



BRANTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

COVER TO COVER

Program and Service Guide

January - April 2025

Author Series

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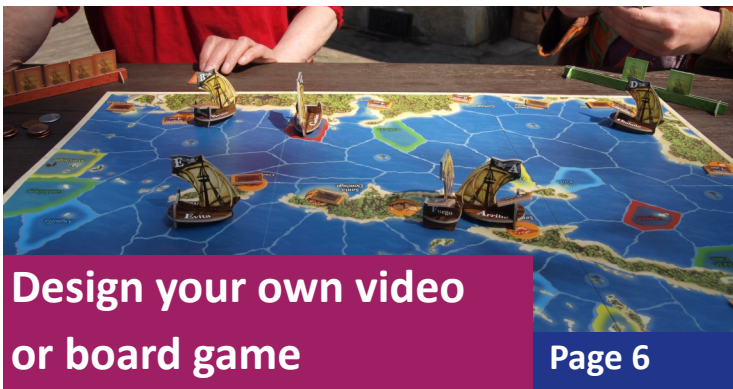
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Updates from Your Library

Library Closures

Family Day - February 17
Good Friday - April 18
Easter Sunday - April 20
Easter Monday - April 21

Brantford Public Library Board Members

Marion McGeein - Chair
Matt Reniers - Vice Chair
Diego Aguilar
Rebecca Breen
Alec Fisztauf
Josie Heath
Lindsay Morris
Councillor Gino Caputo
Councillor Mandy Samwell

Self-Serve Library Kiosk Now Open in West Brantford

As Brantford continues to grow, the Library is offering an additional service point to better serve our community. A new self-serve Library Kiosk is now available at the Sobeyes on Colborne Street in West Brantford, complementing the existing kiosk at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre.

With this new location, the Library is expanding its reach into West Brantford, as we continue to increase access to library services. This is also part of our ongoing

commitment to the community, as we prepare to open a third branch in 2026 at the corner of Strickland Avenue and Shellard Lane.

The Library Kiosk is stocked with 150 items and is easy to use in just three simple steps:

1. Scan your Library card and enter your PIN.
2. Open the door and select the books you'd like to borrow.
3. Close the door.

That's it!

Once you remove an item from the kiosk, it is automatically checked out to you, and a printed receipt will show the due date for return. If you change your mind, you can simply return any books directly to the kiosk.



New loanable technology available to borrow

We have expanded our loanable technology at Main to include:

- Portable Cassette Player and Recorder - Converts cassettes to MP3s
- Portable DVD Player
- Video to Digital Converter (VCR not included)
- External Drive (CD/DVD) - Allows laptops without a DVD/CD input to play DVDs/CDs

For a complete list, visit our website at www.brantfordlibrary.ca

Children's Programs and Events

Come be a part of one of our exciting children's programs!

Unless otherwise noted:

- Weekly programs run from January 6—June 19
- Programs run 30—45 minutes
- **There are no Storytimes during March Break**

All preschool programs require parents to attend with their child. Many programs are drop-in. To register when required, visit:

calendar.brantfordlibrary.ca



PRESCHOOLERS AND STORYTIMES

Baby & Me Storytime

Join us every week for in-person rhymes, sensory development activities, motor skill methods, stories, and socializing among babies and caregivers. Books from our collection will be carefully selected with a particular theme in mind and available for borrowing.

Ages 0—18 months

Mondays / 10:30 AM / Main
Tuesdays / 10:30 AM / St Paul



Crafty Kids Storytime

Preschoolers can get creative with stories, songs, and cute crafts! After reading and singing, your preschooler will make something special to take home.

Ages 0—6 years

Thursdays / 10:30 AM / Main



Storytime @ St Paul

At weekly storytime, preschoolers will develop a love for reading by learning easy rhymes, repeating phrases, exploring story props, and strengthening comprehension, together!

Ages 0—6 years

Wednesdays / 10:30 AM / St Paul



Come Play! EarlyON

Come join EarlyON facilitators for a free play and inquiry-based drop-in program for children and caregivers.

Ages 0—6 years.

Thursdays / 1:30 PM / Main



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Kids will love this 6-week long, kindergarten readiness program focusing on structure and transitions, social skills, and independence. Each program is 45min. Parents & caregivers must remain in the library while children participate independently in the program.

Ages 3+ years

Register ONCE for this 6-week session.

Session 1:

Wednesdays, Jan 15 — Feb 19 / 1:30 PM / Main
(program currently waitlisted)



Session 2:

Wednesdays, Mar 19 — Apr 23 / 1:30 PM / Main
Registration for Session 2 opens February 19

Session 3:

Wednesdays, May 7 — June 11 / 1:30 PM / Main
Registration for Session 3 opens April 7



Registration required



Drop-in

Children's/Tween Programs and Events

SCHOOL-AGE DROP-INS

Learn to Code for Kids

Join us for this six-week long, learn to code program. Each week participants will learn to create digital objects, and bring them to life with fun using code. Perfect for young minds eager to explore the world of coding! Led by a volunteer from McMaster University.

Ages 10+. Program will not run Sunday, February 16.

Jan 12, 19, & 26, Feb 9 & 23, Mar 2 / 2:00 PM / Main



Dungeons & Dragons Campaigns

Come join Brantford Public Library's Dungeons & Dragons campaign! No experience is required.

Registration mandatory, spaces are limited.

Ages 10—16 years.

Sat, Jan 11 & 25, Feb 8 & 22, Mar 8 & 22, Apr 5 & 19 / 10:00 AM—12:30 PM / Main



Tween Tuesdays

Get ready for a Tuesday night filled with creativity, fun, and friendship! Create & build, play & hangout, or collaborate & connect. Tuesday nights are all about having a blast and being yourself!

Ages 9—12 years.

Tuesdays starting January 7 / 6:00 PM / Main

*No program the week of March Break.



After School Zone at St. Paul branch

Drop in and join the fun at the St. Paul After School Zone! Use your imagination to create an exciting craft, or participate in a hands-on activity. Each week is a unique experience!

Ages 6—12 years.

Jan 9, 16, 23, 30 / St Paul / 3:30 PM—4:30 PM



LEARNING SUPPORT

Tutoring with Laurier Students for Literacy

Winter programs run January 27th - April 3rd. No programs during Reading Week (February 17th-21st).

Registration opens January 1st. To register, email lsflclub@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page: Laurier Students for Literacy Brantford. **Please note that 1:1 tutoring programs are in high demand, and space is limited.**

Registration is coordinated by Laurier Students for Literacy on a first-come first-serve basis.

Book Buddies (Grades 2 - 6):

Students are paired with a university student volunteer to help them improve their literacy skills, including reading and writing.

Mon—Thurs / 4pm-7pm / Main

Homework Help (Grades 2 - 8):

Students are paired with a university volunteer to work on homework and any specific learning skills they need improvement.

Mon—Thurs / 4pm-7pm / Main

Reading Club (Grades 7 - 8):

Students meet in a group setting with a volunteer facilitator, to participate in discussion and activities about reading comprehension.

Wed / 6:30 PM-7:30 PM / Main



Registration required



Drop-in

Teen Programs and Events

Crossroad Youth Drop-In

Join us every Wednesday from 3:30 to 6:00 PM for a range of activities, including homework help for high school and university students from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. Enjoy art therapy, movie nights, workshops on various topics, and one-on-one support from our youth outreach workers. Ages 14-25.

For more information, please contact:
Megan (Youth in Transition Worker)
megan.potvin@ymcahbb.ca or
Jess (Youth Outreach Worker)
yow.jess@wesley.ca



Dungeons & Dragons Campaigns

Come join Brantford Public Library's Dungeons & Dragons campaign! No experience is required. Registration mandatory, spaces are limited.

Ages 10—16 years.

Saturdays Jan 11 & 25, Feb 8 & 22, Mar 8 & 22, Apr 5 & 19 / 10:00 AM—12:30 PM / Main



Youth Volunteer Group

Join the BPL Youth Volunteer Group: help shape your library into a place you want to be. Come to learn about more ways to get your volunteer hours, and receive hours while you attend the program. Drop-in attendees welcome, but registration is encouraged. Ages 13-17.

Wed Jan 22, Feb 19, Mar 19, Apr 16 / 5:30 PM— 6:45 PM / Main



Family/All Ages

Best Start Parent & Community Information Fair

Wondering about programs and services available in your community for your children and family? Come visit the Information Fair, hosted by the Best Start Network! This family-focused event will feature activities, entertainment and giveaways. This is a drop-in program; registration is not required.

February 27 / 4:00 PM—7:00 PM / Main



March Break Sneak Peek

We are planning an incredible lineup of activities to keep kids entertained, engaged, and inspired all week long. Full schedule and event details coming soon, but here's a sneak peek!

Blue Meet 'N' Greet

There will be THREE 20-minute time slots for meet and greet. Ages 0-12 years old.



March 10 / 10:30 AM / Main

Minecraft Mania

We have crafts and games all inspired by the popular video game! All ages.

March 14 / 2:30 PM / Main

Stranger Reads: A Creepy Afternoon

An unforgettable afternoon filled with spine-tingling fun! Ages 10+.

March 13 / 2:30 PM / Main



Registration required



Drop-in

Family/All Ages

MAKERSPACE—PARENT AND CHILD

These unique programs allow kids and parents to learn together. Use of technology is required, so the program is limited to **children aged 10+** with their caregiver. Materials are provided.

Learn to Use a Sewing Machine - Parent and Child Edition

Parents and children (10+) will learn together how to thread and operate a sewing machine as they complete a simple sewing project.

Please note that space for these programs is limited. A registration spot is for one (1) child and one (1) caregiver together. Caregivers are expected to work with and alongside the child they accompany.

Tuesday Feb 4 / 6:00 PM—7:30 PM / Main



Design Your Own Coaster - Parent and Child Edition

Learn the basics of creating designs using Silhouette Studios software and create a custom design for your coasters. All materials provided.

Please note that space for these programs is limited. A registration spot is for one (1) child and one (1) caregiver together. Caregivers are expected to work with and alongside the child they accompany.

Tuesday, March 11 / 6:00 PM—7:30 PM / Main



GAMES & HOBBIES

Family Board Game Design Workshop

Join WLU Game Design students for a fun, hands-on workshop where you'll design your own board game to take home! Families will be working together. No game design experience required!

Saturday, January 18 / 1:30 PM—3:30 PM / Main



Family Video Game Design Workshop

Join WLU Game Design students to create a choose-your-own-adventure game using Twine, a free online tool. Families will be working together. No game design experience needed. Bring a USB to save your game.

Saturday, February 1 / 1:30 PM — 3:30 PM / Main



PA Boredom Buster!

Build epic marble Lego mazes, get creative with blue blocks, and challenge your friends to a board game showdown! **All ages.**

Monday, January 20 / 10 AM—4 PM / Main



PA Day Fun!

Join us for PA Day activities that are fun for the whole family!

Friday, April 11 / 10 AM—4 PM / Main



Chess Club

The Brantford Chess Club offers basic instructions and tips on how to improve your chess game during this drop-in event bi-weekly on Saturdays.

All ages.

Saturdays, Feb 1 & 15, March 1, 15, 29, April 12 & 26/
10:00 AM / Main



Discovery Zone!

A fun, hands-on STEM workshop that includes action-packed adventure through the discovery zone, where you'll explore colour chromatography, investigate why trees are important to engineers, and create an elastic-powered car. This program is being offered in collaboration with Scientists in School.

For children aged 6-12. Registration opens March 11 and is required.

Friday, April 11 / 2:30 PM—3:30 PM / Main



Registration required



Drop-in

Adult Programs and Events

CREATIVITY, CRAFTS, AND MAKERSPACE

Join us every month to make a new and creative craft! Materials provided. Registration required.

R

Weave A Small Coin Purse

Jan 22 / 2:00 PM / St Paul

Jan 23 / 6:00 PM / Main

Fabric boho bracelet

March 19 / 2:00 PM / St Paul

March 26 / 6:00 PM / Main

Intro to 3D Design and Printing

Create your own simple 3D object! We'll guide you through using free online software to prepare your design for printing at the library. Basic computer skills required.

Jan 21 / 6:00 PM—7:30 PM / Main OR

April 29 / 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM / Main

R

Learn to Use a Sewing Machine

Learn how to thread and operate a sewing machine as you complete a simple sewing project. All materials provided. Registration required.

Feb 6 / 2:00 PM—3:30 PM / St Paul

Feb 11 / 6:00 PM—7:30 PM / Main

R



DIY Spring Sign

Whether you're a seasoned crafter or a beginner, this hands-on activity allows you to explore your artistic side while creating a charming piece of decor to celebrate the season.

Perfect for adding a touch of spring to your home or as a fun gift idea!

Materials provided.

April 3 / 2:00 PM—3:30 PM / St Paul

R

Take & Make: Sourdough Starter Kits

Feb 18 / 9:30 AM / Main and St Paul /

*First come, first serve. Limit 1 per customer/household.

Botanical stationary and stamped table napkin:

April 16 / 2:00 PM / St Paul

April 23 / 6:00 PM / Main

Design your own Coaster

Learn the basics of creating designs using Silhouette Studios software and create a custom design for your coasters. Materials provided.

April 8 / 6:00 PM—7:30 PM / Main

R

St Paul Crafters Circle

Crafters unite! Join us on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month. Drop in with your projects and work alongside other crafter enthusiasts.

Jan 2, 16, 30 / Feb 6 & 20 / Mar 6 & 20 / April 3 & 17 /

6:00 PM —7:30 PM / St Paul

D

All Out Crafts and Chat

Get crafty with your fellow 2SLGBTQ+ friends! This drop-in program is for people 16+ years of age. No registration required.

Brought to you in partnership with The Bridge.

Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9 / 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM / St. Paul

D

R

Registration required

Drop-in

D

Adult Programs and Events

Plan your Perfect Garden

Join us for an interactive workshop where Equal Ground Community Garden will guide you through every step of planning your garden—from layout basics to determining what you need from your space and perfecting plant placement.

Participants should come prepared with the rough size of their gardening space in square feet.

Jan 29 / 6:00 PM—7:30 PM / Main



Art and Soul with Nicole: Valentines Vibes

Nicole is a self-taught visual artist whose works in the mediums of oil, acrylic, and watercolour reflect a unique Afro-Caribbean vibe. Attendees will receive a free canvas and paint at the workshop.

Let your creativity flow!

February 13 / 6:00 PM—7:30 PM / Main



Enhance your Space with Ashley Queen Designs

March 6: Learn decluttering and organizing strategies in a hands-on session with Ashley.

2:00 PM—3:30 PM / St Paul

March 27: Ashley is back with an interactive session on home staging and decorating.

2:00 PM—3:30 PM / St Paul



Brewed by Nature: A Plant Tasting Journey

Discover the health benefits of local field and forest plants, and taste test a few wild brewed teas. A partnership with GROWE Outdoor School.

April 24 / 6:00 PM—7:30 PM / Main



MUSIC, FILM, HISTORY

Our Grand River

Discover the rich history of the Grand! Explore past ice jam flooding along the river and the dike systems that help mitigate these issues. Learn a little about the Grand River Conservation Authority and its commitment to watershed management as well as a few upcoming projects.

February 20 / 6:30 PM / Main



Bell City Strummers

Strum along twice a month in this fun, 90-minute session for ages 16+. Beginners can start with the basics, while advanced players explore harmony and solos.

Build your skills and grow your repertoire!

Registration is not required, but new members should email Robin at rharding@brantfordlibrary.ca to introduce yourself and for a brief orientation. A limited number of ukuleles and music stands will be available to borrow.

Jan 12 & 26, Feb 9 & 23, Mar 9 & 23, Apr 13 & 27 / 2:30 PM—4:00 PM / Main



Registration required



Drop-in

Adult Programs and Events

Wednesday Winter Film Series

Drop by our Main Branch the first Wednesday of the month to enjoy selected screenings of documentaries with a focus on music and musicians. Check our website for updated listings.

Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story

A lost R&B star who eclipsed Etta James and Little Richard, trans soul singer Jackie Shane blazed an extraordinary trail with an unbreakable commitment to her truth.

February 5 / 2:00 PM / Main

Movie run time: 1 hr 39min

Fisherman's Friends

A fast living, cynical London music executive heads to a remote Cornish village where he's pranked by his boss into trying to sign a group of shanty singing fishermen. He struggles to gain the respect or enthusiasm of the unlikely boy band and their families. Soon he's forced to reevaluate his own integrity and ultimately question what success really means.

April 2 / 2:00 PM / Main

Movie run time: 1 hr 51min

Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World

The Indians Who Rocked the World tells the story of a profound, essential, and, until now, missing chapter in the history of American music: the Indigenous influence.

March 5 / 2:00 PM / Main

Movie run time: 1 hr 42 min



Easily start a book club with Book Club in a Bag!

Borrow ten copies of a book for six weeks. Visit our website to explore over 100 titles or give us a call to get started!



Registration required

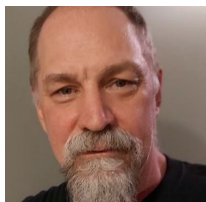


Drop-in

Adult Programs and Events

Inside the Writer's Mind: Author Talks at the Library

Calling readers and writers! Join us for an exciting series of author talks featuring writers from diverse backgrounds and experience across various genres and audiences. Listen as they share their creative processes and offer insights on the art of storytelling.



Edo van Belkom on Writing for Young Adults and Being Adapted for Screen

Edo is the author of 30 books and more than 300 short stories in the genres of horror, science fiction, fantasy, and mystery. His young adult series, Wolf Pack (a winner of both the Aurora and Silver Birch Awards) provided the inspiration for the Paramount + TV series WOLF PACK, created by Jeff Davis (Teen Wolf, Criminal Minds) and starring Sarah Michele Gellar (Buffy the Vampire Slayer). Registration required.

March 19 / 6:00 PM—7:30 PM / Main



Mark Leslie Lefebvre on Ghosts and Paranormal Storytelling

Mark has published more than 35 books that include (Evasion), fiction (One Hand Screaming), horror (I, Death), urban fantasy (A Canadian Werewolf in New York, Only Monsters in the Building), paranormal non-fiction (Haunted Hamilton, Spooky Sudbury, Creepy Capital), and he has edited numerous anthologies (Campus Chills, Tesseract Sixteen, Feel the Fear).

Registration required.

April 2 / 6:00 PM—7:30 PM / Main



Vaseem Baig on Creating Books Using AI

Vaseem Baig has leveraged a career in analytics and project management into multiple creative endeavors, all intended to demystify artificial intelligence technology and leave audiences excited and confident about its practical applications. Come hear about his adventures and challenges as an author using cutting-edge creative technologies to hone his writing craft. Registration required.

April 16 / 6:00 PM / Main



STORYTELLING AND WRITING

Senior Storywriters

For writers 55+. Join to share your stories and ideas while learning new tricks and techniques. Contact Heather at hbrown@brantfordlibrary.ca for more information and to register.

Tuesdays Jan 7 & 21, Feb 4 & 18, Mar 4 & 18,
Apr 1, 15 & 29 / 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM / Main



How to Tell Stories

Join the Brant Storytime Entertainers for an engaging workshop on persuasive storytelling.

Jan 15, February 19, March 19, April 16 / 6:00 PM / St. Paul



Writers Support Circle

Sit down with members of the Brantford Writer's Circle, a group of writers who meet as equals in a friendly exchange of ideas about each other's work. Contact Robin at rharding@brantfordlibrary.ca before your first visit for more information. After registering, you will receive updates and information on how to attend closer to the date of the event.

Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28
5:30 PM—7:30 PM / Main



Registration required



Drop-in

Adult Programs and Events

CONNECTIONS, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND SUPPORTS

Alzheimer Society's Social Café

The Alzheimer Society's Social Café is a welcoming space offered weekly where people living with dementia and their care partner can socialize, build support networks and enjoy dementia friendly activities together.

Please call 1-800-565-4614 ext. 421 to register. Once registered you can drop in as many times as you like.

Wednesdays / 2:00—3:30 PM / Main



A Place 2 Be

Drop in for snacks, company, and DIY activities of your choice. A partnership with Community Living Brant.

Thursdays / 2:00 PM / Main



Brantford Native Housing Support

A housing search support for Indigenous populations.

Tuesdays / 1:00 - 2:30 PM / Main



Community Connections

An adult drop-in program designed to link people to community resources. Refreshments are served.

Fridays / 2:00 - 4:00 PM / Main



English Conversation Circles

Newcomers (18+) can enhance their spoken language skills in conversation circles led by volunteer facilitators. Meet others, share experiences, and build friendships in this program, a partnership between YMCA Immigrant Services and Brantford Public Library, supported by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Call 519-752-4568 ext.3645 for information.

Mondays and Tuesdays / 5:30 PM—7:30 PM / Main



Social Services Outreach Worker Drop-in

One-on-one assistance with things like finding community resources, getting government ID, and more.

Monday & Wednesday / 2:00 PM—4:00 PM / Main

Service Canada Outreach Specialist

One-on-one assistance to help access government of Canada programs.

2nd and 4th Thursday each month / 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM / Main



Are you a senior who wants to better understand government services? Join Service Canada's workshop series for seniors, delivered by a Service Canada specialist. Each presentation will be followed by a question period. Registration is preferred, but not required.



Caregiver Benefits and Credits

Thursday, January 23 / 1:30 - 3:00 PM / Main

Pensions for Seniors

Thursday, March 27 / 1:30 - 3:00 PM / Main

Benefits and Credits for Seniors over 65 (with Canada Revenue Agency)

Thursday, April 24 / 1:30 - 3:00 PM / Main



Registration required



Drop-in

Your Library



Main Library

173 Colborne Street

Monday to Thursday: 9:30 AM - 8 PM

Friday: 9:30 AM - 6 PM

Saturday: 9:30 AM - 5 PM

Sunday: 1:30 PM—5 PM (Until April 27, 2025)

St. Paul Branch

441 St. Paul Avenue

Tuesday to Thursday: 9:30 AM - 8 PM

Friday to Saturday: 9:30 AM - 5 PM

Accessible parking lot available at St. Paul. Additional parking is available across the street.

Self-Serve Kiosks

Self-serve kiosks are stocked with books for people of all ages.

To use, simply scan your card, choose a book (or books) and close the door. The books will be automatically checked out on your card and a receipt can be printed.

Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre

254 North Park Street

Monday to Friday: 5:30 AM - 9:30 PM

Saturday to Sunday: 8 AM - 6 PM

Sobeys Shellard Lane

310 Colborne Street West

Monday to Sunday: 7 AM—11 PM

Brantford Public Library membership is free for residents of Brantford, Six Nations, Brant and Cambridge. Visit us or check us out online to learn more today!



519-756-2220
www.brantfordlibrary.ca
bplinfo@brantfordlibrary.ca