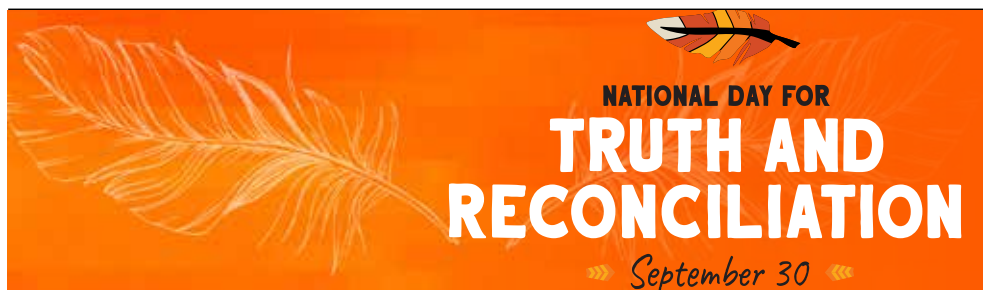


The Paris Independent

Issue #211

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RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT

From Paris rinks to Hall of Fame



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

Family, friends, and supporters of Andy "Taz" Stryker gathered to celebrate his induction into the County of Brant Sports Hall of Fame on September 17, 2025. Proudly wearing "Team Taz 2025" shirts, the group posed alongside his Hall of Fame plaque following the ceremony. See page 11 for Andy's long list of athletic accomplishments.

St. James Festival Marks 50 Years

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

What began in 1975 as a small church fundraiser to repair the Parish Hall has grown into a beloved, bustling community tradition. This year, the St. James Festival celebrates its 50th anniversary—an unexpected milestone that organizers say is the product of countless hands

and hearts over five decades.

"Reaching 50 years is totally unexpected," said church representative Scott Millward. "So many people over the years have contributed to this event. Those who have passed on would be shocked likely to know that we are still moving this event forward."

The festival's roots are humble. It started on the church grounds with booths run by St.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Slower speeds coming to Paris

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant is moving ahead with plans to lower speed limits on neighbourhood roads, with Paris set to see significant changes over the next three years.

As part of the County's Brant Safe Streets Strategy and Transportation Master Plan, late last year council approved a phased reduction of speed limits on local and collector roads from 50 km/h to 40 km/h. The move follows years of resident concerns about speeding, particularly near schools, and aligns with Ontario's Safer School Zone Act which allows municipalities to designate lower neighbourhood-wide limits

Paris will see some of the most extensive changes, with 15 neighbourhood areas designated for conversion to 40 km/h zones, and some of those changes are starting to pop up around town now. According to the staff report, these areas span hundreds of individual streets, from older core neighbourhoods like Broadway, Capron and Market Streets to newer subdivisions such as Herriot St, Masters Lane and Newbrook St.

The transition will be rolled out in stages:

- **2025:** Initial conversions in high pedestrian areas, including Broadway Street, Cobblestone Drive, and the Paris District High School area.
- **2026:** Additional neighbourhoods to follow after monitoring year-one results.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Downtown Paris comes alive with first-ever block party

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

Downtown Paris was buzzing with energy and community spirit on September 19 as residents gathered for the first-ever block party—a celebration marking the near completion of the six-month-long Downtown Dig project. The evening featured live music, dancing, and plenty of local flavour. Thanks to the support of Prynix Productions, a main stage was set up to host a lineup of performers that kept crowds entertained well into the night. Michael Bryan kicked off the music at 6 p.m., followed by crowd-pleasing line dancing led by Urban Cowboy at 7 p.m.

The night’s highlight came at 8 p.m. when 40 Daze, a long-time local favourite, reunited for a two-hour performance that electrified the audience and stirred memories of their earlier days on stage. Adding to the festive atmosphere, Branch 29 of the Royal Canadian Legion operated a popular beer garden, offering a place for everyone to relax and raise a glass to the progress downtown. Organizers credited the success of the event to the hard work of volunteers, the County of Brant, and the Downtown Paris BIA, who came together to give the community a chance to celebrate the resilience of local businesses and the return of life to Grand River Street North.

St. James Festival turns 50: a half-century of homemade hospitality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

James convenors. As crowds swelled, the event moved to the Fairgrounds—and never looked back—opening the door to outside vendors and a larger footprint. Along the way, organizers experimented with themes, from a garden focus to a popular miniatures showcase, while preserving the festival’s core: friendly faces, homemade goods, and a welcoming, family vibe. On September 27th, this year’s attendees will find the festival’s greatest hits all in one place: the jams and jellies table, fresh pies, home décor, bangles and beads, home baking, a cozy “book nook,” and the ever-popular “junktique.” Fourteen outside vendors will join the church booths, and a tasty lineup of local favourites will be on site, including Doug Hunt, Alice’s Kitchen (food truck), Hitched Coffee, and What’s The Scoop ice cream. “It’s the variety that keeps people coming back,” Millward noted. “Take your time and look thoroughly at each booth—there’s something for everyone.” Every \$2 entry ticket doubles as a chance to win a hand-stitched quilt—one of the festival’s most cherished traditions. In recent years, the quilts have been coordinated by St. James quilters Dawn McClelland and Sherry Just, and this year is no different. One of the raffle quilts is a

fall-themed piece made collaboratively by the women of the church. The second, crafted by Donna Millward and donated in honour of the 50th year, will also be on display. Both quilts showcase meticulous craftsmanship and the spirit of giving that defines the festival. “All members of St. James get involved in the festival in one way or another,” Millward said. “From preparing the jams and jellies to baking pies. Many help with set up and take down on the day. Everyone contributes!” Proceeds support St. James’ ongoing ministries, including outreach initiatives such as the local food bank, ensuring the festival’s impact extends well beyond a single day. As for the next 50 years? Organizers are both hopeful and pragmatic. “Who knows where the festival will go? I’m sure the original organizers were not looking that far ahead,” Millward stated. “It is a very large undertaking that requires much planning and many people—and next year’s event begins when the current one ends.” Their message to first-time visitors is simple: slow down and soak it in. “There is a wide variety of things being offered. The church members will all have name tags, so stop along your way to say hi to us. Thanks for supporting St. James Festival for 50 years!” The St. James Festival takes place on September 27th from 9 am to 2 pm at the Paris Fairgrounds.



Grant Silverthorn and Kevin Konyu of 40 Daze perform on stage at the Downtown Paris Block Party on September 19, energizing the crowd with their set.

The Paris Independent

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Neighbourhood speed limits reduced to 40 km/h across Brant

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- **2027:** Final 50 per cent of areas completed, with full implementation across Paris and other County communities.

The County cited data from the World Health Organization Pedestrian Safety Manual showing that a vehicle travelling 40 km/h can stop in 27 metres compared to 36 metres at 50 km/h—a nine-metre difference that can mean life or death for pedestrians. Research also shows that lowering speeds to 40 km/h cuts the risk of fatal pedestrian injury from 70 per cent to 29 per cent, according to a staff report.

County staff noted that the program will include “gateway” signage at entrances to each neighbourhood rather than posting individual speed signs on every street, a

move that reduces costs and visual clutter. The total cost of new signs is estimated at \$180,000 over three years, with funding already allocated in the roads budget.

While many residents have long pushed for slower speeds in residential areas, staff acknowledged that enforcement could be a challenge and urged voluntary compliance. The Ontario Provincial Police will be asked to monitor the new zones as resources allow.

Once complete, the changes will affect virtually every corner of Paris, from long-established downtown streets to growing subdivisions on the town’s edges. Residents can expect to see the first signs going up in 2025, with a County-wide communication campaign to explain the changes.



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

A newly installed 40 km/h neighbourhood speed sign on West River Street in Paris marks the County of Brant’s rollout of lower speed limits aimed at improving pedestrian and traffic safety.



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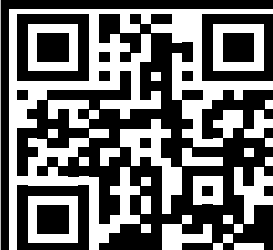
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Preserving Truth: Woodland Cultural Centre restores and reopens Mohawk Institute

MEDIA RELEASE

Woodland Cultural Centre

The Woodland Cultural Centre (WCC) is honoured to announce the official reopening of the former Mohawk Institute Residential School as an Interpretive Historic Site and Educational Resource. The opening will take place on September 30, 2025, Canada’s National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, marking a significant step toward truth-telling, education, remembrance, and reconciliation.

The former Mohawk Institute, also known as “The Mush Hole,” was the oldest and longest-running residential school in Canada. From 1828 to 1970, it operated as a key part of a system that profoundly impacted Indigenous communities, separating children from their families and cultures. The WCC is committed to ensuring the stories and experiences of Survivors are shared and understood, contributing to a more just and equitable future.

On September 30, 2025, the Mohawk Institute will reopen as an Interpretive Historic Site and Educational Resource dedicated to:

- **Truth-Telling:** Sharing the authentic history of the residential school system in Canada and the experiences of Survivors.
- **Remembrance:** Honouring the lives and legacies of all those affected by the Mohawk Institute and other residential schools.
- **Education:** Providing opportunities for visitors to learn about Indigenous history, culture, and perspectives.
- **Reconciliation:** Fostering dialogue, understanding, and action toward a more just and equitable relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Heather George, Executive Director of the Woodland Cultural Centre, states, “We are grateful to the Survivors, donors, former Woodland staff, contractors, and partners at all levels of government for supporting us in completing this major undertaking and preserving the evidence



(WOODLAND CULTURAL CENTRE PHOTO)

The former Mohawk Institute Residential School, known as “The Mush Hole,” will reopen on Sept. 30, 2025, as an Interpretive Historic Site and Educational Resource dedicated to truth, remembrance, education, and reconciliation.

of the history of the longest-running residential school in Canadian history. It is made all the more meaningful by the fact that we are re-opening the building to the public as we reach the 10th anniversary of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Of the 97 Calls to Action that accompanied the report, a number address Education and Heritage, and we are honoured to work to uphold these Calls and be part of the truth-sharing process necessary for true reconciliation to occur.”

About the Mohawk Institute Restoration:
Following the 2013 community support to transform the former Mohawk Institute, The WCC began restoration in 2016 after structural assessments estimated renovation

costs at over \$23 million. The work included multiple phases of restoration, addressing the roof, masonry, windows, and accessibility.

To date, the “Save the Evidence” campaign has raised over \$26 million and benefited from federal, provincial, and municipal government funding, private donations, and community-led initiatives. In March 2022, WCC was thrilled to announce they had successfully raised the funds needed to restore the former Mohawk Institute building.

- How to Participate:**
- **Attend the Opening:** Join the Woodland Cultural Centre on September 30, 2025, for the grand re-opening of the Mohawk Institute Residential School from 10:00am – 6:00pm.
 - **Support the WCC:** Donations to WCC will help sustain programming and educational initiatives. Visit <https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/support/donate/> to contribute.
 - **Share:** Follow the campaign on social media using #SharetheEvidence, and share your commitment to truth and reconciliation.
 - **Visit and Learn:** Plan your trip to the Mohawk Institute anytime after our grand opening on September 30th and explore this important historic site.

About the Woodland Cultural Centre:
The Woodland Cultural Centre is a First Nations educational and cultural centre that serves to preserve and promote Indigenous languages, cultures, art, and history. Located on the site of the former Mohawk Institute Residential School, the WCC strives to be a leading destination for cultural learning and understanding.

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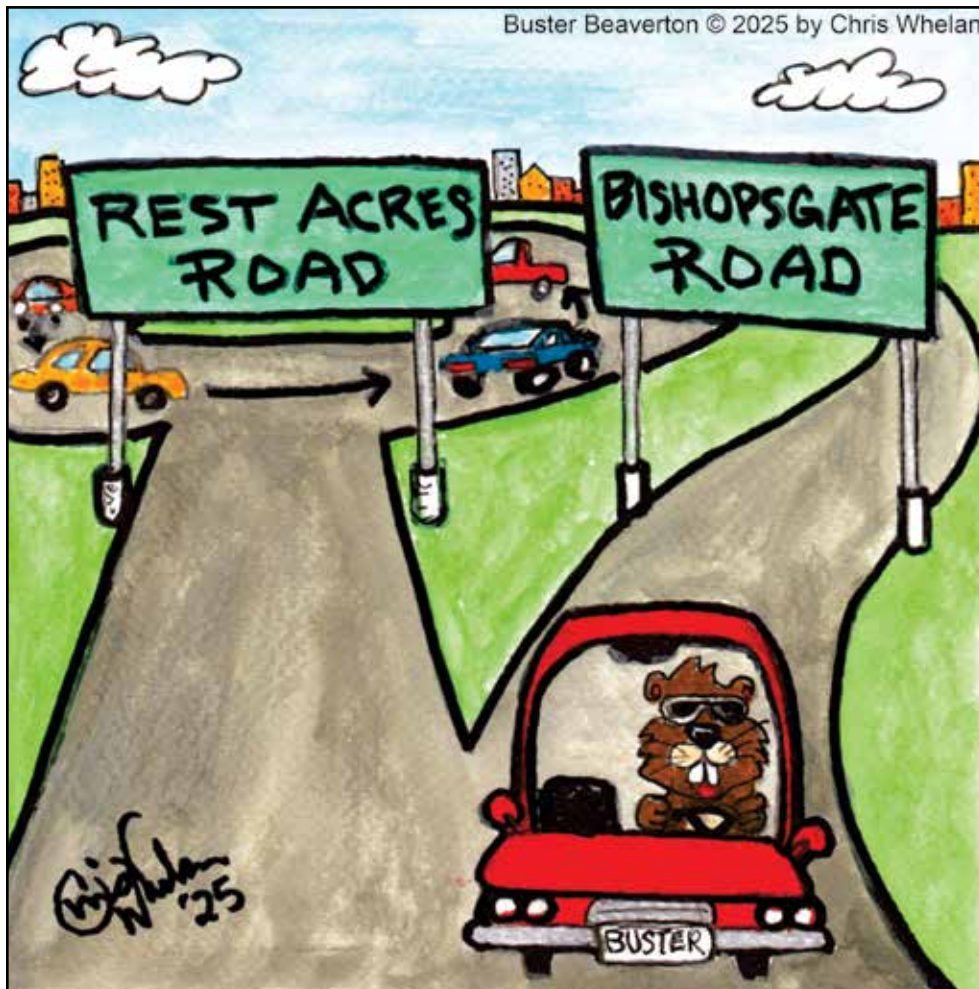
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EDITORIAL

Waiting for relief: The long-awaited Hwy 403 interchange at Bishopsgate Road



CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

A sense of anticipation mingles with frustration as residents and businesses alike continue to wait for a promise long overdue — the construction of the Hwy 403 interchange at Bishopsgate Road. For years, this project has loomed large in the minds of the community, offering a glimmer of hope amidst the shadows of traffic congestion and safety concerns that plague Rest Acres Road.

The roots of this ambitious endeavor trace all the way back to the County of Brant's 2008 Transportation Master Plan, where the need for improvements at the Hwy 403 interchange was first highlighted. Over the years, this project has been etched into the county's Official Plan, setting the stage for a transformative leap in infrastructure development.

The County of Brant has been actively engaged in delegations to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) concerning the proposed interchange, particularly post the 2018 Environmental Assessment. Noteworthy delegations at conferences such as the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conferences in 2020, 2023 and 2025, and at the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) conferences in 2022 and 2024.

County of Brant Progress Update: Ac-

cording to the County's staff this project is currently considered to be in its early stages, the project has completed the necessary Environmental Assessment phase, paving the way for detailed design and eventual construction. With construction earmarked to commence in 2032 as per the county's long-term capital plan, a roadmap for progress is slowly taking shape. The onus of funding the interchange construction rests with the County, with a strategic blend of development charges and external funding sources forming the financial backbone, with ongoing discussions planned with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) about a possible cost-sharing model.

The completion of a Schedule C Environmental Assessment in 2018, aligned with MTO's Class Environmental Assessment process, signifies a meticulous approach towards ensuring environmental compliance. Transparency reigns supreme, with the Assessment document available upon request for stakeholders' perusal.

Despite initial projections for completion in 2018, delays in implementing the interchange have been attributed to MTO's infrastructure control. Prioritizing improvements to Rest Acres Road over Bishopsgate Road underscores the intricate dance of logistical considerations guiding project timelines. While concerns over traffic flow and safety on Hwy 24 persist, particularly in the absence of an inter-

change at Bishopsgate, concrete statistics remain elusive due to MTO's jurisdiction over the highway. Mitigating measures and safety protocols remain a cornerstone of the county's approach until the interchange materializes.

Community feedback has been a compass guiding project planning, with stakeholder input woven into the decision-making processes. The Environmental Assessment phase served as a conduit for community voices, shaping the project's trajectory through inclusive dialogue. Anticipation simmers as residents await significant milestones in the project's journey. With construction slated for 2032, the roadmap to realization unfolds gradually, subject to evolving priorities and budgetary considerations.

As the County of Brant grapples with the complexities of funding, planning, and coordination, the road to the Bishopsgate interchange remains fraught with challenges.

Environmental assessments, financial considerations, and bureaucratic hurdles have all contributed to a web of delays that seem to have no end in sight.

Despite the shadows of uncertainty that loom large, there remains a glimmer of hope on the horizon. With construction slated to begin in 2032, according to the county's long-term capital plan, residents and businesses cling to the promise of a brighter future—a future where traffic flows freely, where safety is paramount, and where the long-awaited interchange at Bishopsgate Road becomes a promise fulfilled.

In the midst of confusion and frustration, the voices of the County of Brant ring loud and clear—a community united in its call for action, its plea for progress, and its unwavering resolve to see the promise of a new interchange become a reality. As the sun sets on another day of waiting, hope remains steadfast.

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Paris Fair celebrates record-breaking 2025 event with 70,000+ visitors

MEDIA RELEASE

Paris Agricultural Society

The Paris Agricultural Society is proud to announce that the 2025 Paris Fair was an overwhelming success, welcoming a record-breaking 70,000+ visitors over Labour Day weekend — with more than 22,000 guests attending on Sunday alone.

“This year’s Fair was nothing short of incredible,” said Amy Warner, General Manager of the Paris Agricultural Society. “Attendance soared, and we were thrilled to see so many visitors coming from over 40 km away — which the Province counts as ‘tourists.’ This not only demonstrates the Fair’s broad appeal but also highlights the economic impact we bring to Brant County through increased spending on food, lodging, fuel, and local retail.”

Record Beef Show Participation: Over 240 head of cattle were exhibited in the Beef Show, our largest ever. This year’s



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)

Fairgoers enjoy midway thrills at sunset, as Campbell Amusements celebrated 50 years of partnership with the Paris Fair in 2025.



Canadian country duo The Reklaws lit up the Paris Fair grandstand on Sunday night, drawing one of the largest crowds of the record-breaking weekend.

show served as a double qualifier for both Canadian Western Agribition and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, drawing top exhibitors from across Ontario.

Fairgoers also enjoyed two headline concerts, with The Reklaws taking the stage on Sunday and The Hunter Brothers performing Saturday night, drawing huge crowds and incredible energy to the grandstand.

This year marked a special milestone as we celebrated 50 years of partnership with Campbell Amusements. Their midway rides and games have been a cornerstone of

the Paris Fair experience for five decades, delighting generations of fairgoers with family-friendly fun and thrills.

Other highlights included thrilling free-style motocross and BMX shows, the Meet the Keepers Wildlife Rescue Centre, delicious food from local vendors, homecraft exhibits, and countless opportunities for families to connect with agriculture.

“Our digital engagement this year was at an all-time high, helping us reach tens of thousands of people leading up to and during the Fair,” Warner added. “This on-

line buzz translated directly into record crowds on the grounds.”

The Paris Fair continues to be a major driver of tourism and community engagement, offering agricultural education, youth development opportunities, and affordable family entertainment while strengthening civic pride.

Planning is already underway for the 2026 Paris Fair, promising even more entertainment, agricultural showcases, and family fun.



A young exhibitor receives congratulations in the show ring during the record-setting Beef Show at the 2025 Paris Fair, which saw more than 240 head of cattle exhibited — the largest in the Fair’s history.

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New Provincial safety directive will impact local Child Care Centres with front-door parking

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

Parents in Paris may soon notice changes to parking at local childcare centres, as the Ontario Ministry of Education has ordered immediate safety measures following a recent tragedy at a Richmond Hill daycare.

The directive, issued this week, requires all licensed childcare operators in Ontario to block off parking spots that pose safety risks to children and staff—particularly those adjacent to playgrounds, entrances, program rooms, or gathering areas. Accessible parking spaces are exempt, but all other high-risk spaces must be restricted from use effective immediately.

For Paris families, this means the convenient drop-off and pick-up spots many rely on may be temporarily closed. Until permanent infrastructure such as bollards, planters, or raised curbs can be installed, operators are encouraged to use pylons, signage, or even staff vehicles as makeshift barriers. Centres that do not control their parking areas are being advised to work with landlords to put safety measures in place.

Mary Musson, Commissioner of Community Services and Social Development, said these

measures reflect the government's top priority: protecting children. "Children's safety is of highest priority. These new measures proposed by the Ministry of Education ensure that families can feel confident their childcare centres are doing everything possible to protect their loved ones. We are committed to ensuring our partners implement these changes effectively."

The urgency stems from a devastating incident earlier this month in Richmond Hill, where a vehicle struck a daycare, killing 18-month-old Liam Riazati and injuring six children and three adults. A 70-year-old man has been charged with dangerous driving, though police do not believe the crash was deliberate.

Locally, the City of Brantford's Children's Services and Early Years Department says it will continue to support childcare operators across Brantford and the County of Brant as they implement the new safety requirements. The department also provides families with childcare referrals, subsidies, free drop-in programs, and supports for children with special needs.

This directive will undoubtedly require changes at several Paris childcare facilities. Families are encouraged to contact their licensed operators directly with questions about how parking and drop-off routines will be affected.



Parking spots directly in front of Kinderbrook Montessori and Learning Centre on Pinehurst Road have been blocked off with pylons, as the centre takes immediate steps to comply with new provincial safety measures aimed at protecting children and staff.

Paris Horticultural Society volunteers beautify community with roadside cleanup



(SERRYN STEPHENSON PHOTO)

Volunteers with the Paris Horticultural Society gathered on September 20 for their Adopt-a-Road cleanup along Keg Lane between the Paris Fairgrounds and Brant Oxford Road. Nine members collected 13 bags of garbage during the effort. In addition to roadside cleanups, the Society is dedicated to beautifying Paris through the ongoing upkeep of public spaces, planters, and community flower beds. Pictured are Brenda Simpson, Michelle Tew, Pat Moore, Joe Stone, Edith Stone, Janine Heather, Tricia Cressman and Marlene Harrison.

Downtown Dig update: Sidewalks, stormwater, and sustainability

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

As of Monday, September 22, 2025, crews were scheduled to pour new curbs and sidewalks along the west side of Grand River Street North, marking another major milestone in the Downtown Paris Dig project. With widened sidewalks, the area will soon be more accessible and pedestrian-friendly, enhancing the experience for residents and visitors alike.

The County of Brant thanked the public for their ongoing patience during construction and acknowledged the strong support shown for downtown businesses throughout the disruption.

One of the most innovative features of the downtown renewal is the installation of Silva Cells beneath sidewalks and planter boxes. These underground structures serve a dual purpose:

- **Stormwater management:** Silva Cells let rainwater soak into the ground, reducing runoff and filtering out pollutants through soil and roots.

- **Healthy tree growth:** By providing adequate space and soil for roots, they support long-lived, resilient trees.

These improvements also tie directly into the County's Climate Action Plan, which commits to planting 55,000 trees by 2035. The Silva Cells will help ensure cooler, greener streets in downtown Paris, contributing to long-term environmental sustainability and the community's overall livability.

Earlier in September, crews completed several key items:

- Sanitary sewer services to buildings
- Remaining catchbasin installations and storm sewer system
- Bell works
- Foundation restoration
- Restored Lisa's Way walkway
- Excavation for road base
- Road base gravel placement (50% complete)
- Landscaping work
- Streetlight conduit installation

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A decade of storytelling: Southwestern Ontario's Forest City Film Festival celebrates its biggest year yet

BRITTANY WHELAN
Industry and Special Events Coordinator

Picture this: I was eight years old when a major movie production rolled into my small town in Southwestern Ontario. The downtown transformed into a film set, and I can remember my mother dragging me by hand to a gleaming white limousine. Security moved to stop us, but Julianne Moore said it was okay and signed my scrap of paper. I didn't know it then, but that brief exchange was the spark that led me to study film and pursue a career in the industry—because film doesn't just entertain, it inspires, connects people, and fuels local economies. Now I work for the Forest City Film Festival, where we help champion the next generation of regional storytellers.

For the past decade, the Forest City Film Festival (FCFF) has celebrated the stories and talent of Southwestern Ontario. Uniting movie lovers, empowering creators, and contributing to a \$30 million regional film industry. And the inspiration doesn't stop with film. This year, we're honouring London native David Shore, creator of HOUSE M.D. and THE GOOD DOCTOR—whose work has influenced not only storytellers, but a generation of doctors and healthcare professionals.

That spark I felt as a kid was the same kind of magic our founder and executive director Dorothy Downs wanted to share

when she launched the FCFF in 2015. A year later, her vision came to life at the Wolf Performance Hall with a three-day event showcasing 25 regionally connected films, capped by a sold-out gala featuring local screenwriter Emma Donoghue. By 2017, FCFF had nearly doubled its programming, introducing an animation category, an international screening, and extending the festival to five days.

2018 brought a dose of nostalgia with a screening of THE BREAKFAST CLUB and a live Q&A with London-born actor John Kapelos. Plus, the launch of the Short Film Pitch Competition which gave emerging creators the chance to bring their ideas to life. In 2019, the inaugural Forest City Youth Film Festival took centre stage, spotlighting the voices of high school filmmakers from across the region.

When the world went online in 2020, FCFF adapted with a fully digital festival, introducing a Music Video category, virtual Q&As, and on-demand access that connected audiences across Canada. 2021 marked the rebrand of our industry programming into the Ontario Screen Creators Conference, complete with a national-scale Project Pitch competition offering a \$60,000 prize package. In 2022, we expanded our lens with curated Indigenous programming and "Best of the World Fest" (BOWF), bringing highlights from Cannes, TIFF, Sundance, and Berlinale to our local



Audience members fill the seats at London's Wolf Performance Hall during a Forest City Film Festival screening, where the magic of regional storytelling comes to life on the big screen.

audiences.

By 2024, London's designation as a UNESCO City of Music inspired an electrifying opening night of live performances, music videos, and a world premiere. We also introduced our Lifetime Achievement in Entertainment Award, honouring London born Victor Garber in a star-studded celebration with surprise appearances from Jennifer Garner, Eugene Levy and Martin Short.

This year, as we mark our 10th anniversary, we invite you to be part of 10 unforgettable days with more than 100 films, 60+ events, and experiences that celebrate the power of storytelling. From our high-energy music video opening night to a haunting Halloween screening, and the very best in regional cinema in between, the Forest City Film Festival is where culture, creativity, and community meet on the big screen.

Audiences will enjoy stories from across Southwestern Ontario, featuring films from Stratford, Cambridge, Hamilton, and beyond, showcasing the region's richness

and diversity. Hollywood comes to London with our Lifetime Achievement Award Reception, where Emmy-winning creator David Shore will be honoured in a glamorous evening of signature drinks, generous hors d'oeuvres, and an exciting silent auction. Attendees can also explore the best international films or cheer on the next generation of filmmakers. With so much to see and do, there's truly something for everyone at this year's festival.

So grab your tickets, load up on popcorn, and join us at the theater—because in every seat, there's a dream waiting to be sparked, and a story waiting to be told.

Visit fcff.ca to explore the full program and join the celebration.

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Culture Days returns to Brant with three weeks of free arts and culture programming

MEDIA RELEASE

County of Brant

The County of Brant is pleased to once again welcome Culture Days back to our community from September 19 to October 12, 2025. Residents and visitors are invited to join us as we celebrate arts, culture, and heritage throughout Brant.

“We are excited to welcome both residents and visitors to take part in this year’s Culture Days events,” said Mayor David Bailey. “In addition to the three weeks of free programming, including over 30 events taking place in the County, a special Hub Day celebration will also be held at Lions Park in Paris!”

Culture Days is a nationwide celebration of arts, culture, and creativity that takes place across Canada. It offers the public a chance to go behind the scenes and engage directly with creators, highlighting the vital role of arts and culture in our communities. Activities include everything from quilt exhibits and studio tours to pottery workshops, geocaching, walking tours, dance classes, and more.

The County of Brant, in collaboration with the City of Brantford and Six Nations

of the Grand River has been designated a “Festival Hub”.

As a Festival Hub, a special “Hub Day” celebration event will be taking place on Sunday, October 5 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm at Lions Park in Paris. The event will feature live music from the multi-award-winning, 3 times Juno-nominated and Billboard charting band Sultans of String, presenting Walking Through the Fire with Marc Meriläinen, Shannon Thunderbird, Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk and Lacey Hill on the stage at the Walter Williams Amphitheatre. This free event will also include activities and vendors.

More information on this year’s County of Brant Culture Days can be found on our website, including links to the most-up-to-date list of activities. Learn more at www.brant.ca/culturedays. Follow the County of Brant’s social media channels: Facebook, X, and Instagram for more information and updates.

If you have questions about Culture Days, contact culture@brant.ca or 519.44BRANT (2.7268) / 1.855.44BRANT. For more information on Arts, Culture, and Heritage in Brant, visit www.brant.ca/Culture.



2024 Culture Days event at Holly.O. Studio in Paris.

Mayor Bailey delegates strong mayor powers, commits to collaborative approach

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

The County of Brant is among 169 municipalities in Ontario granted expanded strong mayor powers by the provincial government as of May 1, 2025. While the legislation gives mayors more authority in areas such as budget and staffing, Mayor David Bailey has announced his intention to maintain a collaborative, council-driven approach, delegating many of the new powers to County staff and Council.

Below is the full statement from Mayor David Bailey:

On May 1, 2025, the Government of Ontario expanded strong mayor powers to 169 municipalities, including the County of Brant, with the goal of advancing provincial priorities to build 1.5 million new residential units and to construct and maintain infrastructure to support housing.

I respect the Province’s decision to implement this change and support its intention to increase affordable and attainable housing stock throughout the Province, and more specifically in the County of Brant.

County of Brant Council is comprised of 11 members, representing voices from across our community, which were duly elected to represent the best interests of their constituents. I have the utmost respect for the institution of a democratically-elected Council and for each member that I have the honour of serving on this Council beside. I believe in open and healthy debate amongst Council and the principle of majority rule.

Further, I have faith in and respect for the County’s administrative team, and specifically, Alison Newton, who

was appointed Chief Administrative Officer by our Council. It is my intention to work alongside both Council and the administration for the good of the County and our residents.

There are certain powers and responsibilities which cannot be delegated, however in recognition of the County’s effective and competent leadership model, it is my intention to carry on operations as status-quo wherever possible. As such, I have delegated authority for the following, as permitted by legislation:

- Powers afforded to the Chief Administrative Officer under Section 229 of the Municipal Act are delegated to Alison Newton, CAO of the County of Brant. This includes exercising general control and management of the affairs of the municipality.

- Powers regarding organizational structure are delegated to Alison Newton, CAO, including both employment matters and setting / amending the organizational structure of the corporation.

- Powers regarding creation, appointment, election of chair and assignment of functions for certain local boards and committees is delegated to County of Brant Council, to be determined through majority vote.

Staff are developing a revised Budget Process, which respects the intention of the Strong Mayor Powers to have the initial budget presented by the Head of Council and incorporates the Long Term Financial Plan that was a critical priority for this term of Council. It is my intention to fulfill my role in the budget process in a manner that ensures that key budget decisions reflect the majority vote and respects public input, local priorities and the diverse positions of the elected representatives.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What famous actress married baseball player Joe DiMaggio in 1954?
2. What is the name of Roger’s dalmatian in the Disney movie ‘101 Dalmatians’?
3. Which country is Madrid the capital of?
4. What is the most expensive spice in the world?
5. Who directed the 2018 movie ‘A star is born’?
6. What is Prince William the duke of?
7. Who wrote the dystopian novel ‘1984’?
8. Roughly how long does it take for the sun’s light to reach Earth?
9. Animals that eat both vegetables and meats are called what?
10. What was the robot’s name from Interstellar?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 23



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HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Resurrecting elegance: The revival of 69 Washington Street



By Chris Whelan

On Washington Street in Paris stands a majestic Victorian Italianate house, a timeless relic from the 19th century that has gracefully weathered the sands of time, preserving within its walls a rich history and many untold stories. I have had a hard time finding much information about this beautiful house, but I am excited to share what I know so far and announce its exciting future!

Believed to have been erected in the 1880s, this grand abode, located at 69 Washington Street, holds within its walls the echoes of generations past, with each brick and beam whispering tales of a bygone era. It was last inhabited by the venerable Agnes Harrison until her peaceful passing in 2003, marking the end of an era within its hallowed halls.

The guardians of this historic residence, Mark Victor Harrison and Agnes May (Welsh), nurtured their family within its embrace. Mark, born in Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma, Ontario, Canada, in 1903 to David Alexander Harrison and Ellen Elizabeth Day, found his lifelong companion in Agnes May Welsh. Their union in 1927 in Brantford, Ontario, bore fruit in the form of three daughters and two sons, shaping the very essence of this home with love and laughter.

Agnes May Welsh, a daughter of Burford, Ontario, born

in 1908 to John Welsh and Elizabeth Waldon, brought a warmth and grace that lingered within the walls long after her passing in 2003, joining her beloved husband in eternal rest at the Paris Cemetery.

For the past many years, the Harrison house has stood shrouded in silence, a silent sentinel to its former glory, until the arrival of Dan Brown, the visionary owner of Dan Brown House Reconstruction. With meticulous care and unwavering dedication, Dan embarked on a journey of resurrection, heralding a new dawn for this architectural gem with a recent acquisition that promises a vibrant future for this historic landmark.

The resurrection of this faded beauty is a testament to the enduring allure of the past, a phoenix rising from neglect to reclaim its former grandeur. The meticulous restoration, will be chronicled on the Brown's YouTube channel "Reign of the Chatelaine," promising to unveil the meticulous craftsmanship and timeless elegance that define this historical treasure.

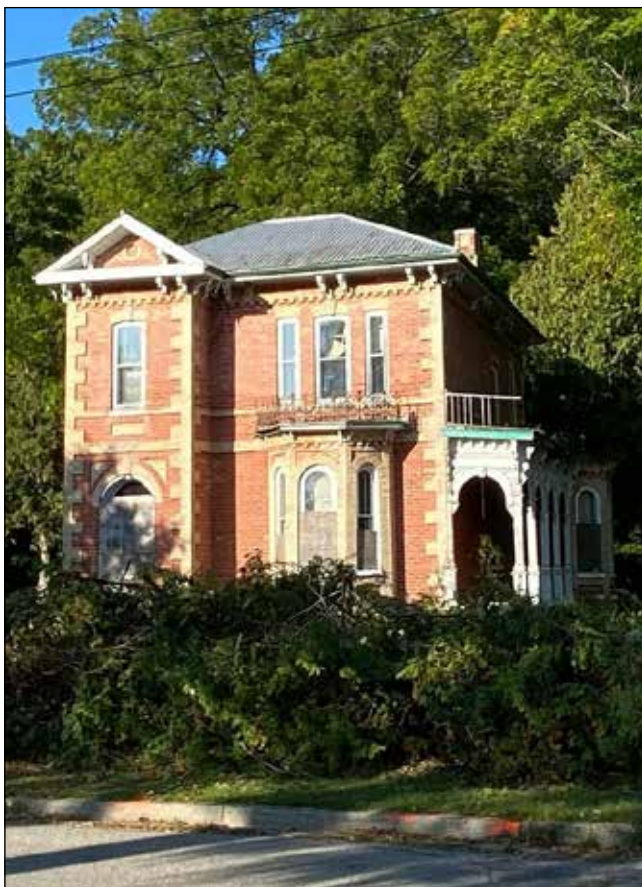
Nestled within a sprawling 15-acre estate it was once adorned with manicured gardens and ancient arboreal sentinels, 69 Washington Street stands as a sanctuary of serenity amidst the bustling modernity of today. Its stately silhouette, boasting 11-foot ceilings, intricate mouldings, original wood trim, and marble fireplace surrounds, stands as a living testament to a bygone era where artistry and craftsmanship danced in harmonious unison.

As the restoration unfolds and the house breathes anew, each day unfurls a new chapter in its storied history, inviting eager onlookers to witness the rebirth of a living time capsule. Beyond mere bricks and mortar, this labour of love is a dedication to preserving the essence of a bygone era, a commitment that transcends time itself.

The address, 69 Washington Street, beckons all those with a curious heart to partake in the unfolding saga of revival, where the past intertwines with the present in a dance of resilience and preservation. Join the journey back in time by subscribing to "Reign of the Chatelaine" on YouTube and witness the unfolding narrative of the Victorian Italianate house on Washington Street—a tale of dedication, perseverance, and the enduring spirit of restoration.



(DAN BROWN HOUSE RECONSTRUCTION PHOTOS)



Brant artists want to be part of Bawcutt Centre conversation

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As Brant County looks to repurpose a storied site, a grassroots group of artists wants to be part of the conversation.

After a plan to transform the Bawcutt Centre into a new main library branch folded over concern about too few parking spaces, the municipality put out a call for submissions of interest for a public-private partnership to continue the restoration of 13 Burwell St. in Paris.

The overall vision is for a redevelopment that “celebrates and expands the arts and culture sectors while serving the broader community,” the bid description says.

A local group of creatives says they’re “not in the position to bid or take over the development,” but they want to have a voice in the process.

“We ... count, even if we’re not a corporate property developer or an institutionalized arts organization,” Ruby Jones said.

The artist has joined forces with artists Prinx Lydia, Tony Churchill and Lisa Franklin to form BAM Brant Art Matters.

The group plans to use activism, workshops and events to focus on the future of arts in Brant County, starting with its “Save the Bawcutt” campaign.

The community is invited to attend the first meeting on Sept. 25 where they will

discuss the campaign, and arts and culture in Brant in general. “Where people are at and where people would like to see it go. What’s missing, what’s needed, what’s working,” Jones said.

In terms of the Bawcutt Centre, Jones believes it’s “imperative” that whoever funds the redevelopment “works closely with the community so that this space can actually be what it needs to be.”

The group says ideally it would become a community arts space, like the Button Factory Arts Centre in Waterloo or the Cotton Factory in Hamilton.

“These are working, established, flourishing models of exactly what we want to do ... it’s not like it’s totally revolutionary,” Jones said.

The group envisions studio spaces where artists of all disciplines can work, learn and commune, sell their art and potentially buy supplies as well. Perhaps even a satellite location for the library’s makerspace.

“There just seems to be lots of interesting ways that you could be connecting it to the greater community,” Churchill said.

The creative and cultural industry is one of the three key sectors the county has identified for growth and investment, along with agriculture and manufacturing.

The municipality purchased the former Paris Old Town Hall in 2016 with a \$1-million donation from “Degrassi” franchise



(BRANT ART MATTERS PHOTO)

Brant Art Matters, a new community organization, hopes the arts will be part of the conversation for a redeveloped Bawcutt Centre.

co-creator Linda Schuyler. It was built in 1854 and is thought to be the oldest surviving example of public neo-Gothic architecture in Canada.

The library project was slated to cost around \$37.5 million, including the heritage restoration and a 20,400-square-foot addition.

The group invites creative people of “all avenues,” including professional and aspiring artists and patrons of the arts, to the first meeting, Jones said.

“We’re really interested in seeing young

people,” 2SLGBTQIA community members, people of colour and “people who don’t normally feel welcome in community art spaces,” Jones said.

BAM’s first community meeting will be held on Sept. 25, at 6 p.m. at the Wincey Mills. Email BrantArtMatters@gmail.com for questions.

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

For more than 160 years, Indigenous children were forced into Indian Residential Schools.

September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to learn about the 150,000 childhoods lost to Canada's Indian Residential School system.

ontario.ca/LearnTheLegacy

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Ontario 

Paris Lions and Optimists unite to support Campfire Circle

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Two long-standing Paris service clubs have once again proven the power of community partnership. The Paris Lions Club and Paris Optimist Club joined forces this spring to raise funds for Campfire Circle—formerly known as Camp Trillium—an organization dedicated to providing life-changing camp experiences for children affected by childhood cancer.

Last week, members of both clubs gathered at Campfire Circle's Waterford site for a special tour of the camp. The visit included a catered meal by Alice Stratford and concluded with the presentation of a cheque for \$6,800—the result of their joint fundraising efforts in May. The cheque presentation was timed to coincide with Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, observed each September to highlight the needs of children and families affected by cancer.

“Working together showed what can be accomplished when service clubs pool their passion and commitment,” said Lion Rod Laframboise. “The outpouring of support from residents in Paris was truly inspiring.”

Optimist Andrée Lamarche, added, “Campfire Circle gives kids and families the chance to heal and create memories despite the challenges they're facing, and we're grateful to everyone who helped.”

Campfire Circle operates two sites—Camp Ooch in Muskoka and the former Camp Trillium site in Waterford. It is the only overnight oncology camp in Canada equipped to provide onsite IV chemotherapy and blood transfusions, ensuring kids can safely experience camp



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Members of the Paris Lions Club and Paris Optimist Club present a cheque for \$6,800 to Campfire Circle staff during a recent visit to the camp's Waterford site. The donation will help provide camp experiences for children and families affected by childhood cancer. Pictured: Optimist Wendy Bear, Lion Rod Laframboise, Lion David Arsenault, Amy Tahmizian with Campfire Circle, Optimist Andrée Lamarche and Penny Banks with Campfire Circle.

while continuing treatment. Each year, more than 1,500 children and families take part in programs that offer joy, resilience, and a supportive community.

With nearly 170 years of combined community service between them, the Paris Lions and Paris Optimists have

once again demonstrated the lasting impact of volunteerism and collaboration. Their \$6,800 donation will help ensure Campfire Circle continues to bring comfort, laughter, and unforgettable experiences to children and families navigating childhood cancer.



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The Paris Independent SPORTS



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Paris Midget A Champion and multi-sport star Andy Stryker joins Hall of Fame

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Correspondent

In the 1970s, Paris was still a small town, often overshadowed by neighbouring Brantford on the ice. While a young Wayne Gretzky was making headlines at the Quebec City Pee Wee tournament, it was Paris's own Midget A hockey team that captured local hearts—going all the way to win the Ontario Hockey Association Provincial Championship.

Andy Stryker was the most talented player and the leader of this championship team. The 1974-75 Paris Scott Colonels Hockey Team won the OMHA Midget "A" Championship. That team is listed in the Brant County Sports Hall of Fame and appears on the Paris Wall of Recognition.

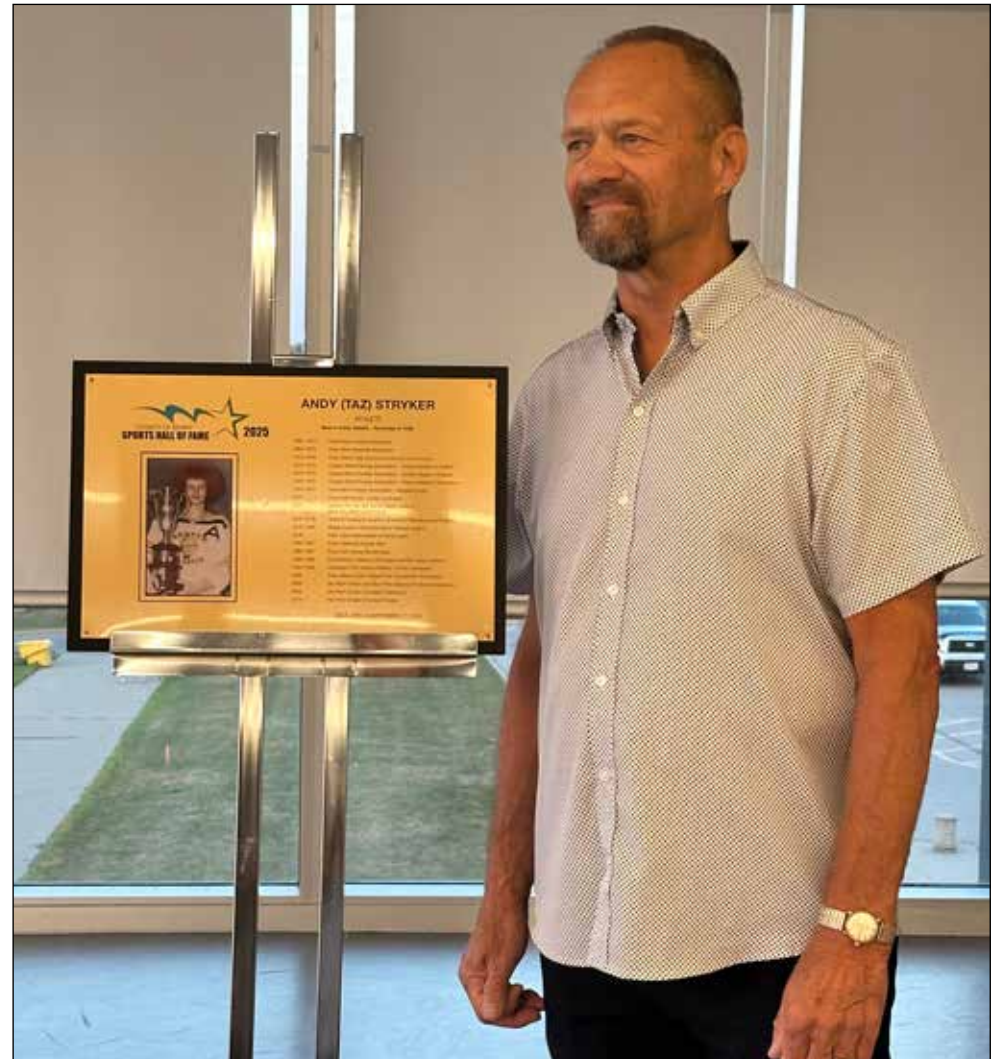
At Paris High, he was an exceptional cross-country runner and soccer player; in the summer, a gifted baseball player and golfer, whose trademark was his bold red afro, which factored in adding at least 4 to 5 inches to his height.

Andy started skating at his grandparents' farm at age four and grew into what teammate Larry Smith and Doug Delaronde described as a tenacious, intense competitor,

who was a great skater known to win most of his battles for the puck in the rink's corners. He was also the team leader and the Major Junior hockey scouts from Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds drafted him to join their team in 1974. Andy attended two training camps with the Greyhounds but left the team to return home, due to a family issue, where he continued to play Junior B hockey for Paris.

His father, an electrician who immigrated from Holland, made Andy eligible to play in the Dutch hockey league from 1980 to 1986. During that time overseas, he was chosen to play for Holland in a series of games against the U.S.S.R. national hockey team,

Today, Mr. Stryker lives in Brantford and is the owner of Taz (his nickname) Electric. His mother, children, grandchildren, friends, and former teammates were in attendance. Mayor David Bailey and Councillor John Peirce, who heads the county's Hall of Fame Ad Hoc Committee, offered their greetings and remarks. Larry Smith, Mr. Stryker's teammate in a variety of sports, most notably the championship Paris Midget team, introduced him and awarded him the Induction plaque.



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

Andy "Taz" Stryker stands proudly beside his induction plaque after being honoured as part of the County of Brant Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2025.



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

A special display of Andy's sports memorabilia showcased highlights of his multi-sport career during his induction into the County of Brant Sports Hall of Fame.

Andy "Taz" Stryker – Career Highlights

- 1962–1975 – Paris Minor Hockey Association
- 1965–1973 – Paris Minor Baseball Association
- 1972–1976 – Paris District High School Soccer and Cross Country
- 1972–1973 – Ontario Bantam A Finalists (Ontario Minor Hockey Association)
- 1973–1974 – Ontario Midget A Finalists (OMHA)
- 1974–1975 – Ontario Midget A Champions (OMHA)
- 1974–1975 – Assistant Coach, Paris Minor Hockey Association
- 1974 – Paris Golf Course Junior Champion
- 1975 – Drafted into OHL by Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds
- 1975–1978 – Junior B Hockey (Brantford, Tillsonburg, Preston)
- 1975–1983 – Player/Coach, Paris Men's Fastball League
- 1979 – Paris 29ers Intermediate B Hockey Team
- 1980–1981 – Dutch National Hockey Team
- 1980–1981 – Dutch IJS Hockey Bonds Team
- 1980–1986 – First Division Hockey (Groningen and Den Haag, Holland)
- 1985–1986 – Dutch First Division Champions
- 1990 – Paris Selects, Holland Tour Tournament Champions
- 2008 – Slo Pitch Ontario & National Provincial Champions
- 2009 – Slo Pitch Ontario Provincial Champions
- 2015 – Slo Pitch Ontario Provincial Finalists



House League Standings

Ages 9-11 House League -
September 15th

Team 2 defeats Team 1, score: 24-21

Team 4 defeats Team 3, score: 22-11

This week's top scorers:

Blake from Team 4: 11 points, Bahadur from Team 2: 8 points, Ethan O from Team 2: 8 points.

PARIS SPORTS HEROES: Born to be a hockey player

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

It started with a kid who'd never take off his hockey helmet, a loving family, and a dream.

For as long as Zac Dalpe can remember, he always wanted to be an NHL hockey player. Zac was dedicated to this dream and sought to make it a reality. Every morning before school he'd shoot 500 pucks until his hands bled, spent more time with a hockey helmet on than off, even to the pyjamas he wore being strictly hockey-themed, he lived and breathed hockey. The son of local Paris stalwarts Paul and the dearly missed Lisa Dalpe, who implored to their three amazing boys, Phil, Zac and Ben, the values of community, hard work, and devotion to their family and friends.

His budding career followed the traditional Canadian hockey player route, learning to skate at his local barn, Syl Apps, and the pond behind the Dalpe house. But even from a young age, he was marked for success, to the point where he was even traded by his own father because the Timbits hockey team was too talented with two Dalpe boys.

Pivoting to play in Brantford, Zac played a few years for the 99ers Triple A. But in 2001, came back to play with his buddies and older brother, Phil, to win a championship on the Paris Wolfpack, coached by his dad. I knew he'd be a professional hockey player the moment I saw him. All skills, grit, desire, all he needed was size.

In his second year of Pee wee and first year of Bantam, they won back-to-back OMHA Championships for the first time ever in town history, and the first time a Paris team had hoisted the banner since the '78 Bantam Chateaus. Playing with the likes of JJ Barrett, Wes Consorti, Chad Marshall, and the late but great Joey Pickering to name a few. The team was driven by Zac and Phil, but they all were eager to learn and happy to be at the extra 6am skates in Plattsville. As a point to honour these fond memories, Zac always tried to wear the number 22 in honour of his old coach, Doug Stewart.

A few years later, Zac was cut from the Mounties and went on to play for the Stratford Cullitons Junior B club, before heading west to play for the Penticton Vees. The following year, Dalpe was drafted by the Plymouth Whalers of the OHL and the Carolina Hurricanes. Choosing to accept a scholarship from Ohio State, he played in the NCAA for two years before making it to the big times.

With a career that spanned fourteen years, Zac donned



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)

Zac Dalpe shares a smile with two of his sons alongside emcee Tyler Pelton during a 2024 ceremony at the Brant Sports Complex, where Dalpe's jersey was officially retired.

the sweater of the Carolina Hurricanes, Vancouver Canucks, Buffalo Sabres, Minnesota Wild, Columbus Blue Jackets and the Florida Panthers, playing in 168 NHL games. He also captained the Cleveland Monsters and Charlotte Checkers of the AHL, wearing the 'C' as a testament to his leadership. He played in nearly 600 AHL games and also set the franchise record for most goals and games played in Checkers history. Choosing to retire to be closer to home and to be there for his family, with his three young boys; Brooks, Beau and Beckham, and his lovely wife, Cassandra.

Reflecting on his career, Zac said he "wouldn't change a thing, it all worked out for a reason. Every single day I tried to make a better hockey player of myself." Throughout his illustrious career, a few of his favourite memories included the 2023 Stanley Cup run he made with the Florida Panthers, scoring the tying goal in the game six first round battle against Boston, which helped tie the series at 3 apiece before the Panthers would make it to the Finals. His other favourite hockey memory would be riding on the firetruck with his Paris Wolfpack team as OMHA champs,

as he felt it really brought the town together. As for favourite coach Dalpe named Paul Maurice, whom he both started and ended his career with as a true scholar of the game. Maurice had a great sense of humour, who knew when to pat ya on the back or kick ya in the butt. And as for the best advice he heard in his professional career, he'd want to pass on to others "do what you did to get here."

As Dalps decided to hang up the skates for good this past July, he closed the door on his playing career but has opened himself up to a new coaching career, hired by the Seattle Kraken to be a player development coach. Looking to pay it forward, Zac has found his role where he can assess young talent and show them the ropes, and if the young players can learn anything from Zac, they will be much better hockey players and better men because of it.

Congratulations Zac, you have made us all very proud, not only for your playing days, but because you have represented your hometown with dignity, grace and hard work, and shown the world the best of Paris.

Proudly signing off, this is Scoop Stewart and Scoop Jr, always a pleasure.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Zac played a few years for the 99ers Triple A but ultimately returned to Paris and by his final Pee wee year and first year of Bantam, he was part of a team that won back-to-back OMHA Championships.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Zac Dalpe, pictured with his brothers while playing for the Paris Wolfpack, sharing the ice in a special hometown moment.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

A young Zac Dalpe, still in his helmet while taking a snack break. Zac was dedicated to his dream of playing professional hockey—shooting 500 pucks every morning before school until his hands bled, and spending more time with a helmet on than off.

Paris Duffers at Burford Golf Links



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Here is Steve and his mom Marie who actually looks like a barely older sister. You look great Marie keep up whatever you're doing as you almost look younger than your son.

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

Friday September 12th Paris men's golf results...

With only one week to go, there's a tie at the top of the leaderboard between Doug Sinclair and Gerry Hoogstraten, as luck would have it they're playing head-to-head next week to decide the overall championship.

MVP

Sorry, I'm a couple weeks late with this, but it is Steve Cruickshank traveled 1700 miles to visit his lovely mother on her birthday! (see photo).

Winners of the milk:

Congratulations are in order for the victorious pairs of Gerry Hoogstraten and Al Oldroyd, Terry Brown and Billy Beechey, Larry and Jerry Heath, and Fred Gavin and Dirk Diggler.

Shot of the day:

Was a putt by Pat Fergus that was anywhere between 12 feet and 87 ft depends on who you talk to. We went right to the horse's mouth on this and Fergie says it was 71 foot...editor's note. I do not believe there is a green 71 feet in diameter

at Burford, oh well it's Golf.

Quote of the day:

The quote machine Dino Kitchen is at it again, when he was referring to his playing partner he said "Stones is a type of guy to give you his shirt right off his back... The only thing is it might be yours in the first place" thank you for all that jocularity Dino!

Good guy award:

Gary and Greig Graham were seen down at the south end retirement home entertaining the residence as was the three wise men or the Three Stooges depends on how you look at it...Dino, Brownie and Fever but there was a little bugaboo at the end of the visit as the Head nurse, Miss Cratchett, thought Brownie was a resident and tried to put him in his room. Dino and Fever, his personal lawyers, got him out of this mix up.

Tip of the hat:

Goes to avid Paris Independent reader, Dr. Bob the foot doctor at the Hub who does fine work up there and promised ole Scoop he'll be dancing in no time.

This is Scoop Stewart signing off. *Always a pleasure!*

Big wins and tough losses mark Panthers' busy week in sports

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Correspondent

It was a night of mixed results for the Paris Panthers, as the senior squad powered to victory over North Park Collegiate, while the juniors were edged out in their season opener.

The senior team defeated North Park in a whopper of a win, taking the opening game, 33-6. Ryan Smith was the big scorer with three touchdowns. Colton Gloade and Carter de la Rosa each had a touchdown. Defensive standouts were Grant

Smith and Nolan Ayres.

The Junior Panthers had a hard time keeping up with North Park, losing 34-6. Chris Kinsman scored the lone Panther touchdown for the offense, while Taygen Steenkamp and Beau Jack had good performances on defense.

The Panthers have a bye week but will return on October 4 at Paris High School's field to play St. John's. Mark your calendar to attend and cheer on these players. Make sure to bring a blanket or chair to cheer these players on.

County of Brant and Paris Youth Softball Association celebrate new batting cage at Pete Lavoie Park



Brenda Bishop (left), County of Brant Mayor David Bailey (centre) and Paris Youth Softball Association Executive Member Nathan Smith (right) cut the ribbon to officially open the new Brenda Bishop and Family Batting Cage at Pete Lavoie Park on September 18.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The crack of the bat echoed through Pete Lavoie Park, a rarity for this time of year, as the County of Brant and Paris Youth Softball Association (PYSA) celebrated the grand opening of the Brenda Bishop and Family Batting Cage on September 18.

The \$26,000 facility was made possible entirely through the fundraising efforts of PYSA and the generosity of sole donor Brenda Bishop and family. While the association spearheaded the vision and raised the funds, the batting cage will become a County-owned and operated amenity.

"This project is a perfect example of community partnerships at work," said Brant County Councillor Christine Garneau. The dedication of PYSA, combined with the generosity of the Bishop family, has created a lasting recreational resource for athletes and residents across Brant.

The County has committed to covering additional costs for signage and maintenance through its 2025 operational budget,

ensuring no added expense for taxpayers. Future rental fees, collected under the County's Facility Allocation Policy, will be directed toward the upkeep of the batting cage. Rental rates have not yet been confirmed.

In recognition of the association's leadership, PYSA will be permitted to display club sponsorship signage in a designated area near the cage. For PYSA Executive Member Nate Smith, the project represents more than just new infrastructure.

"Softball is thriving in Paris, and this batting cage gives our players a space to develop their skills year-round," said Smith. "We are so grateful to Brenda Bishop and her family for making this possible, and to the County for working with us to bring the vision to life."

The new batting cage is the latest addition to Pete Lavoie Park, which has recently undergone significant upgrades to serve as a hub for community recreation. Construction officially began May 1, 2025, with the cage now ready to welcome both PYSA members and the broader public.

Girls Basketball

The Juniors took a loss to the Brantford Collegiate side. Leading scorers for Paris were Reagan Carter, Genevieve Carriere and Janelle Weatherbee.

The Senior girls' side started their season with a 40-15 win over BCI. Leading scorers for the Panthers were Eira Feairs, Hailley Maxwell and Elif Ozturk.

Boys Volleyball

The Junior team was shut out by BCI in three games to none during a best-of-five series. The Senior side won their match against the BCI side 3-0 in their best-of-five series.

Varsity Baseball

The Paris High Panthers defeated the North Park Trojans 6-2.

A Christmas Encounter



NEIL EDWARDS

Paris Independent Contributor

Two Paris boys had a chance encounter in December 1942, while they were both on Christmas leave from their duties during the Second World War. Both were in military service in Britain at the time.

One was Wally Creeden, the acclaimed Canadian fighter pilot. He was one of the youngest fliers in the RCAF and his daring and ability were soon recognized. He was credited with the destruction of three Axis ships, playing an important role in the attack on the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau off the Dutch coast. For his courage and skill, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal during the Battle of Dover. He was congratulated by Air-Vice-Marshal and the Honourable Vincent Massey and the High Commissioner for Canada in London. A British film company made a movie, Coastal Command, in which his squadron played a major role.



Wally Creeden

The other Paris boy was Lead Aircraftman Art Wilson. He served with the No.410 "Cougar" Squadron, which was formed as an RCAF night fighter squadron at the RAF Air Base in Ayr, Scotland. The squadron was initially equipped with the Boulton Paul Defiant fighter plane. Its role was to defend central Scotland and the Northeast of England from night bombing attacks. As a Lead Aircraftman 1, Art would have been responsible for helping to keep the airplanes in the squadron in fit condition to fulfill that role, just as others did for the planes Wally flew.



Art Wilson

It was reported in the Paris Star in January 1942 that Wally had written in a letter home that he hoped he would get his Christmas leave. And Mrs Thomas Wilson also reported in the local newspaper that her son, AC1 Art Wilson, who was also on Christmas leave, met his Paris friend, Wally Creeden, at the Beaver Club in London, located in Spring Gardens near Trafalgar Square. So clearly Wally got his wish.

It would be interesting to know what these two Paris boys talked about. They both knew airplanes, so they must have



(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

Canadian Armed Forces members gather at London's Beaver Club, a wartime social hub that offered servicemen and women a taste of home with Canadian sweets, CBC radio broadcasts, and holiday comforts.

talked shop for a while. But they both grew up in Paris, had been active and popular in Paris, went to school in Paris and surely had friends and memories in common. The Beaver Club in London was a social and recreational center for Canadian servicemen on leave during the war. It provided a Canadian atmosphere and home comforts, including access to sweets from home, CBC radio broadcasts and so on. It would be the perfect place at the perfect time -- Christmas -- for two friends to reminisce. Two friends, a long way from home at Christmas, during a brief interlude from their duties serving their country.

Of course, they could not know what the future held. Art Wilson would survive the war and return to Paris to raise his family. He married Ann Robb in 1956, and they raised five children. Art was a jack of all trades, working at various times as a mechanic, labourer, watchman, bartender, retailer, and entrepreneur. In 1966, he and Ann launched Anco Sales, a family-run carpet business. Though his hockey playing days slowed as he raised a family, Art's love for the game never wavered. He devoted countless hours supporting his children's athletic pursuits, traveling across Ontario as a passionate fan and proud father. Art died in 1992.

And Wally? His plane was shot down on May 16, 1942, just five months after meeting his friend Art at the Beaver Club. He is buried in Great Burcham (St Mary) Churchyard in Norfolk, England. Mount Creeden in the Yukon has been named after him. And also, a street in Paris.

Two Paris boys. Two heroes. Serving in a country across the ocean, protecting Europe and protecting us. And there are many other stories of men and women in Paris who have done, and are doing still, the same job. Fighting in war and protecting us in peacetime. Homes of Heroes wants to tell all of their stories. Do you have a story to share? Then please share it at info@homesofheroes.ca. Their stories will ensure that our heroes will not be forgotten. If you have questions, please email them to neiledwards51@gmail.com.

Classic Mopar car show drives \$3,000 donation to hospice



Craig Cornish, president of Southern Ontario Classic Mopars, presents a \$3,000 donation to Julie Powell, president and CEO of St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation, representing proceeds from the club's Sept. 7 show at Mike Yarek Dodge Chrysler in Paris. Funds will support programs and services at Stedman Community Hospice. The event also raised \$400 and collected non-perishable food for the Paris Salvation Army. The Lions Club of Paris was on hand throughout the day to feed guests.

New collection of queer rural stories to launch at Brant Pride event

RUBY JONES

Cultural Correspondent

Paris's literary community is about to welcome a fresh voice with the launch of *Queer Country Crossroads*, a new anthology of nonfiction stories and poems by and for rural 2SLGBTQIA+ folks. The collection is edited by Paris resident and writer Mabe Kyle, adding to the town's growing reputation as home to vibrant authors and publications.

Mabe Kyle is a disabled, queer, creative professional with a passion for healing and self expression who has practiced and honed their skills in six countries; with a strong foundation in social justice and leadership experiences, their open mindedness and active engagement in continued learning, enables them to have a unique perspective to problem solving and the development of communities.

Two years ago, Kyle was in the Nowly Press Start CoLab program, an innovation accelerator for young Canadian social entrepreneurs, and they were exploring routes and ideas around addressing and supporting the mental health crisis in Canada. Kyle's vision stemmed from the power of sharing experiences through a queer rural lens. That idea gained momentum with an \$8,000 grant, which helped bring the project to life. In exploring publishers across Canada, Kyle found a natural fit with Caitlin Press, whose commitment to rural stories, queer literature, and diverse voices aligned with the anthology's mission. Since then, the press has partnered closely on submissions, publishing, and now the launch of this remarkable collection.

Queer Country Crossroads features 52 writers, poets, and artists from across Canada, each sharing personal stories that explore themes from coming of age, and isolation, to community, and home. Each

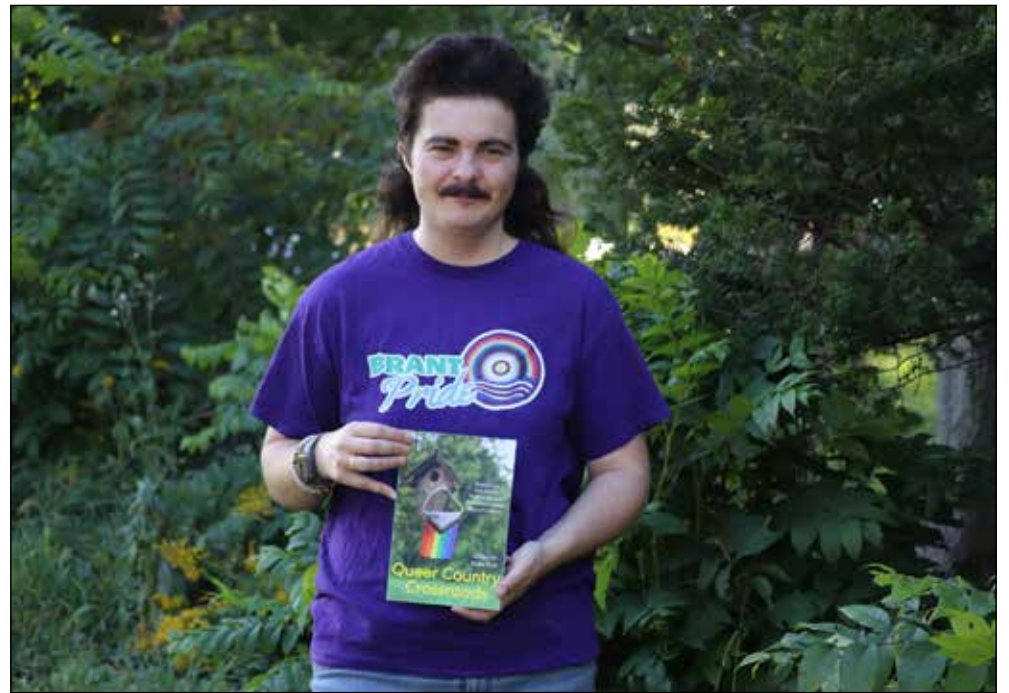
person's story is unique: some reflect on growing up in rural locales while others detail their experiences of moving to the countryside later in life. Together, these vibrant voices bring diverse perspectives and important insights into the strengths and hardships that come with living at the intersection of being rural and 2SLGBTQIA+.

Some contributors were invited, some replied to a call out for submissions and all of them wrote from their unique experience. The anthology contributors have a range of experience, as writers, and one of the essay writers, Tea-Lynn Van Dyk of Simcoe, Ontario shared their experience.

"I wrote my essay over a year ago. I didn't write it to be shared, or to be read, and certainly not to be included in a book! I wrote it because my heart was bursting with love for who I am, and passion for how far I've come. I'm very thankful now to Mabe Kyle who invited me to share some of my writing, and I hope my story gives hope to others who have worn my shoes."

While *Queer Country Crossroads* highlights voices from across Canada, Kyle's own commitment to amplifying queer stories is equally visible at home. As co-chair and co-founder of Brant Pride, they continue to build spaces for connection and celebration in the County of Brant.

Brant Pride and *Queer Country Crossroads* will collide at this year's Brant Pride JOY celebration on Sunday September 28th from 11 am to 3 pm in Lions Park in downtown Paris. *Queer Country Crossroads* will launch at this grassroots event and a great selection of writers will read their pieces live on the Walter Williams Amphitheatre. This anthology serves as a beautiful reminder of people's resilience, love and strength, and so does a Pride celebration, so this is a perfect way to officially debut this poignant publication.



(JANICE MURRAY KYLE PHOTO)

Mabe Kyle poses on their family farm with a copy of *Queer Country Crossroads*, an anthology of eclectic and universal experiences.

When asked who *Queer Country Crossroads* is intended for, Kyle said the anthology speaks to a wide audience. "It's for rural folks who want to learn about the queer experience, queer people who want to learn more about the rural experience, and rural queers who want to connect with each other's experiences. It's for anyone and everyone, really," they explained.

Reflecting on the milestone of publica-

tion, Kyle admitted the experience still feels surreal. "It was such a dream to publish a book, that it doesn't feel real that it's actually happening," they said. Kyle added that launching the book at Brant Pride was a natural fit. "We always like to feature writers at Brant Pride events, and Caitlin Press was able to push ahead the publishing timeline to make it possible to debut the book there."

County awards tender for Arlington Meadows Park and splashpad

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant has awarded the construction tender for Arlington Meadows Subdivision Park—also known as Doug Hanna Park—bringing a long-awaited neighbourhood green space one step closer to reality.

At its September 16 meeting, the Administration & Operations Committee recommended awarding the \$2.29-million contract to Stoney Creek-based 39 Seven Inc. The project will transform 7 Becker Street into a vibrant community hub featuring a lit basketball court, splashpad, playground, softball diamond, seasonal washroom and mechanical building, shade structure, walking paths, pollinator gardens, and parking facilities.

While \$2.19 million had already been allocated in the 2024 and 2025 capital budgets, rising labour and material costs pushed the lowest bid slightly over budget. To close the gap, County staff recom-

mended using an additional \$250,000—\$225,000 from development charges and \$25,000 from the Community Services Capital Reserve—bringing the total project budget to \$2.44 million.

The park concept was first introduced on Engage Brant in January 2025 and later refined through community feedback gathered at an open house on February 5. Comments received were incorporated into the final design where feasible, ensuring the amenities reflect the needs of local families and residents.

County staff emphasized that neighbourhood parks deliver wide-ranging social, environmental, and economic benefits. They promote active lifestyles, create opportunities for social connection, support biodiversity, and even help boost nearby property values.

Construction is expected to begin this fall, with work pausing during the winter months before resuming in the spring. The County anticipates the park will officially open by the third quarter of 2026.

Mobile Cancer Screening Coach's visit to Lansdowne Children's Centre a huge success

MEDIA RELEASE

Lansdowne Children's Centre

The Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Regional Cancer Program's Mobile Cancer Screening Coach's visit to Lansdowne Children's Centre in Brantford on Tuesday, September 16 was a huge success.

In just five hours, over 55 cancer risk assessments and screenings for breast and cervical cancers were completed. Attendees were also able to access resources to help quit smoking and an at-home poop test to screen for colon cancer.

In light of the impressive response to the cancer screening coach's initial visit, Lansdowne staff are currently working on scheduling another visit in the near future.

To find the full schedule of where the coach will be in the community, as well as further information about the services offered – all of which are provided free of charge – visit hnhbregionalcancerprogram.ca/cancer-screening/mobile-cancer-screening-coach/

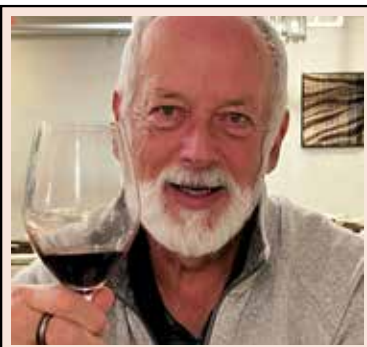
cer-screening-coach/

Remember: when cancer is detected early, it generally means fewer treatments, less time spent in recovery, and a better chance of survival.



Lansdowne Children's Centre welcomed the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Regional Cancer Program's Mobile Cancer Screening Coach on September 16, and the event was a huge success.

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: History, hurting and healing



By Paul Knowles

As soon as I was born, I was taken from my birth mother and put into foster care. Three months after I was born, I was taken to the home of Rose and Ralph Knowles, who adopted me.

And right now, I can hear you ask, "What the heck does this have to do with travel?"

My answer: I have always known those facts about my life – although only in the past few years have I discovered the identity of my birth mother, and met seven siblings I never knew about. But knowing that I had been given up for adoption has

always been part of my life, and has shaped who I am.

"But," you say, "remember the travel part?"

Yes. One of the most impactful destinations I have ever visited is the National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada, in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. This is not a destination that entertains; it's one that informs, educates, enlightens and changes you from the inside out.

I have often heard people wonder why Indigenous people seem so focused on residential schools. It is not rare to hear the phrase, "That was in the past. Can we just move on?"

And that's where my birth story connects, for me, at least. Because those circumstances have been a real, living part of me all my life. And my story of loss is pretty insignificant compared to the tragedies that residential schools brought upon thousands of Native Canadians.

And their story is not ancient history. Touring the Residential School Museum, we were re-

minded that the last residential school closed only 29 years ago! Most of you, reading this, were adults while the government of Canada and a number of churches were still operating institutions that were founded, according to the deputy superintendent of the Department of Indian Affairs, "to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada." Residential schools were intended as a means to steal the identity of all Native Canadians, to "assimilate" each and every one, in the words of Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonald.

Compare those stated intentions with the mission statement of today's Residential School Museum: "A place where people can learn, share, heal, and move forward." The museum and its staff are committed to that process.

Our guide was Farah Houle. She led us through small rooms in the museum – which was once the "Portage la Prairie Indian Residential School," founded in 1916 and in operation until 1988. Each room contains exhibits that reveal the unfolding history – often synonymous with "unfolding tragedy" – of the people of the First Nations.

I learned that from the 1800s, until 1951, residents on reserves were required to have an official government permit simply to leave the reserve. I learned that the massacre of buffalo was not just a ridiculous blood sport, but an organized effort to cause the extinction of native people.

I saw pictures of kids being transported in cattle trucks from their homes to residential schools. Farah described the rounding up of native kids as "Pick and Go."

One display case held three

straps of different weights, all used to administer punishment by school officials. The least heavy was for children eight years and younger. The many reasons for such punishment included speaking their native language, or talking to a sibling. In fact, our guide said, "If you spoke your language, you got a pin through your tongue."

Farah says, "They were taught not to love each other." Which laid the foundation for very troubled lives.

A very telling display is found in the dining room exhibit, where the table for priests and nuns was laden with fish, meat, fruit and vegetables, while the children got oatmeal. And, added Farah, "They had to eat it even if there were bugs in it."

Perhaps the most shocking exhibit is a simple, empty baby's crib. Farah explained that this is in memory of babies born to young girls in the school, babies fathered by priests and teachers, babies who were then murdered to hide the evidence, and whose bodies were incinerated.

What is truly amazing about the museum is that, in spite of the horrors on display, there is an overriding invitation to find hope. But first, we need to learn, then to heal, only then to move forward. The exhibits include art-

works that capture both suffering and joy.

We thought that the best example of the need to know the past to move to a positive present was our guide, herself. She told us, "I was raised by a residential school survivor, and I wondered why he didn't say, 'I love you.' Now, I know why." She added, "People need to know what happened. I'm going to continue to tell the story of those who never made it home alive."

And while Farah said that part of the story is "how religion was forced on the children," she also shared that she continues to be a practicing Christian – to me, an incredible, living example of forgiveness and faith.

Clearly, the Residential School Museum is not a destination you will visit if you're looking for entertainment. But this is a place that will change your life more than a thousand visits to Canada's Wonderland. And as a guy who has discovered how one's personal, childhood history impacts the rest of your life, I could not recommend it more highly.

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 empty baby crib is in memory of all of the babies born – and disposed of – in Canadian residential schools.



Farah Houle, our guide at the National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada.



The museum was once the "Portage La Prairie Indian Residential School" – now designated as a place of healing.



An exhibit depicting the stark conditions faced by the children forced to live in residential schools.



The sculpture "Healing Shoes" by Genevieve Lavasseur features ceramic shoes made from mud from four residential school sites in Manitoba. There are 152 sores – one for every year from the signing of the first treaty to the year the artist created the work, intended "to honour lives lost and lived" at the institutions.

From festivals to friendships: A snapshot of Paris life

STONES Around Town

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

As the summer breeze gives way to the crisp embrace of fall, life in our quaint town continues to unfold with its own unique charm. From the laughter of children returning to school to the thrill of community events, there's always a story waiting to be told in our streets.

The Paris Drinks Fest 2025 was a highlight of the season, offering a blend of entertainment, vibrant atmosphere, and impeccable organization. The value for every dollar spent was undeniable, and amidst the festivities, I had the pleasure of meeting new friends in Rod and Mary Kinfitt. Despite losing my cherished Paris Drinks Fest 2025 cup, such is life, I eagerly anticipate returning next year.

Accompanied by my daughter Rachel and her boyfriend Daniel, a visit to the Paris Fair proved to be a delightful adventure. From a calf's unexpected kiss to surviving the wild rides that never fail to exhilarate, the fair remains a timeless joy. While my luck didn't secure a 50/50 win, I did gain a new friend in Nancy, a dedicated volunteer with the Fair board. However, the admission price, albeit supporting a tax-free not for profit corporation, struck me as a tad steep for families — I truly believe the fair should be a local experience that is more accessible to everyone.

Contemplating the ongoing 'big dig,' I couldn't resist the idea of starting a pool to guess its completion date — who's game? Inspired by local author Don Stewart's vision, perhaps an apartment building atop Church Street in the park could offer a new perspective on our town's landscape?

In our evolving community, it's heartening to witness individuals like Rob Wilson embracing electric bikes, perhaps he should consider forming an electric bike gang? He could call it Mike Bike & The Kick Stands. Meanwhile, encounters like

stumbling upon young entrepreneur Preston and his father Dean selling lemonade along a trail remind us of the spirit of innovation and hard work that thrives here. Dad cut the wood & his boys put it together. You are quite the entrepreneur Preston, good on you!

A moment of reflection leads me to tip my hat to the late Jim Hume — a man of rare humility, soft words, and boundless kindness. Greetings to Mr. Lane and Marilyn Brown at Telfer Place, where Mr. Lane's familiar walks by the house remain etched in my memory, alongside a respectful nod to the late Mrs. Lane. Time flies, and as we realize the 80s will soon be half a century past and "Pretty Woman" graced screens 35 years ago, let's ponder these milestones while cruising on our electric bikes.

Special mentions go out to Shawna (Brown) Sharp, wishing you a swift recovery from your recent knee surgery, and to Deb Vanderwiel, a nod to shared memories from our Brownies days.

That's all for now, dear readers. It's always a pleasure sharing the stories that shape our town. I will continue to leave "No stone unturned" Stones



County awards \$5.99M contract for North Paris Fire Station; budget tops up for contingency

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant's Administration and Operations Committee voted Sept. 16 to award the construction of the new North Paris Fire Station to Lanca Contracting Limited for \$5,989,000 before HST, and to increase the project budget by \$850,350 to cover a recommended 15% construction contingency funded by development charges.

Under the staff recommendation, the low bid from Lanca emerged from eight compliant tenders following a pre-qualification of 13 general contractors. Other bids ranged from roughly \$6.13 million to \$7.80 million. While the winning price came in below a March 2025 Class B estimate of \$7.03 million (construction only), staff said additional contingency is prudent for unforeseen costs during the build. Development charges will fund the capital, including any debt recovered from future development charges.

The 11,406-sq-ft station (9,844 sq. ft. ground floor plus 1,562 sq. ft. mezzanine) is designed to be net-zero and carbon-zero in operation, using a fully electric system complemented by rooftop solar to meet Ontario SB-10 standards. Because the site sits within a wellhead protection area, stormwater management has been a key design focus and has been coordinated with the broader Gilbert Wellfield Stormwater Management project.



Pictured is the final design for the North End Fire Hall to be located at 21 Ann Wilson Way (Scott Ave). Lanca Contracting Ltd was awarded the \$5,989,000 winning bid.

The plan accommodates six apparatus, including space for an aerial-size truck, and separates bunker gear and SCBA storage to improve firefighter safety. It includes male and female change rooms with showers, a universal public washroom, a training room and kitchenette, administrative space for the District Chief and officers, an IT network room with 24/7 access, and an antique truck display at the public entrance.

A vestibule will also feature a County of Brant Library kiosk. The layout is intended to support future staffing growth and could accommodate a paramedic base.

Staff provided an updated project budget of \$8.07 million, reflecting the construction tender, architect fees, other non-tender items (FFE/IT/staff costs), and the 15% contingency. The County will seek Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green

Municipal Fund support—up to 80% of eligible costs (with a grant portion typically about 15% of the loan amount)—to reduce the debt component ultimately recovered from development charges.

With committee approval of the tender award and contingency funding, staff will proceed to contract execution and construction mobilization for the North Paris Fire Station.

Brant County's second speed camera goes live

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A new automated speed enforcement (ASE) camera began doling out tickets last week in St. George.

If you're going over the limit in the community safety zone on Beverly Street by St. George Children's Centre, expect to receive a ticket by mail, the County of Brant warned.

Earlier this year, the county warned of scammers sending ASE texts.

"These messages are not legitimate and may be part of a phishing scam," the county said in a media release at the time.

The municipality's first camera went live in February in front of North Ward Elementary School in Paris.

In its first four months, it netted approximately \$170,000 in tickets, but the county says it's not about the money.

"Fines collected cover the costs of the

camera and administration to keep the program revenue neutral," Coun. Jennifer Kyle posted to her Facebook page earlier this month.

"If there happens to be any surplus, those funds would go directly back into road safety initiatives ... like say ... further traffic calming measures on streets being used to avoid the camera," she said.

Early data showed it was reducing driver speeds — although some were still going fast enough to seriously, even fatally, harm someone, according to a report from June seen by the administration and operations committee.

A third camera is scheduled to roll out later this year near the elementary school in Mount Pleasant.

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

Nearly 2,000 lbs donated through Kiwanis food drives this year



(STAN HUTCHINSON PHOTO)

Members and friends of the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant held their third food drive of the year on Saturday, September 13, collecting 735 lbs of food and cash donations from 250 homes on Silver, Ivy, Adam, Spruce, Wellington, Mulberry, Jefferson, Franklin, Market, and Gold streets in Paris. Together with earlier drives in Paris and Burford, the club has gathered nearly 2,000 lbs of food in 2025 for the Paris Food Bank. Pictured left to right, Greg Bossert, Marisa Moore, Terry Chamberlain, Stephan Jarry, Darian Banks, Wendy Eveleigh. Missing from photo: Stan Hutchinson, Shelly Gracey, Brad Bossert, and Pat Doherty.



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WEEKLY

Horoscope

September 24 - October 1 2025

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20



Aries, this week you may find yourself with some extra energy and enthusiasm for new projects. Figure out what you want to get done and think through a plan.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21



Taurus, you may have a strong desire for stability and security. Now is a good time to focus on financial matters and investigate potentially valuable investment opportunities.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 21



Communication will be key for you this month, Gemini. Whether you aim to strengthen existing relationships or start new ones, be clear and honest in all of your interactions.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22



This week your focus shifts largely toward home and family, Cancer. Now might be the time to address any conflicts in your home life to reinforce family relationships.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23



Leo, this could be a week when you find yourself in the spotlight more than usual. You don't shy away from extra attention; in fact, you will thrive this week.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22



This is a good week to start organizing and planning, Virgo. The holidays are right around the corner, and you want to be sure that everything you need to get done will be accomplished.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23



Relationships and partnerships are priorities for you this week, Libra. Figure out how you can balance your needs with those of others in your inner circle.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22



Scorpio, it's a good time to implement new habits or make improvements to your work life. Perhaps the balance has been skewed and you need more time for family?

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21



This week could be bursting with creativity for you, Sagittarius. If you've been meaning to pursue hobbies or other interests, now is the time to explore!

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20



Making improvements to your home or living space can give you a fresh perspective, Capricorn. It might just be the change you need to feel revitalized.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18



Don't be afraid to share your ideas and connect with others this week, Aquarius. Staying curious and getting your perspective across may lead to some exciting opportunities.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20



Financial matters may come into focus this month, Pisces. It's a good time to look at your budget and make some tweaks, if necessary. Taking on extra work might be an option.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 24
Stephanie McMahon, Wrestler (49)

SEPTEMBER 25
Mark Hamill, Actor (74)

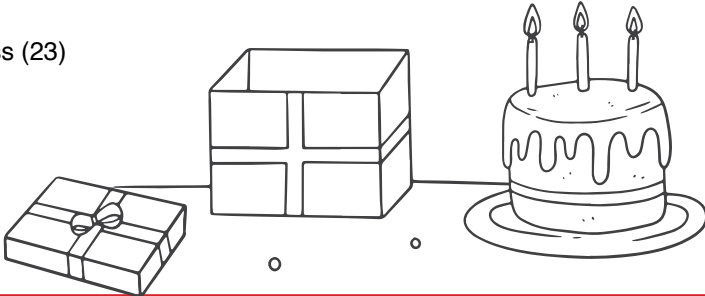
SEPTEMBER 26
Serena Williams, Athlete (44)

SEPTEMBER 27
Jenna Ortega, Actress (23)

SEPTEMBER 28
Naomi Watts, Actress (67)

SEPTEMBER 29
Halsey, Musician (31)

SEPTEMBER 30
Kieran Culkin, Actor (43)



Riddles

I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with wind. What am I?

An echo

I'm light as a feather, but even the world's strongest person can't hold me for long. What am I?

Your breath

What runs but never walks, has a mouth but never talks?

A river

I go up and down the stairs without moving. What am I?

A carpet

What gets wetter the more it dries?

A towel

What belongs to you but is used more by others?

Your name

I can be cracked, made, told, and played. What am I?

A joke

I'm full of holes but still hold water. What am I?

A sponge

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 19

Sponsored by:



PETS OF THE WEEK

BEAR, BANJO & ETTA

Meet our Pets of the Week:

Bear, Banjo, and Etta are all siblings who celebrated their 6th birthday together this year! These lucky dogs hit the jackpot when they all got adopted by 3 separate PVC staff members. Who doesn't love a good Paw-ty!?

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



Word Search

ICE CREAM FLAVOURS

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

- Vanilla
- Chocolate
- Strawberry
- Mint Chip
- Rocky Road
- Butter Pecan
- Coffee
- Caramel Swirl
- Cotton Candy
- Birthday Cake
- Cookie Dough
- Banana Split
- Mocha Almond
- Maple Walnut
- Bubblegum
- Mango
- Coconut
- Peanut Butter
- Lemon
- Cherry

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Sensory Spotlight Open House - Sensity invites the community to an open house at its Resource Centre on Friday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 50 Main Street, Paris. Guided tours will showcase the organization’s work, while a local marketplace will feature artwork created by individuals Sensity supports. From 12 to 2 p.m., enjoy a BBQ with burgers and hotdogs available for purchase, with all proceeds benefiting Sensity’s programs and services. Come for a tour, shop the market, or grab a bite — everyone is welcome. Event details: culturedays.ca.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Rotary Duck Derby - Saturday, September 27th at Lions Park Paris from 11 am to 4 pm. Free admission to watch the event. Live music, 50/50 draw, food trucks, colouring contest, face painting, vendors and more. Hosted by the Rotary Satellite Club of Paris. .

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Brant Pride Joy- Sunday September 28th at Lions Park Paris from 11 am to 3 pm. There will be drag performances, readings from and the book launch of Queer Country Crossroads anthology, a donation based BBQ, a market with artisan vendors and community organizations with resources and information, and a makerspace and activity zone.

2025 September Harvest Market- Being held at Wincey Mills 31 Mechanic Street, Paris. For more information call 519-774-0600 or email eliesther.rivera@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Truth and Reconciliation Day - The Official Unveiling of the Former Mohawk Institute Residential School as an Interpreted Historic Site. To manage capacity and provide a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, we will be using timed entry for this event. Entry will be on a first-come, first-served basis, as there is no pre-registration for the event. For your convenience, a limited number of bracelets allowing early access can be picked up at our gift shop on September 25th and 26th (while supplies last). More information at www.woodlandculturalcentre.ca

SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 7, 14, 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.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Seniors Lunch and Learn Series - Join adults 55+ for a FREE homemade lunch and interactive learning session, made possible by the Ontario Government. Caregivers welcome. Registration required. Next Session: Tues. Oct. 7, 12–1:30pm Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Rd., Paris. 519-442-3212 | www.fiveoaks.on.ca.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

The Catholic Women's League Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 1 pm at Sacred Heart Parish Hall. All welcome to attend.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

Paris Optimist Youth Dances - Friday October 10th at the Syl Apps Community Centre at 7 pm until 10 pm. Admission is \$5 per student. Snacks will be available to purchase. This dance is for students in Grade 5 to 8 only. Adult chaperones. Since it is close to halloween this will be a black and orange dance.

OCTOBER 9, 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!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

The Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting - Tuesday October 14, 2025 at 10 am at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. The guest speaker will discuss St. Joseph's Long Term Care Program. New members are always welcome.

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 - Saturday, October 18 from 10 am to 2 pm at Children’s Safety Village of Brant, 407 Elgin St Brantford. Entry fee is cash donations to Autism dog services. Trick or Treating, photo booth, food truck, vendors, pet & people parade, entertainment and contests. Everyone welcome!

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>and under, and free for preschoolers. Takeout will be available, and the venue is wheelchair accessible.

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.

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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.



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The Paris Independent

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US!

HERE'S HOW:

Deadline: Friday prior at 10 a.m.

Contact:
info@theparisdependent.com

- The Paris Independent Community Calendar allows non-profit organizations to promote their free admission community events at no charge. Event listings can include the event name, date, time and location as well as contact information (ie phone number, email address or website).
- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, The Paris Independent offers the following options for promoting your community events:
 - Coming Events Word Ad (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
 - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
 - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a Small Classified Display ad (3.3" x 2.5") - \$35 + hst

The Paris Independent

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Marilyn Monroe
2. Pongo
3. Spain
4. Saffron
5. Bradley Cooper
6. Cambridge
7. George Orwell
8. 8min, 20sec
9. Omnivores
10. TARS

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HOMES OF HEROES:



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

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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APRIL 23-MAY 4, 2026**



**DISCOVER SCOTLAND
MAY 23-JUNE 1, 2026**



**BALTIC CRUISE
AUGUST 11-22, 2026**



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



**DANUBE RIVER CHRISTMAS MARKETS
NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 5, 2026**

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