



Community Council Biography

Name:

Bruce Hall

Where you live (e.g. Owen Sound, Hanover, etc.):

Owen Sound, ON

What do you hope to contribute to the Grey Bruce OHT Community Council?

Contributions available:

Personal experience with mental health and addition issues

Living with a terminal diagnosis

Computer graphics and short video presentations

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Community Council Biography

Name:

Barbara Horne

Where you live (e.g. Owen Sound, Hanover, etc.):

Meaford

What do you hope to contribute to the Grey Bruce OHT Community Council?

I bring 34 years of experience from working in a variety of settings including, Long-term Care/Home Support, Social Assistance & Income Maintenance, Rehabilitation and Counselling. I want to meet people in Grey Bruce County where they are and listen to their needs. Whether it is on the lawn bowling green, the curling club, the hockey arena, the skateboard park, the beach, the local coffee shop, their back yard, or my back yard. I want to provide people with a venue to talk about their needs when it comes to health care and know that what they say will shape and change existing and future health care services.

I hope to get to know my fellow Community Council Members better and determine how we can best work together to maximize our talents and abilities towards providing input and direction to the Grey Bruce Health Care Team.

I want to give of my time and abilities to the betterment of the community/county I live in.

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Community Council Biography

Name:

Candice Huber

Where you live (e.g. Owen Sound, Hanover, etc.):

Mildmay

What do you hope to contribute to the Grey Bruce OHT Community Council?

Having been a caregiver in a medical capacity for my own child, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes ten years ago, I hope to contribute a voice for other parents who are also taking on a medical caregiver role in their child's life.

It is a terrifying journey with very little support available. My son and I have dealt with many obstacles over the years in the medical community and I would like to help make it easier to navigate for others in the community.

In addition to the above, I have volunteer experience with the group Please Bring Me Home, located in Owen Sound. I was their Intake Leader which had me dealing directly with immediate family members of missing people. In that role I personally saw many people dealing with deep mental health issues, family members and the missing, and I listened to their struggles regarding finding appropriate help in that area either for themselves or their missing loved one.

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Community Council Biography

Name:

Chad Richards

Where you live (e.g. Owen Sound, Hanover, etc.):

Chesley, ON

What do you hope to contribute to the Grey Bruce OHT Community Council?

I am very excited to be part of the Grey Bruce OHT Community Council. I am looking forward to both engaging with and representing the views of our local communities as we transition to this new model of care in Bruce and Grey. Having served in multiple public service roles over the course of my career, I'm excited to offer some insight into the policy development process as well.

On a personal level, I bring experience with the public health system as well. I was diagnosed with Type One Diabetes in my mid-20's - a relatively late diagnosis for this disease. I'm looking forward to sharing my experiences working through coping with this life-altering disease.

Furthermore, I have many friends and family members that have been affected by mental health and I'm looking forward to ensuring that mental health supports thrive under this new model of care.

Finally, as a younger member of our community, I am excited to engage with our region's youth to ensure that they understand and have input on how the healthcare system can work for them. It is sure to be an exciting journey and I'm excited for the work ahead!

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Community Council Biography

Name:

Catherine Smith

Where you live (e.g. Owen Sound, Hanover, etc.):

Desboro

What do you hope to contribute to the Grey Bruce OHT Community Council?

I am very grateful for the opportunity we will have, to work in collaboration with other community members to build a model of health care that focuses on the health and well-being of all residents in Grey Bruce.

I hope to share some learnings and insights as a former provider who for many years, worked alongside older adults and their families with dementia, complex mental health and substance issues. I am particularly interested in seeing equal access to quality care and service for vulnerable populations where social determinants of health like lack of safe housing and food insecurity are keenly felt and stigma becomes a barrier to good health and service. Having experienced mental health issues in my past, I appreciate how the right support at the right time can contribute to healing and well-being.

For the last several years, I have shared care of my mother who is 4 years into a diagnosis of vascular dementia and who also has complex medical issues. I appreciate the hills and valleys of the journey and in talking with others who also care for a family member with dementia, the importance of a service delivery system that engages with family as core partners in the care of the people they love.

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Community Council Biography

Name:

Denise Rand

Where you live (e.g. Owen Sound, Hanover, etc.):

Thornbury

What do you hope to contribute to the Grey Bruce OHT Community Council?

My husband passed away in 2019 after having accessed many parts of the health care system both in the Grey Bruce area and other areas of Ontario over the course of his illness. He was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson's disease at age 41 and passed away at the age of 66. He required care at tertiary hospitals, local hospitals in Grey Bruce including emergency and acute care, hospital rehab care, long term care, home and community care services as well as telemedicine services.

In addition, I am recently retired after having worked in health care for more than 40 years in both hospitals and family health teams. (Dietitian – Diabetes Educator)

I feel I can contribute to the Community Council sharing my experience as his caregiver related to a systems perspective. In addition in my work as a Diabetes Educator caring for both children and adults with diabetes I am familiar with how gaps in the health care system can impact patients.

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Community Council Biography

Name:

Matt Mernagh

Where you live (e.g. Owen Sound, Hanover, etc.):

Flesherton

What do you hope to contribute to the Grey Bruce OHT Community Council?

Use my communication skills, experience as a disabled person, and desire to learn about our community healthcare agencies to create collaboration and understanding.

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Community Council Biography

Name:

Nancy Hewitt

Where you live (e.g. Owen Sound, Hanover, etc.):

Sauble Beach

What do you hope to contribute to the Grey Bruce OHT Community Council?

I hope to share my experiences within the health care system, as a former provider of services, as well as my experience as a care provider for my husband who suffered from dementia. As the system recovers from the effects of COVID-19 I hope that we can learn from the experience so that the mistakes made will not be repeated. Also I am concerned for the effects that long COVID will have on our population, and health care providers.

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Community Council Biography

Name:

Paulette Lippert

Where you live (e.g. Owen Sound, Hanover, etc.):

Kincardine

What do you hope to contribute to the Grey Bruce OHT Community Council?

Health care and education are both very important to me. As an educator for 26 years, youth mental health has always been a priority, but the pandemic has made this time even more challenging for our youth, as stress has increased while access to supports, community involvement and extracurricular activities has decreased. Providing our communities with clear and consistent information about both prevention and healthcare services within Grey-Bruce is also absolutely essential at this time. As a wife, mother and caregiver, I would like to bring a voice to the table for all Grey-Bruce families who experience complex and chronic healthcare challenges, particularly for families who may not have equitable access to the resources and supports required to adequately address their needs for care.

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Community Council Biography

Name:

Richard (Rick) Mommersteeg

Where you live (e.g. Owen Sound, Hanover, etc.):

Saugeen Shores

What do you hope to contribute to the Grey Bruce OHT Community Council?

I hope to make use of my life experiences in collaboration with the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team to assist in any way I can to continue the recent improvements in the region and push for more patient oriented changes in a joint team effort. I have worked for over 30 years as a professional firefighter, 5 years in logistics for Medecins Sans Frontieres, and was a primary care giver for my mother for a time. The personal daily caregiving in our current Long Term Care System that I did for mom, gave me a deep insight into problems, lack of training, lack of staff, and issues of for profit homes in Ontario. We must do better!

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