

The Paris Independent

Issue #240 

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

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AGRICULTURE 101 (SUBMITTED PHOTO)
 Brielle Gleiser tries her hand at grinding grain during a hands-on activity at the Bite of Brant program, where students explored how everyday foods are produced from farm to table. Over 1,000 students took part in the annual event held at the Burford Fairgrounds on April 14 & 15.

Bite of Brant brings agriculture to life for local students

CASANDRA TURNBULL
 Managing Editor

More than 1,000 students and teachers gathered at the Burford Fairgrounds last week for the 31st annual Bite of Brant program, a hands-on educational event highlighting the importance of the region's agri-food industry. Held April 14 and 15, the long-running pro-

gram introduced Grade 5 students from Brantford and Brant County schools to the origins of their food through 20 interactive stations representing a wide range of agricultural commodities. From pressing apples into cider to exploring farm equipment and learning about environmental stewardship, the event is designed to build awareness of the sector's vital role in the local economy and daily life.

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Proposed 318-home development sparks debate

CASANDRA TURNBULL
 Managing Editor

A proposed 318-unit residential development on Dundas Street East prompted both support and concern during a recent County of Brant council planning meeting, as the project moves through early stages of the approval process.

The application, submitted by LIV Communities, seeks a zoning bylaw amendment and draft plan of subdivision for lands at 118, 126, 130 and 132 Dundas St. E. and 34 Paris Rd. Currently zoned General Commercial (C2), the proposal would permit a shift to medium- and high-density residential uses, including town-house-style units developed in phases.

According to planning materials, the development would consist of 318 condominium units across multiple blocks, with provisions for increased density and flexibility along the Dundas Street frontage. The lands are located within the Primary Urban Settlement Area of Paris and are designated as Community Node, Community Corridor and Natural Heritage System in the County's Official Plan.

The proposal was received for information only at the April council meeting, where representatives from Landwise, acting on behalf

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Bite of Brant cultivates next generation's connection to local agriculture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Organizers say the program reflects the deep agricultural roots of the region, where farming continues to shape both the landscape and community identity. The award-winning initiative, which received an Excellence in Agriculture Award in 2024, aims to connect young consumers with the high-quality food produced in Ontario and across Canada.

"It is important for students to gain an appreciation for the high quality of Ontario food and to have some knowledge of how it is produced, since they are already consumers AND they are our future decision-makers," organizers noted in a pre-event press release.

The event's pizza-themed format helps tie together the various elements of food production, with students learning about ingredients such as wheat, dairy and produce before receiving a slice of pizza, an



Paris Central School student River Hunter-Zronik suits up in a beekeeper's outfit during the Bite of Brant program, getting an up-close look at the role pollinators play in Ontario's agri-food industry.

Ontario apple and a carton of milk at the end of their visit. Schools are also supported through transportation subsidies funded by municipal councils and local service clubs, helping ensure broad participation.

For many students, the hands-on experiences leave a lasting impression.

Haylie, a Paris Central School student shared that, "The trip was very fun and entertaining."

Her classmate, River added, "The pigs were super cute and they were really silly."

Joelle Renton, the Grade 6 teacher at Paris Central School, said the program offers a unique opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world applications. Her class was able to attend this year after being waitlisted in previous years – a testament to the popularity of the program.

"This is a valuable learning experience for students as they are able to explore a variety of subjects in the agricultural field that they might not otherwise experience. The event had a wide variety of engaging presentations that helped them understand where their food comes from, and that there are multiple steps between an animal or crop, and how it becomes the food they eat at home," she said.

She also highlighted the program's relevance to the curriculum.

"This fits in so well with the Grade 6 science curriculum, as students explore biodiversity and its importance for the environment and its impact on food production, as well as the effects of climate change on our present and future food sources. I am sure this event opens the door for students to consider jobs or career paths in any of the many fields in agriculture in Ontario and how vital they are to our food production."

Beyond the classroom connections, the program also underscores the importance of supporting local agriculture in a region where farming remains a cornerstone of the community. By introducing students to the people, processes and innovation behind food production, organizers hope to



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Mara Kaufmann and Brielle Gleiser observe piglets up close during the Bite of Brant program, one of many hands-on experiences connecting students to local agriculture.

foster a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the agri-food sector.

The continued success of Bite of Brant is driven by community support, with approximately 125 volunteers and a dedicated planning committee working behind the scenes to bring the event to life each year.

The Paris Independent

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Paris development proposal highlights divide over growth, infrastructure and long-term planning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the developer, outlined the studies completed to date, including environmental, traffic and stormwater assessments.

"I believe this represents good planning," said Edward John, partner and principal planner with Landwise, during the presentation.

Despite the studies presented, several councillors raised concerns about the scale and implications of the development.

Coun. John Peirce voiced strong opposition, pointing to the extent of zoning changes and requested exemptions.

"And then we get to the good part here, 'With special exemptions for reduced lot area, reduced lot frontage, reduced street back, reduced interior lot, reduced landscape, increased building lot coverage, increased building lot height so this isn't just a simple zoning change here.'"

Peirce also questioned whether additional residential growth is needed, noting existing development already in the pipeline.

"Adding 300+ residential units is only going to exasperate this issue," he said, referencing a perceived lack of amenities and infrastructure.

Coun. John Bell echoed concerns about density and timing, suggesting the application be deferred until a comprehensive land use study is completed.

"I am really concerned we are squeezing homes into this area. There are lots of variances that are not minor. They are significant," said Bell.

Bell also raised broader concerns about overall growth in Paris, noting the municipality may already be exceeding its targets.

"To my mind, I count 2300 homes that are not necessary for us to meet the 59,000 for the target for the Official Plan. I think we should not hide that fact from our com-

munity," said Bell.

County staff indicated they are developing a growth tracker tool and plan to report back to council in June or July with updated figures on the number of approved and proposed dwellings.

Traffic was a recurring theme among both council and residents. Victoria Neal, who lives nearby, said she would prefer residential over industrial use but questioned how increased traffic would be managed in an already congested area.

Other residents raised environmental concerns and questions around parking capacity within the subdivision.

In written comments submitted ahead of the meeting, Paris Road resident Joe Jeles outlined a number of concerns on behalf of his family, whose property borders the proposed development.

While noting they are "not against development in our community," the family raised issues related to proximity to the CN rail line, traffic impacts, stormwater management and land use compatibility.

Jeles pointed to safety and noise concerns with homes proposed as close as 30 metres from the railway, compared to his own residence located approximately 150 metres away.

He also highlighted challenges with existing traffic on Paris Road, writing that during peak periods, "we find it difficult to exit our property," and warned that 318 new homes would likely worsen congestion.

Additional worries included the potential routing of stormwater through his property, the need for buffering and privacy measures, and the absence of commercial or mixed-use elements in the proposal.

Jeles also spoke during the council meeting, providing an update that his family has meeting with LIV Communities in a Zoom



The proposed site plan shows how 318 townhouse-style units would be arranged across the Dundas Street East and Paris Road property, offering a closer look at layout, density and internal road design alongside the aerial view of the site.

call and noted they are making progress on addressing concerns.

In contrast, several local businesses submitted letters of support for the development, many sharing a common message about the benefits of adding residential density to the area.

Supporting businesses included Mike Yarek Dodge Chrysler Ltd., No Frills (Paris), Eggsmart, Starbucks, Swiss Chalet, The Full Plate and Camp 31.

In their submissions, business owners emphasized that while the area already functions as a destination for shopping and services, it lacks nearby residents to sustain consistent activity.

Letters noted that adding housing would "bring more consistent, everyday custom-

ers," "support activity beyond typical daytime hours," and help businesses "plan, invest, and grow with more certainty."

Overall, the businesses expressed the view that residential development would strengthen the local economy, support existing establishments and attract new investment, while helping balance growth across the community. The application remains in the early stages, having been presented to council for information only. Further review, including staff recommendations and potential council decisions, will follow as part of the planning process.

County staff also indicated that updated growth projections for Paris are expected later this year, which may factor into future deliberations.

County of Brant will host a Candidate Information Night

MEDIA RELEASE

The County of Brant Municipal Election will be taking place on October 26, 2026. With the election nomination period opening on May 1, 2026, the County will be offering a Candidate Information Night on Thursday, April 30th at 6:00 pm at County of Brant Council Chambers, 7 Broadway St W, Paris. The event will also be available online at www.brant.ca/Live.

Elected municipal leaders play a vital role in the health of the community. Municipal government is responsible for providing a number of important services to residents including roads, transit, water, paramedics, parks, recreation and so much more. Municipal elected officials form a Council and Councils set priorities, ensure accountability to the public, and represent the people's voice.

If you are interested in running as a candidate, working on a campaign team or reg-

istering as a Third-Party Advertiser in the 2026 Municipal / School Board Election, you are invited to attend the event to hear speakers on the elections process, legislative requirements, campaigning and what it's like to serve on municipal Council.

Presentations will be made by County of Brant and Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff. An agenda will be published in advance of the event.

The following is required to be a candidate in the municipal election:

- A Canadian citizen and at least 18 years old;
- Candidates must be a resident of the municipality or a non-resident owner or tenant of land in the municipality or the spouse of such non-resident owner or tenant;
- Not legally prohibited from voting; and not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office.
- You will need to submit a nomina-

tion form and an endorsement of nomination form that includes 25 signatures. You must also submit a declaration of qualifications and must pay a fee of \$100.00 or \$200.00 to run for Mayor.

- The Nomination Package and additional nomination forms will be available online at www.brant.ca/Candidates

Elections for municipal government are held every four years on the fourth Monday of October and are conducted in compliance with the Municipal Elections Act.

Important dates:

- Friday May 1, 2026 - Nomination and registration periods begin.
- Friday, August 21, 2026 - Nomination Day. All nominations may only be filed between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. A candidate who wishes to withdraw their nomination must notify the Clerk in writing before 2:00 pm.

- Monday, October 26, 2026 - Voting Day

County of Brant municipal and school board elected positions include:

- Mayor (1)
- Ward 1 Councillors (2)
- Ward 2 Councillors (2)
- Ward 3 Councillors (2)
- Ward 4 Councillors (2)
- Ward 5 Councillors (2)
- English Public School Trustee (number to be determined)

English Separate School Trustee (number to be determined)

To learn more about the municipal election, visit www.brant.ca/elections.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact our Elections Coordinator at 519.44BRANT (519.442.7268)/TollFree 1.855.44BRANT or email election@brant.ca

Annual Plant Sale offers local garden favourites

PARIS INDEPENDENT SUBMISSION

Paris Horticultural Society

The 2026 annual Plant Sale is fast approaching on Saturday, May 9 at Syl Apps Community Centre from 8 to 10:30 a.m. If the plants don't sell out, an auction will follow at 10:30 a.m.

This is a club-wide event that members truly enjoy. Many donate plants from their own gardens, and a large number also volunteer their time to help set up the day before the sale, as well as assist customers and offer guidance during the sale on Saturday morning. Because the plants come from local gardens, we know they are well-suited to grow in this area. Many of the donors will also be on hand to answer questions. Our members are quite knowledgeable, and we are fortunate to have Master Gardeners available to provide advice on specific plants and garden care.

Each year, we are never quite sure what will be donated, but there is always a wide variety of perennials such as lilies, hostas, columbine, coneflower, bleeding heart, Shasta daisy, astilbe, hardy geranium, iris, black-eyed Susan and coral bells. A selec-

tion of annuals, herbs, vegetables, shrubs, raspberry canes, rhubarb and sometimes even trees are also available.

Most importantly, we continue to increase the variety of native plants offered. These are essential for supporting birds and pollinators and help restore species that have declined over the past several decades. Many native plants are started from seed and are well adapted to our region, often being drought-tolerant and low maintenance. An expert on native plants will be available to assist with garden design and placement, and books will also be on hand for inspiration. This event is a success thanks to the Paris Horticultural Society's friendly and enthusiastic group of local gardeners. We are proud to offer healthy plants at reasonable prices so gardeners of all levels can find something for their space—whether it's a balcony or several acres. Our members have a wide range of gardening experience and interests, and we all enjoy sharing our knowledge about flowers, herbs, vegetables, shrubs and trees. Beginner and experienced gardeners alike are welcome to join us on Saturday, May 9 at Syl Apps Community Centre.



Visitors browse a wide selection of locally grown plants during the 2025 Paris Horticultural Society Plant Sale at Syl Apps Community Centre.

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County of Brant invites residents to Community Volunteer Fair

MEDIA RELEASE

National Volunteer Week is April 19 to 25, 2026 and in celebration the County of Brant is inviting residents to attend the first annual Community Volunteer Fair. Taking place on April 23 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Brant Sports Complex in Paris (944 Powerline Road), the event will be an opportunity for local community organizations to showcase the programs and services that they offer, and the volunteer opportunities available.

"We have so many incredible community organizations that support programs, services and events in the County," said Lisa Koekoek, Community Partnership & Senior Services Coordinator for the County

of Brant. "This first annual Volunteer Fair is chance for community members to learn more about how they can give back and support these groups."

Volunteer organizations in the County range from minor sports, service clubs, special events and community groups. These organizations rely on the dedication and commitment of local volunteers.

"We are seeing a growing number of community members wanting to give back," said Koekoek. "This is also a great opportunity for high school students to also learn about groups that can support them in completing their community service hours." More information, as well as a list of participating organizations, is available at brant.ca/VolunteerFair.

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EDITORIAL

The heartbeat of a community is its volunteers

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Volunteers are, without question, the most valuable members of any thriving community. In towns like Paris and across the County of Brant, they are the difference between simply living somewhere and truly belonging to a place. Volunteers don't just support a community, they create it.

Think about the events and traditions that define our local identity. The Maple Syrup Festival each spring. Rubber ducks racing down the Nith. Youth dances, Breakfast with Santa, bicycle rodeos. These moments don't happen by chance. They are built hour by hour, shift by shift by people who choose to give their time for the benefit of others. Without volunteers, many of these cherished traditions would simply disappear.

But their impact goes far beyond events. Volunteers are behind the scenes of some of our most meaningful community advancements. They help fundraise for local healthcare initiatives, support hospices and hospitals with their time and compassion, and contribute to projects that leave a lasting legacy: trails, community spaces and parks, and facilities that improve quality of life for everyone. Service clubs, in particular, have long been the backbone of this

work, quietly and consistently investing in everything from youth sports to scholarships that help shape future generations.

At the same time, volunteerism isn't limited to organized groups. It's the individual who tends to a garden through the local horticultural society, helping beautify our streets and parks. It's the person who sits with a patient or family member during a difficult moment at a hospice. It's the neighbour who shows up, again and again, simply because they care. These acts may not always make headlines, but they are no less vital. What makes this even more remarkable is that it happens in the midst of increasingly busy lives. In a world where schedules are packed and attention is pulled in every direction, choosing to volunteer is a deliberate act of generosity. It's a commitment to something bigger than oneself. And in communities like ours, that commitment has spanned decades, built by generations who believed in service and passed that belief forward.

We are fortunate in Paris and the County of Brant to have a strong network of service clubs and volunteers who continue to show up. Many of these organizations have been serving for generations, evolving with the needs of the community while staying true to a simple principle: give back where you live. You can learn more about these clubs

in our National Volunteer Week section of this week's edition.

The reality is communities don't sustain themselves. They rely on people willing to step forward. And while we celebrate those who already do, there is always room for more. Service clubs are always looking for new members. Volunteer opportunities exist in countless forms, whether through organized groups or informal acts of kindness. Getting involved is not only a way to give back, it's a way to connect, to learn,

and to become part of something meaningful.

And finally, a well-deserved shoutout to the volunteers who contribute week after week to this newspaper. Their dedication helps ensure a publication lands on shelves that reflects the very best of our community; sharing local stories, celebrating successes, highlighting events, and keeping residents informed. Much like the community they cover, this paper is built on volunteer spirit, and we are all better for it.

Letters to the Editor

OPP enforcement locations in Brant raise questions about safety priorities

Dear Editor:

I am writing as a concerned Brant resident.

As Paris enters another season of road construction, many of us have noticed a significant increase in OPP traffic-monitoring officers throughout the town and surrounding rural areas. While traffic enforcement is important, some of the chosen monitoring locations and frequency raise questions about whether these efforts are aligned with genuine safety needs.

One example is the new roundabout area in Falkland, particularly at Highway 2 and Brant Oxford Road 36. Officers frequently sit south on Brant Oxford Road 36, monitoring the newly posted 60 km/h zones. Heading south toward the roundabout, the reduced-speed zone begins roughly 1.1 km before the roundabout itself — a very conservative distance. Heading north, drivers must travel approximately 700 metres at 60 km/h before returning to an 80 km/h limit. This stretch remains a rural roadway with no planned development or density increases that would typically justify extended speed reductions.

Just down the road, a three-way stop was added last year due to increased traffic concerns, yet no similar speed reductions were implemented there — consistent with other rural stop-sign locations across the region.

Another frequent enforcement location is on King Edward Street, just west of Cleaver Road, where the limit drops from 80 km/h to 50 km/h. Although this change was introduced in 2021, it continues to be a major hotspot for OPP presence.

My concern is whether these enforcement patterns reflect the best use of taxpayer-funded policing resources. Are these areas truly high-risk, or are residents being disproportionately targeted in low-danger zones that generate minor speeding fines?

Does the overall increased police presence make our community feel safer, or does it create a sense of being overly monitored and controlled?

While I fully support proactive safety measures, I believe our policing resources should be directed toward areas with meaningful safety impact. Each year we hear that police services require additional funding and staffing. If that is the case, residents deserve confidence that these resources are being deployed where they are most needed — not in locations that appear to offer limited safety benefit.

I hope this prompts a broader conversation about enforcement priorities, transparency, and how we can best balance safety with responsible use of public funds.

Sincerely,

Jeff Armstrong | Brant County

Feathered friends in mind, gardeners get building



(DAVE COLLINS PHOTO)

Members of the Paris Horticultural Society took part in a hands-on bird feeder workshop, assembling kits and sharing tips in a fun, social setting. Each participant received a prepared kit and a bag of bird seed to take home. Pictured are Cathy Mayled, Donna Wilson, Patti Gladding, Brenda Simpson, Nancy Slusarczyk, Pat Moore, Anne Saunders, Edith Stone and Martine Emery-Kelman. Donna Walmsley left early.

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HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: The enduring legacy of Paris journalism



By Chris Whelan

Without the foundation of the newspapers that came before us, this column—and indeed, our community's collective memory—would simply not exist. As I sit down to write this week inspired by Wayne Wilkinson's column, I find myself once again looking back at the long, ink-stained lineage of local media that paved the way for The Paris Independent. To understand the present state of news in our town, one must first appreciate the grit, the machinery, and the unwavering dedication of those who chronicled life in the Gore District long before the digital age was even a whisper.

There was a time when Paris wasn't just a "one-paper town." The streets once bustled with a vibrant, competitive media scene that reflected the diverse opinions of a growing town. Dailies and weeklies like The Brant Review and The Star Transcript vied for the attention of local readers, each offering a different lens through which to view the world.

Even our neighbours, The Brantford Expositor, recognized the unique character of our community and felt the need to plant firm roots here with dedicated local coverage. Many of you likely still remember the daily ritual of flipping through these papers—or perhaps the later arrivals like the Brant News or Paris This Week. These publications were more than just paper and

ink; they were the "town square" in printed form. They were where you looked to find out who had married, who had passed, and what the town council was debating under the cover of night.

To truly appreciate where we are, we must look back to June 1850. Before Paris was even officially incorporated as a town, a small, determined group gathered at 9 Dumfries Street in "Upper Town." In a room lit by the golden glow of the afternoon sun, a scene of "organized chaos" unfolded. The air would have been thick with the smell of pungent oils and metallic dust.

Surrounded by brass galleys and ink-stained rags, Benjamin Causeway Hearle, a local conveyancer, and a 15-year-old apprentice prepared a George Washington press. This manual iron press required immense physical strength and precision. Interestingly, their heavy typesetting tables—the very surfaces where the news was built—were fashioned from old, forgotten tombstones. As the first dampened sheet was pulled away from the blackened type, witnessed by the town's first physician, Dr. Robert McCosh, the first spark of the Paris Star was struck.

Dr. McCosh became our town's first editor, bringing with him a sharp intellect honed at the University of Glasgow. He was a man of "letters and reform," a staunch advocate for social change who used his pen to navigate the complex, often volatile politics of a growing Canada West. Journalism in the 1850s was not for the faint of heart; editors often faced public vitriol and physical threats for their editorial stances.

There is a striking historical coincidence that often goes overlooked: The Paris Star and the world-renowned New York Times were both born around the same year. While the Times cites its official birth as September 18th of 1851, our local stalwart was undergoing its own trial by fire right here on the banks of the Grand. It took months of grit and experimental printing to solidify the operation, but by 1851, the Star had emerged as a fully established weekly.

It is a testament to the ambition of our predecessors that a small village on the Grand River shared a birth cry with a global titan. Imagine the scene in mid-19th century Ontario: a burgeoning community, still finding its footing, already demanding a professional record of its triumphs and trials.

Had fate been kinder and the presses not been silenced by the cold hand of corporate consolidation in 2020, the Star would have reached a monumental 175th anniversary last year. While that particular voice was hushed by big media, the heartbeat of Paris journalism proved far too resilient to remain quiet. We are not merely a new publication;



we are the inheritance of a tradition that has survived world wars, depressions, and the radical evolution of the written word.

We often forget the sheer physical toll of early journalism. Before the luxury of electric lights, pioneers worked by flickering candlelight, their eyes straining as they set every single letter by hand, in reverse, from a wooden case. A single typo meant a tedious correction process that could delay the entire run.

The march of technology was slow but transformative. It wasn't until 1879 that the clatter of the cylinder press, powered by steam and later gasoline engines, brought mechanical muscle to the local shop. The true revolution, however, arrived in 1934 with the advent of automated typesetting machines. This finally lifted the literal weight of lead from the weary shoulders of Parisian printers, allowing for faster distribution and more pages of content.

Today, we trade lead type for pixels and steam engines for high-speed digital relays, but the "soul" of the work remains unchanged. We still chase the same stories—the local hero, the controversial development, the local sports news, and the

celebration of our heritage. As we continue to celebrate over a year of The Paris Independent as a printed newspaper, we aren't just starting something new—we are continuing a conversation that began nearly two centuries ago on a dusty street in Upper Town. We are the keepers of the flame that

Hearle and McCosh ignited. Thank you for being an active part of this revival, for supporting local media, and for proving that in Paris, the written word still possesses the unique power to bind us together in the timeless dance of news and knowledge.



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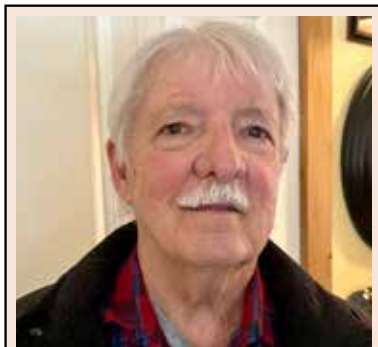
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THEN AND NOW: The history of the "Paris Star Block"



By Wayne Wilkinson
Paris Historian / Artist

going the way of many small-town newspapers. Happily, the Paris Independent has adequately replaced it as a true "hometown" newspaper.

While the Paris Star Transcript occupied #1, 1895 saw the "Domestic Laundry," owned by Bertha Davis, move into #3. This became the "King Lee Laundry" in 1903. In 1907, Walter Rowe turned #3 into his "Star Boot and Repair" shop.

In 1915, after enduring numerous floods, the newspaper moved to higher ground at #36 Grand River St. N. From this point forward, the "Star Block" appears to have had only a single occupant at #1, starting with "Cunningham and Co. Plumbers and Fitters." Cunningham was well-established, having been in business since 1900 at #131, where the "Garden of Hope" is now located.

In 1950, George Foulds started his appliance store, which in 1961 became "Mulloy Appliances," owned by Norm Mulloy. 1970 saw "Edelman's Radio and T.V." take occupancy. Many of you will remember the popular "Angelo's Pizza" in the early 1990s. In 1995, "Always In Season" set up their seasonal market, selling fruit, vegetables, baked goods, eggs, and cheese.

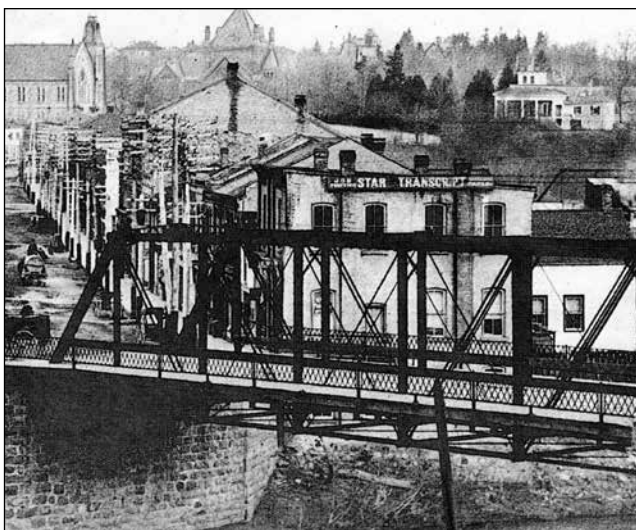
Then, it was pizza time again; the new millennium welcomed "Godfather's Pizza" in 2000. Since 2021, the building has been home to "Pinevest Homes" That brings us to today—a great-looking heritage building still welcoming everyone to the hub of Brant County, just as it has for over 140 years.

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

This week, we're going to look closely at a familiar building that has been a permanent fixture in downtown Paris since its construction in 1884. Situated on the edge of the Nith River just as you cross the bridge, it was built for William Chadwick Jones, the new and inexperienced owner and editor of the Paris Star.

Jones purchased the paper from its former owner, William Gunn Powell, for \$1,000, also acquiring its rival, the Paris Transcript. The building originally housed two businesses at addresses #1 and #3. Before proceeding, let's take a brief glimpse at the Paris Star's long history.

The paper began in 1850 at #9 Dumfries St. under the ownership of Benjamin Hearle, quickly coming under the management of John and Josiah Blackburn in 1852. From 1855 to 1884, it was owned and edited by W.G. Powell. By 1944, it was in the capable hands of Jack Pickell, eventually ending up under the Postmedia umbrella and



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The Paris Independent SPORTS



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Paris Thunder strike silver at provincials

The Paris U12A Thunder wrapped up their season with an outstanding performance at the Ringette Ontario Championship Tournament April 10-12 in Markham, earning a silver medal and showcasing the determination, teamwork and competitive spirit that defined their year.

Paris opened the tournament with confidence, finishing round-robin play at 3-1. Their consistency and composure secured a well-deserved place in the semifinal round.

In a high-intensity match-up, Paris battled Burlington in a back-and-forth game that kept fans on edge. The Thunder pushed through with a 5-4 victory to earn their spot in the championship final.

The final brought a familiar opponent in Ottawa. Paris matched the pace and pressure, heading into halftime tied after a disciplined defensive effort. The second half remained tight, but Ottawa managed to slip in a single goal.

Despite Paris' relentless push to equalize, time ran out, and the Thunder finished with a silver-medal result.

The team's growth, resilience and heart were on full display throughout the weekend. Paris U12A represented their community with pride and proved they are among the strongest teams in the province.

Congratulations to the athletes, coaches and families on an incredible season.



The Paris U12A Thunder pose together at the Ringette Ontario Championship Tournament in Markham, where the team capped off an impressive season with a silver-medal finish.

GRANTHAVEN.COM

Brant County Dusters celebrate 5 years with big ice dreams and unstoppable love of the game

SID LUCKMAN

Paris Independent Contributor

It is good to be back and writing about the Fit Effect Brant County Dusters! This year marks the hockey club's 5th year in existence. Great news for the club.

Little background for those who are wondering.... who are the Dusters? The Dusters were founded in February 2022 in a living room on Dundas Street West in Paris.

Chad, Ryan, and Jim were chatting about how much fun it would be to form a dedicated team for the summer—and to keep the game going. All three men were fans of the movie Slap Shot, which featured a team called the Broome Dusters. The name stuck—and so, the Brant County Dusters were born. The club consists of players ranging in age, skill level and injuries from 20s to 60s.

Back to present day, we've got some

breaking news to share. The Dusters will be playing games at the Gretzky Centre next month! And if that wasn't enough excitement, the Dusters are working on a deal to play a team in Toronto at the old ice that once was Maple Leafs Gardens! So stay tuned on those developments.

Last Tuesday, the club had a soft opening. Goalie Smitty had a perfect shutout, which some would say is unheard of! But Smitty...whose real name is Smitty...did it. Way to go Smitty.

The Dusters' official start was Thursday April 17. New addition Goalie Cam was a beast in net...only rivaled by veteran Goalie Neufeld on the other end.

It seems that though age has jumped aboard and injuries abound, the Dusters keep going. Steadfast forward Rob Malcolm, only 5 months from knee surgery, showed astute use of the Cosine Law in setting up his line for offensive chances!

Dusters Booster since day one, Russell Latty, said of this past game... "I'd be chasing squirrels to say that this isn't a fun group to watch. It's clear to me that these boys love to play."

Certainly, the Dusters do personify the love of playing the game for the enjoyment of the game! An ancient Waterford proverb says... "All Roads lead to Shiny"

Then surely, the Dusters are walking that road!

The club's next game is Friday April 24,

5:30 pm at the Brant Sports Complex. The post game meeting is at the Freeman Pub. If you want to join the club, come out and meet the executive and/or email us at offsideyoung@gmail.com



Members of the Brant County Dusters share a light moment on the bench ahead of play, reflecting the camaraderie and love of the game that has defined the club in its fifth season.



House League Standings - Week of April 13th

7-8 Year-Old

Marshmallows defeat Lakers, 36-20
Chicken Jockeys defeat Sharks, 22-10

This week's top scorers:

1. Gavin N: Lakers, 16 points
2. Aydin: Marshmallows, 14 points
3. Ryder: Chicken Jockeys, 8 points

Division Standings

1. Lakers 4-1
2. Chicken Jockeys 3-2
3. Marshmallows 3-2
4. Sharks 0-5

9-11 Year-Old

Warriors defeat Huskies, 40-39
Skyscrapers defeat Fire, 23-11
Tigers defeat Hamburgers, 19-18
Flaming Flamingos defeat Lakers, 34-22

This week's top scorers:

1. Jaxon: Warriors, 22 points
2. Zoé: Huskies, 20 points
3. Sofia: Flaming Flamingos, 16 points

Division Standings

1. Huskies 4-1
2. Tigers 3-0-2
3. Lakers 3-1-1
4. Flaming Flamingos 3-2
5. Warriors 2-3
6. Fire 1-3-1
7. Hamburgers 1-4
8. Skyscrapers 1-4

More than muscle at Strongman showdown

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Reporter

There are two types of competitors: Those who compete as part of a team and those, like marathoners, who compete as individuals. They both have coaching and facilities to train and improve their abilities in their sport. So, what do people who strength-train as a hobby or sport like to do, you ask? Well, they compete in a strongman/woman competition, of course! A few weeks ago, The Weight Pit, a Cambridge gym that specializes in training people to build strength, hosted a "Strongman Competition" at the Galt Collegiate. My interest in this event was to watch and support a family member compete.

Strongman competitions are far different than Olympic competitions, where athletes compete to lift the largest weight on a barbell. Strongman competitions challenge not only the ability to lift weights but also to carry and pull large weights, challenge grip strength, with winners determined by a combination of weight, speed, and grip strength. Events are varied and include classic lifting events, such as deadlifting car axles that are harder to grip, a device designed to look like a log, and circus

dumbbells; some events involve lifting or pulling trucks or other vehicles. At the Cambridge event I attended, there was a 23,000-pound (10,433 kg) cement truck, where competitors race to pull their vehicle in the fastest time over a predetermined distance. Carrying events where competitors carry heavy objects over a distance in the fastest times or number of laps. In the "Farmers Walk," the athlete carries large weights in each hand; in the "Yoke Carry," the athlete carries a frame with large weights on each side (I had to watch a video to understand this event). They might also be challenged with a frame carry, where the athlete stands inside a wooden frame made of 4" x 4" posts with weights and races to a finish line! Then there is the "Husafell Stone" carry, a steel Hexagon box filled with weights! All these events are challenging grip and core stability.

Loading events include lifting round stones, sandbags, kegs, or multiple objects onto a platform, as well as combination events that involve lifting a variety of heavy items. Throwing events for these athletes are like pole vaulting, except they have to throw kegs, heavy bags, and weights over bars. Finally, the specialty events like Fingal's Fingers, where one

has to lift a heavy log that pivots back and forth. Competitions always feature different strength events and are publicized in advance so that athletes can prepare.

Looking for a good quote about athletic struggle, Chat GPT came up with a good one... "Athletic struggle is the part nobody glamorizes -but it's where almost all the growth happens." In Strongman competitions, this is somewhat true, as these competitors who attempt and fail to reach a

level either achieved or never reached are always applauded, with the crowd cheering on the athlete to push a weight one more inch to make or break their attempt. That's real-life drama!

All in all, my friend came in second in his category and has qualified to move on to the Provincials in Hamilton in July, and yes, I will be going to cheer him on, to watch him and others compete, with a new set of challenges!



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

Scott completes a lift in the Cambridge Strongman competition where he qualified to move on to provincials in Hamilton in July.

County of Brant contributes natural areas to national conservation target

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

The County of Brant has partnered with Ontario Nature to support Canada's goal of protecting 30 per cent of lands and waters by 2030, contributing more than 195 hectares of natural areas to the national effort.



(JOHN BELL PHOTO)

Paris Councillor John Bell (left) and MP of Flamborough-Glanbrook-Brant North Dan Muys join volunteers at Rising Park in Glen Morris on April 18, where more than 1,000 trees were planted during an Earth Week event that drew strong community support.

The initiative, commonly known as the "30x30" target, is supported through the Municipal Protected Areas Program and aims to conserve biodiversity across the country.

The partnership involved an extensive evaluation of County-owned properties designated as natural heritage areas. The assessment confirmed the lands meet national standards for Protected and Conserved Areas, reinforcing the municipality's role in environmental stewardship.

Notable sites contributing to the target include Barker's Bush and Jacob's Woods Park. These areas include woodlands, wetlands, rivers and valleys, and are home to several species at risk, including the Monarch butterfly, Barn Swallow and Midland Painted Turtle.

Officials say protecting these lands aligns with the County's Climate Action Plan, contributing to clean air, water filtration, climate adaptation and greenhouse gas reduction, while also offering recreational opportunities.

The County said the work represents a step toward halting and reversing biodiversity loss locally and will continue in collaboration with community members and partners. As part of that effort, residents and county officials gathered for an Earth Week tree planting event last Saturday at Rising Park in Glen Morris, where 1,000 trees were planted.

Paris Wednesday night men's billiards:

Pickleball brains and pocket gains, chalking it up at Sharkey's

BY JEFF "STONES" JOHNSTON

Sports Correspondent

Hello folks, and welcome to another exciting recap of our weekly pool night. This week, we took our act on the road to Sharkey's on Craig Street in Brantford. Our friend Dan is the proprietor there—and I must say, he's a great "pool shark" himself.

But I digress. The play was fierce, and the teams were surprisingly evenly balanced. Chicken and Willie D had a frustrating evening, to say the least. I could swear I saw Dalpe shedding a tear in his beer; according to him, his partner Motor had nothing but pickleball on the brain. That being said, I'll admit Motor did look dapper in those shorts.

Al and Greig G. were steady as ever, calling shots with their usual precision, while Oscar and Billy B. left a cloud of chalk dust in their wake as one ball after another disappeared into the pockets. The consensus of the night was simple: winners stay, losers move, and the 8-ball is

definitely black.

Kopper and Bergie, much like Al and Greig G., emerged as big winners to secure a spot in the semi-finals. Meanwhile, Floody carried our team straight into the semis too, where an unusually unlucky scratch on the 8-ball by Oscar punched our ticket to the finals.

The semi-final match between Kopper and Bergie and Al and Greig G. was an exciting game, to say the least. All four are fantastic shooters who can shape the table like its a pottery wheel. Ultimately, Kopper and Bergie prevailed in a very close match.

That set the stage for the finals: Kopper and Bergie against Floody and yours truly, "Stones". Before we knew it—following a little "bingo, bango, bongo" between Bergie and Kopper—we were left with four balls still on the table as they claimed a sweet victory. A road win, no less!

Get back on the bus boys, and thanks again for the great friendships see you next week!

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 19-25

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Volunteer-led group fuels support for Brant charities

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A small group of dedicated volunteers is making a big impact across Brantford, Brant County and Six Nations through 100 People Who Care Brant, a grassroots initiative built on collective giving and community trust.

Behind the scenes, a steering committee of volunteers works year-round to keep the group running smoothly, coordinating communications, supporting charities and managing each funding cycle from start to finish.

“Behind the scenes of every step is a small but mighty army we call the Steering

Committee,” said Sarah Disher-Neddow, a steering committee member in charge of communications and engagement. “Approximately 8 folks work throughout the year to keep in touch with members, follow up with winning charities, chase donors, build the brand to bring in more people who care.”

The group operates on a simple but effective model. Four times a year, members are invited to nominate local registered charities for funding. After a review process to ensure eligibility, three finalists are selected and invited to submit short videos outlining their work and how they would use the funds. Members then vote online, making the process accessible and flexible

for busy volunteers.

“That’s when the magic happens,” Disher-Neddow said. “The money goes directly to the charity, we don’t handle any money or take any service fees at all. The whole steering committee is all volunteers who help facilitate the process of connecting the donors with the charities.”

Each funding cycle takes about two months to complete and results in approximately \$7,500 being directed to a local cause. Since its inception, the group has raised more than \$120,000, supporting a wide range of community initiatives from children’s sports registration and school nutrition programs to crisis support services and shelter improvements.

The impact is both immediate and tangible, with charities asked to report back on how the funds were used. Past projects have included providing grocery gift cards to families in need, creating sensory and learning spaces, and funding community hubs that help individuals access housing and employment resources.

The model’s success lies not only in its


efficiency, but in the commitment of volunteers who continue to drive it forward. From organizing nominations to ensuring donations reach their destination, the steering committee’s efforts exemplify the spirit of volunteerism celebrated during National Volunteer Week.

With each cycle, the group repeats the process, “lather, rinse, repeat,” as Disher-Neddow describes it - proving that a small, committed team can create lasting change when a community comes together to care.



During their final giving cycle of 2025, members of 100 People Who Care Brant met with the team behind Nova Vita Domestic Violence Prevention Services and presented their biggest single cycle donation to date, \$8,535. Pictured left to right are Jennifer Church, Donna Ireland, Jordy Thielman, Serena Shields and Anne Ruddell.





The Brant Community Healthcare System celebrates our volunteers.

Together we are creating a stronger, more resilient, and inclusive healthcare community for everyone.

Volunteer to make a difference - bchsys.org/volunteer

Happy National Volunteer Week

COUNTY OF Brant Simply Grand

Thank you to everyone who donates their time to give back to our community

Volunteer Fair

Date: Thursday, April 23
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Location: Brant Sports Complex
 944 Powerline Road, Paris

Meet local community groups

Explore volunteer opportunities

For updates on Volunteer Fair participants, visit brant.ca/VolunteerFair




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Paris Optimist volunteers making a difference for decades

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Paris Optimist Club continues to play a vital role in strengthening the local community, with a strong focus on supporting youth, families and community initiatives. Guided by the Optimist philosophy of bringing out the best in young people, the club's volunteers dedicate time and resources to programs that promote positive development, leadership and community engagement.

Throughout the year, members organize and support a variety of events, fundraisers and outreach efforts that benefit local organizations and initiatives. Whether it's contributing to youth programs, sponsoring community activities, hosting youth dances or lending a helping hand at local events, the club's presence is felt across Paris.

Their efforts help create opportunities for young people to grow, connect and thrive.

Behind these initiatives is a committed group of volunteers who generously give their time and energy. The 2026 executive



Members of the Paris Optimist Club Executive Board include (back row), from left: Alex Faux, Jackie McDonald, Julie Henwood, Mel Osborne and Larry Crawley. Front row, from left: Andrée Lamarche, Marilyn McCulloch, Wendy Baer, Lynda Kelley and Carolann Urquhart. Other members include Grant Brooker, Norm Greenfield, Leslie Brown, Emily Buzsik, Jen Oviedo, Ann Hannah, Ann Fowler, Dwayne Budgell and Lauren MacPherson.

team, President Marilyn McCulloch, Vice President Julie Henwood, Treasurer Alex Faux and Secretary Andrée Lamarche, leads a dedicated membership that shares a passion for community service and making a differ-

ence close to home.

As the club continues its work, the Paris Optimist Club remains a cornerstone of community spirit, demonstrating how volunteerism and collaboration can have a lasting and meaningful impact.

Rotary Satellite Club of Paris turns volunteerism into impact through service and innovation

The Rotary Satellite Club of Paris is a local service organization rooted in the global mission of Rotary International, bringing together community-minded volunteers who share a commitment to making a difference both locally and beyond. As a satellite club, it operates as an offshoot of the Rotary Club of Brantford Sunrise, allowing members to benefit from established Rotary infrastructure while building a more flexible, community-focused group in Paris.

Locally, the club is known for fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment where volunteers can connect, collaborate and give back. Members are driven by Rotary's guiding principle of "Service Above Self," working together to identify community needs and support meaningful initiatives.

The club has gained attention for its innovative "Priceless Art Auction," an event that flips the

traditional fundraising model on its head. Instead of bidding with money, attendees bid with volunteer hours—committing their time to community service in exchange for original works of art. The highest bidder is the one willing to give back the most, often completing their pledged hours over the following year before claiming their piece. This creative approach not only supports local artists and brings people together, but reinforces the club's core belief that time and service are among the most valuable contributions a person can make. In the Paris and Brant community, the club plays an active role in organizing and supporting events that bring people together while raising funds for local causes. Initiatives such as food drives, community clean-ups and popular events like the Rotary Duck Derby at Lions Park highlight their hands-on approach to service and community engagement.



Dan MUYS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FLAMBOROUGH–GLANBROOK–BRANT NORTH

Thank you volunteers, for your selfless dedication!

Dan Muys, MP for Brant North

519-448-1483

Office: 6 Main St. S., St. George

Mail: Box 1100, St. George, ON NOE 1N0

dan.muys@parl.gc.ca | DanMuysMP.ca



Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant celebrates 25 years of volunteer impact in the community

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant has been a steady force for good in the community since receiving its charter on April 11, 2001, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Brantford.

Part of the global Kiwanis International network, the volunteer-driven group is dedicated to improving lives “one child and one community at a time.” Made up of local residents and corporate members, the club supports children, youth and families through fundraising events, community programming and hands-on initiatives.

Signature events such as Breakfast with Santa and the Teddy Bear Picnic bring families together while raising funds for local causes, while newer initiatives like the Kiwanis Service Scholarships recognize student leadership and community involvement. In addition, members spend countless hours canvassing neighbourhoods several times a year to collect non-perishable food donations in support of the Salvation Army Food Bank, helping ensure local families have access to essential supports.

Guided by its unique “3-2-1” model—

three hours of service, two hours of fellowship and one meeting each month—the club emphasizes action, connection and meaningful local impact.



(AAKASH NAYI PHOTO)

On Saturday, April 11, Kiwanians and friends gathered at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course banquet hall to celebrate 25 years of service by the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant. The milestone event welcomed Brantford Mayor David Bailey and MP Larry Brock. Kiwanis Club of Brantford President-elect Pallo Sahota (left) presents a congratulatory certificate to Paris-Brant President Wendy Eveleigh. The club, sponsored by the Brantford Kiwanis Club, received its charter on April 11, 2001.



Members of the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant pose for a photo at their signature Breakfast with Santa event. A full list of members include (not necessarily pictured): Wendy Chamberlain; (Matt Harrison) Paris Family Eye Care; Sheila Moore; David Tisdale; Chuck Behm; Stan Hutchinson; (Jonah Nikitin) Jonah Nikitin Photography; Darian Banks; Pat Doherty; (David Mahn) Paris Dental Centre; Chris Powles; Al Bennett; (Wendy Eveleigh) Wendy in Real Estate; (Aakash Nayi) Cooperators, McNaughton Agency, Paris; Tim Risebrough; Allison Bossert; Wendy Gallagher; (Jaclyn Mills) Sobey's, Paris; Allison Skinner; Terry Chamberlain; (Shelly Gracey) Remax Twin City; Marisa Moore; (Karla Stonham) Peak Realty Ltd, Brokerage. Also included in the photo are volunteers Christine Ford, Candice Tuck and Allen Ure.

Paris Lions Club celebrates 95 years of service and volunteer spirit

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

For nearly a century, the Paris Lions Club has been a cornerstone of community service, with volunteerism at the heart of everything it does.

Celebrating its 95th anniversary this year, the club's legacy is built on the dedication of its 40 members, who collectively bring close to 800 years of service to the community. That remarkable commitment reflects a long-standing tradition of giving back and it's one that dates to the club's founding in the early 1930s, when members first came together to support residents during the hardships of the Great Depression.

Today, that same spirit of service continues through a wide range of events and initiatives that touch nearly every corner of the community. The annual Paris Lions Club Maple Syrup Festival each April remains one of the club's signature events, drawing

residents and visitors together while raising funds to support local causes. Throughout the year, the Lions' familiar food truck can be found at the Paris Fair, Brantwood Farms and numerous community gatherings and is always a visible reminder of their ongoing presence and willingness to lend a hand. Beyond fundraising, the club's volunteer efforts extend to organizing the annual Dog Walk for Guide Dogs, supporting community sports organizations, and contributing to countless local initiatives. Their work often goes beyond what is seen, with members dedicating hours behind the scenes to ensure events run smoothly and community needs are met.

Recognizing that their impact reaches beyond their own membership, the club also hosts an annual Friends of the Lions appreciation night. The event celebrates the many volunteers who are not Lions members but play a vital role in supporting the club's activities and is a testament



Members of the Paris Lions Club and Friends of the Lions gather at last year's annual appreciation dinner, celebrating a shared commitment to community service. With 40 dedicated members, the club continues to live by its motto, “We Serve,” recognizing the many volunteers who help make their efforts possible.

to the collaborative spirit that defines the organization.

From its early days providing essential care and support to families in need to its

modern-day role as a driving force behind community events, the Paris Lions Club continues to embody the true meaning of volunteerism.



Music, humour and heart to take centre stage in 'Circus of Life'

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Singer-songwriter and visual artist Dennis Kalichuk is bringing his new one-person production, *The Circus of Life*, to Paris next month following a sold-out debut in St. Thomas earlier this year.

The show, which premiered in January to strong audience response, marks a new creative direction for the St. Thomas-based performer after more than a decade recording and touring with his band Jumbo Train.

Kalichuk said the idea for the production began to take shape in mid-2025 as he considered his next musical step, while also exploring poetry slam events as a way to present his lyrical writing. Inspiration came in part from a quote by David Bowie encouraging artists to push beyond their comfort zones.

The result is a one-person performance that blends original songs with spoken word, poetry and storytelling drawn from Kalichuk's own life experiences.

"It was then that I had the idea for something totally new," he said, describing the concept as a fully original production com-

binging humour and reflection.

Despite initial nerves ahead of the debut performance, Kalichuk said the sold-out audience response quickly shifted his perspective.

As the evening unfolded, "his fears morphed into a joy that melded with those in attendance," he said, adding that the laughter and applause reassured him he was on the right path.

Audience members described the show as a mix of humour, music and meaningful reflection.

"An enjoyable evening of heartfelt music, stories, and laughter with singer-songwriter, Dennis Kalichuk, friend to many, and life adventurer. A beautifully woven blend of music, storytelling, and poetry," said Sandra Lamirande.

"The show was AWESOME!! We loved your stories, humour, poetry and music!" added Nadine Grundy.

Others echoed similar sentiments.

"Dennis, your evening of music, stories and reflection delighted us in the presentation and lingers on in our conversations," said Jim Swan.



"So many people need your thoughts right now. I left there feeling hopeful last night! Your words, stories, and songs lifted my spirits," said Nikki James.

"Should you see *The Circus of Life* playing somewhere near you, don't hesitate — just go!" said Bella Rikley.

The performance is described as an intimate, genre-blending experience, part concert, part stand-up, and part reflective storytelling, designed to connect with audiences through shared human experiences and a positive outlook.

Kalichuk will bring *The Circus of Life* to #ForParisCentre on Saturday, May 9, before a June 20 performance at the Mary Webb Centre.

He acknowledged the shift to a solo format represents "a large pivot" at this stage

of his career, but one he is embracing.

"I wanted to create something that was truly unique and one-of-a-kind," Kalichuk said. "A feel-good type of show that people can have a lot of fun at. I'm super excited about being back in the town I grew up in."

He described the atmosphere as akin to "a party among friends," with a mix of humour, storytelling and music in an intimate setting. The timing of the Paris performance also positions the show as a potential addition to Mother's Day weekend plans.

Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets and additional information are available through the For Paris Centre website, Eventbrite and Kalichuk's official website www.denniskalichuk.com

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What is the smallest unit of matter? | 6. Which gender of mosquito is responsible for mosquito bites? |
| 2. What is an eight-sided shape called? | 7. What is the rarest blood type? |
| 3. What does a funambulist walk on? | 8. What year did the first human land on the moon? |
| 4. What is the hardest natural substance on Earth? | 9. What are the three states of matter? |
| 5. In what year did the Titanic sink? | 10. What is the name of Mickey Mouse's pet dog? |

This week's answers are found on pg. 19



Doors Open Along the Grand

Saturday, May 9, 2026
10:00 am to 4:00 pm



SCAN ME



Explore the Grand River like never before!

Explore history, culture, and heritage with Doors Open Along the Grand. Discover 15+ free sites in Brantford, the County of Brant, and Six Nations. Visit doorsopenontario.on.ca/AlongtheGrand for site and event information.




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doorsopenontario.on.ca/AlongtheGrand





Women of Impact event celebrates local leaders, donates more than \$8,000 to women's health care

MEDIA RELEASE

A sold-out evening celebrating leadership and community impact has resulted in more than \$8,000 in support for local health care.

Ladies Who Lead announced by press release last week that proceeds from its 2026 Women of Impact event, held April 1 at the Brantford Golf & Country Club, raised \$8,091 for the Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation. The funds will directly support the Mammography Department, helping ensure access to vital diagnostic services for women across the region.

The event also recognized three outstanding community leaders with the 2026 Outstanding Women Leader awards: Anne Buchanan, Sandra Vos and Melanie Mears. Each recipient was honoured for demonstrating exceptional leadership, vision and a commitment to making a meaningful difference locally.

More than 150 attendees gathered for the sold-out event, which highlighted the strength of women-led networks in the community and the growing momentum behind mentorship and professional development initiatives. The evening featured a keynote address by Nina Purewal, who spoke about mindfulness and maintaining balance in high-impact environments.

Organizers say the success of the event reflects a shared commitment to supporting women in both their personal and professional growth, while also giving back to the broader community.

Ladies Who Lead continues to offer net-



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Members of Ladies Who Lead present a cheque for \$8,091 to the Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation in support of the Mammography Department, following the sold-out 2026 Women of Impact event held April 1 at the Brantford Golf & Country Club.

working and mentorship opportunities for women across the region, with additional events planned this spring, including a May pop-up event and a season finale in June.

The organization also acknowledged the support of its sponsors and community partners, noting their contributions were instrumental in making the event possible. Ladies Who Lead extend sincere gratitude to:

- **Platinum Sponsors:** ANC, Cornerstone Capital Financial Group, Oak House Benefits, West Brant Window World, Stebbing Butcher P.C., Brant Aero, and Millards Chartered Professional Accountants.
 - **Gold Sponsors:** BScene.ca, J.H. Young Fine Jewellers, Underwood Ion & Johnson LLP, Chartwell Tranquility Place, Strodes BBQ & Deli, Vanessa Hammond The Mortgage Broker, DWA Law | Dickson Wynperle Associates, and Right at Home Canada.
 - **Silver Sponsors:** Dragonfly Landscape Supply, Fort Henry Self Storage, Andrea Berestovenko – Financial Security Advisor, Inspired! Balloon Bar, Grand River Dinner Cruises, and Grand Wellness.
 - **Bronze Sponsors:** Impact Home Staging and Whole Body Health.
- Community Partners: Brantford | Brant BRC, County of Brant Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Brant, Workforce Synergy.

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Grand Erie District School Board seeks public input for 2026-27 budget priorities

MEDIA RELEASE

The Grand Erie District School Board is asking for input from the public as it develops the board's budget for the 2026-27 school year.

"The perspectives of community members help to ensure that our decisions reflect what's most important to them and set the direction for the coming school year," said Brian Doyle, Chair of the Board. "Together, we can create a budget that supports the needs of every learner, reflects shared values, and strengthens our

mission and vision."

The 2026-27 budget survey is now open, with responses due by April 24. Grand Erie hopes to hear from students, staff members, parents/caregivers, neighbours and other community members as it identifies priorities and allocates funding.

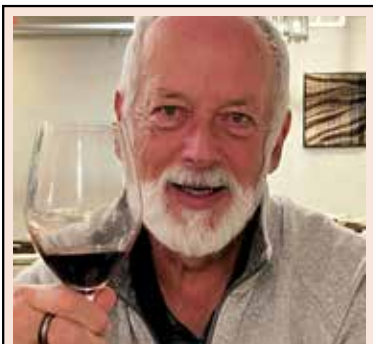
The budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the board meeting in June. Grand Erie must submit the budget to the Ministry of Education by June 30.

"A sustainable budget is built on clear communication and collective

input," said JoAnna Roberto, Director of Education. "This process allows us to remain responsive to the needs of our learners, aligning our resources to further elevate excellence in academics and innovation while ensuring measurable progress toward our goals over the coming year."

For more information, frequently asked questions, and to submit your input, visit <https://granderie.ca/board/departments/business-services/finance/budget>. To provide input in another format, email info@granderie.ca.

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A tasty Perth County craft brewery day trip



By Paul Knowles

The beer was very good – but what I was really interested in was the story behind the brand.

Let's face it – the life of a travel writer is hard, slogging work. Take this day for example: I had decided to write a feature about a day trip to two Perth County craft breweries. I asked three buddies if they would like to come along as I visited Black Donnellys Brewing Company in Russeldale, and Black Swan Brewing in Stratford. They were understandably reluctant – it took up to 15 seconds for them to agree – and off we went. As I said, I have a very demanding job.

I've been interested in the Black Donnellys brand for quite a while. Having grown up on Southern Ontario, I knew the story. Early in my life, I read the harrowing accounts (some more or less true) about this family, their reportedly nefarious deeds, and the massacre that occurred when their neighbours attacked them in their Lucan area home. There are now books, plays, songs, a TV program, and a museum about the Donnellys.

I'm not going to go into all the controversy about the Donnellys, their alleged crimes, the conspiracy against them, and the Feb-



The Black Donnellys brewery on Highway 23, south of Mitchell.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

ruary 3, 1880, night when their Biddulph township neighbours slaughtered five Donnelly family members. What interested me is how craft brewer Neil Douglas was able to use the brand "Black Donnellys" and various terms associated with the story when he opened his brewery on Highway 23, ten minutes south of Mitchell.

Turns out, he simply did it! Nobody owned rights to the names. He told me, "I wondered if there would be push-back" because of the gruesome nature of the story, but that didn't happen – people were more intrigued than concerned.

So after naming the brewery, he followed up by naming the various beers after details of the story: Roman Line Lager (from the road where the Donnellys lived); Dark Horse Ale; 1880 Mile Stout; Bid-

dulph Township Haze IPA; Shillelagh Law Belgian Quad; Seven Sons Amber Lager; and Vigilante IPA, to name a few.

Some of those names – like "Seven Sons" – actually arose from contests that Neil has conducted with his customers.

My friends and I sampled flights of Neil's beer, and the consensus was, this is good stuff. Personally, I tried the Seven Sons, Roman Line, Dark Horse and Shillelagh Law, and would be hard pressed to choose one over the other – although the 8% Shillelagh was really tasty. The four of us chose four different beers as our favourites, but agreed they were all excellent brews.

Neil buys hops and grain from western Canada, England, Germany, Austria, and some hops from the Tavistock area. But he

says the real key to the taste of his beers is the pure, well water from his property. "That makes the beer," he told us.

In total, Neil and brewmaster Scott Jacobs produce 10 beers; they are served at the brewery (with a comfortable interior, a patio in the warm months, live music every couple of weeks, and pizza and snacks available), and at ten pubs across an area stretching from the Scran and Dram pub in New Hamburg to the shores of Lake Huron.

Our flights consumed, and information gathered, we headed east to Stratford, to visit Black Swan Brewing on Downie Street. It was mid-afternoon on a Wednesday in March, so there were few customers, but within an hour or two, the place was full.

The Black Swan is owned by Ryan Stokes, a teacher by day. We were enthusiastically greeted by one of his former students, Sierra

Sauvé, who provided us with lots of information, and some really fine flights of beer.

The Black Swan opened almost 12 years ago, and in an era where some craft breweries are struggling, both it and the Donnellys seem to be thriving, building on excellent products, friendly service and a loyal customer base.

Sierra told us that while the warmer months bring lots of Stratford visitors to the brewery, the key to year-round success lies with their regular, local clients.

And here's a tasting tip from those regulars: it's common for those in the know to order a blended beer, combining a couple of the brews on tap to make their own special beer.

It's an interesting idea, but after tasting the beers in our flights, we all agreed it would not be difficult to choose a favourite straight from the taps. But as usual, we couldn't agree as to what that favourite would be; votes were cast for Road Trip Golden Ale; English Pale Ale, and New Vienna Lager. And our cast of enthusiastic amateurs also liked the Wild Child Sour (the sour beers are changed seasonally). The list of beers not enjoyed was blank.

The seating area in the brewery is not enormous, but the Black Swan has a patio out front (in typical Stratford style) in the warm months. But if you opt to sit outdoors, be sure to pop in and see the large Black Swan painting by Drew Simpson, an impressive adaptation of the 17th century work by Jan Asselijn, called "The Threatened Swan". Cheers!

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and Past-President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



Black Donnellys' brewmaster, Scott Jacobs.



The Black Swan Brewing Company is on Downie Street in Stratford.



Sierra Sauvé, at the Black Swan Brewery in Stratford.

Riddles

I start out small
but grow so wide,
with creatures living
deep inside.
Protect me well—
I'm worth your care.

The ocean

I fly without wings
across the sky,
I help things grow
as I pass by.
Too much of me
can cause despair.
Too little—nothing's there.

Rain

I stand in place,
yet travel the years.
I give you shade
and calm your fears.

A tree

Sudoku



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

Solutions on page 19

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PET OF THE WEEK

HANK & DOLLY

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Tired of these cool dreary April days? Hank and Dolly haven't been bothered at all. They have been taking the opportunity to snuggle and nap on the long Grey days. We are all very jealous. Hank's family wasn't too sure if he would accept this new addition, looks like its a win!

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



Word Search

EARTH DAY

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- CLIMATE
- CARBON
- FOOTPRINT
- POLLUTION
- GLOBAL
- WARMING
- ECOFRIENDLY
- BIODIVERSITY
- ENVIRONMENT
- AWARENESS
- EARTH
- NATURE
- PLANET
- ECOSYSTEM
- HABITAT
- WILDLIFE
- FOREST
- OCEAN
- RIVER
- MOUNTAIN



WEEKLY Horoscope

April 22 - April 28 2026

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



Momentum builds steadily. A confident step clears obstacles and sharpens your focus ahead. Trust your instincts—it guides you forward with purpose, clarity, and strong direction.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Grounded energy supports you, Taurus. Familiar routines bring comfort and help settle your thoughts. Lean into consistency—it builds quiet strength and encourages steady, lasting growth.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



New inspiration arrives, Gemini. A fresh idea sparks excitement and fuels your curiosity. Follow the momentum—it leads toward growth and opens doors to new, unexpected possibilities.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



A quiet pause helps reveal what truly matters most. Move forward gently—it supports balance and strengthens your sense of inner peace and clarity.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Your energy shines brightly, Leo. Confidence draws attention and lifts your spirit higher. Step forward boldly—it's your moment to lead with strength, purpose, and genuine heart.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Focusing on small details restores calm and balance. Stay organized—it allows everything to fall into place smoothly and supports steady, reliable progress in your daily routine.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



A meaningful exchange offers clarity and helpful insight. Choose patience—it deepens connections and helps guide your path forward with greater ease.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Reflection brings clarity and reveals important truths. Trust your instincts—it leads you ahead with confidence and focus.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



Momentum rises again. A new path sparks excitement and fuels your adventurous spirit. Take the chance—it opens doors to growth, discovery, and opportunities ahead.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Progress builds steadily, Capricorn. Your dedication begins showing clear and meaningful results. Stay committed—it strengthens the path you are carefully building toward lasting success.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



A new idea takes shape and gains attention quickly. Trust your vision—it pushes forward progress and inspires positive, meaningful change ahead.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Gentle reflection brings insight and emotional balance. Listen within—it guides you forward with quiet strength, clarity, and steady reassurance.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 22

Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Actor (60)

APRIL 23

John Cena, Athlete (49)

APRIL 24

Kelly Clarkson, Musician (44)

APRIL 25

Al Pacino, Actor (86)

APRIL 26

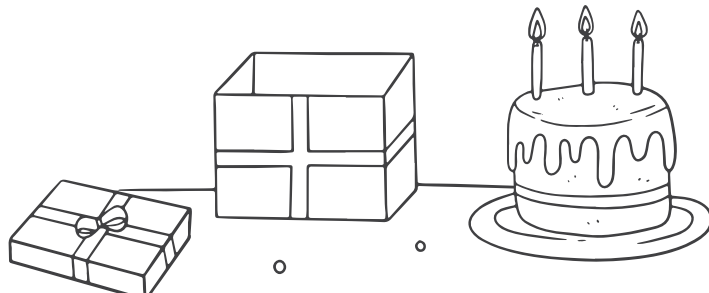
Aaron Judge, Athlete (34)

APRIL 27

Arch Manning, Athlete (22)

APRIL 28

Jessica Alba, Actress (45)



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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Bohar-Voisin

To Letitia and Joe, a baby boy, Davis Jack. Born at home March 7th weighing 7lbs 4oz. First time amma is Lauren Hauff of Elora and grandpa is Mike Voisin of Tiny Township. Lucky #7 for Mary and Steve Bohar of Paris. Great grandparents are Mary Hobbs and Molly Bohar of Paris and great amma and great grandpa are Marilyn and Al Hauff of Guelph. Special thanks to midwives Cathy Grant, Asra Varind and Emily Slusarek



OBITUARY

Keeton

August 13, 1930 – April 13, 2026



Keeton, Douglas Wain (Bud)

Passed away at the Willett Hospital in his 96th year with family and friends at his side. Survived by his devoted wife Doreen (nee Todd) for 67 years, sister-in-law Jane Hurst, and son Peter Keeton, and many nieces, nephews, family in North Carolina, Australia, and loyal friends. He was predeceased by a sister Mae, brothers Jack, Bill, and a nephew Donny Keeton. Also, parents Percy and Maggie Keeton.

Bud was a Korean war veteran. His regiment P.P.C.L.I. (aka) Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry, 2nd Battalion. He fought at, The Battle of KAPYONG (1951). He was among 110 soldiers to march at Queen Elizabeth's Coronation (1953). Bud was also a paratrooper. In the summer months, you would see him driving his 1953 Ford Jeep around the town, stopping at his favorite place, Tim Hortons. He actively participated in local parades, often alongside fellow veterans, showcasing their jeeps. Come November, he would be delivering poppy boxes to the stores or standing on a corner selling them. Then onto the schools with another Legion member, to talk to the students about the importance of Remembrance Day and what it stood for. He was a loyal member to Paris Legion Branch 29 and Korean Veteran Association.

Bud worked at McHutchion Bakery, MacDonald-Oliver, and Paris Poultry.

A private service has been held with interment at Paris Cemetery.

"Until We Meet Again"

In lieu of flowers, donations to Paris Legion Branch 29 would be appreciated. Online condolences and donations may be arranged through www.wmkipfuneralhome.com or by calling 519-442-3061.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE
AT GRANTHAVEN.COM**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22 - SATURDAY APRIL 25

The Brantford Symphony Orchestra Presents Their Annual BOOK FAIR - 9:30am-8pm Wed-Fri, 9:30am-3pm Sat. Location is One Market (I Market St at Dalhousie St. Brantford). Accepting book donations Mon-Sat 11am-3pm until April 17 (closed Easter weekend). For more info: brantfordsymphony.ca or call: 226-552-5579.

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.

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.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Spring Library Book Sale - Doors Open 10am until 4pm. Brant Library Main Branch 12 William St. - Paris - N3L 1K7. Parents and Teachers. COME EARLY for best selection of Children's Resources. Come and browse - Novels - Books for Young Readers - Teens, Crafts, Historical and Reference. Bring your own Bag. Fill a regular shopping-style bag for \$5.00 - a larger bag for \$10.00 - CASH ONLY - Please know ALL proceeds from this sale go back into Library program enhancements & Children's Programming. See you there.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

Brant Men of Song will be holding their choir practices - on Tuesdays on May 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th 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, MAY 6

Paris Horticultural Society - Our next General Meeting is May 6th at the Paris Fairgrounds. The meeting starts with social time at 7 pm. The program will begin at 7:30 pm. Our guest speaker is Dan Cooper, "Gardening from a Hammock" just what we all want to do. This is a presentation on Low-Maintenance Gardening. Dan has been a Master Gardener for over 25 years and is the co-author of "Gardening from a Hammock". He is a landscape designer who specializes in shade gardens and organic gardening. Dan is the owner of Green Gardens and Tours. This will be a very interesting presentation. Come on out and join us as our guest. We are the friendly Garden Club, you may just decide to become a member.

Spaghetti Supper - Etonia Princeton United Church #101 - Hwy. 2, Etonia. Wednesday, May 6, 2026 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Adults: \$20; children (12 and under) \$6; preschoolers free (includes meat and meatless sauces, meatballs, garlic bread, pie for dessert, tea/coffee/juice). Takeout available. Wheelchair accessible.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

The Paris Optimist Club will hold its next monthly Youth Dance on Friday May 6, 2026, The theme for this dance is Spring. (be colourful!) The dance is for students in grades 5 to 8 only. Grade 9 and older students are welcome to attend as volunteers. The DJ begins the Dance at 7:00 pm and it ends at 10:00 pm. Volunteers must arrive at 6:45 pm. The Dance is held at the Syl Apps Community Centre, 51 William Street in Paris with adult chaperones to make sure everyone has a great time. Entry fee is \$5.00 with a concession booth for pop, chips, candy and pizza. Tap payment is now available. Please note we have a no re entry policy. All proceeds support the Paris Optimist Club and its projects for the youth of our community. For any further information and to volunteer as a chaperone or as a high school student, please call 519.757.5020.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Indoor Garage Sale - Indoor Garage Sale from 8:30am to 11am at Sydenham-Heritage United Church. Browse a variety of items with something for everyone! Located at 120 Sydenham Street (corner of Dundas & Sydenham).

Mother's Day Pre-Party - Spoil Mom early with handmade gifts, baby longhorns, and farm-fresh memories! Celebrate Mom a day early with a farm-fresh experience from 10 AM – 3 PM! Explore our curated vendor market, visit the gift-making station for kids, and

snap family photos at our themed ops. Enjoy live music (12 PM – 3 PM), lunch from the Longhorn Smokehouse, and a sweet treat from the ice cream truck. Be sure to walk the driveway to see the Longhorn cattle and their new babies! Don't forget the Kids Corral and our prize-filled scavenger hunt. Moores Berries and Farm Fresh Produce at 497 Pinehurst Rd. <https://www.mooreberries.ca/event-details/mothers-day-pre-party>

TUESDAY, MAY 12

Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting - is on Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 at 10 AM at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. The guest speaker will be from the Brantford Library discussing their services for seniors. New members are always welcome.

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

SATURDAY, MAY 23

St. Paul's Rummage and Bake Sale - Doors open 8:00pm 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.

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.

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!

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.

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 - 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 THURSDAY 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 - 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! April 10 & 17, May 1, 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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WANTED

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Atom | 6. Female |
| 2. Octagon | 7. AB Negative |
| 3. A tight rope | 8. 1969 |
| 4. Diamond | 9. Solid, liquid & gas |
| 5. 1912 | 10. Pluto |

HISTORICAL RESTORATION HELP WANTED

Cobblestone Masonry Restoration Ltd. has one spot left for a part-time general labourer on a historical project starting soon. Pay is \$20-\$25 per hour with no experience necessary. Help preserve local history in this unique role.

Text or call 519-757-2574 today.

Our plan to protect Ontario is speeding up approvals for mines

As Canada stares down economic uncertainty, we're ready with a plan to protect Ontario. We're building mines to unlock the critical minerals the world needs.

That's how we protect Ontario.



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