

The Paris Independent

Issue #214

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Paris Skatepark expansion officially opens with Optimist support



Mayor David Bailey joins Paris Optimist Club members Marilyn McCullouch and Alex Faux, along with Councillor John Peirce, to officially open the expanded Syl Apps Optimist Skatepark on October 9. The Optimist Club contributed \$10,000 toward the project, which adds a connected double bowl with a double spine to the popular park originally built in 2012. The expansion was completed earlier this year alongside the new Burford Skatepark.

Battery storage facility proposed near Paris Waste Transfer Station

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Alectra Energy Solutions, a division of Alectra Utilities, is proposing to build a 75-megawatt Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

at the County of Brant's municipally owned lands at the Paris Waste Transfer Station. The proposal was presented during a public open house held October 9 at the Brant Sports Complex. Attendance was limited, with only a few residents present alongside councillors, County

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Blue Jays on a roll - thanks to Paris cinnamon buns?

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Could a batch of sourdough cinnamon buns from a small Paris bakery be the Toronto Blue Jays' secret playoff weapon? Staff at Little Paris Bread Co. aren't saying for sure but they're not ruling it out either.

It all started late on Saturday, September 27, when bakery owner April Vande Leygraaf received an unexpected message. A member of the Blue Jays' medical staff, who happens to be born and raised in Paris, reached out asking if there were any cinnamon buns left that could be picked up before Sunday's game. The reason? The team had won three straight games on days he'd brought the bakery's buns into the clubhouse and one more win against Tampa Bay would clinch a playoff berth. Understanding that baseball players are superstitious, so it was important to fulfill this request.

"I read the message out loud to everyone at the table," said Vande Leygraaf, who was out with friends that night. "We were all excited but there was just one problem, I was far out of town, and there was no way I'd make it back in time to bake the buns!"

That's when staff member Jenny stepped up, heading into the bakery late that night and again early the next morning to make a fresh batch. The Jays won the next day clinching their playoff spot.

"Jenny and the rest of our team are incred-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Proposed Paris battery energy storage system aims to boost Ontario's power reliability

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

staff and Brant Municipal Enterprises CEO Darryl Lee. One attendee noted that there had been little public communication about the event.

The proposed facility would store electricity from Ontario's power grid during off-peak hours and discharge it when demand is high, helping to stabilize the grid and improve reliability. The project would occupy approximately five to ten acres of land and connect to nearby transmission lines, a factor Alectra says will help minimize construction disruption and costs. The company also stated the project will meet all municipal and provincial planning and environmental requirements and be designed to have minimal impact on the surrounding community and environment.

The plan is being submitted to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) as part of its Long-Term 2 Request for Proposals (LT2 RFP), which is seeking to secure 600 megawatts of new capacity resources across the province. Under the proposed timeline, the RFP was released in June 2025, with submissions due in December. Successful projects are expected to be announced in 2026, followed by a period

of approvals and permitting through 2027. Construction could begin as early as 2027 or 2028, with operations commencing between 2029 and 2030. Development is expected to take between three and five years, with multiple opportunities for public engagement throughout the process.

Alectra representatives emphasized that safety will be central to the project's design and operation. The company outlined a multi-layered approach that includes individual battery cells fully enclosed and tested to high performance standards, battery management systems that continually monitor cell health, and enclosures built to contain and prevent the spread of fire. Each unit is equipped with passive and active safety systems such as temperature, gas and fire detection sensors, ventilation and fire suppression systems, and 24/7 remote monitoring. The project will also comply with rigorous fire and electrical safety standards.

Alectra confirmed it has already engaged with the County of Brant Fire Department to review the proposal and gather feedback. A site hazard mitigation analysis and emergency response plan will be developed as part of the approval process, and local firefighters will receive site-specific training and orientation before operations begin.

The company said robust fire detection and monitoring systems will be installed, with continuous on-site and remote supervision. Brant's Fire Chief, Darren Watson, was in attendance.

During the open house, councillors raised several safety and environmental questions. Councillor Steve Howes asked how large the battery units would be and whether there could be any risk requiring an evacuation if a fire occurred. He noted that he will field many questions of this variety from constituents.

David Anders, Alectra Energy Solution's Director of Distributed Energy Resources, explained that each container measures roughly six by eight feet. Referencing the image shown during the presentation, he confirmed the Paris BESS project would be four times the size of the one Alectra is currently constructing in Guelph, which means the site could house approximately 400 containers. He added that any evacuation response would be at the discretion of the fire department, depending on the specific circumstances. Anders also confirmed that there are no groundwater contamination concerns, as the units are fully self-contained. In the rare event of a fire, it is often safer to allow a unit to burn out rather than douse it with water, which could cause run-off.

Councillor Howes also noted that the County is considering incorporating a public park and bike trail, called the North of the Nith, near the site and asked whether the proximity of the BESS facility would be a concern or interfere with this proposed project. Anders said fencing and grounding

requirements ensure public safety, adding that it would be possible to have a bike path directly outside the fenced area without issue.

Councillor John Peirce requested clarification on failure rates, referencing a claim that industry-wide incidents have dropped by 97 per cent since 2018, but wondered what are the specific numbers? Anders confirmed that the statistic came from EPRI research, and that failure does not necessarily mean fire. Kevin Whyte, Alectra's Government Relations and Development representative, added that most "failures" refer to minor technical issues such as breakers tripping or battery systems shutting down. "Failure might be a breaker goes off or one system stops working. It does not mean it has a thermal runaway and starts a fire. Of the failures, 40% are fire and 60% are just battery stops working," said Whyte.

Alectra said it will continue engaging with the municipality and local stakeholders as the project moves through the approval process. The company also committed to fully funding construction, operation and maintenance costs, emphasizing that no financial burden would fall to County rate-payers.

While the project marks a potential step toward expanding Ontario's clean energy capacity, several County officials acknowledged that public outreach will be essential as the process advances to ensure residents are informed and involved in discussions about the facility's development and long-term impacts. Alectra must bring the presentation to council for municipal approval and support.

The Paris Independent Pick Up Locations

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



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Little Paris Bread Co's "Winning Buns" rise with the Blue Jays' playoff push

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ble," said Vande Leygraaf. "We're a small business; there's just six of us that work here. It sounds cliché but we're a family and they're the backbone of the bakery."

Since then, the "winning buns" have become a playoff ritual. The staff member was back on October 4 before the first playoff home game against the Yankees, which they won in bold fashion, 10-1. The following day he was back to pick up some buns for the October 5th game, where they sent the Yankees home with a 13-7 loss. Did the cinnamon buns fuel the offensive explosion?

Acknowledging the tasty treats, the team even sent a few special thank-yous including a team-signed ball and hat, and a baseball signed by pitcher Kevin Gausman for Jenny's mom, Judy.

The connection between the bakery and the Jays isn't new. Two years ago, Gausman himself posted on social media about the cinnamon buns, calling them a favourite.

The buns are made entirely from scratch using a 24-hour sourdough process that gives them an extra depth of flavour with a little bit of tang. Of course, they are loaded with brown sugar and cinnamon, topped

with cream, and described by Vande Leygraaf as "ooey, gooey and rich."

As the Jays went on to win the ALDS, fans joked that Little Paris Bread Co.'s buns were clearly part of the magic.

"I love the community feel. We've had customers buying buns before each game. It's a surreal feeling to be just a little sourdough bakery that's part of something so big," said Vande Leygraaf.

Locals have embraced the story, with fans picking up buns on game days and cheering the team - and the bakery all the way. Last week, some fans teased that she should find a way to send some cinnamon buns to the Bronx to ensure the Jays could clinch the series; thankfully that wasn't necessary as the Jays took the series 3-1 sending the Yankees to Cancun!

Looking ahead, Vande Leygraaf is entertaining some ideas to create a special 'Blue Jays' edition of the famous cinnamon buns. "We would have to work off their colours. I'd say blueberry filled and topped with vanilla glaze!"

For now, she is just focussed on serving the customers that come through her doors and ensuring there's enough cinnamon buns on the shelves to keep the fan club happy.



A special delivery from the big leagues! Little Paris Bread Co. proudly displays a Toronto Blue Jays-signed baseball and cap, which is a token of appreciation from the team after the bakery's sourdough cinnamon buns became part of the club's playoff superstition.

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Brant County and Brantford butt heads over paramedic budget

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Paramedic budget talks between the City of Brantford and County of Brant have stalled over less than \$257,000. The sticking point is whether to operate with the current level of service next year or a reduced level of service. Potential savings work out to around \$185,000 for the city and \$72,000 for the county.

For years, the two have shared paramedic services. But multiple budget meetings last month involving the committee — made up of three members from each municipality — have ended without compromise.

“It’s a tough budget year,” committee chair, County of Brant Coun. David Miller, told his fellow councillors.

It’s not the first time the neighbouring municipalities have been at odds.

An attempt to restore a joint-services committee went south last year, and not long after, Brantford Mayor Kevin Davis threatened amalgamation, which the county has said it “unequivocally” opposes.

Davis and fellow Brantford committee members — councillors Greg Martin and Linda Hunt — were no-shows at a meeting on Sept. 29.

Because there wasn’t quorum, the budget couldn’t be finalized.

The meeting was called on short notice and there were “scheduling conflicts,” Maria Visocchi, the city’s communications director, told The Spectator.

“This was communicated to the clerk well in advance,” with the expectation the meeting would be rescheduled, she said.

However, Miller told his committee members only Davis had sent his regrets.

It left county representatives with concerns, because the service agreement says if the budget wasn’t finalized before Oct. 1, it would automatically default to the budget from the year before.

And there are significantly higher costs in 2026.

The proposed capital budget is nearly \$1.3 million. But it’s the base operating budget of nearly \$12.5 million that’s causing a hit.

It’s a 16.6 per cent increase over last year, largely driven by leases for a new headquarters and garage — both of which the committee had recommended and both councils approved, Miller pointed out.

A clause in the agreement allowed the county to request a budget extension from the city. Council will consider it at the next meeting on Oct. 14, Visocchi said.

But if they don’t accept, “then we go back to a budget that doesn’t work. It involves unions. It involves laying people off. It’s all kinds of things,” County of Brant Mayor David Bailey, who sits on the committee, told his council.

Since the paramedic service is used about 75 per cent of the time by city residents, the city pays for nearly three quarters of it.

About 42 per cent of the costs will be reimbursed by the Ministry of Health next year.

The proposed budget assumes the service will get six per

cent more calls next year, the average annual increase it has seen across the last seven years.

Growth in the area, combined with an aging population and an “increasing propensity to call an ambulance,” have put the service under strain in recent years, according to a report the committee saw.

The service is currently operating with eight and a half ambulances, even though the committee approved a bump to nine as of July 1. The number of ambulances represents the amount of staff and hours that can be scheduled.

Davis suggested that a medical priority dispatch system (MPDS) the service is transitioning to in November could help address the volume of calls.

The Hamilton Central Ambulance Communication Centre is implementing the program and will administer it for Brant-Brantford.

The MPDS triages calls, meaning things like heart attacks and serious accidents would get an immediate response. If someone were to call for something that isn’t urgent, they could wait hours until an ambulance is free.

Outgoing paramedic chief Russell King said the program will help ensure people who need the ambulances most are getting them, but he doesn’t expect the call volume to decrease.

“All calls still need to have a response regardless of acuity,” noted a report that went to committee.

Still, Davis argued decisions made with a budget could “incentivize the staff and those who are managing the system” to do more to address the 10 to 15 per cent of calls that come through that likely don’t require an ambulance.

The service has made big gains after a rocky period.

In 2024, there were 224 incidents in a month where a local ambulance wasn’t available to respond to a call.

Known as “code zeroes,” it meant the service had to rely on ambulances in neighbouring districts, which adds to response time and costs.

The same year, the service lost more than 1,000 hours in a month, while paramedics waited at the emergency de-

partment to off-load patients.

The savings could come at the cost of the gains, according to the report.

County of Brant Coun. John Peirce questioned the effect it could have on the paramedics.

“They’re able to take a lunch (break) now. The morale is going up. I don’t want to do anything to change that and send it the other direction,” he said.

Celeste Percy-Beauregard’s reporting is funded by the Canadian government through its Local Journalism Initiative.



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Paris Duck Derby makes a splash, raising over \$10,000 for local causes

MEDIA RELEASE

Rotary Satellite Club of Paris

Paris made quite a splash this fall as hundreds of bright yellow ducks bobbed down the Nith River for the first-ever Rotary Paris Duck Derby — a lively community fundraiser that sold out all 800 ducks and raised more than \$10,000 for local causes.

Hosted by the Rotary Satellite Club of Paris in Lions Park at the end of September, the community came out in full force to support the event, and thanks to their generosity, the club proudly raised \$10,404, which will be put directly back into the local community.

In addition, the Rotary Satellite Club of Paris was pleased to present cheques from funds raised at past events to three deserving local organizations:

- The Raw Carrot – \$760
- Brant Food 4 Thought – \$760
- Brant Waterways – \$760

This event would not have been possible without the incredible support of its sponsors:

- **Platinum Sponsors:** Brant Family Eye Care, Paris Family Eye Care, River Realty Team, Cobblestone Animal Hospital, PHI Project Solu-

tions, Cherry Home Inspections, Priority Mechanical

- **Gold Sponsors:** Canadian Tire (Paris), Waterous Holden Amy Hitcheon LLP, Ayr Farmers Mutual Insurance and Browndale Farms
- **Silver Sponsor:** Brantford Twin Valley Zoo

The day was filled with fun for all ages, thanks to local vendors, a food truck, and community partners who joined in. Pizza Pizza generously donated pizza to feed volunteers, while students from Paris District High School (PDHS) kept children entertained with face painting and crafts. The lively atmosphere brought neighbours together and created a true community celebration. The crowd was also treated to live entertainment by Tim McDougald, which added to the festive spirit.

The Rotary Satellite Club of Paris is already planning for next year's Duck Derby, scheduled for the last Saturday in September 2026. With exciting new ideas and plans to add more ducks to the race, the club is confident the event will grow even bigger and better.

"We are grateful for the overwhelming support from our community," said organizers. "Together, we are making a real impact."

County launches new system to simplify parking ticket disputes

MEDIA RELEASE

County of Brant

The County of Brant has launched a new Administrative Penalty System (APS) that gives residents and visitors a faster, simpler, and more accessible way to dispute parking tickets.

"The introduction of an Administrative Penalty System is a significant step forward in increasing responsiveness to the needs of our residents and visitors," said Greg Bergeron, Director of Enforcement and Regulatory Services. "By shifting the dispute resolution process to the County, we are making it easier, quicker, and less costly for individuals to address parking penalties."

The APS is designed to be user-friendly, offering clear guidelines and procedures for those who wish to contest a parking penalty. The system also aims to alleviate the burden on the provincial courts, allow-

ing them to focus on more serious matters while ensuring that parking violations are addressed in a timely and fair manner.

Those looking to dispute a parking penalty will first request a screening review, where a Screening Officer will review the information provided and provide a response. If the person requesting the screening wishes to appeal the decision by the Screening Officer, they may request a hearing where a Hearing Officer will review the process up to that point and make a final decision.

"The Administrative Penalty System reflects the County's commitment to enhancing service delivery and improving access to justice for all community members, while ensuring fair treatment for everyone," said Bergeron.

For more information about the APS program or to initiate a dispute, please visit www.brant.ca/Parking or contact by-lawenforcement@brant.ca.



Jonathon McDermid, Past Chair and Brian Stolp current Chair of Rotary Satellite Club of Paris present a cheque for \$760 to the Brant Waterways Foundation.



Jonathon McDermid, Past Chair and Brian Stolp current Chair of Rotary Satellite Club of Paris present a cheque for \$760 to Brant Food 4 Thought.



Jonathon McDermid, Past Chair and Brian Stolp current Chair of Rotary Satellite Club of Paris present a cheque for \$760 to the Raw Carrot organization.

Local designers shine at The Other Paris Fashion Week



(SARAH EVANS PHOTO)

The stage was filled with creative energy as The Other Paris Fashion Week returned for its second annual showcase. It was a bold, high-energy production featuring 12 designers, most of them from Brant, and a talented cast and crew of more than 100 people who helped bring the runway to life.

RUBY JONES

Cultural Correspondent

Saturday, October 4 marked the second annual The Other Paris Fashion Week (TOPFW) presented by KLK Paris, Rebel & Royal, and Big Cityyy Arts. It was a dazzling showcase of local fashion and wearable art at the #ForParisCentre, held as part of Ontario Culture Days 2025. This year's event featured two runway shows highlighting 12 designers, most of them local to Brant, along with a vibrant fashion and art market, a pop-up red carpet, and a fleet of photographers. The success of the event was made possible through the support of dedicated volunteers, the TOPFW team, talented models, generous sponsors, creative media partners, and the many community members who came out

to celebrate.

The runway itself was a stunning display of creativity and contrast from wearable florals to elegant wedding gowns, upcycled designs made from discarded materials to lavish couture brimming with personality and energy. The Nith Runway Show featured designers Caroline Telfer, Kai Scott's Ruby Ocean Studio, Sarah Evans' Belle Florals, Jessica Bowman, Simone Jolie, and Marguerite Larmand. The Grand Runway Show followed with Jill Pye, Prinx Lydia, Larissa Hikel, Michelle Brisson, Anna Naim's Ostentacious, and Kara Lee Kalvapalle's KLK Paris.

Mark your calendars as The Other Paris Fashion Week returns on Saturday, October 3, 2026. Applications for designers will open soon!

Councillor Garneau to propose new policy supporting businesses during municipal construction

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

County of Brant Councillor Christine Garneau has submitted a notice of motion signaling her intent to bring forward a Municipal Construction Business Impact Policy for council's consideration later this month.

The proposed policy aims to formalize how the County supports businesses affected by municipal construction projects that Garneau says became particularly evident through the Downtown Dig project in Paris, which underscored the operational challenges local businesses face during prolonged infrastructure work.

Garneau's motion notes that similar construction projects are planned across the County in the coming years and emphasizes the importance of ensuring all business sectors, including farms, on-farm diversified uses, non-profit organizations, and home-based enterprises, receive appropriate consideration and support.

The proposed policy would direct County staff to:

Establish criteria to assess the potential impact of construction on business operations, such as project duration, road clo-

sures, and utility interruptions.

Designate a staff liaison to serve as a direct point of contact for affected businesses.

Develop signage and communication protocols to maintain customer access and awareness throughout construction.

Identify potential supports the County could provide — from communication assistance to financial or in-kind contributions — and ensure equity between urban and rural areas.

Create a process for collecting and incorporating business feedback to improve future projects.

The motion also requests that staff consult with key business stakeholders, including the Paris and Brantford-Brant Chambers of Commerce, the Paris BIA, the St. George Business Association, Burford Connects, and the Brant County Federation of Agriculture.

If adopted, the motion would result in a new framework guiding how the County communicates with and assists local businesses during major construction projects, both municipal and those led by external partners such as the Ministry of Transportation or neighbouring municipalities.

Council is expected to discuss Garneau's motion later this month.

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Local speaker series challenges business leaders to redefine workplace inclusion

MEDIA RELEASE

Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie

An upcoming speaker series aims to inspire local business leaders to take a fresh look at what it means to create a supportive and inclusive workplace.

During October and November, four events will be held across the Grand Erie and Waterloo regions, with each event featuring a speaker who will offer strategies to build dynamic workplaces that embrace and empower all employees.

"Real inclusion doesn't exclude anyone," said Danette Dalton, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie, lead organizer of the speaker series.

"Inclusive workplaces value and respect every person and every age demographic — that's how you build trust and community."

Dalton said that inclusion has become increasingly politicized sometimes leading to division and hopelessness,

rather than building unity and trust.

"We're hopeful that people who attend these talks walk away with deeper empathy, broader understanding and actionable strategies for building workplace teams where everyone feels like they belong," she said.

The four speakers are:

- **Sky McLaughlin**, a consultant who helps business leaders to create a workplace culture of belonging. Oct. 22 at the Wilkin Family Community Centre, 169 Grand River St. N., County of Brant
- **Nicki Straza**, who will speak about nurturing a workplace where every generation can flourish. Nov. 12, Six Nations Polytechnic — Brantford Campus, 411 Elgin St.
- **Michael Schiel**, who empowers business teams to achieve peak performance through high performance coaching and neuroscience. Nov. 12, Hampton Inn & Suites, St. Jacob's, as part of the Growing the Workforce Conference organized by Workforce

Planning West, a group of planning boards.

- **Keka Dasgupta**, a marketing/PR expert who will speak about breaking down barriers in the workplace. Also featuring Dr. Oliver Masakure of Wilfrid Laurier University Nov. 27, Lighthouse Theatre, 247 Main St., Port Dover, Norfolk County

You can register for some or all these events by checking out the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie's social channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Blue Sky) or going to Beacons.ai/wpbge on the web. The Inclusive Speaker Series is sponsored by the County of Brant, Norfolk County, Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Brant Human Resources Network, Six Nations Polytechnic, Wilfrid Laurier University, County of Brant Chamber of Commerce, Ladies Who Lead, Cornerstone Capital Financial Group and the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.

This Employment Ontario project is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

Annual CanJam fundraiser grows into a Paris tradition

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

When Paris musician John Ladds strums the first chord at this year's CanJam, it will mark not just another concert but 11 years of turning good music into good deeds.

Set for October 25 at the #ForParisCentre, CanJam #11 continues a now-beloved community tradition that blends live music with local generosity. What began in 2015 as a small jam session at the Arlington Hotel's Library Bar has evolved into a 400-seat benefit concert and food drive supporting the Brantford Food Bank.

"Music has a way of bringing people together for something bigger than ourselves," said Ladds. "That's really what CanJam is about."

In its first year, CanJam drew about 50 people. Last year, nearly 200 attendees helped raise a record \$6,000 and more than 2,000 pounds of food. To date, the event has contributed over \$21,000 to the food bank, with this year's goal set ambitiously at \$30,000.

The growth, says Ladds, has been "completely organic." Year after year, word spread and so did the goodwill. "In a world that can feel cynical, it's heartwarming to see hundreds of people come together simply out of generosity," he said.

This year marks the first time CanJam will be hosted at the #ForParisCentre, a venue known for its professional sound and lighting setup. It's the same space that houses the Paris Concert Series by Noise-maker.

"We've outgrown every venue we've

ever played," Ladds laughed. "The #ForParisCentre gives us room to grow and a real concert hall experience."

Despite being a church by day, the venue transforms into a lively music hall for the event. Guests can expect a night of energy, dancing, and plenty of sing-alongs.

Beyond the music, the event's impact runs deep. The Brantford Food Bank recognized CanJam's contributions last year with a Certificate of Appreciation, noting its "profound difference" in the lives of local families.

For Ladds, the highlight each year isn't just performing, it's delivering the cheque. "That's the defining moment," he said. "Seeing what we've accomplished together as a community never gets old."

The John Ladds Band (JLB), a six-piece ensemble of longtime friends and local musicians, will headline the show once again. "Nobody gets paid," Ladds said. "We do it for the love of music and the joy of giving back."

Members of JLB include Ladds, guitar/vocals, Suze Bermester, guitar/vocals, Yvonne Way, vocals, Rob Gies, guitar/bass, Mark Irschick, bass/flute and Ralph Ullman, drums/percussion.

And true to CanJam tradition, fans can expect a few surprises. "Last year, we even worked the in-house pipe organ into the finale," Ladds shared. "You never know what might happen next."

Ladds encourages everyone to attend, bring friends, donate, or sponsor. Local businesses are invited to get on board as event sponsors, with opportunities for logo placement on posters, stage signage, and

social media promotions.

And behind every successful musician, there's a support system and in this case, his wife Dawn, who handles everything from spreading the word to managing the pre-show chaos. "She's as much a part of CanJam as anyone on stage," Ladds said.

After 25 years performing in Paris, Ladds says there's no better place to call home. "This town just has a magic about it; the people, the stories, the connections,"

he said. "CanJam is just one small way we can give something back."

CanJam #11 takes place Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the #ForParisCentre. Doors open at 7 p.m. Admission is by donation, with proceeds and food contributions supporting the Brantford Food Bank. Tickets are \$30 each and are available in advance by emailing pariscanjam@gmail.com or will be available at the door, cash only.



Rob Gies, Yvonne Way, John Ladds, Steve Todd, Jeff Gay and Mark Irschick celebrate a successful CanJam fundraiser in 2024. Those who attended helped to donate over 2,000 pounds of food.



John Ladds, presenting a \$6,000 donation to Programs Manager Ashley Singleton raised during last year's CanJam event.

Paris sunset photo strikes a chord with locals



(HEIDI WRIGHT PHOTO)

A breathtaking autumn sunset paints the sky over the Grand River in Paris, Ontario, captured by local resident Heidi Wright during a quiet evening stop at the dam. The peaceful reflection, train silhouette, and glowing colours struck a deep personal chord — and clearly others too, as her photo has since received more than 1,400 likes on the Ask Paris Facebook page. "I see a lot of my life in this photo," she said. "Paris is such a beautiful little town with so much to offer. This photo is just a glimpse." Have a favourite photo of Paris to share? Send it to stories@theparisindpendent.com for a chance to be featured in an upcoming edition!

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Delays push Dundas Street East reconstruction into 2027

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

The reconstruction of Dundas Street East in Paris continues to progress, but the project is now expected to take longer than originally planned.

The County of Brant has confirmed that L82 Construction Ltd. remains the contractor executing the work. The company was the original bidder awarded the project through a tender process, with a bid price of \$7,840,897.50.

According to Mark Eby, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, the anticipated completion date has been extended to late 2026 or early 2027. The project was initially slated for completion by May 31, 2026.

The reconstruction includes work along Dundas Street East between Curtis Avenue and the intersection of Dundas Street East and Paris Road, continuing approximately 500 metres along Governors Road. Future phases will extend south from Dundas Street East along Paris Road to the intersection of Paris Road and Oak Park Road, where a roundabout is planned for approximately 2028. Work will also take place on Oak Park Road up to the railway tracks.

Eby said the project will complete a full road reconstruction, including the replacement and extension of watermain, sanitary sewer and storm sewer infrastructure along Dundas Street East, Governors Road, and parts of Paris Road. It will also include a

low-pressure sanitary forcemain extending from the end of the gravity sewer on Paris Road to Oak Park Road and along Oak Park Road to the railway tracks.

Road resurfacing, new curbs, and sidewalks will be installed in the urban area, and a dual left-turn lane will be added on Paris Road from the water tower to Oak Park Road. “The servicing work supports employment growth on Oak Park Road as well as improved servicing for existing businesses and to residents east of the CN Train Bridge on Dundas Street East,” said Eby.

The project will also feature improved sidewalks east of the CN overpass to enhance walkability and accessibility. The work was identified in the Paris Master Servicing Plan and is funded through Water and Wastewater User Fees, Development Charges, the Capital Levy, and connection fees billed to adjacent properties.

To date, completed work includes the installation of sanitary and storm sewers on Dundas Street East from the CN Train Bridge to near Green Lane, and sanitary sewer installation on Consolidated Drive from Dundas Street East to 100 metres north.

Next steps include completing the sanitary and storm sewer to just past Tim Hortons, finishing the watermain on Green Lane, restoring the road to four paved lanes, and keeping temporary traffic signals at the Dundas Street East and Paris Road intersection until permanent ones are



installed. Four lanes of active traffic are expected to be restored under the CN Train Bridge by approximately November 15 and remain until April.

Although requested, the County of Brant did not provide an update on when the Dundas Street East and Paris Road intersection will reopen. Originally expected to be closed until October 4, then extended to October 10, work is still underway.

Residents can follow project updates at www.brant.ca/News, www.brant.ca/Construction, or on social media at @BrantCommunity on Facebook and Instagram.

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Paris Panthers dominate on the field and court

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Correspondent

Senior Panthers Football

Coming into last Thursday's game, there was a consensus that BCI, with their massive roster and previous year's league champions, just might be favored to win this game. Head Coach Head Ed Kelly and the Panthers players had differing views. For those who only watch the NFL, the "tush push," where everyone pushes the ball carrier forward, is illegal in Canadian football. In fact, if the "tush push" happens in Canada, the penalty for this infraction is called a Tandem Buck! Coach Kelly has an Offensive line that almost bullied the BCI defense, pushing them backward, allowing the Panther running backs to gain plenty of yards.

The first quarter started with Paris executing an onside kick and recovering the ball and taking the ball down the field for a touchdown by Colton Gloade, giving Paris a 6-0 lead.

Early in the second, Panther quarterback Ryan Smith carried the ball across the goal line, with Bhav Arujla kicking a convert for a 13-0 lead. BCI followed up with a converted touchdown for a score of 13-7. With 22 seconds remaining in the first half, Gloade scored his second touchdown, and Aujla kicked the convert to end the half, leading BCI 27-7.

The Mustangs scored the next touchdown and failed in attempting a two-point convert, followed by tackling the Panther QB in the end zone for a two-point safety. At the end of the third quarter, Paris led BCI 27-15.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, BCI tried an onside kick, but failed to recover the ball, giving the Panthers a first down at the BCI 51-yard line. From that point on Panthers won with a final score of 27-15.

Junior Panthers Football

BCI shut out the Panthers on the score-

board for the win.

Please note that due to a tragedy involving a fatal car accident, Assumption College has asked that the games scheduled Saturday, October 18, be rescheduled. The rescheduled date is October 17th at the Kiwanis Field with the Juniors starting at 5 pm and the Seniors at 7 pm.

Girls Flag Football

Flag Football has been garnering a lot of attention, primarily from the Men's National team on the American side, a few months ago. The sport will also be a demonstration sport at the future Los Angeles Olympics.

Thanks to some teachers at St John's, a tournament was organized last Wednesday. The Panthers participated in this tournament, which featured six teams from St. John's, two teams from North Park, an entry from McKinnon Park, Great Lakes Christian School from Beamsville, and an entry from Paris High.

The Panthers went undefeated during round-robin play, with three wins and a tie, which qualified the team for a spot in the semi-finals. There, they played and defeated the North Park Collegiate Green side 20-13. The finals pitted the Panthers against the North Park Orange side, the team with which the Paris side tied 12-12 during round-robin play. Unfortunately, they lost the final 13-0.

Harley Shuart's determined running was named the team's MVP. Nora Kovacs, Ava Ross, Kayla Padusenko, Eira Feairs, Jadyn Hastings, Sydney Kipp, Rowan Worrall, Peyton Andree, Faith Smith. The coaches were Mr. Murchie and student Ryan Smith.

Boys Volleyball

The Senior Boys' volleyball team continues its winning streak by defeating Brantford Collegiate in three straight games. This season, in their first seven matches, they have only lost two games, including a best-of-five match against second-place North Park. During this season, you'll see Coach Dela Rosa sitting on the bench, relaxed as the team cruises to a victory, emphasizing to the team after the match that they have to focus on eliminating mistakes that give away points to the opposition. On Friday, the team travels to Ancaster for a tournament, with the results to be reported in next week's edition.



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

Caanan Sherbino blocks a ball during a Senior Boys' match up against BCI. Paris won in three straight games to continue its winning streak.

The Junior side didn't fare as well, losing their match to BCI.

Girls Basketball

Last Monday, the Junior and Senior Panthers travelled to BCI for their matches. The Junior side lost their game; however, Genevieve Cariere led the team in scoring.

The Senior side beat the Mustangs on their home court by a score of 39 to 35.

Varsity Girls Fastball

Last Wednesday, the Panther side dominated Pauline Johnson by a score of 13-2.

Varsity Boys Baseball

Last Wednesday, the Panthers had a doubleheader, with the first game against McKinnon Park, which the Paris side edged by a score of 5-4. In the bottom half of the two-game schedule, the Paris Panthers routed the Cayuga secondary 16-3.



House League Standings Week of October 6th

Ages 12-14 (House League)

Avengers Defeat Raptors, 52-35

Warriors Defeat Spartans, 39-21

This week's top scorers:

Cruze, Avengers, 27 points, Audrey, Warriors, 18 points

Deklyn, Raptors, 16 points.

U13 Rep Exhibition Game October 4th against Ancaster Magic

Factory Elite wins, 56-42.

This week's top scorers:

Maxuel Puzon, 18 points, Edmond Tan, 14 points, Caiden Orillo, 10 points



Community connections: Celebrating milestones, gratitude, and a love for reading this newspaper

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

Ever since I became a columnist for The Paris Independent, the heart of this town has pulsed through the stories, images, and delightful anecdotes shared to me by our readers. Each submission exudes a common sentiment - a profound love for The Paris Independent and a commitment to vocalize it. With the conclusion of golf season, I've decided to embark on a journey of sharing these cherished narratives with all our readers.

Let's kick off this edition with a glimpse into the past through captivating photo submissions that have graced my inbox.

Story Submission: 1945 Ladies Baseball Team, Ages 15, sponsored by Legion

Submitted by the esteemed Paris Independent reader, Evelyn Watling.

In a nostalgic leap back to 1945, the spirited Paris Queens, a Ladies Baseball Team age 15 and sponsored by the Legion, grace the pages of history with their vibrant energy and unwavering camaraderie. Unearthed by the venerable George Ball and shared with the Star, this captivating photograph has found its way to our cherished readers through the lens of time.



From left to right, let us introduce the formidable Paris Queens of 1945: Front Row: Mary Turnbull (Carr), L. Springstead, Norma Mann, Audrey Jennings (Beaudette), Dorothy Madden

Back Row: Ev Church, Ev Sinclair (Watling), Shirley Osman, Yvonne Mitchell (Potts), Betty Stewart (Buck), Eileen Taylor, Fern Duncan

Guiding this spirited team was none other than the esteemed coach, George Ball.

As the echoes of their victories and the spirit of their unity reverberate through the history of sports in Paris, I am honoured to present this snapshot of resilience, teamwork, and sheer determination embodied by the memorable Paris Queens of 1945. Thank you, Evelyn Watling, for sharing this infamous piece of our town's legacy with us.

Story Submission: Guess the 60-Year-Old Athlete!

An intriguing challenge awaits our readers as we delve into the archives of the early 1970s to unveil the identity of a youthful athlete captured in time. Who is this tyke player, now a seasoned contender at the age of 60? The Paris Independent calls upon your keen sleuthing skills and sharp memories to crack this engaging puzzle.

Instructions: Submit your guesses on the identity of this enigmatic athlete from yesteryears to editor@theparis-independent.com for a chance to win a one-week free home delivery of The Paris Independent printed newspaper. (must be within the geographical region known as The

County of Brant).

Embark on this journey of discovery, test your knowledge of local sports history, and seize the opportunity to enjoy a complimentary week of news delivered straight to your doorstep. Unveil the mystery, share your insights, and be part of this captivating quest to unearth the hidden gems of our community's sporting legacy.



Story Submission: Paris Jewellers grateful for 30 years of support from the community

In a celebratory milestone marking the 30th anniversary



Ed, Sarah and dog Sophie

of Paris Jewelers in the upcoming year of 2026, Ed and Sarah McGuire express profound gratitude towards their dedicated clientele for contributing significantly to this enduring success story. The foundation of our esteemed customer base lies within the vibrant communities of Brant, Ayr, St. George, and their neighbouring areas.

Over the decades, we have not only nurtured a thriving business but have also cultivated lasting relationships and cherished friendships. The unwavering loyalty and support bestowed upon us by our patrons have been instrumental in our journey. Despite the ongoing downtown renovations, notably the bustling construction activities, we are deeply appreciative of the understanding and encouragement extended to us during this period of change.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Navacon, the construction company overseeing the downtown project, for their diligent efforts in ensuring seamless access to our store amidst the construction upheaval. The collaborative spirit exhibited by all parties involved has undoubtedly eased the transitional phase for our customers and us alike.



BRANT BATTALION

SCOREBOARD - WEEK OF OCTOBER 6TH

Monday, October 6

- U13A Battalions tie 4-4 against Strathroy Jr. Rockets
- U14A Battalions lose 3-2 against Norfolk Knights

Tuesday, October 7

- U10A Battalions lose 8-1 against Mt Brydges Cougars
- U11B Battalions win 2-0 against Delhi 59ers
- U18B Battalions lose 8-0 against Twin Centre Stars

Thursday, October 9

- U18A Battalions lose 5-1 against GLHA Jr. Mustangs

Friday, October 10

- U11B Battalions win 7-1 against New Hamburg Huskies
- U16A Battalions lose 6-2 against Elgin Thames 73s
- U10A Battalions lose 5-1 against Norfolk Knights
- U18A Battalions win 4-1 against Ausable Valley Cowboys

Saturday, October 11

- U13A Battalions tie 4-4 against Ausable Valley Cowboys
- U15B Battalions win 4-1 against New Hamburg Huskies
- U18A Battalions lose 7-0 against New Hamburg Huskies
- U15A Battalions win 5-3 against Strathroy Jr Rockets
- U16A Battalions win 4-3 against Ausable Valley Cowboys

Sunday, October 12

- U11B Battalions win 6-2 against Norfolk Knights
- U11A Battalions win 5-2 against New Hamburg Huskies
- U15B Battalions win 9-2 against Plattsville Rage
- U12A Battalions lose 3-1 against South Oxford Storm

Paris readers share heartfelt moments of family, friendship and local loyalty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

In conclusion, we express our sincere appreciation to The Paris Independent for providing us with the platform to convey our gratitude. Special mention goes to the esteemed journalists Jeff "Stones" Johnston and our very own Scoop Stewart, whose dedication to reporting has brought our story to light with eloquence and professionalism.

Story Submission: Celebrating Father-Son Bonding with Billiards & The Paris Independent



In the heart of our community, another dedicated reader, Quinn Attlebery, shines a light on the cherished tradition of father-son bonding, nurtured through the pages of The Paris Independent. For Quinn and his dad, this newspaper embodies more than just information—it symbolizes quality time spent together, delving into the rich tapestry of local news and stories.

Their shared appreciation extends to the beloved "No Stone Unturned" column, where local names and familiar faces are brought to life, weaving a narrative that resonates deeply with the fabric of our town. Within these pages, Quinn and his son find not just news, but a connection to their community and a shared passion for uncovering the stories that shape their lives.

As they turn each page, absorbing the tales and insights within, Quinn and his dad exemplify the enduring power of family bonds and the joy of shared interests. The Paris Independent stands as a beacon of unity, fostering moments of togetherness and discovery for readers like Quinn and his son, enriching their lives with every edition.

Story Submission: Relaxing Moments at Hub Pharmacy with The Paris Independent

Amanda and Courtney from Hub Pharmacy enjoying their break reading The Paris Independent. As the duo reveals, copies of The Paris Independent vanish like a whirlwind as soon as they grace the shelves of the pharmacy, a testament to the publication's unwavering popularity among the locals. Engrossed in the world crafted by the writers and journalists, Amanda and Courtney find delight in a unique pastime—reading Scoop Stewart's articles

while playfully imitating his distinctive voice, reminiscent of McGruff the Crime Dog but with a rugged edge.



This article was sponsored by Comfort Plus Heating and Cooling. Call my buddy Shawn at 519-752-2250 and mention this article to receive 10% off your winter maintenance.

Scoop Stewart signing off *always a pleasure!*

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Titans show early spark but penalty trouble costs them in back-to-back home losses



By James Brown
Paris Independent Contributor

The Paris Titans scored the first goal of their last two games in Provincial Junior C Hockey League play at the Brant Sports Complex. Unfortunately, the opening goals didn't translate to wins in either contest.

On October 11th's home game against the Dorchester Dolphins, Kayden Blacquiere put Paris on the scoreboard in the first period followed by a power play goal in the second period. The assists went to Trevor McDowell, Kohen Kirby, McDowell and Cole Kersey.

The Titans and the Dolphins were tied at one after 20 minutes but it was the Dolphins holding a

4-3 advantage after two periods. Jack Kersey put one in the net, assisted by McDowell and Austin Christian.

Each team scored a pair of goals in the third period. Simon Otaki, assisted by Jay Metler and McDowell, assisted by Cole and Blake Kersey put points on the board for Paris.

With the score 6-5 for the Dolphins late in the third period, goaltender Stevens was pulled with 1:16 remaining in regulation in an effort to get the tying goal.

Following Saturday's game, coach Gary Gardiner said it was a tough loss. "A number of players played a good game, (despite the outcome)," he said. "Blacquiere scored a pair of goals."

Garner said the Titans ran into penalty trouble in the game, however, admitted their power play is coming along. "We have a few things to work on for the next game," he said.

Blacquiere who scored a power play goal and an even strength marker also admitted the team's weakness, "We ran into penalty trouble in the game," he said post-game.

Blacquiere added he was looking forward to the rest of the sea-

son. "The Titans are a good group of guys."

In their previous home game on October 6, the Titans held their own through a strong 1-1 opening period but ultimately had trouble keeping pace with the Wellesley Apple Jacks.

After 40 minutes of play, the Apple Jacks held pulled ahead 3-1 and added two more markers in the third period to take the 5-1 win. Blacquiere scored Paris' lone marker, assisted by Kirby and Jake Semiwolos.

Following the loss to Wellesley coach Gardiner confessed the Titans did not play well.

"We ran into penalty trouble," he said, noting the team really couldn't get anything going because of the penalties. "We didn't go a very good job tonight."

On a positive note, Gardiner said goaltender Cole Stevens played well making 30 saves.

"It was a one-goal game until we ran into penalty trouble," said Stevens.

Wellesley pays a visit to the Brant Sports Complex on Saturday October 18 for a 7:30 p.m. contest against the Titans.

Live and Play 2 Campaign launches to expand North Dumfries Community Complex in Ayr

MEDIA RELEASE

The Centre for the Community Group of North Dumfries (CCG) has launched its Live and Play 2 fundraising campaign to support the next phase of growth at the North Dumfries Community Complex (NDCC) in Ayr.

The campaign, which officially kicked off October 1, aims to raise the remaining \$2.15 million needed to complete the Net Zero Twin Pad and Programming Rooms Project — a major expansion designed to enhance recreational and community programming opportunities in the township.

Campaign co-chairs Rob Deutschmann and Mike Pley, along with deputy chair Russ Hutchings and a team of honorary campaign advisors, are leading the community-driven effort.

"The NDCC has transformed our Township, bringing people together and providing opportunities for healthy living, connection, and growth," said Deutschmann. "This is our chance to build on that legacy. The addition of a twin pad and new programming rooms will ensure that North Dumfries continues to be a place where families, athletes, and commu-

nity members of all ages can thrive."

Pley said the campaign is rooted in the same community spirit that helped bring the NDCC to life more than a decade ago. "Community has always been at the heart of North Dumfries, and the NDCC is a testament to what we can achieve when we come together," he said. "Expanding our facilities means more opportunities for everyone — new programs, more availability for sports, and greater space for gatherings and learning."

The CCG traces its origins to 2004, when a group of local families envisioned a space where residents could "live, play, and thrive." That dream became reality in 2011 with the opening of the NDCC, now a thriving hub offering skating, soccer, pickleball, yoga, dance, and seniors' programs.

With township funding and government grants already secured, the campaign marks the final step in bringing the NDCC's long-planned expansion to life.

Residents wishing to learn more or contribute to the campaign can visit www.ccgnd.ca or contact Russ Hutchings at 519-731-8940

Coyne's Lifetime of Dedication to Sport Recognized with Hall of Fame Induction

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

For nearly six decades, Bob Coyne has been a driving force behind sport development and youth mentorship across Brant County. On Saturday, October 11, the community celebrated his remarkable contributions as he is inducted into the County of Brant Sports Hall of Fame as a Builder. The ceremony took place at the Burford Community.

Coyne's legacy stretches far beyond the ice. Since beginning his coaching journey in 1966 with Shallow Creek Outdoor Youth Hockey, he has dedicated his life to fostering inclusion, skill development, and sportsmanship across multiple disciplines including hockey, track and field, cross-country, and inline hockey.

From 1969 to 1998, Coyne worked extensively with athletes at the W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind and through the Ontario Blind Sports program, coaching a range of sports and championing accessibility and participation for all athletes.

He spent decades helping hockey players refine their game as a power skating instructor, first with the Wayne

Francis Power Skating School (1977-1984) and later through his own Bob Coyne Power Skating School, which ran successfully from 1984 to 2018. His expertise was sought by elite junior programs, including the Brantford Alexanders and Hamilton Steelhawks, and he provided skate sharpening services at the 1986 World Junior Hockey Championships.

Coyne also left a lasting impact in local minor hockey. From 1978 to 2018, he coached and developed players in the Brantford and Burford Minor Hockey Associations, leading teams to tournaments across Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Among his highlights was earning a bronze medal at the Stockholm Cup in 1986.

In addition to traditional hockey, Coyne's leadership extended into the world of inline and roller hockey. He coached Team World Inline between 1999 and 2004, capturing four gold medals and one silver, and served as a consultant for Team Canada Inline and as Head Coach of the University of Pittsburgh Panthers Roller Hockey Team. He was also instrumental in founding the Ontario Minor Roller Hockey Association.

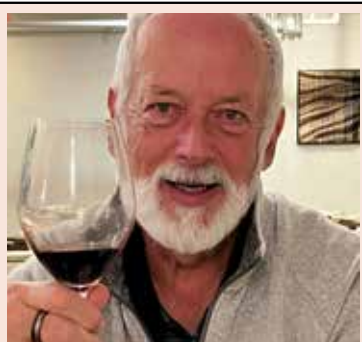
Coyne's commitment has been recognized through numerous awards, including the BMHA President's Award



(1994-95, 2009-10), the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Volunteerism (2011), and the Paul Harris Fellow Award (2012).

Through it all, Bob Coyne's impact has been defined by his unwavering belief that sport builds community and character. His induction into the Sports Hall of Fame honours not just a lifetime of coaching, but a legacy of leadership that has shaped generations of athletes in Brant County and beyond.

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Standing in the footsteps of Vincent Van Gogh



By Paul Knowles

Over the years, I have become increasingly intrigued by the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh. His story is a terribly tragic one, as the artist struggled with mental illness, and almost complete failure, in a commercial sense. There is a myth that he sold none of his approximately 2,000 works while he was alive, but that's undoubtedly an exaggeration. But he most certainly was not a highly successful artist.

Multiplying the tragedy, he died, perhaps of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, at age 37. More of this, below.

Today, of course, it's a whole other story. Van Gogh is recognized as perhaps the most important Post-Impressionist artist. And his paintings have sold for more than \$150 million Cdn. None of which goes to Van Gogh's estate, of course.

The finest collection of Van Gogh paintings is on display at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam – which seems appropriate enough, since Vincent was born in the Netherlands. If you are in Amsterdam, it's a must-see.

But I have enjoyed seeing Van Gogh paintings and sketches in

locations as diverse as the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, and a very surprising small gallery in Solothurn, Switzerland, among other cultural institutions. Outside of Amsterdam, the best place to enjoy Van Gogh's work – and that of other Impressionists and Post-Impressionists – is the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, which we had the chance to visit a couple of weeks ago. (Hint to travellers – use the Paris City Pass, a great deal that admits you to many wonderful attractions).

My biggest surprise, though, was that I really felt I touched Van Gogh's life and times in a city in southern France, where no gallery, in fact, nobody, owns a Van Gogh.

The city is Arles, in Provence, where Vincent lived for more than a year, creating a new painting or drawing nearly every day. Many of his best-known works, including two of the three "Starry Night" paintings, were created right here. We visited Arles as part of a wonderful Viking cruise on the Rhone River.

Our guide on the unusual, almost disjointed, city tour – lots of Roman stuff, and then lots of Van Gogh – explained that Van Goghs have become so expensive that there would be a taxpayer revolt if public money was used to purchase one. So Arles has none.

But what Arles has done, and done well, is create a Van Gogh route, erecting poster boards with the images of his paintings, in the precise locations where he placed his easel. And for anyone who is a fan of the artist, there is some-

thing magical in standing in the actual footsteps of Van Gogh.

Easily my favourite location was Le Jardin de la Maison de Santé à Arles. It's an enclosed garden, and the municipality has restored it to look precisely like it did when Van Gogh painted the scene in 1888. I could not resist grabbing my smart phone and trying to replicate the painting. Van Gogh did it better. (I will admit it's wise to consider the scene from Van Gogh's perspective. If you walk to the other side of the garden, the view includes a plethora of souvenir shops.)

There are plenty of other explanatory plaques along the route. Vincent's famous painting of his own house, La Mainse Jaune (The Yellow House), is erected at a busy corner. The house, sadly, is gone, but the other buildings in the painting remain, including a café that Van Gogh often frequented.

The locale that has changed even more is the site where he painted the hugely famous "La Nuit Étoilée" (The Starry Night). The view when we visited (admittedly not at night) showed mostly the top decks of docked cruise boats, impeding the view of the Rhone. But none the less, Vincent had produced his fabulous work, right here.

Our very well-informed guide told us two stories that really caught my attention. First, despite overwhelming consensus, she said that Van Gogh's death might not have been suicide... she suggested it could have been an accident involving some children playing with a gun.

The other story is both rather sad

and rather amusing. She had led us to the exact café depicted in the artist's "Café Terrace at Night." It's now the Café Van Gogh... but it's closed. Why? Because after years of the owners asking to be paid in cash because "our credit card machine is broken", the authorities cottoned on, examined their books, and the owners went to jail for tax evasion.

Our guide is sure the café is awaiting some clever entrepreneur, as one of the most visited sites in Arles, but she cautioned that there is undoubtedly red tape

involved – which is something of a national sport in France.

Until then, art lovers can enjoy the scenes that inspired this brilliant, troubled, artistic icon. To quote songwriter Don McLean, "But I could have told you, Vincent, This world was never meant for one as beautiful as you."

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.

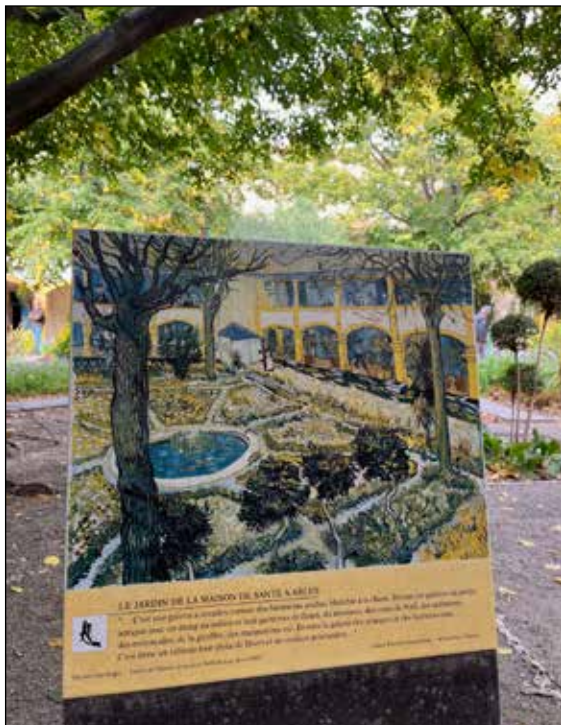


(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

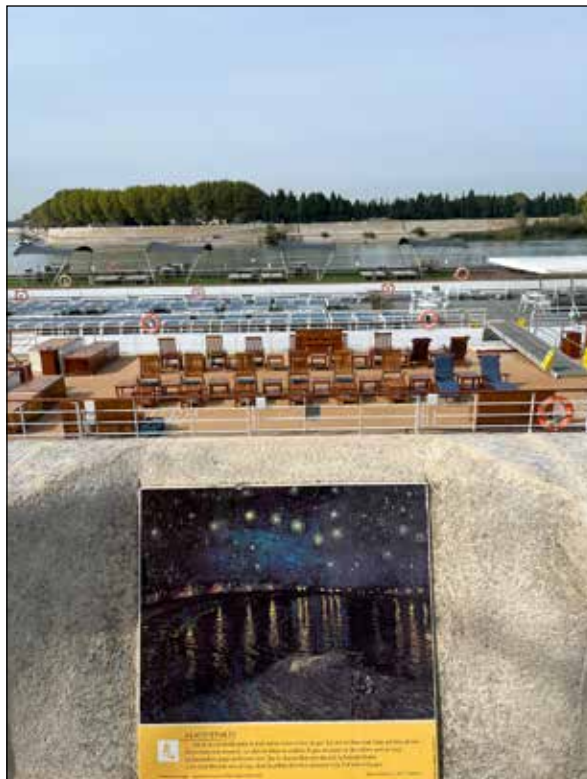
The author's attempt to recreate Van Gogh's creation in 2025.



The Arles guide explains the odd story behind what is now known as the Café Van Gogh – closed for business because of tax evasion!



Panels identifying Van Gogh's precise location when he made his now-famous paintings around in Arles. This is the garden of the institution where he stayed, dealing with mental illness.



The locale where Van Gogh painted 'The Starry Night' has been altered to allow river cruise longships to dock.



Van Gogh's "The Siesta," on display at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.

Financial blind spots can hurt when a spouse dies

JACOB GAUDET

Common Cents

In most relationships, one spouse typically makes most or all the household financial decisions and manages the family's finances. While this can be fine while both spouses are alive, what happens if the person who manages the finances dies first?

Let's look at the potential problems that the surviving spouse might come across, how they could make an already emotionally draining time even more difficult, and how you can prepare yourself now so that you'll be better able to cope with your family's finances in the future.

When it comes to your household finances, ignorance is certainly not bliss, especially when your spouse dies. Not understanding how your finances work or even how bills get paid can lead to some of these common issues.

Your spouse may have set up many (or all) recurring bill payments with pre-authorized debits. If this was done from their own bank account (rather than your joint account) these bills would no longer be paid after your spouse's death (banks freeze bank accounts on the death of the sole account holder).

You would need to contact all service providers (including your bank, credit card

companies, hydro, natural gas, municipality, etc.) and make sure bills are paid from your account going forward. Ideally, set up pre-authorized debits, so you never miss a payment.

With reduced income, you may find it difficult to pay your household expenses on one salary. Also, if you've never been responsible for household budgeting, it could be hard to work out how to balance the books and keep your finances in the black.

A good budget will help you to take control of your spending, save more and be better able to cope with financial emergencies.

If you've never dealt with the household finances before, and your partner made all of those decisions, once they're gone, you may start to fall behind on your own retirement goals, especially if they had a higher income and more savings than you.

You should create a new retirement plan, based on your single source of income. This plan should reflect your retirement goals, rather than collective goals.

Also, your investment style and appetite for risk may be very different from your partner's, so the new plan should take this into account. If you played no part in creating the previous investment plan, you may not understand how it was set up or how its

investments work. Being involved in your own retirement plan will improve your financial confidence.

If insurance payments were made from your spouse's single bank account, you'd need to make sure that payments continue from your bank account. If you miss an insurance payment, your insurance could be voided, which means that you won't be covered.

This is important for life, auto and home insurance. Contact your insurance company to ensure your coverage remains in place.

When a married person dies, the surviving spouse can apply to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) to receive survivor benefits. You may be eligible for a death benefit, survivor's pension, or a children's benefit.

Many retirees receive private pension payments, either from a pension they set up themselves or through a company pension. You should contact your spouse's pension plan provider and ask for information on how to apply for survivor death benefits.

With only one income to manage potentially your biggest debt, maintaining mortgage payments could become a challenge. If your spouse had life insurance (privately and/or through the company they worked for), the payout might be enough to pay off the mortgage in full, which would take a big weight off your shoulders.

If that's not the case, you would need to create a new budget to allow for the new circumstances of paying your mortgage with one source of income. Alternatively, you could consider moving to a smaller home to make the payments more affordable.

How to be better prepared for a spouse's death

The first step is to better understand your household's finances; get involved with financial decisions and learn all about your household bills and how they're paid.

Make sure you've both reviewed the beneficiary designations for relevant savings plans (such as RRSPs and TFSAs) and insurance coverage, with your Gaudet Group Advisor. Depending on your circumstances, naming your spouse as a beneficiary may or may not be a wise move. Your Advisor will be able to advise you on

the best course of action.

Improve your financial literacy. Understanding how finance works is the first step to becoming more financially confident. GaudetGroup.ca has a substantial library of financial literacy resources to help you get started!

Make sure you both have sufficient life insurance in place (for example, with enough coverage to pay off the mortgage). Learn more about insurance here.

Create a folder that contains all your financial documents, including details on how the bills are paid, workplace accounts (such as RRSPs, TFSAs, shares, life insurance, etc.), wills and where any online account log-in details are stored.

Given the sensitive nature of this information, this folder should be kept in a safe location; both of you should know where it's kept and have access to it. You should also consider sharing its location with your adult children, in case something was to happen to both of you.

--

Jacob Gaudet is an Associate Consultant on the wealth advisory team Gaudet Group Private Wealth Management. He helps clients get more out of their money, so they can get more out of life. Jacob specializes in six key areas: Investment, Retirement, Estate, Tax, and Insurance, and Mortgage Planning. With more than 60 years of combined experience, Gaudet Group Private Wealth Management is committed to making clients' interests their top priority. Do you have questions you'd like Jacob to Answer? Email him at jacob.gaudet@igpwm.ca or check out his website at GaudetGroup.ca!

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If you've never managed the household finances and your spouse suddenly dies, it can be overwhelming doing it by yourself. Jacob Gaudet from Private Wealth Management breaks down the steps.





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A No Stone unturned salute to friends, familiar faces and new neighbours

STONES Around Town

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

Hello again to all, and what an amazing fall it has been so far. I happened to make it to the street dance downtown; there was a great band, and I bumped into a lot of friends I haven't seen in a while, even here in Paris. Mr. and Mrs. Noyce and Wendy North are always with beautiful smiles and happy eyes.

There were even Johnston kinfolk there – Lisa, Amy, their mom Karen, and my cousin Jodi from BC; it's a small world. A shout out to Jeff and Chris Potruff, Rick and Gail Bryant too. While dropping papers about, I came across Andy Moran speaking of hometown hockey heroes, and he kind of adopted, off the record, in Holland... enough said. It's like Bill Robb is my secret

uncle, and Del and Mrs. Del, because I forget her name. This brings me to friendships, legacy, and the large families of Paris. You meet their siblings, like Barret, and I came across Bruce in my travels; he's a podcast fan – hooray! Like all of you are my chillin' buds, so to speak. Thank you for my friends and the people I continue to meet.

Let's welcome Tim, Ruthanne, and their son Levi, new neighbors in the flats. As I continue on my way, many of my parents' friends became mine. We developed friendships with teachers, Paris police – hi Dave Maxwell, bumped into him in Burford, shared a laugh and a giggle; the Paris police were good fun. I met Tulaszy and Krishna from Waterloo as she was learning to drive, or shall I say park; music blaring from my porch, I cheered her on and played "Highway to Hell." The most challenging friend I ever made was when I got a vasectomy and, looking down over the blanket at the nurse with a razor no less, was my new neighbour. Grin and bear it, pardon the pun, and make the best of it. This Paris cheer must go on!

Another legacy big family Paris name is Turnbull. I thought I knew them all when I think of Dean and Devon (Bo Shingles), but I'm here to tell you they are everywhere.

Happy belated birthday, Marie Cruickshank; tip of the hat to Chris Madden walking his boxer and getting a workout every time he does it. I laugh when he walks by. RIP Steve Madden. I got a haircut, but just a short one, so hi to Charlene downtown, Diane and Susie at Hairways, and a memory lane walk to Taylor's Barber Shop, Walker's on the Barracks Hill, or the Clip & Curl. Made it to the Legion Bazaar too – great job, folks. Met a local artist at the dam, John Richard, painting of course, and a new friend and artist too, Kelly.

We all had to start somewhere as friends, and as we made and continue to make new ones, please embrace the new members of our community. As my Dad (Gordy Johnston) always says "you get more bees with honey, misery loves company and sucking a lemon." Before I bid you a fond adieu, I shall say this: I have been continuing to extol the wisdom I have gathered, as others did for me, with my friends' children. Jack and young Cameron Stewart just smile. Madi, Meagan, Abby Oldroyd, and Hayden Stewart insist they have an eye-rolling syndrome thing – who knew? Jess and Kate Hogarth are completely amused, especially when I am brave enough to be smart with Marlene (bless you, my dear, and happy be-

lated anniversary – I saved money on the card). Last but not least, hello to Jane (Roswell) twice in one week and another legacy family name (RIP Madeline), and hello Steven Hall; hadn't seen you in a bit, and lo and behold, we cross paths on a bike ride, well, we were pushing them.

Happy early Thanksgiving or belated, either way, I saved on cards, Stoney style. Thank you for my friends and the people I have and continue to meet. I will continue to leave "No stone unturned" Stones.

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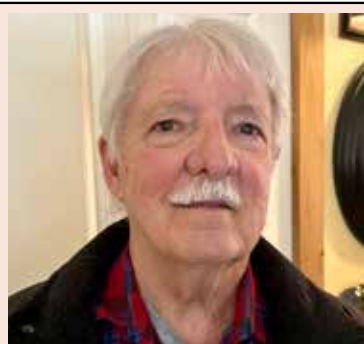
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THEN AND NOW: 97 Grand River Street North PART 1



By Wayne Wilkinson
Paris Historian / Artist

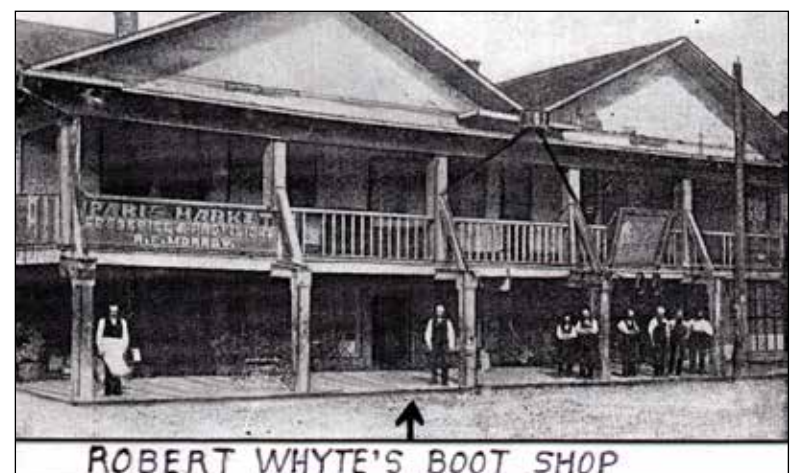
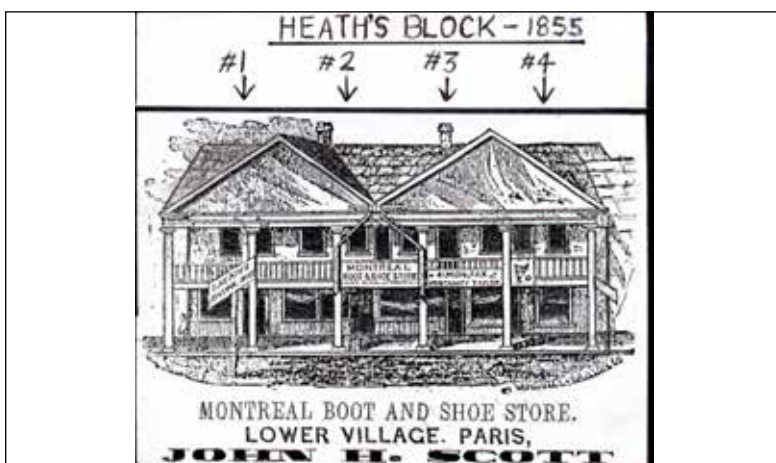
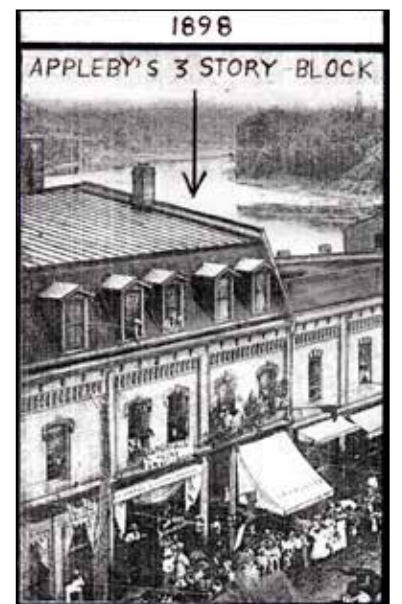
This week, our historic location is found at the northeast corner of Grand River St. and William St., recently occupied by 'Piper and

Oak'. The earliest known picture of the original block is this 1855 drawing, which appeared in the short-lived 'Paris Maple Leaf' newspaper. It was known as the Heath Block, built around 1847 by Samuel Heath, and was a boarding house with four shops at street level. As those early years passed by, there was the usual turnover as businesses came and went. However, in 1870, a humble boot store owned by Robert Whyte opened. It would forever be etched in Paris history. At the rear of the store, the Dominion Telegraph Co. had a small office, and it was here that Alexander Graham Bell received the world's first long-distance phone call on August 10, 1876.

That exciting story was detailed by the editor of this newspaper this past August. Disaster struck on February 9, 1886, when fire completely consumed the old wooden block, which was now owned by Sam Appleby. Work immediately commenced to build a grandiose three-story brick block, which would rival the newly constructed Arlington Hotel where this photo was taken. By late summer of 1886, it was ready to welcome its new occupants. At the immediate corner was the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Next to it was Robert Morrow's grocery store, which, as the photo shows, became the Bannister and Morgan grocery store in 1894. In all, this huge block could house six businesses. As many of you know, the greatest turning point in our town's history happened on September 12, 1900, when the Great Fire destroyed over 40 businesses and buildings, including this block. But like most Parisian businessmen, Sam Appleby was not a quitter. His new block [as we see it today] soon rose out of the ashes, opening in 1901. In succeeding articles, we'll enjoy looking at many of the popular and prominent stores that made the new Appleby Block home.

Note: Some information may

have been obtained from the archives at the Paris Museum & Historical Society. Visit the Museum in the Syl Apps Community Centre to discover more history of Paris.



Go paperless and Win Big – Especially during the Canada Post strike

MEDIA RELEASE

If you’ve been thinking about switching to paperless billing, now’s the perfect time to make the move. GrandBridge Energy’s “Go Paperless & Win Big! Win Cash!” contest is in its final stretch and with the ongoing Canada Post strike affecting mail delivery times, there’s never been a better reason to go digital.

The contest, which wraps up on November 1, 2025, gives GrandBridge Energy customers who sign up for both paperless eBilling and quarterly eNews a chance to win a \$1,500 grand prize or one of twelve \$250 prepaid credit cards.

Switching is quick, secure, and convenient. Simply:

- **Sign up for Paperless eBilling:** Visit grandbridgeenergy.com/paperless and follow the easy instructions to enroll.
- **Subscribe to Quarterly eNews:** Visit grandbridgeenergy.com/#newsletter, click Subscribe, and complete the short form.

By registering for both, you’ll not only stay informed but also be entered for your

chance to win.

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Paperless billing also helps reduce clutter and environmental waste, while giving you secure 24/7 access to your account. You can view, save, or print your bill anytime and gain valuable insights into your energy use with daily and hourly consumption data, price comparisons, and usage trends.

GrandBridge Energy, who services customers locally in Paris, St. George and Brant County will launch a new quarterly eNews letter, giving customers timely updates on:

- Service and rate changes
- Seasonal energy-saving tips
- Safety reminders
- Financial assistance programs

It’s an easy way to stay in the loop — and another reason to register before the November 1 deadline.

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Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. Where was Marco Polo born?	6. Who is the Greek God of food?
2. What is the name of Taylor Swift's newest album?	7. What brightly colored monkey is the world's largest?
3. What is the maximum number of bitcoins that can exist?	8. On what island was Jurassic Park located?
4. How many US voting members of congress are there?	9. The Amazon river dolphins are what colour?
5. Who directed Casablanca(1942)?	10. How many years did the "Great Plague of Milan" last?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 18

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WEEKLY

Horoscope

October 15 - October 22 2025

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20



Your pioneering spirit is in full swing this week. Embrace new challenges and don't hesitate to get out front and take the lead. You just might inspire others with your confidence.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21



Make finances a priority this week, Taurus. A bit of budgeting could ease some of the financial stress that has been affecting you lately. Indulge in a small luxury as a reward for hard work.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 21



Conversations could be interesting this week, Gemini. You're curious about what others do when they are home behind closed doors. Don't pry too much.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22



Cancer, nurture your relationships this week, particularly if work has garnered most of your attention of late. Pay attention to your own needs, too, and enjoy some relaxation..

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23



Employ your natural charisma to forge new connections and network at upcoming events, Leo. You are good at sharing ideas and expressing yourself with confidence.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22



Tackle one job at a time and focus on what is important to get done this week, Virgo. It can be easy to get side-tracked by side projects. Or that might be your way to procrastinate.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23



Libra, surround yourself with positive influences this week. You want others supporting you at every turn while you take on an important project that comes up.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22



Use your intense focus and attention to detail to delve into projects that require those specific skills, Scorpio. In fact, someone may ask you to work on a project for these traits alone.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21



Embrace the unknown this week. Let yourself get led off in different directions from those you normally travel, Sagittarius. Who knows what you may find along the way?

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20



Revisit your goals and make a plan for the future, Capricorn. Remember to take the people closest to you into consideration. Do not trample them in the process of getting ahead.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18



Aquarius, collaborate with like-minded individuals who are ready to think outside the box. It is amazing what you can accomplish when you multiply your power.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20



You might need to warm up before the creative energy starts to flow, Pisces. Don't worry, once you have the right inspiration, things will begin moving at a rapid pace.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 15
Larry Miller, Actor/Comedian (72)

OCTOBER 16
John Mayer, Musician (48)

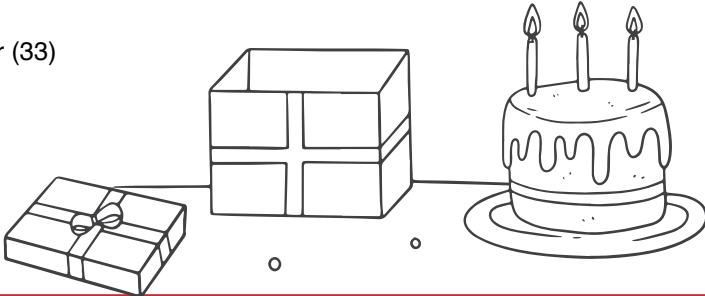
OCTOBER 17
Eminem, Musician (53)

OCTOBER 18
Barry Keoghan, Actor (33)

OCTOBER 19
John Lithgow, Actor (80)

OCTOBER 20
John Krasinski, Actor (46)

OCTOBER 21
Glen Powell, Actor (37)



Tickle Your Brain

I once got fired from the keyboard factory.
They said I wasn't putting in enough shifts.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. *It's impossible to put down.*

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. *She gave me a hug.*

I told my friend she drew her eyebrows too high. *She looked surprised.*

I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went...*then it dawned on me.*

I asked the librarian if the library had any books on paranoia. *She whispered, "They're right behind you."*

I'm friends with all electricians. *We have good current connections.*

I'm great at my job at the orange juice factory — *it's all about concentration.*

I told my suitcase there will be no vacations this year. *Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.*

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 18

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

MURPHY

Meet our Pet of the Week:

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

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



Word Search

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

- Awareness
- Breast
- Cancer
- Courage
- Cure
- Detection
- Doctor
- Education
- Family
- Fighter
- Friends
- Health
- Healing
- Hope
- Journey
- Mammogram
- Oncology
- Prevention
- Research
- Selfexam

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

The Brant Men of Song Charity Concert - The Brant Men of Song are holding a Charity Concert at Harmony United Church, 268 Marlborough St., Brantford starting at 7 PM. Donations for Alzheimer's will be accepted.

3rd Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawty - Bark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawty, hosted by the Ridgeway Lions Club! Join the fun on Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Children's Safety Village of Brant (407 Elgin St., Brantford). Admission is by cash donation supporting Autism Dog Services. Enjoy trick-or-treating, food trucks, vendors, a pet parade, and lots of tail-wagging fun!

Books Sale - Hosted by Friends of the Paris Library on Saturday, October 18 at the Paris Library Branch, from 10 am to 4 pm. Fill a standard sized reusable grocery bag with books for just \$5 and help support programs that promote literacy in our community.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 & NOVEMBER 18

Death Cafe - The Paris Branch - County of Brant Public Library invite you to talk openly about dying and death, helping you live more fully by embracing life's finite nature. Let's break the silence and foster more supportive communities. Please register through the library (brantlibrary.ca) or at info@lifsmomentsinlove.ca.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

The Brant Men of Song Choir Practices - Tuesdays 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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

The Brantford Symphony Orchestra Presents 'Ballroom Live' - with guests Brian and Kelly Sloat, ballroom dancers extraordinaire on Saturday, October 25 (7:30pm) at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts in Brantford. Tickets are \$44 & \$49 for adults, \$10 for students with ID, children and elementary students are FREE. For info and tickets: <https://brantfordsymphony.ca>.

CanJam Fundraiser - Local musician John Ladds hosts the 11th annual CanJam fundraiser on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the ForParis Centre. Enjoy a night of live music while supporting the Brantford Food Bank. Tickets \$30 – reserve at pariscanjam@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

The Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - Tuesday October 28, 2025 at Sacred Heart Parish Hall starting at 7:30 pm. Use the Queen Street parking lot door to enter.

Brant Art Matters Meeting - Join us at this community meeting to discuss how to save the Bawcutt Centre campaign and the future of arts in the County of Brant. Meeting will be held at the Paris Wincey Mills Co at 6 pm.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Special Death Cafe for Caring Adults - The Paris Branch - County of Brant Public Library invite you to this open conversation circle. We share how we might talk with the young people in our lives about dying, death, grief and loss. Please register through the library (brantlibrary.ca) or at info@lifsmomentsinlove.ca.

NOVEMBER 13, DECEMBER 11

Free Will Offering - St. Paul's United Church, 48 Broadway St. W., Paris, invites everyone to a Free Will Offering Soup and Bun Luncheon on Thursday, October 9th, November 13th, and December 11th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. All are welcome!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

No Road Back Music Event – Supporting Wheels of Hope - Join us for the 13th Annual No Road Back Music Event on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at the Paris Legion, running from 12 noon to 10 p.m. All-day music celebration features a full lineup of talented performers, including: Gray and Ludgate • Bailey Robb • Shawn Blackmore • Loose Moralz Entertainment • Friday Family Sing Song • The Die Hards • Silvia Dee and the Boyfriend • Allie Stenhouse • The Grand Rivermen • Josh Doherty • Before Midnight • The Barman • Chuck Jackson and Crossfield Bend.

BRANT FARMS

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Discover Their Stories

HOMES OF HEROES:

If you have a story about a Paris Veteran, please email the committee at info@homesofheroes.ca.

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

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Venice, Italy	6. Demeter
2. The Life of a Show Girl	7. The mandrill
3. 21 million	8. Isla Nublar, Costa Rica
4. 535 voting members	9. Pink
5. Michael Curtiz	10. Two

The Paris Independent

Guiding Principles

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

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COMING EVENTS

WHAT'S BREWING
THIS WEEK AT
THE PARIS BEER CO.

FARMERS
THE
PARIS BEER
COMPANY
BREWERS

WEEK OF OCT 13

2025

TUES 14	HAPPY TUESDAYS Happy Hour all day long with deals on pints & pizzas
THURS 16	LIVE MUSIC IN THE TAPROOM 7pm - 9pm Chris Strei
WED THRU FRI	HAPPY HOUR 4-6PM \$7 pints, all bottled beer 50% off plus great deals on food
EVERY SUN	BRUNCH 11AM-2:30PM eggs benny, breakfast pizza plus the regular menu

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The Great Canadian Butter Tart Fest Returns — Sweet, Sticky, and Proudly Local

PARIS INDEPENDENT CONTRIBUTOR

It all started one night over dinner when I looked at my family and said, “*What if we hosted a Butter Tart Fest in Paris? Do you think anyone would actually come?*”

Turns out, the answer was a very sticky yes.

Fast forward nine years, and the Great Canadian Butter Tart Fest is still going strong at the Paris Fairgrounds. Hosted by All Canadian Events, the same crew behind the Paris Night Market and the Great Stocking Stuffer Market, the next delicious two-day event takes place October 18 & 19.

We’re a family-run business; my daughter Diana now lives out in Vancouver but still flies in for every event to help lead (because you don’t mess with tradition or butter tarts), explains Christine Ivany. What started as a wild dinner-table idea has grown into one of Southern Ontario’s largest sweet-tooth gatherings, drawing thousands from Brant County and beyond, with some visitors driving four hours just to get their tart fix.

“Even in the worst weather, we once sold 80,000 butter tarts and when the sun’s shining? You can bet your stretchy pants we’ll hit 100,000. From classic raisin and pecan

to inventive flavours like chocolate chip, bacon, and maple whisky — this is one festival where you can’t go wrong,” she said.

Speaking of maple this year organizers are turning things up a notch by adding a Maple Fest twist, celebrating our ninth year of sticky success. Expect 140 small businesses filling the fairgrounds with everything from baked goods to handmade crafts, artisan gifts, and gourmet treats. It’s a full fall weekend with live music, food trucks, a beer garden, and a matinee movie in the barn, so bring your blankets, and chairs.

All event details, including tickets, pricing, and movie info, can be found online at www.allcanadianevents.com or email info@allcanadianevents.com with questions.

Ivany reminds everyone, “Big chains won’t notice if you skip a latte, but a small business will notice if you buy a candle, a tart, or a handmade gift. That purchase might just keep their lights on another year. This is why I do what I do”.

So, rain or shine, come hungry, come curious, and come ready to indulge. Because if there’s one thing we know in Paris — it’s that butter tarts bring people together... and maybe, just maybe, make the world a little sweeter.

