

The Paris Independent

Issue #202

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025

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Paris Guiding icons retire after 75 years of combined service



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTOS)

Shirley Simons (left) and Marleen Cooper, affectionately known as the “Paris Neighbouring Guiders,” are stepping back after a combined 75 years of dedicated service with the Girl Guides of Canada, leaving behind a legacy of mentorship, adventure, and community spirit.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Two longtime Girl Guide leaders are preparing to retire after an extraordinary combined 75 years of service to the Paris District, leaving behind a legacy of mentorship, adventure and unwavering community spirit.

Shirley Simons and Marleen Cooper—af-

fectionately known as the “Paris Neighbouring Guiders”—have each dedicated decades to empowering generations of girls through the Girl Guides of Canada. As they prepare to step back, they reflected on the profound impact it’s had on their lives.

Simons began her journey in 1981 when her daughter Andrea wanted to join Brownies. But there was one condition—she had to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Ontario Government commits \$12.5M to advance new hospital

MEDIA RELEASE

The Ontario government is investing an additional \$12.5 million to support the planning and development of a new hospital under the Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS), paving the way for expanded health services in Brantford, Brant County, Six Nations of the Grand River, and surrounding communities.

The funding, announced July 17 at the Brantford General Hospital by Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, will help move the project into advanced planning stages, bringing a new, state-of-the-art hospital one step closer to reality.

“Our government is making historic investments to protect Ontario’s health-care system, ensuring more people in Brant County can connect to the care they need, where and when they need it,” said Jones. “By investing to build a brand-new Brant Community Healthcare System hospital, we are making it faster and easier for more people and their families to access world-class care in their community, for generations to come.”

This latest funding boost builds on a previ-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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End of an era for Paris Girl Guides as beloved leaders step back

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

become a leader too.

“Corrinne McClure, Barb Sinclair and Kim McCrae said if I wanted to put my daughter in, I had to become a leader. So, I became a leader,” Simons recalled.

Cooper’s path began in 1996, about 15 years later, and followed a similar pattern. Though her daughter had already graduated from the program, Cooper had been an active volunteer on trips and camps. She was eventually recruited to become a unit leader—a role she credits with helping her come out of her shell.

“I have cerebral palsy, so it really helped me meet people and feel involved,” said Cooper, who has also served as the Paris District’s cookie coordinator for the past decade. Though stepping down to a part-time role this fall, she will support new leaders as they transition in.

Simons started as a Brownie leader and quickly formed a close friendship with fellow volunteer Debbie Flewelling. Together, they led multiple units before launching the first Pathfinder program in Paris—an initiative born out of necessity when a group of graduating Guides had nowhere else to go.

After successfully establishing the Pathfinders, the pair moved on to Rangers, eventually helping to launch a Paris-based Ranger unit that Simons led until announcing her retirement last month. Over the decades, she also served as District Commissioner and sat on the Division Council.

Lifelong Memories and Lasting Friendships

The memories made over the years are countless, but a few standout moments continue to shine.

For Simons, the highlight was a 1995 trip to Europe with eight Rangers. The group visited the World Centre in Switzerland and spent five days in France, all funded through tireless fundraising efforts that included 96 separate events. They raised \$32,000 to make the dream a reality.

“We stayed up until 2 a.m. making signs for dances at the Optimist Club, scrubbed the floors after, then ran car washes the next morning,” said Simons, laughing. “But it was the most wonderful trip, and we still have reunion dinners every few years—even now that those Rangers have kids of their own in Guiding.”

Cherish Gamble was one of the Rangers who travelled to Europe and for decades since then has valued Simons’ and Flewelling’s leadership.

“These ladies were an incredible team and amazing role models. I travelled to Europe with them as a teen in Girl Guides and enjoyed their friendship so much I



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Shirley Simons, Sharon Young and Debbie Flewelling during a camping trip more than 20 years ago. Debbie Flewelling, a devoted Girl Guide leader and longtime friend to Shirley Simons, played a key role in launching Paris’s first Pathfinder and Ranger units, inspiring generations of girls through her unwavering commitment and leadership. She passed away four years ago.

stayed on as a leader with them into my 40s. Shirley was such, and still is such a positive influence on my life, and countless other Pathfinders and Rangers,” said Gamble.

Cooper recalled a similarly memorable experience in 2005, when she joined McClure and 15 Guides for a trip to Mexico and the Girl Guide World Centre, Our Cabana.

“There were mishaps—one girl missed the flight, another lost her passport—but we had a blast,” she said. “We experienced the culture, toured the country, and the girls grew so much.”

Beyond the big trips, it was camping that created the deepest bonds. Simons and Cooper spent countless weekends at Camp Teka, Camp Impeesa, and even the African Lion Safari. In the 1990s, Simons estimates they camped up to eight times a year. They fundraised and bought their own gear, making them a self-sufficient unit.

“I’ve pitched so many tents over the years, I can’t do it anymore,” Simons admitted. “But I can give directions with my eyes closed.”

Camping was about more than tents and marshmallows. “It taught the girls independence, teamwork and a love of the outdoors,” said Cooper.

Simons chuckled as she recalled buying sturdy tents at K-Mart. “They were so good; I still have them today!”

More Than Just Badges

While the world around them changed, both leaders remained rooted in the values that made Guiding so rewarding—friendship, service, and quiet leadership.

“We always made sure the girls earned badges for their work—even if they didn’t realize it,” said Simons.

“Most of the time, they thought we were just having fun,” Cooper added.

They both agree that they were fortunate to lead during a time when things were simpler. Girls were eager to learn and build friendships, without the distractions of technology. While they value today’s emphasis on inclusion, they recognize that leading has become more complex.

“I think we had the best years,” said Simons.

As they retire, the legacy of Simons and Cooper will live on through the generations they inspired, the programs they built, and the stories they’ve shared around countless campfires.

“It’s a time for me to back off and let a younger leader take over with new ideas,” said Simons. For that reason, she will not lead a Rangers unit this fall. Instead, she will continue to host monthly leader meetings and become a part of the Trefoil Guild, an adult branch of Girl Guides, open to former members and supporters. “I’m going to miss the girls,” she quietly reflected. She’s handing the reigns over to Tawnia Martel, whom she has complete confidence will continue to lead with enthusiasm and strong guidance.

As for Cooper, who is stepping down to part time duties ahead of her planned retirement, it will be the Guides she misses the most. “I have girls that come up to me and still say ‘Hi Mrs. Cooper, how are you?’ It feels so good that they remember me.”

It’s been a life-changing experience for Cooper, who credits her time with Girl Guides of Canada for helping her develop the same confidence she worked so hard to instill in her Guides.

The Paris Girl Guide community won’t soon forget the passion, resilience and heart these two dedicated leaders brought to every meeting, every camp, and every moment in between.



Marleen Cooper practices CPR, with Shirley Simons watching on, during a training exercise in 2005.



Provincial and local leaders gather to announce a \$12.5 million investment from the Ontario government to support planning for a new hospital under the Brant Community Healthcare System, aimed at expanding health services for Brantford, Brant County, and surrounding communities. Pictured left to right is Paul Emerson, Chair of the BCHS Board of Directors, Bonnie Camm, President and CEO of BCHS, Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, David Bailey, County of Brant Mayor and Will Bouma, Member of Provincial Parliament for Brantford-Brant.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ous \$2.5 million provincial investment and will support the development of a comprehensive plan, including determining bed counts, square footage, and necessary clinical programming. Once finalized, the project will move to the construction phase.

The new facility is expected to feature:

- Increased patient capacity to meet future population growth
- Expanded emergency services and intensive care
- Enhanced medical imaging and diagnostic services
- Maternal, newborn and pediatric care programs
- Mental health and addictions programming, including a dedicated emergency mental health unit
- Modernized surgical and inpatient units
- Ambulatory clinics with access to dialysis and cancer care

Bonnie Camm, President and CEO of BCHS, said the investment allows the organization to begin critical groundwork.

“This funding allows us to start the detailed work to bring a shared vision to a working concept – one that is reflective of the growing healthcare needs of this area,” said Camm. “I thank the Minister for her presence here today and appreciate hers and MPP Will Bouma’s support to ensure Brant Community Healthcare System is leading beyond care.”

Brant MPP Will Bouma welcomed the

announcement, calling it “an exciting day” for the region.

“Building a new hospital will make it faster and easier for more people to access the best possible care right in our community, when they need it most,” Bouma said.

The new facility will serve more than 120,000 residents across Brantford, the County of Brant, Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. BCHS currently operates 330 beds across two sites.

In addition to the hospital expansion, the province is also investing approximately \$16 million for critical infrastructure upgrades at Brantford General Hospital, including boiler system repairs and the replacement of a damaged utility tunnel.

Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy noted the project aligns with the province’s 2025 budget commitment of up to \$1.1 billion in additional hospital funding to improve access to care and support community growth.

The Brant project is part of Ontario’s broader health infrastructure strategy, which will see nearly \$60 billion invested over 10 years to support more than 50 major hospital projects and add roughly 3,000 new hospital beds across the province.

Through its “Your Health” plan, the Ontario government says it remains committed to building a connected, people-first health-care system that ensures timely, convenient access to care for all Ontarians.

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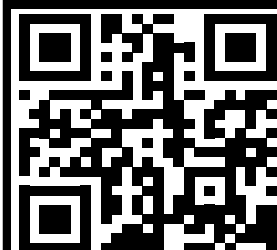


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Paris rallies for Jumpstart, raising over \$5,600 to help kids play sports

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Paris community has once again proven the power of collective generosity, raising \$5,628 during Canadian Tire Jumpstart Month to help local children access sports and recreation.

Canadian Tire Paris finished second in the entire Hamilton-Niagara and Greater Toronto Area region for donation conversion—an impressive feat that highlights the town's overwhelming support for the cause.

“This is what makes Paris special—neighbours coming together to give every child the chance to play,” said Angie Kim-Miskuski, Associate Dealer of Canadian Tire Paris. “Whether it's hockey skates, soccer cleats, or swim lessons, 100% of these donations stay right here in our town, helping families who need it most. That's the pow-

er of community.”

Jumpstart is a national charity funded by Canadian Tire that removes financial barriers so kids can participate in organized sports and physical activities. All administrative costs are covered by Canadian Tire Corporation, ensuring every dollar raised goes directly to supporting youth.

The month-long campaign kicked off in late June with a lively parking lot fundraiser that raised more than \$400 in just four hours. The event featured Heaton Up the Grill, the Paris Minor Hockey Association, the Girl Guides of Canada, and a dedicated group of volunteers who came together in support of Jumpstart's mission.

Throughout July, the Paris store also encouraged customers to round up their purchases at the register, with staff enthusiastically sharing Jumpstart's impact at checkout and throughout the aisles.

“We're overwhelmed by the generosity of the Paris community,” said Kim-Miskuski. “Every donation—big or small—is changing lives by giving local kids the chance

to experience the joy and confidence that comes from playing sports.”

Canadian Tire Paris also fully covered the costs of the launch event and gift basket draw, ensuring that every donated dollar went directly to helping kids. Kim-Miskuski extended special thanks to partners like Heaton Up the Grill for their time and generosity.

While details are still in the works, the store is already planning its next community fundraiser—this time, a family-friendly celebration with fun activities, special guests, and more chances to support Jumpstart.

As newcomers to the community, Angie and her husband Matt say they've been moved by Paris's big heart. “The willingness to rally behind initiatives like Jumpstart—whether through donations, volunteering, or simply spreading the word—shows just how special Paris is,” said Kim-Miskuski. “It's been an honour to witness and be part of this collective effort to make a difference.”

Families in need of support can apply for Jumpstart grants at jumpstart.canadiantire.ca.



Lucky winners proudly display their \$250 gift baskets, packed with Canadian Tire must-haves—from tools and home essentials to outdoor gear and snacks—all generously donated by Canadian Tire Paris in celebration of Jumpstart's mission to help every child play.

(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Brant County considering ‘public-private partnership’ for Bawcutt Centre

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Brant County is looking for a partner to breathe life back into a piece of Canadian architectural history.

The municipality is inviting people to submit expressions of interest for a “public-private partnership” which would “support the redevelopment of the Bawcutt Centre,” according to the municipality's bids and tenders page.

The former Paris Town Hall was built in 1854 and is thought to be the oldest surviving example of public neo-Gothic architecture in Canada.

The county purchased the building in 2016 with a donation from former Paris resident and “Degrassi” franchise co-creator Linda Schuyler.

It was to become a community hub and the new main branch library.

However, in January, the nearly \$40-million project died over a lack of parking spaces, leaving its future up in the air.

The county will accept proposals until Sept. 30, after which staff plan to bring proposals back to council, Zach Gable, the county's director of economic development and tourism, told the heritage committee earlier this month.

The municipality is saying to the private sector “we're interested in solutions to help redevelop the Bawcutt Centre. We don't exactly know what that looks like, and we want to identify someone to work with,” he said.

As a first step, the county is soliciting people to submit ideas of what a partnership could look like.

The overall vision is for a redevelopment which “celebrates and expands the arts and culture sectors while serving the broader community,” the bid description says.

As of late last week, 17 companies had accessed the plan.

The municipality is considering a similar proposal from a local developer for the new main public library branch.

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



(LJI PHOTO)

The historic Bawcutt Centre, built in 1854 and believed to be Canada's oldest surviving example of public neo-Gothic architecture, is once again the focus of redevelopment hopes as Brant County seeks a public-private partnership to breathe new life into the landmark.

EDITORIAL

Navigating through crises: A reflection on James Cairns' provocative essays

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

"In Crisis, On Crisis" isn't just a book title; it represents an emotional reflection of our turbulent times, penned by the insightful Paris resident James Cairns. Published in June 2025, this collection of essays delves into the complex web of crises that define our modern existence—ecological, political, and deeply personal.

Cairns, drawing from a rich mix of social research, pop culture, and his own experiences as an activist and teacher, fearlessly confronts these crises head-on. The book's thematic pillars—ecological crisis, political upheaval, personal struggles, and the very nature of crisis itself—serve as a roadmap for readers seeking to navigate the complexities of our rapidly changing world.

One of the most striking aspects of Cairns' work is his refusal to offer simple solutions. Instead, he invites readers to grapple with the ambiguities and contradictions that define our era. Through a series of essays that blur the lines between introspection and critique, Cairns challenges us to confront uncomfortable truths and find resilience within adversity.

At the heart of "In Crisis, On Crisis" lies a fundamental question: What defines a crisis, and how do we navigate through it? Cairns' exploration extends beyond mere analysis; it becomes a journey of self-discovery for the reader, guiding us through the labyrinth of uncertainty towards a deeper understanding of our shared humanity.

Having had the privilege of engaging with Cairns and obtaining a copy of his latest writing at his book launch back in June hosted by Alison Fishburn at Riverside

Bookshelf in Paris. We recently found ourselves sharing coffee together after my completing reading his book, my experience took on a profound depth. Our conversation extended beyond the pages of his work, touching upon life's intricacies, challenges, and moments of personal triumph.

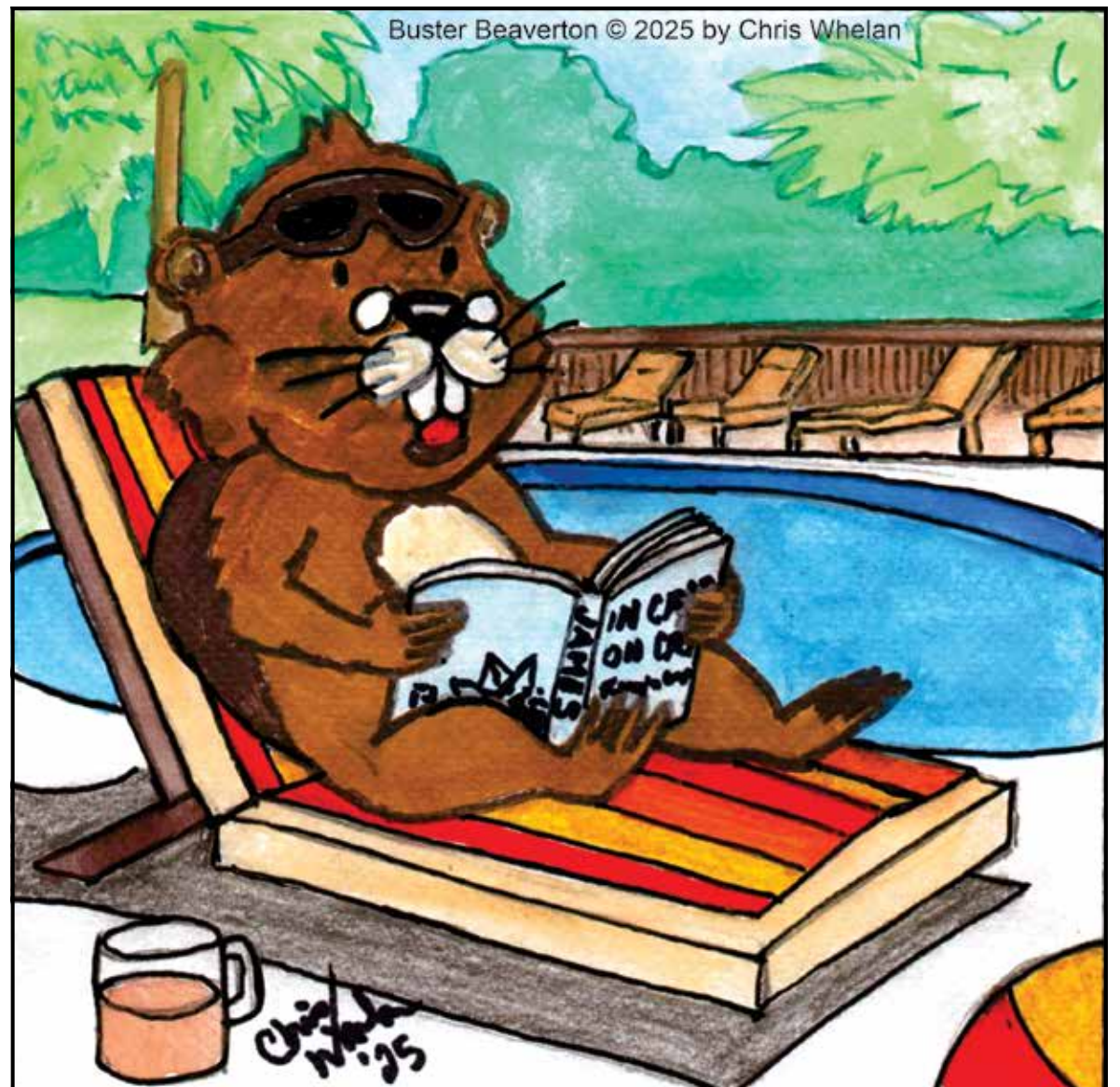
Cairns' ability to seamlessly blend personal narratives with broader socio-political commentary is a testament to his skill as a writer. Each essay, meticulously crafted and thoughtfully laid out, offers a unique lens through which to view the world around us.

While the subject matter of "In Crisis, On Crisis" may not always be easy to digest, its inherent value lies in its ability to spark introspection and dialogue. Cairns' candid discussions on addiction, midlife crises, and the looming specter of climate change force us to confront uncomfortable truths about our own lives and the world we inhabit.

As a reader, I found Cairns' book to be a refreshing departure from traditional nonfiction narratives. The bite-sized essays, each a standalone exploration of a different facet of crisis, allow for easy consumption while still packing a powerful punch.

In an age where the tyranny of time and attention spans reign supreme, Cairns' writing stands as a inspiration of hope for those seeking intellectual nourishment in a fast-paced world. His ability to captivate and engage readers speaks volumes about his prowess as a storyteller.

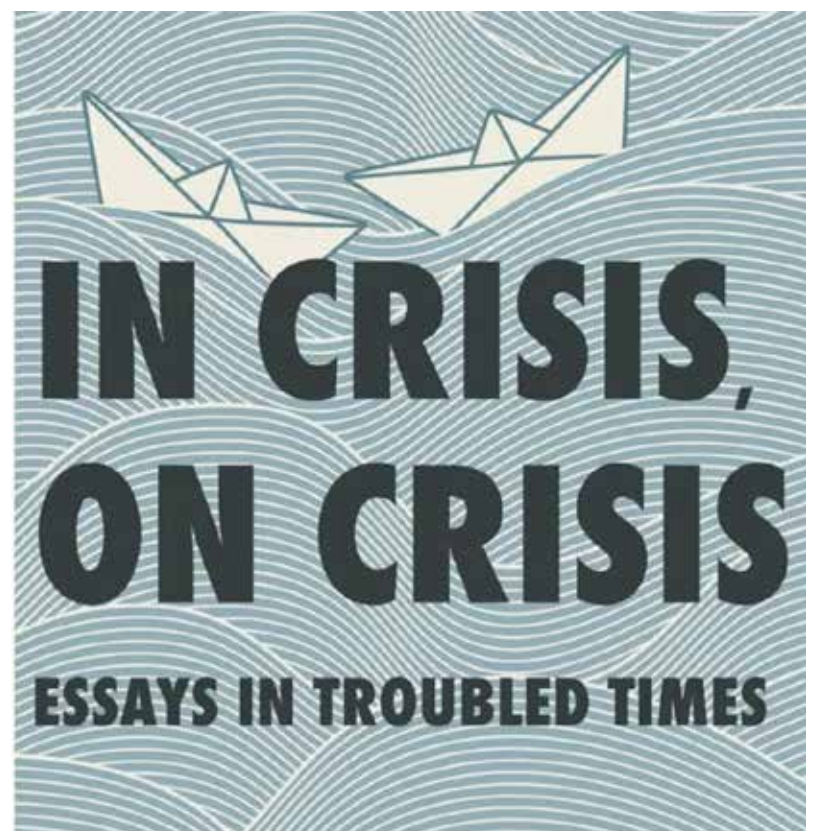
"In Crisis, On Crisis" is not just a book; it is a mirror held up to society, reflecting our fears, hopes, and collective aspirations. Cairns' work challenges us to look beyond the surface of things, to question, to ponder, and ultimately,



Buster Reads James Cairns

ly, to find solace in the shared experience of being human.

If you're on the lookout for a book that will provoke thought, stir emotions, and spark meaningful conversations, look no further than James Cairns' "In Crisis, On Crisis." It is a literary journey unlike any other, one that will stay with you long after you've turned the final page.



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Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor: A Quiz Correction — The Real Story of Pocahontas and John Rolfe

To the Editor:

Greetings from a Parisian! I was born at Willett so I can actually call myself that! First of all, I would like to say how much I enjoy the Paris Independent. It is really well done and so welcome after the loss of the Paris Star so many years ago.

I would, however, like to take issue with the answer to question 8 in the Weekend Quiz.

Pocahontas actually married John Rolfe in 1614 and accompanied him to England, gave birth to a son Thomas and died there.

I learned this many years ago after considerable research into my father's genealogy.....the Whittier family of Wiltshire, England.

John Rolfe was a relative of Mary Rolfe (who married Richard Whittier in approximately 1608/9 and had a son Thomas). Thomas Whittier sailed with his uncle John Rolfe to Massachusetts in 1638, the first Whittier in North America.

The Disney narrative regarding John Smith is inaccurate... Pocahontas was only a child when John Smith arrived in Jamestown.

Just thought I'd correct a common misconception, the result of Disney fantasy!

Wishing you and your many excellent contributors continued success.

Dianne Kosar

The Paris Independent

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Call for grain farmers: Join Western University-led study to explore regenerative agriculture and soil health



CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A group of student researchers from Western University is inviting Southern Ontario grain farmers to take part in a collaborative soil study aimed at advancing regenerative agriculture practices that store more carbon and improve soil health.

Led by CarbFarm, a student-driven initiative, the project is focused on identifying the most effective regenerative farming practices—such as reduced tillage and cover cropping—that can enhance soil quality and support long-term carbon storage. The ultimate goal is to help farmers increase the value of their land while contributing to a more sustainable agricultural future.

“We’re a group of students and recent grads looking to learn and work alongside farmers,” said Muneeb Ur Rehman, a Western University student and representative of CarbFarm. “We’re hoping to test regenerative practices on a small portion of farmland and see what works best—while covering all associated costs, including soil sampling and cover crop seed.”

CarbFarm is currently seeking grain farmers in Southern Ontario who meet the following criteria:

- Farming on sandy loam soil

- New to regenerative practices or actively considering them
- Willing to dedicate a small test plot for soil monitoring and cover crop trials

Participating farmers will benefit from:

- Free soil health testing (before and after cover cropping)
- All costs covered for cover crop seeds and implementation
- Personalized insights from soil tests and agronomic data
- The opportunity to help build a science-backed roadmap for future carbon credit programs

The project is currently focused on establishing partnerships for the upcoming season, with research and soil sampling planned throughout the growing cycle. Participants will also gain early access to valuable data and emerging strategies for increasing long-term farm profitability through sustainable practices.

Interested farmers are encouraged to contact the CarbFarm team directly at carbfarm@uwo.ca or by filling out the participation form at www.carbfarm.com.

This is a chance to contribute to cutting-edge agricultural research while exploring practical changes that could benefit both the environment and the bottom line.

Brantford-Brant sees largest employment surge in nearly three years

MEDIA RELEASE

Grand Erie Workforce Planning Board

Brantford-Brant recorded its largest month-over-month employment increase in nearly three years, fueled by a sharp rise in labour force participation.

According to seasonally adjusted estimates from Statistics Canada, the local unemployment rate rose slightly to 7.0 per cent in June, up from 6.7 per cent in May. However, the region’s labour force grew by approximately 1,900 people, while employment climbed by 1,600 – the most significant monthly gain since August 2022.

Nationally, the unemployment rate dipped by 0.1 percentage points to 6.9 per cent as more Canadians entered the job market and secured employment. Ontario followed a similar trend, with rising employment and a 0.1 percentage point drop in the jobless rate, now at 7.8 per cent. Nearby Norfolk County also saw strong gains in workforce participation and employment, resulting in a steep decline in its unemployment rate to 4.8 per cent.

Surrounding communities presented mixed results. Unemployment edged up in areas like Guelph and London, while it fell in Hamilton. Nonetheless, most regions continued to experience growth in both labour force participation and employment.

Locally, Brantford-Brant saw the most

significant employment gains among young men aged 15 to 24. Participation increased across most demographics, except for older adults (55 and over), with many new labour market entrants finding jobs.

“It is fantastic to see more people, especially youth, engaged in the labour market,” said Danette Dalton, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. “That said, we need to continue to find ways to support workers in trades, transport and manufacturing jobs that are experiencing declines due to the economic uncertainty. The best way for residents to do this is to support local and Canadian businesses.”

Dalton added that the Workforce Planning Board is preparing to launch a new toolkit to help local businesses access key legal, marketing, health and safety, and industry-specific resources.

“There is a pressing need to strengthen connectivity within the business community. Our Business Resource Toolkit – coming soon – will help employers connect with your local business groups and industry associations to get timely and targeted information on how your sector is evolving,” she said.

In June, the Board’s Grand Erie Jobs platform recorded nearly 1,900 new job postings from 1,000 employers across the region. While job postings have declined, employers are increasingly successful in quickly filling their vacancies.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What animal is known to spend 90% of its day sleeping?
2. What is the capital of Iceland?
3. Which sport awards the Davis Cup?
4. What is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres?
5. Which fast food chain has the slogan "Have it your way"?
6. Who discovered penicillin?
7. What musical instrument has 47 strings and 7 pedals?
8. What city hosted the 1996 Summer Olympics?
9. An amethyst is usually what color?
10. What is the formal name for a human voice box?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 19

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HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Unveiling the wild west: Buffalo Bill's spectacle in the County of Brant



By Chris Whelan

The arrival of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show in July 1897 and again in July 1909 was a spectacle that captivated the entire County of Brant, leaving a lasting impression on our residents at the time. The City of Brantford ran a series of articles before, during, and after the show's appearance, each offering a unique perspective on the event that brought a taste of the Wild West to our doorstep.

Before the show graced us with its presence, the focus of the articles was centered on highlighting the authenticity and believability of the performers. Emphasizing that all skills showcased had practical applications in the real Wild West, the articles sought to dispel any notion that the show was merely for entertainment or amusement. It was made clear that Buffalo Bill Cody himself would not tolerate any inauthentic displays, such as the suggested scalping of bald men wearing wigs, which would contradict his vision of genuine Wild West representations.

The inherent dangers of the performances were not glossed over either, with mentions of the risks Canadian cowboys faced while taming bucking broncos, often resulting in serious injuries like broken bones and contusions. This added a layer of realism and grit to the anticipation surrounding the show.

On the day of the exhibition, amidst the excitement, a seemingly ordinary event stood out—the birth of a calf in town, which was promptly named Brantford in adherence to Cody's tradition of integrating local elements into the show. Additionally, the articles touched upon the origins of the cowboys, highlighting their roots in the western states and territories, potentially bridging the historical and cultural connection between the United States and Canada.

Buffalo Bill, known in private life as Col. W. F. Cody, arrived in Brantford accompanied by a herd of approximately 20 buffaloes, which were housed in the Agricultural Grounds, then referred to as the old Fair Grounds. His troupe included a band of Sioux led by the renowned Sitting Bull. The arrival of the Indigenous performers led to the swift erection of their traditional 'wigwams' or tents, crafted from deer skins stretched over poles, while the women busied themselves preparing meals in the customary fashion.

A moment of chaos ensued when the buffaloes, initially corralled, broke free and swam across the river to Kerby Island, sparking a thrilling pursuit. Mounted on their trusty mustangs, the attendants embarked on a wild chase, galloping over bridges, through streets, and even swimming their horses across the Grand River to round up the escaped beasts. The escapade culminated in the safe return of the buffaloes to their enclosures, bringing the exhilarating pursuit to a close.

The article continued, detailing how the troupe roasted an



In 1897, the Brantford fairgrounds were located on the east side of the city, specifically between present-day Stanley Street and Victoria Park, and bounded by Park Avenue and the Grand River. (BRANT HISTORIC SOCIETY PHOTO)

ox in a grand pit, requiring the effort of two men to turn the beast on a steel spit. Slices of the roasted ox were then sold for ten cents each, amidst the clamour of old-time barkers promoting the spectacle. Meanwhile, the aroma of freshly made candy wafted through the grounds, enticing visitors with its sweet allure.

Among the highlights of the day was the presence of Miss Annie Oakley, the renowned crack shot whose exploits inspired the popular play "Annie Get Your Gun." Riding a pony around the ring, Oakley showcased her sharpshooting skills by shattering glass balls with remarkable precision, much to the delight of the enthralled audience.

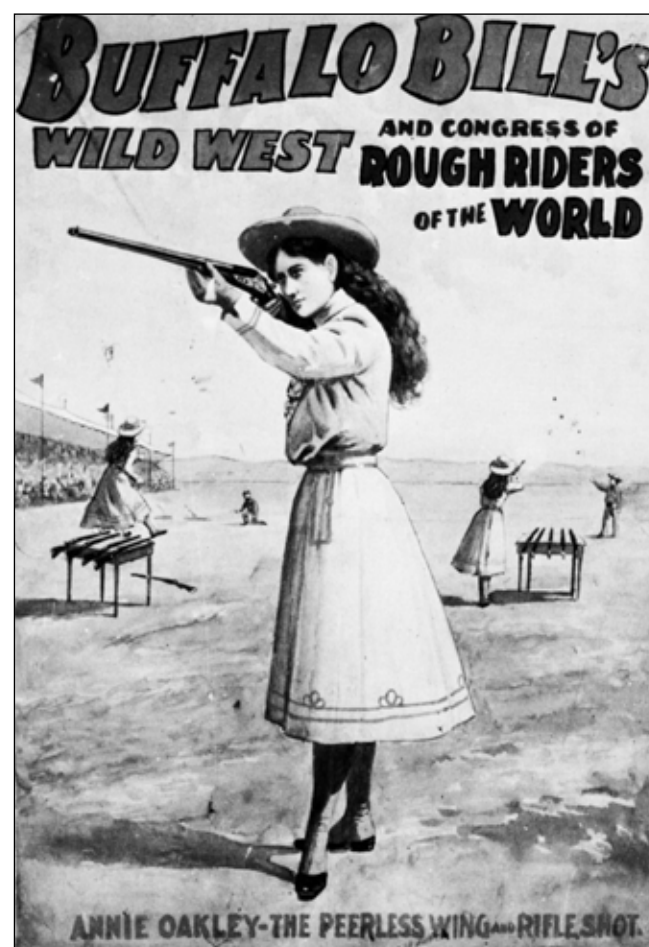
The festivities reached a crescendo of excitement, but tragically, the fervour proved too much for one man, William Buck, the proprietor of a local brick and furnace factory on Brant Ave., who succumbed to the intensity of the moment.

In a gesture of respect, Buffalo Bill himself, a figure revered for his showmanship and character, returned in a rig drawn by a pair of jet-black horses from London, Ontario, where his show was touring, to pay his respects at the funeral of the man who had tragically passed away during the spectacle in Brantford.

Following the two shows, the newspaper reflected on how Buffalo Bill's Wild West show preserved an authentic glimpse of a fading past overshadowed by industrialization. The portrayal of a bygone era was regarded as a nostalgic tribute to a time swiftly slipping into obsolescence, resonating with audiences who longed for a connection to their heritage.

Notably, the warm reception of the British flag during the performances underscored the strong bond between Canadian audiences and the British military presence in the show. The enthusiastic response to the Union Jack symbolized a shared history among Britain, the United States, and Canada, hinting at a unifying presence of their intertwined pasts.

In essence, Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows not only entertained and enthralled audiences in the County of Brant

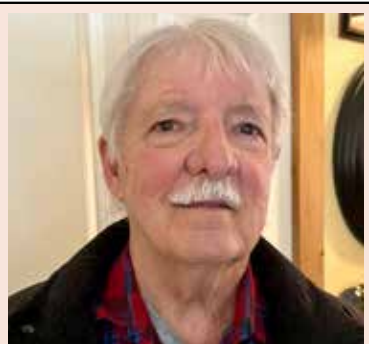


Poster ca 1890 of the Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show featuring Annie Oakley

but also served as a cultural bridge connecting the histories of nations and peoples, leaving a legacy that transcended borders and celebrated the spirit of the Wild West on both sides of the great divide.

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THEN AND NOW: The history of #66 Grand River St. North



By **Wayne Wilkinson**
Paris Historian / Artist

This historic location on Grand River Street traces its origins back to the founding of Paris in 1829. While early details about it may be obscured by time, records show that Daniel Totten operated his woolen mill in this area in 1834. The mill utilized waterpower from the mill race that town founder

Hiram Capron had excavated in 1830, flowing from west to east from the Nith River into the Grand River. By 1868,

Henry and Norman Totten were overseeing operations of the Royal Canadian Bank at this site.

A clearer historical narrative emerges from 1874 onwards. The Bank of British North America established a branch here, remaining until 1898 when the Post Office relocated from William Street (refer to bottom left photo). The postmaster at the time was a prominent Parisian named Peter Cox, who arrived in Paris in 1872. Hailing from a military background, Cox rose to the rank of captain in the Paris militia, earning the moniker "Captain Cox" among locals. The magnificent Kipp Funeral Home, admired by many, was originally the grand yellow brick mansion known as "Clairemont," commissioned by Cox in 1886. It is worth mentioning that Peter Cox also served a term as mayor from 1891 to 1892.

Most readers are likely familiar with the significant event of the Great Fire on September 12, 1900, which ravaged the post office and over 40 other businesses. However, a silver lining emerged in 1902 when Mr. J.B. Henderson, the general manager of Penmans Manufacturing Co. and a town councillor, generously donated land for a municipal hall, council chambers, and a much-needed fire hall.

Before 1850, fires were fought with bucket brigades, passing water from man to man. By the 1850's Paris had 5 volunteer fire brigades independent of one another, each

possessing a hook and ladder wagon and hand operated pumper. In 1877, council bought a steam powered pumper. All fire fighting equipment was man-powered or horse powered until 1917, when Paris acquired its first motorized fire wagon. Though not in existence anymore, our fire department still has the 1926 Gotfredson pumper which is proudly paraded about on special occasions.

Adding a personal connection to this story, in the early 1960s, I was a member of a popular band called the 'Impacts' from my hometown of Galt. We performed at the Teen Town dances held in the hall above the firehall, creating cherished memories. While the band may not have resonated with everyone, it was a hit with the young ladies in attendance. I invite those who share in these nostalgic recollections to contribute their stories to this publication by emailing stories@theparisindpendent.com. write Teen Town as the subject.

In more recent times, the firehall transitioned to a modern facility on Curtis Avenue in the early 2000s, while 66 Grand River Street North remains the County of Brant's central headquarters. Today, one can find the mayor's office, council chambers, planning department, building department, engineering department, and customer service area, reflecting the evolution and growth of this historic location into a hub of civic administration.



The Reklaws join the Paris Fair party as family acts take centre stage

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Canadian country powerhouses The Reklaws and the Hunter Brothers will headline the 2025 Paris Fair Country Nights, continuing a long-standing tradition of crowd-pleasing performances at one of Ontario's most beloved agricultural fairs.

The Paris Agricultural Society confirmed last week that The Reklaws will headline the mainstage on Sunday, August 31, bringing their chart-topping energy and signature sibling chemistry to close out the weekend in style.

Composed of brother-sister duo Jenna and Stuart Walker, The Reklaws have taken the Canadian country scene by storm with hits like "Can't Help Myself," "What the Truck," and their latest single, "Never Drinking Again." With four #1 hits on Canadian country radio, nine Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA) Awards, and eight JUNO nominations, the pair has amassed more than 315

million global streams. Known for their infectious stage presence and genre-blending sound, The Reklaws are no strangers to major festival crowds, making them an ideal fit for the Paris Fair's family-focused festivities.

They'll follow another fan-favourite sibling act, the Hunter Brothers, who were announced last month as the Saturday night headliners. The five brothers from Saskatchewan—Luke, J.J., Ty, Brock and Dusty—have captivated audiences across the country with their tight harmonies and uplifting tracks, including "Lost," "Born and Raised," and "Those Were the Nights." With multiple CCMA nominations and a reputation for delivering high-energy live shows, the Hunter Brothers have become staples on the Canadian country music circuit.

The inclusion of two prominent family acts this year reinforces a recurring theme for the Paris Fair, which has been a family tradition for generations. Now in its 167th year, the Fair is a celebration of agriculture, community, and entertainment, drawing tens of thousands of visitors annually. It runs from August 28 to September 1, 2025,

and features a full midway, homecraft and agricultural exhibits, food trucks, and live music.

Country music shows have long been a highlight of the Fair, attracting top-tier Canadian talent such as Tebey, Jade Eagleson, James Barker Band, and The Washboard Union in recent years. The success of these performances has made the Fair a go-to destination for country fans in southern Ontario.

This year's edition also marks a special milestone: 50 years of partnership with Campbell Amusements, the midway operator that has helped make the Paris Fair a multi-generational tradition.

"The Fair is built on family, and this year we're proud to feature two incredible family acts that will bring generations together through music," said organizers in a statement. "We hope your family will join us for what's sure to be another unforgettable celebration."

Tickets for the 2025 Paris Fair and concert nights will be available online through the Fair's official website in the coming weeks.

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The Paris Independent

SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

Paris FC U14 Girls team brings home silver from Gaels Cup after thrilling PK battles

Team continues podium streak with resilient performance in Tier 1 bracket

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

The Paris FC U14 Girls Black team added another chapter to their impressive run of podium finishes, capturing silver at the highly competitive Gaels Cup in Kingston the first weekend of July.

Competing in Tier 1 against 10 of Ontario's top Regional and C1 I-Model squads, expectations were modest heading into the tournament, particularly with the team still finding its scoring stride. But the Paris FC girls exceeded all forecasts, showcasing their growing talent, composure, and championship pedigree.

The tournament opened with a narrow 1-0 loss to West Ottawa Soccer Club, a defensive battle decided by a single misstep. Despite the setback, the team rebounded with confidence in their second match, dominating Ottawa City SC in a 1-0 win courtesy of a chip goal from Kennedy Saint and a clean sheet from goalkeeper Tenley Polidori.

Their third game marked a turning point. Paris FC took on host club Kingston Atletico and put on a tactical clinic, executing their game plan to perfection en route to a 3-0 win. Rylie Bradbury netted two, Quin Anthony added a third, and Polidori once again earned the shutout.

Finishing round robin play with two wins and one loss, Paris found themselves in a four-way tie for second place. After tiebreakers, they advanced to the semifinals in third place, drawing Newmarket SC.

The semi-final proved to be one of the most thrilling matches of the tournament. Mieciah Oteng struck early on a breakaway, and despite a missed penalty and a late Newmarket equalizer, the Paris squad kept their composure. In the penalty shootout, Saint converted after a rare goalie infraction, Polidori made a critical save, and Bradbury sealed the victory with the decisive goal.

In the final, Paris faced Hamilton United—familiar foes from within their home district—on the grand stage of Queen's University stadium.

Hamilton opened scoring early with a free kick, but Paris responded with determination. A late handball in the box gave Paige Morton the chance to equalize from the penalty spot, and she delivered with ice-cold precision to force another shootout. Despite a strong effort and several near-misses, Hamilton edged out the win in PKs, handing Paris the silver medal.

"It was a phenomenal run," said the team's coaching staff. "These girls showed resilience, skill and incredible heart. Every game they got stronger, and they've now medalled in every tournament since July 2023."

Since last summer's Cobras FC Summer Classic, the Paris FC U14 Girls Black team has claimed three gold and three silver medals, a testament to the depth of talent developing within the Paris FC program.

With strong individual efforts from players like Polidori, Saint, Bradbury, Oteng and Morton, and a collective team ethic that thrives under pressure, the future looks bright for this stand-out squad—and for the Paris FC club as a whole.



(MELISSA OSTROWERCHA PHOTO)

The Paris FC U14 Girls Black team celebrates their silver medal finish at the Gaels Cup in Kingston, where they battled through a competitive Tier 1 division and two dramatic penalty shootouts to reach the finals. Pictured are (front row) left to right, Layla Muir, Hannah Rimap, Elena Ostrowercha, Taylor Travale, Rylie Bradbury, Violette Caetano, Selena Skye-Bluhm, (back row) Brinn Carpenter, Quin Anthony, Charlotte Speagle, Tenley Polidori, Kennedy Saint, Paige Morton, Lauren Kirk, Amelia Jacobson, and Mieciah Oteng.



PARIS YOUTH SOFTBALL

Saturday, July 12

U9 Team 3 lose 6-1 against Princeton/Drumbo/Plattsville

U11 Team 2 lose 18-1 against Norwich/Otterville

U11 Girls win 12-6 against Innerkip#2

Monday, July 14

U9 Girls win 7-3 against U11 Girls

Tuesday, July 15

U9 Girls tie 1-1 against Wilmont

U9 Team 1 lose 12-2 against Norwich/Otterville

U9 Team 3 lose 16-0 against Innerkip

Wednesday, July 16

U11 Team 2 win 11-7 against Embro

U11 Team 1 lose 24-4 against Hickson

Thursday, July 17

U11 Girls win 12-7 against Sweaburg#2



Do you have a score or softball story to share? Reach out by email to stories@theparisindpendent.com



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Paris Duffers at Burford Golf Links



Reigning in Style: Jason Holmes rules the greens with a royal flair (SUBMITTED PHOTO) in his paper crown.

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

Friday Paris men's golf results...

Amidst the lush landscapes of Burford Country Club, the Friday Paris Men were graced with yet another day of resplendent weather, setting the stage for a remarkable day on the greens.

MVP

In the spotlight this week is the exceptional McGarry Fergus, Coach Steve and Pam's boy. A true embodiment of sportsmanship, young Mac's debut on the golf course alongside his uncle Buck was nothing short of extraordinary. With his innate athletic prowess spanning across multiple disciplines, it came as no surprise that he seamlessly embraced the art of golf. Kudos to you, McGarry, for a stellar performance!

Winners of the milk

Congratulations are in order for the victorious pairs of Jacque Cormier and Gerry Hoogstraten, as well as Grieg Graham and Paul Tanner. The duel between Paul Barber and Johnny Fever against Terry Brown and Dick Berg ended in a thrilling draw. A warm welcome is extended to Friday Duffers' newest addition, Paul Tanner, whose exceptional eagle on the 14th hole may have caused him to not be invited back.

Drive of the Day

A moment that will be etched into the record books at the Burford Country Club is Andy Attlebery's awe-inspiring drive exceeding 300 yards, soaring far beyond the fairways and onto the West

lane of the 403 and is probably still going! A feat that not only stunned onlookers but also marked a personal record for Andy. Hats off to you, buddy!

Best dressed:

Standing out among the crowd with impeccable style was none other than Terry Brown. Everything he wore this week was much better than last weeks train wreck.

Worst dressed

A mention must be made of Jason Holmes, whose sartorial choice of donning purple akin to Barney the dinosaur left many bewildered. Sometimes, bold fashion statements can backfire!

Quote of the day:

In the realm of wisdom shared on the course, the words of Oscar Emerson to Jeff Johnston resonate deeply: "I can explain it to you, but I can't understand it for you." A reminder that some lessons are best learned through experience.

Good guy award:

The prestigious 'Good Guy Award' was rightfully bestowed upon Jason Holmes, whom also won the worse dressed... Holmes came through when it counted, as you see in the picture he spent his NHL pool winnings on milk for his buddies, this speaks volumes about his camaraderie. A true embodiment of generosity and friendship, Jason exemplifies how bonds are forged and kept.

With that, we conclude this week's riveting tale from the greens, signed off by the ever-enthusiastic Scoop Stewart. Until next week, remember to keep it where it's mowed, *always a pleasure...*

Brant County Dusters prove hockey's still for the love of the game

JIM YOUNG

Paris Independent Contributor



The Brant County Dusters are sporting these new orange-and-black jerseys, courtesy of team sponsor Fit Effect Gym—keeping the spirit of fun, friendship, and lifelong hockey alive in every Thursday skate.

The Brant County Dusters are a group of people who enjoy playing hockey for hockey's sake! A good crew who knows that the scouts left the building a long time ago. In fact, truth be told, a scout saw the Dusters name on the room assignment board at the BSC and then promptly, retired.

The Dusters were founded in February 2022 in a living room on Dundas Street West in Paris. Chad, Ryan, and Jim were chatting about how much fun it would be to form a dedicated team for the sum-

mer—and to keep the game going. All three men were fans of the movie Slap Shot, which featured a team called the Broome Dusters. The name stuck—and so, the Brant County Dusters were born. After securing ice time through the County, the team hit the rink for their first season in the spring of 2022.

Over time, the group stayed vibrant. In 2025, the Fit Effect Gym became the Dusters primary sponsor. As such, the Dusters adopted the orange and black coloured jerseys.

If you're focused on the scoreboard, the Dusters might not be your team. Every game officially ends in a 2-2 tie—but that doesn't mean there's a lack of talent. Several players have Junior-level experience, and while the pace is quick, it remains fun and manageable for all.

The Brant County Dusters are a good example of how hockey can be enjoyed for a lifetime. Should you want to give it a try, the Dusters are always adding to the spares list.

We are inclusive of everyone. We are co-ed group, and our ages range from 20s to 60s. If you'd like to learn more, reach out to Jim at offsideyoung@gmail.com

Alternatively, stop by the rink at 4pm on Thursdays to have a look for yourself too! And please, join us for the plenary sessions after the skate too!

And of course, watch for regular updates in the Paris Independent sports section!

Paris FC Grassroots Teams Shine at Barrie Spiritfest Tournament



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Paris FC was proudly represented at the Barrie Spiritfest on the weekend of July 5–6 with three grassroots teams hitting the field. The U10 Girls team celebrated their first win of the season, while the U10 Boys Black squad (pictured in front of the net with goalie and one player lying down) recorded a win, a tie, and a loss. The U11 Boys Red team (in red jerseys) battled the heat and tough competition, earning a win and a loss against strong GTHA opponents.

Paris teen finishes second at Junior Disc Golf World Championships



Brooklyn O'Krafka, 14, of Paris, Ont., proudly carries the Canadian flag during the opening ceremonies of the 2025 PDGA Junior Disc Golf World Championships in Emporia, Kansas.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A young athlete from Paris, Ont., is making waves on the world disc golf stage.

Brooklyn O'Krafka, 14, proudly represented Canada at the 2025 PDGA Junior Disc Golf World Championships held last week in Emporia, Kansas, where she placed second overall in the girls' 15-and-under division.

O'Krafka was the lone Canadian to reach the finals, advancing to the championship round on Saturday after four rounds of play that ran from Tuesday to Friday. The tournament hosted 406 athletes from 13 countries, including 19 competitors in her division.

She also had the honour of carrying the Canadian flag during the opening ceremonies.

O'Krafka made an early impression by winning the tournament's longest drive competition with a 353-foot throw. Her performance remained strong throughout the week—tying for fifth after round one, climbing to second after round two, slipping slightly to third in round three, and finishing round four in fourth position to secure a place in the finals.



Paris' Brooklyn O'Krafka was the only Canadian to reach the finals in her age division, finishing second overall after a sudden-death playoff against a competitor from New Zealand.

In Saturday's final, O'Krafka started strong, throwing an ace on the very first hole. After 18 baskets, she was tied for first with Allison Tweedie of New Zealand, forcing a sudden-death playoff to determine the winner. Both players parred the first hole, but O'Krafka fell behind on the next, ultimately finishing second overall after an intense and competitive finish.

This year marked her third appearance at the world championships. She finished 12th in 2024 and placed sixth in the longest drive competition. So far this season, she has won two tournaments and placed third in another while competing in the female professional division.

Ranked seventh in her division with a PDGA rating of 863, O'Krafka has established herself as one of the sport's top youth competitors. She trains regularly at her home course, Greenlane in Paris, and works with coach Colleen McInnes.

O'Krafka is sponsored by Latitude 64, a disc golf company based in Sweden, and raised funds locally to support her journey to the world championships.

With a dramatic ace, a sudden-death playoff, and a second place finish, O'Krafka continues to prove she is a rising star and a proud ambassador for Canadian disc golf.

Perfect Season: Paris U9 Girls Capture Championship Title



The Paris U9 Girls Softball team celebrates a perfect season after capturing the championship title at the South Oxford Softball League year-end tournament this past weekend. The squad went undefeated in regular season play with a 10-0-2 record, scoring 79 runs and allowing just five. Their championship run included a win over Sweaburg, 10-5 and Ayr, 10-1, capped by a 2-0 victory against Ayr in the finals. The team also claimed top honours at the Innerkip Tournament earlier this month.

La Trenza fundraiser brings in \$1,700 to help young Léo fight rare eye cancer



La Trenza Tacos hosted a special fundraiser on Sunday, July 20th at The Paris Wincey Mills Co. during the Mid-Summer Fest Outdoor Market to raise money for four-year-old Léo who has been bravely battling a rare eye cancer. A potentially life-changing treatment that could save both Léo's eye and his vision comes with an upfront cost of more than \$70,000 USD — and is only partially covered, says the family. La Trenza owners Carolina and Carlos were happy to report the fundraiser brought in over \$1,700. The Glass Slipper Company graciously donated their Spiderman services for the event. Pictured with Spiderman is Mia and Bruce Lee, of Paris. Carolina and Carlos will continue to donate all sales of Aguas Frescas sold at La Trenza for the rest of the month, so be sure to visit their Wincey Mills booth for a refreshment for an important cause.

A 'magical' trip for lakers on deep, blue waters



The Lost Tribe

By Jeff Tribe

A photographer's magic light coincided with a fisherman's magical run.

Back-to-back-to-back, basking in the gentle horizontal glow of a sun settling toward Lake Huron's western horizon, our two down-rigger rods alternatively dipped, signalling strikes of voracious lake trout some 125 feet below.

Rob Steinbach capped the flurry with an extended five-minute battle, savouring patiently working a fish toward the surface with a dragless fly reel.

"That's a big one," our unofficial first mate Nick Espinal commented, indicating a healthy bend in Steinbach's mooching rod.

Too soon perhaps, the fight was over, Espinal deftly extending the net to corral another beautiful laker, which on quick inspection, ranked as our largest.

"That might be ten (pounds)," Steinbach guesstimated, adding with a laugh: "I'm just trying to brag."

We had headed out of God-



Rob Steinbach shows off one of the lake trout caught during an early July charter out of Goderich.

erich's harbour some three-and-a-half hours earlier, late on a balmy early July afternoon on calm blue waters, cooled with a light breeze under high blue skies. (For associated video, search 'Lost Tribe Lake Huron' on YouTube.)

Our four-member party included a guy growing up pulling horned dace and chub from his family farm's creek; Steinbach, following his father and uncle's fishing tradition including early days at the Mitchell Fish and

Game Club's stocked pond; Espinal, whose dad took him along river fishing for dorado in his native Columbia; and captain David Palmer of Maitland Valley Fishing Charters (<https://maitlandvalleyfishing.com>).

Palmer began chartering a decade ago, working around his 'other' business, Palmer's Home Renovations. His fishing roots reach back to paddling 'tin boats' as a boy scout on a small lake near Wiarton, seeking pike and bass.

"Boats can be addictive," he warned with a smile, Palmer's passion for fishing leading to 'Far From Workin II', a 24-foot Alexis Pro by Thunderjet powered with a 300 HP Mercury Verado, along with a 15-horse trolling motor and full range of electronics.

He supports numerous charitable causes and also thoroughly enjoys introducing young anglers to the sport, happy to get them off their electronics and out into nature's pristine beauty. Casting off and leaving the harbour, we passed the infrastructure supporting Goderich's salt mine, which says Palmer is as deep as the CN tower is tall, extending far out underneath Lake Huron.

Our destination was fish-holding structure 20-plus miles offshore roughly in the middle of the lake, accessed by trolling north and south inside the Canadian-U.S. border. Palmer seeks a variety of species with an extended 'array', varying colour and presentation depths. In general, he was working closer to the surface for coho and chinook salmon and rainbow trout with lead-core and braided steel line and dipsy divers carried wide of the boat by lines attached to planer boards, chasing bottom-hugging lake trout with a pair of weighted downriggers mounted on its stern.

There are tried and true lures

which consistently produce fish says Palmer, but it's very much a day-to-day thing. This year, for example, the fish seem determined to break the old 'bright colours for a bright day, dark colours for a dull day' mantra. Producing relies on a complicated series of equations featuring water depth as it relates to temperature, lure colour, speed, changing speed and turning, time of day, mood of the fish, and as ever, a bit of luck.

"It's always a different day," Palmer smiled. "The fish are always full of surprises."

A bit of lingering haze burned off, the breeze making the sun's warmth comfortable rather than oppressive, the gentle thrum of the trolling motor provided a drowsy backdrop on a picture-perfect day almost too beautiful to interrupt.

Interrupted it would be however, the rod served by the downrigger to the left dipping sharply.

There was no loud 'Fish on!', merely an 'Oh... oh!' from Steinbach followed by a quick path to the rod, disengaging the line from the downrigger connector, setting the hook and gracious insistence the rookie take honours.

"Rod tip up," Palmer advised calmly, "keep the pressure on."

He encourages anglers to extend the experience, stay relaxed and don't be in too much of a hurry to reel in, an approach Palmer



Maitland Valley Fishing Charters captain David Palmer takes his turn easing a fish into the boat.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

believes also increases odds of landing fish. Mooching rods and fly reels also encourage a more intimate connection.

"The old fellas call it (the reel) a knuckle-buster, one-to-one so it's just you and the fish," Palmer smiled, admitting the set-up can be a challenge should a big chinook make a run. "If you don't get out of the way, it's going to hurt."

While fully understanding that concept, there is admittedly an urge to make sure you, as the new guy, get the fish to the boat.

"I'd give him seven (pounds)," Steinbach said, exaggerating kindly if only slightly.

His turn was next, and translating extensive Lake Ontario salmon fishing experience to his new environs, the chartered accountant proved as handy with mooching rod and fly reel as at protecting clients from excessive taxation.

"Well done, Rob!" Espinal credited of a fish representing Steinbach's personal best laker, and largest of the day to date.

The first had hit on a silver spoon with pink and purple highlights, the second on silver and pink, both from around 125 feet of water at a temperature of around 46-47 degrees Fahrenheit, 25 less than a surface 73.

"Lake trout love the cold water," said Palmer.

As the evening advanced, so did our fish count, a majority of successes amongst the odd good-natured jibe about 'live releasing' fish shy of the boat. Each angler had multiple opportunities to battle and land

fish, Espinal re-establishing the fact the left side of the stern was his lucky spot. Palmer conceded to reel one fish in, his measured, gentle approach illustrating his theory on patience.

"Get bigger," Palmer said, releasing a smaller specimen back into Lake Huron's depths.

As enjoyable as the fishing was, so too were our surroundings, clear blue waters, the distant Canadian coast, a light flashing on a communication tower along the American shoreline, a passing freighter headed toward the harbour, a 225-metre-long/24-metre-wide craft travelling at 14.94 miles per hour according to Palmer's electronics.

"The Algoma Endeavour," he related. "He's going into Goderich to pick up salt."

The highlight, if you will, came at 8:17 p.m. on the rapid-fire strikes, potentially a confluence of structure and timing.

"A bit of both I think," Palmer assessed. "Whatever it was, I'll take it," he added with a laugh. "Nature's magic."

Espinal landed one final laker as the sun kissed the horizon, the moon taking over as we embarked on our journey back toward the harbour. A wonderful afternoon of fishing lay behind us, lake trout fillets in the cooler the best form of celebrating shared memories.

"We're on a boat, that's a good day," Steinbach summed up.

"The smell of fish - even better," Espinal concluded with a smile.

Tickets now available for the 2025 Salute to Brant Business Event!



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

Tigercat Industries Inc. received the Brant Works High Growth and Innovation Award at the 2024 Salute to Brant Business event. Tigercat Industries has a significant and long-standing presence in Paris, Ontario, as a core part of its manufacturing operations, opening the primary production facility in 1995.

MEDIA RELEASE

Media Release County of Brant

The County of Brant is pleased to share that tickets are now available to purchase for the 2025 Salute to Brant Business event. This year's event will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025 from 5:30 to 9:30 pm at the TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre and will focus on the resiliency of businesses during times of uncertainty.

"We look forward to another exciting evening at Salute to Brant," said Zach Gable, Director of Economic Development and Tourism for the County of Brant. "While this year has presented challenges across the economic development landscape nationwide, it's important that we take time to come together and celebrate the many successes that are happening right here in Brant."

Held annually, the Salute to Brant Business event is an opportunity to network with local businesses, enjoy local food and drink, celebrate industry leaders with awards and hear from a talented keynote speaker.

The Salute to Brant Business Awards categories include:

- Accessible Brant Award
- Brant Farms for All Agriculture Award
- Brant Works Innovation Award
- Good Times in Brant Award
- Our Future Brant Sustainability Award

"Thank you to everyone that took the time to nominate a business," said Gable. "It's inspiring to see so many businesses making a meaningful impact in our community, and we look forward to celebrating the people and enterprises that help make the County of Brant such a vibrant and thriving place to live and work."

New for this year is the addition of Jan

Vilaca as the Master of Ceremonies. Jan - known to many as Spicy Jan - is a local entrepreneur, business coach, and founder of Tasty Road Trips and Create Your Virtual Influence Consulting. A proud Brant resident for over 30 years, Jan is passionate about building strong communities, supporting small business growth, and shining a bright light on the incredible people behind local success stories. You might say she's the perfect addition to the Salute to Brant lineup.

This year's event will also include an address from Keynote Speaker Brock Dickinson. Mr. Dickenson is one of North America's leading economic development thinkers, with his work focused on understanding opportunities in the next economy. In this role he oversees cutting edge research projects exploring opportunities in a changing world and delivers a range of economic development training programs globally. He sits on the Board of Directors of Invest Ontario, serves as an Executive-in-Residence with tech incubator Innovate Niagara, and advises a number of universities and colleges on economic development.

Guests at this year's event can look forward to an unforgettable culinary experience, featuring a delicious menu crafted by Stillwaters Plate and Pour - a distinguished local gem in downtown Paris. Also locally, the Paris Beer Co. will be serving a selection of their locally crafted beers, adding a refreshing taste of Brant to the celebration.

A limited number of tickets are available for Salute to Brant. Those interested in attending are encouraged to purchase tickets early by visiting www.brant.ca/Salute.

To learn more about the Salute to Brant Business event and to view past award winners, please visit www.brant.ca/Salute

GUESS WHO?

Born on October 31, 1950, in Ontario, I was a Canadian actor known for my big heart and even bigger laughs. I got my start on SCTV and went on to star in comedy classics like Uncle Buck, Planes, Trains and Automobiles, and Cool Runnings. I was known for playing lovable, everyday guys, and though I passed away in 1994, my films are still fan favourites.

Who am I?

Answer: John Candy

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The Paris Independent



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'Rwanda Now' produces 'Big Three' and myriad memories for Canadian traveller

JEFF TRIBE

Grant Haven Media

The massive white rhino passed within 20 metres and continued southward, leaving the makings of a credit card commercial in her wake.

Our rental vehicle cost a chunk, elevated suspension and four-wheel-drive proved invaluable on Akagera National Park's driving trails. A Kayonza Café breakfast of samosas, meatballs, beignet and excellent Rwandan coffee ran \$6 Canadian. And our paperless entrance fee came in at \$100 US a head.

But less than a half-hour into our African safari, the \$40-US per day services of local guide Firmin Hirwa had already proven priceless.

"Rhino!" he exclaimed, pointing off in the distance.

In rapid Kinyarwanda, Hirwa passed directions to our Canadian host, Rwandan expatriate Jean-Claude Munyezamu. Pausing to let a young black mamba slither past, Munyezamu turned, heading back the way we had come. Hirwa expertly gauged the rhino's path and pace, asking Munyezamu to stop and then back up 20 metres, a cape buffalo hoof from the previous evening's lion kill banging off our left, rear wheel well.

Transfixed, we sat silently as the rhino covered the final 100 metres, angling directly in front of us and ambling onward, graceful for all her bulk.

"My name means lucky and today we are just that," Hirwa said as our collectively held breaths released in awe and admiration.

We were on safari not in a zoo – but he and Akagera had delivered.

My unlikely path from Beaconsfield, Ont. to Akagera National Park, Rwanda led through a feature story with Munyezamu. A survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, he arrived in Canada as a refugee, settling in Calgary. Munyezamu started a soccer program to improve his public-housing neighbourhood, ultimately morphing into Umoja Community Mosaic (umojamosaic.org). The not-for-profit added a culturally sensitive food bank, after-school programs, leadership for young women and a popular community sewing circle.

Inspired during a 2022 visit to Munyezamu's former village Kabura, Umoja ini-



A young soccer player from Kabura, Rwanda illustrates the difference between a ball constructed from plastic bags and twine (in his right hand) and a factory-made equivalent donated by the Tillsonburg Minor Soccer Club.

tiated diasporic outreach bringing school uniforms, sports equipment, fresh water and a basketball/volleyball court to the community's Umurava Primary School. A second fresh-water source for the village centre and improving a road rendered impassable during the rainy season are ongoing goals.

"Come to Rwanda," said Munyezamu, who makes it a practice to share annual visits.

Beginning with family members, 20 out of 20 (a random yet illustrative number) people expressed significant reservations about a destination primarily recognized by Canadians as the site of horrific genocide.

Deeply respectful and desiring to learn how Munyezamu chose reconciliation over revenge, reassured by his declaration of safety and with a side hustle figuring out how my wife could check 'African safari' affordably off her bucket list, I only somewhat nervously boarded Ethiopian Airlines.

Full disclosure: my newspaper career was spent covering sports, council, knock-

ing together happy features and building an outdoors column, not international political commentary. I will not be starting now. Anyone seeking the 60,000-foot overview is encouraged to source alternatives.

My view of a very different Rwanda than I might have expected – 'Rwanda Now' if you will – is the ground-level account of a person sharing something of what he experienced.

It began with a tour of the Kigali Genocide Memorial, presenting an intense, no-holds-barred, matter-of-fact and more-balanced account than I might have anticipated. It encompassed Rwandan history, colonialism and other factors leading to genocide. That and the aftermath included victim exhibits, survivors' personal accounts and importantly, ongoing efforts to reconcile and rebuild following unspeakable horror.

The memorial's website (<https://kgm.rw>) includes an option to sign up for a virtual tour.

My day-one impression of Rwanda was that of a nation on the move with sidewalks full of bustling, uniformed students (school is free to Grade 9), mothers with babies, delivery people, joggers and well-dressed professionals headed to work. Personal, people-moving and transport vehicles own a share of the road based on size, but motorcycle taxis prized for their ability to skirt traffic dart everywhere as Munyezamu compares them to "a pack of wild dogs."

On rural highways, "Sophia" photo radar units (so named after a famous smart robot) text transgressors significant fines, thereby lowering previous levels of vehicular carnage. Bicycles remain key to the transportation system for everything from additional humans (the cheapest taxi) to cans of milk, furniture and produce like crates of chickens or up to a half-dozen bunches of bananas to market. Riders dismount to push huge loads up Rwanda's purported

"thousand hills," the latter a serious underestimation.

Crossing Kigali streets requires either "Rwandan instincts" or common sense. There is little doubt however, should the worst occur, the mess would be cleaned up quickly. Rather than providing social assistance, the country offers paid employment including street sanitation, Kigali's graffiti-free byways regularly swept clean as a result.

We stayed inside a classic two-bedroom apartment with ensuite bathrooms, kitchenette, WiFi and gated 24-hour security costing \$300 U.S. a week. An omnipresent streetside ATM equivalent seen everywhere from downtown Rwanda to isolated mountain villages sat outside. In essence, independent contractors under brightly coloured umbrellas staff desks holding thousands of Rwandan francs. The most remote corner of the country is well-connected by cell service exceeding that at our rural Canadian countryside. Clients present a code on their phone to proprietors who hand over cash, receiving a transaction percentage for their efforts.

The ATMs and the fact one sees women walking alone on city streets late at night allayed pre-trip fears. Munyezamu recommended protecting one's cell phone from crimes of opportunity in busy markets for example, but overall, personal safety was not a concern.

We breakfasted a short stroll away, past a medical centre typically filled with mothers and young children, part of universal health care our host says is provided via a variable geared-to-income contribution. A six-egg Spanish omelette at Emmanuel Ntuyenabo's Good Mood Coffee Shop cost the equivalent of a toonie, with a burger and fries costing \$5. Ntuyenabo's is partially farm-to-table, its rural base a progres-



Eagle-eyed Akagera National Park guide extraordinaire Firmin "Lucky" Hirwa.

sive multi-hectare operation employing 11. In terms of agriculture, the lush nature of Rwanda’s hilly landscape was a surprise, in effect much of the country is a multi-crop garden. There are ongoing efforts to modernize smaller subsistence operations of under an acre.

Food was very affordable, chicken curry, rice and salad at the Kayonza Cafe running \$14 Canadian, another \$10 on top at Hotel de Mille Collines – the Hotel Rwanda. As a general rule of thumb, the more white people you see, the more it will cost. There definitely is a tourist versus local price Munyenzamu helped us avoid on most occasions.

We mzungu (white people) were a curiosity, mildly so in Kigali, more so in Kabura where students crowded around, curious to discover what mzungu skin or hair feels like.

Soccer was queen; incredibly talented kids in sandals playing on every bit of available space with homemade balls historically made from banana leaves tied up in twine, evolved into plastic cores. Presenting a factory-made ball to a kid in a Vancouver Canucks jersey drew a crowd approaching 100, seemingly from nowhere, within five minutes.

Travelling the countryside offered striking contrasts: farm labourers hand-milling rice backdropped by subdivisions, translatable to Canadian counterparts, speaking to a growing middle class; women carrying stacks of fruit or vegetables on their head, corralling a baby on one hip while chatting on a cell phone held in their other hand; Kigali mansions, the modern 10,000-seat BK Arena hosting Masai Ujuri’s Giants of Africa basketball tournament in both 2023 and 2025; and construction cranes busy as the capital begins to grow up, compared to neat and tidy plaster-faced and painted, baked mud-and-straw brick houses more prevalent in rural areas.

Progress includes rebuilding Akagera in conjunction with African Parks from devastation caused during the genocide

and, subsequently, the 40,000 cattle accompanying returning refugees. Sharing profits and hiring locally encouraged regional support which, with regular patrols, has drastically reduced poaching. Animal populations have also been bolstered by a combination of transplantation and reintroduction. Lions came back in 2015, rising in number to an estimated 60 today, and rhino in 2017, re-qualifying Akagera as a “Big Five” (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and cape buffalo) park.

We would finish with a “Big Three,” the penultimately shy leopard and elephants – approached with caution at the best of time – remaining elusive. Beyond rhino, buffalo and lions, we saw multiple species including amphibious hippos, giraffe, herds of impala, topi, zebra, waterbuck and feisty warthogs among them, along with “life list” African birds.

It’s beyond arrogance to feel one can figure out a country in a couple of weeks, particularly viewing through a North America bias rather than African lens, despite our privilege in accompanying Munyenzamu to places foreigners don’t go. But my consistent impression that, regardless where you are, whether you’re mzungu or otherwise, “People are pretty much people,” was only reinforced. In other words, the great majority of us are just trying to pay our bills, have a little fun, feel safe and secure, and believe in some form of a better future for our children. And that Rwanda seems to be striving to build opportunities that, through an accident of privileged geographical birth in Canada, we tend to take for granted.

Unquestionably, the nation faces ongoing challenges, but an initial sense of a narrative moving forward, a country and its people seeing the potential benefits and being willing to put in the work required, was not changed. Neither was the thought it’s a pretty good place for a tourist to experience Africa.

And even if the elephants and leopards didn’t cooperate, that only provided one more reason to return.



Rwanda Basketball Federation executive director Fiona Ishimwe stands in front of the modern, 10,000 seat BK Arena in Kigali, the city’s 45,000-seat soccer stadium to the rear.



A female white rhino passes close by our vehicle in Akagera National Park, Rwanda.



Students from Umurava Primary School perform a traditional dance during a ceremony celebrating the school’s new basketball/volleyball court, constructed in conjunction with Umoja Community Mosaic and Stampede Rotary Club, Calgary.



A giraffe takes a quick drink at Akagera National Park as two compatriots scan for trouble.

WEEKLY

Horoscope

July 23 - July 30, 2025

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20



Aries, you start the week full of energy and drive. It's the perfect time to chase your goals—the universe is on your side.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21



Creative energy flows in and a long-dormant idea may spark back to life, Taurus. You're in the right mindset to pursue something artistic and innovative. Reconsider a refreshing hobby.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 21



Gemini, you're in your element this week and buzzing with charm and curiosity. Engaging conversations abound. Opportunities to connect, both socially and professionally, come easily.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22



Cancer, a small act of courage pays off in a big way, and you'll find that trusting yourself leads to a fulfilling outcome this week. Embrace your instincts.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23



Love and joy surround you, and this week is ideal for connecting with someone special or deepening an important bond, Leo. Your heart feels open, and good things are flowing your way.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22



Helping someone now brings you a deep sense of purpose, Virgo. Your kindness flows naturally, and the gratitude you receive is truly uplifting.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23



This week your relationships are in harmony, Libra. You're feeling strongly supported. Conversations flow with ease, and people are drawn to your warm personality.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22



A milestone is within reach, and the progress you've made starts to emerge this week, Scorpio. Your persistence and inner fire have been guiding you forward.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21



Sagittarius, a fresh perspective allows you to release old worries or doubts. This is a week of clarity and growth during which inspiration meets personal freedom.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20



Practical matters - especially career or finances - are looking up, Capricorn. A smart decision made now could lead to something even better down the line.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18



Aquarius, you've had your eye on the prize for some time now, and the good news is that the finish line is within arm's length. Stick with things for just a little longer.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20



Pisces, you've been making changes lately, and your home and outlook are shifting. It's a refreshing new chapter.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 23
Woody Harrelson, Actor (64)

JULY 24
Bindi Irwin, Zookeeper (27)

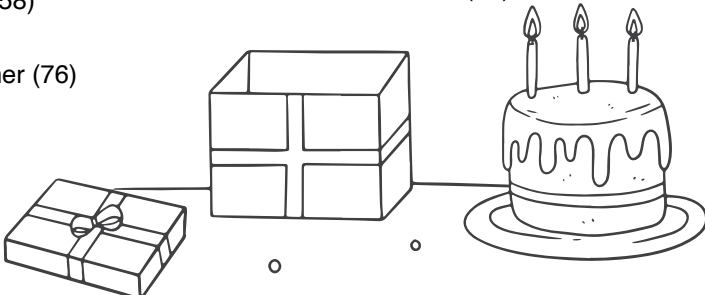
JULY 25
Matt LeBlanc, Actor (58)

JULY 26
Roger Taylor, Drummer (76)

JULY 27
Maya Rudolph, Actress (53)

JULY 28
Elizabeth Berkley, Actress (53)

JULY 29
Wil Wheaton, Actor (53)



Riddles

I'm green and grumpy, live in a swamp,
and fall for a princess with a twist.
Shrek

I'm not a toy, but I belong to Andy. I wear
a hat and yell "Reach for the sky!"
Woody

I haunt your dreams and wear a glove,
my bladed hand is not one to love.
Freddy Krueger

I sing with a fork and dream of the land,
under the sea is where I stand.
Ariel (The Little Mermaid)

I'm a fish who forgot the way, just keep
swimming every day.
Dory

I solve crimes with a pipe in hand, the
greatest detective in the land.
Sherlock Holmes

I'm a ghost you don't want to call, unless
you've got a problem with a haunted hall.
The Ghostbusters

Blue and tall, I live on moons. Fighting
humans with nature's tunes.
Avatar

I'm a spy with many names—shaken, not
stirred.
James Bond

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 18

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PET OF THE WEEK

LOU

Meet our Pet of the Week:

This is Lou, a 3 year old handsome tuxedo domestic medium hair. Lou was in to see us for his annual examination and immunizations in his matching carrier. Although Lou is an indoor cat, it is important to keep him up to date on his rabies immunizations. As you may have read in the news, we do see rabies in our local bat population and a bite from a bat would easily go undetected in our pets.

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



Word Search

MOVIE ESSENTIALS



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

- Popcorn
- Villan
- Soundtrack
- Director
- Cinematography
- Blockbuster
- Screenplay
- Script
- Credits
- Tickets
- Icepacks
- Reels
- Actors
- Screenwriter
- Projector
- Makeup
- Genre
- Premiere
- Hero
- Costume

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

JULY 21-25

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

JULY 26 & 27

Grand River Champion of Champions Powwow – held at the Ohsweken Speedway on July 26th and 27th. Annual Powwow Celebrations, we are looking forward to this year's Grand River Champion of Champions Powwow. We welcome Powwow singers and dancers from across Turtle Island. Smoke Dance (Haudenosaunee Style) Special. Over 100 Craft and 40 Food local and indigenous artisans. This event is open to the public, everyone welcome.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Primacare Community Family Health Team Presents Grief Talks Education Series: July 30th beginning at 5:30 pm, upstairs at the Wilkin Boardroom, 25 Curtis Ave N Paris. Feature speaker is Tammy Adams, a Certified Grief Recovery Method Specialist supporting individuals Canada-wide.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

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



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BRANTFORD

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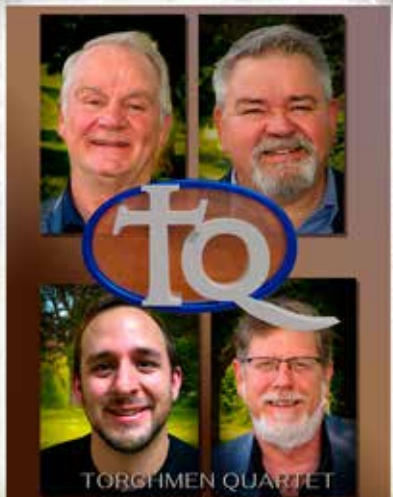
SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

Burtch Baptist Outdoor Summer Concerts 2025

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COMING EVENTS

2025 OUTDOOR MARKET SERIES - at The Paris Winkey Mills 31 Mechanic St. Paris. For more information call 519-774-0600 or email eliesther.rivera@gmail.com

DATES: Sunday, May 18; Sunday, June 22; Sunday, July 20; Sunday, August 24; Sunday, September 28

WANTED

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

CORRECTION

In last week's edition of The Paris Independent, Jeff Johnston's column included a photograph of the local band Dirty Laundry. The cutline accompanying the photo did not identify all four individuals pictured. From left to right, the photo shows Bob Banks, Art McKenzie, Terry Marostega, Wayne Morrison. We sincerely apologize for the oversight, particularly to Marostega family.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

OBITUARY

Cardy

Friday, July 18th, 2025



Shirley Margaret (nee Gray)

Peacefully, at Park Lane Terrace Paris, on Friday July 18, 2025, a long-time resident of Paris in her 88th year.

Beloved wife to the late John Herbert Cardy (2014); loved mom of Wayne, Donald (Judy), John (Jocelynn) and Kim. Cherished Grandma to 10 Grandchildren and 10 Great Grandchildren. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by her parents Charles and Irene (Safford) Gray, a brother James Gray and sisters Doris Gray and Irene Hill

By Shirley's request, cremation has taken place.

A Memorial Service to celebrate Shirley's Life will be held at St. James Anglican Church, 8 Burwell St. Paris on Saturday July 26, 2025 at 11:00 AM. Reception to follow. Family interment Paris Cemetery

Donations to the St. James Anglican Church or Alzheimer Society would be appreciated.

Online condolences or donations may be arranged through www.wmkipfuneralhome.com or by contacting Wm. KIPP 519-442-3061.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Koala
2. Reykjavík
3. Men's Tennis
4. Africa
5. Burger King
6. Alexander Fleming
7. The Harp
8. Atlanta
9. Purple
10. Larynx

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