

# The Paris Independent

Issue #231

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

FREE



*Right As Rain*  
HEALTH COLLECTIVE & STUDIO

Restore strength.  
Renew ease.  
Support your health through  
movement and care

11 MECHANIC ST, PARIS ON  
WWW.RIGHTASRAINPARIS.COM

SCAN FOR WEBSITE

Sanderson Centre Presents

**UPU - A Journey Through  
the Heartbeat of Pacific Poetry**

March 3, 2026 | 7:00 p.m.  
Tickets: \$45.00

Tickets available at [sandersoncentre.ca](http://sandersoncentre.ca) or call 519.758.8090

**Got Real Estate questions?**  
**FREE Consultation & Evaluation**

**Alex Faux**  
REAL ESTATE BROKER  
(519)802-6709 DIRECT  
[alexfaux.ca](http://alexfaux.ca)

Trusted, expert advice  
RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Sydney Kipp, pictured with Paris District High School teacher and athletic coach Shelley Weaver, has accepted an offer to play NCAA Division II softball in Ohio next year.

## Paris District student commits to NCAA Division II softball

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Paris District High School student-athlete Sydney Kipp has reached a major milestone in her athletic journey, committing to play NCAA

Division II softball at an Ohio university next fall.

For Kipp, the opportunity represents years of dedication, self-advocacy, and steady development through local grassroots and rep sports systems.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Brant recognizes 30 years of Black History Month in Canada

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Darmont GivesBack is joining communities across the County of Brant and the City of Brantford in marking Black History Month 2026, highlighting local recognition events and ongoing efforts to support Black residents and families.

The month's observance was formally recognized through proclamation and flag-raising ceremonies held in both municipalities at the start of February.

On Feb. 1, community members gathered at the County of Brant Council Chambers for a Black History Month proclamation and flag-raising ceremony, led by the Equity & Advocacy Social Justice Foundation. The event focused on recognizing the contributions of Black residents while reaffirming the County's commitment to inclusion, equity and belonging.

A second proclamation and flag-raising ceremony was held Feb. 2 at Harmony Square in Brantford. The event was championed by members of OVOV-AG, an advisory group of Child and Family Services of Grand Erie,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

**Sandra Etherington**  
Real Estate Broker

Selling Paris, Brant, Oxford County & Brantford Real Estate

519-754-5217  
[sandra.etherington@century21.ca](mailto:sandra.etherington@century21.ca)

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

**CENTURY 21.**  
Heritage House Ltd.

HAPPY Valentine's DAY

SPONSORED BY

**Pelton TRANSPORT Limited**

# Darmont GivesBack marks Black History Month 2026 with civic recognition across Brant

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

alongside Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services. The ceremony emphasized support for Black children, youth and families, while celebrating leadership and cultural contributions within the community.

“As we celebrate Black History Month 2026, we are not only remembering the past—we are celebrating the living strength of our people,” said Tobi Adedayo, CEO of Darmont GivesBack. “This month is a reminder that Black stories matter, Black contributions are essential, and the work of equity and inclusion requires sustained commitment. We applaud the champions and partners who continue to create space for Black voices to be recognized, respected, and supported”.

Darmont GivesBack also acknowledged the continued role of the Afro-CariBrant Festival as a cultural initiative dedicated to African, Caribbean and Black communities. The festival focuses on celebrating heritage and identity through music, food, art and com-

munity programming, while promoting visibility, unity and cross-cultural connection throughout the year.

While February provides an opportunity for recognition, Darmont GivesBack encouraged residents, organizations and community leaders to continue supporting Black communities beyond the month through education, engagement and investment in Black-led initiatives.

Darmont GivesBack extended thanks to the County of Brant, the City of Brantford, Equity & Advocacy Social Justice Foundation, Child and Family Services of Grand Erie, OVOV-AG, Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services, and Black leaders, organizers, families and allies working to advance equity and community wellbeing.

Darmont GivesBack is a community-focused initiative committed to advancing equity, education, cultural development and social wellbeing through programs, partnerships and advocacy across the County of Brant and neighbouring communities.



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

County of Brant Mayor David Bailey raises the flag at council chambers on Sunday, Feb. 1, alongside members of the Equity & Advocacy Social Justice Foundation, marking Black History Month and recognizing the contributions of Black Canadians past and present. This year’s theme marks 30 years of Black History Month in Canada, celebrating leadership, creativity and resilience across generations.

## County of Brant highlights reading list for Black History Month

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

The County of Brant is encouraging residents to explore, reflect and learn during Black History Month by highlighting a curated list of books available through the County of Brant Public Library system.

Observed each February, Black History Month recognizes the contributions, achievements and resilience of Black Ca-

nadians, whose stories are deeply woven into the country’s social, cultural and political fabric. From early Black settlers and nation builders to contemporary leaders, artists and activists, Black history in Canada spans centuries and continues to shape communities today. The recommended reading list offers opportunities for readers of all ages to deepen their understanding of this history, celebrate Black voices and engage with stories that reflect both past

struggles and ongoing progress.

Each week throughout Black History Month, the Paris Independent will feature a new set of recommended titles. All selections are available to borrow through the County of Brant Public Library, while supplies and availability permit. Visit a local branch for more details.

- \*The Book of Negroes
- \*Burning Sugar
- \*Blackness is a Gift I Can Give Her

- \*The Polished Hoe
- \*Unlike the Rest
- \*I Came as a Stranger
- \*The Beautiful Dream
- \*Black Matters
- \*Butter Honey Pig Bread
- \*The Son of the House
- \*Disorientation
- \*Songs of Irie
- \*We Rip the World Apart
- \*Washington Black

**The Paris Independent**

Wondering how local media can help grow your business? Let Chris Whelan customize a marketing plan for your business goals.



sales@theparis-independent.com **519-757-5662**

St. Marys Independent The Paris Independent The Wilmet-Tavistock Gazette STRATFORDNEWS Woodstock Ingersoll Echo Goderich Sun  
Tillsonburg POST SIMCOE/ADVOCATE NORFOLK FARMS BRANT FIELDS NIAGARA FARMS INDY

**DAY CAMP**  
10 MINUTES FROM PARIS



SAVE \$10  
On Day Camp  
Use Discount Code  
**SHALOM10**

POOL  
LUNCH  
KAYAKING  
ARCHERY

LEARN MORE AT WWW.COUNTRYSIDECAMP.COM

CAMP SHALOM Countryside Camp & Conference Association

Instagram Facebook QR Code

# A new address, same scissors: Marylou leaves downtown Paris after 45 years

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

After 45 years behind the chair in downtown Paris, Marylou Bergman is packing up her scissors - but not her career.

Let's get this straight right out of the gate: the longtime stylist is not retiring. She's simply relocating Paris Coiffures II from the downtown core to a home-based salon in Scotland, Ontario. Same Marylou. Same phone number. Same commitment to her clients. Just a different parking situation, and significantly fewer steps from the coffee maker.

"I'm not retiring - that's far from the truth," she said, making it clear this is a change of scenery, not a curtain call. In typical Marylou fashion, she explains the move with humour first and honesty right behind it. "I'm getting a divorce," she joked, referring to the building's owner, calling it "Irreconcilable differences."

Marylou has spent more than four decades as a fixture of downtown Paris, opening her doors nearly every morning to the familiar quiet of the street waking up. On her final day in the downtown shop, that routine hit a little differently.

"This morning I got out of the car and it was so quiet," she said. "The lights were on and I thought, this is my last day," said Marylou during a sit down interview on Saturday in a nearly empty salon. She chatted with the Paris Independent while doing what she does best: putting her colour technician skills to good use, transforming a client's hair while invoking a level of humour that makes the visit seem less like a

trip to the salon but more of a visit with a long time friend.

And that's how she wanted it. Over the years, the salon became less of a business and more of a second home - one surrounded by neighbours who felt like family. She fondly recalls daily greetings with Bill Tough (formerly Tough & Son's) and longtime neighbour John Granton (of John M. Hall House of Linens) whom she credits with being endlessly kind and a good friend.

"The world needs more Johns," she said. "I love him. My kids love him. He's just good to everybody."

When Marylou broke her leg years ago, those neighbours didn't hesitate, helping her out of the car and into the shop where she insisted on working just days after her accident. "You couldn't ask for two better neighbours," she said.

She'll miss Sue across the street at Sales Decorating. She'll miss Ed at Paris Jewelers, stopping in just to ask, "How's Bonehead?" — the 'affectionate (and somewhat modified for print)' nickname for her husband. And she'll miss the people who didn't always have appointments but showed up anyway, just to talk about families, town news, and life in Paris.

"I'm going to miss the social aspect," she said. "I'm going to miss folks just dropping in."

In many ways, Marylou says her clients helped raise her; teaching her how to cook, how to can food, and how to do things she'd never learned growing up. "I asked questions and they taught me," she said.

Client-focused to the core, Marylou is a



The front of Paris Coiffures II in downtown Paris, known for Marylou's always-festive and thoughtfully decorated window displays, which will be missed as the longtime stylist relocates her business after 45 years in the core.

Red Seal Master Stylist and colour technician whose dedication to her shop has never wavered. She laughs when she calls herself a workaholic - but she owns it.

"I won't let you down," she said. "My number one priority my whole life has been my shop. It's what pays my bills."

For the first 27 years, holidays were rare. Maybe a Good Friday, otherwise just a Sunday and Monday when the shop was closed. "I get it from my dad," she said. "He was a workaholic too. I don't think that's a bad trait."

Hair, it turns out, was always the plan, even if it took a short detour. Marylou once enrolled in school to become a chartered accountant but didn't finish. "It wasn't in my heart," she said. Hair was.

She trained at Bruno, earning some of the highest marks in her class — so high that she landed a coveted position at a Vidal Sassoon salon in Toronto. She took the

train back and forth daily for six months before realizing it wasn't for her.

"I wanted my own place," she said. "My own style. My own clients. Somewhere I could be myself."

She found an ad in the paper, worked at Paris Coiffures for six months, and at just 22 years old purchased the business from Carol Sass. She kept the name, which is why it became Paris Coiffures II, and 45 years later, she's taking that same name with her to Scotland.

In fact, she's trying to keep everything business as usual. The phone number is coming with her, the clients are coming with her, and the door is still open — just at a new address. Downtown Paris may feel a little quieter without Marylou's morning routine, her laughter, and her open-door conversations, but she isn't going far. And if history is any indication, her chair won't stay empty.



**Scott's**  
Family Restaurant

**VALENTINE'S MENU**

*Available for Lunch & Dinner - February 8th - 15th*

*Serving time 3pm - 8pm*

<p><b>Soups</b></p> <p>Cream of Broccoli, Cream of Broccoli or Chicken Noodle Soup</p> <p><b>Desserts</b></p> <p>Cheese Cake with Raspberry Sauce OR Hot Apple Pie</p> <p><b>CATERING AVAILABLE - \$24.99 PER PERSON</b></p>	<p><b>Roasted Turkey dinner</b></p> <p>Traditional stuffing with vegetables &amp; bread Garlic mashed potatoes Roasted sautéed vegetables Homemade sauce</p> <p><b>Grilled Steak (Sirloin Beef AAA Angus)</b></p> <p>Served with mushroom sauce or brown gravy Herb-roasted potatoes Sautéed vegetables</p>
--	---

**\$29.99 per person**

74 Scott Ave, Paris, ON, Canada, N3L3R1 | scottsresto@gmail.com | 519-442-6511

**GRANT HAVEN MEDIA**

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

**The Paris Independent**

**Publisher**  
Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

**Editor**  
Chris Whelan • editor@theparisdependent.com

**Managing Editor**  
Casandra Turnbull • managingeditor@theparisdependent.com

**Graphic Design**  
Michelle Foster • parisindependentnews@gmail.com

**Business Development**  
Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

**Billing Administrator**  
Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

**Contributors**  
Michelle Malvaso, George Le Gresley, Rubyyy Jones, Stephen L., Jacob Gaudet, Heidi Pflieger, Tiffany Martin, Jim Brown, Scoop Stewart, Paul Knowles, Karon Sinning, Jeff Johnston, Wayne Wilkinson, Emma Bowman, Edward Lander

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2  
info@theparisdependent.com | 519.655.2341 | granthaven.com



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



# EDITORIAL

## Why local sports sponsorships matter more than we think

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

In rinks, gyms, and ballparks across our community, local business names appear on jerseys, banners, and signs. To some, it may look like simple advertising. In reality, it's something far more meaningful.

Sponsoring minor sports is one of the most direct and impactful ways a local business can invest in its community. Those sponsorship dollars provide essential funding, helping cover registration fees, equipment, and travel costs, while ensuring more children have the opportunity to participate, regardless of their family's financial situation.

For many families, the cost of keeping kids in sports can be a real barrier. Registration fees alone can be challenging, let alone tournament costs, uniforms, or equipment upgrades. Local sponsorships help ease that burden, making sports more accessible whether a child is playing recreationally or at a competitive level.

Sponsors also make possible the extras that transform a roster into a team: tournament trips, upgraded equipment, and the team jackets, hats, and hoodies kids wear with unmistakable pride. Anyone who's

seen a child bundled up head-to-toe in team gear knows how much it means. That sense of belonging - of being part of something bigger - is priceless, and for many kids, it becomes a defining part of their childhood.

Without the support of generous local businesses, some of these opportunities simply wouldn't exist. Certain tournaments wouldn't happen. Some teams wouldn't travel. And in some cases, children wouldn't be able to play at all.

From the business side, sponsorships create deep and authentic connections with local families. Parents and community members notice which businesses step up to support youth sports and that support builds trust, loyalty, and goodwill that no billboard or digital ad can replicate. Seeing a business name week after week in a rink or on a jersey creates familiarity and credibility in a way traditional advertising rarely achieves.

Yes, sponsorships may come with modest tax benefits, but no one sponsors a minor sports team for a deduction alone. Businesses do it because they believe in teamwork, youth development, and healthy communities. There's pride in knowing they played a small role in a team's success, a season's memories, or a child's con-

fidence.

That's why the next time you're at a game, it's worth paying attention to the sponsor boards, team roll up signs and jersey logos. Take note of those names and when you can, support them in return. Shop local. Use their services. Choose their products.

These are the businesses that put their dollars where their values are. They're invested in more than visibility; they're invested in kids, families, and the future of the community.

And when local businesses support local sports, the impact reaches far beyond the final score.

## Letters to the Editor

### More than pretty, Paris has heart

To the Editor,

In my career in business, I have lived in multiple cities across Ontario. When my husband suggested we move to a small town, specifically Paris, I thought "Oh no, Hicksville".

How wrong I was! We have lived here since 2004 and I have never felt a stronger sense of community than here. I love being greeted by name downtown, at the pharmacy and in my local grocery store. There is a sense of

common engagement here in organizations like "100 People Who Care" and the Legion.

Our neighbours look out for each other, blowing snow from each others' driveways, holding neighbourhood gatherings and welcoming newcomers. There are many towns that can claim to be as "pretty" as Paris, but you'd have to go a long way to beat Paris for its soul.

- Meredith Swanson, Paris, Ont

### Thankful for helping hands and caring hearts

To the Editor:

Thank-you to the many residents who have offered and come forward to lend a hand to me during my on going health issue. People come and shovel my driveway, drop off food, call me to keep me in the loop of news (local

and other), take out my garbage. They also come over and make sure I am safe. Thank you to my grandchildren for calling regularly and dropping in to visit. Residents are so kind to me, so thank you again.

- Shirley Simons, Paris, Ont

## The Paris Independent

### Guiding Principles

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



The Paris Ringette Association extends its sincere thanks to the local businesses and organizations that generously stepped up as sponsors for the 2025-2026 season.

Your support helps keep ringette accessible in our community and allows our athletes to thrive both on and off the ice.

#### Gold Sponsors

Anne Hodgson IG  
Optimist Club of Paris

#### Silver Sponsors

St. George Village Dental  
Cedar Creek Truck Repair

#### Bronze Sponsors

Brantford Nissan  
Dinsmore Fabricating  
Dunsdon Legion (Branch 461)  
Lancaster Construction

Lions Club International  
Northville Pharmacy  
Paris Family Eye Care  
Paris Legion  
Stillwaters On The Porch



SGV Dental



# Letters to the Editor – Dalpe Tournament name change draws criticism

## Dalpe Tournament name change draws criticism

**To the Editor:**

**(Letter also shared with Paris Minor Hockey Association)**

There is a rumor spreading around the community that Lisa Dalpe tournament will have a name change.

I cannot stress how poor of a decision this is. You have just enraged a community who love and support the Dalpe family.

Paris Minor hockey is one of the first to claim Zac Dalpe as their own

and now the executive pulls this name change out of the air. The Dalpes represent not only the town of Paris but the County of Brant as a whole and are Ambassadors that any community would love to have them represent.

There is about to be a huge community backlash for this. Prepare yourselves for the most negative social and traditional media blitz that the Minor hockey association has never seen before. Please reverse your decision.

- Jason Holmes, Paris, Ont

## When honour gives way to confusion

**To the Editor,**

I was recently informed that Paris Minor Hockey has decided to change the name of the Lisa Dalpe Memorial hockey tournament. I am a lifelong Paris resident and find this decision deeply disrespectful to those who grew up and played in the Paris Minor Hockey Association and to current and former residents who still hold Paris close to their hearts. I feel most for those who knew Lisa and the Dalpe family. I see no reasonable justification for this change, and the new name, "The Full Moon Face Off," only adds to the confusion—was it AI generated?

It is my understanding that the decision to rename the tournament was made by the PMHA executive, presumably following a vote. If so, it is difficult to understand this outcome with the significant and longstanding contributions of the Dalpe family. Lisa Dalpe dedicated countless hours to our community and as a PMHA executive, all the Dalpe boys played mi-

nor hockey in Paris, and their father, Paul, devoted many years to coaching within the association. The PMHA executive proudly displayed the back-to-back All-Ontario championship banners from teams coached by Paul and frequently highlighted that Zac, a recently retired NHL player, was a Paris Minor Hockey graduate. That pride now seems to have been set aside, and it is very sad that the Paris Minor Hockey executive made the decision to not memorialize Lisa's name any longer and to turn a blind eye to how much Lisa and the Dalpe family mean to the community. I do not think I am not the only person who thinks this was the wrong thing to do and that this decision should be reversed. I also hope that other tournaments that have gone on for years that are in honour of other Paris residents do not have the same fate. It would be terrible to see those family members go through the same disappointment and sadness as what the Dalpe family have.

- Duane Ayres, Paris, Ont

## Decision to end memorial tournaments raises concerns about honouring local legacies

**To the Editor,**

Very disappointed to hear that PMHA made a decision not to continue on with Memorial tournaments that have honored local people who gave so much not only to PMHA but to our community. This was done without consulting the families to get their comments on how we could con-

tinue to honor these people by possibly naming divisions after them.

Hopefully PMHA will reconsider their approach and find a way to continue on the legacy of the people who have done so much for this community.

-Robb Wilson, Paris, Ont

## Renaming Tournaments 'An Egregious Error'

**To the Editor:**

It has come to this reader's attention that the executive of Paris Minor Hockey has decided to change the name of the Lisa Dalpe Memorial tournament to the "Full Moon Faceoff Tournament". The Executive has also decided to change the names of the Art Coombs and Rob Johnston memorial tournaments.

To remove Lisa Dalpe's name from the tournament is an egregious error. The woman WAS Paris minor hockey, her giving nature and inclusion was unparalleled. She gave so much time, never said no to helping even though she ran a very busy house with three boys (all successful in Paris minor

hockey and beyond) and a husband (also successful in Paris Minor Hockey) and ran a business in the heart of Paris. Always a kind word to the kids and parents, she knew them all.

We would like to hear the decision making process that was used in this matter from the Executive at Paris Minor Hockey.

To remove these names is disrespectful to the friends and families of these people and Paris Minor Hockey needs to step up and explain.

Waiting for an explanation.

- Michelle and Bruce Marshall, Paris, Ont

## PMHA risks forgetting its own history

**To the Editor,**

My name is Ed McGuire I have lived in Paris, Brant County for 30 years and work downtown at Paris Jewellers. My son played his minor hockey from Timbits to Midget and many of those years I was behind the bench as either a co-coach or head coach. I also served on the PMHA for a few years as well as sponsoring teams for many years.

I am writing the executive today to question the thought process involved in changing a hockey tournament name from the Lisa Dalpe Memorial Tournament to the Full Moon Face Off Hockey Tournament. This involves me directly as I was part of the executive whom originally voted on putting the Lisa Dalpe Tournament in place. I worked that Tournament for many years as well. I am saddened that the present executive would decide to drop the Lisa Dalpe tournament name in fa-

vour of the name you all have come up with. A name that entirely lacks respect for any individual who gave so much of themselves to Paris Minor Hockey.

I knew Lisa personally and along with her husband Paul, sons Phil, Zac and Ben have done so much for Paris Minor hockey I feel it disrespectful to follow the path that PMHA has. My opinion is also shared with the thoughts of the Art Coombs and Rob Johnson tournaments as well both solid hockey guys who worked hard for PMHA at one time or another.

In any executive decision making one must also be fully aware of the repercussions involved in these discussions and repercussions I am not certain you are all fully aware of. In closing I ask that you all to reconsider your decisions on this topic and I look forward to a quick reply.

- Ed McGuire, Paris, Ont

## Families Deserved a voice in memorial tournament changes

**To the Editor,**

I would like to express my profound disappointment regarding the decision made by the Paris Minor Hockey Association to rename several of our community's memorial tournaments Lisa Dalpe, Art Coombs, and Rob Johnson are more than just names on a banner or trophy. These tournaments were named as a tribute to those individuals who dedicated their time to this organization, who played an inte-

gral part in our community and represent our local hockey history. What was most disheartening, however, is not just the loss of these names, but the way it was handled. To strip a memorial name from these events without any conversation or notification to the surviving families shows a blatant disrespect. It suggests the association views our local history as disposable rather than legacies to be honored.

-Chris Pike, Paris, Ont

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR BY EMAILING THEM TO [INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM](mailto:INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM)

All letters must be signed by the writer and are subject to editing for length and clarity. The opinions expressed in the letter are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of the Paris Independent. We make no representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, or completeness of this information. If you have opinions to share, email your letter to [stories@theparisdependent.com](mailto:stories@theparisdependent.com)

# Letters to the Editor – This is not the time to forget our Minor Hockey builders

## This is not the time to forget our Minor Hockey builders

### To the Editor:

Its recently come to my attention Paris Minor Hockey has decided to drop the honorary names of three very important figures of our minor hockey history for new tournament names.

Art Coombs was in a huge part of Paris Minor hockey well before my time there and well after it as a player as well. Rob Johnson grew up playing minor hockey in Paris and the Johnson family is well know for their good history with this town. Lisa Dalpe was a huge part of this community as a whole and carried multiple roles in minor hockey for many years, putting in countless hours.

Lisa was a selfless woman; she was a humble woman; this I know through the many conversations I was fortunate enough to have in her later years about her three boys. I've Also been fortunate enough to call the Dalpe family close personal friends, all of them. Paul came on with me as a non-parent for many years coaching minor hockey. He mentored me on the game and how to be a better coach, which is a gift I give to others now. I got to play on a team with Phil in my later years as a player and watched him grow into his own as excellent hockey player. He also decided to give back to the community when the time came, as a volunteer firefighter and a nonparent coach in Paris minor hockey.

Ben Dalpe, now with the St. Blues has always been Paris through and through. I can pick up the phone anytime and call him for advise on player development or team systems play. He'll take the time to give me all his knowledge of the game to give back

to a younger generation with aspirations of being in the NHL someday. Finally, Zac Dalpe is the name we all know, the one from a town that was about 8,000 people when he grew up to actually step on the ice as an NHL player. Zac Dalpe. I was fortunate enough to train Zac for two summers when he was with the Florida Panthers, becoming close friends in the process. He along with his three brothers got every single one of their mother's best traits. Humble, honest, hard working, selfless. Sometimes we want to change things for progress or for whatever reason, this is NOT one of those times. I also personally know being on the executive of Paris Minor Hockey can be a selfless job in itself, with long hours and no adoration. Having said this, common sense tells us to keep the history of our town and our Minor Hockey alive by honouring those who have served this community in the ways they have. Lisa and the Dalpe family deserve better, they deserve our respect as a community for what all the Dalpes have done. When I coach kids now who think they don't have a chance to fulfill their biggest dreams, my first speech is about a kid from a small town who beat all the odds to make it. And that kid isn't the man he is today without Lisa Dalpe. I look back to the years and service, the sacrifices she made for our Minor Hockey organization to make a difference. For the history of our community and for the history of our Minor Hockey, the one I played many years in myself, please change back the names of your tournaments and honour these people once more who gave so much selflessly.

- Tyler Pelton, Paris, Ont

## Forgetting our community champions sends the wrong message

### To the Editor:

I speak on behalf of many to say that a gross injustice has been made to someone who was and continues to be very dear to my heart. The removal of the Lisa Dalpe Memorial Tournament was something that appalled me. For those of you who don't know Lisa Dalpe, she was a staple of the Paris community and was truly an angel that walked among us, everyone who met her loved her.

The Dalpe family name is synonymous with hockey in this town. More importantly, Lisa Dalpe was synonymous with community involvement and was integral to the prosperity of

the downtown and the PMHA. How far have we fallen that we choose to forget and dishonour our champions of the Paris hockey community. It is a travesty with zero exaggeration.

People don't get into community involvement for the recognition, but what message does it send to anyone thinking about getting involved that after they pour their time, energy, and heart into volunteering with the hopes of making Paris better, they are cast aside and forgotten.

We as a town expect better, and must hold the PMHA accountable to rectify this shameful decision.

- Jack Stewart

## Honouring Lisa Dalpe and other Paris hockey legends still matters

### To the Editor:

Don't know if anyone else has heard this, but it seems to be true that Paris minor hockey has taken away three memorial tournaments, and this concerns me. Especially the Lisa Dalpe Memorial Tournament. Lisa did so much for the community, the downtown, and Paris Minor Hockey, when she was an executive, actions were made in the best interests of everybody. In fact, there was at least 2 all Ontario championships and several teams that made it at least to the semifinals under that executive branch's tutelage, back when Paris was a hockey town and that meant something.

What disturbs me is the removal of these memorial titles and a lack

of consultation with the families, all done behind closed doors with a disregard for our Paris hockey history. The families found out through other sources, and the PMHA has yet to offer a formal apology. I know the Dalpe family and Johnson family very well and they, like so many of us citizens of Paris, are very disappointed.

Those involved should absolutely right this wrong and be putting the memorial tournaments back into fruition with their proper titles that pay homage to Paris community legends like Lisa Dalpe. I am awaiting a response from Paris Minor Hockey.

Thank you for listening.

- Keep your stick on the ice, Scoop Stewart

## Removing Dalpe name dismisses legacy

### To the Editor:

I am writing regarding the decision to remove the name from the Lisa Dalpe Memorial Tournament.

This is not a minor or procedural change. It directly affects the legacy of a family whose contributions to Paris minor hockey span decades and continue today.

Lisa Dalpe passed away 10 years ago, and this tournament was named in her memory to honour who she was and what the Dalpe family has meant to this community and to minor hockey in Paris. That impact did not end with her passing.

Lisa's three sons all played in the minor hockey system, and her husband coached for over 15 years. Beyond the rink, the Dalpe family has consistently supported, volunteered, and advocated for both the town of Paris and this hockey organization. They remain active and committed members of the community. Their involvement is part of the foundation of this association.

Removing the Dalpe name does not come across as a neutral decision — it

feels like a dismissal of years of dedication, time, and heart that helped build the very program this tournament represents. Memorial tournaments exist to recognize individuals and families who shaped an organization and left a lasting mark. Lisa's name stands for family, volunteerism, mentorship, and community spirit — values Paris minor hockey is built on.

This discussion should remain focused on honouring that legacy. A memorial recognition should not be reduced or set aside when the family's impact is clear, ongoing, and deeply rooted in the organization's history.

Paris is proud of its history, and minor hockey is a major part of that identity. Keeping Lisa Dalpe's name associated with this tournament ensures young players understand the people who helped build this program and the community behind it.

We believe this decision is wrong and should be reconsidered. The Lisa Dalpe Memorial Tournament name should remain in place in recognition of both Lisa's memory and the continued contributions of the Dalpe family.

- Christine Slavik, Paris, Ont

## Leave tournament names alone

### To whom it may concern:

I have heard rumours that PML wants to change names of tourna-

ments that belong to great and honourable people of Paris. Please..... Leave it alone!

- Larry Pickering, Paris, Ont

All letters must be signed by the writer and are subject to editing for length and clarity. The opinions expressed in the letter are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of the Paris Independent. We make no representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, or completeness of this information. If you have opinions to share, email your letter to [stories@theparisdependent.com](mailto:stories@theparisdependent.com)

## Letter to the Editor – Grant cut raises concerns for local groups

### To the Editor,

In this week's edition, The Paris Independent reports that applications are now open for the 2026 community grant program with \$135,000 available to County non-profits across three funding streams. Notably, this year's budget is nearly 60% less than previous years because, last fall, Council voted to divert the balance to a few community organizations responding to intimate partner and gender-based violence in Brantford-Brant.

Earlier today, I revisited the materials of the September 23rd, 2025 Council meeting to refresh my memory on the debate that led to this significant budget reduction. I was concerned to see that the minutes inaccurately reported the recorded vote on the most substantive clauses because I knew I did not support them. I returned to the livestream and confirmed that the decision to reallocate funds from the community grant program passed 7-4, not 10-1 as stated in the minutes:

In favour: Mayor Bailey, Councillors Kyle, MacAlpine, Oakley, Howes, Bell, and Pierce

Opposed: Councillors Garneau, Coleman, Miller, and Chambers

Overlooking questions about the accuracy of Council minutes more generally, our community is only just starting to realize the (perhaps) unintended consequences of Council's decision more than four months later. While it's not clear whether the Brant Community Foundation's commission will be paid based on the orig-

inal grants budget or the proportion that they adjudicate this year, the impact of this reduced allocation will be felt hardest by community organizations who relied on it most.

Three years ago, Council voted to designate half the community grants budget to the forthcoming new hospital. While this was initially celebrated as the County's first contribution to its proportional share of the anticipated project budget, retrospectively that long-term investment's short-term impact was absorbed immediately by the recipients whose initiatives were less viable because their grant was reduced. Council subsequently reflected on this outcome when debating future iterations of its community grants program because even though the hospital arguably had broad community benefit, perhaps there were more appropriate ways of generating Brant's municipal contribution when the community gain didn't offset the loss.

To best understand who stands to miss out from Council's most recent decision to significantly reduce the funds available through an impartial, open call for applications in 2026, it's worth looking at the 2025 beneficiaries. There are 53 organizations operating across the County whose mandates encompass athletics, youth, employment, equity, heritage, agriculture, community safety, inclusion, environment, performing arts, and aging in place, among others shown in the images below. These are in addition to the groups who already felt left out by Council's decision to outsource adjudication to

the Brant Community Foundation last year, indicating that they lacked the resources to effectively navigate the new application process.

Community grants in modest amounts can have transformative effects for truly local, grassroots initiatives and organizations who are not financially viable without municipal investment. Envisioning the community grants program as a hand up or ways to close gaps for non-profit organizations with modest means and limited donor bases, it makes things possible that our community might otherwise go without. At the same time, it's likely that the organizations who already received most of this year's funding would likely continue whether they received Brant County Council's grant or not.

I hadn't intended to be writing regular position pieces about local government decisions, but I continue to be inspired by debates and discussions that are taking place among the community, the press, and those on social media. Being able to comment as I have just now would have been problematic had I remained around the horseshoe because the code of conduct prohibits sitting members of Council from speaking against its decisions. The decisions that lead to this year's community grants process and budget haven't sat well with me since most, but not all, Councillors voted in favour of them last fall. I could not speak my truth without creating safety and space to be myself, lest I risk further reprisal from those whose voices spoke louder.

- Christine Garneau, Brant County

# Community rallies to support family of Shawn Lowes following fatal snowmobile accident

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The family of Shawn Lowes continues to be surrounded by an outpouring of community support following his sudden death in a snowmobile accident last month.

Lowes, 47, died on Jan. 24 as the result of a snowmobile collision on Brant County Road 18 between 6 School Road and Highway 54.

Friends describe his passing as a tragic loss to a close-knit family and a community that knew him for his kindness, work



Shawn Lowes is pictured with his wife Leigh and their children in a family photo taken prior to his death. Friends describe Lowes as a devoted husband and hands-on father who put family at the centre of his life.

ethic, and love of the outdoors.

"Shawn will be remembered for his love of family, the outdoors, and a life well lived," said Andrea Wick-Cherry, a long-time family friend who helped organize a GoFundMe campaign in support of Lowes' wife, Leigh, and their children. "He cherished travelling with his family, especially their annual trips to Myrtle Beach, and took pride in his work as a skilled handyman."

Lowes was known for his hands-on nature, both at work and at home. He worked at Lowes Powersports and was especially respected for his small engine repair skills. Outside of work, he enjoyed gardening, spending time outdoors, and riding on his Kubota, often with his granddaughter Bonnie alongside him.

As a husband and father, friends say Lowes was deeply devoted.

"He was a loving, hands-on father who put his family first in everything he did," Wick-Cherry said. "He showed his love through his presence, his hard work, and by creating meaningful memories together."

In the days following his death, Wick-Cherry said the support shown to Leigh and the children has been overwhelming. Friends, neighbours, and community members have reached out with meals, messages, and visits, offering comfort during an unimaginably difficult time.

Leigh shared her gratitude in a message to friends and family posted Jan. 27.

"I am truly so very thankful for our family," she wrote. "We have been blanketed in so much love and support from the time our lives have been forever changed."

The GoFundMe campaign was started by those close to the family as a way to offer tangible support during the transition ahead.

"Going from two incomes to one is incredibly difficult, especially with young children and the cost of living today," Wick-Cherry said. "This was my way of helping in a situation where I felt so helpless."

Funds raised through the campaign will help support the family's immediate needs and assist with long-term planning. Leigh also hopes to establish a trust for the children to help ensure they have access to future opportunities.

Lowes is remembered by friends for his gentle nature and genuine kindness.

"I don't think I've ever met anyone who was just so nice and lovely to be around," Wick-Cherry said. "He was always friendly, always willing to help, and always took time to chat."

Shawn Lowes is survived by his wife Leigh; children Sydney (Talon), Bryson (Emilie), Kaila, and Kamryn; and granddaughter Bonnie. He was the son of Pat

and the late Valerie, and is also remembered by his siblings, extended family, and many friends.

Those who are unable to donate are encouraged to honour Lowes' memory by sharing stories, checking in on the family, or offering simple acts of kindness — gestures friends say reflect the way he lived his life.

The GoFundMe campaign remains active for those wishing to contribute. Access the campaign online at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/james-shawn-allan-lowes>. Those who wish to support the family outside of the GoFundMe campaign can do so by contributing directly to Leigh at [staats\\_281@hotmail.com](mailto:staats_281@hotmail.com)



Shawn Lowes and his wife Leigh are shown together in a photo shared by family. Lowes is remembered for his gentle nature, kindness, and unwavering dedication to those he loved.

# Coins, history and the thrill of the hunt

KIMBERLY DE JONG

Local Journalism Initiative

Hundreds of collectors attended the bi-annual Paris Coin Show at the Paris Fairgrounds on Sunday, February 1, 2026.

Formerly known as the Southwestern Ontario Numismatics (SWON) show, the Paris Coin Show is a one-day event that has been running since the 1990's and is always held on the first weekend of February, and again on the second weekend of August.

Organizer Jared Stapleton, who owns Metro Coin and Banknote and also runs the Toronto Coin Expo, acquired the rights to the SWON show from Ted Bailey back in 2017, and has continued to keep the tradition alive since then.

"I think the fact that it's such a long-running show that was started by a resident of Paris, is one of the things that sets this show apart," said Stapleton. "I'm honoured that Ted passed it on to me and that I'm able to run it for him because it's a tradition I wanted to see keep going."

With nearly 60 vendors in attendance, both amateur and serious coin collectors alike spent their time perusing through thousands of items to buy, sell or trade.

From silver bars to special edition and commemorative coins, historical banknotes, books, war medals, and more, there was no shortage of items to browse, and guests of all ages came prepared with lists in hand to search for items to add to their collections, often spending extended time with a particular vendor.

"There's everything here from ancient coins all the way up to modern day pieces, there's banknotes and paper money, and then tokens and medals as well," said Sta-



(KIMBERLY DE JONG PHOTO)

Attendees sort through a host of collectible coins during the bi-annual Paris Coin Show at the Paris Fairgrounds on Sunday, February 1, 2026.

pleton. "We have some metal detector people here who are new to the show too, so that's neat. The floor is just buzzing. A big topic right now is gold and silver because they're on fire, so we have a lot of people who are interested in gold and silver items coming in to check that out too."

Coin collecting, also known as numismatics, is frequently referred to as one of the oldest hobbies in the world, often drawing people for a wide range of reasons.

One vendor, who asked that his name not be used, said that while he doesn't person-

ally collect, he finds that many people are often attracted to monetary and historical aspects of the hobby.

"It's often a combination of money and history that pulls people in. There's also rarity to collecting, and you can find just about anything the further down the rabbit hole you go," he said. "There's people here who are experts in ancient coins, people that are experts in certain numismatic medals and in military history, and so in any one of those side paths, you can go as deep as you want to go. You can spend an entire

life interested in one thing and still not see everything so it makes it interesting. It's like an Antiques Roadshow... you never know what's going to show up or what you might find, but you get to see all kinds of wonderful stuff."

For some collectors, it's the design and the history behind the items that appeals to the most, while for others it's the thrill of the hunt.

"It's being on the hunt for something unique, something you need for your collection; that's what often draws people to this hobby," said Stapleton, with a chuckle. "Collectors are never done, they're always on the hunt for something new and there's a real thrill when you find it."

Vendor Scott Nagel said that while he collects and sells all sorts of coins and banknotes, he personally enjoys searching for Coca-Cola coins, while Stapleton himself is especially interested in hunting for banknotes with colourful artwork.

By the end of the day, over 500 people had been in and out of the show, many of whom walked away pleased with what they found.

"I think everyone's pretty happy, like I said, there's a real buzz in the air," said Stapleton. "It's always awesome to be here in Paris, not just because it's such a central spot for Southern Ontario and we're getting people coming in as far as Windsor, Toronto, London and all the surrounding areas, but because we get to see all these people thriving in their hobby."

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



## PARIS LIONS CLUB Calling New Members!

Join us for an evening of wine, cheese, and good conversation.  
Discover how the Paris Lions Club makes a real difference in  
our community.

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2026  
The Paris Fairgrounds  
Starts at 7PM

RSVP to:  
lionsparisrsvp@gmail.com

**PHARMASAVE** Canada's community pharmacy

Everyday Essentials.  
Delivered to Your Door.  
Use code: **PS10OFF35**  
for \$10 off your \$35 order.  
Instacart

**20% OFF**  
every last Thursday  
of the month.  
(February 26th)

**99¢** Pharmasave  
Facial Tissue  
2 Ply or 3 Ply  
Limit of 6

**10<sup>99</sup>** Ensure - 6 x 235 mL  
Ensure Meal Replacement  
High Protein or Plus or  
Glucerna Nutritional  
Drinks 6 x 237 mL \$13.99

**12<sup>99</sup>** Buckley's  
Complete Care  
24-40 x 150-200 mL

**30% off** Pharmasave  
Anti-Nauseant 30's or  
Calcium Antacid 72 -  
150's

**3<sup>99</sup>**

**19<sup>99</sup>** Terna  
Terna Products  
Select Types

Prices in effect: January 30th - February 12, 2026

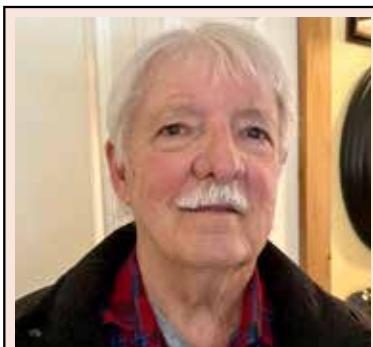


Earn & Redeem AIR MILES REWARD MILES

Our pharmacists can assess and prescribe for common health conditions

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

# THEN AND NOW: Stitches, songs, and styles: The evolution of the Cockburn Block - Part 1



**By Wayne Wilkinson**  
Paris Historian / Artist

The Cockburn Block stands as a centerpiece of downtown Paris—a historic and architecturally unique landmark situated right at the heart of our central crosswalk. Built in 1901 for the renowned photographer John Cockburn, the block has traditionally hosted three distinct businesses at street level, currently addressed as numbers 65, 69, and 71. This week, we turn our attention to the southernmost storefront: No. 65.

While the current structure dates to the

turn of the century, the site's commercial roots reach back to 1870. It was here that William and Thomas Walton established their sewing machine business during an era when most households still crafted their own wardrobes. As noted in their original advertisements, the Waltons were dealers for the Raymond Sewing Machine Company. Founded by Charles Raymond, who relocated his fledgling American enterprise to Guelph in 1860, the company famously went head-to-head with the industry giant, Singer.

By the mid-1880s, the Waltons pivoted to the arts, transforming the space into a hub for pianos and organs. The music eventually faded in 1898 upon William's retirement, making way for W.T. Laskey's jewelry store. Laskey's tenure was unfortunately cut short by the "Great Fire" of September 1900, which claimed the original structure. Undeterred, he relocated to 13 Grand River St. North (a location we will revisit later this year).

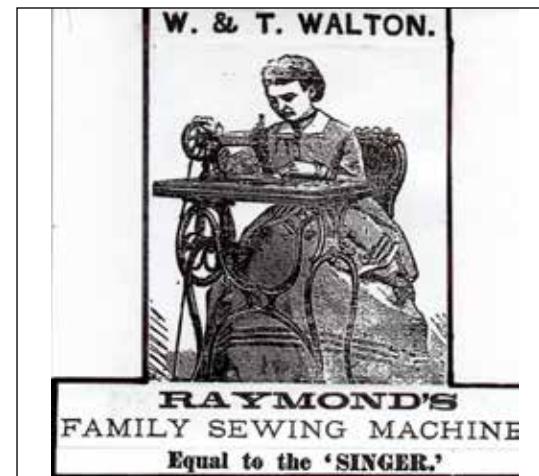
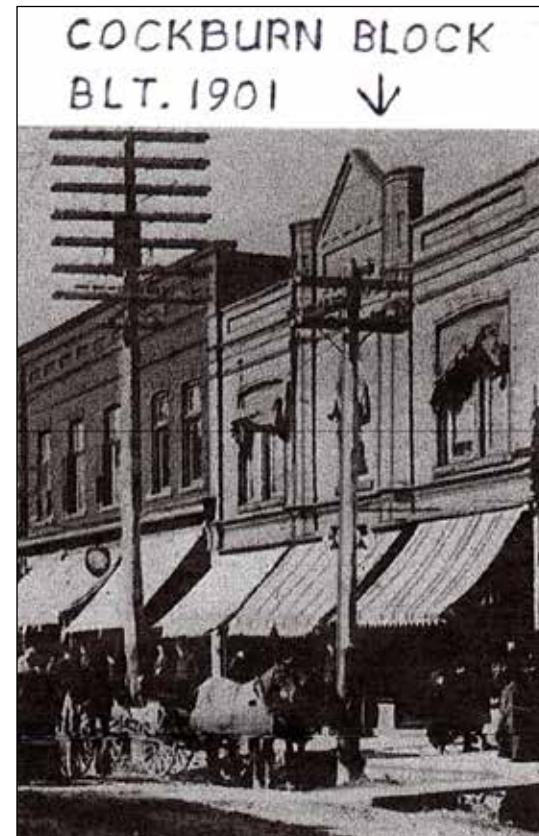
The modern era of No. 65 began in 1920 when Harold Garner opened his doors. Serving the community as both an optometrist and a druggist, Garner holds

the record for longevity at this address, operating for an impressive 55 years before closing in 1975. The space then transitioned through several chapters: Etherington Realty moved in that same year, followed by the 1980 opening of Abraham's Boutique, which became a staple for women's fashion.

Following a brief stint as a Merle Norman cosmetics franchise in 2009, the storefront found its current identity in November 2010 with the opening of Impakt. Today, the bustling hair salon continues the building's long tradition of serving the aesthetic needs of the community. As long as Parisians have an eye for style, it seems No. 65 is in good hands.

Join us in the next installment as we continue our tour of the Cockburn Block and uncover the secrets of its neighboring storefronts.

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



## Family Literacy Day brings hands-on learning to Paris



(FAMILY LITERACY COMMITTEE OF BRANT PHOTO)

A young child explores hands-on learning materials at a Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board table during a Family Literacy Day celebration at the Syl Apps Community Centre in Paris on Feb. 3. The event, held in recognition of ABC Life Literacy Canada's 2026 theme Make Mealttime Family Learning Time, featured a themed StoryWalk, interactive play, and children's books such as Not a Box and Not a Stick, along with book giveaways and take-home activity kits.



**READ US  
ONLINE**



[WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM/PARIS-INDEPENDENT](http://WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM/PARIS-INDEPENDENT)

# Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. What is the birthstone for February?                                    | 6. How many dots are on a six-sided die?              |
| 2. What is commonly known as the "love hormone"?                           | 7. What kind of wool do dogs make?                    |
| 3. The Patriots and the Seahawks last met at what Superbowl?               | 8. What does CBC stand for?                           |
| 4. Who is Lady Whistledown in Bridgerton?                                  | 9. A group of caterpillars is called what?            |
| 5. What is the meal called that Muslims eat to break their fast at sunset? | 10. Finish the quote "Shall I compare thee to a ___?" |

This week's answers are found on pg. 23

## PHS Welcomes New 2026 Executive



(MARGARET COLLINS PHOTO)

Paris Horticultural Society's 2026 executive and guest speaker gathered for the group's first meeting of the year, with new co-presidents Deb Vickers and Nancy Chipman leading business and committee reports. The well-attended meeting also featured a presentation by Michael Albanese of Hamilton on managing excess water and rain gardens, along with Valentine's Day refreshments and social time. Pictured, from left: Dorothy Lanyi, treasurer; Patti Gladding, past co-president; Carol Reansbury, past co-president; Deb Vickers, co-president; Dave Collins, secretary; and Nancy Chipman, co-president.

## RELIABLE FUEL & PROPANE DELIVERY 24/7



*Quality products and great service at a fair price.*

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

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

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

# discover

THE QUEENSVIEW DIFFERENCE



For over a decade, Queensview has been **delivering personalized, attentive care** that truly feels like home with more support and more fun!

Here you'll find a **caring community** where your needs are met with kindness, your choices are respected, and **care is at the heart of everything we do.**

**VISIT US TO EXPERIENCE THE WARMTH OF THE COMMUNITY FOR YOURSELF.**



70 King Edward Street, Paris • 226-457-0682  
life@queensviewrc.ca • Queensviewrc.ca

**OFFERING WINTER STAYS, SHORT-TERM STAYS, CONVALESCENT AND PERSONALIZED CARE.**

# The Paris Independent

# SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

## Paris District High School athlete commits to NCAA Division II softball in Ohio

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Committing to play NCAA Softball II in Ohio means a lot to me because I’m proud of putting myself out there and being noticed,” Kipp said. “While I had an amazing support system behind me, I had to talk to coaches on my own. I had those conversations and advocated for myself. Accepting the offer felt rewarding because it showed me that hard work and initiative pay off. I earned this opportunity through my own efforts on and off the field.”

Kipp’s path began locally with the Paris Youth Softball Association, where early enjoyment of the game laid the foundation for what would follow.

“Looking back on my early days with Paris Youth Softball Association, what stands out the most is how much I loved the game. I had fun playing with my friends and that’s really what sparks the love for the sport,” she said.

That passion carried her into rep softball with the Brantford Bobcats, where she was introduced to a higher level of competition.

“Moving into rep softball I experienced a shift for the best. I was on a

team with other girls who loved softball as much as I did. We got to practice and travel together experiencing a whole new level of competition,” Kipp said.

While softball remained a constant, Kipp’s athletic resume expanded well beyond the diamond. At PDHS, she has competed in multiple sports, balancing demanding schedules and responsibilities year-round. At the 2025 PDHS Athletics Banquet Kipp accepted many honours; MVP of the Senior Girls Volleyball, MVP Girls Fastball, Outstanding Junior Athlete in Track and Field, member of the AAHBN Track and Field Championship team (Sr. Girls 100m Hurdles, Triple Jump and 4x4 Relay), and member of the Ultimate Frisbee CWOSSA Championship team.

“Through my high school athletic experience the most important thing I learned was commitment. With multiple sports and school my schedule can get heavy with morning and afternoon practices as well as games; while also having my rep sports at night and on weekends,” she said. “I’ve learned the importance of showing up, working hard, and being a reliable teammate.

Now that I’m in Grade 12, I want to be a good example for younger athletes.”

That well-rounded approach is something recruiters consistently valued, according to her mother, Nicole Kipp, who said coaches emphasized they were looking for more than just a single-sport standout.

“They all had the same message for Sydney. It was that they want an ATHLETE. Not only a ball player but a strong athlete. One that always has and continues to play multiple sports as they grow up,” she explained. “They all see that in her ability on the Softball field. She is a well-rounded athlete who grew up playing multiple sports in our community.”

Nicole said the journey was never about chasing scholarships in the early years. Thinking back to those early days with Paris Youth Softball Association, Nicole admitted, “No, I didn’t think that it would lead to this at all. She always wanted to be doing something sporty, and this was simply a way to try something new and let her have fun,” she said of Sydney’s start in the sport. She credits local programs and volunteers for providing the foundation that allowed her daughter to grow as both an athlete and a person.

“It has been the foundation for everything for Sydney. The community programs that we have been apart of have provided the essential basics for her to build off,” she said. “She learned about being apart of a team and getting coached. These programs also teach you from a very young age that you need to be dedicated, work to get better at something and build their independence and confidence.”

As Kipp prepares for the next chapter, she plans to study Exercise Science, with a minor in Psychology, aligning her academic goals with her athletic experience.

Looking back - and ahead - Kipp’s advice to younger athletes remains simple.

“I would tell them to find what makes them happy and stick to it,” she said.

Her journey stands as a reflection of what sustained commitment, community support, and a multi-sport mindset can achieve – and that’s why Sydney is February’s Athlete of the Month.

## Flashback



(SUBMITTED BY SCOOP STEWART)

Can anyone pick out Paris’s own MPP from 50 years ago? Yup bottom row second from the left is the honourable Greg Rickford originally from Paris now Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation of Ontario. I know dad and mom are very proud! Always a pleasure, Scoop Stewart



### House League Standings - Week of February 2nd

#### 7-8 Year-Old (House League)

Lakers defeat Fruit, 28-10  
King Pineapple defeat Warriors, 16-12

#### This week’s top scorers:

Gavin N, Lakers, 24 points  
Ryder, Warriors, 10 points  
Aydin, King Pineapple, 10 points

#### 9-11 Year-Old (House League)

Warriors defeat Tigers, 35-19  
Lakers defeat Raptors, 20-17

#### This week’s top scorers:

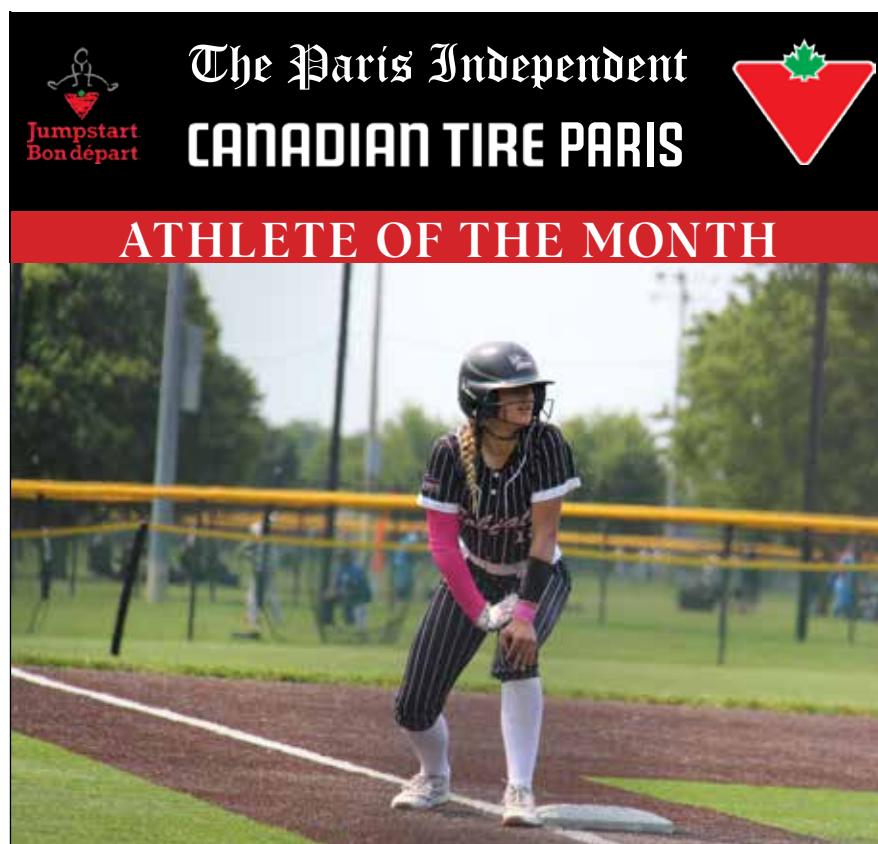
Laith, Tigers, 19 points  
Will, Lakers, 9 points  
Elliot, Raptors, 8 points

#### 12-14 Year-Old (House League)

Lakers defeat Raptors, 41-37(OT)  
Hoopers defeat Fever, 36-30

#### This week’s top scorers:

Bahadur, Lakers, 25 points  
Jayshaan, Raptors, 16 points  
Kieran, Hoopers, 16 points



Sydney Kipp is shown in action while competing with the Brantford Bobcats during a softball game. The local athlete has committed to play NCAA Division II softball at an Ohio university.

# Highs, lows and what's ahead for Canada at the Olympics

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Correspondent

The Olympics give and the Olympics take away. Canadian snowboarder Mark McMorris, a four-time Olympic bronze medallist, suffered a head injury in practice last Thursday before being cleared to compete in slopestyle earlier today. Hours before deadline, long-track speed skater Valérie Maltais delivered the counterbalance, skating to bronze in the women's 3,000 metres.

Looking ahead, here's what to expect in the coming days. All times are local and subject to change, with events airing on CBC Gem and across TSN, Sportsnet, CBC and CBC News Network. It's a rare stretch on the calendar — worth tuning in while it lasts.

February 11

-Women's Snowboarding halfpipe Qualifiers begin at 4:30 AM. Elizabeth Hoskins won a World Cup event this year in Calgary

-Freestyle Skiing Women's Moguls and Medal Presentation begins at 5:00 AM, with the Medal Presentation event at 8:55 AM

-Men's Super-G event and Medal Presentation 5:30 AM

-Women's Individual Biathlon event and Medal Presentation 8:15 AM

-Nordic Combined Individual normal hill/10km Cross Country and Medal Presentation 7:45 AM

-Men's Speed Skating 1000m Final and Medal Presentation 12:30 PM

-Men's Curling Canada vs Germany 1:05 PM. Watch for the Brad Jacobs team to be in the medal running

-Figure Skating Ice Dance Final and Medal Presentation 1:30 PM

-Men's Snowboarding halfpipe Qualifiers begin at 1:30 PM

February 12

-Women's Curling Canada vs Denmark 3:05 AM

-Freestyle Skiing Men's moguls Starts at 4 AM with Finals and Medal Presentation at 6:55 AM

-Women's super-G Alpine Skiing Final and Medal Presentation 5:30 AM

-Cross-Country Skiing 10km Interval Start Final and Medal Presentation 7:00 AM

-Women's Hockey Finland Vs Canada 8:30 AM

-Men's Hockey Canada vs Czech Republic 10:40 AM

-Women's Short Track 500M Quarter Finals begin 2:15 PM; Semi Finals begin at 3:03 PM and Final at 3:31 PM

-Men's Short Track 1000m Quarter Finals 2:28 PM; Semi Finals at 3:07 PM and Final 3:43 PM

-Men's Skeleton Heats begin at 3:30 AM and 5:08 AM

-Men's Snowboard cross Qualifiers begin at 4:00 AM; Round of Top 16 Qualifiers begin at 7:45 AM; Quarter Finals begin at 8:18 AM; Semi Finals 8:39 AM; Finals and Medal Presentation at 8:56 AM

-Speed Skating 5000m Final and Medal Presentation 10:30 AM

February 13

-Men's Curling Canada vs United States 3:05 AM Men's 10 KM Interval Start and Medal Presentation 5:45 AM

-Women's Snowboard cross Qualifiers begin at 4:00 AM; Round of 16 7:30 AM; Quarter Finals 8:03 AM; Semi Final 8:24; Final and Medal Presentation 8:41 AM

-Men's Biathlon Sprint Final and Medal Presentation 8:00 AM

-Women's Curling Canada vs United States 8:05 AM

-Women's Skeleton Heats begin at 10:00 AM; Women's Hockey Quarter Final 10:40 AM and 3:10 PM

-Speed Skating Men's 10000m Final and Medal Presentation 10:00 AM

-Men's Singles Figure Skating Final and Medal Presentation 1:00 PM

-Men's Curling Canada vs Sweden 1:05 PM

-Men's Skeleton Heats begin at 1:30 PM and Finals and Medal Presentation at 3:05 PM

-Men's Hockey Canada vs Switzerland 3:10 PM

February 14

-Men's Giant Slalom Skiing Final Runs 4:00 AM and 7:30 AM

-Women's Dual Moguls Preliminary Rounds begin at 4:30 AM; Bronze Medal Event 5:46 AM; Gold Medal event and Medal Presentation 5:48 AM

-Women's 4 X 7.5km Cross Country Skiing relay Final And Medal Presentation 6:00 AM

-Men's Curling Canada vs Switzerland 8:05 AM

-Women's Sprint Biathlon Final and Medal Presentation 8:45 AM

-Women's Speed Skating Team Pursuit Quarter Finals 10:00 AM

-Women's Hockey Quarter Finals 10:40 AM and 3:10 PM

-Men's Speed Skating 500m Final and Medal Presentation 11:00 AM

-Women's Skeleton Final Heats and Medal Presentations 12:00 PM

-Men's Large Hill Ski Individual Jumping Runs begin at 12:45 PM and Final Runs and Medal Presentation at 1:57 PM

-Women's Curling Canada vs Switzerland 1:05 PM

-Women's Big Air Freestyle Qualifiers begin at 1:30 PM

-Short Track Men's Skating 1500m Quarter Finals begin at 2:15 PM; Semi Final 3:54 PM and 3:59 PM; Final 4:35 PM

-Short Track Women's Skating 1000m Quarter Finals begin at 3:01 PM

February 15

-Women's Giant Slalom Final Round 1 4:00 AM; Final Round 2 and Medal Presentation 7:30 AM

-Women's monobob Heats 4:00 AM and 5:50 AM

-Men's Freestyle Skiing Dual Moguls Qualifiers 4:30 AM; Bronze Medal Event 5:46 AM; Silver and Gold Medal event and Medal Presentations 5:48 AM

-Men's Pursuit Biathlon Final 5:15 AM and Medal Presentation

-Men's 4X7.5 km Cross Country Relay Final and Medal Presentation 6:00 AM

-Mixed Team snowboard cross Quarter Finals begin at 7:45 AM; Semi Finals 8:15

AM and Final and Medal presentation 8:40 AM

-Women's Pursuit Biathlon Final 8:45 AM and Medal Presentation

-Men's Speed Skating Pursuit Quarter Finals 10:00 AM

-Men's Hockey Canada vs France 10:40 AM

-Women's 500 Speed Skating Final 11:03 AM

-Skeleton Mixed Team Final and Medal Presentation 12:00 PM

-Women's Big Hill Ski Jumping 12:45 PM and 1:57 PM and Medal Presentation

-Men's Curling China vs Canada 1:05 PM

-Men's Freestyle Skiing Big Air Qualifiers begin at 1:30 PM; 2:15 PM; 3:00 PM

-Pairs Figure Skating Qualifiers 1:45 PM February 16

-Men's Slalom Skiing Final Runs 4:00 AM and 7:30 AM Final Run and Medal Presentation

-Men's Two-Man Bobsleigh Runs 4:00 AM and 5:57 AM

-Women's Short Track 1000m Quarter Finals begin at 5:00 AM; Semis at 5:57 AM and Final at 6:41 AM

-Men's Short Track 500m Qualifiers begin at 5:17 AM

-Women's Slopestyle Qualifying Runs 8:00 AM

-Men's Slopestyle Qualifying Runs 9:05 AM

-Women's Hockey Semi-Final games at 10:40 AM and 3:10 PM

-Women's monobob Bobsleigh Final Heat 1:00 PM and 3:06 PM and Medal Presentation

-Women's Big Air Runs begin at 1:30 PM with Final Run and Medal Presentation at 2:17 PM

-Figure Skating Pairs Final and Medal Presentation 2:00 PM

-Men's Super Team Ski Jumping runs begin at 1:00 PM; Final Run and Medal Presentation 2:20 PM

-Women's Curling China vs Canada 3:05 PM

## Legion Ladies dart league sees standout efforts across the board

Determination was the name of the game this past Thursday, February 5, as the Paris Legion Ladies Dart league gathered for another high-spirited night of competition. While the scoreboard was busy, the talk of the night was the sheer grit displayed by Trish H.

Playing with a fractured foot encased in a cast, Trish H. refused to let a little thing like mobility slow her down. She successfully navigated the stairs to

the second-floor boards—opting for a unique "backside-slide" descent to protect her injury—and proceeded to double out two games to secure crucial wins for her team.

The "Bullseye Club" saw plenty of action this week, led by a standout performance from Maryanne, who peppered the center of the board for a total of three bullseyes. Joining the ranks with one bullseye each were Booner, Nancy B, and Debbie K.

In the scoring department, Nancy B took home the honors for High Score of the night, posting an impressive 118.

The competition remained stiff throughout the evening as players fought to "double out." Alongside the multi-game success of Trish H. and Shari, a long list of players managed to close out their games: Bryanna B, Nichole D, Debbie K, Liz L, Linda, Patti S, Lori S

The evening wasn't just

about the competition. The league was pleased to welcome Marg A. and Chris A., who dropped in for a visit as the night wound down. Organizers expressed hope that the pair would soon trade their spectator seats for a spot at the oche.

Note to Players: To keep the evening running smoothly, league organizers remind all participants to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to start time to ensure an on-time launch for the first flight of darts.

## Perfect season for Paris Women's Day champs



(SUE HILHORST PHOTO)

Paris Curling Club Women's Day League winter draw champions pose after finishing the season with a perfect record. From left are Nancy Dolson, second; Martha Sharp, lead; Brenda Baker, vice; and skip Sue Cunningham.

# New semester, new momentum: Panthers return to playoff push

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

*Sports Correspondent*

With exams done and snow days gone by, a new semester begins, and sports in the gym restart.

## Basketball

The Panther Junior Basketball team didn't have a winning season in the win-loss column, but on the learning curve, they exceeded expectations. Considering after winning their first tipoff at the beginning of the season, they looked like the Harlem Globetrotters, passing the ball quickly to each other—maybe an over exaggeration, but it was a sight to see. In their game last week with Pauline Johnson, victory was within their grasp if the shots they made went in the basket. Losing only one player off this year's roster, you can bet that wins will come.

The Senior side headed to North Park and defeated the Trojans 59-38. Last Thursday, they extended their winning streak to three by defeating Pauline Johnson 70-57 and clinching second place in the AABHN North Division. Canaan Sherbino led the scoring with 30 points, Nathan Brewster

with 17, and Dexter Quesnel, who snagged rebounds on both sides of the court, with 11—earning a bye to the semifinals, which will happen on Thursday at 5:30 PM in the Paris gym.

## Girls Volleyball

The Junior Panthers finished their season by facing Pauline Johnson at home last Tuesday and defeated them 3-1. The win secured a playoff spot and will travel to face St. John's today in quarter-final action.

Last Tuesday, the Seniors played North Park at home and lost 3-0. Earlier Wednesday, they also traveled to Pauline Johnson and defeated the opposition 3-0. They, too, qualified for a playoff position and will face the St. John's Eagles in the quarter-final today at 3:30.

## Hockey

The Boys team, currently in third place, will finish off their season yesterday against BCI.

The Girls' side, who have been idle for almost a month, would have faced Assumption yesterday. The second-place team will finish off their season's schedule on Thursday when they face St. John's at the Brant Sports Complex at 3:00 PM.



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTOS)

Members of the Junior Boys Basketball team include: Calvin Passos, Ryan Maher, Al-Hameer Yakub, Jaskaran Mahil, Dominick Souliere, Eesa Ansary, Blake Cruickshank, Rex Savage, Sawyer Head, Ali El-Agha and Kevin Walter. Coaches are Jason Murchie and Erin Parr.

# Titans survive the shot barrage, take two of three in gritty weekend set

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

*Sports Correspondent*

The Titans faced the New Hamburg Firebirds last Thursday at the BSC and defeated them 4-2, despite being outshot 58-35. Calvin Gardner in net earned the first star of the game for being bombarded with more rubber than a Brantford recycling plant, a fact that made the coaches unhappy despite the win.

The Titans potted the only goal of the period, off Blake Kersey's stick and assisted by Spencer Edwards and Jack Kersey. In the second period, the Firebirds had only one goal: to tie the game at 1-1. In the third period, despite being outshot 24-16, the Kersey brothers, Blake and Jack, dominated the score sheet, first with a power-play goal by Blake, assisted by Jack and Jay Metler, for a 2-1 lead. The Firebirds tied it at 2-2 on a power play, followed by Duncan Dodd scoring and assisted by Jack Kersey, which would be the game winner.

Titan Kohen Kirby put the win in jeopardy by earning two minor penalties on the same play and allowing a 5-on-3 power play for the last 1:18 minutes of the period! Fortunately, Jack Kersey took a pass from brother Blake to score an empty netter and a final score of 4-2. Last Friday, the Titans headed to Tavistock Braves for the second of three games in a row and were defeated 5-2. Tavi scored 3 goals in the first period and a power play goal. In the second period, defenseman Ben Easson scored off a pass from Aidan Switzer. In the third period, the teams exchanged goals, with Jay Metler and Carter MacKay assisting on Josh Russell's goal.

On Saturday at home, the Titans welcomed the Hespeler Shamrocks in their final matchup of the season. In the first period, Hespeler opened the scoring, with Keegan Clarke tying it up at 1-1, with assists from the Captain, Ryan Gardner-O'Keefe and Austin Christian. The second period was all Paris, who missed scoring opportunities on four power plays. Still, the second peri-



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTOS)

Members of the Junior Girls Volleyball team include: Ciana Wallace, Jadeyn Stelpsta, Grace McDougall, Teagan Noonan-Rosebrugh, Leah Smith, Raegan Charter, Brianna Koen, Julia Sherren, Ada Rosebrugh, Riley Wood, Lauren Demunk and Brynn Haverkamp. Coaches are Carissa Brownell-Riddell and Sarah Jakob.

od ended with goals by Kohen Kirby and Jack Kersey, giving Paris a 3-1 lead. In the third period, Hespeler scored on a power play goal to make it 3-2. The Shamrocks pulled their goalie at the end of the third period to no avail as Keegan Clarke scored on the empty net for a 4-2 win.

Despite winning two out of three games,

the team and coaching staff need to work on the two games left in the season. The Titans' next game will be on Sunday (February 15 at 7:30 p.m.) during the Family Day weekend at the Brant Sports Complex, followed by an afternoon Family Day match in Woodstock.

**FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES IN THE INDEPENDENT  
CALL 519-757-5662 OR EMAIL SALES@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM**

# Paris Agricultural Society workshops keep traditional skills alive year-round

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Paris Agricultural Society is continuing its Homecraft Workshop Series this year, offering residents hands-on opportunities to learn traditional skills while connecting with the Society beyond fair time.

The workshop series, which has been running for several years, was developed as a community outreach initiative focused on traditional life skills and social connection, said Homecraft Division President Karen Ilett. The sessions are designed to be welcoming and practical, giving participants the chance to learn something new or refresh an existing skill in a small, hands-on setting.

The Homecraft Division is a core part of the Paris Fair, showcasing hobbies, domestic sciences, crafts, food, and entertainment across the fairgrounds each year. Ilett said the workshops help extend that focus year-round while highlighting the depth of talent within the Society's volunteer base. Many workshop instructors are members of Homecraft committees at the fair and often tie sessions directly to exhibitor classes, giving participants insight into how they can take part during fair time.

Accessibility is a key feature of the series. Workshops are geared toward beginners but also serve as refreshers for those with prior experience. Group sizes are kept small, with an emphasis on hands-on learning and volunteer instruction. According to Ilett, the format has attracted both first-time participants and returning attendees who enjoy the relaxed, inclusive atmosphere.

Beyond skill-building, the workshops also introduce participants to the Paris Agricultural Society's facilities and volunteer opportunities. Ilett noted that involvement with the Society extends well beyond the annual fair and offers residents a chance to give back while learning and socializing throughout the year.

Upcoming sessions include baking and knitting workshops, along with a poppy-making workshop being held in partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 in Paris. The poppy workshop, taking place at the Paris Fairgrounds on February 14th from 9 am to 12 pm, is part of a larger community project tied to the Legion's 100th anniversary in 2026.

Paris Legion member Cheryl Humphreys, who is leading the poppy-making workshop, said the poppy has been a national symbol of remembrance since 1921 and holds particular significance this year as both the local Paris branch and the national Legion mark a century of service. Community members across the county have already contributed thousands of knitted and crocheted poppies, which will be assembled into large displays at the Legion building and cenotaph in downtown Paris in 2026.

Humphreys said hosting the workshop through the Homecraft series reflects the Legion's commitment to community connection and shared learning. Creating poppies together, she said, echoes the role of homecrafts during wartime, when women supported the war effort through knitting, sewing, and other skills that sustained families and soldiers alike.

The workshop is open to all ages and skill levels, including those with no prior knitting or crocheting experience. Humphreys said guidance and support will be provided, making the session as much about community and conversation as it is about crafting poppies.

"Taking part in something like this poppy workshop shows how small acts of crafting can contribute to something meaningful and visible in our community. It's about remembrance, yes, but also about building bonds and giving back together," said Humphreys. With more workshops planned throughout the year, the Paris Agricultural Society is encouraging residents



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Elaine Tully (right) and Laura Tousaw, members of the Paris Agricultural Society's Homecraft Division, are pictured during a past Pie Pastry 101 workshop, part of the Society's ongoing Homecraft Workshop Series that offers hands-on learning and traditional skills to the community year-round. This year's Pie Pastry 101 series takes place on February 21st from 10 am to 12 pm at the Paris Fairgrounds.

to participate, suggest future topics, or consider volunteering as instructors. Ilett said the goal remains simple: to share skills, foster learning, and strengthen community ties through the Homecraft Division.

To register for the poppy knitting and crocheting series on February 14 from 9 am to

12 pm, email [parispoppies29@gmail.com](mailto:parispoppies29@gmail.com). Pre registration is required. Can't make that session? Catch the next one where Elaine Tully will lead Pie Pastry 101 class on February 21st from 10 am to 12 pm. For more information email [pashomecraft@gmail.com](mailto:pashomecraft@gmail.com). Pre registration is required.

## It's Ready, Set, Kindergarten for children turning four in 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

The countdown to Kindergarten is officially on, and the Grand Erie District School Board is hosting Kickstart to Kindergarten events in the coming weeks to help families get set for this exciting milestone.

"Grand Erie's early years staff thoughtfully plan programs and allocate resources that support a smooth and confident start to school for children and families," said JoAnna Roberto, Director of Education. "Kindergarten in Grand Erie is a vibrant, welcoming experience grounded in learning and exploration where our youngest learners strengthen problem-solving skills,

build meaningful relationships and gain a new sense of themselves in the world."

By registering for the event nearest them, families will secure a timeslot to connect with community partners including the LookSee developmental screening. Early connections with these resources can significantly benefit families who may wish to participate in further screening through the Lansdowne Children's Centre or Haldimand-Norfolk REACH before their child begins Kindergarten. Families are welcome to visit a Kickstart event on a drop-in basis, but registering for a timeslot ensures they make the most of their visit.

These fun, interactive events are open to all families with a child starting Kinder-

garten in September at a Grand Erie school and are also a chance to meet educators and other families.

### Kickstart to Kindergarten

- Major Ballachey Public School: Tuesday, February 17 from 2 to 6 p.m.
- Walter Gretzky Elementary School: Wednesday, February 25 from 2 to 6 p.m.
- Thomspson Creek Elementary School, Thursday, March 5 from 2 to 6 p.m.
- Jarvis Public School: Tuesday, March 23 from 2 to 6 p.m.
- Walsh Public School: Thursday, March 25 from 4 to 6 p.m.

## The Paris Independent

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

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

# Paris flood study moves to next phase

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

The County of Brant has completed a Schedule B Class Environmental Assessment as part of ongoing work to address flood protection infrastructure in Paris.

A Schedule B Class Environmental Assessment is a municipal planning process used for infrastructure projects with potential but manageable environmental impacts. The process involves improvements and minor expansions to existing facilities and requires problem identification, the evaluation of alternative solutions and the selection of a preferred option. Public consultation and engagement with relevant review agencies are required, and a Project File is prepared at the end of the process and made available for public review.

One of the key recommendations arising from the completed Schedule B assessment is to undertake a Schedule C Class Environmental Assessment focused specifically on the downtown area of Paris and buildings backing onto the Grand River.

A Schedule C Class Environmental Assessment is a more comprehensive planning process for major municipal

infrastructure projects with significant potential environmental impacts. It requires a five-phase planning approach to identify alternatives, assess environmental effects and develop mitigation strategies. Early and ongoing consultation with the public, Indigenous communities and regulatory agencies is a mandatory component, and an Environmental Study Report will be made available for public review.

The County of Brant said work on the broader Paris Flood Risk Mitigation Master Plan is continuing and that a public open house will be scheduled at a future date to share information and gather feedback.

Construction of the existing Paris flood protection system was completed in 1979. The county initiated the flood risk mitigation master plan to address long-term maintenance and potential upgrades to that system. A condition assessment completed in April 2019 found the existing flood protection measures require significant maintenance and do not meet current stability or preliminary flood protection criteria. Ecosystem Recovery Inc. was retained by the county to provide consulting services and support development of the plan. More information on the project is available at EngageBrant.

## Paris Optimist Club marks International Optimist Day with flag raising at Council Chambers



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

Mayor David Bailey joined members of the Optimist Club of Paris to raise the Optimist flag at Council Chambers on Thursday, February 5, marking International Optimist Day. Founded in 1949, the club has supported generations of local youth through scholarships and awards at Paris District High School, St. John's High School, Tollgate Technological School and five Paris elementary schools, monthly youth dances for Grades 5 to 8, and sponsorship of minor baseball, hockey, ringette and soccer teams. More recently, the club helped fundraise towards the expansion at the Paris skate park at the Syl Apps Community Centre. The Optimist Club of Paris welcomes members who are 18 years of age and older and willing to make a difference in the lives of the youth in the community.



## Lent: An Opportunity to Reflect, Refocus, and Recenter, surrounded by fellow pilgrims journeying toward Easter

Find a warm welcome at St. James' Anglican Church  
(8 Burwell Street, Paris)  
Sunday services: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

### SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 17, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Pancakes and sausages  
(Vegetarian and 'gluten-friendly'  
options available)

Suggested free-will offering:  
\$5 - \$10 per meal

Eat-in, take-out, or delivery  
Arrange take-out or delivery  
by contacting 519-442-4334 or  
stjameschurchparis@gmail.com

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 18

**9:30 AM:** Communion service with the  
imposition of ashes

**12:15 PM:** Short and simple service with  
the imposition of ashes

**7:00 PM:** Communion service with the  
imposition of ashes: **a joint gathering  
hosted by Holy Trinity Church in the  
village of St. George (2 Andrew Street)**

# Thank-you 4H from the bottom of my heart

## STONES Around Town

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

Hello again! With a smile and a wave, of course.

I was recently invited by the Director of 4-H Brant County, Angie Cain, to represent the paper at their 2025 4-H Awards & Recognition Banquet on January 30, 2026. In my travels repping this publication, I meet some truly wonderful people—and Angie is certainly one of them. I'm proud to call her a new friend. I came away from that evening with a profound new respect for 4-H; honestly, the experience blew me away. The dedication and commitment from the parents, children, volunteers, and group leaders (there were 250 people in attendance!) is staggering. There was a sense of community there that I haven't felt in a long while. Between the local sponsorship and the ambitious projects these teens have completed, words don't quite do it justice—but I shall do my best.

They have a club for everything: Farm Tours, Birds & Boots, Spice of Life, Farm Machinery, and even a Cookie Club! In total, there are 20 different clubs covering crops and livestock. I have to give a few special shout-outs. Nicole (the Secretary) and Marcy were such a joy—and funny, too! To Angie Cain: you're a rock star. It's a great thing when a new friend shows you their talent and passion in such a humble way. Elaine Elgie, thank you for being so welcoming and for your 25 years of dedication to 4-H (though I don't know how you've managed 25 years when you still look 39... wink). Co-chairs Mark Eddy and Doug Archer kept the show rolling beautifully. I also spotted Mayor Bailey and Councillor Jennifer Kyle, along with Grace Aulsebrook-Smith (Paris

Fair Ambassador) and Christine Oldfield, the Executive Director of 4-H Ontario. With 135 members and 45 leaders across Brant, Oxford, Woodstock, and Ayr, the representation is far and wide. Even the retired Paris firefighters were there as the "First Responders Club." Bruce Barrett asked me if I was there to clear tables—I had a good laugh at that!

The evening opened my eyes to the fact that 4-H isn't just about agriculture; it's about Life Skills. Not every kid wants to play soccer, and 4-H offers something for everyone. From their impressive Land Acknowledgement to the singing of the National Anthem and the 4-H Pledge, the tradition is deeply moving. We even sang "Happy Birthday" to Ashleigh (Happy Birthday, Ashleigh!). The food was great, and the dessert was even better (yes, I had two). The best part, however, was seeing the kids. They were so excited, proud, and happy. It truly was an eye-opener. One "Seed Project" particularly captured my imagination. It reminded me that we begin life like a seed: we grow roots, we bloom in our own way, and eventually, we flower to fruit and seed so the cycle can start again. Angie even mentioned compass skill training. When I told her I was interested, she offered to "help me get lost," give me a compass, and see if I could find my way home. If you don't hear from me next week, please come looking—I think my compass might be broken!

What keeps me grounded while I'm "lost" is the 4-H Motto: "Learn To Do By Doing" and the pledge of Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. Before I go, I want to take a personal moment to mention Lisa Dalpe.

Many of us were lucky enough to know Lisa and her family—Paul and their boys, Zak, Ben, and Phil. Lisa brought nothing but love, smiles, and community involvement to Paris. Her work with minor hockey was second to none; some would say she resurrected it. She never did it for the credit; she was a humble "salt of the earth" role model. The fact that they named a hockey tournament after her—and "Lisa Dalpe Way" downtown—speaks volumes. I've known Lisa since I was ten years old, and she remains the gold standard for communi-



(JEFF JOHNSTON PHOTO)

Pictured at the 2025 4-H Brant County Awards & Recognition Banquet are (from left) Marilyn Sewell, Holt Marcy, Avery Marcy and Karen Ilett, celebrating the achievements and community spirit of local 4-H members at the January 30 event.

ty engagement. As you walk downtown and see her name, take a moment to realize how special she was. The memories of Lisa, Art Coombs, and Rob Johnston should always be a part of this tournament and Paris Minor Hockey. They were happy people, deeply

involved, and the perfect examples of why we encourage our kids to play.

Thank you, 4-H, from the bottom of my heart. And as always, Stones is still rolling.

## County of Brant receives Ontario Age-Friendly Community Recognition Award

### MEDIA RELEASE

The County of Brant received the Ontario Age-Friendly Community Recognition Award during a ceremony held alongside the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) Conference on Sunday, January 18, 2026.

The award celebrates 69 communities – supporting more than 13 million seniors - across Ontario that are working to create more inclusive and accessible environments for people of all ages and abilities.

The County of Brant was recognized for its efforts to build spaces that are inclusive, welcoming, and supportive of older adults, helping them live safely, stay active, and remain engaged in their community.

This recognition also supports Brant in obtaining national and international acknowledgment through the Public Health Agency of Canada and the World Health Organization. For more information on Senior Services visit [brant.ca/Seniors](http://brant.ca/Seniors)

Complete the survey  
for a chance to win a  
\$100 Visa gift card!



COUNTY OF  
**Brant** Simply Grand

## TOURISM STARTS HERE.

If you live in the County of Brant, your perspective on local tourism matters.

We're inviting residents to take part in a brief **Resident Sentiment Survey** to better understand how tourism impacts our community — from quality of life to local benefits.

All responses are confidential, and a \$100 gift card will be awarded locally!

[brant.ca/TourismSurvey](http://brant.ca/TourismSurvey)

Survey closes Friday, February 27, 2026.



SCAN

# Nuclear energy is powering new jobs

We're creating over 150,000 new jobs during the construction and operation of our new nuclear facilities, delivering new opportunities for workers.

**That's how we protect Ontario.**



[Ontario.ca/PoweringOntario](https://Ontario.ca/PoweringOntario)  
Paid for by the Government of Ontario



# Travelling winter Europe, one train at a time

KARON SINNING

Paris Independent Travel Columnist

Our travels for 2025/2026 started December 29, 2025 as we headed over to England to spend time with family. Travelling to Pearson on the 29th saw us driving through near white-out conditions on the 401. Roy is a flawless driver, but as he says, “it’s the other guys you need to worry about!” The normal hour and a quarter drive took well over 2 hours.

British Airways was our choice of carrier; it had a good sale on, which was marginally more expensive than Air Transat and left Toronto at a more reasonable time.

We were an hour late leaving Pearson, due to delays in loading baggage and then a delay in the lineup for takeoff. This is why I always recommend a minimum of 3-4 hours between connecting flights to anywhere. I’ve experienced this delay first hand; missing an Air Canada flight in Vienna and being rerouted to Warsaw, Poland!

While I do love the English trains, sometimes they are not the most convenient or direct route to your destination. From Heathrow, there were no direct trains to Southampton. By train, we would have had to go into London, change trains and then go on to Southampton. The better option was the National Express bus. This picked us up right at the airport and an hour and a half later, left us within a ten minute walk to the Isle of Wight ferry.

Our first 6 days were spent in Sandown on the Isle of Wight. The views driving around are incredible. Even in the English winter, around every corner there is an experience, from striking white, chalk cliffs above a vigorous sea, to coming upon horseback riders heading to a trail.

For New Years Eve, we had planned an evening out with our cousins and I was concerned I’d be a bust due to jet lag. As luck would have it, midnight here in Jolly Ole England was 7 pm at home. I made it to the New Year in fine form. Finally jet lag was in my favour!

The evening was spent at the Sandown Conservative Club and it felt like a proper New Year’s Eve party. Dancing to live music, sharing a pint and I even won the raffle...£10! The club is a 3-4 minute walk from our cousin’s front door at the end of their lane way. No drinking/driving and everyone had fun. For me it was a totally English experience.

January 4 saw us head over the Solent (an area of water between the Isle of Wight and the mainland) to Southampton. We had a lovely dinner out at Harper’s Pub, where we have stayed on a few occasions. The rooms are exceptionally nice, the beds are very comfortable and the food is great. On check-in, I was told we’d been upgraded to a comfy super king and it really was!

What I didn’t need to see on the morning of January 5, was the light dusting of snow! However, we had planned to be tourists for the day; so we booked tickets for the Spinaker Tower in Portsmouth. Getting there from Southampton was a quick train ride.

The tower was built to create a unique landmark. On our visit, its brilliant white, curved sail-like structure was set against a vibrant blue sky. From the “almost” top,

we could see the Isle of Wight across the Solent, along with most of Portsmouth. Like our CN Tower, there is a glass bottom floor that the brave of heart can venture out on. Definitely....not me! The tower is conveniently adjacent to Gunwarf Quays, an upscale/designer shopping mall. A wee bit of shopping likely occurred.

From Southampton we had two more family destinations: Haslemere, in Surrey and Herne Bay in Kent. From Haslemere we took a 45-minute train ride into London. With the rail system in the UK, you can get almost anywhere by train. If not, buses are a good alternative as they are everywhere. We had a great stroll around central London, and a wonderful dinner out with family.

Winter in England can be a very damp and cold experience. But with that in mind, dressing appropriately (layers) can make it an extra enjoyable time. There are virtually no crowds, walking around London after dark also provides a glittering panorama of lights.

From Herne Bay we did a short car ride to Rochester. A walk around the castle and cathedral, then back home for a traditional “take away” of fish and chips. I’m not a big seafood lover, but English fish and chips is an all time favourite.

On my personal bucket list has always been a trip to the British Museum. Our last day/night was spent in London, very close to St. Pancras train station, where we would depart on the Eurostar train to Amsterdam. I had planned for us to arrive in London early, with time for a quick trip to the museum. Once Ian knew this was the plan, he happily agreed to accompany us. Having Ian along was an actual God-send, not only as a tour guide maneuvering the London tube system, but helping with our luggage. Travelling to Europe for three months means big suitcases!

As our time was limited at the museum, Ian asked what I’d like best to see. Without hesitation, I said Egyptian. Knowing his way around, we found ourselves wandering through amazing artifacts from Egypt. We got separated in the second section. After being mesmerized by all I saw, I was a little shocked when the boys found me and said I had to hurry along a bit more. We still had to see the colossal statues which were brought to the museum and I didn’t want to miss those. Truly I could spend a week, or more there!

From England we were heading over to Amsterdam to visit my niece Ellen, and her fiancé, Dave. I was very excited about booking the Eurostar train! On a recommendation from our cousin Ian, we had upgraded our tickets for more comfortable seats and to include breakfast.

Now, I do have a vivid imagination so when we upgraded those tickets, I admit that I was envisioning something along the lines of “the Orient Express”. Reality was something “less than” that; but a long walk through the train, for additional refreshment, provided us with a good idea of exactly what the “upgrade” gave us.

With the upgrade, there were two comfortable seats and breakfast provided where you sat. In standard, there are three seats in the same two-seat space. The walk



Paris travel columnist Karon Sinning is pictured with her niece, Ellen Brooker, during a visit to the Netherlands. Brooker was raised in Paris and now lives in the Amsterdam area.

from our traincar was about 200 meters to the on-board cafe, so we had a good view of all the seating on the train.

The trip under the English Channel on the Eurostar is 50 km long; 38 km under the sea bed. It takes about 20 minutes, not really a “blink and you miss it” moment. Other than black out the windows, it barely registers that you’re under water. Speeds on the train varied. The overhead monitor lists how fast you’re going. I saw speeds up to 210/km per hour.

The cost of the upgraded ticket was \$236 each. A cheap flight from London to Amsterdam would have been about \$255 each. So not only did I get to ride the Eurostar, it saved us money!

Ellen and Dave live in Haarlem, a city just 20km west of Amsterdam. Ellen works at Artesano Bakery and we planned a visit. The day was sunny, but cold; we decided to walk anyway. We enjoyed a delicious lunch of Ellen’s fresh baked goodies! After which, Ellen walked us around the historic centre of the city.

In Amsterdam, we visited the Anne Frank House. I think most Canadians have heard of Anne Frank. Her tragic death in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp has been told world wide. I have never read her published diary, but I did have some preconceived ideas of where I thought the family hid. My ideas were all wrong.

In my mind, the annex had become an attic. Otto Frank, Anne’s father, was a successful businessman producing “pectin” in a factory. Pectin is used in preserving food such as jams. With the help of dear friends the Frank family, along with a few other Jewish friends, were hidden in an annex of the factory. The staircase to the annex was concealed behind a moveable bookcase, which still exists. Technically it was the attic of the factory. There were several rooms that they occupied. The heat in summer and cold in winter would have been

very uncomfortable to say the least. Windows were closed and blacked out. They endured this for two years.

Tragically, shortly before the end of the war, the family was discovered and shipped off to concentration camps. Otto Frank was the only survivor. Anne and her older sister Margot died of typhus a few weeks before the camp was liberated. One tragic story among millions.

After the family were taken, one of their friends in the factory gathered up all the scattered papers, including Anne’s diary to keep for their return. Our guide for the tour said it isn’t known whether the Frank family were betrayed or the Nazis were simply lucky in finding them. Either way the outcome was tragic.

Following the Anne Frank tour we hopped on a canal boat tour. Never having been to Amsterdam, I was amazed by how many canals there are. The tour was an hour long and very informative about the history.

We also enjoyed a couple of dinners out with Ellen and Dave. Having a local connection to provide restaurant recommendations is one of the best parts of visiting family in other countries. I can heartily recommend Nancy’s and for something different, In t’Geode Uur for fondue!

After 17 days of travel, we were finally heading over to Malta! That’s a story for another edition.

*About the columnist: Karon Sinning is a proud Paris resident who has a passion for travel and storytelling. Along with her partner Roy and friends, she enjoys exploring countries around the world and experiencing new cultures, food and everyday life beyond the tourist trail. Through her travel column, Karon shares those journeys with Paris Independent readers, offering practical insights, personal reflections and a sense of connection to the people and places she visits.*

# Like an avocado seed, we are born knowing how to heal



## THE GRIEF JOURNEY

By Tammy Adams

I am continuously amazed at the intuitive wisdom of nature; how it innately follows the guidance hidden deep within. It is similar for us humans, as it is for many of life's creation, with one main difference: choice.

Let us consider the wisdom of an avocado seed; its ability to sense the water gently caressing the underside of its shell; to know this is the time to awaken to what is within and begin the birthing process. If the spouted seed continues to have access to water, light, and enough room to grow – it flourishes, acting on its internal blueprint coded into the seed itself.

A similar blueprint for our existence is

stored within our subconscious. However, unlike the plant, we can change our minds. We can review the information stored within, recognize we have a choice, and realize we can create something different.

Our internal blueprint, which affects so much of our life, is typically formed between the ages of 0 and 8. This blueprint is designed by what we hear, see, feel, taste, and experience during those early years. We are not taught to hit the pause button, review our life experiences, and choose an alternative direction to affect a different outcome. Instead, we are taught we have no control over our life path, that our destiny is predetermined, and our life is a victim of fate. As a result, many may live their life feeling trapped, waiting for time to change circumstances of their existence.

Like the avocado seed our life unfolds: Subconsciously, habitually, driven by our past experiences. This blueprint contains emotions of things we wished had been better, different, or more; unrealized hopes, dreams, and expectations; and things we never had the opportunity to say or do. We resist the intuitive healing process and we suppress our emotions; hoping they will just go away.

Unlike the avocado seed – we have a choice.

Grief is the normal and natural reaction to an emotional loss. Grief is also the result of a change when we alter something

that was familiar to us. Without the correct tools to process these emotions we store them in an emotional backpack and learn to function under this additional weight. As these feelings accumulate our bodies desperately try to get our attention, to nudge us to heal. However, as the unknowing victims of fate, we do what we have been taught; we bury the emotions and carry on.

The avocado plant is not bound by emotions or feelings. It is not limited by obstacles. As long as it has water, soil, and sunlight the plant continues to grow. Humans do not seem to have this freedom. Their lives are consistently driven by regret of the past, fear of the future, and their stored memories prevent them from moving forward. Many forget they have a choice.

We can choose to hit the pause button; to take time to discover, for ourselves, the pain we have been carrying. It teaches us the small and correct steps to take in order to heal the wounds of our past, allowing us to step back fully into life.

When you choose to begin to heal your pain, your heart (where you store the resonance of your memories) will present the events and relationships in exactly the correct order for you to heal and ironically, in most cases, you may not begin with the significant loss you initially thought was the issue. There are always surprises and many are shocked at what lies beneath the surface. Even more surprising is what

chooses to present first.

Human beings are intuitive. We have the same innate wisdom the avocado seed possesses. When we were young as a species, void of the technology and distractions of our modern lives, we trusted our inherent wisdom.

The Grief Recovery Method® allows you to clear away the fog. To eliminate the replay button and to move forward through your pain. To find yourself in a place where you are open to receiving the life that is in front of you. To bloom where you are planted. Free of the pain of your past. Trusting and following the process is essential for success.

Imagine living from a place where you are open to growth, plain and simple, like that of the avocado seed. Imagine being able to respond positively, without triggers, to your environmental stimuli by choice. The avocado seed grows where it can, based upon external stimuli. You, however, can flourish no matter where, no matter what the stimuli – all you have to do is choose.

Tammy Adams, offering grief support, in-person or online, Canada-wide. To learn more about the Grief Recovery Method process and how to “let go” of the past book a 20 minute free phone consult with Tammy Adams, Certified Grief Recovery Method Specialist. Learn more at <http://www.tadams.ca>

[www.classiclightfootlive.com](http://www.classiclightfootlive.com)

**CLASSIC LIGHTFOOT LIVE**  
with the Lightfoot String Quartet

Use Code **EARLYBIRD** for **5% OFF** until Feb. 15

proudly presents...

**GORDON LIGHTFOOT**

The Legacy Lives On Tribute Tour

**Sat. March 28, 2026**  
**Paris Community Church**  
164 Grand River St N, Paris, ON  
Doors: 7.00 PM | Show: 7:30 PM



**TICKETS**

[brant.ca/BrantEats](http://brant.ca/BrantEats)

**Brant Eats!**

SUPPORT LOCAL

**Warm up your winter with incredible flavours across the County of Brant!**

Brant Eats is back! From **February 6 to March 29**, discover new favourites, revisit beloved classics, and most importantly—support our local restaurants and the passionate people behind them.

#GoodTimesinBrant

**What to Expect**

- Exclusive winter-themed menus
- Seasonal ingredients and chef-crafted specialties

Scan the QR code to see participating restaurants and dining specials!



COUNTY OF Brant Simply Grand

[brant.ca](http://brant.ca) | [tourism@brant.ca](mailto:tourism@brant.ca) | 519.44BRANT (442.7268) |  

## OBITUARY

## Purvis

**Purvis, Marilyn (nee Todd)**

Peacefully, at home, on Thursday January 29, 2026, a longtime resident of Paris, in her 88th year.

Marilyn was a lifelong member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Paris and a longstanding member of the CWL. She retired from St. Joe's Hospital in Brantford after many years as an RN.

Beloved wife to the late Robert "Bob" (2023); loved mom to Kathryn Woods (Lee), Paula, Debbie and Robert Jr. (Lauren); cherished grandma to David, Cameron, Keenan and Kaelin; Dear sister in law to Larry (the late Marlene) and Mary Holway (the late Deane) and aunt to Nancy and Karen. Predeceased by her parents, Robert and Ada Todd and brothers Bobby and Tom Todd.

Friends may call at the Wm. Kipp Funeral Home, 184 Grand River St. N. Paris on Wednesday February 11, 2026 from 2-4 & 7-9 PM.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Sacred Heart RC Church on Thursday February 12, 2026 at 11:30 AM. Interment Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Donations to Sleeping Children Around the World or St. Vincent de Paul Society would be appreciated.

Online condolences and donations may be arranged through [www.wmkipffuneralhome.com](http://www.wmkipffuneralhome.com) or by contacting Wm. Kipp 519 442 3061.

## OBITUARY

## Labbé

**Rachel Corine (Dupuis) Labbé Born**

January 14, 1947 – Passed November 3, 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Rachel Corine Labbé in her 78th year. She will be lovingly remembered and dearly missed by her devoted husband of 58 years, Michel Labbé, and her daughter Sheila Adams (Brad Adams). Rachel was predeceased by her precious son, Todd Labbé, whose memory she carried tenderly in her heart.

Rachel's greatest joy was her family. She loved her grandchildren unconditionally: Shane (Ally), Tanner (Janie), River (Dylan), Kailey, and Ethan (Tianna). She was a cherished great-grandmother to Sawyer, Zeke, Christina, Zade, Zackery, Zora, and Noah, each of whom brought her immense pride and happiness.

Rachel will also be lovingly remembered by her sisters Jo-Anne, Marlene, and Peggy, and is predeceased by her sisters Linda, Suzie, and Dianne. She will be fondly remembered by many sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Rachel enjoyed her years teaching special needs students at Crossing All Bridges, where she touched many lives with her compassion and dedication. In her retirement, she found great joy providing respite and spending time with Nancy Sayles. An entrepreneur at heart, Rachel started a cleaning business in Brantford, Ontario, where her hard work and vision earned her an Entrepreneur Award.

Family and friends are warmly invited to join us for a Celebration of Life on Saturday, May 30, 2025, at Princeton Centennial Hall, 35 Main Street South, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We will gather to share stories, honor cherished memories, and remember a life that touched us all. Your presence would mean a great deal as we come together in love, reflection, and support.

## WEEKLY Horoscope

February 11 - February 17, 2026

**ARIES**

Mar 21 - Apr 20



Energy builds with intention, Aries. A timely decision refines direction and reveals opportunity. Stay firm—it reinforces confidence and keeps momentum strong.

**TAURUS**

Apr 21 - May 21



Stability feels reassuring, Taurus. Consistent routines ground emotions and ease tension. Lean into comfort—it supports clarity and inner balance.

**GEMINI**

May 22 - Jun 21



Curiosity sparks momentum, Gemini. A meaningful exchange brings insight and renewed enthusiasm. Stay engaged—it encourages growth and progress.

**CANCER**

Jun 22 - Jul 22



Gentle clarity unfolds, Cancer. A quiet moment restores emotional steadiness. Move softly and believe in yourself.

**LEO**

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Presence feels magnetic. Confidence strengthens through bold, authentic action. Step forward—it's time to express yourself fully.

**VIRGO**

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Focus sharpens through intentional organization. Thoughtful attention to details builds confidence, calm, and steady direction. Small efforts add up meaningfully now.

**LIBRA**

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Harmony reappears naturally. An honest conversation shifts perspective and lightens mood. Choose balance—it opens the path ahead.

**SCORPIO**

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Insight deepens quietly, Scorpio. A subtle truth redirects energy with purpose. Trust intuition—it sustains forward movement.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Nov 23 - Dec 21



Possibility calls gently. An inspired idea invites action and optimism. Say yes—it expands your horizon.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Progress remains consistent. Focused effort begins to feel rewarding. Stay disciplined—the structure holds strong.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Innovation guides you, Aquarius. A fresh idea captures attention and sparks meaningful progress. Insight grows as you trust your unique perspective and express it clearly. Follow originality—it creates momentum and leaves a lasting impact.

**PISCES**

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Inner calm strengthens emotional awareness and deepens trust within. Gentle signals surface as you slow down and listen carefully.

## OBITUARY

## Bain

**Bain, Betty Lou (Elizabeth Lucille Whittaker)**

Born October 22, 1932, passed away peacefully on Wednesday February 4, 2026, in her 94th year

Loving wife of the late Richard Bain (1986); loved mother, grandmother, great grandmother and soon to be great great grandmother (baby due this month); sister and aunt. Betty Lou was a loving friend to many.

Cremation has taken place. Private family service will be held at a later date.

Donations to Paris Presbyterian Church or Paris Meals on Wheels would be gratefully accepted and appreciated.

Online Condolences and donations may be arranged through [www.wmkipffuneralhome.com](http://www.wmkipffuneralhome.com) or by contacting Wm. Kipp 519 442 3061.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
AT GRANTHAVEN.COM**

# RIDDLES

I have no pulse, yet I race. I have no voice, yet I speak volumes on Valentine's Day. What am I?

*A love letter*

I'm often given, rarely kept, and sometimes returned. I cost nothing but can mean everything. What am I?

*An apology*

I can make minutes feel endless and years feel brief. I arrive suddenly and leave without warning. What am I?

*Falling in love*

I'm sweet but can sting, silent yet loud, and I usually strike when you least expect it. What am I?

*Cupid's arrow*

I can warm you without heat and hurt you without touch. I'm celebrated on Valentine's Day but feared the rest of the year. What am I?

*Vulnerability*

# Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 19

Sponsored by:



# PET OF THE WEEK

## TOFU & FLURRY

### Meet our Pet of the Week:

Tofu and Flurry wheeled in to see us this week. These 2 housemates have had their share of struggles but with the support of their amazing owners, they are both living their best life! Tofu is a 7 year old terrier mix and Flurry is a 7 month old French bulldog. Both dogs suffered back injuries but are now able to live pain free and are quite happy wheeling around!

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



# WORD SEARCH

## VALENTINE'S DAY

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

- Affection
- Devotion
- Attraction
- Admiration
- Heartstring
- Timeless
- Passionate
- Sweetheart
- Connection
- Passionate
- Cherished
- Togetherness
- Harmony
- Commitment
- Sentiment
- Togetherness
- Heart
- Romance
- Date
- Couples

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

**Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting** - Tuesday, February 10th, 2026 at 10 AM at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. The guest speaker will be Doug Hunt who is a motivational speaker. New members are always welcome.

**Free Public Skate** - Evening public skate at Brant Sports Complex, 6:30–7:30 pm.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**Women Inspiring Women, Women's Institute Monthly Meeting** - Thursday, February 12th, 7-9 PM at the Paris Fairgrounds, Community Room. All About Beach Relief and Safeguarding our Planet with Tenille Maher

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

**Men's Probus Club of Brantford Monthly Meeting** - will be held on Thursday, February 12, 10:00 a.m. till noon, with keynote speaker Adam Shoalts, Writer, Adventurer, Explorer and one of Canada's best-selling authors, elected a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society for "extra contributions to geography". Come join us. Meeting location: Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course, 320 Balmoral Dr.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

**Youth Cooking Class** - Cooking class for ages 11–15 at Burford Community Centre, 6:00–8:00 pm. Fee: \$6.00, registration required.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**FREE Family Day Skates** - Free skating at all community centres from 10:00 am–12:00 pm.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 & 24

**The Brant Men of Song** - will be holding their choir practices on Tuesdays on February 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th at the First Baptist Church 70 West St., Brantford from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. New members are always welcome to attend and enjoy some singing.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**The Hobby Hub: Intro to Flying** - Introductory flying program for teens and adults at Burford Library Branch, 6:30–8:00 pm. Registration required.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**Free Pop-up Youth Centre** - Drop-in youth centre at the County of Brant Library (Paris Branch) from 1:00–2:00 pm, for ages 11–15.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**Free Drop-in Pickleball** - Pickleball at Scotland Community Centre from 12:00–2:00 pm, for ages 18+.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**2026 Kids Adventure Expo** - is coming to Brantford at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St Brantford, beginning at 10 am to 4 pm. A high-energy, hands-on event where kids explore, play, create and discover. Hosted by EduColor Press, a Brantford-based children's media and publishing company. Free admission.

**Free Drop-in Storytime** - Storytime for young children at the County of Brant Library (Paris Branch) from 10:30–11:30 am, for ages 0–6.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**Free Public Skate** - Free public skating at Gaukell Memorial Community Centre from 1:30–2:30 pm.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**Free Parent & Tot Skate** - Parent and child skating at Burford Community Centre from 9:30–11:30 am, for ages 0–6.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting** - The Knights of Columbus will be holding their monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 24th at 7:30 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish hall at 17 Washington Street, Paris

**Free Kinderplay** - Kinderplay at Syl Apps Community Centre from 10:00–11:30 am.

**Free Zumba Gold** - Zumba class for ages 55+ at Sojourn Church (Paris) from 3:00–4:00 pm.

**Free Public Skate** - Evening public skate at Brant Sports Complex from 6:30–7:30 pm. Sponsored by Contact Brant.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**Free Drop-in Dodgeball** - Dodgeball at North Ward School (Paris) from 6:30–7:30 pm, for ages 7–12.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 12

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

## SATURDAY, MARCH 21

**Oxford Philatelic Society OXPEX & OTEX 2026 Stamp Show** - St. Mary's Catholic High School, 431 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, ON, N4V 1E8. 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free admission and parking. Framed and Judged exhibits, Stamp dealers, youth gift bags, Sales Circuit, draw prizes. Contact: [dhfe@silomail.com](mailto:dhfe@silomail.com) Web: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

## SUNDAY, MARCH 22

**Brantford Symphony Orchestra presents Bachamania** - Sunday, March 22 (3pm) at the Sanderson Centre. Join us as we celebrate music of the famous Bach family and say farewell to Maestro Sarabura and Concertmaster Leslie Dawn Knowles, retiring at the end of this season. Pre-concert chat 2:30pm, post-concert reception 5pm. Tickets \$44 or \$49 for adults, \$10 for students with ID, FREE for children and elementary students, available at: [tickets.sandersoncentre.ca](http://tickets.sandersoncentre.ca) or by calling the box office at 519-758-8090 12-5pm Mon-Sat.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 9

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

## 1 & 3 TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

## SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

## EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

**Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree Meeting** - In 2026 it's your fix! Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree meeting every other Friday 1-4 p.m. at Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll. Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! January 16 & 30, February 13 & 27, March 6 & 20, April 10 & 17, May 1, 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

## FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES IN THE INDEPENDENT

CALL 519-757-5662 OR EMAIL [INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM](mailto:INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM)

## MEMORIES AND MILESTONES

*Share them with your local community.*

Let us help create a meaningful announcement: [info@theparisdependent.com](mailto:info@theparisdependent.com)

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## HEATING



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

**519-442-3431**  
[info@wiseheating.ca](mailto:info@wiseheating.ca)

## MECHANIC



**50 Curtis Ave N, Paris**  
**519-442-4422**

**Proudly Serving Paris & Area for the past 40 years**

## RESTAURANT



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

**CALL 519.442.2704**  
27 DUMFRIES ST, PARIS

## SAND & GRAVEL



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

**LOCATED AT 1368 BEKE ROAD**  
CAMBRIDGE, ON N1R 5S5

## DECOR



**SALES DECORATING CENTRE**  
*"MORE THAN JUST A PAINT STORE"*

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

**ACCESS & PARKING AT BACK OF STORE**

## PHARMACY



**COMMUNITY HUB PHARMACY**

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

**DELIVERY AVAILABLE • PARIS' ONLY COMPOUNDING PHARMACY**

## PHARMACY



**NORTHVILLE PHARMACY**

Independently Owned Pharmacy  
Serving Paris & Area Since 1998

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

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

## FUNERAL HOME



**Jason J. Vernooy**

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

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

## RENOVATIONS



**MADACON**  
BATHROOMS • KITCHENS • BASEMENTS

Custom Homes & Fine Renovations  
**ADAM AMATO | OWNER**  
(226) 501-7725  
[ADAM@MADACONBUILD.CA](mailto:ADAM@MADACONBUILD.CA)  
[MADACONBUILD.CA](http://MADACONBUILD.CA)

## HEATING & COOLING



**COMFORT PLUS HEATING AND COOLING**

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

**24 Hour Service**

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

## CUSTOM STONE FABRICATION




**519-442-1400 | 535-B PARIS RD, PARIS**  
[WWW.BGQ.CA](http://WWW.BGQ.CA)

# CLASSIFIEDS

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

## WANTED

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

## QUIZ ANSWERS

- Amethyst
- Oxytocin
- Superbowl XLIX
- Penelope Featherington
- Iftar
- 21 dots
- Chiengora
- The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
- An Army
- Summer's day?

## The Paris Independent

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

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

**EMAIL YOUR STORY IDEAS TO OUR EDITOR**

**CASANDRA TURNBULL AT**  
[STORIES@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM](mailto:STORIES@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM)

## SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



## HOMES OF HEROES:

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



# Dan MUYS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
FLAMBOROUGH-GLANBROOK-BRANT NORTH

## PARIS Mobile Office Hours

My office has hosted these weekly since October to communities around the large geographic riding of Flamborough-Glanbrook-Brant North. We will add more pop-up office locations in March, such as Glen Morris.



**Constituency Office in St. George  
Brant North office since May 2025**  
6 Main St. South, St. George  
519-448-1483

## **WE'RE HERE TO HELP WITH FEDERAL SERVICES:**

- CRA
- Citizenship and immigration
- Passports
- Old Age Security (OAS) and Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Employment Insurance (EI) and Disability Benefits
- Canada Dental Plan
- Veterans Affairs Canada
- Federal Small Business Programs
- Federal Student and Apprentice Loans
- Any issues you may have with other federal departments
- Commissioner of Oaths
- Canada Child Benefit (CCB)
- Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
- Service Canada

## Upcoming Pop-up Office

### Dates in Paris:

At Paris Beer Co.  
31 Mechanic Street (Winsey Mills), downtown Paris

Every Friday – 1:30 to 4:00pm

- Fri. Feb 13th
- Fri. Feb 20th
- Fri. Feb 27th
- Fri. Mar. 6th
- Fri. Mar. 13th
- Fri. Mar. 20th
- Fri. Mar. 27th



## **Dan Muys, MP for Brant North**

519-448-1483  
Office: 6 Main St. S., St. George  
Mail: Box 1100, St. George, ON N0E 1N0  
[dan.muys@parl.gc.ca](mailto:dan.muys@parl.gc.ca) | [DanMuysMP.ca](http://DanMuysMP.ca)

**IN THE COMMUNITY TO SERVE YOU**