

The Paris Independent

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THE JOY OF THE GAME (MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)

Excitement fills the diamond as athletes and volunteers celebrate the success of PYSAs inaugural Challenger Baseball Try-It Day at Lions Park on Saturday, May 30. The adaptive baseball program, led in partnership with the Blue Jays Care Foundation, gives children and youth living with physical and cognitive disabilities a chance to experience the game in a welcoming and supportive environment. See more photos and article on page 13.

Youth Appreciation Day returns, inspiring next generation of community leaders

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

After a six-year hiatus, a long-standing Paris tradition returned this spring, giving local students a behind-the-scenes look at the people

and organizations that help keep their community running.

The Paris Optimist Club's Youth Appreciation Day welcomed eight students from Paris District High School on May 25, providing them with opportunities to meet local leaders,

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Airport lands proposal opens for feedback

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

A proposed municipal boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and more than 1,300 acres of surrounding land is moving into the public consultation phase after the City of Brantford and County of Brant signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the framework for a future agreement.

The proposed adjustment would see approximately 1,317 acres, including the municipally owned Brantford Airport and surrounding lands currently located within the County of Brant, transferred into the City of Brantford. The agreement follows negotiations facilitated by the Province after the City requested a review of the airport lands under the Municipal Act.

While the MOU does not create any enforceable rights, it establishes several key principles that would guide a future agreement between the municipalities, including compensation to the County, property tax protections for affected landowners, servicing arrangements and future governance of the lands.

Under the proposed terms, the County would receive more than \$9.6 million in compensation from the City, including payments related to lost taxation revenue and future development potential. Property owners affected by

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SKIP THE DISHES

Students discover what makes a community work

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

first responders and elected officials while learning about careers in public service and community leadership. The event concluded with an evening awards banquet recognizing the students and their contributions.

According to Paris Optimist Club Vice President Julie Henwood, the program has been a community tradition since 1968.

"The Paris club has been hosting the Youth Appreciation Day since 1968 during the month of May to honour students at PDHS," said Henwood.

Students are selected by school staff and assigned roles representing community leaders, including mayor, councillor, police commander, fire chief and media representatives. Throughout the day, they accompany professionals in those positions to learn more about their responsibilities and career paths. Henwood said the program was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, but members felt strongly that it was im-

portant to bring it back.

"During Covid the program had to be cancelled and this year we decided it was something we wanted to do again as it was so rewarding to meet with these students and share with them the benefits of learning how a community works," she said.

The day included visits to the Brant OPP detachment, Paris Fire Station No. 1 and the County of Brant Council Chambers. Students met with Brant OPP Inspector Jason McTaggart and Const. Enzo Coletta, County of Brant Fire Chief Darren Watson, Brant-Brantford Chief Paramedic Lyndsey Longeway, Paramedic Superintendent Jennifer Horvatin, Mayor David Bailey and Coun. Steve Howes.

Along the way, they learned about emergency services, municipal government and the many ways local organizations work together to serve residents.

"We hope for them to learn more about the various leadership and cooperation



(PARIS OPTIMIST CLUB PHOTOS)

Mayor David Bailey and Coun. Steve Howes welcomed Paris District High School students to the County of Brant Council Chambers, where participants took on the roles of mayor and councillors while learning firsthand about municipal government, leadership and the decision-making process that helps shape their community.

within our community while also exploring the idea of any of these roles for a future career," said Henwood. "One thing that they all noted was that in a way, all these roles are connected in that they all serve the purpose of helping others."

The experience also highlighted the importance of volunteerism and civic engagement, lessons that resonated with many of the students. The evening banquet featured guest speaker Doug Hunt, known locally as "Doug the Great," who delivered a presentation on "Failing Forward."

Henwood said Hunt's message encouraged students to persevere through challenges and view setbacks as opportunities to learn and grow.

"He talked about how you only fail if you quit, because otherwise you just haven't found the best way to do something yet," she said.

Reflecting on the day, Henwood said she

was impressed by the maturity, thoughtfulness and enthusiasm shown by the students.

"We want them to feel special and appreciated and we also want them to know what is possible," she said. "We hope they left feeling like there is something in them, something that they have to offer and a community that is ready for them."

Editor's Note: This year's student reporter was Jamie Gray, who participated in the program while also documenting the day's events. While many of the students had the opportunity to sit back and enjoy the presentations, Gray was busy taking notes, conducting interviews and writing a detailed account of the experience. The Paris Independent is pleased to publish his article in its entirety. Based on the professionalism and insight demonstrated in his reporting, Gray shows tremendous promise as a future journalist.



Participants in the Paris Optimist Club's 2026 Youth Appreciation Day pose for a group photo following a presentation at the County of Brant OPP headquarters on May 25, 2026. Returning this year after a brief hiatus, the longstanding annual event introduces local youth to potential career paths, leadership opportunities, volunteerism and community service while helping build confidence and inspire future goals.

Youth Appreciation Day opens students' eyes to community service

JAMIE GRAY

Student Reporter

Eight students from Paris District High School joined the Paris Optimist Club for a Youth Appreciation Day on Monday, May 25, 2026. Students spent the morning visiting the Brant OPP detachment, Paris Fire Station #1, and the County of Brant Council Chambers.

Each participant was given a role for the day, including mayor, councillor, fire chief, police commander, reporter (etc).

Optimist Club President Marilyn McCulloch said the event was designed to do two things: to teach the kids what it takes to run the community, and to have them feel appreciated by their community. "I love it," said McCulloch. "This is one of my favourite Optimist functions that we do because I'm always interested in hearing

what young people are excited about and what they're looking forward to. Hopefully today opens their eyes makes them think, 'I think I could do that.'"

At the Brant OPP detachment, students were greeted by Inspector Jason McTaggart and Constable Enzo Coletta and were able to have an open discussion regarding the roles, responsibilities, and career opportunities of policing. Coletta and McTaggart discussed their personal career paths, as well as several opportunities for the students, including the Youth Academy program and the option to volunteer as an auxiliary officer. Students were able to learn what a typical workday looks like for these officers and got a tour of a standard cop cruiser.

The group then moved on to meet with fire chief Darren Watson, Chief Paramedic Lyndsey Longeway, and Paramedic Su-

perintendent Jennifer Horvatin. Students learned of the different career paths that could land someone at such a job, (volunteer firefighting, schooling, etc), what it takes to be a firefighter or paramedic, and how the two professions often work or train closely together. Students were taken to see inside an ambulance and fire truck and witnessed a demonstration of several tools of the trades. Mayor David Bailey and ward 2 councillor Steve Howes hosted the group at the Brant County Council Chambers. Howes and Bailey describe to the students their workload and delved deep into their personal experience with their positions. Bailey talked on length about his focus on the social aspects of being a mayor, why he took the position, and why he isn't looking to run for re-election.

"Today was a great opportunity to learn more about education and what to expect

from those different careers," said participating Grade 11 student Alex Fancett. "All the people we talked to today seem to really be enjoying their work and I think that could totally have influenced someone's future career choice." He adds, "I was surprised to learn how much of our community is run by volunteers, and how many people are doing the work out of the goodness of their own heart. I've known about volunteer firefighters for quite some time, but I didn't realize how many were, like truly out of the goodness of their own heart. I was also surprised to learn that councillor positions are not full-time, and that they do that while balancing a full-time job... I think that's amazing. That was probably the biggest thing I learned today - that there are still people out there who don't do things for a nice paycheck and who do it just to give themselves to their community."

Airport lands transfer comes at potential \$9.6M cost

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the transfer would continue paying taxes at County rates for up to seven years following the transfer, unless ownership changes or development approvals are obtained. Both municipalities emphasize that the agreement represents only one step in a longer process.

In a statement released following the announcement, the County noted that additional public engagement, continued discussions between the municipalities, statutory public hearings and formal council approvals are still required before any final agreement can be considered.

The City similarly described the MOU as a roadmap for future discussions, stating that public feedback and statutory hearings will help inform council's consideration of a formal restructuring agreement.

Public engagement is scheduled to begin in June through the City's Let's Talk Brantford platform and two public open houses planned for June 11 at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course. Residents, landowners, businesses and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to review information, ask questions and provide feedback before the process advances further.

The City has also indicated that approximately 40 properties that may be directly impacted by the proposed boundary adjustment will receive letters and hand-delivered notices.

Not everyone is satisfied with how the process has unfolded so far.

Travis Welch, founder of the Brant Civic Accountability Association, has been closely following the negotiations and has submitted Freedom of Information requests seeking records related to the provincial facilitator, communications between municipal and provincial officials, airport governance discussions and materials connected to the proposed boundary adjustment. He said the organization has received acknowledgements of its requests and is currently working with the municipalities and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to clarify the scope of records being sought.

Welch believes residents still lack a complete understanding of the long-term implications of the discussions,

including questions surrounding future development, servicing, taxation and airport governance. He also argues there are unanswered questions about how the provincial facilitator became involved and what information was available to elected officials during key stages of the process.

As public engagement moves forward, Welch said he will be watching to see whether residents are provided with sufficient information and whether their feedback has a meaningful opportunity to influence the outcome.

He said public trust depends on residents believing their participation can affect decisions rather than simply fulfilling a procedural requirement.

Welch has also expressed concerns about the timing of the discussions during a municipal election year, arguing that decisions with long-term implications for property owners, taxation, infrastructure and community growth deserve extensive public scrutiny and debate. Those views represent the position of the Brant Civic Accountability Association and have not been adopted by either municipality.

Sharing similar feels of lack transparency or public consultation, Ward 5 resident Andrea Berestovenko brought forward her thoughts during an April 21st meeting of the County of Brant's Administration and Operations Committee.

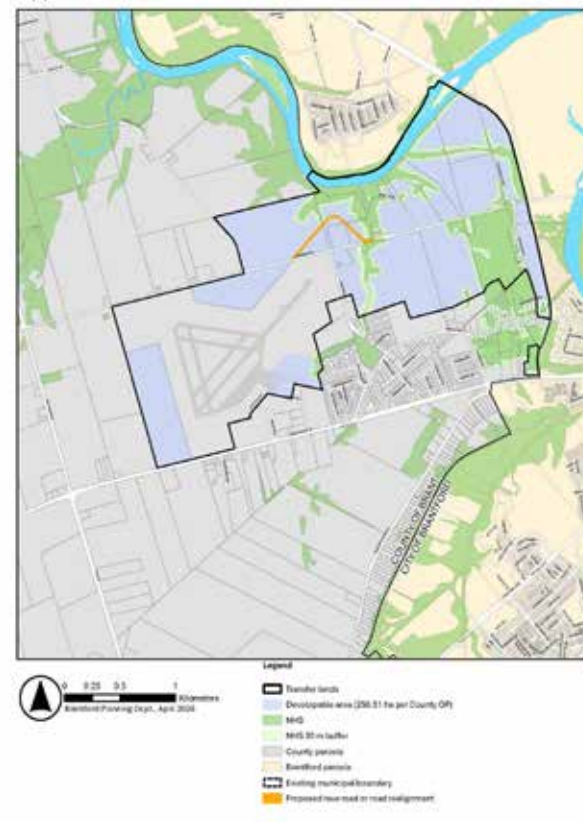
"My husband and I chose to build our lives in the Oakhill community in the County of Brant over 20 years ago," Berestovenko told council. "We respectfully oppose an annex of lands to the City of Brantford."

Berestovenko described Oakhill as a close-knit rural community with its own identity and history, arguing that annexation could alter the character of the area while creating uncertainty for residents. She also raised concerns about the level of public consultation, potential land-use changes, impacts on property values and the possibility of higher municipal taxes.

For now, both municipalities are encouraging residents to participate in the consultation process and review the materials before councils consider any final restructuring agreement.

If approved by both councils following public consul-

Appendix 1 – Transfer Lands



This map, included as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Brant and City of Brantford, outlines the approximately 1,317 acres proposed for transfer to the City. The lands include the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding properties, with public consultation and statutory hearings still required before any final boundary adjustment is considered.

tation and statutory hearings, a final agreement would be submitted to Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for consideration and implementation.

The Paris Independent

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Inspector Jason McTaggart appointed new Brant OPP Detachment Commander

MEDIA RELEASE

County of Brant

With the recent promotion of Superintendent Andrea Quenneville, and after a formal and competitive selection process, which included the participation of the County of Brant O.P.P. Detachment Board, Inspector Jason McTaggart has been selected as the new Brant County O.P.P. Detachment Commander.

“On behalf of the County of Brant O.P.P. Detachment Board, I am pleased to welcome Inspector McTaggart to his new role of Detachment Commander and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with him to support the O.P.P. members and staff who serve in Brant as well as ensuring the needs of our communities are met through proactive and engaged community based policing” said County of Brant O.P.P. Detachment Board Chair Jennifer Haley.

“Inspector McTaggart knows the County of Brant well having served in an Acting Inspector role before his recent and well-deserved promotion. Having continuity and consistency in these important leadership roles is critical for the Board’s strategic direction and also for the County of Brant,” added Chair Haley.

Previous to this promotion, Inspector McTaggart was the Staff Sergeant at the Brant County O.P.P. Detachment where he has served since 2022.

Inspector McTaggart is very familiar with the needs of the various communities within the County of Brant and has established a number of important relationships in this operational role that will serve him

well as he moved into the new role of Detachment Commander.

Inspector McTaggart first joined the O.P.P. in 1995 as a Provincial Constable and has served communities across the province throughout his career, including most recently, the County of Brant. He has served in a range of specialized and leadership roles, including a Technical Traffic Collision Investigator, Traffic Sergeant, Staffing, Training Coordinator and now Detachment Commander. His leadership, experience, and commitment to public service is a tremendous asset to our communities and to the members of the Brant County O.P.P. Detachment.

“I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve as Detachment Commander and to continue working alongside the dedicated members of the Brant County OPP Detachment in supporting the residents of the County of Brant,” said Inspector McTaggart, Detachment Commander. “This community has always held a special place in my policing career, and I deeply value the trust placed in me. I remain committed to strengthening partnerships, enhancing public safety, and supporting the well-being of everyone who lives and works here. Together, we will continue to build trust, uphold accountability, and share in the responsibility of keeping our communities safe.”

The County and the Brant O.P.P. Detachment Board look forward to continuing to work together with O.P.P. and Inspector McTaggart to support community safety and strengthen relationships across the County of Brant.



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

Inspector Jason McTaggart has been appointed the new Detachment Commander for the County of Brant OPP following a formal selection process involving the County of Brant OPP Detachment Board. McTaggart joined the OPP in 1995 and most recently served as Staff Sergeant with the Brant County detachment. He succeeds Superintendent Andrea Quenneville following her recent promotion.

One dead following fiery collision on Highway 403 Paris

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A fatal collision involving two tractor-trailers shut down a stretch of Highway 403 near Paris for several hours last Monday evening and into early Tuesday morning.

According to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the westbound lanes of Highway 403 at Rest Acres Road were first closed around 5:10 p.m. on Monday, May 25, following what police described as a serious collision involving a tractor-trailer. Approximately 30 minutes later, both eastbound and westbound lanes were closed as emergency crews responded to the scene.

Residents in the area reported hearing a loud bang shortly after the collision occurred.

In information provided to the Paris Independent, Provincial Constable and Media Officer Andrew Gamble confirmed one of the tractor-trailers caught fire following the collision.

However, investigators determined no explosive materials were being transported at the time.

“As a result of the collision, one driver was pronounced deceased at the scene,” said Gamble.

Ornge air ambulance also attended the scene, although air transport was ultimately not required.

The Highway 403 eastbound lanes reopened at approximately 7:54 p.m., while westbound lanes remained closed overnight as members of the West Region OPP Traffic Incident Management Enforcement (TIME) Team assisted with the investigation.

Police reopened the highway fully at approximately 4:55 a.m. Tuesday.

The cause of the collision remains under investigation.

Investigators are asking anyone who witnessed the collision or who may have dash cam footage from the area at the time of the incident to contact the Brant County OPP at 1-888-310-1122.



EDITORIAL

Patience and common sense needed at busy Paris intersection

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

If you've driven through Paris lately, chances are you've felt the frustration.

Traffic is backing up at nearly every major entry point into town. What used to be a quick drive across Paris can now take twice as long and that's on a good day. With the Ministry of Transportation's roundabout construction limiting access to Highway 403, the west end bypass has become far less effective. For many residents, driving through the downtown core is no longer optional; it's the only route available.

Detours and temporary traffic measures are part of major infrastructure work, and in a growing community, those projects are necessary. At the same time, better advance planning and coordination around overlapping construction projects may have helped ease some of the pressure now being felt across town. Still, with key routes impacted simultaneously, the County is trying to keep people moving through Paris the best way it can.

But what is becoming increasingly concerning is the behaviour of some drivers and pedestrians at one of the busiest intersections in town: Mechanic Street, Broadway Street and the entrance to Wincey Mills.

A four-way stop is still a four-way stop, no matter how backed up traffic becomes.

That means waiting your turn. It means



(STEVE HOWES PHOTO)

County of Brant staff installed temporary barriers at the entrance to the Wincey Mills parking lot after reports of motorists driving over the curb to bypass congestion at the busy Mechanic Street and Broadway Street intersection. The barriers were put in place within 24 hours to discourage unsafe driving behaviour and improve safety for motorists and pedestrians navigating downtown Paris during ongoing construction-related traffic delays.

respecting another driver's right of way instead of inching aggressively into the intersection because you're tired of sitting in traffic. It means watching for pedestrians before accelerating through the crossing. And it certainly should not mean driving over curbs and through parking lot edges in an attempt to bypass traffic altogether.

Yet that is exactly what has been happening near Wincey Mills.

County Councillor Steve Howes witnessed several motorists driving over the curb at the Wincey Mills parking lot entrance this past weekend in an attempt to force their way out more quickly. To the County's credit, barricades were installed within 24 hours to stop it from continuing. Howes' post generated plenty of engagement and prompted others to applaud county staff for quick responses to noted

concerns, proving someone is listening and trying to mitigate frustration and dangerous situations.

But the bigger question remains: why was that even necessary?

At some point, personal responsibility has to enter the conversation. Traffic delays are frustrating, but they are not an excuse for dangerous or inconsiderate behaviour. Whether it is impatience, distraction or simple disregard for others, the level of carelessness being displayed at this intersection is becoming difficult to ignore.

And drivers are not the only ones who need to pay attention.

Pedestrians also need to recognize that this intersection is far busier than usual. Looking up from a phone before stepping into traffic should not be considered optional.

Making eye contact with drivers, checking twice before crossing and exercising caution are all part of safely navigating a congested downtown.

Everyone is frustrated right now. Everyone is delayed. Everyone wants to get where they are going.

But arriving a few minutes earlier is not worth risking someone's safety.

Construction will eventually end. Traffic patterns will normalize. Tempers will cool. Until then, a little patience, awareness and common sense could go a long way in preventing an accident at one of the busiest intersections in town.

Letter to the Editor

Local developer opposes proposed parking garage and building height increases

Dear Editor:

This correspondence is in response to a mailed notice of zoning and a subsequent council meeting held on May 12th 2026, and editorialized in the Paris Independent May 20th.

I serve as the Operations Manager of the our companies which have been committed to fostering complementary development in Paris for decades. Our company has dedicated both financial and human resources in creating a vibrant, prosperous and exciting community. We have concerns that the proposed developments will fundamentally change the town in ways that will destroy the very thing that makes it unique and attractive to the thousands of locals and tourists that visit the core. Some downtown business people are struggling at this time, and a decentralized parking structure will not bene-

fit these businesses. Businesses' need a centralized commercial development that draws people into the very place that has made Paris a jewel since 1850. The parking would be better served centralized in order to compliment this. This should be the county's priority.

In 2018 a representative of our company met with Alison Newton, CAO for Brant County to discuss the parking garage options. A partnership on this garage was proposed with M. Bradley at the time. Our company had a sequent meeting in 2019, with Alison Newton, to discuss the future community needs related to a parking solution.

Our company later received a report entitled, Downtown Paris Master Plan. The position of the report showed a centralized new parking structure behind the municipal buildings that would enhance

the economic activity in the core and create ease of walking in the downtown area.

The town continued to work on the project. In 2023 the council had authorized staff to prepare and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding. Our company would have appreciated, as a landowner in the core to be involved with the other owners in the discussions concerning the best and highest use of vacant/undeveloped land in the downtown Paris core. The planning people were instructed to assess the County's current landholdings to that effect. In the memorandum it states that it was due to concerns with locating the parking structure behind the Council Chambers. Because of our past and future project developments, our company would have appreciated involvement in those discussions. We own several properties in the Paris core and as

stated were involved very early in discussions concerning community needs.

In 2024 the Council approved, in principle, "increased residential and commercial density to support downtown vitality". The county analysed how potential redevelopment can align with desires and floodplain realities. It was advanced to enable priority projects, including structured parking and mixed-use redevelopment. In December, 2025 a Preliminary Downtown Paris Parking Needs Assessment was completed calling for more parking by 2050. This was based on population growth and "enhanced streetscape design". We would be interested in knowing what qualifies as "priority projects and partnership opportunities" on County-owned lands. Our proposed development is at the north end of the core

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HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: When Teen Town Ruled Saturday Night



By Chris Whelan

Step back in time to the vibrant era of the 1940s through the 1960s, and you will find a place where teenage dreams came alive every Saturday night right here in Paris. For the young residents of our bustling town during those decades, nothing could quite compare to the excitement, energy, and camaraderie found at the cherished "Teen Town" dances.

During this enchanting period, Paris offered a variety of entertainment options for its youthful inhabitants. The Capital movie theatre, a couple of bustling bowling alleys, and the local billiard hall were all popular hotspots. Yet, it was the Saturday night Teen Town dances that truly stole the spotlight. For teenagers of that era, Teen Town became the absolute place to be, radiating an electric atmosphere that reverberated throughout the entire community.

Downtown Paris was the undisputed hub of activity, and the journey to Teen Town was an experience in itself. Every weekend, throngs of excited teenagers flocked to the old Municipal Hall (located above the old Fire Hall and Municipal Offices downtown). What made the club so unique was that it wasn't run by adults; instead, a dedicated, teenage "town council" took full charge of organizing the events. Led by a youth Mayor, Reeve, Deputy Reeve, and three youth councillors, this group of enthusiastic youngsters worked tirelessly to create a haven of entertainment for their peers.

To gain entry into the much-anticipated dances, individuals could purchase a full membership for the modest sum of one dollar. Once you were a member, the weekly entrance fee was a mere 25 cents, while non-members paid a whopping 35 cents. Eager to provide an unforgettable experience, the youth council utilized those initial membership funds to procure a record player, an amplifier, speakers and a growing collection of vinyl records. These essential components transformed the Municipal Hall into a pulsating dance floor where the latest melodies filled the air and feet tapped in rhythm.

Records played a pivotal role at Teen Town, serving not only as the source of captivating music but also as coveted door prizes. Lucky attendees frequently went home clutching the latest cherished vinyl treasures. On special occasions, the needle was set aside as local live bands graced the stage, amplifying the excitement and fos-



TEEN TOWN OFFICIALS—Hanging up a rock 'n' roll poster are, left to right, Henry Nelles, Paris Teen Town councillor; Teen Mayor Bev Johnston, and Bob Dale, a member of the Paris Recreation Commission.

tering a deep sense of community spirit.

However, the significance of Teen Town extended far beyond dancing and weekend revelry. The dances served as a powerful platform for local youth to contribute directly to the town they called home.

The proceeds generated from these weekly events were meticulously saved and channeled toward supporting various youth-related activities in Paris. The most remarkable testament to the real-world impact of Teen Town was the realization of the first Public Pool at Lions Park. The diligent, years-long efforts of the youth council—capped off by a final, generous Teen Town donation of \$1,500—played a pivotal role in successfully completing that cherished community facility.

Reflecting on those bygone years, many longtime residents of Paris still fondly rem-

inisce about the memories created within the walls of the Municipal Hall. The dances did more than just provide a temporary escape from the pressures of daily life; they nurtured a profound sense of togetherness and belonging. In an era of rapid social change, local teenagers reveled in the joy of youthful exuberance, forming lifelong friendships and creating a shared legacy.

As time marches on and our town continues to evolve, Paris Teen Town remains a golden chapter in our local history. It stands as a timeless testament to the power of youth initiative, grassroots community support, and the enduring magic of music and dance—a grand tradition that happily continues its legacy today through the Optimist Youth Dances, keeping that same community spirit alive for the next generation.



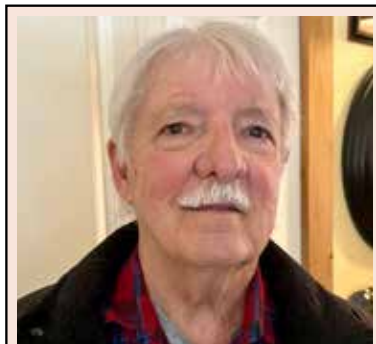
Teen Dance Time - Vintage Record Cover Stock Photo



After the dance, numerous attendees convened at the former Kalico Kitchen on Hwy#2.

(WAYNE MORRISON PHOTO)

THEN AND NOW: The Resilient History of #48 Grand River St. N.



By **Wayne Wilkinson**
Paris Historian / Artist

Throughout the 1860s and '70s, what became known as the "lower village" filled in rapidly on both sides of River Street (now known as Grand River Street North). Early history on the west side remains a bit sketchy, but we can officially start our look at this specific location in 1883 with the opening of a furniture business by cabinet builders James Best and Wm. Palmer. As seen in their early advertisements, it was known as "Palmer and Best". As was common for most furniture businesses of that era, they also served the community as undertakers.

In 1896, Richard L. Murray left a long-standing partnership to move his men's clothing store into this location from across the street. His timing, however, would bring him face-to-face with local disaster. In September 1900, his store became the very last to fall to the Great Fire on the west side of River Street. (The fire was finally stopped directly opposite him on the east side, just before John M. Hall's store).

Not a man to give up easily, Murray rebuilt and re-opened his business in the historic building you see today at #48, where he successfully operated until his retirement in 1933.

That same year, Isaac Stewart—a man who would go on to serve as a three-time mayor of Paris—bought the building to open a paint and wallpaper store. Five years later, facing stiff competition from a number of local hardware businesses, he smartly transitioned the space into "Stewarts Variety", a classic five-and-dime convenience store.

Sometime before his retirement in 1975, the former mayor had the building's distinctive balcony constructed overlooking the street. It afforded the past mayor a perfect vantage point to keep an eye on the



town he loved.

A new era began in 1975 when "Paris Sound*" moved into the building. Then, in 1981, an experienced and well-established local jeweler named Ken McCauley moved his shop here from across the street. Ken operated his successful business until closing it out in 1995. It was then transformed into "Memory Lane" photo studio, owned by Scott Reynolds.

(As a quick historical aside: many of the beautiful showcases you see today in the Paris Museum actually came from this very store, generously donated by Scott after originally serving as part of McCau-

ley's jewelry shop).

In 2006, the "Amelia Biscuit Co." found a home here, selling a wonderful variety of homemade pet foods.

Finally, in April 2019, Sherian Groppini—needing a far larger footprint for her rapidly growing home decor business—moved "From The Attic Interiors" into #48. Beautifully featuring proud hints of its long past, this thriving shop feels incredibly comfortable nestled inside its vintage, 125-year-old walls.

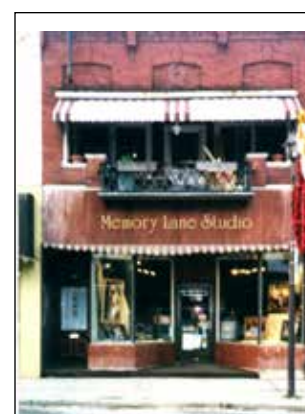
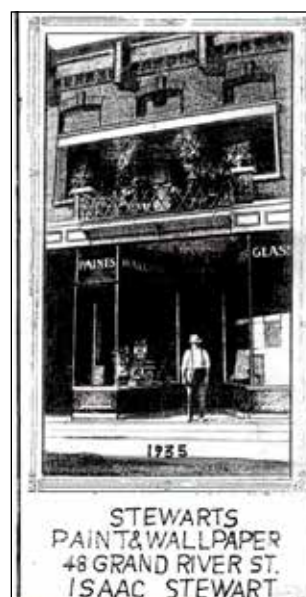
Some information obtained from the archives at the Paris Museum & Historical Society.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. The Appalachian mountains span across what two countries?
2. What 3-day music festival took place in upstate New York 1969?
3. Who wrote the novel "To kill a Mockingbird"?
4. What planet in our solar system is known for its rings?
5. What country was the first to adopt bitcoin as legal tender?
6. A Permanent Resident Card is also commonly known as a what?
7. What year was Wikipedia founded?
8. What company owns YouTube?
9. Who was the first actor to play James Bond?
10. What does AIPAC stand for?

This week's answers are found on pg. 18



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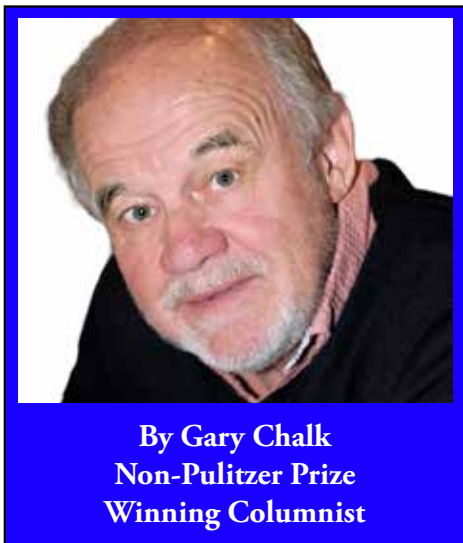
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LIVING RETIRED: 'Eureka!'



By Gary Chalk
Non-Pulitzer Prize
Winning Columnist

Living Retired

BUT I did come up with the idea that guys should pull those dorky knee pads overtop their pyjamas when they go to bed — so when we get up to pee during the night and trip over the decorator pillows all over the floor the damage to our knees will be less! Go ahead call me Gary Einstein.

Here's what led to my latest go-to gadget...

If you are Living Retired like me you probably lose your iPhone every day, sometimes twice; okay three times. And if you are like me you often cannot find the key fob for your car, your wife's car, often both! I also misplace my glasses, I put them down, but where? How about your wallet? Ever find yourself feeling your back pocket to be sure your wallet is there? I figure I misplace my iPhone, key fob, glasses, and wallet three of four times

Sometimes I amaze myself with my ability to dream up useless products that need to be invented for people who don't need them. This is what I mean...

I didn't invent the pet rock.

I didn't invent the thigh master.

And, I didn't invent those dorky knee pads you see Living Retired guys wear overtop their pants when they're traipsing through the house trying to fix stuff.

a day, before lunch!

"Jan, please call my iPhone. I can't find it."

"Jan, have you seen the key fob? I can't leave until we find it."

"Jan, I had my glasses five minutes ago. Have you seen them?"

"Jan, you didn't take my wallet did you? It has to be somewhere."

All this is testing Jan's patience. "GARY! WE GO THROUGH THIS EVERY SINGLE DAY! SOMETHING HAS TO CHANGE!" So this is what I did...

To address my forgetfulness, I took my inspiration in something that is everywhere — speed bumps. Just kidding. I turned to technology. I know what you're saying, "Gary, you grab your hammer to replace a light bulb, so good luck using technology to help you find your iPhone. Your key fob. Your glasses. And your wallet."

The reason technology is all around us is because there's a sucker born every minute, why else would we install programmable thermostats? Today, technology uses apps that we download on our devices. So, I am developing an app for Living Retired people like me who have a bad

memory. With my app you will be able to find where you left your iPhone, key fob, and glasses. Oh, and your wallet. I forgot.

The name of my app is, 'FindmyiPhoneKeyfobGlassesWallet.' It's a got a ring to it doesn't it?

Then, as Living Retired people do, which is accumulate more unnecessary stuff to confuse our lives, my app will evolve. Version 2.0 will add even more stuff Living Retired people lose. I call it, 'FindmyiPhoneKeyfobGlassesWalleti-PadPassportHearingAidsHeatingpadAir-fryerStoolsoftenerDepends.'

Just as I was about apply for a patent for my two apps: 'FindmyiPhoneKeyfobGlassesWallet' and 'FindmyiPhoneKeyfobGlassesWalleti-PadPassportHearingAidsHeatingpadAir-fryerStoolsoftenerDepends', Jan confronted me. "Gary, has anyone ever told you to get your head out of your apps?"

Living Retired is written weekly by humour columnist Gary Chalk and published throughout Canada and USA. Living Retired On The Radio is heard Thursdays. To inquire about keynote presentations contact Gchalk@me.com.

A legacy of service to living retired!



(OPP WEST REGION PHOTO)

Speaking of living retired, County of Brant OPP Constable Enzo Coletta recently crossed paths with two familiar faces at the Tim Hortons in St. George — retired officers David Maxwell and Barry "The Hustler" Hussey, whose policing careers left a lasting mark on the community. Maxwell began his career with the Paris Police Service in January 1973, serving more than 37 years before retiring in August 2009 as an OPP Sergeant in Brant County. Hussey joined the Paris Police Service in 1992 and retired from the OPP in April 2022 after spending his entire policing career serving Brant County. He was instrumental in launching the Bicycle Patrol Unit, helping secure funding for its first bikes through the local business community — a program that continues to expand today with the addition of e-bikes. Both men remain active in retirement, spending time with family and continuing to give back to the community they proudly served.

Letter to the Editor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

area and certainly will be impacted by this decision.

In 2022 we finalized The Royal Condominiums along the Nith River. This was part of our company's ongoing desire to see Paris thrive. Our condominiums are 4 stories. We felt that anything more than that would not be desirable. Our company would have had greater project profitability if we had built a six story building. We built the Royal based on community heritage and aesthetics. We maintain investments in that building to ensure participation in future core developments.

In the late 80's our company purchased 3 Elm St., which was used for warehousing. It was then converted into our corporate head office. When we sold our company in the late 90's, our company dedicated itself to redeveloping the core of Paris. We bought the Paris Star building at 61 Grand River

St. N., after 3 Elm St., and subsequently focused on the Royal Hotel property for redevelopment. Our company currently has ownership of properties at the north end of the downtown. We have a significant plan that again aligns with our philosophy to enhance our home, "Paris". Projects we develop are sensitive to the history and the future of our community.

Our goal is to see Paris become prosperous and inviting. We respectfully wish to voice our concerns and express our disapproval of the proposed change in the location of the parking garage. Also, the proposal to increase the allowable building heights to 6 stories as that will fundamentally change our community.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Kennedy
Operations Manager
East River Holdings Inc.

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Glen Morris United Church becomes first Affirming Ministry in Brant County ahead of Pride Month

Church sends powerful message: Come as you are. Come when you can

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

As Pride Month begins, members of Glen Morris United Church are celebrating a milestone they hope will send a clear message of inclusion, acceptance and belonging to the wider community.

The congregation recently voted overwhelmingly to become an Affirming Ministry with Affirm United, making it the first church in the County of Brant to receive the designation. The decision followed more than two years of education, discussion and reflection led by the church's Affirming Committee and Rev. Michiko Bown-Kai.

Church members approved a new vision statement, welcome statement and marriage policy during a congregational meeting held May 3. The vote passed with 88 per cent support.

Affirming Ministries are faith communities that publicly and intentionally welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. The designation is supported through Affirm United, which partners with The United Church of Canada to promote inclusion and justice for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual people (2S & LGBTQIA+).

"Becoming an Affirming ministry means that as a community of faith we have journeyed together in prayer, conversation, education, and more to understand the role we can play in being a safe space for 2S &

LGBTQIA+ people and how our faith can be nurtured by honouring and celebrating the diversity of those in our community, and those we serve," Bown-Kai said.

The process challenged members to listen to different perspectives and learn from the experiences of people within the 2S and LGBTQIA+ community.

"The Affirming process taught us the importance of listening and storytelling as we invited various members of the 2S & LGBTQIA+ community to share as guest preachers," said Bown-Kai. "We learned how to sit with challenge and opened our mind to different perspectives as we gathered around tables sharing food and conversation about our own ideas about what it means to be an Affirming church."

Bown-Kai said the congregation also explored issues such as religious trauma, homophobia and transphobia in faith communities, while learning about the experiences of LGBTQIA+ people in rural Canada. Members commemorated those who died during the HIV/AIDS crisis and reflected on the impact of stigma and discrimination.

The church's newly adopted vision statement calls for "a church living out God's call for deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice." Its welcome statement reads simply: "Come as you are. Come when you can." The congregation also adopted a statement affirming that all people are welcome to fully participate in the life and ministries of the church regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstance or family configuration.

Bown-Kai said the response following the vote has been emotional and encouraging.

"It was a moving experience to hold the vote and



Rev. Michiko Bown-Kai and Mayor David Bailey at Glen Morris United Church's 2025's pride service and celebration.

many of us shared teary-eyed hugs afterwards," they said. "Affirming churches are not only safe spaces for 2S & LGBTQIA+ people, they also offer a wider message to the community that we believe we are all beloved children of God."

Looking ahead, the congregation plans to develop an action plan that will put its new vision and welcome statements into practice. Planned initiatives include updating church signage and its website to reflect the new policies, while continuing community events designed to demonstrate that welcome publicly and intentionally.

"Our work is to be public, intentional,

and explicit with our welcome so that no one ever has to guess or wonder if they will be appreciated in the fullness of who they are by our community of faith," Bown-Kai said. "This kind of radical welcome and hospitality changes and saves more lives than you can imagine."

The church will celebrate the milestone during its fourth annual Pride Celebration, Worship and Picnic on June 7.

The event begins with coffee at 10 a.m., followed by worship at 10:30 a.m. and an outdoor picnic. Community members are invited to attend and are encouraged to wear rainbow colours.

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Members of Glen Morris United Church gather during the congregation's 2025 Pride Celebration. The church has since become the first Affirming Ministry in the County of Brant, following a congregational vote in May 2026. The designation reflects the church's commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive faith community for people of all backgrounds, identities and orientations. The congregation will celebrate its fourth annual Pride Service, Worship and Picnic on June 7.

June is Seniors Month!

brant.ca/June 🔍

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Monday, June 1 | The Paris Community Pool is open! Visit brant.ca/Aquatics for details. |
| Thursday, June 4 | FREE Functional Fitness - Registered Program! Sojourn Church, Paris 9:30 - 10:30 am Activity # 8973* |
| Thursday, June 11 | Free Tabata Fitness 55+ - Registered Program! Sojourn Church, Paris 9:30 - 10:30 am Activity # 8974* |
| Friday, June 12 | FREE Seniors Swim (55+) Paris Community Pool 7:30 - 9:00 am |
| Saturday, June 13 | Come Try Lawn Bowling 10:00 am - 1:00 pm St. George Lawn Bowling Club - 8 Thompson St, St George Paris Lawn Bowling Open House & Demonstration 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Paris Lawn Bowling Club - 169 Grand River St N, Paris |
| Monday, June 15 | Free Gentle Yoga (55+) - Registered program! 1:30 - 2:30 pm Syl Apps Community Centre, Activity # 8972* |
| Wednesday, June 17 | Seniors' Outdoor Games 2:00 - 4:00 pm Burford Lions Art Cadman Park (78 Maple Ave N) Register at brantlibrary.ca |

*Register using the Activity # at brant.ca/COBconnect

Join County staff for **Walk Across the County** every Wednesday in June, visit the website to learn more.



Visit the website for a complete list of June events!



brant.ca | info@brant.ca | 519.44BRANT (442.7268) | [f](#) [@](#)

June is Seniors Month

Ontario Seniors — Let's Get Moving

ontario.ca/SeniorsMonth



Celebrate June shines spotlight on active aging in Brant



Staying active and connected is easy on Brant's growing network of pickleball courts. Seniors gather regularly at Dawdy Park in Paris to enjoy one of Canada's fastest-growing sports, combining friendly competition, exercise and social interaction in a fun, welcoming environment.

June is Seniors Month in Ontario, and the County of Brant is inviting older adults to get active, stay connected and explore a

variety of programs designed specifically with seniors in mind.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Welcome to Extendicare Telfer Place Retirement Residence in Paris

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Smile Cookie campaign raises more than \$27,000 for The Willett

MEDIA RELEASE

Community support was on full display during this year's Smile Cookie Campaign, with Tim Hortons customers in Paris helping raise more than \$27,000 for The Willett, Paris.

The 2026 campaign generated \$27,036.81 for the Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS) Foundation, surpassing last year's total by approximately \$2,000.

Funds were raised through cookie sales at the three Paris Tim Hortons locations on Dundas Street East, Rest Acres Road and Grand River Street North.

The BCHS Foundation thanked Tim Hortons restaurant owners, staff and patrons for their continued support of local healthcare and their contribution to another successful fundraising campaign.

"The generosity shown by our community continues to make a meaningful impact on patient care close to home," the foundation said in a media release.

Since 2005, the Smile Cookie Campaign has raised more than \$250,000 in support of healthcare services at The Willett. Proceeds from the annual fundraiser have helped purchase a variety of essential medical equipment, including a portable ultrasound machine, ECG machine, vital signs monitors, imaging equipment and hospital beds.

The Willett provides urgent care services for non-life-threatening medical conditions and serves residents from Paris, the County of Brant, Brantford and surrounding communities. According to BCHS Foundation, the facility recorded more than 30,800 ur-

gent care visits between 2025 and 2026.

The BCHS Foundation raises funds to support priority needs at both The Willett and Brantford General Hospital. Donations help fund medical equipment not covered by the Ministry of Health, invest in new technology and provide caregivers with resources needed to deliver patient care.

Foundation officials said the success of this year's campaign demonstrates the community's ongoing commitment to strengthening local healthcare services and ensuring residents have access to quality care close to home.

While Paris residents were supporting healthcare close to home, communities across Brantford were also setting a new fundraising record through the 2026 Smile Cookie Campaign. Lansdowne Children's Centre and Brant Food For Thought each received \$82,501.52 from sales at 19 participating Tim Hortons locations, surpassing the previous record of \$79,415.54 set in 2025.

The campaign was supported by hundreds of volunteers, local businesses, service clubs, emergency responders and elected officials who helped decorate cookies throughout the week. Funds raised will support programs and services for children and families across Brantford and Brant County. Lansdowne Children's Centre Executive Director Rita-Marie Hadley said, "The Smile Cookie funds will support our centre's greatest needs, sustaining community-funded programs like Every Kid Counts and the Equipment Loan Program. These critical programs support kids and their families beyond clinical services



Pictured are Brant Food for Thought Program Director Judy Maidment with Lansdowne Children's Centre Executive Director Rita-Marie Hadley and Development Director Lynda Henriksen, celebrating the incredible results of May's Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign in Brantford. The two organizations will share the proceeds equally, contributing support to local nutrition and child development supports for area children and youth.

and provide opportunities for children and youth to better navigate our community, communicate their interests, and develop their abilities and social skills. Your efforts and support are going to result in many more smiles." Brant Food For Thought Program Director Judy Maidment noted the growing need for student nutrition programs across the region.

"We're seeing firsthand the growing need across our schools. Today, we are in every school in Brantford and the County

of Brant, and more students are accessing these programs than ever before. Funds raised through the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign will help us expand existing programs to meet this increasing demand. We are so grateful to the Tim Hortons owners, staff, volunteers, and our entire community for stepping up to support local students. Their commitment is helping ensure that every child has the opportunity to start their day nourished and ready to learn."



Pictured left to right, Crystal Godwaldt, Associate Director, BCHS Foundation, Paige Bowler, Tim Hortons Paris, Rest Acres location, Heather Wilson, BCHS Foundation, Board of Directors, Kyle Henderson, Tim Hortons Paris, Rest Acres location, Kari Wilson, Executive Director, BCHS Foundation, and Carolyn Murray, Tim Hortons Paris, Dundas location.

June is Seniors Month

Ontario Seniors — Let's Get Moving

ontario.ca/SeniorsMonth

Ontario

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

As part of the County's annual Celebrate June campaign, residents can take part in a month-long schedule of activities that promotes healthy living, social connection and community engagement. While Celebrate June also recognizes Recreation and Parks Month and Pride Month, many of the featured events are geared toward helping older adults remain active and involved.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the many programs and activities available to older adults throughout the County," said Stacey Ellins, Director of Parks and Recreation. "Whether you enjoy swimming, walking, fitness classes or simply spending time with others in the community, there are opportunities for all fitness levels and interests."

Seniors Month programming includes a variety of free and low-cost activities such as fitness classes, outdoor walks, recreational swims, lawn games and social gatherings. The County's goal is to encourage older adults to maintain active lifestyles while fostering connections with friends,

neighbours and community organizations.

Many activities take place outdoors, allowing participants to enjoy Brant's parks, trails and community spaces while benefiting from physical activity and fresh air. Community partners also play an important role in Celebrate June, with organizations including the County of Brant Public Library, EarlyON, and the Paris and St. George Lawn Bowling Clubs offering opportunities for residents to learn new skills, try new activities and meet others.

The June calendar also includes the opening of the Paris Community Pool and splash pads, providing another accessible way for seniors and families to stay active throughout the summer months.

While Celebrate June encompasses all ages, Seniors Month remains a key focus, highlighting the important contributions older adults make to the community while promoting programs that support healthy, active and engaged aging.

A complete schedule of Celebrate June events, activities and registration information is available at the County of Brant's website.

The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

Ancient Sport Continues to Roll Along the Banks of the Grand River in Paris

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Paris Independent Sports Correspondent

Lawn Bowling, or Bowls, is said to have originated over 4,000 years ago, with balls, heretofore known as bowls, discovered in Egyptian pyramids. In the 1200-1500's, lawn bowling was played on grass commons near town squares and churches. The game was so popular that King Edward III banned his soldiers from playing it because it distracted them from archery practice. Henry VIII, taking time away from his marital problems, placed limits on how much time they could spend playing, as it again distracted workers and commoners from their work.

Fast forward a few hundred years, and lawn bowling arrived in Paris. Across the street from the Paris Presbyterian Church and located by the Grand River, you'll find the Paris Lawn Bowling Club. The club is one of the oldest sports organizations in the area, established around 1884 and moving to its current location around 1893. If you haven't been to the club recently, you'll find the relaxing noises of the river (often

interrupted by a train or two), the modern Wilkins Community Center as its clubhouse, and new cabanas offering a chance to sit down and get a little shade between play.

Lawn bowling is similar to Bocce and even curling. How each end starts is that a player rolls a jack, a smaller white ball, down their lane to be the target ball. There is a strategy like curling, by leads throwing guards in front of the target jack, followed by seconds, thirds, and skips throwing takeouts or rolling bowls like a curling rock behind guards to get closer to the jack. Whoever has the most bowls closest to the jack scores points.

So why do bowls curl down the lane? Bowls have a bias, or a greater weight on one side than the other, so that when thrown down the lane, the bowl will curl. Like curling, a skip will set a target, calling the weight he wants to draw, guard, or take out the opponent's bowl with a hit. Bowls come in different weights and sizes so they can fit any hand size, with a maximum weight of 3.5 pounds (1.59 kilograms). Bowls are available to players at no charge



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTOS)

New and returning players took to the greens last week during one of the Paris Lawn Bowling Club's Learn to Play evenings, where participants had the opportunity to discover the strategy, skill and social side of the centuries-old sport.



The Paris Lawn Bowling Club continues to welcome players of all ages to its riverside greens beside the newly rebuilt Wilkin Family Community Centre. The 2,055-square-foot facility, now home to the club's modern clubhouse and gathering space, is Brant's first net-zero building structure and was made possible through a successful \$400,000 community fundraising campaign, which included a \$5,000 contribution from the Paris Lawn Bowling Club.

at the Paris club, and if you wish, you can purchase your bowls, which cost approximately \$300 to \$1000. Other required equipment includes comfortable shoes and clothing, and perhaps a hat and sunscreen to protect you from the sun.

As for physical requirements to play the game, they are the ability to throw a bowl like a bowling ball and, if you are able, a slight knee bend.

The most important requirement to play lawn bowling is to be prepared to meet some new people, as teams are made up

on game days, and have some fun. Many tournaments around Ontario want to be competitive, but overall expect to have a relaxing time and a lot of fun.

All who are 12 or older are welcome to drop by on Tuesdays and Thursdays, weather permitting. Arrive by 6:45 pm to be ready to play starting at 7 pm and finishing up by 9 pm. For more information, call the club at 519-740-7195, email at parislawnbowlingclub@gmail.com, and visit their website www.parislawnbowlingclub.ca.

Paris Duffers: Sandstorms, sand-traps and birdies!

GREIG GRAHAM AKA GG

Paris Independent Contributor

This past Friday the weather gods smiled on our boys with warm temperatures and blue skies. The one draw back was gusty winds that not only affected shots but picked up the dirt from surrounding farmlands creating a sandstorm effect with one of the duffers requesting a camel instead of a cart. With a shorter than average field of

players the drama was still at a high.

First off the tee was Jacquer and Brownie battling Al O and Bergy. Down two on the final hole Al and Bergman pressed and won the hole for a draw. Apparently Brownie researched the rules of the press after last week's encounter and kept his milk money in his pocket.

Billy B and Sinc fought the good fight against Hoogs and Double G in a real back and forth but fell just short in the end. After

Double G made a 30 footer, Double B stole his thunder with a 40 foot chip in.

Fergy, Floody and Chick turned into a threesome when one of their group didn't arrive.

There is Stones around town but, apparently not on the golf course. In the No Good Deed Goes Unpunished category Floody took the time to check with several groups in front of them to see if they lost a 9 iron he found.

Turns out it belonged to Ferg, his partner. Al just missed a hole in one by inches for a tap in birdie. In another case of stealing one's thunder, Bergy also birdied the hole.

The best innovative shot came courtesy of BB when he ran his shot across a bridge and the new Chicken song "Just Give Me an 8" is quickly climbing the charts. Until next week. Keep em on the fairways.

Challenger Baseball makes successful debut in Paris

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Smiles, cheers and plenty of encouragement filled Lions Park on Saturday as the Paris Youth Softball Association (PYSA) hosted its first-ever Challenger Baseball Try-It Day, introducing local families to an adaptive baseball program designed specifically for children and youth living with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Ten athletes participated in the inaugural event, which marks the beginning of a new partnership between PYSA and the Jays Care Foundation's Challenger Baseball program. The initiative aims to create opportunities for athletes of all abilities to experience the joy of baseball in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment.

Leading the effort to bring Challenger Baseball to Paris is PYSA board member Grace Aulsebrook-Smith, who said the positive response from families exceeded expectations.

"There were 10 athletes that came out to the try-it day," she said. "I heard nothing but positivity today. So many people eager to register immediately after asking how the process works. So many families excited to attend the following try-it day on June 3 and nothing but smiles and cheering from our athletes."

Challenger Baseball is a national adaptive baseball program operated by the Jays Care Foundation in partnership with Little League Canada and Baseball Canada. The program is specifically designed to empower children, youth and adults living with physical and cognitive disabilities by removing barriers to participation and creating a level playing field.

According to Jays Care Foundation statistics, nearly 15,000 children, youth and adults participated in Challenger Baseball programs across Canada in 2024. The program operated through 417 community, school and



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)

Teamwork and friendship! Thatcher, Elliot, Emmett and Easton gather for a team huddle.

organization-based programs nationwide. The foundation also reports that 58 per cent of parents and guardians said Challenger Baseball was the only sport programming their child was participating in.

The benefits extend well beyond the baseball diamond. Jays Care Foundation research indicates athletes involved in Challenger Baseball experience increased independence, self-esteem, peer relationships, physical activity and confidence to try new challenges.

Paris resident Tiffany Martin, who has stepped forward to serve as the program's head coach, described the first try-it day as an overwhelming success.

"I'd say it was a success with a great group of athletes coming out showing us exactly why these programs are so important and that everyone deserves a chance to play sports," said Martin.

Martin said she is looking forward to helping build the program throughout the summer.

"There's another Try-It Day June 3, then we'll be starting our summer league and I am honoured to be the head coach, like incredibly honoured," she said.

Following the second try-it session, organizers will begin registering athletes and launching weekly one-hour sessions throughout the summer. Final scheduling details are still being determined and will be announced before the next event. Aulsebrook-Smith credited the success of the launch to a strong network of community partners and volunteers. Support came from the PYSA executive, local volunteers, FAIR Brant staff and Cam Linwood, vice-pres-

ident of Jays Care Foundation, who attended the event and helped support the launch.

"This has been a labour of love for our team and for it to officially come together and see it live in action was an unforgettable experience," said Aulsebrook-Smith. "I'm so excited to see it continue to grow throughout the season."

The next Challenger Baseball Try-It Day will take place June 3 from 6 pm to 8 pm at Lions Park Diamond A. Families interested in learning more about the program or registering an athlete are encouraged to contact PYSA by email parischallengerbaseball@gmail.com or visit the Jays Care Foundation's Challenger Baseball program website.



Emmett celebrates after making solid contact during PYSA's first Challenger Baseball Try-It Day at Lions Park on May 30.



Close call! Elliot and Easton enjoy the action on the diamond Saturday morning and they weren't alone. Organizers say the enthusiasm shown by athletes and families during the first session demonstrates the need for inclusive sports opportunities in the community.



Carson proudly accepts his Challenger Baseball certificate after a successful first day.



Pictured are Chloe (above) and Thatcher (right) receiving their certificates



Recreation & Parks and Seniors Month

Celebrate June!

Back for 2026!
Park vs Park
Vote now at EngageBrant.ca

brant.ca/June

Join us throughout June for a variety of free and low-cost programs, events and activities.

Walk Across Brant

Join us for a walk every Wednesday in June!

Paris

Wednesday, June 3, 9:00 - 10:00 am
Jean Rich Foundation Trailhead (Willow St parking lot)

Burford

Wednesday, June 10, 9:00 - 10:00 am
Burford Lions Art Cadman Park (78 Maple Ave N)

Mount Pleasant

Wednesday, June 17, 9:00 - 10:00 am
Mount Pleasant Park (542 Burtch Rd)

St. George

Wednesday, June 24, 9:00 - 10:00 am
Gaukel Memorial Community Centre (7 Gaukel Drive)

Pool Programs

at the Paris Community Pool (80 Laurel Street)

PA Day Public Swim

Friday, June 5, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Free Lane Swims

Monday, June 8, 7:30 - 9:30 am and 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Free Lane Swim (Seniors 55+)

Friday, June 12, 7:30 - 9:00 am

Free Aqua Zumba (18+)

Tuesday, June 16, 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Splash into Summer

Friday, June 26, 8:15 am - 2:00 pm

Free Aqua Yoga, public swim, games and more!

SCAN HERE



Park Programs

Find information on Park Patrol, Movies in the Parks and Music in the Park events all summer long at brant.ca/ParkPrograms

View the full calendar of June events online at brant.ca/June



Cool down at the Paris Community Pool or Splash Pads in Paris, Burford and St. George

brant.ca/Aquatics

Opens Sunday, May 31

Paris Community Pool & Splash Pad (80 Laurel Street, Paris)

Opens Friday, June 5

Burford Splash Pad (14 Potter Drive, Burford)

St. George Splash Pad (87 Sunnyside Drive, St. George)

During the open season, all splash pads are open on weekdays, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm, and weekends, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Tournon steam train takes travellers back in time



By Paul Knowles

When the Viking company invited us on a Rhône River Cruise, we knew we'd be travelling via airplane and, of course, boat – more specifically, a Viking Longship christened Viking Heimdal.

We hadn't realized that the old cliché, “planes, trains and automobiles,” would be true to the max. We flew into Paris, returning post-cruise by air from Marseille to Munich to Toronto.

In Paris, where we stayed for three days, we used automobiles for tours, and added boats to the list, as we took a Seine River cruise. We travelled from Paris to Lyon by high-speed train, and there boarded the longship for our weeklong cruise.

So, we thought we'd pretty much covered the transportation device gamut, but then came the fifth day of the trip, when we found ourselves boarding a much older railway train, a sharp contrast to the rapid ride from Paris. We were spending the morning on a leisurely trip aboard the Tournon Steam Train, riding in heritage carriages, with plenty of steam blowing past as we travelled through a beautiful and unspoiled French river valley.

The official name of the train is the Chemin de fer du Vivarais. It's in the Ardeche region in the



The steam engine was built in the early 20th century.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

south of France. The full line is 33 kilometres long, running from Tournon in the Rhône Valley to Lamastre in the Doux valley. However, there are also shorter, half-day trips – including the one we took.

It's quaint, authentic and quite wonderful. Riding in these heritage carriages, pulled by a genuine steam locomotive, is a great experience in its own right, but the scenery through the valleys is also spectacular.

There is an intriguing history to the Tournon Steam Train, both as a tourist attraction and prior to that incarnation. The line was originally built between 1886 and 1890, and it carried freight and passengers until 1968.

Some local enthusiasts believed it was too special to abandon, and so a surprisingly brief, two-year project resulted in the 33-kilometre line being re-opened as a special attraction in 1970. It stayed in

service until 2008, when a growing operating deficit and increasing disrepair of the rolling stock forced another closure. But the fans of steam trains are not easily deterred. Although

that hiatus lasted five years, this time, they brought the train back once again. In 2013, they again fired up the steam locomotive, and with that, the current railway service began. All of the rolling stock is authentic, with the locomotives dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. That's the history of the train as tourism attraction. But the previous life of this railway is much more poignant. During World War II, the Rhône region was a key centre for the French Resistance, as French patriots fought against the Nazis – and against the Nazi-friendly Vichy government. I have written previously about the city of Lyon as an important base for the Resistance. As the war unfolded, the

Resistance fighters moved more and more to the forests and mountains of southern France, from where they waged what might be called guerilla warfare against their occupiers.

And we learned that the Tournon Railway, running through the district that was home to plenty of Resistance fighters, was frequently employed to smuggle guns and ammunition for these resistance fighters, with boxes of arms and ammo buried beneath the piles of coal used to fire the engine.

The railway was also used when Jewish children were brought from Paris, where their lives were in immediate danger. They then taken via this local railway to isolated farms where they could hide in relative safety. Thus, these cute little carriages we were riding in were actually important tools in combatting the horrors of the Holocaust. Many lives were saved from death in the concentration

camps because of the Tournon railway. A sobering reality check.

Back to today. The carriages have windows that can be opened, and passengers can also stand on the car's entrance platforms to take in the stunning views of the Doux river gorge, as well as to breathe in the scent of coal fires and to experience the clouds of steam. Your every sense carries you back in time.

And there is an unexpected twist at the farthest point of the excursion we took, from Tournon to the Colombier-le-Vieux-Saint Barthélémy-le-Plain trip. And no, I am not making up the name of the latter station. The sign fills an entire wall of the old station building. Because he passengers quite rightly expect to be returned to Tournon, the steam engine has to be disconnected from the carriages, and turned 180 degrees to head back the way it came.

This is accomplished by something that looks a little like magic, but is really just good old engineering know-how. The 44-ton locomotive is turned around manually – by one man, who does not even work up a sweat – on a cleverly designed turntable.

Back at the Tournon station, passengers can visit a museum, which includes heritage train cars, plenty of railroading artifacts and – of course – a gift shop.

All in all, a wonderful experience of stepping – actually, riding – back in time.

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.

Residents rally for transparency at Will Bouma's Brantford office



(ROSEMARY RICH-BRITAIN PHOTO)

Residents from Brantford, the County of Brant and surrounding communities gathered outside MPP Will Bouma's Brantford constituency office on Saturday, May 30, as part of a grassroots demonstration raising concerns about airport governance, proposed boundary adjustments, the Oak Park Road Extension corridor and provincial involvement in local decision-making. Organized under the banner “Stand Strong for Brant County,” speakers took turns sharing their perspectives in what participants described as a peaceful and respectful event. Organizers said the demonstration was part of a broader movement taking place in communities across Ontario, calling for greater transparency, public consultation and accountability on major municipal decisions.



WEEKLY Horoscope

June 3 - June 9 2026

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



An unexpected conversation sparks motivation and encourages confident action. Follow your instincts—it helps you overcome doubt and welcome exciting progress ahead.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Stability returns, Taurus. Simple routines create comfort and renewed patience this week. Stay dependable—it encourages balance and supports steady personal growth moving forward.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



Inspiration grows, Gemini. A surprising idea brings excitement and fresh perspective. Trust your curiosity—it encourages creativity and opens rewarding opportunities ahead.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



Calm energy surrounds you, Cancer. A meaningful connection brings reassurance and emotional clarity. Listen carefully—it supports healing and strengthens important relationships this week.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Confidence rises, Leo. Positive attention encourages bold choices and renewed enthusiasm. Stay authentic—it helps you inspire others and strengthen valuable connections ahead.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Focus improves, Virgo. Careful planning creates calm and steady progress. Trust your preparation—it supports productivity and keeps responsibilities manageable.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Balance returns, Libra. A thoughtful discussion restores harmony and understanding. Stay patient—it strengthens trust and encourages meaningful emotional connection.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Insight sharpens, Scorpio. Quiet reflection reveals important truths and valuable opportunities. Trust your intuition—it encourages focus and steady personal growth.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



Adventure calls, Sagittarius. A fresh opportunity inspires excitement and renewed confidence. Embrace the moment—it guides you toward rewarding experiences ahead.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Steady progress continues, Capricorn. Consistent effort brings encouraging results and renewed confidence. Stay focused—it supports important goals and lasting success ahead.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Creativity grows, Aquarius. Fresh ideas attract support and positive attention this week. Trust your vision—it encourages progress and meaningful personal success ahead.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Gentle reflection restores emotional clarity and peaceful understanding. Trust your intuition—it encourages calm decisions, reassuring connections, and steady direction moving forward this week.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 3

James Purefoy, Actor (62)

JUNE 4

Angelina Jolie, Actress (51)

JUNE 5

Mark Wahlberg, Actor (55)

JUNE 6

Robert Englund, Actor (79)

JUNE 7

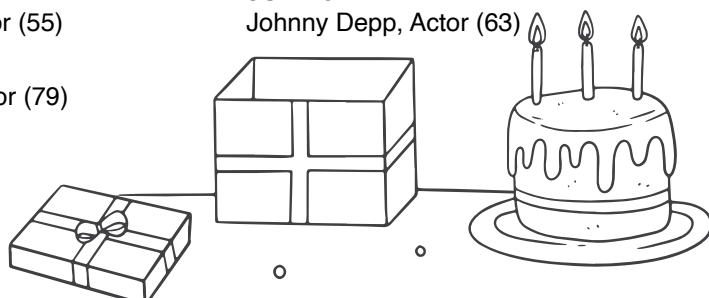
Karl Urban, Actor (54)

JUNE 8

Kanye West, Rapper (49)

JUNE 9

Johnny Depp, Actor (63)



Royal Canadian Legion donates \$817.13 to benefit The Willett, Paris



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 presented a donation to the Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Provincial Command Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries Charitable Foundation. Donations from these organizations help veterans and the community at large across Ontario. This donation will be used to purchase an exam light to benefit patient care at The Willett Urgent Care Centre. Pictured left to right, Pamela Axisa, Clinical Manager, Emergency Department and Urgent Care Centre, Barry Humphrey, President Branch 29 Paris, and Heather Wilson, Past Chair, Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation.

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Riddle

I can take you anywhere,
yet I never move an inch.
I open without keys
and close without locks.
Some people get lost inside me
for hours.
What am I?

Answer: A book

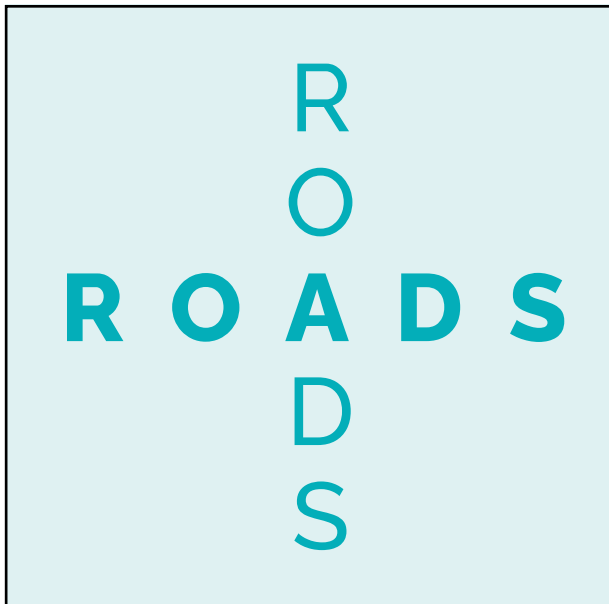
Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 19

Brainteaser

Rebus puzzles, also known as word picture puzzles or picture riddles, use a combination of images and words to convey a phrase or message, typically a common idiom or expression. Can you solve this one?



Answer: Crossroads

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

Meet our Pet of the Week:

The calf that thinks she's a dog! This little heifer was enjoying a ride around the farm on the golf cart on a beautiful spring day. You just never know what you may see on a farm!

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



Word Search

MAGICAL SPELLS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | A | Q | S | A | E | F | S | I | I | L | L | U | S | I | O | N | I | V | M |
| K | Z | H | D | X | G | X | Q | M | N | R | C | O | U | M | D | T | J | C | F |
| C | R | Y | S | T | A | L | J | H | D | Q | J | A | O | R | G | Y | X | U | I |
| B | R | O | O | M | S | T | I | C | K | X | Q | J | Z | A | M | Q | T | D | F |
| Z | E | C | L | I | P | S | E | F | M | J | L | Y | B | H | X | M | B | N | R |
| A | L | I | W | N | F | X | M | H | L | F | S | T | P | C | J | C | E | O | Q |
| A | L | A | K | A | Z | A | M | C | E | H | V | P | M | R | C | V | L | R | H |
| A | D | V | D | V | R | U | N | N | L | X | C | M | E | I | A | A | C | D | D |
| T | B | P | U | P | Y | R | N | O | L | O | O | P | O | L | G | C | A | L | R |
| H | W | R | I | Q | X | H | A | G | D | O | A | L | C | A | L | G | R | U | A |
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| I | E | A | N | C | M | Z | S | R | G | K | X | X | A | P | N | L | O | C | I |
| L | C | Y | Z | D | A | U | I | D | X | Z | Z | X | I | H | A | J | L | O | W |
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| M | Q | R | R | Q | Q | Z | S | H | R | D | Q | O | X | Q | E | S | T | F | T |
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- ABRACADABRA
- ALAKAZAM
- ENCHANT
- POTION
- WIZARD
- SORCERY
- MYSTIC
- HEX
- CHARM
- WAND
- SPELLBOOK
- CAULDRON
- PHOENIX
- DRAGON
- CRYSTAL
- ILLUSION
- BROOMSTICK
- CLOAK
- MOONLIGHT
- TALISMAN
- CONJURE
- ECLIPSE
- ORACLE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Paris Horticultural Society General Meeting - The Paris Horticultural Society will be hosting the final General Meeting before summer break on June 3rd starting with social time at 7 pm at the Paris Fairgrounds. Our guest speaker is Kevin Kavanagh, from South Coast Nursery his presentation will be "Paw Paw", a tasty hint of the tropics in Ontario. Come on out and join us for an informative evening.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

'Breath of Spring' Ladies' Evening - to be held Tuesday, June 2 at Burtch Baptist Church (352 Cockshutt Rd., Brantford). Meet and Greet at 6:15pm. Join them for desserts, musical entertainment and guest speaker, Rev. Lola Mather Dyer. Wear your spring bonnet or other hat. Free will offering, with proceeds to local missions.

The Brantford Stamp Club - The Brantford Stamp Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from September to December and January to May, plus the 1st Tuesday in June and December. Meetings are held at the Branlyn Community Centre, 238 Brantwood Park Drive, Brantford. Doors open at 7 p.m., with meetings starting at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY JUNE 5 & 19

Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree Meeting - Spring into the Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree meeting every other Friday 1-4 p.m. at Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll. Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy!

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Kiwanis Teddy Bear Picnic - A Family Favourite Is Back! Join the Kiwanis Paris-Brant club for this year's Teddy Bear Picnic on Sunday, June 7 from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Burford Fairgrounds. More information about the event is available at www.parisbrantkiwanis.org

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting - Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 at 10 AM at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. The guest speaker will be Peter Hunton discussing theatre history. New members are always welcome.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Women's Institute Meeting - 7-9 pm at the Wilkin Family Community Centre. Join us for Lawn Bowling 101, graciously hosted by the Paris Lawn Bowling Club. Strawberry shortcake to be provided.

Men's Probus Club of Brantford Monthly Meeting - Thursday, June 11, 10:00 a.m. till noon, at Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course, 320 Balmoral Drive with keynote speaker Paul Emmerson - retired County of Brant CAO who will talk about current state of new Hospital plans. The goal of the Probus Club of Brantford is to provide fellowship, friendship, and enjoyment for people in their retirement and semi-retirement years. Men's Probus Club, www.brantfordprobus.ca | PO Box 26003, Brantford, N3R 7X4

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - on Tuesday, 23th at 7:30 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish hall at 17 Washington Street, Paris.

MONDAY, JULY 20 - FRIDAY, JULY 24

Summer Kids Camp Paris Baptist Church - Join our detective squad and hunt for clues to uncover the truth of who Jesus is! July 20 - 24 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free Program Ages 5-12. Register now at parisbaptistchurch.org



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Early Bird Draw - May 2, 2026

Final Draw - Saturday June 20, 2026

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QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. United States & Canada | 6. Green Card |
| 2. Woodstock | 7. 2001 |
| 3. Harper Lee | 8. Alphabet Inc. |
| 4. Saturn | 9. Sean Connery |
| 5. El Salvador | 10. American Israel Public Affairs |



HOMES OF HEROES:

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

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Five unique display pieces suitable for retail craft booth, shop or home. 36"x12"x 6'H black wood bookcase \$50. 26"x16"x 65"H pine and glass IKEA display unit with glass doors \$50. 10'x10' white folding display tent in wheeled carry bag hardly used \$50. Black rotating greeting card rack 2'x2'x6'H \$50. Six pieces 2'x6' white metal grid wall \$20. Please call 519-302-0177.

GARAGE SALE

Don't miss this multi-family yard sale happening Saturday, June 6, from 8 a.m. to noon at 19 Daugaard Ave. in Paris. With a wide variety of items including books, tools, tires, crystal, household goods, and much more, there will be something for everyone to discover. Rain date is Sunday, June 7. Come out early for the best selection!

Contribute to your local community newspaper! Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to stories@theparisdependent.com

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



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