

Kelly Lush

From: Community Living Kincardine & District <aswan@clkd.ca>
Sent: October 2, 2025 10:01 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: CLKD's October 2025 E-Newsletter is Here!



October 2025 Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)



An inclusive caring community.

Rick's Northern Adventure!



Pictured above is a photo collage of Rick on his trip to Timmins.

Last month Rick took a road trip to Timmins to visit his brother for a long overdue visit - and what a great trip it was!

After a day of driving and a good night's sleep at a hotel he loved, Rick was excited to see his brother. "Here we go again," he said as he set off for the final stretch of the drive, spotting a cougar crossing the highway along the way. **"Wow, that was cool!"**

When he arrived, Rick was so happy to see his brother, greeting him with big smiles and laughter. During the visit, Rick enjoyed a family supper **"this is so nice!"** he said, enjoying the time together.

The next day, Rick savored a delicious brunch with homemade quiches, bacon and sausage, blueberry waffles, and rhubarb pie. He even met his great-nephew for the first time, calling him **"so cute!"**

One of the highlights for Rick was a wildlife tour at Cedar Meadows. Rick wasn't sure about the wagon ride at first: **"I don't know about this..."** but soon he was laughing through the bumpy ride. He loved spotting elk, bison, wolves, and lots of birds.

Afterward, Rick enjoyed fish and chips and a stop at a lookout with panoramic views of the city and a nearby gold mining operation. Later, he relaxed by watching ducks at the waterfront.

"This trip has been amazing," Rick said. **"I love seeing my family, the animals, and the fall colours. I'll remember this for a long time."**

Disability Employment Awareness Month: Local Stories of Success

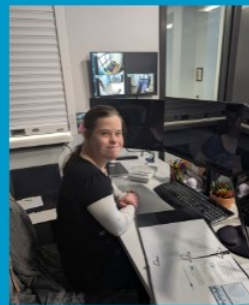
October is, Disability Employment Awareness Month



Stanley
Kincardine BIA



Kathy
UnEarth Collective



Julia
Shoreline Power Group



David
Municipality of Kincardine
Waste Management Centre



Cassandra
McDonald's



Alex
Independent Plus

Inclusive Employer Spotlight
Kim Ward
Independent Plus

Every October, **Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM)** celebrates the workplace inclusion of persons experiencing disability. It's a chance to recognize progress,

spark conversations about inclusive employment, and work together to increase opportunities for all. At Community Living Kincardine and District, we're proud to partner with local employers and empower people with disabilities to access meaningful work where they can share their skills and talents.

Did you know?

- One in five working-age Canadians in the labour force experiences some form of disability – that's 21% of the workforce or 3.2 million workers.
- In 2024, the employment rate of persons experiencing disability was 46.4%, and that of persons without disability was 66.2% – a difference of 19.8 percentage points.
- More than 741,000 working-age persons experiencing disability have potential for paid employment in a fully inclusive labour market.

This month, we're excited to highlight some amazing individuals from our community. Their stories showcase not only their hard work and accomplishments, but also the difference inclusive employment makes for everyone.

[View Their Stories](#)

Empowering Inclusive Employment through the JobsWork Program

Meet Merisa!



JOBSWORK

Individuals with disabilities bring incredible value to the workplace—not only through their skills, but also through qualities like loyalty, dedication, and a strong work ethic. That’s exactly what the *JobsWork* program is all about.

JobsWork is designed to connect job seekers with meaningful opportunities that match their goals and strengths. The program works hand-in-hand with employers to ensure the right fit, while also providing on-the-job training and long-term follow-up support to set everyone up for success.

Since re-launching in March 2025, *JobsWork* has already made an impact—six individuals have been matched with employment, and one with a volunteer role to build skills and gain valuable experience. Employers are noticing the benefits too. As one shared: ***"I contacted them (JobsWork), and within two weeks we had the position filled. Training was provided and follow-up occurred"***.

At the heart of the program is Coordinator **Merisa Kriwez**, who brings over 20 years of experience in inclusive programming across municipal, non-profit, and long-term care settings. Merisa is passionate about creating inclusive, person-centred programs and supporting individuals to reach their goals.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the *JobsWork* program, please contact Merisa at **519-396-9434 ext. 242** or **mkriwez@clkd.ca**.

Bethany's Summer of Volunteering



Pictured above is Bethany smiling while volunteering at Summer Camp.

While some people spent the summer trying to avoid the heat, Bethany ran straight into it! Armed with a water bottle, a big smile, and a whole lot of enthusiasm, Bethany was ready to tackle anything headed her way! As a volunteer at a local day camp, she was part cheerleader,

part chaos coordinator, and full-time fun-bringer.

“I volunteered as a “Leader in Training” with the younger age group at the Davidson Centre this summer. This is my second summer volunteering, and I always have so much fun! I helped them go for walks, refill water bottles, open snacks at lunchtime, amongst many other things! I enjoyed dancing and singing with all the children, and sharing laughs.” (translated)

One of Bethany’s big goals is to obtain a rewarding job where she can use her strengths, and continue to grow her skills. Volunteering has been a fulfilling way for Bethany to increase her skillset while gaining real-world experience, and prepare for future employment. **“I enjoy cleaning, and taking care of animals. Obtaining employment would support me to increase my independence, and earn more spending money!”** (translated).

Volunteering has been a great opportunity for Bethany to develop her skills, getting her one-step closer to landing her dream job! Through her time at the day camp, she learned how to work as part of a team, increased her communication skills, and grew her confidence level! Bethany adds, **“I loved working with all the other LIT’s at day camp, they were very nice and helped me to feel comfortable”** (translated).

Bethany’s experience this summer is a great reminder that every step we take can lead us closer to our goals! With her positive attitude, growing skill set, and passion for helping others, she’s well on her way to reaching her goal!

Special Olympics Bocce Tournament Brings Athletes Together



Pictured above is a photo collage of Bocce Ball tournament participants.

At the end of the summer, Special Olympics athletes from across the region gathered in Tiverton for a fun Bocce Ball tournament. The event was filled with laughter, teamwork, and plenty of community spirit.

Athletes enjoyed playing alongside their teammates, meeting new friends, and having their families there to cheer them on. The energy was high—at one point, they even did “the wave”.

Teams played with heart and determination, and everyone celebrated together as ribbons were awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers. After the games, participants and supporters enjoyed a well-earned lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers—a crowd favourite.

It was a day of sport, connection, and celebration. Congratulations to all the athletes for their achievements and for making the tournament such a success!

Terry Fox 2025



Pictured above are a series of photos of Catherine and Beth at the Terry Fox walk at the Davidson Centre.

On September 14, 2025, we joined the Terry Fox Walk at the Davidson Centre in Kincardine. It was such a fun morning, and we loved being part of the event!

"I really liked the bagpipes that piped up around the track before the walk took place. I feel happy I was able to keep up pace with my friend Bethany and I did the 5km walk in just over an hour. It was nice to be out in the community with friends"
- Catherine

"I was excited to do the walk with my best friend Catherine. I liked the bagpipes also and running into friends." - Beth (translated)

We finished feeling proud, happy, and grateful for such a great community event.

Samm & Randy Rock Out at Music in the Fields



Pictured above is a photo series of Sam and Randy at Music in the Fields.

This summer, Samm and Randy headed to Lucknow's *Music in the Fields* and had a blast soaking up the live music and festival atmosphere.

"I had a lot of fun jamming out to the music with the crowd," said Samm. **"Although it was raining there were tents to go under to stay dry - and we could still hear the music!"**

Randy agreed it was a great night out. **"It was great entertainment for the evening. Food was a plus their French fries were good as well as a nice cold beer to go along with the music"**

Even with a little rain, the festival spirit never faded, and both Samm and Randy left with smiles, great memories, and maybe a new favourite tune or two.

Upcoming Events & Activities

Family Support Group
for families of loved ones with different abilities



"Coffee and Muffins provided"

Second Thursday of the Month
9:00am-10:30am
Davidson Centre, Bruce Telecom Room
(Park near the skate park and enter through those doors)
Cost: Free

Why join?

- Meet other families who truly understand your journey
- Exchange practical tips and trusted resources
- Learn from guest speakers and community professionals
- Find encouragement, understanding, and a sense of belonging

***NEW* Parent Led Support Group**

Calling all parents and caregivers of children with different abilities. Join us for a welcoming space to connect, share, and learn from others who truly understand your journey.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of every month. Next meeting is Thursday, Oct. 9 | 9:00 – 10:30 AM at the

Davidson Centre, Bruce Telecom Room.

Free and open to all—drop-ins welcome!

For more info, visit clkd.ca or email cevans@clkd.ca



Inclusive Education Resource Kits

CLKD is excited to announce the launch of a brand-new initiative designed to support local educators and promote inclusion in our schools - Inclusive Education Resource Kits!

Download the resources and learn more by visiting:
<https://www.clkd.ca/home>



Contact April at: anuman@clkd.ca



Volunteer with Baby & Me

Volunteers are needed for our Baby and Me groups!

- ✓ One Thursday a month from 10-11am
- ✓ Kincardine

Contact April for details at anuman@clkd.ca

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

To learn more about CLKD's services and events, visit our [website](#)!



[Like CLKD on Facebook](#)



[Watch CLKD on YouTube](#)



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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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Media Release

Oct. 7, 2025

Public Assistance Request – Dog Bite – Huron-Kinloss

Grey Bruce Public Health is requesting the public's help in identifying the owner of a dog involved in a biting incident that occurred Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, in Huron-Kinloss.

At about 7:30 p.m., an individual was bitten by a large black dog, possibly a Bullmastiff, while walking their own dog on Havelock Street, near the Presbyterian Church, in Lucknow.

The dog, which was not on a leash, ran across the street before biting the victim. The person who was with the dog that bit the individual is described as female, in their mid-50s to mid-60s, with grey hair.

Staff at Grey Bruce Public Health needs to confirm the dog involved in this biting incident is not infectious with rabies.

By verifying the health of the dog, the victim can avoid receiving the post-exposure rabies treatment.

If you have any information related to this incident, please contact Grey Bruce Public Health at 519-376-9420 ext. 1530.

For More Information:

Jennifer Stevenson,
Public Health Inspector.
Grey Bruce Public Health
519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1530
J.Stevenson@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

A healthier future for all.

101 17th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5 www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

519-376-9420

1-800-263-3456

Fax 519-376-0605

Kelly Lush

From: Grey County Communications <communications@grey.ca>
Sent: October 6, 2025 3:53 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: Grey County Connection - October 2025

[View this email in your browser](#)



Welcome to the Grey County Connection!

Welcome to the first issue of the **Grey County Connection**, Grey County's new public monthly newsletter! The Connection is the new way we're delivering news, updates and opportunities directly to your inbox each month.

Updating your preferences

You have received this newsletter because you previously signed up to receive emails from Grey County. You can update your subscription preferences and sign up for specific updates and notices by using the link below. Please be sure to select the Grey County Connection to continue receiving this newsletter.

[Update preferences](#)

In this newsletter:

- Updates and Initiatives
 - Events and Opportunities
 - News and Notices
 - Upcoming Meetings
-



Updates and Initiatives

New paramedic base opens in Durham



The new paramedic base in September 2025.

Grey County celebrated the completion of its new \$2.4 million paramedic base in Durham on September 27 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house. The state-of-the-art facility, built by Domm Construction Ltd., replaced an aging base and was designed to meet growing service demands identified in the County's 2023 - 2033 deployment review.

Located beside the new West Grey Police Services, the solar-ready net zero facility creates a centralized emergency services hub. The project was funded through reserves, development charges, and a debenture. The design will be replicated for future bases in Feversham, Ayton, Thornbury, and Cobble Beach through 2028.

[Learn more](#)

Going Green in Grey Stories

The climate is changing, and these changes are affecting the people and places that we love, right here in Grey County. People from across the County are taking steps, big and small, to create healthy, prosperous communities for years to come. Climate change is not just about science, it's also about stories – stories of resilience, creativity, and collaboration. Together, we are going green in Grey!

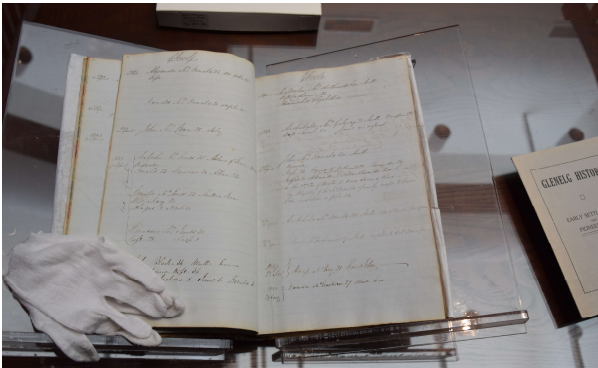


Thornbury resident Alison is transforming her backyard with a diverse selection of native pollinator plants.

Explore the stories that make climate change truly local. Climate action takes many forms across Grey County – from backyard gardens to community repair cafes, from youth conferences to building retrofits. Each story offers a different path forward, and we invite you to learn from your neighbours and discover new possibilities for creating a greener Grey County!

[Learn more](#)

Grey County Archives celebrates 25 years in 2025!



The Grey County Archives is celebrating 25 years in 2025!

Established at its first location in the former Glenelg municipal building in the Municipality of West Grey following a wave of municipal amalgamations in Ontario circa 2000. The Archives moved

GF8S1F4I1 Old Durham Road Register, 1848-1851;
Archives Storage

to its purpose-built home at Grey Roots
Museum & Archives in 2004.

The holdings at the Grey County Archives, including materials to be processed, measure 1,669 linear metres (1.669 kilometres) comprising over 900 collections. The archives inherited museum archival collecting which began in 1955, along with the subsequent collecting efforts of the Grey County Historical Society. The Archives categorizes its holdings as municipal, private, media, school or Women's Institute.

Learn more



Events and Opportunities

- **Grey Roots Fall Lecture Series - October 21 to November 18.** The 2025 installment of the Fall Lecture Series explores diverse subjects through engaging talks, film, and song.
- **2nd Annual Sydenham Makers Market & Open House - Saturday November 22.** Featuring youth and artisan vendors from around the region: crafts, woodworking, baked goods, greeting cards, fiber arts, original art and more. Tour the Sydenham Campus and the Grey Bruce Makers Space while you're here. Vendors can register by emailing BEC@grey.ca.



News and Notices



Grey Roots Museum & Archives has launched its cornerstone exhibit, the Grey County Gallery - thoughtfully redesigned to honour the diverse stories of Grey County. The museum was approved for a total of \$355,486 in funding from Canadian Heritage through the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund for the last two phases of the project.

- [Major exhibit redesign celebrates local stories at Grey Roots](#)
- [Grey County secures federal funding to support transition to low-emission fleet vehicles](#)
- [Rockwood Terrace hits 25 percent construction](#)

[Read more Grey County news stories](#)



Upcoming Meetings

Grey County Council meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month immediately followed by a Committee of the Whole meeting.

View highlights from the [September 25 meeting](#) and [September 11 meeting](#). Find videos of all council and public meetings on our [YouTube channel](#).

Upcoming meetings:

- October 9 - Grey County Council and Committee of the Whole
- October 23 - Grey County Council and Committee of the Whole
- October 24 - Joint Municipal Services Committee
- October 29 - Budget and Finance Committee
- November 6 - Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee

[View more upcoming meetings](#)



Connect with us

Do you have a question about a Grey County program or service? Send us a message through the link below.

[Contact us](#)



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Grey County

595 9th Ave East

Owen Sound, On N4K 3E3 Canada

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Kelly Lush

From: Regional Tourism Organization 7 <info@rto7.ca>
Sent: October 7, 2025 10:47 AM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: Your October Brief: Updates from RTO7

[View this email in your browser](#)



October 7, 2025

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

In This Newsletter:

- What's Going On...at RTO7
 - Fall Campaign
 - Tourism Innovation Lab: Bruce County SPARK Program
- Destination ON 'Always ON' Content Submissions
- Funding & Business Support
 - Route 93 Tourism Social Media Support
 - The Business Ice Storm Assistance (BISA) Program
 - Indigenous Community Capital Grants Program (ICCGP)
- Featured Webinars, Workshops & Events

-
- Grant Writing Workshop
 - TIAO Forward Ready Leadership Training
 - Business to Bruce Bridges to Better Business Conference
 - In Case You Missed It
 - Simcoe Muskoka Skillforce Employer Survey
 - In Every Newsletter
 - Not A Subscriber?
-

What's Going On...at RT07

Discover BruceGreySimcoe This Fall

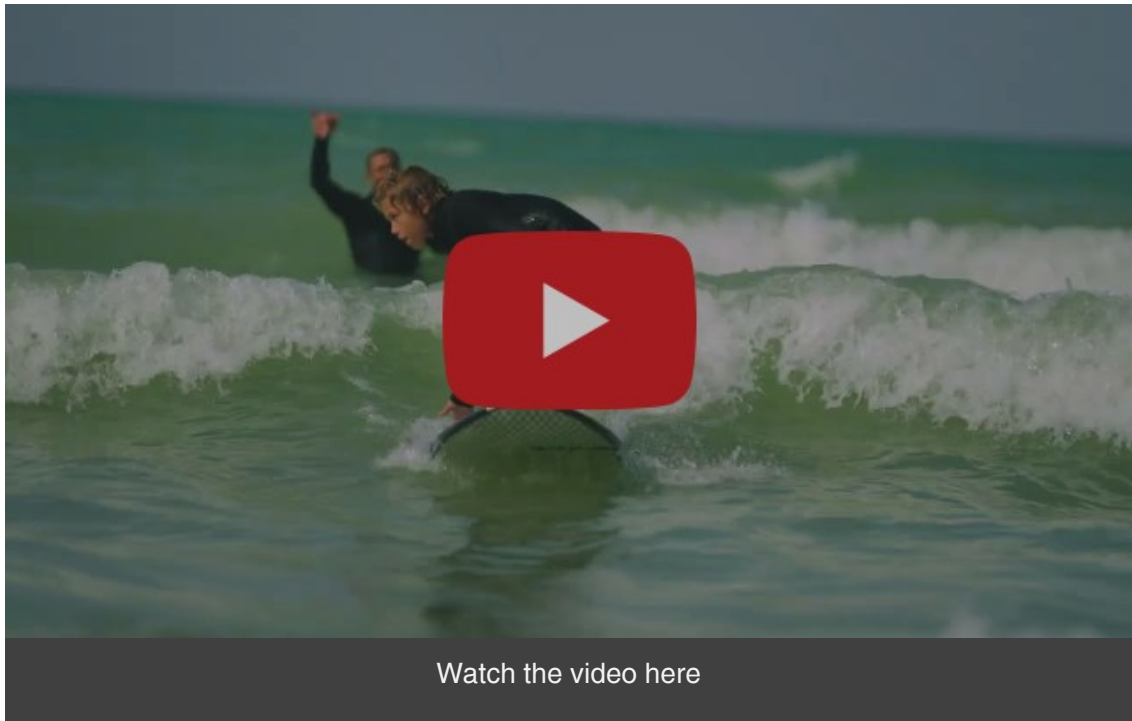
Have you seen the new BruceGreySimcoe seasonal video? It was created by H Visual Media using footage captured through the [Partnership Program](#) and is now featured in a seasonal advertising campaign running until **October 27**.

This campaign is building general awareness of the BruceGreySimcoe brand and captures what Ontario consumers are looking for right now — connection, colour, and authentic fall experiences close to home.

The campaign drives traffic to BruceGreySimcoe.com, where visitors can plan their fall getaways.

How can you benefit from the campaign?

- Make sure your [operator listing](#) is up to date.
- Add packages and promotions to our [Promotions page](#).
- Reach out to our communications team at info@rto7.ca for marketing support through our ExploreDreamDiscover social media series.



Tourism Innovation Lab: Bruce County SPARK Program

WHAT'S YOUR NEW TOURISM IDEA?

Bruce County



The Morrisons • Grassroots Farm • 2023 Bruce County "Spark" Winners

✓ MENTORSHIPS ✓ GRANTS ✓ COMMUNITY

APPLY BY OCTOBER 8
TourismInnovation.ca/Bruce



TOURISM
INNOVATION
LAB
BRUCE COUNTY



The Spark Mentorships and Grant Program offers selected applicants a \$3,000 grant, mentorship, and partner support to bring innovative tourism ideas to life. The program aims to enhance local offerings, inspire unique and eco-friendly experiences, and boost year-round visitation across Bruce County!

Applications for the 2025 SPARK program are **due tomorrow, Wednesday, October 8.**

[Apply Today](#)

Destination Ontario 'Always ON' Content

Wondering how to engage with 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](#).

[Submit Your Content](#)

Funding & Business Support

Route 93 Tourism Social Media Support

Experience Simcoe County and Route 93 have partnered to provide tourism related businesses with free social photography and videos. If you are located in the Midland, Penetanguishene, Tiny or Tay areas and would like a professional social media digital content creation session, [apply here](#). First round closes on **October 15!**

The Business Ice Storm Assistance (BISA) Program

The new BISA Program provides one-time financial support to small businesses, small farms and not-for profit organizations for eligible costs related to the March 2025 ice storm. The deadline to apply is **October 31st, 2025**.

You may be eligible for support for emergency and clean-up expenses and costs to

repair or replace essential business property. Check out the impact area on the [ice storm map](#) and refer to the [program guidelines](#) for a detailed list of eligible and ineligible costs specific to your type of organization.

Indigenous Community Capital Grants Program

The ICCGP funds the development of community capital projects that contribute to a sustainable social base and support economic participation in Indigenous communities, both on and off reserve. Applications are being accepted until **November 13, 2025** at 6:00 pm EST. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Featured Webinars, Workshops & Events

RTO7 Grant Writing Workshop




Bruce Grey Simcoe
ALWAYS IN SEASON

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

Learn how to craft a proposal that gets noticed!

Gain the tools to navigate the grant writing process with clarity and confidence.

 *Monday, November 4, 2025*
12:00 to 1:00 PM

 *Virtual Webinar on Zoom*


Barbara Robinson
Founder - RiverRoad Creative

REGISTER NOW 

Not sure how to start your grant application, or how to make it stand out? You're not alone.

RTO7 invites you to join Barbara Robinson of RiverRoad Creative on **Monday, November 4, at 12:00 pm**, for a hands-on webinar designed to help you find the right funding fit and write with confidence.

Learn how to:

- Evaluate whether or not a grant is right for you
- Avoid common mistakes that kill applications
- Write with purpose and persuasion
- Tell your story so funders take notice

With over 25 years of experience helping clients secure funding, Barbara knows what works. Whether you're new to grants or just need a refresher, this session will get you ready to take action.

[Register Your Free Attendance](#)

Complimentary TIAO Leadership Workshops

A part of the [Forward Ready Tourism initiative](#), tourism and hospitality employers are invited to register their staff for a complimentary Leadership Workshop aimed at building stronger teams and more effective leaders.

Virtual workshops begin this month, with multiple dates available over the coming months. Each session, running from 10 am to 3:30 pm, will cover key leadership topics, including:

- Effective communication and team management
- Problem solving and decision making in dynamic environments
- Building a positive workplace culture
- Coaching and mentoring for staff development

- Leading through change and uncertainty

Looking for more bite-sized learning for your team? A webinar series will also be launching on **October 16**, focusing on staff recruitment, training, and retention strategies, all key areas for long-term workforce success. Check out the 6-part webinar series on [TIAO's Industry Events Calendar](#).

Space is limited for the [Forward Ready Leadership Workshop](#), so early registration is encouraged!

Business to Bruce Bridges to Better Business Conference

The graphic features a dark blue background with a red geometric shape on the left. A red banner at the top contains the text "Bridges to Better Business". Below this, the main title "Leading with Curiosity and Communicating Through Storytelling" is written in white. The date and time "October 23 | 5PM" are also in white. Two circular photos are shown: one of Heather Travis, a woman with glasses and a green top, sitting at a table with colorful drinks; and one of Nicole Dubé, a woman with blonde hair in a dark blue top. The names "Heather Travis" and "Nicole Dubé" are printed in white below their respective photos.

Bridges to Better Business

Leading with Curiosity and
Communicating Through
Storytelling

October 23 | 5PM

Heather Travis

Nicole Dubé

At the Bridges to Better Business event, keynote speaker Nicole Dubé will show you how to uncover the story behind challenges, communicate with authenticity, and inspire action. As a bonus, Nicole is offering free one-on-one “Coach on Call” sessions after her keynote!

Throughout the evening, stay entertained with emcee Heather Travis, and enjoy delicious hearty appetizers and a cash bar.

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025

Time: Doors open 5PM, program begins 6PM

Location: Best Western Plus Walkerton

Price: \$45 + HST or table of 8 \$30 + HST (save \$5 per seat!)

[Get your tickets today!](#)

For a full list of upcoming events and opportunities for learning and development, please visit RTO7.ca/Events.

In Case You Missed It

Simcoe Muskoka Skillforce – 2025 Employer Survey

SM Skillforce has launched their 2025 Employer Survey: Employer Survey: Current Labour Market Outlook. The survey plays a key role in shaping the Local Labour Market Report,

The information you provide not only highlights current trends but also supports local planning and ensures that future workforce strategies align with real employer needs. By completing the survey, you are directly contributing to a resource that benefits businesses, job seekers, and the community alike.

Everyone who completes a survey will have a chance to win a gift certificate for 18 holes at Simoro Golf course. Draw to be completed October 30th 2025.

[Complete the Survey Now](#)



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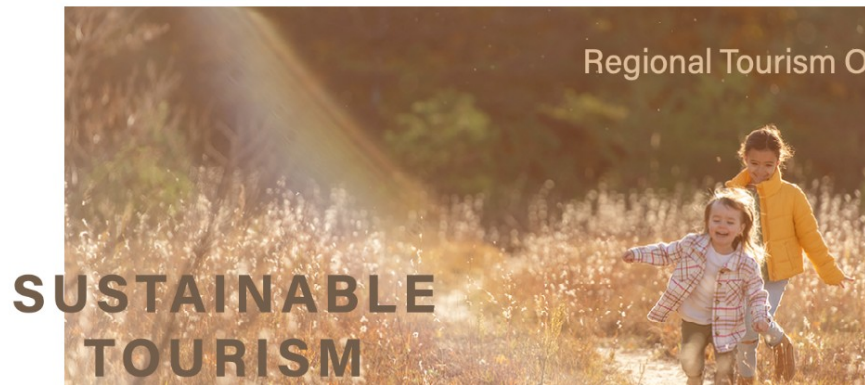
RT07 Programs and Resources

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](#)
 - [Operations Implementation Program](#)
 - [BruceGreySimcoe Free Training](#)
 - [T3 Accelerator](#)
 - [Tech Compass](#)
 - T3 Accelerator Podcast
 - [Tourism Biz Bites from the 7](#)
- **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](#)





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Media Release

Oct. 16, 2025

GBPH encouraging residents to protect themselves from respiratory viruses this fall

With autumn's arrival, Grey Bruce Public Health is reminding people that vaccination is a safe and effective way to prevent respiratory viruses, such as COVID-19 and the flu.

Both the updated COVID-19 vaccine and this year's seasonal influenza vaccine will be available to the general public – via primary care providers and at participating pharmacies – starting Oct. 27, 2025.

“Getting vaccinated is an effective defence against these viruses and is a safe way to reduce the risk of developing potentially serious complications from COVID-19 and influenza, especially if the person is at high-risk,” says Monica Blair, Manager of GBPH's Vaccine Preventable Diseases program.

Both COVID-19 and the flu are currently circulating in Grey-Bruce. The area recorded its first Influenza A case of the 2025-26 season on Sept. 23, 2025. Grey-Bruce also continues to have confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are being offered to high-risk and priority groups before being rolled out to the general public.

All adults and children six months of age and older should get the updated flu vaccine each fall as the influenza virus changes frequently. The flu shot takes about two weeks to take full effect.

The updated COVID-19 vaccine will also be available to anyone aged six months and older. The vaccine is [recommended for individuals](#) with a higher risk of COVID-19 or severe COVID-19 disease, including adults aged 65 and older, residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings, and people with underlying medical conditions.

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are both publicly funded and can be given at the same appointment.

A healthier future for all.

101 17th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5 www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

519-376-9420

1-800-263-3456

Fax 519-376-0605

Grey Bruce Public Health will be holding a flu/COVID-19 vaccine clinic for children under 12 years of age on Nov. 21, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Walk-in appointments will be available.

New this year, seniors aged 75 and older can also receive a publicly funded RSV vaccine from a primary care provider as part of Ontario's [expanded RSV prevention program](#).

The RSV vaccine is also available to certain high-risk adults aged 65 to 74, who meet an eligibility criteria established by the Ministry of Health.

Infants, high-risk children, and pregnant people may also be [eligible for protection against RSV](#).

“An RSV infection is typically most severe in young babies and older adults. The RSV prevention program is a safe and effective way to protect the most vulnerable in our communities,” Blair says.

GBPH can assist individuals who are unable to receive an influenza, COVID-19 or RSV vaccine at a primary care provider's office or local pharmacy. Call 519-376-9420 and select Option 2 to connect with a member of the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Team. GBPH's goal is to work with families facing barriers to vaccination to ensure they can receive this protection as soon as possible.

Along with getting vaccinated, residents can [protect themselves, their family members, and communities](#) from respiratory illnesses by staying home when sick, cleaning hands and disinfecting high-touch surfaces frequently, and practicing coughing and sneezing etiquette.

For More Information:

To connect with the Medical Officer of Health or the program manager, please contact:
Denis Langlois, Communications Co-ordinator,
Grey Bruce Public Health,
519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1315,
Communications@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca



Shine On

For Immediate Release
October 20, 2025

Shaping the Future: The Unseen Impact of Early Childhood Educators

Owen Sound, ON – October 21, 2025, marks the **25th Annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day** - a day to recognize the dedication, skill, and compassion of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and staff who nurture and educate our youngest learners every day.

If you've ever dropped off a child at one of the YMCA's Child Care centres or School Age programs in Grey and Bruce Counties, you know the feeling. You're greeted by an Early Childhood Educator (ECEs) or assistant who knows your child's name, their favourite toy, and can likely tell just by looking at them, how they're feeling that morning. It's an everyday moment, but it's far from small. It tells you that your child is safe, supported, and in the care of someone who truly sees them.

Across Grey and Bruce Counties, more than 125 YMCA Early Childhood Educators and assistants show up every day with intention, care, and deep professional expertise. Their work shapes our youngest learners and prepares them for bright futures. They create environments where children feel safe, seen, and supported. They use their education and expertise to spark curiosity, foster confidence, and guide children in building the skills that will carry them for a lifetime. Their work has transformative power and that's why today we are taking a special moment to pause and celebrate ECEs, their expertise, and their heart.

"Our Early Childhood Educators and child care staff spark bright futures every day," says Cyndy Jefferson, Director of Child Care. "To all our incredible staff; the care and learning opportunities you provide today shape the children of tomorrow. You are removing barriers, creating confidence, and ensuring every child, no matter their background, has the foundation to succeed. Thank you for all that you do."

In the early years, every interaction matters, and ECEs and assistants know how to make those moments count. Whether it's helping a toddler navigate big feelings, encouraging a preschooler to try something new, or guiding a school-age learner to grow in confidence, they do it with patience, skill, and care. Through play activities that build language and literacy, math and science, creative arts, and physical, social, and emotional development, these professionals help children become confident, self-directed problem solvers. These early experiences can spark a love of learning and lay the foundation for school readiness.

Here in Grey and Bruce Counties this work is essential, not just for children and families, but for the strength and success of our whole community. When children thrive, so do their

parents and caregivers. When families have access to high-quality care, they can pursue work, education, or other goals knowing their children are safe and supported.

At the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce we believe these team members are not just caregivers, they are educators, mentors, advocates, and community builders. That's why today, we're taking time to celebrate their impact, honour their dedication, and say thank you. So, if you see an ECE or assistant — whether you're dropping off a child, picking one up, or passing by a playground filled with laughter, take a moment to thank them. Their work might begin in the early years, but its impact lasts a lifetime.

As our communities continue to grow, so does the need for passionate and skilled educators. A strong ECE workforce is essential to ensuring that every family has access to high-quality, inclusive, and reliable child care. The YMCA is proud to employ and support exceptional educators, and we are **hiring across all our YMCA Child Care locations.**

Join a community where your care, expertise, and heart truly count. Visit ymcaowensound.on.ca to apply.

For Media Inquiries:

Cyndy Jefferson,
Director of Child Care
YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce
P: 226-379-8570 | E: cyndy.jefferson@osgb.ymca.ca

About YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce

The YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce is a charity that ignites the potential in people by creating opportunities for everyone to achieve personal growth in spirit, mind and body. We offer opportunities for personal development in many program areas: Health, Fitness, Aquatics and Recreation, Child Care, Community and Justice Programs, Settlement Services, Housing Support and Employment Services. Learn more on our website: www.ymcaowensound.on.ca

Kelly Lush

From: Pine River Watershed Initiative Network <pineriverwatershed@pineriverwatershed.ca>
Sent: October 21, 2025 7:30 AM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: Pine River Watershed Initiative Network Fall 2025 Newsletter

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 Forward

PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK

PRWIN 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD OF MERIT



Picture above are: 2nd Kincardine Scouts (left), with PRWIN Director Murray Yungblut. Photo courtesy of Kincardine Record.



Picture above are: Gary Moulton (left), with PRWIN Director Murray Yungblut. Photo courtesy of Kincardine Record.

PRWIN Director, Murray Yungblut presented our 2025 Award of Merit at the Ripley Huron Fall Fair Ambassador Program. The following recipients presented the importance of community volunteering and the connection with our local youth this past year:

2nd Kincardine Scouts

Founded in January 2022, the 2nd Kincardine Scouts has grown into a thriving group of 50 youth and 15 dedicated Scouters. Since its beginning, the group has been deeply committed to environmental stewardship and community involvement. From tree planting and community clean-ups to participating in local parades and events, their presence has been a positive force in the Kincardine area. These young people are not only learning valuable life skills — they are also making a real impact on the world around them.

The scouts have great programming ideas and provide solid leadership, that helps to contribute to the community in many other ways. We are so thankful to connect with your club! The scouts participate in monthly meetings that are filled with outdoor activities that encourage community involvement. Thank you, to the leaders for your time and efforts to support this wonderful club.

Gary Moulton

Gary has been a business owner for almost 5 years with his company Gary Moulton Construction. Over the years with our organization, he has always been a great participant in helping with any PRWIN construction projects like our PRWIN sponsorship sign located at Pine River Cheese. He has been a great volunteer with our Potted Tree Ash Replacement Program (PTARP) and upkeep of the rain garden at the Ripley library. Also, Gary has been our maintenance volunteer at the McLarty Education Centre cutting the grass on the trails and pruning back pathways. As a youth, Gary was involved with Scouts and enjoyed the outdoor education class in high school.

Gary's interest with PRWIN's environmental projects has ensured our work as good stewards of our watershed. We thank Gary for his contributions to PRWIN, and we look forward to working with his family at our upcoming fall planting project.

***EXPLORE THE MCLARTY
CENTRE***



COMMUNITY TESTIMONIAL

As part of a group of local parents and children including homeschoolers, we have started meeting monthly at the McLarty Centre property for self-run outdoor learning meetups.

We are grateful for the centre, and it is amazing to see all the local flora and fauna we encounter there. The new shelter provides an opportunity to sit and work on projects or have a snack in any weather, and we were excited to use the new frog pond platform (frog catching is a highlight of our visits) to witness pond life up close.

I'm also eager to see the new storyboards - they'll be a valuable educational tool.

We are grateful to have such an excellent outdoor education resource just down the road!

A resident of the Township of Huron Kinloss sharing their positive experience at the McLarty Centre



COMMUNITY TESTIMONIAL

2nd Kincardine Scouts have been incredibly fortunate to use the McLarty Centre in the spring over the past few years. The Centre provides a safe, accessible space where our youth can hike, explore local ecosystems, and connect with nature in a hands-on way—spotting frogs, catching insects, studying plants, and learning through discovery.

We're especially grateful for the addition of the new covered picnic area. It's made a real difference—giving us a sheltered space for snacks, gear storage, and activities like drawing and journaling, without the challenges of wind or weather.

Brianne Waeijen
2nd Kincardine Scouts

The McLarty Centre offers many opportunities!

Enjoy walking the trail, bird watching, photography, interpretive wildlife storyboards, learning opportunities in an outdoor classroom and reconnecting with nature.

***If you are interested in a group visit, contact PRWIN at
pineriverwin@yahoo.ca***

PRWIN CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

Twenty five years ago, a group of local citizens met to discuss shared concerns about the water quality in the Pine River and Lake Huron. The result of that meeting was the creation of the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network.

PRWIN is a committee of volunteers, including agricultural landowners and residents along the Lake Huron shore, who share the common vision of “Clean water and a healthy ecosystem within the Pine River Watershed”. Various conservation, stewardship and municipal organizations act as resource personnel and have representatives sitting as non-voting members on the PRWIN Board of Directors.

PRWIN’s success is related to these key factors:

- **We focus our efforts on delivering in-ground projects every year.**
- **Agricultural landowners collaborate with lakeshore residents.**
- **Together with local community groups, we work to achieve a shared vision.**

Over the past 25 years, we have delivered on our objectives:

- **375,000 Seedlings planted – In riparian zones and areas inaccessible for tilling**
- **60,000 Free Seedlings distributed – To local landowners**
- **214 Ash Trees replaced – In lakeshore communities**
- **21 Berm Installations completed**
- **24 kms of Exclusion Fencing installed**
- **12 Livestock Crossings installed**
- **5 Riverbank Restoration projects completed**
- **7 Wetland Enhancements and Restorations completed**

- Established pollinator garden

PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK



WHAT IS YOUR PROPERTIES P

Transform your property with o
Trees, berms, wetlands and mor
Enhancing your property can cr
biodiversity, improve water qua
healthy ecosystems while prom
sustainable agriculture.

Invest and make your land thrive

Upgrade your land with environmental stewardship!

- Free site assessments to understand your properties potential with in ground projects.
- Selection of tree species that will align well with your property.
- 100 % funding for our planting and inground programs
- No forestry fees or site survey costs!

We are currently seeking 2026 project proposals.

Connect with us at pineriverwin@yahoo.ca

GET SOIL SMART

Where do all the soil critters go in the winter?



Where do all the soil critters go in the winter?

We are currently in the season of fall; despite these warm temperatures we have been experiencing! As my title reads, 'Where do all the soil critters go in the winter'? We know that many birds migrate south for the winter and other mammals hibernate, enter torpor (light hibernation), or adapt to the changes of seasons, but what do all of the soil critters do? Are they similar to mammals, or do they have other processes which they go through to survive winter?

First off, soil provides an insulating effect, which in turn is insulated by the aboveground layer of snow.

There are 3 strategies that critters use to prepare for and transition to winter (survival) mode.

1. *Venturing to the Deep* – many of the larger critters, like earthworms and other insects burrow down into the soil as temperatures decrease in

search of a depth of soil below the frost line, where temperature and moisture are adequate.

2. ***Dormancy*** – Many organisms enter a period of dormancy, which is a state of lowered metabolic activity. For example, earthworms, they congregate and coil into a slime-coated ball to enter a state called estivation, which protects them from freezing and drying out; this is similar to hibernation. Insects and other invertebrates may enter diapause, a hormonally controlled state where metabolism is reduced and development halted, all in response to environmental cues (temperature, day length, food scarcity).
3. ***Chemical Alterations*** – Many insects and some microbes start producing cryoprotectants, like glycerol and sugars, which act like anti-freeze (yes, you are thinking about frogs right now and they use cryoprotectants to survive winter as well!). These lower the freezing point of body fluids, allowing regular bodily processes to continue but at a lower level.

Now let's talk about some specific soil critters! Many soil critters function quite similarly to their mammal friends as described at the beginning of this article.

Let's start with *Ants*, they, like black bears, skunks, and squirrels, enter torpor or a light hibernation where they are in a dormant state, activity and metabolism slow down, and they (ants) venture deep into their nests and consume food reserves when hungry.

One that everyone loves, *spiders*! These fellas are my favourite! Spiders stay active during winter, living on the ground and underneath the protection and insulation of the snow (subnivean), as well as in leaf litter, in wood, our humble abodes, etc. They enter diapause and have reduced activity and therefore require less food. Many also produce cryoprotectants dependent on their species type and location.

If your home is like mine, you share it with *ladybugs* and a “few” flies because a house is a protected, warm, and dry environment, in which these friends seek out for winter. Aside from human habitats, lady bugs congregate in natural areas like underneath bark, in rotting logs, or within leaf litter, for warmth and protection. They will then enter diapause.

One quick clarification. The difference between Torpor and diapause: Torpor, animals voluntarily lower their: heart rate, body temperature, and metabolism for the purpose of *energy conservation*; they are being strategic with how and when to expend their energy. Diapause, insects etc. reduce their metabolism with the purpose of suspending development and growth, they essentially go into maintenance mode all winter. Insects also perform other changes and adaptations that also reduce their body temperature, heart rate, etc. and those will contribute to their state of diapause, not cause it.

Example to solidify your understanding, black bears enter Torpor during winter and females at the time are pregnant, through the winter months the cubs are growing and developing until January when they are birthed. Mama bear’s body is using food and energy to maintain her bodily processes in which to supply her cubs with nutrition and the proper environment to grow. Woolly Bear caterpillars, which you likely see crawling around in the fall, they produce cryoprotectants and enter diapause for winter. In the spring the caterpillar wakes up and emerges from diapause to look for a location to complete its development, pupate into a cocoon, and eventually develop into an Isabella Tiger Moth. Clear as mud?

Article provided by Lisa Holland, PRWIN Project Co-ordinator.

PRWIN POTTED TREE ASH REPLACEMENT PROGRAM



This fall, we had 24 recipients receive a tree, courtesy of our Potted Tree Ash Replacement Program (PTARP). The goal of PTARP is to provide the lakeshore communities with trees to replace ash trees that devastated properties by the Emerald Ash Borer.

The Point Clark Beach Association (PCBA), Lurgan Beach Blairs Grove Association (LBBGA) and the Bruce Beach Cottagers Association (BBCA) worked together, to ensure that our program trees get planted in the most needed areas along the lakeshore.

This program has enabled us to make a significant impact to the lakeshore community. To date, the PTARP has offered shoreline residents 214 mature potted trees. We appreciate our directors' time planning and delivery of the trees. A special thank you to Smeltzer's Garden Centre for ordering the trees, as well as the County Of Bruce - Community Grant Program for supporting our 2025 fall tree initiative.



NATIONAL TREE DAY



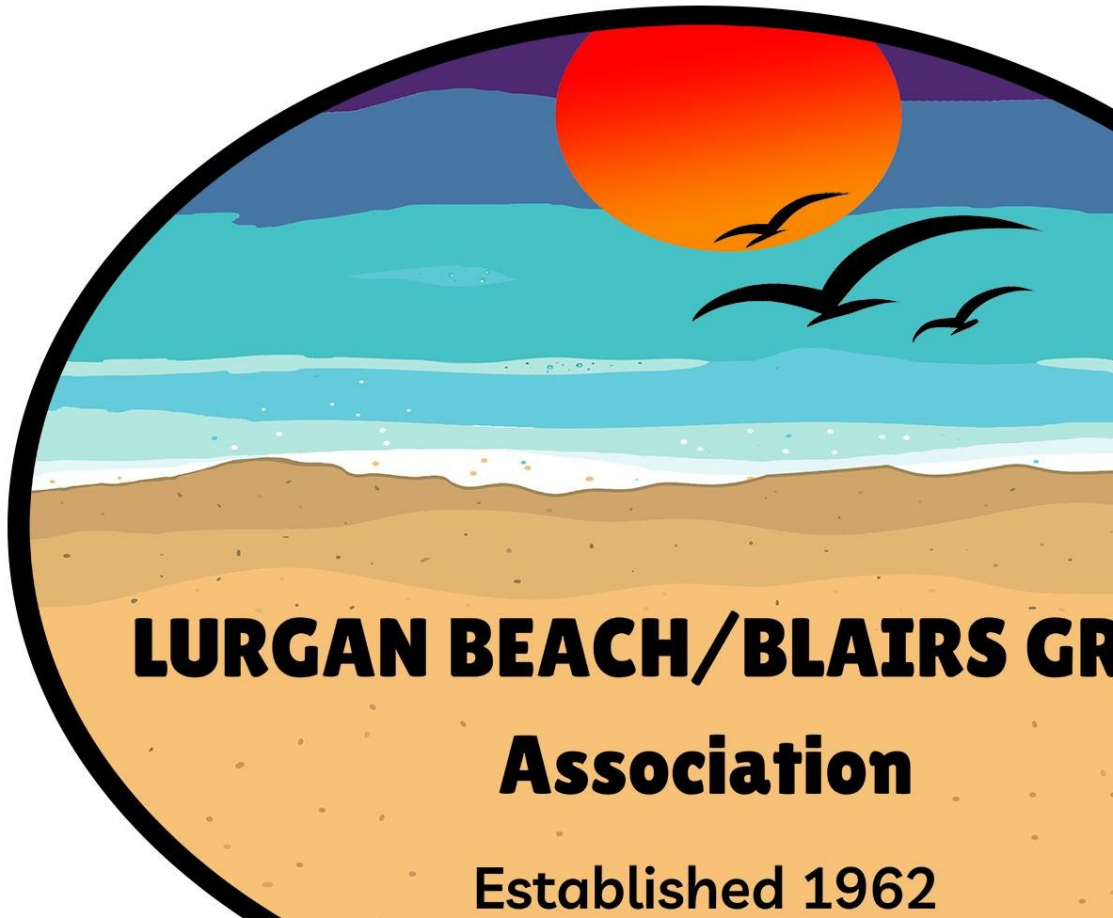
PRWIN celebrates National Tree Planting Day! We planted 20 mature trees at the McLarty Centre to contribute to the environmental restoration of the site. Special thank you to Smeltzer Garden Centre for the trees! This project is funded by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks through the Great Lakes Program.

HEALTHY LAKE HURON COMMITTEE MEETING



PRWIN participated in the Healthy Lake Huron Committee Meeting. The County of Bruce hosted the in person workshop in collaboration with the Healthy Lake Huron Committee. It was an opportunity for PRWIN to showcase projects for the participates of the workshop and to learn more about our environmental initiatives.

SHORELINE ASSOCIATIONS DONATE TO PRWIN



We would like to thank Lurgan Beach/Blairs Grove Association for your continued support. Your contribution is enabling us to accomplish our goals to provide community programs.



Point Clark Beach Association representatives Shirley Fiebiger and Gib McIlwath presented a donation to PRWIN Chairperson David Grant at PCBA annual meeting. The donation is a combined donation from PCBA and a community collection at the summer performance of the Clinton Pipes & Drums. This donation will support our work in the Pine River Watershed.



Thank you to the Bruce Beach Cottagers' Association for your continued support of our organization. Your contribution supports programs to improve the natural quality of the watershed.

PRWIN Chairperson, David Grant accepts the donation from Bruce Beach Cottagers Association President Nan Grant.



PRWIN had the opportunity to speak at the Huron Lakeshore Friendship meeting. We appreciate your interest in learning more about PRWIN. Donation presented by Bob Gallant, President of Huron Lakeshore Friendship Club to PRWIN Director Joanne Kuntz.

GREEN TEAM ARTWORK



Thank you to the Ripley Huron Community School Green Team for their artwork to dress up the sun shelter. The students sign up to take part in the club and participate in environmental awareness activities engaging conversations about the environment.

2026 SPRING SEEDING PROGRAM COMMUNITY SPONSORS



GREENFIELD

GLOBAL



HOWICK
MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY



ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION

Thank you to our community supporters for your donation!
We appreciate your support of environmental programs.
As a sponsor, their contribution is vital to continue our
2026 community tree programs and projects.

RIPLEY REUNION PARADE



**PRWIN Planting Trees On The Ground We Grew Up On!
Celebrating Ripley Reunion and PRWIN's 25th Anniversary!**

FALL FAIR SEASON



PRWIN attended the Ripley Huron Fall Fair with our annual vendor table at the exhibit hall. This was a chance for us to connect with our community! We had PRWIN directors on hand to share with the public our projects and programs. Steve Ernest and Steve Nicholson, are the winners of our PRWIN Fall Fair Raffle and they received a rain barrel. We had over 80 entries for the raffle. Thank you to everyone for stopping by to see us at our vendor table.

RETIRED BOARD OF DIRECTOR



Don Farrell has been a central figure in the success of PRWIN since he joined in 2009. As our primary contact, Don has gained the respect of the representatives from our funding sources and political resources at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. His friendly demeanour made him an excellent contact with the landowners in the watershed and surrounding areas.

With an extensive farming background, Don has the trust and respect of the very people required to allow our projects to proceed on their properties. Examples of these water quality enhancing projects are water and soil containment berms, wetlands, cattle crossings, tree planting and exclusion fencing. Don, along with our fencing specialist, Rick Jones, installed 24kms of exclusion fencing preventing bank erosion on local streams. Don and Rick also installed the signage at PRWIN's project sights. The many cattle crossings installed in the area were resourced and supervised by Don. The use of Don's tractor allowed PRWIN to plant thousands of trees using our tree planter, which he was instrumental in purchasing as well as maintaining and storing at "the farm."

Also, Don was the driving force in the development of the McLarty

Educational Centre including both shelters and the two ponds. Without Don's valued leadership and guidance PRWIN would not be the success it is today. His handpicked successor, Murray Yungblut, is already proving to be a valued member of PRWIN.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR



We would like to welcome our new PRWIN Director Paul Harris! Paul is a resident and a dairy farmer from the Township of Huron Kinloss. Paul is a volunteer with many community groups. He is a past president/current board of director with the Ripley Agricultural Society and was heavily involved in 4-H as a member and leader. Also, his family has taken on PRWIN in-ground programs to plant seedlings on their land. Paul's education in agriculture will align well with our mandate and he is a welcome member to our organization.



Thank you to our directors who installed the new sign for the McLarty Centre. We welcome the community to stop in at the McLarty Centre for fresh air and to experience the great outdoors!

PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK

We encourage our vital community members to share our newsletter, website, and Facebook page. There is an opportunity for everyone to sign up for our newsletter. We have resources about our organization on our website

and our social media page that will inform our community about our present and future projects.

<http://www.pineriverwatershed.ca>

<https://www.facebook.com/pineriverwatershedinitiativenetwork/>

Please email pineriverwin@yahoo.ca to sign up for our newsletter.



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Our mailing address is:

86 Huron Street, Ripley ON N0G 2R0 Ph: 519.395.5538

Our website is:

pineriverwatershed.ca

Our email is:

pineriverwin@yahoo.ca or pineriverwatershed@pineriverwatershed.ca

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Kelly Lush

From: MPAC <intouch@mpac.ca>
Sent: October 22, 2025 10:52 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: October 2025 - InTouch

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



[La version française](#)

October 2025

Celebrating our municipal partners

Local Government Week

This Local Government Week, we shine a spotlight on the incredible municipal teams who make Ontario's communities thrive. From keeping roads safe and water clean, to running parks, public transit, and emergency services, your work touches every part of daily life.

At MPAC, we're grateful to work alongside municipalities by providing property assessment information that helps support planning, budgeting, and fair taxation—so communities can continue to flourish.

Your dedication, expertise, and commitment make life better for residents every day. Thank you to all our municipal partners for your leadership, collaboration, and the positive impact you make across the province. Together, we celebrate the people and partnerships that keep Ontario's communities strong.



Important updates

Supporting residents ahead of the 2026 municipal and school board elections



We've begun rolling out our campaign to remind Ontario residents to update their school support designation with MPAC by June 1, 2026. This ensures we can provide the correct information to Elections Ontario in time to be accurately included on the Preliminary List of Electors ahead of the municipal and school board elections on October 26, 2026.

Municipal staff play an important role in helping residents and raising awareness of this process. To make local outreach easier, we've added a new toolkit to our [Municipal Sector Resources page](#). It features newsletter and website content, downloadable graphics, and frequently asked questions (FAQs). We've also updated our [School Support Designation page](#) with FAQs to help guide residents and address common questions.

Look out for more updates—including shareable social media content—and start planning your outreach today.

The Residential Report: Market Insights available

We're pleased to share the Q2 2025 issue of [The Residential Report: Market Insights](#)—our quarterly publication offering a comprehensive look at residential property market insights, trends, and analysis across Ontario.



This issue introduces a fresh design aligned with our updated brand identity. We've also included a new section on new home sales, highlighting valuable insights into emerging patterns in both the resale and new home markets.

The report draws on MPAC's property inventory and registered sales data from Teranet Inc., which reflect property transfers officially recorded in the Ontario Land Registry. Additional sources are cited throughout the report to provide context and depth.

You can also explore historical trends and compare quarterly changes in previous issues available on our [Research and Insights page](#).

If you have any questions, including those about data usage and permissions, reach out to your [local Municipal and Stakeholder Relations team](#).



Webinar recap

MPAC's vision for data-driven municipal success

During our annual municipal update, Jamie Bishop, Vice-President, Public Affairs and Customer Experience shared MPAC's new strategic direction and its impact on municipalities. He also highlighted how Ontario's property data can

help drive innovation and efficiency, MPAC tools and services that align with your local priorities, and recent operational highlights, property insights, and market trends to help support data-driven decision-making.

Watch video

Inside the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program

Representatives from MPAC and Agricorp shared an inside look at the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program, explaining each organization's role and recent application process enhancements designed to improve the experience for property owners and municipalities.

Watch video

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



MPAC on the move

We're wrapping up this year's conference circuit at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting in Toronto from November 25 to 26! Visit us at the MPAC booth to chat about our new strategic direction, the latest MPAC updates, and how we're working with municipalities to plan for the future.

Snapshots from the road

From September to October, MPAC toured Ontario, connecting with communities and partners. Check out some of the moments we captured along the way!



Coming up in the next issue

Watch for insights from the 2025 Assessment Roll and highlights from the 2025 Municipal Partnership Report in the December issue of InTouch!



Connect with us

Connect with your MPAC representative for strategic support, local insights, and guidance on Municipal Connect, toolkits, data, and more.

mpac Municipal Property
Assessment Corporation™





This email was sent by intouch@mpac.ca to klush@huronkinloss.com
Not interested? [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Preference](#) | [Update profile](#)
MPAC | 1340 Pickering Pkwy, Pickering, ON L1C 3C0

Kelly Lush

From: Regional Tourism Organization 7 <info@rto7.ca>
Sent: October 24, 2025 10:25 AM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: Tourism Business Growth: RTO7 Programs & Tools

[View this email in your browser](#)



October 24, 2025

Opportunities to Build, Learn & Lead in BruceGreySimcoe

In This Newsletter:

- Tech Compass Program Funding
 - Typsy Picks
 - Featured Workshops
 - In Every Newsletter
 - Not A Subscriber?
-

Simplifying Technology for Tourism Operators

The **Tech Compass Program** provides tailored consultations, expert recommendations, and a detailed plan to guide tourism businesses through effective digital solutions.

Why Apply?

Technology plays a critical role in running a competitive tourism business. Tech Compass can help you:

- Run More Efficiently: Use tools to streamline your operations
- Enhance Guest Experience: Meet customer expectations with modern technology
- Stay Competitive: Stay ahead in an evolving industry

Meet Rappid Design

Rappid Design, one of the program's key partners, helps businesses navigate the complexities of technology to achieve their goals.

As Matt Hamilton, Project Lead at Rappid Design, explains:

"Our goal is to simplify technology for tourism businesses, providing them with the tools and guidance they need to thrive."



Limited funding remains for tourism businesses in Bruce, Grey, and Simcoe counties.

Visit [TechCompass.ca](https://techcompass.ca) for more information. For questions, email techcompassweb@gmail.com.

APPLY NOW!

The Tech Compass program is a collaboration of efforts between RTO7, [Community Futures South Georgian Bay](#) and [Rappid Software Design](#), and is funded by the Government of Canada through the [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#).

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!

Typsy Course Review: *Relationships for Leaders* (58 minutes)

By Robyn Hewitt, Senior Communications Coordinator, RTO7

It's easy to get caught up in the daily grind. What's not so easy is taking the time to build real connections with the people around you. Did you know there's actually a science to building relationships? The *Relationships for Leaders* course works through each of the elements required to help you build team spirit and develop strong relationships.

In the workplace, employee retention is one of the biggest challenges leaders face. And really, how can you retain employees if you don't have a relationship with them? That question hit home for me. During my years with Marriott Hotels of Canada, I worked with some incredible leaders who naturally built credibility, rapport, and trust. I used to think those were innate skills, something you either had or didn't, but this course shows that leadership can be learned and strengthened through intentional actions and awareness.



If you've seen *The Studio* on Apple TV (pictured above), you'll know it's an entertaining (and sometimes painful) look at what leadership should not look like. It's a great reminder of how communication, values, and relationships set the stage for team success. This Typsy course breaks leadership down into simple, actionable steps that will help you build your own circle of trust and lead with authenticity. It's a great watch that could shift how you approach leadership and help you build more meaningful relationships.

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.

RTO7 Grant Writing Workshop

RTO7 is hosting a one-hour, virtual *Grant Writing for Tourism Partners* workshop that'll help you strengthen your next application. Not just for RTO7 programs, but for other grants like Experience Ontario and more.

We'll cover what reviewers are actually looking for, how to make your project stand out, and what to avoid. Details and registration link below (click on "REGISTER NOW"):



Bruce Grey Simcoe
ALWAYS IN SEASON

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

Learn how to craft a proposal that gets noticed!

Gain the tools to navigate the grant writing process with clarity and confidence.

 *Tuesday, November 4, 2025*
12:00 to 1:00 PM



Barbara Robinson
Founder - RiverRoad C



FastTrack to Sustainable Tourism Masterclass

Take the next step in your sustainability journey. Join **GreenStep** and **TIAO** for a free, one-hour discovery webinar to explore the **FastTrack to Sustainable Tourism Masterclass**. This program is

designed for beginner level businesses who are interested in a sustainable tourism action plan to guide you in a sustainability journey.

During your session, you'll discover:

- What to expect from the Masterclass sessions.
- How to build on your Tourism 2030 Pledge commitment with a structured action plan.
- How the program will help your business measure, plan, and act on sustainability goals.
- The benefits of participation, including eligibility for one-on-one support and certification pathways.

Date: Monday, November 3, 2025

Time: 11:00 am to 12:00 pm EST

A recording will be shared with all registrants after the session, so you won't miss out if you can't attend live.

Explore how this Masterclass series can support your business and destination in building capacity, reduce impacts, and increase your leadership in sustainable tourism.

[Register Today](#)



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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**
 - **Operations Implementation Program**
 - **BruceGreySimcoe Free Training**
 - **T3 Accelerator**
 - **Tech Compass**
 - T3 Accelerator Podcast
 - **Tourism Biz Bites from the 7**
- **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**



Bruce Grey Simcoe

ALWAYS IN SEASON

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LEARN MORE

**Careers
Tourism**

T3 Accelerator Podcast



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