

The Paris Independent

Issue #212

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(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Paris native Zac Dalpe is pictured with his wife Cassandra and their three boys — Beau, Beckham and Brooks. Fresh off his retirement from professional hockey, Dalpe is embracing family life at home while stepping into his new role with the Seattle Kraken's player development team.

Zac Dalpe helps shape future NHL talent

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Paris hockey fans have a new reason to cheer for the Seattle Kraken. Hometown favourite Zac Dalpe, who recently retired from professional hockey, has landed a new role with the NHL club as a Player Development Consultant.

For Dalpe, who played more than 15 years of

professional hockey across the NHL and AHL, the job represents what he calls “a new beginning.”

“Transitioning out of playing, it’s like pulling back the curtain,” Dalpe said. “To still be involved in a game I’ve played my entire life with another NHL team is really cool. I was just out for camp for two weeks, sitting in GM and coaches’ meetings, and getting a crash course

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OPP report shows crime down, concerns raised at council

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Brant County OPP’s 2024 Annual Report showed encouraging declines in property crime and traffic fatalities, but councillors pressed police leaders last week about urban crime seeping into rural communities, bail reform, and a noticeable dip in officer presence.

Acting Inspector Jason McTaggart and Jennifer Haley, chair of the County’s OPP Detachment Board, presented the report at council on Tuesday Sept.23. The report detailed a 33 per cent reduction in property crimes last year, falling from 828 incidents in 2023 to 651 in 2024, along with a 57 per cent decrease in fatal collisions. Impaired driving charges also dropped, while youth engagement programs and mental-health response initiatives expanded across the county.

Coun. David Miller asked McTaggart if Brant was seeing more “big city stuff” such as gangs and illegal guns.

“Brant County is still very much a rural community, but we are seeing some of those larger city problems surfacing here; not to the extent as the cities are having, but for example vehicle thefts,” McTaggart said. He pointed to the strong turnout at the community safety night on Sept. 17 as evidence residents are taking

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SKIP THE DISHES

Paris’ own Zac Dalpe joins Seattle Kraken player development team

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on the other side of the curtain. It means a ton to be involved at a high capacity.”

The job, based out of Ontario, won’t mean uprooting his family or heavy travel. Instead, Dalpe will spend his time keeping an eye on prospects in driving distance, occasionally hopping on flights to places like Minnesota or North Dakota. His focus: building trust with players, helping evaluate their games, and guiding them toward an NHL roster spot.

“Whether it’s conversations, cutting video and going over their games, or getting on the ice to work on skills — the goal is to help get them into a Kraken uniform,” Dalpe said.

Dalpe admits deciding to hang up the skates wasn’t easy, but it was clear the time was right.

“Age, values and injuries were probably the three key things,” he said. “You have to weigh what’s important at this stage of your life — family is at the forefront, and your health.”

The move comes after a career marked not just by perseverance on the ice, but also by an outpouring of support from back home in Paris.

“It’s like a village to raise a hockey player,” Dalpe said. “When got to the NHL, the continued support people showed me definitely stood out. I’d get text messages all the time after games — sometimes when I felt like I didn’t play well — and those messages would brighten my mood. Getting this new job, those same people are reaching out again.”

Dalpe’s own career was built on determination. He never had the comfort of a long-term one-way NHL contract.

“I had to fight, scratch and claw to stay relevant in professional hockey,” he said. “Every year there’s a new wave of draft picks coming in.” So fifteen years of that experience, which he can relay to new prospects, is going to be really beneficial as



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)

Zac Dalpe shares a laugh with his longtime supporter Doug Green (left) while Dalpe’s sons proudly sport Florida Panthers jerseys at a jersey retirement event held at the Brant Sports Complex last year. In our September 24th edition, we mistakenly identified Doug as Tyler Pelton — our apologies, Doug! Thanks for being a good sport, both on and off the ice.

they find their way in. “That’s why this job appealed to me — I can pass that knowledge along and try to leave the game better than when I came in.”

Asked what advice he’d give young athletes in Brant County with NHL dreams, Dalpe kept it simple.

“You have to be the hardest working guy on the ice. That’s the only way I knew how to do it,” he said. “I feel I created my own luck that way. You need passion to want to do the work, and if you have those two things along with a great support system, you will get rewarded for your hard work.”

That support system has included life-

long friends like Doug Green, who Dalpe still counts as one of his biggest backers. “Doug’s one of those guys I talk about sending me encouraging messages,” he said with a laugh. “I met him in the rinks in

Paris, and now he’s my insurance agent and a friend. He’s always been such a great guy to our family.”

For Paris fans who watched his career from afar, Dalpe’s next chapter may look a little different — but he promises the same dedication and drive

that carried him through his playing days. “I’m excited to be part of forming this new team,” Dalpe said. “And to do it while still calling Ontario home is the best of both worlds.”

The Paris Independent

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Brant OPP report highlights crime drop, but councillors raise concerns about policing levels

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prevention seriously. “To your point yes we are seeing little bits of the city in the county, but we are definitely on top of it.”

Miller also raised the issue of bail reform, noting that “a small percentage of people out there commit most of the crimes.” Miller asked McTaggart, “Do you think bail reform will help reduce the amount of crime in Brant County?”

Absolutely, responded McTaggart. He cited the 2022 death of Norfolk County OPP Const. Greg Pierzchala, who was killed in the line of duty by someone on release, saying, “That sinks in to me. A member who lost his life by someone who should be locked up.” McTaggart urged councillors to push for stricter bail measures.

Coun. Christine Garneau questioned why policing hours dropped to 108,087 in 2024, down from 114,339 the previous year, and asked how the force is tracking this year.

McTaggart acknowledged the concern and said the detachment’s strategy unit is reviewing the numbers. “I think there is a number of opportunities to explore and provide some explanation to it,” he said. “I am looking into that to provide some con-

text to all of you to understand.”

Coun. John Bell wondered if staffing shortages contributed to the lower presence. McTaggart reassured council that staffing levels are “in good shape” and not the reason for the decline.

Bell also raised speeding complaints from residents. “The number of speeding offences last year were 25 per cent down compared to two years before that. And that seems wrong. I see more and more speeding and a lot of residents are irate about it,” he said.

McTaggart replied that speeding can be “perception based” without radar or speed-monitoring tools. He added that traffic enforcement remains part of officers’ daily duties, but acknowledged “some officers are more efficient at capturing speeders than others.”

Despite the concerns, the annual report outlined strong progress in crime prevention, youth outreach and mental-health partnerships. Haley praised the detachment’s leadership and stability during a year of transition under the new Community Safety and Policing Act, noting the importance of transparency and community trust.

Brant Council votes to defer green bin program to 2034

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant has approved its new Solid Waste Management Master Plan, but councillors remain divided over the decision to delay an organic waste and green bin program until 2034.

At the Sept. 23 council meeting, members endorsed staff’s recommendation to proceed with the master plan, which sets long-term targets for waste diversion and landfill management. The plan includes deferring the launch of an organics program for nearly a decade.

Councillor John Bell voiced strong opposition, arguing the county should expect a more thorough financial analysis before postponing the program.

“When we had this in committee I was opposed to this recommendation,” Bell said. “Last week staff brought forward a very well-argued case to purchase additional lands to extend Biggar’s landfill. My argument is we didn’t get the same type of cost analysis proposal for the green bin program. We are surrounded by municipalities that have already made this step.”

Bell introduced a motion to delay the council’s decision until staff provided a more detailed economic proposal. The motion was defeated, with only Bell and

Councillor Lukas Oakley supporting it.

Oakley said he was concerned the deferral ran contrary to the county’s stated environmental priorities.

“We have declared a climate emergency – and a climate action plan. All of this shows we should be prioritizing the green bin program,” he said. Oakley also referenced letters council received from Cobblestone Elementary School students urging the county to take action on organics diversion. The letters, which were formally received as communications by council and the mayor, urged leaders to take climate action, warning that “putting things off will only make it harder for our generation to solve” and those small changes, such as composting, could have “a big impact on the environment.”

“I thought it was poignant that kids in Grade 6, who are 12 years old, are requesting that we care for their future,” Oakley added. “By the time we have green bins, these 12-year-olds will have voted in a municipal election. It’s an irresponsible representation of our community leadership to allow it to go for so long.”

Despite the objections, council carried the staff recommendation to approve the overall Solid Waste Management Master Plan, which guides waste diversion and landfill strategies for the next 30 years

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Art show brings community together for Culture Days

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A new event is giving local artists a chance to showcase their work indoors while inviting the community to celebrate creativity as part of Culture Days.

The show, Art – a Community Treasure, will take place at the TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre on Sunday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is organized by Treasure Mattes owner Jocelyn Holland, who said the idea was inspired by a lack of indoor spaces for artists to display their work.

“We work with many customers who are artists, and over time we’ve witnessed a decline in indoor art spaces as several galleries have closed in our community,” Holland said. “Many artists have told us how discouraging it can be to find opportunities to showcase their work, especially for those who prefer not to participate in outdoor shows. When we attended an event at the TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre, we were struck by what a beautiful venue it is. It felt like the perfect setting to host an indoor art show and sale. This event is our way of supporting local talent and creating a welcoming space where the community can connect with

and celebrate artists.”

The show will feature 35 artists – several from Paris - and a wide range of mediums, from paintings and photography to textiles, printmaking, and Indigenous art.

“Visitors can look forward to an incredible variety of work... there’s truly something for everyone to enjoy — whether you’re a seasoned collector or just discovering the joy of bringing art into your life,” Holland said.

The event is free to attend and ties into the national Culture Days celebration, which aims to connect communities with local arts and culture.

“Culture Days is all about celebrating creativity and bringing people closer to the arts, and that’s exactly what we want this show to do,” Holland said.

Highlights will include an art auction with proceeds going to Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant. Artwork will also be available for purchase, with prices starting around \$50.

Holland said she hopes the show leaves visitors feeling inspired.

“We hope people leave feeling inspired and connected — both to the incredible talent of local artists and to each other,” she said. “Most of all, we want the community to feel proud of the artists who live and work right here in our region, and to see



Featured artwork from local creators will be showcased at Art – a Community Treasure, an indoor art show and sale taking place Oct. 5, 2025, at the TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre. The free event will feature 35 artists, with proceeds from an art auction supporting Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant.

how much value the arts bring to our everyday lives.”

If the first year is successful, Holland said organizers hope to make it an annual event.

“The best way to support is simply by coming out to the show and engaging

with the artists and their work,” she said. “Visitors can share the event with friends and family, purchase pieces that speak to them, or even participate in our art auction to benefit Glenhyrst. Every bit of support helps celebrate and sustain the incredible local talent in our community.”

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EDITORIAL

The Canada Post strike – a critical impasse



CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

September 25, 2025 - In a sudden turn of events, the union representing Canada's postal workers has declared a nationwide strike, leaving Canadians in a state of uncertainty and concern. This bold move followed the federal government's announcement of significant reforms to Canada Post, directing the cessation of home delivery and the closure of certain rural mail outlets.

The financial woes of Canada Post have been glaring, with substantial losses reported in recent years. The corporation faced a staggering 448-million-dollar loss before tax in the first half of 2025, despite a 1-billion-dollar injection by the government earlier this year to sustain operations. The closure of some rural mail outlets and the cessation of home delivery were proposed as measures to address these financial challenges.

The conflict between the government, Canada Post, and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) has reached a boiling point. While Canada Post welcomed the proposed changes, CUPW expressed outrage, viewing the reforms as an attack on the postal service and its workers. The union's decision to initiate a nationwide strike underscores the deep-seated grievances and the urgency of the situation.

The impact of this strike is far-reaching. Mail and parcel processing and deliveries have been halted, with service guarantees suspended. The disruption not only affects individuals awaiting important deliveries

but also has broader implications for businesses and government services reliant on postal operations. The specter of a backlog reminiscent of last year's holiday season strike looms large, signaling potential delays and inconveniences for Canadians.

At the heart of the matter lies a fundamental disagreement over the future of Canada Post. The union argues that the government's reforms are exacerbating conditions that dampen demand for postal services, while the government seeks to implement changes to stabilize the financial hemorrhage suffered by Canada Post.

As discussions unfold and tensions escalate, it is imperative for all stakeholders to find common ground for the greater good. Transparent dialogue, mutual understanding, and a commitment to addressing the concerns of postal workers are essential to navigating this impasse effectively. Canadians, too, must engage in this discourse, sharing their perspectives and insights on how the Canada Post strike impacts their daily lives and the need for home delivery.

The path forward remains uncertain, with the implementation of reforms such as the transition to community mailboxes and the potential closure of rural post offices looming on the horizon. While these changes may offer financial relief to Canada Post, they also raise questions about accessibility, service quality, and the future of traditional mail delivery in the digital age.

In the midst of this upheaval, it is crucial for all parties involved to prioritize constructive dialogue, seek equitable solutions, and uphold the integrity of Canada's postal service.

The outcome of this standoff will not only shape the future of Canada Post but also reflect the values of fairness, collaboration, and resilience that define Canadian society.

As the strike unfolds and the nation grapples with its repercussions, a spirit of unity, empathy, and pragmatism must guide our collective efforts to navigate this challenging chapter in Canada's postal history.

Letters to the Editor

ASE Cuts Could Cost Lives — and Millions in Taxpayer Dollars

Dear Editor:

Let me not bury the lede: the upcoming decision of the Ford government to strip municipalities of Automated Speed Enforcement as a safety tool will kill Ontarians, particularly children walking to our 31 schools and elderly residents crossing streets in our communities, and that blood will be on the hands of this government. Removing the cameras will result in higher speeds, and drastically higher costs to taxpayers to implement traffic calming measures that are a combination of less effective and more costly. Ironically, one of the other ways municipalities have been implementing traffic calming that also enhances the road way for other users have been bike lanes, which the Premier has also cracked down on. For a premier that has frequently advocated for more policing, stricter punishment of lawbreakers, and more, the sheer hypocrisy is astounding.

The data collected within the County of Brant, from more broadly across Ontario, and even internationally overwhelmingly and definitively show that speed cameras work to slow drivers, saving lives. From the County's own data collected from the first speed camera implemented on Silver Street in front of North Ward school, the number of speed incidents was cut in half (from over 12,000 speeders to 6,000 monthly). Further, the amount by which people were caught speeding was also reduced, from peak speeders dropping from over 100 km/h to 70km/h.

We also know that even small decreases in a vehicle's speed during a vehicle-pedestrian collision, has a drastic impact on the outcome of that crash. A pedestrian struck at 30 km/h has a 90% survival rate, versus an only 20% survival rate at 50 km/h. Considering that cameras can only be placed in provincially defined Community Safety Zones, like in front of schools and long term care homes, we are talking about protecting our most vulnerable neighbours.

Other communities' findings mirror this. York region has shown a 53% reduction in collisions where speed cameras

have been installed, and an 80.5% reduction in serious injuries. SickKids produced a study within the City of Toronto that showed a 45% reduction in speeding within school zones, with an 88% reduction in those drivers exceeding 20km/h over the limit. This is from, mind you, a traffic calming method that has no impact on the property tax payer, only on those who are breaking the law and endangering their neighbours.

To completely redesign the roadways in front of our schools to have speed bumps and curb extensions to slow traffic comes at a cost of around \$400,000-500,000 per kilometre. Assuming roughly a kilometre of roadway needs to be converted per school, and with 31 schools in the County, we are talking over 15 million dollars in additional road works, plus additional maintenance costs, that is now on the taxpayer to cover. All of these physical changes as well have been shown to only reduce speeding by 20%-30% versus the 45% of automated speed enforcement.

Of course the gold standard would be to implement both cameras and physical road changes, which is why most municipalities with speed enforcement cameras, including the County of Brant, have directed any excess funds from tickets towards road safety improvements. A combined program was an opportunity to have a positive feedback loop on community safety initiatives.

All in all, this decision by the Ford government to remove a tool that they put in place outright rather than working with municipalities and communities to fix gaps or oversights in implementation is short-sighted and reckless. Further, with the Premier and his caucus' interest in municipal affairs, I would like to remind him that next year is Ontario's municipal elections, and they are more than welcome to put their names forward to run, or put some more time and effort into things within the provincial jurisdiction, like our struggling healthcare or education systems.

Lukas Oakley, Ward 2 Councillor

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@theparisindpendent.com

Paris cyclist raises more than \$5,700 for kids with cancer in 850-km ride

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A Paris cyclist has pedalled more than 850 kilometres to Quebec City as part of the R4 Campfire Circle Challenge, raising over \$5,700 to help children living with cancer and serious illness.

Sandra Piccoli, who last year completed the R2//NYC ride to New York, said the 2025 event brought both scenic highlights and tough moments.

“Getting out of the city at the start was the most difficult,” she said. “We had police escorts for a bit so didn’t have to stop at lights. Once the police left it was a real challenge with all the stop and go of the traffic lights and the heavy traffic.” She added some sections of rough pavement also tested riders.

Piccoli said her favourite stretches included Day 3 from



Sandra Piccoli of Paris powers through a stretch of the 850-kilometre R4 Campfire Circle Challenge, raising more than \$5,700 to help children with cancer and serious illness.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Riders in the R4 Campfire Circle Challenge gather at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, one of the key stops along the 850-kilometre fundraising journey in support of children living with cancer and serious illness.

Odessa to Ottawa and Day 5 along the St. Lawrence River

Her training earlier this year included 450 to 550 kilometres a week, though illness set her back shortly before the ride. “In the end I guess my intense training through the spring and summer was enough because I got through the ride well. It was challenging but I felt good,” she said.

The event raises money for Campfire Circle, which runs camps for children with life-threatening illnesses at no cost to families. Piccoli volunteered at both the Kids-Only Muskoka Camp and Family Camp at Rainbow Lake this

summer.

“Whenever things got challenging during the ride, we would always say out loud, ‘It’s for the kids,’” she said.

Piccoli set a goal of \$5,000, the same as last year, and surpassed it by bringing in more than \$5,700.

As for whether she’ll attempt another long-distance fundraiser next year, Piccoli said she is still recovering. “What’s certain is I will continue to ride and I will continue to do what I can to help support Campfire Circle, help kids be kids regardless of their diagnosis”

Future of Brant’s speed cameras uncertain after Ontario’s announcement

MEDIA RELEASE

County of Brant

In response to a recent announcement from the Province of Ontario, County of Brant Council and staff will be reviewing the proposed legislation—once introduced—regarding the removal of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras as it relates to the County’s ASE program.

At this time, the County’s two ASE cameras—located on Silver Street in Paris (directly in front of North Ward Elementary School) and on Beverly Street West in St. George (near the St. George Children’s Center and the St. George German Public School)—remain active in support of the intent of ASE, which has been proven to reduce vehicle speeds and enhance road safety.

The County of Brant introduced Automated Speed Enforcement as part of the Brant Safe Streets Strategy, with the goal of reducing speeding, changing driver behaviour, and improving road safety. Speeding continues to be one of the most

frequently raised concerns by residents and measures to reduce it have been a focus of Council and staff for the past several years. Data from the Silver Street camera shows a measurable reduction in speeding since its installation.

The ASE program was designed to be revenue neutral, meaning that revenues generated would cover operating and maintenance costs without relying on County taxpayer funding. To support this, the County established the Road Safety Reserve Fund Policy approved in June 2025, which provided an accountable and transparent way to expand the ASE program, and pay for the engineered traffic safety improvements outlined by the Premier today, using revenue from penalties rather than additional taxpayer dollars.

We will continue to share updates as they become available on the future of the ASE program. Further information regarding the overall operations of the program since its launch in February 2025, and how today’s announcement will impact road safety in the County of Brant will be communicated to County of Brant Council shortly.



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No Road Back fundraiser returns to Paris Legion to support Wheels of Hope

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A full day of music and community spirit will fill the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 on Saturday, Nov. 15, as the No Road Back Music Event returns with the goal of raising funds for the Canadian Cancer Society's Wheels of Hope program.

The fundraiser, founded in 2013 by local resident Jim Young, grew out of a simple idea to combine live music with community giving. Inspired by his late friend Scott Johnson, who championed cancer fundraising through the Movember campaign, Young decided to host a small concert that has since blossomed into an annual event.

"We got around \$600 that first time in 2013 with just five players," Young said. "Now we have 13 musicians this year and a lineup that just keeps growing."

Originally called Music for the Mustache in honour of Johnson, the event was renamed No Road Back after Johnson's passing. The new name carries a double meaning: a playful nod to ordering a "Blueberry Wine" — but also a deeper symbol of moving forward with recovery and not looking back.

This year's bill features a wide range of local and guest artists, including Gray and Ludgate, Bailey Robb, Loose Moralz, Stewart Barr, Josh Doherty, Shawn Blackmore, The GrandRivermen, Friday Family Sing Song, Before Midnight and The Die Hards. Guest appearances will include Allie Stenhouse, Silvia Dee and the Boyfriend, and a special set by Chuck Jackson of the Downchild

Blues Band with Crossfield Bend.

Jackson's participation stands out, Young noted, as he and his bandmates will take the Paris Legion stage in the afternoon before performing that same evening at the Sanderson Centre in Brantford. "I think this action on Chuck's part shows how people truly give," Young said.

In addition to the entertainment, attendees can support the cause through auctions, T-shirt sales, and food and drinks from the Legion's kitchen and bar. Every performer donates their time, and proceeds will go directly to Wheels of Hope, which provides transportation for cancer patients travelling to treatment appointments.

"It can be anywhere from \$30 to \$74 per trip, depending on the mileage," Young explained. "When you think that all the funds totally go to help local citizens who need help getting to treatment, you realize how important this is."

Young says the event is as much about awareness as it is about money. The Wheels of Hope program urgently needs volunteer drivers. "Yes, money is great, but a donation of time is also needed and accepted with tremendous gratitude," he said.

Young also issued a call to local businesses, encouraging them to get involved by sponsoring the event or donating door prizes for the auction and raffles. "We really need some help from the business community," he said. "Any support — whether financial or through prizes — will go a long way to making this fundraiser a success."

He hopes this year's edition will surpass last year's \$3,500 total and continue to grow with community



Chuck Jackson of the Downchild Blues Band with Crossfield Bend will be performing a special set during the November 15th No Road Back Music Event held at the Paris Legion.

support.

"No Road Back is truly about local people helping local people in need," Young said. "Any form of help for this event is welcomed and respected. Just by being there even, you are supporting a cause worthy of your time."

For sponsorships or advance ticket information, email Jim Young at offsideyoung@gmail.com. To make a financial donation, E-transfer to paris-legion29@rogers.com with note "No Road Back."

Brant Eats to serve up local flavours at Paris Fairgrounds

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

The County of Brant Chamber of Commerce is bringing together the best of the local food and beverage scene with the launch of Brant Eats, a premier expo showcasing restaurants, breweries, wineries, cideries and food vendors from across the region.

The one-day event will take place Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025, at the Paris Fairgrounds, giving residents and visitors a chance to sample, sip and discover the area's culinary talent.

"Brant Eats is more than just an event—it's a celebration of local talent, entrepreneurship, and community pride," said Chamber president Sherri Barna. "By bringing together restaurants, brewers, and food producers under one roof, we're giving residents and visitors a chance to taste

what the County of Brant has to offer."

More than 30 vendors are expected to take part, serving everything from savoury bites and sweet treats to craft beverages and unique creations. Organizers say the event will not only showcase local businesses but also boost the local economy.

Brant Eats was held in St. George last year, but organizers say moving it to Paris this year allows more space and accessibility for the growing number of vendors and guests.

Proceeds from the event will support Chamber initiatives, including business programming, networking opportunities and community development projects. The idea for Brant Eats grew out of the success of a pre-pandemic food and drink event in Brantford, organized in part by Chamber board members.

Tickets are available now at www.branteats.com. Organizers expect them to sell quickly.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the capital of China?
2. Which TV show follows the lives of the Bluth family?
3. What device uses sunlight to tell time?
4. What kind of food is an olive?
5. What is the outer layer of a tooth called?
6. What is Beyoncé's last name?
7. Where does "the Muffin Man" live, according to the nursery rhyme?
8. When the stock market is performing well, it's called a ____ market?
9. Which planet is known as the "Red Planet"?
10. Who does Meghan Markle play in "Suits"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 19



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HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Harvesting history: The enduring legacy of the Burford Fair



By Chris Whelan

If you read my column regularly then you already know that I grew up in the little village of Burford before moving to the big metropolis of Paris as a teen. What you probably didn't know is that in Burford we lived a stone's throw from the fairgrounds. As a child, going to the Burford Fair was about as exciting as life could get, and I always had a front row seat to all the action going on at the fairgrounds.

In 1858, the seeds of the Burford Fair were sown with the formation of the South Brant Agricultural Society, a visionary initiative that set the stage for the agricultural showcase that would follow.

The following year, in 1859, the first South Brant Agricultural Society's Showcase took place on the farm of Jacob Yeigh in what was then known as Claremont, though the name Burford was often used by residents and eventually Claremont became permanently known as Burford. This inaugural event served as proof to the community's commitment to celebrating agriculture, fostering knowledge exchange, and strengthening communal bonds.

In 1860 the fair was held in Cathcart and was dubbed the Cathcart Exhibition. In 1863, the fair had outgrown its



(BURFORDFAIR.CA PHOTO)

The Burford Agricultural Society was established in 1858. Over the years, the Burford fair has grown and moved to its own fairground in 1893

original location and found a new home in nearby Harley, where it earned the moniker of the "World's Fair." This move marked a pivotal juncture in the fair's history as it continued to expand its reach and influence.

In a significant development in 1893, the fair found its permanent residence in the village of Burford after the acquisition of 22 acres of fairground. This marked a new chapter for the fair, solidifying its ties to the community and setting the stage for future growth. At this juncture, the fair was a one-day affair, drawing locals and visitors alike to celebrate the region's agricultural heritage.

The early 1900s witnessed a period of transformative growth for the Burford Fair, characterized by the construction of key infrastructure on the fairgrounds. In 1920, a racetrack was added, enhancing the fair's entertainment offerings and attracting a wider audience.

Subsequently, in 1924, the original grandstand was erected, providing a focal point for spectators to gather and witness the various events and competitions that defined

the fair. Additionally, several livestock buildings were constructed, further enhancing the fairgrounds' capacity to accommodate the diverse array of exhibits and activities that characterized the annual event. In 1931 a cattle barn was built and became known as the "old horse barn."

In 1951 the first Agricultural Hall was erected, and two cattle sheds were added in 1952. In 1953 the Burford Legion was added to the fairgrounds as well as the Lions Ball Diamond. In 1957 the hog producers barn was constructed conveniently beside the railway tracks. In 1960 the Lions pavilion was built and the first ever "Burford Fair Queen Pageant" was held. In 1966 the Cenotaph was relocated to the fairgrounds and in 1970 the poultry building was added (now known as the workshop).

These developments not only underscored the fair's commitment to innovation and progress but also laid the foundation for a vibrant tradition that would continue to evolve and thrive for years to come. Today, the Burford Fair continues the enduring legacy of community, harvest, and agriculture, a special place for rural heritage that is sure to captivate and inspire all who pass through its gates. As much as I love going to the big fairs like ours in Paris as well as throughout Southern Ontario and beyond, Burford will always be equally loved and cherished, there is just something extra special about this little village fair that I encourage everyone to experience firsthand. Burford doesn't try to compete with the big fairs it has a unique charm and an appeal all its own.



(BURFORD AG SOCIETY PHOTO)

The Burford Fair is excited to welcome Family Time Amusements to the 2025 Burford Fair. Also this year at the fair will be bouncy castles and a rock climbing wall provided by the Burford Agricultural Society free for our visitors. Burford Fair is Thanksgiving Weekend, October 11 & 12.



(CHRIS WHELAN PHOTO)

Brittany & Brendan Whelan pose for a funny pic at the Burford Fall Fair in 2004

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Brantford trails come alive with culture as festival season begins



(CELESTE BILBAO PHOTOS)

Culture Days officially kicked off in Brantford with “Culture Days on the Trails,” a 2.6-kilometre celebration of music, dance, and visual arts between Hardy Road and Lafayette Avenue. Visitors strolled the trail and stopped to enjoy free mini-concerts and performances by featured artists. The interactive event marked the launch of the national Culture Days festival, which invites Canadians to explore arts and culture through thousands of hands-on, behind-the-scenes experiences each fall. Pictured are some of the featured artists: Piano Escape, Sumedha Mongia, Jeanette Obbink, and Juliana Lachance.



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- Tim Hortons - Paris Road
- Tim Hortons - Grand

- River St N
- The Gem Marketplace
- The Grand Bayou Cajun Kitchen
- The Paris Wincey Mills Market
- Walter's Greenhouses & Garden Centre
- Wright's Variety Store
- Willett Urgent Care Centre
- BURFORD**
- County of Brant Library - Burford
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The Paris Independent SPORTS



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Brant U11BB battles to semi-finals in first tournament outing

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Brant Battalion U11BB squad kicked off its season with an impressive showing, skating all the way to the semi-finals of a 12-team event before bowing out to a disciplined Burlington team.

Brant opened the Aurora Early Bird Tournament against Glancaster, battling through a scoreless first period before erupting for three goals in the second. Jacoby Bonnell, assisted by Alex Thoms, broke the ice, followed by markers from Nash McLaren, set up by Landon Kristman, and Blake Anderson, who struck unassisted. Glancaster cut into the lead early in the third, but Brant answered with goals from Jarome Burke and Thoms to secure a 5-1 victory.

The second game against the Brock Wild was a nail-biter from start to finish. Bonnell staked Brant to a first-period lead, assisted again by Thoms. Both teams traded goals in the second with Bonnell scoring unassisted and Thoms adding another with help from Bonnell and Kristman. Brock tied the game midway through the third, but with just 21 seconds remaining, Thoms buried the winner on a feed from Levi Blake, lifting Brant to a 4-3 win.

Momentum carried into Game 3 as Brant

dominated Bruce Grey in a commanding 13-0 shutout. Goals came in waves from across the roster, with standout performances by Nolan Kearsley, Bonnell, Anderson, Thoms, and Austin Mezza.

The round robin wrapped up with a showdown against Centre Wellington, with both teams entering undefeated. Kearsley and Bonnell each netted unassisted goals for Brant, but Centre Wellington proved too strong, skating away with a 6-2 win despite 15 saves by goaltender Ben Turnbull.

Brant's run ended in the semi-finals with a 3-0 loss to Burlington. Netminder Mason Espinola stood tall, turning aside 12 shots and shutting down several breakaways, but Burlington managed one goal per period to advance.

Coach Jon Kristman said he was proud of how his players came together so quickly in their first tournament.

"Right from the first game the kids skated hard and put constant pressure, making it hard for other teams to move or control the puck," Kristman said.

He added the weekend was as valuable off the ice as on it.

"Just getting to participate in a lot of team activities together helped create some bonding," he said.

For Kristman, the highlight was the entire experience.



The Brant U11BB Battalions gather for a quick huddle between periods of the semi-final game at the Aurora Early Bird Tournament, held September 26-28.

"The whole tournament in general was a great experience, and making it to the semis in our first tournament is a good step to build off of," he said.

The team will start its regular season this week with an away/home series against the Ayr Flames. Brant will skate in front of a hometown crowd on Saturday, October 4 at 4:45 pm at the Brant Sports Complex.

Titans surge past Woodstock, split weekend to close out September strong

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Correspondent

The Paris Titans gave their home fans plenty to cheer about Saturday night at the Brant Sports Complex, powering past the Woodstock Navy Vets 5-2 before dropping a hard-fought 3-2 overtime decision in New Hamburg to finish September with a .500 record and the best season start in franchise history.

The Titans opened scoring against the Navy Vets with Keegan Clarke scoring his first goal of the season, giving the Titans a 1-0 lead. Kohen Kirby and Jake Semiwolos

were given the assist.

Spencer Edwards scored one for the Titans with 5 seconds left in the first period, and Kohen Kirby assisted with his second assist, and Keegan Clarke assisted to end the first period with a 2-0 lead.

In the first minute of the second period, the Navy Vets got on the scoresheet, on Paris' power play. Captain Ryan Sanger-O'Keefe followed with a goal, nine minutes into the period, with Ethan Arrojado earning an assist. The period ended with the Titans having a 3-2 lead. The third period belonged to the Titans, with Kayden Blacquiére assisting on Ethan Arrojado's goal and Jake

Semiwolos taking a pass from Spencer Edwards to close out a 5-2 win. Colton Thomson in net earned the win in net.

Finishing off their road trip in New Hamburg, last Friday, the Titans potted the only goal in the first period of the stick of Ethan Arrojado. Kayden Blacquiére and Jay Metler were credited with assists.

The Firebirds scored the only goal in the second period, tying the game at one goal each.

In the third period, just under six minutes into the period, New Hamburg took a 2-1 lead, followed by Ethan Arrojado tying the score at 2-2 on a pass by Jay Metler nine

minutes later, and ending regulation time tied up and a period of sudden death overtime. At 6:12, the Kersey brothers, Blake and Jack, worked the puck to Trevor McDowell, who scored his first point and overtime winner of the season. The Titans ended September with a 3-3 record, placing them in fourth place and giving the team the best start in Titan history.

This weekend, the Titans have two home games, the first on Saturday, October 4, against New Hamburg, and the second on Sunday, October 5, against the Wellesley Applejacks. Both games are at the Brant Sports Complex with a 7:30 PM puck drop.



House League Standings - Week of September 22nd

Ages 7-8 (3 on 3 league)

Team 1, Sponge Bob Square Pants defeats Team 4, Lakers, score: 22-12

Team 2, Raptors defeats Team 3, Cappybara, score: 18-12

This week's top scorers:

Gavin (Team 3) 18 points, Hukam (Team 1) 14 points,
Kanyon (Team 1) 8 points

Ages 12-14 (3 on 3 league)

Team 1, Warriors, defeats Team 2, Raptors, score 53-33

Team 4, Spartans, defeats Team 3, Avengers, score 48-10

This week's top scorers:

Genevieve (Team 1) 22 points, Luis (Team 4) 22 points,
Edmond (Team 2) 18 points.

Ages 12-14 (3 on 3 league)

Team 1, Warriors, defeats Team 2, Raptors, score 53-33

Team 4, Spartans, defeats Team 3, Avengers, score 48-10

This week's top scorers:

Genevieve (Team 1) 22 points, Luis (Team 4) 22 points, Edmond (Team 2) 18 points.

Paris Duffers at Burford Golf Links



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Jimbo in his Matre'd outfit posing with his gorgeous Shelby



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

A happy, healthy and beautiful Miss Ivy. Proud parents are Jesse and Mike



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Here is Alan Harrison Oldroyd celebrating his 60th Birthday

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

Friday September 19th Paris men's golf results and other stuff...

Well, apparently it does rain in Burford as last week's championship match between Gerry Hoogstraten and Doug Sinclair was postponed and will have to be played Friday September 26th. Stay tuned for the exciting finish of Friday men's golf in next week's paper.

I would like to wish my little buddy Al Oldroyd a happy 60th, he doesn't look or act like it, good for you Al. Sandy and Ron told me that you were their favourite. Actually, who's kidding who Al is everyone's favourite...love ya buddy hope you had a

great birthday!

Congratulations to Dino Kitchen and his beautiful wife Vicky on their first grandchild, Miss Ivy. When asked how you get such a beautiful grandchild Dino not missing a beat said it starts with a beautiful wife and then a beautiful daughter and voila...the beautiful Miss Ivy, and you can't argue with that logic.

A welcome back to Paul Barber and Cousin Dawn from their tour of the homeland, Scotland the brave. When I asked if he kissed the Blarney Stone Paul replied, "twice for good measure". Cousin Dawn was excited about her brush with greatness meeting Sean Connery at the local pub, Paul didn't have the heart to tell her that 007 passed away 5 years

ago. That's good thinking Paul!!

Jimmy Fowler got together with his old car club buddies from the '70s ... Billy Tough, Donnie Willson, and Del Stuart (no relation), to reminisce about the old car club out at the S curves. Del had a '73 Dodge Dart which he still owns and is in immaculate shape, Toughie had a '67 R/T 440 Coronet that he sold but now in his retirement he just purchased his dream car, a '67 GTX and it looks like it just came off the showroom floor. Jimmy Fowler had his '69 Shelby GTX 500 that he lost in a card game and Donnie Willson drove his mother's '63 Rambler. Cool cats in the '70s now cool dudes in their 70s.

This is Scoop Stewart signing off. *Always a pleasure!*

Panthers Basketball: Learning curve for juniors as seniors split early games

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

their opponents, dropping the contest 51-10.

The Paris Panthers Junior girls' basketball team is still finding its footing this season, showing determination and effort despite a tough 51-10 loss to the visiting Brantford Collegiate Institute squad on Sept. 16.

The team showed steady improvement as the game progressed, but couldn't

The Juniors return to action on Sep.23 to face a strong and disciplined St. John's College team, losing 78-10.

On Sept. 16, the senior girls' basketball team controlled the court, rolling to a 38-15 win over BCI. The following week, despite a strong team effort, the team lost 51-25 to St. John's College.



(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

70 King Edward St. originally Paris Grammar School opened here on August 8, 1858.



(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

This photo depicts the "new" Queen's Ward School – ca 1952



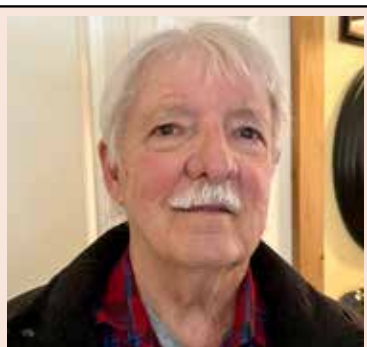
(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

Today 70 King Edward St. is the location of the Queensview Retirement Community

the Paris Museum & Historical Society. Visit the Museum in the Syl Apps

Community Centre to discover more history of Paris.

THEN AND NOW: #70 King Edward Street



By Wayne Wilkinson
Paris Historian / Artist

The story of #70 King Edward St. in Paris, Ontario, is a tale intertwined with the rich history of education in the region. Perched proudly on the south bank of the Nith River, this address has witnessed over 150 years of educational legacy.

It all began with Hiram Capron, a visionary founding father for whom education was a paramount concern. In 1833, using his personal funds, he kickstarted Paris' educational journey by establishing a small school on Grand River St. S., overlooking

the Grand River around where # 30 is now.

As the student population burgeoned, the need for larger premises became evident. In 1852, the village council reached out to the government of Upper Canada for assistance in funding a much-needed grammar school. In 1854, while awaiting financial aid, classes temporarily shifted to the newly erected town hall, which presently stands as the unrestored Bawcutt Centre on Church St. the old grammar school became Paris' first fire hall.

In 1858, the vision materialized with the construction of a new grammar school, overseen by principal John Acres. Thirty eager students eagerly marched into this stately two-story architectural marvel, complete with a bell tower that commanded attention across Paris. Mr. Acres remained Headmaster for 40 years.

In a groundbreaking move in 1860, the school welcomed female students, altering the landscape of education. By 1871, it had transformed into Paris High School. However, by the 1920s, this high school was burst-

ing at the seams, prompting the inauguration of the new high school on Grand River St. N. accommodating 160 students when it opened in 1924.

In 1952, a splendid new Queens Ward Public Elementary School emerged, bidding farewell to the historic grammar/high school, which had served its purpose admirably. Sadly, Queens Ward Public School bid adieu in 2010, replaced by the spacious new state of the art Cobblestone school over on Grandville Circle.

The passage of time witnessed the demolition of Queens Ward Public School, paving the way for the inauguration of Queensview Retirement Community on May 30th, 2013. As the echoes of laughter, camaraderie, cherished memories, beloved mentors, and the age-old trio of reading, writing, and arithmetic lingered high above the Nith River, the legacy of 152 years of educational excellence remained etched in the hearts of all who passed through the halls of #70 King Edward St.

Note: Some information may have been obtained from the archives at

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County of Brant Fire Department charges into Fire Prevention Week with battery safety message

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

The County of Brant Fire Department is using Fire Prevention Week 2025 to shine a spotlight on one of the fastest-growing fire risks in Ontario homes — lithium-ion batteries.

This year’s national theme, “Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home,” was chosen after the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) acknowledged a sharp rise in lithium-ion battery-related fires.

“With lithium-ion batteries powering everything from smartphones and e-bikes to power tools and toys, these devices are now part of everyday life in most homes,” said Lisa Hiebert, Fire Prevention Officer for the County of Brant Fire Department. “Unfortunately, their widespread use has also led to an increase in fire incidents — especially when batteries are damaged, improperly charged, or paired with aftermarket charging cables that don’t meet safety standards.”

Hiebert said many people would be surprised by how many household items contain lithium-ion batteries. “Most of the electronics we use in our homes every day — smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones, and toys, to name just a few — are powered by lithium-ion batteries,” she said. “In fact, most everything that’s rechargeable uses this type of battery.”

The Fire Department is encouraging residents to be careful when buying new products. “Buy only listed products,” Hiebert said. “When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging and product, which means that it meets important safety standards. Many products sold online and in stores may not meet safety standards and could increase the risk of fire.”

She added that misuse during charging is one of the greatest risks. “If not used correctly or if damaged, lithium-ion batteries can overheat, start a fire, or even explode,” she said.

To stay safe, Hiebert recommends following the manufacturer’s instructions and sticking with approved chargers. “Always use the cords that came with the product to charge it. If you need a new charger, buy one from the

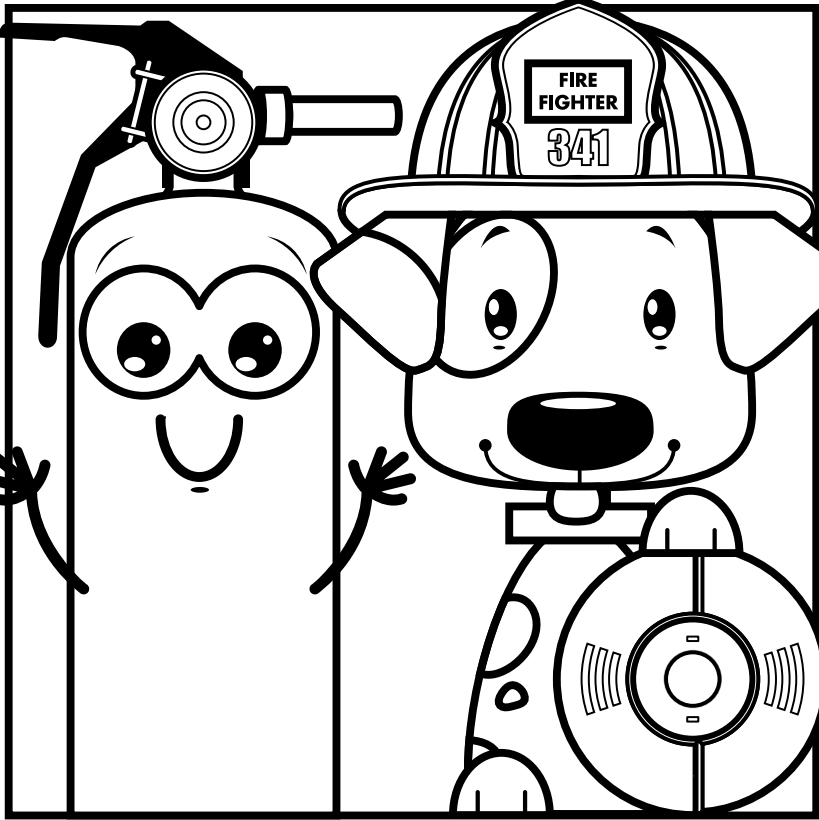
CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

THANKS

to Our Firefighters

FIRE SAFETY SMARTS

Color the picture and practice copying these fire safety tips, then post the page on your refrigerator to remind the whole family that fire safety is important!



WHAT TO DO IF THERE'S A FIRE:

- If you hear a fire alarm, get outside immediately and stay outside.
- Once you are outside, call 911 or get help from a neighbor.
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- Fall and crawl to escape a fire. Breathing is easier if you stay low to the ground.



KIDS, FOLLOW THESE TIPS!

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Stay away from stoves, heaters or anything that gets hot.

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Don't leave the kitchen unattended when pots or pans are cooking on the stove.

Never leave candles burning when you leave a room.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved,” she said.

Devices should always be charged on a hard surface, not on couches, beds or under pillows where heat can build up. “Don’t overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it’s fully charged,” Hiebert said.

Brant firefighters have already seen the danger first-hand. “In the County of Brant, we’ve seen how lithium-ion batteries can pose serious fire risks. In one recent case, a rechargeable power tool battery failed while charging, leading to a fire that caused significant damage. The investigation confirmed the battery as the ignition source,” Hiebert said.

Hiebert stressed that damaged or dead batteries must never be thrown in the garbage or placed in blue bins. “Don’t throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could catch fire,” she said. “Recycling your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location is the best way to dispose of them. Visit call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.”

For households, there are red flags to watch for. “If a lithium-ion battery device is smoking, swelling, or producing a noticeable odour, stop using it,” Hiebert said. “If safe to do so, turn off the power source, evacuate the area and call 911. These batteries can fail quickly and dangerously — don’t try to handle or cool them yourself.”

She added that overheating chargers are also a warning sign of potential failure. “Excessive heat from chargers can be an

early warning sign of failure, electrical damage or overcharging — both of which can lead to thermal runaway and fire. If this happens, unplug and replace it with a manufacturer-approved version. Using aftermarket chargers increases the risk of overheating and fire.”

Proper storage also plays a role in safety. “Devices should be stored away from heat sources or direct sunlight, out of freezing conditions, not while actively charging, in a dry, well-ventilated area and away from flammable materials,” Hiebert said.

To raise awareness, the County of Brant Fire Prevention Team and local firefighters will be out in the community during Fire Prevention Week. Events include:

Saturday, Oct. 4 – EarlyOn Touch-a-Truck, 10 a.m. to noon, Green Lane Sports Complex, Paris

Friday, Oct. 10 – Windmill Country Market, 10 a.m. to noon, Mount Pleasant

Saturday, Oct. 11 – Burford Fair, noon to 4 p.m.

“Beyond sharing this important theme and fire safety information through social media, we also discuss lithium-ion safety during all our community presentations throughout the year,” Hiebert said.

As lithium-ion batteries continue to power everything from backyard tools to children’s toys, Hiebert said awareness is key. “Fire Prevention Week is about more than just awareness — it’s about practical steps families can take today to reduce their risk,” she said. “With lithium-ion batteries now everywhere in our homes, the key is using them wisely and safely.”



Dan MUYS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FLAMBOROUGH–GLANBROOK–BRANT NORTH



Read the many important fire prevention and safety tips in this edition of *The Paris Independent*.

**Thank you to our
Brant Firefighters
for all you do!**

Children's resilience in question as experts highlight pandemic's toll on mental health



THE GRIEF JOURNEY

By Tammy Adams

As children, we learn to navigate life by what we hear, observe and experience. But what happens when the lessons passed down are based on myths and misinformation?

One of the most persistent beliefs is that children are naturally resilient — that they do not experience emotional pain the same way adults do and can easily bounce back from life’s challenges. Recent findings suggest otherwise.

A study by SickKids Hospital revealed that the mental health of a majority of children declined during the first pandemic lockdown. The absence of social contact, in-person schooling, sports, milestone celebrations and other special occasions all contributed to the struggle.

“We found that overall, children were faring mostly worse, and occasionally better, compared to their pre-pandemic

selves,” said Dr. Daphne Korczak, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at SickKids and principal investigator of the study. “We also found that the mental health impacts of the pandemic were greater for school-aged children during the first lockdown, underscoring the importance of in-class learning and extracurricular activities.”

Adults, the article argues, often cope with stress in ways they were taught as children — by staying busy, avoiding emotions or replacing loss with distractions such as food, toys or entertainment. These patterns are then unconsciously passed on to the next generation.

The writer suggests a different approach:

- **Go first.** Model openness by sharing feelings and showing children it is okay to talk about loss.
- **Create a safe space.** Listen without judgement or trying to fix the problem.
- **Avoid assumptions.** Recognize that children's experiences and feelings are unique.
- **Do not replace the loss.** Instead of offering distractions, help them label and process emotions.
- **Be available.** Allow conversations to happen naturally, whether in the car, at bedtime, or whenever a child is ready to talk.

“My father-in-law used to say parenting was the only job we did without training,” the author reflects. “We never really know how we did until our job is finished.”

While parents dedicate time to teaching practical skills like reading, writing and math, emotional lessons are often overlooked — largely because many adults never received that training themselves.

Russell Friedman, co-founder of The Grief Recovery Institute, once noted: “In no other life area does crucial inbound information have greater consequences than in our emotional response to loss and other grief-producing events. Grief, though infrequent, is universal and inevitable.”

For parents seeking resources, the book *When Children Grieve* and the four-week *Helping Children with Loss* program are

recommended. For adults, the Grief Recovery Method program remains a proven support system.

Tammy Adams is a Certified Grief Recovery Method Specialist supporting individuals Canada-wide. To learn more about The Grief Recovery Method please visit www.tadams.ca or contact Tammy for a free consultation.



Parents and caregivers are encouraged to model openness and create safe spaces for children to share their feelings, rather than relying on distractions or myths about resilience.

County of Brant seeks input on firearms bylaw update

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

The County of Brant is reviewing its Firearms By-law to reflect new subdivisions, population growth and changes in land use — and officials are asking residents to weigh in.

The review focuses on updating Schedule “A” maps, which identify areas where shooting is prohibited. Many of the proposed additions are already covered by zoning rules that restrict firearm use, but County staff say the map updates will make the rules clearer and easier to understand.

“Our goal is to improve public safety, align regulations with community growth, and provide clear, visual guidance for residents,” the County said in an Engage Brant email.

Proposed updates include adding new neighbourhoods and subdivisions to restricted areas, as well as designating parks, trails and other public spaces where firearm use is not permitted.

The current bylaw already prohibits discharging a fire-arm or bow in several situations, including on residential

land, within 100 metres of a school, place of worship, public hall or recreational trail, and over highways or County-owned property without authorization. It also restricts use in areas shown on official “No Discharge” maps.

Exemptions apply to peace officers, animal control officers, agriculture and archery instruction.

The County stressed that this is a map update, not a new ban, and that exemptions for hunters, farmers and recreational archery remain in place.

Feedback from residents will be used to finalize the updated maps, which are intended to ensure firearm restrictions reflect where people “live, play and gather today.”

Residents can view the proposed map changes and share comments until Friday, Oct. 24, 2025, through EngageBrant.ca/FirearmsBylaw.

Alongside public feedback, staff are consulting with the Ontario Provincial Police, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and other stakeholders.

For more information, including the full bylaw and current exemptions, visit brant.ca/Firearms.

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Paris women join artist Marguerite Larmand to create roots coat for fashion week

RUBY JONES

Cultural Correspondent

Arts, culture and craft has always been a pillar of Paris' identity and economy, and this rich creative environment has enticed many artists to land, root and flourish in our community. We are home to thousands of artisans and artists, including Installation Artist & Project Facilitator Marguerite Larmand.

Larmand works in various mediums and will be featured in the upcoming 'The Other Paris Fashion Week' on Saturday October 4th with an amazing collection of textile and fibre creations. The Naturalist's Closet Project will include a piece made in collaboration with Paris' Women Inspiring Women Women's Institute (WIWWI) titled: The Roots Coat.

Larmand, born in 1939 in Victoria Harbour on the southern shores of Georgian Bay, grew up in a farming community. From the ages of seven to thirteen, she took part in nearly all aspects of farm life while also creating private spaces and objects that reflected her deep physical and spiritual connection with nature.

Larmand retired from formal teaching in 1995 and transitioned into life as a full-time practicing artist, presenting her first public gallery exhibition at the Art Gallery of Hamilton. Among the installation works in that show, Part of the Fabric, was Donning the Coat of Nature—a metaphor for her commitment as a visual artist to, as she described it, "wear my values." The following year, in 1996, she launched The Naturalist's Closet Project in North Bay, Ontario, a body of work that will mark thirty years in 2026.

Larmand explained her creative process: "Each coat has a planning process and with so much research and writing on the forest, and how trees are integral to the vitality

of Brant, the roots of the trees became our subject for the Roots Coat."

As Larmand's work is deeply intertwined with the land, the life around her informs so many choices within her creations "The background for the Roots Coat is heavy woven cotton, a mix of fibre tones to resemble the gravelly soil of Paris. The yarns used for crewel embroidery were wool, linen, silk and cotton, always one-ply or what is called lace weight; a small few stitches were decided upon to begin 'drawing with a needle and yarn' roots that has absorbed the rich colours of the minerals in the soil."

Recently, Larmand partnered with the Women Inspiring Women – Women's Institute (WIWWI) to introduce her work and give members a chance to explore their own creativity. Each of the nineteen WIWWI participants selected the tree associated with their birth month—for example, birch for January—and then researched its roots, habits, and unique characteristics. This groundwork guided them as they began creating their assigned sections of the Roots Coat.

Participants described the experience as both inspiring and transformative. "The coat project was an engaging project which pushed me out of my comfort zone. I'm glad I decided to give it a go and am proud to have played a small part in a big, wonderful enterprise," said WIWWI member Monique Giroux.

Fellow member Laura Tousaw reflected, "Participating in this collaborative art project allowed me to reflect deeply on the meaningful connections I've made with my Women's Institute friends, not unlike the deep connections of tree root systems. While we can't physically see these connections, they exist in space and time, through transfer of energy, support, and love, by showing up, being present and

wholly yourself. This experience helped me slow down, find meaning in the work in my hands, hold close to my heart what it represents, and more firmly connect me to

Nith Show at noon and The Grand Show at 1 p.m. Admission is free, with donations at the door supporting future fashion and wearable art events.



Marguerite Larmand presents her Roots Coat design, part of The Naturalist's Closet Project, ahead of its showcase at The Other Paris Fashion Week.

Paris Agricultural Society volunteers honoured with provincial award



(PARIS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

The Paris Agricultural Society is proud to recognize eight of its dedicated members who received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award on September 18. Pictured (from left): Holden Vanderhoek, Mary Black, Donna Sayles, Margaret Kelley and Rodger Lyster. Not pictured: Emma Fielding, Jim Lawrence and Doug Telfer. Congratulations to all recipients, and thank you for your outstanding commitment to our community.



At a WIWWI meeting, Jennifer Budd presents the Roots Coat, where members asked questions about its design and inspiration.

County of Brant launches engagement for the new Community Planning Permit System

MEDIA RELEASE

County of Brant

The County of Brant is rolling out a new Community Planning Permit System (CPPS) designed to simplify the development process while ensuring growth reflects local needs and values.

The new system will combine zoning changes, minor variances and site plan approvals into one process. County officials say the change will reduce steps and timelines while keeping community priorities at the forefront.

“The Community Planning Permit System is about more than just streamlining approvals,” said Mayor David Bailey. “It’s about making sure that as our County continues to grow, development is well-designed, sustainable, and reflective of the needs of our community. This is an important step in building healthy, complete communities that we can all be proud of.”

The County says the CPPS will:

- Support the goals of the Official Plan.
- Secure community benefits such as parks, open spaces, affordable housing and space for community facilities.
- Protect the environment, cultural heritage and archaeological sites.
- Provide more flexibility in development standards.
- Encourage attractive, community-focused projects.

“This system will give us the tools to plan more effectively for the future,” said Alysha Dyjach, the County’s General Manager of Development Services. “It will make the

process easier to understand for applicants and residents, while ensuring that our planning decisions are transparent and grounded in community priorities.”

Work on the project began in August with background research and planning. A Trends and Issues Report is set to go before Council on Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. at the County Council Chambers in Paris. The report will identify challenges in the development approval process, lessons from other municipalities, and recommendations for Brant’s own Community Planning Permit bylaw.

Council meetings are open to the public and available for live viewing on the County’s YouTube channel. Agendas are posted at brant.ca/CouncilCalendar.

The County says residents will have several opportunities to get involved between now and January 2026. The first step launched this week through an online Community Conversations forum at EngageBrant.ca/CPPS.

Through the forum, participants can comment on questions about development challenges, design features, planning for community needs, public engagement and complete communities. Residents can also respond to others’ contributions and show support for comments they agree with.

Registration is required at EngageBrant.ca/register to join the discussion. Officials say registration helps ensure an environment that is safe, respectful and productive.

Community feedback will help guide how the County plans for housing, transportation, public spaces and amenities in the years ahead. More information, including project updates and the online forum, is available at EngageBrant.ca/CPPS.

GUESS WHO?

Born on February 12, 1968, in California, I’m an American actor who’s taken on everything from Westerns to superhero blockbusters. You might know me as Thanos in the Marvel universe, or from films like No Country for Old Men and Sicario. But in 2017, I suited up as a firefighter in Only the Brave, portraying real-life Granite Mountain Hotshots leader Eric Marsh. *Who am I?*

Answer: Josh Brolin

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WEEKLY

Horoscope

October 1 - October 8 2025

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



Insecurity may be sparking some hesitation, Aries. The key to coping is figuring out why you are feeling this way. Is it a trust issue or lack of recognition?

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Taurus, creative pursuits may hold your interest this week. Even if you lean more towards the practical, an artistic streak flows through you as well.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



Working with others may prove challenging this week, Gemini. You may be too focused on a singular task. If this is the case, keep to yourself if you can.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



The week’s planetary influences could increase your sensitivity to everything right now, Cancer. You might feel a little more sentimental or even weepy.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Leo, obsessive thinking may be something you need to consider this week. There’s a fine line between determination and obsession, so consider your fixations and how to fix them.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



It can be easy to confuse impulsivity with spontaneity, Virgo. But one requires more thought than the other. Think through everything before acting if you want to play it safe.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



It might be time to take a more measured approach to solving a difficult problem, Libra. If you’ve made several attempts with no success, it could be time to dig in.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Scorpio, tap into your creativity to unblock your emotions this week. This can be a powerful tool in your arsenal. Creativity is a big part of you.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



You may get to focus on fun this week, Sagittarius. Look into your social calendar and seek ways to liven things up a little.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Everyone can use some time alone every once in a while, Capricorn. But too much solitude can leave you feeling closed off. Look to Aquarius to inspire balance—mix quiet reflection with meaningful connections.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Certain situations require a little more focus than usual, Aquarius. Bear down, block out distractions, and trust that your determination will carry you through.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Don’t pick yourself to pieces this week, Pisces. Criticizing yourself will get you nowhere. You have a lot to offer and others recognize the value of your input.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 1

Julie Andrews, Actress (90)

OCTOBER 2

Sting, Musician (74)

OCTOBER 3

Tommy Lee, Athlete (63)

OCTOBER 4

Dakota Johnson, Actress (36)

OCTOBER 5

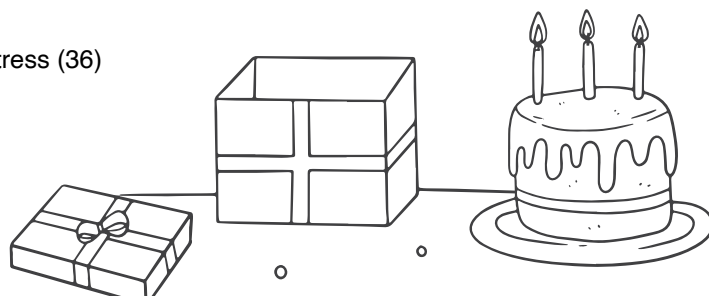
Travis Kelce, Athlete (36)

OCTOBER 6

Amy Jo Johnson, Musician (55)

OCTOBER 7

John Mellencamp, Musician (74)



Innovation Riddles

I brighten the night without a flame,
thanks to Edison, I earned my fame.
What am I?

The light bulb

I carry voices across great lands,
with wires or waves, I'm in your
hands. What am I?

The telephone

I read your words without knowing
a sound, once pressed on paper, I
spread them around. What am I?

The printing press

I move with steam, puffing along,
trains and factories made me
strong. What am I?

The steam engine

I help you find the right direction,
with satellites above, I give
perfection. What am I?

GPS (Global Positioning System)

I turn sound into grooves you can
see, music plays back because of
me. What am I?

The phonograph / record player

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 19

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PET OF THE WEEK

JOEY

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Keeping indoor cats active and in good body condition can be a challenge. Joey, the 2 yr old domestic shorthair keeps slim and trim with his indoor treadmill!

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



Word Search

FAMOUS INVENTIONS

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

- Telephone
- Lightbulb
- Printing Press
- Airplane
- Automobile
- Steam Engine
- Computer
- Radio
- Television
- Camera
- Refrigerator
- Microwave
- Bicycle
- Typewriter
- Telescope
- Compass
- Battery
- Elevator
- Tractor

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

OCTOBER 7, 14, 21

The Brant Men of Song Choir Practices - Tuesdays at the First Baptist Church 70 West St., Brantford from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. New members are always welcome to attend and enjoy some singing.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Seniors Lunch and Learn Series - Join adults 55+ for a FREE homemade lunch and interactive learning session, made possible by the Ontario Government. Caregivers welcome. Registration required. Next Session: Tues. Oct. 7, 12-1:30pm Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Rd., Paris. 519-442-3212 | www.fiveoaks.on.ca.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

The Catholic Women's League Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 1 pm at Sacred Heart Parish Hall. All welcome to attend.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Women Inspiring Women Women's Institute October Meetin - Witches Inspiring Witches. Join us for a spooktacular evening of Halloween themed activities! Come dressed in your witchiest costume and walk the Creepy Catwalk, if you dare! Thursday, October 9th, 2025 7-9 PM at the Paris Fairgrounds Community Room.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

Paris Optimist Youth Dances - Friday October 10th at the Syl Apps Community Centre at 7 pm until 10 pm. Admission is \$5 per student. Snacks will be available to purchase. This dance is for students in Grade 5 to 8 only. Adult chaperones. Since it is close to halloween this will be a black and orange dance.

OCTOBER 9, NOVEMBER 13, DECEMBER 11

Free Will Offering - St. Paul's United Church, 48 Broadway St. W., Paris, invites everyone to a Free Will Offering Soup and Bun Luncheon on Thursday, October 9th, November 13th, and December 11th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. All are welcome!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

The Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting - Tuesday October 14, 2025 at 10 am at

the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. The guest speaker will discuss St. Joseph's Long Term Care Program. New members are always welcome.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

The Brant Men of Song Charity Concert - The Brant Men of Song are holding a Charity Concert at Harmony United Church, 268 Marlborough St., Brantford starting at 7 PM. Donations for Alzheimer's will be accepted.

3rd Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawty - Saturday, October 18 from 10 am to 2 pm at Children's Safety Village of Brant, 407 Elgin St Brantford. Entry fee is cash donations to Autism dog services. Trick or Treating, photo booth, food truck, vendors, pet & people parade, entertainment and contests. Everyone welcome!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

The Brantford Symphony Orchestra Presents 'Ballroom Live' - with guests Brian and Kelly Sloat, ballroom dancers extraordinaire on Saturday, October 25 (7:30pm) at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts in Brantford. Tickets are \$44 & \$49 for adults, \$10 for students with ID, children and elementary students are FREE. For info and tickets: <https://brantfordsymphony.ca> and under, and free for preschoolers. Takeout will be available, and the venue is wheelchair accessible.

CanJam Fundraiser - Local musician John Ladds hosts the 11th annual CanJam fundraiser on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the ForParis Centre. Enjoy a night of live music while supporting the Brantford Food Bank. Tickets \$30 – reserve at pariscanjam@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

The Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - Tuesday October 28, 2025 at Sacred Heart Parish Hall starting at 7:30 pm. Use the Queen Street parking lot door to enter.

Contribute to your local community newspaper! Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to stories@theparisindpendent.com

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COMING EVENTS

WHAT'S BREWING
THIS WEEK AT
THE PARIS BEER CO.



WEEK OF SEPT 29 2025

TUES
30

HAPPY TUESDAYS

Happy Hour all day long
with deals on pints & pizzas

THURS
OCT
2

LIVE MUSIC IN THE TAPROOM

7pm - 9pm
Kym Wyatt Mackenzie

WED
THRU
FRI

HAPPY HOUR 4-6PM

\$7 pints, all bottled beer 50%
off plus great deals on food

EVERY
SUN

BRUNCH 11AM-2:30PM

eggs benney, breakfast pizza
plus the regular menu

SEPT
THRU
OCT

OKTOBERFEST

wiesn bier steins & themed menu

BOOK A
TABLE HERE



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.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Beijing
2. Arrested Development
3. Sundial
4. A fruit
5. Enamel
6. Knowles-Carter
7. Drury Lane
8. Bull
9. Mars
10. Rachel Zane

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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,
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ognition and honour they deserve. If you have
any questions about the project, please email
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PRESENTS...

BARK YOUR CALENDARS!
for the
3rd ANNUAL

HOWL-O-WEEN PAWTY

Saturday, October 18, 2025
10:00am - 2:00pm

Children's Safety Village of Brant
407 Elgin Street Brantford, Ontario

ENTRY FEE: CASH DONATION
Debit Machine Available on Site

Trick-or-Treating • **Pet & People Parade**
Photo Booth • **Entertainment**
Food Truck • **Contests**
Vendors • **Pet Friendly**

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ADELE@AUTISMDOGS.CA | 519-774-0267

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Thursday, Oct. 2

Doors open at 6 p.m.
Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m.

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