



Media Release

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Brant, Ontario

Public open house will showcase draft designs of the new Main Branch Library and encourage feedback from residents

The County of Brant Public Library will host a public open house at the Brant Sports Complex (944 Powerline Road, Brant, Ontario) on Monday, February 6 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. A special presentation by the Library and DPAI Architecture Inc. will begin at 7:00 PM, and showcase draft design concepts of the exterior and interior spaces of the new Main Branch Library.

The project involves the full restoration of the historic Paris Old Town Hall (now known as the Bawcutt Centre) with a bright and modern addition featuring library services for all age groups. A landscaped exterior offers public green space for outdoor use and public enjoyment.

“The proposed design strikes a perfect balance between restoration of the original Gothic Revival-style building and a modern library,” says Kathryn Carter, chair of the Bawcutt Centre Advisory Committee. “We are so excited to share this concept with the community. The new Main Branch Library will be an incredible resource for County residents and preserves a significant piece of our cultural heritage.”

The public open house is free to attend and provides County of Brant residents an opportunity to engage with representatives from the project Steering Group and DPAI Architecture Inc. Residents are invited to attend the open house, take in the presentation, and provide feedback on the proposed design concepts.

A recording of the presentation and design images will be available on the Library’s website at brantlibrary.ca/newmainbranch. The public is encouraged to submit feedback online during the month of February.

This project is guided by a Steering Group composed of Library Board members and the Bawcutt Centre Advisory Committee. Pending Council approval of the final project design and budget, construction is expected to begin in 2023.

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About the Bawcutt Centre

The Bawcutt Centre (formerly, the Paris Old Town Hall) is located at 13 Burwell Street, Paris, Ontario. It is one of the oldest civic Gothic buildings in Canada. The original structure was built in 1854 and consists of a basement, a first / ground / main floor, second / upper floor, and a bell tower. A one-storey addition was put on the east side of the original structure in 1870. In 1954, the Mary Maxim Company purchased the property, and, in 1964, added a two-storey addition.

In recent years, community initiatives to save, preserve, and repurpose the Bawcutt Centre have evolved. In October of 2015, Council authorised acquisition of the Bawcutt Centre. In December of 2015, Council entered into a [Gifting Agreement](#) with Skystone Media's CEO Linda Schuyler to secure a \$1,000,000 donation towards both acquisition and restoration of The Bawcutt Centre. The building was renamed from the Paris Old Town Hall to The Bawcutt Centre in honour of the principal donor's father, Jack Bawcutt, who is a former mayor of the Town of Paris.

The property was acquired in March of 2016 and [The Bawcutt Centre Advisory Committee](#) was formed. In October 2020, the former Paris Town Hall was designated as a national historic site. www.brant.ca/theBawcuttCentre

About the Library

The County of Brant Public Library serves the County of Brant, Ontario, with five branches in Burford, Glen Morris, Paris, Scotland-Oakland, and St. George, and a mobile library and 24/7 book-lending kiosk in Onondaga.

Visit the library online at brantlibrary.ca, @brantlibrary on Facebook and Twitter, and @brantcountypubliclibrary on Instagram.

Questions or comments? Connect with:

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