

The Paris Independent

Issue #205

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025

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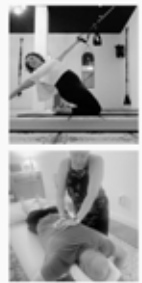
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RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT

Predators battle it out in all-Paris showdown



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

The Paris Predators U11 Team 1 (red) and Team 2 (black) went head-to-head in a must-win game at the South Oxford League Softball Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 9. Team 2 came out on top with a 10-4 victory. See more sports coverage on page 11.

Paris Drinks Fest set to pour on the music, flavour and fun

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Paris is about to welcome back one of its biggest summer celebrations — and this year's Paris Drinks Fest is shaping up to be its biggest yet.

On August 15 and 16, the sixth annual festival will fill the grounds beside the Two Rivers Stadium beside the Syl Apps Community

Centre with the sounds of Sam Roberts Band, Matt Mays, and a stacked lineup of talent including Born in the Eighties, Shania Twink, Shebad, Trash Panda Brass, The Wild High, Absolute Losers and Altameda. Add in more than 35 food and drink vendors and you've got a recipe for a weekend of great music, local flavours and community spirit.

What began in 2018 as a single-day gathering with 15 vendors and 1,300 guests has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Communities in Bloom contest gives glimpse into local edible gardens

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For Kari Raymer Bishop, figuring out which plants would thrive in her Paris garden was like “playing chess” with the five black walnut trees in her backyard “trying to see what I can get past them.”

The trees are notorious for making a poor environment for other plants due to juglone, a chemical released by their roots.

Because of this, Bishop had to do a lot of research to find plants that would actually thrive in her yard.

She ended up learning a lot about native species, like the pawpaw tree — which had coexisted alongside black walnuts in the Carolinian forest, but grew rare due to deforestation.

People are trying to bring it back to the area, you have to “hunt” a bit to find them and you need two different varieties so they can cross-pollinate, Bishop said.

“Sometimes you’ll see them at greenhouses. I recently just got one in a giveaway from an organization that’s promoting them,” she said.

After fussing over them for five years, she hopes next year “might be the year that I finally get that wonderful fruit,” which is described as a cross between mangoes and bananas.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Paris Drinks Fest ready to raise a glass to music, food and community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grown into a two-day destination event attracting more than 4,000 attendees from across Ontario, Canada, the United States, and even as far away as England and Spain. “It’s been amazing to watch this grow from a regional event into something international,” said festival founder and organizer Tim Des Islets of Noisemaker Presents. “People are planning their vacations around coming to Paris for the weekend.”

The lineup, carefully curated over the course of a year, blends big names with up-and-coming acts. “Sam Roberts Band has been a favourite of mine since high school, so it’s an honour to have them here,” said Des Islets. “Matt Mays has played Paris before and people have been asking for him to return ever since. And then there are bands like Absolute Losers and Altameda that I discovered while travelling — it’s exciting to bring them here and introduce them to a new audience.”

This is the second year the festival will be staged beside the Syl Apps Community Centre, after flooding forced a move from Lions Park. The new site, Des Islets says, offers better infrastructure, easy access for attendees and emergency services, and plenty of natural beauty thanks to the tree-lined river backdrop.

Organizers expect close to 5,000 guests over the two days. To keep traffic flowing smoothly, they recommend walking, cycling, carpooling or using public transit. Parking is available in municipal lots downtown and at Lions Park, but nearby residential streets are by permit only — with ticketing and towing in effect.

Des Islets credits the festival’s success to unwavering community support, a dedicated team and plenty of word-of-mouth buzz. “In a digital world, word of mouth is still the biggest driver in live events,” he said. “We’re grateful people keep coming back and telling their friends not to miss it.”

For Des Islets, the payoff comes during the festival itself. “Just being there and taking it all in — the music, the food, the crowd — that’s my favourite part,” he said.

While there may be a few tickets available at the door, organizers recommend buying in advance at www.parisdrinks.ca. Judging by the excitement building around town, this is one summer weekend you won’t want to miss.



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)

The high-energy Trash Panda Brass Band, pictured performing at Paris Drinks Fest 2023, will be back to bring their signature sound to this year’s festival lineup.



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)

Festivalgoers soak up the music and atmosphere at a past Paris Drinks Fest — the energy returns August 15–16 for two days of live music, local flavours and summer fun.

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Chess with black walnuts: Paris gardener finds joy in native plants



Kari Raymer Bishop brought forward her garden for consideration in the 2025 Communities in Bloom contest. (COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A serviceberry — another plant native to the area — was gifted to her by another community member who she didn't know, but thought she might like it.

In the process of trial and error, Bishop lost a pear tree and a cherry tree, and out of five varieties of apples she planted, only one seems to be taking.

But rather than getting discouraged, she finds joy in the wins — "I'm so excited when I have three blueberries," she said.

Her advice to aspiring gardeners in the area is to pay attention to the light, and know that you can always move things. "If it's not working out, then give your plant a better chance somewhere else. It's entirely fixable."

Bishop is one of around 15 Brant County gardeners who brought forward their edible plots for consideration in the Communities in Bloom contest.

It's the second year the municipality has

taken part in the national Communities in Bloom program, which celebrates "community pride, environmental stewardship and the beautification of our shared spaces," the county wrote on its online engagement platform.

Residents were invited to vote for their favourite pictures on the Engage Brant public engagement platform in advance of the Communities in Bloom judges' in-person visit at the end of July.

Last year, the county participated for the first time, winning three "blooms" and the urban forestry criteria award.

For garden inspiration, visit engagebrant.ca/brantinbloom2025.

The winners will be announced in September 2025.

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

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Kiwanis Club donates \$500 to support Salvation Army programs



(STAN HUTCHINSONPHOTO)

Will Ratelband, Salvation Army Community & Family Services Coordinator, accepts a \$500 donation from the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant to support local programs. The club also assists the Paris Food Bank with food drives in Brant County communities throughout the year.

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Brantford man charged with assault by Brantford police and OPP



(BRANTFORD POLICE SERVICE PHOTO)

Brantford police released Alveen Ahmed's photo and a picture of his pickup truck, a black 2022 Dodge Ram, because they think there could be more victims.

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A Brantford man has been charged with violent crimes by two police services. Provincial police arrested Alveen Ahmed, 28, last week, charging him with sexual assault, assault and forcible confinement.

It was related to an ongoing investigation into a sexual assault that took place in Brant County in January, according to a news release on Thursday.

Earlier in July, Brantford police charged Ahmed with attempted murder, assault with a weapon, kidnapping and aggravated sexual assault, related to an incident on July 13.

An officer had found someone with "serious injuries" from a "physical and sexual assault" near Golf Road and Highway 403, a Brantford police release said.

Brantford police released Ahmed's photo and a picture of his pickup truck, a black 2022 Dodge Ram, because they think there could be more victims.

Following both arrests, Ahmed is out on a \$20,000 bail. He is to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice at a later date.

He's not to leave his residence except if he or an immediate family member has a medical emergency, or if he is with his surety. He's not to have any weapons or drive without his surety present. He is also subject to GPS monitoring.

In a Facebook post on Monday, Brantford—Brant South—Six Nations MP Larry Brock pointed to it as an example of Canada's "broken" catch-and-release bail system.

The police ask anyone with information to call 519-756-7050.

To provide information anonymously, call Brant—Brantford Crime Stoppers at 519-750-8477 or 1-800-222-8477.

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

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EDITORIAL

Progress meets patience: Paris drivers face more detour challenges



Buster Beaverton holds a detailed map of Paris detours during construction

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Getting around Paris these days feels a bit like solving a puzzle with missing pieces. With detours crisscrossing town, drivers are resorting to creative—and often frustrating—routes to navigate their daily commutes. One increasingly popular work-around to bypass the bottleneck between Dundas and William via Willow Street is the scenic detour through Green Lane. But that option is now off the table too, adding to the mounting frustration.

Last week, the County announced yet another road closure—this time the busy Dundas Street intersection—triggering fresh waves of exasperation from residents. The closure is expected to last approximately one week, although confirmation from contractors was still pending at press time. Temporary traffic lights are being installed to help manage the flow, with Paris Road remaining open, but Green Lane will be closed for 2–4 weeks, forcing south-bound traffic onto Iarocci Boulevard and Consolidated Drive.

According to the County, the closures are essential to complete infrastructure upgrades tied to the ongoing water and sewer work along Dundas. The message from the County is clear: delaying this work would

create greater confusion, frustration, and safety issues. That may be true—but the frustration is already here.

To be clear, this editorial is not about opposing construction. Infrastructure needs to be maintained and modernized. And yes, we all benefit from a bit more patience during these periods of disruption. But the real issue lies in timing and coordination. Residents are asking—rightfully so—why such a large-scale, multi-phase project like the Downtown Dig wasn't more strategically sequenced with other infrastructure work.

The Downtown Dig project has been in the pipeline for well over a decade, with years of preparation and consultation. Yet, it appears that certain timelines weren't aligned to minimize the cumulative impact. For example, work on West River Street, which began as a standalone project, was eventually phased into the start of the Downtown Dig. Meanwhile, the decision to begin infrastructure upgrades along Dundas Street—another major corridor—during this same timeframe has only compounded the problem. And the intersection at William and Grand River Street North hasn't closed yet!

Motorists have been encouraged to bypass town using the west bypass route, but those efforts have been hampered too. The

lack of planning to install functioning traffic signals at Brant Oxford Road and Keg Lane, or Bishopsgate Road and Powerline, means the detour is neither smooth nor efficient. The three-way stop at Keg Lane/Brant Oxford Road is a necessary safety measure, but lights would be far more efficient.

And the stakes go beyond driver inconvenience. Emergency response vehicles have found themselves stuck in traffic, unable to reach destinations quickly. We've seen it happen—and we risk seeing it again.

We don't doubt the County's intention

to improve infrastructure or their commitment to long-term benefits for residents and businesses alike. But it's not unreasonable to ask whether these projects could have been staggered more thoughtfully. No one expects perfection when it comes to municipal planning—but the goal should be progress without paralysis.

Let's use this moment as a learning opportunity. As our community grows, so too must our ability to coordinate large-scale projects without overlapping critical routes. Paris deserves progress—but we also deserve a smoother ride getting there.



A road closure sign for the Dundas St / Paris Rd project. The closure is part of ongoing construction projects causing traffic detours and delays throughout the town.

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Boiling water to kitchen confidence: Paris man pens beginner-friendly cookbook

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

If you've ever called someone on Christmas morning to ask how to cook a turkey, there's a decent chance you've already met Mike Miles — or at least heard his sigh on the other end of the phone.

The Paris resident, armed with 28 years in the food service industry and a dry wit as sharp as his favourite kitchen knife, has finally put all those “how do I” answers into one place: his debut book *Let's Start with Boiling Water*.

“It's for people who don't know where to start in the kitchen,” Miles explained. “Old guys whose wives have passed away, kids moving out of their parents' basements, students heading to college... basically, anyone who's been living off takeout and toast.”

And if you're expecting a glossy, photo-heavy coffee table book — forget it. *Let's Start with Boiling Water* is an old-school, no-nonsense kitchen guide that reads like a one-on-one conversation with Mike himself. “Pictures just set you up for disappointment,” he said. “Your dish will



Chicken Cordon Bleu with pasta, a classic Mike Miles first served during his days as a waiter at the Heritage Inn in Mount Pleasant — and still a favourite today. Follow Mike's recipes in his cookbook and you can make it too.

never look like the one in the book. This way, you have to read it — and you might even learn something.”

The book isn't just about recipes (although you'll find plenty, from breakfast staples to hearty comfort food). It's about how to cook — from identifying the hottest burner on your stove, to getting the right sear on a steak, to finally understanding why asparagus sometimes tastes like, well, sticks. His bechamel sauce? “Dead basic. No fancy ingredients. And no, I'm not coddling anyone — I'm just giving you the facts.”

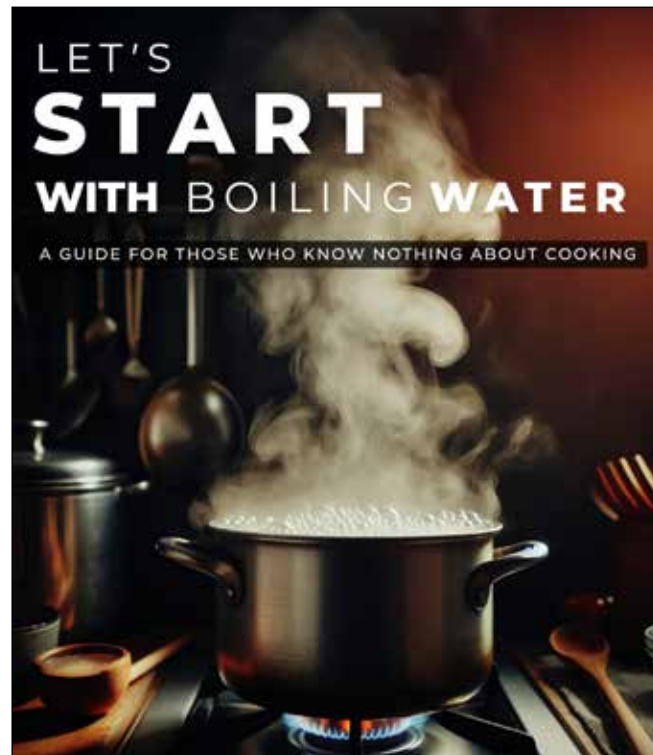
His advice often doubles as cost-cutting tips. For instance, skip the pricey ground beef and buy a whole cut instead. “It's cheaper, has more flavour, and if you have a good knife, you can do it yourself.” He also covers grocery shopping smarts, safe food handling, and kitchen essentials.

Miles' straightforward approach might have something to do with his son, Harrison — a professional chef who crafts high-end dishes for discerning clients. “He's my biggest critic,” Miles laughed. “But I fed him for 40 years and he didn't complain then.”

Writing the book took four and a half years — and the patience (or relief) of his wife, Vicki. “She gave me space and solitude,” he said. “I'm pretty sure she was just glad I was out of her hair.” The book launched in April, with help from friends Tom Pikula, Matthew Srigly and Isaiah Flood. It's available locally at Sales Decorating Den, Secret Lunch, through Mike himself (with free Paris delivery), or online via Amazon.

If the name Mike Miles rings a bell, you might remember his time at some of Paris and area's favourite eateries. In the late '70s, he ran Henry Fry's Fish and Chips, a nod to his father's colourful alias. Later came a decade at Morgan's on the Grand, where he famously worked three years straight without a day off — even through major downtown construction (sound familiar?). The restaurant was such a local landmark that three babies were named Morgan after couples met there, Miles proudly shares.

Now, Miles is serving up something different — the chance for kitchen novices to cook meals they can actually



Paris resident Mike Miles' debut cookbook, *Let's Start with Boiling Water*, offers a no-nonsense, photo-free guide to help kitchen rookies gain confidence and cook meals they'll actually enjoy.

enjoy (and maybe even brag about). And if you follow his advice, there's a good chance you'll end up saving a bit of money, dodging food poisoning, and retiring the skip-the-dishes app.

Just don't expect your food to look like it came from a magazine. As Mike would tell you: “It's not about perfect — it's about dinner.”

If you're interested in picking up a copy, you can email him at m.miles@rogers.com — just don't ask him any questions, all the answers are in the book!

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CORRECTION

In last week's Paris Independent, we shared a story celebrating the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29's 100th anniversary — but we accidentally led readers on a bit of a digital wild goose chase. The website we printed for their fundraising campaign was incorrect (oops!).

The correct site, where donations are very much welcome, is: ParisLegion29.ca. We apologize for the mix-up — and encourage everyone to support this worthy cause at the right place this time!



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Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. The Spanish word "lobo" means what?
2. What does rpm stand for?
3. Who was the longest reigning King in England?
4. What U.S state hosts the annual Oshkosh air show?
5. Who starred in "The Naked Gun?" (1988)
6. How far is a Marathon?
7. A sommelier is known to do what?
8. Which country has won the most FIFA World Cups?
9. How many legs does a lobster have?
10. In The Simpsons, what is the name of the bartender?

This week's answers are found on pg. 19



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HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Penmarvian: A chronicle of resilience and restoration



By Chris Whelan

Nestled along the banks of the Grand River in Paris, high atop what locals like to call “Quality Hill” stands Penmarvian, a stately house with a history as rich and varied as the currents of the river it overlooks. Its story begins in 1845 when Hiram Capron, a visionary builder, embarked on the construction of what had become known as “The Stone House” and eventually “Riverview Hall”. This architectural masterpiece, a shining example of the Greek Revival style, stood proudly with its square profile, flat hip roof, and roof lantern, a nod to the architectural trends of the time.

It took three arduous years and the skilled craftsmanship of twelve stone masons to bring Capron's vision to life. The resulting structure bore striking similarities to the Charles Mitchell House, a testament to the prevailing architectural influences of the era. With its imposing presence and classical features, The Stone House quickly became a landmark in the burgeoning town of Paris.

In 1887, a new chapter unfolded in the history of this grand edifice when John Penman, a prominent figure in the local industrial landscape and the owner of Penman Knitting Mills, acquired the property. With a keen eye for transformation, Penman re-christened the house 'Penmarvian,' a fusion of 'Penman' and 'McVicar,' his wife's family name. Under his stewardship, Penmarvian underwent a metamorphosis, shedding its Greek Revival roots to embrace the opulence of the Victorian era.

The year 1889 marked a significant milestone in Penmarvian's evolution, as Penman commissioned an extensive renovation project that saw the once austere temple plan building transformed into a Victorian castle. Bay windows, towers reaching for the sky, a sprawling veranda, and intricate decorative ironwork adorned the structure,



(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

The original building was called Riverview Hall and was built by the founder of Paris Hiram “King” Capron in 1845. It was a two story structure overlooking the Grand River

imbuing it with a sense of grandeur and elegance befitting its new moniker.

Following John Penman's passing in 1932, Penmarvian found itself in the care of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Penman's generous bequest of \$100,000 for maintenance ensured that the house continued to serve a noble purpose as a residence for retired ministers, missionaries, and their spouses. For decades, Penmarvian stood as a sanctuary for those who had dedicated their lives to service, a bastion of comfort and care in their twilight years.

However, as the years passed, the house faced mounting upkeep costs that eventually led to its closure in 1970. Efforts to repurpose it as senior citizens' housing encountered delays, leaving Penmarvian languishing in a state of disuse until a new chapter unfolded in 1977 with its acquisition by John Van Gastel, a visionary businessman with a passion for restoration.

Gastel's arrival heralded a period of rejuvenation for Penmarvian, as he spared no expense in breathing new life into the aging structure. Extensive renovations saw the removal of the middle gable window, the veranda, and the fire escape, with meticulous attention paid to preserving

the intricate plaster and wood trim that adorned the interior.

In 1978, the surrounding land was severed and sold, marking a new phase in Penmarvian's history. The following year, Marie Tonicic and her husband stepped in as the new custodians of the house, embarking on a transformative journey that would see the addition of a third story, a dining lounge, and an elevator, blending modern amenities with the timeless elegance of the past.

Throughout the years, Penmarvian faced challenges typical of historic buildings, including water damage that threatened its structural integrity. Skilled artisans and contractors were called upon to undertake intricate restoration tasks, such as replicating and replacing damaged plaster trim. The dedication to preserving the building's historical and architectural significance underscores a shared commitment to honouring its past while ensuring its sustainability for future generations.

The story of Penmarvian is not just a tale of a building but a testament to the enduring legacy of historic architecture and the collective efforts required to preserve it for future generations.



(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

In 1887 John Penman (local industrialist) purchased the home and turned it into the awe inspiring structure you see today.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Restored interior bedroom at Penmarvian Retirement Home



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

More views of the architectural details from Penmarvian Retirement Home

Wise Heating and A/C Ltd.: A legacy of comfort and trust for over seven decades

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor



Established in 1953 by Lloyd Wise in the picturesque town of Paris, Wise Heating and Air Conditioning Ltd. has been a cornerstone of reliable HVAC services for over seven decades. From its humble beginnings to its current status, the company's journey is a testament to family values, quality service, and community trust.

A Family Tradition

Lloyd Wise laid the foundation of the company, which was later carried forward by his son, Mike Wise. The seamless transition of leadership in 1979 marked a pivotal moment in the company's history. Over the years, the team expanded to include dedicated individuals like Ron Buck, whose seasonal commitment to the business exemplified the close-knit nature of the team.

In 1998, Greg Collings, a skilled HVAC technician, joined the company and eventually took over the reins in 2003, upholding the business's proud legacy. Today, Wise Heating and Air Conditioning Ltd. continues to be a family affair with Greg at the helm, supported by a team of experienced professionals.

Meet the Team

At Wise Heating and A/C Ltd., expertise meets hometown charm. Greg Collings, a lifelong resident of Paris, leads the team with a personalized touch that resonates with the community. Scott Wheelton, with over two decades of experience, is a familiar face known for his reliability and skill.

Joining the ranks is Jared Collings, the eldest son of Greg and Sherry, who brings a fresh perspective and a passion for the craft. Meanwhile, Wyatt Collings, while pursuing his arborist certification, contributes his skills to furnace and A/C installations, showcasing the multi-faceted talents



Wise Heating and A/C Ltd. has thrived on strong relationships and unwavering trust within the community. From emergency no-heat services to preventative maintenance and thorough inspections, the team provides comprehensive solutions tailored to each client's needs.

within the members of the team.

Comprehensive Services

Wise Heating and A/C Ltd. caters to all HVAC needs, from furnaces to ductwork and gas liners for stoves and BBQs. Their services extend throughout Paris and the County of Brant and area, ensuring that homes stay comfortable and energy-efficient all year round.

Reliability Round the Clock

With over 70 years of experience, Wise Heating and A/C Ltd. prioritizes customer satisfaction and convenience. Regular business hours from Monday to Friday ensure accessibility, while emergency services from October to April guarantee as-

sistance at any hour. Whether it's a sudden breakdown or routine maintenance, Wise Heating is just a call away.

Customer-Centric Approach

At Wise Heating, customer care is paramount. From emergency no-heat services to preventative maintenance and thorough inspections, the team provides comprehensive solutions tailored to each client's needs. Technical support further enhances the customer experience, ensuring that every aspect of their HVAC systems is handled with expertise and care.

Building Relationships, One Home at a Time

Throughout its illustrious history, Wise

Heating and A/C Ltd. has thrived on strong relationships and unwavering trust within the community. As Greg Collings emphasizes, the "small town" approach remains the cornerstone of their operations, reflecting a commitment to personalized service and customer satisfaction.

In a world where businesses come and go, Wise Heating and A/C Ltd. is a great example of local stability, expertise, and warmth you can count on. With a rich heritage and a forward-looking team, the company continues to redefine excellence in HVAC services, ensuring that every home they touch remains a haven of comfort and reliability.



Greg Collings
Owner



Scott Wheelton



Jared Collings



Wyatt Collings

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cleus of entrepreneurial spirit and creativity. Among these gems, let's introduce the latest additions:

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Sweetness and Flight beckons you to explore a world of fine honeys, birdseed, candles, and a diverse array of unique gift ideas that cater to every taste and occasion. Discover a treasure trove of artisanal delights that are sure to delight and inspire.

At Wordkind, immerse yourself in a carefully curated collection of Canadian-made stationery, gifts, and treats that celebrate local craftsmanship and creativity. Explore a world of thoughtful products that speak to the heart and soul of Canadian artistry.

Grand River Shirts Company stands as the go-to destination for premium apparel decorating services in Brant County. Whether you're looking to add a personalized touch to your wardrobe or seeking quality custom apparel, this store promises top-notch craftsmanship and service.

The Gem Marketplace isn't just a retail destination; it's a vibrant community hub that embraces local artisans, eco-conscious businesses, and aspiring entrepreneurs. Located in the heart of downtown Paris, this restored heritage building provides a platform for budding talents to shine and connect with a diverse audience.

With a market base of 1.5 million people within easy

reach, including the residents of Paris, Brant County, and Brantford, The Gem Marketplace offers a dynamic environment for businesses to prosper. Modern amenities such as high-speed WiFi, heating, and air conditioning ensure that entrepreneurs have everything they need to turn their dreams into reality from day one.

By fostering a culture of collaboration and support among like-minded individuals, The Gem Marketplace nurtures a spirit of creativity and sustainability. It serves as a stepping stone for aspiring business owners to enter the world of brick-and-mortar retail with reduced risks and greater flexibility, bridging the gap between traditional set-ups and full-scale stores.

As you stroll through the charming streets of Paris, The Gem Marketplace invites you to be part of a story where small businesses unite to create something extraordinary. Each store within the marketplace tells its own tale, inviting you to explore locally crafted goods, eco-friendly products, and unique finds that celebrate the essence of community and craftsmanship.

Whether you're a local resident seeking a one-of-a-kind shopping experience or a curious visitor eager to uncover hidden treasures, The Gem Marketplace extends a warm invitation. Step inside, embark on a journey of discovery, and become part of a community that values creativity, craftsmanship, and connection. In a world dominated by big-box retailers, The Gem Marketplace reminds us of the magic that unfolds when local businesses thrive and communities unite in celebration.

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The Paris Independent SPORTS



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Predators close season with grit, growth and smiles

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Paris Predators U13 Girls Softball team wrapped up their South Oxford League season with the year-end tournament in Innerkip from Aug. 8 to 10 — finishing on a high note despite a challenging win-loss record.

The girls opened the tournament against the league's top team, Embro, and held their own in a hard-fought battle. Clara delivered solid pitching through all three innings, keeping the game competitive before Paris fell to the eventual winners.

In game two, the Predators took on Sweaburg in a back-and-forth contest that ended 13-8. The close score reflected the team's determination, energy and steady improvements throughout the year.

Every player made significant strides this season, coming to the diamond with a winning attitude regardless of the scoreboard. Pitchers Clara, Arlie, Ayla, Tessa and Sadie anchored the team from the mound, while Mylah shone behind the plate. Addison, Aleya, Brynleigh, Alissa and Tenley demonstrated strong defensive skills in the field, and the entire lineup contributed at bat.

Coaches Josh VanSickle, Josh Korslick and Gregg Sangster, along with Jon Carr, were credited for their commitment, encouragement and countless hours spent helping the girls develop their skills and confidence.

Win or lose, the Predators proved that teamwork, perseverance and a love of the game are what truly define a season's success.



The Paris Predators U13 Girls Softball team wrapped up their South Oxford League season at the year-end tournament in Innerkip Aug. 8-10, celebrating a year of growth, teamwork and determination both on and off the diamond.

(ASHLEY VANSICKLE PHOTO)

Paris Predators u11 teams face off in season finale

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

It was an all-Paris showdown at the South Oxford Softball League Year-End Tournament in Innerkip this past weekend, as the two Paris Predators U11 teams met in a spirited battle for bragging rights — and a lot of fun.

Both teams had been working hard all season, improving their skills, building friendships, and learning the game. Wins weren't always easy to come by, but growth was evident in every inning — and the smiles on the players' faces proved the season was a success.

Team 2's Journey

Paris Predators U11 Team #2 opened the tournament with a tough early-morning game against the top-ranked Princeton/Drumbo/Plattsville squad. After a loss, they regrouped for a midday matchup against their friends on Paris Team 1. The game was played under intense heat, but Team 2 came ready, pulling off a 10-4 win to advance. Their run ended against a strong Ayr team, but the players left the field with heads held

high.

The team wanted to send a special thank-you to the U9 call-ups who helped throughout the tournament, Jack, Easton and Isaiah.

This season, improvements could be seen across the roster, with special recognition for Maxen and Silas, who took their games to new levels. Wes and Clark delivered amazing pitching performances, while JJ, Logan, and Corbin shone behind the plate. Strong fielding from Rylee, Alexander, Brayden, and Landon kept opponents on their toes. And while Zain's season was cut short by a broken arm, he never missed a chance to cheer from the sidelines.

A huge thank you goes out to coaches Rodney ("Gator") and Jamie, along with assistant coaches Joe and John, for their dedication and encouragement all season.

Team 1's Highlights

From their very first practice, Paris Predators U11 Team #1 showed they were a tight-knit group. Each game brought new milestones — whether it was a surprisingly well-executed double play, a timely hit, or smart fielding in pressure moments.

Ben D. and Carter delivered big hits late

in the season, while pitchers Ben T., Oliver, and Jordan proved that determination pays off with strikeouts. Brennan was a steady offensive force, regularly driving in runs, and Drew's growing confidence led to strong plays in the field and smart at bats at the plate.

Utility players Emerson, Hudson, and Jackson contributed reliable defence, often playing in multiple positions when needed, while Nikola came through in clutch moments with heads-up plays and important hits. Kai brought consistent offence, rallying the team when they needed it most, and River became one of the league's standout catchers, shutting down base-stealing attempts.

While the scoreboard declared a winner in their head-to-head matchup, the real victory was shared by both teams — a season full of new skills, great sportsmanship, and lasting memories.

A big thank you to coaches Dale Henderson, Jon Carr, Adam Ressel and Jared Turnbull for sharing their knowledge, teaching new skills, and motivating the players to give their best effort in every situation.

GUESS WHO?

Born in Rosario, Argentina in 1987, I rose through a famous Spanish club's youth academy before becoming one of the world's greatest playmakers and goal scorers. I've won multiple Ballon d'Or awards and finally lifted football's biggest prize for my country in 2022. Whether I'm threading a perfect pass or finishing from the edge of the box, I love making magic on the pitch. **Who am I?**

Answer: Lionel Messi.

Lansdowne Children's Centre announces new, expanded facility to serve more local families



An artist's rendering of the proposed new Lansdowne Children's Centre, which will expand services and support for children, youth and families across Brantford and the County of Brant.

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

Lansdowne Children's Centre has identified a site for a new purpose-built children's treatment centre in Brantford, a project the organization says will expand care for infants, children and youth with physical, communication and developmental needs.

The centre says the facility will be built next to its current home at 39 Mount Pleasant St., at Welsh Street and Colborne Street West — a location chosen to maintain accessibility on a major corridor served by public transit.

Brantford-Brant MPP Will Bouma unveiled site signage on Aug 8 at 168 Colborne St., joined by Lansdowne leaders, staff and local council members. "The new Lansdowne Children's Centre will be the first purpose-built facility in the organization's history, with increased space and enhanced infrastructure," Bouma said. "More children will be able to access the care they need, when they need it."

An informal public open house is set for Thursday, Aug. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 39 Mount Pleasant St., where residents can view plans and offer feedback before a zoning bylaw amendment is filed for the

vacant former industrial site.

Executive director Rita-Marie Hadley said the project is intended to close gaps for families after hospital discharge. "This new facility will ensure that children and families receive the support they need, when they need it, in a space designed to foster connection, discovery, and joy."

Board chair Ashley Veldkamp called the plan a product of "trust and collaboration" with government and community partners, adding the goal is "an inclusive space where more children can unlock new skills — and new smiles."

Capital campaign chair Scott Lyons said the announcement signals readiness to rally donor support to outfit the building with "state-of-the-art equipment and enhancements" to meet diverse needs.

Lansdowne says it is working with government partners and technical experts as the project moves into planning, design and construction. The organization serves nearly 4,000 children and families annually across sites in Brantford, Caledonia, Dunnville and Simcoe, and in homes, schools and child-care settings, as well as virtually.

More information is available at lansdownecentre.ca.

Paris Museum & Historical Society elects new board, continuing 50-Year legacy of preserving local history



The Paris Museum & Historical Society (PMHS) is a unique heritage institution dedicated to preserving, exhibiting, and making accessible the rich cultural and historical fabric of Paris and its surrounding area. It's the only organization in Ontario that combines a museum, an archive, and a historical society all under one roof. The society was officially established on December 11, 1972, following the donation of the Paris Public Library's historical collection for a symbolic price of \$1. It launched at the home of founder Fred Bemrose and was led by an initial executive committee including chairman Donald A. Smith, secretary-treasurer Jack Pickell, and Curator Fred Bemrose, with support from other community leaders. More than 50 years later it is still thriving and that is thanks to volunteers and executive members who care about preserving local history. Last week, PMHS elected a new board. Pictured left to right: Marie Williamson, Daniel Churchill, Ursula O'Brien, Bill Allan, Carol Goar, Marg Deans, Darlene Goad, Cate Breagh, Patrick Draper.

Paris Fair seeks next Ambassador



The 2024 Paris Fair Ambassador Kara Sickle will pass the sash to a new Ambassador during the Aug. 28th competition. Applications will be accepted until August 19th.

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

The Paris Agricultural Society is accepting applications for the 2025 Paris Fair Ambassador Competition, offering young adults a chance to step into a leadership role representing the Fair and the community.

Open to candidates between the ages of 17 and 23 as of Aug. 1, 2025, the competition is an opportunity to develop public speaking skills, gain event experience, and represent Paris at local events and at the

Canadian National Exhibition in August 2026. Applicants must be sponsored by a non-profit organization, which will cover the \$50 entry fee, and must never have previously held an ambassador title.

This year's competition will be held Thursday, Aug. 28, on the opening day of the Paris Fair. Each contestant will be paired with a mentor from the Ambassador Committee to guide them through the process.

Applications are open until Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025. For more information or to apply, visit www.parisfairgrounds.com.

The Paris Independent

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Paris Duffers at Burford Golf Links



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Jim Fowler taking time to visit all his friends at the South End Retirement Home

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

Friday August 1st Paris men's golf results... It's always sunny in Burford....

MVP

Besides travelling 1700 km to play golf with his friends Steve Cruickshank made some amazing shots throughout the day, the all sports athlete (he got those genes from his mother) has not lost his touch.

Winners of the milk

Congratulations are in order for the victorious pairs of Andy Attlebery and Steve Cruickshank, Harold Oldroyd and Jason Holmes, Jeffrey Johnston and Al Oldroyd, Pat Fergus and Jim Fowler

Drive of the Day

And a way we go ... our good friend Ralph Kramden hit a "all the way to the Moon!" shot that probably hasn't landed yet, his playing partner, Ed couldn't stop remarking "nice shot, a way to go there Ralphie boy!"

Best dressed:

Decked out in all new Adidas attire was our good friend Mark Maguire, who started out selling hockey sticks from a garage in Paris and is now president of Adidas Canada ... proud of you Mag!

Worst dressed

The worst dressed award goes to Pete Hogarth, he looked like he just came from a Brantford Harlequin rugby practice.

Good guy award:

This award goes to the ever loving Jim Fowler, who stops by The Retirement Place once a week to cheer everybody up, especially his old bosom buddy Doug.

That's all the Golf news for this week. Keep it where it's mowed. Scoop Stewart signing off. *always a pleasure...*

Defense, deeds and Dusters: Thursday hockey never looked so good

SID LUCKMAN

Paris Independent Contributor

There have been some tremendous plays this Dusters season. And one never hears about the dominance of defensive minded hockey in a group whose average age is 44. But...that is the theme of Dusters Hockey 2025. Goalies Steve, "no I in team" Iverson and Ryan "pink pony club" Neufeld make 2-2 ties look like 4-4 ties! Spencer Lees has been amazing as a call up player this summer. He fills the slot...with his brother no less! Paul "dynamo" DeBruyn and Kirk "Lean and Mean" McLean only

knows two speeds.... fast and faster! The 40-30 player of renown this week is sub man Andrew "Pride of Gdansk" Bak. There is so much done without a puck. Just ask him! Extra mention for empathy and gentlemanly discord goes to OPY Gordon. New to Paris, but a veteran of good deeds! The Dusters have 4 weeks to go. Playoffs start on August 21 and end September 4 with the beginning of the NFL season. Don't miss your chance to catch this remarkable action – or join it - Thursdays at 4pm at the Brant Sports Complex.

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The Hidden Chapter in Bob Hasler's Life: Service during the October crisis



Many people in Paris recognize Bob Hasler for his contributions to local Paris history. He is the former President of the Paris Historical Society and Curator Emeritus of the Paris Museum. He has also written a five-volume book entitled *Paris Junction*, a remarkably detailed history of that important Paris neighbourhood. But few people know that Bob also served in the Canadian Armed Forces, first in the 56th Field Artillery and later in the Royal Canadian Ordinance Corps. That is why he was in Camp Petawawa,

serving at 2 Ordinance Field Park and the Munitions Depot, in 1970 during the FLQ October Crisis. 1970 was a period of intense political and social unrest in Canada, triggered by the Front de libération du Québec (FLQ), a Quebec separatist group resorting to violence and terrorism. The crisis saw the kidnapping of two prominent figures, British diplomat James Cross and Quebec Vice-Premier Pierre Laporte, by the FLQ. In response, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau invoked the War Measures Act, suspending civil liberties

and authorizing the arrest and detention of suspected FLQ members. As a member of the Ordinance Corps, Bob and his fellow soldiers were required to defend the army's weaponry. He has told some of his experiences during the crisis:

"As a young man, it was scary and an exhilarating time. I remember, at the time, I was on leave at home, when I got the call to report for duty. My buddy, Mike, lived in Brownsville. He got the call, picked me up and we headed to Petawawa. When we arrived at the main gate, there were loops of barbed wire on the road creating a "S" shaped entrance. There were also search lights lighting up the sky. We did not know what was happening. We reported in and were told to go to our residence (off base) kit up and report for duty. I did not get back to my home for two and a half weeks! We were under martial law!

Over that time, I did guard duty at the Ammo Dump railway entrance. I didn't know if I would challenge anyone who showed up on the other side of the gates, as we had been trained, or shoot first and then challenge. I knew the sides of the

tracks were mined with anti-personal mines. So, if somebody showed up, they were either very stupid or up to something bad!

I was later assigned as a Courier to take documents etc. from Petawawa to Ottawa. My orders were to stop for no one! Beside me was an attaché case, SMG (Sub Machine Gun) fully loaded and a Browning 9 mm, again fully loaded. I remember driving into Ottawa, and saw Armoured Personal Carriers located at various intersections, with soldiers standing on guard in full combat gear. It was surreal."

Bob has shared his experiences with the Homes of Heroes committee, who want to learn and share the stories of Paris veterans, and recognize their courage and patriotism. Bob's experiences remind us that Paris veterans did not serve only in wartime but are vital to our national defence as well. Do you have a story to share, a veteran to honour? Then contact Homes of Heroes at info@homesofheroes.ca. If you have any questions about the project, please email Neil Edwards at neiledwards51@gmail.com.

COMMON CENTS: Protecting your retirement: How to manage the risk of market timing to protect your retirement

JACOB GAUDET

Financial Columnist

When you're far away from retirement and just looking to maximize your investments' returns, there is some truth to the idea that it doesn't matter when you get positive market returns.

After all, the market has consistently risen and fallen on many occasions over the last 100 years or so: it's what it does. Over time, markets recover. So, in the years leading up to retirement, as long as you don't cash in any losing investments, the sequence of returns doesn't matter too much.

However, this is not the case once you retire. At that point, you'll switch from growing your wealth to drawing from it to provide yourself with retirement income. This is when the sequence of returns becomes really important and can have a huge impact on how long your savings will last.

What is sequence of returns risk?

Sequence of returns is the order in which your investment returns (gains or losses) happen. Sequence of returns risk is when the market declines when you first retire and/or start withdrawing income, leaving you with less money to grow, meaning your savings could run out too soon.

How the sequence of returns risk impacts retirees

When you first retire, it's not wise to put all your money into a cash savings account. Canadians are living much longer

than even a couple of generations ago, with the average Canadian life expectancy being just over 83. You may therefore need your money to last 20 years or even more, which means you'll probably need returns that are considerably higher than the interest you'll find in a typical savings account.

You also need to ensure that your money doesn't lose its value, so you need returns that can keep up with (or exceed) the rate of inflation. To accomplish this, your portfolio needs to be comprised of both equities (shares in publicly traded companies) and fixed income (typically bonds, which are loans made to governments and companies). Equities provide greater growth potential, while fixed income assets typically provide more security.

When you start withdrawing money from your retirement savings, you open yourself up to sequence of returns risk. This is because regular withdrawals reduce the overall value of your portfolio, which is the basis for all future compound growth.

If your portfolio were to lose value (have negative returns) in the early stages of withdrawing income from it, the base amount that can generate positive returns would become so much smaller, meaning you'd have fewer investments to grow or compound once the market recovers.

How to manage sequence of returns risk

There are several ways to mitigate sequence of returns risk. Given that withdrawing income from a portfolio that has

lost value is the key to sequence of returns risk, one way to minimize risk is to have other sources of income readily available if the market drops.

Maintaining exposure to equities in your retirement portfolio is crucial. Equities offer growth potential that can help mitigate risks like longevity and inflation. However, it's wise to choose investments that not only provide equity exposure but also offer proven protection when markets decline; this will ensure the stability of your income stream.

You could also buy a term annuity, which will provide you with a regular income for a set period of time (for example, the next five years) regardless of how the markets perform. This way, if there is a market crash at the beginning of your retirement, you can leave your investments untouched for five years. After that time, your investments should have recovered and increased in value, so you can start to draw income from them (or buy a new annuity to cover the next five years).

Finally, a cash reserve strategy involves putting some of your assets into cash (or cash equivalents) to cover periods of potential market decline. For example, you could hold three years' worth of retirement income in cash equivalents, like guaranteed investment certificates (GICs). These are very safe investments, with guaranteed interest rates and different terms, such as one, three and five years.

If the market crashes, rather than withdrawing money from investments that

have dropped in value, you could cash in your short-term GICs. If the stock market crash persists for several years, you could then cash in your mid- and long-term GICs when you need the money. This strategy ensures that you don't touch any assets affected by the market crash, and so it helps you avoid sequence of returns risk.

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Jacob Gaudet is an Associate Consultant on the wealth advisory team Gaudet Group Private Wealth Management. He helps clients get more out of their money, so they can get more out of life. Jacob specializes in six key areas: Investment, Retirement, Estate, Tax, and Insurance, and Mortgage Planning. With more than 60 years of combined experience, Gaudet Group Private Wealth Management is committed to making clients' interests their top priority. Do you have questions you'd like Jacob to Answer? Email him at jacob.gaudet@igpwm.ca or check out his website at GaudetGroup.ca!

Paris in August: Familiar faces, fond farewells, and a season of change.

STONES Around Town

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

As the sultry days of August envelop us, the specter of Labour Day and the approaching Paris Road Antiques annual sale loom large on the horizon. During my recent perambulations, I found myself intersecting with familiar faces on their habitual strolls, notably Cindy Noyce and Wendy Howard, the latter graciously sporting a smile amidst their extensive two-hour town wanderings. In memory, a solemn nod to Robin Munroe, who departed 46 years ago, resonates deeply within our community. Their tales of a July voyage northward to visit friends Jay and Judy Jasper, alongside Betty Nelson, peppered our conversations with warmth and nostalgia.

Randy Brown of Burford, a ubiquitous presence in Paris with a mirror affixed to

his hat, navigates the streets solely on foot, a steadfast figure in our bustling town.

Contemplating recent occurrences, murmurs of a train mishap prompt contemplation on the dilapidated state of the train bridge over Dundas Street and its exposed rebar—a hazardous sight as trains thunder overhead and bits of concrete showers down. Lingering questions persist about this and the long-awaited 403 proposed interchange at Bishop Gate Road, a project slated for construction over two decades—a testament, perhaps, to bureaucratic obstacles.

Amidst discussions swirl ambitious plans for the addition of pickleball courts and an indoor track to the Brant Sports Complex, estimated at approximately \$25 million, contingent on halving the originally proposed court count from three to a more manageable number. The ascendancy of pickleball as a year-round focal point sparks both enthusiasm and apprehension regarding potential tax implications. Speculation abounds concerning imminent tax hikes and the impending election season. Remember to exercise your civic duty in the forthcoming election or even consider running for council!

Fond farewells are extended to Bill (fondly known as Toughie) and Sheila Tough as they embark on a new chapter after Tough-



Longtime friend and neighbour of "Stones", Bill Tough of Tough's Hardware fame, a staple in downtown Paris for over 70 years, receives one last copy of the Paris Independent at his and wife Sheila's former home in the flats.

The Paris Independent Pick Up Locations

PARIS

Brant Sports Complex

Brave Waves Swim School

Canadian Tire

Cobblestone Public House

Cowan Community Health Hub Pharmacy.

Detour Café Paris

Dog-Eared Cafe

Egg Smart

Elberta Farms Country Market

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Park Lane Terrace

Paris Branch--County of Brant Public Library

PrimaCare Community Family Health Team

Queensview Retirement Community

Rexall Pharmacy

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29

Sales Decorating

Secret Lunch and Catering

Sobeys

Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House Paris

Telfer Place Retirement Residence

Tim Hortons - Rest Acres

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

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County of Brant Library - Burford

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County of Brant Library - St. George

Freshmart

Tim Hortons — Brant Rd

ie's seven decades in the flats, marking the end of an era. While their departure is bittersweet, the construction of the Jeff suite in their new abode, designed by Jim Fowler, is underway as we speak. Meanwhile, the legacy of Paris sports endures with the emergence of my young neighbour Walker, a budding talent in soccer and cycling at the tender age of three, evoking memories of our own childhood days playing sports in the flats.

The abandoned library project continues to stir controversy, with concerns that the proposed plans — including limited parking — may have prioritized other interests over community needs. The proposed inclusion of a banquet hall within the library's design raises concerns about the library's core function and the encroachment of commercial interests on civic spaces.

Amidst tranquil moments by the Grand River, chance encounters with familiar faces like Derek Graziano, Nancy and Lynne Alway, evoke nostalgic reflections on communal bonds and shared histories. By the way I would like to give a shout out to for-

mer Paris police officer John "Law" Alway.

I humbly urge our esteemed Sports Columnist, "Scoop Stewart," to explore an article on the former Paris "Burns Bears" ladies' fastpitch team, paying homage to stalwarts like Linda Madden, Sue Carr (may she rest in peace), Nancy Beachey, Chris Bethune, and the indomitable Coach Meggs.

In a tribute to enduring partnerships, we salute our dedicated editor Chris and his wife Cindy, celebrating their 35th year of marriage last month.

Amidst reflections on cherished memories, I also enjoyed a memorial trip for Rob (Cob) Johnston down the river with The Johnston clan (25 years & it still seems surreal, and we all miss you like crazy). A reminder to support local businesses and community events, including the upcoming Paris Drinks Fest on August 15 – 16.

As the curtain descends on summer, let us embrace the offerings of the season, prioritize well-being and exploration, and cherish the ties that bind us together. Until we reconvene, I bid you a heartfelt adieu.



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Paris fair leader named to national Top 10 Under 40 list



Photo of Sydney Adams published in the Canadian Fair News.

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

Sydney Adams, a longtime volunteer with the Paris Agricultural Society, has been named one of the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (CAFE) Top 10 Under 40 for 2025 — a national recognition highlighting leadership and dedication in the fair industry.

Adams, 26, has volunteered with the

Paris Agricultural Society for more than 15 years, currently serving as an executive member and chairing the gates committee. Known for her calm presence, strategic foresight, and hands-on leadership, she plays a key role in ensuring smooth operations at the Paris Fair and other Society events.

Her leadership style blends professionalism and empathy, qualities that also define her career as a Grief and Bereavement Counsellor at Stedman Community Hospice. In both roles, Adams is praised for her strong work ethic, communication skills and ability to unite people around a common goal.

In recent years, Adams spearheaded a major governance review for the Paris Agricultural Society, leading the revision of its constitution to ensure compliance with Ontario’s Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). Her attention to detail and inclusive approach helped preserve the Society’s mission and values while improving long-term stability.

“She brings a powerful blend of compassion and capability to every role she takes on,” said CAFE in its announcement, noting Adams exemplifies the next generation of fair leaders.

Adams joins a prestigious list of young professionals across Canada recognized for their contributions to the agricultural fair and exhibition sector.

Mosquitoes in Brantford test positive for West Nile virus

THE PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Mosquitoes collected in a Brantford neighbourhood last week have tested positive for West Nile virus — the first confirmed evidence of the virus in Brantford and the County of Brant this year, according to Grand Erie Public Health.

The mosquitoes were captured as part of the health unit’s ongoing surveillance program. While no human cases have been reported to date, officials say the lab-confirmed results indicate that the virus is present in the community.

“This is the first confirmed positive mosquito pool for West Nile virus this season,” said Filip Pajtondziew, Manager of Infectious Diseases and Sexual Health. “The warm and wet weather conditions this summer have created an ideal environment for mosquito breeding.”

West Nile virus is primarily spread through the bite of infected mosquitoes, which contract the virus by feeding on birds that carry it. While most people bitten by an infected mosquito will not

become ill, the virus can cause serious health complications, particularly for older adults and those with underlying medical conditions.

To reduce the risk of infection, residents are encouraged to:

- Wear light-coloured, long-sleeved clothing with tightly woven fabric.
- Avoid outdoor activity from early evening to morning when mosquitoes are most active.
- Eliminate standing water on their property, including in bird baths and outdoor containers.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET or other approved ingredients.

Grand Erie Public Health is continuing to monitor the spread of the virus across Brantford, Brant County, Haldimand and Norfolk as part of its regular seasonal surveillance.

To report standing water or mosquito concerns, residents can contact the health unit at 519-753-4937, ext. 444. More information is available online at www.bchu.org/westnile or hnhu.org/westnile.



WEEKLY

Horoscope

August 13 - August 20, 2025

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



You are likely to experience a week full of thoughtfulness and introspection, Aries. You are searching for a new source for self-fulfillment, and may be inspired by another's ideas.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Right now you might not feel you are in the correct place in your profession, Your current role too restrictive or does it not challenge your skills? You might want to start looking around for new challenges.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Taurus, now is the time to identify your priorities. Figure out what you want or would prefer to do before you start taking any steps forward. This is the only way to get satisfaction.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Now is a great time to take the bull by the horns. Opportunity to be assertive and take on a leadership role presents itself this week. You're ready.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



Prepare for a week that will pose some challenges, Gemini. A last-minute project at work may test your mettle.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



You may be taking stock of your professional life and goals. Plan accordingly to balance the work side with your personal needs.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



The plan may have been to stay isolated until you get all of your tasks done, Cancer. But those closest to you have some other ideas; they might invade your quiet cocoon.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Something unusual may happen to you this week. Be ready for the unexpected. This also is a good time to tie up some loose ends that you have been overlooking.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Leo, there's more than one way to approach a project. Remain receptive to new ideas and take time to think things through before choosing a path forward.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Nothing to stop you from asking for help from time to time. While you certainly enjoy the satisfaction of getting things done, assistance is necessary.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Virgo, your independent streak may need to be reined in over the next few days. Teamwork is key right now, so focus on being a supportive, reliable team player—it could make all the difference.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Hard work is starting to pay notable dividends. Enjoy the fruits of your labors, but remember to keep your nose to the grindstone.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 13

Sebastian Stan, Actor (43)

AUGUST 14

Steve Martin, Actor (80)

AUGUST15

Ben Affleck, Actor (53)

AUGUST 16

Madonna, Singer (67)

AUGUST 17

Robert De Niro, Actor (82)

AUGUST 18

Andy Samberg, Actor/Comedian (47)

AUGUST 19

John Stamos, Actor (62)

ZOO Riddles

Black and white and cute as can be,
I eat bamboo and come from a faraway tree.

What am I?
A panda

My roar is loud, I'm king of the land,
With a golden mane, I look so grand.

What am I?
A lion

I slither and hiss without any feet,
You won't hear me coming, I'm silent and sleek.

What am I?
A snake

I sleep upside down and fly at night,
But I'm not a bird — though I take flight.

What am I?
A bat

I waddle and swim but cannot fly,
I live where it's cold and the fish swim by.

What am I?
A penguin

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 18

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

CHARLEE

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Charlee, an 8 year old bullmastiff is sporting her stylish goggles as she is overcoming an injury to her eye. Charlee was not a fan of the dreaded "lampshade" collar but loves wearing her new shades. She may even continue wearing them long after her eye is healed!

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



Word Search

LET'S GO TO THE ZOO



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

- Habitat
- Zookeeper
- Enclosure
- Wildlife
- Monkey
- Elephant
- Giraffe
- Tiger
- Penguin
- Reptile
- Flamingo
- Zebra
- Kangaroo
- Panda
- Hippo
- Tour
- Tickets
- Exhibit
- Safari
- Roar

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Evenings in downtown Paris - Join the businesses of downtown Paris for a monthly celebration of our dynamic downtown and the exciting things we have going on in the heart of our small town. The 3rd Friday of the month, every month for the rest of 2025, will feature festivities to get you out and about in downtown Paris; stores staying open late, shopping specials, live entertainment, creative activities and more.

Celebration of the Grand River in Brant County - A play & celebration will be in Paris, at Lions Park from 6 to 9pm. There will be music, life-size puppets, flags, banners and historic characters sharing interesting 'gossip' from the past. Come & join us for the fun! Other communities celebrating the Grand River are Glen Morris on August 10th, Brantford (Bell Homestead Historic site) on August 16 - 17 and the 'Grand Finale' at Chiefswood Park - Six Nations August 23rd from noon to 9pm. Information available <https://www.ruralcreativity.org/projects/grand-river-community-play-project-2/>

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Summer Open House - The local businesses at 70 Hartley Ave invites you to our Summer Open House! Come celebrate the summer with exclusive deals, free food from Link Street Sausage, ice cream from Chocolate Sensations and so much more at the family friendly event. Sunday, August 17th from 10 am to 3 pm.

Paris Sketchers Club - Meeting under the William Street Bridge to sketch the beauty along the Grand River from 1 pm to 3 pm. Our August sketching location is a Paris favourite. We will be sketching the view from "under" the William Street Bridge. Well, we will actually be on the bank, just to one side, but if you want to sit under the bridge, you can. Access is best from the parking lot of the Syl Apps Arena (51 William Street, Paris). Everyone welcome – but you may want to bring some bug spray!

Cardboard Boat Races! - Build your own cardboard boat and paddle using only cardboard and duct tape and put it to the test with a journey across the Paris Pool at 80 Laurel St from 11 am to 12 pm. Open to all ages. Note: 2 people per boat, all participants are required to wear life jackets. Register your team now at brant.ca/CardboardBoatRace

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

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

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

Free Community Swim - Paris Community Pool, hosted by the Paris Lions Club from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Everyone welcome to cool off and enjoy the final days of summer at the Paris Pool!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

Free Outdoor Movies - Grab your popcorn, your lawn chair, and your favourite blanket — it's time for an unforgettable summer of free outdoor movies in the County of Brant! Join us as we turn local parks into open-air theatres for family-friendly flicks under the stars. Movies begin at dusk. We're collecting non-perishable food donations at all Movies in the Parks events in support of our local food banks. No monetary donations.

2025 Movie Lineup:

- **Thursday, August 21** – Dog Man at Mount Pleasant Park, Mount Pleasant
- **Friday, September 5** – Mufasa at King William Park, St. George
- **Friday, September 12** – Elio at Forest Drive Park, Paris
- **Friday, September 19** – Karate Kid Legends at Burford Community Centre Park
- **Friday, September 26** – How to Train Your Dragon at Scotland Community Centre

** Please note: Movies are subject to change pending release dates.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

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

Oxford Philatelic Society - Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4pm) and 4th Tuesday (7-9pm) September to May. Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7. If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com
Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13-18

48th Annual Fun Fair at Countryside Camp - Join us in celebrating Harvesting Memories during the 48th Annual Fun Fair at Countryside Camp! This fun filled celebration starts with an online auction September 13-18 and culminates at the camp on September 20, from 10am to 3pm. Your entire family will enjoy the traditional Dutch and Canadian foods, as well as the rides, games, garage sale, auctions, and tearoom treats. Most of all, make this year's fair a destination and an opportunity to reunite with friends you have not seen in years. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Salvation Army Food Bank. For more information <https://ontariochristiancamp.ca/funfair/> or campfunfair.ca.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Cainsville Premier Employment Hub Public Workshop - At the TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre, 15 Ewart Ave. Afternoon session from 2pm to 3:30 pm and evening session from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Both sessions will cover the following: Share what we've heard so far, present three draft land use concepts for the Premier Employment Hub, discuss key ideas such as roads, land use, green space, and future development and invite your feedback through small group discussions. Reserve your spot by registering on Eventbrite at cainsvilleemploymenthub.eventbrite.ca before Monday, September 8, 2025.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Cemetery Decoration Day - Mount Pleasant and St. George Cemetery.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Cemetery Decoration Day - Northfield Cemetery Decoration Day. To learn more email cemeteries@brant.ca or visit brant.ca/Cemetery

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Oxford Philatelic Society Circuit Book Fair - Join fellow stamp enthusiasts at the Oxford Philatelic Society Circuit Book Fair on October 25, 2025, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock, Ontario. With free admission and parking, it's the perfect opportunity to browse and buy stamps, connect with collectors, and explore offerings from about eight participating stamp clubs. For more information, contact Don Eaton at dhfe@silomail.com or visit www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford.

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FRIDAY PRIOR AT 10 A.M.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



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.

CLASSIFIEDS

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

COMING EVENTS

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

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

WANTED

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

MEMORIES AND MILESTONES

Share them with your local community.

Let us help create a meaningful announcement:

info@theparisdependent.com

Burtch Baptist Outdoor Summer Concerts 2025
352 Cockshutt Rd. Brantford

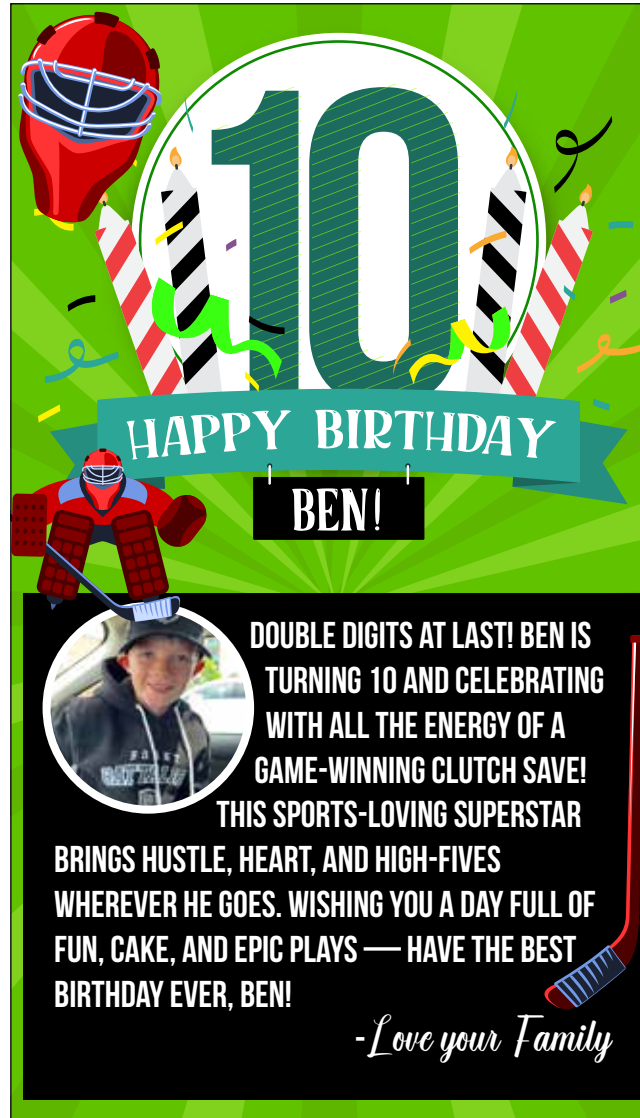
The Chapelaires

**Aug 10
3 pm**

Bring a lawn chair

Followed by a Community Cornroast

Freewill Offering

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BEN!

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-Love your Family

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Wolf | 6. 26.2 miles (42.195km) |
| 2. Revolutions per minute | 7. Recommend & serve wine |
| 3. King George III | 8. Brazil |
| 4. Wisconsin | 9. Ten |
| 5. Leslie Nielsen | 10. Moe Szyslak |

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