

The Paris Independent

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(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

THE ART OF A SALE!

The Banfield neighbourhood was buzzing with activity under sunny skies on Saturday as art enthusiasts used maps to navigate the streets to visit more than 40 artists that showcased their work in the 3rd Banfield Art Crawl. This one-day event accentuates the reason why Paris is so well known as a culturally diverse and artistically rich community. Pictured purchasing a painted box from artist Jennifer Adams is Maeve Van Wylie and her family - Grace Van Wylie, Marcia Van Wylie and Derek Wylie. Jennifer specializes in paintings, painted boxes, paddles and mirrors. See story and more photos on page 6.

Protecting and enhancing forestry in Brant

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

In a bid to solidify efforts to protect and enhance forestry, the County of Brant has developed a formal policy that will focus on preventative maintenance and creates more incentives for developers to retain rather than remove trees in land development.

The Tree Protection and Enhancement Policy pulls existing undocumented practices

across multiple county departments into one comprehensive policy that provides clear direction around tree protection, maintenance and canopy practices. The policy points to the existing Technical Tree Guidelines for detailed information. The goal is to support a growing community forest and ensure industry best practices are followed. It would also designate trees on municipally owned land as green infrastructure.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Paris on the big screen next week

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

The wait is almost over; after filming in our town last spring and summer, *Motorheads*, a captivating American coming-of-age drama series, is set to make its grand debut on Amazon Prime Video on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Created by the talented John A. Norris, the show delves into the lives of a group of outsiders who find solace and excitement in their shared love for automobiles and street racing. Against the backdrop of a once-thriving Rust Belt town in decline, the series promises to be a rollercoaster ride through the challenges of adolescence.

The heart of *Motorheads* lies in the experiences of its characters with first love, heartbreak, and the thrill of driving their first cars. Set in the fictional town of Ironwood, Pennsylvania, which is brought to life by the picturesque streets of Paris, Ontario, the series explores the intricacies of high school life as the characters seek hope and renewal amidst their shared passion for cars.

With its quaint charm and picturesque landscapes, Paris served as the perfect backdrop for key scenes in the series. The production team worked tirelessly to transform the streets of Paris into a vibrant setting that captures the essence of small-town America.

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Motorheads: The new Amazon Prime series filmed in Paris premieres May 20th!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Starting on April 16, 2024, the cast, crew and a fleet of trucks and equipment rolled into our quaint little town. The production involved the transformation of many storefronts in downtown Paris which involved closing businesses for days and blocking off Grand River Street North while filming took place. Local filming continued through five subsequent visits between April and July. A large amount of filming also occurred at Penman's Dam Park and Bean Park in Paris.

Prior to arriving in Paris, the crew filmed at the Rockton fairgrounds, featuring a bustling midway complete with games and a Ferris wheel, situated off Highway 8 in Flamborough. Additionally, rolling car scenes were captured on Valens Road and Orkney Road in Flamborough.

Segments of filming were also conducted in Hamilton, specifically in the Carlisle and Flamborough neighborhoods in mid April 2024 on Concession 11 East. On April 18, filming took place at the historic Blackfriars Bridge in London and throughout the city utilizing residential driveways for additional parking.

Production also included scenes filmed in June in Chatsworth, featuring motocross and ATV racing sequences, as well as in Brantford during a week in July. Filming wrapped up on July 23, 2024, in Paris with the wrap party held the following day.

The stellar cast of *Motorheads* includes renowned actors such as Ryan Phillippe as Logan Maddox, Nathalie Kelley as Samantha, Michael Cimino as Zac, Melissa Collazo as Caitlyn, and many more. Each character brings a unique perspective to the



Motorheads' Michael Cimino as Zac strolls the streets of Paris during filming last spring.

(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

storyline, adding depth and emotion to the narrative.

The series is a collaborative effort involving talented individuals such as John A. Norris as the writer and showrunner, Neil Burger as the pilot director, and production companies like Jax Media and Amazon MGM Studios. Filming for *Motorheads* commenced in March 2024, with captivating scenes captured in Toronto, Hamilton, and the scenic town of Paris, Ontario.

Mark your calendars for May 20, 2025, when all 10 episodes of *Motorheads* will

be available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video. Get ready to embark on a journey filled with adrenaline-pumping races, heartfelt moments, and the trials and triumphs of youth in a town yearning for change.

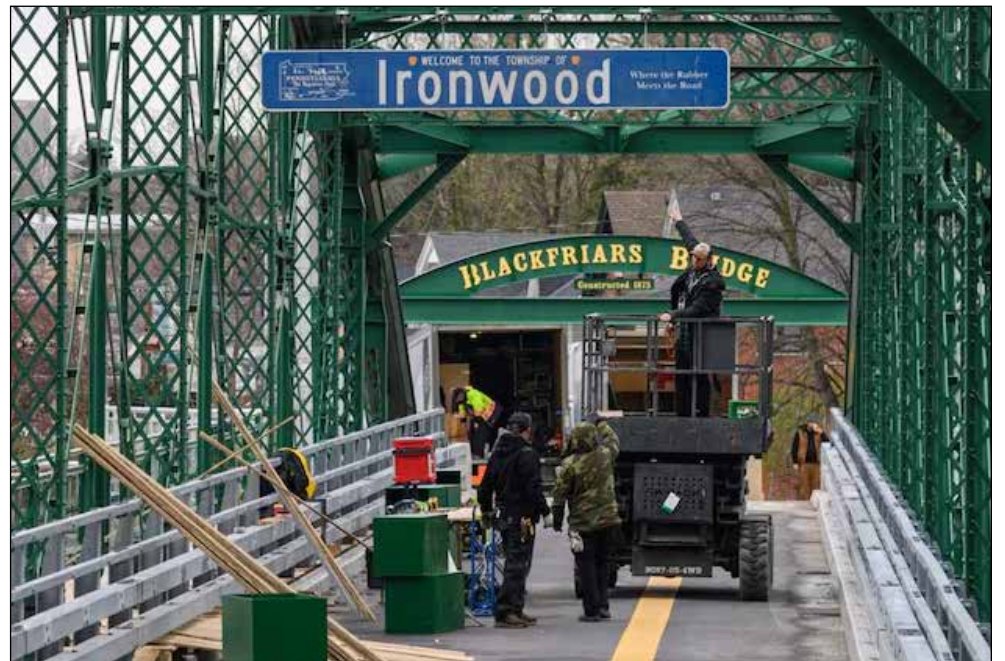
As the premiere of *Motorheads* draws near, residents of Paris can take pride in knowing that their town has played a significant role in shaping this compelling series. With its blend of exhilarating racing sequences and heartfelt storytelling, *Motorheads* is poised to captivate audiences

and leave a lasting impression on viewers around the world.

As the countdown to the premiere begins, get ready to buckle up and join the characters of *Motorheads* on a thrilling journey through the winding roads of adolescence, friendship, and the enduring power of passion. Don't miss out on this exciting new series that promises to rev up your emotions and take you on a ride you won't soon forget.



Residents watched as downtown businesses were transformed to become small-town Ironwood, Pennsylvania.



On April 18, 2024 filming took place at the historic Blackfriars Bridge in London and throughout the city utilizing residential driveways for additional parking.

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Policy and Strategy development aims to protect trees, enhance green spaces

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This policy was presented during a May 6th Policy and Development Committee meeting and will go to council for ratification.

One of the driving factors for developing this policy was a noticeably absent formal process to safeguard trees during internal projects and during external development projects, according to a staff report presented by Trent Meyers, Forestry Supervisor.

The policy only applies to trees on municipal property and private property undergoing development.

It was noted that to date, staff have successfully collaborated with other departments to ensure industry best practices, but a formalized process and document would standardize municipal practices and align with other strategies like Brant's Climate Action Plan.

Under the Climate Action Plan, the county has set a goal of achieving and maintaining a 30% canopy cover on all developed and developing lands by 2050. Achieving that goal means planting more trees, but also protecting trees from development and ensuring better maintenance so existing trees thrive and do not end up on a hazard removal list.

The County manages a Hazard Tree Removal Program that requires an annual investment of approximately \$350,000 across multiple departments to remove trees identified as hazards. Recognizing trees as green infrastructure and investing in tree maintenance ensures trees thrive and are less likely to become hazards. It would also ensure the trees are incorporated into planning projects rather than removed, or damaged, during projects. This approach would contribute to long-term cost savings.

As the county works towards its Climate Action Plan targets, the Tree Compensation Fund plays a critical role.

Developers have two options when developing land; remove trees and replant them elsewhere within the development area or pay fees set by the county's Fees and Charges By-Law. The average cost to remove a tree is \$523. Money from the fund is dedicated to new tree planting initiatives across the county, supporting reforestation efforts to help hit that 30% canopy target.

Councillor Steve Howes questioned how the formal policy would come into play to protect trees from developers, a question he said he was recently asked by a constituent.

"Isn't there a way for us to ask developers to utilize existing trees within their site

plans," questioned Howes, saying it pains residents to see forestry cleared from lots, and wiping out wildlife habitats, to make room for development.

Meyers responded that there is no way to stop developers from removing trees, but the policy would enable the county to collect more compensation from developers who want to remove protected trees. In instances where the developer chooses to replace trees, the number of trees they must replant is determined by the size of the tree they remove. As an example, a tree with a breast height of 50-59 cms would require five replacement trees.

"People might not be completely happy that we can't stop them (developers from removing trees) but at least there are policies where we can get some compensation and there's proper protection for the ones that are retained," Meyers responded, and added that the increased compensation requirements will – and have already – resulted in more retention.

"We are starting to see, because of increased compensation rates, developers are starting to take a different approach (in their plans)," said Meyers, using the example that instead of removing a big oak tree from a plot of land, they're making that oak tree a focal point in the park block.

Councillor John Peirce wondered why give developers the option to pay compensation, rather than simply enforce them to replant the trees. Wouldn't it be easier? He asked. Meyers responded that it would be easier, however, not all development lands have enough space to replant the number of trees required within the compensation chart, and by collecting the money the county can in turn pay contractors to replace trees across the county in designated areas.

This new protection policy, which was unanimously supported by committee members, is also part of the county's bigger plan to develop a Community Forest Strategy to ensure there's sustainable, inclusive, and resilient forest system that supports the social, environmental, and economic health of the County of Brant. The strategy also aims to build strong partnerships with community groups and indigenous partners, support recreational use and other green initiatives, protect and preserve trees and enhance urban forests and green spaces.

The county has launched a Engage Brant campaign encouraging residents to take a survey, ask questions and provide input into shaping the strategy. The survey is available at www.engagebrant.ca/communityforest and will remain open until May 16th.

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EDITORIAL

Downtown Paris embarks on big downtown dig: A call to support local businesses

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

On May 8th, 2025, Downtown Paris, commenced an extensive transformation known as the Big Downtown Dig. This ambitious project is set to span several months, reshaping our beloved Downtown area. As the streets undergo revitalization, the community is urged to rally behind local businesses, fostering a spirit of unity and support during this pivotal period.

In the midst of this construction frenzy, a resounding plea echoes through the streets of Downtown Paris—a call to rethink consumer habits and prioritize local establishments over online retail giants and out of town big box stores. Whether your cravings lead you to seek out literary treasures, delectable baked goods, chic fashion ensembles, flavourful meals, thrilling river escapades, aromatic teas, rejuvenating coffees, luxurious linens, travel assistance, indulgent sweets, nourishing health products, fresh seafood, elegant home décor, vibrant paints and wallpapers, exquisite jewelry, thoughtful gifts, computer electronics, flowers, or any other delightful offerings available in Downtown Paris, the message remains clear: choose to Shop Local.

While the roadways may be temporarily obstructed, the fervour and vitality of the many businesses within Downtown Paris persist undimmed. Mechanic, Broadway, and William Streets stand as gateways to commerce, beckoning patrons to explore, experience, and support local enterprises. Ample parking facilities adorn the vicinity, ensuring convenience and accessibility for all who wish to partake in the vibrant array of offerings that Downtown Paris has to offer.

In a bid to invigorate the community spirit and bolster local commerce, “Saturdays in Paris” continues to promise a series of enchanting events that capture the essence of whimsy and delight. On May 17th, Paris in Wonderland invites visitors on a sensory journey through four enchanting tea parties, hosted by fanciful Wonderland characters. Revelers can sample an array of teas and revel in the magic that permeates the air, courtesy of Paris' own tea boutique, Heather's Got Tea, and vintage emporium, Le Petit Marché.

The following Saturday, May 24th, Paris in Wonderland continues its festivities, enticing guests with a medley of sweet delicacies, beverages, self-care treasures, all infused with the irresistible essence of Buttertarts and Butterscotch. A treasure map, obtainable at The Paris Wincey Mills Co. and Rebel & Royal, guides participants through a delectable exploration of the town's culinary delights.

Wrapping up the month on May 31st, the Traveling Trivia Game promises an engaging mental workout as participants traverse various Downtown Paris locales, engaging in lively rounds of trivia suitable for all ages. Commencing at The Paris Wincey Mills Co, eager participants can collect their maps and scorecards, culminating in the chance to win exciting prizes, courtesy of Paris Performers' Theatre.

Amidst the construction upheaval, Downtown Paris remains a bastion of resilience, with pedestrian access meticulously maintained throughout the Downtown Dig. Navigational signage serves as further guidance, ensuring seamless traversal amidst the construction. A reminder resonates loud and clear—Downtown businesses

stand as pillars of vitality and perseverance, beckoning patrons to continue their steadfast support through yet another challenging time.

Detour routes and signage are thoughtfully placed to aid both drivers and pedestrians, fostering a harmonious coexistence amidst the construction frenzy. Patience, foresight, and caution are urged as travelers navigate through the evolving landscape of Downtown Paris.

To stay abreast of developments and remain connected with the pulse of the community, residents are encouraged to follow Downtown Dig and Downtown Paris, Ontario on Facebook and Instagram. Project updates, detour maps, phase details, and additional resources can be accessed at EngageBrant.ca/DowntownDig and brant.ca/Downtown-Dig. For real-time traffic information pertaining to road closures and construction updates, Municipal 511 at municipal511.ca serves as a valuable resource.

As Downtown Paris emerges stronger and more vibrant post-construction, the accessibility features will be significantly enhanced. The wider sidewalks and the transition from angled parking to parallel parking will not only boost safety but also improve accessibility. The area will be equipped with numerous handicapped parking spaces to cater to those with mobility challenges. Additionally, the provision of extra-long parallel parking spots will facilitate easier in and out movements, ultimately enhancing traffic flow through downtown and overall convenience for residents and visitors. The upcoming changes are geared towards creating a more inclusive and user-friendly downtown environment for everyone.



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

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Buster is a busy beaver directing traffic at Mechanic Street

Wilfred Laurier University hosts event to boost teacher diversity

DAKSH SIWAS

Paris Independent Contributor

More than 70 high school students from Brant County, including the Paris District High School, attended the Wilfrid Laurier University, Brantford campus last month for an event aimed at increasing teacher diversity.

Laurier's Faculty of Education and the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Indigenization (EDII) Coalition led the April 23rd event to provide a more accessible educational path for underprivileged students who aspire to be teachers but are typically underrepresented.

"We are very pleased with the turnout," said Assistant Professor Pam Malins, one

of the lead organizers of the event. "The aim was to offer students information, mentorship, and motivation to make them aware that there are teachers available to them."

Students from both the catholic and public school board participated in campus tours, heard from a "human library" of lived experiences, and visited 12 information booths with support services from Laurier and local school boards. To further encourage participation, students given a "passport" with which they had to collect stamps from at least six participating booths.

"The passport activity helped students really engage," Malins commented. "It wasn't just about collecting information;

it was about sparking curiosity and having meaningful conversations."

Malins said that having a good number of teachers from similar communities of students was fundamental. "When students see teachers who look like them or share their experiences, it makes a huge difference. That's what this event was all about: building those bridges."

Students had a golden opportunity to talk directly with teachers currently working in the education field, and learned more about teacher education programs, financial aid, and the mental health support provided by the university.

"Some of these students have never seen a university campus before," Malins emphasized. "It's important that we break

down those invisible walls and show them that post-secondary is not out of reach."

Although this event was a first at Laurier's Brantford campus, it's been held for the past three years at the university's Waterloo campus, generating a tremendous response from participants.

The event was an illustration of how Laurier is keeping its promise to create a more equitable educational system and its belief that a more inclusive teaching workforce is to the advantage of all.

"Our classrooms are increasingly diverse," Malins also stated. "We need teachers who reflect that diversity, and events like this are a step in that direction."

Small-town living tips to embrace the rhythm and beauty of Paris

MARISSA CLEMENT

Paris Independent Contributor

Paris, Ontario, affectionately known as "Canada's prettiest little town" offers a unique way of life that blends history, nature, and community. With its cobblestone buildings, riverside charm, and growing local culture, this small town continues to attract new residents and visitors looking to escape the rush of city living. But thriving in a small town takes a different mindset than urban life. Here are some practical, down-to-earth lifestyle tips for making the most of living in Paris, Ontario.

Embrace the Rhythm of Small-Town Life: Unlike big cities where hustle and multitasking are the norm, Paris moves at its own pace. This isn't a drawback, it's a blessing. Life here is quieter and less hurried, allowing for more intentional living. It's not uncommon to see neighbours enjoying long chats at the post office or leisurely strolls by the river. Embracing this slower pace allows you to be more present in your daily life, whether it's sipping coffee on your porch or taking in a sunset over at Penman's Dam Park.

Make time to enjoy simple pleasures: Whether it's a lazy morning at The Dog Eared Café, visiting and browsing the local shops and markets within Wincey Mills, or even a scenic drive down the backroads of Brant County, let go of the need to rush. In Paris, time has a different texture.

Support Local Every Chance You Get: Small towns thrive on community support, and Paris is no exception. Shopping local isn't just a feel-good act, it's an investment in your own neighbourhood. From boutiques and bakeries to flower shops and hardware stores, Paris has a strong backbone of small businesses that rely on loy-

al, local customers. The Wincey Mills Market is a must-visit for artisan foods, handmade crafts, and seasonal produce. It's also a hub for social connection, some locals visit more to chat than to shop. Eating out? Restaurants like Stillwaters Plate and Pour, The Paris Beer Co., Stacked Pancakes, Secret Lunch and the Paris Pub, offer cozy settings and locally inspired menus. The more you support these businesses, the more vibrant your town becomes.

Make Nature Part of Your Routine: One of the biggest perks of living in Paris is its natural surroundings. Located at the junction of the Grand and Nith Rivers, Paris offers countless opportunities to connect with the outdoors. Whether it's hiking the Cambridge-to-Paris Rail Trail, kayaking the Grand, or enjoying a quiet picnic at Penman's Pass, there's no shortage of ways to enjoy the fresh air. Even simple things—like walking instead of driving, growing a backyard garden, or sitting on a bench along the waterfront are all ways that can help reconnect you with nature. In a world that's increasingly digital and disconnected, this is one of Paris's greatest gifts.

Participate in Local Life: Small towns run on participation. From local festivals like the Paris Fair to county council meetings, getting involved is how residents shape the future of their community. Volunteering for local organizations, helping with school events, or even just showing up to cheer on the Paris Titans hockey team helps build that irreplaceable sense of belonging. Unlike in larger cities, where it's easy to feel anonymous, Paris offers real opportunities to make an impact. Don't just live here, be part of what makes it special. If you don't know where to start, consider joining a local service club

— The Paris Lions Club, the Paris-Brant Kiwanis Club, The Optimist Club or the Satellite Rotary Club of Paris all offer volunteer opportunities that will leave you feeling more connected with the community. Another great way to stay connected to local life, read the Paris Independent each week, it's a unique look at what's happening around town.

Appreciate the Historic Charm, but Welcome Change: Paris is known for its heritage architecture and preserved street-scapes, and that historic charm is part of what makes the town so beloved. But don't let nostalgia stop you from embracing new opportunities. Paris has been quietly evolving, with new businesses, artists, and young families bringing fresh energy to the area. The key is balance. Appreciate the town's rich past, visit the Paris Museum and Historical Society or stroll down Grand River Street North, but also support its growth by attending a local makers' market, trying out new wellness studios, or joining one of the town's many clubs or creative groups.

Build Real Relationships: In a town like Paris, community isn't a buzzword, it's a way of life. People tend to know each other by name, and social connections form naturally through shared spaces and daily routines. Whether it's your barista remembering your order or your neighbour offering to shovel your driveway, kindness is the currency of small-town living. Take the time to get to know the people around you. Attend local church events, strike up conversations in line at the grocery store, and check in on elderly neighbours. Paris is built on connection, and that's what makes it feel like home. Again, not a bad idea to check out a local service club, they are generally present at all festivals and events.



Sometimes the best way to start a lazy morning is with a good brew from Dog Eared Café! (MARISSA CLEMENT PHOTO)

Find Joy in the Everyday: While big cities often offer constant entertainment, the joy of small-town life comes in quieter forms. It's hearing church bells on Sunday morning. It's the sound of kids riding their bikes down a side street. It's watching the seasons change in the same places year after year. In Paris, there's beauty in repetition and magic in the mundane. The lifestyle here encourages gratitude for simple things, like a freshly baked pie from a farmers' market or a summer evening bonfire with friends.

Living in a small town like Paris, Ontario isn't just about geography, it's about mindset. It's choosing to live more slowly, more consciously, and more connected to your surroundings and the people in them. For those who lean into it, this lifestyle is not only rewarding but deeply grounding. Whether you were born here or just unpacking your boxes, Paris has something timeless to offer.

So slow down, shop small, say hello to your neighbours, and let the river guide your rhythm. Because in Paris, life isn't about having more, it's about being more.

Sunny skies and talented artists draw residents to Banfield Art Crawl

RUBYYY JONES

Cultural Correspondent

The Banfield Art Crawl boogied into its third year with the same charm, excellence and expertise as previous years but on a grander scale with more than fifty artists participating.

The weather was idyllic on Saturday, May 10th as art enthusiasts walked the streets to find amazing artistic displays showcasing local talent in a wide variety of mediums - pottery, paintings, photography, rug hooking, fashion pieces, printmaking, mixed media and more.

Expanding on to seven streets this year - all still strolling distance from Banfield Street - and with a dynamic diversification of artistes and mediums, it was so exciting to see the return of some fundamental Paris artists and the introduction of new ones to the crawl, and the community.

Tony Churchill, a Paris painter and printmaker, participating in the Banfield Art Crawl for the first time, said he was so pleased to be part of the Crawl this year. "The hard work of the organizers was greatly appreciated. It was a chance to meet other local artists, and I enjoyed talking art with many community members who came out. The beautiful weather was an added bonus!"

Paris powerhouse, Pam Johnson, who was show-

casing garments, textile printing, and ceramics said this year's Banfield Art Crawl was magical, even more magical because the community of artists is growing and the people who appreciate and support art is also growing.

"Events like these are an essential part of community building and supports our local arts scene," said Johnson. "Thanks to everyone who shared their exceptional talents and the community of folks who celebrate and enjoy those talents!"

Karen Wettlaufer is a Paris metalsmith who specializes in delicate silver and gold jewelry, stamped and inspired by nature. This was the third year she participated in the crawl although she's been a part of the Paris art community for decades.

"What a glorious day for the 3rd annual BAC! We very much appreciate all the folks from near and far who strolled through the neighborhood," said Wettlaufer. "Creative pursuits can often be solitary in their process. The Banfield Art Crawl provides a space to share and discuss that process and connect with everyone. As creatives we are so grateful for that exchange and look forward to it every year."

If you want to learn more about this event and its artists, follow the Banfield Art Crawl on Facebook and Instagram. You do not want to miss this marvelous May event – and the chance to meet artisans – next year!



Left to right, Jennifer Budd, fibre art, Karen Wettlaufer, metal jewelry, Pam Wakins, fibre art and Kristine MacGregor print making and painting.

(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTOS)



Left to right, Cathy Hall, specializing in pottery, Heather Licskai, pottery, Mallory Gresch, pottery/ceramics and Diana Licskai, acrylic on canvas.



Lenny Jones holds a Tree of Life painting in front of her home Tree of Life Studio. Lenny's painting themes this year included rooms, row houses and trees of life, all created from homemade or compose paper.



Thirteen-year-old Clara Bartscher had her water colour cards for sale during the Banfield Art Crawl.



Susan Cunningham, a silk painter, in front of her stunning radiant and painted silk creations.



Left to right, Jenn Foley, soap, pottery and ceramic jewelry, Ursula O'Brien, pottery, Liz Beauregard, pottery, and Sue Waldorf, pottery.

Mental Health Wellness Fair connects residents with incredible community services and programs

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

The community’s first Mental Health Wellness Fair attracted close to 100 residents last week during Mental Health Awareness Week.

Hosted by the PrimaCare Community Family Health Team (FHT) on May 5th, the fair’s theme, Moving More for our Mental Health, featured mental health and wellness vendors who were happy to chat with guests about exploring the benefits of movement, physical exercise, proper eating habits and self-care. There were prizes of various denominations donated by local businesses, activity tables for adults and kids, provided by the County of Brant Library, free food and beverages, and a cool photo-op set up in the lobby.

“I am so amazed at how well the Mental Health and Wellness Fair was accepted by the community; the response and attendance were beyond my expectations,” said Jennifer Smith, Administrative Assistant,

PrimaCare Community FHT. Smith was also a member of the four-person Mental Health Committee that organized the Wellness Fair, which officially signaled the launch of a weeklong itinerary that focussed solely on mental health wellness events and seminars led by local practitioners and business owners.

“We are so appreciative of the new partnerships and collaborations with fellow organizations, and it just shows that when we worked together, we can provide the community with endless resources that go beyond mental health wellness.”

Smith said she looks forward to future partnerships with the vendors and volunteers who participated.

PrimaCare Community FHT Executive Director Tina Gabriel said the community really stepped up to support the events.

“The support of local organizations has been incredible, and these events would not have been possible without that collaboration,” said Gabriel. “As a group we fostered connections that will hopefully con-

tinue to shape the future of Mental Health in our community.”

Gabriel was impressed with the level of participant engagement throughout the wellness fair. “They (participants) took the time to stop at each station to learn about resources and supports that are available to those who really need it. It was inspiring to watch. I feel fortunate to have been part of this event and I am so proud of my team for putting something so beneficial together.”

Kathleen Foldvari, a Registered Social Worker with PrimaCare Community FHT, and a member of the event’s organizing committee, shared that it was her first Mental Health Week with the PrimaCare team it left a lasting impression.

“It was really cool to see the team and community come together to make this happen, and seeing people of all ages openly talking about mental health was so in-

spiring,” said Foldvari, who also appreciated the opportunity to connect face-to-face with other organizations to meet the people behind the incredible work being done in the community. “It makes such a difference when I can share those personal connections with patients. It’s not just about giving them a name or a phone number; it’s about making those resources feel more approachable and real,” said Foldvari.

Having those in person conversations makes an impactful difference and breaks down barriers and misconceptions that reaching out for help is a sign of weakness.

“It’s about people helping people.”

Foldvari added, “Mental health is something we all have. There’s no shame in talking about it, and events like this are a powerful way to show that. With continued support from the community hopefully we can continue to host events like this!”



Members of the Mental Health Wellness Committee and PrimaCare Community Family Health Team, pictured from left to right, Carling Mitchell, Tina Gabriel, Jennifer Smith, Ina Bahdanovich, and Kathleen Foldvari.

(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)



Paris resident Marilyn McCulloch and Lesley Brown speak with Dawn Jaques from Cobblestone Medicine and Rehab.

(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)



Wendy Herriman and Judy Wilson, of Paris, fill out some ballots for a chance to win some great prizes graciously donated by local businesses.

(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Which country celebrates Cinco de Mayo to commemorate a military victory over France? | 6. Who played Old Ben Kenobi in Star Wars A New Hope? |
| 2. Which Italian composer wrote a famous violin concerto called Spring as part of The Four Seasons? | 7. How many wives did King Henry VIII behead? |
| 3. Which racehorse won the Triple Crown in 1973? | 8. What is the name of the movie that featured Vanilla Ice in a leading role? |
| 4. What do you call a group of crows? | 9. In sports, what is an MVP? |
| 5. Whose nose grew longer every time he lied? | 10. Which country is the birthplace of reggae music? |

This week’s answers are found on pg. 23

Little hands making a big difference!

The Paris 1st Scouting Group was out in full force during Earth Week. The Beaver Colonies took to the Distillery Trail in Paris with a mission: make our community cleaner, greener, and just a little bit brighter — one piece of litter at a time.

Armed with gloves, bags, and big hearts, these young Scouts showed that you're never too small to make a big impact. During the community trash pick-up hike, the Beavers explored nature, learned about the importance of keeping the environment clean, and worked together to take care of the spaces we all share.

Along the way, they spotted signs of spring, practiced teamwork, and even had a few laughs while turning something as simple as picking up garbage into a memorable adventure.

Through Scouting, these kids are learning not just about nature — they're learning to care for it. From service projects like this one to hands-on outdoor experiences, every outing helps build a sense of responsibility, confidence, and pride in making the world a better place.

A huge thank you to all the amazing Scouters and parent volunteers who walked alongside our youth and helped make this clean-up a success. And to the Beavers — we're so proud of you for showing what it truly means to "share and help."



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Go Paperless and Win Cash with GrandBridge Energy's Biggest Offer Yet

Earlier this month, a local hydro company launched its most rewarding paperless billing incentive in the utility's history to encourage customers to sign up for eBilling and eNews.

GrandBridge Energy's "Go Paperless & Win Big! Win Cash!" contest, will give eligible participants a chance to win one prize of \$1,500 cash or one of 12 prepaid credit cards valued at \$250 each.

GrandBridge Energy customers who sign up for both paperless eBilling and quarterly eNews by November 1, 2025, will be entered into the draw for the prizes. Signing up is quick and easy; visit www.grandbridgeenergy.com/paperless and follow the instructions to register for paperless billing. Don't forget to navigate to www.grandbridgeenergy.com/#newsletter and click subscribe and complete the form. You must subscribe to both initiatives to be eligible for the draw. The quarterly eNews will launch later this year and give residents regular updates on service and rates, seasonal energy-savings tips, safety reminders and information on financial assistance programs.

The timing of this campaign coincides with a potential Canada Post labour disruption that could delay the delivery of your bill. Enrolling in paperless billing takes the worry out of receiving your bill.

GrandBridge Energy delivers safe and reliable electricity to 115,000 customers in the City of Brantford, the City of Cambridge, the Township of North Dumfries and the County of Brant.



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

GrandBridge Energy won a Communications Excellence Award for its innovative, and user-friendly website from the Electricity Distributors Association (EDA) in March. Pictured accepting the award on behalf of GrandBridge Energy (left to right) is Tyler Tracey, Vice President, Customer Experience & ITS, Allison Cann, Manager, Customer Communications, and Sarah Hughes, President and CEO. Visit www.grandbridgeenergy.com to sign up for paperless billing and the eNews campaign to win BIG this year!

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It's easy to sign up to Win Big! Win Cash! Full contest details are available at: grandbridgeenergy.com/paperless

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RUBY JONES

Cultural Correspondent

"The joy of writing lies in the magic of turning thoughts into words, and words into worlds." Wordkind Writing Essentials is passionate about helping you find, cultivate and create that joy, and space, for writing in your life; whether you're a writer, someone who journals or someone with things on their mind, Wordkind invites you to discover the best in Canadian stationery, gifts, and treats with their thoughtfully curated collection.

At Wordkind - a proudly Canadian company established by locals Shannon Pickering and Kevin Szabo - they make it easy to shop products from Canadian brands and find excellent and essential items. Wordkind have a wonderful website where you can shop and they're also located in The Gem Marketplace in downtown Paris, open five days a week. The Gem Marketplace is home to several small businesses and entrepreneurs and Wordkind Writing Essentials has a vibrant space with thoughtful products, high quality goods and some sweet surprises.

Browse this neat, niche space for yourself or when looking for a unique gift. Whether



Shannon Pickering (pictured) and Kevin Szabo - they make it easy to shop products from Canadian brands at their downtown store called Wordkind Writing Essentials, located within the Gem Marketplace.

you're looking for beautifully designed Canadian-made journals, premium notebooks, or special stationery, you'll find something perfect and personal here. Their journal and notebook selection is sensational, with a great range of tastes catered for: leather etched journals which are hand-bound (some even have gemstones inlaid and

brass closures), to every day notebooks with bright cover designs and chic, corporate options too.

If you're someone who has a lot on their mind or wants to get into the practice of journaling, Wordkind Writing Essentials is your new favourite downtown Paris spot! With a passion for helping people to dive

into journaling, you can even pick from several journals that include prompts such as stirring up gratitude, supporting self care and boosting self love. The journals also include a small space to add your thoughts and feelings, along with words, questions and quotes to inspire and affirm your journey.

Wordkind Writing Essentials has options for those who love to plan! From planners, to make lists, or to track everything from the beautiful to the banal, they've got an amazing selection of transportable, flexible notebooks for those who like to write or tick off their to do list on the go!

Let's not forget the incredible selection of writing implements, everything from fancy fountain pens and their ink to colourful pen packs, novelty pens, to day-to-day pens. Their GellyRoll pens, Calligraphy sets, pencil varieties bring a playfulness and polish to any stationary set up.

Wordkind Writing Essentials has all the essentials and even some sweet delicious Canadian-made candy to crave your sweet tooth! Visit them at the Gem Marketplace, 51 Grand River St N, to add a little balance, beauty and sweetness to your life. You can also check them out online at www.wordkind.ca

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Brant OPP serve McHappy Meals on McHappy Day

McHappy Day, McDonald's largest annual fundraiser, took place country wide on Thursday, May 8th. A portion of the proceeds from every menu item went to support the Ronald McDonald House charity. Since its inception in 1977, McHappy Day has raised over \$100 million. McDonalds Paris was busy all day long with supporters who came out to donate to the cause and grab some of those delicious, addictive French fries! Volunteers handed out suckers to those who waited in the drive thru

lines and in addition to being fully staffed, officers with the County of Brant OPP detachment were on hand to deliver orders to waiting customers. The Ronald McDonald House program locations across Canada give families the support and resources they need like meals, mental health and wellness programming, and sibling support, so they can focus on what matters most - caring for their seriously ill child.

Photo credit County of Brant OPP West Region



Collision in municipal parking lot leads to impaired driving charges

Brant County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers responded to reports of a motor vehicle collision in a parking lot on Broadway Street in Paris during late afternoon on May 8th.

Upon arrival, officers discovered that a vehicle had collided with several parked vehicles. During the interaction, officers observed signs of impairment. The driver completed an Approved Screening Device (ASD) test at the roadside, which resulted in a "Fail." The individual was arrested and transported to detachment for further testing.

As a result of the investigation, a 58-year-old, from Brant County, has been charged with the following offences under the Criminal Code:

- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (80 Plus)
- Operation While Impaired - Alcohol and Drugs
- Dangerous Operation

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brantford on May 22, 2025. Additionally, the individual's driver's licence was suspended for 90 days, and their vehicle was impounded for seven days.

The OPP remains committed to removing impaired drivers from our roads and reminding the public that impaired driving is never worth the risk. Whether by alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both, impaired driving continues to pose a serious threat to the safety of our communities.

If you suspect someone is driving while impaired, call 9-1-1.

To report anonymously, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a secure tip at www.crimestoppersbb.com.

Solid waste in the County of Brant

The County of Brant wants your input as we develop the **25 year plan** for **solid waste management** in our community.

Get involved and share your thoughts as we plan for a more *sustainable* and *efficient* waste management system!

For more information, or to complete the survey, visit:

EngageBrant.ca/SolidWaste



Join us for a
drop-in Open House!

There will not be a formal presentation.

Participants can review project information, ask questions and provide feedback to staff.

Date: Monday, May 26

Time: 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Location: Brant Sports Complex, Lafarge Hall (944 Powerline Road, Paris)



County of Brant appoints new General Manager of Operations

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant is pleased to announce that David Mellor has accepted the role of General Manager of Operations, effective Thursday, May 1, 2025.

"We would like to welcome David to the organization," said Alison Newton, Chief Administrative Officer. "He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience from past roles, and we couldn't be happier to have him join the team."

Mellor, a Professional Engineer (P.Eng) who is originally from Paris, most recently served as the General Manager of Engineering for the City of Kenora, where he managed the Engineering Division, including Fleet, GIS, Facilities, Development Engineering and Capital Project Engineering.

"I'm honoured to be joining the County of Brant team," said Mellor. "Having grown up in Paris, I have a deep appreciation for this community and everything it represents. I'm looking forward to working alongside the community and the dedicated County staff to build a strong future together."

The General Manager of Operations role became available following the retirement

announcement of current General Manager Robert Walton, who has been with the County of Brant since 2017. The County extends its sincere thanks to Walton for his years of dedicated service and wishes him all the best in his retirement.



David Mellor General Manager of Operations

Weigh your scrap and give back event supports Brant Healthcare System

Spring is finally here, and what better way to celebrate the season than by cleaning out your garage and making a difference in our community?

The Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation invites the community to its Weigh Your Scrap and Give Back Community Day where people can get rid of their unwanted scrap metal and the proceeds from the scrap will go to the Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation (BCHS).

Keeping it easy and convenient, people simply drive through, drop off the unwanted metal and drive off. The Foundation is accepting a variety of scrap metal items, including aluminum, copper, brass, stainless steel, tin, lead, batteries, ballasts, motors, wire, and technology.

"Whether you have a few old wires lying around or larger metal items, every bit counts," said Haidee Scheers, development coordinator, special events for BCHS

Foundation.

"Not only will you be decluttering your space and doing your part for the environment by recycling, but you'll also be helping to support vital healthcare projects in our community."

To thank participants, the first 100 people to drive up will receive a free Tim Hortons cookie.

The fundraiser wouldn't be possible without sponsorship support from Gilbert McEachern Electric, Combined Metal Industries and Ontario Electrical League.

"Their commitment to our community's healthcare system is invaluable, and we appreciate their partnership," said Scheers in the press release.

Weigh Your Scrap and Give Back Community Day takes place on Saturday, May 24th from 9 am to 3 pm at Gilbert McEachern Electric, located at 106 Alice St in Brantford.



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The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

Paris FC teams capture silver medals at Sparta Valvasori Memorial Tournament

The Paris FC U14 Girls Black Team participated in the Sparta Valvasori Memorial Tournament May 2-4, playing three round robin games and the semi-final without conceding any goals. The girls advanced to the finals on Sunday afternoon but were a bit gassed after already playing two games that day. They faced a very strong (and well-rested) Darlington Energy team, who had received a bye to the finals and only played one morning game that day. The Darlington team is one of the best regional teams in the province, finishing 1st in Central Region last year. Paris fought hard but could not hold off a 2-0 loss, but earning silver medals in a great start to the season. Congratulations team!



U14 Girls Black Team

(MELISSA OSTROWERCHA PHOTOS)

The Paris FC U13 Girls Black Team also competed in the Sparta Valvasori Memorial Tournament and returning home with silver medals. They advanced to the finals after posting three wins and a tie against LFC-IA Mississauga. The finals were a rematch against LFC, and unfortunately the girls fell short with a 1-0 loss, but their silver medals in this early season tournament is a sign of good things to come this summer. Congratulations team!



U13 Girls Black Team

(MELISSA OSTROWERCHA PHOTOS)



Amelia Jacobson keeps control off the ball.



Brinn Carpenter fends off two players from Pelham to keep possession of the ball.



Bentleigh Petrella makes a big kick during a game against LFC-IA.



Ellyanna Wright battles against an LFC-IA player.

PARIS SPORTS HEROES: Jim Flamethrower Amy, a legend

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

Some baseball pitchers throw fast, some throw hard and fast. Catching for the likes of pitcher Jim Amy, who had both these dynamic skills, Kenny Kirby knew the difference! At a recent reunion for the little league Cubs team Kirby stated, "my hand still hurts" some fifty-odd years later.

Jim, like most of us kids from Paris at the time, played a year or two of T-ball then right into player-pitch in Little League. When I asked him why he wanted to be a pitcher, it was because his big brother Bill was – just an old-fashioned sibling rivalry. After little league, Jim played Pee-wee/bantam for Paris before getting noticed not only for his talent but also his gritty, competitive style by the AAA Brantford Braves. Jim's competitive play was exemplified and if he thought you were crowding the plate, he had no problem backing you off with a close shave.

Getting signed on by the AAA Brantford Braves at only the age of 15, Jim went on to pitch for the club for three years and each

year the Braves won the All-Ontario championship, which was no small feat. This team included a star-studded list of future Brantford Red Sox All-Stars with the likes of Romeo, Shannelly, Greg Stefan, Gary Beal and another name you might recognize as a decent hockey player... Wayne Gretzky.

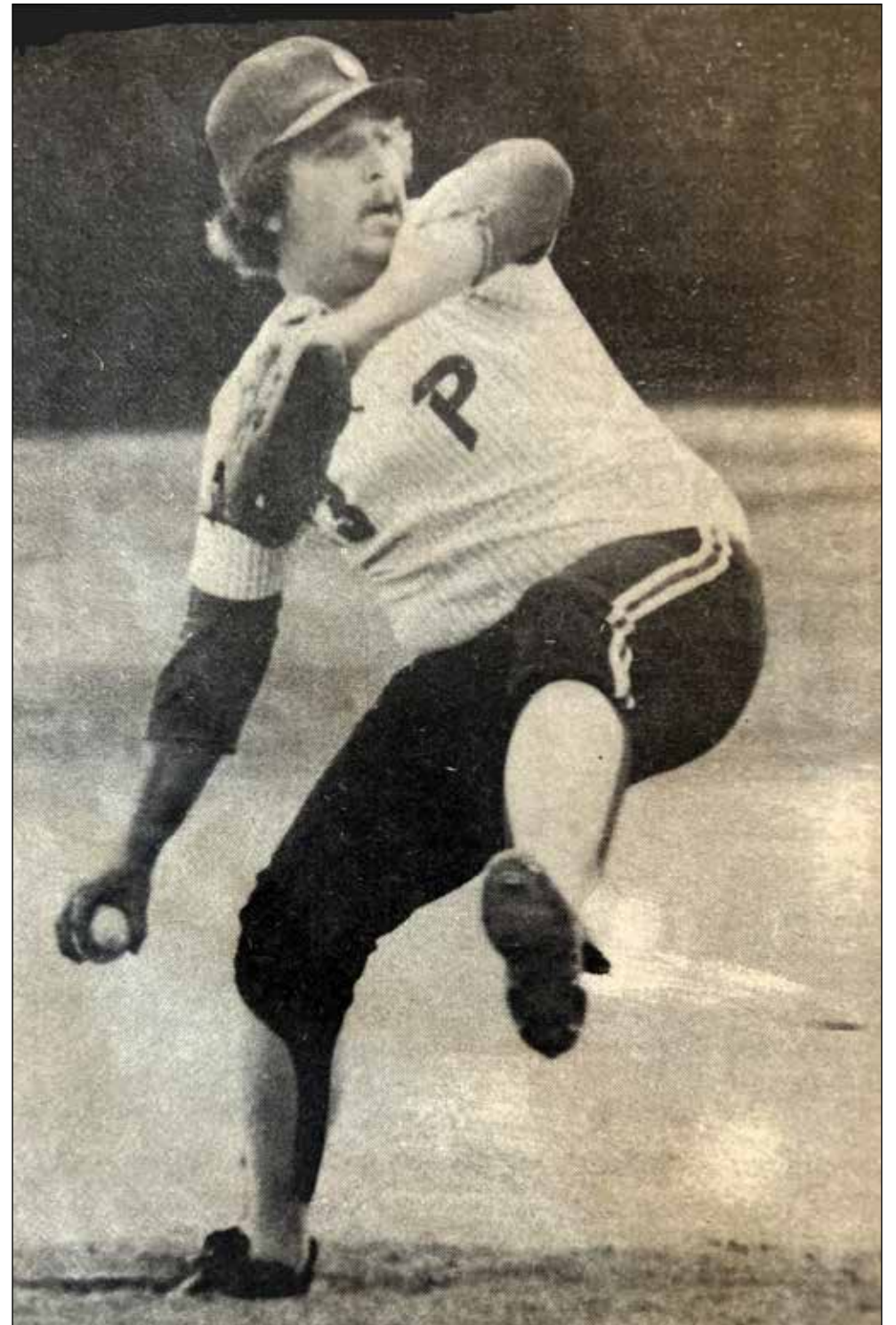
Speaking of hockey, Jim was on the 1975 Scott Colonels midget AA All-Ontario championship team where Jim made his mark as a rugged stay at home defenseman. Jim went on to play periodically for the Brantford Red Sox and actually had an open tryout for the Blue Jays in the late 70s. Pushing off the mound one time at practice, Jim felt something was wrong and sure enough he had tore all the cartilage in his right knee, cutting a young and promising career short as they did not have the medical technology that they do today.

Although it was never the same post-injury, Jim battled back to play for the Paris Pirates senior team, making a significant contribution to the boys' championship run. It was a team made up of friends that were athletes, not necessarily baseball players. But pitchers Jim, Dave Jensen and

Bobby Edelman carried the boys to victory.

Jim now lives in Alberta and is on the board of directors for Bow Valley College's Okotoks varsity baseball team helping to develop young players in finding their way, nurturing their passion that he shares for the game all these years later.

Ole scoop here was lucky enough (or unlucky enough) to be Jim's catcher for the Paris Pirates and I agree with Ken Kirby, my hand still hurts ... keep throwing hard and fast Jim you were a beauty to watch, this is old Scoop Stewart signing off its "always a pleasure".



Jim Flamethrower Amy winds up his pitch for the Paris Pirates Senior Team.

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)



The Paris Independent

CANADIAN TIRE PARIS



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Paris resident Spencer Luff has been selected as this month's Athlete of the Month, and shall receive a \$100 Canadian Tire Gift Card donated by Paris Canadian Tire.

The 23-year-old Special Olympian is gearing up for the 2025 Special Olympics Ontario Provincial Summer Games taking place in his community this summer from July 10-13.

Spencer has a versatile skillset and real passion for all sports. He excels in basketball, track and field, and soccer. Spencer has competed in the 100 metre, 200 metre, shot put, javelin and long jump events in past games.

Aside from the opportunity to compete in some of his favourite sports, Spencer particularly likes the friendships he develops at the games.

His vibrant and supportive attitude is one of the reasons why Spencer is a Dedicated Ambassador for the 2025 Special Olympics Ontario Provincial Summer Games taking place in Brantford, Six Nations of the Grand River and Brant County.

Spencer is pictured with Paris Ward 3 Councillor John Bell and County of Brant Mayor David Bailey on April 24th during a province wide Be a Fan Day celebration in support of the 2025 Special Olympics Ontario Provincial Games.

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Paris High's Ultimate Frisbee team wins two of three games May 6th



SPORTS Report

By George Le Gresley

Ultimate Frisbee

Paris Panther athletes have been very busy on the many fields in Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk, kicking and carrying balls and throwing frisbees!

Speaking of throwing frisbees, the Paris Panthers were in Hagersville, playing Ultimate Frisbee. Now, if you don't know what Ultimate Frisbee is, then let me try to explain. The game is played on a grass field, the length of a football field, but half the width of the field. On the field, each team comprises seven players, four boys and three girls. The game's object is to pass a frisbee to a teammate down the field to a goal line to score a point. There are no referees, as fouls are called by the players and if a foul or play is contested, then the reverts to where the play previous to the foul.

On May 6, the Panthers had three games scheduled. The first game was against Dunnville Secondary, whom they defeated 11-1. In game two they lost to

league favourite Brantford Collegiate in close 7-5 game. The final game was against Assumption Collegiate, which after the first 30-minute half, the score was tied at one goal each. Both teams were gassed out as you can only substitute after a goal. The second half had more scoring, and the Panthers won the game 4-2, giving them a second seed behind B.C.I. at next Friday's finals tournament at John Wright field.

Boys Soccer

On April 24, the Panthers played McKinnon Park and tied the game at one goal each. Riley Collins was credited with the Panthers' goal.

On April 23, the boys were victorious in their game against North Park with a 2-0 score. Goal scorers were Riley Collins and Alex Cormier.

On April 28, the boys had a scoreless draw against Pauline Johnson. May 1, the Panthers dropped their game against Assumption by an 8-1 score, with Leo Kolesar being Paris' lone scorer.

The Panthers qualified for the playoffs and defeated Pauline Johnson 4-2 on May 7. The boys will face St. John's in semi-final play on May 12.

Girls Soccer

Unlike the boy's soccer team, the girl's soccer team has had a rough season in the win column. On April 24, the young ladies faced McKinnon Park and were defeated 4-2.

Eira Feairs was listed as the goal scorer. The second game that day was another 4-2 loss to B.C.I., with Feairs scoring both



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

The PDHS Ultimate Frisbee team takes a break during a game last week. The roster is comprised of the following students: Micah Brogno, Madison Burr, Hayden Burroughs, Jaxson Conick, Austin Drover, Reese Halliday, Hailey Holgate, Andrew Johnstone, Sydney Kipp, Max Koekoek, Nora Kovacs, Graycee McLaren, Pyper Morley, Kayla Padusenko, Naren Parker, Ty Parsons, Hayden Phillips, Dexter Quesnel, Hunter Rodger, Canaan Sherbino, Harley Shuart, Rowan Worrall and Eoin Wright.

goals.

April 28 was another doubleheader, the first game 6-0 to North Park and a 1-1 draw against Pauline Johnson, with Isabella Scott scoring the lone goal. In the final game of the season, the Paris side lost to Assumption to end their season.

Girls Rugby

On April 24 Paris defeated Pauline Johnson 25-7.

On April 28, they won by a Waterford forfeit, but still took the opportunity to have a friendly scrimmage game.

On April 30, Paris beat St. John's 17-7. Scoring tries were Faith Smith, Naddie Beaudoin

and Hailey Holgate Holgate kicked one convert for two points.

On May 5, the Panthers welcomed the Holy Trinity side on the PDHS field. Holy Trinity scored first at the seven-minute mark to take a 7-0 lead. Kaira Coulter then carried the ball on a 30 yard run to score a try. The convert attempt was short, leaving Paris trailing 7-5. Holgate then rumbled 60 yards to score Paris's next try and taking a 15-7 lead. Holy Trinity scored next to narrow the lead to 15-14 and another converted try, to take the lead 19-15.

Players of note were Beaudoin

in, who offered up a few bone crushing tackles and runs this match.

Last week I omitted to add Zach Thomas as an assistant coach of the team.

Boys Lacrosse

On April 28 the Panthers split a double header, first losing the first game 13-5 to BCI and winning the second game by defeating Hagersville Secondary 10-4.

On May 7, another double header, dropping both games, first to Assumption 12-2 and St. John's 10-8. The team has a triple header scheduled next week in Hagersville.

Not all made the 100 Club this season, but new friendships were forged

There was great attendance for the last tosses of the season at the Paris Legion. Thank you to the golf girls for realizing it was too cold to golf so you could attend the Last Toss. It would not have been the same without you and '3 glass Patty' and her chattering.

Legion pool guys: we used your room downstairs, and the boards were great, and the temperature was perfect!

The year was made with highs and lows but more important were the friendships made. The 100 Club was a goal we all tried to achieve. Top shot goes to Chris B 141, Linda B 131, Linda H 128, Gail D 128, Betty 121, Michelle S 121 Bonnie 121, Booner 116, Nicole D 111 Leslie 111, Cynthia 108, MaryAnn 107 and Katy 105.

A big Thank you to the Paris Legion for our weekly venue, Steve our bar tender who puts up with our crazy and Gail for keeping us on track with games. Lastly, I would like to thank all the beautiful ladies and wonderful new friendships I have made this year with this crazy group! See you all in October and wish you all a fun and safe summer!

Nancy Beechey



Stedman's Bike and Hike for Hospice surpasses this year's 175,000 fundraising goal

KIMBERLY DE JONG

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Around 650 people participated in the 21st annual Hike or Bike for Stedman Community Hospice on Sunday, May 4, 2025.

Despite the brisk weather, 525 walkers took part in the one kilometre walk around the neighbourhood surrounding the hospice and St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre, while 125 cyclists set off earlier in the morning on routes of five, ten, and 20 kilometres.

Julie Powell, President and CEO of St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation (the official fundraising organization for Stedman) told the crowd that thanks to their support and the community's generosity, they were able to surpass this year's goal of raising \$175,000.

"While I don't have an exact total... Our goal was to raise \$175,000 in pledges, and we have now surpassed that," she said. "We'll have a more exact amount next week, but I would say, between the pledges, registration fees and sponsorship, we have raised well over \$200,000 supporting Stedman, so thank you all, so much."

Following Powell's speech, Kerri VanSickle, Director of Stedman Community Hospice, reminded participants that while the aim of the event was to raise much-needed funds for the facility, it was also about coming together as a community and honouring those they've lost.

"Today's hike is more than just a fundraiser, it's a walk of memories and connection; each of us carry with us the names and the faces of those who we have lost. Loved ones who continue to live on through the stories that we tell, the love that we share and the legacy we carry forward. We walk as one heart and many souls today," she said. "Grief is a journey with no clear path, but when we walk together, the burden feels a little lighter and the way forward a little clearer. As we move forward on today's path, let us take a moment to acknowledge the purpose that brings us here; to support the hospice and palliative care in our community, which helps us to ensure that no one faces a final journey alone. The services are rooted in compassion, comfort and dignity, and thanks to your support, we will continue to make sure that that is available for those who need it the most."

VanSickle also encouraged those in attendance to visit this year's new purple memorial wall and contribute a cherished memory of their loved ones.

"This living piece of community art is a tribute built from your memories; photos and words that tell stories of those who have died," she said. "If you haven't already, we invite you to contribute a favourite memory... something joyful, meaningful or even funny. ...It will leave a vibrant and emotional tribute to those who are no longer with us, but whose presence is deeply felt."

After the walk, this year's fundraiser ambassadors, Sonja Barker, her son Aaron, her daughter Heather and the rest of the family, shared a bit about their team.



Team Gary supporters were out in full force during last weekend's Hike for Hospice, raising a total of \$5,671.70 through the generosity of 74 donations. Gary Wright, a Paris resident and businessman, battled Glioblastoma, a form of Brain Cancer. Gary and family spent the last few weeks of his life at Stedman Community Hospice. "Gary's journey at Stedman has opened my eyes to the need for funds. Hospice is a needed part of end of life, where families can come together and just be," said his wife, Heidi. "I gained understanding and knowledge towards my grief and gained some friendships in that group. So funding isn't just for the patient, it's for families affected by loss and counselling is also offered one-on-one."

(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

"I'm walking for my husband Bert... he lost his battle with cancer in December of 2023," said Sonja.

She explained that after ten weeks at Juravinski Hospital and with nothing left that could be done, Bert shared that he wanted to go home.

"We had him at home for two weeks with the help of family and nursing care, and one day he shared that he knew it was time to come to hospice and so he spent a month here at Stedman," said Sonja. "They were absolutely wonderful, I can't say enough good things about them; not only did they look after Bert, but they looked after the family too. He was never alone; my son Aaron stayed every night with him, and that last week, he and my daughter were both able to stay with their dad and so that meant a lot."

Heather later said that the fact that people generously give back to the community hospice, is just a testament to the difference it has made in so many peoples' lives.

"You know it's a special place, but until you experience it yourself, you don't really recognize just how remarkable the care and dignity is for the patient, but also for the family. We were cared for just much as my dad was," she said. "I just want to acknowledge the volunteers and staff. Even today, the amount of them who remember my dad and remember us, is just incredible and so this is a way to come back and say thank you to all of them too. I don't

know how they do it, but I'm very grateful that they do. I know my dad would be just thrilled to see all of us continue to do this because he instilled that spirit of service in all of us."

The two women shared that their team, which raised over \$11,000, was fittingly named, "Bert's Big Red Machine" in honour of his favourite baseball team, the Cincinnati Reds.

"It was his favourite team since he was nine-years-old, and I'm actually wearing

one of his original team hoodies from the 70's!," said Heather with a smile."

Each year, the broader community contributes about \$1.7 million to help support Stedman's various programs and services, and since the Hike or Bike for Hospice first began over two decades ago, the event alone has raised \$3.2 million.

Kimberly De Jong's reporting is funded by the Canadian government through its Local Journalism Initiative.

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Theatre Brats: A Festival offers unique opportunity for youth performers



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Ruby Jones

Paris Performers' Theatre has been treading the boards for several decades in Paris, with productions popping up in different venues, offering a selection of exciting shows, including award winning productions of the play, *The Pillowman* and, the musical, *Reefer Madness*.

This year, the Paris Performers' Theatre brought back their long-running and popular programming for kids and teens, who met once a month at St.

Paul's United Church to learn the fine art of drama. Hot off the success of that program, PPT has just announced a new theatre opportunity for youth ages 7-18 years old called, Theatre Brats: A Festival!

The festival was created in collaboration with Big Cityyy Arts and made possible because Big Cityyy Arts was awarded rights for performing in an international youth theatre participatory program, created by Scottish theatre company Wonder Fools, called Positive Stories for Negative Times.

Each year, Positive Stories for Negative Times commissions playwrights to write original, dynamic and progressive plays to highlight the themes which kids face these days. Over the last three years running, this participatory program has welcomed over 100,000 kids participating in dozens of different countries, from over 800 different theatre companies and school drama clubs.

If you know a budding young artist looking to expand their

experience on stage, make note that auditions for Theatre Brats will take place on Tuesday, May 20th and are open to those aged 7 – 18. Each auditioner is required to prepare a short recitation of a poem, monologue, story or music lyrics and will be asked to do a little sight reading. Find out more information and book a time slot by emailing PPTkids-Drama@gmail.com.

Theatre Brats: A Festival! will include mini monologues, in addition to the short, one act, Positive Stories from Negative Times plays.

Theatre Brats will take place on Saturday, July 5th in Lions Park in downtown Paris, with performances popping up at 10 am, 12 pm and 2 pm in the Amphitheatre. Tickets are not required, any and all proceeds made from community donations will go directly to Paris Performers' Theatre to support their 2025 events and programming.

Come get involved in this exciting international theatre event and support community theatre in Paris!

BIG CITYYY ARTS
PARIS PERFORMERS' THEATRE PRESENT
THEATRE BRATS
AUDITIONS!
TUESDAY MAY 20TH
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM
St Paul's United Church

Shows are Saturday July 5th at Lion's Park Amphitheatre
Rehearsals would be Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons in Paris, rehearsal schedule will also include solo rehearsals for some!

Auditions are open for young performers from 7 to 18 years of age, to get involved in this exciting theatre event; with roles of all sizes available, we're open to experience levels of all kinds.

For the auditions we ask kids 7 to 12 to prepare a short recitation of a poem, story, monologue or song lyrics and we ask kids 13 to 18 to prepare and present a monologue; both will be asked to do a small sight reading in the audition!

These community theatre auditions are open to all, you don't have to be a Paris resident to come along; PPTkidsdrama@gmail.com to learn more!

Emterra Environmental comments on Blue Bin program in Brant

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

In our April 30th edition, we ran an editorial on the state of our Blue Bin Program when some County of Brant residents were left wondering how effective it is and wondered if their efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle were going to waste, literally.

The Paris Independent reached out to Emterra Environmental for comment but they did not respond by our deadline. Late last week, Emterra's Communication department responded to the email, prompting this update.

The discussion started when residents, responding to Sound Off post about recycling, questioned how waste and recyclables are collected, separated and disposed of in the county.

In their recent email, Emterra commented, "In terms of why it seems operators are disposing of recyclables and waste in the same compartment – we echo the comments made from Matthew D'Hondt, Operations Manager at the County of Brant's Solid Waste department regarding the

use of a split-body truck."

Emterra trucks are equipped with dual compartments, so your waste and recycling may be collected at the same time, but the items are disposed into separate compartments.

Emterra confirmed that all recyclables collected are dropped off at a local receiving facility for consolidation this is not owned or operated by Emterra Environmental. It is the responsibility of Producer Responsibility Organizations to ensure these materials are effectively recovered at a Material Recovery Facility of their choosing.

The email continued, "Consequently, we are unable to comment on the recovery of all recyclable material in Brant County and surrounding areas but assure you that Emterra Environmental is committed to transparency and advancing the circular economy throughout our own operations. Therefore, we do not support or endorse the claims that are contrary to the above that may have been made by one of our employees."

That comment relates hear say that Emterra employees told some residents 'Don't bother as this all goes into the garbage.'

As of January 1, 2025 Ontario legislation changed the Blue Bin program across the province, transitioning it from municipality responsibility to a new system that is fully funded and operated by producers of recycling materials. The program is no longer funded by the municipal tax levy. Emterra Environmental holds the contract for collection services in the County of Brant.



Emterra trucks are equipped with dual compartments, so your waste and recycling may be collected at the same time, but the items are disposed into separate compartments.

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Nominations are now open for the 2025 Salute to Brant Business Awards



County of Brant Mayor David Bailey presents a Salute to Brant Business Award during the 2024 event. (COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

MEDIA RELEASE

County of Brant

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Salute to Brant Business Awards.

Salute to Brant is an annual event that brings together leaders within the local business community, elected officials, community influencers, and various industry experts to celebrate the progress and achievements of businesses in the County of Brant and to share industry insights. This year’s awards will focus on the resiliency of businesses during times of uncertainty.

“Now more than ever it’s important to shine a spotlight on the businesses that call the County of Brant home,” said Zach Gable, Director of Economic Development and Tourism for the County of Brant. “On top of the awards, which highlight success stories in our communities, Salute to Brant is an opportunity for businesses to network and enjoy a keynote speaker.”

Nominations for this year’s awards are now open, and include the following five (5) categories:

- **Brant Farms for All Agriculture Award:** Recognizes an agriculture business or a business that directly supports the agriculture sector that has positively contributed to the agriculture sector and/or addresses challenges related to agriculture in Canada.
- **Brant Works Innovation Award:** Recognizes a business that has implemented innovative practices into their day-to-day operations.
- **Good Times in Brant Award:** Recognizes a business or organization that is in the tourism industry or directly sup-

ports visitation to the County of Brant while creating a positive impact on the environment and the community.

- **Our Future Brant Sustainability Award:** Recognizes a business in the County of Brant that has implemented sustainable practices into their day-to-day practices.
- **Accessible Brant Award:** Recognizes a business, organization, event or program within the County of Brant business community that provides a positive contribution to preventing and removing physical barriers, providing exemplary customer service or creating meaningful opportunities through the respectful integration of people with disabilities into the workforce.

“We look forward to celebrating all of the incredible businesses in Brant this September,” said Gable. “We encourage everyone in the community to get involved and take the time to nominate a business. Let’s show them how much we appreciate what they bring to the County”

Nominations will close on June 16, 2025. We encourage those in the community to join us in celebrating local businesses by taking the time to submit a nomination. Self-nominations are also encouraged.

This year’s Salute to Brant Business event will take place on Thursday, September 25, 2025, from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre. Registration for the event will open this summer.

For more information and to submit nominations, please visit www.brant.ca/Salute.

Local volunteers honoured with Provincial Agricultural Awards

MEDIA RELEASE

Paris Agricultural Society

Two longtime volunteers with the Paris Agricultural Society were recently recognized with one of the highest honours in Ontario’s agricultural community.

Beth Howell-Vervaecke and Pat Howell-Blackmore were each presented with the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) Meritorious Service Award at the Society’s annual Social Night on April 24.

The Meritorious Service Award is presented by the OAAS to individuals who have shown outstanding dedication and service to their local agricultural society and community. Both Beth and Pat have been instrumental in the continued success of the Paris Fair, offering decades of leadership, support, and volunteerism.

Howell-Vervaecke is known for her deep commitment to youth involvement and her hands-on support across a variety of fair programs. Her passion for community engagement and agricultural education has had a lasting impact on the Society’s outreach efforts. Not only is she a lifelong member of the Par-

is Agricultural Society, in 2007-2008, Howell-Vervaecke, was president of the society’s homecraft department. She was also elected president of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies in 2021.

Howell-Blackmore has been a steady leader and mentor within the organization. Her knowledge of fair operations, governance, and her behind-the-scenes work have helped ensure the smooth running of countless events over the years. In recent years, Howell-Blackmore hosted a number of successful workshops throughout the winter months as part of the Homecraft Workshop Series, sharing her knowledge in card making techniques.

“These awards recognize more than just time served,” said Amy Warner, General Manager of the Paris Agricultural Society. “They honour the heart and spirit that Beth and Pat bring to everything they do. Their legacy will be felt for generations to come.”

The Paris Agricultural Society congratulates Beth and Pat on this well-deserved recognition and thanks them for their continued service to the community.

The Paris Independent

Pick Up Locations

PARIS Brant Sports Complex Brave Waves Swim School Canadian Tire Cobblestone Public House Cowan Community Health Hub Pharmacy. Detour Café Paris Dog-Eared Cafe Egg Smart Elberta Farms Country Market Farah Foods Grand River Estates Horsfall’s Auto Service Jay’s No Frills John M Hall The House of Quality Linen Le Petite Marche Mary Maxim Northville Pharmacy Paris Beer Company	Paris Inn Paris Jewellers Paris Pizza Park Lane Terrace PrimaCare Community Family Health Team Queensview Retirement Community Rexall Pharmacy Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 Sales Decorating Secret Lunch and Catering Sobeys Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House Paris Stillwaters Telfer Place Retirement Residence Tim Hortons - Rest Acres Tim Hortons - Paris Road	Tim Hortons - Grand River St N The Gem Marketplace The Grand Bayou Cajun Kitchen The Paris Wincey Mills Market Walter’s Greenhouses & Garden Centre Willett Urgent Care Centre BURFORD County of Brant Library - Burford Foodland PRINCETON Jim’s Lunch Sinden Feed & Seed Inc. ST. GEORGE County of Brant Library - St. George Freshmart Tim Hortons — Brant Rd
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HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Remembered and celebrated: Commemorating VE Day with music and reflection



By Chris Whelan
Editor

VE-Day, or Victory in Europe Day, is a significant moment in history that marked the end of World War II in Europe. On May 8, 1945, the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany was signed, bringing an end to the brutal conflict that had ravaged the continent for years. This day marked the triumph of peace over tyranny, of unity over division, and of hope over despair.

In Paris, the VE Day celebrations in 1945 were a vibrant display of joy and relief. The streets were alive with a large crowd of people gathering downtown, where a band played spirited music that resonated through the hearts of the community. A car, equipped with speakers, broadcasted the momentous news of victory, spreading the elation to every corner of the town.

The festivities in Paris were a mix of jubilation and solemn remembrance. Parades filled the streets, concerts echoed through the air, and voices joined in songs of triumph and freedom. Amidst the revelry, some residents took moments of quiet reflection, honouring the sacrifices made and the lives lost during the long and arduous war.

Beyond the borders of Paris, communities across Canada and around the world united in celebration on VE Day. Parades marched through city streets, concerts filled the air with melodies of liberation, and people danced with newfound hope and unity. The echoes of victory reverberated far and wide, bringing solace and renewal to a world weary from years of conflict.

For the 80th anniversary of VE Day in 2025, the spirit of remembrance and celebration was reig-



On May 8, 1945, a newspaper boy identified as Danny Pelton on Grand River Street North shares the splendid news of victory in Europe

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PARIS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

nited in Paris, Ontario. The Royal Canadian Legion in Paris hosted a special event on Saturday, May 10, 2025, commemorating this significant milestone. The highlight of the event was a solo-singing act by Timothy Wilford, titled "We'll Meet Again: Music of the Second World War," a performance that promised to evoke the emotions and memories of that historic era.

This commemorative event served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by countless individuals who fought for freedom and peace. It honoured the resilience of nations, the courage of soldiers, and the enduring spirit of those who endured the hardships of war. As we gathered to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, we not only remembered the past but also reaffirmed our commitment to a future for Canada built on peace, unity, and mutual respect.



Large crowd downtown Paris celebrating the end of World War 2, May 8, 1945

The
Paris Independent

Contribute to your local community newspaper!

Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to
stories@theparisinddependent.com

Tamie Aubin is Lansdowne Children Centre's new Director of Client Services

PRESS RELEASE

Lansdowne Children Centre

Tamie Aubin's decision to focus on pediatric physiotherapy (PT) came when she took a course in PT university with Johanna Darrah, who co-authored one of the standardized assessment tools still used today, AIMS.

Aubin said that's when she knew, "Yes, this is what I want to be doing."

It was just over 16 years ago that Aubin and her family moved from northern Alberta to Ontario.

"I wanted to work in a children's treatment centre," she said. She got a part-time position at Lansdowne Children's Centre, and from there, "it just gradually progressed."

Aubin is now wrapping up her time as the Occupational Therapy (OT) and PT Services Manager at Lansdowne, while also working in the new role as the Director of Client Services as Jennifer Huxley retires.

"Jennifer was the one who hired me. She was my manager when I was a physiotherapist. We have definitely built a relationship along those years," Aubin said, adding that she's been continually learning throughout her time at Lansdowne, from Huxley and previous service directors.

"There's been a lot that I've been able to glean from working with everybody and appreciated all the valuable mentorship from everybody along the way."

One of the most effective ways Lansdowne staff have had to learn from each other over the years was actually thanks to Aubin: the establishment of the Holistic Integration Teams (HITs).

When she and her family first moved to Ontario, Aubin was in the middle of completing her Masters in Rehabilitation Science. As part of her thesis work, she looked at how services were provided at Lansdowne and how they could be enhanced. She put forward the idea of the centre forming teams of staff members across multiple disciplines to work collaboratively in a transdisciplinary model, so that – among other benefits – families wouldn't have to repeat the same information multiple times to different service providers, and multiple staff could be part of one appointment, to reduce the number of times families would have to come to the centre.

The pilot program was soon made permanent, and now "It still is going strong as one of our best practice models of services for our families," Aubin said.

She noted that multiple staff have told her over the years that they appreciate the cross-discipline collaborative learning that happens as a member of a HITs team.

The fact that HITs teams were able to be piloted in the first place speaks to what Aubin sees as one of Lansdowne's greatest strengths.

"We are open to looking at how we can support families in ways that allow our staff to think outside the box – of course, within



Tamie Aubin is Lansdowne Children's Centre's new Director of Client Services.

our best practice mandates," she said.

That's an approach that she fully intends to bring forward into her new role.

"It's more of that bigger picture; how do we continue to support our families in providing that type of best practice, family centred, solution focused model of service in all of our programs?"


There are plenty of arenas to explore that question, such as in following Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services directives to provide a tiered model of service, and in looking at how AI tools might be utilized.

Aubin noted that in the early days of the HITs teams, "We started it out as a pilot; we evaluated it, we learned from it, we expanded, and we tried different things to look at changes and then evaluated it again."

Stepping into her new role, Aubin said her focus will be determining what's already working well and exploring how to build on that existing success, while also "continuing to ensure that we use our best practice philosophies; working collaboratively with all the programs; and maintaining the partnerships with our communities, our families, all of our stakeholders."

Because she knows that "even though my hands aren't the ones that are there in a physio session," with a client, "ultimately, I'm still making a difference for the child and the family."

That's been one of the main driving forces that has kept Aubin at Lansdowne throughout the years; the knowledge that, "being part of this organization, it's always been about the kids."




WEEKLY

Horoscope

May 11 - May 17, 2025

ARIES


Mar 21 - Apr 20



Aries, you soon find yourself pushing forward with great determination. Your drive is unstoppable, but tread carefully and respectfully in the pursuit of greatness.

LIBRA


Sept 23 - Oct 23



Libra, the spotlight is on you for the time being. You are feeling more confident and ready to take charge of your destiny. Personal growth may come by way of a job promotion.

TAURUS


Apr 21 - May 21



Introspection is paramount right now, Taurus. You may find yourself reflecting on your values, goals and personal growth. This week there are chances to change.

SCORPIO


Oct 24 - Nov 22



Scorpio, you may be drawn to more quiet, intimate moments with your partner this week. This is a great time for reflection and connection for the both of you.

GEMINI


May 22 - Jun 21



Gemini, right now is a good time to collaborate with others, whether at work or in personal projects. Use any time this week to your advantage to attend social events.

SAGITTARIUS


Nov 23 - Dec 21



Sagittarius, expect to meet new people or form bonds with others who share similar interests and goals this week. Community-based projects may draw your attention.

CANCER


Jun 22 - Jul 22



Put your long-term goals in focus this week, Cancer. Start thinking about where you would like your career to go. You'll certainly feel driven to make progress.

CAPRICORN


Dec 22 - Jan 20



This week the focus will be on your career, Capricorn. You'll feel more motivated than ever to achieve your goals, but it will take a lot of hard work to get there.

LEO


Jul 23 - Aug 23



Adventure is the name of the game for you right now, Leo. Whether it is travel, higher learning or other new experiences, you just may soon break free of your routine.

AQUARIUS


Jan 21 - Feb 18



Aquarius, you might feel more connected to your spiritual side right now and want to seek knowledge or inspiration in areas like philosophy. Take every opportunity to learn and grow.

VIRGO


Aug 24 - Sept 22



This is a week when practicality and organization will be your friends, Virgo. You will likely feel a need to get things in order. If you have any outstanding debts, tackle them now.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Pisces, now is a good time to focus on your financial situation and make some changes for your security and personal growth. Your intuition will guide you.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 11

Sabrina Carpenter, Singer (26)

MAY 12

Tony Hawk, Skateboarder (57)

MAY 13

Morgan Wallen, Singer (32)

MAY 14

Mark Zuckerberg, Entrepreneur (41)

MAY 15

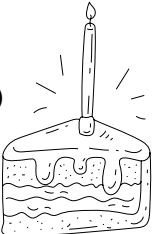
Stella Maxwell, Model (35)

MAY 16

Megan Fox, Actress (39)

MAY 17

Derek Hough, Dancer (40)



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Torremolinos: a perfect home base on the Costa del Sol



By Paul Knowles

You probably read about the massive power outage in southern Europe a few weeks ago. Most of Spain and Portugal, and parts of southern France, lost all electrical power for almost 24 hours.

Now, for folks in eastern Ontario who lost power for days – some even more than a week – during the recent ice storm, that probably doesn't sound like much. I grant that.

The reason I took note was the we had just spent a lovely three weeks in southern Spain. We flew to Lisbon, Portugal, then to Malaga, Spain and finally took a coach to Torremolinos, our home away from home for three weeks. All of those cities were affected by the blackout.

It left me thinking about what our vacation would have been like, in those circumstances. Airports were shut down. The hotels would have had no power (we were on the eighth floor of a seaside hotel). Food services would have been non-existent.

So... we were lucky. No such disasters struck, and we were able to enjoy our first-ever experience of Spain, specifically, of the Costa del Sol.

I have already written a couple of articles, arising from day trips we took to other Spanish cities – and the British enclave of Gibraltar – during our time there. This week, I am focusing only on our home base, Torre-

molinos.

And I will admit, Torremolinos is a good spot to use as a home base, as long as you have trips to other destinations planned as part of your stay. Because there are few outstanding attractions in Torremolinos. It is, rather, kind of a tourists' bedroom community.

That may sound boring, but when you actually stay there, you quickly start to appreciate all the good stuff about the admittedly touristy town. And Torremolinos is indeed a place that welcomes tourists, and knows how to treat them.

The Mediterranean seaside is lined with hotels. Well – that's not quite true. There are lots of waterfront hotels, but between them and the sea is a many-kilometre, tile-paved walking path, with boutiques and restaurants, and an unending supply of public beaches. That walkway itself is a source of unending entertainment. A stroll from our hotel – Ocean House Costa del Sol – to the centre of Torremolinos offered ample opportunities for shopping, people-watching, and drinking and/or dining along the waterfront. There are unique features here, too – flocks of beautiful (but sadly invasive) Monk Parakeets, and a colony of well-care-for feral cats which live in the nocks and crannies of cliffs, and which are cared for by officially-appointed volunteers.

We enjoyed this walkway dozens of times, and never tired of the experience. I mean, Canadians in March, strolling beside the Mediterranean? What can be wrong about that?

Our hotel happened to be located right on the border of Torremolinos and the next town to the west, Benalmadena. Following the path west-ward immediately took us to a beautiful marina, more shops, more dining, more beaches, more every-

thing a visitor might want in a warm-weather getaway.

We did discover one intriguing destination, in the heart of Torremolinos – the Parque Urbano 'La Bateria'. It's important to note, here that like all the Costa del Sol seaside towns and cities, the landscape shoots upward from the seaside. I mentioned cliffs, and I wasn't kidding.

So this armed battery – armed with ancient guns – and guard tower, the "Torre Mirador", rise high above the street. However, clever powers-that-be have built a dramatic, glass-sided elevator that carries visitors up to base of the tower, and to all the gorgeous gardens and water features that are also part of the "Parque".

Downtown Torremolinos – well, considering its location on the top of the cliffs, "Uptown" – offers many more shops, restaurants and pubs. We stopped to enjoy street musicians (there are plenty of buskers about), and then made our way down shop-lined staircases to the beachfront walkway.

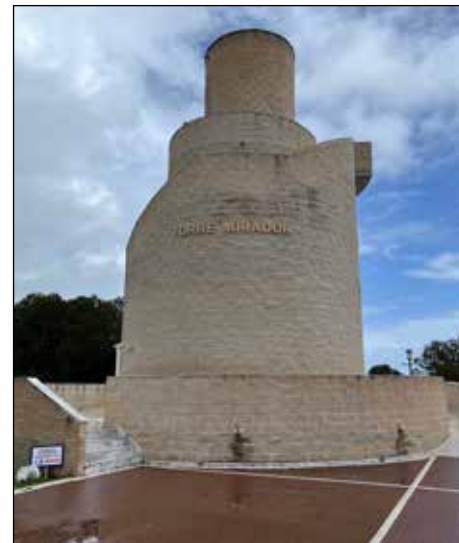
Speaking of musicians, one of the great things about staying in a Torremolinos hotel is the nightly entertainment. That is the case with many of the hotels, and you don't have to be a guest to wander in and enjoy the show. We enjoyed all of the shows (and we took one in almost every evening); highlights include an Il Divo style show by a superb trio called The Bohemians, and a Flamenco dancing show that was both beautiful and astonishingly energetic.

The food scene in Torremolinos is highly cosmopolitan. Even in the hotel restaurant – which seats hundreds, and serves via buffets – you could find fine superb choices, including freshly prepared fish (I, unlike normal humans, love squid), and, every day, a new take on paella. We also had the chance

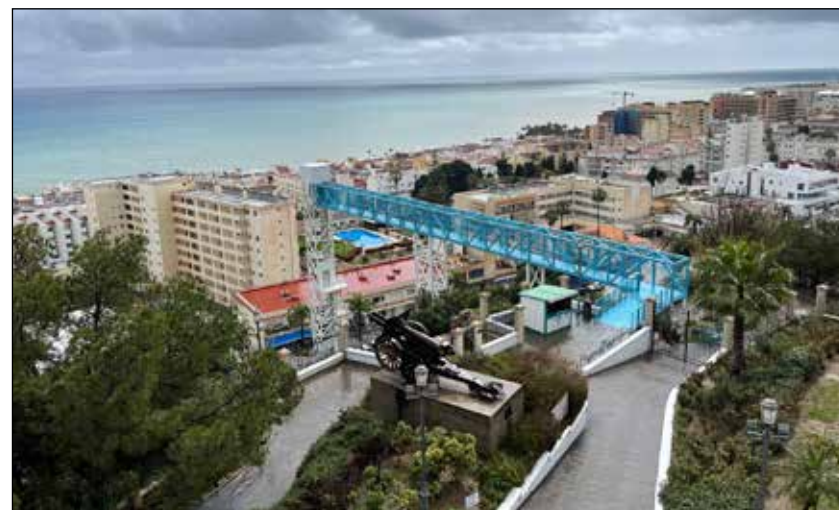
to take a class in making paella (I continue my search for round rice here in southwestern Ontario), as well as a very jolly session on creating sangria!

As I said, Torremolinos is a terrific home base for adventures around southern Spain. But not just a place to leave from – our 23 days included 12 without an excursion, and Torremolinos also proved to be a lovely place to enjoy, in its own right.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



The Torre Mirador, high above the Torremolinos seafront.



Torremolinos and the Mediterranean Sea, with the elevator and walkway in the foreground, viewed from the Torre Mirador.



Flamenco!



A never-ending beach.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)



Salvador Dali and friends, portrayed along the seaside walkway.



Spectacular paella – the chef included the most expensive ingredients he could source!

Riddles

What do you call a Victoria Day picnic?

A "2-4" picnic!

Why did the tomato turn red at the picnic?

Because it saw the salad dressing!

Why was the picnic thrown out of the park?

It was too cheesy!

What do you call a toothless bear at a picnic?

Gummy bear!

What do you call a duck that loves fireworks?

A firequacker!

What did the camping tent say to the sleeping bag?

I've got you covered.

I bring the start of summer, and fireworks fill the sky.

Many Canadians gather, to enjoy the day, you and I.

What am I?

Victoria Day (or May 2-4)

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 22

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK



MURPHY

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Can you guess the breed? This is Murphy, a 4 month old border collie corgi puppy. Murphy is working hard at getting those ears to stand while herding anything that moves. He was in for his wellness puppy appointment and was such a good boy for his immunizations and nail trim.

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



Word Search

HAPPY VICTORIA DAY!

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

- BBQ
- Birthday
- Camping
- Canadian
- Commemorate
- Family
- Fireworks
- Games
- Holiday
- Long weekend
- May
- Monarch
- Monday
- Parade
- Party
- Picnic
- Two Four
- Victoria

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

The Catholic Women's League of Sacred Heart, Paris will be holding their monthly meeting at 1:00 pm in the Sacred Heart Hall at 17 Washington Street. Use the Queen Street parking lot to enter.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Paris in Wonderland – Join the Saturdays in Paris movement as we celebrate International Tea Day! Attend four pop up tea parties across downtown Paris to learn about tea making, herbs, flowers and leaves, sample brews with charismatic and whimsical characters. Event runs from 1 pm to 4 pm. Brought to you in partnership with Big Cityyy Arts, Heather's Got Tea and Le Petit Marche.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Learn to Lawn Bowl! – Free community event offered at the Paris Lawn Bowling Club, 169 Grand River Street North on May 22 from 7 pm to 9 pm. Come try it out and see if this is the sport for you!

TUESDAY, MAY 20

The Brant Men of Song – hold their rehearsals on Tuesdays from 7 pm to 9 pm at the First Baptist Church located at 70 West St. Brantford. New members are always welcome to attend and learn more about their activities.

Death Café, a conversation circle about death – from 2 pm to 4 pm at the County of Brant Library, Paris Branch. *This is not a counselling session or grief support group. Death Cafes are discussion groups provided by a Death Doula. Visit www.brantlibrary.ca/calendar to register

MONDAY, MAY 24

Spring Volunteer Day at Five Oaks – Join us 10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m for a fun-filled day of giving back! Help us tackle property tasks like raking, wood splitting, painting and more! All ages welcome - there's something for everyone, and lunch is included! Volunteer hours are recognized for students. For details visit www.fiveoaks.on.ca or call 519-442-3212

TUESDAY, MAY 27

The Knights of Columbus – will hold their monthly meeting at Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Paris starting at 7:30 pm.

Learn to Lawn Bowl! – Free community event offered at the Paris Lawn Bowling Club, 169 Grand River Street North on May 22 from 7 pm to 9 pm. Come try it out and see if this is the sport for you!

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Learn to Lawn Bowl! – Free community event offered at the Paris Lawn Bowling Club, 169 Grand River Street North on May 22 from 7 pm to 9 pm. Come try it out and see if this is the sport for you!

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

Kiwanis Teddy Bear Picnic Returns – 1 pm to 3pm at the Burford Fairgrounds. This Kiwanis-Brant sponsored event encourages children to bring their teddy bears and stuffies for an afternoon of fun. Free admission. Visit www.parisbrantkiwanis.org for details.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Death Café, a conversation circle about death – from 2 pm to 4 pm at the County of Brant Library, Paris Branch. *This is not a counselling session or grief support group. Death Cafes are discussion groups provided by a Death Doula. Visit www.brantlibrary.ca/calendar to register

The Paris Independent

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW:

Deadline: Friday prior at 10 a.m.

Contact:

info@theparisdependent.com

- The Paris Independent Community Calendar allows non-profit organizations to promote their free admission community events at no charge. Event listings can include the event name, date, time and location as well as contact information (ie phone number, email address or website).

- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, The Paris Independent offers the following options for promoting your community events:

- Coming Events Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
- Coming Events Boxed Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
- Display Ad - Sizes begin at a Small Classified Display ad (3.3" x 2.5") - \$35 + hst

Paris resident encourages people to talk about end-of-life at Death Café

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Death. Most of us actively avoid thinking or talking about it, but as an end-of-life doula, Brant County resident Rhonda Garnier has made a career of helping others prepare for it.

Now, she's encouraging community members to confront the often-taboo topic in a "Death Café" later this month at the County of Brant Public Library.

The experience brings strangers together for a couple of hours to share their thoughts, feelings and questions around eternal rest.

The library notes it's a discussion circle; not counselling or a support group.

It allows people to process, ahead of time, "what it might feel like, sound like, what I might want when I'm dying." People can take that away and share with their loved ones, Garnier said.

Thinking about what you want, and

having those conversations when you're not in a crisis, is "really helpful," because the voice of the dying person often gets lost in their wish to not be a burden, she said.

Her job is to make sure people are heard, "but it really is driven by the participants" of each café, she said.

Garnier has facilitated sessions for specific functions, like for parents unsure how to talk about death with kids, or for a medical assistance in dying (MAID) group. Others are general and open to anyone, like the two coming up at the Paris library branch.

Each has been radically different because "it really is based on other people's experiences," Garnier said.

Something she commonly hears is that attendees want to discuss death and their wishes, but their family "is scared and won't talk about it."

A Death Café gives them permission to talk about the seriousness and share feel-

ings or hurt, she said.

Since most people haven't been to such an event, Garnier starts off with a "grounding activity" to help everyone get on the same page, with an emphasis on allowing each voice to be heard and respecting those who prefer to listen.

She has prompts — questions or things to consider — out on tables for people to look at, but they rarely get used. "Almost every time ... people have had things on their mind and on their heart that they want to put out into the circle," she said.

The global Death Café movement is credited to Jon Underwood, who hosted the first gathering in his U.K. home in 2011. Since then, the idea has spread to more than 93 countries.

The library was aware of the sessions, but hadn't made a local connection before Garnier reached out, said program and outreach co-ordinator Laura Eadie.

To prepare for the event, the library has also added some Garnier-recommended

book titles surrounding grief, end-of-life, and death to its collection, Eadie said.

Garnier hopes the café could become an ongoing event with a small group of regulars.

"If you can find the ability to talk about it, it will actually enrich your life," she said.

All are welcome to attend the sessions on May 20 and June 17, 2 to 4 p.m., but registration is required. Visit brantlibrary.ca/deathcafe to sign up.

Garnier has another Death Café at Vintage Coffee Roasters in Hamilton on June 1, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Visit Home Hospice Association to register.

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

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EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

COMING EVENTS

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Jayne's Garden Party



The Family of the late Jayne Buxton-North would like to invite you to Jayne's home and gardens on

Saturday, May 31st, 2025

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mexico | 6. Alec Guinness |
| 2. Antonio Vivaldi | 7. Two |
| 3. Secretariat | 8. Cool as Ice |
| 4. A murder | 9. Most Valuable Player |
| 5. Pinocchio | 10. Jamaica |



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