PASS THE PUCK FORWARD PAGE 3

JINGLE BELL NIGHT FESTIVITIES PAGE 10

The Paris Independent

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PDHS graduate earns honour for lifelong learning

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Forty years after graduating from Paris District High School, lifelong Paris resident Tom Waldschmidt is being recognized for a commitment to education, leadership and community service that has shaped both his professional career and his contributions to the community.

Waldschmidt is among 13 individuals selected for the inaugural Grand Erie Alumni Hall of Distinction, a new initiative launched by the Grand Erie District School Board to celebrate former students who have used their education as a foundation for positive change.

The Hall of Distinction recognizes alumni who demonstrate the board's guiding principles of learning, leading and inspiring through their professional achievements, leadership and community involvement.

For Waldschmidt, a 1986 PDHS graduate, the recognition is particularly meaningful because his journey through education took a path he never anticipated.

"I was honoured not only to be nominated, but also to be named an inaugural recipient of the Grand Erie District School Board Hall of Distinction," Waldschmidt told The Paris Independent. "This recognition represents the culmination of a lifelong journey of learning."

He said that as a student four decades ago, he could never have imagined receiving such an honour or that continuing his education would become such an important part of his life.

Waldschmidt remembers his years at PDHS fondly, particularly the friendships he formed and the teachers who helped shape his outlook on life.

Two educators stand out in his memories: industrial arts teacher George Dyke and machine shop teacher Bev Hammil.

"Both instilled in me the importance of a strong work ethic, dedication and hard work," he recalled. "They taught me that if you want something in life, you must be willing to work for it and get your hands dirty. Those lessons have stayed with me throughout my life."

Following graduation, Waldschmidt joined his family's small business, a natural next step at the time. He married his wife, Nancy, in 1988, and the couple started a family.

After 15 years working in the family business, however, he began questioning whether it was the career he wanted to pursue for the rest of his working life.

Without post-secondary education, Waldschmidt admitted he initially doubted his ability to pursue something different.

An opportunity through the fire service would ultimately change that.

In 1989, Waldschmidt joined the Paris Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter. When the newly formed County of Brant later offered volunteer firefighters training in fire prevention, he enrolled, setting in motion an educational journey that would open doors he had never

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



(GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD PHOTO)

Dr. JoAnna Roberto, chief executive officer of the Grand Erie District School Board, presents Paris resident Tom Waldschmidt with his inaugural Grand Erie Alumni Hall of Distinction honour during a ceremony last week. A 1986 Paris District High School graduate, Waldschmidt was among 13 alumni recognized for their leadership, achievements and contributions to their communities.



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Paris resident Tom Waldschmidt named to inaugural Grand Erie Alumni Hall of Distinction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

considered.

He completed numerous courses through the Ontario Fire College, Mohawk College and Humber College, eventually earning qualifications as a Fire Prevention Officer and Company Officer.

His training led to a position as the County of Brant's Fire Prevention Officer, where he oversaw a busy department and played an active role in public education and community safety.

His responsibilities included teaching at the Children's Safety Village, providing input on planning matters, working with the county's building department and organizing fire prevention education programs.

Those experiences eventually led to his current position as a fire investigator with the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal.

While his professional accomplishments reflect a commitment to lifelong learning, Waldschmidt's contributions to education extend well beyond his career.

He also became a dedicated advocate for parental involvement in schools, inspired in part by his own childhood experiences.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Tom Waldschmidt, a lifelong Paris resident and inaugural inductee into the Grand Erie Alumni Hall of Distinction, participates in the Strides for Students event at PJ. The walk, run or stroll fundraiser raised more than $11,600 to support students, reflecting Waldschmidt's longstanding commitment to education and community involvement.

Recognizing that his parents had not been particularly involved in his education, Waldschmidt made a conscious decision to take a different approach when he became a father.

School events and parent-teacher interviews became priorities for the family, and his involvement eventually grew into leadership roles within the education system.

He served as chair of the school council at Paris Central School and became one of the first parent members of the Grand Erie Parent Engagement Committee in 2007-08, later serving as its chair.

His commitment to public education eventually led him to the board's trustee table. Waldschmidt was appointed a Grand Erie District School Board trustee in 2014 following the retirement of a previous trustee and went on to win election to the position.

For Waldschmidt, these experiences reinforced the importance of education not only as a pathway to employment, but also as a means of building stronger families and communities.

The Grand Erie Alumni Hall of Distinction was established to recognize former students who have made meaningful contributions through leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship and community service.

Nominees must have completed their schooling at least 10 years before nomination and be graduates of schools within the Grand Erie system or its predecessor boards.

The inaugural class includes graduates from across Brantford, Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk, representing a diverse range of careers and contributions.

"The Hall of Distinction invites us to celebrate individuals whose journeys and contributions embody our shared values of excellence, leadership, and innovation, inspiring others to learn and lead," said Dr. JoAnna Roberto, Chief Executive Officer, Grand Erie District School Board.

For Waldschmidt, being recognized alongside other accomplished alumni is an opportunity to reflect on the people who encouraged him throughout his life and the unexpected opportunities that came from continuing to learn.

"Looking back, I realize just how much education has shaped my life, both professionally and personally," he said. "It opened doors I never imagined walking through and provided opportunities I never thought possible."

His selection to the inaugural class also brings his journey full circle, connecting the young PDHS graduate of 1986 with the community leader and education advocate he has become.

"I'm grateful to the teachers who helped shape my early years, the people who encouraged me along the way and the opportunities that reminded me that learning doesn't end when you graduate. In fact, sometimes that's where the real education begins."

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Pass the Puck Forward looks to expand kindness into County of Brant

Brantford-based initiative turns $1 donations into acts of kindness, with founder seeking local businesses to help grow the program

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A simple act of kindness is gaining momentum in Brantford, and the man behind the initiative is hoping businesses across the County of Brant will help keep the puck moving.

Pass the Puck Forward, a community-based pay-it-forward program founded by Steve Karalis, officially launched Sept. 1 and has already generated an enthusiastic response. Now, Karalis has his sights set on expanding the initiative into communities such as Paris, St. George and Burford, where local businesses could play a key role in spreading a little generosity.

The concept is simple. Customers at participating cafés and quick-service restaurants can purchase miniature hockey pucks for $1 each, which are then made available for other customers to redeem toward their purchases, no questions asked.

The program uses two jars, labelled "Give a Puck" and "Take a Puck." When someone purchases a puck, it moves into the Take a Puck jar, where another customer can use it toward their purchase. Redeemed pucks are returned to the Give a Puck jar, allowing the cycle of generosity to continue.

Customers can redeem up to six pucks per day, ensuring the goodwill reaches as many people as possible. Staff can also offer available pucks to customers at their discretion, creating opportunities for unexpected acts of kindness.

The response has been encouraging. During September alone, more than 2,700 pucks were purchased and redeemed across participating Brantford businesses.

For Karalis, the initiative began with an experience that demonstrated how something small could make a meaningful difference.

In August 2025, he visited 541 Eatery & Exchange, a non-profit café in Hamilton, where he discovered a pay-it-forward system that allowed customers to purchase buttons for others to redeem.

He purchased $20 worth of buttons and watched as customers contributed to and benefited from the program.

"I couldn't stop thinking about how simple and great it felt to contribute, and to see exactly where my contribution was going," he recalled.

Karalis began considering how a similar concept could work in Brantford, but wanted to give it a distinctly local identity.

With the city's strong hockey connections, including Walter and Wayne Gretzky, its hockey teams and its reputation as the Tournament Capital of Ontario, the answer seemed obvious.

The result was Pass the Puck Forward, built around the slogan: "Give a puck. Take a puck. Every assist counts."

Karalis developed the concept through the Community Changemaker program, offered by Wilfrid Laurier University's StartUp Lab and the City of Brantford. After completing six weekly sessions and presenting his idea in November 2025, he received a $1,000 grant to help launch the initiative.

The funding covered the miniature pucks, jars, signage and promotional materials, allowing participating businesses to join at no cost.

One memorable moment came in September when a group of local political representatives purchased 80 pucks during a promotional visit to a participating restaurant. Their generosity exceeded the number of pucks available in the Give a Puck jar, prompting the owner to write an IOU for the additional pucks.

The restaurant began redeeming pucks for customers until the contribution was fulfilled.

"It was a great problem to have, and everyone benefited from it!" Karalis said.

While the initiative has found early success in Brantford, Karalis believes there is an opportunity to bring that same community spirit to neighbouring municipalities.

He is actively interested in connecting with County of Brant businesses, particularly locally owned cafés and quick-service restaurants with a history of supporting their communities.

However, expansion will depend on finding the right partners and securing additional funding to cover the initial setup costs.

"I am certainly interested in expanding into the County of Brant with the right businesses and additional funding to cover the costs of purchasing the items for the initial setup," he said.

Karalis takes a personal approach to partnerships, preferring to meet business owners, learn about their operations and ensure their values align with the program's community-focused mission.

Beyond participating businesses, he is also welcoming conversations with potential sponsors who could help bring the program to new locations.

The grassroots initiative has even attracted national attention.

Karalis recently received a letter of recognition from Prime Minister Mark Carney, an unexpected acknowledgement that reinforced his belief in the program's potential.

"Opening the mail and realizing it was a letter with the signature of Prime Minister Carney was an experience I will never forget," he said.

"If there was any question about whether Pass the Puck Forward was having a positive impact, receiving recognition from Prime Minister Carney gave it some pretty good validation!"

Although the recognition has been encouraging, Karalis remains focused on building the initiative thoughtfully, one community and one business at a time.

"I think the sky is the limit for how far Pass the Puck Forward can go. Perhaps it expands outside of Brantford before the end of the year. Perhaps it goes national one day."

For now, the next opportunity could be right here in the County of Brant, where a small $1 contribution could help brighten someone's day.

County of Brant business owners interested in becoming participating locations or exploring sponsorship opportunities can contact Steve Karalis at stavros.27@hotmail.com. Residents interested in contributing remotely can also contact Karalis to arrange a donation to a participating business.



Pass the Puck Forward founder Steve Karalis proudly displays a certificate of recognition from the City of Brantford for his community-driven initiative. Launched in September, the pay-it-forward program is gaining momentum, with Karalis now hoping to expand into the County of Brant.



A simple concept with a meaningful impact. The "Give a Puck" and "Take a Puck" jars allow customers to purchase $1 miniature hockey pucks for others to redeem toward their purchases, no questions asked. More than 2,700 pucks were purchased and redeemed across participating Brantford businesses in September alone.

Where to Find Pass the Puck

The following Brantford businesses are currently participating in the Pass the Puck initiative, helping spread kindness through a simple pay-it-forward gesture.

- **Pace's Takeout & Catering** – 432 Elgin St.
- **Maria's Pizza West** – 242 Colborne St. W.
- **Mercasa Little Italy Eatery & Catering** – 195 Henry St.
- **Altitude Coffee Roasters** – 174 Brant Ave.
- **Seventh Coffee Company** – 168A Charing Cross St.

More businesses joining soon!

The list of participating locations continues to grow, with additional Brantford businesses announced on Nov. 15.

Some participating businesses may temporarily pause the initiative during the holiday season to accommodate Christmas promotions and displays.

For the latest participating locations and program updates, follow **Pass the Puck on Facebook.**

Miles4AMiracle reaches fundraising goal as family prepares to meet Ontario health minister

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A London family's campaign to secure life-changing medical treatment for their daughter has reached a major milestone, with the Miles4AMiracle initiative achieving its fundraising goal.

Joe and Kim Gesualdi, whose 27-year-old daughter Sydney requires specialized neurosurgery in the United States, recently shared the encouraging news after months of fundraising and advocacy.

The Paris Independent first shared Sydney's story in August when her father, Joe, passed through Paris while pushing his daughter's empty wheelchair on a more than 200-kilometre journey from London to Queen's Park.

The walk was intended to raise awareness about the barriers Canadians face when seeking specialized medical treatment, while helping the family raise approximately $493,700 to cover Sydney's care.

Sydney's health deteriorated following a July 2023 motor vehicle collision. She was subsequently diagnosed with craniocervical instability, a condition affecting the stability of the skull and upper spine. Her family has been seeking specialized surgery in the United States after an application for OHIP out-of-country funding was denied.

In their latest update, Joe and Kim expressed gratitude for the overwhelming community support that helped them reach their fundraising target.

The family also confirmed that Ontario Health Minister Sylvia Jones's office had reached out to arrange a meeting on Nov. 10 to discuss Sydney's treatment options.

The Gesualdis said they were hopeful the meeting would represent a positive step toward securing the medical care their daughter needs.

While reaching their fundraising goal marks a significant achievement, the family's advocacy continues. Through Miles-4AMiracle, they hope to raise awareness about the challenges patients face accessing specialized treatment and encourage improvements to Ontario's health-care system. The outcome of the Nov. 10 meeting had not been confirmed at the time of publication.



Joe Gesualdi takes a break at Starbucks in Paris on Sunday, Aug. 23, during his more than 200-kilometre walk from London to Queen's Park while pushing his daughter Sydney's empty wheelchair to raise awareness and funds for the neurosurgery she requires in the United States.

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Lest we forget: Paris pays tribute on Nov. 11







(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, residents across Paris paused to honour and remember those who served and sacrificed. Remembrance Day ceremonies were held at schools, businesses and organizations throughout the community, with a particularly poignant gathering at the Paris Cenotaph.





Handcrafted poppies create a striking tribute outside Paris Legion Branch 29 and along the William Street bridge as part of a community-led project commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion. The displays honour the sacrifices of Canadian veterans while showcasing the dedication and creativity of local volunteers who helped bring the project to life.

Woodslee Linear Park expansion to bring new playground and green space to growing Paris neighbourhood

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

As residential development continues to reshape parts of Paris, the County of Brant is planning an expansion of Woodslee Linear Park, adding new green space and a playground near Hartley Avenue.

The project will add approximately 1,140 square metres of green space to the existing linear park, with residents being invited to help determine what the new recreational area will look like.

The expansion comes as construction begins on a new 294-unit subdivision immediately adjacent to the park. The development, by Pinevest Homes, will feature a mix of townhouses, apartments and two mixed-use buildings with ground-floor commercial space.

With new housing planned nearby, the park expansion will provide additional outdoor recreational space for residents in this growing area of the community.

While the County has already committed to expanding the park and installing a new playground, the final design and additional amenities have yet to be determined.

Residents are being encouraged to share their preferences for playground equipment, seating, shade structures, landscaping and other features that could enhance the space for families and park users.

The County has launched an online survey to gather public input, which will help shape the initial design concept.

Once the feedback has been reviewed, a proposed design will be shared with the community in early 2027, giving residents another opportunity to provide comments before construction begins.

The consultation is intended to ensure the expanded park reflects the needs and priorities of both existing residents and families moving into the surrounding neighbourhood.

Residents have until Friday, Dec. 11, 2026, to complete the survey.

More information about the project, including the survey and opportunities to subscribe for future updates, is available at EngageBrant.ca/WoodsleePark.



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

The colour guard marches into the Paris Cenotaph during the community's Remembrance Day ceremony on Nov. 11, as residents gathered to honour the courage, service and sacrifice of those who served our country.



(KARON SINNING PHOTO)

Grade 4 student Nyla Stewart carries her handmade Remembrance Day wreath into the gymnasium during Holy Family Catholic School's Remembrance Day ceremony on Nov. 11, as students and staff gathered to honour and remember those who served and sacrificed for our freedom.



(QUEENSVIEW RETIREMENT COMMUNITY PHOTO)

Residents of Queensview Retirement Home gathered on Nov. 11 for a Remembrance Day ceremony

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Up the hill to Brownies, fries, penny candy, and the red '66 Ford delivery truck



By Chris Whelan



(MARILYN BROWN PHOTOS)

Brownies Variety Store at 271 Grand River St. N., bought around 1966 by Bob Brown Sr. and opened in 1967 by John and Marilyn Brown, who brought their experience from Galt's busy "Brownies Drive In." The restaurant opened in 1977, and the business was sold in 1982.

Our journey through Paris Past continues as we leave Hobby's and the Flats behind, cross back over the William Street Bridge, and turn right onto Grand River Street North. Heading up the hill to number 271, we arrive at a spot that once felt like it was "way out in the country," to a South Ender, yet served as the undisputed North End hub for generations of high schoolers, families, and neighbours: Brownies Variety Store and Restaurant.

Opened in 1966 by Mike Brown's grandfather and later carried on by his father John and Bob, Brownies was the ultimate three-generation family operation. In an era before modern subdivisions stretched north, riding your bike out to Brownies (or a little further up to the old "Park Lanes" bowling alley that became Park Lane Nursing Home) felt like a true adventure.

For local kids, Brownies was a daily ritual. Pam Lewis and Saralyn Myerscough-Earnshaw fondly recalled taking a wagon behind Paris District High School to gather up discarded pop bottles, cashing them in at Brownies to split as much penny candy as their findings would allow. Even errands for Mom and Dad were simpler back then, Pam remembered handing her parents' written grocery list across the counter so John or Bob could gather everything up, including a pack of cigarettes, to send home with her.

When Brownies added its restaurant counter, it instantly became the premier lunch destination for PDHS students. Walk down the street from the high school at noon, and you'd find the place packed with teenagers spending their five-dollar weekly allowance on "Brownie burgers," ice cream cones, where John Brown was famous for always giving an extra scoop just because he was a great guy, and what nearly every resident still agrees were the absolute best French fries and gravy in town.

Inside, the store had its own unique charm. Maxine Oulds-McNulty remembered her father displaying plaster wall hangings of bulls, matadors, cherubs, and horseshoes for sale, while generations of local teens, including Bev Jennings, Carol Roberts, Joan Whiting, and Carrie Moran, cut their teeth at Brownies as their first "real" job.

Mike Brown himself started working there at age 11, picking up garbage, mowing the lawn, and stacking glass pop bottles into wooden crates. As Mike recently joked, he had plenty of perks growing up in the family store, though Bob could always tell when young Mike had been sneaking a peek at the Playboy magazines in the back room because of the Joe Louis cake crumbs left between the pages!

No memory of Brownies is complete without mentioning the store's iconic red 1966 Ford Custom Cab pickup truck, complete with a 352 V8 engine, white spoke rims, and a gear shift on the steering column.

Mike learned to drive in that truck making local deliveries, and the Brown family generously lent it out every year for the Boy Scout Paper Drive, a memory Steve Howes still treasures from riding around town in the cab.

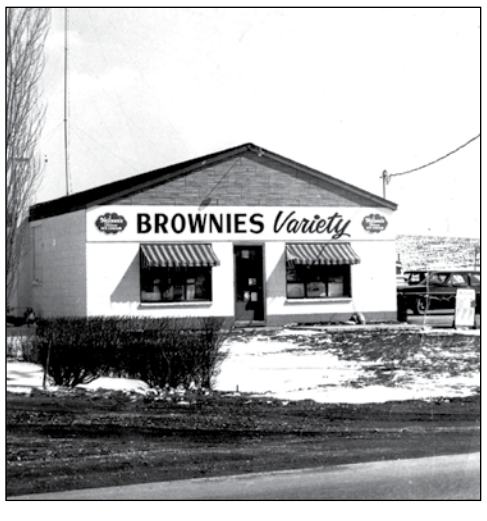
When Mike recently put out a call on the If You Grew Up in Paris community group wondering whatever happened to the old pickup after it was sold in the early 1980s, the neighbourhood detective work went into overdrive. Brad Hockin recalled almost buying it around 1982–83 from Bob McGee at the old Orange Hall, even putting $50 down on a $600 price tag before regrettably opting for a '73 Cutlass instead. Ultimately, Bill Labron solved the mystery, confirming he had purchased the truck and driven it for a few months before a later buyer pulled the engine and transmission and sent the rest to scrap.

Though the building at 271 Grand River Street North has since transitioned into modern businesses like The Underground and Subway, anyone driving up the hill can still squint their eyes and picture that big Brownie's sign standing tall, a lasting tribute to the family, the fries, and the hospitality that made the North End feel like home.

Next Week in Paris Past: We continue our tour of Paris's unforgettable neighbourhood stores and gathering spots as we head over to the junction! Have old photos or memories to share? Email us at: **editor@theparisindependent.com**



Brownies' iconic red 1966 Ford Custom Cab delivery truck, used for local store deliveries and loaned out annually for the Paris Boy Scout Paper Drive.





THEN AND NOW: BRIDGING THE RIVERS - PART 4: Entering the Automobile Age on William Street



By Wayne Wilkinson
Paris Historian / Artist

In Part 3 of Bridging the Rivers, we discussed the first two bridges built on William Street to carry busy Parisians across the Grand River. Those crossings finally provided a vital second route into downtown Paris, starting with the 1847 combination timber-and-iron bridge, followed by the sturdy steel girder bridge erected in 1877.

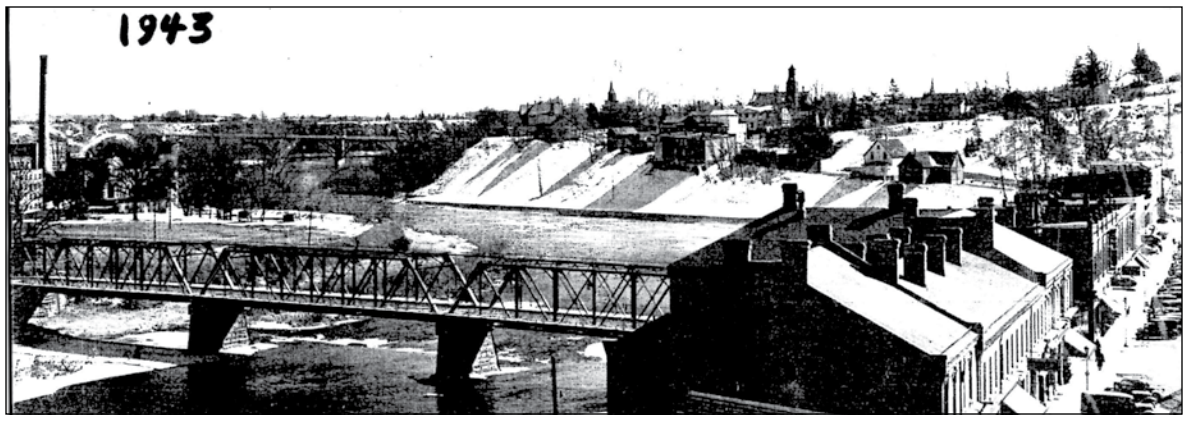
Today, we pick up the story in 1927, when that original girder structure was replaced by a second steel girder bridge. Built by the Hamilton Bridge Works Company, this new crossing looked very similar to its predecessor at first glance, featuring three spans anchored on the very same cut-stone abutments, as captured in a 1943 photograph. (I must admit that until researching this column, I didn't realize it was an entirely different bridge! And if you look closely at that 1943 image, you can spot the St. James church steeple right in the centre of the skyline, with the Old Town Hall bell tower rising just to the right of it.)

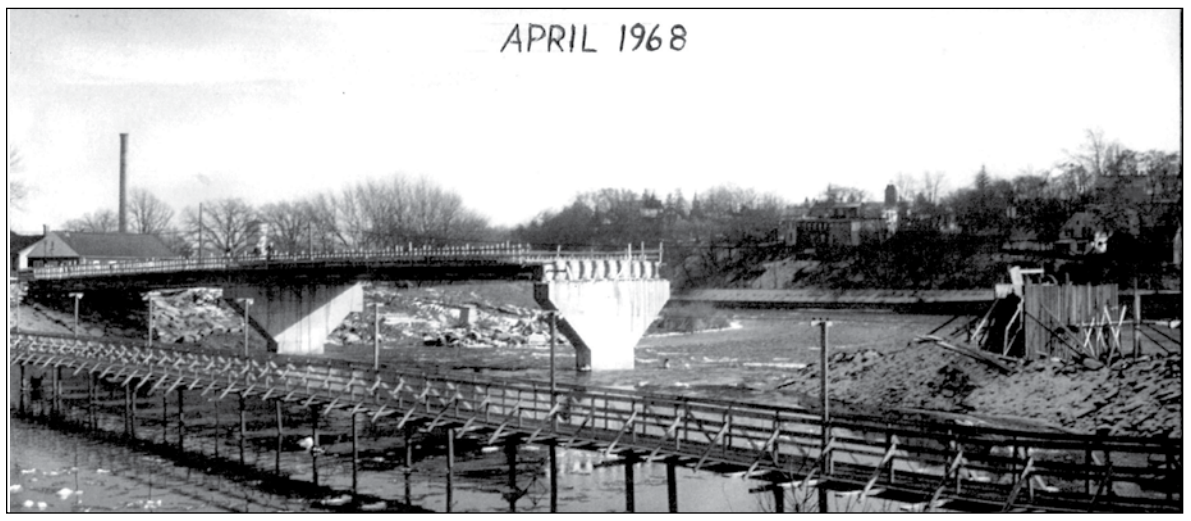
Beneath the surface, however, there were a number of crucial structural upgrades required to bring Paris out of the horse-and-buggy era and safely into the automobile age.

On the original 1877 bridge, the deck sat sandwiched between the main girders at just under 13 feet wide. By contrast, the new 1927 bridge measured 19 feet across and rested atop the piers using steel cantilevered stringers, effectively widening the roadway by three feet on each side. This clever piece of industrial engineering produced a solid steel-and-concrete deck capable of comfortably handling two-way automobile traffic.

During construction, a temporary timber pedestrian walkway was built close by to ensure residents could still cross smoothly from the flats to the downtown shops. The new bridge officially opened in October 1927 and served the community faithfully until September 1967, when it was demolished to make way for a modern concrete replacement.

Constructed by the McLean Foster Construction Company of St. Marys, the new span, seen in a 1968 photograph, was built upon heavy concrete "T" abutments,





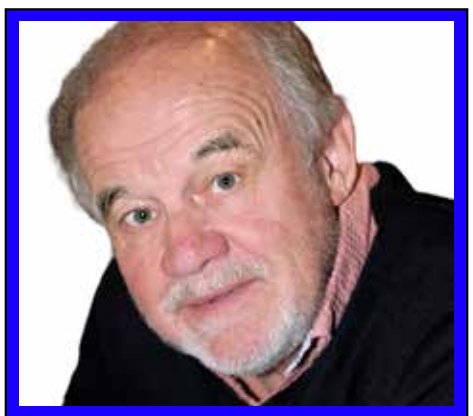
with yet another temporary pedestrian bridge visible just to the north during the build.

On May 29, 1968, the bridge was officially opened by Ontario's Minister of Highways, the Honourable George E. Gomme, alongside Paris Mayor Mel Sharpe and local Member of Provincial Parliament Robert Nixon.

In May 2011, most readers will recall a major structural rehabilitation project to replace the concrete deck, install new concrete guardrails, and upgrade the street lighting, work that wrapped up in 2012. Today, this handsome bridge carries an enormous volume of daily traffic and, with routine maintenance, will remain an essential lifeline for Paris for countless years to come.

Of course, Paris is a town of two rivers, so in Part 5, we will turn our attention to how the crossings over the Nith River evolved over the years.

LIVING RETIRED: 'Doo Dads & Dicky Doos'



By Gary Chalk
Non-Pulitzer Prize
Winning Columnist

Jan and I prefer not to paint the walls in our house. Our thinking is why go to all the effort spilling paint and arguing with each other when you can simply cover the walls by hanging folk art, specifically pieces of cheap tin twisted into shapes like swans and seahorses? It is what our friends see when they come in the front door. Their reaction is predictable…

Women remark, "Ohh Jan I adore how you have decorated the entryway. It is sooo lovely!"

Men say, "Gary, what's all this crap?"

Then, as our guests come through to the living room they see more folk art displayed on the walls, this time cheap tin twisted into shapes of angels and flying birds. Again, the reaction is predictable…

Women remark, "JAN! This is so whimsical. I love it."

Men say, "Even more crap!"

So where does all the tin come from? I Googled 'Tin Production by Country in 2026' and learned China produces the most tin in the world — a whopping 69K tonnes, which seems like a lot, even though I don't know a tonne from a butterscotch bon bon. By any measure that's a lot of twisted tin dragonflies and other unrecognizable figures that homeowners purchase to decorate their home.

Here in Canada cheap twisted metal contributes to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) — right up there with decorator pillows. I Googled, 'Decorator Pillow Production by Country in 2026' and discovered North America consumers purchase the most decorator pillows, followed by Europe, and then Jan. She is working hard to move up in the standings

Other popular pieces of twisted tin found in homes include geese in flight, flocks of sheep in meadows, and bullfrogs nestled in reeds just before they get squished crossing the road.

One of the prized pieces of twisted tin in our home is a collection — AKA a mish-mash — of Kokopelli figures Jan purchased on road trips through New Mexico and Arizona. You will find these on our dining room wall. Would you like a side of cheap tin butterflies with your meal?

Pieces of cheap twisted tin are also displayed elsewhere. In the guest bathroom on the vanity, we have a piece of cheap tin twisted into a starfish. It lays overtop the decorator hand towel that you are not supposed to use to dry your hands.

Over on our kitchen countertop we have something the tin twister artisan shaped to resemble — if you use your imagination — an aardvark, if it were in heat.

All these ornamental decorations are part of the mammoth industry called Decor Items. When Decor Items find their way into our homes, they take on different names. This is what I mean…

Jan calls them 'Doo Dads.' Her friend Martha calls them 'Dicky Doos.'

Hey! How about this for a name for a band: 'The Doo Dads & Dicky Doos.'

Living Retired is written by me, Gary Chalk and published throughout North America. To receive Living Retired by email each Monday or to have me speak at your service club, corporate event, or retirement party contact Gchalk@me.com.

Paris fibre artist finds inspiration, community and award-winning success

RUBYYY JONES

Cultural Correspondent

Paris is home to many interesting and talented people, and as our community continues to grow, we have been fortunate to welcome even more creative and dynamic individuals who bring their own unique talents to the County.

Among them is fibre artist Angela Roorda, who has called Paris home for more than two years. After relocating from Waterloo, where she grew up, Roorda has embraced a new chapter in her life, finding inspiration in her new surroundings as she grows and develops her career as a professional artist.

A maker all her life, Roorda was inspired by her upbringing and her mother, a weaver who taught her to sew and introduced her to handicrafts as a child.

Her creative interests led her to pursue architecture and design in her early years of university before shifting her focus to literature and writing, and ultimately a career in academia.

With more time opening up these past few years as an (almost) empty nester and a retiree, Roorda has had the joy of being able to throw herself once again into creative pursuits. She's experimented over the years with drawing, painting, quilting, crocheting, knitting and finally, settling into the flexible medium of feltings, specifically nunofelting which involved felting wool and textiles.

Felting is the ancient and versatile process of matting, condensing, and pressing loose animal or synthetic fibers together to form a dense, strong, and continuous fabric or 3D object. Roorda's pieces feature traditional felting plus the addition of found fabrics, mostly scraps of silk.

When asked what drew her to felting, Roorda described the process as something almost magical.

"The process of binding together wool and fibres with just soapy water and a little (actually, more than a little…) agitation is magical!"

She began by creating scarves and vessels before recently turning her attention to still-life images, particularly fruit.

"I'm not sure why still lifes of fruit—pears, apples, lemons, etc.—compel me so much, but they do. Something about the shape and colour and simplicity of fruit."

Roorda wonders if some of that inspiration comes from her own backyard, where she enjoys picking pears and apples from the trees.

Her artistic journey has also brought an unexpected bonus: a connection to the local arts community.

"While discovering felting and rediscovering my love of making, I also discovered a whole community of artists here in Paris."

Roorda dived into sharing her work by applying to The Grand Gallery in downtown Paris and her work has featured in every exhibition since The Grand Gallery's launch.

"When on a whim this summer I sent Rubyyy some images of the work I was doing, and they accepted them for a new show they were putting on featuring Brant artists in July, I found myself a little in shock, and on a whole new journey: that of becoming an artist. The support and encouragement of the artists in Brant Art Matters has also propelled me on that path."

A few shows and sales later, Roorda entered some work into the juried show at the Button Factory in Waterloo and was thrilled to have two of her pieces selected for showcase and award consideration.

Roorda described the opening reception as a memorable experience, surrounded by talented artists working in a variety of mediums.

"The opening reception was lovely. It was great to see my work hanging among such high calibre art."

She was especially pleased to have friends from Waterloo attend, along with two fellow Paris artists, Lenny Jones and Tony Churchill, who also had work on display.

When it came time to announce the awards, Roorda admitted she hadn't even realized there were prizes to be won.

"When they called out her name, I was thrilled for her—her work is unique and amazing!"

Roorda was still congratulating Jones when she heard her own name announced for her piece, "Orange on a Plate."



(LUPITA GUERRERO, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER AT THE BUTTON FACTORY ARTS CENTRE PHOTO)

Angela Roorda (left) with her piece 'Orange On A Plate' and exhibition adjudicator Sarah Stanners.

"What a shock! The rest was a bit of a blur of handshakes and hugs and photographs."

From giving things a go, to being part of her first exhibition, to winning an exciting award in her first juried show, Roorda has had a very auspicious start to her art career.

As for any advice for anyone aspiring to take those next steps in art, she shared, "I'd say definitely go for it. The worst that can happen is that they say no, and you simply give it another try next time. At least in this competition, the application process wasn't onerous, and simply the act of applying helps you build your confidence and cement your sense of yourself as an artist."

Roorda also emphasizes the value of surrounding herself with a supportive community of artists, a sense of belonging she has found through The Grand Gallery and BAM (Brant Art Matters).

Roorda's art is on display at The Grand Gallery, part of The Glow Show running until Saturday December 19th and you can attend Lenny Jones' open house art show and sale on Friday, November 27th from 6 pm to 9 pm and Saturday, November 28th from 11 am to 5 pm at 65 Jane Street, Paris.

Brantford-Brant unemployment rate drops to six per cent in October

MEDIA RELEASE

Brantford-Brant's unemployment rate fell to 6% in October, remaining below provincial and national averages, although the decline was driven by fewer people actively looking for work rather than an increase in employment.

According to the latest seasonally adjusted estimates from Statistics Canada, the local unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percentage points from September. Employment levels remained unchanged, while labour force participation declined.

In comparison, Canada's unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points to 6.7 per cent, while Ontario's rate increased 0.3 percentage points to 7.3 per cent.

Brantford-Brant recorded the lowest unemployment rate among surrounding communities, followed by Guelph at 6.1 per cent. Both St. Catharines-Niagara and Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo reported unemployment rates of 7.1 per cent.

Despite overall employment remaining steady, some demographic groups and industries experienced changes during the month.

Employment increased among adults aged 55 and older but declined among young men aged 15 to 24 and women aged 25 to 54.

The wholesale and retail trade sector recorded significant employment gains, while transportation and warehousing, along with health care, experienced declines.

Meanwhile, local job postings also decreased slightly.

The Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie reported approximately 1,750 new job postings on its Grand Erie Jobs platform in October, representing a four per cent decline from September.

The five most in-demand occupations were material handlers, retail salespersons, harvesting labourers, transport truck drivers and machine operators.

As local employers continue to navigate changing workforce demands, the Workforce Planning Board has introduced five new guides designed to help young people prepare for employment. The resources offer practical strategies and tools to support youth transitioning from education into the workforce. They are tailored to caregivers, educators, career development professionals, service providers and employers. The guides are intended to strengthen job readiness while helping those who support young workers better understand the challenges and opportunities associated with entering the labour market. The Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie is one of 25 non-profit organizations across Ontario responsible for supporting local labour force planning. The organization receives funding in part from the federal and provincial governments.



The Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie hosted the 2026 Growing Your Workforce Conference on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at Six Nations Polytechnic in Brantford. The annual conference brought together employers, educators, workforce development professionals, community leaders and policymakers from across Southwestern Ontario to discuss labour market challenges and practical solutions for attracting, training and retaining employees.

The pond that held a village's joy — and its sorrow

GWEN HUNTER

Paris Independent Contributor



(SOUTH DUMFRIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

A photo circa 1910 of the Snowball Mill and outflow mill pond in St. George. By 1956, when a young boy drowned in the pond, the mill was powered by electricity and the ponds were not needed.

Editor's Note: *The following story was submitted by Gwen Hunter, a member of a local writing group. Based on a true event that occurred on December 6, 1956, Gwen's deeply personal recollection takes readers back to the village of St. George, where a once-familiar childhood gathering place became the setting of a heartbreaking tragedy. Her story offers a glimpse into the village's past and the lasting impact of an event that brought an entire community together.*

The Mill Pond of St. George was directly across the road from an old flour mill which still stands today. Built in 1872, operations of the old mill were first run by a wooden water wheel, following that a water powered turbine, a steam engine and finally an electric motor. The used water ran cascading under the road and into a flow pond. It was not deep, slightly murky at times and infested with green reeds.

Overlooking the pond was a white farmhouse with yawning windows, not seeing or wanting to see the activity at the pond. Our family lived on the same road as the pond, then called Station Road but in the following years was renamed Main St.

As children the pond called to you, pulling you in to explore, to climb into an old abandoned boat, to push your way around the perimeter of the pool using an old pole which had been thrown aside from another adventurer. The edges of the pond were trimmed with mysterious bushes, who swayed in the clear sunlight and seemed to wink at you, as you, the captain of the ship pushed the swaying old vessel across the reed infested water to pick up waiting children. The leaves on the protruding branches seemed to nod slightly as each child jumped into the boat with a shout of glee. "Let's go". The mill pond seemed happiest with childish activity happening in and around the pond but sometimes welcomed fishermen, who gallantly threw a line into the silent water hoping for a long-awaited bite on their improvised fishing poles.

The pond had always been a part of the village's history almost punctuating its existence. But now years later the pond had become a memory for the children who had once danced on the water. We were sullen teenagers silently filing by the pond on our way to school, not acknowledging its existence nor the shards of the boat laying on the protruding roots. I was one of those teenagers, preoccupied, filled with teenage angst, not noticing the playground that once was. But then, without notice, the pond once again called out to us. One day, arriving home from school, my mother shouted out to me as I entered my home. Do not take off your coat, there is a three-year-old child missing. Confused, I blurted out in fear. But how can I help? Where should I look? Everywhere, my mother answered as the phone rang incessantly in the background.

Quickly, I left the house and made my way across our partially ice-covered field to the main road. In the distance I could see neighbours crisscrossing the main street of the village. Running up the road, past the pond, I quickly joined them. Shouts from searchers could be heard. We searched that street and what streets had not been searched. I blindly carried on, walking up the familiar streets not knowing if they had been searched but on a mission to find the child.

As darkness descended, the searchers began gathering at the pond. They had looked everywhere. He must be here a man shouted out from the crowd gathered at the pond. He is not here shouted another man. We searched here earlier. Suddenly, the crowd parted and a man with a huge flashlight appeared. He began shining it upon the still black waters looking for an unwanted answer. And then a cry from a bystander, there he is. The light caught the outline of a white fur hood on a tiny green snowsuit. The same colour as the green reeds who now lay dormant and silent in the water. Shouts of dismay "No" followed by sobs could be heard from the crowd. Several volunteer firemen hoisted and extended a large pole into the water. One man straddled the pole inching his way out to reach in and pull the little body to shore. After valiant attempts at CPR from a bystander, the child did not respond. The local doctor arrived and soon the child was taken to the hospital.

Devastated, the crowd began to slowly unravel, not wanting to go, not believing that this tragedy could have happened to a child of the village. I stayed, looking for an answer. I saw the broken ice in the corner of the pond and I knew what had happened. He had come to the pond, wanting to explore just as we had so many years before. Suddenly, as I stood there the wind suddenly rose, sending ice particles from the bushes cascading across the icy surface. Like tears for the little boy who had come to the pond, looking for adventure and just wanting to play.

The pond was filled in soon after and is now just a memory. Today, a ribbon of asphalt and a strip mall have replaced it. Few are alive who can recall the events that took place on and beneath its surface. But I will never forget that day so long ago when the residents of our village came together to search for a lost child. Our child. A child of the village.



Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. How many times has Donald Trump been impeached?
2. What sport's lingo uses the term "Bonspiel"?
3. In the game of Battleship, how many hits does it take to sink the submarine?
4. Which actor bought the first Hummer made for civilian use?
5. What is the Minion's primary language called?
6. Lego originated from what country?
7. What is the tallest type of horse?
8. Which ocean does Bangladesh have direct access to?
9. In the beer world, what does the abbreviation IBU stand for?
10. Who is the "Father of Country Music"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 18



There's no place like downtown Paris for Christmas

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

There is something magical about Christmas in a small town, and few events capture that spirit quite like Jingle Bell Night in downtown Paris.

From the glow of holiday lights and decorated storefronts to the sounds of Christmas carols and excited children waiting to see Santa, the annual celebration has become a cherished tradition for local families.

On Friday, Nov. 20, the Downtown Paris Business Improvement Area (BIA) will once again welcome residents and visitors to the heart of town for an evening of holiday festivities, running from 5 to 9 p.m.

For longtime residents, it's a chance to revisit familiar traditions and create new memories. For families who have recently made Paris their home, it's an opportunity to experience one of the community's most anticipated events and discover the small-town charm that makes the holiday season here so special.

Rachelle Rousseau, vice-chair of the Downtown Paris BIA, said Jingle Bell Night is much more than an annual celebration. It's an evening that brings the community together and marks the unofficial beginning of the Christmas season.

"I think what I love most about Jingle Bell Night is seeing the whole downtown come alive with people who have made this evening part of their own family traditions," Rousseau said.

"There are children coming to Jingle Bell Night now whose parents probably attended when they were young. I love thinking about all the memories being made without anyone necessarily realizing it at the time."

This year's festivities will feature the return of several crowd favourites, including free horse-drawn wagon rides, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, live entertainment, face painting, princess characters and Doug the Great stilt walker.

The horse drawn wagon rides, sponsored by the County of Brant, will depart from Broadway Street throughout the evening, pausing briefly for the community Christmas tree lighting.

That lighting, scheduled for 7 p.m. at Cobblestone Commons, promises to be one of the evening's most memorable moments as families gather for the countdown and watch the tree illuminate Cobblestone Common.

Leading up to the ceremony, the Sacred Heart School Choir will perform at the cenotaph at 6:30 p.m., followed by Core Dance Studio at 6:45 p.m.

Rousseau said having local children participate adds another meaningful layer to the celebration, particularly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11









CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

when many of the young performers have grown up attending the event with their families.

Visitors will also have plenty of opportunities to explore the downtown's unique shops and restaurants. Many businesses will extend their hours, offering special promotions, tax-free shopping, refreshments and other holiday surprises.

A festive storefront decorating contest will add to the atmosphere, while a $500 downtown shopping giveaway will encourage visitors to discover what local merchants have to offer.

This year's celebration carries additional significance following an extended period of downtown construction. With the streets newly reopened, Rousseau said businesses are especially excited to welcome the community back.

For those who haven't visited downtown recently, Jingle Bell Night offers the perfect excuse to rediscover its shops, restaurants and historic streets, all dressed up for the holidays.

The evening will also provide an opportunity to give back. The Paris Firefighters Toy Drive returns, with visitors encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy to help spread some Christmas cheer to local families through the Paris Community Christmas Hamper program.

To accommodate the festivities and provide a safer pedestrian experience, Grand River Street North will be closed to vehicle traffic between Mechanic Street and William Street for the duration of the event. The BIA is working with the County of Brant and the OPP to ensure pedestrian safety.

While the entertainment and activities are sure to draw a crowd, Rousseau believes the true magic of Jingle Bell Night lies in the moments that can't be scheduled - running into an old friend, watching a child's face light up at the sight of Santa or simply taking a few minutes to enjoy the company of neighbours.

She also reflected on how a simple idea to bring people together for Christmas has grown into a tradition that holds a special place in the community.

"To me, that's what makes places like Paris special. It's not only the beautiful buildings or the Christmas lights. It's the people and the memories they make here."







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Paris Ringette teams bring home two silver medals from London tournament

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

Four Paris Ringette Association teams travelled to London Nov. 6-8 to compete in the annual Pink in the Rink Tournament, returning home with two silver medals and plenty of valuable experience on the ice.

The U19A team delivered one of the most exciting performances of the weekend, battling its way to the championship game after a series of hard-fought matchups. Head coach Anna-Liisa Bond praised the team's determination and resilience throughout the tournament, particularly during a must-win game against Oshawa. With just four seconds remaining on the clock, Lyyli Nuutinen scored a dramatic goal to secure Paris a spot in the semifinals. Facing Dorchester, the only team to defeat Paris during round-robin play, the girls found themselves trailing 3-0 just three minutes into the game. Refusing to give up, they mounted an impressive comeback to claim a 5-4 victory and advance to the gold-medal game. The championship against Burlington proved equally competitive, with Paris narrowly falling 2-1 in double overtime to finish with a silver medal.

The U12B team also enjoyed a successful tournament, entering the weekend undefeated and continuing that momentum with a perfect 3-0 record in round-robin play. Paris defeated its competition to advance to Sunday's gold-medal game after facing London-MacDonald, St. Thomas Thunder and Forest Xtreme in the preliminary round. In the championship against London-Duddy, Paris battled back from a deficit to tie the game and force overtime. Despite a determined effort, the team fell 3-2 in the extra period, earning a well-deserved silver medal.

The U14A team faced stiff competition throughout the weekend, finishing its four-game schedule with a tie and three losses. Paris opened the tournament Friday with a closely contested game against Elora, trailing 3-2 after the first period before surrendering a late goal in a 4-2 loss. The team then faced a strong Forest squad that had not allowed a goal in league play. Despite a 9-1 defeat, Paris celebrated finding the back of the net against the tough opponent. Saturday morning brought another competitive matchup, with the girls battling back to tie the game with two minutes remaining and holding on for the draw. Paris closed the tournament with a 6-1 loss to Dorchester. Team manager Ashley Dinsmore said the girls have been working hard at practice and are looking forward to regrouping ahead of their first ranking tournament of the season, scheduled for Dec. 5-7 in Ajax.

For the U10 team, the tournament provided an important opportunity for development and experience. With several new players on the roster, many were competing in their first tournament. Paris faced Chatham Thunder, St. Thomas Thunder and Forest Xtreme, finishing the round robin with an 0-3 record. Despite the results, the young players demonstrated noticeable improvement throughout the weekend, gaining valuable game experience as they continue to develop their skills and teamwork.



U10 team members include (in no order): Margaret Briggs, Saoirse Carter, Sloane Davis, Eleanor Doherty, Parker Hodgson, Quinn Perry, Sammy Rawlings, Reese Rowntree, Mya Sheppard, Olivia Spierenburg, Denae Symons and Lena Beckett.



U12B team members include (in no order): Celia Donn, Grace Amy, Blakely Berkmortel, Grace Brooks, Alexandra Hall, Quinn Hodgson, Anna Kipp, Erin Latty, Skylar Morris, Adelyn Robinson, Adaline Rowntree, Evie Whittaker and Lacey Axisa. Coaches: Darcy Hodgson, Kristan Smith, Carrie Moran and Courtney Hall.



U14A team members include (in no order): Charlotte Sullivan Pries, Charly Chelchowski, Samantha Noble, Jordyn Wallis, Charlotte Kipp, Charlotte Duran, Paisley Dinsmore, Amelia Carman, Rachel Hallett, Josephine Thebaud, Gabriella Bird, Claire Van Houwelingen, Rowan Nuber and Catherine Hallett.



U19A team members include (in no order): Kayyla Benyak, Payton Robinson, Ava Cusick, Caitlyn Klein, Callie McClung, Maila Bond, Raelynn Hyndman, Hannah Carter, Anna Castellani, Anneliese Bloemendal, Lyyli Nuutinen, Lauren Houser, Lydia Hergott, Kayla MacDonald, Georgia Aru and Emma Flynn.

Friendly rivalries heat up at Paris Legion Ladies Dart League

The boards at Paris Legion Branch 29 were buzzing as the Paris Legion Ladies Dart League kicked off November with two weeks of sharp shooting, full houses, and plenty of friendly banter.

November opened to a packed house, and the ladies wasted no time finding their mark. Linda B earned top honors as the undeniable sharpshooter of the evening, clinic-ing the outer ring to double out an impressive four times. She also cracked the triple-digit club with a high score of 116, trailing just behind Kyla B (117) and ahead of Bonnie M (101).

Center-board accuracy was also on full display, with Liz C leading the bullseye count with two and Shari E notching a bullseye of her own. Rounding out a massive night of finishes, Kyla B, Kat T, Cheryl F, and Lori B each doubled out twice, while Debi P, Cynthia G, Bev W, Kat T, Becky C, Liz L, and Gail all recorded single double-outs.

By the second week of November, the competition turned into a full-blown family affair as the "Moms" squared off against the "Kids."

In the opening match, veteran duo Nancy B and Linda B claimed early bragging rights, schooling Bryanna K and Kyla B on the board. The Kids, however, disputed the margin of victory—insisting they were "hardly schooled"—while Bryanna issued a subtle reminder to Nancy about who is responsible for ordering her Amazon packages.

Off the oche, the evening featured plenty of laughs, including the mysterious formation of the “#3 Cool Girls Club” and some sage financial advice offered to the bartender courtesy of Nanna: "Pay as you drink." Karma had the final say before the night wrapped up, though. Despite their strong start, the Moms suffered a late-night defeat at the hands of Nancy’s "other" child, leaving the league wondering: who drools now?

The Week Two stat sheet proved just as competitive as the banter. Linda B—to no one's surprise—and Debbie J led the double-out column with two each, while Cheryl F, Nancy B, Katy O, Nichole D, and Kyla B all notched single double-outs. Meanwhile, Bobbi P paced the bullseye leaderboard with two on the night, followed closely by single bullseyes from Liz L, Patti S, Nichole D, Nancy B, Liz C, Debbie J, and Bryanna K.

Paris Billiards report from Sharkeys

JEFF JOHNSTON AKA STONES

Contributor

The Paris Billiards league kicked off the new season at Sharkeys in Brantford this week with the unmistakable crack of the opening break, courtesy of Floody.

Right out of the gate, the tables were heating up. GG and Billy B came out swinging, breaking both hearts and balls, while Floody and Hammer quickly found their groove and went on an early roll. Meanwhile, Fergy and Kopper kept things entertaining, alternating between a standard game of stripes and solids and a round of "Fergy, find the white ball."

As the night progressed, the action only got tighter. Billy B earned himself a new moniker, Billy the Hook, with some tricky positional play, while Kopper suffered a loss so close he practically needed to call the cops to report a robbery. Floody and Hammer remained smooth operators all night long, keeping steady pressure on the competition.

When the chalk dust finally settled, however, it was our resident playwright GG and Billy B who rolled away with the week's victory. (A quick shout-out to our hostess Katie!)

Until next week, keep your cues chalked. All the best!

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Public lecture to explore future of drinking water projects in southwestern Ontario

MEDIA RELEASE

The future of drinking water infrastructure in southwestern Ontario, and the environmental and legal considerations surrounding major water projects, will be the focus of a free public lecture in Brantford this week.

Brant Land Trust will welcome Theresa McClenaghan, executive director and counsel of the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), as the opening speaker of its 2026-27 Public Lecture Series on Thursday, Nov. 19.

The presentation, titled Building Big Water: Drinking Water Projects in Southwestern Ontario – Environmental Law Factors, will examine the history of the region's drinking water systems and the challenges associated with planning future infrastructure projects.

Drawing on recent research by CELA, McClenaghan will explore major drinking water proposals considered over the past several decades, including projects that were completed and others that have yet to move forward.

The discussion will also examine the laws governing drinking water and infrastructure planning, along with potential impacts on public health, community growth and long-term environmental sustainability.

McClenaghan, who lives in Paris within the Grand River watershed, has spent decades practising public interest environmental law. Her work has focused on environmental health and safety, water protection and emergency preparedness.

She previously served as senior water policy adviser to Ontario's minister of the environment from 2006 to 2007, overseeing the passage of the Clean Water Act and implementation of recommendations from the Walkerton Inquiry.

She has also represented clients before the Supreme Court of Canada and several provincial and federal courts.

"Water is life. All living things require water quality and quantity," said Larry Mellors of Brant Land Trust.

The lecture marks the beginning of the second year of the Natural Resources Awareness and Protection in the Grand River Watershed series,



Theresa McClenaghan

presented by Brant Land Trust in partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University and the Laurier Institute for Water Science.

Brant Land Trust is a registered charitable organization dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring natural habitats and biodiversity throughout Brantford and the County of Brant. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19, at Wilfrid Laurier University's Research and Academic Centre East, Room RCE 004, 150 Dalhousie St., Brantford.

The presentation will be available both in person and online. Admission is free, but registration is required. In-person seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To register, visit https://Theresa-McClenaghan-BLT-LIWS.eventbrite.ca.

Holidays IN BRANT
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Tree Lightings

Jingle Bell Night & **Paris Tree Lighting**
Friday, November 20, 2026, 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Downtown Paris (Grand River St N)
- 7:00 pm: Tree lighting at Cobblestone Commons
- Music, live entertainment, giveaways & more!

*Thank you to the **Downtown Paris BIA** for organizing this event.*

St. George Community Tree Lighting
Thursday, November 26, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Snowball Park (10 Beverly St W, St George)
- 7:00 pm: Tree lighting at Snowball Park
- Toy drive, bonfire, live entertainment, Santa & more!

*Thank you to the **St. George Business Association** for organizing this event.*

Burford Christmas Shopping Spree & **Light up the Night**
Friday, November 27, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Burford Village Square (125 King Street, Burford)
- 5:45 pm: Burford United Church Christmas carols
- 6:00 pm: Local greetings and tree lighting
- NEW! Free chili supper at Burford United Church

*Thank you to **Burford Connects** for organizing this event.*

Holiday Lights in the Park - Kickoff Event
Friday, November 20, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Paris Lions Park (60 Laurel St, Paris)
- Lights will be on every night in December

*Thank you to Platinum Sponsor, **Lions Club of Paris**, and Gold Sponsor, **Riverside Heating and Air Conditioning Inc**.*

Santa Claus Parades

Paris Santa Claus Parade
Saturday, December 5, 6:00 pm
Downtown Paris
*Thank you to the **Paris Firefighters Club***

Burford Santa Claus Parade
Saturday, December 12, 5:00 pm
Downtown Burford
*Thank you to the **Burford Agricultural Society** and the **Burford Lions Club***

St. George Santa Claus Parade
Saturday, December 12, 6:00 pm
Downtown St. George
*Thank you to the **St. George Firefighters Association***

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Homes of Heroes thanks Paris for continued support of veterans

NEIL EDWARDS
Paris Independent Contributor

Thank you, Paris, for the continuing support you have given to our veterans. Our Homes of Heroes signs are coming down soon, but we placed nearly 100 signs in front of private homes as well as churches and schools in Paris. We want to place even more next year.

But we first need to thank all the people who have helped us towards achieving our goal, beginning with the homeowners who agreed to allow us to place a sign on their property. That visual reminder has been so helpful to honor our veterans. We will be reaching out to more homeowners as we continue to uncover the addresses where veterans lived. If we contact you next year, we hope you will take part.

And we could not complete our work without the families of veterans who have contacted us with the stories of their parents, or grandparents, or neighbors who have served in the military. If you have stories or photos of our Paris veterans, please let us know, before those stories are lost.

And of course, we need to thank Paris Branch 29 of the Canadian Legion. We could place more signs this year because of their generous donation to our project. But we need to thank them as well for all the activities they ran this year to recognize the 100-year anniversary of the Canadian Legion. The Legion has always been a pillar of the Paris community and should continue to be for another 100 years. Please give them your support.

The researchers at the Paris Museum have again shared their knowledge and expertise. And a particular shout-out must go to Norma Maus, a volunteer, who has been pivotal to digging out information on our veterans, particularly from the First World War. Her relentless energy and knowledge and passion for those veterans have been invaluable to our research and no doubt will continue to be until the job is done.

Because even though the signs are disappearing, the work of Homes of Heroes will continue behind the scenes throughout the year. We have researched and written biographies of over 150 First World War veterans and there are still that many more to be told, as well as stories from the Second World War and beyond. So, if you can help us in that job, please contact us at neiledwards51@gmail.com. If not, keep your eyes open next summer in the Paris Independent. Homes of Heroes will have lots more stories to tell.



Editor's Note: *A heartfelt thank you to the Homes of Heroes team for bringing this meaningful project to life in Paris.*

Recently, I came across a social media post featuring a woman standing proudly beside a Homes of Heroes sign in Halton Hills, celebrating the launch of the initiative in her community. What caught my attention was her acknowledgment that the project was inspired by the one right here in Paris.

Excited to see our community's efforts inspiring others, I immediately reached out to Neil Edwards to share the post. In his characteristically humble way, he was quick to pass along credit to Chuck Prystupa for helping bring the Halton Hills project to life.

This is exactly the kind of movement our world needs right now. As we lose more veterans each year, and the generations who knew them grow older, the importance of preserving their stories becomes even greater. These are not just names in history books. They were our neighbours, our family members and the people who helped shape the community we call home.

I was incredibly proud to see so many Homes of Heroes signs throughout Paris these past few months. Each time I passed one, I couldn't help but imagine the veteran who once lived there, the sacrifices they made and what life must have been like during that chapter of history. Those simple signs have a powerful way of connecting our present to our past.

To Neil, Chuck and everyone involved in Homes of Heroes, thank you for reminding us that history lives all around us, and that every veteran has a story worth telling. What began in Paris is now inspiring others to do the same, and that is something our entire community can be proud of.

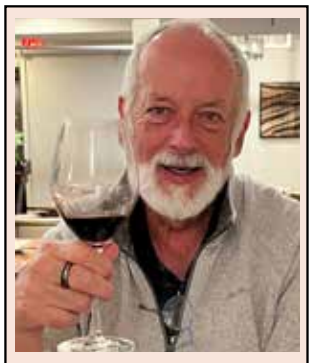
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3	2	6	5	9	7	8	1	4
7	4	1	8	3	2	6	5	9
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THIS COULD BE YOUR AD HERE!
CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO!

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Trois Rivières: a nice surprise along the St. Lawrence



By Paul Knowles



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Historic Trois Rivières: the Usuline Convent is shown at the centre of the photo, the former Anglican church in the right foreground.

It doesn't require an extensive knowledge of French to figure out that the name "Trois Rivières" means "Three Rivers". That's good linguistics, but bad geography. Because this historic city's name is based on a 16th-century mistake.

In fact, there are two rivers – here, the Saint-Maurice flows into the Saint Lawrence. But the mouth of the Saint-Maurice is occupied by several islands, splitting this river into three outlets. The first European visitors mistakenly took those three "mouths" to indicate three rivers.

This was just one of a plethora of facts, anecdotes and stories we heard during one of the finest historical walking tours I have ever experienced. Jean-Phillipe Marcotte, of "Personare", was our guide as we strolled through the historic centre of Trois Rivières.

Trois Rivières is the second-oldest French-speaking city in North America, but it is not as well-known as the two larger cities located less than two hours away – Montréal and Québec City. Tourists tend to drive straight past Trois Rivières to get to the more popular destinations. But they are making a mistake.

Trois Rivières is has a deep and rich history, reaching back long before written records to the time before Europeans arrived. But it's also a city that offers a lot of modern-day delights to travellers. We were both surprised and impressed.

But back to the history. There are statues and monuments throughout the city, honouring the original European visitors to Trois Rivières, names that we remember from the history class: Samuel de Champlain, Radisson, Groseilliers, La Vérendrye – all noted explorers with strong connections to Trois Rivières.

But my favourite was the monument to M. Laviolette, apparent founder of Trois Rivières. I say "apparent" because there is scant evidence of the illusive M. Laviolette. Our guide admitted that "we don't have a clue" who M. Laviolette is. In fact, "for a long time, Trois Rivières did not have a founder." But while the city was founded in the early 1600's (there had been French fur traders in the area since 1585), M. Laviolette was not acknowledged as the city founder until centuries later.

In fact, as Jean-Philippe told us with a laugh, as we stood before the bust of M. Laviolette, it is generally agreed that even the name is not the real deal. It's probably a nickname; it translates as "The Violin".

But the rest of the story of Trois Rivières is undoubtedly more historically accurate. And that story unfolded as we walked around the surprisingly well-preserved historic parts of the city. This in spite of a 1908 fire that destroyed hundreds of homes in part of the city centre.

Although the fur trade was the original impetus that created most of Canada's historic cities, Trois Rivières soon had other enterprises on the go, as well. This was the site of what might have been the first forge in North America. Later, Trois Rivières became an important ship-building centre (a historic reality that has an echo in one of today's important economic drivers – the cruise ship port).

Later still, lumber mills dominated the local economy – which was temporarily good for employment and financial gain, but terrible for tourism because of the incessant odors created by the pulp and paper factories.

That business thrived for decades; massive numbers of logs were still being floated down the Saint-Maurice River until the mid-1990's.

Today, that business is almost entirely gone. But here's where Trois Rivières again emerges as an impressive community – on the site of some of the pulp and paper mills stands a state-of-the-art entertainment centre, the Cocego Amphiteatre. The Amphitheatre has hosted performers ranging from Céline Dion, Bryan Adams and Burton Cummings to Cirque du Soleil. It's an impressive space – but in my historically-focused opinion, it's not the most impressive building in town. That one was once home to nuns.

Trois Rivières is still home to dozens of historic buildings, and the city has a program that funds up to 50% (capped at $40,000) of the costs of restoring homes to their original form. Many have taken advantage of this, and walking the streets of Trois Rivières can feel like journeying back in time.

The most impressive structure is probably the Ursuline Convent. The Ursuline nuns played a prominent role in the history of the city. Today, they no longer occupy the palatial building that once housed the Convent, although there is still a small group of Ursulines in Trois Rivières. The Order sold their Convent, chapel, school and more to the city for $1, on the condition that the building could not be converted into condominiums. Instead, it houses a museum, classrooms for students ranging from kindergarten to university age.

Trois Rivières is a city of stories, ranging from its probably fictional founder to community-minded nuns to Ezekiel Hart (1770-1853), a Jewish entrepreneur elected to represent the city in Québec's legislative assembly, but who was not allowed to serve because he was a Jew. So the city re-elected him, twice more.

And that's the kind of informed determination that has made this city what it is today – an often-bypassed destination well worth your time.

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.



A statue honouring the perhaps fictional founder of Trois Rivières, M. Laviolette.



The Cogeco Amphitheatre sits on the former site of pulp and paper mills.



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WEEKLY Horoscope

November 18 - November 24, 2026

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20

A helpful connection lifts your spirits, Aries. A thoughtful choice brings new insight and renewed confidence. Trust your instincts—it encourages progress and reveals rewarding possibilities throughout the week.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21

A simple pleasure brings comfort and perspective. Stay patient—it encourages balance and creates lasting opportunities ahead in the days ahead.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 21

A lively conversation sparks curiosity, Gemini. A clever idea brings fresh energy and new motivation. Stay curious—it encourages creativity and opens exciting possibilities ahead.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22

A warm gesture brings comfort. A friend's support restores your confidence and inspires optimism. Trust your feelings—it encourages harmony and strengthens close connections in the days ahead.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23

Your confidence attracts attention and opens new doors. Keep shining—it encourages success and creates rewarding momentum throughout the week.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22

A careful choice brings fresh clarity and steady progress. Trust your judgment—it encourages confidence and reveals great chances in the days ahead.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23

A happy surprise brings balance and renewed happiness. A friendly exchange inspires fresh hope and understanding. Stay open—it encourages harmony and creates exciting possibilities ahead.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22

A new challenge sparks courage and strong resolve. Trust your instincts—it encourages growth and reveals promising opportunities in days ahead.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21

A bright idea lifts your outlook, Sagittarius. A new perspective inspires curiosity and renewed optimism. Follow your instincts—it encourages adventure and opens rewarding possibilities throughout this week.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20

Your steady efforts bring good results and fresh drive. Stay focused—it encourages achievement and creates exciting opportunities ahead.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18

A bright idea brings inspiration, Aquarius. Trust your vision—it encourages growth and opens exciting possibilities ahead.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20

A thoughtful surprise brings fresh hope and renewed optimism. Trust your heart—it encourages harmony, strengthens close connections, and reveals exciting possibilities ahead. A kind act brings clarity today.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 18
Owen Wilson, Actor (58)

NOVEMBER 19
Jodie Foster, Actress (64)

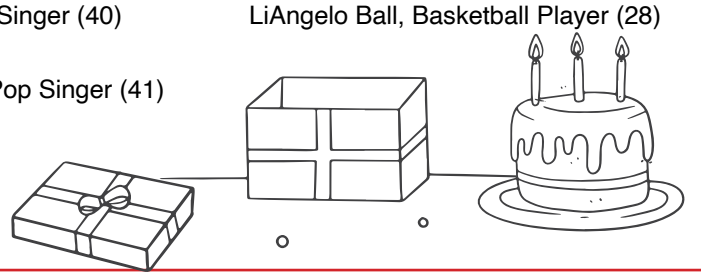
NOVEMBER 20
Oliver Sykes, Metal Singer (40)

NOVEMBER 21
Carly Rae Jepsen, Pop Singer (41)

NOVEMBER 22
Scarlett Johansson, Actress (42)

NOVEMBER 23
Miley Cyrus, Pop Singer (34)

NOVEMBER 24
LiAngelo Ball, Basketball Player (28)



Jokes

Why was the turkey at the Christmas party so proud?

He was the guest of honour!

--

What do you get if Santa goes down the chimney when a fire is burning?

Krisp Kringle!

--

What is every elf's favourite type of music?

Wrap music!

--

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Frosted Flakes!

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 14

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."

— Buddy the Elf (Elf)

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PET OF THE WEEK



NAZCA

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Nazca, a 16-month-old Dalmatian mix was in to see us this week and eager to show us his tricks for some treats! It took a DNA test to sort out the breed of this beautiful boy, which was very helpful as we were able to identify a specific type of urine crystal based on being part Dalmatian (which we may not have guessed).

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

Word Search

JINGLE ALL THE WAY IN DOWNTOWN PARIS!

V Z G G V V I U N Q L U V D D W B Y I A
T I M P A A W Q A M R S H O P P I N G N
R D A Y H L S Y T B Y S P A R K L E N H
E S O J C O J N J I G P H W Z D D H P E
E C R W W I T Z O E N Z S D F Q K O W F
C H R E N R S C P W I Q A G B V G L P E
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CHRISTMAS
JINGLE
BELLS
HOLIDAY
FESTIVE
SPARKLE
LIGHTS
TREE
LIGHTING
SHOPPING
DOWNTOWN
FIRETRUCK
TOYDRIVE
FIREFIGHTERS
SANTACLAUS
MUSIC
HOTCHOCOLATE
APPLECIDER
DECORATIONS
GIFTS
WREATH
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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Twice
2. Curling
3. Three
4. Arnold Schwarzenegger
5. Minionese
6. Denmark
7. Shire
8. Indian ocean
9. International Bitterness Units
10. Jimmie Rodgers

CLASSIFIEDS

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of 135 Bred Cows/Heifers

Saturday November 21, 11:00am

to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON
Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Cattle: (79)Heifers: (18) Char, (17) Blk Simm, (33) Angus, (11) Red -1st time calvers, bred Angus & Limo, vacc. **(18) X-bred Heifers** - bred Black Angus, vacc. **(17) Angus Heifers** - bred Black Angus. **(10) Blk Angus cows** - all bred Black Angus, vacc. **(8) Charolais Cows** - bred Charolais, vacc. **(3) Mixed Cows** - with calf at side, vacc.
All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.
Lunch Booth
Washroom Available
Terms & Conditions: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

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Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur
- full listing & photos

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH, AND 24TH

Brant Men of Song Choir Practices - 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.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Jingle Bell Night & Paris Tree Lighting - at Cobblstone Common Park downtown Paris, Friday, November 20 from 5 pm to 9 pm. Shopping, music, live entertainment, giveaways and more. Organized by the Downtown Paris BIA.

Holiday Lights in the Paris Kick Off Event - 5 pm to 6 pm at Paris Lions Park, 60 Laurel St, Paris. Lights will remain on in the park throughout the months of November and December. Presented by Lions Club of Paris and Riverside Heating and Airconditioning Inc, in partnership with the County of Brant.

Brantford Symphony Orchestra presents a Violin & Guitar Salon prelude concert on Friday, November 20 (7:30pm) at Glenhyrst Gallery Coach House, 20 Ave Rd. Brantford. Featuring Francois Koh (Artistic Director Candidate) on guitar and Aysel Taghi-Zada (Guest Concertmaster) on violin. Enjoy charming melodies for violin & guitar, romantic waltzes and French chansons. Get a taste of what is to come at our Dec. 12th concert at the Sanderson Centre. Tickets are $30, available at: glenhyrst.ca. Seating is limited.

Annual Harmony United Church Christmas Market - 268 Marlborough St. Brantford. On Saturday November 21 from 9-12pm. There will be luscious homemade pies, home baking, Jewellery, Christmas Decor, Giftable items as well as a raffle. We will be making our Christmas pots again. They can be pre ordered and paid for by calling the office 519 752 2912.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Season's Greeter Bazaar - At the Paris Community Church, 164 Grand River Street North Paris on Saturday November 21st from 9am to 12 noon. New Gift Baskets Ready To Go, Shortbread, Baking, Turkey Pot Pies, Knitting, Crocheting, Crafts, Christmas Decorations, Children's Table, Raw Carrot Soup. Enjoy a coffee or hot chocolate and Christmas Music in the Sanctuary. Enter on Emily Street with W/C accessible ramp. Free Admission, Free Draw Ticket. For more info contact 519-865-5239.

13th Annual No Road Back Music Event - at the Paris Legion from 12 pm to 10 pm. Spend an incredible day enjoying live local music in Paris, all in support of a vital cause: the Canadian Cancer Society. Donations welcome at the door.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Grand River Women's Probus Club - grandriver.probuscanada.ca - invites semi-retired and retired women to its monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon at Best Western Hotel, 19 Holiday Dr., Brantford. Come for friendship, fellowship and a fun games day to discuss favourite things and ideas for good times. New faces are always welcome! See the website for attendance details.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, November 24th at 7:30 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish hall at 17 Washington Street, Paris.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

St. George Community Tree Lighting Thursday, November 26 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Snowball Park, 10 Beverly St W, St. George. Tree lighting is followed by a bonfire, live entertainment, visit from Santa and a toy drive. Organized by the St. George Business Association

Christmas with Elvis - Doors open at 6:30pm. Show starts at 7:30pm at Affinity Conference Centre, Brantford. Tickets: $35. each plus applicable fees. https://tinyurl.com/ChristmaswithElvis2026. A little Elvis. A little Christmas. A whole lot of live music.
Sean Hauk brings the King to the stage with a live band for a special holiday performance in Brantford! Enjoy Elvis' Christmas favourites and timeless classics in a night made for singing along and getting into the holiday spirit. Bring your friends, make it a date night or treat the Elvis fan in your life.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Burford Christmas Shopping Spree & Light Up the Night - held at Burford Village Square, 125 King St, Burford on Friday, November 27 from 5 pm to 6 pm. Burford United Church Christmas carols, and free chili supper offered by Burford United Church. Event organized by Burford Connects.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Brantford Symphony Orchestra presents 'Orchestre Salon de Musique on Saturday, November 28 (2pm) at Paris Community Church, 164 Grand River St. North, Paris. Featuring Francois Koh (Artistic Director & Conductor) and Sarah Yunji Moon on piccolo. Get a taste of what is to come at our Dec. 12th concert at the Sanderson Centre. Tickets are $30, available at: brantfordsymphony.ca.

Christmas Market - St. George United Church hosts its annual Artisans & Vendors Christmas Market on Saturday, November 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Thirty-nine vendors offering a fabulous selection of gift and decorating suggestions - you're sure to find ideas, even for the most difficult to buy for people on your list! Visit the Cranberry Café for coffee & a snack or for lunch. Toonie admission, in support of the local foodbank. For information, contact (519) 448-3842.

Fifth Annual East Ward Echo Place Neighbourhood Association Handmade Christmas Market invites everyone to its annual Christmas market on Saturday, Nov. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Woodman Park Community Centre, 491 Grey St., Brantford. Shop from 40 vendors, enjoy door prizes and find unique handmade gifts for the holiday season! A recommended $2 donation at the door. For more information, email info.ewepna@gmail.com.

Community Holiday Market - presented by Queensview Retirement on Saturday, November 28 from 10 am to 2 pm at 70 King Edward St in Paris

Kiwanis Breakfast with Santa - Saturday, November 28th 2026 at the St. James Anglican Church Hall - 8 Burwell Street, Paris. Breakfast sitting at 9:00 am / Brunch sitting at 11:00 am. Seats can be purchased by email only!! kiwanisbreakfastwithsanta@gmail.com

Sensitive Santa - presented in partnership with Sensity Deafblind and Sensory Support Network of Canada. This special visit with Santa is reserved for children in the County of Brant who require a sensory-friendly environment. Saturday November 28 from 9 am to 12: pm (drop in style) at Sensity Deafblind and Sensory Support Network of Canada, 50 Main St, Paris. Registration is required. Email fairbrant@brant.ca or call 519-442-1944.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Christmas Party Club - Grades JK-6. Friday Dec. 4, 7-9 p.m at the Paris Baptist Church. Free program, limited spaces. Register at parisbaptistchurch.org.

Paris Optimist Club Youth Dance - The Paris Optimist Club will hold its next monthly Youth Dance on Friday December 4, 2026, The theme for this dance is Christmas (wear your fancy best). The dance is for students in grades 5 to 8 only. Grade 9 and older students are welcome to attend as volunteers. The DJ begins the Dance at 7:00 pm and it ends at 10:00 pm. Volunteers must arrive at 6:45 pm. The Dance is held at the Syl Apps Community Centre, 51 William Street in Paris with adult chaperones to make sure everyone has a great time. Entry fee is $5.00 with a concession booth for pop, chips, candy and pizza. Tap payment is now available. Please note we have a no re entry policy. All proceeds support the Paris Optimist Club and its projects for the youth of our community. For any further information and to volunteer as a chaperone or as a high school student, please call 519.757.5020.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Paris Santa Claus Parade - Saturday, December 5 beginning at 6 pm. Parade will start on Grand River St S, through downtown Paris and conclude at the high school. Presented by the Paris Firefighters Club.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

J.J. Ruggers Traditional Rug Hooking Guild - The monthly meeting and holiday potluck will be held on Saturday, December 12 at Glen Morris United Church, 453 East River Road, Glen Morris starting at 10am. Come out and connect with other fibre artists and learn about the art and craft of traditional rug hooking. Beginners and new members are always welcome.

Brantford Symphony Orchestra presents 'Golden Chocolate Symphony' on Saturday, December 12 (7:30pm) at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts, Brantford. Featuring guest Conductor Francois Koh. Enjoy beloved seasonal favourites, Broadway melodies, orchestral gems, and a sing-along for the whole family. Pre-concert chat at 7pm. Tickets are $45 for adults, $10 for students, FREE for children & elementary students. Available at: brantfordsymphony.ca or by calling the box office at 519-758-8090.

Burford Santa Claus Parade - December 12 beginning at 5 pm in downtown Burford. Presented by the Burford Agricultural Society and Burford Lions Club

St. George Santa Claus Parade - December 12 beginning at 6 pm in downtown St. George. Presented by St. George Firefighters Association.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

The Brantford Stamp Club Annual Show - is on Saturday January 9, 2027, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm, at Branlyn Community Centre, 238 Brantwood Park Road, Brantford. See www.brantfordstampclub.com under Events for more details. Scan of the Show card is attached below.

SELECT TUESDAYS

Brantford Stamp Club Meeting - The Brantford Stamp Club meets from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Branlyn Community Centre, 238 Brantwood Park Road, Brantford. Upcoming meeting dates are November 3 and 17, December 1, 2026, and January 5 and 19, 2027. For more information, visit www.brantfordstampclub.com under Meetings.

MONTHLY

Kiwanis Club of Paris Meeting - The Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant meets monthly at the Paris Legion #29 at 6:30 PM on the second Monday. Enquiries: kiwanisparisbrant@gmail.com.

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