

The Sputnik

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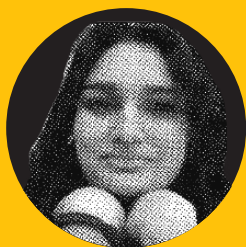
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Golden Days Ahead

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Meet the Sputnik Team



MALLIKA BADWAL

Editor in Chief
eic@thesputnik.ca



OLGA STEBLYK

Creative Director
creative@thesputnik.ca



HAYDEN ROBB

News Editor
news@thesputnik.ca



ISAAC HALSEY

Lead News Writer
creative@thesputnik.ca



ASHLEY KERUBIN

Sports Editor
sport@thesputnik.ca



MCKENZIE MARTIN

Infinitum Editor
infinitum@thesputnik.ca



NORA EDLUND

Lead Infinitum Writer



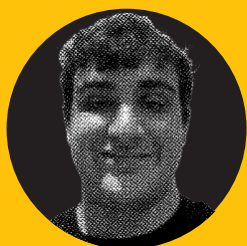
JAHNAVI JAGDEO

Arts & Culture Editor
artse@thesputnik.ca



TAYTEN HUFF

Arts & Culture Lead Writer



LUKE RUSCICA

Visuals Editor
visualse@thesputnik.ca



MAX CORBETT

Web Manager
web@thesputnik.ca



MATTHEW VIEIRA

Social Media Manager
social@thesputnik.ca

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THIS MONTHS VOLUNTEERS

Writing Credit
Nibhi Sharna

Infinitum Cover
Mallika Badwal

Front Cover
Olga steblyk

WANT TO JOIN OUR OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD TEAM? VISIT [THESPUTNIK.CA](https://thesputnik.ca) TO APPLY!

WLUSP STAFF

President & Publisher | Vlad Latis
president@wlusp.com

Executive Director | Kurtis Rideout
ed@wlusp.com

Finance Manager | Randy Moore
finance@wlusp.com

Advertising Manager | Ayden Elworthy
adse@wlusp.com

HR Manager | Zaynub Fasih
hrew@wlusp.com

Web Manager | Sam Nabi
web@wlusp.com

Brantford Manager of Operations | Vacant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair | Vlad Latis

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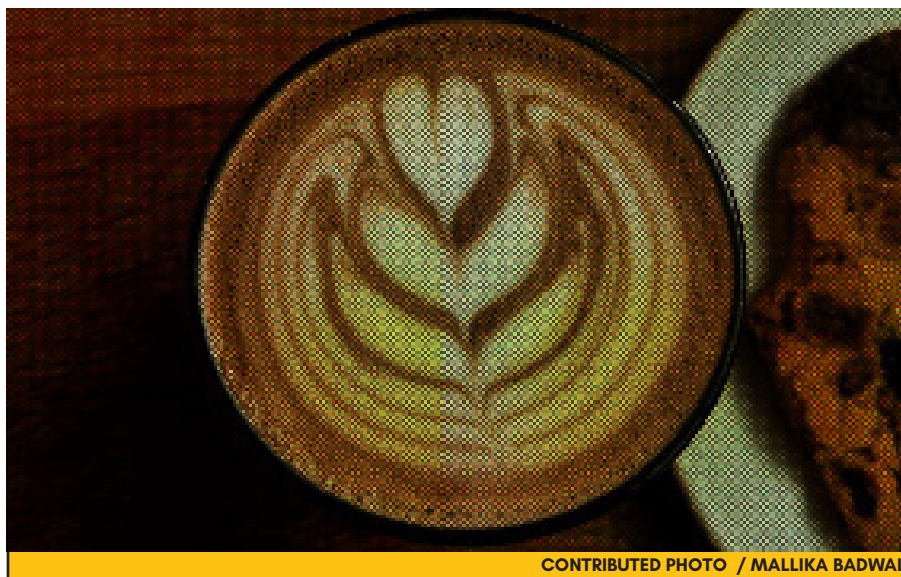
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For advertising purposes contact
adse@wlusp.com



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / MALLIKA BADWAL

Editor's Note: And we are so back!

MALLIKA BADWAL
EDITOR - IN - CHIEF

It's that time of the year again. The air is getting crisp, coffee shop lines are growing agonizingly long, and Laurier Brantford is once again flooded with people trying to convince themselves that this is the semester they won't procrastinate. Whether you're a wide-eyed first-year still getting lost between buildings or a fourth-year silently grieving the start of your "year of lasts," welcome back!

Here at The Sputnik, we've put together an issue to help you pretend you're being productive while avoiding your actual syllabus. As your Editor-in-Chief, my main job is sitting in the corner office looking very serious behind a laptop, when in reality, I'm just obsessively re-reading page layouts to make sure we didn't print any catastrophic typos. But between layout panics, our team managed to build something pretty special for you this month.

If you care about local adulting, we've got the run-down on the upcoming municipal election — yes, you can actually vote, and no, "I didn't know," isn't a valid excuse anymore. If your idea of cardio is sprinting to class, our Sports section has a guide

on Golden Hawk tryouts so you can pretend you're going to join varsity this year.

On the creative side, we're bringing back the weird and wonderful: 'The Oddity' is officially back for Season two because apparently, we couldn't leave the crew alone for too long.

We're also hoping you guys have experienced enough terrible dates recently to fuel our ongoing 'Orbiting Love' series. Meanwhile, our Opinions section tackles physical books versus digital screens—weighing whether screen glare is ruining your eyes, or if the "magic of real paper" is just propaganda pushed by professors who wrote the required \$200 textbook. Plus, we're taking you on a tour through the eerie, abandoned corners of campus in The Laurier Brantford Backrooms.

So, grab your overpriced coffee, find a study spot before someone claims it for the next eight hours, and enjoy the issue. We wish you a fun and new semester, and hopefully with little to no cashouts.

Catch us online at www.thesputnik.ca for more stories throughout the year. Have a great year, Golden Hawks!

—Your Editor-in-Chief

Brantford gears up for Municipal Election

Mark your calendars, election day is set for Monday, October 26

ISAAC HALSEY
LEAD NEWS WRITER

Election day for the City of Brantford is fast approaching.

On Monday, Oct. 26, voters will head to the polls to elect a mayor, 10 ward councillors and eight school board trustees for the next municipal term.

Students living in Brantford while attending Wilfrid Laurier University may also be eligible to vote in the city, even if they consider another Ontario municipality in their permanent home.

Brantford elects one mayor through a citywide vote. The mayor serves as head of council and represents the city when dealing with other levels of government.

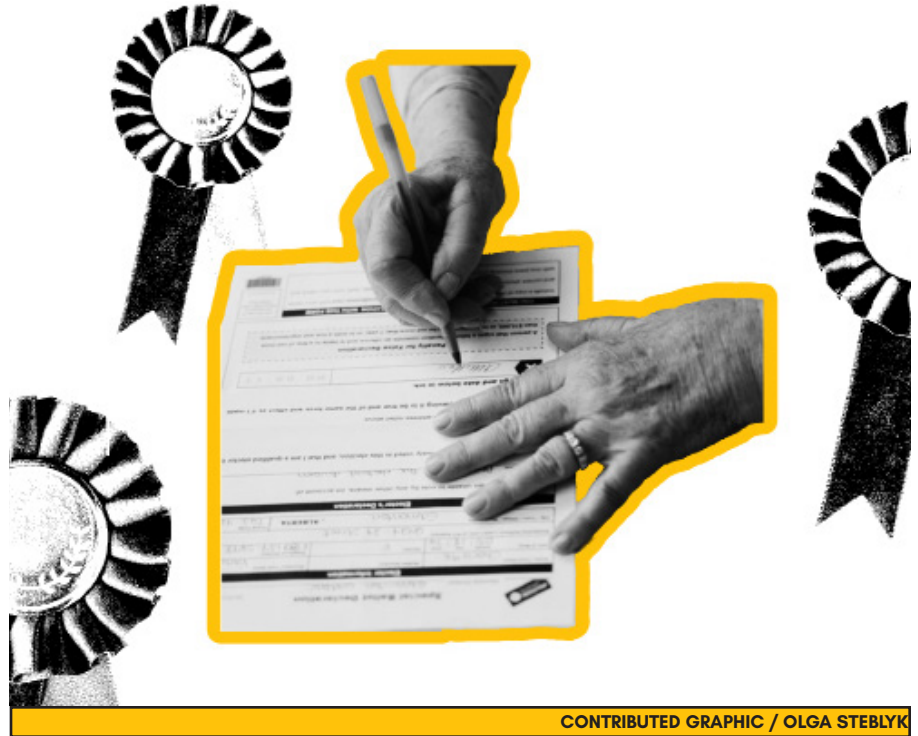
The city is also divided into five wards, with voters electing two councillors from each ward. The 10 councillors participate in decisions including the approval of municipal bylaws and the city budget while representing residents within their wards.

Residents can only vote for councillor candidates running in the ward where they are eligible to vote.

Laurier's Brantford campus is located in Ward 5. At the time of writing, five candidates had filed nominations for the two Ward 5 council seats. The city is scheduled to certify eligible candidates Aug. 24.

The mayoral race also remains subject to final certification. At the time of writing, there were six mayoral hopefuls in Brantford. Candidate nominations close Aug. 21 before the city certifies nomination papers Aug. 24.

School board trustee elections will also appear on eligible voters' ballots, but the number of trustees that a person can vote for depends on their tax support. For Laurier students, living away from home does not necessarily prevent them from participating in the municipal elec-



CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC / OLGA STEBLYK

tion. Ontario has a special residency rule for students who temporarily live in another municipality while attending school. Students who consider the place they live when they are not attending school to be their home and intend to return there can be eligible to vote in both their home municipality and the municipality where they live while studying.

To vote in Brantford, a person must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old and either live in the city or otherwise qualify as an owner or tenant of land in Brantford or the spouse of an owner or tenant. They must also not be prohibited from voting under provincial law.

After Aug. 12, voters can register to vote in person at Brantford City Hall on 58 Dalhousie St. The city said voters must provide proof of identity and residency. Accepted documents include leases or rental agreements, bank statements and documents issued by a post-secondary institution showing campus residence.

Online voting will run from 10 a.m. Oct. 13 until 8 p.m. Oct. 26. Advance

in-person voting will take place from Oct. 15 to 18 at City Hall and the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre. Both advance voting locations will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On election day, Oct. 26, polling locations will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters can use the City of Brantford's online ward finder to determine which ward they live in and find additional election information on the city's website.

The full list of all candidates can be found at www.brantford.ca/yourgovernment/municipal-election/candidates/.



Feds launch public AI transparency con-

And you can voice your opinion on future legislation!

ISAAC HALSEY
LEAD NEWS WRITER

OTTAWA — On July 23, the Government of Canada announced a public consultation for citizens to provide input on artificial intelligence systems.

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) says the consultation focuses on how people can know when they are interacting with AI, and how AI-generated content can be identified. The department sought public opinion on what information organizations should provide about the systems they develop and use, as well as the risks and limitations of AI. The findings will be used to inform research and policy around AI at the national level.

ISED asked citizens to read its discussion paper, “Enhancing trust in artificial intelligence through increased transparency,” before completing a survey about AI transparency, risks, and limitations.

The department said submissions will be treated as public documents and may be posted online. Participants are asked not to include personal or confidential information

in their submissions. Canadians have until Sept. 23 to submit their responses. The initiative came after the federal government released “Canada’s National Artificial Intelligence Strategy: AI for All,” in June.

The 50-page document has six main pillars: protecting Canadians and safeguarding democracy, empowering Canadians, powering shared prosperity, building the Canadian sovereign AI foundation, scaling Canadian AI champions, and building trusted partnerships and global alliances.

Measures under the first pillar include plans to modernize privacy protections, introduce online safety measures and expand the Canadian AI Safety Institute. The strategy also calls for new protections related to children’s data, deepfakes and other emerging risks.

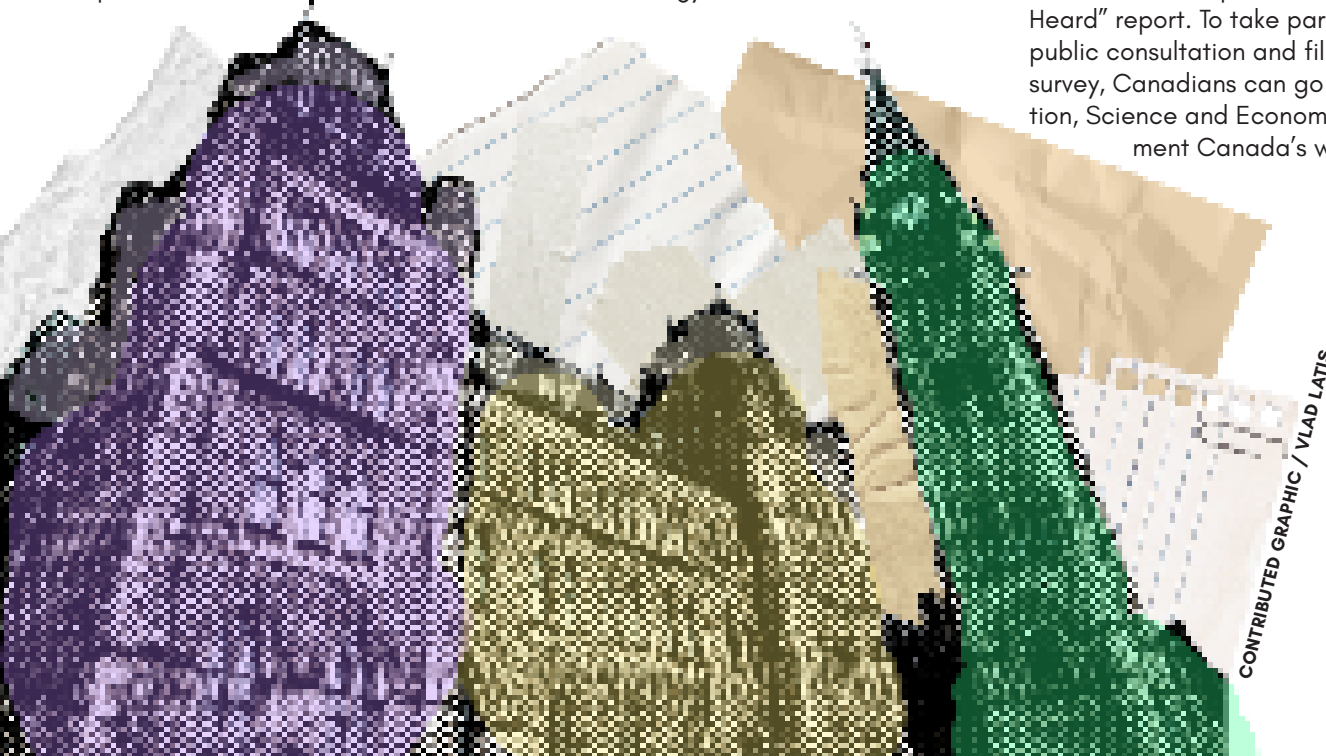
The government said its empowerment measures will focus on AI literacy, education, and employment. Plans include a national AI literacy initiative, training opportunities for workers, and access to trusted AI agents for post-secondary students. The strategy also aims to create

more than 90,000 AI-related job and work-placement opportunities for young Canadians.

Economic measures include \$500 million through the Regional AI Initiative to support AI adoption and commercialization. The government also planned to invest \$200 million in its first AI Missions Program project, which will focus on improving health outcomes.

The sovereignty pillar includes plans for a public AI supercomputer and expanded Canadian controlled compute and cloud infrastructure. The government said these investments are intended to reduce dependence on foreign providers and keep more Canadian data under Canadian laws and standards. This strategy also earmarks \$1.75 billion for help scale private-sector investments to incentivize AI research in Canada, and promises measures to attract foreign investment in AI, thereby building AI partnerships worldwide and encouraging the adoption of open-source AI by Canadians.

After the consultation closes, the government said it would review the submissions and publish a “What We Heard” report. To take part in the public consultation and fill out the survey, Canadians can go to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada’s website.



Brantford coffee scene grows

Students can enjoy new study spots and good food, all within walking distance

ISAAC HALSEY
LEAD NEWS WRITER

Two new student-friendly cafés have opened in downtown Brantford over the summer, offering students new places to eat, drink and study near campus.

Chaska Café, located at 50 Colborne St. E., opened doors to the public on June 6. The café serves up Indian street food and has an extensive menu – including ice cream, chai, burgers, momos and more.

Owner Sikander Bunia said the café has received a “good response from the community” since its opening. Bunia moved to Brantford in January of 2026 and said he noticed a lack of restaurants specializing in Indian street food. “I want to bring the Indian street food taste to the streets of Brantford,” said Bunia. His favourites menu items include the fish pakoras and the café’s burgers.

Bunia chose the name “Chaska Café” because “chaska” means “craving” in Hindi. The “Café” portion of the name reflects the business’s seating area and selection of coffee and tea. Chaska Café offers students a 10 per cent discount and remains open until 3 a.m. every day.

The combination of the student discount and a 3 a.m. closing time gives Laurier students another meal

option later in the evening, and it’s proximity to Expositor Place makes it even more convenient for students living on campus.

A second new business, MimS Boutique Pastry & Bakery, opened May 28 at 11 Queen St. The bakery offers bread, pastries and desserts inspired by Nigerian flavours. It also serves a selection of specialty drinks and juices and offers a catering service.

MimS Boutique Pastry and Bakery began as a shared project between a mother-daughter duo, according to the business’s website. The pair drew inspiration from the Nigerian pastries they grew up making at home and built the bakery around combining those recipes with North American baked goods.

The bakery says many of its prod-

ucts are based on recipes passed down through generations. Its menu includes Nigerian staples such as meat pies, puff-puff and other pastries, which are prepared alongside more familiar North American baked goods.

The owners describe the concept as a way of bringing together family tradition and contemporary tastes through food and “blending traditional recipes with modern favourites.”

This is the second location that MimS has opened, with the first being located at the food court inside the Jackson Square mall at 2 King St. W. in Hamilton.

Students can sit and study inside the bakery, which features natural wood, plants, and greenery throughout its interior. MimS Boutique Pastry & Bakery is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Both businesses also bring food traditions that may be less familiar to some students. Chaska Café focuses on Indian street food while MimS draws from the Nigerian pastries its owners grew up making at home.

No matter your taste, these welcoming new cafés and campus staples invite you to relax, connect, and savour the best of Brantford’s downtown community.



GUEST CONTRIBUTOR / DIMA EL-HAJAR

September 2026 at Laurier Brantford

The 2026-2027 academic year is starting strong with new faces and fresh changes



ISAAC HALSEY

LEAD NEWS WRITER

CREDIT: DIMA EL-HAJAR

Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus is beginning the 2026-27 academic year with changes to student housing, academic programs and faculty leadership.

There are three residences that will host first-year students this year, confirmed Jenn Greene, the associate director of residence life.

Grand River Hall will house the majority of first-years. Expositor Place will also host a small number of first-years, while remaining primarily as an upper-year residence.

In addition, Post House is returning to house students after not being used during the 2025-2026 academic year, though Wilkes House will remain vacant for the second year in a row.

No specific student numbers for residence buildings could be provided. While the official number of Laurier Brantford students could not be provided, as official enrolment numbers aren't available until late fall, Beth Gurney, Wilfrid Laurier University's Director of Strategic Communica-

tions and Community Engagement, stated that "the Brantford campus had over 2,600 students enrolled," during the 2025 academic year.

Laurier has also made changes to its academic offerings for the new year.

The Faculty of Liberal Arts has introduced a teaching minor, replacing its previous teaching option.

Gurney said criminology, social work and youth and child studies, respectively, are the Brantford campus' largest undergraduate direct-entry programs by enrolment. The Bachelor of Education, Master of Applied Computing and Master of Science in User Experience Design programs are the campus' largest second-degree or graduate programs by enrolment.

In addition to its program modifications, Laurier has also made several faculty and leadership changes.

Dr. Tarah Brookfield became Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences on July 1.

Additionally, the Faculty of Social Work and the Lazaridis School of

Business and Economics welcomed four and nine new faculty members, respectively.

Joining the Faculty of Social Work are Assistant Professor Dr. Patrick Ladouceur, PhD, MSW, RSW; Assistant Professor Dr. Sandy Rao, PhD, MSW; Associate Professor Dr. Ruth Green, PhD, MSW; and lecturer Jeff Walsh, MSW, RSW.

Dr. Ladouceur and Mr. Walsh will be working within the Bachelor of Social Work program, whereas Dr. Rao and Dr. Green will be working within the Master of Social Work and Indigenous Studies programs respectively. Students will have their fall reading week from Oct. 13 to 16. The Fall Convocation in Waterloo will take place on Oct. 14, and the Brantford Campus will have its Fall Convocation a few days afterwards on Oct. 20. The examination period will run from Dec. 12 to 23. The exam period begins six days later than it did in the fall term of 2025 due to the timing of Labour Day. Students are advised not to make travel commitments during the examination period.

Spain crowned world champions in FIFA

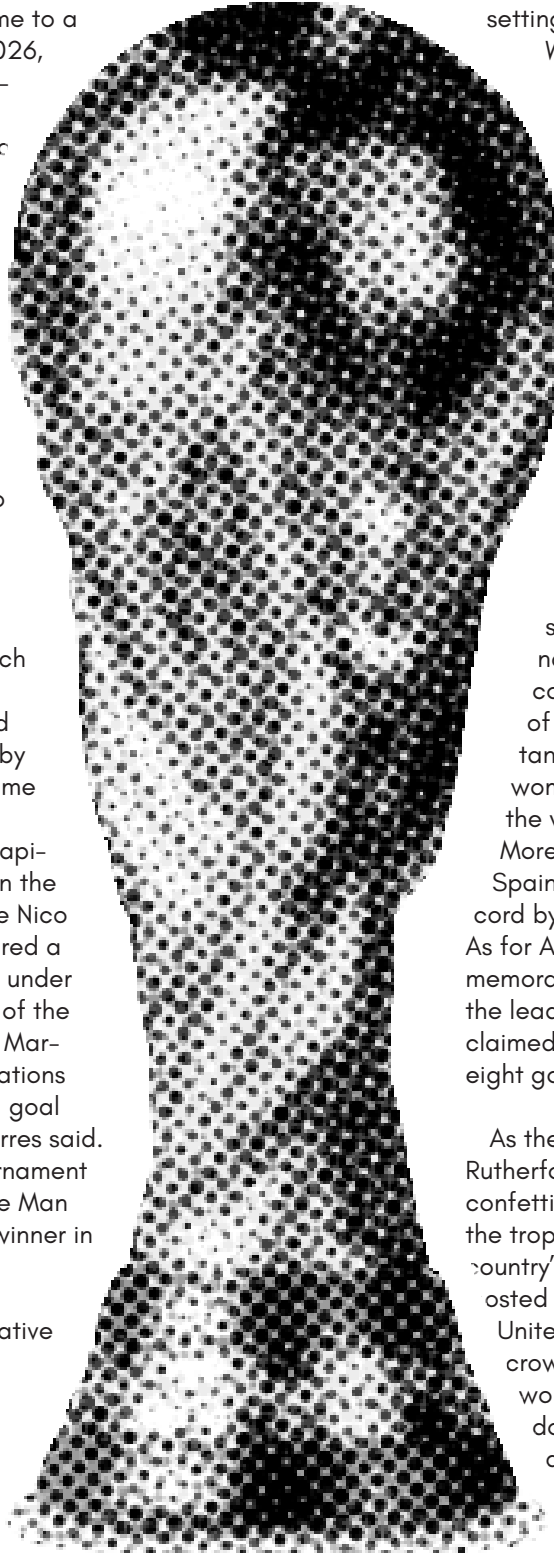
Ferran Torres scores 106th-minute winner to defeat Argentina

ASHLEY KERUBIN

SPORTS EDITOR

The 2026 FIFA World Cup came to a thrilling conclusion on July 19, 2026, at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, where the defending champions, Argentina were defeated 1-0 in extra time by La Roja (Spain). A sell out crowd of 80,663 fans, watched as La Roja dominated the field throughout the match both with the possession of the ball and with their tactics, resulting in outshooting Argentina 20-2. The match had an intense extra time since neither of the sides managed to score any goals during the first 90 minutes. Spain's impenetrable defence shined once again in the final, finishing a historic tournament performance in which it allowed only one goal across eight matches - setting a record for the fewest goals conceded by a World Cup champion. It all came down to the 106th minute, when substitute striker Ferran Torres capitalized on a ball that bounced in the penalty area after his teammate Nico Williams had headed it. Torres fired a left-footed volley that went just under the crossbar, beyond the reach of the Argentine goalkeeper, Emiliano Martínez, which led to great celebrations in the Spanish dugout. "It was a goal scored by 47 million people," Torres said. It was indeed an incredible tournament for Torres, who was declared the Man of the Match after scoring the winner in the final.

Despite Spain having the initiative going forward offensively, Argentina maintained their competitiveness largely due to an extraordinary individual performance from Martínez. The experienced goalkeeper made 11 saves during the game,



setting a record number of saves in a World Cup final. Martínez made crucial saves which included a diving save on a 22-yard free kick from 19-year-old winger Lamine Yamal. Nevertheless, Argentina suffered a huge setback toward the end of regular time, after midfielder Enzo Fernández was issued his second yellow card due to a reckless challenge against Spanish defender Pau Cubarsí. This forced Argentina to play the entire extra-time duration with 10 players.

The victory carries a historic significance in the world of international football. Spain has become the first country in the history of international soccer to simultaneously hold both the men's and women's World Cup titles, following the women's team victory in 2023. Moreover, the success has helped Spain break the previous European record by winning 38 consecutive games. As for Argentina, the final brought a memorable end to the tournament under the leadership of Lionel Messi, who claimed the Silver Boot after recording eight goals throughout the competition.

As the final whistle blew in East Rutherford, the field was littered with confetti, and the Spanish team lifted the trophy for the second time in the country's history. The 2026 World Cup, hosted across Canada, Mexico, and the United States, ended with Spain being crowned champions of the soccer world, establishing a new reign of dominance through young talents and extraordinary defence.

OLGA STEBLYK

Ready to wear the golden cape

Exploring the campus facilities and prep for fall sports at Laurier Brantford

ASHLEY KERUBIN
SPORTS EDITOR

As the fall term approaches, incoming and returning Golden Hawks are preparing to dive into campus athletics. Varsity team tryouts and registrations, tournament-based extramurals, and sport clubs usually open ahead of the September term.

For students eager to represent the Golden Hawks during the 2026-27 athletic season,

understanding how tryouts operate, when to register, and whom to approach is the first step toward securing a roster spot.

Students who are interested in competing at the varsity level—such as Varsity Cross Country or Varsity Men's and Women's Indoor Soccer—can fill out an online recruitment questionnaire through the Laurier Athletics Prospective Student-Athletes Hub and must complete required pre-registration forms before attending open tryouts held early in the term.

Head Coach Jesse Asiedu leads the indoor soccer program, while Head Coach Kara Hughes coaches the cross-country squad. Except for football, varsity teams host open tryouts where walk-ons are welcome to demonstrate their skills.

Students looking out for extramural sports, such as Ice Hockey, Basketball, or Volleyball, must register before taking part in tryouts or practice sessions. Students can access registration guidelines on the Laurier Brantford Extramural Resources Portal.

Following selection, extramural athlete registration fees will include

tournament fees, team transportation, practice space, uniforms, and year-end banquet awards. The registration fee for players is set at \$235 for court sports and \$330 for ice hockey. Additionally, students have an opportunity to engage in student-run sport clubs, including Women's Flag Football and KAOS Dance Club.

Accessing the athletic system is made straightforward by reaching out directly to department staff.

Students with any queries concerning the regulations of the leagues, dates of tryouts, or creation of clubs may seek guidance from Hughes, who serves as the Coordinator of Recreation and Student Life, or Kristin Fernandes, the Manager of Interuniversity Sport and Recreation.

Full contact details are available on the Laurier Brantford Staff Directory page. Alternatively, students can reach out to the student recreation

coordinators at the YMCA membership desk.

The core of campus sports activities revolves around the Laurier Brantford YMCA, situated at 100 Water Street across from Harmony Square. The facility includes an aquatics centre with a two-tank pool, a double gymnasium with seating capacity of 860 people, a single gymnasium, three fitness studios, and a fully equipped training centre. This school year, Laurier Brantford will host three major home tournaments. Extramural volleyball hosted by the Golden Hawks takes place on Nov. 19, 2026, extramural basketball on Feb. 12, 2027, both at the LBYMCA Double Gym, while extramural hockey REC Cup regionals take place on March 4, 2027, at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre. All the tryout schedules and sign-up forms are regularly updated on the Laurier Brantford Tryouts Page.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / JEREMY VYN

Two World Cup Finals Weekends, Two Very Different Vibes

England-France gave us entertainment. Argentina-Spain gave us a lecture on defense.

JAHNAVI JAGDEO

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

By the time the 2026 World Cup wrapped up in New York and New Jersey, most of us had already seen our best game of the tournament — and surprisingly, it was not the final.

England's 6-4 win over France in the third-place playoff on July 18, 2026, was chaos in the best way. Declan Rice opened the scoring in the third minute with a curling effort from distance, then set up Ezri Konsa's header from a corner minutes later. Bukayo Saka added two more before halftime, putting England up 4-0 at the break. It should have been over.

France did not agree. Kylian Mbappé scored twice in the second half, Bradley Barcola added another, and suddenly a comfortable scoreline was 4-3 with 25 minutes left.

Saka completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot to settle his nerves, but France kept running. Ousmane Dembélé pulled one back in the 96th minute before Jude Bellingham finished the game with a stoppage-time goal to make it 6-4. Ten goals, two comebacks, and neither team played it safe for a single minute. It was England's best World Cup finish since 1966, and it looked like it deserved to be.

Compare that to the final the next day. Spain beat Argentina 1-0 in extra time, and while the scoreboard calls it a win, the game itself told a different story.

Spain dominated from the opening whistle, 20 shots to Argentina's two, and an expected goals count of nearly 2.0 against Argentina's 0.2. Argentina didn't manage a single shot in 90 minutes of regulation. Not one.

Emiliano Martínez kept the game

scoreless with a tournament-record 11 saves, but a goalkeeper having the game of his life is usually a sign the team in front of him isn't doing much. Enzo Fernández picked up a second yellow card and got sent off right before extra time, and from there it was just a matter of when, not if, Spain would break through. Ferran Torres did it in the 106th minute, and that was that. Here's the thing about Argentina in that final: it did not look like Argentina.

This is a team that won a World Cup, two Copa Americas, and built its identity from the group up by finding a way to make a game ugly and dragging opponents into it with them. Against Spain, they never did any of that. No shots, no real chances, no fight in midfield. Lionel Messi, likely playing his final World Cup match, didn't have the service to do anything with him. It wasn't Argentina losing a final. It was Argentina barely showing up to one.

That's the difference. England and France played like the game mattered more than the result. Spain and Argentina played like the result mattered more than anyone remembering the game. One of those weekends reminded fans why they love watching soccer. While the other gave fans a final score.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / CANVA





The Infinitum

(n.) Stories beyond the orbit

Route 33

MCKENZIE MARTIN

INFINITUM EDITOR

Deep within the woods, a pathway was forming.

Trees began to lean away from each other as if pushed by an invisible hand, so far that their roots broke through the ground and searched for air and water.

Any plants that weren't so lucky as to be that large were trampled down by unseen feet, stomped upon until they became one with the dirt once again.

This unseeable force would move swiftly through an area at the height of the day, when most creatures were shielding themselves from the sun.

Those who did witness this flurry of destruction were called crazy, until there was a clear line running from one end of the forest and almost reaching the other.

The woodland creatures gathered, for fear that they had let this go too far. Migration patterns were interrupted, homes destroyed.

If this force flattened such a section of the forest floor, what was to say it would be satisfied with just that? Maybe it would grow bored of plants and start crushing them instead.

But how do you stop something you cannot see?

One brave fawn volunteered himself as the one who would save their forest. He was confident he could stop the force with just his strength; his antlers had just begun growing in. He would be the hero. Not even the mighty bears nor prideful lynxes wanted to test death.

But behind his back, they snickered that he was bait. If a creature stood in its way, they may actually see it.

So, the fawn stood at the edge of the destruction, his hooves touching the crushed fauna. Everyone else hid to either side, hushed murmurs echoing around him.



MCKENZIE MARTIN / INFINITUM EDITOR

For hours, there was absolutely nothing. High noon had come and gone, and the sky had faded into a lavender haze. The crowd had grown quiet and tired.

The fawn's thin legs shook, but he could still feel eyes on him, so he could not falter. The force had yet to reach the end of the forest, it would have to arrive sooner or later.

After a few more hours, the sky had grown dark and his poor weary eyes were slowly drifting closed; he had to blink hard to fight sleep away. He almost didn't believe it when he saw two beams of light speeding toward him faster than any creature he had ever seen.

His eyes opened wide now, glued to the light. Suddenly all his confidence dissipated.

He tried to run, but his hooves would not budge. They were burning, burning hotter than he had ever felt before as a black liquid spread out from beneath him, sizzling and stick-

ing to everything it touched.

He tried to scream, but found his tongue utterly useless, a noxious-smelling gas filling his mouth. Any words he once had were now gone. And the lights showed no sign of stopping.

The fawn angled his trembling head, pointing his budding antlers towards the force, but it was already too late. A weight beyond his imagination crashed into him.

As the last of the air was squeezed out of his lungs, those bright lights filled his entire vision.

For just a moment, they were his whole world.

From that night onwards, not a single woodland creature dared to step foot near the path. The birds did not even want to fly over it.

The fawn had disappeared, and in his wake a pool of inky blood began spreading like a sickness, paving the road that divided their forest and them.

Do Not Finish the Book



NORA EDLUND

LEAD INFINITUM WRITER

MCKENZIE MARTIN / INFINITUM EDITOR

Throughout my teen years my mother would tell me this often, and the majority of the time it was confusing. I must admit she always says things that sound crazy, so I took it with a grain of salt.

The book she was talking about was something she gave to me as a child to use like a journal. It had the word "Life" on the cover.

It was my haven, honestly; I felt ecstatic every chance I got to fulfill my writer's desires. It felt like a young poet's dream in a corny way. I always dreamed about becoming a writer, but something felt off about that idea, so it changed. That was until I got this book, I cannot even explain it. It is like it has a hold on me, and I am enraptured by it.

I write about my life and what I have done, but then again, it is that constantly inconsolable feeling like I am talking to myself half of the time for unknown answers.

Time went by and I am older now. I still have the book with me, but now it feels like a burden weighs over me when I hold it. Whenever I have it in my possession, instead of socializing, I habituate myself in my room locked away from the world.

A month has passed by and I stopped writing in it because I realized I had only four pages left. I thought to myself, "Huh? I swear there was just more pages in here yesterday?" I was so confused, but then continued my day

as usual.

Later on I was cooking in the kitchen and then, BOOM! A loud crash came from the living room.

I screamed so loudly and grabbed the first thing I had, which was a rolling pin, and headed towards the living room slowly.

My breathing was insufferable and I started to panic because there could be an intruder.

As soon as I got to the living room, there was no one there except my book that fell on the ground. "Weird."

As moments passed by, I felt a gnawing feeling was growing inside me like a parasite does to its prey.

Out of nowhere, "Ringggg!"

God, my phone scared me. Who could genuinely be calling me now? But I did not really care in that moment.

I got back to the book and when I reached the last official page I had written, there were only two pages left.

"It could not hurt to finish the book," I thought to myself.

I started pouring out my heart and soul into these pages, announcing my voice across the lines on the sheets in front of me.

Dreams, aspirations, goals, and thoughts.

It felt like I regained my sense of desire once more.

I wanted to keep going again and finally pursue this passion, but right as I found the voice I wanted to come out, a different voice came out instead.

"You finished the book."

I glanced up from the page and finally understood what my mother meant: finishing my chapter of existence.

The Oddity

Oddly enough, nobody panicked

MALLIKA BADWAL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Daniel burst into The Oddity office like a man whose house was on fire. "It's gone."

Jamie looked up from her laptop. "What's gone?"

"My article. The investigative piece. Three months of work. Gone."

"Gone where?"

"If I knew that, Jamie, it wouldn't be missing."

Theo didn't look up from his screen. "Did you check the trash folder?"

"Of course I checked the trash folder, I'm not an idiot." Silence.

"Okay, I checked it twice just now, but that's not the point."

Jamie leaned back in her chair, a small smile playing at her lips.

"So what's the plan?" Daniel's eyes narrowed.

"We investigate."

Twenty minutes later, Jamie had constructed what could only be described as a conspiracy theorist's wet dream. Red string connected printed screenshots, sticky notes, and a photo of the office printer. In the center: a picture of Daniel looking vaguely constipated.

"See the pattern?" Jamie gestured wildly at the board.

Lena squinted. "That's... a picture of Daniel."

"Exactly. The victim is always at the center."

"Jamie, this looks like you're about to accuse him of killing JFK."

"I'm not ruling anything out." Across the room, Theo had his laptop open, scrolling through version history with more focus than when he does lay-outs. "Last edit was Tuesday at 11:47 PM," he announced. "By Daniel."

Daniel rushed over. "What does that mean?"

"It means you were the last person to touch it before it vanished into the digital void."

"That's not helpful, Theo."

"I'm aware." Theo's fingers flew across the keyboard. "Also, you named the file 'FINAL_FINAL_v3_AC-TUAL_FINAL.docx.'"

"Your point?"

"My point is that's psychotic."

Lena was deep in her phone, scrolling with the intensity of someone searching for the meaning of life. Ollie peered over her shoulder. "What are you doing?"

"Checking if anyone posted about it. Maybe someone hacked us. Maybe it's on Reddit."

"Why would someone steal Daniel's article and post it on Reddit?"

"I don't know, Ollie! Clout? Chaos? Revenge?"

"Who would want revenge on Daniel?" They both looked at Daniel, who was currently arguing with Theo about file-naming conventions.

"Fair point," Ollie admitted. Speaking of Ollie, he'd taken it upon himself to interview the entire staff.

He cornered an intern near the coffee machine. "Where were you Tuesday night at 11:47 PM?"

The intern blinked. "Asleep?"

"Can anyone verify that?"

"You...my roommate?"

Ollie scribbled in a notebook.

"Convenient." Jamie interrupted them, pulling Ollie by his sweatshirt and then suddenly reached into her camera bag and pulled out her camera.

"Here," she said, handing it to Ollie. "Take some pictures around the office. If someone is doing anything sneaky, get evidence."

Ollie looked down at the camera. "You trust me with this?"

"I trust you to point it at things," Jamie said. "That's about as far as it goes."

"Got it."

"And don't touch my settings."

"Wouldn't dream of it."

A few hours later, Jamie took the camera back as the investigation finally began winding down. She

frowned when she checked the display.

"Why is my SD card full?"

Ollie looked up innocently. "Full?"

"It says there are 347 photos."

Jamie started scrolling. Her expression slowly fell. His sandwich from six angles. His coffee. A close-up of a cookie. His fork. His empty lunch container.

She looked at him. "Ollie."

He shrugged. "You said to document anything suspicious."

"Your lunch is suspicious?"

"You didn't specify."

By hour two, the office had descended into complete chaos. Jamie had added more string. Daniel stood in the middle of it all, looking like a man on the edge.

"This is a disaster. We go to print in four hours and my article is gone—"

"Oh, we're fine," Julia said, not looking up from her laptop.

Everyone froze.

"What?!" Daniel's voice cracked.

"I sent the file to print on Monday."

"You... what?"

Julia finally looked up, smiling. "You finished it last week. I sent it Monday. We've been ready to print for three days."

More silence. Jamie gestured weakly at the detective board. "So this was all..."

"Completely pointless? Yes."

Theo closed his laptop. "I'm going home."

Lena looked at her phone. "I just spent two hours on Reddit for nothing."

Daniel just stood there, processing. Julia shrugged. "In my defense, I did think it was funny."

"I'm quitting," Daniel muttered.

"No you're not."

"...No, I'm not."

*Stay tuned for the
next issue on
www.thesputnik.ca*

The ODDITY



Story Time Through a Blade

The Grim Sleeper

NORA EDLUND

LEAD INFINITUM WRITER

Content Advisory

Please be advised that the following content contains references to sexual assault and rape. Reader discretion is advised. If you or someone you know has been affected by sexual violence, support and confidential resources are available:

Sexualized Assault Response Team:

844-967-7275

Hello, my fellow enthusiasts, welcome to Story Time through a Blade, where we will discover and address a variety of murderers around the world!

For the month of September, the person I've chosen was someone who died on death row in 2020. While his name may be lengthy, it doesn't compare to the number of unsufferable things he's done. I am talking about the one and only Mr. Lonnie David Franklin Jr., also known famously as, The Grim Sleeper.

Let's start from the top, shall we?

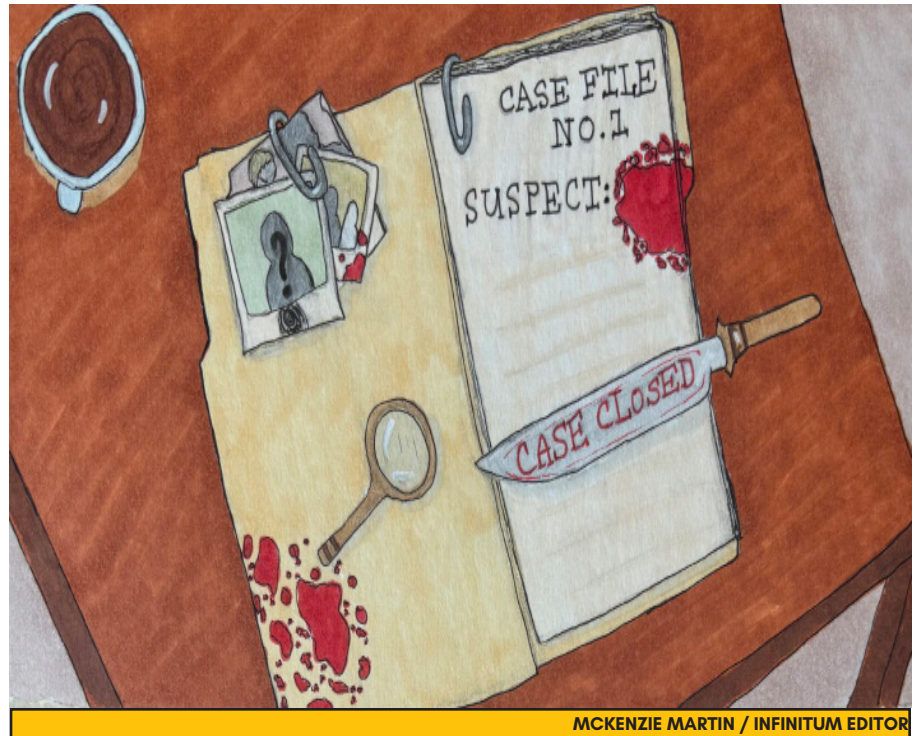
We're going to start by painting a picture in August 1952, in South Central, Los Angeles where little Lonnie lived his best life and grew into a strong man.

Fast forward about 20 years later, to 1974, and Lonnie is now 21 years old and in the military in Germany.

During his late 20s, he settled down, found his wife, and had two children.

From the public's perspective, they seemed like they were a perfect family. He was genuinely a nice neighbor and got along with everyone. Lonnie had a stable job at the Police Department along with two side gigs as a mailman and a garbage attendant.

While others may cautiously view



MCKENZIE MARTIN / INFINITUM EDITOR

him as a friendly and quiet neighbour, if you pull that bloody cover off him, it will reveal the truth about who Lonnie was as a person: a gruesome, stone-cold killer.

Let's try to get into the mind of Mr. Franklin to see what caused and influenced the first of many wrongdoings.

During his time in the military, Lonnie contributed to a brutal group rape of a young girl with two others in a remote location after the three individuals offered a ride home to her. Which is inhumane and unjust.

Throughout an abrupt fourteen-year hiatus, Mr. Franklin was assumed by the authorities to have just vanished, or shall I say disappeared from the scene of the crime.

What was he doing? Was he just spending time with family? Working at his police job? He was so reserved that not many could tell.

Within that said fourteen-year hiatus, he not only collected over 1000 photos of women, but was heavily active during his favorable quiet sprees

Ecstatic from the quiet identity he portrayed among others, Lonnie gained the name Grim Sleeper due to his becoming like a secret agent with a double life, but instead of a minimal approach, he took it to the extreme by seeking out victims in the night and fulfilling his nauseating desires.

Going back on something said earlier, we only talked briefly about one victim, but that was just the beginning of an insufferable amount of encounters many women went through, which is truly horrifying in many ways.

Mr. Franklin was not only a man who seemed like a kind husband and dad, but instead someone who used a blade as a voice to conduct his retribution. One switch was all it took for that spark of evil desire to pursuit into a fiery passion.

Without further disclosure, this session is officially closed, and remember, without a blade you don't have a case. Until next time...

Stay Tuned for the

Orbiting Love: Cosmic Council

He showed up an hour early in a bow tie.

JAHNAVI JAGDEO

ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

Please note that the following story has been submitted anonymously, with names and details changed for privacy.

So, I moved to Brantford recently for music school. There was this guy in my class — let's call him Gaven. We became kind of friendly. One day he mentioned a sushi place downtown his friends were going to and asked if I wanted to come. I said sure.

The day before, he said his friends cancelled but asked if I still wanted to go. I didn't really want to go just with him, but people-pleaser mode kicked in. I said okay. He offered to pick me up — I told him I'd rather drive. He said fine. We agreed on a time.

The next day he showed up to my apartment over an hour early. In a black satin bow tie. Yes, bow tie. Downtown is only 15 minutes away.

I didn't have the energy to confront him, so I just went along with it. I wore leggings and a zip-up because I didn't want to give off "date" energy. He opened my door like we were going to prom.

At the restaurant, I told him what roll I was thinking of trying. When the waiter came, he ordered for me. Something about that really irritated me. I gently said, "For future reference, I'll order for myself."

He goes, "Sorry, I've only been on two dates before."

I said, "This isn't a date."

He looked like I'd kicked his dog. I felt bad, but also kind of mad.

He ignored my boundaries, came early, and picked me up anyway. Some people think there were never any "friends" in the first place,

and they might be right.

When the bill came, I asked to split it. He offered to pay. I said no. He asked if I wanted to walk around a record store after. I said to just take me home.

Was I too harsh? AITA? Am I the asshole?

Hey, Jahnavi here.

Reading your bad date submission, and I have a verdict: You are kind of wrong.

Let's run through it. He cancelled the group plans, showed up an hour early in a bow tie for a 15-minute walk downtown, opened your car door and ordered your food for you. Was that a bit much? Absolutely. But from his perspective, every sign pointed to it being a date. When the group plans fell through, you still agreed to go one-on-one. Even if you only said yes because your people-pleaser mode kicked in, he had no way of knowing that.

Where I think you went wrong was waiting until you were already sitting at dinner to tell him, "This isn't a date." That probably would have

stung anyone, especially after he'd clearly put effort into the evening. A quick text beforehand saying you were only interested in hanging out as friends would have saved both of you a lot of awkwardness.

That said, he wasn't perfect either. Ordering your food for you crossed a line, and showing up an hour early was definitely... a choice. But neither of those things changes the fact that you knew you didn't want this to be a date and still went along with it without clearing things up.

So where do I think you stand? You're pretty guilty. Not because you weren't interested in him, but because you let him believe something that wasn't true until you were already halfway through dinner. Next time, a simple "I'd love to hang out as friends, but I don't want this to come across as a date" would save everyone the embarrassment.

Got a bad date?

EMAIL US AT
arts@thesputnik.ca



The Use of Waterfront in Brantford vs Paris

Two towns share a river. Only one built a downtown around it

TAYTEN HUFF

LEAD ARTS AND CULTURE WRITER

While driving through Paris, Ont, what is the first thing you notice? The little shops lining the downtown streets? The people walking, smiling, stopping to chat with a neighbour walking their dog? Do you notice the history? The restaurants with the name painted over a sign that has probably held eight names before? Have you taken the time to look at the train bridge going over the river? The dam? The people fishing? Their “meaningless” conversations that last for hours on end?

Now ask the same question about Brantford, Ont. What do you notice? The garbage lining the streets? The people experiencing homelessness rummaging through trash cans and shouting at pedestrians? Do you pay attention to all the little shops

that are desperately trying to stay in business while dealing with the limited, minimal foot traffic that lines downtown Brantford? Do you notice the tents and encampments lined along the river’s edge? Would you walk down the trails with no fear? The answer, subsequently, is probably not.

The Paris waterfront has been turned into a community almost separate from Paris itself. Restaurant patios overlook the Grand River; people walk down the trails, go fishing and swim without anxiety. The city of Paris has monopolized their waterfront and curated its downtown area around the river that flows between it.

Brantford, on the other hand, has done the complete opposite; they have built their downtown away from the river’s edge. They have torn down the footbridges and walking paths while forcing the unhoused down to the riverbank to keep them out of eyesight. Instead of using this natural

wonder to their advantage, they have completely dismissed it and treated the Grand River as some kind of massive inconvenience.

Minimal housing backs onto the river; any paths down are often found full of garbage or homeless encampments, and then the city officials are seemingly baffled that Brantford has been used as a “lead example of a failing downtown” and cited as a case study for urban decline.

In 2010, Brantford demolished over 40 buildings in an attempt to reconstruct downtown and spark new development. Now, we see the city plans to “revamp Brantford’s downtown,” but these plans never actually address the core issues seen in Brantford’s infrastructure.

This is not a new issue either; this issue has been persistent since the 1980s, when the Eaton Market

Square opened in 1986 and seemingly failed to compete with local urban small shops and foot traffic, and ceased operation in 1997. It takes a significant amount of financial loss to close an entire mall in central downtown only 12 years later, and yet we see the same problems persist today.

The city is putting Band-Aids on a completely shattered system and expecting the visual changes to spark change in the failing systems.

The Downtown Brantford Revitalization Project will fail the same as all the other projects have historically if the city does not fix and address the core issues which keep Brantford in a state of decay.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / HOWARD WALSH

The lack of free third-party spaces

When home and work are the only places left, where do young people go to just be?



TAYTEN HUFF

Arts & Culture Lead Writer

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / UNSPLASH

The term 'third space' is a sociological term made popular in the late 1980s by Ray Oldenburg in his book *The Great Good Place*. Oldenburg identifies two social spaces that hold significant importance for social development and identity.

The first space is the home, and the second space is the workplace. These are the spaces where the average person spends most of their time and gets most of their socialization.

But what happens when the third space is removed or inaccessible to young adults and youth? Oldenburg and his co-author Karen Christensen identified seven characteristics of a third-party space;

1. Open and inviting.

You don't need an invitation or appointment, and you can come and go as you please.

2. Comfort

You feel that you belong there.

3. Convenience.

It's close enough to visit often, ideally right in your own neighborhood.

4. Unpretentious.

Everyone is on the same level, nothing fancy or, and it's not expensive.

5. Regulars.

People frequently visit and build rapport with the establishment.

6. Conversation.

Discussion, debate, and gossip are part of the mix.

7. Laughter

The mood is light-hearted and playful. Joking and witty banter are encouraged.

Cafes require you to make a purchase to sit inside; that purchase also does not grant unlimited access to the space but requires frequent purchases to stay. Public spaces downtown have become unsafe amid rising addiction rates. Brantwood Farms has

closed. Public pool prices have risen to the point where students can't afford a day pass. Even pickup sports like park baseball or street hockey are dissipating due to public perception.

One student claimed that the reason their neighbourhood has stopped playing games like street hockey is that neighbors have called the police for blocking the street instead of simply asking them to move. The world tells us to "go outside" and "touch grass," but as soon as we do, we're told to stop and ask to leave.

There is hostility when merely existing in public spaces. The result is a social decline, where students are afraid to leave home and socialize in groups because they are either going to be asked to leave by authorities, confronted by a member of the public, put in an unsafe situation or the activity itself costs too much.

If we want to see an increase in public activity and socialization, then we need to give people a safe, inclusive space to do so, and Brantford has nowhere for that to happen.

With love, from Jahnavi

What the numbers don't tell you

JAHNAVI JAGEDO

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Apparently, before you can leave the country, you have to sit down and count exactly what it costs to go and stay.

That's the part nobody tells you about the Laurier-Sussex program. Not the six-year structure, not the two degrees, not the photos of the Sussex campus tucked into the rolling South Downs. The part nobody tells you about is July — aka the month when the abstract idea of "going" turns into a spreadsheet, and the spreadsheet turns into you standing in your kitchen, phone in hand, trying not to cry.

I'm writing this from Canada, having just finished my second year at Wilfrid Laurier University. I was supposed to be a little more than a month away from starting my first year at the University of Sussex. I'm not anymore. The way the program works is that students spend years one and two at Laurier, then years three through five at Sussex, and finally year six back at Laurier. On

paper, it is an elegant six-year bridge to two degrees. In practice, July was a series of numbers that never quite settled, and a few too many gaps I had to fill in myself.

First, there is the UK student visa itself. The application costs 558 GBP (1,049.27 Cdn as per Oanda Currency Converter) whether you're applying from outside or inside the UK. Then there's the Immigration Health Surcharge, which isn't optional and isn't cheap. It costs about 776 GBP (1,459.21 Cdn as per Oanda Currency Converter) per year, meaning a three-year stay adds up to roughly 2,328 GBP (4,377.62 Cdn as per Oanda Currency Converter) in health surcharges alone, paid upfront before the visa is even granted.

And that's before the part that actually made me sit down on the kitchen floor: the NCA exams. Getting an LLB from the UK doesn't make you a Canadian lawyer, but it makes you eligible to ask the National Committee on Accreditation for permission to become one. The NCA application fee runs around \$400 Cdn, and

depending on your assessment, you'll typically need to complete six to nine subjects, either as courses or exams — each one with its own fee, its own study season and its own small toll on a timeline I thought was already set.

I spent a lot of July trying to find someone who could walk me through the total real cost of years three through five, and mostly ended up building the picture myself, piece by piece, at 11 p.m. That's not anyone's fault exactly. It's just a lot to piece together on your own when you're twenty and trying to plan six years out.

I ran the other option too: staying at Laurier and going straight into a Canadian law school, skipping Sussex, the surcharge and the NCA entirely. It was cheaper on the page. It was also, if I'm honest, the version I used to tell myself was the consolation prize — the one where I never find out what I'm capable of outside a 10-kilometre radius of my hometown.

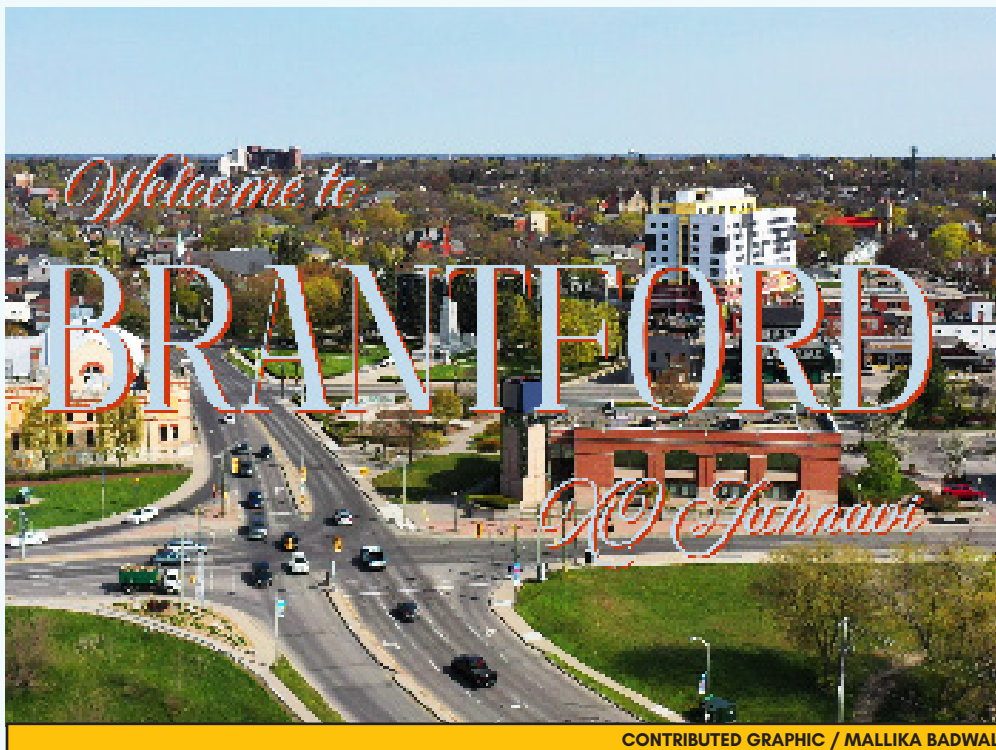
Some of my friends in the program made that choice this summer too.

I don't think less of them for it — the math is real, the exchange rate is real, and the loneliness of filling out immigration forms alone at your kitchen table is real.

In the end, the pressure I was feeling wasn't just a fear of change. It was the honest weight of the numbers, and the sense that I didn't have enough clarity to feel steady about them. There is a comfort in the known that does not show up on any spreadsheet. This time, that comfort won.

So I didn't pay the visa fee. In September, I'll be back at Laurier.

More from home soon,
XO Jahnavi



CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC / MALLIKA BADWAL

The ego in the eco-crisis

Climate change isn't humanity's biggest environmental problem; anthropocentrism is.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / AHMED GALAL

MALLIKA BADWAL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When we talk about the environmental crisis, we usually talk about climate change: rising sea levels, atmospheric carbon levels, and extreme weather. We treat the warming planet as the ultimate enemy to be defeated.

But climate change is not the root cause of our ecological breakdown. It is merely a symptom.

The true crisis is anthropocentrism, the deeply ingrained belief that human beings are the central, most important entity in the universe, and that the natural world exists primarily to serve us.

For centuries, humanity has operated under a narrative of domination. We do not view forests, rivers, and ecosystems as living networks with inherent value; we view them as “natural resources” only used for the disposal of humankind. The danger of misdiagnosing the problem is that our proposed “solutions” often stem from the exact same hubris that got us here.

Consider how we approach climate

action today. Much of the mainstream discourse focuses on how we can maintain our current levels of consumption and growth without the carbon emissions.

We champion massive geoengineering schemes, blocking out sunlight, spraying aerosols into the stratosphere, or building giant industrial air scrubbers to regulate the Earth's thermostat.

This is anthropocentrism at its peak. Rather than altering our behavior, shifting our economic priorities, or learning to live within ecological limits, we would rather turn the entire planet into a heavily managed, artificial life-support system.

We treat the Earth like a broken machine that just needs better human engineering, rather than a complex biological system we have suffocated.

Even our conservation efforts often fall into this trap. We save forests because they act as “carbon sinks” for our emissions. We protect bees because they pollinate our crops. We calculate the worth of nature almost

entirely through its utility to humanity. But when a species or ecosystem has no direct economic or survival value to us, it is quietly allowed to vanish.

If we miraculously solve climate change through technology tomorrow, but keep our human-centered worldview, we will still face ecological collapse. We will still pave over topsoil, drain aquifers, pollute oceans with plastic, and drive biodiversity into mass extinction. We will simply do it in a comfortable, climate-controlled environment.

Climate change forced us to realize that our actions have consequences. But until we break free from anthropocentrism, we are merely trying to manage the symptoms of a fatal worldview.

True sustainability requires more than switching energy sources; it requires a fundamental humbling of the human ego. We judge our worth using self-serving standards, forgetting nature needs nothing from us, but we need everything from nature. We are not the authors of the planet we are just one thread in its web.

Turn the page or swipe?

What is really better: physical or digital?

NIBHI SHARMA
VOLUNTEER WRITER

Walk into almost any classroom or library, and you will hear the same advice: If you really want to understand what you are reading, pick up a physical book. Many studies have found that reading on paper can improve comprehension, especially for long or complex texts. Paper books also reduce eye strain, eliminate digital distractions, and make it easier for readers to remember where information appeared on a page. Because of this, physical books are often viewed as the better choice for learning.

However, for the sake of creating a balanced debate,

It is worth asking an important question:

Is reading on screen always less effective?

The answer is not as simple as many people think. Recent research suggests that the difference between paper and screens depends often on reading habits rather than the formats themselves. For casual reading — like novels or short articles — many studies reveal little to no difference in comprehension between paper and digital formats.

Frequent users of digital devices often adapt to reading electronically, making the screen feel just as natural as a printed page. The biggest challenge with digital reading is not

always the screen itself; instead, it is the distractions from notifications, social media, emails, and dozens of open browser tabs that constantly compete for our attention.

By minimizing these distractions through features like full-screen mode or “Reader View,” digital reading can become much more focused. The way we use digital devices also matters. Long pages that require endless scrolling can make it harder to remember where information appeared because our brains use the layout of a page as a memory guide.

Methods like reading one page at a time, adjusting text size and choosing a comfortable font can improve comprehension. Many also find that adjusting screen brightness, using dark mode or night mode, and taking regular breaks reduces eye strain and aids concentration.

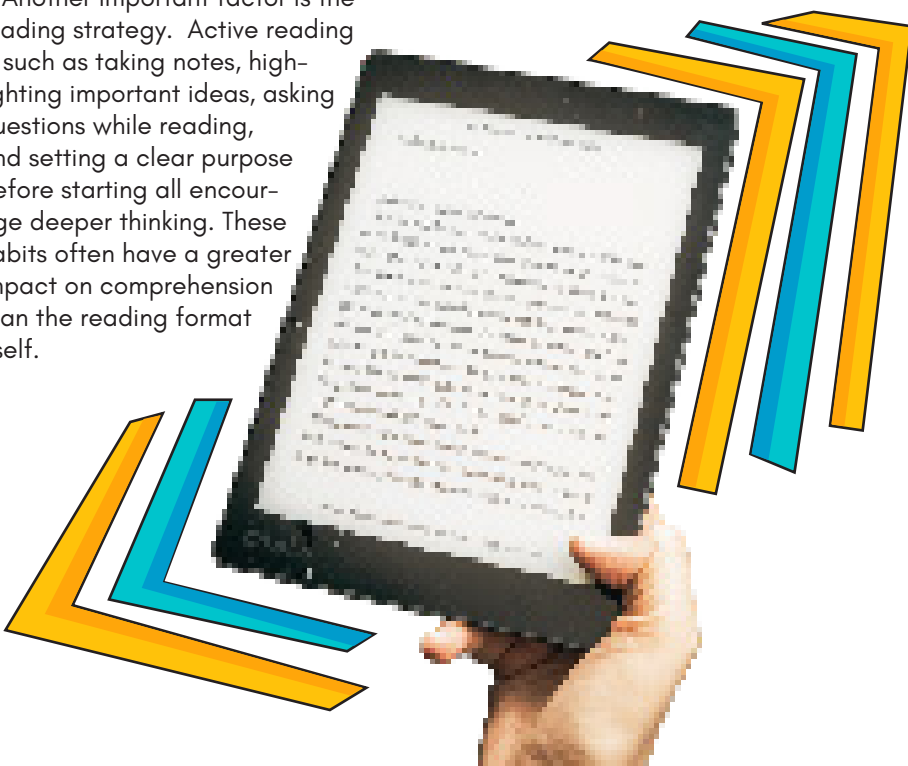
Furthermore, technology has introduced dedicated reading devices like Kindles and Kobos. These e-readers use e-ink displays that mimic paper, minimize the bright glare, and provide a user experience similar to physical books.

Another important factor is the reading strategy. Active reading — such as taking notes, highlighting important ideas, asking questions while reading, and setting a clear purpose before starting all encourage deeper thinking. These habits often have a greater impact on comprehension than the reading format itself.

This does not diminish the value of physical books. Research continues to show that paper is often the better choice for studying dense academic material, reviewing detailed information, or reading for long periods without interruptions. Physical books also encourage slower, more thoughtful reading, which can support deeper learning.

At the same time, it would be unfair to say that digital reading is automatically less effective. When distractions are minimized, the display is optimized and readers use active reading strategies; screens can provide comprehension that is similar to paper for many types of reading. Rather than asking whether one format is better than the other, a better question may be: Which format works best for the task and the individual reader?

In the end, both paper books and screens have strengths. Instead of treating them as competitors, we should recognize that each has a place in modern reading. The best choice depends on the purpose, the reader’s habits, and the environment in which they are reading.



Feeling out of place during O-Week?

Making friends in university takes time and that is completely okay

LUKE RUSCICA
VISUALS EDITOR

When you think of your first year, what do you think of first? If you're a first-year, what are your most fond memories since your arrival at Laurier Brantford?

Chances are you think of Orientation week. Orientation week is an essential part of the first-year process at Laurier and many other universities across the country. It helps engage the first-year population through tours, events, and more. For most students, this is a memorable, enjoyable experience where program-long connections are formed.

But does its fast-paced, hyper-social structure work for all students to find their community, and does the extensive messaging surrounding it make it feel like this is the only opportunity to form that community.

When I first came to WLU, what I was told the most by the University was that O-Week was the time to make friends and socialize and that it would be a lot harder later. This made the week feel like a challenge to find a sense of belonging as I struggled with social anxiety and self-doubt.

Any attempt I made to socialize never went anywhere, and I never really found that sense of belonging we are all told should be possible to achieve during O-Week. By the end, it felt like all the bubbles were formed, and any attempt to interact with a pre-established friend group felt extremely awkward and was underscored by self-doubt: "What if they hate me?" "Do they think I'm weird?"

Ultimately, the reason I wanted to explain my experience was so any first-year (or any student for that matter) who is going through or went through a similar experience of not being able to form those connections can have a different perspective than



CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC / LUKE RUSCICA

the one told by the University and not feel like this is your last chance. The current method of marketing O-Week, I believe, paints a false picture of the nature of forming connections especially for quieter and more reserved individuals.

The ability to find friends and form a community should not be listed as something bound to happen during O-Week but rather a natural result of being involved on campus over a long period of time. It allows students to view the entire year as a chance to explore the campus and make connections rather than selling an idealistic scenario through high-energy events at the beginning of the year.

However, I want to help provide some ways you can try to form connections on campus. The first part, I believe, is patience to let friendships and connections grow naturally and to be happy with yourself in the meantime.

A great way to meet
people is to get involved
on campus

by joining clubs and participating in events to meet like-minded people.

However, unlike what is pitched in movies, shows and O-Week advertisements, friendships can take time to form and be awkward at first. But sticking through that and having the confidence to suggest going to an event together or getting something to eat to break the ice is hard but can lead to fond memories, whether or not the friendship becomes long-term.

If you push through and put yourself out there, you eventually form meaningful connections and gain fond memories along the way.

The Backrooms of Laurier Brantford

PHOTOS BY ISAAC HALSEY AND DIMA EL-HAJAR

The 2026 indie-horror film *Backrooms* has become a cultural sensation, achieving worldwide commercial success and grossing over 300 million dollars at the box office. A central reason for the film's popularity is its' unsettling set design that evokes fear, nostalgia, and discomfort in viewers. *Backrooms* uses what are known as "liminal spaces" to achieve this effect.

Meridian University defines the term "liminal spaces" as "a place of transition, an in-between space that exists on the boundary of what came before and what has not yet arrived." Long and endless hallways, empty rooms with strange architecture, and areas where time can't be immediately identified are all examples of liminal spaces.

Given the size and lack of visual development of One Market; which used to be a shopping mall until Laurier purchased it for the Brantford Campus in 2014, many of the shots we captured feel eerily similar to those depicted in 'Backrooms'.





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We need volunteers. Not garbage ones. Good ones.

The ones who send their first drafts to mommy.

The kind who uses Thesaurus.com to look up synonyms. Like, all the time and then spend twenty minutes debating the subtle nuance between melancholy and wistful.

The insecure type. The cocky type. The self-deprecating witty ones who use sarcasm as a structural column.

The kids who take strong, ruinous stances on the Oxford comma.

The photographers who spend hours choosing three photos from the thousands they've taken.

The digital artists who zoom in at 800%, detailing a single pixel that literally nobody else will ever notice.

We want excellent linguists and visual snobs who see squiggly red spellcheck lines and unaligned vectors in their nightmares—and then fix them.

Without waking up.

We want people who write good. Spell good. Frame good. Design good.

Your WPM should be over 100.

Your layer count should be in the triple digits.

You should be judging the line breaks and font choices of this ad as you read it. You should be wishing you made it instead of us because you could have done it better, right?

Would you have used more semicolons? Or at least adjusted the line spacing, yes?

Right answer.

You should keep people hanging off of every word, frame, and pixel.

Sound familiar?

Go to www.thesputnik.ca to apply today!

TheSputnik



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