



Council / Committee Meetings – Thursday, March 4, 2021

Explore highlights from Bruce County's Council & Committee Meetings. These meetings are held on Thursdays, twice monthly, beginning at 9:30 AM, unless otherwise posted. Meetings are video livestreamed and complete agendas and minutes are available for public review.



Mar 8 2021 - 1:00pm

By-laws

Bruce County Council:

authorized the execution of a TD Bank Guarantee for Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology Inc. (SWIFT) in support of a credit facility to provide SWIFT with short-term bridge financing.

authorized the Warden and Clerk to execute the Natural Gas Appointment and Retainer Agreement between Local Authority Service and Bruce County for the provision of Natural Gas

authorized speed limits on the Bruce County Road System and in construction zones

authorized to regulate parking, standing, or stopping of vehicles on County Roads and Designated Areas within the Bruce County Roads System

authorized to provide for the installation of Stop signs at intersections

adopted Amendment Number C-2020-017 to the Bruce County Official Plan

adopted Amendment Number C-2020-016 to the Bruce County Official Plan

adopted estimates, tax ratios and tax rates for the Year 2021

authorized to permanently close the Arran Township Shed Bridge (Invermay), Bridge ID 270050

Delegations

Grey Bruce Public Health www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

(<http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/>)

Grey Bruce Public Health is discouraging travel from region to region, unless for essential needs. Essential reasons for travel include work, school, or medical reasons. Travel for rec, non-medical, social, or leisure are NOT essential and are discouraged.

Other

Bruce County Council:

discussed the potential closure of Ontario Fire College - Gravenhurst Campus, regional training options, and considerations for lower-tier municipalities managing fire services.

approved a letter of support be written to express shared concern about Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) Reform.

noted St. Catharines' request for endorsing legislated sick leave and calling on the Government of Ontario to permanently legislate universal paid sick days for all workers in Ontario during the pandemic and beyond.

County Housing Corporation Policy Changes

The Bruce County Housing Corporation approved amendments to the Transfer Policy, Surveillance Systems Policy, Smoking Policy, Mandatory Tenant Insurance Policy, and Mobility Scooter Policy. To promote autonomy and choice, tenants who do not meet the identified reasons for transfer can still apply and will be placed at the bottom of the waitlist. Video surveillance is used to increase safety and security and the Surveillance Policy now aligns with current practices and the Bruce County Corporate Surveillance Policy. The BCHC No-Smoking Policy was updated to include the use of cannabis and to align with provincial legislation. Regarding tenant insurance, any new or transferring tenants will be required to purchase and provide proof of purchase of tenant insurance. Tenants will be required to provide proof of insurance during their annual rent review. In the event of an emergency, tenants may apply for assistance from the Housing Stability Fund. Regarding mobility scooters, BCHC will work with tenants to enable their use of a mobility scooter while balancing the health and safety of other tenants.

Co-Investment Funding for Affordable Housing

Bruce County's funding application for the development at 529 Gary St., in the Municipality of Kincardine, has been recommended for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation funding. CMHC will provide the Bruce County Housing Corporation with a loan of up to \$10,231,957 that consists of a repayable loan of up to \$9,535,284 and forgivable loan of up to \$696,673. The goal of the CMHC National Housing Strategy Co-Investment Fund is to develop and enhance the quality and availability of affordable housing and community housing across Canada.

Mortgage Renewal - 920 Old Durham Road, Walkerton

The mortgage for 920 Old Durham Road, Walkerton, home to Bruce County Housing Corporation Community Housing Units, was renewed effective February 1, 2021 with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The previous mortgage term was 5 years at 1.010% and the monthly payment amount was \$10,112.83. The term and rate that is available for the renewal is dependent on the number of mortgages in the pool for that particular month. The mortgage renewal is for an amount of \$1,098,932.87. The renewal is at a rate of 0.740%, which is a monthly savings of \$127.83. The new monthly payment for 920 Old Durham Road, Walkerton is \$9,985. The remaining amortization is 114 months.

Penetangore Hub - The New Office Hub and Meeting Room in Kincardine

“Penetangore Hub” has been identified as the name for the new office hub in Kincardine located at 529 Gary Street, Kincardine. The naming evaluation committee considered alignment with corporate strategic values and Bruce brand, alignment with local context and natural features of the environment, alignment to heritage and culture, an easily understood name, and uniqueness. The name is a gesture to the location in which the building has been built near the Penetangore River which empties into Lake Huron at the town of Kincardine, Ontario. The name Penetangore is believed to come from an Ojibwa word meaning "river with sand on one side", referring to the sand bar at the river's mouth and was the original name of the settlement that became the town of Kincardine. In keeping with the theme of river and water features for names of meeting rooms at administration offices, the meeting room at the Penetangore Hub will be named “The Pine River Room”, a nod to the river that flows 34 km across the landscape of the Township of Huron-Kinloss. The hub in Kincardine will primarily serve residents of the Municipality of Kincardine and the Township of Huron-Kinloss, although is available for any residents.

Penetangore Place - The New Residential Building in Kincardine

“Penetangore Place” has been identified as the name for the new residential apartment building located at 529 Gary Street, Kincardine. The naming evaluation committee considered alignment with corporate strategic values and Bruce brand, alignment with local context and natural features of the environment, alignment to heritage and culture, an easily understood name, and uniqueness. Penetangore

Place will provide 35 community housing units including 25 one-bedroom units; 6 two-bedroom units; and 4 three-bedroom units in Kincardine. It is expected that tenants will occupy the units in spring 2021.

Q4 Arrears Report 2020

Bruce County Housing Corporation reports an Arrears Balance of \$127,355.44 as at December 31, 2020, with 207 tenants owing. The total current tenant arrears is 3.75% as at December 31, 2020. There was a significant increase in Maintenance arrears in Q4. There were two separate incidents where units received a significant amount of damage. Both tenants are currently in payment plans to reimburse for the damages. Former Tenant Arrears Balance is \$75,516.55 as at December 31, 2020, with 58 tenants owing. The total former tenant is 2.12% as at December 31, 2020. BCHC staff issued 84 N4 notices for non-payment of rent. The Tenant Coordinators currently have payment plans in good standing with 278 current tenants. The Tenant Coordinators follow the Eviction Prevention Policy to minimize the amount of arrears. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Landlord Tenant Board was not operating between March & August 2020. There is currently a moratorium on evictions, however, the Landlord Tenant Board is processing applications.

2020 LTC Budget amended for Exterior Insulation and Finish System Project

The Corporate Services Committee approved that the 2020 budget for Gateway Haven be amended to increase the capital cost for the Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS) project by up to \$130,000 and to be offset by a reduction in the capital cost for the Brucelea Haven portion of the EIFS project by a similar amount. The EIFS project proceeded as a single tendered project that pertained to Brucelea Haven and Gateway Haven long term care homes. The project was budgeted with an assumed split of costs between the two homes, however the actual costs applied to each of the homes varied from the original split of costs in the budget. This amendment addresses the final 2020 year-end costs at Gateway Haven and shifts that portion of the budgeted expenses from Brucelea Haven.

Purchasing Policy Amended

The Corporate Services Committee approved amendments to the Purchasing Policy to reflect legislated changes to the Construction Lien Act and permit electronic submissions. On April 5, 2018, Council enacted a By-law where a

municipality and a local board shall adopt policies with respect to its procurement of goods and services. Bruce County deemed it desirable to provide a purchasing policy to ensure fair, transparent, and accountable purchasing. A review of the policy determined that the now approved updates were needed related to legislation changes.

LTC Nursing Supplies Contract Extended

The Corporate Services Committee granted the extension for Medline/Medical Mart's contract for Nursing Supplies and Incontinence products, as per the Purchasing Policy, due to COVID-19. Medline/Medical Mart's contract to supply the LTC Homes for Nursing Supplies and Incontinence products expires June 30, 2021. Due to COVID-19, this is not an optimum time to go to market for these products given the fluctuation of market pricing and the availability of products. Changing of products, due to a possible change in provider, would not be ideal for the LTC Homes at this time. Medline/Medical Mart has agreed to hold their contract pricing until June 30, 2022. The purchases and expenditures related to this contract vary depending upon the needs of residents and supply requirements. The expenditure costs for the last three years were \$873,000 (2020), \$392,000 (2019), and \$319,000 (2018). Pandemic related costs (including PPE and other items) account for \$431,000 of the 2020 amount. Funding has been provided by the Province to offset these costs.

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Membership

The Executive Committee renew its membership in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative at a cost of \$2,200.00, funded in 2021 from Council Memberships. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region makes up approximately 80% of North America's surface freshwater supply. Protecting and ensuring the sustainable development of these global treasures is our responsibility collectively, as is promoting the social and economic vitality of the cities that surround them. Bruce County is an important community within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region and our continued support for the work of this organization is vital to their success moving forward.

Support for EH!tel's Submission to Universal Broadband Fund

The Executive Committee approved a letter of support for broadband service provider EHI!tel's submission to the Federal Universal Broadband Fund to access funding for proposed high speed internet projects in Bruce County. Their proposal will build 82 kilometres of new additional fibre in Brockton. With a total project cost of \$4,572,022 and a SWIFT contribution \$3,017,535, Project Agreements are being signed and the construction process is underway with project completion expected by December 31, 2021.

COVID-19 Response Framework

The Executive Committee endorsed the Bruce County COVID-19 Response Framework, which will be affixed to the “Reopen & Rediscover Bruce County: COVID-19 Recovery Plan”, and will provide further information, direction, and clarity around how Bruce County will move forward together. Recognizing the opportunity to capture Bruce County's operational items required within the Provincial Framework, the Bruce County Reopen and Rediscover Team (subcommittee) set out to overlay and integrate Bruce County's “Reopen and Rediscover Plan” within the Provincial “COVID-19 Response Framework”. The departmental framework is meant to be a high-level overview, set in the context of the Ontario Government's colour coding, it describes provincial regulations and restrictions, as well as Bruce County's specific measures (by department). The framework takes a gradual approach that includes introducing preventative measures earlier to help avoid broader closures and allow for additional public health and workplace safety measures to be introduced or removed incrementally. To date Bruce County has received 17 COVID-19 pandemic related grants totaling \$8,402,430. The Executive Committee has also requested a report on options for a return to in-person and hybrid model Council Meetings.

Municipal Modernization Program

The Executive Committee supported the implementation of Municipal Modernization Program projects and endorsed the Expression of Interest in our submission to the Government of Ontario for funding consideration. The Ontario government is investing over \$40 million to help small and rural municipalities improve the delivery of critical programs and services. Bruce County will be requesting funding for the implementation of a four-part project referred to as “Modernizing Municipal Operations with Digital Integration Platforms and Streamlining Archaeological Management Solutions”. This project will include:

Municipal Operations Digital Integration Platform (\$500,000 project to modernize development, location services, and GIS software),
Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre Newspaper Digitization (\$76,000 project to digitize historic newspapers),
Archeological Management Plan – Integrity Layer (\$45,000 to map regions with intact archaeological resources), and
Cityworks (ESRI) PLL Implementation (\$50,000 to modernize the management of planning applications and inquiries).

Long Term Care Homes Committee of Management

The Homes Committee approved the renaming of the committee to be the Long Term Care Homes Committee of Management. The roles and responsibilities of a Committee of Management, pursuant to Section 132 of the Long Term Care Homes Act (LTCHA), were formally delegated to the Committee. These roles include ensuring all activities and decisions follow LTCHA and other legislation, monitoring staff compliance, providing input into improvements, establishing and monitoring a vision, mission, and values, monitoring financial performance, and evaluating the quality of program and service delivery. The Committee shall hold meetings consistent with the requirements established in the County's Procedural By-law (as revised to reflect Committee of Management requirements). The Committee shall comply with all laws, regulations, by-laws, policies, and procedures required as a Committee of Council, except where there is any contradiction between a by-law, policy, or procedure of Council.

Long Term Care Homes In Full Compliance

Brucelea Haven (Walkerton) and Gateway Haven (Warton) Long Term Care Homes are in full compliance with the Long Term Care Homes Act and all associated regulations. The homes continue to conduct ongoing audits and Primacare consultants continue to monitor status. The focus for the homes continues to ensure robust pandemic response, infection prevention and control education, enhanced environmental cleaning, and daily auditing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use and hand hygiene for compliance. Staff are to be mask fit tested at all times with the available masks onsite. Both Homes have implemented the requirements for rural LTC Homes for rapid antigen testing for screening purposes. Both Homes have been provided with policies, procedures, support tools and education to ensure the successful implementation of the testing program. An electronic surveillance testing tracking tool has also been provided to

aid in the collection and reporting of required data. Both Homes implemented new protocols for universal eye protection to accompany ongoing universal masking for staff, essential caregivers, and residents. The Homes continue to approach suspect outbreaks as actual outbreaks implementing a full response including cohorting of residents and staff, requiring residents to remain in their rooms at all times, appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and cancellation of small group programs. Both Homes ran successful vaccination clinics onsite to the priority groups of residents, essential caregivers and staff. Brucelea Haven had 129 doses administered on January 27 and 210 doses on February 19. Gateway Haven had 100 doses administered on January 27 and 134 doses administered on February 21. Second doses are scheduled to begin in March. The Exterior Insulation and Finish System project is wrapping up at Gateway Haven and continues at Brucelea Haven. Brucelea Haven is at full occupancy and Gateway Haven has 97 residents and a substantial waitlist. Primacare is working closely with the Chief Administrative Officer, other County staff, and the leadership teams of the Homes to ensure the safe transition of the operations back to Bruce County on March 31, 2021.

2021 Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres Allocation

The Human Services Committee approved a budget amendment to include additional revenue of \$450,691 for the purposes of one-time transitional grant and re-investment funding and to expend it according to the requirements of the Ministry of Education's Service Management and Funding Guideline. Beginning January 1, 2021, Consolidated Municipal Services Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administrative Boards (DSSABs) were required to cost share administrative funding at a rate of 50/50 provincial/municipal. However, for 2021, the Ministry has provided a one-time transitional grant of \$186,663 to offset and assist with the new required cost share. Additionally, on February 2, 2021, the Ministry provided re-investment funding of \$264, 028 to support increased costs of operating child care and EarlyON Child and Family Centres during the COVID-19 outbreak. This funding is to be expended by March 31, 2021.

Social Service Relief Fund Community Support

The Human Services Committee approved the disbursement of \$50,000 from the Social Service Relief Fund Phase Two to the United Way. The United Way will use this funding to assist in helping vulnerable residents during the COVID-19

pandemic. The United Way has requested \$50,000 to extend the Financial Literacy program. The Financial Literacy Program Coordinator works directly with vulnerable residents to improve skills and knowledge around financial considerations and budgeting. The United Way has a Service Agreement in place and therefore will be funded through the existing agreement. Bruce County has received an emergency funding allocation under the provincial Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 1 and Phase 2, which is being delivered through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). This fund is intended to help vulnerable people during the COVID-19 crisis.

Electronic Data Management (EDM)

The Human Services Committee approved the Warden and Clerk to sign the Master Services Agreement with Nimble Information Strategies Inc. for the provision of Electronic Data Management (EDM) services. On February 4, 2021 Council approved the Human Services Department implementing an Electronic Data Management (EDM) system for its Ontario Works client master files. The total estimated cost to implement EDM in 2021 is \$26,710 with an ongoing annual cost of approximately \$15,330.

National Housing Strategy Co-Investment Fund Mortgage

The Human Services Committee approved the Bruce County Housing Corporation (BCHC) to obtain financing from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for Community Housing at 529 Gary Street, in the Municipality of Kincardine. The National Housing Co-Investment Fund supports the new and revitalization construction of mixed-income, mixed-tenure, mixed-use affordable housing. Funded projects need support from another level of government to ensure a coordination of investments. BCHC has applied to borrow \$10,231,957, consisting of \$9,535,284 in a repayable loan and \$696,673 in a forgivable loan.

Emergency Social Services

The Human Services Committee approved the Warden and Clerk to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Bruce County and each of the eight local municipalities related to the provision of Emergency Social Services. To support planning and delivery of Emergency Social Services (ESS), County staff have been working with municipal Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMCs) on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

between the County and each local municipality. Input has been provided by the local municipal staff as well as the Canadian Red Cross Society in the development of the MOU. The purpose of the MOU is to facilitate transparent, consistent, and effective ESS responses to large scale emergencies in collaboration between the County, local municipalities, and the Canadian Red Cross. It will also facilitate staff training and engagement. The MOU provides a framework outlining key roles and responsibilities of each organization, including ESS preparedness and activation, set up and operation of Reception and/or Evacuation Centres, the provision of human services supports, and the collection and distribution of materials, equipment, and supplies in the context of an Incident Management System (IMS) and related structure. The MOU also outlines services available through the Canadian Red Cross and related fee-for-service costs as per the Emergency Response Agreement between Bruce County and the Red Cross.

Q4 Bruce County Community Housing Registry Waitlist Update

By the end of Q4 of 2020, there were 572 applicants on the Bruce County Housing Registry waitlist. This includes 556 rent-geared-to-income (RGI), and 36 market rent applications. There are 174 families, 247 adults, and 171 senior applications on the waitlist. There have been 90 applicants housed between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. 30 applicants were housed in Q4 of 2020. Bruce County Staff work diligently to ensure units are offered in a timely manner. COVID-19 restrictions have increased the amount of time it takes to prepare units for occupancy.

Provincial Vision for Social Assistance Transformation

On February 11, the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services announced Ontario's Vision for Social Assistance to create an efficient, effective, and streamlined social services system that focuses on providing people with a range of services and supports to respond to their unique needs as they move towards employment and independence. The vision builds on the Fall 2020 provincial Recovery and Renewal Plan for transforming social assistance to support Ontario's COVID-19 economic recovery. It also builds on social assistance modernization strategies and initiatives to date, as well as the transformation of employment services that is currently underway in three prototype sites across Ontario. Bruce County is well positioned to receive this announcement. It is considered a positive step that will enable staff to further enhance and improve

local supports and community partnerships with a focus on human services integration and life stabilization. The work that has taken place over many years, and more recently with the establishment of a Business and Human Services Integration Division; implementation of modernization measures such as MyBenefits, Reloadable Payment Cards, Electronic Data Management (EDM); and exploring unique ways of supporting clients through virtual programming and an Employment Readiness Scale (ERS) tool are aligned with this announcement and the work that lies ahead. It is anticipated that 2021 and 2022 will be largely “learning and testing years,” with consolidation of financial assistance by the end of 2022 and roll out of a new human services model by 2024.

Strategic Community Initiatives Grant Recipients 2021

The Strategic Community Initiatives Granting contributes to the advancement of Human Services goals and priorities. Investments are targeted to community-based initiatives and services that complement the core services of the Human Services Department. Bruce County recognizes that by investing in community-based initiatives it will serve to forward strategic goals, both economic and social. Additionally, the investment demonstrates the County’s commitment to strengthening the community’s capacity to be responsive to changing needs and serves to leverage additional funding sources. The County issued a call for proposals, announcing it at the January 14, 2021 Human Services Committee Meeting, with a deadline of February 12, 2020. A staff panel reviewed and evaluated the proposals received based on a standardized evaluation format that first considered if the proposal specifically expanded the capacity of the community to address gaps in services and/or unmet needs of low income residents to strengthen the service system. If proposals met this criterion, they were then evaluated on whether they met the following criteria: alignment with corporate strategic values; responsiveness to community needs; included best practices/research; and lastly that the proposal was not a duplication. The following proposals were evaluated, and met the criteria and will receive funding: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force (\$20,000) and Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy (\$20,000). Staff will specify in the acceptance letters the expected deliverables and reporting requirements. Staff will monitor the progress of the initiatives and require report back on the outcomes of the funding.

Trailblazers – An Exciting New Museum Exhibit

Featured in the Bruce Gallery is the exhibition Trailblazers. Created by the Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity, Trailblazers brings to the forefront the overlooked history and narrative of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community within Canada. The show features 12 biographies of Canadians who have made strides, politically and socially, for the rights of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, including Jim Egan, who had a farm with his partner outside of Chesley. Also included is the Queer colouring book, available from the Centre's website, as well as information regarding pronouns and creating positive and inclusive spaces. Supplementing the exhibition is the Pride Flag used in the first Pride Parade in Bruce County in 2017, as well as 2SLGBTQIA+ materials from the Bruce County Library. Trailblazers will be on display until the end of May 2021.

Museum & Cultural Centre Update

Digital Field Trips - The first Virtual Day in the Life of a Pioneer Child was a great success, with the second scheduled for the last week in March. A class of 14 Grade 2's and 3's got up and chopped wood, participated in a spelling bee, and navigated their way through the wilderness of 1850's Bruce County.

KidZone April Break Camp - Provided that our COVID Alert level allows for camps, precautions will be in place to run the camp safely and still provide a fun and engaging experience for up to 12 children between the ages of 5 and 10. Themes will include Abracadabra Magic Day, Paleolithic Playtime, Outta This World, Adventure Time, and Call of the Wild.

Museum in a Box - The second Museum in a Box, "Museum Magic!" is heading out for delivery. Each subscription consists of 10 activity kits. Subscription sales end April 1, but individual boxes will remain on sale for each month if we have them in stock. The program runs until the end of 2021.

Museum Munchkins - With the Museum reopening this week, Museum Munchkins will begin for this year on March 11. The new schedule features two sessions in March and two in May, and while we will miss out on the planned snow-themed session, the themes for the added sessions will be every bit as much fun! Most Museum Munchkins sessions are close to sold out, with as few as two spaces remaining for some of the dates.

Virtual Adventure Talks - The final Virtual Adventure Talk will be on March 10 where Mert Tanner will wrap up the series with his "Talk on Turkey". The three-part series was offered free of charge to our residents at Brucelea and Gateway Haven.

Museum on Spotify - During 2020, the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre promoted exhibits, programs, and events on Spotify as a new promotional avenue. Spotify is an audio streaming and media services provider. The BCM&CC's 2021 marketing strategy will continue to utilize Spotify as a promotional channel and will further develop geographic reach to include tourists in other regions who are planning to visit Bruce County during the year.

Sale of Surplus Ambulances

The Paramedics Services Committee approved the sale of two surplus ambulances complete with used Stryker Power Cots and Stryker Power Loads to Grey Bruce Health Services Owen Sound for \$68,000 +HST. Grey Bruce Health Services (GBHS) has asked both Grey and Bruce Paramedic Services if they would be willing to sell their surplus ambulances this year so that they (GBHS) could setup their own in-house transfer service to help alleviate the current issues of patients missing appointments due to both services being busy doing 911 calls and not able to move these patients in a timely fashion. Bruce County sees the added benefit to adding these four transfer vehicles to be used throughout Grey-Bruce to move patients between medical facilities for medical treatment, appointments, and diagnostics. It is expected that the sale will take place in late August or early September of 2021 once the County receives two new ambulances and ensures that they are road ready.

Community Paramedicine Program Funding

The Paramedics Services Committee approved the 2021 budget be amended to include up to \$15,000 of funding from either the Safe Restart grant, or if ineligible for the grant, from the Tax Stabilization Reserve, to fund the Community Paramedicine Program until April 30, 2021. Since January 2021, Bruce County Paramedic Services have delivered community paramedic services through funding received from Ontario Health West for the High Intensity Supports at Home Program. Funding in the amount of \$123, 241 was received for the period of January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021. At present, there are 54 patients rostered, of which 10 have been discharged. Community Paramedics have completed over 100 visits to these rostered patients for services including wellness checks, vital sign monitoring, falls assessments, medication change assessment, as well as IV starts and blood work at physician's requests. It is also possible although not yet confirmed, that the County will receive an additional allocation of funding for the

period beginning April 2021. It is expected that this confirmation may come by the end of April. Having community paramedics vaccinate residents, including against COVID-19, is another service being considered.

Director of Long Term Care and Seniors Services Coming Soon

The Workplace Engagement Services Committee has approved the job description for the new Director of Long Term Care and Seniors Services position. This position will oversee all LTC service delivery, supervise both Administrators, and in partnership with them, ensure adherence to all legislative and program compliance requirements. As the role expands, and hopefully, as the focus on urgent pandemic responses change with the community introduction of COVID vaccines, the Director of LTC could also have a role in providing assistance to broader seniors' issues in the community, working in partnership with the Director of Human Services and other key stakeholders. The Director will join the County's Senior Leadership Team and will report directly to the County's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Recruitment will begin soon.

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

News

Because we live in a time of constant change, your county government is doing what it can to manage change, stay ahead of the curves, focus on positive ideas and communicate with tax payers.

- **WHAT'S NEWS (/WHATS-NEWS)**
- **NEWS (/WHATS-NEWS/BRUCE-COUNTY-NEWS)**

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- [COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE \(/GOVERNMENT/BRUCE-COUNTY-COUNCIL\)](#)
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CONTACT US

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Bruce County

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Library

Museum

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DEPARTMENTS

Office of the CAO (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/departments/office-the-chief-administrative-officer>)

Corporate Services (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/departments/corporate-services>)

Transportation and Environmental Services

(<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/departments/highways>)

Human Resources (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/departments/human-resources>)

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Museum (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/departments/museum>)

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Human Services (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/departments/human-services>)



(<https://brucegreycommunityinfo.cioc.ca/>)



(<https://www.planthebruce.ca/>)

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COUNTY WEBSITES

Business to Bruce (<http://businesstobruce.ca>)

Explore the Bruce (<http://explorethebruce.com>)

Bruce County Public Library (<http://library.brucecounty.on.ca/>)

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre (<http://www.brucemuseum.ca/>)

Bruce Remembers (<http://www.bruceremembers.org/>)

Museum Online Collections (<http://brucemuseum.pastperfectonline.com/>)

Bruce Coast Lighthouses (<http://www.brucecoastlighthouses.com/>)

Compass

(<https://brucecountyonca.sharepoint.com/sites/Compass/Pages/default.aspx>)

**COVID-19
INFORMATION AND
UPDATES
([HTTPS://BRUCECOUNTY.ON.CA/COVID19](https://brucecounty.on.ca/covid19))**

**BRUCE COUNTY
WINTER ROAD
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CONDITIONS](https://brucecounty.on.ca/road-conditions))**

USEFUL LINKS

Road and Bridge Construction and Detours (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/road-construction>)

Nuclear Innovation Institute (<http://www.nuclearinnovationinstitute.com/>)

Bids and Tenders (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/bruce-county-bids>)

Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/living/hazardous-waste-collection-calendar>)

Road Construction (<https://www.brucecounty.on.ca/road-construction>)

EarlyON Child and Family Centres (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/human-services/earlyon>)

Agendas and Minutes (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/government/agendas-and-minutes>)

Employment (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/employment>)

Anaphylaxis (Nut Aware) Policy (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/anaphylaxis-policy>)

Application Links (</lrc-application-links>)

File Transfer (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/business/ftp-upload>)

Privacy Policy (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/privacy-policy>)

Public Washrooms Map (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/bruce-county-public-accessible-washrooms>)

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Explore highlights from Bruce County's Council & Committee Meetings. These meetings are held on Thursdays, twice monthly, beginning at 9:30 AM, unless otherwise posted. Meetings are video livestreamed and complete agendas and minutes are available for public review.



Mar 19 2021 - 3:00am

Social Services Relief Fund Phase 3

The Human Services Committee approved the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 3 – Investment Plan for submission to the province and implementation. Bruce County is eligible for \$870,781 in funding for 2021. The additional assistance is to meet the ongoing needs of Bruce County’s most vulnerable residents, including those struggling to pay rent. Protecting people from transmission is a priority under the new funding and the business plan speaks to investments in this area to allow for greater resiliency.

Severance on Farm Property in Brockton

After a public meeting, the Planning and Development Committee approved an Official Plan Amendment to facilitate the severance of a 1.2 ha surplus farm dwelling lot from a 35.74 ha parcel at 1960 Sideroad 5, in the Municipality of Brockton. An amendment to the Official Plan is required to allow a third parcel to be created from an original Crown surveyed lot and to allow the retained 34.54 ha parcel to be smaller than 40 ha. Farm consolidations like this improve the agricultural sector by enabling farms to become more efficient and better integrated, and encourage alternative methods of production, such as the implementation of agri-environmental measures and good agricultural practices.

Severance Approved in Port Elgin

After a public meeting, the Planning and Development Committee approved an application to sever a residential lot on the south end of Port Elgin along County Road 25, that is approximately 4,460 square metres (1.1 acres) in size. The retained lands are approximately 21 acres. The lands will be rezoned from Planned Development (PD) to Residential First Density Special (R1-X) to permit the construction of a house and detached garage with a height of 7.9 metres. An Archaeological Assessment was completed which demonstrated no archeological artifacts were on the lands.

Severance Approved in Wiarton

After a public meeting, the Planning and Development Committee approved an application to sever a property near Wiarton to create a new residential waterfront lot on municipal services. The property includes lands on both the west and east sides of Bayview Street. The severance is aligned with the Bruce County Guiding Principles of Good Growth and Homes, and the Vision of a healthy, diverse, and thriving future.

Kincardine Official Plan Amendment

The Planning and Development Committee approved an amendment to the Kincardine Official Plan to permit 4 townhomes on a property located along the northside of Golf Links Road, just west of Queen Street, Kincardine. Each townhome is proposed to contain a secondary unit, for a total of 8 units on the 0.36 acre parcel of vacant land. The development is strongly aligned with the Good Growth Principle as the location is appropriate for an infill residential development. Each of the townhouses will be accessed from Golf Links road and will have access to full municipal services (water, sewer, storm sewer). It is within a built-up area of the municipality and represents a logical and efficient use of land and infrastructure. The proposal is strongly aligned with the Homes Principle as the development would increase the supply and mix of homes through the construction of 4 townhouses each with a secondary dwelling unit on one lot. The townhouses will also provide a new form of housing (life lease) in this area of Kincardine. The development supports the Communities Principle given that it is close to key community amenities, including the hospital, schools, and downtown. An archaeological assessment did not identify any cultural heritage resources.

Delegation of Lot Creation Responsibilities to Local Councils

The Planning and Development Committee received a report on delegating lot creation responsibilities to local councils and directed staff to canvass the Local Municipalities to determine if they have an interest in accepting these responsibilities. Currently, the Planning Act and its Regulations have assigned responsibility for lot creation decisions to Bruce County Council. Bruce County Council, as provided for in the Planning Act, has delegated responsibility to approve undisputed lot creation applications to staff, while retaining the responsibility for disputed applications, which includes refusal decisions. Staff approvals represent approximately 90 percent of the lot creation decisions. County

Council has discretion to decide to delegate any of its lot creation responsibilities (consent, subdivision, condominium, part-lot control) to one or more Local Councils.

Plan the Bruce: Communities Interim Report

The Plan the Bruce Discussion Papers are the next step to setting out a policy framework for the collective Vision and Guiding Principles for growth and development in Bruce County, forming the backbone of the new Official Plan. The Plan the Bruce: Communities Discussion Paper Interim Report provides a definition of complete and healthy communities, a discussion of the role of environmental sustainability, economic realities, and social and cultural vitality, a discussion of current trends and challenges, and an overview of the legislative/policy requirements from the Province for addressing healthy communities in Official Plans. The Communities Interim Report focusses on recommended directions on 6 key topics: A Healthy Community, a Complete Community, a Beautiful and High Quality Community, a Viable Community, a Sustainable Community, and a Resilient Community. The public is encouraged to explore the initiative and provide feedback at [planthebruce.ca](https://www.planthebruce.ca) (<https://www.planthebruce.ca/>)

Plan the Bruce: Good Growth Interim Report

The Plan the Bruce Discussion Papers are the next step to setting out a policy framework for the collective Vision and Guiding Principles for growth and development in Bruce County, forming the backbone of the new Official Plan. The Plan the Bruce: Good Growth Discussion Paper Interim Report includes a review of Demographic, Economic and Socio-Economic Profile, and Assessment of Growth Drivers, Vacant Residential and Non-Residential Supply Analysis including a review of residential intensification opportunities, Residential and Non-Residential Demand Analysis including the preparation of population, household, and employment forecasts, as well as their allocation by local municipality, and a review of Residential and Non-Residential Land Needs by the year 2046. The public is encouraged to explore the initiative and provide feedback at [planthebruce.ca](https://www.planthebruce.ca) (<https://www.planthebruce.ca/>)

Scheduled Bus Service Trial in South Bruce Peninsula

The Transportation and Environmental Services Committee approved that Bruce County will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of South Bruce Peninsula to provide financial support to trial a scheduled bus service for the summer of 2021. Since September 2020, Grey Transit has been operating a pilot program scheduled bus service on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between Owen Sound and Wiarton. South Bruce Peninsula seeks to extend the routes of travel to include Wiarton to Sauble Beach or Owen Sound to Sauble Beach. The estimated cost for a one season trial is \$35,000, with Bruce County funding approximately 50 percent. The funds to support the scheduled bus service trial will be drawn from surpluses in the Transportation and Environmental Services Operations budget to a maximum value of \$17,500.

ATV Club Agreements Renewed

The Transportation and Environmental Services Committee authorized Bruce County's Warden and Clerk to execute a five year agreement with both the Huron Shores ATV Club and the South Bruce Peninsula ATV Club to allow club members legal access to County lands. Both clubs use a permit system where members can pay for either a daily, weekly, or annual pass to access their trails, with funds from these permits assisting with trail improvements. The Huron Shores ATV Club manages approximately 170 km of trails, consisting of on and off-road access across Bruce County. The club currently has permitted access to 90 km of County land that includes the Bruce County Rail Trail, Culross Tract, and the Kinloss Tract. The South Bruce Peninsula ATV Club manages approximately 250 km of trails consisting of on and off road across Bruce and Grey Counties. The club has permitted access to 15 km of County land that includes the Amabel Tract with an additional 8.5 km of proposed trail scheduled for development at the Lindsay Tract between 2021-2022.

0.3 metre Reserve Approved For Bruce Road 13

The Transportation and Environmental Services Committee approved that a 0.3 metre reserve adjacent to Bruce Road 13 be part of the public highway system for the Bruce County.

2021 Federal Gas Tax Funding for Infrastructure Projects

Bruce County receives funds from the Federal Gas Tax Program on an annual basis. This fund provides steady, long-term funding for small, rural, and northern communities to develop and renew their infrastructure. Bruce County is appreciative for receiving this and all government funding to help offset the costs of the Capital Roads program. In 2021, the Federal Gas Tax fund will provide \$2,108,772 to be allocated to the following Bruce County road projects:

\$1,056,879 for Bruce Road 3 section C, Cargill Road to 200m south of Dunkeld
\$970,843 for Bruce Road 4 sections I and J, 850m West of Sideroad 20 to 150m west of Ontario Road
\$81,050 for Bruce Road 8 section B, from Bruce Road 14 to 380m West of Municipal Road.

Waste Management Services Review

On behalf of the Municipal Innovation Council (MIC), the Town of Saugeen Shores submitted a joint grant application to the Municipal Modernization Program (MMP) for a Waste Management Service Delivery Review. Saugeen Shores staff selected Dillon Consulting Limited to conduct the review, which was submitted to the MIC in mid-January of 2021. The project contained seven key tasks: project initiation, consolidate existing system information, future needs & research, develop options, Bruce County technical sub-committee workshop, options analysis, and final deliverables. Highlights from Dillon Consulting Limited's 25 recommendations include the implementation of organics collection by 2024 and a transfer of all waste collection, diversion, and waste management to Bruce County by 2027.

Capital Projects Update - March 2021

The 2021 capital budget for the Transportation and Environmental Services (TES) Department is \$11,790,401. Approximately \$3,250,000 is expected to be carried forward from previous years capital budgets. The following is a list of capital projects for 2021.

BR 25 Improvements and BR 33 Realignment/New Construction. Phase 4 - BR 33- Ridge St to Hwy 21 (\$100,000)
Roundabout at BR 23 and Concession 2 Kincardine (\$1,278,000)
BR 6 Teeswater Property settlement (\$20,000)
New Signage BR 12 Formosa (\$80,000)
KIPP Trail Kincardine, Financial Contribution (\$70,000)

- Reconstruction BR 30 Chesley (\$46,000)
- Luminares BR 2 and BR 3 intersection (\$35,000)
- Luminares BR 8 and BR 14 intersection (\$30,000)
- Land Purchases at Hwy 9 and BR 1 (\$54,000)
- West Ridge Development Kincardine Phase 1 (\$10,000)
- Replace Durham St Bridge, BR 4, Walkerton (\$50,000)
- Replace Steffler Bridge, BR 12 North of Belmore (\$798,000)
- Replace Culvert BR 86 west of BR 7 (\$250,000)
- Arran Township Shed Bridge, Invermay (\$78,000)
- Oswald Bridge Replacement (\$25,000)
- Repair Blackwell Bridge BR 23 (\$755,350)
- Construction New McCurdy Bridge (\$12,000)
- Replace Superstructure Reid Bridge, BR 6, West of Teeswater (\$1,550,000)
- Replace Teeswater River Bridge BR 3 Paisley (\$200,000)
- Repair Culvert BR 86 Lucknow east of Havelock St (\$6,500)
- Resurface the Rail Trail between Walkerton and Mildmay
- Expand the facilities at the Walkerton Yard (\$75,000)

Closed Meeting Investigation Notification Received

On March 11, 2021 the County received a notice of investigation from the Ontario Ombudsman. The complaint is alleging that the Executive Committee meetings held on September 21, 2017, August 2, 2018, September 6, 2018, and January 10, 2019 did not comply with the open meeting rules in the Municipal Act, 2001. The information requested to assist with the investigation has been provided to the Ombudsman's office.

Closed Meeting Minute Review 2016-2020

The intent of the closed session provisions in the Municipal Act, 2001 (Municipal Act) is to ensure that members of Council carry on their decision-making function in a transparent and open fashion with ample opportunity for members of the public to participate in the process. At the January 14, 2021 Bruce County Council meeting the Clerk presented the Closed Meeting Investigator's December 31, 2020 Report. At the end of the presentation, Council directed staff to review the County's closed meetings for the past five years and attempt to identify any meetings where the procedure for closing the meeting may be challengeable. Staff conducted a review of 181 closed meeting agendas, open minutes, and closed minutes for the past five years. Through the Staff review, an additional 21 closed

meeting minutes were identified as challengeable. The Executive Committee approved that the findings of the review will be sent to the Ombudsman. The Staff review did not include closed meeting minutes that were previously involved in litigation/investigation and released. Council and Staff continue to improve on processes and procedures related to closed meetings, including:

“Closed Session Best Practices” Training was held on February 13, 2020 with reference material circulated. Closed meeting training is to be provided once per term of Council.

Council has been provided direction on how to properly report out of a closed meeting.

Authors of closed reports are required to provide the permitted reason under the Municipal Act, 2001 for closed meeting reports and consult with the Clerk or Deputy Clerk to confirm requirements are met for the item to be discussed in a closed meeting.

The Chair is required to announce, in the open meeting, the actions taken in a closed meeting, providing as much detail as possible, including any direction or instructions provided.

The resolution passed in the open meeting to authorize the closed meeting maximizes the information available to the public without undermining the reason for excluding the public. In the interest of disclosing enough information, it is important that members of the public know the essence of the item under consideration without disclosing the potential substance of the ensuing deliberations. This will also provide Members of Council (Committee or Board) with sufficient information to prepare for the discussion or, most importantly, to disclose pecuniary or other interests at the appropriate time.

The resolution authorizing the closed meeting indicates what matters are to be considered under which exemption.

The Ontario Ombudsman “Open Meetings Guide for Municipalities” was shared with Directors (via email on February 11, 2020) to assist in providing guidance in determining what subject matters qualify to be discussed in a closed meeting.

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

News

Because we live in a time of constant change, your county government is doing what it can to manage change, stay ahead of the curves, focus on positive ideas and communicate with tax payers.

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- [MEDIA \(/WHATS-NEWS/MEDIA\)](#)
- [COUNCIL AND COMITTEE \(/GOVERNMENT/BRUCE-COUNTY-COUNCIL\)](#)
- [EVENTS \(/EVENTS\)](#)
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BUILDING BRUCE COUNTY

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Bruce County

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[Tell us your concerns \(/government/tell-us-your-concerns\)](/government/tell-us-your-concerns)

DEPARTMENTS

Office of the CAO (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/departments/office-the-chief-administrative-officer>)
Corporate Services (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/departments/corporate-services>)
Transportation and Environmental Services
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(<https://brucegreycommunityinfo.cioc.ca/>)



(<https://www.planthebruce.ca/>)

[Notice of Loss/Injury Claim \(/notice-lossnotice-injury-claim\)](#)

COUNTY WEBSITES

Business to Bruce (<http://businesstobruce.ca>)
Explore the Bruce (<http://explorethebruce.com>)
Bruce County Public Library (<http://library.brucecounty.on.ca/>)
Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre (<http://www.brucemuseum.ca/>)
Bruce Remembers (<http://www.bruceremembers.org/>)
Museum Online Collections (<http://brucemuseum.pastperfectonline.com/>)
Bruce Coast Lighthouses (<http://www.brucecoastlighthouses.com/>)
Compass
(<https://brucecountyonca.sharepoint.com/sites/Compass/Pages/default.aspx>)

**COVID-19
INFORMATION AND
UPDATES
([HTTPS://BRUCECOUNTY.ON.CA/COVID19](https://brucecounty.on.ca/covid19))**

**BRUCE COUNTY
WINTER ROAD
CONDITIONS &
CLOSURES
([HTTPS://BRUCECOUNTY.ON.CA/ROAD-
CONDITIONS](https://brucecounty.on.ca/road-conditions))**

USEFUL LINKS

Road and Bridge Construction and Detours (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/road-construction>)

Nuclear Innovation Institute (<http://www.nuclearinnovationinstitute.com/>)

Bids and Tenders (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/bruce-county-bids>)

Upcoming Schedule of Meetings (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/government/upcoming-meetings>)

Road Construction (<https://www.brucecounty.on.ca/road-construction>)

EarlyON Child and Family Centres (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/human-services/earlyon>)

Agendas and Minutes (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/government/agendas-and-minutes>)

Employment (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/employment>)

Anaphylaxis (Nut Aware) Policy (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/anaphylaxis-policy>)

Application Links (</lrc-application-links>)

File Transfer (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/business/ftp-upload>)

Privacy Policy (<http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/privacy-policy>)

Public Washrooms Map (<https://brucecounty.on.ca/bruce-county-public-accessible-washrooms>)

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Any documents found on this page are available in a variety of accessible formats or communication supports upon request. Due to conditions beyond our control, there are some instances where we are unable to provide information in an accessible format (for example, our mapping information). We will be monitoring these sections, and develop an accessible solution as technology improves. If you use assistive technology and the format of any content on this web site interferes with your ability to access the information, please contact the Clerk at 519-881-1291 or dvanwyck@brucecounty.on.ca
(<mailto:dvanwyck@brucecounty.on.ca>)



Media Release

March 26, 2021

Second Grey Bruce Virtual Job Fair April 7; Focus on Student and Seasonal Jobs

In March, more than 1,200 job seekers and 125 employers connected through the Grey Bruce Virtual Job Fair to explore 1,500 local job opportunities. As a response to this high demand, a second Grey Bruce Virtual Job Fair focused on student and seasonal opportunities will take place Wednesday, April 7 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Registration is now open for job seekers through www.grey.ca. There is no cost to participate, and job seekers are encouraged to register early and build their profiles. Employment service providers are available to help registrants update their resumes and highlight their skills for prospective employers. During the fair, job seekers and employers will have the opportunity to connect through one-on-one text chat, audio, and video.

Registration is also open for interested employers at www.madeingrey.ca/ but are limited to the first 50 qualifying employers. Registered employers will have the opportunity to build a virtual booth and view the profiles of job seekers.

Multiple sectors will be represented at the job fair, offering student and seasonal opportunities. Some of the registered employers include The Miller Group, Pinecrest Manor, Owen Sound Ledgerock, Grey Bruce Construction Ltd., Coconut Joe's, Bruce Anchor Motel and Cruises, Seasons Retirement Communities and more.

The 2021 Grey Bruce Virtual Job Fair: Student and Seasonal Edition is a partnership between YMCA Employment Services, Grey County, Bruce County, VPI Solutions, the Four County Labour Market Planning Board, Georgian College, the City of Owen Sound and the Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership.

Continued Sponsorship from CommunitECH, Digital Main Street and FedDev is making this event possible by covering the costs of this innovative, user-friendly virtual platform.

For questions about the job fair, contact Linda Alexander, Programs Director at YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce, at linda.alexander@osqb.ymca.ca or call 519-371-9222 ext.228.

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For media inquiries contact Rob Hatten, Communications Manager, at rob.hatten@grey.ca or 519-372-0219 ext.1235 or 519-373-1592.