

The Paris Independent

Issue #239

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(RUBYYY JONES' PHOTO)

Sweet success at the fairgrounds — Lion Ted, Lion Margaret, Lion Derrick and Lion Airie help keep things buzzing at the 50/50 stand during the Paris Maple Syrup Festival on April 11. The annual event drew thousands of visitors. See Page 3 for more photos.

Sweet success at Maple Syrup Fest

RUBYYY JONES

Cultural Correspondent

It was a sweet return to spring in Paris on Saturday as the Paris Lions Club hosted its annual Maple Syrup Festival. The long-running community favourite brings together residents and visitors for a day of entertainment, local connections and, of course, plenty of pancakes.

This year marks the 13th Maple Syrup Festival and the second time the event has been held

at the Paris Fairgrounds. The Lions Club of Paris made the move in 2025 due to the Downtown Dig, and the new location has opened the door for expansion — including more vendors, additional food trucks, and the option for indoor space when the weather turns especially Spring-like.

The weather was quintessentially Spring, bright and blustery, marking the first sunny Maple Syrup Festival in a while, which made outdoor dining possible. People who chose

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Roundabouts Coming to 403 Interchange

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Reconstruction work at the Highway 403 and Rest Acres Road (Highway 24) interchange is underway, with provincial officials aiming to improve traffic flow and safety through the installation of new roundabouts but a lack of clear communication is leaving many local residents frustrated.

The project, led by Ontario's Ministry of Transportation (MTO), will replace existing ramp terminals with two roundabouts, while also realigning ramps and upgrading drainage, landscaping and lighting infrastructure. The work is intended to accommodate increasing traffic volumes and support future employment land development in the area.

Pre-construction activity began in mid-March, with clearing work now complete and construction in progress. Intermittent ramp closures are scheduled for April 13 to 17 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., with motorists advised to expect delays and monitor updates through the provincial 511 service.

According to information shared by the County of Brant through its Engage Brant mailing list, impacts on Rest Acres Road are expected to be minimal, though occasional traffic flagging may occur. Ramp closures will generally take place on weekends for shorter durations,

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Paris Maple Fest delivers sweet treats and strong turnout

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to sit outside on the picnic tables, by the Special Events building, were able to enjoy their food while taking in the mainstage entertainment which included: SINGit youth singers, line dancing with Joan Minery - including an international line dancing flash mob - and music sets from Danielle Beaudin and Thompson Road Band. Food trucks, including the Lions breakfast wagon, and the pop-up stage created a perimeter around the picnic tables, giving some shelter from the wind and roving entertainment from Doug The Great and cast members from The Glass Slipper Company kept

things sunny and cheery too.

Inside the Special Events buildings, several stations and dedicated areas kept things running smoothly. A small indoor dining space was supported by Scouts Canada, who bused tables, kept everything maple syrup-free, and helped the Lions maintain a tidy, organized space—it was a sticky task, but the Scouts handled it with ease. Lions Club members staffed the 50/50 draw station, won by Suzanne Craig-Whytock, and also managed the welcome desk at the main entrance, where visitors could find Lions literature and information on volunteering, joining and supporting the club.



Gail and Ivan Cranston of Cranston Farms Maple Syrup welcome visitors to their booth inside the Special Events Building during the Paris Maple Syrup Festival.



(RUBYYY JONES PHOTOS)

Joan Minery leads a crowd in line dancing during the Paris Maple Syrup Festival, joined by Maple Fest attendees, members of the Stomptastic Line Dancing Team and friends from Brantford Line Dancing.

There were two vendor market rooms, with about 25 different vendors and groups participating and there was a real mix of vendors. Guests could find everything from baked goods, jewelry, pet stuff, artisans and makers, to some great local organizations. Volunteers from the Paris Terry Fox Run were on hand to promote their event, and people and pooches from Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides represented the organization. Who could miss the Girl Guides who brought their energies and signature cookies too - it was a nice blend of

representation.

The Lions Club of Paris created—and continues to grow—this event as a way to give back to the community, particularly to those who rely on the strength and support of others to live with dignity. It remains a meaningful annual effort to raise both funds and awareness for their charitable work. As the festival continues to expand at the Paris Fairgrounds, its future feels especially promising—honouring its roots while evolving to meet the changing landscape of rural community events.



A local family — from left: Michael, Jude, Elliot, Goldie and Birdie — pose with Aurora and Maleficent from The Glass Slipper Company during the Paris Maple Syrup Festival.

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Mid-March fire leads to prolonged elevator outage at Telfer Place

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

A contained fire at Telfer Place in mid-March has led to an extended elevator outage, leaving many residents with mobility challenges facing weeks of disruption while repairs are completed.

The Paris Independent has received reports from residents and concerned family members that the elevators may not be fully operational until April 30, potentially leaving seniors with limited mobility confined to their upper-floor suites for up to seven weeks. The Paris Independent asked for confirmation on when the elevators would be operational but did not receive a response by press time.

While the fire was contained, the subsequent activation of the building's sprinkler system resulted in extensive water damage to both elevator cabs and their mechanical systems.

According to Emily Williams, a media relations spokesperson for Extendicare Inc, the corporate owner of Telfer Place, the elevators were immediately decommissioned following the fire. "For safety reasons, the elevators must remain out of service until repairs are completed and inspected in accordance with Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) requirements," she stated by email.

As of late last week, Williams confirmed that contractors have received the necessary replacement parts and that specialized repairs are underway.

As an independent living facility, Telfer Place does not fall under the jurisdic-

tion of the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority (RHRA) or the Ministry of Long-Term Care, leaving oversight of the situation largely to the TSSA and internal management.

In response to the crisis, Telfer Place management has implemented several "short-term supports," including:

- **Delivery Logistics:** Staff are delivering groceries, medications, and mail directly to suites.
- **Laundry Assistance:** Support is being provided for residents unable to access laundry facilities.
- **Mobility Support:** Residents with medical appointments or mobility challenges are being asked to contact "home leadership" to be manually assisted down the stairs.

For many families, the primary concern is how an emergency would be handled. Telfer Place says that under standard safety protocols, elevators are not used during a fire and that additional staff are on-site to assist residents with stairwell evacuations if required.

However, for a population that relies on wheels or walkers, the prospect of navigating stairs, even with assistance, it remains a daunting reality.

The TSSA has been notified of the outage and will be required to conduct a final inspection before the elevators are cleared for public use. Until then, the residents of Telfer Place remain in a state of localized lockdown. Management continues to provide updates to tenants and remains focused on tenant safety and well-being while repairs are being completed.

Highway 403 interchange work underway as frustration grows over communication gaps

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with some longer closures anticipated.

Despite those updates, many residents say the information has been inconsistent and difficult to access.

Concerns have been raised about the absence of a clear construction schedule, including which ramps will be closed and when closures will occur. Some closures have taken place during peak travel times, adding to congestion for residents already navigating multiple construction projects in and around Paris.

There has also been criticism over the lack of advance signage along the Highway 403 corridor warning drivers of upcoming ramp closures.

The Paris Independent contacted the County of Brant for additional details. While noting the project is being led by the province, County staff confirmed the mu-

nicipality will contribute up to \$12 million toward the project. Of that amount, \$10.8 million will be funded through development charges, with the remaining \$1.2 million coming from the capital levy over a 10-year period. The contribution is included in the County's capital budget and long-term financial plan.

Questions regarding construction timelines, staging and overall project completion have been directed to the MTO. As of publication, the ministry had not responded to requests for comment.

It remains unclear how long construction will last, though the project is expected to span multiple years. In the meantime, residents are being urged to plan ahead, anticipate delays and check for updates before travelling through the area, while many hope communication from the province improves as construction progresses.

Firefighters' Faceoff Fuels \$10K Donation



A friendly rivalry delivered meaningful results as the Airport and Paris firefighters hockey game raised \$10,000 for St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation in support of Stedman Community Hospice. The total was achieved through a combination of community support, including \$2,000 donations from Grinton Real Estate Ltd. and Clean Shot Environmental Services, \$2,000 each from the Airport Firefighters' Association and Paris Firefighters Club, \$500 from Onondaga County Fire, and \$1,500 raised during the March 29 game. Pictured are organizer Shelby McDonald (Airport Fire), Alex Grinton of Grinton Real Estate Ltd., and Candace Kingyens of the St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the only country that begins with "q"?
2. What American restaurant chain is the biggest purchaser of lemons worldwide?
3. A cutlass, gladius and katana are all types of what?
4. In Greek mythology, who are Artemis' parents?
5. Which U.S. president was a peanut farmer before entering politics?
6. Finish the saying, "April showers bring _____"
7. Mount Everest is part of which mountain range?
8. In scrabble, each player starts with how many letters?
9. What acid gives sourdough its tangy flavor?
10. What is the strongest currency in the world?

This week's answers are found on pg. 16

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PDHS 'Puffs' set to cast a spell on audiences

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Magic, mischief and a fresh twist on a familiar wizarding world are coming to the stage at Paris District High School, as the school's drama club prepares to present *Puffs; Or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* later this month.

The comedic play offers an underdog perspective on a well-known magical story, focusing not on the famous hero, but on the overlooked students navigating their own journey through seven years at a wizarding school.

"Puffs is the underdog story, it follows the perspective of a different house at a certain wizard school, where a particular wizard boy attends but this isn't his story," said PDHS Drama Club teacher Kaitlyn Bishop. "It is about the other guys, their journey through the 7 years and how they continue to be proud of their accomplishments even if it is fourth place."

Bishop said the production has grown into a full-school effort, with approximately 20 students in the cast and 15 crew members supporting the show behind the scenes. Students have taken on leadership roles, including student director Alexander Champagne and stage manager Brianna Montemayor. Others in Mr. Gumulak's class contributed through set construction, Evelyn Sibbick lent her sewing talents to costume design and the Learning Com-

mons staff hosted a 'Wand Workshop' where several classes and cast members came together to create wands for the production.

"It becomes a whole school production in the final months as we come together to bring Puffs to the stage," Bishop said. "Theatre gives everyone the opportunity to be involved."

Rehearsals began in late September, with students balancing long practices alongside schoolwork, athletics and part-time jobs. In recent weeks, the cast has committed to extended rehearsals to bring the ambitious production to life.

"They have learned time management, commitment and how to work with others," Bishop said. "My favourite part of the production process is the friends and memories made along the way, and I love how all the grade levels come together to create these friendships. Drama Club is a family."

Despite working with a limited budget, the production promises imaginative staging and creative effects, including magical creatures and inventive props designed to bring the story's chaotic humour to life.

"That's what makes the play entertaining, the chaotic writing, creative staging and comedic props," Bishop said.

Among the standout contributors are Montemayor, praised for her organization and leadership on the production side, and Grade 12 students Aurora Saulinier and Thomas Whitney, who play key roles in



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Students from Paris District High School rehearse a scene from *Puffs; Or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic*, as the drama club prepares for its upcoming performances later this month.

guiding and energizing the performance.

Audiences can expect a fast-paced comedy filled with recognizable themes, playful surprises and plenty of audience engagement.

"Audiences can expect to see some familiar themes, stories and characters from the much-loved series," said Bishop. "It is important to note, that this show is in no way affiliated with J.K. Rowling or the franchise with Warner Bros., so you will notice some changes."

At the end of the day, Bishop describes it as most definitely a comedy, where audiences will be entertained, maybe involved, and will be sure to leave cheering for the Puffs!" Bishop said.

In addition to showcasing student talent, the production will also support a longer-term goal: improving lighting and technical capabilities in the school's small gym, where performances are held. Donations will be accepted at each show to help fund upgrades.

"We are making do with what we have but it is not an ideal set up," Bishop said. "Hopefully as the drama department continues to grow and be such a positive part of the Paris Community, we can improve

the space as well."

To help facilitate that goal, there will be a donation box and signage out each production for those who wish to donate towards the project.

Performances will run April 30 and May 1 at 7 p.m., with matinees on May 2 and 3 at 1 p.m. A daytime performance on April 29 will be offered to local elementary schools. Tickets are \$10 and available at the door. Debit will be available for an extra fee.



Cast members bring energy and humour to a rehearsal of *Puffs* at Paris District High School, fine-tuning scenes ahead of opening night.

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EDITORIAL

Growth at any cost leaves Ontario greener on paper than in reality



Buster Beaverton paints a greener Ontario

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

I often find myself wondering what, exactly, is driving Premier Doug Ford's approach to development in this province and whether the long-term consequences are being fully considered.

Take the so-called More Homes Built Faster Act, legislation designed to accelerate housing construction by "streamlining" development approvals. On paper, it sounds like a solution to Ontario's housing shortage. In practice, it has shifted significant costs onto municipalities, an estimated \$4 billion over a decade, leaving local governments scrambling to fund the infrastructure needed to support that very growth.

That trade-off matters. When municipalities lose revenue from development charges, something else gives. Roads, water systems, community services all become harder to fund. And at the same time, those same municipalities are being stripped of their ability to negotiate for the kinds of housing they actually need most: affordable, attainable homes.

Instead, we are left with a paradox: more homes being built, but fewer people able to afford them. Inventory rises while accessibility stagnates. It's growth, but not the kind that solves the problem.

Now, the province is turning its attention to environmental standards.

The Ford government is moving to limit municipalities' ability to impose enhanced green development standards. These are

measures that go beyond the baseline Ontario Building Code to include things like expanded tree canopy, improved park access, electric vehicle-ready infrastructure, and bird-friendly building design. The justification? Standardization and speed. But speed toward what?

Without these local standards, new subdivisions risk becoming vast stretches of pavement and rooftops, built quickly but without resilience. Reduced tree canopy increases urban heat. Fewer green spaces limit stormwater absorption, raising flood risks. And eliminating requirements for sustainable design shifts the burden of climate adaptation further into the future where it will almost certainly cost more.

This is not simply about aesthetics. It is about whether Ontario's communities are built to withstand the realities of a changing climate or merely to maximize short-term construction targets.

Municipalities like County of Brant have already taken steps to balance growth with environmental stewardship. Through policies that require tree protection, replacement planting, and careful management of canopy coverage, the County has demonstrated that development and sustainability do not have to be mutually exclusive.

But those efforts become harder, if not impossible, when higher levels of government remove the tools needed to enforce them.

This trajectory is not entirely surprising. Ontarians will recall the controversy surrounding proposed development in the Greenbelt, a move that sparked widespread

backlash before being reversed. The pattern is difficult to ignore; environmental safeguards are treated as obstacles rather than essential components of responsible planning.

Ontario does need more housing. Few would dispute that. But building faster cannot mean building blindly. Paris res-

idents are screaming this from their rooftops; council hears the message. Everyone's hands are tied.

Once green space is paved over, once trees are cleared, once communities are locked into designs that ignore environmental realities, those decisions are not easily undone.

Fire service coverage adjusted during Downtown Dig

The County of Brant is advising residents of temporary operational changes to fire services in Paris to maintain response efficiency during the Downtown Dig construction project.

"We are committed to maintaining the highest level of emergency service for our residents," said Fire Chief Darren Watson.

"These operational changes ensure that, despite construction impacts, our teams can respond quickly and effectively whenever and wherever they are needed."

Effective Wednesday, April 8, 2026, adjustments were implemented at Station 1 (Paris) to maintain service levels and support future planning for the Paris North Fire Station.

Key updates include:

Geographic response zones

Fire coverage will be reorganized into two areas — Paris North and Paris South — to improve response times by positioning emergency resources on both sides of the downtown construction zone, where traffic disruptions and road restrictions are expected.

Updated response model

The current platoon response model will transition to a geographic-based deployment system. The change aligns with long-

term planning and the anticipated opening of the Paris North Station in April 2027.

Temporary apparatus relocation

Two fire vehicles will be temporarily relocated to the Paris Fairgrounds to help crews better navigate construction-related congestion in the downtown core.

County staff will continue to monitor these changes and adjust operations as needed to ensure reliable emergency response.

Residents are also reminded about green flashing lights. The County of Brant Fire Service is a volunteer-based service, and many firefighters respond to emergencies from their homes or workplaces. To help them reach stations quickly, volunteers are equipped with green flashing lights for use in their personal vehicles.

"When you see a green flashing light, it indicates a firefighter is on their way to an emergency," said Fire Chief Watson. "We encourage all residents to remain alert and safely pull over to allow these vehicles to pass. Your cooperation helps firefighters reach the station faster—because every second counts when responding to an emergency."

For more information on County of Brant Fire Services, visit www.brant.ca/fire

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GrandBridge Energy Shares Important Powerline Safety Tips for Farm Operations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2026 - GrandBridge Energy is reminding residents—particularly those in the agricultural community—of the importance of electrical safety as spring work begins across the region. Serving more than 115,000 customers across the Township of North Dumfries, County of Brant, City of Brantford and City of Cambridge, GrandBridge Energy is committed to delivering safe, reliable electricity while supporting a sustainable and resilient future for the communities it serves. With increased outdoor activity on farms during the warmer months, awareness around powerline safety is critical to preventing serious incidents.

Respect the Power: Farm Safety Tips

GrandBridge Energy encourages farmers and rural residents to follow these key safety practices:

- Always look up and stay aware of powerlines. Maintain a minimum distance of three metres from overhead lines, as electricity can arc to nearby objects.
- Know the height of your equipment. Weather conditions can cause powerlines to sag, increasing the risk of contact.

- Ensure standby generators are properly installed. Confirm transfer switches are functioning correctly to prevent backfeed risks.
- Stay in your vehicle if contact occurs. If equipment or a vehicle touches a powerline, remain inside, call 911, and keep others at least 10 metres away until crews confirm it is safe.
- Do not rely on protective gear. Rubber boots and gloves do not provide protection against electrical contact—distance is your best defence.
- Carry equipment safely. Move ladders, pipes and poles horizontally and with two people to avoid overhead contact.
- Report downed powerlines immediately. Stay at least 10 metres away and call 911, then contact GrandBridge Energy.

“Electrical safety is a shared responsibility,” GrandBridge Energy reminds customers. “Taking simple precautions can prevent serious injury and help ensure everyone returns home safely.”

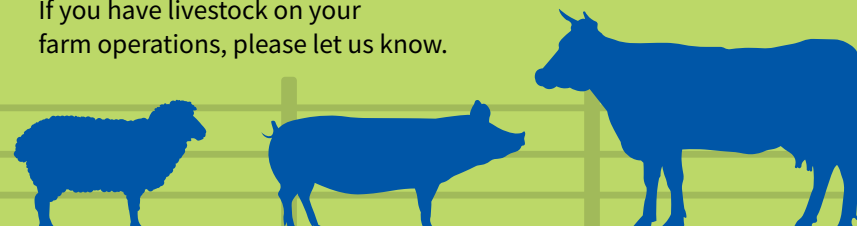
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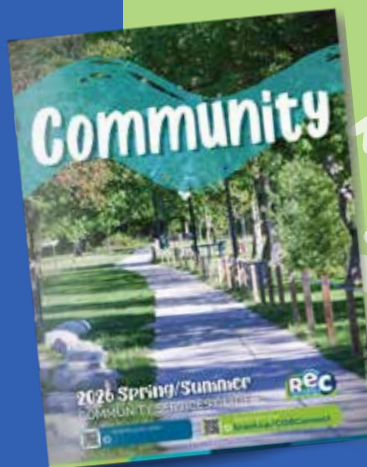


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The Aquatics Guide arrives April 30!

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: From strikes to solace, the evolution of Park Lanes



By Chris Whelan

The story of bowling in Canada is inextricably linked to Thomas Ryan, a man who transformed a loud, heavy pastime into a national obsession. Ryan originally opened Canada's first Tenpin bowling center at the corner of Yonge and Temperance Streets in downtown Toronto. It was a sophisticated affair, featuring ten lanes, potted palm trees, and a live string orchestra. As a private members' club, it catered strictly to a white-collar clientele.

However, Ryan soon noticed a problem. Many of his customers, looking to squeeze in a game during their lunch breaks, found Tenpin bowling too slow. Furthermore, the heavy balls were often seen as cumbersome. In response to these complaints, Ryan's father whittled down the pins to a smaller size, and Ryan introduced a hand-sized ball and a new scoring system. Thus, in 1909, Five-Pin bowling was born.

The sport's growth was explosive. The first league formed in 1910, and by the 1950s, the game had reached a fever pitch. It is estimated that in Toronto alone, there were 120,000 league bowlers active at any given time during that decade. Paris, Ontario, was no exception to this craze. While the earliest record of local bowling dates

back to a 1939 Penmans League member list, the peak of the phenomenon arrived in the early 1960s. By 1962, our small town boasted no fewer than three Five-Pin bowling alleys.

The year 1962 stands as a monumental era in Paris history, not only for the installation of the municipal wastewater sewage system but also for the expansion of local entertainment. On March 22, 1962, staff from the Paris Utilities Commission (PUC) erected three 315 KVA transformers to power the state-of-the-art lighting for a brand-new facility: Park Lanes Bowling Alley.

Built by Broughdale Investment Ltd. of London and managed by Bill Elliott, Park Lanes was a fully automatic, 12-lane center located at 295 Grand River Street North (then Highway 24A). Today, this site is well-known as the Park Lane Terrace Retirement Home. At the time of its opening, it was the third bowling facility in Paris, joining two existing alleys located downtown.

The official opening on March 29, 1962, was a massive community event. Over 600 people crowded into the lounge and spilled out into the cool spring night to witness the ribbon-cutting. Mayor Alfred Scott performed the honours, followed by a professional demonstration by Joe D'Orazio, the chief instructor with Brunswick of Canada. Brunswick had supplied the facility's cutting-edge automatic pinsetters.

The 72-by-132-foot building was constructed by Burch Construction Ltd. of London. The lessee, J. Judd Buchanan, spared no expense in decorating and equipping the interior, with an overall investment estimated at \$210,000. The lounge featured plywood-paneled walls and terrazzo floors, offering a clear view of the bright alleys. The setup was the height of 1960s technology, featuring underfloor ball returns and a system that allowed players to reset pins or



clear "deadwood" (fallen pins) at the touch of a button.

The facility was fully air-conditioned and designed with families in mind. A furnished playroom with toys and chairs allowed parents to watch their children through a large window while they bowled. A snack bar served the north end of the lounge. Manager Bill Elliott, a Paris local, even planned to form "Pee-Wee" leagues with small tables to teach the game to the next generation. At the time of opening, only two tasks remained: the black-topping of the front parking lot and the installation of wall draperies to dampen the thunderous noise of the pins.

The era of Park Lanes as an entertainment hub was relatively short-lived. In 1968, the building was sold and slated for a radical conversion. W.E. Freeman of Toronto purchased the property from the Clarkson Company Ltd. of London with the intent of transforming the bowling alley into a modern nursing home.

The \$175,000 renovation turned the 12 lanes into a 20-room facility capable of accommodating approximately 40 residents. William Freeman, who had operated the

Dewson Private Hospital in Toronto for 12 years, oversaw the transition. By June 1968, the "new" Park Lane Nursing Home opened its doors—not to bowlers, but to the elderly.

The conversion was thoughtful. All rooms were situated at ground level to provide easy outdoor access for residents. The facility featured modern amenities for the time, including air conditioning, a nurse call system, and telephones in every room. The once-noisy bowling concourse was replaced by a large lounge equipped with a color television for patients and visitors.

The exterior also saw a significant change. The large, paved area that once hummed with the cars of league bowlers was transformed into a peaceful garden for strolling and sitting. The new home created 15 local jobs, including on-duty registered nurses, and fell under the regular inspection of the Brant County Health Unit.

While the pins have long been silent at 295 Grand River Street North, the name "Park Lane" lives on, serving as a bridge between a vibrant era of mid-century recreation and the town's enduring commitment to caring for its citizens.

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Young Paris family turns trash into treasure — and challenges community ahead of Earth Day

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

What started as a simple walk past a litter-strewn greenspace has turned into a powerful reminder that small actions can spark big change.

For Becky and Tyler and their two sons, Preston, 9, and August, 7, the stretch of land along Race Street near the water treatment plant was hard to ignore.

“We walk past that stretch all the time. I look at that garbage all the time,” Becky said. “And now when we drive by or walk by it, it will be clean.”

Armed with gloves and garbage pickers, the family set out on Easter Monday to tackle the mess head-on. What they found was more than just discarded trash, it was an opportunity to teach their children about environmental stewardship.

Becky, who says she was raised to “pick up, clean up and respect nature,” admits the boys were unsure at first.

“But within seconds they were energized to do it,” she said.

What began as hesitation quickly turned into enthusiasm. The boys approached the cleanup like a treasure hunt, imagining the debris as relics from an abandoned home, a game that made the work feel like an adventure rather than a chore.

And as the garbage disappeared, something else emerged.

“I don’t think I would have ever seen the flowers before among all the trash,” Becky said.

Now, every time the family passes by,



Preston, 9, and August, 7, show off the bags of garbage they collected during an Easter Monday cleanup along the Race Street greenspace in Paris, turning a littered area into a source of pride for their family and neighbourhood ahead of Earth Day.

there’s a sense of pride, not just in the cleaner space, but in what they accomplished together. Neighbours have taken notice too, offering words of encouragement and appreciation.

The family is no stranger to giving back

to the environment. They regularly take part in tree planting events, reinforcing the importance of caring for the natural world.

With Earth Day around the corner, the family hopes their story will inspire others across Paris to take similar action in their

own neighbourhoods.

“I love Paris and the community I live in,” Becky said. “I think we need to take care of it better.”

They’re even issuing a friendly challenge: pick a spot, grab some gloves, and make a difference - whether it’s a park, a roadside, or a trail you pass every day.

Because sometimes, all it takes is one family to turn trash into something worth celebrating.

Think you can top it?

As Earth Day approaches, residents are encouraged to organize their own cleanups and share the results. Send in your photos of community cleanups, big or small, and help showcase the pride people have in keeping Paris beautiful.

Who knows, you might just inspire the next family to take the first step.



Before and after: A greenspace along Race Street in Paris is transformed from a litter-strewn stretch into a clean, welcoming area.

Community invited to dig in at annual tree planting event

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Residents are invited to roll up their sleeves and take part in a growing community tradition as the County of Brant hosts its 11th Annual Community Tree Plant on April 18.

The three-hour drop-in event will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rising Park in Glen Morris, with a goal of planting 1,000 trees, one shovel at a time.

Open to all ages, the event encourages families, friends and neighbours to come together in support of a greener future. Each tree planted contributes to cleaner air, stronger wildlife habitats and a more vibrant local landscape for years to come.

Organizers say no experience is necessary, just a willingness to pitch in and get a little dirty for a good cause.

Participants are asked to bring a shovel, gloves and dress for the weather, including closed-toe footwear and rain gear if needed. A warm lunch will be provided on site.

There is no registration required, making it easy for anyone to drop by and take part, whether for the full three hours or just a short visit.

The annual event is made possible through the support of several local partners, including the Glen Morris Horticultural Society, Glen Morris Lions Club, Grand River Conservation Au-

thority, Brant Waterways Foundation, Trees for Life and the Brant Tree Coalition. As Earth Week approaches, organizers hope the event will inspire even more residents to take an active role in environmental stewardship and help plant the roots for a healthier community.

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Brant Men of Song mark 65 years of harmony and community

What began as a conversation in a parking lot more than six decades ago has grown into one of the region's longest-running musical traditions.

The Brant Men of Song are celebrating their 65th anniversary this year which is a milestone that reflects not only their longevity, but their enduring role in the cultural fabric of Brantford and the County of Brant.

Founded in the fall of 1961 by solicitor Bob McIntosh and music educator Frank Holton, the chorus started with just 16 members. Holton, who also founded the Cockshutt Male Choir in 1935, led the musical direction in the early years, while McIntosh handled administration.

Over the decades, the group has grown and evolved, at one point reaching more than 40 singers. Today, it continues to bring together an intergenerational group of men who rehearse weekly from September through May, united by a shared love of music and performance.

Their repertoire has spanned genres from pop and Broadway to sacred and classical works, with performances taking them across Canada and overseas. Closer to home, the Men of Song have built a reputation for community engagement performing charity concerts, entertaining residents in long-term care homes, and collaborating regularly with the Brant County Singers for popular holiday shows.

"It's hard to zero in on any one standout memory," said longtime member Peter David, a baritone and retired educator. But the leadership over the years, the fellowship and "sisterhood" of signing is what makes it special, he reflects.

The 65th anniversary season, dubbed a "Sapphire Celebration", includes a series of special events highlighting the group's legacy and community ties.

Recently, the chorus hosted "A Day of Choral Singing," inviting community members to take part in a workshop. What followed was an evening performance from Brant County Singers, Sydenham-Heritage



Brant Men of Song members gather in song as the longtime local chorus celebrates its 65th anniversary season, continuing a tradition of music, community and fellowship that began in 1961.

United Church and of course Brant Men of Song, supporting the Brantford Food Bank. The event was possible because of an Enterprise Brant grant.

Upcoming performances include the annual "Sing Into Spring" concert at Burford United Church, on Saturday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m., followed by a major anniversary event at the Sanderson Centre. The May 31 celebration, called Ontario Sings – A Sapphire Celebration, will feature six choirs from across Ontario, culminating in a massed chorus of roughly 150 voices. Tickets are available exclusively through the Box Office or online at sandersoncentre.ca.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Bill Schatz, along with accompanist and concert co-ordinator Amy Groleau and assistant director Sylvia Jarvis, the group continues to balance tradition with renewal while welcoming new members and honouring its deep roots.

While the exact reason for the choir's founding may be lost to time, its purpose remains clear: a group united by their love of music. Summing it up best, Amy Groleau references a Greg Gilpin song that shares, "A song of hope, peace and love;

music builds a bridge and us a language that can speak to one and all - this is Why We Sing".

To learn more about the group, or how you can be a part of the next 65 years of history, visit www.brantmenofsong.ca

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Sniffin' Around with Earl: Sniffin' out spring surprises, one dog's trash...



'Ello 'Ello! Earl 'ere – reportin' to ya as I sniffs it. I reckon spring might be 'ere at last... finally!

Now that the snow's all melted, you wouldn't believe the scents I'm gettin' on me walks!

Me extra-keen nose takes me straight to the real good 'uns – bits o' old grub, rubbish, an' them Kleenex-

es that folks've dropped...I hope by accident!

Me assistant says I'm disgustin' when I eat the ol' tissues – I says it's disgustin' how much good stuff people leave behind!

I mean, I does me business where I fancy, but me loyal assistant sorts all that straight away.

Anyhoo – she's now carryin' one bag fer poo an' one fer all the treasures we finds, while I carry a proper sturdy stick to help me navigate.

Reckon a walkin' stick makes me look right distinguished, don't it? The ladies, gents an' little 'uns I meets downtown make a right ol' fuss o' me when they sees me trottin' about with it!

I've cleaned up so many from me travels, I now offer 'em free fer the takin'. They're available at the Bur-

well site.

I'm the self-appointed Branch Manager, and I'm so happy to 'ave introduced meself – an' to share a few o' me finest treasures with ya.

To wrap it up this week – mind yer aromatic treasures, fellow residents! There's only so much I can scrounge in one walk, plus the new downtown is so lovely, we want te keep it that way sure!

**Smell ya lafer,
Earl**

About the Columnist: Earl is our roving reporter, sharing regular dispatches on the sights, sounds and, most importantly, the smells that make this community special. Whether he's uncovering hidden gems, attending local happenings, or simply offering his unique take

on everyday life, Earl promises a lighthearted and distinctly canine perspective.



A self-proclaimed "Branch Manager," Earl proudly curates his collection of sticks for passersby to enjoy, just one of many treasures discovered on his daily downtown adventures.

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Paris Wolfpack U11 Select finish top four in West Niagara Tournament

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Paris Wolfpack U11 Select team returned to action this past weekend, competing in the West Niagara tourna-

ment and delivering a strong showing against a competitive 20-team field, for the second weekend in a row.

Paris opened round-robin play with a commanding 5-0 win over Orangeville. Goals came from Jace Allgood (assisted by Josh Rawlings), Cecil Burbridge (unassisted),

Jack Graham (unassisted), and Burbridge, who added two more to complete a hat trick. Davis Starks earned the shut-out in net.

The Wolfpack followed up with a dominant 16-0 victory over Manitoulin. Goal scorers included Rawlings, Graham, Henry Bartscher, Burbridge, Ferren, Lennon Smith, Koen Gall, and Noel Farrell, with several players contributing multiple goals in the lopsided win.

In their third game, Paris faced a strong Niagara Flying Aces squad. Niagara built a 4-0 lead after two periods before the Wolfpack pushed back. Koen Gall opened the scoring for Paris with an assist from Lennon Smith, followed minutes later by an unassisted goal from Rawlings. Niagara added one more to secure a 5-2 win.

The quarterfinal matchup against the Coldwater Wildcats proved to be a must-win thriller, with Paris earning a 3-2 victory in a shootout. Rawlings opened the scoring in the final seconds of the first period, while the second period remained scoreless. Coldwater struck twice early in the third to take the lead, but Rawlings responded with his second of the game, assisted by Allgood, to tie it. After a scoreless overtime, Starks held strong in the shootout, and Burbridge sealed the win with the deciding goal.

Paris advanced to the semifinals, where they faced the Georgian Bay Islanders. Despite a hard-fought effort, the Wolfpack fell 4-0, ending their tournament run.

"As coaches, we couldn't be prouder of how hard these kids worked this weekend. Although it wasn't the outcome we were hoping for, finishing top four in a tournament of 20 very competitive teams is a testament to how far this team has come this season. The future is very bright for all 14 players," said head coach Jeff Bartscher.

"Thank you to the parents and family members that came out to support us. The team's success wouldn't have been possible without your dedication and commitment to these players."



Team members include, in no order, Jace Allgood, Dawson Anderson, Henry Barstcher, Cecil Burbridge, Brennan Deane, Landon Dedman, Nathan Farrell, Noel Farrell, Jack Ferren, Koen Gall, Jack Graham, Josh Rawlings, Lennon Smith, Davis Starks.

Double-Out Queen leads red-hot night as Paris Legion darts season nears finish

As the 2025-2026 darts season enters its final stretch, the competitive fire at the Paris Legion shows no signs of flickering. During the matches held on the evening of April 9, the league's ladies continued to demonstrate significant strides in their precision and consistency.

Leading the night's highlights was none other than Linda B., who once again secured her title as the "Double-Out Queen." Linda successfully doubled out three times over the course of the evening and also walked away with the night's high score, marking a truly dominant performance at the line. The evening saw a flurry of high-caliber play across the board. A strong contingent of shooters including Marg M., Nancy B., Nancy C., Cheryl F., and Debbie K. each doubled out twice, proving that the team's depth of talent is at an

all-time high. Contributing to crucial team wins with single double-outs were Tracy T., Debbie P., Shari E., Bryanna K., and Diane S. These clinical finishes were the backbone of the night's competitive standings.

Accuracy was also on full display during the bullseye rounds. Katy O., Kim M., Tracey T., and Patti S. all found the center mark, much to the delight of the gathered crowd. With only a few weeks remaining in the season, the atmosphere at the Legion has become increasingly poignant.

Members of the group noted that every week feels a bit more special as they celebrate their collective improvement and the close-knit community they have built. As the final games approach, all eyes will be on the board to see who can maintain this impressive momentum.



Paris Ladies Darts was on full plaid alert this week with members digging through their cedar chests and closets to find their best checkered gear.

Battalion U13B claims silver at East Gwillimbury Spring Fling

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Brant Battalion U13B squad delivered a strong showing at the East Gwillimbury Spring Fling, held April 10-12, advancing to the championship game after an impressive round robin and playoff run.

Brant opened the tournament with a statement win, edging the Brock Wild 3-2. Logan Baldwin led the offence with two goals, assisted by Dominic Crone and Bentley Vieira, while Zachary Nieman added the third, unassisted.

Head coach Ryan Louch pointed to that opening victory as a turning point for the team. Brock entered the tournament as heavy favourites, ranked 20th in Ontario and coming off a strong OMHA run. "We were motivated to prove a point," said Louch. "So, when we took them down that really fuelled them."

Connor Brittain got the start in net and

played a key role in the win. "He kept us in that game. He made big saves that pumped our team up," said Louch.

Brant carried that momentum into a 3-1 win over the Parry Sound Shamrocks. Vieira opened the scoring, assisted by Baldwin, while Nieman added another, assisted by Glowala, before Vieira netted his second of the game, again assisted by Baldwin.

Lucas Harrison earned the win between the pipes, avenging an earlier loss to Parry Sound this season. "We went to Parry Sound and played in their tournament, and they beat us up pretty bad," said coach Ryan Louch. "So, we wanted revenge. Lucas came out with huge glove saves and pad saves and that gave the boys a chance to fight back."

In a tightly contested third game, Brant secured a 2-1 victory over Mooretown, with goals from Glowala and Crone, both unassisted.

The Battalion met the Mooretown Jr.

Flags again in the semifinals, this time delivering a dominant 6-2 performance. Baldwin opened the scoring, assisted by Vieira, followed by a goal from Colton Boakes, assisted by Nieman. Mooretown responded to tie the game 2-2 after the first period.

Baldwin and Vieira connected once more for what would stand as the game-winner. Brant pulled away in the third period with additional goals from Crone (unassisted), Vieira (assisted by Everett Clement), and Glowala (assisted by Bennett Inberg).

In the championship game, Brant faced Brock Wild for a second time. Despite a hard-fought effort, Brock claimed a 3-0 victory to take the title.

Reflecting on the weekend, Louch credited the team's effort and growth. "They

wanted to have a good tournament. We got beat out by heavy competition in previous tournaments this season. We've played some really hard teams since December – after being placed in A division of Southern Counties," he said.

Goaltenders Connor Brittain and Lucas Harrison shared duties throughout the tournament, providing a steady presence in net. "Both of them did an amazing job," said Louch. Louch also praised the team's overall play at both ends of the ice. "All the forwards moved the puck, using their D on the point and they knew where each other were."

"Defense kept pushing play to the outside when it was coming into our zone. Pushing the play forward with good outlet passes to forwards to get them into the neutral zone."



Members of the U13B Battalions (in no particular order) include Logan Baldwin, Colton Boakes, Connor Brittain, Everett Clement, Dominic Crone, Miles Glowala, Grayson Grosvold, Lucas Harrison, Bennett Inberg, Grayson Kristman, Bryson Lee, Andrew Louch, Zachary Nieman, Easton Pizzev, Taylor Plant, Nolan Steward, and Bentley Vieira.

Brant Battalion U11B finish as Spring Fling finalists

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Brant Battalion U11B team closed out its season as finalists at the East Gwillimbury Spring Fling tournament, held April 10-12.

Brant delivered a perfect round-robin performance, opening with a 9-1 win over the East York Bulldogs. Goal scorers included Harrison Rusyn, Nolan Kearsley, Levi Blake, Nash McLaren, Alex Thoms (2), Jacoby Bonnell, Jarome Burke and Blake Anderson.

The Battalion followed up with a 6-2 victory over the East Nipissing Black Saddle Vipers, with goals from Anderson, Austin Meza, Bonnell, Rusyn, Burke and Kearsley. Mason Espinola was solid in net, making several key saves to preserve the lead.

Brant capped off round-robin play with an 8-1 win against the Upper York Admirals. Gordon Fisher opened the scoring in the first period, while Bonnell (2) and McLaren added goals in the second. The

team erupted for four more in the third, with Bonnell completing a hat trick, Anderson scoring twice and Kearsley adding one. Ben Turnbull stood strong between the pipes, stopping three breakaway attempts. Throughout the round robin play, the defensive lines attacked hard and kept scoring opportunities to a minimum.

The Battalion met the Admirals again in the semifinals Sunday morning, grinding out a 4-2 win. Kearsley led with two goals, while Rusyn and Burke each added one. In the championship final, Brant faced East Nipissing once more in a fast-paced rematch. Despite a strong effort, the Battalion fell 4-1, with the game sealed by an empty-net goal.

The tournament marked the end of the season for the U11B squad. "It was a great way to finish the season with a great group of kids," said coach Jon Kristman.

Brant closes the year with an impressive 46-15-4 record - a season to remember, highlighted by a Southern Counties Tier 2 championship banner that will hang in the rafters at the Brant Sports Complex.



The Brant Battalion U11B team gathers for one final photo to close out a memorable season, finishing with a 46-15-4 record and a runner-up finish at the East Gwillimbury Spring Fling.



House League Standings - Week of April 6th

7-8 Year-Old

Lakers defeat Chicken Jockeys, 22-18
Marshmallows defeat Sharks, 32-10

This week's top scorers:

1. Hukam: Marshmallows, 12 Points
2. Aydin: Marshmallow, 12 points
3. Leah: Lakers, 10 Points

12-14 Year-Old

Blackhawks defeat Splash Gang, 40-23
Warriors defeat Elite, 41-24

This week's top scorers:

1. Ian: Blackhawks, 14 Points
2. Bahadur: Elite, 13 Points
3. Tyson: Blackhawks, 12 Points

9-11 Year-Old

Huskies defeat Skyscrapers, 33-20
Fire defeat Hamburgers, 32-29
Warriors defeat Flaming Flamingos, 33-22
Lakers tied Tigers, 19-19

This week's top scorers:

1. Jaxon: Warriors, 21 points
2. Laith: Fire, 20 points
3. Luke: Skyscrapers, 14 points

Paris men's Wednesday night billiards:

"LOFT" and leftover shots at the table

BY JEFF "STONES" JOHNSTON

Sports Correspondent

It was another amazing evening of pool, fueled by the questionable entertainment of Oscar & The Cue Balls—a trio that proves three wits don't necessarily make a half-wit. The atmosphere was light, but the play was deliberate; many games moved in slow motion as players realized that, in this room, accuracy counts for everything.

It was quite the night for Hot Wheels & Rubber Chicken, characterized by flat tires and cues that refused to unscrew. We were also served a classic pairing of Oscar and Fergie, reminding us all of the golden rule of the green felt: It's not what you make; it's what you leave.

As the evening unfolded and tactics were meticulously planned, Big Larry and Kopper remained as steady as ever, though they seemed visibly frustrated with the fluctuating pace and caliber of play. Meanwhile, keeping a "steady as she goes" rhythm, we had Willie D and Larry Pickaroo grinding through their matches.

The night saw a guest appearance by Hayden Stewart, while Motor showed up unexpected and partnered with me—much to his chagrin. After one particular sequence, he turned to me and remarked, "But your parents are such nice people." It was in that moment I knew we were truly bonding. Representing West Brant County style, Floody and GG (Greig) showed us

all what a smooth ride looks like, marching confidently into the semi-finals. My own play, however, hit a bit of a snag. After a particularly egregious miss, I turned to Motor and asked how I could have possibly botched the shot. His reply was the undisputed quote of the night:

"You suffer from LOFT—Lack of Fargin Talent."

I laughed so hard I actually had to bow out. Oscar stepped in to take my place, as Fergie had to make an early exit due to a "stiff rack."

The semi-finals began with a procedural meeting where everyone eventually agreed that the cue ball is, indeed, white. On the table, GG pulled off a brilliant hook on Oscar, who was playing well enough to sink shots with his eyes closed, but it wasn't enough to stem the tide. In the other semi-final, Willie D and Pickaroo faced off against Kopper and Big Larry in a match where the tension was so thick you could chalk it up. In the end, Pickaroo and Willie D prevailed to meet Greg G and Floody in the finals. The balls remained bunched for much of the match—a frustration for any player—leading to some incredible geometric displays. Ultimately, Willie D and Pickaroo took the title, with Pickaroo delivering the shot of the evening: a spectacular bank into the side pocket on the 8-ball. Winner takes all. Thanks for the visit, Haybo, and all the best until next week, boys.

Tuesday night CYO league crowns winners



(PARIS CURLING CLUB PHOTOS)

Members of the Paris Curling Club celebrated the conclusion of the 2025–26 Tuesday Night "Choose-Your-Own" league season, a competitive format where teams are self-selected and compete in a full round robin before advancing to A, B and C division playoffs. Team Maude (Bryan, Michael, Jamie, Cassie and Tara) captured the A championship, while Team Todd (Max, Erika, Leah, Jen and Karl) won the B division, and Team Fair (Heather, Jenn, Gary and Brett) claimed the C title.

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From heartbreak to healing: Real questions on grief



THE GRIEF JOURNEY

By Tammy Adams

Grief is something everyone experiences at some point in life, yet it can often feel isolating, confusing, and difficult to talk about. In a new monthly column, Ask the Grief Coach, certified grief recovery specialist Tammy Adams will answer readers' questions about navigating loss, understanding emotions, and finding ways to move forward while honouring the people and experiences we carry with us. Each month, Tammy will respond to questions submitted by members of our community, offering practical insight and compassionate guidance for those who may be struggling with grief of any kind.

1. "How do I process the grief of losing a marriage, not just the person, but the life and future I thought I'd have without carrying that pain into my next chapter?"

We are so often encouraged to "replace" loss. We have been taught moving on quickly, replacing the loss is the implied answer. But that idea is a myth, and often, it keeps us stuck in emotional pain rather than helping us heal.

Every relationship is unique. No two connections shape us, or are grieved, in the same way. Even when a breakup is our own decision, and we know it is the right one, we still deserve the space to grieve. Relief can coexist with sadness. Clarity can sit alongside confusion. We can feel both free and afraid at the same time.

When a relationship ends, there is so much left unfinished. Unspoken words. Misunderstood conversations. Moments we wish had gone differently. There are also the intangible losses; the future we imagined, the plans we made, the life we thought we would share. We are grieving our "happy ending".

Without taking time to process and "complete" these emotional loose ends, we often find ourselves trying to rewrite the ending. We replay conversations, revisit regrets, and hold onto what was never fully expressed.

If we carry those unresolved emotions into a new relationship, they do not disappear, our unresolved emotions shape how we show up. We may look for betrayal where there is none, struggle to feel safe, or hold back parts of ourselves out of fear. In trying to protect ourselves, we can unintentionally sabotage something new.

Healing is not about replacing the loss. It is about allowing ourselves to fully experience it.

It means grieving what was, expressing what was left unsaid, and giving ourselves the space to truly close that chapter. Resolution allows us to move forward, not by forgetting, but by integrating the experience in a way that no longer holds us back.

2. "I feel intense grief after losing my pet, but I also feel guilty for how much it's affecting me when others are dealing with bigger losses. How do I process this without minimizing my own feelings?"

Losing an animal companion can be one of the deepest heartaches we experience. Pet loss is real, and the grief that comes with it can be incredibly intense.

The bond we share with our animals is often rooted in unconditional love. They listen without judgment, become our quiet confidants, and offer comfort in our darkest moments; never asking for anything in return.

Your relationship with your animal was personal and unique. This loss matters. When we compare our grief to others, we minimize our own experience and silence the depth of our pain. Honouring your loss, without comparison, creates a safe space to begin grieving this relationship fully.

What you are feeling is real. You are not broken, and you do not need to be fixed. What you need is to be heard with dignity and respect, to access someone who can simply sit with you, listen, and hold space for both your pain and your memories.

Finding meaningful ways to honour your time together can be an important part of healing. You might create a scrapbook of your favourite moments, frame a cherished photo, make a small keepsake, or donate to a cause that reflects the bond you shared. These acts help keep your animal companion's memory alive while allowing you to express what they meant to you.

I remember when my first dog died; I cried deeply for weeks. What stayed with me was the kindness of The Paris Veterinary Clinic and Dr. Don Littlejohn. The clinic sent me a card, included my dog's paw prints, and donated to the University of Guelph in my dog's name. It meant everything to me. In that moment, I felt seen, and my grief felt acknowledged and respected.

Loss is deeply personal, and no one else can measure the depth of what you feel. Comparison does not support healing; it hinders it. Grief is valid, and we deserve to give ourselves permission to experience it fully, honestly, and in our own way.

3. "It's been almost 10 years since I lost my loved one. I'm no longer overwhelmed by the loss itself, but I feel a steady grief for all the moments they're missing. Why does that still feel so strong, and how do I cope with that ongoing absence?"

When we first experience a loss, the emotions can feel overwhelming. There is often an intense surge of energy; waves of sadness, confusion, even restlessness and all of this is normal.

As time passes, we begin to adapt to a new way of being. The intensity of the pain may soften, and from an intellectual standpoint, it can seem like we have healed. But emotional healing is different than intellectually understanding. Unresolved emotions do not simply disappear; they can remain stored within us for decades.

Our bodies were never meant to carry unprocessed emotional pain indefinitely but rather are designed to process and release it. When that process is delayed the body often finds other ways to communicate that something needs our attention. This can show up as experiential looping, insomnia, anxiety, overwhelm, difficulty focusing, or a general sense of unease.

It is natural to feel sadness. It is natural to miss someone who is no longer part of your daily life. It is also natural to feel the weight of moments they are no longer here to share.

Many people hesitate to heal their broken heart because they fear that letting go of the pain means losing their connection to the person they love. But healing does not mean forgetting. You cannot forget someone who mattered deeply to you. The real question becomes: wouldn't it be nice to access memories with warmth, without having to move through pain to reach them?

A common question is: how do I cope with these emotions? How do I process them in a way that allows me to move forward?

Healing emotional pain from loss often involves:

1. Finding a safe space where you can share your feelings openly and honestly; without judgment, analysis, or unsolicited advice.
2. Reflecting on the relationship, from beginning to end, to gently uncover anything that may feel unfinished.
3. Identifying and completing the emotions that arise with an understanding this will look different for every person and every relationship.
4. Having your feelings witnessed by another person, allowing your experience to be seen, heard, and validated.

Grief is complex. Sometimes we are simply too close to our own pain to step back and navigate it on our own.

Reaching out for support is not a sign of weakness; it is an act of courage. You do not have to carry it alone.

About the Columnist

Tammy Adams is a Certified Coach Practitioner and Grief Recovery Method Specialist, supporting individuals across Canada. To learn more about The Grief Recovery Method, visit tadams.ca or contact Tammy for a free consultation.

If you have a question, you would like Tammy to address in a future column, we invite you to submit it to stories@theparis-independent.com.

Scatter & Sway



Philip Chiu

Live in Concert
JUNO Award-Winning Pianist

Wednesday, April 29 | 7:30 PM

Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts
88 Dalhousie St., Brantford

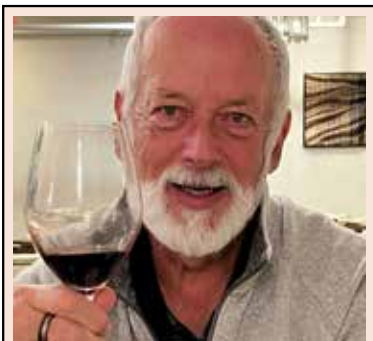
Experience Scatter and Sway — the final concert of the 2025-26 Canadian Artists Series.

Described as a "pianist-painter" (La Presse), Philip Chiu brings a vibrant, expressive program to the stage.

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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Music is the heartbeat of Calabria



By Paul Knowles

It was raining fairly steadily as we prepared to set off on a walking tour of the village of Siderno Superiore, in Calabria, Italy. The folks in our group were coping in a variety of ways – ponchos, umbrellas, all-weather jackets with hoods. But while the clothing options varied, we had one thing in common – a lack of smiles, as we moped about the weather.

And then Massimo Diano showed up, playing a happy tune on his button accordion. The atmosphere changed immediately; suddenly, we were a jolly group following our own personal pied piper through the streets of this ancient village.

Massimo played songs in the “Tarantella” folk dance tradition of Calabria. He also played lots of other songs, including “Roll Out the Barrel” and we sang along. As he played, a window opened up, high in one of the stone houses that lined the narrow lanes. An elderly woman leaned out, and Massimo stopped walking. “Paul,” he called me over. “Come here. We sing for her.”

“What are we singing?” I asked.

“It doesn’t matter,” he laughed, and he sang, and I made possibly appropriate sounds.

When he’s not serenading elderly Italian ladies from the street below their windows, Massimo is one of the partners in a tour com-



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

A typical group of enthusiastic, amateur musicians playing traditional Calabrian tunes.

pany in Calabria. His family business – which involves his cousin, Antonio Muia and other relatives – had been contracted to organize our Senior Discovery Tours visit to this southernmost part of Italy.

They did their job extremely well, introducing us to all aspects of life in this lesser-known region of Italy. And one fundamental aspect is, music.

Everywhere we went, it seemed, there was music. One evening, a local group of four musicians gave us a concert. We listened, we sang, and we danced a cumbersome but lively version of the Tarantella.

The selection of instruments used in Calabrian music is fascinating. Small “button” accordions, of course, but so much more. Every song seems to involve enthusiastic use of tambourines, sometimes more than one. Guitars are popular – we witnessed a

Palm Sunday procession in which a band of many guitar players were leading the palm-waving crowd. But as a guitar player, myself, I was intrigued that, in addition to a regular, six-string guitar, the Calabrian guitarist also use a five-string guitar, with one much shorter string acting like the drones do on bagpipes.

And speaking of bagpipes, the Calabrians love this instrument. But theirs are built using the entire hide of a goat, turned inside out. Most continue to have a bit of goat hair hanging from the large air sack.

Other traditional instruments include a wide variety of “flutes” – some of which are very similar to what we call recorders. Sometimes, two flutes are played at the same time, by one busy musician.

And then there are the lyres, an ancient instrument played with a bow.

In sundry combinations, these instruments make beautiful, lively, joyful music, and from what we saw, the singing that accompanies them is equally enthusiastic and joyful.

And as I said, we experienced a lot of music, from Palm Sunday processions to music at a meal at a family home were welcomed into.

I have a theory: Calabria is admittedly the poorest and most isolated region of Italy. This is not sophisticated Rome or upper-class Milan. This is a place of down-home people with fewer advantages, who have relied on themselves, their families and their neighbours, to supply occasions when they can simply enjoy themselves. And nothing does that better than music.

As I said, all two dozen or so of us were welcomed into a family home for a Sunday afternoon,

home-cooked meal. It was the home of Massimo’s and Antonio’s family; the wonderful meal was prepared by three women, including Massimo’s mother and Antonio’s wife. (This hands-on, “all friends here” approach, by the way, is not usual among professional tour companies. This was entirely exceptional, and very special).

The food was amazing. I’ll be writing, another time, about food in Calabria. My mouth is watering as I recall those flavours, right now!

But what took the event to an entirely other level was – you guessed it – the music. Music that reflected the personalities and the warm welcome we encountered in Calabria.

That welcome was especially evident after a very entertaining demonstration of the various traditional instruments they use. Having left all my guitars at home, I asked Massimo if I could play his for a moment when the presentation was done. He happily agreed.

And the next day, a guitar was delivered to me at our hotel in Siderno, mine to use for the rest of our stay. That led to a sing-along with our Senior Discovery Tour group one evening – but I did not try to play anything related to a Tarantella!

The music is one reason I hope to return to Calabria, and soon. Then, of course, there are the people, the food, the history, the scenery... and you’ll hear more about all of the above in the coming months.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and Past-President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



Guitarists lead a Palm Sunday procession in Gioiosa Jonica.



Massimo Diano leads his flock through the streets of Siderno Superiore.

Travel journalist nominated for national award

Paul Knowles, who writes the weekly travel feature in this newspaper and all the papers in the Grant Haven Media group, has been named as a finalist for a national Travel Media of Canada Award. TMAC has announced the finalists for its 2025 National and Recognition Awards, celebrating excellence in Canadian travel media. The winners will be officially announced at the TMAC National Conference, taking place in Richmond, British Columbia, during the Awards Gala held on May 2, 2026.

Knowles is nominated in the category “Best Indigenous Tourism Experience in Canada Story”, for his feature entitled “History, hurting and healing,” about the National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada, in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. The article was published in September, 2025.

Knowles’ weekly feature runs under the banner, “Oh, the places we’ll go!”

“This year’s finalists reflect not only outstanding storytelling and creativity, but also the important role travel media plays towards inspiring travel,” said Jerry Grymek, President of TMAC. “On behalf of TMAC, I extend my congratulations to all of the finalists for their inspiring contributions to this industry.”

Riddles

I travel the world,
yet never leave my corner.
I carry stories,
but never speak a word.

A postage stamp

I follow you all day,
but vanish in the night.
You rarely notice me,
until I'm gone.

Your reflection

I'm made in a moment,
but can last a lifetime.
I fade if ignored,
but grow if returned.

A first impression

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Qatar | 6. May flowers |
| 2. Chick-fil-A | 7. The Himalayas |
| 3. Swords | 8. Seven |
| 4. Zeus & Leto | 9. Lactic acid |
| 5. Jimmy Carter | 10. Kuwaiti Dinar |

Sudoku

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		1		2			9	
			3		8	5		
2				5	9			4
1	9			8	3	6		2
	6	8	2		1		7	

Solutions on page 19

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PET OF THE WEEK

CHONKERS

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Chonkers made the trek from Shelburne to Paris Veterinary Clinic for his neuter (and extra cuddles).

This 1 year old Siberian Husky was barely phased by the procedure, and was back to his shenanigans shortly after.

Stay tuned for more heartwarming stories every week from Paris Veterinary Clinic.



Word Search

CLASSIC CARTOONS

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 G O W T F F D K W A Q S Z O E Z G E Q F K R
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 M I C K E Y M O U S E S C O O B Y D O O N H
 E S I F U T R A Z J N I W C E M C B C O V U

- Bugs Bunny
- Daffy Duck
- Elmer Fudd
- Porky Pig
- Tweety
- Sylvester
- Road Runner
- Wile E. Coyote
- Mickey Mouse
- Donald Duck
- Goofy
- Pluto
- Tom
- Jerry
- Scooby-Doo
- Shaggy
- Fred Flintstone
- Barney Rubble
- Yogi Bear



WEEKLY Horoscope

April 15 - April 21 2026

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



Energy builds steadily. A bold decision opens new doors and sharpens your focus ahead. Trust your instincts—it guides you forward with purpose and renewed clarity.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Stability supports you, Taurus. Familiar habits bring comfort and help clear your thoughts. Lean into routine—it offers quiet strength and prepares you for change.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



Inspiration strikes, Gemini. A new idea brings excitement and fuels your curiosity. Follow the momentum—it leads to growth and surprising new possibilities.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



Clarity settles in, Cancer. A peaceful pause reveals what truly matters most. Move ahead softly—it encourages balance and a deeper sense of calm.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Your energy shines, Leo. Confidence draws others in and lifts your spirit higher. Step into the spotlight—it's your moment to lead with strength and heart.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Organizing small details restores calm and control. Stay focused—it helps everything fall into place with steady ease.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Balance surrounds you, Libra. A thoughtful exchange offers clarity and fresh insight. Choose patience—it deepens connections and smooths the road ahead.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Quiet realizations bring important understanding. Trust your instincts—it leads you forward with confidence and inner power.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



Momentum rises. A new path sparks excitement and fuels your spirit. Take the chance—it opens doors to growth and fresh adventure.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Progress builds, Capricorn. Your dedication begins to reveal steady results. Stay committed—it strengthens the path you're carefully creating.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Creativity flows, Aquarius. An idea takes shape and captures attention quickly. Trust your direction—it pushes meaningful progress into motion.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Calm surrounds you, Pisces. Gentle reflection brings insight and emotional balance. Listen within—it leads you forward with quiet strength and steady reassurance.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 15

Seth Rogen, Actor (44)

APRIL 16

Martin Lawrence, Actor (61)

APRIL 17

Jennifer Garner, Actor (54)

APRIL 18

Conan O'Brien, TV Show Host (63)

APRIL 19

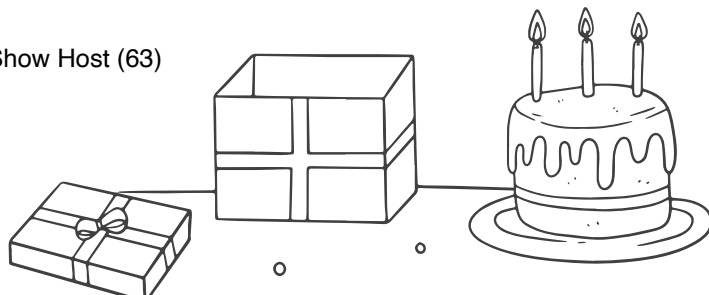
Tim Curry, Actor (80)

APRIL 20

Shemar Moore, Actor (56)

APRIL 21

Rob Riggle, Comedian (56)



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

Paris Quilting Bees Presentation - The Paris Quilting Bees invites you to a presentation by the London Modern Quilt Guild on Wednesday April 15, 2026, at the Paris Fairgrounds. Admission fee is \$10.00. Hope to see you there. For more information about the Paris Quilting Bees please email parisquiltingbees@gmail.com.

APRIL 16, 17 & 18

Rummage and Bake Sale - Paris Community Church 164 GrandRiver Street North Paris. Thursday April 16th Friday April 17th 9am-7pm Saturday April 18th 8am-12 noon. Bake Sale Saturday only. Entrance on Emily Street Door with W/C accessible ramp. Please bring your own reusable bags to fill if possible.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

11th Annual County of Brant Community Tree Plant - Join the Brant Tree Coalition for the 11th Annual County of Brant Community Tree Plant on Saturday, April 18 from 10 am to 1pm at Rising Park, Glenn Morris (5 Brook St.)

TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST & 28TH

Brant Men of Song will be holding their choir practices - Tuesdays on April 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th at the First Baptist Church 70 West St., Brantford from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. New members are always welcome to attend and enjoy some singing.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22 - SATURDAY APRIL 25

The Brantford Symphony Orchestra Presents Their Annual BOOK FAIR - 9:30am-8pm Wed-Fri, 9:30am-3pm Sat. Location is One Market (1 Market St at Dalhousie St. Brantford). Accepting book donations Mon-Sat 11am-3pm until April 17 (closed Easter weekend). For more info: brantfordsymphony.ca or call: 226-552-5579.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

13th Annual City of Brantford Community Tree Plant - Join the Brant Tree Coalition for the 13th Annual City of Brantford Community Tree Plant on Saturday, April 25 from 10am to 1pm at Wayne Gretzky Blvd. Parking at Jaycee Park on Dunsdon.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - will be holding their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 28th at 7:30 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish hall at 17 Washington Street, Paris.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Paris Horticultural Society - Our next General Meeting is May 6th at the Paris Fairgrounds. The meeting starts with social time at 7 pm. The program will begin at 7:30 pm. Our guest speaker is Dan Cooper, "Gardening from a Hammock" just what we all want to do. This is a presentation on Low-Maintenance Gardening. Dan has been a Master Gardener for over 25 years and is the co-author of "Gardening from a Hammock". He is a landscape designer who specializes in shade gardens and organic gardening. Dan is the owner of Green Gardens and Tours. This will be a very interesting presentation. Come on out and join us as our guest. We are the friendly Garden Club, you may just decide to become a member.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

The Paris Optimist Club will hold its next monthly Youth Dance on Friday May 6, 2026, The theme for this dance is Spring. (be colourful!) The dance is for students in grades 5 to 8 only. Grade 9 and older students are welcome to attend as volunteers. The DJ begins the Dance at 7:00 pm and it ends at 10:00 pm. Volunteers must arrive at 6:45 pm. The Dance is held at the Syl Apps Community Centre, 51 William Street in Paris with adult chaperones to make sure everyone has a great time. Entry fee is \$5.00 with a concession booth for pop, chips, candy and pizza. Tap payment is now available. Please note we have a no re entry policy. All proceeds support the Paris Optimist Club and its projects for the youth of our community. For any further information and to volunteer as a chaperone or as a high school student, please call 519.757.5020.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Indoor Garage Sale - Indoor Garage Sale from 8:30am to 11am at Sydenham-Heritage United Church. Browse a variety of items with something for everyone! Located at 120 Sydenham Street (corner of Dundas & Sydenham).

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Brant Heritage Quilters Guild - Will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 14 at St. George United Church, 9 Beverly St. E., St. George. Doors open at 6:15pm with meeting start time 7pm. New members welcome. Cost for non-members \$5/meeting"

SATURDAY, MAY 23

St. Paul's Rummage and Bake Sale - Doors open 8:00pm at 48 Broadway St W Paris.
Annual Banfield Art Crawl - Join the Annual Banfield Art Crawl, a celebration of Fine Art in a little 'hood in Paris, Ontario! Saturday, May 23 from 10 am to 4 pm. Free to attend. Roam the neighbourhood and check out the talent in Paris! For a list of participating streets visit banfieldartcrawl.ca.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Join us for the Alzheimer Society IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's in Brantford/Brant County - Mohawk Park - Lower Pavilion, Brantford. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. This annual walk helps raise funds so the Alzheimer Society can continue providing vital programs, support, and resources for people living with dementia and their families in our community. Bring your friends, family, coworkers, or start a team and walk with us. Every step helps make a difference. To learn more, register, or donate, visit www.walkforalzheimers.ca and select Brantford/Brant County. Let's come together as a community to support those affected by dementia!

MONDAY, JULY 20 - FRIDAY, JULY 24

Summer Kids Camp Paris Baptist Church - Join our detective squad and hunt for clues to uncover the truth of who Jesus is! July 20 - 24 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free Program Ages 5-12. Register now at parisbaptistchurch.org

1 & 3 TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

The Brantford Stamp Club - In Support of the Food Bank - The Brantford Stamp Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday September to December and January to May as well as the 1st Tuesday in June and December. Meetings are held at The Branlyn Community Centre 238 Brantwood Park Drive in Brantford. Doors open at 7pm and meetings start at 8pm.

SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

The Probus Club of Brantford - The Probus Club of Brantford with 140 members, provides fellowship, friendship, fabulous guest speakers and fun for retired and semi-retired men. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Find out more at BrantfordProbus.ca

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree Meeting - Spring into the Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree meeting every other Friday 1-4 p.m. at Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll. Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! April 10 & 17, May 1, 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

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