



Celebrating Polish Heritage Month at BCHS

In 2021, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario passed Bill 18, officially declaring May as Polish Heritage Month. This month honours the contributions of Polish Canadians to Ontario's history, culture, and democratic life, while also raising awareness of their struggles and achievements. Timed with the May 3rd anniversary of the 1791 Polish Constitution—a date celebrated worldwide—Polish Heritage Month features flag-raising ceremonies, cultural events, and community gatherings across the province. With over half a million people of Polish heritage, Ontario is home to one of the largest Polish Canadian communities in Canada.

Polish immigration to Canada began in 1774 as people fled political oppression in Europe. Early settlers arrived in Western Canada, with later generations moving east to Ontario and Quebec. By the early 1900s, Brantford's booming farm-implement industry drew many Polish immigrants. By 1902, their presence marked the beginning of a vibrant local community that helped shape the city's cultural identity. The Polish community brought with them a lasting legacy of hard work, faith, and perseverance that continues to resonate in Brantford today.

Learn more about the **Polish community in Brantford** (Brantford Public Library)

