

The Paris Independent

Issue #243

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

FREE



Right As Rain
HEALTH COLLECTIVE & STUDIO

Move well.
Feel well.
Stay well.

11 MECHANIC ST UNIT C3, PARIS ON

SCAN FOR WEBSITE



WWW.RIGHTASRAINPARIS.COM

Stacked
PANCAKE & BREAKFAST HOUSE

\$6.99
Breakfast Special

MON - FRI
7 AM - 9 AM
Dine-in Only

1070 Rest Acres Rd Unit 2,
Building- A4, Brant | 519-442-0440

Open Everyday | 7 AM - 3 PM

stackedpancakehouse.ca

Got Real Estate questions?
Free Consultation & Evaluation

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



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)

Students, teachers, community volunteers and environmental partners gathered at Watts Pond Road on May 5 to help bring a student-led ecological restoration project to life through native plantings, pollinator gardens and erosion-control initiatives. Pictured back row, from left: Lesley Bromhall (teacher), Olivia George, Bryce Schmidt, Lauren Savory, Kate Gingerich, Lainey Reynolds, Sophie Sidebottom, Chloe Lewis, Emily White-Deveroux, Tyson Leversage, Owyn Noonan, Myke Czikk, Navroz Rana, Jade Little, Hannah Bishop, Tajay Dosanjh, Kate Edwards (teacher), Rinad Hashem, Lincoln Little, Trent Meyers (County of Brant) and Chris McAnally (GEDSB). Front row: Addison Hyland and Ellie Monrad.

Students Dig into environmental stewardship

Sandra Etherington
Real Estate Broker

Selling Paris, Brant, Oxford County & Brantford Real Estate
519-754-5217
sandra.etherington@century21.ca
You can count on my 35 years of experience in Real Estate sales.

Heritage House Ltd.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A group of students from Paris District High School is proving that youth-led environmental action can create real change in the community.

What began as a classroom assignment through the school board's Eco Action Project has evolved into a county-approved initiative

focused on restoring habitat, supporting pollinators and addressing erosion concerns at Watts Pond in Paris.

Led by a small team of students and supported by teachers, community organizations and County of Brant staff, the project included plans for a native pollinator garden along the trails at Watts Pond, as well as the planting of native shrubs and smaller trees to

create understory habitat and help stabilize the pond's banks.

"The Watts Pond location was chosen because it is a location close to home that could use some help," said Grade 12 student Addison Hyland, who noted the students eventually developed proposals for both a pollinator garden and understory reconstruction after learning their orig-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Christine Garneau Bisailon

for

County of Brant Mayor

Drop-In to Meet Me at My Farm

Wednesday, May 27th • 10:00am-12:00pm & 6:00-8:00pm

400 Johnson Road, Brantford (County)

519-448-4688 • garneauformayor.ca

Students turn classroom eco project into county-backed environmental initiative at Watts Pond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

inal drainage pond location was not county property.

On May 5, members of the Eco Action Team and dozens of student volunteers gathered at Watts Pond Road alongside Trent Meyers Forestry Supervisor from the County of Brant and community organizations including Brant for Nature and Grand Erie Master Gardeners to help bring the students' environmental vision to life through planting and restoration work at the site.

Looking back at how it all started, Paris District High School teacher Lesley Bromhall, said the project began after the school board's Energy and Sustainability Officer asked her to assemble a team of students interested in solving ecological issues. The original group included Grade 12 students Ellie Monrad, Addison Hyland, Aliah Kingswood and Addison Haller, later joined by Grade 10 student Emily White-Deveroux.

The students first attended the Eco Action Project Initiative at the Innovation Hub at North Park School, where they were tasked with identifying an environmental issue and developing a project proposal. Initially, the group hoped to create a stormwater garden near Watts Pond.

Bromhall said it quickly became clear the project meant more to the students than simply completing an assignment.

"At the Hub, while the students were in the first stages of brainstorming, you could tell this was more than a classroom assignment to them — they were passionate, innovative and their enthusiasm was palpable and contagious," she said.

The students wasted little time getting started, organizing a visit to the site the same evening after their first session.

"They took soil samples, videos and were mapping out the area," Bromhall said. "This wasn't just a theoretical project to them, this was a local, relatable problem that they wanted to solve."

The project took another major step forward after students connected with Meyers during a separate tree planting event in Glen Morris. Meyers encouraged the team to develop three formal proposals, a stormwater garden, pollinator gardens along the



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)

Olivia George plants native vegetation along the shoreline at Watts Pond during a student-led environmental stewardship initiative on May 5.

trails and an understory planting project focused on erosion control.

Each proposal was researched and developed by individual students before being presented to county representatives.

Ultimately, the county approved the pollinator garden and understory restoration plans, with hopes the stormwater component could be addressed in the future.

For Grade 12 student Ellie Monrad, the environmental concerns surrounding erosion at the pond became a key focus.

"I focused a lot on the erosion proofing when it comes to the edge of the pond, as there tends to be a lot of erosion in that area because it's constantly almost a swamp-land," Monrad said. "So we're looking to put some native plants into that to help with erosion, and also the understory."

Monrad said the students faced challenges when they learned their original stormwater garden proposal could not move ahead because the land was not owned by the county, but she said community connections ultimately helped move the project forward.

"We realized that was the direct connec-

tion we needed to make our plans happen," she said of meeting Meyers. "That was our biggest step."

She said the experience taught students the value of collaboration and environmental stewardship.

"It brings a lot of people together, I think, as well, the environment," Monrad said. "I really hope the long-term impact on the community will be the green space thriving, having a place to watch birds, and new wildlife and species come back and thrive within the community."

Fellow student Aliah Kingswood described the project's rapid evolution as "very serendipitous," adding that networking and community partnerships played a major role in turning the students' vision into reality.

"I'm excited that we're able to make a difference in our community and I hope it serves its purpose as educating people," Kingswood said. "I hope the next generation, or even next years' classes can do something similar for the good of our community and environment."

Hyland said the project also reinforced

how important environmental action has become for younger generations.

"I think that I have learned how much our environment needs our help," she said. "Without humans combating issues, pollinators will continue to die and it will lead to great environmental and economic strain."

Community organizations also praised the students' commitment and enthusiasm during the May 5 planting event, where volunteers worked alongside members of Grand Erie Master Gardeners and other environmental groups.

"What struck me immediately is that the students clearly WANTED to be there rather than it being forced or required," said Myke Czikk of the Grand Erie Master Gardeners. "Within five minutes of being introduced to some students, a couple asked if I wanted 'to see something cool.' They had found a moth cocoon on a branch and were thrilled at seeing life in the ecosystem."

Czikk said students continued working despite difficult conditions, including thick roots and gravel beneath the soil surface. After planting was completed ahead of schedule, students split into groups to pick up litter and remove invasive garlic mustard plants along the trails.

Lynne Goulet-Smith, coordinator of the Grand Erie Master Gardeners, said projects like the one at Watts Pond help inspire younger generations to understand the importance of protecting natural spaces.

"Hands-on work enables them to learn not only the 'how' but 'why' certain measures or procedures are used in sustainable gardening practices and environmental preservation," she said.

She added the organization hopes to encourage more youth involvement in environmental stewardship and horticulture while raising awareness about the importance of protecting green spaces, pollinators and waterways. Bromhall said the support from community organizations and county staff has been overwhelming.

"This entire process has been inspiring thus far, albeit a whirlwind," she said. "The community and the county have been very supportive of our students. There is an overall sense of hope amongst all involved."



Student volunteers JD Perkins, Lainey Reynolds, Keleigh Roberts-Hill



Addison Hyland (Eco Action Team member)



Volunteers, like Chris McCurdy, students and community partners worked together to support shoreline rehabilitation and habitat enhancement through native species planting initiatives.



Ellie Monrad said she hopes projects like the shoreline restoration effort inspire more young people to get involved in protecting local ecosystems and natural spaces.

Traffic, parking concerns shape film policy review

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

County of Brant councillors have backed updates to the municipality's filming policy following a public review that found most residents support film production but want stronger communication, traffic management and clearer rules in residential areas. The recommendations still require final ratification by council.

A report presented to the county's Policy Development Committee on May 5 recommends enhanced public communication around filming activity and a review of filming parameters in residential neighbourhoods alongside the county's upcoming noise bylaw review.

The current filming policy was adopted in September 2024 after significant filming activity in downtown Paris for the Amazon TV Series *Motorheads* sparked complaints from residents and businesses. The policy introduced "Downtown Filming Zones" in Paris, St. George and Burford, which created stricter notification requirements and "blackout dates" preventing filming during peak tourism periods and major community events.

County staff surveyed residents earlier this year to determine whether the policy was working as intended after filming resumed in Paris, St. George and Middleport throughout 2025.

According to the engagement summary, 79 per cent of respondents said filming was either a positive experience or had no impact on them. Just 21 per cent reported a negative experience.

Among residents who experienced filming near their homes in the last year, more than half described the experience as positive, while fewer than 10 per cent said filming caused significant disruption to their daily lives.

Residents identified neighbourhood excitement, improvements to storefronts and economic benefits to local businesses among the positives associated with

filming. When asked about the biggest benefit of hosting productions, 42 per cent cited spending at local businesses.

Still, the review highlighted several recurring frustrations.

Traffic disruptions, road closures and parking pressures generated the highest number of complaints, particularly involving production vehicles parked in residential areas. Residents also raised concerns about idling vehicles and overnight noise.

The county's review found many residents want clearer communication and more predictable oversight when productions come to town. While 63 per cent of respondents said they received advance notice about filming, nearly one-third said they did not.

Some residents told the county social media notifications were not enough and requested direct flyers or delivered notices, particularly for seniors living close to filming locations.

The report also signals possible future changes tied to the county's upcoming noise bylaw overhaul. Staff noted filming rules currently reflect the existing noise bylaw and may need to change once the municipality adopts a new hybrid enforcement approach for noise complaints.

County staff are also revamping the municipality's film webpage to make it easier for residents to find notices, filming details and production information, while also creating a dedicated portal for film industry applications and inquiries.

The report notes film production remains an important economic driver for the county despite broader industry uncertainty tied to artificial intelligence and potential U.S. tariff pressures on Canadian productions.

Film activity in the County of Brant has stabilized in recent years following disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and Hollywood labour strikes. The county recorded four productions and 21 filming days in both 2024 and 2025. As of this month, one production had filmed in the county in 2026.



PDHS Eco Action Team leaders Aliah Kingswood, Emily White-Deveroux, Addison Hyland, Ellie Monrad in front of the oldest Oak tree in Paris, approximately 300 years old!

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

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

The Paris Independent

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Chris Whelan • editor@theparis-independent.com

Managing Editor

Cassandra Turnbull • managingeditor@theparis-independent.com

Graphic Design

Michelle Foster • paris-independent-news@gmail.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

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

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

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



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



County of Brant reports record-breaking year for development amid growth, construction challenges

County of Brant shares 2025 Economic Development and Tourism Year End Report

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

County of Brant officials say 2025 marked a “record-breaking” year for industrial and commercial development, highlighted by more than \$160 million in permits issued and several major private-sector investments expected to create hundreds of jobs across the municipality.

The County recently released its 2025 Economic Development and Tourism Year End Report, outlining growth trends, infrastructure planning, tourism initiatives and mitigation efforts tied to the Downtown Dig construction project in Paris.

In follow-up comments to *The Paris Independent*, Zach Gable, director of economic development and tourism, said the record-setting year was driven largely by industrial and commercial building activity.

“The record-breaking year is mostly defined by the value of Industrial and Commercial building permits that were issued in 2025,” said Gable. “Since 2017, building permits issued, Industrial and Commercial permits ranged from \$16,199,000 in 2017 to the previous high of \$60,116,000 in 2022.”

According to the report, industrial development permits totalled \$150.2 million in 2025, up sharply from \$16.8 million in 2024. Commercial permits also increased to more than \$10.3 million.

Major projects included Amazon’s planned 200,000-square-foot last-mile delivery station near Rest Acres Road and Highway 403, as well as the relocation of 1200 Degrees Ontario to Burford.

Gable said several large investments announced in 2025, including Amazon,

Tigercat and 1200 Degrees Ontario, are expected to create approximately 400 jobs as projects move through various construction stages. The report also highlights Tigercat Industries’ continued expansion in Paris, including completion of a new 275,000-square-foot facility at 141 Consolidated Dr. Manufacturing remained the County’s largest employment sector in 2025 with 3,851 jobs, a 16 per cent increase from 2021.

While the report points to strong growth in sectors such as transportation and warehousing, health care and professional services, it also notes declines in the number of agriculture and manufacturing businesses. Gable said those declines reflect broader economic trends rather than a shrinking labour market.

“While the number of businesses in these sectors were shown to decrease, the number of jobs in manufacturing has seen steady growth from 2021 to 2025,” he said, noting the data from this report is collected from both Statistics Canada’s Canada Business Count and Lightcast analysis. “The County is fortunate to have local successes like Tigercat expanding.”

He added the County is focusing on the Cainsville Premier Employment Hub Comprehensive Land Use Strategy to encourage advanced manufacturing growth.

Agriculture also remains a major priority, with the County preparing to launch its Rural Prosperity Community Improvement Plan aimed at helping farm businesses diversify revenue streams and remain viable long term.

The report also devotes significant attention to the Downtown Dig reconstruction project in downtown Paris, which began in spring 2025 and is expected to continue

over four years.

County staff, working alongside the Downtown Paris BIA, launched promotional campaigns, visitor ambassador programs and special events to help offset disruptions caused by construction.

Still, Gable acknowledged some businesses experienced significant impacts.

“Reported impacts varied widely,” he said. “Some businesses indicated no measurable change, while others reported declines of up to 50%, with most falling in the 10 to 25% range during construction.”

The County said feedback from businesses resulted in changes to communications and support efforts.

“Feedback also identified areas for improvement, including earlier and more proactive communication, more tailored business support (i.e. workshops) and professional development opportunities, and continued attention to signage, pedestrian access, and coordination during construction phases,” Gable said.

In response, the County increased outreach to businesses and surrounding neighbourhoods while adding additional local signage and coordination with utility partners, he added.

Despite the disruption, the County reported seven new businesses opened in downtown Paris during 2025.

The report also highlights a major increase in Community Improvement Plan (CIP) activity. Nineteen projects were approved in 2025, with \$257,180 in grants leveraging nearly \$1.4 million in property improvements. Gable said the County measures success both through immediate private-sector investment and longer-term assessment growth.

“In the short term, the County of Brant

tracks the leveraged grant dollars to make improvements to properties,” he said. “In the longer term, The County of Brant will track the assessment growth of the properties that have had CIP projects through MPAC assessments.”

He added the County has also seen a longer-term decline in downtown vacancy rates. Not all applications were approved. Gable said one application was withdrawn by the applicant, one was deemed ineligible and another was deferred.

The report further points to continued population growth pressures. The County’s population is projected to increase from nearly 46,000 residents in 2025 to more than 51,000 by 2035. Gable said infrastructure remains one of the largest challenges tied to future economic growth.

“Ensuring the appropriate infrastructure is in place continues to be an area of focus for the County in order to ensure there is both adequate road infrastructure and services to facilitate business development,” he said. Among the major projects identified are wastewater servicing expansions in Cainsville and along Paris Road, as well as long-term improvements around the Highway 403 and Rest Acres Road interchange to support employment lands development.

The report also highlights tourism and cultural initiatives, including 36 special events attracting an estimated 128,000 attendees, Culture Days programming that ranked the County seventh nationally among small municipalities, and continued promotion of local businesses through the Locale tourism guide and Brant Eats campaign.

The full report is available through the County of Brant’s economic development website at www.brant.ca/Invest.

County of Brant launches Rural Prosperity Community Improvement Plan

MEDIA RELEASE

The County of Brant is pleased to announce the launch of the Rural Prosperity Community Improvement Plan (RPCIP), a new program designed to support farms, rural tourism operators, and property owners across the County’s hamlets.

Approved by Council in April, the RPCIP provides financial incentives to encourage investment, improve properties, and strengthen the local rural economy.

“The Rural Prosperity Community Improvement Plan is an important step in supporting the sustainability of our rural communities,” said Mayor David Bailey. “By helping to offset costs for improvements, we are investing in our farms, businesses, and rural areas in the County for years to

come.”

Building on the success of the County’s Community Improvement Plan (CIP) program, the RPCIP applies to rural areas outside of the urban boundaries of Paris, St. George, and Burford, offering a range of grant programs to support eligible projects.

At its core, the RPCIP is designed to reduce the cost of improving buildings, upgrading signage, repurposing existing structures, and completing planning or building approvals.

Available grant programs include:

- Façade Improvement Grant
- Signage Improvement Grant
- Property and Private Parking Area Improvement Grant
- Application Fee Grant
- Adaptive Commercial Reuse Grant

- Housing/Residential Unit Improvement Grant

These programs aim to support farm viability, enhance tourism experiences, improve housing options, and encourage the reuse of existing buildings rather than new development.

Who is eligible

- Eligible applicants may include:
- Farms with on-farm diversified uses or additional residential units
- Rural tourism businesses
- Commercial, institutional, or mixed-use properties in hamlets and villages

Eligibility requirements vary by program, and all projects must meet County policies and receive approval before work begins.

Interested applicants are asked to contact County staff before submitting an application to confirm eligibility and discuss project details. Funding is limited and subject to Council approval.

“The RPCIP reflects what we heard from our rural community,” said Zach Gable, Director of Economic Development and Tourism. “There is strong interest in practical improvements that support local businesses, agriculture, and tourism while maintaining the character of rural Brant.”

To learn more about the Rural Prosperity Community Improvement Plan, including eligibility and how to apply, visit: www.brant.ca/RPCIP

For questions, please contact the County of Brant Economic Development team at invest@brant.ca or call 519-442-7268.

OPINION

Parents, not politicians, hold the key to social media safety

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Paris Independent Columnist

I had a conversation with my grandson, a second-year university student, about his views on countries considering bans on social media for young people and his experience in high school. I was shocked by his answer, given that there were negative mental health issues, bullying, shaming, and much more! If he had his say on the issue, he would definitely support a ban for younger audiences.

Why do people support such a ban? Mental health is definitely a concern, as social media use is linked to anxiety, depression, and self-esteem in younger teens. Most apps are designed to keep younger users, who haven't developed the skills to resist the impulse to keep scrolling, engaged with endless notifications and likes. More importantly, the exposure to "harmful content", such as violence, misinformation, and unhealthy behaviors. Sleep and academic performance: late-night scrolling can steal the amount of sleep a young person needs and their focus during school and other activities.

So, who would oppose a ban on social media? App developers and younger people who use it to communicate with friends and communities, such as clubs and sports groups. There's no doubt that many use social media to maintain friendships and interests, and to express themselves creatively. Young adults might be included here, being digitally literate about using technology responsibly across all their social media use. Enforcing proper use of social media can be difficult, as teens can bypass restrictions by creating fake accounts and using VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) that disguise their locations on the internet. Many feel that a ban infringes on an individual's rights, but, in turn, parents must treat social media as inevitable and accept it as a parent's responsibility to monitor a new, young user of social media.

Rather than banning social media for teens and below, an alternative would be to have age restrictions and verification systems. Placing screen time limits on their devices. Governments might legislate App providers to reduce addictive features, improve user moderation, and increase transparency about the algorithms that produce feeds of content a user is interested in.

Parents should make it their responsibility to have open conversations about social media, monitor their children's use of it, and either set limits arbitrarily or agree on them. Once, parents wanted to know who their children were hanging out with; now, parents have to be concerned about their children's relationship with the World Wide Web.

In Australia, the federal government found that cases of teen anxiety and depression were rising, and they were concerned about the addictive and harmful content in Apps. In 2024, their solution was to ban Social Media for children under 16. Whether this ban will be effective is too early to tell, but one has to question if it will work! In Europe, there are no bans on use, but rather restricted advertising aimed at minors. In Canada and Ontario, schools have units on the use of social media.

Research has shown that children under 13 are the most vulnerable age group to the negative effects of social media: cyberbullying, self-esteem issues, and vulnerability to addictive app designs. Children aged 13-15 years old are vulnerable to mental health issues, peer approval, and anxiety, especially in girls. Ages 15-16 are considered a time when teens may be better critical thinkers, less dependent on peer validation, and more responsible with social media. Ultimately, it's the parents' responsibility to monitor their children's use and its effects.

So will government bans work? About as well as the drinking age limits work. So if government bans don't work 100%, so what's the solution? The best way to introduce social media to children is for parents to get involved! For younger new users, start with a training session together to create accounts appropriate for the child's age. Parents should have access to their accounts and set all profiles to "private only". Start with only one App. Set upfront boundaries, such as no devices in their bedroom at night, to avoid losing important sleep. Mutually set a daily time limit, say once a day, that can be extended. Most importantly, understand that personal information, such as the school they attend, should not be posted. We should be aware of how predators can take advantage of children, and, for that matter, people of any age. Weekly check-ins with your child, asking if there was something they saw that bothered them on social media. Teach them to think about what they see, such as why a post received so many likes or whether it was real or created with artificial intelligence.

As time goes on, communication and confidence in young users gradually give them independence with social media, encourage them to discuss what they are seeing, and prompt them to check for early warning signs of mood swings or obsessions with likes or followers on their apps.

There are plenty of strategies a parent can use, such as contracts outlining what is allowed. Still, the most important thing a parent can do is to communicate with the young person, monitor their use, and discuss how social media is affecting them.

Letters to the Editor

Small Acts, Big Impact: Resident Thanks Anonymous Litter Cleanup Volunteer

Dear Editor:

I was heading out this morning to do a trash pick up on Mile Hill and it looks like someone beat me to it. A huge thank you to whoever you are and thank you for car-

ing about our community. Litter is still an issue, but it is awesome to see that there are people who care and want to help.

Ute Schram, Paris Ont

Local expertise worth the investment, says Oakley

Dear Editor:

This week at council, we approved a master plan document on the future of our parks facilities. This 312 page document was the product of our own in-house team of staff, with thousands of staff hours (many of those hours overtime and weekends) going into making this master plan. During our committee meeting, much (well-deserved) praise was leveled at staff for the quality of this report, and how important it is that we have tailored plans and studies, not done by external contractors, but local staff.

This is a sentiment I also often see online, though typically in the negative, with constituents often concerned by projects, master plans, and works done by external contractors on how well they "actually know what it is like for residents of the County". Members of council and the public also often highlight the amount of time and money it costs to have these projects done by contractors. I wholeheartedly agree that our own team is often better equipped in terms of local knowledge, interest, and personal stake in the community (staff are most often County residents as well); but I felt it important during that meeting and through this article to highlight a dichotomy in how we often talk about staff resourcing.

It is, as I've highlighted a populist idea, that locals should motivate the decision making and planning in our government; yet I also hear every year from both members of council and the public that we should freeze hiring, or wages, or even reduce the size of our staffing complement. These two things are fundamentally incompatible. We cannot ask for more work to be done at the local level, to ensure that

local touch, while also deliberately hamstringing the municipality by resource starving it. Shrinking the public service is a concept from the Chretien era that history has now shown us has broadly reduced the effectiveness of public services and caused drastic cost increases through bloated consultant fees.

While there are times where external expertise is needed, or expertise is simply not warranted to have in house, I would say that we could save a lot of time, money, and energy by fleshing out both our staff complement and the equipment they have on hand. There is a certain baseload of work that we as a municipality needs done every year, whether that is planning future facilities or basic reconstructive roadwork that we currently still shop out. As I mentioned in a recent interview with the Paris Independent about my choice not to run in the next election, I have yet to see an example of us investing in equipment or staff that has not resulted in a faster, better, and cheaper end product.

So, I would encourage the public during future municipal budgets to look beyond the immediate sticker shock when a budget package says that X employee will cost Y dollars. Instead, consider how those dollars will save us money in the future – whether that's by being able to do road reconstruction in house, or produce a master plan for the next major parks project in-house, or simply paint a new crosswalk without waiting for a contractor. I would also encourage you to ask your councillors (both current and aspiring given this year's election) to approach these concepts the same way.

Lucas Oakley / Ward 2 Councillor Paris

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR BY EMAILING THEM TO

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

1200 Degrees Ontario celebrates Burford grand opening

CHRIS ABBOTT

Grant Haven Media

1200 Degrees Ontario celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting at 356 Bishopsgate Road, Burford on Thursday, May 7.

The new, 18,000 square foot purpose-built facility, representing a \$6 million investment in Brant County, was on display during the two-day grand opening.

"Thank you for investing in the County of Brant, good luck and success, and keep up the good work," said County of Brant Mayor David Bailey, who attended the Thursday afternoon's ceremony with members of Brant County Council.

"There is no question about it, it is \$6 million invested into Brant County - it was the right decision," said 1200 Degrees Ontario co-owner Jeffrey Climie. "On behalf of 1200 Degrees, all of our vendors and the first responders who are here to support, thank you very much for coming out and helping welcome us to Brant County."

"I'm impressed when someone can build a building that exactly suits them," said Bailey after the ribbon cutting. "They had a building in Ayr that was working, but it wasn't quite big enough. They couldn't test the height on these machines (indoors). Here, they built it as high as they needed to. They said the build itself is very basic, it's just like a big warehouse, but it does have all the room they need to try all the hydraulics, and testing all the machines, all the fire trucks, can be done inside where they should be done."

Bailey noted access to highways is perfect at the Bishopsgate Road location,

zoned for commercial/warehousing.

"It's not invasive... because we had a building very much like it, next door to it. They've been there for years and we've had no trouble with them, so the natural extension is to come down this road, and I am sure that you will see more big builds coming into this area of Burford.

"A year ago today, this was a corn field, and I think that's amazing that they got it done so quickly. This is a lot of cement, this is a lot of stuff that needs time to cure, but they did it. So their timing from beginning must have been perfect because now we're here and it's finished.

"We're happy to have them," Bailey concluded.

"I came here today to support them and to see if they've got anything else here new that might be interesting for us to look at," said County of Brant Fire Chief Darren Watson, who attended the 1200 Degrees trade show and ribbon cutting.

Brant County has a purchasing policy for its eight-station Brant Fire and Rescue, which includes Station 1 in Paris and Station 3 in Burford. A new North Paris Fire Station (Station 9) is coming to Ann Wilson Way in the spring of 2027.

"Just recently they (1200 Degrees Ontario) won a tender from us for auto extraction equipment," said Watson, noting the auto extraction equipment is on order, expected this month. "It went through the bid process... and it was actually so close, one of the closest I've seen."

Watson said having 1200 Degrees Ontario in Burford is both good for the local economy and good for neighbouring departments.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)

County of Brant Mayor David Bailey cuts a ceremonial ribbon at 1200 Degrees Ontario's grand opening on May 7 with representatives from County of Brant Council and 1200 Degrees Ontario.

The dealership's move from Ayr to the new Burford building happened in December 2025.

"We had 12,000 square feet in Ayr, but it was a very inefficient 12,000 square feet because as the company grew, we expanded throughout the strip mall area we were part of," said Climie. "Here, it's 18,000 square feet, but it's fully custom-designed by us, for us. An example, there's no beams in the shop, so we can swing aerials around. The bay doors are a little bit taller and wider to get fire trucks inside. Little things, like that, that make this work for us."

1200 Degrees Ontario already has a proposal to expand, giving them an option of future growth.

Currently the company has three dealerships - one in Ontario, which started in 1993, and two in the Trois-Rivieres, Quebec area (1979 equipment and 1991 trucks). The aerial fire trucks are manufactured by a Florida company.

"The reason that there is three is we have our equipment division and our truck division separate in Quebec," said Climie. "Here in Ontario we're all in one building, we're all one big team."

"1200 degrees is the hottest fire can get at ambient temperature... we always say

1200 degrees is a good representation for our company because it's also the passion that we have, it's the hottest that you can get."

ABOUT 1200 DEGREES ONTARIO

1200 Degrees is a leader in the field of sales, maintenance and repair of fire trucks and equipment for Quebec, Ontario and the Atlantic Provinces. 1200 Degrees Ontario supports municipal and industrial fire services across Ontario with specialized fire apparatus sales, preventative maintenance, emergency repairs, refurbishments, and technical support, along with a full range of frontline emergency response equipment.

The new, larger facility in Burford is expected to improve customer response times, increase service capacity, and enhance customer support.



1200 Degrees Ontario held a trade show during its two-day grand opening, May 7-8, in Burford, which included an auto extrication demonstration Thursday evening.



WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM/PARIS-INDEPENDENT

**THIS
COULD BE YOUR
AD HERE!**

**CONTACT
US FOR
MORE
INFO!**

MADACON
BATHROOMS • KITCHENS • BASEMENTS

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

BATIC

MAY 23
10AM-4PM

PARIS

BANFIELD ART CRAWL

ALL SALES GO DIRECTLY TO THE ARTISTS
Rain or shine | No entry fee

banfieldartcrawl.ca

A one-day event to showcase over 40 artists and makers in the Banfield Neighbourhood in Paris! (the area just behind the Willett Hospital).

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: This is how Paris celebrated Victoria Day in 1935



By Chris Whelan

The year was 1935, and Paris, a hereditary sport town, was bustling with activity on Victoria Day. It was a stay-at-home holiday for the locals, but that didn't stop them from engaging in a wide range of outdoor sports and recreational activities. The weather was glorious, adding to the festive atmosphere that filled the air.

From golfing to bowling, tennis to baseball, football to fishing, and even fireworks, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Parisians had always been passionate about sports, with a sporting spirit deeply ingrained in the town's culture for over three-quarters of a century. In the earlier days, Paris boasted its own cricket grounds down in the flats and was renowned as a center for cricket. Horse racing, curling, and foot racing were also popular games that attracted visitors from far and wide.

The year 1935 marked the introduction of British rugby to Paris. Experts claimed that this form of rugby was markedly different from and superior to the soccer usually played in the town. Two out-of-town teams, Brantford and an Irish team from Toronto, showcased their skills in an exhibition match, captivating the spectators with the thrilling game.

Golfers kicked off the summer season



(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTOS)

with a tournament, while the lawn bowlers and the Presbyterian Tennis Club also organized their respective opening events. The new tennis grounds of St. Paul's United Church were particularly praised for their excellent condition. The various clubs reported an increase in membership, indicating that Paris was determined to maintain its prominent position in the sporting world despite the emergence of new competitors.

The Paris Lawn Bowling Club saw over 60 members participate in the opening day competition. The green was in excellent condition, and President Haire expressed optimism about the club's successful season ahead. The club also paid tribute to the late member John Inksater, while extending warm wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Sinclair on their sixtieth wedding anniversary.

Tennis enthusiasts gathered at the Presbyterian Tennis Club for a grand opening event, featuring a mixed double contest. The tournament showcased some exciting matches, with George Hunter and M. Gil-

lies emerging as the winners. Croquet was also played on the lawn during breaks between matches, adding to the fun and camaraderie.

The Paris Golf and Country Club celebrated a successful 24th of May, with the fairways and greens in exceptional condition. The men's sweepstakes and a mixed two-ball foursome tournament were held, engaging numerous players. Norman Eby and R. T. Hall emerged as winners in the sweepstakes, while Russell Sandercock and Mrs. Mary S. Apps triumphed in the mixed two-ball foursome.

Baseball fans witnessed a thrilling game between Paris and Waterloo. Despite a valiant effort, Paris succumbed to Waterloo's superb pitching by Moyer, who claimed an impressive 23 strikeouts. The Waterloo team showcased their batting power, securing a victory with a score of 15 to 7. Bill England stood out as Paris's leading hitter, while the Waterloo team proved to be a formidable group.

In addition to the sports events, Parisians

enjoyed a variety of other activities on Victoria Day. The town's emblematic Lions' float, representing the five principles of Lionism, made an appearance at the parade in Brantford. The Paris Prayer Circle held a picnic at Camp Thayendanegea, becoming the first organization of the season to enjoy the grounds for recreation and religious exercises.

Other highlights of the day included the Court of Revision to hear appeals against the assessment of the Municipality of Paris, a successful jitney dance at the Paris Arena featuring Tommy Mac's orchestra, and the vibrant display of fireworks that lasted well into the night. Plans were also underway for a garden party to be organized by the Paris Branch of the Canadian Legion later in June, an event eagerly anticipated by the townspeople.

Thus, in 1935, Paris, Ontario, celebrated Victoria Day in true sporting fashion, showcasing its passion for outdoor activities and its unwavering spirit of camaraderie and community engagement.

Circus in Paris On Victoria Day

PARIS — For the first time in more than 35 years, a three-ring circus is coming to town.

Under the sponsorship of the Paris Athletic Association, Dale Brothers' Circus will stage the "big top" performance in the municipal park on Wednesday, May 24.

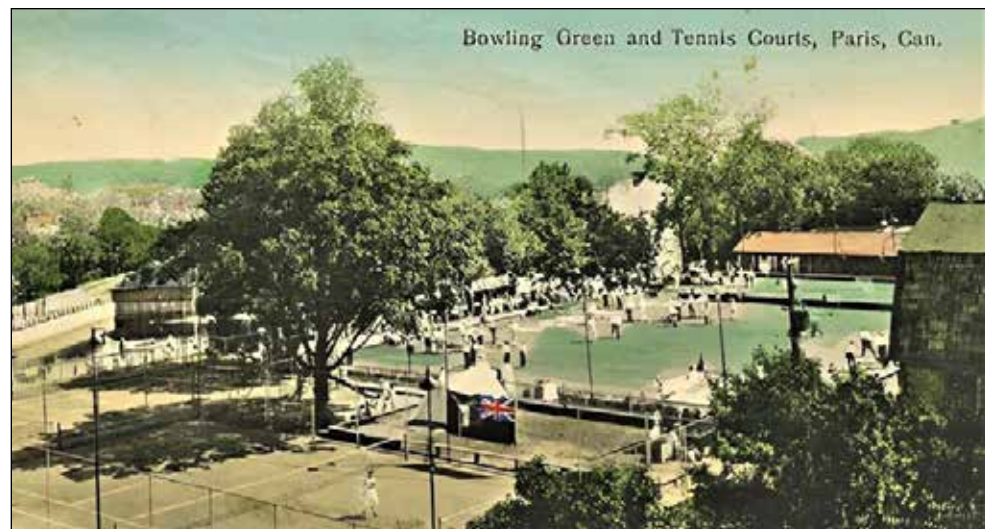
The association will receive 50 per cent of revenue from advance sales, and 10 per cent of the "take" at the gate.

Horse Races Victoria Day

PARIS — The annual Victoria Day harness races will get under way at 1:30 p.m. May 24 at Paris fairgrounds.

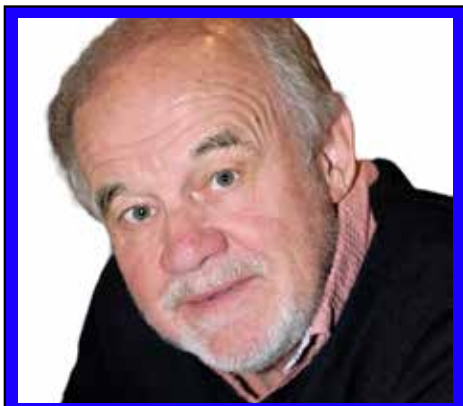
Wagering privileges will be available for the eight races which involve 64 horses.

The event is expected to continue until 4:30 p.m.



Bowling Green and Tennis Courts, Paris, Can.

LIVING RETIRED: ‘Seeing Straight’



By Gary Chalk
Non-Pulitzer Prize
Winning Columnist

Living Retired

fuzzy, way out of focus. I checked my glasses, they were clean. I rubbed my eyes and put the glasses back on. No difference. It was like I had suffered, oh no, a stroke! I quickly called Jan...

“Hi. You have reached my voicemail. Please leave a message.”

“Hi Jan, when you get this message, please call me RIGHT AWAY!”

I looked back in the bathroom mirror. Everything was still blurred! I cleaned the glasses and looked again. No difference. OMG! Was it a stroke?!

I recalled from my healthcare background the five symptoms of a stroke: sudden trouble seeing out of one or both eyes; sudden numbness on one side of the body; sudden confusion or difficulty speaking; sudden dizziness or loss of bal-

ance; and sudden severe headache.

Right off the bat I knew I had blurred vision in both my eyes. Yikes!

My iPhone rang. It was Jan. “Gary, is something wrong? I would have called you sooner, but I have a headache, it came on suddenly.”

OMG!!! “Jan, did you suddenly become dizzy too? TELL ME!”

“Gary, no I am not dizzy. What is with you? Why are you shouting at me? Are you confused?”

OMG!!! My vision is blurred; now Jan — who I trust — thinks I am confused. Two symptoms of a stroke!

Silence...

“Gary, you aren’t speaking to me.”

OMG!! My eyesight is blurred. Jan thinks I am having trouble speaking. AND she has a headache. What are the chances the both of us having a stroke?

“Jan. Where are you? I’ll send help right away.”

“Gary, what are you nattering about? I am sitting in the waiting room at the dentist’s office reading a magazine. Calm down.”

Experts say when it comes to a stroke time is important. I swung into action!

“Jan, listen to me. Don’t stand up from your chair. Instead, remain seated and flail both your arms to get the attention of the receptionist. Or, are your arms numb? Can you raise them overtop your head?”

“Gary, WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU? Both my arms are fine.”

“Okay, if your arms are fine that’s a good sign. How about your face? Is it drooping? One last question Dear, how is your vision?”

Jan’s answer scared the daylight out of me. I am sure my heart skipped beat! “Gary, I slipped my glasses on, and the magazine looks fuzzy.”

OMG! Both Jan and I ARE having a stroke!

“Jan, I don’t know how to tell you this, but I think we are both having a stroke!”

Silence. Then it happened. Jan laughed. WHAT!!! I tell her we are having a stroke and all she can do is laugh?

“Gary. The magazine looks blurred because I realized that I have your glasses. I left mine on the bathroom vanity.

Silence...

I checked. I was wearing Jans glasses.

By noon hour, Jan had returned home. We are seeing eye to eye again.

County of Brant unveils 10-year strategy to grow and protect community forest

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant is looking to expand and better protect its tree canopy through a new 10-year Community Forest Strategy aimed at balancing growth, climate resilience and long-term environmental sustainability.

The strategy was presented to the county’s policy development committee May 5, where it was received for information and supported by councillors without discussion. Final approval still requires ratification by council.

Prepared by Dougan Ecology, Dendron Forestry Services and S. Nitoslawski, the strategy outlines a long-term roadmap for managing trees and forests across both public and private lands, including parks, roadsides, cemeteries, trails and woodlots.

According to the report, the county’s current overall tree canopy cover is estimated at 24.7 per cent, with a long-term target of increasing canopy cover on county-owned lands to at least 30 per cent by 2050.

The strategy aligns with targets already established in the County of Brant’s Climate Action Plan, which calls for planting 55,000 trees by 2035 and 110,000 trees by 2045.

“The Community Forest Strategy provides a comprehensive, long-term framework to guide the protection, management, and expansion of the County of Brant’s Community Forest over the next ten (10) years,” forestry supervisor Trent Meyers wrote in his report to committee.

The strategy notes the county’s “community forest” extends well beyond wooded areas and includes all trees located throughout the municipality’s urban and rural landscape. Currently, the county manages more than 87 hectares of woodlots, over 55 parks, nine forest tracts and roughly 300 kilometres of recreational trails.

The document also emphasizes the role trees play as “critical green infrastructure” supporting biodiversity,

reducing urban heat island effects, improving air quality, managing stormwater runoff and contributing to residents’ physical and mental well-being.

Public engagement formed a significant part of the strategy’s development. A county survey conducted in spring 2025 gathered 192 responses and found strong public support for expanding and protecting tree cover.

Among survey respondents:

- 87 per cent agreed with the strategy’s goals
- 82 per cent expressed interest in stewardship activities
- 73 per cent said tree canopy coverage is lacking, particularly in new subdivisions and
- 48 per cent disagreed that the county does enough to protect trees.

Residents identified protecting existing natural areas, planting more urban street trees, stronger enforcement during development and increased public education as top priorities.

The strategy focuses on five main priorities over the next decade, including planning for future growth of the community forest, protecting trees on both public and private lands, improving long-term tree health and safety, building stronger partnerships and community collaboration, and supporting recreation and other initiatives connected to green spaces and natural areas.

A major focus of the strategy is shifting the county from a largely reactive forestry model, responding to hazards and emergency removals, toward preventative maintenance and long-term planning.

The strategy states emergency tree removals and deferred maintenance are among the most expensive outcomes for municipalities and notes preventative pruning programs are more cost effective over time.

County staff currently include one forestry supervisor and one arborist added in 2025. The strategy notes about

3,500 of an estimated 20,000 trees have been inventoried to date.

Short-term priorities include completing a GIS-based tree inventory in settlement areas, expanding preventative maintenance programs, updating planting lists with native and climate-adaptive species, and assessing additional plantable areas across the county.

Longer-term initiatives include developing a Woodland Strategy, launching a heritage tree protection program, pursuing Tree Cities of the World recognition and exploring regenerative agriculture initiatives such as silvopasture.

The strategy also recognizes the need for continued Indigenous engagement. Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation participated in consultation efforts and requested ongoing involvement as projects move forward.

Staff say implementation of the strategy will be phased over short-, medium- and long-term timelines and aligned with future council-approved budgets and available staffing resources.



SMALL TOWN SPEECH
PARIS, ONTARIO

COLLEEN WOOD M.C.I.Sc.
Speech-Language Pathologist,
CASLPO reg 7180

519-757-5221

Info.smalltownspeech@gmail.com

www.smalltownspeech.ca

Autism • Speech Sounds • Late Talkers • Vocabulary • AAC

New Italian eatery brings more flavour to downtown Paris

RUBY JONES

Paris Independent Cultural Correspondent

The grand opening of Il Posto Giusto Ristorante last Monday marked the latest addition to a wave of new businesses helping reshape downtown Paris this year. Located beside the Arlington Hotel's River's Edge event space, the family-owned and operated restaurant features an authentic Italian menu inspired by classic recipes and traditional cuisine.

The opening of Il Posto Giusto follows several other recent business launches in the downtown core, including Oui Three Girls, Modella Ladieswear, Duey's Ice Cream and Paris Without Crepes? at The Paris Wincey Mills Co., reflecting continued investment and momentum in the community's downtown business scene.

Il Posto Giusto Ristorante is owned by the Rivero family, Lisa and Riccardo Rivero and their four children Ricky (and general manager), Alessandro, Victoria and Bella. It is a family affair and they also have a team of staff supporting the operations.

The restaurant space is small but airy and bright, there's even a little patio with several tables overlooking the Grand River, giving it the perfect ambience. The menu has a range of authentic Italian dishes, offering something for pasta lovers, pizza enthusiasts, antipasto fans and more. You can dine in, order take out, or even grab some

convenient make at home dishes from a refrigerator stocked with meals you can take home for those nights on the go.

Make sure you leave room for dessert; there is a huge dessert menu to choose from because the space is not only a restaurant but also features a scrumptious Italian bakery. "Our bakery was inspired by our late Nonno Peter. He immigrated from Cosenza, Italy to Hamilton in 1965. Nonno Peter had a love for baking and turned it into a career for himself, opening up his own bakery and becoming well known for his amazing cannoli," said the Rivero family.

The grand opening event on May 4 was attended by a number of dignitaries, representatives from the Brant business community and invited guests, including Mayor David Bailey and County of Brant Chamber of Commerce members. Councillor for Ward 2, Steve Howes, put it succinctly, in a Facebook post later that day: "More delicious reasons to visit Downtown Paris!"

Il Posto Giusto, means "The Right Place" and the Rivero family have created a place that's full of warmth, generosity, and flavour. Go check it out, meet the family and try it for yourself! Il Posto Giusto Ristorante is open Fridays and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday to Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. You can make a reservation online or drop in and try your luck. Good luck to Rivero family and welcome to downtown Paris!



Il Posto Giusto Ristorante opened on Monday, May 4 in downtown Paris, located at 91 Grand River St N.



(MAYOR DAVID BAILEY PHOTO)

Cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of Il Posto Giusto, left to right, Paris Ward 2 Councillor Steve Howes, Riccardo Rivero, Ricky Rivero, Lisa Rivero, Alessandro Rivero, Mayor David Bailey, Victoria Rivero, Susan Morton (Chamber of Commerce) and Bella Rivero.



**BRANTFORD
LANDSCAPING
& SODDING INC.**

**Fertilizer,
Grass Seed**

NO. 1 NURSERY SOD

**CUT
FRESH
DAILY**

FOR PICKUP OR DELIVERY

Triple Mix
and mulch
for pickup or
delivery

CALL 519-753-2581

www.brantfordsod.ca

REGULAR HOURS:
Monday - Friday:
8am-6pm
Saturday: 8am-2pm

VICTORIA DAY HOURS:
Saturday 8am-2pm
Sunday 9am-12pm
Victoria Day 9am-12pm

HIGHWAY #24
GOVERNORS ROAD HWY. 99
WILSON AVENUE



Brantford-Brant unemployment rate falls to 5.7 per cent as employment rises in April

MEDIA RELEASE

Employment in the Brantford-Brant region increased by 1,200 people in April, helping drive the local unemployment rate down to 5.7 per cent, according to the latest labour force data released by Statistics Canada.

The seasonally adjusted figures show the local unemployment rate dropped by 0.6 percentage points from the previous month, while labour force participation in the region continued to rise. By comparison, Ontario's unemployment rate edged down slightly to 7.5 per cent, while the national unemployment rate climbed 0.2

percentage points to 6.9 per cent.

The unemployment rate increased in several neighbouring communities, including Hamilton, Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo and Guelph. In St. Catharines-Niagara, however, the rate declined.

According to the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie, employment gains in the Brantford area were concentrated in the service-producing sector. The largest increases were reported in sales and service occupations, as well as education, community and government services.

Employment growth was strongest among core working-aged adults between the ages of 25 and 54.

The Workforce Planning Board also reported continued hiring activity across the region. Its Grand Erie Jobs board recorded more than 2,000 new job postings in April.

The average length of time job postings remained active declined slightly during the month, suggesting employers are filling positions more quickly than in previous months.

The five most in-demand occupations in April were retail salespersons, material handlers, transport truck drivers, store shelf stockers and personal support workers.

The Workforce Planning Board has also launched a new project aimed at supporting career development for youth and other

workforce entrants by improving awareness of available education, training and employment supports.

As part of the initiative, interviews are being scheduled with community organizations and stakeholders that support youth employment and training.

Industry representatives and business associations are being encouraged to contact the Workforce Planning Board for more information about participating in the project. The Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie is one of 25 non-profit organizations across Ontario involved in labour force planning and is funded in part by the governments of Canada and Ontario.

County of Brant seeks public input on proposed noise bylaw changes

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

The County of Brant is seeking public feedback as it reviews and updates its Noise Control Bylaw, with officials aiming to create a more balanced and transparent approach to managing noise complaints across the growing community.

In a news release, the County said the review comes as increasing development, population growth and a wider range of community events and activities continue to change how residents experience noise in their neighbourhoods.

The current bylaw regulates when and how certain types of noise are permitted, including rules surrounding construction activity, vehicle idling and amplified sound.

County officials said recent discussions surrounding community events have highlighted ongoing challenges in balancing entertainment and community enjoyment with concerns raised by nearby residents. In some instances, noise complaints and questions regarding exemptions have

sparked broader conversations about how noise is managed and enforced.

At its March 17, 2026 Administration and Operations Committee meeting, council endorsed moving forward with what the County describes as a hybrid model for noise regulation.

Under the proposed approach, general noise enforcement would rely on qualitative standards, meaning enforcement officers would assess whether noise is likely to disturb others.

The model would also introduce quantitative decibel limits for specific recurring issues, including live music and residential air conditioning units.

County of Brant Director of Enforcement and Regulatory Services Greg Bergeron said the updated approach is intended to better reflect the changing needs of the community.

"We hear from residents and businesses that noise can be a challenging issue, with different expectations across the County," said Bergeron.

"As our community grows and changes,

it is important that our bylaw changes with it.

This review will help us create clearer rules that are fair, practical, and support both quality of life and a vibrant community."

The County said public feedback will play a key role in shaping the updated

bylaw. Residents and businesses are encouraged to visit the EngageBrant website to review information about the current bylaw and proposed changes, complete a survey and provide comments or questions to staff.

The public engagement period remains open until May 31.

Creek View Acres Nursery & Orchard



NOW OPEN DAILY: 10am to 6pm
Fruit Trees • Berry Bushes • Grape Vines

Professionally grown trees, shrubs, and perennials!

400 Johnson Road, Brantford (County)

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

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What term describes a period of temporary economic decline?
2. What planet in our solar system has a longer day than it does a year?
3. How many minutes in a professional football/soccer match?
4. What city is known as the eternal city?
5. What company is the largest self-driving taxi fleet in the world?
6. What land mammal has the strongest bite force?
7. What is the largest internal organ in the human body?
8. How many Stanley Cups do the Montreal Canadiens have?
9. Who carved Pinocchio?
10. What is a microscopic bear called?

This week's answers are found on pg. 19

The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

Paris Challenger Baseball to host first-ever Try-It Day at Lions Park

A new chapter for inclusive recreation in the community is set to begin later this month as Paris Challenger Baseball prepares to host its first-ever Try-It Day at Lions Park.

The adaptive baseball and softball program, designed for individuals living with physical and cognitive disabilities, will hold the introductory event May 30 from 10 a.m. to noon at Diamond A.

Organizers say the program is focused on creating an inclusive and supportive envi-

ronment where athletes of all abilities can build confidence, develop friendships and experience the joy of sport.

The Try-It Day will feature skill-building stations, adapted gameplay and sensory-friendly activities aimed at making the experience accessible for participants regardless of experience level.

"No experience is needed — just come ready to play, connect, and be part of something incredible," organizers shared in a public announcement promoting the event.

The launch of Paris Challenger Baseball builds on growing efforts locally to expand accessible recreation opportunities and community programming for residents of all abilities.

The program is hosted by the Paris Youth Softball Association and supported by the Jays Care Foundation, which helps establish and grow Challenger Baseball leagues in communities across Canada. Challenger Baseball programs pair athletes with vol-

unteers and adaptive supports to create a safe and welcoming environment centred on participation and inclusion.

In addition to recruiting athletes, organizers are also seeking volunteers to help support the league during the upcoming season.

Community members interested in registering an athlete or volunteering can contact organizers at parischallengerbaseball@gmail.com

Pyjama party caps off ladies dart league season



Pyjamas, plenty of laughs and maybe even a few bullseyes capped off the final Ladies Dart League night of the season at the Paris Legion last week. No, it's not an acrobatics club — just a fun-loving group celebrating another successful year together in style. The Paris Independent also extends thanks to Deborah Kuilboer for sharing weekly updates throughout the season. Pictured, back row, from left: Bry, Nichole, MaryAnne, Cheryl, Cynthia, Shari, Nancy, Annie, Katy, Marg, Katy and Tracy. Front row: Linda, Patti, Debbie K., Gail, Nancy C., Kim, Bonnie and Elizabeth.

Paris Duffers: Season Opener at Burford Golf Links

BY JEFF "STONES" JOHNSTON

Sports Correspondent

As another golf season tees off, the boys were out and ready to play—even with a stiff breeze blowing across a sunny Burford layout.

The highlights started early with a massive "long drive of the day" from Haybo. Meanwhile, Big Al and Holmesey were the models of consistency, sitting at par all day long. However, the pressure of the late-game "press" eventually did them in, with Paul B lending a helping hand to tip the scales.

Fergie and Attlestew certainly got their money's worth, covering nearly every inch of the course as they battled the wind, the trees, and... well, you know how it

goes. Sinc and Kopper were at their absolute finest, putting on a technical masterclass with the flat sticks; unfortunately, they were a little too far back in the pack for the lesson to save the scorecard.

Jacque, Billy B, and Gerry H showed off the steady driving and putting skills they honed over the winter.

Their indoor golf expertise was on full display, even if the "real" range proved to be a bit more humbling than the simulators!

Most importantly, the day served as a tribute to our dear friends, Cy and Stew. We raised a glass to their memory, courtesy of a round from Gerry H.

Rest in peace, friends—we'll see you on the greens and in the fairways.

All the best, boys... Stones

Dusters resume play with offensive explosion at Gretzky Centre

SID LUCKMAN

Paris Independent Contributor

It's good to be back after a week layoff of Duster Hockey. The dressing rooms needed maintenance, as did some bodies! But Duster Hockey came back AND, for the first time at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre in Brantford.

The goals were scored at will this week. I don't know how Will felt about that, but we expect a full recovery in a few weeks. Hats off to Sean Graham and Tyler Stam, who ran offence like the Captain and Tennille.

Big story of the day was the struggle with face offs.

Self proclaimed local legend and poorest rich man in town, Cam Stone, certainly just couldn't win! Teammate and advisor Chadlatty was quoted as saying "It's like it was Cam against 21 other guys and Cam just couldn't win." We are sure at the next game, Cam will dazzle. We all love Cam Stone...just ask him!

The Dusters return to play after another maintenance break this week coming. So Thursday May 21 at 6pm, sees Duster Hockey back at the Gretzky Centre. Next month, the Dusters return to the BSC with "Maroon in June".

It will be a throwback game where the original jerseys and the newest jerseys will be showcased.



House League Standings - Week of May 4th

9-11 Year-Old

Huskies defeat Tigers, 28-20
Flaming Flamingos defeat Hamburgers, 43-20
Warriors defeat Skyscrapers, 42-16
Lakers defeat Fire, 21-11

This week's top scorers:

1. Benson, Warriors, 20 points
2. Aurora, Huskies, 16 points
3. Ethan K, Flaming Flamingos, 12 points.

County proposes expanded basement flood assistance

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

County of Brant staff are proposing a major expansion to the municipality's basement flood prevention assistance program, broadening the types of upgrades eligible for financial support as recurring flooding concerns continue to surface in parts of the community.

The proposed changes were presented to the county's policy development committee last week with no discussion from councillors. The recommendations must still be ratified by county council before taking effect.

Under the proposed update, homeowners could receive financial assistance for disconnecting foundation drains and downspouts from storm sewer systems, installing backwater valves on stormwater service connections, and adding sump pits and pumps with battery backup systems that discharge to ground surface.

County staff are also recommending \$30,000 be allocated in 2026 for the revised program through the capital stormwater facility work budget, with future funding requests included in annual capital budget deliberations.

The proposed revisions follow a Residential Stormwater Assessment

Pilot conducted in 2024 and 2025, which investigated repeated basement flooding complaints at five properties in Paris and seven properties in St. George.

According to the report prepared by director of environmental services Andrea Bazzard, the pilot identified several common contributors to flooding, including foundation drains connected to storm sewers, unsealed basement floor openings allowing groundwater intrusion, unknown floor drain connections, lack of sump pumps and reverse-sloped driveways without backwater valve protection.

The investigations resulted in site-specific recommendations for homeowners, but staff noted many residents expressed concern about the cost of completing the upgrades.

In response, county staff reviewed basement flooding assistance programs offered in 10 nearby municipalities to help shape the proposed update.

The municipal comparison found several neighbouring municipalities, including Oxford County, Norfolk County, Haldimand County and the Region of Waterloo, currently do not offer basement flooding assistance programs. Others provide significantly larger funding amounts than what

is being proposed in Brant. London offers up to \$7,000 per property covering 90 per cent of eligible costs, while Halton Region provides up to \$6,500 with full cost coverage.

The County of Brant proposal would provide homeowners with a lifetime maximum of \$5,000 per property. Eligible work would be funded at 50 per cent of costs up to set limits, including up to \$500 for downspout disconnections, up to \$3,000 for backwater valve installations, up to \$5,000 for sump pit and pump systems, and up to \$2,000 for driveway entrance improvements and private catch basin backwater valve installations.

To qualify, applicants would need to own a residential dwelling within the county, provide proof of a basement flooding insurance claim or other acceptable documentation, have no outstanding property taxes, and live in a home built before Jan. 1, 2012 that is connected to the county stormwater system. Homes still under new construction warranty would not qualify.

The report states the revised program would help homeowners avoid costly damage, reduce insurance claims and improve community resilience as severe weather and climate-related flooding events become more common.

PHARMASAVE Canada's community pharmacy

EARN More Miles! May 8 - 14, 2026. Earn 50 Bonus Miles when you spend \$20 on select participating Pharmasave locations.

Nexium 240 28 20 tablets \$14.99

Scrubbing Bubbles 10 bottles \$6.99

FAMINA 15 bottles \$4.99

25% off on select products

10 bottles \$6.99

10 bottles \$4.99

10 bottles \$4.99

Prices in effect: May 8, 2026 - May 21, 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

Leaving no stone unturned: Spring walkabouts and memories

STONES Around Town

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

Well, here we are! It's been a cool start to the spring, but things are finally warming up. In my travels as I walkabout town, I've come across many familiar faces—some even twice in the same day, like Caroline T. and Wendy Z. Looking good, girls! It was great to have a brief visit before heading on my way.

As I've been exploring different corners of town, I keep finding myself drawn back to Quality Hill. There are such beautiful, majestic homes up on Banfield, Jane, and St. Andrew, to name a few. Between the lovely architecture and the manicured lawns and gardens, it's a great reminder that the

Banfield Art Crawl is just around the corner.

I have discovered a few "fancy" things up that way, though—apparently, everyone has butlers and maids, and they use these high-tech inventions called "coasters." So sophisticated!

I also had a great visit with Fordy, where we shared memories of the old Frankie & Johnny's car rallies. He reminded me of the time people kept passing me on the road, shouting that I must be from Mars. I guess it didn't help that there were eight of us piled into a mint-green '68 VW van... hello, look at us! That was the same rally where Stew was "Captain Chaos." The years certainly fly by—maybe it's time we organized another rally?

On my travels, I made a new friend in Mike and his dog, Cozumel (Coz). He's a handsome pup and a great new addition to the circle. It really shows that all it takes is a smile and a "hello." Whether you know someone or not, most people will smile back or stop for a chat.

Speaking of neighbours, my neighbour Jane is thinking about doing some writing. Let's all encourage her—come on, Jane! I even have a title idea: "Jane's World." What

do you think? If I can do it, you can too, Jane. Do it for Ray, Shawn, Georgia, and yourself.

Musically, I've been taking a trip down memory lane lately. Rod Stewart's "I Was Only Joking" and Bob Seger's "Beautiful Loser" really take you back, don't they?

I happened by Cobblestones recently—I always enjoy it there. They make a great Reuben, and with Jill behind the bar and the rest of the gang working hard, all is well. After all, "Stones" is right in the name! It's a great spot with a beautiful view of the river from the back patio. Come to think of it, I could probably just walk across the river to get there and avoid the "Big Dig" downtown—a perfect workaround!

I also ran into Dave Evans, the owner of the Paris Pub. Nice to meet you, cowboy! I'm one to use the term "cowboy" often, but I met a fella recently who corrected me. He said he's more than a cowboy—he's a "gunslinger." So, that's his new nickname, two weeks in a row now. Welcome to Paris: the home of nicknames.

I also met Liz, the public relations rep for the downtown construction group. You can't miss her in that pink hard hat! Liz is

kind, patient, and very informative, so let's make sure to treat her like one of our own and show her some respect while she navigates the construction chaos with us.

Finishing up the week, I ran into my cousins Deb and Leigh Anne—always a pleasure. And Darcy Cole, let's go boating and "Jimmy Buffett" the day away! Sometimes running into family and friends brings back the best memories. Cherish those moments, because they pass so quickly. Take the time to say hello and share a hug.

I recently attended two different celebrations of life—one a memorial for Stew, and the other a PDHS reunion. There were "all-star lineups" at both, celebrating life and the legacy of a friend and loved one. It goes to show you that you can celebrate and mourn all at the same time.

That being said, I have a proposal: how about we name a part of Ann Street after Stew? It has to be in the south end. If being a pillar of the community is the criteria, he certainly earned it. Let's make it so.

All the best, folks. Summer is coming!
Keep smiling, Stones

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

Barcelona Beckons: From travel hiccups to bucket-list wonders

KARON SINNING

Paris Independent Travel Columnist

After soaking in the vibrant street life of La Rambla, the spectacle of Flamenco and the colourful charm of Barcelona's Hat Stroll, Karon Sinning's final day in the city offered a change of pace — trading crowds and culture for misty mountain views and a taste of Catalonia's deep-rooted traditions. What followed was a journey beyond the city limits, where dramatic landscapes, centuries-old history and local wine brought her Barcelona adventure to a memorable close.

Our last tour in Barcelona was to Montserrat, with a separate winery tour and wine tasting. The tour headed out from the Barcelona North bus terminal at 8:30 am. As we were unsure of the walking time, we opted for a taxi to take us. Taxis are plentiful in Barcelona. You can use the App (Free Now) or hail down any one with a green light (available) on the roof.

At the bus terminal it was a bit challenging finding the departure spot, as currently the terminal is under a major renovation. We asked for directions from the right person...a guide on the same bus as us! Once we arrived at the departure area, we had to hurry up and wait as our bus was snarled in traffic and running late.

It is about an hour drive to the Montserrat mountain, but the scenery is great getting there. The first glimpse of the peaks, as the mountain consists of finger-like peaks, is very striking. Montserrat literally means "jagged mountain." There are a few superstitions or myths around the creation of these peaks: such as angels carving them with a golden saw, but as this area was, at one point below sea level, geology is likely the culprit. The closer you get, the more amazing.

When we arrived, the mountains were shrouded in mist. This is common for the mornings at Montserrat, and it shifts and clears quickly; at times, reappearing and shifting again.

At the top is the Montserrat Basilica and the Santa Maria de Montserrat Monas-



Visitors enjoy wine samples and local cuisine inside the historic tasting room at Oller del Mas Winery. Ironically, the group in white shirts turned out to be fellow travellers from Waterloo, Ont., whom Karon met by chance during the Barcelona wine tour.

tery. A Benedictine order of 18 remaining monks and the home of the black Madonna. The statue is crafted from poplar wood and is known for its distinct dark skin, which tradition suggests is due to candle smoke over centuries. It dates from about the 12th century and features a seated Madonna with the Child on her lap, both wearing crowns.

While it was originally just the church and monastery, there is now a very prestigious boys' music school, a hotel, shops and restaurants. There is a Funicular tram running up and down the mountain but was not operating while we were there (thank goodness). There is also a train running from Barcelona up to the mountain. Some-

thing to consider for a return trip!

After spending about 3 hours on Montserrat and enjoying lunch, it was off to the winery tour. The trip there was about half an hour.

Set in the picturesque landscape of Catalonia, the Oller del Mas winery is located on about 1,500 acres, with the property being established in 964 AD. Yes that's right...over 1,000 years of being owned by the same family!

In Catalonia there is a "Heretat" (hereditary) law whereby the property can only be passed down to the family. Given the era it was established, I asked if it could go to daughters as well as sons. The answer was...yes. Which I was very pleased to hear. However, as a result, the Oller name has been lost over the generations, but still kept alive in the winery. They actually display the family tree on a wall, which of course is taller than me!



Rows of grapevines stretch across the scenic grounds of Oller del Mas Winery, a picturesque estate in Catalonia known for its rich history, wine production and breathtaking countryside views.

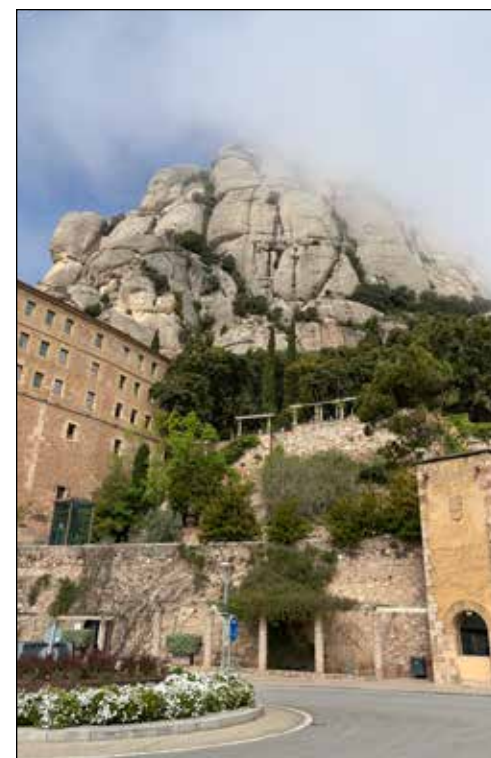
Our guide for the day was Lorena and along with the great history of Montserrat, she also had a wealth of information on wine. I asked her how she knew all this about the wine and she said, as a guide for the winery, she is required to take regular classes. We tasted 3 wines, one white and 2 red, and enjoyed a plate of cheese, meat, potato dumplings along with bread, olive oil and mashed tomatoes. They also offered a vegetarian plate.

We were given about 40 minutes free time after the tasting and it was a beautiful day to wander around the picturesque property. As well as a winery, there are also 22 cabins in the forest you can rent...another thing for the bucket list!

Arriving back in Barcelona about 3:30 we decided to see if we could find our way back to the hotel on foot. Lorena pointed us in the right general direction; then Roy took over with Google Maps. Barcelona is set up on a grid layout which makes finding your way much easier. The walk back was about 45 minutes, in virtually a straight line to La Rambla. Once there we knew where our hotel was.

Both Roy and I agreed that Barcelona was spectacular. It is definitely on the "must return to" list.

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.



Towering above the Catalonia countryside, the jagged peaks of Montserrat emerge through the morning mist, creating one of the most striking and spiritual landscapes near Barcelona. The mountain is home to the famed basilica, monastery and the revered Black Madonna.



Nestled in the rolling hills of Catalonia, Oller del Mas Winery has been owned by the same family for more than 1,000 years, blending historic architecture with modern winemaking traditions.

OBITUARY

Ripley

April 8, 1937 - May 3, 2026



Elizabeth Marie "Liz" Ripley (Evans)

Unexpectedly passed away in her 89th year. Beloved wife of the late William Ripley for over 62 years and the proud mom of Bill (Angela), Laurie (Michael), and Kristine. Fondly remembered by her five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and several nieces. Predeceased by her parents David & Ida Evans, brothers; Tommy and Jimmy Evans, sisters; Elva McCormick (Harry), Mae Midgley (Midge), Nancy Brock (Roy)

Liz was feisty, fun and truly one of a kind. She shared her opinions freely, and her fearless honesty made her unforgettable to everyone who knew her. A proud small town girl from Paris whose adventurous spirit took her to Philadelphia, where she met Bill, the love of her life. Together they started a family before returning home to Canada to settle in Ayr.

A lifelong nature lover, Liz found joy outdoors in every season. In a testament to her determination and adventurous spirit, Liz and Bill were among the oldest people to hike the Bruce Trail; never shy about making a point she decided to hike back. She hiked the world with highlights including New Zealand, the Rockies, Newfoundland, Algonquin Park and Ireland. Closer to home and on her daily walks, Liz showed her care for the environment picking up litter along the way, always leaving each place better than she found it.

She lived an active and engaged life, enjoying golf, curling and daily walks that connected her to both nature and friends. Liz quietly gave back to the community

by delivering Meals on Wheels and starting the Terry Fox Run in Ayr. Never one to sit still, she partnered with her dear sister Nancy to open a Tea Room "An Ayr of Distinction."

Liz appreciated life's simple pleasures: a glass of wine (or two), time in the garden and being surrounded by the people she loved. She was a proud Canadian with deep Irish roots. Liz embraced life wholeheartedly and was always up for an adventure or trying something new.

We will be gathering to celebrate our parents on June 11th, 12-3pm at The Wilkin Community Family Center 169 Grand River St. N Paris. We know Liz and Bill will find endless walking trails among the clouds.

In lieu of flowers donations in Liz's memory made to Bruce Trail Conservancy or Stedman Community Hospice would be appreciated.

Cremation has taken place. Private graveside service will be held. Online condolences and donations may be arranged through www.wmkippfuneralhome.com or by contacting WM. Kipp 519 442 3061.

The Paris Independent

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US!

HERE'S HOW:

Deadline: Friday prior at 10 a.m.

Contact:
info@theparisdependent.com

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



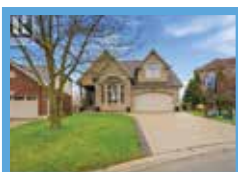
Paris & Area Real Estate

CONNECTING BUYERS AND SELLERS ACROSS THE PARIS REGION



REAL ESTATE AS IT SHOULD BE...

40 William Street Paris, ON, N3L 1L3 | www.riverrealtyteam.ca



CONTACT - BRIAN STOLP

MLS #: 40821032

\$1,250,000

20 ZAVARELLA CRT, PARIS



CONTACT - BRIAN STOLP

MLS #: 40821474

\$1,240,000

#204-7 GRAND RIVER ST N, PARIS



CONTACT - BRIAN STOLP

MLS #: 40821690

\$550,000

#202-7 GRAND RIVER ST N, PARIS



CONTACT - SHELLY GRACEY

MLS #: 40821620

\$475,000

33 RICHMOND ST, BRANTFORD



CONTACT - ANDREA CLENDENING

MLS #: 40819379

\$585,000

92 WALNUT ST, BRANTFORD



CONTACT - BRIAN STOLP

MLS #: 40821681

\$1,249,900

117 ALBERT ST E, PLATTSVILLE



CONTACT - CALLUM THOMAS

MLS #: 40824796

\$1,850/MONTH

#2-298 COLBORNE ST, BRANTFORD



CONTACT - JAYLEE VEY

MLS #: 40819967

\$575,000

#30-560 GREY ST, BRANTFORD



CONTACT - BRIAN STOLP

MLS #: 40824332

\$999,900

102 OAK AVE, PARIS



CONTACT - ANDREA CLENDENING

MLS #: 40824137

\$799,900

344 PERRY AVE, KILLARNEY

Our plan to protect Ontario is fighting for every steel job

As Canada stares down economic uncertainty, we're ready with a plan to protect Ontario. We're fighting for every steel job in Ontario.

That's how we protect Ontario.



ontario.ca/ProtectOntario
Paid for by the Government of Ontario



Riddles

I have hands but no fingers.
I have a face but no eyes.
I keep moving forward,
yet never take a step.

A clock

I can fill a room
without taking up space.
I arrive in an instant,
but disappear with the dark.

Light

I have keys but no locks.
I have space but no rooms.
You can enter freely,
but never walk inside.

A keyboard

I rise without wings,
fall without fear,
and disappear quietly
when the sun returns.

Mist

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 19

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

MARIAH

Meet our Pet of the Week:

We were very happy to see Mariah this week for her annual exam and vaccinations. We are seeing lots of ticks this year and already many Lyme positive dogs. Vaccinating for Lyme disease and using year round parasite prevention will help keep our pets and families safe from these emerging diseases .

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



Word Search

RETRO VIDEO GAMES

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

- ARCADE
- PIXELS
- JOYSTICK
- PACMAN
- TETRIS
- POWERUP
- CHECKPOINT
- GAMEOVER
- CONSOLE
- CARTRIDGE
- HIGHSCORE
- PLATFORMER
- SPEEDRUN
- SPRITES
- DUNGEON
- BONUS
- SIDEQUEST
- CONTROLLER
- CHEATCODE
- MULTIPLAYER
- LEVELUP
- BOSSFIGHT



WEEKLY Horoscope

May 13 - May 19 2026

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



Drive increases. A bold decision clears confusion and reveals new possibilities. Follow your instincts—it guides you ahead with purpose and control now.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Steady energy surrounds you, Taurus. Familiar routines bring comfort and clear your mind. Stay consistent—it creates balance and supports calm growth.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



Curiosity returns, Gemini. A surprising idea captures attention and sparks inspiration. Explore it fully—it encourages progress and fresh connection.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



Peace settles in, Cancer. A quiet moment helps restore balance. Trust your feelings gently—it brings comfort and renewed direction ahead.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Motivation shines, Leo. Your natural charm encourages others and sparks excitement. Move forward proudly—it helps you inspire those nearby.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Focus returns, Virgo. Organizing your plans creates calm and steady progress. Rely on structure—it keeps everything moving with careful precision.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Harmony finds you, Libra. A meaningful conversation offers reassurance and clarity. Stay open—it strengthens trust and lasting connection.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Awareness deepens, Scorpio. Subtle shifts reveal insight hidden truth. Trust your intuition—it keeps you grounded with confidence and focus.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



Excitement builds, Sagittarius. A new experience inspires confidence and curiosity. Follow the moment—it leads toward new opportunities.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Success moves closer, Capricorn. Consistent effort keeps producing dependable results. Remain determined—it strengthens plans ahead.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Innovation grows, Aquarius. An original idea gains support and momentum. Believe in yourself—it encourages positive change ahead.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Reflection restores you, Pisces. Gentle pauses bring clarity and understanding. Trust your inner voice—it offers comfort, balance, and calm guidance ahead.

First responders support McHappy Day in Paris



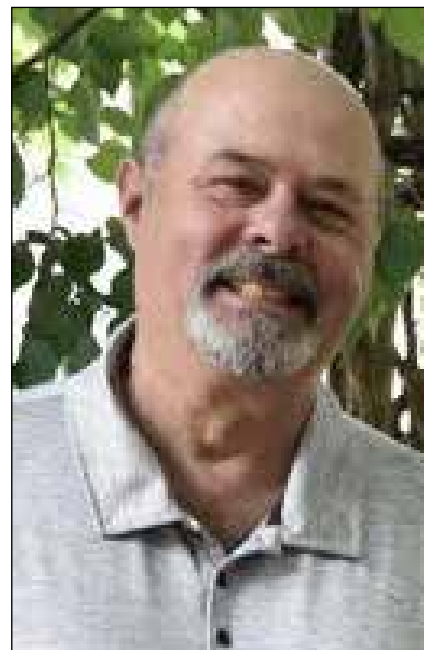
(OPP WEST REGION PHOTO / COUNTY OF BRANT FIRE PHOTOS)

Enzo Coletta serves up smiles — and drive-thru orders — alongside community leaders during McHappy Day at the Paris McDonald's on May 6. Members of the County of Brant OPP and Fire Department joined residents throughout the day to support the national fundraiser, which raises money for Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada and local children's charities supporting families with sick or injured children. Also pictured are County of Brant Mayor David Bailey and County of Brant Fire Chief Darren Watson. Paris McDonald's owner-operators Krista Hearn and Karl Hearn welcomed special guests and customers throughout the annual fundraising event. Community leaders, first responders and volunteers came together at the Paris McDonald's for McHappy Day on May 6, helping raise funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada and other local children's charities. The annual event, organized by McDonald's Canada, has been running for more than 30 years and has raised more than \$111 million nationally to support accommodations, meals and wellness resources for families staying close to children receiving medical treatment. The 2025 campaign alone raised a record \$11.3 million across Canada.

OBITUARY

Kirby

February 17, 1954 - April 30, 2026



Guy Dickson Kirby

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Guy Kirby. Guy will be dearly missed by his wife of 47 years, Cathy, and his children, Seth and Lauren (John) MacPherson. He was a proud and loving grandpa to Kohen, Bryce, Grace, and Milo. Guy will be lovingly remembered by his mother, Jacqueline, and was predeceased by his father, Don.

Guy worked hard to build his business, Kirby Mechanical Service, and appreciated the help and strength of his brother Garth (Angela).

He will be deeply missed by his hunting and gun club buddies, as well as the familiar faces at Jim's Lunch. Guy also cherished the many years spent with his cottage and travel friends—Bill and Colleen, Greg and Joanne, Barb and Mike and Mitch and Karen—sharing laughter, stories, and lifelong memories.

Guy had a passion for wildlife, cars, training hunting dogs, and a good game of chance. More importantly, though he may not have often said it, he deeply loved his family—especially his grandchildren—while still appreciating some peace and quiet, once they headed home.

Guy will be remembered for his work ethic, his sense of humour, and the lasting impact he had on all who knew him.

The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the incredible first responders and the Paris Fire Department for their care and support.

Online condolences and donations may be made at www.budgellfuneralhome.ca

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 13

Stevie Wonder, Musician (76)

MAY 14

Jack Hughes, Athlete (25)

MAY 15

Ray Lewis, Athlete (51)

MAY 16

Janet Jackson, Musician (60)

MAY 17

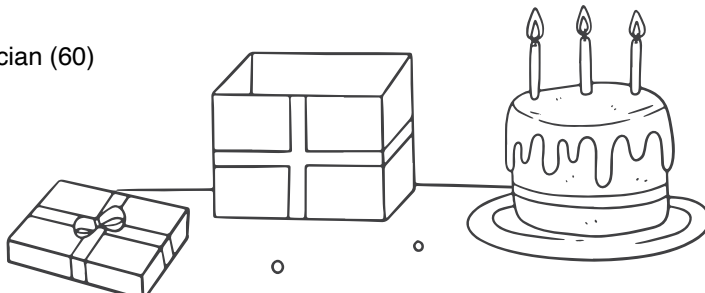
Derek Hough, Dancer (41)

MAY 18

George Strait, Musician (74)

MAY 19

Lainey Wilson, Musician (34)



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Catholic Women's League Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, May 13th at 7 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 17 Washington Street, Paris.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Brant Heritage Quilters Guild - Will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 14 at St. George United Church, 9 Beverly St. E., St. George. Doors open at 6:15pm with meeting start time 7pm. New members welcome. Cost for non-members \$5/meeting"

Women Inspiring Women, Women's Institute Monthly Meeting - Thursday, May 14th, 7-9 pm at the Paris Fairgrounds, Community Room. A talk on native plants and their benefits with the Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Men's Probus Club of Brantford Monthly Meeting - will be held on Thursday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. till noon, at Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course, 320 Balmoral Drive with keynote speaker Isabel Hilgendag. She's a Brantford native whose family own and operate Bow Park Farms and acts as Wilfred Laurier's northern research coordinator. Ms Hilgendag will be talking to us about her hiking adventures. She has walked the Pacific Coast Trail from Mexico to Canada and last year hiked the Bruce Trail (900 kms in 18 days)The goal of the Probus Club of Brantford is to provide fellowship, friendship, and enjoyment for people in their retirement and semi-retirement years. Men's Probus Club, website: brantfordprobus.ca. Mailing address: PO Box 26003, Brantford, N3R 7X4. Come join us.

MAY 19, 21 & 26

Free Introductory Lawn Bowling Session - Come and join us on the Green on May 19th, 21st and/or 26th at around 7:00 PM for a free Introductory Lawn Bowling Session. All you will need is a pair of flat soled shoes, comfortable clothing and an interest to "Give it a Try" - we will be available until about 8:30 PM. Come to the parking lot at the site (169 Grand River Street North) and walk over to the playing surface. We will have bowls for you to use and some of our current members will be available to assist, provide some basic instruction about the game and answer any questions you may have. For further information, check out our website at www.parislawnbowlingclub.ca.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

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

Annual Banfield Art Crawl - Join the Annual Banfield Art Crawl, a celebration of Fine Art in a little 'hood in Paris, Ontario! Saturday, May 23 from 10 am to 4 pm. Free to attend. Roam the neighbourhood and check out the talent in Paris! For a list of participating streets visit banfieldartcrawl.ca.

Etonia Princeton United Church Yard Sale - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale will be held at 459 King Edward St., Falkland. (between Princeton and Paris)

TUESDAY, MAY 26

Knights of Columbus will be holding their monthly meeting - on Tuesday, May 26th at 7:30 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish hall at 17 Washington Street, Paris.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

St. George Pro Musica Choir presents - "Singing From Dawn to Dusk" at St. George United Church, 9 Beverly St. E. (Hwy. #5), St. George on Friday, May 29th at 7:30

p.m. Directed by Tannis Hamill; pianist, Scott Millward. Join us for music filled with light, laughter and a few black flies! Debuting new music by Susan Norman. Guest artists, including harp and vocal soloists. A free-will offering is gratefully received. For information, contact (519) 448-3842.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

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

Optimist Club Bottle and Can Drive - Paris Optimist Club Bottle Drive. We will collect your liquor/beer bottles and cans at the Optimist Club House from 10 am to 12 pm on May 30th. If you can't make it through construction for the drop off, Optimist Club members can arrange to pick up your empties. Please reach out to Jackie at 519-608-9867. Additionally the club is collecting pop cans, just ensure they are packed separately from the liquor cans/bottles.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Brant Men of Song - are hosting 5 men's choirs at the Sanderson Centre on Sunday, May 31st at 3 pm. Contact Sanderson for tickets.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Spring Fling - Luncheon and concert at Harmony United Church 268 Marlborough St. Brantford. Saturday June 6. Enjoy a hot lunch at 12:30pm and then sit back and enjoy the toe tapping music of Dave Jensen and John Harris.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Kiwanis Teddy Bear Picnic - A Family Favourite Is Back! Join the Kiwanis Paris-Brant club for this year's Teddy Bear Picnic on Sunday, June 7 from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Burford Fairgrounds. More information about the event is available at www.parisbrantkiwanis.org

MONDAY, JULY 20 - FRIDAY, JULY 24

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

1 & 3 TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

The Brantford Stamp Club - The Brantford Stamp Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from September to December and January to May, plus the 1st Tuesday in June and December. Meetings are held at the Branlyn Community Centre, 238 Brantwood Park Drive, Brantford. Doors open at 7 p.m., with meetings starting at 8 p.m.

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

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

Mother's Day High Tea draws sold-out crowd

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)



Members and supporters of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 gathered for a sold-out Mother's Day High Tea on May 9 in celebration of the branch's 100th anniversary. Guests enjoyed an elegant afternoon featuring fancy sandwiches and sweet treats prepared by Queensview Retirement Community, specialty teas served by The Peddler and beautiful spring pansy displays courtesy of Walter's Greenhouses & Garden Centre.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NOISE EXEMPTION COUNTY OF BRANT NOISE BY-LAW 108-22

Applicant name and address: Henry Stulen, 60 Paris Links Road, Paris
Exemption location: 60 Paris Links Road, Paris, County of Brant
Description of sound: Amplified sound, yelling, shouting, whistling, singing, hooting
By-law Section: Schedule B - Section 6(a), Schedule C - Item 11
Exemption period: September 12, 2026 from 8:00 pm to 11:59 pm
Reason: Wedding
 If you wish to file an objection to this application, please provide a written response to the By-law Enforcement Division within 10 days of this publication. Please ensure to provide your contact information and reason for the objection. Where an objection is not received within the time indicated above, no further opportunity to file an objection will be granted. For more information or to file an objection, please contact:

The County of Brant By-law Enforcement Division
 26 Park Avenue
 Burford, Ontario N0E1A0
 T 519.449.2451 F 519.449.3382 E bylawenforcement@brant.ca

GRANTHAVEN.COM

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HEATING



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

519-442-3431
info@wiseheating.ca

MECHANIC



50 Curtis Ave N, Paris
519-442-4422

Proudly Serving Paris & Area for the past 40 years

RESTAURANT



Homemade Burger & Fries
ONLY \$12 - 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
519-621-0771

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

LANDSCAPING



DESIGN & BUILD
LANDSCAPES • STRUCTURES • POOLS

LAWN SPRINKLERS
OUTDOOR LIGHTING

streamlineils.com

PLUMBING & HEATING



Plumbing, Heating & Excavating Inc.
Princeton, ON

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

Now Offering Full Electrical Services
519-458-4488 | info@hunterplumbing.ca | www.hunterplumbing.ca

FUNERAL HOME



FUNERAL HOME

Jason J. Vernooy

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

wkfh@rogers.com | wmkipffuneralhome.com

HEATING & 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

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD HERE!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO!


CUSTOM STONE FABRICATION



BGQ BRANTFORD GRANITE & QUARTZ

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

WINDOWS & DOORS



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

Windows - Doors - Shutters
Replacement & New Construction

SALES • MANUFACTURING • INSTALLATIONS

PHARMACY



COMMUNITY HUB PHARMACY

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

Independently Owned and Operated

DELIVERY AVAILABLE • PARIS' ONLY COMPOUNDING PHARMACY

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WANTED

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Recession | 6. Hippopotamus |
| 2. Venus | 7. Liver |
| 3. 90mins | 8. 24 |
| 4. Rome | 9. Geppetto |
| 5. Waymo | 10. Tarigrade or water bear |

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.

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



Dan MUYS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FLAMBOROUGH–GLANBROOK–BRANT NORTH

THANK YOU BRANT FARMERS!

Good luck with spring planting

With spring planting upon us, things are very challenging. Fuel, fertilizer, seed, equipment, other input costs, trade issues, labour -- the list goes on. Fortunately there has been winter and spring moisture. But the challenges persist and our farmers face some of the worst economic headwinds in decades. Conservatives continue to push for zero federal tax on diesel and suspending all federal gas taxes for the rest of 2026. This will help. But it's not a silver bullet.

Thank you to our Brant County farmers for your ongoing commitment to feed Canada.

As tilling and planting continues, please be patient with farm equipment on our roads. It is our food supply.



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 | DanMuysMP.ca



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

IN THE COMMUNITY TO SERVE YOU