

The Paris Independent

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Amazon coming to Paris



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

The vacant lot beside the County of Brant OPP station will soon be home to Amazon's new delivery station, a 200,000-square-foot facility being developed by Broccolini in the Rest Acres Road and Highway 403 corridor. See full story on page 4.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant has confirmed that Amazon will construct a 200,000-square-foot delivery station in the Rest Acres Road and Highway 403 corridor adding a major addition to the community's growing logistics and in-

dustrial sector.

The new "last-mile" facility will handle packages arriving from Amazon fulfilment centres, sorting and loading them onto delivery vehicles for final distribution to customers across the region.

"This announcement reflects the value that our community offers to global organiza-

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Brant eyes faster planning process

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant is exploring a new land-use planning framework that could significantly change how development applications are reviewed and approved.

At its October 14 meeting, council received a presentation from Dillon Consulting on the potential introduction of a Community Planning Permit System (CPPS), a tool designed to combine zoning bylaw amendments, site-plan approvals and minor variances into a single, streamlined process.

If adopted, the county-wide system would replace Brant's current zoning bylaw and establish clear, measurable development standards aimed at improving efficiency and predictability for applicants while aligning with the county's A Simply Grand Plan Official Plan (2023).

Policy Planning Manager Brandon Kortleve said the CPPS could cut approval timelines from more than 160 days to 45 days by replacing multiple applications with a single permit. The system also reinstates mandatory pre-consultation which was recently removed under provincial Bill 185. It allows municipalities to secure community benefits such as affordable housing or green infrastructure in exchange for additional building height or density.

Under the proposed model, routine applications that meet county standards would be handled administratively by planning staff, while larger or more complex proposals would still

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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1ST, 2025

Volunteer targeted in daylight distraction theft in downtown Paris

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

In the early afternoon of October 14, a longtime volunteer in our town was the target of a brazen distraction-theft scheme carried out in broad daylight, in a municipal parking lot, serving a stark reminder that no one is immune, even in our close-knit community.

Between 12:45 and 1:12 pm that day, Edith, a stalwart volunteer with the Paris Horticultural Society, was working on the flower beds behind the Council Chambers parking lot in downtown Paris.

Edith has served the town for decades, planting, pruning, and maintaining public gardens and planters, and giving directions to visitors from her years as a downtown business owner. So, when a vehicle pulled up and one of the occupants asked for directions to the nearest grocery store, Edith responded as she had many times before.

But the exchange was more calculated than it initially appeared. The suspects — described by the family as a male and female pair, mid- to late-30s, of Mexican ethnicity, with black hair and dark eyes — engaged Edith in conversation and repeatedly asked her to move closer to their vehicle so they could better hear her.

When Edith approached, they expressed gratitude and offered her a ring as a token of appreciation. She declined, citing that she was wearing gardening gloves and did not need a ring. According to the victim's family, the suspects then insinuated that she was insulting their culture by refusing, saying they wanted to give her a hug for her kindness as the day was in remembrance of 'an anniversary of someone's passing.'

It was at that point the scheme escalated. The woman from the back seat put a necklace around Edith's neck (the piece is now in police custody), pulling her in, while the man from the front seat looped a chain or cord around her wrists to restrain her. They then fled in a dark grey small SUV, driving off with Edith's gold necklace laden with memory charms, items of both monetary and deeply personal value. The family estimates the value of the theft to be over \$5,000.

Valerie Stone, Edith's daughter, told the Independent: "We are grateful she doesn't have any marks on her neck nor her wrists as she had gardening gloves on, thankfully."

"While we likely won't ever get her necklace back with all her memory charms we hope to help get info for the OPP to find these individuals and create awareness so no one else in our community needs to experience this."

Valerie also cautioned, "If anything please share with your loved ones to be VERY vigilant. The old saying... most people are good... is not the case anymore."

Reflecting on the incident, Edith offered this advice: "Be aware of your surroundings, and keep your distance from people and vehicles, so they can't touch you."

Police in Brant County are not unfamiliar with distraction thefts now creeping into our smaller towns. Brant County OPP Media Relations Officer Enzo Coletta responded to our inquiries, noting: "Distraction thefts in our small communities never used to happen. That has changed as we have had 2 in the past two months."

One earlier case involved a similar ruse: an older female was called over to a vehicle by a passenger asking for directions. When she approached, the suspect wrapped her arms around the victim's neck under the guise of a "thank you hug" and removed the gold necklace, replacing it with a fake. The victim did not notice until hours later and reported the crime to police.

Coletta emphasized the seriousness of this evolving threat. "I don't have any statistics for you but I do know this type of theft is happening in Brantford and Hamilton more often."

As for steps to take in order to stay safe he is advising people to be cautious in interacting with a stranger. "Nobody should be hugging you if you do not know them or didn't save their life, etc. ... Always know your surroundings and always be mindful of who is approaching you. If you find yourself being scammed or have been scammed, then you should notify your local police and report the incident."

This kind of crime is not isolated to Paris or Brant County. Indeed, distraction-style thefts have been increasing elsewhere in Ontario.

In Hamilton, police recently reported a sharp rise — from 39 such offenses in 2024 to 74 already in 2025, mostly targeting older adults walking in their neighbourhoods. In one case, a woman was approached by suspects in a dark SUV; a female passenger asked her to try on a ring. Later, her own jewellery was switched and removed.

In Brantford, a woman recounted that she had kindly given directions to a vehicle, only to have a necklace placed at her neck and taken. The suspects drove off, leaving her feeling "violated."

On a broader scale, the OPP's Central Region led an investigation dubbed Project Final, laying 130 charges related to distraction thefts across Ontario. Many of the victims were seniors (average age around 75). The perpetrators used techniques such as "shoulder surfing" to capture PIN codes and then distract victims to gain access to cards or jewelry.

Valerie's public appeal underscores a critical need in situations like these and that is the community must remain vigilant. She asked residents to review Dash Cam or security video footage in the noon hour of October 14, looking for a dark grey small SUV and the two suspects (male and female, mid-to-late 30s). Even small clues, license plate fragments, time stamps, direction of travel, may be vital to the investigation.

If you have information on the Paris incident including video footage, vehicle sightings, or other observations please contact the Brant County OPP immediately at 1-888-310-1122 or anonymously via Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. Your eyes and ears might help prevent this from happening to someone else.

How to protect yourself from distraction thefts

Brant County OPP, as well as police in Hamilton and other jurisdictions, offer some key safety tips to reduce your risk:

- 1. Maintain distance** — Don't move unnecessarily closer to vehicles or strangers. Be cautious when someone in a vehicle asks you to approach.
- 2. Refuse unsolicited gifts or jewellery** — Never accept rings, necklaces, or other items from strangers — especially if they ask you to put them on.
- 3. Avoid hugs or physical contact** — Physical closeness can be used as a tactic to restrain or distract.
- 4. Be alert to suspicious interactions** — If someone seems overly insistent, emotional, or trying to play on sympathy, step back and disengage.
- 5. Stay connected** — If possible, be where others can see you, work in pairs or groups, and carry a phone to call for help immediately.
- 6. Report in real time** — If you feel uneasy or suspect a scam, call your local police immediately.
- 7. Share the warnings** — Talk to family, friends, neighbours (especially seniors) about this tactic, so awareness spreads.

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Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Chris Whelan • editor@theparisindpendent.com

Managing Editor

Casandra Turnbull • managingeditor@theparisindpendent.com

Graphic Design

Michelle Foster • parisindpendentnews@gmail.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Jen Gaetan • jen@granthaven.com

Contributors

Michelle Malvaso, George Le Gresley, Rubyyy Jones, Stephen L., Jacob Gaudet, Heidi Pflieger, Tiffany Martin, Daksh Siwas, Scoop Stewart, Paul Knowles, Karon Sinning, Jeff Johnston, Wayne Wilkinson

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



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Brant explores new planning permit system to streamline development approvals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

require council approval.

"This initiative is about modernizing the process and improving clarity for residents, developers and council," Kortleve said. It's an opportunity to build a made-in-Brant solution that balances efficiency with transparency he noted.

Several councillors raised concerns about how the new framework might affect public participation.

During her presentation, consultant Chun Chu, from Dillon Consulting, noted that while the CPPS offers efficiencies, it is not a perfect tool. She cautioned that the system carries potential risks including reduced opportunity for public input on individual applications, difficulty understanding a new framework, and concerns over whether community benefits would be fairly distributed across different areas. Chu also highlighted that third-party appeals would not be permitted under the CPPS. From an internal standpoint, she said the planning division would face significant staff-training requirements, possible concerns about consistency under delegated approvals, and the need for new systems to track outcomes and financial impacts.

Councillor John Bell said he supports clearer rules but questioned whether the public would still have meaningful opportunities to comment on individual developments. "I'm a little troubled by what I see on page 6 of your report. The words 'public input' isn't featured at all. I also heard there is a lack of third-party appeal. It seems to me like you are trying to push the boundary toward the person making the application whether it be a person or developer."

Kortleve assured council that while the provincial model does not require consultation on individual permits, Brant staff plan to "front-end" engagement beyond minimum provincial standards by seeking feedback during the bylaw development phase.

Councillor Brian Coleman voiced skepticism about adopting a system that only a handful of Ontario municipalities — including Guelph, Huntsville and Innisfil —

have implemented. "Only seven municipalities out of over 400 have bought into this, and that really bothers me," he said.

Councillor John Peirce questioned the feasibility of meeting the 45-day turnaround time, while Councillor David Miller asked about costs to implement the new system. Kortleve said no funding has yet been requested, but budget allocations for 2026 would include studies on community-benefit valuations, citing affordable-housing incentives as an example.

According to the staff report, Brant's current zoning bylaw received its last comprehensive update in 2016 and is rooted in pre-amalgamation standards and struggles to keep pace with provincial legislation and modern planning trends.

The proposed CPPS would replace those rules with a performance-based framework that better supports housing diversity, climate resilience and protection of agricultural and employment lands. It would also introduce "precincts", broader land-use categories that consolidate multiple zones, and allow flexible "discretionary uses" in residential areas if certain conditions are met.

Public engagement began in September through the county's EngageBrant portal, with a draft bylaw and Official Plan amendment expected to be released early next year. Following public consultation, the finalized CPPS could be presented for adoption by mid-2026.

Council ultimately voted to endorse the foundational assumptions and direct staff to draft the bylaw and Official Plan amendment, despite a failed motion from Councillor Bell to defer the matter for more information.

"I would like to see two or three things that have come through council and how they would look differently if they had gone through the new process," said Bell, who wanted more convincing that the comprehensive change to planning processes would be beneficial. Only Bell and Peirce voted against the recommendation to move forward with full endorsement of the CPPS at this time or to draft a CPP bylaw and Official Plan amendment.

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Amazon to build 200,000-square-foot delivery station on Rest Acres Road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tions,” said Mayor David Bailey. “We look forward to this partnership and the positive contributions this investment will bring to our local economy.”

County officials confirmed that Broccolini, a Montreal-based construction company with a long history of large-scale industrial projects, is overseeing site preparation and construction.

While Amazon has not yet released specific operational details or timelines, County staff said those announcements will be made by the company once confirmed.

The project is expected to generate non-residential tax assessment and Development Charges for the County, supporting both the local economy and future infrastructure investments.

Planning for the site involved close coordination with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) due to its proximity to Highway 403. County officials said traffic, servicing, lighting and operational issues were addressed during the site plan control process, which included input from multiple departments and agencies.

The site is located within Brant’s desig-

nated prestige employment lands, an area planned for industrial and commercial growth.

County staff noted that the Amazon facility contributes to what has already been a record-setting year for industrial expansion in Brant.

“To date this year, more than \$140 million in industrial permits have been issued, representing a mix of manufacturing and logistics uses,” the County said in an email to the Paris Independent. “This development continues to strengthen Brant’s position as a hub for commerce and innovation along the Highway 403 corridor.”

The new delivery station is expected to create a range of employment opportunities, including full-time, part-time, and driver positions through Amazon’s delivery service partners.

Prospective applicants can learn more or sign up for job alerts by visiting hiring.amazon.ca.

Further details, including the facility’s official launch date, will be announced by Amazon in the coming months.

For more information on the County’s economic development initiatives, visit brant.ca/Invest.



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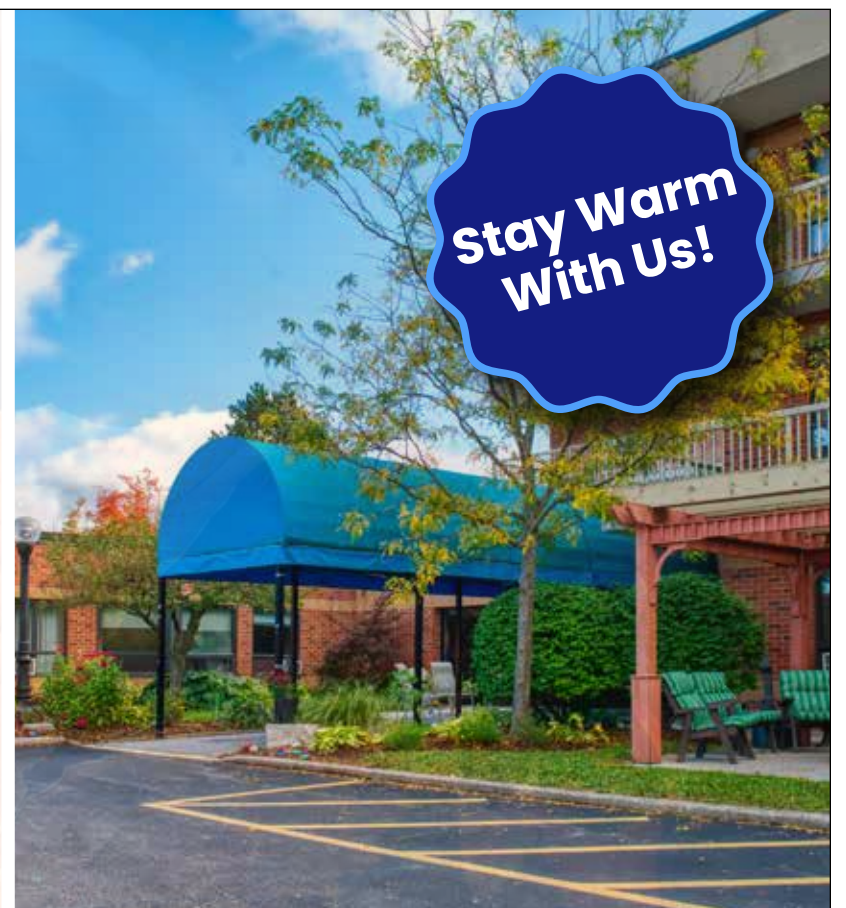
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Garneau resigns from County of Brant Council, citing conflict between municipal duties and business interests

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

County of Brant Councillor Christine Garneau has announced her resignation from council, citing an “irreconcilable conflict” between her duties as an elected official and her professional responsibilities.

In an open letter posted online Friday, Garneau said her decision was made after careful consideration and reflects growing concerns about the impacts of Ontario’s expanded Strong Mayor Powers and the limitations she faced as a councillor.

“Yesterday, I was placed in an irreconcilable conflict between my duty to the municipality and what was in the best interests of my business,” Garneau wrote. “My decision is not made in haste, rather it is a well-considered outcome for reasons explained below.”

Garneau, who represented Ward 5, said she struggled with balancing her accountability to the municipality, constituents, business, and family.

“There remains too much time this term to continue without recalibration and I cannot risk my longer-term livelihood by

serving out the balance of my time as councillor,” she wrote.

In her letter, Garneau said she had considered running for mayor in the next municipal election but ultimately decided to step away from council at this time. She noted that Council’s Code of Conduct prevented her from publicly speaking out against decisions she opposed.

“Council’s Code of Conduct also prevents members from speaking out against Council decisions after they are made and I am often among the dissenting voices,” she said. “This means that I must adopt and defend position statements that do not align with my personal convictions.”

In response to Garneau’s announcement, County of Brant Chief Administrative Officer Alison Newton issued a brief statement to the Paris Independent thanking Garneau for her service.

“The County of Brant thanks Ms. Garneau for her service to Council,” Newton said. “While correspondence has been received and we are aware that a public statement has been issued, a signed formal notice of resignation is required to proceed with the official process.”

Once the formal notice is received, the next step will take place at the October 28 Council meeting, when council must officially declare the seat vacant.

Under the Municipal Act, within 60 days of declaring a vacancy, council must either appoint a person to fill the seat or pass a by-law calling a by-election.

Garneau was one of three new councillors elected in 2022. She represented Ward 5, which includes the communities of Oakhill, Mt. Pleasant, the east side of Scotland, Oakland, Burtch, Cainsville, Newport, Langford, Onondaga, and Mid-dleport.

She has been active in council discussions as recently as last week’s Planning Council meeting, and earlier this month submitted a notice of motion to bring forward a Municipal Construction Business Impact Policy for council’s consideration. The proposed policy aimed to formalize how the County supports businesses affected by major infrastructure projects, such as the ongoing Downtown Dig in Paris.

In her resignation letter, Garneau said she intends to remain engaged in the community and continue championing local initiatives.

“I remain grateful to the residents and property owners who placed their trust in me,” she wrote. “I intend to continue being



present publicly and championing those initiatives that remain priorities for me, my family, my business, and our broader community.”

Skeleton crew hard at work on the Downtown Dig



Skeleton construction workers bring some Halloween humour to Paris’ ongoing Downtown Dig with this clever yard display on Grand River Street. The spooky scene, complete with safety vests, hard hats, and a tongue-in-cheek “Downtown Dig” sign, playfully nods to the major reconstruction project that has kept the town’s main road closed for much of the year to complete vital infrastructure upgrades.

Letters to the Editor

Paris Christmas Hamper Program gears up for the season

Dear Editor:

The Christmas Hamper committee is gearing up for another season. The program will run the week of December 14 to December 19, which will be our distribution day from 10 am -1 pm at the Paris Fairgrounds.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Paris Service Office, 66 Grand River St. N. after November 1. The County of Brant Fire department, OPP and Paramedics will be running their “Fill A Vehicle” program the weekends of December 6&7 and December 13&14 at Sobeys, No Frills, Foodland, Burford and St. George, also a boot collection in Onondaga.

The Paris Firefighters Club will be present at Jingle Bell night in Paris on Friday November 21, collecting nonperishables, new toys and monetary donations. They’ll also will be at Paris Canadian Tire November 27-30 where they will be

collecting new toys and donations.

Sponsorships are welcome. If you are interested, please contact Shirley Simons at 519-442-3550. Christmas boxes will be located at several businesses throughout our community where residents may drop off your nonperishables and new toys for all age groups from newborn to 12 years old. Donations will be accepted at a variety of locations including CIBC, BMO, YN Credit Union, The Full Plate, LBCO, Fit Effect, Primacare Community Centre, Paris Service Office, and Paris Pub.

Monetary donations may be dropped off at the Paris Service office where receipts will be issued. If you require more information regarding the program, please contact Shirley Simons.

Thank-you for supporting our program again this year.

Shirley Simons & The Paris Community Christmas Hamper Committee

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

Signs of remembrance appear across Paris as Homes of Heroes campaign begins

Every sign supports a veteran, honours their sacrifice



NEIL EDWARDS

Paris Independent Contributor

The goal of Homes of Heroes is to place a sign in front of every home in Paris where veterans lived when they enlisted or where they are living now.

So, the Homes of Heroes committee is very proud that Jason Hotte agreed to place the first sign in our campaign to honour our Paris veterans. Jason is a resident of Sensity and known among all the staff for his enthusiasm for history. He has a special interest in learning about veterans and the impact of their service.

Why would we be placing a sign in front of the Sensity residence at the corner of Washington and Dundas Streets? Because several homes formerly at that location had been torn down to make way for the construction of Sacred Heart Catholic School and it is now the current location of Sensity. One of those houses, the former 33 Dundas Street, was the home of William Pamplin

when he enlisted in the Second World War. He joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and cared for wounded soldiers in France, Holland and Germany over three years. Tragically, he never made it home himself. He was taken ill aboard a ship returning to Canada with wounded soldiers. He died shortly after landing in Canada.

Taking part in the Homes of Heroes initiative is especially meaningful to Jason, as it allowed him to be part of a community effort to remember and honour our veterans. And you can play your part too. This week, you may see signs popping up in front of homes throughout Paris, acknowledging the service of the veterans who formerly lived there or are living now. Maybe you learned a bit about these veterans in the articles printed in the Paris Independent over the last few months.

If you missed an article or are curious about the men and women who served in the military and who are connected to those homes with signs, visit our site HomesOfHeroes.ca or use the QR code on the signs to learn more. On our Veterans page you'll find a map showing the homes of Paris veterans, or below the map you can see and explore the individual names of the veterans. You will notice that there is much more detail about some veterans than others. We will continue to try to complete their stories, so if you have information about any of these men and women, or of other veterans we have not included yet, please email



Left to right: Lidia Kitchen, Vickey Patel, Kelly Baker, Jason Hotte, Sweetie Ahlawat, Amanda Mason and Kara Thomas take part in the unveiling of the first Homes of Heroes sign in Paris — a community initiative recognizing the homes of local veterans past and present.

us at info@homesofheroes.ca.

The signs will remain on lawns until after November 11, Remembrance Day. But the work of Homes of Heroes will continue. We will try to uncover more information about Second World War veterans while we look back further in time, to the

First World War and beyond. But just as importantly, we want to acknowledge the contributions of veterans who have served more recently, including those who are in the military now. If you are a veteran or know of a veteran, please contact us. You can help to share their stories.

Thank-A-Vet Luncheon moves to Brant County for 28th Annual Celebration

MEDIA RELEASE

This November marks the 28th annual Thank-A-Vet Luncheon, a cherished tradition that brings together veterans, their families, and members of the community to honour the service and sacrifice of our veterans.

This year's luncheon will take place on Saturday, November 1st, 2025, at a new location—TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre, located at 15 Ewart Ave, Brantford. Doors open at 11:00 a.m., with the formal program beginning at 11:45 a.m.

"We're proud to bring the luncheon to TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre this year, offering a beautiful and welcoming space that allows us to continue to come together to show the appreciation we have for our veterans," said Dave Levac and Bill Chopp, Co-Chairs of the Thank-A-Vet Committee.

Brant County Mayor David Bailey shared his support for the event: "We are proud to host this year's Thank-A-Vet Luncheon

here in Brant County. Our community deeply values the sacrifices made by our veterans, and we are honoured to welcome them, their families, and supporters to this special event. It's a privilege to be part of such a meaningful tradition."

Tickets are available at the constituency office of MP Larry Brock and at all local branches of Your Neighbourhood Credit Union.

- Veterans, spouses, widows/widowers, and Memorial Cross recipients are invited to attend free of charge.
- Tickets for members of the general public are \$40 per person.

"We understand that not all veterans are able to attend in person," said Levac. "That's why we're continuing the tradition of delivering gift bags following the event to those who cannot be there."

Veterans who are unable to attend the luncheon can request gift bag delivery by contacting the office of MP Larry Brock at 519-754-4300. For more information about the event, please visit: www.thank-a-vet.ca



Guests and volunteers will gather to honour local veterans during the 28th annual Thank-A-Vet Luncheon, scheduled at a new location – the TF Warren Group Community Centre on November 1. The long-standing tradition brings together veterans, their families, and community members to express gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

‘All Things Menopause’ event sparks dialogue, sells out in weeks

Organizers plan larger follow-up session in February

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A new community event aimed at breaking the silence around menopause has struck a chord with local women, selling out within weeks of being announced.

The ‘All Things Menopause’ evening, organized by Jennifer Smith and Alix Consorti, a local nurse practitioner, was created to fill a gap in local health education and provide a safe space for open discussion about a stage of life that affects millions of Canadians.

“We wanted to provide the community with a greater resource for menopause and create a safe environment to talk about it,” said Smith. “There aren’t a lot of reliable resources available, and many health-care providers are not well educated on menopause.”

The sold out event, set for Nov. 19, will offer education, awareness and support for women looking to better understand menopause and its treatment options.

Smith said she and Consorti were “overwhelmed” by the response.

“Menopause is a hot topic lately. Many women are becoming more aware that there are resources and medications out there, so they don’t have to suffer,” said Smith. “Also, it’s Menopause Awareness Month in October — so why not be loud right now?”

She said many women expressed frustration at being dismissed or told to “just deal with it.” The event, which includes an anonymous Q&A and hand-picked vendors specializing in menopause-related services, aims to empower participants with information they can take back to their health-care providers.

“We want to give them the education and confidence to go to their health care provider with a plan in place that will help them,” Smith said.

Beyond the educational component, Smith said the event also provides an opportunity for networking among women in

the community.

“It’s important to create a safe and welcoming space to talk about something that most women are ashamed and frustrated about,” she said. “We hope to hold more events involving different professionals who specialize in menopause, so we can continue spreading awareness.”

The successful response to the first session has already led organizers to schedule a second.

A larger follow-up event will take place Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at River’s Edge at the Arlington. The evening will include a mix-and-mingle with mocktails, dinner, and two yet-to-be announced keynote speakers and Consorti, who holds a master’s degree in nursing and is a certified menopause practitioner, will act as Master of Ceremonies and Moderator. Smith and Consorti are also accepting vendor applications. Updates, vendor application and a link to tickets will also be posted on the group’s Instagram account @AllThingsMenopause, or by email at pedidesigns@rogers.com.

According to the Menopause Foundation of Canada, nearly 10 million Canadian women are over the age of 40, representing more than one-quarter of the population. The average age of menopause in Canada is 51, and up to 80 per cent of women experience symptoms, ranging from hot flashes and sleep disturbances to anxiety and brain fog.

A 2022 national survey by the foundation found that 46 per cent of women felt unprepared for menopause, while 54 per cent believed it remains taboo. Roughly four in 10 said they felt alone in their experience.

Menopause symptoms can also affect women’s participation in the workforce. The foundation estimates menopause-related issues cost Canadian employers about \$237 million in lost productivity each year and account for 540,000 lost workdays annually.

Smith said those numbers highlight the need for ongoing discussion and support.

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Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What musical is the sequel to “The Phantom of the Opera”? | 6. What rock band is led by Bob Dylan’s son, Jakob? |
| 2. Who saves the girl in the first printed edition of Little Red Riding Hood? | 7. Acadia was the original name of which Canadian province? |
| 3. Hawaiian word for “hello”? | 8. Which four US states share a border with Mexico? |
| 4. How many days are there in a fortnight? | 9. What was the first video game to be played in space? |
| 5. What was Norm’s last name on the TV show “Cheers”? | 10. What was London Airport renamed to in 1966? |

This week’s answers are found on pg. 18

The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

St. George's Jack Tolhurst inducted into County of Brant Sports Hall of Fame

Longtime community volunteer recognized as a Builder for decades of dedication to local sports

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

The County of Brant has announced that longtime volunteer and sports advocate Jack Tolhurst will be inducted into the 2025 County of Brant Sports Hall of Fame in the Builder category.

Born in St. George in 1924, Tolhurst devoted much of his life to developing youth hockey and baseball in his hometown and beyond. He was a founding member of both the St. George Minor Hockey Association and St. George Minor Ball, serving for many years on the executive boards of each organization in nearly every role.

Tolhurst also contributed to the wider hockey community as an executive member of the Grand Valley Hockey League and later as president of the Ontario Minor

Hockey Association (OMHA) from 1983 to 1987. His leadership and commitment to youth development earned him several honours, including the St. George Minor Hockey Award of Merit in 1982, the George Woolcott Trophy in 1985, and the OMHA Honour Award in 1988.

Beyond his administrative achievements, Tolhurst also coached local teams, including the St. George Peanut House League in the 1960s, and was a member of the 1948–49 Troy Hockey Team, which captured the North Brant League title.

The County of Brant Sports Hall of Fame recognizes athletes, teams, and builders who have made significant contributions to local sport. Nominations for the 2025 induction are open until November 30. More information is available at brant.ca/Sport-sHall.



A member of Jack's family accepts the Induction from Mayor David Bailey. Jack passed away in 2005.

Battalion U11B blaze through round robin, fall in overtime semifinal

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Brant Battalion U11B team put on a commanding performance at the Storm Classic Tournament in Tillsonburg this past weekend, going undefeated in round robin play before their impressive run came to an end in a hard-fought semifinal.

Brant opened the tournament with an 8-0 shutout victory over the Norfolk Knights. The Battalion's offence was firing on all cylinders, with goals from Alex Thoms (2), Blake Anderson, Jacoby Bonnell, Nolan Kearsley (2), and Levi Blake (2). Goal-tender Mason Monteiro earned the shutout with a steady performance in net.

In their second game, Brant faced stiffer competition from the Woodstock Jr. Navy Vets. Holding a slim 2-1 lead heading into the third period, the Battalion broke the game open with four unanswered goals to seal a 6-1 win. Harrison Rusyn was unstoppable, weaving through defenders and finding the back of the net four times. Jarome Burke and Blake added singles, while goalie Ben Turnbull stood tall, stopping several key Woodstock chances.

The final round-robin matchup pitted Brant against the South Oxford Storm - the only other undefeated team in the division. After a 1-1 opening period, with Bonnell scoring for Brant, both sides had goals

called back in a tense second frame. With the score still tight, Austin Meza broke free from the South Oxford defence and scored the game winner. Monteiro was sharp in goal, turning aside several late chances to preserve the 2-1 win.

Throughout the round robin, Brant's offensive lines displayed relentless pressure, while the defensive units kept the puck deep in the opposition zone, feeding chance after chance to their forwards. When opponents did break through, Brant's dependable goaltending duo of Monteiro and Turnbull shut the door.

In Sunday's semifinal against Burlington, the teams battled through two scoreless periods before Burlington struck early in the third. Brant responded quickly on a power play, thanks to a Levi Blake goal assisted by Thoms, to tie the game, forcing sudden-death overtime. However, an untimely penalty gave Burlington the man advantage, and they capitalized to end Brant's tournament run.

"The kids played well the whole weekend," said head coach Jon Kristman. "A couple of bounces went the other way in the semis, but that's hockey."

Despite the tough loss, the Battalion continue to impress early in the season. The team sits atop the Southern Counties league standings with a 5-0 record, outscoring opponents 24-9 through five games.

Panthers gear up for playoffs after busy week of fall action

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Correspondent

Many team sports are wrapping up their regular seasons, with playoffs on the horizon—an exciting time for athletes, classmates, and families alike. This fall's warm weather could quickly shift and become a factor for outdoor sports.

Boys Volleyball

The Senior team continues its undefeated season, sweeping St. John's 3-0 last Tuesday and defeating Assumption 3-1 on Thursday. Amazingly, they've lost only four games this season. This week's schedule includes a home game against McKinnon Park tonight at 5 p.m. and a road game Thursday at Pauline Johnson.

The Juniors didn't fare as well, dropping games to McKinnon Park and Pauline Johnson.

Girls Basketball

The Junior team had a tough week, falling to St. John's and Assumption. Reagan Carter and Genevieve Carriere led team scoring.

The Seniors also took losses to St. John's and ACS, with top scorers Eira Fears, Kayla Padusenko, Elif Ozturk, and Aurora Saulnier.

Girls Fastball

Last Wednesday, the Panthers split their

doubleheader at Lion's Park—losing to St. John's 10-2 but rebounding with a forfeit win over McKinnon Park. Playoffs begin tomorrow with a quarter-final rematch against McKinnon Park at 9 a.m.

Football

Due to a tragic accident involving a recent Assumption graduate, ACS requested their scheduled Saturday game in Paris be moved to Friday.

The Senior Panthers faced the Lions in a close, rainy matchup, but ACS broke the 13-13 tie late for a 20-13 win. Semi-finals begin Thursday at Gretzky Center (5 or 7 p.m.), with the Panthers set to face either Assumption or Brantford Collegiate after a three-way tie for second place.

The Junior team, made up mostly of first-year players, gave strong effort but missed the playoffs after their loss to Assumption.

Tennis

At last week's AABHN tournament, the Panthers placed third overall. Aris Montrea won the Boys' Singles championship, capping off a great season.

Cross Country

At Wednesday's meet at Mohawk Park, Avery Conners finished third in the Bantam race (17:30). In Senior Boys, Aris Montrea added to his tennis success by winning the 6 km race in 18:20.

Paris Legion women's dart league kicks off with record-breaking opening night

DEBBIE KUILBOER

Paris Independent Contributor

The first official night of the Paris Legion Women's Dart League took place on October 16, 2025, and it was nothing short of spectacular! The energy, laughter, and excitement filled the Legion from start to finish. Many of those who attended the pre-season warm-up games had already predicted this would be a fantastic year—but the official kickoff exceeded everyone's expectations. With golf season winding down, the dart season began with incredible enthusiasm and a record-breaking turnout.

We had an all-time high attendance of 27 players on our opening night, which was so impressive that we had to set up two dart boards upstairs to accommodate everyone. The atmosphere was electric, with cheers and laughter echoing through the Legion. Many of our returning players brought along new friends to share in the fun, and several newcomers joined independently, simply looking for a well-deserved girls' night out.

What makes our league truly special isn't the competition—it's the camaraderie, friendship, and fun. It's about creating a welcoming space where women can unwind, connect, and enjoy themselves without pressure. Whether someone is a seasoned player or has never thrown a dart before, everyone is encouraged to join in and have a good time.

One of our brand-new players, who had never played darts before, started her first night with an incredible bullseye, setting the tone for an evening full of excitement. Longtime member Cynthia also kicked off her night with a bullseye, proving that experience and enthusiasm go hand in hand. We're all looking forward to seeing Bev back next week—her laughter and competitive spirit always make the night even better.

And, of course, no night at the Legion would be complete without a special shoutout to Steve, our ever-reliable bartender. As always, he was in top form—keeping everyone's glasses full, spirits high, and the good times rolling. Thanks, Steve, for being the best bartender ever (Ian too)!

If opening night is any indication of what's to come, we're in for an amazing dart season filled with friendship, laughter, and unforgettable Thursday nights at the Paris Legion. Here's to more bullseyes, more smiles, and more great memories ahead!



Bev Wilson hits the mark with a bullseye during opening night of the Paris Legion Women's Dart League on October 16. The league kicked off its 2025 season with record participation and plenty of laughter at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 in Paris.

Rocks, brooms and new friends



Curling season is officially underway at the Paris Curling Club — the ice is in, the brooms are out, and the rocks are sliding! Leagues are rolling, and the club is once again living up to its reputation as the friendliest house in town. Looking to join the fun? The six-week Adult Learn to Curl program runs Sundays from October 26 to November 30, 7–9 p.m. for just \$150 per person. It's a great way to learn another classic Canadian winter sport, make new friends, and find your cozy hangout spot for the season. Register online at www.pariscurlingclub.com.



BRANT BATTALION

SCOREBOARD - WEEK OF OCTOBER 13TH

Tuesday, October 14

- U10A Battalions lose 8-1 against Delhi-Norwich 99ers
- U13B Battalions lose 3-2 against Twin Centre Stars
- U15B Battalions tie 2-2 against Twin Centre Stars

Thursday, October 16

- U14A Battalions lose 4-1 against St. Marys Rock
- U12A Battalions win 4-1 against Elgin Thames 73s
- U18A Battalions lose 10-4 against St. Marys Rock
- U18B Battalions win 6-1 against Plattsville Rage

Friday, October 17

- U13B Battalions win 7-2 against Norfolk Knights 1
- U14A Battalions lose 5-4 against New Hamburg Huskies
- U15A Battalions win 4-3 against Delhi-Norwich 59ers

Saturday, October 18

- U18B Battalions lose 9-1 against New Hamburg Huskies
- U18A Battalions win 6-2 against Delhi-Norwich 59ers

Sunday, October 19

- U12A Battalions lose 4-1 against Mount Brydges
- U13B Battalions tie 2-2 against New Hamburg Huskies



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HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Remembering Hurricane Hazel: Two days of chaos and resilience.



By Chris Whelan

The memory of Hurricane Hazel in 1954 remains vivid, etched in the personal recollections of many residents. This notorious storm, which struck Southern Ontario on October 15, 1954, brought unprecedented destruction and chaos to the region, leaving a lasting impact on our small town as well.

As the tempestuous winds of Hurricane Hazel pounded Southern Ontario, unexpected and relentless, Paris stood in the path of nature's fury. From Toronto to Brantford, bridges and streets were washed away, homes and trailers swept into the unforgiving waters of Lake Ontario. Lives were upturned, homes destroyed, and families displaced. Our town bore witness to the raw power of nature as it unleashed its wrath upon our unsuspecting residents.

Among the stories that have been passed down through generations, one stands out—the evacuation of the Paris Capitol Theatre. Cathy Deslippe recounts her father's harrowing experience at Paris's Finest Theatre on that fateful Friday night. Jim Raycraft, alongside his brother Gord Raycraft, sought shelter at the theatre as the storm raged outside. The building trembled under the force of the wind and the rain he would recall.

Wendy Middleton, born in October 1954, just ten days after Hurricane Hazel wreaked havoc, shared on social media her family's stories of that tumultuous time. Though she experienced the storm through the memories passed down to her, Wendy vividly recalled the events surrounding the hurricane's approach and the impact it had on her older sister, Valerie.

On a Saturday afternoon as the storm loomed and the rivers rose, Wendy's sister Valerie, then 11 years old, found herself at the movie theatre downtown at 11 Mechanic Street. However, their leisurely movie viewing was abruptly interrupted when the manager emerged partway through the showing, instructing all the children to head home immediately. The urgency of the situation was obvious, hinting at the looming threat of flooding, especially given the theater's proximity to the Nith River.

Valerie's disappointment was evident as she grumbled about having paid her hard-earned 15 cents, only to be denied the full movie experience due to the impending danger posed by the approaching storm. Wendy's recollection captures the mix of frustration and concern that must have permeated the air as the community braced itself for the impact of Hurricane Hazel, highlighting the disruption and uncertainty that defined that fateful time in Paris's history.

For Bob Broomfield, the destruction of the footbridge to Lions Park symbolized the upheaval wrought by Hurricane Hazel. The loss of a beloved crossing was a stark reminder of the storm's devastating impact on the town's infrastructure and cherished spaces. Bob recalled having to pole volt across the river in order to get to the park.



The oldest dam in Paris and first to be built on the Nith River, was breached by rain-swollen torrents from Hurricane Hazel. Within an hour, force of the water had cut a new course for the river leaving the Paris Wincey Mills without waterpower. Mill officials did not repair the structure but decided to switch to hydro electricity to power their machinery.

In John F. Fielding's book "Paris Daze: Adventures and Misadventures Growing Up in the Prettiest Town in Canada," John Frederick Fielding, born on May 21, 1942, and who passed away on August 7, 2022, vividly recounted the impact of Hurricane Hazel on Paris in 1954. While the storm hit Southern Ontario on Friday, October 15, it was the following day, Saturday, October 16, that the Nith and Grand Rivers in Paris began to pose a serious threat to the town's residents.

At the age of 12, John and his brother Bob were dedicated Paris newspaper boys for the Toronto Sun. On that fateful Saturday, they found themselves at the Paris Capitol movie theatre on 11 Mechanic Street in downtown Paris, waiting for the Saturday Sun papers to arrive. After paying their 15 cents to watch the latest Frances the Talking Mule film, they settled in for the traditional showing of cartoons and a Flash Gordon serial.

However, their afternoon took a dramatic turn when an announcement interrupted the movie—the theatre had to be evacuated due to the rising waters of the Nith River located directly behind the building. Though they received their money back, the boys now faced the task of finding a way to spend their time until the arrival of the Saturday Star papers, which they needed to deliver to the residents of the area known as the Flats across the Grand River.

When the papers finally arrived, John remembered the sheer weight of the load as he loaded them into his metal basket on his bicycle. Balancing the bulky newspapers, the boys set off across the William Street bridge towards the Flats. They noticed a significant amount of traffic flowing from the Flats over the bridge and observed the river lapping perilously close to the structure, a stark contrast to its

usual distance of 10 feet below.

Despite warnings from concerned pedestrians about the potential for flooding and the risk of the bridge being washed away, John and Bob pressed on, undeterred by the wind and rain. They successfully delivered papers to approximately 60 houses in the Flats before returning home to the safety of Banfield Street, where their relieved mother awaited them, astonished that they had ventured into the danger zone to fulfill their duties.

In the echoes of history, the tale of Hurricane Hazel in 1954 serves as a reminder of Paris's strength in the face of calamity, a testament to the enduring spirit of its people.

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Woodslee Avenue development gets green light from County council

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

A proposed residential development on Woodslee Avenue in Paris has cleared another hurdle, with County of Brant councillors voting in favour of the project last Tuesday night - though not without discussion about parking, affordable housing, and the ongoing loss of industrial lands.

The plan, submitted by Arcadis Professional Services on behalf of Pinevest Homes Inc., would rezone the vacant lands from Light Industrial to Residential Medium Density, paving the way for a 294-unit mixed-use subdivision that includes a blend of townhouses, apartments and two mixed-use buildings with ground-floor commercial space.

“We’ve been working at this one for quite some time,” said Bob Stewart of Pinevest Homes Inc. during an earlier July meeting when the project was first presented. “We’ve been working away trying to develop a plan that checks all the boxes in the Official Plan, including affordable housing. I think we have found a plan that works well for the area.”

The development features 86 traditional row townhouses, 48 back-to-back town-

houses, and two mixed-use buildings. Of the 160 apartment units, 35 will be designated as affordable housing, with those units expected to come online in Phase 2.

Parking was among the main issues discussed. The project proposes 533 on-site parking spaces, short of the 569 required, though planners noted an additional 64 on-street spaces will help offset demand.

“We have used the City of Brantford’s affordable housing parking as a guideline,” said Odete Gomes of Arcadis, noting that commercial parking spots could double as visitor parking after business hours.

Councillor Steve Howes praised the inclusion of affordable and rental units but raised parking concerns. “I’m very happy to see all that. It’s a fairly good location for it. Parking is a concern,” he said.

Councillor John Bell voiced frustration that developers repeatedly request zoning variances. “I have a gripe with every developer that comes here. We have zoning by-laws – yet developers come back and ask for something different, why?” he asked.

In response, Jeremy Vink, from the County’s Planning and Development department, acknowledged that Brant’s zoning bylaw has fallen behind. “We are

seeing a lot of challenges and we have to move with that,” he said. “Our zoning by-law is going to have to catch up with our Official Plan.”

Councillor Lukas Oakley supported the project, saying it aligns with the County’s housing strategy. “We are looking at affordable housing, mixed residential and commercial. I’m happy to support this – it represents the direction we set when we made our Official Plan.”

Councillor David Miller revisited concerns about converting employment land. “When we take land out of employment and zone it residential – we don’t have to make it up anywhere else?” he asked.

Vink confirmed that no replacement is required at this point. Miller also questioned whether concerns raised by nearby business Molten Metallurgy Inc. had been addressed.

In July, business owner Andrew Guiducci had voiced opposition to the rezoning, citing potential conflicts between new residents and long-standing industrial operations. “Even when the complaints are found to be false or baseless, the disruption,

stress and aggravation to industries is detrimental,” he told council, urging an environmental impact study and noise-buffering measures such as berms, tree hedges, and sound walls.

Gomes told councillors this week that discussions with Guiducci are ongoing. “We believe that it will be resolved. And also, it will be a requirement for our zoning bylaw in Block 2,” she said.

Council approved staff’s recommendation to adopt the zoning bylaw amendment and draft plan of subdivision. Bell was the lone councillor opposed.

Under the conditions of draft approval, the developer must enter into a Development Agreement with the County, provide a Traffic Impact Study, dedicate parkland (Block 3), and contribute to external servicing and stormwater management costs.

The subdivision will include a municipal park and pedestrian connections, with grading, lighting, and accessibility features required before final release of securities.

If the plan is not registered within three years, draft approval will lapse unless extended by the County.

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The Paris Beer Company marks five years: Paris’s first brewery celebrates community, craft, and local roots

SUBMITTED RELEASE

In a heartwarming celebration of community, craftsmanship, and local roots, the Paris Beer Company located at 31 Mechanic Street in downtown Paris, Ontario, is gearing up to mark a significant milestone—its fifth anniversary this November. As Paris's inaugural taproom and brewery, nestled within the historic Wincey Mills building, the Paris Beer Company has not only become a local watering hole but a beacon of sustainable farming practices, intentional craftsmanship, and warm hospitality.

Established amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the brewery has not just endured but thrived, emerging as a cherished gathering place and a pioneer of farm-to-glass brewing traditions. The upcoming November festivities promise a series of commemorative events, tantalizing menu specials, and the signature warmth that has defined the brewery's remarkable journey thus far.

The narrative of Paris Beer Company is as intricate and layered as the diverse range of beers cascading from its taps. Founded by the Edgar family, custodians of Paris's agricultural legacy for generations, alongside master brewer Christian von Der Heide, the brewery embodies resilience, innovation, and a profound agricultural heritage. Rooted in the family's century-old farming legacy, the brewery was an organic extension

of their commitment to creating beers that mirror the intentional craftsmanship and quality of their crops.

Since its inception in late 2020, the Paris Beer Company has remained steadfast in its dedication to quality, inclusivity, and local engagement, swiftly evolving into a pivotal hub for day-trippers, families, and regular patrons. Beyond being a mere taproom, the brewery symbolizes the essence of farm-integrated brewing, with each beer crafted using hops cultivated just beyond the borders of Paris. This estate-style approach imparts a distinct local flavor to every pour, encapsulating not just a recipe but a sense of place.

Master brewer Christian von Der Heide infuses a blend of world-class expertise with an unwavering commitment to crafting beers that are not just trendy but possess a unique depth of character, balance, and authenticity. The focus is on creating beers that transcend fleeting trends, emphasizing quality, and meticulous craftsmanship. The usage of locally grown hops such as Triple Perle, Chinook, Centennial, and Cascade in every brew underscores the brewery's commitment to authenticity and traceability.

Paris Beer Company's ethos has always been deeply rooted in community support, extending beyond mere words to tangible actions like donations to local initiatives and partnerships with community organizations. The brewery's recognition through

nominations for local awards like the Accessible Brant Award is a testament to its ethos of inclusivity and accessibility, resonating with a broader ethos of warmth and welcome.

The success of the Paris Beer Company amidst tumultuous years and changing seasons can be attributed to its dedicated staff, including skilled brewers, passionate kitchen teams, and a front-of-house crew whose hospitality defines every visit. The unwavering loyalty and spirit of partnership among the core staff have not only steered the brewery through challenging times but have also fostered a community of loyal patrons who frequent the establishment for its camaraderie as much as for its brews.

Beyond just beer, the brewery's kitchen offers a menu that harmoniously blends locally sourced ingredients with culinary creativity. With dishes that rotate with the seasons, patrons can relish a diverse array of offerings, ranging from comfort classics to innovative creations designed to complement the tap list.

As the Paris Beer Company enters its fifth year, the upcoming celebrations from November 1st to 9th promise a delightful showcase of what makes the brewery truly special. Exclusive beer releases, taproom and kitchen specials, and live music events will be on the agenda, inviting brewing enthusiasts, Paris newcomers, and families to partake in the revelry.

Amidst sentiments of gratitude and reflection, the founders of Paris Beer Company extend a warm invitation to all to join in the festivities and raise a glass in celebration this November. With a deep sense of pride and appreciation for the community that has supported them, the founders look forward to another year of crafting authentic experiences and flavorful brews for the people of Paris.

For those eager to be part of the celebrations, updates and event details can be found by following @parisbeerc on social media or visiting www.parisbrewing.com/events.

About The Paris Beer Company:

The Paris Beer Company, Paris's foremost taproom and brewery, seamlessly weaves together generations of farming heritage with masterful brewing techniques. Situated within the historic Wincey Mills building at 31 Mechanic Street, Paris, Ontario, this family-run establishment is dedicated to using local, sustainable, farm-grown ingredients to craft exceptional beers and dishes. Beyond being a brewery, the Paris Beer Company serves as a welcoming, family- and dog-friendly destination, embodying values of community, creativity, and hospitality, while actively engaging with local organizations and neighbors to be a force for good in the community.



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THURS NOV 6	LIVE MUSIC 7pm - 9pm
FRI NOV 7	LOVE AT FIRST PINT Speed Dating by Happy Hour 7-9pm
ALL WEEK LONG	Special beer releases \$5 16oz pours & classic food specials 4-6pm Wed thru Fri



Brant County faces significant budget pressures ahead of 2026 property tax discussions

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It's too early to know what Brant County's tax hike will be next year, but a long-term property tax forecast shows some of the 2026 budget pressures.

The plan looks at the county's anticipated capital projects, operating expenses, and revenue across the next 10 years, and the impact those projects could have on property taxes each year.

The 2026 forecast is 13.6 per cent — the highest anticipated across the decade.

But a consultant from Watson & Associates, which put together the forecast, was quick to point out it's not the final property tax levy.

It's "a raw set of data based on the expenditures and revenues in a particular year," Byron Tan told council at a meeting at the beginning of the year.

By using reserve funds, delaying projects that aren't a priority, or enlisting debt to help spread payments out, the county can "smooth" the rate to make it less of a hit to residents, Tan said at the time.

A municipality could also look to reducing services, but that wasn't one of the options suggested — and longtime Coun. Robert Chambers pointed out at the meeting it's not something the municipality has done "for the 40 years I've been on council."

If the anticipated expenditures for the next decade are smoothed over a 10-year period — it would work out to an average tax increase of between three and four per cent each year.

Some of the big-ticket items shown on the 10-year capital forecast for 2026 include:

The reconstruction of Grand River Street North in Paris. Other roadwork throughout the county, including in Oakland, Scotland, and Paris.

Work on several bridges, including Peddie Bridge in Middleport and Weir Bridge in Cathcart.

Water and wastewater infrastructure and expansions, including in Cainsville, at the business park, and upgrades to the airport water distribution system.

Brant Sports Complex expansion.

Councillors won't have a clear idea of what the actual pressures will be until early December when they meet to go over the long-term financial plan.

But the "possibility" of a high tax rate increase "has focused the minds of staff and council ahead of the 2026 budget discussions," Coun. John Bell said.

"We are always conscious of the impacts of property tax increases to our residents but equally we need to ensure sufficient and timely investment to maintain our more than \$2-billion asset base," Bell said.

Although it's a strong-mayor powers budget this year, Mayor David Bailey has been clear the budget will be a joint effort.

Last year, ratepayers were hit with a 6.3 per cent tax hike. The year before, it was an 8.7 per cent increase.

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

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LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

October is Cyber Security Month across Canada and this year's theme is Get cyber safe – for future you.

The federal government's campaign aims to set Canadians up for a safer and easier future by shedding light on the practical benefits of cybersecurity that can prevent people from becoming victims.

Carmi Levy is a leading IT expert and said setting aside 30 days to highlight safety in the cyber world is great, but it isn't enough.

"What do we do for the other 11? The reality is cybersecurity awareness needs to become not just something we do once a year, but something we incorporate into our habits every single day of the year. We have to shift from awareness to accountability."

He added accountability means people being responsible for their own digital security 365 days a year.

"Once you do that, make it part of your daily routine, and it becomes a lot easier to ensure those lessons from Cyber Security Month aren't forgotten."

Those lessons include securing online accounts, educating yourself about current cyber threats, and ensuring your devices have the latest security and software updates. Levy explained human error is almost always involved in successful attacks.

"We're not going to solve this by installing new technol-

ogy. We are going to fix this by changing behaviours, and we do that by exposing people to resources, raising their training level. The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, for example, is great for learning how to recognize threats when we see them in our inbox or when we are online."

It can be overwhelming for the general public to decide what supports to purchase. There are VPNs and anti-virus and security platforms. Levy said they do serve a purpose but added everyone needs to do more.

"We can reduce the risk by going into our settings and turning on features that aren't normally activated by default. Things like dual-factor or two-factor authentication, sometimes known as multi-factor authentication. That adds an additional lock on the door in addition to your password. You can use a fingerprint, voice authentication or a PIN, so even if your password is compromised, the bad guys aren't getting into your account."

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre advises people to implement strong passwords that don't come from a pet or family member's name. Levy said the best course of action is to have different passwords or passphrases unique to each system and changed at least once every three months.

"Ideally, once a month. If that's too difficult, use a password management app like One Password to manage those passwords in one central place."

Levy added it's also a good idea to share less personal information on social media as it is harvested by criminals and used against people in targeted attacks.

"Look at your online activity and ask yourself if you are oversharing. If the answer is yes, you are putting ammunition into the hands of cybercriminals to use against you."

Municipalities also need to be prepared for attacks as they are constantly targeted by cybercriminals. Experts like Levy say it isn't a matter of if, but when.

"It has taken these institutions months, if not years, to recover from and in many cases, they may never recover and the cost to taxpayers is significant. We are already seeing the victim's list pile up, and no one wants to be the next one."



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Brantford-Brant jobless rate rises to 9.7% — second highest in Ontario

MEDIA RELEASE

Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie

Brantford-Brant's labour force continued to expand in September, but job growth couldn't keep pace, pushing the local unemployment rate up to 9.7 per cent — the second highest in Ontario.

The rate increased from August's 9.4 per cent, according to the latest seasonally adjusted estimates released by Statistics Canada on Friday. About 600 more people were looking for work last month, with 200 finding employment.

Nationally, Canada's unemployment rate held steady at 7.1 per cent in September. Ontario saw a slight increase of 0.2 percentage points, rising to 7.9 per cent. Employment growth across the country modestly offset earlier declines seen over the past two months.

Brantford-Brant's unemployment remains one of the highest in the province. Only Windsor recorded a higher rate, at 10.4 per cent. In contrast, Norfolk County continues to show improvement, with unemployment dropping to 3.7 per cent as of August — the lowest rate in the region.

Despite the higher jobless rate, about 7,000 more people are working in Brantford-Brant compared to September 2024. The strongest gains have come from construction and manufacturing — particu-

larly among trades, transport, and equipment operator roles — which added 1,100 jobs last month alone. Employment in the healthcare sector has also grown steadily since spring.

Danette Dalton, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie, said the shifting job landscape also reflects a rise in part-time opportunities and evolving employer needs.

"This may open up options for students, parents, newcomers and others who may be unable to work full-time," Dalton said. "It also means more opportunities for employers to collaborate on offering positions jointly to create full-time jobs."

She added that connecting with the wider business community remains key in uncertain economic times.

"Especially in times of economic uncertainty, there is great benefit in seeking out partnerships and connections with the larger business community," Dalton said. "We encourage businesses to connect with local employment service providers, chamber of commerce groups and industry associations to learn from each other and share resources."

The Workforce Planning Board's online job board, Grand Erie Jobs, recorded 1,850 new postings in September — a 2 per cent increase from August — indicating steady demand across a range of sectors.

Helping families soar: Kids Can Fly's impact on our community

100 PEOPLE WHO CARE BRANT

For nearly two decades, Kids Can Fly has been helping families in Brantford and the County of Brant soar to new heights. The local non-profit is dedicated to supporting early childhood development, believing that when communities invest in children

from the very start, the rewards last a lifetime—improving education, well-being, and future success for all.

At the heart of Kids Can Fly's work are programs designed to empower parents and caregivers with the tools, confidence, and community connections they need to thrive.

The organization currently offers eight unique initiatives, including:

- **Launch Pad** – a warm, welcoming drop-in space for parents and preschoolers to learn, play, and grow together through sensory-based activities.

- **Parachute Program** – providing emotional support and practical resources for mothers navigating the postpartum period.
- **Beacon Program** – a safe space for fathers of infants to share experiences and receive guidance as they take on the joys and challenges of parenthood.
- **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** – one of the largest chapters in Canada, delivering free, age-appropriate books every month to children under five, inspiring a lifelong love of reading.
- **Roots of Empathy** – fostering kindness and understanding in classrooms by connecting students with real families and babies to build compassion and social awareness.

Each of these programs is led by qualified, caring staff and strengthened by the dedication of community volunteers who give their time and energy to support local families.

Kids Can Fly thrives thanks to the generosity of volunteers and donors. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, student, or local business owner, there's a way to help. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit www.kidscanfly.ca.



Little heroes in action! Families gathered for Superheroes Day this past August at Dairee Delite in Brantford hosted by Kids Can Fly, celebrating imagination, courage, and community spirit. Children dressed as their favourite heroes took part in games, crafts, and activities that encouraged confidence and kindness—reminding everyone that every child has the power to soar.

kidscanfly.ca/volunteer-opportunities.

Community support is the lift-off that keeps Kids Can Fly soaring. Here are two great ways to get involved this season:

- **Motorcycle Raffle:** Tickets are on sale now! Purchase yours for a chance to win an incredible prize while helping local families access vital early learning programs.
- **Holiday Ornament Campaign:** Beginning in November, look for beautifully designed ornaments available at participating

businesses across Brantford and Brant County. Proceeds help fund the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which currently has more than 1,600 local children enrolled and another 250 on the waitlist. In 2025 alone, it's expected that 20,000 books will reach children across our community—one story at a time.

Together, we can ensure that every child in Brantford and Brant County has the opportunity to dream big, learn boldly, and truly soar.



A Kids Can Fly volunteer shares storytime magic with local children as part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a program that delivers free, high-quality books to kids under five in Brantford and the County of Brant. With more than 200 children on the waitlist, community donations help keep the pages turning—just \$5 a month enrolls a local child and helps change their story for life.



100 People Who Care Brant is a local giving circle dedicated to strengthening our community. We unite individuals from Brant County, Brantford, and Six Nations of the Grand River to make a significant impact. We collectively choose local charities to support with our pooled donations.

How it works:
Simple: Members contribute from \$75-\$300 annually, divided into three payments spaced a few months apart.
Impactful: Our collective power transforms individual donations into substantial support for local causes.
Empowering: Join us and experience the #powerof100. Ready to make a difference? Connect with us today to learn more! 100whocarebrant@gmail.com.

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HOMES OF HEROES:

If you have a story about a Paris Veteran, please email the committee at info@homesofheroes.ca.

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

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: An unexpected delight in downtown Toronto



By Paul Knowles

When you put the two words, “Toronto” and “Gardiner” together in the same sentence, the reaction is probably not all that positive. Because it conjures up very familiar images of sitting motionless in your car on the Gardiner Expressway – an experience even more likely this year because of all the construction on the notorious lakeshore highway.

But there is another “Gardiner” in Toronto, and it offers a much more pleasant experience. The expressway was named for Fred Gardiner, a Toronto politician; but, “The Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art” carries the same moniker because of founders George and Helen Gardiner (no close relation to Fred that I can find).

The Gardiner Museum is, frankly, an unexpected delight. I have written from time to time about attractions that seem less than inspiring in my uninformed opinion, where I anticipate a 20 minute visit, which then turns into a number of intriguing hours. That was certainly the case with the Gardiner Museum.

The institution is located at 111 Queen’s Park, directly across from the main entrance of the Royal Ontario Museum. Once managed by the ROM, the Gardiner gained operational and financial independence about 30 years ago, and has thrived ever since.

But what is it?



The admittedly creepy Monkey Orchestra.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The Gardiner was founded by George and Helen to house their collection of ancient American artifacts and European pottery and porcelain. As a former chair of the Toronto Stock Exchange, George was free to indulge in a whimsical hobby, and so, began collecting ceramic art. That collection formed the foundation for what is now an ever-growing inventory of important ceramic pieces.

George passed away in 1997; Helen in 2008. But their vision – and their continued philanthropy – has sparked two significant expansions to the museum, and its collections. One such program, in 2004, saw the museum close for two years to allow a major expansion. A second is ongoing on the ground floor, this year. The current, \$15.5 million dollar project, is described as “the full-scale reimagining of our ground floor [which] will include the construction of a new fully equipped makerspace, a Community Learning Centre, and an Indigenous gallery space.”

But even with the ground floor closed for reconstruction, there is still a lot in the open exhibits to intrigue visitors to the gallery.

Now, let’s be honest, here. We

visited the Gardiner as complete novices, knowing virtually nothing about ceramics, and not sure we really cared. But the exhibitions, the information, and the sheer quirkiness of the art and artifacts on display absolutely captured our attention.

For instance: soon after beginning our visit, we spotted some outrageously bold images on what were apparently dinner plates. The accompanying information told us these were original creations of Pablo Picasso.

Nearby was something completely different – a life-size, bright blue, ceramic chainsaw, the creation of Native Canadian artist Mary Anne Barkhouse.

You might not immediately associate ceramics and porcelain with humour, but to my surprise, we found a great deal to smile about in the pieces on display at the museum. An English piece created in Staffordshire in the 1830s is simply labelled “The Ale Bench,” but there’s a lot going on in the work – a full-on dust-up between a drunken man and a rather aggressive female opponent! It made me laugh – still does, when I look at the photo – and honestly, I think that is as positive a recom-

mendation as I can make for any tourist attraction.

And we also laughed at the highly detailed, admittedly weird, 19-character “Monkey Orchestra”, from the Meissen factory, around 1750.

Like many hobbies over the centuries, the creation and collecting of porcelain has inspired huge excess. And such extravagance is certainly on display here. There is, for example, a 31-piece, gold tea and coffee service, made in Vienna in 1788.

Many of the pieces in the Gardiner collection have historical significance, such as the group of three Sevres vases once owned by French king Louis XVIII.

But one of my biggest surprises came from much closer to home – right here in Canada. I am a bit of a collector of Inuit sculpture, but all of my pieces are soapstone or serpentine or bone. At the Gardiner, I found a wonderful ceramic piece, “Man Skinning Walrus,” by Roger Aksadjuak (1972-2014), a Nunavut artist.

Unlike many such institutions,

the Gardiner is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (until 5 p.m. on weekends and holiday Mondays). The admission fee is very reasonable – what is suggested is \$15 adults, \$11 seniors, 18 and under, free. However, during the current construction project, admission is actually by donation of a loonie or more. And every Wednesday, the museum is open until 9 p.m., and admission is free after 4 p.m.

One highlight of the museum is the Clay restaurant, open every day except Saturday for lunch. The food is really good. It is also not inexpensive.

So... I highly recommend that if you know little or nothing about ceramics, you set your skepticism aside, and visit the Gardiner Museum. I’m confident it will be a pleasant surprise.

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.



A ceramic chainsaw, by Mary Anne Barkhouse.



An alehouse brawl captured in clay.



Pablo Picasso brought his unique artistic vision to dinner plates.



The Arles guide explains the odd story behind what is now known as the Café Van Gogh – closed for business because of tax evasion!

Tickle Your Brain

- What did one wall say to the other?

"I'll meet you at the corner!"
- Why don't skeletons fight each other?

They don't have the guts.
- Why did the math book look so sad?

It had too many problems.
- What did the ocean say to the beach?

Nothing—it just waved!
- Why can't you trust an atom?

Because they make up everything!
- Parallel lines have so much in common...

It's a shame they'll never meet.
- Why did the computer go to therapy?

It had a hard drive.
- What did the zero say to the eight?

"Nice belt!"
- Why did the coffee file a police report?

It got mugged.

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 18

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PET OF THE WEEK

LUCY

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Welcome Lucy! This regal standard Dachshund is 7 months old and ready to start training for the show ring. We look forward to watching this stunning girl shine. The standard Dachsund originated in Germany dating back to the 15th century from a mix of a miniature French pointer and a pinscher. They were purpose bred to hunt badgers and wild boars , while the miniature version was bred for rabbit hunting.

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



Word Search

FALL & HARVEST

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

- Pumpkin
- Acorn
- Leaves
- Corn
- Hayride
- Apple
- Harvest
- Sweater
- Bonfire
- Scarecrow
- Cornstalk
- Orchard
- Haystack
- Cider
- Acorns
- Squash
- Maple
- Rake
- Autumn
- Cozy

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

The Brantford Symphony Orchestra Presents 'Ballroom Live' - with guests Brian and Kelly Sloat, ballroom dancers extraordinaire on Saturday, October 25 (7:30pm) at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts in Brantford. Tickets are \$44 & \$49 for adults, \$10 for students with ID, children and elementary students are FREE. For info and tickets: <https://brantfordsymphony.ca>.

CanJam Fundraiser - Local musician John Ladds hosts the 11th annual CanJam fundraiser on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the ForParis Centre. Enjoy a night of live music while supporting the Brantford Food Bank. Tickets \$30 – reserve at pariscanjam@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

The Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - Tuesday October 28, 2025 at Sacred Heart Parish Hall starting at 7:30 pm. Use the Queen Street parking lot door to enter.

Brant Art Matters Meeting - Join us at this community meeting to discuss how to save the Bawcutt Centre campaign and the future of arts in the County of Brant. Meeting will be held at the Paris Wincey Mills Co at 6 pm.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Ham & Scalloped Potatoes Dinner - Etonia Princeton United Church (101 #2 Hwy., Etonia) will be hosting a Ham and Scalloped Potatoes Dinner on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. The meal includes dessert and refreshments. Admission is \$25 for adults, \$6 for children 12 and under, and free for preschoolers. Takeout will be available, and the venue is wheelchair accessible.

Paris Horticultural Society Meeting - Will meet November 5th at the Paris Fairgrounds. The meeting begins at 7 pm with social time. The presentation from our guest speaker is at 7:30pm. Our guest speaker is Sarah Judd from Meadow Lynn Market Garden in Simcoe; she is very enthusiastic about gardening and composting. Meadow Lynn received several awards of recognition for their farming. We will hear all about pesticide free produce, local farming, and local market.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 & TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Special Death Cafe for Caring Adults - The Paris Branch - County of Brant Public Library invite you to this open conversation circle. We share how we might talk with the young people in our lives about dying, death, grief and loss. Please register through the library (brantlibrary.ca) or at info@lifemomentsinlove.ca.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

No Road Back Music Event – Supporting Wheels of Hope - Join us for the 13th Annual No Road Back Music Event on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at the Paris Legion, running from 12 noon to 10 p.m. All-day music celebration features a full lineup of talented performers, including: Gray and Ludgate • Bailey Robb • Shawn Blackmore • Loose Moralz Entertainment • Friday Family Sing Song • The Die Hards • Silvia Dee and the Boyfriend • Allie Stenhouse • The Grand Rivermen • Josh Doherty • Before Midnight • The Barman • Chuck Jackson and Crossfield Bend.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Jingle Bell Night - Join us for the tree lighting begins at 7 pm at Cobblestone Commons. Music, entertainment, firefighters toy drive. Start your Christmas shopping with this traditional kick-off event.

NOVEMBER 13, DECEMBER 11

Free Will Offering - St. Paul's United Church, 48 Broadway St. W., Paris, invites everyone to a Free Will Offering Soup and Bun Luncheon on Thursday, October 9th, November 13th, and December 11th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. All are welcome!



WEEKLY Horoscope

October 22 - October 29 2025

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



You're bursting with motivation this week, Aries. Channel that energy into something productive before it fizzles out. A bold move could set a new course in motion.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Patience pays off, Taurus. A situation that's been dragging along finally starts to move in your favor. Stay steady and avoid reacting too quickly to small bumps in the road.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



Your social side is in full gear, Gemini. Expect a few surprises during conversations—someone may reveal something you didn't see coming. Keep things light and curious.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



This week invites you to focus on comfort and home, Cancer. Rearrange your space or spend time with loved ones. A cozy night in might be exactly what your soul needs.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Step into the spotlight, Leo—someone's noticing your efforts. Confidence is your best accessory this week, so wear it proudly and let others see your true strengths.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Virgo, you may be tempted to take on too much at once. Simplify your schedule and focus on what truly matters. A little organization now saves stress later.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Balance is your superpower, Libra. You'll find yourself mediating or smoothing things over between others this week. Keep your charm handy—it will come in useful.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Scorpio, your instincts are sharp right now. Trust your gut when faced with decisions—it's leading you in the right direction. A private breakthrough may come midweek.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



Adventure calls, Sagittarius. Whether it's a road trip, new hobby, or fresh idea, follow your curiosity. You might discover more about yourself than you expect.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Hard work starts paying off this week, Capricorn. Recognition or reward could be around the corner. Just don't forget to pause and celebrate your achievements.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Aquarius, new perspectives inspire you to think differently about an old problem. Brainstorm freely—you may land on a solution that surprises even you.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Pisces, emotions run deep this week, but creativity flows right alongside them. Channel your feelings into something expressive—you'll find it healing and rewarding.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 22

Jeff Goldblum, Actor (73)

OCTOBER 23

Ryan Reynolds, Actor (49)

OCTOBER 24

Drake, Musician (39)

OCTOBER 25

Katy Perry, Musician (41)

OCTOBER 26

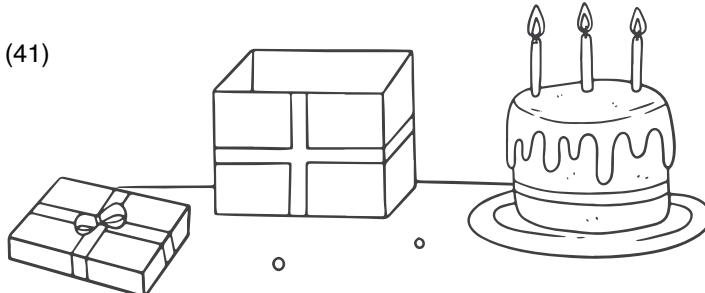
Keith Urban, Musician (58)

OCTOBER 27

Lonzo Ball, Athlete (28)

OCTOBER 28

Julia Roberts, Actress (58)



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QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Love Never Dies | 7. Nova Scotia |
| 2. Nobody | 8. Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas |
| 3. Aloha | |
| 4. Fourteen | 9. Tetris |
| 5. Peterson | 10. Heathrow Airport |
| 6. The Wallflowers | |

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COMING EVENTS

WHAT'S BREWING THIS WEEK AT THE PARIS BEER CO.

WEEK OF OCT 20 2025

TUES 21	HAPPY TUESDAYS Happy Hour all day long with deals on pints & pizzas
THURS 23	LIVE MUSIC IN THE TAPROOM 7pm - 9pm Meg & Bailey
WED THRU FRI	HAPPY HOUR 4-6PM \$7 pints, all bottled beer 50% off plus great deals on food
ALL WEEK END	BOTTLE SAMPLING try before you buy! we're opening up our favourite bottled brews - a rare chance to taste what's usually kept sealed
EVERY SUN	BRUNCH 11AM-2:30PM eggs benny, breakfast pizza plus the regular menu
SEPT THRU OCT	OKTOBERFEST wiesn bier steins & themed menu

BOOK A TABLE HERE



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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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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This **TWO-PART** session covers all aspects of Advance Care Planning – the plan made by you for your medical, personal and emotional care at the end-of-life.
November 3rd and 10th 6:30-8:00pm. \$45 for both sessions. Register at info@lifemomentsinlove.ca or call 519-751-9846.
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Meet our Automotive Service Technicians - Dave Licskai (left) and Alex Roswell (right)

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