Digital Service Squad in South Georgian Bay. Learn the fundamentals of on-page and off-page SEO, and how best to optimize your site for maximum visibility. [Register](#) today.
- **February 13, Planning Your Marketing for 2024, 4:30 to 6 pm**

The Orillia area CDC is offering an in-person, interactive workshop for small business owners who wear multiple hats, including marketing. Set a clear roadmap for success in the coming year. Registration is \$20 pp. Secure your spot today by registering [here](#).
- **February 22, Canva for Small Business, 10:30 to 12 pm**

Community Futures South Georgian Bay and South Georgian Bay Enterprise Centre are hosting this in-person event at the L.E. Shore Public Library to introduce Canva, a free design tool that can help elevate your marketing content. Secure your space for \$25 pp at this [link](#).
- **February 26 to 28, Better Workplace Conference 2024**

The Saugeen Economic Development Corporation is hosting its 27<sup>th</sup> annual conference focusing on rethinking inclusion, well-being, and psychological safety at work. This three-day virtual event for HR professionals will leave you with actionable insights to take back your organization. Click [here](#) to read more information, review the agenda, and buy your ticket today.
- **February 27, Content Marketing on a Budget: How to Do More with Less, 12 to 1 pm**

Business to Bruce is hosting this FREE online webinar designed to teach participants the steps to effectively plan, create, and organize their marketing processes using free or low-cost tools that can help make your work easier. [Secure your spot](#) today!
- **February 28, Video & Photography on a Budget, 10 to 11 am**

Join the SGB Digital Service Squad for a webinar where they will be sharing

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tips and budget-friendly gear suggestions to take your photos and videos to the next level. [Register](#) today.

- **March 6, Search Engine Optimization (SEO) for Small Business, 4 to 6 pm**

The Orillia Area CDC and partners are hosting a beginner-level, hybrid, hands-on workshop that will teach you how to optimize your website and digital presence for search engines. [Register online](#) for \$50 per person. Taking place at the Best Western Plus Mariposa Inn & Conference Centre, Orillia (virtual option available).

- **March 6, Get the Most Out of Google Analytics, 10 to 11 am**

Elevate your data-driven decision-making—[register now](#) and stay ahead in the world of digital analytics. Join this free webinar all about GA4, presented by the South Georgian Bay Local Digital Service Squad.

- **March 19, Canva for Business (Level 2), 4:30 to 6 pm**

The Orillia Area CDC is hosting a workshop to help you take your design skills to the next level. Learn how to create stunning designs and marketing materials that will boost your business. [Register](#) for this in-person, hands-on training at the Best Western Plus Mariposa Inn & Conference Centre today. \$22 per person.

- **March 20, Marketing Your Business with AI Tools, 10 to 11 am**

Gain insights into the benefits of Chat GPT as well as other AI tools to understand how this technology can help your business achieve its goals. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable knowledge that can take your marketing efforts to the next level. [Register](#) today to attend this free webinar hosted by the South Georgian Bay Local Digital Service Squad.

- **May 7 to 9, Impact Sustainability Travel & Tourism - Ontario Conference 2024**

Registration has opened for the regional event on sustainability in the tourism industry. Collaborate, share ideas, network, and uncover innovative strategies for creating a positive impact. Open to members and non-members. Register [today!](#)

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## Interesting / Must Reads

### Destination Canada Fall Tourism Outlook Report

Canada's tourism sector has made significant strides since the previous outlook in Fall 2022 and we are now moving past recovery to a much welcome rebound. To truly realize its full potential, transforming tourism in Canada is essential and the sector needs to embrace a transformational path to achieve this. Read the full report [here](#).

---

## 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)
  - **Tourism SkillsNet RTO7** (TSN7)
  - **Free 2SLGBTQ+ Training**
  - **T3 Accelerator**
  - T3 Accelerator Podcast
    - **Tourism Biz Bites from the 7**
  - **Implementation Programs**
    - **Operations Implementation Program** (OIP)
    - **Recruitment Implementation Program** (RIP)
    - **Sustainability Inclusivity Program** (SIP)
- **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)



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# TOURISM SKILLS NET

**RTO 7**



LEARN MORE

## Careers in Tourism







## 2SLGBTQ+ TRAINING

FREE

For tourism stakeholders in  
BruceGreySimcoe

[Learn More](#)

## T3 Accelerator Podcast



## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR THE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

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

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**Friday, February 9, 2024**

***The UN World Tourism Organization** defines sustainable tourism as “tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities.”*

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**Be a part of our journey!**

Regional Tourism Organization 7 (RTO7) has signed the **Sustainable Tourism**

**Silver Sustainable Tourism Destination Certification.** As a result of that process, RTO7 now has a Sustainable Tourism Action Plan which, along with guidance from a **Sustainable Tourism Working Group**, will help to inform our direction and ensure progress towards the continued improvement of the region's sustainability over the coming years.

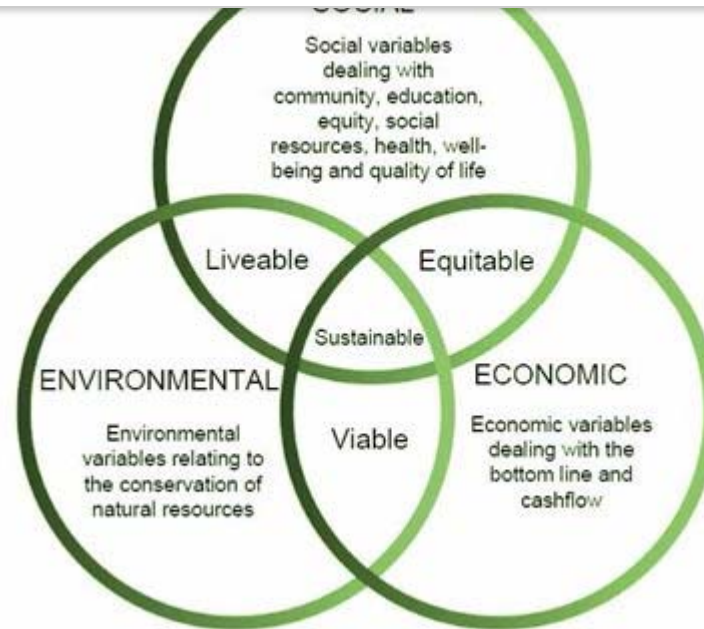
#### **In this Newsletter:**

- [What is Sustainable Tourism?](#)
- [Region 7 Sustainability Snapshot Poll](#)
- [Introducing Members of the RTO7 Sustainable Tourism Working Group](#)
- [Stakeholder Journey Video with Jessie Caplin from Golden Girls Camp](#)

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## **What is sustainable tourism?**

While sustainability is often associated solely with environmental concerns, at RTO7, we recognize that economic and social sustainability are equally crucial for a balanced and thriving tourism industry.



Credit: [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)

This graphic is a good visual summary of how we think about sustainable tourism. Essentially, we're trying to balance:

**Social needs:** e.g. providing diverse and inclusive tourism experiences that celebrate heritage, culture, and local assets, while actively promoting DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) principles has many benefits including workforce attraction/retention. Providing positive interaction points for the local community and visitors can help to foster mutual understanding and appreciation.

**Economic needs:** e.g. creating an environment for tourism businesses to be successful and, importantly, financially stable, extending their season, encouraging businesses to buy more products locally, providing favourable income-earning opportunities within host communities, etc.

**Environmental needs:** e.g. protecting natural environments, wildlife, and natural

tourism, etc.

For more information on RTO7's approach to Sustainable Tourism, please [visit our website](#).

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Dive into the pulse of our sustainability community with our Sustainability Snapshot stakeholder poll! Click [HERE](#) to complete the brief poll (1 to 2 minutes) to let us know where you are in your sustainability journey.

This information will help us understand the current level of stakeholder interest and



support.

---

## Introducing the RTO7 Sustainable Tourism Working Group

As a requirement of the GreenStep Sustainable Tourism Destination Certification, we have established a Sustainable Tourism Working Group. The goal of the Working Group is:

- To foster collaboration and advance the destination's sustainable tourism initiatives
- Assist with goal setting, ensuring progress towards goals
- Identifying gaps and future opportunities
- Provide input and a broader, regional perspective on best practices

As ambassadors with real-world tourism experience, they aim to simplify achieving a balance of economic, environmental, and social sustainability among the region's tourism businesses.

In each of our upcoming newsletters, we will be introducing members of the Working Group, starting with the RTO7 team involved in leading this initiative. Members of this group will be added and profiled on our website [here](#).

**Scott Allison**

Scott is both Chair of Regional Tourism Organization 7's Board of Directors and Chair of the Sustainable Tourism Working Group. He is also a volunteer coach with the **T3 Accelerator** program for professional development of tourism businesses. His experience includes executive positions with Marriott Hotels of Canada, serving as Vice Chair and board member of Destination Canada over a span of 15 years, and Chairing the Centennial College Board of Governors, as well as many of the college's committees. Scott brings to the Region 7 tourism industry a wealth of experience gained through a career in tourism and hospitality that spanned the airline, hotel and related tourism segments in both Canada and the United States.



### **Kim Clarke**

In Kim's role as Manager of Stakeholder Relations, she leads RTO7's sustainability portfolio. Kim previously headed up the Tourism division at the County of Bruce. Throughout her career, she has been leading, coaching and elbows deep in product and experience development. Seeing the big picture, collaborating with others, and telling your story are a few of Kim's main philosophies when it comes to experience development. She is a big advocate of data-driven decision making and has worked on large products that span across most of the province as well as helped small businesses develop their own experiences that will help add to their bottom line. She brings a background in business administration, a flair for creative marketing, and is passionate about creating amazing things to do in BruceGreySimcoe.

**Alex Hogan**

Alex is RTO7's Program & Administration Manager and has over 20 years of experience managing a wide variety of projects. She manages the Partnership Program, as well as contributing to sustainable tourism projects. After graduating from Environment and Resource Studies at the University of Waterloo, Alex spent many years managing training projects for a Toronto-based environmental consulting company specializing in waste management and climate change issues.

---

**Stakeholder Journeys**



### Sustainability is a journey more than a destination!

Many of you are likely practicing sustainability in your day-to-day operations but you may not have thought about it as a sustainability practice. We've often found that's the case, for instance, when we spoke with Jessie Caplin of Golden Girls Camp & A Queer Camp. She has fantastic procurement practices – an important aspect of business, but one that she's never associated with 'sustainability'.

Watch the video to hear about Jessie's journey!

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## Sustainable Tourism Contact List

If you share our interest in sustainable tourism and would like to be a part of our collaborative journey, be sure to provide your feedback through our **Sustainability Snapshot** (above) to be included in our sustainable tourism contact list.





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    - **Operations Implementation Program** (OIP)
    - **Recruitment Implementation Program** (RIP)
- **Resources**
  - **Careers in Tourism**

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100+ expert instructors.  
Infinite possibilities.



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SKILLSNET**

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Bruce Grey Simcoe

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# T3 Accelerator Podcast



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*The Annual CSGB Golf Classic is Set to Go!*



The wheels are in motion to host the 32nd Annual Golf Classic in support of  
**Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce**

**OVER \$600,000.00 Raised to Date . . . Rated Among the Best!**

Our Title Sponsors Bayshore Broadcasting & Germania Mutual Insurance Company have been teamed up with Carlsberg Canada this year. We welcome Carlsberg aboard as we invite you to join us in support of this key community fundraising event. The proceeds will help fund the essential work that Crime Stoppers performs, to help make our Grey-Bruce communities safe.

**WHERE:** Saugeen Golf Club will return as our host venue

**WHEN:** **Thursday, June 6th, 2024**

Attached is the 32nd Annual golfer registration form, including hole sponsorship information. As designated group leader, please share details with your team.

**Chances to Win 2024 Cars + \$30,000.00 & More!**

Entry fee includes all golf related activities, all meals, Annual Souvenir & all post-play festivities, including the Grand Prize Draw.

**Mingle with Guest Celebs of the Day**

As per the norm, we anticipate the tournament will fill up again this year and request that you complete and return the registration form by April 26, 2024.

**A Good Cause with Good Fun & Good Food for Everyone**

Your past support has been part of the Tourney's success & we look forward to hosting you and your fellow golfers at Saugeen Golf Club on Thursday, June 6th, 2024, in support of ...

**Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce**

Joe Dietrich  
 Tourney Co-Chair

Evan Hayter  
 Tourney Co-Founder

Dan Hill  
 Tourney Co-Chair

Fred Wallace  
 Good Will Ambassador

bayshore  
 broadcasting



Official Event Title Sponsors





*Germania Mutual Ins. \* Bayshore Broadcasting \* Carlsberg*

**..... INVITE YOU TO ENTER .....**  
**The 32nd Annual CSGB Tourney @**  
**Saugeen Golf Club 519-389-4031 \* Thursday, June 6th, 2024**



**Chance to Win A Car or \$30,000.00**



**REGISTRATION @ 10 AM**  
**Shot Gun Start @ 11 AM**  
**Entry Fee \$200.00 Per Golfer**  
**4 Person Scramble Format**



**Mingle with Guest Celebs of the Day!**



*Golf Fee Perks: 18 holes with power carts; senior tees; free practice range, rain-checks; bag tags; mulligans: 50/50 cash hole; closest-to-pin opps; hole-in-one opps; 50/50 \$ raffle; Tim Hortons donuts; box lunch in play; post-play Reception & Banquet Dinner; live & silent auctions; 32nd Ann. Souvenir; Chance to Win Grand Prize Draw*

**Please Sign Up Below and Return Your Entry Form & Fee by April 26th - We Fill Up Fast!**

| Name | Address | Postal Code | Email |
|------|---------|-------------|-------|
|      |         |             |       |
|      |         |             |       |
|      |         |             |       |
|      |         |             |       |

Telephone contact name & number:  
**\*Entry Deadline APRIL 26th**

**You may also wish to register as a Corporate Hole Sponsor \* 2024 Hole Sponsor Perks include:**

*Social Media Hits \* Day of Hole Signs \* Listing on 32nd Ann. Scorecard \* Listing Tipsters Mag. \* Table Tent Cards*

Company Name for Hole Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**Select from 3 levels as follows:**  1. Platinum @ \$1,000.00  2. Gold @ \$600.00  3. Silver @ \$300.00

**TO REGISTER:** Please fill & return entry form with payment to GERMANIA MUTUAL INSURANCE  
 403 Mary Street, PO Box 30, Ayton ON, N0G 1C0 \* CSGBgolf@germaniamutual.com  
 \* For more details, contact Elena DeBono @ Germania Mutual Insurance 1-888-418-7770 ext. 260  
 Payment Methods: (a) by Cheque, payable to Crime Stoppers Grey-Bruce Tournament (b) by E-transfer, payable to Crime Stoppers Golf sent to: crimestoppersgolf@wightman.ca (c) by Credit Card



Official Event Title Sponsors



**From:** [Kelly Lush](#)  
**To:** [Kelly Lush](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Emergency Department Service Reductions - SBGHC Durham Site  
**Date:** February 16, 2024 12:27:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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**From:** SBGHC Communications <[communications@sbghc.on.ca](mailto:communications@sbghc.on.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:11 AM  
**To:** [mayor@westgrey.com](mailto:mayor@westgrey.com); [cao@arran-elderslie.ca](mailto:cao@arran-elderslie.ca); [mayor@arran-elderslie.ca](mailto:mayor@arran-elderslie.ca); Kerri Mighton <[kmighton@westgrey.com](mailto:kmighton@westgrey.com)>; '([lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org))' <[lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org)>; Mary Rose Walden <[mrwalden@huronkinloss.com](mailto:mrwalden@huronkinloss.com)>; 'Chris Peabody' <[cpeabody@brockton.ca](mailto:cpeabody@brockton.ca)>; 'Sonya Watson' <[swatson@brockton.ca](mailto:swatson@brockton.ca)>; [kevin.mcnab@grey.ca](mailto:kevin.mcnab@grey.ca); [rmartin@westgrey.ca](mailto:rmartin@westgrey.ca); Steve Schaus <[sschaus@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:sschaus@brucecounty.on.ca)>; [krista.miller@opp.ca](mailto:krista.miller@opp.ca); Baird, Sarah <[sarah.baird@pc.ola.org](mailto:sarah.baird@pc.ola.org)>; [lisa.lapierre@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.lapierre@pc.ola.org); [rick.byers@pc.ola.org](mailto:rick.byers@pc.ola.org); Jillene Bellchamber-Glazier <[bellchamber-glazier@kincardine.ca](mailto:bellchamber-glazier@kincardine.ca)>; Don Murray <[dmurray@huronkinloss.com](mailto:dmurray@huronkinloss.com)>; Steve Hammell <[shammell@arran-elderslie.ca](mailto:shammell@arran-elderslie.ca)>; Kenneth Craig <[kcraig@kincardine.ca](mailto:kcraig@kincardine.ca)>; [keegan.wilcox@opp.ca](mailto:keegan.wilcox@opp.ca); Sylvia Kirkwood <[SKirkwood@arran-elderslie.ca](mailto:SKirkwood@arran-elderslie.ca)>  
**Cc:** Shaw, Nancy <[nancy.shaw@sbghc.on.ca](mailto:nancy.shaw@sbghc.on.ca)>; Holdsworth, Taylor <[tholdsworth@sbghc.on.ca](mailto:tholdsworth@sbghc.on.ca)>  
**Subject:** Emergency Department Service Reductions - SBGHC Durham Site



# MEMO

**TO:** Municipal Partners

**DATE:** February 14, 2024

**FROM:** Nancy Shaw, President and CEO

**SUBJECTS:** **Emergency Department Service Reductions - SBGHC Durham Site**

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South Bruce Grey Health Centre (SBGHC) will be implementing an overnight closure of the Durham emergency department (ED) due to insufficient nursing staff as follows:

**The Durham hospital ED will be closed overnight, every night, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 AM, and will**

**be open and operational from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM seven days per week.**

This reduction in service will start on Sunday, March 10, 2024, and will extend for an indefinite period of time.

There are a significant number of unfilled nursing shifts for the Durham hospital on the schedule that begins on March 10, and it has become clear that consistently staffing the ED in the overnight hours for the foreseeable future without frequent and ongoing closures of ED services will not be possible. For the safety of our patients and staff, this difficult decision has been made.

We know that short-term service reductions are not sustainable, and we need long-term solutions as we continue to face significant staffing challenges. Our Board and Senior Leadership Team remain focused on stabilizing all of our sites for the future and providing a high-quality and safe system of care our communities can have confidence in. As a result of the cycle of temporary service reductions, we are engaging with our government partners on both shorter-term supports and longer-term options. We are committed to engaging with our staff, physicians, communities, and government partners as our work continues.

**Nancy Shaw** | President & CEO

**South Bruce Grey Health Centre**

21 McGivern Street, PO Box 1300, Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0

**T** 519.370.2400 x2450 | **F** 519.370.2428

[www.sbghc.on.ca](http://www.sbghc.on.ca)



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