

The Paris Independent

Issue #213

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

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Paris Central tops \$7K in Terry Fox fundraising



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Ms. Sarkissian stands proudly with members of the Terry Fox Crew in front of Paris Central School, where students and staff came together to raise more than \$7,200 for cancer research during this year's Terry Fox Run.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Students at Paris Central School laced up for Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope with record-breaking results this year, raising more than \$7,000 for cancer research.

Principal Adam Walker said the school community set a goal of \$6,400 but quickly surpassed it, ultimately collecting \$7,278. With just 256 students enrolled, Walker said the achievement speaks volumes about the deter-

mination and generosity of the small school.

"Our school community has a long history of supporting the Terry Fox Run. This year was the strongest campaign yet," he said. "Students were focused on achieving our goal. I don't believe they realize just how remarkable it is given the size of our school."

A group of student leaders, known as the "Terry Fox Crew," helped fuel the campaign by leading assemblies, making daily announcements, and creating signage to build excitement. The crew also tracked and graphed class

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Brant fights province's plan to ban speed cameras

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant is taking a stand against the provincial government's plan to ban automated speed enforcement (ASE) cameras, saying the local program has already delivered measurable safety benefits and should not be scrapped.

At a special meeting on September 29, councillors unanimously endorsed a staff report and a letter to Premier Doug Ford urging the province to reconsider its proposed ban. The move comes just days after the Premier announced legislation will be introduced in October to eliminate ASE across Ontario, framing the cameras as a "cash grab" by municipalities.

Brant launched its ASE program in February 2025 with a single camera outside North Ward Public School in Paris. According to county data, speeding during school hours dropped dramatically – from 64 per cent of vehicles before installation to 34 per cent by August. Average speeds also fell from 43.5 km/h to 38.6 km/h.

The program has since expanded, with a second camera activated in St. George in mid-September and a third planned for Mount Pleasant Road later this fall.

County staff stressed that Brant's approach has been incremental, prioritizing education and fairness. Drivers are prevented from re-

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SOURCES

¹ Annual Report on Government of Canada Advertising Activities 2023-2024, combined with proprietary industry data.

² Totum Research Canada, January 2025. Canadians 18+, n=2418.; Pollara for the Dais. 2025 Survey of Online Harms, Canadians 16+, n=2502.

Terry Fox Crew leads Paris Central's big-hearted campaign, run

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

donations, helping to connect students to the school-wide goal.

On Sept. 25, the school hosted an assembly to celebrate student achievements before heading outside for the run itself. Students completed laps around the schoolyard and nearby park while parents cheered from the fence line. Together, the school community tallied the kilometres run in Terry's honour.

Among the highlights was Grade 6 student Kai, the school's top fundraiser, who raised more than \$1,000 on his own. Kai has been part of the cam-

paign since kindergarten and joined the Terry Fox Crew last year.

"A lot of my family has had cancer. If there was a cure for it, I would feel a lot better," he said. "The run is not all about Terry Fox. He died of cancer. He has family that would want there to be a cure, just like I do. There are a lot of people who want a cure."

Walker said the effort captured the essence of Terry's legacy. "This campaign shows something we know to be true and that is Paris Central community is committed to making a positive impact both locally and globally."

Staff leader Ms. Sarkissian added

that the campaign reflects the school's character: "There is a passion and an understanding in this community that we can 'be like Terry' in having an impact. The Terry Fox Crew gets the buzz going, and the excitement shows through in the results."

Walker said the most inspiring moment was watching all 256 students running and walking together. "The excitement of students looking at the graph and watching our total grow, especially in the final days, was incredible," he said. "The run truly brought our community together for a common purpose."

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Brant County Council defends local speed camera program, urges staff to advocate for continuance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ceiving multiple tickets before their first notice, and the county has set a confidential threshold to avoid ticketing for minimal offences – addressing concerns that some municipalities issue fines for exceeding the limit by just 1 km/h.

While the ASE program has generated revenue, staff emphasized it is designed to be revenue-neutral. As of August 31, the county had collected about \$595,000 in fines. After expenses, an estimated \$230,000 surplus was directed into Brant's Road Safety Reserve Fund, which supports projects such as the proposed Burtch Street roundabout, noted Halie Gilmore, Project Manager, Corporate Strategy.

"We tried to get ahead of the feedback of it being a 'cash grab' by establishing the Road Safety Reserve Fund policy to clearly outline how any revenue or surplus from the program would be used for road safety," she said.

Beyond continued operating costs, the initial set-up costs for one camera, including equipment and signage, totalled \$141,000, with another \$100,000 invested in research and staff time since 2019.

Councillors voiced frustration with the province's framing of ASE as a financial tool.

"Speeding is a crime. It's very normalized but you are breaking the law when you do it and the ticket is the punishment," said Councillor Lukas Oakley.

Councillor John Bell pointed to statistics showing 40,000 speeding incidents recorded between February and August. "Speeding remains a problem. Cameras or not, it exists," he said.

Others noted the province also collects significant fees from each ticket through victim surcharge payments, and that alternatives like speed humps and roundabouts still carry taxpayer costs, if they can't be collected through reserve funds like the one the county set up for surplus revenue.

Councillor Brian Coleman said he was playing the devil's advocate. "I think they (cameras) have been abused by some municipalities and that is where the Premier is

coming from," said Coleman.

He also noted some constituents are asking why they are getting a ticket on a Sunday evening at 10 pm in a school safety zone, when there's no school and the purpose of the camera is the make community safety zones safer. "That is where the public is getting upset," said Coleman.

He also had concerns that the cameras are only capturing speeders in urban areas, not the rural areas "What we are doing here is worrying about what is happening in town – it doesn't touch speeding in the rural areas."

The Ford government insists the ban will protect drivers from unnecessary costs while still supporting road safety. A new provincial fund will be created to help municipalities install traffic-calming measures such as speed bumps, roundabouts, and flashing-light signage, says the province.

"Too many municipalities are using speed cameras as a cash grab," Ford said during the September 25 announcement. "Instead of making life more expensive by sending speeding tickets weeks after the fact, we're supporting measures that prevent speeding in the first place"

In its letter to the Premier, the County argued ASE frees up OPP resources, complements broader speed-limit reductions in neighbourhoods, and directs the cost of enforcement to offenders rather than taxpayers.

"Reversing course now would not only undermine these gains but also waste taxpayer dollars," says the letter drafted by the County and endorsed by Council. "We urge the Province to collaborate with municipalities and industry professionals to evaluate the program and determine improvements, rather than prohibiting this tool"

The proposed provincial legislation is expected to be tabled October 20, when the legislature returns from summer recess. If passed, the ban would take effect immediately upon Royal Assent.

In the meantime, Brant councillors have directed staff to continue operating the ASE program, monitor legislative developments, and advocate for its continuation.

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Donor recognition event to celebrate support for Wilkin Family Community Centre

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

The County of Brant hosted a Donor Recognition Event on Thursday, October 2, at the Wilkin Family Community Centre to honour the generosity of those who helped bring the new facility to life.

The private evening gathering welcomed donors, members of the Fundraising Committee, and representatives from County Council and staff. The program included remarks from Mayor David Bailey, Councillor John Bell, Donald Wilkin, and County staff, followed by a reception.

Donald Wilkin shared stories of growing up in Paris 90 years ago taking residents on a walk down memory lane. County staff also shared stories of local artist David Powell

whose original concept sketch was given to the County's architect as inspiration for a design that would capture the likeness of the original Lawn Bowling Clubhouse, with a modern interpretation.

The Wilkin Family Community Centre, located at 169 Grand River Street North, overlooks the Grand River and serves as home to the Paris Lawn Bowling Club and Paris Seniors Club 99. With more than 2,000 square feet of indoor space, the \$1.6-million facility offers recreational, social, cultural and arts programming for the community.

The project's fundraising campaign, which set a target of \$400,000 to help offset costs, has successfully surpassed its goal.

For more information about the Wilkin Family Community Centre, visit www.brant.ca/WilkinFamilyCommunityCentre.



The Wilkin Family Community Centre in Paris, overlooking the Grand River, was the focus of a donor recognition event on Oct. 2. The \$1.6-million facility has become home to the Paris Lawn Bowling Club and Paris Seniors Club 99, and serves as a hub for recreational and cultural programming.



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Mayor David Bailey, local artist David Powell and County of Brant Director of Parks and Facilities Kathy Ballantyne gathered during the Oct. 2 donor recognition event at the Wilkin Family Community Centre. Powell's original sketch inspired the building's design, which reflects the former lawn bowling clubhouse with a modern interpretation.

Wastewater facility upgrades in Brant County significantly less than anticipated

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The upgrade and expansion of the St. George wastewater treatment plant will cost less than expected.

On September 29th, Brant County councillors approved a tender at just over \$41 million. While it will end up "around 50ish million" all in, it's significantly lower than the \$59 million initially anticipated, Mark Maxwell, director of engineering and infrastructure planning for the county, told councillors.

He credited a "conservative" approach during the design phase "based on what we were seeing in the market the last few years and supply chain issues."

The lower price tag isn't expected to affect provincial support for the project — a \$35-million grant — but

it will change a landowners agreement with developers in the area, county chief administrative officer Alison Newton told councillors.

The infrastructure will pave the way for the village of 3,354 (as of the 2021 census) to essentially double by 2051. Because of this, local developers are helping fund the project, which was estimated to reach \$85 million, including the water and wastewater infrastructure and roadwork.

An earlier report estimated the new water treatment plant will cost around \$14 million. It won't be tendered until 2028.

The wastewater design includes new headworks and process buildings. In the latter, water will be treated using a membrane bioreactor.

The technology hasn't been used in the county yet but is appealing due

to the "tight footprint" the county is working with. The site is "constrained on almost all sides by flood plains and natural areas," Maxwell said.

The existing control building in the middle of the site will be repurposed with the circular tanks becoming "sludge digestion tanks," he said.

The work will be carried out by Romag Contracting. The Mississauga-based company specializes in environmental projects in the water and wastewater sector, according to its website.

Construction is expected to start late 2025 and wrap up March 2028.

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

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EDITORIAL

Downtown Dig deserves a round of applause



CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

There's no denying that Paris' Downtown Dig has been disruptive. Detours, construction noise, and fenced-off sidewalks have tested the patience of residents and business owners alike. Yet as this ambitious infrastructure overhaul nears a major milestone, it's worth pausing to recognize the extraordinary coordination and commitment that have kept this massive project on track.

In a world where public projects too often miss timelines or leave communities in the dark, the County of Brant deserves credit for getting this one right. The Downtown Dig was never going to be simple — beneath the picturesque streets of Paris lies a maze of aging pipes, wires, and utilities, many more than 60 years old. Replacing and modernizing that entire network while maintaining access to businesses and ensuring public safety is a monumental task.

The construction team and planning department have managed a complex choreography of trades — from underground water and sewer work to gas lines, hydro, and concrete — with precision and professionalism. Keeping a project of this scope on schedule is no small feat. The fact that Phase 2B remains on timeline with minimal delays is a testament to good leadership and careful planning.

Just as impressive has been the County's marketing and communications team. Their regular updates have set a new standard for transparency. Residents have not only been told what is happening, but why — with clear, accessible explanations about timelines, design decisions, and impacts. From video briefings with neat aerial drone shots

to social media posts, their communication has given the community confidence that the County is steering this ship with care.

Credit is also due to County staff for the thoughtful collaboration with the Paris BIA. Together they've championed local businesses throughout the dig, organizing creative events like the Golden Shovel Hunt, happy hour promotions, and Spicy Jan's guided walking tours that encouraged people to keep visiting downtown. The summer's roster of pop-up activities and business features helped ensure downtown remained lively even behind the construction fences.

As the west-side curb and strip drain installations wrap up and hydro work continues at Cobblestone Commons, attention turns to the next stages. Phase 2B is expected to be complete by fall 2025, reopening Grand River Street North in time for the holiday season. Final touches will follow in spring 2026 before work shifts to Mechanic Street and other parts of the downtown core.

These improvements will do more than just modernize old pipes — they'll reshape Paris' downtown for generations. Wider sidewalks, raised street levels for better accessibility, and new trees, benches, and pathways will make the town centre safer, greener, and more welcoming.

It's easy to sit behind a screen and find fault with construction dust or detours. But perhaps it's time to give praise where it's due. For once, the County got the planning, timing, and transparency right. The Downtown Dig stands as proof that when departments, contractors, and the community work together, even the most disruptive projects can become a source of pride.

Letters to the Editor

Resident challenges County's use of WHO Data on speed reduction

Dear Editor:

The County of Brant is moving ahead with plans to lower speeds on neighborhood streets.

The County cited data from the World Health Organization Pedestrian Safety Manual. Makes one question how many manuals did the County go through before finding one that supports their theory?

But this is a conflict with the Premier of Ontario stating that radar cameras are

nothing more than a political cash grab.

Does this suggest the County will not comply with the Premier of Ontario outlawing speed radar cameras?

It almost appears that Brant County Council concern with personal safety can be compared to that of helicopter mothers.

But to cherry pick studies that uses worldwide data on a local issue appears to be an over reach with Ontario Premier standards.

Timothy Courtnage, Brant County

St. George Apple Fest organizers issue heartfelt thank-you to its sponsors

Dear Editor:

The St. George Apple Fest has officially concluded for 2025, and the Organizational Committee wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to all of the festival's sponsors. The challenges introduced by the Covid pandemic back in 2020 led to increased costs, making it more difficult to host this cherished event. This year however, our appeal for support was met with an overwhelmingly positive response, and for that, we offer a heartfelt "Thank you" to each and every sponsor.

We encourage everyone in our community to acknowledge and thank these sponsors whenever they have the opportunity to interact with them, as their generosity made this year's Apple Fest possible.

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We would also like to recognize the countless volunteers and local businesses whose dedication and hard work helped bring this year's festival to life. Your contributions—whether through time, resources, or enthusiasm—are the foundation of our event's success and the spirit of our community. Without you, the Apple Fest would not be the vibrant celebration it is today. Once again thank you, to all of our sponsors for your partnership and support. See you in 2026!

Shirley Steedman, Sponsorship Chair-

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County of Brant celebrates local businesses at Salute to Brant

MEDIA RELEASE

County of Brant

The County of Brant honoured the achievements and resilience of its business community on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at the annual Salute to Brant Business event, held at the TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre. The evening brought together local entrepreneurs, community leaders and government representatives for networking, local food and drink, an inspiring keynote, and the presentation of five prestigious business awards.

“It was a wonderful evening celebrating Brant’s business community,” said Zach Gable, Director of Economic Development and Tourism. “This year’s theme, Resiliency of Businesses During Times of Uncertainty, was especially fitting and emphasized the importance of working together through challenging times.”

The event was hosted by Jan Vilaca – also known by many as Spicy Jan – a local entrepreneur and business coach. Keynote speaker Brock Dickinson’s address “It’s not the end of the world”, focused on understanding opportunities in the next economy through a mix of humour, insight and strategy. In addition to members of the local

business community, the event was attended by County of Brant Council members, along with representatives from the provincial and federal governments.

The major highlight of the event was the awards presentation, recognizing the achievements of businesses across five categories. The 2025 award recipients are:

- **Jason’s Wheelhouse** – Accessible Brant Award
- **McBlain Farms Ltd.** - Tyler **McBlain and Family** – Brant Farms for All Agriculture Award
- **Scotlynn** -Brant Works Innovation Award
- **Afro-CariBrant Festival** – Good Times in Brant Award
- **Sika Canada Inc.** – Our Future Brant Sustainability Award

Award recipients were selected by a committee of industry experts.

“We are grateful to everyone that took the time to nominate a County of Brant business and support this event,” said Gable. “We look forward to celebrating with our business community again in 2026.”

To view the 2025 award recipient videos and learn more about Salute to Brant, visit www.brant.ca/Salute.



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTOS)

Jason’s Wheelhouse was presented with the 2025 Accessible Brant Award at the Salute to Brant Business event on Sept. 25. The award recognizes businesses that prioritize accessibility and inclusion in the County of Brant. Jason’s Wheelhouse, located in Paris, provides space and programming for members of the additional needs community to assist with their growth and confidence as individuals.



Scotlynn accepts the Brant Works Innovation Award at the 2025 Salute to Brant gala, in recognition of its forward-thinking practices and contributions to the Brantford business community. Scotlynn is a logistics and transportation company that emphasizes innovation as a core driver of its growth and operational efficiency. Over the past year, Scotlynn has advanced its digital infrastructure, modernized its fleet with fuel-saving and safety technologies, and introduced AI-powered fraud detection and advanced data analytics into everyday workflows.



Afro-CariBrant Festival founders Tobi Adedayo and Essay Folami accepted the 2025 Good Times in Brant Award, celebrating their contributions to arts, culture and community spirit in the County of Brant. The festival doubled in size from 2024 to 2025, celebrating the African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) culture through music, food, art and storytelling over the course of two days last month at Lion’s Park in Paris.

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Paris Home Building Centre lends a hand to local students with backpack donation

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

As local families prepared for the return to school this fall, Paris Home Building Centre stepped up to help ease the transition by donating 100 backpacks filled with essential school supplies to the Salvation Army.

The initiative is part of the PIE Education program, which since 2010 has provided more than 27,500 backpacks to students across Ontario communities. This marks the second consecutive year that Paris Home Building Centre has partnered with the program.

“PIE Education’s mission aligns with ours,” said Dealer-Owner Adam Moulton. “It’s about ensuring local children have the tools they need to start the school year with confidence and set them up for long-term success. Together, we’re building stronger communities, one backpack at a time.”

Each backpack was filled with practical, age-appropriate supplies such as notebooks, folders, pencils, pens, crayons, glue sticks and scissors.

While the backpacks were a visible outcome, Moulton said it was the dedication of Paris Home Building Centre staff that truly brought the initiative to life. Employees volunteered their time to sort, pack and organize all 100 backpacks, carefully en-

suring each was filled with the right supplies. Beyond packing, staff also handled logistics — from gathering materials to coordinating delivery and pickup.

“It was truly a team effort,” said Moulton. “Our staff rallied together around a shared goal: supporting local students and making a positive impact in our community. Their commitment shows how much this initiative means not only to our customers but to the people who work here every day.”

Moulton said the donation helps reduce financial pressures on families while giving students the confidence that comes with being prepared. “Just as importantly, these backpacks show students that their community cares and supports their education,” he said.

The program was delivered in partnership with the Salvation Army and the County of Brant to ensure supplies reached students who need them most.

Paris Home Building Centre’s commitment to supporting local youth goes beyond the backpack program. The store also sponsors school events and sports teams, offers internships and job-shadowing opportunities for high school students, and contributes to school programs.

“Our goal is to invest in the next generation,” Moulton said. “When we support our students, we’re helping strengthen our entire community.”



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Staff at Paris Home Building Centre gather in front of the store with some of the 100 backpacks they packed and donated to the Salvation Army through the PIE Education program, helping local students start the school year prepared for success. Pictured from left to right: Hannah M, Todd Lucek, Jeff Woods, William Ratelband, representing the Salvation Army, Jake Cerson, representing the County of Brant and Lance Hnat.

Brant marks National Seniors Day with flag raising



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

In recognition of National Seniors Day, Mayor David Bailey joined members of the Grand River Council on Aging and the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) for a flag raising ceremony at County of Brant Council Chambers on October 1. The County offers a variety of resources for residents 55+, available at brant.ca/Seniors.

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Brant council maintains community grants program with small adjustments for better access

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Councillors in Brant County hope a couple of changes to the community grant program will help all groups get fair access to funds.

To request up to \$10,000 for operations, events or capital projects in the past, local groups could plead their case directly to councillors. But in the last two years, the program has been administered through a more formal application process by the Brant Community Foundation (BCF).

In light of feedback, some councillors questioned whether it should be brought back in house.

"I think this might be one that we got wrong," Coun. Christine Garneau said at a policy development meeting in September. She questioned whether the cost-savings were that significant.

Others, like Coun. David Miller, said by delegating the process, council has "lost really good communications with the people that are doing a lot of the important work in our county."

Some councillors and community members expressed concerns that under the new system, smaller, volunteer-run organizations might have missed out to larger organizations — including those in the City of Brantford — with more grant-writing experience.

Ultimately, council decided to continue contracting the foundation to oversee the program — with a couple of minor

changes.

In 2026, the foundation will follow up with organizations that miss a submission detail or requirement that would result in their disqualification.

The one-time change will give some applicants who might not be as savvy with the grant process "a bit of a second chance," Coun. Steve Howes said.

They will also add a question to the application, asking for the "quantitative" benefit to county residents.

Because the county surrounds Brantford, there are "many organizations" with a central location in the city which "directly serve" county residents, according to a report council saw.

The county commits 0.5 per cent of its operating budget to the program, which ensures "community contributions align proportionately with overall municipal spending," the report said.

For 2026, that means around \$427,500 will be on the table for community organizations.

The foundation gets a 10 per cent cut of the budget allocation to oversee the program.

The BCF has distributed nearly \$10 million in grants from foundation funds over the past 26 years, and it oversees the City of Brantford's grants program, according to executive director Anne Marie Peirce.

The adjudication committee for the county's grants is largely made up of community representatives from the county.

They recommend awards based on an organization's "con-

tribution to and impact on the community" with a focus on "benefit to the county over grant-writing ability," the report said.

Applicants will have access to a granting webinar and the foundation offers support if applicants have questions or need clarification, Peirce said.

This year, the application window is expected to open shortly after the budget is approved, with a final report going to council in May.

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



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Hands-on creativity: Community shapes clay at Smakdab's Culture Days Workshop



(CELESTE BILBAO PHOTOS)

Community members take part in Smakdab's Collaborative Pottery Workshop as part of Culture Days, learning hand-building techniques, wheel-throwing, and surface design under the guidance of artist Rose Risi. Participants worked together to create functional vessels that will later be glazed and fired at the studio, showcasing art as a shared community experience. Culture Days is a free, Canada-wide festival that invites people to participate in arts, culture, and heritage activities in their communities. Events include hands-on workshops, performances, artist talks, open studios, heritage tours, and more — all designed to make cultural experiences accessible to everyone.



Participants get their hands dirty during a Culture Days workshop at Smakdab Pottery Studio in Brantford. Led by artist and owner Rose Risi, Smakdab offers an inclusive, hands-on space where people of all skill levels can explore clay work from shaping to glazing. The studio, located on Colborne Street, is known for its creative community atmosphere and commitment to sharing the full pottery-making process.

St. George Lions mark 80 years of service with community celebration

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

The St. George Lions Club capped off eight decades of community service with an afternoon of celebration, camaraderie, and gratitude during its 80th Anniversary Open House held Saturday, October 4, at the Gaukel Memorial Community Centre.

Founded in 1945, the St. George Lions Club has long been a cornerstone of community service in the village. The club first formed on March 28, 1945, and received its charter on May 21 of that year, with W.D. Taylor serving as its inaugural president. Eighty years later, current members welcomed residents to reflect on the club's rich history and ongoing impact.

"We were thrilled to celebrate this amazing milestone with our community," said club president Renee Wardlaw. Guests enjoyed cake, refreshments, games, face painting, and a slideshow of our club's history, but most importantly, they had a chance to meet the people behind the Lions and learn about what they do in the community.

The event also supported Vision Month, with attendees encouraged to bring used eyeglasses for donation through the Lions' international Eyeglass Recycling Program, which refurbishes and distributes glasses to those in need around the world. Visitors also met puppies-in-training from the Lions

Foundation of Canada Guide Dog Program, learning about the organization's work training service dogs for Canadians with disabilities. Green Capes fundraising calendars were available in support of the program.

Wardlaw said the day was as much about looking forward as it was about honouring the past.

"I am so proud to be part of a club with such a strong legacy of service," she said. "We're excited about what the future holds and how we can continue to serve our community for many years to come."

Over the decades, the St. George Lions have contributed to countless local and global initiatives from building ice rinks, tennis courts, and playgrounds to sponsoring youth sports, awarding scholarships, and supporting community organizations. The club has also spearheaded projects such as the Memorial Forest at Elliot Field, the annual Kids' Bike Rodeo, and numerous park improvements throughout the village.

"Our members work tirelessly all year long at events and through our popular food trailer to raise funds," said Wardlaw. "We're deeply grateful to everyone who continues to support us; we couldn't do what we do without you."

From its original 26 members in 1945, the St. George Lions Club has grown to 60 active members in 2025. The organization remains part of Lions Clubs International,



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Pictured along side members of the St. George Lions Club is Brant County Councillor John MacAlpine, Councillor Jennifer Kyle, Mayor David Bailey and Paris Agricultural Society Fair Ambassador Grace Aulsebrook-Smith.

al, the world's largest service club network with more than 1.4 million members across 48,000 clubs worldwide — all united by a shared commitment to service.

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: The history of 1 Banfield Street AKA Charles Whitlaw home



By Chris Whelan

Charles Whitlaw (1854 - 1889)

Charles Whitlaw, born in Montreal, Quebec in 1823, embarked on a remarkable journey that intertwined his personal and professional life. Starting as a young employee in the dry goods industry, he rapidly progressed to become a prominent figure in Paris, Ontario. His marriage to Celeste Morse in 1847 marked a pivotal moment, leading to the establishment of a flourishing business and a growing family. Whitlaw's entrepreneurial spirit shone as he acquired The New Paris Mills and engaged actively in various community endeavors.

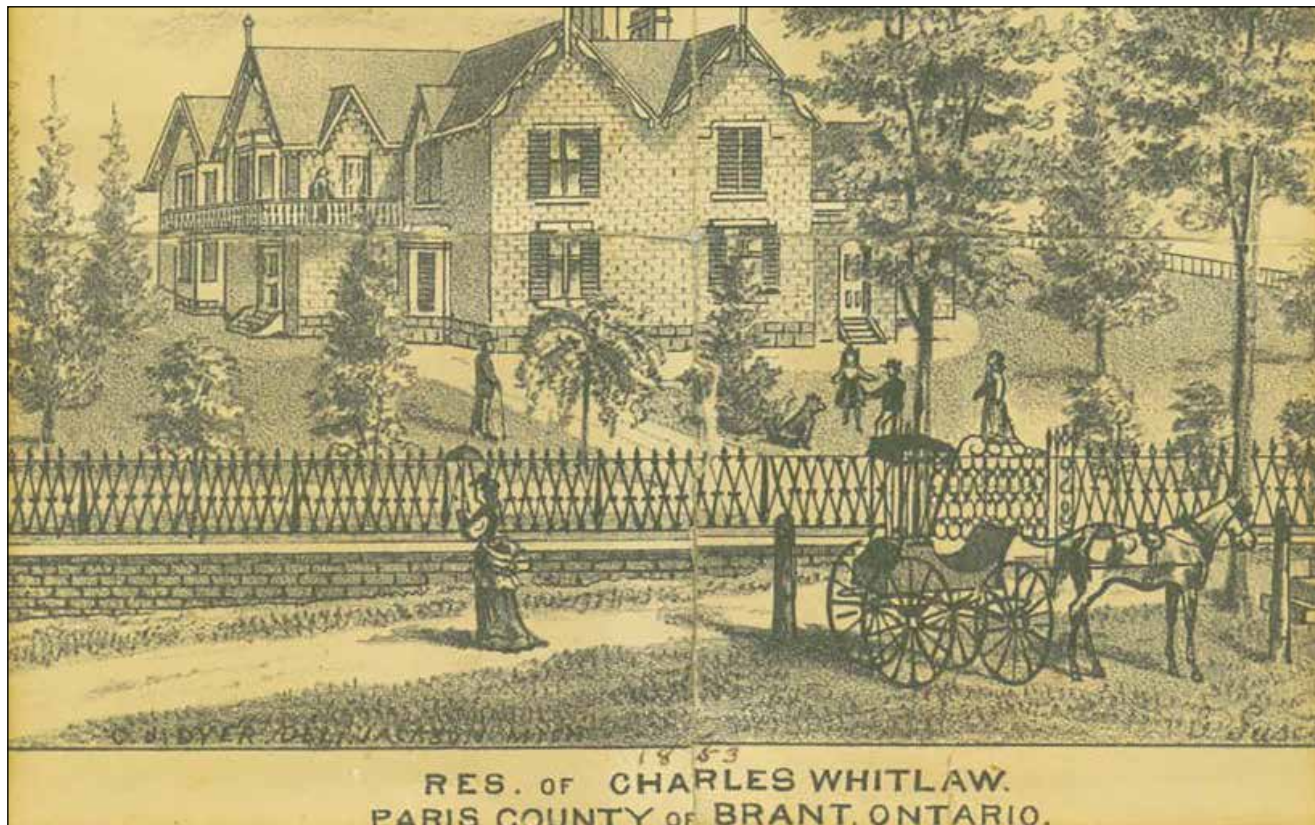
In 1854, at the age of 31, Whitlaw laid the foundation for what would become the iconic Charles Whitlaw Home on Banfield Street. The house, constructed with grandeur, stood as a testament to his success and status within the community. Over the years, as his family expanded, so did his influence and prosperity. His legacy as a merchant, miller, and philanthropist resonated long after his passing in 1889.

Henry Stroud (1889 - 1922)

Henry Stroud, a man of resilience and determination, took the helm of 1 Banfield Street following Whitlaw's era. His tenure witnessed the evolution of the house from a symbol of prosperity to a hub of textile industry innovation. Stroud's multifaceted contributions to Brantford's economic and civic landscape solidified his place as a respected leader. His commitment to community service and active involvement in various spheres left a lasting imprint on the house and its surroundings.

Lieut.-Col. Matthew F. Muir (1922 - 1928)

The brief yet eventful residency of Lieut.-Col. Matthew F. Muir at 1 Banfield Street marked a chapter of military ardor and civic engagement. His dedication to military matters and municipal affairs highlighted his passion for



service and commitment to his community. The transition from the Whitlaw era to Muir's stewardship hinted at the house's adaptability to accommodate diverse narratives and personalities.

J. K. Martin and Hilda (1928 - 1958)

The Martins, known for their affluence, community involvement, and social prominence, transformed 1 Banfield Street into a hub of social gatherings and cultural exchanges. J.K. Martin's legacy as an industrialist, churchman, and sports enthusiast intertwined with Hilda's vivacious spirit, creating a vibrant atmosphere within the house. Their meticulous attention to modernizing the residence while preserving its historical charm reflected their reverence for the past and vision for the future.

Peter and Helen Piovaty (1958 - 1981)

The Piovatys' tenure ushered in a new era of familial warmth and cultural appreciation at 1 Banfield Street. Their dedication to preserving the house's architectural integrity while infusing modern elements showcased a harmonious blend of tradition and contemporary living. The house's transformation into a space that nurtured family bonds and artistic expression reflected the evolving narratives that unfolded within its walls.

Salah Bachir and Jacob Yerex (1992 - 2025)

Under the ownership of Salah Bachir and Jacob Yerex, 1 Banfield Street witnessed a confluence of art, culture, and contemporary sensibilities. Their custodianship of the property symbolized a fusion of heritage preservation and artistic exploration, casting a new light on the house's enduring legacy.

As the house at 1 Banfield Street transitions through various owners and eras, each chapter adds a layer of richness to its storied history, encapsulating the intertwined tales of individuals who called it home. The legacy of Charles Whitlaw's vision and the successive custodians' contributions continue to resonate through the walls of this iconic residence, embodying a tapestry of narratives that define its enduring charm and significance in the community.

This history was compiled using research by members of the PMHS Research Team, May 2024, using PMHS files, Ancestry.ca, and information from the Martin family. This research is based on documentation, interpretation of its contents, and the reliability of those named sources. Some inaccuracies may occur, and PMHS welcomes any corrections.



Support literacy, community, and history—become a Friend of the Library

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Staff Contribution

Friends of the Paris Library celebrated a quarter century of kinship and support this past winter. The 25-year milestone was impressive, even more so when you consider the group's roots stretch back to pre-amalgamation days when the Paris Public Library still existed.

When the Paris Public Library Board was dissolved during amalgamation in the late 1990s, many board members wanted to continue their support of the Paris branch. From that commitment, the Friends of the Paris Library were born—a fundraising group modeled on similar “Friends” organizations across Canada.

Over the years, their work has become woven into the fabric of the community. If you've ever spotted the colourful “Trail of Toonies” in downtown Paris, you've seen their impact in action. The annual fundraiser, temporarily relocated to the Riverside Bookshelf this spring due to downtown construction, is supported not only by the Friends but often with the helping hands of local service clubs such as the Optimists and Kiwanis.

Every toonie collected helps spark a love of reading in the community. Proceeds support the Children's and Teen Summer Reading Clubs as well as the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program—an early literacy challenge that encourages caregivers to track books read to young children. Along the way, participants can earn milestone prizes such as board books and a book bag, helping families build a foundation for lifelong learning.

The Friends also lend their support to One Book, One Brant, an annual author

visit organized by the County of Brant Library that brings hundreds of readers together each year. This year's event drew about 250 people, underscoring the group's commitment to making literary experiences accessible and engaging.

Beyond literacy programs, the Paris Friends have also championed the preservation of local heritage. In 2010 and again in 2019, they reprinted the much-loved history volumes *At the Forks of the Grand* by the late Donald Smith, a former Paris District High School principal and founding member of the Paris Historical Society. Copies are still available at local museums, bookstores, and the library—and sets are donated annually to top-achieving PDHS students in English and history.

Book lovers eagerly anticipate the Friends' spring and fall book sales at the Paris branch, where gently used titles find new homes and proceeds circle back into library programs. Past initiatives have also included wine tours, author visits, and even car rallies—creative fundraisers that keep community spirit alive. Looking ahead, the group is preparing to fundraise for the new Paris library branch once plans move forward.

The Friends of the Paris Library are always eager to welcome new members. Monthly morning meetings held September through June at the Paris branch, last about an hour—leaving plenty of time for members to stay involved while balancing busy lives.

As they celebrate their history and look ahead to future projects, the Friends extend an open invitation: come help support your local library and shape its future.

For more information or to get involved, contact the staff at the Paris branch of the County of Brant Public Library.



(NICOLE MESZAROS PHOTO)

Members of the Paris Friends of the Library gathered for the annual Trail of Toonies fundraiser in May, with support from volunteers from the Optimist and Kiwanis Clubs. Proceeds help fund children's and teen reading programs at the County of Brant Public Library.

The Paris Independent Pick Up Locations

PARIS

Brant Sports Complex

Brave Waves Swim School

Canadian Tire

Cobblestone Public House

Cowan Community Health Hub Pharmacy.

Detour Café Paris

Dog-Eared Cafe

Egg Smart

Elberta Farms Country Market

Farah Foods

From The Attic Interiors

Grand River Estates

Horsfall's Auto Service

Jay's No Frills

John M Hall The House of Quality Linen

Le Petite Marche

Mary Maxim

Northville Pharmacy

Paris Beer Company

Paris Health Store

Paris Inn

Paris Jewellers

Park Lane Terrace

Paris Branch--County of Brant Public Library

PrimaCare Community Family Health Team

Queensview Retirement Community

Rexall Pharmacy

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29

Sales Decorating

Secret Lunch and Catering

Sobeys

Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House Paris

Telfer Place Retirement Residence

Tim Hortons - Rest Acres

Tim Hortons - Paris Road

Tim Hortons - Grand

River St N

The Gem Marketplace

The Grand Bayou Cajun Kitchen

The Paris Wincey Mills Market

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Wright's Variety Store

Willett Urgent Care Centre

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County of Brant Library - St. George

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The Paris Independent SPORTS



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Titans edge Firebirds 6–5 in tight home-ice battle

JAMES BROWN

Paris Independent Contributor

The Paris Titans held off a late surge from the New Hamburg Firebirds to claim a thrilling 6–5 victory in Provincial Junior C Hockey League action Saturday night at the Brant Sports Complex.

The Titans came out flying in the opening period. Ethan Arrojado opened the scoring just 1:23 into the game, assisted by Carter MacKay and Jay Metler. This was MacKay's first PJHL goal, earning him the Titan's player of the game. New Hamburg's Devon Wallace responded quickly to even things at one apiece, but Paris captain Ryan Gardiner-O'Keefe restored the lead at 3:39, assisted by line-mate Clark Dunford.

"It was a big goal for me as it was assisted by my line-mate from last year, Clark Dunford, and it was his first point of the year," said Gardiner-O'Keefe post game.

The Firebirds tied the game 2–2 early in the second period, but the Titans regained control moments later when Cole Kersey scored at 6:46, assisted by Jack Kersey. Keegan Clarke extended the lead to 4–2 with helpers from Gannon Neill and Jack Schell, and Ayden Burns answered for New Hamburg with a buzzer-beater at 19:59 to narrow the gap heading into the third.

MacKay restored the Titans' two-goal advantage at 11:27 of the final frame with help from Kayde Blaquiére, but Burns struck again for the Firebirds at 13:12 to make it 5–4.

With the game on the line, Blake Kersey buried an empty-netter at 18:31 to give Paris a bit of breathing room, an insurance marker that proved crucial when Ben Oliver scored for New Hamburg just 48 seconds later to close out the 6–5 final.

"Scoring that empty-net goal was an important goal for us," said head coach Gary Gardiner, who was behind the bench for his first game as Titans coach. "Our guys really played well tonight."

"It was a big win for us tonight," added captain Gardiner-O'Keefe.

Goaltender Cole Stevens turned aside 36 shots for Paris, while Connor Harnum made 24 saves for the Firebirds. Both teams went 0-for-1 on the power play, and tempers flared late when Blake Kersey and Burns drew coincidental minors at 15:48 of the third.

The win improved Paris' record to 4-3 on the season and helped avenge an early-season overtime loss to New Hamburg. "This was an important win for the Titans," said coach Gardiner.

The Titans were back in action Sunday evening against the Wellesley Apple Jacks and will return home next Sat-

urday to host the Norwich Merchants at 7:30 p.m. at the Brant Sports Complex.

PDHS Girls Fastball team earns silver at Debbie DeMoel High School Classic



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

On September 29th the Provincial Women's Softball Association hosted its Fall Debbie DeMoel High School Classic. Paris District High School took home silver medals. College Avenue Secondary in Woodstock won gold while Port Perry High School won bronze. Pictured (back row) is Ada Rosebrugh, Rowan Worrall, Ryann Taylor, Emelia Hallman and Maddie Kyle. Front Row, Lexi Wynia-Brown, Cadence Fallowfield, Sydney Kipp, Harley Shuart and Addie Currington. Absent is Logan Crawley and Mackenzie Spurgeon. In regular season AHBN action, Paris claimed two wins in their season opener on September 24th against BCI 17-2 and North Park 16-3. On October 1st they won by forfeit 7-0 to McKinnon Park and posted a 15-0 victory over Delhi.



House League Standings - Week of September 29th

Ages 7-8 (3 on 3 league)

Raptors Defeat Lakers, 20-6
Capybaras Defeat Sponge Bob S.P., 24-12

This week's top scorers:

Rowan, Team Capybaras, 14 points, Gavin, Team Raptors, 14 points
CJ, Team Capybaras, 10 points

Ages 12-14 (3 on 3 league)

Timberwolves (formerly the raptors) Defeat Panthers, 35-18
Lions Defeat Mustard, 14-11

This week's top scorers:

Bahadur, Team Timberwolves, 16 points, Buster, Team Panthers, 8 points, Benson, Team Timberwolves, 8 points

Ages 12-14 (3 on 3 league)

Warriors Defeat Avengers, 40-34, Raptors Defeat Spartans, 50-13

This week's top scorers:

Edmond, Raptors, 28 points, Grant, Warriors, 22 points, Cruze, Avengers, 14 points

Paris Duffers at Burford Golf Links

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

The Best of Paris men's golf results...

What an exciting end to a great season of golf and camaraderie with Gerry Hoogstraten being crowned champion. Congratulations to runner-up Doug Sinclair who gave it his best but, on this day, Hoogstraten's overall playing won out. With Third place going to Greig Graham, fourth place to Billy Beechey and fifth place to Jacques Cormier



A beaming Gerry Hoogstraten after winning the championship.

Winners of the milk: The Paris duffers men's golf league



Everyone pictured here in a group photo

Best sportsmanship: The coveted best sportsmanship award goes to Al Oldroyd and Terry Brown for putting up with this reporters snide remarks all year. I feel bad, not really.



Jeff cuddling up to his big buddy Pat looks like he is snug as a bug in a rug.

Best buddies: Jeff Johnston and Pat Fergus.

Best team: Paul Barber and anybody... Paul is like a fine wine that gets better with age.

Best quotes: Has to be Dino Kitchen and my favourite one was about Jay Miller's pants looking like the snack cart exploded.

Best drive: Most impressive drive of the season goes to my longtime friend Andy Attlebery, whose shot on the 16th not only crossed the westbound 403 but was last rumored to have reached the Windsor border.

Best crazy shot: Little Dicky Berg playing in his bare feet after a super soaker in the pond, a drive that went straight up and almost bonked him on the head.

Best under pressure: Even on the 90° days, there's not one drip of sweat coming off Johnny Fever's head, the man is cool as a cucumber.

Best rocket shot: Willie Dafoe hit a screamer on number 11 that never went above 5 feet in height and smoked the pin going 90mph.

Best haircuts: A three-way tie between Steve Kopp, Jason Holmes and Telly Savalas, their melons are manicured like a putting green.

This article was sponsored by Comfort Plus Heating and Cooling. Call my buddy Shawn at 519-752-2250 and mention this article to receive 10% off your winter maintenance. Keep it where its mowed.

Scoop Stewart signing off *always a pleasure!*

Brant Battalion hosts first-ever Fall Fling Tournament

SPECIAL TO THE PARIS INDEPENDENT

The Brant Battalion Hockey Association officially dropped the puck on a new tradition last month, hosting its first Fall Fling Tournament at the Burford Arena and Brant Sports Complex in Paris. Running from September 26–28, the tournament welcomed 'A' division teams from across the region for a weekend filled with exciting hockey, strong competition, and plenty of community spirit.

From the opening faceoff to the final buzzer, both rinks were buzzing with energy. Families packed the stands, young fans waved signs and cheered on their teams, and volunteers worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure everything ran smoothly. For many players, the Fall Fling was the first chance to take the ice with their new teammates this season, setting the stage for what promises to be an exciting year of rep hockey.

The tournament wasn't just about the games—it was about bringing people together. Between matches,

parents and players filled the lobbies and parking lots, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. The event gave visiting teams a warm welcome to Brant County and showcased the pride local families have in their hockey community.

Organizers say the strong turnout and positive feedback have set the foundation for what they hope will become a long-standing tradition. The Fall Fling is expected to return next year, even bigger and better, providing another opportunity for players to develop their skills and for families to enjoy a weekend centered around Canada's favourite game. With 89 games played over the weekend utilizing Brant's 3 of 4 ice rinks it has allowed Brant County to be able to showcase their commitment to community sports.

Brant's U12A, U13A, U14A, U15A and U16A teams competed. The U12A team beat Flamborough in their opening game, 4-1 but lost two close ones to the Midwest 49ers, 4-3 and Mount Brydges Cougars, 2-1.

The U13A team lost to Lambton

Shores, South Oxford Storm and Woolwich Wildcats. They played to a 2-2 tie against the Delhi 59ers.

The U14A lost their first two games to the Cambridge Hawks and Glancaster Bombers before picking up two back to back wins against the Woolwich Wildcats and Delhi 59ers, both ending in a 2-1 score. They were knocked out of the tournament in semi final loss to Glancaster.

The U15A Battalions started off with a 4-1 win over Brampton 45's, followed by a close 2-1 loss to South-west Admirals. They split the next two games with a 2-0 loss to Windsor Jr Spitfires but picked up a 5-1 win against Centre Wellington Fusion.

The U16A team faced some tough competition losing to Jr Guelph Gryphons, Newcastle Stars and Strathroy Jr. Rockets. In their final game of the tournament, they tied Barrie Colts 2-2.

With the Battalion's first Fall Fling in the books, the 2025–26 season is officially underway—and it's clear the community is ready to cheer louder than ever.



BRANT BATTALION

SCOREBOARD - WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29TH

Monday, September 29

- U13A Battalions lose 7-2 against Elgin Thames 73s
- U10A Battalions lose 3-1 against St. Marys Rock
- U14A Battalions win 2-0 against Strathroy Jr Rockets

Tuesday, September 30

- U10A Battalions lose 5-1 against New Hamburg Huskies

Thursday, October 2

- U18B Battalions lose 7-1 against New Hamburg Huskies

Friday, October 3

- U11B Battalions win 5-4 against Ayr Flames
- U13B Battalions win 5-3 against Ayr Flames
- U15A Battalions win 3-2 against Elgin Thames 73s
- U15B Battalions lose 5-2 against Ayr Flames
- U18B Battalions lose 4-1 against Ayr Flames

Saturday, October 4

- U15B Battalions win 3-0 against Delhi 59ers
- U11B Battalions win 4-2 against Ayr Flames
- U16A Battalions lost 3-1 to South Oxford Storm

Sunday, October 5

- U10A Battalions lose 5-2 against Elgin Thames 73s
- U11A Battalions lose 5-1 against Mt Brydges Cougars
- 12A Battalions win 3-1 against St Marys Rock
- U13A Battalions lose 6-0 against South Oxford Storm

Optimists fuel school spirit at Panthers' Football Home Opener

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Correspondent

It was a perfect Saturday afternoon for football — warm sunshine, a packed crowd, and a strong sense of community as the Paris District High School Panthers hosted the St. John's Eagles for their season home opener. The stands were buzzing with excitement, not only for the action on the field but also for the smell of sizzling burgers and the sound of community support, courtesy of the Paris Optimist Club.

The Optimists hosted barbecues and 50/50 draws during both the Junior and Senior games, raising funds to support the school's athletic programs. "We do this annually on the two Saturdays the Panthers play at home, with proceeds going back to support the school teams," noted a club representative. "Thank you to everyone who enjoyed our refreshments and sup-

ported the BBQ and to all the Optimists and Honorary Optimists who volunteered their time today."

On the field, the Junior Panthers battled hard but fell 41-7 to the St. John's Eagles. Taygen Steenkamp scored the lone touchdown for Paris, with Axel Cormier adding the convert. Strong efforts also came from Steenkamp, Jack Cushing, and Miles Maher.

The Senior Panthers faced a tough match-up as well, dropping their game 24-10. Nolan Innanen scored the team's touchdown, while Bhav Aujla contributed a point after and a field goal. Notable performances came from Colton Gloade, Nolan Ayres, and Ryan Smith.

Though the scoreboard didn't favour the Panthers, the afternoon was a win for community spirit with the Paris Optimist Club once again playing a key role in rallying support for local youth sports.

Contribute to your local community newspaper!

Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to

stories@theparisdependent.com

Golden start to the season



(PARIS FIGURE SKATING CLUB PHOTO)

The Paris Figure Skating Club has started its 2025/2026 with a bang with Sadie McRoberts skating to a first-place finish in her Women's Star 8 Free Skate program at the Brampton Provincial Competition this past weekend. The club sent out congratulations to Sadie on her accomplishment.

Panthers Seniors stay hot as Juniors show grit in early-season play

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Sports Correspondent

The fall sports season is heating up at Paris District High School, with Panthers teams giving fans plenty to cheer about. The Senior Girls' basketball team powered through a string of victories, the Senior Boys' volleyball team kept its undefeated record intact, and several Junior squads showed strong development and determination on the court.

Girls Basketball

Last Monday, the Junior Girls team lost to the visiting McKinnon Park side, 24-15. Julia Sherron, Jasmine Nukorak were the leading scorers for the Panthers. On September 30th, they travelled to Pauline Johnson, where

they were defeated 33-18. Sherron and Mackenzie Hnatt were the leading scorers for the Panthers.

Meanwhile, the Senior Panthers edged out McKinnon Park 36-33. Notable scorers for the Panthers were Eira Feairs, Elif Ozturk, Nora Kovacs, and Kayla Padusenko. The next day, they also travelled to PJ and won 34-17. Ozturk, Padusenko, and Peyton Andree were the leading contributors to the win. They also opened the month of October with a 42-31 victory over North Park Collegiate.

Boys Volleyball

On September 29th the Panthers travelled to Caledonia to face McKinnon Park. The Juniors shut out their opponents 3-0. Meanwhile, the Seniors beat the Caledonia side three games to none, maintaining their undefeated season.

On September 30, Pauline Johnson brought their sides to face the Panthers and I was able to catch the teams in action this day. If you looked at the stats for the Junior side, you would think that they are really struggling... but they're not that bad off. They are a young team and they're all there. In fact, they are pretty competitive. They lost the first two games, but in the third game, they showed some grit, going back and forth, tied at 24, 25, and 26, before finally losing the game 27-26. Congrats on a great effort. The seniors kept their winning streak alive taking PJ in three straight games.

Finally, the Panther teams travelled to North Park last Thursday, where the Junior side lost their match, while the Senior side added to their streak, winning their match 3 games to 2.

The Paris Independent

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- The Paris Independent Community Calendar allows non-profit organizations to promote their free admission community events at no charge. Event listings can include the event name, date, time and location as well as contact information (ie phone number, email address or website).
- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, The Paris Independent offers the following options for promoting your community events:
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Who is the guy behind Dine in 519?

Social media channels exploding as he supports area dining

LEE GRIFFI

Grant Haven Media

Jesse Walker has taken the Southwestern Ontario culinary scene by storm, and he's done it one burger and butter tart at a time.

The 36-year-old's Dine in 519 social media channels are exploding as he travels across the area, thanks to Walker's charismatic and heartfelt restaurant reviews.

He started the endeavour in 2020 while working as a marketing director for a large company, something he has done for most of his working life. During the pandemic, restaurants were closing down and Walker was working from home.

"I have this spare time. How can I use my skillset to support the food industry? I was doing photoshoots for restaurants, these ma and pa shops that don't have a budget for marketing. It grew quickly and I think it resonated because it not only served as a resource for the restaurants but also for the public. I think that's what hit with people."

Walker decided to step it up a notch by adding video to his hole-in-the-wall visits by doing food reviews on video in his car. The numbers are staggering.

"Just in the last year I switched to the

on-camera aspect, so being in my car, doing the reviews, showing a bit of personality, and I think it struck a chord with people and maybe it's more organic, I don't know. It went from 10,000 followers to over 70,000 just on Instagram alone. Facebook has grown by 20,000 in the last couple weeks."

Walker also utilizes TikTok and has well over 30,000 followers there and has branched out into the event scene.

"All this has brought me to today and I am now doing large-scale events. I recently did Brunchfest, which was at the Kellogg Lane in London, in the courtyard. I did that as a way to earn revenue, and I sold over 2,000 advance tickets and I think over 600 more at the door throughout the day."

This journalist went to the event and was wowed by not only the incredible selection of food vendors but also the overall vibe and the downright fun had by everyone in attendance. The prosecco stand didn't hurt either.

"Events are going to be a big part of my strategy moving forward because people are loving them and it's something I enjoy doing," he added. He also vows to keep away from chain restaurants.

"I get hundreds of emails a week from

chains or those sub-chains with 10 or so locations, but I just don't feel right doing it. Even though I could make a lot of money doing that, I think what people resonate with is that I highlight what I think is truly great, and I won't just post a place because they are reaching out and offering money."

Walker said he has launched his own line of merchandise and recently held an all-woman dinner event featuring a seven-course curated meal, which sold out. I first became interested in doing a story on Walker when I watched a heartfelt video on his Facebook page in support of small restaurants.

"90 per cent of comments I get are positive, but there's always that 10 per cent. I posted Taylor's Deli in Stratford, and they do this beef dip sandwich, which is a three-day process. They're baking their own bread, doing everything in-house, and it's \$19 and delicious."

Walker explained the deli has less expensive options on its menu, and he was getting some negative comments about the cost.

"What people don't realize is chain sub shops have \$19 sandwiches. It's not just the cost of food. People don't look beyond that. I've owned a restaurant myself, so I know how many things they are paying for before they get any type of profit."

As far as his future plans, Walker is open to taking his show to the next level, including television and he is also open to teaming up with local Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) and townships to promote downtowns across the region.

"I've done Windsor and I went up to Bayfield. They put me up in a cottage there, they built me an itinerary, so I don't have to charge the restaurants that don't have a budget."

Walker is adamant that he is not an influencer but instead a supporter of

"I think there's a negative connotation that comes with that. I am an advocate for local, independent food joints and this has exploded. My main focus is online and making videos for these restaurants. I still have the same passion for it five years later."



(DINE IN 519 PHOTO)

Dine in 519's Jesse Walker stopped in at RA's Place in Ayr, where he connected with owner RA and learned more about the story behind the restaurant's mission. Known for his genuine and passionate approach to highlighting local food culture, Walker was praised by RA as "walking out my mission statement — Eat Good, Do Good!"



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Families “Charge into Fire Safety” at North Dumfries Fire Department Open House



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTOS)

Families from across the Township of North Dumfries turned out Sunday, October 5, for the annual Fire Department Open House at Station 1 in Ayr — an afternoon packed with hands-on fun, fire safety education, and community spirit. Children lined up eagerly for popcorn served by North Dumfries firefighters, took turns exploring the fire trucks, police cruisers and ambulances, and cheered each other on in the ever-popular fire hose challenge. Among the participants were Ayr siblings Fynnley and Felix Burechails, who tested their aim by pushing a wooden fire truck down a two-lane track with a powerful blast of water. Visitors also had a chance to tackle a firefighter endurance course, learn about lithium-ion battery safety at the Fire Prevention Week display, and stop by the GrandBridge Energy booth for electrical safety tips. Firefighters capped off the afternoon with free hot dogs and hamburgers, while guests generously contributed food bank donations — a perfect blend of fire safety awareness, family fun, and community giving.

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Ontario 

New public lecture series explores Grand River as an Indigenous Landscape

MEDIA RELEASE

Brant Land Trust

Brant Land Trust is launching a new annual lecture series, Examining Our Relationship with and Responsibilities to the Land, with the inaugural talk delivered by Dr. Gary Warrick. The three-part public series, presented with the generous support of the Laurier Institute for Water Science at Wilfrid Laurier University, is designed to deepen community conversations about stewardship, history, and our shared connection to the land.

Dr. Warrick, Professor Emeritus in Indigenous Studies, History, Archaeology, and Heritage Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University and Senior Archaeologist with Archaeological Research Associates Ltd., will open the series with a presentation titled The Grand River as an Indigenous Landscape. Drawing on decades of research and experience, he will explore the cultural and historical significance of the Grand River through an Indigenous lens.

“The archaeological record of the Grand River watershed documents the sustainable relationships that Indigenous

peoples have had with the river and its non-human inhabitants for thousands of years,” said Warrick. “Today, Six Nations of the Grand River (Haudenosaunee) and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (Michi Saagiig Anishinaabe) have a deep ecological knowledge of the Grand River landscape, and many continue to follow the ways of their Ancestors despite the catastrophic impacts of centuries of settler colonialism.”

By viewing and providing insights into the Grand River watershed from the Indigenous cultural landscape perspective, Dr.

Warrick will highlight the importance of the relationships between archaeology, historical documents, oral history, and

Indigenous knowledge and point to the potential to address some of the problems we currently face.

The event takes place at 7 pm on Thursday, October 16 at the Research and Academic Centre East, Room RCE 004, located at 150 Dalhousie St., Brantford. Admission is free. Seating is first-come, first-served.

For more information contact Rob Knechtel events@brantlandtrust.ca

Brant For Nature launches fall lineup with heritage walk, bird box workshop and wild bee talk

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Brant For Nature has unveiled a fall lineup of events aimed at connecting residents with the natural world and inspiring environmental stewardship.

The non-profit, which is part of the Ontario Nature Network of more than 150 clubs across the province, has seen steady growth this year thanks to new grants from the City of Brantford and RTO.

“We offer outdoor, environmental, educational experiences as part of our mandate,” said President Tom Sitak. “We do it to hopefully inspire a greater appreciation of nature.”

The funding has helped the group incorporate, purchase equipment to support operations and registration, and expand projects such as Brant For Turtles.

On Sept. 27, the group hosted Know-Here: Tracing Heritage in Brant, a guided walk and talk led by University of Waterloo graduate Adrian Hutchinson.

Hutchinson, whose thesis research focused on heritage and the Grand River, said the walk encouraged participants to look at local landscapes in new ways.

“Cultural heritage and environmental stewardship are intrinsically linked,” he said. “Both are forms of preservation — present day actions taken for a better future, with roots in the past.”

The event began at Penman’s Pass, chosen for its view of the river valley and as an example of how former industrial infrastructure has been reclaimed for recreational use.

Brant For Nature’s next event is scheduled for Oct. 25. Volunteers will help maintain bird boxes at the New Forest in the City Natural Area.

“Because of habitat loss, suitable nesting areas are getting harder and harder for Tree Swallows and Bluebirds to find,” said member Chuck Beach, who leads the project. “By creating bird boxes and maintaining them, we are helping this species survive.”

Ten years of monitoring show just over

68 per cent breeding success at the New Forest site, with an 82 per cent success rate at the Brant Conservation Area.

Participants will learn how to open, clean and evaluate the boxes to prepare for the return of swallows in spring.

On Nov. 29, the focus will shift to wild bees during a presentation and workshop led by board member Lorna Nowicki-Prime. Guest presenter Dr. Victoria McPhail will share practical advice for creating bee-friendly habitats and introduce a citizen science app for tracking pollinators.

“Wild bees are significant pollinators. They are integral to the planet’s survival,” Nowicki-Prime said. “Beelieve me, you won’t want to miss this one.”

The annual Christmas Bird Count will wrap up the year in December. The national census, coordinated locally by Kevin Murphy of the Brant County Birders Group, has been running since 1900.

“It is a family-friendly event, and if you have no experience, there are experts who you can join to help learn how to do it,” Sitak said.

Sitak said each event reflects Brant For Nature’s mission to inspire appreciation for the environment.

“The best part for me are the outdoor learning events, and sharing these experiences with others,” he said. “Our members are eager to learn, share and gather in a like-minded fashion.”

Sultans of String headline Culture Days celebration in Paris Lions Park



(CHRISTINE GARNEAU PHOTO)

Juno Award-winning Sultans of String perform their powerful Walking Through the Fire concert at Paris Lions Park during the County of Brant’s Culture Days celebration on Sunday. The collaborative performance, created in partnership with Marc Meriläinen, Shannon Thunderbird, Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk, and Lacey Hill, reflected on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action for artists to work together toward healing and understanding. This year marked the County’s second as a regional Culture Days hub, drawing a strong crowd to enjoy live music, local vendors, and community activities celebrating arts, culture, and heritage across Ontario. Find a complete list of 2025 Brant Festival Hub events now at brant.ca/CultureDays2025

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the traditional birthstone for October?
2. What country is Prague located in?
3. LAN stands for what in computing?
4. When was the last time the Blue Jays won the AL East?
5. Who sings "Rock you like a hurricane"?
6. A stop/loss order is used by who?
7. True or False—Ostriches can fly.
8. What is the most common eye color?
9. How many moons does Mars have?
10. What year was truth and reconciliation day created?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 22

**THIS
COULD BE
YOUR AD HERE!**

A “Normal Day” in Germany: Paris couple’s Cold War memory reminds us of peacekeepers’ sacrifice



NEIL EDWARDS

Paris Independent Contributor

It was just a normal day for Irwin and Marie Williamson. Of course, what is normal for one person is not normal for another. They grew up and married in Paris, but this day in 1964 they found themselves in Hügelsheim, Germany, a quiet little town situated on the east bank of the Rhine River. Irwin was serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and he was transferred to RCAF 4 Wing in Baden-

Soellingen, West Germany. He was a Corporal, and he would be working on the newly acquired CF 104 aircraft stationed there to meet Canada’s commitment to NATO’s air defence of Europe during the Cold War with the USSR. He and Marie and were living off base in the nearby town of Hügelsheim.

And Germany in the 1960s was not what we would call normal. At that time, it was divided in two – the democratic Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the undemocratic Democratic Republic of Germany (East Germany), which was effectively under the control of the Soviet Union. But, at that time and place, it seemed like just another day.

What no one in Hügelsheim knew, however, was that their normal day was about to change. On the opposite shore of the Rhine River, fully armed soldiers in battle dress were boarding amphibious vehicles and advancing across the river towards Hügelsheim. The air raid sirens on the air base began to sound shrilly across the

town. The unidentified soldiers, guns bristling, drove their vehicles straight through the town toward the air base. Fear, uncertainty and panic prevailed. Marie and Irwin lived on the second floor of a house on Rhinestrass, or River Street, where these soldiers landed. Marie remembers that when their vehicles drove past her house, “the soldiers were at my eye level when I looked out our bedroom window.” What a terrifying scene to witness.

In the end, it turned out to have been a simulated attack, intended to test defences. The air raid sirens were turned off, residents were informed that it was just a simulation, and life returned to normal again. But the experience accentuates the potential dangers to the military personnel and their families as well as the civilians in the town. Though there was no war declared, they were on the front line. That was their normal.

So, when we think of the courage and sacrifice of those in the military who fought in wartime, we need to remem-

ber the courage and sacrifice that are also needed to keep the peace. More than 125,000 Canadian Armed Forces members have served in international peacekeeping efforts in dozens of countries over the decades. Approximately 130 of them have lost their lives and many more have returned home with physical and psychological wounds. And we should not forget either the sacrifices made by the families of those peacekeepers.

Homes of Heroes does not want us to forget. That is why our goal is to place a sign, in the three weeks before Remembrance Day, in front of every house in Paris where a veteran lived when they enlisted. Not just when they enlisted to go to war, but also when they enlisted to preserve the peace. If you have a story of a veteran, whether in war or in peacetime, please share it at info@homesofheroes.com. Their stories will ensure that our heroes will not be forgotten.

If you have questions, please email them to neiledwards51@gmail.com.

Ignite Gala raises nearly half a million for life-saving hospital equipment

MEDIA RELEASE

A vibrant Havana-themed evening turned into a record-setting success for local healthcare, as the Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS) Foundation’s Annual Ignite Gala raised more than \$480,000 to support diagnostic imaging upgrades.

Held Friday, Sept. 19, and proudly presented by ProResp, the gala drew community members, business leaders, and generous sponsors for a night of colour, rhythm, and celebration.

For the past two years, the Foundation has focused fundraising efforts on improving the Diagnostic Imaging Department – a critical hub for timely and accurate patient care. The current campaign will fund several major equipment purchases, including:

- A new and improved Breast Health Suite with upgraded digital mammography machines and a dedicated ultrasound unit.
- An ultrasound for The Willett in Paris.
- A gamma camera for nuclear medicine.
- A replacement MRI machine – the hospital’s current model has been in use since 2007.

In total, these investments represent more than \$6 million in urgently needed equipment.

The BCHS Foundation plays a vital role in making these projects possible. The organization raises critical funds to support priority needs for both Brantford General Hospital and The Willett, Paris – often purchasing medical equipment not funded by the Ministry of Health. In addition to investing in innovative technology, the Foundation also provides caregivers with essential resources to deliver quality patient care.

The sold-out event featured Layne the Auctionista as Master of Ceremonies, keeping the audience entertained and engaged throughout the evening.

“The generosity of gala attendees, the community, and our sponsoring businesses has brought us one step closer to obtaining this life-saving equipment,” the Foundation stated following the event.



The Fergus Family was honoured at the Ignite Gala for their remarkable \$100,000 gift to the Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation, helping to advance local health care close to home.

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO OUTDOORS:

Moose Basin Vacations offers a unique experience



By Jeff Helsdon

Catching a 40-plus inch pike in the first night is a good indicator of a good fishing spot.

This was a surprise beginning to a trip to Moose Basin Vacations. I won the trip at the Ruffed Grouse Society dinner in Courtland the year prior, and was looking forward to it for a year. Renovations on the cabin on Allan Lake, west of Kapuskasing, were recently completed.

Prior to settling in, owner Jim Donaldson took fishing companions Marian Chelu and Angelo Dumitru and I for a tour of Allan Lake, the Opatatika River, and Zadi Lake. This river eventually empties into the Moose River, and Hudson Bay. We were shown the best spots for fishing in Allan Lake in early July, but told the Opatatika and Zadi Lake may be better spots.

"That lake is very productive fishing in the spring when the water temperatures are low," Donaldson said. "When the water temperatures go up, the fish seem to flood into the river."

He said Allan Lake is ideal for

hunting, with moose, bear and grouse mentioned.

Dumitru and I couldn't wait to hit the water the first night while Chelu elected to stay back. We fished the river and tied into some walleye. The action wasn't fast and furious like I have seen in the past in the north, but was steady. There was an occasional smaller pike missed in to make things interesting.

Although there are some cottages on Allan Lake, we didn't see another boat on the water, but did see a bald eagle. Then we were drifting along the shore of Zadi Lake and Dumitru seemed to catch on bottom, and then it moved.

"I've got a big one," he said.

I scrambled for the net and quickly discovered we had forgot to grab it on our way out in haste. I offered to help, but Dumitru said he had it. Watching him land a 43-inch pike with his bare hands was a site to behold. An amateur taxidermist, he opted to keep the fish to mount it.

The cabin on Allan Lake is one of three that Donaldson owns. He has been gradually renovating them and starting to rent them out. His plans are to open the cabin on Kapuskasing Lake in 2027 and the one on Saginash Lake in 2028.

The renovation job on the Allan Lake cabin was impressive. The cabin is finished with pine boards on the interior, has electricity, indoor running water and a porch overlooking the lake. An



Angelo Dumitru displays the 43-inch pike he caught with Moose Basin Vacations cottage on Allan Lake in July.

outhouse/shower building is a few steps away, and although it's an outhouse, it's nicer than most.

Besides the cabins, Donaldson offers day fishing trips from his home base in Kapuskasing. Prices are \$350 to \$800, and vary from kayak tours to small boats and larger 18-foot boats. The Allan Lake cabin is \$300 a night.

An ardent angler, Donaldson started weekly walleye fishing tournaments in Kapuskasing. He has a store attached to his house and bases the tournaments from there.

The three of us went back to the

spot to the next day. We caught a few walleye for supper, and some smaller pike. Zadi Lake was a target that evening and we found a ridge that seemed to hold walleye both that evening and the next morning. Chelu discovered the hot lure was a Berkley Flicker Shad in fire tiger colour. It showed up well in the stained water.

On our last night, we went back near the spot where Dumitru caught the monster pike. We were catching fish to take home and had a couple of walleye and two smaller pike on the stringer. We heard a little splashing on

that side of the boat and chalked it up to the pike splashing around on the stringer. Hearing it again, Chelu looked over the side.

"Look at that pike," he said excitedly.

I looked and saw a pike as large as the one he caught previously, or larger. It was chasing after the fish on the stringer. I happened to have my line in the boat, and cast out quickly. The monster pike wasn't interested in my offerings, or what Dumitru or Chelu threw.

Contact Donaldson at (613) 362-2943 to book, or with questions of his offerings.



Marian Chelu shows a walleye caught in Zadi Lake on the Berkley Flicker Shad in fire tiger that proved to be the colour the fish preferred.



Moose Basin Vacations cabin on Allan Lake is a great base for fishing and hunting adventures in the wilderness outside Kapuskasing. It is one of only about a dozen cottages on the remote lake.



Moose Basin Vacations provides aluminum boats and Mercury outboards for anglers and hunters staying at the Allen Lake cabin

Brant Pride’s JOY Event spotlights new voices in drag



(RAINBOW DUCK PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Event MC and Brant Pride co-chair Rubyyy Jones welcomes the cast of the Drag Debuts Show back to the stage during the 2nd Annual JOY Event in Lions Park on Sept. 28. The showcase featured first-time performers (L-R) Starlette Devine, Thera P, Taylona Z 2nd and Elvistina, delighting a crowd that spent the day enjoying markets, live readings, community activities and four drag shows. Organized by Brant Pride, the JOY Event drew an enthusiastic mix of locals, visitors and 2SLGBTQIA+ allies, with Brantford Pride hosting a donation-based BBQ. The celebration will return next year on Sept. 27, 2026, with monthly lead-up events highlighting history, nature, spirituality and creativity.



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WEEKLY Horoscope

October 8 - October 15 2025

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



Right now you are inspired to roll up your sleeves and clear away the clutter so you can focus on what counts, Aries. Your productivity soars this week.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Libra, release what is draining your energy, especially before the busy holiday season is in full force. Wrap up lingering projects and bow out of obligations that are stretching you too thin.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Your words will carry extra weight between this week and next, Taurus. Don't hold back on speaking about what is in your heart. You may navigate your way to romance.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



You are selective about your social circle, but stay open to new friendships. New allies bring surprising opportunities if you simply let them in.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



Gemini, this week you may feel energized to pursue new connections with family and friends. Plan a few long overdue catch-ups, and bask in that feeling of contentment.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



Sagittarius, your ambition is on fire. Partnerships are within reach, so start conversations and network now.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



Some may call you timid, Cancer, but not this week. You're stepping forward with confidence, and people will be drawn to what you have to say.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



You pride yourself on telling it like it is, Capricorn. But candor can sometimes be costly. A measured approach in a delicate situation this week can serve you well.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Money is at the top of your priority list, Leo. You may be dreaming big or content to just make sense of finances that have gotten a bit off the rails.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Aquarius, your usual "what you see is what you get" mantra shifts this week—you may hold back to stay a bit mysterious, and others might not notice right away.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Virgo, honesty is key this week. Don't sugarcoat things with loved ones—your openness will strengthen your connections, and they'll stand by you with care and support when you need it most.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Relationships take center stage in your life, Pisces. Talks of deeper commitment may arise more often than before, making this an important time to reflect on what you truly want and to nurture your closest bonds.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 8

Chevy Chase, Actor (82)

OCTOBER 9

Guillermo del Toro, Filmmaker (61)

OCTOBER 10

David Lee Roth, Musician (71)

OCTOBER 11

Cardi B, Musician/Rapper (32)

OCTOBER 12

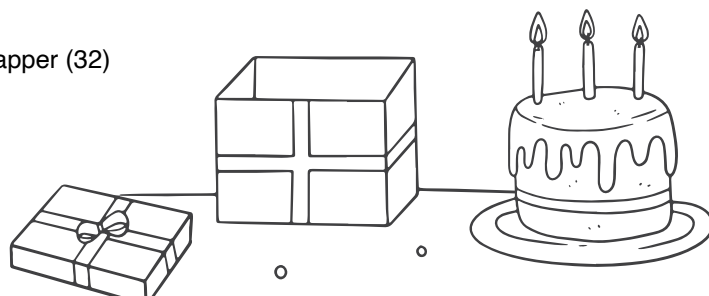
Hugh Jackman, Actor (57)

OCTOBER 13

Sacha Baron Cohen, Actor (54)

OCTOBER 14

Usher, Musician (47)



Tickle Your Brain

I have a friend who writes songs about sewing machines. *She's a singer songwriter, or sew it seams.*

Why did the scientist get rid of his door bell? *Cause he wanted to win the Nobel prize.*

I once saw a 3,000 year old oil stain. *It was from Ancient Greece.*

I was walking down the street this morning when I was suddenly hit by a violin, a clarinet and a French horn. *I think it was an orchestrated attack.*

I was wondering why Music was coming from my printer...*Apparently the paper was Jamming.*

I went to the aquarium this weekend, but I didn't stay long. *There's something fishy about that place.*

What do you call a sheep who can sing and dance? *Lady Ba Ba.*

I gave my handyman a to-do list, but he only did jobs 1, 3, and 5. *Turns out he only does odd jobs.*

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 22

Sponsored by:



PETS OF THE WEEK

DUDLEY, FRANKLIN, HENRY & KODA

Meet our Pets of the Week:

Dudley, Franklin, Henry and Koda were all such good boys for their annual exam and vaccinations this week. They all left with a clean bill of health and a belly full of treats!

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



Word Search

GO BLUE JAYS GO!

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

- Barger
- Clement
- Dominguez
- Fluharty
- Gausman
- Gimenez
- Guerrero
- Kirk
- Varsho
- Yesavage
- Varland
- Straw
- Santander
- Schneider
- Springer
- Lauer
- Little
- Lukes
- Nance
- Rodriguez

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

OCTOBER 14, 21

The Brant Men of Song Choir Practices - Tuesdays 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.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Seniors Lunch and Learn Series - Join adults 55+ for a FREE homemade lunch and interactive learning session, made possible by the Ontario Government. Caregivers welcome. Registration required. Next Session: Tues. Oct. 7, 12–1:30pm Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Rd., Paris. 519-442-3212 | www.fiveoaks.on.ca.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

The Catholic Women's League Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 1 pm at Sacred Heart Parish Hall. All welcome to attend.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Women Inspiring Women Women's Institute October Meetin - Witches Inspiring Witches. Join us for a spooktacular evening of Halloween themed activities! Come dressed in your witchiest costume and walk the Creepy Catwalk, if you dare! Thursday, October 9th, 2025 7-9 PM at the Paris Fairgrounds Community Room.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

Paris Optimist Youth Dances - Friday October 10th at the Syl Apps Community Centre at 7 pm until 10 pm. Admission is \$5 per student. Snacks will be available to purchase. This dance is for students in Grade 5 to 8 only. Adult chaperones. Since it is close to halloween this will be a black and orange dance.

OCTOBER 9, NOVEMBER 13, DECEMBER 11

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

The Brant County Men's Probus Club Meeting - Tuesday October 14, 2025 at 10 am at the Sherwood Restaurant 799 Colborne Street in Brantford. The guest speaker will discuss St. Joseph's Long Term Care Program. New members are always welcome.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

The Brant Men of Song Charity Concert - The Brant Men of Song are holding a Charity Concert at Harmony United Church, 268 Marlborough St., Brantford starting at 7 PM. Donations for Alzheimer's will be accepted.

3rd Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawty - Saturday, October 18 from 10 am to 2 pm at Children’s Safety Village of Brant, 407 Elgin St Brantford. Entry fee is cash donations to Autism dog services. Trick or Treating, photo booth, food truck, vendors, pet & people parade, entertainment and contests. Everyone welcome!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 & NOVEMBER 18

Death Cafe - The Paris Branch - County of Brant Public Library invite you to talk openly about dying and death, helping you live more fully by embracing life’s finite nature. Let’s

break the silence and foster more supportive communities. Please register through the library (brantlibrary.ca) or at info@lifesmomentsinlove.ca.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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



QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Opal | 6. Traders & Investors |
| 2. Czech Republic | 7. False |
| 3. Local Area Network | 8. Brown eyes |
| 4. 2015 | 9. Two |
| 5. Scorpions | 10. 2013 |

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

CORRECTION

No Road Back Music Event

In last week’s article about the upcoming No Road Back Music Event, we incorrectly stated that advance tickets could be purchased. There are no advance ticket sales for this event – admission is by donation at the door on the day of the concert.

We apologize for the confusion. Those wishing to support the event in advance may still do so through sponsorship donations by emailing Jim Young at offsideyoung@gmail.com, or by sending a financial donation via e-transfer to parislegion29@rogers.com.



HOMES OF HEROES:

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

COMING EVENTS

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

FARMERS - THE - PARIS BEER COMPANY BREWERS

WEEK OF OCT 6

2025

TUES 7	HAPPY TUESDAYS Happy Hour all day long with deals on pints & pizzas
WED 8	CANADIAN BEER DAY Happy Hour all day long with poutine specials
THURS 9	LIVE MUSIC IN THE TAPROOM 7pm - 9pm Jordan Macdonald
WED THRU FRI	HAPPY HOUR 4-6PM \$7 pints, all bottled beer 50% off plus great deals on food
SUN 12	THANKSGIVING SUNDAY closed to celebrate with friends & family. Thanks to our amazing team & guests!
SEPT THRU OCT	OKTOBERFEST wiesn bier steins & themed menu

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6:30-10 PM
[Facebook.com/johnladdsmusic](https://facebook.com/johnladdsmusic)

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Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to stories@theparisindpendent.com

WANTED

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

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO!

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