

Highlights of the Thursday, 29 January, 2026 Weekly Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed everyone including our speaker Mike Bradley, CAO City of Brantford to the **Kiwanis Club of Brantford Weekly meeting**
Thursday, 29 January, 2026.

President Maureen asked our two newest members, Michelle and Rob Yuile to come to the podium to receive their membership badges.



President Maureen called Phil Hoekstra to present the 50/50 Draw with Jim Steele and Nelson McClinchey holding potential winning tickets, but neither found the "Joker". The pot continues to grow.



President Maureen called Dave Lewis to come forward as Funmaster.

Funmaster Dave Lewis welcomed everyone and reminded them that due to technical issues a few weeks ago, Funmaster Paul Simon was unable to present the video he had selected.

Despite not having the video, Paul gave his introduction to a humorous presentation by the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. It was the theme song of the "Good, the Bad and the Ugly" epic spaghetti (Italian) Western film from 1966.

Today we will present a different version from 2018 by the Danish National Symphony Orchestra. Paul had suggested this as an alternative. I am sure it will bring a smile to your face.



For you that were not present it was a majestic presentation.



[Click here to hear the presentation](#)

Dave called for any Happy Stories.

- Jim Steele had a Happy Dollar because he won his Toonie back on this draw and he also had a Happy Story from last week, where he found someone's reading glasses and would like to return them. Unfortunately, that person was not in attendance today but perhaps they will see this notice and call Jim Steele to pick up their lost glasses.
- Bob Saunders had a Happy story as he got his licence back and could drive himself to this meeting.
- Leo Vos was happy to see Mike Bradley at this meeting and mentioned all the support, information and time that Mike gave to Leo and the Children's Safety Village committee, when we were informed that we had to move to Cainsville.
- Leo mentioned that his son Corey and Daughter-in-law Matty had their 1st child on the 22-Jan-2026
- Leo was also very grateful that he was able to celebrate his mothers 100th birthday surrounded by her friends and family.

President Maureen thanked Funmaster Dave and called LG Randy MacKenzie to introduce our guest speaker.

LG Randy MacKenzie came to the podium and introduced Mike Bradley as the CAO City of Brantford and that he would be talking about "What's happening around Brantford". Randy indicated that Mike Bradley's presentation would start with more background details and asked that we give a warm welcome to him.



Mike Bradly presented a brief background saying

Born and raised in Brantford, Mike's Grandfather owned the Bradley Machine Co. and Mike worked on the farm in his youth.

He has over two decades of municipal experience, including roles at the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA).

Served as Commissioner of Community Development for the City of Brantford (2023–2024) and CAO for the County of Brant (2018–2022).

Mike Bradly became CAO for the City of Brantford (announced October 2024).



Mike then proceeded with details relating to what is happening in Brantford.

He outlined where we are today in Brantford.

The current estimated population of the City of Brantford in 2026 is approximately 124,578, reflecting a steady annual growth rate of about (1.72%). This is an increase from the 2021 Census, which recorded a population of (104,688). The broader Brantford Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has a higher population, measured at (144,162) in 2021. Brantford has experienced significant growth, with a (6.2%) increase between 2016 and 2021. The city's population is projected to reach (163,000) by 2041.

The City of Brantford demonstrates strong economic resilience through a diversified industrial base, significant manufacturing investments (e.g., \$500M+ in expansions in 2025), and a growing tourism sector. Despite 2025 U.S. tariff challenges, the city is proactive, implementing a "Canada-First" procurement policy, and advancing a 2024–2031 strategy focused on business retention and expansion.

Investment & Growth: In 2024, the city saw over \$132 million in construction value, adding over 712,000 sq ft of industrial space. Ferrero Group announced a major \$445 million investment, strengthening the local manufacturing sector.

Diverse Sector Support: The Economic Development team focuses on retaining and expanding businesses in key sectors like advanced manufacturing, food/beverage processing, and warehousing.

Strategic Tourism & Culture: A new Municipal Accommodation Tax and increased sports tourism (81 events in 2024) have boosted the local economy, with high attendance at the Sanderson Centre and Farmers' Market.

Mike Bradly gave us more details about:

- Sports and entertainment Centre
- The Brantford General Hospital
- Downtown revitalization
- Reconstruction of the Lorne Bridge
- Affordable Housing development
- Homelessness



And several other topics and Projects

Mike Bradly then spoke about:

Long-Term Planning: The "[Brantford 2050: Our Path Forward](#)" initiative which focuses on sustainable growth, investing in infrastructure, and developing affordable housing to ensure long-term stability.

Mike then spoke in some details about the plan for the future of Brantford.

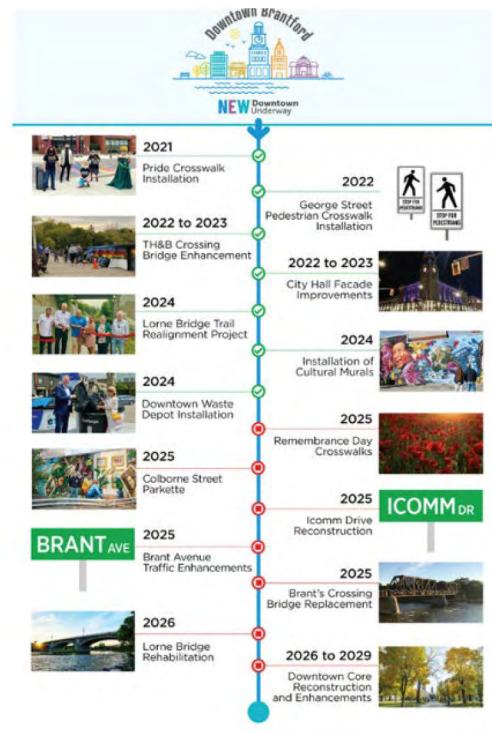
The Brantford 2050 City Vision builds upon a strong foundation of advanced planning policies, strategies, and programs already adopted and underway. It does not mark a starting point, but rather the next step in our community's ongoing journey toward a more vibrant, connected, and sustainable future. This long-term vision provides the framework to guide consistent decision-making, priority setting, and collaboration. Over the next 25 years, Brantford will experience rapid growth, and significant economic, social and demographic changes. Some of these trends are predictable, while others will be impacted by unforeseen technological, political, economic and environmental factors.

The Brantford 2050 City Vision is based on community feedback about our collective hopes and aspirations for the future. A vision is a call to action, and motivates us to think beyond the day-to-day, signals our ambitions to other levels of government, and can help long-term decision-making.

Mike Bradly thanked everyone for their attention and lead straight into a series of Questions and answers.

After some pointed and stimulating questions, Mike Bradly was thanked on behalf of the Club by Phil Hoekstra noting that, in recognition of his presentation, we have made a donation to a Charity we like to support. That charity is the Lansdowne Children's Centre Foundation.

Mike Bradley was given a sound round of applause for his very informative, detailed and candid presentation.



President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Pallo Sahota reminded everyone that: Saturday, February 7, 2026, was the Kiwanis Club of Guelph Music Festival Gala. Rsvp By: January 26, 2026. Sign Up Sheet Available at our Lunch Meetings or Email to: thompson834@icloud.com .
Nelson McClinchey mentioned that Chris Bisson is having a Pre-cocktail Social at his home. Contact Nelson if you are interested. nelsonmcclinchey@gmail.com
- Members were reminded that March 6-8 is the 2nd Annual OBAN Inn Weekend Getaway. Please let Nancy know that you have made your own reservations for the Friday and/or Saturday, so evening meals as a group can be made.
- LG Randy informed us that:
 - Karen Adams is now at home and is recovering.
 - that Randy was aware that condolence has been sent out by many members to Leo Vos at his mother passing. A private funeral mass will be held with the family. A celebration of 100 years of an incredibly full life will be held at a later date.
- Dave Lewis noted the Kiwanis Club of Brantford is currently reviewing and updating our existing Bylaws, and will be presenting them to the Membership when completed.

President Maureen, thanked all members and guest speaker Mike Bradly.

Closing Thought for the Day: "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." - Mother Teresa

President Maureen asked If there was anything else for the good of Kiwanis, seeing none, she adjourned the meeting with the ringing of the Bell.

