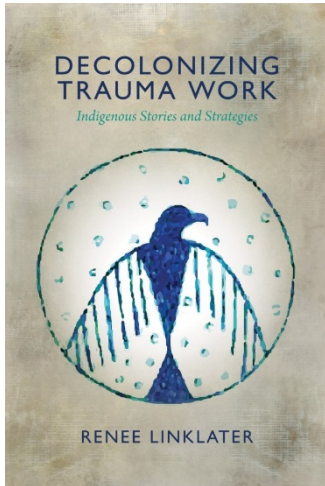


Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Minutes, 21 March 2025

Joined via Zoom Meeting
10am-11:00 am

- **Land Acknowledgement** – Giiwe Shko Naaniibwida (Standing Strong Together)



The Poverty Task Force is committed to reconciliation. We acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional and ancestral territory of the Anishnaabek Nation. We give thanks to them, and to the Saugeen First Nation and the Chippewas of Neyaashinigmiing Unceded First Nation, collectively known as Saugeen Ojibway Nation. We also acknowledge the historical impacts of Western medical practices on Indigenous peoples.

On March 4th, I had the opportunity to join a workshop entitled **From the Margins to the Centre – Driving Health Systems Change Through Equitable Partnerships/Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation** – at the University of Toronto. I spent the day with many esteemed scholars, including Dr. Renee (Rennie) Linklater from the Rainy River First Nations. Rennie is the Senior Director of the **Shkaabe Makwa** – Centre for First Nations, Inuit and Metis Wellness at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto. Shkaabe Makwa at CAMH is the first hospital-based Centre in Canada designed to drive culturally-responsive systems initiatives to achieve **health justice** and **wellness** for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. [Shkaabe Makwa | CAMH](#)

Rennie is also the author of **Decolonizing trauma work: Indigenous Stories and Strategies**; and editor of **Connected in Creation: A Collection of Lived Experience through Cultural Expression**. [Decolonizing Trauma Work:](#)

[Indigenous Stories and Strategies – Fernwood Publishing](#)

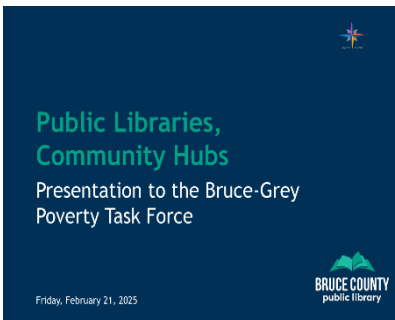
Renni's Decolonizing Trauma Work, one of the first books of its kind, is a resource for education and training programs, health care practitioners, healing centres, clinical services and policy initiatives.

- The book explores healing and wellness in Indigenous communities drawing on a decolonizing approach, which puts the “soul wound” of colonialism at the centre.
- In the book, she engages ten Indigenous health care practitioners in a dialogue regarding Indigenous notions of wellness and wholistic health, critiques of psychiatry and psychiatric diagnoses, and Indigenous approaches to helping people through trauma, depression and experiences of parallel and multiple realities.
- Through stories and strategies that are grounded in Indigenous worldviews and embedded with cultural knowledge, she offers purposeful and practical methods to help individuals and communities that have experienced trauma.

A Trauma informed approach in an Indigenous context is “two-eyed seeing” and our workshop focused on whether we should be bringing marginalized people into the centre or to expand the centre to include marginalized people.

Community Hubs in Grey Bruce Series

- **Erskine Community Health Centre – Crystal Ferguson**



The [South East Grey Community Health Centres](#) (CHCs) is a not-for-profit community governed organizations with a primary focus on improving the health and well-being of populations who have traditionally faced barriers accessing health services, including: those living on low income, new immigrants, those with complex mental health issues and individuals who do not have health insurance.

CHCs provide comprehensive primary health care and other services that address the social determinants of health with an emphasis on priority populations who: face barriers to accessing services because of geographic isolation or cultural or language barriers; and have a higher burden or risk of ill health due to socio-economic status, age, social isolation, mental health issues, gender, sexual identity/orientation, or other factors. The [Erskine Community Health Centre](#) in Dundalk, Southgate Municipality was gifted from the Presbyterian Church to use

Programs and Partnerships: an overview of the Erskine Center's operations and services was provided. The center has expanded its hours and services since 2023, now open Monday through Thursday with additional weekend and evening programs. They offer health care services including primary care, preventative care and RAAM services. They offer a variety of community programs, including food services (Meals, Grey Bruce Food Share and Dundalk Good Food Box), fitness classes, and community volunteer income tax assistance. In the last 11 months, they provided 1,800 breakfast meals and 1,700 lunch meals; and in March 2025 distributed 64 GFB boxes. The center collaborates with numerous partners to provide services such as social assistance (OW/Social Services) skills upgrading, employment support, and settlement services. The centre provides phones and computer access as well as ELS classes.

Sustainability strategy and challenges: Erskine Centre is a satellite office of the South East Grey Community Health Centre and not funded by provincial Ministry of Health. Sustainability challenges include a reliance on local support and grants for funding programs. It is a welcoming space but needs repairs and an elevator that needs to be replaced. Current challenges include health human resources, program funding, building maintenance, and capacity issues, with a request for a new medical services building in Dundalk pending approval.

Balancing appointments and capacity at the Community Health Center are challenging. It is estimated that 18,000 people in the South East Grey catchment area lack access to primary care. Concerns about the growing population in Dundalk and Southgate, presents additional challenges in terms of resources and programming. The difficulty of navigating services across the Grey and Dufferin boundaries exists as well as a lack of transportation, affordable housing and a population with low income remains a challenge. The impact of the new housing expansion in Dundalk and Southgate means that the CHC are seeing a wide range of people coming in for various services, including primary care, mental health supports, and newcomer services. They make referrals to settlement services regularly. Gerry McNaulty, from the former Church Board expressed his admiration for the work being done. (See the attached slides for the full presentation).

- **Southgate Neighbourhood Small Grants – Stuart Reid**

Information about the Community Foundation's Southgate Neighborhood Small Grants program in Southgate which is new and expanding was presented. The program, inspired by a similar initiative in Vancouver, BC, provides grassroots funding of up to \$500 for individuals or groups to create community connections and foster social inclusion. (\$350 honorarium for speakers). Since 2024, projects supported include a seniors' lunch, school reunion, Santa Claus parade, and Pride parade. Stuart notes that this model is being adopted by other community foundations across the country. Grant applications to [Southgate Community Fund](#) are due April 14th, 2025. [Neighborhood Small Grants](#)

Action: CFGB Stuart to develop promotional materials for the Neighborhood Small Grants program and share with SEGCHC for distribution at the Erskine Center.

Community Foundation Grey Bruce (CFGB) Community Grant has increased the maximum amount for its community grants to \$5,000 and expanded the allowable administrative costs to 25% to support charities and non-profit organizations. [Community Grants within Grey & Bruce Counties](#)

Vital Signs Report 2025 is expected to be released in the first week of October 2025. Late spring/early summer townhalls will be held to discuss the preliminary data/analysis.

- **PTF Action Group/CoP Updates Collective Action – Jill Umbach**



Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Beaver Valley Outreach CVITP: will not be hosting volunteers at its locations this year. Residents of the Town of Blue Mountains can be served by Collingwood Public Library (drop-in).

Hanover CVITP: new CVITP partnership hosted by the Hanover Public Library. Thursdays and Fridays from March 14 to April 25th. By appointment

Volunteers are needed at various CVITP locations but the season is underway and we still want to recruit for year-round and 2025 Tax Season (2026). [Volunteers4BGtaxes.ca](#)

Next meeting: 16 May 2024, 10-11am, **April meeting is canceled due to Easter Holidays.**



South East Grey Community Health Centre

“Healthy People, Vibrant Communities”

Presentation to Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force, March 21, 2025

Crystal Ferguson

Manager of Community Engagement & Health Promotion



Who We Are

- Interdisciplinary healthcare and community development organization (like Jane Philpott's "Health Home") and operate using a Model of Health and Wellbeing
- Our health professionals act as the first contact and principal point of continuing care for patients within the healthcare system
- Our focus is on community health and wellbeing. We support the social determinants of health (i.e. food insecurity, social exclusion, social safety network to name just a few), and we are community governed – like a hospital. We fall under the supervision of Ontario Health West.
- We focus on providing care and services to vulnerable community members such as seniors, youth, clients with mental health and addiction challenges and new parents and babies.
- In addition to primary care provided by our NP's and MD's we also provide community members with services such as social work, physiotherapy, nutrition – care that is delivered close to home

- ✓ **50 employees**
- ✓ **4 locations**
- ✓ **12,862 active client charts**
- ✓ **38,926 patient visits last year**
- ✓ **2,450 program events**
- ✓ **30,920 program participant visits**



Our Strategy



Our Locations

Chatsworth



90 Artemesia St. S.
Dundalk- "Erskine"



55 Victoria St., Markdale



53 Main St W, Dundalk

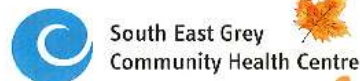


Erskine Centre: Evolution

- Prior to Summer 2017 – staff using alternative/temporary locations in community
- June 2017 – signed agreement to establish the Erskine CHC Site
- July 2017 – primary care, allied health and community team began using the space, renovations began
- 2017/2018 - Some additional partners including OW, Skills Upgrading, ESL, United Way Financial Literacy
- May 2018 – official gifting of the building to the CHC from Presbyterian Church
- Fall 2018 – Medical team moved to the Dundalk Medical Clinic
- 2018/2019 – grant to expand programs at the site
- 2019/2020 – additional renovations
- Post - Pandemic - slow re-building of programs & partners
- 2023 – open 2 - 3 days per week
- 2024/2025 – rapid growth and requests for space usage
- Current: Open Monday – Thursday by CHC staff, some partners here in evening & weekends



Community Programs



PROGRAM GUIDE FALL 2024

Markdale South East Grey Community Health Centre – 55 Victoria Avenue, Markdale

BACK THIS FALL:

Zumba
Thursdays 6:30pm - 7:30pm
September 5 - December 19, 2024
Markdale Arena - 75 Walker Street
Add some FUN to your fitness routine! Engage different muscles through a series of dance steps and get your heart pumping. Drop-ins welcome!

Markdale Pickleball
FALL HOURS HERE
Monday & Wednesday Evenings
Tuesday & Thursday Afternoons
Markdale Arena - 75 Walker Street
Newcomers and experienced players alike are invited to join us for an enjoyable game of Pickleball. Registration required.

Free Ice Skate Exchange
Contact us for further details
Reach out to discover how you can receive a free pair of skates! Or, contribute to the program by donating your gently used hockey or figure skates to support local youth and families on the ice this season.

Adult and Tot Skate ~ 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Adult only Skate ~ 3:00 - 4:00 pm
Markdale Arena - 75 Walker Street
Friday afternoons ~ starting in October

Circuit Training
Tuesday evenings ~ 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Friday mornings ~ 9:30 - 10:30 am
SEGCHC in the Well ~ 12 week
If you like a mix of cardio and weight training this group is for you. Go at your own pace. A variety of stations made to get your muscles working. For all ages.

Volunteering at SEGCHC
Are you looking to get involved. Give us a call and chat with us.
Currently looking for walking group volunteers and gardeners.

Community Gym

Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm
Free & everyone welcome! Orientations available. Registration required.

Online Yoga

Mondays 9:30am - 10:30am
Online via Zoom
A 60-minute calming session of Yoga online. All welcome! Register for link!

EasyFlow Yoga

Mondays 1:00pm - 2:00pm
SEGCHC in the Well
Learn the gentle movements of Yoga at your own pace. Registration required - Online sign-up system in place.

Markdale Yoga

Tuesdays 9:00am - 10:00am
SEGCHC in the Well
A calming session of Yoga for all fitness levels. Registration required - Online sign-up system in place.

Chair Yoga

Fridays 11:00am - 12:00pm **NEW TIME**
SEGCHC in the Well
Gentle movements of Yoga with the added support of a chair. All fitness levels welcome, go at your own pace!

Indoor Walking Group

Mondays 11:00am - 12:00pm
Markdale Arena - 75 Walker Street
Drop-in for light cardio on a safe surface and meet new people! Everyone is welcome, bring a friend! Stroller friendly!
VON Exercise Level 1 on Hold
contact 1-833-659-5491 for more info

Chair Fitness

Tuesday & Thursday 10:30am - 11:30am
SEGCHC in the Well
Low-impact exercises with the support of a chair. Come join us! Registration required.

Tai Chi

Mondays 12:30pm - 1:30pm (Continued)
Mondays 1:45pm - 2:45pm (Beginner)
Markdale Arena - 75 Walker Street
Thursdays 12:30pm - 1:30pm (Continued)
SEGCHC in the Well
A calming sequence of movements to help improve mental and physical health. Registration required.

Social Group

Fridays 1:30pm - 3:30pm
SEGCHC in the Well
Come socialize while enjoying a cup of coffee, card games, or billiards. Drop-ins welcome! Hosted in partnership with the CMHA Grey Bruce Coach House.

2S-LGBTQIA+ Connection

Once a Month - See Program Calendar
SEGCHC in the Well
Drop-in and connect with individuals who share similar experiences, and learn more about community resources. All welcome!

SUAP Program

Monday & Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm
The Substance Use & Addictions Program offers an inclusive and a judgement-free environment to those seeking support. Drop-in or call Kim Dunlop, RN for an appointment: 226-379-3189

Register or learn more:

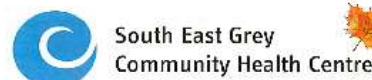
☎ 519-986-2222 Ext 6374

✉ programs@segchc.ca

🌐 www.segchc.ca

Please note: All programs are subject to change, cancellation, or could be weather dependent. Stay informed by checking the Program Calendar regularly.

SCAN TO VISIT
PROGRAM
CALENDAR



PROGRAM GUIDE FALL 2024

Dundalk Erskine Site – 90 Artemesia Street South, Dundalk

BACK THIS FALL:

Dancing for FUN! Line Dancing
Wed afternoons ~ 1:30 - 2:30 pm
Starting September 25, 2024

Erskine Site Upper Level ~ Dance to a variety of music. Come have fun! No experience necessary.

Skills Upgrading
Monday ~ Need help with building skills for future school or employment needs. Contact 519-836-7280 or skillsupgradingprogram@ugcncd.ca.

Community Programs ~
VON Smart Exercise Program ~ Mon/Thurs at 11:00 am
McIntyre Building ~ 220 Owen Sound St
Please call ~ 519-323-2330 ex. 4954 the VON Office to register.

Southgate Ruth Hargrave Memorial Library
~ 80 Proton St. N. Programs for all ages.
Southgate Recreation ~ seasonal programs
~call 519-374-3130

RAAM Clinic

Tuesdays 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Erskine Site Upper Level
The Rapid Access Addictions Medicine Clinic offers assistance to those seeking treatment, counselling, and consultation about drug or alcohol concerns. Drop in or make an appointment with Kim Dunlop, RN: 519-376-5666 Ext 2 or 226-373-3189

Chair Fitness

Wednesdays 9:30am - 10:30am
Erskine Site Upper Level
& Available via Zoom
Gentle exercises to get you moving and elevate your heart rate, while having the support of a chair. Registration required.

Community Cafe

Wednesdays 10:00am - 11:00am
Erskine Site Lower Level
Drop-in for a free, light breakfast while meeting new people! Learn about various community resources and supports.

English Conversation Group

Wednesdays 10:45am - 11:45am
Erskine Site Upper Level
A social setting to practice speaking English with others. Hosted by YMCA Grey Bruce Settlement & Language Services. Call, Text, or WhatsApp to learn more: 519-379-5243

Yoga

Monday Evenings ~ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Thursdays Mornings 9:30am - 10:30am
Erskine Site Upper Level
Unwind during a relaxing session of Yoga. Follow the instructor as you work through each calming movement. All experience levels are welcome. Registration required.

Community Lunch

Thursdays 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Erskine Site Lower Level
Enjoy a free nutritious lunch while connecting with community, friends, and various resources. Drop-in welcome!

Flesherton Flesherton Kinplex – 2 Highland Drive, Flesherton

Dancing for FUN!
Flesherton Kinplex
Wed Evenings ~ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
This dance class is a lovely celebration, blending line dancing with a delightful array of styles and music—from pop and Irish jigs to Latin beats, rock 'n' roll, and a sprinkle of country charm!

Indoor Walking Group
Fridays 10:00am - 11:00am
Flesherton Kinplex
Drop-in to enjoy light exercise on a safe walking surface, and meet new people! All fitness levels & ages welcome. Stroller friendly!

Adult and Tot Skate
~ 2:30 - 3:30 pm
Adult only Skate
~ 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Flesherton Arena ~ 2 Highland Drive
Tuesday afternoons
Starting in October

Rocklyn

Adult and Tot Skate
~ 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Adult only Skate
~ 3:00 - 4:00 pm
Rocklyn Arena ~ 156371 7th Line Road
Thursday afternoons
Starting in October

Osprey Osprey Community Centre – 494196 Grey Rd 2, Feversham

Pickleball

Osprey Community Centre - 494196 Grey Rd 2 ~ Join us for a game of pickleball. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, everyone is welcome! Registration required. Stay tune for more information on possible evening hours.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10am - 12pm	Open Play	Open Play	Open Play	Advanced	Open Play
12:30pm - 2:30pm	Relaxed	Advanced	Advanced	Open	Advanced

Adult & Tot Skate
~ 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Adult only Skate
~ 3:00 - 4:00 pm
Osprey Arena ~ 494196 Grey Rd 2
Monday afternoons
Starting in October

Please note: All programs are subject to change, cancellation, or could be weather dependent. Stay informed by checking the Program Calendar regularly or contact us for more information

CHC Staff:

- Community Developer
- Community Food Coordinator
- Community Chef
- Community Programs Coordinator
- Health Promoter
- Register Dietitian
- Registered Social Worker (on leave)
- Registered Nurse



Community Programs

- RAAM Clinic
- Community Café (free breakfast on Wednesdays)
- Community Lunch (Thursdays)
- Your Unique Menu (frozen meals, second harvest, good food box subsidy)
- Student Summer Lunches
- Chair Fitness
- Yoga (daytime and evening class)
- Outdoor walking (summer)
- Dancing for Fun
- Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
- Phone & Community Access
- Assist United Way with backpack distribution
- Additional programs at pool, arena, community gardens, Black History Month events, education sessions at Early ON & Library sessions, etc.



Erskine Centre: Partnerships & Collaboration

- Foster a Hub-like model with community partners collaborating on programs or simply accessing space for service delivery
 - JunCtian Community Initiatives
 - Skills Upgrading by Upper Grand District School Board
 - Paramed
 - Life Directions Employment Support by South East Grey Support Services
 - YMCA Employment Services
 - YMCA Settlement Services - Conversation Circles
 - Canadian Mental Health Association
 - OSHARE provides much of the food for community pantry
- AA
- Rise Up & Soar
- Grey County Social Services, Ontario Works
- Public Health – Immunization Clinic
- CTO Nurse
- Taste of Togetherness Cultural Cooking
- Thrive Youth Mental Health Event
- Various adhoc network/client meetings



Erskine Centre: Sustainability

- Funding for programs is not provided by the Ministry – we are fully dependent on local funding and grants to keep our programs going
- Yearly financial support from Grey Highlands \$50,000, Southgate \$25,000 and Melancthon \$5,000 - to design and deliver programs to support Seniors, Anabaptist Community, Youth and Newcomers as well as the public at large.
- We have regular, ongoing partners that rent space to secure consistent access for staff and clients
- Grants – past grants from Ontario Trillium Foundation, Community Foundation, United Way, Community Food Centres Canada, FCC
- Private donations



Current Challenges

- Funding
 - HHR & Program Funding
 - Older Building – repairs, accessibility (lift), etc.
 - Request for new build has not been approved – which would increase capacity
- Capacity – added two new offices recently, these are fully booked during opening hours, with additional requests still coming in
- Large unattached population not served effectively
 - Approximately 18,000 people in catchment area do not have access to a primary care provider (whole of south-east grey)
- Edge of Grey County
 - Additional client population from north Dufferin County/Melancton area
 - Navigation between County/Regional social & community services
 - Access to services is improving, but still very challenging
- Client Incomes, Housing, Transportation, changing demographics



Questions?

