

The Paris Independent

Issue #204

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025

FREE

Home Childcare
You Can Trust

Partner with Wee Watch, a licensed agency with over 40 years experience.

LEARN MORE

WWW.WEEWATCH.COM


Isaac Rosebrugh
MORTGAGE BROKER & REALTOR®

Isaac@InspiredBroker.com | InspiredBroker.com

519-754-6611

exp
REALTY
BROKERAGE

BRX
MORTGAGE
LIC13463



Questions about
Buying or Selling?
Get expert advice



Alex Faux
REAL ESTATE BROKER

Contact Alex:

(519)802-6709 DIRECT

alexfaux.ca

alex.faux@exprealty.com

exp
REALTY
BROKERAGE

RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT

Grand River Estates closure shocks Paris and area families



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Grand River Estates retirement home in Paris, formerly known as Penmarvian, is set to close on November 28, 2025, leaving residents and their families searching for new accommodations. The 45-bed licensed facility has been home to many local seniors, some for years, and its sudden closure has left residents and their families scrambling to find alternate accommodations.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A long-time Paris retirement home will close its doors this fall, leaving dozens of residents and their families scrambling to secure new accommodations.

Grand River Estates, formerly known as Penmarvian, announced Friday it will cease operations Nov. 28, giving residents the minimum 120 days' notice required under Ontario's Retirement Homes Act.

"This has been an exceedingly difficult decision and is due to several factors that have severely impacted the financial feasibility of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Scott's Family Restaurant reopens with a fresh look but same beloved traditions

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

After three months of extensive renovations, one of Paris' most cherished dining spots, Scott's Family Restaurant, is ready to welcome customers back with a refreshed atmosphere, a few new menu twists and the same warm traditions locals have loved for decades.

New owner Rana Ahluwalia officially took over the restaurant from former owner Kim Dammeier in December 2024, following the passing of longtime operator Scott Dammeier two years ago. Scott was the heart of the restaurant for more than 20 years, known for his commitment to quality food, consistency and community spirit.

"I respect that Scott ran this place for 20 years – he built this place, and he loved this place," said Ahluwalia. "It was important for me to keep that and for people to remember Scott."

Elevating the Experience

Ahluwalia, who also operates restaurants in Barrie and Brampton and runs a construction company, saw an opportunity to match the restaurant's reputation for delicious food with an equally appealing dining environment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Sandra Etherington
Real Estate Broker

Call or email me to talk
about your real estate needs

519-754-5217

sandra.etherington@century21.ca

You can count on my 35 years of
experience in Real Estate sales.

CENTURY 21.

Heritage House Ltd.



Stacked
PANCAKE & BREAKFAST HOUSE

\$6.99
Breakfast
Special



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

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

Open Everyday | 7 AM - 3 PM

Uber
Eats

stackedpancakehouse.ca

SKIP THE DISHES

Residents given until Nov. 28 to find new homes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Grand River Estates,” the notice read. The facility will continue operating at full service until the last resident is relocated.

In an email to The Paris Independent, management reiterated many aspects of the letter issued to residents, stating again, “The decision to close Grand River Estates was an incredibly difficult decision that was made after careful consideration of many factors.” Some questions asked surrounding the number of residents and staff were not answered. Instead, the email went on to say due to privacy concerns, no information regarding employees or residents will be disclosed and no further comments will be made.

For some families, the sudden announcement has been devastating.

Gwenda Coleman, 65, has lived at Grand River Estates for about five years. Her brother, Dale Snider, said the home was an ideal fit following her brain aneurysm and ongoing seizure disorder.

“Gwen loves the staff, nurses, PSWs, cooks and cleaners, as well as Grand River Estates’ general manager,” Snider said. Snider is financial and medical power of attorney for Gwen. “The food is good and she gets her meds on time. If something happens to Gwen and she needs to go to the hospital, they send her and call me right away so I’m aware of what’s happened. We are thrilled with the home.”

Now, he said, the news has left Gwen and all the residents distraught — “they don’t know what to do,” he added.

Snider said he and his wife are struggling to find suitable care within his sister’s budget. Grand River Estates provided a list of about 30 alternative

facilities in Paris, Brantford, Kitchener and Cambridge, but many are too costly or have long waitlists.

“I don’t see it happening by Nov. 28,” he said. “It’s a very sad situation.”

Snider believes the loss of provincial subsidies for low-income retirement home residents has contributed to the home’s financial struggles. The retirement home once offered government-assisted rates, but the program was cancelled for new residents, leaving many facilities unable to fill rooms.

“If subsidies were brought back, these beds would be filled,” he said. “It gives people dignity and keeps them from becoming homeless.”

Grand River Estates operates as a 45-bed licensed retirement and assisted living facility, offering personal care, medication management, housekeeping and home-cooked meals. The building’s history dates back to 1845 when it was constructed as Riverview Hall by Paris founder Hiram “King” Capron. Over the decades it has served as a private residence, clergy retirement home and, since the late 1970s, a seniors’ care facility. According to the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority website, Penmarvian Retirement Home operated under that name until May 17, 2022.

The announcement has not only stirred anxiety for current residents but also marks the end of a nearly 150-year chapter in Paris’ social history.

Families and residents say they will miss the dedicated staff and the sense of community the home has provided. “It has been an honour providing care and support to each one of our residents,” the closure letter concluded. “You will be greatly missed.”

Scott's reopens honouring legacy while embracing new flavours



The Scott's Family Restaurant team is excited to welcome diners after a three-month long renovation. Owner Rana Ahluwalia is pictured in the middle, red hat and plaid shirt. Rana purchased the business from Kim Dammeier, centre (camouflage jacket) who ran it with longtime partner and business founder Scott Dammeier. Scott passed away in 2023.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The restaurant was in bad shape,” he said. “We wanted the restaurant’s customers to have a good experience in a place with nice, fresh look.”

The renovation included a complete rearrangement of the seating area to make better use of the space, adding 10 to 15 more seats. A new patio, expected to open within the next two months, will seat 20 guests and be accessible through French doors opening onto the frontage on Scott Avenue. Plans are also in the works for a mural inside that will make a subtle nod to the restaurant’s roots in Paris.

The kitchen received a major overhaul, including deep cleaning, repairs to existing equipment and the addition of new fridges, a dishwasher, coffee machine and pop dispenser to keep pace with demand.

“It was a big job,” said Ahluwalia, who led a 20-person renovation team using his industry expertise.

The Menu: Familiar Favourites with a Twist

Scott’s will continue to serve its signature breakfast dishes – including eggs Benedict, Scott’s Omelette, loaded hashbrowns, pancakes and waffles – alongside some new breakfast offerings inspired by Ahluwalia’s Indian heritage. Breakfast will run until 2 p.m., followed by a lunch menu that blends customer favourites with traditional Indian dishes.

New to the restaurant will be a dinner menu served until 10 p.m., featuring healthier options and Canadian classics such as steaks, burgers and wings, alongside authentic Indian cuisine.

“Paris is going to be amazed,” said Ahluwalia of the variety. “We’ve kept the menu

the same but added some value on top of the already popular menu.”

Evenings will also feature a more vibrant atmosphere with televisions for sports viewing and a liquor license in the works.

Growing the Scott’s Legacy

Ahluwalia’s vision for Scott’s extends beyond Paris. He recently purchased a second location at 199 Brant Avenue in Brantford, which will also carry the Scott’s name.

“We are making a franchise of Scott’s Family Restaurant,” Ahluwalia said. “Scott and Kim did a great job of building the brand through delicious food and consistency, and I plan on building on that. People in town know and love the Scott’s Family Restaurant name.”

Soft Opening and Community Celebration

The restaurant opened its doors to a soft opening on August 5, with a grand opening celebration planned in about a month. Ahluwalia is calling the event the Scott Food Festival, centred around the Sikh tradition of Langar – a community kitchen offering free meals to all, regardless of religion, gender, status or ethnicity.

“We appreciate the community,” Ahluwalia said. “There will be a tent outside where people can come and have a taste.”

In keeping with Scott’s spirit, Ahluwalia also plans to sponsor local sports teams and support community campaigns.

As the doors reopened on this family favourite restaurant, many familiar faces were there to greet customers, including longtime staff members Sarah, Kim and Tina.

“It’s going to be the same restaurant people love, it will just look different,” said an excited Ahluwalia.

The Paris Independent

Guiding Principles

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

County outlines emergency response approach following Paris train derailment

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A week after a CN Rail train derailment in Paris, County of Brant officials say the incident has prompted a review of emergency response protocols, though no major gaps were identified.

In a detailed response to The Paris Independent, the County's Emergency Response Team said its Emergency Management Program is regularly reviewed by the Emergency Management Program Committee, which meets quarterly to assess training needs, recommend updates and refer changes to council.

Following significant incidents — such as last Friday's derailment — staff conduct a post-event review to identify lessons learned and opportunities for improvement.

"Information was shared with the public as it became available," officials said, noting the challenge of managing public expectations in the age of instant social media updates. One key takeaway, they added, is the need to reinforce that residents should avoid active emergency scenes for their own safety and that of first responders.

If a more serious or hazardous derailment were to occur, notification methods would depend on the nature and scope of the event. County staff say emergency services — including firefighters, operations crews

and the OPP — would notify residents directly if there was an immediate risk. The County would also use Alert Ready, Canada's national emergency alerting system, along with its website, email subscription list, social media channels, and local media partners to keep residents informed.

In a catastrophic derailment, first responders would work with the railway company and specialized private-sector resources to contain and manage the incident safely. The County follows an "all hazards" approach to emergency planning, which covers everything from floods and severe weather to hazardous materials spills and large-scale accidents.

The County's Emergency Management Plan is reviewed annually and updated as required. The next training exercise for the Emergency Operations Centre is set for late October, with the scenario kept secret from participants to better simulate real-world conditions.

Officials say evacuation planning also considers vulnerable populations, including seniors, residents without transportation and those with mobility challenges. In such cases, the County would work with Brant Transit and other transportation providers to assist with evacuation.

Residents are encouraged to subscribe to County news alerts at brant.ca/Subscribe, follow official social media channels, and download the WeatherCAN app for weather-related warnings.

County of Brant library offers free menstrual products to fight period poverty

The County of Brant Public Library is taking steps to address period poverty by offering free menstrual products in all public washrooms across its branches.

The initiative, launched in July, aims to improve access to menstrual products for those who may struggle to afford them. A Government of Canada study found that one in six people who menstruate have experienced period poverty — the inability to access menstrual products due to financial constraints.

Library officials say the lack of access can have serious health consequences, including infections and toxic shock syndrome, making the issue one of public health as well as equity.

"Access to menstrual products is a basic need, not a privilege," said Marilyn Sewell, vice-chair of the library board.

"CBPL believes that even a small initiative like this can have a lasting impact when it comes to removing barriers and supporting community well-being."

All branches — Burford, Glen Morris, Paris, Scotland-Oakland and St. George — will be included, as well as the mobile library and 24/7 book-lending kiosk in Onondaga. The locations will also be listed on Period Pin, a national directory that helps people find free menstrual products. The library is welcoming monetary donations to help sustain and expand the program. As a non-profit organization, it can issue charitable receipts for contributions. For more information, visit brantlibrary.ca.

HOT SUMMER DEALS

UP TO 80% OFF

BUY IT TODAY...TAKE IT TODAY!

SOURCE FLOORING

BIGGEST ON THE BLOCK!

HOT DEAL! GLUE DOWN VINYL LUXURY IN STOCK 99¢ FROM /SQFT	HOT DEAL! LUXURY VINYL PAD ATTACHED 20 YR WARRANTY IN STOCK \$139 FROM /SQFT
HOT DEAL! KRONOSWISS MODERN LAMINATE MADE IN SWITZERLAND AC4 COMMERCIAL IN STOCK \$139 FROM /SQFT	HOT DEAL! ENG. HARD WOOD HANDSCRAPED IN STOCK \$399 FROM /SQFT
HOT DEAL! 12"X24" CARRARA TILES LOTS OF STYLES IN STOCK \$179 FROM /SQFT	HOT DEAL! SUBWAY TILES LOTS OF STYLES IN STOCK \$189 FROM /SQFT
HOT DEAL! BATHROOM VANITIES ASSEMBLED INCLUDES: HANDLES SOFT CLOSE 24" QUARTZ TOP & BACKSPLASH \$399 FROM	NO TAX! ALL AREA RUGS MANY SIZES PLUS NO TAX! \$99 FROM
HOT DEAL! 2'X9' ACOUSTIC WALL PANELS 4 COLOURS IN STOCK \$139 EACH FROM	

SCAN FOR PRODUCTS

SOURCE FLOORING

BROWSE ONLINE
SOURCEFLOORING.COM

1362 VICTORIA STREET NORTH KITCHENER
MON-FRI 9AM-8PM SATURDAY 9-6 SUNDAY 10-5

Brant approves Salt Springs Church Road realignment design

KIMBERLY DE JONG

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

County of Brant Council discussed moving ahead with a detailed design to realign Salt Springs Church Road around erosion hazards during the regular council meeting on Tuesday, July 22, 2025.

A slope failure on the road was first discovered back in April of 2021, and the section between Salt Springs Church and 82 Salt Springs Church Road has been closed to traffic ever since.

Given that the slope failure continues to advance further into the paved road platform, staff have continued to monitor the slope failure and its potential impacts to nearby properties, including 82 and 86 Salt Springs Church Road.

According to a staff report from July 15, Matrix Solutions Inc. was later retained in the fall of 2023 to complete an erosion hazard and alternatives assessment for Salt Springs Church Road, and an initial hazard assessment identified how far the erosion could stretch if not taken care of.

Several potential solutions were eventually developed, and a public meeting was held in January of 2025 to present the following ideas to the residents in order to get their feedback:

Alternative 1 – “Do nothing” to prevent further deterioration and erosion of the slope, and leave the road as is. This option would still ultimately cost the County approximately \$1.9 million because of damage to both private and municipal property.

Alternative 2 – Close a portion of Salt Springs Church Road and construct a new municipal access road to provide access for affected properties. The option would cost the County approximately \$900,000.

Alternative 2B – Comparable to Alternative 2, but with a shorter section of re-aligned road to provide access to the affected properties. The option would cost the County approximately \$200,000.

Alternative 3 – Realign Salt Springs Church Road around the erosion hazard between Salt Springs Church and 124

Salt Springs Church Rd. The option would allow through traffic and cost the County approximately \$2.6 million.

Alternative 4 – Retain and protect Salt Springs Church Road in its current alignment, implementing slope stabilization and erosion protection measures along the slope and riverbank. The option would cost the County approximately \$5.7 million.

While Councillor John Bell expressed his concerns surrounding the cost of the options during the July 15 administration and operations committee meeting, Ward 5 Councillors Christine Garneau and Brian Coleman, said that something had to be done for the residents in the area.

“While there are only a small number of properties [being affected], being told that you’re not a priority to your municipality is really tough to hear for the residents in that space,” said Garneau. “I’m making the case today that the balanced option would be to reinvest in the road to see that it is opened. ...I have heard from folks who are concerned about emergency response times, who are concerned about their ability to get home from work. ... These folks don’t ask for much; all they’re asking for is the road to continue to service them as it once had.”

Coleman then said that while he was disappointed it’s taken so long to get to this point, he would be advocating for option three.

“There’s 30 some-odd residents that are affected by this road, and at least ten other property owners that own agricultural land down there,” he said. “So I would like us to see us doing option three.”

Councillors David Miller, Robert Chambers and John MacAlpine, also expressed that they would be open to supporting option three as it would ultimately stretch the road’s lifecycle for another 75 years.

Garneau also added that by spending the money now, it would also help mitigate extra wear and tear on the surrounding rural roads, especially given that there is a significant amount of agricultural equipment traveling the roads.

Council later voted in favour of having staff proceed with the detailed design of alternative option three, and the discussion was later picked up again at the most recent

Tuesday, July 22, Council meeting.

Robert Hamilton, a local resident of the area, had the opportunity to speak as a delegation and express his support for the option to realign Salt Springs Church Road away from the erosion.

“Here are a couple reasons why we, the local community, are looking for support for option three to keep Salt Springs Road open,” he said. “One, this provides the County departments better efficiencies in maintaining the roads, snow plowing, emergency services, garbage collection and for post office mail delivery. Number two, it will take pressure off of No. 6 School Road, and it would provide an alternate route for traffic flow; this includes large farm equipment and local residents traveling the western portion of the previous Onondaga township. ... We urge Brant County Council to approve option three to realign Salt Springs Road and keep it open.”

While several discussions followed, it was pointed out by staff that the detailed design could cost anywhere between \$400,000 to \$500,000, and that it would take about two years to finalize the design and purchase the property needed to build the new road.

Garneau once again reminded her fellow councillors that while there may not be that many people who are affected by the decision, they’ve still stepped up and paid taxes to improve other parts of the County.

“These are some of our most price-sensitive residents from a property tax standpoint, and they’re asking us to spend,” she said. “They’re the ones who have stepped up for the investments in the other communities, because we’ve told them they have to, and tonight they’re just asking for their fair shake to continue the conversation about maintaining a service level.”

The decision to move ahead with the detailed design for option three was then carried by a vote of 8-2, noting that Councillor David Miller was not present for the vote.

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

JUST LIKE FAMILY HOME CARE

Supporting Active, Social, Healthy Aging in Brant County

Did you know the County of Brant launched its Healthy Aging Strategy in 2025?

“We’re excited about the County’s investments in walkable sidewalks, trails, parks, and accessible transit. These improvements give our caregivers more opportunities to help your loved ones enjoy fresh air, stay active, and remain socially connected. Let us take them for a walk, enjoy a local park, or attend a community event together,” says Colleen Graham, owner of Just Like Family Home Care.

At Just Like Family Home Care, we proudly support Ayr, Paris, and Brant communities by providing compassionate, personalized home care that helps your loved ones live independently and meaningfully.

We stay informed about what’s happening locally so we can offer services that meet our seniors’ needs. From **companionship** and **personal care** to **meal prep** and **outings**, our **trusted caregivers** help seniors thrive at home and in the community.



Meet Colleen!



One of Our Amazing Owners!

JFP COINS

PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATIST
(COIN DEALER)

IS BUYING!

- A local Olde Oakville business owner
- Over 40 years of experience
- Canadian Coin and Banknote Specialist
- Specializing in coins and paper money from all countries
- Gold jewelry and all rare collectibles
- Consultant to local jewelry stores, antique and estate dealers, as well as a probate law firms in Ontario and registered coin buyer for the Ontario Public Trust office.

No overhead, means receiving top dollar for your items!

Call with any questions and for a free appraisal avoiding inconvenience, indiscretion and risk of hostel buyers.

PS: Never, clean your items.

I have abundant references and an impeccable reputation

A TARIFF FREE COMPANY MADE IN CANADA!

John Probert, Owner and President | JFPCOINS@gmail.com

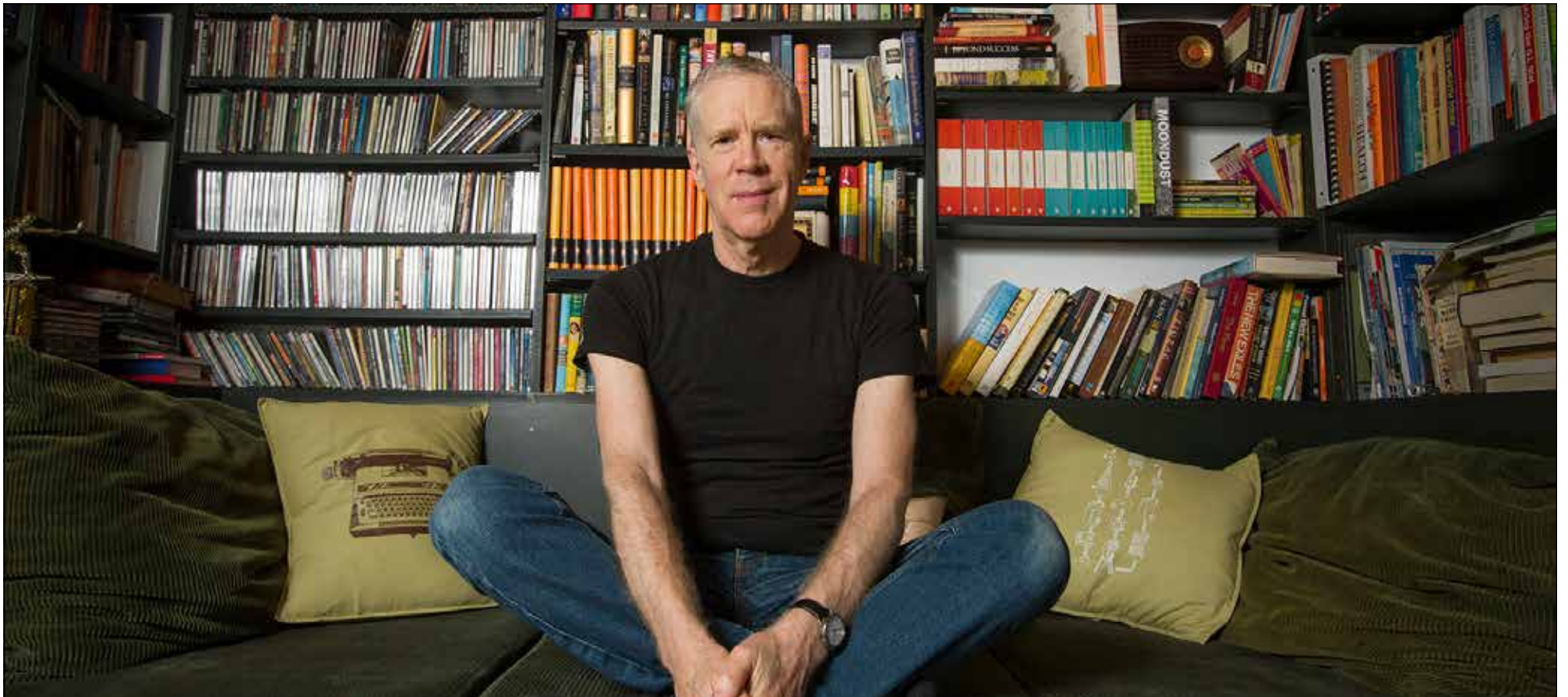


905-599-6460

Call 519-963-6096 for a FREE in-home assessment. justlikefamily.ca/brantford

EDITORIAL

Remembering Stuart McLean: The Voice of Canadian Stories



CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

In the history of Canadian broadcasting, few figures stand as tall as Stuart McLean, the master storyteller whose velvety voice and heartfelt narratives touched the hearts of millions. Through his iconic program "The Vinyl Cafe," McLean etched himself into the collective memory of a nation, becoming not just a radio host but a cherished companion to listeners far and wide.

At the core of McLean's enduring appeal was his uncanny ability to distill the essence of Canadian life into tales that were at once poignant and uproariously funny. With characters like Dave, Morley, and their eclectic cast of neighbors, he painted a vivid portrait of small-town quirks, family dynamics, and the everyday moments that define us as a people.

But McLean was more than just a storyteller; he was a maestro of connection. Through his words, he forged bonds between listeners, weaving a tapestry of shared experiences that transcended regional divides and brought Canadians together in laughter and reflection.

Beyond the confines of the radio studio, McLean's impact reverberated across the country. His live performances drew packed crowds eager to hear his latest yarns, while his books became cherished keepsakes on

the shelves of countless homes. Through community events and outreach programs, he touched lives in ways that went far beyond mere entertainment.

Today, as we reflect on Stuart McLean's legacy, it's evident that his influence extends far beyond the realm of broadcasting. He was a cultural icon—a beacon of warmth and humanity in an increasingly fragmented world. His stories were not just tales; they were invitations to connect, to laugh, and to find solace in the shared experiences that bind us together as a nation.

In an era dominated by fleeting trends and instant gratification, McLean's enduring popularity is a testament to the timeless power of storytelling. He reminded us that in a world filled with noise, what truly resonates are the simple, heartfelt narratives that speak to the universal truths of the human experience.

So here's to Stuart McLean, the voice of Canadian stories, whose legacy continues to echo in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to listen. May we carry forward his spirit of connection, laughter, and empathy, keeping alive the tradition of storytelling that he so masterfully exemplified.

Thank you, Stuart McLean, for being more than a radio host—for being a friend, a confidant, and a beacon of light in the vast landscape of Canadian culture.

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

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

The Paris Independent

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor

Chris Whelan • editor@theparisindpendent.com

Managing Editor

Cassandra 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, Ruby 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



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



The
Paris
Independent

**WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU!**

**SUBMIT
YOUR
LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR
BY EMAILING
THEM TO**

STORIES@
THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GRANTHAVEN.COM

Ag Robotics Day gives insight into the future

JEFF HELSDON

Grant Haven Media

Imagine a day when many of farm tasks are completed, or assisted, by robots.

That day may not be that far off.

The AgRobotics Working Group hosted a demo day at the Ontario Crops Research Centre in Simcoe on July 22. On display were several robots that are either on the market, or nearing that point.

Chuck Baresich of Haggerty Creek, a Chatham-Kent based agriculture company, approached the ministry in 2021, the group was formed and began to look into the possibility of using robots and artificial intelligence (A.I.) to solve many problems growers are facing. At the end of the first year, the group was working with five different robots. Since then, the number of participants and robots has increased exponentially.

There were nine different robots on display for those attending the demo day. These ranged from an asparagus harvester that can identify the ripeness of spears and harvest and laser weeders, to drone sprayers and electric robotic tractors.

Speaking about the drone, Baresich said his company started working with smaller drones and eventually reached the point of the machine they are using now, which is about two meters wide. It's set up to automatically spray a field using GPS coordinates. He did point out no agriculture substances are legal to spray from drones at this point except fertilizer and Garland. More approvals, he said are coming, though.

The laser weeder is an attachment that goes on the back of a tractor. It can be programmed to identify weeds, and will then zap them long enough to kill them.

The asparagus harvester, made by Harvestcorp Technology in Tillsonburg, will hopefully be ready for market next year. It uses cameras to identify the spears, judge ripeness, then a decision is made to harvest, not harvest or harvest the spear and drop it. The machine uses cutters, then takes the harvested spears up a conveyor belt. It can also sort the harvested asparagus into two grades. The machine runs autonomously and is battery powered.

While robotics have been common in animal agriculture – such as dairy barns – Baresich said it's just starting for field crops and orchards. His company Haggerty AgRobotics is the only company involved in both development and retail. He had nine Oz robotic tractors, which is a small unit that will perform a variety of tasks and is scaled for work on small farms or market garden operations, out this year. The Burro, a small unit which can run bins of fruit from the orchard to a processing centre or larger wagon, is in use on several farms.

Pointing to the Monarch, a 70-horsepower electric tractor which can drive itself between rows in an orchard, Baresich said it can allow an operator to pay more attention to the task being performed behind the tractor than where it's going.

"They can watch that much more closely than before," he said.

It will also drive itself without an oper-

ator.

The Monarch will run for 14 hours performing light tasks, and eight on heavy tasks. It can recharge in four to six hours on 220 volts. This unit sells for \$130,000, compared to a conventional tractor at \$70,000 to \$80,000. However, Baresich said there are no oil changes, oil filters and operating costs are lower. A traditional tractor also can't drive itself.

Asked about batteries, he said they are good for eight years.

"What's interesting is the battery that goes in there (in the future) will be significantly better than the one that came out," he predicted.

His dealership receives weekly calls from growers interested in making the switch. The technology is advancing rapidly, and Baresich believes it's on the cusp of becoming practical.

Part of his company's job is evaluating the new technology as it comes to market.

"We have to be honest with the grower," he said. "It's not that they (manufacturers) can't get there, it's just they need refinement."

A robot on display from Finite Farms is designed to thin apple orchards. This task is essential as trees want to make 200 to 300 fruit, said Finite's Matt Stevens.

"Basically, you have to take a whole lot of fruit off as quickly as you can," he said.

The thinner is designed to be used after a chemical thinner has been applied and will cut off the tiny apples that it identifies as sub-par.

"The robot can see better than the human can, so we can start with marble-sized fruit," he said.

The operator can program the optimum number of fruit per tree, depending on the variety and end use of the apples.

Toryn Boyle, manager of the Simcoe research centre, has been working with Haggerty to assess the Naio Oz's practicality in the field by comparing two squash plots, one tended by the robot and one by conventional means.

"We're trying to build a framework to assess these machines," said Jason Gharigo of Haggerty.

Boyle said some experimentation was needed initially to set up the cultivator on the Oz.

"The robot has automation systems that allow it to correct," Boyle said, explaining it will adjust till depth and if it's off track.

Initially, the machine got stuck a lot, and he had to go into the field and adjust it using an app on his phone. Once adjustments were made, there have been fewer problems.

While many of the robots were imported from the U.S. and Europe, a home-grown industry was also on display. Besides the asparagus harvester, an orchard scanner that uses AI to assess the condition of the trees and make thinning recommendations was developed in Toronto, and Werkr Tractors is based in Kitchener/Waterloo. The latter product is an electric tractor with an optional autonomous mode.

"We're right at the beginning of robotics in agriculture," said Stan Baer of Werkr. "It's going to look a lot different in 10 years than it does now."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Chuck Baresich of Haggerty AgRobotics explains the function of a drone that is being tested for spraying applications.

Theatre on the Grand: Paris to welcome travelling river play to Lions Park

RUBYYY JONES

Cultural Correspondent

Paris will take centre stage this month when The Voice of the River: The Grand River Community Play makes a special stop at the Lions Park Amphitheatre on Friday, Aug. 15, from 6 to 9 p.m. The travelling performance — weaving together music, theatre, history and a vision for a more harmonious future — is journeying from the Grand River's headwaters in Dundalk to its mouth at Lake Erie, visiting communities along the way.

This is a flexible theatrical event, and anyone in attendance can participate in whatever way they feel comfortable. Guests are invited to enjoy what the communities have created through exploring story circles and workshops. Activities include building a unique community large puppet, designing and creating costumes, and stitching one-of-a-kind story-telling quilt squares. Participants can also help build set pieces, make props, and take part in all forms of performance, from acting to singing. And, of course, there will be plenty of Grand River storytelling woven throughout.

The stop in Paris will feature three incredible puppets, created by Lisa Franklin of forest + folk, with support from

the wider community with ideas and recycled materials; a beaver, a heron and a fish who will be in a big parade of puppets from across the Grand River Community Play towns and villages.

The Voice of the River project celebrates community and fosters meaningful connections with Indigenous leaders and communities along the Grand River. It is an inclusive creative activity involving artists, municipal and Indigenous leaders, scientists, Elders, Community folk, children, artists, makers, educational institutions — and most importantly the Grand River. The Paris stop will showcase a new performance inspired by Bobby West, a beautiful banner created by Lisa Franklin and friends, and other unique elements that celebrate the town.

This inclusive project unites artists and communities, welcoming visitors who may know little about the Grand River or this chapter of Paris' history. Through shared creativity and celebration, it fosters connections to the land, water and one another, helping ideas flourish and deepening respect for nature.

Come to Lions Park on Friday, Aug. 15th to enjoy music, puppets, stories and theatre created by the Grand River and Paris community. You can donate to support or grab a Pay What You Can tickets on www.ruralcreativity.org

Breaking the last two myths that keep you stuck in grief



THE GRIEF JOURNEY

By Tammy Adams

In the previous article, *6 Myths Keeping You Stuck in Your Grief (Part 2)*, we explored how isolating yourself from others and waiting for time alone to heal your wounds can keep you stuck in grief.

Our emotional response is shaped by the unique relationship we had with the person — or the event — that caused our grief. It is also influenced by what we have witnessed, heard, or personally experienced.

The six myths of grief are universal. While most of us have heard them, they are rarely recognized as myths. They don't follow a set order, some overlap, and each can limit healing in multiple ways. Without the right tools to process our emotions, these myths can keep us anchored in pain. Simply being aware of them is an important first step toward recovery.

In Parts 1 and 2, we discussed four of these myths: Don't feel bad, replace the loss, grieve alone, and time heals all wounds. In this final part, we look at the last two: Being strong for others and staying busy.

Be Strong for Others

It's important to understand that we cannot be something for another person. We can only be responsible for ourselves — our actions, reactions, and feelings.

In an effort to prevent others from feeling uncomfortable, we often control or deny the expression of our true emotions.

When asked how we are doing, many of us respond automatically with, "I'm fine."

Denying our emotions not only prevents us from being honest with ourselves, it also creates an environment where others who are grieving may feel pressured to do the same.

You are human — and your experience is shaped by your thoughts, emotions, and beliefs. John W. James and the late Russell Friedman of The Grief Recovery Institute have long taught that the most practical way to be "strong" for others is to be open and honest about how you are feeling.

In the end, the choice is yours. As Friedman famously said: *"You can be strong, or you can be human. Pick one."*

Stay Busy

We all have natural rhythms for how we interact and live in the world. Grief can disrupt these rhythms — and often, people suggest that the best thing to do is "stay busy."

If you are naturally an active person, deliberately increasing your activity level may push you toward exhaustion. Conversely, if you usually keep a more relaxed schedule, suddenly overfilling your days can feel overwhelming and further disrupt your balance.

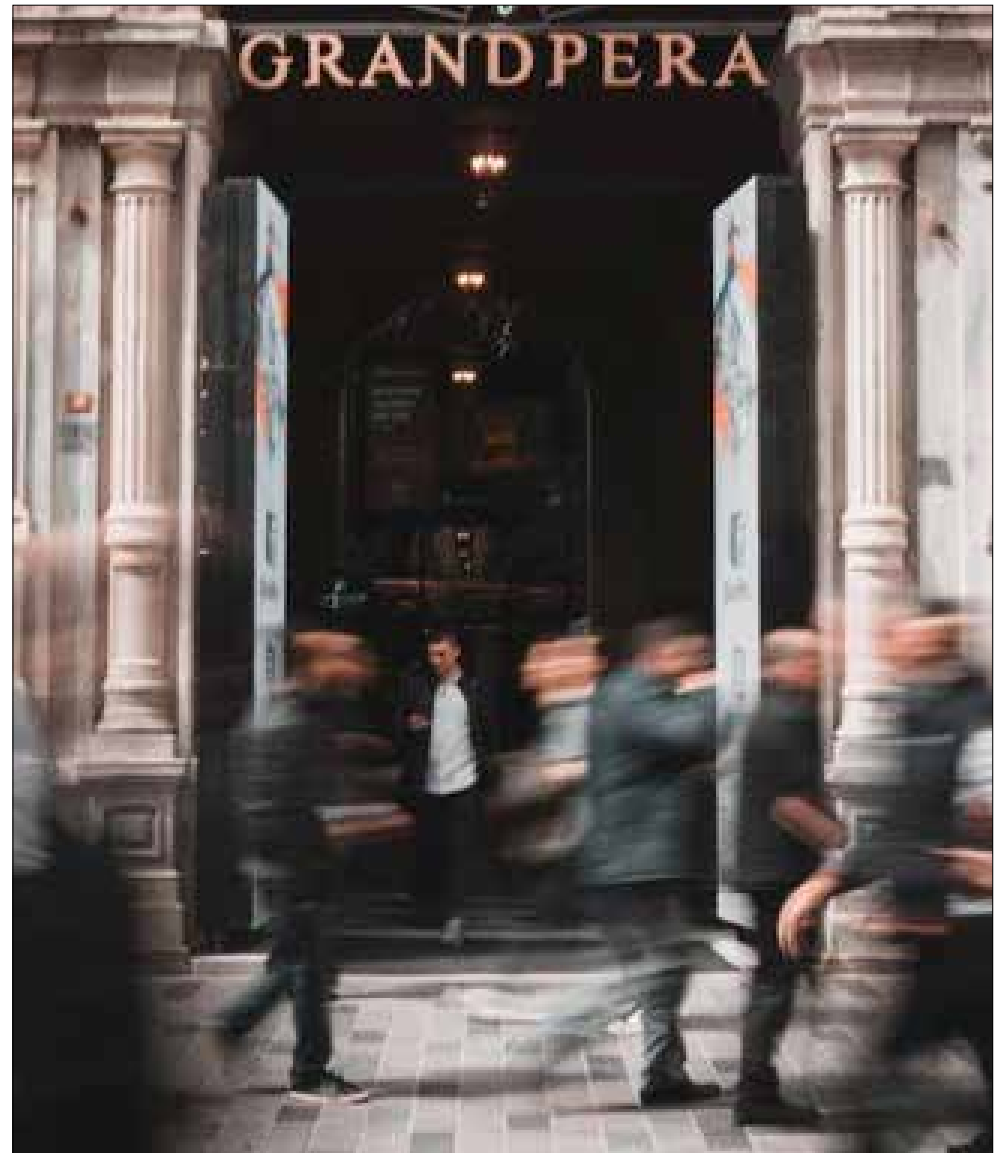
Grief itself is exhausting. Adding constant busyness can compound fatigue, which in turn fuels stress and anxiety.

Staying busy is often a distraction. It keeps your mind occupied so you don't have to think or feel. But this distraction buries emotions under layers of activity, delaying the actions needed for recovery. The longer we avoid confronting our feelings, the harder it can be to access them — and if we've buried them for years, we may not even realize they are there.

The truth is, grief is cumulative. Left unaddressed, it can have a lasting negative impact on our capacity for happiness. Staying busy does not change the fact that healing requires deliberate action.

Summary

Grief is the natural emotional response to loss of any kind. It is what we feel when something familiar changes or ends. In trying to cope, we often fall back on what we've seen, heard, or experienced — but



Pedestrians blur past the entrance of a busy building, a visual reminder of how "staying busy" can distract us from confronting the emotions of grief — one of the six myths explored in this three-part series on grief recovery.

these inherited approaches aren't always helpful.

Over time, many of us have unknowingly adopted one or more of the six grief myths. We may not remember where we first heard them, and we may never have questioned whether they truly help.

Recognizing these myths is a crucial step toward healing. It helps us understand that there is nothing "wrong" with us — we may simply have been missing the right tools.

Grief is often about unfulfilled hopes, dreams, and expectations. It can also stem from things we wish had been different, better, or more — or from words left unsaid.

At The Grief Recovery Institute, we be-

lieve completeness comes from expressing those unspoken thoughts and feelings, and having them received by a compassionate listener. This is how we say goodbye to the pain.

It is not time that heals our broken hearts, but the actions we take in the time we have. The Grief Recovery Method® is an educational, action-oriented program that offers an alternative to traditional therapy, helping people move forward when they've been stuck in grief due to these six myths.

Tammy Adams is a Certified Grief Recovery Method Specialist supporting individuals Canada-wide. To learn more, visit www.tadams.ca or contact Tammy for a free consultation.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What instrument does Lizzo famously play?
2. What is the tallest mammal on Earth?
3. In which country is it illegal to step on money with the King's face on it?
4. How many squares make up a game of snakes and ladders?
5. Who was the Prime Minister of Canada during WW1?
6. What social media platform introduced "Threads" in 2024?
7. What is the first rule of Fight Club?
8. The process of splitting an atom in two is called what?
9. Who shot the United Healthcare CEO in late 2024?
10. What is the most common type of genetic disorder?

This week's answers are found on pg. 19

Support us on
patreon

Paid subscriptions available at:

www.patreon.com/TheParisIndependent

Send emails to:

sales@theparisindpendent.com or call: 519-757-5662

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Telephone passes long-distance test in Paris, Ontario on August 10, 1876



By Chris Whelan

Notably, it was at his father's home in Brantford where Alexander Graham Bell initially conceived and delineated his "talking telegraph" invention — precisely 151 years ago on July 26, 1874.

Exactly 149 years ago, on August 10, 1876, the course of communication history was forever altered when Bell ushered in the era of long-distance telephone conversations. This monumental milestone marked the world's inaugural successful telephone transmission over a genuine long-distance telegraph line.

In a momentous gathering at the Dominion Telegraph Company office in Brantford, a group of companions engaged in conversation and song through a rudimentary device. The transmission spanned from Brantford to Paris, covering a distance of just under eight miles. Remarkably, the power source lay in Toronto, rendering the completed circuit a staggering 136 miles in total.

Previous to this groundbreaking long-distance call, the Bells had conducted successful telephone trials over shorter distances. One notable connection linked the Bell Homestead on Tutela Heights to the city of Brantford, while another established the first vocal bridge between the Bell residence and the village of Mount Pleasant. Noteworthy is Bell's achievement on March 10, 1876, in Boston, where he accomplished the transmission of a full sentence from one room to another within a single edifice.

Innovative Equipment - Integral to the historic Brantford-to-Paris experiment and the preliminary trials were the deployment of a triple mouthpiece conceptualized by Bell and crafted by James H. Cowherd in his Brantford tin-smith workshop. This apparatus significantly enhanced the transmission and reception of musical performances and was made in Brantford.

The summer of 1876 witnessed Bell's decision to subject his now patented telephone to an electrical and long-distance trial. Penning a letter to Thomas Swinyard, the managing director of the Dominion Telegraph Company in Toronto, Bell sought permission to utilize the telegraph line between Brantford and Paris.

Initially Swinyard dismissed Bell's request as a prank. However, swayed by his young assistant L. B. McFarlane — who would later ascend to the presidency of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada — Swinyard relented. Although an hour's rent was stipulated for the evening of August 10, it was not collected post the successful transmission. Subsequently, the telegraph company swiftly petitioned for the incorporation of the telephone as part of telegraphy. The transmitting device was stationed in the Brantford office while the receiver found its place in the telegraph company's Paris outpost at Robert Whyte's boot and shoe emporium.

Single Direction - Utilizing only one receiver in Paris and



(BELL CANADA MONTREAL PHOTO)

Dominion Telegraph office located in Robert Whyte's boot and shoe emporium Paris, Ont. where Alexander Graham Bell received the world's first long distance call at 97 Grand River St. N. on August 10, 1876.

a solitary transmitter in Brantford, the rudimentary setup facilitated unidirectional communication. Bell's directives for transmitter adjustments had to be telegraphed from Paris to Brantford.

Embarking on a horse-drawn carriage to Paris, Bell safeguarded the precious Iron-box receiver. At the time, George P. Dunlop, the telegraph agent in Paris was in his early 20s, extended his assistance. Intrigued by Bell's experiments, Dunlop rallied guests for the demonstration and orchestrated the event. The clamor of spectators necessitated the store's doors to be bolted shut, with Bell noting the great amount of noisy conversation both within and outside the premises.

Despite encountering "crackling noises" along the line, Bell's report indicated satisfaction with the experiments' demonstration of the undulating current's long-distance potency. Adjustments were swiftly made, resulting in clearer vocal sound transmission.

After adjustments to the magneto in Brantford, Bell adeptly identified singers by their voices, even recognizing his father's voice among the melodic renditions.



The site as it looks today.

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)



(J.C.H. FORSTER PHOTO)

In Paris, Ontario. Alexander Graham Bell received the world's first successful long-distance telephone call from Brantford in Robert White's Boot and Shoe store and Telegraph office (97 Grand River St N) on August 10, 1876. The eight-mile line was extended 136 miles to make use of a battery supply in Toronto.



On the historic date of August 10, 1946, a commemorative plaque was first unveiled in Paris by the Charles Fleetford Sise Chapter Telephone Pioneers of America, marking the historic place where the world's premier successful long-distance telephone call was received, immortalizing this momentous leap in the history of communication technology.



Shop Local

SHOP PARIS & AREA

**EXPERIENCE SMALL TOWN
PERSONAL SERVICE
THAT'S SECOND TO NONE!**

Downtown Dig makes strides as Paris infrastructure upgrades continue

Downtown Paris Business Directory

Businesses are OPEN!

Shop Local

Legend:

- Restaurants/Treats
- Services
- Experiences
- Shopping
- Arts & Culture
- Treats/Bakeries
- Spas & Salons

Businesses listed include:

- The Paris Winery Mills
- The Paris Beer Co.
- La Terra Tacos
- Delour Express Bar
- Grand Tour BBQ
- The Grilled Cheese Effect
- The Saw Canoe Soup Enterprise
- Vin Lasken Family Farm
- Original Gourmet Popcorn
- Link Street Sausage House
- Four Power Bakery
- Deppine
- Mountain Woodwork Canada
- Shoe
- Forest and Paper Art
- County of Brant Tourism Booth
- CCBO
- Wendy's General Store
- La Petit Marche
- Bird & Bee Vintage
- The Paris Apothecary
- Wine & Juice Flavors
- Flank Inn
- What's The Scoop / Grandview Massage
- Ruby II Home
- Paris Thrift Shop
- The Tax Centre
- Paris Barber Shop
- The Royal
- Sofia's International Beauty
- Zoom Kitchens
- Right as Rain
- Luxum Homes
- Pinewood Homes
- Juniper Drilling Co.
- Coming Summer 2025
- Duty's Ice Cream
- Coming Summer 2025
- Gentilly's Clothing Co.
- Dejardins Insurance
- Jackson's of Paris
- 2 Rivers
- The Redbar
- Peak Alliance Realty
- Paris Coffers
- Sales Decorating Centre
- John M Hall Quality Linens
- Paris Rugs
- Roussau Reins
- Forest the Arts Interiors
- Miller's Candy Co.
- The Gems
- Heather's Got Tea
- Grand River Shirts Co.
- Woodland Writing Essentials
- Sweetness and Flight
- Paris Jewellers
- Paris Flowers
- County of Brant Paris Office
- TD Canada Trust
- Capeview Craft Kitchen Celler
- Direct Travel Paris
- Stylers
- Flawless Beauty and Health Spa
- Bank of Montreal (BMO)
- Revel
- Impact Studio Hair and Esthetics
- The Agency
- VNUU
- Paris Health Store
- Paris Bakery
- Chocolate Sensations
- Pizza Pizza
- AJ Chocoyne's Gift Shop
- River's Edge Event Centre
- Vacant
- Sustainers of Paris
- The Rustic Path
- Rickety By LI Shoes
- CIBC
- SLV and Co.
- Paris Chiropractic
- One Sissy One
- Wells Sals Crystals
- Young Drivers of Canada
- EL Thrift
- Hunter and Woodlot
- Alibi the Spain
- Agg and Reels
- Grand Candy
- Knightsfall Tattoos
- Jennifer's Fashion and Home
- Dark Crystal Cards
- Marked for Life Tattoos
- Vacant
- The Arlington and Library Bar
- DB Brokers LTD Insurance
- NewGig Computers
- Cobblestone Public House
- MESH Aesthetics and Medical Wellness
- Grand Experiences
- Relax and Royal
- The Dog-Saved Cafe
- Thorn and Petal
- Paris Dental
- Pennsylvania Dermal Solutions
- Paris Professionals Centre

Grand River Street North, from the 14th Bridge to William Street, is being reconstructed to improve accessibility and add new amenities. While the road is closed to vehicles, pedestrian access to all businesses remains open. Support our local businesses and continue to shop local during this time.

Visitor Information
at the Paris Winery Mills Co. (seasonal hours)

Brant County
Simply Great



Paris Independent reader Fred Fletcher submitted this meme, playfully pondering what town founder Hiram Capron might think of the Downtown Dig. Capron, who built a grist mill on the Nith River in 1829, constructed one of the original millraces to power it—a feat of early infrastructure. One wonders what he'd say about those millraces being unearthed nearly two centuries later.

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

As the Downtown Dig continues to reshape the core of Paris, residents and visitors are reminded to stay alert for temporary road closures, traffic delays and active construction throughout the area — all part of a long-term infrastructure upgrade that will keep the town moving for the next 75 to 100 years.

So far, significant progress has been by the end of July:

- Watermain disinfection and testing

is complete

- The watermain is now live at William Street and the Grand River Street North intersection
- The water service (main to curbside) is about 66% complete
- The water service (curbside to building) is 7% underway
- The storm sewer system is complete
- Sanitary service connections have begun
- Hydro work starts this week at

Grand River Street North and William Street (southeast corner)

During the Dig, sidewalks, crosswalks, and access to all your favourite businesses and establishments remain open, and we encourage you to think local, and shop in Downtown Paris. The heart of Paris needs the support of our local community!

Be aware of flashing green lights

With ongoing road closures and delays, the County is also reminding motorists to be aware of volunteer firefighters who

may be responding to emergency calls using their personal vehicles equipped with flashing green lights. These lights signal that the driver is en route to help someone in need.

Drivers are asked to stay alert and yield the right of way to green-light vehicles when safe to do so. This cooperation helps ensure volunteers can respond quickly and safely during emergencies.

For updates on road closures, business promotions, and construction progress, visit www.brant.ca/DowntownParis.

**SALES
DECORATING
CENTRE**

"MORE THAN JUST A PAINT STORE"

OPEN DURING "THE BIG DIG"

MONDAY - SATURDAY 8 a.m - 3 p.m

42 Grand River St, North
519-442-3152

ACCESS & PARKING AT BACK OF STORE

**DWAYNE D. BUDGELL
FUNERAL HOME LIMITED**

1105 Rest Acres Rd.
519-442-2200

budgell.funeralhome@sympatico.ca
www.budgellfuneralhome.ca

**COBBLESTONE MASONRY
RESTORATION LTD.**

519-757-2574

BUILD WITH STONE SAVE OUR FOREST

JOIN US AT THE WINCEY MILLS



Rooted in Community: Falkland Farm brings fresh, local flavour to your table

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

When Michelle and Vince Van Laeken planted their first garlic crop in 2020 on their small Falkland farm, they couldn't have imagined how quickly their dream would grow. What began as a simple roadside stand and a few weekends at local farmers markets has blossomed into a thriving year-round destination for fresh produce and locally made goods.

Garlic remains their signature crop, with acreage expanding each year, but visitors will find much more growing in their fields. From broccoli, kale and red cabbage to honeynut squash, currant tomatoes, fresh herbs and ground cherries, the farm offers a colourful bounty that changes with the seasons. A few local students pitch in throughout the year, helping in both the fields and the store, learning the value of hard work and community connection along the way.

In 2022, Michelle and Vince opened their store in Wincey, taking the relationships they had built at farmers markets and bringing them under one roof. They now work alongside a network of farmers and makers — some they grew up with in their own farming communities, others met through markets and agricultural events — offering customers not just their own harvest, but the best from across the region.

"Our focus is always to source as locally as possible," says Michelle. "In Canada, we can't grow everything year-round, but we're fortunate to have root vegetables that store well through the winter and some amazing greenhouse growers producing fresh crops year-round. We only bring in from outside the area when absolutely necessary."

Michelle's love for cooking and experimenting with flavours shines through in the farm's ever-changing menu, inspired by family recipes, cookbooks, and seasonal harvests. "We highlight what's fresh and local and adjust our offerings throughout the year to reflect what's in season," she explains.

Supporting local farmers isn't just a feel-good choice — it has real benefits for the community. "It keeps money circulating locally, creates jobs, and gives you fresher

produce that lasts longer in your fridge," says Vince. "It also helps farmers reinvest in their farms, adopt innovative growing technologies, and keep prices down for customers. And most importantly, it makes our country more self-sustainable, less reliant on imported food."

Michelle and Vince invite everyone to visit and taste the

difference that fresh, local food makes.

The Farm Store at Wincey Mills is open 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm

By shopping local, you're not just buying food — you're investing in your neighbours, your community, and the future of Canadian farming.



Michelle and Vince Van Laeken's Farm Store at Wincey Mills Market showcases their signature garlic crop alongside fresh, seasonal produce and locally made goods from farmers and makers across the region.



[@latrenzatacos](https://www.facebook.com/latrenzatacos)
[@latrenzatacos](https://www.instagram.com/latrenzatacos)
www.latrenzatacos.com

**Buy 2, Get 1
FREE TACOS***



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!!

*1 coupon per person, valid until 09/30/2025



**Van Laeken
FAMILY FARM**

EST 2020

**Fresh Produce available downtown Paris
Mon-Sun 9am-5pm**

**Your friendly,
neighbourhood
espresso bar.**

Stop by for fresh coffee,
pastries and more.



Brewing in Paris

31 Mechanic St. Unit 102
Paris, ON N3L 1K1
Everyday 8AM - 5PM

DETOUR

The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

Athletes with Paris ties in the running for National 'Athlete of the Year' honour.

Olivia Millar's fearless goaltending earns her a spot among Canada's top young athletes

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A 12-year-old with deep Paris roots is making a name for herself on the national stage — and now she's in the running for Athlete of the Year.

Olivia Millar, of Mitchell, Man., is the great-granddaughter of the late Ted and Shirley Pelton, lifelong residents of Paris, and the only great-great-granddaughter of Pete Lavoie, founder of Paris Little League Park. Her family's sporting legacy runs deep, and she's carrying it forward in her own way.

A ringette goaltender with the AA Eastman Flames, Millar was encouraged by a skills camp instructor to try lacrosse. The transition was seamless. "There was a need for more girls in the growing sport, and ringette goalie and lacrosse goalie have very similar skills," she said.

She tried out for the Manitoba provincial U13 boys A program — the only female to do so — and made the team. From there, her confidence soared. She played an undefeated season with her club team, the SouthMan Saints, winning the city championship and the Jim Hunt Memorial

Tournament.

Millar was recruited by both the U13B and U15G provincial teams to play in the Prairie Cup. As an under-age player with the U15 girls, she helped the team win the tournament for the first time in Manitoba history.

That weekend she played 10 games in 72 hours, shuttling between boys' and girls' teams. In one bronze-medal boys' game, she was supposed to play only the first period, but an injury to the other goalie kept her in net through double overtime. She was named MVP of the boys' division, then whisked away by golf cart to the girls' gold-medal game — which her team won.

"It's a feeling I'll never forget," she said. "The support from both teams was incredible."

Millar is just as competitive on the ice. Playing for a Winnipeg-based team this ringette season, her squad finally beat its long-time rival in the provincial final after losing to them all year.

The nomination for Athlete of the Year came as a shock. "It's a feeling of pride that others believed in me enough to support and nominate me," she said.

The award comes with a \$25,000 prize and a feature in Sports Illustrated. For Millar, the recognition would go beyond personal achievement. "As a female in sports that aren't the popular choices like hockey, football and baseball, to bring awareness and equality to all players would be an honour," she said.

Her mother, Julie, said Olivia has always gravitated toward fast, physical sports — excelling in football, shot put, ball hockey, ringette and now lacrosse. "Her mental strength sets her apart in high-pressure situations," she said. "When the doubters are quieted by her achievements, it's special."

From her pre-game Twix bar ritual to words of encouragement scrawled on her goalie stick, Millar's passion is clear.

"Winning this would be life-changing," Julie said. "It would allow her to follow her dreams of competing at the national level, and maybe even in the Olympics."

Millar credited her coaches — Matt Girardin, Jay Isfjord and Kirk — for their belief in her. "They helped me become a better goaltender and share their passion for lacrosse," she said.

The voting for the first round closes tomorrow, August 7th. You can cast your vote for Olivia by visiting <https://athleteoftheyear.org/2025/olivia-e7ca>



Olivia Millar, 12, stood out in net for the SouthMan Saints during a championship-winning lacrosse season that saw her play on both male and female teams at the provincial level.

Aaliya Allen's soccer success earns her spot in Athlete of the Year race

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

An 11-year-old Brantford soccer player who found her competitive stride with Paris FC is making waves on the pitch — and now she's among the nominations for Athlete of the Year.

Aaliya Allen began her soccer journey in 2019, joining a house league before moving up to grassroots play the following season. "I needed a sport for my energy, and mom noticed I had a good kick," she said of her early start.

Her love for the game runs deep. "I love scoring goals and winning games. I also like to assist my teammates and see them celebrate their achievements," she said. That unselfish style has paid off. In late July, she was called up to play with the Paris FC U14 Girls Regional Team at the Summer Sizzler tournament in New Jersey, where she led the team in goals and assists, helping secure a gold-medal finish.

Allen joined Paris FC last summer after seeing a post for an open U13 practice on Instagram. She impressed coaches and teammates right away. "The girls were all friendly, it was competitive and a year above my age bracket," she said. "Most of all, Coach Cosimo De Santis accepted me to the team immediately."

Her mother, Lori, nominated her for the Athlete of the Year competition after seeing an ad on Facebook. The award comes with a \$25,000 prize, and Allen already has big plans. "The win could help me enter the 'Surf Cup' in Barcelona, Spain, where I was invited to play with Kaptiva Sports Academy's U14 girls' team against professional academies from Europe," she said. "And I would save some of it for my future."

Allen admits the nomination still feels surreal. "I will have to see if I win," she said. But the opportunity is meaningful. "This award would be another step towards me reaching my goals — and it would help my mom with the costs."

Lori said her daughter's passion for soccer was evident by age five. "It all started as a hobby but it's turned into her future goal to play professionally," she said. A highlight came this past June when Aaliya travelled to Madrid to train with Real Madrid and Kaptiva Sports Academy coaches on Real Madrid's training fields. Competing with all boys, she won the "Self Esteem Award."

Her mom takes a hands-off but supportive approach. "I attend every game but let her reflect before we talk about it. I make sure she's comfortable and never force her. She's confident in her plays and determined to succeed."

Allen's ability to play above her age group is no accident. Her skill level, vision and confidence make her a standout. She's a natural competitor who makes those around her better.

The voting for the first round closes tomorrow, August 7th. You can cast your vote for Aaliya by visiting <https://athleteoftheyear.org/2025/aaliya-aec0>



Aaliya Allen, 11, of Brantford, has been nominated for Athlete of the Year after a standout season with Paris FC, where she excelled as a striker and playmaker.

Paris FC U14 girls strike gold on both sides of the border

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

It was a golden weekend for Paris FC's U14 girls as both teams brought home top honours from tournaments July 26-27 — one in St. Thomas, Ont., and the other in Hammonton, N.J. The U14 Girls Red (district) squad kicked off their St. Thomas Soccerfest campaign with round-robin victories over Woodstock (2-1) and Sarnia (2-1) before falling 2-0 to Chatham. Their strong showing secured second place and a bye to Sunday's semi-finals, where they cruised past Woodstock 3-0 to earn a rematch with Chatham in the championship.

After a scoreless battle through regulation and overtime, Paris dominated the penalty shootout 3-0 to capture gold. Meanwhile, the U14 Girls Black (regional) team trav-

elled south to compete in the EDP Summer Sizzler, a GotSoccer-ranked event drawing top-tier American teams. This event allows teams to pick up some points for the national ranking. In sweltering heat, and despite some nerves, Paris opened with a 2-0 win over Freehold SL Lightning. Aaliya Allen pocketed two solid goals, assisted by Layla Muir and Taylor Travale/Lauren Kirk. Tenley Polidori was firm in net to secure the shut out. That win was followed by a 1-0 victory over Philadelphia Union Youth, another high-ranking American team. Paris played a strong defensive game. Allen banged in the only goal after a beautiful attempt on net from Mieciah Oteng. Sunday morning brought a 4-0 triumph over Princeton Soccer Academy's strong U13 squad, who was ranked 407th in their age group in the US. Paris entered the game with confidence knowing they already secured a spot in

the championship game. It didn't take long for the team to find their footing in this physical game with goals from Oteng (assisted by Mitig Hensen), Allen with two goals (one assist to Oteng) and Hensen (assisted by Oteng and Muir).

That set up an afternoon final against undefeated Monroe United, ranked 346th in the U.S., under punishing "feels like" 42C conditions. In the closing minutes of the first half, Taylor Travale converted a deflection from a corner to break the deadlock. With one minute left to play, Travale sent a perfect pass through for Muir, who sealed the 2-0 win.

Goalkeeper Tenley Polidori and the backline were flawless all weekend, posting four straight shutouts.

With both teams standing atop the podium, it was a weekend to remember for Paris FC.



Paris FC U14 Girls erupt in celebration after capturing the EDP Summer Sizzler championship in New Jersey, capping off a perfect weekend with four straight shutouts against top-ranked U.S. teams.



Aaliya Allen, an 11-year-old call up player, scored a total of five goals in the team's successful tournament state side.



Mieciah Oteng set up some critical assists, helping to lead the team to Gold.



The Paris FC U14 Girls Regional Team won gold at the Summer Sizzler, a GotSoccer-ranked event that drew top-tier American teams. Front row, left to right, Elena Ostrowercha, Taylor Travale, Mitig Hensen, Tenley Polidori, Charlotte Speagle, Hannah Rimay, Amelia Jacobson. Back row, Corbin Ostrowercha, Rylie Bradbury, Mieciah Oteng, Lauren Kirk, Paige Morton, Aaliya Allen, Violette Caetano, Layla Muir, Rob Ostrowercha (Coach Nicole Scottie not pictured).



The Paris FC U14 Girls District Team won gold at the St. Thomas Soccerfest Campaign in dramatic fashion – a shoot out. Pictured back row, left to right, Todd Pearson (coach), Emily Tanner, Cadynce Choma, Cali Choma, Peyton de la Chevrotiere, Autumn Pete's, Clara Marcos, Owen Marcos (coach), Mike Pearson (coach), front row, Brooke Morton (coach), Leila Rutherford, Amora Thach-Saraceni, Shelby Jones, Reigan Pearson, Brooklyn Lyrette, Anna Murray, MacKenzie Misener, Lia Casselli, Karman Pandher. Absent - Tizienne Romano Lichty.

Paris Duffers at Burford Golf Links



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Stacks Patterson having a good time as always

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

Friday July 25th Paris men's golf results...

After a bevvvy of beautiful days, the boys finally got a scorcher last Friday. They were smart enough to do a headcount before and after and everybody made it back in one piece.

MVP

Ronnie (Stacks) Patterson shot his personal best 40 on the back nine and provided comic relief throughout the day. Stacks could easily been a stand-up comedian, but he chose just to

entertain his friends instead.

Winners of the milk

Congratulations are in order for the victorious pairs of Jacque Cormier and Willie Dafoe, Andy Attlebery and Greig Graham and the dynamic duo of Paul Barber and Dino kitchen

Drive of the Day

Fred Mertz hit a low screamer 200+ yards and nailed the 150-marker dead on. I could give you 1000 balls to try this, and you would need 1000 more.

Best dressed:

Nobody

Worst dressed

Too many to mention

Quote of the day:

"Golf is a game where you yell fore shoot six and score a five ..." Golf wisdom by Jim Fowler

Good guy award:

The prestigious 'Good Guy Award' was rightfully goes to Doug Sinclair, who wants to give a shout out to his aunt Evelyn Watling, he says Evelyn loves reading the Paris independence to see the names she recognizes.

After 10 weeks here are the top five golfers as calculated by the Stewford scoring system

P Barber	38
D Sinclair	36
A Attlebery	35
T Brown	31
H Gilmore	30

Thanks for reading to the end of this column, keep it where it's mowed, ... Scoop Stewart signing off for another week, *always a pleasure...*

Predators U11 Boys roar to back-to-back victories

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Paris Predators U11 Boys Team 1 brought their best energy — and their bats — to the diamond last week, powering through two strong wins and showing that even in a challenging season, their spirits remain high.

The Predators opened with a 17-7 victory over Springfield, led by Jackson's leadoff single that beat the throw to first and Carter's laser shot to third. Pitchers Oliver, Ben T. and Jordyn kept Springfield in check, while River — sporting a fresh haircut — had his best outing yet behind the plate. Kai kept the team organized from his position, calling out plays and alerting teammates to potential steals, while Brennan, Hudson and Oliver impressed with solid catches in the field.

Two nights later, Paris outslugged Burgessville 22-15 in a game where every Predator reached base. Carter, Nikola and Brennan each delivered multi-hit games with two or more RBIs, while the usually cautious Ben D. collected two hits and his first RBI. Brennan and Carter drilled back-to-back two-RBI hits in the

second inning to ignite the offence.

On the mound, Ben T. and Oliver combined for a standout performance. Ben T. delivered his best pitching of the season, allowing no runs in the top of the third and just one run in the fourth despite a few hits. Strong defence backed them up — Emerson fielded a ball at short-stop and fired to Hudson at second, who nearly turned a double play to first in the second inning, while Hudson snagged a bases-loaded pop fly in the fourth to end the threat.

Coach Dale Henderson called the third inning against Burgessville the best the team has played all year. "We got the first out at second on a toss from Ben to Hudson, then after a walk and a single, Ben came back and struck out the next two batters," he said.

The matchup with Burgessville was as fun as it was competitive. "Both teams were having tons of fun — lots of smiles, lots of cheers and great attitudes from all the kids," Henderson said.

With their confidence climbing and teamwork shining through, the Predators are showing they know how to win — and how to enjoy the game along the way.

Butterbean shines as Duster League heats up for playoffs



Brant County Dusters photo ops this week: Greg Collings...local legend turned Duster and Chris Vanderpol - beware the gift bearer!

SID LUCKMAN

Paris Independent Contributor

Well, to say that the action this week at the BSC was unworldly...is an understatement! There was actual defence being played! Back checking! Unreal displays of athleticism from both goalies. In fact, it was so good that Goalie Ben played both ends at once!

The 40-30 player of the week is Jamie Junior Butterbean. He lit it up in a 2-2 tie again! He back checked so well that stellar D Man, Kenny Muffins, was heard to say "if I was that good, I'd be good"

Folks, the tides of August approach and the Duster League is ramping up! Playoffs start in 3 weeks and that will probably end in a tie also!

Come on out to the BSC any Thursday at 4pm. The season ends September 4; but email Jim at offsideyoung@gmail.com! We can always use anyone who loves the game and can't play it too well!



STONETOWN TRAVEL

GROUP TRAVEL PRESENTATION

collette

New Hamburg Branch: 210 Mill Street, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9 | 226-333-9939 | newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com | TICO #5002840

www.stonetowntravel.com

Join us to learn more about our upcoming group trip:

DISCOVER SCOTLAND

May 23 - June 1, 2026

PRESENTATION DATE: Thursday, September 18

Wilmot Recreation Centre at 7 p.m.

1291 Nafziger Rd., Baden (Meeting Room A - upstairs)

To RSVP, email stew@stonetowntravel.com or call our office.

This seed set has been a smash hit, and is growing in gardens across Canada.

Locally Made. Planet Friendly. Gen X Approved.

There is still time to plant for a great fall harvest, or even to pick up as a stocking stuffer for the holiday season.

THE INSTANT GARDEN SEED SET

Collards • Bok Choy • Kale • Carrots • Lettuce • Peas • Summer Squash

MADE IN CANADA

Details, Discounts, and Testimonials

THESE GO FAST, **ORDER YOURS TODAY.**



THEN AND NOW: The history of the Arlington Hotel



By **Wayne Wilkinson**
Paris Historian / Artist

Dominating the corner of Grand River St. N. and William St., the iconic Arlington Hotel is familiar to all of us and is undoubtedly the focal point of downtown Paris. This unique one-of-a-kind hotel keeps tourists' cameras clicking year-round. Few who admire it, even longtime citizens of Paris, know what preceded it, hence this article. The history of this location is deep, but we'll start by saying that it has always been a hotel.

At some time in the mid-1840s, a three-story Plaster of Paris building was constructed, as the photo shows. An early business directory indicates that by 1857, Nancy Flewelling ran her "Queens Arms" hotel here. Around this same time, Orrin Brad-

ley, a young Pennsylvanian, settled in Paris, farming near the village for a short time. Then he entered the hotel business, first operating the 'Union House' hotel in 1851, and later from 1853 to 1859 the 'North American' hotel on William St. In 1861, he was the proprietor of the "Gore Hotel," and in 1867, he bought the 'Queens Arms' hotel. Mrs. Flewelling then reopened her hotel at the corner of Dundas and Washington Streets. Bradford died in 1882, and his family kept the hotel going until 1888. Then a profound change occurred. A well-established hotelier, John Ealand, bought the Bradford House from Mrs. Bradford and built the most ambitious hostelry in Paris' history, and called it the 'Arlington Hotel'. Opening in 1889, its predominant architectural feature is Romanesque. Looking at the photograph, one can't help but marvel at the eye-catching ornate wooden balconies on three levels. History tells us that these balconies got heavy use at election time, politicians speaking to crowds at street level.

You'll notice the horse and carriage in the photo. Known as the Arlington omnibus, the horseman Frank Fry took hotel patrons to and from the hotel and train depot at Paris Junction. It is said that he never missed one train in 40 years of service! At this point, one story must be told. During

the 1890s, some men were drilling for oil on the south side of the Nith River but instead drilled into sulfur springs. In that time period sulfur water had almost magical properties and was considered a cure-all for many illnesses. Known as Arlington Park, Ealand had it piped up to his hotel. The idea lasted until the water turned brown from the corroded iron pipes, spelling the end of this experiment. Ealand died in 1901, and his family kept the hotel going until 1962. After many ownerships, it was painted white and became a strip joint called the "Paris Grand Castle." In 1990, Joe and John Skupnic rescued the hotel and embarked on the enormous task of restoring it to its former glory. Nils Fost took ownership in 2008, and it remained closed until 2014. Happily, in 2022, the Carmen Group, a hospitality company based in Hamilton, took ownership, adding the final touches to a long restoration project. Now this elegant 136-year-old beauty, along with its Rivers Edge Event Centre across the street, is a beehive of activity hosting countless weddings and special events every weekend. In closing, there is still a piece of the hotel's humble beginning - part of the Bradford Hotel remains on the north side of the hotel, making this a truly historical icon in the heart of downtown Paris.



Here is a close up of the original Bradford Hotel



You'll notice the horse and carriage in the photo. Known as the Arlington omnibus, the horseman Frank Fry took hotel patrons to and from the hotel and train depot at Paris Junction.



1876 a three-story Plaster of Paris building was constructed and known as the Bradford Hotel. The back portion of this building still remains part of today's Arlington Hotel.

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

Contact Chris Whelan

Sales Representative

sales@theparis-independent.com

519-757-5662

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

• • • • •



GUESS WHO?

Born in 1969 and raised north of the border, I served up sharp one-liners and awkward charm that made me a sitcom icon of the '90s and early 2000s. My signature style? Self-deprecating humor, a lightning-fast delivery, and a knack for turning sarcasm into an art form. I shared the screen with five close friends, starred alongside a hitman in a dark comedy, and even dabbled in playwriting and memoir writing. My life off-screen was as complex as some of my characters. **Who am I?**

Answer: Matthew Perry

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: What's in a name? Ask the folks at Glenora Distillery



By Paul Knowles

Let me be clear: I am the last one to say anything negative about Scottish whisky. In fact, there is an unofficial but quite active group here in my community that gathers – often in our living room – to explore the world of single malts. The exploration has gone well, so far.

So, count me in as a lover of Scotch and also, Irish single malt whiskey.

But at the same time, you gotta love a story where an underdog defeats the big guys. And in this instance, the “big guys” were the Scotch Whisky Association.

The underdog? Glenora, an absolutely wonderful whisky distillery on Cape Breton Island. If you are a whisky lover, this is a must-stop during any trip to Cape Breton or journey around the Cabot Trail.

The fight? It's all in a name. Glenora's single malts are named “Glen Breton.” The Scotch Whisky Association felt that this was misleading, that it sounded like a Scotch – and the Scotch distillers are notoriously protective of their brand. That's understandable – they've been making Scotch in Scotland for well over 500 years. No one outside Scotland is allowed, by law, to call their product “Scotch”. (The same restrictions apply to champagne and cognac, by the way).

A side note: generally, if whisky is made in a country without an “e” in its name, it's “whisky”. If the country – Ireland, or the United States, for example – has an “e”, it's “whiskey”. Thus Scotland and Canada produce ‘whisky’. But Canada cannot produce “Scotch”; that's against international branding laws.

But unable to call their product “Scotch”, Glenora opted to sound very Gaelic – obviously appropriate on Cape Breton, part of Nova Scotia, or “New Scotland”. The distillery was opened in 1990, as the first single malt distillery in Canada. And when they finally released their first batch of single malt, almost a decade later, they branded their whisky “Glen Breton.”

“Not so fast,” said the Scotch Whisky Association. That sound-

ed too Scottish – and they took their legal fight all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. But the Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling allowing the name. The Scots were not impressed. They issued a statement pointing out that “the mark has caused confusion because of its use of a ‘Glen’ prefix, and... Glenora has marketed its product as Scotch in all but name.”

They might have a point. The label on the two-thirds-empty bottle of Glen Breton single malt whisky sitting beside me as I write this, reads “Aged ten years in the highlands of Cape Breton.”

The back label adds, “The legacy of deep-rooted Scottish wisdom and culture give it its classic character. Our Scottish descendants passionately keep the dearest aspects of colourful Gaelic culture alive.”

That's a lot of nods to all things Scottish. On the other hand, the label carries the red maple leaf, and declares itself, “North America's first single malt whisky”.

And there is no question that the folks at Glenora relish their victory. To the point where one of their whiskies is named “Glen Breton Battle of the Glen,” a reference, not to any military action, but to the legal battle that they won against the Scots, allowing them to keep their treasured brand.

You'll hear all about this when you visit Glenora. And apart from very tasting whisky, there are plenty of other reasons to visit the distillery. Although you will certainly want to take the distillery tour, to learn all you might want to know about making great single malt whisky, and also, to hear the story of Glenora, including the fact that the water used to make the whisky comes from the stream that you cross on the property. Or as described on the label,

“The crystal clear water that flows from the Mabou Highlands.”

You will get the opportunity to taste the 10-year-old Glen Breton, but only look at (or purchase) the bottles of the longer-aged liquid gold.

The stills at Glenora come from – you guessed it – Scotland. The whisky is aged for at least 10 years in bourbon barrels from Kentucky.

There is a poignancy to the story of Glenora – it was founded by Bruce Jardine, who watched his dream become a reality almost to the point when Glen Breton whisky went from cask to bottle. But Jardine passed away just before the launch of the brand. Today, Glenora's whisky's include a Bruce Jardine Special Reserve 25 Year Old.

I mentioned there are other good reasons to visit Glenora. Chief among them is the restaurant, serving great food and superb entertainment – typical “ceilidh” style music featuring Cape Breton fiddlers, guitarists and pianists.

You can also stay at Glenora. We checked into a comfortable, motel-style suite, but there are also cabins with wonderful views of the Cape Breton countryside.

And then, there are the gardens. Glenora has a dedicated and creative gardener, and there are beautiful beds and plantings wherever you look, including along the stream, and beside the restaurant's lovely outdoor patio.

Glenora is open to visitors from the first of June to the end of October. Drop in for a dram or two.

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.



Glenora Distillery, maker of Glen Breton single malt whisky.



The stills at Glenora come from Scotland.



Casks of well-aged whisky, in the gift shop at Glenora.



Live music in the restaurant – all the fun of a kitchen party .



The Cape Breton Highlands.

Burford Lions Art Cadman Park wins 2025 Park vs. Park crown

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF
Staff Contribution

The votes are in and the Burford Lions Art Cadman Park has been named the 2025 champion of the County of Brant’s Park vs. Park showdown.

Representing Ward 4, the popular Burford green space pulled in an impressive 67 votes to secure top honours in the friendly community competition celebrating the county’s parks and playgrounds.

“Thank you to everyone who voted and helped celebrate our beautiful green spaces,” said County staff in a release. “Your enthusiasm and community spirit made this campaign a huge success and reminded us just how much we all love our local parks.”

Paris Lions Park in Ward 3 earned a strong showing with 28 votes, while Onondaga Ball Park in Ward 5 collected 22.

Both parks remain much-loved neighbourhood favourites.

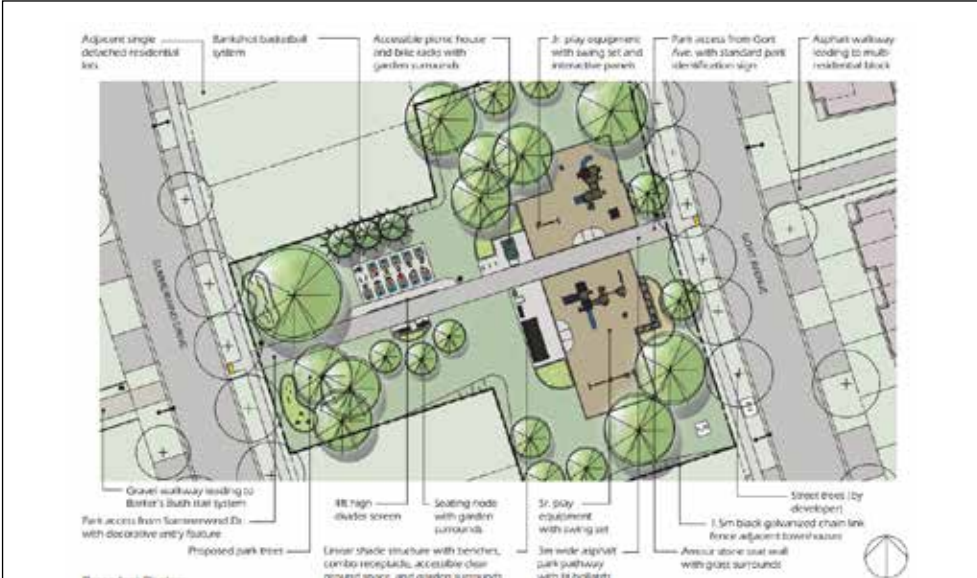
The Park vs. Park campaign encouraged residents to show support for their favourite spots while also inspiring people to explore Brant’s wide range of recreational areas — from hidden gems tucked into neighbourhoods to well-known community landmarks.

County officials say the fun isn’t over. The winning park will be treated to a special fall celebration in September to mark its community victory.

Residents are encouraged to keep making the most of Brant’s parks through the summer and fall — whether it’s packing a picnic, shooting hoops, taking a stroll, or simply enjoying the outdoors.

More information about the Park vs. Park initiative can be found at EngageBrant.ca/ParkVsPark, and a full list of parks is available at brant.ca/Parks.

County unveils draft plan for future Deer Ridge Park



A concept drawing of Deer Ridge Park, which will be located in the Nith Peninsula subdivision. There will be direct access from the park to the Barker’s Bush trail system. You have time to comment on this concept before the county closes the engagement period on August 26.

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF
Staff Contribution

The County of Brant has released its draft concept plan for Deer Ridge Park, a future green space planned for 124 Gort Ave. in the Nith Peninsula subdivision, formerly known as Barker’s Bush.

While most homes in the surrounding neighbourhood have yet to be built, the County is planning ahead with a vibrant, accessible park intended to welcome future residents and foster a connected, active and inclusive community.

Situated near Barker’s Bush and Paris Lions Park, Deer Ridge Park will be built using development charge funds. The proposed design features:

- Separate junior and senior play areas
- A Bankshot Basketball system
- A three-metre-wide lit asphalt path-

- way
- The “Team House” sun shelter with accessible picnic space
- Bike racks, benches, waste bins and armour stone seating
- Shade trees, garden beds and decorative entry features

There’s a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees to provide ample shade and contribute the county’s forestry plans. A gravel walkway will lead to Barker’s Bush trail system.

Residents are invited to review the concept and share feedback before the final design is approved. Input can be provided through an online survey at EngageBrant.ca/DeerRidgePark or by phone at 519-44BRANT (519-442-7268) or 1-855-44BRANT (1-855-442-7268).

The engagement period closes Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 4:30 p.m.

WEEKLY

Horoscope

August 6 - August 13, 2025

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Try to get the whole picture before you proceed, Aries; otherwise, you may be moving along blindly and that can make matters worse. Patience is a valuable asset right now.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23

A new opportunity appears, Libra, prompting you to reconsider your current work or home life. It could be an exciting shift.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

Taurus, sometimes a major conflict ends when one party walks away and finds something better to occupy them. Identify the source of your frustration and then decide if it's worth it to proceed.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

Carve out some time for creativity, as it is what you are all about right now, Scorpio. Give in to the impulse to knit, paper craft or get involved in the theater.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21

You can seemingly energize the people around you, Gemini. They will flock to you for inspiration this week, and you can make all sorts of connections this way.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21

The right answer to the questions you have been seeking should appear exactly when you need the message, Sagittarius. You'll have to be a little more patient for the time being.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

Cancer, this week you may be able to see beyond the coincidences that keep cropping up and straight to the true meaning of things. Pay attention to your instincts right now.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20

Capricorn, you have questions about how you can best help the people around you, and that is by being honest with yourself and your actions. Keep everyone in the loop.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Leo, if you are called upon to tell a story or get people to see their common interests, your flair for drama should come in handy. Others will have so much fun being around you.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18

You're ready for a break, Aquarius, but something keeps pulling you back. Try to wrap up your to-do list so you can finally escape.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

You and a colleague may clash this week, Virgo. You're hoping they'll act a certain way, but their behavior might fall short and frustrate you.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces, there are a million thoughts competing for space inside your brain. It may be best if you write things out and sort them so you can give everything the attention it deserves.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 6

Michelle Yeoh, Actress (63)

AUGUST 7

Tobin Bell, Actor (83)

AUGUST 8

Dustin Hoffman, Actor (88)

AUGUST 9

Anna Kendrick, Actress (40)

AUGUST 10

Justin Theroux, Actor (54)

AUGUST 11

Chris Hemsworth, Actor (42)

AUGUST 12

Casey Affleck, Actor (50)

Riddles

How do cows stay up to date?
They read the moos-paper.

Why did the bicycle fall over?
Because it was two-tired.

What kind of shoes do ninjas wear?
Sneakers.

How do you organize a space party?
You planet.

Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?
Because then it would be a foot.

Why did the frog take the bus to work?
His car got toad.

What do you call a dog magician?
A labra-cadabra-dor.

CORRECTION: BRAIN FREEZE ALERT!

In last week's edition of The Paris Independent, we invited readers to hunt for the word ice cream in our word search on page 17. Unfortunately, it turns out we were serving up scoops of confusion — because the word ice cream wasn't actually there. Our word search generator gave us the cold shoulder and forgot to include it. If you spent extra time puzzling over this one, we sincerely apologize for the unintended challenge.

We owe you a cone... or at least a word search with all the right words next time!

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 18

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

PLUM

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Sweet " Plum" is a 3 month old pygmy goat who was having too much fun playing on a park bench and fractured her carpus or "wrist area" Plum has been very brave and is tolerating her splint very well , while she heals. With her outgoing personality, Plum will be back to jumping and playing in no time.

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



Word Search

LATE SUMMER GARDEN

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

- Sunflower
- Zucchini
- Tomatoes
- Watering
- Bumble Bee
- Garden Hose
- Lavender
- Basil
- Marigold
- Compost
- Butterfly
- Peppers
- Weeding
- Shovel
- Soil
- Lettuce
- Sprinkler
- Daisies
- Mulch
- Wheelbarrow

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Flower Farm Tour: Green Thumbs and Farm Finds – hosted by the County of Brant at Spill the Dirt Flower Farm, 242 Golf Links Road, for an outdoor garden tour and a brief intro into the art of growing bouquet worthy flowers. Event takes place from 6:30 pm to 8 pm

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

The Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting -Being held on Tuesday August 12, 2025 at 10 am at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. Our speaker will be Dr. Josh Neposolan talking about his world travels. New members are always welcome.

Oxford Philatelic Society - Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4pm) and 4th Tuesday (7-9pm) September to May. Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7. If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Evenings in downtown Paris - Join the businesses of downtown Paris for a monthly celebration of our dynamic downtown and the exciting things we have going on in the heart of our small town. The 3rd Friday of the month, every month for the rest of 2025, will feature festivities to get you out and about in downtown Paris; stores staying open late, shopping specials, live entertainment, creative activities and more.

Celebration of the Grand River in Brant County - A play & celebration will be in Paris, at Lions Park from 6 to 9pm. There will be music, life- size puppets, flags, banners and historic characters sharing interesting 'gossip' from the past. Come & join us for the fun! Other communities celebrating the Grand River are Glen Morris on August 10th, Brantford (Bell Homestead Historic site) on August 16 - 17 and the 'Grand Finale' at Chiefswood Park -Six Nations August 23rd from noon to 9pm. Information available <https://www.ruralcreativity.org/projects/grand-river-community-play-project-2/>

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Summer Open House - The local businesses at 70 Hartley Ave invites you to our Summer Open House! Come celebrate the summer with exclusive deals, free food from Link Street Sausage, ice cream from Chocolate Sensations and so much more at the family friendly event. Sunday, August 17th from 10 am to 3 pm

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

The Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - Held on Tuesday August 26, 2025 at Sacred Heart Parish Hall starting at 7:30 pm. Use the Queen Street parking lot door.

The Brant Men of Song and the Brant County Singers will be holding an evening of Chora-oke - Held on Monday August 25 at Sydenham-Heritage United Church basement (120 Sydenham St. starting from 7 pm to 9 pm. All men and women are invited to see our choral activities and enjoy an evening of song.

Free Community Swim - Paris Community Pool, hosted by the Paris Lions Club from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Everyone welcome to cool off and enjoy the final days of summer at the Paris Pool!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

The Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting -Being held on Tuesday August 12, 2025 at 10 am at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. Our speaker will be Dr. Josh Neposolan talking about his world travels. New members are always welcome.

Oxford Philatelic Society - Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4pm) and 4th Tuesday (7-9pm) September to May. Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7. If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Oxford Philatelic Society Circuit Book Fair - Join fellow stamp enthusiasts at the Oxford Philatelic Society Circuit Book Fair on October 25, 2025, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock, Ontario. With free admission and parking, it's the perfect opportunity to browse and buy stamps, connect with collectors, and explore offerings from about eight participating stamp clubs. For more information, contact Don Eaton at dhfe@silomail.com or visit www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford.



PARIS DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMINI

THERE IS A **PDHS REUNION MAY 2ND, 2026** FOR ANYONE WHO STARTED BETWEEN 1963-1973.

CONTACT MFLEURY58@GMAIL.COM

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR LOCAL PAPER

SEND ARTICLES, PHOTOS, SPORTS AND EVENT RECAPS TO:

 STORIES@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

DEADLINE IS THE FRIDAY PRIOR AT 10 A.M.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

Burtch Baptist Outdoor Summer Concerts 2025

352 Cockshutt Rd, Brantford

The Chapelaires

Followed by a Community Cornroast



Aug 10
3 pm

Bring a lawn chair

Freewill Offering



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.

CLASSIFIEDS

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

COMING EVENTS

2025 OUTDOOR MARKET SERIES - at The Paris Winkey Mills 31 Mechanic St. Paris. For more information call 519-774-0600 or email eliesther.rivera@gmail.com

DATES: Sunday, May 18; Sunday, June 22; Sunday, July 20; Sunday, August 24; Sunday, September 28

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.

SUMMER BBQS ARE BACK!



Join us on Saturdays at the Branch
12 to 5pm



Every Saturday Rain or Shine
June to September



Burgers, Fries, Sausages, Onion rings and
more

Music on the patio

Corn Hole games on the lawn for all ages

No membership required everyone is
welcome!



OBITUARY

Jack

Wednesday July 30, 2025



Marilyn Joyce Jack, (nee Gray)

Peacefully, at John Noble Home Brantford, on Wednesday July 30, 2025, a longtime resident of Paris, in her 82nd year.

Beloved wife to Stewart for over 60 years; loved mom to Stew (the late Connie), Darren (Shaun), Shelley MacPherson (Pete) and the late Sandra Barrett (John); Cherished grandma to John "JJ" (Stephanie), Samantha (Andre), Michael (Betsy), Rebecca (Tyler),

Faith (Brad), Maia (Will), Grace, Lola, and Adam and cherished several great grandchildren. Dear Sister to Kaye Govier (Doug), Linda Watts (late Leslie), the late Doreen Brown (the late Bob), Sheila Thompson (Bruce), Christine Kipp (Bill) and David Gray. She will be sadly missed by her sisters-in-laws and several nieces and nephews.

Friends may call at the Wm. Kipp Funeral Home, 184 Grand River St. N. Paris, on Tuesday 2-4 & 7-9 PM. Funeral Services will be held in the Funeral Home Chapel, on Wednesday at 11:00 AM. Interment St. James Anglican Cemetery, Paris. Donations to Alzheimer Society or Cancer Society would be appreciated. Online condolences and donations may be arranged through www.wmkippfuneralhome.com or by contacting WM. Kipp 519 442 3061

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Flute | 6. Instagram |
| 2. Giraffe | 7. "You do not talk about Fight Club" |
| 3. Thailand | 8. Nuclear fission |
| 4. 100 | 9. Luigi Mangione |
| 5. Sir Robert Borden | 10. Down syndrome |

The
Paris
Independent

**THIS
COULD BE
YOUR AD
HERE!**

**CONTACT
US FOR
MORE
INFO!**



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HEALTH

PARIS HEALTH STORE

77 Grand River St. North, Paris

- Gluten Free Baking
- Local Honey
- Organic Spices & Herbs Bulk

www.parishealthstore.ca

HEATING

Wise

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

519-442-3431
info@wiseheating.ca

MECHANIC

Harstall's Garage

50 Curtis Ave N, Paris
519-442-4422

Proudly Serving Paris & Area
for the past 40 years

RESTAURANT

GRAND BAYOU

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

CALL 519.442.2704
27 DUMFRIES ST, PARIS

SPORTS

GRAND RIVER POWER SPORTS.ca

MOTORCYCLES • DIRT BIKES • ATVS
• SIDE-BY-SIDES • SNOWMOBILES
• WATERCRAFT • POWER GENERATOR

1264 COLBORNE ST EAST, BRANTFORD
519.759.8140
WWW.GRANDRIVERPOWERSPORTS.CA



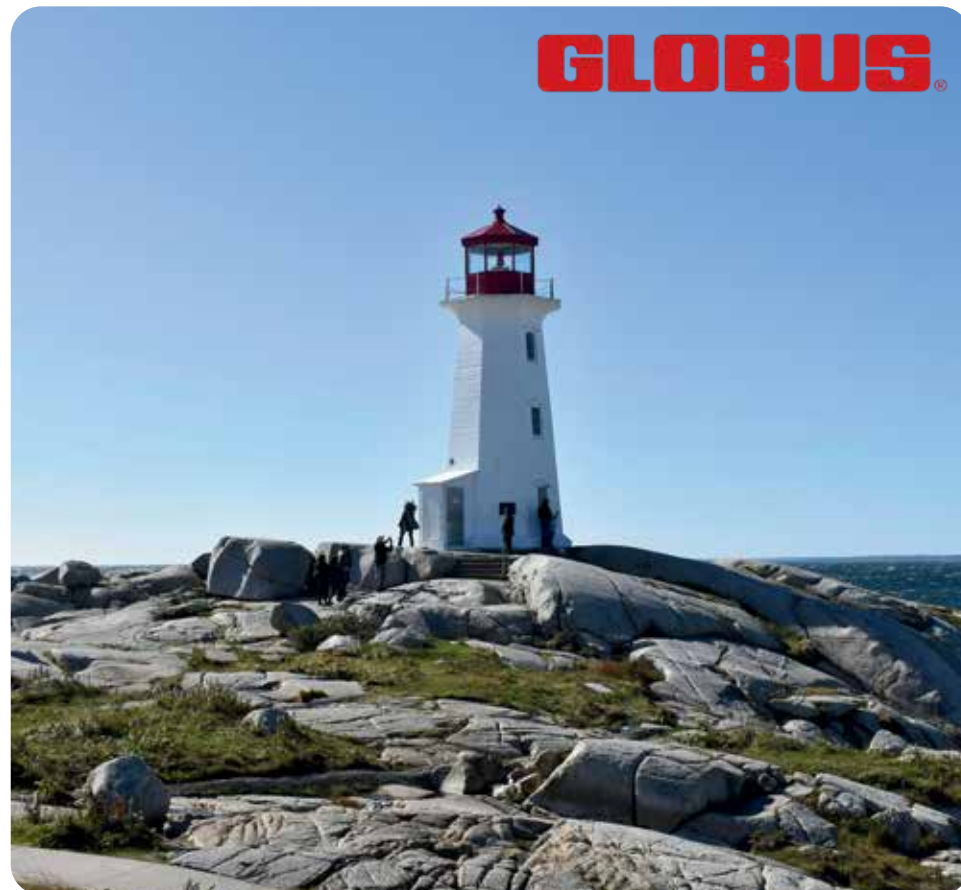
ROCKY MOUNTAINEER PASSAGE TO THE PEAKS

JUNE 15 - 24, 2026



MARITIMES AND CAPE BRETON

AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2026



HOSTED BY

STONETOWN TRAVEL

www.stonetowntravel.com

St. Marys Branch:

150 Queen Street East,
St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4

☎ 519-284-2332

✉ agent@stonetowntravel.com

TICO #5002839

New Hamburg Branch:

210 Mill Street,
New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9

☎ 226-333-9939

✉ newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com

TICO #5002840