

The Paris Independent

Issue #238

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

FREE

Sanderson Centre Presents



Carl Dixon
May 14, 2026 | 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$46.00



Tickets available at sandersoncentre.ca or call 519.758.8090

Right As Rain
HEALTH COLLECTIVE & STUDIO

Relief, strength, and support
all in one place

11 MECHANIC ST, PARIS ON

SCAN FOR WEBSITE



WWW.RIGHTASRAINPARIS.COM

Got Real Estate questions?
Free Consultation & Evaluation



Alex Faux
REAL ESTATE BROKER
(519)802-6709 DIRECT
alexfaux.ca
Trusted, expert advice
RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT





FESTIVAL WINS FOR PDHS

Cast and crew from Paris District High School's Drama Club celebrate their success at last week's National Theatre School Festival at BCI, where their production of *Death is a Canadian* earned the Spirit of the Festival Award for the second consecutive year, along with a Technical Award of Excellence and an Award of Merit for student performers. See more on page 3.



Sandra Etherington
Real Estate Broker

Selling Paris, Brant, Oxford County & Brantford Real Estate

519-754-5217
sandra.etherington@century21.ca

Have confidence in my 35 years of real estate sales experience.

CENTURY 21.
Heritage House Ltd.

County urges patience as construction season ramps up across Paris

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

Residents navigating road closures and detours in Paris are being asked to plan ahead and stay

informed as the County of Brant moves forward with a series of infrastructure upgrades expected to stretch through the spring, summer and into the fall.

County officials say the current

disruptions are part of a broader, multi-year strategy to modernize critical infrastructure, including water, sewer and road systems, while also accommodating growth. In some cases, overlapping projects

are unavoidable due to strict funding timelines and the urgency of replacing aging infrastructure.

"Many projects need to occur which results in more than one project occurring at the same time,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

APRIL IS **DISTRACTED DRIVING MONTH**



PUT SAFETY FIRST!
MINIMIZE POTENTIAL DISTRACTIONS WHILE BEHIND THE WHEEL.
BUCKLE UP,
NO TEXTING,
NO TALKING,
NO EXCEPTIONS!

SPONSORED BY



Detours, delays expected as major projects overlap across Paris

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said Melissa Connor, Manager of Communication, Operations. “Some projects have funding deadlines that require certain completion dates, while others are required to address aged critical infrastructure and others are required to meet the requirements for growth.”

Highway 403 ramps and Rest Acres Road

Questions have been raised about ongoing work around the Rest Acres Road on- and off-ramps at Highway 403. The project is being led by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), with the County collaborating as needed.

Connor confirmed the County has pushed for improved communication around the project with more signs along the Highway 403 corridor to warn motorists when closures are in place.

“Yes, the County recently met with the MTO and requested additional communication regarding this project including signage.”

Work is already underway, with tree clearing begun. According to current MTO timelines, most ramp closures are expected to take place on weekends to reduce commuter disruption. However, schedules may change, and residents are encouraged to monitor updates through the provincial 511 system.

As of press deadline on Monday, April 6th, those timelines did change. The County of Brant posted notification on his social channels following an update from the Ministry of Transportation’s notice that between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, intermittent ramp closures will be



(DOWNTOWN PARIS PHOTO)

A construction sign warns motorists of ongoing roadwork in downtown Paris, where closures and traffic changes will be in effect soon as infrastructure upgrades continue.

taking place on Highway 403 at Rest Acres Road from April 7 to 10. Again, no specific details provided on which ramps – east or west – or what times.

This inconveniently timed project, managed by the Ministry of Transportation, not the County of Brant, will affect routes for motorists travelling west from Brantford and hoping to bypass downtown Paris should expect some disruption. Detour routes will be clearly posted by the MTO, and drivers are advised to follow signage and allow extra travel time as even the Paris West Bypass route will present some delays.

Downtown Paris

Closer to the core, construction tied to the ongoing “Downtown Dig” is scheduled to resume April 8, with work expected to continue into late summer or early fall.

The project includes major underground infrastructure replacement, road reconstruction, wider sidewalks, streetscape improvements and enhanced accessibility features – all aimed at long-term community benefit.

While the work will require closures along key corridors, including Grand River Street North and the William Street bridge area, the County emphasizes that downtown businesses will remain open and accessible to pedestrians throughout construction.

Drivers should expect a number of temporary traffic changes, including one-way conversions, restricted turns, traffic calming measures and designated detour routes such as the Paris West Bypass.

Commuters will also work through congestion on Dundas St E as it remains one lane over the next few months as watermain work continues. Paris Road is also restricted to one way traffic, allow motorists to leave Paris on the road, but not enter town.

With multiple projects underway, the County is encouraging residents to take a proactive approach.

“It is recommended that motorists visit www.brant.ca/Construction for information and ongoing updates,” Connor said, noting additional updates are available through Municipal 511, social media channels and Engage Brant project pages.

Signage will also be in place to help guide drivers through changing conditions.

Despite the inconvenience, officials stress the work is necessary and carefully coordinated. “The County considers all of these factors (and more) and has a plan for the next several years to address the various needs within the community while ensuring the residents can continue to navigate our local roadways,” Connor said. “When it is determined that too many projects are occurring at once,



A map provided by the County of Brant outlines road closures, detour routes and traffic changes in downtown Paris as construction resumes April 8, with access maintained for local traffic and businesses.

Downtown Paris traffic impacts — what to expect

Road closures (construction area)

- Grand River Street North: south of Charlotte St to Mechanic St
- William Street: from the William St bridge to west of Grand River St N
- Intersection closure: Grand River St N and William St

Temporary traffic changes

- Emily St and Broadway St W: temporary three-way stop
- Broadway St E: one-way northbound (Broadway St W to Charlotte St); east side designated as drop-off/pick-up zone for Paris Central School
- Charlotte St: one-way eastbound (Broadway St E to Grand River St N)
- Emily St: one-way westbound (Broadway St E to Grand River St N)

Access and restrictions

- Local traffic only: William St (Willow St to the bridge) and Grand River St N (south of Charlotte St); access maintained to Smile City and 139 Paris Professional Centre

Turning restrictions:

- No left turns onto King Edward St from Dumfries St
- Access Dundas St high-level bridge via Burwell St

Heavy trucks: no through traffic; detour via Paris West Bypass Route

Deliveries:

- North of William St: via Silver St and Grand River St N
- South of William St: via King Edward St, Dumfries St and Grand River St S
- Paris West Bypass Route: recommended for travel to southwest Paris or Highway 403 (Silver St, Keg Lane, Brant-Oxford Rd, Puttoun Rd, King Edward St)

The Paris Independent

Guiding Principles

1. Everyone has a story
2. The news should be free for all to enjoy
3. Good news beats bad news
4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)
5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

PDHS drama club celebrates standout showing at festival

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Students from Paris District High School earned multiple honours at the National Theatre School Festival, held last week at Brantford Collegiate Institute.

The school's Drama Club presented *Death is a Canadian*, earning recognition for both performance and technical achievement while also being acknowledged for its overall contribution to the festival atmosphere.

"For the second year in a row we have been awarded the Spirit of the Festival Award which is given to the school whose infectious spirit is evident throughout the festival week," said Kaitlyn Bishop, PDHS Drama Club and English teacher.

Bishop said students demonstrated strong support for fellow participants throughout the week.

"Paris attended every night to cheer and support the other schools. They waited to congratulate all the actors as they came out from their adjudication and even volunteered to assist the hosting school with duties when they were short-handed the final night," she said.

The group also received a Technical Award of Excellence for its use of projections, a notable accomplishment given the limitations of their home stage.

"This award comes with great pride, as unfortunately at our school we don't have access to lights or projections with our stage. So, we had to learn it all and try it for the first time during our 2-hour tech re-

hearsal at BCI the day of the performance," Bishop said.

"Our students were so well rehearsed but also showed ingenuity and maturity when learning in the moment."

In addition, two Grade 10 students, Tyson Leversage and Ben Reid, earned an Award of Merit for their performances as the Angels.

"Lastly, we won an Award of Merit for our Dynamic Duo who played the Angels, Tyson Leversage and Ben Reid. These two young actors only in grade 10 had electric chemistry on stage and were a highlight for the adjudicator," Bishop said.

"They made us laugh but with purpose and put a lot of effort into their costumes."

The festival marked the second consecutive year Paris District High School has participated. Last year, the group earned a costume award, an individual acting honour and the Spirit of the Festival Award.

With the festival complete, the drama club is now preparing for its upcoming main stage production, *Puffs; Or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic*. Performances are scheduled for April 30 and May 1 at 7 p.m., with additional shows May 2 and

May 3 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door.

Donations will also be accepted during the run to support improvements to the school's small gym, including the addition of stage lighting for future productions.



Tyson Leversage and Ben Reid, both Grade 10 students at Paris District High School, earned an Award of Merit at last week's National Theatre School Festival at BCI for their standout performances as the Angels in *Death is a Canadian*.

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

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

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, Rubyyy Jones, Stephen L., Jacob Gaudet, Heidi Pfleger, Tiffany Martin, Jim Brown, Scoop Stewart, Paul Knowles, Karon Sinning, Jeff Johnston, Wayne Wilkinson, Emma Bowman, Edward Lander

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

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



Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Former CEO, top doc were Grand Erie health unit's top earners in 2025

J.P. ANTONACCI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The two highest-paid employees at Grand Erie Public Health in 2025 spent little actual time with the health unit last year.

Former CEO Brent Richardson and former medical officer of health Dr. Rebecca Comley were the top earners among the 31 health unit employees included in the province's 2025 public sector salary disclosure, commonly known as the Sunshine List.

The disclosure lists all those who earned more than \$100,000 in salaries and taxable benefits while working for provincially funded entities such as governments, school boards and non-profit agencies.

Richardson was CEO of the Brant County Health Unit before that entity and the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit merged to create Grand Erie Public Health in January 2025.

He was at the helm of the merged health unit before abruptly leaving the organization without explanation in April. Richardson did not respond to requests for com-

ment and the health unit did not clarify whether he resigned or was fired.

But the Sunshine List, released on March 27, reveals Richardson received \$338,723 in compensation from the health unit last year.

Comley took home \$292,575 despite going on leave in January. She had previously been medical officer with the Brant County Health Unit.

Comley returned to the role briefly in June but was eventually replaced by Dr. Jason Malenfant, who started in July and earned \$160,157 over the balance of the year.

Richardson's successor, Sarah Page, only became CEO in August but still appears on the Sunshine List because she earned \$144,594 as general manager of health and social services with Norfolk County.

Rounding out the five highest-paid health unit employees are director of data, surveillance and evaluation Alexey Babayan at \$215,043, finance director Brad Stark at \$196,123 and communications director Gary Williams at \$199,222.

There are 147 employees of Norfolk General Hospital in Simcoe on the Sunshine List for 2025, though the hospital shares executives and some medical staff with West Haldimand General Hospital in Hagersville, which had an additional 31 employees on the list.

President and CEO Todd Stepanuik took home \$267,951, while technologist Patricia Mels made \$229,108 and vice-presidents Daniel Hill and Kim Mullins were paid \$185,272 and \$180,356, respectively.

But the highest-paid hospital employee was medical laboratory director Mashalah Eshghabadi at \$471,685.

Sharon Moore, president and CEO of Dunnville War Memorial Hospital, was paid \$254,547 last year.

Ranked second among the Haldimand hospital's 40 employees on the Sunshine List was registered nurse Barbara Travers, who at \$188,759 out-earned several vice-presidents.

The administrators of two municipal long-term care homes in Haldimand-Nor-

folk made the list. Norview Lodge administrator Bill Nolan was paid \$179,764 in 2025, while Amy Moore, who runs Grandview Lodge in Dunnville, made \$170,926.

The Sunshine List showed 1,417 employees at the Grand Erie District School Board and 587 staff members with the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board cleared the \$100,000 threshold last year.

GEDSB director of education JoAnna Roberto received the highest compensation in the public board at \$257,102.

Roberto was followed by Cayuga Secondary School principal Griffin Cobb, who made \$190,525, and associate director of education Lisa Munro at \$189,447.

Three GEDSB superintendents and two principals made more than \$180,000 last year, while 14 principals and one superintendent were just shy of that marker.

Catholic director of education Michael McDonald made \$236,769 last year, and Fanshawe College associate dean Donna Gates, who runs the college's Simcoe campus, earned \$155,317.

Eid celebration in Paris: Community gathers in unity at Syl Apps Centre

On Friday, March 20, 2026, residents from across the Paris community gathered in large numbers at the Syl Apps Community Centre to celebrate Eid ul-Fitr, one of the most significant holidays in the Muslim calendar, marking the end of the month of Ramadan.

Organized by Masjid Bilal & Community Centre, the event welcomed families, friends, and community members from all backgrounds, offering a meaningful glimpse into a celebration centered on gratitude, generosity, and togetherness.

The morning began with a communal prayer service, where hundreds of attendees lined up in unity. A short sermon followed, highlighting themes that resonate beyond faith — including compassion, community service, and the importance of caring for one another.

The gathering was also attended by local dignitaries and first responders, including Councillor Steve Howie, members of the Brantford Fire Department, and the On-

tario Provincial Police. Their presence reflected the growing connection and mutual support between the Muslim community and the wider Paris community.

Following the formal program, the atmosphere shifted into a festive celebration. Children enjoyed games and activities, while families connected and shared in the joy of the occasion. Goodie bags were distributed, and a popular photo station gave attendees the opportunity to capture special moments with loved ones.

Eid ul-Fitr comes after a month during which Muslims fast from dawn to sunset, focusing on self-discipline, charity, and spiritual reflection. The celebration serves as both a reward and a reminder of these values — many of which are shared across cultures and communities.

Events like this continue to play an important role in fostering understanding, inclusion, and community spirit within Paris. By opening its doors and inviting others to share in the celebration, Masjid Bilal &



Residents gather at the Syl Apps Community Centre on March 20 to celebrate Eid ul-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan with prayer, festivities and a strong sense of community connection.

Community Centre highlighted the importance of connection and unity in a diverse and growing town.

Organizers expressed their appreciation

to all who attended and contributed to the event's success, noting that the strong turnout was a reflection of the community's support and togetherness.

Tree planting events invite community to grow greener future ahead of Earth Day

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

With Earth Day approaching, local environmental leaders are inviting residents to take part in community tree planting events aimed at strengthening biodiversity, capturing carbon and building a more resilient future.

Organized by the Brant Tree Coalition in partnership with the County of Brant and the City of Brantford, the annual events bring together municipalities, conservation authorities, volunteers and community groups in a shared effort to expand the region's tree canopy.

"Each year, around Earth Day, we organize community tree planting events to encourage the public to enhance local biodiversity and assist with climate change resilience," said Chuck Beach, coordinator of the Brant Tree Coalition.

The coalition's impact continues to grow. Working with local residents, more than 134,500 native trees and shrubs have been planted across Brantford and Brant County, helping to restore habitats and combat the effects of climate change.

Beach said the environmental benefits are clear.

"When we plant trees, the science is clear. Native trees provide habitat and food for native species," he said, noting trees also absorb carbon dioxide and help cool the environment.

Local data underscores that impact. Thousands of trees planted through coalition efforts are expected to remove significant amounts of carbon dioxide from the

atmosphere over their lifetime, contributing to broader climate action goals.

The County of Brant says the events play a key role in its long-term environmental strategy.

"The County is committed to community tree planting because trees provide long-term environmental and community benefits, from cleaner air and stormwater management to healthier, more livable neighbourhoods," said Trent Meyers, forestry supervisor with the County.

"Getting our residents involved helps instill the importance of stewardship and environmental enhancement."

This spring, residents will have two opportunities to get involved:

- **11th Annual County of Brant Community Tree Plant**

Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Rising Park, Glen Morris

- **13th Annual City of Brantford Community Tree Plant**

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wayne Gretzky Boulevard (parking at Jaycee Park on Dunsdon)

Organizers say the events are designed to be family-friendly and accessible, offering residents a hands-on way to contribute to environmental sustainability while learning about proper tree planting techniques.

Earth Month, Beach added, provides a natural opportunity to connect people with environmental action.

"The spring is always a time for renewal. Engaging the community in helping to conduct community clean ups, tree giveaways and tree planting provides opportunities for

family recreation and education in natural restoration of their own communities," he said.

Students and community volunteers also play a key role, helping to guide participants and support event operations. In fact, it's a collaborative approach that organizers say is essential to success.

"This collaboration is essential to the success of the tree planting events. These events would not be possible without this collaborative approach," Beach said.

For the County, the long-term benefits extend beyond the environment.

"Community tree plants help expand

tree canopy, increase climate resilience, and capture carbon over time," Meyers said. "Just as importantly, they build public awareness and shared responsibility for long-term environmental care."

Organizers hope residents will come away from the events with a sense of pride and connection to their community and a deeper appreciation for the role trees play in shaping a sustainable future.

"We want residents to feel proud and connected, knowing they played a direct role in improving their community and leaving a lasting benefit for future generations," Meyers said.



COMPLETE WATER PROOFING SOLUTIONS

Supply and Install Egress Windows for a safe basement

**WINDOW WELLS
EXTERIOR EXCAVATION
INTERNAL BREAKOUT
EXTERIOR CRACK REPAIR**

Woodstock, ON • Office 249.700.4258
info@yusi.ca • www.yusi.ca

Juno-winning pianist Philip Chiu to perform in Brantford this month

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A Juno Award-winning pianist will take centre stage at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts later this month as the Brantford Music Club wraps up its 2025-26 concert series.

Philip Chiu is scheduled to perform April 29 at 7:30 p.m., bringing his latest program, *Scatter and Sway*, to local audiences in what organizers describe as a rare opportunity to experience a nationally acclaimed classical artist in Brantford.

Chiu, a Juno Award winner for his album *Fables*, has built a reputation as a dynamic performer who “transforms each musical idea into a beautiful array of colours,” according to promotional material. He performs widely as both a soloist and chamber musician across Canada and internationally, collaborating with leading artists and ensembles.

Mary Ann Gorcsi, speaking on behalf of the Brantford Music Club, said the organization’s artist selection committee was drawn to Chiu’s accomplishments and strong reviews when planning the season.

“We knew we had to have him on the Sanderson stage, and the stars aligned with his concert schedule and our stage availability,” she told *The Paris Independent*.



Juno Award-winning pianist Philip Chiu will perform his *Scatter and Sway* program at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts on April 29 at 7:30 p.m., presented by the Brantford Music Club as the finale of its 2025-26 concert series.

Audiences can expect a program that blends traditional classical works with more contemporary repertoire, offering what organizers describe as an engaging

and accessible musical experience.

Bringing performers of Chiu’s calibre to the community remains a key priority for the club, particularly as opportunities to

hear live classical piano can be limited in smaller centres.

“It is so important to bring an artist of Philip Chiu’s calibre to our community as we rarely have classical piano performers,” Gorcsi noted, adding that such performances can be especially inspiring for young music students.

The concert is intended to appeal to a broad audience, from seasoned classical music enthusiasts to newcomers.

“All people who enjoy the sound of beautiful piano music, young and old, should attend,” Gorcsi said. Founded in the early 1900s, the Brantford Music Club traces its roots to informal gatherings of local women who met to share music at a downtown shop. Over more than a century, the organization has evolved while maintaining its core mission — bringing live music to the community and fostering appreciation for the arts.

That tradition continues today, with each concert followed by a complimentary reception where attendees can meet performers and discuss the program.

Tickets for the April 29 performance are \$35 for adults and \$10 for students (with a student ID), while children in Grade 8 and under can attend for free. Tickets are available through the Sanderson Centre box office and website.

Creek View Acres Nursery & Orchard



NOW OPEN DAILY: 10am to 4pm
Fruit Trees • Berry Bushes • Grape Vines

Professionally grown trees, shrubs, and perennials!

400 Johnson Road, Brantford (County)

519-448-4688 • creekviewacresbrant.ca • gardenalacarte.ca



April 11, 2026
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Paris Fairgrounds
139 Silver St, Paris



Free Admission

Food Donations for Foodbank would be appreciated.
Vendors, Food Trucks, Maple Syrup,
Pancakes, Entertainment

Contact Andrea for more info:
519-771-0886

maplesyrupfestival@lionsclubofparis.ca
www.lionsclubofparis.ca

Local residents join province-wide Fight Ford protest

KIMBERLY DE JONG

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Nearly 40 people took part in a Fight Ford protest in Brantford on Saturday, March 28, 2026.

The protest was one of around 30 taking place in municipalities across the province. From Thunder Bay to Ottawa, Timmins, London, Bowmanville, Toronto, Windsor, Niagara, Hamilton and more, hundreds hit the streets to air their grievances and voice their frustrations with Ontario Premier Doug Ford and his conservative government.

Meeting in and around Brantford-Brant MPP Will Bouma's office at 96 Nelson Street in Brantford, and later moving down to the corner of Nelson and Clarence streets, participants came bearing a variety of signs while chanting, "Hey hey, ho ho, Doug Ford has got to go."

Those in attendance explained that the protest wasn't about just a single issue, but rather a range of concerns including health care, OSAP and education cuts, Bill 5, environmental protection, changes to Freedom of Information laws and more.

Madeleine Dewling, who was there with her parents Richard Dewling and Sandra Miles, said one of the main issues she was protesting was the changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program, which beginning in the fall, will reduce non-repayable grants from around 85 per cent to just 25 per cent, and unfreezing tuition rates.

"I'm a university student, so those cuts to OSAP are not going to be great for me," she said. "But I feel like, overall, Doug Ford has done so many things that I'm not happy with, I mean, we're in the middle of a housing crisis, we have the highest-youth unemployment of any provinces in the



(KIMBERLY DE JONG PHOTO)

Protestors from Brantford and beyond hold up their signs along Nelson and Clarence streets during a Fight Ford protest in Brantford on Saturday, March 28, 2026.

country and on top of that, he's just cutting all these sources of revenue for government, and the ones that he keeps, he just gives to his buddies. It just sucks. I think a lot of his policies are hurting all sorts of different people so it's nice that we can come together like this. It feels encouraging." Simcoe resident Patti Townsend, who

chose to protest in Brantford because her local MPP is independent rather than a conservative like Bouma, said she was there for multiple reasons, some of which stem from years prior.

"As a retired teacher, I worked for years in the system, and essentially watched the conservative party's destruction of what was once revered as one of the best education systems in the world," she said. "The first thing was eliminating Grade 13 [a decision made under the Progressive Conservative government of Premier Mike Harris in the early 2000s], which was essentially a free first year of college for so many young people and prevented a lot of debt. The next thing was taking away all the skills classes; Bill Davis, who was conservative, started skills-training in Industrial Arts and Family Studies in the public school sys-

tem, and the later conservative government took it all away, which was basically just a waste of money."

Townsend added that she was also there because of the destruction of the conservation system and the Green Belt, cuts to OSAP, the expansion of the runway at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, and the redevelopment of the Ontario Place waterfront to name a few.

"This public protest is really to bring all of these issues together to say that all of us, collectively, are angered by what Doug Ford is doing," she said. "...My biggest concern is people's apathy. People are exhausted. They are working ten-hour days and still not able to pay their bills, and so there's really not a lot of energy left. I'm here on behalf of those people that can't be here protesting like the students and those people that are affected by health concerns."

Townsend, upon seeing how many people had also shown up, said it was nice to know she wasn't alone.

"It's rewarding to know that we're not alone, right? I asked people to bring their old signs they've collected throughout the years because look at all the protests that we've had over the last eight years" she said. "And collectively, if we all come together, then it's not divide and conquer, it's more like unify and make a change. We're not here for just one issue, it's all of the issues."

Burford resident, Cathy Cleverdon, said some of things she was protesting were changes to health care and education, as well as the proposed amendments to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, which would exclude the pre-

mier, cabinet ministers, parliamentary assistants and their staff from having records released under freedom-of-information (FOI) requests.

"For me, the changes to Freedom of Information and his attempt to divert being transparent with the people of Ontario is my end of the line," she said. "We need proper health care funding for fully-funded public health care, full-funded public education, and the OSAP has to be returned to its former state and improved."

When asked why those things were so important to her, Cleverdon said she was seeing people falling through the cracks.

"I see we're leaving people behind with OSAP and people won't be able to afford to go to school," she said. "It's not easy to even qualify for OSAP sometimes, so there are already a lot of people being left out, and we're not going to have a well-educated workforce for companies to come here. I'm also very concerned about how Doug Ford is funding for-profit long-term care, instead of not-for-profit and how he's making money off of people's misfortune is reprehensible."

Like Townsend, the Burford resident added that it was nice to see how many people shared her same view.

"It fills my heart that there are like-minded people out there," said Cleverdon. "They're not people that are just willing to put up with more of the same, and we're going to let our voices be heard."

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

PHARMASAVE Canada's community pharmacy

Get 30 AIR MILES Bonus Miles

with one bag of Quicktreats Candy 120g, 100g or 50g or one of these: Bubble, Indigo, Complete or Signature Gift Cards with minimum \$30 value between March 27 - April 2, 2026.

 20% off <small>Selected Aleve Soft Gel Capsules, Liquid Gels</small>	 9.99 <small>Pure Protein Bars, Protein Bars</small>	 2.99 <small>Selected Dettol Disinfectant Wipes</small>
 3.99 <small>Selected Aftershave</small>	 20% off <small>Pharmasave Eye Care Products, Contact Lenses, Eye Drops, Eye Cream</small>	 1.49 <small>Selected Colgate Toothpaste, Mouthwash</small>

Prices in effect: March 27, 2026 - April 9, 2026

Earn & Redeem AIR MILES REWARD MILES

Our pharmacists can assess and prescribe for common health conditions

PARIS HARTLEY PHARMASAVE
 1 Hartley Avenue, Paris
 Phone: (519) 442-1119

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: A political luminary: Ron Eddy's enduring impact on the County of Brant



By Chris Whelan

In the history of Ontario politics, few figures command the respect and admiration that Ron Eddy did. From his modest beginnings on a farm near Brantford to his pivotal role as the first mayor of the amalgamated County of Brant, Eddy's career is a testament to his unwavering dedication to public service and community progress.

Born around 1931 in Toronto, Eddy's roots ran deep in the agricultural heartland of Ontario. His early years as a farmer and later as a municipal administrator in counties like Wentworth and Middlesex laid the foundation for his future endeavors in public life. Eddy's commitment to community welfare was evident during his tenure as the reeve of South Dumfries Township.

Eddy's political journey took flight in 1992 when he clinched the position of a Liberal Member of the Ontario Provincial Parliament for the Brant—Haldimand riding. Despite a temporary setback in 1995, Eddy's resolve remained unshaken. In 1999, with the establishment of the County of Brant, he assumed the mantle of its inaugural mayor, a position he held with distinction until 2018 at age 87. His leadership was instrumental in shaping the county into a unified and thriving single-tier municipality.

Throughout his tenure, Eddy's leadership focused on fostering growth, prosperity, and the sustainable development of agriculture within the region. His ability to forge unity among diverse townships underscored his role as a unifying force in local governance. As Warden of Brant County and a key figure within the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Eddy's influence transcended the confines of the County of Brant.

Beyond the political arena, Ron Eddy's approachable demeanor and genuine engagement with constituents endeared him to the community. A devoted family man residing in Paris, Ontario, Eddy's commitment to local causes and community initiatives remained unwavering, reflecting his enduring dedication to the betterment of the County of Brant.

Eddy's remarkable career in public service, spanning over three decades, contin-



ues to resonate within the County of Brant. The renaming of Governors Road East to "Ron Eddy Way" stands as a poignant tribute to his enduring contributions to local governance and community development.

Eddy, in a news article from 2018 reflecting on his enduring dedication to community development, remarked,

"I've always enjoyed being part of the process, part of the structure that gets things done. When you're building a community, you look for ways to create jobs and homes for people. That takes work, and there is a process involved, and as Mayor, you get to be part of that."

A retired municipal administrator, Eddy resided on Kitchen School Road in Paris. A father of three adult children and a grandfather of seven. His extensive experience in municipal governance spanned decades, encompassing roles both as an administrator and an elected official.

Eddy's illustrious career includes serving as the first Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the former Hamilton-Wentworth Region, followed by his tenure as the clerk-treasurer for Middlesex County. His journey in elected positions saw him as the reeve of the Township of South Dumfries, a dedicated member of Brant County council for 15 years, and the esteemed Brant County warden in 1981. Moreover, Eddy's political footprint extended to provincial realms as he represented the former riding of Brant-Haldimand as a Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for three years.

His pivotal role as the mayor of the amal-

gamated County of Brant commenced in 1998, a position he clinched through successive re-elections in the 2000, 2003, 2006, 2010, and 2014 elections.

Beyond his mayoral duties, Eddy had been actively engaged in various community organizations, serving as a member and president of the Brant Children's Aid Society (now Brant Family and Children's Services), president of the Brant Woodlot Owners Association, president of Brant Waterways Foundation, president of Enterprise Brant, and a member of the Grand Valley Educational Society.

Reflecting on the county's progress, Eddy highlighted the significant advancements in industrial and residential

development. The Brant 403 Business Park, a hub for major companies like Adidas and BGI retail, stands as a testament to the county's economic growth initiatives.

However, challenges loom on the horizon, particularly in response to potential fiscal constraints imposed by the provincial government. Eddy expressed concerns over the implications of cost-cutting measures by the new provincial administration, emphasizing the need for preparedness and adaptability in the face of evolving circumstances. The cancellation of a renewable energy project for Penman's Dam underscored the potential impact on ongoing projects within the county, including crucial infrastructure initiatives like road and bridge repairs.

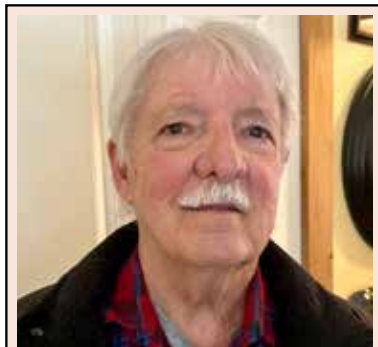
As Brant County navigates these uncertainties, Eddy's unwavering leadership and strategic vision laid a solid foundation for

the community towards sustainable growth and resilience in the face of changing political landscapes.

His bid for a seventh term as Mayor at the age of 87 signified not just a personal commitment but a testament to his enduring legacy as a dedicated public servant and a champion of Brant County's prosperity. Eddy passed away on April 2, 2026, in the comfort of his home in his 95th year.



THEN AND NOW: From groceries to ladieswear, #11 GRSN has a rich history that spans over a hundred and fifty years



By Wayne Wilkinson
Paris Historian / Artist

CPR never actually came through Paris. From 1901 to 1903, Chas. McCausland and Geo. Widner operated their grocery business here, which then became Peter McQueen's from 1904 to 1906.

The history of this location then took an exciting turn with the arrival of something new to Paris: movies! "The Theatorium," a movie house, opened its doors in 1910, competing with the new "Gem" theater that opened the same year just north of it. The Theatorium boasted a "state-of-the-art" coal-gas generator, allowing it to power its projector and lighting both efficiently and safely. It's fun to note that in 1912, the feature film showing was a 17-minute silent movie called 'Friends,' a Western starring Canada's own Mary Pickford alongside Lionel Barrymore and Henry B. Walthall. Around 1913, the theater was renamed the "Star" theater. Information about this period is scarce, but it appears to have closed in 1917, as did the Gem theater.

In 1922, #11 returned to its grocery roots with the opening of the "Dominion" grocery store. After its closure in 1953, the building transitioned to a children's clothing business called "Whitton's Tots to Teens," owned by James and Evelyn Whitton. 1965 saw "McCormick's Florist" move in from their Governors Road loca-

tion. After a remarkable 39-year run at #11, they relocated to Mechanic St. in 2004. At this point, the store became "Periwinkles," a gift and home decor shop owned by Debbie Swartz and Patty McColloch. Customers were often drawn inside by the colourful and unique floral designs created by Jeanette Kara.

When this robust business closed, the building, already owned by Henry Stolp, became home to his company, Pinevest Homes Inc. The building was closed throughout 2021-2022 for a complete interior and exterior renovation. It reopened in 2023 as "Arepa Love," an eatery specializing in South American cuisine, though it

was short-lived, closing in December 2024. The most recent enterprise, celebrating its grand opening, is "Modella Ladieswear." Paris has traditionally been a hub for successful women's clothing businesses, such as "Suzannes of Paris," "Cheshire Cat," and "Joyden Casuals." "Modella Ladieswear" should hopefully enjoy a long and successful life in downtown Paris.

Some information obtained from the archives at the Paris Museum & Historical Society.

Editor's Note: We'd also like to mention that this article marks Wayne Wilkinson's one-year anniversary with our newspaper! Wayne shares, "It's been a pleasure and an honour to be part of a 'real hometown, homegrown newspaper.' I'm happy to be a small part of something so successful and hope to keep contributing." Thanks, WAYNE

Throughout 2021 and 2022, well-known Paris builder and developer Henry Stolp of Pinevest Homes Inc. completely renovated the historic building at #11 Grand River St. N., directly opposite the cenotaph. This transformation created the beautiful location that now houses Modella Ladieswear.

Looking back, this site has a rich history, particularly as a home for various grocery stores. The first appears to have been W.H. Davis around 1875. In 1879, George T. Simpson acquired the store, and for a period, a section also served as offices for the Canadian Pacific and Dominion Telegraph, an interesting fact given that the



Answer the call.

Volunteer with Ontario Corps.

Sign up at ontario.ca/OntarioCorps

Paid for by the Government of Ontario



Who's Who in the Region

©2026 Western Canada Press westcanpress@gmail.com



Where Honesty, Quality Workmanship and Dedication to customer satisfaction is their Top Priority!

63 Main St. S., Princeton 519-458-8832

Many of us are guilty of neglecting regular car maintenance, often waiting until it is too late, resulting in a hefty repair bill or worse, a broken-down vehicle. While routine care is frequently overlooked, it is crucial for ensuring your vehicle's safety, reliability, and longevity. Neglecting these services can lead to costly repairs, unexpected breakdowns, and potential safety hazards.

By focusing on preventative maintenance, **Flying Wrenches Automotive** helps area drivers avoid the stress of unexpected mechanical failures. Their detailed inspections provide owners with a clear picture of their vehicle's health, allowing for informed decisions and prioritized repairs based on safety and necessity.

Established in 2007, **Flying Wrenches Automotive** is guided by owner/mechanic **Jared Suderman**, who is assisted by a highly trained team. They pride themselves on building lasting relationships with customers, turning clients into friends through their commitment to providing quality repairs.

Flying Wrenches Automotive a community-minded business provides professional diagnostic problem-solving, oil changes, brakes, steering, suspension, A/C, belts & hoses, electrical systems, major and minor repairs, tire sales, repairs and installations, along with factory scheduled and preventative maintenance.

Backed by years of experience and strong community ties, **Flying Wrenches Automotive** boast a stellar 5.0-rated reputation on Google. With such a strong commitment to customer satisfaction, it's no surprise that they have earned the trust of drivers throughout the area.

When your "Check Engine" light comes on, don't wait for a minor sensor problem to turn into major engine trouble.

Visit **Jared** and his professional team at **Flying Wrenches Automotive** for expert diagnostics and fair, upfront pricing.

It's truly worth the drive to Princeton for the best automotive service in the region. Like on Facebook.



Where Better Hearing Leads to a Better Life

274 King George Rd., Brantford 519-759-8250

branthearingaid@bellnet.ca

For millions of people worldwide, the subtle or significant loss of hearing can gradually diminish their

connection to the world. Conversations can become a strain, the nuances of music fade, and the simple sounds of daily life are easily missed.

Hearing loss can affect individuals of all ages, ranging from mild to profound. It can impact one's ability to communicate effectively, potentially leading to social isolation, decreased cognitive function, and a reduced quality of life.

Thankfully, modern advancements in technology—including Artificial Intelligence (AI)—have transformed hearing aids into sophisticated, discreet devices that dramatically improve the quality of life for individuals with hearing loss.

Owner and Director **Gregory Houle**, Audiologist, is registered with The College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO). With 34 years of experience, **Gregory** provides a comprehensive array of hearing services tailored to your needs.

At **Brant Hearing Aid Clinic**—a local, independent, community-oriented, and award-winning practice—the process begins with a thorough diagnostic hearing test. More than a simple screening, this assessment accurately maps a patient's hearing profile to identify the type, degree, and pattern of any hearing loss. This detailed information is crucial for fitting devices correctly and ensuring optimal results.

Serving the region since 1978, **Brant Hearing Aid Clinic** provides diagnostic hearing evaluations, offer a 90-day trial period, hearing aid repairs and service, child hearing treatment, custom hearing protection, musician earplugs, swimming earplugs, hearing aid repairs, tinnitus management, battery sales and plans, along with flexible financing options.

Brant Hearing Aid Clinic is a preferred provider for most medical insurance plans, and an authorized vendor for WCB, DVA, ODSP, NIHB (First Nations) approved vendor, and offers direct 3rd party billing. For your convenience evening and Saturday appointments are available.

Contact **Brant Hearing Aid Clinic** today to book an appointment. We suggest you view their website www.branthearingaidclinic.ca to read their Blog or learn more about this business that we highly recommend.

Like on Facebook. www.facebook.com/BrantHearing/



Your Trusted Paving, Excavating, and Road Service Specialists Since 1956

www.lloydboycepaving.com Call 519-468-2111

A paving business doesn't just sell asphalt; it sells curb appeal and peace of mind. Whether you're a homeowner looking to boost property value or a business owner wanting to welcome clients safely, quality paving is the literal foundation of a great first impression.

Lloyd Boyce Paving uses high-quality materials and equipment to ensure a smooth and long-lasting finish. Their team of experienced professionals will work with you to ensure that your project is completed on time and within budget.

Family-owned and operated since 1956, **Lloyd Boyce Paving** is guided by local owner **Steve Bates**, who is assisted by a professional team.

Quality paving goes far beyond simply laying down asphalt. It's a meticulous process that involves expertise, the right materials, and attention to detail at every stage. **Lloyd Boyce Paving** team has the knowledge and equipment to ensure the asphalt is laid at the correct thickness, temperature, and compaction levels. This results in a uniform and durable finish.

Lloyd Boyce Paving a community-minded business, offers a comprehensive range of services including new construction, residential, commercial and agricultural, driveways, road cuts, acreages, pathways, parking pads, golf courses, parking lots, speed bumps, tennis courts, plus expert excavation, gravel delivery, catch basin repair, sinkhole repair, and lawn rolling. Cracks, potholes, and other damage to your asphalt can be unsightly and dangerous. Their repair services can fix these issues quickly and effectively, restoring the appearance and safety of your property.

Their team consists of experienced and skilled professionals who are passionate about what they do. They are dedicated to providing their clients with the best possible service.

Contact **Lloyd Boyce Paving** today for a free quote and see how they can bring lasting value and beauty to your property.

Visit their website www.lloydboycepaving.com for additional information on this exceptional company or to read the testimonials by satisfied customers.

Like them on Facebook. www.facebook.com/lloydboycepaving "Do It Right The First Time" call **Lloyd Boyce Paving** the company we highly recommend.



Won't Be Beat®

71 Dundas St. E., Paris www.nofrills.ca

For countless Canadian families, finding ways to stretch the grocery budget without sacrificing quality is a top priority. **No Frills®** has become a go-to destination for shoppers who want both value and convenience. With their "Won't Be Beat" promise and commitment to everyday essentials, **No Frills®** offers plenty of reasons to make it your regular stop.

No Frills® operates 338 franchise stores and is guided by its 100% Canadian-owned parent company, Loblaw—Canada's largest food distributor, founded in 1919. **No Frills®** was voted the #1 most trusted grocery store for low prices by Canadian shoppers in the 2026 BrandSpark Canadian Trust Study Awards.

Guided by local owner/operator **Jay Rahn**, **Jay's No Frills®** is more than just a grocery store—it's a vital part of Paris and the surrounding communities. They proudly support local food banks and community events, ensuring their store plays a positive role in the region they serve.

The store provides high-quality products across every aisle, including: Fresh Essentials: Fruits, vegetables, quality meat, dairy, and bakery items. Pantry & Home: Frozen foods, canned goods, bottled water, and pet food. Specialty Items: Gluten-free products, organic options, and international foods.

Popular private-label brands like no name® and President's Choice® provide affordable alternatives without compromising taste or quality.

PC Optimum™: Shoppers can earn and redeem points on every shop—simply scan the app or swipe your card for exclusive offers.

Financial Rewards: Earn points toward free groceries by using a PC Financial Mastercard or PC Money Account.

Price-Match Guarantee: True to their "Won't Be Beat" policy, they will match a competitor's lower advertised price—just show them the ad. **Gift Cards**: A practical choice available for family and friends.

For added convenience, **Jay's No Frills®** offers PC Express™ online shopping at pccexpress.ca. Additionally, starting in May, the store will offer curbside pickup.

Shoppers can also take advantage of the President's Choice Insiders Report and the Hit of the Month program.

Become a "Hauler" by shopping at **Jay's No Frills**. We suggest viewing the weekly flyers and discovering what's new at www.nofrills.ca or on their Facebook page: facebook.com/JaysNoFrillsParis/ **Jay's No Frills®** is open 7 days a week: 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM



Wayne Shouldice Collision Ltd.

Providing the Best in Structural and Autobody Repair since 1994

#3, 180 Sheldon Dr., Cambridge 519-623-6600
info@shouldicecollision.ca

An auto collision can be a stressful and disruptive experience. Beyond the initial shock, the process of repairing your vehicle can seem daunting. However, when you visit **Wayne Shouldice Collision Ltd.**, their team will help alleviate that anxiety. You count on your vehicle to safely transport you and your family, so don't trust just anyone with its repair. Having your vehicle serviced here is the next best thing to turning back time and avoiding the damage in the first place.

Whether it's a minor parking lot "fender bender" or significant structural damage following a major accident, the team focuses on one primary goal: getting you back on the road safely and at a fair price.

Guided by owner **Cathy Boulton**, **Wayne Shouldice Collision Ltd.** is a full-service repair facility equipped to handle the diverse needs of modern vehicles. Their technicians utilize up-to-date tools and techniques to ensure every repair meets high safety and aesthetic standards.

Wayne Shouldice Collision Ltd. provides complete collision repairs, professional painting with quality PPG paint, bumper repair, paintless dent repair, air conditioning service, alignments, and auto glass replacement.

One of the most daunting aspects of an accident is dealing with insurance companies. **Wayne Shouldice Collision Ltd.** streamlines this process by working closely with major insurance providers. They help bridge the gap between the vehicle owner and the insurer, assisting with claims and documentation to ensure the repair process moves forward as smoothly as possible.

If your vehicle has been in an accident or requires repairs, we suggest you visit **Wayne Shouldice Collision Ltd.** Let their team of experienced professionals assess the damage and offer expert solutions with full transparency.

Contact **Wayne Shouldice Collision Ltd.** to book an appointment today. Visit their website www.shouldicecollision.com to learn more about this impressive company. They are open Mon-Fri 7:30 AM-4:30 PM, Sat. 8:00 AM-12:00 PM by appointment only.



Keeping Your Systems Flowing

Princeton 519-458-4553

If you're thinking about your septic system, it usually means something is already going wrong. When toilets won't flush, backups occur, or your drains begin making strange noises, your septic tank is likely overdue for a cleaning.

Proper maintenance is critical because untreated human sewage poses a serious health hazard to your family and the community. Septic tank cleaning helps prevent groundwater contamination, protecting local ecosystems and water sources.

Septic tanks should be pumped every 2 to 3 years, depending on the size of the system and the number of people in the household. Regular pumping prevents sludge from entering the drain field. While drain fields typically last about 20 years, maintenance pumping helps prolong that lifespan.

When sludge blocks the drain field, liquids cannot evaporate and may surface above the field. Replacing a drain field is a very costly repair that can be avoided with regular service. Regular maintenance will keep your septic system running smoothly for many trouble-free years.

Established in 1964, **Jack Hall & Son Septic Tank Service** is a third-generation, family-owned and operated company. Their team of highly trained technicians is equipped to handle jobs of any size with professionalism and expertise.

Their services include septic and holding tank cleaning for residential and commercial properties, farm septic cleaning, minor repairs, maintenance and troubleshooting. Thorough sludge removal using high-powered vacuums. Inlet and outlet baffle inspections, and septic tank unclogging. Safe transport of waste to environmentally friendly disposal sites.

They are proud to be certified and inspected by the Ontario Ministry of Environment, serving the Brant, Oxford, and Waterloo regions.

Customers choose **Jack Hall & Son Septic Tank Service** because of their exceptional reputation for reliability and quality service, ensuring that each job is done thoroughly and efficiently. They use leading practices and highly skilled technicians to guarantee a seamless and effective septic tank maintenance experience.

Phone 519-458-4553 or email **Jack Hall & Son Septic Tank Service** at jackhallseptictanksvc@gmail.com to book your service today, to receive quality workmanship at a fair price.

Still Reaching for the Moon - and Beyond in the Artemis II Era

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Paris Independent Columnist

The moon has fascinated all races and societies since the beginning of our existence. In fact, Earth's only satellite, about one-quarter the size of Earth and approximately 384,000 kilometres from Earth, has fascinated the scientific community and inspired artists to create music. In rock and roll history, there are hundreds of songs with the "moon" in their titles. Scientists and writers have been fascinated by travel to the moon since the 1600s, and from the 1800s through the 1900s, rocket science was theorized to enable flights beyond Earth's atmosphere.

So why on Earth did mankind start taking rockets seriously? During the Second World War, rocket scientists' goal was to build a weapon capable of travelling long distances to their enemies. After the war, Russia, then known as the U.S.S.R., began a program that eventually put animals in capsules, launched them on rockets to leave Earth's atmosphere, orbit Earth, and then return with the passengers alive. In 1961, the Russians moved from animals to Yuri Gagarin, the first man launched into orbit, circling the Earth and returning safely.

Explaining the "Cold War" is too complex to do in a short story, but in the 1950s and 60s, the simplest way to explain it was the poor relationship and the differences in political beliefs between the communists and the free world. During that time, nuclear war was a concern. The "Space Race" accelerated in 1961 when, in a speech by President John F. Kennedy, the United States set the goal of being the first to land on the moon.

The "Gemini" program followed earlier efforts to put a man in orbit and focused on advancing spaceflight capabilities. In 1964, the first rocket in the program was Gemini 1, an unmanned flight to assess whether the spacecraft could complete multiple orbits around Earth. The goals of the flight were met, including testing how the craft performed in orbit. Gemini 2, however, was protected by a silicone elastomer heat shield, allowing the capsule

to return to Earth safely. Gemini 3 was the first manned spacecraft in the program to be launched into orbit and return to Earth, and the last mission in the program was Gemini 12. It's amazing that this program began in 1964, was completed in 1966, and that many of its missions were televised to the world.

Following the Gemini series of launches came Apollo, whose goal was to orbit and land on the moon. Apollo 8, in 1968, was the first spacecraft to orbit the moon and transmit images of the moon back to Earth. In July of 1969, Apollo 11's three-person crew headed to the moon. Once in the moon's orbit, two of the astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, moved into the lunar landing module, which separated from the main ship to proceed with landing on the moon. Neil Armstrong was the first man to climb out of the lunar module for man's first step on the moon, saying, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." On the moon, Buzz Aldrin and Armstrong were televised jumping and leaping in the moon's lower gravity. The scientific agenda for the moon walkers consisted of collecting 49 kg of moon dust and rocks, which were subsequently aged to 4.5 billion years old. They also placed a "Laser Ranging Retroreflector," which is still in use, where a laser is aimed at the retroreflector to measure the distance between Earth and the moon. A seismometer was placed to measure moonquakes, the seismic impact of meteors hitting the moon, and an astrophysics experiment. Lastly, there was a large collection of photography, used for scientific study and for public consumption.

There would be 12 astronauts to step on the moon and a total of 17 missions in the Apollo program, several of which carried crews to lunar orbit or the moon's surface. After the Apollo program, the focus shifted to reusable spacecraft, leading to the "Space Shuttle" program, whose goal was to help build a space station.

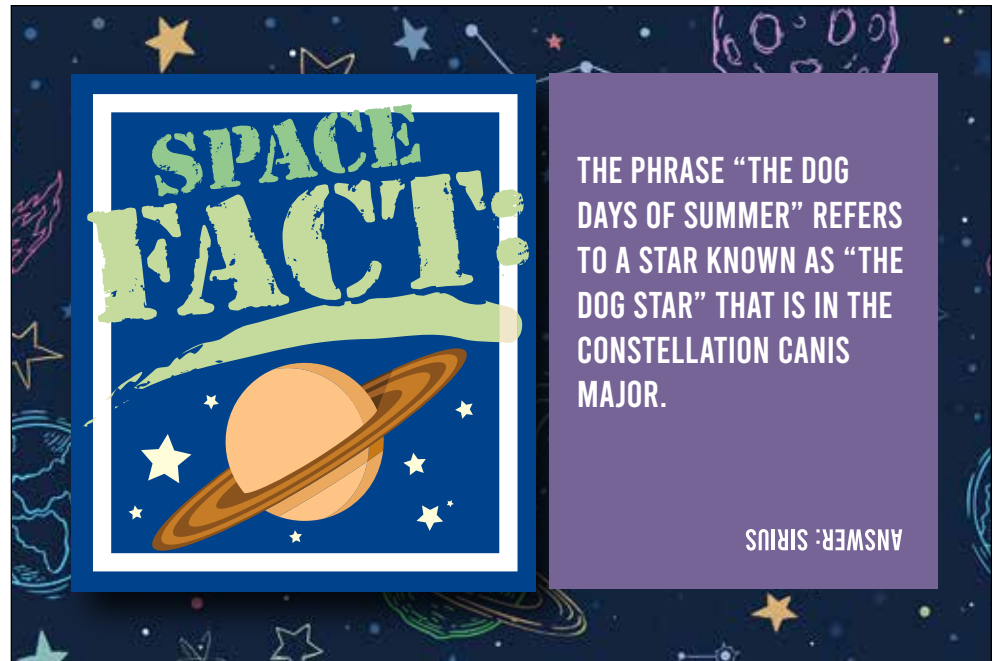
Canada has made many major contributions to the space program, most notably the Canadarm, an important tool used to deploy and service satellites, and areas around Sudbury serving as a training

ground for astronauts on the Lunar Roving Vehicle, due to some of the landscape resembling the moon's surface. Canada has had many astronauts in space, from Marc Garneau to Jeremy Hansen, who has been selected for Artemis II, a mission that will orbit the moon.

Technological developments in space travel include the launch of the Hubble Telescope, which continually expands our understanding of the universe, and improvements in image processing techniques for MRI and CT scanners. Innovations in miniaturized electronics, memory

foam, scratch-resistant lenses, fire-resistant materials, and even cordless tools were developed to support the actions astronauts had to perform. Where would the electric vehicles we drive be without the batteries developed for energy storage?

So now, with the Artemis program, the goal is to land on the moon as a springboard for a voyage to Mars, and with that challenge, Canada, through its Space Agency, will have a role in providing astronauts and technology. Spotify currently lists 50 songs about Mars... wondering if more might be written in the future.



Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What is the birthstone for April? | Shutter Island(2010)? |
| 2. Who is the newly elected leader of the NDP? | 7. Canada's federal minimum wage grew April 1st, 2026. What is minimum wage? |
| 3. The Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling and Wake takes place annually in which country? | 8. Angkor Wat is the largest religious monument in the world found in what country? |
| 4. Children born from 2025 to 2039 will belong to which generation? | 9. How far is 1-light year in kilometers? |
| 5. What are the three main macronutrients? | 10. How many sides does a heptagon have? |
| 6. Who stars as the lead role in | |

This week's answers are found on pg. 17

GLOBUS
**MARITIMES &
 CAPE BRETON**
AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

GROUP TRIP HOSTED BY
**STONETOWN
 TRAVEL**

150 Queen St E, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4 210 Mill St., New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9
 519-284-2332 226-333-9939
 agent@stonetowntravel.com newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com
 TICO#5002839 TICO#5002840

www.stonetowntravel.com

The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

Wolfpack battle to semifinal finish at Ancaster Select Tournament

CASSANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Paris Wolfpack U11 Select team turned in a strong showing at the Ancaster Select Tournament, advancing to the semifinals in a 24-team tournament from April 3-5.

Led by head coach Jeff Bartscher, the Wolfpack entered the tournament following an impressive 16-1 exhibition season. Select teams are formed from house league players through tryouts at the beginning of the year, with competition focused on exhibition games and tournaments late in the season.

"Our biggest strength was how connected we were as a team. We didn't rely on one or two players—we had contributions up and down the lineup. The kids bought into playing for each other, and that's what led to our success," said Bartscher.

"Our defence was outstanding all year. They took pride in playing a tight, structured game, moved the puck well, and made life really difficult for opposing teams. That commitment to playing strong, lockdown defence gave our whole group confidence."

"As a coaching staff, we couldn't be more proud of this group. They competed hard and supported one another all year. It was a special season we won't forget."

Paris opened round robin play against the Temiskaming Puckhounds in a tightly contested matchup. After a scoreless first period, Cecil Burbridge broke the deadlock at 6:21 of the second, scoring unassisted after weaving through defenders. The Puckhounds responded two minutes later to even the score. With time winding down, Jack Ferren put a puck on net that was blocked, but Lennon Smith collected the rebound and buried the game-winner with 1:39 remaining.

The Wolfpack followed with a 3-1 win over the Faustina Fury White. Noel Farrell opened scoring in the first period with an unassisted goal. Henry Bartscher added another in the second, also unassisted, before Farrell scored his second of the game. Faustina narrowed the gap late in the second, but the third period remained scoreless.

Paris capped round robin play with a dominant 7-0 shutout over the Orillia Terriers. Smith opened the scoring with assists from Farrell and Davis Starks. Landon

Dedman added the second goal, set up by Farrell, while Burbridge scored with help from Starks, the Wolfpack goaltender, who recorded two assists in the game. Dedman struck again in the second, assisted by Farrell, before defenceman Brennan Deane scored from the point late in the period. Josh Rawlings added a third-period goal, assisted by Henry Bartscher, and Burbridge rounded out the scoring on a Jack Graham assist.

Carrying that momentum into the quarterfinals, Paris defeated the Norfolk Knights 5-0. Koen Gall opened scoring with help from Deane, while Rawlings added an unassisted goal to close the first period. Nathan Farrell and Gall both scored in the second, and Burbridge added another

in the third. Starks picked up his second shoutout off the tournament.

The Wolfpack advanced to the semifinals to face the North Bay Trappers on Sunday morning. Rawlings opened the scoring for Paris with an unassisted marker, but the Trappers tied the game before the end of the first period.

North Bay took the lead in the second before Paris responded on a third-period power play, with Smith scoring unassisted to even the game.

Less than a minute later, the Trappers netted the eventual game-winner, ending Paris' tournament run.

The Wolfpack will look to build on their success when they head to their next tournament in West Niagara this weekend.

Paris men's Wednesday night billiards:

Precision and pursuit: High stakes at the Paris Legion

BY JEFF "STONES" JOHNSTON

Sports Correspondent

It was another tantalizing evening on the felt this week, with optimism hanging as thick in the air as the chalk dust. The competition was fierce from the first break, with whispers of "on the snap" echoing through the hall—reminiscent of a scene straight out of *The Color of Money*.

The standout story of the evening belonged to "Wheels," who earned the moniker "Hot Wheels" after a blistering display of pocketing. Paired with the ever-reliable Kopper, the two formed a formidable duo that dictated the pace of their matches.

While Chicken seemed to enjoy a quieter evening as he settles into the rhythm of retirement, other veterans faced an uphill battle. "Deadeye" Dick Emerson and Big J Dog endured a frustrating run on the tables, yet in true league fashion, their spirits remained unshaken despite the rolls not going their way.

The technical skill on display was nothing short of impressive. The night was defined by ambitious bank shots, tricky pickups, and kiss shots that defied the angles. At one point, the room witnessed a rare double kiss—though, as the boys noted, there wasn't a lady in sight to claim it.

Big Al started the night strong with sev-

eral precise shots, but he eventually found himself thrown for a loop by Fergie, who arrived sporting a fresh "shave and a haircut" and a renewed sense of focus. Meanwhile, Greg G and Willie D remained the bedrock of consistency, playing a steady game that wore down their opponents.

The pace was fast and furious, though not without its casualties. Motor found himself in the hot seat after a costly scratch on the eight-ball—despite my own best (and purely coincidental) efforts to tilt the odds in his favour.

We were pleased to welcome Jacque, who dropped in for a visit and a few frames, while Floody played on a high note, his game flowing as strongly as the Grand River. However, the Shot of the Night honours went to Billy B, whose execution left the room in awe.

In a "Even Steven" night where teams were closely matched, the finals came down to a true thriller. In the end, the veteran composure of Willie D and Greg G carried them to the winners' circle over the hard-charging team of Wheels and Kopper.

The Quote of the Night perfectly captured the fickle nature of the game:

"Time to start playing darts, as my pool game is not so fine."

To that, I say: Don't worry, boys. Sometimes the table, much like us, is just a little "offside." As Stew would say "All the best boys until next week!"



Members of the U11 Select Hockey Team, in no particular order, include Jace Allgood, Dawson Anderson, Henry Barstcher, Cecil Burbridge, Brennan Deane, Landon Dedman, Nathan Farrell, Noel Farrell, Jack Ferren, Koen Gall, Jack Graham, Josh Rawlings, Lennon Smith, Davis Starks.

**FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES IN
THE INDEPENDENT**

CALL 519-757-5662 OR EMAIL SALES@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

Paris skaters take centre ice at year-end gala celebration

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Paris Figure Skating Club brought its season to a close in style on March 28, hosting its annual year-end gala at the Brant Sports Complex.

The event, held across three well-attended shows, welcomed family, friends and community members to celebrate the accomplishments of local skaters and to showcase the progress made throughout the season.

More than 60 skaters participated in the gala, performing in a variety of routines including solos, duets, trios and group numbers. The performances highlighted the skill, creativity and confidence developed on the ice over the past several months.

A highlight of the event included the CanSkate program, where younger skaters performed themed routines based on colours, offering a fun and engaging display for the audience.

The gala also served as an opportuni-

ty to recognize graduating skaters Abbi MacDonald, Emily Percival and Madelyn Tapp as they prepare to move on to the next chapter of their education. Club representatives shared their hope that skating will remain a meaningful part of their lives in the years ahead.

Executive member Lisa Campbell noted the strong turnout and community support, with all three shows drawing enthusiastic crowds.

The club also acknowledged the many contributors who helped make the event a success, including local businesses that supported the production through advertisements in the 52-page yearbook program, a keepsake filled with photos and memories from the season.

Special thanks were extended to the club's board members Renee, Dawn, Nancy, Peggy, Alycia, Lindsay and Byron for their dedication, as well as to the coaches who spent countless hours choreographing routines and preparing skaters for the performance.



Women's Day league wraps successful season



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

The Paris Curling Club Women's Day League Spring Draw champions celebrate a successful season. From left: Patti Fergus (skip), Jackie Delong (lead), Marilyn Maude (vice) and Laurie Tottle (second). The team now trades the ice for the golf course as the season comes to a close.



House League Standings - Week of March 30th

7-8 Year-Old (House League)

Chicken Jockeys defeat Marshmallows, 26-20
Lakers defeat Sharks, 30-14

This week's top scorers:

1. Hudson S, Sharks, 14 Points
2. Aydin, Marshmallows, 12 Points
3. Landon, Chicken Jockeys, 10 points

9-11 Year-Old (House League)

Huskies defeat Fire, 21-19
Flaming Flamingos defeat Skyscrapers, 36-15
Tigers defeat Warriors, 27-23
Lakers defeat Hamburgers, 22-20

This week's top scorers:

1. Will, Flaming Flamingos, 26 Points
2. Laith, Fire, 19 Points
3. Benson, Warriors, 14 Points

12-14 Year-Old (House League)

Blackhawks defeat Elite, 32-27
Warriors defeat Splash Gang, 46-20

This week's top scorers:

1. Landen, Warriors, 15 Points
2. Tyson, Blackhawks, 14 Points
3. Bahadur, Elite, 12 Points

Cheers and checkouts: Dart league brings energy to Paris Legion

Local health officials have not yet issued a noise complaint, but neighbors of the Legion are advised that the "ringing in the ears" reported by residents Friday morning was not, in fact, caused by a rock concert. It was simply the sound of the Women's Dart League having a slightly-above-average amount of fun.

The decibel levels reached such heights on Thursday night that even the pool players venturing up from the basement were seen wearing grins—partly out of joy, and partly, we suspect, out of sheer vibratory shock.

The evening's Easter festivities were celebrated with some wearing bunny ears, and curated by the leagues own resident comedian, Booner, who once again presented "The Great Easter Egg Guessing Game." While most participants' guesses were reportedly "not even in the same zip code" as the actual number, Linda B. managed to narrow it down the closest.

In a move of tactical brilliance, Linda was also issued a name tag featuring her team number. This was reportedly a precautionary measure to ensure that, should she wander off, she could be returned

promptly to the correct dart board.

In other financial news, Liz L. walked away with the 50/50 winnings, proving once and for all that the universe has favorites.

The competition was fierce as Kim M. returned from her winter hiatus in the sun. Clearly, Vitamin D is the secret ingredient to a high score of 106.

Meanwhile, Gail D. claimed the title of the "Lone Bullseye," proving she has the precision of a surgeon. The "Double Out" section of the scoreboard looked like a crowded elevator by the end of the night: Linda B. (The Woman, The Myth, The Name-Tagged Legend) led the pack with a staggering 4 doubles. Nancy C. and Shari E. weren't far behind, snagging 2 each.

A frantic scramble for team wins saw Cynthia G., Allie, Nancy B., MaryAnn K., and Darlene W. all hitting their doubles to seal the deal for their respective squads.

League officials are warning all members to prepare for a "Cold Front" next week—or at least a "Plaid Front." Attendees are instructed to dig through their cedar chests and closets to find their best checkered gear.

Cameron Faragher named Rookie Curler of the Year



(PARIS CURLING CLUB PHOTO)

Cameron Faragher (left) was presented with the Bill England Memorial Rookie of the Year award during the Paris Curling Club's Monday Night Men's league finale. The annual honour recognizes a curler in their first or second season who demonstrates growth, enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Faragher, new to the sport this year, was selected by league members for his rapid improvement and commitment. He is pictured with Monday Night Men's convenor Ty (right).

COUNTY OF Brant Simply Grand

Help us help you stay informed!

How do you want to hear from us?

From construction notices, to community programs and everything in between, we regularly share important information that affects your daily life. Let us know how we can reach you!

- Online: EngageBrant.ca/Communications2026
- By phone: **519.44BRANT** (442.7268) or 1.855.44BRANT
- In print: Stop by a main County of Brant Customer Service location to pick up a copy.

Visit the Engage Brant page to take our **quick poll** and **share your ideas** to help improve communications in the County.

EngageBrant.ca/Communications2026

Complete the survey for a chance to win 1 of 2 \$100 gift cards from a local County business!

RELIABLE FUEL & PROPANE DELIVERY 24/7

Quality products and great service at a fair price.

219 Lorne Ave. E.
Stratford, ON N5A 6S4
519-272-0090

6976 Wellington Rd 7
Alma, ON N0B1A0
519-513-4514

165 Avenue Rd
Cambridge, ON N1R 7Z1
519-622-3720

Support us on

Paid subscriptions available at:
www.patreon.com/TheParisIndependent

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

Our plan to protect Ontario is building new nuclear facilities

As Canada stares down economic uncertainty, we're ready with a plan to protect Ontario. We're building the first small modular reactors in the G7, and the first large-scale nuclear facilities in decades. Creating 150,000 new jobs.

That's how we protect Ontario.



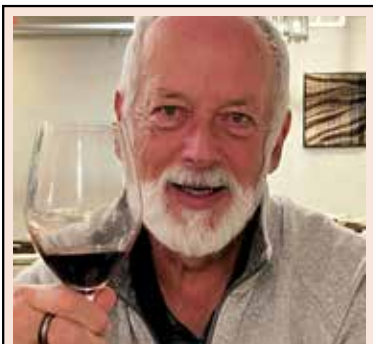
ontario.ca/ProtectOntario

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The silly side of travel writing



By Paul Knowles

I get a lot of comments from people who are a bit jealous of my gig as a travel writer. They're right – it's a great job. I will insist that it does involve work – being on a busy, dusk to dawn travel “familiarization tour” can be exhausting. But still fun.

And sometimes, unexpectedly hilarious.

Often, these silly moments involve food. Like in Hong Kong, where I was taken out to breakfast at a congee restaurant. Congee is rice porridge, usually served with tea, and you add meat to the congee. My host recommended that I add... wait for it... bull's penis. I did not, and opted for chicken. At least, I hope it was chicken.

In Locarno, Switzerland, in the Italian canton of this multi-lingual country, I asked my waiter if he spoke English. “Yes,” he said, with a vigorous nod of the head. So, I ordered. My meal, when delivered, bore no resemblance to what I had asked for. I explained. He nodded, hopefully, but clearly without comprehending my comment. I asked again: “Do you speak English?” “Yes!”

I pondered. And then, knowing that French is one of the four official languages of Switzerland, I asked, “Parlez-vous anglais?” He laughed and shook his head. “Non!” Well, that at least explained that.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The Beaver Tail kiosk in Ottawa, where our hero punched a pigeon.

And speaking of food, there was the time I punched a pigeon. I was in Ottawa, exploring the Byward Market, and decided to have a beaver tail. Yum. I sat down, and was immediately approached by a herd of rather aggressive pigeons. Foolishly, I thought that if I threw a couple of bits of beaver tail well distant from me, they would leave me alone. Wrong. They got more aggressive, and one flew straight at my face. I reached out to defend myself and... yep, I accidentally punched a pigeon.

In Ponce Inlet, Florida, at a diner, I ordered a salad. “We're all out of salads,” said the waitperson. “Really?” “Yes.” “Okay, I have a question,” I said. “If I order a hamburger, can I get it with lettuce, tomato and onion?” “Sure.”

“That's a salad!” I pointed out with some emphasis. Made no difference, of course. Salads were off.

Occasionally the unreal reality of being a travel writer does lead to amazing things – circumstances you still have to laugh about,

because they really are so genuinely unreal.

Like, the time in San Diego when I was supposed to go tandem hang-gliding off the cliffs. This seemed an ill-conceived idea, so I asked if there might be an alternative activity. “Do you want to play golf?” asked my host, “at Torrey Pines?” Did I want to play golf at one of the most famous golf courses in the world? We arrived. I was escorted to my golf cart, complete with a beautiful set of loner clubs, balls, tees, water, the works. I asked “Am I playing with anyone?”

“No sir,” came the answer, “We closed the course for you.”

I looked at my host. He quietly said, “I don't know who they think you are, but go with it.” So, I did. I played well – about which, I have no proof, and no one believes me.

I have been bit on the lip by a sea turtle in the waters off Barbados; I have kissed a stuffed beaver in New Brunswick; I have marched in two parades in Québec City, once in full, brilliant blue cos-

tume as a 16th century seigneur; I have felt my underwear fall off during a walking tour of Lugano; and I have been trussed up like a hippopotamus in bondage gear to go ziplining in the Jamaican rainforest.

But it was in Mexico that two incidents left me laughing and feeling rather humiliated, at the same time.

We went snorkelling; the transportation to the coral reef involved two-person speedboats. Upon arrival at the reefs, they tethered the boats together, and said “Jump in.” Jumping in, I could do, but there was no way I was going to be able to haul myself back up and into the boat. I tried to ask, but our guide spoke as much English as my Locarno waiter. What the heck – I jumped in. The snorkelling was great; eventually, we were called back to the boats, and I was first to return. I went to the back, and started to try to board the beast. No luck, of course.

The guide motioned that I

should come to the front, which was even farther out of the water. I obeyed. Whereupon he grabbed me by the life jacket, and landed me unceremoniously on the prow. It's hard to laugh hysterically with the breath knocked out of you, but I managed it.

And also, during that visit to Mexico, I was offered a moment of self-awareness. A small group of media folk went to the amazing attraction called Xcaret, where you can swim in an underground river. You don a life jacket, but it takes some effort to complete the course. When we finished, a much younger member of the group told me, “If I ever live to be as old as you, I hope I am able to do as well as you just did.”

Sigh.

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.



A sea turtle, perhaps a relative of the beast that nipped the author on the lip.



The author in a poorly executed selfie at Torrey Pines golf course.



Swimming the underground river at Xcaret, Mexico.



Kissing a stuffed beaver at the Big Fiddle Still in Harvey, New Brunswick.

Remembering Mr. David Kerr and celebrating local milestones

STONES Around Town

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

Hello again, neighbours. I've been traveling about with a smile lately—as I usually do—catching up with old friends and making a few new ones along the way. There is something special about the rhythm of our community and the people who keep it moving.

I caught up with Kyle Pickering recently; he's a heck of a good guy and was out enjoying the day while grocery shopping with his mom. I also spotted my pal Big Al waving from his truck, keeping it real while blasting some Conway Twitty.

In St. George, I ran into Nick the Propane Guy at Drongkowski's Deli. It's guys like Nick who keep our houses warm and our spirits up. A warm hello also goes out to Dave Madden over at Telfer Place, as well as Linda, Patti, and Wendy. I also crossed paths with Wil from the Wincey Mills and the ever-kind Caroline T.

It's a gift when you run into people you haven't seen in a while and can pick up right where you left off with a laugh. A big "hi"

to Sue Croome—a proud grandma these days—and a very Happy Birthday to Mrs. Croome. Our thoughts are with you as we remember Bill.

On a more somber note, I want to take a moment to honour the memory of Mr. David Kerr. He was a cornerstone of our community who taught science and Phys Ed to so many of us—and eventually to our children, too.

Mr. Kerr spent many dedicated years at PDHS. Whether he was a star on the intramural volleyball court (the teachers always did have a formidable team!) or playing pickup basketball with the two Crooshes and Rayzor in Drumbo, he was always active. His commitment to Paris went far beyond the classroom; he was a tireless volunteer at the Legion, a Monday night hockey regular, and a fixture at Bandamania.

Beyond his roles as an educator and outdoorsman, he was a devoted husband, father, and a true friend. We were lucky to grow up in a time when teachers really knew you and your family. It's a reminder of why being mindful and involved in your community matters so much. Thank you for the memories, Mr. Kerr. Rest in peace. (And thanks for introducing us to Dodson—that weekend at his cottage is a memory that still has me laughing!)

Finally, a big Happy Birthday to Wray R. If you saw me waving, that was indeed me! I saw the "magic finger" salute in return; in my neck of the woods, that's just as good as a wave. Thank you all and I will see you before you see me.

OBITUARY

Eddy

EDDY, Ronald Earl Foster
1931-2026




It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ron on April 2, 2026, in the comfort of his home in his 95th year. Beloved husband of 53 years to Janice (nee Wilkinson). Loving father to Allyson, Mark (Susan), and Wesley. Proud Papa of Tanner, Brendan, Brooke, Ryan, Addy, Reghan, and Emily. Predeceased by his parents Morton and Lotta Eddy. Ron will also be missed by many extended family members and all the friends he made throughout his life. Ron cared deeply for his community and spent most of his career serving the Brant community and surrounding counties. Ron is the past Reeve of South Dumfries (1978-1991), Mayor of Brant (1999-2018), MPP of Brant-Haldimand (1992-1995), past Warden of Brant, Administrator of Wentworth County (1955-1973), Clerk &

Treasurer of Middlesex County (1974-1992), International Plowing Match Chair (1990), and former President for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. On behalf of the family, a special thank you to the Para Med, VON, Robert and John, and to everyone who supported and cared for Ron in these past years. The family will receive friends at the McCleister Funeral Home, 495 Park Road N, Brantford on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, from 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. A funeral service celebrating Ron's life will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 in the funeral home chapel at 1 p.m. Interment to follow at Mt. Hope Cemetery. If desired, donations in memory of Ron can be made to St. Paul's United Church or the Brant County 4-H Association. www.mccleisterfuneralhome.ca

WEEKLY Horoscope

April 8 - April 14 2026



ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20

Momentum picks up. A confident step forward opens new possibilities and strengthens your direction. Trust your instincts—it keeps you moving with purpose and clarity.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23

Harmony finds you, Libra. A meaningful connection brings ease and fresh perspective. Choose understanding—it strengthens bonds and clears the path ahead.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21

Comfort steadies you, Taurus. Simple routines restore balance and ease your mind. Embrace consistency—it brings quiet strength and supports your next move.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22

Awareness deepens, Scorpio. Subtle shifts reveal important truths. Trust your intuition—it helps you navigate forward with quiet strength.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 21

Curiosity leads the way, Gemini. A fresh idea sparks excitement and invites exploration. Follow the spark—it encourages growth and unexpected opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21

Excitement builds, Sagittarius. A new possibility sparks your sense of adventure. Take the leap—it leads to growth and fresh experiences.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22

Emotional clarity emerges, Cancer. A calm moment helps you understand what truly matters. Move forward gently—it supports balance and inner peace.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20

Steady progress continues, Capricorn. Your efforts begin to show clear results. Stay consistent—it reinforces a strong and lasting foundation.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23

Confidence rises naturally, Leo. Your presence draws attention and inspires those around you. Step forward boldly—it's your time to lead and shine.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18

Innovation flows easily, Aquarius. A creative idea gains momentum and attention. Trust your vision—it drives meaningful change forward.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22

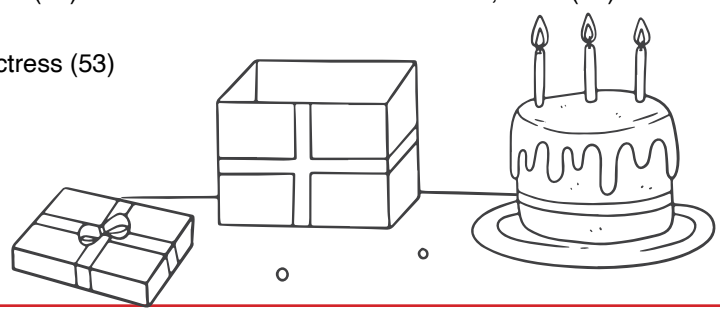
Focus returns, Virgo. Clearing small tasks creates a sense of control and calm. Trust your process—it keeps everything running smoothly.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20

Peace settles in, Pisces. Quiet reflection brings clarity and emotional ease. Follow your inner voice—it guides you with calm confidence and gentle strength.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- APRIL 8**
John Schneider, Actor (66)
- APRIL 9**
Dennis Quaid, Actor (72)
- APRIL 10**
Charlie Hunnam, Actor (46)
- APRIL 11**
Jennifer Esposito, Actress (53)
- APRIL 12**
Brendon Urie, Musician (39)
- APRIL 13**
Ron Perlman, Actor (76)
- APRIL 14**
Sarah Michelle Gellar, Actor (49)



Riddles

I fall in spring but never get hurt.
What am I?

Rain

I buzz all day and help things grow.
What am I?

A bee

I hop in spring and love the mud.
What am I?

A frog

I grow from dirt but don't stay small.
What am I?

A plant

I stretch the day and bring more
light. What am I?

Springtime

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Diamond | 6. Leonardo DiCaprio |
| 2. Avi Lewis | 7. \$18.15 |
| 3. England | 8. Cambodia |
| 4. Gen beta | 9. 9.46 trillion km |
| 5. Carbohydrates, proteins, & fats | 10. Seven |

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 19

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

FRODO

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Frodo was trying his best to persuade his owner not to book the neuter, but he sailed through the surgery and recovery and hasn't looked back. He is happy as can be!

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



Word Search

MARCH NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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

- War in Iran
- Drone attacks
- Paralympic Games
- Mojtaba Khamenei
- Strait of Hormuz
- Kharg Island
- Venezuela wins WBC
- Energy prices up
- Stock prices down
- Air Canada tragedy
- Tiger Woods DUI
- Blue Jays return
- NDP Avi Lewis

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Women Inspiring Women Women's Institute Monthly Meeting - 6-9 pm at the Cowan Community Health Hub, Community Room (main floor) *Note earlier start time for potluck AND change of location!

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

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

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

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

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

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

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 14TH, 21ST & 28TH

Brant Men of Song will be holding their choir practices - Tuesdays on April 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th at the First Baptist Church 70 West St., Brantford from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. New members are always welcome to attend and enjoy some singing.

APRIL 16, 17 & 18

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

11th Annual County of Brant Community Tree Plant - Join the Brant Tree Coalition for the 11th Annual County of Brant Community Tree Plant on Saturday, April 18 from 10 am

to 1pm at Rising Park, Glenn Morris (5 Brook St.)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22 - SATURDAY APRIL 25

The Brantford Symphony Orchestra Presents Their Annual BOOK FAIR - 9:30am-8pm Wed-Fri, 9:30am-3pm Sat. Location is One Market (1 Market St at Dalhousie St. Brantford). Accepting book donations Mon-Sat 11am-3pm until April 17 (closed Easter weekend). For more info: brantfordsymphony.ca or call: 226-552-5579.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

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

SATURDAY, MAY 23

St. Paul's Rummage and Bake Sale - Doors open 8:00pm at 48 Broadway St W Paris.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

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

MONDAY, JULY 20 - FRIDAY, JULY 24

Summer Kids Camp Paris Baptist Church - Join our detective squad and hunt for clues to uncover the truth of who Jesus is! July 20 - 24 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free Program Ages 5-12. Register now at parisbaptistchurch.org

1 & 3 TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree Meeting - Spring into the Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree meeting every other Friday 1-4 p.m. at Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll. Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! April 10 & 17, May 1, 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HEATING



Wise Heating and A/C Ltd.
Serving Paris and area for over 70 years

519-442-3431
info@wiseheating.ca

MECHANIC



50 Curtis Ave N, Paris
519-442-4422

Proudly Serving Paris & Area for the past 40 years

RESTAURANT



Homemade Burger & Fries
ONLY \$10 - Tuesdays
Dine-in with beverage purchase

CALL 519.442.2704
27 DUMFRIES ST, PARIS

SAND & GRAVEL



Locally owned and operated by a proud Canadian family since 1947
Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 7am-5pm

LOCATED AT 1368 BEKE ROAD
CAMBRIDGE, ON N1R 5S5

DECOR



SALES DECORATING CENTRE
"MORE THAN JUST A PAINT STORE"

MORE THAN JUST A PAINT STORE
MONDAY - SATURDAY 8 a.m - 3 p.m.
42 Grand River St, North
519-442-3152

ACCESS & PARKING AT BACK OF STORE

PHARMACY



COMMUNITY HUB PHARMACY

Independently Owned and Operated
25 Curtis Ave N., Paris
(Located in the Cowan Community Health Hub)
Tel: 519-750-1264

DELIVERY AVAILABLE • PARIS' ONLY COMPOUNDING PHARMACY

PHARMACY



NORTHVILLE PHARMACY

Independently Owned Pharmacy
Serving Paris & Area Since 1998

300 Grand River Street N., Paris
Tel: 519-442-4283

Built around having what you need & delivering the service you deserve.

FUNERAL HOME



Wm Kipp
FUNERAL HOME

Jason J. Vernooy

PARIS CHAPEL 519-442-3061 | AYR CHAPEL 519-632-8228

wkfh@rogers.com | wmkipffuneralhome.com

RENOVATIONS



MADACON
BATHROOMS • KITCHENS • BASEMENTS

Custom Homes & Fine Renovations

ADAM AMATO | OWNER
(226) 501-7725
ADAM@MADACONBUILD.CA
MADACONBUILD.CA

HEATING & COOLING



COMFORT PLUS HEATING AND COOLING

Air Conditioning • Heating • Gas Fireplaces • Indoor Air Quality • Air Cleaners • Ventilation • Custom Ductwork • Tankless Water Heaters • Maintenance Plans • Installation and Services

24 Hour Service

Brantford - (519) 752-2250
166 Grant St., Brantford, ON N3R 4B9
info@comfortplusheatandcool.com


CUSTOM STONE FABRICATION



BGQ BRANTFORD GRANITE & QUARTZ

519-442-1400 | 535-B PARIS RD, PARIS
WWW.BGQ.CA

WINDOWS & DOORS



Brantford 519-753-3939 | Hamilton 905-972-9988 | Kitchener 519-569-8700
www.caymanwindows.com | info@caymanwindows.com

Windows - Doors - Shutters
Replacement & New Construction

SALES • MANUFACTURING • INSTALLATIONS

LANDSCAPING



DESIGN & BUILD
LANDSCAPES • STRUCTURES • POOLS

LAWN SPRINKLERS
OUTDOOR LIGHTING

STREAMLINE
IRRIGATION & LANDSCAPE SERVICES INC.

streamlineils.com

PLUMBING & HEATING



Plumbing, Heating & Excavating Inc.
Princeton, ON

Water Treatment | Wells & Pumps | Septic Services | Bin Rentals & Directional Drilling

Now Offering Full Electrical Services
ECRA/ESA: #7018760

519-458-4488
info@hunterplumbing.ca
www.hunterplumbing.ca

The Paris Independent

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD HERE!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO!

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WANTED

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

MEAT DRAW AT THE PARIS LEGION BRANCH 29

Saturday April 18, from 2pm - 5pm

\$5.00 gets you two chances at a meat prize with every draw all afternoon!
Come to the Branch for a chance to win!
License M850522

HISTORICAL RESTORATION HELP WANTED

Cobblestone Masonry Restoration Ltd. has one spot left for a part-time general labourer on a historical project starting soon. Pay is \$20-\$25 per hour with no experience necessary. Help preserve local history in this unique role.

Text or call 519-757-2574 today.



Dan MUYS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FLAMBOROUGH–GLANBROOK–BRANT NORTH

A CALL FOR ZERO TAX ON GAS FOR THE REST OF 2026

One immediate way to help with the increasing cost-of-living that is impacting everyone. Plus help reduce diesel costs for farmers and the trucking of all food and goods.

Canada is in the grips of a brutal cost-of-living crisis. There are many contributing factors. The war in the Middle East is only making it worse.

One immediate step that can directly help consumers, farmers and the economy is to suspend the federal taxes on gas and cut the federal tax on diesel.

Conservatives are calling for zero federal tax on gas and diesel for the rest of 2026. The plan would eliminate the Fuel Excise Tax (10 cents-per-litre), the Clean Fuel Standard (7 cents), and the GST (8 cents) to save Canadians 25 cents-per-litre. The plan would remove the excise tax and GST until the end of the calendar year and eliminate the fuel standard tax and industrial carbon tax permanently.

The direct savings from suspending all taxes on fuel until the end of this calendar year would save all Canadians 25 cents per litre – which adds up to an estimated \$1,218 for a family of four, on average.

What's also important are the indirect savings that will help reduce the cost to produce our food supply. Local farmers are struggling with higher gas prices, higher input costs and higher taxes. They



wonder aloud whether they can even afford to plant a crop this year.

The trucks that ship the goods in our economy are hit hard by gas and diesel prices. This impacts the cost of groceries, staple goods and literally everything.

Zero tax on diesel would lower the

cost to farmers to run their tractors and farm equipment. It would also reduce the cost of shipping by truck.

Other countries have already taken action to lower the price consumers pay by reducing their taxes on fuel:

- **Australia** cut their excise tax in half for three months, reducing the price of fuel by 26.3 cents per litre.
- **Spain** cut their sales tax on gas and fuel, saving up to 30 cents per litre at the pump.
- **Ireland** cut its excise duty on diesel by 20 cents and by 15 cents per litre on gasoline until the end of May.

While the Iran war explains the sudden rise in world oil prices, it doesn't account for why Canadians pay 28 cents per litre than

consumers south of the border. Taxes are the big difference. With other countries in Europe moving to cut their gas taxes to help their citizens, it's time for the Government of Canada to do the same.

The estimated \$5.25 billion this plan would cost could easily be saved by cutting overspending on government consultants and other waste.

The fact remains that Canada has everything the world needs and wants. We should be booming and looking to the future with confidence. Diversifying trade, attracting investment in our economy and investing in port infrastructure are ways we can seize the opportunities before us.

While this happens and our economy is transformed, addressing the cost-of-living crisis is essential. Cutting gas taxes is one way that would have an immediate impact.



Canada used to be the most prosperous middle class in the world. Let's continue to embrace ideas that restore that vision.

Dan Muys, MP for Brant North

dan.muys@parl.gc.ca | DanMuysMP.ca

519-448-1483

Office: 6 Main St. S., St. George

Mail: Box 1100, St. George, ON NOE 1N0