

The Paris Independent

Issue #264

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026

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(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

A trip back in time: Holy Family students Reese, Nolan Ferren and Chase Richards explore the vintage toys and games display at the Paris Legion on Oct. 1. The students were among Holy Family pupils in Grades 4 through 8 who toured Branch 29's 100th anniversary open house, getting a hands-on look at how children and families lived during the war years. The display sparked plenty of curiosity about how children entertained themselves long before tablets, video games and other modern technology.

Holy Family students step into local wartime history at Paris Legion

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

For students from Holy Family School, history moved beyond the pages of a textbook last Thursday as wartime toys, homemade cosmet-

ics, hospital equipment and even something as ordinary as milkweed offered a glimpse into what life was like for families in their own community generations ago.

Students in Grades 4 through 8 visited Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 on Oct. 1 as part

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New Central Library Site Revealed in Paris

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

After months of discussion over the future of library services in Paris, the location of the proposed new Central Branch Library has finally been revealed.

The County of Brant Public Library announced the new facility is planned for 199 Grand River St. N., a 3.7-acre property near the entrance to downtown Paris that was recently acquired by the County of Brant with council's approval.

The announcement marks a significant milestone for a project that has generated considerable community interest and discussion at council as officials weigh the need for a modern library against the multimillion-dollar cost of building one.

The property was selected from dozens of potential sites considered for the new branch, according to a press release issued by the County of Brant Public Library late last Thursday. Its proximity to downtown was an important factor, reflecting public consultation that showed a strong preference for keeping the library in a central and walkable location. The property, located close to the now vacant Penmaravian

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History hits home for Holy Family students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the Paris Legion's weeklong 100th anniversary open house, exploring exhibits that brought local wartime history to life through artifacts, photographs and stories.

The school, one of several visitors, made the trip in groups throughout the day, with Grade 7/8 students attending in the morning, followed by Grades 4 and 5 and then Grades 6 and 6/7 in the afternoon.

At the centre of the open house was Stitches, Strength and Steel: Holding the Line at Home — Women and WWII, an exhibit assembled by the Legion's 100th anniversary committee and the Paris Museum and Historical Society.

The exhibit explored the lives, work and sacrifices of women in Paris and Brant County during the Second World War, using artifacts, photographs, archival material and local stories to show everything from domestic life and fundraising to factory work and support for those serving overseas.

For Holy Family Grade 5 teacher Alison Harrison, one of the most important parts of the experience was giving students the opportunity to discover that the history they study happened much closer to home than they may realize.

"It was especially meaningful for students to learn about the experiences and contributions of people from our own Paris community. Making these local connections helped students better understand that the history we learn about did not only happen in faraway places. It touched families and communities right here at home in our town of Paris, Ontario," Harrison said.

And there was plenty to capture their attention.

Students explored everything from French knitting and vintage sewing machines to wartime medicine and familiar foods such as Smarties, Kraft Dinner and Spam. They learned how clothing and fabric were reused, how women took on factory jobs and other responsibilities during the

war and how knitting and crocheting could even be used to send messages.

For Grade 5 student Diego Yanez, one of the more unusual artifacts stood out.

"My favourite part about my trip is that it would be really complicated to bring something to go to the bathroom so they brought bed pans that could be boiled and sterilized at hospitals," he said.

The medical display included hospital equipment such as porcelain enamelled steel male urinals, while other wartime medical artifacts sparked a personal connection for one student whose grandfather had served as a medic.

Classmate Samuel Hajjar was drawn to an entirely different part of the exhibit, the homemade wartime cosmetics.

"My favourite thing from this trip was the make up because I didn't know that they had to make their own make up. It was really cool they had to use different types of food to make it," he said.

The display included recipes for homemade tooth powder, lipstick and odour paste.

Milkweed also proved to be a memorable lesson.

During the war, children and community organizations collected milkweed pods because the plant's lightweight, buoyant and waterproof floss could be used as a substitute for kapok in life preservers for sailors.

"My favourite exhibit was the milkweed. Milkweed is a lot stronger than plain wool," Grade 5 student Charlotte Wilson said.

The lesson gave Wilson a new appreciation for how difficult life was for families living through the war years, while classmate Reese was surprised to discover that something children could collect on their way to school ultimately helped keep servicemen safe in the water.

The vintage toys and games were another hit.

Grade 4 student Nolan Ferren picked the toy display as his favourite "because it was talking about how old the toys were and when they were used." Among the items he recognized were the Slinky and Go Fish.

Grade 5 student Chase Richards was



Grade 5 student Samuel Hajjar checks out the wartime cosmetics display during the school's Oct. 1 visit to the Paris Legion. Samuel was surprised to learn how women used everyday ingredients to make their own cosmetics during the war.

equally interested. "We learned about some toys and how old they were," he said.

The exhibit gave students a chance to consider how children their age entertained themselves long before tablets and video games. For Chase, imagining limited screen time wasn't particularly difficult, his mother already limits him to 30 minutes a day on his tablet, he shared.

A self-described history fan, Chase was also struck by how the war affected the availability of everyday materials.

"Apparently all the metal went to the war," he said after learning that metal was prioritized for the war effort rather than being used for items such as children's toys.

Reese also enjoyed seeing how children's games had evolved.

"I liked that I got to see how the toys changed over time and what they liked back then during the war," he said.

Many of the games were unfamiliar and looked very different from what he would choose for entertainment today.

"I wouldn't knit today, I would probably ride my bike instead," he admitted.

Harrison said seeing authentic artifacts rather than simply looking at photographs helped students connect with the period. They returned to school with plenty to discuss, from why metal toys became scarce to how children collected milkweed and how women adapted everyday life to wartime shortages. Legion volunteers Cheryl Humphrey, Donna Campbell, Mary Connan and Edith Stone helped guide the school tours throughout the day, sharing their knowledge, explaining the artifacts and answering students' questions as they made their way through the exhibits.

The experience will continue in the classroom as students prepare entries for the Royal Canadian Legion's Remembrance Day contests. "We will use what we learned today as inspiration when we begin creating posters and writing poems and essays for the Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Contest," Harrison said. "We are grateful for this opportunity to help our students develop a deeper understanding of remembrance, sacrifice, and gratitude and are thankful to all those who were involved in organizing these exhibits to share with us as well as the public who attended."

For Harrison, the local connection is particularly important as students begin to understand not only how much everyday life has changed, but the sacrifices made by people from their own community.

"Most importantly, the visit helped students develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the sacrifices made by others and why it is so important that we remember them," she said.

The Stitches, Strength and Steel exhibit was created as part of Branch 29's centennial celebrations to ensure the stories of those who supported the war effort at home are also remembered.

As Paris Museum and Historical Society curator Tina Lyon explained ahead of the open house: "The stories of those who silently aided at home need to be preserved and revealed to the public so people can understand the hardships and strength that 'people at the Homefront' exhibited."



Diego Yanez explores a display of medical equipment used in wartime hospitals



Holy Family Grade 5 student Charlotte Wilson checks out the milkweed display during a visit to the Paris Legion's 100th anniversary open house on Oct. 1. Students learned how milkweed was collected during the Second World War and used in life preservers for sailors.



Paris Legion volunteer Edith Stone shows Holy Family students an ideal spool holder and thread cutter used to help make clothing during the war.

(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTOS)

Honouring 100 Years of the Paris Legion: Lest We Forget

STONES Around Town

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

As Remembrance Day draws near, we pause to say, "Lest we forget." We remember those who served and fought in wars, some who came home, and some who did not. It is deeply inspiring to reflect on their willingness to stand against oppression to protect our freedom. Our freedom of speech, expression, and the daily peace we enjoy were bought with their sacrifices, and we must never take those for granted.

This year carries extra special meaning as we continue to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion. I happened by the Paris Legion Branch 29 for

the open house, and local schools have been visiting throughout the week, so the next generation understands the significance of this milestone and the history behind it.

The Royal Canadian Legion is well represented across the County of Brant, from Branch 29 right here in Paris, to the St. George Legion Branch 605, and the Burford/Cathcart-Harley Branch 543 and of course the amalgamated South Branch Legion Branch 90 and 463 in Scotland. Remember, it's your Legion, too.

We thank those who currently serve the Legion and those whom we will never forget, including Carrie Moran, Mark Ford, Earl Macdonald, Ron Finn (POW), Stan Rowe, Pete McCutcheon, Jim Rowley, Jack Allison, Don and Bud Keaton, Armand Vandaele, and Jean Lane.

We also give an honourable mention to the tireless volunteers, members, and local legends who built and sustained the branch over the decades, folks like Mick Jones, Pepper Fair, Dennis Smith, Dick and Ed Atlebery, Don Macrae, Sandy the bartender,

the legend of "Smoke" and the smokehouse, Dale Kitchen, Ken Boyd as well as my Dad Gord Johnston, just to name a few.

Whether lifetime members, veterans, or community volunteers, we carry their memories with us. Their service was never about seeking notoriety; it was about duty, community, and standing up for others. That legacy stirs the heart.

It was wonderful seeing past Presidents like Andy Moran, Don Macleod, Roy Haggart, and current President Barry Humphrey at the anniversary events. Why, even John "Blackie" and Sheila Moran were in town, with Henry Foster also in attendance and looking as good as ever! Shout-outs as well to John Perron, Tracey, Randy, Katy Osborne, and Mike Noyce. Everyone at the Legion is in the same boat, so grab an oar and row, maybe that's the exact message we need right now to bring us all together.

Branch 29 holds so much history. Growing up close by, I still recall the old Legion wall that ran along Walnut Street and the endless dances held to celebrate life and freedom. Today, it remains hallowed ground where the "Bull Table," darts, and pool can still be enjoyed. From great barbecues by the 29er Diner and the legacy of the 29ers fastball and hockey teams, to delicious catered dinners, there is always something going on.

Speaking of dinners, the 100th-anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 3 featured a fabulous catered meal by Queensview and great live entertainment by Chuck Jackson for a fantastic turnout. Another highlight was Donna (Verschoor) Campbell's Fibre Art Quilt titled "They Called Paris Home", alongside the Poppy Quilt. The poppy itself and our local cenotaphs, where you can read the names of local heroes and the far-off places they fought, remain powerful symbols of remembrance.

If you're new to the area or

just looking for a welcoming spot, drop by your local Legion; new friends are waiting. I happened to run into my bestie Doug "Bird" and Diana Sayles, who are celebrating 40 years of marriage and a new granddaughter, Lylah. I also caught up with Tom Croome, Sandy Sewell (get well soon, Sita!), and Bob and Steve Howes enjoying a father-and-son night out, a special moment, as Bob used to play the bugle at the Legion. These are just a few of the people who come out to celebrate the spirit of the Legion, our roots, and our country. This November, be a part of Remembrance Day. Attend the services at your local cenotaph, buy a poppy, raise a glass, and say a prayer for those who sacrificed, and continue to sacrifice, for us all. We owe them that. Lest We Forget... Stones Around Town



(STEVE HOWES PHOTO)

Chuck Jackson with special guest Cheryl Lescom performing at the Paris Legion's 100th Anniversary Celebration event on Saturday, October 3.



(JEFF JOHNSTON PHOTO)

Pictured at the Paris Legion's 100th Anniversary dinner are Mayor David Bailey, Henry Foster and Paris Legion President Barry Humphrey.

The Paris Independent Guiding Principles

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3. Good news beats bad news
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Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



New Central Library Finds Home at 199 Grand River St. N

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house, was once home to the Paris Child Care centre. There's no word yet on whether the Victorian style home currently located on the property will be demolished or incorporated into the design for the new main library branch.

Located within walking distance of schools and retirement communities, the Grand River Street North property also offers opportunities for outdoor and green spaces as well as ample parking.

An updated needs assessment previously presented to council found 65 per cent of public consultation participants preferred the new library remain close to the downtown core. The assessment recommended a site within one kilometre of downtown Paris, with at least 57 parking spaces and enough space for a minimum 26,250-square-foot facility.

"For many years, our community has imagined what a new library could make possible. This location brings that vision one important step closer to becoming something people can see, shape and ultimately experience," said Fred Gladding, chair of the County of Brant Public Library Board. "This is an exciting milestone, but what makes the opportunity particularly meaningful is that the community will have a role in helping us shape what comes next."

The site announcement follows council's approval of Phase 1 of the Central Branch Library Project Plan in July. At the time, council authorized \$2.6 million from previously approved library and Bawcutt Centre project funding for property acquisition, site analysis, environmental and technical due diligence, project management and architectural concept design.

With the property now secured, the project will move into site planning and concept design.

The proposed library would replace the existing Paris branch, which has served the community since 1904. Library officials say the 122-year-old building no longer provides the space, accessibility or infra-

structure required to meet current and future needs.

The existing branch receives more than 70,000 in-person visits annually, hosts hundreds of library and community events and serves as the administrative headquarters for the library's digital and outreach services.

When Phase 1 was presented to council this summer, the project was expected to proceed through four phases, beginning with site selection and concept design before moving into detailed engineering and planning and, subject to future council approvals, construction.

The latest project timeline anticipates construction taking place from late 2027 into 2028, with the new library expected to open in winter 2029.

The total project budget for all phases is currently estimated at between \$23 million and \$28 million. The figures remain preliminary and future phases will require council approval.

Library CEO Kelly Bernstein emphasized the preliminary nature of the project's financial projections when the plan came before council in July.

"This is a high-level budget because that reflects the stage of the process we are at."

At that time, Bernstein said the numbers would become more refined as concept design and technical studies were completed. She also told council the funding strategy was not expected to rely on senior government grants, with development charges, fundraising, debentures and other sources identified as potential funding mechanisms.

Mayor David Bailey said securing a site allows the project to take another step forward.

"We are pleased to see this important project moving forward with a site now selected for the new Central Branch," said Bailey. "Our libraries offer valuable programs, services and resources for County residents of all ages, and this new location will provide the space and amenities needed to serve our growing community for years to come. I look forward to hearing



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

The property at 199 Grand River St. N. has been purchased by the County of Brant as the future site of the new Central Branch Library. The 3.7-acre property includes a Victorian-style home. It is not yet known whether the house will be incorporated into the library design or demolished as the project moves into the site planning and concept design stage.

input from residents as we move forward with this exciting project."

Community consultation will continue as planning progresses. Residents will be invited to provide input on how they en-

vision using the new library and what features would make the facility meaningful to them. Details about those consultation opportunities are expected to be released in the coming months.

Another successful Paris shops poker run!

\$1,050 and 150.2 lbs Donated to the Paris Food Bank!

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who came out to support the 2026 Paris Shops Poker Run hosted by Horsfall Automotive! Thanks to the incredible turnout, community spirit, and generous participants, this year's event was a massive success, raising \$1,050 in cash and collecting 150.2 pounds of donations directly for the Paris Food Bank.

While non-perishable canned and dry goods are always appreciated, event organizers want to remind the community that

the need goes beyond the pantry shelves. Fresh produce and daily essentials like dish soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, and personal care items are constantly in high demand and deeply needed by local families.

Thank you again to all the riders, drivers, supporters, and local businesses who made this year's run such a memorable hit. We can't wait to see you all again next year and we look forward to welcoming even more new faces to the route in 2027!

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Linda Schuyler brings homelessness into focus with new documentary: HOME

Exploring how people become unhoused and what comes next

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

For decades, Linda Schuyler has told stories that ask audiences to look beyond stereotypes and confront difficult social issues.

Now, the acclaimed producer who grew up in Paris and went on to co-create one of Canada's most recognizable television franchises is turning her attention to homelessness. She has one important ask: for viewers to listen before making judgments.

Schuyler's new documentary, *HOME*, goes inside an encampment in Cobourg, Ont., introducing viewers to the people living there and the circumstances that left them without a permanent place to call home.

The documentary will begin streaming on TVO on Oct. 9 and air Oct. 10 appropriately timed on World Homeless Day.

For Paris residents, the filmmaker behind the documentary is a familiar name. Schuyler grew up in town, the daughter of longtime former mayor Jack Bawcutt, and has maintained strong ties to the community. The Bawcutt Centre bears the family name, and Schuyler made a \$1-million donation a few years ago toward preserving the historic building (formerly Old Town Hall).

Since she left her hometown, her recognition became international as her career in television grew, becoming best known as co-creator and executive producer of more than 500 episodes of the *Degrassi* franchise. Her work has earned numerous honours, and Schuyler was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 1994 and to the Order of Ontario in 2012.

But it was another small Ontario community that planted the seed for her latest documentary titled, *HOME*.

Schuyler and her husband, Stephen Stohn, have a home near Cobourg. While driving through town, they noticed an encampment growing on the lawn of a grand old house that had once been the summer home of Stohn's great-grandfather.

"We watched as the encampment grew and I wondered how people ended up there," Schuyler said in an interview with *The Paris Independent*.



Paris native and acclaimed Canadian producer Linda Schuyler turns her attention to homelessness in her latest documentary, *HOME*, which premieres on TVO on Oct. 10, World Homeless Day.



(SKYSTONE PHOTOS)

A scene from *HOME* captures filming inside the Cobourg encampment at the centre of Linda Schuyler and Will Bowes' new documentary. The film shares first-person stories of people living unhoused while exploring the complex circumstances surrounding homelessness, addiction and displacement.

She began hearing claims from residents that the people living in the encampment had come from elsewhere, including suggestions they had been bused in from Toronto.

"As I got to know the folks in the encampment, I realized this was not true. The majority were from the area. I wanted to get to know them better and try to understand how they had become unhoused. And, as a filmmaker, I wanted to share these stories with others, hoping that it could make a difference."

The result is a documentary that explores homelessness not as a single story with a simple cause, but through the experiences of individuals whose lives took dramatically different turns. The *Paris Independent* had an opportunity to pre-screen the documentary ahead of our interview with Schuyler. *HOME* offers an unfiltered look at homelessness, addiction and the growing housing crisis and puts a spotlight on issues increasingly confronting communities across Canada, including those close to home.

Viewers meet people who have experienced job loss, family breakdown, abusive relationships, grief, addiction and mental health challenges. The documentary also hears from neighbours, business owners, support workers and municipal officials affected by the encampment.

Schuyler deliberately chose not to use a narrator, she explained.

"Homelessness is a very complex societal issue. Apart from people in the encampment, I wanted to talk to people whose lives were affected by the encampment... neighbours, local business people, the

mayor, support workers, etc. I did not use a narrator for the film because I wanted each person interviewed to speak in their own voice without third party judgement or explanation."

Among the experiences that stayed with Schuyler most were those involving parents separated from their children.

Many of the encampment residents had young children who were living with grandparents or other relatives. Some continued to see their children while others had become estranged.

"As I talked to people about their kids, I saw how it caused great pain that they did not have good relationships with their children, but they understood why. Many expressed a sense of embarrassment, not wanting their children to see them in this light. They all wished for a day when they would be re-united."

The experience also caused Schuyler to reflect on what having a home actually means.

"Gratitude!!! I have been filled with a great sense of gratitude for the home life I have. It is not about my actual house...but about the rich connections with family and friends that I can enjoy as I have the ability to invite them into my home and share food and conversations. It's also about the ability to have quiet time alone in an environment that feels safe, private, and secure."

HOME also explores one of the more complicated aspects of public discussions surrounding homelessness: addiction.

Schuyler said drug use is an issue among some people living unhoused, but the relationship between addiction and homelessness is not always straightforward.

"It is hard to tell sometimes if the drugs led to homelessness or if the depression of homelessness led to drugs. Either way, drug use is an issue, as we see in the film. Many of the folks I talked to said they wanted to go to rehab, but the wait list was very long."

The film also examines what happens when encampments are dismantled and residents are moved, sometimes repeatedly, without permanent housing waiting for them.

"When you move people, they don't disappear. In the film, we see folks being displaced from a number of locations. But what happens when there is nowhere left to go?" Schuyler said.

The documentary visits a sleeping cabin complex in Peterborough, which Schuyler describes as an important model for providing greater stability while longer-term housing options are explored. The cabins are not permanent housing, she said, but can provide security, support and a safe place for people and their possessions.

Although *HOME* unfolds primarily in Cobourg, Schuyler believes the size of that community is an important part of the story.

Homelessness is often associated with major urban centres, but she hopes the documentary challenges the idea that smaller communities are somehow removed from the issue.

"Looking at homelessness in a small town like Cobourg breaks down the myth that homelessness is a large urban issue. Homelessness is happening in small communities like Cobourg right across Canada.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

No easy answers: HOME gives voice to those living unhoused

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We can no longer see it as ‘just an urban issue’.”

It is a message with relevance in Paris, she said, even if residents do not encounter a large encampment in their own community.

“We might not currently have a homeless encampment in Paris, but we do in neighbouring Brantford, as we do in multiple small communities across the country. The current issue of homelessness is not something we can turn our backs on. It needs attention, discussion and action. I hope HOME will help make that happen.”

The issue is already close to home. Brantford-Brant’s 2024 Point-in-Time Count identified 389 people experiencing homelessness on Nov. 12, 2024. During the 2023-24 reporting year, 1,147 people experienced homelessness for at least one day across Brantford and the County of Brant, including 638 who experienced chronic homelessness.

As for production of the documentary, Schuyler sees a connection between her approach to HOME and the lessons she

learned growing up in Paris.

She recalled watching her father dedicate much of his life to municipal politics and listening to the people he represented.

“I have to believe that my roots, growing up in smalltown Paris, has led to my understanding of the importance of respecting local communities. I observed my Dad, the long standing mayor of Paris, as he lived his life dedicated to local politics. Municipal politics are based in hearing stories from grassroots citizens. My Dad was a good listener and I learnt from him.”

It is an approach she said also informed Degraasi. Although the fictional community was small, its stories about social issues resonated with audiences around the world. With HOME, Schuyler again focused closely on one community in the hope its stories would have a much wider reach.

The documentary does not offer viewers a neat resolution. Schuyler remains in contact with some of the people featured in the film, and their circumstances underscore how difficult it can be to escape homelessness.

“You’ll notice at the end of the film that we say that all of our participants remain



A sleeping cabin community in Peterborough featured in HOME provides people experiencing homelessness with a safer, more secure place to stay while longer-term housing solutions are explored. The model also provides residents with wraparound supports and a secure place for their belongings. Cobourg Council turned down an opportunity to provide similar housing.

unhoused. Unfortunately, this is still true today. Some have been in and out of jail, and one person, I’m very saddened to say, has taken his own life. I will continue to touch base with them.”

Ultimately, Schuyler said she hopes HOME encourages audiences to see the individuals behind an encampment rather than viewing it only as a social problem.

“I certainly hope that by listening to the

first-person stories of people living rough, that the viewer will think twice the next time they walk by an encampment. I hope they will see an encampment as a place where individuals have unique, and often heart-breaking stories to tell.”

HOME begins streaming on TVO on Oct. 9 and will premiere on TVO on Saturday, Oct. 10, coinciding with World Homeless Day.

How Traditions Begin

RACHELLE ROUSSEAU

Rousseau Rares Vintage

Jingle Bell Night feels like one of those things that has always been part of Downtown Paris.

Every November, the lights go on, the stores stay open late, people gather around the tree, carolers move through the streets, and for one night the whole downtown seems to shift into the holidays at once. Thousands of people now come downtown for a night that has become part of the rhythm of the season.

But every tradition has a first year.

Before people knew to put it on the calendar, before families expected it, before businesses planned around it, it started because Laurie and Judy had an idea.

That idea has been on my mind a lot lately.

This October, Downtown Paris is trying something new.

You may have already noticed a few strange little clues appearing around town. Field Notes. Blurry photographs. Reports of something stirring near the river. Soon, handmade creatures will begin appearing downtown too.

The idea is simple. Instead of decorating for Halloween in a way that could happen anywhere, we wanted to create something that feels like it belongs here. Paris already has the rivers, the old buildings, the foggy mornings and the kind of corners that seem perfectly capable of keeping a few secrets.

Maybe people will come downtown looking for the creatures. Maybe kids will choose a favourite. Maybe businesses will add their own ideas. Maybe next October, someone will ask when they are coming back.

That is the interesting thing about tra-

ditions. They rarely begin by announcing themselves as traditions.

They start as an idea.

Someone tries something. Someone else joins in. People show up. They remember it. Eventually, it just feels like it’s always happened.

Jingle Bell Night once had a first year too.

Today, it is something people associate with Downtown Paris itself. The tree lighting, the music, the busy sidewalks, the shop windows, the familiar faces and the feeling of being downtown together have become part of what people remember about the season.

And Jingle Bell Night is not the only example. Downtown traditions can start in all kinds of ways.

Sometimes they come from the BIA. Sometimes from a local business. Sometimes from a community group or service club. The ghost walks, the Rotary duck race, markets, seasonal events and other recurring activities all become part of the rhythm of downtown because someone decided to try something and people kept coming back.

Downtowns need good businesses, of course. They need shops, restaurants, services and places people actually want to spend time in. But they also need reasons for people to build memories there.

Sometimes that is a major event. Sometimes it is something much smaller. A window display. A summer night. A strange creature tucked into a corner. A tradition that started years ago and somehow became something people would genuinely miss if it disappeared.

Not every idea will become a tradition.

But some of them stick.

People come back. They bring someone

with them. Kids grow up remembering that this was something they did every year. New businesses become part of it. Eventually, it just feels like it’s always happened.

Maybe years from now, someone will

remember the first October the creatures came ashore in Paris.

Or maybe they will simply remember that downtown always gave them a reason to come back.

— SAVE THE DATE —

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Ward 4 Candidate Q&A: Ward 4 candidates answer questions from Paris Independent readers

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

All certified ward 4 candidates were contacted and invited to participate in this Q&A. Each candidate was provided with the same set of questions, which were developed from submissions received from Paris Independent readers. The goal is to give voters an opportunity to compare candidates' perspectives on the same issues and learn more about how each would approach the role of county councillor.

We encourage readers to continue engaging with candidates throughout the election campaign. Those who have follow-up questions, concerns or would like to learn more about a candidate and their platform can find candidate contact information through the County of Brant's certified candidate's webpage: <https://www.brant.ca/council-and-county-administration/elections/certified-candidates/>

The Paris Independent's candidate Q&A coverage continues in next week's edition with candidates running in Ward 5.

COREY DONN



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

Brant residential growth has been taking place at an overwhelming pace. Applications are outpacing infrastructure needed to service them and are in some instances being applied for without knowing if the existing service has the capacity to even provide for new development.

As per our Official Plan, 80% of all growth is expected to happen in Paris, St George and Burford. Which will directly affect my ward and myself as I live in Burford. Development should be slowed and carefully considered, without appropriate servicing capacity it will fall on the ratepayers throughout the county to make up the difference as development charges don't cover the cost required to build appropriate infrastructure. Restricting the rate at which major development projects take place will allow critical infrastructure to keep pace and not cause unrealistic property tax in-

crease. I'm not against appropriate growth, it just has to be implemented at a realistic rate that we can afford, and doesn't sacrifice our rural identity.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

As we are all blatantly aware, Paris has been engulfed in construction for many seasons and now that 5 story structures are being amended into our official plan, it will put even more pressure on parking, access and infrastructure. Just as I worry about the rural identity of my ward's communities, Paris too is subject to losing its historic small downtown feel due to over development. When new limits are set it can turn into a "give an inch they take a mile" situation.

That being said, possible benefits of allowing higher residential intensification would improve foot traffic at local business and more investment in the local economy. It would fall inline with the Provinces mandate to build housing and increase the tax base for the municipality.

I acknowledge the challenges of developing this in a thoughtful way that will not greatly impact the surrounding residents and small businesses. Thorough public consultation is an utmost requirement if any development can be undertaken in good faith.

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

Greater access to affordable public swimming facilities would be an asset to the county. Not only is it a valuable skill, but it is also a great way to keep healthy at any age, and a low barrier to be enjoyed by all. I realize that being in Southern Ontario affords us limited time to swim in the outdoors and that an indoor facility would benefit many. However, I can't justify the \$38-\$49 million projected cost without major funding from the province or some other grant. An additional outdoor facility could be entertained depending on cost. The financial pressures of increasing property tax would dissuade me from supporting this until the expense becomes more viable.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

Public transit throughout the county only

exists via Brant Transit. While it may be cost efficient for its users, it isn't a realistic answer for those who do not have access to a vehicle for employment or need for transportation for last minute appointments. I would like to see the program expanded to cover daily set scheduled routes between Paris and many of our communities. I would also like to explore if a Go Transit station built in Paris at the 403 would be wanted by the public.

To fund this additional cost, advocating to the provincial or federal government would be required to see if any program funding is available so as to not burden the ratepayer.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

As mentioned previously, I do believe we can expand our existing transit infrastructure to help bridge our transit needs. By expanding our existing fleet of vehicles, we can offer regular scheduled transit routes. Creating reliable transportation would allow for greater employment opportunities and flexibility when scheduling appointments for those without transportation.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

The Brantford airport and surrounding land boundary adjustment was poorly timed, given very limited public consultation and was seen to be a rushed annexation by many, which I believe didn't sit well with many residents of the County of Brant or Brantford.

Direction by the Province required a good faith negotiation between the County and the City. My concerns in any upcoming negotiations would be ensuring public consultation. Are residences that are being affected properly shielded from large property tax adjustments? How many years would it take to make up lost tax revenue? What are the effects on our long-term financial plan? Is the County actually receiving a fair deal?

Regardless, any negotiation would have to be conducted transparently to guarantee that the public knows the complete story.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

I grew up in a family that specialized in Pile Driving, installing foundation piling and shoring that is required in most bridges and some large commercial/industrial construction. While working in this industry I have estimated, organized and executed many large contracts while coordinating with numerous other trades, Municipalities, the Ministry of Transportation, demanding timeliness and harsh en-

vironmental conditions. This was at times an extremely demanding operation that had large financial implications if not complete on time and within budget.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

Absolutely. They are a waste of agricultural land. The water usage, noise pollution, unwanted energy demands and environmental impact are all greatly concerning. I do not see any contribution they would provide to our communities.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

The Long-Term Financial Plan should be one of the most important guiding tools for any decision that involves any major unforeseen financial impacts. Without adhering to this plan, keeping the County financially viable becomes difficult. Aging critical infrastructure needs rehabilitation and replacement. Debt needs to be serviced; Services need to be maintained. Growth has to be paid for without undue burden on the existing ratepayers. Unrestrained spending will only drive-up property taxes to cover for improper spending. Being fiscally responsible is the only path to getting critical infrastructure funded and keeping property tax at a reasonable rate.

ELAINE TULLY



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

The County has already committed to significant residential growth, with hundreds of new homes approved for both Paris and St. George. Those commitments cannot be changed, so it is essential that

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the pace of construction be slow enough for infrastructure to be fully in place before building begins. Because the County has already met the growth targets required by the Province, I would resist any further large-scale residential development and keep all future growth strictly within existing settlement boundaries.

The rural character of Ward 4 is an important part of the County's identity. I would work to preserve it by avoiding major residential expansion and focusing development where services already exist. Future decisions should prioritize infrastructure readiness, long-term sustainability, and protection of rural land.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

I believe residential development in the core of Paris can keep the downtown vital and thriving. Businesses will be strengthened by a core of local consumers, and not have to depend solely on tourists and people driving in from outside downtown. The neighbourhood bonds among residents could also potentially drive additional occasional events and celebrations providing yet another draw to downtown.

The challenge could be the keeping of the character of traditional Paris. Skilled architects and planners will be needed to design and landscape to honour the traditional style and feel that local people treasure.

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

I would definitely support the development of an indoor public swimming pool in Brant. Council has already begun exploring options and costs, and I would like to see the process continue. A public pool, being something that all residents can use regardless of age or ability, definitely will benefit our residents. Ongoing public input opportunities will be key in the process.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

I don't see an urban-type transit model being feasible in the County of Brant, where there are regular routes and constant service. I would prefer to further develop and refine the existing Brant Transit program as detailed in question 5.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

Improving transportation in the County of Brant requires a coordinated, modernized approach that strengthens connections among Paris, Burford, Scotland, St.

George, rural areas, and Brantford. The existing Brant Transit program is a strong foundation, but it needs upgrades to meet growing demand.

Introducing Uber-style technology for booking and real-time ride tracking would make the service more reliable and user-friendly. Collaboration with neighbouring counties with transit operations—Oxford, Haldimand, and Norfolk—would help identify successful rural transit models that could be adapted locally. Finally, ongoing user and non-user surveys through the County website would ensure the system evolves with community needs.

Together, these steps would create a more accessible, efficient, and responsive transportation network for all residents.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

Any discussion about a boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport should only resume once both newly elected councils are in place and able to determine whether the paused process from August should continue.

My priority would be protecting workable farmland, which remains one of the County's most valuable long-term assets. Financial implications must also be carefully balanced so that any proposal benefits both municipalities.

Ideally, Brant and Brantford should work together directly—without external authorities—to explore options collaboratively. Before supporting any agreement, I would insist on a clear, detailed framework that outlines the purpose, impacts, and responsibilities of each party.

Most importantly, residents must have ample opportunity for meaningful public input before any decision is made.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

Throughout my 17-year career designing and selling playgrounds, I regularly worked with diverse committees, municipal teams, and community groups who evaluated proposals from many angles. These presentations often came with challenging questions, but those conversations always led to stronger outcomes. Collaboration was essential—I would present an initial concept, then work with the group to refine it until we reached the best possible design for their needs.

As the designer and project manager, my role was to create a proposal that scored highly in formal evaluations, respond quickly with modifications that reflected the purchasers' priorities, and then guide the project through manufacturing and installation. Keeping all parties aligned, informed, and moving toward the agreed timeline and design was critical. By fostering open dialogue and adapting thoughtfully, I delivered playgrounds that met community expectations and were completed smoothly and successfully.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratori-

um on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

Certainly there is a trend for municipalities to impose a moratorium, and I would agree to one. Whether or not that were the case, Council must begin preparations for the potential eventuality of being approached to build a data center. There is MUCH to be learned about data centres, especially given the concerning information to date about the power and water requirements and noise. Among many other issues, data centres will not meet the employment density criteria of the County. I would certainly not support having any data centre in the County.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

The Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is a critical skeleton guide to help council set priorities and make decisions.

Every new priority and investment must be held up to the LTFP to weigh its merits. That said, council may also need to amend the plan in the event of an unforeseen expense or new priority. It remains an absolute responsibility of council, however, to be diligent financial managers. We need to safeguard our fiscal position and ensure Brant lives within its means.

HEATHER KEAM



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

Growth has already been planned for the County of Brant, and I believe we need to move from reacting to growth to intentionally planning for it. This is not simply about roads, infrastructure or where housing goes; it is also about the social and cultural identity of our communities. Each village, hamlet and rural area has its own history, character, strengths and priorities.

I would like to see communities actively involved in defining what they value, what they want to protect and what they want their community to become. We can then look across the County to understand what we share and where communities are unique. This approach allows us to welcome opportunities while being intention-

al about what makes the County of Brant a place people are proud to call home. Growth should not simply happen to our communities. We should be helping shape what they become.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

Downtown residential development can bring real benefits. More people living downtown can support businesses, restaurants and services, create more activity in the core and provide additional housing in an established community. But growth needs to be planned before it arrives. We must understand the impacts on traffic, parking, infrastructure, emergency services and other municipal services, rather than trying to catch up after development is built. We also need to consider how new buildings fit with the character of downtown Paris.

My concern is not growth itself but growth happening faster than the community can prepare for it. The question I would be asking is what do we need to have in place today so that five or ten years from now people are still saying that this was the right way to grow. Good planning means preparing for the people and community that development will bring.

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

I support access to affordable swimming and recreation opportunities. A pool is not just the cost of building it; it requires ongoing staffing, maintenance, repairs and replacement. With significant infrastructure and other community priorities ahead of us, we need to be realistic about what we can afford and what residents are willing to invest in and pay for. I would want to understand how many residents would use a new facility, what existing options are available and whether there are opportunities to work with other organizations.

I would also explore ways to expand swimming opportunities beyond a new pool, including partnerships and safe access to natural spaces where appropriate. My goal would be to ensure residents have opportunities to swim and be active while making a responsible decision about the level of investment our community can sustain.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

I support improving public transportation options across the County, but I don't think we should simply copy an urban transit model. Rural transit has different challenges because of distance and lower

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population density. I would want to explore demand-responsive transportation, partnerships and other models that connect people to where they need to go.

Transit is not only about getting to work. It can mean getting to medical appointments, groceries, recreation, community activities or helping seniors maintain independence and young people get around. We have a valuable opportunity to learn from our neighbour, Norfolk County. I was working there when Ride Norfolk was first introduced and have seen the experience and lessons that have come from it. We can build on that knowledge while determining what works for Brant County. Before choosing a model, we would want to understand the need, locations the cost and what residents value most.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

One idea worth exploring is identifying the places seniors most commonly need to visit such as medical appointments, shopping and community activities and piloting a dedicated community shuttle on set routes and times. This could provide more predictable transportation without requiring a large expansion of the existing system. Transit should be about more than getting from one place to another. It should help people maintain independence, access essential services and stay connected to their community.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

Before supporting any boundary adjustment, I would need to understand the full implications for County residents, particularly those directly affected. That includes the financial terms, taxation, municipal services, transportation, farmland, as well as the long-term plans for the surrounding lands.

I believe the sense of urgency around this

issue, combined with limited public awareness early in the process, made it difficult for people to understand what was being proposed and to meaningfully engage. The County and City did undertake public engagement, and feedback that resulted in changes to the proposed lands that were paused. Lessons learned demonstrated how important it is to provide residents with clear information on why and what, and enough time to understand a significant decision before Council is asked to make it.

I would want any future agreement to be transparent, evidence-based and informed by meaningful community engagement, not simply driven by a deadline.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

I was the lead for building the first Healthy Communities Plan for Haldimand and Norfolk. This was brought together two counties, municipal and public health staff, community organizations, agencies and residents, all with different experiences, priorities and perspectives.

My role was to help bring those voices together and create a process where people could move beyond their individual organizational priorities and identify what we wanted to achieve together. I facilitated conversations, helped groups find common ground and supported the development of shared goals and actions.

The success was not that everyone agreed on every issue. It was that a diverse group of people and organizations could see themselves in a shared direction and commit to working together.

That experience taught me that collaboration takes more than bringing people into the same room. It requires listening, building relationships, finding common ground and helping turn many perspectives into practical action. Those are skills I would bring to Council.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

I believe economic development needs to fit the community we are building and the resources we have available. I would be cautious about data centre development in the County of Brant because of the questions about water use, energy, land and long-term impacts.

We are a rural community with significant agricultural land, gravel operations and renewable energy development already taking place. Our groundwater is also an important resource, and protecting our drinking water must be a priority.

Before supporting any data centre proposals, I would want clear information about its water requirements, where that water would come from, potential impacts on groundwater and other users, energy demands, land use, infrastructure needs, economic benefits and long-term costs to taxpayers. I would also want meaningful community engagement before decisions are made.

For me, the question is whether this type of development fits our community and protects the resources we depend on.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

The Long-Term Financial Plan is a great tool to understand the long-term implications of decisions, not simply whether we can afford something today. Before supporting any major investment, I would use this tool to help understand the impact on taxpayers, operating costs, infrastructure, debt and future capital need and this tool has helped council to make these decisions.

As the County grows, I think this tool will become even more important. New development can bring opportunities, but it can also create new demands for roads, infrastructure, services and staff. I would like decisions to be based on clear information about both immediate need and long-term financial responsibility.

For me, good financial planning means thinking beyond the next budget and considering the community we are building for the future.

ANDREA BOWDEN



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider

when approving future development?

Brant County has designated growth areas and plans for a reason. Before expanding beyond them, we should focus on infill opportunities, underutilized properties, redevelopment, and whether existing County-owned lands and buildings can be repurposed.

Infrastructure should lead growth, not spend decades chasing it. Too often, roads, water, wastewater, schools, and emergency services are forced to catch up after growth has already happened. That approach is expensive for taxpayers and creates many of the challenges we're dealing with today.

We can always build more houses, but we can't build more productive farmland. My focus is making sure the land that should be farmed remains farmable and that agriculture is not chipped away one planning decision at a time.

The question isn't where we grow next. It's whether we're fully using the land and infrastructure we already have.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

Downtown Paris is one of Brant County's most recognizable assets. Additional residential development could provide more housing, support local businesses, attract investment, and bring more people within walking distance of shops and services.

The challenge is making sure growth does not create new problems. Parking is already difficult in parts of downtown. More residents, more traffic, higher density, increased servicing needs, and protecting the character of Paris all need to be considered.

My concern isn't any one project. It's what happens when all of these decisions are added together. Looking at projects one at a time can miss the bigger picture on impacts for the entire downtown core.

Growth should strengthen downtown Paris, not create parking and infrastructure problems that taxpayers are left solving later.

Development should strengthen what makes Paris attractive, not change it beyond recognition.

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

First, how did we get here? The Brant Sports Complex was originally built without a pool. We are now pursuing a \$31 million expansion that still does not include a pool and faces an \$8.8 million funding shortfall. Before that project is even complete, we are discussing a separate indoor pool estimated at \$38-\$49 million.

Access to swimming facilities is important, and I am open to supporting a public pool if there is a demonstrated need and a realistic long-term plan to build and operate it.

Brant County is already forecasting

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MUNICIPAL ELECTION

MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM

MEET AND MINGLE WITH COUNTY OF BRANT
MAYORAL, WARD AND SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE
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PRESENTED BY:




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WED., OCT. 7, 2026 FROM 7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM
SOJOURN CHURCH 112 SCOTT AVE., PARIS

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property tax increases of 5.3% in 2027 and 6.5% in 2028. Grants are not free, debt must be repaid, and new facilities come with ongoing operating costs.

For transparency, residents deserve to know what a project will cost to build and who will ultimately pay for it. At the end of the day, taxpayers are left holding the bill.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

Yes, if there is a proven need and it reflects rural realities.

Transportation in Brant won't improve until we admit the truth: we do not have a transportation system designed around how people actually travel.

Most residents rely on private vehicles and travel significant distances for work, education, healthcare, and essential services. Active transportation has value, but it is not a complete transportation solution in a rural municipality.

If taxpayer dollars are invested in transit, the system should help people reach jobs, schools, medical appointments, and essential services while reducing pressure on our road network.

Build transportation around how residents actually travel, not how planners wish they travelled. That may mean smaller vehicles, scheduled service, pre-booked routes and connections between communities rather than simply adding routes on a map.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

Yes, if there is a proven need and it reflects rural realities. Transportation in Brant won't improve until we admit the truth: we do not have a transportation system designed around how people actually travel.

Most residents rely on private vehicles and travel significant distances for work, education, healthcare, and essential services. Active transportation has value, but it is not a complete transportation solution in a rural municipality.

If taxpayer dollars are invested in transit, the system should help people reach jobs, schools, medical appointments, and essential services while reducing pressure on our road network.

Build transportation around how residents actually travel, not how planners wish they travelled. That may mean smaller vehicles, scheduled service, pre-booked routes and connections between communities rather than simply adding routes on a map.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

The airport has existed under this arrangement for decades. Before transferring County land, discussing concessions, or changing boundary lines, Council and res-

idents deserve to understand what problem is being solved, who benefits financially, and why the current arrangement no longer works.

My biggest concern is that discussions appeared to begin with land transfers and boundary changes before a transparent plan was presented.

What is the plan? If there is a compelling public benefit, demonstrate it. If there is an economic case, present it.

No plan, no purpose, no support.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

Throughout my professional career, I've worked with purchasers, maintenance staff, engineers, and business owners. Each looked at the same issue differently because each was responsible for a different outcome.

Purchasers focused on cost, engineers focused on technical solutions, maintenance focused on getting it fixed, and business owners focused on return on investment and results. Each saw the problem differently, but the final solution needed all of those perspectives.

Council is no different. Every councillor hears different concerns from residents, businesses, farmers, and community groups, bringing different priorities and perspectives to the table. Each perspective should be heard, challenged, and considered.

My role is to understand those perspectives, identify trade-offs, and make decisions that serve the broader interests of Brant County.

The goal isn't for one priority to win. The goal is for Brant County to win.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

With the lack of factual information and uncertainty around long-term impacts, I would support taking a pause and doing the research first.

We're told AI data centres have the potential to create investment and jobs, but they also raise important questions about electricity demand, water use, servicing capacity, noise, emergency response requirements, and impacts on local infrastructure.

Other Ontario municipalities are already studying these issues and considering whether additional safeguards are necessary.

My approach is simple: Research first. Decide second.

If we're making decisions that could affect our community for decades, those decisions should be based on facts rather than assumptions.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

A Long-Term Financial Plan is an important tool, but it only works if priorities remain visible and changes are transparent.

Projects, budgets, and timelines change. What matters is that residents understand what changed, why it changed, what was delayed, and who made that decision.

Every major decision should be evaluated based on both upfront and long-term costs. It is easy to build something. The harder question is whether it can be maintained and paid for years from now. Delaying a priority does not eliminate the cost. In many cases, it increases it. Deferred projects often return with higher costs and additional pressure on future budgets.

Accountability doesn't end after approving a plan. It means explaining when priorities change, where the money was redirected, what project gets pushed back, and the financial impact of those decisions. When priorities shift, residents should be able to follow the money and understand the consequences.

GLENN HUGHES



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

I believe the current projected residential growth can work, but only with responsible planning. Infrastructure has to come first, and local voices need to be heard. In my ward, there's worry about moving too fast on sewers, but we also can't let the town die. New development should mean real opportunity. If a company like Contrans expands, I'm open to it, but I'd ask them to invest in people, like AZ license training for local youth. Growth has to be about jobs and accountability, not just more buildings.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

I don't support this zoning change. Paris wasn't broken. Our charm and small-town fabric were working. Pushing height and density right before an election, with mixed feedback, was the wrong call. Four storeys would have been reasonable. Five starts to change the feel. I'm for improvements that fit Paris, but what I've seen over the last two years isn't genuine consensus. It's been top-down, not reflective of what residents have been saying. I want better, but better that fits and is led by the community.

How would you improve access to af-

fordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

I support improving access to public swimming in the County of Brant, but we need to be responsible. If we're going to talk about a major indoor or outdoor pool, the location has to make sense for the whole county, and the costs and long-term budget impacts have to be clear up front. I'm open to a serious community facility, but not without that homework.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

I support a practical, affordable transit partnership between the County and Brantford. We need regular, reliable service that connects communities like Burford and Paris to jobs in Brantford, especially during early and late shifts. It shouldn't be just an express that skips people. It needs sensible stops that actually serve riders.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

I'd like to see Brant Transit move toward dedicated, reliable routes with posted times people can actually plan their day around. The current on-demand model has value, but people going to work, appointments or school need predictability. If we're going to operate a transit system, residents should know when and where the bus will be there.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

We've already given up about 6,700 acres. That's enough for tens of thousands of people. So my position is no more giveaways. Farmland is food security and history, and once it's gone, it's gone. I will work with Brantford when it benefits both sides, but cooperation doesn't mean open season on County land. For me, it's simple: protect our farms.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

One of the best examples is my work as Picture Vehicle Coordinator on The Terminal List Season 2. It was a multinational production involving Canada, South Africa and Morocco, with filming in multiple cities and a tremendous amount of coordination. My job was to bring together vehicles, specialized equipment, aircraft, production departments and people from very different backgrounds and make sure everything worked when and where it was supposed to. On a production of that size, problems happen every day. My role is to find solu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

tions, bring the right people together and keep things moving. That's what I would bring to Council. I know how to work with different personalities and different points of view. You don't have to agree on everything to sit down, find common ground and get something accomplished.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

I do not support a one-year moratorium on AI data centers. My position is stronger than that: no AI data centers in the County of Brant, period. I don't believe they're a good fit for our county. To me, it's short-term gains for long-term pain. That's not a trade I'm willing to make with our farmland and infrastructure. My position is clear: no AI data centers in Brant County.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

I would use the County's long-term financial plan as a reality check, but to actually reach those goals, I would want us to think differently. We should be exploring municipal bonds so County residents can invest directly in their community and return to community involvement, community money and community investment. If we support that kind of tool, the long-range plans become something people buy into, not just a budget on paper.

BEN CLEMENT



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you be-

lieve the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

I believe that the projected residential growth is incredibly ambitious. I think in order to accommodate the number of people the county plans to house, we should consider the infrastructure first. Not only new infrastructure but the existing roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, emergency services etc. If you take the time to listen to our current residents of Brant County this is what they are saying, and that is what council needs to consider moving forward.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

I'm not sure that I agree with the zoning change in the Paris downtown. I question whether the number of residential units targeted as parking is already a concern for the shopping district. Those residential units will require many more places to park. I believe that parking is an area that Paris is already struggling to provide for downtown. If it is intended to be a shopping and tourism-based area, do we want to develop more housing in that area? When it comes down to it what do the businesses and people of Paris want?

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

Improving access to public swimming pools is a great idea. I believe a facility that provides swimming lessons for youth and low impact physiotherapy/exercise for residents would be of great benefit in our community. However, location, cost and impact on residents would have to be closely examined when considering a new facility.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

Public transit is a staple for our larger cities to connect. The problem is again going to be the cost of building. I think we would

have to look into grants that are available, and other revenue streams to fund the idea, for example advertising, bus fares etc. Much of our county remains rural and bus service is not high on the priority list, therefore I do not believe in raising taxes on residents to pay for yet another service that is not available for all residents to utilize.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

I think we have to look at the cost associated with the Brant Transit system. I believe we need a dedicated number of vehicles providing seniors and disabled residents with service at an adjusted cost. I believe that those that use the service to go to and from work or on personal errands must understand there is a cost associated with the service that is provided and are willing to pay a reasonable rate to fund the system. I have been told that the booking system is not great, and availability is scarce. A review of the system would be necessary.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

The issue of the Brantford municipal airport is of great importance. The idea of losing more farmland to be developed is deeply concerning. The idea of current Brant County residents being told they are no longer part of Brant County and our part of the city of Brantford is also not great. The potential impact on environmentally sensitive lands is again deeply concerning. My question again is what do the residents, the farmers and landowners in that particular think and want? What are the actual environmental impacts of what they are proposing to build? What is the city offering? And finally, what is the province mandating? I can't say I would work in a direction until I know all the true facts. I can say more urban sprawl on farmland and naturalized areas I am firmly against.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

I own and operate a tree service that specializes in tree removal in urban areas as

well as pruning and tree repair. As a small business owner, I organize and balance the day-to-day job planning with clients, municipalities, roads departments, public works, as well as sub-contractors including crane operators, rental bin companies, hydro services etc. to achieve the job at hand from simple prunes, to large scale wood lot removal or individual tree removal. I am responsible in sales so communicating with the client the job details and cost associated. I am also the one who coordinates all the equipment and manpower needed to accomplish the job at hand. I have done this for 17 years as the owner and operator of Timber Pro Tree Care.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

Any issue that is not completely understood is definitely to be put on pause. AI centers in particular with the questions regarding hydro and water consumption is a hard no. So yes, I support a minimum moratorium and would go further by saying we just don't need it.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

I would essentially use the long-term financial plan as I would any other business plan. There is a budget we need to stick to it. Not to say that all money allocated to certain areas needs to be spent there with careful planning and precise execution and precision of projects maybe we could save a few dollars. A dollar saved is a dollar earned and could be allocated to other projects or areas in need. In any household or business there are wants and there are needs. I believe the needs come first and the wants unfortunately have to wait until the needs are looked after. So, in other words I would be flexible within the budget but stick to the budget.

CLAUDINE CRAIGIE

Responses not received before deadline

ROBERT CHAMBERS

Responses not received before deadline

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What is the traditional birthstone of October? | 6. What disease used to be called consumption? |
| 2. Who bet Eddie Murphy \$100,000 he couldn't make a hit song? | 7. What brand introduced the first-ever fully automatic drip coffee maker in the 1970? |
| 3. Who was selected 1st overall in the 2026 NFL draft? | 8. What is the color of an emerald? |
| 4. What is the name of the famous clock tower in Ottawa? | 9. The offspring of a polar bear and a grizzly is a what? |
| 5. In what year did ABBA win Eurovision? | 10. Montana shares a northern border with which 3 Canadian provinces? |

This week's answers are found on pg. 22

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Mounties return home after tough four-game road swing



By **George Le Gresley**
Sports Columnist

On September 25, the Mounties began a four-game road trip and were only able to pick up two points, getting one win out of a possible four.

It all started with a visit to Tavistock, the Crokinole capital of Canada, if not the world, to face the Braves. Unfortunately, the team lost 8-2. Jack Kersey

and Ryan O'Keefe were the lone goal scorers. The next day, the team travelled further west to Dorchester to play the Dolphins and defeated them 6-4. Lincoln Swerdfeger, Ethan Markle, Dimitri Eleftheriadis, brothers Jack and Cole Kersey, and Keegan Clarke scored.

This past weekend, they played two games in New Hamburg and Wellesley. The game against the Firebirds was one to forget with the Mounties falling 4-0. The following night, they faced off against the Applejacks and showed marginal improvement, still posting a 4-1 loss. Tyler Crisostomo, assisted by O'Keefe and Benjamin Easson, scored Paris' only goal in the second period. They spent 18 minutes in the penalty box which cost them three power play goals.

The Mounties return home to the Brant Sports Complex, this Saturday evening at 7:30 am to face the Wellesley Applejacks in what hopefully will be a chance for redemption.



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Workforce conference coming to Brantford aims to tackle labour shortages, skills gaps

MEDIA RELEASE

Employers, educators and workforce professionals from across Southwestern Ontario will gather in Brantford next month for a conference focused on practical approaches to recruiting, developing and retaining workers.

The Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie will host the Growing Your Workforce 2026 Conference on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at Six Nations Polytechnic, 411 Elgin St., Brantford. The event, being held in the Grand Erie region for the first time, will bring together employers, educators, workforce professionals, service providers, community leaders and policymakers.

The conference comes as labour shortages, skills gaps and changing workforce expectations continue to affect employers. Organizers say the event will focus on strategies organizations can use to attract, develop and retain talent.

Employers struggling to recruit skilled workers or looking to strengthen their talent pipelines are among those being encouraged to attend. Sessions will explore work-integrated learning, mentorship, co-operative education, apprenticeships

and on-the-job training.

Organizers say bringing the conference to Grand Erie will also provide an opportunity to highlight local workforce initiatives while connecting businesses and organizations with approaches being used elsewhere in Southwestern Ontario.

"Growing Your Workforce is about turning workforce challenges into opportunities," said Danette Dalton, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. "We're excited to welcome leaders from across the Province to the Six Nations Polytechnic campus in Brantford to share ideas, build partnerships, and help employers find practical solutions that strengthen both their workplaces and our regional economy."

The conference runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 28. Tickets and additional information are available through the Growing Your Workforce Conference website. The Workforce Planning Board is also seeking businesses and organizations interested in conference sponsorship opportunities.

The Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie is one of 25 non-profit organizations in Ontario that play a leadership role in labour force planning in their communities.



The Growing Your Workforce 2026 Conference will bring employers, educators, workforce professionals and community leaders together at Six Nations Polytechnic in Brantford on Oct. 28. Hosted by the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie, the conference will focus on practical strategies to help organizations attract, develop and retain workers amid ongoing labour shortages and skills gaps.

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HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Sweet Trinity of Upper Town, Ramey's, Beechey's, Starr's, and the golden era of penny candy



By Chris Whelan

When we set out to explore our town's classic neighbourhood variety stores, one area surged to the front of my mind: the old "South Ward" aka "Upper Town". Any kid growing up here in the 1950s to '80s remembers that a single store wasn't enough, we had a full circuit. Within just a few blocks sat three distinct hubs: Ramey's, Beechey's, and Starr's. As Susan Sheridan (Rowley) put it: "Beechey's, Ramey's, and Starr's all within a couple of blocks! Penny candy heaven on allowance day!"

Ramey's & Towler's Variety: The Heart of Creeden Street

Anchor of the neighborhood was Ramey's Variety on Grand River Street South (now Creeden Street). Before Vern and Irene Ramey bought the shop in 1963 from Vern's mother, Blanche, older residents recalled it operating as Creeden's. For twelve years until 1975, Vern and Irene ran the store as an extension of their own home, after which it became Towler's Variety, a name well-remembered by later genera-

tions of South Ward School kids.

Reader Bev Sinclair wrote in this week with vivid memories of stepping inside: the jingle of the bell, the creak of the old wooden floors, and the room behind the register leading into the Ramey's living quarters. Bev recalled staring through the glass counter at "black balls" that changed colors in your mouth, while Vern cut samples at his meat counter.

Bev's brother, Paul Sinclair, worked in the basement as the bottle sorter, separating glass pop bottles by company name for the returns. "Sometimes Vern would let me go down the stairs to help my brother or just stand and watch," Bev shared. "Those old wooden stairs barely stood the test of time, but we didn't care!"

Every "South Ender" has a store memory. Carolyn Smith recalled bread at 17 cents a loaf and milk at 21 cents a quart. Normand Booth admitted to twirling his bread bag until it snapped, sending the loaf tumbling down the street. Paper carriers John and Peter Muise bought money orders at the counter for their Expositor paper routes, spending their earnings on comic books and cold pop. In the back room, Sandra Stewart Livingstone and Rhonda Rhodes Bowman browsed 45 RPM records and found Christmas gifts. The Ramey's even invited neighbourhood kids like Judy Cardy inside to watch one of the area's first ever colour televisions.

By the time the store transitioned to Towler's, local kids, including reader Matt Willson were still flocking to the counter for candy subculture staples, from Popeye candy cigarettes and fiery cinnamon "hot toothpicks" to my own memories of giant five-cent blue Mr. Freezes that looked like Luke Skywalker's lightsaber on a hot summer afternoon, it was a challenge to

consume before it melted into blue liquid sugar.

Beechey's Variety: Queen Street's Chapel Store

Just around the corner on Queen Street, next door to the family home at #6, sat Beechey's Variety at #4 Queen St. Run by George Beechey and his daughter Doreen (Beechey) Harding, the shop had a distinct architectural look that eventually served the community as a small chapel.

Wayne Barrett recalled heading to Beechey's to buy bubble gum packs containing ghoulishly detailed Civil War trading cards. Known for their warmth, the Beechey family treated every customer like kin. After the retail store eventually closed, the unique building enjoyed an interesting second act, serving as a rehearsal space where local rock musicians, including Paul Barber, rented the hall to play sets. While the original Beechey home was taken down in recent years, the store building still stands as a former church and physical reminder of Queen Street's past.

Starr's Variety: The Amelia Street Favourite

Completing the South End's sweet trinity was Starr's Variety, tucked into the residential grid at #10 Amelia Street. Positioned right near Catherine and Washington Streets, Starr's catered to families walking home from South Ward School or returning from afternoon adventures along the Grand River.

Having three variety stores so close together created a cherished weekend routine. Kids compared candy counters across all three locations, if one was sold out of your favorite sour keys, wax lips, or baseball cards, you simply hopped on your bike

and pedaled two blocks over to the next.

Before supermarket plazas and automobiles reshaped our daily habits, the South End was a self-contained community where everyday essentials and childhood treats were always just steps away.

Though the shop counters have vanished and the original Ramey's building gave way to a modern home, the memories of George Beechey, the Starr family, and Vern and Irene Ramey remain as vibrant as ever.

Next Week in Paris Past: We head a little further North in Upper Town to Paris Variety and Johnston's Red and White Food Market. Have your own memories or photos of your favourite corner store? Share them with me by emailing to: editor@theparisinddependent.com



(JOAN POLANIO PHOTO)

George Beechey with daughter Doreen (Beechey) Harding inside Beechey's store in Paris. Feb. 1956



(CHRIS WHELAN PHOTO)

Former location of Beechey's variety store #4 Queen St. as it looks today



(CHRIS WHELAN PHOTO)

Former location of Starr's variety store \$10 Amelia St. as it looks today

THEN AND NOW: BRIDGING THE RIVERS - PART 1 Log piers, floods, and the covered diamond bridge



By Wayne Wilkinson
Paris Historian / Artist

Living in a valley town like Paris, two things are completely unavoidable: steep hills and bridges. Located directly at the confluence of the Grand and Nith Rivers, Paris has a rich and long history of bridge building. One of the primary obstacles surveyor Augustus Jones noted while plotting Governor's Road for Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe in 1793 was the treacherous crossing of the Grand River at "the Forks."

Our town's founder, Hiram Capron, quickly realized that both rivers were major hurdles to growth. In fact, Capron took it upon himself to fund some of Paris's earliest bridges out of his own pocket. Constructed around 1830, these early bridges rested on clever "log cabin" piers. Built much like a log home, the wooden timbers were joined at the corners with interlocking notches and wooden dowels that would

swell tight in the water. The hollow piers were then packed to the brim with heavy river boulders and rocks.

While sturdy under normal conditions, these timber piers proved to be a frustrating endeavor during spring thaw. Year after year, raging floodwaters broke the structures apart, sending the wood and stone downstream toward Brantford. It's worth noting on early maps that these pioneer bridges only spanned the water itself, not the entire valley. Travelers had to navigate down into the river basin via Willow Street, cross the low bridge, climb the opposite bank, and head straight up the western hill out of Upper Town.

Did you know that Paris once had its very own covered bridge?

In the spring of 1833, yet another timber bridge washed away in the rising Grand River. Having financed the previous structure out of their own pockets, local residents couldn't afford to fund another. In October 1833, the Upper Canada Gazette reported that a formal petition had been sent to the provincial legislature requesting government funding.

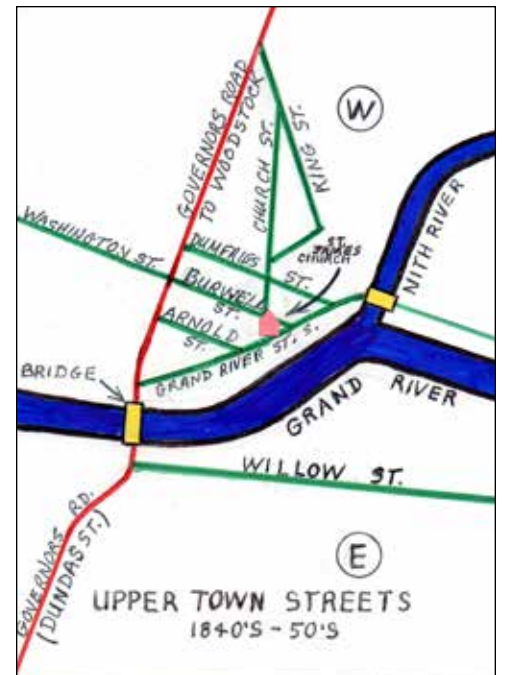
It was an easy sell to officials, as Governor's Road was considered a vital military route connecting Dundas to London. Master builder John Hammill was awarded the contract to erect a new covered timber structure measuring 230 feet long by 24 feet wide. Completed in 1836, the toll crossing was officially named the Diamond Bridge. Historical accounts indicate that the Diamond Bridge eventually suc-

cumbed to the massive Grand River flood of 1852. By 1854, a replacement bridge set on permanent cut-stone abutments was in service.

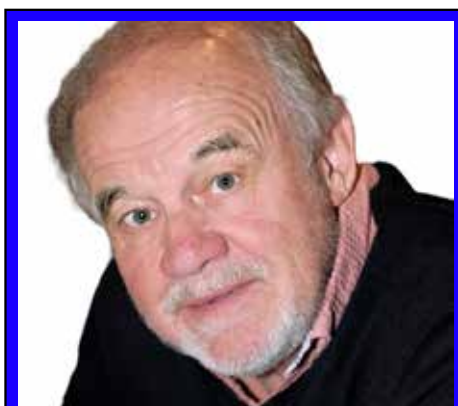
Since photography had not yet taken hold locally during that era, we are remarkably fortunate to have two detailed woodblock engravings created by Frederick C. Lowe, a professional wood engraver who immigrated to Canada West from England in 1841. In both prints, St. James Anglican Church is clearly visible, offering a wonderful visual landmark to help us pinpoint where these early bridges stood.

How many other temporary crossings came and went during those early decades is largely lost to time, but by 1877, a monumental transformation was about to take place on the river.

Be sure to check out my next column for Part II, where we'll look at the grand engineering shift that changed Paris bridges forever.



LIVING RETIRED: 'Thanksgiving Turkey Tidbits.'



By Gary Chalk
Non-Pulitzer Prize
Winning Columnist

Living Retired

from the eavestroughs when the ladder falls while hanging the outdoor Christmas lights that do not blink.

Last Thanksgiving when I placed the turkey platter in the centre of Jan's decorated table, she took one look and didn't hold back. "Gary, you've put together two mounds. A mound of white mush. And a mound of dark mush!"

"I did my best. You wanted the white meat separated from the dark meat."

"But Gary, I did not think it wouldn't end up looking like lumpy mushroom soup right out of the can."

Thanksgiving dates back to the mid-1600's when the Mayflower came to shore in Massachusetts. The ship's passengers — called Pilgrims, were welcomed by Native Americans — called tour guides. The tour guides led the Pilgrims to souvenir shops selling Native American wares: postcards,

fridge magnets, and large foam fingers to wave at the Super Bowl.

The story goes that the Pilgrims' application for 'Landed Immigrant Status' was approved, but with one condition: the Pilgrims were instructed to ditch their silly black hats with a gold buckle for water repellent Tilley hats with a chin strap.

Over the years, men carving the Thanksgiving turkey with Japanese Sashimi knives and losing fingers became an issue. So based on the popularity of electric hedge trimmers that you simply plug the cord in an electrical socket, electric knives that plug into a socket in the kitchen were invented. Eureka! The same result: men sliced right through the electric cord! Faster than men could scream "%QY@%#@!" duct tape was invented!

Another tradition of Thanksgiving is watching football on television. And chowing down on chips, pretzels, and guacamole. Eventually, the announcement is made: "It's time to come to the dining room everybody, the dinner is ready."

Days of planning and preparing the big feast comes down to exactly sixteen minutes — and another Thanksgiving tradition: "I AM STUFFED I DON'T CARE IF I NEVER EAT ANOTHER SWEET PO-

TATO CASSEROLE; UNTIL CHRISTMAS!" Lots of leftovers is another Thanksgiving tradition. Everyone must leave for home with leftovers. This is when yet another Thanksgiving tradition is celebrated — get ready for it — Tupperware food containers. At our house, we store — no we hoard — a gazillion plastic Tupperware containers in the cupboard over top the stove. Jan instructs everyone to "STAND BACK!" when she opens the cupboard. It's an avalanche of various size containers and lids that do not match, plastic serrated grapefruit spoons, even a round devilled egg container for picnics with a net to keep the mosquitoes away.

Thanksgiving ends with one more tradition: the guests stand at the front door with armfuls of leftovers in Tupperware — and the host says "Goodbye" to their close family members who they have not seen since last Thanksgiving.

Living Retired is written by Gary Cahlk and published throughout Canada and USA. To receive Living Retired by email each week, or to book Gary to bring his unique sense of humour to your service club, corporate event, or retirement party email Gchalk@me.com,

The Paris Independent SPORTS



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Brant Battalion teams capture titles at local Fall Fling Tournament



The Brant Battalion U12A team celebrates its Fall Fling Tournament championship after defeating the West Coast Whitecaps 3-2 in the final at the Brant Sports Complex. Pictured (in no order), Jacoby Bonnell, Kamrie Craft, Henry Cumby, Brody Cushing, Bastian Delaronde, Clark Durrer, Cohen Gagnon, Silas Gray, Beau Hamilton, Miles Kocsis, Austin Meza, Mason Monteiro, Silas Norden, Logan Smith, Lucas Wilkinson, Lincoln Zakamarko and Weston Zakamarko. Coaches include Rob Delaronde, Lisa Craft, Jeff Hamilton, Matt Gray and Adam Smith.



The Brant Battalion U13A team celebrates its Fall Fling Tournament title after shutting out the Midwest 49ers 3-0 in the championship game at the Brant Sports Complex. Pictured (in no order), Miller Bosnjak, Jayden Brown, Jase Callan, Ashton Cass, Lincoln Cobb, William Cowan, Tommy England, William Evans, Declan Goodard, Nash Goodman, Hunter Grover, Mason Miller, Connor Plant, Jacob Plant, Nathan Rudavsky, Jack Saunders and Liam Wylie-Toal. Coaches include Chris Cobb, Todd Goddard, Brian Plant, Steven Bosnjack and Matt Saunders.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Hockey season is officially underway in Brant County, even if it still feels like summer outside.

The Brant County Minor Hockey Association welcomed 69 teams to the community for its annual Fall Fling Tournament, held Sept. 25 to 27 at four arenas across Brant County.

The busy three-day tournament featured 137 games across 11 divisions, with teams competing for A and B division championships.

Two Brant Battalion teams made the

most of home ice, with the U12A and U13A squads both capturing tournament titles at the Brant Sports Complex.

The U12A Battalion entered the playoff round after posting two wins, one loss and one tie during round-robin play.

In the championship game, Brant faced the West Coast Whitecaps, a team it had lost to earlier in the tournament. The Battalion turned the tables when it mattered most, earning a 3-2 victory to claim the U12A title.

The U13A Battalion followed a similar path to the championship.

After finishing round-robin play with a 2-1 record, Brant advanced to face the

Ausable Valley Coyotes in the semifinal. The Coyotes had gone undefeated in their round-robin pool, but the Battalion broke through with a convincing 7-2 victory to earn a spot in the final.

There, Brant faced the Midwest 49ers, another opponent that had handed the Battalion a loss during round-robin play.

The Battalion responded with a shutout, adding an empty-net goal in the final minutes to secure a 3-0 victory and the U13A championship.

Other A division champions were the Ausable Valley Coyotes in U11A, South Oxford Storm in U14A, Brantford 99ers in U15A, West Coast Whitecaps in U16A and

Delhi-Norwich 59ers in U18A.

B division titles went to the Woodstock Jr. Navy Vets in U11B, Ausable Valley Coyotes in U13B, Norfolk Knights in U15B and Parry Sound Fuels Shamrocks in U18B.

Tournament organizers thanked the many community sponsors whose support helped make the Fall Fling possible, including Lite 92.1, Hot Country 93.9, Waterford Appliances and More, Experience Travel, Legends Taphouse and Grill, Canadian Tire Paris, PepsiCo, Starbucks Paris, Twisted Treats, Community Hub Pharmacy, Northville Pharmacy and Wigglesbum Dog Walking Co.

Riverhawks usher in new era of senior hockey

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Correspondent

After several years without the fast-paced, hard-hitting action once delivered by the Brantford Blast, the newly formed Brant Riverhawks are ready to take the ice. The team makes its debut this Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Burford Arena, where founding director and general manager Mike Rita-Procter hopes to turn Saturday nights into an experience for fans both on and off the ice.

The team's roster includes players who have played professionally, at the university level, and at the junior level. Whatever the experience, they'll be sure to deliver a high-level play on the ice as they compete in the Northern Premier Hockey League (NPHL) as part of its Metropolitan Branch. The NPHL is a Senior A Men's Hockey League with organizations across Ontario and Quebec,

and the league continues to grow.

Mike Rita-Procter wants every home game to provide family entertainment, with music, entertainers, contests, prizes, and promotions throughout the evening.

The Riverhawks are also looking for volunteers to help create the game-day experience at the Hawks Nest. Opportunities include ticket scanning, ushering and fan assistance, 50/50 and merchandise sales, concessions, sponsor and VIP hospitality, promotions, set-up and general game-day support. No hockey experience is required, and the team welcomes hockey fans, students seeking volunteer hours, parents, retirees and other community members interested in getting involved.

Starting Saturday night, the Burford Arena becomes the Hawks Nest, and at 7:30 p.m., the puck will drop with the Alvinston Killer Bees. For more information on the team, visit www.riverhawkshockey.ca or Instagram: @brant-

countyriverhawks. For information on the Northern Premier Hockey League, visit www.nphlhockey.ca

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South Dumfries Sports Hall of Fame welcomes inductees

KIMBERLY DE JONG

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Nearly 100 people attended the County of Brant South Dumfries Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Sept. 15.

The County of Brant Sports Hall of Fame was created not only to recognize the individuals and teams who, over the years, have represented the County in sport, but also those who have played an integral part in building and ensuring the longevity of sport in the community.

“Behind every athlete and every team are coaches, officials, parents, organizers and volunteers.

And behind so many of the facilities and programs we sometimes take for granted are the community builders who saw a need and decided to do something about it,” said Councillor Jennifer Kyle, master of ceremonies. “They coached teams, they sat on committees and executives, they maintained fields and rinks, they sold tickets, ran fundraisers, and knocked on doors. They raised money for facilities and equipment, and very often they did it quietly year after year because they believed their community would be better for it, and I think tonight’s inductees are a wonderful example of exactly that.”

The first of three ceremonies taking place this year, Tuesday’s event honoured Dean and Sue Morrison, Doug Robb and the St. George Lions Club.

The Morrisons were the first to be recognized during the evening, with the couple being posthumously inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame as builders.

Dean started coaching hockey teams in the St. George Minor Hockey system in 1977 at just 18 years old and did so until 2010. He later became the president of the as parents and supporting countless children and their parents and was on the committee that introduced the new “St. George Generals” name.

Beyond sports, Dean was also involved in the Glen Morris Kinsmen Club, St. George Lions Club, St. George Masons, Paris Agricultural Society and Paris Tractor Pull.

As for Sue, she coached and trained many teams in the St. George Minor Hockey system from 1989 to 1999, was a longstanding



(KIMBERLY DE JONG PHOTO)

The Morrison family, members of the St. George Lions Club, Doug Robb and Council members pose for a group photo during the County of Brant South Dumfries Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026.

member of the South Dumfries Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and was a member of the St. George Women’s Institute. She was also an avid curler and member of the Paris Curling Club.

During the event, their children Whitney Poland, Bob, Reid and Ryan Morrison all had the chance to talk about their parents’ impact on the community, with Poland and Ryan accepting the award on their behalf.

“Our parents taught us sports included more than what it said on the scoreboard. They’re about showing up for your teammates when they need you, working hard, keeping your head up, playing with integrity, and most importantly, giving back to the community that raised you,” said Poland. “Mom and Dad never did any of this for praise, plaques, or trophies. They did it because they genuinely loved the community that they grew up and raised their family in. On behalf of our parents, we’d like to thank the selection committee, the County of Brant, and everyone who made this recognition possible. This is the ultimate tribute to our parents. We know they’re look-

ing down on us tonight, smiling, standing side by side, and incredibly humble.”

Up next was Doug Robb, who was being inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame as both a builder and athlete.

Robb’s achievements can be attributed to his lifelong involvement in ice and sledge hockey.

After playing for the Kitchener Rangers in the OHA during the late 1960s, Robb went on to referee several provincial, Canadian and international championships.

Among his long list of achievements, Robb also served as a Linesman for World Hockey Association, received the OHA’s Gold Stick Award in 2019, refereed for 25 years on the Ontario Ball Hockey Association, and helped form and develop the Hamilton and District Sledge Hockey Association, as well as the Brant and District Sledge Hockey Association.

During his speech, Robb took the time to reminisce and speak about the individuals, teams and the experiences that shaped his career, thanking those who stood by him along the way.

“I’d like to thank former Councillor John Wheat, current Councillor John Peirce, and Keith Roswell for putting my name forward, and I’d like to thank all the other committee members as well as Lisa Campbell. I would also like to introduce two people here tonight who have put up with a lot of travels and antics over the years; my wife Shirley and my son Andrew.”

As the final inductee of the night, the St. George Lions Club was officially honoured as a builder for its contributions to the area.

Chartered in 1945, the St. George Lions Club has spent decades supporting local sports and leisure activities through sponsorship, volunteerism, fundraising and contributions to facility development.

From minor hockey to baseball, soccer and figure skating, the Lions have a long history of helping both youth and adults participate and develop their skills within the community.

Lions Chief Kris Garn-Towns, who spoke on behalf of the local service organization, thanked the Hall of Fame committee for the honour of being recognized, and promised that the Lions Club would continue to be there for the community.

“This induction belongs to every volunteer from our club’s beginning in 1945 to today, to those who worked at fundraising events, flipped pancakes and burgers, or coached on a cold, windy night,” he said. “Being recognized alongside our town’s sports legend is deeply humbling, and a testament to our commitment to the youths that shape our tomorrow. ... We accept this award not as a finish line, but as a promise. As long as a child wants to play, the St. George Lions Club will be there to clear the path.”

The Sports Hall of Fame inductions continue on Oct. 7 with the 2006-2007 Burford Minor Hockey team induction in Burford and on Oct. 15 with Zac Dalpe, Marilyn McCulloch, Sandy Boyd, the 2002 Paris Minor Hockey Bantam Rep Wolfpack team all being inducted in Paris.

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

Panthers find the end zone as football season gets underway

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Correspondent

Football

The Paris Panthers football season kicked off Sept. 26 on a beautiful, warm afternoon, with the smell of the Optimist Club barbecue in the air as the junior and senior teams took to the field against the Assumption Lions.

Both Panther squads entered the season relatively inexperienced and short on numbers, meaning several players are being called on to play both offence and defence. As is often the case with young teams, the

opening game provided an opportunity for players to adjust to the difference between practices and game action.

The juniors had a solid showing in their opener despite falling 32-14 to Assumption. The coaching staff was pleased with the effort and looked to build on that performance when the Panthers welcomed North Park to Paris on Oct. 3.

Paris once again put points on the board against North Park, with Alex Aspdén and Logan Brunson each scoring touchdowns and Jackson McDonald adding a convert. The Panthers ultimately came up short against the Trojans.

The senior Panthers also showed promise in their season opener against Assumption, putting together several drives that reached the Lions’ goal line. A fumble at the Assumption one-yard line and missed defensive coverages proved costly but provided areas for the team to address in practice.

Those adjustments were put to the test Oct. 3 against North Park. Chris Kinsman and Maisen Vicente each found the end zone for Paris, while Bhav Aujla added a convert. The Panthers stayed within striking distance but ultimately fell 21-13 to the Trojans.

Volleyball

The junior boys’ team started their season 1-1. Last Tuesday the Panthers hosted St John’s and dropped the match 3 games to 1. Last Thursday, they travelled to Assumption College and swept 3 -0. This afternoon they will play North Park on their home court, then head to BCI on Thursday.

The Seniors, with a roster that includes a few Grade 13 players, started their season being swept by BCI in straight sets. Last Tuesday at home, they lost a close match 3-2, and last Thursday travelled to Assumption College and beat them 3-1. This week they will face McKinnon Park S.S. and Pauline Johnson.

A League of Their Own.... at Green Lane

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

For the members of the Brant Senior Slo Pitch Group, age really is just a number, although their bodies may remind them otherwise the morning after a game.

Every Wednesday from early May through late September, a group of about 28 players gathers at Green Lane Sports Complex in Paris for 90 minutes of slo-pitch, friendly banter and plenty of laughs.

The players range in age from 65 to 80, with an average age of about 70, proving there doesn't have to be an expiry date on playing the game you love.

"The muscles get sore and we need a bit longer to recover from a game," said longtime member Neil Murray.

But that hasn't stopped them from coming back week after week, year after year.

The group traces its roots back about 12 years to Gord Osmond, a retired teacher who saw a need for something a little different for older ball players.

Osmond brought together friends and former colleagues who were getting too old for traditional league play but weren't ready to hang up their gloves. The idea was simple: give players aged 60 and older an opportunity to enjoy a casual game of slo-pitch without worrying too much about the final score.

Osmond and a handful of friends arranged the Green Lane diamond rental, insurance, budget and player roster. After Osmond died in 2017, a small group jokingly known as the "Commissioners Office" carried on what he started.

Today, roughly six of the original players are still involved.

While the group once considered expanding and adding more teams, members ultimately decided bigger wasn't necessarily better. They maintain a roster of about 28 to 30 players, allowing those who show up each Wednesday to be randomly divided into two teams.

Players inevitably come and go, but openings have generally been filled by other retired friends.

After each Wednesday game, the group heads to the Grand Bayou for lunch and refreshments. Members also gather there for an end-of-season party and get together again at Christmas.

"The social aspect of our group is very important," Murray said. Many of the players golf together, some curl together and others socialize away from the ball diamond. That camaraderie is part of what keeps them returning each week.

"A few things keep people coming back each week ... the enjoyment of playing the game, the friendly banter between the players, and the fact that no one takes the game too seriously," Murray said. "No one really cares who wins, and there is always lots of laughter while playing."

Skill level doesn't matter much either. Some members have played baseball for most of their lives, including competitively, while others hadn't picked up a bat or glove since elementary school before joining the group.

Everyone gets a chance to hit. Everyone gets a chance to field. And everyone understands the real objective.

"The goal is just to have fun playing the game," Murray said.

The realities of playing into your 60s, 70s and 80s also provide plenty of material for good-natured ribbing.

"We joke that there are more players who need a runner than those who can run!" Murray said.

Some former players who can no longer take the field still come out to umpire and keep score, although Murray is quick to point out that the score doesn't matter much, and arguments over safe or out calls aren't exactly part of Wednesday mornings at Green Lane.

Staying active, however, does matter. The slo-pitch group is just one part of an active lifestyle for many of its members, who also golf, curl, cycle, work out at the gym or play lawn bowling.

"If one can have fun while staying fit, it is a good motivator to keep playing week after week, year after year,"



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Members of the Brant Senior Slo Pitch Group gather at Green Lane Sports Complex in Paris, where players ranging in age from 65 to 80 meet every Wednesday throughout the season for a friendly game, plenty of laughs and a chance to keep enjoying the sport they love.

Murray said.

Speaking of years, over time the group has developed a few traditions of its own.

At the end-of-season party, the Gord Osmond Award is presented to a player who demonstrates good sportsmanship and a love of the game, preserving the spirit of the man who started it all.

There is also a Versatility Award, where the criteria are considerably more flexible. It might recognize a memorable play, perfect attendance or, as Murray put it, "anything we can think of really."

The group even has its own Hall of Fame.

Neil MacDonald, a Special Olympics world champion bocce player who has been part of the group for several years and is known for bringing plenty of humour to the diamond, became the first recipient of the Hall of Fame

trophy last year in recognition of his outstanding play.

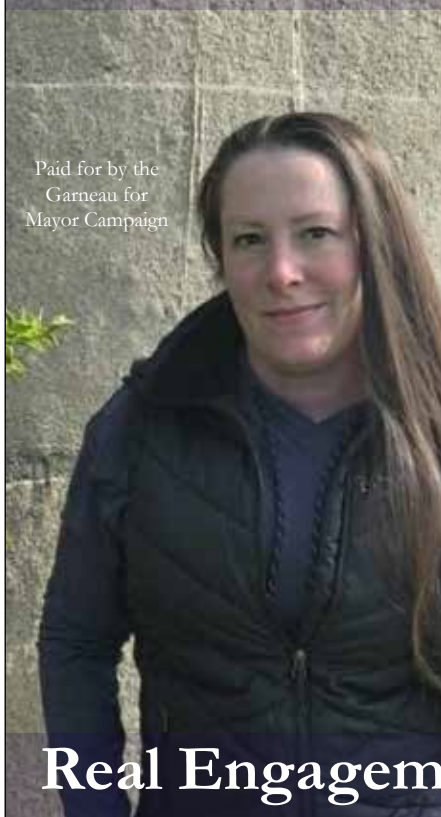
The impact of the Wednesday morning games extends beyond Green Lane where they play the game.

When there is money remaining in the group's budget at the end of the season, members make a donation to a local charity or sports organization. Past recipients have included the Arnold Anderson Sport Fund, Paris Minor Softball and, more recently, the local food bank.

There are no standings to chase, championships to win or scouts watching from behind home plate. Instead, for a group of local seniors, Wednesday mornings are about something much simpler: staying active, sharing some laughs with friends and continuing to play a game that has brought many of them joy for decades. And if it takes a little longer to recover afterward these days, that seems a small price to pay for another season on the diamond.

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WEEKLY
Horoscope
October 7 - October 13 2026

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20



A burst of inspiration lifts your spirits, Aries. A new idea brings excitement and renewed motivation. Trust your energy—it encourages progress and reveals promising possibilities ahead.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23



A bright moment brings harmony and renewed confidence. A positive connection creates fresh inspiration and happiness. Stay open—it encourages balance and strengthens meaningful opportunities ahead.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21



A thoughtful decision strengthens your direction and creates meaningful progress. Stay steady—it encourages success and lasting rewards ahead.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22



Your patience begins to pay off, creating fresh confidence and motivation. Trust the process—it encourages progress and reveals rewarding possibilities ahead.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 21



Exciting possibilities catch your attention, Gemini. A new connection sparks curiosity and fresh inspiration. Stay curious—it encourages creativity and opens unexpected opportunities ahead.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21



A new possibility sparks excitement, Sagittarius. Follow your curiosity—it encourages discovery and opens rewarding opportunities ahead.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22



A positive moment warms your heart, Cancer. Support from someone close brings comfort and renewed confidence. Trust your feelings—it encourages harmony and strengthens meaningful connections ahead.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20



Steady effort brings fresh confidence. Stay focused—it encourages achievement and opens exciting possibilities ahead.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23



A rewarding moment boosts your confidence, Leo. Your dedication begins to attract positive attention and exciting possibilities. Keep believing—it encourages success and creates lasting momentum ahead.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18



A spark of creativity inspires you, Aquarius. A fresh idea brings excitement and renewed motivation. Follow your instincts—it encourages confidence and opens meaningful possibilities ahead.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22



A thoughtful decision opens the door to meaningful progress. Trust your judgment—it encourages growth and reveals rewarding possibilities ahead.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20



A thoughtful moment brings happiness, comfort, and fresh confidence. Trust your feelings—they encourage harmony, strengthen meaningful connections, and reveal rewarding possibilities ahead.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 7
Toni Braxton, Musician (59)

OCTOBER 8
Bruno Mars, Musician (41)

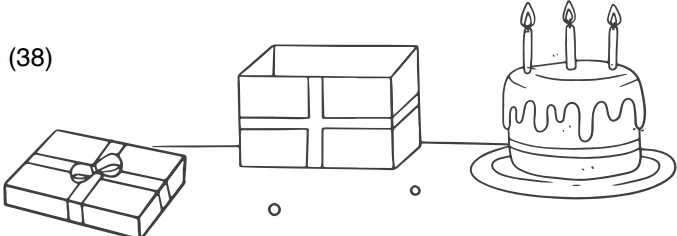
OCTOBER 9
Jacob Batalon, Actor (30)

OCTOBER 10
Rose Mclver, Actress (38)

OCTOBER 11
Rhea Ripley, Wrestler (30)

OCTOBER 12
Hugh Jackman, Actor (58)

OCTOBER 13
Marie Osmond, TV Show Host (67)



Riddles

What gets colder as the days get shorter?
The weather

--

What can be red, orange, yellow, or brown and dances in the wind?
A leaf

--

What can be seen in the sky, heard in the trees, and felt on your face in autumn?
The wind

--

What do trees put on when summer is over?
Their fall colours

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 22

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“October was a beautiful month, when the birches in the hollow turned as golden as sunshine and the maples behind the orchard were royal crimson.”

- L. M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

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PET OF THE WEEK

SAMMY

Meet our Pets of the Week:

Sammy the 23 month old Lab/ Husky was enjoying frolicking in the leaves. We love this weather too Sammy! Unfortunately, so do the ticks. As the cool weather approaches, now is the time to ensure your pets and family are protected from ticks and fleas. Fortunately, we have many options available to us , including an injection that last for 12 months.

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



Word Search

THINGS YOU SEE ON A FALL DRIVE

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

AUTUMN
BARN
BRIDGE
CORNFIELD
CROW
FARM
FENCE
FOOTBALL
FOREST
HAYBALE
LEAVES
MAPLE
PUMPKIN
ROAD
SCARECROW
SUNFLOWER
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8	5	6	1	3	4	7	2	9
3	1	7	6	2	9	8	5	4
9	2	4	8	7	5	3	1	6
5	6	8	3	4	2	1	9	7
2	9	1	5	8	7	4	6	3
4	7	3	9	1	6	5	8	2
6	3	2	7	5	1	9	4	8
1	8	9	4	6	3	2	7	5
7	4	5	2	9	8	6	3	1

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.

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- Green
- Groaler or a pizzly bear
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Paris Horticultural Society - is hosting its first meeting after summer break on October 7th starting at 7 PM with a social time, the program will begin at 7:30 PM. Our guest speaker for the evening is Chuck Beach talking about "The Importance of the Urban Forest". Lots to learn!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

Women Inspiring Women Women’s Institute Meeting - Ladies, please join us on Thursday, October 8, 7-9 pm at the Paris Fairgrounds Community Room. We will celebrate the 2026 International Year of the Woman Farmer with Dawn Pate who will share stories of building success at Brantwood Farms.

Men’s Probus Club of Brantford - Thursday, Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course, 320 Balmoral Dr., Brantford. The guest speaker will be a member of the Loewith family, owners and operators of Summitt Station Dairy in Copetown since 1947. The club welcomes retired and semi-retired men interested in fellowship, guest speakers, activities and social events. For information, call Bill Hyde at 519-442-0510 or visit brantfordprobus.ca.

St. Paul's United Church Soup Lunch - 12:00-1:00PM at St. Paul's United Church 48 Broadway St Paris. ALL WELCOME!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 15, 22 & 29

The Little String Orchestra Rehearsals - The Little String Orchestra Rehearsals will be held at the Hellenic Centre, 475 Park Rd. N., Brantford. Junior orchestra is at 6:00 p.m, Senior at 7:00 -8:30 p.m. New members are welcome. For more information visit: www.thelittlestringorchestra.com

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

The Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting - is on Tuesday, October 13th, 2026 at 10 AM at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. The guest speaker will be Hugh Fraser, the Barn Guy. New members are always welcome.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 20 & 27

Brant Men of Song Choir Practices - The Brant Men of Song will be holding their choir practices on Tuesdays on October 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th 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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

The Catholic Women's League Monthly Meeting - The Catholic Women's League will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 14th at 7 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 17 Washington Street, Paris.

Social Meet & Greet - 100 People Who Care Brant are hosting a social meet and greet at the Wilkins Family Community Centre in Paris (Paris Lawn Bowling Club property) on Wednesday, October 14 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Light refreshments will be provided. Anyone interested in the community-minded group is welcome to attend.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Brant Men of Song Harmony Concert - The Brant Men of Song are giving a charity concert at Harmony United Church, 268 Marlborough Street, Brantford on October 17th at 7 pm. Special guests will feature Kevin Williams' Trio; folk singer Ian Bell; and the Bell City Strummers Ukulele Group. Admission is by financial contribution to the Harmony Breakfast Learning Club.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Oxford Philatelic Society Circuit Book (Stamp) Fair - Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario.. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Free Admission & Parking. Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs. Contact: dheaton3e3@gmail.com.

The Brantford Symphony Orchestra - Cresents “When All Other Lights Go Out: Beethoven & Shore” with Guest Conductor Shawn Bennett on Saturday, October 24 (7:30pm) at the Sanderson Centre. Tickets are \$45 for adults, \$10 for students, children & elementary students are FREE. For more info and to purchase tickets go to: brantfordsymphony.ca.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

Grand River Women's Probus Club - grandriver.probuscanada.ca - invites semi-retired and retired women to its monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to noon at Best Western Hotel, 19 Holiday Dr., Brantford. Come for friendship, fellowship and a fun sing-along of 50's, 60's and 70's music conducted by musician Steve Oros. New faces are always welcome! See the website for attendance details.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - The Knights of Columbus will be holding their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 27th at 7:30 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish hall at 17 Washington Street, Paris.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Brant Plants - Native Pollinator Plants & Trees, hosted by Brant for Nature Group beginning at 10 am at Watts Pond Rd. For more information visit www.brantfornature.ca.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

St. Paul's United Church Soup Lunch - 12:00-1:00PM at St. Paul's United Church 48 Broadway St Paris. ALL WELCOME!

NOVEMBER 13 - 15

35th Annual Christmas in Paris Juried Artisan Market - Don’t miss the 35th Annual Christmas in Paris Juried Artisan Market at the Paris Fairgrounds. Loads of handmade treasures. An incredible lineup of talented artisans. And ALL the Christmas vibes. The \$2 admission fee supports local high school bursaries. November 13, 1 pm to 8 pm; November 14, 9:30 am to 5 pm; November 15, 11 am to 4 pm.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

35th Annual Christmas in Paris Jingle Bell Night Artisan Market - Mark your calendar for the 18th Annual Jingle Bell Night in downtown Paris. Entertainment, tree lighting and sales. Details to follow soon.

EVERY THURSDAY

Euchre - Join us for euchre at the St. George Lawn Bowling Club, 8 Thompson St., St. George. Thursday afternoons, beginning October 15th, from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. Admission: \$3.00 includes coffee/tea & cookies. Accessible building. For information, call Laura (519) 448-4789.

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree - Every other Friday, 1-4pm be fall-ish and come to the Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree at Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll. Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! October 2, 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

MONDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAY

SHORT MAT bowling! - The fun doesn't end when the summer is over at St. George Lawn Bowling Club. Join us for "short mat" bowling at the Gaukel Community Centre, beginning October 15th through April 30th. Times available Monday and Friday from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. and Thursday evening from 7:00 - 9:00. For information and to register, contact: Ken Robinson @kenjrobinson48@gmail.com.

MONTHLY

Kiwanis Club of Paris Meeting - The Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant meets monthly at the Paris Legion #29 at 6:30 PM on the second Monday. Enquiries: kiwanisparisbrant@gmail.com.

The Paris Independent
PROMOTE YOUR
EVENTS WITH US!
HERE’S HOW:

Deadline: Friday prior at 10 a.m.
Contact:
info@theparisindependent.com

- The Paris Independent Community Calendar allows non-profit organizations to promote their free admission community events at no charge. Event listings can include the event name, date, time and location as well as contact information (ie phone number, email address or website).
- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, The Paris Independent offers the following options for promoting your community events:
 - Coming Events Word Ad section (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
 - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad section (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
 - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a Small Classified Display ad (3.3" x 2.5") - \$35 + hst

Vote here!

2026 Municipal and School Board Election

COUNTY OF

Brant

Simply Grand

Questions?

Contact the Elections Team:

- election@brant.ca
- 519.44BRANT (442.7268)
- Toll-Free: 1.855.44BRANT



Monday, October 26

Voting will take place **online and by phone only**, with **in-person Voter Assistance Locations** also available. **Advance voting will begin on October 19** and run through to Election Day.



Here's what you need to know...



Watch for your **Voter Information Letter**



Eligible voters will receive a Voter Information Letter in the mail by October 12 with instructions on how to vote.

If you do not receive a letter, please contact the County.



Vote anytime from **October 19 to 26**

Voting opens October 19 at 9:00 am and closes on Election Day, October 26 at 8:00 pm. Follow the instructions included in your Voter Information Letter to cast your vote.



Need **help getting online** to vote?

Visit a County of Brant Customer Service Office, Library or a Voter Assistance Location listed below

For office and library hours, visit brant.ca/contactus or give us a call..

Need help voting?

In-person **Voter Assistance Locations** will be available through the County. Visit brant.ca/elections, scan the QR code, or contact us for more information.

Location	Date/Time
- Airport Community Hall – 3 Airport Rd, Brant - Brant Sports Complex – 944 Powerline Rd, Paris - Burford Community Centre – 14 Potter Dr, Burford - TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre – 15 Ewart Ave, Cainsville - Cowan Community Health Hub – 25 Curtis Ave N, Paris - Gaukel Memorial Community Centre – 7 Gaukel Dr, St. George - Glen Morris Centennial Hall - 17 Dunbar Street, Glen Morris - Onondaga Community Hall – 42 Brantford St, Onondaga - Paris Customer Service Office (Gallagher Room) Lisa's Way, 66 Grand River St N, Paris - Scotland Community Centre – 85 Simcoe St, Scotland *Cedarview Church – 20 Cedar St, Paris	Advance Polls Monday, October 19 - Sunday, October 25 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily *October 25 – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Election Day Monday, October 26 - 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
North Ward School – 107 Silver St, Paris	Advance Polls Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Election Day Monday, October 26 – 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
Sojourn Church – 112 Scott Ave, Paris	Advance Polls Monday, October 19 – Friday, October 23 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Advance Polls Monday, October 19 – Friday, October 23 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Election Day Monday, October 26 – 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
County of Brant Customer Service Offices - Burford, 26 Park Ave - Paris, 66 Grand River St N	