

Fascinating Facts You Might Not Know

Airport

The Brantford Municipal Airport was officially opened in 1930.

Allan Cup Champions

The Brantford Alexanders won the Allan Cup, Canada's Senior A Championship, in 1977 by beating the Spokane (Washington) Flyers.

Arctic Arena

The city's first artificial ice surface was built on West Street in 1925. The first official game took place on December 27, 1926. The arena was demolished in 1968.

Armoury

The Armoury was built in 1883 and was first used in 1891 as the headquarters of the 38th Battalion of the Dufferin Rifles of Canada.

Arnold Anderson Stadium

The baseball stadium at Cockshutt Park was renamed the Arnold Anderson Stadium in August 1998. Arnold Anderson was the sports broadcaster at CKPC Radio for 50 years. He retired in 1998. He died in April 1999.

Automobile, First

Harry Cockshutt was the first person in Brantford to own a car, an Oldsmobile, which he purchased in April 1904.

Beckett Building

Located at the corner of Colborne and Bain Streets, this building was named after Richard Beckett, an alderman, mayor (1961-1970), and Brantford MPP.

Bell Memorial

The Bell Memorial, designed by W. S. Allward, was unveiled on October 24, 1917.

Best Blooming City

In 1995 Brantford represented Ontario and placed first in the "Blooming Best" competition for cities with a population between 30,000 and 100,000. In 1996 Brantford was the only non-British winner in the Nations in Bloom competition in the 25,000 to 125,000 population category. In 1997 Brantford was one of only two cities to receive the top prize in the Communities in Bloom national awards competition in the Class of Excellence category for past winners.

Boer War Memorial

This war memorial, designed by Hamilton McCarthy to honour three local men who died during the South African War, was unveiled in 1903 by Sir Frederick Borden.

Boston Pops

Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops performed on an island in the Grand River on August 3, 1978.

Brantford

The city is named after Chief Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea), leader of the Six Nations.

Brantford Alexanders

The Hamilton Fincups of the Ontario Hockey League moved to Brantford in 1978. The new Brantford junior team took its name from the local OHA senior team. They played at the Brantford and District Civic Centre until 1984 when the team moved back to Hamilton.

Brantford and District Civic Centre

This arena was officially opened on March 25, 1967. A Centennial project, it included a 2,981 seat arena, standing room for 750, and an auditorium.

Brantford Blast

In 2008 the Brantford Blast won the Allan Cup, the senior men's ice hockey championship.

Brantford Motts Clamatos

The Brantford Motts Clamatos won the Allan Cup, the national senior "A" men's hockey championship, in 1987.

Brantford Smoke

The Brantford Smoke was one of the professional hockey teams playing in the Colonial Hockey League. They played at the Brantford and District Civic Centre from 1991 until 1998 when the team moved to Asheville, North Carolina. The team won the Colonial Cup in 1993.

Brantford Young Ladies' College

Reverend William Cochrane founded the Brantford Ladies' College on Brant Avenue in 1874. This school closed in June 1900. Brantford Collegiate Institute was later built on this site.

Calbeck's Grocery Store

The first Calbeck's supermarket was opened at 108 Oxford Street (later West Colborne Street) by Reg Calbeck in 1921.

Canadian Golfer Magazine

Ralph H. Reville, a former owner of the **Brantford Courier** newspaper, started publishing this magazine in Brantford in 1915. He remained the editor until 1933.

Canamer Games

Brantford and Benton Harbor, Michigan first organized these games in 1969. There were two days of sporting competitions every other year with the cities taking turns playing host. However, by the late 1970s these games were cancelled due to a lack of American volunteers.

Casino

The Brantford Charity Casino officially opened on November 17, 1999.

CFCG

CFCG, Brantford's first commercial radio station began broadcasting in 1926. The station was run by the Brant Radio Supply Company and had studios in the Kerby House. Due to lack of revenue, the station's final programs were aired on June 5, 1927.

Charles E. Burke (Dr.)

Dr. Charles E. Burke, a former Brantford resident who was educated at local schools, discovered an inexpensive method of preserving the juice of the orange, lemon, and lime while working at the University of California, Berkeley in 1914.

Church, Oldest

The first Grace Anglican Church, a white frame building, was built in 1832. When more space was needed the present church was built at 15 Albion Street.

CKPC

This radio station moved to Brantford in 1933. It had started in Preston, Ontario (now part of Cambridge) in 1923. CKPC FM started broadcasting in 1947

Daffodil

Brantford's official flower is the daffodil, chosen by the city on March 31, 1919.

Earl Haig Park

This local park was named after Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig who was the Commander of the British Expeditionary Force in France and Belgium during World War I. The title "Earl Haig" was created for him in 1919.

Empress of Ireland

The ship, the Empress of Ireland, sunk in May 1914 with 16 Brantford residents on board.

Expositor, The

Henry Racey published the first "Conservative Expositor" on October 12, 1852. This newspaper was sold to C. E. Stewart in 1860 and the name was changed to the "Brantford Expositor". The first daily edition of this newspaper was published on April 3, 1873 .

Fire Department

Volunteer firemen were replaced by a full-time department on January 1, 1889.

Fire-Fighting Truck, First Automobile

The first automobile fire-fighting truck was built by the Waterous Engine Works for the Toronto Fire Department in 1915.

Fluoridation

Brantford became the first city in Canada to have fluoride put into the city's water supply starting on June 20, 1945. The Brantford Fluorine Committee kept track of how the fluoride affected people's teeth for ten years.

Funeral, First Motor

The first funeral ever held in Brant County without a horse in the cortege took place on September 13, 1918 when the late Hawcey Lidlow was buried at Mt. Pleasant. Eleven cars and the hearse formed the procession.

Glenhyrst Art Gallery

Judge Stephen Jones owned the original house called "Glenhyrst". He sold the property to Joseph Stratford. When Edmund L. Cockshutt bought the estate he tore down the original house and built a new one but kept the name "Glenhyrst". His estate was given to the city to be used for artistic and cultural purposes. Glenhyrst opened as an art gallery in 1957.

Grace Anglican Church Bells

The ten church bells, donated by Major Reuben Leonard in honour of his parents, have the following inscriptions:

1. Day by day we magnify Thee.
2. We glorify Thee.
3. We worship Thee.
4. We bless Thee.
5. We praise Thee.
6. Glory to God in the highest peace on earth, good-will toward men.
7. Praise Him upon the well-timed cymbals. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals.
8. May all in truth and harmony rejoice to honor church and King with heart and voice.
9. May God bless whome we do call.
10. To the honor and glory of God and in loving memory of Francis Henry Leonard and Elizabeth Catton his wife. Reuben Leonard gave us; Mears and Stainbank made us MDCCCXV.

Grand River

The Grand River was declared a Canadian Heritage River in 1994.

Hagood Hardy

Hagood Hardy (1937-1997), the Canadian composer and pianist best known for "The Homecoming", was a grandson of Judge Alexander D. Hardy and a great-nephew of Premier Arthur Sturgis Hardy of Brantford.

Harold J. Smith

This was the birth name of Jay Silverheels, the actor from the Six Nations who played Tonto in the television series, "The Lone Ranger".

H.M.C.S. Brantford

The H.M.C.S. Brantford, a "Flower" class corvette built for the Royal Canadian Navy, was officially launched on September 6, 1941. The ship was an escort vessel in the western Atlantic Ocean for two years. After she was decommissioned in 1945, the ship's bell and plaque were presented to the City. The bell is on display at the Brant Naval Veterans Association at 54 Wadsworth Street.

Hockey

Brantford joined the Ontario Professional Hockey League along with Toronto, Guelph, and Berlin (Kitchener) in 1908.

Incorporation as a City

The Town of Brantford became the City of Brantford by special Act (40 Vic. Ch. 34), by-law 285 on May 31, 1877.

Incorporation as a Town

Brantford became a town on July 28, 1847.

Jubilee Terrace Park

Jubilee Terrace Park, located at the front of the Brantford Armoury near the Grand River, was given this name to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Kerby Hotel

The Kerby Hotel was destroyed by fire on July 29, 1976. It had originally opened on August 24, 1854, the largest hotel in the area.

Lieutenant Governors from Brantford

Harry Cockshutt (1921-1927)
William Ross Macdonald (1968-1974)

Lorne Bridge

The first Lorne Bridge was named for and officially opened by the Marquis of Lorne, the Governor General, on September 16, 1879. The present Lorne Bridge was formally opened by Col. Henry Cockshutt, Ontario's lieutenant governor, on August 11, 1924.

Mail Delivery

Mail delivery service to people's homes started in Brantford on January 5, 1898.

Mohawk Park

The city of Brantford purchased the Mohawk Park property from the Lovejoy estate in 1915 with the formal opening taking place on Labour Day.

Myrtleville House

Home of the Good family for many years, it is now a museum.

Population of Brantford

1850: 3,200
1870: 7,000
1877: 10,631
1900: 16,216
1920: 30,549
1950: 36,532
1980: 70,487
1990: 78,582
2001: 86,417
2006: 90,192

Premiers of Ontario from Brantford/Brant County

Arthur Sturgis Hardy (1896-1899)
Harry Corwin Nixon (May 18-August 17, 1943)

Public Execution

Robert Over and John Moore were hung in Brantford's only public execution on June 7, 1859. They had robbed and murdered Lancelot Adams, the Brantford to Paris mail coach driver, on the Paris Road on April 14, 1859.

Radio Station 10BQ

Canada's first non-commercial radio station was started by Tom Brown at 12 Terrace Hill Street in Brantford in 1926. It went off the air in 1934 when the federal government cancelled all amateur radio licences.

Railway Sleeping Car

Thomas Burnley of Brantford designed the first railway sleeping car for the Prince of Wales' visit to Canada in 1860. It was built by the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Company.

Royal Visits to Brantford

September 14, 1860: His Royal Highness, Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales

October 1, 1869: Prince Arthur, the third son of Queen Victoria

September 16, 1879: The Marquis of Lorne, the Governor General of Canada and his wife, Her Royal Highness, Princess Louise

October 14, 1901: The Duke and Duchess of York, later King George V and Queen Mary

February 15, 1913: His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught

May 9, 1914: The Duke of Connaught and his daughter, Princess Patricia

October 20, 1919: Edward, the Prince of Wales, late King Edward VII
June 7, 1939: King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

October 14, 1951: Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, later Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip

July 2, 1959: Queen Elizabeth II

June 29, 1973: Queen Elizabeth II

October 1, 1984: Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip

June 28, 1997: Queen Elizabeth II

Senators from Brantford/Brant County

Hon. David Christie (appointed in 1867)

Hon. John Fisher (appointed in 1917)

Hon. Arthur Charles Hardy (son of Premier Arthur S. Hardy) (appointed in 1922 for Leeds County)

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald (appointed in 1963)

Sentinel, The

David Keeler started publishing the first local newspaper, The Sentinel, in 1833.

Spanish Flu

Brantford's first death from the Spanish flu occurred on October 5, 1918.

St. Joseph's Hospital

St. Joseph's Hospital, located on Park Road North, officially opened on August 16, 1955.

Telephone City

Brantford is known as the "Telephone City" because of Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone here in 1874.

Thorpe Brothers' Funeral Home

Established in 1860, it is the oldest funeral home in the city and was first located at 75 Colborne Street. Wilfred A. Thorpe purchased the business in 1919 and moved it to 96 West Street, the former home of author Sara Jeannette Duncan.

Tommy Ivan

Tommy Ivan played senior hockey in Brantford and later coached the Brantford Lions Club team that won the O.H.A. Junior B Series in 1941. He won three Stanley Cups as the coach of the Detroit Red Wings and was general manager of the Chicago Blackhawks when they won the Stanley Cup in 1961. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1974.

Tournament Capital of Ontario

Brantford was officially recognized as the Tournament Capital of Ontario on June 4, 1998 by the Provincial Legislature with a Private Member's bill.

Wards

When Brantford was incorporated as a town in 1847 it was divided into seven wards: West, North, South, East, King's, Queen's, and Brant, with one council member elected for each ward. When Brantford became a city it was divided into five wards designated by numbers. Three aldermen were elected in each ward until 1935 when the number elected was reduced to two aldermen per ward.

Wilfrid Laurier University

The Brantford campus of Wilfrid Laurier University opened in September 1999.

Zamboni Driver of the Year

Brantford's Jimmy MacNeil won this title in 1999 as part of the Zamboni Company's 50th anniversary.