

# The Paris Independent

Issue #221

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2025

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## Holiday magic returns to Downtown Paris



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Volunteer Paris firefighters Austin Gordon, Richard dela Rosa, Nate Ferris and helper Mark Aiston collect donated toys during Jingle Bell Night, kicking off the department's annual holiday toy drive with overwhelming community support. More photos on pages 10-11.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

If holiday spirit could be bottled, downtown Paris uncorked it Friday night.

After nine long months of construction, residents poured into Grand River Street North on November 21st for the unveiling of the re-

freshed streetscape and the 17th Annual Jingle Bell Night, an evening that sparkled with the same joyful energy you'd expect from a classic Christmas movie.

It was pure magic from the moment the crowds began to gather. As families strolled down the wider sidewalks, many for the first

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Community Rallies to Honour Ian "Kerrly" Kerr With Fundraising Event That Surpasses \$50,000

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Friends, family and a wide circle of admirers gathered earlier this month to honour the life and legacy of Ian "Kerrly" Kerr, a beloved Paris resident whose sudden passing earlier this year left a deep ache in the community he quietly supported for decades.

What began as a small idea to pay tribute to Kerr's generous spirit grew into a sold-out memorial fundraiser at the Brantford Golf and Country Club, an evening of music, memories and remarkable generosity that raised more than \$50,000 for the newly established Ian Kerr Fund for Youth Entrepreneurs, held at the Brant Community Foundation.

Kerr, 62, died unexpectedly on March 16 while on a golf trip with friends in Cuba. Known affectionately as "Kerrly," he was remembered as the man people called when they needed anything from financial advice, to building something, moving somewhere or even just some emotional support. He was a long-time business owner, mentor to young workers, host parent to international Rotary exchange students, and a generous supporter of local hospitals and service clubs.

Beloved father to his twins Jake and Jordan,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## John M. Hall

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# Family, friends and community unite to celebrate Ian Kerr's memory

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and poppa to Connor and Callum, Kerr was happiest when surround by family.

For Ian's widow, Sherry Kerr, the creation of the fund was a way to honour not only the man she loved, but the values that shaped his life.

"For Ian's legacy – it was about recognizing that Ian always believed in young people – always gave them a chance to learn and grow," she said. "For many it was a stepping stone in life... the vision was to give young people support to build their own business, to build futures for themselves and their communities."

Sherry said the overwhelming community response reaffirmed that the idea behind the fund "was a perfect reflection of what Ian represented."

Long-time friend Steve Bohar, whom Kerr fondly called his "brother from another mother", took on the role of sourcing raffle prizes and community support. Donations poured in, totalling more than \$10,000 worth of prizes and helping drive the night's fundraising success.

The 1st Annual Kerrly Memorial Concert Fundraiser event on November 7 featured

performances by local artist Steven Ryan, who donated his time, and well-known Hamilton cover band Freedom Train. Tickets sold out.

As the evening unfolded, Sherry said she felt profoundly moved.

"Truly understanding the impact Ian had on others – you go about your day-to-day life helping your neighbours and community when and where you can... to see this support was overwhelming." She added that it reinforced how strongly the community values supporting young entrepreneurs.

With the first memorial fundraiser behind her, Sherry says she feels proud of what the committee has built. "We are proud to have started a fund that will hopefully become a legacy," she said. "In the years to come the name Ian Kerr won't mean much to people, but the idea that there is an avenue to support young entrepreneurs... is how we would like to see this grow."

Fellow organizer and longtime friend Jamie Sass said being part of the fund's milestone moment was deeply meaningful.

"On Friday November 14th, I was honoured to be asked by Sherry to join her to meet with the Brant Community Founda-



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

**Sherry Kerr and longtime friend Jamie Sass present a cheque to Anne Marie Pierce, Executive Director from the Brant Community Foundation, celebrating the milestone that brought the Ian Kerr Fund for Youth Entrepreneurs over its \$50,000 goal.**

tion to present the final cheque that pushed the fund over the \$50,000 goal," Sass shared.

He said the team fully intends to keep the momentum going. "The fund will continue and there are plans to host another event next year. If anyone is interested in supporting local entrepreneurs, they can do so by scanning the QR code on the attached document or by visiting the Brant Community Foundation."

Sass added a heartfelt note of thanks to the many supporters who made the inaugural event possible. "Sherry, her family, and the organizing committee (you know who you are) would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported the event. Whether it was a generous prize donation, buying tickets to the dance, buying raffle tickets, or a direct donation to the fund, your support was very humbling, and we

cannot thank you all enough."

There are plans to hold another event next year, with the family hoping future celebrations will highlight success stories from youth who benefit from the fund.

On November 14, Sherry and Jamie Sass visited the Brant Community Foundation to present the final cheque that pushed the fund past the \$50,000 milestone.

For Sherry, the night was a reminder of the quiet but profound footprint Ian left behind, one built on generosity, community, and an unwavering belief in the potential of young people.



**Ian "Kerrly" Kerr is remembered for his generosity, quick humour and unwavering support for friends, family and his community. The first Ian Kerr Memorial Fundraiser raised more than \$50,000 in his honour.**

# The Paris Independent

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# Paris Lions honour volunteers, sponsors at annual appreciation dinner

**CASANDRA TURNBULL**

Managing Editor

The Paris Lions Club welcomed supporters, sponsors and community partners to the Paris Fairgrounds on Nov. 18 for its annual “Friends of Lions Appreciation Dinner,” an event designed to thank those whose contributions make the club’s year-round service possible.

About 40 guests and 20 Lions members attended the evening, which celebrated a year of community involvement, fundraising and volunteerism. Club representatives emphasized that the dinner is a way to acknowledge volunteers and sponsors whose generosity allows the Lions to extend their impact well beyond what could be achieved through membership alone.

The evening featured several Lion’s Club financial donations, including \$2,000 each to the Salvation Army and the Paris Community Toy and Hamper Fund, \$1,500 to Participation Support Services, and

\$1,000 to the Cambridge Memorial Hospital Foundation. The hospital donation was selected by student volunteer Lucas Figueiredo.

The Lions also recognized the Glen Morris Lions Club and the Paris Optimist Club for their ongoing support at food wagon events, one of the club’s major volunteer-driven fundraisers.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the “Friend of Lions” award to Yarek Dodge Chrysler, recognizing the business’s many years of exceptional support to the Paris Lions Club.

Guests included business sponsors, community partners, donation recipients and volunteers who helped operate the food wagon throughout the year. The theme of the evening – service – was underscored by Lions District A15 Governor Rick Mallon, who attended to honour several Lions for their years of commitment. Among them was Derrick Porter, recognized for an impressive 35 years of service.



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Accepting the Paris Community Christmas Hamper donation from Lion Chief David Arsenault was Laura Bowlby and Margaret Knill-Wilson.

## New 4-H Club inspires the next generation of First Responders in the County of Brant

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*County of Brant*

A group of recently retired volunteer firefighters in the County of Brant are continuing their commitment to public service in a new way – by inspiring the next generation of first responders!

“This is a fantastic example of community partnership and mentorship in action,” said County of Brant Fire Chief Darren Watson. “By connecting experienced first responders with youth through 4-H, we’re building stronger, safer, and more engaged communities.”

This year, the group, which also includes one active volunteer firefighter, founded the First Responder 4-H Club, a unique initiative that introduces local youth to the world of emergency services. Throughout the year, participants have taken part in a range of hands-on activities and learning opportunities with support and partnership from the County of Brant Fire Department, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and Brant-Brantford Paramedic Services. This has included visits to County fire stations, the Brant OPP headquarters in Paris and a review of paramedic services. Members also enjoyed a career night highlighting emergency services, showcasing police, fire, paramedics, and communications (dispatchers).

“The County is incredibly proud to be

part of an initiative that brings emergency services together to inspire and support the next generation of first responders,” said Cindy Stevenson, General Manager of Emergency and Protective Services for the County of Brant. “We are also grateful for the dedicated volunteers whose passion and commitment make this program possible.”

The First Responder 4-H Club’s inaugural year has been a success, thanks to the dedication of its volunteer leaders and the continued support from local emergency services teams. As well, the contributions of the twenty-three respectful and enthusiastic members who participated in and completed this year’s club activities cannot be overlooked.

“We are very proud of what has been accomplished this year,” said Barry McBlain, Club Leader and retired County of Brant firefighter. “Having a hand in inspiring future emergency services leaders is one goal we set out to achieve with this program.”

As a 4-H initiative, the program combines hands-on learning with 4-H’s long-standing motto: “Learn to Do by Doing.” The County of Brant and Brant County 4-H are exploring future opportunities to expand the club’s reach.

For more information on local 4-H programs, visit [www.4-hontario.ca](http://www.4-hontario.ca), or contact [brant4h.programmanager@gmail.com](mailto:brant4h.programmanager@gmail.com)



David Arsenault presents Will Ratelband, from the Salvation Army, with a cheque for \$2,000 at the Lion’s Club’s Annual Appreciation Dinner.



(IMAGE PROVIDED BY THE 4-H FIRST RESPONDERS CLUB AT THEIR CAREER NIGHT EVENT)  
Members of the First Responder 4-H Club gather with County of Brant firefighters, OPP officers and Brant-Brantford paramedics during the club’s career night event, where youth had the chance to explore hands-on learning opportunities with local emergency services.

# Brant Transit nearing capacity as ridership climbs and planning for future expansion begins

## Councillors question rider numbers, funding fairness as staff call for deeper data analysis and talks with Brantford

**CASANDRA TURNBULL**

Managing Editor

The County of Brant's on-demand transit system continues to see steady growth, strong satisfaction ratings and increasing demand for travel between Brantford and Paris, according to an update presented to the Administration and Operations Committee last week.

Director of Community Outreach Rodel Ramos, joined by representatives from Via Transportation, delivered the update. Via is currently completing year one of a multi-year transit contract.

Councillors praised the clarity of the presentation, with Councillor Steve Howes calling it "excellent" and "very clearly delivered." Councillor John Peirce appreciated the detailed data. The discussion that followed offered a deeper look at ridership, costs, and how the service must evolve to meet future needs.

Howes noted that many residents still ask why the County does not run a direct Paris-to-Brantford bus route like the one that existed years ago. Drawing on his own past experience riding that bus "when it was always nearly empty," he said the County must focus on a system that serves all communities, not just Paris.

I explain to them we are not the Town of Paris, we are the County of Brant, and we need a service that serves the County, he said.

Howes also highlighted that approximately \$880,000 in taxpayer money supports Brant Transit each year, prompting questions about who is benefiting. "There are 300 unique riders who really appreciate the service and about 40,000 who don't," he said, asking whether the 44 per cent of ride origins in Brantford meant that many riders were non-County residents.

Ramos clarified the figures: "It's closer to 1,000 unique riders a year. The report talks about a total of 962 unique riders for 2024, and about 916 so far this year."

He added that the oft cited 44 per cent statistic refers to where trips begin, not where riders live. Because many riders use the service repeatedly, ride origins are not the same as unique rider residency. Ramos

said this distinction is prompting staff to begin analyzing unmet demand and identifying whose transportation needs may not currently be served.

"This data gives us the stats and insights we need for deeper conversations with the City of Brantford about collaboration," he said.

Brant Transit delivered 25,233 rides in 2024, an 11 per cent increase over the previous year, and is on pace to exceed 27,500 rides in 2025, surpassing the County's Strategic Plan target.

The service continues to perform strongly, maintaining a "met demand" rate of 90 per cent or higher since July 2024. Most trips involve cross-municipal travel, with 44 per cent starting in Brantford and heading into the County, 41 per cent going the opposite direction, and only 14 per cent occurring solely within the County.

Rider satisfaction remains one of the system's strongest indicators. Monthly ratings averaged 4.8 out of 5 over the past two years, with riders frequently praising drivers and ride comfort.

Via also reports continuous growth in new accounts, between 100 and 200 new users sign up monthly.

Via and County staff have implemented several innovations over the past year, such as:

- Adjusting driver shifts to better match demand
- Reducing no-shows and late cancellations
- Introducing a waitlist to fill cancelled spots
- Updating routing algorithms to navigate construction, including the Downtown Dig
- Creating a caregiver portal for families and employers

These updates have improved efficiency substantially. Utilization increased from 1.4 trips per driver hour in early 2024 to nearly 2 trips per hour, outperforming comparable municipalities.

New data from Via shows 57 per cent of riders use the service for employment, followed by health care at 24 per cent. Councillor John Bell questioned whether major employers could contribute financially toward transit, given the system's role in workforce mobility.

Ramos said cost-sharing conversations have not occurred but staff have been working with employers to better coordinate ride schedules. "Shifts don't always align across workplaces," he said, noting that aligning shift times, particularly in areas like the Rest Acres Road business district, can make shared rides more efficient.

Bell urged transit staff to consider the County's rap-

id industrial growth. "We are developing the south side of the 403 in a big way, and when Amazon employment begins you might want to consider that," Bell said.

With ridership expanding and indicators showing strains on capacity, County staff are now preparing long-term recommendations for Council. That work includes exploring expanded on-demand capacity, additional or higher-capacity vehicles, potential future fixed routes, a more robust accessibility-focused transit model and deeper collaboration with Brantford

Ramos said gaining a clearer picture of riders, and non-riders who may be underserved, is key to planning. "We need to have deeper conversations with other municipalities," he said, emphasizing that early talks with Brantford are already underway.

The report notes that Brant Transit remains within its \$1.14-million budget for 2025. Fare revenue and gas tax funding offset some costs, \$101,119 in fare revenue and \$280,774 in provincial gas tax fund-

ing were collected in 2024, with similar amounts expected for 2025.

Council also debated a proposed amendment to change Brant Transit fare categories and potential fare increases. The amendment included a proposal to raise the senior fare from \$3 to \$5, while staff would review how any increase should apply to riders with disabilities.

Mayor David Bailey opposed creating three categories, saying, "I think we need to stick to two. It's not up to us to classify or pigeonhole disabilities."

For regular riders, staff were directed to examine how other County service fees have increased over the past five years and apply a comparable adjustment to transit fares. The original proposal, put forward by Councillor David Miller, to increase the regular fare from \$5 to \$10 was set aside in favour of a more comprehensive review.

While the originally presented fares were approved for implementation on January 1, Council acknowledged those fees may change once the staff review is complete.

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# Council opts for direct appointment to fill vacant Ward 5 seat

**CASANDRA TURNBULL**

*Managing Editor*

After a divided debate, County of Brant councillors have voted to fill the vacant Ward 5 council seat through a direct appointment, rejecting a by-election, the option of accepting open call applications and the idea of appointing a past election candidate.

The decision came during last week's Administration and Operations Committee meeting, where councillors weighed four staff-presented options for replacing former councillor Christine Garneau, who resigned on October 20. Under the Municipal Act, council must fill the vacancy by December 27, 2025, either through appointment or a by-election.

The staff report outlined four options, ranging from appointing a 2022 municipal candidate to holding a full by-election, which was estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

Councillor Steve Howes opened discussion by raising the financial implications, noting that a vacant seat for the past few weeks produces temporary savings that could help offset a by-election.

Corporate Services GM Heather Boyd confirmed some savings exist, primarily unpaid council salary, but they "wouldn't offset" the full cost of running a by-election.

For others, the issue centred less on finances and more on democratic legitimacy.

"My feeling is people sitting around this table should not be selecting someone to fill a seat, especially someone who could be running in 2026," Howes added later in the meeting. "The by-election is the purest way to do it."

Councillor Lukas Oakley agreed, calling a by-election the only appropriate mechanism, despite its timing challenges. He also suggested Brant develop a formal policy for future vacancies to avoid case-by-case debates.

But several councillors argued that the cost, timeline and limited impact of filling a seat for only part of the term made a by-election impractical. Councillor John MacAlpine questioned whether holding a by-election, likely resulting in a March 2026 start, was worth it given council's August recess, followed by a municipal election in the fall.

Councillor David Miller countered that Ward 5 residents were already feeling the strain of being under-represented.

He reminded colleagues of a recent Planning Advisory Committee meeting that discussed numerous Ward 5 projects. "The sooner we get it filled the better for the residents."

The committee first voted on Option 4,

the by-election. Those in favour were Jennifer Kyle, Lukas Oakley, Steve Howes, and Mayor David Bailey.

Those opposed, ultimately sinking the motion, were John Bell, John Peirce, John Chambers, Brian Coleman, and David Miller.

The next motion that was considered was Option 1, appointing the next-highest finisher from the 2022 election. Staff confirmed that candidate Ella Haley had placed 164 votes behind Councillor Brian Coleman, who finished second in Ward 5 behind Garneau.

But councillors argued that three years after the election, results were no longer relevant.

"After three years plus, the third-place finisher is in my mind irrelevant," Councillor John Chambers said. "It has nothing at all to do with any individual that placed third."

Councillor Kyle agreed, noting "a lot has changed" since 2022.

Only Oakley and Bell supported Option 1. It failed.

Option 2 - publicly advertising for applicants - was also voted down, with councillors expressing concerns about timelines and the inability to deliberate candidates in camera. Finally, the committee considered Option 3, allowing councillors to submit names of eligible individuals for council's consideration. Staff would then contact nominees to confirm interest, conduct background checks, and bring the matter to council for an in-camera discussion.

This option was last used in 2014 when Steve Schmidt was appointed to replace MPP-elect Will Bouma.

Councillor Kyle said she could support Option 3 only if council committed to selecting someone who would not run in the 2026 municipal election.

"There is a lot of data to suggest that someone who is an incumbent has an upper hand," Kyle said. "Not super comfortable giving someone that incumbency."

Mayor Bailey asked whether the appointee had to come from Ward 5. It was confirmed they did not, they must only live within the County of Brant.

In the final vote, Option 3 passed, supported by Peirce, Coleman, Miller, Bell, MacAlpine, Chambers, and Kyle. Oakley and Howes were opposed. Councillors have one week to submit suggested names to the County Clerk. Staff will then verify eligibility and interest before the matter returns to council for an in-camera discussion.

If an appointment is confirmed in time, an appointment by-law will come forward at the December 16, 2025 council meeting, with the oath of office administered ahead of the January Planning meeting.

## Letters to the Editor

### Letters reflect mixed views on public engagement

**Dear Editor:**

Thanks Casandra for the item on page 5 inviting people to speak up. The County provides many opportunities for residents to have their say, and the usage of those

tools is far less than those who complain after the fact.

It's easy to participate - do it!

*Elaine Tully  
- Paris, Ont*

**Dear Editor:**

After reading your article in the news, I do have to share a negative with you.

At the beginning of public input regarding the downtown dig, the county held a public meeting at fairgrounds where many, many people attended. Several residents spoke out about their thoughts. Some had good ideas, some not so good.

But did the county listen? Residents felt no, they did not.

At a second meeting, same thing hap-

pened. I think the biggest problem with residents and county is the parallel/angle parking.

At this time, we are going to have to wait and see how things turn out. Hopefully all the storefronts will be accessible at the end of the day.

After updating the infrastructure in the ground, accessibility was next.

*Shirley S.  
- Paris, Ont*

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR BY EMAILING THEM TO  
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# DGB Connect launches in County of Brant to strengthen community safety and inclusion

**PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF**

*Staff Contribution*

A new community partnership aimed at strengthening inclusion, belonging and public trust has officially launched in the County of Brant.

Darmont GivesBack (DGB), working in partnership with the County of Brant and the Brant OPP, announced last week the start of DGB Connect, a multi-sector initiative funded through the Ontario Community Safety and Policing Grant Program. The initiative is designed to bring residents, service providers and community organizations together to address shared safety and well-being priorities.

DGB CEO Tobi Adedayo said the project reflects the power of collaboration at a time when communities are being called to work more closely across sectors.

“DGB Connect represents the power of partnership. By bringing together the County of Brant, Brant OPP, and a network of community organizations, we are building pathways to inclusion, safety, and well-being that strengthen our entire community,” Adedayo said.

The first phase of the program prioritizes collaboration with organizations involved in housing, mental health and addictions, education, and employment, areas identified as essential to improving social equi-

ty and community well-being. The work aligns with both the County’s Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan and provincial Community Safety and Policing (CSP) objectives.

As outlined in the media release issued last week, DGB Connect supports efforts to:

- strengthen frontline community engagement tools for police,
- build trust through community-policing initiatives, and
- reduce systemic barriers for newcomers and racialized residents.

DGB Connect is structured around three core CSWB pillars: social development, community belonging and inclusive service access. Program Director Essay Folami said the initiative aims to bridge gaps between residents and the supports available to them.

“At its heart, DGB Connect is about connection—connecting people to supports, partners to shared goals, and communities to a sense of belonging,” Folami said. “By aligning with County and policing priorities, we’re creating a model that strengthens inclusion and improves everyday well-being.”

The overall goal is to improve collective outcomes by encouraging law enforcement, service providers, and community leaders to work together on early interven-

tion and proactive support. The initiative places particular emphasis on ensuring that residents of all backgrounds feel seen, supported and included.

DGB Connect will continue develop-

ing community relationships and program partnerships as the initiative rolls out across the County of Brant. For more information, residents can contact DGB or visit [darmontgivesback.org/dgbconnect](http://darmontgivesback.org/dgbconnect).



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Darmont GivesBack CEO Tobi Adedayo and Program Director Essay Folami are pictured at the Afro CariBrant Festival this past summer, another community-building initiative led by Darmont GivesBack. The pair are now guiding the launch of DGB Connect, a new partnership aimed at strengthening safety, inclusion and belonging across the County of Brant.

## Brant OPP investigating early-morning shooting in Paris

### MEDIA RELEASE

Ontario Provincial Police are investigating an early-morning shooting on Heming Street and nearby side streets to review any surveillance footage for images of the vehicle or suspects.

Brant County OPP say officers were called to the area around 3 a.m. on November 23 following a weapons complaint. Police determined that unidentified individuals arrived at a residence in a dark-coloured SUV and fired multiple shots, striking the home and a vehicle parked in the driveway. No injuries were reported.

Police believe the incident was isolated.

The Brant County Crime Unit is leading the investigation and is asking residents on Heming Street and nearby side streets to review any surveillance footage for images of the vehicle or suspects.

The OPP is also reminding the public to remain vigilant and review personal safety information available at [opp.ca](http://opp.ca).

Anyone with information is asked to contact Brant County OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Anonymous tips can be made through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or [ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://ontariocrimestoppers.ca), with the possibility of a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

## Yes, it's that time again – Christmas is coming fast!

*Share the Spirit of Christmas with the  
The Paris Independent*

Get a head start on the season with the **Paris Independent's Christmas Greetings**, publishing **December 17** – a great way to wish the community a Merry Christmas and thank your customers for their support.

A portion of proceeds will be **donated to Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation**, helping provide care and comfort to local families.

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**GRANT HAVEN MEDIA**

# Roundabouts Proposed for Four Intersections on Grand River Street North

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant is preparing to move forward with plans that would introduce a series of roundabouts along Grand River Street North, a major traffic-carrying corridor through Paris, as part of a broader infrastructure program reviewed during the Nov. 18 Administration and Operations Committee meeting.

The multi-year reconstruction plan includes four roundabouts at Watt's Pond Road, Hartley Avenue, Scott Avenue, and Trillium Way/Bradbury Crescent, key intersections shown on the project map presented to councillors in an information package. These upgrades form the backbone of a broader strategy to improve traffic flow and safety along one of Paris's busiest and fastest-growing corridors.

The report also outlined that the roundabout configuration remains the preferred long-term solution due to improved effi-

cency, reduced queueing at peak hours and fewer severe collisions compared with signalized intersections. With significant residential growth in the north end of Paris, Council has emphasized the importance of getting ahead of demand rather than reacting after congestion worsens.

The committee also supported a key procedural step, recommending that staff be directed to start the Operations Capital project tender process in advance of the 2026 Budget Deliberations and approval to ensure that the projects are tendered at the most advantageous time of year.

This early-tendering direction signals Council's intent to keep timelines tight and avoid delays that often accompany late-season bidding. It also positions the County to secure more favourable pricing, as contractors typically offer more competitive bids when tenders are issued early in the year.

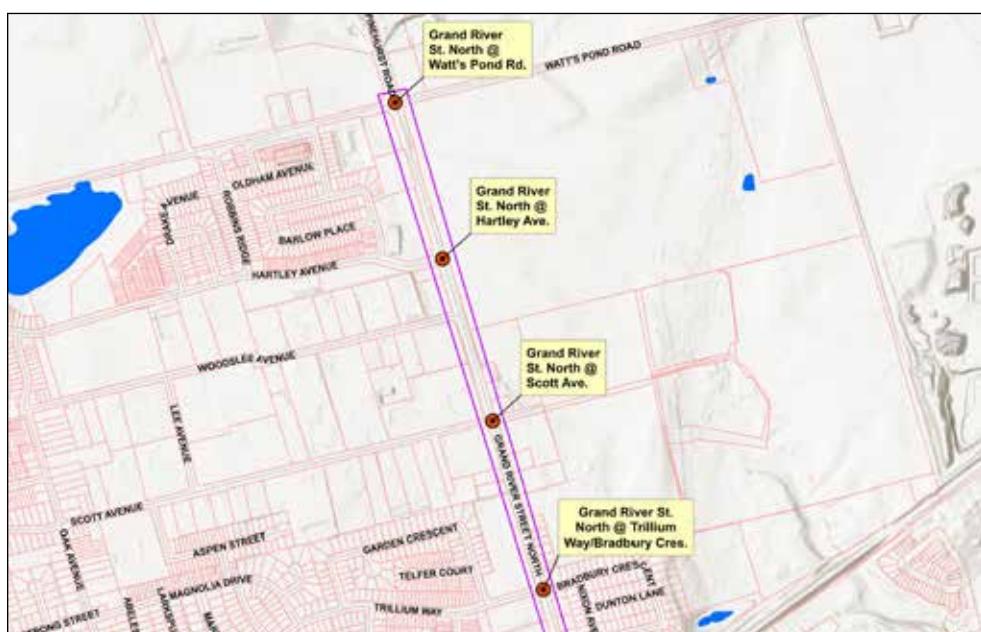
While the report outlines the project's next phases, the full construction schedule

depends on Council's 2026 budget deliberations. Staff noted that design work, utility coordination and phasing plans will continue through 2025 so the County is prepared to proceed swiftly once funding is formally approved.

County staff also emphasized the need for a strong public communication plan in advance of construction, given the scale of the work and its effect on travel throughout

the community.

In addition to the Grand River Street North roundabouts, the report flagged several other Operations Capital projects expected to benefit from early tendering. These include general road rehabilitation, underground infrastructure replacements and active transportation improvements. More detailed reports on these initiatives will appear during the 2026 budget cycle.



A project map highlights the four intersections along Grand River Street North in Paris where the County of Brant plans to install modern roundabouts as part of a multi-year reconstruction project.

## Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- Bermuda is located in which Ocean?
- What is the highest female voice in a choir?
- What university is home to the Fighting Irish?
- What is also known as Japanese horseradish?
- The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald occurred on what day?
- Who hit No. 1 in 2008 with the song 'Touch My Body'?
- What is the talking dog's name in "Family Guy"?
- What's the fancy name for a squirrel's cozy little home?
- What country will host the 2026 Winter Olympics?
- Who played Tony Soprano in The Sopranos?

This week's answers are found on pg. 19

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# HISTORIC PARIS

## PARIS PAST: What does the future hold for the historic Paris Plains Church & Maus Schoolhouse?



By Chris Whelan

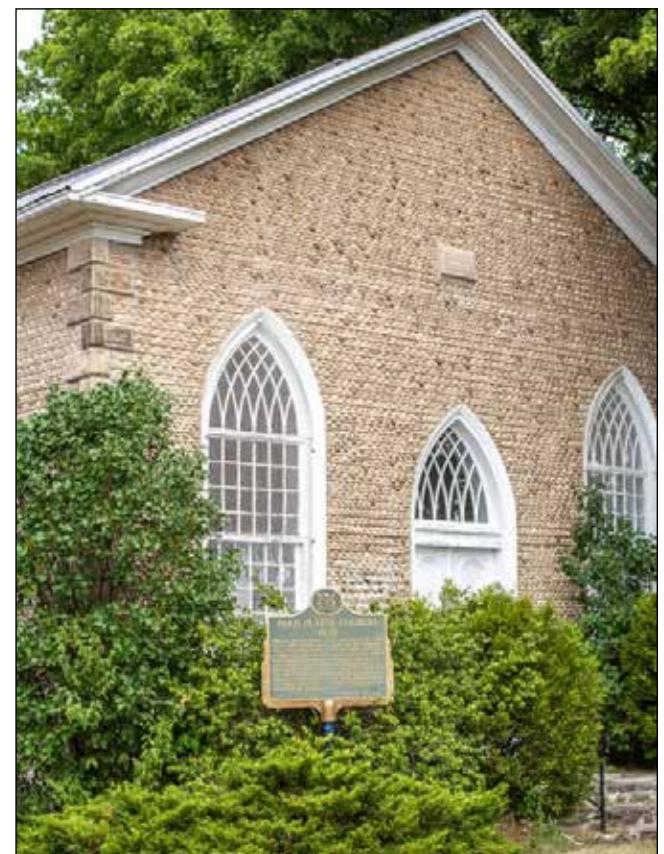
On a recent visit, Mike Johnston ran into the building's sole remaining caretaker, the last active member of a local committee tasked with managing the church and nearby former schoolhouse. The church, owned by the County, still stands for the occasional wedding, but is in constant need of repair and upkeep, and money is tight. It's backdrop of bucolic rolling farmland, will eventually give way to the rumble of heavy machinery as most of the surrounding farm properties have been purchased by gravel extraction companies. Mike hopes that the citizens of Brant County (himself included) can rally around this tiny piece of local history, tied as it is to many of the families that first settled in the area, and compel the County to take an active roll in preserving and promoting these historic places such as the Paris Plains Church and Maus Schoolhouse.

The Paris Plains Church built for the Wesleyan Methodists was completed and dedicated in 1845. It was known at first as the West Dumfries Chapel. The church was originally in the "Hamilton District Dumfries Circuit" and its first minister was the Rev. John Law (1845-47). Regular services were discontinued in 1921 although an annual memorial service was conducted each summer for over 50 years. Paris Plains Church from which the church derives its name consists of a rich level stretch of farming country running for many miles north of the Grand River. Conditions here were extremely attractive to the pioneer farmers who settled the area early in the 19th century. The

church building is of unusual architectural interest since it employs a comparatively rare type of cobblestone construction. This method of building had been introduced into the Paris area by Levi Boughton who emigrated to the district from Rochester, N.Y. in the late 1830's. There are still some examples of his work in and around Paris. The contractor for the West Dumfries Chapel was Philo Hull and there is no definite proof that Boughton had any direct connection with its construction however it is probable that the builders were influenced by his work. From the surrounding fields the members of the congregation gathered even sized oval stones that were laid in level "courses" to build the walls. These stones were "sized" through a round ring to ensure uniform shape and contour. This method is believed to have been introduced to southern England by the Romans and brought to North America by unknown masons in the 19th century. The building was restored in 1948 as a memorial to the pioneers of the community.

On the occasion of Paris Plains 125th Anniversary June 14, 1970 about 400 people turned out for Sunday's celebration. It was the 23rd consecutive annual memorial service at the church which is now only used for an occasional wedding and the annual event. The Paris Ministerial Association sponsored the service "In memory of the pioneers and in aid of the preservation of the church." It was led by Robert K. Stokes of St. Paul's United church Paris – Rev. Dr. T. T. Faichney of Galt delivered the sermon entitled "Looking Up, looking back, and Looking Ahead" Dr. Faichney's talk traced the history of the Methodist religion from its beginnings in the United States through its spread to Canada and particularly to the little church north of Paris. Paris Plains church was built in 1845 for \$1,000, with most of the labor being contributed by neighboring farmers. Its clean, plain lines reflect the lives of the people of that day, dedicated, simple farmers who held services at each others' houses each week until the church was opened. The cobblestones are the same as those used in a number of older homes in the Paris area. They came from farms in the immediate area and from the bed of the nearby river. First known as the West Dumfries chapel the church stayed Methodist until late in its active career but is now interdenominational. Automobiles became commonplace making travel to town churches easier. The West Dumfries Chapel fell into disuse except for Sunday School

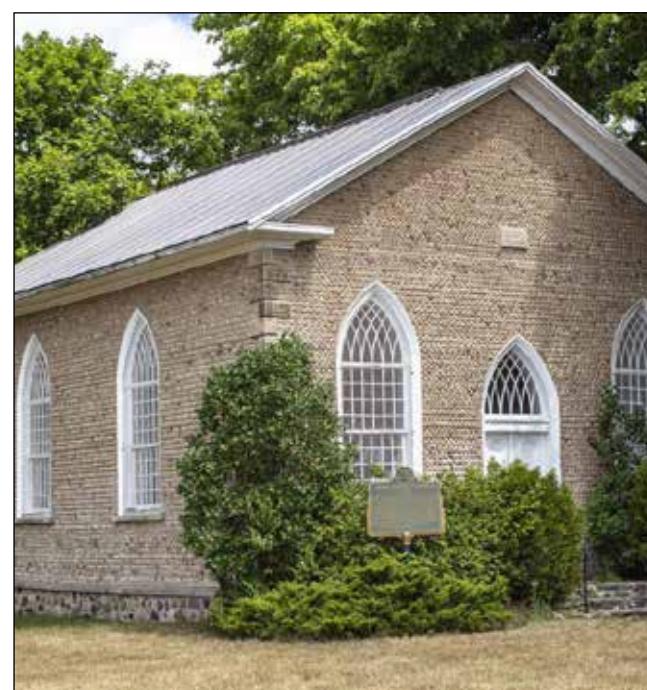
which also eventually ceased to happen. Vandalism caused a movement to have the building razed. In 1948 a group headed by Jairus Maus was formed and assumed the title of Paris Plains Restoration Committee. With \$1,000, the committee began restoration work on the building and on the adjoining schoolhouse which is now a school museum. In a display of old school artifacts, the museum also contains an antique collector's dream of early Canadians. Also at the service was a color party from Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 of Paris. Legion members conducted a memorial service, and a decoration party placed flowers and a flag on the graves of each soldier buried in the cemetery adjoining the church. The entire service was staged on the lawn of the church.



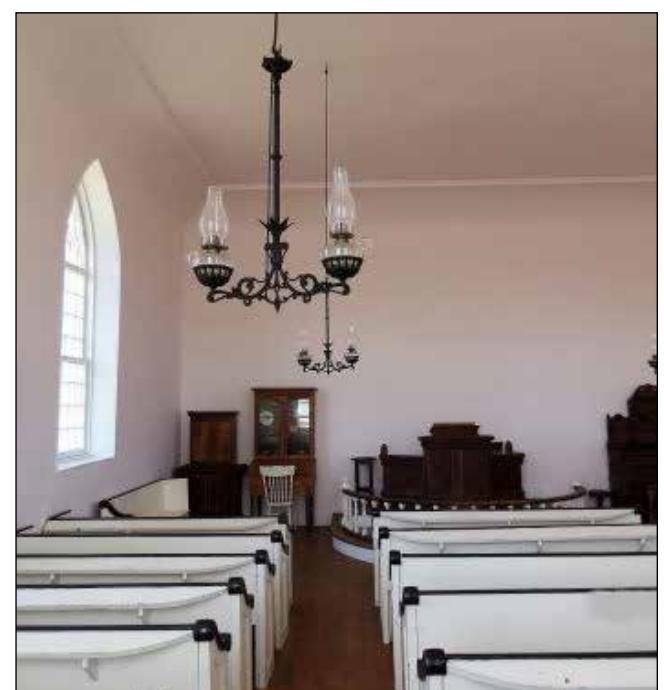
A Portrait of the Paris Plains Cobblestone Church in Ontario



Maus School beside Paris Plains Church in Ontario scaled



The Famed Paris Plains Stone Church in Canada



Paris Plains Cobblestone-Church Church Interior

# BCHS Strengthens Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

## MEDIA RELEASE

BCHS

Over the past 2 years, Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS) has made significant progress in embedding Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEI-B) into their culture. They recently launched their first-ever 2025-2030 DEI-B Roadmap, marking an important milestone in their ongoing journey and furthering their shared goal of building a stronger and more inclusive hospital system.

"This work is not a one-time initiative. It's an ongoing commitment to transforming how we operate, how we provide care, and how we lead," said Erin Sleeth, Vice President, People, Culture, and Corporate Infrastructure, BCHS. "It is the result of two years of listening, learning, and co-designing with our staff, leaders, and community partners. Through engagement sessions, input from our Employee Resource Groups, and more than 100 hours of

feedback from surveys, focus groups, and leadership priorities, this roadmap builds on our Current State Report and reflects the voices and experiences of those who make BCHS what it is."

The roadmap outlines how BCHS will move from awareness to accountability and aligns with their recently launched 2025-2030 Strategic Plan and the Ontario Health Equity, Inclusion, Diversity and Anti-Racism Framework. It is built around four key pillars: People, Patients, Partners, and Progress, and guided by three areas of focus:

- **Internal systems change**, which strengthens data, leadership development, policies, and trauma-informed care.
- **External engagement and visibility**, which deepens community partnerships, enhances Celebrate, Educate and Engage events, and positions BCHS as a sector leader.
- **Strategic resourcing and innovation**, which en-

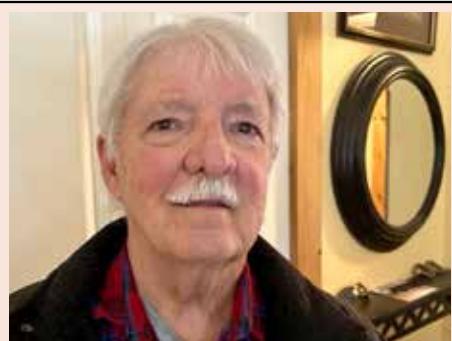
sures that equity remains a priority across planning, funding, and performance measurement.

"The launch of our DEI-B Roadmap marks a meaningful step forward in our collective commitment to fostering an environment where every person feels valued, respected, and seen," said Bonnie Camm, President and CEO, BCHS. "It connects our vision to clear, measurable action and ensures that DEI-B is not just part of our culture, but a central pillar of how we lead and provide care."

BCHS would like to thank the extended community for their contributions to the creation of this roadmap – particularly the leadership of Dr. Ruby Latif, Director, Inclusivity, Diversity, and Community Outreach, BCHS. Together, BCHS is building a space where equity and belonging is an everyday experience for everyone who walks through their hospital doors.

To learn more about the meaningful progress that has been made so far visit [www.bchsys.org/DEI-B](http://www.bchsys.org/DEI-B).

## THEN AND NOW: Sam Appleby's second block PART 4



By Wayne Wilkinson  
Paris Historian / Artist

In the past couple of weeks, we have looked at various locations in the second Appleby block. In our article this week, we'll focus on #93. You may recall that this block consisted of five locations and

was built in 1901 after Sam Appleby's first block went down in flames, along with over 40 other businesses, in September 1900.

The initial store at #93 was Sam Waldren's Confectionary. As his July 1901 advertisement shows, he was delighted to be back in the same location he had occupied in the first Appleby block. He closed in 1907, and from 1908 until 1927, Louis Anguish and his son Roy catered to Parisians with their newly named "Savoy Confectionary."

The 1915 photo shows a very dapper Roy Anguish proudly showcasing his beautiful store, which you can easily notice featured exquisite ironwork, a stunning tin ceiling, and 5-cent Neilson chocolate bars.

In 1928, the 'Savoy' came under new ownership, that of E.T. "Pete" Lavois. It remained his successful business until 1937 when something new debuted in Paris: a soda bar! Opening in 1938, it became the trendy 'Piccadilly Soda

Bar,' owned by Chris Hastings.

As time passed, it transitioned into a lunch and sandwich bar, taking on a new moniker: the "Piccadilly Coffee Bar," now owned by Joyce and Morgan "Truck" Smith. Smith was familiar with the "Pic" as he had delivered pies there for a bakery in Galt, and so he bought it when the opportunity arose.

The 'Piccadilly' was the hot spot in Paris, and the younger crowd flocked there after skating at the arena or taking in the latest flick at the Capital Theatre. Brad Lewis, a seasoned Parisian who worked there when he was 13 years old, said that the soda bar was at the front of the store on the right side, with a few booths and tables towards the back. The kitchen was at the very rear of the building.

I was told by some who frequented the 'Pic' that they thought the kids from the north

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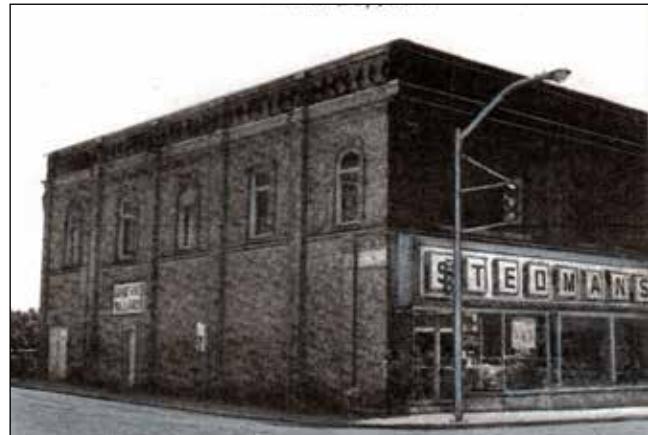
side of town were a bit snobby and so they much preferred the 'Palms Soda Bar,' which was also closer to the theatre on Mechanic Street. There was no jukebox at the 'Piccadilly,' just a radio on the counter tuned to CFRB all day.

From 1965 to 1967, #93 was home to a well-established home decorator, Herb Sales, who soon relocated to #44 Grand River Street. In 1968, #93 took on a whole new persona, becoming part of 'Stedmans Department Store,' effectively making 'Stedmans' twice as big.

From this point forward, #93 no longer existed—except in the memories of those who fondly recall the fun times of their youth at the 'Savoy' and 'Piccadilly' soda bars.

In our next column, we'll check out another historic location in Sam Appleby's block.

*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.*



# Downtown Paris glows again as Jingle Bell Night returns in true Hallmark-movie magic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

time since April, they were greeted by twinkling lights, beautifully decorated storefronts, holiday music drifting in the air, and the kind of warm community cheer that makes Paris feel like the set of a Hallmark film.

Children darted about in excitement, chasing bubbles, chatting with roaming elves, and lining up for photos with Doug the Great, whose glowing costume made him a walking - and dancing - holiday light show. A horse-drawn carriage clip-clopped down the street, its wagon overflowing with excited riders taking in the sights. And at the firefighters' annual toy drive, donations poured faster than the volunteers could pack them away.

Adding an extra shimmer to the evening were the new snowflake decorations atop the streetlights, which cast soft festive glows over carolers from Sacred Heart School, CORE Dance Project performers, Sing It Carolers, and the carolers from St. James Church.

Penny Ritchie, Chair of the Paris BIA, couldn't hide her pride as she welcomed the community back to Grand River Street North just before the tree-lighting ceremony at Cobblestone Common.

"We're so pleased with the new streetscape. Everything has come together better than we could have imagined," she said, noting the excitement among business owners who were thrilled to welcome crowds back to their doors.

Ritchie shared heartfelt thanks to the many hands who helped make the night sparkle. Davey Trees donated the towering spruce that anchored the event, while Canning Customs contributed the brilliant star that crowned it. Rebel & Royal not only collected and donated all the decorations but also dressed the tree earlier in the week, the first time it had ever been decorated in advance of the event.

She also applauded Navacon Construction for working tirelessly to ensure the downtown was ready for the big night.

"We thank you all for coming out, and let's kick off the holiday season and enjoy Jingle Bell Night," she said to cheers from the crowd.

Sacred Heart students opened the ceremony with Rudolph the Red-Nosed Rein-

deer and Joy to the World before Town Crier David McKee stepped forward, delivering a booming, poetic town cry that set the festive tone.

"For 17 sparkling years the most central part of Paris has been illuminated nightly during the darkest time of the year by the warm glow of lights on a special downtown tree," he proclaimed. "Know ye that tonight when the switch is thrown the resiliency of downtown Paris will light and shine for a grand celebration...to enchant and inspire the whole community for the rest of the year and into the next."

And then came the moment that truly belonged in the final scene of a Christmas movie. Hundreds of residents counted down together, bundled in hats and scarves, faces lit by anticipation, the only thing missing were snowflakes falling from the sky. When the tree flickered on, only to go out again, the crowd erupted into playful groans as organizers urged them to cheer louder. Children began chanting, "Light the tree!" and soon the entire square joined in.

On the next attempt, the spruce burst to life in a brilliant glow, met by cheers and applause. Presley Smith, a Grade 6 North Ward School student, was the lucky winner of a downtown Paris draw so she had the honours of lighting the Christmas tree.

Sacred Heart's carolers closed the celebration with a community sing-along of We Wish You a Merry Christmas, the perfect finale to an evening that blended tradition, togetherness, and a renewed sense of hometown pride.

To cap off a fantastic night of shopping, everyone who supported the downtown businesses were entered into a draw to win a \$500 downtown Paris shopping spree. Heather Dietrich won this year's grand prize, congratulations!

With downtown shining once again, Paris is officially ready for the holiday season.



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Presley Smith, a Grade 6 North Ward School student, was the lucky winner of a downtown Paris draw so she had the honours of lighting the Christmas tree.

## Street Beat

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Paris Independent Columnist

What do you think of downtown Paris' new streetscape?

Lee Backstrom



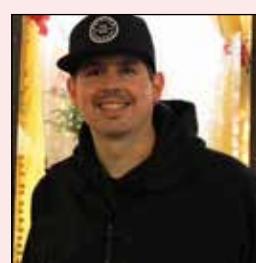
Looks nice, but will miss the angle parking

Glen Howie



I like it. I like the parallel parking. The new look should help downtown businesses.

Ian Bell



I like it. There's more room to walk on the sidewalks.

Susan Shewfelt



It's beautiful! It's been a long wait, but worth it.

John MacLaughlin



I think it's awesome! I love the wide sidewalks.



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Town Crier David McKee delivered a booming holiday proclamation at Cobblestone Common, officially kicking off the Jingle Bell Night tree-lighting ceremony.

# Street Beat

**GEORGE LE GRESLEY**

*Paris Independent Columnist*

*What do you think of downtown Paris' new streetscape?*



Vishnu Vijay

Much better now, with wider space to walk.



Mike Sebok

It's good. I like the bigger sidewalks.



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Riders enjoy the always-popular holiday carriage ride, which looped from Grand River Street North through Mechanic, Broadway and William streets before returning to the downtown festivities.



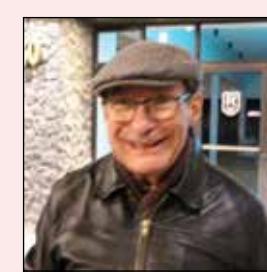
(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Sacred Heart students fill the downtown air with festive cheer as they perform Christmas classics during Jingle Bell Night.



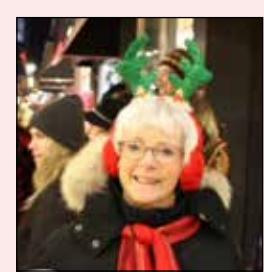
(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

CORE Dance Project performers bring energy and festive flair to the street with a lively holiday number just moments before the tree-lighting ceremony.



Wayne Dinsmore

It looks very nice. Worth the wait.



Donna Millward

It's beautiful. Hope it's not going to be a traffic problem.



Arie Vanderheyden

Very nice! More walking space.

# Get Ready to Deck the Halls... and your parade float!

Paris Santa Claus Parade adds festive float contest with a chance to win Canadian Tire gift card

**CASANDRA TURNBULL**

*Managing Editor*

If you've ever dreamed of channeling your inner Clark Griswold, building a Polar Express-worthy masterpiece, or recreating the charm of Whoville, this is your year to shine.

The Paris Santa Claus Parade is rolling into town on Saturday, December 6 at 6 p.m., and organizers are inviting everyone, from community groups to businesses to neighbourhood crews, to go all-in on Christmas magic with a brand-new Float Decoration Contest, presented by the Paris Firefighters Club and Parade Committee, with The Paris Independent stepping in as special guest judges.

And the theme? "Favourite Christmas Movie."

Think Elf, The Santa Clause, A Christmas Story, Home Alone, or any holiday classic that makes you feel warm, fuzzy, and ready for hot cocoa.

Paris firefighter and parade coordinator Phil Dalpe says it couldn't be easier to join in the fun.

"It's as simple as showing up ready to go," Dalpe said. "We're hoping everyone is just as dressed up as their floats. The more holiday spirit, the better!"

Participants can follow the movie theme, or go in any festive direction they choose.

Judges will use their full discretion when selecting the winner and won't hesitate to chat with participants.

"The judges have full rights to engage with people," Dalpe added. "Ask questions, hear their inspiration, learn how they brought their movie magic to life... we love that part."

The top float will take home a \$250 Canadian Tire gift card, generously donated by the parade committee. Whether you spend it on tools, tinsel, or next year's float materials, the bragging rights alone might be the real prize.

Dalpe says the firefighters wanted to boost excitement, encourage creativity, and strengthen community engagement.

"We thought this would be a fun way to get participants building their best floats and to engage with our hometown newspaper," he said.

As floats twinkle down the route and Santa closes out the night, judges will be busy picking the standout. The winner will be announced in The Paris Independent's December 10th edition.

So, dust off the tinsel, rewatch your favourite holiday classic for inspiration, and get ready to light up the night, Paris. As Buddy the Elf might say: "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is decorating your float for all to hear... and possibly win a \$250 gift card."

# Paris Titans battle hard but winless streak stretches through November

**GEORGE LE GRESLEY**

*Paris Independent Sports Correspondent*

November has been a tough month for the Titans, having its last victory on Halloween! Since the previous report, the Paris side travelled to Tavistock to take on the Braves, losing 6-3 despite outshooting their opponents 46-36. Braeden Tyler scored his first goal of the season, Blake Kersey and Clark Dunford made the score sheet.

Next stop was Wellesley to meet the Applejacks, where the list of scorers was shorter than the list of players in the penalty box. Clark Dunford and Jake Semiwolos scored in the first period, ending the period with a 2-1 lead. The second period saw Titan Josh Russell scoring his first goal of the season; however, Wellesley also scored, with Paris maintaining their one-goal lead and a 3-2 score. The third period featured six goals, two for Paris from Jake Kersey and Josh Kersey; meanwhile, Wellesley potted four to take the match 7-5.

With a week off, the Titans returned home to the Brant Sports Complex last Saturday to face off against the Dorchester Dolphins. In the first period, Dorchester opened the scoring, but Blake Kersey tied it up with assists coming from

Braeden Tyler and Clark Dunford. In the second period, the Dolphins scored first, but Ryan O'Keefe tied the score at 2, with assists credited to Ben Easson and Blake Kersey. In the third period, as in the previous two, Dorchester got the first goal. Paris had three power-play opportunities, one of which Cole Kersey took advantage of their man advantage for a power-play goal to tie the game at 3-3. Blake Kersey and Spencer Edwards were credited with assists. Overtime periods, although always exciting, haven't been successful so far this season, having lost two of the three OT games to date. At 2:31, the Dolphins broke the tie to take the win.

Next up, two games on the road, last Sunday in Hespeler and next Friday in New Hamburg. The Titans return home at the Brant Sports Complex on November 29 to face the Tavistock Braves. Puck drop this coming Saturday is at 7:30.

The Titans organizations in Paris and Brantford are conducting a Toy Drive from November 19 to December 5. Hygiene products and monetary donations will also be accepted in support of the Alford's 20th Anniversary Children's party, in support of children and families supported by the Grand Erie Children's Aid Society.

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# The Paris Independent SPORTS



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## Brant Battalions U11BB capture Championship at 53rd Annual Guelph Power Play Tournament

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Brant Battalions U11BB squad put together a dominant, disciplined weekend of hockey to claim the championship title at the 53rd Annual Guelph Power Play Tournament, held November 21–23.

Brant rolled through round-robin play with a perfect 4-0 record, showcasing stifling defensive play, balanced scoring and exceptional goaltending.

The Battalions set the tone early with a commanding 8-0 win over the Newcastle Stars. Five goals in the opening frame, two from Jacoby Bonnell, and singles from Blake Anderson, Nash McLaren and Nolan Kearsley, gave Brant full control. Austin Meza and Levi Blake added markers in the second, and McLaren tacked on one more in the third. Mason Monteiro earned the shutout.

Brant kept rolling with a 5-2 win over the London Bandits, backed by goals from Harrison Rusyn, Bonnell, Anderson and two from Kearsley. Ben Turnbull took the win between the pipes.

Game 3 saw Brant edge Brantford 2-0 in a tight matchup. Meza opened the scoring, Anderson added insurance, and Monteiro turned aside every shot he faced.

Turnbull recorded his first shutout in a 4-0 victory over Hamilton to close out the round robin, with Rusyn striking twice and Blake and Kearsley adding singles.

With a spotless record, Brant advanced to the semifinals for a rematch with London. This time, the Battalions shut the door completely in a 7-0 decision. Monteiro preserved the shutout with a beauty last-minute stop from London attackers. Scoring came from Bonnell, Rusyn, Thoms (2),

Kearsley (2) and Blake. The win broke the team's semi-final curse. They were knocked out of the Aurora Early Bird Tournament and the South Oxford Tournament in the semi-final rounds.

Sunday's final pitted two undefeated teams—Brant and host Guelph—against one another in a high-tempo, hard-checking showdown.

Kearsley opened the scoring for Brant with a highlight-reel unassisted goal, but Guelph responded minutes later to tie it heading into the first intermission. Guelph added another just seven seconds before the end of the second period to take their only lead of the game.

Brant answered immediately in the third, with McLaren burying a breakaway to pull the game even. The two teams traded chances through a tense, fast-paced stretch before the tournament's defining moment: Landon Kristman scored the game-winner, his first of the season, clinching the championship title for Brant.

Turnbull stood tall in net throughout the final, supported by a strong defensive corps that included Jett Rollins, Henry Glowala, Will Goslin, Jerome Burke, Gordon Fisher and Chuck Manikus. Over the tournament, Brant allowed fewer than 10 shots against in every game, thanks to disciplined structure, relentless backchecking and smart puck management. With tiebreakers based on goals against, the Battalions focused on protecting their goaltenders once they built a lead, an approach that proved critical.

Offensively, Brant's scoring was spread across the lineup, with forward units moving the puck with patience and purpose. Their ability to set up teammates and sustain pressure became a hallmark of their play.

Head Coach Jon Kristman said the team's commitment



(BRITTANY ESPINOLA MONTEIRO PHOTO)

**The Brant Battalions U11BB celebrate their championship win at the 53rd Annual Guelph Power Play Tournament, gathering with the Power Play Cup (and their proud fans in the stands) after a dominant undefeated weekend.**

to effort late in games ultimately made the difference.

"The big difference between us and Guelph in the final was the resilience and amount of effort we continued to put in the second half of the game that wore down Guelph," he said.

Kristman added that the group found its identity over the weekend.

"I believe the kids developed an identity as a fast, hard-working team. They executed well as the weekend went on."

With a championship banner now in hand, the Brant Battalions' strong showing in Guelph sets a high bar for the rest of their season as they look to claw their way to the top of the Southern Counties scoreboard.

## Paris Wolfpack claim Silver in Power Play Tournament thriller



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

The Paris Wolfpack U9 MD team proudly gathers on the ice after earning a hard-fought silver medal at the Guelph Power Play Tournament. The Wolfpack bounced back from a narrow 3-2 opening loss to New Hamburg, who went undefeated in round-robin play, to dominate the rest of the tournament with decisive wins over Kincardine (3-0), the Essa Eagles (8-0) and the East York Bulldogs (10-0). Paris carried that momentum into the semifinals, defeating the Kincardine Kinucks 5-2 to set up a rematch with New Hamburg in the championship game. Despite a determined effort, the Wolfpack fell 4-1 in the final, skating away with an impressive silver-medal finish. Members of the U9MD team include (in no particular order) Max Beechey, Parker Collier, Andrew Corbett, Adelina Delaronde, Henley Gagnon, Jackson Jessop, Bennett Keen, Jack Kneale, Marley Mac, Luca Medeiros, Hudson Mendoza, Alexavier Rogano, Alexander Schram, James Schram, and Leo Thoms.

## Wolfpack U11 skate to C Division title after tense overtime finish



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

The U11 Wolfpack Local League Team 3 competed in the BDMHA Tournament November 22nd, winning the C Division title. Facing three different Prince Edward County teams, Paris started the tournament off with a 6-3 loss. In game two they secured a solid 6-0 win over before snagging a 3-2 overtime win their last game capping a great team effort. The team consists of (in no particular order) Tanner Aitchison, Koen Gall, Landon Connolly, Landon Dedman, Brennan Deane, Luca Battistone, Tyler Saultra, Jack Ferren, Baariz Bilal, Jack Graham, Lennon Smith, Maddox Williams, Blake Dinsmore, Nathan Blake, Noah Wilkinson, Wilfred Elwell and Aiden Paskaruk.

# Paris Legion Ladies hit their mark with rising participation and remarkable play

DEBORAH KUILBOER

Paris Independent Contributor

The Paris Legion Ladies Dart League is hitting the bulls-eye on both participation and performance, with a steady and impressive turnout of over 20 ladies for the Thursday night games over the last two weeks. The league is quickly becoming a fixture for competitive camaraderie in the community.

Week five saw the strong duo of Bonnie and Debbie clinch the top team spot, winning three out of four games on the night.

The individual achievements were equally notable:

- High Score: Gail threw the highest score of the evening with a 101.
- Successful Finishers: A long list of players secured game-winning doubles, including Debbie P, Bryanna, Trish, Bonnie, Annie, Lori, Patti, and Nichole.

In a rare display of power and precision, Bonnie shot her dart so hard that she managed to bend the dart's stem, a

feat that league which is seldom seen.

The ladies returned with focus for week six, resulting in some phenomenal scores and near-perfect accuracy.

- High Scores: Debbie led the pack with an impressive 135, while Bonnie maintained her top-tier form with a score of 110.
- Precision Play: The star performance of the week belonged to Linda B, who demonstrated exceptional consistency by doubling out all five games for her team—a masterful display of accuracy.

The league is enjoying a fantastic run of play, and participants are already looking forward to their next scheduled event, which will feature a special theme night and group pictures.

## GUESS WHO ?

Born in Toronto, Ontario in 1989, I grew up balancing books and tennis balls, eventually becoming one of Canada's most successful players on the international stage. Known for my powerful serve, strategic play, and intense competitiveness, I climbed into the top ranks of the ATP and made history as the first Canadian man to reach the Wimbledon singles final. Along the way, I inspired a new generation of Canadian tennis talent and helped put my country firmly on the global tennis map. Whether I'm battling through five-set thrillers or representing Canada in team competitions, determination has always been my signature. Who am I?

Answer: Milos Raonic

## Flashback



The 1983 Paris Shuffleboard Champs

## Curlers score 23rd 8-Ender in club's 182-year history



The Paris Curling Club recorded a rare 8-ender last week - only the 23rd in the club's 182-year history. The team of Deb Skoretz, Lin Geary, Stuart Budd and skip Sam Sheardown accomplished the near-perfect feat, which carries odds as steep as 120,000 to one in amateur curling. Their team photo will be added to the club's 8-Ender Wall to commemorate the milestone.



**HOMES OF HEROES:** If you have a story about a Paris Veteran, please email the committee at [info@homesofheroes.ca](mailto: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](mailto:neiledwards51@gmail.com).



## BRANT BATTALION

### SCOREBOARD - WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16TH

**Sunday, November 16**

- U14A Battalions lose 3-1 to New Hamburg Huskies
- U15A Battalions win 5-1 to New Hamburg Huskies
- U13B Battalions win 3-2 against Plattsburgh Rage
- U21A Battalions win 4-0 against Pelham Panthers
- U18A Battalions lose 9-1 against Mt Brydges Cougars

**Monday, November 17**

- U11B Battalions win 5-2 against Tavistock Titans
- U13A Battalions lose 5-1 against Delhi Norwich 59ers

**Tuesday, November 18**

- U10A Battalions lose 6-2 against Delhi Norwich 59ers

**Wednesday, November 19**

- U15A Battalions win 5-4 against St. Marys Rock

**Thursday, November 20**

- U18B Battalions lose 7-2 against Ayr Flames

**Friday, November 21**

- U13B Battalions win 5-0 against Plattsburgh Rage
- U15B Battalions win 4-2 against Norfolk Knights

**Saturday, November 22**

- U10A Battalions win 2-0 against Strathroy Jr Rockets
- U15B Battalions lose 4-1 against Ayr Flames
- U13B Battalions win 6-2 against Plattsburgh Rage
- U12A Battalions lose 3-2 against Norfolk Knights

# Paris figure skaters shine at fall test day

## PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

The Paris Figure Skating Club opened its season on a high note as more than a dozen skaters successfully completed their Skate Canada tests during the club's fall test day, held Nov. 18 at the Brant Sports Complex.

The event, which brought skaters in front of an accredited Skate Canada judge, marked the first test day of the season, and a strong one at that. Several skaters not only passed their assessments but earned honours, a distinction awarded to

athletes who perform their tests with exceptional quality.

Leading the way was Erin Plaquet, who passed the Tango Romantica, a challenging Diamond-level dance, and also completed her Star 9 Freeskate Elements.

Sadie McRoberts earned a pass on her Star 9 Freeskate Elements, while Ella Knill achieved success on her Star 7 Freeskate Elements.

Paris also celebrated a series of outstanding ice dance results.

Skaters earning honours included:

- **Ryann Wojtasik** – Ten Fox and Fourteen Step
- **Quinlynn Bodnar** – European Waltz
- **Maya Darnbrough** – European Waltz
- **Ella Dobrucki** – Fourteen Step
- **Clara Sangster** – Fourteen Step

Additional successful dance tests included:

- **Samantha Smith** – Ten Fox
- **Mallory Coulter** – American Waltz
- **Ella Ballard** – American Waltz
- **Madelyn Tapp** – Keats Foxtrot
- **Azeezah Akinyemi** – Keats Foxtrot
- **Emily Percival** – Rocker Foxtrot



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Left to right, Samantha Smith, Mallory Coulter. Back row: Madelyn Tapp, Ella Ballard, Ella Dobrucki, Emily Percival, Clara, Sangster, Azeezah Akinyemi.



Pictured are Ella Knill, Abby Beck, Clara Sangster, Samantha Smith

## Paris ends Ayr's streak to win P'Ayr's Cup



(AYR CURLING CLUB PHOTO)

Paris Curling Club captured the 9th annual P'Ayr's Cup on Nov. 15–16 in Ayr, snapping Ayr's two-year winning streak in the interclub rivalry. Despite Ayr's home-ice advantage, Paris collected the most points across four game formats to reclaim the hardware in the Ryder Cup-style bonspiel. Both clubs fielded 32 players and a coach for the two-day event, keeping the friendly - and fiercely competitive - tradition alive.

**PARIS WOLFPACK**  
**PARIS MINOR HOCKEY**

**SCOREBOARD - WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16TH**

**Sunday, November 16**

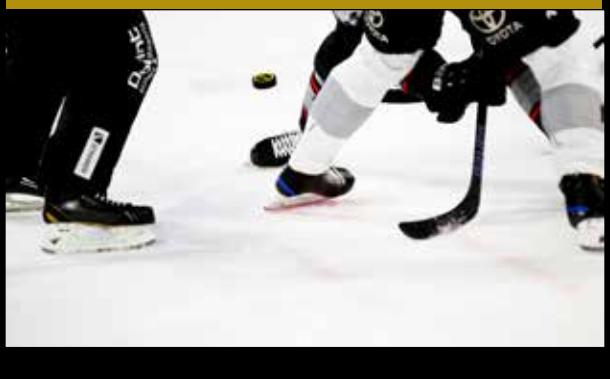
- U11LL 2 Wolfpack lose 6-2 against Ayr Flames 1
- U11LL 1 Wolfpack lose 7-1 against Ayr Flames 3
- U13 LL 1 Wolfpack tie 2-2 against Ingersoll Express
- U18 LL 1 Wolfpack lose 7-1 against Six Nations Blackhawks

**Wednesday, November 19**

- U11 LL 2 Wolfpack win 3-2 against Tillsonburg Tornadoes
- U18 LL 1 Wolfpack lose 7-6-1 against Langton Leafs

**Thursday, November 20**

- U11LL 2 Wolfpack lose 7-1 against Six Nations Blackhawks
- U11LL 1 Wolfpack win 7-4 against Waterford Wildcats
- U13LL 1 Wolfpack win 2-1 against U13 LL2 Wolfpack



# STOMPtastic crowned Grand Champion Dance Team at World Dance showdown



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

STOMPtastic dancers brought home a Grand Championship title and multiple gold-medal results, proudly waving the Canadian flag on the world stage.

## MEDIA RELEASE

Local line-dancing troupe STOMPtastic has returned from Indianapolis with global bragging rights after capturing the Overall Dance Team Grand Champion Award at the World Dance Showdown this month.

Minnery said she was “blown away” by the recognition, which included two Synergy Awards in the beginner and phrased choreography contests, and national Top 5 honours for her original dances Whiskey In My Step and All Aboard.

The 17-member group walked into the competition as relative unknowns but left with top honours and what organizers called “Dream Team” status. The Showdown, known for attracting elite international talent, delivered a memorable weekend for the Brantford and area dancers.

Led by director Joan Minnery, the team earned an impressive medal haul, including first place in Team Showstopper for their Proud Mary routine featuring the now-celebrated “Pinwheel,” first in Team Non-Country for Moves Like Jagger, first in Team Legacy for an Elvis tribute, first in Team Choreography for Good Times, and

second in Team Country for Jambalaya. The group also showcased nine choreography entries in a division featuring more than 200 routines across three categories.

While individual highlights included a Friday night showcase performance and opportunities to teach on the convention floor, Minnery said nothing compared to performing alongside her team. Members also credited the warmth and camaraderie shown by their American hosts as a meaningful part of the experience.

The dancers extended thanks to their sponsor, Hickory Dickory Decks – Brantford, and acknowledged “the 18th dancer,” Keith, for his behind-the-scenes support.



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[www.patreon.com/TheParisIndependent](http://www.patreon.com/TheParisIndependent)

Send emails to:  
[sales@theparisindependent.com](mailto:sales@theparisindependent.com) or call: 519-757-5662



# WEEKLY Horoscope

November 26 - December 02 2025

## ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Momentum shifts gently, Aries. A small breakthrough boosts your confidence. With steady focus, you'll turn newfound clarity into meaningful action.



## TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

Consistency remains your strength, Taurus. Something you've nurtured inches closer to fruition. Trust your rhythm—patience now brings rewarding stability.



## GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21

Calm energy surrounds you, Cancer. Emotional alignment helps you feel grounded and safe. Let your instincts lead—they point you toward gentle progress.



## CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

Peace settles in, Cancer. You're finding comfort in clarity and emotional calm. Let intuition guide your next step—it knows what's best.



## LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Your presence captivates, Leo. Others respond warmly to your boldness and sincerity. Channel that warmth into something meaningful, expressive, and inspiring.



## VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

Precision pays off, Virgo. Your careful attention brings clarity just when you need it. Stay mindful—your steady pace helps everything fall into place.



## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBER 26

Peter Facinelli, Actor (52)

### NOVEMBER 27

Jaleel White, Actor (49)

### NOVEMBER 28

Karen Gillan, Actress (38)

### NOVEMBER 29

Anna Faris, Actress (49)

### NOVEMBER 30

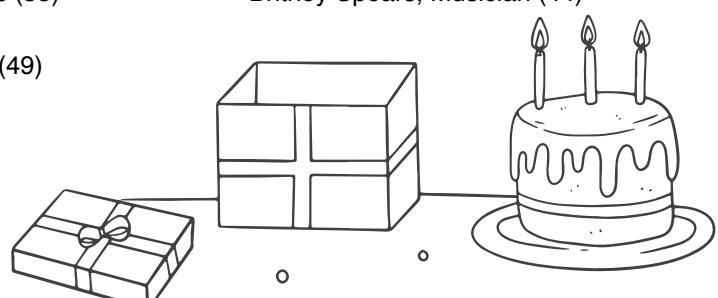
Billy Idol, Musician (70)

### DECEMBER 1

Zoë Kravitz, Actress (37)

### DECEMBER 2

Britney Spears, Musician (44)



# Riddles

What has a face but no eyes, nose, or mouth?

A coin!

What has keys but can't open doors?

A piano!

What has a neck but no head?

A bottle!

What has legs but doesn't walk?

A table!

What can you catch but not throw?

A cold!

What has an eye but can't see?

A needle!

What has ears but can't hear?

A cornfield!

What kind of band never plays music?

A rubber band!

What has one eye but can't see?

A hurricane!

What goes up and down but never moves?

Stairs!

# Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 19

Sponsored by:



# PET OF THE WEEK



## MOOSE

### Meet our Pet of the Week:

Who loves the outdoors?! This guy does! Moose, the 6 year old Miniature Dachshund is one lucky boy who gets to travel around all buckled in on his owners ATV. It doesn't stop there. Moose can also be found on the front of his owners paddle board sporting his life jacket, taking in the scenery. We were so happy to see him this week when he came in for his annual examination and vaccinations to keep him safe while he tours around.

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



# Word Search

## JOBS & CAREERS

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

Teacher  
Doctor  
Chef  
Baker  
Farmer  
Pilot  
Artist  
Writer  
Singer  
Dancer  
Dentist  
Police  
Builder  
Vet  
Librarian  
Plumber  
Firefighter  
Mechanic  
Scientist  
Carpenter

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY, 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 December 11th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. All are welcome!

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

**Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting** - is on Tuesday December 9, 2025 at 10 am at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. The guest speaker will be Lily Docherty from the Historical Society. New members are always welcome.

**Brant Men of Song Choir Practice** - Tuesday December 9th 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.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

**Paris Optimist Club Hosted Youth Dance** - The Paris Optimist Club is hosting a Youth Dance at the Syl Apps Community Centre, 51 William St in Paris from 7 pm to 10 pm. This month's theme is Christmas Best Dressed. Dance is for students in Grades 5 to 8 only. Students Grade 9 and older are welcome to attend as volunteers. Dance is chaperoned by adults. Entry fee is \$5.00 with a concession booth for pop, chips, candy and pizza. For any further information and to volunteer as a chaperone or as a high school student, please call 519.757.5020.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

**Brantford Symphony Orchestra with guests The Grand River Chorus perform Handel's 'Messiah'** at the Sanderson Centre - 7:30pm. Tickets are \$44 and \$49 for adults, \$10 for students with ID, FREE for children and elementary students, available at: [brantfordsymphony.ca](http://brantfordsymphony.ca).

**Owl Prowl for Families** - Explore the trails at dusk and learn about local owls on this family-friendly outdoor adventure. Registration required. Sat. Dec. 13, 5:00pm–6:30pm Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Rd, Paris 519-442-3212 | [www.fiveoaks.on.ca](http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

**Live Music Afternoon at The Paris Pub – In Support of the Food Bank** - Join The Paris Pub on Sunday, December 21, 2025, for a festive live performance by The Kings of Adequate. Enjoy upbeat holiday tunes on the year's shortest day, with music playing from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. There's no cover charge, but cash or food donations for the local Food Bank are warmly welcomed. For more information, please contact The Paris Pub.

## OBITUARY

*Moos*

1947 - 2025

### Sharon Ann Moos (nee Carey)

Passed away peacefully at her residence in Brantford Ontario on Monday November 17, 2025, at the age of 78 years. Cherished wife of 43 years to John; Beloved mother to Steve Lomas (Leanne) and Tina Schoeman. Much loved Grandmother to Leah Schoeman-Rowe (Brandon) and Tristan Andruski. Dear sister to Sandra Clements. Sadly missed by her nieces Jamie Clements and Dana Appleby (Dave) and nephew Wade Alkema (Karen) and other extended family members. Predeceased by her parents John and Alice Carey (nee Waddington).

Sharon was born, raised, lived and worked the majority of her life in Paris and the local area. She worked as a supervisor for both the Pride of Paris as well as Colonial Wood Products. Her love of baking made spending time with her a delicious event. She was always available to be counted on to help in any capacity. Most of all she loved her family and friends. Sharon especially the time given to her to dote on her grand children. She will be missed.

Cremation has taken place.

Friends may call at the Wm. Kipp Funeral Home, 184 Grand River St. N. Paris for a celebration of life gathering with refreshments, on Saturday December 6, 2025 from 12 noon to 2 pm. Eulogies and special memories will be given at 1 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer Society, would be appreciated. Online condolences and donations may be arranged through [www.wmkippfuneralhome.com](http://www.wmkippfuneralhome.com) or by contacting Wm Kipp 519 442 3061.

Book Launch Events for *Tapestry of Tales and Poetry*

Saturday, November 29, 2025  
2-4 pm  
Burford Library  
24 Park Ave, Burford, Ontario  
&  
Sunday, November 30, 2025  
3-5 pm  
Riverside Bookshelf  
32A Dundas St., Paris, Ontario

Join the Writers of Brant as they celebrate the launch of their anthology of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry! Meet the authors, enjoy readings & refreshments, and get your copy signed. (Copies will be available for purchase at the events.)

Proceeds will be donated to the Paris Lions Club to support their High School Scholarship program.

*Tapestry of Tales and Poetry*  
A Collection by the Writers of Brant

## CORRECTION

In our recent issue of Paris Independent, an error appeared in the advertisement for Home Help Services. The line was mistakenly printed as: "Light, cleaning, errands..."

The correct wording should read:  
**"Light cleaning, errands, organizing, tech help, friendly visit & help."**

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to  
**[stories@theparisindependent.com](mailto:stories@theparisindependent.com)**



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ONLINE**

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DREAM BIG WITH US

## PIES FOR HAITI

You can **purchase to donate** or **take your pie or pulled pork home**. If you purchase to donate, we will fill the freezers of our local food banks and shelters and give your \$20 to help feed families in Haiti, plus we will issue you a tax receipt.



**3 CHOICES!**

Pick up JAN 3, 9 AM - 1 PM  
Sojourn Church  
112 Scott Ave., Paris

More Information  
[dreambigwithus.ca](http://dreambigwithus.ca)



Apple Pie

Beef Pie

Family Sized Container  
of Pulled Pork

The  
Paris  
Independent

**THIS  
COULD BE  
YOUR AD  
HERE!**

**CONTACT  
US FOR  
MORE  
INFO!**

# CLASSIFIEDS

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

## COMING EVENTS

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

NOVEMBER	2025
TUES DAYS	HAPPY TUESDAYS ↓ Happy Hour all day long with \$7 pints & food specials
THURS DAYS	LIVE MUSIC IN THE TAPROOM ↓ 7pm, check website for who's playing
WED THRU FRI	HAPPY HOUR 4-6PM ↓ \$7 pints & food specials
EVERY SUN	BRUNCH 11AM-2:30PM ↓ a la carte brunch menu plus the regular menu
ALL WKDS	SIP & SHOP IN THE MARKET ↓ Fri, Sat & Sun plus later market hours

BOOK A TABLE HERE 

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. North Atlantic Ocean	6. Mariah Carey
2. The soprano	7. Brian Griffin
3. Notre Dame	8. A drey
4. Wasabi	9. Italy
5. Nov 10th, 1975	10. James Gandolfini

## WANTED

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

## SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

## The Paris Independent

**SUBMIT YOUR HELP WANTED, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR BUSINESS DIRECTORY ADS.**

Email us at  
[info@theParisIndependent.com](mailto:info@theParisIndependent.com)  
or call 519-655-2341

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## HEATING



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## MECHANIC



50 Curtis Ave N, Paris  
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Proudly Serving Paris & Area  
for the past 40 years

## RESTAURANT



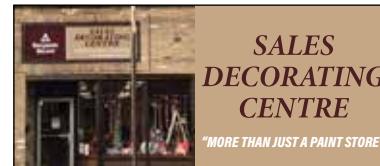
Homemade Burger & Fries  
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519-442-3152  
ACCESS & PARKING AT BACK OF STORE

## FUNERAL HOME



Jason J. Vernooy  
PARIS CHAPEL AYR CHAPEL  
519-442-3061 519-632-8228

[wkfh@rogers.com](mailto:wkfh@rogers.com) | [wmkippfuneralhome.com](http://wmkippfuneralhome.com)

## WINDOWS & DOORS

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[www.caymanwindows.com](http://www.caymanwindows.com) | [info@caymanwindows.com](mailto:info@caymanwindows.com)

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Replacement & New Construction

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## PHARMACY

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DELIVERY AVAILABLE • PARIS' ONLY COMPOUNDING PHARMACY

## PHARMACY

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# LET THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON SPARKLE WITH ANNIE PLAYING UNTIL DECEMBER 14!

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THE NEW YORK TIMES



DON'T WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW — SECURE YOUR SEATS TODAY AND  
MAKE THIS MAGICAL MUSICAL PART OF YOUR HOLIDAY TRADITION.

*Stratford*  
FESTIVAL

MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY. PHOTO: ANN BAGGLEY.

ANNIE

BOOK BY THOMAS MEEHAN | MUSIC BY CHARLES STROUSE | LYRICS BY MARTIN CHARNIN  
ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY MARTIN CHARNIN  
BASED ON “LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE”® BY PERMISSION OF TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC

2025 SEASON SPONSOR: OPHELIA LAZARIDIS

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