

City of Racine, Wisconsin
Office of the Mayor
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Racine to Welcome Brantford as Canadian Sister City

Racine, WI – Racine welcomes visitors from its Sister Cities for the community's Fourth of July and America's 250th anniversary celebrations, the City will officially welcome Brantford, Ontario, Canada, as Racine's Canadian Sister City during a signing ceremony on Monday, July 6, at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread.

The agreement formalizes a partnership between the two communities, creating new opportunities for cultural, educational, economic, and civic exchange while celebrating a connection that has existed for more than a century.

As the home of SC Johnson's global headquarters and the home of the company's Canadian headquarters, Racine and Brantford have long shared ties through one of the company's most enduring international relationships. That shared history makes Brantford a natural addition to Racine's network of Sister Cities.

The partnership began with a conversation between Mayor Cory Mason and Brantford Mayor Kevin Davis at a Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative conference. Recognizing the shared responsibility of Great Lakes communities, the two mayors discussed protecting one of the world's most important freshwater resources and the value of strong local relationships. Their shared commitment to stewardship and collaboration, amid uncertainty between national governments, inspired the Sister City agreement celebrated today.

"This new Sister City relationship comes at a time when the President of the United States divisively referred to Canada as the '51st state.' Racine rejects that notion," said Mayor Cory Mason. "Partnerships like this are more important than ever because they remind us that the people of Racine and Brantford, and of the United States and Canada, are better served when our relationships are built on mutual respect, friendship, and a shared commitment to one another."

The Sister City partnership is expected to encourage collaboration in education, arts and culture, tourism, economic development, municipal government, environmental stewardship, and community organizations. By connecting residents and institutions across borders, both cities

hope to foster lasting friendships while sharing ideas, best practices, and new opportunities for collaboration.

The signing ceremony will be held at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, an internationally recognized conference center founded by the Johnson family to bring people together to generate ideas with a positive, lasting impact. The setting also reflects the longstanding connection between Racine and Brantford through SC Johnson, whose history spans both communities.

The City extends its sincere appreciation to the Racine Sister Cities Commission, its volunteers, community partners, and the City of Brantford for the time and dedication invested in establishing this new partnership. Their collaboration has laid the foundation for a relationship that will benefit both communities for years to come.

Brantford becomes Racine's first Canadian Sister City, expanding the City's international network and reaffirming its commitment to building relationships that benefit residents at home and abroad. The partnership builds on the mission of the Sister Cities program, which promotes peace, prosperity, and mutual understanding through citizen diplomacy and meaningful exchanges among communities worldwide.

Brantford joins Racine's existing Sister Cities: Aalborg, Denmark; Montélimar, France; Zapotlanejo, Mexico; and Oiso, Japan. Together, these partnerships foster cultural understanding, educational opportunities, and lasting friendships that enrich each community.

Media Event

What: Sister City Agreement Signing Ceremony

When: Monday, July 6, 2026

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Where:

The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread
33 East Four Mile Road
Wind Point, WI 53402

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Racine, Wisconsin, is a thriving city located on Lake Michigan with a rich history and diverse population of about 78,000. Known for its historic downtown, award-winning architecture, top freshwater beach, strong community, and notable contributions to history and innovation, Racine is a wonderful place to live, work, and explore. From its progressive history as part of the Underground Railroad to its status as the Kringle Capital of America, there's always something new to discover in Racine.