

Municipal Matters

GBPH's Biannual Newsletter for Municipalities

Issue 1 | July 2024

Introducing... Municipal Matters

Grey Bruce Public Health is excited to share with our municipal partners the inaugural issue of **Municipal Matters** – a new e-newsletter that will be created and distributed twice annually to interested staff in our municipal and county sectors.

The goal of this newsletter is to strengthen Public Health's connection with local municipalities by building and supporting a new, consistent channel of information between our organizations.

Articles in **Municipal Matters** contain Public Health-related information that we believe to be of interest to **municipal and county** officials, department leads, project organizers, committee representatives and others in these sectors.

Municipal Matters is a project led by GBPH's Communications Department, with the support of the Health Promotion Team.

If there's a topic you'd like to see covered or if you have any feedback, please email Communications Co-ordinator Denis Langlois at D.Langlois@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca or Health Promoter Bailey Ressler at B.Ressler@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca.

How Public Health can support your municipality

Grey Bruce Public Health can assist and support your municipality in a variety of ways.

MUNICIPAL ALCOHOL POLICIES

Staff from GBPH's Health Promotion team can, for example, help municipalities with drafting, reviewing, and updating Municipal Alcohol Policies.

A Municipal Alcohol Policy is a tool municipalities can use to help manage events held on or within municipally owned properties where alcohol is sold or served.

Such policies can reduce the potential for costs due to lawsuits, repairs, and insurance premiums for municipalities and event-holders, while improving safety and patrons' enjoyment of events.

Please contact Health Promoter Bailey Ressler at b.ressler@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca to learn more.

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The Health Promotion team can also assist municipalities with the development and review of Age-Friendly strategies, initiatives, and policies.

An age-friendly community

supports active aging by developing accessible and inclusive communities. Active aging is the "process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation, and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age." (Active Ageing: A Policy Framework, WHO, 2002)

For Age-Friendly information and resources, including a community implementation guide visit: [Age-Friendly Communities - Canada.ca](https://www.activeageing.ca/)

Please contact GBPH Health Promoter Kaela Sales at k.sales@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca to learn more.

SMOKE-FREE SPACES

Questions about the Smoke-Free Ontario Act can be directed to GBPH by emailing tobacco@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca.

Municipalities must post No Smoking and No Vaping signs at municipally owned enclosed workplaces; enclosed public places; and other smoke-free and vape-free places as described in the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 or Ontario Regulation 268/18.

You must post enough of the

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

individual tobacco signs and the individual electronic cigarette signs, or the combined tobacco/electronic cigarette signs, at each entrance, exit and washroom to ensure employees and the public know they cannot smoke tobacco or cannabis (medical or recreational) or vape anything there.

Smoke-Free Ontario Act signage images are available at the following link: [Signage Link](#).

Grey Bruce Public Health's [Special Event Package](#) Application Form includes helpful information on requirements under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and for Food Safety at events.

SFOA Signage is available for loan for special events from Public Health.

NALOXONE AND SAFE DISPOSAL

Naloxone can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid poisoning.

Naloxone kits are available free-of-charge in an easy-to-use nasal spray.

GBPH offers in-person and virtual naloxone and harm reduction training, printed materials, and support for policy and procedure development.

GBPH's website also includes training and resources on [safe sharps disposal](#).

Examples of sharps include needles and substance-use equipment.



GBPH seeking volunteer instructors/ tiny teachers

Do you know of someone in your municipality who may be interested in nurturing empathy in children in one of our local schools?

We're on the lookout for passionate **Volunteer Instructors** for the upcoming school year.

ROOTS OF EMPATHY

[Roots of Empathy](#) (ROE) is an international children's charity that helps nurture empathy in children through their evidence-based classroom program for grades JK-8.

ROE is currently being implemented in local elementary classrooms.

Over two decades of [research](#) has found that children in the ROE program experience an increase in empathy, a decrease in aggressive behaviours, including bullying, and an increase in prosocial behaviours, such as co-operation, kindness, and inclusion.

If you know of an organization in your community with a mandate of supporting children's positive mental health and well-being, building empathy, bullying prevention, or health promotion in the early years, consider encouraging them to apply to become a trained ROE Instructor!

Learn more and sign up: <https://rootsofempathy.org/instructors/>

TINY TEACHERS

We're also looking for **tiny teachers** -- babies who will be between 2-4 months old in October, when Roots of Empathy programs start in classrooms.

At the heart of the program are a neighbourhood infant and parent who visit the classroom nine times over the school year.

ROE celebrates the power of the family in the development of the baby as a person. Since we focus on the parent-infant bond, fathers and/or mothers are equally welcome to participate.

Learn more about becoming a ROE family and to sign up at: [Families & Babies - Roots of Empathy](#).

For more information on the Roots of Empathy program, how to get involved, check out: [Roots of Empathy](#).

Local ROE Program Coordinator:
Amanda McManaman, Public Health Nurse
schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca
519-376-9420, ext. 3110.

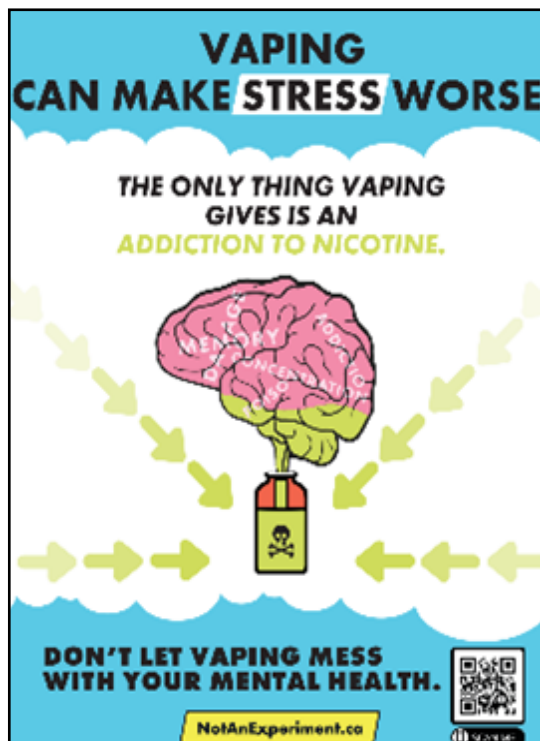
GBPH seeks to expand reach of Not An Experiment campaign

The [Not An Experiment](#) campaign aims to raise awareness about the risks of vaping, negative impacts on mental health, and the role the industry plays in promoting these addictive products to youth.

Grey Bruce Public Health is seeking to expand the reach of this campaign for the summer and fall/winter.

Posters with various messaging are available to be displayed in community centres and recreational areas, including arena changerooms, washrooms, libraries, etc.

If you are interested in ordering posters for your facilities, contact Brooke Tomsett, Youth Advisor, at b.tomsett@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca or 519-376-9420 ext 1264.



Upcoming Events



Aug. 12 - International Youth Day



September - Concussion Awareness Month



Sept. 28 - World Rabies Day



October - [National Teen Driver Safety Week](#)



November - Fall Prevention Month



Nov. 7-13 - Seniors Fall Prevention Awareness Week

November is Fall Prevention Month

Falls are the leading cause of injury for older adults, and Canada's population is aging!

November is Fall Prevention Month in Canada.

For more information and resources, visit this [Fall Prevention Month website](#).

Also in November, Seniors Fall Prevention Awareness Week runs from Nov. 7-13. Consider posting some fall prevention-related materials on your social media channels during this week.

Here's another locally created resource that can be shared: [Staying on your Feet Guide](#).

SPOTLIGHT

GBPH's Infectious Diseases department

Grey Bruce Public Health's Infectious Diseases team provides programs and services aimed at reducing the burden of infectious and communicable diseases.

While many will be familiar with the case, contact, and outbreak management work performed by the ID team during the pandemic, the program extends far beyond COVID-19, including providing follow-up for over 70 other Diseases of Public Health Significance, as outlined under the Health Protection & Promotion Act.

In addition to case and outbreak investigations, other key activities undertaken by the ID Team include:

- Conducting infection control inspections of personal service settings (e.g. salons and spas) and licenced childcare facilities to ensure best practices are followed, which reduce risk of infection to patrons;
- Providing education and support to local emergency service providers on bloodborne exposures and enacting the Mandatory Blood Testing Act;
- Providing sexual health clinical services, including testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, as well as providing safe sex education and information and access to contraceptives;



A microscopic image of Streptococcus - a Disease of Public Health Significance.

- Supporting clients with active tuberculosis disease and latent tuberculosis infection;
- Investigating complaints related to lapses in infection control practices to determine if clients may have been put at risk of exposure of bloodborne infections.

IPAC Team

Formed during the pandemic, the Infection Prevention and Control Team works with long-term care and retirement homes and congregate living to provide IPAC consultation, auditing, mentorship, education/training, and support virtually and in person/on-site, proactively, as well as reactively in the event of an outbreak.

Directory

Please refer to this directory to contact specific Grey Bruce Public Health programs.

Main GBPH Number: 519-376-9420

**MAIN LINE WITH EXTENSIONS
519-376-9420**

- **Sexual Health Clinic** - Press 1
- **Immunizations** - Press 2
- **Adverse Water** - Press 3
- **PHI, Food Safety, Etc** - Press 4
- **Healthy Babies** - Press 5
- **Infectious Diseases** - Press 6
- **Smoking Cessation** - Press 7
- **Dental/Vision** - Press 8
- **Switchboard** - Press 0

FAX NUMBERS

Immunizations - 519-376-7782

Rabies - 519-376-0980

Environmental, Dental, Food Safety, Health Hazard, Water - 519-376-6310

Infectious Diseases - 519-376-4152

Sexual Health, Youth - 519-376-5043

Healthy Babies - 519-376-1287

Administration - 519-376-8965

MOH/Media Confidential - 519-376-0605

EMAIL ADDRESSES

General: publichealth@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Harm Reduction: harmreduction@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Immunizations: immunization@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Rabies: rabies@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

HBHC: hbhc@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Infectious Diseases: InfectiousDiseases@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

IPAC: IPAC@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Safe Water & Dental: SafeWaterDental@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Let's work together to create a healthier Grey Bruce community.

We want to help our municipal partners create opportunities for healthier communities across Grey-Bruce.

GBPH is available to partner with council members, municipal staff, and committees as well as other organizations in your community, on health issues of mutual significance.

We can help:

- Establish and strengthen connections between partners;
- Integrate a health in all policies lens into community planning and policy;
- Collaborate on initiatives encouraging the development of healthy communities.