

The Paris Independent

Issue #236

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

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BRANT BATTALION OMHA BOUND

The Brant Battalion U11B team celebrates with the Southern Counties banner after capturing the championship on home ice in Paris on March 19. Pictured left to right, front row, Nolan Kearsley, Mason Monteiro, Ben Turnbull, (back row) Blake Anderson, Levi Blake, Austin Meza, Jacoby Bonnell, Jarome Burke, Gordon Fisher, Nash McLaren, Alex Thoms, Harrison Rusyn, Landon Kristman, Jett Rollins, Chuck Manikus, Henry Glowala, William Goslin and coaches Levi Blake, Shaun McLaren, Jon Kristman, Kevin Thoms and Scott Kearsley. See story on page 8.

County explores AI to improve website experience

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A new artificial intelligence tool aimed at transforming how residents interact with municipal websites is being considered by County of Brant councillors following a presentation at last week's Administration and Operations Committee meeting.

Kristy Guthrie, a municipal communications professional, introduced "Municipal AI," describing it as a modernization tool designed to make it easier for residents to find and understand information online.

"It's a near universal frustration when people go to city's website it's hard to find information," Guthrie told committee members during her March 17 delegation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Master parks plan takes shape

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A long-range plan guiding the future of parks, trails and outdoor recreation across the County of Brant is now taking shape, with a draft Parks Master Plan highlighting how the system will evolve over the next 15 years.

The plan, presented to the public during a recent open house in Paris, is supported by an extensive background study examining current park assets, usage trends and future needs as the community continues to grow.

At its core, the plan is designed to ensure parks remain "vibrant, accessible, and sustainable for generations to come," while identifying opportunities for expansion, upgrades and better connectivity across the County's park system.

With Paris accounting for the majority of community input, about 66 per cent of survey respondents, the plan places significant emphasis on meeting the needs of a growing and diverse population.

The background study shows strong demand from families, youth and active adults, with high participation in activities such as walking, cycling and outdoor recreation. Residents consistently identified trails, natural spaces and accessible parks as top priorities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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AI-powered search tool pitched to improve access on County website

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She said the issue is not the fault of county staff or the communications teams, but rather how municipal websites have historically been structured.

"It's the way municipal websites have been structured since websites existed," she said. "We have pages of really technical, detailed and time sensitive information." Guthrie noted it's put it on the web user to find the pages and pull out the file and make sense of what it means.

The proposed tool would embed an AI-powered search bar directly into the County's website, allowing users to ask questions in plain language and receive contextual answers pulled from across the municipality's digital platforms, including public records, PDFs, and microsites.

Guthrie said traditional keyword searches often fall short because residents don't always know the exact terms to use.

For example, she noted a common question like, "What is the largest shed I can build before I need a permit," would not yield helpful results using a standard search function on the County's current website.

"With AI there's technology that changes this and offers new opportunities, which is good because the way people use the internet is also changing," she said.

According to presentation materials, the tool is designed to deliver "human-like, plain-language answers" while maintaining privacy and accessibility standards, and can integrate with existing municipal systems such as eScribe and Engage Brant platforms.

Coun. David Miller said he has experi-

enced firsthand the challenges residents face when navigating the County's website.

"I've been frustrated for years with our county website. Sometimes you can find the information and sometimes you can't," Miller said, noting a search for "CAO" returned more than 700 results.

He added the timing of the proposal aligns with the County's planned website refresh and transition to a new GovStack platform, as well as the upcoming municipal election.

Coun. Steve Howes also voiced support, calling the idea timely.

"I think in six months there are going to be a number of new faces around this council table. It would help those new councillors a lot if there was an easier way to engage with the information," he said.

The system could also help reduce staff workload by limiting routine inquiries, freeing up time for more complex issues, a benefit highlighted in the presentation, which noted staff are often overwhelmed by avoidable calls and emails tied to difficult-to-navigate online information.

Coun. Robert Chambers questioned the process, noting the presentation came directly to council before being vetted by staff. He asked whether Guthrie would be willing to present to staff for further review, which she confirmed.

Councillors ultimately supported a motion directing staff to review the tool and report back with recommendations.

If implemented, the AI-powered system could be launched within weeks and tailored to the County's specific goals, including improving transparency, accessibility and public engagement, Guthrie said.

Ella Haley elected in Ward 5 byelection

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Ella Haley has been elected as the new Ward 5 councillor following a County of Brant byelection held Monday, March 16, 2026.

The results were certified by the County Clerk after voting concluded at 8 p.m., with ballots cast online and by phone for the first time in the municipality's history. A total of 1,447 eligible voters participated, with Haley receiving 568 votes, representing 39.3 per cent of ballots cast.

"I want to thank the other candidates for running, Brant County staff who conducted the election, my husband and all of those who helped and supported me, and the residents of Ward 5 for putting their faith in me as a new councillor," said Haley in an email to the Paris Independent. "I look forward to serving the residents of Ward 5, and working together with the rest of the councillors and the Mayor to serve Brant County residents. I feel honoured to be elected as a councillor and I have a lot of homework to do to learn my new role."

Haley added that as she collected campaign signs following the vote, one resident remarked on her efforts. "You've worked long and hard for this position." She said she intends to carry that same work ethic into her new role.

Mayor David Bailey thanked residents for participating in the process and welcomed Haley to council.

"Thank you to the residents of Ward 5 for taking part in this important byelection," said Bailey. "We are grateful to once again have a complete Council, representing all five Wards."

The byelection was called following the resignation of former councillor Christine Garneau in October 2025. Haley will be sworn in at the regular council meeting on March 24 and will serve the remainder of the 2022-2026 term, which concludes in October.

During her campaign, Haley emphasized managing growth while preserving the county's rural character. A fourth-generation Brant resident, she pointed to concerns about rapid development and its impact on farmland, infrastruc-



Ella Haley, newly elected Ward 5 councillor for the County of Brant, will be sworn into office on March 24 following her byelection win.

ture and affordability, while advocating for sustainable planning and increased housing options.

Haley has previously served on several county committees and community organizations, bringing experience in environmental policy, agriculture and community engagement to the council table.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the name of the large storm system that rotates around a low-pressure center and can bring heavy rain and wind?
2. What animal is known to eat magic mushrooms?
3. What is the world's largest ocean?
4. Claude AI was created by what company?
5. What European capital city is famous for the Eiffel Tower?
6. What planet in our solar system is known for its prominent rings?
7. What Irish rock band released the famous album The Joshua Tree?
8. Who won best actor at the 2026 Oscars?
9. What musical instrument has black and white keys and is commonly used in classical and pop music?
10. What might you find at the end of a rainbow?

This week's answers are found on pg. 16

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Parks Master Plan outlines future of green space in growing Brant communities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As development continues in and around Paris, the plan calls for new parkland within expanding neighbourhoods, improved walkability and access to nearby green space and better connections between parks, trails and residential areas.

A key focus is ensuring that new growth areas are supported by adequate parkland and that residents can easily reach outdoor spaces by foot or bike.

One of the most consistent themes throughout the background study is the need for expanded and better-connected trail systems.

Residents across all age groups expressed strong support for multi-use trails for walking, cycling and recreation, while also calling for improved maintenance and additional amenities along those routes.

The plan prioritizes:

- Expanding trail networks and closing gaps between communities
- Improving signage and wayfinding
- Enhancing accessibility for users of all abilities
- Increasing connections to natural areas and river corridors

For Paris, that could mean stronger links between existing trail systems, neighbourhood parks and key destinations along the

Grand River.

While recreation amenities remain important, the plan also underscores the need to protect natural areas and enhance environmental sustainability.

The background study highlights strong public support for tree planting, naturalization and green initiatives, with nearly 60 per cent of respondents rating increased tree canopy as a high priority.

Long-term environmental goals tied to the plan include increasing tree canopy coverage to at least 30 per cent across County lands, expanding naturalized areas and reducing maintenance-intensive spaces and supporting climate resilience through green infrastructure.

The County's Climate Action Plan, which aligns with the Parks Master Plan, also sets targets to plant tens of thousands of trees and reduce emissions from municipal operations over time.

Improving amenities and accessibility

Beyond expansion, the plan identifies a need to upgrade existing parks to meet modern standards and community expectations.

Residents pointed to priorities such as better maintenance and lighting, more inclusive and accessible playground equipment, additional seating, shade structures and washrooms and expanded dog-friendly



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)

Paris Coun. Steve Howes takes advantage of the outdoor ping pong table during the 2022 grand opening of Dawdy Park, one of several amenities, alongside pickleball courts, play equipment, basketball courts and open recreation space, highlighted in the County's Parks Master Plan as part of the future of active, accessible community parks.

amenities

The County is also working to align park design with updated accessibility standards, including improved pathways, inclusive play features and barrier-free facilities.

County officials are now encouraging

residents to review the draft plan and provide feedback online before it is finalized and presented to council.

Residents can review the full draft plan and background materials and share their input through the County's EngageBrant platform until April 10.



Whitlaw Way Park in north-end Paris is pictured during the winter months. The neighbourhood park has served as a seasonal hub for outdoor recreation, featuring a community rink in winter, a community garden in summer, and year-round amenities including a playground and basketball courts.



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Linwood Barclay featured for One Book, One Brant

KIMBERLY DE JONG

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For those looking for a new book to indulge in, this year's County of Brant Public Library pick for "One Book, One Brant," may just be your next read.

With the County-wide reading event in its 21st year, Emma Johnston, who handles the library's program and outreach services, said the program is set up like one big book club.

"One Book, One Brant is a community reads program, and every year we pick another Canadian and somewhat local author who has either published a book this year, has an upcoming book that is being published or has a book that has generated a lot of buzz," she said.

"So we pick an author and the community reads that book together. We order tons of copies for all of our branches, we run book clubs around this book, we do passive programs in the library around that book, and at the end of our One Book, One Brant season, we invite the author to come out and do an interview-style event. There we do some readings from that piece, talk a little bit about what their future projects are, and then we sell their books, and there's refreshment and some time for the author to do some book signings as well."

This year, the featured book is Linwood Barclay's *Whistle*. The story follows a grieving mother and her young son after they move to a small town seeking a fresh start. While there, they encounter unsettling visions, eerie sounds and a mysteri-



(KIMBERLY DE JONG PHOTO)

Nicole Strandholm, a branch services assistant with the County of Brant Public Library, shows off Linwood Barclay's book "Whistle".

ous train set that appears to have a life of its own. "Whistle is a thriller-horror style book but there's a ton of themes throughout. There are themes about grief, about parenting, about bravery, and about whether you can trust your gut or not," said Johnston. "Most of his books lean towards that thriller or suspense style, but this one is a slight change of pace. It has a bit more of a supernatural horror vibe to it. It's not gory or graphic, but it's enough that you still have the suspense and a few of those horror elements to it. ...I think even if you aren't a horror or thriller reader, this wouldn't be offensive or anything like that, I think it would actually be quite a fun read and a good way to dip your toe in that sort of horror genre." Johnston said that one of her fa-

vorite things about One Book, One Brant is that it brings the community together.

"One of my favourite things about this is that you have all different demographics reading these books together, which means you have fantastic discussions because you have different people coming from different walks of life and who have had different experiences, reading everything that is set before them," she said. "Over the years we've done non-fiction books, we've done thrillers, we've done sort of literary fiction and historical fiction, it's really all over the map. But people come and they chat, they share their opinions, their ideas and their thoughts on it, and it's a blast just having those discussions and hearing what people think because they're engaging with the

work in a sort of meaningful way. I love it."

The month's-long community read will culminate with a big event at the TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre on Sunday, April 12, 2026, from 2 to 4 p.m. The event is free, but interested parties are asked to register for the event ahead of time. You can do so by calling the County of Brant Public Library or by visiting: <https://brant-ca.libcal.com/event/3978909>

As far as how it feels to bring another Canadian author to the County of Brant, Johnston said she is thrilled. "It is such a huge privilege to have some of these incredible authors be willing to come out to visit with us and speak with us," she said. "We're just so thankful to the literary community and to Linwood for coming out. We really are full of gratitude and we recognize the hike it takes to come out to us, even if it's just from Toronto, but it's a game changer."

For those who are interested in reading Linwood Barclay's *Whistle*, there are several copies at each of the County of Brant Public Library five branches (Burford, Glen Morris, Paris, Scotland-Oakland, and St. George). The book can also be accessed through the Libby app. Johnston said that anybody who reads the book through the library will be entered into a draw to win a prize at the April 12 event.

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

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Downtown business owner seeks changes to parking permit system

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A downtown Paris business owner is asking the County of Brant to revise its residential parking permit system, saying the current setup is making it difficult to sell newly built condominium units and meet the needs of residents living in the core.

Henry Stolp, owner of Northern Rudder Holdings and properties at 1-13 Grand River St. N., appeared before the administration and operations committee Tuesday, March 17, requesting several changes to improve access to parking closer to his building.

Stolp's company demolished and rebuilt several properties in 2024, creating five residential condominium units and three commercial spaces. However, a lack of convenient parking has become a barrier.

"We have five vacant units and the hardest part for me to sell them is I can't show them where the parking spots are," he told council.

Under the current pilot program, residential permit parking spaces are located primarily in municipal lots farther from the downtown core, including the former OPP station lot, which Stolp said is not practical for everyday use such as carrying groceries.

His proposal calls for relocating 10 permit spaces to the cenotaph parking lot (Municipal Lot #3), aligning with earlier staff recommendations and council direction from 2024. He is also requesting amendments to allow property owners to lease spaces on behalf of residents, rather than limiting permits strictly to individual

tenants.

Additional proposed changes include reducing the monthly permit fee from \$120 to \$90 plus HST and introducing annual payment options.

Stolp noted there are at least 44 residential properties in the downtown area without on-site parking, underscoring a broader need for accessible and affordable options. His company has indicated it would initially lease five spaces and hold them until units are sold.

Council members acknowledged the concerns but pointed to wider issues affecting long-standing downtown residents and businesses.

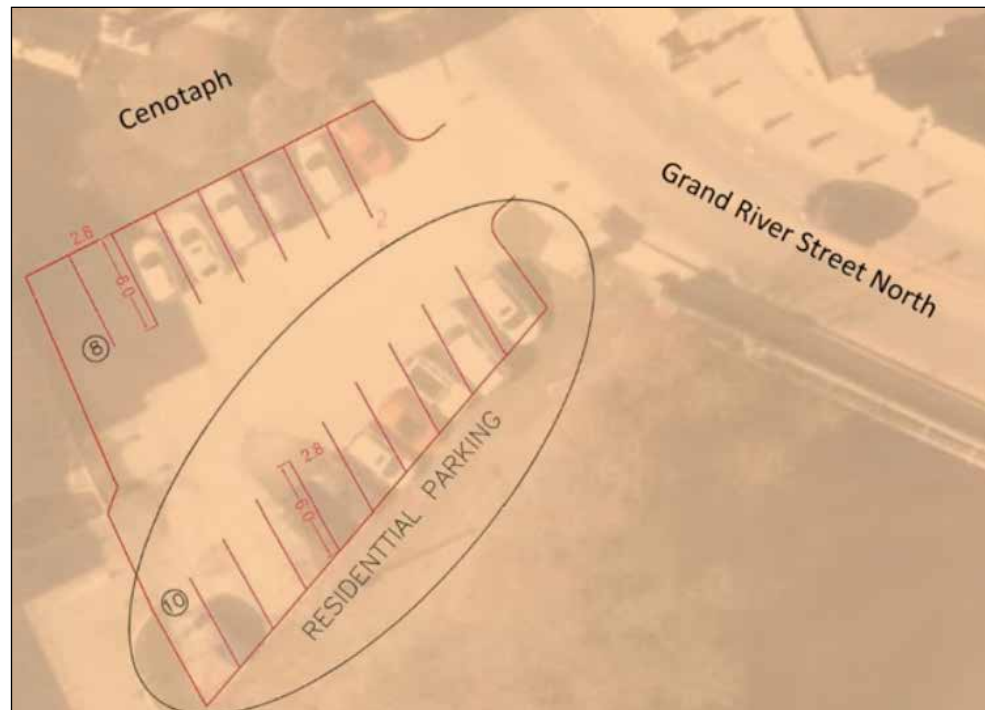
Mayor David Bailey said parking challenges extend beyond new developments.

"Even before Henry came to us about parking, a business right next door to Henry that has been there for 50+ years and they live upstairs are still getting tickets," Bailey said.

"Last week I was in the front office with the man that owns the Chinese Restaurant with more tickets and I took them from him. They don't have any place to park. I can't imagine us doing anything for Henry until we do something for the man who has run a business and lived upstairs for over 50 years."

In response, Stolp said, "I had lunch at Jades last week and had a long conversation with Lenny the owner," said Stolp.

"His biggest concern is not having parking in front of his store. I'm going to be making a presentation on his behalf with respect to that. I think there is a simple change we can make to accommodate him in front of his business," said Stolp.



This image presented to council shows the proposed allocation of residential permit parking spaces in the cenotaph lot, which Henry Stolp says would provide closer, more accessible parking for downtown homeowners. The lot, previously used as a staging area during last year's Downtown Dig, has since reopened to public parking.

Coun. John Bell questioned why council would not revert to its earlier direction to allocate spaces in the cenotaph lot, noting that the original plan had been altered due to the downtown infrastructure project.

Staff indicated there was no barrier to reconsidering that approach. Adam Crozier, general manager of strategic initiatives, said the initial plan could be revisited, adding that earlier consultations with the downtown business improvement area supported the concept at the time.

Crozier also noted the current parking permit system is a one-year pilot project, with a broader review planned for later this year.

A separate survey and analysis of downtown parking supply and demand is underway, with results expected by late spring or early summer.

Council ultimately voted to receive Stolp's presentation and directed staff to return with a report and recommendations at an upcoming meeting.

Two dead, five injured in Brant County crash

Two people are dead and five others were taken to hospital following a three-vehicle collision in the County of Brant on Friday afternoon.

Emergency crews, including members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) County of Brant detachment, along with fire and paramedic services, responded to the crash on Colborne Street East between McBay Road and Langford Church Road at approximately 12:33 p.m.

Police said the collision involved a pickup truck, a sport utility vehicle and a minivan.

A 38-year-old driver and a 16-year-old passenger in the minivan suffered life-threatening injuries and were pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the pickup truck and the driver and three occupants of the SUV were transported to

hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The investigation remains ongoing, with members of the County of Brant OPP working alongside the West Region OPP Traffic Incident Management and Enforcement Team.

Colborne Street East was closed between McBay Road and Langford Church Road following the collision and was expected to remain closed for six to eight hours as police continued their investigation.

Investigators are asking anyone who was in the area at the time of the collision to check their dash camera footage for any information that may assist. Anyone with information is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Anonymous tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Letter to the Editor

Resident questions Drink Fest location, impact on neighbourhood

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to your article, "July Talk, Strumbellas to Headline Drink Fest," published on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

According to the article, despite ongoing concerns about noise complaints associated with the music festival at the Syl Apps Community Centre, the city council has decided to proceed with the event in 2026. I believe this decision is misguided and does not adequately address the concerns of nearby residents.

Rather than expecting organizers to simply reduce noise levels—something that may be unrealistic given the nature of live concerts—the city should be considering alternative

locations farther removed from residential neighbourhoods. Attendees come expecting a full concert experience, and it is unlikely that volume levels will be meaningfully reduced.

In addition to noise, there are other important issues that do not appear to have been fully considered, including alcohol consumption, post-event cleanup, traffic congestion, and limited parking. As this event has the potential to grow each year, these concerns are likely to intensify if not properly addressed.

It would be worthwhile for the city council to re-evaluate both the location and long-term planning of this music festival to ensure it is compatible with the surrounding community.

- Ingrid Carlaw

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: The story of The Paris Independent (part 2) – It takes a village...



By Chris Whelan

To say the past week has been emotional would be an understatement. Looking back on the last four and a half years, I am overwhelmed by the number of people who make this newspaper possible. I sometimes refer to our paper as "Pinocchio"; one year ago, we became a "real boy" when we finally went to print.

Back in 2021, I asked the community if they would support a local newspaper again. The answer was a resounding yes. Casandra Turnbull, the last local Editor of the Paris Star, stepped up to help. Today, I can't imagine having done this without Casandra, my wife Cindy, and the dozens of contributors who bring these pages to life. Casandra and I never formally discussed becoming business partners—it just happened.

Last Thursday, we celebrated at the Grand Bayou with a toast to our team. While there were nine of us present, only eight appear in the photo. The ninth was my wife, Cindy, who was behind the lens—not because she had to be, but because she's always happier behind the scenes. Casandra was also missed at the dinner; she was busy celebrating another milestone as a "hockey mom" at the Brant Sports Complex, where her son's team was winning the championship. Being a great mom, she didn't have a choice to make—she was exactly where she needed to be!

To all our contributors: we couldn't invite everyone to dinner, but we see your bylines every week and we thank you.

A little over a year ago, Casandra and I could barely imagine our paper going to press, but we kept working toward that goal. Now that we've achieved it, I've been thinking back to my first two "Paris Past" columns regarding our mentors, Jack and Muriel Pickell. Though I never met them, I owe my understanding of the Paris Star to their legacy.

Having experienced the hectic pleasure of going to press every week for a year, the Pickell's story—originally titled "Thank goodness we have computers now!"—has never felt more poignant. Here is their story again as published in our first two online

digital issues in 2021 with excerpts from the Paris Library interview found in the Paris Museum and Historical Society records.

The story begins with John Harold, born in Brantford in 1873. He came to Paris in 1902 and co-founded Sanderson-Harold, a company that manufactured screen doors and "ice boxes" (the early refrigerators). Today, that factory was known as Paris Kitchens, formerly located in the Junction on Railway Lane.

Harold's daughter, Muriel, married John "Jack" Pickell in 1936. Together, they owned and operated the Paris Star from 1944 until 1970. Their recollections of the "early days" highlight just how much the industry has changed.

Mr. Pickell: "When we started, we had primitive machinery. Everything was set by hand. All the news and ads had to be picked out of type cases and set in lines like mirror readings—backwards and upside down. I could only set about two columns of news a day."

Mrs. Pickell: "I became proficient at that. From 1944 to 1946, Jack was very understaffed, so I helped with proofreading and gathering news. I resigned when our son Brian was born in 1946 but returned in 1959. I worked another twelve years... I wasn't completely useless!"

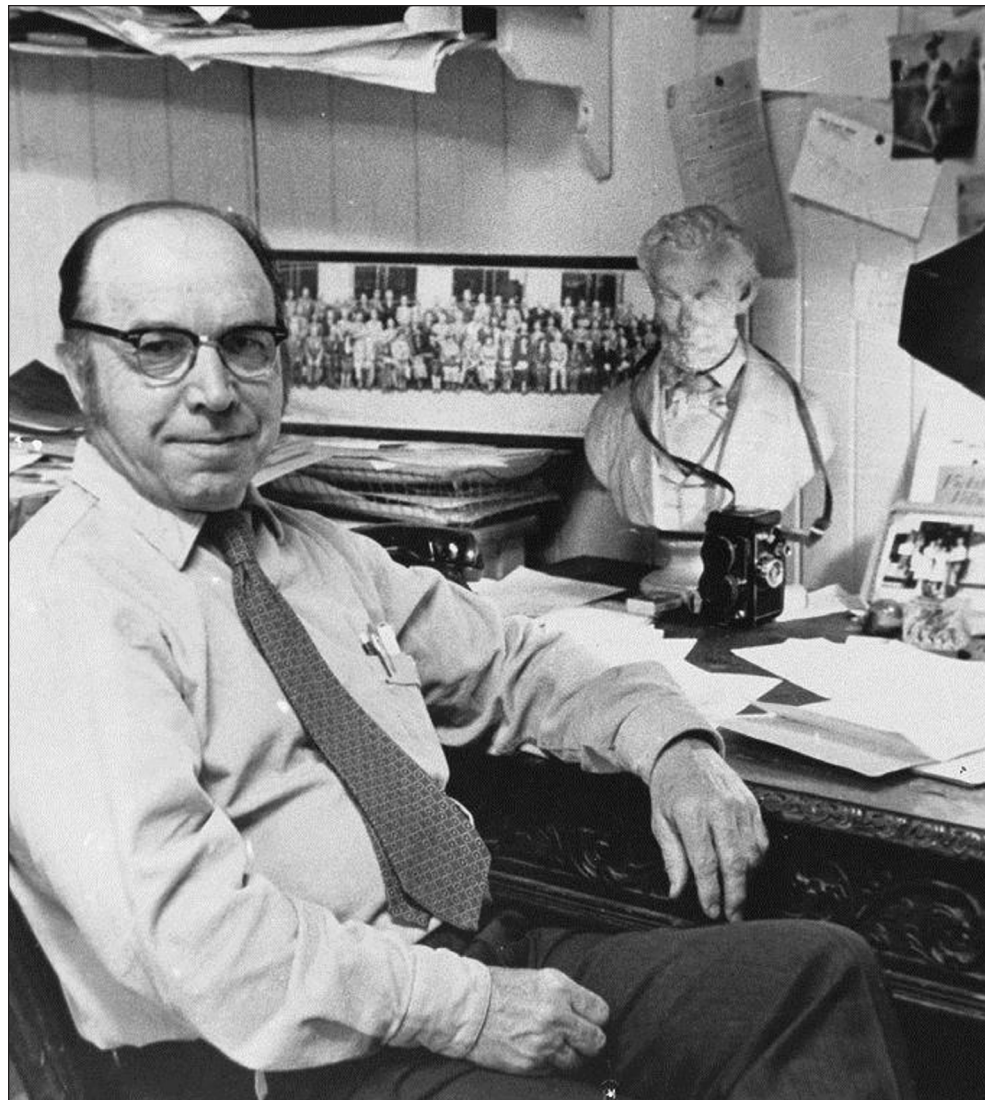
Mr. Pickell: "We finally bought a Linotype around 1954, which was a marvel. It allowed us to set a whole line of type at once. But there was still the business of locking the type into forms and running the presses ourselves."

The transition to "offset" printing changed everything. Instead of heavy lead type, they moved to a process involving typewriters, punched paper, and chemical darkrooms.

Mr. Pickell: "You would feed the paper through a machine with chemicals, and it would come out in long strips of news. You'd run those through a waxer and stick them onto a layout page. None of the weeklies are printed in the old shops anymore; they go to community presses. We would take photos of each page to create negatives, then drive them to Garnerway Press in Kitchener. They'd run off 2,500 copies in less than an hour—and they came out already folded! Before that, we had to fold the papers by hand. It used to take us until 4:00 AM the next morning."

The next time I feel the pressure of a looming deadline or a technical glitch, I'll think of the Pickells and their 4:00 AM folding sessions. We owe it to their legacy to keep the presses running. It truly does take a village to write the news, and we are honored to be the ones holding the pen for the next chapter of Paris's history.

As I look at our modern computer screens and digital layout software, I can't help but smile at the thought of Jack and Muriel hand-folding papers until 4:00 AM. Their



(PARIS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

John P. Pickell, Owner and Editor of The Paris Star, 1944-1970, D.A. Smith Photograph Collection, 1999.1248.01,

tired hands built the foundation of what we do today. The tools have changed—from lead type to digital pixels—but the mission hasn't budged an inch: to tell the stories of this community.

We may not be setting type 'backwards

and upside down' anymore, but we are still working late into the night to make sure Paris has a voice. To our readers, our contributors, and the pioneers like the Pickells: thank you for being part of this journey.

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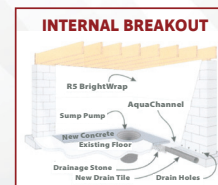
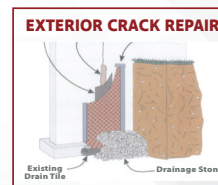


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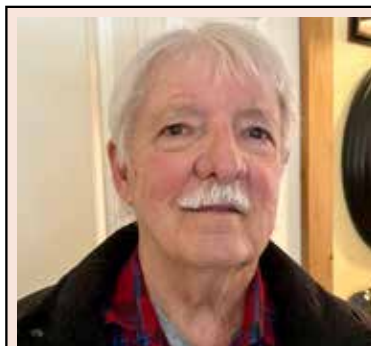
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THEN AND NOW: The Legacy of #83 Grand River Street - Part 4



By Wayne Wilkinson
Paris Historian / Artist

I sincerely hope you've enjoyed the recent articles featuring the Cockburn Block at the heart of downtown Paris. This week, we'll take a short walk a few doors north to #83, the current home of Chicoyne's Gift Shop.

Our journey back begins 150 years ago, where we would have found a boot and shoe business owned by James McRae. His 1886 advertisement boasts a complete line of footwear and notes that, as a skilled cobbler, he could even handle special orders—you simply can't beat that for service!

In 1895, Timothy Shawcross, a well-established jeweler, moved his shop here from across the street, where he had been practicing his craft since 1886. I've always enjoyed the clever play on words he used in his advertisements, using his own name to catch the eye of passersby.

As I've noted numerous times, the Inksater name runs deep in Par-

is history. The story began in 1854 when George Inksater (Snr.), fresh off the boat from Scotland, started a footwear business on Dumfries Street. As the years passed, his son John became involved, eventually taking the reins in 1897.

Realizing the importance of moving his store to the growing retail hub of Paris, John relocated to the newly built building at #83 in 1901. From there, the business became a true family tradition:

- 1926: George Renwick Inksater took over the family mantle.
- 1939: George's son, Herbert, became the proprietor.
- 1956: Ownership shifted to Harold Rickwood and his wife Isobel. This remained "all in the family," as Isobel was an Inksater by birth.

The final chapter of this incredible legacy ended in 1982. After 128 years in the Paris footwear industry—81 of those spent at #83—the store closed its doors for the last time. This remarkable run makes it second only to J.M. Hall's for longevity at a single location.

In 1983, the popular Walkers Department Store moved into the space, followed by the Good Tidings Bookstore in 1990. By 1995, one of the busiest dress stores on Grand River St. commenced business: Joyden's. Owned by Joyce Maguire, the shop was known for high-quality women's fashion. After 21 successful years, Joyce retired in 2014.

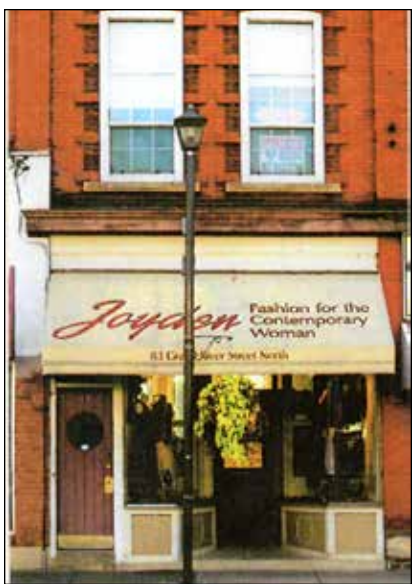
After a brief stint by a shop known

as "161" (which moved to William St. in 2025), opportunity knocked for Ami Chicoyne.

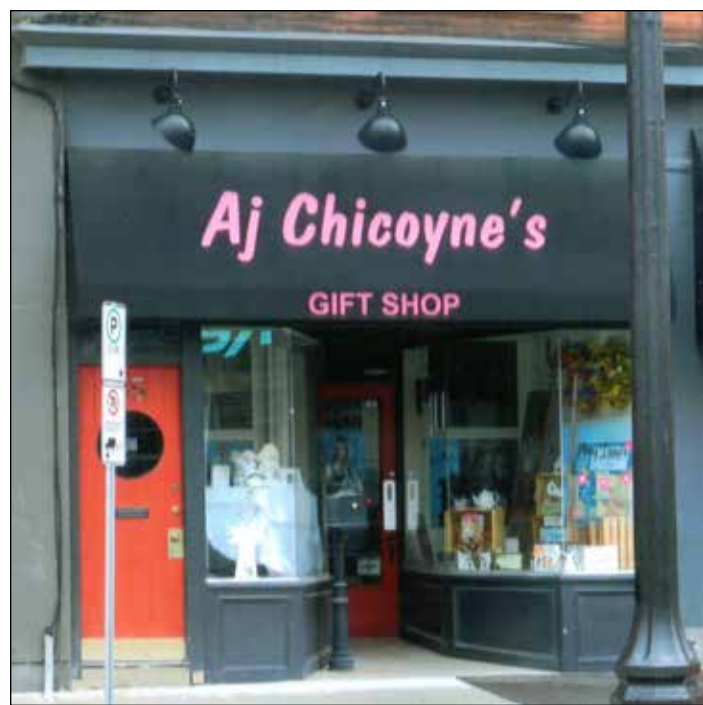
In May 2025, Ami took a leap of faith, moving her home-grown Cambridge business into the historic storefront at #83. Today, Chicoyne's Gift Shop is a delightful destination for personalized gifts, spa essentials, and unique items crafted by local artists, alongside a dedicated Christian section featuring cards and keepsakes.

As she approaches her first anniversary at #83, Ami would be happy to have you drop in and say hello. In our next column, we'll check out another iconic location in our beautiful town's long and interesting history.

Some information obtained from the archives at the Paris Museum & Historical Society.



1901-1982



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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">8⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">7⁹⁹</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">2⁷⁹</p>

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Brant Battalion U11B rally to capture Southern Counties title, advance to OMHA championships

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Brant Battalion U11B team is headed to the OMHA Championships after a hard-fought 4-2 victory over the Twin Centre Stars in the deciding game of the Southern Counties final on March 19.

Backed by a strong hometown crowd, the Battalion completed an impressive comeback in the best-of-three series after dropping the opener 8-0 on March 13. The lopsided loss proved to be a turning point, as Brant responded with a 4-2 win in Game 2 before sealing the championship on home ice.

The final game opened with early pressure from Twin Centre, who struck less than a minute into the first period. Brant answered quickly, however, as Jacoby Bonnell scored just two minutes later, with Alex Thoms picking up the assist.

Twin Centre regained the lead before the end of the first period, but that would be their final goal of the night. The second period remained scoreless as both teams tightened defensively in a physical, evenly matched contest.

Brant found another gear in the third period - a trend that has defined the team's season. Nolan Kearsley tied the game three minutes into the frame with an unassisted effort, setting the stage for a decisive push.

Just two minutes later, Nash McLaren capitalized on a setup from Blake Anderson to give the Battalion their first lead of the game. Kearsley added an insurance marker later in the period, tipping in a shot from Jett Rollins, assisted by Harrison Rusyn, to secure the 4-2 win.

The Battalion closed out the final minutes with disciplined puck control, limiting Twin Centre's chances while protecting the lead. Goaltender Mason Monteiro turned aside 10 of 12 shots, including several key saves late in the third period.

"All year we prepared the kids for the ability to adapt, in both this final series and in the semi finals where they adapted to different setups and systems that were required to properly play against our opponents," said head coach Jon Kristman. "Both our defense and offense stepped it up huge after a forgettable game 1 and helped lead us to the championship."

The victory marks the first Southern Counties title for the Brant Minor Hockey Association since its formation last year.

With the championship banner set to be raised at the Brant Sports Complex, the Battalion will now turn its attention to the provincial stage.

The team travels to Halton Hills from March 27 to 29 to compete in the U11B Tier 2 OMHA Championships, joining 12 of the top teams in Ontario.



Will Goslin spoils a Twin Centre offensive attack.



Blake Anderson battles to bring the puck down the ice.



The team celebrates after the goal.



Nolan Kearsley fires the equalizer goal at the Twin Centre goalie, while Austin Meza and Harrison Rusyn watch on.

Thank-you to the U11B Team Sponsors

Paris Maple Syrup Festival returns with sweet traditions, growing crowds

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

One of the community's most anticipated spring traditions is set to return next month as the Lions Club of Paris prepares to host the 13th annual Paris Maple Syrup Festival.

The free, family-friendly event will take place Saturday, April 11 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Paris Fairgrounds, bringing together food, entertainment and local vendors in celebration of a distinctly Canadian staple.

First launched in 2012, the festival has grown significantly from its early days along William Street, where organizers hoped to attract a few hundred visitors.

The event was the vision of the late Lion Dan Moore, who drew inspiration from similar festivals in other communities. Over time, attendance has climbed into the thousands, prompting moves to larger locations and the addition of live entertainment.

"This year we are proud to be celebrating the 13th Annual Paris Lions Maple Syr-

up Festival and continuing to honour Dan Moore's legacy," said longtime organizer Lion Lorne Reid.

Now firmly established at the Paris Fairgrounds due to ongoing downtown construction, the festival continues to evolve while maintaining its community roots.

This year's event will feature approximately 75 vendors offering a range of goods, from maple syrup and baked treats to handmade jewelry and artisan crafts.

"The popularity of the festival keeps many vendors returning each year" said Lion Andrea Clendening, who is responsible for vendor enrollment "and the growing attendance attracts new vendors wanting to be part of it."

A full day of entertainment is also planned, beginning in the morning with Joan Minnery and young performers from Sing IT, followed by interactive line dancing with STOMPtastic. Afternoon acts include Danielle Beaudin and the Thompson Road Band, while roaming entertainers will bring added energy throughout the grounds.

"We have an energetic line-up of enter-



A steady line forms at the Paris Lions Club food truck during the 2025 festival as visitors wait to order the festival's signature pancake breakfast, served with locally produced maple syrup.

tainment" commented Lion Ted Bickell "it is guaranteed to be a fun-filled day for all."

At the heart of the festival is the ever-popular pancake breakfast, a staple that continues to draw large crowds year after year.

"We are planning for our biggest crowd ever" said Lion Rod Laframboise "we anticipate serving 1800 pancakes and 2500 sausages".

The breakfast will feature sausages donated by Strode's, locally produced maple syrup from Grand River Maple, and coffee and hot chocolate provided by Tim Hortons. Additional food vendors will offer a variety of options including burgers, burritos, grilled cheese and ice cream.

Behind the scenes, the event is the result

of months of planning and strong community support. Organizers say preparation begins up to six months in advance, with help from volunteers, local businesses and the County of Brant.

For many residents, the festival has become more than just a day out — it's a sign that spring has arrived.

"The Maple Syrup Festival has become an annual tradition for the community kick off spring with great food, entertainment and fun," said event chairperson Lion Dave Arsenault. As the Lions Club of Paris celebrates 95 years of service in the community, the festival remains its signature event, raising funds for local initiatives while bringing people together to celebrate the season.



(RUBY JONES PHOTOS)

Festival-goers take part in interactive line dancing during the Paris Maple Syrup Festival, one of several live entertainment offerings that keep the crowd moving throughout the day.



Volunteers with the Paris Lions Club prepare pancakes on the griddle during the Maple Syrup Festival in 2024, the organization's signature fundraising event supporting local community initiatives.

Paris men's Wednesday night billiards:

Rack 'em up: A night at the Paris Legion

BY JEFF "STONES" JOHNSTON

Sports Correspondent

It was another classic night for the Paris Men's Pool League—a mix of high-stakes bank shots and even higher-stakes battles of wit.

The night kicked off with Floody nailing a massive, long bank shot, while Greig Graham showed everyone how it's done by dropping a long shot on the 8-ball. Chicken and Big Larry were busy bringing it home, though Chicken pulled me aside to ask if the whole thing was a setup! I tried to fool him, but he wasn't having it, telling me: "I'm not that new... you can take your thumb off the scale now and retire!"

I guess we've finally come to the conclusion that I simply cannot think and talk at the same time.

Oscar spent half the night hunting for his misplaced cocktail, though he did

manage the "best pickup shot" of the evening.

Big Larry drew a crowd with a perfectly executed double kiss.

Pickles brought some local flair with a classic "Brantford pool shot."

From caroms and banks to partners feeding off each other's energy, there was a lot of "jelling" going on. Even the "Old Jellers" had quite the battle over the right balls.

We saw some fantastic semi-finals, though it's clear a few of the guys might need glasses—or at least a thicker prescription! While Floody and Kopper were the big winners last week, the finals this week featured a thrilling game with Motor and Oscar facing off against Willy and Pickles. We also welcomed Jack and Hayden Stewart to the mix. As "Scoop" would say "Life is always better with a Stewart in it" and Jack was quick to add: "and it's always a pleasure!"

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Campaign surpasses goal for new Ayr arena expansion

MEDIA RELEASE

A major community fundraising campaign supporting a new twin-pad arena expansion in Ayr has surpassed its goal, a development expected to benefit athletes and sports organizations across the region — including many from Paris who regularly use the facility.

The Centre for the Community Group (CCG) of North Dumfries announced the success of its Live and Play 2 campaign, which raised more than \$2.6 million toward the Net Zero Twin Pad and Programming Rooms expansion at the North Dumfries Community Complex (NDCC).

The campaign exceeded its fundraising target of just over \$2.1 million, helping move the long-planned expansion project closer to completion.

The NDCC has become a regional hub for recreation since opening in 2011. While located in Ayr, the facility hosts many teams and tournaments that include players from neighbouring communities such as Paris.

Campaign co-chair Rob Deutschmann credited community generosity for the campaign's success.

"Our community has once again shown what we can accomplish together. With incredible generosity and spirit, we didn't just meet our fundraising goal but smashed it by raising \$2.623 million vs. the goal of \$2.15 million. Thank you to everyone who contributed — your support truly makes a



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Pictured (back row) Don Eby Live and Play 2 Honorary Advisor, Brad Adams AFM Board Chair, Ed Hesselink AFM Vice Chair, Cathy Formica AFM Director, Chantelle Sigurdson AFM Chief People Officer, Mike Pley Live and Play 2 Co-Chair, Travis Sedore Live and Play 2 Team member, Rob Deutschmann Live and Play 2 Co-Chair, Russ Hutchings CCG Board Chair. Front row, Wyatt Henrich and Mayor Sue Foxtan.

lasting difference in our community."

The campaign launched Oct. 1, 2025 and was led by a volunteer team of local residents, working alongside the Township of North Dumfries and community partners.

Co-chair Michael Pley said the project's

success was made possible by strong community involvement.

"The campaign team was entirely made up of community volunteers that worked tirelessly with great support from the Township of North Dumfries. As a result, over 110 community members chose to generously support the campaign through sponsorships and donations. Of particular

note, Ayr Farmers Mutual Insurance Company stepped up to become our lead sponsor for the naming of the community building, a first of its kind for the Township, and MacNeil & Dodd Pharmacy is our lead donor for the new arena."

The project represents the next phase of a long-standing community vision first pursued more than two decades ago.

Russ Hutchings, chair of the Centre for the Community Group, said the new arena and programming spaces will build on the success of the original NDCC project.

"The CCG started this journey over 20 years ago, advocating for investment in recreational and community programming facilities in North Dumfries. With the Live and Play 1 Campaign, we achieved our first milestone with the building of the NDCC in 2011. With the Live and Play 2 Campaign, we can put an exclamation mark on our goal by the Spring of 2027 with the completion of the MacNeil Arena, the Greb Family Community Room and the 150th Anniversary Grant Committee Community Hall. We owe a huge amount of thanks to all those who have contributed to both Live and Play 1 and 2, as this has allowed us to contribute well over \$4 million to community facilities and organizations in North Dumfries." Although the campaign will wind down its active fundraising efforts after March 15, organizers say donations and pledges will continue to be accepted through the end of the year, with some naming opportunities still available.

Construction of the new arena and community spaces is expected to be completed by spring 2027.

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Sometimes a groom may want a second shirt for the special day, especially in hotter days or those that tend to sweat more.

Colour of groomsmen neck accessories should be the same as bridesmaids' dresses

Colour of shirts should not comprise colour of wedding dress. If the gown is off white or a darker shade of white, DO NOT wear white shirts - otherwise dress will look dirty and be exaggerated in pictures

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Simple touches that add an elegant feel to a wedding

The term "the perfect wedding" can be somewhat misleading. Couples have their own ideas regarding the perfect wedding, and no single vision is more worthy of that characterization than another.

Tradition plays a big role at many weddings, as couples have long embraced customs like the first dance, cutting the cake together and even tossing the bridal bouquet at the reception. Traditional weddings often are associated with elegance, and there are many ways to create an elegant aesthetic at a wedding.

- Consider candlelight. Candlelight can make any space feel cozy and warm. Lit candles also create a calming and elegant vibe at a wedding. A handful of thoughtfully placed candles around a ceremony space can add a sense of elegance to a wedding. That vibe can be maintained into the reception when candles are placed on dining tables.
- Include some vintage items. Vintage items can add elegance because they call to mind traditional weddings of past eras. Unique vintage vases on seating tables or even as reception table centerpieces are simple to arrange and effective at adding an elegant touch.
- Choose a signature cocktail. The drinks guests enjoy at the reception also can add some elegance to the festivities. Ask the reception hall bartender to collaborate on a classic cocktail, ideally one

that might have been popular years ago or even a modernized version of a drink that calls to mind ceremonies of yesteryear.

- Go traditional with wedding attire. More and more brides are choosing wedding gowns that go beyond the classic white dress. But brides who want something elegant may want to stick to traditional attire. The same goes for grooms, who can choose a traditional black tuxedo to add some simple elegance to the big day.
- Set your sights on seating. There's no area of a wedding that can't be augmented with a little elegance, and that even goes for seating. Chair sashes complement an elegant theme, and such simple decor is easy to pull off. It also provides instant appeal and a touch of class as guests enter the venue and take a seat.

An elegant wedding aesthetic makes for great photographs and adds a memorable vibe to a ceremony and reception.



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Brant Municipal Enterprises installs solar security systems at cemeteries across southwest Ontario

MEDIA RELEASE

A County of Brant-owned corporation has completed the installation of solar-powered lighting and security systems at Catholic cemetery properties across southwest Ontario, aimed at deterring vandalism while preserving the dignity of the sites.

Brant Municipal Enterprises Inc. (BME) said it was selected by The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton to deliver a solution that enhances safety without disturbing graves, monuments or the peaceful nature of the grounds.

“This is a special project to BME,” said Ron Budreau, Executive Director of Brant Municipal Enterprises. “Having The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton entrust us with the care of their sacred spaces is distinct from the types of projects we typically undertake. It is an honour to support them in this important work, and having several locations in the County of Brant makes it even more meaningful.”

The project involved the design and installation of 14 off-grid solar lighting and security units at cemetery locations in the County of Brant, Hamilton, Milton, Guelph, Acton and surrounding communities.

BME said the systems required no trenching or wiring and were installed without disrupting existing cemetery plots, while providing year-round lighting and monitoring.

“This project was incredibly important to us,” said Bill Tempelton from The Catholic Cemeteries. “Our cemeteries are sacred spaces where families come to reflect, honour and remember their loved ones. BME delivered a solution that protects our properties while respecting their dignity and beauty. The system has performed extremely



Solar-powered lighting illuminates a memorial at Holy Cross Cemetery, part of a new off-grid security system installed by Brant Municipal Enterprises to help deter vandalism while preserving the peaceful nature of the grounds.

ly well, even through the winter, and has already made a meaningful difference.” Since installation, the Diocese reports the systems have helped deter vandalism and theft, while improving visibility and adding an extra layer of security through integrated cameras.

BME said the project highlights its focus on delivering

off-grid solar solutions that protect community spaces while respecting their purpose. Founded in 2013, Brant Municipal Enterprises is a wholly owned corporation of the County of Brant focused on green energy and community development projects, including solar installations and infrastructure development.

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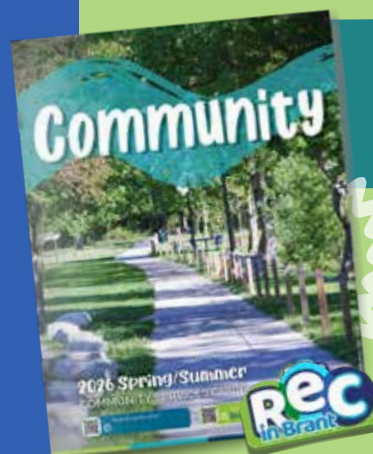
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Local legends and familiar faces

STONES Around Town

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

As Spring approaches, you start to cross paths with more people and find new friends along the way. So, here we go!

Our thoughts are with Mrs. Tipping, and we send our deepest respects to the late Tommy. Speaking of helping out, I spent some time assisting my friend Antonio with a leaking water tank. I'm always here to help, yet I'm starting to hear I have "time limits" now—not sure why! I suspect it's because I don't know when to shut up. They say a strong back and a weak mind are hard to find, but I think I'm doing just fine.

Out on the circuit, I caught up with Beets—the best caddy and golf partner ever—along with Dawn and Mr. B. A big "welcome home" to Big Larry, and a shout-out to my long-distance caller, Kerry; you are a rock star and simply brilliant.

Please keep my pal Bruce Poland in your thoughts and prayers. On a brighter note, my first hockey hero, Motor, is healing up

well and getting ready to shake that new hip at pickleball. He's back riding again with Mike Bike and the Kickstands. Also, hello to George Wardell—good to see you, my friend!

I found a dime the other day and had ten cents' worth of good luck for the rest of the day. It reminded me that truth is the harshest of virtues, and a person seeking forgiveness will do almost anything.

Family-wise, two of my girls celebrated birthdays. Happy birthday, Laura and Rachel! Wow, where have the years gone? It feels like just yesterday we were at Tony Boo's Shoe Store.

A warm welcome to the Oui Three Girls to downtown Paris! And to Kent at the Grand Bayou: it won't be long until that shoulder heals and you're back to tipping them again. I ran into Billy Robb driving a new set of hot wheels—he's looking cool—and had a great visit with my Aunt Denise. I forgot her paper last week, so you can imagine the earful I got, starting with: "I'm right next door!"

I'd like to wish a very Happy Belated Birthday to my dad and hero on March 7th. Still going strong, Marine! If I can be half the man you are, I'll consider myself a success. A shout-out as well to the Oldroyd girls, the Hogarth girls, the Stewart boys, and Cameron, who is celebrating a birthday. He's a fine young man—good job to Mom, and brothers Haydon and Jack.

Thinking of Cameron turning 17 makes me wonder... what was I doing at 17? Any-

one? Bueller? My cousin and umpire mentor stopped by with his lovely wife for a visit, and we shared a moment for the late Mr. Tomblin—as fine a man as there ever was. Hello to Bill Cracknell, too. We are all one fateful act away from a redirected destiny, and the price can be immeasurable.

For a soundtrack this week, take a listen to "Everyday People" by Sly and the Family Stone, or "Penny Lane." That's us. Maybe we could do a mash-up video downtown? Matt Wilson, where are you? We need a director!

As Father Time rolls by and Mother Nature shows us how interesting life is, I spotted young Greig Graham helping a senior lady across the street. What a good Paris boy.

Hats off to the Chili Cook-off at Branch 29! My favorites were Lukas and Steve Howes. Let's see even more entries next year—maybe we can get the South Brant, Burford, and St. George Legions involved too.

On the way home, I stopped for a bonfire chat with neighbors Carolyn, Mark, and young Hayden. I also met new neighbors Tom and Corinna, our resident tropical fish experts who already love Paris. Wayne and Carol are still out walking the dog—atta be, Smitty! Randy Brown is still walking his beat in Burford, and Mack and Mrs. Mack are back safe from Mexico and headed to The Point soon.

I saw Joanne out on her travels, and Lori stopped by to give me a hard time. C'est

la vie—that's love to me. Hi to Billy Gerue, and a shout-out to the fans of the paper over at Smokey Hollow Estates. A big Paris welcome to Mike and Mel, who are new in town and staying at Hillside Park. Find me here, Mike, when you're ready for golf!

And then, appearing as if out of thin air, were great friends Don and Julie Parsons. (A nod to the late, fine postman Bud and, as always, Mrs. Parsons—God bless). They are as great as people can be.

A tip of the hat to Donny Wright for keeping it real "crossing guard style," and a thank you to all our local crossing guards.

Finally, I want to share a special thank you for the memories to our friend Stew (or "Scoop"). I can't quite put it into words right now, but from the heart: much love for our friend. He was a good dad, a great husband, and a true friend. I'll miss you, but I'll see you again. And if all else fails, I'll just call you on the "Scoop phone."

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Riddles

What shows up in your phone storage and refuses to leave?

Screenshots

What arrives in your inbox and multiplies while you're sleeping?

Emails

What shows up the moment you try to eat healthy?

Snacks

What appears in your fridge late at night and somehow tastes better than it did earlier?

Leftovers

I have clues but no secrets—
what am I?

Crossword

I travel far without moving—
what am I?

News

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cyclone | 6. Saturn |
| 2. Reindeer | 7. U2 |
| 3. Pacific Ocean | 8. Michael B Jordan |
| 4. Anthropic | 9. Piano |
| 5. Paris | 10. A pot of gold |

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 23

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

MARIGOLD

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Marigold, the 5 month old Maine Coon was very happy to pose for her photo this week. Marigold is looking forward to a fun filled life with 3, four-legged friends at home as well as 4 two-legged friends - Levi, Graham, Devyn and Sevnyn.

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



Word Search

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- Springtime
- Freshgrowth
- Robin
- Bloomseason
- Rainy
- Flowergarden
- Daisy
- Naturewaking
- Warmerweather
- Breeze
- Aprilshower
- Nesting
- Seasonchange
- Sunshine
- Raindrops
- Blossoms
- Ladybugs
- Butterfly
- Wildflower
- Hatching
- Chirping
- Bloom
- Pollen
- Bunny
- Tulip
- Robin



WEEKLY Horoscope

March 25 - March 31, 2026

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



Momentum rises steadily, Aries. A bold move attracts opportunity and refines direction. Stay focused—it strengthens confidence and supports meaningful progress.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Consistent effort rewards you, Taurus. Practical steps restore calm and settle restless thoughts. Trust routine—it strengthens stability and keeps goals clearly in sight.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



Inspiration sparks quickly, Gemini. A lively exchange fuels creativity and fresh ideas. Follow curiosity—it encourages progress and engaging collaboration.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



Inner calm returns, Cancer. Familiar comforts rebuild confidence and clear perspective. Move forward gently and trust your instincts.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Careful planning boosts progress, Leo. Resolving small details restores confidence and control. Stay organized—it guides actions with clarity and assurance.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Focused effort supports you, Virgo. Sorting priorities restores balance and renewed motivation. Trust structure—it strengthens direction and steady improvement ahead.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Harmony feels within reach, Libra. Honest conversation reduces tension and builds understanding. Choose balance—it restores peace and supports meaningful cooperation.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Focus intensifies now, Scorpio. A quiet realization sparks personal transformation. Trust insight—it uncovers strength waiting just beneath the surface.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



Energy lifts gradually. New experiences inspire curiosity and fresh excitement. Stay open—it encourages growth that reshapes your perspective.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Dedication brings results. Thoughtful preparation supports steady movement toward key goals. Stay committed—the effort you invest builds lasting success.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Creative thinking leads you, Aquarius. A different approach inspires teamwork and progress. Trust originality—it strengthens your vision and future plans.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Quiet reflection restores clarity and emotional balance. Trust intuition—it gently guides you toward renewal, reassurance, and growing confidence in the days ahead.

OBITUARY

Stewart



Douglas Arthur Stewart

It is with heavy hearts that we share the loss of Doug Stewart, who passed peacefully surrounded by his family on March 15, 2026, at the age of 63.

Beloved husband to Michelle (nee Lawn). Loving father to Jack (Emma), Hayden and Cameron. Dear brother to Shelley Rinehart and Sheilia Stewart. Loved by his mother-in-law Dianne Lawn. Cherished brother-in-law to Kelly and Luke Donkers. Also survived by several nieces, nephews and many special friends.

Predeceased by his parents, Earl and Doreen (Porter), sister Sandy Livingstone, brother-in-law Lloyd Rinehart, and father-in-law Tom Lawn.

Doug had a big personality and an even bigger heart. He was incredibly passionate about his community, hockey, and his friends and family.

Doug was fourth-generation Paris and a lifelong south-ender. He was an avid supporter of his

hometown and proud to tell people he hailed from Paris. He enjoyed giving back to the community through fundraisers and events such as Charity Golf Tournaments, Curling Bonspiels and Soap Box Derbies. His most recent community contribution was with the Paris Independent newspaper, recognizing local sports heroes as "Scoop Stewart".

Stewy also loved the game of hockey, as a player and a coach. After a successful OHL career, he found pleasure in sharing his knowledge through coaching for over 30 years, achieving various championships along the way.

Doug had made many friends throughout his life. He enjoyed organizing social events such as golf games and pool nights, often regarded as the life of the party... There wasn't a microphone he didn't like. Doug would often say, "I never became rich in money, but I became very rich in friends."

Family meant everything to him. Doug took great pride in being Michelle's 'trophy husband' for over 26 years. He considered their three boys his greatest accomplishment and his proudest legacy.

Doug lived life to the fullest, touching the lives of many. He had a unique gift for making people laugh and feel valued, leaving behind countless memories and stories that will continue to bring smiles for years to come. He is going to be greatly missed.

A celebration of Doug's life will be held at a later date.

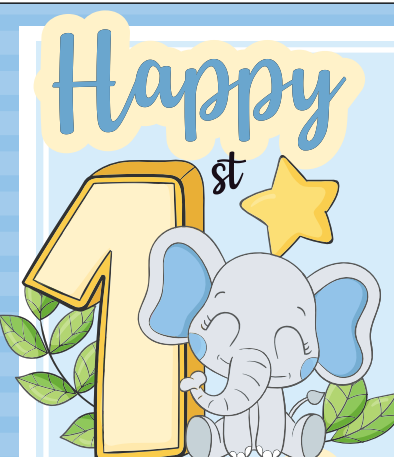

ALWAYS A PLEASURE

In Loving
MEMORY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY DAUGHTER, BETH, BELOVED MOTHER OF KATIE AND TINA, WHO PASSED AWAY IN MARCH 2012 AT THE AGE OF 49.
MAY SHE REST IN PEACE ALONGSIDE HER GRANDMOTHER, KATHLEEN DAVIES, WHO PASSED AWAY ON MARCH 29, 1977, AT THE AGE OF 56.

FOREVER LOVED AND REMEMBERED,
MOM (ROSSLYN DOHERTY)

Happy 1st Birthday

Spencer Robert VanParys

Son of Colin and Michelle (Linington) VanParys
Grandson of Ken Linington (Paris) and Brent and Judy VanParys (Norwich)

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
GRANTHAVEN.COM**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Experience Fanshawe at Open House - All locations are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 28. Meet faculty and current students from all areas of Fanshawe Drop-in and ask about your program interests, career options and becoming a Fanshawe student Hear from college experts on student life, admissions, financial aid, and more! Explore our campuses at London, Woodstock, Simcoe, St. Thomas, Clinton and Tiverton.

Men's Breakfast at Burtch Baptist Church - 352 Cockshutt Rd. (south of Brantford). Join them at 8:00 a.m for a hearty meal, speaker Shawn Erb of Friendship House and great country fellowship. Free will offering.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Catch all the action as the Paris Fire Station takes on the Airport Fire Station - in a charity hockey game to benefit Stedman Community Hospice. Game takes place at the Brant Sports Complex on March 29th at 3 pm. Everyone welcome. Bring your \$5 admission - or extra donations - and enjoy a great game for a great cause.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST

The Brant Men of Song Will Be Holding Their Choir Practices - on Tuesdays on March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st at the First Baptist Church 70 West St., Brantford from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. New members are always welcome to attend and enjoy some singing.

MARCH 1-31

Celebrate Women. Double Your Impact. Honour Someone You Love - In celebration of the strength, resilience, and leadership of women everywhere, a generous donor has offered a matching gift. For the month of March, your donation will be doubled, helping even more women and families to have affordable, safe housing Brantford. You may also choose to make your gift in honour of a woman who inspires you. We will proudly acknowledge your tribute on our Wall of Gratitude. See the donors to campaign at <https://bridgetohome.ca/recognition/> I invite you to contribute to the project at 32 Bridge St. You may donate online (<https://bridgetohome.ca/donate/>)

TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH, 14TH, 21ST & 28TH

Brant Men of Song will be holding their choir practices - Tuesdays on April 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th at the First Baptist Church 70 West St., Brantford from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. New members are always welcome to attend and enjoy some singing.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Catholic Women's League Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, April 8th at 7 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 17 Washington Street, Paris.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

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

Brant Heritage Quilters Guild - Will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday, April 09 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"

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

"Celebrate Spring" Artisans & Vendors Market - It's been a long winter, but spring is sure to arrive! St. George United Church, 9 Beverly St. East (Hwy. #5), St. George is pleased to host awesome artisans and vendors once again - on Saturday, April 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lots of baking, deli, gardening and gift ideas for spring & summer fun! Coffee, treats & lunch available. Admission of \$2.00 to support the local Food Bank. For more information, please contact (519) 448-3842.

Paris Maple Syrup Festival - Hosted by the Lions Club of Paris. Saturday, April 11 from 8 am to 5 pm at the Paris Fairgrounds. Enjoy homemade pancakes served fresh and delicious all day long! Alongside this sweet tradition, we welcome a wide variety of food vendors, artisans, makers, and local businesses to be part of this well-loved community event.

Brant Men of Song Workshop - The Brant Men of Song are inviting all individuals and groups interested in singing to an afternoon workshop on April 11th from 1 pm to 4 pm at Hope Christian Reformed Church, 64 Buchanan Crescent, Brantford. There is no charge for this workshop. Participants may also sing with the Brant Men of Song in an evening performance starting at 7 pm. Financial contributions will be collected for the Brantford Food Bank. Come sing with us and enjoy the sound of many voices.

Brant Men of Song "A Day of Choral Singing" - The Brant Men of Song are inviting all individuals and groups interested in singing to an afternoon workshop on April 11th from 1 pm to 4 pm at Hope Christian Reformed Church, 64 Buchanan Crescent, Brantford. There is no charge for this workshop. Participants may also sing with the Brant Men of Song in an evening performance starting at 7 pm. Financial contributions will be collected for the Brantford Food Bank. Come sing with us and enjoy the sound of many voices.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Second Sunday of Easter Service & Baptism - Please join us on Sunday, April 12 @ 2:00 pm, for our the Second Sunday of Easter Service and baptism at St. Paul's Chapel, 1159 Hwy 54 in Middleport. Everyone welcome. Social and refreshments to follow the service. Please bring a non-perishable donation for the Caledonia Food Bank.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting - Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 10 AM at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. The guest speaker will discuss SOAR (Support, Opportunity, Achieve, Resilience) and its work in addictions and mental health. New members are always welcome.

APRIL 16, 17 & 18

Rummage and Bake Sale - Paris Community Church 164 GrandRiver Street North Paris. Thursday April 16th Friday April 17th 9am-7pm Saturday April 18th 8am-12 noon. Bake Sale Saturday only. Entrance on Emily Street Door with W/C accessible ramp. Please bring your own reusable bags to fill if possible.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

11th Annual County of Brant Community Tree Plant - Join the Brant Tree Coalition for the 11th Annual County of Brant Community Tree Plant on Saturday, April 18 from 10 am to 1pm at Rising Park, Glenn Morris (5 Brook St.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

13th Annual City of Brantford Community Tree Plant - Join the Brant Tree Coalition for the 13th Annual City of Brantford Community Tree Plant on Saturday, April 25 from 10am to 1pm at Wayne Gretzky Blvd. Parking at Jaycee Park on Dunsdon.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - will be holding their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 28th at 7:30 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish hall at 17 Washington Street, Paris.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Mother's Day Garden Party at Brae Manor Hobby Farm from 10am to 4pm! Pick your own spring bouquet in our Victorian garden and enjoy matcha or a mimosa, sweet treats, live music, a wildflower stroll, and an in-house art exhibit by renowned Paris artist Holly O. Tickets are \$40 and must be pre-purchased. 54 East River Rd, Paris, Ontario. Visit www.braemanorhobbyfarm.ca or email braemanorhobbyfarm@gmail.com for details.

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!

1 & 3 TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

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

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 25

Elton John, Musician (79)

MARCH 26

Diana Ross, Musician (82)

MARCH 27

Nathan Fillion, Actor (55)

MARCH 28

Lady Gaga, Musician (40)

MARCH 29

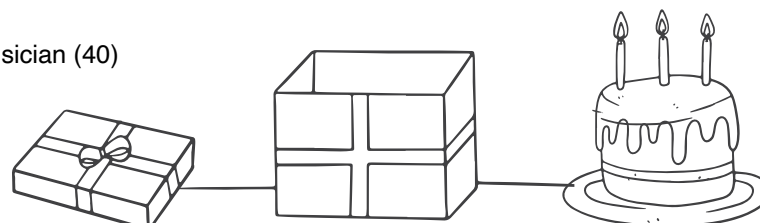
Chris D'Elia, Comedian (46)

MARCH 30

Céline Dion, Musician (58)

MARCH 31

Angus Young, Guitarist (71)



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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.

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Looking for general labour for stone masonry restoration work on historical project starting mid April
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The Paris Independent

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Dan MUYS

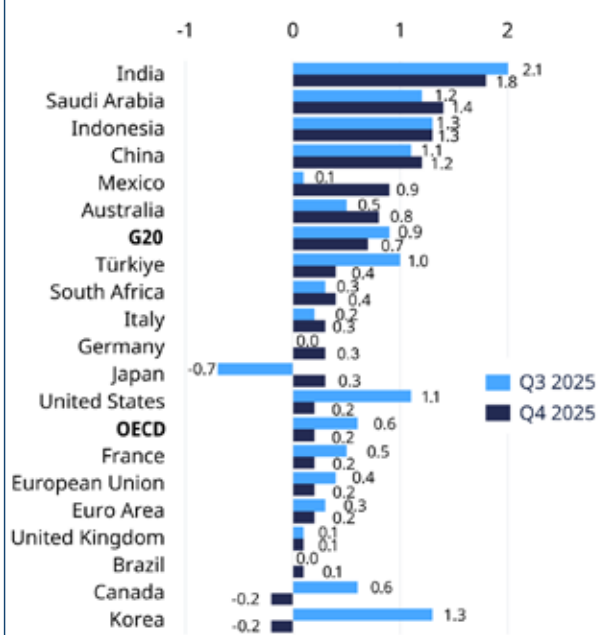
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FLAMBOROUGH–GLANBROOK–BRANT NORTH

ENSURING CANADA'S ECONOMY IS POISED TO COMPETE AT A TIME WE NEED IT MOST

Canada has everything the world wants and needs. We have an abundance of resources and talented people. We have trade agreements with 51 countries. The government is travelling the world promoting Canada as a place to do business.

Canada has enormous potential. But we also need to ensure our economy is ready to compete with the best in the world and win.

G20 GDP growth slows to 0.7% in the fourth quarter of 2025
Percentage change on previous quarter, seasonally adjusted



Today's article focuses on some of what we must do to ensure our economy is primed to grow and compete.

The OECD (Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation) is the top 38 industrialized economies in the

world. Canada is an OECD member. Yet, recent OECD reports indicate Canada has one of the lowest levels of business sector investment in our economy – often ranking near the bottom of OECD countries. This weak investment, particularly in machinery, equipment, and intellectual property, has resulted in a significant decline in capital per worker and lagging productivity.

How do we seize the potential before us and ensure our economy isn't an economic laggard? How do we attract more international investment to Canada?

One problem to address is that of over-regulation. KPMG estimates there has been a 37% increase in regulations since 2006. There needs to be a focused effort to identify inefficiencies, reduce government regulatory burden and eliminate wasteful or duplicative programs.

Additionally, there are too many corporate grants that unfairly choose winners and losers. Simplifying regulations and taxes are a better way to ensure all Canadian businesses are on a level playing field to compete.

We also need to look at how to reduce the burden businesses face from the CRA – which is too often a daily paperwork challenge.

Taxes are the other side of the coin and can impact decisions businesses make about where and how to invest. Government needs to look at how to simplify and rebalance the tax burden.

This is particularly true for entrepreneurs and start-ups. Canada is losing start-ups, and the innovation they bring, to other jurisdictions. We need to restructure taxation to reverse that.



Restoring fiscal balance in the economy by shrinking the federal government's spending as a percentage of GDP is important to achieving a rebalancing of the tax burden. Canada can't continue to run deficits at unsustainable levels forever and expect it won't impact our potential for economic growth.

Other important levers: competition and consumer choice. In too many

sectors of our economy there is not enough competition. Banking, telecom, airlines, groceries to name a few. Competition laws in many European jurisdictions, as well as south of the border, have more teeth and ensure consumers have greater choice and benefit from price competition.

Each of these topics merit more exploration than the page of this paper allows. However, the point is that we need to get our house in order to see growth in GDP – which is a measure of our standard of living. We need to work on what's holding us back. We can position Canada for the growth of the future. We can accelerate our ability to compete at a time when we need it most. There's lots of reason for optimism. Let's get to work.

More on how we do this in next week's Paris Independent, as part of a weekly series.

Dan Muys, MP for Brant North

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