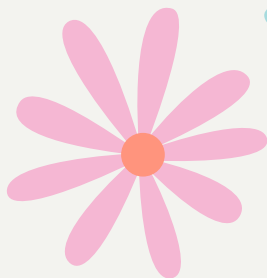
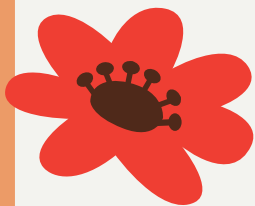




BRANTFORD
is
Bloomin'

2025
Community Profile



Greetings from the Mayor

On behalf of Brantford City Council and the citizens of our community, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome from beautiful Brantford, Ontario. Situated in southwestern Ontario and overlooking the scenic Grand River, a designated Canadian Heritage River, Brantford is a community with a rich history.



Brantford is known for its vibrant floral displays and has been recognized in the Communities in Bloom Ontario competition. In 2024, the City received four blooms and won the Floral Displays Criteria Award. Brantford's unique floral presentations and well-maintained parks, trails, and gardens, including the Children's Memorial Garden, were praised by judges.

Since our esteemed judges last visit, there have been several exciting developments in Brantford. In 2024, we welcomed several new businesses to Brantford, particularly in the fields of advanced manufacturing, food and beverage production, and warehousing and distribution. We also built new partnerships with those who believe in Brantford's future. NHL player Zach Hyman and family, purchased the Brantford Bulldogs OHL team and made a commitment to the team staying in Brantford. Terry Smith, the real-life inspiration behind the Apple TV Series 'Ted Lasso' purchased the Brantford Red Sox in March 2025. Additionally, Costco Canada finished building one of its largest retail locations in Ontario to serve Brantford's growing community.

Partnerships with Wilfrid Laurier University, Conestoga College and Six Nations Polytechnic have created a vibrant post-secondary presence in Brantford and continue to create more opportunities for our growing workforce.

Our thriving community offers the amenities of a large urban centre while maintaining the charms of small town living, making it the ideal location to live, work and play.

As Mayor, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce you to our vibrant city.

Kevin Davis,
Mayor

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Discover Brantford

Did You Know?

- Nicknamed “**The Telephone City**”, Brantford was the site of **Alexander Graham Bell’s** groundbreaking 1874 discovery that paved the way for the invention of the telephone.
- The **world’s first long distance telephone call** was executed from here in 1876.
- Brantford was officially declared “**The Tournament Capital of Ontario**” in 1998.
- Brantford boasts **70km of natural trails** to run, bike or hike.
- The beautiful **Grand River**, a designated Canadian Heritage River, runs through the City of Brantford.
- **The Mohawk Institute**, located on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in Brantford, is the longest-running residential school in Canada, operating from 1828 to 1970. The school’s history is preserved through the **Woodland Cultural Centre**.
- For over 50 years, the **Brantford International Villages Festival** has showcased cultural food and entertainment from around the world.
- Brantford is the **home of legendary hockey player, Wayne Gretzky**.

Downtown Brantford



- Wayne's dad, **Walter Gretzky**, lived in Brantford until he passed in March 2021. He was appointed as the Lord Mayor of the City of Brantford in 2006.
- Brantford holds a **Guinness World Record for the largest street hockey tournament** (Walter Gretzky Street Hockey Tournament, 2010).
- In 1869, Prince Arthur was inducted as an honorary Six Nations Chief when he visited **His Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks**.
- Walk the streets where TV series **The Handmaid's Tale**, **Murdoch Mysteries**, and **Schitt's Creek** were filmed in Brantford, among many others.
- Brantford, and our surrounding communities of Six Nations of the Grand River and the County of Brant, is home to some of the largest remaining blocks of **Carolinian forest**.



The Grand River

Brantford is Bloomin'



In celebration of the City of Brantford's participation in the Communities in Bloom competition, the Brantford is Bloomin' Campaign launched in summer 2024 and again in 2025 to connect the community to the initiative, gaining interest and excitement from residents and valued corporate partners.

CiB Participation Program – Businesses are asked to participate in the Brantford is Bloomin' Campaign by offering or promoting a floral themed item or bloomin' good deal to their partners. Participating businesses will receive a branded decal to display in their window and a featured social media post on the Discover Brantford Instagram page.

CiB Sponsorship Program – The Corporate Community will have the opportunity to sponsor the Communities in Bloom initiative by sponsoring the CiB driving route and/or a feature along the route. Participating sponsors will be proudly promoted on the City of Brantford website and along the route.

CiB Visitors Driving Route – The CiB Driving Route will be promoted to Community members and visitors from outside our community. Participants will not only experience the beauty that will be showcased to the CiB judges, but the route will also highlight Brantford is Bloomin' business partners along the way.

Lavender Elderflower Gin from
Manns Botanical Spirits



Lemon Lavender Cupcakes from
SWEET Bakery



Flower Fields at
Brantwood Farms



Showcasing Our Community

Hub of Ontario Trails

Your options for outdoor adventure are endless with over 70km of natural trails in Brantford to hike, run or cycle along. The Hub of Ontario Trails – named this because three major trails intersect at Brant’s crossing near downtown Brantford – connects you to Hamilton, Port Dover, Cambridge, and beyond.

The Grand River

The picturesque Grand River gracefully winds through the heart of Brantford, connecting the vibrant communities of Six Nations of the Grand River and the County of Brant. With convenient access to equipment and gear from local outfitters, exploring this stunning waterway has never been easier.

Brantford Rotary Bike Park

Located in Rotary Centennial Waterworks Park, the bike park includes jump lines for all skill levels and is a great outdoor attraction for bikers. Visit the nearby Shack Bar for a cold beverage after your bike ride.



◀ Look for the Trail Mix signs between Hardy Rd. and River Rd. to enjoy free music by local artists. discoverbrantford.ca/TrailMix

Brantford Rotary Bike Park





Special Events

Brantford is home to many annual signature events and festivals that celebrate the unique history of the Brantford community. Don't miss:

- Taste of Glenhyrst
- Brantford's Canada Day
- Trail Mix Live! at the Brantford Farmers' Market
- Brantford International Villages Festival
- Call Home Music Fest
- Brantford Beats & Eats
- Brantford Kinsmen Ribfest
- Bell Homestead Summer Music Series
- Culture Days on the Trails
- Scare in the Square
- Parade After Party
- Brantford Lights at Glenhyrst
- Brantford's New Year's Eve Celebration
- Winter Fun Fest
- Walter Gretzky Street Hockey Tournament

Showcasing Our Community

Brantford Bulldogs

Brantford is embarking on an exciting new era of hockey right here in our beloved hometown with our very own OHL team, the Brantford Bulldogs. With every puck drop, every roar of the crowd, and every thrilling goal, we're creating unforgettable memories together. Home games are played at the Brantford Civic Centre and in 2024 we welcomed over 210,000 attendees to these games.

Brantford Red Sox

Established in 1911, the Brantford Red Sox have been a community institution in Southwestern Ontario for over a century. In March 2025, the Brantford Red Sox organization was sold to Terry Smith and his family. Terry is the real-life inspiration behind the beloved character from the TV show "Ted Lasso." Brantford Red Sox games played at Cockshutt Park will be FREE to attend throughout the 2025 season.

Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre

Brantford's primary sports and leisure facility for over 55 years, offering 65m and 25m pools with a 150' waterslide, four NHL sized rinks, fitness rooms, fully equipped weight room, indoor track and much more.



Brantford Red Sox



Brantford Bulldogs

Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course and Learning Centre

This mature 18-hole championship layout features large greens, contoured fairways, white bunker sand, a full pro shop and a clubhouse services, including a refreshment cart (weather permitting). Grab a delicious bite to eat at **Wally's Grill & Patio** following your round.



Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course

Protecting Our Environment

Clean Brantford

In the City of Brantford, the health and vitality of the community and the Grand River is of utmost importance and as such, the City hosts an annual Let's Clean Our City litter pick-up event around Earth Day. Residents are encouraged to collect litter in their neighbourhoods, along the trail networks and Grand River, and around the community.



Climate Action

The world's climate is changing and the effects can be seen everywhere, even locally. The City of Brantford is taking steps to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 and become a more climate resilient community. Some of the City's actions taken to date include developing a Net-Zero Building Standard for new municipal buildings, transitioning vehicles to be low or zero carbon, improving access to active transportation, providing resources to residents and businesses, and many others.



Brantford's first accessible raised garden beds at Woodman Park

Community Gardens

The City of Brantford recognizes that community gardens contribute positively to environmental, social, and economic sustainability, as well as overall community development. The City, in partnership with Equal Ground Community Gardens, has implemented a Community Gardens Policy to promote the cultivation of local, healthy, and affordable food within the community and improve food security.

Green Team and Green Bin Program

In 2023, the City of Brantford implemented a Green Bin Program to divert household organic waste from the landfill and turn it into nutrient-rich compost. These programs are a step towards reaching the City's goal of 70% waste diversion by 2050 and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the landfill.

Heritage Conservation

The City of Brantford and numerous non-profit community groups work together to preserve Brantford's rich history and tell the collective stories of our community. The Brantford Heritage Committee acts as a municipal heritage committee and maintains a comprehensive Heritage Register in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act. The Heritage Register includes all the City's designated heritage properties (over 200), as well as more than 500 'listed' properties that are not designated but have unique heritage value.



Bell Homestead National Historic Site

Bell Homestead National Historic Site

From 1870 to 1881, this was the Bell family's first Canadian residence and the place where Alexander Graham Bell discovered the fundamental concept of the telephone in 1874. The Bell family home includes original furniture and artefacts.

Brant Museum and Archives

Explore the story of the people, places and events that shaped Brantford and the County of Brant. The museum contains galleries that reflect the cultural, social, commercial and industrial heritage of the community.

Canadian Military Heritage Museum

This 13,000 square foot museum preserves and displays artefacts about Canada and Brantford's military history. It honours and remembers all veterans and military service personnel who have served and are currently serving. In 2025, City staff donated two war trophies, the Alexandra Park Cannon and German Field Howitzer, to the museum's collection for preservation and display.

Heritage Conservation



Woodland Cultural Centre

Since 1972, Woodland Cultural Centre has been a leader of Indigenous arts, culture and education. Book a tour and visit their exquisite museum, attend a performance or browse the galleries.

Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition

Located within the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre, this 3,000 square foot space proudly honours and pays tribute to local inducted sports heroes.



Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts

A crown jewel in downtown Brantford for over 100 years, the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts was originally designed as a vaudeville and silent movie house. Today, the theatre hosts live music, films, dance and theatre productions, and more.

Vibrant Arts and Culture

Brantford Farmers' Market

Established in 1848, the Brantford Farmers' Market is open year-round and offers an array of products including: produce, meats and dairy products, delicious baked goods, seasonal plants and flowers and much more.



Don't miss Trail Mix Live! events on select Saturdays at the market.

Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant

Located in Glenhyrst Gardens, a beautifully landscaped 16-acre park, Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant offers exciting contemporary fine art exhibitions, guided tours, classes, workshops and an array of events. The gallery welcomed over 60,500 visitors in 2024, a 20% increase from the previous year.

Public Art

In 2024, Tourism staff added three new murals to the City's Public Art Collection. These murals contribute significantly to the beautification and revitalization of Brantford's downtown, while also reminding visitors and residents of our history and achievements.



A Star Over Brantford: A Tribute to Phil Hartman (mural)

Urban Forestry



Tree Inventory/Tree Canopy Stats

Urban Forestry plays a key role in enhancing Brantford's environment, health, and resilience. A tree inventory completed in 2024 included 34,000 street trees and 10,000+ parks and open space trees. With a current tree canopy coverage of about 21.5%, the city aims to increase this to 40% by 2051 through strategic planting, preservation, and programs. In 2025, the city strengthened investment in tree maintenance with the launch of a proactive area tree maintenance program, enhancing care for existing street trees. Supported by recently enhanced city and private tree by-laws which incorporate replacement ratios, Brantford also invests in community planting events, residential giveaways, innovative naturalization projects and partnerships with conservation groups.

New Forest in the City

Spearheaded by the Brant Tree Coalition, a partnership between local industry, the City of Brantford, the County of Brant, and community volunteers, New Forest is the signature achievement for reclamation, greening, and revitalization of 78-acres of former farmland in the middle of an industrial park: an inspiring and enduring symbol of community collaboration, transformation, and restoration.

Micro Forests

In 2023, the Brant Tree Coalition planted the first micro forest in Holmedale Park. Based on the principles of botanist Dr. Akira Miyawaki, a diverse and densely planted mix of native trees was planted closely together to create an environment that mimics natural ecosystems in a compact space.

Landscape



Glenhyrst Gardens: A Legacy of Art, Culture, and Natural Beauty

Spanning 16 acres, Glenhyrst Gardens is the historic former residence of Edmund Cockshutt, a passionate horticulturist and community advocate. Following his passing, trustees honored his wish by bequeathing the property to be preserved for cultural and artistic purposes that would enrich the community.

Lorne Park: Brantford's Historic and Horticultural Gem

Originally part of the riverbed, this scenic site was gradually transformed as the first dikes for flood protection in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. By 1920, the land was officially acquired by the Parks Board.

Parks Staff collaborates closely with the community, welcoming proposals from community groups celebrating significant anniversaries or events for the vibrant plantings that adorn the park's iconic carpet beds.



Plant and Floral Displays



Lorne Park

Brantford's Parks and Green Spaces: A Growing Network of Recreation and Natural Beauty

With over 132 parks and open spaces—and continually growing with new development—the City of Brantford offers residents and visitors abundant opportunities to enjoy sports, active and passive recreational opportunities, playgrounds, trails, and access to nature along the Grand River and forested areas.

Among these, 21 parks are designated as **Specialized Horticultural Parks**. Characterized by lush tree canopies, vibrant and diverse horticultural plantings and displays, these parks are dedicated to passive recreation, designed to provide tranquil spaces free from active sports activities. The City's horticulture team carefully designs and maintains intricate garden carpet bed displays across multiple parks, living works of art and mosaiculture that bring together art, nature, and education to inspire and beautify while encouraging environmental consciousness.

Landscape Standards

The City of Brantford has landscape standards outlined in its Site Plan Manual and Official Plan, with a focus on sustainability, native plant use, and operational considerations. These standards aim to guide development and redevelopment to be more sustainable and resilient to climate change through prioritizing native plant species, encouraging diversity and prohibiting noxious weeds.



Did You Know?

Most of Brantford's Specialized Horticultural Parks are located near the downtown core. Dunsdon and CJ Park are the only two parks situated north of Highway 403.

Community involvement is an integral part of Brantford's green spaces. Through partnerships with Equal Grounds Community Gardens, the Brantford Garden Club, and the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterfly Way Project, local groups actively contribute to community gardening efforts and pollinator-friendly initiatives. The Brantford Garden Club, founded in 1852 and originally the Brantford Horticultural Society is the oldest horticultural society in the province. Its objectives are to encourage an interest in horticulture and to promote the protection of the environment.

A Community in Action

Brantford's Parks and Green Spaces: A Growing Network of Recreation and Natural Beauty

As an internationally recognized Age-Friendly Community by the World Health Organization (WHO), Brantford prides itself on supporting our aging population through social participation, civic pride, and overall mental and physical well-being. Brantford also boasts a number of initiatives to help youth engage in the community and creates a safe and inclusive community for all visitors and residents through volunteerism and neighbourhood advocacy.

Neighbourhood Associations

Currently, 24 Neighbourhood Associations exist within the City representing the efforts of hundreds of community volunteers. These volunteers lead a variety of programs and initiatives such as the neighbourhood ice rink flood hero program, the snow buddies and leaf buddies programs, sports and recreational programming, beautification and park stewardship programming, social inclusion programming, and a wide range of community events and fundraisers.



Volunteers at Culture Days on the Trails

Spotlight on: Special Olympics

From July 10-13 2025, the Special Olympics Provincial Summer Games welcomed over 750 athletes plus their coaches, trainers and families from across Ontario to the City of Brantford to compete in three days of competition. The City of Brantford waived all facility and field rental fees, permit fees and contributed an additional \$50,000 in-kind to this event.

Rainbow Registration

Discover Brantford is Rainbow Registered – an accreditation awarded to 2SLGBTQI+ friendly spaces by Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ Chamber of Commerce. When you see a Rainbow Registered symbol, you know the business or organization meets a stringent set of standards to ensure LGBTQ+ customers feel safe, welcomed, and accepted. This helps travelers identify welcoming and inclusive communities and experiences to better plan their travel.



Brantford Post-Secondary School Campuses:

Wilfrid Laurier University	2,544 students, 340 faculty and staff
Conestoga College	1,468 students, 130 faculty
Six Nations Polytechnic	221 students, 96 faculty

Healthy Kids

Since 2015, the Healthy Kids program has offered a wide range of programs and awareness campaigns to support child well-being in Brantford, including focused campaigns regarding physical activity, healthy diet, environmental awareness and reducing screen time. Since that time, over 41,000 children have participated in 576 activities hosted with over 230 community partners.

Brantford's Communities in Bloom History

The City of Brantford was recognized with an impressive four (out of a possible five) Blooms in the 2024 Communities in Bloom Ontario competition, earning 767 points out of a possible 1000 points. Additionally, Brantford won the 2024 Criteria Awards for “Floral Displays” and the “Miracle-Gro Best Garden Selection by Scotts Canada.”

“Brantford’s parks, trails and floral displays were exceptionally well designed and maintained. One park in particular that really stood out was the Children’s Memorial Garden, surrounded by beautiful pollinator gardens and benches that allowed space for people to sit and reflect in a peaceful setting. The City of Brantford is quite unique in its floral presentations which are seldom seen anywhere else in Canada!”

- Kathy Smyth,
Communities in Bloom
Judge.



(Left to right: Michael Westwood, Manager, Cemeteries, Horticulture and Forestry Operations, City of Brantford, Lori-Dawn Cavin, Manager of Community Recreation and Events, City of Brantford, Kathy Smyth, Communities in Bloom Judge, Joanna Korchowicz-Szeksztello, Horticulture Lead Hand, City of Brantford, Heather Dover, Supervisor of Forestry and Horticulture, City of Brantford.)



The Future of Brantford

The downtown revitalization project, beginning in summer 2025, will transform downtown Brantford into a destination, improving how downtown Brantford looks, feels, and functions.



Sports and Entertainment Centre (SEC)

The SEC is a major development that will transform the City's downtown and significantly improve the quality of life for residents. The proposal details the development of a multi-use venue that will be the new permanent home of the Brantford Bulldogs, and with a seating capacity of over 5,000, the venue will attract higher-profile entertainment and events that the City is currently unable to accommodate.

Entertainment District

A new Downtown Entertainment District will be created to recognize existing attractions such as the Sanderson Centre, Harmony Square, Elements Casino, and the future Sports and Entertainment Centre.



Blanche E. Williams Community Centre and Park

This state of the art community centre and park is part of a joint initiative with the Grand Erie District School Board and the Brantford Public Library, with amenities designed for shared use with the new elementary school and library. The new 24-acre community park will include: tournament sized cricket pitch, regulation sized artificial turf soccer field, five pickleball courts, skate park, disc golf, splash pad, and much more.

A large pink flower with a red center and black stamens, surrounded by green leaves and stems, positioned in the upper left corner of the page.

Discover

BRANTFORD



discoverbrantford.ca

