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COUNTRY MARKET

**Where Tradition
Meets the Table**

STORY PAGE 3



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BSCENE.ca

Entertainment & Community Guide

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We were very excited to celebrate some amazing local women during the 2026 Women of Impact Event hosted by Ladies Who Lead on Wednesday, April 1st at the Brantford Golf & Country Club. To top off the event, Anne Buchanan, Sandra Vos, and Melanie Mears were honoured as 2026 Outstanding Women Leaders. Congratulations and thank you for all your #BRANTastic community support!

Canada

Special thank you to Heritage Canada and the Canadian Periodical Fund, Special Measures for Journalism for their recent support and grant funding.



A member of the Brantford-Brant Chamber of Commerce & County of Brant Chamber of Commerce



THE BSCENE TEAM

MAY 2026 VOL. 12, EDITION 8
A very special Thank You to the BScene Team for everything that they do to help create the paper each month!, Thank You to all the contributors, advertisers, supporters and readers for helping to create and sustain this #BRANTastic publication.

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ABOUT BSCENE
BScene is a monthly, local Entertainment and Community Guide, showcasing the #BRANTastic features of Brantford, Brant, and Six Nations through engaging content and with the Best Event Guide in our community.

The BScene paper has been in production since 2014 and has also produced additional community content such as our annual Holidays & Traditions Magazine.

Each month we print approximately 10,500 copies, which are distributed through key community partners in our community and also delivered directly to homes on a rotating basis. Readers can subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter with a digital copy of the paper or subscribe to home delivery of the paper every month. Visit www.bscene.ca for more information and to sign up!

ADVERTISING
BScene has an engaged and dedicated readership who are invested in experiencing what our community has to offer and supporting local businesses and organizations. We reach this community through our distribution of approximately 10,500 papers each month, as well as special annual guides like our Holidays & Traditions Magazine, with a circulation of 55,000+ copies delivered directly to homes. Our online Community Event Guide is maintained with up-to-date content including an "Event of the Day" reminder.

We want to help share your story with our engaged audience. For advertising inquiries, please contact Jason Freeze at: jason@bscene.ca or by calling 226-802-2299. You can also visit us online at www.bscene.ca and connect on our Social Media channels @bscenepaper.

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BScene always strives to offer the most accurate content as possible. We apologize for any errors that we may have missed. Feel free to contact us with any concerns or corrections you may have. E&OE.

We also realize that some subjects and information can be sensitive topics, and will always strive to present these topics and stories to the best of our ability and with consideration to our reading audience.

COVER
Submitted Photos

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WHERE TRADITION MEETS THE TABLE

Since 1967, Elberta Farms has been a cherished part of the local landscape – growing from a humble family farm into a bustling year-round farm market known for its fresh, locally grown produce, welcoming atmosphere, and deep community roots.

Started by our parents over five decades ago, Elberta Farms began with a simple mission: to grow good food and share it with neighbours. Today, that mission lives on stronger than ever. Run by the next generation of family, we continue to work together to provide our community with the freshest fruits and vegetables, straight from the field or sourced from local partners who share our passion for quality.

Our market has become a one-stop shop destination for everything from asparagus, crisp apples, juicy tomatoes, and sweet corn to locally baked bread, artisanal cheeses, eggs, dairy products and a variety of locally produced goods. We take pride in sourcing only the finest local products, ensuring our customers enjoy



farm-to-table freshness year round.

In the spring, Elberta Farms comes alive with a wide variety of vegetable and herb plants for sale, perfect for backyard gardeners eager to start their own growing season. Whether you're planting your first garden or adding to your annual beds, we have everything you need to get growing.

But Elberta Farms isn't just about produce – it's also about fun. A favourite attraction for visitors, both young and old is Old McBerta's Farm, our farmyard petting area where goats, lambs, and chickens happily greet

guests. It's a must-see for families and anyone looking to connect with the more playful side of farm life. For many, a trip to Elberta Farms just isn't complete without a visit to our furry and feathered friends.

We're proud to be open year-round, offering fresh food in each season and a warm welcome every day. Elberta Farms has grown into more than just a farm market; it's a community hub where neighbours and friends gather. We love seeing familiar faces and new visitors alike as they explore our offerings. Our farm market is a place where stories are shared, recipes are exchanged, and a sense of belonging flourishes. We remain committed to the values our parents instilled – hard work, honesty and feeding our community with the very best we have to offer.

Whether you're stopping by for your weekly produce, picking out plants for the garden, or saying hello to the animals, we invite you to come be a part of the Elberta Farms tradition.

353 Governors Road East, Paris, ON

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 elbertafarms.ca

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 [elbertafarmscountrymarket](https://www.instagram.com/elbertafarmscountrymarket)



BSCENE
COMMUNITY NEWS



CELEBRATE YOUTH WEEK IN BRANTFORD WITH FREE ACTIVITIES

Submitted Media Release

The City of Brantford, in partnership with the Brantford Youth Council (BYC), is hosting a series of events and activities for youth in celebration of National Youth Week May 1 to 7, 2026. National Youth Week provides an opportunity to involve local youth in areas of civic engagement and recreation through events and activities developed by the City and Brantford Youth Council.

To mark Youth Week 2026, residents of all ages are invited to attend a flag raising ceremony in Harmony Square Brantford, 89 Dalhousie St, on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 4 p.m. with members of the Brantford Youth Council and City representatives.

The City of Brantford and BYC are pleased to present the fourth annual Brantford Youth Excellence Awards on Monday, May 11 at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts. The event begins at 6 p.m. with youth visual art displays, and a youth makers market in the lobby. From 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the City of Brantford Youth Leadership Development Program Graduation and the Brantford Youth Excellence Awards will take place on stage, including performances by local youth musicians. Headline performers Superstar Crush will take the stage at 8:30 p.m. to close out the evening. All youth ages 13 to 18, along with their families, are welcome to attend. Registration is encouraged at Brantford.ca/YouthWeek.

Youth Week Events and Activities

- Board Game Social at Wilfrid Laurier University’s Carnegie Hall Room 100 (73 George Street, basement floor) on Friday, May 1 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ages 13 to 18. Bring your own board game to share and enjoy bubble tea.
- Volleyball Tournament at Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre gymnasium on Saturday, May 2 beginning at 12:45 p.m. Team of 6-8 player ages 13 to 18. Creative team uniforms encouraged. Must register in advance by April 24 at Brantford.ca/YouthWeek.
- Free Cooking for YOUth Class at Woodman Community Centre on Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Ages 11 to 17. Register at www.Brantford.ca/ACTIVEnet or by calling 519-759-4150 ext. 5079.
- Drop-in Game Night at Woodman Community Centre on Monday, May 4 from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Ages 11 to 17.
- Paint Your Own Pottery Workshop at PawTastic Pottery Studio (10 Stanley Street) on Tuesday, May 5 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Ages 11 to 17. Pre-register your attendance online at www.Brantford.ca/ACTIVEnet or by calling 519-759-4150 ext. 5079.
- Intergenerational Story Exchange Event at Brantford Public Library St. Paul Branch (491 Grey Street) on Wednesday, May 6 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Registration required at Brantford.ca/YouthWeek.

Brantford youth are encouraged to participate in additional drop-in programs at Woodman Community Centre (491 Grey Street) free of charge, with the exception of Woodman After Dark. Throughout the week, youth can participate in open gym, basketball, pickleball, badminton, and W Lounge. To view schedules,

SOLUTION

to our Sudoku
puzzle, Page 5

3	4	5	6	9	1	7	2	8
6	1	2	7	8	3	5	4	9
7	9	8	2	4	5	1	3	6
9	6	4	1	5	7	2	8	3
5	2	3	8	6	4	9	1	7
8	7	1	9	3	2	4	6	5
1	3	9	5	2	8	6	7	4
4	5	7	3	1	6	8	9	2
2	8	6	4	7	9	3	5	1

register and to learn more, visit brantford.ca/YouthWeek.

Brantford Youth Week is a project that amplifies the goals of the City’s Empowering Youth Strategy, which represents the City’s ongoing commitment to prioritizing youth wellness through programs, services and community-based initiatives.

“This week is about acknowledging the impact and important role young people play in building Brantford’s future. Through civic engagement, the arts, sports, and more – youth are contributing to today while also helping shape tomorrow.”
– Ruby Sanghera, leader of the Brantford Youth Council Communications and Marketing Subcommittee

“We are pleased to once again offer an exciting line up of activities at Woodman Park Community Centre during youth week. We invite Brantford teens to get active, be social and discover the many benefits Woodman has to offer.” – Kim Rolson, Community Recreation Supervisor, Woodman Park Community Centre, City of Brantford

“Our young people are shaping the future of our community through their ideas, compassion and commitment. Youth Week and the Brantford Youth Excellence Awards are a time to recognize the young people who are making a difference in our community. Their passion and leadership continue to strengthen our community and inspire us all.” – City of Brantford Mayor Kevin Davis



PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR LORNE BRIDGE REHABILITATION

Submitted Media Release

Beginning as early as April 28, 2026, Bell Canada will begin work to relocate utility infrastructure in the Lorne Bridge area. This work is tentatively scheduled to be completed by the end of May and is an important step in preparing for full construction of the Lorne Bridge rehabilitation.

What to Expect:

- Temporary area lane and sidewalk closures.
- The northernmost westbound lane on the Lorne Bridge will be closed. Two-way traffic will be maintained in the remaining lanes.
- Traffic will be reduced to a single southbound lane from Colborne Street to Market Street South due to ongoing construction along Icomm Drive.
- Pedestrian detours will be in place throughout the area.

Motorists and pedestrians are asked to follow posted signage and allow extra travel time.

Businesses in the area remain open during construction. Residents and visitors are encouraged to continue supporting local businesses.

Stay Informed

The City of Brantford is committed to working with Bell Canada to minimize disruptions where possible. Thank you for your patience as this important infrastructure work moves forward.

Please visit Brantford.ca/LorneBridge to learn more about the Lorne Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

In the Photo: Project area map showing lane closures in red.



THE KIWANIS CLUB OF PARIS-BRANT CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Submitted Media Release - Photo: Aakash Nayi

On Saturday, April 11th, Kiwanians and friends of Kiwanis met at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf course banquet hall; to celebrate 25 years of service to our community.

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Brantford, the Kiwanis Paris-Brant Club received its Kiwanis charter on April 11, 2001.

In the Photo:

Brantford Kiwanis Club President-Elect Pallo Sahota (left) presented a congratulatory certificate to Paris-Brant President Wendy Eveleigh



BRANTFORD’S ANNUAL WHEELS ON THE PAVEMENT RETURNS

Submitted Media Release

The City of Brantford, along with the Eagle Place, Downtown Central, Homedale, East Ward Echo Place, West Brant, Brantford Station Neighbourhood Associations and the Green Team Brantford, invites residents to the 6th annual Wheels on the Pavement event on Sunday, May 24, 2026, sponsored by Miura Boilers Canada and Contact Brant. This free family-friendly event is in celebration of National Public Works Week will take place in Mohawk Park (51 Lynnwood Dr) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Attendees can see, touch and explore Public Works and Emergency Services vehicles and trucks that keep the City running.

Wheels on the Pavement provides opportunities to speak to skilled workers and explore a diverse range of municipal, Emergency Services and local business’ vehicles. From big rigs to service vehicles used in day-to-day operations, attendees can see, touch and learn all about vehicles that help support our community and speak with the skilled workers that operate them.

Cheer on a group of strong Alpha Power Lifters attempting to pull a 72,000-pound rotator truck, which is one of the biggest and heaviest tow trucks. This impressive demonstration is made possible by Ken’s Towing. Truck pulls take place at 10:40 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 24, 2026.

Enjoy free family-friendly fun and interactive activities including, Doug “The Great” Hunt, famous Guinness World Record Stilt Walker in 2001 and 2023, face painting, temporary tattoos, bouncy inflatables and animal balloon artist Marco the Clown. Community partner booths will be on-site, providing valuable information about their services and how they contribute to the Brantford community. Attendees can also watch a skilled performance by Just Dance Line Dancers at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. Bring your appetite to enjoy a variety of delicious food options available for purchase.

New this year, attendees can take their photo at the photo booth and receive a free keepsake picture to take home. In addition, Stacey Muller Photographer will be offering a spring photo experience that includes one free instant print and keepsake frame per family, using a classic vintage trunk as a backdrop surrounded by a blooming flower field that offers soft spring vibes.

The theme for National Public Works Week in 2026, “Rooted in Service, Powered

by the Community,” aims to remind residents that every project, seen and unseen, powers the connection between service and the people it supports. Wheels on the Pavement is presented in partnership with the Brantford Station, Eagle Place, East Ward Echo Place, Downtown Central, and West Brant Neighbourhood Associations, and the Brantford Green Team, and is sponsored by Miura Boilers Canada and Contact Brant.

Help fill a truck! Event organizers will be collecting non-perishables and school safe snacks such as granola bars, apple sauce, fruit cups, and more for the Gifts of the Heart, a not-for-profit organization that feeds over 250 children in Brantford schools. Donations are gratefully appreciated to support this cause.

Learn more at www.Brantford.ca/WheelsonthePavement. Updates can also be found on the City's Facebook, Instagram and X pages.

The City of Brantford is now accepting applications for businesses and organizations who may be interested in having their unique or eye-catching vehicle included in the Wheels on the Pavement event. Applications will be accepted until Monday, May 18, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. and are available at www.Brantford.ca/WheelsonthePavement.

Transportation

Free parking will be available at Mohawk Park in the lower parking lot although residents are encouraged to ride their bike to the event and take advantage of the free supervised bicycle valet available from 9:45 a.m. to 1:10 p.m.

A free shuttle bus will operate from the Downtown Brantford Transit Terminal to Mohawk Park. Pickup will take place at the Route #7 area next to the Darling Street end of the terminal, with signage and volunteers on site to assist guests. Shuttle service will operate continuously between the Downtown Terminal and Glenwood Drive at the entrance to Mohawk Park, beginning at 9:45 a.m., with the final return trip leaving Mohawk Park at 1:10 p.m. Brantford Transit is also available to attendees looking for transportation. Schedules, routes and rates are available online at Brantford.ca/Transit. Brantford Lift is also available for those requiring accessible transit and must be pre-booked by Fri., May 22, 2026 at 9:30 p.m. by calling 519-752-4444 or emailing brantfordlift@brantford.ca.

Volunteer Opportunities

The City of Brantford is currently seeking volunteers to assist with various Wheels on the Pavement duties. High school community hours will be available. Accepted volunteers will be required to take mandatory virtual training on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 6 p.m.

Volunteer Applications are available at www.Brantford.ca/WheelsonthePavement and will be accepted until Thurs., May 14, 2026 at 4 p.m.



STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF FORMER MAYOR RON EDDY

Submitted Media Release

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of former County of Brant Mayor Ron Eddy.

Ron Eddy dedicated many years to public service and played an important role in shaping our community.

He served County residents as Reeve of the Township of South Dumfries and Warden of the County of Brant for sixteen years, as well as a Member of Provincial Parliament.

Following amalgamation in 1998, Ron served as Mayor of the County of Brant until 2018, representing the County's interests with various local and provincial organizations. He was instrumental in establishing the County as a single-tier

municipality—bringing together the former townships into a “community of communities”—while promoting growth and prosperity and advocating for agriculture as a key local economic driver.

His legacy will be remembered through the lasting impact of his work and the many contributions he made to the well-being of Brant residents.

As a mark of respect and in recognition of his service, flags at County of Brant facilities have been lowered to half-mast.

On behalf of Council and staff for the County of Brant, we extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all those who had the privilege of working with or knowing former Mayor Eddy.

Mayor David Bailey

On behalf of Council and staff

County of Brant.

BSCENE PUZZLES **SUDOKU**

HOW TO PLAY:

Our irregular sudoku puzzles are 9 x 9 square sudoku grids. Instead of having 9 square areas of 3 x 3 squares, these 9 areas are irregularly shaped. The principles to apply are the same as for a regular sudoku. You must deduce 9 different numbers per row, column and area.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: medium

Used with permission from sudoku-puzzles.net

For solution see page 4

3	4	5						8
6	1			8	3	5	4	9
7	9			4	5			6
			1	5	7			
				6	4	9		
	7	1	9			4		
		9		2		6		4
	5			1				
2		6				3		



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Helping YOU Communicate Effectively

Great Advice from your **Neighbourhood Experts!****BUSINESS PLANNING**BY **JODI LAKING****WHO WOULD STEP IN IF YOU COULDN'T RUN YOUR BUSINESS?**

Last month, we talked about a question many business owners avoid: What would happen to your business if you suddenly couldn't run it?

Most people don't have an answer. Not because they don't care. Because they don't know where to start.

And when something feels overwhelming, it gets pushed aside. But here's what I want you to consider:

If something unexpected happened tomorrow — would someone know how to step in?

- Would your clients be supported?
- Would your team know what to do?
- Would your family even know where to begin?

This isn't about having a perfect plan. It's about having something in place.

That's exactly why I created the **Build Your Business Contingency Plan in 4 Weeks** program. Because most business owners don't need more information — they need time, structure, and guidance to start.

In this small-group program, we meet virtually:

- 1 hour per week
- For 4 weeks
- With step-by-step support and organizational tools provided

You'll begin to:

- organize key business information including account details, assets and structure
- document how your business operates
- identify who should step in—and what they need to know

This is the work that protects your business and the people around you. Because when something happens, your business doesn't pause. And your family shouldn't be left trying to figure it out in real time.

The next session begins May 22nd. You don't need to do everything today. But you do need to start.

Learn more or save your spot: www.yourbusinessexecutor.ca/business-preparedness-series.



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YOUR MOBILE LIFEBY **STEVE & LORRAINE GARNHAM****THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR APPLE ID AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**

When you first set up your iPhone or iPad, you'll be asked to sign in or create an Apple ID. The username for the Apple ID will be an email address, and most people will use their personal email as their username for their Apple ID. Even though your Apple ID and your email address are the same they are two different accounts and each requires a password.

Your Apple ID allows you into Apple's world. You use it for the App Store, iCloud, iMessage, FaceTime, backups, and purchases on your Apple devices. It controls access to your photos, contacts, app purchases, and iCloud storage.

Your email account is a separate account. It belongs to the company that provides your email, and it controls your email inbox and for example if it was a gmail address it also allows you access to Google services such as Google Photos, Google Drive, YouTube, and other Google services. It has its own password and its own security settings.

People will often set up their Apple ID and use the same password as their email account. However, the companies do not share information so in the future if you change your Gmail password this does not change your Apple ID password, and changing your Apple ID password does not change your Gmail password. A lot of people make the mistake of assuming the password would change on both accounts.

The Apple ID and password will be needed to transfer your data to a new phone or restore your data from a backup or erase your phone if you want to sell it and it is required to turn off the find my iPhone feature for some repairs.

As always if you have any questions about the difference between your email and your Apple ID contact us at CPR Cell Phone Repair Brantford.



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EDUCATIONBY **TIFFANY BERE****SUPPORTING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH: Practical Ways to Reduce School Stress**

Mental health plays a vital role in how students learn, focus, and succeed in school. For many young people, school can also be a significant source of stress. When students are feeling overwhelmed or anxious, it can make it harder to stay engaged in class, retain information, and enjoy the learning process.

Why Self-Care Matters

Looking after mental health is just as important as caring for physical health. Encouraging students to practise self-care each day helps them become more aware of their feelings and better able to speak up when they need support. This might include setting aside time to relax, doing something they enjoy, or simply taking a break when needed.

The Power of a Good Night's Sleep

Sleep is essential for both well-being and academic success. Consistent bedtimes and morning routines can help students feel more alert, focused, and ready to learn. School-aged children and teens typically need between 8–10 hours of sleep per night.

Simple Ways to Reduce Stress

There are many small, effective steps students can take to manage stress and support their overall wellness:

- **Stay Active:** Physical activity benefits both body and mind. This doesn't require intense workouts—activities like walking, biking, or playing outside can boost mood and energy levels.
- **Eat and Hydrate Well:** Nutritious foods fuel the brain and body. Eating regular, balanced meals and drinking plenty of water throughout the day can improve concentration and reduce fatigue.
- **Build Healthy Routines:** Having a predictable daily routine can create a sense of stability and reduce feelings of stress. This includes consistent times for homework, meals, relaxation, and sleep.
- **Practise Mindfulness:** Techniques such as deep breathing, stretching, or guided meditation can help students calm their minds and manage anxiety. Even a few minutes a day can make a difference.
- **Manage Time Effectively:** Breaking tasks into smaller steps, using a planner, and setting realistic goals can help students feel more in control and less overwhelmed. Scheduling short breaks can also improve focus.
- **Stay Connected:** Talking to a friend, parent, teacher, or school counsellor can help students feel supported. Sharing worries often makes them easier to manage.

When to Seek Support

If a student is struggling to cope, it's important to reach out for help. Families can connect with school staff, counsellors, or local community services such as their public health unit for additional support and resources.

By working together—students, families, and educators—we can create a supportive environment where young people feel equipped to manage stress and thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Contact us for more information on our programs as well as our new Virtual Table™ Teaching Sessions!
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BUSINESS SERVICESBY **SARA MCCLELLAN** GENERAL MANAGER**MARKETING ON A BUDGET**

May is a great time for a fresh start for your business. The weather warms up, the days are longer, and more people are out in the community. It is the season to invest in some budget-friendly marketing to make your business more visible. There are many ways to help potential customers notice your business.

Content marketing is one of the simplest and most affordable ways to build trust. Share a quick tip, answer a question you hear all the time, or spotlight a small customer service win that shows how much you care. As we recognize Mental Health Awareness Month in May, it makes sense to remind customers you value them and to highlight products or services that genuinely support their wellbeing.

Social media can still give small businesses big reach without breaking the budget. Stick to the basics. Post regularly, keep your captions honest, and reply to comments and DMs. Show your local pride by highlighting community events, familiar landmarks, or other small businesses you love. It's an easy way to show the you have a great product and you value your community.

Email marketing still delivers one of the best returns on effort. A simple monthly newsletter keeps you top of mind. Share a spring update, a helpful reminder, a quick story from the week, or a genuine thank-you. Extending a personal note be received just as well as a discount.

Finally, don't overlook local partnerships. A collaboration, cross-promotion, or small shared giveaway with a complementary business can help you both reach new people and share the costs.

As the season of growth gets going, let May be your reminder: you can make a real impact without a large spend. Stay intentional, show up consistently, and keep building genuine community connections and your marketing will feel stronger and more sustainable all year long.

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HEALTH SCIENCES BY ALISON MASLIN-MARATOS BA, BSW, MSW, RSW

WHEN THERAPY LANGUAGE BECOMES A BARRIER INSTEAD OF A BRIDGE

Happy Mental Health Month! This occasion may not be marked on your calendar, but more than likely, you sometimes have mental health on your mind, and it may even enter into your conversations.

Over the past few years, therapy language has become a part of everyday conversation. Terms like “boundaries,” “triggers,” “gaslighting,” and “trauma response” are now widely used. Although talking about mental health is a positive shift, there’s a downside that’s starting to show up. When we rely too heavily on labels, we can start to explain our behaviour without actually changing it. “That’s my anxiety.” “I’m avoidant.” “I was triggered.” While these statements may be accurate, they can become endpoints instead of starting points. The insight is there but the movement isn’t.

There’s also the risk of over-applying clinical language to label everyday discomfort. Not every difficult conversation is “toxic.” Not every disagreement is “gaslighting.” When everything is framed through these labels, we can lose the ability to pause and notice feelings, as well as the ability to tolerate normal stress. Sometimes, the language meant to help us understand ourselves can actually keep us stuck. This doesn’t mean the language is wrong. It means it needs to be used carefully. Mental health awareness isn’t just about naming what’s happening, it’s about knowing what to do with it. That might look like:

- Asking, “What’s my next step here?” instead of stopping at the label
- Noticing when language is helping you take responsibility versus avoid it
- Allowing room for complexity, rather than reducing experiences to a single term

The goal of therapy language is never just understanding; it is growth, flexibility, and better relationships. Therapy can help you take your language to the next level. This Mental Health Month, consider this shift: don’t just name your patterns. Work with them.



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BAKERY

BY STACEY BESTER

BAKING SWEET MEMORIES

Mother’s Day is a time to celebrate the warmth, care, and SWEET love that mothers bring into our lives—values that feel right at home in a bakery. For me, baking has become one of the most meaningful ways to express that love in my own family.

Over the years, some of my most cherished memories have been made in the kitchen with my children in mind. Baking their birthday cakes has always been something special—not just the finished cake, but the entire process. From choosing the theme together to staying up a little later to decorate the cake or cupcakes. Seeing their excitement made every moment worthwhile.

Then there are the everyday rituals that quietly become traditions. Freshly baked cookies were waiting after school, filling the kitchen with that familiar, comforting aroma—those small gestures carry so much meaning. It’s a simple way of saying “I’m thinking of you” and “I’m glad you’re home.”

Baking, in many ways, mirrors motherhood itself. It’s thoughtful, patient, and rooted in care. It’s about creating something to share, to comfort, and to celebrate life’s big and small moments alike.

This Mother’s Day, baking is more than just a craft—it’s a way to connect. Whether it’s a beautifully decorated cake or a warm batch of cookies, these treats hold the power to bring people together and create lasting memories.

At our bakery, we carry that same intention into everything we make. Because the sweetest gifts are the ones made with love—and meant to be shared.

MAKE EVERYDAY A #SWEET OCCASION



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DATA OPTIMIZATION

BY JOANNE PALMA P.ENG.

THE LOOKUP FAMILY

The Lookup commands do what their names imply, helping you quickly find information from lists and making data retrieval easier and more reliable. This can boost your confidence in managing data efficiently.

VLOOKUP

VLOOKUP is the original lookup function in Excel. It has been a reliable tool since the 1980s, and many users find comfort in its simplicity for simple datasets.

VLOOKUP searches the first column of a range and returns the value from a column to the right. If Column A contains item names, and Column B has the price, you can use this to find the price from the name (in H5).

=VLOOKUP(H5,A2:B6,2,FALSE)

The first parameter is what you are looking up. Second is the range of data. Third is the column you want to return information from.

With FALSE in the command, it will return #N/A if the item you are looking for is not in the list. If you don’t include FALSE, you will get an answer even if the item isn’t in your list.

VLOOKUP is restricted in its use. You can only find information to the right of the column you are looking up in. It does not allow you to insert columns after written.

HLOOKUP

This is the same as VLOOKUP, but it searches in a row for the information instead of a column.

XLOOKUP

This is the modern version of VLOOKUP in Excel 2019 and 365+. It was created to overcome some of VLOOKUP’s limitations, encouraging you to explore more powerful and flexible data retrieval options.

XLOOKUP lets you look left and right of the searching column. This means you can easily search with and for different parameters within the same data set. Using the same information as the VLOOKUP, the basic formula is:

=XLOOKUP(H5,A2:A6,B2:B6)

There are optional conditions you can add to XLOOKUP. These will be explained in my newsletter. If you would like to subscribe to my newsletter, sign up at <https://zcmp.ca/Cduhs>



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in joanne-palma



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

BY VASEEM 'THE AI GUY' BAIG

FROM APRIL SHOWERS TO CALMER MONDAYS:

How AI Can Give Working Parents Their Time Back

April showers came down hard this year. The kind that turns a normal school drop-off into a wet scramble, and a normal Monday into a long exhale before you even open your laptop.

That is why, as May flowers start to show up, I keep thinking about the most underrated Mother’s Day gift for working parents in Brantford: **time back**. Not a bigger calendar. Not a better routine. Simply a little breathing room.

Here’s the good news friends. You do not need to be technical to get that time back. You simply need to stop trying to “learn AI” and start using it for the two places working parents feel the squeeze most: **planning** and **summarizing**.

Start with a simple **time audit**. For one week, notice the tasks that repeat and quietly steal your evenings. **Then pick one!**

For many families, that one task is meal planning. Try this: ask an AI tool to build a five-dinner plan based on your real week. Two fast meals. One for leftovers night. A grocery list. *Suddenly, the “what’s for dinner” spiral gets shorter, and Monday feels a little calmer.*

The second big win is summaries. If you leave a meeting with a messy page of notes, **ask AI to turn them into three bullets: decisions, next steps, and who owns what**. It does not replace your judgment. It reduces the cleanup.

Last month, I saw something hopeful at the Best Western with the Brant Human Resources Network. One IT professional in a room full of HR leaders, learning together. That is the future. **When HR and IT move together, AI adoption sticks because people feel supported, not pushed.**

And at my keynote at the Probus Club at Walter Gretzky Golf Course, the message was the same: these are conversations for every age, from curiosity, not fear.

If you want a simple starting point, take a look at my blog and keep an eye on my media page. It’ll be live soon, including my interview with David Prang on Rogers TV.



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HOLISTIC HEALING

BY DR. ALFRED HAUKE, ND.

PERSPECTIVES ON HEALTH & WELLNESS

Born in 1951 in East Germany, our family later escaped to West Germany, and then sailed to Canada. After many adventures, I went back to University in my late 30's, completed my pre-Med requirements at the University of Alberta and then did my training at the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine in Toronto, graduating in 1992. After 30+ years I'm trying some new things, including writing about perspectives on health and wellness. This month my 300 words will be focused mainly on meeting Holistic Healing Arts.

I have been blessed to work with a talented team of health professionals, including Naturopathic Doctors, Registered Massage Therapists, Osteopaths, & Reflexologists. This month I am introducing our ND team. Dr. Onkar Singh, B.Sc., N.D. who I've been working with for over 25 years. Born in Brantford, he's a graduate of North Park, McMaster University and the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine. Dr. Mary-Leah Albano, B.Sc., M.P.H., N.D. has worked shoulder to shoulder with me for over 15 years. A graduate of Assumption College, she then studied at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, did her MPH at Drexel University's School of Public Health in Philadelphia and completed her 4 years at CCNM in Toronto. Dr. Simone Burke, M.Sc., N.D. is a graduate of the University of Buckingham in England and CCNM. Dr. Rana Samara, MBBS, N.D., graduated from the Jordan University of Science & Technology, and CCNM. I'm looking forward to introducing more of our team in the months ahead.

I would like mention a most underrated fitness hack; Walking. Walking calms your mind, walking improves your energy, walking helps you lose weight, and so much more. Any walking is better than no walking. Take care, be well. See you next month.



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ARRON JEAVONS THE LUMBER GUY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

If you've spent any time in Brantford, there's a good chance you know the Home Hardware on King George Road, the one right across from the Dairy Queen. And if you've ever been in that store, you probably already know Arron Jeavons, or as many around here call him, The Lumber Guy.



After 30 years on the job, Arron has become more than a familiar face. Around the store and around the community, he's known as The Lumber Guy, a title that fits someone who has spent three decades helping customers, building relationships, and becoming part of the everyday rhythm of Brantford life.

Arron started in June 1995 at the age of 23, back when the business was still Beaver Lumber. He took the job because he needed a steady day job while building toward the future family he hoped to have. He remembers those early days clearly, even if he admits he wasn't exactly keen on it at first. What started as something temporary turned into a career that would shape much of his life. "I grew up in the business and it became a career instead of a job," he says.

In those days, the store was far more local. Deliveries to Hamilton were rare. The place stayed open until 9 some nights, delivery was free, and everything ran on pen and paper. Today, Arron fields texts from contractors, manages social media, operates a forklift, runs the POS system, and holds a D-class license. His unofficial title is Supervisor of Everything, and after three decades, nobody argues with that.

The shift from Beaver Lumber to Home Hardware was seamless, he says, so seamless that some longtime customers still affectionately call it "The Beav." What changed more dramatically was the broader landscape. Big box stores reshaped the customer base, and rising fuel costs turned free delivery into a line item. Home Hardware adapted, becoming more contractor-focused while holding onto something Arron sees as the core of what makes it work: its community-centred culture.



Somewhere along the way, Arron also became The Lumber Guy on Facebook. It started because a store manager wouldn't share the social media password, so Arron built his own page instead. The name was a deliberate choice. "I thought Yard Guy just sounded so mundane," he explains. "Lumber Guy felt more like it. Now it's the go-to page." With hundreds of followers, it's rarely about selling. It's about connection, community, humour, and keeping people in the loop.

That community instinct shows up well beyond Facebook. Arron has organized food drives, backpack drives, and used his platform to promote local causes and events. His Fill the Truck initiative has collected more than 5,000 pounds of food over the last four years, and it started about as simply as anything good does. A customer handed him a bag of dry goods and asked if he knew a food drop. "I said this could work," Arron recalls. "A week later we were up and running." He also supported Brantford's world record



stilt walking event, and for the past 20 years has coached and convened for Brantford Minor Baseball.

Then there are the signs. Arron is especially proud of his pun-filled roadside boards, and for good reason. What started through a community sign war turned into something with a life of its own. Others have stopped; Arron kept going. "I just wanted to add a fun little moment to someone's day, whether they're pulling into the lot, driving by, or scrolling Facebook," he says. Those signs set the tone, and around here, people notice.

Over those 30 years, his life changed just as much as the



business did. When he started, he was unmarried and living at home with his parents. Since then, he has raised a family, built a life in Brantford, and now has two grown children. Working close to home made it possible for him to be present for the school, the rink, the ball diamond, and even the dance studio, wherever he was needed. His father had stayed loyal to one business for more than 30 years, and that example stayed with him.

After all this time, he still carries the stories only someone with three decades working with the public can tell. Conversations with Walter Gretzky, who used to come into the store regularly. And of course, the time a customer got locked in the yard after hours, called the police, and Arron got a personal call from the responding officer to come let him out. "I use it as an example of how literally anything can happen in customer service," he says, laughing.

For Arron, the 30-year mark is about more than a pin, though the hardware store does hand them out every five years and not many people earn one this far in. It is about the life that grew around the work. Husband, father, coach, community builder, and the guy behind the sign that makes you smile.

Not bad for someone who wasn't even sure about the job when he first started.



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2026 • MAY 4-10, 2026

COME TOGETHER CANADA

THIS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK, CMHA IS INVITING YOU TO CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY & YOURSELF.



This year, Mental Health Week is from May 4 – 10, 2026. The theme is “Come Together Canada.” The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Mental Health Week Organizing Committee is inviting you to connect with your community and yourself! Social connection is essential to overall health and well-being. But too many people are feeling alone. In Canada, millions of people say they feel lonely often or always.

We invite all of you to “Come Together for Mental Health.” It’s a call to spark small, everyday actions of connection, and to recognize the role we all play in supporting mental health through connection.

Together, we can strengthen mental health, build healthier communities, and help more people feel connected. Together, we can strengthen belonging, reduce isolation, and support well-being, because connection strengthens mental health.

We hope to see you at some of the local events planned during Mental Health Week.



VISIT [HTTPS://BHN.CMHA.CA/](https://bhn.cmha.ca/) [BHNMENTALHEALTHWEEK](#) [#COMETOGETHERCANADA](#) MENTALHEALTHWEEK@WOODVIEW.CA



SCAN QR CODE TO VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR EVENT DETAILS!

Mental Health Week 2026

COME TOGETHER, CANADA: STRONGER CONNECTIONS. BETTER MENTAL HEALTH



**MONDAY
MAY 4**

**TUESDAY
MAY 5**

**WEDNESDAY
MAY 6**

**THURSDAY
MAY 7**

**FRIDAY
MAY 8**

Thank you to our Community Partners



**10:00 AM
FLAG RAISING**
HARMONY SQUARE
89 DALHOUSIE ST
BRANTFORD

**12:00 PM
FLAG RAISING**
NORFOLK COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
50 COLBORNE ST S SIMCOE

12:30PM
JOIN SOUTH COAST
WELLNESS FOR
REFRESHMENTS
FOLLOWING THE FLAG
RAISING
83 SYDENHAM ST,
SIMCOE

**2:00 PM
FLAG RAISING**
COUNTY OF BRANT
BUILDING
66 GRAND RIVER ST N
PARIS

**5:30PM-7:00PM
COPING THROUGH
CONNECTION**
25 CURTIS AVE, PARIS
REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
INFO@PCCFHT.CA

**5:00 PM-7:00 PM
MENTAL HEALTH WEEK
KICKOFF**
LAURIER BRANTFORD
YMCA
100 WATER ST

**11:30AM-12:30PM
TASTY TUESDAY**
103 INVERNESS ST,
CALEDONIA
PRE-REGISTRATION
REQUIRED, EMAIL:
CAFE@CSCHN.ORG OR
CALL 905-765-4408 EXT
241

**4:00 PM-5:30PM
M.O.O.D. MAKERS
YOUTH ART THERAPY
GROUP**
225 FAIRVIEW DR, UNIT 1
NO REGISTRATION
REQUIRED

**5:30-7:30PM
LIGHTS, CAMERA,
CONNECTION!
FORTITUDE YOUTH
INITIATIVE**
LAURIER BRANTFORD YMCA
2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM
100 WATER ST, BRANTFORD



**9:30AM-10:45AM
MINDFUL STRETCHING**
GIEHKDAGYE FRIENDSHIP
CENTER
274 COLBORNE ST

**10:00 AM-4:00PM
MENTAL HEALTH &
WELLNESS EXPO**
275 RAMSEY DR.
DUNNVILLE

**10:00 AM-11:00AM
OLDER ADULTS & MENTAL
WELLNESS**
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**1:30PM-2:30PM
SOAP MAKING WORKSHOP**
GIEHKDAGYE FRIENDSHIP
CENTER
274 COLBORNE ST

**1:30PM
HOW TO SUPPORT SOMEONE IN
AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP**
TO REGISTER:
NOVAVITA.ORG/LEARN-TO-
BLOSSOM-FOR-MHW

**4:00PM-6:00PM
SCREEN BREAK**
302 ST. GEORGE ST, PORT
DOVER

**6:00PM-7:30PM
HOPEFUL JOURNEYS
VIRTUAL GROUP**
EMAIL FOR LINK:
CDC@SOARSCS.CA

**1:30PM-3:00PM
MENTAL HEALTH
MEDITATIVE ART SESSION**
GIEHKDAGYE FRIENDSHIP
CENTRE
274 COLBORNE ST

**1:30PM-3:30PM
OPEN HOUSE**
BRANT COMMUNITY HEALTH
CARE SYSTEM
200 TERRACE HILL

**4:00PM-6:00PM
BUILDING
CONNECTIONS**
FOR AGES 12-18
WOODVIEW IN THE
SQUARE
89 DALHOUSIE ST

**5:00PM-7:00PM
SENSORY BIN MAKING FOR
YOUTH**
GIEHKDAGYE FRIENDSHIP
CENTRE
274 COLBORNE ST

**5:00PM-7:00PM
STRONG KIDS STRONG
COMMUNITIES
FUN FAIR**
VETERANS PARK
1651 CHIEFSWOOD RD
OHSWEKEN

**10:00 AM-2:00PM
LET'S COME TOGETHER FOR
MENTAL HEALTH
FUN FAIR**
395 QUEENSWAY WEST,
SIMCOE

**9:00AM-3:00PM
SELF CARE SYMPOSIUM**
BRANT COMMUNITY HEALTH
CARE SYSTEM
200 TERRACE HILL
E-WING

**2:30PM-4:00PM
HOPEFUL JOURNEYS IN-
PERSON GROUP**
133 ELGIN ST BRANTFORD

**SATURDAY
MAY 9**

**1:30PM-3:30PM
ROCK PAINTING & ART
DAY**
CITY VIEW PARK
184 TERRACE HILL ST.

**10:00AM-3:00PM
MENTAL HEALTH &
WELLNESS EXPO**
172 SOUTH DR, SIMCOE
CIBC AUDITORIUM
BUILDING 9

Thank you to our Community Partners



@BHN MentalHealthWeek #cometogethertocanada



ABOUT THE CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

The **Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)** is one of the oldest and most extensive community-based mental health organizations in Canada. Founded in 1918, it operates as a federated charity, meaning it is a collective of local, provincial, and national offices working toward the same mission.

CORE MISSION

The CMHA focuses on **advocacy, programs, and resources** designed to prevent mental health problems and illnesses, support recovery and resilience, and help Canadians thrive. Their vision is "mentally healthy people in a healthy society."

KEY SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Depending on the local branch, the CMHA often provides:

- **Crisis Support & Mental Health Services:** Counseling, peer support, and navigation for those with mental health or addiction challenges.
- **Housing & Employment:** Help finding stable housing and support for returning to the workforce.
- **Mental Health Promotion:** Public education workshops (like "Not Myself Today" for workplaces) and resources to help people build resilience.
- **Suicide Prevention:** Training and specialized programs to support individuals and families.



COME TOGETHER, CANADA.

Mental Health Week | May 4-10

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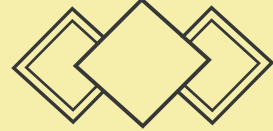
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April 20, 2026 • Sanderson Centre, Brantford ON • Photos: Jason Freeze



EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE VILLAGE

April 4, 2026 • Children's Safety Village of Brant, Brantford ON • Photos: Thomas Clare





MAY 2026

Please visit bscene.ca for a more complete listing of events, cancellations, postponements and new dates.
Make sure to check with the Event Organizers for more details.

DATE	EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
ONGOING EVENTS					
April 8 - Jun 21	Night Vision	Glenhyrst Art Gallery			Tues- Friday 10 am to 5 pm, Sat-Sun 11 am - 4 pm
May 1 - Jun 21	Something to Do with Spring	Glenhyrst Art Gallery			Tues- Friday 10 am to 5 pm, Sat-Sun 11 am - 4 pm
March 24-May 15	Summer Company 2026 application	Online			https://bit.ly/summercompany2026
May 1 - July 31	20 Performing Arts Musical Theatre: Dear Evan Hansen	Rehearsals: South Dumfries Historical Society			Registration & info. https://tinyurl.com/RegDearEvanHansen For grade 9 to age 20
May 1 - July 31	20 Performing Arts Musical Theatre: Matilda Jr.				For grades 5 to 8. Reg. & info. https://tinyurl.com/RegMatildaJr
May 1 - May 15	Nominations Open: 2026 Salute to Brant Business Awards	Info. & submissions: http://www.brant.ca/Salute		4:00 pm	email Lisa Henrique March 2 County of Brant
May 1 - May 30	Brant Men of Song 65th Sapphire Anniversary Historical Display	Brant County Museum, 57 Charlotte St.			Open 1-5pm M-F & 10am-5pm Sat. Donations gratefully accepted.
Fri. May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Community Connections	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Adult drop-in program.
Fri. May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Live Music	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	
Sat. May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	Magic: The Gathering Drop-In	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	12:00 pm	2:00 pm	For tweens & teens.
Sat. May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	Live Music	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	
Sat. May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	HOPE's Saturday drop-in Program	for adults living with a mental health disorder	12:00 pm	2:30 pm	20 Darling Street
Sun. May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	HOPE's Weekend drop-in Program	for adults living with a mental health disorder	12:00 pm	2:30 pm	20 Darling Street
Sun. May 3, 10, 17 & 24	Sunday Singles Dances	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Doors open 6:15pm. Admission \$15/person. Dress code -no jeans.
Mon. May 4, 11 & 18	Baby & Me Storytime (Main Branch)	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	For ages 0 - 18 months.
Mon. May 4, 11 & 18	Social Services Outreach Worker Drop-In	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	
Mon. May 4, 11, 18 & 25	Brantford Pride Social	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	All ages welcome.
Mon. May 4, 11 & 18	Canada Connects: English Conversation Circles	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	English language support for newcomers.
Mon. May 4, 11 & 25	TOPS ON 5504	Alexandra Presbyterian Church	6:00 pm		New members welcome. No meeting on Mon. May 18.
Tues. May 5, 12, 19 & 26	Baby & Me Storytime (St. Paul Branch)	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	For ages 0 - 18 months.
Tues. May 5, 12, 19 & 26	English Conversation Circle	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	10:30 am	12:00 pm	
Tues. May 5, 12, 19 & 26	Slow Stitching	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Free, drop-in program. All ages & skill levels welcome.
Tues. May 5, 12, 19 & 26	I.D. Clinic (drop in service)	Grand River Comm. Health Centre	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	More info. Sydney.scookney@grhc.ca or 519.754.0777 ext. 473.
Tues. May 5, 12, 19 & 26	Application Support Program	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	4:00 pm	Support completing application forms.
Tues. May 5, 12, 19 & 26	Canada Connects: English Conversation Circles	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	English language support for newcomers.
Tues. May 5, 12, 19 & 26	Tween Tuesdays	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	For ages 9 - 12.
Tues. May 5, 12, 19 & 26	Tuesday Night Knitters	Cty. of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	
Tues. May 5, 12, 19 & 26	Brant Men of Song: Choir Practices	First Baptist Church, 70 West St.	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	New members welcome. No meeting on Mon. May 18.
Tues. May 5, 12, 19 & 26	Euchre	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	7:00 pm		Free entry.
Wed. May 6, 13, 20 & 27	Storytime at St. Paul	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	For ages 18 months to 4 years.
Wed. May 6, 13, 20 & 27	Karaoke with KJ Keith	Marvelous Lounge	6:00 pm	1:00 pm	
Thurs. May 7, 12, 21 & 28	Crafty Kids Storytime	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	For 18 months to 4 years.
Thurs. May 7, 12, 21 & 28	Come Play! - EarlyON	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	1:30 pm	4:00 pm	For children up to age 6 & caregivers.
Thurs. May 7, 12, 21 & 28	Mahjong Club	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	1:30 pm	4:00 pm	Free drop-in program.
Thurs. May 7, 12, 21 & 28	A Place 2 Be	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	Drop in for snacks & DIY activities.
Thurs. May 7, 12, 21 & 28	Fish & Chips	Knights Hall	3:00 pm	6:00 pm	Call 548-328-4031 for pick up orders
Thurs. April 9 - May 28 excl. May 7	Game Zone Drop-In	County of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	3:00 pm	4:30 pm	For tweens & teens.
Thurs. May 5, 12, 19 & 26	Karaoke with KJ Kaneesha	Marvelous Lounge	9:00 pm	1:00 am	



Event Guide Sponsored by

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EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
FRIDAY MAY 1				
Spring Fling Sale	St James Church, Paris	10:00 am	4:00 pm	local artists showing and selling their artwork
Friday Night in the Gallery	Brant Naval Veterans' Club	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	P/U or dine in. Pre-order ALL meals by Thurs. noon bnvafridaymeals@gmail.com
Voodoo000 Kingz	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Doors open 5:30pm. Admission \$8./person. Upstairs in main hall.
SATURDAY MAY 2				
Pancake Breakfast	Smokey Hollow Estates, 114 Powerline Rd.	9:00 am	12:00 pm	\$10 pancakes, 2 sausages, muffins while they last, coffee/tea.
Dutch-Canadian Liberation Celebration	Canadian Military Heritage Museum, 347 Greenwich St.	10:00 am	9:00 pm	Music, food & fun for the whole family.
Français à Paris	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	drop in program.
Spring Fling Sale	St James Church, Paris	10:00 am	4:00 pm	local artists showing and selling their artwork
Brant Friends of the Library Book Sale	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	10:00 am	4:00 pm	
Mother's Day Mug	Pawtastic Pottery, 10 Stanley St., Brantford	10:30 am	12:30 pm	\$34. Registration: http://pawtasticpottery.com/events
Counting Down the Hours	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge.
Little String Orchestra Spring Concert	Grace Anglican Church	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	a free will offering at the door to support Grace Anglican's food outreach program
Origami Workshop for Seniors	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	Registration: https://tinyurl.com/yc5875ve
Spring Concert w Bell City Strummers	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	
Book to Screen Movie Club: Clifford the Big Red Dog	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	4:30 pm	All ages.
Country Night Party and BBQ	Brantford Club	5:30 pm	9:00 pm	Country Music DJ, Southern BBQ, Line Dancing, email manager@thebrantfordclub.com for tickets
Roast Beef on a Kaiser	Harmony United Church	6:00 pm		Tickets: \$30. Call office 519.752.2912. With entertainment.
50's Brothers	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 (Dunsdon Legion)	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	No cover charge.
The Boots, Blue Jeans Country Hoedown Video Dance Party	TF Warren Group Cainsville Comm. Centre	8:00 pm	12:30 am	Doors open 7pm. Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/BootsBlueJeansCountryHoedown
SUNDAY MAY 3				
All you can eat charity breakfast	Knights Hall,	9:00 am	12:00 pm	Adults \$13, kids 10 and under \$8.
Speaker/Author Pat Crocker	Paris Museum, 51 William St.	2:00 pm		Tickets \$15. e-transfer events@theparismuseum.com or at the door
The Dooryear Garden: Heritage Herbs	Paris Museum, 51 William St.	2:00 pm		Tickets \$15. e-transfer events@theparismuseum.com or at the door
Labyrinth Pilgrimage at Five Oaks: Walking the Seasons	Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Rd. Paris	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	Registration: https://bit.ly/LabyrinthPilgrimageWalkingtheSeasons
MONDAY MAY 4				
English as a Second Language Course	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	10:00 am	11:30 am	6 week Adult course. Reg. http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar or in person at branch.
Happy Heart, Diabetes & Me	Grand River Comm. Health Centre	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	More info. Melissa msiegel@grchc.ca or 519.754.0777 ext. 479.
Canada Connects: English Conversation Circles	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	For newcomers.
Jesse Cook	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	8:00 pm		Tickets: https://bit.ly/JesseCookMay4 or 519.758.8090
TUESDAY MAY 5				
Stained Glass Garden Flower Stakes	Pawtastic Pottery, 10 Stanley St., Brantford	1:00 pm	4:00 pm	\$50. Reg. http://pawtasticpottery.com/events
Raising Up the Polish Flag on Harmony Square	Harmony Square	4:00 pm	4:30 pm	Start of Polish Heritage Month
Board Game Night	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	Drop in program.
MakerWorkshop: Colouring w 3D Pens for Adults	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Registration: http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar
Brantford Stamp Club Meeting	Branlyn Community Centre	8:00 pm		Doors open 7pm. Everyone is welcome.
WEDNESDAY MAY 6				
Older Adults and Mental Wellness	online	10:00 am	11:00 am	Registration admin@grcoa.ca or 519.754.0777 ext. 439.
Family Build and Play	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	All ages. Lego challenge.
Stories from the Asian Diaspora Film Series: The Namesake	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	
Casual Knit & Chat	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Drop in program. Bring your project.
From Fear to Fearless! Tech. for Public Speaking	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Registration: http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar
Michael Jackson History Show	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	8:00 pm		Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/MichaelJacksonHistoryShowMay6
THURSDAY MAY 7				
Learn to Use a Sewing Machine	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	10:30 am	12:00 pm	Registration: https://tinyurl.com/37c5xpve
Brant Writes Writing Club	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	All writers & aspiring writers welcome.
Crafternoons!	Cty. of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	3:00 pm	4:30 pm	drop in program. Bring your craft projects or use provided supplies.
Wellness Drop-In with SAC Brant	Cty. of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	3:00 pm	5:00 pm	For immediate support 24/7 519.751.3471.
Business Excellence Awards	Best Western Brantford Hotel & Conference Centre	5:30 pm	9:00 pm	Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/BusinessExcellenceAwards2026
Fiction Writing Drop-in	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	Practice your fiction writing at the library!
St. Paul Crafters Circle	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	
Paris Horticultural Society General Meeting	Paris Fairgrounds	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	Our guest speaker is Dan Cooper, " Gardening from a Hammock"
Pourly Done Trivia Night	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm		Free to play. Prizes to be won. Downstairs lounge.
Charcoal Portrait Workshop with Lindsay Liboiron	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant	7:00 pm	8:30 pm	Adult's Classes Registration link: http://glenhyrst.ca/classes .
FRIDAY MAY 8				
Ask a Tech	Brant Skills Centre, 446 Grey St. Unit 109., Brantford	1:00 pm	3:30 pm	Reg. 519.758.1664, text 226.920.8071 or info@brantskillscentre.org
Youth Week Event: Ice Cream Sundae Bar	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	3:00 pm	4:30 pm	drop in For tweens and teens
Friday Night in the Gallery	Brant Naval Veterans' Club	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	P/U or dine in. Pre-order ALL meals by Thurs. noon bnvafridaymeals@gmail.com
Splatter Tiles	Pawtastic Pottery, 10 Stanley St., Brantford	5:30 pm	7:00 pm	\$24. Reg. http://pawtasticpottery.com/events
Atkinson Brothers	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Doors open 5:30pm. Admission \$8./person. In main hall, upstairs.
Disney's Descendants	BCI Auditorium	7:00 pm		Tickets \$25. https://20paa.com/tickets/
John Ladds & Steve Todd	Arlington Hotel, Paris	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	
Optimist Youth Dance	Syl Apps Community Centre (upstairs room)	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	For youth in grades 5 - 8 only. ADM \$5. cash or tap. DJ & snack bar. Chaperoned.

Please visit bscene.ca for a more complete listing of events, cancellations, postponements and new dates. Make sure to check with the Event Organizers for more details.

EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
SATURDAY MAY 9				
Paris Horticultural Society Plant Sale	Syl Apps Community Centre-Arena	8:00 am	10:30 am	Selection of perennial favourites, vegetables, herbs, annuals, and native plants
Indoor Garage Sale	Sydenham-Heritage United Church	8:30 am	11:00 am	Something for everyone.
Brantford's Spring Volunteer Fair	T.B. Costain/SC Johnson Community Centre	10:00 am	12:00 pm	For more information email mrrutten@brantford.ca or call 519 759 4150 ext 5070
Brantford Chess Club Drop-In	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	All ages
Burford Historical Walking Tour	Meet at parkette, corner Maple Ave. & King St.	10:00 am	12:00 pm	FREE. Burford's First Thirty Years.
Doors Open Along the Grand - St. Paul's Chapel, Middleport	St. Paul's Chapel, 1159 Hwy 54, Middleport	10:00 am	4:00 pm	
Mother's Day Pre-Party	Moore's Farm, 497 Pinehurst Rd., Ayr	10:00 am	3:00 pm	vendor market, gift making station for kids, live music, lunch etc.
Police Family Fun Day!	Children's Safety Village of Brant	10:00 am	2:00 pm	Free family event.
Rotary Tree Plant	Holmedale Park	10:00 am	12:00 pm	To volunteer, call or text 519.802.4240.
Have Lunch with an Historian	Four Corners, Parkette, corner Maple & King	12:00 pm	2:00 pm	Bring your favourite pic-nic lunch and perhaps a relic.
Myrtleville Property Walk	Myrtleville House Museum, 34 Myrtleville Dr.	1:00 pm		Difficulty: Easy, approx. 30 min.
Stained Glass Garden Flower Stakes	Pawtastic Pottery, 10 Stanley St., Brantford	1:00 pm	4:00 pm	\$50. Reg. http://pawtasticpottery.com/events
Burford Historical Walking Tour	Four Corners, Parkette, corner Maple & King	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Burford Hotels.
Disney's Descendants	BCI Auditorium	2:00 pm		Tickets \$25. https://20paa.com/tickets/
Myrtleville Property Walk	Myrtleville House Museum, 34 Myrtleville Dr.	2:00 pm		Difficulty: Easy, approx. 30 min.
Pepper Shakers	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge.
Myrtleville Property Walk	Myrtleville House Museum, 34 Myrtleville Dr.	3:00 pm		Difficulty: Easy, approx. 30 min.
Disney's Descendants	BCI Auditorium	7:00 pm		Tickets \$25. https://20paa.com/tickets/
From the Majesty of Mozart to the Magic of Sinatra	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant (Coach House)	7:30 pm	9:30 pm	Tickets: \$30. https://glenhyrst.ca/bso
Music Trivia by Ross McGuinnes	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 (Dunsdon Legion)	7:30 pm	10:30 pm	Reg. email mcguinnes9535@rogers.com No cover charge.
SUNDAY MAY 10				
Flora's Walk Brantford 2026	Mohawk Park	11:00 am	1:00 pm	More info., registration & donations: https://tinyurl.com/FlorasWalkBrantford2026
MONDAY MAY 11				
Office in a Flash	Brant Skills Centre, 446 Grey St. Unit 109, Brantford	9:30 am	11:30 am	Reg. required: 519.758.1664, text 226, 920.8071 or info@brantskillscentre.org Monday & Wednesday May 11 - June 8
Happy Heart, Diabetes & Me	Grand River Comm. Health Centre	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	More info. Melissa.msiegel@grchc.ca or 519.754.0777 ext. 479.
TUESDAY MAY 12				
Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting	Sherwood Restaurant & Catering	10:00 am		Guest speaker from Brantford Library. New members welcome.
Protein Power	Grand River Comm. Health Centre	11:30 am	12:30 pm	Info. from reg. dietitian. More info. or registration: 226.388.4725 or ipct-info@grchc.ca
Business After Hours	Laurier	4:30 pm	6:30 pm	Free registration: https://tinyurl.com/BusinessAfterHoursMay2026
Teen Sewing	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	For ages 13 - 17. Registration: https://tinyurl.com/pz68pj6d
Introduction to Cricut	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Encouraged to bring laptop/device. Reg. http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar
WEDNESDAY MAY 13				
Excel Basics, Part 1 of 2	Brant Skills Centre, 446 Grey St. Unit 109, Brantford	1:00 pm	3:00 pm	Reg. 519.758.1664, text 226.920.8071 or info@brantskillscentre.org
Youth Volunteer Group	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	5:30 pm	6:30 pm	For ages 13 - 17.
All Out Crafts and Chat	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Crafts with your fellow 2SLGBTQ friends.
Stories from Asian Diaspora Film Series: Minari	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	
Greenwood Cemetery Grounds Walk	George St. parking lot across from Buffalo St.	6:30 pm		Difficulty: Easy, approx. 90 min.
Catholic Women's League: Monthly Meeting	Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Paris	7:00 pm		
THURSDAY MAY 14				
National Caesar Day	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.			during regular business hours.
Marketing & Branding Your Food Product	Online	10:00 am	11:00 am	Register at https://foodpreneuradvantage.ca/start-up-seminars/
Wellness Drop-In with SAC Brant	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	For immediate support 24/7 519.751.3471.
History Club	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Drop in program. all welcome!
Poppy Project	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 (Dunsdon Legion)	5:30 pm	8:00 pm	Volunteer to make crocheted/knitted poppies for Remembrance Day.
Diamond Dots	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	
The Paint Lounge	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Drop in painting for adults.
Brant Heritage Quilters Guild: Monthly Meeting	St. George United Church	7:00 pm		Doors open at 6:15pm. New members welcome. \$5./person for non members.
Brantford Garden Club Monthly Meeting	Lions Park Auditorium (Brantford)	7:30 pm	9:00 pm	Everyone welcome. Non-members \$5.
Carl Dixon's Wild North Rock Show	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	8:00 pm		Tickets: https://bit.ly/CarlDixonsWildNorthRockShow or 519.758.8090
FRIDAY MAY 15				
Ask a Tech	Brant Skills Centre, 446 Grey St. Unit 109, Brantford	1:00 pm	3:30 pm	Reg. 519.758.1664, text 226.902.8071 or info@brantskillscentre.org
Time Machine	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Doors open 5:30pm. Admission \$8.00/person. In main hail, upstairs.
Brantford Red Sox vs. Welland Jackfish	Arnold Anderson Stadium/Cockshutt Park	7:07 pm		Tickets: https://www.brantfordredsox.com/tickets
SATURDAY MAY 16				
Onondaga Plant & Yard Sale	Onondaga Community Hall	8:00 am	3:00 pm	Rain or shine. Spring plants & trees (\$10. each). Hot dogs & refreshments available.
Drive-Through Food Drive	St. Marks parking lot	10:00 am	12:00 pm	non-perishable food and or cash for the Brantford Food Bank
The Rumour Mill	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge
SUNDAY MAY 17				
Onondaga Plant & Yard Sale	Onondaga Community Hall	8:00 am	3:00 pm	Rain or shine. Spring plants & trees (\$10. each). Hot dogs & refreshments available.
Brantford Red Sox Professional Baseball	Arnold Anderson Stadium/Cockshutt Park	2:00 pm		Tickets: https://www.showpass.com/o/brantford-red-sox/
MONDAY MAY 18				
Plant Sale	Mt. Pleasant Pres. Church, 715 Mt. Pleasant Rd.	9:00 am	12:00 pm	

EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
TUESDAY MAY 19				
Digital Desk - Computer Basics	Brant Skills Centre, 446 Grey St. Unit 109, Brantford	12:30 pm	2:30 pm	Tuesday & Turs. May 19 to June 11. Reg. 519.758.1664, text 226.920.8071 or info@brantskillscentre.org
Fiction Writing Drop-in	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	Practice your fiction writing at the library!
Prediabetes Workshop	Grand River Comm. Health Centre	5:30 pm	7:00 pm	More info. or registration: 226.388.4725 or ipct-info@grchc.ca
Craft and Create Club	Cty. of Brant Public Library (St. George)	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	Drop in program. Bring your craft project or use provided supplies.
Brantford Stamp Club Meeting	Branlyn Community Centre	8:00 pm		Doors open 7pm. Everyone is welcome.
WEDNESDAY MAY 20				
Sound Advice on Hearing Health	online	10:00 am	11:00 am	Registration admin@grcoa.ca or 519.754.0777 ext. 439.
Excel Basics, Part 2 of 2	Brant Skills Centre, 446 Grey St., Unit 109, Brantford	1:00 pm	3:00 pm	Reg. 519.758.1664, text 226.920.8071 or info@brantskills centre.org
Nutrition for Fatty Liver Disease	Grand River Comm. Health Centre	3:00 pm	4:00 pm	More info. or registration Melissa msiegel@grchc.ca or 519.754.0777 ext. 479.
Stained Glass Garden Flower Stakes	Pawtastic Pottery, 10 Stanley St., Brantford	5:00 pm	8:00 pm	\$50. reg. http://pawtasticpottery.com/events
Dotable Mandala Workshop	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	Sign up: http://dotablemandalas.com/
Family Build and Play	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	All ages. Lego challenge.
Stories from Asian Diaspora Film Series: Meditation Park	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	
Indigenous Reads & Rising Voices	Onondaga Community Hall	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Browse, sample & celebrate Indigenous literature.
Speaker Series: John Bullen	Cdn. Military Heritage Museum, 347 Greenwich St.	7:00 pm		Registration: 519-752-2483 or information@brantmuseums.ca
THURSDAY MAY 21				
Food Safety Fundamentals for Start-ups	Online	10:00 am	11:00 am	Register at https://foodpreneuradvantage.ca/start-up-seminars/
Hustle, Hobby or Hard No	Brantford City Hall	10:00 am	12:00 pm	Registration: https://tinyurl.com/HustleHobbyorHardNo
Brain Health Series: Memory, Forgetfulness & Aging	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	Registration: https://tinyurl.com/mu84w9cc
Brant Writes Writing Club	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	All writers & aspiring writers welcome.
Wellness Drop-In with SAC Brant	Cty. of Brant Public Library (Burford)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	For immediate support 24/7 519.751.3471
MakerHours: Temporary Tattoos	Cty. of Brant Fire Administrative Building	4:00 pm	7:00 pm	Drop in program for all ages.
Native Plants for Beauty & Biodiversity w Author Lorraine Johnson	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Registration: https://tinyurl.com/ya33hhxu
Pints & Ponytails	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	Sign up on https://tinyurl.com/PintsPonytails
Pourly Done Trivia Night	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm		Free to play, Prizes to be won. In downstairs lounge.
FRIDAY MAY 22				
Huge Yard Sale	Langford Community Church, 1601 Colborne St.E	3:00 pm	7:00 pm	BBQ, Bake table, household items, potted trees, perennials, clothes etc.
John Atlee Band	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Doors open 5:30pm. Admission \$8.00/person. In main hall, upstairs.
SATURDAY MAY 23				
Huge Yard Sale	Langford Community Church, 1601 Colborne St.E	8:00 am	3:00 pm	BBQ, Bake table, household items, potted trees, perennials, clothes etc.
Trail of Toonies	Downtown Paris	9:00 am	1:00 pm	In support of CBPL's summer reading programs for children.
Banfield Art Crawl	Banfield Neighbourhood, Paris	10:00 am	4:00 pm	Local artists in the area.
Brantford Chess Club Drop-In	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	All ages
Black Community Heritage Walk	starting at Alexandra Park.	10:30 am		Difficulty: easy but long approx. 90 min.
Macrame Bead & Planter Part 1	Pawtastic Pottery, 10 Stanley St., Brantford	11:00 am	2:00 pm	\$150. Reg. http://pawtasticpottery.com/events
Sonny Sinclair's Special Birthday Jam!	Sydenham Heritage United Church	2:00 pm	5:00 pm	incredible afternoon of live music, donations to Brantford Food Bank
Hwy 24	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge.
Karaoke with Murray Mclean	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 (Dunsdon Legion)	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	No cover charge.
JLB (John Ladds Band)	Paris Pub	8:00 pm	11:00 pm	
SUNDAY MAY 24				
Wheels on the Pavement	Mohawk Park	10:00 am	1:00 pm	Family event. Collecting non-perishables & school safe snacks.
Saving Angus	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 (Dunsdon Legion)	1:00 pm	5:00 pm	upper hall - \$5.
Stained Glass Garden Flower Stakes	Pawtastic Pottery, 10 Stanley St., Brantford	1:00 pm	4:00 pm	\$50. Reg. http://pawtasticpottery.com/events
Brantford Red Sox Professional Baseball	Arnold Anderson Stadium/Cockshutt Park	2:00 pm		Tickets: https://www.showpass.com/o/brantford-red-sox/
MONDAY MAY 25				
Bingo! Night	Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	Doors open 6pm. Free to play. Cash donations to Neighbourhood Assoc. appreciated.
TUESDAY MAY 26				
Free Men's Counselling Walk-In Sessions	Willowbridge Community Services	12:30 pm	3:00 pm	16 yrs +. 54 Brant Ave.
Walk and Talk Book Club	meet outside Cty. of Brant Public Library (Paris)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	Free. Reg. required: http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar
Learn to Use a Sewing Machine	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Registration: https://tinyurl.com/yc273rfr
MakerWorkshop: Cricut Hat Press Fun	Cty. of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Registration required: http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar
Knights of Columbus: Monthly Meeting	Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Paris	7:30 pm		
WEDNESDAY MAY 27				
The Music of Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash & Conway Twitty	Gathering Place by the Grand.	12:00 pm		Buy tickets https://tproontario.ticketpro.ca/en/pages/ClineCashConway
Stories from Asian Diaspora Film Series: Islands	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	
Brant Writes: St. George Writing Club	Cty. of Brant Public Library (St. George)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Join anytime. Bring current project or come for inspiration.
Mount Hope Cemetery Grounds Walk	starting at main cemetery office	6:30 pm		Difficulty: easy. Approx. 90 min.
THURSDAY MAY 28				
Labelling & Packaging Your Food Product	Online	10:00 am	11:00 am	Register at https://foodpreneuradvantage.ca/start-up-seminars/
The Music of Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash & Conway Twitty	Gathering Place by the Grand.	12:00 pm		Buy tickets today: https://tproontario.ticketpro.ca/en/pages/ClineCashConway
Wellness Drop-In with SAC Brant	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	12:00 pm	2:00 pm	For immediate support 24/7 519.751.3471
Photography Club with the Library	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Drop in program.
BPL Creative Journaling: Soundtrack of My Life	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Registration: https://tinyurl.com/mvzm8u7d
Dead Poets Society	Assumption College School	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	Tickets: 519.751.2030 ext. 14445 or noneill@bhncdsb.ca

Please visit bscene.ca for a more complete listing of events, cancellations, postponements and new dates. Make sure to check with the Event Organizers for more details.

EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
THURSDAY MAY 28 continued				
Mike Believe	Pawtastic Pottery, 10 Stanley St	6:00 pm	10:00 pm	Magician, Mentalist & Hypnotist, Tickets \$35 http://pawtasticpottery.com/events
Burford Book Club	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Free program. Registration required: http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar
Drag Bingo	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	Sign up on http://eventbrite.ca
FRIDAY MAY 29				
Intro to Water-Soluble Oils, Workshop with Jeanette Obbink	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant	10:00 am	4:00 pm	Adult's Classes Registration link: http://glenhyrst.ca/classes .
Polish Food Sale	Brantford Polish Hall	5:00 pm	7:00 pm	Downstairs lounge. For LARGE orders contact Mary 519.755.1550.
Our of this Universe Plate	Pawtastic Pottery, 10 Stanley St., Brantford	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	For kids. \$32. Reg. http://pawtasticpottery.com/events
Friday Night Band: Vineyards	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Doors open 5:30pm. Admission \$8./person. In main hall, upstairs.
Humpty Dumpty is Missing!	Sydenham-Heritage United Church	7:00 pm		Tickets: http://itproductions.org
"Voices Across Time" Classical Guitar Concert w Emma Rush	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	7:00 pm	8:30 pm	Free event. Registration required: http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar
SATURDAY MAY 30				
IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's	Mohawk Park - Lower Pavilion	10:00 am	12:00 pm	Info., register or donate: http://walkforalzheimers.ca & Brantford/Brant Cty.
Tin Can Hanging Planters	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	10:30 am	11:30 am	Register: https://tinyurl.com/yyeh4anz
Macrame Hanger Making Part 2	Pawtastic Pottery, 10 Stanley St., Brantford	11:00 am	2:00 pm	Part 1 on Saturday May 23, 11am to 2pm.
Paris Cheesecake & Taco Fest	Paris Fairgrounds	11:00 am	6:00 pm	\$5 admission fee cash only (12 & under are free)
Pixie Hollow Picnic	Whistling Gardens Ltd.	11:30 am	1:00 pm	Tickets: https://www.ticketscene.ca/events/59975/
Mike Thorpe	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge.
Brantford Red Sox Professional Baseball	Arnold Anderson Stadium/Cockshutt Park	5:00 pm		Tickets: https://www.showpass.com/o/brantford-red-sox/
Humpty Dumpty is Missing!	Sydenham-Heritage United Church	7:00 pm		Tickets: http://itproductions.org
Hwy 24	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 (Dunsdon Legion)	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Upper Hall - \$5.
Bry Webb and Lotus Wight	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant (Coach House)	8:00 pm		\$30 each.Tickets available at https://glenhyrst.ca/brywebb Doors open 7:30pm.
SUNDAY MAY 31				
Lunar Webb Monthly Market: May Flowers	Brantford Polish Hall	10:00 am	3:00 pm	market supports Why Not Youth Centres
Paris Cheesecake & Taco Fest	Paris Fairgrounds	11:00 am	5:00 pm	\$5 admission fee cash only (12 & under are free)
Blooms of Hope	River's Edge at The Arlington	12:00 pm		Tickets: \$115. adults/\$105 youth (10-16yr) jpowless@novavita.org
Humpty Dumpty is Missing!	Sydenham-Heritage United Church	2:00 pm		Tickets: http://itproductions.org
A Sapphire Celebration	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	3:00 pm		Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/SapphireCelebration
Brantford Comm. Symphony Orchestra with Fairview Chorus & Friends	Fairview Community Centre	3:00 pm	4:30 pm	Free admission, donations gratefully received.
TUESDAY JUNE 2				
Golf Tournament	Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course			Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/BrantfordBrantChamberGolf



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Classic Run Is Set to Be Largest This Year!

by ALISON HUZUL
Program Chair

A little more than a month away, and Rotarians are letting Brantford- Brant and Six Nations know that this is one they are not going to want to miss. This run is by far the largest run in Brantford and is expecting 1,700 runners.

We had to be very ambitious and try and offer an amazing run and a few new exciting things to keep people wanting to come back.

The reality is that the needs of our charities—where every dollar raised (less expenses) goes directly—are greater now than ever. One of these charities is **Lansdowne Children's Centre**, which provides critical rehabilitation, respite, and recreation for local infants, children, and youth

Submitted Photos



living with physical, communication, or developmental disabilities, including conditions such as autism, muscular dystrophy, spinal muscular atrophy, and other rare diseases.

Lansdowne is one of 21 Children's Treatment Centres serving children across Ontario from birth until they leave school. With a dedicated team of approximately 250 staff, the Centre delivers essential services such as physical and occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, autism services, developmental pediatrics, therapeutic recreation, and respite care.

Founded in the 1960s as the Rotary Crippled Children Centre at BGH, Lansdowne has grown significantly and now exceeds the capacity of its current building. The Ontario government has committed to building a new 100,000 sq. ft. facility, but the community must fundraise for at least furniture, fixtures, and specialized equipment. Donations also help fund essential services and mobility equipment

not covered by government, ensuring families are not left with out-of-pocket costs.

Lansdowne is also unique, as it is one of only two Children's Treatment Centres in Ontario offering overnight respite for medically fragile children. Through Kids Country Inn, specialized staff provide therapeutic care, giving parents a much-needed restorative break while their children receive safe, compassionate support.

All Lansdowne programs and services are offered free of charge to residents of Brantford, Six Nations, New Credit, and the County of Brant.

Another important charity we support is **BGC Brantford** (formerly the Boys and Girls Club of Brantford), which provides a safe and supportive place for children and youth to learn, grow, and thrive. Through affordable after-school programs, mentorship, nutritious meals, and recreational activities, BGC Brantford helps young people build confidence, develop life skills, and form positive connections. For many local families, it is a vital resource that ensures children have a safe place to go and the support they need to succeed.

Needs may outweigh what we're able to raise, but bringing the classic run to its former glory in hopes to raise more than \$180,000 is going to help immensely.

The targets are ambitious, but we believe they are achievable, and our goal is to make sure everyone in the community knows about the run and how they can help disadvantaged kids. You can walk if you're not a runner, you can run, create a team, fundraise, donate and/or sponsor.

Most sponsors and large donors have committed to three years to make this a sustainable event in 2027 and 2028.

Unlimited Premium Partners at \$5k instead of just one title sponsor help to increase sponsorship revenue. Currently those are: Calbecks, Hotline Apparel, Millards Professional Accountants, North Star Windows & Doors, Top Shelf Industrial, Waterous Holden Amey Hitchon LLP Lawyers, West Brant Windows and Doors.

We're thankful for our Gold sponsors: BML Multitrades Group, Hickory Dickory Decks Brantford, IG Private Wealth Management - Gaudet Group, J.H. Young Fine Jewellers, Marco, RBC Wealth Dominion Securities -Brian Stephen, & RBC Wealth Dominion Securities Nick Rizzo Group, T. David Trucking Inc.

Silver sponsors include: Levac's, Meridian, Cornerstone Capital Financial Group and Grand Financial planning.

Former Olympian runner Krista DuChene will kick us off, as well as a first responders cup where police, fire and paramedics compete in a run and fundraising challenge.

To register & fundraise, or donate for this run, please visit: **www.rotaryclassic.ca**

Donations can also be made payable to the Rotary Club of Brantford:
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Brantford, ON N3R 7X4
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Although it may seem somewhat premature to be thinking about the end of the school year, the reality is it is just a few months away and as the school year draws to a close, elementary school principals often describe the experience as "landing one plane while preparing another for takeoff." Through the lens of Stuart Shanker's Self-Reg framework, this metaphor captures the complex interplay of stress, energy, and regulation required during perhaps the busiest times of the year.

"Landing the plane" involves bringing the current school year to a successful conclusion. This includes final report cards, staffing conversations, student transitions, year-end meetings, graduation ceremonies, and supporting students whose stress may be heightened by change. At the same time, principals are helping staff manage their own depletion after months of sustained effort. From a Self-Reg perspective, this is a period of significant biological and emotional load—fatigue, heightened expectations, and time pressure all converge.

Simultaneously, principals are "preparing for takeoff." This forward-looking work includes building next year's hiring and placing staff, organizing classrooms, and planning professional learning aligned with board and ministry priorities. It requires creativity, optimism, and strategic thinking—capacities that are harder to access when stress is high.

The genius of the Self-Reg framework is that it reminds us that



Supplied Photo

these are not simply time-management or priority challenges; they are **regulation** challenges. When stress accumulates, our ability to think clearly, collaborate effectively, and make sound decisions is compromised.

As a principal myself, applying **Self-Reg** has led to a better understanding of my energy and tension levels. I see myself purposefully reducing unnecessary stressors where possible, reframing expectations, and building moments of restoration into my day. It might look like spacing out meetings, protecting short blocks of uninterrupted planning time, or simply acknowledging to staff that this dual demand is inherently taxing. It does however provide me with the opportunity to model intentional self-regulating.

In the end, successfully "landing and taking off" is not about doing more, faster. It's about understanding the conditions under which we function best. Through a Self-Reg lens, the goal is not perfection, but sustainable energy—ensuring that both planes arrive and depart safely, with everyone on board supported along the way.

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FOOD BANK HOSTS 20TH CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT THIS MONTH



JUSTINE LEMAICH

 crs-help.ca/foodbank

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The Brantford Food Bank is proud to host its annual Drive Out Hunger Charity Golf Tournament on Friday May 29th, at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course. Now celebrating its 20th year, this 18-hole full-day tournament has become one of the Brantford Food Bank's signature events, bringing the community together in support of hunger. Proceeds from the tournament help sustain vital programs that support more than 1,200 households and 3,500 individuals each month.

Drive Out Hunger offers participants a memorable day of golf, networking, and community spirit. In addition to a full round of golf, guests will enjoy lunch, dinner, and on-course activities, contests, and exciting prizes throughout the day. This year's event aims to raise \$30,000 to help support the Brantford Food Bank, especially during the upcoming summer months when donations tend to decline.

The Brantford Food Bank is honoured to recognize Frontier Building Group as the Presenting Sponsor of this year's tournament. As a valued community partner, Frontier Building Group has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to helping neighbours in need and supporting initiatives that strengthen our

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community. Their generosity and leadership play an important role in the continued success of Drive Out Hunger.

Registration for golf is now full, reflecting the incredible support this event receives each year. However, sponsorship opportunities are still available for businesses who would like to be a part of this milestone event. Sponsoring Drive Out Hunger is a meaningful way to give back while gaining recognition as a supporter of food insecurity initiatives.

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SINGING - FOR LIFE!



AMY GROLEAU

www.brantmenofsong.ca

Composer Joe Raposo penned a song in 1971 for a children's television show. It was simply entitled Sing. The Associated Male Choruses of Ontario - an organization originally affiliated with the Associated Male Choruses of America (circa. 1924) until it became independent in 2003 - added a bit more to this one word to create their motto "Singing - for life". According to their website, AMCO was "founded... to promote participation and excellence in men's choral singing." Brant Men of Song had been members of AMCA, and renewed their membership with AMCO in 2008. It was recently noted that Brant Men of Song chorus is the 4th-longest running male choir in Canada, only 2 places behind another AMCO chorus, MenAloud! (formerly The Queensmen from Toronto).

Each year, one of the AMCO choruses hosts a concert where each choir performs a 10-minute presentation of musical selections. The show's highlight, though, is all men singing several selections en masse.

As the grand finale to their 65th Sapphire Season Celebration, Brant Men of Song are showcasing Ontario Sings on Sunday, May 31st at Brantford's Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts. This year's event will be no less than phenomenal as 6 men's choirs (totalling approximately 150 men) will grace the stage. Brant Men of Song will be joined by Cambridge Male Chorus; MenAloud!; and Niagara Men's Chorus. New to AMCO last year, the Guelph Male Choir joined the performance in Burlington. Making their inaugural performance as the most recent chorus to become members is Burlington Welsh Male Chorus.

Ontario Sings was hosted by Brant Men of Song in 2011 for the 50th anniversary, and again in 2015 and 2019. BMoS is raising the bar this year and making this a weekend celebration for the choruses rather than a day-only event. The group of intergenerational men (aging from early 20's to late 90's!) will gather for a few hours Saturday to rehearse the massed selections, each of which is conducted by the directors of the attending choruses. A "Pre-Glow" dinner will follow the practise, giving time for camaraderie, socializing, reminiscing of the past 65 years and looking to the future, and of course - more singing!

After a great night of song and sleep, a final dress rehearsal will prepare all for the Sunday afternoon show. Additional musical guests will be part of the festivities so be sure to grab your ticket through the Sanderson Centre Box Office for \$35.00 or online (additional processing fees will apply). Brant Men of Song continue to sing for life through the generous financial support of several organizations and companies, including Rock Solid Trailers.

The Brant Men of Song

CELEBRATING

65 YEARS

of choral singing

host the Associated Male Choruses of Ontario

Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 3pm

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The Brant Men of Song are grateful for the support provided by Rock Solid Trailers

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TAMARA BOTTING

 lansdownecentre.ca
 [lansdownechildrens](https://www.facebook.com/lansdownechildrens)
 [lansdownechildrens](https://www.instagram.com/lansdownechildrens)

Mariam is one of the Support Workers at Lansdowne Children's Centre, working with child and youth clients and helping them develop their communication and social skills.

She was inspired to take on the role because of her "natural love for kids and helping people. I'm generally drawn to roles that help people feel supported, cared for, and understood."

Working with children and youth who have communication, physical and/or developmental differences "has shown me the power of patience," Mariam said, developing her abilities to be more adaptable and to "care for people the way I want to be cared for."

Patience is a cornerstone skill for the work she does.

"I've learned something over time – it's not you going through stuff; they're the one going through stuff. You're there to guide them, to be with them, to be calm and patient with them," she said.

Effective communication is also vital; it needs to be informed by empathy.

"Talk with them just the way you want to be spoken to," Mariam advised.

When working with children and youth, it's important to not be too rigid.



Submitted Photo

"You also need to be able to adapt with them, be flexible. Like I said, you're there to guide and support them."

If you're interested in a career at Lansdowne Children's Centre, come to our job fair, taking place Wednesday, May 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. at our Brantford site, 39 Mt. Pleasant St. Lansdowne also has offices in Caledonia, Dunnville and Simcoe.

Bring your resume to the job fair; we will be conducting interviews on site, and providing information about our programs and available opportunities. We have a variety of full- and part-time positions available.

If you are unable to attend the job fair, you can also watch for new position postings online at www.lansdownecentre.ca/careers.

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Session 1: **June 16, 2026 (8:30 am)**
Session 2: **July 7, 2026 (8:30 am)**
Session 3: **July 21, 2026 (8:30 am)**
Session 4: **August 4, 2026 (8:30 am)**
Session 5: **August 18, 2026 (8:30 am)**

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Spring/Summer Community Guide

- Drop-in programs
- Special Events
- Outdoor courts and picnic rentals
- Music in the Parks
- Parks & Trails
- Community resources

brant.ca/Guide

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Let us know with our brief 2026 Communications survey!

EngageBrant.ca/Communications2026



ACS GR. 12 DRAMA PRESENTS “DEAD POETS SOCIETY 2.0”

BY **NAOMI O'NEILL**, MUSIC/DRAMA TEACHER

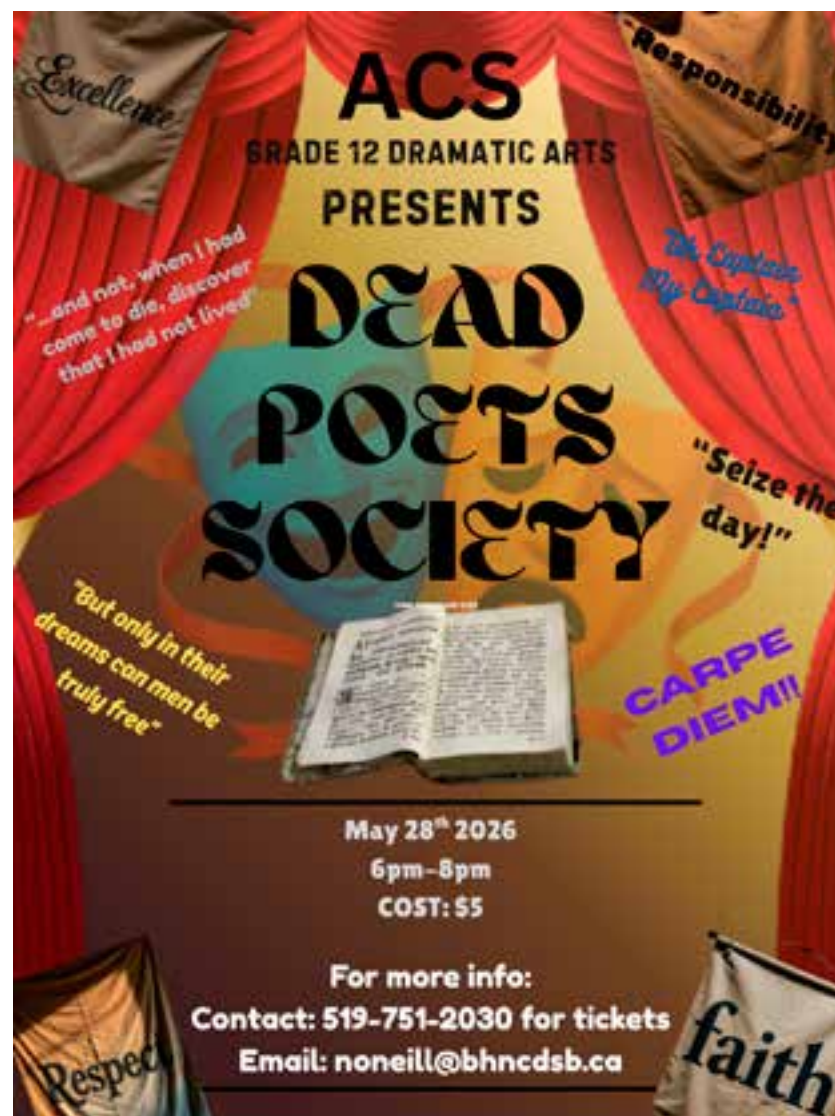
The gr.12 Dramatic Arts class deliberated over several options for their final performance at ACS and came to the consensus to present “Dead Poets Society” adapted to the stage. The students who knew the movie, starring Robin Williams as the English teacher, Mr. Keating, were excited at the possibilities it presented. Those who did not know the movie quickly embraced what the show could mean to an audience let alone their class. You see, the stage is the marriage of the written word and the spoken word with the embodiment of dreams somewhere in the middle. Sentences broken down to words and meanings coupled with inflections, nuances, articulation and the art of emphasis allowed for a true script study about the poets who came before us.

ACS is excited to bring you the stage adaptation with a twist – making it an all girl's school instead of an all boy's school – where Ms. Keating played by Peyton Squire Johnson, stretches the boundaries of learning. She takes them to a depth of literature appreciation and understanding like never before. To quote: “We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members

of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. Medicine, law, business, engineering, these are all noble pursuits, and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for.”

The students who are taught by Ms. Keating include Nancy Perry played by Tylah Rattie and Tonya Anderson played by Bella Kelly. Nancy and Tonya become close friends and discover a world where they can both escape – through poetry. Nancy leads the “Dead Poets Society” consisting of several others who round out the high school group with comedians, hopeless romantics as well as rule followers. Over time philosophies of learning collide as well as parental pressures, societal standards and the ever-challenging question of ‘how do I fit in?’ The “Dead Poets Society” is not for the faint of heart as the script takes us through an emotional rollercoaster facing real life issues head on, exploring mature themes and subject matter.

For only \$5 you too may witness the beauty of literature! So come join us at Assumption College School on **Thursday, May 28th** at 6pm. Call (519)751-2030 ext. 14445 or email noneill@bhncdsb.ca for tickets.



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Brantford Ukulele Society



YVONNE VAN DE WIELE-COOPER

www roundtablepr.com

@ yvonne@roundtablepr.com

Performers and participants attending last year's Brantford Ukulele festival heaped praise on the event's organizers. Although a huge amount

of effort and research went into booking artists from as far away as Australia, Brantford Ukulele Society President Genevive Rochette admits she was surprised at the success and positive feedback the 2025 inaugural event received. "I was a bit surprised, but we did work hard," she said. Rochette points out both she and Vice Chair Catherine Gorecki, had travelled to several ukulele festivals, including in the U.S. and the U.K. so they had an idea of how it works. Gorecki was also "pleased and proud" of how the festival turned out. "We've got a couple of teachers organizing things so that's helpful, but also

the people we were able to bring in from our Bell City Strummers group who turned out to have the skills like Mark Simpson who handled accounting, spreadsheets and organizing registrations," she said. Board member Sara Waite meantime, enlisted her daughter Emmalee Waite to create the website.

Gorecki says the upsurge in popularity of the ukulele has prompted more people to pick up the instrument and join clubs and groups. "I think in the pandemic a lot of people picked up different kinds of hobbies and gave it a try and a lot of people who were near the ends of their careers or in retirement, were looking for something to do and flex their creative muscles," she said. She adds they're "lucky the ukulele has been growing in people's consciousness and I think we're contributing to that in this community." Rochette says meantime, there's a sense of community and camaraderie found in ukulele groups and something about people getting together and making music that you don't see that in other hobbies or groups. She also feels many in the older generation grew up with live music in their homes, but the trend has waned and they miss it. Rochette insists people don't need to be "really good" at the ukulele because it's easy to play, you get to sing and it "glues everybody" together whether you're a beginner or advanced.

This year's more ambitious festival features 18 different workshops to choose from, up from 12 last year. Participants can choose three workshops over three blocks of time. Six different artists will lead the workshops which include topics that run the gamut for beginners, intermediate and advanced



Catherine Gorecki



Genevive Rochette



Sally Carter

players. Workshop titles include Maritimes Kitchen Party, Springsteen Jam, Intro to Electronics and Fingerpicking Good.

Acclaimed ukulele artists heading up the workshops will also present a concert on each evening of the festival on Friday July 17th and Saturday July 18th. Performers include Victoria Vox, Bryan Laplante, Marc Gallagher, Tina Hebner, The Margaret Hooligans and Amber Rozel.

Last year 120 tickets were available for sale, but tickets were sold separately to the community for the evening performance. This year only those paying for the entire festival including workshops can attend the evening concerts. 175 tickets were made available for this year's concert but at the time this article was written, they were well over 80 percent sold. There will be a waiting list for those who miss out.

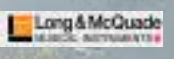
The Brantford Ukulele Society also holds separate workshops throughout the year. On April 17th world renowned ukulele instructor and musician James Hill, held a well-attended workshop at St. Andrew's Church. Later that evening he performed as part of the duo Champagne Weather with partner Anne Jannelle. Gorecki notes how fortunate the society was to be able to land the duo from Nova Scotia as they toured throughout Ontario.

The Brantford Ukulele Society hosts the Bell City Strum Club, a beginners group, for free at Brantford Public Library's main branch on Colborne Street every other Sunday. On every other Wednesday the Bell City Strummers, a somewhat more advanced group which performs at community events, practices at St. Andrew's Church.

For more information on the Brantford Ukulele Society, or to purchase tickets for their second annual festival on **July 17th & 18th**, visit **brantfordukulelesociety.org**.

BRANTFORD UKULELE FESTIVAL
July 17-18, 2026
ST. ANDREWS UNITED CHURCH, 95 DARLING STREET

★WORKSHOPS ★ JAM SESSIONS ★ VENDORS★
★LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PERFORMERS★

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 AMBER ROZEL ALTOONA, PA	 THE MARGARET HOOLIGANS PHILADELPHIA, PA	 TINA HEBNER KAMLOOPS, BC
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A Look Back Through the Eyes of Our Photographers

BRANTFORD POTTERS' GUILD SPRING POTTERY SALE

April 10, 2026 • Woodman Park Community Centre, Brantford ON • Photos: Jason Freeze



BSO ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

April 22, 2026 • One Market, Brantford ON • Photos: Jason Freeze





A LOOK BACK



JACK JACKOWETZ

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A VILLAGE TAKES SHAPE

Until the 18th century, Brant County was mostly uninhabited and densely forested. The first notable population increase occurred when the Haudenosaunee moved into the area in 1784. Their arrival immediately created a demand for goods and trade, similar to what they were used to in the Mohawk Valley of New York. This, in turn, attracted friends and acquaintances of Joseph Brant, entrepreneurs interested in trading with the Haudenosaunee, and squatters.

Mount Pleasant (1798), Oakland (1810), Waterford (1797), Burford (1798), and Ancaster (1791) were thriving villages in 1820 and centres of trade and exchange in their districts. Brantford was little more than a river crossing and trading post situated on Haudenosaunee land. The Crown's purchase of the town site changed that.

Following the availability of land titles in 1830, immigrants from England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as native Canadians, began settling in the region. A significant number of Americans, including Black Americans, also arrived. Many of the early arrivals were young, strong, well-educated, and in the prime of their life.

Initially, town lots were offered to those who occupied them. The first public auction of town lots took place on 14 May 1831. These plots were purchased by merchants, farmers, and speculators.

Early Descriptions of the Village

In 1830, Brantford was described as follows:

It consisted of a thin scattering of frame and log houses along Colborne Street... All around, with the exception of a few acres, there was nothing but scrub oak out towards Terrace Hill and to the east...

there was a swamp filled with thick cedar trees. (from Gary Muir's "Bits and Pieces of Brantford's History: Brantford in the 1830s")

The first buildings in Brantford were mills and taverns. John Aston Wilkes erected a distillery in 1830; William Kerby opened a distillery and grist mill in 1831; William Spencer constructed a brewery in 1832. These provided a market for locally grown grain.

Hotels were basic, with minimal furnishings and limited comfort; you could end up sharing your bed with a stranger. They offered refreshments for both guests and their horses.

But the village was progressing. A visitor to Brantford in 1832 wrote:

This thriving village is quite a neat and stirring little place.... It is situated on the bank of the river, which is near a stream of some importance.... There is a handsome bridge erected over it, opposite the town. A grist mill, running four pair of stones, is located within its limits, and several sawmills are in operation nearby. There are about a dozen mercantile stores...a considerable number of mechanics' shops that make a good appearance, and two pretty good taverns in the village.

(from Gary Muir's "Bits and Pieces of Brantford's History: Brantford in the 1830s")

In 1834, the Brantford Sentinel, the village's first newspaper, wrote an early history of Brantford:

The town plot was surrendered by the Indians to the Government in 1827, at which time there were not more than fifteen houses, and those of the cheapest description, as the title was too uncertain to risk a large investment. The sale of Waterloo, Wolworth (Woolwich), and part of Dumfries took place in 1796. The



An example of a goose neck style pumper fire engine. Source: <https://aaawt.com/antique/pumper-fire-engine-model-goose-neck-style-precision-made-a-fine-example/>

first sale of town lots, by Government was in May, 1830, when about fifty lots were sold at public sale. Owing to a dispute of former landholders, nearly one half of the lots have been kept out of the possession of the purchasers, and consequently has greatly retarded the growth and prosperity of the town, but with all these difficulties, and a heavy land carriage of twenty-five miles, the town contains one hundred and seventy-five buildings, and over six hundred inhabitants. To enable strangers to judge better of the business done here, we can state there are – fifteen merchant shops with good stocks, two grist mills, of three runs of stones, one saw mill, four public inns, six grocery and provision shops, one clothing establishment, six smiths shops, two carriage-makers, one gun manufactory, three shoe-shops, one tin-shop, three distilleries, three tailor-shops, three millinery and dress-makers shops, and one printing office; together with a suitable number of carpenters and masons, &c. There is now a Baptist Church raised, of a most respectable appearance, both as to size and style of building, which reflects much credit upon the builder, Mr. Miles Shaw of this town. An Episcopal Church is nearly ready to raise, of sufficient dimensions to contain a thousand persons. The Presbyterians, it is expected, will finish one this fall. There are also three settled clergymen, three lawyers, and three doctors. A new bridge, two hundred and forty feet long, crosses the river, at the upper end of Colborne Street, built upon two arches of one hundred and ten feet each. The bridge is twenty-four feet wide, and calculated for two double teams to pass over abreast at the same time. The river improvements for steamboats are now

rapidly progressing, and are expected to be finished up to within a mile of the town in October next. A steamer is so far completed, as to be nearly ready for the engine, and will commence her trips from Dunnville to Cayuga, by the 1st of August, and should the season prove favourable, she will be enabled to pass up the locks in time to carry the fall produce to market by the river. There are now employed on the work at the rapids, between four and five hundred men, and nearly double that number will find employment early in this month. The stock of the River Company is now all taken up, and will, probably, prove the best stock in the Province. The town of Cayuga must be removed up to the lower lock, where the Company are to throw a bridge over the river, and we are informed that some large capitalists have already commenced building mills, stores, &c. Arrangements are now making for a steamer to ply between Brantford and Buffalo, passing the ship lock at Dunnville, and the four locks at Barefoot, in ten hours, a distance of seventy-eight miles. (Source: Reprinted in the *Montréal Gazette*, Thursday 24 July 1834)

Note: The town plot was surrendered in 1830, not 1827 as the article states. The first sale of town lots in 1830 was to those who occupied the lots; the first public auction of lots occurred in 1831. The river improvements mentioned were the construction of locks and dams on the Grand River by the Grand River Navigation Company. These were completed in 1835, making the river navigable between Dunnville and Bunnell's Landing (Cainsville). The Company planned to build a canal between Bunnell's Landing and downtown Brantford. It opened in November 1848.

The Roads

By 1832, a daily stagecoach connected York (Toronto), Brantford, and Niagara, while it travelled three times a week between Brantford and Detroit. Although Brantford was accessible by road, the conditions were terrible. Travelling by stagecoach was jarring and physically exhausting. The carriages were crowded, with passengers sharing space with freight. Drivers frequently drove recklessly, often under the influence of whisky.



Mrs. Anna Brownell Jameson, 1844.
Source: Public Domain

Anna Jameson, an Anglo-Irish art historian, critic, and travel writer, visited Brantford in 1837. In her book *Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada*, which was published in Britain in 1838, she wrote:

From Brantford we came to Paris, a new settlement beautifully situated.... The whole drive would have been productive of unmixed enjoyment, but for one almost intolerable drawback. The roads were throughout so execrably bad that no words can give an idea them. We often sank into mud-holes above the axle trees; then over trunks of trees laid across swamps, called here corduroy roads, where my poor bones dislocated. A wheel here and there, or a broken shaft lying by the wayside, told of former wrecks and disasters. In some places they had, in desperation, flung huge boughs of oak into the abyss, and covered them with clay and sod, the rich green foliage projecting on either side. This sort of illusive contrivance would sometimes give way, and we were nearly precipitated in the midst. By the time we arrived at the township of Blanford, my hands were swelled and blistered by continually grasping with all my strength an iron bar in front of my vehicle to keep myself from being flung out, and my

limbs ached woefully.

(from Gary Muir's "Bits and Pieces of Brantford's History: Brantford in the 1830s")

Development

Development was concentrated along Colborne Street, primarily between the bridge and Market Square. At that time, Dalhousie Street was merely a proposed street. The corner of Queen and Wellington Street was considered far away and out of the way. East Ward and North Ward were covered in bush with a few log huts. West Brant was cleared and partially farmed.

Unruly Village

Cheap whisky, rival gangs, and ongoing political tensions between the Loyalists and Reformers often sparked fights. With no police force to control the chaos, disputes using clubs and axe handles were frequent, particularly during elections. Brantford was a rowdy, sometimes unruly, emerging village. Such conditions were typical in many towns and villages across Upper Canada.

By 1835, the Mohawk Village, the driving force behind settlement and growth in this region, had been vacated.

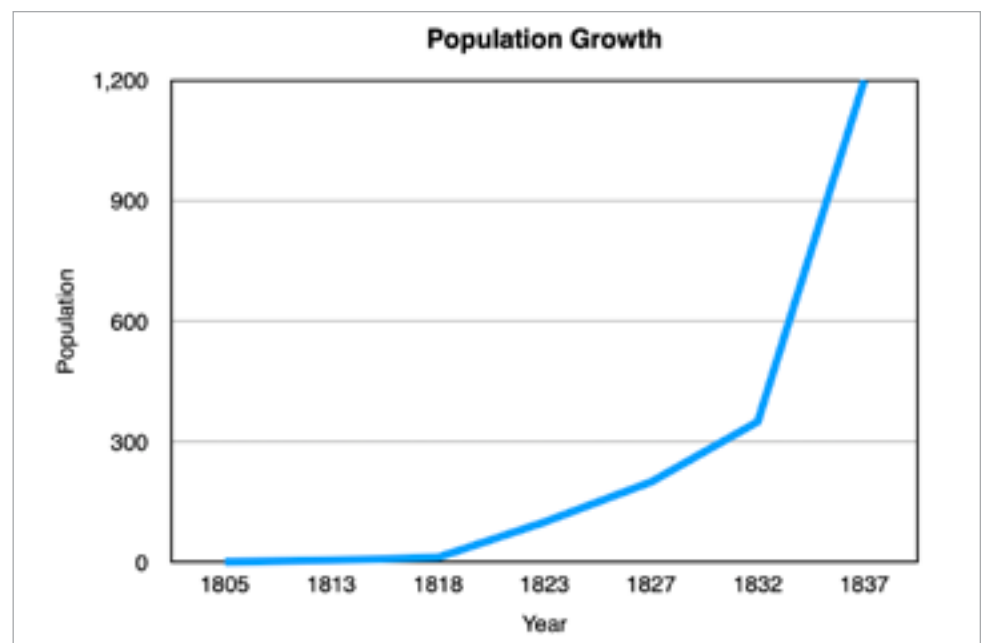
Past times

- drinking, almost every store in town sold liquor, whisky sold for 12½ cents a gallon; drinking four glasses a day was considered moderate;
- fighting, from too much drinking;
- gambling, which led to drinking and fighting;
- the Bee, from barn raising to corn shucking to quilting, the Bee provided for gossip and drinking;
- also swimming, fishing, sleighing, and horse racing.

Life in the village, while not completely monotonous, provided only limited variety. The townspeople contended with the influence of the church versus that of the tavern.

Worship

Burwell's town plot provided for six church properties: Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, and African. Before churches were established and permanent ministers appointed, congregations were led by itinerant preachers who held services outdoors or in the schoolhouse. Ironically, the market square, which was used as a place of worship, often hosted fights between rival groups.



The nearest place of worship was the Mohawk Chapel. The first church in the village, located at the corner of Albion and West Streets, was Grace Anglican, founded in 1832. It was built on the site of the current church. The Inghamite Church was formed in 1833, and a frame building was erected in 1839 on Mount Pleasant Street, on land now occupied by the Farringdon Independent Church. The church was built on land donated by Richard Brooks. He was given the opportunity to name the church. He chose Farringdon after his native town in Berkshire, England, and also after Ingham's first parish. The First Baptist Church was founded in December 1833. The First Presbyterian Church was organised in 1834, and a church was built in 1845 at the corner of Wellington and George Streets; it was relocated and renamed Alexandra Presbyterian Church in 1901. St Basil's Roman Catholic Church was established in 1840, and in 1842, a frame church was built at Crown and Palace Streets, where the current St Basil's stands. Note that the Catholic Church was built on a quiet back street rather than a main thoroughfare.

Fire Fighting

Brantford's firefighting gear was stored on Market Square. Because most buildings were made of wood and proper fire equipment was lacking, fire was a major hazard at the time. The first fire brigade was established in 1836, consisting of about fifty volunteers. Their pumper was a box mounted on a carriage, which they filled with water using buckets. They then pumped the water to generate pressure, allowing it to be sprayed through a hose. The hose's mechanism resembled a goose's neck, earning the firefighters the nickname *The Goose Neck Company*. To change the direction of the water flow, the entire machine had to be turned. This device was used until 1847, when another, more modern piece of equipment was purchased.

By 1838, the population had grown to the point that the townspeople petitioned the government for a separate county. But this would be another decade away.

Next month, Brantford's first newspaper and the people associated with it.

The Inghamite Church

The Inghamite Church was founded by Benjamin Ingham, an English cleric who was originally ordained as a Methodist minister and, as his views diverged from the Methodists over time, established his own Inghamite societies. Over 100 Inghamite chapels were believed to have existed; now, only two remain. The church in Brantford was the only church outside England. The Brantford church no longer calls itself Inghamite.



The first church building, a simple clapboard structure, was erected in 1839 on land donated by Mr. Richard Brooks. He was given the opportunity of naming the church, which he called Farringdon after his native town in Berkshire, England, and also after Ingham's first parish.

Source: <https://farringdonchurch.ca/about/history/>



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