

# The Paris Independent

Issue #237

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FREE

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**TWO STATIONS. ONE COMMUNITY. ONE CAUSE.** (MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)  
Phil Dalpe of the Paris Fire Hall (left) and Alex Grinton of the Airport Fire Hall take part in the ceremonial puck drop to kick off the annual charity hockey game at the Brant Sports Complex. Article and photos on pages 8-9.



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**CASANDRA TURNBULL**  
*Managing Editor*

The County of Brant and the City of Brantford are set to begin negotiations over a potential boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport lands, following direction from the Province of Ontario and the appointment of a provincial facilitator.

The County issued a public update the evening of March 24 outlining the provincially directed process, with the City of Brantford releasing its own statement the following day. According to the County of Brant press release, the municipality received official communication on March 10 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing directing both parties to enter discussions under Section 174

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## County of Brant highlights growth, investment in 2025 year in review

CASANDRA TURNBULL  
*Managing Editor*

Strong economic growth, major infrastructure investment and increased community use of local amenities were among the highlights of the County of Brant's 2025 Year in Review, presented to council last week.

The annual report, prepared by the County's Corporate Initiatives Division, provides a snapshot of projects, programs and progress across five key strategic priorities, while also outlining plans for 2026.

"This is a phenomenal report. It's so informative. It's a little bit like a report card in the sense that it's covering different subjects and how we are doing," said Coun. Steve Howes during the March 24 council meeting.

The report highlights significant economic momentum, including a sharp increase in industrial, commercial and institutional construction activity, along with \$45.8 million in grant funding secured to support infrastructure and growth-related costs.

County staff also coordinated approximately \$96 million in capital projects in 2025, including roadwork, bridges, culverts and community facility upgrades.

On the community side, recreation and tran-

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# County, City enter provincially directed negotiations over airport lands

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the Municipal Act. The process includes a firm deadline of June 30, 2026 to reach an agreement.

The lands in question are owned and operated by the City of Brantford but are located within the County of Brant's municipal boundaries, a long-standing arrangement that has presented governance and planning challenges for both municipalities.

The County acknowledged the directive but expressed concern over how the process was initiated.

"While the County of Brant is disappointed by the manner in which this process was initiated and by the compressed timelines, Council and staff remain committed to achieving the best possible outcome for County residents, City residents, the Province and First Nations," the County officials stated in its press release. "We will approach these discussions in good faith and expect that our counterparts at the City of Brantford will do the same."

The issue stems from a November 2025 Airport Board recommendation that Brantford City Council request the Province examine restructuring options for the airport lands. That recommendation was later approved by city council and forwarded to the Province.

In a separate statement released March 25, Brantford Mayor Kevin Davis welcomed the Province's involvement, framing the facilitator's appointment as an opportunity for collaboration.

"I welcome the appointment and look forward to working with the provincial Facilitator in a constructive and meaningful way," Davis said in a City of Brantford press release, adding that the move would help both municipalities "engage in productive dialogue and move toward a pos-

itive outcome for our region."

Davis emphasized the airport's importance to the region, noting it supports aviation services, emergency response, flight training and a growing base of aviation-related businesses that contribute to the local economy. He added that the City's goal is to ensure the asset is "positioned for long-term success" with a governance framework that supports growth and infrastructure development.

While both municipalities have highlighted a shared history of collaboration, the County has signalled unease with the pace and structure of the provincially driven process.

In responses to questions posed from The Paris Independent, provided via email, County of Brant Mayor David Bailey reiterated that the initiative did not originate with the County.

"To reiterate the statement, this process was initiated by the City without input from the County. Given the direction which has come from the Province, we will engage in good faith, however we cannot comment at this time on what specific boundary lines may be drawn or how we may be able to engage with Ward 5 residents until we are made aware of the specific asks from the City," Bailey said in response to The Paris Independent's questions.

Questions have also been raised about how residents, particularly those in Ward 5, including Oakhill area, will be represented and serviced during the negotiation period, which coincides with a municipal election year.

Bailey was firm in his response that no decisions have been made to limit investment in Ward 5 during the 2026 budget discussions.

"To clarify, there were no decisions to limit or withdraw capital investment in Oakhill specifically. The budget process



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

County of Brant Mayor David Bailey (left), Paramedic Services Chief Mariee Sopko and Brantford Mayor Kevin Davis are pictured during an awards presentation in council chambers on Nov. 10, 2025. Paramedic Services is one of several shared services between the two municipalities. Days after this the Airport Board recommended that Brantford City Council request the Province to examine restructuring options for the airport lands.

is continually dynamic in order to best allocate limited resources throughout the County," he said.

On community engagement, Bailey said the County is committed to keeping residents informed but noted consultation efforts will require coordination with the City under the terms of the negotiation process.

"As a County, we remain committed to acting in the best interests of our residents and business owners. We recognize that there

may be concerns within the community at this time, and we are committed to sharing information and updates as they become available," he said.

The County is expected to meet with the provincially appointed facilitator in the coming days as discussions begin.

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# Brant report underscores growth, service pressures

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

usage continued to grow, with more than 7,100 participants in recreation programs and over 27,000 Brant Transit rides recorded - a 7.4 per cent increase over 2024.

Coun. John Peirce pointed to several figures that stood out, particularly the level of community use of trails and waterfront spaces.

"That 386,611 people used our trails. That's 1,059 a day. That's fantastic. I don't think anyone would realize our trails are used that much," he said.

Peirce also highlighted the demand on emergency services, noting the County's fire department responded to 1,145 incidents while paramedics handled 33,866 calls in 2025.

"People wouldn't understand that. It's shocking to a lot of people, but it is the facts," he said.

Council heard the report is intended to improve transparency and help residents better understand the scope of municipal work and spending.

"I had people say wow, now you start to see where the tax dollars go," said Howes, who added he would like to see

even more communication of the report's findings.

While generally supportive, Coun. John Bell said the report should also acknowledge areas where goals were not fully achieved.

"I think we could have been a slightly more humble and say there are a few things we did not finish or could not do that we wanted to do," he said.

Bell noted that the report did a good job in helping people step back for a second and take a look at the big picture.

"What the story tells at the big picture level is that we do an awful lot. If you ask the man or woman on the street 'are you happy what the county is doing for you?' It's highly unlikely they will think of the big picture."

Staff noted the Year in Review is designed not only to reflect on progress but also to guide future planning and investment, while recognizing staff contributions and informing the community. The report was received by council for information.

Copies of the 2025 Year in Review will be available online and at County offices.

# Paris knitwear goes Hollywood: Mary Maxim sweater stars in Project Hail Mary

A Local Legend Hits the Big Screen: While moviegoers around the world are just now discovering the charm of Ryan Gosling's "fox sweater," residents of Paris and the surrounding County of Brant will find the look much more familiar.

Mary Maxim, the company behind the iconic

1950s-style pattern featured in Project Hail Mary, has been a cornerstone of our local community for decades. Founded in Sifton, Manitoba, the company moved its headquarters to Paris, Ontario, in the mid-1950s—the very era that inspired Gosling's vintage cinematic look. For years, the Mary Maxim shop on

Scott Ave. has been a destination for knitters across North America. Seeing their classic Canadian "curling sweater" design on a Hollywood A-lister like Ryan Gosling (a fellow Ontarian, born in London) is a proud moment for our town. It turns out that saving the galaxy requires a little bit of Paris style.



## Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What 1994 film features a character describing a Quarter Pounder with Cheese as a "Royale with Cheese" in France?</li> <li>2. What legendary musician wrote "Purple Haze," "Little Wing," and "Voodoo Child"?</li> <li>3. The Pyramid of Giza is the only ancient wonder still standing today — what other ancient wonder was also located in Egypt?</li> <li>4. What is the name of the galaxy closest to our Milky Way?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. In the Bible, who is the eldest son of David?</li> <li>6. Which country is known as Suomi?</li> <li>7. How many lines are in a limerick?</li> <li>8. Do male or female toads croak?</li> <li>9. What magical phrase did Ali Baba use to open the cave?</li> <li>10. In Toy Story, what is the name of the boy who owns Woody and Buzz?</li> </ol>
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**This week's answers are found on pg. 16**



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# Inviting the community to experience egg-citing fun

KIMBERLY DE JONG

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Burford and District Optimist Club is inviting the community to attend its annual Easter Egg Hunt event at the Burford Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 4, 2026.

The event, which has been running for over 25 years, will run from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

"It's a free family event so if people choose to attend, they just come on in and we'll have Easter eggs distributed on the grounds, sort of in and around the playground equipment," said Amber Bonney, an Optimist club member and event organizer.

"The kids can collect a few eggs and bring them inside, then they hand them in to some of our other volunteers to receive their chocolate. We're also going to have a little free raffle table with some kid items; they can fill out their names and try to win a cool little toy or prize that's been donated. We will also have a face painting station and the Easter Bunny roaming around, hopefully some Princess characters." Bonney said the egg hunt is what the club refers to as their "give back" event.

"We enjoy having an opportunity to provide events like these to the community; where it's just bringing the community together, providing some joy for the children and they can all come free of charge," she said. "There's nothing like having to do nothing other than come enjoy themselves and just enjoy the community atmosphere. We're all just excited because this is one of our fun events that we really like to do." The local Optimist Club, which has been running for over 40 years, is made up of a group of committed Burford residents who volunteer their time to make the community a better place.

"We are just there to support the youth and the children of our community, and we also sponsor youth baseball in Burford," said Bonney. "Because we're a non-profit or-



(KIMBERLY DEJONG PHOTO)

River Botting, 4, shows off her haul of eggs during the Burford and District Optimist Club's annual Easter Egg Hunt last year.

ganization, the big fundraising events that we do in the community, like our upcoming Camp 31 Spring Cookout coming up on May 2, help us gain funds so we can put it back into free events like this Easter egg hunt. And that's what we want to do; we want our town to be fun, where people want to come out and enjoy what we have to offer

as a whole. We just want to make it a friendly place to live and be around."

*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.*



## COLOUR BUSTER'S EASTER ADVENTURE!

Hop into the fun with Buster the Beaver this Easter! Grab your crayons, markers, pencil crayons—or whatever brings out your inner artist—and bring Buster's big adventure to life with your own colourful twist.

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Scan (or snap a clear photo of) your finished comic and send it to [stories@theparisdependent.com](mailto:stories@theparisdependent.com). We'll be picking our favourite submission to feature in an upcoming edition of The Paris Independent! Will your version of Buster steal the spotlight?

There's only one way to find out...

Colour it. Share it. See it in print!

# Family-friendly Easter events set across Brant County this weekend

CASANDRA TURNBULL

*Managing Editor*

Families across Brant County will have several opportunities to celebrate Easter this weekend, with community groups hosting events ranging from egg hunts to photos with the Easter Bunny.

In Paris, the Paris Optimist Club is inviting families to stop by The Paris Wincey Mills on Saturday, April 4, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for a free Easter Bunny photo event. Children can meet the Easter Bunny, take photos, participate in activities and receive a treat. While the event is free to attend, donations will be accepted to support the club's community initiatives.

Meanwhile, in Brantford, The Children's Safety Village of Brant will host its annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 407 Elgin St.

The event is geared toward children aged four to 12 and does not require registration. Organizers are encouraging families to bring their own Easter baskets. Activities include games, colouring, treats and movies, along with free popcorn. A barbecue will also be available, with proceeds from food sales supporting the event.

Admission is by donation, with both cash and tap options accepted.

Another popular local tradition returns at Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead National Historic Site, where "Easter at Addie's" will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 4.

The event will feature an

Easter egg hunt, petting zoo, crafts, outdoor games, a museum scavenger hunt and photos with the Easter Bunny.

Organizers say the event is designed to offer a full morning of family-friendly activities in a historic setting. Tickets and additional details are available through the homestead's website. With a mix of free and low-cost options, the weekend lineup offers something for families across the county looking to celebrate the holiday close to home.

## Letter to the Editor

### A warm welcome to life in Paris

**Dear Editor:**

We love the paper. We read it cover to cover each week.

My wife and I just moved to Paris last July and are enjoying our new townhome in Riverbank Estates.

Climb the hill to view some of the new sights from one of Paris' newest growing communities.

- Kevin and Brenda Blanchard |  
Paris, Ont

### New Sidewalks, Old Problem: Who Clears the Snow?

**Dear Editor:**

Recently, Brant County installed sidewalks in our neighborhood to make it more accessible. I have noticed in our 10+ years living here that a lot of people from the community will come from other areas to walk/run our loop, as it is about a 1 km route.

However, before the sidewalks were installed, I asked the municipality who would be responsible for clearing them. They responded: the residents.

I noticed, especially this year, that snow built up on these sidewalks, as we have a lot of seniors in our neighborhood who have never had to clear snow before. Some live on corner lots with over 100+ feet of sidewalk to clean. Residents have been in this neighborhood for over 50 years and are now expected to clear sidewalks that have never existed before.

This year, I timed the plow that comes to clear the section in front of town property. It travels 250 m into our loop in under one minute, then returns another 250 m to go back the way it came. The loop section that has sidewalks is 900 m. It would likely take a

maximum of five minutes and would put the operator back in the direction they want to go anyway. Residents have asked the operator why the sidewalks aren't cleared, and the response was, "I would if I could."

This same plow covers roads like Washington Street, which will see its sidewalks expanded down to Old Mill in the near future. If that's the case, would it not make sense to continue the route down Race Street, along Hillside, and back onto Washington?

I just think it's sad that the town didn't approve snow removal when these sidewalks were installed, especially when residents have paid their taxes for 50-plus years and are now expected to clear something they never had before.

It's a routine my wife and I have to walk our loop, along with many others in the community, but it has been extremely difficult—especially this winter—as it was very icy and not well maintained. Walking on the road isn't as safe because the width was reduced to add the sidewalks.

- Simon Gabsch | Paris, Ont

## Haley sworn in as Ward 5 councillor



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTOS)

Ward 5 Brant County Councillor Ella Haley is sworn in during a council meeting on March 24. Following her oath, Mayor David Bailey formally invited her to "take your seat as the councillor for ward 5." Haley will serve the remainder of the current term ahead of municipal elections this fall.

Ella Haley is pictured with fellow County of Brant councillors following her swearing-in on March 24. Pictured from left to right are Councillor Steve Howes, Councillor John Peirce (back), Councillor John MacAlpine, Councillor John Bell (back), Councillor Jennifer Kyle, Mayor David Bailey, Councillor Robert Chambers (back), Councillor Ella Haley, Councillor David Miller, Councillor Lukas Oakley (back) and Councillor Brian Coleman.

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# Brant Land Trust lecture to explore impacts of contaminants in Grand River

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A leading Canadian researcher will share new insights into the effects of pollution on the Grand River watershed during an upcoming public lecture hosted by the Brant Land Trust.

Gerald Tetreault, a research scientist with Environment and Climate Change Canada, will present *Assessing the impacts of multiple stressors in the Grand River watershed* on Thursday, April 9 at 7 p.m. The event will take place at Wilfrid Laurier University's Research and Academic Centre East in Brantford, with an online option also available. Admission is free, though registration is required.

The lecture is the third and final installment in a three-part series examining our relationship with the land and responsibilities to it.

Tetreault's research focuses on how contaminants, including those from municipal wastewater, road runoff, agriculture and urbanization, are affecting aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity in the watershed.

Particular attention will be given to the rainbow darter, a small fish species used as an indicator of ecosystem health. Studies have shown concerning biological changes in fish exposed to wastewater effluent, including the presence of intersex characteristics linked to hormone-disrupting chemicals.

"Brant Land Trust is pleased to announce the presenter for the third of the three-part public lecture series will be Gerald Tetreault," said Joan Faux of the Brant Land Trust.

"This lecture will help the community better understand the impacts of contaminants in the Grand River and the importance of ongoing research."

There is also encouraging news, organizers say. Improvements to wastewater treatment facilities in recent years are already showing measurable benefits in fish health and ecosystem recovery.

"The Grand River and its tributaries are vital to our community," noted the organization in its release. "Paying attention to water quality and quantity through continual monitoring is important."

The lecture is presented in partnership with the Laurier Institute for Water Science and Wilfrid Laurier University.

In-person seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. More information and registration details are available through the Brant Land Trust.



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## Brantford-Brant unemployment rate falls as fewer people seek work

MEDIA RELEASE

The unemployment rate in the Brantford-Brant region fell in February, though the decline was largely driven by fewer people participating in the labour force.

The local jobless rate dropped to 7.9 per cent, down 0.8 percentage points from January, according to the latest seasonally adjusted estimates from Statistics Canada. Employment rose slightly during the month, but labour force participation declined, meaning fewer residents were actively looking for work. Provincially and nationally, unemployment moved in the opposite direction. Ontario's unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage points to 7.6 per cent, while Canada's rate increased 0.2 points to 6.7 per cent.

Locally, employment losses were reported in manufacturing and healthcare, but those declines were offset by modest gains in several service sectors, including information, culture and recreation, accommodation and food services, and professional, scientific and technical services.

The Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie reported that its online job board, Grand Erie Jobs, recorded about 1,800 new job postings across the region in February. While postings dipped slightly from January, more employers were advertising positions, many of them part-time or casual opportunities.

The organization's newly released annual labour market plan, All Hands on Deck, points to growing pressures in the region's labour market and economy.

Executive director Danette Dalton said economic uncertainty — including tariffs affecting sectors such as manufacturing, wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing — is weighing on business confidence.

"Additional efforts are needed to equip job seekers with the skills and mindset required for a competitive job market," Dalton said. "Employers will also need support to adapt, explore new markets, and take creative approaches to meeting their workforce needs."

The report notes that more people are entering the labour force but are struggling to find work, often due to skills mismatches or the limited availability of full-time jobs.

Among its recommendations, the plan calls for stronger support for job seekers, improved awareness of existing training and employment services, a greater focus on adaptable and digital skills for new workers, and increased collaboration among employers, including potential job-sharing arrangements.

The full All Hands on Deck report is available at [www.workforceplanning-board.org](http://www.workforceplanning-board.org).

The Workforce Planning Board is one of 25 non-profit organizations in Ontario that help lead regional labour force planning. Its work is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

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# HISTORIC PARIS

## PARIS PAST: In an era of fake news and misinformation, here is the real history of April Fools Day



By Chris Whelan

Knowing today's edition of The Paris Independent would land on newsstands for April 1st, our editorial team naturally gravitated toward the tradition of the "phony article." I toyed with the idea of a column detailing a scandalous, fabricated event from "Paris Past", only to pull the rug out at the final sentence with a triumphant "April Fools!"

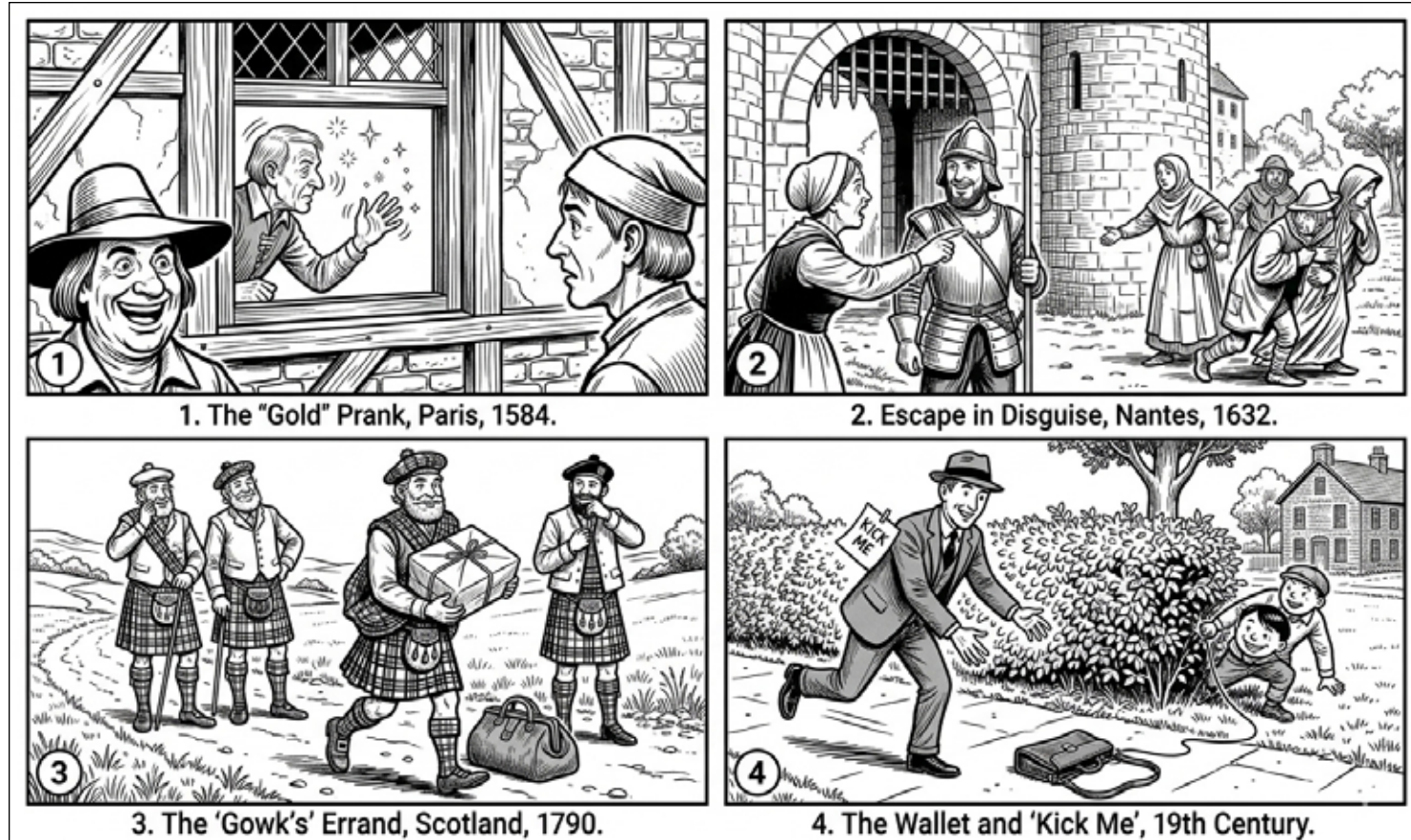
However, after some reflection, I've decided against it. In 2026, it feels as though every day has become a marathon of "April Foolery." Between the hall of mirrors that is social media, the staged theatrics of reality television, and the increasing difficulty of discerning deep-fakes from real life, the joke has started to wear thin. At The Paris Independent, we want to remain the one source our community can rely on for steadfast, factual reporting.

So, instead of adding to the noise with more fake news, I am staying true to the mission of this column: looking to the past to discover why we set aside a day for foolishness and where this bizarre global custom truly began.

While the exact origins of April Fool's Day are buried under centuries of hearsay, many historians point to France in the late 16th century as the catalyst for our modern observance.

In 1564 (though the transition took years to solidify across the regions), King Charles IX adopted the reformed Gregorian calendar. This shifted the start of the New Year from the spring equinox—celebrated around April 1st—to January 1st. In an era where news traveled at the speed of a horse, not everyone got the memo. Others simply resisted the change, clinging to the old ways.

Those who continued to celebrate the New Year in April became the butt of jokes. Neighbours would send them mock gifts or invite them to non-existent parties. A common prank involved pinning a paper fish to the back of an unsuspecting "traditionalist." The victim was dubbed a "poisson d'avril" (April Fish)—a term still used in France today. The symbolism is twofold: young fish are easily caught in early April, and the "fish" also represented the end of



Lent, where meat was forbidden but fish was permitted.

One of the more cinematic legends involving the day centers on the Duke of Lorraine and his wife. In the early 17th century, the couple was reportedly imprisoned at Nantes. On April 1st, they managed to disguise themselves as peasants and attempted to slip through the city gates.

A woman recognized them and frantically alerted the guards. However, knowing it was the "Day of Fools," the guards assumed she was playing a seasonal prank on them. They laughed off her warning, allowing the Duke and Duchess to walk right out of the city to their freedom. It remains one of history's most high-stakes "pranks" that wasn't actually a prank at all.

France may have popularized the April 1st date, but the "Festival of Fools" is a much older human impulse. In Ancient India, the feast of Holi (Holi) traditionally ends on March 31st. It has long been a time for people to play lighthearted tricks on one another while celebrating the arrival of spring.

By the 18th century, the custom had firmly crossed the channel into England and Scotland. The Scots, never ones to do things halfway, turned it into a two-day affair. They referred to the victims as "gowks" (the Scottish word for the cuckoo bird, a symbol of a fool).

Day One: Involved "Hunting the Gowk," where people were sent on "fool's errands" delivering sealed messages that requested the recipient to "help the bearer get some help," only for the recipient to send the victim to yet another person further down the

road.

Day Two: Known as Tailie Day, this was the ancestor of the "Kick Me" sign, specifically focusing on pranks directed at the victim's backside.

As we look back from 2026, the pranks have evolved from paper fish and "cuckoo" errands to elaborate corporate stunts. We've seen the BBC convince the world that spaghetti grew on trees in Switzerland, and tech giants announce "mind-reading" features that don't exist.

Yet, there is something timeless about the "low-tech" classics. The wallet on a string, the salt in the sugar shaker, or the "your shoelaces are untied" gag—these remain

part of our social fabric because they remind us not to take ourselves too seriously.

In a world that often feels heavy and overly curated, perhaps the true value of April Fool's Day isn't the trick itself, but the shared laughter that follows when the ruse is revealed. It is a day that levels the playing field; even the most serious among us can be made a "gowk" for a moment.

So, while my "Paris Past" column will keep the news straight today, keep your eyes peeled. Whether it's a "cotton ball dipped in chocolate" or a digital prank that seems a little too good to be true, someone is likely trying to make an April Fish out of you.

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# The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

## Fire stations face off for hospice — Airport claims bragging rights once again

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

*Sports Correspondent*

The Paris Fire Department can be described as two solitudes, divided by a four-lane highway: the Airport Fire Hall to the south and Paris Fire Hall to the north. They both have one purpose: to serve the Brant community in times of emergency, be it an injury, a fire, or any other calamity that occurs within the county. This is the second year that the two fire halls have gotten together at the Brant Sports Complex to play some hockey, raise some money for a charity, and have some fun — combined with a just a little bit of chirping.

This year, Stedman Community Hospice was chosen as the recipient of 100 per cent of the proceeds raised at the game — a service that has touched many members of the firefighting community through its

exceptional care and compassion, values that closely align with those of both organizations. The event's co-chairs, Shelby McDonald of the Airport station and Phil Dalpe of the Paris station, set in motion all the volunteers manning the admission desk, draws and information on fire safety.

In the stands were the firefighters' moms and dads, aunts and uncles, spouses and children, ready to cheer on their favourite firefighters on the ice.

Last year's game was won by Airport Hall, and the Paris side was clearly determined to reclaim victory this year. When asked who might earn MVP honours, Dalpe, Paris' (unofficial) captain joked that their superstar hadn't arrived yet — suspecting the player might still be doing pregame "elbow stretches" at one of the local establishments, and not the gym. Matt Amy gave a rousing pre-game speech to the Par-

is skaters, like those given by great coaches like Cherry, Clemons, and Rockne, with themes of brotherhood, courage, and teamwork! Meanwhile, in the Airport dressing room, there was calm that you would expect from a reigning champion, no bluster, no bragging, just a promise to do the best they can, have some fun, and to have the trophy in the place it's been for the previous year. Who won? The Steman Hospice won, with over \$1,500 being donated to that organization. On the ice, a third period that seemed to gain a few extra, mysterious minutes left spectators puzzled, whether it was meant to give the trailing team a chance to catch up or simply to drain what little energy the players had left. Either way, the Cup and the bragging rights are heading south of the 403 to the Airport Fire Hall for another year.



Emma and Avery Linkert cheer from the stands as they support their dad, DJ Linkert, during the charity hockey game at the Brant Sports Complex.

## U18-2 Wolfpack capture Division C crown over Simcoe Warriors

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

The Paris Wolfpack U18-2 captured the Division C Inter League Championship on March 26, sweeping the Simcoe Warriors in two straight games. Paris set the tone early in the series with a commanding 7-2 victory in Game 1, controlling play from the opening puck drop. Goaltender Aiden Hutchinson was solid between the pipes, while the Wolfpack's depth and structured play proved effective at both ends of the ice. Game 2 delivered a tighter, more phys-

ical contest, with both teams exchanging penalties and momentum in a fast-paced, championship-calibre matchup. After falling behind by a few goals, Paris mounted a determined comeback, showing composure and discipline throughout.

The Wolfpack responded goal by goal, regaining control of the game. With Samuel Moffatt in net, Paris shut down Simcoe's late push and secured the win to clinch the title. Congratulations to the team — a fitting ending for some players who will officially graduate from Minor Hockey.



The U18-2 championship roster featured third-year players Blake Aulsebrook-Smith, Ryan Airdrie, Elliott Schiedel, Jack Lovelock, Jack Amos, Aiden Hutchinson, Isaac Graham and Taylor Drinkle; second-year players Jaxson Conick, Gunner Grant, Landon Barendrecht, Nicholas McPhee and Samuel Moffatt; and first-year players Griffin Shanner, Deagan Hamilton, Finn Kargus, Charlie Gannon and Owen Watson. The team was mentored by Head coach- Tim McComb, assistant coaches Tim Kargus and Karen Drinkle and team trainer Albert Amos.

## Paris men's Wednesday night billiards:

### Chalk Dust and High Drama: A night at the Paris Legion

BY JEFF "STONES" JOHNSTON

*Sports Correspondent*

The atmosphere was thick with anticipation—and a fair bit of chalk dust—as the gang gathered for another stellar night of pool. From tactical masterpieces to "bumper pool" blunders, the evening delivered exactly the kind of high-stakes drama we've come to expect.

The night kicked off with Motor finding himself in a bit of a pickle, left scratching his head on a tricky eight-ball finish. Meanwhile, Chicken was up to his usual antics, attempting to distract the competition with the classic "smell the chalk" routine. It didn't quite work, but he did provide the Quote of the Week after a particularly rough miss: "You couldn't box chocolates!" The talent was on full display elsewhere, with Billy B lighting up the table "West River style" and Big Al showing off his range by potting the long ball with surgical precision. When Al wasn't sinking shots, he was "spinning the discs" for a Conway Twitty tribute night that set a classic mood for the room. We were also honored by a special guest appearance from Terry "Bonesy" Heath, who turned in a truly stellar performance.

The level of play was so tight that

many frames felt more like a defensive snooker match than standard pool. Kopper seemed to be playing "bumper pool," hitting everything on the table but finding no luck with the pockets. Nearby, "Dead-eye" Dick Emerson was seen meticulously polishing his cue, conspiring with Billy B on their next move.

The competitive fire got the best of some, as Chicken found himself on the receiving end of a yellow card for a time-delay violation.

The semifinals were a furious battle of wills. The powerhouse quartet of Greg G, Chicken, Willie, and Fergie went head-to-head against the duo of Kopper and Dalp in a race that came down to the wire.

In the end, the final match featured Oscar and Billy B facing off against Kopper and Dalp. What began as a cautious, tactical affair eventually shifted into a display of both incredible skill and favorable bounces. As the saying goes: It's not what you make; it's what you leave.

Kopper unfortunately left a "hangar" sitting right over the pocket, and Billy B didn't miss the invitation. He dropped the final shot to send Oscar and Billy B straight to the winners' circle.

All the best, boys. See you at the tables next week.

# Ice antics, laughs and friendly fire rivalry



Firefighters from the Paris and Airport Fire Stations gather at centre ice following their annual charity hockey game at the Brant Sports Complex on March 29, 2026, where the friendly rivalry helped raise more than \$1,500 in support of Stedman Community Hospice. (MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)



Shoots... scores! A Paris Fire player makes it count, lighting the lamp and adding to the excitement on the ice.



Peek-a-boo! Players crowd the crease as the puck plays hide-and-seek in front of the net.



Uh oh — five hole! An Airport Fire Hall player sneaks a shot through the legs of the Paris goaltender



A Paris Fire player puts a little muscle behind his shot — flexing more than just the stick as he lets it rip up ice.



An Airport Fire Hall player carries the championship trophy following the annual charity hockey game, securing bragging rights for another year after the team's victory over Paris



A double knockdown sends players from Paris and Airport to the ice during a hard-fought, physical moment in the game.

## House League Standings - Week of March 23rd



### 12-14 Year-Old (House League)

Splash Gang defeats Blackhawks, 40-29  
Warriors defeat Elite, 50-22

#### This week's top scorers:

1. Landen, Warriors, 14 points
2. Riley, Splash Gang, 14 points
3. Jayshaan, Warriors, 13 points

# Paris Curling Club bonspiel draws teams from across Ontario

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Paris Curling Club welcomed curlers from across southern Ontario for its annual two-day bonspiel, a long-standing tradition that continues to blend competition with community spirit.

Hosted by the club's Women's Day League, the event has been running for nearly three decades and draws 16 teams each year, including visiting clubs from across the region and as far as Huntsville. Four local teams from Paris also take part, helping to anchor the event in its home community.

Beyond the on-ice action, the bonspiel has become known for its social atmosphere. Participants enjoy card games, meals and time exploring the downtown core, with many returning year after year for what organizers describe as a reunion-style gathering.

Club members spend days preparing for

the event, decorating the facility and baking a wide assortment of homemade treats to create a welcoming, spring-themed environment for guests.

The bonspiel features four sponsored events, with winners announced during a final banquet on Tuesday. This year's winners included teams from Simcoe, Paris and Guelph. The event was supported by title sponsor Mary Maxim, along with community partners including Rescraft Plastics, St. George Freshmart and My Koi Water Gardens.

Catering for the event was provided by Giles Catering for the final banquet and Secret Lunch for the opening day.

Organizers also highlighted the contributions of more than 40 local businesses that donated prizes, ensuring each participant left with a memento of the event.

The Paris Curling Club extended its thanks to sponsors and community supporters, noting the bonspiel's continued success is rooted in local generosity and a shared love of the sport.



The winner of the A Division event sponsored by Mary Maxim was the Barton team from Simcoe. Pictured are Mary Lou Barton, skip; Donna Hawkins, vice; Cheryl Nelson, second and Alyson Joy, lead.



The winner of the St George Freshmart B Division event was Team Sherren from Paris. Pictured are Jackie DeLong, second; Nancy Sherren, skip; Brenda Baker, vice; Marilyn Maude, second alternate and Judie Pezzetta, lead.



The winner of the My Koi Water Gardens D Division event was team Vivian from Paris. Pictured are Linda Vivian, skip; Patti Fergus, vice; Loreen Warner, second and Colleen Pike, lead.



The winner of the Rescraft Plastic Products C Division event was Team Piotto from Guelph. Pictured are Judi Piotto, skip; Pam Milton, vice; Jan Kent, second, and Sharon Ready, lead.



Members of the Paris Curling Club men's group traded in their brooms for bow ties during the two-day bonspiel, serving up dinner and drinks in style — and earning plenty of smiles as the unofficial "eye-candy" of the evening.

# Built different: A team defined by depth

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

I'm going to take a different approach with this one.

Not as a reporter. Not from the press box. But as a very proud parent trying to put into words what made this Brant Battalion U11B group so special - and why this season is one that won't soon be forgotten.

Because this wasn't just a good hockey team.

This was a team built the right way.

The Battalion travelled to Halton Hills this past weekend to compete in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association Championships, an accomplishment in itself. Only 12 teams from across the province earn the chance to compete for a red hat, and since the organization formed two years ago, this is the only Brant Battalion team, across all divisions, A and B, to reach that stage.

That alone says something.

But what truly defined this team wasn't just getting there; it was how they played, and more importantly, who they were.

The tournament didn't start the way they wanted. A 5-1 loss to St. Thomas might look one-sided on paper, but it didn't tell the whole story. There were flashes of excitement. Jacoby Bonnell stepped up to take the team's first-ever penalty shot, while Ben Turnbull turned aside 21 shots with calm, positional play. Levi Blake found the back of the net, and Will Goslin's defensive effort earned player of the game honours.

If anything, that game lit the fire.

What followed was the kind of response that defines a team.

A 7-3 win over Gananoque showcased exactly what made this group dangerous - not one star, but waves of pressure. Every line contributed. Every player played a role. Bonnell erupted with a hat trick, Henry Glowala scored his first of the season in highlight-reel fashion, and contributions came from Levi Blake, Nash McLaren and Blake Anderson. In net, Mason Monteiro shut the door when needed.

This wasn't a team leaning on one or two players.

This was a team rolling multiple lines with confidence.

That depth carried into a must-win game against LaSalle with a 5-1 victory that sent them to the quarterfinals. Goals came from across the lineup again: McLaren, Jarome Burke, Nolan Kearsley, Bonnell and Anderson. Austin Meza's relentless effort earned him player of the game.

The run ended in the quarterfinals against Guelph, but even that game summed up the season. Down early, facing adversity, the Battalion didn't fold. They pushed back with resilience. They battled. They scored three goals in the third period, with Levi Blake completing a hat trick and Bonnell bringing them within inches of tying the game in the dying seconds.

It wasn't the ending they wanted. But it was still a season for the books.

Head coach Jon Kristman shared his thoughts following the championship tournament:

"We started out the year as a goal to win Southern Counties top division and go to

OMHAs. We achieved that goal and had an amazing experience only losing to the two finalists as we went through the tournament. Our group improved so much through the year and a lot of that came from a willingness to listen and buy into the plan that was set out for them."

And that improvement — that buy-in — is where this team separated itself.

Because here's the truth: Some teams rely heavily on their strongest players. This one didn't. This team's strength was spread across the entire bench. Every player brought something. Every player mattered. And every player made an impact. That's what made this group special.

Blake Anderson, the captain, led with quiet determination, skill and sportsmanship. He is the kind of leader every team hopes for. He had the ability to skate through defensive lines, dangling the puck at times and easily finding the back of the net in some of the most unbelievable opportunities, a true example of both skill and leadership.

Jarome Barrett anchored the blue line with strength and confidence, carrying the puck with authority and firing shots from the point that demanded attention. Some parents affectionately named him Bobby Orr for his ability to smoothly coast from end to end.

Levi Blake had a natural instinct for the game, always digging for opportunities to receive the puck and find the back of the net. He consistently put himself in the right position, was quick with his hands, and pulled off some of the most beautiful goals this season.

Jacoby Bonnell combined speed and puck control to become one of the team's most dangerous offensive threats. He did it with charisma and made it look easy.

Mason Monteiro showed strong determination between the pipes, never missing an opportunity to dive on the puck or poke it away in tight situations. Some of his best performances came in crucial moments, including the Southern Counties semi-final series against Ayr and the championship final.

Ben Turnbull was known for his calm, collected approach in net, Ben was quick with his glove and showed steady improvement in his positioning throughout the second half of the season. He delivered strong performances in key games, including a must-win Game 2 in the Southern Counties Finals and in securing the Guelph Power Play tournament victory.

Gordon Fisher was known for keeping the cherry pickers in check with his keen awareness and commitment to being the first man back. His defensive responsibility became increasingly valuable as the season progressed, and the team faced stronger competition.

Henry Glowala did an excellent job reading plays to intercept passes. He consistently tied up sticks, blocked passing lanes and matched the speed of opposing forwards, making him a reliable and effective presence on the ice all season long.

Will Goslin never gave up on a play, consistently backchecking hard and using his speed to break up dangerous rushes and



The Brant Battalion U11B team at the OMHA Championships in Halton Hills, March 27-29, 2026. This is the first Battalions team to qualify for the OMHAs.

stop breakaways. He wasn't afraid to get in front of shots, showing real commitment to the defensive side of the game. Around the net, he was quick to clear the crease and eliminate second-chance opportunities.

Nolan Kearsley moved the puck down the ice with speed and confidence. He showcased high-end offensive skill and strong hockey IQ all season, creating scoring chances that stood out game after game. Whether it was his smooth hands, quick decision-making or ability to find open ice, Nolan consistently made smart plays and scored goals that could easily land on a highlight reel.

Landon Kristman, as one of the team's younger players, Landon showed tremendous growth over the course of the season. Early in the year, he made a big impact by scoring the game-winning goal in the Guelph Power Play tournament, his first of the season, a moment that helped build his confidence. He continued to develop, learning from his teammates and improving with every game, setting himself up for an even stronger role as a major next season.

Chuck Manikus brought grit, hustle and a willingness to battle in the corners every shift. He wasn't afraid to do the hard work, digging for loose pucks, taking contact and outworking opponents along the boards. His relentless effort and determination made him a dependable presence on the ice, often creating opportunities through sheer persistence and heart.

Nash McLaren controlled the puck with finesse and confidence, showing the ability to carry it through multiple defenders while maintaining full control. His creativity and vision made him a constant offensive threat, and he had a knack for finding his way to the net and finishing plays. His memorable celebrations became a signature moment that energized both the bench and the crowd.

Austin Meza delivered when it mattered most, combining effort and determination with timely scoring. He had a never-give-up attitude, constantly pursuing the puck and applying pressure on opponents.

Whether it was a key goal or a hard-fought shift, Austin stepped up in big moments and proved to be a reliable presence throughout the season.

Jett Rollins took on some of the toughest defensive assignments and consistently delivered, often matched up against the opposing team's top offensive players. He played a physical, smart game, moved the puck well out of his own end and wasn't afraid to step into a shot from the point. His steady presence helped anchor the defensive core.

Harrison Rusyn used his speed to disrupt plays and shut down opposing rushes, often intercepting breakout passes before they could develop. From the back end, he also contributed offensively, jumping into plays with confidence, showcasing his puck control and even adding goals throughout the season.

Alex Thoms was quick, smart and always in the right place. Alex developed a real knack for reading the play and positioning himself perfectly around the net. His ability to tip in rebounds became a signature strength, especially against tough opponents, making him a constant threat in high-pressure situations.

You can't manufacture that kind of balance or fake that kind of chemistry.

This team also captured the Guelph Power Play Tournament earlier in the season defeating the same Gryphons team that would go on to win OMHAs.

That's not a coincidence. That's a reflection of what they were capable of when everything came together.

A sincere thank-you goes to coaches Jon Kristman, Levi Blake, Scott Kearsley, Kevin Thoms and Shaun McLaren, all volunteers who gave their time, energy and guidance to help shape not just hockey players, but a team.

At the end of the day, championships are measured in more than wins and losses. They're measured in growth. In teamwork. In the way players support each other and rise together.

By that standard, this team was a champion long before the final buzzer.

# Flight of the Bumble-Darts: Legion league reaches peak decibel levels

Witnesses at the Legion are reporting a strange atmospheric phenomenon occurring every Thursday night: a localized weather system consisting entirely of high-fives, misplaced theme-night costumes, and the occasional dart actually hitting the board.

According to league sources, the "Laughter-to-Logic" ratio reached an all-time high over the last two weeks, proving that while some people play for the trophies, most are just there for the inevitable drama of the "Double Out."

In a move that some are calling "deeply suspicious" and others are calling "actually practicing," Trisha H. has effectively staged a hostile takeover of the scoreboard. On March 19, she secured the Double Out crown with three finishes, only to return on March 26 to do it twice more.

Rumors that Trisha has replaced her morning coffee with liquid aim have yet to be confirmed, but Gail D., Debbie P., and Cynthia G. are hot on her heels, each snagging two doubles of their own this past week.

The real seismic event occurred when Lori S. stepped to the oche. In a display of power that briefly silenced the room (a rare feat at the Legion), Lori dropped a 133-point score.

Calculations suggest that if Lori continues to throw with that kind of heat, the Legion may need to reinforce the wall behind the dartboard—or at least provide helmets for anyone standing within a five-foot radius.

The "Circle of Luck" (officially known as the Bullseye) saw a surprising amount of traffic on the 26th. Annie FP.,

Bonnie M., Allie, Shari E., Trisha H., and Cynthia G. all found the dead center of the board. Eyewitnesses claim the celebrations were loud enough to be heard in the next county, or at least by the pool players downstairs.

While Linda B., Nancy B., Tracy T., and MaryAnne K. all notched wins, the real victory remains the fact that everyone survived the theme nights with their dignity mostly intact.

"Whether we have a theme or not, it's loud," said one anonymous player while retrieving a dart from the floor. "And if we aren't laughing, we're probably just reloading."

The league returns next Thursday. Spectators are encouraged to bring earplugs, and opponents of Trisha H. are encouraged to bring luck.

## Meet Earl: Our New Top Dog Reporter

Readers, we're pleased to introduce a new voice you'll be hearing from in the months ahead — one that brings a fresh perspective on life in our community, quite literally from ground level.

Meet Earl, a curious and well-travelled (at least by local standards) Springer Spaniel with a nose for discovery and a knack for storytelling. From riverside walks and neighbourhood adventures to chance encounters with friendly faces — and the occasional shop visit — Earl experiences our town in a way few of us ever could. Beginning this month, Earl will serve as our roving reporter, sharing regular dispatches on the sights, sounds and, most importantly, the smells that make this community special. Whether he's uncovering hidden gems, attending local happenings, or simply offering his unique take on everyday life, Earl promises a lighthearted and distinctly canine perspective.

We invite you to follow along as Earl sets out on his latest assignment

— exploring the town, one paw at a time.

Without further adieu...

Allow me to introduce meself. Name's Earl. Now, although I'm only just comin' up on me first birthday — seventh in human years, mind — I've already got to know a fair few corners of this town proper well.

Trails, riverbanks, neighbourhoods and the good folk that live there — I've seen a fair bit in me time already, I can tell you. I even pop into shops now and then. Taken in all sorts of sights too — houses all done up lovely for the holidays, and smells... well, more than any human could ever make sense of, truth be told.

But I digress.

Let me clear one thing up straight away — I'm a Springer Spaniel. Though I was born just south of the rather breathtaking Algonquin Park, me roots trace back to Norfolk in England... which explains the accent, you see. Rather sophisticated, wouldn't you say?

Anyway then — the real reason I'm writing is to kindly beg your consideration in allowing me to serve as a roving, sniffin', contributing reporter and reviewer for your paper — which me Mummy very much enjoys reading, I should add.

I know a good many people about town, and they'll tell you the same — I'm a bit of something else. Springers are known for being rather sharp-minded as dogs go, and between you and me, I reckon we give the Border Collies a proper run for their money. I'd be proud to represent the canine demographic in this capacity and would greatly appreciate your consideration. I'm thinkin' once a month ought to do nicely — a recap of things I've seen, smelled, heard, and perhaps even taken part in. Should fit in well enough with me rather busy schedule.

Right then — I'm off for a nap.

Kind regards,  
Earl



## Mental health calls, traffic charges highlight OPP update to County of Brant council

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Mental health-related calls, youth interactions and traffic enforcement were among the key highlights in a recent Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) update presented to County of Brant councillors.

According to the February detachment report, officers responded to 23 mental health-related calls during the month, a slight decrease from the same period in 2025. Of those incidents, 11 resulted in apprehensions, with six individuals admitted to hospital and five released with follow-up care.

Police also reported a significant increase in time spent in hospital emergency rooms while assisting individuals in crisis. Officers spent a total of nearly 28 hours in emergen-

cy departments in February, which was more than double the time recorded in February 2025.

The report noted ongoing collaboration with community partners through initiatives such as the Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST), with eight new referrals made for follow-up support during the month.

Youth-related incidents also remained a focus for officers. In February, 37 youth were involved in occurrences ranging from Criminal Code matters to mental health and family disputes. Police laid no criminal charges, issuing instead two warnings, 16 Highway Traffic Act or provincial offence charges, and 15 warnings. Two Mental Health Act apprehensions were also reported.

Officers continued community outreach in local schools, delivering the OPP KIDS program to Grade 6 students and maintaining a presence at Paris District High School.

Traffic enforcement data presented to council shows continued activity across the region. In February 2026, officers laid 130 Part I charges, 14 Part III charges and one criminal charge. Year-to-date totals for 2026 stand at 245 Part I charges, 24 Part III charges and three criminal charges.

Police also highlighted ongoing communication efforts, including 13 news releases and 31 social media posts in February, aimed at keeping residents informed on safety issues and incidents in the community.

Community engagement remained a priority, with officers participating in events such as Youth Academy sessions, a recruitment night in Paris and a community safety night in Cainsville. The monthly report provides council with a snapshot of policing trends and community safety initiatives across the County of Brant.

# Fraud prevention session empowers local seniors



(OPP WEST REGION PHOTO)

Nearly 30 residents attended a recent fraud prevention presentation last week hosted by the Brant County OPP at the Syl Apps Community Centre, where seniors learned how to recognize common scams and protect themselves. Organized with the help of Jane Slater, the session emphasized the importance of education in reducing fraud risk and encouraged anyone affected to contact police or Crime Stoppers. If you or someone you know has fallen victim to fraud or a scam, please contact the Brant County OPP at 1-888-310-1122. To remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit a tip online at [www.crimestoppersbb.com](http://www.crimestoppersbb.com).

# "Stones" and "Scoop's" last great caper

## STONES Around Town

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

As today is April 1st, I thought a giggle might help us along the way. In the spirit of the season, I'd like to share the story of a practical joke—one of many—that we've pulled over the years.

Last summer, I was playing in a golf tournament when I noticed the group ahead of us: two younger couples, playing music and having a grand old time. After hitting my drive, I walked up to where I thought my ball landed. Upon getting closer, I realized my "ball" was actually a marshmallow! It looked exactly like the real thing.

As we proceeded to play, my three partners were getting increasingly aggravated by the trickery, but I was in stitches—it was the best prank I'd seen in years.

I couldn't wait to get home and share the caper with "Scoop" (Doug Stewart). Scoop assured me he had never heard of that one, and he was just as disappointed as I was that we hadn't thought of it first! After much deliberation and planning, Stew decided I should pull the same joke during our group's next regular Friday afternoon outing at the Burford Golf Links.

My group was fourth off the tee. Big Al was kind enough to stop at the dollar store for supplies, and off we went. Now, this group is a fun bunch with some talented golfers, but my partner, "Beets," was so quick to jump on board that his enthusiasm even caught me off guard. Big Al and Holmes watched in amusement, ever respectful of the game of golf.

Four holes later, you could hear the shouts drifting across the course: "It's a marshmallow!" Beets and I laughed and laughed. Back at the clubhouse, I didn't come clean right away; I waited to hear the remarks. The gang was good about it, and as the insults and laughs kept coming, I knew that with Beets' help and Stew's encouragement, we had pulled off a classic prank.

So, next time you're feeling blue and the skies aren't looking bright, find a memory of a good friend, have a laugh, and make your own day a little brighter.

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# County approves Light Industrial re-zoning on Pottruff

KIMBERLY DE JONG

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

County of Brant Council approved a zoning by-law amendment application for 169 and 197 Pottruff Rd. in Paris, allowing part of the property to be rezoned for light industrial use, during its Council meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

The lands are currently designated as “prestige employment” and “natural heritage system” within the Official Plan.

The application, which was first presented to Council at a public hearing on December 2, 2025, originally asked that the entirety of the approximately 7.8 hectare property be rezoned from Agriculture and Natural Heritage to Heavy Industrial (M3) with site-specific provisions to permit manufacturing, warehousing and other industrial uses.

When first presented to Council, the application proposed a speculative development with three buildings and no confirmed tenants. It was also noted that, despite being part of the settlement area of Paris, the site is not currently connected to multiple municipal services.

“The initial proposal when we were here in December was to rezone the lands to Heavy Industrial (M3) with site-specifics in order to facilitate the development of three buildings with manufacturing, warehousing and other industrial uses,” said Logan Keen, a planner for the County of Brant, on March 10. “The site-specifics for the initial proposal were an increased maximum driveway width and a parking ratio reduction of one space per 20 square metres for the office use, whereas one per 15 square metres is required, and one space per 125 square metres for the warehouse facility, whereas one per 100 square metres is required.”

During the December meeting, both residents and councillors had the opportunity to share their comments and concerns surrounding the application.

Mallory Biggs, General Manager of Five Oaks Retreat Centre, spoke about the potential impact of the proposed development on their drinking water supply and the proximity to an Indigenous ceremonial site. David Rogers, a tenant farmer in the nearby area, also expressed concerns about the environmental impact of high-density industrial space close to the Grand River.

Following public feedback, the applicant has since returned with changes to the original plan. Under the new proposal, 169 Pottruff Rd. will remain as Agriculture and Natural Heritage, while 197 will be rezoned as Light Industrial (M2) with site-specific provisions.

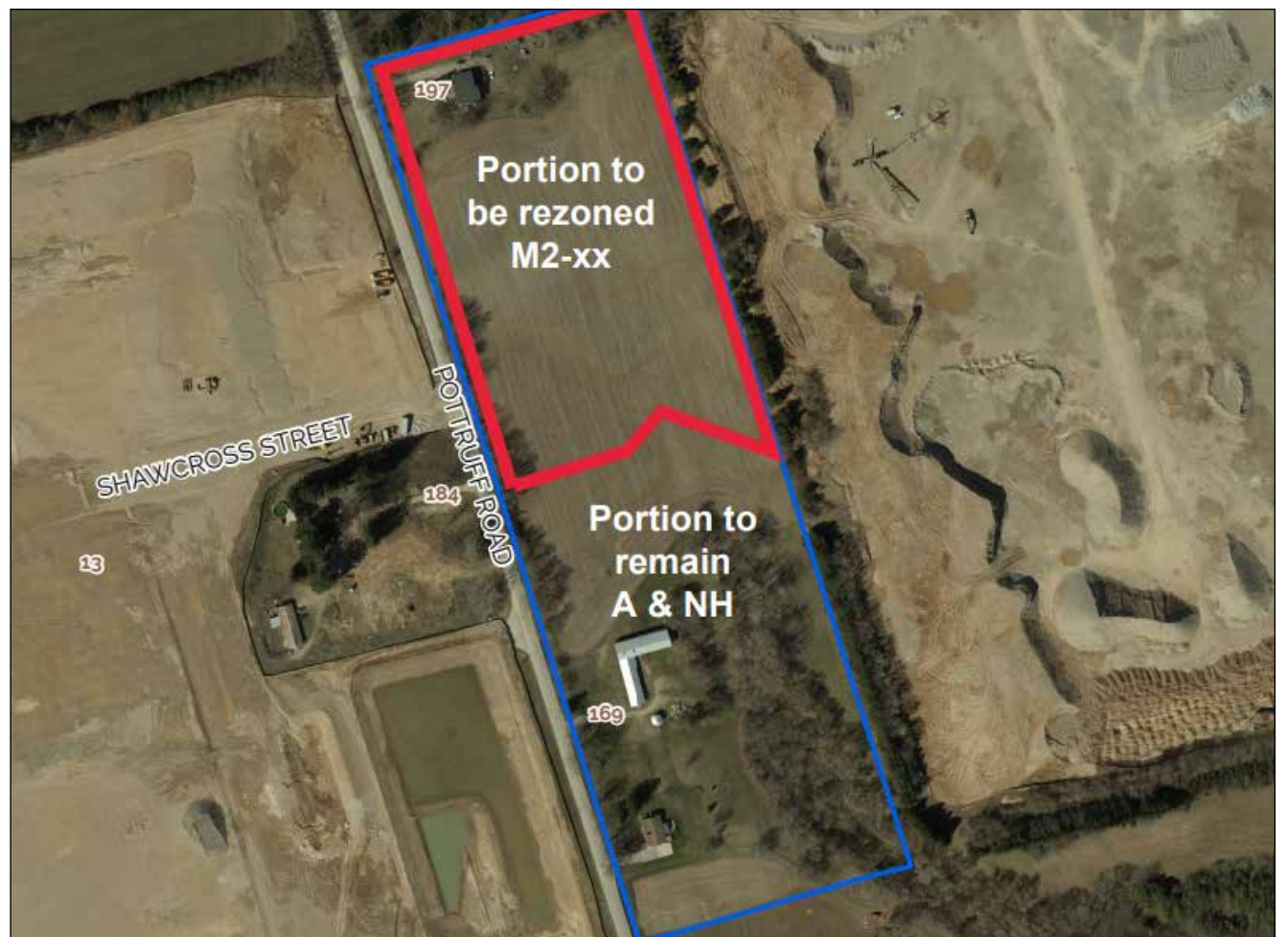
Brooke Burlock, the agent speaking on behalf of owner 214CarsonCo c/o Steve Little, said there will also now be only two buildings, one of which Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation will own to manufacture hydroelectric materials. The second building is still a speculative build.

The site-specific provisions for the zoning essentially allow certain uses that are normally permitted in the Heavy Industrial zone to be included in the Light Industrial zone.

“The application now proposes to rezone the northern portion of the subject lands from Agricultural to Light Industrial (M2) with site-specific,” said Keen. “The additional permitted uses from the M3 zone to be included in this zone include chemical and pharmaceutical industry, food processing plant, processed goods industry and paper products industry, all of which are consistent with the Official Plan designation.”

The site-specific provisions for parking and driveway width that were included in the original application remain unchanged, but a new provision was added to allow for a maximum building height of 16.5 metres rather than the permitted 12 metres.

Other considerations discussed during the March 10 meeting included, the reduced lot size of the remaining agricultural lands, the requirement for a 30 metre buffer between the build and the existing woodlot on the property, and future servicing needs.



A map provided to council shows how the 7.8-hectare property at 169 and 197 Pottruff Rd. will be divided, with the northern portion rezoned for light industrial use (M2) — including a planned facility involving Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation and Andritz for hydroelectric manufacturing — while the southern portion will remain agricultural and natural heritage.

The exact details in regards to how the site will be serviced will be decided at a later date during the Site Plan approval process.

Following the presentations from both Keen and Burlock, councillors then had the opportunity to once again provide their comments and concerns.

Councillor David Miller asked Burlock about the servicing in regard to when the known tenant would move in.

“We’re working on a service design through the site plan application, and that was submitted to the County earlier this week,” responded Burlock. “Once the design has been finalized, and depending on the timing of the municipal infrastructure, a possible cost sharing agreement would be pursued, but no servicing has to be in place prior to site plan approval.”

Councillor Jennifer Kyle later asked about the applicant’s partnership with Six Nations, and Brooke Hayward, Chief Operating Officer for 214CarsonCo, provided more details.

“Our friends at Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation are, in fact, a 50 per cent owner in this project,” said Hayward. “So they will be purchasing the land and they are partnering with Andritz [the known tenant] and this is a great news story for the area.”

As for some of the zoning and public consultation details, Hayward said “We’ve done consultation with our friends at Andritz and Six Nations to make sure the zoning wasn’t limiting their ability to do what they need to do there, and it [adding processed goods to the M2 zone] was a bit of a precautionary measure in order to do that.”

“That’s why we’ve done extensive consultation with all the neighbours. We’ve met with Five Oaks on three or four occasions, and in fact, part of their concern was they didn’t want to lose some of their esthetic flow if we drained to the front, they wanted the natural heritage to continue to drain,” she continued. “So we’ve made changes to how the site will function in order to accommodate our friends at Five Oaks and the neighbours on the corner as well. So there has been extensive consultation in order to allow this

good news story to occur here in the County of Brant.”

Councillor John Peirce later thanked the applicants for listening to the public’s concerns and making the necessary changes, noting that’s exactly why public hearings are part of the planning process.

“The first rendition that was shown to us is much different than what it is today,” he said. “Thank you for listening to what we were saying as a County and what people were saying, and coming back with this. This just proves that the system does work.”

The vote to approve the zoning bylaw amendment application was then carried unanimously.

*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.*

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# Paris traveller finds a Mediterranean base with Europe at the doorstep

KARON SINNING

Paris Independent Travel Columnist

After boarding the Eurostar and wrapping up nearly three weeks of travel across England and the Netherlands, Paris traveller Karon Sinning has now arrived in Malta — where the next leg of her European journey begins.

Late February in Malta saw the arrival of friends from home. While Colleen and Gary have been to Malta before; that visit saw 3 out of 4 of us sick with Covid. This trip we were all healthy and able to fully enjoy our time.

We had all previously visited Pompeii in Italy, but Roy and I also had Herculaneum on our bucket list. They were interested as well, so we booked a trip. Having a home base in Malta really opens up most of Europe.

We booked our Naples tours through Enrico Travel in Malta and were very pleased with our agent and the ease of our trip. Flights on Ryanair were on-time or even a bit early; and the hotel Palazzo Salgar, was very comfortable. Not having been to Naples, our agent also booked airport transfers to and from the airport to our hotel. The hotel did not offer this service.

The driver was friendly and offered recommendations on Naples and where to eat. Taking one of his suggestions for dinner, on our first day, we went to the “oldest” (or at least one of them) pizza restaurant (1870) in Naples. Da Michele had a line-up out the door so we assumed it would be good. It was great!

The Margherita pizza was invented in Naples. Created and named after a visiting queen. It is one of only 4 pizza offerings at da Michele. The decor is unassuming at best, but photos of celebrities, who have eaten here, paper the walls. Julia Roberts was the most recognizable to us.

Since we were only in Naples from March 1-4, we booked tours on two of those days: Herculaneum and a walking

tour of Naples. There is no time change from Malta, so no jet lag.

Herculaneum is a smaller, better preserved version of Pompeii. Pompeii was a city with an approximate population of 20,000 at the time of Mt. Vesuvius’ eruption in 79 AD. Herculaneum was a seaside resort area for wealthy Romans, population about 5,000.

Herculaneum was a very affluent community so every method was used to present a clean, modern town. While Pompeii used the open roadways for sewage removal, Herculaneum had underground drainage for waste. Water was piped throughout the town in lead piping, as lead was very pliable and easy to work with.

Walking through this excavated village, it was easy to imagine the bustling little town it once was.

The volcano buried Herculaneum in 50-60 feet (15-18 metres) of hot mud. So much so that it extended the coastline out from 500 meters up to 1 kilometer away from where the town was originally located. While Pompeii was destroyed the first day of Vesuvius’ eruption, Herculaneum only received minor ash coverage the first day. This allowed many residents to flee prior to the devastation that followed the next day.

The super-heated air that rushed down from the volcano, carbonized wooden structures almost instantly. The hot-mud flow buried everything and because of this many of the wooden features are still visible in Herculaneum. One of the most surprising features for me were sliding doors. Grooves in the floor that allowed wooden doors to slide open and closed. There were also outdoor water fountains and open sinks (manmade wells for dipping containers in). What truly amazed me is that these features existed here about 2,000 years ago.

The preservation in Herculaneum is amazing. The wall frescoes and tiling on the floors are beautiful. In one room, a



The ancient ruins of Herculaneum reveal remarkably preserved homes and structures buried by Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD — a site the travellers describe as smaller, quieter and even better preserved than nearby Pompeii.

wooden bed frame survived, carbonized and buried in the hot mud flow.

There were food stalls on almost every block in Herculaneum. These were called a “thermopolium” which translates to a “place where something hot is sold”. These are basically 2,000-year-old “fast food” restaurants. They featured L-shaped marble counters, the more marble the more upscale the booth, with very large embedded jars under the openings. The jars held hot, ready-to-eat stews, soups, and wine. Some stalls even had baking ovens in a separate room that also sold bread. These Thermopoliums were places where the general population could grab a hot “takeout” meal.



The ancient ruins of Herculaneum reveal remarkably preserved homes and structures buried by Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD — a site the travellers describe as smaller, quieter and even better preserved than nearby Pompeii.

While we really enjoyed our previous tour of Pompeii, I would recommend seeing Herculaneum first.

The weather in Naples was similar to Malta, warm spring-like days and cool jacket weather evenings.

The next day we set out on a 3+ hour walking tour of Naples. After a bit of confusion connecting with our guide, we set off only a few minutes later than anticipated. Most of the tour was in the area near our hotel, but we did have to take the subway to the city centre. Taking the subway was definitely an adventure in a non-English speaking country. Our guide ensured we stayed together and, as it was only the four of us on this tour, it was pretty easy.

We walked through market areas; and did the underground (Roman) area. We had short rest stops and enjoyed lattes and pastries.

The biggest surprise for our friends and us was the terrible filth in Naples. While there is absolute beauty in some areas, walking past huge garbage containers spilling out onto the sidewalks and city streets; graffiti covering almost any exposed surface and the many cardboard homeless settlements, left us glad we were returning to clean, well-kept Malta. When we commented on the graffiti, our guide, who has obviously grown up with it, said it was lovely. We could only smile and shake our heads. I guess the old adage “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” even applies to graffiti.

**About the columnist:** Karon Sinning is a proud Paris resident who has a passion for travel and storytelling. Along with her partner Roy and friends, she enjoys exploring countries around the world and experiencing new cultures, food and everyday life beyond the tourist trail. Through her travel column, Karon shares those journeys with Paris Independent readers, offering practical insights, personal reflections and a sense of connection to the people and places she visits.



Colleen, Gary, Roy and Karon Sinning enjoy a stop at the historic Da Michele pizzeria in Naples, widely known as one of the city’s oldest pizza spots and a must-visit for its classic Margherita.

# Riddles

What kind of house can you hold in your hand?

*An open house brochure*

What has a lot of rooms but no people?

*A mushroom*

What gets bigger the more you take away from it?

*A hole*

Why did the buyer bring a ladder to the open house?

*Because they heard the prices were through the roof.*

What has windows but no glass, a roof but no shingles, and walls but no studs?

*A drawing of a house*

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# PET OF THE WEEK

## SUNNY & LUCKY

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Meet Sunny and Lucky, a three-year-old brother-and-sister duo who perfectly capture the meaning of “frenemies.” One minute they’re curled up together in a cozy cuddle, and the next they’re racing through the house in a full-on sibling showdown. Whether they’re chasing each other or playfully stirring up mischief, their bond is unmistakable — full of love, personality and just the right amount of chaos.

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



## QUIZ ANSWERS

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Pulp Fiction                          | 6. Finland     |
| 2. Jimi Hendrix                          | 7. Five        |
| 3. The Lighthouse of Alexandria (Pharos) | 8. Both        |
| 4. Andromeda Galaxy                      | 9. Open sesame |
| 5. Amnon                                 | 10. Andy       |

# Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 19

# Word Search

HAPPY EASTER!

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- Chocolate
- Jellybeans
- Marshmallow
- Resurrection
- Celebration
- Springtime
- Daffodils
- Decorated
- Tradition
- Basketful
- Colorful
- Eggcellent
- Hoppingly
- Festivity
- Renewal
- Blossoming
- Butterflies
- Pasteltones
- Eggstravaganza
- Sweetness
- Happiness
- Sunshine
- Blooming
- Delightful
- Cheerfulness



# WEEKLY Horoscope

April 1 - April 7, 2026

## ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Energy rises steadily, Aries. A bold decision ignites momentum and sharpens direction. Stay engaged—it strengthens focus and encourages meaningful progress.



## TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

Patience steadies you, Taurus. Consistent effort restores calm. Trust persistence—it keeps goals in sight.



## GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21

Ideas spark quickly now, Gemini. An unexpected moment refreshes thinking and fuels creativity. Stay curious—it encourages growth and opens doors to shared inspiration.



## CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

Inner calm returns, Cancer. Gentle moments restore balance and renew confidence. Move forward softly and continue trusting your instincts.



## LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Energy builds. Recognition follows when you act with confidence, warmth, and purpose. Accept attention—it reflects your natural ability to inspire.



## VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

Finishing details restores order and clarity. Rely on discipline—it supports steady confidence ahead.



## LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23

Harmony nears, Libra. Honest words clear confusion. Choose balance—it strengthens trust.



## SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

Focus intensifies now, Scorpio. A quiet realization supports powerful change. Trust instinct—it uncovers strength and guides you beneath the surface.



## SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21

Excitement grows steadily. New opportunities broaden horizons and lift your spirit. Say yes—it welcomes change that reshapes your outlook.



## CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20

Dedication brings results. Careful planning drives progress. Stay disciplined—it supports long-term success.



## AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18

Fresh ideas guide you, Aquarius. A unique approach inspires collaboration and growth. Trust originality—it strengthens your voice and expands your vision.



## PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

Quiet reflection restores balance and direction, Pisces. Embrace feeling—it gently guides you toward peace, clarity, and calm inner strength.



# Community groups, schools invited to apply for conservation grants in Grand River watershed

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Community groups and elementary schools across the Grand River watershed are being encouraged to bring their environmental ideas to life through a new intake of conservation funding.

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and Grand River Conservation Foundation (GRCF) have opened applications for their annual Community Conservation Grants program, supporting local projects that enhance natural spaces and promote environmental stewardship.

Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for community groups undertaking projects that benefit the broader public, while elementary schools can receive up to \$750 to support schoolyard naturalization initiatives. Applications must be submitted electronically by May 8, with successful applicants notified later that month.

The program, backed by long-standing endowment funds, has supported a steady stream of grassroots projects over the years.

“The Community Conservation Grants program is funded from two main sources, the GRCF Grand Champions Endowment Fund, and the Thiess RiverPrize Endowment Fund, which was established in the year 2000,” said Serena Catania, GRCA Supervisor of Communications and Marketing. “Typically, 3-4 community groups, and 4-5 elementary schools are selected each year.”

Funded projects have ranged from polli-

nator and community gardens to tree planting, outdoor classrooms and ecosystem restoration efforts, all aimed at creating lasting environmental and social benefits.

“In the past, these grants have funded community and pollinator gardens, mindfulness nature spaces, ecosystem preservation, trees to provide shade, and outdoor naturalization efforts,” Catania said.

Organizers say preference is given to projects that focus on greening initiatives, such as planting trees and shrubs or enhancing natural landscapes, rather than hardscaping.

“Generally speaking, to be eligible, projects must be in the Grand River watershed and available for the use or benefit of the entire community and/or for future classroom generations,” Catania added.

Applications are reviewed by the GRCF Grants Committee, made up of members from the foundation’s board of directors, who assess submissions based on established criteria and community impact.

Past projects have demonstrated a wide range of benefits, from improving local biodiversity to creating outdoor learning environments for students.

“The community groups and elementary schools that receive this funding will implement projects that leave a lasting impact on the communities they serve,” said Catania. “The impacts, both social and environmental, are not always easy to measure, but are long lasting.”

More information, including eligibility requirements and a list of past recipients, is available on the GRCA website.

# County of Brant seeks public input on communications

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

The County of Brant is asking residents to share their thoughts on how they receive important local information, launching a new survey aimed at improving how the municipality communicates with the community.

From construction updates to community programs and service notices, the County says it regularly shares information that affects residents’ day-to-day lives. Officials are now looking for feedback on what methods work best — and where improvements can be made.

Residents can participate in the Communications 2026 Survey online, with the survey open until Friday, May 15 at 4:30 p.m.

For those who prefer not to complete the survey digitally, printed copies are avail-

able at County of Brant Customer Service locations. Residents can also take part over the phone by calling 519-442-7268 or toll-free at 1-855-442-7268.

In addition to the full survey, the County is offering a quick poll asking residents to identify their top preferred way to receive municipal updates. Community members are also encouraged to provide more detailed feedback, including what is working well, what could be improved and ideas for new communication approaches.

The County says the feedback will help shape future communication efforts and ensure residents stay informed in ways that are most effective and accessible.

More information, including the survey and subscription options for updates, is available at [EngageBrant.ca/Communications2026](http://EngageBrant.ca/Communications2026).

## OBITUARY

# Hamilton

Friday March 27, 2026

### Hamilton, Helen Ruth (nee Perley)

Peacefully, at Park Lane Terrace, Paris on Friday March 27, 2026, a lifelong resident of Paris, in her 100th year. Helen was a well recognized volunteer in the community, PAS, Meals on Wheels, Paris Lady Lioness, St. Paul's United Church, and Paris 3H.

Beloved wife to the late Lloyd (1968); loved mom to John (Betty) and Brian (Sherry); cherished grandma to James (Nicole), Jeff (Christy), Justin (Kate), Colton (Jessica), Payton (Tyler), and Hayden (Emma) and many great grandchildren; dear sister to Barb Stewart (the late Howard), Robert Perley (the late Ev) and Eleanor Moore (Ron). Also survived by many nieces and nephews.



Friends may call at the Wm. Kipp Funeral Home, 184 Grand River St. N. Paris, on Tues. Mar 31, 2026 from 6-8 PM. Funeral Service will be held in the funeral home chapel on Wed. April 1, 2026 at 11:00 AM. Family interment after the reception at Paris Cemetery.

Donations to St. Paul's United Church or Paris Meals on Wheels Online condolences and donations may be arranged through [www.wmkippfuneralhome.com](http://www.wmkippfuneralhome.com) or by contacting Wm. Kipp 519 442 3061.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE [INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM](mailto:INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM)

## TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH, 14TH, 21ST & 28TH

**Brant Men of Song will be holding their choir practices** - Tuesdays on April 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th 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, APRIL 8

**Catholic Women's League Monthly Meeting** - Wednesday, April 8th at 7 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 17 Washington Street, Paris.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 9

**Free Will Offering Soup Luncheon** - St. Paul's United Church - 48 Broadway St W at noon

**Brant Heritage Quilters Guild** - Will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday, April 09 at St. George United Church, 9 Beverly St. E., St. George. Doors open at 6:15pm with meeting start time 7pm. New members welcome. Cost for non-members \$5/meeting"

**Men's Probus Club of Brantford Monthly Meeting** - Will be held on Thursday, April 9, 12:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon, at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course, 320 Balmoral Dr. Come join us with keynote speaker Vaseem Baig "the AI guy", a Canadian AI strategist, educator, and consultant who specializes in helping organizations translate complex technology into practical, real-world applications. Guests welcome. Website: [brantfordprobus.ca](http://brantfordprobus.ca) Mailing address: PO Box 26003, Brantford, N3R 7X4 URL <https://brantfordprobus.ca>

## SATURDAY, APRIL 11

**"Celebrate Spring" Artisans & Vendors Market** - It's been a long winter, but spring is sure to arrive! St. George United Church, 9 Beverly St. East (Hwy. #5), St. George is pleased to host awesome artisans and vendors once again - on Saturday, April 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lots of baking, deli, gardening and gift ideas for spring & summer fun! Coffee, treats & lunch available. Admission of \$2.00 to support the local Food Bank. For more information, please contact (519) 448-3842.

**Paris Maple Syrup Festival** - Hosted by the Lions Club of Paris. Saturday, April 11 from 8 am to 5 pm at the Paris Fairgrounds. Enjoy homemade pancakes served fresh and delicious all day long! Alongside this sweet tradition, we welcome a wide variety of food vendors, artisans, makers, and local businesses to be part of this well-loved community event.

**Brant Men of Song "A Day of Choral Singing"** - The Brant Men of Song are inviting all individuals and groups interested in singing to an afternoon workshop on April 11th from 1 pm to 4 pm at Hope Christian Reformed Church, 64 Buchanan Crescent, Brantford. There is no charge for this workshop. Participants may also sing with the Brant Men of Song in an evening performance starting at 7 pm. Financial contributions will be collected for the Brantford Food Bank. Come sing with us and enjoy the sound of many voices.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 12

**Second Sunday of Easter Service & Baptism** - Please join us on Sunday, April 12 @ 2:00 pm, for our the Second Sunday of Easter Service and baptism at St. Paul's Chapel, 1159 Hwy 54 in Middleport. Everyone welcome. Social and refreshments to follow the service. Please bring a non-perishable donation for the Caledonia Food Bank.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 14

**Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting** - Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 10 AM at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. The guest speaker will discuss SOAR (Support, Opportunity, Achieve, Resilience) and its work in addictions and mental health. New members are always welcome.

## APRIL 16, 17 & 18

**Rummage and Bake Sale** - Paris Community Church 164 GrandRiver Street North Paris. Thursday April 16th Friday April 17th 9am-7pm Saturday April 18th 8am-12 noon. Bake Sale Saturday only. Entrance on Emily Street Door with W/C accessible ramp. Please

bring your own reusable bags to fill if possible.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 18

**11th Annual County of Brant Community Tree Plant** - Join the Brant Tree Coalition for the 11th Annual County of Brant Community Tree Plant on Saturday, April 18 from 10 am to 1pm at Rising Park, Glenn Morris (5 Brook St.)

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 22 - SATURDAY APRIL 25

**The Brantford Symphony Orchestra Presents Their Annual BOOK FAIR** - 9:30am-8pm Wed-Fri, 9:30am-3pm Sat. Location is One Market (I Market St at Dalhousie St. Brantford). Accepting book donations Mon-Sat 11am-3pm until April 17 (closed Easter weekend). For more info: [brantfordsymphony.ca](http://brantfordsymphony.ca) or call: 226-552-5579.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 25

**13th Annual City of Brantford Community Tree Plant** - Join the Brant Tree Coalition for the 13th Annual City of Brantford Community Tree Plant on Saturday, April 25 from 10am to 1pm at Wayne Gretzky Blvd. Parking at Jaycee Park on Dunsdon.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 28

**Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting** - will be holding their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 28th at 7:30 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish hall at 17 Washington Street, Paris.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

**The Paris Optimist Club will hold its next monthly Youth Dance** on Friday May 6, 2026, The theme for this dance is Spring. (be colourful!) The dance is for students in grades 5 to 8 only. Grade 9 and older students are welcome to attend as volunteers. The DJ begins the Dance at 7:00 pm and it ends at 10:00 pm. Volunteers must arrive at 6:45 pm. The Dance is held at the Syl Apps Community Centre, 51 William Street in Paris with adult chaperones to make sure everyone has a great time. Entry fee is \$5.00 with a concession booth for pop, chips, candy and pizza. Tap payment is now available. Please note we have a no re entry policy. All proceeds support the Paris Optimist Club and its projects for the youth of our community. For any further information and to volunteer as a chaperone or as a high school student, please call 519.757.5020.

## SATURDAY, MAY 30

**Join us for the Alzheimer Society IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's in Brantford/Brant County** - Mohawk Park - Lower Pavilion, Brantford. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. This annual walk helps raise funds so the Alzheimer Society can continue providing vital programs, support, and resources for people living with dementia and their families in our community. Bring your friends, family, coworkers, or start a team and walk with us. Every step helps make a difference. To learn more, register, or donate, visit [www.walkforalzheimers.ca](http://www.walkforalzheimers.ca) and select Brantford/Brant County. Let's come together as a community to support those affected by dementia!

## 1 & 3 TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

**The Brantford Stamp Club** - In Support of the Food Bank - The Brantford Stamp Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday September to December and January to May as well as the 1st Tuesday in June and December. Meetings are held at The Branlyn Community Centre 238 Brantwood Park Drive in Brantford. Doors open at 7pm and meetings start at 8pm.

## SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

**The Probus Club of Brantford** - The Probus Club of Brantford with 140 members, provides fellowship, friendship, fabulous guest speakers and fun for retired and semi-retired men. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Find out more at [BrantfordProbus.ca](http://BrantfordProbus.ca)

## EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

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

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# Dan MUYS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
FLAMBOROUGH–GLANBROOK–BRANT NORTH

## A plan to incentivize auto production in Canada

**Canadian auto workers are the best in the world!** But they need a plan to help turn around declining auto production in Canada.

The auto industry is all around us. There is a Ford Distribution Centre in Paris at Hwy 403. Toyota is in Cambridge and Woodstock, and auto parts are produced throughout Southwestern Ontario. It's multi-billions of dollars in GDP for Ontario and tens of thousands of jobs.



Unfortunately, vehicle production in Canada has declined from 2.3 million vehicles in 2016 to 1.2 million vehicles last year. Stellantis in Brampton, GM CAMI Assembly in Ingersoll, GM in Oshawa and suppliers like Magna (London) have seen a total of almost 5,000 job losses in the past six months.

In March, after months of consultation with the auto industry and labour stakeholders, we launched our Conservative plan to restore Canada's auto production to 2 million cars per year, over the next decade, through a new tariff-free auto pact.

The plan explicitly ties duty-free access to production in Canada, not away from it. Automakers must produce here to sell here, strengthening our domestic manufacturing. It's the way the Canadian auto sector was built up in the first place.

The problem isn't a demand one. Canadians bought 1.9 million new vehicles last year. But Canada built only 1.2 million. Nine out of ten vehicles sold here were imported. Nearly half came from the United States. More than 800,000 American-made vehicles were sold in Canada, while

Canadian output keeps falling.

Without tariff relief it will only get worse, as tens-of-billions of dollars of investment and thousands of jobs move south as

factories are built and retooled in the United States.

An agreement is not only possible, it's beneficial to all three countries. Numerically, each country would benefit from the rule that car sales in that country must be matched by car production in that country – growing North American production and demand overall.

Here are the key points to our plan:

- **Make it easier to build and buy Canadian** by removing the GST on all Canadian-made vehicles and ending counterproductive EV mandates and subsidies.

- **Bring home production through performance** by implementing a rule where for every car produced in Canada, the same manufacturer would get to sell a car in Canada, duty-free, from a CUSMA partner, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, similar to the 1965 Canada–US Auto Pact.

- **Protect North American supply chains** by maintaining the minimum 75 per cent North American content and existing CUSMA rules of origin. In Windsor they will tell you automobiles cross the border seven times in production. We are already integrated.

- **Develop automotive security and technology** by creating a harmonized North American cybersecurity and data standard, while banning vehicles using Chinese or Russian-connected software.

- **Stand firm against unfair trade** by aligning with North American partners on Chinese tariffs if they accept this plan, for maximum leverage in CUSMA renegotiations.

It's critical to have a plan to sell Canadian made vehicles in Canada and North America. Realistically, there are no other equivalent markets for

Canadian-made automobiles – less than five percent are sold outside of North America.

This is a serious, pro-worker, pro-manufacturing strategy that incentivizes production in Canada, protect already integrated North American supply chains, and position Canada to regain lost ground in the auto sector.



**Dan Muys, MP for Brant North**

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