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Bruce County Announces Derrick Thomson As New CAO

Bruce County is pleased to announce the appointment of Derrick Thomson as the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), effective April 18, 2022.



March 14, 2022

Bruce County is pleased to announce the appointment of Derrick Thomson as the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), effective April 18, 2022.

Mr. Thomson is an experienced and innovative municipal leader with more than 30 years of experience in community-building, change management, budget administration, strategic planning, and innovation.

As the former Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Minto and the City of Guelph, Derrick has been responsible for the daily operation of fast-growing Ontario municipalities and their diverse teams and services. Derrick also served as Chief Executive Officer for Guelph Municipal Holdings Inc.—a corporation focused on public asset management in support of municipal innovation, revenue generation, and community prosperity.

Derrick also built valuable leadership experience in past roles as the Executive Director for Community and Social Services with

the City of Guelph, Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of West Lincoln, and Manager of Business Services for the City of Brampton.

Warden Janice Jackson says, “On behalf of Council and the residents of Bruce County, I would like to congratulate Derrick Thomson on his appointment as Bruce County’s new Chief Administrative Officer. Derrick brings extensive municipal management experience and has demonstrated a leadership style that fosters modernization, innovation, and community engagement. Council and I look forward to working with Derrick as we continue forward with good governance, fiscal stability, and people-first support.”

“Thank you for this appointment to serve the residents of Bruce County,” says Derrick Thomson. “I look forward to working with Council and Staff to support the healthy and strong communities of Bruce County as we reopen, recover, and grow.”

Discover more about the [Office of the Chief Administrative Officer](#).

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[Library](#)

[Museum](#)

[Health Services](#)

[Planning & Development](#)

[Human Services](#)

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[Business to Bruce](#)

[Explore the Bruce](#)

[Bruce County Public Library](#)

[Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre](#)

[Bruce Remembers](#)

[Museum Online Collections](#)

USEFUL LINKS

[Road and Bridge Construction and Detours](#)

[Nuclear Innovation Institute](#)

[Bids and Tenders](#)

[Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule](#)

[Road Construction](#)

[EarlyON Child and Family Centres](#)

[Agendas and Minutes](#)

[Employment](#)

[Anaphylaxis \(Nut Aware\) Policy](#)

[Application Links](#)

[File Transfer](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Public Washrooms Map](#)



[Notice of Loss/Injury Claim](#)

COVID-19 Information
and Updates

Bruce County Winter
Road Conditions &
Closures

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Council / Committee Meetings – Thursday, March 17, 2022

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.



March 17, 2022

Find Yourself in Bruce County 2022-2026 Economic Development Strategic Plan

The Planning & Development Committee approved that the Find Yourself in Bruce County 2022-2026 Economic Development Strategic Plan be adopted as Bruce County's Economic Development Strategic Plan. The new Strategic Plan continues to use the "Macro Approach," developed in the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, to collaborate with local municipalities and local leaders, and has evolved the Macro Approach further, to recognize the role of regional stakeholders, thus ensuring it is the leading principle in every Economic Development project and initiative. The Strategic Framework identifies the key strategic priorities that will guide the work to be done in the coming five years: Business Development, Workforce Development, and Community Development. Each priority encompasses its own objectives and applicable areas of focus, ensuring clear direction and

purpose. Additionally, everything we do is with a marketing focus, noting the importance of key messaging and the brands used to effectively implement each objective in the Strategic Plan. Bruce County's overall marketing goals are to encourage people to visit, live, or start or move a business here.

Enhanced Spruce the Bruce Program

The Planning & Development Committee approved the amended Enhanced Spruce the Bruce Program, which establishes a Community funding stream and an Industry funding stream. The Committee also approved that \$125,000 of undispersed funds remaining from the Support the Bruce Business Sustainability Fund – Emergency Business Sustainability Loan will be transferred to the 2022 Spruce the Bruce Program operating budget. County Staff were directed to work with Local Municipalities to develop an equitable and phased plan for implementation of the Enhanced Spruce the Bruce Program. County Staff were also authorized to initiate an Amendment to the County Official Plan to enable Community Improvement Plans to be established outside of Primary Urban Communities. After discussion, the Committee removed the Commercial Building Interior Renovation grant option from the Enhanced Spruce the Bruce Program.

Plan the Bruce: Business Discussion Paper

The Planning & Development Committee approved the Plan the Bruce: Business Discussion Paper a foundation for developing policies in the new Official Plan. The Plan the Bruce: Business Discussion paper is one of eight Discussion Papers that support the Official Plan project. The Business Guiding Principle is about growing economic health through business diversity. Final recommended directions include identifying economic development as a key objective, reinforcing the economic development strategic plan, and ensuring a diverse land supply. The Committee highlighted the importance of continued workforce development. Discover more at www.planthebruce.ca.

Transportation & Environmental Services Committee Delegation

The Transportation & Environmental Services Committee heard a presentation from Mr. Roger Cook from Saugeen Mobility on transportation solutions for the mentally and physically challenged and SMART Regional Transit. Discover more at www.saugeenmobility.ca.

Bruce County Roads 1, 17, and 13 Posted Speed Limit Reductions

The Transportation & Environmental Services Committee approved a by-law to authorize select speed limit changes for the Bruce County Road System and in Construction Zones. Bruce Road 1 will be reduced to 60 km/h near the Community of Kinloss with the addition of lane narrowing and pavement markings. Bruce Road 17 will be reduced to 60 km/h from Mill Creek Bridge in Port Elgin to 250 metres West of Sideroad 13/14. Bruce Road 13 will be reduced to 70 km/h from Eckford Ave to 2nd Avenue South.

Bruce Road 12 Right of Way Dedicated as Road

The Transportation & Environmental Services Committee approved a by-law to assume the lands legally described as Pt lot 9 Con A Culross; Pt 2 3R-2545; South Bruce; being part of PIN 33218-0051 (LT). These lands, which are the Bruce Road 12 right-of-way, will be dedicated as public highway.

Plow and Sander Unit Purchase

The Transportation & Environmental Services Committee approved \$29,000 from the Machinery and Equipment reserve to be used to cover the overage in the actual cost of a plow and sander unit that was included in the 2022 budget cycle. The T&ES Capital Equipment and Housing budget included \$150,000 for the plow and sander unit. A detailed vendor cost was received in February and it was \$29,000 higher than the budgeted amount, for several reasons including cost increases for materials and labour.

Grey Transit Route #6 Ridership Expansion from Walkerton to Hanover

The Transportation & Environmental Services Committee supported the service expansion of Grey Transit Route #6 from Walkerton to Hanover for 2022. The Committee also approved that the operating costs of \$20,000 to fund the Grey Transit Route #6 expansion be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve fund. With this approval, the Flesherton to Walkerton route will be expanded from 3 days a week to 5 days a week for 2022 and include an additional stop at Brucelea Haven. The \$20,000 will cover the expense of providing the portion of the route from Hanover to Walkerton for the remainder of 2022. Currently in the 2022 budget, \$50,000 will be used to run Route 5 from Wiarton to Sauble Beach with an enhanced service level (to be evaluated in the fall of 2022) comprising of 7 days per week, 4 runs per day from May 24 weekend to Labour Day Weekend.

Bruce Road 6 East – Ministry of Infrastructure Funding Agreement

The Transportation & Environmental Services Committee approved the signing of the Amending Agreement No.1 to a Transfer Payment Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP): Rural and Northern Stream for Bruce Road 6 East. The Province of Ontario will make a maximum Provincial Contribution of \$1,584,541 to this project and Federal Government will make a maximum Canadian Contribution of \$2,377,050 to this project. Bruce County will pay approximately 16.67% of the costs which is budgeted in 2022 at \$793,409. Total project cost is estimated at \$4,753,958.

Extension of LTC Service Accountability Agreement

The Long Term Care Homes Committee of Management approved the Extension of the Long Term Care Home Service Accountability Agreements between the South West Local Health Integration Network and Bruce County, for Brucelea Haven and Gateway Haven, for the period ending March 31, 2023. Bruce County is the licensee for long term care services provided at Brucelea Haven and Gateway Haven and is also a health service provider (HSP), as identified under the Local Health System Integration Act, 2006 (LHSIA).

County Long Term Care Homes Pandemic Response Continues to be the Priority Focus

The County's LTC pandemic response continues to be the priority focus for Brucelea Haven (Walkerton) and Gateway Haven (Warton). Enhanced measures include increased monitoring for symptoms, twice daily temperature taking of residents, cohorting staff to units, and increased cleaning and disinfecting. The Ministry of Health provided updated guidance for Long Term Care homes on March 9, which eased restrictions within long term care. Changes include general visitors can resume visits, visitor numbers increase to 4, outdoor visit restrictions are lifted, residents may go on overnight absences, and social group activities can increase to 10. On March 9, it was announced that the Minister's Directive on Long-Term Care Home COVID-19 Immunization Policy will be revoked, shifting from a provincial directive that requires homes to have a mandatory vaccination policy to a guidance-based approach that continues to support long-term care homes with their employer-led policies and best practices. In consultation with Residents Council, Family Council, staff/support workers and other stakeholders, Bruce County will be working on updating the employer-led policies which will apply to all staff, families, and visitors. Family and Residents Councils are active in both homes. These councils provide an opportunity for both family and residents to have direct discussions with each other and with homes' staff. The latest Resident engagement included luncheons, Olympic games, Valentine's Day activities, virtual travelling, and crafts. There are 136 residents at Brucelea Haven and 94 residents at Gateway Haven. Staffing challenges continue in both homes, due to the number of vacant lines, staff illness, and the number of staff off due to high-risk contacts. Thank you to the 15 County employees who redeployed to Long Term Care in February. Explore a mix of long term care career opportunities at www.brucecounty.on.ca/jobs.

LTC and Senior Services Healthy Workplace Report

The long-term effects of the pandemic on the health workforce, including mental health, have been significant. Health care workers have continued to provide care for patients despite exhaustion, personal risk of infection, fear of transmission to family members, and the loss of patients and colleagues. Poor mental health can lead to depression and anxiety, as well as other significant mental health concerns including, compassion fatigue, moral injury, traumatic grief, and burnout. In 2017, Bruce County developed and implemented the Workplace Mental Health Program across the corporation, with the goal to improve quality of work-life, and the health and wellbeing of the workforce. The program has been very successful and Long-Term Care homes will leverage the success and lessons learned to advance the program within. Each home will be developing a comprehensive plan for the development of a "healthy workplace" program which will include input from key stakeholders. The homes will use tools/resources such as Leadership coaching, Nurse leadership training, Employee Assistance Program, "Guarding Minds", "Not myself today", Management training (Loyalist), Third party resources for investigations/training, Strategic Planning, and other department specific activities.

401 Cayley St., Walkerton - Building Evacuation Update

On Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 401 Cayley St. in Walkerton had a fire on the second floor in the west common area room. The fire was extinguished by the local fire department. The official cause of the fire is still undetermined. The building endured significant damage, including soot/combustion product infiltration throughout all floors and multiple units, fire alarm system, electrical (lighting, breakers), structural, water, architectural (wall, floors, ceilings). Tenant re-occupancy will be coordinated on a per floor basis starting with the first floor, followed by the third floor, and then the second floor. Occupancy is restricted until building and fire department deem cleaning/restoration and fire alarm system scope of work is completed and deemed acceptable as per building and fire code standards.

Social Service Relief Fund Phase 4 Re-Allocation

Bruce County received notice of the Social Service Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 4 allocation of \$978,500 on August 16, 2021. The Investment Plan outlined the funds to be allocated to a capital project for transitional housing. The Investment Plan was approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on December 9, 2021, and staff immediately released an RFP to be considered by the public. Although the documents were viewed several times, there were no submissions. In order to maintain

the funds within Bruce County, staff asked for the funding to be reallocated to operating expenses to further serve vulnerable populations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding will be used to support community partners to provide emergency shelter, food security, and prevent homelessness. This request has been approved by MMAH.

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre Update

Hope and Healing Exhibit - February 14 to March 31: Hope and Healing is an art installation created by Métis artist Tracey-Mae Chambers. Using red yarn, large knit, and crochet pieces to illustrate the connection between people and their environment, Tracey-Mae also uses her work to promote dialogue questioning the connection between Indigenous, Inuit, Métis, and settlers. The decolonization of public spaces is also present in her mind while she creates. Recordings of the artist's talk session can be found on the Museum's Facebook page.

Muse-Talk: Environmentalism and the Future - March 9 - 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM: The first in a series of three talks, a speaker from the Nuclear Innovation Institute (NII) will speak about environmentalism and climate change. At the end of the lecture, guests will have the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas.

March Break Family Fun - March 14 to 18: is a week of programs for the public to enjoy with themes like: Call of the Wild, It's Magic!, Under the Magnifying Glass, Outta This World Astronomy, and The Science Lab. Each day will also include a Deep Dive into the Museum's collection, showcasing an artefact related to the day's presentation.

KidZone March Break Discovery Day Camp - March 14 to 18: Children aged 5-12 are invited to explore, create, and have fun at the Museum! It's a week of games, arts and crafts, experiments, special guests, time in the exhibits, and fun outdoors. Each day will also feature a special guest presentation. Themes include: Call of the Wild, It's Magic!, Under the Magnifying Glass, Outta This World Astronomy, and The Science Lab. Pre-registration is required.

Museum Munchkins - March 10 & 24 - 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Preschoolers and caregivers are invited to attend March's Museum Munchkins sessions. Themes include Art Extravaganza with open-ended art making and play, and Music & Movement with special guest Lauren Best who will present a morning of songs, dancing, and excitement for all.

The Museum received \$99,612 from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF) Making Cultural Spaces Safe During COVID-19 Initiative for upgrades to improve air quality.

The Museum received \$30,000 from the Museum Assistance Program (MAP) Digital Access to Heritage Component to assist with the Newspaper Digitization project.

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

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[Transportation and Environmental Services](#)
[Human Resources](#)
[Library](#)
[Museum](#)
[Health Services](#)
[Planning & Development](#)
[Human Services](#)



[Notice of Loss/Injury Claim](#)

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[Business to Bruce](#)
[Explore the Bruce](#)
[Bruce County Public Library](#)
[Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre](#)
[Bruce Remembers](#)
[Museum Online Collections](#)

**COVID-19 Information
and Updates**

**Bruce County Winter
Road Conditions &
Closures**

USEFUL LINKS

[Road and Bridge Construction and Detours](#)
[Nuclear Innovation Institute](#)
[Bids and Tenders](#)
[Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule](#)
[Road Construction](#)
[EarlyON Child and Family Centres](#)
[Agendas and Minutes](#)
[Employment](#)
[Anaphylaxis \(Nut Aware\) Policy](#)
[Application Links](#)
[File Transfer](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)
[Public Washrooms Map](#)

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Bruce County Facilities Offer Safe Customer Service Experiences

County administration buildings in Walkerton, Kincardine, Port Elgin, and Wiarton, as well as the Bruce County Public Library branches, EarlyON Child & Family Centres, and the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, are open to the public for in-person service.



March 21, 2022

As Ontario continues to reopen and lift restrictions, Bruce County would like to remind residents and businesses that County administration buildings in Walkerton, Kincardine, Port Elgin, and Wiarton, as well as the Bruce County Public Library branches, EarlyON Child & Family Centres, and the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre in Southampton, are open to the public for in-person service.

These Bruce County facilities offer safe customer service experiences that follow the health directions outlined by the Ontario Government and Grey Bruce Public Health. Pre-booked appointments are encouraged.

Virtual customer service continues to be available and we are happy to assist you online and over the phone.

To book an appointment, please contact a specific department, or reach us at:

Call: 519-881-1291

Email: info@brucecounty.on.ca

Visit: www.brucecounty.on.ca

What to expect at Bruce County Facilities:

Masking is no longer required, as per the direction on the Ontario Government and Grey Bruce Public Health. Visitors are welcome to continue wearing masks at their discretion.

County facilities continue to offer hand sanitizer, cleaning measures, and plexiglass barriers at main customer service desks.

Requirements:

Please monitor your health and reschedule visits or use virtual customer service if you are feeling unwell. Do not visit County facilities if you are sick or have COVID-19 symptoms.

Please continue to watch your distancing.

Please be kind, considerate, and respectful with each other as people are at varying levels of comfort with reopening and are continuing to make personal health choices.

"I want to thank the residents and businesses of Bruce County for their resiliency and commitment to the community throughout this pandemic", said Bruce County Warden Janice Jackson, "Ontario is reopening and Bruce County is well-positioned for healthy recovery and growth. We are happy to continue delivering safe customer service experiences and quality essential services like long term care, paramedic services, and road maintenance."

Additional Information:

Bruce County's Long Term Care facilities in Walkerton and Wiarton continue to follow a robust pandemic response plan and act in full regulatory compliance. Please follow all Long Term Care health measures that are in place when visiting our homes.

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

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

Health related information can be found at www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca and the Ministry of Health website at www.ontario.ca/covid

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DEPARTMENTS

[Office of the CAO](#)
[Corporate Services](#)
[Transportation and Environmental Services](#)
[Human Resources](#)
[Library](#)
[Museum](#)
[Health Services](#)
[Planning & Development](#)
[Human Services](#)



[Notice of Loss/Injury Claim](#)

COUNTY WEBSITES

[Business to Bruce](#)
[Explore the Bruce](#)
[Bruce County Public Library](#)
[Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre](#)
[Bruce Remembers](#)
[Museum Online Collections](#)

COVID-19 Information
and Updates

Bruce County Winter
Road Conditions &
Closures

USEFUL LINKS

[Road and Bridge Construction and Detours](#)
[Nuclear Innovation Institute](#)
[Bids and Tenders](#)
[Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule](#)
[Road Construction](#)
[EarlyON Child and Family Centres](#)
[Agendas and Minutes](#)
[Employment](#)
[Anaphylaxis \(Nut Aware\) Policy](#)
[Application Links](#)
[File Transfer](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)
[Public Washrooms Map](#)

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Bruce County Thanks Redeployed Staff Who Supported Long Term Care

During the peak of the pandemic's fourth wave, dozens of Bruce County Staff voluntarily redeployed into critical long term care support roles.



March 23, 2022

Throughout the pandemic, Bruce County responded with a number of proactive measures to help protect residents, businesses, and staff, while following the guidance of the Ontario Government and Grey Bruce Public Health. During the peak of the pandemic's fourth wave, dozens of Bruce County Staff voluntarily redeployed into critical long term care support roles. With Ontario now recovering and reopening, Bruce County wants to recognize and thank these County employees for their exceptional efforts in supporting the most vulnerable in our communities.

“Thank you to all Bruce County staff for maintaining municipal services throughout the pandemic and delivering critical and essential services like paramedic services, long term care, road maintenance, and essential customer service”, said Interim CAO Christine MacDonald, “Thank you to our amazing colleagues from across the organization who were redeployed to assist our long term care teams in the provision of exceptional support during that challenging time in our province.”

At the Brucelea Haven long term care home in Walkerton and the Gateway Haven long term care home in Wiarton, the pandemic's fourth wave shifted service demands and increased staffing shortages as a result of higher COVID-19 transmission in the community and isolation requirements. From January 17 to February 12, 2022, in an effort to support the County's Long Term Care teams and their priority focus on direct resident care, dozens of Bruce County staff volunteered to be redeployed into supportive roles at the homes. The redeployed staff members took on split shifts and extra hours in roles like Reception, Swabbing, Housekeeping, Laundry, and Maintenance.

These redeployed employees truly represented a cross-section of the organization, including representatives from Corporate Services, Human Services, IT Services, Library Services, Museum Services, and Planning & Development. With the fourth wave pressures on Brucelea Haven and Gateway Haven easing, and recruitment efforts bringing in additional long term care professionals, most of the redeployed staff have now returned to their departments. A few employees are continuing in their temporary long term care support positions.

"The hard work and commitment to the community displayed by Bruce County staff throughout this pandemic has been truly commendable", said Warden Janice Jackson, "The efforts of staff to keep our community safe, to provide care to our residents, and to be flexible and focused in municipal service delivery, has positioned Bruce County for success as we turn the corner with a cautious reopening and recovery."

Opportunities:

Bruce County's Workplace Engagement Services is currently recruiting for a number of long term care positions in Walkerton and Wiarton. Explore a mix of great career opportunities at www.brucecounty.on.ca/jobs

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Tourism



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DEPARTMENTS

[Office of the CAO](#)

[Corporate Services](#)

[Transportation and Environmental Services](#)

[Human Resources](#)

COUNTY WEBSITES

[Business to Bruce](#)

[Explore the Bruce](#)

[Bruce County Public Library](#)

USEFUL LINKS

[Road and Bridge Construction and Detours](#)

[Nuclear Innovation Institute](#)

[Bids and Tenders](#)

[Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule](#)

[Library](#)
[Museum](#)
[Health Services](#)
[Planning & Development](#)
[Human Services](#)



[Notice of Loss/Injury Claim](#)

[Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre](#)
[Bruce Remembers](#)
[Museum Online Collections](#)

COVID-19 Information
and Updates

Bruce County Winter
Road Conditions &
Closures

[Road Construction](#)
[EarlyON Child and Family Centres](#)
[Agendas and Minutes](#)
[Employment](#)
[Anaphylaxis \(Nut Aware\) Policy](#)
[Application Links](#)
[File Transfer](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)
[Public Washrooms Map](#)

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Sarain Fox inspires and celebrates women at the International Women's Day event

Attendees donated money in lieu of purchasing tickets, raising a grand total of \$1,435 for the Women's House.



March 14, 2022

On Thursday, March 10, our communities came together to celebrate International Women's Day through a virtual event hosted in partnership by Women's House Serving Bruce and Grey and Bruce County's Business to Bruce program to support Women's House.

56 attendees heard from keynote speaker Sarain Fox, who is a dancer, choreographer, stylist, activist, brand ambassador, television host, content producer, and storyteller. Fox shared her life journey of finding her authentic self, the importance of kindness, the power of believing in oneself, and creating new opportunities during change.

Attendees donated money in lieu of purchasing tickets, raising a grand total of \$1,435 for the Women's House.

"Sarain's energy was contagious and her inspiring words around knowing your impact and being your authentic self will

motivate and inspire many within our community to achieve their goals,” shared Community and Fund Development Coordinator for Women’s House Serving Bruce and Grey Michelle Lamont. “As women and allies, we can stand together against any bias and inequities and make changes we need to provide a better future for our children.”

Together, we can build capacity within Bruce County’s entrepreneurship ecosystem and close gaps in service of women entrepreneurs.

“Bruce County’s Business to Bruce program is proud to partner with the Women’s House annually to raise funds and awareness for the inspiring work being done by their team,” says Warden Janice Jackson. “There are so many reasons to celebrate the inspiring and powerful women in Bruce and Grey counties, and our community continually rallies around this cause.”

In addition to the live online event, an online auction, hosted by Nuclear Promise X (NPX), offered locally purchased items up for bid, graciously donated by Women’s House sponsors. The auction raised a grand total of \$1,255 for the Women’s House.

“The overwhelming support for the Women’s House Serving Grey and Bruce from the community is humbling and the community members who received the Women of Distinction awards are of profound influence within Bruce County,” says Interim CAO Christine MacDonald.

Meag Durkin and Anne Eadie were unveiled as the two inspiring and deserving community members that were recognized at the event, as the recipients of the annual Women’s House Serving Bruce and Grey Women of Distinction awards.

About Women’s House Serving Bruce & Grey (WHSBG): WHSBG provides free and confidential services, within a supportive environment, to women 16 years of age and older, and their children, who have or are experiencing abuse, sexual violence or homelessness. Women’s House operates a 24/7 shelter in Kincardine, Ontario to provide a safe, supportive and secure environment for women and children fleeing domestic violence. Women’s House also provides sexual assault services in Bruce and Grey, a child witness program, transition services, education services, a volunteer program, community counselling and second-stage housing in Kincardine, Saugeen Shores and Wiarton. WHSBG is a registered not-for-profit charity governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and staffed by trained professionals.

About Bruce County: Bruce County is an upper-tier municipality in Southwestern Ontario, Canada, made up of 8 lower-tier municipalities and 68,423 residents. The explorers who visit, live, and work here are the dreamers who take roads less travelled and see tried and true as an invitation to try something new. Be an Explorer and call Bruce County home.

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[Office of the CAO](#)
[Corporate Services](#)
[Transportation and Environmental Services](#)
[Human Resources](#)
[Library](#)
[Museum](#)
[Health Services](#)
[Planning & Development](#)
[Human Services](#)



[Notice of Loss/Injury Claim](#)

COUNTY WEBSITES

[Business to Bruce](#)
[Explore the Bruce](#)
[Bruce County Public Library](#)
[Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre](#)
[Bruce Remembers](#)
[Museum Online Collections](#)

[COVID-19 Information and Updates](#)

[Bruce County Winter Road Conditions & Closures](#)

USEFUL LINKS

[Road and Bridge Construction and Detours](#)
[Nuclear Innovation Institute](#)
[Bids and Tenders](#)
[Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule](#)
[Road Construction](#)
[EarlyON Child and Family Centres](#)
[Agendas and Minutes](#)
[Employment](#)
[Anaphylaxis \(Nut Aware\) Policy](#)
[Application Links](#)
[File Transfer](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)
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