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"Train your body, sharpen your mind, and you can become a master of your craft"

STORY PAGE 3

BRANTFORD

FUN

Guide



SPRING/SUMMER 2026

Brantford's FUN Guide arrives March 18!

Discover a diverse range of recreational opportunities, exciting special events, action-packed day camps and enriching workshops. Free copies available at Brantford Community Centres, libraries, EarlyON Centres and the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre.

Brantford.ca/FUNGuide



BSCENE.ca

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

Lots of people had a family-fun time in Harmony Square for Brantford's annual Winter Fun Fest on Sunday, February 15th! This year the fun included a new Hungry Human Hippos event shown here and lots of other fun activities throughout the Square and inside One Market.

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

MARCH 2026 VOL. 12, EDITION 6

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

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ABOUT BSCENE

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

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

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

ADVERTISING

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

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

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

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

COVER

Submitted graphic & photo





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D&D United Martial Arts Collects Even More Medals!



BY JESSIE COOPER

 ddunited.com

Seven D&D United Martial Arts competitors earned 35 medals (9 gold, 12 silvers, 14 bronze) at the January 2026 International Congress of Martial Arts (ICOMA) World Championships held at Puntarenas, Costa Rica. Three competitors collected their triple crown rings presented from 2025 participation and one of the competitors earned a triple crown ring for 2026 by winning three or more gold medals.

"I wasn't at my best this year, but that only means that there is room for improvement," said Colton Green. Hunter Green said, "It was hot as heck but it was fun at the end." It is always a challenge to acclimate and compete in countries that are significantly warmer than Canada in the winter time.

- **Sensei Kelsey Cooper**, Black Belt Instructor, Team Canada Captain, and former triple crown winner earned 3 medals (1 silver, 2 bronze)
- **Sensei Bryon Davis**, Black Belt Instructor, owner of D&D United and 2025 triple crown winner, earned a total of 3 medals (2 gold, 1 silver)
- **Sempai Colton Green**, Black Belt Assistant Instructor and 2025 triple crown winner, earned a total of 7 medals (1 gold, 5 silvers, 1 bronze)
- **Hunter Green**, Brown Belt, earned a total of 5 medals (all bronze)
- **Curtis Creery**, Brown Belt, earned a total of 5 medals (2 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze)
- **Robinder Dhaliwal**, Brown Belt, 2025 triple crown winner, and 2026 triple crown winner earned a total of 6 medals (4 gold, 2 silvers)
- **Tegh Dhaliwal**, Blue Belt, earned a total of 6 medals (2 silvers, 4 bronze)

"This competition taught me that discipline, respect, and perseverance matter just as much outside the dojo as it does inside it," said Curtis Creery.

The competitors ranged from nine years old to over fifty years of age with all of them having competed internationally for multiple years. D&D United has been part of ICOMA for seventeen years bringing home placement medals every year with exception to the two years of COVID downtime.

ICOMA was established in 2008 and has achieved Federal and Provincial recognition. Over the years, competitors from Team Canada have received letters from different Prime Ministers, MPPs, and other elected officials.

"It is a pleasure and a privilege to represent Brantford and Canada at an international level," said Sensei Linda Geikie, Black Belt Instructor and competition judge. "I am always very proud of our students for all their hard work and dedication. The Costa Rican team are fierce competitors and it was a pleasure to be able to judge at this event."



This annual event brings amateur athletes of all ages, styles of martial arts, and belt levels from around the world to compete in multiple categories of Forms, Weapons, Sparring, Chanbara, Synchronized and Open Forms. Qualifying for placement on Team Canada begins in March of each year and the criteria consists of participating in qualifying tournaments, maintaining good grades at school for the children, good sportsmanship, and a lot of hard work.

Forms are a series of prearranged movements that simulate combat scenarios using a sequence of techniques, combining punches, kicks, strikes, blocks, and stances. This requires balance, coordination, timing, and focus. Synchronized forms are for more than one competitor working together at the same time to emphasize collective discipline and teamwork. Open forms are more advanced, where complex gymnastic moves are permitted, along with throws and releases of sports equipment.

Sparring is a session where two practitioners engage in simulated combat to achieve points. ICOMA rules use light contact to limit chances of injury. The most playful division of the tournament is Chanbara. It uses soft, flexible weapons that simulate sword combat. It is enjoyable to be able to hit someone with a padded stick in a fun environment after such

serious competition.

If you would like to help local amateur martial artists to be able to compete at an international level, please support your local Martial Arts Amateur Athletes for the upcoming participation in 2027. A silent auction fundraiser will be held later this year. Donations of any items or cash is appreciated and accepted by Bryon Davis who is an ICOMA Regional Director c/o D&D United Martial Arts at 519-754-5425, or by email dd.united@hotmail.com.

D&D UNITED MARTIAL ARTS

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS!



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Gardener Family
Mulligan Family
Bryon Davis
Crystal Hill
Kelsey Cooper-Smith

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BSCENE COMMUNITY NEWS



CALL FOR PRODUCTIONS

Grand River Arts Festival Announces Annual 10-Minute Play Competition

Submitted Media Release

The Grand River Arts Festival (GRAF), Brantford's flagship celebration of visual art, music, and performance, is pleased to announce the launch of its fourth annual 10-Minute Play Competition. The competition invites playwrights, theatre companies, and performers to submit fully-produced theatre works of ten minutes or less. Selected plays will be invited to perform on the Coach House Stage at Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant to compete for cash prizes.

Key information:

Competition date: Saturday, September 19, 2026

Venue: Coach House Stage, Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, 20 Ava Road, Brantford

Submission deadline: Monday, April 13, 2026, 11:59PM EST

Required format: Complete, stage-ready theatre production. Length must be ten minutes or less.

Results will be announced to the applicants by Monday, April 27, 2026

Selected productions will be asked to complete a Registration Form by June 22, 2026, which includes a final version of their script, a cast list, social media material, including a square format show poster, to confirm their intent to compete.

Prizes

- GOLD \$1,000

- SILVER \$500

- BRONZE \$250

- Martin Smith Award in Original Playwriting \$250

- Special Adjudication Awards – various categories (acting, innovation, ensemble, design, etc.)

Eligibility: Open to Canadian-based playwrights, theatre groups, and individual performers; no age restriction; no entry fee.

More information and link to Application Form: <https://glenhyrst.ca/graf/theatre/call/10minplaycomp>

"The 10-Minute Play Competition has grown into Ontario's premier stage for short-form theatre, bringing together bold new voices and seasoned companies

in a single, electrifying showcase. From the lightning-quick storytelling to the meticulous production values, every element reflects the festival's commitment to artistic excellence, community engagement, and the power of concise, impactful theatre. We're thrilled to welcome another wave of innovative work and to celebrate the creativity that makes this competition a highlight of the Grand River Arts Festival." – Steph Christiaens, Executive Producer, 10-Minute Play Competition

A panel of respected adjudicators will judge each live performance. Winners will be announced on the main stage shortly after the competition, with cash prizes awarded immediately.

About Grand River Arts Festival

The Grand River Arts Festival is a celebration and exhibition of visual arts, music, and theatre held on the historic grounds of Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant located on the banks of the Grand River in Brantford, Ontario. The Festival is organized by dedicated members of the GRAF Committee. We focus primarily on showcasing artists from Brant Region and Southwestern Ontario, including First Nations peoples. The festival blends visual-art installations, live music, culinary experiences, and a robust performing-arts programme, all rooted in community engagement and artistic excellence.

The Grand River Arts Festival is scheduled for Friday, September 18, and Saturday, September 19, 2026

More information about the festival at: grandriverartsfestival.ca



SAVE THE DATE – THE BRANTASTIC SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS ARE BACK

Year One set the bar.

Year Two is about to raise the roof.

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Brantastic Small Business Awards happening:

Thursday, October 8th, 2026

Affinity Conference Centre

We are bringing back the magic and maybe a little mischief. The crafty and quick-witted Graham Chittenden returns as your host. The Checkerboard Floors are also back as our house band.

"APPLAUSE HERE"

Brantford and the County of Brant showed up in a big way for Year One. So the question is, who is ready for Year 2?

Whether you're a nominee, sponsor, cheerleader, or just here for the celebration of local greatness, this is your night to shine, connect, and celebrate the businesses that make our community Brantastic.

Nominations open June 2026. Stay tuned.

Sponsorship packages are available upon request.

Reach out to Jason Freeze for details.

Let the countdown begin!



COUNTY OF BRANT WELCOMES BACK MUSIC IN THE PARK FOR SUMMER 2026

Submitted Media Release

The County of Brant is excited to announce the return of Music in the Park for summer 2026 and is launching a Call for Artists for the upcoming season. This beloved outdoor concert series celebrates live music, community connection, and local talent by bringing free performances to one of the County's most beautiful green spaces.

"Music in the Park is more than a concert series — it's an opportunity to bring people together, support local artists, and showcase the County of Brant as a vibrant place to live and visit," said Zach Gable, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, County of Brant. "We're really fortunate to have spaces like Paris Lions Park that let us host events like this right in the heart of our community."

Held in Paris Lions Park at the Walter Williams Amphitheatre, Music in the Park provides accessible, family-friendly entertainment for residents and visitors of all ages throughout the summer months.

The County is inviting solo artists, duos, bands, and small ensembles representing a wide range of musical styles to apply. The goal is to build a diverse and inclusive lineup that reflects the creativity and cultural richness of the community.

Applications are now open and close on Friday, March 20, 2026.

To learn more about Music in the Park, and submit an online application, visit brant.ca/musicinthepark.

In the Image - Music in the Park 2025 – Lions Park Paris



HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW PLAYGROUND DESIGN PLANNED FOR 77 STAUFFER RD

Submitted Media Release

The City of Brantford is inviting residents to help shape the design of a new park and playground planned for 77 Stauffer Rd., within the Nature's Grand LIV Communities development off Hardy Road. Residents can review the proposed playground designs and provide input at www.LetsTalkBrantford.ca until Sunday, March 8, 2026.

"The park is being designed with the community in mind," says Summer Scott, Coordinator of Parks Design and Development for the City of Brantford. "We look forward to building a park and playground that is informed by its residents and supports play, accessibility, and connection for people of all ages."

Residents can choose from two playground design options, each featuring different equipment and a unique layout that provides a range of fun recreational opportunities for children of all ages. In addition to the playground, the new park will include a 3-bay swing set with inclusive swing and toddler seat, accessible paved pathways with an extended walking loop, seating, bike rack, new tree plantings, and a shade structure.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the survey and vote for their favourite playground design at www.LetsTalkBrantford.ca/77staufferroad. Surveys will be open until Sunday, March 8, 2026.

Results of voting on the selected playground designs for the new 77 Stauffer Road Park will be shared after the survey closes with subscribers to the Let's Talk Brantford platform and on the City of Brantford's official social media channels.

SOLUTION

to our Sudoku
puzzle, Page 5

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



BRANTFORD MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS THE WESTERN SWING AUTHORITY - Award-Winning Western Swing Sensation Live in Concert
Submitted Media Release

The Brantford Musicians Association is thrilled to present an unforgettable night of live music featuring The Western Swing Authority, Canada's most recognized and award-winning western swing band, on Saturday, April 25 at the historic Polish Hall, 154 Pearl Street in Brantford. Doors open at 7:00 PM and the show begins at 8:00 PM.

Based in Waterloo, Ontario, The Western Swing Authority has earned a national and international reputation for their authentic and high-energy blend of western swing, traditional country, jazz, blues, and original "new vintage" material. Known for their impeccable musicianship and infectious live performances, the band has received multiple accolades from the Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA) and CMA Ontario, and has been praised by Cashbox Canada as "all killer, no filler."

Over the years, The Western Swing Authority has shared stages with major country music stars, recorded several acclaimed albums including 12 to 6 Central produced by Grammy-winner Colin Linden, and performed for industry legends including Garth Brooks and his longtime manager Bob Doyle. Their shows are a joyful celebration of rhythm, harmony, and dance-floor-ready swing that appeals to roots music fans of all ages.

Event Details:
Venue: Polish Hall, 154 Pearl Street, Brantford, ON
Date: Saturday, April 25
Doors Open: 7:00 PM
Show Starts: 8:00 PM
Tickets: \$40 in advance | \$45 at the door
Tickets available at: <http://westernswing.eventbrite.ca>
Brantford Musicians Association phone: 519-752-7973



100 PET LOVERS WHO CARE BRANT CELEBRATES OVER \$23,000 IN COMMUNITY GIVING AND ANNOUNCES 2026 DATES

Submitted Media Release

100 Pet Lovers Who Care Brant is proud to celebrate the impact made by local

animal lovers while announcing its 2026 meeting dates. Since launching in 2024, the group has brought together compassionate community members dedicated to supporting pet organizations and rescues in Brant, Brantford, and the Six Nations community, and expanding in 2025 to a 75km radius to Brantford.

Through the collective power of small individual donations, 100 Pet Lovers Who Care Brant contributed over \$23,000 to animal and community-focused organizations over 2024 and 2025.

"These numbers truly show what can happen when animal lovers come together with a shared goal," says Jen Middleton, Co-Chair of 100 Pet Lovers Who Care Brant. "Every meeting reminds us how much our community cares and how meaningful these donations are to the organizations receiving them."

The group meets three times a year, with members committing to a minimum donation of \$25.00 per meeting, allowing pet organizations to receive immediate financial support.

2026 Meeting Dates

100 Pet Lovers Who Care Brant is excited to continue its mission in 2026 with meetings scheduled for:

February 17, 2026 | May 19, 2026 | October 20, 2026

Meetings are held at The Rope Factory, where members gather to hear from nominated organizations and vote on which will receive the group's donation.

New members who love animals and want to make a difference are always welcome.

To register or learn more, please contact:
100petloverswhocarebrant@gmail.com



HOW TO PLAY:

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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL : hard

Used with permission from sudoku-puzzles.net

For solution see page 4

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



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Great Advice from your **Neighbourhood Experts!****ENTREPRENEUR LIFESTYLE**BY **JODI LAKING** She/Her**WHEN EVERYTHING FEELS URGENT**

As a business coach, one of the most common things I hear from entrepreneurs is this: "I don't even know where to start."

Their to-do list is long. Every task feels important. Every email feels urgent. And instead of making progress, they freeze.

This isn't laziness. It's task and decision paralysis.

Task paralysis happens when the volume or emotional weight of responsibilities overwhelms your nervous system. *Decision paralysis* happens when everything feels equally important — so choosing one thing feels risky.

In seasons of life transition, this intensifies.

Caregiving. Grief. Divorce. Health changes. Menopause. A new ADHD or Autism diagnosis. Market shifts. Burnout.

When your life changes, your capacity changes. But your expectations often don't.

You may still be holding yourself to the standards of a previous season — before the loss, before the diagnosis, before the exhaustion. That gap between expectation and current capacity is where urgency lives.

Here's a simple reset:

- **First, measure your capacity for today.** On a scale of 1–10, where are you really? A 4-capacity day cannot hold a 9-capacity plan. Adjust your expectations before you adjust your effort.
- **Second, write down everything swirling in your head.** Get it out of your brain and onto paper. Then, separate what truly needs attention today from what simply feels uncomfortable to delay.
- **Third, identify one anchor task.** Not ten. One. The task that, if completed, makes the day feel productive. Start there. Completion creates momentum. Momentum reduces paralysis.

Entrepreneurship isn't about "pushing harder" in every season. It's about adjusting.

If everything feels urgent, it may not mean you're failing. It may mean your business needs to reset to reflect your real life.

That's not weakness. That's **leadership**.

If this resonates, you don't have to figure it out alone. I've created a free **Business Reset Checklist** to help you identify what's working in your business, what's draining you, and where to start making changes: <https://www.worksmartcanada.ca/business-reset-checklist>.



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YOUR MOBILE LIFEBY **STEVE & LORRAINE GARNHAM****TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR PHONE:****Building Habits for a More Balanced Life**

In a hyperconnected world, smartphones have become indispensable tools for communication and productivity. Yet their constant presence can easily lead to distraction and digital fatigue. Developing intentional habits around phone use allows you to regain control, prioritize focus, and create more meaningful screen-free time. Here are a few suggestions to help you take control of your phone.

- **Managing notifications with purpose.** Disable non-essential alerts and allow only those that are critical to your work or personal life. This simple adjustment reduces interruptions and helps maintain concentration throughout the day.
- **Streamline your home screen** to include only the applications you use regularly. Moving entertainment or social media apps to secondary pages minimizes the temptation to engage in unnecessary scrolling.
- **Establish phone-free spaces or time blocks.** Not having access to your phone during meals, meetings, or the start and end of your day can enhance your mental clarity and strengthen your ability to disconnect. These brief breaks promote mindfulness and help restore balance between your digital and physical environments.
- **Leverage built-in tools.** Use apps like Screen Time to set boundaries around app use and monitor your daily habits. Data-driven insights make it easier to recognize patterns and implement realistic limits.
- **Replace passive screen time with purposeful activities.** Creating time for activities like reading, outdoor walks, or meaningful conversations instead of defaulting to endless browsing can foster productivity and mental well-being.

Taking control of your phone is not about restrictions, it's about intentional use. By building thoughtful habits, you can transform your device from a source of distraction into a tool that genuinely supports your priorities and improves your quality of life.

As always if you have any questions about taking control of your phone contact us at CPR Cell Phone Repair Brantford.



185 King George Road Unit A2 Brantford
519.304.3550 cpr-brantford.com

EDUCATIONBY **TIFFANY BERE****REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are more than an assessment of what students have achieved in class. They offer a meaningful snapshot of your child's learning journey — highlighting strengths, revealing challenges, and showing how they are progressing throughout the school year. While report card season can bring a mix of emotions, it doesn't have to be stressful. With the right approach, it can become a valuable opportunity for growth.

One of the best ways to avoid report card surprises is to stay engaged all year long. Take time to meet your child's teacher and have regular, informal conversations about how things are going in the classroom. Review returned tests and assignments together and follow up when needed. Keep in mind that some subjects may be more challenging than others, and lower marks can be part of a normal learning curve. Look for growth — even small improvements are worth celebrating.

When the report card arrives, let your child know you would like to review it together. Choose a quiet time, free from distractions, to talk. Begin with the positives. Celebrate strengths, effort, and progress. Encourage your child to share their own reflections — what they feel proud of and where they would like to improve. Listening first builds confidence and trust.

Planning ahead can turn feedback into forward momentum. Identify the subjects that need extra attention and create a simple, realistic plan. What goals should be set? What steps will help achieve them? How can you offer support at home? Schedule regular check-ins to track progress and adjust as needed.

Make school conversations part of daily life. Ask what was learned, what felt exciting or challenging, and what assignments are coming up. By staying connected throughout the year, report cards become just one of many tools to measure growth.

Remember, the first report card is not the final word. It's a guidepost. And if unexpected grades appear, early support can make all the difference. Oxford Learning offers a variety of programs to help students build confidence and succeed.

Contact us for more information on our programs as well as our new Virtual Table™ Teaching Sessions!
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**BUSINESS SERVICES**BY **SARA MCCLELLAN** GENERAL MANAGER**BUILDING A BRAND THAT CONNECTS**

Formulating a brand for a business often gets reduced to visual elements like logos, colours, and fonts. While these are important, a true brand is much deeper. It's the story you tell, the values you stand for, and the promise you consistently deliver. It is the personality of your business.

Your brand should be authentic. Consumers today can spot anything that feels forced or overly polished. Communicate what makes your business unique. Share why you started, what benefits you offer, and the passion behind your business concept. Your genuine journey relates far more than a perfect slogan ever will.

Share how you have helped your customers. People connect with people, not companies. Sharing testimonials and real examples of how your product or service has impacted customers brings your brand to life. How others have experienced your values in action strengthens your message. Whether it's a long-time customer who has been with you since the beginning or a new client who is ecstatic about your product or service, their comments build trust.

Fill your message with emotion. Your audience needs to feel understood which establishes a connection. What are the emotions behind your customer's needs, relief, joy, inspiration or confidence? Shape messaging that sparks these feelings. Your website, social media posts, and inperson conversations should speak directly to what matters most to your audience.

Consistency is important. A recognized brand grows through repeated, aligned action. Through your customer service, your voice, your visuals, and your followthrough it is reinforced. Show up the same way across every interaction, and over time, customers will not only recognize your brand; they'll trust it.

Building a brand that connects is about heart, clarity, and consistency. Start with who you are, share it boldly, and let your authenticity lead the way.

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

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Office hours: 8:30 to 4:30, M-F

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



AI AND THERAPY:

A Useful Tool And A Risky Replacement

Here is the reality: Artificial Intelligence isn't going anywhere. Therapists are examining the role of AI and mental health, carefully considering the benefits and cautions.

First, the cautions: AI does not know you. It cannot assess, diagnose, or recognize signs of trauma activation. It cannot hold confidentiality in the same way regulated health professionals must. It generates responses based on patterns in data; not clinical judgment, ethics or attuned human presence.

In fact, AI can do harm. If you are considering using AI to help you if you are in crisis, are experiencing psychosis, navigating abuse, or working through complex trauma, please don't. AI can unintentionally validate distortions, oversimplify serious symptoms, or miss them entirely. That's not because it's "bad." It's because it isn't a trained, accountable professional. That said, AI can be used responsibly as a support tool to foster good mental health. Here are a couple of examples:

Tracking: If you are working on managing mood shifts or anxious thoughts, you could ask AI to help create a tracker for your use of coping skills so you can reflect on what has been working, and what situations may contribute to your symptoms.

Structured Journaling Support: If you are working on emotional awareness you might ask AI to generate daily reflection prompts focused on boundaries, grief, or stress triggers. This can deepen self-reflection and make therapy sessions more productive. When used in this way, AI assists skill-building. It does not replace the therapeutic relationship, but can improve therapy outcomes.

Therapy is relational, nuanced, and grounded in accountability. It includes risk assessment, ethical standards, and a human nervous system co-regulating with yours. That can't be created through technology. So, as we move full speed into the world of AI, remember that technology can enhance growth, but healing still requires human connection. Used wisely, AI can support therapy. Used as a substitute, it is unsafe. For a 100% guaranteed human therapist, reach out! We are here to help.



Maratos Counselling & Consulting Services
 maratoscounselling.com
 519-752-3653
 maratoscounselling
 @maratoscounselling

BAKERY

BY STACEY BESTER



MARCH INTO SPRING

with the **SWEET** Taste of Maple

March in Canada carries a special kind of anticipation. Winter still lingers in the air, yet the sun stays out a little longer each day, and snowbanks begin to soften. For many Canadians, this transition doesn't just mark the approach of spring — it signals maple season. As temperatures hover around freezing overnight and warm slightly during the day, sap begins to flow in maple trees across Ontario and beyond. It's the brief, treasured window when one of the country's most iconic flavours comes to life.

There is something deeply comforting about maple in March. A drizzle of real maple syrup over hot pancakes, a warm maple coffee cake on a chilly morning, or a maple dipped donut enjoyed beside a window streaked with melting frost all seem perfectly timed to the season. Bakeries and home kitchens alike are filled with the aromas of maple cupcakes, cookies, tarts, and sticky buns. Maple doesn't overpower — it warms. Its gentle sweetness carries hints of caramel, toasted sugar, and woodsmoke, a taste that feels tied to the land itself.

Maple is more than a flavour in Canada; it is part of the country's history. For generations, Indigenous communities harvested sap long before modern syrup production, and today many Canadian families continue the tradition by visiting sugar bushes and maple farms each spring. These outings — tasting fresh syrup poured over snow or enjoying hearty breakfasts at local sugar shacks — have become seasonal rituals.

Choosing real maple products also supports local producers. Many small farms depend on the short maple season for a meaningful portion of their yearly income. Buying syrup, maple candies, or baked goods made with locally sourced syrup helps sustain rural communities, preserves traditional skills, and encourages environmentally responsible forestry.

In March, enjoying maple is not only delicious — it is a SWEET celebration of Canadian identity, seasonal change, and the simple pleasure of supporting local craftsmanship.

MAKE EVERYDAY A #SWEET OCCASION



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DATA OPTIMIZATION

BY JOANNE PALMA P.ENG.



STATISTICS - VARIATION

Most data sets show some variation, highlighting how real-world data is dynamic. Recognizing this helps us appreciate the importance of measuring differences, making the topic more relevant and engaging.

There are several ways to measure variation in a data set. The main statistics for this are range, variance, and standard deviation.

Range

- The difference between the highest and lowest values.
- For example, if the maximum number of wins is 33 and the minimum is 16, the range is 17.

Variance

- Measures how far, on average, each data point is from the mean.

Standard Deviation

- Standard deviation is the square root of the variance.
- A low standard deviation means the data points are close to the average.
- A high standard deviation means the data points are spread out over a wider range.

I often use range and standard deviation for analysis. I choose range to find the difference between the highest and lowest values, as it's the simplest measure to calculate.

On the other hand, I use standard deviation to assess how much data varies within a set. It shows the deviation from the average and facilitates comparisons across datasets. For example, in team wins, a higher standard deviation indicates greater disparity in skill levels.

Understanding whether your data represents the entire population or just a sample is crucial for accurately interpreting results and gaining confidence in your analysis.

Excel and Google Sheets Formulas:

	Team	Games Played
Min	=MIN(D2:D3)	
Max	=MAX(D2:D3)	
Range	=D4-D3	
Variance		
Population	=VAR(D2:D3)	
Sample	=VAR.S(D2:D3)	
Standard Deviation		
Population	=STDEV(D2:D3)	
Sample	=STDEV.S(D2:D3)	

For more in-depth information, sign up for my monthly newsletter by emailing me at Joanne@SpreadsheetSpecialist.ca.



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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

BY VASEEM 'THE AI GUY' BAIG



WHERE AI CAN CLEAR THE CLUTTER

Dear reader, March in Brant County brings a familiar ritual...

Windows open. Closets emptied. That mysterious drawer is finally confronted.

And yet, while we're busy clearing physical clutter, many businesses are quietly carrying something far heavier: **process clutter**.

At recent workshops, I've asked a simple question: "Where does work feel slower than it should?"

The answers come quickly.

- Email back-and-forth that never ends.
- Reports rebuilt from scratch each month.
- Meeting notes that vanish into notebooks.
- Tasks done "because we've always done it that way."

Before you add AI to your business, here's the truth: **You don't need new tools. You need visibility.**

After guiding 5,000+ professionals through AI adoption, I've learned that successful AI transformation isn't about having the fanciest technology → it's about building genuine capability in your people and applying it where it actually matters.

So I encourage you this month to conduct a simple **Spring Process Audit**.

Grab a notebook and ask yourself three questions:

1. What do we repeat every week?

Repetitive tasks are AI's favourite kind of mess to tidy up → summaries, follow-ups, formatting, scheduling.

2. Where do we rewrite the same thing over and over?

Proposals. Emails. Client updates. Job descriptions. If you've written it three times, AI can help draft version four in a fraction of the time.

3. Where do decisions stall because information feels scattered?


AI can help you organize notes, compare options, and create structured summaries so you move forward with clarity.

Notice what we're not doing. We're not "adding AI everywhere." We're identifying where clutter already exists.

Spring cleaning works because you remove what's unnecessary before bringing in something new.

AI is not a renovation. It's a very good broom. So start there, dear reader. And for anything and everything AI, you know who to call...



learn@vaseemtheaiGuy.com
 647.527.5144
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 in Vaseem Baig  vaseem.the.ai.guy

MORTGAGES

BY MICHEL ST. PIERRE



UNDERSTANDING THE "BUSINESS FOR SELF" LENDING LANDSCAPE

Tax season often sparks anxiety for business owners applying for mortgages, as many fear that low taxable income will lead to declines. However, prioritizing "Global Savings" often shows it is more cost-effective to accept a slightly higher interest rate than to pay significant tax bills simply to qualify.

While standard applications require a two-year average of T1 Generals and Notices of Assessment (NOAs), business owners have unique options. Specialty programs offer a level of leeway unavailable to typical T4 salaried employees:

- **Stated Income Policies:** These allow you to state a reasonable income supported by bank statements and invoices.
- **Insured BFS Programs:** Offered via insurers like CMHC or Sagen, these allow you to state a reasonable income supported by your NOA and industry standards.
- **Professional Programs:** New doctors, veterinarians, and other qualifying professionals can bypass historical data. Lenders use projected income based on industry earning potential, allowing them to qualify before establishing a lengthy tax history.

Being a business owner does not have to be a hurdle. Before making "panic" decisions with your accountant, consult a mortgage professional who understands the "Business for Self" lending landscape. It is always best to have your accountant and mortgage broker work as a team to protect your bottom line.



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GET TAX READY TODAY!

As tax season approaches, individuals and business owners alike begin gathering documents, reviewing financial records, and preparing to meet important filing deadlines. While the process can feel overwhelming, professional tax and accounting firms play a vital role in helping the public navigate this annual responsibility with clarity and confidence.

Firms such as H&R Block, Liberty Tax Service, Koenig & Associates, Marsers Brantwood Tax & Bookkeeping, and Millard's Chartered Accountants each bring valuable experience and professional expertise to the tax preparation process. Whether serving individuals, families, or businesses, these organizations are committed to helping clients file accurately,

understand their obligations, and make informed financial decisions during tax season.

From an overall standpoint, these organizations serve a common purpose: ensuring accuracy, compliance, and financial efficiency. Tax laws frequently change, and understanding new credits, deductions, and reporting requirements can be challenging without professional insight. Tax preparers and chartered accountants help clients interpret these changes, minimize errors, and identify opportunities to reduce tax liability within legal guidelines.

Beyond simply filing returns, many firms emphasize proactive planning. By reviewing income structures, expenses, investments, and business operations, they help clients make

informed financial decisions that can positively impact future tax seasons. For small businesses in particular, year-round bookkeeping and advisory support can prevent costly surprises when filing deadlines arrive.

All of these trusted firms are conveniently located in Downtown Brantford and are proud members of the Downtown Brantford BIA, working together to support the local community and economy.

Ultimately, tax season does not have to be stressful. With the support of experienced tax professionals right here in Downtown Brantford, the public can approach filing requirements with greater confidence, peace of mind, and a clearer understanding of their financial position.

 downtownbrantford.ca

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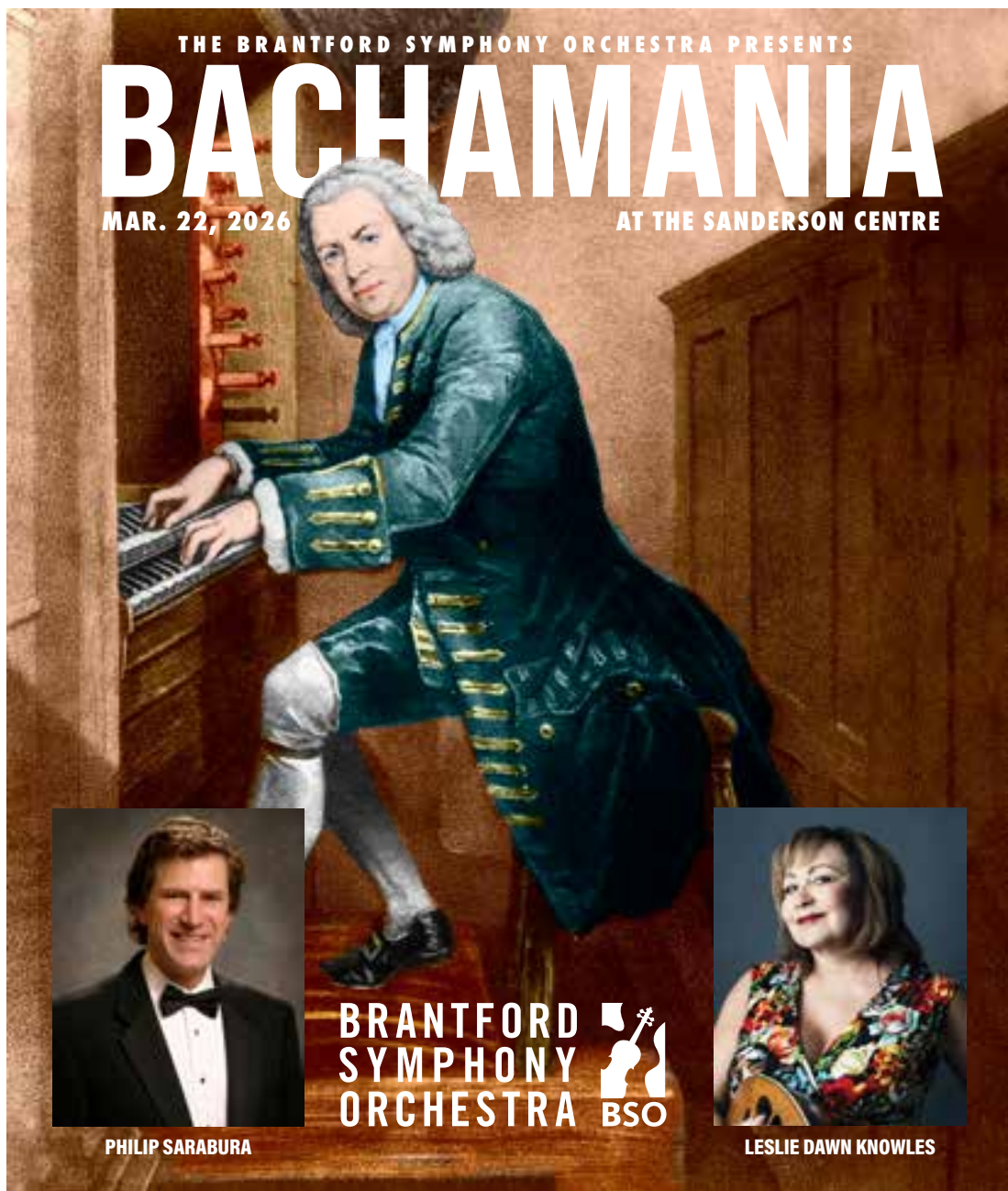
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The Pause: Beyond the Hustle



A Practical Mental Health Night for Helpers, Leaders, & Busy Humans



Across our community, the same theme keeps coming up in conversations

with professionals, caregivers, and business owners: people aren't lacking motivation — they're overloaded. Smart, capable people are running on empty and calling it normal.

The Pause: Beyond the Hustle was created to answer that need with something practical, local, and real.

This live, in-person mental health learning event is designed for helpers, leaders, caregivers, and high-capacity professionals who want usable tools to manage stress and reduce burnout — not just more awareness, but skills they can apply right away.

The event is co-led by Stephanie Cauchon, an operations strategist who helps businesses build structure and sustainable systems, and Kathleen, a registered social worker and psychotherapist who teaches applied mental health tools. Together, they bring both sides of the equation: mental health and operational reality.

They also bring lived experience. Both describe themselves as “textbook cases” of the over-functioning, high-

achieving pattern — the constant inner pressure of “*am I doing enough to be valuable?*” That drive helped them succeed, but it also led them straight into burnout. This event shares what



they learned the hard way — and what actually works to recover and stay well while still being ambitious.

This isn't a lecture and it isn't motivational hype. It's an interactive, grounded session focused on nervous system regulation, boundaries, mental load, and capacity management. Topics that match today's mental health conversation and workplace reality.

Tickets include dinner and access to the full experience. **Supporter Tickets** include your seat, your meal, and a thoughtfully curated swag bag decorated by **Brant Sports Excellence's** production facility. Printed materials are produced with trusted local partner **Peek Digital Printing**, keeping the event community-rooted and high quality.

Expect useful frameworks, honest discussion, and practical exercises — plus two facilitators who are

knowledgeable, direct, and easy to talk to. The tone is human, not clinical. Structured, but relaxed.

There is still room for **sponsors and community partners**. Local businesses are welcome to participate through sponsorship or by contributing products or services for door prizes and attendee giveaways. We're glad to highlight aligned organizations that support community wellbeing.

If you've been pushing hard and calling it normal, this night offers a reset and better tools going forward.

CONNECT:

Kathleen Foldvari, MSc, MSW, RSW
A Minute for Mental Health

Stephanie Cauchon, BSc, Operations Strategist
OnCue Executive Solutions

aminuteformentalhealth.ca
[@aminuteformentalhealth](https://www.instagram.com/aminuteformentalhealth)

oncueexecutivesolutions.com
[@ocue.executivesolutions](https://www.instagram.com/ocue.executivesolutions)

The Pause: Beyond the Hustle
Burnout prevention tools, with support to use them in real life
Awareness is where it starts, not where it ends
Join us for an evening of dinner and discussion!

 **Tuesday March 17, 2026**
 **6:30pm - 8:30pm**
 **12 William St, Paris, ON N3L 1K7**

Tickets Available:



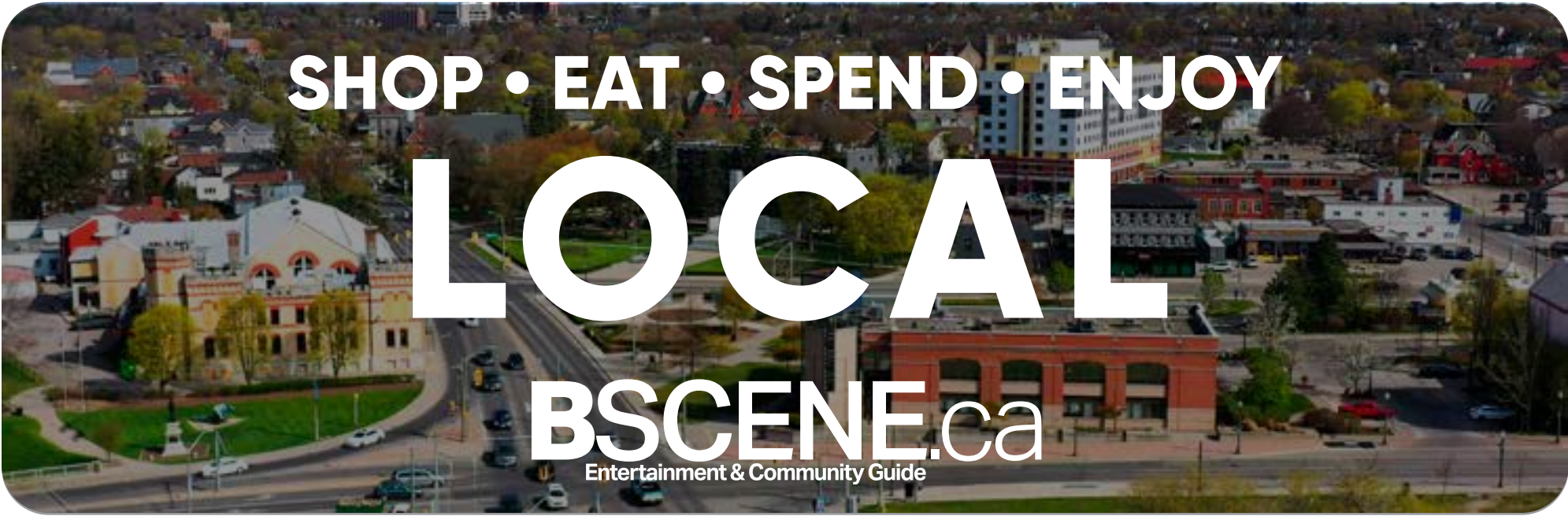
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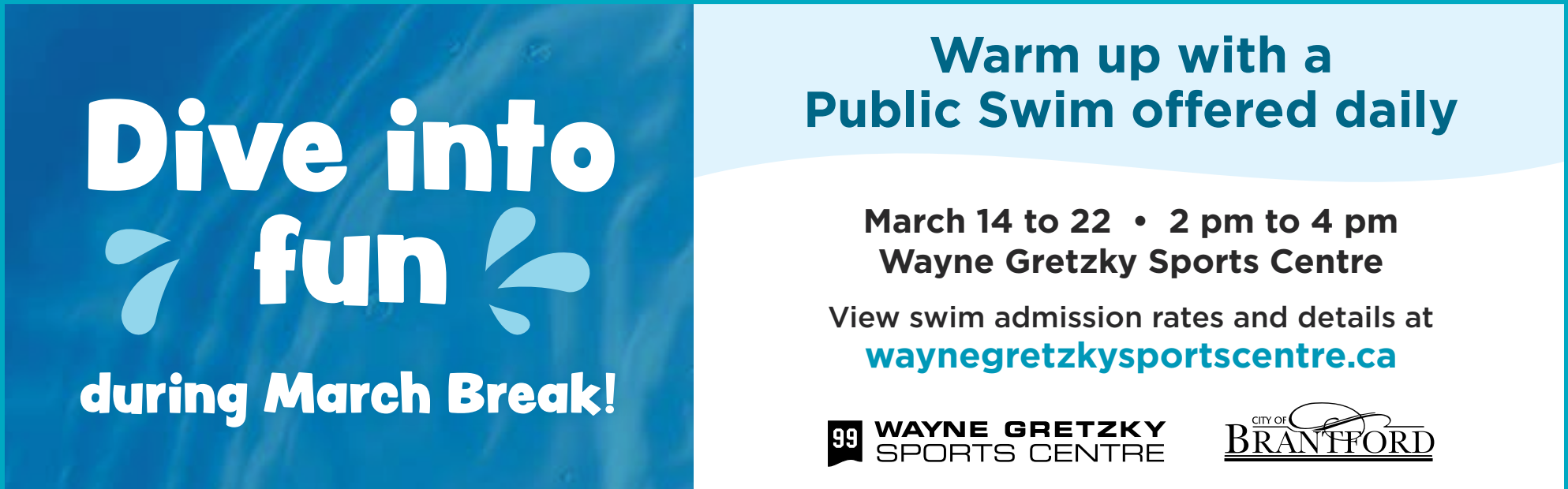



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MARCH 2026

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

DATE	EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
ONGOING EVENTS					
Mar. 1 - 6	County of Brant Community Grant Program			4:00 pm	Application: http://www.brant.ca/2026grants
Mar. 1 - 20	Call for Artists: Music in the Park Summer 2026				More info. & applications: http://brant.ca/musicinthepark
Mar. 1 - 31	Item Collection - Rotary Sunrise 6th Online Auction				Donations & item collection: RotarySunriseAuction@gmail.com
Mar. 1 - April 13	Call for Productions: Grand River Arts Festival				Info. & Application Form: https://glenhyrst.ca/graf/theatre/call/10minplaycomp
Mar. 1 - May 1	Call for Artists - 2026 Grand River Arts Festival	More info. http://grandriverartsfestival.ca			email Feb. 6 Ana Olson
Sun. Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Karaoke with KJ Kay	Bonita's Bar	3:00 pm	7:00 pm	
Sun. Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Sunday Singles Dances	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Doors open 6:15pm. Admission \$15./person.
Mon. Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	Baby & Me Storytime (Main Branch)	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	For ages 0 - 18 months.
Mon. Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	Canada Connects: English Conversation Circles	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Newcomers to improve English speaking skills.
Mon. Mar. 2 - April 27	TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)	Alexandra Presbyterian Church	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	New members welcome. EVERY Mon.
Tues. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	English Conversation Circle	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	10:30 am	12:00 pm	Free, drop-in program.
Tues. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	Baby & Me Storytime (St. Paul Branch)	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	Ages 0 - 18 months.
Tues. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	King George Road Seniors	Fairview United Church	1:30 pm	3:30 pm	Euchre & bridge.
Tues. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	Slow Stitching	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Free, drop-in program.
Tues. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	Application Support Program	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	4:00 pm	Support completing forms.
Tues. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	Canada Connects: English Conversation Circles	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Newcomers can improve English speaking skills.
Tues. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	Tuesday Night Knitters	County of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	
Tues. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	Euchre Night	Sassy Britches Brewing	7:00 pm		FREE. Standard Euchre Rules
Tues. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	Brant Men of Song: Choir Practices	First Baptist Church, 70 West St., Brantford	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	New members always welcome.
Tues. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	Tween Tuesdays	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	Ages 9 - 12.
Tues. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	Karaoke with KJ Kaneesha	Marvelous Lounge	9:00 pm	1:00 am	
Wed. Mar. 4, 11, 18 & 25	Storytime at St. Paul	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	Ages 18 months to 4 years.
Wed. Mar. 4, 11, 18 & 25	Karaoke with KJ Keith	Marvelous Lounge	6:00 pm	11:00 pm	Switched from Sundays.
Wed. Mar. 4, 11, 18 & 25	Casual Knit & Chat	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Drop in program.
Thurs. Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26	Crafty Kids Storytime	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	Ages 18 months to 4 years.
Thurs. Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26	Come Play! - EarlyON	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	1:30 pm	4:00 pm	For ages 0 - 6.
Thurs. Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26	Mahjong Club	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	1:30 pm	4:00 pm	Free drop in program.
Thurs. Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26	A Place To Be	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	Drop in for snacks & DIY activities.
Thurs. Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26	Fish & Chips	Knights Hall	3:00 pm	6:00 pm	Cash only please. Place order for P/U 548.328.4031.
Fri. Mar. 6, 13, 20 & 27	Community Connections	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Adult drop-in program.
Fri. Mar. 6, 13, 20 & 27	Live music	Sassy Britches Brewing	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	
Sat. Mar. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Magic: The Gathering Drop-In	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	12:00 pm	2:00 pm	We welcome all skill levels.
Sat. Mar. 7, 14, 21 & 28	Live music	Sassy Britches Brewing	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	

EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
SUNDAY MARCH 1				
All You Can Eat Charity Breakfast	Knights Hall	9:00 am	12:00 pm	Adults \$13, kids 10 & under \$8. Support Lansdowne Children's Centre
Spring is All We Need	Sydenham-Heritage United Church Auditorium	3:00 pm		Brant County Singers. Free will donation to Nova Vita.
MONDAY MARCH 2				
Conversation Café	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:30 am	12:00 pm	For newcomers to improve English speaking skills.
TUESDAY MARCH 3				
Caregiver Credits & Benefits w Service Canada & the CRA	virtual	10:30 am	12:00 pm	Registration: https://tinyurl.com/CaregiverCreditsBenefitsMarch3
Seniors Lunch and Learn	Five Oaks Centre	12:00 pm	1:30 pm	FREE. Spring Traditions. Reg. https://bit.ly/SeniorsLunchandLearnSeries
Cyber Safety	Brant Skills Centre (Grey St.)	1:00 pm	3:00 pm	Free digital workshops for older adults
Outdoor Games (Indoors)	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Registration: http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar



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EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
TUESDAY MARCH 3 continued				
Board Game Night	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Drop in program.
UPU – A Journey Through the Heartbeat of Pacific Poetry	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	7:00 pm		for tickets : https://bit.ly/3NndWW6 or 519.758.8090
Brantford Stamp Club Meeting	Branlyn Community Centre	8:00 pm		Doors open 7pm. Everyone welcome.
WEDNESDAY MARCH 4				
Robot Song	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	6:30 pm		Tickets: https://bit.ly/RobotSongMarch4 or 519.758.8090
Brantford Film Group: Winter/Spring 2026	Galaxy Cinemas Brantford	7:00 pm		A drama from Great Britain
Laurier-Brantford International Film Series	Steven & Helen Kun Theatre	7:00 pm		Doors open 6:30pm. All welcome, no tickets. Capernaum
Paris Horticultural Society March General Meeting	Paris Fairground	7:00 pm		Social time 7pm. Program starts 7:30pm. You're welcome to attend as our guest.
Karaoke night	Sassy Britches Brewing	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	All ages Karaoke night. Free entry.
THURSDAY MARCH 5				
Workplace Safety Essentials – Online Lunch & Learn		12:00 pm	1:00 pm	Free to attend and open to all businesses Register at https://bit.ly/4qD8V9P
Brant Writes Writing Club	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	All writers and aspiring writers welcome.
Crafternoons!	Cty of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	3:00 pm	4:30 pm	Drop in program. Bring your craft project or use provided supplies.
Wellness Drop-In with SAC Brant	Cty of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	3:00 pm	5:00 pm	All are welcome to attend. Immediate 24/7 support 519.751.3471.
Fiction Writing Drop-in	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	
St. Paul Crafters Circle	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Adult crafting program.
Green Team Brantford Monthly Meeting	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Contact Ken for more information thekenburns@gmail.com
John Ladds: Solo Acoustic	Paris Beer Co.	7:00 pm	9:00 pm	
FRIDAY MARCH 6				
Friday Night in the Gallery	Brant Naval Veterans' Club	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	Eat in or take out. Pre-order ALL meals by Thursday noon bnvafridaymeals@gmail.com or 519.209.1399
Paris Optimist St. Patrick's Day Youth Dance	Syl Apps Community Centre	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	\$5. admission - tap/debit available. For grades 5 - 8. Wear green!
Boom Box	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Doors 5:30pm. Food available for purchase 6-8pm. Admission \$8. person
Winnie The Pooh	#forParisCentre	7:00 pm		Tickets: http://pfpwinnie.eventbrite.ca/
SATURDAY MARCH 7				
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 Craft Sale	Lions Park Auditorium (Brantford)	10:00 am	4:00 pm	20 Edge St.
Français a Paris	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	Drop in program. All levels of French welcome.
Storytime & Craft Celebrating the Paper Bag Princess	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	11:00 am	11:45 am	For ages 4 - 7.
Paper Bag Princess Day	Riverside Bookshelf	12:00 pm	4:00 pm	Family event with free activities.
Double Impact	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge.
Winnie The Pooh	#forParisCentre	2:00 pm		Tickets: http://pfpwinnie.eventbrite.ca/
Book To Screen Movie Club: Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	4:30 pm	
SUNDAY MARCH 8 • DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME • CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR 🕒				
Easter Craft Sale	Lions Park Auditorium (Brantford)	10:00 am	4:00 pm	20 Edge St
Bell City Strum Club	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	4:00 pm	Ukulele music group.
MONDAY MARCH 9				
iPad Basics	T.B. Costain/SC Johnson Community Centre	9:30 am	11:30 am	Free digital workshops for older adults
TUESDAY MARCH 10				
Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting	Sherwood Restaurant & Catering	10:00 am		New members welcome.
Diamond Dot Workshop	Thorpe Funeral Home Carriage House	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	Registration is required.
WEDNESDAY MARCH 11				
Foot Care for Seniors	virtual	10:00 am	11:00 am	To register, please email admin@grcoa.ca or call 519 754-0777 ext. 439
Intro to Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)	Brant Skills Centre (Grey St.)	12:30 pm	2:30 pm	Free digital workshops for older adults
Researching and Preserving Your Family History	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	Register at: https://tinyurl.com/489fjb9f
One Book One Brant Book Club: Whistle by Linwood Barclay	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Registration required: http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar
Nova Vita Celebrates International Women's Day 2026	Brantford Golf & Country Club	5:00 pm		Tickets: https://novavita.org/participate/
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.
Family Build and Play	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	All ages Lego challenge.
Catholic Women's League: Monthly Meeting	Sacred Heart Parish Hall	7:00 pm		17 Washington St., Paris
Jazz at Lincoln Center presents Great American Crooners	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	7:00 pm		Tickets: https://bit.ly/GreatAmericanCroonersMarch11 or 519.758.8090
The Steady CEO: From Surviving to Steady Workshop	Virtual	7:00 pm	8:30 pm	To learn more and register: www.worksmartcanada.ca/freetraining
THURSDAY MARCH 12				
Service Canada Outreach Specialist	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	9:30 am	12:30 pm	Help with Federal Government services.
Wellness Drop-In with SAC Brant	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	All are welcome to attend. Immediate 24/7 support 519.751.3471.
History Club	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	2:00 pm	4:00 pm	Drop in program. All welcome.
3D Sketch and Create	Cty of Brant Public Library (Scotland-Oakland)	3:00 pm	4:30 pm	Drop in program for tweens & teens ages 8+.
The Paint Lounge	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Freestyle painting for adults.
BRANT HERITAGE QUILTERS GUILD	St. George United Church	6:15 pm	9:00 pm	New members welcome. Cost for non-members \$5/meeting
Brantford Garden Club monthly meeting	Lions Park Auditorium (Brantford)	7:30 pm	9:00 pm	Everyone welcome. Non members \$5.
FRIDAY MARCH 13				
Friday Night in the Gallery	Brant Naval Veterans' Club	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	Eat in or take out. Pre-order ALL meals by Thursday noon bnvafridaymeals@gmail.com or 519.209.1399
Outlets	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Doors 5:30pm. Food available for purchase 6-8pm. Admission \$8.person.

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

EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
SATURDAY MARCH 14				
Brantford Chess Club Drop-In	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	All ages welcome.
St. Paddy's Fundraiser	Port Dover Community Centre	12:30 pm	7:00 pm	tickets: https://bit.ly/StPaddysfundraiser
Innuendo Trio 3pc	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge.
Middleport Heritage Society's 6th Annual General Meeting	Onondaga Community Hall	2:00 pm		Non members welcome \$10. at the door. RSVP secretary@middleportheritage.ca
Sonny Sinclair Entertainment	Fairview Community Centre	6:00 pm	9:00 pm	Beef on a Bun dinner incl. Tickets \$30. 519.752.8549.
Arcady Opera Showcase	Waterford Old Town Hall, 76 Main St. S., Waterford	7:30 pm	9:00 pm	Tickets: https://tinyurl.com/ArcadyOperaShowcaseMarch14 or call 519.428.3185.
SUNDAY MARCH 15				
St Paddy's Day party	Sassy Britches Brewing	1:00 pm	7:00 pm	Free entry
MONDAY MARCH 16				
Frozen Party	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:00 am	11:30 am	Ages 0 - 12
Conversation Café	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:30 am	12:00 pm	For newcomers to improve English speaking skills.
Gaming for Teens	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	4:00 pm	Ages 13 - 17.
TUESDAY MARCH 17 ♣ HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY ♣				
Music with Dave Jensen & Friends	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	3:15 pm	All ages drop-in event.
Bored to Boards: Hang Out, Play Games, Eat Snacks	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	4:00 pm	Ages 13 - 17.
Craft and Create Club	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	Drop in program. Bring your craft project or use provided supplies.
The Pause: Beyond the Hustle	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	6:30 pm	8:30 pm	Tickets: https://bit.ly/ThePauseBeyondtheHustle Practical mental health tools - helpers & leaders
Brantford Stamp Club Meeting	Branlyn Community Centre	8:00 pm		Doors open 7pm. Everyone welcome.
WEDNESDAY MARCH 18				
Smartphone Basics 102: Android	Brant Skills Centre (Grey St.)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	Free digital workshops for older adults
Bad Art Afternoon for Tweens	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	3:30 pm	Ages 8 - 12. Register at https://tinyurl.com/2rfzv5fn
Karaoke night	Sassy Britches Brewing	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	All ages Karaoke night. Free entry.
Laurier-Brantford International Film Series	Steven & Helen Kun Theatre	7:00 pm		Doors open 6:30pm. All welcome, no tickets. Past Lives
THURSDAY MARCH 19				
Brant Writes Writing Club	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	All writers and 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 call 519.751.3471.
K-Pop Demon Hunters: Glow Dance Quest	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	3:30 pm	Ages 8 - 12> Register at https://tinyurl.com/5n6tsv7y
Fiction Writing Drop-in	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	
St. Paul Crafters Circle	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	6:00 pm	7:30 pm	Adult crafting program.
What You Won't Do For Love	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	7:00 pm		Tickets: https://bit.ly/WhatYouWontDoForLoveMarch19 or 519.758.8090
FRIDAY MARCH 20 • FIRST DAY OF SPRING				
Friday Night in the Gallery	Brant Naval Veterans' Club	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	Eat in or take out. Pre-order ALL meals by Thursday noon bnvafridaymeals@gmail.com or 519.209.1399
Riverside Literary Society: Book Club Meeting	Riverside Bookshelf (Paris)	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	
JLB-Quartet	Arlington Hotel	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	
Time Machine	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Doors open 5:30pm. Food available for purchase 6-8:00pm. Admission \$8. person.
SATURDAY MARCH 21				
Brantford Lions Club 100th Anniversary	Lions Park Auditorium (Brantford)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	20 Edge St. Accepting donations for Brantford Food Bank.
Drive-Through Food Drive	St. Mark's Anglican Church parking lot	10:00 am	12:00 pm	Drop off non-perishable food and/or cash for Brantford Food Bank.
Easter Fun Vendor Event	Royal Canadian Legion Br. 461 (Dunston)	10:00 am	3:00 pm	Free Admission. Easter Bunny 12-1pm.
Laurier Students for Literacy Teddy Bear Picnic	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	12:00 pm	1:30 pm	Ages 10 and under.
Bell City Strum Club	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	4:00 pm	Ukulele music group.
Hwy 24	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge.
Mario Mania!	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	2:30 pm	3:30 pm	
Dinner & Trivia Night	St. Mark's Anglican Church	6:00 pm	9:00 pm	Reserve your spot & more info. 519.752.6451 or office@stmarks.on.ca
SUNDAY MARCH 22				
Riverside Bookshelf: Women Talking	Riverside Bookshelf	3:00 pm	5:00 pm	Readings by authors Susan Wismer (Hag Dances) & Jaclyn Desforges (Weird Babies).
MONDAY MARCH 23				
Success Summit	Best Western Brantford	5:30 pm	8:00 pm	Tickets: https://bit.ly/SuccessSummitt
TUE. MARCH 24				
Maker Workshop: Introduction to 3D Printing	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Bring laptop or device. Registration required http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar
Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting	Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Paris	7:30 pm		17 Washington St., Paris
Tenille Townes	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	8:00 pm		for tickets : https://bit.ly/3NndWW6 or 519.758.8090
WEDNESDAY MARCH 25				
Library Life for Older Adults	virtual	10:00 am	11:00 am	To register, please email admin@grcoa.ca or call 519 754-0777 ext. 439
Wellness Drop-In with SAC Brant	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	12:00 pm	2:00 pm	All welcome to attend. For immediate support 24/7 call 519.751.3471.
Point of Sale – Customer Service	Brant Skills Centre (Grey St.)	12:45 pm	2:45 pm	Registration Wednesday, Mar. 18, at 12:45 p.m. Program Mar. 25- Apr. 24, Wed and Fri
3D Sketch and Create	County of Brant Public Library (St. George)	3:00 pm	4:30 pm	For tweens & teens age8+. Drop in program.
Family Build and Play	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	All ages Lego challenge.
Brant Writes St. George Writing Club	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Join anytime. Bring your current project or come for inspiration.

EVENT NAME	LOCATION	START	FINISH	ADDITIONAL INFO
WEDNESDAY MARCH 25 continued				
Burford Book Club	County of Brant Public Library (Burford)	6:30 pm	7:30 pm	Free program. Registration required: http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar
Brantford Film Group: Winter/Spring 2026	Galaxy Cinemas Brantford	7:00 pm		A drama from US/France/UK.
THURSDAY MARCH 26				
Service Canada Outreach Specialist	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	9:30 am	12:30 pm	Help with Federal Government services.
MarketFest: In Peace and Friendship	One Market (Dalhousie & Market St. doors)	11:00 am	6:00 pm	Free & Open to the Public. Indigenous vendors.
Ukrainian Easter Egg workshop	Sassy Britches Brewing	6:30 pm	9:30 pm	All ages welcome. Sign up on Eventbrite.ca
FRIDAY MARCH 27				
Online Storage	Brant Skills Centre (Grey St.)	10:30 am	12:30 pm	Free digital workshops for older adults
Friday Night in the Gallery	Brant Naval Veterans' Club	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	Eat in or take out. Pre-order ALL meals by Thursday noon bnvfridaymeals@gmail.com or 519.209.1399
Atkinson Brothers	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Doors open 5:30pm. Food available for purchase in downstairs lounge 5-7pm. Admission \$8./person.
SATURDAY MARCH 28				
Pastries, Pies and Puzzling Delights Bake Sale	St. Mark's Anglican Church	9:00 am	12:00 pm	Cash, debit, credit available.
3rd. Annual Autism Dog Services Easter Eggs-travaganza	Optimist Club & Park, Ancaster	10:00 am	1:00 pm	Admission Fee: cash or debit donation at door.
Brantford Chess Club Drop-In	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	10:00 am	12:00 pm	All ages welcome.
Brantford Storm Baseball Fundraiser Vendor Event	Fairview Community Centre	10:00 am	3:00 pm	
Family Storytime	Brantford Public Library (St. Paul Ave. Branch)	10:30 am	11:00 am	Ages 0 - 6.
Mike Thorpe	Brant Artillery Gunners Club	2:00 pm	6:00 pm	\$5. cover charge.
IPW Proving Ground	Brantford Air Force Club	6:30 pm		Tickets \$15 kids, \$20 Adults
Irish Millie	Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant (Coach House)	8:00 pm		Doors open 7:30pm. Tickets: \$30. http://www.glenhyrst.ca/irishmillie
JLB-Quartet	Paris Pub	8:00 pm	11:00 pm	
SUNDAY MARCH 29				
Lunar Webb Fantasies & Fairies Market	Brantford Polish Hall	10:00 am	3:00 pm	More info. http://www.lunarwebvendormarket.ca supports the Sexual Assault Centre of Brant
Pop up Tattoo Day with Thrive Studios	Sassy Britches Brewing	12:00 pm	5:00 pm	19+ event. MUST bring valid gov't ID. Prices per permanent tattoo vary.
MONDAY March 30				
Skills at Work: Office in a Flash	Brant Skills Centre (Grey St.)	9:30 am	11:30 am	Registration March 25, at 9:30 am. Program Mar. 30- Apr. 22, Mon & Wed
TUESDAY MARCH 31				
Paris Book Club	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	2:00 pm	3:30 pm	Reg http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 31
Skills at Work: Office in a Flash	Brant Skills Centre (Grey St.)	5:30 pm	7:30 pm	Registration is on Mar. 24, at 5:30 pm. Program Mar. 31- Apr. 21, Tues & Thurs
Easter Bunny workshop	Sassy Britches Brewing	6:30 pm	8:30 pm	\$45- Sign up on Eventbrite.ca
Large Format Printing Certification	County of Brant Public Library (Paris)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Encouraged to bring laptop or device. Registration required: http://brantlibrary.ca/calendar
APRIL 2026				
WEDNESDAY APRIL 1				
Laurier-Brantford International Film Series	Steven & Helen Kun Theatre	7:00 pm		Doors open 6:30pm. All welcome, no tickets. Amelie
Artists in Conversation: The Woven Ones	Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts	8:00 pm		for tickets : https://bit.ly/3NndWW6 or 519.758.8090
THURSDAY APRIL 2				
Grand Thursday (Grand River Blues)	Brantford Polish Hall	7:00 pm	11:00 pm	Tickets: \$25. advance https://ticketscene.ca/events/58080/ or \$30 at the door
Green Team Brantford Monthly Meeting	Brantford Public Library (Main Branch)	6:30 pm	8:00 pm	Contact Ken for more information thekenburns@gmail.com



LINWOOD BARCLAY BRINGS THE MYSTERY TO BRANT COUNTY



ADA CAPLAP, SHE/HER

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The County of Brant Public Library invites you into the haunting world of this year's **One Book One Brant** (OBOB) selection, the acclaimed thriller *Whistle* by Linwood Barclay. Deemed a page-turner by legendary author Stephen King, this year's pick is sure to send chills down your spine.

One Book One Brant, the Library's annual community literary event, brings readers across the County together through a shared book selection and highly anticipated author event. Last year marked the program's 20th anniversary, featuring *The Paris Express* by Emma Donoghue. The event welcomed more than 200 attendees — some travelling from across the border — for her debut appearance in Paris, Ontario.

Barclay, a celebrated Canadian author, is one of the most requested writers among Brant Library patrons for OBOB. While the annual event doesn't typically spotlight thrillers, 2026 promises to be a year to remember. *Whistle* marks Barclay's first venture into the thriller genre and has already received

widespread praise.

"Our goal is to reach new patrons with a new genre," says Emma Johnston, Program and Outreach at Brant Library. "It's an opportunity to showcase the library and its events to a wider audience."

This year's event will take place on April 12, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the Cainsville Community Centre. The event is free, but registration is required to reserve your seat. Visit brantlibrary.ca/obob to register.

The County of Brant Public Library is a library without borders. Any person, upon presentation of adequate identification, preferably photo identification, may be issued a free library card.

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VENTURE INTO VOLUNTEERING

Lansdowne Children's Centre partners with Mission Thrift Store for new program



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-  lansdownecentre.ca
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The participants in the new Lansdowne Children's Centre Venture into Volunteering Therapeutic Recreation (TR) program have been experiencing greater connection to their community.

Tiffany Morgan, supervisor, noted that all of the Venture to Volunteering participants have an interest in volunteering and some have already helped out at events to benefit Lansdowne, including the Charity Motorcycle Ride and the Heroes Walk and Roll, as well as with the Recreation Department's CARE programming.

She explained that the goal of Venture into Volunteering is for participants "to gain practical experience to include in resumes, a deeper understanding of individual strengths and a clearer sense of how they can continue contributing to their community."

The program found a community partner with Mission Thrift Store at 119 Colborne St. W., Brantford.

The shop boasts a wide range of items, including clothing, toys, books, household items and more. The net proceeds from the store's sales support both local and international initiatives.

"The store manager, Andrea Norg, has been wonderful in supporting and welcoming us to the volunteer world," Tiffany said. "She is very passionate about her work, and we are so grateful to join her team."

The participants' responsibilities have included tidying the store, waxing the hanger rods, sorting donations, and setting up displays.



Submitted Photo

Through a partnership with Mission Thrift Store in Brantford, the participants in the new Lansdowne Children's Centre Venture into Volunteering Therapeutic Recreation program have been experiencing greater connection to their community.

Elizabeth Burke, Recreation Therapy Assistant, noted, "This volunteering opportunity is not just a chance for clients to gain practical work experience in a real working environment, but also to consider what truly interests and motivates them as they explore future employment or education."





One parent praised the idea of offering an opportunity for supported volunteering, saying, "Our kids can learn that they too can help others, that other people also need help ... TR is always doing such great things."

For more information on the programs and services offered by Lansdowne, visit www.lansdownecentre.ca.

For more information on Mission Thrift Store and how to volunteer, stop by the shop or visit www.missionthriftstore.com.

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Monday to Saturday 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Closed Good Friday Apr. 03 and Sat. Apr. 04)

Drop off location: Outside on Dalhousie St. (south side) just west of 1 Market Street

NOT ACCEPTING

National Geographics, Encyclopedias, Readers Digest, Discards, Old Text Books, VHS Tapes, Cassettes, Magazines

INFORMATION 226-552-5579

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





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THE ART & SCIENCE OF SAFETY IN SCHOOLS



JOE PERSIA MSc.

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The events of this past month in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia have taught us that we here in Canada are not immune to in-school violence. It forces us to look at what we mean by keeping kids "safe" at school. At one time it simply meant keeping them injury-free. As special education services evolved, it grew to include intellectual safety. Then as bullying incidents began making the news we were tasked with including social safety, and most recently we are also guardians of emotional safety.

When children don't *feel* safe, the warning signs are unmistakable. They may become withdrawn and subdued, emotionally volatile, overly anxious, highly impulsive, inattentive, or easily distracted. But here's what should make us pause: some unsafe children even become bullies themselves.

This revelation forces us to rethink what "safe" actually means. If bullying is a sign that a child doesn't feel safe, then simply stopping bullying isn't enough—we need to dig deeper into the science behind safety.

Neuroscientists have discovered something called **neuroception**—brain systems constantly scanning for threats. These threats aren't just physical; they're emotional, social, and psychological too.

A threatening look, gesture, or even silence can activate a child's internal alarm system. Sometimes the threat is:

- A request/demand that feels overwhelming
- Not understanding someone's actions



Submitted Graphic

- Being excluded from the group
- Feeling vulnerable or being removed from routine
- Uncertainty about how others may respond

When the alarm goes off, it floods the child with adrenaline and cortisol, pushing them into fight-or-flight mode. It's an imbalance in their emotional nervous system.

All children respond differently to this alarm activation based on their biology and early life experiences. Some withdraw completely, others develop anxiety or mood problems, some become impulsive or distracted, and others may turn aggressive. Many may cycle through all these responses.

Creating truly safe environments means **turning off children's alarm systems**. This will shift them from "survival brain" to "learning brain"—where they can learn not just academics, but emotional regulation, empathy, and social awareness.

The key insight here? Children benefit from **self-regulation**. Self-regulation means understanding when they're agitated, why it's happening, and what they can do to return to calm.

True safety is about creating environments where a child's nervous systems can relax, allowing them to learn, grow, and thrive. Cognitive Dynamics can help.

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MARCH BREAK



Drop-in Public Skates

brant.ca/Skates

Monday, March 16

10:30 am to 11:30 am*	Brant Sports Complex	*Free! Sponsored by Ayr Farmers Mutual Insurance Company
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Gaukel Memorial Community Centre	

Tuesday, March 17

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Burford Community Centre
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Brant Sports Complex

Wednesday, March 18

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm*	Gaukel Memorial Community Centre	*Free! Sponsored by Ayr Farmers Mutual Insurance Company
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Thursday, March 19

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm*	Brant Sports Complex	*Free! Sponsored by Nathan Ackland Insurance Agency
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm*	Burford Community Centre	

Friday, March 20

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Burford Community Centre
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Gaukel Memorial Community Centre

The Spring/ Summer Guide arrives March 19!



Registration opens:

Spring/Summer Programs:
March 30, 2026 at 6:00 pm

After School Program:
June 8, 2026 at 6:00 pm

brant.ca/Guide

Kinderplay

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Weekdays, Monday to Friday until April 24, 2026

Time: 10:00 - 11:30 am

Location: Syl Apps Community Centre (51 William Street, Paris)

Age: 1 to 6 years

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Visit brant.ca/Kinderplay to learn more!

MARCHING INTO MONTHLY GIVING



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HEATHER VANNER

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Supporting the Brantford Food Bank through monthly donations is one of the most powerful ways individuals can strengthen their local community. Food insecurity remains a persistent challenge in Brantford, affecting families, seniors, and individuals who are struggling to keep up with rising housing, utility, and grocery costs. While one-time donations are always appreciated, consistent monthly contributions provide stability that is essential for long-term impact.

Monthly donations allow the Brantford Food Bank to plan ahead. Reliable funding helps staff ensure operations are stable and equitable. It is difficult to ensure food allotments for families are similar, when seasonal swings in food and financial donations make equitable service provision difficult.

Predictable support also reduces administrative costs. Processing a single monthly gift is more efficient than managing multiple one-time contributions. This means more of each dollar goes directly toward services for people in need. Over time, even modest monthly amounts add up to significant, sustainable funding that keeps programs running smoothly.



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Beyond financial stability, monthly donors build community strength. Their ongoing commitment sends a powerful message: that caring for neighbours is not a seasonal effort but a shared, year-round responsibility. In times of economic uncertainty, this steady support becomes even more critical.

By choosing to give monthly, supporters empower the Brantford Food Bank to respond quickly to emergencies, invest in nutritious options, and maintain dignity for those seeking assistance. A recurring donation is more than a financial gift — it is a promise of consistency, compassion, and hope for the people of Brantford who need it most. To make a monthly gift, please visit www.brantfordfoodbank.ca

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ATTENTION STUDENTS! BE YOUR OWN BOSS THIS SUMMER!



The Brantford-Brant Business Resource Centre (BRC) is now accepting applications for the 2026 Summer Company Student Grant Program. Local aspiring entrepreneurs, ages 15 to 29 years old, who are considering starting and operating their own business this summer are encouraged to apply online before Friday, May 15, 2026. Successful applicants will receive up to \$1,500 to assist with start-up costs and an additional \$1,500 upon completion of the program.

Summer Company



Apply online today:
www.brantford.ca/SummerCompany

For assistance please contact the BRC's Small Business Consultant Natalie Walker at 519-756-4269 or nwalker@brantford.ca



Grand Wedding Showcase

Join us for a one-of-a-kind wedding vendor experience at Gathering Place by the Grand. April 25, 2026!





MEET VENDORS
GET INSPIRED
PLAN

Couples Tickets \$80 | Additional Tickets \$50
Purchase Tickets Online
GATHERING PLACEBYTHEGRAND.CA
info@gatheringplacebythegrand.ca

Newly engaged and feeling overwhelmed?



Planning your dream wedding starts with inspiration – and the **Grand Wedding Showcase** is your ideal starting point. Happening **Saturday, April 25th, 2026** at The Gathering Place by the Grand.

Designed for newly engaged couples, this immersive showcase brings together some of the region's most talented wedding professionals under one roof. Throughout the event, guests will enjoy short, engaging presentations from local experts covering the latest trends, smart budgeting strategies, and insights into today's unique wedding market. Whether you're envisioning an intimate celebration or a grand affair, you'll walk away with practical advice and fresh ideas tailored to your vision.

This isn't just a seminar, it's an experience! Guests will be treated to a tasting-style menu, offering a delicious preview of what your own wedding reception could look and taste like. As part of the showcase, couples will have the opportunity to

tour two stunning venues: The Gathering Place by the Grand and Chiefswood Park, conveniently located kitty-corner to one another. Explore ceremony and reception spaces, envision your décor, and discover the natural beauty that makes either of these locations an unforgettable setting for your special day.

It takes a village! Couples are welcome to include their mother-in-law or a close friend involved in the planning for this event. Invite your loved one to join you in touring and exploring the possibilities with you.

Whether you're just beginning your planning journey or putting the finishing touches on your celebration, the Grand Wedding Showcase is your chance to connect, taste, tour, and be inspired – all in one unforgettable afternoon!

Reserve your seats and take your first confident step toward the wedding day you've always imagined.

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KEEPING OUR VOICES ALIVE *with thanks to Rock Solid Trailers*



BY **AMY GROLEAU**

Brantford is known for many historic inventions; diverse industries; sports figures and entertainers. Since its inception, our fine City has been nicknamed The Telephone City; The Best Bloomin' City; Capital of Hockey Tournaments and perhaps its best-kept secret: "The City of Choirs".

The **Brant Men of Song (BMoS)** proudly bear the title of the longest-standing chorus in Brantford and County of Brant. Formed in 1961 by two local musicians - Bob McIntosh and Frank Holton - BMoS are celebrating their 65th Anniversary this year. Under the current leadership team of Bill Schatz, Artistic Director; Amy Groleau, Accompanist; and Sylvia Jarvis, Assistant Director / Accompanist; the 35 men in this Chorus have been bringing joy to the community through choral singing, fostering a love of music and camaraderie among its members. The men from various occupations and backgrounds delight audiences at various local community events; fundraising opportunities and long-term care facilities, thereby contributing to the cultural and social fabric of Brantford and County of Brant. It is estimated through 2017-2018 census data there were 3.5 million Canadians singing in 28,000 choirs. Although globally, church choirs were the center of regular activities during the early part of the 20th century, many amateur voices joined for weekly rehearsals, sharing commonality in producing beautiful music, and providing an opportunity to perform for audiences. Brantford is no different. Although incorporated as a city in 1877, the Canadian Encyclopedia indicates that in the 1850s there were two choral groups - Gideon's Band and the Brantford Choral Union, which was accompanied by military band musicians from the British garrison. Since then, there have been dozens of musical organizations here in Brantford and the County of Brant - both bands and choirs.

For this longest-standing Brantfordian musical group, you are invited to celebrate with the Brant Men of Song on **Sat., April 11, 2026**. A



Day of Choral Singing, made possible through a grant from Enterprise Brant, will be held at Hope Christian Reformed Church, 64 Buchanan Crescent. Led by the terrific and talented music team, this will be an educational afternoon, especially if you have always wanted to try singing with a choir. A workshop (1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.), open to all voices ages 19 to 99, will introduce 4-part harmony, basic musical terms and genres (you'll discover that every Latin musical term translates to one word in English!), and learn several pieces which will culminate with a concert that evening at 7:00. The benefits of singing promote good health - physical, mental, spiritual - and it's just fun!

Admission to the concert is by financial donation to the Brantford Food Bank. There is no fee to join the workshop, but email brantmenofsong@gmail.com to register.

Brantford, the City of Choirs and Brant Men of Song - a secret no longer and definitely worth sharing with family, friends and customers. Cheers to another 65 years of musical excellence!

Upcoming events:

Sing into Spring, Saturday, May 9 Burford United Church 7:00 p.m.
A Sapphire Celebration, Sun., May 31 Sanderson Centre, Brantford 3:00 p.m.

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



BSCENE
#BRANTASTIC PEOPLE

CAROL MADOU

Children's books are Carol's creative passion

Story ideas and board game concept come in the form of dreams



YVONNE VAN DE WIELE-COOPER

www.rountablepr.com

@ yvonne@rountablepr.com

Carol Madou found a mystery novel she was reading one day around 20 years ago, to be too predictable and thought; "I can do better than that." So while in her fifties and working in accounting, she set out to write her own novel. Eventually she began writing children's stories, all with a positive message and colourful illustrations. **'Pigs can fly'** features a central theme of fitting in and getting along. In it, Windham the pig becomes friends with Max the Canada goose. The name of the central character came to her as she was driving through Windham Centre in the Simcoe area. "If you think about it, Wind-ham...flying pig," she said. There's also a little boy in the story who stutters named Eddy. Eddy is named after Madou's now adult son Edward, a kinesiologist.

Madou says she found out when she started writing that her grandmother had also been a writer. And like her late mother who wrote poetry, creative ideas come to her in the form of dreams. She had **'Dapple'** her mother's poem about a spotted horse, published in book form. And she is never without a pen and paper at her bedside in order to write down ideas, before they disappear. Her most recent children's book **'But the**

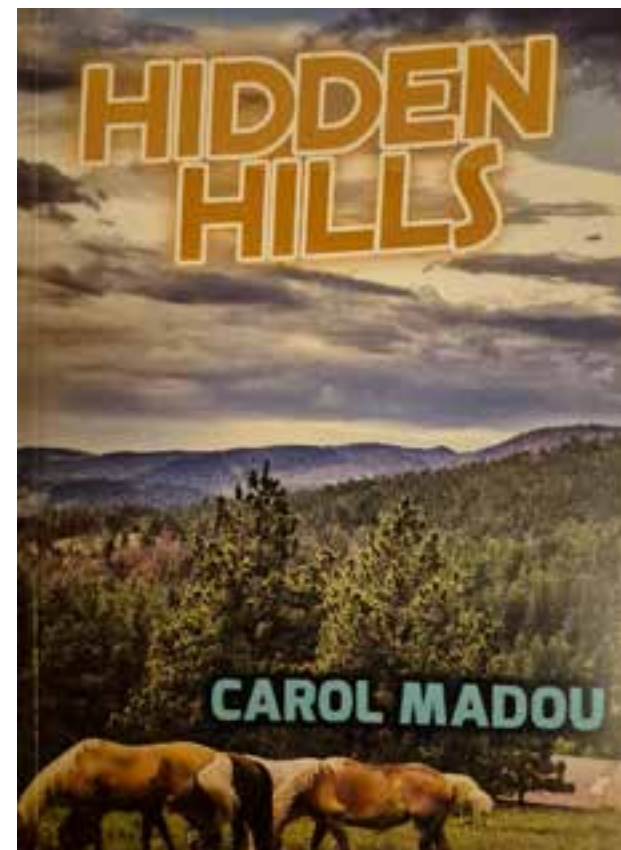


frogs eat dragonflies' was written just in May of last year. The anti-bullying story has Freddy the frog, Skippy the skunk and Dixie the dragonfly all eventually becoming friends. She says parents tell her they appreciate the books being written in chapters, which can be read to youngsters each night as an ongoing bedtime story.

In 2018 Madou also penned **'Hidden Hills'** a mystery romance aimed at ages 16 and up. It's the tale of a teenage girl, with a passion for horses who falls in with the wrong crowd, but finds redemption through a strong family background.

Meantime, Madou also dreamed up an idea for an educational board game based on Canada's Food

Guide. The **Balancing Act Challenge** features a quality laminated board and pieces that help students learn about healthy food choices. She says she's managed to get the game in homes, health units and schools across Canada. "One teacher in London last year told me, I can talk till I'm blue in the face to my students about nutrition, but playing a game, it might sink in because they're having fun," she said. She's been steadily selling the books and game by word-of-mouth and through various vendor shows, but admits with travel time to various events, table rentals and the cost of publishing it hasn't been a money maker. "I do it because I want to share my stories and it's just what I'm passionate about and I'm so thankful that I have this because it keeps me busy," said Madou. The now 71-year-old says she used to be shy and quiet, but she's "never had so many friends" as she does now due to her "hobby."



Carol Madou's books are available at Commonplace books in Ingersoll. For both books and the **Balancing Act Challenge** board game, contact her at madouauthor@hotmail.ca.



Submitted photos.





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

28TH ANNUAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

February 7, 2026 • Branlyn Community Centre, Brantford ON • Photos: Thomas Clare



KIDS CAN FLY STORYBOOK BREAKFAST

February 7, 2026 • Affinity Conference Centre, Brantford ON • Photos: Thomas Clare





A LOOK BACK



JACK JACKOWETZ

www.jjackowetz.com

NAMING THE VILLAGE

In November 1822, a bridge over the Grand River was finished. Robert Biggar led efforts to raise funds for it, resulting in the bridge being named Biggar's Bridge.

Completed in 1823, the Hamilton and London Road, along with the opening of the bridge over the Grand River, fueled local growth. This crossing attracted businesses and tradespeople, eager to take advantage of trading with the Haudenosaunee.

Consequently, the population increased to around 100 residents.

THE STORY OF HOW THE VILLAGE WAS NAMED

The naming of Brantford has been the same oft-repeated story since it first appeared in the Old Boys and 60th Anniversary Number edition of the Brantford Courier on 23 December 1899. James Wilkes related the story to the Courier. Wilkes was 91 at the time. He came to Brantford in 1823 when he was fifteen years old. Wilkes opened a trading store at what is now the corner of King and Colborne Streets.

It must have been in 1826 or 1827, when there were two or three hundred people, that the question of naming the place arose. There was a grist mill then, run by a man named Lewis, and a carpenter and building shop had been started by another man named Crandon. A Mr. Biggar, of Mount Pleasant, owned a lot of land around the ferry, and when a bridge at the ferry was carried away he was instrumental in getting another structure

erected, which was called Biggar's bridge. He was anxious to have the place called after himself.

A meeting was called, when Mr. Biggar proposed that the name should be Biggar's Town. Mr. Lewis, the mill owner, suggested Lewisville, and my father, (who came from that city in the Old Land), stood out for Birmingham. It looked as if there might be a dead-lock when some one suggested that as the place was at Brant's ford this title would prove the most suitable and the suggestion took unanimously. In the natural order of things the "s" speedily became dropped, and thus we have the Brantford of to-day.

According to Sarah (Sadie) Fisher Howe, a former resident of Brantford and later of Sonora, California, that someone was her grandfather, William Dutton, who suggested the name Brantford. From the *Brantford Expositor*, 5 December 1927, page 6.

BIGGARSTOWN

In 1823, Robert Biggar asked Joseph Reade to prepare a village plan. He called the settlement Biggarstown. It had a bridge, a grist mill, five merchant shops, two taverns, tailors, blacksmiths, shoemakers, and fifteen houses. From the (Niagara-on-the-Lake) *Gleaner*, Saturday 29 May 1824

Biggar was a large landholder around the crossing. In 1824, he placed newspaper advertisements to attract people to

Robert Biggar's advertisement for lots for sale at the crossing. The settlement commonly referred to as Grand River Swamp had no formal name. Biggar tried to promote his name in his advertisement. Notice the misspelling of the name of the settlement in the headline. Source: Niagara Gleaner 17 April 1824

**Biggerstown Lots
for Sale.**

LOTS for sale by the Subscriber in four different Streets of the said Town, for building on—and likewise a number of Lots for water works, (one Lot for a Church; and one for a School House, are reserved, and will be given gratis—Lots are also reserved for a Gaol, Court House and Market, when wanted.) As the Bridge over the Grand River stands near the centre of the Town, makes it one of the best stands for business in the Province.—Great encouragement will be given to mechanics of all kinds.—Here stands one of the best flour mills that is in the Province, built by the ingenious Marshal Lewis—one run of stones it is said will grind 12 bushels of wheat per hour—two more run to be put a going this spring. The above Town stands on one of the pleasantest situations in the Province, and needs no comment.

ROBERT BIGGAR.

Biggarstown, April 16, 1824. 22. 5w

Biggarstown. About one hundred people lived at or near the bridge.

FIRST MILL

Marshall Lewis and Henry Sage built the first grist mill in the village in 1823. It was located between Hill Street and Mill Street.

POST OFFICE

New Post-Office.—A new Post-Office is established at the Grand River Bridge, Gore District, at the new village there.—Mr. Heron calls it Biggarstown; it is, however, named after the late Captain Brant, and is called BRANTFORD: Edmund Barton, Esq. is appointed Post-master. I think it would be an improvement if the Post-Master General would announce in the official paper new appointments of this kind, as well as alterations in post routes. I passed through the village, saw "post office" over the door, and enquired, otherwise I might have remained in ignorance of the convenience for a twelvemonth to come. M. Kingston Chronicle.—Mr. Macfarlane

Report of the new post office in Brantford. Source: York Advocate 5 August 1824

The *York Advocate* of 5 August 1824 carried a report from the Kingston Chronicle noting a post office had been established at the new village of Brantford, named after the late Captain Brant, but also known as Biggarstown. Edmund Barton was appointed the Postmaster. It is reasonable to conclude that the settlement meeting to name the place Wilkes refers to actually took place in 1824, possibly because of Robert Biggar's aggressiveness in naming the place after himself.

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 community grew slowly. 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. By 1827, between 200 and 300 non-Natives lived in the vicinity of the crossing.

We hear that the lively little post town of Brantford, at the Grand River ferry, is to possess another extensive mercantile establishment, this season. The firm is "Richardson & Kirkpatrick." One of the partners, Mr. Richardson, is now in business in Chippawa, where he is much esteemed.

Report of a new business opening in Brantford in 1824. Source: Colonial Advocate 18 Nov. 1824

Because the settlement was located on Haudenosaunee land, the settlers could not patent their titles to the land they purchased; they lacked a clear title to the land they acquired. This situation led to the settlement's slow growth in the 1820s.

In the next column, the Crown buys the town plot. And more early settlers



Location of Marshal Lewis' grist mill. Jedidah Jackson bought the mill in about 1828. Source: Library and Archives Canada Map 1849 Gage Lands BrantsFord Downtown BAC-LAC 1 5234806-2

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.

Robert Biggar

Robert Biggar was born on 2 April 1761 in Irongray, Kincardineshire, Scotland. He grew up in Biggar, Scotland.

He married Amelia Lauder in Scotland, and they had eleven children. At least the first four children were born in Scotland. In 1797, his son Charles was born in Bath, New York, and in 1802, his son James was born in Queenston. About 1810, the family moved to Stoney Creek. Biggar and three of his sons fought in the War of 1812 with the 2nd Flank Company, 5th Regiment, Lincoln Militia, under Captain James Durand. In 1816, he purchased 100 acres of land in Mount Pleasant, attracted by the fertile lands and economic prospects. I found a reference that he was awarded a 100-acre land grant for his service in the war. I cannot determine whether he purchased the land in Mount Pleasant or whether the purchase was paid for by the Crown as part of his land award.

After moving to Mount Pleasant Biggar established a tannery at the Grand River Crossing. He started to accumulate land around the crossing. He also began to refer to the place as Biggarstown, after his old home in Scotland.

After the settlement at the crossing was named Brantford, the disappointed Biggar continued to refer to the place as Biggarstown. In his will, he

referred to the property he owned – in a place called by me, Biggarstown. In late 1827, he received a letter addressed to “Robert Biggar Esqr. Biggars Town, British North America.”

His children became prominent in the affairs of the village of Mount Pleasant and the county. Mary, born in Scotland in 1764, passed away on 10 July 1826, ten years after the family’s arrival in Mount Pleasant.

Their son Herbert Biggar, born in Queenston on 6 January 1809, assisted his father on the farm in Mount Pleasant for a few years, then pursued mercantile interests in Brantford, including a carding and fulling mill. He returned to the farm after Robert’s death. Herbert served on township and county councils, was a reeve, and a member of parliament for Canada West in the Legislative Assembly of Canada between 1854 and 1862.

The Biggar tract in Brantford, i.e. the gore between West Street and Bridge Street was patented by Robert Biggar, in 1835, having been first leased by Joseph Brant to Joseph Smith, and then transferred to Biggar about 1812.

Robert passed away on 23 April 1836 in Mount Pleasant.

Marshal Lewis

Marshal Lewis arrived here from New York State in 1821. Before coming to Brantford, he demonstrated himself to be an accomplished builder. In 1806, he designed a bridge over the Susquehanna River at Jericho, New York. It was 500 feet long and 24 feet wide with 4 arches, each 90 feet long. He designed the locks of the Seneca Canal in Seneca Falls, New York, which opened on 23 July 1815. He, along with Frederick Augustus

de Zeng, prepared a report in August 1815 on the feasibility and location of building the Chemung canal between Seneca Lake and Elmira, New York. Construction of the canal commenced in July 1830. He declared insolvency in Seneca County in April 1817. This likely prompted his move to Upper Canada. He, along with Henry Sage, built the first mill in the settlement in 1823. Lewis designed locks for the Welland Canal, a swing bridge at Chippewa village over the Canal and an aqueduct for the feeder canal over the Welland River. He was the company engineer and superintendent involved in the operation and repair of the Welland Canal in the early 1830s. In 1827, Lewis presented plans for dams and waste-weirs to make the Grand River navigable to Brantford. In 1828, he was engaged in the plough-making business with Benjamin Chadwick in St. Catharines. He then made his way to Kettle Creek to work on the harbour improvements. In 1829, Lewis built bridges over the Don and Humber Rivers.

I found a grave for Marshall Lewis in Lawrence, Michigan. It gives his date of birth as 1765 and his death as 7 Sept. 1846. I didn’t think it was him, but then I found a marriage announcement from The Farmers’ Journal and Welland Canal Intelligencer, dated 16 July 1828, that noted Benjamin F. Chadwick married Mary Lewis, daughter of Marshall Lewis, on 13 July. They were from St. Catharines and married in Youngstown, New York. Benjamin was in the plough-making business with Marshall Lewis. Benjamin (1803 - 27 May 1882) is also buried in the same cemetery. Coincidence? Lawrence is a pretty small place. There was a constant movement of people from Upper Canada to the American Midwest in search of better opportunities. Michigan was an attractive place.

Joseph Reade

Joseph Reade was commissioned by Robert Biggar to prepare a village plan in 1823. This survey was stored in the City archives until around the turn of the 20th century, but does not appear to exist any longer. Little is known about Joseph Reade. He was listed as a merchant and conveyancer. He planned to move to St. Catharines in 1827 and tried to sell his Brantford holdings by holding a raffle. His property was a 999-year lease from John Brant. He also had a freehold property in Ancaster. The sale of raffle tickets proved disappointing. Brantford was on Haudenosaunee territory; the raffle winner would not be able to obtain title to the property. He left the province in 1827, but his wife, Elizabeth, remained in Brantford. In 1830, Elizabeth had two lots on Colborne Street at Market Street, where Grand River Hall now stands. In 1832, the court seized his property for failure to pay a debt to George Jarvis Goodhue. Goodhue was a pioneer of London, Ontario, and a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada from 1841 until Confederation. There is no record of what happened to Joseph or Elizabeth Reade. He likely headed to the United States to avoid prosecution here for his debts, and she likely followed when his property was seized by the court.

Sadie Fisher Howe was born in Brantford on 14 Nov. 1869. She was the granddaughter

of William Dutton, one of the first settlers of Brantford. Her brother Earl Gordon Fisher (23 March 1886 – 15 July 1952) emigrated to the United States in January 1913. It appears the whole family did: Father John, Mother Martha J. (Dutton), and sisters Sadie, Grace, and Mae. The family settled in Tuolumne County, California. Sadie married Xenophon O. Howe on 29 Oct. 1920 in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. It was the first marriage for both. Sadie passed away in Sonora, California, on 27 May 1954.



A recreation of Joseph Reade’s 1824 map of Brantford, on which Lewis Burwell based his village plan. The numbers show properties held under Joseph Brant leases. John Statts house was abandoned by this time.

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

GREAT RAFFLE,
ON THE FIRST OF FEB., 1827, FOR
\$2,750.

THE subscriber, intending to remove from his present residence in the ensuing spring, to St. Catharines, in the Niagara District, will dispose of the following Estates and Property by way of Subscription, Ballot, or Raffle, viz:—

THREE BUILDING LOTS, in the increasing village of Brantford, at the Grand River Bridge, situated on the Main-street, extending 180 ft. along the same, and running back to the Mill road and Water-street; and **ONE LOT** below the Mill road, 60 feet by 30. On two of the Lots to the westward of the Mill-street, (which is 50 feet wide, and leads from the Mill road to the Main street,) there is a new erected **DWELLING-HOUSE,** 40 feet by 30, having four spacious rooms below, five chambers, and a cellar 30 feet square. These premises are, and have been for some time past, occupied as a **TAVERN,** by the subscriber, whose declining health obliges him to retire from the business. Also, a **CAVE CELLAR** covered with boards, a commodious shanty used as a **BUTCHERS’ SHOP,** and another large shanty partitioned off for storing grain. On the other of these Lots, (which is situated to the eastward of the Mill-street aforesaid,) there is a new erected **BARN,** 50 feet by 30, with a new built **SUNNY,** 50 feet by about 15. This Estate is Leasehold for 999 years, and only about three years of it expired.

Also, a freehold **TOWN LOT,** in the flourishing village of Ancaster, about 75 yards in front by an irregular boundary back; there is a **Dwelling-House** on this Lot 29 feet by 32, and a **Shed and Stable,** which have been built four or five years.

Also, a plank and weather-board **Dwelling-House,** on Capt. Wm. Robinson’s land, in Townsend, about 26 by 18 feet, and has been built about eight years.

The proprietor will execute transfers with special warranty, for the aforesaid property, for 2,750 dollars, on the following conditions:

- 1st. There are to be 550 Shares, at \$5 per Share; one dollar of which must be paid down—the residue on the day of Ballot, or the deposits to be forfeited.
- 2d. The property to be raffled for on the 1st of February next, if subscriptions can be obtained by that time, (of which however due notice will be given,) when the subscribers are to meet at the place appointed, and those who attend are to decide, by majority, upon the manner of conducting the Raffle.
- 3d. The property shall form 8 Prizes.
- 4th. Should the owner be unable to procure a sufficient number of subscribers, by the time that the Raffle is to take place, according to advertisement, he will return the amount of deposits.
- 5th. As the proprietor, for various reasons, cannot remove with his family till the roads become good in the spring, he reserves the privilege of occupying the Brantford property, (if he cannot get accommodated with a dwelling,) until the 1st of May next, at and after the rate of \$200 per annum, payable to the Winner, his Representatives, or Assigns.
- 6th. Mr. _____ is appointed to receive the amount of Subscriptions and deliver Shares for _____ and vicinity; and he is to hold the respective amounts received by him until legal transfers can be made of the aforesaid Property, to the several Winners thereof; which transfers the proprietor is to be ready to make on the next day after the Raffle.

JOSEPH READE, Proprietor.
December, 1826.

Advertisement for the sale of Joseph Reade’s property in Brantford. Reade was asking a very high price for property that the buyer could not register title to. The town site had not been surrendered yet; this was still Haudenosaunee territory.

Source: York Advocate 1 February 1827

MarketFest: In Peace and Friendship



A celebration of contemporary Indigenous makers and thinkers, featuring:

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- Live entertainment by Indigenous performers

Admission is
free and all are
welcome!

March 26 – 11 am to 6 pm
1 Market St., Brantford, ON

Scan for more info.



→ wlu.ca/marketfest



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