

The Paris Independent

Issue #194

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025

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HOT TOSSES, HEROIC FUN (PARIS FIREFIGHTER CLUB PRESIDENT PHIL MCLEOD PHOTO)

Participants enjoy the Paris Firefighters Club's first annual Cornhole Tournament, held May 24. The fun-filled event was supported by several local sponsors, including Domino's Pizza, Tim Hortons, Twisted Treats, Paris Home Building Centre, Clean Shot Environmental, Fleet Image, Punt Installations, Joe Tothe Contracting, Matt Amy, and Phil Ruiss Construction. See page 9 for more details.

Thieves Nab Speed Cam

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Brant County OPP are investigating the theft of an Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) camera, a crime that County officials are calling both serious and disappointing due to its financial impact and public safety implications.

The stolen camera, valued at approximately \$35,000, was being used to monitor vehi-

cle speeds in front of North Ward Elementary School—an area also considered a community safety zone in Paris.

“We are disappointed that a tool being used to slow vehicle traffic speeds in front of not only an elementary school, but a community hub in Paris, would be stolen,” said Adam Crozier, Director of Corporate Strategy for the County of Brant.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Twin Pad expansion will come at a cost

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Plans to move forward with the Twin Pad expansion project, and work with architects to finalize the design for tender early next year, received councillor support last week but not without a lot of debate and questions.

The project was before the Administrative and Operations Committee on May 20th where Phil Mete, Brant's General Manager of Community Services, along with representatives from MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects Inc. (MJMA) provided a detailed walk through of the design options.

When the original expansion was presented in 2019, the 51,000 square foot design was projected to cost \$22.3 million. That cost has almost doubled to \$38.2 million today, forcing the project back to the drawing board. A second option of a 38,000 sq/ft scaled down design was still projected to cost \$31.9 million and was deemed not financially feasible. A team of third-party consultants worked with the county and MJMA architects to find some efficiencies and presented a third option that compacted the ground floor plan, moving meeting rooms and offices to the second floor, reducing the gross floor area and bringing costs down to \$28.3 million.

To bring the project within budget, the floor plan went from its original one Fiba sized basketball court and three full size basketball

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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Plans to add more recreational services to Twin Pad are \$5.5 million overbudget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

courts down to one and a half basketball courts (49' x 85'), the nine pickleball courts were cut down to six pickleball courts, and three volleyball courts were untouched. The 130-metre walking track around the perimeter of the gymnasium will have three lanes. There were no changes to the plan to add four new, barrier free, dressing rooms in the twin pad arena. The rooms would include barrier free toilets, two showers, one barrier free shower, a private shower and change area and would be large enough for 22 players, compared to the current rooms that only accommodate 19 players and are not accessible.

The twin pad expansion will include a mix of existing and new parking spaces totaling 387 standard spots (this will be split between the current east and west parking lots and a new parking to the south). Ten of the spaces will be accessible, there are four planned 4 EV charging stations, bike parking and there's space for a potential west parking expansion in the future. Vehicle access will remain at the two points off powerline road with a third access to be added from Hutchings Rd.

On a sustainability front, aligning with the county's net-zero ambitions, the building will be fully electric, built with low carbon materials and will be constructed and equipped for future PV Solar Panels, which are not included in the current projected costs. It will be an estimated \$700,000 - \$900,000 to install the solar panels later, which the architects



An aerial view of the proposed expansion shows the new parking lot planned for the south end of the property, with access from Hutchings Road. A total of 387 standard parking spaces are included. Not shown is the existing parking lot on the west side of the main twin-pad building.

believe will bring significant savings for years to come, reducing the building's electric load.

County staff want the project to move forward towards a final design, so it can be ready to tender by late 2025 or early 2026. Time is also of the essence as a lot of federal/provincial grants depend on the project being significantly further along in the design or construction phases. Staff have already applied for the Community Support and Recreation Fund Grant where there's a potential \$10 million in funding, however, approval of that grant requires the project to be completed by early 2027. The best estimated completion date, according to Mete, is late 2027 or early 2028. Grants will be a critical part of funding the project, which is currently overbudget by about close to \$5.5

million. Only \$22.8 million was accounted for in the capital forecast for 2026 construction.

Heather Boyd, General Manager of Corporate Services, said the increased costs prompted the discussion of debt limit in the staff issued report, but noted the project doesn't take the county over the self-imposed limit. That would be a discussion that could occur ahead of the 2027 budget. Whether the county can afford the project, remains subjective she said.

"Do we wait for some development charges to reserve this project or take a chance of costs going up again at a faster pace than we can raise the money?" she asked.

Boyd explained that \$17 million to \$18 million of the project's costs will come from current and future development charges.

Several councillors had concerns whether this project is affordable. Paris Councillor John Bell wanted to know how much the project has cost to date and how much more is required to get to tender at the end of this year.

"The challenge we have as a county is do we spend that money or commit not knowing if we can afford the project?" Bell questioned.

Kathy Ballantyne, Director of Facilities and Special Projects, said the MJMA design contract was awarded at \$1.95 million, and the county has already incurred \$700,000 in pre-design costs. She predicts another \$400,000 to \$500,000 in design fees before the year is over.

It was evident many councillors were concerned that moving forward and incurring more costs,

only to turn down the project at tender would be reminiscent of the New Library Branch/Bawcutt Centre project.

Councillor Robert Chambers noted that if a cautious approach was taken with the Bawcutt project, 'we would have been a lot of money ahead to invest in another high priority project.'

Mayor David Bailey said he wouldn't support the project because he believes the New Library Branch/Bawcutt Centre should be figured out ahead of this major expansion.

"We need to stop spending big money and focus on how many people we can please for lesser amounts of money," said Bailey.

Councillor Bell asked whether the demand for basketball courts and pickleball courts exceeded the demand for a swimming pool.

"I look at the 1,100 responses we got, which I think is fabulous. The top response is 'I'd like a swimming pool,' and it's kind of flying in the face of public demand. If we are trying to meet a functional need, I think the message we got back was what we want is a pool," said Bell. "We're driving down this road of providing gymnasium support when in fact the community wants something different; how do we in fact square that circle?"

Mete responded that the county was very clear from the start of the project that a pool was part of the plans and that the other services the expansion will provide also represent a high demand.

Ballantyne also weighed in stating a pool is in the county's

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A view of the upper level running track, overlooking the proposed new gymnasium.

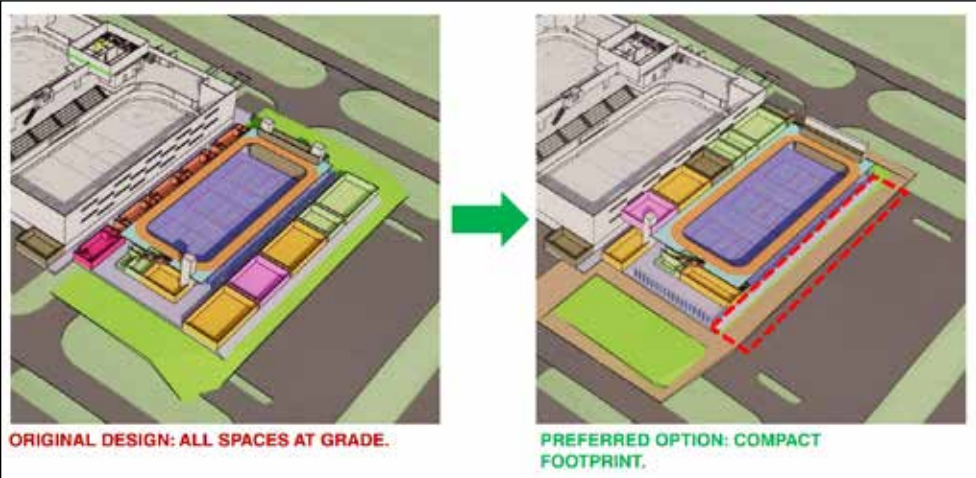
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

long range financial plan, however it's a bit further out when the population can support the operational costs of a pool, which would be more than \$1 million a year. "It would be difficult to support that with the size of community we have now," said Ballantyne. Current growth models suggest a pool would be possible around 2030. In the end, the recommendation to direct

staff to proceed with option 3, the scaled down design, pursue all funding opportunities and commence community fundraising passed 6-4. Councillors Jennifer Kyle, John MacAlpine, John Peirce, Lukas Oakley, David Miller and Steve Howes supported it, while Councillors Christine Garneau, John Bell, Brian Coleman and Mayor David Bailey voted against it. It must be ratified by council later this month.



The floorplan for the new gymnasium includes five pickleball courts, a full and half size basketball courts, and three volleyball courts.



The original design included offices and meeting rooms on the ground level. However, in a bid to recognize cost efficiencies the offices and meeting rooms were relocated to the upper level to help save money.

County officials express disappointment over loss of \$35,000 safety device near elementary school

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to County data, the ASE camera had a noticeable impact on driver behaviour. Between September 2024 and March 2025, the percentage of speeding vehicles in the area dropped by 15% thanks to the camera's presence. Crozier emphasized that the ASE program is focused on safety, not revenue generation. "The use of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras is in place to protect lives and not to generate revenue. The data is clear that ASE cameras are an effective tool in reducing speeding," he said. A replacement camera is expected to be installed soon. However, County officials warn that theft and vandalism of ASE equipment not only jeopardize safety but could

also place a financial burden on taxpayers. While the replacement will be funded from the ASE budget, such incidents reduce the funds available for other traffic safety initiatives, many of which are supported by property tax dollars. County staff are reviewing security protocols and exploring additional measures to prevent future thefts and protect public resources. Anyone with information about the theft is urged to contact the Brant County OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a tip online at www.crimestoppersbb.com, where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

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EDITORIAL

Standing the test of time: Why our heritage buildings need protection now

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

In the bustling heart of our community, amidst the modern structures rising skyward, stands a collection of historic buildings that whisper tales of a bygone era. These architectural marvels are not just bricks and mortar; they are the custodians of our collective memory, the silent witnesses to our past, and the legacy we must protect for future generations. However, in recent times, the relentless march of development has cast a shadow over these heritage buildings, leaving them vulnerable to the whims of progress and economic interests.

The stark reality is that many of our cherished heritage buildings are perilously unprotected, their fate hanging precariously in the balance. While the cranes and construction crews reshape our skyline, these architectural gems face the looming threat of neglect, decay, or worse, demolition. The absence of robust protection measures leaves them at the mercy of changing times, where profit often takes precedence over preservation.

It is imperative that we, as a community, rise to the occasion and take a stand for our heritage buildings before it's too late. We cannot afford to let our history crumble beneath the weight of indifference and apathy. The time to act is now, and the responsibility falls upon each and every one of us to ensure that our heritage is not sacrificed at the altar of progress.

So, how can we, as a community, rally together to safeguard our heritage buildings and imbue them with the protection they deserve? The first step lies in raising awareness and fostering a sense of ownership among the public. Many individuals may be unaware of the historical significance of these buildings or the imminent threat they face. Educating the community through workshops, guided tours, and public campaigns can serve to ignite a sense of pride and responsibility towards our shared heritage.



(COUNTY OF BRANT PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTO)

Paris Old Town Hall built in 1854 was designated to be restored into the Bawcutt Centre for the Performing Arts and now its condition worsens the longer it sits in limbo.

Furthermore, community engagement is key to amplifying our collective voice in the preservation efforts. By establishing heritage committees comprising local residents, historians, architects, and preservationists, we can ensure that decisions regarding the protection of heritage buildings are made inclusively and transparently. These committees can advocate for the implementation of heritage conservation policies, conduct regular inspections of heritage sites, and propose adaptive reuse strategies to breathe new life into these architectural treasures.

Financial support is another crucial aspect of safeguarding our heritage buildings. Preserving and maintaining these structures often incurs significant costs, which may deter property owners or developers from investing in their upkeep. As a community, we can explore innovative funding mechanisms such as tax incentives, grants, and partnerships with private sector entities to alleviate the

financial burden of heritage conservation. Crowdfunding campaigns, donation drives, and heritage-themed events can also serve as effective means to raise funds for the preservation of our heritage buildings.

Moreover, fostering a culture of appreciation for our heritage is essential in garnering widespread support for preservation efforts. Organizing heritage-themed festivals, exhibitions, and cultural events can instill a sense of pride and attachment to our historical landmarks. By showcasing the beauty and significance of these buildings, we can cultivate a deeper understanding of their value and inspire future generations to champion their preservation.

The haunting absence of a cherished cobblestone house, the silent void left by the demolished Post Office, Train Station, and the last downtown Mill, all serve as painful reminders of what is at stake. And now, as the Old Town Hall stands in ruin, deteriorating day by day, half-demolished and exposed to the harsh elements, we are faced with a critical juncture.

Councillors may debate the fate of these national treasures, but as a community, we cannot afford to stand idly by as neglect chips away at our heritage. Neglect, in its own insidious way, is a form of demolition—one that erodes the very essence of our history and identity. We must not allow these buildings, and the stories they hold within their walls, to be lost to the ravages of time and indifference.

The Old Town Hall, in its current state of disrepair and uncertainty, stands as a strong symbol of the urgency with which we must act. We cannot let bureaucratic deliberations and bureaucratic red tape dictate the fate of our heritage. The time for action is now, the time to rally together and protect what remains of our architectural treasures before they too become casualties of neglect.

Let us heed the lessons of the past, let us honour the legacy of our forebears, and let us pledge to safeguard our heritage buildings from the creeping tendrils of neglect. Each brick, each cobblestone, each weathered facade tells a story—a story that is as much a part of our present and future as it is of our past.

Together, let us rise to the challenge, let us be the guardians of our history, and let us ensure that Paris's architectural legacy endures for generations to come. For neglect is a form of demolition, and we cannot allow our heritage to crumble under its weight.

Together, let us preserve our past to enrich our future.

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Buckle up - another road construction project is on the horizon

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Another road construction project is on the horizon in Paris.

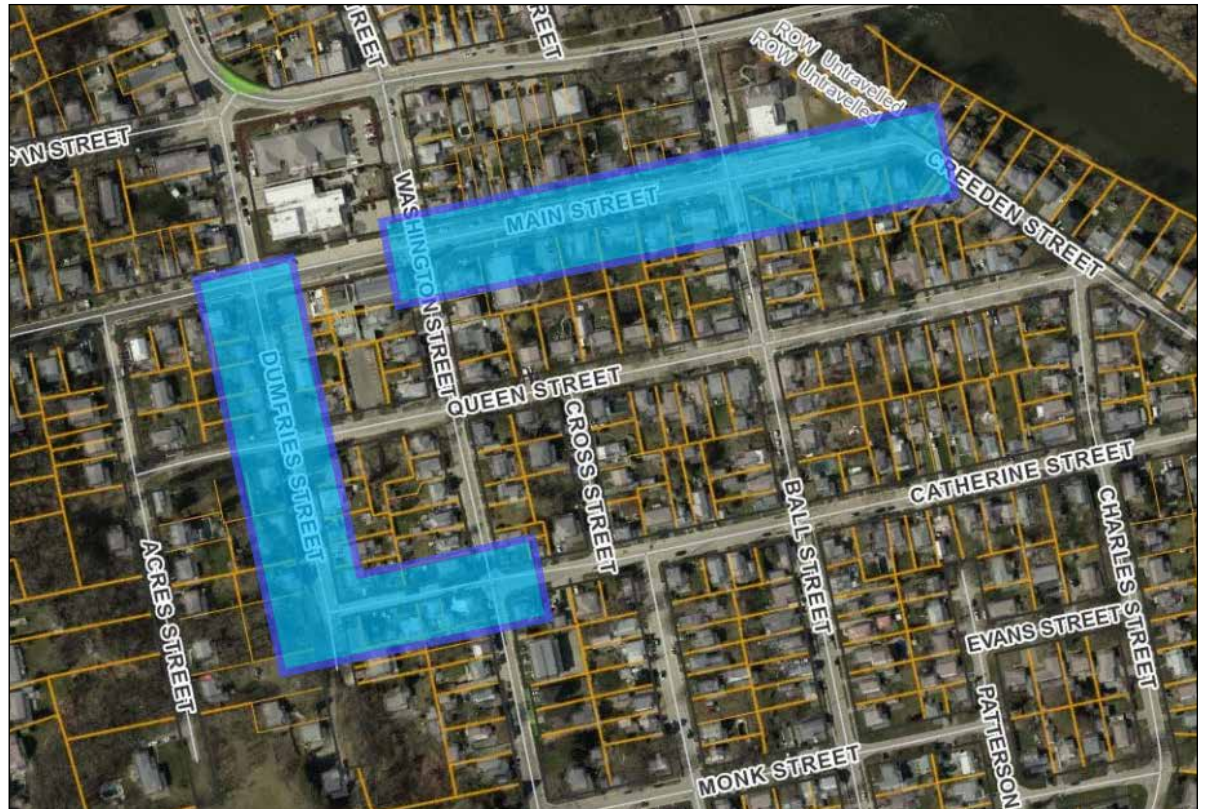
Oxford Civil Group Inc. was awarded the contract to begin work on Main Street and Dumfries Street in the coming months. Tender for the project went out in March of this year following a public meeting at the Brant Sports Complex where staff presented the proposed designs and receive feedback from the community. Oxford Civil Group Inc submitted the lowest bid price of \$1,626,039.37 (excluding HST).

The job will include the replacement of watermains, and where appropriate, some watermains will be upsized to accommodate growth. New water services will be installed to front property lines and a new sanitary sewer will be installed on Main Street between Ball Street and Creeden Street, as recommended in the Paris Master Servicing Plan. The watermain replacement has become increasingly necessary in recent years due to several watermain breaks in the area, which is indicative that the infrastructure is reaching the end of its life.

A new storm sewer will be installed on Catherine Street to replace the existing sewer on private property. Once the new sewer is commissioned, Operations will work toward decommissioning the sewer with the affected property owners. Minor storm sewer improvements will be completed on Main Street to improve local drainage.

Once the underground infrastructure is installed, the area will benefit from a complete road reconstruction as the roads in the area are deteriorating. New sidewalks will be installed and a new sidewalk on the North side of Main Street will address parking concerns.

Funds were approved in the 2025 Capital Budget to complete this project.



A portion of Main Street and Dumfries Street will be under construction later this year to replace watermains, install a new sewer and reconstruct the deteriorating road.

(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

Trash Talk: Brant builds long-term waste strategy

MEDIA RELEASE

County of Brant

The County of Brant is creating a long-term Solid Waste Management Master Plan to guide how waste is collected, reduced, and managed over the next 25 years.

“Effective waste management is crucial for the health and sustainability of our community,” said Mayor David Bailey. “With a growing population and changing environmental expectations, this plan will help us make smart, responsible decisions for today and for future generations. I encourage all residents to share their insights and help shape a plan that reflects our

collective commitment to environmental stewardship.”

The Master Plan will serve as a strategic roadmap for the short term (now to 2027), medium term (2027–2040), and long term (2040 and beyond). It will evaluate current programs, identify new opportunities for waste reduction and diversion, and explore cost-effective, sustainable service options.

“This is our chance to reimagine the way we manage waste in the County of Brant,” said County of Brant’s Director of Environmental Services, Andrea Bazzard. “We’re looking at everything from curbside collection to landfill use and transfer station operations. Community feedback is essential in helping us plan for a sustainable system

that meets the needs of residents.”

Brant’s existing waste services support thousands of homes and businesses. But with new provincial rules, population growth, and rising environmental concerns, a modernized plan is needed. This plan also builds on previous community feedback, including from the 2023 Garbage and Recycling Review.

It’s important to note the provincial transition of the Blue Box program to producer responsibility (effective January 1, 2025) is not included in this plan. Instead, the focus will be on other waste-related improvements, new initiatives, and ways to reduce landfill use.

If you missed the open house on May 26,

you could still learn more and complete the online survey at EngageBrant.ca/SolidWaste. The survey is open until Friday, June 6, at 4:30 p.m.

If you require a printed survey, stop by the main County of Brant Customer Service locations in Burford and Paris to pick up a copy by Friday, June 6, 2025, at 4:30 pm. You can also complete the survey over the phone by calling 519.44BRANT (519.442.7268) or 1.855.44BRANT (1.855.442.7268).

Visit the Engage Brant website at EngageBrant.ca/SolidWaste to learn more about the project and review project materials.

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Step Up for a Cause: Paris Dog Walk Returns June 1 to Support Life-Changing Dog Guides

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Grab a leash and join the community for a heartfelt event as the Paris Dog Walk makes its return on Sunday, June 1 at 1:00 PM, kicking off from Lions Park. Spearheaded by dedicated local volunteer Lion Phil Raney, this annual walk raises essential funds for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides—a national organization that provides specially trained service dogs to Canadians with medical and physical disabilities, at no cost to recipients.

This year marks Lion Phil Raney’s 10th year leading the Paris Dog Walk, a proud local tradition that’s part of a larger movement spanning more than 200 communities across Canada. Each walk helps fund the breeding, raising, and training of Dog Guides who serve in seven distinct roles: Canine Vision, Hearing, Seizure Response, Service, Autism Assistance, Diabetes Alert, and Facility Support.

Participants and their four-legged companions will enjoy a scenic loop through Broadway Street, William Street, and Grand River Street, returning via Mechanic Street to Lions Park. The walk usually draws 15 to 25 dogs, along with a devoted group of supporters who believe in the power of these incredible dogs.

“The Lions Club of Paris is very fortunate to have Lion Phil as our ambassador for this cause,” says Lion David Arseneault. “His decade-long commitment has made a real difference—both in our community and in the lives of those who benefit from Dog Guides.”

Phil Raney, a Brantford resident, is the face behind the Paris Dog Walk campaign. He joined the Lions Club over 15 years



Pictured are participants from last year’s Dog Walk in Paris in support of Canada Dog Guides, a national charity providing life-changing support dogs to Canadians with medical or physical disabilities.

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

ago on an initial invitation to share details about the Dog Guide program but left the meeting as a full-fledged volunteer, he recalls.

“Dog Guides is not funded by the government at all,” Raney told the Paris Independent in a 2023 interview. “So, the money goes into training the dogs and assisting foster families (through the training process),” said Raney. The Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide program is operated out of its headquarters in Oakville, Ontario. It’s the largest school of its kind operating in Canada.

As a paraplegic, following an accident 26

years ago at home that left him in a wheelchair with limited mobility of his lower body, Raney received his first dog guide 19 years ago, when the program was not a common service. His first service dog Nixon changed his daily life. The impact of a dog guide is felt across the country with nearly 3,000 dogs graduating from the program since 1985.

Whether you walk or donate, your support makes a difference. Scan the QR code below to contribute and cheer on Lion Phil and his dog Rutger.

To participate or learn more, reach out to Phil Raney at keyup2626@gmail.com.

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Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. Where do waffles originate from?
2. What does "UEFA" stand for in the Men's UEFA Champions League soccer?
3. True or False. Peanut butter was invented in Canada.
4. What is the largest lake in Africa?
5. How many days are in a leap year?
6. What plant produces tequila?
7. Who was the second Prime Minister of Canada?
8. What NHL player holds the most points in a single regular season as a Toronto Maple Leaf?
9. What Disney princess kisses a frog?
10. What kind of bird is The Ugly Duckling?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 19



Paris Lions Club Member Phil Raney with his Dog Guide and companion Rutger.



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Wm. Kipp Funeral Home Limited: A Legacy of Compassion and Community

Established as the longest-running family-owned and operated funeral home in Paris, Wm. Kipp Funeral Home Limited stands as a trusted place of support and solace for the local community. Nestled in a century-plus home reminiscent of an English manor on the corner of Paris' historic Grand River Street North and Banfield Streets, this establishment has been an integral part of the Paris and surrounding area communities since 1963.

A Heritage of Service:

In the winter of 1947, Wm. L. Kipp (Bill Sr.) and his family settled in Paris, joining the Cummings Family's furniture store, ambulance service, and funeral home operations. Bill Sr. acquired his Funeral Director's license in 1948 and, along with his wife Elizabeth (Betty) P. Kipp, founded the Wm. Kipp Funeral Home. Starting with humble beginnings at 11 Jury Street, Paris, the Kipps transformed their residence into a funeral home in 1963.

The business flourished, leading to expansions and relocations. In 1979, the funeral home moved to 184 Grand River Street North, offering enhanced facilities and services under the leadership of Bill Jr., who obtained his Funeral Director's License With Honours in 1982.

A Vision for Growth:

Throughout the 80s and early 90s, a Master Reconstruction Plan was implemented to modernize and expand the funeral home. Bill Jr.'s engineering background facilitated strategic renovations, including the addition of a chapel, visitation rooms, and lounge facilities. The focus remained on providing a warm, home-like environment for grieving families.

The community's evolving needs were met with each phase of construction, balancing modernization



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

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with respect for ongoing services. By 1991, the Paris location boasted updated facilities, including a spacious foyer for consultations and receptions, reflecting the family's commitment to excellence and compassion.

Expanding Compassion to Ayr:

Recognizing the need for funeral services in Ayr, the Kipp family acquired the former Calvary Church on Northumberland Street in 1990. Extensive renovations transformed the church into a modern funeral home, ensuring the community had access to dignified and caring services.

Continuing the Legacy:

Jason Vernoooy acquired the funeral home in 2005 from the Kipp Family and continues to deeply value the longstanding relationship that the Kipp Funeral Home has fostered within the community. Having been raised on a farm outside of Ayr, Jason has strong ties to the historic areas of Paris and Ayr. Wm. Kipp Funeral Home

Limited proudly upholds a legacy of excellence and community engagement. Transitioning from its origins in the Claremont house, built in 1886 for Paris' first Postmaster, Captain Peter Cox, to its modern state-of-the-art facilities, Jason's commitment to honouring lives and supporting families shines through in every service provided. With unwavering dedication to respecting families' preferences at an affordable rate, Jason disapproves of the high costs and assertive practices often associated with many corporate funeral homes.

For inquiries or assistance, please reach out to:

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It's a beary special day – and you're invited to join the fun!

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

It's time to let your child in on a fun secret, and they can tell their stuffies and favourite teddies too – the Teddy Bear Picnic is returning to the Burford Fairgrounds next weekend.

The fourth annual picnic is a fun, and completely free event spearheaded by the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant and supported by over two dozen generous – and local – business owners.

This event isn't your typical festival or fair—it's designed entirely with children in mind. "Every activity is thoughtfully planned to ensure kids have a wide variety of fun, engaging options to enjoy," said Sheila Moore, Kiwanis Club member and Picnic Event Chair. "One of the most common pieces of feedback we receive is how refreshing it is that everything, aside from a small canteen offering light snacks at very reasonable prices, is completely free. There are no vendors or items for sale, so parents don't have to worry about their kids asking for souvenirs or treats they can't afford."

Families are invited to join the fun, have a great time, and not feel the pressure to spend money and none of this would be possible without the incredible generosity of sponsors.

The picnic starts at 1 pm on Sunday, June 8th. There will be games, facepainting and entertainment provided by The Barry O Kid Show. Many of the family-favourite activities are returning from previous years, and hopefully with a little bit of cooperation from Mother Nature, organizers have high hopes that they can bring a tractor or two on site to fascinate the little ones who have a natural curiosity for farm equipment.

"Last year we added seed planting, and the little ones were very excited to learn how to plant, and care for seeds."

The County of Brant Library will offer special story times and activities, and the Fire Department will have a fire truck on the

grounds for those children who aspire to be future first responders.

Since the children are encouraged to bring their favourite teddies and treasured companions, St. John Ambulance is hosting its ever-popular clinic to offer thorough medical examines for those furry guests of honour, all designed to ease children's anxieties about doctors or hospital visits.

"The purpose was to help alleviate any fears young children might have if they, themselves, needed medical attention. We introduced them to questions they might be asked, or instruments used, or possible treatments, in a very comfortable and non-threatening environment," said Moore.

In fact, it was this teddy bear medical clinic, first launched by the Kiwanis in 2012, that eventually led to the birth of the teddy bear picnic.

"We had a retired doctor in our club and, a few years later, an optometrist so we expanded it. Eight years passed and along came COVID. When we recovered, Springtime in Paris was no longer going on and the idea of a Kiwanis Teddy Bear Picnic was born, with the Clinic being a feature component," Moore explained.

The Teddy Bear picnic was held in Paris in 2022 and 2023 before it was moved to the Burford Fairgrounds in 2024. The event typically draws upwards of 500 guests. And why wouldn't it when the youngsters have so many opportunities to treat their teddies to such a thrilling afternoon!

In addition to clinics, entertainment and family fun games, the Kiwanis Club encourages children to deck out their teddies in the most creative ensembles and enter them into the Most Creatively Dressed contest where judges will award the best dressed bears. Judging will take place at the Kiwanis tent at 2 pm.

Most of the activities offered have a learning or developmental components to them and the most creatively dressed contest is no



A young girl speaks to a St. John Ambulance medical personnel during the 2024 Teddy Bear Picnic at the Burford Fairgrounds. St. John Ambulance hosts a popular medical clinic to offer thorough medical examines for the teddies, all designed to ease children's anxieties about doctors or hospital visits.

different.

"Our goal is to give a child the opportunity to put his or her creative juices to use and create a costume for their treasured friend that is meaningful to them. While, undoubtedly, it makes the judging a bit of a challenge sometimes, we want the kids to do something that resonates with them, personally," shared Moore.

The Teddy Bear Art Contest is also back by popular demand. Budding artists are encouraged to draw, colour or paint their teddy

bear on an 8.5" by 11" paper and turn it in to the Kiwanis Tent before 1:30 pm. Be sure to include their name, age and an adult phone number. There are two categories for children 5 and under and children ages 6-8. Winners will be contacted, only one entry per child.

The picnic will take place outdoors, hopefully under sunny skies, but in the event of a little rain it will move inside the Burford Fairgrounds. Participants can purchase their food on site or pack a good old fashioned picnic basket and bring it along!



The Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant is hosting its 4th Annual Teddy Bear Clinic on Sunday, April 8th at the Burford Fairgrounds beginning at 1 pm. Pictured is a youngster at last year's event, pinning a heart on the teddy bear.

(KIWANIS CLUB OF PARIS-BRANT PHOTOS)

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Public
Information
Meeting!



COUNTY OF
Brant Simply Grand

brant.ca/OilGasWells

Legacy oil and gas wells

The County of Brant, in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), invites the community to a Public Information Meeting to learn more about many old or inactive gas (petroleum) and oil wells in the County of Brant.



Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Time: Doors open at 6:15 pm;

Presentation begins at 6:30 pm

Location: T.F. Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre (15 Ewart Ave, Cainsville, N3S 0H4)

The meeting will feature a presentation from the Ministry of Natural Resources, covering topics such as:

- History of legacy gas and oil wells in Southwestern Ontario
- Petroleum wells identification & tools available for landowners
- Public and environmental safety
- Responsibilities of landowners and provincial supports
- Ministry's Legacy Wells Action Plan

The County of Brant Fire Department will also share information about the municipality's response to legacy gas well incidents, as well as an overview of the funding from the MNR that has been received to date.

Additional information on gas and oil wells, including links to mapping tools, can be found on our website at brant.ca/OilGasWells

The Top Tossers!



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Teams of all ages came out for the first-ever cornhole tournament hosted by the Paris Firefighters Club on May 24th, a family-friendly event that drew 22 teams—including some from four hours away—and served over 400 meals thanks to a great partnership with Crazy Canuck Smokehouse. Proceeds will support future community projects. Paris Firefighters Club member Matt Amy said they hope to reveal plans for the upcoming projects shortly, to show the community the impact of their support. Congratulations to team "Parasites" Jeff Collings and Tom White for taking the top honours!

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The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

Paris FC U18 Girls strike gold at prestigious Umbro Showcase Tournament

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Paris FC U18 girls' soccer team has made an impressive mark on the provincial stage, capturing gold at the highly regarded Umbro Showcase Tournament.

Competing in Group B of the tournament, the Paris squad—made up entirely of 17- and 18-year-olds—took on some of Ontario's top-tier talent. While they play their regular season in the competitive U21 Ontario Regional League, the showcase presented a unique challenge: full-length matches (45-minute halves) against elite opponents, with only one game scheduled per day.

The tournament kicked off with a tough 2-0 loss to Ottawa Soccer Club U18 Premier, but Paris quickly rebounded. On Day 2, they edged out Athlete Institute Women's Prep (AIFC) in a thrilling 3-2 victory. Momentum carried into the third match as Paris shut out regional rivals St. Catharines Club Roma U18 with a confident 2-0 win.

With two wins under their belt, Paris topped their group and earned a spot in the final—facing AIFC once again. The rematch was intense, ending in a 2-2 draw in regulation time.

The championship came down to penalty kicks, where Paris held their nerve and clinched the gold with a 4-3 win in the shootout.

The victory not only underscores the talent and resilience of this young team, but also highlights the strong development coming out of the Paris FC program.



(PARIS FC PHOTO)

Members of the Paris FC U18 Girls soccer team include, from left to right (front row), Lily Arkema, Lilah Rovers, Avery Tarrington, Audra Nagy, Sami Waldick, Brianna Makela, Naomi Cook, Julia Ferrigno and Rianna Howarth. Back row, Angela Vandeven, Team Manager, Czeska Szenkowski, Paige Vandeven, Arhyanna Petrella, Julia Wegrzyn, Eden DeSousa, Brooke Sigurdson, Venecia Petrella, Kelis Daye and Daniel Wegrzyn, Coach.

Paris Predators U11 girls softball team off to a hot start

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The U11 Paris Predators Girls Youth Softball Team is off to an impressive start, picking up wins in their first two games of the season.

In their home opener, the Predators battled hard for an 18-12 victory over Innerkip #1. Strong performances on the mound came from Kaylee Carr and Lucy Witt, who each pitched two solid innings to keep the visitors in check. Witt also made a key offensive contribution, hitting a clutch double in the third inning. Solid defensive teamwork helped secure the win, with the young squad showing composure in the field.

Just days later, on May 20, Paris delivered a commanding 18-4 win over Embro. Once again, Carr and Witt shared pitching duties, with Witt turning in a standout second inning featuring three consecutive strikeouts to shut down Embro's bats.

Offensively, the Predators saw big hits from Carr, Adelyn Robinson, Harper Laskoski, and Avery Peterson. In her debut game, Robinson impressed with two singles, signaling a strong start to her softball journey. Laskoski also had a memorable moment, driving in her first career RBI with a sharply hit ball down the third base line.

Defensively, Maeve Emmott stood out with key catches and outs at first base, helping to lock down the team's second straight win. Lahara Lockett is settling in behind the plate showing her natural skills as the team's new catcher.

With a roster full of newcomers, the team is already showing strong progress. Coaches say the young athletes are not only growing their skills on the field but also gaining confidence and a deeper understanding of the mental and strategic aspects of the game.

The season is shaping up to be an exciting one for the Paris Predators, who continue to improve with every inning.

Cool down in Brant: Pools and splash pads set to open for summer season

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Despite recent chilly weather, signs of summer are emerging in the County of Brant with the return of public pool and splash pad programs.

The Paris Community Pool is set to open for the season on Saturday, June 1. Located at 80 Laurel St., the pool will offer drop-in swims, swimming lessons for all ages, special events and more throughout the summer.

Pool hours will run Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Program schedules and registration details are available online at brant.ca/Aquatics.

The County's splash pads will officially open for the season on Friday,

May 31. Operating hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

"This is a great way for families to get outside, cool down, and make the most of summer in Brant," the County stated in a recent social media post. "Whether you're a kid or just a kid at heart, our splash pads are a fun and refreshing way to enjoy the warmer months."

Splash pad locations include:

- Paris: 80 Laurel St., beside the Paris pool
- Burford: 14 Potter Dr., next to the arena
- St. George: 87 Sunnyside Dr.

The County encourages all residents to get out and soak up the season.

Highlights as field sports conclude at Paris District High School



SPORTS Report

By George Le Gresley

As most of us know, Canada has two National Sports: hockey in winter and Lacrosse in the summer. Lacrosse was declared Canada's first national sport in 1859. The First Nations people received the game from their Creator, and the Indigenous people called the game Bagat-away. Later, the French Canadian settlers called it "La Crosse" because the stick, with its curved end, resembled a bishop's staff.

Field lacrosse was introduced at Paris District High School just last year. This season, the Panthers received funding to purchase new equipment, helping the program continue to grow. Known for its speed

and intensity, field lacrosse combines the physicality of hockey and football — and yes, slashing the ball carrier is part of the game.

According to Coach Rockefeller, most players on this team have had little experience playing the game. However, they have had some positive moments, which netted them 6th place in the eight-team league and a playoff berth in the quarter-finals to Holy Trinity High School.

The team roster for Paris is as follows: H. Martin, C. Martin, B. Hergott, B. Disan, J. Dykstra, J. Birley, A. Bryans, Z. Ucy, R. Cormier, B. Tenlooster, T. Kitchen, M. Mahlman, J. Sherren, C. Farrugia, R. Miller, H. Phillips, I. Cromwell, H. Delaney, G. Smith, I. Henwood, and J. Wolashin (as provided on a game sheet).

Girls Rugby

On May 12, the Panthers played Assumption College in the AABNH semi-final and lost 34-5. Hailey Holgate was the lone scorer for the Panthers. In spite of the loss, their season play qualified them to continue play at Central West regionals;

however, the Panthers were defeated by the host team, Central Dufferin High School.

The 2024-5 athletic season had some wins and losses. Many people may not know how dedicated the teacher coaches who volunteer their extracurricular time in leading and teaching these young adults. Also, on the thank you list are the volunteer coaches, who, like the school staff members, take time off work or personal time to lead the Panther. Finally, I greatly admire the student-athletes who show qualities as future leaders, team players and great school spirit. I look forward to seeing you in September!



Field lacrosse is relatively new at Paris High School. The team just received funding to purchase equipment this season. Despite some inexperienced players on the team, there were moments of excellence this season. They finished sixth place in an eight-team league.

(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTOS)



House League Standings

Ages 9-11 (3 on 3 league) - May 22nd

Thunder defeat the Lockdown, 25-18

Hoopers defeat the Force, 26-17

DIVISION STANDINGS	W	L
Hoopers	2	0
Thunder	1	1
Lockdown	1	1
Force	0	1

This week's top scorers:

Colton (Hoopers) 14 points, Jaden (Lockdown) 10 points, Laith (Force) 10 points

Hands-on career exploration excites thousands of students at Epic Jobs event in Brantford

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Not even steady rainfall could dampen the energy of more than 2,500 Grade 7 and 8 students who descended on the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre Thursday for the sixth annual Epic Jobs career exploration event.

Hosted by the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie, the interactive event showcased skilled trades, apprenticeships, and other in-demand careers through hands-on exhibits both inside the sports complex and outdoors in its parking lot.

"Each year it is amazing to see the eyes of students light up at Epic Jobs as they get to be hands on and talk to people who work in different careers," said Danette Dalton, executive director of the planning board. "For most students this is the first time they will get to touch, experience and learn about opportunities in the skilled trades, apprenticeships and other exciting careers."

Students from school boards across Brantford, Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, Six Nations and Mississauga of the Credit participated, including those from the Grand Erie District School Board, Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, Indigenous communities and private schools.

The venue was transformed into a bustling hub of activity with more than 40 companies, trade unions, colleges and community organizations offering demonstrations and activities. Attendees tried their hand at welding, plumbing and car dismantling, explored fire trucks and heavy equipment, mounted tires, completed police training obstacle courses and more.

"Epic Jobs is a proudly homegrown event that is in its sixth year. We couldn't do it without the generous sponsors and passionate exhibitors who care about giving students an eye-opening and educational experience," Dalton added. "They understand that students start to think about their future careers early, so Epic Jobs is a great chance to make an impression."



A student learns how to remove a tire at an activity provided by Mohawk College during last Thursday's Epic Jobs Fair.

(WORKFORCE PLANNING BOARD OF GRAND ERIE PHOTO)

Stelco, a major area employer, was among the event sponsors and exhibitors.

"EPIC Jobs provides distinguished and unparalleled opportunities for students to interact with equipment, tools, safety gear and industry experts, while acquiring valuable insights into careers in trades, utilities, and manufacturing," said Erica Chow from Stelco's human resources department.

Other sponsors echoed similar sentiments about the importance of early career exposure.

"LiUNA proudly supports career exploration events because we believe in empowering the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to build strong, rewarding futures in the skilled trades," said Nick Ciccone, executive board member and training director for LiUNA Local 837.

Grand Renewable Wind emphasized the growing opportunities in the green energy sector.

"We're passionate about introducing peo-

ple to our industry. The wind, green power, and renewable energy sectors are rapidly expanding, creating valuable career opportunities in our area," said Phillip Legroulx, facility manager at Grand Renewable Wind. "By showcasing the diverse paths available, we have a real chance to inspire younger generations to explore educational opportunities that align with these growing fields."

Larry Fitzpatrick, owner of Simply Electric, stressed the value of early career education.

"Educating our children towards a solid career path now will pave the way for a better future. The Epic Jobs experience allows children to explore that future."

Ontario Power Generation also praised the initiative.

"Ontario Power Generation is proud to continue supporting Epic Jobs as it opens doors for the next generation of skilled trades professionals," said Nicole Fabbro, vice president of Niagara Operations. "This event gives students a hands-on look at meaningful, in-demand careers that not only power our province but also strengthen communities across southwestern Ontario."

United Rentals, another sponsor, highlighted the need for community-wide engagement in skilled trades promotion.

"United Rentals is excited to assist in sponsoring this year's Epic Jobs Annual Career Exploration Day," the company said in a statement. "Career opportunities in the trades are important to promote at all levels of our community, and United Rentals is committed to providing support and additional training at every skill level."

Organizing partners included both local school boards, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM), Organized Kaos, Skilled Trade Alliance of Grand Erie and the Workforce Planning Board.

Major sponsors were Stelco, LiUNA Local 837, Ontario Power Generation, Grand Renewable Wind, Simply Electric and United Rentals.



A student learns how to solder a copper pipe during a Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie career exploration event on May 22nd.

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THEN AND NOW:

Downtown rising out of the ashes



By Wayne Wilkinson
Paris Historian / Artist

I think that it would be safe to say that most communities have experienced events, some good, some disastrous, that changed the course of history. As most of you know, Paris suffered such an event on September 12, 1900, when over 40 businesses on Grand River St. and William St. were wiped out by what we call the 'Great Fire.' This changed the look of downtown Paris permanently. My story this week is about what took place after the fire. Paris business owners are a resilient group. In a short time, many of the generous owners of shops on Mechanic St. and the buildings south of John M. Halls made some room for the burned-out businesses to set up shop temporarily. But the biggest assist was still to come. In an effort to revitalize the downtown and jump-start rebuilding, the Federal government funded the construction of a beautiful post office in 1901. As you can

see in the photo, it was the centerpiece of downtown Paris.

All the buildings you see now on both sides of Grand River Street down to John M. Halls on the river side and the Paris Pub on the west side were built within three to four years after the fire. This is also true of the buildings on the south side of William Street. The ornate fountain you see was sponsored by the Old Boys and Old Girls reunion in 1905 and, as you will notice, was placed in front of the post office in 1912. Designed by Geo. Gouinlock, it featured on the street side a lower basin for dogs and an upper basin for horses. On the sidewalk side was the pedestrian fountain. As of now, it's a mystery what happened to this monument. Perhaps one of you readers may be able to shed some light on this.

In 1912, a clock tower was added to the top of the post office with clock faces on all four sides. This focal point in Paris existed until 1962 when it was demolished to be replaced with Millward's IGA grocery store. In 2001, it became Arnold's Pharma-Plus, and in 2019, Rexall Pharmacy. I'm sure many of you are quite surprised at the way this section of Paris rose out of the ashes. But now we have another event that will also drastically alter the look of our downtown — the Downtown Dig. The changes will be unbelievable! So, here's an idea that our council or one of our great service clubs can ponder — how about a replica fountain built and placed exactly where it was in 1912? What a monument to the past and tourist attraction that would be!



In an effort to revitalize the downtown and jump-start rebuilding, the Federal government funded the construction of a beautiful post office in 1901. It was demolished in 1962.



The post office was demolished in 1962 to make room for Millward's IGA grocery store, which eventually became Arnold's Pharma-Plus and Rexall Pharmacy as it stands now.

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

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The County of Brant Housing Needs Assessment

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback as part of the County of Brant's Housing Needs Assessment. Your input is helping us better understand what kind of housing is needed now and in the future, to support our growing community.

To learn more and view a summary of our preliminary findings, please visit EngageBrant.ca/HousingNeeds.

Next steps: We're hosting Open Houses around the County and we want to hear from you! The feedback you share will help shape the final Housing Needs Assessment, which will be presented to County of Brant Council in June 2025.

Housing Needs Open House Events



Thursday, May 29

7:00 to 9:00 pm
Gaukel Memorial Community Centre
Banquet Hall
7 Gaukel Drive, St. George

Monday, June 2

7:00 to 9:00 pm
Scotland Community Centre
85 Simcoe Street, Scotland

Tuesday, June 3

11:00 am to 2:00 pm
County of Brant Council Chambers
7 Broadway St W, Paris

Tuesday, June 3

6:00 to 9:00 pm
Brant Sports Complex, Lafarge Room
944 Powerline Road, Paris

- Learn more about local housing challenges
- Share your lived experiences and ideas
- Review and provide feedback on potential housing solutions



Engagebrant.ca/HousingNeeds



HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: The old Paris Post Office and its hidden gems



By **Chris Whelan**
Editor

In the heart of Paris, Ontario, a historic gem once graced the streets—The Old Paris Post Office. Erected in grandeur in 1902, this architectural marvel stood tall with its distinctive features that left a lasting impression on all who crossed its path. Let's step back in time to delve into the rich history and uncover the hidden stories that make this building and its surroundings truly special.

The post office, a towering structure standing at 50 feet high, with a frontage of 49 feet and a depth of 39 feet, was a sight to behold. Constructed with meticulous attention to detail, the

building boasted a front foundation made of Credit Valley stone, while the pilasters, sills, and gables exuded elegance with Credit Valley cut stone. The red pressed brick of the building proper, coupled with a slate roof and galvanized iron cornices, added to its splendor.

Upon entering, visitors were greeted with a meticulously designed interior. Divided into various sections, the post office housed everything from the customs and inland revenue departments to the caretaker's quarters on the third floor. The fittings, crafted from quarter-cut oak and intricately finished, added a touch of sophistication to the space.

One of the notable features was the public lobby, enclosed by a beautifully paneled and molded screen with pilasters at the angles. The postmaster's office and the money order office, both elegantly designed with glass partitions and fine woodwork, added to the overall charm of the place. With amenities such as bathrooms on the upper floors and modern heating systems, the post office was a testament to both functionality

and aesthetic appeal.

In 1912, the post office underwent further enhancements with the addition of a customs office and a clock tower, transforming it into an iconic landmark in the town of Paris. The architect behind this masterpiece was none other than David Ewart, whose architectural prowess brought this structure to life.

As we reflect on the grandeur of the Old Paris Post Office, let's not forget the charming tale of the fountain that once adorned Grand River Street North. Built in 1912, this fountain was a community ef-

fort, with the Paris Old Boys and Old Girls generously contributing to its creation. The fountain, with separate troughs for animals and humans, stood as a symbol of unity and generosity in the town.

Although the fountain is no longer present, its legacy lives on in the memories of those who cherished its presence. As we walk past 72 Grand River St N, let's take a moment to honour the past, celebrate the community spirit of Paris, and appreciate the rich history that shapes our beloved town.

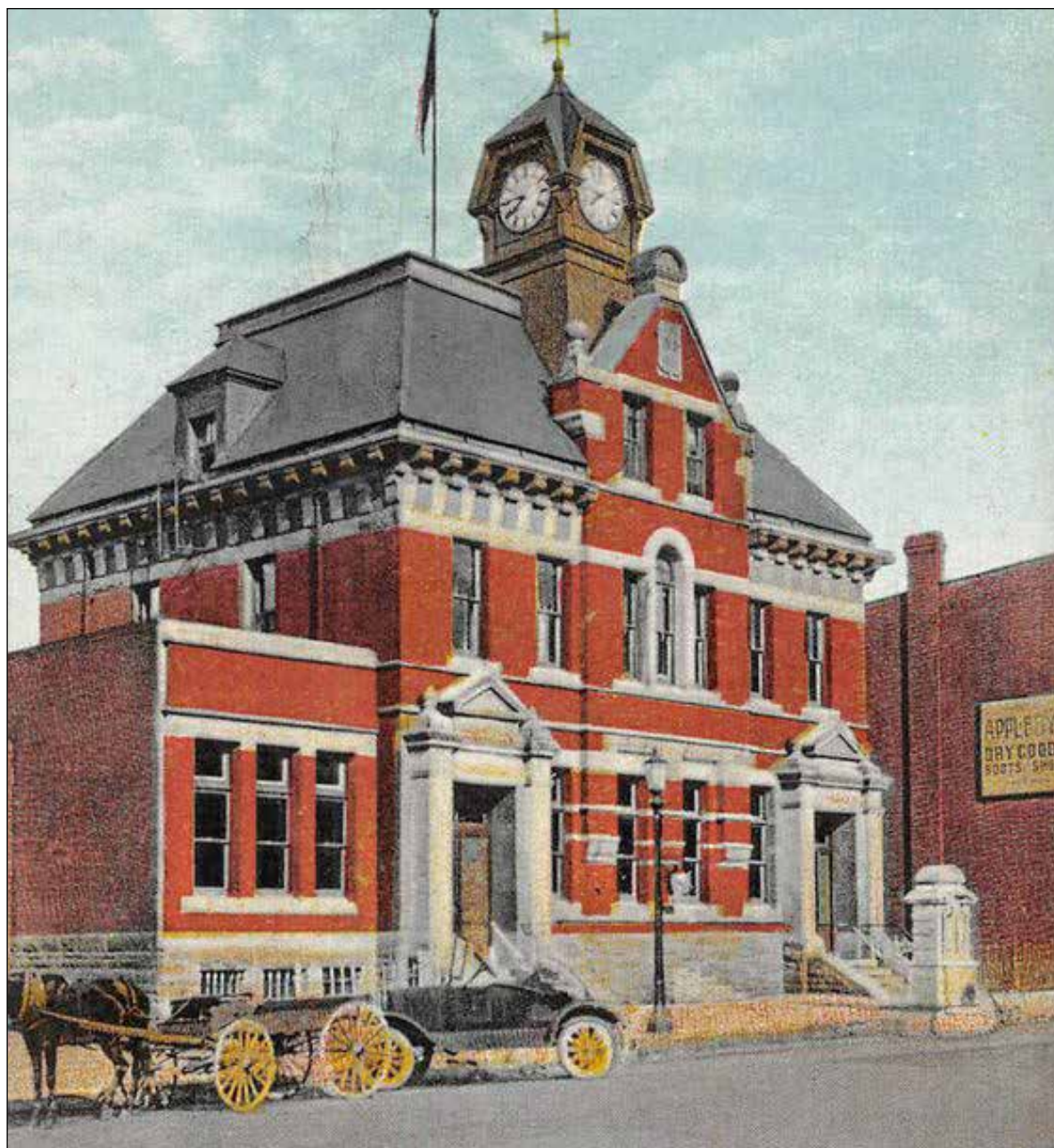
In the midst of modernity, it's

essential to preserve these hidden gems that remind us of our roots and the values that bind us together as a community. Let us raise a toast to the memories of yesteryears and the stories that continue to define the essence of Paris, Ontario.

As we navigate the present, let's hold onto the threads of the past and our shared heritage and identity. The Old Paris Post Office and the charming fountain are not just structures of brick and mortar; they are living testaments to the spirit of a town that holds its history dear.



In 1912, the post office underwent further enhancements – one was the charming tale of the fountain that once adorned Grand River Street North.



The post office, a towering structure standing at 50 feet high, with a frontage of 49 feet and a depth of 39 feet, was a sight to behold

The
Paris Independent

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OPP briefs

Search warrant leads to recovery of stolen vehicles, arrests made

The Brant County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with assistance from Oxford CSCU, West Region Emergency Response Team (ERT), and Canine Unit, has laid multiple charges following the execution of a search warrant at a rural property in Brant County.

On May 16, 2025, shortly before 10 a.m., police executed a search warrant at a property located on Colborne Street East, Brant County. The investigation was initiated after police received information regarding the location of a recently stolen vehicle.

- The following stolen vehicles were seized:
- 2015 Dodge Ram 1500 (Blue), valued at \$20,000
 - 2014 GMC Sierra (Red), valued at \$10,000
 - 2017 Chevrolet Express Van (Gray), valued at \$25,000

The total estimated value of the recovered vehicles is approximately \$55,000. Three individuals were arrested and charged.

The accused includes 38-year-old man from Brant County. He was charged with three counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000, two counts of Fail to Comply with Probation Order and one count of Fraudulent Concealment.

A 41-year-old Cambridge man has been charged with three counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000, one count of Theft of Motor Vehicle, one count of Disguise with Intent, three counts of Fail to Comply with Release Order, one count of Fail to Comply with Probation Order and one count of Fraudulent Concealment.

A 37-year-old Brant County woman was charged with three counts of Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000 and one count of Fraudulent Concealment.

The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is encouraged to contact the Brant County OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), where you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

Hate-motivated graffiti found on new Forest Drive park equipment

The County of Brant OPP is investigating after hateful and offensive graffiti was discovered at a public park on Forest Drive in Paris.

On May 17, 2025, police received a report of graffiti at the park, which recently received new equipment. Officers attended the scene and observed multiple spray-painted messages on park property, including hate-motivated content.

Brant OPP officers documented the scene, canvassed the area by going door-to-door to look for door camera footage, and notified the County of Brant to remove the graffiti.

The investigation is ongoing, and police are seeking information from anyone who may have seen suspicious activity in the area.

Hate-motivated crimes have no place in our communities. The OPP encourages anyone with information that may assist this investigation to contact the Brant County OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a tip online at www.crimestoppersbb.com, where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward.



WEEKLY

Horoscope

May 25 - May 31, 2025

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20



Aries, this week your dreams might be a tool for gaining insight on what you want to accomplish. Although dreams can't predict the future, they may reveal some of your subconscious desires.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23



Others trust your opinions because your intuition tends to be spot on, Libra. When a friend comes to you this week asking for some advice, you will not hesitate.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21



Follow your instincts this week, Taurus, even if you're more prone to reason than whimsy. Let the chips fall where they may and go with the flow.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 21



This week can be all about feeding your mind, Gemini. Walk around a bookstore and pick up the first book that catches your eye, regardless of its subject matter.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22



Something may be worrying you lately, Cancer, but you can't exactly put your finger on it. Talk about your feelings with others as another person may have a different perspective.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23



Leo, seize an opportunity to pursue the things that you want most of all. Use this week to map out a plan and then get started on all of the steps before you reach your goal.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22



Check out ways that you can advance your career or education this week. The energy around you is favoring growth, so now is the time to take advantage and learn a new skill.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22



Use your creativity to make things happen this week, Scorpio. This may not produce a finished product, but it could be about an innovative way to approach a task or problem.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21



Figure out some new ways to expand your horizons this week, Sagittarius. Identify means to personal growth, including educational opportunities.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20



Capricorn, it is important to step out of your routine every so often to increase your knowledge and expand your horizons. This is one of those weeks to do so.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18



Are you satisfied with your career, Aquarius? If you have been mulling a career change, this could be the week to start moving your chess pieces around.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20



Pisces, don't worry too much about the changes that lie ahead this week. You have a more adaptable nature than you might realize. As changes come your way, embrace them.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 25
Roman Reigns, Wrestler (40)

MAY 26
Stevie Nicks, Singer (77)

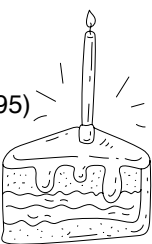
MAY 27
Lily-Rose Depp, Actress (26)

MAY 28
Colbie Caillat, Singer (40)

MAY 29
Mel B, Singer (50)

MAY 30
Idina Menzel, Actress (54)

MAY 31
Clint Eastwood, Director (95)



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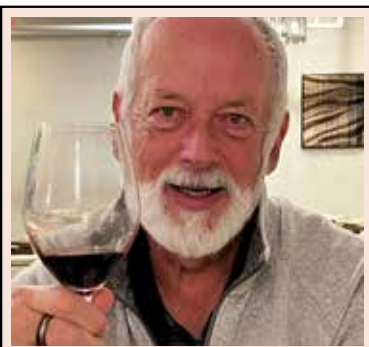
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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Two unique shopping destinations in New Brunswick



By Paul Knowles

There is no doubt that for a large percentage of travellers, shopping is high on the list of “musts”. Not that every traveller agrees, of course – as someone who has organized and led groups in tours of England and Ireland, I know that it is inevitable that you will schedule a) too much time for shopping and b) too little time for shopping. Both at the same time, depending, of course, on the individual traveller.

But let's assume, for sake of argument and this article, that you do want to include shopping on your tourist itinerary, and that you plan to visit New Brunswick. Which everyone should, by the way – it is sadly mis-classified as a “drive-through” province. New Brunswick has become one of our favourite destinations.

All the normal shopping opportunities are found in New Brunswick, of course, but I want to introduce you to two unique shopping stops – the Garrison Night Market in Fredericton, and the Waterfront Container Village in Saint John.

In Fredericton, the Garrison Night Market runs every Thursday evening, this year from June 26 through September 4. It's much more than a market – it's part street party, part farmers' market, part craft show, part beer garden, and part concert venue. All at once, and all creating a wonderful ambience.

The Market is located on the streets of the Historic Garrison

District in Fredericton's downtown. This part of town is worth a visit any time – it's right on the riverside, and retains its historic atmosphere, with cobblestone streets and historic buildings. It's also the locale for other events apart from the bustling Thursday Night Market, including a Tuesday evening summer concert series, and the “Under the Stars” open-air film series.

During our visit to the Night Market, we sampled delicious pastries from a local bakery, and fresh fruit from another vendor. We found a comfortable bench, and enjoyed the music from an energetic jazz band. We chatted with friendly representatives of the RCMP, who were handing out key fobs in the shape of a Mountie's hat.

The Market runs from 4:30 to 9 p.m. From our experience, if you want to miss the crowds, go early. But you'll also miss a lot of the fun. So... go fairly early and stay fairly late!

With a drive of an hour and a bit, south to the mouth of the Saint John/Wolastoq River on the Bay of Fundy, you will arrive in Saint John. Now, Saint John is also quite used to people arriving using other modes of transportation, especially cruise ships – and that was the inspiration for the creation of Saint John's unique Waterfront Container Village.

This wildly decorated collection of shops, food boutiques and a concert venue is made up of re-purposed shipping containers. And of course, there is the obligatory beer garden!

It's located right beside the cruise ship terminal, on the Saint John Harbour. The cruise terminal opens directly into the Container Village. But while cruise passengers are certainly among the desired customers for the 60 or so businesses tucked into the containers, the Village eagerly welcomes locals and any other visitors to Saint John, during the six months it is open each year.

The warmer months, obviously.

Saint John is actually Canada's oldest incorporated city, but this unique development on the waterfront is quite new – the Waterfront Container Village opened in June of 2022. It's part of “Area 506”, a district that is a waterfront improvement work-in-progress.

District 506 founder and director Ray Gracewood has been involved in organizing music festivals in Saint John for at least a decade. And that was the genesis of the Container Village – a concert venue that grew to include one the most innovative shopping areas in the country.

Ray told us that developing the destination meant “reimagining what it is to be a port city.” The founders have at times let their imaginations run wild – the Container Village is one of the most extravagantly painted destinations you will ever find; artists were commissioned to bring artistic life to the sea cans... and they did!

Ray's group collaborated with the Saint John Port Authority, the province of New Brunswick and the federal government in developing the new attraction.

He says that the Container Village is just one part of a “resurgence” for Saint John. “I've been in Saint John for a long time... it's just going to take off!”

The Container Village is built from 56, 40-foot containers, which provide one or two business locales each. They started as actual shipping containers – “sea cans” – that are basically metal boxes. Then, says Ray, “We did all the modifications ourselves.”

He points out that more than two-thirds of the vendors are based in New Brunswick. Many are artisans or craftspeople. Some are female-owned businesses; some are Indigenous-owned.

The Container Village and the other features of Area 506 – with more to come! – “have given people a place to come,” says Ray. “We take a lot of pride in it.”

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel,

his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



The Garrison Night Market in Fredericton runs every Thursday evening in the warmer months.



The Night Market always includes live entertainment.



The wildly colourful Waterfront Container Village in Saint John.



The Saint John Port Authority and cruise terminal are immediately beside the Container Village.



The street signs reflect the naval heritage of the district.



Shoppers will find food, clothing, crafts, and a waterfront bar!

Riddles

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?
Nacho cheese!

Why did the cookie go to the doctor?
It was feeling crummy!

What did the sushi say to the bee?
Wasabi!

What do you call a fake noodle?
An impasta.

Why did the pie go to the dentist?
It needed a filling.

What is a scarecrow's favorite fruit?
A strawberry.

How do you make an apple turnover?
Push it downhill.

What did the baby corn say to its mom?
Where's pop corn?

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Ice cream.
Ice cream who?

Ice cream if you don't let me have a dessert!

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 19

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PET OF THE WEEK

CHEWIE

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Ready for spring! Chewie is a 3 year old standard poodle who came to visit us this week with his fresh spring haircut. He is anxiously waiting for warmer weather, just like the rest of us!

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



Word Search

FOOD FESTIVALS

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

- BBQ
- Beer Tent
- Brews
- Butter Tart
- Cheesecake
- Festival
- Food and Wine
- Food Truck
- Funnel Cake
- Ice Cream
- Music
- Night Market
- Pie
- Popcorn
- Ribs
- Sausage
- Taco
- Taste

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Learn to Lawn Bowl! – Come and join us on the Green on May 29 at around 7:00 PM for a free Introductory Lawn Bowling Session. All you will need is a pair of flat soled shoes, comfortable clothing and an interest to give it a try - we will be available until about 8:30 PM. Come to the parking lot at the site (169 Grand River Street North) and walk over to the playing surface. We will have bowls for you to use and some of our current members will be available to assist, provide some basic instruction about the game and answer any questions you may have. For further information, check out our website at www.parislawnbowlingclub.ca.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Saturdays in Paris Presents the Travelling Trivia Game - Flex your brain with friends as you visit various downtown Paris locations and play mini trivia rounds; all ages welcome to join. Start at The Paris Wincey Mills Co, grab your map and scorecards; drop them back at the Wincey to be entered into a prize draw! Event is hosted in conjunction with Paris Performers' Theatre and takes place Saturday, May 31st from 1 pm to 4 pm.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

The Brant Condominium Corporations' Association invites you to our next condominium presentation on Wednesday June 4, 2025 at 2 pm at The Sherwood Restaurant, 799 Colborne St E., Brantford. The topic is all about condo and corporation insurance. Presented by Dave Outa, BA, CIP, CRM, a Commercial Account Executive and Condominium Practice Lead for Cowan Insurance Group.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Join Us for the Grand Opening of the Equal Ground Greenhouse and Learning Centre! Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Woodman Community Garden, 491 Grey Street, Brantford. Tour our new greenhouse, and explore our fruit trees, bushes, and natural spaces. Family-friendly activities for all ages. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone welcome!

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Kiwanis Teddy Bear Picnic Returns – 1 pm to 3pm at the Burford Fairgrounds. This Kiwanis-Brant sponsored event encourages children to bring their teddy bears and stuffies for an afternoon of fun. Free admission. Visit www.parisbrantkiwanis.org for details.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting - on Tuesday June 10th, 2025 at 10 am at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. Our speaker will be Zig Misiak, who will be discussing Tonto (partner of the Lone Ranger), who was Jay Silverheels from the Six Nations. New members are always welcome.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Free Willing Offering Soup Luncheon at St. Paul's United Church, Paris. Free to anyone to attend.

Women Inspiring Women – Women's Institute Meeting – Join us at our monthly meeting on June 12th from 7 pm to 9 pm. This meeting is taking place The Lavender Farm, 769 Drumbo Road, Ayr. Titled Peace, Love and Lavender – this year end social is hosted by Barb Gillies. Everyone welcome!

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Book Launch: In Crisis, On Crisis, with Local Author James Cairns in conversation with Avery Moore Kloss. Saturday, June 14th from 7 pm to 9pm at Riverside Bookshelf, 32A Dundas St W, Paris.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Death Café, a conversation circle about death – from 2 pm to 4 pm at the County of Brant Library, Paris Branch. *This is not a counselling session or grief support group. Death Cafes are discussion groups provided by a Death Doula. Visit www.brantlibrary.ca/calendar to register.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

The Catholic Women's League Monthly Meeting - on Wednesday, June 18th at 7 pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall. Use the Queen Street parking lot door to enter.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

The Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - on Tuesday June 24, 2025 at Sacred Heart Parish Hall starting at 7:30 pm. Use the Queen Street parking lot door to enter.

JULY 21-25

Free Kids Program – Intergalactic Voyage Summer Camp. Join us for this five-day club running from July 21-25 from 9 am to 11:30 am, games, music, bible lessons, snacks and true life stories. Open to children ages 5-12. Register now to secure your spot www.parisbaptistchurch.org or call 519-442-3541.

brant.ca | info@brant.ca | 519.44BRANT (442.7268) | [f](#) [@](#) [X](#)

COUNTY OF
Brant Simply Grand

Recreation & Parks and Seniors Month

Celebrate June!

Saturday, June 1	The Paris Community Pool and all Splash Pads are now open! Visit brant.ca/Aquatics for details.
Thursday, June 5	Move it with the Mayor Walk with Mayor David Bailey Meet at Lions Park, Paris (Amphitheatre) 4:30 pm
Friday, June 6	Free PA Day in the Park Celebration! Optimist Park, Paris 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Bubble Soccer, Brant OPP, County of Brant Fire & Library Free Seniors Swim (55+) 8:00 am - 8:00 pm Free Preschool Swim (5 and under) 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Paris Community Pool (80 Laurel Street in Paris)
Saturday, June 7	Burford Skate Park Grand Opening Burford Community Centre 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Friday, June 13	Seniors 3 Pitch Baseball (55+) Green Lane Sports Complex, Paris 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Activity #7880*
Thursday, June 26	Free Seniors (55+) Olympics Lions Park, Paris 11:00 am - 2:30 pm Activity #7500*
Friday, June 27	Splash into Summer at the Paris Community Pool! 8:15 am – 2:00 pm Free Aqua Yoga, public swim & more!

*Register using the Activity Code at brant.ca/COBconnect

brant.ca/June

Visit the website for a complete list of June events!



OBITUARY

Rising

Jan 4, 1939 - May 11, 2025



Kenneth Robert Rising

The family of Ken are saddened to announce his passing in his 87th year. His final few weeks were in the comfortable care of the amazing staff at BGH. He will be forever remembered by so many, but mostly by his wife Florence ("Flo"), 2 sons Karl, Kirk (Kathy), and granddaughters Kaley and Kiara. He will also be greatly missed by his only sibling Shirley (Art) Kussner, and their 3 kids Lisa (Dave), Tanya (Tripp), and Jason (Michelle & their 2 boys Evan and Ethan).

Ken, originally born in Windsor, is predeceased by his parents Robert (Bob), and Mary of Goderich. With a storied past beginning in Windsor, he fell in love with cars at an early age. He spent many a night in a rickety garage swapping his one engine back and forth between his 2 cars. A '32 Ford roadster for cruising/racing, and a '40 Ford coupe for date night. Shortly after high school, he found himself in BC attending UBC, and before returning he spent some time working the log booms in Ocean Falls BC. After also attaining a pilots license, he returned East where he met Flo, and completed his mechanical engineering degree at both McGill and Western universities. As an engineer, his first career move landed him (us) in Timmins/Schumacher at the gold/copper mine. From there it was a move to Brant County where he lived the rest of his life, including almost 50 yrs in Paris.

Always adventurous, and an avid reader, he enjoyed snow skiing, snowmobiling, motorcycling, sailing, car shows, drag races, F1, and so much more. With health setbacks at 40 yrs young, his interests expanded to included walking (Docs orders for the heart), and the quest to re-create his original '32 Ford hot rod with a flathead engine. The "hot rod" unfortunately never made it past a rolling chassis. For years he just enjoyed his antique gas station memorabilia while slowly building the hot rod and having a few bebies. It was his sanctuary. "KR'S GARAGE"

In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held hopefully sometime soon where friends and family can gather to share stories, photos, and good memories.....with a couple bebies of course. Stay tuned for the announcement. RIP KR (dad)

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COMING EVENTS

2025 OUTDOOR MARKET SERIES - at The Paris Wincey Mills 31 Mechanic St. Paris. For more information call 519-774-0600 or email eliesther.rivera@gmail.com
DATES: Sunday, May 18; Sunday, June 22; Sunday, July 20; Sunday, August 24; Sunday, September 28



P.H.S.
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QUIZ
ANSWERS

1. Ancient Greece

2. Union of European Football Associations

3. True

4. Lake Victoria

5. 366

6. Blue agave plant

7. Alexander Mackenzie

8. Doug Gilmour (92-93)

9. Tiana

10.A Swan

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COULD BE
YOUR AD
HERE!

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

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Lansdowne Children’s Centre and Brant Food For Thought Celebrate Record-Breaking Smile Cookie Campaign

Lansdowne Children’s Centre and Brant Food For Thought are celebrating the region’s most successful Smile Cookie campaign ever, thanks to the overwhelming support from some Brantford Tim Hortons locations.

From April 28 to May 4, Tim Hortons stores across the country participated in the popular cookie campaign initiative. Nineteen of the Brantford locations raised an impressive total of over \$158,000 through the sale of Smile Cookies and related merchandise. The funds were divided up between Lansdowne Children’s Centre and Brant Food For Thought, each receiving \$79,415.54. The amount raised this year was a significant increase from the nearly \$68,000 raised in 2024 and the previous record of just over \$76,000 in 2023.

“This was a great opportunity for our staff, board members and former clients to volunteer decorating cookies, which we also enjoyed consuming,” said Lansdowne’s executive director, Rita-Marie Hadley.

“Most importantly the funds we are grateful to share with Brant Food for Thought will make a difference supporting families, so their children reach their goals.”

On May 21, John Bradford, past president of Lansdowne’s board of directors, attended the official cheque presentation. He expressed appreciation to the local Tim Hortons owners and teams for selecting Lansdowne as a fundraising recipient. “We’re grateful to the community for their generous support,” he said.

Ultimately, though, it’s not about the organizations, Bradford added, but “It’s for the kids.”

More than 16,000 residents in Brantford



Representatives from Lansdowne Children’s Centre and Brant Food For Thought were thrilled to each receive \$79,415.54 from Brantford-area Tim Hortons locations. The money was raised through the area’s most successful Smile Cookie campaign to date.

and the County of Brant will benefit from this year’s campaign. Lansdowne alone supports over 3,900 children and youth, along with their families. The Smile Cookie funds will support vital programs such as Every Kid Counts and Family Engagement Services — initiatives that go beyond clinical care by helping children and youth grow socially, emotionally, and physically through access to inclusive opportunities and resources. Funds will also contribute to mobility and communication technologies, helping children better navigate daily life.

As demand for Lansdowne’s services continues to grow, the organization is working toward expanding both its pro-

gramming and physical space, supported by grants and community fundraising efforts like Smile Cookie Week.

Brant Food For Thought will also use the funds to enhance access to nutrition for over 12,000 students each week. The organization plays a key role in ensuring children across Brantford and the County

of Brant have equitable access to healthy food through school-based nutrition programs, helping students stay focused and ready to learn.

This marks the seventh year that Brant Food For Thought has taken part in the Smile Cookie campaign — and the impact has been significant.

“Programs are seeking to expand as their funding allows. Smile Cookie funds will help purchase nutritious foods for programs, like whole fruits and vegetables, whole grain products, high-quality protein items like white milk, cheese, yogurt, eggs and hummus. Funds also support the local coordination and delivery of nutrition programs,” said Brant Food For Thought Program Director Gisèle Budgell.

“We ensure that our programs comply with provincial quality standards and safe food handling requirements, so they run efficiently and stay within their food budgets. We’ve been able to purchase critical equipment with these funds so that programs have adequate refrigeration and proper food storage for large volumes of perishable food. We are so grateful to the Brantford Tim Hortons owners, their managers, staff teams and all the patrons in this community who supported Smile Cookie Week. Know that your contributions are making a tremendous difference for kids in your community, now and for the future.”



Lansdowne Children’s Centre Kids’ Country Inn (KCI) Supervisor Becky Haw, left, former client and now dedicated volunteer Kaitlynn Sales, and KCI Nurse Marie Duvall were among the many who decorated cookies for the Smile Cookie campaign.

The Paris Independent Pick Up Locations

PARIS	Paris Inn	Tim Hortons - Grand River St N
Brant Sports Complex	Paris Jewellers	The Gem Marketplace
Brave Waves Swim School	Paris Pizza	The Grand Bayou Cajun Kitchen
Canadian Tire	Park Lane Terrace	The Paris Wincey Mills Market
Cobblestone Public House	PrimaCare Community Family Health Team	Walter’s Greenhouses & Garden Centre
Cowan Community Health Hub Pharmacy.	Queensview Retirement Community	Willett Urgent Care Centre
Detour Café Paris	Rexall Pharmacy	BURFORD
Dog-Eared Cafe	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29	County of Brant Library - Burford
Egg Smart	Sales Decorating	Foodland
Elberta Farms Country Market	Secret Lunch and Catering	PRINCETON
Farah Foods	Sobeys	Jim’s Lunch
Grand River Estates	Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House Paris	Sinden Feed & Seed Inc.
Horsfall’s Auto Service	Stillwaters	ST. GEORGE
Jay’s No Frills	Telfer Place Retirement Residence	County of Brant Library - St. George
John M Hall The House of Quality Linen	Tim Hortons - Rest Acres	Freshmart
Le Petite Marche	Tim Hortons - Paris Road	Tim Hortons — Brant Rd
Mary Maxim		
Northville Pharmacy		
Paris Beer Company		