

The Paris Independent

Issue #263

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(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

The Arlington Hotel & River's Edge and St. George Apple Fest shared the Good Times in Brant Award at the 2026 Salute to Brant awards. Operated by Carmen's Group since 2022, the Arlington has been a downtown Paris landmark since 1851 and is a popular wedding destination. St. George Apple Fest, established in 1984, has grown into a two-day festival featuring hundreds of vendors and performers and drawing visitors to the community each September.

Celebrating business excellence in Brant

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Five local business awards were handed out last Thursday night as the County of Brant business community gathered for the annual Salute to Brant event.

STG Health and Wellness, Browndale Farm, Active Metal Recyclers and 1200 Degrees On-

tario were among this year's recipients, while St. George Apple Fest and The Arlington Hotel & River's Edge shared an award.

The annual event, held at the TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre, brought together business owners, community leaders and elected officials for an evening of networking, local food and drink, a keynote address and the presentation of the 2026 Salute

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Election forums set for October

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

County of Brant voters will have several opportunities to hear directly from candidates in October, with five public events scheduled during the first nine days of the month ahead of the Oct. 26 municipal election.

The events range from all-candidate gatherings to a mayoral debate and a Ward 4-specific meeting, giving residents several opportunities to hear candidates discuss their priorities and local issues.

Candidate community event kicks things off Oct. 1

The first event, organized by the Brant Civic Accountability Association (BCAA), takes place Thursday, Oct. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Brantford Golf and Country Club.

According to information released by organizers, mayoral candidates Jennifer Kyle, David Swanson and Stuart Braid have confirmed their participation (as of press deadline).

Several ward candidates have also confirmed their attendance. In Ward 1, Mary-Jane Brown, Denise Dymont, John Kemp and Mike Petrella are participating, while all three Ward 2 candidates — Steve Howes, Jeff Johnston and James McCulloch — are participating. In Ward 3, Clifford Atfield, John Bell, Riley Mulholland and David Spencer have confirmed attendance, and in Ward 4 candidates Andrea Bowden, Robert Chambers, Claudine Craigie, Heather Kearn and Elaine Tully will be there. Finally, in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Multiple candidate events planned ahead of County of Brant municipal election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ward 5 candidates — Sonia Brown, Mike Gatopoulos and Ella Haley — are participating.

Mayoral debate set for Oct. 3 in Paris

Another opportunity to hear from candidates takes place Saturday, Oct. 3 at 2:30 p.m. at the El-Farram Islamic Center of Brant, 143 King Edward St. in Paris.

The Brant County Mayoral Candidates Debate will give mayoral candidates an opportunity to share their ideas and answer questions about issues affecting the community.

Organizers are also encouraging residents to meet and connect with ward candidates who may be in attendance. The event is open to the public.

Chamber forum set for Oct. 7

The County of Brant Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Brant County Federation of Agriculture, will host a Meet the Candidates Municipal Election Forum on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Sojourn Church, 112 Scott Ave. in Paris.

Mayoral, ward and school board trustee candidates have been invited to participate. Residents will have an opportunity to meet candidates, ask questions and discuss issues affecting the County of Brant.

Candidates have also received a written questionnaire addressing issues of importance to residents, businesses and Chamber members. Responses are scheduled to be published on the Chamber's website by Sept. 30.

"The Chamber is committed to supporting an informed electorate and fostering

meaningful dialogue between candidates and the community," Chamber executive director Susan Morton said. "This forum provides residents with a valuable opportunity to hear directly from those seeking to represent them."

Burford Lions host Ward 4 candidates Oct. 8

Ward 4 voters will have an event specifically focused on their council race when the Burford Lions Club hosts an All Candidates Night on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Burford Royal Canadian Legion, 4 Park St. in Burford.

Candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves and share their platforms, while voters can hear directly from those seeking to represent Ward 4 and compare their positions on local issues.

Agricultural and rural issues focus of

Oct. 9 event

The Brant County Federation of Agriculture will round out the series of events with an All-Candidates event on Friday, Oct. 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Paris Community Church, 164 Grand River St. N.

All mayoral and council candidates have been invited to attend, with the evening focused on agricultural and rural issues affecting Brant County.

The event will begin with a brief mayoral debate, followed by a meet-and-greet with ward candidates. The Oct. 9 event is open to everyone. More information is available by contacting the Brant County Federation of Agriculture at brantfederationofagriculture@gmail.com. With Election Day set for Oct. 26, the five events offer voters a series of opportunities to hear directly from candidates before casting their ballots.

Truth and Reconciliation efforts receive federal support in Brantford

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Two Brantford-area organizations have received a combined \$52,000 in federal funding to support initiatives focused on reconciliation, inclusion and conversations about race, identity and belonging.

Hamilton Mountain MP Lisa Hepfner announced the funding Sept. 8 on behalf of Marc Miller, minister of Canadian identity and culture and minister responsible for official languages.

Brantford Native Housing received \$37,000 to support its fifth annual Truth and Reconciliation Commemoration, which was held Sept. 26.

The event provided opportunities for learning, reflection and dialogue through cultural performances and teachings, reflections from Survivors and intergenerational Survivors, traditional foods, interactive activities, community resources and spaces for connection and care.

Of the federal contribution, \$30,000 was provided through the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Program, while another \$7,000 came through the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation component of the Commemorate Canada program.

"We still have a long way to go to advance reconciliation and build a future grounded in respect, understanding and stronger relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

Initiatives like this put reconciliation into action by creating meaningful opportunities for Canadians to learn from Indigenous histories and experiences, hear direct-

ly from Survivors and engage in important dialogue," Miller said.

Brantford Native Housing is an Indigenous-led organization that supports urban Indigenous people through housing and culturally grounded, trauma-informed programs and services.

Alma Arguello, executive director of Brantford Native Housing, said reconciliation requires Indigenous voices to be heard and given space to lead.

"Every single life carries a unique melody, found in our ceremonies, the wisdom of our Elders, and the fierce hope of our children.

True reconciliation means listening to those melodies, taking the TRC roadmap off the page, and knowing when to step back so Indigenous voices can lead the way."

The federal government also announced \$15,000 for Darmont GivesBack's Intergenerational Conversations on Race, Identity & Belonging.

The one-day event is intended to bring together people from different generations and communities to share their experiences, build connections and promote inclusion and belonging.

"We are deeply grateful to MP Lisa Hepfner and the Department of Canadian Heritage for recognizing the urgency and importance of fostering intergenerational dialogue on race, identity and belonging. This funding enables Darmont GivesBack to bring together youth, elders, newcomers, and long-term residents across the

County of Brant in authentic conversation about the lived realities of racism and discrimination. By creating space for respectful, honest dialogue across generations and cultural differences, we are building a foundation for genuine inclusion and community action. This is exactly the kind of partnership needed to advance Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy at the community level," said Tobi Adedayo, executive director of Darmont GivesBack.

Darmont GivesBack is a not-for-profit organization focused on education, health, equal opportunities and community giving.

Hepfner said the two organizations are helping create opportunities for residents to learn from each other while strengthening connections across communities.

"Organizations like Brantford Native Housing and Darmont GivesBack are strengthening our commu-

nities by creating opportunities for people to come together, learn from one another, and build meaningful connections. These investments will support dialogue, advance reconciliation, promote greater understanding across cultures and generations, and help foster communities where everyone feels valued, respected, and included in our communities."

The Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Program provides federal support for initiatives aimed at addressing racism and systemic barriers while promoting diversity, inclusion and intercultural and interfaith understanding.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation component of the Commemorate Canada program supports initiatives intended to increase awareness of and commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Paris Independent

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County shines spotlight on innovation, tourism and entrepreneurship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

events of the year,” said Mayor David Bailey. “Our local businesses contribute so much to the strength and character of the County of Brant, and I am proud to have an evening to bring us together to celebrate their many accomplishments.”

The awards recognize local businesses across five categories.

STG Health and Wellness received the Accessible Brant Award, while Browndale Farm was presented with the Brant Farms For All Agriculture Award.

Active Metal Recyclers received the Brant Works Innovation Award, and 1200 Degrees Ontario was recognized with the Our Future Brant Sustainability Award.

The Good Times in Brant Award resulted in a tie, with both St. George Apple Fest and The Arlington Hotel & River’s Edge receiving the honour.

Each recipient received an award statuette as well as certificates from Brantford-Brant MP Dan Muys and Brantford-Brant MPP Will Bouma.

Jan Vilaca, also known as Spicy Jan, returned as master of ceremonies for the event, which featured guest speaker Ken Edgar.

Edgar, a seventh-generation farmer, spoke about his family’s experience opening and operating The Paris Beer Company and shared lessons about perseverance and navigating the challenges of entrepreneurship.

“Salute to Brant is an opportunity to champion our local business community and show our appreciation for the businesses that call the County of Brant home”, said Zach Gable, Director of Economic Development and Tourism for the County of Brant. “Their continued resiliency, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit help



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

Browndale Farm received the Brant Farms for All Agriculture Award at the 2026 Salute to Brant awards. The family has farmed the property for nearly a century, with R.F. Brown beginning a 15-cow dairy operation in 1948. More than 70 years later, the family continues that agricultural tradition, operating a modern dairy farm that milks approximately 90 cows. The award recognizes a local business that has made a positive contribution to the County of Brant’s agricultural sector.

strengthen our local economy and make Brant a vibrant place to live, work and invest.”

Nominations for the 2026 awards opened to the public in February, allowing residents to nominate local businesses for recognition. Award recipients were selected by a committee of industry experts.

“Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate a County of Brant business,” said Mayor Bailey. “Recognizing and supporting the businesses in our community is an important way to celebrate the people behind them and the contributions they make to Brant every day.”

Videos featuring the 2026 award recipients and additional information about the Salute to Brant program are available on the County of Brant’s website.

The Paris Independent

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The Paris Independent

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Chris Whelan • editor@theparis-independent.com

Managing Editor

Cassandra Turnbull • managingeditor@theparis-independent.com

Graphic Design

Michelle Foster • paris-independent-news@gmail.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

Michelle Malvaso, George Le Gresley, Ruby Jones, Heidi Pfleger, Paul Knowles, Karon Sinning, Jeff Johnston, Wayne Wilkinson, Emma Bowman, Gary Chalk

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2

info@theparis-independent.com | 519.655.2341 | granthaven.com



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French conversation group welcomes all levels in Paris

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

Parlez-vous français? Whether the answer is oui, un peu or not yet, a local conversation group is offering residents a chance to practise their French in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

Français à Paris meets at the Paris branch of the County of Brant Public Library, bringing together people interested in improving their French through conversation, activities and shared learning.

The group was founded by Jillian Bourgault in October 2024 as a way for people in the community to come together and practise the language. Bourgault led the gatherings while living in Paris, with the library providing space for the meetings.

Macarena Rojas joined Français à Paris when it first began. At the time, she was learning French herself and wanted more opportunities to hear the language regularly and become comfortable using it.

Since June, Rojas has taken over leadership of the group.

Originally from Chile, Rojas has lived in Canada for eight years and speaks Spanish and English. After two years of intensive study, she is now also fluent in French.

The group welcomes everyone, from those just beginning to learn the language to more experienced French speakers looking for an opportunity to keep their conver-

sation skills sharp.

“Our goal is to create a welcoming space where people can practice, learn from one another, and gain confidence using the language,” Rojas said.

Meetings are designed to be informal and engaging, with different activities helping to get the conversation flowing.

Recently, participants watched a documentary about a region of France and discussed it afterward. Rojas said the group hopes to continue experimenting with activities and topics that encourage conversation while introducing participants to different aspects of French language and culture.

For beginners, simply being surrounded by the language can also be valuable. Rojas knows that from experience, after all it was one of the reasons she first joined the group while learning French herself.

Français à Paris meets on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon at the Paris branch of the County of Brant Public Library.

There is no requirement to be fluent, or even close. Anyone interested in learning, practising or simply becoming more comfortable hearing and speaking French is welcome to join.

More information is available through the County of Brant Public Library's online calendar at brantlibrary.ca/calendar or by calling 519-442-2433 ext. 631.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Members of the Français à Paris conversation group gather at the Paris branch of the County of Brant Public Library, where participants of all skill levels can practice their French in a welcoming environment. Pictured from left are group leader Macarena Rojas, Carol McKeown, Phil Regier, Sandy Stevens and Margaret Herczeg, with Andrew Jones in front.

Paris Legion honours longtime members with service awards



(JEFF JOHNSTON PHOTO)

The Paris Legion Branch 29 continued to recognize longtime members throughout September, presenting Service Awards during a ceremony on Sept. 23. Honoured for their years of service were Douglas Keeton, 70 years; Andy Moran, 50 years; Sheila Moran and Linda Ogborne, 40 years; D. Brown, 35 years; Thomas Croome and Larry Devuyt, 30 years; Cort Stubbart, 25 years; and Wayne Coombs, Carol Gibbons, Derek Gibbons, Liz Guest and B. Morris, 20 years. Pictured accepting his 50 year service award is Andy Moran (middle). Also pictured left to right is Chuck Prystupa, Earl MacDonald, Barry Humphrey and Mark Ford.

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Scenes from around the Community



(NOVA VITA BRANT PHOTO)

THRIFT FOR A CAUSE: A recent Thrift for Charity event raised more than \$683 for Nova Vita Brant through the sale of donated second-hand and vintage items. St. Paul's United Church in Paris donated the venue, allowing all proceeds to support Nova Vita, while leftover winter clothing was also donated to the shelter.



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

TALKING STORMWATER: Residents took part in the Paris Stormwater Pond Walk and Talk, learning more about the County of Brant's stormwater system and discussing the challenges of maintaining aging infrastructure amid more intense weather and changing regulations.



(CELESTE BILBAO PHOTO)

DUCKS ON THE NITH: Residents line the banks of the Nith River to watch the ducks race downstream during the Rotary Satellite Club of Paris' second annual Duck Derby on Sept. 26.



(CELESE BILBAO PHOTO)

RENAISSANCE COMES TO LIFE: Le Petit RenFaire brought a touch of medieval flair to Le Petit Marché Sept. 26 and 27 as part of Culture Days. Visitors tried their hand at printmaking, flower crown making and textile printing, while enjoying costumes, themed vendors, face painting and photo opportunities.

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Ward 3 Candidate Q&A: Ward 3 candidates answer questions from Paris Independent readers

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

All certified ward 3 candidates were contacted and invited to participate in this Q&A. Each candidate was provided with the same set of questions, which were developed from submissions received from Paris Independent readers. The goal is to give voters an opportunity to compare candidates' perspectives on the same issues and learn more about how each would approach the role of county councillor.

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

The Paris Independent's candidate Q&A coverage continues in next week's edition with candidates running in Ward 4.

JOHN BELL



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

The Province determined Official Plan targets (population > 59000, employment > 26000 by 2051). These targets, effectively non-negotiable, set the pace and the scale of development.

To deliver this growth new and upgraded hard infrastructure (e.g. road systems) is required. County/Council must provide the major hard infrastructure noting that the majority of funding comes from development charges and provincial grants. Soft infrastructure, such as schools and health-care, is however provided by others - but Council has a duty to work with relevant agencies.

Council should support the focus of population growth to be in urban settlement areas (Paris/St George) and employment growth in the 403/Rest Acres Road corridor and Cainsville - it's efficient in planning terms, levers major transportation

routes, and minimizes impact to rural communities/agricultural lands.

Council should challenge developments leading to growth beyond the targets set in the OP and resist expansion of the current urban settlement areas.

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

I believe downtown Paris requires revitalization - without it downtown will deteriorate and lose character. Execution of the downtown Paris Master Plan will rejuvenate downtown; make it more attractive to existing/future County residents and tourists alike; more tourists and more residents will sustain retailers and hospitality providers albeit reinforcing the need for additional parking.

I supported rezoning to permit a parking structure on Mechanic and a mixed-use commercial/residential structure on Broadway. I also support additional, character sensitive, renovation of other downtown properties to further grow downtown population.

I also support the related, necessary, and once in a generation multi year downtown dig whilst recognizing it brings challenges to traffic flows, with associated disruption and delays, and has added commercial pressures to some downtown businesses. Council and County must work even harder and smarter to minimize impacts.

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

The community desires an indoor swimming pool - for year-round leisure use, therapeutic use and, vitally, provision of increased capacity for swimming lessons for children. I support this in principle but understand indoor pools are expensive to build and operate.

An indoor pool is included in County's 10 year capital forecast at \$25 million, coming into operation in 2035. A recent staff report indicates the cost to be \$ 37-48 million! This price tag draws into question the financial feasibility of such a facility.

I have encouraged County staff to think creatively and consider more affordable options (e.g. converting our existing outdoor pool into a year-round facility or building a County owned "Brave Waves" type facility). If feasible, it could advance availability of year-round swimming and at lower cost.

Meanwhile, for leisure swimming, I recommend the use of the Wayne Gretzky centre facilities or the YMCA pool in Brantford.

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

I grew up in a small UK town - my parents had no car - public transit was essential. There are County residents in a similar situation. Brant Transit, our ride share system, has about 1000 regular users and is subsidized by taxpayers at \$900,000 annually. Public transit is expensive!

80+% of the trips are Paris to/from Brantford. There's a potential case for a fixed route with destinations such as Brantford Bus station and connections to Cainsville. County staff have been in discussion with City staff. The cost of a fixed route service is estimated at \$600,000+/year.

Who would pay? Is it fair to place the additional tax burden on non-Paris residents? A special levy on Paris residents is one possible solution or, alternatively, higher ride charges for users.

But creating a fixed Paris/Brantford route could release Brant Transit capacity to better serve the balance of the County.

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

Reviews received from Brant Transit riders are positive - 4.9 out of 5. Complaints are relatively few, about 5 per month, and most often relate to inability to get the time slot requested and, occasionally, failure to turn up. Some users have had concerns with the booking process. VIA, the provider, and County staff continue to seek improvements and report to Council on a regular basis.

Regarding improvements to the availability of service and expansion of routes please see previous answer.

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

The airport is owned by the City but located within the County municipal boundary. As such the City pays property taxes and, when development occurs, development charges in the same way as any other property owner or developer in the County.

If the City wishes to expand operations and the size of the airport I have no objection in principle. However, I do not support the presumption that therefore an annexation is needed to address this wish.

I understand some landowners adjacent to the airport would be willing to sell their lands to the City to permit expansion - and I would support such a simple commercial transaction.

Importantly, stepping back from the earlier City approach of forcing the issue,

using a Provincial Government appointed facilitator, is required and I hope new City and County Councils will work towards a mutually acceptable outcome in a much more collaborative way.

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

I was a member of the Board of Health (BoH) for Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) for 6 years prior to its amalgamation with Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit (HNHU) to form Grand Erie Public Health (GEPH) in 2025. As a part of BCHU's merger planning team I worked with the representatives of the 4 contributing municipalities, the Ministry of Health and consultants to plan the merger, develop organization structure, and plan implementation of what is a major undertaking involving over 200 staff, 5 locations, and a \$20+ million annual budget. I contributed my experience of private industry mergers, my expertise in business planning and 6 years of Board of Health experience including 2 years as Chair during Covid.

GEPH launched Jan 1 2025. Integration of BCHU and HNHU has been successful, delivering benefits to our community, thanks to the hard work and dedication of many staff and BoH members.

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

No. I don't see this as a County of Brant priority. We have had no applications for such a data centre. Should one arise I believe the current application assessment process employed by the County's Development Services Team would ensure full and timely understanding of potential issues.

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

I have been a strong advocate for the development of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) since joining Council. A LTFP allows Council to model and understand long term financial impacts of its operating and capital plans.

The LTFP permits the development of forecasts of property tax requirements (and any resulting annual tax increases), provides a forecast of municipal debt levels (and approaches to debt ceiling limits), and allows Council to consider alternative spending and revenue scenarios. Council will make better informed decisions.

The LTFP allows Council to assess financial impacts of major project decisions,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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results of tender awards, changes to provincial legislation, award of grants and subsidies, and changes to service provision or service levels.

Council will have to reflect of the needs vs wants as they allocate our limited discretionary funds. The LTFP will help greatly in building future budgets and capital forecasts.

EMAD YOSIF (JOE)



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

I support carefully managed growth that provides homes while protecting the quality of life of existing residents. The pace and scale must match our ability to provide roads, water, wastewater services, recreation and emergency services. I would assess development against that capacity rather than assume every proposal is appropriate. Council should consider affordability, traffic, environmental protection, farmland and the long-term cost to taxpayers. Growth should strengthen our community and preserve the character that makes the County of Brant special.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in

the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

More residents downtown could support local shops and restaurants, provide additional housing and help people live closer to services. However, development can also create challenges involving traffic, parking, construction disruption, servicing and heritage protection. I would assess the detailed proposal before deciding whether to support it. My priorities would be appropriate building scale, safe pedestrian access, protection of downtown character and a practical plan to support businesses during construction. Residents and business owners should have meaningful opportunities to raise concerns.

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

I support improving access to affordable swimming and lessons. My first priority would be reviewing how we can make better use of existing facilities and explore partnerships for additional swimming time. I would consider a new indoor or outdoor pool, but would need clear information about demand, construction costs, staffing, maintenance and annual operating expenses before committing. Council should compare the options and investigate outside funding. Families need accessible recreation, and any investment must remain affordable for residents over the long term.

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

I support examining practical ways to improve transportation between our communities and connections with Brantford. Council should begin with evidence about

where people need to travel, when they travel and the barriers they face. A limited trial could help determine whether scheduled routes, on-demand service or a combination provides the best value. Funding should be considered through partnerships, available grants and a transparent assessment of fares and taxpayer support. Expansion should depend on demonstrated demand, accessibility, reliability and sustainable operating costs.

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

I would begin by listening to passengers and reviewing information about booking difficulties, waiting times, missed trips and service availability. Priorities should include dependable transportation to work, medical appointments, shopping and community activities. I would examine whether booking could be simpler, connections better coordinated and service hours better matched to demand. Telephone booking and accessibility are important alongside digital options. Any changes should have measurable goals so residents can see whether service is improving and whether public money is being used effectively.

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

My goal would be an outcome that protects the County's long-term interests and provides a clear, demonstrable benefit to residents. I would need to examine the proposed agreement before supporting a boundary adjustment. Key concerns include the value of land and assets, future tax revenue, servicing responsibilities, environmental obligations, farmland and the effect on neighbouring residents. I would also want a clear comparison with keeping the present boundary. Residents deserve understandable information and meaningful consultation before Council makes a decision with lasting consequences.

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

One example is helping the food bank in Paris support people in need. This is a shared community effort that brings together people from different backgrounds for a common purpose. I value the contributions of volunteers, donors and everyone who helps make this work possible. To me, cooperation means listening, respecting different views and focusing on what we can achieve together. I would bring these values to Council, working with fellow councillors, staff and residents to find practical solutions that serve our community.

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

I would seek a public staff report and legal advice before committing to a motion for a one-year moratorium. I would want clear information about water use, ener-

gy demand, noise, pollution and potential costs to residents. The report should examine whether a temporary pause is necessary and what authority the County has to implement one. Residents should be able to review the evidence and provide input. My priority would be protecting community resources and making an informed decision with appropriate safeguards.

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

I would use the Long-Term Financial Plan to assess whether decisions are affordable today and in future years. Before supporting a major investment, I would ask about its full cost, including staffing, maintenance, borrowing and eventual replacement. Essential services and the upkeep of existing assets should receive careful attention. New priorities should be compared openly, with clear explanations of their effect on taxes, reserves and service levels. I would support reviewing the plan regularly as conditions change and explaining those changes in language residents can understand.

AROOJ SHAIKH



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

I strongly believe that the only constant in life is change. However, if you change too fast, it results in chaos. While I like to see the County growing, I want to make sure that we have the proper infrastructure in place, before houses are built. I want to ensure that the roads and maintenance that are happening now, consider the forecast of growth over the next 10 years, so that the same roads aren't reconstructed again in the near future. If the current growth was anticipated as far back as 2010, then we should've scaled the roads and infrastructure updates, changed the old pipes, at a manageable pace over the past decade, rather than multiple construction sites happening at the same time now. This would have minimized the disturbance to traffic in an already growing county.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris rep-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM

MEET AND MINGLE WITH COUNTY OF BRANT
MAYORAL, WARD AND SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE
CANDIDATES



PRESENTED BY:




REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY 

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

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

I am not opposed to growth, as long as it is done responsibly. My approach would be to support the addition towards new housing in downtown, provided that the infrastructure, parking, transportation and heritage is kept at pace. I would want to hear directly from the local businesses and have meaningful public engagement throughout the planning process.

Benefits: Increase in local pedestrian traffic helping downtown businesses, more affordable housing, less square footage and caters to diverse families or seniors, young professionals or people looking to downsize, better use of the existing downtown amenities outside of tourism times

Challenges: Parking and traffic, community and pedestrian safety, ensuring growth complements the existing downtown character and keeps the small town feeling intact

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

I would prefer to create either an indoor swimming pool or add it into the Brant Sports Complex expansion. This would create a one stop shop for families to have their kids enrolled in various sports and activities, along with aquatics. Rather than creating different establishments for different activities, I would like to see everything under one roof. A ward 3 community member recently discussed an idea with me of covering the existing Paris Community pool to make it useful during the winter. I would like to explore this option and investigate this avenue for cost.

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

One of my priorities is public transportation, but we need to be smart about it. A line running to Cambridge and to Brantford would be ideal. The investigation was already done by the county, and it was determined to pilot the Brant Transit we have today. I believe the data being gathered by this avenue is not adequate, as the Brant Transit system needs to be booked a day in advance, therefore same day transportation needs are not reflected. A more accurate measure is understanding the traffic moving in and out from both ends, to determine the frequency of public transit needed and how often. Along with this, a contract for funds sharing needs to be in place with both communities with stipulations on if increased social services are being administered due to people moving in and out of the County, how that will be handled across jurisdictions.

What changes or improvements would

you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

We need same day transportation and a more reliable service. Too often I hear from residents that the transit doesn't show up, or is late. We need workers and students to trust the transit being offered and keep it flexible enough for people to use. We need our seniors to be comfortable getting to same day appointments when needed, as health can be unpredictable as we age. We need to have access to healthcare facilities and other major transit hubs as our community grows.

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

The current status is that the conversations have paused since August 2026 due to pressure from the County community, after Brantford's proposed area was reduced. I would want to protect the county's interests first, and then open the negotiation to see if there is a middle ground that protects both municipalities' interests. I would need to see a clear benefit to both and to the landowners affected. I'd want to understand the implications of the farmland that would be affected, how the land will be used in the future and any financial impact to the County and on taxpayers. These stipulations will then need to be built out in a contract to protect the county from any setbacks. This pause will give us the time to re-evaluate and then make an informed decision.

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

I am a healthcare worker (Medical Radiation Therapist) and currently work in the corporate world in Pharma, as a Senior Manager in Global Medical Affairs. I am the President and Founder of my own non-profit aimed at giving back to our community. I have 17 years of professional experience and throughout this time, I have had to manage a staff of 45, report to the VP every month, and work with my colleagues to bring the best programs forward that give patients access to life saving medication. I am a Patient Family Advisor Council member with the Brantford General Hospital and Advisor with the Child and Family Care Services of Grand Erie. Working with these diverse groups requires collaboration, understanding, public speaking and project management.

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

I would definitely like to propose a pause on this as we gather more evidence on what the implications are. Everything we do should be in the best interests of our community. Prior to approving anything after we have had a chance to review what this means for the health of our community, I'd like to understand the volume of water that will be needed for these facilities, the noise

it will generate, the environmental impact on air quality, and then weigh it against the economic benefit. I'd want to know if this will impact taxpayers and what remains within provincial jurisdiction. As a healthcare worker, the well-being of the community is a priority for me, and ensuring I have a clear understanding of these is key. Understand the impacts first, establish rules and regulations, protect the health of our residents and then evaluate proposals.

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

This should be used as a decision-making tool. We would need to understand the full financial impact of any new project proposals. This includes the full development life cycle, from initial costs, to operations, maintenance, staffing and roads. We will need to ensure we are prioritizing our financial decisions, looking at different forms of funding through grants, development charges, partnerships and reserves to minimize pressure on taxpayers. We will need to prioritize essential services, maintain what we currently have, plan for responsible growth and then make sure new proposals are financially sound and affordable. Making responsible decisions that align with our strategic priorities over the full 10-year plan ensures that we remain financially stable and sustainable for current and future residents.

CLIFFORD ATFIELD



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

Future development will happen but in Paris development is going to fast. Jobs must support growth. Existing taxpayers should not subsidize new growth through increasing property taxes.

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

What the county did downtown has de-

stroyed the historic uniqueness. I feel residential development downtown will not bring it back. The majority of the store owners and taxpayers do not want the change.

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

I would support an indoor pool, preferably with the twin pad where it should have been. We need to look at funding for this project to move forward.

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

I would look at a bus line from Brantford to Paris first. Then if that works bring in St. George and Burford. We need to look at funding for help from Brantford and Ontario Government.

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

I do not personally use the Brant Transit, but I have heard from many people that they are disappointed in the service. This needs to go back to Council and Staff to see where they can improve their service.

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

Regarding the proposal on the boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding land we need to make sure the County of Brant gets a fair deal. If we don't agree with the proposal, we just say no.

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

When I was on Council, I pushed to get a new Arena for Paris. I went to the AMO conference in Ottawa and met with Ontario Government and explained why we needed a new arena. Later a staff member came forward at council with information that the government would pay 2/3 of the cost for the twin pad arena. The county also had the land donated from M. Gurney. We finally got approval after resistance from some council members. I was the main person pushing for the new arena.

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

I would agree to a 1-year moratorium. There is lots of information that could be useful for the County of Brant, but you have to be careful because it can be used

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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the wrong way.

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

If elected the first thing I would do is look into the long-term financial plan to decide if I would agree with the LTFP. Knowing there will be changes made, council will need to work together to make sure it benefits the Brant County taxpayers.

DAVID SPENCER



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

Brant County, and certainly Paris, have seen extraordinary growth in the last few years. I am in favour of growth, but I believe residential and commercial development must follow infrastructure. Hundreds of acres of farmland have been razed for new residential and commercial development; a reliable transit connection needs to be part of the plan. I also believe a Northern bypass around Paris needs to be a priority. I believe that Paris should embrace its role as a tourist destination, not just build for the sake of building. People come to downtown Paris because it is pretty, because of its charm.

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

As a resident of downtown Paris, I oppose the recent rezoning; I spoke against it to Council during public consultation. I agree additional parking is required, but I prefer the idea of locating the parking structure behind Council Chambers. I do not believe that adding hundreds of new residential units and commercial spaces to Downtown Paris is wise; I believe Downtown Paris needs to embrace its role as a tourist town. I grew up in Waterdown, and over the last 20 years urban sprawl destroyed its character and turned it into another Mississauga. As a member of The

Board of Directors for the Paris Museum and Historical Society, I don't want to destroy what makes Paris special.

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

A year-round aquatic facility would be a great addition to Brant County. A new indoor pool, situated near the Brant Sports Complex could be serviced by a new transit connection through Brant Transit. Also, I would propose a new river access point in downtown Paris as part of a public park in the lot behind The Wincey Mill.

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

I believe that a reliable public transit connection Through Paris to Brantford is overdue. We cannot build hundreds of new residential units, and hundreds of acres of new commercial and industrial developments without connecting the two. I lived and worked in Toronto for more than fifteen years in both the service industry and construction; that would not have been possible without reliable transit access. As the County grows, we must provide ways to connect people with jobs.

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

As I mentioned before, I believe a regular transit connection between Paris and Brantford is necessary. I would like an assessment that includes the recent housing development, new commercial developments, factors in future growth, and considers the best way to connect the people of Brant County with jobs and recreational facilities.

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

I do not agree with the boundary adjustment. I am not in favour of sacrificing prime farmland and green spaces to potentially expand runways or build a new business park. I am not in favour of building cargo terminals, which seems almost inevitable with a new Amazon delivery centre being built on Rest Acres Rd. I do not believe that there has been enough public consultation on the matter.

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

As a commercial construction superintendent, I regularly work with my project management team, architects, engineers, project stakeholders, and municipal and regulatory authorities to complete a project. Every week I am faced with unfore-

seen issues that need to be solved for the project to move ahead. I don't always have to have the answer - the key is to consult experts in their fields, talk with stakeholders, prioritize, and revise the plan.

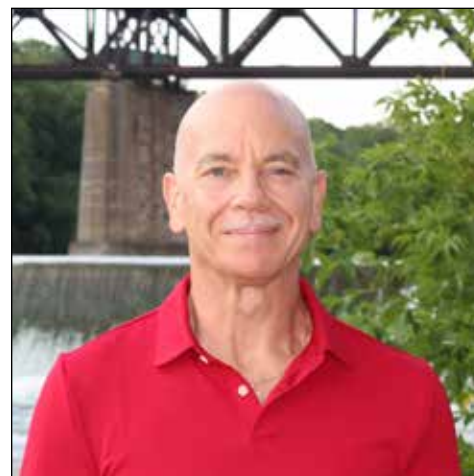
If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

I am completely opposed to AI data centres of any kind in The County of Brant. Period.

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

I respect the opinions of Council, and would accept the Long-Term Financial Plan for consideration, but I would feel obligated to weigh my own opinions, informed by constituents, to guide new priorities and investments.

JOHN PEIRCE



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

Growth is not a choice, but how we manage it is. I support responsible, phased growth that keeps pace with infrastructure, schools, roads, recreation, and emergency services. We need more housing choices for young families and seniors while protecting farmland, natural heritage, and the character that makes the County of Brant special. As an incumbent, my focus is clear: growth must pay for growth where it can, maintain a financially sustainable County, and strengthen our communities without shifting costs onto existing taxpayers. By maintaining a strategic plan and investing wisely, we can welcome new neighbours, support local businesses, and preserve the quality of life that makes the County of Brant such a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

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

fy both the potential benefits and challenges.

Downtown Paris is one of our greatest assets, and we have an opportunity to modernize it the right way. New residential development can create much-needed housing, support local businesses, strengthen the tax base, and bring new energy to the downtown core. The challenge is ensuring parking, traffic, infrastructure, and municipal services keep pace while protecting the heritage character and charm. I support responsible change that enhances our downtown experience for residents, local businesses and visitors.

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

Access to affordable swimming and aquatic programs is important for families, youth, and seniors. As the County grows, our recreation facilities must keep pace. I support exploring a new indoor aquatic facility as a standalone OR as part of a larger multi-purpose facility, provided it is driven by community demand and a sustainable funding model, with emphasis on securing grants, partnerships, and growth-related funding wherever possible to minimize costs for taxpayers. We need to plan for the future while making smart investments that enhance quality of life and deliver lasting value for County residents.

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

Public transit will become more important as the County grows, and I support exploring practical, affordable transit options that better connect Paris, St. George, Burford, Brantford, and surrounding communities to jobs, healthcare, education, and local services. Any expansion must be driven by demonstrated demand, strong partnerships, and sustainable funding from provincial and federal partners. My priority is to improve transportation options while ensuring costs remain affordable and financially responsible for County taxpayers.

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

Brant Transit provides an important service for residents travelling to work, school, medical appointments, and community activities. My priority is to improve reliability, accessibility, and convenience while ensuring good value for taxpayers. As the County grows, we should use resident feedback and ridership data to guide practical improvements, strengthen connections between communities, and pursue external funding opportunities to enhance service in a financially responsible way.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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RILEY MULHOLLAND**key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?**

My priority is protecting County taxpayers, preserving valuable farmland, and securing a fair outcome for our community. Before supporting any airport boundary adjustment, I would want clear answers on financial impacts, servicing responsibilities, governance, and the long-term benefits to County residents. Any agreement must be transparent, financially fair, and deliver real value to the County in the short and long-term. I support economic development, but it must protect taxpayers, respect agricultural land, and provide a strong, lasting benefit for the County of Brant.

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

In my professional career, I lead major incident and crisis response teams, bringing together diverse stakeholders to solve complex problems under pressure. My role is to provide leadership, build consensus, and deliver results. That experience has reinforced my core approach to public service: listen, collaborate, and make informed decisions that protect taxpayers, strengthen our community, and deliver tangible and verifiable results for residents.

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

No, I would not support a blanket moratorium. I support responsible, evidence-based decision-making. Any data centre proposal must demonstrate sustainable water use, adequate power capacity, environmental protection, and compliance with noise standards through independent studies and public consultation. Developers must pay for any required infrastructure upgrades, taxpayers must be protected, and the County must see clear economic benefits. I welcome investment and innovation, but only when they are sustainable, responsible, and aligned with the long-term interests of County of Brant residents.

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

The Long-Term Financial Plan is one of the most important tools for protecting taxpayers and guiding responsible growth. Before supporting any major investment, I ask three questions: Is it needed? Is it affordable? Does it deliver long-term value? My priority is to invest in core infrastructure, support growth responsibly, and ensure every tax dollar is spent wisely. Residents deserve a Council that plans ahead, lives within its means, and keeps the County of Brant affordable for current and future generations.

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

I support continued residential growth and development in the County of Brant, but it must be planned responsibly and at a pace our infrastructure can support. Growth is necessary to provide housing for young families, attract investment, and ensure our community remains vibrant. However, approving large-scale developments without addressing roads, traffic, parking, recreation facilities, and municipal services risks reducing quality of life for both current and future residents.

When considering new development, Council should evaluate infrastructure capacity, traffic impacts, school and healthcare accessibility, parking, and the long-term financial impact on taxpayers. I believe we should prioritize housing that supports families and long-term residents, such as detached homes and freehold townhomes, rather than an overreliance on very small condominium units that may not meet the needs of growing families.

Most importantly, growth should preserve Brant's character: safe neighbourhoods, strong local businesses, and a welcoming small-town community.

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

The proposed residential development in downtown Paris could provide important benefits, including additional housing, increased support for local businesses, and a more vibrant downtown core. I strongly support mixed-use developments that place housing above commercial space, allowing residents to live closer to the shops, services, and amenities they use every day.

The biggest challenges are parking, traffic flow, and infrastructure capacity. Downtown Paris already experiences congestion and limited parking, and additional residential density could place further strain on the area if growth is not planned carefully. I believe the proposed multi-level parking structure should be designed with future growth in mind and provide sufficient capacity for both residents and visitors. I

would also support exploring discounted resident parking passes to help reduce on-street parking pressures.

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

I strongly support the development of a new indoor public swimming facility in the County of Brant. An indoor pool would provide year-round access for residents of all ages and offer far greater community value than a seasonal outdoor facility. In addition to recreational swimming, it could support swim lessons, aquatic fitness programs, rehabilitation activities, seniors' programs, and school partnerships throughout the year.

Access to affordable swimming facilities is important not only for recreation but also for health, fitness, and water safety. Many County residents currently have limited options and often rely on facilities further away.

While an outdoor pool can be a valuable amenity, I believe an indoor facility would provide the greatest long-term benefit and return on investment. As our community continues to grow, we should invest in infrastructure that serves families year-round and helps make the County of Brant an attractive place to live, work, and raise a family.

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

I support exploring a public transit system that better connects Paris, St. George, Burford, and surrounding communities, particularly as the County continues to grow. Reliable transportation can improve access to employment, education, healthcare, recreation, and local businesses while reducing pressure on roads and parking infrastructure.

At the same time, any transit system must be practical, financially responsible, and designed around actual community needs. I would support starting with a modest, scalable approach, such as a limited bus route or on-demand transit service, rather than committing immediately to a large and costly system. This would allow the County to evaluate ridership, costs, and effectiveness before expanding service.

Funding should be pursued through a combination of user fees, municipal contributions, development-related funding where appropriate, and available provincial or federal grants. The goal should be to provide residents with greater mobility while ensuring taxpayers receive good value and long-term sustainability.

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

Brant Transit has a lot of merit, and I would like to see it expanded to better support major community events across the County. During events such as the Paris Fair, downtown festivals, and other cultur-

al celebrations, I would support offering temporary shuttle services with designated pickup locations and no pre-booking requirement. Similar programs have been successful in other communities by reducing traffic congestion, easing parking demands, and making events more accessible for residents and visitors.

As the County continues to grow, these event-based transit options could encourage greater participation in community activities while providing a convenient alternative to driving. This approach would build on the existing transit system in a cost-effective way, improving mobility without requiring a large expansion of regular service. It would also make our events more accessible to seniors, youth, and residents who may not have access to a vehicle.

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

I am open to a boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport if it delivers clear benefits for County of Brant residents and taxpayers. My priority would be ensuring that any agreement is fair, transparent, and supports long-term economic growth for both municipalities.

Before supporting an agreement, I would want a clear understanding of the financial impacts, future land use plans, infrastructure requirements, and any effect on agricultural lands and nearby residents. I would also want to ensure the County receives appropriate value in exchange for any lands or future development opportunities that may be affected.

Most importantly, residents deserve transparency throughout the process. Major decisions involving public land and municipal boundaries should be supported by strong evidence, public consultation, and a clear demonstration of long-term benefits to the community.

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

I initiated a program that got the City of Hamilton to collaborate with local high school wood shop classes to build bat boxes. I was hired as a Contract Administrator for the City as a college co-op. In the first week I automated data entry which turned a my 4-day task into a 2-hour task. To make use of this new excess time, asked about where else I could get involved. One person was looking for ideas for a new animal preservation project. I researched wildlife in the area to learn which important species were being threatened. This is how I discovered local bat colonies.

I reached out to my high school's shop instructor and the school board to inquire about having the students build bat boxes that would be installed on municipal infrastructure. The project was green lit and roughly 10 shop classes made bat boxes.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Best in Show: Local Exhibitors Shine at Paris Fair

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Local exhibitors put their talents, creativity and green thumbs to the test at this year's Paris Fair, earning top honours across a wide range of adult competitions.

From prize-winning produce and home baking to photography, fine art, flowers and handiwork, exhibitors from Paris and surrounding communities were well represented among the winners inside the fair's exhibition halls.

The following roundup highlights major and special award winners from Paris, Burford, Harley, St. George, Glen Morris, Onondaga, Mount Pleasant and Scotland, along with a summary of first-, second- and third-place finishes earned by exhibitors from those communities.

MAJOR AND SPECIAL AWARDS

Laurie Cadwell of Paris placed first in Best Nostalgia (sec 71-80) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Dan Haw of Burford placed first in Best Woodworking (sec 56-59) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Chris Ford of Paris placed first in Best Seasons (sec 46-55) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Dorian Staats of Mount Pleasant placed first in Best Christmas (sec 41-45) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Barbara Macdonald of Paris placed first in Best Penmanship (sec 38-40) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Paige Tkachuk of Paris placed first in Best Paper Item (sec 27-37) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Melanie Mitchell of St. George placed first in Best Colouring & Painting (sec 20-26) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Erin Stannard of Paris placed first in Best Recycling (sec 14-19) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Barbara Macdonald of Paris placed first in Best Craft (sec 7-12) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Barbara Macdonald of Paris placed first in Best General (sec 3-6) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Sherry Just of Paris placed first in Best Rug Hooking (sec 1-2) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Dan Haw of Burford placed first in Best in Show (sec 1-58) (Crafts & Hobbies).

Barbara Macdonald of Paris placed first in Best of the Best - Super Special (Photography).

Barbara Macdonald of Paris placed first in Judges Choice (sections 66-72) (Photography).

Dee-Ann Hermiston of Paris placed first in Judge's Choice Amateur Coloured Prints (sections 44-52) (Photography).

Tricia Cressman of Paris placed first in Highest Points accumulated in show by first time exhibitor (Plants & Flowers).

Amanda Williams of Harley placed first in Second Highest Points accumulated in show (Plants & Flowers).

Siiri Fortey of Paris placed first in Highest Points accumulated in show (Plants & Flowers).

Amanda Williams of Harley placed first in Judges Choice for Outstanding Potted Plants, sections 93-112 (Plants & Flowers).

Brenda Hunt of Paris placed first in High-



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)

Dean Sayles of Paris took top honours in the corn competition, with **Waymar Jersey of Paris** finishing second.

est Points accumulated in Potted Plants, sections 93-112 (Plants & Flowers).

Siiri Fortey of Paris placed first in Highest Points accumulated in Floral Designs, sec 62-92 (Plants & Flowers).

Ariel Saulnier of Paris placed first in Judges Choice for Best Gladiola (sec 17-24) (Plants & Flowers).

Nicole Saulnier of Paris placed first in Judges Choice for Outstanding Cut Flower, sec 1-61 (Plants & Flowers).

Amanda Williams of Harley placed first in Highest Points accumulated in Cut Flowers sections 1-61 (Plants & Flowers).

Dianne Dixon of St. George placed first in Best in Show - Hand Quilted (Handi-Crafts).

Jasmine Gillyatt of Paris placed first in Best in Show (sections 40-50) (Clothing).

Aimee Jeffrey of Paris placed first in Best in Show - Upcycle my stuff! (sec 26-27) (Clothing).

OTHER LOCAL PLACINGS BY ADULT CATEGORY

To keep this version concise, the remaining class results are summarized by exhibitor. Totals below show the number of first-, second- and third-place finishes each person recorded in that category.

Grain, Corn & Hay

Mark Clement of Paris (3 first, 5 second); **Brian Sayles of Paris** (3 first, 1 second, 2 third); **Gordon Vellenga of Paris** (2 first, 2 third); **Dean Sayles of Paris** (2 first, 1 third); **Scott Cochrane of Paris** (1 first, 2 second, 1 third); **Doug Archer of Mount Pleasant** (1 second, 1 third).

Apples

Jay Howell of St. George (1 first, 1 second, 3 third); **Doug Archer of Mount Pleasant** (1 first); **Erika Van Stowski of Paris** (1 second).

Pears

Doug Archer of Mount Pleasant (1 first); **Scott Archer of Mount Pleasant** (1 first); **Jay Howell of St. George** (2 second); **Emily Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant** (1 third).

Grapes & Other Fruit

Betty Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant (1 first, 1 second); **Doug Archer of Mount Pleasant** (1 first, 1 second).

Roots and Vegetables

Carol Vellenga of Paris (3 first, 3 second, 1 third); **Emily Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant** (2 first, 4 second, 6 third); **Erika Van Stowski of Paris** (2 first, 2 second); **Doug Archer of Mount Pleasant** (2 first, 1 third); **Betty Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant** (1 first, 6 second, 4 third); **Carrie Deruytter of Glen Morris** (1 first, 1 second, 1 third); **Brenda Hunt of Paris** (1 first); **Scott Archer of Mount Pleasant** (1 first); **Cheryl Turnbull of Paris** (1 second); **David Latulippe of Paris** (1 second); **Glenn Hunt of Paris** (1 second); **John Zronik of Paris** (1 second); **Ariel Saulnier of Paris** (1 third); **Michelle Kulmatycky of Paris** (1 third); **Orion Saulnier of Paris** (1 third).

Adult Fine Art

Emily Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant (2 first, 2 second, 3 third); **Rylee Cook of Burford** (2 first); **Erika Van Stowski of Paris** (1 first, 3 second); **Scott Archer of Mount Pleasant** (1 first, 1 second, 2 third); **Amanda Cobb of Paris** (1 first, 1 third); **Fran Lepka of Paris** (1 second); **Doug Archer of Mount Pleasant** (1 third); **Ivy Winegarden-Macdonald of Paris** (1 third); **Suzanne Kelley of Paris** (1 third).

Crafts & Hobbies

Barbara Macdonald of Paris (6 first); **Emily Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant** (4 first, 3 second, 4 third); **Melanie Mitchell of St. George** (4 first, 3 second, 3 third);

Laurie Cadwell of Paris (4 first, 2 second, 1 third); **Chris Ford of Paris** (3 first, 2 second, 1 third); **Dan Haw of Burford** (3 first, 1 second, 1 third); **Dorian Staats of Mount Pleasant** (3 first, 1 third); **Sherry Just of Paris** (3 first); **Brendan Mitchell of St. George** (2 first, 3 second); **Erika Van Stowski of Paris** (2 first, 1 third); **Erin Stannard of Paris** (2 first, 1 third); **Paige Tkachuk of Paris** (2 first, 1 third); **Amber Camp of St. George** (1 first, 2 second, 3 third); **Lisa Farrish of Paris** (1 first, 1 second, 1 third); **David Dudley of Paris** (1 first, 1 second); **Dianne Kosar of Paris** (1 first, 1 second); **Doug Archer of Mount Pleasant** (1 first, 2 third); **Ashleigh Spong of Paris** (1 first); **Ashley Solak of Paris** (1 first); **Edith Stone of Paris** (1 first); **Kara Kalvapalle of Paris** (1 first); **Darlene Ilett of Paris** (2 second); **Heather Davidson of Paris** (2 second); **Betty Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant** (1 second, 5 third); **Glenn Hunt of Paris** (1 second, 1 third); **Melinda Haw of Burford** (1 second, 1 third); **Brian Sayles of Paris** (1 second); **Darlene Edwards of Paris** (1 second); **Margaret Kelley of Paris** (1 second); **Max Archer of Mount Pleasant** (1 second); **Scott Archer of Mount Pleasant** (1 second); **Abbey Edwards of Paris** (1 third); **David Hodder of Paris** (1 third); **Donald Thurston of Paris** (1 third); **Mandy Young of Paris** (1 third).

Photography

Barbara Macdonald of Paris (7 first, 2 second, 4 third); **Dee-Ann Hermiston of Paris** (4 first, 2 second, 1 third); **Amanda Williams of Harley** (3 first, 1 second, 3 third); **Aileen Costigan of Paris** (2 first, 2 second, 2 third); **Allison Rosset of Paris** (2 first, 2 second, 1 third); **Sarah Jean Green of Paris** (2 first, 1 third); **Elizabeth Monkhouse of St. George** (1 first, 1 second, 1 third).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

The results are in: Paris Fair's local winners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

third); Michelle Kulmatycky of Paris (1 first, 1 second, 1 third); Ashley Coverdale of Paris (1 first); Betty Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant (1 first); Karen Ilett of St. George (1 first); Rebecca Huddle of St. George (1 first); Charlene O'Nahr of Paris (3 second, 2 third); Lisa Farrish of Paris (2 second); Doug Archer of Mount Pleasant (1 second, 2 third); Olivia Hamilton of Paris (1 second, 2 third); Porsha Gero of Paris (1 second, 1 third); Shelley Vlasic of Paris (1 second, 1 third); David Dudley of Paris (1 second); Denise Husak of Paris (1 second); Ryan Farrish of Paris (1 second); Suzanne Kelley of Paris (1 second); Nadine Ilett of Paris (2 third); Janice Robinson-Lewis of Paris (1 third); Katrina Hamilton of Paris (1 third); Melinda Haw of Burford (1 third).

Plants & Flowers

Amanda Williams of Harley (14 first, 6 second, 11 third); Brenda Hunt of Paris (14 first, 5 second, 4 third); Siiri Fortey of Paris (12 first, 15 second, 15 third); Tricia Cressman of Paris (6 first, 3 second); Nicole Saulnier of Paris (4 first, 4 second, 2 third); Ariel Saulnier of Paris (4 first, 2 second, 5 third); Emily Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant (3 first, 6 second, 6 third); Doug Archer of Mount Pleasant (2 first, 5 second, 2 third); David Collins of Paris (2 first, 1 second, 1 third); Betty Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant (1 first, 6 second, 6 third); Porsha Gero of Paris (1 first, 4 second, 1 third); Brooke Lainson of Paris (1 first, 1 second, 2 third); Charlene O'Nahr of Paris (1 first, 1 second, 2 third); Keith Saulnier of Paris (1 first, 1 second, 1 third); Mary Collins of Paris (1 first, 1 second); Lisa Farrish of Paris (1 first); Olivia Hamilton of Paris (1 first); Carrie Deruytter of Glen Morris (2 second); Erika Van Stowski of Paris (1 second, 3 third); Melinda Haw of Burford (1 second, 3 third); Orion Saulnier of Paris (1 second, 1 third); Sue Lockett of Paris (1 second, 1 third); Dee-Ann Hermiston of Paris (1 second); Grace Williams of Paris (1 second); Mary Bohar of Paris (1 second); David Hodder of Paris (1 third); Edith Stone of Paris (1 third); Sarah Gurney of Paris (1 third).

Domestic Science

Jessica Drouillard of Paris (5 first, 1 second); Jean Welton of St. George (4 first, 5 second, 1 third); Emily Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant (4 first, 1 second, 1

third); Abigail Woods of Paris (2 first, 1 second, 1 third); Ashley Coverdale of Paris (2 first, 3 third); Betty Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant (2 first, 1 third); Amy Murphy of Paris (2 first); Edith Stone of Paris (2 first); Erika Van Stowski of Paris (2 first); Juanita Hodder of Paris (1 first, 2 second); Carol Vellenga of Paris (1 first, 1 second, 2 third); Tricia Cressman of Paris (1 first, 1 second, 1 third); Olivia O'Nahr of Paris (1 first, 1 second); Margaret Kelley of Paris (1 first, 1 third); Michele Grenier of Paris (1 first, 1 third); Elizabeth Monkhouse of St. George (1 first); Grace Williams of Paris (1 first); Lana Squizzato of Paris (1 first); Mary Bohar of Paris (1 first); Scott Archer of Mount Pleasant (1 first); Doug Archer of Mount Pleasant (3 second, 3 third); Carrie Deruytter of Glen Morris (3 second, 1 third); Caelyn McLaren of Paris (3 second); Connor Fox of Paris (1 second, 2 third); Dawn Connolly of Paris (1 second); Felicity Lewis of Paris (1 second); Mandy Young of Paris (1 second); Paige Tkachuk of Paris (1 second); Sarah Gurney of Paris (1 second); Heather Stempien of Paris (2 third); Alicen Macneil of Paris (1 third); Brian Sayles of Paris (1 third); Jane Goebel of Paris (1 third); Lindsay Macneil of Paris (1 third); Lisa Farrish of Paris (1 third).

Handi-Crafts

Dianne Dixon of St. George (8 first, 1 second); Martha Finn of Paris (1 first, 2 second); Pat Brown of Paris (1 first, 1 second, 4 third); Edith Stone of Paris (1 first, 4 third); Cheryl Turnbull of Paris (1 first); Emily Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant (1 first); Erin Stannard of Paris (1 first); Darlene Ilett of Paris (4 second, 1 third); Laura Montemayor of St. George (2 second); Donna Preiss of Paris (1 second, 3 third); Betty Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant (1 second); Brenda Zammit of Paris (1 second); Heather Davidson of Paris (1 second); Kara Kalvapalle of Paris (1 second); Olivia O'Nahr of Paris (1 second).

Clothing

Aimee Jeffrey of Paris (4 first, 2 second, 4 third); Jasmine Gillyatt of Paris (3 first, 1 second, 1 third); Pat Brown of Paris (2 first, 3 second); Emily Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant (1 first, 2 second, 6 third); Betty Summerhayes of Mount Pleasant (1 first, 2 second, 1 third); Erin Stannard of Paris (1 first, 2 second, 1 third); Dana Sherwood of St. George (1 first, 1 second); Brenda Hunt of Paris (1 first, 1 third); Mandy Young of Paris (1 first); Melanie Mitchell

of St. George (1 first); Edith Stone of Paris (2 second, 2 third); Erin Balkwill of Paris (1 second); Tammy Croome of Paris (2 third); Cheryl Turnbull of Paris (1 third); Doug Archer of Mount Pleasant (1 third); Kara Kalvapalle of Paris (1 third).



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)

A colourful display of homegrown vegetables earned Scott Archer of Mount Pleasant first place in the roots and vegetables category at the Paris Fair competition, with Waymar Jersey of Paris finishing second.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

I would support a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers to allow sufficient time for thorough research and public discussion. When considering any major infrastructure project, it is important to fully understand the potential impacts before moving forward.

Key considerations include water consumption, energy requirements, environmental impacts, noise, and the effect on both current and future residents. Council also has a responsibility to evaluate the potential economic benefits and determine whether a project represents a net positive for the community.

A one-year pause is a reasonable and responsible approach that would allow Council, experts, and residents to review the available evidence and make informed decisions. Growth and investment are important, but they should be pursued in a way that protects residents, maintains quality of life, and ensures the long-term interests of the County are being served.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council

table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

I believe the County's Long-Term Financial Plan should serve as an important guide when making decisions about new projects, services, and investments. As Council considers future priorities, it is essential to balance community needs with long-term affordability and responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

When evaluating major investments, I would consider not only the upfront cost but also the long-term operating, maintenance, and infrastructure expenses.

Projects should provide clear value to residents and support the County's long-term goals rather than creating unsustainable financial burdens in the future.

At the same time, a financial plan should not prevent necessary investments in infrastructure, recreation, transportation, and community services. It should help Council prioritize projects that provide the greatest benefit while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

My approach would be to use the Long-Term Financial Plan as a roadmap for transparent, evidence-based decision-making that protects taxpayers while supporting responsible growth and a strong future for the County.

Change begins with voting Christine Garneau Bisailon for County of Brant Mayor

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Why Me? The County of Brant will be stronger with a mayor who consistently demonstrates their ability to build relationships, ensure fairness, and remain focused on our shared priorities and goals as I have always done.

Why Now? It is time to restore public confidence in municipal government, return us to a stable financial position, and focus on what counts closest to home first.

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What Could Two Rivers Hold?

RACHELLE ROUSSEAU

Rousseau Rares Vintage

There's something about an old town that works particularly well at Halloween.

Paris doesn't need much help looking atmospheric in October. Old towns already have the right backdrop.

The days get shorter. The shadows get longer. Lights come on earlier inside the shops and restaurants, and leaves collect along the sidewalks. Familiar buildings start to look a little different after dark.

October doesn't have to work very hard in Paris.

Paris is the type of town where a ghost tour after dark just feels fitting.

Then there are the rivers. They change with the season, and by October they seem to take on a different mood.

We even have fog that rolls off the river and does most of the decorating for us. Walk across the bridge on one of those mornings and parts of downtown can disappear completely.

A few hours later, the fog is gone, and you're left wondering if you imagined it.

Familiar places can look surprisingly unfamiliar. Sometimes all it takes is looking twice.

And old towns have another interesting habit. They collect stories.

Paris has plenty of history we can look up. Dates, names, buildings and events that have been recorded and passed down. But there are other stories that are harder to trace.

Ghost stories. Strange sightings. Things people remember hearing years ago. Some are documented. Some have probably changed a little with every telling.

Some aren't even very far away.

You can actually look up stories about the Nith River Monster.

In the summer of 1953, strange three-toed tracks appeared along the banks of the Nith River near New Hamburg, upstream from Paris. The story grew. The local police chief claimed to have seen something near the river, newspapers picked it up, and eventually an alligator wrestler arrived in town hoping to find the creature.

Whatever was actually responsible, the Nith River Monster became part of the Nith's folklore.

And that got us thinking.

What other stories could two

ivers hold?

So we decided to make up a few of our own.

The stories you'll start hearing around Downtown Paris this October aren't forgotten pieces of local history or old legends we uncovered. They're new.

We've borrowed the setting we

already have. Two rivers, an old town, October fog and plenty of good shadows.

The rest came from our imaginations.

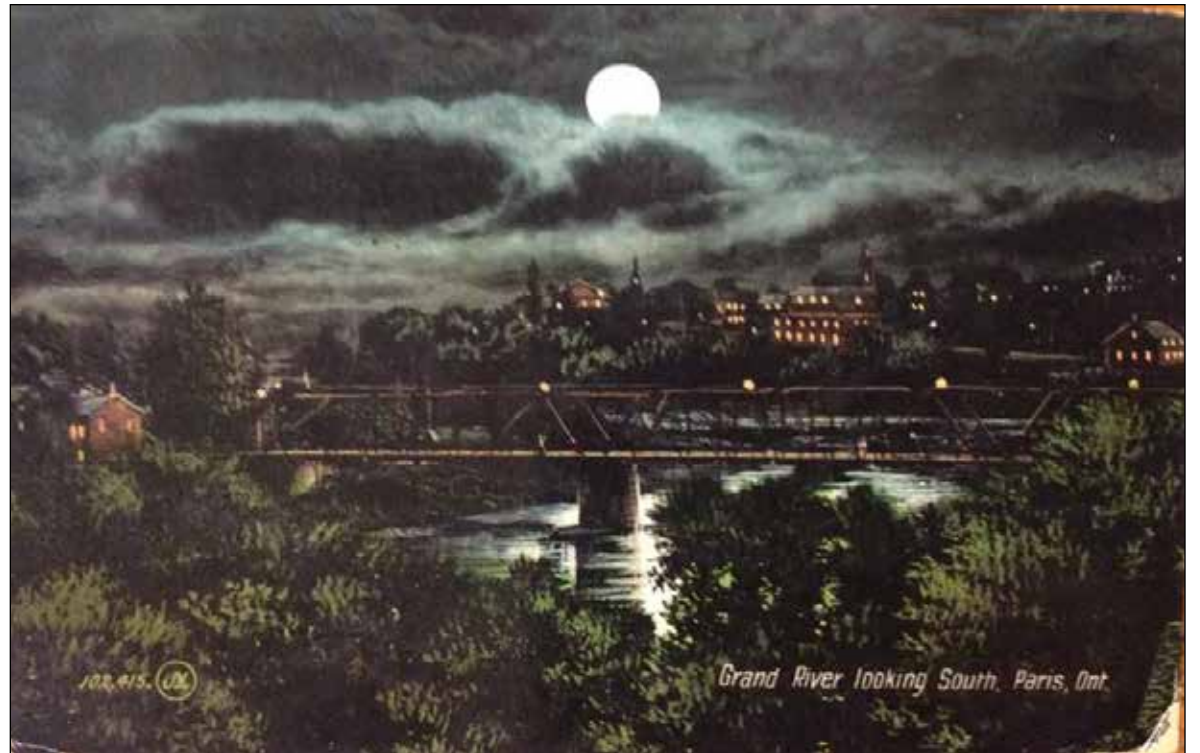
And very soon, you might start noticing that imagination turning up in some unexpected places.

Some windows may be worth a

second look. Keep an eye on the places you normally walk right past.

And if you see something that seems a little out of place, you could always ask someone nearby what they know. You might get a perfectly reasonable explanation.

Or you might get a story.



SOMETHING IS STIRRING
in Downtown Paris

October 2026

DOWNTOWN
PARIS



HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Whatever happened to the neighborhood penny candy store?



By Chris Whelan

Starting next week, Wayne Wilkinson's regular bi-weekly feature returns to The Paris Independent. This time, Wayne will be taking us on a fantastic journey exploring the history of Paris's iconic bridges, comparing how they looked "Then & Now."

Wayne's upcoming series got me thinking about how our town's distinct neighborhoods developed around key meeting places. While bridges connected our rivers, there was another kind of landmark that brought local neighborhoods together on a daily basis: our classic Paris variety stores. Over the next few weeks, as Wayne highlights our bridges, I'll be taking a look back at the beloved corner stores that once served as the heart of "Paris Past."

There was an undeniable magic to being a kid in Paris and having a pop bottle to exchange for a dime or a few coins burning a hole in your pocket. Long before giant chain gas stations and big-box grocery stores dominated the landscape, our town was dotted with small, independent neighborhood shops. Whether you were headed to Ramey's or Beechey's in the Upper Town, Clarke's or Cliff & Nellie Ringler's on Hwy #2 near the Victoria Survey, Kwikie Mart on Barrack's Hill, The Palms or McComb's in Lower Town, Dutton's or Ferguson's at the Junction, Russell Taylor's or the Corner Store in the Flats, or just around the corner from your school, a local



store was never more than a short bike ride or walk away. Yes, I know there are more, and I hope to name as many as I can in future articles!

These stores were often small, narrow, and crammed to the rafters with inventory, but to a kid, they were absolute treasure troves full of endless possibilities. The ritual began before you even stepped inside. As you approached the shop, pavement hot beneath your running shoes, the excitement built with every step. You might be riding your bike with a pack of friends, baseball cards clothes-pinned to your spokes and handlebars clacking together as you parked outside, or taking a solo trip with a pop can jammed onto your heel on a hot summer afternoon. Either way, you knew you were stepping into a world tailored just for you.

Opening the door brought that familiar, comforting jingle of the shopkeeper's bell mounted to the frame, followed immediately by a distinct sensory wave: the steady hum of heavy-duty refrigeration units, the cool draft of air conditioning mixing with the smell of sweet confectioneries, cardboard boxes, and fresh newspapers.

You headed straight for the glass display counter, leaning over the frame, eyes wide with anticipation. There, arranged in dozens of plastic tubs, glass jars, or cardboard display boxes, was the holy grail: the penny candy selection.

Making your choices required absolute strategic precision. Do you go for jaw-breakers that changed colors five times before you reached the center? Atomic Fireballs that burned your tongue? Chewy Laffy Taffy, spicy Hot Lips, wax bottles filled with sweet syrup, sour keys, Bottle Caps, Pixy Stix, or rolled-up pink bubble gum? The list felt endless.

These stores earned the legendary "penny candy" title because you could walk in with a single dime handed over by your parents and walk out with a brown paper bag packed with treats. If you were lucky enough to have a quarter, you felt like a millionaire, carefully directing the clerk behind the counter: "Two of those, three of those, one of those..." The shopkeeper would reach in with wooden tongs or a metal scoop, dropping each selection into a small brown paper bag that quickly became stained with sugar.

Yet, it wasn't just about the sugar rush.

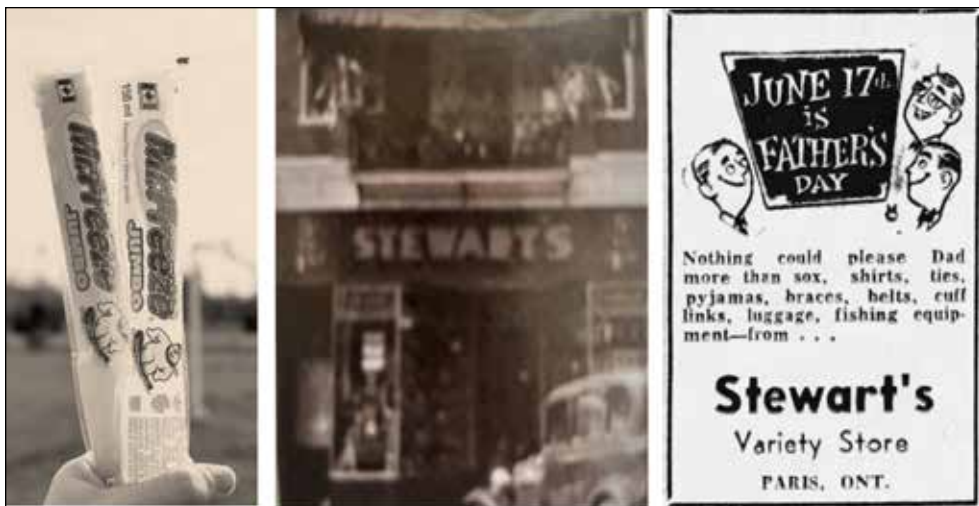
The corner store was an essential community hub, a place to catch up on the latest neighborhood news and schoolyard gossip. You'd inevitably bump into classmates, teammates, or neighbours leaning against the counter or grabbing a cold pop in a glass bottle from the water-filled cooler. The store owners knew everyone by name, often checking in on your family, offering a quick joke, or giving a gentle reminder not to leave your bike blocking the front sidewalk. You weren't just a customer; you were part of the neighborhood fabric.

As you pushed open the door to leave, pockets a little lighter but paper bag held tight, your spirits were sky-high. You had navigated the world of commerce, caught up with friends, and secured your weekend prize. It was a simple, profound feeling of independence, one that stayed with us long into adulthood.

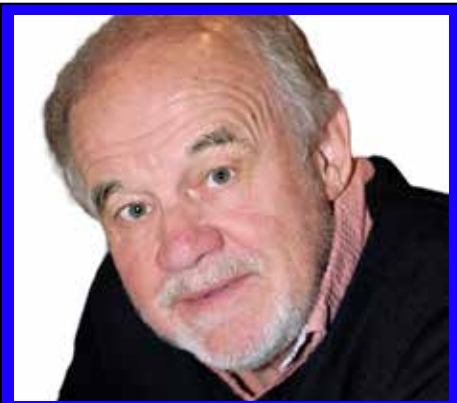
Sadly, the era of the local, independent penny candy stores on every corner has largely faded into history, disappearing right alongside the copper pennies we used to buy our treats with. But the memories of those neighborhood gathering spots remain as vivid as ever.

Over the coming weeks, join me as we journey back in time through "Paris Past" to revisit the corner stores, comic books, pop bottles, baseball cards, and sweet memories that defined growing up in our town. Which store do you remember?

Email me your memories to: editor@theparisdependent.com I'd love to hear from you!



LIVING RETIRED: 'Grandkids In Car Seats'



By Gary Chalk
Non-Pulitzer Prize
Winning Columnist

Living Retired

way texting LOL on their cell phone.

Jan and I are not 'Car Seat Certified' so when we visit our two granddaughters we don't dare take them out in the car. Instead, we spend the first half of the day lying down on the floor reading Dora The Explorer books. Then we spend the other half of the day trying to get up off the floor. Exhausted, we come home and go to bed at 6:30!

Figuring out how to get your grandchildren into their car seats is like trying to use your television remote to record The Fireplace Channel – it's impossible!!

The first step in placing your grandchildren into their car seats is to understand that each car seat is designed to fit a specific child. There are rear-facing car seats – known as RFCS, front-facing car seats – called FFCS, and booster seats named –

you guessed it! – BS! Enough said.

Whether your grandchildren go in the rear-facing car seat, the front-facing car seat, or the booster car seat depends on their height and weight. To avoid confusion among grandparents – who just want to take their grandkids for a ride! – the car seat manufacturers suggest you refer to a 'Fit Chart.' Allow 3 hours. And one splitting headache. But wait. Did anyone think of simply asking your grandchildren which seat they sit in when their parents take them on a car ride to fall asleep?

Lifting your grandchildren into their car seats is a two-person job. Your wife's role is to say, "Dear, please don't use those words around our grandchildren." She is also present to call 9-1-1 when you smack your head on the garage floor after your grandchild kicks you in the groin.

Once you successfully lift your grandchildren into their proper car seat – and had a timeout with gummy bears and a juice box – the time has come to figure out how the damn three-pronged buckle works. Allow one hour. And an intervention by your wife!

Next, it is time to pull the series of convoluted over-the-shoulder straps together

and tighten the overall harness. Allow one hour and an argument with your grandchildren, who by this time have to go to the bathroom.

Some grandparents make the mistake of installing car seats in their own car. WHOA! This is why...

There is a Universal Anchorage System (UAS), the Seat Belt Only (SBO) and the Seat Belt + Locking Clip (SB+LC) installation systems. Allow 3 hours. And an argument with your wife, who can be counted on saying, "Go into the house while I figure this out!"

I have an idea for a book that needs to be written for grandparents. It's sure to be on The New York Times Best Seller List: 'Car Seats For Dummies: A Step-By-Step Guide To Instruct Old People How To Put Young People In Car Seats.' Written in large font.

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

Only 30 years ago, Canada's last Indian Residential School closed

**September 30 is the National Day
for Truth and Reconciliation**

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The Paris Independent SPORTS



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Paris Duffers Report: Duffers close out another season

GREIG GRAHAM

Sports Columnist

This past Friday saw the end of another season for the Paris Duffers at The Burford Golf Course. Yes, sadly, the antics of this group of hackers signals the beginning of the end of their exploits for an-

other summer.

Not that there wasn't some great plays and miscues on their play. We begin with Dr. Fever and Beets taking it to Cutter and Cap'n Ron. Having lost front and back nines the Cut and the Cap'n were on the hook (Captain Hook lol) for double the milk.

Next was Swanee and Jacquer

against Somber Al and Billy B. According to the Swan it was Jaquer who carried them to victory lane. Al and BB were down two and pressed thinking the big guy was out of gas which led to, you guessed it, double the milk.

Following that was Hoogs and Enzo versus Chick and Brownie. This was a no contest as Chick-

en was all over the place and the spectacular fall from grace of Brownie who, on this day, was a shadow of the hero from just two weeks ago.

Finally, Birdie and Willie let Double G and Bergy hang around just long enough for them to have hope before finishing them off. At least this team didn't press saving the extra milk for themselves.

Quote of the week from Dino. "Chicken...we had a vote for the most popular in our group and you came in second. The rest of us tied for first".

As I said, this is the beginning

of the end as the Duffers will be active until the clubs go into storage.

That is when the pool cues come out and you can follow their shenanigans this winter. In closing we all would like to thank Cutter for organizing this weekly get together, for his humor and good will, for hosting after rounds, for going first all season, for drinking our milk and...sorry, I got side-tracked there.

So that's a wrap folks. Until next year keep em in the fairways. From this scribe, always a pleasure.



Paris Panthers compete on courts, field and fairway

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Paris Independent Sports Correspondent

Boys Volleyball

The Seniors started off the season dropping their match 3-0 to Brantford Collegiate. They return to action at home today (September 29) to face St. John's at home, then travel to Assumption for a match this Thursday.

The Juniors opened their season with a win over BCI, taking it 3-1. They too return to action today, facing St. John's at home, and travel to Assumption on Thursday.

Girls Basketball

The Juniors started their season with a loss to BCI last week and return to action on the road today to play St. John's. They finish the week at home to play Assumption this Thursday afternoon.

The Seniors also dropped their season opener to BCI and will return to action for a match at St. John's and their first home game against Assumption on Thursday.

Football

Scores from the Paris District

High School junior and senior football games played Saturday, Sept. 26 were not available by press deadline. Both teams entered the weekend following successful practices and preseason games. The Junior and Senior sides return to action again at the PDHS home field, on Saturday, October 3, starting with an 11 am kickoff for the Juniors and a 1 pm start for the Seniors. Both teams will face off against North Park. Admission is free. Spectators are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket for comfortable viewing, along with cash for the 50/50 draw and food concession.

Golf

The Panther boys' team finished fourth with a combined score of 232 at the Port Dover Golf and Country Club, and earned entry to the CWOSSA tournament in Guelph on October 5. In the Individual competition, Callum Dailey came in third overall. The Panther girls' team will also be competing at the CWOSSA championships in Guelph on October 6.

MOUNTIES REPORT: Paris Mounties off to strong start



By George Le Gresley
Sports Columnist

deadline, ahead of last week's games, Tyler Crisostomo led the Mounties with six points, followed closely by Spencer Edwards and Dimitri Eleftheriadis with five points apiece.

Following a home opener win on Sept. 12 against Norwich, Paris travelled to Dorchester on Sept. 13 to take on the Dolphins, where the game was tied after regulation play. When no one could break the tie after a seven-minute overtime period the teams went into shoot out with Dorchester taking the win, 7-6.

Next up was a road game at Norwich against the Merchants on Sept. 18, and they lost 3-2. Back home the following night,

the Mounties gave the hometown crowd another exciting show, picking up a 5-3 win against the New Hamburg Firebirds.

Details of their Sept. 25 and Sept. 26 game against Tavistock and Dorchester were not available by press deadline.

The team is on the road on Friday, October 2 where they will face the New Hamburg Firebirds and on October 3 in Wellesley against the Applejacks.

The Mounties return to the Brant Sports Complex on Saturday, October 10 to face the Wellesley Applejacks. Puck drop is at 7:30 pm.

The Paris Mounties are off to one of their strongest starts in recent years, sitting third in the Doherty Division. As of press



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Paris musician Neil w Young earns international award for music video

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Paris songwriter, recording artist and author Neil w Young has earned another international honour for his music video What In The World Is The World Coming To.

Young received an Award of Recognition from the Accolade Global Film Competition, based in La Jolla, Calif., for the video, which reflects on current global events and concerns surrounding democracy, misinformation and social instability.

The video was recognized in the Dramatic Impact category and also received recognition in the Contemporary Issues/Awareness Raising and Music Video categories.

The project is a collaboration between Young, who wrote the lyrics and served as vocalist, video director and executive producer; German composer Michael Gogol; and Hamilton-based video producer Jody Matheson of HPTH International.

Gogol composed the electro-pop music, while Matheson produced the visual component of the project.

"On behalf of Michael and Jody, who share the award with me, I am honoured to receive this Award of Recognition for our video, What In The World Is The World Coming To," Young said.

The latest recognition adds to several previous honours for the project.

The video received an Award of Recognition at the IndieFEST Film Awards in La

Jolla in 2024 and was named Best Music Video at the Rome International Short Festival's summer 2023 competition. Young also received an International Academy of International Artists Golden Kayak Award for Best World Song in 2020.

"I am honoured to add the Accolade award to the growing resumé for our video," Young said.

The Accolade Global Film Competition recognizes work in film, television, videography and new media from around the world. Entries are evaluated by professionals in the film and television industry, with awards recognizing achievement in storytelling, craft and creativity.

"The Accolade is not an easy award to win at any level," competition chair Rick Prickett said in a statement. "Entries are received from around the world from powerhouse companies to remarkable new talent."

Prickett said the competition aims to help recipients gain recognition for their work.

Past Accolade recipients have included filmmaker Ron Howard and Malcolm Clarke's Oscar-winning documentary The Lady in Number Six: Music Saved My Life.

Young, who lives in Paris, uses a lower-case "w" for his middle initial as part of his professional name.

What In The World Is The World Coming To is available on Young's YouTube channel.



Paris musician Neil w Young has earned an Award of Recognition from the Accolade Global Film Competition for his music video, What In The World Is The World Coming To.

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Brothers in Arms: Frank and Albert Hitchman's Story of Service and Sacrifice



NEIL EDWARDS

Paris Independent Contributor

Frank and Albert Hitchman were born in Birmingham, England. They had an older brother, William, and a sister, Florence. Frank was born on May 30, 1891 and Albert followed later, on December 1, 1895. William and Frank were employed as spade and shovel handle makers in the edge tool manufacturing business before emigrating.

William and Frank immigrated to Paris together in 1912. Albert followed the next year in 1913 with their parents and sister. Always close to his older brother, Albert boarded with Frank at 24 Main Street in Paris, where they were living at the outbreak of the First World War.

Frank, a knitter at Penmans, and Albert enlisted together on September 14, 1915 with the 84th Battalion. They went together for training at the Niagara Camp, and both were certified in September, three days apart. They left Canada together on June 16, 1916, aboard the S.S. Empress of Britain and disembarked in England on the 29th. On July 3, they were transferred, still together, to 73rd Royal Highlanders Battalion, Canadian Infantry and on August

12, they proceeded for service overseas, arriving at la Havre next day and assigned to the same platoon. The battalion arrived at the Somme battlefield in mid-October 1916, after the main Battle of Courcellette had concluded.

Following the battle in September 1916, the 73rd Battalion experienced a grueling, high-casualty transition through the final, mud-soaked phases of the Somme campaign. By this point, heavy autumn rains had transformed the battlefield into a treacherous expanse of waist-deep, freezing mud. For their initial weeks, the battalion lived in a wet, open encampment. They were subjected to relentless German artillery barrages while work parties struggled to repair sodden, collapsing trenches and carry supplies to the front lines.

Frank and Albert bore it all together until November 11, 1916. They were still in the same platoon, they were operating the same machine gun, when Frank was killed by enemy fire at his brother's side. Frank was 25 years old. Because of the condition of the battle-soaked landscape, Frank's body was never recovered. He is remembered at the Vimy Memorial in Pas de Calais.

Later in November, as the battalion was preparing to pull out of the sector for the winter, Albert was partly buried by the explosion of a high explosive shell. He was rendered unconscious for two hours and was sent behind the front line for rest. After two weeks, he carried on with his unit until February, 1917 when he was diagnosed and evacuated with Pyrexia of Unknown Origin (P.U.O.), which refers to a high fever that the medical staff could not immediately determine the cause for. It was also

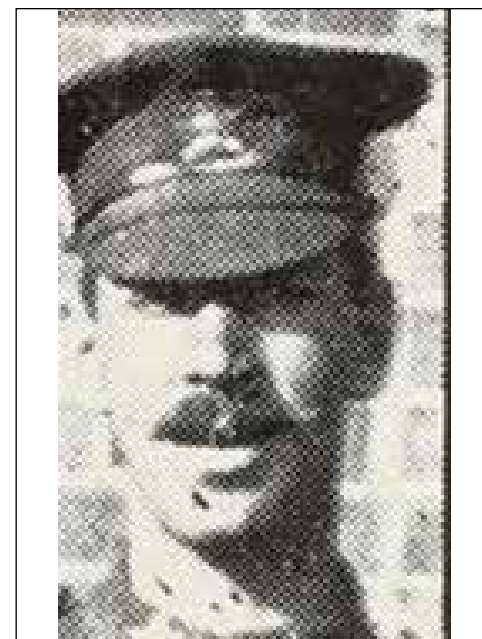
called neurasthenia or trench fever. Today, we would call it PTSD, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and we would immediately know the cause of the disorder: the effects of a high explosive that buried him, almost dying himself, and the witnessing the death of his older brother right beside him, all experienced in these horrifying conditions at the front.

Then Albert contracted influenza. Between January 20 and February 28, 1917 Albert was sick with influenza and treated in France until February 28, when he was transferred to England. From that point he was transferred at least seven times until he was treated in Whitby Military Hospital for "nervous exhaustion". He received his final discharge from the army.

But Albert survived. In the 1921 Canadian census, Albert, then 26, was single and living with the family of his brother, William Hitchman. On January 7, 1922, Albert Hitchman, then a millwright working Hamilton, married Alice Amelia Woodward, a machine operator from Hamilton. They went on to create a life together. Private Albert Hitchman died at Hamilton General Hospital on April 30, 1965.

Both brothers endured the same battles on the Somme front. Frank died there on November 11, 1916 and is commemorated at the Vimy Memorial. He have his photo, but not Albert's. Albert suffered greatly, both on the battlefield and later at home, and endured his own hell which started at the same time as Frank's and continued much longer. Yet there is no memorial for Albert.

That is why Homes of Heroes exists. We believe that every veteran deserves our



Frank Hitchman

honour and respect. We believe that every veteran has a story and we believe that we owe it to them to hear their stories and to acknowledge their service, whether or not they came home. To show our respect, in the three weeks before Remembrance Day, Homes of Heroes will be placing a sign in front of many of the homes where Paris veterans once lived. Last year we focused on Second World War veterans, and this year we will add focus on veterans from the First World War, soldiers like Frank and Albert Hitchman. Look for the signs. And please take the time to visit our website, www.homesofheroes.ca, and read our veterans' stories. They have earned that their stories be heard.

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* Authorized by the campaign Re-elect John Bell in Ward 3.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. Who was the first emperor of Rome?
2. Which African country is known as the "Rainbow Nation"?
3. How many brains does a leech have?
4. What is the longest-running American sitcom?
5. Where did mahjong originate?
6. What was the first billion-dollar movie?
7. What creature holds the record for the world's largest eyes?
8. Who was the legendary king with the golden touch?
9. What type of acid gives grapefruit its tartness?
10. What is the national animal of New Zealand?

This week's answers are found on pg. 22

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

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: "Forest bathing" is a great experience, but not what you think



By Paul Knowles

One key difference between travelling as a tourist, and travelling as a travel journalist, is that as a tourist, you get to choose your own activities. As a travel journalist, I do get to consult with my hosts, but usually, the itinerary will include a number of destinations or activities that are not my idea.

And that's how we ended up "forest bathing."

When I tell friends that we went "forest bathing," I'm usually met with a combination of bafflement and false assumptions. Many of which, I must confess, we shared before we headed out on this newest adventure.

We were staying at Le Baluchon Eco-Resort, a terrific getaway in the Mauricie region of Québec. We were hosted by "Québec

authentique," the regional tourism association that represents Mauricie and the neighbouring region of Lanaudière.

I will write more about Le Baluchon in a future feature, because this is a hidden gem, easily accessible from southern Ontario, and a fabulous destination for a couples' getaway or a family holiday.

But for this week... back to the forest.

Our "forest bathing" guide began our experience by noting all of the misconceptions the term engenders.

There is no actual "bathing." You don't get wet. You don't wear a bathing suit. You don't need a towel.

Instead, forest bathing is a rough – and admittedly confusing – translation of a Japanese term, "Shinrin-yoku", which can also mean "forest therapy."

The concept is, participants take time to immerse ourselves in the atmosphere of the forest. Guides will suggest activities that will help us to focus on our immediate surroundings, thus leaving stresses of the outside world behind, at least for an hour or two.

"Sure," I thought, with considerable skepticism. As is not uncommon, I was wrong. It was a wonderful experience.

The first bit of our slow stroll along a river and through the woods took us across a wooden bridge that spans the Rivière du Loup (an ancient name for the local waterway, unrelated to the Québec city of the same name). Our guide invited us to cross the river, one at a time, taking all the time we wanted to take in the view.

That was a good hint of what was to come. Forest bathing is anything but rushed. And honestly, as I stood in the middle of the bridge, gazing at the river, I could already feel a sense of relaxation.

We then were directed through a series of voluntary exercises. They're voluntary, because being

forced to do something would be antithetical to the purpose of the whole thing, right? But we did them all.

We walked slowly down a path in the forest, simply observing the trees, plants, and occasional birds around us. Then our guide stopped, produced some padded mats, and invited us to sit on rocks beside the river and, simply, be. It was incredibly peaceful.

That lasted a while, and then we resumed our stroll. A few minutes on, she reached into her back pack and pulled out magnifying glasses. That exercise involved looking closely at whatever we chose to observe: flowers, leaves, insects, anything that drew our attention.

I have to tell you, you cannot be focused on a tiny green spider, almost invisible to the naked eye, as it explores a flower, and still think about your job, your to-do list, or anything else. You are truly immersed in the moment. I could have carried on with this exercise for a long time, flower to flower, bug to bug. It was lovely.

After our guide collected the magnifiers, she produced blindfolds. We took turns – my partner was blindfolded, and I led her to touch plants, even a clump of soil. Then she led me on the same adventure, and the impact of being denied sight while experiencing sound, touch, and smell was very powerful.

Finally, we were invited to collect something – a flower, a twig, a pebble, anything that caught our attention – and then we sat on logs and had a form of tea ceremony, during which we shared our reactions to the experience.

I know – this may sound very airy-fairy. But we found it to be a clearly practical way to de-stress.

Turns out, there are plenty of credible medical and psychological studies that attribute significant benefits to forest bathing. They have found that the experience can help relieve high

blood pressure, heart conditions, skin conditions and asthma. There is no doubt that it alleviates stress.

The technique was developed in Japan in the 1980s and is widely practiced there, today. And it is more common in Canada than I had imagined. As just one example, the Ontario Parks website has a section on

forest bathing.

If you think this is something you could do on your own, without a guide, you are probably right. But I believe a guided experience, like ours at le Baluchon, is better – because your guide has the experience and the means to draw you away from your own daily concerns, and give you an hour

or two of stress-free peace. What a gift!

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

The Quilting Bee of our community

STONES Around Town

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

As Dr. Seuss once said, to the world you may be one person, but to one person, or more, you may be the world. That thought speaks directly to the fabric of our community: the "quilting bee" that joins us together through the people we see, speak with, and encounter in our day-to-day lives.

So much is happening all around us. Mike Smith recently got a new apartment, and both Laurie and Donna M. celebrated birthdays. A big congratulations to Marilyn McCulloch on her induction into the Hall of Fame, simply put, Marilyn is a true volunteer and an Optimist, both figuratively and literally!

Over on the ice, Big T scored the first goal of the year. It may have bounced off his rear end, but it still went top shelf! Young Walker is starting CanSkate, and Bev was the one who headed up the project that brought our town bell to be displayed downtown. From the St. George Applefest and Burford getting a new town square, to Mount Pleasant, our local Legions, Scotland, and Flux Brewing, it's the people who stitch our large quilting bee together. Happy Birthday as well to Bob Howes!

A tip of the hat to Mike R. and Bill R., who regularly cut the grass and maintain the lane between Silver and Wellington Streets. Great work, fellas, for maintaining county property at your own expense.

We also have heartwarming local stories like that of Laurie Jarvis (remembering Richard and Gail). When Rick "Hawk" Kempthorne passed away, Laurie took in Hawk's dog, Nijiji, which means "my friend" in Ojibwe. Nijiji is living his best life with Laurie and her family, making friends all over town just like the Hawk used to do.



How does Jeff measure up to a cornstock? He found out at the Paris Fair a few weeks ago.

A warm hello goes out to Wayne Stephenson! And also to Paul Barrett, who is continuing his stonemason mastery over at the Catholic church and the newly installed cross handmade by your brother Bruce looks absolutely amazing. Hello as well to Tamara in the Flats, Kevin in the Golf Links subdivision, Doreen Keaton, and Jane Hurst. Special thanks to Wendy for the "Quilting Bee" inspiration during our recent walk with Cindy.

We all go about our daily business in our own way, but let's try not to take for granted the everyday wonders of life, our fantastic county, our schools, sports teams, trails, and the interesting people who make this area home.

At the end of the day, we are all everyday people, just like Sly & the Family Stone sang.

Fall is here, and the leaves are putting on their annual show.

As we transition into this new season, go pick some apples, head out for a hike, or visit a local farmers' market. And remember: two Wrights make a plane fly!

It's always a pleasure. Until next time, all the best, Stones



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)
Forest bathing is essentially a directed stroll through nature... and a terrific stress reliever.

Riddle

What has many keys but can't open a single lock?

A piano

--

What has a thumb and four fingers but isn't alive?

A glove

--

What has cities, but no houses; forests, but no trees; and rivers, but no water?

A map

--

What kind of room has no doors or windows?

A mushroom

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PET OF THE WEEK

NANUK

Meet our Pets of the Week:

Nanuk came to visit us last week with an eye infection and was very happy to show us his gymnastics moves as he balanced on the chairs. We hope your eyes are feeling better Nanuk!

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



Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 22

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I'm just trying to get across Canada. I don't want people to think I'm a hero. I'm just an ordinary person who has been given an extraordinary opportunity to do something that might make a difference."

- Terry Fox

Word Search

WORDS WITH SILENT LETTERS

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

KNIFE
KNEE
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WRONG
WRECK
GNOME
GNARLY
GNAT
PSALM
PSYCHIC
PNEUMONIA
HONEST
HOUR
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QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Augustus | 6. Titanic (1997) |
| 2. South Africa | 7. The colossal squid |
| 3. 32 | 8. King Midas |
| 4. The Simpsons | 9. Citric acid |
| 5. China | 10. The Kiwi |

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

MEMORIES AND MILESTONES
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HOMES OF HEROES:

If you have a story about a Paris Veteran, please email the committee at info@homesofheroes.ca. Let's work together to give all our veterans, living and fallen, in war and in peace, the recognition and honour they deserve. If you have any questions about the project, please email Neil Edwards at neiledwards51@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Evening Knitting - Evening knitting at the Paris Library Branch, every Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Bring your knitting project, settle in for a relaxed evening, and meet some new friends. No registration required. Free event.

Cornhole - Cornhole at the Paris Legion, every Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Paris Legion, 70 Wiliam St Paris. Gather friends for an indoor evening of tossing, laughing, friendly competition, drinks, snacks, and good company.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Fiction Writing Group - Fiction writing group from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Paris Library branch. Practice fiction writing, share your work, receive feedback, explore prompts, and meet Paris' local writing community. Writers of all levels welcome. Also meeting Thursday, October 15; regularly held on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Paris Optimist Club Youth Dance - open to students in Grades 5-8. DJ begins each dance at 7 pm and runs to 10 pm. Optimist Club volunteers chaperone all dances. High school students are welcome to attend as volunteer chaperones. Dance takes place at 51 William St Paris (Syl Apps Community Centre). Entry costs \$5, and a concession booth will sell pop, chips, candy and pizza. All proceeds support the Paris Optimist Club and its projects for the youth of our community.

Colour and Light - from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Grand Art Gallery, 119 Grand River St N. Step into Color and Light, an interactive art pop-up by Amber Thomas that invites you to experience how colour and light can transform a space and spark imagination. Presented as part of Culture Days with Big City Arts.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Fall Library Book Sale - 10:00AM TO 4:30PM - PARIS BRANCH | 12 WILLIAM ST. PARIS | COME FILL A BAG - OR TWO - WITH YOUR FAVOURITE AUTHORS

Be sure to come early for the best selection of titles - great selection of Young Readers, Teens, Pre and school-age children. All proceeds from library book sales and community fund-raising go to support educational and Brant library programs - book sales and other fund-raising efforts by the Brant Friends of the Library go to programs such as Early reading introduction series - 'Books for Babies' and the Children's Summer Reading Programs. Two cash Academic Excellence Awards are presented to Paris District High School for achievements in Literacy and History plus copies of a 2 volume set of 'At the Forks of the Grand'. A wry and entertaining history of the founding and development of Paris. SEE YOU THERE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 13, 20 & 27

Brant Men of Song Choir Practices - The Brant Men of Song will be holding their choir practices on Tuesdays on October 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th at the First Baptist Church 70 West St., Brantford from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. New members are always welcome to attend and enjoy some singing.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

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

Men's Probus Club of Brantford - Thursday, Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. at the Walter Gretzky

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

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

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

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

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

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

MONTHLY

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



Happy 86th Birthday
Pauline Whelan

September 26, 2026

from Chris Whelan & Family



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sales@theparisdependent.com or call: 519-757-5662

Vote here!

2026 Municipal and School Board Election

COUNTY OF Brant Simply Grand

Questions?

Contact the Elections Team:

• election@brant.ca

• 519.44BRANT (442.7268)

• Toll-Free: 1.855.44BRANT



Monday, October 26

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



Here's what you need to know...



Watch for your **Voter Information Letter**



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

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



Vote anytime from **October 19 to 26**

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



Need **help getting online** to vote?

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

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

Need help voting?

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

Voter Assistance Locations

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