

Kelly Lush

From: Regional Tourism Organization 7 <info@rto7.ca>
Sent: December 4, 2024 12:47 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: Press Release: Ontario Snow Resorts Embrace Sustainability

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Press Release

For Immediate Release: December 4, 2024

**10 Ontario Snow Resorts Commit to Further Sustainability
through GreenStep Certification**

Collingwood, Ontario (December 4, 2024) - As the snow season fast approaches, GreenStep, in collaboration with Regional Tourism Organization 7 (RTO7) and the Ontario Snow Resorts Association (OSRA), are proud to announce the successful completion of the "On the Road to GreenStep Certification" program. This innovative pilot project brought together 10 snow resorts across Ontario in a transformative journey towards sustainability and certification.

From September to November 2024, participating resorts engaged in an intensive six-week program designed to guide them through the process of achieving GreenStep certification, based on their Global Sustainable Tourism Council recognized criteria. This program provided the tools, resources, and expertise necessary to empower resorts to adopt best practices in sustainability, reduce their environmental impact, and enhance their sustainable credentials.

The program, facilitated by GreenStep's experienced team, focused on key areas of sustainable snow resort stewardship, including the environment, social and economic impacts, interactions with their natural and cultural settings, and adopting best sustainable management practices. These resorts are now equipped to deliver long-term benefits to their communities and stakeholders.

“With the collaboration and support of GreenStep and RTO7, The Ontario Snow

Resorts Association along with 10 Member Resorts are well on their way to GreenStep Certification,” stated Kevin Nicol, President of OSRA “The OSRA and these leading Snow Resort owners and operators, have elevated their already established environmental stewardship practices and through sharing policies and procedures and learning from each other, are embarking on a pledge going forward that will continue to benefit our communities, environment and businesses.”

“We’ve been delighted to support and participate in this progressive initiative undertaken by OSRA and the resorts,” continued Scott Allison, Chair of RTO7. “The environmental, social and economic sustainability of tourism is critical to both the ski and tourism industry and we look forward to working with other sector associations to advance sustainability within the region, but also with our colleagues across the province.”

“GreenStep was thrilled to participate in this groundbreaking pilot project to assist Ontario snow resorts begin their journey to our certification,” added Angela Nagy, President and CEO of GreenStep. “The snow industry in Ontario is an integral part of the overall tourism sector, and by working to help these 10 resorts further their sustainability work, we’re contributing the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario’s goal to make the province the most sustainable four-season destination in Canada.”

Starting in January 2025, these resorts will officially begin the GreenStep certification process. Certification will not only validate their efforts but also provide a roadmap for continuous improvement and innovation in sustainable practices.

RTO7 and OSRA have been instrumental in supporting this initiative, recognizing the growing demand for sustainable tourism practices among travellers and the importance of preserving Ontario's natural landscapes.

About RTO7

Regional Tourism Organization 7 (RTO7) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the growth and sustainability of tourism in Bruce, Grey, and Simcoe Counties. As one of Ontario's 11 Regional Tourism Organizations, our mission is to work collaboratively with tourism partners and stakeholders to build, sustain and grow visitation, investment and visitor spending. Through strategic initiatives, marketing support, funding programs, and destination management projects, RTO7 works to ensure that Bruce-Grey-Simcoe remains a vibrant, welcoming, and sustainable destination. www.RTO7.ca

About OSRA

The Ontario Snow Resorts Association has been operating in service of its ski area members since 1964, making it the oldest area operators' association in Canada – 60 this year! OSRA comprises 50 Alpine, 2 Tube Parks and 10 Cross

Country areas across Ontario, plus over 70 Associate members made up of equipment suppliers and service providers to the snow industry. Our mandate is to support snow resort owners and operators in Ontario by hosting meetings, educational seminars and events while promoting safety and best practices within the industry. www.skiontario.ca

About GreenStep

Founded in 2008, GreenStep assists Canadian tourism businesses and destinations through consulting, training and certification based on its Global Sustainable Tourism Council recognized sustainable tourism criteria.

GreenStep helps tourism businesses and organizations identify opportunities to increase sustainability while at the same time-saving money and improving credibility, helping to meet the growing consumer and stakeholder demand for more responsible tourism practices and experiences. www.greenstep.ca

Contact

Kevin Nicol, President, OSRA

kevin@skiontario.ca

Angela Nagy, President & CEO, GreenStep

angela@greenstep.ca

Program Participants

Ontario Snow Resorts Association

Alpine Ski Club

Beaver Valley Ski Club

Blue Mountain

Boler Mountain

Caledon Ski Club

Chicopee Ski

Chicopee Tube Park

Horseshoe Valley Resort

Mansfield Ski Club

Mount St. Louis Moonstone



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Ontario 

Kelly Lush

From: Regional Tourism Organization 7 <info@rto7.ca>
Sent: December 3, 2024 4:58 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: December 2024 Industry Updates from RTO7

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The logo for the Regional Tourism Organization 7 is centered on the page. It consists of the words "REGIONAL TOURISM" in a light grey, sans-serif font, positioned above the word "ORGANIZATION 7" in a larger, teal-colored, sans-serif font. The text is set against a light blue background with a subtle dotted pattern.

REGIONAL TOURISM
ORGANIZATION 7

December 3, 2024



**Welcome to the December Edition of
RTO7's Industry E-Newsletter**

In This Newsletter:

-
- What's Going On...at RTO7
 - Update on 2025/26 Program Launch
 - Tech Compass
 - Funding & Business Support
 - Experience Ontario
 - Canada Summer Jobs
 - Webinars, Workshops & Events
 - In Case You Missed It
 - Government of Canada Announces a Two-Month GST/HST Break
 - Destination Ontario Leads the Way in Sustainable Tourism
 - News From Around the Region
 - TBM will use its share of hotel tax funds for tourism projects
 - Smart Commute Bruce County launched
 - Typsy Picks *NEW*
 - In Every Newsletter
 - Not A Subscriber?

What's Going On...at RTO7

RTO7 2025/26 Program Launch Update

We're putting the finishing touches on our suite of annual programs and are excited to announce they'll be launching at the end of January. Now is the perfect time to start planning your applications for the Partnership and Implementation Programs. Have questions? Don't hesitate to **reach out**—we're here to help as you prepare your submissions. Stay tuned for more updates in the new year!

Tech Compass

Ready to level up your tourism business? Let Tech Compass lead the way in your digital transformation journey. Here's how we can help:

1. **FREE Tech Assessment:** Start with a comprehensive consultation to pinpoint your tech needs.
2. **Recommendations & Action Plan:** Receive custom tool suggestions and a clear implementation roadmap.
3. **Digital Toolkit & Training:** Access essential tools and receive training resources.

For more information on how Tech Compass works or to apply for your FREE assessment, visit www.techcompass.ca to unlock the full potential of your tourism business.

Tech Compass Team: [RTO7](#), [Community Futures South Georgian Bay](#) and [Rappid Software Design](#)
Tech Compass is funded by the Government of Canada through the [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#)

Funding & Business Support

Experience Ontario

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming (MTCG) supports destination and product development and investment in Ontario's tourism industry. The Experience Ontario 2025 program provides support for festivals and events with a tourism economic impact to motivate visitors to discover Ontario, connect people with local experiences, and increase tourism spending.

Experience Ontario is a competitive program. Applications will be measured against program criteria and, as such, there is no guarantee of funding, including to past recipients. The deadline to apply for funding is December 19, 2024, at 4:00 pm (EST).

Learn more and download the application guide at [Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca).

Canada Summer Jobs

The CSJ program application is open until December 19, 2024, at 11:59 pm (PST). Applicants can seek funding in their application to offer quality jobs for youth during the summer season.

Not-for-profit employers can receive a **wage subsidy up to 100%** of the current provincial minimum hourly wage. Public and private sector employers are eligible to receive a **wage subsidy of up to 50%** of the current provincial or territorial

minimum hourly wage.

This year, jobs can take place from April 21, 2025, to August 30, 2025. [Visit the website](#) for more details and to apply.

Webinars, Workshops & Events

- **December 4, Virtual: Ask an Expert: Engaging Local Post-Secondary Schools in Your Talent Strategy, 11 am to 12 pm – Simcoe County**

Attendees will learn effective strategies for engaging local post-secondary institutions and how to establish meaningful partnerships with Georgian College and Lakehead University. Enhance your talent acquisition efforts and [register now](#).

- **December 5, Developing Effective Teams, 9 am to 2:30 pm – Simcoe County**

This module is part of the [Management Essentials Micro-certificate](#) and is delivered by Georgian College. Hosted by the County of Simcoe Economic Development Office at the Simcoe County Administration Centre in Midhurst. Limited spots remain! [Register here](#).

- **December 10, Virtual: Crafting a winning Business Pitch, 7 to 8 pm – Business to Bruce**

In this interactive session, you will learn how to create a compelling

business pitch that effectively communicates your value proposition and resonates with your audience. [Register for free to attend.](#)

- **December 11, A Festive Party for Entrepreneurs, 5 to 7 pm – South Georgian Bay**

Join Community Futures South Georgian Bay, The Collingwood Foundry, and the South Georgian Bay Small Business Enterprise Centre for a laid-back celebration for entrepreneurs, solopreneurs, and small business owners. Unwind, Connect, and get into the holiday spirit! \$20 pp, [pre-register here.](#)

- **December 11, Virtual: Google Analytics Webinar, 10 to 11 am – open to anyone**

Free webinar exploring an important topic offered through Get Digital Support. If you have a website and want to better understand the insights to drive smarter marketing decisions, [register today!](#)

- **January 15, 2025, How to Boost Direct Bookings for Hotels and B&Bs, 10 to 11 am – open to anyone**

Discover proven strategies to reduce reliance on third-party platforms and maximize your revenue. This free webinar is offered by Get Digital Support. [Register today!](#)

In Case You Missed It

Government of Canada Announces a Two-Month GST/HST Break

Starting December 14th, the GST/HST will be removed from 100% of groceries, restaurant meals, beer and wine, and other essentials. Learn more about the Federal initiative on [Canada.ca](#).

Destination Ontario Leads the Way in Sustainable Tourism

Destination Ontario has become the first provincial marketing organization to sign the Sustainable Tourism 2030 Pledge and pursue GreenStep Solutions' organizational certification, with its criteria recognized by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council. [Read the TIAO Media Release here.](#)

News from Around the Region

The Town of The Blue Mountains will allocate its share of hotel tax funds to support tourism projects. [Read the full article on CollingwoodToday.ca.](#)

Smart Commute Bruce County has officially launched! The Smart Commute App is designed to help connect employees to ride-matching opportunities. The County is looking to onboard local employers into the **Smart Commute Program** to help make commuting easier for their employees. If you're an interested employer, please email transit@brucecounty.on.ca.

Typsy Picks

Each month, the RTO7 team will spotlight a recommended course from Typsy, the online training platform that's free for anyone working in tourism across BruceGreySimcoe. This valuable resource offers training for all levels—from business owners and managers to full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees. Stay tuned for our top picks to enhance your skills and grow your expertise!

This month's pick is: Mastering Employee Retention in the Tourism Industry



To assist tourism operators tackle their workforce challenges, RTO7 has developed a custom course, now available on the Typsy hospitality training platform.

Why This Course Matters:

- Tailored Content: Created internally with our region's unique needs in mind
- Practical Strategies: Offers actionable retention tactics you can implement immediately
- Accessible Format: Available on-demand, on any device, through Typsy's user-friendly platform
- BONUS: Accompanying the course is a comprehensive handbook filled with key retention strategies and templates!

Take the Next Step

Don't let workforce challenges hold your business back. Explore this course and [download the retention handbook](#) to find the strategies you need to retain your top talent and strengthen your team. To access the course, follow the steps below:

1. If you already have a free Typsy account with us, [log in here](#)
2. If you haven't set up a free Typsy account, register your interest on [RTO7.ca and fill out the form](#) (at the bottom of the web page).
3. Navigate to the RTO7 custom content selection (under "Discover")
4. Click on "Sustaining Success: Mastering Employee Retention in the Tourism Industry"

If you need assistance, please reach out to our Learning & Development Coordinator, Fatima, at sfatima@rto7.ca.



IN EVERY NEWSLETTER:

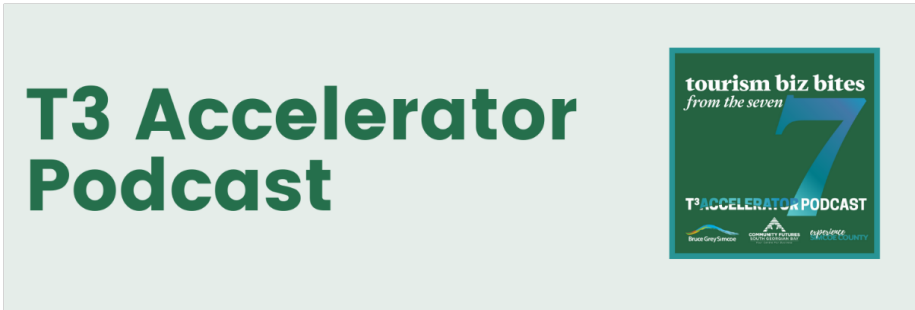
RTO7 Programs and Resources

Our programs and resources aim to support business growth, foster collaboration, promote sustainability, provide market insights, attract more visitors, and improve tourism experiences in BruceGreySimcoe. Click on the links below for more info:

- **Programs**
 - **Partnership Programs**
 - **GoEV Funding Program**
 - **BruceGreySimcoe Free Training**
 - **T3 Accelerator**
 - **Tech Compass**
 - 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](#)
 - [Resource Guide](#)
 - [RTO7 Connection Blog](#)
 - Are You Listed?
 - [FREE Tourism Operator Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com](#)
 - Need Help Pushing Out a Promotion?
 - [FREE Promotions Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com](#) (complete and up-to-date operator profile required)
 - Add Your Festival or Event!
 - [FREE Festivals and Events Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com](#)





Not A Subscriber?

If you aren't yet subscribed to our newsletter, click [HERE](#) to stay up-to-date on what's happening in our region.

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Kelly Lush

From: Community Living Kincardine & District <aswan@clkd.ca>
Sent: December 5, 2024 10:00 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: CLKD's December 2024 newsletter is here!



December 2024 Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)



An inclusive caring community.



As the community comes alive with togetherness in celebration of the holiday season, we reflect on the abundance of support we are so thankful to have from you all throughout the year.

It is with deep gratitude that we, the staff and board at CLKD, wish you and yours the very best this holiday season.

Community Christmas Celebration



Despite blustery and snowy weather outside, it was a warm and festive atmosphere inside the Davidson Centre for the annual CLKD Community Christmas Celebration!

The event was extremely well received and filled with words of gratitude from attendees with one parent sharing that, "It's always so fun and it's a perfect start to our Christmas season!".

To kick things off, Jenny Raspberry, Infant & Child Development Coordinator, hosted a well-attended and joy-filled Kindergym session for toddlers and preschoolers. Upstairs, cookie-decorating and ornament crafts were a huge hit with both the young and young-at-heart alike.

The sound of Christmas carols made the delicious hot chocolate donated by Tim Hortons and ice cream bars donated by Dairy Queen taste even sweeter. The celebration wrapped up with a fun family skate in the arena.

A big thanks to our staff and volunteers for organizing this great event!

**Thank you for Participating in
#GivingTuesdayCA**

The graphic features a green background with a white border at the top containing the text "GIVING TUESDAY" in white, with a heart icon containing a maple leaf. Below this, the text "THANK YOU for your generous support." is displayed in large white letters. At the bottom, there are logos for "COMMUNITY LIVING Kincardine and District Inspiring Possibilities", "co-operators Investing in your future. Together.", and "Wealth Management Dominion Securities Moore Wealth Management of RBC Dominion Securities".

GIVING TUESDAY

THANK YOU
for your generous support.

COMMUNITY LIVING
Kincardine and District
Inspiring Possibilities

co-operators
Investing in your future. Together.™

Wealth Management
Dominion Securities
Moore Wealth Management
of RBC Dominion Securities

On December 3rd, we took part in the annual #GivingTuesdayCA campaign to raise funds to purchase and install a commercial generator at the Saratoga Supported Home. A commercial

generator will support the safety and security of residents and staff while providing uninterrupted power for mobility and medical devices.

Our goal for Giving Tuesday was to raise \$5,000 which would complete the overall fundraising goal of \$75,000 that we have been working toward this year.

We are incredibly excited to report that **\$16,028 was raised**, with an **additional \$2,000** in support from our partners, **Jennifer Cook of Jennifer Cook and Associates | Co-operators** and **Matthew Moore from Moore Wealth Management of RBC Dominion Securities**, our grand total was **\$18,028!**

We are **so thankful** for this **amazing** support!

Shyla - Certified Therapy Dog!



Kathy and her dog Shyla are pictured above in Hanover at the open house for all St. John Ambulance therapy dogs

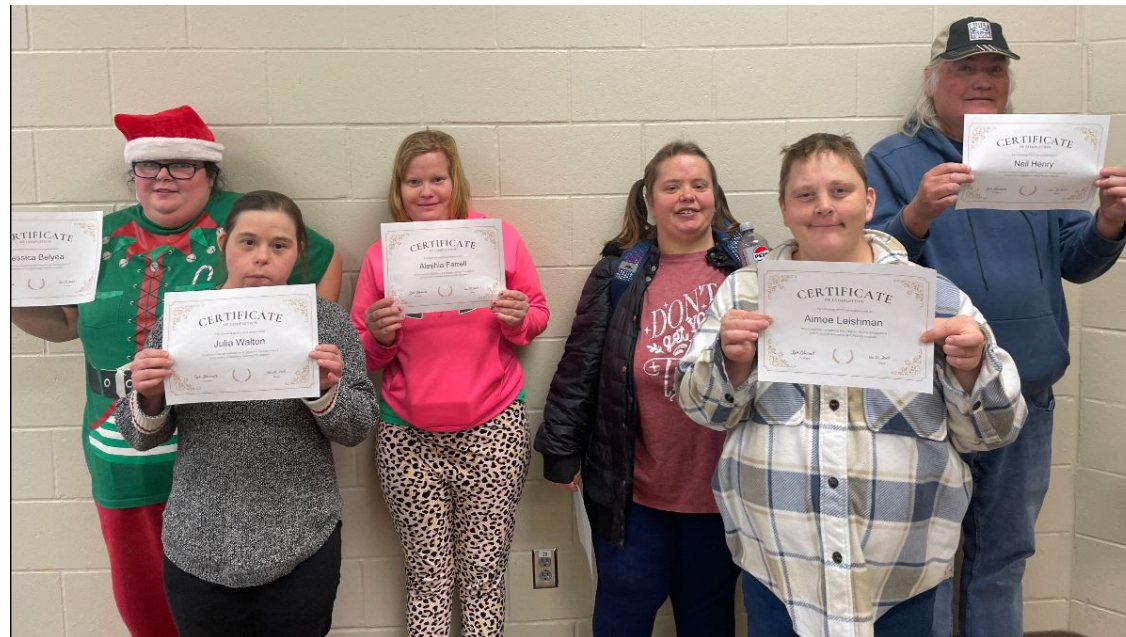
My dog Shyla has recently been recertified to be a therapy dog! Shyla is my third dog to go through this program. I get to bring her to retirement homes and nursing homes, or hospitals to bring comfort to the people there. They are allowed to pet her and snuggle her! I bought some tiny treats to bring so that the people can give her treats too; she enjoys that. Now that Shyla is a therapy dog, she will be able to come to my family Christmas this year too!

To become a therapy dog, Shyla had to complete a test to become certified. They watched her walk from place to place, how she interacted with others, and how she reacted to distractions. At one point, they threw a bag of pop cans behind us to see if it scared her—she was brave!

Every time Shyla works as a therapy dog, I record her hours. At the end of the year, I submit her hours, and we might get an award!

- Kathy Solodoka

PEERS Fall Graduates!



Pictured above are 6 people holding certificates of completion of the fall PEERS course.

Congratulations to the hard-working individuals who completed our fall session of PEERS on November 27th! Julia, Neil, Aleisha, Alix, Aimee and Jessica enthusiastically participated each week and were a joy to get to know.

We discussed topics such as friendship, handling disagreements, using electronic communication and planning get-togethers.

For our last session, we celebrated with a pizza party, cookie decorating and puzzles so participants could put their new skills into practice.

'Tis the Season for Christmas Shopping!



Pictured above is MJ on the left sitting in front of a decorated Christmas tree with a shopping bag. On the right, Karen is enjoying pizza at a restaurant.

I love to shop, because I love to; that's why. [laughter] It's part of Christmas, that's right! I like to Christmas shop and then go out for lunch. I like to shop in Kincardine. I like to shop for presents for people, like my brothers. I'm looking forward to doing some more Christmas shopping & lunch! I like to spend my own money and use my bank card. - MaryJane

I like to shop. Oh yeah, I had fun [at Ladies Night in Kincardine]. I like to go in the stores to look at, and buy pretty things like bracelets, necklaces and earrings. I do like to Christmas shop; it's kind of fun! We also went out for supper. - Karen

Empowered in the Kitchen with Stuckless Healing Co.



This collage of photos shows participants of the cooking class in aprons, preparing food in the kitchen.

Stuckless Healing Co. Empowering Kitchen has been offering cooking classes for all ages and abilities. Allan, Jeffrey and Catherine attended a couple of Kala's classes at the Davidson Centre recently.

"We learned how to make chicken noodle soup using fresh ingredients and grilled cheese sandwiches with bacon. Since it's apple season, we also got to make apple crumble from scratch for dessert. I learned that squeezing lemon onto apples after they have been cut will help stop them from going brown! Kala showed us how to use a knife properly without the fear of cutting oneself. I know that I have to be careful taking things out of the oven and microwave, because they are hot!

Kala also showed us how to make witchy finger cookies and vegetable and fruit smoothies, which were really delicious. Who knew spinach and cucumbers could taste this good!”

– Catherine

“My favourite part was making the desserts. The apple crumble was delicious and I had a lot of fun making the witchy fingers. I shared some of the soup I made with my friends at home. I liked helping Kala with the clean up because that is an important part of working in the kitchen. I can’t wait till the next class.”

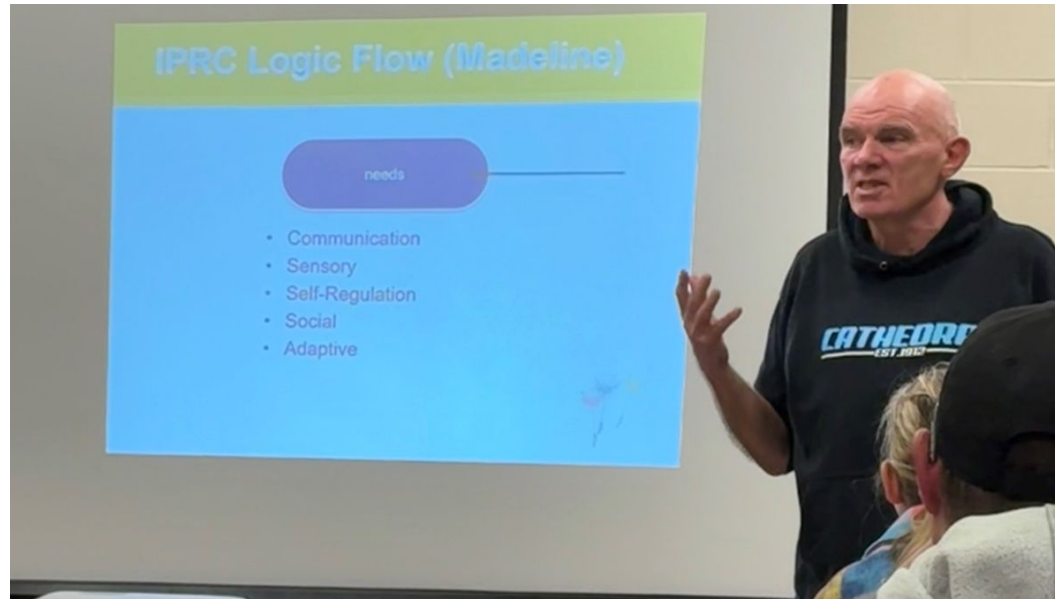
- Allan

“I liked using the crinkle cutter to cut the carrots for the soup. The soup was so yummy. The apple crumble was my favourite, so tasty!”

- Jeffrey

Kala has been working on making these classes a regular monthly activity to be offered to anyone in the community who is interested in learning the basics of cooking. Kala provides her students with take home recipes of the food that they learned to prepare during each session. She educates the participants on proper food handling and safety. Kala provides each person with the opportunity to try the various tasks involved in preparing the recipes, including cutting, mixing, cooking, baking, and clean up.

Ed Mahony Teaches Parent Advocacy



We are excited to share the tremendous success of our recent **Positive Educational Advocacy Workshop**, led by the inspiring and experienced Ed Mahony. This event provided parents with valuable tools and knowledge to navigate the Ontario school system and advocate effectively for their children's educational needs.

Ed's approachable style and real-life stories resonated deeply with parents, making the sessions not only informative, but also engaging and relatable. One parent remarked, *"Ed's experiences as an educator and real-life stories made the sessions so interesting, and interactions with other parents made the sessions valuable."*

Throughout the workshop, Ed explained topics such as special education laws, Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and IPRC meetings. His ability to simplify complex concepts was praised by many, with one attendee sharing, *"Understanding how to navigate the legislation and language to make better decisions"* was a highlight of the session.

Parents were particularly impressed with Ed's delivery and expertise. As one participant noted, *"Ed was a wonderful speaker. I learned a lot."* Another added, *"The workshop last night should be a prerequisite for parents with children with disabilities starting JK. It was very informative and well delivered in simple terms for parents."*

In addition to the valuable insights shared by Ed, the event offered an opportunity for parents to connect and learn from one another. This sense of community was an added benefit, fostering a supportive environment for shared experiences and strategies.

Many parents expressed a desire for more sessions like this, with one enthusiastically stating, *"This could have been two weeks longer!"* Feedback like this affirms the importance of workshops that empower parents and strengthen their ability to advocate for their children.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ed Mahony for his dedication and expertise and travelling so far and to all the parents who attended and contributed to this event's success.

Upcoming Events & Activities



Baby & Me

Hosted by
COMMUNITY LIVING
Inclusion and Outreach
Inspiring Possibilities

Baby & Me Groups

Running Every Thursday of the Month!

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

****Please Note, there will be no Baby & Me Group on Thursday December 26th or Thursday January 2nd. ****

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



Inclusive Education Month

February

February is Inclusive Education month. All month long, we celebrate inclusive learning environments and work together to make learning even more inclusive.

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



[Like CLKD on Facebook](#)



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Kelly Lush

From: Kelly Lush
Sent: December 13, 2024 1:06 PM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: FW: Premier Doug Ford Launches Ontario Corps



NEWS RELEASE

Premier Doug Ford Launches Ontario Corps

Ontario makes history as one of first provinces in Canada to mobilize volunteer corps for emergencies

December 13, 2024

[Premier's Office](#)

TORONTO — Today, Premier Doug Ford announced the creation of [Ontario Corps](#), a group of skilled professionals and volunteers that the province can deploy to help communities respond to natural disasters and other emergencies, while promoting civic engagement and community participation.

“I’ve seen firsthand the incredible community spirit and dedication to volunteerism that we share throughout Ontario,” said Premier Doug Ford. “With the launch of Ontario Corps, we’re harnessing the Ontario spirit to help communities and neighbours in need deal with natural disasters and other emergencies, while providing additional resources to keep our communities safe. I encourage everyone across Ontario who is interested and able to consider volunteering by signing up for Ontario Corps today!”

Inspired by successful models like AmeriCorps, Ontario Corps will work with non-governmental organizations and First Nations partners to help coordinate specialized personnel and volunteers to respond to emergencies. Ontario Corps can mobilize to provide on-the-ground assistance such as emergency shelter, debris management, food services and flood protection. Ontario Corps partner organizations include groups such as Feed Ontario, Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association, Salvation Army, GlobalMedic and Team Rubicon Canada.

To support Ontario Corps emergency response efforts, the province has procured flood mitigation barriers, drones, water pumps, chain saws, air purifiers and other supplies to support communities impacted by emergencies. All equipment and volunteers can be

deployed anywhere across Ontario within 24 to 72 hours to help support community response efforts. Partner organizations could also help prepare the province by training volunteers and educating the public on how they can plan for and respond to emergencies.

“Being safe, practiced and prepared starts with having the resources, trained volunteers and specialized equipment ready when the next emergency impacts Ontario,” said Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response. “Neighbours helping neighbours – that is the true essence of Ontario Corps, which will guide our efforts to ensure our province remains a leader in emergency management for decades to come.”

People of all skill levels and professional backgrounds are encouraged to [volunteer for Ontario Corps](#) to help their communities during emergencies. Volunteers from all backgrounds and experience levels are welcome to apply. They will be provided with initial training and matched with partner organizations based on their skill levels, interests and availability.

Earlier this month, after a significant amount of snow accumulated over a short period of time, the province piloted Ontario Corps in Gravenhurst. Ontario Corps partners the Salvation Army, GlobalMedic, Feed Ontario and the Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association were deployed to help Gravenhurst conduct wellness checks on residents, provide food hampers and serve meals to the community, and support a municipal warming centre for community members who lost power or were stranded on motorways. In April, Team Rubicon Canada, an Ontario Corps partner, was deployed to French River after they requested support for flood mitigation, assisting locals with sandbagging efforts to avoid a flood of the area.

As a part of the plan to modernize emergency management across Ontario, the province is also establishing an Ontario Emergency Preparedness and Response Headquarters that will support a quicker and more coordinated response. Located on surplus government property on Disco Road in Etobicoke near Toronto Pearson International Airport, this state-of-the-art complex would be a multifaceted centre for coordinated and enhanced responses to emergencies. A secure facility with dedicated training rooms, storage, warehousing and aviation infrastructure, the new headquarters would be built to withstand all types of disasters including earthquakes, tornadoes and floods, capable of serving Ontario 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The government is also partnering with Northern College on a regional emergency hub in Timmins to bolster local on-the-ground response and enhance emergency readiness in northern Ontario. The hub, located at the college, could be set up to serve as an emergency operations centre, a meeting point for emergency partners to coordinate responses or a training centre for partners and volunteers in the north. Four additional emergency hubs will be established at strategic locations in northeast, northwest, southwest and southeast Ontario. These new hubs will store equipment to help support local efforts, providing timelier support to areas affected by emergencies.

Quick Facts

- Ontario Corps is part of the government's \$110 million investment over three years to strengthen emergency preparedness and response in Ontario.
- Communities in need of provincial assistance during an emergency are encouraged to contact Emergency Management Ontario by way of the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre. Staff will assess the situation and determine the best support to provide to the community—Ontario Corps partners, equipment, regional field services staff and/or more.
- Ontario Corps is a key accomplishment of the [Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan](#), which highlights actions the province is taking to ensure that every community in Ontario is safe, practiced and prepared before, during and after emergencies.

Quotes

"French River is extremely appreciative to Team Rubicon Canada through Ontario Corps who assisted us during our flooding situation last spring. Ontario Corps not only provided an excellent and efficient service during our time of need, but they brought comfort to our most vulnerable residents who are seniors. And for this, the municipality is eternally grateful."

- Gisèle Pageau
Mayor, Municipality of French River

"Emergency management has evolved significantly across Ontario over the years and Ontario Corps is an important part of the story. We're grateful to Premier Ford and the Government of Ontario for all their support through our emergency in Gravenhurst. We called and they answered. We are certain that Ontario Corps will be a useful resource to other communities experiencing emergencies in the future."

- Heidi Lorenz
Mayor of Gravenhurst

"Team Rubicon Canada appreciates its partnership with the Government of Ontario and Ontario Corps, which has brought over 100 new Greyshirt volunteers through the Ontario Corps portal. This collaboration enhances community resilience, equipping Team Rubicon Canada to be better trained and prepared for disaster response across the province and nationally."

- Bryan Riddell
CEO, Team Rubicon Canada

"The Ontario Corps partnership has significantly increased The Salvation Army's capacity to respond during emergencies. With funding for a new canteen truck and essential supplies, we have been able to pre-position resources for faster responses to communities in northern Ontario. We are deeply grateful for this partnership."

- Stephanie Couturier

Ontario Director, Emergency Disaster Services, The Salvation Army

"Feed Ontario is honoured to be part of the Ontario Corps program. This partnership means that Feed Ontario can pre-pack and store emergency food boxes to ship immediately in times of need and food banks across the province are receiving vital emergency management training to respond and support when acute emergencies affect their communities."

- Carolyn Stewart

CEO, Feed Ontario

"We are thankful to partner with the province. We have thousands of volunteers who daily help their neighbours and want to do more. With financial support from the province we have bought and trained on emergency gear including flood barriers, field tents, trailer mounted generators and a laundry trailer. We have provided drones and training to four remote First Nations communities. We will keep responding to help the people of Ontario."

- Rahul Singh

Executive Director, GlobalMedic

"The Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association is proud to be a partner of the Ontario Corps program. Together, we provide a framework of professional volunteers ready to assist Ontarians in times of need. Today's announcement will greatly increase our capabilities to respond rapidly to crises affecting communities in Ontario."

- Bruno Baker

President, Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Corps](#)
- [Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan](#)
- [Emergency Management Ontario](#)

Media Contacts

Grace Lee

Premier's Office

Grace.Lee5@ontario.ca

Andrew Hartmann

Minister Jones's Office

Andrew.Hartmann@ontario.ca

EMO Communications

Communications Branch

EMO.media@ontario.ca

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Kelly Lush

From: MECP Land Policy (MECP) <MECP.LandPolicy@ontario.ca>
Sent: December 18, 2024 10:31 AM
To: MECP Land Policy (MECP)
Subject: Excess soil regulation – change made to the in-effect date of the landfilling restriction

Greetings,

I am reaching out to share that Ontario has finalized an amendment to O. Reg. 406/19: On-Site and Excess Soil Regulation (“Excess Soil Regulation”).

Having taken feedback into consideration on proposed amendments described in [ERO 019-9196](#), Ontario is updating the Excess Soil Regulation to change the in-effect date of a provision preventing the landfilling of cleaner soil by two years and to clarify the exemptions to this provision. These changes will provide more time for industry to learn about and prepare for this provision and respond to concerns that current lack of awareness could result in project delays and illegal soil dumping.

More specifically, Ontario made the following amendments to the Excess Soil Regulation:

- The in-effect date of the restriction on landfilling excess soil that meets Table 2.1 residential, parkland and institutional standards has been changed from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2027.
- The existing exemptions from the landfilling restriction have been revised to make it clear when this cleaner excess soil may still be taken to a landfill. Clarifications have also been made to the type of information a qualified person would need to provide in a declaration to the landfill owner or operator, indicating why the excess soil should be landfilled.

The ministry proposed additional amendments to the Excess Soil Regulation to enable greater reuse of excess soil and avoid it being landfilled, including exempting certain soil management depots from waste approvals, flexibility for reuse of aggregate and stormwater pond sediment, and greater reuse of soil within the project area and between infrastructure projects. We received considerable feedback on these aspects of the proposal. As the landfilling restriction would have come into effect January 1, 2025, we have proceeded with the decision to change that date, and will make a final decision on the remaining proposals following further consideration of the feedback received.

More information on the finalized amendments may be found in the [decision notice \(ERO 019-9196\)](#) posted on the Environmental Registry. Links to the regulation as well as existing guidance to help understand the regulatory requirements can be found on MECP’s [Handling Excess Soil website](#).

Further, we have heard that greater outreach and awareness is needed to ensure industry is aware of their regulatory requirements. MECP will continue to work collaboratively with stakeholders and Indigenous communities on implementation of these amendments and the Excess Soil Regulation in general. We will also continue to act on non-compliance to address illegal dumping and ensure our environment is protected.

Please pass this information along to colleagues, members of your organization, other organizations and anyone else that may be interested.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to share input on this proposal.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these amendments or other aspects of the Excess Soil Regulation, please contact Reema Kureishy or Sanjay Coelho at MECP.LandPolicy@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Robyn Kurtes
Director, Environmental Policy Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Kelly Lush

From: MPAC <intouch@mpac.ca>
Sent: December 19, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: December 2024 - InTouch

Can't read or see images? [View this email in a browser](#)



[La version française](#)

December 2024

In the news

From spacious homes to compact condos: MPAC data reveals shifting housing trends across Ontario

Housing development across Ontario has undergone significant shifts in recent decades, reflecting an evolving economy, changing consumer preferences for housing type, and affordability considerations of current and prospective homeowners. We recently released new data showing that the types of homes and sizes have evolved across the province, highlighting regional variability in housing patterns. Here are some highlights:

- **Shift in Housing Types:** Single-detached homes have declined, especially in urban areas like the GTA, while condo development has risen. By 2020, condos accounted for 41 per cent of new builds, surpassing single-detached homes at 38 per cent.

- Growth in Single-Detached House Sizes: The median size of single-detached homes has increased from 1,317 sq ft in the 1970s to 2,383 sq ft in the 2020s, reflecting a growing preference for larger homes.
- Decline in Condo Sizes: The median size of condos has decreased by 32 per cent, from 965 sq ft in the 1970s to 658 sq ft today, driven by higher construction and land costs, as well as condos' appeal as investment properties.

[READ MORE](#)

 **Important updates**

2024 Municipal Partnerships Report now available



This week, we unveiled our 2024 Municipal Partnerships Report, sharing valuable insights with our municipal partners across the province. Centered around the theme **Stronger together: The power of collaboration**, the report highlights our collective achievements, including adding over \$42 billion to

assessment rolls, as well as successes in other key areas of collaboration. These efforts emphasize how working together can drive economic growth, strengthen communities, and foster long-term success for municipalities and their residents.

[READ THE REPORT](#)



MPAC to expand access to Electronic Assessment Information file in March

MPAC is excited to announce a significant update for municipalities: starting in March 2025, the Electronic Assessment Information (EAI) file will be available for download monthly. This expansion comes in response to feedback from municipal partners during our Data Strategy consultations, highlighting the need for more frequent access to MPAC data.

Due to data-sharing agreements, municipalities were previously limited to four downloads per year. With the new partnership between MPAC and Teranet, municipalities will soon be able to download the EAI file up to 12 times annually. This expanded access will be available as part of a one-year pilot program, running from March 2025 to March 2026. The pilot will allow municipalities to test the benefits of more timely updates to tax systems, GIS mapping, and property data, enhancing planning and decision-making.

The EAI file provides a comprehensive snapshot of property data, including details on property owners, structures, sales, and soil classifications. It is an essential resource for municipalities to track changes in their assessment base and monitor growth or shifts in property types and services.

By providing more frequent access, MPAC aims to enhance municipalities' ability to make informed decisions, support strategic planning, and develop policies with up-to-date data. Municipalities interested in taking advantage of this new offering are encouraged to contact your [local Municipal and Stakeholder Relations team](#) for further details. You can also register for our January webinar, where we will provide more information about this update and how it can benefit your municipality. Webinar information is provided below.



MPAC recognized as top employer for sixth consecutive year

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is proud to announce that it has been recognized as one of [Greater Toronto's Top Employers](#) for the sixth consecutive year.



“I am incredibly proud of the culture we’ve built and the ongoing work we do to ensure MPAC remains a workforce that puts its people and culture first, and where everyone feels a sense of belonging,” said Nicole, President and Chief

Administrative Officer. “This award not only validates our dedication but also inspires us to keep moving forward.”

[LEARN MORE](#)

Upcoming webinar

Unlocking the potential of MPAC data products

Join Natasha Dawood, MPAC’s Regional Manager, Municipal and Stakeholder Relations, for an insightful webinar on how MPAC’s data products can elevate your municipal planning and decision-making. This session will cover the recent updates to the Electronic Assessment Information (EAI) file and provide an in-depth look at two other key tools: the Municipal Data Report (MDR) and the MFIPPA Compliant Notifications List. Natasha will walk you through each product, emphasizing their features, benefits, and practical applications while offering valuable insights on how to effectively use these tools to advance your municipality’s objectives. Don’t miss this opportunity to maximize the impact of MPAC’s data products in your community!

Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025

Time: 1 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST

[REGISTER NOW](#)

To view recordings of all past webinars, visit mpac.ca or our [YouTube Channel](#).

Partnership spotlight

MPAC partners with the City of Windsor



Photos from left: Councillor Kieran McKenzie and Tracy Pringle, MPAC Account Manager; Anne Haines; MPAC Regional Manager, Tracy Pringle, Janice Guthrie, Commissioner of Finance-CFO/City Treasurer, Joe Mancina, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Lorie Gregg, Deputy Treasurer, Taxation, Treasury & Financial Projects; Tracy Pringle and Joe Mancina, CAO.

MPAC partnered with the City of Windsor for their fall Ward Meetings, held across the city's ten wards. These meetings provided local residents a chance to engage directly with city officials, municipal departments, and key organizations like MPAC and the Ontario Provincial Police.

Each session began with updates from the Mayor and Ward Councillors, followed by an open forum where residents could interact with various city departments. This offered valuable opportunities for residents to ask questions and learn more about community developments.

A key highlight was MPAC's collaboration with the City's Finance Department. Together, they provided a shared space to address questions related to property assessments and taxation, offering residents a chance to clarify any questions and gain a better understanding of MPAC's services.

The partnership proved a great way to strengthen connections between residents and their local government, emphasizing transparency and communication. MPAC looks forward to continuing its work with the City of Windsor and other municipalities to foster community engagement and ensure residents stay informed.

If you'd like to have MPAC at your community event, reach out to your [local Municipal and Stakeholder Relations team](#).

Warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season!

We hope you enjoy a well-deserved break this holiday season. Our offices will close at noon on Tuesday, December 24, and reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2025. We look forward to resuming our work together in the new year!



We're better together

MPAC is dedicated to building stronger partnerships with municipalities across Ontario, and your local Municipal and Stakeholder Relations team is here to support you.

Want more information about who we are and how we can work with your municipality? Need Municipal Connect training? We can help with that, too. Reach out to your [local Municipal and Stakeholder Relations Account Manager](#) in the new year to book an information session for your staff or municipal council.



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This email was sent by intouch@mpac.ca to klush@huronkinloss.com
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MPAC | 1340 Pickering Pkwy, Pickering, ON L1C 3C0

Kelly Lush

From: Pine River Watershed Initiative Network <pineriverwin@34462769.mailchimpapp.com>
Sent: December 23, 2024 7:29 AM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: Pine River Watershed Initiative Network 2024 Highlights





**PINE RIVER WATERSHED
INITIATIVE NETWORK
2024 HIGHLIGHTS**

***2024 was a rewarding year in so many ways.
Now that 2025 is only one week away, we can look
back at our accomplishments.***

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

PRWIN projects highlight reforestation sites, a berm project, livestock crossing to improve water flow function, pollinator garden, ditch clean up and rip rap to stabilize and protect the soil surface against erosion.

Our PRWIN Spring Seedling Program offered ninety personal seedling orders. This spring, 5500 seedlings were handed out during our annual "FREE Seedling Give-Away Program." The program was created in 2014 and is a very popular community outreach program. Some of the orders supported the Kincardine Naturalization Project, 2nd Kincardine Scouts and the Ripley Huron Community School Green Team.

Community Groups: The Kinetic Knights, Kincardine 2nd Scouts, Sawjan Samanvay Sanatan Centre, Point Clark Beach Association, Enbridge, and PRWIN families worked together planting seedlings at our project sites. The volunteers hand planted seedlings, large stock trees and shrubs along with plants to create a pollinator garden.

PRWIN participated in our annual PTARP – Potted Tree Ash Replacement Program to shoreline residents. The goal of PTARP is to provide the lakeshore communities with trees to replace those ash trees that declined due Emerald Ash Borer. This yearly program has enabled us to make a significant impact to an area that was devastated by the ash borer and has offered shoreline residents 190 mature potted trees.

The Shoreline Reforestation Project offered 100 junipers to lakeshore residents. PRWIN and the Township of Huron-Kinloss partnered to encourage residents along the township shoreline beaches to begin restoring the beach dunes following the high lake levels of the past few years.

Two of our current initiatives; Green Elements – Friends of the McLarty Centre and Cultivating Community Experiences at the McLarty Centre are projects to support a sun shelter and to upscale the McLarty outdoor education area.

THE MCLARTY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA:

The outdoor education area is located on Bruce Road 6/Side Road 20 in Huron Kinloss. It is open to the public to enjoy the great outdoors! This area is designed for our community to learn about the Pine River, wetland creation and the education of the local wildlife and plants that this area supports. PRWIN has installed a trail system throughout the area, created two wetland ponds, planted memorial trees, an osprey nest and reforested tree seedlings. Enjoy walking the trail, bird watching, photography, learning opportunities in an outdoor classroom and reconnecting with nature.

The Ripley & District Horticultural Society's "For Our Youth" coordinated engaging activities for the young club members at the McLarty Environmental Study Area. The group identified birds, explored the area with nature games and went frog fishing to learn about the frog life cycle. Also, the Kincardine 2nd Scouts, Ripley Huron Community School and the

Ripley Wolf Cub Summer Camp stopped in to explore in nature.



PRWIN'S ENGAGEMENTS WITH COMMUNITY:

- Our organization offers a quarterly e-newsletter to stay connected with our community and to feature current community programs to improve and protect our local watershed. PRWIN added “Get Soil Smart” a new section to our newsletter, to learn all about soil.
- PRWIN celebrated National Tree Planting Day planting an Eastern Red Bud Tree to honour our retired director Bill Steele's work and dedication to PRWIN and the environment.
- PRWIN directors Tory Colling and Bill Steele retired from our board of directors and we welcome new directors Shirley Fiebiger and Jen Middelkamp.
- "Sponsorship Day" to recognize our sponsors contributions to PRWIN community programs.

- **PRWIN connects with the Ripley Huron Community School - Green Team to offer support and engagements with their school projects.**
- **Submitted articles to support the Healthy Lake Huron Partnership - HLH e-newsletter and The Bruce County Federation of Agriculture annual paper.**
- **PRWIN attended the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO) Watershed Conference, Huron Soil and Crop Cover Planting Demo Day and participated in the Lake Huron-Georgian Bay Community Webinar: ‘A Deeper Dive into Monitoring and Evaluating the Lake Huron-Georgian Bay Ecosystem’.**
- **In September, recipients received PRWIN’s Award of Merit to acknowledge the importance of our community members and connecting with local youth. PRWIN sponsored community events: Fall Fair Tree Raffle and participated at the Ripley Huron Fall Fair with an information vendor table.**

To date, PRWIN has installed 21 berms (Water & Sediment Control Basins), 12 livestock crossings, and completed 5 bank restorations. We have also planted over 364,000 trees (windbreaks, riparian areas, reforestations), installed 24 km of livestock exclusion fencing, 4 nitrate filters, established a pollinator garden and improved 7 wetland areas.

Our Potted Tree Ash Replacement Program has offered shoreline residents 190 mature potted trees.

PRWIN would not be where we are today without our community sponsors, past/present director’s leadership and dedication to our vision of

*Clean water and a healthy ecosystem
within the Pine River watershed.”*



**PINE RIVER WATERSHED
INITIATIVE NETWORK**

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Our mailing address is:

86 Huron Street, Ripley, ON

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The Pine River Watershed Initiative Network · 86 Huron Street Unit 2 · PO Box 367 · Ripley, ON N0G2R0 · Canada



Kelly Lush

From: Regional Tourism Organization 7 <info@rto7.ca>
Sent: January 7, 2025 12:23 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: January 2025 Industry Updates from RTO7

[View this email in your browser](#)

The logo for the Regional Tourism Organization 7 (RTO7) is displayed. It features the words "REGIONAL TOURISM" in a light grey, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below this, the word "ORGANIZATION" is written in a larger, bold, blue, uppercase, sans-serif font, followed by the number "7" in the same blue, bold, uppercase, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a light blue background with a subtle grid pattern.

January 7, 2025

Welcome to the January Edition of RTO7's Industry E-Newsletter!

In This Newsletter:

- What's Going On...at RTO7
 - Update on 2025/26 Program Launch
 - Boost Visibility for your Packages and Promotions
 - Tech Compass
- Destination Ontario Updates
- Webinars, Workshops & Events
- In Case You Missed It
 - EmployerOne Survey – Last Chance!

-
- Government of Canada GST/HST Tax Break Resource
 - News From Around the Region
 - New tourism tax in Collingwood starts March 1
 - Bruce County announces Spark tourism grant winners
 - Typsy Picks *NEW*
 - In Every Newsletter
 - Not A Subscriber?
-

What's Going On...at RTO7

RTO7 2025/26 Program Launch Update

We're putting the finishing touches on our suite of annual programs and are excited to announce they'll launch at the end of January. If you haven't already, now is the time to start planning your applications for the Partnership and Implementation Programs. Have questions? Don't hesitate to **reach out**—we're here to help as you prepare your submissions. Follow us on social media and watch out for a future newsletter so you don't miss it!

Boost Visibility for your Winter Packages and Promotions!

The BruceGreySimcoe Winter Campaign has launched, and we're driving significant consumer traffic to the **Promotions Page** on BruceGreySimcoe.com. This page is a POWERHOUSE—accounting for 44% of all website visits. Visitors also spend 29% more time browsing promotions than any other area of the site!

We're investing in targeted paid campaigns to push traffic to this page from January to late March. Operators featuring their packages, special offers, or value-added promotions benefit from more clicks and increased visibility.

Don't miss this opportunity to leverage our advertising efforts:

- Update or create your free listing now via the **Operator Login**.

-
- Once approved, upload your packages, offers, and promotions for maximum exposure.
 - Have a Festival or Event to highlight? Please submit it [here](#).

Let's work together to showcase the best of BruceGreySimcoe this winter!

Tech Compass

Are you ready to level up your tourism business? Let Tech Compass lead the way in your digital transformation journey. Here's how we can help:

1. **FREE Tech Assessment:** Start with a comprehensive consultation to pinpoint your tech needs.
2. **Recommendations & Action Plan:** Receive custom tool suggestions and a clear implementation roadmap.
3. **Digital Toolkit & Training:** Access essential tools and receive training resources.

For more information on how Tech Compass works or to apply for your FREE assessment, visit www.techcompass.ca to unlock the full potential of your tourism business.

Tech Compass is funded by the Government of Canada through the [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#)

Tech Compass Team: [RTO7](#), [Community Futures South Georgian Bay](#) and [Rappid Software Design](#)

Destination Ontario Always ON Partner Content Intake

Have you ever wondered how to engage with our partners at Destination Ontario? Here's your first step! Complete the [Content Intake Form for Tourism Businesses or Events](#) and let them know who you are and what sets your business or event apart. Each submission is shared with the sales and marketing teams, ensuring your business or event information is utilized in multiple ways. For

instance, the content team might feature your business in a story or blog on their [website](#), information centers might include your details in their recommendations, or you could be the focus of a lunch and learn session for their travel centre staff. This intake form serves as the primary introduction to Destination Ontario, paving the way for potential future interactions and opportunities.

For DMOs and Sector Associations, please use the [Always ON Partner Content Intake Form](#).

Webinars, Workshops & Events

- **January 7 or January 14, Virtual – Collingwood Municipal Accommodation Tax Info Sessions, 1 to 3 pm**
Encouraging Collingwood accommodators to get the info they need by attending one of the two sessions. For background info, visit [Engage.Collingwood.ca](#). Register for the sessions here ([January 7](#) or [January 14](#))
- **January 9, Virtual – Driving Digital Success: Strategies for Small Businesses to Succeed Online, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, open to anyone**
In this webinar, delivered by Digital Main Street, you will explore essential digital strategies for attracting more customers and driving growth for your small business. To register for this free webinar, [click here](#).
- **January 15, Virtual - How to Boost Direct Bookings for Hotels and B&Bs, 10 to 11 am – open to anyone**
Discover proven strategies to reduce reliance on third-party platforms and maximize your revenue. This free webinar is offered by Get Digital Support. [Register today!](#)
- **January 22, Virtual – Losing Ground: The Definitive Workforce Update, 1 to 2 pm, open to anyone**
Join Tourism HR Canada for a webinar designed to provide critical labour

market updates for Canada's tourism sector. [Learn more and register here.](#)

- **January 23, Boating Ontario's 2025 Waterfront Tourism Summit, 10 am to 3 pm**

Running concurrently with the Toronto Boat Show, this event is free to attend and will provide insights on developing waterfront tourism in your town. For more information, reach out to [Boating Ontario](#) or [register here to secure your spot.](#)

- **January 23, Virtual - Starting a Food Business & Regulatory Compliance (Foodpreneur Advantage), 10 to 11 am, South Georgian Bay**

South Georgian Bay Small Business Enterprise Centre is hosting an online seminar for entrepreneurs in the early stages of development who are looking to gain knowledge in the food and beverage industry. [Register here.](#)

- **January 27, Small Business Website 101, 4:30 to 6 pm, Orillia & Lake Country**

Hosted in partnership with the Orillia CDC, this workshop will teach the essentials of creating a strong online presence for your small business. From registering and securing your domain to choosing the right website platform, the foundational steps to getting your website up and running will be covered. [Pre-register to attend](#) in person at the Mariposa Best Western for \$20pp.

- **January 30, Virtual – How to Sell Your Food Product (Foodpreneur Advantage), 10 to 11 am, South Georgian Bay**

South Georgian Bay Small Business Enterprise Centre is hosting an online seminar for entrepreneurs who want to learn how to sell food products at markets, online, or to retailers. [Register here.](#)

- **February 5, Virtual – Writing Winning Proposals: Tips to Securing the Funding You Need, 10:30 am to 12 pm, open to everyone**

RTO7 in partnership with Tourism Simcoe County and Business to Bruce are inviting you to attend a free virtual workshop designed to simplify the grant application process. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced

grant writer looking for a refresher, this session will help you craft proposals that stand out. [Learn more and register here.](#)

In Case You Missed It

EmployerOne Survey (Bruce and Grey)

The Four County Labour Market Planning Board serving Bruce and Grey are hoping to hear from more local entrepreneurs and businesses. The more responses they have, the better they can report on local workforce challenges and opportunities. This data supports stakeholders by providing solutions that fit your needs for a sustainable future workforce. The survey is open until **January 15** and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Support local solutions and [share your feedback today.](#)

Government of Canada GST/HST Tax Break

Visit the [Canada.ca resource](#) for details, examples, and restrictions for qualified items. Effective until February 15, 2025.

News from Around the Region

[New tourism tax in Collingwood starts March 1](#)

Collingwood Today

[Bruce County announces Spark tourism grant winners](#)

The Kincardine News

Typsy Picks

Each month, the RTO7 team will spotlight a recommended course from Typsy, the online training platform that's free for anyone working in tourism across BruceGreySimcoe. This valuable resource offers training for all levels—from business owners and managers to full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees. Stay tuned for our top picks to enhance your skills and grow your expertise!

This month's pick: Leading and Motivating Teams

Reviewed by: Kim Clarke, Manager, Stakeholder Relations RTO7

Total Course Length: 36 minutes

“Throughout my career and personal life, I’ve spent countless hours working within team environments. This thought-provoking course highlights the core elements that define great teams and explores the root causes of common challenges. It offered me a chance to reflect on the teams I’ve led—analyzing what contributed to our successes and identifying areas for improvement. A particularly impactful takeaway was the distinction between managing and leading. Understanding this difference is essential for anyone striving to inspire and guide their team effectively”.



Get Started

To access the course, follow the steps below:

1. If you already have a free Typsy account with us, [log in here](#)

-
2. If you haven't set up a free Typsy account, register your interest on [RTO7.ca and fill out the form](#) (at the bottom of the web page).
 3. Navigate to “Search” under the “Discover” tab
 4. Type in the video name and click on the video in the results

If you need assistance, please reach out to our Learning & Development Coordinator, Fatima, at sfatima@rto7.ca.



IN EVERY NEWSLETTER:

RTO7 Programs and Resources

Our programs and resources aim to support business growth, foster collaboration, promote sustainability, provide market insights, attract more visitors, and improve tourism experiences in BruceGreySimcoe. Click on the links below for more info:

- **Programs**
 - **Partnership Programs**
 - **GoEV Funding Program**
 - **BruceGreySimcoe Free Training**
 - **T3 Accelerator**
 - **Tech Compass**
 - 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**
 - **Resource Guide**
 - **RTO7 Connection Blog**
- Are You Listed?
 - **FREE Tourism Operator Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com**
- Need Help Pushing Out a Promotion?
 - **FREE Promotions Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com** (complete and up-to-date operator profile required)
- Add Your Festival or Event!
 - **FREE Festivals and Events Listings on BruceGreySimcoe.com**



T3 Accelerator Podcast



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Kelly Lush

From: Kelly Lush
Sent: January 8, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: FW: For immediate release: SVCA Administrative Office to Reopen January 13th, 2025





1078 Bruce Road 12 | P.O. Box 150 | Formosa ON
Canada | N0G 1W0 | 519-364-1255
www.saugeenconservation.ca
publicinfo@svca.on.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 8th, 2025

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Announces Administration Office Reopening

ALL SAUGEEN WATERSHED MUNICIPALITIES – Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, Municipality of Brockton, Township of Chatsworth, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Town of Hanover, Township of Howick, Municipality of Morris-Turnberry, Municipality of South Bruce, Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of Kincardine, Town of Minto, Township of Wellington-North, Town of Saugeen Shores, Township of Southgate, Municipality of West Grey.

Following the significant damage caused by a lightning strike on October 6th, 2024, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority's (SVCA) Administration Office has undergone repairs, including the replacement of windows, restoration of some electrical systems, and professional inspections. These efforts have ensured the building is safe, functional, and ready to resume operations.

"We extend our thanks to the public for their patience and understanding during this unexpected closure. We are excited to welcome both staff and the public back to the Administration Office on Monday, January 13th, and look forward to continuing to serve our community in person."

- Erik Downing, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, SVCA

Office Reopening Details

Date: Monday, January 13th, 2025

Location: Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Administration Office, 1078 Bruce Road 12, Formosa, ON

Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

The SVCA team remains committed to its mission of conservation and service to Saugeen watershed communities. Updates and additional information will continue to be shared on www.saugeenconservation.ca

For more information, please contact:

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Email: media@svca.on.ca

Cell: 519-369-4295

Website: www.saugeenconservation.ca



[Download Document](#)

Saugeen Conservation | 1078 Bruce Road 12, Box 150 | Formosa, ON N0G 1W0 CA

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