

The Paris Independent

Issue #265

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(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Municipal election candidates gathered at Sojourn Church on Wednesday, Oct. 7, for the County of Brant Chamber of Commerce's Meet & Greet event. The evening provided an opportunity for candidates to connect with constituents, answer questions and discuss local issues, while mayoral candidates addressed attendees and shared their visions for the county's future.

Chamber of Commerce event encourages voter engagement ahead of municipal election

Chamber brings candidates and community together ahead of municipal election

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

With municipal voter turnout continuing to decline across Ontario, the County of Brant Chamber of Commerce is doing its part to en-

courage residents to become informed, engaged and, most importantly, exercise their right to vote.

The Chamber hosted a Municipal Candidate Meet and Greet at Sojourn Church on Wednesday, Oct. 7, bringing together mayoral, council

and school board trustee candidates for an evening of conversation with residents ahead of the upcoming municipal election.

Rather than hosting a traditional debate, the Chamber opted for a more informal format, allowing candidates to set up individual tables,

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Paris Food Bank expands hours as demand surges and more working families seek support

Household use up 25 per cent over last year as rising living costs force more residents to turn to the food bank for help

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Paris Food Bank is expanding its hours to meet a growing demand for food assistance, as more local families, including those with working adults, struggle to make ends meet. The Salvation Army, which operates the Paris Food Bank, will introduce evening hours beginning Oct. 19, allowing residents who work during the day to access food assistance without having to take time off.

The change comes as the food bank reports a 25 per cent increase in households accessing its services compared to the same time last year, with demand climbing another 31 per cent in the past six months alone.

Joshua Cain, Salvation Army officer for Brantford and

Paris and director of the Paris Food Bank, said the increase is particularly significant for a small community.

"In a small community such as ours, an increase like this is quite noticeable." Perhaps even more concerning is the changing demographic of those seeking assistance. Cain said many food bank clients are employed but still cannot afford to cover their basic living expenses.

"We have seen a growing need within our Food Bank, with many of those accessing our services having employment, but not enough funds to cover all their basic needs," Cain explained.

"By offering Food Bank hours in the evening, this will allow us to reach a greater demographic of folks who need the services provided by the food bank yet cannot afford to take time off work. We want to remove as many barriers possible to those affected by Food Insecurity."

Beginning Monday, Oct. 19, the food bank will offer evening service from 6 to 8 p.m., in addition to its existing Monday and Thursday afternoon hours of 1 to 3 p.m.

A permanent schedule change will take effect Nov. 2, when the food bank will operate Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

The expanded service is being made possible through a partnership with Forward Church Brant, whose volunteers will help staff the additional hours.

The growing need reflects a broader issue facing families throughout the community. According to figures cited by Cain from Grand Erie Public Health, one in four households in the County of Brant experiences some level of food insecurity.

"What concerns me most is that the need keeps growing just as we head into the most expensive time of year," Cain said. "These are our neighbours, people facing impossible choices between paying rent, heating their homes and buying groceries."

As the holiday season approaches, the food bank is also appealing to residents for donations to help keep its shelves stocked. Among the most-needed items are school snacks, pancake mix, canned fruit, peanut butter and canned soup. Personal hygiene products, including soap, shampoo and other toiletries, are also in high demand.

Cain said the food bank continues to receive tremendous support from local residents, businesses and service clubs.

Recently, Grand River Power Sports, Canadian Tire Paris, Sobeys Paris, Big Dog Diner and members of Kiwanis Paris-Brant joined forces in a grassroots initiative to collect food and financial donations. The Paris Rotary Club is also planning an upcoming food drive to support the organization.

"We feel a great sense of support from the community of Paris. The county of Brant shows up to support its neighbours," Cain said.

Residents looking to help can donate food, organize collection drives, volunteer or make financial contributions. Monetary donations are particularly useful because they allow the food bank to purchase essential items that are not regularly donated. Donations can be dropped off at the Paris Food Bank, 25B Dundas St W, during regular operating hours or at the Salvation Army's Brantford location at 33 Diana Ave., Monday through Friday.

With demand continuing to climb, Cain hopes residents recognize that food insecurity is not limited to those who are unemployed or experiencing homelessness. Increasingly, it is affecting working individuals and families who simply cannot stretch their incomes far enough.

"My message to the community is that food insecurity is closer than most of us realize, and that every donation to our food bank makes a real difference."

"The Salvation Army is committed to being here for our neighbours."

Astronomy enthusiasts invited to explore the night sky at free Paris event

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Paris residents will have an opportunity to explore the wonders of the universe when a free astronomy event comes to Green Lane next week.

The County of Brant, in partnership with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, will host Astronomy: The Sky Tonight on Monday, Oct. 19, beginning at 6 p.m. at 8 Green Lane in Paris.

The all-ages event will feature amateur astronomer Ed Mizzi, who will guide participants through the wonders of space, exploring the incredible scale of planets, stars, galaxies and the observable universe, while putting Earth's relatively tiny place in the cosmos into perspective.

For local astronomy enthusiast Celeste Bilbao, creator and administrator of Astronomy Lovers of Brant Area (ALBA), bringing an event like this to Paris has been a long-standing goal.

The local astronomy group has grown to more than 700 members who share a passion for space and regularly connect through astronomy-related events and activities.

"For the longest time, Astronomy Nights even have happened far (Oxford county, Scotland, ON, Hamilton, etc.)," Bilbao explained.

After advocating for more opportunities closer to home over the past two years, she is thrilled the County of Brant has agreed to host the event in Paris.

The evening is free and open to all ages, with no registration required. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather and bring blankets or lawn chairs to enjoy the experience comfortably.

In the event of rain, the program will be rescheduled to Tuesday, Oct. 20.

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Brant has no shortage of candidates, but will voters turn out?

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distribute campaign materials and speak directly with voters about the issues that matter most to them.

With 38 registered candidates in the County of Brant, the Chamber wanted to ensure everyone had an opportunity to participate.

"We chose to do a meet and greet due to the number of registered candidates running in the County of Brant (38 in total). We wanted to give all the candidates an opportunity to engage directly with the public, including the School Board Trustee candidates, as education is a hot button topic," said Susan Morton, Executive Director of the County of Brant Chamber of Commerce, in response to questions from The Paris Independent.

The format provided residents with an opportunity to move between candidates, ask questions and compare platforms at their own pace. Mayoral candidates were also given five minutes each to address those in attendance.

The Chamber's Advocacy Committee developed questions for candidates around issues including property taxes, changing economic conditions, transportation, natural heritage and the County's urban-rural character. Candidates were also encouraged to share their vision for Brant over the next 25 years. Those responses are shared on the Chamber's website <https://www.brantchamber.ca/>. We encourage all readers to review the candidates' responses and consider how their positions align with their own values, priorities and vision for the future of the County of Brant.

While The Paris Independent has spent the past six weeks providing extensive election coverage, including questions posed to all mayoral and council candidates about issues facing the community, events such as the Chamber's meet and greet offer something equally important: an opportunity for residents to engage directly with the people seeking their votes.

And with municipal election participation continuing to decline, those opportunities matter more than ever.

Across Ontario, municipal voter turnout has fallen from approximately 43 per cent in 2014 to a record-low 36 per cent in 2022. Interest in running for municipal office has also declined, with 553 council seats across the province acclaimed in the last municipal election.

Brant, however, has seen a healthy level of interest from residents willing to put their names forward. All mayoral and council positions are being contested, with no acclamations in those races.

The exception is the separate school board trustee position, where David Miller was acclaimed following the

withdrawal of candidate Dan Dignard.

But having candidates willing to serve is only one part of a healthy democracy. Residents must also be willing to participate.

Consider the County of Brant's last municipal election in 2022.

Of the County's 30,786 eligible electors, just 8,438 cast a ballot. That represents a voter turnout of only 27.41 per cent.

In other words, nearly three out of every four eligible voters did not participate in choosing the municipal representatives responsible for decisions affecting their community.

Those decisions influence everything from roads, infrastructure and development to recreation, property taxes and the long-term direction of the County.

The Chamber believes opportunities for face-to-face conversations can help residents better understand those decisions and the candidates seeking to make them.

"An informed electorate makes for a stronger democracy. Municipal politics directly affect people's everyday lives so it's really important to get engaged, learn about the candidates, and vote!

If you don't exercise your right to vote, you forfeit your right to complain," said Morton.

The Chamber's event was not the only opportunity for residents to connect with candidates. On Friday, Oct. 9, the Brant County Federation of Agriculture hosted an all-candidates event at Paris Community Church, with a particular focus on agricultural issues affecting the County's rural community.

Both events offered residents an opportunity to look beyond campaign signs and social media posts and engage in meaningful discussions about the future of Brant.

The Chamber, which has organized candidate forums at the municipal, provincial and federal levels, said its role extends beyond supporting local businesses to helping strengthen civic engagement.

"As a Chamber of Commerce, we're proud to be a bridge between government and the business community. We believe strong communities are built when business, government and residents work towards a better future. We are always encouraged when the community comes alongside us, and we're committed to helping ensure people have the information they need before heading to the polls. An informed community is a strong community," Morton explained.

The Chamber thanked Sojourn Church for providing the venue, along with event sponsors the Brant County Feder-



A packed house at Paris Community Church on Friday, Oct. 9, as residents gathered for the Brant County Federation of Agriculture's Municipal Candidate Meet and Greet. The event provided an opportunity for voters to connect with candidates ahead of the upcoming municipal election, with a particular focus on agricultural issues and the challenges facing Brant's rural community. The strong turnout highlighted residents' interest in the issues shaping the County's future.

ation of Agriculture and Krista Hearn, owner of McDonald's restaurants in Paris, Cainsville and on King George Road in Brantford. Volunteers who helped organize and run the event were also recognized.

As election day approaches, residents have access to candidate platforms, local media coverage and opportunities to ask questions directly of those seeking office. In fact, the Chamber also asked each candidate questions in advance of the event and their responses are shared online at <https://www.brantchamber.ca/>

The question now is whether more residents will take advantage of it and make their voices heard at the ballot box.

The Paris Independent

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A tree-mendous goodbye: Paris couple finds a sad surprise inside beloved maple

After nearly four decades shading a Bendemere Road backyard, a family maple appeared to have one final expression to share

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Cutting down a beloved tree can be an emotional experience. For Dianne Kosar, it seems the feeling may have been mutual.

Kosar and her husband, Gary, recently made the difficult decision to remove a large maple tree from the backyard of their Bendemere Road home after disease had taken an increasing toll on it over the past five years.

The maple had been part of their property and their family for nearly four decades.

The Kosars built their home in 1987 on what was then Golf Links Road, later renamed Paris Links Road and now Bendemere Road. The following summer, they planted several trees and shrubs around the property.

Over the years, most of those original plantings disappeared. The maple endured.

It provided shade through countless summers and stood watch as the Kosars' chil-

dren grew from youngsters aged three and seven into adults who eventually moved away.

This fall, however, its time came.

"I cried when it came down...the last of the originals," Dianne shared in an email to the Paris Independent.

Gary began cutting the large limbs into firewood and sliced several pieces, or "coins," for his wife to place throughout her gardens as keepsakes from the tree.

That's when the maple offered one last surprise.

On the freshly cut ends of two adjoining sections, natural markings in the wood formed what looked remarkably like a face, complete with two eyes and a decidedly downturned mouth.

Apparently, nobody was happy about the situation.

"It appears that my beloved shade tree was sad as well to leave us," Dianne said.

Curious to see whether the markings continued through the wood, Gary cut far-

ther into the limb.

They didn't. He had apparently made his original cut in precisely the right spot to reveal the forlorn face.

Dianne admits she was holding out hope for a happier ending.

"I was actually hoping he would stumble upon a happy face so that we would have a Greek tragedy in our garden conversation piece, but no it was not to be," she said.

Instead, the unusual wooden faces will find a home in her gardens, serving as a re-

minder of a tree that quietly marked nearly 40 years of family life.

"I certainly wish that he had found a smiley face so I wouldn't feel so bad about losing that tree," Dianne said.

For now, the Kosars are adjusting to a backyard without the familiar canopy that greeted them each day.

Dianne said she already misses the maple's wonderful morning shade.

And judging by its final expression, perhaps the tree misses them, too.



When Dianne and Gary Kosar reluctantly removed a beloved maple from their Bendemere Road property this fall, they discovered an unexpected surprise. Natural markings revealed a remarkably sad-looking face on two sections of the tree — an appropriate final expression for a maple that had shaded their backyard and watched their family grow for nearly four decades.



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Gary Kosar cuts down the family's beloved maple tree at their Bendemere Road home this fall. The tree had become increasingly diseased and had to be removed but not before leaving the Kosars with one final, and rather sad, surprise.



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Ward 5 Candidate Q&A: Ward 5 candidates answer questions from Paris Independent readers

MIKE GATOPOULOS



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

I don't think growth itself is the problem. The question is whether the infrastructure and services needed to support that growth are keeping pace. My position is simple: infrastructure before development.

New housing has to be matched with realistic plans for roads, water and wastewater, emergency services, schools, recreation and traffic capacity. Council also needs to consider the cumulative impact of multiple developments, not assess each one in isolation.

I support growth that is well planned... financially sustainable and directed to appropriate locations, while protecting the productive farmland in our communities. If the infrastructure is not ready, Council should be prepared to slow down development until it is.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

There are real benefits to adding more residents in downtown Paris. More people living within walking distance can support local shops and restaurants, and help make better use of existing infrastructure. It can also add different housing options in a community where demand is high.

The challenges are equally important... parking, traffic, servicing capacity, construction impacts, building height, and protecting the heritage character that makes

downtown Paris unique.

I am not opposed to density downtown... but, like all of these types of decisions... it needs to fit the community. Any major development should come with a clear plan for parking, traffic, infrastructure, and public space, with meaningful public input before final approvals are given.

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

Yes, I would support improving public swimming access in the County, including seriously examining a County-owned pool. Families should not have to depend on limited availability in Brantford to access basic recreation and swimming lessons. As a parent of five kids, I feel this struggle.

That said, an indoor pool is a major capital and operating commitment, so I would want to see the full cost, projected usage, and potential partnerships before committing taxpayers to a specific project.

We should look at options including an indoor facility, another outdoor pool, partnerships with schools or community organizations, and whether provincial or federal funding is available. The goal should be affordable, reliable access to swimming for County residents, with a solution that is financially sustainable over the long term.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

I support exploring better transit connections between communities such as Paris, Burford and St. George, but I don't think the County should look at transit in isolation.

We need to work much better with our neighbours in Brantford and develop a regional transportation plan that looks at how people actually move between the City and County for work, school, healthcare and recreation.

I would favour an approach that identifies where demand exists and builds connections to Brantford Transit rather than immediately creating a costly conventional bus system.

Any expansion needs a clear understanding of operating costs, ridership and available provincial and federal funding. One important part for me is that I believe se-

niors should be able to use the system free of charge.

The goal should be a regional system that is useful, affordable and sustainable.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

The biggest improvement I would like to see in Brant Transit is reliability. If people cannot get a ride when they need one, the service is not meeting its purpose.

I would look at increasing capacity, improving availability for essential trips such as work, medical appointments and school, and creating better options for same-day or shorter-notice travel.

I also think Brant Transit should be better integrated into a broader regional transportation plan with Brantford, including stronger connections with Brantford Transit.

As demand grows, we should use booking and ridership data to determine where scheduled service may make more sense than purely on-demand transportation.

And, again, I believe seniors should be able to use Brant Transit free of charge.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

My goal would be to reach the best possible agreement for County residents, not simply transfer land because the City has asked for it.

The County has been put in a difficult position because, if the municipalities cannot reach an agreement, the Province may ultimately step in. That makes it even more important that we negotiate carefully.

Before supporting any agreement, I would want clarity on the amount and location of land being transferred, protection of farmland, compensation and long-term tax impacts, servicing responsibilities, transportation and road connections, emergency services, and the future operation of the airport.

I also want residents and affected landowners to have the information early enough to meaningfully respond. Whatever happens here...the City and County need a much better working relationship going forward.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

One example is my work with Lans-

downe Children's Centre, where I serve as Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the Capital Steering Committee as the new treatment centre is being built.

It is a complex project involving the Board, staff, government partners, consultants, contractors and community stakeholders, all with different responsibilities and perspectives.

My role has been to help keep the project moving, ask the difficult questions, understand the financial and operational implications of decisions, and help bring people together when choices need to be made.

A project of this size requires collaboration, accountability and an ability to work through disagreements without losing sight of the end goal.

That experience has reinforced for me that good governance is not about having all the answers yourself. It is about doing your homework, listening to the right people and helping a group reach good decisions.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

Yes. I would support a one-year moratorium on new artificial intelligence data centres while the County properly understands the implications.

These facilities can have significant demands for electricity and water and can create concerns around noise, land use, infrastructure and emergency response. A one-year pause is reasonable if it gives the County time to establish clear policies and standards before applications arrive or proceed further.

That work should include evidence on water and energy capacity, noise, environmental impacts, fire protection, servicing costs and the long-term economic benefit to the County.

I am not opposed to technology or investment, but Council should understand what it is approving before committing land and infrastructure to developments of this scale. And erring on the side of caution while we figure out those answers makes the most sense.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

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I would use the Long-Term Financial Plan as a guardrail, not as something that sits on a shelf.

Every major decision should be considered in terms of its full life-cycle cost, impact on reserves and debt, future operating costs and the effect on taxpayers over more than one budget year. New priorities may be worthwhile, but Council needs to understand what they displace and whether the County can afford to operate them long after the ribbon cutting.

I would also expect the assumptions in the plan to be reviewed regularly as growth, inflation, interest rates and project costs change.

My small business background has taught me that a plan is only useful if you actually use it to make decisions, measure results, and adjust when the numbers change.

ELLA HALEY



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

Growth numbers are being imposed on Brant County by the province. Our current Official Plan is a design for accommodating population growth projections to 59,00 by 2051. This plan calls for infilling within the existing settlement boundaries where we have existing and planned servicing (sewers, water), and areas designated for residential, commercial and employment. We need to ensure that we build affordable housing for people on limited incomes (young people, the employed, working families and seniors).

There are "limits to growth" if we hope to protect the basis of our economy: farmland, water, natural heritage. We are losing farmland at an alarming rate to housing, employment lands and gravel pits. I do not support any settlement boundary expansions, or conversion of employment land to residential.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

This will be a big change for downtown Paris and should help the local Paris economy. We need to preserve the historical character of Paris, with building codes to

ensure that residential development fits in.

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

I'm a swimmer and support public swimming facilities. If we were to build the Paris pool, we would need to have a fundraising campaign, so that we do not impose any additional taxes on ratepayers.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

I am a champion of better public transit within Brant County (Burford, Paris, St. George) – this could be in the form of mini-buses. Bring back the Brantford to Paris bus. Have minibuses routes to Six Nations, Simcoe, and Waterford. I support regional public transit – we must make it easier for people who don't have access to a car to get to Guelph, Cambridge and KW.

Negotiate/subsidize Via to enable a train stop in Paris with adequate free parking and more frequent and affordable train rides from Brantford to Hamilton, Toronto, Woodstock and London. Parking at the Brantford train station should be free and expanded. This will reduce the number of cars on the road and help commuters.

GO Bus We also need more frequent and direct Go buses from Brantford to Hamilton Go station, with stops in West Brant.

How do we fund it: redistribute the budget so that public transit is more of a priority at the table. Start small with minibuses. Ensure that public transit is affordable for the users. Partner with Brantford and other communities. Fund the program through user fees, grants, reallocation of Brant County's budget, and partnering with a provider.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

I have used Brant Transit to see how it works, and I have helped people to use it. It is a great improvement to get around, particularly in rural Brant County. I found it to be very affordable, but sometimes unreliable.

Concerns: Shared rides - some people say that they don't want to drive to other places before they get to their stop. They find that they need to plan extra travel time because of this.

Some recommendations:

Make it easier to book rides, especially for people with disabilities or who can't book the ride on their own.

Improve reliability so that riders can count on Brant Transit to get to work, and seniors/people with disabilities can count on getting picked up on time.

Have more frequent service, more vehicles available and longer service hours.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include

key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

I do not support any annexation of land in the Oakhill/Airport area. Brant owns the airport lands, and Brantford operates the airport. This relationship has been in place for many years. In 2017 Brantford annexed approximately 6,700 acres of mostly prime farmland. Brantford has not developed most of this land and does not need any more land from Brant County.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

As a tenured Assistant Professor, I taught and worked on a number of committees to provide education to students across Canada and throughout the world.

As a Head Kinesiologist in Rehabilitation Medicine in a Toronto teaching hospital (Wellesley), I worked with a team to provide care for many patients with disabilities and injuries. In particular, I ran support groups for stroke patients, and people with chronic pain, multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis.

As a current member of Brant County Council, I have worked in particular with the Oakhill/Airport community to negotiate a pause on Brantford's proposed annexation. I have also worked closely with the residents in Cainsville to help them to have a say regarding the proposed Cainsville Employment Plan. I have worked with residents throughout Ward 5 and Brant County to try to address their concerns.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood? Yes.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

I would use this as a guide in my decision making, but I would also seek feedback from the ratepayers on major expense items. For example, some residents wanted a referendum on the hospital levy. We need to reflect on the fact that Brantford had 2 hospitals. St. Joseph's Hospital was a fully functioning hospital that was closed in 2001. The Province ordered it closed to "centralize acute care, eliminate hospital service duplication and cut healthcare costs". "The recommendation was not received well by St. Joseph's Hospital as it had just opened four renovated operating rooms, a day surgery and an outpatient area". ("Brantford in the 1990s – Part 6, Jack Jackowetz, BScene)

I'm concerned about Development Charge Reduction Program that was introduced this year by the federal and provincial governments. Brant County has opted in and can apply for infrastructure funding to make up for the loss of income from development charges. This makes us dependent upon the federal and provincial government for infrastructure funding, but we

need to remember that this funding is also taxpayers' dollars. This makes us more dependent upon higher levels of government, that get to decide if they will fund us or not. We are basically funding the developers in order to meet the growth projections set by the province.

SONIA BROWN



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

When approving future developments, Council must strictly consider:

Infrastructure Capacity: Ensuring our water, wastewater, emergency services, and roads can handle increased capacity before shovels hit the ground.

Community Alignment: Inviting residents to the table before major planning decisions are finalized, ensuring development serves current residents, not just developers.

Agricultural Preservation: Protecting our vital farmland from premature or excessive urban sprawl.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

Intensification in our downtown cores brings a complex mix of opportunities and pressures.

Potential Benefits: Increased foot traffic to support local small businesses, the revitalization of underutilized spaces, and providing diverse housing options that allow residents to downsize while staying in their community.

Potential Challenges: Severe strain on downtown parking, increased traffic congestion, and the risk of losing the unique architectural heritage and charm that makes downtown Paris a destination.

My role on Council would be to ensure that any approved design strictly respects heritage guidelines and includes a robust traffic and parking mitigation plan.

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

(a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

My Stance: I support exploring the feasibility of a public swimming facility within the County of Brant.

Approach: Given our climate, a new indoor facility would provide the greatest long-term value year-round. To keep it affordable, we must aggressively pursue federal and provincial infrastructure grants, as well as corporate partnerships, to ensure the capital cost does not fall entirely on the municipal tax base.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

Connecting our distinct communities—like Paris, Burford, St. George, and our neighbors in Brantford—is essential for economic mobility, supporting seniors, and reducing our carbon footprint.

My View: I support a phased, demand-driven approach to regional transit connectivity rather than implementing a massive, costly system all at once.

Funding Strategy: Operating costs must be carefully balanced. The County should pursue shared service agreements with neighboring municipalities, leverage provincial gas tax funding, and look into public-private partnerships to ensure the system is financially sustainable and affordable for riders.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

Brant Transit provides a necessary service, but there is clear room for improvement to better meet the needs of our residents. I would advocate for:

Booking Reliability: Streamlining the reservation system to reduce wait times and ensure residents can reliably get to medical appointments and workplaces.

Expanded Service Windows: Assessing the financial feasibility of extending hours into evenings and weekends to better serve shift workers and youth.

Enhanced Capacity: Ensuring the fleet matches growing peak-hour demand so

no resident is left stranded due to a lack of available vehicles.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

My ultimate goal is to protect the long-term economic and environmental interests of Brant County residents. Before supporting any agreement, my key conditions would include:

Revenue Protection: Securing fair, long-term tax-sharing or compensation mechanisms so the County does not lose vital municipal revenue.

Environmental Safeguards: Ensuring strict environmental assessments to protect surrounding agricultural lands and local water tables.

Service Impacts: Fully understanding how changes to the land jurisdiction affect municipal service delivery and infrastructure costs.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

The Situation: During the COVID-19 pandemic (2019–2022), all seven of my staff members became ill with COVID-19, leaving me as the only person available to care for 17 residents living with mental illness. One of my staff members and one resident were admitted to the ICU. It was an extremely challenging and stressful situation that required immediate action to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents.

My Role: As the owner of the home, I was responsible for managing the crisis and ensuring that the residents continued to receive the care and support they needed. Recognizing that I could not manage the situation alone, I contacted the City of Hamilton for assistance. With their support, temporary staff were arranged through Ontario Health atHome. I was responsible for managing and coordinating these staff members for approximately one month, until my regular team could return to work.

The Outcome: By acting quickly, recog-

nizing the need for assistance, and working collaboratively with the City of Hamilton and Ontario Health atHome, I was able to maintain care and support for all 17 residents during a very difficult period. Everyone recovered, and the situation reinforced the importance of leadership, teamwork, adaptability, and asking for help when necessary.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

The intense resource demands of data centers—specifically regarding water consumption, massive energy grid draws, and localized noise pollution—require a cautious, sober approach. My Commitment: Yes, I will propose/support a motion. Reasoning: Our local environment and resource sustainability must always come before rapid commercial expansion. We must fully understand the long-term ecological footprint before welcoming these high-in-

tensity industries into our backyard.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

The Long-Term Financial Plan must be a living roadmap for Council, not a document that sits on a shelf. If elected, I will use it as a benchmark for every fiscal decision:

Weighing New Priorities: Every new project or major investment must be evaluated against its impact on our projected long-term debt and reserves.

Affordability: I will oppose capital expenditures that cause municipal tax increases to outpace the financial realities of our hard-working families and seniors on fixed incomes. Compassionate leadership means ensuring our community remains affordable for the people who built it.

Paris-Brant Kiwanis Club welcomes 2026-27 executive board



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

The Paris-Brant Kiwanis Club recently welcomed its 2026-27 executive board, marking another year of community service and volunteer leadership. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2026, the club has been supporting local children, families and community initiatives since receiving its charter in April 2001. Part of Kiwanis International, the volunteer-driven organization is dedicated to improving the lives of children, one community at a time. Locally, the club is known for its annual Breakfast with Santa and Teddy Bear Picnic, along with food drives supporting the Paris Food Bank, youth leadership opportunities and scholarships for Paris District High School graduates. The club operates under a unique 3-2-1 model, encouraging members to dedicate three hours each month to community service, two hours to fellowship and one hour to club meetings. Pictured from left are Treasurer Sheila Moore; Director Terry Chamberlain; Director Marisa Moore; Secretary Karla Stonham; Director Wendy Gallagher; Director Allison Bossert; Past President Wendy Eveleigh; President David Tisdale; Lieutenant Governor Richard Lee.



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- Smart infrastructure investment Support projects that meet needs and provide lasting value. Prioritize benefits for the greatest number of residents.
- Protecting productive farmland Protect prime farmland and direct growth to suitable areas.
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519.750.4346 | Mary-Jane Brown | maryjane913@gmail.com | maryjanebrown.ca

*paid for by the campaign to elect Mary Jane Brown

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What is the capital city of New Zealand? | cards, how many face cards are there? |
| 2. Which element has the chemical symbol, Fe? | 7. Which everyday product was originally marketed in the 1890s as a wallpaper cleaner? |
| 3. Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel? | 8. True or False. Bananas are botanically classified as berries, while strawberries are not. |
| 4. Which country is credited with inventing paper? | 9. Which famous novel begins with the line "Call me Ishmael"? |
| 5. Which boxer was nicknamed Smokin' Joe? | 10. Which Canadian province is the smallest by land area? |
| 6. In a standard deck of 52 playing | |

This week's answers are found on pg. 22

Have you received your voter information letter? Here's how to cast your ballot in the County of Brant election

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

With the 2026 municipal and school board election approaching, County of Brant residents are reminded to check their mailboxes for their Voter Information Letter, which contains the instructions needed to cast a ballot.

Eligible voters should have received their letters by Oct. 12. Anyone who has not received a letter by now should contact the County of Brant Elections Coordinator to confirm their information and obtain a replacement.

This year's election will look different, with the County moving entirely to online

and telephone voting. There will be no traditional paper ballots or polling stations.

Voting opens Monday, Oct. 19 at 9 a.m. and continues until Monday, Oct. 26 at 8 p.m.

Once residents receive their Voter Information Letter, they can follow the instructions provided to vote using a computer, smartphone, tablet or telephone.

For online voting, residents will visit the official election voting website identified in their letter and enter their unique identifying information and date of birth. They can then make their selections, review their choices and submit their ballot electronically.

Those voting by telephone will call the

number provided in their letter, enter their identifying information and date of birth, and follow automated instructions to make their selections using the telephone keypad.

Once a ballot is submitted, it cannot be changed or recast.

Voters will select their preferred mayoral candidate, councillor candidates for their ward and the applicable school board trustee.

Residents who require assistance or do not have access to the internet can visit one of several Voter Assistance Locations throughout the County. Paris locations include the Brant Sports Complex, Cedarview Church, Cowan Community Health

Hub, North Ward School, Paris Customer Service Office and Sojourn Church.

Dates and hours vary by location. Residents can find details at www.brant.ca/voting. Internet-enabled devices will also be available at County libraries and customer service offices during regular business hours once voting opens.

Residents who need to be added to the voters' list, update their information or obtain a replacement Voter Information Letter should contact Elections Coordinator Ryan Leverton at 519-442-7268, ext. 2207, toll-free at 1-855-442-7268, ext. 2207, or by email at election@brant.ca.

For additional election information, visit www.brant.ca/Elections.

Major construction set to resume on Grand River Street North as County of Brant moves forward with multi-year expansion

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

More than \$9 million in provincial funding will help support road widening, new roundabouts and infrastructure upgrades designed to accommodate growth in north Paris.

Construction is ramping up along Grand River Street North as the County of Brant moves forward with the next phase of a major infrastructure project designed to improve traffic flow, road safety and accommodate growth in the community over the next 30 years.

The multi-year project, which began in 2023, will eventually transform the busy corridor between Silver Street and Watts Pond Road into a four-lane roadway, complete with four roundabouts, upgraded underground infrastructure and new pedestrian and cycling connections.

In a recent update distributed through its Engage Brant platform, the County confirmed construction will begin on Ann Wilson Way before moving onto Grand River Street North. Work on the main roadway is expected to begin once the current phase of the Downtown Dig is completed, anticipated within the next couple of weeks.

The project represents a significant investment in the future of north Paris, where continued residential development, a planned new public elementary school and a new fire hall are expected to increase demands on existing infrastructure.

According to a staff report presented to council in May, Grand River Street North currently varies between two and four lanes, with inconsistent turning lanes and two signalized intersections. A 2023 traffic count recorded an average of 14,350 vehicles travelling the corridor daily.

The improvements are intended to address existing traffic concerns while pre-

paring the roadway for future growth.

In May, County of Brant council approved awarding the second phase of construction to J-AAR Civil Infrastructures Limited at a tender price of approximately \$10.14 million, excluding HST. Five contractors submitted bids for the project, with J-AAR submitting the lowest.

This phase focuses on the southern portion of the corridor, extending from Bradbury Crescent to a point north of Scott Avenue, now known as Ann Wilson Way.

Work includes widening Grand River Street North to four lanes, separated by a raised centre median, along with upgrades to stormwater drainage, water and wastewater infrastructure. The project also includes construction of Ann Wilson Way, which will provide access to the North Paris Fire Hall, Paris Memorial Forest and Gilbert Water Treatment Plant.

Additional improvements will include a continuous two-metre-wide sidewalk along the east side of Grand River Street North, a three-metre-wide multi-use path along the west side and upgraded street-lighting throughout the corridor.

Stormwater improvements will also address environmental concerns by collecting roadway runoff and directing it outside the local wellhead protection area. New treatment infrastructure will help manage contaminants before water is discharged.

The County has secured \$9,355,509 in provincial funding through the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing program to support road and stormwater improvements associated with the second and third phases of construction.

The funding will help offset project costs for local taxpayers, although the province requires construction to be substantially completed by 2028 to receive the full benefit.

The overall project is being completed

in three major phases. The first, undertaken in 2023 and 2024, involved significant watermain and wastewater upgrades between Bradbury Crescent and Hartley Avenue. The second phase is now moving forward, while the third will extend improvements northward to Watts Pond Road.

Despite the scale of construction, the County says Grand River Street North will remain open to two-way traffic throughout most of the project, with one northbound and one southbound lane maintained.

Contractors are also required to maintain access for pedestrians, residents and emergency services.

Temporary side street closures may be necessary, while overnight closures could

occur during roundabout paving, with approved detours in place.

The County is reminding residents that businesses along the corridor, including shops, restaurants and service providers, will remain open throughout construction.

With several major infrastructure projects already affecting traffic patterns in Paris, including the ongoing Downtown Dig, motorists should anticipate changing traffic conditions as work progresses.

Residents and business owners can follow construction updates, traffic changes and project timelines by subscribing to notifications through the County's Engage Brant website at EngageBrant.ca/GrandRiverStreet.

Brant County OPP seek public's help identifying suspect in attempted fraud in Paris

Brant County OPP are asking for the public's assistance in identifying a man in connection with an attempted fraud at a financial institution in Paris.

Police say the man attempted to open a bank account using fraudulent identification on Oct. 7, 2026.

Investigators have released a photo of the individual and are asking anyone who recognizes him or has information about the incident to contact police.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Brant County OPP at 1-888-310-1122 and reference incident number E261455105.

Anonymous tips can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477

(TIPS) or online at www.crimestoppersbb.com.



Community support breathes new life into Paris Plains Church preservation efforts

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A call for help to protect one of the area's most recognizable historic landmarks has turned into renewed momentum for the Paris Plains Church.

Just a few months after community members were asked to step forward and help secure the future of the nearly 181-year-old cobblestone church and neighbouring Maus School, the Paris Plains Church Historical Society is moving ahead with a renewed organization, a membership drive and new fundraising and community initiatives.

The developments follow a community meeting held June 29 that drew an encouraging response from residents interested in preserving the historic property.

"The outstanding turnout at the June 29 meeting was both encouraging and inspiring," according to society members. "It was invigorating to see people with long-standing ties to Paris Plains Church alongside newcomers who share a passion for preserving its history."

The meeting represented an important turning point for a property facing increasing maintenance demands and a need for more volunteers to help with fundraising, upkeep and long-term planning.

Earlier this year, longtime caretaker and

historian Ray Perriman said the goal was to build a volunteer base capable of ensuring the church could thrive for future generations. At the time, Perriman was serving as the sole director of the historical society and said additional community involvement would be critical to the church's future.

That call appears to have been answered.

"The enthusiasm, ideas, and willingness to work together demonstrated that there is strong community support for the Society's mission," members said. "It is exciting to see the momentum building as we move forward to preserve the legacy of Paris Plains Church for future generations."

A new Paris Plains Church Historical Society has now been formed, and organizers are inviting residents to become non-voting members for \$20 annually.

Membership fees will directly support preservation efforts, heritage projects and community initiatives associated with the church and Maus School. Members will also receive regular updates and newsletters and information about upcoming events, projects and volunteer opportunities.

The renewed activity comes at an important time for the historic site.

Built in 1845, Paris Plains Church is a rare example of the cobblestone construction that helped establish this area's reputa-

tion as the Cobblestone Capital of Canada. Its walls were built by volunteers using fieldstones collected from local farms and waterways, with individual rows of stones laid at different angles by the farmers who contributed their labour.

More than 180 years later, volunteers are once again playing an important role in determining its future.

The society is also turning its attention to fundraising with a little Halloween fun thrown into the mix.

On Saturday, Oct. 24, the society will host its Boo Bash at The Lavender Farm, 769 Drumbo Rd. in Ayr, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The family-friendly Halloween fundraiser will support preservation efforts at Paris Plains Church and Maus School and feature activities including Halloween bowling, Body Bin, Monster Cans, a colouring table, mini pumpkin decorating, cornhole, Pin the Spider on the Web and Witch Pitch.

Children are encouraged to come dressed in costume, and The Glass Slipper Company will provide a character meet-and-greet during the event.

Tickets are available through TicketScene at <https://www.ticketscene.ca/events/65563/>

While the Boo Bash will help raise funds, another initiative is asking residents to contribute their creativity.

The society has launched a logo design contest to establish a new visual identity for the historic site.

Organizers are looking for a clean and memorable design that reflects the church's distinctive cobblestone architecture, its history and its connection to the community.

The winning design will be featured on the society's website, social media channels, branding and promotional materials, with the successful designer also receiving recognition through local media.

Submissions should include both colour and black-and-white versions of the proposed logo, along with a few sentences ex-



The Paris Plains Church Historical Society is building on renewed community interest with new membership, fundraising and heritage initiatives aimed at preserving the historic church and neighbouring Maus School for future generations.

plaining the inspiration behind the design.

The deadline to enter is Nov. 15.

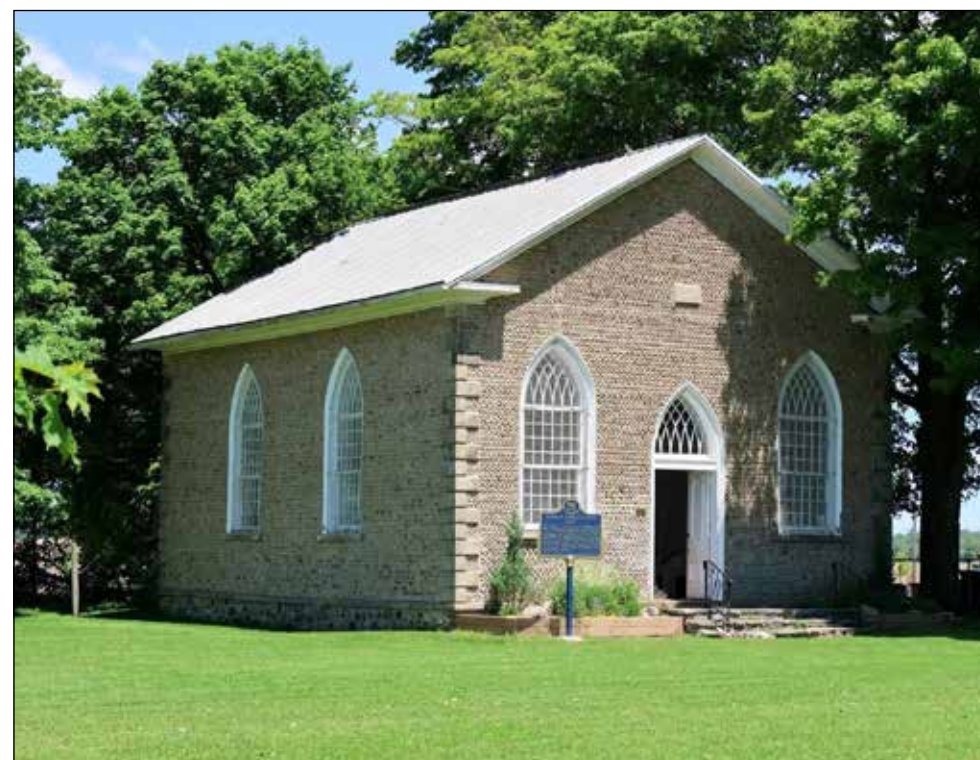
Together, the initiatives mark a significant change from earlier this year, when questions remained about whether enough people would step forward to help shoulder responsibility for the aging property.

The church and Maus School both require ongoing attention. Earlier this year, deteriorating exterior windows and an interior painting project were among the needs identified, while limited revenue from weddings and events made funding larger restoration projects increasingly difficult.

The Maus School, built in 1869, also remains part of the historic property, although it is currently closed to the public following years of vandalism.

For a church originally built through the efforts of local residents, the latest chapter in its history is once again being shaped by community involvement.

Those interested in purchasing a \$20 annual membership, submitting a logo design or learning more about the Paris Plains Church Historical Society can email parisplainschurch@gmail.com.



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How Just Like Family Home Care Can Work Alongside Ontario Health atHome

RYAN GRAHAM

Just Like Family Homecare

When a loved one needs help at home, many Ontario families turn to Ontario Health atHome for publicly funded services. Depending on an individual's needs and eligibility, these services may include personal support workers (PSWs), nursing, rehabilitation and other supports designed to help people remain safely at home.

But what happens when publicly funded care doesn't cover everything your loved one needs?

That's where Just Like Family Home Care Brantford can help.

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Receiving services through Ontario Health atHome doesn't mean you have to choose between publicly funded and private home care. Private services can supplement the care a person is already receiving.

Ontario Health atHome assesses an individual's needs and determines their eligibility for publicly funded services. If those services don't provide all the assistance your loved one requires, Just Like Family Home Care Brantford can help fill the gaps.

For example, someone may receive a publicly funded PSW visit in the morning but still need help later in the

day. A Just Like Family caregiver or PSW can provide additional support in the afternoon, evening or on weekends.

Our services can include personal care, meal preparation, light house-keeping, laundry, mobility assistance, companionship, grocery shopping, respite for family caregivers and longer visits when additional assistance is needed.

Our goal isn't to replace Ontario Health atHome. It's to build additional support around the services already available to you.

We Can Advocate Alongside You

Navigating Ontario's home-care system can be challenging, particularly when a loved one's needs are changing.

Just Like Family can advocate alongside clients and families for more comprehensive support.

Because our caregivers spend meaningful time with clients, they may observe needs that aren't always apparent during an assessment. Changes in mobility, difficulty preparing meals, increased personal-care needs, caregiver exhaustion or concerns about safely remaining at home can be important when someone's care requirements are reviewed.

With permission, we can help document these concerns and support

conversations with Ontario Health atHome and other members of the care team.

While decisions about publicly funded services remain with Ontario Health atHome, you don't have to navigate those conversations alone.

Building a More Complete Circle of Care

Once you know what services Ontario Health atHome will provide, Just Like Family can help identify gaps and create a private care schedule that works alongside those services.

When your loved one's needs change, we can also help communicate those changes and advocate for reassessment or additional support.

At Just Like Family Home Care, our goal is to help people remain safe, comfortable and independent at home while giving their families greater peace of mind.

Need Help Putting the Right Care in Place?

Contact Just Like Family Home Care today for a free, no-obligation care consultation. We'll discuss the support your loved one currently receives, identify potential gaps and explain how we can work alongside Ontario Health atHome.

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Nominations are now open for the 2026 Volunteer Recognition Awards

MEDIA RELEASE

The County of Brant is excited to invite the community to submit nominations for the 2026 Volunteer Recognition Awards. Celebrating its 3rd year, the awards provide an opportunity to highlight those that make the contribution of volunteering throughout our communities.

"I see firsthand the impact that volunteers have on our community," said Mayor David Bailey. "From community events to sports organizations, these people are the

heart of Brant. Taking the time to honour and celebrate their contributions is incredibly important."

Three (3) categories are open for nominations: Emerging Leader, Community Leader and Community Impact.

Category details include:

Emerging Leader (Individual, 10-24 years of age): Recognizes a young individual who demonstrates leadership through volunteering and strengthens the community through their efforts.

Community Leader (Individual): Rec-

ognizes an individual who has been an inspiring leader and mentor, making a positive impact through their volunteer work.

Community Impact (Group): Celebrates a nonprofit group that has positively impacted the community through innovation and collaboration.

Make a nomination today!

We welcome our community in joining us in celebrating our community volunteers by taking the time to make a nomination. Nominate today by visiting the County of Brant website at www.brant.ca/Volunteer.

or contact us directly at 519-44BRANT (519-442-7268) / Toll-free 1.855.44BRANT ext 3254. Nominations are now open and will close on Thursday, **November 12, 2026.**

The 2026 Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony will be held in early December. We look forward to recognizing and showing our appreciation for the incredible volunteers who help make the County of Brant a great place to live, work and play.

This week in Brant County Sports!

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Correspondent

Paris Mounties

At the deadline, the Mounties are in 4th place with a 3-win, 4-loss, 1-tie record. Last Saturday, they returned home to play the Wellesley Applejacks at the Brant Sports Complex, and on Sunday, the Hespeler Shamrocks.

This coming Saturday, October 17, they will welcome the Tavistock Braves at the Brant Sports Complex.

Brant County River Riverhawks

The NPHL Senior Hockey team opened this year's schedule with a 6-3 loss to the Strathroy Jets. The team had their home opener last Saturday at the Burford Community Center and will report on that next week.

This Saturday night in Burford, the Tilbury Bluebirds are the visitors. Puck drop is 7:30 pm.

PDHS Sports

Girls Basketball

Last week, the Juniors split their two games: a close loss to McKinnon SS and their first home win, edging out Pauline Johnson 28-26. Ellie Parker, Natalie Haines, and Lau-

ren DeMunk led the scoring.

Also, last week the Seniors lost a close one to McKinnon Park 36-34, but like the Juniors, they edged out PJ, 24-23. Leading Scorers for the Panthers: Hailey Maxwell, Peyton Andree and Elisha Letona,

Boys Volleyball

The Junior Panthers played only one game against Pauline Johnson and won 3-1.

The Seniors played two games last week and defeated McKinnon Park, 3-0. Next up was a visit to PJ, and they won that game 3 games to 1. The Panthers, with a 4-1 record, are tied for second place with North Park.

Boys Football

Last Saturday, the Panthers Paris played their last home

games for both the Junior and Senior sides.

The Juniors lost to North Park 35-13 and last Thursday lost to St. John's 22-13.

The Seniors lost to North Park 21-13 last Saturday. The Seniors play BCI next Friday at 7 pm at the Kiwanis field.

Boys Baseball

Last Monday's doubleheader began with a 17-5 loss to Delhi SS and ended with a 6-0 win over Dunnville SS. The Panthers, with 3 wins and 3 losses, finish off their season by taking on Valley Heights in their first game and Waterford HS.

Girls Fastball

The second-place Panthers swept Simcoe 7-0 and tomorrow will play North Park and Caledonia.

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* Authorized by the campaign Re-elect John Bell in Ward 3.



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY)

Junior volleyball action was in full swing on Sept. 29 as Paris District High School took on St. John's College in an exciting matchup on the court.

Paris physician earns national recognition for innovative family planning platform

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

A Paris physician who has dedicated her career to helping families navigate medical emergencies and difficult decisions is receiving national recognition for an innovative platform designed to help Canadians prepare for life's unexpected challenges.

Dr. Laura Shoots, an emergency physician at Brant Community Healthcare System and founder of Take Care, has been named to the inaugural Canada Small Business 100 (CSB100), presented by Mastercard.

The national recognition program, created by GLORY Media, celebrates small businesses demonstrating leadership, innovation, community impact, customer experience and long-term excellence. The inaugural honourees were announced Oct. 6 during the Mastercard Small Business Summit in Toronto.

For Shoots, who lives in Paris and was born at Brantford General Hospital, the recognition marks another significant milestone for a business inspired by her firsthand experiences working in emergency medicine.

"To be named to the Canada Small Business 100 so early in our journey is an incredible honour," said Dr. Laura Shoots, founder and CEO. "In the ER, I see what a difference it makes when a family has planned ahead together. This recognition tells us that families and partners across the country see that need too."

Launched in April 2025, Take Care is a secure, online platform designed to help families organize important information before a medical emergency, unexpected illness or death.

The platform provides a centralized location for healthcare wishes, powers of attorney, important documents and other practical information that loved ones, executors or substitute decision-makers may need during a crisis. Users can control who has access to specific information and when it becomes available.

The goal is to eliminate some of the confusion, stress and uncertainty families often experience when faced with difficult decisions. Shoots has been actively sharing that message within her own community. Earlier this year, she hosted a free online seminar aimed at helping families prepare for medical emergencies and unexpected loss.

The June webinar focused on organizing important documents, understanding powers of attorney, preparing executors for their responsibilities and encouraging families to have conversations about their wishes before a crisis occurs.

"When a crisis hits, families are often left scrambling—unsure of their loved one's wishes, overwhelmed by decisions, and forced to navigate paperwork at the worst possible time," Shoots said ahead of the June event. "With a little preparation, we can help families face these moments with love, not fear."

Beyond her work in emergency medicine and entrepreneurship, Shoots teaches McMaster University family medicine residents and holds a master's degree in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety from the University of



Paris physician Dr. Laura Shoots, founder and CEO of Take Care, has been named to the inaugural Canada Small Business 100, presented by Mastercard, recognizing her innovative platform that helps families prepare for medical emergencies and unexpected life events.

Toronto. Her combination of medical experience, education and commitment to improving patient and family experiences has helped shape the development of Take Care.

The national recognition is the latest in a series of accomplishments for the relatively young company.

Take Care was selected for the inaugural cohort of Springboard Enterprises' Longevity Accelerator, a New York-based network that has spent 25 years supporting women-led startups.

The company also won \$10,000 through Startup Canada's Equal Slice Pitch competition.

This summer, Shoots earned an opportunity to pitch Take Care on the main stage at Startupfest in Montreal after being selected as one of the top three companies in her cohort.

The growing recognition is helping position the Brant County-founded business for further expansion.

Take Care currently reaches families through wealth advisory firms, home care organizations and direct purchases through its website. With increasing national interest,

the company is now seeking additional investors and partnerships to support its next phase of growth.

While the accolades highlight the business's success, its underlying mission remains rooted in a challenge Shoots regularly witnesses in the emergency department: families being forced to make important decisions without knowing their loved one's wishes.

Through its guiding philosophy, Plan. Share. Take Care., the platform encourages Canadians to have those conversations early, organize essential information and ensure loved ones are better prepared when the unexpected happens. For more information about Take Care, visit www.takecaretogether.ca.

A Century of Memories: Elsie Catherwood Celebrates 100 Years



A milestone worth celebrating! Elsie Catherwood marked her 100th birthday earlier this month at St. James Anglican Church, surrounded by family, friends and local dignitaries. Reflecting on a century of memories, Elsie shared a lighthearted thought: "I don't remember all the years, but most of them."



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TICKETS

A tribute to Salah Bachir (1955–2026): A quiet titan of generosity who left Paris better than he found it

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

The news of Salah Bachir's passing on October 8, 2026, at the age of 71, carries a profound weight, not just for the Canadian arts community, human rights advocates, and healthcare institutions where his name is legendary, but right here in Paris, Ontario.

I first encountered the name Salah Bachir in May 1995, as Paris marked 50 years since the end of the Second World War, under circumstances that sounded like local folklore. Rumours swept through town that Hollywood royalty, Douglas Fairbanks Jr., was stopping in Paris to pay tribute at our cenotaph. As it turned out, the visit was real, and it had been arranged entirely by Bachir, who had recently purchased and restored the historic Charles Whitlaw house into his country retreat.

That introduction was only the beginning of a decades-long relationship between Bachir and our town. While the world knew him as a publisher, art collector, and Order of Canada recipient, Paris knew him as the quiet benefactor who stepped up whenever our community needed help.

When our town's downtown Christmas decorations were in dire need of replacement, Salah quietly bought them. When our annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony faced cancellation, he stepped in to save it. His generosity helped to improve our town: spaces at the Brant Sports Complex and the Cowan Health Hub bear the names of Salah Bachir and his husband, Jacob Yerex, honoring their support in bringing those vital facilities to life.

When Salah published his memoir, *First to Leave the Party*, I had the opportunity to write about him for *The Paris Independent*. True to form, he was gracious, sharp, and deeply humble about a life spent lifting others up.

In his final message to the world, written in his own words before his passing after a prolonged illness, Salah reflected on a life full of joy, purpose, and gratitude:

"Salah John Bachir. October 3, 1955 - October 8, 2026

Salah wrote this before he passed. He spent the end of

his life surrounded by family and friends, after a prolonged illness.

I have had an amazing life that I am lucky to have shared with my wonderful husband, Jacob Yerex, two brothers and two sisters, eight nieces and nephews, eight grandnieces and nephews, 15 godchildren and a fantastic daughter, all of whom have brought me immense joy.

It is my greatest source of pride that my work in the arts, social justice and philanthropy has been recognized so generously: I am a member of the Order of Canada and of the Order of Ontario, have received five honorary doctorates and many other awards I am most thankful for, and was proud to serve as chancellor at OCAD U. Two of St. Joseph's dialysis centres in Toronto are named for Jacob and I, and a wing at The 519 community centre carries my name, as do spaces at the Art Gallery of Ontario and elsewhere.

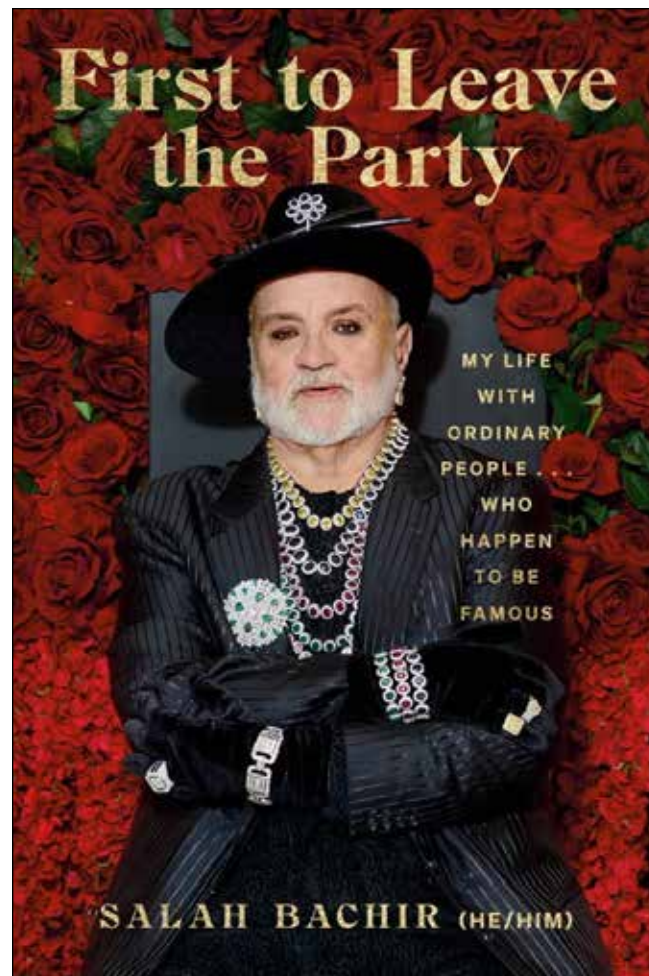
Other sources of personal pride include having the best olive oil - Salah's Gold - from our olive groves in the Lebanese village where I was born; having twice served as the Grand Marshal of the Toronto Pride parade; and the thrilling occasion of having k.d.lang sing at our wedding.

I feel as though I have lived several lives and I am profoundly grateful to the friends, family and colleagues whose support has helped me realize my dreams and make my achievements possible.

It would be impossible for me to adequately express my love and thanks to Jacob, my husband of 20 years, whose strength, patience, devotion, loyalty and unfailing good humour have been my greatest joy and comfort throughout our years together. I am also grateful for the amazing care, love, and support I have received from my incredible nurse Nida Caringal.

My medical journey has been long, and there are many people who deserve my thanks, first among them my kidney donor in 2019, Tracey Agnew.

My heartfelt thanks also go to my GPs over the years, Dr. Jonathan Luetkehoelter and Dr. David Tilly, for their love and care, and to Dr. Edward Cole, Dr. Kevin Smith, and the nurses and doctors at Toronto General Hospital. Also,



to Dr. Joanna Sasal, Dr. Adriana Berbec, Maria Dyck and everyone at St. Joe's in Toronto, my local hospital where I did my dialysis. Thank you as well to Dr. Christine Ribic, and the fantastic nurses at St. Joseph's Hamilton.

We have the best healthcare in the world in Canada - don't let anyone f*ck it up!

Thank you to my family and friends who took care of me with the best meals and company, and to my family in Lebanon, especially Nouha and Adnan Makary, and my sister Anissa Bachir for their constant love and support.

There will be a funeral visitation on October 14th from 7-9PM at the Turner & Porter Yorke chapel at 2357 Bloor Street West, Toronto. The funeral ceremony will be October 15th at 11am at the same location.

In lieu of sending anything like flowers, it would be greatly appreciated if donations could instead be made to the Salah Bachir Fund at the 519: the519.org/salah

Christopher, I never gave up.

Love, sjb"

To close his final message with a personal note, "Christopher, I never gave up", is a testament to the strength and warmth that defined everything Salah did. He never gave up on healthcare, on community, on art, or on making the world a kinder place for everyone around him.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to Jacob, his family, and his many friends across Canada and around the world. Paris is a far better place for having had Salah Bachir as part of its story.

Change begins with voting **Christine Garneau Bisailon for County of Brant Mayor**

Why Me? I am the only mayoral candidate who is providing realistic solutions to voters' concerns about taxes, construction, growth, transparency and community safety. With a background in business, farming, and governance, I am well prepared to lead Council's next four years!

Why Now? We cannot afford more of the same leadership that's resulted in rapidly rising property taxes, poorly managed growth and construction, and lost trust in local government.

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HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Johnston's Red & White, Fresh Steaks, Penny Candy, and Spotless Floors



By Chris Whelan

As we continue our tour of Paris's beloved neighbourhood small grocery and variety stores, our journey takes us to 45 Dumfries Street, the longtime home of Johnston's Red and White Food Mart.

For over four decades, Johnston's wasn't just a place to pick up fresh cuts of meat or a 20-cent loaf of bread; it was a cornerstone of daily life in Paris, anchored by three generations of the Johnston family.

The building at 45 Dumfries Street has a rich history of its own. Originally used as a Hudson's Bay blanket store, the structure was converted in 1950 when Balfour Johnston founded the family grocery business in the bustling "Upper Town".

Over the next 13 years, as more families moved into the area, the store expanded three times to keep up with the growing neighbourhood demand. Balfour ran the market until his retirement in 1975, at which point his son, Gordon "Gordie" Johnston, took the helm. Gordie had worked in the family shop for most of his life, aside from a three-year stint serving as a radio operator in the United States Marine Corps from 1956 to 1959.

Continuing the family tradition, Gordie's

daughter, Jen Johnston, worked alongside her father for many years, becoming a familiar, welcoming face behind the counter. As Jen fondly recalled on social media, "I worked at my Dad's store for many years. We had the best customers!"

While Johnston's operated as a full-service Red & White market carrying produce, dry goods, and pantry staples, it held a special place in the hearts of neighbourhood children. Just like its South End neighbours, Johnston's featured a popular penny candy counter where kids from across town would line up with coins in hand to pick out their favorite sweet treats.

For parents and grandparents, Johnston's was legendary for two things: its pristine condition and its high-quality meat counter. Former customer Tammie Anderson remembered the market as being famously clean and orderly, a standard maintained every single day.

Meanwhile, Gordie Johnston gained a reputation as one of the finest butchers in the area. Local resident Bruce Airdrie shared a story on the social media group "If you grew up in Paris", of bumping into Gordie at a modern day grocery store and telling him that the steaks on display here "were not as good as yours were, Gordie!"

Running a neighborhood store wasn't without its dramatic moments. On Sunday, June 25, 1978, a tractor-trailer jack-knifed on wet pavement while coming down Dundas Street toward Dumfries, slamming directly into the front of Johnston's Red and White. The crash destroyed the front of the building and sent equipment, coolers, and shelves flying five feet into the store, causing tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Yet, despite the destruction, Gordie worked tirelessly to repair the building and reopen his doors to the community as quickly as possible.

As the retail landscape shifted in the late 1980s and early 1990s, independent gro-



This truck of Canada's Conklin Shows of Brantford was headed for Windsor with a "scrambler" ride before it jack-knifed at the corner of Dundas and Dumfries streets in Paris today, hitting Johnston's Red and White Store.

Truck jack-knifes into Paris store

cers faced mounting pressure from big-chain supermarkets. Gordie was a vocal advocate for small business owners, raising concerns about how Sunday shopping policies favoured large corporate chains over independent family operations.

Sadly, changing consumer habits and a sluggish economy forced Johnston's Red and White now operating as Freshmart, to close its doors in May 1993 after 43 years of continuous service. At the time of the closing, Gordie reflected on the painful transition, noting, "I regret having to give up something I care about and worked so hard at."

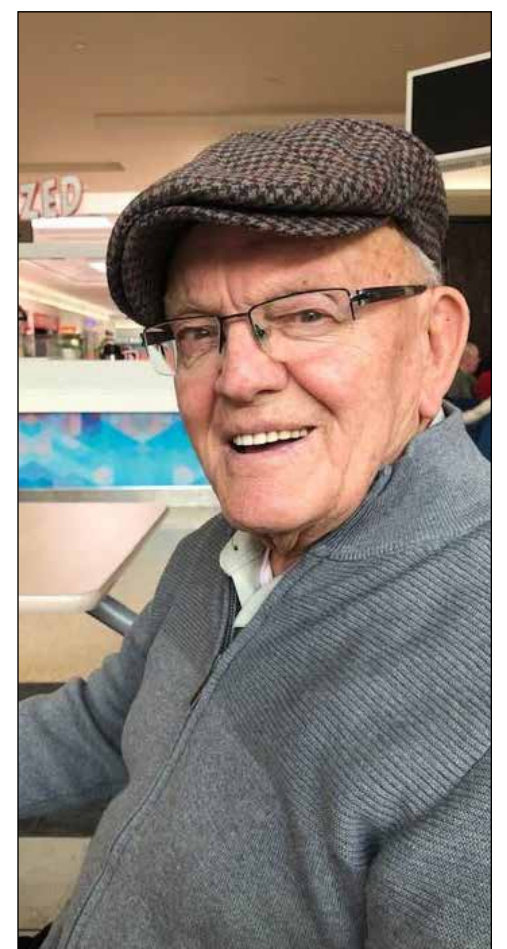
Though the Johnston's sign no longer hangs over 45 Dumfries Street, the legacy of Balfour, Gordie, and Jen Johnston lives on. Whether you remember spending 20 cents on a loaf of bread, picking out penny candy, or stopping in to chat with Gordie at the butcher counter, Johnston's Red & White represented the very best of local, family-run business in Paris.

In Memory of Gordie Johnston

A lifelong resident of Paris, Gord Johnston was a constant, cherished contributor to the Paris community, generously sharing the rich history of our town, its people, and our stories. His profound passion for preserving our shared heritage touched countless lives and continually brought the history of Paris to life for generations. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy and love for this town will never be forgotten. Gordon "Gordie" Johnston, passed away on Friday, July 17, 2026. May you rest in eternal peace Gordie, until we meet again.

Slainte'

Next Week in Paris Past: We continue our tour of neighbourhood variety stores. Do you have memories or photos of **The Paris Variety aka "PV"**? Send your stories and photos to: editor@theparisdependent.com



Private Napoleon Larin's long road home from the First World War



NEIL EDWARDS

Paris Independent Contributor

Napoleon Larin was born in Montreal, Quebec on November 5, 1885. He enlisted in Brantford on August 8, 1914, with the Dufferin Rifles, among the very first men to enlist in the First World War. At the time, he was married to Catherine McCaffery and was employed as a knitter at Penmans No.2 Mill. They lived on Willow Street at the time. The family attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Napoleon was 28 years of age.

Napoleon transferred to the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, G. Company, 4th Battalion, on September 22, 1914, at Valcartier, Quebec. He sailed from Quebec on the S.S. Tyrolia on October 3, 1914, with the first contingent of the Fourth Battalion.

Poly was admitted to No. 12 Stationary Hospital at Rouen on March 11, 1915, for Inflammation of connective tissue, often caused by trench conditions or blunt trauma, and was discharged on March 16 to the Convalescence Depot in Rouen. He was wounded again on April 29, 1915, and admitted to No. 11 Stationary Hospital in Rouen, this time for a wound to his left thigh, and was transferred to Canadian Base Detail, Rouen on May 3, 1915.

Poly's experience with the horrors of trench warfare had only begun. The 4th Battalion had been fighting in Ploegsteert, Belgium, a village at the very south of the area associated with Ypres, though technically not part of the Ypres Salient. It is only about two miles north of Armentieres, close to the French border and eight miles south of Ypres. Interestingly, it was the most famous and documented site of the event during the Christmas Truce of 1914, where roughly 100,000 British, French, and German troops participated in the informal ceasefire. On Christmas Eve 1914, German troops placed candles and small trees along their trench lines and began singing carols like "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night). Allied soldiers responded by singing their own carols across the frozen No Man's Land. This spontaneous exchange of music quickly led to men crossing the lines to share food, cigarettes, and play casual games of football (soccer).

Unfortunately, there was no sign of this humanity seven months later. The fighting that took place in the Ypres Salient came to typify the horror and futility of trench warfare in World War One. Ploegsteert was in Wallonia, not far from Flanders which was

made famous, or infamous, in the poem by John McCrae, "In Flanders Fields". Canadian soldiers often had trouble pronouncing the names of places where they fought. Ypres became Wipers; Ploegsteert became Plugstreet.

The battalion was fighting to regain ground that had been lost due to a German poison gas attack. Napoleon himself explained the circumstances of his injury:

"I was working at a loophole firing on a German working party behind their lines. I could not tell very well what results I was getting. An old house, which I believed to be deserted, was between the lines and from that location a German sniper spotted me. He could not have been farther away than 50 yards, but he put one through the two inch loophole and got me through the right jaw. My discharge paper says it happened on July 3, so I guess that proves it."

On July 7, 1915, Napoleon was reported to have been killed while on sniper duty on July 3, 1915, but on July 5, he was admitted to No. 20 General Hospital in Etaples, for a gunshot wound to his head and fractured lower jaw on the right side. The initial hospital examination notes revealed that he had received a horrific injury. Fate had not been on his side. Two days after he was injured, the Royal Montreal Regiment relieved the 4th Battalion in Ploegsteert Trenches on July 5.

Poly was transferred on July 12, 1915, to England to the Wharncliffe War Hospital in Sheffield, England, a major military medical facility. It was established in March 1915 when the South Yorkshire Asylum was loaned to the War Office and the civilian mental patients were evacuated to other asylums across the North of England. The site was transformed into a 1,500-bed military hospital which closed in 1920 and reverted to a psychiatric hospital. Several surgeries were performed on him there.

On October 28, 1915, he was transferred to Canadian Convalescent Hospital, in Monks Hood, Kent, a 650-bed tented facility with house included which was operated by the Canadian Army Medical Corps (CAMC), from May 1, 1915, to August 1, 1918, where it provided crucial rehabilitation for wounded Canadians prior to being returned to active duty or returned to Canada. A day later he was discharged to the Military Hospital in Shorncliffe, where he was assessed on November 2nd. He was diagnosed with absence of part of lower jaw and inability to abduct arm at his shoulder joint.

Poly was declared as permanently unfit for duty. He was discharged from his unit on November 11, 1915 and sailed to Canada on the S. S. Corsican on November 19. The Brantford Expositor reported on his reception back in Paris: "Private Napoleon Larin was given a rousing reception on his return from the front Monday. When the train from London arrived he was met by mayor Patterson and other prominent citizens, besides the Paris members of the 125th Brant Battalion, and escorted through the principal streets to his home,



Napoleon Larin, left, facing the camera, was among the first local men to enlist for service in the First World War. Larin, a knitter at Penmans No. 2 Mill, enlisted with the Dufferin Rifles in Brantford on Aug. 8, 1914, at the age of 28. He lived on Willow Street in Paris with his wife, Catherine McCaffery, and the family attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

his welcome being very enthusiastic."

However, Napoleon's return must also have made clear to the people of Paris some of the horrors of warfare. His injury was life-altering and it took many years of attempts to make his life easier. Napoleon was transferred to Toronto General Hospital in February, 1916 where a rib bone graft was performed. Due to suppuration, it was removed. Three months later a second attempt at bone grafting was done at Brantford General Hospital but 8 weeks later it was removed for the same reason. On April 27, he was living at home in Paris, but he was taken to the Central Military Convalescent Hospital in Toronto on November 24, 1916, and then back home. In October, 1919, he was admitted to military hospital at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec where he was examined and X-rayed and dental restoration and reconstruction began on November 6, 1919. On November 20, he was told to come back in two months for further dental work. He was admitted to Davisville Hospital, Toronto, on November 26, 1919, then transferred on Feb. 10, 1920 to Dominion Orthopaedic Hospital in Toronto where he underwent treatment until August 18, 1920.

In 1921 the phone book showed that the family still lived on Willow Street. However, his wife was from Vermont, and they moved back to her town and family for several years. They returned permanently to Paris in 1933. In 1939 a Voters List had them living at 16 Smith Street in Paris. In 1941, the family lived at 3 Broadway Street East, which was the site of the Paris Armoury. He was employed as a caretaker there until his retirement.

At the start of the Second World War, the Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada mobilized for active service on May 24, 1940. It was later redesignated the 1st Battalion, the Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada. It served in Canada in a home

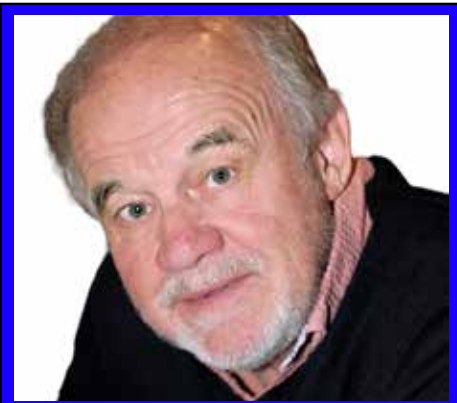
defence role as part of the 17th Infantry Brigade, 7th Canadian Division. The Ministry of National Defense had established a force to be known as the Veteran's Home Guard for the adequate protection of military property on the home front, freeing younger men for overseas duty by replacing the Canadian Provost Corps, the military police of the Canadian Army. Members of the Home Guard guarded facilities such as the 40 internment and POW camps operated across Canada during WW2. The battalion was disbanded on March 8, 1945. Napoleon Larin had been a member.

Private Napoleon Larin died on October 12, 1952, at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, where he had been for six weeks due to effects of his war injury. He was buried with military honours at the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery in Paris. He was 66 years of age.

Homes of Heroes has been busy researching World War One veterans, like Napoleon Larin, before they are lost forever. Does your family have a story to share? Then let us know at info@homesofheroes.ca. And you can read over 100 more stories by visiting our website, www.homesofheroes.ca.



LIVING RETIRED: 'Pumpkin Palooza'



By Gary Chalk
Non-Pulitzer Prize
Winning Columnist

Living Retired

my pumpkin prognosis. To paraphrase, she said, "My gourd Gary, it is October so of course you can properly predict patches of piled pumpkins."

Yesterday, I pulled into a Starbucks drive-thru. The attendant was a polite, pleasing person with a pleasant personality.

She asked, "Pumpkin spice latte?" "Please."

Continuing home I passed plenty of places providing pumpkins. A donut shop promoted 'Pumpkin Party Packs.' A Pontiac pulled in and parked. The plump passenger looked pleased, although the driver appeared particularly peeved.

On my car radio, Paul Penrice, the host

of the phone-in public affairs program and podcast 'Political Promises' said the proliferation of pumpkins pleases pumpkin producers but poses problems for police patrols already plagued with the petty politics of policing.

"Police patrolling pumpkin patches is problematic," Private Peter Paulson, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania Police pronounced. He went on to say, "The pervasiveness of pumpkins places pressure on patrolmen in their pursuit of public peace."

Next, the radio moderator introduced Peter Plaguer, the proud spokesperson for the 'Producers of Organic Pumpkins — 'POOP.' With pride, Plaguer said, "Without prejudice POOP producers are pumped and proud as punch."

Plaguer pontificated, "Previously, pumpkin prices plummeted which was problematic, particularly for pumpkin pie purveyors. The process isn't perfect but is possibly promising." Next up on the radio program was Pedro Pinkerton the representative for the 'Federation of Agriculture Research Teams — 'FART.'

Pinkerton purported, "Our previous position of plentiful pumpkins can no longer be promised. FART cannot prognosticate a picture-perfect prognosis for pumpkins."

Paul Penrice said, "Lets go to the phones. Philomena Peterson in Philadelphia Pennsylvania you're on the air."

"Hi Paul, thanks for taking my call. I'd like to ask your guests from POOP and FART if it is possible to add pumpkin to pablum?" I was appalled! PULL-EASE! The politics of POOP and FART are passé.

I pulled into our driveway, and parked. Jan was on the porch, pacing. "Where have you possibly been Gary? I thought we could do some housecleaning. Perhaps purge the pillows."

I paused. I pondered. I puked.

Living Retired is written by Gary Chalk and published throughout Canada and USA. To receive Living Retired by email each week, or to book Gary to bring his unique sense of humour to your service club, corporate event, or retirement party contact Gchalk@me.com.

County of Brant Fire Department urges residents to practice safe charging habits

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Fire Prevention Week may be over, but fire officials say the risks associated with lithium-ion batteries deserve year-round attention.

Fire Prevention Week wrapped up on Oct. 10, but the County of Brant Fire Department is reminding residents that fire safety doesn't end with the annual awareness campaign.

This year's Fire Prevention Week, held Oct. 4 to 10, focused on the growing use of lithium-ion batteries and the potential fire hazards associated with improper charging, storage and handling.

The campaign, led by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), carried

the theme "Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Superpower," encouraging residents to take a closer look at how they use and charge everyday electronic devices.

From cellphones and laptops to cordless power tools, e-bikes and electric scooters, rechargeable batteries have become a regular part of daily life. While convenient, lithium-ion batteries can pose serious fire risks when damaged, improperly charged or stored incorrectly. In some cases, they can overheat, catch fire or even explode.

"Lithium-ion batteries are convenient and are used in so many of the products we rely on every day," says County of Brant Fire Chief Darren Watson. "It is important to understand that these batteries can be-

come a serious fire hazard when they are damaged, improperly charged or not used as intended. Taking a few simple precautions can help keep your home and family safe."

The fire department is encouraging residents to adopt several simple safety practices to reduce the risk of battery-related fires.

When purchasing products containing lithium-ion batteries, consumers should look for recognized safety certification marks, such as UL, ETL or CSA, which indicate the product has been tested to meet established safety standards. Extra caution is recommended when purchasing unfamiliar or unbranded products, particularly online.

Using the correct charger is equally important. Residents should always use the charging cable and equipment supplied with their device or a replacement specifically approved by the manufacturer. Incompatible chargers can damage batteries and increase the risk of overheating.

Where devices are charged also matters. Fire officials recommend placing electronics on hard, flat surfaces, such as tables or desks, rather than beds, couches or beneath pillows, where heat can build up.

Residents should also watch for warning signs, including batteries that become un-

usually hot, swell, produce strange odours or begin smoking. Devices displaying these symptoms should no longer be used or charged.

Larger rechargeable batteries, commonly found in e-bikes, electric scooters and power tools, require additional precautions because they store more energy. These devices should be charged away from combustible materials and should never block doorways or emergency exits.

Proper disposal is another important part of battery safety. Lithium-ion batteries should never be placed in household garbage or regular recycling bins because they can create fire hazards during collection and processing.

Residents can find information about safe battery disposal options in the County of Brant at brant.ca/garbage.

Although Fire Prevention Week has concluded, the County of Brant Fire Department continues to encourage residents to make fire prevention part of their everyday routines.

Additional information about lithium-ion battery safety is available at www.fpw.org, while local fire prevention resources can be found at www.brant.ca/Fire.

Fire officials say taking a few extra minutes to charge devices properly, recognize potential warning sign.

Vote JOHN KEMP for Ward 1





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2026 Municipal and School Board Election

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- 519.44BRANT (442.7268)
- Toll-Free: 1.855.44BRANT



Monday, October 26

Voting will take place **online and by phone only**, with **in-person Voter Assistance Locations** also available. **Advance voting will begin on October 19** and run through to Election Day.



Here's what you need to know...



Watch for your **Voter Information Letter**



Eligible voters will receive a Voter Information Letter in the mail by October 12 with instructions on how to vote.
If you do not receive a letter, please contact the County.



Vote anytime from **October 19 to 26**

Voting opens October 19 at 9:00 am and closes on Election Day, October 26 at 8:00 pm. Follow the instructions included in your Voter Information Letter to cast your vote.



Need **help getting online** to vote?

Visit a County of Brant Customer Service Office, Library or a Voter Assistance Location listed below
For office and library hours, visit brant.ca/contactus or give us a call..

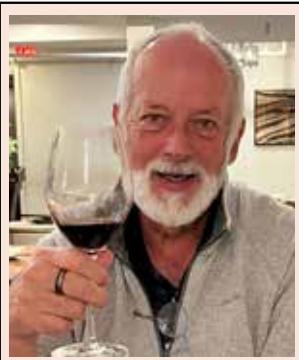
Need help voting?

In-person **Voter Assistance Locations** will be available through the County. Visit brant.ca/elections, scan the QR code, or contact us for more information.

Voter Assistance Locations

Location	Date/Time
• Airport Community Hall – 3 Airport Rd, Brant • Brant Sports Complex – 944 Powerline Rd, Paris • Burford Community Centre – 14 Potter Dr, Burford • TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre – 15 Ewart Ave, Cainsville • Cowan Community Health Hub – 25 Curtis Ave N, Paris • Gaukel Memorial Community Centre – 7 Gaukel Dr, St. George • Glen Morris Centennial Hall - 17 Dunbar Street, Glen Morris • Onondaga Community Hall – 42 Brantford St, Onondaga • Paris Customer Service Office (Gallagher Room) Lisa's Way, 66 Grand River St N, Paris • Scotland Community Centre – 85 Simcoe St, Scotland • *Cedarview Church – 20 Cedar St, Paris	Advance Polls Monday, October 19 - Sunday, October 25 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily *October 25 – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Election Day Monday, October 26 - 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
• North Ward School – 107 Silver St, Paris	Advance Polls Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Election Day Monday, October 26 – 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
• Sojourn Church – 112 Scott Ave, Paris	Advance Polls Monday, October 19 – Friday, October 23 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Advance Polls Monday, October 19 – Friday, October 23 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Election Day Monday, October 26 – 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
County of Brant Customer Service Offices • Burford, 26 Park Ave • Paris, 66 Grand River St N	

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Time-travelling in Tarragona



By Paul Knowles



The Tarragona amphitheatre sits near the Mediterranean seashore. (PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

"In Tarragona, you can't move soil, or you will find Roman remains." If I thought this was an exaggeration by our guide, I soon realized I was wrong – this Spanish city is absolutely chock-a-block with 2,000-year-old evidence of Roman civilization.

If you are anything like me – and I sincerely hope you do not bear such a curse – you find ancient ruins to be absolutely fascinating. I think it becomes we live in a land that, from the perspective of architectural ruins, is a "new world." A building 200 years old in Canada is astonishing; it's a recent renovation in Spain.

But still, walking around a city where large bits of Roman buildings still stand, next door to modern shops and homes, is an amazing experience. And it doesn't come much more amazing than in Tarragona, this city

on the Mediterranean coast, an hour and a bit from Barcelona.

Like many – probably most – European cities, Tarragona has a history going back before accurate records. The Phoenicians were probably here in the 7th century B.C. The Romans were certainly here from the first century B.C. until the fall of the Roman Empire in the mid-5th century. Roman Catholic Popes were here – or at least, a would-be Pope, crowned as such at the time of the "Great Schism," when there were actually three Popes claiming the title – one in Rome, one in Avignon and one in Tarragona.

Supporters of one of the other Popes attempted to limit the field by poisoning the Tarragona prelate, but he survived, and lived to be

over 90.

The so-called Pope was not the only public figure to claim heavenly status in Tarragona. Centuries earlier, the Roman Emperor Octavius Caesar chose this site for his declaration of personal divinity.

We were in Tarragona as guests of Viking on a terrific Mediterranean Cruise, and I found the visit to Tarragona to be one of the most interesting excursions on the voyage that took us from Rome to Barcelona.

Today, Tarragona is a city in the region of Catalonia, home to seven million inhabitants, and still a very busy fishing port. Our guide told us that Tarragona fishers are responsible for half of all the fishing in Catalonia.

But frankly, while the modern city is interesting,

it was all of the evidence of Roman life here that grabbed my attention. I'm not alone in this perspective – Tarragona's ruins are so important that they have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Roman evidence continues to have so much impact on the city that the entire central city plan continues to follow what our guide called "the Roman urbanistic plan." Even the impressive Roman Catholic Cathedral, built starting in the 14th century, sits squarely on the site of a Roman temple.

And right in the heart of the city is an amazingly well-preserved Roman circus – a first-century chariot-racing arena.

The circus, once the site of two-horse chariot and four-horse chariot races, is

one of the best preserved such treasures in the world. We visited part of the track, and, perhaps even more interesting, saw extensive spectator seating facilities sitting directly below much more modern houses.

Through the city centre, you will find large section of still-standing walls, begging for both historical research and selfie moments. We did both.

Equally impressive is the Roman Amphitheatre, sitting near the seashore and still a splendid sight from the roadside high above the theatre.

While Tarragona is filled with large, significant Roman ruins, there are also less obvious bits of evidence of that crucial period in western civilization. The walls of houses and shops have bits and pieces of Roman buildings re-used as construction materials.

In fact, our guide told us, one of the biggest problems facing today's heritage conservators is that the Amphitheatre, the Circus, the walls and other Roman buildings were used as quarries for readily available construction materials in more recent centuries. This practice is entirely illegal today, of course.

We visited a lot of historical Roman sites during our time in Tarragona, but still

managed only to see about half of the significant ruins. Also found in and around the city are a Pretorium tower, two fora (provincial and colonial government meeting places), a Necropolis (burial place), the palace of Augustus, and several other towers, arches, and roadways. Rome certainly left its mark on this Spanish city. There are plenty of legends around Tarragona, as well. One suggests that the city's origins date back more than 2,000 years B.C. Another says that St. Paul came to Tarragona, and thus, "Tarragona became the gate of Christianity," to quote our guide.

What is known for sure is that Caesar Augustus (who reigned over the burgeoning Empire from 27 BC to 14 AD) spent his winters in Tarragona. Thus establishing a tourism tradition that continues to this day. The Emperor enjoyed his visits to the place; so will modern-day travelers looking to get up close and personal with ancient history.

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.



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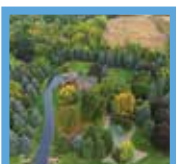


SHELLY GRACEY

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41 GRIFFITHS DR, PARIS
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ANDREA CLENDENNING

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7 BEDS | 4 BATHS

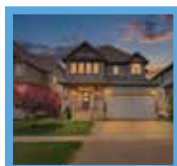


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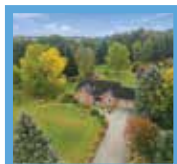


ANDREA CLENDENNING

MLS #: 40866669

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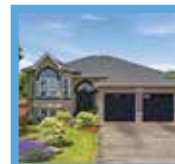


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OBITUARY

Read



Melanie Read

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beautiful Mel, peacefully at home in Paris on the 4th of October, surrounded by those most precious to her, following her long and courageous battle with ovarian cancer. She was not ready to leave us and fought with incredible strength and bravery right until the very end, but ultimately, it simply became too much for her body. Mel leaves behind her loving husband and soul mate of 30 years, Dan, and her beloved sons, Jake and Finn, who were the centre of her universe. She also leaves behind a large family of relatives, friends, colleagues and loved ones whose lives were made infinitely better by knowing her. She will be deeply missed

by all who had the privilege of being in her world.

Mel was truly one of a kind. She loved fiercely, cared deeply and would do anything for anyone. She had a huge heart, a beautiful soul and a smile that could light up a room. She and Dan were always “Team Dan and Mel,” and together they built a life filled with love, family, adventure and lasting memories. Born in the UK she became a proud Canadian and made Canada her home. She was a devoted mother who raised two amazing, independent and strong boys who will carry her legacy to the next generation. She was proud of her role as an Occupational Therapist. This was what she did best. Caring for people and giving back to the community. Above all, Mel lived a full life filled with love and, despite its heartbreaking ending, had no regrets. She touched an extraordinary number of lives, and the world will be a darker, quieter place without her. Her family was her greatest achievement, and she was loved more deeply than words can ever express. After everything she endured, Mel can finally rest. Sleep well, Mel. You will always be loved, always be missed, and forever be part of us.

A Memorial Service will be held at the Dwayne D. Budgell Funeral Home, 1105 Rest Acres Rd, Paris, ON, on Wednesday October 14th, 2026, in the Funeral Home Chapel at 11:00 a.m. Mel’s service will be livestreamed starting at 10:50 a.m. Donations to a charity of your choice in Mel’s memory would be appreciated by the family.

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

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OBITUARY

Sirje Margit Kann-Fortey-Hallett



Sirje Margit Kann-Fortey-Hallett

Passed away peacefully on Sept 16, 2026.

Ema (mother) to Siiri, Mihkel and Leo, Omamma (grandmother) to Kartir, Konnrad, Keenen, Patrick, Katriina, Shelby and Ezri, cherished cousin and aunt, a Master Gardener and member of the Paris Horticultural Society, a life long Girl Guides member and friend to many.

Please join us for her Celebration of Life, taking place at 233 Grand River St N, Paris, on October 24 between 12-5pm.

The Paris Independent

SUBMIT YOUR HELP WANTED, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR BUSINESS DIRECTORY ADS.

Email us at info@theparisindependent.com or call 519-655-2341



WEEKLY
Horoscope
October 14 - October 21 2026

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20



Fresh ideas brighten your outlook, Aries. Embrace change and trust your instincts as new opportunities arise.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21



A calm approach helps you move forward with confidence. Stay patient—it encourages progress and lasting rewards ahead. A little patience helps.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 21



A lively conversation sparks new ideas, Gemini. An unexpected moment brings curiosity and fresh perspective. Keep exploring—it encourages creativity and opens exciting opportunities ahead

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22



A kind gesture lifts your spirits, Cancer. Someone’s support brings comfort and strengthens meaningful connections.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23



Your confidence grows, Leo. Recent efforts bring encouraging results and new opportunities. Keep shining and trust your hard work to bring rewards.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22



A clear plan helps you move closer to your goals. Trust your instincts—it encourages growth and reveals exciting possibilities ahead. Stay calm.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23



A pleasant surprise brings balance and optimism. A friendly conversation sparks inspiration and joy. Stay open to new possibilities.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22



Small steps build confidence and motivation. Trust your timing and keep believing in yourself.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21



An exciting idea catches your attention, Sagittarius. Follow your curiosity—it encourages discovery and opens promising opportunities.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20



Your hard work brings fresh optimism. Stay determined—it encourages achievement and opens rewarding possibilities.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18



Fresh inspiration brightens your outlook, Aquarius. Trust your creative ideas as new possibilities emerge. Stay curious and confident—it encourages progress, sparks excitement, and opens doors to rewarding opportunities ahead.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20



A peaceful moment brings joy, comfort, and optimism. Trust your heart as new beginnings strengthen connections and reveal rewarding possibilities ahead.

Herd Dispersal Live Auction Sale
of 135 Bred Cows/Heifers
Saturday November 21, 11:00am

to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON
Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side. Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Cattle: (79)Heifers: (18)Char, (17)Blk Simm, (33)Angus, (11)Red -1st time calvers, bred Angus & Limo, vacc. (18) X-bred Heifers - bred Black Angus, vacc. (17) Angus Heifers - bred Black Angus. (10) Blk Angus cows - all bred Black Angus, vacc. (8) Charolais Cows - bred Charolais, vacc. (3) Mixed Cows - with calf at side, vacc. All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.

Lunch Booth Washroom Available

Terms & Conditions: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

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Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - full listing & photos

Riddles

What do you call a tree that doubts everything in autumn?
An un-belief-able tree

--

What is a leaf's favourite subject in school?
Tree-gonometry

--

What falls in October but never gets hurt?
The leaves

--

Why did the scarecrow win an award?
He was outstanding in his field

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 22

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
— Mahatma Gandhi

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

GHOST

Meet our Pet of the Week:
Ghost , the Irish Wolfhound and Dr. Lawn have become very good friends with a little help from the liver treats. Its a good thing since they are almost the same height- they definitely have the same length of legs!

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



Word Search

FALL FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

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

- HAYRIDE
- MAZE
- APPLES
- CIDER
- CORN
- PIE
- BAKES
- MUSIC
- DARTS
- RIDES
- GAMES
- CLOWNS
- CRAFTS
- DANCE
- BONFIRE
- PUMPKIN
- HAY
- FARM
- TRACTOR
- CANDY
- DONUTS
- FUDGE
- CHILI
- RAFFLE
- PARADE
- BINGO
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- PRIZES

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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.

FOR SALE

Delicious Freezer Lamb. Grass-fed, organic, pasture-raised just outside Paris Whole and half lambs, custom-butchered near Simcoe. Available for pick-up in October. Please e-mail ASAP for details and to reserve yours: tricianunan@gmail.com.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Wellington | 6. Twelve |
| 2. Iron | 7. Play-Doh |
| 3. Michelangelo | 8. True |
| 4. China | 9. Moby-Dick |
| 5. Joe Frazier | 10. Prince Edward Island |

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

The Catholic Women's League Monthly Meeting - The Catholic Women's League will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 14th at 7 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 17 Washington Street, Paris.

Social Meet & Greet - 100 People Who Care Brant are hosting a social meet and greet at the Wilkins Family Community Centre in Paris (Paris Lawn Bowling Club property) on Wednesday, October 14 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Light refreshments will be provided. Anyone interested in the community-minded group is welcome to attend.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 22 & 29

The Little String Orchestra Rehearsals - The Little String Orchestra Rehearsals will be held at the Hellenic Centre, 475 Park Rd. N., Brantford. Junior orchestra is at 6:00 p.m., Senior at 7:00 -8:30 p.m. New members are welcome. For more information visit: www.thelittlestringorchestra.com

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 & 27

Brant Men of Song Choir Practices - The Brant Men of Song will be holding their choir practices on Tuesdays on October 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th at the First Baptist Church 70 West St., Brantford from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. New members are always welcome to attend and enjoy some singing.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Brant Men of Song Harmony Concert - The Brant Men of Song are giving a charity concert at Harmony United Church, 268 Marlborough Street, Brantford on October 17th at 7 pm. Special guests will feature Kevin Williams' Trio; folk singer Ian Bell; and the Bell City Strummers Ukulele Group. Admission is by financial contribution to the Harmony Breakfast Learning Club.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Oxford Philatelic Society Circuit Book (Stamp) Fair - Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario.. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Free Admission & Parking. Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs. Contact: dheaton3e3@gmail.com.

The Brantford Symphony Orchestra - Crescents "When All Other Lights Go Out: Beethoven & Shore" with Guest Conductor Shawn Bennett on Saturday, October 24 (7:30pm) at the Sanderson Centre. Tickets are \$45 for adults, \$10 for students, children & elementary students are FREE. For more info and to purchase tickets go to: brantfordsymphony.ca.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

Grand River Women's Probus Club - grandriver.probuscanada.ca - invites semi-retired and retired women to its monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to noon at Best Western Hotel, 19 Holiday Dr., Brantford. Come for friendship, fellowship and a fun sing-along of 50's, 60's and 70's music conducted by musician Steve Oros. New faces are always welcome! See the website for attendance details.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - The Knights of Columbus will be holding their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 27th at 7:30 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish hall at 17 Washington Street, Paris.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Brant Plants - Native Pollinator Plants & Trees, hosted by Brant for Nature Group beginning at 10 am at Watts Pond Rd. For more information visit www.brantfornature.ca.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

St. Paul's United Church Soup Lunch - 12:00-1:00PM at St. Paul's United Church 48 Broadway St Paris. ALL WELCOME!

NOVEMBER 13 - 15

35th Annual Christmas in Paris Juried Artisan Market - Don't miss the 35th Annual Christmas in Paris Juried Artisan Market at the Paris Fairgrounds. Loads of handmade treasures. An incredible lineup of talented artisans. And ALL the Christmas vibes. The \$2 admission fee supports local high school bursaries. November 13, 1 pm to 8 pm; November 14, 9:30 am to 5 pm; November 15, 11 am to 4 pm.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Family Games Night - Free drop-in program at the Paris Baptist Church. Info email office@parisbaptist.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

35th Annual Christmas in Paris Jingle Bell Night Artisan Market - Mark your calendar for the 18th Annual Jingle Bell Night in downtown Paris. Entertainment, tree lighting and sales. Details to follow soon.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Christmas Party Club - Grades JK-6. Friday Dec. 4, 7-9 p.m at the Paris Baptist Church. Free program, limited spaces. Register at parisbaptistchurch.org.

EVERY THURSDAY

Euchre - Join us for euchre at the St. George Lawn Bowling Club, 8 Thompson St., St. George. Thursday afternoons, beginning October 15th, from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. Admission: \$3.00 includes coffee/tea & cookies. Accessible building. For information, call Laura (519) 448-4789.

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree - Every other Friday, 1-4pm be fall-ish and come to the Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree at Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll. Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! October 2, 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

MONDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAY

SHORT MAT bowling! - The fun doesn't end when the summer is over at St. George Lawn Bowling Club. Join us for "short mat" bowling at the Gaukel Community Centre, beginning October 15th through April 30th. Times available Monday and Friday from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. and Thursday evening from 7:00 - 9:00. For information and to register, contact: Ken Robinson @kenjrobinson48@gmail.com.

MONTHLY

Kiwanis Club of Paris Meeting - The Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant meets monthly at the Paris Legion #29 at 6:30 PM on the second Monday. Enquiries: kiwanisparisbrant@gmail.com.



October Meat Draw Saturday
October 24
Paris Legion
2:00PM - 5:00PM
\$5.00 gives TWO chances to win on each draw
LIVE MUSIC
with Sue Serre



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Dan MUYS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FLAMBOROUGH-GLANBROOK-BRANT NORTH

CANADA HAS IT ALL. MORE ACTION IS NEEDED TO MEET THE MOMENT

Bill C-39 before Parliament is a start and needs improvement. But taxes, regulations and supply chains need fixing too.



Canada is in the midst of an economic transition as we grapple with unjustified tariffs from our largest trading partner at the whim of an erratic U.S. President.

Yes we are blessed with natural resources and smart people.. We have every reason to be booming if we can unleash Canada's great potential. But we need to build faster to make it happen. With Parliament debating Bill C-39 to get major projects build faster, this is timely.

It's happening at a time of economic headwinds faced by Canadians -- in September, the Canadian economy shed 68,000 jobs and cost-of-living continues to be top-of-mind, particularly evident in the grocery stores this past Thanksgiving weekend.

All the more reason that we need more action and less talk at the federal level when it comes to getting shovels in the ground.

I had the opportunity to question a Liberal minister and MPs from all parties on this during debate in the House of Commons last week. Back in June 2025, I was on the Committee that worked across party lines to pass Bill C-5 which set up the Major Projects Office and tore down some of the inter-provincial trade barriers. It was a Liberal government Bill made better with a number of Conservative amendments that everyone could agree with.

However, it's now 15 months later, progress has been too slow. Over 500 projects have been referred to the Major Projects Office for approval and to date it's 27 that have been approved, according to the Minister's answer.

Meanwhile, countries like The Netherlands, Germany and Finland are able to build LNG intake facilities in four to six months.

The crux of Bill C-39 is to get approvals through in a year. However, the legislation as drafted leaves serious concerns about long understood and valued labour rights and assessment processes and consultations (environment, indigenous, community and more). Which is why the Opposition hopes to test the government's claims, identify weaknesses and pursue the amendments needed to improve C-39 as it now goes before Committee in the legislative process. Just as was done with C-5 – quickly and with cross-party support. After all, we all share

the urgency that in this trade war, Canada needs to diversify our trade.

Yes, Canada has everything the world needs and wants. But we also need to ensure we get our own house in order so we can harness our potential.

If we want quicker approvals, we should designate economic zones and resource corridors now, so assessments can be done in advance and with the appropriate rigour. Anti-development laws are barriers that need to be removed. Our ports need to be expanded so we can get goods overseas and not just north-south. Already the Port of Montreal and Port of Vancouver are receiving federal support and national interest designation but there's more to do. A Port at Churchill has long be discussed. Supply chains feeding the Ports need a lot of improvement. A National Supply Chain Task Force make numerous recommendations in October 2022, four years ago. Time to act.

Canada also needs tax and regulatory reform so we can attract business investment to our economy. We have lagged the western world and over a trillion dollars in investment has left. Yes, a half-trillion in new investment has been promised at summits, but we're still peddling backwards on the past few decades.

The opportunity for Canada to stand on our own two feet, with the genius of our people and the resources we've been blessed with is the real opportunity and the antidote to the economic headwinds. Now is the time for more action to get it done.