

The Paris Independent

Issue #250

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026

FREE

Yield to a Green Flashing Light



COUNTY OF
Brant Simply Grand

brant.ca/Fire

Isaac Rosebrugh
MORTGAGE BROKER & REALTOR®

Isaac@InspiredBroker.com | InspiredBroker.com

exp
REALTY
BROKERAGE

519-754-6611

BRX
MORTGAGE
LIC#13463



Questions about selling?
Get expert advice



Alex Faux
REAL ESTATE BROKER
(519)802-6709 DIRECT
alexfaux.ca



exp
REALTY
BROKERAGE

RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT

NORTH WARD PUBLIC SCHOOL



Grade 6 students at North Ward School took part in the Downtown Dig time capsule project, creating letters, drawings and messages that will be buried later this summer at Grand River Street North and William Street. The capsule is expected to remain sealed for about 75 years before future generations uncover their reflections on life in Paris in 2026.

Downtown Dig time capsule to preserve young voices for 75 years

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

As crews continue to reshape the heart of Paris through the Downtown Dig project, local students are being invited to leave their own mark on the community's history.

Grade 5 and 6 students from Cobblestone Elementary School, Sacred Heart School, Paris

Central School, Holy Family School and North Ward School have contributed letters, drawings and messages for a time capsule that will be buried later this summer at the intersection of Grand River Street North and William Street.

The capsule, led by Downtown Dig Liaison Erica Grimes, is expected to remain sealed for about 75 years before it is opened by a future generation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

County seeks \$8.8M federal grant for Brant Sports Complex expansion

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant is moving ahead with a bid for \$8.8 million in federal infrastructure funding to help close the gap on the proposed Brant Sports Complex expansion and reduce the amount that would need to be supported through the municipal tax levy.

County council received an update on the project June 23 and supported a recommendation to delegate authority to the chief administrative officer to award construction should the county's grant applications be successful.

The county submitted an expression of interest May 12 to the federal Build Communities Strong Fund, seeking the full \$8.8-million shortfall identified in the project's updated Class A cost estimate. On June 12, staff were notified the Brant Sports Complex expansion had been selected for further consideration and invited to submit a priority application by July 15.

The Build Communities Strong Fund is intended to support public infrastructure projects that are ready to move forward. The county has identified the sports complex project as shovel-ready, with construction potentially beginning as early as fall 2026 if funding is secured.

The expansion is proposed for the Brant

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Sandra Etherington
Real Estate Broker

Selling Paris, Brant, Oxford County
& Brantford Real Estate
519-754-5217

sandra.etherington@century21.ca

You can count on my 35 years of
experience in Real Estate sales.

CENTURY 21
Heritage House Ltd.



Stacked
PANCAKE & BREAKFAST HOUSE

\$6.99
+ TAX
Breakfast Special



MON - FRI
7 AM - 9 AM
Dine-In Only

1070 Rest Acres Rd Unit 2,
Building- A4, Brant | 519-442-0440

Open Everyday | 7 AM - 3 PM

stackedpancakehouse.ca

Uber
Eats

SKIP THE DISHES

Paris students leave their mark on history

Grade 5 and 6 classes contribute letters, drawings and hopes for the future to Downtown Dig time capsule

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The project adds a personal layer to the major infrastructure work now underway in downtown Paris, where crews have been rebuilding roads, sidewalks and underground services. Last year, excavation work also offered a striking reminder of the community's industrial past when historic raceways, constructed more than a century ago, were uncovered beneath the roadway.

While the students' submissions may not be as dramatic as those physical remnants of Paris' past, they will offer something equally valuable to those who discover them decades from now: a glimpse into the thoughts, hopes and everyday lives of young people growing up in Paris in 2026.

Students were encouraged to create a one-page letter, drawing or message and include their first and last names so their work can be identified when the capsule is opened. They were given prompts including their greatest strengths, future goals, three wishes and hopes for the world.

County of Brant staff said the initiative gives students a chance to contribute to a lasting piece of community history while creating a meaningful legacy for future generations.

For North Ward School Grade 6 teacher David Clarke, the project gave students an opportunity to think beyond the audiences they are accustomed to creating work for.

"The students had some trouble connecting their work to an unknown audience 75 years in the future," Clarke said. "They're used to creating work for a specific audience, such as parents, classmates, or another class, such as their learning buddies."

Instead, he said students approached the project by sharing what was on their minds at the time.

"I think their submissions will represent their innocence and optimism for the future," Clarke said.

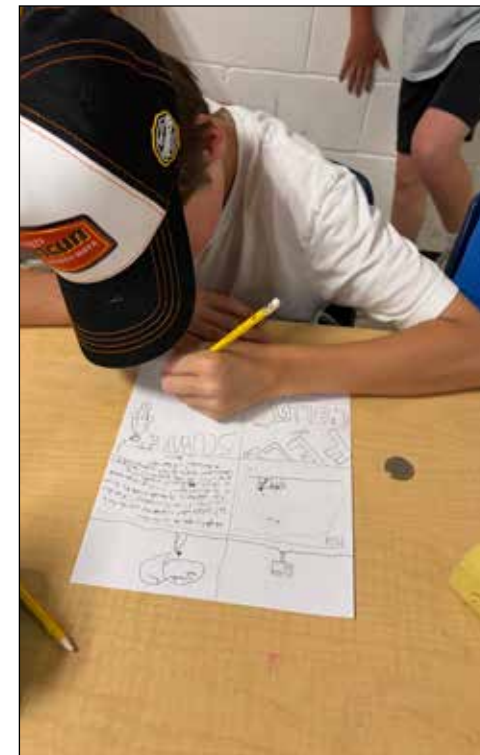
That optimism stood out to him as students reflected on their dreams and hopes.

"I was pleasantly surprised at how optimistic this group is for their future," he said. "We adults get bogged down in the day-to-day negativity of world events. I wish more parents knew how many wonderful children there are and that the future is actually in good hands."

Clarke said many students may not fully understand the significance of the project until years from now, much like he did not have a strong interest in history when he was their age.

"When I was their age, 11 or 12 years old, I did not particularly pay attention to or have interest in history," he said. "But now that I am older, I find history interesting." He said he wonders whether any of his current students will be present when the capsule is opened decades from now.

"If any of them are there to witness it, I



Students at Paris Central School work on submissions for the Downtown Dig time capsule, sharing their hopes, goals and messages for the future. Their letters and drawings will be buried later this summer as part of the downtown construction project.

am hopeful that it will bring back pleasant memories for them of the great experiences and happy times we had as a group this year," Clarke said. "These students are good people with kind hearts."

The burial date has not yet been confirmed. Once finalized, the County of Brant said it will be shared with participating schools and the public for those who wish to attend.

Telephone City Musical Society strikes a chord in Paris

EMMA BOWMAN

Paris Independent Contributor

From Big Band music like Glenn Miller, to ABBA and modern hits, The Telephone City Musical Society (TCMS) has spent the month of June performing as part of Brant County's Music in the Park series. Located at the Paris Lion's Park amphitheater every Tuesday evening, the 44 members performed a wide range of music for attendees, people passing by, and anyone enjoying the park amenities.

Music in the Park is a free outdoor concert series that displays regional and local artists, as well as touring acts. As music spills through the park and the nearby playground, attendees are welcome to enjoy lawn chairs or blankets to relax and bring the serenade of music in rain or shine.

Founded 106 years ago by First World War veterans seeking a place to reconnect and make music, the TCMS once again found itself searching for a rehearsal space three years ago. After reaching out to the County of Brant, the group was welcome to use the park for practices while its regular venue was occupied by Brantford Village. Mike Croucher, TCMS president, says "after playing once and seeing the public reaction, we had a different idea [than years prior]. Going into this year, we wanted it to

be actual performances that the local community could come and enjoy."

As the County of Brant continues to find new ways to bring people together during the ongoing Downtown Dig construction, the Music in the Park series has emerged as one of those opportunities. Chelsie Sharp, the County's Special Events and Filming Coordinator with Strategic Initiatives, said the response from residents has been overwhelmingly positive.

"It's exactly the type of community connection we hope to foster through these programs," she said. "Our goal with Music in the Park is to create welcoming, accessible experiences that celebrate local culture, support artists, and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to connect in our beautiful community spaces."

The TCMS's last performance was on June 30th. Reflecting on the experience, Croucher said, "We are so thrilled and thankful for the County and the Staff that have helped us make this a reality. We are already looking forward to next year's performances."

Bianka Kruchat, a County of Brant 'Downtown Dig and Tourism Ambassador', claims that there is more to look forward to Downtown this summer. Throughout July and August, there will be more artists performing in the park, alongside



The 44-member Telephone City Musical Society poses following one of its performances at the County of Brant's Music in the Park series this summer. The community band has found a welcoming home in Paris after partnering with the County three years ago.

other family and community events. The next upcoming performance will be featuring Avery Raquel, a Toronto based Artist, on Thursday, July 16th at 6pm.

There's also a family-focused evening on July 2nd, hosted as part of the Canada

Day celebrations and will include a wide range of activities including a performance by JUNO Award-nominated children's performer Chris McKhool, crafts, story time from County of Brant Public Library staff, and a Disney DJ Pyjama Party.

Expansion would create new space for recreation and community programs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sports Complex at 944 Powerline Rd. in Paris. The existing facility, which opened in 2011, includes a twin-pad arena, banquet hall and meeting rooms.

The project would add approximately 41,630 square feet of recreation space, including a triple gymnasium with lines for basketball, volleyball and pickleball, spectator seating, an indoor walking track, three multi-purpose rooms, four new changerooms, a new entrance and reception area, staff offices, additional parking and accessible parking. The plan also includes an outdoor plaza, covered canopy, landscaping, solar-ready infrastructure and back-up power for emergency management.

County staff said the expansion is needed to respond to continued population growth and increasing demand for recreation programming. Schools in Paris are operating at capacity, limiting their availability for community use, while programs such as pickleball have reached capacity. The Paris Seniors 99 Club has also capped memberships because of space limitations, according to the county's application.

The updated project cost is now estimated at \$30.94 million, including a five per cent design contingency and non-rebateable HST. The county previously had \$22.15 million approved through its long-term financial plan and 2026 capital budget, leaving an \$8.8-million shortfall.

Councillor Lukas Oakley asked whether the requested delegated authority would still apply if the federal government did not award the full \$8.8 million.

Phil Mete, the county's general manager of community services, said it would, but the project would have to proceed within the county's long-term financial plan. He said the CAO would have authority to make a decision and report back to council.

Councillor John Bell asked staff to outline the current



A rendering shows the proposed exterior of the Brant Sports Complex expansion, including a new entrance, outdoor plaza, landscaping and additional parking.

funding model and how the increased project cost could affect taxpayers.

Mete said the original model included \$5 million in grant funding, \$1.5 million in community fundraising, \$1.5 million from reserves, \$7.7 million from development charge reserves, \$10.9 million in debt repaid through development charges and nearly \$2 million repaid through the tax levy, for a total of \$23.8 million.

Under the revised approach, if the \$8.8-million grant is awarded, the county would increase its community fundraising target to \$2 million, maintain \$1.5 million from reserves and \$7.7 million from development charge re-

serves, and use \$10 million in debt repaid through development charges. The tax levy-supported portion would be reduced to approximately \$928,000.

"I'm encouraged we only have to provide \$1 million for the tax levy for this project," Bell said.

The county also plans to apply to the Ontario Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Funding Program once applications open, while continuing community fundraising efforts. The project has received its minor variance approval, detailed design is complete and building permit and site plan reviews are nearing completion. Staff are also preparing prequalification and tender documents.

Council supported the recommendations, with staff expected to report back on any grant awards and the updated financial impact.



The planned triple gymnasium would accommodate sports such as basketball, volleyball and pickleball, while providing spectator seating and flexible recreation space.



An indoor walking track overlooking the gymnasium is among the features proposed in the 41,630-square-foot expansion.

The Paris Independent

Guiding Principles

1. Everyone has a story
2. The news should be free for all to enjoy
3. Good news beats bad news
4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)
5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

*Restoring small-town
journalism, one community
at a time!*

The Paris Independent

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Chris Whelan • editor@theparisindpendent.com

Managing Editor

Cassandra Turnbull • managingeditor@theparisindpendent.com

Graphic Design

Michelle Foster • parisindpendentnews@gmail.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

Michelle Malvaso, George Le Gresley, Ruby Jones, Heidi Pflieger, Paul Knowles, Karon Sinning, Jeff Johnston, Wayne Wilkinson, Emma Bowman, Gary Chalk

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2

info@theparisindpendent.com | 519.655.2341 | granthaven.com



Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Paris rallies around Baby Ryan as fundraising campaign eases family's burden

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

What began as a light-hearted promise of a hot pink pedicure has become something much bigger: a reminder of the compassion that can be found in a small town when one of its own is facing the fight of a lifetime.

Over the past several weeks, residents, local businesses and complete strangers rallied around eight-month-old Ryan McCauley and his family, raising more than \$1,300 to help offset the costs of travel, hotel stays and lost income while Ryan underwent life-saving heart surgery at Toronto's SickKids Hospital.

For Ryan's mother, Jessica Murray, the financial support was matched only by the emotional encouragement her family received.

"No words could describe how thankful we are to be part of such a loving town," she said. "Being born and raised here really made me feel like I was part of a family much bigger than my own. I couldn't be more thankful for the community."

Ryan was diagnosed at just 18 weeks into Jessica's pregnancy with Tetralogy of Fallot (ToF), a rare congenital heart defect consisting of four structural abnormalities that reduce the amount of oxygen reaching the body.

According to the National Institutes of Health, Tetralogy of Fallot accounts for five to seven per cent of congenital heart defects. In Canada, it affects approximately 0.34 per 1,000 live births. Thanks to advances in early surgical repair, more than

97 per cent of patients now survive beyond childhood.

Despite his diagnosis, Ryan's early months were surprisingly typical.

"If we didn't know of his diagnosis early on it would have been impossible to notice," said Jessica. "He loves food, bouncing and is always full of smiles."

That changed when Ryan contracted Rhinovirus at four months old. His oxygen levels plummeted, forcing an emergency trip to McMaster Children's Hospital. From that point forward, his oxygen levels never fully recovered.

As surgery approached, the family faced another challenge.

Because Ryan needed to remain healthy for four weeks before surgery, repeated illnesses delayed the operation twice. With five children at home, including three attending school, avoiding germs became nearly impossible.

When Ryan began showing signs of heart failure at six months old, including excessive sleeping and sweating during feedings, the family entered full isolation.

"For six weeks there was no school friends, family, and no stores for the children," Jessica explained.

She credits her boyfriend, Thomas McCauley, and their children, especially oldest siblings Ares and Iris, for helping the family navigate one of the most difficult chapters of their lives.

"I've never seen such a strong bond between siblings."

Ryan finally underwent surgery on June 9. After nearly two weeks recovering in hospital, he returned home June 22.

"I've never been happier to be home," Jessica said.

The family's fundraising journey began after Domino's Pizza delivery driver Michael Durham was asked by store manager Ashkay Grover to help identify a local family in need.

"I reached out to a few of the local Paris community pages on Facebook," Durham said. "When this family's story came up — a six-month-old baby boy named Ryan dealing with four congenital heart defects and facing a major surgery on June 9th — it just completely got to me."

Knowing the family would face mounting expenses while away from home, Durham proposed a fundraiser of his own.

"If I can raise money for Baby Ryan, I'll go get a pedicure done in whatever color people vote for."

Customers donated \$5 per vote to choose between bright white, candy apple red and hot pink.

Durham's original fundraising goal of \$500 was surpassed within two weeks, eventually reaching \$800.

"I know \$800 doesn't sound like a lot of money, but seeing how Jessica and Thomas responded to it honestly brings me to tears," he said.

"Our healthcare system is incredible and covers so much, but it doesn't cover the added expenses of hotels, gas, meals, and regular bills coming in while you've had to take a leave of absence and aren't making the money you usually make," added Durham.

Support poured in from throughout Paris and beyond, including one donation from the United Kingdom and a single \$200 contribution that helped push the campaign past its goal.

People embraced the interactive fundraiser, casting 160 votes in total. Hot pink narrowly defeated candy apple red by just four votes.

"My personal choice at the start probably would've been 'none of the above,'" Durham joked.

After keeping his promise and sporting bright pink toenails, Durham said the experience left a lasting impression.

"This experience touched me in ways I



Ryan McCauley rests in his hospital bed at SickKids Hospital. He underwent life-saving surgery on June 9th to repair Tetralogy of Fallot, a rare congenital heart defect.

never expected," he said. "Honestly, knowing what it was for, if I had to do it all over again, I'd choose the hot pink myself in a heartbeat. It wouldn't bother me in the least. It is so worth it to be able to help somebody who really deserves that and more."

Durham's campaign was followed by a second fundraiser organized through Domino's Pizza Paris.

From June 22 to 25, the store donated 100 per cent of the gross profit from a special pizza promotion, raising approximately \$500 for the family.

"Supporting our community is a core value at Domino's Paris," said store manager Ashkay Grover. "As a locally operated business, we recognize that our success is made possible by the continued support of the residents, organizations, and families we serve."

Grover said the restaurant regularly supports local fundraisers, youth sports teams and community initiatives because giving back is part of the company's philosophy.

"We try to be part of the life of the community and try to contribute in whatever way we can." For Jessica, Thomas and family, the fundraiser was just one example of the generosity they've experienced throughout Ryan's medical journey.

Before the surgery, members of the Paris Mama Facebook group helped cover nearly all of the family's hotel expenses in Toronto, after the family was not successful in securing a room in the Ronald McDonald house. Other community members donated groceries through Jay's No Frills, provided gas cards and organized a Meal Train to help feed the family.

Together, those acts of kindness helped ease some of the financial burden, allowing Jessica and Thomas to focus on what mattered most — being by Ryan's side as he fought for his life.

Now safely home, Ryan continues his recovery surrounded by the community that stood behind him every step of the way.

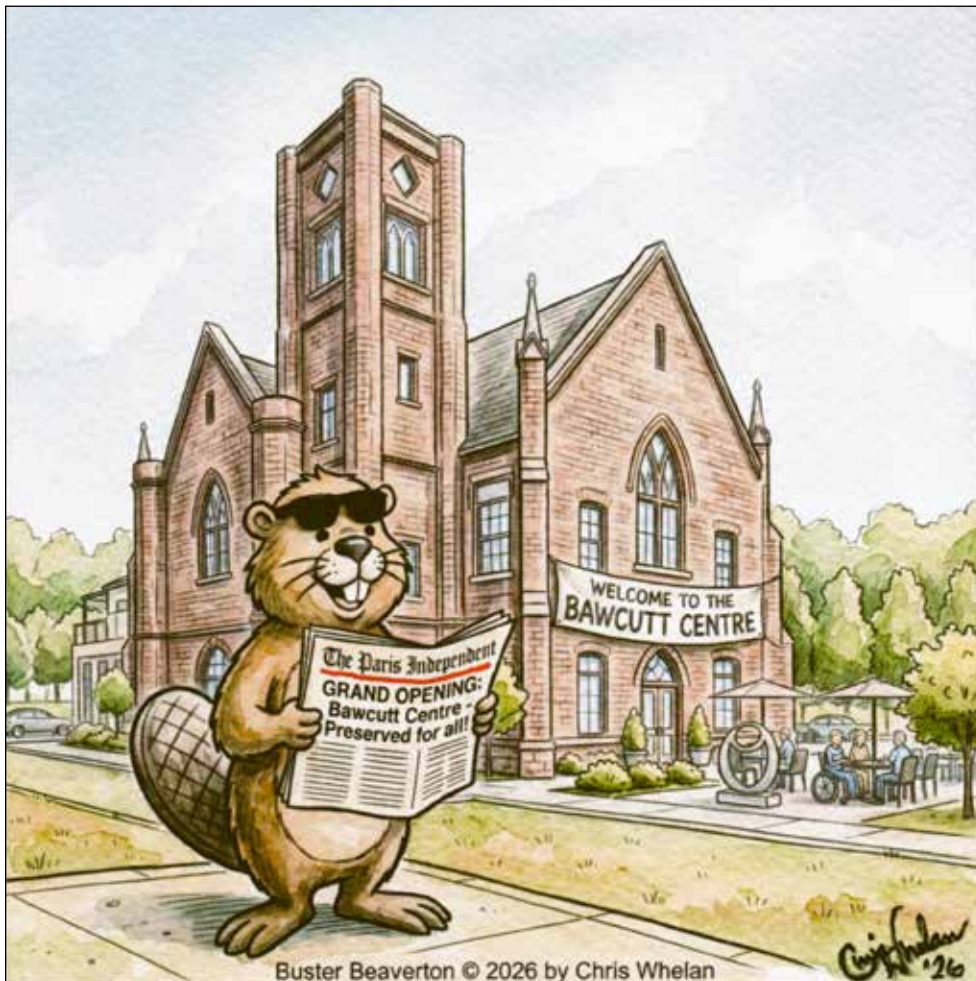
"I've never been happier to be home," said Jessica.



Eight-month-old Ryan snuggles up with his mother, Jessica Murray, during one of many quiet moments throughout his medical journey.



Domino's Pizza delivery driver Michael Durham proudly sports the hot pink pedicure chosen by community members after promising to paint his toenails in the winning colour if they donated to support baby Ryan and his family. The light-hearted fundraiser raised \$800.



Buster Beaverton © 2026 by Chris Whelan

Buster Beaverton learns more about the Bawcutt Centre for Arts, Heritage and Culture

Letter to the Editor

History column builds community connection, reader says

Dear Editor:

One weekly highlight of the paper is the Historic Paris section.

My wife and I moved to town last year. One of the charms of Paris is its history, and learning through these weekly pieces by Chris Whelan helps connect us with the longstanding residents.

I know the growth of Paris bothers

some, but those moving to town are often doing so to share in a love of the town and not to change it.

The strength of small towns is neighbourliness. The Paris Independent is one of the threads that weaves our community together.

Gary Abbott | Paris

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR BY EMAILING THEM TO
INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

All letters must be signed by the writer and are subject to editing for length and clarity. The opinions expressed in the letter are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of the Paris Independent. We make no representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, or completeness of this information. If you have opinions to share, email your letter to stories@theparisdependent.com



**READ US
ONLINE**

WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM/PARIS-INDEPENDENT



Letters to the Editor

Downtown landlords should share burden of construction disruptions

Dear Editor:

A recurring theme surrounding the downtown dig in Paris has been some form of compensation for businesses experiencing a drop in sales during construction street closures and detours.

Businesses have few options when facing dropping sales: lay off staff, cut back on inventory purchases, try to promote sale events by lowering prices and thereby cutting into profits. They have to keep the lights on and cannot cut many fixed costs like insurance. Perhaps the single biggest expense businesses do have is rent.

I have not heard any suggestions that property management companies, private equity firm property owners, corporations and wealthy individual landlords are offering reductions in rent during construction disruptions.

This would make more sense than expecting the county and ultimately taxpayers to foot the bill, especially since many of the county's taxpayers do not live in Paris, do not normally patronize stores in downtown Paris and are thus not affected by the closures.

Rick O'Brien | Paris

From sea to sea: The story behind Canada's motto

Dear Editor:

Ever wonder how Canada's motto "A mari usque ad mare" ("From Sea To Sea") came about? An obvious motto now when Canada fills over half a continent, but at the time of its origin it did not reflect such a reality. The country then, was only an amalgamation of three small colonies: Canada (East and West) along the St. Lawrence River and lower Great Lakes, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

To answer the question, we travel back to London England where the Fathers of Confederation were trying to get approval from the minority Conservative government of Prime Minister, Edward Smith-Stanley for their concept of uniting their three colonies. Yes, there were minority governments back then as well. What to name this amalgamation? The first suggestion was the "Kingdom of Canada". However, the British government and some Fathers were worried, with good reason, that this name would antagonize the government of the United States into action. Over the fifty-two years since the War of 1812 the U.S. government made no secret it wanted Britain's North American colonies, even if the colonists were opposed. That government now had a large and battle-hardened army; the result of the American Civil War and Canada was enduring Fenian attacks launched from the U.S. which that government looked on with benevolence. So what else could the proposed amalgamation be called?

It was then that serendipity stepped in. Leonard Tilley of New Brunswick was a religious man and each morning he read a selection from his Bible. On the morning before another meeting confronting the problem of a name, he read Psalm 72. Verse 8 caught his eye. It read "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River unto the ends of the earth". The "He" represented a mythical king appointed by the God we sing about in our national anthem. Here in the word "dominion" was the idea of Kingship without actually using the word "Kingdom". Tilley took the possibility to the meeting. The other Fathers and more importantly the British government liked it and so the name of the new country became "The Dominion of Canada". At the same time Psalm 72 inspired the motto "A mari usque ad mare". How the word "Dominion" was phased out decades later is another story, a rather unfortunate evolution considering it is the best description of Canada to be found. Perhaps the Fathers should have altered "Dominion" to "Domain". At the time it was, perhaps, a pretentious description for an amalgamation that did not extend even to the Upper Great Lakes but these Fathers had a vision and they worked at it and by the time the last of them died they had accomplished it. The question today is, do we have enough vision to hold onto their achievement.

Robert MacMillan | Brantford, Ontario

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR BY EMAILING THEM TO
INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

All letters must be signed by the writer and are subject to editing for length and clarity. The opinions expressed in the letter are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of the Paris Independent. We make no representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, or completeness of this information. If you have opinions to share, email your letter to stories@theparisdependent.com

County approves partnership to renovate Bawcutt Centre

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

County of Brant council has approved a plan to move ahead with renovations at The Bawcutt Centre, setting a new direction for the long-awaited restoration of the former Paris Old Town Hall.

Council approved the plan at its June 23 meeting, endorsing a partnership with Wingbury Properties to oversee renovations at the County-owned heritage building at 13 Burwell St. The company will also seek commercial tenants for the space, while areas of the building will be identified for County programming.

"I am very pleased to have a plan in place for the future of The Bawcutt Centre," said County of Brant Mayor David Bailey. "This has been a long time coming, and I appreciate the dedication of staff and community partners who have worked to help preserve this important cultural landmark. The Bawcutt Centre has a rich history in our community, and I am excited to see it continue to serve residents for generations to come."

The decision follows years of discussion over the future of the building, which was acquired by the County in late 2015 with support from a \$1-million donation by Skystone Media.

The County said three separate renovation plans have been considered over the past decade but did not move forward because of challenges including a lack of private capital and rising construction costs following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most recently, the building had been considered as part of a combined project with a

new central branch of the County of Brant Public Library. That proposal was not approved in January 2025, because of a lack of parking, leaving the future of The Bawcutt Centre uncertain.

Over the past 18 months, County staff and council reviewed market options and the viability of renovating the building. In 2025, the County launched an expression of interest process seeking a public-private partnership that would use private capital funding. Only one bid was received, and it would have required a significant public contribution from the County.

Staff ultimately identified a partnership with Wingbury Properties as the most viable option. Wingbury Properties Inc. is a private, family-owned property-management and development company and includes brothers Arie and Walter Koppelaar of Walters Group.

Wingbury Properties has experience renovating and operating historic buildings, purchasing the Winncy Mills building in 2014 as a heritage-revitalization project.

"We look forward to contributing to the revitalization of The Bawcutt Centre," said Walter Koppelaar, President of Wingbury Properties. "This building is an important part of the community and a defining feature of the Paris landscape. We will take great care in working with the County to help restore this landmark to its full potential while balancing heritage preservation, community benefit and financial responsibility."

Council considered several options in recent months, including completing the renovation independently at an estimated cost



A conceptual rendering shows the proposed future look of The Bawcutt Centre at 13 Burwell St. in Paris, formerly the Paris Old Town Hall, following planned renovations.

of \$14.2 million, partnering with Wingbury Properties at an estimated cost of \$9.5 million, or selling the building.

In a press release issued by the county, it was determined that the partnership would offer the best balance between preserving the heritage building and fiscal responsibility. The decision also separates the funding for The Bawcutt Centre from the planned central library branch, allowing both projects to proceed independently.

"Following considerable analysis and evaluation, consultation with The Bawcutt Centre Advisory Committee, and a cross-departmental approach to evaluate the future of The Bawcutt Centre, the plan to partner with Wingbury Properties provides the right outcome to renovate and finally secure a future for the building," said Adam Crozier, General Manager of Strategic Initiatives. "Wingbury Properties has demonstrated its approach to sympathetic renovation of historic buildings in the County and has the private sector expertise to bring the building back to life with a mix of commercial and community use."

Originally constructed in 1854 as the town hall for the newly incorporated Town of Paris, The Bawcutt Centre is a provincially designated heritage building and National Historic Site. The County describes it as the oldest civic building in Canada and

a rare example of Neo-Gothic civic architecture.

Over its 172-year history, the building has served as a town hall, market and jail, with its original jail cells still located in the basement.

It later housed Wheeler Needle Works, produced ammunition shells during the First World War, served as the headquarters of Mary Maxim and was most recently home to Old Town Hall Auctions.

The building was renamed The Bawcutt Centre after the County received a \$1-million donation in 2015 from Paris native Linda Schuyler to assist with its purchase and renovation.

The name honours her parents, Jack Bawcutt, a former and final mayor of the Town of Paris, and Joyce Bawcutt.

The County purchased the building for \$1.1 million, with \$750,000 from the donation committed to the purchase and \$250,000 reserved for future renovations. The County contributed an additional \$350,000 toward the purchase and later acquired the commercial property fronting Dumfries Street for \$400,000 in 2017.

The Bawcutt Centre will mark its 175th anniversary in 2029.

County staff said more information about the renovation project will be shared in the coming months.



(STEVE HOWES PHOTOS)

The interior of The Bawcutt Centre, formerly the Paris Old Town Hall, is seen days before County of Brant council approved a plan to move ahead with renovations to the historic Burwell Street building.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- How old is Canada turning this Canada Day?
- What is the national animal of Canada?
- Who was Canada's first prime minister?
- What landform sits between British Columbia and Alberta?
- Charlottetown is claimed to be "the birthplace of _____".
- What are Canada's two official national sports?
- The four divisions of the Canadian Corps fought together for the first time at what battle?
- In what year was Nunavut established?
- Who was the lead singer of the Tragically Hip?
- Who ran across Canada to raise awareness for cancer?

This week's answers are found on pg. 18

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: The Complete History of the Bawcutt Centre



By Chris Whelan

On February 7, 1853, a local committee was established with a singular focus: find a suitable site for a new Paris Town Hall. They ultimately chose a spot in the Upper Town, appointing Scottish-born architect John Maxwell and contractors Gardner and Strickland to bring the vision to life.

Departing from conventional norms, Maxwell made the bold choice to design the civic hall in the Gothic style. This was a massive departure from the prevalent classical traditions of the era, which heavily referenced Ancient Greece and Rome through Renaissance, Baroque, and Neo-Classical lenses.

By 1859, Gothic had become the preferred style for the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, but it never fully replaced the classical tradition for monumental public buildings in Canada. This makes the Paris Town Hall a significant milestone in Canadian architectural history. It showcases Maxwell's profound knowledge of contemporary British practices and theories long before they became mainstream across the Atlantic.

Gothic wasn't entirely unprecedented for public buildings in Ontario—the Middlesex County Building in London (1827–31) and Thomas Young's Wellington District Courthouse in Guelph (1837–44) both displayed elements of an 18th-century "Castellated Gothic" style. However, Maxwell's



Old Town Hall

approach diverged sharply from this earlier style. He aimed for a precise, faithful reference to medieval architecture, drawing inspiration directly from illustrations in the English architectural press.

Local politics also played a role in the aesthetics. The Gothic style was chosen to deliberately differentiate the Town Hall from the sweeping Greek Revival mansions owned by the town's prominent mill owners, reflecting a desire to align civic identity with distinct British architectural etiquette.

Precedents were being set overseas, too. When the Houses of Parliament in London, England, were ravaged by fire in 1834, they were rebuilt in the grand Gothic style by Sir Charles Barry and Augustus Welby Pugin. Yet, despite this massive endorsement, Gothic architecture remained highly uncommon for everyday town halls in England—a point highlighted by Sir George Gilbert Scott in his 1857 publication, *Remarks on Secular and Domestic Architecture: Present and Future*.

Maxwell's completion of the Paris Town Hall three full years before Scott's publication was remarkable, underscoring the building's unique place in architectural history. The hall's design drew inspiration from medieval Gothic guildhalls in England—reminiscent of structures like St. Mary's Guildhall in Coventry and the London Guildhall—complete with an elaborate wooden roof structure.

As the decades rolled by, the building transformed from a seat of government into the cultural heartbeat of Paris. In 1901, the town's very first motion picture—a jerky, flickering recording of Queen Victoria's funeral—was shown in the upper Assembly Hall, then known as the Opera House. Many movies and live performances followed throughout the early 1900s.

In September 1908, the town hall hosted "The Village Carnival," a three-day extravaganza that raised \$250 for the Sick Kids Foundation. That same year, a safety report by James McKay warned that the iconic bell tower was in desperate need of repair. Cultural milestones continued to hit the stage, and on February 18 and 19, 1914, the Opera House presented Paris with its very first talking pictures, courtesy of the Thomas A. Edison Kinetophone Company.

When the world went to war, the building adapted to serve the nation. In 1915, council approved an application from the G.W. McFarlane Engineering Co. to convert the basement of the town hall into a munitions factory. Between 35 and 60 local men were employed there, manufacturing artillery shells that were shipped directly to the front lines in France.

In 1917, the building transitioned to



(PHOTO COURTESY OF AT THE FORKS OF THE GRAND: VOLUME II BY D.A. SMITH.)

This photograph depicts an 1879 meeting of the Paris Town Council, which at the time met at the Church Street town hall. Among the figures depicted are mayor A.H. Baird and the police constable, to the right holding a hat. This image was printed on the tenth page of photographs in *At the Forks of the Grand: Volume II* by D. A. Smith.

peacetime manufacturing when Charles and Chester Wheeler relocated the Wheeler Needle Works Factory into the former Town Hall. Started by Chester's father, the company was a specialty needle manufacturer serving the textile industry. Chester Wheeler became a prominent local figure, heavily involved with the Paris Lions Club and responsible for the renovation of several downtown properties.

By 1953, the building's structural elements were showing their age; the tower had deteriorated so severely that the historic town bell had to be removed for safety.

A year later, in 1954, the building was purchased by Mary Maxim. The iconic handicraft company built an addition, using the top floor for corporate offices and the ground floor as a bustling showroom. As the business grew, Mary Maxim purchased the former Zamboni factory on Scott Avenue in 1976 for warehouse space. Eventually, they consolidated operations by building a brand-new facility at the Scott Avenue location, officially leaving the Old Town Hall in 1984. For a time afterward, the historic structure found life as a local auction house.

A major turning point arrived in 2016 when the Corporation of the County of Brant purchased the building. The acquisition was made possible by a generous one-million-dollar donation from Degra-si television franchise creator—and Paris native—Linda Schuyler. The building was officially renamed the Bawcutt Centre in honour of her parents, Jack and Joyce Bawcutt. Jack held a special place in local lore as the very last Mayor of the Town of

Paris before amalgamation, and he had also served as a sales manager for Mary Maxim during its operations in the building.

The County originally envisioned restoring the landmark into a vibrant community hub with dedicated spaces for theatre and the performing arts. By 2022, plans shifted toward a grand vision: combining a newly restored Bawcutt Centre with the new main branch of the County of Brant Library.

However, escalating costs and logistical hurdles stalled the project.

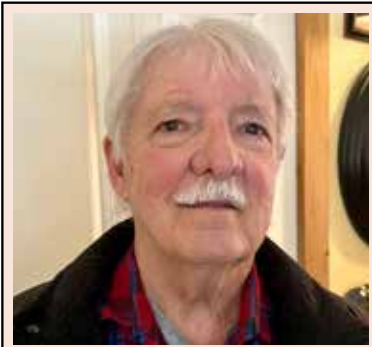
On January 28, 2025, despite staff endorsement and a \$35.4-million construction tender on the table, County Council officially voted against the library co-location project. The \$40-million price tag and a critical lack of sufficient parking at the site ultimately caused council to scrap the plan, leaving the fate of the historic structure hanging in the balance.

For over a year, the future of Paris's oldest civic landmark remained uncertain. But history has a way of repeating itself in the most resilient ways.

Just recently, Council announced a monumental new partnership with a developer dedicated to saving and reviving the Old Town Hall.

Decades after it first served the public, and following its chapters as a shell factory, a needle works, and a craft powerhouse, the Bawcutt Centre is poised for a grand resurrection. While the exact blueprints for this next chapter are being finalized, one thing is certain: the architectural jewel of Upper Town will continue to stand proud, anchoring the history—and the future—of Paris.

THEN AND NOW: #43 Grand River St. N. Part 1: The roots of a main street legacy



By Wayne Wilkinson
Paris Historian / Artist

In my article this week, we will delve into the history of Paris' longest-running business: John M. Hall's House of Quality Linen, which first opened its doors in 1891 at #43 Grand River St. N. However, the story doesn't actually start there. To truly uncover the roots of this iconic storefront, we have to dig deep into Paris history, all

the way back to 1856.

That was the year a 22-year-old Scotsman named Thomas Hall arrived in Paris. An early census shows him working as a clerk at Robt. More's dry goods store, which was located right where we now find the CIBC bank. After cutting his teeth in the local dry goods trade, Thomas struck out on his own; an 1862 business directory reveals he had opened his very own dry goods shop. Since More is no longer listed in Paris records by that time, it's highly possible that Hall took over More's business, or perhaps even started up in the exact same building where we find J.M. Hall's today. That remains a puzzle for another local history buff to solve!

Numerous newspaper advertisements indicate that Thomas Hall closed up shop

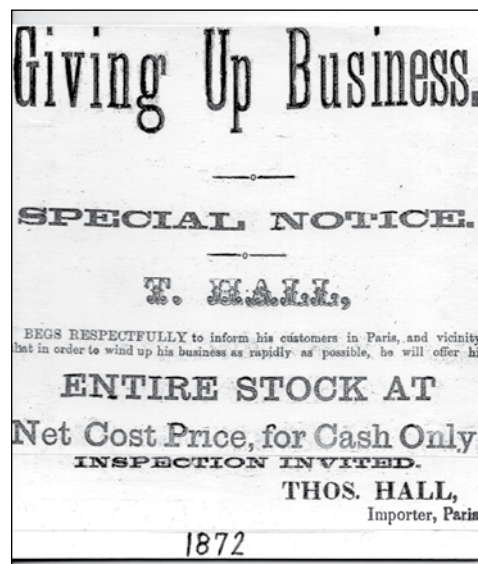
in the spring of 1872 to return with his family to Scotland. One of his sons, John Milner Hall, was just five years old at the time. Their stay overseas was short-lived, however, and by 1877 the family was right back home in Paris.

(It's worth noting that business directories and advertisements from shortly after Thomas Hall closed show a James and Francis Hall importing dry goods and silks on Grand River Street. Whether this was a pure coincidence or a family connection

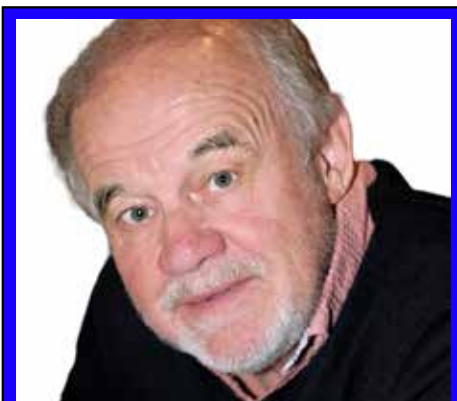
remains a mystery for now).

By 1880, Thomas had come out of retirement. Instead of launching another retail venture, he took on a new role as the customs agent for the Grand Trunk Railroad up at the Paris Junction station. Thomas Hall passed away in 1913, bringing a close to the very first chapter of the remarkable Hall legacy in Paris.

Some information obtained from the archives at the Paris Museum & Historical Society.



LIVING RETIRED: 'Sleep On It. If You Can!'



By Gary Chalk
Non-Pulitzer Prize
Winning Columnist

A few months back Jan and I purchased an adjustable bed. The brochure promised we will 'Immerse ourselves in support and comfort,' 'Experience luxury and rejuvenation,' and 'Add a touch of elegance.' Of course, this all comes at a price — a price that guarantees to 'Keep you up all night!'

The features of our new bed allow Jan and I to raise and lower the side of the bed that each of us sleep on. This is what

Living Retired

I mean...

If I want to make my blood suddenly rush to the top of my head, I can press a button and VOILA! my feet will slowly rise up until my toes almost touch the ceiling fan! If Jan, on the other hand — err the other foot — wants to elevate her head high enough to make sure my toes don't get tangled in the ceiling fan — she can press a button and VOILA! her head will slowly rise until she is face to face, err, face to my toes! There's more...

If Jan decides she has had it with my snoring in the middle of the night, she can press the Anti-Snore button. Or, if Jan's back stiffens while she sleeps, I can press a button that activates the Zero-Gravity feature on her side of the bed.

But here is the thing. This convenience is based on 'Remote Control You Cannot Find' technology. And, because Jan and I

can personalize our sleeping preferences, we have two 'Remote Control You Cannot Find' devices.

Our first night sleeping in our new adjustable bed did not 'Immerse ourselves in support and comfort.' This is what happened...

In the middle of the night, I awoke and decided to try the Zero-Gravity feature on my side of the mattress. I pressed the button and suddenly it happened: our bedroom lit up like Times Square! Immediately, Jan sat up and covered her eyes, "Gary, what's going on?"

"Sorry Jan. I thought I'd try Zero-Gravity on my side of the mattress, but I accidentally pressed the television remote. I'll turn the television off." Oops! This time I pressed Jan's remote, and her feet began to rise up close to the ceiling fan!

I feverishly pressed all the buttons on the two bed remotes and the television remote! Somehow things returned to normal: the television was off and both sides of our mattresses were in the Lay-Flat position.

An hour later, I rolled over and something began to glow beneath the sheets. It was the Flashlight feature on the 'Remote

Control You Cannot Find.' I fished around trying to find the 'Remote Control You Cannot Find' but suddenly my mattress raised me up into the Sitting Up position!

Jan awoke again. "Gary! It is 3:30 in the night. Surely you are not sitting up to read in bed. Turn the Flashlight feature off!"

Soon, I was back to sleep, dreaming of 'Experiencing luxury and rejuvenation.' But at 5 o'clock I awoke and decided to finish my first night sleeping in the Anti-Snore position. Half awake I poked through the sheets searching for the 'Remote Control You Cannot Find.' No luck.

That morning at breakfast I said, "Jan, so much for 'Adding a touch of elegance' sleeping in our new adjustable bed. I felt like a Cirque du Soleil acrobat!"

"Gary. Starting this evening the two 'Remote Control You Cannot Find' devices will always be on my nightstand."

Happy wife, happy life.

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

BCHS NICU places second nationally in Kangaroo Care challenge

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Brantford General Hospital has earned national recognition after placing second among Level 2 NICUs in the Canadian Premature Babies Foundation's inaugural Kangaroo-A-Thon.

The Brant Community Healthcare System's NICU logged 205.45 hours of Kangaroo Care involving 17 babies over 11 days, placing it second in Canada among participating Level 2 neonatal units. The national initiative encouraged hospitals to promote skin-to-skin contact between parents and newborns while raising awareness of the practice's benefits.

More than 12,500 hours of Kangaroo Care were recorded by participating hospitals across Canada during the competition.

For BCHS, the result reflects more than a ranking, said Amy Griesser, BCHS clinical manager for pediatrics, NICU and diabetes education.

"While we placed second nationally, within our NICU and community this achievement represents a first-place success," Griesser said.

The Kangaroo-A-Thon was created by the Canadian Premature Babies Foundation as an annual national initiative for neonatal units. Hospitals were invited to compete in Level 2 and Level 3 categories, with participating units receiving promotional and educational materials to help encourage families to take part.

Griesser said BCHS joined the challenge because it aligned with the organization's commitment to person- and family-centred care and improving outcomes for babies.

"Skin-to-skin care is a simple yet powerful intervention that has been shown to improve temperature regulation, cardio-



(BRANT COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM PHOTO)

A new parent practices Kangaroo Care with her twin babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Brantford General Hospital. Also known as skin-to-skin care, the evidence-based practice promotes bonding while supporting the babies' growth, development and overall health. The BCHS NICU recently placed second nationally among Level 2 NICUs in the Canadian Premature Babies Foundation's inaugural Kangaroo-A-Thon.

spiratory stability, breastfeeding success, weight gain, sleep quality, and parent-infant bonding," she said.

Kangaroo Care, also known as skin-to-skin care, involves placing a baby wearing only a diaper, and sometimes a hat, directly against a parent's bare chest. The baby is covered with a blanket to maintain warmth and positioned upright against the parent. Either parent can provide the care when a baby's medical condition allows.

At BCHS, the practice is encouraged as part of developmental and family-centred care for premature and medically fragile newborns.

For babies, skin-to-skin care can help regulate body temperature, improve heart rate, breathing and oxygen levels, promote sleep, support weight gain and feeding, reduce stress and support brain development. For parents, it can strengthen attachment, build confidence and help reduce the stress and helplessness that can accompany a NICU stay.

"A parent's touch remains one of the most powerful interventions available," Griesser said. The competition also helped BCHS build on progress already being made in the unit. In May, the NICU averaged 171 minutes of skin-to-skin care per patient per

day, representing a 110 per cent increase from the previous year. Griesser said the challenge created excitement among staff and families while reinforcing the role parents play in their baby's care.

"Through this initiative, we were able to further encourage parents by providing education on the benefits of skin-to-skin care and empowering them to be active members of their baby's healthcare team," she said. One example shared by Griesser involved a premature infant who had difficulty gaining weight and experienced frequent episodes of decreased heart rate and oxygen saturation. The care team encouraged the parents to provide regular Kangaroo Care.

Over time, the baby appeared calmer during sessions and showed improved heart rate and oxygen stability. As the weeks progressed, the episodes became less frequent, the baby began gaining weight more consistently and eventually became spell-free.

The experience also changed the parents' role in the baby's care, Griesser said. They reported feeling more relaxed, confident and connected to their infant as they saw the impact of skin-to-skin contact.

Although there is no formal runner-up award or recognition ceremony planned, BCHS is celebrating the achievement internally and looking at ways to build on the momentum. Possible next steps include daily logs for families, investing in Joey Bands, which are garments designed to support safe skin-to-skin contact and improving documentation practices.

"Finishing second among all participating Level II NICUs demonstrates that BCHS families and staff truly embraced the importance of skin-to-skin care, making it a priority despite the daily challenges and demands within the NICU," Griesser said.

Firefighters help kids make a splash



(COUNTY OF BRANT FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTO)

Firefighters from the County of Brant Fire Department's Station 5 Mount Pleasant Fire Fighters Association helped wrap up the local baseball season with a visit to the ball diamond on June 24. Families enjoyed a warm summer evening, while children cooled off with some water fun courtesy of the firefighters, who make similar community visits to events across the county throughout the summer.

HAPPY
Canada
Day

Come celebrate in downtown Paris!

Welcome to
PARIS
ONT

Join us for festivities, activities and our signature unique boutiques and delicious eateries; from 11 AM to 3 PM shop, snack and sip as usual and also enjoy face painting, music, creative stuff for kids, lemonade stand and more!

DOWNTOWN
PARIS

Downtown Dig update maps next phase of Paris revitalization

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

With major construction work on West River Street and Grand River Street North nearing completion, County of Brant council has received a new roadmap outlining what has been accomplished through the Downtown Dig and what comes next for the continued revitalization of downtown Paris.

Council received the Downtown Paris Master Plan: Progress Update and Next Steps report as information at its June 23 meeting. The report revisits the 2019 Downtown Paris Master Plan and provides updated direction for remaining streetscape work, parking planning, downtown growth, accessibility and future construction phases.

The report was received by all members of council except Coun. John MacAlpine, who voted against receiving it.

The original master plan was approved in 2019 as a long-term vision to guide downtown improvements alongside the replacement of aging underground infrastructure. It was built around goals of protecting Paris' heritage character, improving accessibility, supporting economic growth and creating a more people-focused downtown.

Since then, the County has completed or substantially advanced major reconstruction on West River Street and Grand River Street North.

West River Street, originally planned for a later stage of the project, was moved forward after detailed planning began. The work included replacement of natural gas and municipal services, new sidewalks, roadway repaving and traffic-calming measures. While the original plan considered bio-swailes for stormwater management, staff determined there was not enough room within the road allowance. The final design instead prioritized wider sidewalks, on-street parking and traffic flow.

On Grand River Street North, from the Nith River Bridge to William Street, the County has replaced natural gas, water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, as well as hydro servicing, street lighting and traffic signals. The road has been repaved, permanent planters and landscaping have been installed, and parking has shifted from angled spaces to lay-by (parallel) parking.

Finishing work this year includes sidewalks, hardscaped amenity spaces, hydro infrastructure, street furniture, trees and bicycle storage.

The Grand River Street North and William Street intersection remains closed for underground infrastructure and streetscape work, which is expected to be completed this fall.

The report notes that some ideas from the original master plan changed as detailed design moved forward. A proposed mini-roundabout at Mechanic Street and Grand River Street North could not be accommodated because of space constraints. The shift to parallel style parking was retained, however, with the County saying it will create more sidewalk space, improve pedestrian comfort and accessibility, support sidewalk sales and events, and help

traffic flow. The design includes a mix of two-hour parking spaces and short-term loading zones.

County staff said the early stages of the Downtown Dig have also provided important lessons for the work still ahead.

Those lessons include the need for regular communication with businesses and residents, better coordination with other construction projects, clear detours and continued flexibility when working around unknown utilities and historic features in a dense downtown setting.

The County also pointed to the creation of a dedicated construction liaison position as an important support for businesses, residents and property owners during the disruption.

The next major streetscape phases involve Mechanic Street, Broadway Street West and William Street. Renderings included in the update are currently at the 60 per cent design stage and remain subject to change as detailed designs are finalized.

Coun. Steve Howes said he recently visited Elora and was impressed by the community's use of heritage plaques and storytelling features along its streets. He asked whether there was still an opportunity for Paris to build more of its history into the remaining downtown designs.

"I'm wondering if you can help me understand if there's an opportunity still for us to still embrace telling the great history of downtown Paris," Howes said.

Halie Gilmore, the County's manager of corporate initiatives, said the renderings are still at the 60 per cent stage, leaving room for changes as the detailed designs are completed.

She said staff will meet with the Heritage Committee to explore how historical storytelling could be incorporated into the project.

Coun. John Bell asked when the remaining designs would reach the 100 per cent stage.

David Mellor, the County's general manager of operations, said staff are targeting early next year for detailed design completion, though some issues still need to be worked through around hydro servicing on Broadway Street West and Mechanic Street.

"We are targeting detailed design early next year but there are some unknowns we are working through on Broadway and Mechanic related to hydro servicing," Mellor said. "So, we just want to make sure we get that right before we proceed."

The County is also considering a pause on work along Mechanic Street next year to give downtown businesses and residents a break from construction.

No further details were provided on that potential pause.

Bell also asked staff to consider accessible parking closer to Grand River Street North as future plans are developed.

Parking is expected to be one of the next major public conversations connected to the downtown plan.

The County's preliminary parking needs assessment found the downtown system is at or nearing capacity during peak periods. The report notes that municipal surface parking currently takes up nearly 2.6 acres,



Conceptual renderings show the current 60 per cent design vision for future streetscape improvements on Broadway Street West and Mechanic Street. The plans remain subject to change as the County of Brant completes detailed design work, expected in early 2027.

or about 10 per cent of the downtown core.

The 2019 master plan had proposed a parking structure behind council chambers, but that location received negative feedback from residents concerned it would not be convenient for short visits downtown. Staff are now exploring alternate locations and future parking infrastructure options.

The report also raises the possibility of changes to parking operations, including permit or paid parking models. Gilmore said those discussions are still in the early stages and would not occur until late 2027 or early 2028.

She said the County included the language in the update because parking infrastructure is only one part of the issue, with operations and programming also needing to be considered.

Gilmore said any future changes would involve public engagement and require council approval.

MacAlpine said he had "strong reservations" about the possibility of parking structures, arguing they could negatively affect the community.

Adam Crozier, the County's general manager of strategic initiatives, said staff recognize those concerns and do not envision a downtown Paris structure resembling parking facilities in larger centres such as Brantford or Hamilton.

He said any structure would require significant thought because of its location in downtown Paris, but noted the community has a limited geographic footprint and will need to balance parking needs as the downtown continues to shift from its industrial past to a more commercial core.

"It will be visually attractive and thoughtfully planned," Crozier said.

Beyond streetscape and parking work, the next phase of the master plan includes continued community engagement, land-use planning decisions, a traffic impact study, further work on the Downtown Paris zoning project and the possible introduction of a community planning permit system.

The report does not set final budgets, construction schedules or procurement plans for future phases.

Those details are expected to come back to council for consideration as detailed design and planning advance in 2027 and beyond.

The full progress update is intended to provide residents, businesses and property owners with a clearer picture of how streetscape reconstruction, parking, future development, flood planning and downtown operations fit together as the Downtown Dig moves into its next stage.

Councillor withdraws resolution ahead of public hearings

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A proposed motion calling on the province to defer the municipal boundary adjustment process between the County of Brant and the City of Brantford was withdrawn last Tuesday night after Coun. Jennifer Kyle raised concerns it could unintentionally cancel an upcoming statutory public meeting.

Kyle introduced the notice of motion to formally acknowledge concerns raised by residents about the process and the timing of the proposed airport land boundary adjustment.

"When I brought forward this notice of motion I did so because I believed that it was important to formally acknowledge the concerns many residents had raised about the process and I do continue to believe those concerns are legitimate," Kyle said.

She said she did not regret bringing the resolution forward, adding its purpose was to ensure those concerns were discussed publicly.

"The purpose of the motion was to ensure those concerns were brought forward and discussed publicly and I do believe that objective has been achieved," she said.

Earlier in the meeting, Travis Welch, founder of the Brant Civic Accountability Association, appeared as a delegate in support of Kyle's motion. Welch said the issue was not whether the County of Brant and City of Brantford should continue discussions or work together on future opportunities and challenges.

"The question tonight is much simpler. Why must this decision be advanced now?" Welch said.

He said residents have raised questions over the past several months, including at a public open house, through Brantford's Let's Talk platform and in letters to elected officials. Welch said a consistent concern has been that newly elected councils should be involved in a decision of that magnitude.

He also questioned why the matter was

moving forward during the summer months and shortly before a municipal election.

Kyle said she understood residents were already preparing to participate in the upcoming statutory public meeting and said it was important to preserve every opportunity for them to be heard.

However, she said passing the motion could create a risk if the province did not respond before the statutory timeline took effect.

If the motion was to pass tonight and no response was received from the province before the statutory timeline takes effect, there would be a risk that that opportunity for those folks to speak and to be heard would be lost, Kyle explained.

She added that the County has advocated vigorously on behalf of residents throughout the process.

"For these reasons I would actually like to withdraw the motion for tonight," she said.

Coun. Ella Haley asked Kyle to clarify why she was withdrawing the motion. Kyle said that if council passed a resolution requesting a deferral and the province did not respond within the required timeline, the statutory public meeting scheduled for early July could be cancelled, effectively removing the public's opportunity to speak.

Chief Administrative Officer Allison Newton confirmed notices for the statutory public meeting were going out shortly. She said if the process was put on hold, the notices would be put on hold, essentially jeopardizing the meeting from taking place without proper notification.

Haley asked whether the meeting could be held later if council voted to seek more time.

Newton said she could ask, if directed by council, but could not say whether the City of Brantford would agree.

Haley said she supported the motion because she agreed the public had not been given an opportunity for meaningful input and discussion. However, with the motion withdrawn, no further debate took place.

The statutory public meeting is expected to proceed in early July.

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE ICE CREAM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



**Ayr Farmers
Mutual
Insurance Company**

TOUR STOPS

PARIS: TUESDAY, JULY 7 FROM 11:30AM - 2:00PM

DRUMBO: THURSDAY, JULY 9 FROM 11:30AM - 2:00PM

ST. GEORGE: TUESDAY, JULY 14 FROM 11:30AM - 2:00PM

INNERKIP: FRIDAY, JULY 17 FROM 3:30PM - 6:00PM

AYR: SUNDAY, JULY 19 FROM 11:30AM - 2:00PM

3 STEPS TO



1

WE BRING THE ICE CREAM

FREE. NO CATCH. JUST GOOD NEIGHBOURS
DOING NEIGHBOURLY THINGS.

2

YOU SHOW UP, AND ENJOY

COME SAY HI. GRAB A SCOOP. SOAK UP
SUMMER WITH US.

3

AND IF YOU WANT, GIVE A LITTLE BACK

DONATIONS WELCOME FOR A LOCAL CAUSE
THAT MATTERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

FREE SCOOPS FROM:



DRUMBO
INNERKIP
AYR



PARIS
ST. GEORGE

**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR LOCATIONS
& COMMUNITY PARTNERS**
OR VISIT AYRMUTUAL.COM



Support us on
patreon

Paid subscriptions available at:

www.patreon.com/TheParisIndependent

Send emails to:

sales@theparis-independent.com or call: 519-757-5662

The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

Sensity, Red Sox partnership brings deafblind awareness to the ballpark

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Baseball became a platform for education and inclusion as Sensity partnered with the Brantford Red Sox for a special Deafblind Awareness at the Ballpark event on June 26, marking National Deafblind Awareness Month with an evening dedicated to raising awareness and celebrating the deafblind community.

The event, held for the second consecutive year, featured a ceremonial first pitch, interactive activities and opportunities for fans to learn more about the experiences of people who are deafblind. A portion of ticket proceeds and proceeds from baseball bingo sales supported Sensity's programs. Organizers said they were pleased with both the turnout and the number of people who stopped to learn more throughout the evening.

The evening opened with remarks from Frances Graham, Sensity's director of fund development, before Ameer, an individual supported by Sensity, took the field alongside his intervenor, Lisa, to throw the ceremonial first pitch.

Fans also took part in a Blindfold Base Run Challenge, designed to demonstrate how intervenors help people who are deafblind navigate their surroundings and communicate with others. Later in the game, the stadium participated in a Silent Inning, encouraging spectators to reflect on communicating without sound while gaining a greater appreciation for the experiences of individuals who are deafblind. Trivia con-

tests and baseball bingo rounded out the awareness activities.

Sensity is a registered non-profit organization that supports individuals who are deafblind and those requiring sensory supports through specialized intervenor services, accessible housing, family supports and life-skills programming. The organization also has a local presence in Paris, operating a location on Main Street that supports individuals within the community. For more than 50 years, Sensity has provided services to children, youth, adults and seniors across Ontario.

Deafblindness combines varying degrees of both vision and hearing loss, affecting how people access information, communicate and interact with the world around them. While every individual's experience is different, many rely on intervenors — specially trained professionals who act as their "eyes and ears," providing environmental information, communication support and greater independence.

June is recognized as National Deafblind Awareness Month, and Noelle Austin, communications and event coordinator with Sensity, said community events like the Red Sox game play an important role in building understanding.

"Deafblind Awareness at the Ballpark is an important opportunity to champion inclusion, build understanding, and celebrate people who are deafblind in our community," Austin said. "Hosting this event at a Brantford Red Sox game creates a welcoming space where people can come together, connect, and take part in a shared



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)

Ameer, a Sensity resident, throws the game's first pitch during Deafblind Awareness night at the ballpark.

experience."

She said participating in activities such as attending the game or throwing the ceremonial first pitch helps build confidence, participation and a sense of belonging for the people Sensity supports.

Austin noted that many people who are deafblind face barriers communicating, accessing information and navigating public spaces independently. Because the disability is often misunderstood, community education remains an important part of Sensity's work.

"We hope attendees leave with a deeper understanding of deafblindness and the importance of accessibility and inclusion," she said. "We also hope they feel inspired to take action."

Austin added that support from fundraising events helps ensure Sensity can continue providing intervenor services while expanding affordable, accessible housing opportunities that promote greater independence and dignity for people who are deafblind.

The evening was a win all around, with the Brantford Red Sox capping off the night by treating fans to a thrilling 14-13 victory over the Chatham-Kent Barnstormers, sending the hometown crowd home with another reason to celebrate.



Sensity staff and volunteers welcomed fans at their information booth during the Brantford Red Sox game on June 26, sharing resources and raising awareness about deafblindness as part of Deafblind Awareness Month. A portion of ticket proceeds from the evening supported Sensity's programs and services.



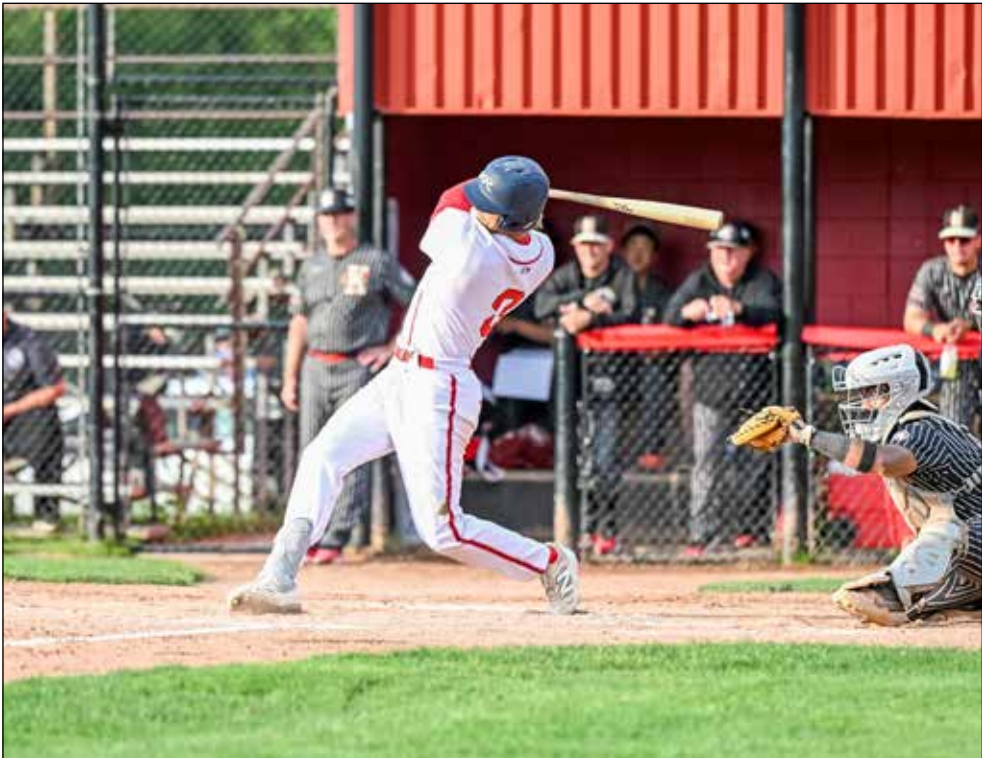
A Sensity intervenor assist a young fan taking part in the blindfold baseball bat challenge between innings.



More than a dozen residents from Sensity's Paris and Brantford homes attended the Brantford Red Sox game in support of Deafblind Awareness month.

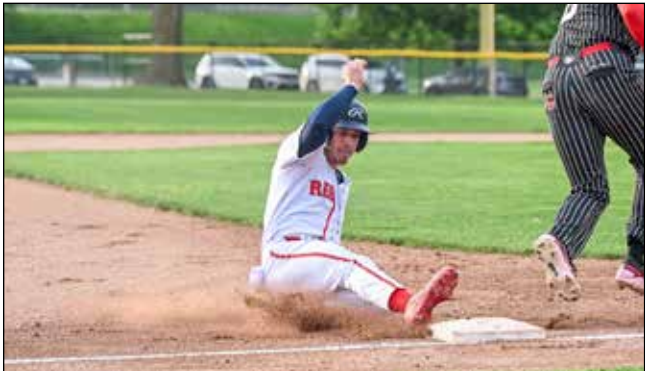


Chris Ortega slides into home on a Nick Iannantone hard line drive double to left field.



Walker Hultgren singles to centre field on a hard line drive, picking up an RBI.

(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)



Jakob Cantor slides into third base on a Christian Ortega hit in the second inning.



Young fans play basketball ball between innings.



Cassidy Watt catches a pitch from teammate Colbey Klepper in the first inning after a Chatham-Kent batter swings and misses.



Cassidy Watts takes a swing a pitch.



A young fan tries his hand at cornhole.



One of two Brantford Red Sox ball/bat boys shakes hands with the Homeplate umpire at the start of the game.

Second half of Dusters season set to begin

SID LUCKMAN

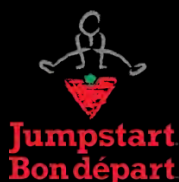
Paris Independent Contributor

As Canada Day is a celebration of being in a great nation, so Thursdays at 5:30 pm is becoming that for hockey dreams that die. Or do they? It's pretty clear that Dusters Hockey has made a place for these dreams to resuscitate! The pace may not be as fast, but the dreams are certainly moving.

Thanks go to Brian Kenney, who rounded out the numbers with son Cameron. The Kenney men carved up the ice with flare.

If one is to gauge another's greatness, it is said that one needs an advocate. Or in the case of Kenny Muf-

fin, just be your own advocate. As Ken was quoted, "Kenny is back" and with a plus /minus of -5, he sure is. He battled through injury and self-imposed hockey exile to reach those heights. Player of the week is hockey stick entrepreneur Blairburton. It should be noted that Blairburton is man of ethics who...returned a lost stick to wee Matt Papple. Dear Matt was found sobbing in the lobby, but Blairburton brought back the lost twig and saved the lad's game! Well done, Blairburton. And so June wrapped up with another 2-2 tie at the BSC. July 2, the second half of Duster Hockey season gets underway. The Duster Social will be on July 2, after the game at 6:45 pm. If you may like to join in or off the ice, just email JY at offsideyoung@gmail.com



The Paris Independent

CANADIAN TIRE PARIS



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Athlete of the Month honoured for defensive excellence



CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

For most athletes, it takes years to discover a sport they truly connect with. For 13-year-old Parker O'Kafka, of Paris, it took just one season of flag football.

Playing his first year with the Brantford Bisons U14

flag football program, Parker quickly became one of the team's standout defensive players, using his speed and instincts to make game-changing plays.

"I really like the adrenaline of the game, especially when you get an interception or touchdown by working well with your team. I also really liked playing with the kids on my team, so it was fun."

Parker credits the Bisons coaching staff with making his introduction to the sport an enjoyable one, creating a sense of team.

Everyone played well together and were encouraged to learn new plays and tactics. Parker really loved the environment that was fostered, and it made him love the game, he said.

On the defensive side of the ball, Parker's combination of speed and anticipation helped him become one of the team's top playmakers. His ability to read opposing quarterbacks led to several interceptions throughout the season.

One play, however, stands above the rest.

"We were losing by one point, there were two plays left and we were down by one point," Parker recalled. "I got an interception and ran the ball back about 30 yards, when my flag got pulled. Then on the next play I was on offense and caught the ball for the winning touchdown. It was so exciting!"

While flag football has quickly become a favourite, Parker enjoys staying active year-round. At school, he competes on the basketball, badminton, baseball, volleyball and soccer teams, and even looks forward to playing sports during recess.

"I love to play lots of different sports," he shared.

Basketball is also his favourite sport to watch, with NBA star Victor Wembanyama topping the list of athletes he admires.

He also enjoys attending live sporting events, cheering on the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Brantford Bulldogs and KW Titans.

Paris Duffers: Chicken Lost His Ball and Stones Lost His Chicken...

GREIG GRAHAM AKA GG

Paris Independent Contributor

In yet another episode of "Did You See Where My Ball Went" Chicken wondered aloud about Bergie's fashion sense, J became fiscally responsible and questions still swirl regarding the Sobeys encounter. Lots to unpack here.

In the first encounter of the day Dino and Dr. Fever had Jacquer and Bergy on the ropes at 18 as Feve stuck their third shot inside of two feet. In a dramatic ending, Jacquer sunk a forty footer to ensure a tie. In threesome action Cutter not only took on Chicken and Brownie but also gave them a three shot handicap. This proved costly since the dynamic duo beat him by a single stroke. I'm sure Cutter

won't be as generous next time. In the meantime Kopper and Big Al seemed to be the favorites against Fergy and Double G until the 16th when the underdogs got their groove back finishing with eagle, birdie and par to win by two. Following that Willie and Enzo won outright over J and Hoogs. When asked why they didn't press the last hole J replied "we weren't going to get stuck paying for two bottles of milk."

It seems the upcoming new start time of 12:15 is already creating confusion amongst a group of guys that can't even decide what to have for breakfast and was that Griselda from The Hilarious House of Frightenstein online promoting the Branch 29 Legion's drag bingo night?

Until next week, keep em in the fairways.



PARIS YOUTH SOFTBALL

SCORES FOR JUNE 12 – JUNE 20

June 12

U9 Co-ed Team 1 lose 10-2 against Ayr

June 13

U9 Co-ed Team 3 lose 13-1 against Princeton/Drumbo/Plattsville

June 15

U11 Co-ed Team 1 lose 16-11 against Hickson

U11 Co-ed Team 2 lose 17-11 against Norwich/Otterville

U13 Co-ed loses 14-2 against Cambridge

June 16

U11 Girls lose 15-12 against Dundas C

U9 Co-ed Team 1 lose 2-1 against Innerkip

U9 Co-ed Team 3 win 6-5 against Burford

U15 Boys lose 18-3 against Cambridge

June 17

U13 Girls lose 10-9 against Lynden B

U9 Co-Ed Team 3 wins 10-5 against U9 Co-Ed Team 2

U11 Co-Ed Team 2 lose 15-10 against Norwich/Otterville

June 18

U15 Boys lose 8-7 against Embro

U17 Co-Ed lose 13-6 against Norwich/Otterville

June 20

U9 Co-Ed Team 1 wins 9-3 against Burford

SPONSORS

No Frills, Savory Electric, MAK, Home Building Centre, Sika, Paris Lions Club, Paris Optimist Club, Canadian Tire Paris, Paris Firefighters Club, Brant Family Eye Care

GUESS WHO ?

I was born in 2007 in Whitehorse, Yukon, and quickly became one of Canada's top young hockey players. Known for my speed, skill, and playmaking ability, I impressed fans and scouts from an early age.

Playing junior hockey with the Medicine Hat Tigers, I earned national attention and represented Canada on the international stage. In 2026, my dream came true when I was selected first overall in the NHL Draft.

Who am I?

Answer: Gavin McKenna

County collects \$14.6M in development charges in 2025

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

County of Brant collected more than \$14.5 million in development charges in 2025, with the funds earmarked to help pay for infrastructure and services needed to accommodate growth.

Council received the annual Treasurer's Statement on Development Charges as a consent item during its June 23 meeting. The report, prepared by Heather Bailey, manager of budgets and long-term financial planning, is required annually under the Development Charges Act.

Development charges are fees collected from new development to help municipalities fund growth-related capital needs, including roads, water and wastewater infrastructure, parks, recreation facilities, fire protection and libraries.

The County collected \$14.59 million in development charges during 2025 and transferred \$13.16 million from development charge reserve funds to capital projects. After adjustments, transfers and interest, the County's total development charge reserve balance stood at \$17.17 million at the end of the year.

However, the statement also shows the

County had \$41.6 million in development charge commitments for approved projects at year-end, leaving an overall available balance of negative \$24.43 million once those commitments were considered.

The largest amount collected in 2025 was for roads and public works, which brought in \$4.73 million. Sanitary sewer charges accounted for another \$2.92 million, while water charges totalled \$2.93 million. Parks and recreation collected \$2.27 million in development charges during the year.

The County's roads and public works reserve ended 2025 with a balance of \$3.73 million, but had \$12.86 million committed to approved projects. Major road-related projects supported through development charges include the Highway 403 interchange and Rest Acres Road improvements, Rest Acres Road widening, King Edward Street improvements, Grand River Street North reconstruction and the Iarocci Boulevard connection.

The Grand River Street North reconstruction project had used more than \$7.97 million in development charge funding by the end of 2025, with \$383,054 in unspent development charge commitments remaining. The project's approved funding sources total \$22.85 million, including develop-

ment charges, general fund contributions, debt, grants and other contributions.

Water services ended the year with a negative reserve balance of \$4.84 million and \$10.48 million in capital commitments. The statement identifies several major water-related projects, including the St. George additional water source, Grand River Street North watermain work, the Paris elevated tank, Cainsville watermain upgrades and a watermain crossing near Highway 403 and Pottruff Road.

Sanitary sewer reserves closed the year with a balance of \$5.54 million, while approved project commitments totalled \$5.7 million.

Projects listed in the statement include the St. George wastewater pollution control plant expansion, Grand River Street North sanitary sewer upgrades, the Paris wastewater treatment plant expansion, Cainsville pumping station work and sewer upgrades in several communities.

Parks and recreation had the largest positive available balance among the major service categories, with \$10.86 million available after accounting for \$1.55 million in capital commitments. Development charge funding is allocated to projects including the Paris skatepark's second phase,

the Grandville Phase 3/Arlington Park and splash pad project, trails in Burford and Paris, the Brant Sports Complex addition and municipal gymnasium, and future park amenities.

The statement also identifies significant commitments for a new Paris library and Bawcutt Centre. While the library reserve ended 2025 with a balance of \$2.64 million, the County had \$2.25 million in capital commitments and \$13.26 million in approved development charge debt funding for the project.

Fire protection reserves remained in a negative position at the end of the year, with a balance of negative \$867,338 and \$4.43 million committed to approved projects.

Those commitments include the new North Paris fire station and equipment planned for the facility, including a light rescue vehicle, pumper and tanker-pumper.

The annual statement is prepared in accordance with provincial legislation and County development charge bylaws.

It will be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing by July 15 and posted on the County of Brant website for public access.

The Treasurer's Statement is unaudited.

Answer the call.

Volunteer with Ontario Corps.

Sign up at ontario.ca/OntarioCorps

Paid for by the Government of Ontario



Ontario 

Notice of Council Meeting

Recommendation for **Downtown Paris Zoning**

Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 4:00 pm

Meetings are open to the public at County of Brant Council Chambers, 7 Broadway Street West, Paris

Council meetings can also be viewed live on the County of Brant YouTube Channel at [brant.ca/Live](https://www.brant.ca/Live)

The County of Brant is considering a zoning by-law amendment for select municipally owned parking lots and nearby lands in Downtown Paris as part of the ongoing Downtown Paris Zoning Project.

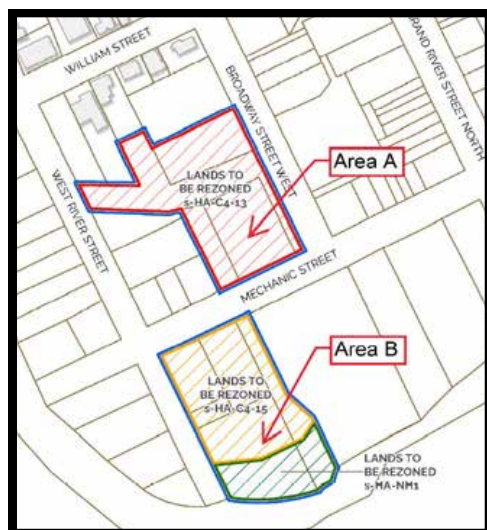
At this meeting, Council will consider a recommendation to approve zoning permissions for:

Area A

a future mixed-use development site;

Area B

a future parking structure and public open space area.



Changes have been made to the proposed zoning since the public information meeting held in May 2026 to address comments and feedback received from the community.

Council will also discuss how these lands are proposed to be regulated under the County's new zoning system, known as the Community Planning Permit System (CPPS). No decisions are being made on a specific development proposal at this time.

Learn more and share your feedback!

If you would like to speak at this Council meeting, please register as a delegation at [brant.ca/delegation](https://www.brant.ca/delegation) or email clerks@brant.ca

Residents are invited to submit comments or ask questions, and learn more by visiting the Engage Brant project page at

[EngageBrant.ca/DTPZoning](https://www.engagebrant.ca/DTPZoning)

Email: policy@brant.ca

Mail/In-Person: 66 Grand River St. N, Paris, ON. N3L 2M2

Call: 519.44BRANT (442.7268) or 1.226.387.9360

Fax: 519.442.3461



The spirit of Paris, nicknames, lifelong friends, and Canada Day

STONES Around Town

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

Hello again, everyone! As summer takes off and school lets out, I want to wish a very Happy Canada Day to you all.

If you are from Paris, or have been here a while, you have probably noticed that almost everyone has a nickname. Whether it's Cutter, GG, Face, or Big Al, local names are either derivatives of your real name or just given to you at a specific moment in time. Just last week, Bergie and I were given new ones for whatever reason—read between the lines! We were called "Goombas." It doesn't matter why, but hats off to Chicken. From Jay Bird, Birdy, Novy, and Croosh, to by golly, even a Brownie or Bo—whatever comes up at the time sticks. Personally, I've got so many nicknames I sometimes forget my own! Take "Wrayzer Kedge," for example; he's a great friend, and the nickname fits just as tightly as our friendship.

Speaking of friends, I want to send a special RIP to our friend Bruce Poland, and to Mrs. Tipping, who is with Tommy now. And for memorial's sake, remembering Shirley Robb and Rhonda Graham. Friends and loved ones may pass, but the memories we shared will always remain.

Then there is Motor. He's still riding his e-bike strong, but I understand he has training wheels now after a couple of recent wipeouts! Mike Bike and The Kick Stands have assured me Motor needs to attend the local bike rodeo.

Lately, I've witnessed so many acts of generosity and kindness around town. It truly warms your heart, so keep on keeping on and spread that joy around. I caught a glimpse of Bonner, as well as Mary and Gord Toews. Gord's dad was Mr. Toews, who taught typing at PDHS—it really is a small world that begins with a simple hello. Take Matthew and Emily, for example: a newlywed couple who met, dated, got married, and now live right here in Paris. They are rockstars, starting their lives together and loving this town.

A big hello goes out to Wayne Stephenson, local businessman and former councillor—good guy extraordinaire. I also crossed paths with Levi from Simcoe, driving a fuel truck over at Hill Tire. Then there's Wafa and Saeed, what a lovely couple. They've been here a couple of years now and are loving the paper. Wafa, RIP to your Mom—but not to worry, you're in Paris now, and with a little time, a nickname will come your way!

I finally had a visit with Gary Graham. He has some beautiful cars and is a mem-

ber of the Piston Pushers with Del and Dick Remus. Between them, Horsfall, Fowler, and the rest of the crew, these guys really know their cars. Good to see you back, kid.

Meanwhile, Creed says I "broke" his dog because it won't growl at me anymore. I'm a dog whisperer, fella! I also played a round of golf with Eric Watson ("Big E") and Big Mack of the Fergus clan—see, more new nicknames assigned on the spot. They may have won the game, but we all won because we made a new friendship. Pam Lewis, keep smiling because you make a difference, and Eddy, you're a gem—pardon the pun. Enjoy the World Cup of Soccer, and Go Canada!

On a sadder note: MIA! My rubber chicken, Randy, is missing. How am I supposed to get through the next five years of construction catch-up and other local stresses without him? As I think about how fast life moves, something a friend said recently stayed with me. Back in the day, we always knew what "class" we were in. Today, when people can feel so divided, I find it hard to believe anyone would care what political party you belong to, or let that define a friendship. Healthy discussion is great, but who cares about class? Rich or poor, I couldn't care less. Your value is in your heart and your character.

It's like calling someone an "acquaintance." Keep it simple—they are still a friend! "Friend" has a much better ring to it, and maybe we shouldn't minimize relationships that way. I may not see Kelly Galloway, Monica Berg, Janet Stokes, or Anita Boos all the time, but they are friends for life. Growing up, it seemed like we met our parents' friends and they naturally became our friends, too. Andy Moran adopted me along the way, and Billy Robb became my "Step Uncle" just because I thought it would be good for Bill! Billy B and Nancy B are friends to all—just great people spreading joy and happiness. I also cherish the friendships I have with the Stewart boys, the Oldroyds, and the Hogarth ladies (thank you, by the way—you guys are the bridges for us now). Ron and Sandy are like parents to me, Dickie and Darlene Cox are still singing on, and then there is Attlestew.

As life unfolds and challenges come your way, reach out to friends and give someone a new nickname along the way—could be Freddy or Harvey. Remember, the Cosmic Baker may have taken some of us out of the oven a little too early, but we all bring something special to the table.

Please enjoy and have a safe summer. Make some memories, go to the Paris pool, or grab a canoe and make your way down the Grand River from the Glen—it's a true rite of passage, and I just may see you along the way. If you do, wave, shout hello, and spread the spirit of Paris and the County as you go. All will be well.

Happy Canada Day, and all the best to the friends we have—and the friends yet to come. Nickname or not!

Riddles

I appear after a storm, stretching
across the sky with many colours,
but you can never reach me.

What am I?
A Rainbow

--

I can be spread on your skin, but I'm
not lotion. I help protect you from
something you cannot see.

What am I?
Sunscreen

--

I provide shade on sunny days, but
I'm not a tree. You'll often find me at
the beach.

What am I?
An Umbrella

--

I glow in the evening and disappear
by morning. Children love chasing
me on warm summer nights.

What am I?
A Firefly

--

I'm frozen when you buy me, but if
you wait too long on a hot day, I'll
disappear.

What am I?
A Popsicle



Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 18

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

KINGSTON

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Kingston and the Paris Veterinary Clinic would like to wish you a very Happy Canada Day!

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



Word Search



FARMERS MARKET

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

- APPLE
- APRICOT
- BASKET
- BERRY
- BLUEBERRY
- CARROT
- CHERRY
- CORN
- CUCUMBER
- GARLIC
- GRAPES
- HONEY
- JAM
- LETTUCE
- MELON
- ONION
- PEACH
- PEAR
- PEPPER
- PLUM
- POTATO
- TOMATO
- WATERMELON
- ZUCCHINI
- MARKET

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HEATING



Wise Heating and A/C Ltd.
Serving Paris and area for over 70 years

519-442-3431
info@wiseheating.ca

MECHANIC



50 Curtis Ave N, Paris
519-442-4422

Proudly Serving Paris & Area
for the past 40 years

RESTAURANT



Homemade Burger & Fries
ONLY \$12 - Tuesdays
Dine-in with beverage purchase

CALL 519.442.2704
27 DUMFRIES ST, PARIS

SAND & GRAVEL



Locally owned and operated by a proud Canadian family since 1947
Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 7am-5pm
519-621-0771

LOCATED AT 1368 BEKE ROAD
CAMBRIDGE, ON N1R 5S5

ROOFING



PARIS ROOFING

519-442-0492

PLUMBING & HEATING



Plumbing, Heating & Excavating Inc.
Princeton, ON
Water Treatment | Wells & Pumps | Septic Services | Bin Rentals | Directional Drilling

Now Offering Full Electrical Services
ECRAESA-97018760

519-458-4488 | info@hunterplumbing.ca | www.hunterplumbing.ca

FUNERAL HOME



Jason J. Vernoooy

PARIS CHAPEL 519-442-3061
AYR CHAPEL 519-632-8228

wkfh@rogers.com | wmkipppfuneralhome.com

HEATING & COOLING



COMFORT PLUS HEATING AND COOLING

Air Conditioning • Heating • Gas
Fireplaces • Indoor Air Quality • Air
Cleaners • Ventilation • Custom Ductwork
• Tankless Water Heaters • Maintenance
Plans • Installation and Services

24 Hour Service

Brantford - (519) 752-2250
166 Grant St., Brantford, ON N3R 4B9
info@comfortplusheatandcool.com

DECOR



SALES DECORATING CENTRE
"MORE THAN JUST A PAINT STORE"

MORE THAN JUST A PAINT STORE

MONDAY - SATURDAY 8 a.m - 3 p.m.
42 Grand River St, North
519-442-3152

ACCESS & PARKING AT BACK OF STORE

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD HERE!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO!

CUSTOM STONE FABRICATION



BGGQ BRANTFORD GRANITE & QUARTZ

519-442-1400 | 535-B PARIS RD, PARIS
WWW.BGQ.CA

PHARMACY



COMMUNITY HUB PHARMACY

25 Curtis Ave N., Paris
(Located in the Cowan Community Health Hub)
Tel: 519-750-1264

Independently Owned and Operated

DELIVERY AVAILABLE • PARIS' ONLY COMPOUNDING PHARMACY

CLASSIFIEDS

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WANTED

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 159 years old | 6. Lacrosse & Hockey |
| 2. North American Beaver | 7. Battle of Vimy Ridge |
| 3. Sir John A. Macdonald | 8. 1999 |
| 4. Rocky Mountains | 9. Gord Downie |
| 5. Confederation | 10. Terry Fox |

PHARMACY



NORTHVILLE PHARMACY

Independently Owned Pharmacy
Serving Paris & Area Since 1998

300 Grand River Street N., Paris
Tel: 519-442-4283

Built around having what you need & delivering the service you deserve.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

MEMORIES AND MILESTONES

Share them with your local community.

Let us help create a meaningful announcement:

info@theparisdependent.com



HOMES OF HEROES:

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



WEEKLY Horoscope

July 1 - July 7 2026

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Motivation rises, Aries. A positive surprise encourages confidence and forward movement. Stay determined—it helps you seize opportunities and build success ahead.



TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

Stability returns, Taurus. Consistent efforts bring comfort and growing confidence. Remain patient—it encourages progress and supports favorable outcomes ahead.



GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21

Ideas flow freely, Gemini. An unexpected conversation sparks inspiration and curiosity. Stay open-minded—it encourages growth and reveals exciting possibilities ahead.



CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

Support surrounds you, Cancer. A heartfelt moment brings reassurance and connection. Trust your instincts—it strengthens relationships and encourages harmony ahead.



LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Energy increases, Leo. A rewarding opportunity showcases your abilities and enthusiasm. Stay optimistic—it attracts support and encourages lasting success ahead.



VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

Practical plans help, Virgo. A steady approach brings clarity and accomplishment. Trust your efforts—it encourages progress and strengthens valuable connections ahead.



LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23

Balance improves, Libra. A welcome resolution encourages cooperation and understanding. Stay flexible—it strengthens relationships and supports positive developments ahead.



SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

Focus sharpens, Scorpio. Careful decisions reveal advantages and fresh opportunities. Trust your judgment—it encourages success and steady advancement ahead.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21

Adventure calls, Sagittarius. A new experience inspires optimism and enthusiasm. Follow your instincts—it encourages discovery and meaningful growth ahead.



CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20

Persistence pays off, Capricorn. Consistent effort brings encouraging progress and stability. Stay committed—it supports achievement and rewarding results ahead.



AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18

Fresh ideas emerge, Aquarius. An inspiring opportunity gains interest and momentum. Trust yourself—it encourages innovation and exciting developments ahead.



PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

A meaningful interaction brings comfort. Trust your intuition—it encourages balance and supportive connections ahead.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 1

Dan Aykroyd, Actor (74)

JULY 2

Lindsay Lohan, Actress (40)

JULY 3

Tom Cruise, Actor (64)

JULY 4

Post Malone, Musician (31)

JULY 5

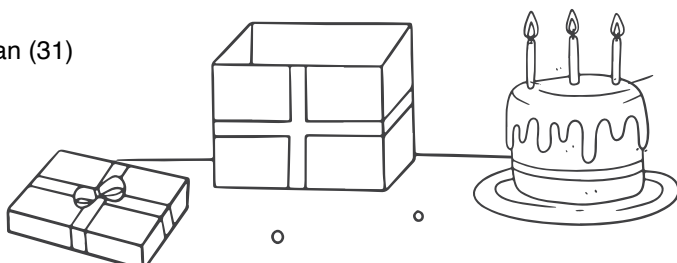
Edie Falco, Actress (63)

JULY 6

Kevin Hart, Comedian (47)

JULY 7

Ringo Starr, Musician (86)



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

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!

THURSDAY, JULY 9

Men's Probus Club of Brantford Monthly Meeting - will be held on Thursday, July 9, 10:00 a.m. till noon, at Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course, 320 Balmoral Drive with keynote speaker Dmitri Pasricha, founder and Cyber Security Coach at TechSet, with over 18 years in the profession, who will be speaking to us on cyber security. 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, website: brantfordprobus.ca. Mailing address: PO Box 26003, Brantford, N3R 7X4. Come join us.

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.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

Brantford's "One and Only Flower Show" - Come out and view Brantford's "One and Only Flower Show" on July 18th from 2 - 4:30 pm at the Lions Park Auditorium in Brantford. Free Admission, Everyone welcome.

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.

TROPICAL COSTA RICA

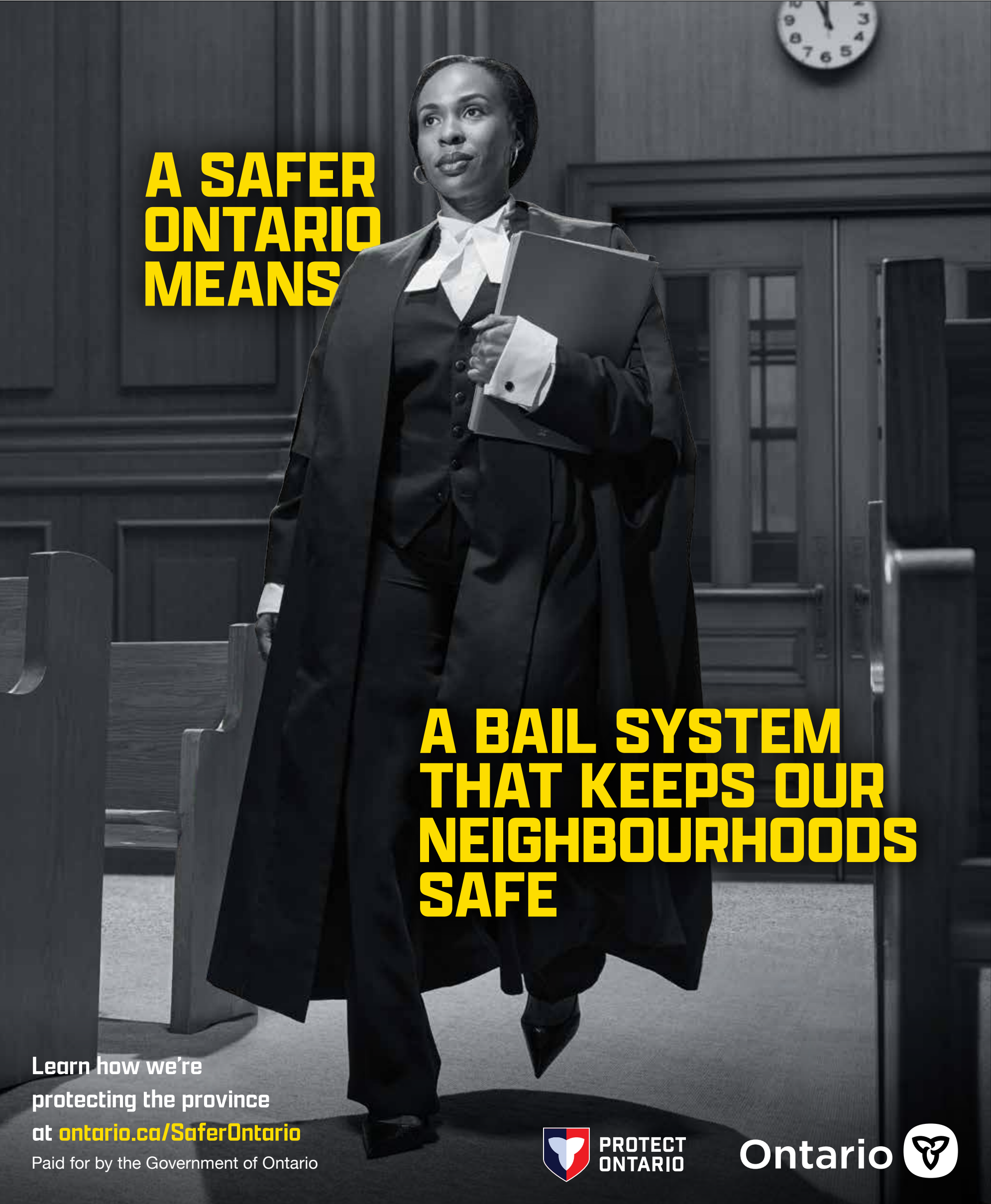
JANUARY 25 – FEBRUARY 2, 2027

STONETOWN TRAVEL

150 Queen St E, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4
519-284-2332 agent@stonetowntravel.com TICO#5003192

210 Mill St., New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9
226-333-9939 newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com TICO#5003193

www.stonetowntravel.com



**A SAFER
ONTARIO
MEANS**

**A BAIL SYSTEM
THAT KEEPS OUR
NEIGHBOURHOODS
SAFE**

Learn how we're
protecting the province
at ontario.ca/SaferOntario

Paid for by the Government of Ontario



**PROTECT
ONTARIO**

Ontario

