

The Paris Independent

Issue #206 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025 FREE

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Paris Drinks Fest draws packed crowds and high-energy performances



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)

Born in the Eighties lit up the stage with an electrifying performance at Paris Drinks Fest on Friday night, drawing rave reviews from fans who danced the night away and called for the band to headline a future show. The Sam Roberts Band closed out the Friday night lineup with organizers calling it the biggest attendance in festival history. See more photos on page 13.

Kiwanis honours student leaders

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

Two Paris high school students have been recognized for their exceptional commitment to service, leadership and community involvement, as the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant, in partnership with the Kiwanis Foundation of Canada, presented its second annual Service Scholarship. It was rebranded the Paul Thom-

son Service Scholarship this year after his passing.

During the club's monthly meeting on Aug. 11, Secretary Sheila Moore introduced recipients Sherin Dedo and Trudeau Gulati. Each received a \$1,000 cheque and a certificate from club president Tim Risebrough.

Named in honour of Paul Thomson, a founding member known for his lifelong community spirit, the award recognizes students who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Brant Community Healthcare System launches process to find site for new hospital

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF
Staff Contribution

In a bold step forward for regional health-care, the Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS) has formally launched a search for a new hospital site to support the growing Brantford-Brant community, and simultaneously advanced critical renovations to its aging emergency department.

Task Force Leads Search for New Hospital Site

Following Friday's media release, BCHS Communications Lead Scott Hiebert highlighted the significance of the announcement, stating it "sets the direction in our efforts over the next several months to identify a new hospital site in Brantford-Brant."

The BCHS Board has empowered an independent Task Force—chaired by retired St. Mary's General Hospital President Don Shilton and including Indigenous and municipal representatives—to steer the site search process. Its mandate: conduct broad community consultations, define evaluation criteria, evaluate land proposals, and deliver a site recommendation to the BCHS Board by Spring 2026.

Task Force members:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Paris-Brant Kiwanis honours student leaders for community service, presents scholarships

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

demonstrate volunteerism beyond 40 hours, respect for others, leadership skills, teamwork and participation in extracurricular activities.

“You’ll notice there was nothing in there for academics and never will the criteria for our scholarships be driven by academics,” said Moore. “This is a service scholarship. What we find is that the young people who qualify for all these other things get the high marks anyway.”

Sherin Dedo: Inspiring inclusion through leadership

Sherin’s journey began in Syria, where her family fled conflict when she was seven years old. They became refugees in Jordan before eventually resettling in Canada, where she faced the challenges of learning a new language and adapting to unfamiliar traditions.

At high school, she founded the Muslim Student Association and co-hosted a food and culture fashion show with the Sikh Student Association, helping create a more inclusive school environment. She balanced these efforts with a part-time job and extensive volunteer work, all while maintaining honour roll standing.

“When I first found out that I was chosen as a recipient, I felt excited, relieved and very grateful,” Sherin said. “Receiving this scholarship has boosted my motivation to do even better at university.”

She will attend Brock University this fall to study Concurrent BA/BEd – Child and Youth Studies.

The Paris District High School staff member who submitted Sherin’s reference for the scholarship had to saying the following, “I can go on and on about Sherin’s long list of academic accomplishments, projects and Community school involvement. But what I would really like to talk about is her character. Sherin’s magnetic and welcoming personality, her quick wit and deep insight and intellect and intuition allow her to connect with people of all walks of life.

Sherin’s accomplishments are truly incredible but it’s because of who she is that I am most excited to bear witness to her journey. I know she will be a force for positive change no matter where her path takes her.”

Trudeau Gulati: Leading with vision and action

Trudeau’s high school years were marked by a passion for servant leadership. He was involved in the Caring



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Student program, was an integral part of an anti-bullying campaign, served as student council prime minister, and revived the school yearbook after more than a decade. He also created the school’s first online newspaper, played competitive sports and worked part-time in local restaurants.

“Being chosen as a recipient of the Kiwanis scholarship is incredibly rewarding,” he said. “I know from my own involvement with the organization the good they do in the community.”

This fall, Trudeau will study at the University of Toronto and take part in the Munk One program, collaborating with 25 students from around the world on initiatives to make a positive community impact.

The individual that nominated Gulati and served as a reference shared the following about the young man, “Trudeau entered high school having already earned his Grade 9 and 10 math credits and was placed in a Grade 11 university level math course. He has consistently achieved



(KIWANIS CLUB OF PARIS-BRANT PHOTO)

Paul Thomson, a founding member of the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant, was honoured through the creation of the Paul Thomson Service Scholarship. The award parallels his own lifelong commitment to serving the community and is presented annually to local students for their leadership, volunteerism and community spirit.

marks in the 90s, has a deep interest in government and how it works and has a strong desire to make a positive impact in the world.”

Small club, big impact

Risebrough said the scholarship embodies the club’s commitment to fostering service-minded young leaders in the community.

“We decided as a club that, for Paul’s profound community spirit throughout his whole life, we could do something to honour him,” Risebrough said. “I was thinking as the awards were being presented, how much Paul would have loved to see the two of you up here.”

Thomson was not only a valued founding member of the Paris-Brant club, he was also instrumental in bringing new programs to Kiwanis Canada.

The Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant presented the scholarships with support from community fundraising campaigns, donations and the efforts of club volunteers. The Kiwanis Foundation of Canada matched their contribution.

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Task force begins hunt for Brantford-Brant hospital location

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- **Amos Key Jr.**, Councillor, Six Nations of the Grand River
- **Alison Newton**, CAO, County of Brant
- **Jodi Rock**, Indigenous Health Liaison, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- **Nicole Wilmot**, Chief Planner, City of Brantford

Additionally, an independent fairness advisor has been appointed to oversee transparency throughout the process.

“This is about more than identifying a parcel of land—it’s about shaping the future of care in Brantford and Brant County for generations to come,” said BCHS President and CEO Bonnie Camm.

Provincial Funding and City-Led Land Transfer Boost Momentum

Supporting the initiative, the Ontario government has committed \$12.5 million in additional funding toward planning and construction of a new BCHS hospital, following an earlier \$2.5 million planning grant—which brings total provincial support to \$15 million. The new facility is expected to feature expanded core programs including emergency services, mental health and addictions care, maternal-newborn and pediatric units, diagnostic imaging, ambulatory clinics, and surgical capacity.

In parallel, the City of Brantford has entered into a strategic lease agreement for land formerly occupied by Fire Station 2 and adjacent parking at 311 St. Paul Avenue. This site will host a future 9-storey, 440-bed patient tower, ideally situated adjacent to Brantford General’s existing infrastructure and integral to the broader redevelopment plan.

Emergency Department Under Transformative Renovation

While plans for the new hospital take shape, BCHS is also improving existing facilities. Since September 2023, Brantford General’s aging emergency department has been under extensive renovation—despite handling more than 50,000 patient visits annually, with projections to surpass 70,000 by 2030.

The \$32.4 million project, supported by a \$28.4 million provincial contribu-

tion and over \$8 million raised by the BCHS Foundation, is adding nearly 9,800 square feet to the existing 15,500 sq ft ED. Planned enhancements include a new walk-in entrance, See & Treat area, Indigenous family room, triage and waiting upgrades, mental health treatment spaces, staff support areas, and expanded ambulance access. The ED remains operational throughout construction; completion is expected by early 2027.

Local Leadership Welcomes Development

Mayor Kevin Davis applauded the province’s approval to proceed, emphasizing the City’s vital role in supporting BCHS. “This development will strengthen health care delivery for Brantford and surrounding communities,” he said.

Paris Councillor John Bell welcomed the news on social media calling it a beg step forward. “Choosing the right site and the right concept is crucial to success of what will be a multibillion-dollar project. It’s vitally important to build the right project in the right place,” said Bell, adding he’s glad there will be a comprehensive assessment of the preferred location rather than defaulting to a building in the immediate vicinity of the current hospital, which isn’t optimal.

“My personal view, based on my experience as a major capital project manager, is that building in the current BGH site (essentially a brownfield site) with limited access to our major highway is unlikely to be the most cost effective or appropriate for a community that will continue to grow rapidly.”

Paris Councillor Lukas Oakley also stated that he is excited for this next step in the long awaited-for project. “The County has an absolutely superb representative on the task force, our superlative CAO Alison Newton, to represent the perspective of the County of Brant. I am confident the Site Identification Task Force will find a location that balances the needs of all communities!”

New this year, County of Brant residents saw a 1% special property tax levy applied to their municipal tax bills to go towards the new hospital project. This levy is expected to increase overtime to meet the county’s funding commitment towards the project.

Next Steps & Community Involvement

Public consultation is underway. BCHS invites community feedback this fall, with participation information to be released soon. The Task Force will use community insights to shape evaluation criteria and guide site selection. Questions can be directed to reimagine.bchs@bchsys.org.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NOISE EXEMPTION COUNTY OF BRANT NOISE BY-LAW 108-22

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By-law Section: Schedule B - Section 6(a) **Exemption period:** September 19th, 2025 from 6:00PM – 10:00PM **Reason:** Downtown Paris Block Party – Live Music & Celebration of the Downtown Dig Progress

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Prize book ushers in Paris Fair's generational traditions

ALEX HUNT

Paris Independent Contributor

The Paris Fair's annual Prize Book is once again setting the stage for one of Ontario's biggest weekends of competition, with three buildings of exhibits and livestock shows drawing challengers from across the province.

The Paris Fair is just around the corners and organizers, competitors, judges and volunteers are getting ready for the community experience contests ranging from the famous beef show along with other livestock such as goats, sheep, and the Heavy Horse Show. The annual Prize Book is also set to make its 2025 return for this season.

The 167th annual show will run from Aug 27- Sept 1. Exhibits will feature categories ranging from science, art and photography to plants and flowers, fruits, roots and vegetables and more. Contests must pay a \$10 fee and will have full access to participate in a range of exhibits and win unique prizes. Individuals under the age of 18-years- are allowed to exhibit for free.

"Once people exhibit at the fair, I put together a list of everybody who exhibited last year and we mail or we drop off different prize books to residents in Paris and we mail them to the surrounding cities," said Shelley Vlasic, exhibit coordinator at the Paris Agricultural Society. "We want families to join this fun fair, it's a hometown

thing and it's for everybody."

Vlasic said that juniors make up the largest groups of exhibitors at the fair. Along with that, crafts and collections also draw in many participants, while photography remains a major highlight for both adults and juniors. Competitors will travel from hometowns of Guelph, Elora and Fergus.

"Some of the exhibitors have told me that receiving first place in a contest at the Paris Fair is prestigious, it's very special to them, it's a big fair with lots of competition and growth," said Vlasic. "The prize book has been around for as long as I can remember, the book is a collaboration between the office and all the committee. Which are the ones that evolve their specific categories year after year."

The Paris Fair's annual Ambassador Competition is a long-standing tradition that selects a young representative to promote both the fair and the community for the coming year. Sponsored by local organizations, the competition takes place the Thursday before Labour Day and features contestants competing in public speaking and interviews.

"Then of course, is the baby show and there are 77 babies registered so far," Vlasic revied. "Monday morning is quite busy at the fair, with the families. All babies that get first place in their age categories come back to the judges and one will be crowned Grand Champion Baby."

In the case of Brian Sayles, who was the fair's first ever baby show winner some decades ago, he just kept coming back year after year and is now the chair of the Paris Agricultural Society!

Vlasic notes that much of the Paris Fair has remained the same over the years, preserving its heritage and staying true to its traditions. It continues to celebrate the lost

arts traditions rarely seen in modern society while upholding a generational legacy that connects past and present through shared skills and community pride.

Visitors are encouraged to stop by the exhibit halls to admire the work of local competitors. It's the perfect way to take in the creativity of the community — and enjoy a break from the summer heat or the rides.



(From left to right) Brian Sayles, chair of the Paris Agricultural Society and first ever Baby Show Winner and Shelley Vlasic, exhibit coordinator at the Paris Agricultural Society

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EDITORIAL

Editorial Update: Progress Meets Patience – Revisited

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Last week in our Progress Meets Patience editorial, we touched on the growing frustration over detours and overlapping roadwork, including the much-used workaround via Willow Street and Green Lane. At the time, the County's notice to affected residents and businesses said the Dundas Street East intersection would close August 11 for about a week, with Green Lane closed for two to four weeks.

That schedule has shifted—more than once. An early update last week moved the closure to August 25 with a reopening date of October 3, extending the original work window to five weeks. The very next day, another change was announced: the closure will now begin September 2 and run until October 10. The later start conveniently keeps the

corridor open through the Labour Day weekend and the Paris Fall Fair, one of the town's busiest events.

The work, led by L82 Construction Inc. for the County of Brant, involves storm, sanitary, and watermain improvements. Detours will route traffic via Consolidated Drive/Iarocci Boulevard, with no through traffic, local access, or emergency access to Green Lane from Dundas Street East. Westbound traffic will be permitted on Governor's Road East up to 100 metres past the Dundas intersection.

The County has not provided an official reason for the shifting dates, but the changes underscore the challenge of coordinating major infrastructure work in a town already juggling multiple projects. Whatever the cause, let's hope the five-to-six-week closure remains on schedule—and that smoother commutes are indeed just around the corner.

Letter to the Editor

Resident questions delays, planning and transparency in County road projects

To the Editor:

I fully agree with your critique of the project in last week's Paris Independent. I have today looked online, and Brant County is declaring that the intersection of Green Lane at Dundas Street will be closed on September 2nd until October 10. Why does it take 6 weeks to dig a trench and install 3 pipes? Why has this work not been completed while school was out and a lot of people take vacation, thus traffic is lighter? Will Consolidated Drive be accessible as a fully paved alternative- if not why? How will Tim Hortons at the affected intersection cope - will it be accessible? What if they have to close and lay off employees? How will they cope?

I also note that the Grand River Street N southbound road closure signage used

to say closed until September 2. This has been replaced with "until fall 2025", technically that means before December 21. I have enquired as to why the County does not provide us, the taxpaying stakeholders, with transparency of the project progress compared to plan or schedule. The response was that this was not possible due to hostile online comments.

This whole endeavour, while necessary, is suffering from poor planning, if any planning at all; lack of transparency regarding progress and completion, and a lack of get stuck in and get the job done - fast!

Regards,
Dan LaPlain



intersection of Dundas & Green Lane

The Paris Independent

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Brant crop signs help residents connect with local agriculture

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Drivers travelling Brant County’s rural roads this summer may have noticed a new kind of roadside attraction — large aluminum signs identifying fields of wheat, corn and soybeans, along with examples of the many products those crops become.

The Brant County Federation of Agriculture (BCFA) launched the project in 2023, producing and installing 30 crop signs across high-traffic areas in the county to help the public better understand local agriculture. Ten signs each were created for wheat, corn and soybeans, the area’s three most common field crops.

The concept was modelled after a similar initiative by the Elgin County Federation of Agriculture, who “planted” signs in their own region in 2023. BCFA director Angela Leach spearheaded the Brant project, with financial support from a special Ontario Federation of Agriculture grant to help offset costs.

On each sign, the crop name appears in large letters, with a list of the food products it can be processed into. For example, a wheat sign lists flour, biscuits, cereal and bakery items.

“The field locations chosen were those on roads that have heavy traffic like Rest Acres Road and County Rd. #18,” said Mark Eddy, who currently serves as past president of the BCFA.

This is the third year Brant has erected the signs.

“We plan to continue making it an annual program. Agriculture is the #1 industry in Brant County. It is vital that we educate consumers about the high quality of locally grown food and the importance of the agri-food industry to our local economy and society,” said Eddy. “I think this has been a very successful project.”

The signs were first showcased at a BCFA Summer Social, helping attract local media attention and sparking community conversation about farmland preservation and



A roadside sign along Keg Lane identifies a field of wheat and highlights products made from the crop, part of the Brant County Federation of Agriculture’s initiative to educate the public about local farming.

the role agriculture plays in Brant’s economy.

BCFA secretary/treasurer Linda Snyder noted the amount of volunteer work that went into the initiative.

“I also wanted to add that Mark Eddy played an important leadership role in organizing the work of distributing, helping to install, and gathering the signs up each autumn,” said Snyder. “Several Board members, like Larry Davis and Chris Stuart and others helped to get the signs out to various farms. This project involved a lot of hands-on co-

ordination and labour – kudos to everyone who played a part!”

By connecting residents to the fields they drive past every day, the BCFA hopes to encourage pride in local farming and support for preserving Brant’s agricultural landscape for future generations.



One of 10 corn crop signs installed by the Brant County Federation of Agriculture shows how the crop is used for food, biofuel and other products, helping residents connect with Brant County’s agricultural industry.

This seed set has been a smash hit, and is growing in gardens across Canada.

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Grand Opening of 174 Trillium Way officially welcomes 49 new affordable housing units to Paris

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

The City of Brantford and County of Brant have officially opened 174 Trillium Way, a 49-unit affordable housing development aimed at easing the region's growing housing crisis.

The one- and two-bedroom units are available to singles, couples, small families and seniors. The building is a key deliverable of the Mayors' Housing Partnerships Task Force Affordable Housing Action Plan — a joint effort between the two municipalities to address what both say is an urgent need for affordable housing.

More than 1,100 households are currently on the centralized housing waitlist, with more than 65 per cent seeking one- or two-bedroom units.

Developed in partnership with Brantford Native Housing, Nova Vita and Sensity, and built by VERLY Construction Group, the net-zero energy-ready building is designed for long-term sustainability and efficiency.

"We are incredibly happy and grateful to everyone who has played a role in bringing this project to life," said Brant County Mayor David Bailey during an official ribbon cutting ceremony held on August 13, 2025. "This marks a meaningful step forward in expanding access to affordable housing — something we know is urgently needed in our communities. Access to safe and secure housing is something that everyone deserves."

Brantford Mayor Kevin Davis, who was also in attendance for the ceremony, said the development shows what can be achieved when communities work together.

"Everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to live," he said. "For our new residents, this is more than just a building, it's the foundation for a better future. I've heard first-hand from tenants how life-changing it is to feel secure, close to family, and able to plan rather than just survive day-to-day."

In a joint press release issued by the City of Brantford and County of Brant, Tenants say the building is already changing lives. One resident said rent had consumed nearly all their fixed income before moving in, leaving little for food or medical needs. Another, identified as Gord, said high rent and utility costs, combined with health issues and personal loss, left him "hardly getting by."

"I have a fresh start in life and a new lease on life as they



The newly opened 174 Trillium Way in Paris adds 49 affordable one- and two-bedroom units for singles, couples, small families and seniors, as part of a joint City of Brantford and County of Brant initiative to address the region's housing needs.

say," Gord said. "After I got my keys, I took a moment by myself to soak it all in. It is what I needed, and it all just kind of hit me then."

Several Brant County councillors shared congratulatory messages after Wednesday's ribbon-cutting. Ward 5 Coun. Christine Garneau took to social media where she said finding suitable sites for similar projects remains challenging due to servicing and density requirements but added the project shows what can be accomplished when the two municipalities work together. Despite challenges, the county will continue to look for solutions, said Garneau.

"Congratulations to everyone who was involved in this project. Welcome home, residents!"

The project was approved in March 2022 and is one of several collaborative builds planned under the Affordable Housing Action Plan.

More information about eligibility and the centralized housing waitlist is available at brantford.ca/housing.



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Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

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| 1. What is the Michelin man made of? | 6. Cindy Lou Hoo is from what story? |
| 2. How strong is an ant compared to its body weight? | 7. When was the "Summer of Love"? |
| 3. What was Prince's first album called? | 8. Which U.S. state is known as the "Sunflower State"? |
| 4. What are the zodiac signs for August? | 9. What is the largest species of shark? |
| 5. What is the capital of Alberta? | 10. Who sang the 1970s rock anthem "School's Out"? |

This week's answers are found on pg. 23



Brantford Mayor Kevin Davis and County of Brant Mayor David Bailey cut the ribbon to officially open 174 Trillium Way in Paris on Aug. 13, joined by dignitaries, residents and members of the public celebrating the 49-unit affordable housing development.

Road resurfacing set for North Paris neighbourhood streets



PARIS – Several neighbourhood streets in North Paris will undergo full-depth asphalt resurfacing over the next month, the County of Brant has announced.

Work is scheduled from Thursday, Aug. 14 to Friday, Sept. 12 on Columbine Crescent, Abeles Avenue, Owen Avenue and Larkspur Lane. GIP Paving will carry out the project on behalf of the county.

During construction, traffic will be reduced to one lane in work zones, with flaggers on site to direct vehicles. Roads will reopen to two lanes overnight and on weekends. Emergency vehicles will have access at all times. The county advises motorists to use caution when travelling through the area and allow for extra time during paving operations.



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Paris Road Antiques multi vendor market celebrates 25th anniversary this Labour Day weekend.



A vibrant array of vendors line the lush lawn of Paris Road Antiques, creating a captivating scene at the Multi-Vendor Antique and Artisan Market now in its 25th year. This year's trademark show is happening August 29th to 31st from 9 am - 6 pm - admission is free.

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

As the Labour Day long weekend approaches in Brant County, antique aficionados are eagerly anticipating a unique tradition - the 25th annual Paris Road Antiques Multi-Vendor Antique Market & Artisan Fair taking place from August 29th to 31st. While some locals may link this holiday with the Paris Fair, for numerous antique enthusiasts, the focal point lies in the yearly antique extravaganza on Paris Road. Organized by the passionate Michelle

Kopp, who runs her own Paris Road Antiques shop throughout the year, the event has grown into a beloved tradition over the past 25 years. Located at 548 Paris Rd, the expo brings together vendors and artisans from across the province, showcasing their unique wares from Friday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"I have always wanted to have an antique store ever since I was a little girl. Both my parents were serious buyers as well as collectors and I grew up in an 1840s heritage home in Ayr surrounded by antiques" says owner Michelle Kopp during an interview with The Paris Independent in July.

Kopp's journey from a small cardboard sign at the end of her driveway to a thriving antique business is a testament to her dedication and love for the trade. Starting with just three items for sale 25 years ago, she has since expanded her inventory and now employs over 195 pickers to hunt for the primitive antiques she specializes in - old farmer-made furniture characterized by natural wood.

"Pine is my absolute favourite" she says

Michelle cultivated her passion for antiques during her global travels alongside her parents, pausing at various destinations to acquire top-tier items. Guided by her father, she learned the art of discerning valuable pieces, as well as the delicate process-

es of cleaning, oiling, and refinishing old items without compromising their intrinsic worth.

The Multi-Vendor Market isn't just about buying and selling antiques; it's a celebration of community and shared passion. Shoppers come from far and wide to browse through the offerings, enjoy live music, and connect with fellow antique lovers. In a world where traditional antique

shops are disappearing, Kopp's event provides a space for enthusiasts to come together.

As the expo marks its 25th year, the spirit of camaraderie, shared love for antiques, and the thrill of discovering hidden gems continue to make it a must-visit event for antique enthusiasts. For more information and updates on the expo, visit Paris Road Antiques on Facebook.



(Above left) Michelle Kopp proudly stands at her Paris Road Antiques shop in 2000, the year it opened, marking the beginning of a journey that led to the creation of the annual multi-vendor event. (Above Right) Twenty five years later, Michelle is busy preparing for the annual antique sale that has been a signature Labour Day weekend event since 2020.

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HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: From a storage yard in Paris to the bright lights of the big City of Toronto, Conklin Shows became one of the world's largest carnival attractions.



By Chris Whelan

Thanks to Wayne Wilkinson for giving me a copy of a photo of "The World's Finest Shows" train coming through Paris in May 1955, I embarked on a captivating exploration of the Conklin family legacy, a tale steeped in the magic and mystique of the carnival world. Conklin and Garret started using the moniker "World's Finest Shows" as early as 1939.

James "Patty" Conklin, originally Joseph Renker born in Brooklyn New York in 1892, embarked on a journey that would shape the carnival industry in profound ways, ultimately connecting Conklin's World's Finest Shows to the heart of the County of Brant.

Around 1900, Conklin left his Brooklyn home, residing with foster parents before venturing out independently. By 1906, he was hustling as a street vendor at Madison Square Gardens, selling peanuts, newspapers, and herring. His foray into the amusement world commenced as a sideshow talker at Coney Island. In 1916, he crossed paths with the Conklins, eventually joining their traveling show after meeting James Wesley Conklin Sr., a figure shrouded in the lore of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, he laid the groundwork for what would blossom into a legendary carnival dynasty. In 1916, the emergence of "Colonel" J.W. Conklin and Clark's All Feature Shows heralded a new era of entertainment, with his wife, Ella Clark, by his side, actively involved in running the operation.

In 1921, after Conklin Sr.'s passing, Joseph Renker took on the name James "Patty" Conklin, along with his

brother Frank Renker and Ella Clark, ventured to Canada, where the Conklin and Garrett Shows emerged in 1924, flourishing under Patty's rapport with the Elks Lodge, who provided crucial support for the carnival's setup in Vancouver. The company expanded to encompass a vast array of attractions, rides, and concessions, traversing the "C" and "B" circuits of fairs across Western Canada.

In 1930, pivotal changes unfolded as Conklin acquired Garrett's share of the show and transferred it to his brother Frank, marking a strategic shift in the family's carnival operations. The subsequent relocation of the carnival headquarters to Ontario in 1932, with winter headquarters first established in Hamilton and then later moved to Brantford, this set the stage for a period of unprecedented growth and expansion, with their own train cars and the addition of a large storage yard in what was then still part of Paris, situated on Paris Road across from the BenMar.

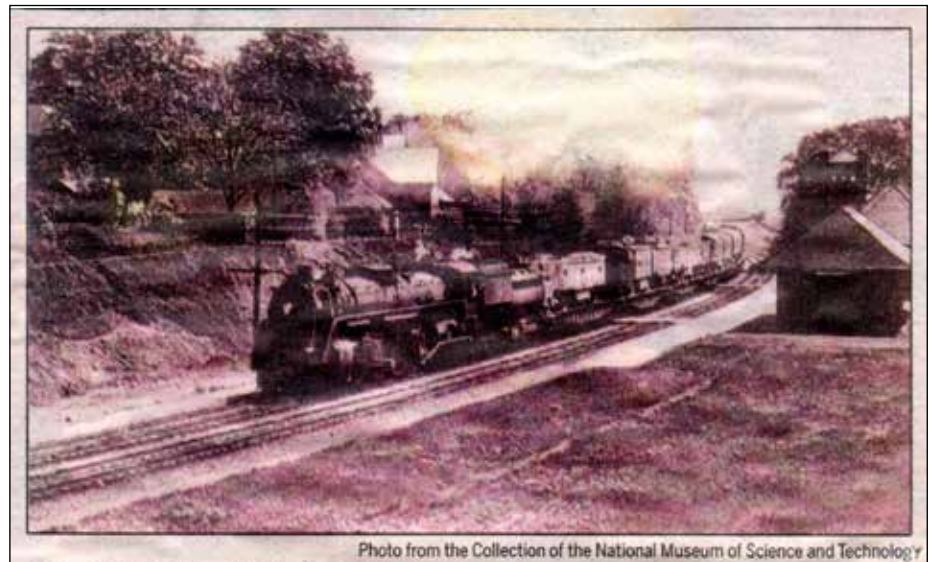
His marriage to Edythe in 1930 and the birth of their son James in 1933 marked personal milestones. Patty's ascendancy was marked by his presidency of the Showman's League of America and the founding of the Ontario Showman's League in 1958.

Conklin Shows garnered acclaim as "the World's Finest Shows," captivating audiences with a myriad of attractions and games. In 1937, they secured the prestigious contract for the Canadian National Exhibition, long heralded as the largest carnival in the world, setting new records for midway entertainment. Despite challenges during World War II, the Conklins persevered, introducing iconic rides like the "Mighty Flyer" and the "Wild Mouse."

Following Patty's passing in 1970, his son Jim assumed leadership, expanding the company's reach to include amusement parks in Toronto, Niagara Falls, and Vancouver. In 1974, Barry Jamieson joined Conklin Shows, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the company's history. The same year, Jim Conklin and Alfie Phillips, the show's president, organized the inaugural awards dinner for the fair boards, a tradition that endured for over 30 years, serving as a testament to the company's gratitude towards those who supported their endeavors.

Conklin Shows ventured back to the western exhibitions in 1975 Conklin shows biggest rival, Royal American was banned from Canada due to tax evasion. In 1976 Jim Conklin acquired the "A" circuit and all of the previous contracts held by the competitor, including the Calgary Stampede and the Vancouver Pacific Exhibition, and in 1978, the show acquired Bernard and Barry Shows, expanding its reach to fairs in Gloucester, Beamsville, Welland, Ancaster, Caledonia, and Brigden. This acquisition led to the division of the eastern road show into the Bicycle Unit, the Bernard Unit, and later the addition of the Supershows unit in 1986.

In 1992, Barry Jamieson assumed the role of President of the World's Finest Shows, which acquired the assets and contracts of the Conklin eastern road show. The show remained anchored in Simcoe, utilizing fairground barns



A circus train for the World's Finest Shows passes through the Paris Junction in May 1955.

for storage and establishing a winter workshop. Striving for excellence, World's Finest invested in a fabricating plant in Nanticoke, Ontario in 1994, continuing to upgrade rides and equipment to uphold their reputation as the "World's Finest Shows."

Barry Jamieson's dedication to running a successful entertainment business was evident as World's Finest secured the contract for the Central Canada Exhibition in Ottawa in 1997, a coveted achievement that had eluded even Patty Conklin. This milestone allowed the show to introduce several new spectacular rides while maintaining its longstanding commitments to major exhibitions across Canada. Jim Conklin retired in 1996 and passed away in May of 2023 in Brantford, ending an era of Conklins prominence in the world of carnival attractions.

Today, World's Finest Shows, a member of the Conklin Group stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of Patty and Jim Conklin, who transformed the carnival industry and left a local carnival legacy. The Conklin dynasty can boast that "more people have enjoyed themselves on Conklin midways than on the midways of any other carnival company in the world."



(THE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO PHOTO)

Conklin Shows—also known as Conklin & Garrett Ltd.—was one of the largest and most iconic traveling amusement corporations in North America. Founded in 1916 and based in Brantford, Ontario, it became a fixture at summer fairs across Canada and parts of the U.S.



(THE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO PHOTO)

Conklin Shows arrived in style—running a 45-car, brightly painted orange train specially outfitted for rapid loading and unloading of their attractions. This brought an entire traveling funfair, complete with 21 rides, 15 feature attractions, and crews of nearly 700 people, right into towns across the continent.

Police offer support to motorists who passed by 'disturbing' accident scene

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Editor's note: This story contains sensitive content.

A call was made to provincial police in Brant just after 4 a.m. last Monday reporting "debris" on Highway 403, near the West Street overpass.

On that roadway, responsibility for clearing things like litter, roadkill and other safety hazards falls to the Ministry of Transportation. So, police forwarded the call without going to the scene — which OPP Const. Jonathan Bueckert said is typical in such cases.

It's unclear when the ministry arrived — they could not comment, citing the "active investigation." But when it did, workers discovered the "debris" was in fact human remains, Bueckert said.

The ministry notified Brant OPP and officers arrived just after 6 a.m. Moments later, they closed the eastbound 403 between King George Road and Wayne Gretzky Parkway, and the Brantford Police Service closed the West Street overpass, Bueckert said.

The OPP, which is leading the investigation, has not said how or where the person died, and called the incident a "tragic accident" in a post to X later Monday.

But for some motorists who came upon the scene, it was traumatizing.

In the two hours between when the initial call came in and police arrived, traffic continued to flow on the busy stretch of highway.

As dawn broke, drivers started to see the remains — which some later described in local Facebook and Reddit groups as "disturbing."

Angela Baillie was one of around dozen people who posted.

She said she entered the highway from King George Road around 6:15 a.m.

Heading east, no lanes were blocked or closed, but she said there was what looked like a highway service vehicle pulled over, with its lights flashing, on the shoulder.

"A man was standing, blocking the lane a bit, and had everyone slowing down to move over. When I reached the scene, I was unsure what I was looking at," she said. "There was blood and what I thought were animal body parts on both sides of the highway."

Then she saw "cops flying up the westbound lanes with lights and sirens on."

Anyone who was impacted by last Monday's incident is encouraged to call Brant OPP or SOAR's crisis services

for support.

After seeing the X post or media reports, "numerous" people who were in the area around that time contacted police, Bueckert said. Some offered dashcam footage, while others expressed "difficulty or trauma" related to what happened.

Baillie felt this way, too. Once she became aware of what she had seen and driven through, she said she felt sick to her stomach and "so sad the rest of the day."

"The images kept popping in my head all afternoon."

That's a common reaction when someone experiences trauma, Kim Baker, executive director of SOAR Community Services.

"Being impacted by a difficult or sad event is not a weakness — empathy is a wonderful human trait. And it is not a weakness to admit we are affected by these events or the suffering of others," she added.

Baker said this could manifest in several ways — difficulty sleeping, trouble concentrating, constant thoughts about the event, feeling overwhelmed, anxious or persistently sad, or struggling to go to work, school or enjoyable activities.

She also advised those who witnessed this or another traumatic incident to:

Acknowledge how they feel. "It is OK to admit we are upset or shaken. Not giving yourself permission to have those feelings can make it tougher."

Talk to someone they trust about their thoughts and feelings. "Sometimes people need a few days to make sense of an experience before sharing about it."

Try to avoid replaying the event in their minds and avoid media coverage of the event, if necessary.

Try to stick to regular routines, which can be grounding. Ask for help if they need it.

Police have offered support to some of those who reached out through victim services. And "anyone else who feels negatively impacted is encouraged to contact Brant OPP (1-888-310-1122) for assistance," Bueckert said.

Crisis services can be reached any time day or night through SOAR Community Services at 519-759-7188 or 1-866-811-7188. The organization also has a walk-in mental health clinic at 133 Elgin St. from 2 to 7 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The OPP investigation is ongoing, while Brantford police continue to probe the events preceding the incident. The OPP said there is no reason at this time to believe it was a homicide.

Celeste Percy-Beauregard's reporting is funded by the Canadian government through its Local Journalism Initiative. The funding allows her to report on stories about Brant County.



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BCHS opens Andersen Ambulatory Assessment Area, expanding emergency department at Brantford General Hospital

MEDIA RELEASE

The Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS) is marking a major milestone in its Emergency Department (ED) Renovation Improvement Project with the official opening of the Andersen Ambulatory Assessment Area – Zone 7 at Brantford General Hospital.

Opening for patient care on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, this modern, 2,200-square-foot facility expands the ED to more than 25,000 square feet. Purpose-built for patients with lower-acuity needs, the new area is designed to improve patient flow, comfort, and accessibility.

- The space features:
- Six private treatment rooms
- Six treatment chairs/recliners
- A dedicated minor procedures room
- State-of-the-art medical equipment
- Enhanced waiting areas

“This space is transforming how we deliver emergency care,” said Dr. Somaiah Ahmed, Chief & Medical Director of Emergency Medicine. “It allows us to serve patients more efficiently, while offering a better experience for both patients and staff.”

“This is more than just an expansion of our Emergency Department,” added Bonnie Camm, BCHS President & CEO. “It represents the future of healthcare we’re building together – a future where care goes beyond the clinical and where spaces reflect the dignity,

comfort, and respect every patient deserves.”

The Andersen Ambulatory Assessment Area is named in recognition of a transformational philanthropic gift from Erik and Birthe Andersen to the BCHS Foundation.

“Erik and Birthe Andersen’s exceptional and generous donation leaves an incredible legacy that will benefit community healthcare for generations to come,” said Kari Wilson, Executive Director of the BCHS Foundation. “We are deeply grateful for this tremendous gift to benefit emergency care at BCHS.”

BCHS extends its thanks to the Ontario Ministry of Health, the BCHS Foundation and its donors, the redevelopment and construction teams, the Emergency Department care teams, and all staff and partners whose dedication made this project possible.

The next phase of the ED Renovation Improvement Project will focus on upgrading the existing waiting room, triage, and patient registration areas. The full \$32-million project is expected to be completed by early 2027.

To date, the BCHS Foundation has raised more than \$8 million toward the project, meeting provincial funding requirements and supporting the purchase of essential medical equipment. Without donor support, this renovation would not be possible.

More information on the Emergency Department Renovation Improvement Project is available at Reimagine BCHS.



The new patient waiting area in the Andersen Ambulatory Assessment Area – Zone 7 at Brantford General Hospital offers a modern, comfortable space designed to enhance accessibility and improve patient flow for those with lower-acuity needs.



(BRANT COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM PHOTOS)

Treatment chairs in the Andersen Ambulatory Assessment Area – Zone 7 provide patients with a comfortable setting for care, supported by modern medical equipment and dedicated staff in Brantford General Hospital’s expanded Emergency Department.

Paris Red Hatters celebrate 20 years of friendship and flair

EMMA BOWMAN

Paris Independent Contributor

For 20 years, the Paris Red Hatters have been proving that friendship, laughter and a splash of flair never go out of style. Known locally as the “Paris Red Hat Winers,” the 17-member group has spent two decades sharing adventures, supporting their community and embracing life’s joys—whether in full regalia of red hats and purple finery or simply in the company of good friends.

The Red Hats are a worldwide membership society that encourages women to maintain the important foundation of sisterhood and friendship during one’s life journey. Wearing red hats and the fun purple accompaniments, Paris’ chapter held their first meeting at the Canadian Tavern, 20 years ago, on May 4th, 2005, with 17 ladies in attendance. The launch of the first meeting was documented in The Paris Star on May 11th, 2005, in an article rightfully noted the ladies were in “full regalia with attitude.”

Throughout the last two decades, “Some members have moved away, passed away, or decided that this wasn’t for them ... when one leaves another one joins,” explained Dianne Lawn, one of the founding members of the Paris chapter alongside Sharon McCorkindale.

Each member of the Red Hatters chooses a unique nickname to use within the group. When Lawn and McCorkindale established

the Paris chapter, they became known as Queen Dee and Scarlet, respectively. This year, the Winers marked not only their 20th anniversary but also honoured the original members who remain active in the group. These long-standing members include Mabel Robertson, Gay Cochrane, Pauline Whelan, Ann Jarvis, Terry McCulloch, Dorothy DeCator, along with the founders themselves, Dianne Lawn and Sharon McCorkindale.

Although they no longer wear the red hats and its purple companions, this group of ladies remain strong in their core values and even share their love and friendship, and their loyalty extends to the community. Every Christmas they sponsor a local family in the annual Christmas Hampers program, as well as making donations to alongside their sponsorship. Lawn says, “We are a generous group of ladies who look forward to giving to this cause.”

Over the past two decades, the Red Winers have filled their calendars with an impressive array of social gatherings and adventures. Their activities have ranged from casual lunches and potlucks to theatre outings, bowling nights, and creative workshops in painting and pottery. They have organized lively events such as a car rally, downtown Paris scavenger hunts, and a whimsical tea party at Mary Maxim, as well as games nights at the Paris Legion. Seasonal favourites have included corn maze walks, the Lioness Dessert Night,

and tours of a lavender farm, while cultural outings have taken them to the Drumbo Heritage Museum and fashion shows. Each event reflects the group’s commitment to fun, friendship, and making every moment together memorable.

For their 10th anniversary, this fun bunch of ladies took the group on a special trip to go glamping at Long Point Eco-adventures. Spending time in nature and going into town to play around was a great memory they’ve cherished. Now another decade later, for this year’s big anniversary, they had the same vision, however,

something more local. To start, in June the ladies went to the Hamilton Family Theatre in Cambridge to see a play and go for dinner, keeping a more relaxed celebration which they have grown to love.

The Red Hats of Paris are generous, hilarious, thoughtful, and beyond kind. Being a Red Hat keeps the sense of community that most places within our society lacks; having the space to be oneself and have mutual experiences with a multitude of different perspectives and fellow women is an experience that cannot be replaced by many things in one’s life.



Photo of all the ladies that joined the 20th anniversary celebration on June 5th. Back (left to right): Joyce Leach, Terry McCulloch, Dorothy DeCator, Elaine Doyle, Carol Lewis, Andi Pearce, Sharon McCorkindale, Gay Cochrane, Elinor Kesteloot. Front (left to right): Ann Jarvis, Dianne Lawn, Pauline Whelan



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)

Sam Roberts Band closed out Friday night of the festival and organizers called it the biggest crowd in festival history. The Sam Roberts Band followed up that stellar performance with a trip to Elora for the Riverfest doing YukonBlonde a solid and substituting for them after they were unable to make it because of the Air Canada strike.



Thousands packed Twin Rivers Stadium to see the Sam Roberts Band headline Paris Drinks Fest, capping off a weekend of music, food and celebration. Other musical talent that rallied the Friday night crowd included Absolute Losers, and Trash Panda Brass.



Festivalgoers enjoyed lawn games and local beverages at Paris Drinks Fest, adding to the lively atmosphere alongside music, food and vendor offerings.



A local brewer from The Paris Beer Company serves up craft favourites to festivalgoers at Paris Drinks Fest, showcasing the region's talent and flavours.



Vendors at Paris Drinks Fest kept spirits high, serving up local wines, craft brews and specialty cocktails to thousands of guests who poured into Twin Rivers Stadium for the weekend celebration.



Born in the Eighties fired up the crowd with their unique delivery, known for their high-energy performances featuring '80s dance hits blended with '90s pop, rap, R&B classics—and even a few 2000s club bangers for good measure. Saturday night featured music from altameda, SHEBAD, The Wild High, Shania Twink and headliner Matt Mays. Mays has played in Paris before as part of the DT Conert Series and every year, Paris Drinks Fest organizers (who also run the DT Concert Series) are bombarded with people asking for Mays to return – and he did not disappoint!



The festival is more than just food drinks and dancing; it's a place where friends meet and enjoy the final days of summer.



Festivalgoers hit the dance floor at Paris Drinks Fest, where live music, local flavours and summer vibes kept the energy high all weekend long.

The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

Dusters gear up for playoffs in a league of their own – where every game ends 2-2

SID LUCKMAN

Paris Independent Contributor

This past week due to television programming conflicts (meaning the guys wanted to watch the Jays' Day game this Thursday), the Dusters played a Tuesday game.

Truly, a playoff mentality has set in with the Dusters League. If there was any more back checking, then we'd have to paint another Blue Line.

This week's 40-30 of the game goes to Camaryn. This great goalie did not even know the Dusters existed until the Monday before game time! This is truly what a 2-2 game needs! A call up goalie from the fan base who stops 40 shots! Well done, Camaryn! Local junior hockey legend and poorest rich man in town CamStone, continues to live by the slapshot. He has contended that it is actually a wrist shot but, I guess we should give him the benefit of the doubt. Or he may foreclose.

Mentions should be made to Chadlatty (one word) on his return from the Arkansas Summer League. That man knows real brisquit.

Well, play time is over for the Dusters now! All this season has been leading into these final, playoff weeks. The playoffs begin on Thursday, August 21 at 4pm. Likely, playoff intensity will last until 4:10pm that day and just keep getting less until the final game on September 4.

The Costanza Bucket will be awarded to commemorate the champion of a League where all games are an official 2-2 tie! The series will begin August 21 at 4pm and will consist of a 3 game, home-home-home series of aggregate score. Now, this means we know it will 6-6. So, we'll just play rock paper scissors before we close the season down on September 4.

Come join us!

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AT GRANTHAVEN.COM**

Predators U15 girls' team closes season with heart and hustle

The Paris Predators U15 girls' softball team wrapped up a season of growth and determination with a 3-11 record in the Flamborough Minor Softball Association league, earning a place in a highly competitive division at the year-end tournament in Ancaster on August 15 and 16.

Their first game, held Friday night, was against a strong Stoney Creek team. The Predators played with grit, and their pitchers—Ellie Corbett, Claire Myers and Alaina Evoy—kept opposing batters guessing with a steady mix of pitches. Behind the plate, Jamie Draper was outstanding, stopping Stoney Creek from stealing home. A defensive highlight came when short-stop Chloe Whitcroft snagged a pop fly and quickly turned it into a double play with a throw to first base, cleanly caught by Briar Wright. On offence, Corbett smashed a triple to right field in the second inning. Despite the effort, Paris fell 20-2.

Bright and early Saturday morning, the team returned for an 8 a.m. match-up against Lynden, who went on to become tournament finalists. Lynden jumped to an early lead, but Paris battled back in the third and fourth innings with some exciting plays. Natalija Sabila-Dancetovic and Eliza McDonald both stole home in thrilling fashion. At the plate, Quinn Emmott



Pictured (front row) Eliza MacDonald, Alaina Evoy and Jamie Draper, (back row) Coach Phil Emmott, Aleah Labonte, Natalija Sabila-Dancetovic, Quinn Emmott, Briar Wright, Chloe Whitcroft, Ellie Corbett, Claire Myers and Coach Pam Emmott.

fought through an impressive at-bat, fouling off four consecutive pitches before connecting. Aleah Labonte showed resilience after taking a hard pitch to the back, staying in the game and holding her ground at third base. Paris ultimately dropped the game 18-8, but the score didn't reflect the team's determination.

Throughout the tournament, the Predators displayed grit, skill and sportsmanship. It was a season to be proud of, and coaches Phil and Pam Emmott praised the players for their dedication and teamwork.

Paris soccer teams show grit, skill in finals and tournament play



(PARIS FC PHOTOS)

The Paris FC U18 boys (no current photo) fought hard in the League Cup finals against Mount Hamilton the weekend of August 9-10, despite numerous injuries and playing short. It was a strong team effort for the end of the season. Meanwhile the U16 girls (pictured) reached the Ontario Cup quarter-finals, finishing in the tournament's top eight — an impressive achievement. The U18 girls (pictured under the tent) claimed another championship title at the AC Douglas Tournament in Niagara Falls, their final tournament.

Dick Emerson Invitational raises \$5,000 for Jumpstart in Brant

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

In a heartwarming display of sportsmanship and generosity, the Dick Emerson Invitational once again brought together a stellar lineup of players and sponsors to support Jumpstart for Kids in Brant, raising an impressive \$5000 for the cause. Organized diligently by the passionate duo John and Paul Emerson for over two decades, this event has become a beacon of community support and sporting excellence.

Notable figures graced the greens, showcasing their skills and camaraderie in the name of charity. Among them were Alan Hepple, the esteemed director of pro scouting for Utah Mammoth, the recently retired NHL player Zac Dalpe, the seasoned pro referee Steve Cruickshank with over 1000 hockey games under his belt, and Tyler Pelton, the longstanding captain of the Branford Blast. Mark Maguire, the newly appointed president of Adidas Canada, added his prestige to the event.

The event wouldn't have been possible

without the support of dedicated sponsors including 214, Brimich, Comfort Plus, Pelton Brothers, and Paris Jewellers. A special mention goes out to the Pelton Brothers for their continuous support.

Behind the scenes, the invaluable assistance of helpers Deb Pickering, Lynda Ogborne, Michelle Stewart, and Emma Gentile ensured the smooth running of the tournament, making it a memorable day for all involved.

The award ceremony and after-party, graciously hosted by Paul and Emily Dalpe, provided a fitting end to the day's events. The delectable spread from Two Rivers Smokehouse right here in Paris left everyone satisfied, a testament to the culinary talents of owners Calen and Danielle, who added their unique touch to the occasion.

The winners of the tournament displayed exceptional skill, with Richard Emerson the Fourth leading his team to victory with an impressive -15. Josh Spiegel, Mike Holman, and Charlie Summit rounded out the winning team, showcasing their prowess



John and Paul Emerson hold the coveted Dick Emerson Cup in this photo taken during the 2024 tournament. (CHRIS WHELAN PHOTO)

on the course.

In individual contests, 16-year-old Cameron Stewart stole the show with a remarkable 315-yard drive, claiming the title of the longest drive. Alex Hall's precision was unmatched as he landed his shot within a foot of the hole, securing the closest to the pin award.

Recognizing integrity and sportsman-

ship, the title of "Most Honest Golfers" was bestowed upon Terry Brown, Tony Panzera, Doug Hag, and Johnny Fever, highlighting the true spirit of the game.

The Dick Emerson Invitational once again proved to be a resounding success, blending sport, charity, and community spirit in a harmonious celebration of golf and giving back.



(SCOOP STEWART PHOTOS)

Cam, Jack Steve Cruickshank, Haybo and proud mom Michelle Stewart



Allan Hepple, Tallen Pelton, Zac Dalpe and Tyler Pelton



Joeys Uncle Larry Pickering with his boys, Kyle and Jeremy and his grandson Jack sponsored thousand dollar hole in one in memory of Joey Pickering



Look alike winner Jeff Mackay wins the Goldie Goldthorpe look alike contest

Rain or shine, families made a splash at summer open house



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)

Families braved a few rain showers to enjoy the Summer Open House at 70 Hartley Ave., on Sunday August 17th. It was hosted by Fit Effect Gym and Absolute Health & Wellness, and featured a grand opening BBQ for Createwell, with exclusive deals, free food, ice cream and plenty of fun for kids. Meet the event hosts (left to right): Nick Hayward (Fit Effect), Daneka Miller (Fit Effect), Katlyn Simpson (Createwell), Sarah Kirby (Createwell), Sonia Gashgarian (Absolute Health & Wellness) and Johann D Chickera (Absolute Health & Wellness).



Paris Firefighters Josh Liciskai, John Barrett, Phil Dalpe, Liam Barns, Jourdyn Forsyth, and DJ Linkert enjoyed the open house activities – and gave kids a chance to check out the firetruck and equipment.



Rain showers turned into a splash-filled adventure as kids slid through puddles during the Summer Open House at 70 Hartley Ave. Children made the most of the wet weather, laughing and playing in puddles while parents enjoyed the free food that was served – featuring delicious eats from Link Street Sausage and sweet treats from Chocolate Sensations.

Paris cyclist gears up for R4 Campfire Circle Challenge



CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Paris resident Sandra Piccoli is once again proving that determination, grit, and compassion make for a powerful combination. After conquering the 824-kilometre R2//NYC ride last year, she's setting her sights on event this year, rebranded as the R4 Campfire Circle challenge — an endurance event that blends her love of cycling with her passion for helping children living with cancer and serious illness.

This year's route will take riders from Ontario to Quebec City, covering approximately 850 kilometres over less-travelled roads. While the elevation may be less daunting than last year's mountain climbs, the opening stretch will test even the most seasoned cyclists: three consecutive days nearing 200 kilometres each.

Training on the Clock

Sandra's training schedule has been relentless. Riding between 450 and 550 kilometres a week, she's been stacking back-to-back long-distance rides, including a 253-kilometre trek to Port Stanley. To prepare for last year's steep terrain, she famously climbed Mile Hill 21 times in one afternoon; this year in the coming weeks, she plans to do it 50 times — one climb for every \$100 she still needs to raise.

Balancing her part-time job with training has meant squeezing in every possible kilometre. "I need to make every minute count," she says. "The first three days are going to be tough, but seeing our province and Quebec on two wheels — while raising money for the kids — makes it all worth it."

Riding for the Kids

All proceeds from the ride go directly to Campfire Circle, an organization providing camp experiences to children facing life-threatening illnesses. The programs, offered at no cost to families, are designed to help kids reclaim a sense of joy and normalcy.

For Piccoli, the cause is deeply personal. "I'm at a time in my life where I want to give back, and I couldn't think of a better way to do this than by putting my passion

towards raising money for kids with cancer or other serious illnesses," she says.

While she didn't meet any families during last year's ride, that changed this summer. She volunteered for a week at the Kids-Only Muskoka Camp in July and will return later this month for Family Camp at Rainbow Lake in Waterford. "Whenever things got challenging during the ride, we would always say out loud, 'It's for the kids.' Meeting them in person this year makes that connection even stronger."

A Goal in Sight

Piccoli fundraising target is \$5,000 — the same as last year, when she slightly surpassed it with just over \$5,100. She hopes community members will once again rally behind her — and so far, they are. As of press deadline, she's already raised \$5,038 and counting.

"Every dollar makes a difference," she says. "These camps create lifelong memories for kids who need them most."

Last year's R2//NYC ride raised \$925,000 for Campfire Circle. This year's R4 riders will pedal with the same mission: to give children facing the hardest battles of their lives a chance to simply be kids again.

Piccoli will be the only Paris resident in the 2025 event, but she hopes her efforts will inspire others to support or even participate in the future.

How to Help

Donations to Piccoli's fundraising campaign can be made by scanning the QR code on this page or by visiting the Campfire Circle website.

"Whether you donate \$10 or \$100, you're helping create magic for these kids," Piccoli says. "And that's worth every kilometre."



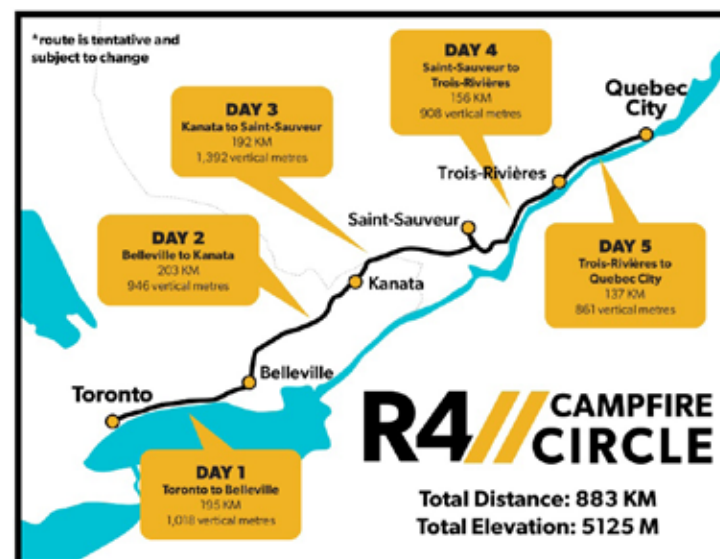
The Paris Independent Pick Up Locations

PARIS

Brant Sports Complex
Brave Waves Swim School
Canadian Tire
Cobblestone Public House
Cowan Community Health Hub Pharmacy.
Detour Café Paris
Dog-Eared Cafe
Egg Smart
Elberta Farms Country Market
Farah Foods
Grand River Estates
Horsfall's Auto Service
Jay's No Frills
John M Hall The House of Quality Linen
Le Petite Marche
Mary Maxim
Northville Pharmacy
Paris Beer Company
Paris Health Store

Paris Inn
Paris Jewellers
Park Lane Terrace
Paris Branch--County of Brant Public Library
PrimaCare Community Family Health Team
Queensview Retirement Community
Rexall Pharmacy
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29
Sales Decorating
Secret Lunch and Catering
Sobeys
Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House Paris
Telfer Place Retirement Residence
Tim Hortons - Rest Acres
Tim Hortons - Paris Road
Tim Hortons - Grand River St N

The Gem Marketplace
The Grand Bayou Cajun Kitchen
The Paris Wincey Mills Market
Walter's Greenhouses & Garden Centre
Wright's Variety Store
Willett Urgent Care Centre
BURFORD
County of Brant Library - Burford
Foodland
Nelly's Bake & Brew
PRINCETON
Jim's Lunch
Sinden Feed & Seed Inc.
ST. GEORGE
County of Brant Library - St. George
Freshmart
Tim Hortons — Brant Rd



This year's R4 Campfire Circle route will take riders from Ontario to Quebec City, covering approximately 850 kilometres over less-travelled roads (pictured above.) If you want to help support local woman Sandra Piccoli's fundraising campaign, scan the QR code above.



A perfect day in Paris: Four stops, endless flavour & fun

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

If you're looking for the perfect excuse to explore the charm of Paris, Ontario, we've mapped out a day trip that's as satisfying for your tastebuds as it is for your sense of adventure. From farm-fresh flavours to cozy coffee culture, hearty breakfasts to secret dinners, these four local gems will make your day delicious from start to finish.

Stop 1 – Breakfast Bliss at Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House

Start your morning at Stacked Pancake Paris, where every plate is made from scratch and stacked with flavour. Whether you go for fluffy double berry pancakes, a Hot Honey Benedict, or a loaded southwest steak hashbrown



How delicious are these veggie dumplings and kimchi dumplings? Don't know the answer? Stop by the Secret Lunch to uncover the secret.



Look no further than Stacked Pancake and Breakfast House for the perfect stack of delicious, freshly made pancakes to start your day. This menu will blow you away. Don't believe us? Check it out, you won't be disappointed.

skillet, your tastebuds will thank you. Owners Sachin and Rakhil Kapil have built a warm, family-friendly spot where breakfast dreams come true daily from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring an appetite—you'll want to clean your plate before moving on to your next adventure.

Stop 2 – Country Charm at Moore Farms

After breakfast, take a scenic drive to Moore Farms, a 109-year-old Century Farm that's as rich in history as it is in fresh produce. Wander through their market stocked with local bounty, meet the Longhorn cattle, or pick seasonal favourites like strawberries and pumpkins. If you time it right, grab lunch at the Longhorn Smokehouse food truck—Farmer Alan's brisket is legendary. For an extra dose of charm, plan your visit during one of their artisan markets or live music events for a full-on country experience.

Stop 3 – Midday Magic at The Secret Lunch / High Level

When lunchtime cravings kick in, head downtown to The Secret Lunch for creative eats that you won't find anywhere else. From bang bang mac and cheese to lavish egg bennies topped with secret buttermilk hollandaise, chef Adam Oakes has perfected the art of flavour. The retro 80s vibe inside makes every bite feel like part of the experience. If you're planning ahead, make a dinner reservation for their upscale weekend menu—think drunken

scallops, beef carbonara, or dry-aged beef tenderloin.

Stop 4 – Unwind at Dog-Eared Café

End your day with a slow coffee or evening drink at Dog-Eared Café, Paris's only bookstore café. Browse the shelves, sink into a couch with a Maple Oat Latte, or stick around for one of their lively evening events—from live music to spicy trivia nights. Whether it's a cappuccino and a good book or a glass of local wine and laughter with friends, this is the perfect spot to reflect on your day's adventures.

Make a day of it—you'll leave with a full belly, a happy heart, and a deeper love for the flavours and community spirit that make Paris unforgettable.



How about this sweet deal? Stop by Moores Farms in Ayr to fill up on local sweet corn. It's the most wonderful time of the year! Stock up on all the locally grown produce now before the season ends!



Good Morning, Good evening or how about just old fashioned good drinks with the best view in town! If you're looking for a creative beverage to give you a boost throughout the day, stop by this local gem in Downtown Paris.

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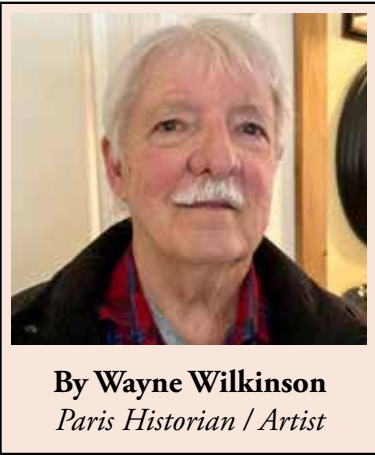
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THEN AND NOW: 27 - 29 Grand River Street North: A Journey Through Time



In the heart of Paris, Ontario, lies a stretch of Grand River St. that has witnessed the ebbs and flows of time, hosting a myriad of businesses and establishments that have withstood the tests of time in our town's history. One particular building, standing proudly since around 1860, has silently observed the transformation of the town from its very core.

The Early Years:
In an 1865 photograph, this building stands prominently, offering one of the ear-

liest glimpses into downtown Paris. From this historical vantage point, it becomes apparent that the structure was designed for double occupancy, hinting at a shared past that remains shrouded in mystery. By 1862, George Bell breathed life into the building by establishing his bakery within its walls. For nearly half a century, until 1910, the aroma of freshly baked goods wafted through the streets, making Bell's bakery a cherished destination for the townsfolk seeking delectable treats.

A Shift in Era:
Fast forward to 1919, when a young barber hailing from England, Earnest Joseph Taylor, set up his barber shop at #27. Taylor's establishment not only offered haircuts but also catered to the needs of tobacco enthusiasts and avid readers with a selection of magazines. Over time, the shop became a family affair as Taylor's sons—George, Jack, and Walter—carried on the legacy, eventually relocating the business to Mechanic St. in 1991.

Within the walls of #27, customers could undergo various services, including the extraction of a troublesome tooth for a mere 50 cents—a testament to the bygone prac-



tices of the era, albeit with a sharp sting. **Changing Tides:**

In the mid-20th century, #27 underwent a metamorphosis, briefly becoming "Lee Poys Chinese Laundry" from 1945 to 1950 before transitioning into a modern establishment. In 1974, Tony Costantini breathed new life into the space with his avant-garde "Mr. Tony's Unisex Hairstyling" salon, which thrived until 1990, marking the end of an era for the building.

A Legacy of Commerce at #29:
Meanwhile, next door at #29, Mike Onorato opened the doors to "People's Fruit Market" in 1921, a family-run establishment that served the community until the early 1950s. Earl Moore later took the reins, renaming the market as "Earl's Fruit Market" in 1953. Under Moore's visionary

leadership, the market diversified its offerings, introducing "Fresh Pressed Grapes" and wine barrels to its eager clientele.

The evolution of #29 continued with the brief but memorable presence of "Angelo's Pizza" from 1980 to 1985. However, as the building aged and faced the threat of collapse, the community rallied to its rescue.

Revitalization and Transformation:
In 2004, Brant County intervened, acquiring the property with a vision to rejuvenate this historical edifice. Gradually, the building metamorphosed into a picturesque parkette that paid homage to its storied past. On June 6th, 2008, the grand unveiling of "Cobblestone Common" marked a new chapter in the building's history, offering residents a serene oasis with unparalleled views of the valley town.



In 1919, a young barber hailing from England, Earnest Joseph Taylor, set up his barber shop at 27 Grand River Street North.

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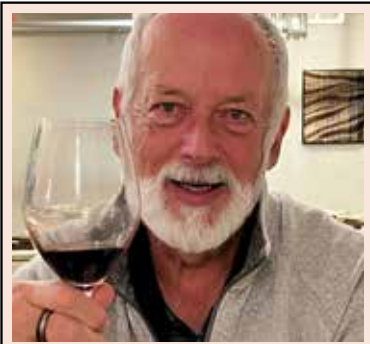




A view of lower town Paris circa 1865. The building identified with an arrow was 27/29 Grand River St N, which was eventually demolished to make way for what is now the Cobblestone Common Park, unveiled in June 2008.



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Discovering the freshwater shipwreck diving capital of the world



By Paul Knowles

Here's your trivia question for the day: "Name the freshwater and shipwreck diving capital of the world."

You don't have to go too far afield, according to Guillaume Courcy. His answer would be "Kingston, Ontario and the Thousand Islands." And his evidence is pretty convincing.

Courcy, a native of Rimouski, Quebec, is a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces. He served internationally, and learned to scuba dive while stationed on a peace-keeping mission in Israel. His last posting was to Kingston; he came there in 2011, and joined the local military scuba club. And he quickly became aware of the treasure trove of shipwrecks awaiting exploration around the Thousand Islands. He completed his diving instructor qualifications in 2019.

His wife, Martine Roux, a diving instructor from Montreal, met Guillaume because of their shared interest in spending time underwater. They became life partners and in 2020, they became business partners as well. In that infamous Covid year, they acquired their first boat, a tug called the Dorothy J. Guillaume moved straight from his military career into his new life as an underwater entrepreneur. And despite the challenges of the pandemic, "Neptune and Salacia Diving" prospered. (Neptune is the Roman god of freshwater and the sea; Salacia, his consort, is the goddess of the sea.) They opened a dive shop in 2022, and bought a second boat, a Zodiac, in 2023.

If you spend some time with Guillaume, you will become convinced that the number one reason for their success is the personal enthusiasm of the owners. They live and breathe diving, and even after diving around the Thousand Islands for more than a decade, they continue to be very excited about the experiences that await them on every dive.

Guillaume admits that his claim about the freshwater and shipwreck diving capital of the world



The Glendora is one of the many shipwrecks near Kingston that can be explored by divers.

would be disputed by fans of the Georgian Bay waters around Tobermory. But his tongue-in-cheek goal is "to steal that title back from Tobermory."

There is no doubt that freshwater divers will find unending opportunities to explore shipwrecks in the waters of the St. Lawrence River, off Kingston. (The St. Lawrence starts here, feeding out of Lake Ontario). The estimate is that there are between 200 and 400 shipwrecks in the area. Many of them are ships that foundered in storms; some, like the HMS Princess Charlotte, saw military action in the War of 1812; many more have been deliberately sunk by their owners, because they were no longer seaworthy.

More recently some, like the Wolfe Island II, have been deliberately sent to the bottom as artificial reefs and dive sites.

If you spend time on the water or in the air over the Thousand Islands, the sheer number of shipwrecks is quickly apparent. I took a helicopter tour that included flying over Garden Island – where in that small area alone, about 20 shipwrecks are easily spotted from the air.

What makes freshwater diving special for shipwreck enthusiasts is that most wrecks are wooden ships. Wooden ships that sink in salt water are quickly eaten away by the salt. Guillaume told me, "Cold water, fresh water, keeps these wrecks alive." The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River are home to the largest collection of wooded ship wrecks in the world.

There are a number of ways that visitors to Kingston can get up close and personal with shipwrecks. Neptune and Salacia Diving own the first and only PADI certified dive boat in Canada – PADI is the highly recognized "Professional Association of Diving Instructors."

Guillaume and Martine offered scuba diving charters, scuba

courses, and snorkelling tours. This summer, they introduced a War of 1812 snorkelling tour.

So would-be explorers have options ranging from snorkelling above wrecks, to diving to spectacular sites like the Comet, an 1864 paddle-wheeler now resting in 80 feet of water.

This being Canada, it turns out diving in an all-weather sport. Guillaume is a certified "ice diving instructor", so he takes well-insulated clients out and under, all year round.

The quirky, fun side of the business is evident as he talks about their very popular feature, "Zombie Apocalypse Diving", where cosplay meets scuba.

Guillaume and Martine also spear-head clean-up dives on the Kingston waterfront, run by the local Rotary club. In the first year of the event, divers collected over 800kg of debris around the harbour. The event has grown to include non-divers on the shore, and in kayaks and canoes, all working to keep the harbour in pristine shape.

The business has grown significantly through its five years of operation, but Guillaume and Martine are committed to making it better, continually offering new programs and dive experiences. When I met Guillaume, there were 11 moorings at dive locations – permanent mooring stations where boats can tie up, thus preventing damage to the wrecks from anchors. The goal, he says, is to have to 30 moorings, opening more and more potential for exciting exploration of the shipwrecks in the waters of the Thousand Islands.

**

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.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Guillaume Courcy wants to claim the title of "Freshwater and shipwreck diving capital of the world" for Kingston.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The elongated shapes in the water of Garden Island are all shipwrecks



Neptune and Salacia's first dive boat, the Dorothy J.



(NEPTUNE AND SALACIA DIVING PHOTO)

The wreck of the twice-named vessel, the Alhoa/Effie Mae.

Brantford-Brant jobless rate rises amid influx of job seekers

MEDIA RELEASE

Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie

Brantford-Brant's unemployment rate rose to 7.8 per cent in July as more people entered the local labour market, according to Statistics Canada's latest seasonally adjusted estimates.

The figure is up from 7 per cent in June and is just shy of Ontario's 7.9 per cent rate, but almost a full percentage point above Canada's 6.9 per cent average. Brantford-Brant also recorded the highest unemployment rate in July among neighbouring labour markets, with Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo the next closest at 7.3 per cent.

For the fifth consecutive month, the local labour force grew significantly, increasing the number of both employed and unemployed residents.

"More people are participating in the local labour market, but it is typical that not all those people find jobs and that pushes up the unemployment rate," said Danette Dalton, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.

"Since March, an estimated 6,800 people have joined the labour force,

with 4,700 finding employment. And while it is terrible that 2,000 people didn't find work, overall, our economy has gained jobs even in the midst of so much global uncertainty. That is no small achievement."

Dalton said there is no single reason for the surge in job seekers. Possible factors include population growth, a decline in self-employment – with some people opting for steady paycheques – and rising living costs prompting more residents to look for work.

"The big increase in unemployed residents – 2,000 more since March and 3,000 since January – reinforces the need for more supports for individuals, from the community and governments," she said. "Local employment services are facing much higher caseloads."

The Workforce Planning Board's Grand Erie Jobs site saw more than 1,800 new job postings from about 1,000 employers in July, similar to June's numbers.

The Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie is one of 26 non-profit organizations in Ontario that lead labour force planning, funded in part by the governments of Canada and Ontario.

Southern Ontario Fall Fairs launch joint 50/50 lottery

MEDIA RELEASE

Seven of Southern Ontario's biggest fall fairs are teaming up this year to launch Ontario Fair Fortune — a regional 50/50 lottery that promises one lucky ticket holder a major cash prize while supporting local causes.

The Paris Fair, West Niagara Fair, Binbrook Fair, Ancaster Fair, Caledonia Fair, Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show, and the Rockton World's Fair have joined forces to run the fundraiser, which kicked off August 15.

Proceeds from ticket sales will support agricultural education, environmental conservation and the arts in participating communities.

The jackpot will grow with every ticket purchased, and each fair will offer a \$1,000 early bird prize, drawn before the close of its event. Ticket buyers purchasing online can direct their support to a specific fair by selecting it from the "In Support Of" drop-down menu.

Full rules and eligibility details are available online at <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/fairfortune/6>



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WEEKLY Horoscope

August 20 - August 27, 2025

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



You're feeling bold this week, Aries. Use a surge of energy to speak out about something that needs to be said. Be mindful of how others may receive it.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Stability and home life are in the spotlight, Taurus. You may be called to handle something domestic or financial. Use your natural patience to avoid impulsive decisions.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



Gemini, conversations will flow with ease this week, and you'll be a magnet for interesting ideas. If you have been waiting to pitch an idea, do it right now.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



Cancer, you may assess your value right now, both financially and emotionally. An important decision requires you to have a level head. It's a great week to update a budget.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



This week invites you to step into the spotlight, Leo. This is just where you like to be. Don't be afraid to own your power and reveal something personal to friends and family.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



You're feeling introspective this week, so take time to reflect and recharge while confronting any resurfacing memories head-on.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Your social life picks up, and someone in your network may present a useful opportunity. Be open to collaboration, Libra. Just don't say yes to too many things at once.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Currently your ambition is in focus and others are noticing, Scorpio. A professional opportunity may come your way, but don't rush the details. Trust your intuition when negotiating.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



You are craving inspiration and something new, Sagittarius. This is the week to explore new ideas, travel or study something interesting. A philosophical discussion might come up.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Capricorn, change is in the air whether you invite it or it finds you. Emotional matters may require some extra attention right now.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Aquarius, your partnerships are thriving. Adjust expectations to match your productivity, with a turning point midweek.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Think about looking at your daily habits, Pisces. Figure out if anything needs to be tweaked. You need to take care of yourself and prioritize your health.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 20

Amy Adams, Actress (51)

AUGUST 21

Usain Bolt, Athlete (39)

AUGUST 22

Howie Dorough, Musician (52)

AUGUST 23

Rick Springfield, Musician (76)

AUGUST 24

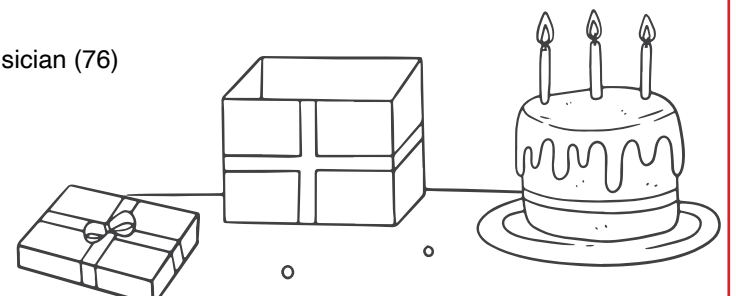
Dave Chappelle, Comedian (52)

AUGUST 25

Gene Simmons, Musician (76)

AUGUST 26

Melissa McCarthy, Actress (55)





Riddles

I'm soft and fluffy, in s'mores I hide,
roast me over fire, then take a bite. What
am I?

Marshmallow

I'm round and doughy, glazed or
sprinkled on top, breakfast or snack, I
make your taste buds hop. What am I?

Donut

I'm shaped like a ball, sometimes coated
in cocoa, bite-sized indulgence, a
chocolate lover's hero. What am I?

Truffle

I'm French and fancy, colorful and
sweet, a tiny round sandwich, a perfect
treat to eat. What am I?

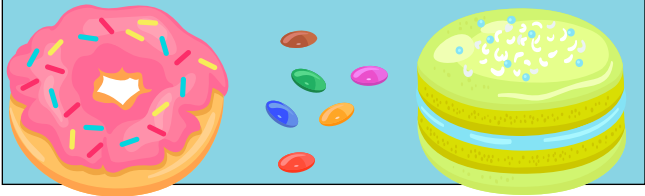
Macaron

I'm puffed and baked, golden or brown,
sometimes filled with cream, I'll never let
you down. What am I?

Pastry

I'm creamy and rich, sometimes baked
or chilled, with crust or without, dessert
lovers are thrilled. What am I?

Cheesecake



Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 23

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PET OF THE WEEK

TUCKER

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Tucker, an 11 year old labradoodle was such a good boy for his xrays. He was playing a little too hard with his sibling and was limping on his front limb. Luckily his radiographs were clear of any fractures and he will be back to playing in no time

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



Word Search

SWEET TREATS



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

- Brownie
- Cupcake
- Donut
- Fudge
- Caramel
- Marshmallow
- Toffee
- Macaron
- Cookie
- Tart
- Bonbon
- Nougat
- Cheesecake
- Popsicle
- Sundae
- Truffle
- Muffin
- Churro
- Candy
- Chocolate

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

The Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - Held on Tuesday August 26, 2025 at Sacred Heart Parish Hall starting at 7:30 pm. Use the Queen Street parking lot door.

The Brant Men of Song and the Brant County Singers will be holding an evening of Chora-oke - Held on Monday August 25 at Sydenham-Heritage United Church basement (120 Sydenham St. starting from 7 pm to 9 pm. All men and women are invited to see our choral activities and enjoy an evening of song.

Free Community Swim - Paris Community Pool, hosted by the Paris Lions Club from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Everyone welcome to cool off and enjoy the final days of summer at the Paris Pool!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

Free Outdoor Movies - Grab your popcorn, your lawn chair, and your favourite blanket — it’s time for an unforgettable summer of free outdoor movies in the County of Brant! Join us as we turn local parks into open-air theatres for family-friendly flicks under the stars. Movies begin at dusk. We’re collecting non-perishable food donations at all Movies in the Parks events in support of our local food banks. No monetary donations.

2025 Movie Lineup:

- **Thursday, August 21** – Dog Man at Mount Pleasant Park, Mount Pleasant
- **Friday, September 5** – Mufasa at King William Park, St. George
- **Friday, September 12** – Elio at Forest Drive Park, Paris
- **Friday, September 19** – Karate Kid Legends at Burford Community Centre Park
- **Friday, September 26** – How to Train Your Dragon at Scotland Community Centre

** Please note: Movies are subject to change pending release dates.*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Crime Stoppers Faraday Pouch Giveaway - While supplies last at Twisted Treats 98 Scott Ave, Paris, Saturday August 23rd from 4 pm to 8 pm. Protect your ride, store your keys in a faraday pouch. A portion of all Ice Cream sales will be generously donated to Brant-Brantford Crime Stoppers by Twisted Treats.

50th Anniversary of Blandford-Blenheim Township's Amalgamation - WThe Plattsville & District Heritage Society at Chesterfield Museum/Archives, 816661 Oxford Road 22, Bright invites you to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Blandford-Blenheim Township's amalgamation. Yummy food at the free outdoor barbeque, cool drinks and groovy music on Saturday the 16th by Bill & Bev Bell happening from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Enjoy the Exhibit in the Museum/Archives "Retro Rewind to the 70's & 80's* from 10 AM to 4 PM every Saturday until the 13th of September, 2025 or by appointment (519-535-1417). Donations appreciated.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

The Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting -Held on Tuesday August 12, 2025 at 10 am at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. Our speaker will be Dr. Josh Neposolan talking about his world travels. New members are always welcome.

Oxford Philatelic Society - Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4pm) and 4th Tuesday (7-9pm) September to May. Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7. If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

50th Anniversary of Blandford-Blenheim Township's Amalgamation - The Plattsville & District Heritage Society at Chesterfield Museum/Archives, 816661 Oxford Road 22, Bright invites you to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Blandford-Blenheim Township's amalgamation. Yummy food at the free outdoor barbeque, cool drinks and groovy music on Saturday the 16th by Bill & Bev Bell happening from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Enjoy the Exhibit in the Museum/Archives "Retro Rewind to the 70's & 80's* from 10 AM to 4 PM every Saturday until the 13th of September, 2025 or by appointment (519-535-1417). Donations appreciated.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Brant Men of Song will be holding their choir practices - Each Tuesday evening starting on September 2nd 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.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Crime Stoppers Shredding Fundraising Event - Saturday Sept 6th, 9 am - noon at Brant Sports Complex 944 Powerline Road, Paris. Documents shredded confidentially & securely on site by Norfolk Shredding. All proceeds go to Brant-Brantford Crime Stoppers. \$10/ banker's box or 5 banker's boxes for \$40. Protect your Ride, store your keys in a faraday pouch. Crime Stoppers will be giving away faraday pouches while supplies last.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Special Kiwanis Meeting At Children's Safety Village - SJoin the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant for its off site September meeting at the Children's Safety Village, 407 Elgin St in Brantford on September 8th at 6:30 pm. Lieutenant Governor-Designate, Randy MacKenzie, will be installing the 2025/2026 club officers, followed by a tour of the Safety Village. If you're interested in becoming a Kiwanis member, check out any monthly meeting held the second Monday of every month at the Paris Legion at 6:30 pm or visit www.parisbrantkiwanis.org.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Women Inspiring Women Women's Institute Monthly Meeting - 7-9 PM at the Paris Fairgrounds Community Room. Welcome Back! Grand Unveiling of our Embroidered Coat Project with Artist Marguerite Larmand.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13-18

48th Annual Fun Fair at Countryside Camp - Join us in celebrating Harvesting Memories during the 48th Annual Fun Fair at Countryside Camp! This fun filled celebration starts with an online auction September 13-18 and culminates at the camp on September 20, from 10am to 3pm. Your entire family will enjoy the traditional Dutch and Canadian foods, as well as the rides, games, garage sale, auctions, and tearoom treats. Most of all, make this year’s fair a destination and an opportunity to reunite with friends you have not seen in years. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Salvation Army Food Bank. For more information <https://ontariochristiancamp.ca/funfair/> or campfunfair.ca.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

50th Anniversary of Blandford-Blenheim Township's Amalgamation - The Plattsville & District Heritage Society at Chesterfield Museum/Archives, 816661 Oxford Road 22, Bright invites you to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Blandford-Blenheim Township's amalgamation. Yummy food at the free outdoor barbeque, cool drinks and groovy music on Saturday the 16th by Bill & Bev Bell happening from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Enjoy the Exhibit in the Museum/Archives "Retro Rewind to the 70's & 80's* from 10 AM to 4 PM every Saturday until the 13th of September, 2025 or by appointment (519-535-1417). Donations appreciated.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Cainsville Premier Employment Hub Public Workshop - At the TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre, 15 Ewart Ave. Afternoon session from 2pm to 3:30 pm and evening session from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Both sessions will cover the following: Share what we’ve heard so far, present three draft land use concepts for the Premier Employment Hub, discuss key ideas such as roads, land use, green space, and future development and invite your feedback through small group discussions. Reserve your spot by registering on Eventbrite at [CainsvilleEmploymentHub.eventbrite.ca](https://cainsvilleemploymenthub.eventbrite.ca) before Monday, September 8, 2025.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting - Is on Tuesday September 9, 2025 at 10 am at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. New members are always welcome.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Catholic Women's League Monthly Meeting - Is on Wednesday, September 10th at 7 pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall located at 17 Washington Street in Paris.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Cemetery Decoration Day - Mount Pleasant and St. George Cemetery.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Cemetery Decoration Day - Northfield Cemetery Decoration Day. To learn more email cemeteries@brant.ca or visit brant.ca/Cemetery

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Sensory Spotlight Open House - Sensity invites the community to an open house at its Resource Centre on Friday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 50 Main Street, Paris. Guided tours will showcase the organization’s work, while a local marketplace will feature artwork created by individuals Sensity supports. From 12 to 2 p.m., enjoy a BBQ with burgers and hotdogs available for purchase, with all proceeds benefiting Sensity’s programs and services. Come for a tour, shop the market, or grab a bite — everyone is welcome. Event details: culturedays.ca.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - On Tuesday September 23rd, 2025 at Sacred Heart Parish Hall located at 17 Washington Street starting at 7:30 pm. Use the Queen Street parking lot door to enter.

CLASSIFIEDS

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

COMING EVENTS

2025 OUTDOOR MARKET SERIES - at The Paris Winkey 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

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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WANTED

I will pay cash for antiques and collectibles. Coca Cola, Pepsi or any pop company. Brewery items - Kuntz, Huether Labatts, etc. Old radios and gramophones, wristwatches, pocket watches, old fruit jars - Beaver Star, Bee Hive etc. Any old oil cans and signs - Red Indian, Supertest etc. Any small furniture. If you are moving or cleaning out stuff please contact me - 519-570-6920.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. White Tires
2. 20-50x
3. For you
4. Leo & Virgo
5. Edmonton
6. "How the Grinch
7. 1967
8. Kansas
9. Whale Shark
10. Alice Cooper

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OBITUARY

Starks



Starks, Richard Dale

Peacefully, at Brantford General Hospital, on Tuesday August 12, 2025, a longtime resident of Paris, in his 87th year.

Beloved husband to the late Sarah "Sally" (nee Lyttle 1987) and partner to Jan Wilson; loved dad to Dean (the late Jacqueline Whalen), Chris (Cara) and stepdad to Amber (Jay); cherished grandpa to Davis, Sarah, Breanna, Dean, Ceely and Jason. He is survived by his Lyttle in laws and several nieces and nephews.

Friends may call at the Wm. Kipp Funeral Home, 184 Grand River St. N. Paris on Sunday August 17, 2025 from 2-4 & 7-9 PM. A Graveside service will be held at Paris Cemetery on Monday August 18, 2025 at 11:00 AM.

Donations to Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Online condolences and donations may be arranged through www.wmkipffuneralhome.com or by contacting WM. KIPP 519 442 3061

**THIS COULD BE YOUR
AD HERE!
CONTACT US FOR
MORE INFO!**



HOMES OF HEROES: If you have a story about a Paris Veteran, please email the committee at info@homesofheroes.ca. Let's work together to give all our veterans, living and fallen, in war and in peace, the recognition and honour they deserve. If you have any questions about the project, please email Neil Edwards at neiledwards51@gmail.com.

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APRIL 23-MAY 4, 2026**



**DISCOVER SCOTLAND
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AUGUST 11-22, 2026**



**MARITIMES & CAPE BRETON
AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 6, 2026**



**DANUBE RIVER CHRISTMAS MARKETS
NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 5, 2026**

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