



Media Release

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Brant, Ontario

Library Board Moves Forward with New Central Library Planning

After careful deliberation, the County of Brant Public Library Board has decided on the next steps for the New Central Library project in Paris, prioritizing community needs, responsible planning, and long-term sustainability.

As a first step, to ensure the new library branch meets the evolving needs of the County of Brant's growing population, the Library Board will conduct new, updated needs analysis and site selection studies. The previous studies, conducted nearly a decade ago, no longer reflect the County's realities. These updated assessments will evaluate present and future service demands, guiding the responsible development of a new facility. To fund the studies, the Library Board will request Council approval to spend \$40,000 from the Library's Capital Reserve Fund.

Transparency and collaboration remain central to this process. "Our mission is to deliver library service that fosters learning, innovation, and community engagement," said Library Board Chair Fred Gladding. "Our vision is to create a physical space that will be loved and well-used for generations to come. We want to work hand-in-hand with the community to understand its needs, and with Council to ensure we have their support before development begins."

While the Board is disappointed that the Bawcutt Centre collaboration will not be moving forward, it remains committed to delivering a modern, inclusive space that serves as both a cultural cornerstone and a welcoming environment for all residents.

"In some ways we're starting from square one again," said Library Board Vice-Chair Marilyn Sewell. "Our staff have done an incredible job working in the cramped space of the current branch, but it's simply not enough. Council has already acknowledged the need for a new facility. Now, we need to test the assumptions that have guided our work so far and re-engage the public to help shape priorities for location, services, and facility size."

As always, community input will play a vital role in shaping the future of the New Central Library in Paris.

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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 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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