



WELCOMING WEEK



Welcome Week Grey Bruce 2025

In light of the upcoming Welcoming Week we would like to share a list of events & initiatives going on across Grey Bruce this year, and raise awareness about some of the opportunities that currently exist in creating welcoming communities. Welcoming Week 2025 takes place September 12th to 21st. Throughout the week, organizations and communities can bring together neighbours of all backgrounds to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive spaces in sustaining prosperous communities across the region.

Upcoming Events

 **33 Victoria St N Southampton, ON**

 **September 13th**

 **10:00am to 4:00pm**

YMCA Grey Bruce Settlement & Language Services and the **Bruce County Public Library** will be at the **Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre** demonstrating the resources and supports they have for newcomers.

- Learn how to say your name in another language, explore new resident packages, discover workplace or school supports, or sign up for your first library card!
- To sign up for YMCA Grey Bruce Settlement & Language Services and Programs please visit: [Settlement & Language: Services & Programs – YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce](#)
- Learn more about the Bruce County Public Library New Resident Packages here: [New Resident Packages](#)

For more information visit www.brucemuseum.ca

Welcome Centre

 **707 Queen Street Kincardine, ON**

 **September 18th**

 **2:30pm to 6:00pm**

Welcome Week Open House – Municipality of Kincardine

Are you a newcomer to Canada, to Grey or Bruce County, or Kincardine? Do you want to find out about services available to you in the community? Do you want to find out about the fun things to do in the community?

No registration is required. All ages welcome! Drop in at any time and enjoy some light refreshments, connect with others and learn about some services in your community. There will also be information on some fun things to do in the community.

Is your organization interested in participating? To register complete this [form](#).





📍 **Newcomer Centre of Peel Familiarization Tour**

📅 **September 18th**

The Municipalities of Bruce County in partnership with the Rural Employment Initiative at The Newcomer Centre of Peel are hosting a one-day familiarization tour.

This is your opportunity to:

- Showcase your organization and highlight current job opportunities
- Connect with skilled newcomers who are eager to live, work, and contribute to the growth and vibrancy of your Municipality
- Promote your community as an exceptional place to build a career and enjoy a fulfilling lifestyle

About the tour:

On Thursday September 18th 2025, participants will travel from Peel Region to Bruce County to visit local municipalities and meet with businesses, learn about in-demand careers, and experience the community and lifestyle first-hand.

Connect with your local Economic Development Officer for more information.

📍 **Hanover Public Library 451 10th Ave Hanover, ON**

📅 **September 20th**

🕒 **10:30am to 12:00pm**

Hanover Public Library – Newcomer Resource Centre

As part of Welcoming Week and Culture Days, the Town of Hanover invites you to a special dedication event at the Hanover Public Library for our new Newcomer Resource Centre—a vibrant space supporting newcomers to Canada and new residents to our community. This event highlights a new display at the Hanover Library where individuals and families can access welcome packages and essential settlement resources to help them feel at home in Hanover.

Enjoy a morning of connection and celebration featuring:

- Dignitary remarks
- Cultural food offerings
- Prizes
- A cultural dance presentation and social dance led by the Hanover Women's Collective


Discover resources, meet new neighbours, celebrate diversity, and help us build a more inclusive Hanover!

Other things happening in Grey Bruce:

Elephant Thoughts Educational Outreach is offering a 10 week paid culinary Workforce Development Program for Convention Refugees with a valid SIN and work permit at their Riverstone Campus in Durham, Ontario.

- Start Date: September 15th, 2025
- Program Length: 10 weeks
- Hours Per Week: up to 40 hours a week
- Pay: \$17.20/hour on a bi-weekly pay schedule
- Location: 233639 Concession 2 WGR, Durham, ON N0G 1R0

For more information, and to apply, applicants can go here:





Rural Workforce Transportation Solutions

Hop In Technologies is a workforce management platform that streamlines transportation and workforce logistics.

By providing technology and insights into rural transportation solutions Hop In's team is ready to support you. Visit hopintech.ca to find out more and to hear from satisfied employers.

Register [here](#) for a virtual session with Four County Labour Market Planning Board & HopIn on October 28th at 1:00pm

Featured Research

Discrimination and Other Challenges Experienced by Racialized Newcomers When Accessing Settlement Services in Southwestern Ontario

Sponsored by: Network for Economic and Social Trends (NEST) & Pathways to Prosperity

This report highlights key barriers that racialized newcomers face when accessing settlement services in Southwestern Ontario. While these services support integration, many newcomers struggle due to:

- Lack of awareness about available services
- Discrimination and systemic bias, especially in smaller communities
- Underrepresentation of services for disabled and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals

Surveys conducted with newcomers show over 60% of racialized newcomers in five regions experienced discrimination in the past three years. However, immigration retention programs show promise in fostering more welcoming environments through community engagement, tailored services, employer support plans and collaborative partnerships.

The study calls for action to ensure equitable, inclusive services across all communities, citing strategies to improve service equity. Newcomers surveyed offer strategies focusing on:

- Inclusive communication
- Better access and awareness
- Stronger support networks
- Education, funding, and accountability



Welcoming Week is a great time to engage with the community, learn about what other GBLIP partners are doing to cultivate welcoming spaces, and make connections to further your commitment to this work.
