

# Municipal Matters

GBPH's Biannual Newsletter for Municipalities

Issue 2 | January 2025

## **Sharps disposal resources available**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Staff from Grey Bruce Public Health's Harm Reduction program can assist municipal officials in developing proposals/reports for council consideration in support of sharps disposal bins.
- The Harm Reduction team can also help municipalities to create sharps-related policies and procedures.
- GBPH's website includes training materials and other resources related to the safe handling and disposal of sharps.

### **SHARPS DISPOSAL**

A sharp is any item with corners, edges, or projections capable of cutting or piercing the skin. Examples include needles and substance-use equipment.

Sharps may contain body fluids and/or hazardous substances and should be disposed of safely in biohazardous waste containers.

Such containers are puncture-resistant and designed specifically for used sharps.

For more information, visit GBPH's [Sharps Disposal webpage](#) or email the Harm Reduction team at [harmreduction@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:harmreduction@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca).

## **Contact Public Health before opening**

**Owners of Personal Service Settings, such as tattoo parlours and nail salons, must contact GBPH before beginning operations**

Grey Bruce Public Health encourages municipal officials to always advise prospective and new owners of personal service businesses that they must consult with Public Health before opening day.

This consultation is required by the Health Protection & Promotion Act and can prevent businesses from incurring additional costs and helps to safeguard the health of clients and customers.

### **PERSONAL SERVICE SETTINGS**

Personal Services, such as spa treatments, nail services, tattooing, and piercing, among others, have been growing in variety and popularity.

Many of these services carry a potential risk of infection through possible exposure to blood or other body fluids if proper infection control practices are not in place. While this risk is quite evident in certain services – like tattooing or piercing, where needles are involved – any service with multi-use tools, surfaces, and equipment can pose a risk of transferring viruses, bacteria, and fungi between clients if improperly cleaned and disinfected.



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# Personal services businesses (cont'd)

Any setting offering personal services to the public are subject to inspection to ensure compliance with the Personal Service Settings Regulation (O. Reg 136/18) of Ontario's Health Protection & Promotion Act. Like restaurants, these settings are inspected on a routine basis to ensure compliance with the regulation. Inspection activities are also triggered if/when a complaint is received.

## NOTIFY PUBLIC HEALTH BEFORE OPENING

The owners of Personal Service Settings are required under the regulation to notify Public Health prior to commencing operation (O. Reg. 136/18, s. 3).

This step is often missed due to mixed business licencing processes across municipalities. This often results in the premises being identified by Public Health Inspectors after they've begun operation. Without prior consultation with Public Health, there is an increased chance of non-compliance with the PSS Regulation, which can lead to the operator incurring additional, unnecessary set-up costs in order to re-do their setup to meet requirements, and/or risk to clients due to improper practices.

Grey Bruce Public Health urges municipal partners to ensure business owners of personal service settings, including home-based settings, are aware of the requirement to consult with public health prior to opening, in order to catch any mistakes before they happen and to keep future clients within our communities safe.



-  **March 16-22** [Canadian Agricultural Safety Week](#) – Canadian Agricultural Safety Association
-  **May 15** [OSAID Day | OSAID: Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving](#)
-  **May 18-24** [Safe Boating Awareness Week](#)
-  **May 31** [World No Tobacco Day](#)
-  **June 3-9** [Safe Kids Week – Parachute](#)

## ParticipACTION Community Challenge Grants

*ParticipACTION is offering grants of up to \$1,500 to support community organizations in promoting and delivering sport and physical activity opportunities for equity-denied groups, including Black, Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, persons with disabilities, low-income populations, newcomers to Canada, and older adults.*

### KEY DATES

Grant Applications Open: Jan. 14, 2025.

Deadline to Apply: Feb. 11, 2025.

*Be sure to review the grant [guidelines](#) and [application questions](#) before submitting your application.*

### LEARN MORE

ParticipACTION will host informational webinars to help organizations and municipalities complete their applications and prepare for this year's Community Challenge.

[Webinar for Organizations](#): Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025, at 1 p.m. ET

[Webinar for Municipalities and Local Governments](#): Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, at 1 p.m. ET

**Mark your calendars and get ready to make a difference in your community!**

## SPOTLIGHT

# GBPH's Environmental Health program

Grey Bruce Public Health's Environmental Health team conducts activities across multiple programs that fall under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

These include food safety, safe drinking water, recreational water, healthy environments, vector-borne disease and rabies prevention.

The Environmental Health team has 12 Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) who work as generalists in all these program areas, each with a defined geographic area.

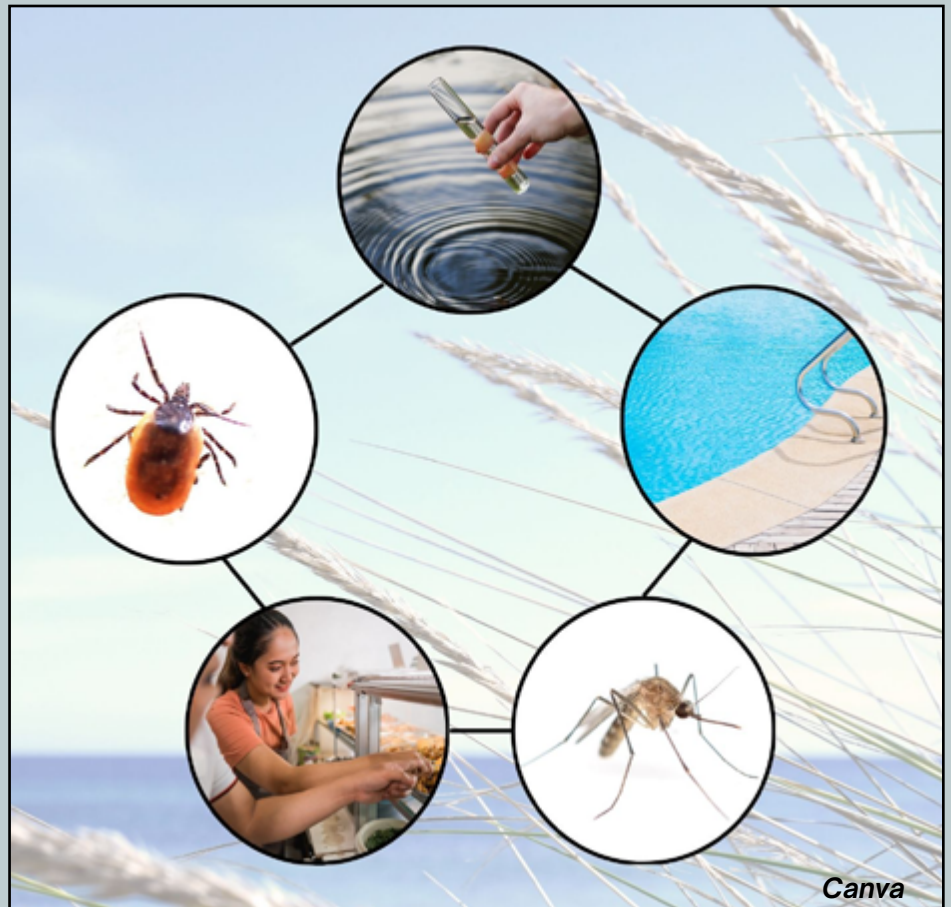
The PHIs also work in multidisciplinary groups within the Health Unit and with various partners to support and advance work related to areas such as climate change and emergency preparedness.

Within the Environmental Health core programs, **FOOD SAFETY** is the largest in terms of staff time.

**FOOD SAFETY** work includes food premises regulation through inventory maintenance, routine and complaint inspections, food recall, and infectious disease investigation support.

The **RABIES PROGRAM** is also a substantial one in terms of staff time and focuses on animal exposure report investigations and risk mitigation on an individual, case-by-case basis.

**SAFE WATER ACTIVITIES** include giving support and advice to the public regarding private systems, and regulating small drinking water systems through compliance checks, inspections, and directive preparation.



**RECREATIONAL WATER ACTIVITIES** include regulation of commercial facilities through routine and complaint inspections and water testing.

**HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS** include health hazard investigations into issues like environmental spills and housing conditions and proactive work on a number of potential hazards, such as radon and climate change.

The **VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE PROGRAM** uses a management process to monitor and assess risk from things like West Nile Virus and Lyme disease.

Throughout all programs, the team uses an approach that incorporates formal and informal education with the public, businesses, and facilities. For regulated facilities, the team also uses a graduated enforcement approach, where necessary.

Many of the services the Environmental Health team provides align closely with municipal services, and the team is always open to discussing issues or exploring ways that the team and municipalities can work together to better service Grey-Bruce residents.

# Vision Zero, Complete Streets, and 'Road Dieting'

## WHAT IS VISION ZERO?

Vision Zero is based on a philosophy that no one should be killed or seriously injured within the road transport system. Vision Zero commits communities to a fundamental shift in how they approach traffic safety.

## WHAT ARE COMPLETE STREETS?

Complete Streets is an approach to planning, designing and building streets that enables safe access for all users.

## WHAT IS ROAD DIETING?

Road Dieting is a term used to describe the removal of car space from the road to prioritize walking, biking, and rolling. Complete Streets and Vision Zero initiatives sometimes use Road Diets to create streets that work for all road users.

## WHAT WE CAN DO LOCALLY?

The first step towards Vision Zero is to create an Action Plan – one



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that clearly lays out action steps, timelines, and priorities and includes broader community and partner input.

Learn more about Vision Zero at Parachute.ca. Link: [Vision Zero – Parachute.](#)

You can also check out this recent Ontario-based comparative analysis on [Road Diets in Complete Streets and Vision Zero.](#)

## E-SCOOTERS

E-scooters can support GHG emission reduction efforts, increase access to social and economic opportunities, and fill a need in equity-deserving communities. However, e-scooters also create safety and accessibility issues. Learn more about [solutions](#) to help unlock the benefits of e-scooters, while addressing safety and accessibility issues.

# GBPH adding climate change information to its website

Grey Bruce Public Health will soon be launching new content for the public and partners on its website about the connections between climate change and health.

Keep an eye out for these new Climate Change webpages under the 'Your Environment' tab at [publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](http://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca).

GBPH has supported Grey County's climate plans and is prepared to support your municipality in including health perspectives in climate action.

Municipalities interested in engaging in climate action may consider the [Climate Ready Infrastructure Service \(CRIS\)](#), a national initiative connecting local governments and communities with specialized technical expert advice and guidance to support the integration of low-carbon resilience into local infrastructure projects. Small municipal governments (less than 30,000 people) and First Nations communities can register an infrastructure project under the CRIS.

# Restricting hookah lounges

Counties and municipalities in Ontario can implement bylaws to prevent the operation of hookah lounges within their communities

Waterpipe smoking, also known as shisha or hookah, involves heating a tobacco or non-tobacco herbal product. Users inhale through a hose attached to the waterpipe device. Because the use of non-tobacco “herbal” products is not prohibited by the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, there may be a perception that these products are less harmful than other forms of smoking. However, evidence shows that waterpipe smoking is associated with various types of cancer and other health-related concerns and both commercial tobacco-based products and non-tobacco products contain harmful toxins and chemicals.

The Ontario Municipal Act ([Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25 \(ontario.ca\)](#)) allows municipalities general authority to establish additional restrictions beyond the Smoke-Free Ontario Act through municipal/regional bylaws respecting the “health, safety,

and well-being of persons” (s.11(2)) and explicit authority to regulate smoking in public and workplaces, with the exception of highways (s. 115).

These bylaws have, for example, allowed municipal partners to keep beaches, parks, and outdoor municipal properties (areas where provincial legislation has little or no influence) smoke-free and now vape-free.

Below are some resources related to waterpipe smoking/SFOA:

- [Health Impacts of Waterpipe Smoking and Exposure](#)
- [By-Law to Regulate Waterpipe Smoking in the Regional Municipality of Halton](#)
- [Public Health Ontario Summary Report: Ontario Tobacco, Vaping & Cannabis By-law Summary – 2024](#)

GBPH staff are available to assist in reviewing any updates to smoke-free bylaws in your jurisdiction.



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## **GBPH can support municipal compliance with SFOA**

Municipalities in Ontario have several regulated responsibilities under the Smoke Free Ontario Act (SFOA), 2017. This Act aims to protect exposure from second hand smoke/vapour by regulating smoking and vaping in enclosed workplaces, public places and prohibited outdoor areas.

Grey Bruce Public Health is here to help and can support municipal compliance with the SFOA by:

- Supplying and delivering required “No Smoking” and “No Vaping” signs to your municipal office.
- Consulting on planning meetings for large-scale community events (i.e. Music in the Fields, Summerfolk, etc.). We strongly recommend that Public Health staff are invited to all such planning meetings.
- Providing input into municipal policies and procedures that ensure compliance of staff, event organizers and the public, while using municipal properties.
- Attending problem areas with staff and managers to assist in education and enforcement initiatives.

For additional information and resources, visit Public Health’s website at [Smoke and Vape-Free Living](#)



# 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
- **Tobacco Enforcement** - 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](mailto:publichealth@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

**Harm Reduction:** [harmreduction@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:harmreduction@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

**Immunizations:** [immunization@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:immunization@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

**Rabies:** [rabies@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:rabies@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

**HBHC:** [hbhc@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:hbhc@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

**Infectious Diseases:** [InfectiousDiseases@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:InfectiousDiseases@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

**IPAC:** [IPAC@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:IPAC@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

**Oral Health:** [Dental@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:Dental@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

**Safe Water:** [SafeWaterDental@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:SafeWaterDental@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

**School Health:** [schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

## Let's work together to create healthier communities

Let's work together to create healthier communities.

Grey Bruce Public Health is available to work in partnership with municipal/county councils and staff and local committees, along with other community organizations, on key health issues.

We can help to:

- Establish and strengthen connections
- Integrate health policies into community planning
- Collaborate on healthy community initiatives