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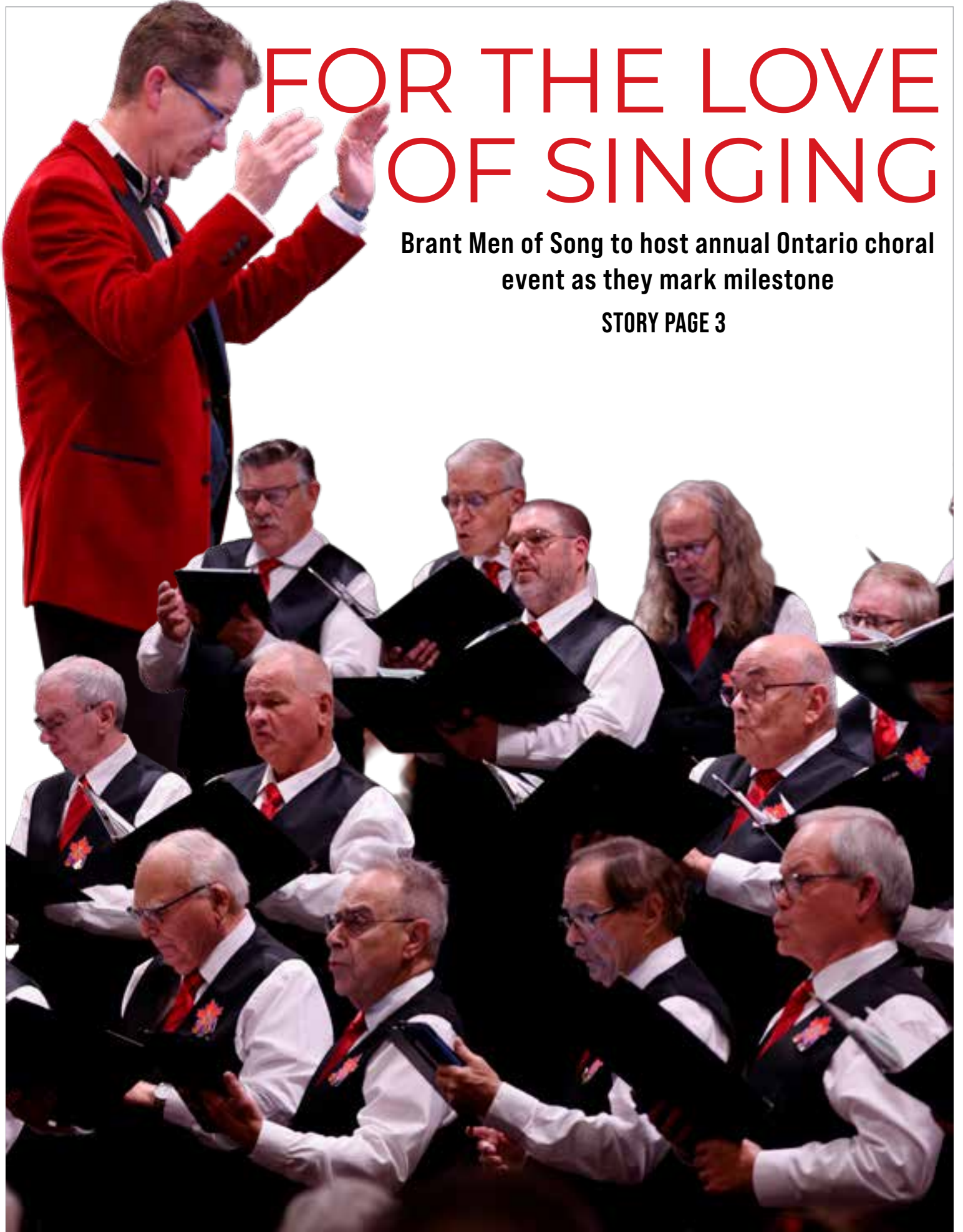


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## FOR THE LOVE OF SINGING

Brant Men of Song to host annual Ontario choral event as they mark milestone

STORY PAGE 3

**MICHAEL JACKSON HISTORY SHOW**  
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## Entertainment & Community Guide

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



### BSCENE AROUND TOWN



Photo: Thomas Clare

We were excited to receive our 10 year membership award from Joy O'Donnell, President of the Brantford-Brant Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, March 24th. The certificates were handed out to a number of member businesses during their 159th Annual General Meeting. Thanks and here's to another 10 years with the Chamber!

### Canada

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



### THE BSCENE TEAM

APRIL 2026 VOL. 12, EDITION 7

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](http://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](mailto:jason@bscene.ca) or by calling 226-802-2299. You can also visit us online at [www.bscene.ca](http://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**

Photos: Thomas Clare

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Submitted photos



Photo: Jason Freeze

# FOR THE LOVE OF SINGING



**YVONNE VAN DE WIELE-COOPER**

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Long-time Brant Men of Song member Leo Renzella describes the chorus as “a living thing” that provides positive energy. Accompanist and Concert Coordinator Amy Groleau agrees, that after a long day at work, rehearsal with the group provides a surprisingly feel-good boost. Both are hoping to share the joy of making music with more of the community, as the group marks its 65th anniversary. Brant Men of Song will host three special spring events, including a major annual concert featuring male choral singers from throughout the province.

Brantford boasts one of the longest running male choruses operating under the same name, in Canada. What would evolve into Brant Men of Song started with Frank Holton who formed the Cockshutt Male Choir back in 1935, followed by the Universal Ladies Choir in 1936. Holton was eventually instrumental in launching Brant Men of Song in 1961. Today, under the artistic direction of Bill Schatz, they sing everything from southern gospel to pop and Broadway hits, performing in churches, seniors’ centres and other venues in the area.

“A Day of Choral Singing” features a day of making and sharing choral music at Hope Christian Reformed Church on Buchanan Crescent in Brantford. The workshop - made possible by a generous grant from Enterprise Brant - is open to men and women and runs from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 11. Anyone 19 and over can join the Men for the workshop. And, if they enjoy the experience, are welcome to become a member of either the Brant Men of Song or sister choir the Brant County Singers next season. The workshop is followed by a concert at 7:00 p.m. featuring workshop participants. There is no cost to take part, but a freewill offering to the Brantford Food Bank for the concert will be accepted.



Submitted photo

Then on Saturday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m. the Brant Men of Song “Sing into Spring” with a concert at Burford United Church on King Street. This will be a ticketed event. Tickets are available from Chorus members or at the door.

The major provincial event is slated for Sunday, May 31st when Brant Men of Song host “A Sapphire Celebration Performance” with the Associated Male Choruses of Ontario (AMCO). “We will be hosting this event with about 150 men on stage singing en masse as well as each individual chorus participating,” said Groleau. The performance takes place at the Sanderson Centre at 3:00 p.m. with tickets available at the box office.

The Brant Men of Song will also host a morning rehearsal on April 11th with the south-western Ontario choral group, in preparation for the May 31st AMCO event. Six pieces of music will be taught by choir leaders from Cambridge, Toronto, Guelph, Burlington, Niagara Region and Brantford. Anyone interested is encouraged to join the April 11th afternoon workshop. “They don’t have to audition,” said Renzella. “That’s the beauty of it.” He adds, “If you’re a shower singer, come on out and have some fun.” Participants show up in the afternoon and learn four songs, which are then presented in a concert that night. The event is being made possible by a grant from Enterprise Brant. Groleau and Renzella also gave a shout out to Rock Solid Trailers for their financial support for advertising.

Meantime, Renzella says there are many benefits to being part of a choral group including the social aspect. And Groleau says singing in a choir also has physical benefits, “right from the mind down to the toes, because the feet need to support the body so you’re standing in a proper way.” Breathing, posture and stance also play a part. Groleau has spent 25 years as accompanist with the Brant Men of Song. “The men just have a very special place in my heart and we’ve just gelled,” she said.

The Brant Men of Song also hosted a sellout event at the Sanderson Centre when they celebrated their 50th anniversary. “The Sanderson Centre is a jewel,” said Renzella as he described the theatre’s outstanding acoustics. At that time the choir was ushered into the theatre by the Brantford Pipe Band. “It was a very, very positive experience,” he said. The Brantford Pipe Band will be back again on May 31st for “A Sapphire Celebration Performance” with the AMCO male chorus. Tickets to the event are available at the Sanderson Centre box office. <http://sandersoncentre.ca>

To register for the April 11th workshop and concert at Hope Christian Reformed Church email: [brantmenofsong@gmail.com](mailto:brantmenofsong@gmail.com). To learn more, visit their website at [brantmenofsong.ca](http://brantmenofsong.ca) or find them on social media.

**The Brant Men of Song**  
**CELEBRATING**  
**65 YEARS**  
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**at 3pm**

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**Performance at 7:00 PM**  
Admission to the evening performance:  
Financial contributions gratefully accepted for Brantford Food Bank.

For further information and to register for the workshop:  
[www.brantmenofsong.ca](http://www.brantmenofsong.ca)

Hope Christian Reformed Church, 64 Buchanan Crescent, Brantford



## BSCENE COMMUNITY NEWS



### CITY OF BRANTFORD ISSUES ARTIST CALL FOR WATER RESERVOIR MURAL

*Submitted Media Release*

The City of Brantford is inviting artists to transform the east-facing wall of the City Water Reservoir facility located at 310 Campbell Street with a new mural, visible from the Wayne Gretzky Parkway. Eligible artists are invited to submit expressions of interest and qualifications through the online form at [Brantford.ca/WaterReservoirMural](http://Brantford.ca/WaterReservoirMural) by Friday, April 10, at 11:59 p.m.

The commissioned artist will be selected through an open, two-stage process. A selection panel made up of practicing arts professionals and community members will evaluate submissions based on established scoring criteria and panel deliberation. The total project budget is \$35,000, inclusive of all associated costs, with installation of the mural planned for summer or early fall 2026.

This call is open to all professional artists who are eligible to work in Canada and live in Ontario, with special consideration given to local artists in the City of Brantford, the County of Brant, Six Nations of the Grand River, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations. Artist applications will be reviewed based on artistic excellence, expressed written interest in the site, and other professional qualification criteria. Proposals will not be considered during stage one of the selection process.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, April 10, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Questions about the Artist Call may be directed to [culture@brantford.ca](mailto:culture@brantford.ca) until Monday, April 6, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. To learn more about the project, visit [Brantford.ca/WaterReservoirMural](http://Brantford.ca/WaterReservoirMural).



### DRIVE OUT HUNGER CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT CELEBRATES TWO DECADES OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

*Submitted Media Release*

The Annual Drive Out Hunger Charity Golf Tournament, presented by Frontier Building Group, in support of the Brantford Food Bank, is set to make a major milestone this year, celebrating 20 years of bringing the community together in support of local food security.

Since 2006, the Drive Out Hunger Tournament has raised critical funds to support the essential programs and services of the Brantford Food Bank, helping ensure Brantford residents have reliable access to food. What began as a small

fundraising initiative has grown into one of the Food Bank's longest running signature events, and a beloved annual tradition.

"This tournament is more than just a day on the course, it represents partnership and a shared commitment to the community", said Heather Vanner, Executive Director. "We are incredibly grateful to Frontier Building Group for their continued support as a Platinum Sponsor, and to everyone who has helped make the past 20 years possible".

Golfer registration for the 2026 tournament is now officially full. However, there are still numerous sponsor opportunities available for businesses and organizations looking to make a meaningful impact.

As the Drive Out Hunger Charity Golf Tournament celebrates its 20th anniversary, The Brantford Food Bank would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported over the years. Your generosity has helped drive the vision forward, ensuring that everyone is fed, everyone is working, and everyone counts.



### LITTER OF ELEVEN LABRADOR PUPS READY TO TAKE ON THE SERVICE DOG WORLD!

*Submitted Media Release*

Autism Dog Services is delighted to announce the recent arrival of eleven healthy puppies from our latest whelping. Proud mama ADS Nova naturally welcomed all of her babies with ease and is a wonderful mother. She showers them with love, milk and takes good care of cleaning each puppy. All puppies are black Labs with 8 females and 3 males and all are thriving!

Vicky Spadoni, ADS Executive Director says "It takes a 'village' and we give huge thanks to the ADS Breeding Staff and Volunteer Breeder Caretaker, Christine for their love and care of both Nova and her puppies. Christine supported Nova throughout her entire labour and kept our first-time mom calm and comfortable. Also, we would like to thank the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides for collaborating with us to bring this litter forward as the next generation of service dogs. With this impressive litter, ADS received guidance and support from Graham Animal Hospital and Dunnville Veterinary Clinic. Thank you to the amazing teams of vets and vet techs for their support, care and guidance as we navigated the arrival of our new litter. I would be remiss if we did not give huge thanks to Glanbrook Vet Clinic for their ongoing care of the pups and Momma Nova".

Puppy Program Manager Dianne Nyeboer said "The new litter are exploring, getting lots of handling, cuddles and learning to spend positive time in a crate. The puppies are preparing to take on the Service Dog in-training role soon".

"With this large litter, we are always looking for puppy raisers to help with our service dogs in training", says Manager of Canine Services & Volunteer Operations Janine Brubacher. "By becoming a puppy raiser you get to help show these little ones how to be a service dog for someone who needs them. Sign up at <https://autismdogservices.ca/volunteer> It is a rewarding experience for someone who has a great love for dogs and wants to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals with autism".

ADS Fund Development Adele Alfano says: "At 11 puppies this is Autism Dog Services biggest litter and support is needed by selecting items from our Puppy Shower Wishlist to help us directly with our breeding program for much needed supplies". The wishlist is <https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/lz/EA8LEGIM5GCF...>

We would also welcome a monetary donation to help us not only support our ADS breeding program but every puppy in training at ADS". The link is <https://autismdogservices.ca/donate-now>

### RESULTS ANNOUNCED FOR THE COUNTY OF BRANT WARD 5 COUNCILLOR BY-ELECTION

*Submitted Media Release*



The County of Brant held a by-election on Monday, March 16, 2026, to fill a vacant Council seat for Ward 5. Following the County Clerk certifying the results, Ella Haley has been elected. (Elect Ella Haley for Ward 5 - Brant County)

"Thank you to the residents of Ward 5 for taking part in this important by-election," said Mayor David Bailey. "We are grateful to once again have a complete Council, representing all five Wards."

Voting took place from Monday, March 9 to Monday, March 16 at 8:00 pm. For the first time in the County of Brant, voting took place exclusively online and over the phone, with in-person voter assistance locations also available. A total of 1447 eligible voters cast their vote in the by-election, with Haley receiving 568 (39.3%) votes.

Haley will be sworn into office on March 24, 2026, at the regular meeting of the County of Brant Council. The term of this position is for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term of Council. The final meeting of the current Council is scheduled for October 20, 2026.

Haley was elected following the resignation of Councillor Christine Garneau in October 2025.

For more information on the Ward 5 by-election, visit [brant.ca/election](http://brant.ca/election).

To learn more about County of Brant Council, visit [brant.ca/Council](http://brant.ca/Council)



### BRANTFORD'S 2026 SPRING/SUMMER FUN GUIDE IS NOW AVAILABLE

*Submitted Media Release*

The City of Brantford is pleased to announce the release of the new 2026 Spring/Summer FUN Guide, which features more than 150 programs for recreation, sport and leisure. The FUN Guide is now available at several facilities throughout Brantford or residents can review the online version at [Brantford.ca/FUNGuide](http://Brantford.ca/FUNGuide).

"The arrival of the Spring/Summer FUN Guide marks the beginning of another vibrant season in Brantford," says Brantford Mayor Kevin Davis. "This guide reflects the City's commitment to offering inclusive recreational programming, events, and activities for all ages and abilities to enjoy. Thank you to dedicated City staff for their continued efforts in providing opportunities for the community to stay active and connect with others."

The Brantford FUN Guide features a diverse range of recreational activities for residents of all ages, interests and abilities. Discover exciting special events, action-packed summer day camps, enriching 55+ programming and more. Mark your calendars for the return of Brantford's Canada Day on July 1, Beats and Eats on July 18, and HipFest on August 15. Enjoy free live music, movies, roller skating, fitness classes and children's programming in Harmony Square downtown. The popular outdoor Summer Music Series returns to the Bell Homestead NHS. Splash into summer with swimming at Earl Haig Family Fun Park and Woodman Pool from May 29 to Labour Day or cool off at a neighbourhood splash pad.

Some programs will require registration at [Brantford.ca/ACTIVEnet](http://Brantford.ca/ACTIVEnet) or by calling 519-759-4150.

*Program and Summer Camp Registration Dates*

Residents are invited to mark their calendars for upcoming program, Swim Lessons and Summer Day Camp registration dates:

- Spring & Summer program registration begins Monday, March 30 at 7:30 a.m.
- Summer Day Camp registration begins on Wednesday, April 8 at 7:30 a.m.
- Summer Swim Lesson registration begins on Wednesday, June 17 at 7:30 a.m.

### 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

Free printed copies of the Spring/Summer 2026 Brantford FUN Guide are now available to pick up at the following facilities:

- Bell Homestead National Historic Site, 94 Tutela Heights Rd.
- Branlyn Community Centre, 238 Brantwood Park Rd.
- Brantford City Hall Customer Service, 58 Dalhousie St.
- Brantford Public Library - Main Branch, 173 Colborne St. and St. Paul Branch, 441 St. Paul Ave.
- Doug Snooks Eagle Place Community Centre, 333 Erie Ave.
- EarlyON Family and Learning Centres
- T.B. Costain/SC Johnson Community Centre, 16 Morrell St.
- TD Civic Centre, 79 Market St. S.
- Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course & Learning Centre, 320 Balmoral Dr.
- Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre, 254 North Park St.
- Woodman Park Community Centre, 491 Grey St.

*Brantford FUN Guide Survey*

Residents are encouraged to complete the short Brantford FUN Guide Survey to share how they prefer to learn about the City's recreational opportunities and events. Participants who provide their contact information will automatically be entered into a draw for a chance to win a \$50 Brantford Recreation Gift Card. The contest closes on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. The winner will be randomly selected and contacted by the email or phone number provided. The prize must be claimed with photo identification at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre located at 254 North Park Street



**BRANTFORD TRANSIT SERVICE AND FARE CHANGES EFFECTIVE APRIL 6, 2026**  
*Submitted Media Release*

Brantford Transit will introduce schedule and route changes on Monday, April 6, to improve reliability and make travel easier across the city.

Most routes will see small timing adjustments to improve reliability. Routes 7 and 9 will begin operating earlier in the morning to help reduce delays during busy periods. Routes 1, 5, 8, and 9 will include minor routing changes in select areas to better support passenger needs. Updated route maps and descriptions are available at [Brantford.ca/TransitRouteChanges](http://Brantford.ca/TransitRouteChanges).

Updated 2026 Transit Fares

In addition to service changes, a small fare increase will take effect on Monday, April 6, 2026. Updated fares reflect rising operational costs while maintaining access to affordable transit options for riders of all ages. Children 12 and under and veterans will continue to ride free of charge.

*Cash Fare*

Adult: \$3.25 • Senior: \$3.25 • Student: \$3.25 • CNIB: \$1.90

*BT Connect Cards*

2 Rides: \$6.50 • 10 Rides: \$26.00 • 20 Rides: \$52.00

*31-Day Pass*

- Adult: \$80.00

- Senior: \$60.00

- Student: \$60.00

- Affordability Program: \$60.00

- Summer High School Pass (July and August): \$70.00

- CNIB: \$42.50

*Day Pass*

- \$10.25

Full fare details are available at [Brantford.ca/TransitRates](http://Brantford.ca/TransitRates).

Brantford Transit appreciates your understanding as we work to enhance transit services. For help planning your ride, please call 519-753-3847 or email [Transit@Brantford.ca](mailto:Transit@Brantford.ca).



**BSCENE CLASSIFIEDS**

**COMING EVENTS**

**SPRING FLING DANCE!**

Friday, April 17th

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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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](http://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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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
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Great Advice from your **Neighbourhood Experts!****ENTREPRENEUR LIFESTYLE**BY **JODI LAKING** She/Her**YOU FILED YOUR TAXES... BUT IS YOUR BUSINESS PROTECTED?**

ASpring is a time when many business owners turn their attention to financial planning. Tax season is in full swing, and conversations around income, expenses, and compliance are top of mind.

But there's one question most business owners haven't asked:

What would happen to your business if you suddenly couldn't run it?

It's not a comfortable question—but it's an important one.

- Who would contact your clients?
- Who would have access to your accounts and systems?
- Would your family even know where to begin?

Many people assume their lawyer or accountant will take care of everything. While these professionals play critical roles, they are not responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of your business.

Without a plan, the responsibility often falls to a spouse or family member—someone who may already be dealing with stress, uncertainty, or loss.

In many cases, they are left trying to figure things out in real time. Business contingency planning isn't about expecting the worst. It's about being prepared.

It means organizing key information, documenting how your business operates, and ensuring that someone knows what steps to take if you are unexpectedly unavailable.

If you're already taking the time this spring to review your finances, this is a natural next step, because protecting your business isn't just about growth.

It's about ensuring the people around you are supported when it matters most. You've built something meaningful. It's time to protect it.

To learn more or begin your plan, visit: [www.yourbusinessexecutor.ca/start-your-plan](http://www.yourbusinessexecutor.ca/start-your-plan) or join the upcoming 4-week program designed to guide you step-by-step. You don't need to do everything today. But you do need to start.



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**YOUR MOBILE LIFE**BY **STEVE & LORRAINE GARNHAM****SAMSUNG'S NEW S26 SERIES PHONES**

Samsung has launched their new S26 series phones. Below is a summary of some of the upgrades and improvements in the Samsung S26 series.

**Bigger screen and slimmer build**

The regular Galaxy S26 now has a 6.3-inch AMOLED display, slightly larger than the 6.2-inch screen on the S25. The S26+ and S26 Ultra come in lighter, slimmer bodies than the S25 models.

**Faster performance**

Inside, the S26 phones use new Exynos 2600 or Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 chips, which bring faster AI tasks, smoother gaming, and better multitasking than the S25 series. Everyday apps open quicker, graphics look smoother, and the phones handle heavy use with less lag.

**Stronger battery**

Battery sizes are up on the S26 and S26+, giving you more screen-on time than before. The S26 Ultra keeps its 5,000 mAh battery but adds quicker 60W wired and 25W wireless charging, so you spend less time plugged in and can top up quickly during the day.

**Camera and AI upgrades**

The camera hardware is similar to the S25, with a 200 MP main sensor on the Ultra, but Samsung has boosted image quality with new AI tools. Night photos and videos look cleaner, zoom shots are sharper, and AI helps reduce noise and improve detail, especially at long distances.

**Privacy**

A new Privacy Display on the S26 Ultra narrows viewing angles so people beside you see less of your screen. This makes it easier to use your phone on transit, in cafés, or in meetings without sharing everything on your display.

**Everyday tools**

Galaxy AI is improved, with smarter photo editing, better voice help, and more on-device processing. These tools aim to keep things fast, save time, and protect your data by doing more work directly on the phone.

As always if you have any questions about the new Samsung S26 series phones contact us at CPR Cell Phone Repair Brantford.



185 King George Road Unit A2 Brantford  
519.304.3550 [cpr-brantford.com](http://cpr-brantford.com)

**EDUCATION**BY **TIFFANY BERE****SUMMER LEARNING**

Summer break isn't just time off—it's a powerful opportunity to support your child's learning in a meaningful way.

The two months of summer can have just as much impact on your child's academic progress as the rest of the school year. In fact, how students spend this time can shape whether they return to school feeling confident and prepared—or struggling to catch up.

Summer is an opportunity for students to catch up in a challenging subject, build stronger learning skills, and start next year confident and ready to learn from day one!

**Avoid the "Summer Slide"**

Research shows that over the summer, students can lose up to:

- 2 months of reading and writing skills
- 1 month of math skills

But with just a little consistency, this learning loss is completely preventable.

**How Summer Learning Helps**

*Catch Up* - Review and reinforce key concepts from the previous year.  
*Keep Up* - Maintain learning momentum so skills stay fresh.  
*Get Ahead* - Preview next grade material and walk into the new school year prepared.

**Why Summer Learning Works**

Summer learning feels different—and that's a good thing. With a more relaxed, low-pressure environment, students are often more engaged and open to learning. Without the demands of a full school schedule, they can focus on one subject at a time, reducing stress and improving comprehension.

For younger learners, summer is also a great way to gently introduce classroom structure, helping them build confidence and establish a strong academic foundation early on.

Elementary students, in particular, experience rapid academic growth. Summer offers a valuable chance to revisit what they've learned, connect ideas, and truly understand the material—rather than just moving on.

**Keep It Simple**

Incorporating learning into summer doesn't have to be overwhelming. Just a few hours of focused learning each week can:

- Prevent learning loss
- Build confidence
- Reduce stress during the school year

With flexible scheduling and a variety of program options available, it's easy to make summer learning fit your routine.

Contact us for more information on our programs as well as our new Virtual Table™ Teaching Sessions!  
All Ages. All Grades. All Subjects.



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**BUSINESS SERVICES**BY **SARA MCCLELLAN** GENERAL MANAGER**TIPS FOR SURVIVING ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY**

In times of economic uncertainty, small businesses often feel the impact first. Reduced consumer spending, rising operating costs, and delayed payments can quickly strain cash flow. Yet with the right strategies and mindset, businesses can navigate these challenges and emerge even stronger.

Start by gaining complete visibility into your finances. Review your cashflow statements weekly to understand where money is coming from and where it is going. Identify expenses that you can pause, reduce or renegotiate such as subscriptions, supplier contracts, or service plans. Your vendors may be open to temporary adjustments during economic downturns, so initiate those conversations.

Focus on strengthening your revenue streams. Diversify by exploring new products or services that align with your customers' shifting needs. Expand into digital offerings that require minimal overhead. Small additions like online workshops, subscription boxes, or service bundles can create steadier income and reduce dependency on a single revenue source.

Encourage customers to pay sooner by offering small discounts for early payments, implementing automated invoices, or simplifying your payment options. Be transparent with clear terms, upfront estimates, and timely reminders to increase the likelihood of on time payments.

Communication is important. Keep your team informed about the business's financial health and involve them in problemsolving. Employees often have valuable insights into inefficiencies or new opportunities.

Remember that resilience comes from planning. Build a cash reserve goal, whether it's one month of expenses or three, then contribute to it consistently. Consider consulting a financial advisor or joining a peer business network for advice and support.

With proactive planning, disciplined cashflow management, and a willingness to adapt, your small business will withstand economic pressures and will be positioned for longterm stability and growth.

Enterprise Brant provides counselling and financing for start up and existing businesses in Brantford-Brant.

**NEED HELP? CALL US! 519-752-4636.**



Enterprise Brant 330 West St., Unit 10  
[enterprisebrant.com](http://enterprisebrant.com)  
[communications@enterprisebrant.com](mailto:communications@enterprisebrant.com)  
Office hours: 8:30 to 4:30, M-F

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



**YOU'RE NOT BAD AT COPING, YOU'RE OVERLOADED**

If you've been telling yourself, "I should be handling this better," take a breath. Many high-functioning people move through their days doing what's expected of them. They show up. They get things done. They take care of others. On the outside, it can look like everything is under control. But inside, there's often a quiet exhaustion, a sense of always being "on," and very little space to actually feel or recover.

What if the issue isn't that you're bad at coping but that you're carrying too much? High-functioning doesn't mean you're not struggling. It often means you've become very good at pushing through. That can work for a while, but stress has a way of catching up. It can look like productivity, responsibility and success until it starts to show up as irritability, brain fog and a sense that you're never caught up.

In the name of finding relief in Stress Awareness Month, let's talk about a few shifts that may help you manage your stress and decrease overwhelm.

- **Name your load:** Write down everything you're currently responsible for. Seeing it clearly can be grounding and validating. Don't forget mental load, as anticipating responsibilities is just as stressful as what you are actually responsible for.
- **Look for "optional" pressure:** Where are you holding expectations that no one has actually asked of you?
- **Create one boundary:** Pick something small but real, like saying no, delaying a task, or asking for help.
- **Build in recovery, not just productivity:** Rest isn't a reward. It's a necessary part of the system.

You don't need to become better at coping with an unsustainable load. You need to give yourself permission to carry less. And that's a very different kind of strength. Reach out if you want help making the shifts you need to be kinder to yourself. Reducing stress is possible!



**Maratos Counselling & Consulting Services**  
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**BAKERY**

BY STACEY BESTER



**SPRING FORWARD INTO A SWEET TREAT**

As the last traces of winter melt away, spring arrives with a gentle sweetness that renews our cravings for a treat. For us, this season is less about traditions and more about transformation—lighter flavours, pastel colours, and a fresh sense of creativity in every batch we bake.

Spring invites us to rethink indulgence. Gone are the heavier spices and rich, dense textures of colder months. In their place comes delicate notes of citrus, fresh berries, and floral infusions. Lemon tarts gleam like sunshine on a plate, while strawberry shortcakes bring a burst of flavour that mirrors the season itself. Even a simple vanilla cupcake feels new again when topped with a soft pink rosette of buttercream.

There's something special about how customers respond this time of year. After months of bundling up, people linger a little longer, chatting and finding treats that feel as fresh as the air outside. Our bakery becomes a small gathering place where neighbours reconnect, and where the sweetness of the season is shared in more ways than one.

Spring baking is also about anticipation. It's the promise of what's to come—the first local fruits, the longer days, the simple joy of stepping outside without a heavy coat. Each SWEET treat we create reflects that sense of optimism, a reminder that even small pleasures can mark the turning of a season.

At its heart, baking in spring is about celebrating renewal. It's about embracing lighter moments, brighter flavours, and the quiet happiness that comes from something made with care. And if a perfectly glazed lemon loaf or a berry-filled scone can capture even a fraction of that feeling, then we know we're doing something right.

**MAKE EVERYDAY A #SWEET OCCASION**



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 Brantford, ON N3R 2X8  
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**DATA OPTIMIZATION**

BY JOANNE PALMA P.ENG.



**FOOD WASTE AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Nearly half of all food in Canada gets thrown away. According to Second Harvest, this wasted food could feed 17 million people. Most of this waste happens at home, with each Canadian tossing out \$868 worth of food every year (ontario.ca).

How does food waste connect to climate change? Producing food makes up about a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. If we throw away half of the food we make, about 12% of total emissions come from food that just ends up in the trash. Waste disposal also harms the environment.

In Ontario, about 60% of food and organic waste goes to landfills. The Green Bin program helps reduce this, but it only works if people use it. When organic waste breaks down in a landfill without oxygen, it creates methane gas. Methane is 25 to 30 times stronger than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. The Brantford landfill collects this methane and turns it into electricity and carbon dioxide.

Composting can cut greenhouse gases by about half. But that's not all. Compost feeds new plants and helps soak up carbon from the air. It also extends the lifespan of our landfills, reducing emissions and lowering transportation costs in the future. Plus, farmers need less fertilizer for their crops.

**How can spreadsheets help?**

Try using a spreadsheet to plan your meals for the week and make a shopping list. Before you shop, check what you already have at home to avoid buying extra food.

You can also use spreadsheets to change recipe amounts for any group size. This helps you avoid too many leftovers or make enough for another meal.

For a greener choice:

1. Only purchase the food you are going to eat,
2. Share food you are not going to eat while it is still good,
3. Place organic waste in a backyard composter or the Brantford Green Bin.



**Spreadsheet Specialist**  
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 linkedin joanne-palma

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

BY VASEEM "THE AI GUY" BAIG



**FROM SEED TO SUCCESS**

Growing AI Capabilities With Confidence in Brant County

April in Brant County feels like a reset.

The air softens. The daylight stretches. The Brantford Farmers Market comes back to life, and if you do end up going, I've been told the Jamaican patties are so tasty!

This is also the season when something else starts to show: what's been quietly growing under the surface inside organizations all across the world.

**AI is accelerating fast.** Regulators are nervous. *Shadow AI is already everywhere.* And many companies are trying to "keep people safe" by offering basic, locked-down tools that cannot keep up with the curiosity and capability people already have.

So leaders are facing a real tension this spring:

Do we clamp down, or do we grow up?

If you want to adopt *AI with confidence*, think less about "rolling out" technology and more about farming.

Here's the **From Seed to Success** approach:

1. **Choose one seed worth tending.**  
 Find the AI use case that already showed value. Not the flashiest. The one that reduced friction, improved clarity, or saved real time.
2. **Build a small garden bed around it.**  
 Write the simple rules. Name what good looks like. Decide what data is allowed. Put an owner on it. Confidence comes from structure, not enthusiasm.
3. **Expand row by row, not field by field.**  
 Train a few more people. Add one adjacent workflow. Measure what changed. Then repeat. This is how you scale without losing control.

Paris has its construction headaches right now, but everyone knows what happens when the plan is solid and the conditions are right: **things bloom!**

And if you ever visited Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, you already know "AI" can mean something completely different in the milking cows tent.

So Dear Reader, start small. Tend what works. Grow what's proven.

And for anything and everything AI, you know who to call.....



learn@vaseemtheaiguy.com  
 647.527.5144  
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MORTGAGES

BY MICHEL ST. PIERRE



WAR, OIL, AND MORTGAGE RATES? OH MY!

The geopolitical landscape has shifted dramatically, and the current conflict involving Iran is sending shockwaves far beyond the Middle East. For Canadians, the front line of this crisis isn't just in the headlines—it's hitting home in the form of rising fixed mortgage rates.

As the conflict escalates, global oil prices have spiked, fueling fresh fears of persistent inflation. In the financial world, inflation is the enemy of bonds. When investors anticipate higher prices, they demand higher returns, causing Government of Canada bond yields to surge. Because lenders use these yields as the benchmark for pricing fixed-rate mortgages, the impact was almost instantaneous. We have seen fixed rates jump by as much as 50 basis points (0.50%) in some cases, effectively erasing months of stability.

This isn't just a statistical tweak; it is a direct blow to affordability. For the roughly one million Canadians facing mortgage renewals this year, the timing couldn't be worse. Many are transitioning from the historic lows of 2021 into a "payment shock" era. An increase of 25 to 50 basis points adds extra dollars to a monthly payment, stretching household budgets to the breaking point.

The most critical takeaway is this: We are not going back to where we were. Even if a settlement were reached tomorrow, the structural damage to global supply chains and the "geopolitical risk premium" on energy are here to stay. The era of ultra-cheap money is on hold for now, and market volatility will likely persist for some time. In this environment, waiting for rates to "settle" is a dangerous gamble. Being proactive by securing a rate lock now is the smartest move to protect your solvency. A rate lock provides a ceiling in a room where the floor is rapidly rising, ensuring you aren't left vulnerable to the next spike in global tensions.



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COUNTY OF Brant Simply Grand
Volunteer Fair
Date: Thursday, April 23
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Location: Brant Sports Complex
944 Powerline Road, Paris
Meet local community groups
Explore volunteer opportunities
For updates on 2026 Volunteer Fair participants, visit brant.ca/VolunteerFair
Stay in the know! Subscribe to receive County of Brant news and notices at brant.ca/Subscribe

The Spring/ Summer Guide is now here!
Registration for Spring and Summer programs now open at brant.ca/COBconnect
2026 Aquatics Guide: Thursday, April 30, 2026
After School Program registration: June 8, 2026 at 6:00 pm
brant.ca/Guide
Seniors (55+)
WELLNESS FAIR
Thursday, April 9
10:00 am - 1:00 pm (drop-in)
Sojourn Church (112 Scott Ave, Paris)
Meet 20+ community partners and explore local health and wellness resources for Seniors.
Learn more: brant.ca/SeniorEvents

# Scatter & Sway

## with PHILIP CHIU, PIANO

Join the Brantford Music Club in welcoming to the Sanderson stage, Philip Chiu, a Juno-winning pianist who will delight with his most recent programme Scatter and Sway, the final concert of the 2025-26 Canadian Artists series.

Described as “a pianist-painter who transforms each musical idea into a beautiful array of colours” (La Presse), Philip concertizes as a soloist and chamber musician across Canada, the United States and abroad. He has collaborated with many of today’s leading artists, such as James Ehnes, and the New Orford String Quartet. Playing with violinist Jonathan Crow for many years, this duo has become a favourite among chamber music audiences.

Philip is committed to bringing his music to communities nationwide, as seen by fourteen extensive cross-Canada tours with Prairie Debut, Jeunesses Musicales Canada and Debut Atlantic.

He has a discography which showcases both the classical traditional repertoire as well as contemporary offerings. His JUNO-award winning album Fables followed by Voyages, is a tribute to his birthplace of Hong Kong that weaves works by Ravel and Debussy with new commissions from Canadian composers such as Barbara Assignaak and Alice Ping Yee Ho. His collaborations on disc with artists such as cellist Cameron Crozman and flautist Lara Deutsch are worthy of any music collection.

We are looking forward to seeing you on **Wednesday, April 29** at 7:30pm

Sanderson Centre, 88 Dalhousie St. Brantford

Tickets: Adults \$35 Students \$10 Grade 8 and under FREE.

Available at the Sanderson Centre Box Office: 519-758-8090

sandersoncentre.ca



Submitted photo



BRANTFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BOOK FAIR COMMITTEE

## BOOK FAIR 2026

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NOT ACCEPTING

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 Cassettes, Magazines

**INFORMATION 226-552-5579**

brantfordsymphony.ca/event/2026-bso-book-fair





**BE SEEN WITH BSCENE** *A Look Back Through the Eyes of Our Photographers*

**73RD ANNUAL FLASHING BLADES**  
March 14, 2026 • TD Civic Centre, Brantford ON • Photos: Jason Freeze



# BRAVA Celebrates Volunteers in Brantford & Brant



by **KARLI CASS**  
President, BRAVA

Each year, communities across the country come together to celebrate National Volunteer Week, a time to recognize the individuals who generously give their time and energy to support others. This year, volunteers throughout the community will be celebrated from April 19th to April 25th.



Submitted photos

The 2026 theme **“Ignite Volunteerism”** highlights the many ways Canadians strengthen their communities through service and kindness. From supporting local organizations to lending a helping hand to neighbours, volunteers play a vital role in building stronger, more connected communities.

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well throughout Brantford and Brant. Residents are encouraged to explore the many volunteer opportunities available and

consider how even small acts of service can make a meaningful difference. Every contribution helps enrich the community we call home.

The message is perhaps best captured in a well-known quote from television host and children’s educator Fred Rogers:

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.”

Many people may not realize that our community is also home to the Brant Regional Association of Volunteer Administrators, a local organization that has been connecting leaders in volunteer engagement since 1988. Through monthly meetings, networking opportunities, and professional development, those who support and coordinate volunteers work together



to strengthen volunteerism across Brantford and Brant.

Community members interested in volunteering are encouraged to explore the BRAVA member agencies page at



Stock graphics

[bravabrant.com/memberagencies](http://bravabrant.com/memberagencies) to learn more about the many local organizations that engage volunteers right here in our community. While many volunteers discover opportunities through conversations with friends, family, or colleagues, BRAVA’s website highlights a wide range of agencies that welcome volunteers and provides a helpful starting point for anyone looking to get involved and make a difference in the community.

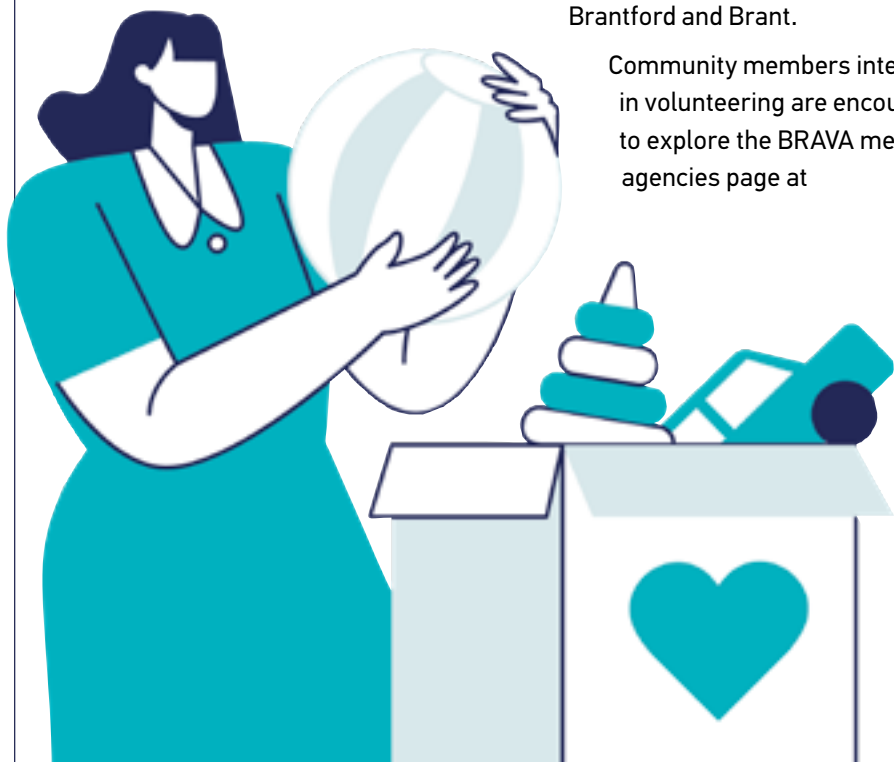


If you are not already volunteering, consider making 2026 the year you get involved. Even a small act of service can help “ignite” positive change and strengthen the community we are proud to call home.

Local organizations are encouraged to learn more about BRAVA and the benefits of membership by visiting [www.bravabrant.com](http://www.bravabrant.com). Members have access to professional development, networking opportunities, volunteer recognition events and awards, as well as participation in a community-wide volunteer fair.

Community members interested in getting involved are invited to attend the upcoming **Spring Volunteer Fair** on Saturday, May 9th, at the TB Costain/SC Johnson Community Centre (16 Morrell St., Brantford) from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. The event will provide an opportunity to meet representatives from local organizations, explore volunteer opportunities, and learn how you can make a meaningful difference in the community.

- [bravabrant.com](http://bravabrant.com)
- [BRAVABrant](https://www.facebook.com/BRAVABrant)
- [bravabrant](https://www.instagram.com/bravabrant)



## BRANTFORD’S SPRING VOLUNTEER FAIR



Discover Your Passion. Make a Difference!

The City of Brantford, in partnership with Brant Regional Association of Volunteer Administrators (BRAVA), is hosting a Spring Volunteer Fair this May! Discover exciting ways to get involved, build new skills, and make a difference in your community. There is something for everyone.

Come explore local volunteer opportunities!

Saturday May 9, 2026  
10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.  
T.B. Costain/SC Johnson Community Centre,  
16 Morrell Street

For more information, please email [mrutten@brantford.ca](mailto:mrutten@brantford.ca) or call Maegen at 519-759-4150 ext.5070.





# NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

APRIL 19-25, 2026

*Thank you*

**to our dedicated volunteers!**

Your ongoing commitment makes a real difference to our community.

**GET INVOLVED WITH US**

Apply Now

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## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

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[www.strongstart.ca](http://www.strongstart.ca)



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*Thank You*

**Through their compassion, kindness, and generosity of time, our volunteers help provide our residents with love, care, and dignity every single day. While we recognize them during this special week, their contributions are**

**deeply appreciated each and every day of the year. Thank you!**



The Brant Community Healthcare System celebrates our volunteers.

Together we are creating a stronger, more resilient, and inclusive healthcare community for everyone.



Volunteer to make a difference - [bchsys.org/volunteer](http://bchsys.org/volunteer)

**Thanks to ALL the VOLUNTEERS**



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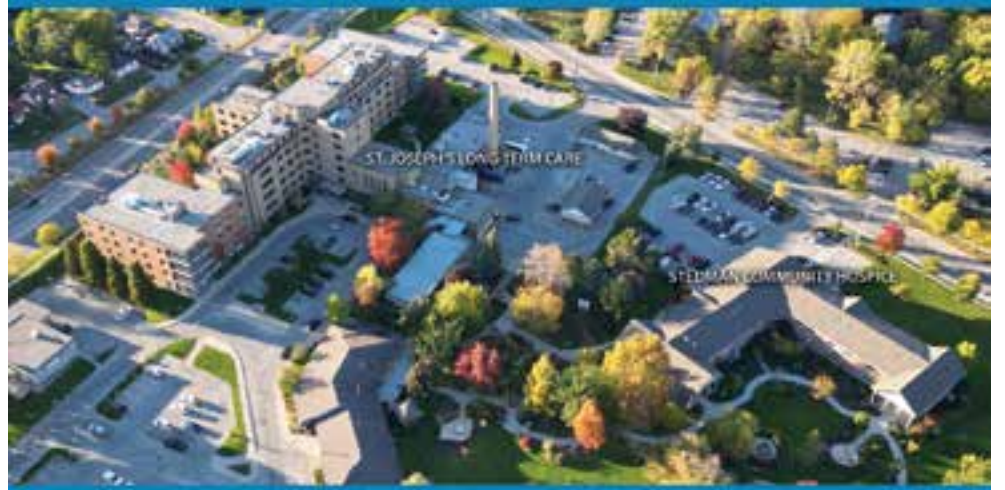
# CELEBRATING VOLUNTEER MENTORS

Thank you volunteers! You're helping to make an incredible impact in Brantford, with **520 hours of volunteerism** to celebrate.

MentorsForKids.ca



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# THANK YOU

TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO GRAND RIVER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Grand River Community Health Centre

WWW.GRANDRIVERCHC.COM




# Happy VOLUNTEER WEEK

Thank you for the generosity of compassion and time given by volunteers to strengthen our communities and build a stronger Canada.

**LARRY BROCK MP**  
BRANTFORD—BRANT SOUTH—SIX NATIONS  
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THE COUNTY OF BRANT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Celebrates National Volunteer Week

We are so grateful for the time and devotion that volunteers selflessly give to make the world a better place!

www.brantchamber.ca  
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**April 19 to 25 is National Volunteer Week.**

Thank you, Brantford volunteers, for igniting positive change in our community.

#NVW2026 #TeamBrantford

Learn more and how to get involved at [Brantford.ca/Volunteer](http://Brantford.ca/Volunteer)





Enterprise Brant  
a Brant Community Futures Development Corporation

# THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

We appreciate all you do for our community!




**Dan MUYS**  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Thank you to all volunteers!  
You are the heart and soul of our communities!

**Dan Muys, MP for Brant North**  
519-448-1483  
dan.muys@parl.gc.ca | DanMuysMP.ca






**BE SEEN WITH BSCENE** *A Look Back Through the Eyes of Our Photographers*

**BRANTFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: BACHAMANIA**

March 22, 2026 • Sanderson Centre, Brantford ON • Photos: Jason Freeze



A Playful Fox Productions Presentation



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Created and written by Aaron Sorkin  
The West Wing, The Social Network

**MAY 1, 2 & 3**

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# APRIL 2026

Please visit [bscene.ca](https://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
<b>ONGOING EVENTS</b>					
March 24-May 15	Summer Company 2026 application	Online			<a href="https://bit.ly/summercompany2026">https://bit.ly/summercompany2026</a>
Apr. - Apr. 13	Call for Productions: Grand River Arts Festival				info/application - <a href="http://glenhyrst.ca/graf/theatre/call/10minplaycomp">glenhyrst.ca/graf/theatre/call/10minplaycomp</a>
March 1 - May 1	Call for Artists - 2026 Grand River Arts Festival	More info. <a href="http://grandriverartsfestival.ca">http://grandriverartsfestival.ca</a>			email Feb. 6 Ana Olson
Apr. 1 - 30	Teen Formal Swap	Donate Cty. of Brant Public Library (ALL branches)			Browse items at Cty. of Brant Public Library (Paris)
Apr. 1 - May 15	Nominations: 2026 Salute to Brant Business Awards	Info. & submissions: <a href="http://www.brant.ca/Salute">http://www.brant.ca/Salute</a>		4:00 pm	email Lisa Henrique March 2 County of Brant
Apr. 1 - May 30	Brant Men of Song 65th Anniversary Display	Brant County Museum, 57 Charlotte St.			M-F: 1-5pm • Sat: 10am-5pm Donations gratefully accepted.
Wed. Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Mood Walks	20 Darling St., Brantford	10:00 am	12:00 pm	Arrive early 1st walk. For adults & support person with mental health disorder.
Wed. Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Storytime at St. Paul	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	Ages 18 months to 4 years.
Wed. Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Karaoke with KJ Keith	Marvelous Lounge	6:00 pm	11:00 pm	
Wed. Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Casual Knit & Chat	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	All welcome. Learning resources available.
Thurs. Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	Crafty Kids Storytime	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	Ages 18 months to 4 years.
Thurs. Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	Mood Matters Peer Group	HOPE suite #207	11:00 am	12:00 pm	
Thurs. Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	Come Play! - EarlyON	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	1:30 pm	4:00 pm	Ages 0 - 6.
Thurs. Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	Mahjong Club	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	1:30 pm	4:00 pm	Free, drop in program.
Thurs. Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	A Place to Be	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	Snacks & DIY activities.
Thurs. Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	Fish & Chips	Knights Hall	3:00 pm	6:00 pm	Call 548-328- 4031 ahead to place an order for pickup
Friday Apr. 3, 10, 17 & 24	Live Music	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	Free to the public.
Sat. Apr. 4, 11, 18 & 25	Hope's Peer Support Drop-in Program	20 Darling St., Brantford	12:00 pm	2:30 pm	For adults with mental health disorders.
Sat. Apr. 4, 11, 18 & 25	Live Music	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	Free to the public.
Sunday Apr. 5, 12, 19 & 26	Hope's Peer Support Drop-in Program	20 Darling St., Brantford	12:00 pm	2:30 pm	For adults living with mental health disorders.
Sunday Apr. 5, 12, 19 & 26	Sunday Singles Dances	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Adm: \$15. per person. Dress code in effect, no jeans permitted.
Monday Apr. 6, 13, 20 & 27	TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)	Alexandra Presbyterian Church	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	New members welcome.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	English Conversation Circle	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	10:30 am	12:00 pm	New topic each week.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Baby & Me Storytime (St. Paul Branch)	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	Ages 0-18 months.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	King George Rd. Seniors	Fairview Community Centre	1:30 pm	3:30 pm	Contact: Mary Purdy at 519.449.5465 for more info.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Slow Stitching	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	All ages & skill levels welcome.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Application Support Program	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	4:00 pm	Support completing all types of application forms.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	I.D. Clinic	Grand River Community Health Centre	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	Drop in. Help with applications for health cards, birth certificates, photo I.D.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Canada Connects: English Conversation Circles	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	English language learning support for newcomers.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Tween Tues.s	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	Ages 9 - 12.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Tues. Night Knitters	County of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Free, drop in program.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Brant Men of Song Choir Practices	First Baptist Church, 70 West. St., Brantford	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	New members welcome.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Euchre Night	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	7:00 pm		Free to play.
Tues. Apr. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Karaoke with KJ Kaneesha	Marvelous Lounge	9:00 pm	1:00 am	
Thurs. Apr. 9 - May 28	Game Zone Drop-In	County of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	3:00 pm	4:30 pm	(exclude May 7) For tweens & teens.
Friday Apr. 10, 17 & 24	Community Connections	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Adult drop-in program.
Sunday Apr. 12, 19 & 26	Bell City Strum Club	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	4:00 pm	Ukulele music group.
Monday Apr. 13, 20 & 27	Baby & Me Storytime (Main Branch)	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	Ages 0-18 months.
Monday Apr. 13, 20 & 27	Homeschool Hangout	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	Ages 6-12.
Monday Apr. 13, 20 & 27	Social Services Outreach Worker Drop-In	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	
Monday Apr. 13, 20 & 27	Canada Connects: English Conversation Circles	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	For newcomers. (Also May 4.)
Apr. 18 - 26	Rotary Sunrise 6th Online Auction	Online			Online Auction <a href="https://brantfordrotarysunrise.ca/">https://brantfordrotarysunrise.ca/</a>



Event Guide Sponsored by

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EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
<b>WEDNESDAY APRIL 1</b>				
Youth Volunteer Group	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	5:30 pm	6:30 pm	Ages 13 - 17.
Family Emergency Preparedness Workshop	Zoom	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Register at <a href="https://joyofresilience.com">joyofresilience.com</a>
Watercolour Gift Bags	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	All supplies provided, reg. required <a href="https://brant-ca.libcal.com/calendar/public">https://brant-ca.libcal.com/calendar/public</a>
Laurier-Brantford International Film Series	Steven & Helen Kun Theatre	7:00 pm		Doors open 6:30pm. All welcome, no tickets. Amelie
Paris Horticultural April Meeting	Paris Fairgrounds	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	Come out and be our guest.
Artists in Conversation: The Woven Ones	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	8:00 pm		for tickets : <a href="https://bit.ly/3NndWW6">https://bit.ly/3NndWW6</a> or 519.758.8090
<b>THURSDAY APRIL 2</b>				
Brant Writes Writing Club	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	All writers & aspiring writers welcome.
Crafternoons!	County of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	3:00 pm	4:30 pm	Drop in program.
Spring Sketch+ Club with Lindsay Liboiron (8 Weeks!)	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant	4:30 pm	6:00 pm	Children's Classes Registration link: <a href="http://glenhyrst.ca/classes">http://glenhyrst.ca/classes</a> .
Wellness Drop-In with SAC Brant	County of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	3:00 pm	5:00 pm	Drop in program. For immediate support 24/7 519.751.3471.
Fiction Writing Drop-in	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	
2SLGBTQIA+ Community Connections	Grant River Community Health Centre	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Contact Dianne at <a href="mailto:dcrotta@grhc.ca">dcrotta@grhc.ca</a> or 519.750.4932.
First Time Homebuyers' Event	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	6:00 pm	9:00 pm	Free to the public.
St. Paul Crafter's Circle	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	
Green Team Brantford Monthly Meeting	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Contact Ken for more information <a href="mailto:thekenburns@gmail.com">thekenburns@gmail.com</a>
Grand Thursday (Grand River Blues)	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Tickets: \$25. advance <a href="https://ticketscene.ca/events/58080/">https://ticketscene.ca/events/58080/</a> OR \$30 at the door
<b>FRIDAY APRIL 3 GOOD FRIDAY</b>				
Friday Night in the Gallery	Brant Naval Veterans' Club	3:15 pm	5:15 pm	Must Purchase Tickets from Bar in advance. Haddock, fries, coleslaw & bread.
<b>SATURDAY APRIL 4</b>				
Pancake Breakfast	Smokey Hollow Estates, 114 Powerline Rd.	9:00 am	12:00 pm	\$10 pancakes, 2 sausages, muffins while they last, coffee/tea.
Easter Egg Hunt at The Village 2026!	Children's Safety Village of Brant	10:00 am	1:00 pm	
Français a Paris	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	All levels of French welcome.
Photos with the Easter Bunny	Paris Wincey Mills	10:00 am	2:00 pm	Free event, donations to Optimist Club appreciated.
Hop into Easter with Moore Farms Ayr	Moore's Farm	10:00 am	1:00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt and live animals, 497 Pinehurst Rd., Ayr, ON
Homecraft Workshop Series: Easter Painting Craft	Paris Fairgrounds	10:30 am	12:00 pm	\$15. per person. Pre-registration required: <a href="mailto:1013new@gmail.com">1013new@gmail.com</a>
Butt Blitz 2026 Events	Brantford General Hospital	11:00 am	1:00 pm	Check <a href="https://www.facebook.com/GreenTeamBrantford/">https://www.facebook.com/GreenTeamBrantford/</a> for more information
Magic: The Gathering Drop-In	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	12:00 pm	2:00 pm	All skill levels welcome. For tweens & teens ages 10+.
Easter Cookie Workshop	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	1:00 pm	3:00 pm	Registration: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/EasterCookieWorkshopApril4">https://tinyurl.com/EasterCookieWorkshopApril4</a>
Happy Heart, Diabetes & Me	Grand River Community Health Centre	1:00 pm	3:00 pm	Registration: <a href="mailto:Melissa.msiegel@grhc.ca">Melissa.msiegel@grhc.ca</a> or 519.754.0777 ext. 479.
Voodooo Kingz	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge.
Book To Screen Movie Club: Charlotte's Web	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	4:30 pm	
EWE PNA Spring Fling	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	5:30 pm		Tickets: \$10 advance Beat Goes On or 519.771.1833 or \$15. at the door.
Brantford Pride Social	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	2SLGBTQIA social event. All ages welcome.
<b>TUESDAY APRIL 7</b>				
Seniors Lunch and Learn	Five Oaks Centre	12:00 pm	1:30 pm	FREE. Last Lunch Together. Reg. <a href="https://bit.ly/SeniorsLunchandLearnSeries">https://bit.ly/SeniorsLunchandLearnSeries</a>
Board Game Night	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	Drop in program.
How To Tell Stories: Tips, Techniques & Telling Tales	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Registration: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/8wsxvwva">https://tinyurl.com/8wsxvwva</a>
Brantford Stamp Club Meeting	Branlyn Community Centre	8:00 pm		Doors open 7pm. Everyone is welcome.
<b>WEDNESDAY APRIL 8</b>				
Fraud Awareness	online	10:00 am	11:00 am	To register, <a href="mailto:admin@grcoa.ca">admin@grcoa.ca</a> or 519.754.0777 ext. 439.
Coffee Tasting with Altitude Coffee Roasters	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	Registration: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/5n77b3xr">https://tinyurl.com/5n77b3xr</a>
All Out Crafts and Chat	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Get crafty with your fellow 2SLGBTQ friends.
Financial Resilience Fundamentals - Weather Any Financial Storm	via Zoom	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Link to Zoom: <a href="https://joyofresilience.com/financial-resilience-fundamentals/">https://joyofresilience.com/financial-resilience-fundamentals/</a>
Nutrition for Brain Health	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Registration required: <a href="http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar">http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar</a>
Brantford Film Group: Winter/Spring 2026	Galaxy Cinemas Brantford	7:00 pm		A drama/history/music from Great Britain.
Catholic Women's League Monthly Meeting	Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 17 Washington St., Paris	7:00 pm		
<b>THURSDAY APRIL 9</b>				
Men's Probus Club of Brantford	Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course	10:00 am		More info. Contact Bill 519.442.0510.
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.
Spring Showers Drop-In	Cty. of Brant Fire Admin Building	4:30 pm	6:30 pm	For children of all ages & parent/caregiver.
Family Build and Play	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	All ages Lego challenge.
The Art of Tarot with Liny Dee	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Registration: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/2syaa2f3">https://tinyurl.com/2syaa2f3</a>
Brant Heritage Quilters Guild: Monthly Meeting	St. George United Church, 9 Beverly St. E.	6:15 pm		Meeting starts 7pm. New members welcome. Non-members \$5./meeting.
Perils of Pauline, An Online Writing Class with Larry Brown	On-Line	6:30 pm	8:30 pm	Adult's Classes Registration link: <a href="http://glenhyrst.ca/classes">http://glenhyrst.ca/classes</a> .
Pourly Done Trivia Night	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm		Free to Play, Prizes to be won
Brantford Garden Club Monthly Meeting	Lions Park Auditorium (Brantford)	7:30 pm	9:00 pm	Everyone Welcome. \$5. for non members.
Sushi Making Workshop	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	6:30 pm		Registration: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SushiMakingWorkshopApril9">https://tinyurl.com/SushiMakingWorkshopApril9</a>
<b>FRIDAY APRIL 10</b>				
Sensory Storytime	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	Register at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/4bpecmws">https://tinyurl.com/4bpecmws</a>
Friday Night in the Gallery	Brant Naval Veterans' Club	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$15. Half Chicken dinner. MUST pre-order by noon Thursday <a href="mailto:bnvafridaymeals@gmail.com">bnvafridaymeals@gmail.com</a>
Back to Back	Royal Canadian Legion Br. #461 Dunsdon Legion	8:00 pm	11:00 pm	no cover charge
Monty and The Crew	Brantford Polish Hall	5:30 pm		Admission is \$8.00 per person
<b>SATURDAY APRIL 11</b>				
"Celebrate Spring" Artisans & Vendors Market	St. George United Church	10:00 am	2:00 pm	Admission \$2. for local Food Bank. Baking, deli, gardening & gift ideas.
Brantford Chess Club Drop-In	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	All ages.
Saturday Art Studio (Senior) with Cassandra Ferguson	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant	12:30 pm	2:00 pm	Children's Classes Registration link: <a href="http://glenhyrst.ca/classes">http://glenhyrst.ca/classes</a> .

Please visit [bscene.ca](http://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
<b>SATURDAY APRIL 11 cont'd</b>				
Brant Men of Song: Workshop	Hope Christian Reformed Church	1:00 pm	4:00 pm	No charge. Financial contributions to Brantford Food Bank.
Emotional and Spiritual Resilience	via Zoom	1:00 pm	2:30 pm	Zoom Link: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/EmotionalSpiritualResilience">https://tinyurl.com/EmotionalSpiritualResilience</a>
Toddler Thumb Print Class	Pawtastic Pottery	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	
Grand Rivermen	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge.
Turkey Supper	Sydenham-Heritage United Church	5:30 pm	7:00 pm	Tickets: \$30. Call Verna 519.752.2804 or office at 519.753.1248
Brant Men of Song: Charity Concert	Hope Christian Reformed Church	7:00 pm		Financial contributions collected for Brantford Food Bank.
Music Trivia by Ross McGuinness	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 Dunsdon Legion	7:30 pm	10:30 pm	Registration: email <a href="mailto:m McGuinness9535@rogers.com">m McGuinness9535@rogers.com</a>
<b>SUNDAY APRIL 12</b>				
Drawing Fundamentals Sr with Mercedes Victoria	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant	11:00 am	12:00 pm	Children's Classes Registration link: <a href="http://glenhyrst.ca/classes">http://glenhyrst.ca/classes</a> .
Spring Flower Embroidery with Mercedes Victoria	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant	12:30 pm	2:00 pm	Adult's Classes Registration link: <a href="http://glenhyrst.ca/classes">http://glenhyrst.ca/classes</a> .
All You Can Eat Charity Breakfast	Knights Hall	9:00 am	12:00 pm	Support Why Not City Missions
Butt Blitz 2026 Events	Harmony Square	11:00 am	1:00 pm	Check <a href="https://www.facebook.com/GreenTeamBrantford/">https://www.facebook.com/GreenTeamBrantford/</a> for more information
One Book One Brant 2026: Linwood Barclay	TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Share reading experiences, author visit. Register: <a href="http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar">http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar</a>
St. Paul's Chapel Easter Service & Baptism	St. Paul's Chapel, 1159 Hwy 54, Middleport	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	Everyone welcome. Please bring a donation for Caledonia Food Bank.
Pepper Shakers	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 Dunsdon Legion	1:00 pm	5:00 pm	Upper Hall. \$5.
<b>MONDAY APRIL 13</b>				
Holding Space after Baby: a Postpartum Group	Woodman Park Community Centre	9:30 am	11:00 am	4 weeks. Reg. 226.208.2722 or <a href="mailto:info@mindfulpathcounselling.ca">info@mindfulpathcounselling.ca</a>
Holding Space after Baby: a Postpartum Group	Woodman Park Community Centre	1:30 pm	3:00 pm	4 weeks. Reg. 226-208-2722 or <a href="mailto:info@mindfulpathcounselling.ca">info@mindfulpathcounselling.ca</a>
We Land a Hand Film Screening	Langford Schoolhouse	2:00 pm		Doors open 30 min. before show. Tickets: <a href="http://welandahand.ca/events/">http://welandahand.ca/events/</a>
Brantford Pride Social	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	2SLGBTQIA social event. All ages welcome.
Cold Wax and Oil with Linda Blakney, M.B.A., M.A.	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant	6:30 pm	9:00 pm	Adult's Classes Registration link: <a href="http://glenhyrst.ca/classes">http://glenhyrst.ca/classes</a> .
We Land a Hand Film Screening	Langford Schoolhouse	7:00 pm		Doors open 30 min. before show. Tickets: <a href="http://welandahand.ca/events/">http://welandahand.ca/events/</a>
<b>TUESDAY APRIL 14</b>				
Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting	Sherwood Restaurant & Catering	10:00 am		New members always welcome. Discussing SOAR.
Starter Company Plus Information Session	Online	10:00 am	11:00 am	Registration on Eventbrite
Universe Speckle Class	Pawtastic Pottery	5:30 pm	7:00 pm	
<b>WEDNESDAY APRIL 15</b>				
Nutrition for the Brain	Grand River Community Health Centre	3:00 pm	4:00 pm	Contact Melissa msiegel@grhc.ca or 519.754.0777 ext. 479.
<b>THURSDAY APRIL 16</b>				
Starting a Food Business & Regulatory Compliance	Online	10:00 am	11:00 am	Register at <a href="https://foodpreneuradvantage.ca/start-up-seminars/">https://foodpreneuradvantage.ca/start-up-seminars/</a>
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	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	For immediate support 24/7 519.751.3471.
Poppy Project	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 (Dunsdon Legion)	5:30 pm	8:00 pm	Learn to make a crocheted or knitted poppy.
Paint Your Own Wine/Beer Glass	Sassy Britches Brewing Co. Ltd.	6:00 pm		Registration: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/PaintYourOwnWineBeerGlass">https://tinyurl.com/PaintYourOwnWineBeerGlass</a>
St. Paul Crafter's Circle	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	
<b>FRIDAY APRIL 17</b>				
Earth Day Storytime	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:30 am	11:15 am	Ages 0-6.
Ukulele Workshop with James Hill	St. Andrew's United Church	4:00 pm		Tickets: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/UkuleleWorkshop-JamesHill">https://tinyurl.com/UkuleleWorkshop-JamesHill</a>
Friday Night in the Gallery	Brant Naval Veterans' Club	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$15. Ham & Scalloped Potatoes. MUST pre-order by noon Thursday <a href="mailto:bnvfridaymeals@gmail.com">bnvfridaymeals@gmail.com</a>
Blurred Vision	Brantford Polish Hall	5:30 pm		Admission is \$8.00 per person
Denim & Diamonds Spring Fling Dance	Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Burford	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	\$5 admission at the door. 13 yrs & under FREE. All ages welcome.
Champagne Weather	St. Andrew's United Church	7:30 pm		Tickets: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ChampagneWeather">https://tinyurl.com/ChampagneWeather</a>
Mike Thorpe	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 Dunsdon Legion	8:00 pm	11:00 pm	No cover charge.
<b>SATURDAY APRIL 18</b>				
11th Annual Cty. of Brant Comm. Spring Tree Plant	Glen Morris - Rising Park	10:00 am	1:00 pm	Rain or shine. Bring your shovel & gloves.
Drive-Through Food Drive	St. Mark's Anglican Church - parking lot	10:00 am	12:00 pm	Accepting donations of non-perishable food and/or cash for Brantford Food Bank.
Paris Everything Home & Garden Expo	Paris Fairgrounds (inside)	10:00 am	4:00 pm	\$5. admission fee cash only, 12 & under free.
20th Annual Sports Awards and Recognition Celebrations	Laurier Research & Academic Centre West	11:00 am	1:00 pm	150 Dalhousie St.
Girl Guide Cookie Drive-Thru	Fairview United Church	1:00 pm	4:00 pm	\$6. per box. credit, cash or debit. Chocolatey Mint & choc./vanilla.
Steve Beach and the Boys	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge
Tom Petty Show presented by Ben Rolo	Brantford Polish Hall	5:30 pm	11:00 pm	Music starts at 7pm. Tickets - call Rick at 226.802.1597.
Miss Polonia 2026 Gala and Dance	Polish Community Centre Brantford	6:00 pm	11:55 pm	call 519-774-3625 for \$30 tickets
Easy Street Blues Band	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 Dunsdon Legion	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	No cover charge.
<b>SUNDAY APRIL 19</b>				
Paris Everything Home & Garden Expo	Paris Fairgrounds (inside)	10:00 am	3:00 pm	\$5. admission fee cash only, 12 & under free.
Butt Blitz 2026 Events	Lynden Park Mall	11:00 am	1:00 pm	Check <a href="https://www.facebook.com/GreenTeamBrantford/">https://www.facebook.com/GreenTeamBrantford/</a> for more information
The George Rose Big Band Memories Concert	TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Tickets: \$25. Brantford Music Centre or 519.752.4013. Unsold tickets at the door.
<b>TUESDAY APRIL 21</b>				
Teen Hub: Blackout Poetry	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	Ages 13 - 17.
Healthy Heart Workshop	Grand River Community Health Centre	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	Registration: <a href="mailto:ipct-info@grhc.ca">ipct-info@grhc.ca</a> or 226.388.4725
kid drip mug class	Pawtastic Pottery	5:30 pm	7:00 pm	
Craft & Create Club	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	Drop in program. Bring your project or use provided supplies.
How To Tell Stories: Tips, Techniques & Telling Tales	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Registration: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/8wsxvwwa">https://tinyurl.com/8wsxvwwa</a>
MakerWorkshop: Customized Hand Towels Using Machine Embroidery	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Demonstration - Register: <a href="http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar">http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar</a>
Evening Watercolour: Impressionistic Florals with Jacquie Herron	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	Adult's Classes Registration link: <a href="http://glenhyrst.ca/classes">http://glenhyrst.ca/classes</a> .
Brantford Stamp Club Meeting	Branlyn Community Centre	8:00 pm		Doors open 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
<b>TUESDAY APRIL 21 cont'd</b>				
Classic albums Live Bon Jovi - Slippery When Wet	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	8:00 pm		Tickets: <a href="https://bit.ly/ClassicAlbumsLiveBonJoviApril21">https://bit.ly/ClassicAlbumsLiveBonJoviApril21</a> pr 519.758.8090
<b>WEDNESDAY APRIL 22</b>				
BSO Annual Book Fair	One Market (at Dalhousie St.)	9:30 am	8:00 pm	More info. 226.552.5579
Dementia Friendly Communities	online	10:00 am	11:00 am	To register <a href="mailto:admin@grcoa.ca">admin@grcoa.ca</a> or 519.754.0777 ext. 439
<b>THURSDAY APRIL 23</b>				
BSO Annual Book Fair	One Market (at Dalhousie St.)	9:30 am	8:00 pm	More info. 226.552.5579
How to Sell Your Food Product	Online	10:00 am	11:00 am	Register at <a href="https://foodpreneuradvantage.ca/start-up-seminars/">https://foodpreneuradvantage.ca/start-up-seminars/</a>
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. All welcome.
MakerHours: Spring Stickers	Cty. of Brant Fire Administrative Building	4:00 pm	7:00 pm	Drop in program.
BPL Creative Journaling: Letters Through Time	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Registration: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/bp67vajy">https://tinyurl.com/bp67vajy</a>
Family Build and Play	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	All ages Lego challenge.
Burford Book Club	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Free. Registration required: <a href="http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar">http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar</a>
Gravel Gardens with Grand Erie Master Gardeners	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Registration required: <a href="http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar">http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar</a>
Pourly Done Trivia Night	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm		Free to Play, Prizes to be won
Acoustic Duo	Paris Beer Co.	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	
<b>FRIDAY APRIL 24</b>				
BSO Annual Book Fair	One Market (at Dalhousie St.)	9:30 am	8:00 pm	More info. 226.552.5579
Friday Night in the Gallery	Brant Naval Veterans' Club	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$15. Lasagna/salad. MUST pre-order by noon Thurs. <a href="mailto:bnvafridaymeals@gmail.com">bnvafridaymeals@gmail.com</a>
Rewind	Brantford Polish Hall	5:30 pm		Admission is \$8.00 per person
Polish Food Sale	Brantford Polish Hall	5:00 pm	7:00 pm	larger orders please contact Mary- 519-755-1550
<b>SATURDAY APRIL 25</b>				
50 Target Clay Shoot	Brant Rod & Gun Club	9:00 am		Open to the public. Reg. open at 9am, starts at 11am. \$50./person.
BSO Annual Book Fair	One Market (at Dalhousie St.)	9:30 am	3:00 pm	More info. 226.552.5579
13th Annual Brantford Comm. Spring Tree Plant	Jaycee Park	10:00 am	1:00 pm	Rain or shine. Bring shovel & gloves.
Brantford Chess Club Drop-In	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	All ages.
Hop into Spring	Fairview Community Centre	10:00 am	3:00 pm	Artisan & Vendor Fair
Notre Dame School Spring Vendor Show	Branlyn Community Centre	10:00 am	3:00 pm	Admission to the event is \$2 and goes towards the school.
Lunar Webb Spring Market: April Showers	Brantford Polish Hall	10:00 am	3:00 pm	This event proudly supports Guiding Hands Coordinated Services
Family Storytime	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	Ages 0-6.
Spring Baby Print Class	Pawtastic Pottery	1:00 pm	3:00 pm	
Mike Thorpe	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge
IPW Breaking Point	The Brantford Air Force Club	6:30 pm		tickets Adult \$20, kids \$5 <a href="https://ticketscene.ca/events/60227/">https://ticketscene.ca/events/60227/</a>
Karaoke with Murray Mclean	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 Dunsdon Legion	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	no cover charge
Lunar Webb Spring Market: April Showers	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	This event proudly supports Guiding Hands Coordinated Services
The Western Swing Authority	Brantford Polish Hall	8:00 pm		Doors 7pm. Tickets <a href="https://bit.ly/WesternSwingAuthorityApril25">https://bit.ly/WesternSwingAuthorityApril25</a> or 519.752.7973.
<b>SUNDAY APRIL 26</b>				
Butt Blitz 2026 Events	Elements Casino Brantford/TD Civic Centre	11:00 am	1:00 pm	Check <a href="https://www.facebook.com/GreenTeamBrantford/">https://www.facebook.com/GreenTeamBrantford/</a> for more information
Spilling the Tea - April 26, 2026	Bell Homestead National Historic Site	11:00 am	4:00 pm	Tickets online at <a href="http://Brantford.ca/ACTIVE.net">Brantford.ca/ACTIVE.net</a> , tickets cost \$25 per person - 2 sittings
Cobby's Kitchen Party	Royal Cdn. Legion Branch 461 Dunsdon Legion	1:00 pm	5:00 pm	Upper Hall \$5.
Paint Macrame Beads, Butterflies and Planter	Pawtastic Pottery	11:00 am	2:00 pm	
International Flashmob Line Dance 2026!	Pleasant Ridge Saddlery	1:00 pm		Just Dance is recoding line dance, wear best Canadian colours
Band Concert: Brantford Memorial Band	Best Western Brantford Hotel & Conference Centre	3:00 pm		Admission is free, donations gratefully accepted.
<b>MONDAY APRIL 27</b>				
90s Trivia Night	Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	FREE. Pre-registration encouraged <a href="https://forms.gle/LNCA2hnG4mGYf3xG6">https://forms.gle/LNCA2hnG4mGYf3xG6</a>
<b>TUESDAY APRIL 28</b>				
Free Men's Counselling Walk-In Sessions	Willowbridge Community Services	12:30 pm	3:00 pm	54 Brant Ave. 16yrs. +.
Men of the Deeps - Diamond Sunset, 60 Years	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	2:00 pm		Tickets: <a href="https://bit.ly/MenoftheDeepsApril28">https://bit.ly/MenoftheDeepsApril28</a> or 519.758.8090
Walk and Talk Book Club	Meet outside County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	Free program. Registration required: <a href="http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar">http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar</a>
Introduction to 3D Design and Printing	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	Registration: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/2cdrxpjp">https://tinyurl.com/2cdrxpjp</a>
MakerWorkshop: Design Your Own Posters Using Canva	County of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Registration: <a href="http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar">http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar</a>
Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting	Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 17 Washington St. Paris	7:30 pm		
<b>WEDNESDAY APRIL 29</b>				
Financial Resilience Investing	via Zoom	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Join Zoom: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/FinancialResilienceInvesting">https://tinyurl.com/FinancialResilienceInvesting</a>
Thriving During Disruption	Wilkin Family Community Centre	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Register at <a href="http://www.brant.ca/ConstructionWorkshop">www.brant.ca/ConstructionWorkshop</a>
Cashmere & Cobwebs	Sydenham-Heritage United Church	7:00 pm	9:30 pm	Tickets \$25. Rita 519.756.1259 or office 519.753.1248
Philip Chiu, Piano	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	7:30 pm	9:45 pm	Tickets: <a href="https://purchase.sandersoncentre.ca/ChooseSeats/1403">https://purchase.sandersoncentre.ca/ChooseSeats/1403</a>
<b>THURSDAY APRIL 30</b>				
Costing & Pricing to Make Profits	Online	10:00 am	11:00 am	Register at <a href="https://foodpreneuradvantage.ca/start-up-seminars/">https://foodpreneuradvantage.ca/start-up-seminars/</a>
Kate Gies Author Event	W. Ross Macdonald School	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	Registration at <a href="http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar">http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar</a>
St. Paul Crafter's Circle	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	
Kate Gies Meet and Greet	Dog-Eared Café	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Registration at <a href="http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar">http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar</a>
Brant Writes Writing Club	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Free, drop in program.
<b>MAY 2026</b>				
<b>MONDAY MAY 4</b>				
Jesse Cook	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	8:00 pm		Tickets: <a href="https://bit.ly/JesseCookMay4">https://bit.ly/JesseCookMay4</a> or 519.758.8090
<b>THURSDAY MAY 7</b>				
Charcoal Portrait Workshop with Lindsay Liboiron	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant	7:00 pm	8:30 pm	Adult's Classes Registration link: <a href="http://glenhyrst.ca/classes">http://glenhyrst.ca/classes</a> .



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~ Dr. Stuart Shanker

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## THE ART & SCIENCE IN COMBINING THE THOUGHTS OF GREAT MINDS



**JOE PERSIA MSc.**

[www.cognitivedynamics.ca](http://www.cognitivedynamics.ca)

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As one who believes very strongly in the power of education to change the lives, both now and in the future. I also recognize that "education" must change with the times. I was fortunate enough in my career in education to come across a couple of great minds in the field. Both of whom have played a major role in transforming my personal education practice, perspective, and paradigm, or Belief system.

One of those great minds was that of Sir Ken Robinson. He often spoke about finding one's "**Element**"—that unique intersection where natural aptitude meets deep passion. We've all heard the expression that someone is in their element. Too often however, this idea is interpreted narrowly, as though the element is simply what someone does: a career, talent, or activity. But Robinson's deeper insight was that the element is also about the conditions that allow a person's gifts to surface and flourish. In other words, the element is not only about ability—it is about context. He believed reform-minded schools would house these environments.



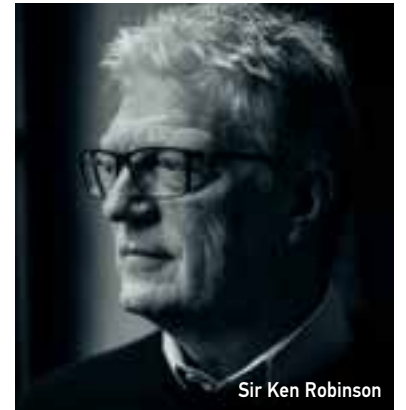
Dr. Stuart Shanker



Dr. Susan Hopkins

Submitted Photos

This too is where the work of Drs. Stuart Shanker and Susan Hopkins becomes profoundly relevant. Their concept of Self-Reg "**Havens**" describes spaces—physical, emotional,



Sir Ken Robinson

and relational—where stress is reduced and a person feels safe, calm, and connected. In such ecologies, the brain is no longer dominated by survival mechanisms initiating responses. Instead, it becomes capable of curiosity, creativity, and sustained engagement.

To my way of thinking then, Self-Reg havens provide the neurobiological conditions for discovering one's **element**.

Overwhelming stress, whether physical, emotional, or social can shift a nervous system into survival mode. In that state, talents may remain hidden and passions muted. One may appear disengaged, unfocused, or uninterested as self-preservation rules the day.

When educators intentionally create **havens**—through warm relationships that co-regulate, provide opportunities for restoration—something remarkable happens. Students begin to show capacities that previously seemed absent. Curiosity awakens. Persistence grows. Resilience is the reward.

Robinson reminded us that human potential is abundant and diverse. Shanker and Hopkins help explain why that potential sometimes lies dormant. The implication for education as well as workplaces is powerful: before we ask others to demonstrate their gifts, we must first ensure they have a place where their nervous systems can settle. Only in such **havens** can one's **element** truly emerge.

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## APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH



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### TAMARA BOTTING

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

One of the best feelings for those who work in a child development centre is when they find out that a patient they worked with is thriving.

Recently, staff in the Autism Services department at Lansdowne Children's Centre heard from a parent, Jaz, whose child had been in service at Lansdowne.

"We are in Nicaragua right now (my home country). We brought little Michael to try out an ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) program here, as in Canada we did not have the means to get the amount of therapy he needs. Well, he is doing absolutely amazing! He is attending school here and goes to therapy every day," Jaz said.

Jaz shared that since Michael was doing so well, the family would be permanently staying in Nicaragua.

"Life is good for him here. He's made friends and has found people like you guys, with the biggest heart ever that help him every day."

Jaz expressed gratitude for the support the family had gotten while in Canada.

"You guys were with us in times we had no one; being immigrants and having a special needs kiddo was a huge trial, and Lansdowne was always our safe place. Each and every one of you were there when we felt like everything was lost and we always found the help we needed,



Submitted Photo

*Michael, a former patient at Lansdowne Children's Centre, is thriving in his new home in Nicaragua, but his family remains deeply grateful for the support they received through Lansdowne while living in Canada.*

thanks to you and the team. There are no words that I can write to describe how much all of you mean to us."






World Autism Awareness Day is April 2, but this sort of life-changing work is happening every day at Lansdowne.

From individualized therapies to socialization groups like Circle Time, as well as other supports, resources and programs, Lansdowne has a lot to offer children and youth with an autism diagnosis and their families.

For more information about what's available, visit [www.lansdownecentre.ca/autism](http://www.lansdownecentre.ca/autism)

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# Let's Clean Our City



On April 17 and 18, let's clean our city by collecting litter in our neighbourhoods and throughout the community.

Register online and receive a free clean-up kit and don't forget to enter the Let's Clean Our City photo contest for the chance to win prizes!

Learn more and register at [Brantford.ca/CleanBrantford](http://Brantford.ca/CleanBrantford)



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## WHY WE SING



**AMY GROLEAU**

[brantmenofsong.ca](http://brantmenofsong.ca)

Brantford - the City of Choirs. You've probably heard of the Grand River Chorus, Arcady, Brant County Singers, many church and school choirs which have performed in our

fine town. The Brant Men of Song, comprised of 32 members, an Artistic Director, Accompanist / Concert Co-ordinator and Assistant Director / Accompanist have been in existence for 65 years. Historically, they are the longest-standing chorus in Brantford and County of Brant. And, with good reason. This all-male group loves to sing. They love the music selected. They love the compositions. They love singing in different languages. They love the health benefits. The what!?

Yes, there are many research papers that support the positive impacts of singing effects. Here are some of them. It makes one feel better because there is a release of dopamine and serotonin - the "happy" chemicals that lift and encourage. Singing also introduces more oxygen into the blood leading to better circulation; increases lung capacity; and engages the muscles around the ribcage. Singing helps with stress and helps with relaxation.

Would you believe that singing improves your memory? It helps improve mental alertness and concentration. Caregivers of Alzheimer's family members relate that although their loved one may not know who is visiting them at the moment, as soon as they hear music, the memory veil seems to be lifted and temporarily, they are calmed and lucid.

A connection of friendship is built through singing. During



Submitted Photo

regular rehearsals, there is a common focus of connection and vocal synchronization. Singing supports wellbeing and gets one through tough personal crises or traumas. Singing evokes emotions to the performers and audience. The early 1970's show Soul Train had a motto - "Love, peace and soul." These are just some characteristics and feelings expressed through song.

The Brant Men of Song hold weekly rehearsals on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. with many opportunities to sing in the community for fundraiser events and long-term care facilities as well as their own performances.

We invite you to join the group and to hear us at our three upcoming performances. More information is on our website or in this month's Cover Story of the paper.

Oh, and another reason why the Brant Men of Song are still singing 65 years later? The love of music as they share it with you - our audience. Why don't you sing with them? [brantmentofsong.ca](http://brantmentofsong.ca)

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



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# Aspira Brants Landing is now open

This brand new, highly anticipated retirement residence in the heart of Brantford is designed with a mix of urban sophistication and relaxing charm. Enjoy exceptional amenities, delicious chef-prepared menus and engaging activities. **Experience the warmth of our vibrant community and live every day your way.**

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# IN GRATITUDE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



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### HEATHER VANNER

[crs-help.ca/foodbank](http://crs-help.ca/foodbank)

[brantfordfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/brantfordfoodbank)

[@crsbrantford](https://twitter.com/crsbrantford)

In every community, there is a spirit of help and kindness that isn't always noticed. Community volunteers are at the heart of that effort. They give their time, energy, and compassion not for recognition or reward, but because they care deeply about the well-being of others. Their work often happens behind the scenes, yet its impact is felt in every person helped, and every smile restored.

Volunteers are the backbone of organizations that support those facing hardship. They step in where help is needed most, offering not just practical assistance, but also dignity and human connection. In a world that can sometimes feel stressful, rushed and disconnected, their presence reminds us that empathy still thrives.

At the Brantford Food Bank, this spirit of generosity is seen every single day. Volunteers arrive with open hearts, ready to sort donations, prepare food shelves, and greet visitors with warmth and respect. Their dedication ensures that individuals and families in need are not forgotten, and that no one has to face hunger alone. No matter if they are new volunteers, or those who have helped for years, it is through their commitment that the food bank continues to be a place of help and support.



To every volunteer who gives their time to the Brantford Food Bank: Thank You. Your kindness ripples far beyond what you may see. You are making a difference in ways that truly matter—bringing relief, hope, and kindness to so many.

Gratitude feels like too small a word for all that you do, but it is offered without hesitation. Your compassion strengthens the entire community, and your efforts help us create a community where Everyone is Fed and Everyone Counts. – Thank You for all you do!

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## BRANTFORD POTTERS GUILD SPRING SALE

APRIL 10-12 WOODMAN PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE 491 GREY ST

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**THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE** presented by Grand River Chorus with Wilfrid Laurier University Next Gen



**THERESA MCDUGALD**

grandriverchorus.com

Grand-River-Chorus

grandriverchorus

A swashbuckling classic is being presented by Grand River Chorus. Gilbert and Sullivan's beloved comic opera, "The Pirates of Penzance", prepares to take the stage at St. Andrew's United Church in Brantford and will be conducted by their Artistic Director Ron Chueng. He is excited to welcome you all to this collaborative project presented by the GRC.

Shawn Oakes, who serves as both the production manager and director, says this rendition promises a high-energy blend of professional expertise and emerging talent. Presented as a *concert version*, the production will be *semi-staged*, focusing on the brilliant musicality and witty dialogue while using evocative staging to bring the story to life. Local musician, Katie Walshaw is the production manager and will also share the role of Ruth. Katie also teaches music theory at Wilfrid Laurier University. She is coordinator for the Next Gen program.

The production features a unique collaboration, with lead roles shared by seasoned members of the **Grand**

**River Chorus**, professional vocalists, and "Next Gen" artists from **Wilfrid Laurier University's** prestigious music program in Kitchener-Waterloo.

"We are incredibly excited to bring this timeless satire to life through such a diverse and talented company," says Shawn. "By bridging the gap between established professional singers and the incredible energy of WLU's Next Gen artists, we're creating a performance that is musically sophisticated yet full of the comedic spark that makes Pirates a perennial favourite."

The production will be brought to musical life by a live ensemble featuring both *piano and a chamber orchestra*. This group is composed of skilled local instrumentalists performing alongside WLU music students, ensuring a rich, orchestral experience that honours the brilliance of Sullivan's score.


Audiences can look forward to the rapid-fire wit of the "Modern Major-General" and the sentimental charm of "Poor Wandering One" in a production that celebrates our vibrant arts community.

Don't delay. Tickets available at grandriverchorus.com, from choristers, or at the door (if any tickets remain). Seating is limited.


## Penzance in Concert

Gilbert and Sullivan's rollicking operetta, *Pirates of Penzance*, sung in full, in a concert style performance

**Sunday, May 3, 2026**  
**St Andrew's United Church,**  
**95 Darling St., Brantford, 3 pm**



Tickets available at  
[www.grandriverchorus.com/events/](http://www.grandriverchorus.com/events/)  
 or at the door  
 Adults \$30; Youth (13-25) \$20; Children Free







## Spring Concert

**Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**  
**2 PM**

Grace Anglican Church  
 4 Pearl St., Brantford, ON  
 Free Will Offering at the Door for Grace Anglican's Outreach Program

For more information, please visit our website  
[www.thelittlestringorchestra.com](http://www.thelittlestringorchestra.com)



## Spring Open House



Enjoy local wellness vendors and smooth sounds by jazz musician Geri Defoe.

### Brierwood Gardens Retirement Residence



May 2  
Saturday



425 Park Rd. N.,  
Brantford,  
ON N3R 7G5



11 a.m. to  
2 p.m.

Call Chantal at 519-209-5112 to RSVP



Helping people live better



# SMALL DETOUR. MASSIVE IMPACT.

Construction is well underway throughout Downtown Brantford, and while these projects are important investments in the future of our city, the reality is that they will continue to affect our downtown for the foreseeable future.

For someone visiting downtown, a detour might mean an extra turn, a different route, or a few additional minutes (or more) of travel.

For the nearly 200 small businesses that call Downtown Brantford home, those small changes in traffic patterns can have a much larger impact.

Behind every downtown storefront is a local business owner, their employees, and often a family whose livelihood depends on the

customers who come through their doors.

When vehicle traffic and foot traffic slow down, businesses feel it immediately. The ripple effect extends well beyond the storefront, impacting jobs, suppliers, and the local economy across our community.

At the same time, choosing to follow the detour and continue supporting downtown businesses also creates a ripple effect.

Every visit, every meal, every purchase helps keep our downtown vibrant and resilient during this extended period of change.

Downtown Brantford is still open.

The shops are open.

The restaurants are open.

The services are open.

The people who make our downtown special are here and ready to welcome you.

We ask our community for patience and support in the months ahead. Follow the detours, take the extra turn, and continue to shop, dine, and explore downtown.

Because what might feel like a small detour can make a massive impact.

Thank you for supporting local.

[downtownbrantford.ca](http://downtownbrantford.ca)

[DowntownBrantford](https://www.facebook.com/DowntownBrantford)

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## 20th Anniversary Tournament

Friday, May 29, 2026  
Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course



**Sponsor this Sold Out Event**

Visit [crs-help.ca/sponsor-registration](http://crs-help.ca/sponsor-registration)





**BSCENE  
NOT FOR PROFIT SPOTLIGHT**

# Hike or Bike For Hospice

**O**n Sunday, May 3rd, the annual Hike or Bike for Hospice fundraising event will take place in support of Stedman Community Hospice.

Since 2004, the event has raised \$3.6 million to help fund compassionate, end-of-life care for residents of Brantford-Brant, Six Nations of the Grand River, Haldimand and Norfolk counties and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.



Although the event takes place on one day, many individuals who register begin fundraising for the event several weeks prior to that, says Julie Powell, President & CEO of St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation, the official fundraising organization for Stedman Community Hospice.

"The registration fee of \$25 simply covers the cost of lunch and a commemorative t-shirt; the bulk of the money raised is due to the fundraising efforts of many dedicated individuals as well as sponsorship from local businesses," she added.

Many of the 700+ attendees participate to honour the life of a loved one, and to express gratitude to the Hospice for the care received. The pathway along the event grounds at 99 Wayne Gretzky Parkway (St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre) features memorial banners listing the names of every individual the Hospice has cared for since the day it opened. Powell says families often gather next to their loved one's name to



pause for a photograph.

"The care our Hospice provides is given at no cost to the patient and their family," says Powell.

"Approximately 50 per cent of the funds needed to run the Hospice comes from our generous community and helps pay for such things as frontline nursing, grief and bereavement support, meals, maintenance of our therapeutic gardens, and overall maintenance of our facility."

Now in its 22nd year, Hike or Bike for Hospice is a family-centred event that includes activities for kids of all ages, featuring Doug the Great, storybook princesses, Rossini the Magician and Edu-tainer, Lightning McQueen and more.

Ambassadors for this year's Hike or Bike for Hospice are the Ferras and Mills families, who participated for the first time in 2025 to honour the memory of Patti Ferras-Mills, who received care at the Hospice just weeks before the event, and passed away on March 15.

The "Patti's Girls" team of more than 20 individuals emerged as the Top Fundraising Team last year, raising more than \$10,000, and is looking forward to supporting the Hospice as the official ambassador for 2026.

Organizers are hoping to raise \$180,000 at this year's Hike or Bike for Hospice. To register or to donate, please visit [stedmanhike.ca](http://stedmanhike.ca)

Photos this page & facing page from previous years, by Jason Freeze and Thomas Clare.



**IN SUPPORT OF STEDMAN COMMUNITY HOSPICE**

**GREAT PRIZES FOR TOP FUNDRAISERS**

**HIKE OR BIKE  
FOR HOSPICE**

**SUNDAY  
MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>**



Presenting Sponsor



The family of Patti Ferras-Mills

**Register today at [stedmanhike.ca](http://stedmanhike.ca)**



BE SEEN WITH BSCENE

A Look Back Through the Eyes of Our Photographers

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR FUNDRAISING WALK

February 28, 2026 • One Market Street, Brantford ON • Photos: Jason Freeze



# WOMEN IN BUSINESS EXPO

March 8, 2026 • Best Western Hotel & Conference Ctr., Brantford ON • Photos: Jason Freeze



# A LOOK BACK



**JACK JACKOWETZ**  
www.jjackowetz.com

## THE CROWN PURCHASES THE TOWN SITE

By 1823, the London Road and a bridge over the Grand River were completed, and the population at the crossing was about 100. The completion of the road and the potential of trade with the Haudenosaunee attracted business and tradesmen to the crossing.

Trading stores owned by Stephen Van Rensselaer Douglas and Nathan Gage were operating. John and James Wilkes arrived and opened a store for their father, John Aston Wilkes. Two hotels were operating, one by William Douglas Dutton and the other by Asabul Hulbert. Dutton also operated a shoe shop. William Qua had a blacksmith shop. There were two log taverns, one operated by Alex Westbrook, and a grocery store operated by Benjamin and Mathias Wilson. Robert Biggar had a dry-goods store. The nearest post offices were in Burford and Ancaster.

The history books state that Arunah Huntington also operated a shoe shop as early as 1819, but, as you will learn, he did not arrive until 1827.

In 1824, the hamlet finally had a name and a post office.

Brantford at that time consisted of a thin scattering of frame and log houses along Colborne Street. Except for a few acres, the area was scrub oak and swamp filled with thick cedar trees.

The first public building, erected in 1826 on what is now Market Square, was funded by public subscription. It served as a town hall, courtroom, schoolhouse and meeting place.

Because the settlement was located

on Haudenosaunee land, the settlers could not patent titles; instead, they leased the land. This situation led to the settlement's slow growth in the 1820s.

### The Crown buys the town plot

White settlement in the vicinity of Brantford grew slowly. Population estimates of white settlers were mostly anecdotal, based on recollections of early settlers: 1818, about a dozen people; 1823, about a hundred people; 1827, between two and three hundred. Word of the area's desirability was spreading. In 1824, Joseph Read prepared a village plan at the behest of Robert Biggar. It was clear he was planning to organise the settlement.

The settlers began agitating for the government to purchase the village site so they could obtain clear titles to their landholdings. In 1829, Lewis Burwell, the deputy surveyor to Peter Robinson, Commissioner of Crown Lands, was tasked with preparing a survey of the area and a plan for the village. Burwell based his plan on Reade's plan.

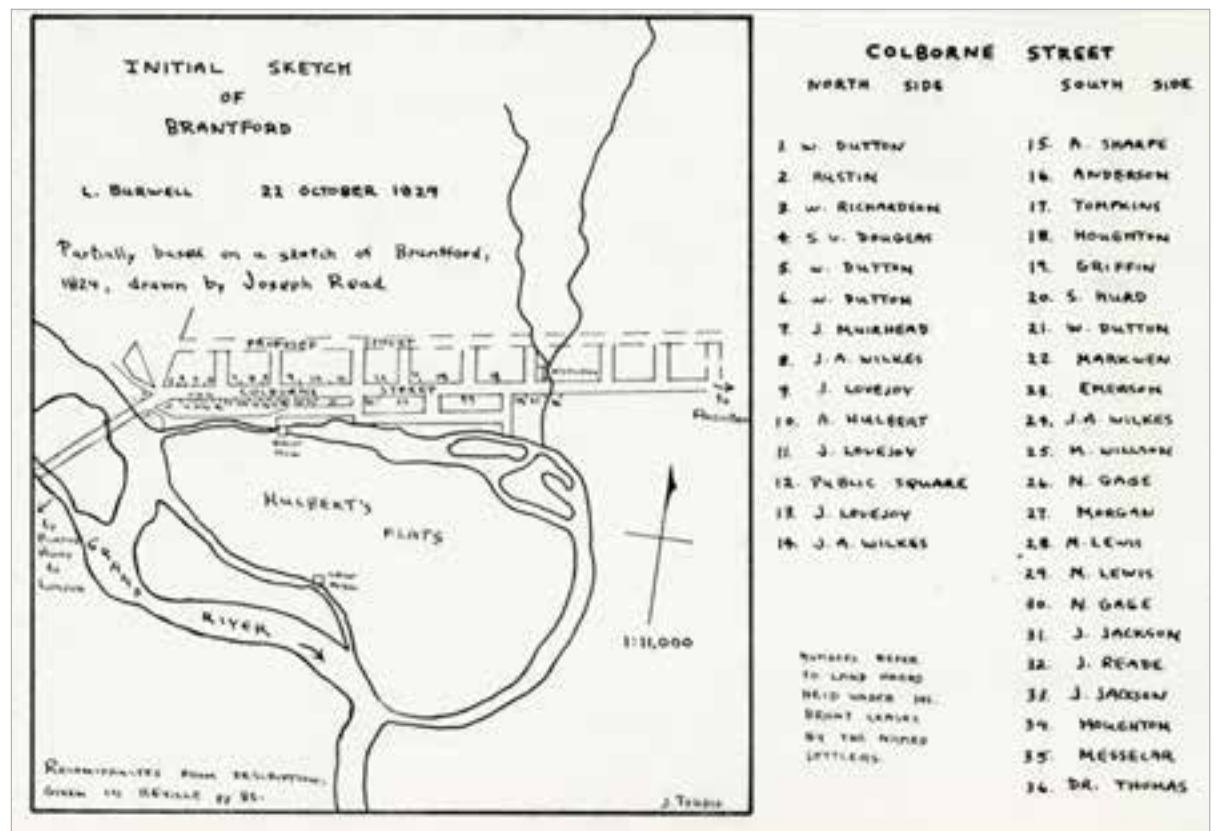
Burwell prepared a preliminary sketch, dated 22 October 1829. He noted: *First sketch of the Town of Brantford, made for*

*the purpose of obtaining the survey of the Grand River Lands, made up from observations taken at certain points and partly from the plan made by Joseph Read (sic) in 1824.*

Burwell's initial plan shows one main street, Colborne Street, connecting with the road leading to Burford and Ancaster. Dalhousie Street is marked on the plan as a proposed second street. Below the Lorne Bridge were two dams, one supplying a race to Jedidiah Jackson's grist mill, and another race to Asabul Hulbert's saw mill. This part of the town south of Colborne Street was known as Hulbert's Flats. On the west side of the bridge, a distillery was marked as having existed, and a brewery at the bridge was shown.

Burwell noted the property's leaseholders in 1829. The only other property owners in 1829 were Robert Biggar, William Kennedy Smith, and William Kerby.

On 19 April 1830, the Haudenosaunee relinquished 807 acres of the farm of Chief John Hill as a town plot to the Crown in exchange for five shillings. Burwell's second survey was finalised on 15 June 1830, and his definitive map was dated 13 August 1830. The village plan comprised eight east-west streets and thirteen north-south streets. The original design of the village resembled a parallelogram. Land was initially offered to the existing landholders at £10 per lot. The initial sale of lots occurred between 1 and 3 June 1830, with some transactions lapsing due to



Lewis Burwell's 1829 preliminary map of Brantford. The map shows the leaseholders of the land along Colborne Street. Source: A Study of the Changes in Land Use in the Central Area of the City of Brantford from 1820 to 1925, John Terdick, August 1873

non-payment. The first auction of lots took place on 14 May 1831.

In his final plan, Burwell set aside six blocks: Market Square, Victoria Park, County Court House, Alexandra Park, Kirk of Scotland (Presbyterian Church) (the block immediately north of Alexandra Park), and Burying Ground, where Central School is today. Burwell also designated six church properties: Episcopal (Grace Anglican), Methodist (where the downtown TD Bank is located), Presbyterian (where the former City Hall was located), Congregational (Dalhousie Street, second lot from the corner of Charlotte

Street), Baptist (Bridge Street), and African (corner of Peel and Dalhousie Streets).

In 1830, Brantford was described as *not much of a place, a thin scattering of frame and log houses along Colborne St. Nothing but scrub oak and a swamp filled with thick cedar trees.*

**In my next column, Brantford in the 1830s. And more early settlers.**



Brantford's town plot was acquired by the Crown in 1830. Source: Brantford Historical Society

## Early Settlers at the Crossing

The names for the early settlers appear in the history books of the County of Brant, but little biographical information is provided. I have researched their backgrounds.

**John Aston Wilkes** was born in Birmingham, England, on 25 February 1782. He settled in Little York, now Toronto, in 1820, where he was engaged as a merchant. He came to Canada after first arriving in New York in 1819. Wilkes joined his sons in Brantford in 1826. He started acquiring property by any means possible. He became a large landowner. He passed away on 16 April 1867 at his daughter's (Mrs. William Walker) residence in Montréal. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

**James Wilkes** was born on 27 December 1808 in Birmingham, England. James and his brother John moved to Brantford in June 1823 and opened a branch of their father's store. James Wilkes was married three times, his first two wives having predeceased him. He served as City Treasurer for 23 years. James Wilkes passed away on 28 August 1904 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.



James Wilkes arrived in Brantford in 1823. He served as City Treasurer for 23 years from 1871 until 1894, when he retired at the age of 85. Source: Findagrave.com

**John Aston Wilkes Jr.** was born on 15 February 1807 in Birmingham, England. He arrived in Brantford in June 1823 with his younger brother James. He learned the Mohawk language and became friendly with the Haudenosaunee. He often settled disputes between the Haudenosaunee. He was married in 1832 and had one daughter who was born nine months before he passed away on 21 September 1836 in Brantford. Before his passing, he worked on translating the Gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John into the



John Aston Wilkes arrived in Brantford in 1826. He was a large landowner in town. Source: Findagrave.com

Mohawk language.

**George Samuel Wilkes** was the son of John Aston Wilkes. He was born in Toronto on 20 February 1822. George was the Town's sixth mayor in 1853, following Arunah Huntington. Wilkes was a proponent for the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Railway over the Great Western Railway. He purchased the Holmedale Farm, about 600 acres, from John Holmes of Lansingburgh, New York, in 1853 and shortly thereafter bought General Murray's tract to give him control of both sides of the river to build a dam. He built the Wilkes Dam, mill race, and mill in 1854-1855. His flour mill, the Holmedale Mill, opened in 1856. The mill was leased to Adam Kerr in 1858 and sold to David Plewes in the summer of 1868. He built the foundry where William Buck began his business and installed the first plate-glass windows in Brantford. In 1857, he petitioned New York State to be able to purchase and hold real estate in that state. He obtained the charter for the Brantford and Southwestern Railway, which he intended to connect to the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Railway, leading to Detroit. He passed away on 8 July 1906 in New York City, where he moved to in 1869. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

**Arunah Huntington** was born in Roxbury, Vermont, on 23 February 1794, and spent his early years in Bridport, Vermont.

*Note: Some historians place him in Brantford between 1819 and 1823. My research indicates he arrived later.*

In Bridport, he learned the tanning and shoemaking trades under Matthew Nobles between 1821 and 1825, and taught school during the winter. He then moved near Fort Erie and was there for a few years. After receiving payment for an old debt, he moved to Brantford, which was considered an emerging place. He opened his

boot, shoe, and leather store in partnership with another investor in 1827. Huntington also sold tea and other commodities. He eventually bought out the other investor. Huntington possessed keen business instincts and amassed a small fortune through his business and money-lending enterprises. He invested in real estate, and Brantford's growth made him wealthy.

He was an early investor in Philip Cady van Brocklin's foundry, the Grand River Navigation Company, and a principal promoter of the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Railway. He took an active interest in municipal affairs and served as the Town's fifth mayor in 1852. He was a moneylender charging high interest rates. He invested in United States securities, municipal bonds, and railway companies during and after the Civil War, and these investments paid off handsomely. He was the wealthiest man in the town. He was a Mason. He passed away on 10 Jan 1877, leaving an estate valued at \$202,000. To his wife, he left the household furniture; to his nephew in New York, a gold watch; to his executor, his iron safe; and



Arunah Huntington arrived in Brantford in 1827. He amassed a small fortune while in town. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Source: History of the County of Brant, F. Douglas Reville, 1920

the remainder of his estate was left to the State of Vermont for the benefit of the common schools. The will was contested. His bequest to the State was widely reported in the United States.

In 1880, the courts upheld the will to the tune of \$165,000, representing his personal property. His heirs were awarded the real property of his estate. Due to the delay in the court case, the estate's value increased to \$211,000 in personal property and \$40,000 in real estate. The State of Vermont finally received their payout from the estate in April 1883.



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### ***Did you attend one of our recent events?***

Both the January Brantford Business Trade Show and the March Women in Business Expo are proudly organized by Sam, owner of Clarity Marketing & Design.



## CONTACT US

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