

The Paris Independent

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FUNDING BOOST FOR SOUP FOR THE SOUL (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Representatives from 100 People Who Care Brant present a cheque for \$7,900 to Soup for the Soul during the group's latest giving cycle. Thanks to the collective generosity of its members, 100 People Who Care Brant continues to make a meaningful impact on local charitable organizations, with this round of funding supporting Soup for the Soul's mission of providing free, nutritious meals and social support services to individuals in need. Operating out of St. Andrew's United Church in Brantford, Soup for the Soul offers a safe, welcoming environment where guests can enjoy a freshly prepared meal and access community supports. Pictured, from left, are Sarah Disher-Neddow of the 100 People Who Care Brant Steering Committee, Jeanine Van Hout of Soup for the Soul, and Steering Committee member Callum Thomas.

Future of Historic Paris Plains Church depends on community interest

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The future of one of the area's most recognizable historic landmarks may depend on how many people show up for a community meet-

ing later this month.

For decades, the cobblestone walls of the Paris Plains Church have stood as a reminder of the region's pioneer roots. Today, however, the nearly 181-year-old building faces a challenge that has little to do with age and every-

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Meals on Wheels looking for clients

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

For nearly six decades, Paris Meals on Wheels has quietly delivered more than just hot meals to local residents. It has provided comfort, connection and independence to seniors and individuals facing health or mobility challenges.

Now, for the first time in years, the volunteer-driven program has something it rarely has — room for more clients.

"We're very happy to have clients try/pay the service for a month, to determine if this is a service they'd like to maintain," said coordinator Corrinne McClure.

The organization currently has capacity for approximately 10 to 15 new clients, a stark contrast to four years ago when demand forced volunteers to cap participation at 52 recipients.

Founded in 1967 by Jean Emerson and Rev. Stokes of St. Paul's United Church, Paris Meals on Wheels began by preparing meals for just five local residents. Today, the program operates out of the Paris Fairgrounds and serves seniors aged 65 and older, individuals living with disabilities and those recovering from illness, injury or surgery.

For just \$5 per meal, volunteers deliver hot lunches twice a week, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

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A Paris church built by volunteers needs them again

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thing to do with sustainability.

On June 15 at 7 p.m., community members are invited to gather at the church chapel on Paris Plains Road East to discuss what comes next for the historic property and the adjacent Maus School.

The meeting is being organized by longtime caretaker and historian Ray Perriman, who currently serves as the sole director of the Paris Plains Church Historical Society.

"It's created a circumstance where we need more input," said Perriman.

While volunteers regularly step forward to help with tasks such as lawn maintenance and minor repairs, Perriman says the reality is that both the building and its maintenance needs are aging alongside him.

Approaching his 70s, Perriman wants to ensure there is a long-term plan in place to preserve the church for future generations.

"This meeting is about planning for the future to make sure the church can thrive for the next generations," he said.

Constructed in 1845, the Paris Plains Church is considered a rare and significant example of cobblestone architecture, a building technique introduced to the area around 1838. The structure was built by volunteers using fieldstones gathered from local farms and nearby rivers. Different rows of stones were laid at varying angles, reflecting the work of individual farmers who contributed their labour to the project.

The church's Gothic Revival design remains one of the finest examples of the architecture that helped earn the area its reputation as the Cobblestone Capital of Canada.

Located between the Paris Plains Cemetery and the former Maus School, the church has become a popular destination for history enthusiasts, photographers and visitors curious about local heritage.

Perriman said many people who visit the church are amazed by what they discover inside.

"People who come out and see the church are in amazement," he said.

That sentiment is echoed by visitors who have shared their experiences online.

"We were on a drive yesterday and noted that the Paris Plains Church was open. We had never seen the interior except through a window," wrote Roger Campbell in a social media post.

"A friendly gentleman, Mr. Perriman, was cutting the lawn and invited us in to view this historic church. What a treat to actually step inside this amazing historic church. One can only imagine all the Paris residents that stepped through these doors since 1845 for church services, weddings and funerals."

Today, the church operates without a denominational affiliation, much like its original roots as a community church. While regular services are no longer held, the building continues to host occasional weddings and historical tours. Its intimate chapel can accommodate approximately 100 guests.

Perriman's own family history is closely tied to the building and perhaps it's largely the reason he cares for the building and is dedicated to ensuring its longevity.

"I have sisters and aunts that were married there," he said, with family weddings dating back to the 1950s. He also attended classes at the Maus School early in his education.

However, preserving a 19th-century building comes with growing costs.

The Paris Plains Church Historical Society is not a charitable organization and therefore has limited opportunities to generate revenue. Funding primarily comes from occasional weddings and events held on the property.

Those revenues are often insufficient to cover major restoration projects.

Among the most pressing needs are repairs to deteriorating exterior windows and an upcoming interior painting project.



The historic Paris Plains Church, built in 1845, remains one of the finest examples of cobblestone architecture in the region. A public meeting on June 15 will help determine the future of the landmark as caretaker Ray Perriman seeks community support to preserve the church and adjacent Maus School for future generations.

"The problem moving forward is how do we fund projects on aging facilities," Perriman asked.

He notes that the community has faced a similar crossroads before.

"In 1948 a group of community members got together and were faced with the same dilemma — do we go to work and fix it or let it fall apart," he said. "They began restoration and formed a restoration committee. Ironically we are kind of at the same time frame now."

The response to the June meeting may help determine the next chapter for the church.

Perriman hopes residents will step forward to form a volunteer board capable of managing maintenance, fundraising and long-term planning.

If community support is limited, he may begin discussions with organizations such as the Canadian heritage conservation organization, the Natural Trust, or the Ontario Heritage Trust, which specialize in preserving historic properties.

"The community's response is going to be the strongest

indicator to me on what I do next," he said.

The challenge, he says, is reconnecting newer residents with the area's history.

"The growth of this community is not only people coming in from larger centres, but people immigrating from overseas and they don't have a connection to the community," said Perriman. "So I see it very challenging to expand and get a broader input from the community."

The adjacent Maus School, originally built in 1869 as the fourth school serving the area, remains part of the historic property but is not open to the public due to years of vandalism. The church, school and cemetery all occupy land originally purchased from Henry Maus, although the cemetery is governed separately. Perriman hopes the June 15 meeting will spark renewed interest in preserving an important piece of local history before the decision is made by necessity rather than choice. Anyone interested in the future of the Paris Plains Church and Maus School is invited to attend the public meeting on Monday, June 15, at 7 p.m. at the church on Paris Plains Road East.

Paris Fair Announces Chris Lane as Saturday Night Country Concert headliner

MEDIA RELEASE

The Paris Agricultural Society is thrilled to announce that country music star Chris Lane will headline the Saturday night Country Concert at the 2026 Paris Fair.

Chris Lane will take the stage on Saturday, September 5, 2026, during the Paris Fair's Labour Day Weekend celebration, bringing his chart-topping hits and high-energy performance to fairgoers for an unforgettable night of country music.

Known for fan favourites including Big, Big Plans, Fix, I Don't Know About You, and Take Back Home

Girl, Lane has become one of country music's most recognizable voices, earning multiple platinum-certified singles and captivating audiences across North America. The Paris Fair, celebrating 168 Years & Growing, takes place Labour Day Weekend from September 3–7, 2026 at the Paris Fairgrounds.

The fair features midway rides, agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, live entertainment, vendors, family activities, demolition derby events, and more.

Additional concert announcements, ticket information, and full event schedules will be released in the coming weeks.

After nearly 60 years, Paris Meals on Wheels has room at the table

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Paris Meals on Wheels is totally volunteer driven," said McClure.

The meals themselves are anything but repetitive. Sixteen teams of volunteer cooks work on rotating schedules to prepare a variety of homemade dishes. Each team develops its own menu, which is repeated every eight weeks. As a result, recipients enjoy 16 different meals over a two-month period.

Each cooking team consists of a lead cook and three or four volunteers who prepare meals from recipes they have designed themselves. The dedication behind the scenes helps ensure recipients receive nutritious, home-cooked food throughout the year.

"MOW gives our clients two meals a week they don't have to prepare," said McClure. "Being a senior can present certain mobility problems, along with other medical issues that MOW can help with by providing them with two hot meals."

The convenience is especially important for older adults who may struggle with grocery shopping, meal preparation or standing for long periods in the kitchen. Meals arrive hot and ready to eat in compartmentalized containers, allowing clients to enjoy them immediately or save them for later.

But volunteers say the service provides much more than nourishment.

"Our clients look forward to that social

interaction with the volunteers, and the volunteers are happy to oblige," said McClure. "On occasion, our volunteers have called 911 responders for clients in distress."

Melanie Pakulis, the program's driver coordinator, said volunteers serve as an important point of contact for many recipients.

"Not only do our recipients get a healthy meal, we also serve as a wellness check two times a week."

Long-time volunteer driver Norma Cavan said the affordability and quality of the meals make the program an excellent option for local seniors.

"You can't beat the price of the meals. Right now they're only \$5, which includes potatoes, vegetables, meat and dessert," said Cavan. "I would say to a senior they are delicious meals, affordable and offer a wide variety of choices."

Cavan said delivering meals has also become one of the most rewarding parts of her volunteer work.

"I've enjoyed driving to deliver the meals, see people who I know, have a little chat," she said. "I've seen a lot of people come and go in the period of time that I've been driving, doing different routes. I really enjoy all the people that you work with."

The operation depends entirely on volunteers. Approximately 55 cooks and 50 drivers help prepare and deliver meals throughout the year. Three teams of drivers ensure meals reach recipients between 11 a.m. and noon, while cook teams rotate monthly schedules.

Among those volunteers is Wanetta Vader, an executive member and Friday convener who helps coordinate eight cooking teams while also serving on several of them herself.

"I love volunteering and giving back to my community," said Vader. "I like the socialization aspect with my cook teams, the drivers as well as the clients."

Vader believes the program's longevity is a testament to the volunteers who have kept it running for generations.

"I think that it is great that Meals on Wheels, Paris has been able to continue for years all run by volunteers," she said. "I hope to be able to help for years to come and to do my part to keep the organization



Volunteer drivers gather their delivery routes and freshly prepared meals before heading out across the community. More than just a meal delivery service, Meals on Wheels provides regular social interaction and wellness checks that help seniors and residents with health or mobility challenges remain independent in their own homes.



Volunteer cooks prepare and package freshly made meals at the Paris Fairgrounds kitchen. Meals on Wheels relies entirely on volunteers to provide affordable, nutritious lunches twice a week to seniors and residents with health or mobility challenges, while also offering an important connection to the community.

running for those who need it."

She added that recipients appreciate more than the food itself.

"I believe that the clients love the personal connection, care and love the homecooked meals."

With volunteers and meal capacity already in place, organizers are hoping local seniors and families will consider whether the service could benefit themselves or a loved one.

For a program that once had to limit enrollment due to overwhelming demand, having empty spots is a rare opportunity.

Anyone interested in learning more or applying for service can contact local coordinator Corrinne McClure at 519-755-0541 or by email at mcclure@rogers.com.



Rosslyn Doherty delivers a hot Meals on Wheels lunch to Paris resident Ted Webber. The volunteer-driven program has been serving the community since 1967 and currently has capacity to welcome new clients.

Guiding Principles

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5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
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EDITORIAL

Public trust is the first step to public service

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

I have always believed in leading by example. People don't just listen to what you say. They watch what you do.

So when Councillor John Bell says he "absolutely encourages more residents to step up and stand for election" and points to the low number of candidates in the last election, he may be overlooking part of the story. People are watching council. They are watching how some councillors speak to residents, how some handle criticism, how public dollars are spent, and how concerns are addressed. They are also seeing a system where provincial mandates and Official Plan policies can significantly limit the options available to elected officials. As a result, some residents may be asking themselves not only whether they want to be part of council, but whether they would have the ability to create meaningful change once they get there.

Serving on council should be a challenging but rewarding act of service. It should look like something you would be proud to be part of.

Public officials should expect their decisions to be scrutinized. In a healthy democracy, residents have every right to ask questions about spending priorities, policy decisions and the long-term direction of their community. Those questions should be met with facts, evidence and a willingness to explain the reasoning behind a decision. Too often, however, public debate can shift away from the issue itself and become focused on the person raising the concern. When I questioned the decision to invest \$28 million in an expansion at the Brant Sports Complex while the County faces significant infrastructure challenges, the response was not a discussion about priorities or financial strategy. Instead, I

was labelled a "fear monger." Whether one agrees or disagrees with my position is beside the point. The real issue is whether we are creating an environment where legitimate questions can be debated on their merits rather than dismissed through personal attacks.

When you defensively respond to someone for asking questions, you are attacking the very idea of accountable government. And you are doing it in full view of the community.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated concern. Earlier this year, the integrity commissioner recommended, and it was ratified by council, to suspend Mayor David Bailey's pay for one day following a report that found he violated the municipality's code of conduct and procedural bylaws. The report concluded that, during a December 2025 financial planning meeting, the mayor improperly engaged in debate and used critical name-calling toward two residents who were presenting concerns regarding the Cleaver Road bridge closure. The integrity commissioner specifically noted that the residents remained respectful throughout the exchange.

This could be partially why people do not want to run for office. It is not because they don't care about the town. It is because they look at the culture and they say, "No, thank you."

Voters, too, are disengaging. Not because they don't care about their community, but because many no longer feel heard. Some residents attend meetings, submit feedback, write letters and raise concerns, yet too often they are left with the impression that the outcome has already been decided. Recent infrastructure and reconstruction projects provide a clear example. Few people dispute the need to repair aging roads, bridges and underground services. The frustration stems from feeling that con-

cerns about timelines, traffic disruptions, business impacts and project coordination have not been adequately addressed. When residents believe their input carries little weight in the decision-making process, they begin to question the value of participating at all.

We were told, repeatedly, that the town would not be ripped up all at once. We were assured that while downtown would be under heavy construction, the rest of the town would not be in the same state. That is not what happened.

Council and staff have had years to prepare for this project. Nothing about it arrived unexpectedly. The reconstruction of downtown Paris has been on the horizon for years, giving ample opportunity to anticipate traffic impacts, coordinate related projects and minimize disruptions wherever possible.

That is why residents are now questioning how multiple construction projects were allowed to compound the challenges created by a project everyone knew would significantly affect traffic flow.

For many residents, this is where the frustration begins. They attend public information sessions, complete surveys, submit comments and voice concerns, only to see projects unfold not entirely as presented. The public's confidence in the process is shaped by what they see and experience. When residents cannot identify how their feedback influenced a decision, they begin to question whether consultation is genuinely about gathering input or simply informing the public about decisions that have already been made.

Over time, that perception breeds cynicism. People feel misled, they feel their concerns carry little weight, and they become less likely to participate in future consultations because they no longer believe their involvement will make a differ-

ence. To be fair, the responsibility does not rest entirely with council. Municipal politicians often find themselves in a difficult position, balancing the concerns of their constituents with staff recommendations, municipal bylaws, provincial legislation and policies that can limit the range of options available to them. In many cases, councillors are not the ones creating the rules; they are tasked with working within them. However, when councillors raise concerns about public communication or resident frustration, those concerns deserve to be taken seriously. Elected officials are often the first to hear when something is not working. They hear it on social media, in the grocery store, at community events and through phone calls from residents seeking answers. That frontline perspective is valuable. If councillors are consistently hearing that communication is lacking or that residents feel disconnected from the decision-making process, the County should view that feedback as an opportunity to improve rather than a criticism to dismiss.

So this is a call not just to councillors, but to County staff and municipal leadership as a whole: take notice. If we want more people to run for office, greater public participation, stronger debate and higher voter turnout, then we must rebuild confidence in the process. Residents need to feel heard. They need to understand how decisions are made and see that their input has value, even when it does not change the final outcome. Transparency, communication and respect are not simply nice-to-have qualities in local government; they are essential to building trust. People are inspired to get involved when they believe they can make a difference – without criticism. They step forward when they see leaders who listen, explain difficult decisions honestly and welcome public participation.

Election picture begins to take shape in County of Brant

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

With less than five months remaining until election day, the race for seats on County of Brant council is beginning to take shape.

The 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections will be held on Monday, Oct. 26. Residents have until Aug. 21 at 2 p.m. to file nomination papers or withdraw their candidacy.

The race for mayor currently features two certified candidates: Current Ward 1 Councillor Jennifer Kyle and for-

mer Ward 5 councillor Christine Garneau-Bisaillon. Current Mayor David Bailey is not running for a third term.

In Ward 1, incumbent John MacAlpine is seeking re-election and will be joined on the ballot by newcomer John Kemp. Two seats are available.

Ward 2 will see incumbent Steve Howes seek another term alongside newcomer James McCulloch. Current councillor Lukas Oakley has announced he will not seek re-election. Two seats are available in the ward.

In Ward 3, incumbent councillors

John Bell and John Peirce have both filed nomination papers and currently face no challengers for the ward's two seats. Ward 4 features incumbent Robert Chambers seeking re-election. He is joined by newcomers Andrea Bowden and Corey Donn. Current councillor David Miller has not filed nomination papers. Two seats are available.

In Ward 5, councillor Ella Haley, who was elected in a March byelection, is seeking a full term. She is currently joined by former Ward 5 candidate Mike Gatopoulos. Incumbent coun-

cillor Brian Coleman has not yet filed nomination papers. On the school board side, Rita Collver is seeking re-election as trustee for the Grand Erie District School Board representing County of Brant and Norfolk County Wards 3, while Dan Dignard has filed for trustee with the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board. Additional candidates may enter the race before nominations close on Aug. 21. The certified candidates list is updated regularly on the County of Brant's election website.

EDITORIAL

If we want a vibrant downtown tomorrow, we need to support it today

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

For more than a year, downtown Paris businesses have been weathering a storm largely beyond their control.

The Big Dig infrastructure project is now in its second year, and while most residents understand the long-term benefits of replacing aging infrastructure, the short-term impacts are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.

Business owners are reporting sales declines ranging from 30 to 50 per cent. Many say they regularly hear the same message from customers: "I'd love to come downtown, but I don't want to deal with the traffic." Unfortunately, that sentiment is understandable. Navigating downtown Paris today is challenging. What might have been a quick trip a few years ago now often involves multiple detours, lengthy delays and frustration. The Big Dig itself is disruptive enough but overlapping construction projects throughout the community have created what feels like a perfect storm. Residents aren't simply avoiding one road closure; they are navigating several construction zones just to reach the downtown core.

To its credit, the County of Brant has not ignored the concerns of business owners entirely. The municipality has launched enhanced marketing campaigns encouraging residents to shop local and has appointed a dedicated downtown liaison. Erica Grimes has worked closely with business owners, listening to concerns and bringing feedback

back to county staff. She's doing what she can to bridge the gap. But marketing alone cannot fill cash registers. When feedback is gathered, yet business owners continue to experience declining sales, it can create the perception that their concerns are being heard but not effectively addressed.

People see the advertisements. They hear the messages. Yet many still choose convenience over commitment when faced with another traffic delay or construction detour, simply because frustration is mounting.

That is why some business owners and residents are asking whether more should have been done at the beginning of this project. Municipal driven programs such as business grants, temporary rent-relief initiatives or other forms of financial assistance could have helped offset the losses many businesses are now experiencing. Such support would not be unprecedented. During the pandemic, governments recognized that extraordinary circumstances required extraordinary measures. Today, many downtown businesses say they are experiencing COVID-era sales declines - without COVID.

The reality is simple. Businesses can reduce staffing. They can reduce inventory. They can delay purchases and cut operating costs wherever possible. What they cannot reduce are fixed expenses such as rent, mortgage, insurance and utilities.

Without customers walking through their doors, those monthly obligations continue to arrive regardless of sales figures.

The greatest concern is not simply the hardships businesses are facing today. It is

what happens if they don't survive.

Downtown Paris has long been considered the heart of our community. Its historic streetscape, independent retailers, restaurants and unique character are what set it apart from countless other communities across Ontario.

When I began my journalism career at the Paris Star in the early 2000s, I vividly remember discussions around council tables focused on protecting downtown Paris. Big-box stores were viewed cautiously. Large commercial developments outside the downtown core were often debated through the lens of how they might impact local merchants. There was a collective understanding that downtown was one of Paris' greatest assets and worth protecting.

I'm not assigning blame to today's council. Times have changed. It's a different world. Municipalities across Ontario are facing unprecedented growth pressures and provincial housing targets. Communities are expanding rapidly, and infrastructure must keep pace. However, when growth, construction and multiple major projects converge at the same time, the consequences can be significant for small businesses.

And that should concern all of us.

Because if we lose the businesses that give downtown Paris its character, what replaces them?

More residential development? More empty storefronts waiting for redevelopment? More of the same commercial landscape that exists in countless communities?

If we lose the charm of downtown Paris, we risk becoming just another urban

centre filled with strip malls and convenience-driven development. That would be a tremendous loss for a community that has spent generations building a downtown worth celebrating.

The good news is that residents still have the power to make a difference.

I understand the frustration of traffic. I live here too. My seven-kilometre commute home from Brantford now regularly takes 25 to 30 minutes. Like many residents, I have felt the inconvenience firsthand. But inconvenience should not become an excuse. I make a conscious effort to support local businesses whenever possible. A weekend visit to Wincey Mills. Picking up fresh produce and meat from local vendors. Meeting friends for dinner at a downtown restaurant. Choosing a local retailer instead of ordering online.

These are small decisions, but collectively they matter. Last week readers commented online about concerns for downtown businesses. The support is genuine, and the concern is appreciated. But sympathy alone will not keep doors open.

If ever there was a time for Paris to rally around its downtown, it is now.

We can debate the planning decisions. We can criticize the timing of projects. We can share our frustrations about traffic and detours. But at the end of the day, the most meaningful action available to each of us is remarkably simple: visit the businesses.

Support them today so they are still here tomorrow.

Check out our challenge and let's rally to do what we can, Paris.

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Downtown Challenge: Shop Local, Share Your Story

We hear it all the time.
"Downtown traffic is too busy."
"There are too many detours."
"It's hard to get around."
Trust us, we get it. But our downtown businesses need us now more than ever.

That's why The Paris Independent is launching the Downtown Challenge and inviting readers to help support local merchants while sharing their experiences with the community.

Here's the challenge:

Navigate the traffic. Visit a downtown Paris business. Make a purchase. Take a photo with the business owner or staff member and tell us about your experience.

We want to hear:

- Which business you visited
- What you purchased
- What surprised you during your visit

- Something new you learned about the business
 - Why you would encourage others to stop by
- Send us your photo along with a short paragraph about your experience, and we'll publish submissions in upcoming editions of The Paris Independent both print and online.

The goal is simple: create real, first-hand testimonials from local residents about the amazing businesses that make downtown Paris special. Every sale matters. Every customer matters. And every positive story helps encourage someone else to make the trip downtown. So grab a friend, make a lunch date, browse a shop you've never visited before, or stop in at one of your longtime favourites. Take the photo. Share your story. Encourage others to do the same.

Willowbridge recognized with provincial award for violence prevention work

MEDIA RELEASE

Willowbridge Community Services has received provincial recognition for its efforts to prevent gender-based violence and support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The organization's Safe Relationships Team was recently awarded a 2025-26 Attorney General's Victim Services Award of Distinction, an honour presented by the Government of Ontario to recognize individuals and organizations that support victims of crime and raise awareness of victims' issues across the province.

Willowbridge was recognized for its leadership in addressing violence against people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), a population that experiences disproportionately high rates of abuse, exploitation and gender-based violence. The Attorney General's Office specifically highlighted two initiatives: the Healthy Relationships (HER) Project and Your Body, Your Rights: Building Safe Relationships.

"This recognition is incredibly meaningful because it reflects the voices, experiences, and leadership of the people and communities we work alongside every day," said Leslie Josling, Executive Director of Willowbridge Community Services. "People with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve access to education, relationships, safety, support, and justice in ways that are accessible, inclusive, and empowering. We are honoured to be part of that work."

Launched in 2025, the HER Project is a free, eight-week therapeutic group program funded by the Canadian Women's Foundation. The program supports women with developmental disabilities who have experienced harm, exploitation or unsafe relationships.

Building on that work, Your Body, Your Rights: Building Safe Relationships is funded through Ontario's Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. The prov-

ince-wide initiative is creating accessible educational resources, videos and training specifically designed for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as caregivers, developmental service professionals and therapists.

The project is being co-designed with paid advisors who have lived experience, along with researchers, community partners, Indigenous organizations, caregivers and representatives from equity-deserving communities.

Resources being developed through the initiative include easy-read illustrated educational materials, accessible and captioned videos, training opportunities for professionals, quick-access gender-based violence interventions, and province-wide knowledge-sharing opportunities.

Willowbridge said the work is grounded in accessibility, trauma-informed practice and the belief that prevention education should be available to everyone in ways they can understand and use.

"This award belongs to a much larger community," said Devon Atherton, Director of Projects at Willowbridge Community Services. "It reflects the courage of people with lived experience who helped shape this work, the commitment of our partners across Ontario, and a shared belief that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve safer relationships, greater autonomy, and equitable access to support."

Willowbridge Community Services' award-winning work also reflects support from local municipalities. The organization was one of four to receive County of Brant funding dedicated to addressing gender-based violence and intimate partner violence. In 2024, county council approved a one-time emergency funding allocation that was shared among Willowbridge Community Services, Victim Services of Brant, Nova Vita and the Sexual Assault Centre of Brant. Council later extended the funding for an additional year in September 2025, helping organizations continue delivering programs and supports aimed at



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Pictured is Building Safe Relationships Advisory Committee Member Kaitlin Coghlin holding the award, Executive Director Leslie Josling and Communications Manager Faye Bulloch with the award.

preventing violence and supporting vulnerable residents.

Founded in 1914, Willowbridge Community Services provides counselling, developmental services and autism programs to individuals and families throughout Brantford, Brant County, Hamilton and

surrounding communities. The organization said the award reflects the contributions of researchers, advisors, caregivers, community partners and people with lived experience who continue to support the development of safer and more inclusive communities across Ontario.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What animal is on the Canadian quarter?
2. What is Lady Gaga's first name?
3. Which is the only piece of artwork that Michelangelo signed?
4. What type of nut is commonly used to make pesto sauce?
5. How many noses does a slug have?
6. What city would you find the Boboli Gardens?
7. Which rapper set the Guinness World Record for the most words in a single hit?
8. How many continents are there?
9. The festival of lights is called what?
10. How many bones does a shark have?

This week's answers are found on pg. 18

Park vs Park

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Park vs. Park is back! Which park will be crowned the **County of Brant's favourite park** of 2026?

Round 1

June 1 - June 19

- Top 3 from each Ward (2025)
- Vote for all of your favourites

Round 2

June 22 - June 30

- Top 5 parks from Round 1
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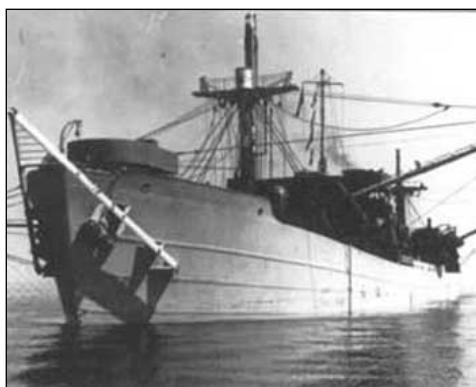
PARIS PAST: Paris veteran Henry Foster gives us his first-hand account of D-Day



By Chris Whelan

Saturday marked the 82nd anniversary of the D-Day landings at the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. It was the largest seaborne invasion in history, an operation that ultimately broke the Nazi regime and liberated Western Europe. While decades have passed and the battlefields are now quiet, the memory of that monumental turning point remains vividly alive right here in our community through the eyes of local veteran Henry Foster.

Now in his 101st year, Foster—a longtime Paris resident whose century of life



A typical WWII Defensively Equipped Merchant Ship (DEMS). Source CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum

was honoured by Brant County Council with the renaming of West River Lane to Henry Foster Lane—vividly recalls the tension, the scale, and the sheer awe of the events surrounding June 6th. In 1944, he was a 19-year-old Able Seaman in the Royal Canadian Navy, watching history unfold from a high-stakes vantage point in the English Channel.

Foster didn't participate in the physical beach landings, but as a gunner serving on a Defensively Equipped Merchant Ship (DEMS), he had a front-row seat to the massive buildup. For months leading up to the invasion, the signs that a major offensive was coming were impossible to ignore.

"About four or five months before D-Day, every port was sealed off," Foster recalled. "When we went into the pubs there was an unusual number of soldiers, usually Americans."

The cargo aboard his ship shifted from standard food and wheat supplies to heavy machinery, tanks, and landing craft stacked one inside the other on the open decks. Though the crew was never explicitly told what was about to happen, the message was clear: something historic was brewing.

When June 6th finally arrived, Foster's ship was stationed directly in the English Channel. The memory that stands out most fiercely to him is the staggering scale of the Allied aerial armada. The sky above the Channel was completely transformed.

"You couldn't see the sky," Foster said, describing an endless canopy of Allied aircraft roaring toward the French coast.

As the hours pressed on, the brutal reality of the fierce fighting on the beaches materialized in the sky above them. Foster watched as battered planes struggled to make it back to England.

"Some were limping and coughing at the rear of the pack and others had parts blown away," he recalled.

The danger didn't end when the troops

hit the beaches. In the weeks following D-Day, Foster witnessed the terrifying introduction of the German V-1 rockets flying overhead toward London. He watched in awe as Allied aircraft engaged the experimental weapons, daringly using their own wingtips to physically flip the rockets off course and send them crashing harmlessly into the sea.

Foster's journey to the center of the 20th century's defining military operation began in Montreal in 1943, following a particularly bad day in Grade 10. With the "good" teachers off to war, a frustrated substitute teacher remarked that the class was so dumb they might as well enlist. Foster did exactly that, joining the Navy at 17 to follow family tradition.

He spent three grueling years traversing the Atlantic in massive convoys to protect the merchant supply lines that made D-Day possible. His ship's guns served as a vital deterrent to German U-boats, keeping enemy submarines submerged so they couldn't

accurately target the vital food, vehicles, and ammunition heading for Europe.

When the war ended, Foster returned to civilian life, eventually moving to Paris in 1963 where his wife, Sybil, had family.

For over 60 years, he has been a quiet fixture of our town. As we reflect this week on the 82nd anniversary of D-Day, we are reminded that the global freedom won on the shores of Normandy was built by teenagers from local classrooms like Henry Foster. His first-hand account ensures that the bravery, scale, and local sacrifice of D-Day will never be forgotten in Paris.



Henry Foster's enlistment photo at age 17



(CHRIS WHELAN PHOTO)

Pictured in 2024 at the dedication of Henry Foster Lane is Henry with his daughters, L to R, Sherry Telfer, Sheila Moran and Debbie Borrows.

Summer smiles & The Great Pizza Caper of the Flats

STONES Around Town

By Jeff Johnston
(a.k.a. Stones)

Well, here we are! The good weather is finally here and summer is officially upon us. To celebrate, I thought I'd share something to bring a summer smile and a bit of a giggle

to your day—a little look back at a legendary story from the Paris Flats long ago.

Growing up, kids in the Flats were always up to something. The gravel pit was our personal playground, and the river served as our swimming pool. We had two rope swings hanging from the bridge, another one hanging right over the road, and spent our days skiing down and jumping off the dam all summer long. We had absolutely no fear when we were young and foolish. I certainly wouldn't advocate for the kids of today to try any of that now (he says, entirely tongue-in-cheek!).

We'd take bike rides out to Whiteman's Creek, make trips to the big pool, and spend afternoons shaking the Nith River bridge

just to watch the amazing way the old structure would contort and sway.

But the absolute best caper of them all centered around "501 Tunlaw."

It started when one of my cousins was babysitting. He let it slip to us later that if he called Pizza Chief and gave them that specific phrase, a fresh pizza would show up at the address completely free of charge. Now, at 12 years old, we truly believed we had struck absolute gold. The motherlode!

A master plan was quickly hatched. We timed it out perfectly: a 50-foot sprint down Walnut Street to the front of the house, a quick handoff as the Pizza Chief delivery driver arrived, and boom—a highly successful caper.

I wish I could say the story ended cleanly, but eventually, we flew a little too close to the sun. I believe the gig was finally up when we got caught crammed into Uncle David's tent trailer—about eight of us total, surrounding six pizzas. But hey, we'll never know for sure.

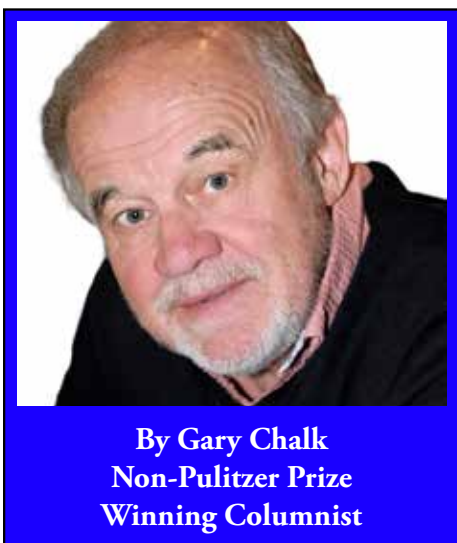
All I know is that for six glorious weeks, it was absolute pizza heaven in the Flats. (And by the way, yes, we eventually had to pay back the cost of half those pizzas!)

So, as we head into the season, I want to wish you all an amazing summer.

Have fun, laugh, smile, and be sure to make some lifelong memories along the way.

All the best to you all!

LIVING RETIRED: 'World Cup Soccer for Dummies.'



By Gary Chalk
Non-Pulitzer Prize
Winning Columnist

The entire friggin' world is about to invade Canada, USA, and Mexico! Shirtless soccer fans wearing plastic horned-Viking helmets will drink, sing, chant, and march in the streets. Yes, it is the World Cup of Soccer.

Living Retired

The World Cup is similar to the Olympics, but without the French figure skating judges. The only thing that comes close here in North America are the van-driving little league soccer moms screaming at the top of their lungs: "BRANDON, I DIDN'T #S%\$# LEAVE WORK EARLY JUST FOR YOU TO SIT ON THE %\$# FIELD PLUCKING %\$# DANDELIONS!"

I am not a big soccer fan. What I do know is that Brazil, Germany, Italy, Argentina, Spain, England, and The Netherlands are known for their soccer prowess — while, here in Canada we are known for our poutine prowess.

Another thing I know is that before a

soccer game begins the tattooed, man-bun players walk on to the field holding the hand of a young child. This is soccer's gesture of sportsmanship — before these same modern day Goliaths start running all over the field kicking each other in their pad-protected shins forcing them to collapse in pain apparently worse than childbirth!

Here is more of what I know about soccer...

The soccer referee — there is only one on the entire field! — blows a whistle when a penalty occurs. However, the player who committed the crime learns of his misdemeanour when the referee reaches into his pocket to select a suitable-colour Hallmark greeting card which he waves in the face of the villain.

Soccer is the only sporting event I can think of that has a guy whose job is to run along the sidelines from one end of the field to the other waving a large digital clock which identifies how much time remains for the players to do faceplants holding their shins, AND, how much additional time will be played because of these same players wasting time flopping onto the field feigning injuries.

And then there are the goalies. As the last line of defence, they stand in front of the goal which is a net large enough to trap a killer whale. So, to make themselves as large as possible, the goalies inflate their

hands to 50 PSI and then tug colourful gloves on. Nothing is more intimidating to a soccer player running towards the goal than a goalie with powder blue Papa Smurf hands!

Not many goals are scored in soccer because the players are flailing around down on the ground trying to entice the referee to pull out one of his Hallmark greeting cards, AND, after all, those Papa Smurf hands are enough to scare the bejeebers out of players with man-buns. Much of the game stays goalless, or as they say in soccer, Nil-Nil, which drives fans, well, Willy-nilly! Finally! A player actually scores which surprises the daylighters out of the announcer who lets out a blood-curdling scream, "GOOOOOOAAAL!" With that the score is now 1-Nil. More Willy-Nilly.

And what is it with the substitute players waiting to enter the game? They sit protected from 40,000 drunken fans in a discarded plexiglass transit shelter. Just saying.

There's no avoiding the World Cup Soccer, so let's all just kick back.

Living Retired is written weekly by humour columnist Gary Chalk and published throughout Canada and USA. Living Retired On The Radio is heard Thursday mornings. To inquire about keynote presentations contact Gchalk@me.com

Park pride on the line as County of Brant launches second annual Park vs. Park challenge

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Is your neighbourhood park the best in Brant?

Residents now have the chance to prove it as the County of Brant launches the second annual Park vs. Park Challenge, a month-long friendly competition designed to celebrate the community's favourite green spaces during Parks and Recreation Month. The popular contest returns after a successful inaugural run in 2025 that saw residents rally behind their local parks, cast hundreds of votes and ultimately crown Burford Lions Art Cadman Park as the county's champion.

This year, 15 parks from across the county will once again compete for community bragging rights and the title of Brant's Favourite Park.

Whether it's a playground where children make memories, a sports field where teams come together, or a quiet green space for a family picnic, every park has a story. The competition features the top three parks from each of the county's five wards. Residents can vote online for their favourite park in Round 1, which runs until June 19. The top park from each ward will then advance to the championship round from June 22 to June 30.

The winning park will be announced July 2 and will earn a coveted spot on the cover of the County of Brant's 2027 Spring/Summer Community Services

Guide.

The Paris Parks in the running include Forest Drive Park, Green Lane Sports Complex, Jury Street Park, Jay Wells Park, Paris Lions Park and Paris Optimist Park.

Beyond the competition itself, organizers hope the challenge inspires residents to explore parks they may never have visited before. From splash pads and playgrounds to walking trails, sports fields and picnic areas, the County of Brant is home to dozens of parks that serve as gathering places for families, friends and neighbours throughout the year. The challenge also shines a spotlight on the important role parks play in building healthy, active and connected communities. Voting is simple. Residents can visit the Park vs. Park page on EngageBrant, browse the competing parks and click the thumbs-up icon beneath the park they believe deserves a spot in the championship round. Organizers are encouraging residents to share the challenge with friends, family and neighbours and rally support for their local favourites.

Whether you're Team Playground, Team Picnic, Team Baseball Diamond or simply proud of your local green space, now is the time to show your park pride.

After all, every community thinks it has the best park. This month, Brant residents get to decide which one truly reigns supreme. Residents can learn more about the challenge and cast their votes at EngageBrant.ca/ParkVsPark2026.

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Harvard association launches monthly open houses and fly days

JEFF HELSDON

Grant Haven Media

The Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association's monthly open house and fly days attract some individuals with interesting stories among the patrons. Saturday's inaugural open house and fly day of the year started with one of those.

When he climbed into the aircraft that were used as trainers by the Royal Canadian Air Force on Saturday afternoon, Mark Colman of Brantford was wearing his father Ken's Korean War U.S. Navy aviator uniform. The leather jacket, now more than 60 years old, showed wear, but was still sold.

"He wore the jacket during the Korean War," he proudly said. "He was a U.S. Navy operator and flew the navy's first operational jet."

Colman explained that the aircraft known to Canadians as Harvards were called AT-6 Texans by the U.S. Air Force and SNJs by the U.S. Navy. Ken Colman trained in an SNJ before being assigned to Task Force 77, a group of four aircraft carriers stationed off the northeast coast of Korea. Pointing to the Gladiator patch

on the arm of the jacket, Colman said he met some current members of the Gladiators last summer, who are now stationed in Norfolk, Virginia.

The uniform worn on Saturday also included the shirt and pants, complete with the ribbon rack. Colman explained that the ribbons included the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal and Navy Commendation Medal. Colman explained his father earned the medals when he was taking part in a raid on trucks in a valley and spotted some trees that looked out of place. He fired at the trees, which turned out to be ammunition storage, and blew up with flames spewing in the air.

"He flew right through it," Colman said. "It was like a Hollywood movie."

Moving to Brantford to marry a Canadian girl, he heard about the Harvards. On the ground after the flight, Colman was raving about it.

"It was really a wonderful experience," he said. "I got some stick time today and was able to fly the aircraft. It's something that will stay with me always."

The next Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association open house and fly day is June 27. These continue through the summer.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Mark Colman stands next to one of the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association's Harvards after taking a flight in it on Saturday May 30. His father, a U.S. Navy aviator whose uniform he wore during the flight, trained in the American version of the Harvard.

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Ontario 

CUPE 5100 raise concerns over proposed school cuts

KIMBERLY DE JONG

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Education workers with CUPE Local 5100 held an information picket outside the Grand Erie District School Board on May 25.

Robin Sweers, recording secretary for CUPE Local 5100 and a member mobilizer with Ontario School Board Council of Unions, said the event was designed to inform people of what she described as planned staffing cuts at the Grand Erie District School Board.

"CUPE Local 5100 was informed recently by the Grand Erie District School Board that they were going to be cutting some positions. They call them 'shifts,' we call them cuts. Anything that takes away hours of work, rate of pay, or jobs in general is a cut, and I don't care what they call it. A cut is a cut," she said. "We don't just want the Grand Erie District School Board to know that we're angry and we're fighting. We want the public to know why we're angry and what we're fighting for. We're education workers; we are the lowest paid people in education, and we're not asking for the moon... we're asking for enough people to do our jobs safely and appropriately in schools." Sweers went on to say that the cuts will impact educational assistants, facilities and office/clerical staff across the board, and ultimately students.

"We are the custodians who keep things clean for everybody, the IT people that keep our technology going, the school secretaries whose schools wouldn't run without them and the EAs that work with our most vulnerable kids. Our workloads have increased tenfold and you cannot cut our positions, but put money into things like the Centre for Excellence," she said. "...



(KIMBERLY DE JONG PHOTO)

Members of CUPE Local 5100 stand in solidarity outside of the Grand Erie District School Board head office during an information picket on Monday, May 25, 2026.

What we're saying is the money the school board has, needs to go to classrooms and it needs to support our most vulnerable students. We need more EAs working with kids. There are incredible amounts of violence in our schools right now, and it's because an EA cannot support 567 kids throughout a building who have high needs. Those kids are not properly supported and that leads to violence."

Sweers, who works as an EA, said that while some people have told her, and others, to just get another job, they shouldn't have to.

"I've done this job for 27 years. I'm not getting another job. I chose to work with kids with special education needs; I've done it since I was 14 and volunteered at Brantwood Community Services," she

said. "This is my passion; I don't want a new job... I just want what I need to do my job well because I signed up to help kids learn, not to go work every day dressed up like an NHL goalie."

Members of the Grand Erie Elementary Teachers' Federation were also among those picketing along Erie Avenue.

"We are here standing in solidarity with our CUPE 5100 colleagues. They are going to see what the board calls 'shifts' to positions that we see as a cut," said Carolyn Proulx-Wootton, president of the Grand Erie Elementary Teachers' Federation. "At this moment in time, our schools are so drastically underfunded that anything called a shift in any discretionary funding that does not go directly into student supports like our EAs, our secretaries, or

our custodians means less for our schools, and we cannot live with anything less than what we already have."

Proulx-Wootton encouraged members of the public to do their research and voice their concerns about school funding.

"We really need to look deeply at what the government is saying it's doing, versus what it's actually doing," she said. "We encourage everyone to reach out to your local MPP, either Will Boma or Bobbi Ann Brady. Speak to them about the cuts in schools and what we need to see, because our students are the future of our province, and if we don't invest in them, what are we saying about our future, and what are we saying about their worth and their value?"

In response to an email from the Brant Beacon, Ryan Strang, Senior Manager of Communications and Community Relations for the school board, said they "remain focused on student success and the learning environment."

"Our goal is to ensure staff are placed where student needs are greatest," he said. "The current discussions involve staffing shifts and reallocations, which are standard procedures as we approach the end of a collective agreement. We do not anticipate any permanent layoffs among our CUPE staffing groups."

Strang continued to say, "Our investment to increase the number of educational assistants has exceeded enrolment growth. This investment in student success will continue, not a reduction in service."

Kimberly De Jong's reporting is funded by the Canadian government through its Local Journalism Initiative. The funding allows her to report rural and agricultural stories from Blandford-Blenheim and Brant County.

Could Paris' Shoe Tree be Ontario's Tree of the Year?

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Every community has its landmarks.

Some are grand buildings. Others are monuments, bridges or historic sites. In Paris, one of the most talked-about attractions stands quietly along Green Lane, covered in old shoes.

Now, with nominations open for the 2026 Ontario Tree of the Year competition, local residents may have the perfect opportunity to shine a spotlight on one of the community's most unusual and beloved landmarks: the Paris Shoe Tree.

Last week, the Ontario Tree Trust issued a province-wide call for nominations, inviting residents to submit photos and stories about trees that hold a special place in their hearts. The annual contest celebrates trees that contribute to the beauty, history and character of communities across Ontario. While many nominations are expected to focus on towering oaks, majestic maples and historic willows, the Shoe Tree offers something entirely different.

For more than 20 years, visitors and residents have stopped along Green Lane

to add a pair of shoes to the tree's growing collection. Over time, sneakers, boots, skates, sandals and golf shoes have transformed an ordinary roadside tree into a conversation piece that continues to spark curiosity among passersby.

The tree has become something of a local legend. Anyone who has driven through Paris with out-of-town guests has likely heard the question: "What's with that tree?"

The answer depends on who you ask.

Some see it as a quirky roadside attraction. Others view it as a community tradition. For many families, it has become a must-see stop when showing visitors around town.

While the Shoe Tree may not be the tallest or oldest tree in Ontario, it perfectly embodies what the Tree of the Year competition is all about, the connection between people and trees.

According to the Ontario Tree Trust, legacy trees do far more than beautify a landscape. Mature trees provide shade, improve air quality, reduce stormwater runoff, store carbon and create habitat for birds and wildlife. They also become woven into the stories and identities of the communities

they serve. The Shoe Tree is certainly woven into the story of Paris. Of course, it's not the only tree worthy of recognition.

Brant County is home to countless remarkable trees, from stately sugar maples and towering oaks to riverside willows and century-old specimens that have watched generations grow up beneath their branches. Whether standing in a backyard, on a rural concession road, in a local park or along one of the county's many trails, there is no shortage of candidates deserving of provincial recognition.

Residents are encouraged to nominate any tree that holds special meaning to them.

To enter, submit a high-quality photo, the tree's location, species (if known) and up to 30 words explaining why the tree deserves recognition. Nominations must be submitted to pageant@treetrust.ca by Aug. 3.

Winning trees will be announced in September, and all entrants will be eligible for prize draws, including a \$100 Lee Valley gift card, a family pass to Ontario Parks and other prizes.

Whether it's the famous Shoe Tree on Green Lane or a treasured backyard giant, the competition offers an opportunity

to celebrate the trees that help define our communities.

After all, every great tree has a story. Some just happen to be wearing shoes.



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

The Shoe Tree on Green Lane has become one of Paris' most recognizable landmarks, attracting curious visitors for more than 20 years. With Ontario Tree of the Year nominations now open, the beloved local attraction may be a worthy contender.

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The Paris Independent SPORTS



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Championship week wraps up Factory Basketball spring season

The Factory Basketball Academy wrapped up another season of exciting action with its semi final games taking place at the end of May and the finals the first week of June. Here's a breakdown of each division.

Semi Finals: 7-8-Year-Old House League

Marshmallows defeat Chicken Jockeys, 36-10

Lakers defeat Sharks, 28-6

Top scorers this week:

1. Aydin, Marshmallows, 20 points
2. Leah, Lakers, 14 points
3. Hukam, Marshmallows, 14 points

Semi Finals: 9-11-Year-Old House League

Hamburgers defeat Lakers, 23-22

Huskies defeat Tigers, 33-18

Top scorers this week:

1. Aurora, Huskies, 18 points
2. Anna Laine, Hamburgers, 13 points
3. Uvie, Tigers, 12 points

Semi Finals: 12- 14-Year-Old House League

Elite defeat Warriors, 42-39

Splash Gang defeat Blackhawks, 43-35

Top scorers this week:

1. Bahadur, Elite, 22 points
2. Riley, Elite, 20 points
3. Ian, Blackhawks, 16 points

Finals: 7-8-Year-Old House League

Bronze medal game – Sharks defeat the Chicken Jockeys, 18-16

Gold medal game – Lakers defeat the Marshmallows, 12-4.

Top scorers this week:

1. Ryder, Chicken Jockeys, 12 points.
2. Gavin, Lakers, 8 points
3. Hudson, Sharks, 8 points

Finals: 9-11-Year-Old House League

Huskies defeat Hamburgers, 36-16

Top scorers this week:

1. Aurora, Huskies, 18 points
2. Buster, Hamburgers, 9 points.

Finals: 12- 14-Year-Old House League

Bronze medal game – Warriors defeat Blackhawks, 35-25

Gold medal game – Elite defeat Splash Gang, 38-24

Top scorers this week:

1. Landen, Warriors, 20 points
2. Riley, Elite, 16 points
3. Liam, Splash Gang, 14 points



The Marshmallows were runners up in the 7-8-year old house league division.



The Sharks won the bronze medalists in the 7-8-year old house league division.



The Lakers were the spring champions of the 7-8-year old house league division.



The Hamburgers wrapped up the season with Silver medals in the 9-11 year old house league division finals.



The Chicken Jockeys just missed out on medalling following a very close 18-16 final game.



The Huskies won the 9-11 year old house league division championship game last week in a decisive 36-16 game.



The Elite edged out the Splash Gang to claim gold medals in the 12-14 year old house league division finals.

Fun, confusion, and melted games at Burford

JEFF JOHNSTON AKA STONES

Well folks, it was another beautiful and breezy day on the links! A few late cancellations threw us a bit of a curveball, but like a clutch 20-foot putt, we nailed the adjustments. The groups were well-balanced, balls were flying into the trees, and there was plenty of classic confusion over who actually owned which ball.

Jacque, Fever, Jay, and Bo made up a solid group. Who won, you ask? Honestly, I have no idea—they lost me the moment the

great ball-ownership debate started.

Kopper and Gerry were as smooth as can be out there, matching the easy style of Swanny and Willie D. Meanwhile, Fergie and Dino had their own battle going. "The Bird Man" was openly questioning whether Fergie could actually count his own strokes. To be fair, Fergie is a rower, so it's easy to see how he gets confused on dry land. Big Larry and BC, with Haybo in tow, rounded out the field. They watched helplessly as the group ahead of them (us) continued to provide endless amusement,

while their own trio casually parred away as usual. A quick side note: BC, you are a seriously good golfer.

I played as a spare this week, teaming up with Ice Berg to take on Big Al and Chicken. Usually, in high-stress situations, I rely on my trusty rubber chicken, but on this day, I had to face the real deal.

The quote of the day came during our match: "Do you even know where you're shooting?"

As for Ice Berg and me? We melted like ice on a hot summer day, using our

clubs as nothing more than stir sticks. At one point, we even had to "Stoogle Google" (Stew-style) to see if you're allowed to double-press. The official rules say no. With Chicken flying a little lower and quieter than usual, Big Al cruised them right to victory.

Another fantastic week of golf in the books. If you are looking for sarcasm, wit, and great camaraderie, you'll always find it on Fridays at the Burford Golf Course.

Thanks again to everyone, and all the best!

PYSA U11 Team 2 showing steady progress early in season

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

While the wins have yet to come, the Paris Youth Softball Association's U11 Team 2 is already showing signs of growth and a positive team-first attitude just a few games into the season.

After opening the year with three straight losses, head coach Pat Gilbert says the record doesn't tell the full story. The team has steadily improved with each outing and has remained competitive despite a challenging start.

The season began with frustration before the players even stepped onto the diamond, as two rainouts and a thunderstorm delayed the team's start to the year.

"That was a bit disappointing," said Gilbert. "But we're coming on strong now."

As the season has progressed, Gilbert has been encouraged by the development he's seen across the roster. One of the biggest improvements has been the players' growing confidence in the field.

"I've noticed development from a lot of the players," he said. "They're getting more confident getting in front of

the ball, even if we've had a ball or two to the lip."

The team has also been putting in extra work away from game action, spending time in the batting cages to improve their swings and build confidence at the plate.

On the mound, Marcus Tavares and Blake Dinsmore have emerged as reliable pitchers, helping keep games close while gaining valuable experience. Offensively, Brennan Deane, Finnley Folsetter, Ady Robinson and Drew Carr have provided much of the team's firepower.

Gilbert is also proud of the contributions being made by Ady Robinson and Lily Ryan, two girls competing on the squad. While victories are often the focus in youth sports, Gilbert believes the team's greatest strengths extend beyond the scoreboard.

The coach points to the players' positive attitudes, willingness to listen and support one another as key reasons for optimism moving forward.

"Really positive attitude from each of the kids," said Gilbert. "It makes it easy when they listen and support their team."

With every game becoming more competitive, Gilbert believes the team's first victory is only a matter of time.

Dusters trade sticks for clubs at first Invitational

SID LUCKMAN

Paris Independent Contributor

Due to ice maintenance at the home rink of the Brant Sports Complex, the Dusters Hockey Club took to the fairways of Brant Valley Golf Club. This was the annual Duster Invitational. At least for year one!

The day was foreshadowed by Tom Robbins who destroyed the first drive of the day down fairway one. When asked about such a monstrous shot, fellow Duster and Brant Valley Marshall Bob Kivinen just shook his head and said, "Oh no no no....no no " And that was that!

Overall closest to the pin winner was Goalie Neufeld who could not miss all day. Some may miss his net, but Neufeld did not miss a green! Worst shot of the day

was earned by Jamie, 'Oh No, who on hole 4 managed to double tap an airborne ball....right into the woods.' Isaac Newton would not be able to explain those physics! Derek Kenwell clearly won for his confidence and was the most consistent player of the day. He didn't three putt at all! Granby has to be acknowledged for hat of the week. That sombrero kept the sun at bay! Long drive was won by Andrew Bak as he had to come from Chatham to make the tee time.

So it's clear that the Dusters can get it done even when it's not hockey. But hockey returns as do the Dusters on June 11 at 5:30 pm at the Brant Sports Complex. This is the "Maroon in June" game where the old original jersey is showcased. Come on out and enjoy some home-grown hockey on June 11. The team will be meeting at Club 221, and all are welcome to join.

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Three quarters of a century: Cliff and Ruth's 75-year love story forged in faith, family, and the Grand River Valley

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

In the autumn of 1949, at a Teen Town dance held inside the walls of Paris District High School, a young man from Brantford spotted a pretty girl from Paris across the gym floor. He didn't know her name, but he knew he wanted to ask her to dance.

That single dance launched a journey of companionship, resilience, and devotion that has spanned more than seven and a half decades.

This year, Cliff and Ruth Leach are celebrating their 75th wedding anniversary—a rare and monumental milestone that offers a beautiful window into a changing world and the timeless values that keep a marriage whole.

Ruth, born at the Willett Hospital in 1932, was a town girl through and through. Cliff, born at the Brantford General Hospital in 1931, hailed from the Eagle Place neighborhood. Despite living only a town apart, it took the local youth dance circuit to bring them together.

"He was neat, well-shaven, and friendly," Ruth recalls of her first impressions that night. Cliff, meanwhile, was simply struck by how pretty and welcoming she was. After an evening of talking and dancing, Cliff drove her home.

It took about a year of dating before Ruth decided Cliff was "the one"—noting with a smile that his choice not to smoke or drink was a major attribute in her eyes. Cliff, though admittedly quite shy, confesses he knew she was the one much sooner, overjoyed that she returned his affection.

The early days of marriage brought immediate adjustments. For Ruth, marrying Cliff meant leaving town life behind to become a farm wife on Pottruff Road, moving into a home overlooking the Grand River alongside Cliff's parents.

"Like any newlyweds who had never lived together, it was an adjustment learning to cohabitate," they share. Fortunately, Cliff's parents proved to be wonderful anchors, instrumental in helping the young couple find their footing.

Ruth also had to quickly develop a love for sports, as Cliff was heavily involved in local athletics, playing Junior C hockey for many years and later taking the ice for the Ayr Rockets. The sports circuit brought lifelong rewards, forging tight-knit friendships with teammates and their families, including longtime friends Scott and Joyce Wells.

The young couple's resolve was tested almost immediately when Cliff unexpectedly lost his job just one week after their wedding. Though a stressful period, Cliff soon found better-paying employment. They navigated the early bump the same way they would handle the next 75 years: through good communication and deep mutual respect.

Cliff and Ruth offer some very sound advice for a lasting relationship: "Start each day with a fresh attitude and a kiss."

No marriage spans three-quarters of a century without enduring seasons of profound grief. For Cliff and Ruth, 1974 was an agonizing year. In a mere three-month span, the couple lost Ruth's mother, Cliff's father, and tragically, their 15-year-old



daughter, Sandra.

They credit their survival through that dark period to their deep faith and an unwavering community. As active members of Bethel Church, they belonged to a young married couples group alongside local families including the Pottruffs, Millers, Davises, Whittings, and Gretzkys.

"Our friends helped tremendously during this time," they recall, highlighting the invaluable support of their pastor at the time, Stan Tose.

Having lived on the same soil for 75 years, the couple has witnessed an astonishing transformation of the local landscape and daily life.

When they first moved to the Pottruff Road farm, the property had no electricity or running water. Today, they marvel at the literal flip of a switch, banking on handheld cell phones, and the wonder of GPS tracking on modern farm tractors. Even the simple joy of sports has evolved, moving from the days of huddling around a radio to hear a hockey broadcast to watching games on a massive, colour television screen.

Yet, with progress comes a touch of nostalgia. They fondly look back on summers spent swimming in Whiteman's Creek at Five Oaks and Rest Acres, community baseball games, and church dinners at Bethel filled with homemade skits and singing.

"We played hockey and went skating in the old horse shed next to the church all winter long," they remember. "We do miss how Sundays used to be dedicated purely for family and church—now it's just another day of the week."

Still, they express immense gratitude for the modern healthcare advancements that have aided their longevity, and Cliff remains captivated by the evolution of agriculture. "Gone are the days where he had to be up at the crack of dawn to milk cows and spend all day in the heat on a tractor with no AC," Ruth laughs. In 1995, after selling the farm, the couple moved into Paris, finding a welcoming spiritual home

at the Paris Presbyterian Church. There, they found inspiration in fellow congregants like Jack and Joyce Bawcutt, whom they admired as a shining example of a successful marriage. Today, looking back on a shared lifetime, Cliff and Ruth state unequivocally that their greatest pride is their expanding family tree.

Their legacy includes a lifelong closeness with their own brothers and sisters, their three children—Patti, Gary, and Teresa—as well as 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren who continue to bring life and joy to every family gathering.

When asked what piece of wisdom they would pass along to the next generation of sweethearts hoping to reach their milestone, their answer is simple, practical, and timeless:

"Express your feelings and your hurts, and settle your differences before going to bed. Start each day with a fresh attitude and a kiss. Even today, we still struggle with communication—but it is the key to succeed."



Leach wedding photo



Cliff and Ruth Leach recently celebrated an extraordinary milestone—75 years of marriage. The couple's journey began at a Teen Town dance at Paris District High School in 1949 and has grown into a lifetime of love, resilience and companionship.

Navigating loss: Answers to common grief questions



ASK THE GRIEF COACH

By Tammy Adams

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

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

Questions may be edited for length and clarity, and names can be withheld upon request. By sharing your question, you may help others who are experiencing similar feelings but don't know where to begin.

1. How do you know if grief has become overwhelming and you need extra support?

In our Western Society it is easy to feel overwhelmed with grief because we are taught to bury it. We are taught to ignore it, to stay busy, and to wait until time heals are emotional pain. But these are only distractions and they do not help us process the emotional pain within.

Grief is normal and natural, and our bodies are designed to heal after a painful experience, but when we ignore the healing, our bodies will whisper, then they will nudge, and then they will turn up the volume until they get our attention.

Turning up the volume can look like insomnia, exhaustion, anxiety, depression, and even physical illness. It can also look like repeated thoughts, looping, regarding the incident or the event. We may find ourselves talking to the person in the car while we are driving, but they are not with us. We might argue with them when we are doing dishes...but they are not in the kitchen.

When the thoughts of an unresolved situation, take up permanent residence in our mind, this is our best clue that we may need extra support.

2. How can parents help grieving teenagers who won't talk?

As parents, we can find ourselves facing silence, many times when it comes to teenagers. The lack of communication becomes even more complicated when the teenager has experienced a loss; romantic breakup, the death of a friend, moving, a failed course, rejection from university, etc.; there so many reasons a teenager may grieve.

If you sense your teenager is carrying emotional pain, here are a few suggestions:

Go first. Even if you don't know what their loss is you can start a casual conversation about what it was like when you were a teenager. Share a time when someone really hurt you. You can talk about how that made you feel. This can work because you have been vulnerable, you have set an example of how to begin sharing, and you have shown that even as a parent, you are human. This also creates a safe space.

Invite a response. You can invite the teenager to share if they have had any experiences where their feelings have been hurt. Were they perhaps felt sad, angry, betrayed, etc.

Just listen. If they choose to share, step away from your parenting role and just listen. Don't try to fix it. Don't offer advice. Just listen and after they're done, you could ask them, "How can I support you?"

What would you say. If they choose to

share, you could ask your teenager, "If the person who hurt you was here, with you today, what would you like to say to them. Then just listen.

Accept the silence. If they choose not to share, don't pry or try to force a conversation. Accept the silence and say, "I know it can be hard to talk about these things, but I want you to know that when you are ready, I'm here. And I will just listen."

Suggest a friend. You could say, "I have noticed something seems to be bothering you? If you don't feel comfortable talking to me about it, do you have a friend who will allow you to share what you and are feeling?"

Journal. You could suggest they write down how they are feeling, give those emotions a name, allow them to be present, let them see for themselves what could be living inside?

Emotions through music. If they are musically inclined, they could express their emotions through music.

Emotions through art. If they are artistically inclined, they could express their emotions through art.

The most important thing is to remain open for approach without judgement and of course if you believe they may need professional support, please access it for them.

3. How do I help a grieving friend without saying the wrong thing?

The most supportive way you can help a friend who is grieving is to not say anything at all. To simply be a "heart with ears".

It's about holding space for them, a safe place, where they can talk about their feelings and what has brought them to this moment. Grievers don't need to be fixed, they don't need to be analyzed, and they don't need to be judged. What they need is to be heard with dignity and respect.

One of the ways we have been taught to offer support is by sharing a similar experience. This has a negative impact in two ways. First, it introduces comparison, which takes away that safe place for the griever to share. Secondly, it takes a lot of courage for the griever to step up on the stage and talk about their emotional pain. When we share a similar story we have, even if unintentionally, pushed them off

the stage and we have stepped up on the stage ourselves which again stops the sharing from happening.

4. Is it wrong that I sometimes forget to think about the person I lost?

No, it is not wrong. Like most things in life, we shift our attention in and out of awareness. Our body is an amazing device, and it will do it's very best to always protect us. Sometimes that protection looks like periods of normalcy and this is a good thing because living in a constant state of unresolved remembering can be exhausting. These are the conflicting emotions of grief.

Grief is a normal healing process that our bodies are designed to experience. Imagine being able to remember our loved ones, without having to filter it through the pain; another reason why we may not remember as often is because it hurts too much. What would it be like to remember without hurting?

I have had many individuals share with me that they fear who they will be without the pain. Without the grief. Many feel their emotional pain is the last connection they had with their loved one and if they let go of the pain, they let go of the connection as well.

However, it is impossible to forget someone who meant so much to us.

What if our focused shifted away from how often we remember them to how they impacted our life: the support they offered, the lessons they taught us, values, habits, how knowing them has impacted us.

Those moments when we are focused on work or are distracted by laughter, are not betrayals.

They are as normal as grief.

We have not forgotten because noticing, you have not thought of them, confirms they still matter.

About the Columnist

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

County launches long-term waste management review as audits begin across Brant

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Residents who recently received a letter advising them of waste audits taking place in their neighbourhood may be wondering what prompted the County of Brant to start sorting through curbside garbage.

The answer lies in a major review of the county's waste management system that will help shape how garbage, recycling and organics are collected and managed over the next quarter century.

The County of Brant has officially begun

developing a Solid Waste Management Master Plan, a comprehensive roadmap that will guide waste collection, diversion and disposal decisions over the next 25 years.

As part of that process, consultants are conducting detailed waste audits throughout the community to better understand what residents are throwing away and identify opportunities to reduce the amount of material ending up in landfills.

County officials say the plan is needed to address growing populations, changing environmental regulations and increasing

pressure to find cost-effective ways to manage waste. The master plan will examine waste management needs in three phases: short-term initiatives extending to 2027, medium-term priorities through 2040 and long-term strategies beyond 2040.

Among the short-term initiatives is the implementation of new scale house software in 2026 to improve efficiency at county waste facilities. The waste audits currently underway are expected to continue into 2027 and will provide valuable data to help identify areas where waste diversion can be improved.

The county is also looking at ways to control rising collection costs. Beginning in 2027, urban yard waste collection is expected to be reduced from nine curbside pickups annually to six. These two measures is expected to save the county \$110,000 a year. The annual curbside Christmas tree collection program is also slated to end in 2028. In a staff report issued last fall, the county notes a considerable reduction in the Christmas-tree collection services in recent years with participation dropping steadily from 14 tonnes of trees in 2017 to

Riddle

I arrive with longer days
and disappear with the cold.
I bring laughter to beaches,
music to backyards,
and light long after dinner.
Children wait for me all year.
What am I?

Answer: Summer

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 19

Brainteaser

Rebus puzzles, also known as word picture puzzles or picture riddles, use a combination of images and words to convey a phrase or message, typically a common idiom or expression. Can you solve this one?

THOUGHT BUT THOUGHT

Answer: But on second thought

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PET OF THE WEEK

SOPHIE

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Sophie was so pleased to show us how pretty she could sit while clapping her front paws! Very impressive! It was adorable to watch how happy she was to perform her trick. The treats may have helped a little. Thank you Sophie!

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



Word Search

WEATHER TERMS

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

- ATMOSPHERE
- BAROMETER
- BLIZZARD
- CHINOOK
- CIRRUS
- CLIMATE
- CUMULUS
- CYCLONE
- DEWPOINT
- DOWNBURST
- DRIZZLE
- FORECAST
- FRONT
- GUST
- HAILSTONE
- HUMIDITY
- ISOBAR
- JETSTREAM
- MONSOON
- OVERCAST
- PRECIPITATION
- PRESSURE
- RADAR
- SLEET
- STRATUS
- TORNADO
- TURBULENCE
- WATERSPOUT



WEEKLY Horoscope

June 10 - June 16 2026

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



Fresh energy motivates you, Aries. A new opportunity encourages confidence and bold action. Trust yourself—it helps you overcome doubt and welcome steady progress ahead.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Patience benefits you, Taurus. Familiar routines create comfort and balance throughout the week. Stay dependable—it encourages steady growth and supports important decisions ahead.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



Curiosity grows, Gemini. An inspiring conversation brings excitement and fresh perspective this week. Follow your instincts—it encourages creativity and rewarding opportunities ahead.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



Emotional clarity returns, Cancer. A supportive connection brings reassurance and renewed understanding. Listen carefully—it strengthens relationships and encourages thoughtful decisions moving forward.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Confidence rises, Leo. Positive recognition inspires motivation and renewed enthusiasm this week. Stay authentic—it helps you attract support and strengthen valuable connections ahead.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Gentle reflection restores clarity and emotional balance this week. Trust your intuition—it encourages calm decisions and strengthens reassuring connections ahead.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Harmony returns, Libra. A meaningful discussion encourages understanding and emotional balance this week. Stay patient—it strengthens trust and supports important personal connections ahead.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Determination grows, Scorpio. Quiet reflection reveals valuable insight and fresh opportunities ahead. Trust your intuition—it encourages confidence and steady personal growth this week.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



Excitement builds. A new opportunity inspires confidence and optimism this week. Embrace adventure—it encourages rewarding experiences and positive momentum ahead.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Steady progress continues, Capricorn. Hard work brings encouraging results and renewed confidence. Stay focused—it supports lasting success and important goals ahead.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Creativity grows, Aquarius. Fresh ideas attract encouragement and positive attention this week. Trust your vision—it inspires progress and supports meaningful success ahead.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Gentle reflection brings clarity and emotional understanding this week. Trust your intuition—it encourages calm decisions and supportive connections ahead.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 10

Bill Burr, Comedian (58)

JUNE 11

Hugh Laurie, Actor (67)

JUNE 12

Dave Franco, Actor (41)

JUNE 13

Chris Evans, Actor (45)

JUNE 14

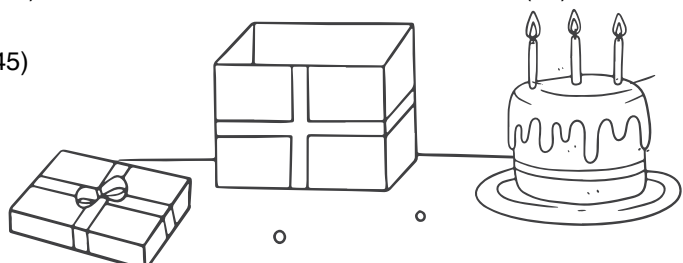
Boy George, Musician (65)

JUNE 15

Mohamed Salah, Athlete (34)

JUNE 16

Justin Jefferson, Athlete (27)



Mark your Calendars: Public information sessions offer a chance to voice your opinion

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Residents are encouraged to mark their calendars for two important public engagement opportunities taking place in the coming week.

On Thursday, June 11, residents can attend one of two public information sessions regarding a proposed municipal boundary adjustment between the County of Brant and the City of Brantford. Sessions will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and again from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Walter Gretzky Golf Course, 320 Balmoral Dr., Brantford.

The proposed adjustment follows a Memorandum of Understanding between the two municipalities and would see the Brantford Municipal Airport and approximately 1,317 acres of surrounding land transferred into the City of Brantford. The agreement was reached following negotiations facilitated by the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator.

Feedback gathered during the public engagement process will be reviewed by municipal staff and considered before the matter proceeds to statutory public hearings by both councils later this year.

The following week, on Thursday,

June 18, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., the County of Brant will host a drop-in open house at the Ag Hall at the Paris Fairgrounds to provide information about the Grand River Street North Improvements Project.

The multi-year infrastructure initiative aims to improve underground services, road safety, traffic flow and long-term mobility in the area. Planned work includes new roundabouts, storm sewer upgrades, road reconstruction, and enhanced walking and cycling paths. Residents will have the opportunity to learn more about the project and speak directly with staff. The County of Brant secured more than \$9 million in provincial funding to help deliver the project, reducing costs for local taxpayers. Attend the session to learn more about funding deadlines.

Also, the Bendemere Road project will also be discussed during the open house, with project team members available to answer questions. Bendemere Road will connect to the intersection of Grand River Street North and Silver Street, once it is fully operational. Residents are encouraged to attend, learn more about the projects and share their perspectives as plans move forward.



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

The intersection of Grand River Street North and Silver Street will undergo significant changes in the coming years as part of the Grand River Street North Improvements Project. Plans also include the future connection of Bendemere Road to the intersection, helping improve traffic flow and mobility in north Paris.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

just 6.7 tonnes of trees in 2024, while costs to keep the service running have more than doubled to about \$10,000 annually. Under the change, residents can continue to take trees to County waste sites at no charge.

Looking further ahead, the county plans to introduce stricter measures to encourage waste diversion.

A ban on placing recyclable materials in curbside garbage is proposed for 2028, aligning with broader sustainability goals and efforts to keep reusable materials out of landfill sites.

One of the most significant changes being explored is the introduction of a curbside organics collection program

between 2032 and 2034. The county is also considering a transition to automated waste collection using standardized carts during the same period.

County officials say the ultimate goals of the master plan are to meet the needs of a growing population, protect the environment by diverting more waste from landfills and ensure waste services remain financially sustainable for residents. Public input will play a key role in shaping the final plan.

Residents are encouraged to learn more about the project and share their feedback as the county develops its long-term waste management strategy.

More information is available at the county's webpage on the Engage Brant website.

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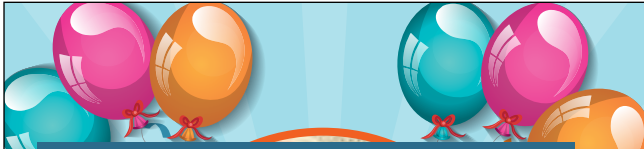
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SUDOKU ANSWERS


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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- Caribou
- Stefani
- The Pietà
- Pine nut
- Four
- Florence, Italy
- Eminem (Rap God)
- Seven
- Diwali
- Zero



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



CLIFFORD LEACH
Happy 95th Birthday to an amazing husband, Dad, Grandpa & Great Grandpa.....we are Blessed to have you and look forward to many more memories. Enjoy the Blue Jays game and your Loonie Dog Night @ Skydome!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Women's Institute Meeting - 7-9 pm at the Wilkin Family Community Centre. Join us for Lawn Bowling 101, graciously hosted by the Paris Lawn Bowling Club. Strawberry shortcake to be provided.

Men's Probus Club of Brantford Monthly Meeting - Thursday, June 11, 10:00 a.m. till noon, at Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course, 320 Balmoral Drive with keynote speaker Paul Emmerson – retired County of Brant CAO who will talk about current state of new Hospital plans. The goal of the Probus Club of Brantford is to provide fellowship, friendship, and enjoyment for people in their retirement and semi-retirement years. Men's Probus Club, www.brantfordprobus.ca | PO Box 26003, Brantford, N3R 7X4

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Paris Lawn Bowling Club - Come and join us on June 13th any time between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the Paris Lawn Bowling Club and the Wilkin Family Community Centre (169 Grand River Street North – there is lots of parking available on site) to celebrate completion of the construction work at the site and our full use of the Bowling Green. We will highlight some of the history of Lawn Bowling in Paris, have a lawn bowling demonstration, and provide some light refreshments. If you missed our previous free Learn to Bowl sessions (due to the weather), we will also provide you an opportunity to try rolling a bowl on the green. All you will need is a pair of flat soled shoes, comfortable clothing and an interest to "Give it a Try". We will have bowls for you to use and some of our current members will be available to assist, provide some basic instruction about the game and answer any of your questions. For more information about the Paris Lawn Bowling Club, check out our website at www.parislawnbowlingclub.ca.

Paris Legion's Annual Spring Market - From 10 am to 3 pm at the Legion, 70 William St Paris. Featuring over 40 vendors, live music, BBQ, raffles and a 50/50 draw – there's something for everyone!

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Telephone City Musical Society Music in the Park Series - Enjoy an evening of free live music at Paris Lions Park with the Telephone City Musical Society Music in the Park series beginning at 6:45 pm. This week features Layla Staats. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, relax outdoors, and enjoy great community music all month long.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - on Tuesday, 23th at 7:30 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish hall at 17 Washington Street, Paris.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

Paris Lions Club is Celebrating its 95th Anniversary - with a party at Lion's Park on Canada Day. Visit Lion's Park from 10 am to 5 pm for free hot dogs, face painting, live entertainment, character artists, princesses and Doug the Great!

FRIDAY, JULY 10

County of Brant's Movies in the Park series - offers a delightful way to enjoy summer evenings under the stars. Visit Mount Pleasant Park on July 10 for a viewing of 'Hoppers.' Bring your lawn chair, blankets and snacks, along with a non-perishable food donation for the local food bank.

SATURDAY, JULY 11

Downtown Paris Street Market - from 10 am to 5 pm. Free entry. Support local, shop local. Hosted by the Rustic Palm

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Telephone City Musical Society Music in the Park Series - Enjoy an evening of free live music at Paris Lions Park with the Telephone City Musical Society Music in the Park series beginning at 6:45 pm. This week features Avery Raquel. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, relax outdoors, and enjoy great community music all month long.

MONDAY, JULY 20 - FRIDAY, JULY 24

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

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FLAMBOROUGH–GLANBROOK–BRANT NORTH

PARIS Mobile Office Hours

My office is hosting weekly pop-up offices for communities around the large geographic riding of Flamborough-Glanbrook-Brant North.



Upcoming Paris Pop-up Office:

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29
(Paris Legion)
70 William Street, Paris

- **Friday, June 12 – 1:30 to 4:00pm**

Watch the *Paris Independent* for
summer locations in July and August.



Dan Muys, MP for Brant North

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