

PENINSULA PERSPECTIVES

The Newsletter for Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living



Cornhole, Community, and Pure Summer Magic at 2nd Annual Wiarton Homecoming

Bluewater Park was buzzing over the August long weekend as the 2nd Annual Wiarton Homecoming Festival brought the heat—and a whole lot of fun—to town. At the heart of it all? The crowd-favorite Cornhole Tournament, hosted by our own dedicated community living team.

Thanks to an incredible group of volunteers and advocates, the tournament ran like a dream. Bags were flying, laughter echoed, and the competition was fierce but friendly. The sun was shining, the weather was perfect, and the vibe? Absolutely electric.

Players of all ages and skill levels stepped up, played hard, and were cheered on by a crowd that brought nothing but love. Many walked away with prizes, but everyone left feeling like a winner. This tournament wasn't just about the game—it was about connection, inclusion, and celebrating the spirit of community.

And judging by the smiles, we nailed it.





Corn Hole with Community!





Remembering Joy: a century of a life well lived

By: Nicole Gill

The definition of joy reads: a feeling of great pleasure and happiness. Which could define the Joy we knew for so many years. Joy's laugh would bring a smile to your face, and tears to your eyes. You know the kind, comes right from the toes through the body and out, making you gasp for air. Those moments with Joy will be my favourite memories, it was easy to see that she was a sweet soul, picture perfect with her comfy chair, wrapped up in a soft blanket, a diet Coca-Cola at her side, looking out the window and soaking up the sun. At one time, a few years ago Joy was quite sly, walking past her was a risk, on a regular basis you would get a tap from an empty Coca-Cola bottle, with a chuckle after in other words saying "gotcha".

Joy's hands praying for you, her head wanting to rest on your shoulder, or her gentle handshake, are captured in my memories. Looking at her hands wondering how much those hands have accomplished over the years, how many hugs, handshakes, Timbits and Coca-Cola bottles they have held. Joy's 100 years was not long enough, this earth needs more years of Joy, more gentle days soaking up the sunshine, and enjoying warm blankets with the ones you love.

Rest Easy Joy, I hope you're enjoying all the Timbits, and Coca-Cola.





In Living Colour: A Day at Bluewater Park

Late May brought more than just the first whispers of summer to our Community Participation space in Bluewater Park—it brought the heart of the community to life.

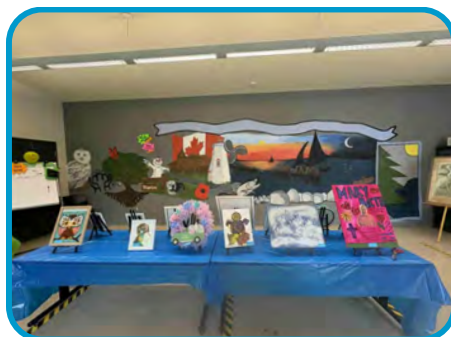
Right on the shores of stunning Lake Huron, we opened the doors to our Community Participation space for a day that turned into something unforgettable. It was our Community Living open house, and from the moment the sun broke through the clouds, the energy was electric.

The mayor arrived with a warm smile and a few heartfelt words, followed by local councillors, business owners, and familiar faces from every corner of town. But it wasn't about titles that day—it was about togetherness. Families, neighbours, and friends poured in by the hundreds, each one adding a spark to the celebration.

The highlight? A massive, collaborative mural that now stretches like a ribbon of colour across our beautiful indoor space. Brushes were passed from hand to hand—kids, seniors, artists, first-timers—everyone left their mark. Every swirl of paint, every handprint, every bold stroke told a different story about what community means. The result was wild, joyful, and deeply human.

By the end of the day, we stood back and looked at what we'd made—not just a mural, but a reflection of who we are. Diverse. United. Creative. Proud.

It was a celebration, yes—but more than that, it was a reminder. That when we show up for each other, when we create something together, when we live in colour—this is community.





Our Community Mural Project

Everyone contributed to making this mural. From conception to creation, this community-built masterpiece is now a special feature in our space.





In Rob's Ripple: sunshine, laughter, and friendship

By: Nicole Gill

Rob, often known as the jokester, a character that could surely make a gloomy day feel like sunshine and rainbows just with a few words, a contagious grin, or a joke. I almost feel embarrassed at the number of times I fell for the classic "what's on your shirt joke" you know the one... pointing as if you have something on your shirt, then boop! a gentle flick on the tip of your nose.

As much as Rob kept us all on our toes, I often reflect on the peaceful moments, at the water was Rob's place, bringing peace to him and everyone around him, if bliss and contentment could be painted, I would imagine it would be this scene: Sitting by the water, Rob tossing wishing rocks, watching them sink, watch the water ripple around every stone thrown, glancing out to the wildlife, the sunshine dancing on the water.

If I could, I would thank Rob right now, for reminding me to stop and take time to enjoy the simple things in life, the nature around us, to make time to laugh at jokes, and enjoy family and friendships to the fullest!

Thank you, Rob, you are missed by many and remembered by all.





Summer Out and About

We made the MOST of summer and got out and about! From nature walks, to drag racing, to summer concerts, and home again. Summer on the Peninsula is definitely special.





Finding Flow with Align Studio's Michele



There's something powerful about slowing down—and Align Studio Michele knows exactly how to guide that shift. With gentle movement, grounding breathwork, and a soothing sound bath, Michele led our group through a truly unforgettable experience right on the shores of Lake Huron.

Waves lapped quietly in the background as we moved with intention, reconnecting with ourselves and the natural world around us. Michele's calm presence and intuitive leadership created a space that felt both peaceful and powerful. Every element—movement, sound, setting—worked together to realign body and mind.

It wasn't just a class. It was a reset. A reminder. And exactly what we needed.



Remembering Cheryl: A Life of Purpose, Passion, and Community

Cheryl was a force for good—steadfast, compassionate, and always engaged. Whether you met her at the Propeller Club, the Rotary, or the Women’s Institute, you knew she was there to make a difference. She gave her time freely, always working to lift others up.

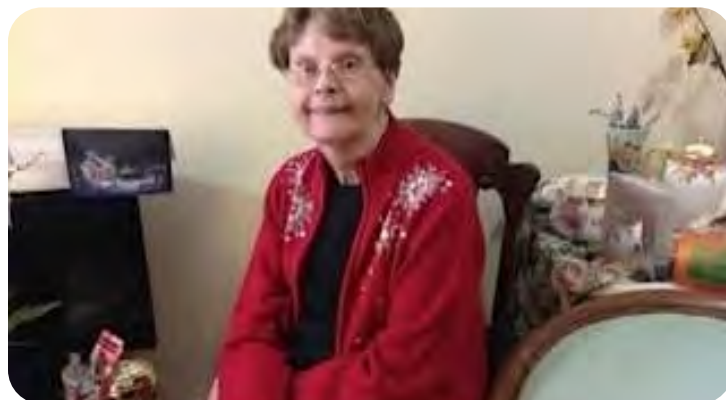
A bold self-advocate, Cheryl never hesitated to speak up—for herself and for anyone who needed support. She shared her life story in a book to inspire others, and public speaking became her way to spread hope and encouragement. Her voice mattered, and she made sure it was heard.

She was also a familiar face at local spots like The Windmill Restaurant, but her real magic was in the kitchen. Cheryl’s shortbread, pies, and cookies were legendary — people always wanted more.

She loved to travel and made the most of every moment, especially her first cruise. She lit up during holidays, dressed with style and pride, and never lost her spark. Cheryl cared deeply—for family, friends, neighbors, and strangers alike. Her kindness was real, her support unwavering.

Cheryl lived a life of meaning and connection. She leaves behind a legacy of service, joy, and love that continues in every life she touched.

Rest easy, Cheryl. You made this world better.





Growing confidence with every shot!

By: Alison Gibson



Tiffany and Megan did some archery and axe throwing at the The Great Ape Empire in Wiarton with owner Dan Lisk, who helped the girls being nervous at first, build their confident with each shot! It was amazing to watch!





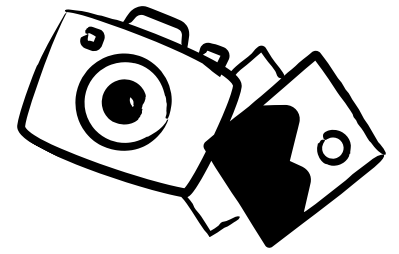
Snaps for and from Summer

Lola the Therapy dog, making wreaths for the AGM, picnics in the park...our summer was all about celebrating community and connection.





Community Snapshots



Nathan spotted out and about grocery shopping.



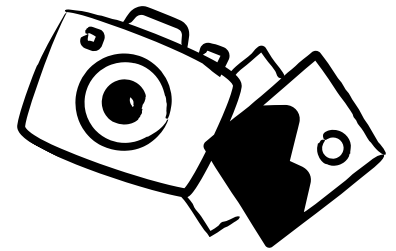
Blair enjoying a Canadian classic! Poutine!



This edition of Karaoke was extra amazing because of our surprise guest! Pat brought smiles to everyone's faces tonight, with over 30 years of employment at BPACL the connections are like it was yesterday. Thanks for joining us tonight Pat! Cheers to you!



Community Snapshots



Caitlyn and Jen headed out to a hobby farm and had some fun with all the animals:)



We took a little trip down the road to visit our friends at Community Living Owen Sound & District to check out the new Community Link. Beautiful and bright!



Together Is Where the Magic Happens: Why Community Matters

In a world that can feel a little too busy and a little too distant, there's one thing that never goes out of style: real connection.





At the heart of our community is something bigger than events, bigger than decorations or meals—it's the sense of belonging. That feeling when someone saves you a seat. When you're greeted by name. When laughter fills the room and you're reminded: you're not alone.


That's the power of community. And it's what we're all about.

This fall and winter, we're keeping that spirit alive and well with three events designed to bring people together, share some joy, and make memories that matter.



 **Halloween Dance** – Dress up, let loose, and get your groove on. Whether you're in costume or just in it for the candy, it's a night full of spooky fun, music, and community cheer.

 **Spaghetti Social Supper** – Nothing says comfort like a plate of pasta shared with friends. This supper is your chance to slow down, sit together, and enjoy a warm meal with warm people.

 **Christmas Luncheon** – Celebrate the season with a festive gathering filled with good food, good company, and holiday spirit. We'll eat, laugh, and wrap up the year on a joyful note.



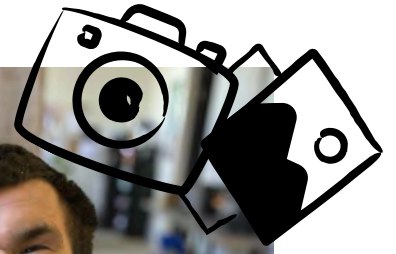
These events are more than just dates on a calendar. They're a chance to show up for one another. To celebrate what makes our community special. To remind ourselves—and each other—that we're in this together.

So come out. Bring a friend. Or come solo and leave with new ones. Whether you've been to every event or none at all, you belong here—and we'd love to see you.

Let's make this season one to remember.



Community Snapshots



Josie making bread from scratch! It was incredible! (and smelled so goooooood)





Community, Laughter, and a Whole Lot of Bananas: Canada Day at Blue Water Park

When the Optimist Club invited us to join their huge Canada Day celebration at Blue Water Park, we jumped at the chance—and it turned out to be one of the best decisions we made all summer.

The park was buzzing from the start. Our whole team came together to make it happen, each person pitching in with energy and heart. Whether it was running the games, handing out prizes, or helping build things behind the scenes, everyone had a role—and it showed.

One of the highlights? The return of the Human Slot Machine. If you haven't seen it, picture this: three volunteers standing in boxes, each "spinning" to try and match a duck, pineapple, or banana. Add in sound effects, dramatic pauses, and a crowd cheering for a triple-banana win—it was hilarious. Simple, silly, and totally unforgettable.

We also had cornhole running all day, and our "Spin It for a Minute" game, featuring the infinity hoops we usually use for exercise programs, became a surprise hit. Kids, adults, even Mayor Kirkland stopped by and got in on the fun. (Yes, the mayor joined us again this year—always a great sport!).

The photobooth was a blast too, thank goodness it was there because we were too busy to capture as many pictures as we wanted. That's the only thing we'd change—we were so busy making the day happen that we didn't get enough photos of all the smiles, laughs, and wins.

Still, the memories are strong. It was a perfect mix of community, teamwork, and pure joy. So many hands made it happen—and that's what made it special.

Thank you to the Optimist Club for the invite, and thank you to everyone who showed up, pitched in, and made the day one to remember. We can't wait to do it again.





Dedication through the decades

By: Alison Gibson



Vicki has been enjoying lending a hand at the BP sportsmen club for many years. Here is a recent photo of her, on one of her duty days of volunteering cleaning the tanks, putting feed in the feeders for the fish in tank and in pond.

The older pictures are ones that are up on the walls at the fish hatchery from many moons ago :) Vicki has not lost her spunk or love of lending a hand. Vicki's decades of dedication are impressive to witness.



Summer Gardening: Growing Community

The summer gardening we did together was amazing! We got our hands dirty and really 'dug' into growing our food. Everyone worked hard and our efforts really paid off.





Summer Fun = Summer Exploring



Coming Soon

What: Halloween Dance

Where: Propeller Club

When: Thursday, October 30th



Tickets available NOW!



What: Spaghetti Social Supper

Where: Propeller Club

When: Thursday, November 6th



Tickets available NOW!

What: Christmas Holiday Lunch

Where: Propeller Club

When: Thursday, December 11th



EDITORIAL TEAM

Heather Travis,
Communications Manager

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Michele Bell



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Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living
314 George Street, Wiarton, ON N0H 2T0
Telephone: 519-534-0553



@brucepeninsulacommunityliving

Bpacl.ca