



BRANTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

COVER TO COVER

Program and Service Guide
May - August 2025

Marvelous Mondays—Page 5



Join us every Monday in July and August for live performances!



- Amazing Bug Show
- Birds of Prey
- Orbax and Pepper do Science Show
- Lion Safari Balloon Show
- Moana Party!
- Hula Hoop Circus

Join the Summer Reading Club! For Kids, Teens and Adults—Page 6



Children's Programs: Pg 2-4

Teen Programs: Pg 4

Family/All Ages Programs: Pg 5-6

Adult & Seniors Programs: Pg 7-11

Summer Reading starts with a show!



Join the Kick-Off Party on June 30

Featuring Doug the Great
Magic & Juggling fun for all ages!



Service Canada Workshop Series

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Children's Programs and Events

Our children's programs in this issue run into **two sessions: Spring** (May 1—June 21) and **Summer** (June 23-August 23).

Unless otherwise noted:

- Programs run 30—45 minutes
- Many spring programs are a continuation of our standard program schedule.
- Our standard program schedule changes during the summer season.
- All preschool programs require parents to attend with their child.
- Most programs are drop-in. To register when required, visit:

calendar.brantfordlibrary.ca

PRESCHOOLERS AND STORYTIMES

Baby & Me Storytime

Join us each week for engaging stories, rhymes and songs that develop motor skills and love of music, and a special time for socializing!

Ages 0—18 months

ST. PAUL: Tuesdays until June 17 / 10:30 AM

MAIN: Mondays until August 18 / 10:30 AM

Storytime at St. Paul

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

Ages 0—6 years.

Wednesdays until June 18 / 10:30 AM / St. Paul

Crafty Kids Storytime

Preschoolers can get creative with stories, songs and a craft! Each week children will make a cute craft to take home.

Ages 0—6 years.

Thursdays ending June 19 / 10:30 AM / Main

Storytime at the Canoe

Meet us at the canoe in the Children's Department every Thursday in July and August for stories, songs, and activities!

Ages 18 months—4 years.

Thursdays beginning July 3 / 10:30 AM / Main

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—4:00 PM / Main

Happy Birthday, Rags!

It's Rags' birthday and you're invited! Come celebrate our Library mascot's birthday with a bark-worthy storytime and celebration!



Ages 0—6 years.

June 23 / 10:30 AM / Main

The Story Garden

Our beloved garden at St. Paul is the perfect setting for storytime. Join us in the St. Paul back-yard for a storytime filled with stories, songs and activities for the whole family.

Ages 0-8.

Tuesdays beginning July 8/ 10:30 AM / St. Paul



Registration required



Drop-in

Children's/Tween Programs and Events

SCHOOL-AGE DROP-INS

Messy Masterpieces: Art in the Backyard

Join us in the backyard at the St. Paul library for some messy art fun in the sun! This program will run every other Saturday in the summer, weather permitting. We will create a unique messy masterpiece each program date!

Ages 6—12 years.

June 28, July 12, July 26, August 9 / 10:30 AM—11:30 AM / St. Paul

Backyard STEAM

Join us in the backyard at the St. Paul Library to create and experiment with hands-on activities all summer, weather permitting.

Ages 6—12 years.

Wednesdays in July and August / 10:30 AM—11:30 AM / St. Paul

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 8—12 years.

Tuesdays until June 17 / 6:00 PM / Main

After School Zone at St. Paul

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

Ages 6—12 years.

Thursdays ending June 19 / 3:30 PM—4:30 PM / Main

Sharpie Studio

Unleash your creativity with Sharpie markers and explore new ways to create art on all kinds of materials! This program will spark creativity and build confidence in art, all while having a blast with these dynamic markers! Bring your imagination and let's create some Sharpie masterpieces together!

Ages 6—12 years.

Wednesdays in July / 2:30 PM—3:30 PM / Main

Playdate in the Square

Join us for an outdoor play date in Harmony Square! Every week we'll be bringing giant games, bubbles, and more. Weather permitting.

Wednesdays in July and August / 1:00 PM—2:00 PM / Harmony Square

PA Day Boredom Busters

Join us for games and activities that will be fun for the whole family. All ages.

June 6 / 10:00 AM—4:00 PM / Main

Family Literacy Event with Lana Button

Join us to celebrate reading with author Lana Button! This event is brought to Brantford Public Library by the Family Literacy Committee of Brant.

June 7 / Main / TBD



Registration required



Drop-in

Children's Programs and Events

Bring-a-Book Club for Tweens

Instead of reading the same book, each participant brings whatever they're currently reading—whether it's a fantasy, mystery, or graphic novel! We'll chat about our books, swap recommendations, and take part in fun activities and snacks inspired by our favourite reads. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to log your summer reading progress during the program and earn extra rewards! See Page 6 for more info on this year's summer reading club challenge!

Ages 9-12.

Tuesdays in July and August / 2:30 PM—3:30 PM/Main

Beyond the Brush

Beyond the Brush is an imaginative art program for kids to explore the world of painting through the eyes of different types of artists. Instead of a paint brush, kids will use unique tools and materials to create colorful masterpieces inspired by famous artists and artistic styles!

Ages 6-12.

Wednesdays in August / 2:30 PM—3:30 PM / Main

Teen Programs and Events

Crossroad Youth Drop-In

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

Wednesdays / May 7—June 18 / 3:30pm-6:00pm / Main

Wednesdays / June 25—Aug 20 / 4:30pm-6:00pm / 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.

May 3, 17, 31, June 14, July 12, 26, August 9, 23 / 10:00 AM—12:30 PM / Main

Youth Volunteer Group

**YOUTH!
HAVE YOUR SAY**



Join the BPL Youth Volunteer Group and 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.

May 14, June 11, July 23, August 20 / 5:30 PM— 6:45 PM / Main



Registration required



Drop-in

Family/All Ages

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, until June 21. [May 10, 24, June 7, June 21 / 10:00 AM / Main](#)

ReadOn Summer Tutoring

Boost your child's literacy, math and French skills with one-on-one tutoring! We have multiple two-week sessions in July and August for kids entering grades 2 - 6 in September. Children are paired with a trained tutor for 2 weeks of daily tutoring. **Online registration opens Saturday, May 31st, at 9:30 a.m.**

Tutoring sessions will be held at either the Main Branch (Mon- Fri) or the St Paul Branch (Tues - Sat) in these blocks:

- 1) June 30-July 12 (no session Tuesday, July 1)
- 2) July 14-26
- 3) July 28- Aug. 9 (no session Monday, August 4)
- 4) Aug. 11-Aug. 23

Program notes: Please do not register your child(ren) for more than one session or all subsequent sessions will be removed.



Marvelous Mondays are back! Join us every Monday in July and August for live performances that will entertain, inspire, and introduce something new. Don't miss out on a fun and creative start to your week!



A Messy and Fun Science Show with Orbax & Pepper Do Science

[July 7 / 2:30 PM— 3:30 PM / Main](#)

Ontario Raptor Conservatory Live Birds of Prey Show

[July 21 / 2:30 PM— 3:30 PM / Main](#)

Hula Hoop Circus Show with Dragon Breath Entertainment

[August 11 / 2:30 PM— 3:30 PM / Main](#)

Dan the Nature Man's Amazing Bug Show

[July 14 / 2:30 PM— 3:30 PM / Main](#)

Going on a Lion Safari: A Fun Balloon Show with Halaloo

[July 28 / 2:30 PM— 3:30 PM / Main](#)

Moana Party!

[August 18 / 2:30 PM— 3:30 PM / Main](#)



Registration required



Drop-in

Summer Reading Programs

Join the Summer Reading Club!

Starting **June 23**, **kids (0-12)** and **teens (13-18)** can visit the Library to pick up a summer reading journal.

Come back each week to get a special giveaway and enter prize draws for books, craft kits, or local attraction passes!



Here's how the Summer Reading Club works:

1. **Sign up** in the library, and pick up your reading journal.
2. **Read!** Books, audiobooks, eBooks, and graphic novels all count.
3. **Report** each title you finish using the online form (**available June 23**) or stop by the Library's Summer Reading desk to fill out a paper ballot or tell staff.

Every book you report = one entry into a prize draw!



The Magic Begins and Ends Here—Catch Both Shows for a Magical Summer!

Summer Reading Club Kick-Off: Doug the Great Magic and Juggling Show

June 30 / 2:30 PM— 3:30 PM / Main

End of Summer Reading Party: Rumble & Friends Comedy Magic Show

August 23 / 1:00 PM— 2:00 PM / Main

Adult Summer Reading Challenge

This summer, get to know your library in a new way! Check out the summer reading program you know and love, but with **new ways to win**. Discover fun activities, connect with your community, and compete for monthly prizes! Reporting forms open on June 23.

Adult Reading Challenge Launch Party

Grab your reading journal and info package to start your journey. Meet fellow readers, and get inspired for a summer of fun, discovery, and prizes.

July 3 / 6:00 PM— 7:30 PM / Main



Get all the info at www.brantfordlibrary.ca/summerreading



Reading fun for kids, from Canada's public libraries

Adult Programs and Events

CRAFTING AND HOBBIES

Sounds of Spring: A Guitar Society of Brantford (GSOB) Concert

The GSOB invites you to an afternoon of music at the Main Branch. Come hear the sounds of spring on acoustic guitar, played in concert and in solos.

May 3 / 2:00 PM —3:30 PM / Main



Terracotta Pot Painting

Get ready for the gardening season by creating your own custom pot! This outdoor program is weather dependent. Please dress accordingly.

May 22 / 6:00 PM / Main
June 18 / 2:00 PM / St. Paul



World Wide Knit-in Public Day

Celebrate World Wide Knit-in Public Day with us! Bring your knitting project and meet us on the front lawn at the St. Paul branch. Don't forget to bring a sunhat, sunscreen, and a lawn chair for a relaxing day outdoors.

June 14 / 12:00 PM —3:00 PM / St. Paul



Pride Friendship Bracelets—Take & Make

Follow along and create your own pride themed friendship bracelet at home. Video will be posted on Brantford Public Library YouTube channel. **Limited quantities, pick up begins at 9:30 AM, first come first served.**

June 2 / 9:30 AM / Main
June 3 / 9:30 AM / St. Paul



Christmas in July

Beat the heat and channel the Christmas spirit at the library! Join us in making a seasonally themed craft with a summer twist.

July 24 / 6:00 PM / Main



St Paul Crafters' Circle

Do you enjoy needlecrafts, knitting, crochet, rughooking, etc.? Drop by with your projects for company while you work.

May 1, 15, 29, June 5, 19, July 3, 17, 31, August 7, 21 / 6:00 PM —7:30 PM / St Paul



Art and Soul with Nicole: A Mother's Day Special

Nicole is a self-taught visual artist whose oil, acrylic, and watercolour work reflect an Afro-Caribbean vibe. Whether you're a mom, have a mom, or celebrate a special motherfigure, this is the perfect chance to relax, unwind, and get creative in a fun and supportive environment. Attendees will receive a free canvas and paint.

May 8 / 6:00 PM—7:45 PM / Main



Bad Art Night

Come explore your creative side without the pressure! We will provide the material and you can bring your bad taste.

June 26 / 6:00 PM / Main



Decoupage Flower Pot—Take & Make

Follow along and create a decoupage flower pot at home! Video will be posted on the Brantford Public Library YouTube channel. **Limited quantities, pick up begins at 9:30 AM, first come first served.**

July 14 / Main / 9:30 AM

July 15 / St. Paul / 9:30 AM



Registration required

Drop-in



Adult Programs and Events

SPEAKERS SERIES

Immigrant Memories of Brantford: Brantford's Black Communities

This series is part of the *Memories of Brantford* project, a public cultural, heritage, and educational initiative that began in 2019. The project aims to research, share, and celebrate the legacies of the city's diverse immigrant communities. This speaker series specifically highlights the contributions and histories of Brantford's Black communities. It is presented in partnership with the Brant Historical Society, Brant Theatre Workshops, Wilfrid Laurier University, and the Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre. **All events are from 6:00 PM—7:45 PM at Main Branch.**

Andrew Hunter | May 14

Author of *It Was Dark There All the Time: Sophia Burthen and the Legacy of Slavery in Canada*.

Paul Allen | June 11

Author of *Bright Lights Black Stars: Negro League Players and Canada's Oldest Baseball League*.

Professor Paul Lovejoy | July 16

Editor of *Busha's Mistress or Catherine the Fugitive: A Stirring Romance of the Days of Slavery*.

Dr. Elaine A. Brown Spencer | August 13

Author of *The Black Church in Canada*.

Patrick Brode | September 17

Author of *The Odyssey of John Anderson*.



Interconnected: A Springtime Panel Series

This panel series will feature 2SLGBTQIA+ organizers with expertise in curating events and programs for their community, aiming to inspire innovative approaches to community building. Organized in partnership with the Brantford Public Library, City of Brantford, Brantford Pride, and the Bridge Brant, it will be Moderated by Queer Joy Brantford. Light refreshments will be provided.

Interconnected in Community Care—a discussion on the intersections of 2SLGBTQIA+ leadership in food and environmental access organizing. [May 15 / 6pm-7:30pm / Main](#)

Interconnected in Shifting the Status Quo—a discussion on trans and non-binary leadership in grassroots community organizing. [June 4 / 6pm-7:30pm / Main](#)



Registration required



Drop-in

Adult Programs and Events

SENIORS

Seniors Day at the Library

Join us for an afternoon dedicated to seniors! Explore a variety of local agencies, companies, and organizations that offer services to support seniors in the community. You'll have the chance to learn about health services, community support, and other resources available to you. Enjoy light refreshments and make new connections. This free event is a wonderful opportunity to get informed and have some fun. All are welcome!



June 11 / 1:30 PM —3:30 PM / Main

Know Your Community Pharmacist

Natalie Hawkins, a pharmacist and pharmacy owner, will discuss the importance of medication checks with your pharmacist, and point out some of the 'red flags' for seniors.

Bring your questions and learn about the valuable resource available to you right at your pharmacy.

Note that this session is for informational purposes only; there will be no personal consultation. Please check with your health care provider(s) for guidance and instruction.



June 4 / 2:00 PM —3:30 PM / St. Paul

AI for Seniors: An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Are you curious about Artificial Intelligence and how it's changing the world around us? Christin Taylor from Laurier University will lead an engaging, beginner-friendly session where you'll learn what AI is, how it works, and where it's headed. Whether you're new to the topic or just eager to learn more, this workshop will give you all the essentials in a simple, easy-to-follow way.

May 14 / 2:00 PM —4:00 PM / Main



Senior Storywriters

For writers 55+. This biweekly class builds session by session with discussions around the craft of writing, engaging activities, and the sharing and review of some of your work.

May 13, 27, June 10, 24, July 8, 22, August 5 / 2:00 PM —3:30 PM / Main



Seniors: Make a Difference in Your Community!

If you're a senior with a passion for community and fresh ideas for programs and events, we want to hear from you!

Join **Seniors @ BPL**— a volunteer committee dedicated to creating meaningful, engaging opportunities for older adults at the Library.

Learn more at brantfordlibrary.ca



Registration required



Drop-in

Adult Programs and Events

STORYTELLING AND WRITING

How to Tell Stories

Whether coaxing your kids to sleep at night or pitching an idea at work, it pays to be a persuasive and engaging storyteller. Come join a supportive and interactive workshop with the Brant Story Time Entertainers.

May 21 / 6:00 PM / St. Paul

R

Writers Support Circle

Sit down with other writers, meeting 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 on participating.

May 26, June 23 / 5:30 PM—7:30 PM / Main

R

SERVICE CANADA PROGRAMS

Canadian Dental Care Plan

Discover how the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) can assist seniors in overcoming financial obstacles to oral health care. Attend a 45-minute information session to understand eligibility, application process, and the various covered services offered by CDCP, empowering you to enhance your oral health and overall well-being.

May 22 / 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM / Main

D

Welcome to Canada: Essential Program and Tax Information

Join us for an informative session that will provide newcomers with a comprehensive understanding of essential Service Canada programs and services in Canada. Learn about key initiatives assisting newcomers in accessing social, employment, and tax benefits, including obtaining a SIN, navigating EI programs, understanding CPP benefits, and insights into the tax system. Explore resources like the Canada.ca for Newcomers platform, Jobs Bank, and Benefits Finder, and gain valuable information on Canadian dental care benefits.

D

July 24 / 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM / Main

JobBank.ca

Uncover the wealth of resources on JobBank.ca tailored to assist your individuals in exploring potential career paths. Gain insights on job openings, educational requirements, wage rates, and employment outlooks to help individuals make informed decisions about their professional trajectories.

Discover how career planning and transitioning tools on JobBank.ca, such as Career quizzes and tests, can guide individuals in choosing, changing, or developing their career paths by aligning their strengths and interests with available opportunities.

June 26 / 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM / Main

D

R

Registration required

D

Drop-in 10

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—3:30 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



International Overdose Awareness Day

Join the Library and local community organizations in an annual campaign to end overdose, break the stigma, and remember those we've lost. Learn about addiction, connect with local resources, and honor the grief of families and friends.

Together, we can raise awareness and take action—because every life matters.

More details to come at brantfordlibrary.ca.

Thursday, August 28 / 4:00 PM - 7:00 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 / 6:00 PM—7:30 PM / Main

*No program on May 19, July 1, August 4.

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

Application Support

Support for clients needing help filling out applications, including OW, ODSP, ID, and housing applications.

Tuesdays / 3:00 - 4:00 PM / Main



*Session times subject to change—please call to confirm.



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: Closed

St. Paul Branch

441 St. Paul Avenue

Monday: Closed

Tuesday to Thursday: 9:30 AM - 8 PM

Friday to Saturday: 9:30 AM - 5 PM

Accessible parking lot available at St. Paul.

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



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