

The Paris Independent

Issue #262

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

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For 100 years, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 has been part of the fabric of Paris, honouring those who served, preserving their stories and supporting the community through generations of change. As the Paris Legion marks its centennial, The Paris Independent looks back at the people, milestones and memories that shaped the branch and ahead to a week of special anniversary celebrations. Celebrating 100 years of the Paris Legion — Pages 12-16.



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County of Brant weighs \$37M to \$49M options for future indoor pool

Councillors ask staff to explore alternatives to new aquatic centre, citing Brave Waves

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A long-discussed indoor swimming pool in the County of Brant could cost between \$37.6 million and \$48.6 million to build, prompting councillors to ask staff to look beyond a traditional aquatic centre for ways to address growing demand for year-round swimming.

County councillors received an updated indoor pool feasibility study during the Sept. 15 Administration and Operations Committee meeting, outlining three potential concepts for a standalone aquatic facility at the future Pottruff Road Park.

The project is currently included near the end of the county's 2026-2035 capital forecast, with design and engineering contemplated for 2034 and construction in 2035. The existing long-term financial plan carries a \$25-million estimate for the project, considerably below the latest preliminary estimates.

The least expensive concept is estimated at \$37.6 million and includes a six-lane, 25-metre pool and separate leisure pool. A second option adds larger community space for an estimated \$41.8 million, while an eight-lane competition pool, leisure pool and community space is estimated at \$48.6 million.

The concepts range from about 32,900 to 45,200 square feet. The feasibility study recommends a standalone facility that could accommodate swimming lessons, recreational and lane swimming, aquatic fitness, therapeutic programming and competitive swimming.

But the numbers presented to councillors are based on 2026 estimates, meaning the eventual cost could be higher by the time the project moves forward.

Coun. Steve Howes said there is no question an indoor pool remains a significant issue in the community.

"I appreciated the report and know it's a hot topic in our community. There's lots of demand," said Howes.

Howes asked staff when a municipality typically reaches the population needed to financially support an indoor pool.

"I'm wondering based on your experience and analysis of other communities, what's typically the tipping point in population for when an indoor pool starts to become feasible for the tax base," Howes asked.

General manager of community services Phil Mete said a population of about 50,000

is generally the point at which municipalities begin considering such facilities.

"Typically, 50,000 population is the magic number when most municipalities start moving towards an indoor pool. When we look at it from the county's perspective, we are looking at feeder communities, that's definitely factored in. So I think the timing in the 10-year capital is good."

Mete said bringing the report forward now also gives the community and future councils information to consider as the county grows.

"A big reason we brought this forward is because we knew it was a big discussion in the last couple of consultations we've done and we figured it would be good for existing council members running again and new members out there looking to run to have the information for discussion... because it is a huge topic."

Recent county consultations have shown continued interest in an indoor pool. During engagement for the Brant Sports Complex expansion, 51.9 per cent of more than 1,100 survey respondents strongly believed an indoor pool should be a priority. Residents also reported difficulty accessing swimming lessons in neighbouring municipalities, with some travelling as far as Woodstock.

Howes asked whether the county could pursue interim partnerships with neighbouring municipalities while waiting for a permanent facility.

Ellins said the county has done so in the past.

"I know we've been put in this position before when our previous outdoor pool closed we did work with the city of Brantford on a partnership situation where we subsidized swimming lessons for those who used the Wayne Gretzky Centre."

She said it would be worth examining neighbouring municipalities' available capacity. Howes noted residents have told him they have encountered waiting lists elsewhere as municipalities prioritize their own residents.

Coun. John Bell questioned whether waiting until 2035 was the right approach, particularly as costs continue to climb.

"The price range was \$37 - \$48 million. Do you have a preferred model?"

Mete said staff believe the second option — estimated at roughly \$42 million in 2026 dollars — may best reflect community interest, although further public consultation would be required before a final decision is made.

Bell pointed to the report's description of municipal indoor pools as vital social infrastructure.

"Which in my mind this is a need more than a want."

Mete highlighted swimming lessons, exercise and therapeutic programming as benefits of a facility.

"We have two rivers running through the town of Paris. We need to make sure people are safe."

While Bell acknowledged the cost of a new facility, he pushed staff to investigate less expensive ways to provide year-round swimming sooner, including whether the existing outdoor pool at Lions Park could be covered.

"It's great that we explore all options out there because \$42 million is a lot of money," noted Bell.

On the Lions Park conversion piece, there is site constraints. Mete cited challenges including the site's grading, Grand River Conservation Authority constraints, parking and limited deck space, accessibility during winter months, among other concerns staff have already investigated. Although he said other communities have explored retrofits and similar approaches.

Bell also pointed to the privately operated Brave Waves Swim School on Rest Acres Road as an example of a potentially smaller-scale model and suggested the county consider whether a facility designed primarily to address immediate swimming needs could be delivered for less than a full aquatic centre.

Bell said he would like staff to "open their minds a bit" to alternatives, arguing there is an immediate need that could potentially be met at a lower cost.

Coun. John MacAlpine asked about ca-

capacity at Brave Waves and was told the facility is full, while Coun. Brian Coleman noted council had considered a report involving Brave Waves several years ago.

Bell said circumstances have changed since then, with both construction costs and demand increasing.

Coun. John Peirce supported investigating other approaches, saying "thinking outside the box is absolutely the right idea because everybody should have an opportunity to learn how to swim."

The staff report recommends incorporating enough space into the Pottruff Road Park site plan to accommodate an aquatic facility in the future, while leaving the final concept, scope and location to further community consultation and a needs assessment anticipated in 2031 or 2032.

Indoor pools also carry significant ongoing costs. Based on comparable municipal facilities, county staff estimate an indoor aquatic facility could have an average annual net operating cost of about \$500,000, depending on its size, programming, fees and revenues.

Committee ultimately supported the report with an amendment calling for staff to review alternative ideas in addition to the proposed construction of a new aquatic facility.



Questions?

Contact the Elections Coordinator:

- election@brant.ca
- 519.44BRANT (442.7268)
- toll-free 1.855.44BRANT ext 2207



Monday, October 26

2026 Municipal and School Board Election

Voting will take place online and by phone, with in-person Voter Assistance Locations also available.

Advance voting will begin on October 19 and run through to Election Day.

→ brant.ca/elections



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No paper ballots: County of Brant moves to online, telephone voting for 2026 election

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

County of Brant voters will cast their ballots a little differently in this fall's municipal election, with online and telephone voting replacing traditional paper ballots.

The new approach means eligible voters can cast their ballot from a computer, smartphone, tablet or telephone during an eight-day voting period beginning Oct. 19 and ending on election day, Oct. 26.

There will be no paper ballots.

The County tested electronic voting earlier this year during the Ward 5 byelection and will use online and telephone voting across all five wards for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

For those who do not have internet access, need help voting or require accessibility accommodations, the County will operate Voter Assistance Locations throughout

Brant. Internet-enabled devices will also be available at County libraries and customer service offices.

Advance voting opens Monday, Oct. 19 at 9 a.m. and continues through election day, Monday, Oct. 26, when voting closes at 8 p.m.

One of the most important things residents can do now is make sure their information on the voters' list is correct.

Eligible voters can check whether they are on the voters' list through Ontario's online Voter Registration Service: <https://vreg.registertovoteon.ca/en/home>. Elections Ontario compiles voter information from a variety of sources, but the Sept. 15 deadline to add or update information through the online registry has now passed.

Residents can still use the online registry to check whether they are listed. Anyone who needs to be added to the voters' list, or needs to correct or update their infor-

mation, must now contact the County of Brant Elections Coordinator. County staff can make changes to the voters' list and add eligible electors up to and including Election Day. Voters who were already on the list by the Sept. 15 deadline should receive a Voter Information Letter in the mail in early October. The letter will contain the information and instructions needed to cast a ballot online or by telephone.

Anyone who believes they are on the voters' list but does not receive a Voter Information Letter should contact the County's Elections Coordinator, who can confirm their information and provide a new letter.

To vote online, electors will visit the official election voting website and enter the identifying information provided to them, along with their date of birth.

Voters will then follow the instructions on screen, make their selections, review them and submit their ballot electronically.

Telephone voting follows a similar process. Voters call the election voting number, enter their identifying information and date of birth, then follow automated prompts to make and confirm their selections using the telephone keypad.

Once an online or telephone ballot has been submitted, it cannot be changed or recast.

Voters will cast ballots for mayor, councillor candidates within their ward and the applicable school board trustee position.

While there will be no traditional polling stations with paper ballots, residents who would prefer assistance in person will have several options.

The County will operate Voter Assistance Locations across Brant, including several in Paris at the Brant Sports Complex, Cedarview Church, Cowan Community Health Hub, North Ward School, Paris Customer Service Office and Sojourn Church.

Other locations will be

available in communities including Burford, Cainsville, St. George, Glen Morris, Onondaga and Scotland.

Dates and hours vary by location, so residents are encouraged to check the County's election website before heading out.

Once advance voting begins, residents without internet access can also visit a County library or customer service office during regular business hours to access an internet-enabled device.

Accessibility assistance will also be available. If a voter cannot enter a Voter Assistance Location because of an accessibility-related issue, election staff can bring a voting kiosk iPad to the parking lot of the individual's home.

With just over a month remaining before election day, residents are encouraged to regularly check the County of Brant's election website, www.brant.ca/Elections, for the latest voting information, assistance locations, candidate information, frequently asked questions and voter resources.

Specific dates and operating hours for Voter Assistance Locations are available through the County's voting page at www.brant.ca/voting. Residents with questions or who need help with their voter information can contact Elections Coordinator Ryan Leverton at 519-442-7268 or toll-free at 1-855-442-7268, ext. 2207, or by email at election@brant.ca.

Unofficial election results may be released after voting closes at 8 p.m. Oct. 26, with official results subsequently declared by the clerk. Results information will be posted on the County website and shared through its news service and official social media channels.

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The Paris Independent

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4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)
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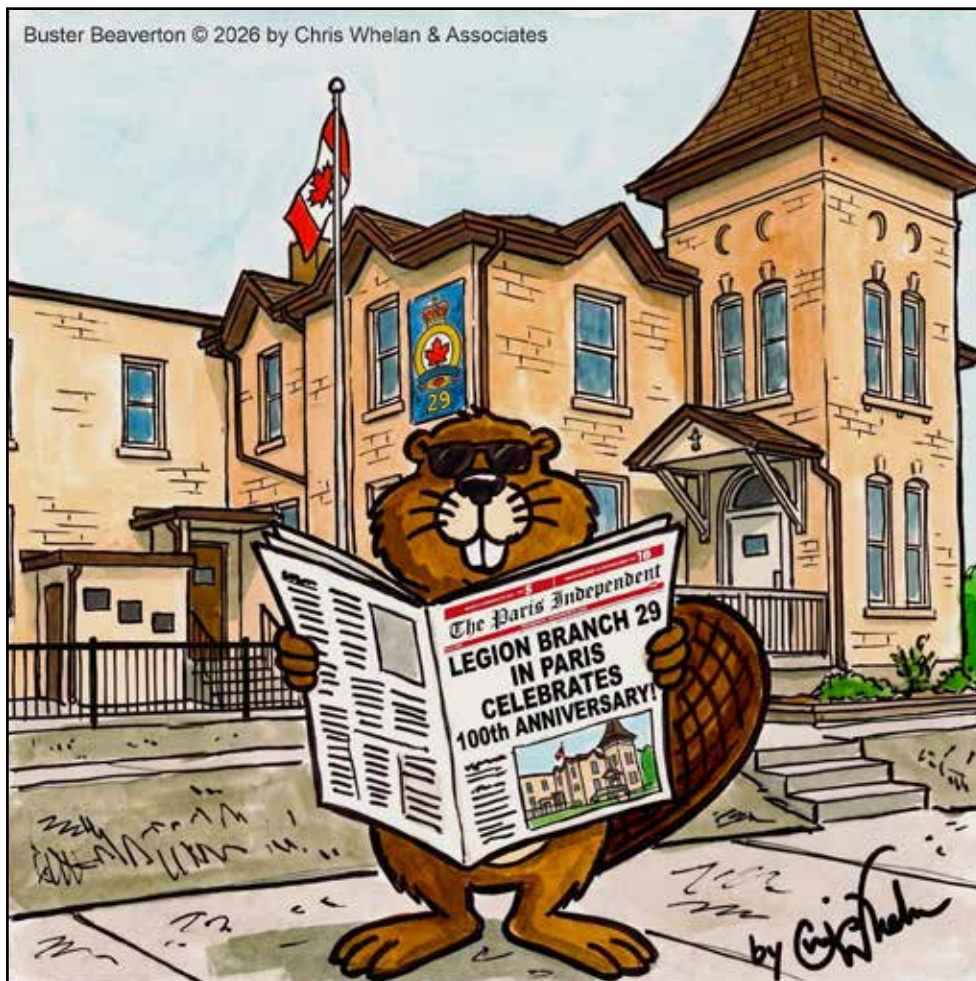


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EDITORIAL

A century of service: How Paris Legion continues to thrive



CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

For 100 years, the Royal Canadian Legion has stood for veterans, service and remembrance.

But what it means to be a Legion - and what it means to belong to one - has changed considerably over that century.

Born in the aftermath of the First World War, the Legion brought together veteran advocacy groups and provided a place where those who had served could find support and, perhaps just as importantly, one another. It became a safe and familiar space for veterans whose experiences were understood by the people sitting beside them.

At the same time, the Legion assumed another responsibility that has never changed: ensuring Canadians remember those who served and sacrificed.

Today, that commitment remains at the heart of the organization. But around it, Legions have evolved into something more. They have become community hubs.

That evolution has been necessary. As Canada's veteran population aged, Legions across the country faced the challenge of declining membership and the question of how an organization built by veterans could survive as fewer veterans remained to fill its halls.

National membership figures tell that

story.

Before 1956, Royal Canadian Legion membership had stalled at about 164,000. By the early 1970s, it had climbed above 300,000 as eligibility expanded. Membership surpassed 600,000 for the first time in the early 1980s, before beginning the long decline that accompanied the passing of Canada's First and Second World War veterans. By 2022, national membership stood at about 250,000. There are encouraging signs that trend is changing. Membership reached approximately 270,000 in 2025, and the Legion's decision to offer free membership to new members during its centenary year has generated tremendous interest. By this summer, membership had grown by roughly 100,000 and stood well above 300,000.

Paris, however, has long seemed to buck the trend. Even during the years when Legion memberships elsewhere were declining, Paris Branch 29 remained active and its membership strong.

Today, Branch 29 has 334 members on its membership list, and the Legion's centennial membership campaign is helping introduce even more people to the organization. Free centennial memberships have boosted local membership during the first six months of the promotion, giving newcomers another reason to discover what the Legion has to offer.

Those centennial members also have the

option of becoming full members, with those who do entered into a draw for a new Ford F-150. And with early-bird registration now underway, there is another opportunity for people to walk through the doors, see what the Legion has become and consider becoming part of its next chapter.

Perhaps that has something to do with living in a close-knit community. Maybe it is because generations of Paris families knew someone who served, or because veterans here have always been visible and supported.

I suspect there is another reason, too. The Paris Legion has never stopped giving people a reason to walk through its doors.

When I moved to Paris in 2004, I had the privilege of sitting down with many local veterans while preparing Remembrance Day features for the Paris Star. Many of those veterans are no longer with us.

They shared stories they were willing to tell and closely guarded others they undoubtedly took with them to their graves. But one thing I remember vividly from those conversations was the sense that they felt supported. They believed this commu-

nity cared.

And, year after year, Paris showed up to prove it. Over the years, I also remember past presidents telling me that while other branches were struggling with declining membership, Paris was growing.

That doesn't happen by accident. It happens because generations of executives and volunteers, past and present, have worked to ensure the Legion remains relevant and connected to the community it serves.

That connection starts with remembrance. Local students participate in poster, essay and literary contests. Legion members visit schools. Children learn about veterans and sacrifice. Each November, generations gather at the cenotaph for the Remembrance Day ceremony.

The people standing there today may never have experienced war. Many have never served in the military. Some never knew the veterans whose names are etched into local memorials. Yet they remember.

But Branch 29's connection to Paris extends well beyond November. Its doors open for community meetings, fundraisers,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Letter to the Editor

A vote of confidence for community journalism

Dear Editor:

A relative was recently in Paris and, knowing my love of community journalism, decided to pick up a copy of The Paris Independent for me.

I read the August 12 issue and was greatly impressed. You have a very interesting newspaper there.

I believe community newspapers play an important role in local communities and that community journalism is still relevant in this digital age.

I am biased though. Although I am now retired, I started my journalism career in Coronach, Sask., a town of 1,000 in southern Saskatchewan, before moving to a newspaper in the Battlefords. Both basically focused on covering local news similar to your newspaper.

Keep up the great work. You are an important part of your community.

Jeff Rosen | Coronach, Saskatchewan
Retired News Editor and Borderland Reporter



A piece of community journalism history: the front page of the first issue of the Borderland Reporter in Coronach, Sask., was preserved in the Archives of Canada. More than 40 years later, community newspapers continue to play a pivotal role in documenting local history, telling local stories and keeping residents informed and connected.

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

barbecues and live entertainment. There are darts, pool, cornhole and other activities. Community organizations and charities receive support. People gather for events or simply stop in to watch a football game and spend time with neighbours.

You don't have to be a veteran to participate. You don't even have to be a member to walk through the doors.

Today's Royal Canadian Legion reflects that same philosophy nationally. Membership is open to Canadians and citizens of Allied nations aged 18 and older, regardless of whether they served in the military. Its stated mission encompasses supporting veterans and their families, promoting remembrance and strengthening communities.

That openness isn't a departure from the Legion's roots. It is one of the ways those roots are being protected. Because the best way to ensure remembrance survives another generation is to invite that

generation inside.

A century after the Legion was founded, veterans remain at the heart of its purpose. Their service is why the organization exists and why remembrance must remain its unwavering commitment.

But the future of the Legion belongs to the communities willing to carry that responsibility forward. Paris has been doing that for generations.

The faces inside Branch 29 have changed. The veterans I interviewed more than 20 years ago have largely passed on. New executives have taken over; new members have joined and the activities filling the calendar have evolved.

But the underlying purpose remains remarkably familiar: support veterans, remember those who served and provide a place where people belong.

That is what a community is supposed to do. And perhaps that is why, 100 years later, the Paris Legion isn't simply surviving. It is thriving.

Youth Dances by the Optimist Club are back 2026

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

For more than 25 years, the Optimist Club of Paris has provided a safe place for the community's youth to gather, socialize and create memories.

There's a good chance the parents of today's young generation have their own fond memories of grooving the night away, secretly crushing on a classmate or perhaps just holding the wall up at an Optimist Club youth dance. The monthly dances started 1998, originating in the old Optimist Clubhouse at times filling the hall capacity with 185 energized pre-teens. When that Clubhouse was demolished for safety reasons, the dances moved to the Syl Apps Community Centre where they are still held today.

"At the time, there were few entertainment opportunities/venues for youth in Paris," shares Optimist Club President Julie Henwood, looking back at how it all started. "Parents had to take their children out of Paris for an evening where they could socialize with peers in a safe, supervised environment."

Fast forward a couple decades, and while the town has changed drastically, there's still very few youth-based activities. It's through the dedication of volunteers that the dance has survived. Attendance has fluctuated over the years but in 2025 Optimist members were happy to welcome, on average, 100-150 students per dance in Grades 5 to 8.

That attendance was a significant increase compared to 2024 when only 35-40 kids were attending and those low figures had volunteers worried and left wondering if the long-standing tradition was at risk of ending.

Through articles in local media, social media posts and through word of mouth,

Optimist members got to work spreading awareness on the dances and putting a specific focus on the safety element to reassure parents it was a safe environment for their pre-teens to enjoy a night out. All dances are chaperoned by a small army of volunteers. They overlook every aspect; monitoring the hallway and washrooms and making sure kids are on their best behaviour, no different than the behaviour that is expected of them at school. Everyone is required to provide the name and phone number of a parent/caregiver, the school they attend and their grade. High School students volunteer at the coat check where all hats and bags must be checked in. The DJ is instructed to play songs/videos that are age-appropriate, and volunteers are firm in their stance of no abusive or offensive language.

"Parents are welcome to come in and take a look at the hall and meet the Optimist members," said Henwood, encouraging parents to ease their concerns.

"One of the main mandates of Optimist Clubs is to bring out the best in youth. By giving them opportunities to enjoy an evening with their friends, they build confidence and develop basic social and life skills; it's important," reiterated Henwood. The first dance of the new school year is returning again next month on Friday, October 2nd at the Syl Apps Community Centre from 7 pm to 10 pm. Admission is \$5, and that fee helps cover the cost of hosting the dance. There's also a concession stand where youth can purchase snacks and drinks. If anyone has questions about the dance, they are encouraged to reach out to an Optimist Club member at 519-757-5020. Dances are held the first Friday of October, December, February, April and the last Friday in May.

Second annual Duck Derby ready to make a splash in Paris

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Hundreds of bright yellow ducks will once again take over the Nith River as the Rotary Satellite Club of Paris brings its Duck Derby back to Lions Park for a second year.

The second annual Duck Derby takes place Saturday, Sept. 26, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the ducks hitting the water at 3 p.m.

While the race is the main attraction, organizers have planned a full afternoon of family-friendly activities leading up to the big event. The day will feature food trucks, vendors, live music, face painting, a colouring activity and a 50/50 draw.

Then, at 3 p.m., attention will turn to the river as the field of rubber ducks is released and begins its race toward the finish line.

There is more than bragging rights on the line for the owners of the fastest ducks. The first-place duck will earn its owner a \$1,500 prize, while the second-, third-, fourth- and fifth-place finishers will each receive \$250.

Ducks cost \$12 each or five for \$50 and can be purchased online through the QR code provided by organizers (shown to the right).

The event follows a successful inaugural Duck Derby in 2025, when the Paris community turned out in force for the Rotary Satellite Club's new fundraiser.

All 800 ducks available for the first race sold out, helping the club raise \$10,404 for local causes. Proceeds were directed back into the community, including support for The Raw Carrot, Brant Food 4 Thought and the Brant Waterways Foundation.

This year's derby is presented with support from featured sponsor Cobblestone Medicine and Rehab. Gold sponsors are Pinevest Homes and River Realty, with The Fit Effect participating as a silver sponsor. Bronze sponsors include The Arlington, Little Paris Bread Co. and Johnny Greekos.

With another afternoon of entertainment planned and thousands of dollars in race prizes up for grabs, organizers are hoping the second annual derby will make an even bigger splash while once again raising



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Learn about the Legion's programs, services,
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1 PM TO 4 PM**

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With Us.*

Ward 2 Candidate Q&A: Ward 2 candidates answer questions from Paris Independent readers

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

All certified ward 2 candidates were contacted and invited to participate in this Q&A. Each candidate was provided with the same set of questions, which were developed from submissions received from Paris Independent readers. The goal is to give voters an opportunity to compare candidates' perspectives on the same issues and learn more about how each would approach the role of county councillor.

We encourage readers to continue engaging with candidates throughout the election campaign. Those who have follow-up questions, concerns or would like to learn more about a candidate and their platform can find candidate contact information through the County of Brant's certified candidates webpage: <https://www.brant.ca/council-and-county-administration/elections/certified-candidates/>

The Paris Independent's candidate Q&A coverage continues in next week's edition with candidates running in Ward 3.

STEVE HOWES



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

When I was a kid growing up here in the 1970's, the population (just for Paris) was 6,600 for about ten years in a row. I know lots of people who preferred that size and I understand that. The reality is that a pretty community 100km from one of the largest Cities in the world is going to experience growth and increasing demand for housing. Rather than focusing our energy on stopping growth, we need to focus on steering housing types into more of what we need rather than just what is profitable for Developers. We need more modest housing options for young people starting out and for seniors downsizing and appropriate incentives/legislation to inspire Developers in that direction. That is where we should put our efforts.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward

a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

As the only current Councillor (and probably the only Candidate) who has lived in Downtown Paris, I offer a unique perspective: I strongly believe that more people living in our Downtown will be a boost to the economy of the businesses in our BIA District. That said, it will take very careful planning to manage the parking and traffic impact. This is achievable but we need to do it carefully AND with strong influence on the design aesthetic to compliment our existing architecture.

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

My very first summer job was at the Paris Pool, in 1978. My experience in my day job, working with Parks and Recreation staff in Municipalities all over Southwestern Ontario has shown me that indoor pools, and their huge construction and operational costs are rarely found in Municipalities our size. The burden on the taxpayers is too high at this population size. That said, we are growing and we are going to need to plan for better access to indoor aquatic recreation for our residents. An indoor pool solution is in the County's vision for the future but not until we reach a size where the costs can be spread over a bigger tax base. In the meantime, we need to work towards better partnerships with larger neighbouring communities that have indoor pools. Council recently discussed this subject and the options and planning timeline related to Indoor swimming at the Sept 15 administration and operations meeting. I encourage residents to watch the YouTube video of that meeting.

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

I would love to see a public transit system that connects our communities better. This is another expensive proposition for the taxpayers and we need to lobby other levels of government to help find funding solutions.

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

Brant Transit delivers around 2,000 rides per month, serving hundreds of people fairly well. It is an unusual concept with its door-to-door Ride Share principle and I know some people find it frustrating that

it doesn't always meet their needs. All forms of Public Transit require substantial subsidization and since all County of Brant taxpayers contribute to the funding of this service, we need a solution that serves all parts of the County—that is the challenging part. We can't just create a bus service that links Paris to Brantford.... It's a lot more complex than that. County staff are diligently working on new ideas and I am optimistic that we will see continued improvements in this area in the medium term. In the short term, staff are working with the service provider to improve the booking window and cut off time to increase rider access and equity.

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

This is a particularly frustrating topic for me, due to how it was forced through a Provincial Facilitator process and the investment of time it required from County staff. If the subject is resurrected by new Councils, I look forward to seeing a final solution that causes minimum impact to County residents. Advancing this topic is NOT in my list of priorities for next term.

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

Prior to being on Council, I have worked with international organizations (ASTM International) to develop indoor playground safety standards adopted worldwide. I have served on Conestoga College's Program Advisory Council, and I have worked with a local Church facilitating a multi-year fundraising project targeted toward building repair and restoration. During my time on Council, I have been on the Mayors' Task Force on Affordable Housing, Chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee and Chair of the Community Improvement Program Committee while participating in several other committees. ALL these groups were a diverse collection of passionate individuals and all worked collaboratively together and achieved strong results.

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

Yes. Happy to.

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

Our Long Term Financial Plan is a critical tool to help determine what we can afford and what we can't afford. We are a growing community and that means that we will always need to invest appropriately in our infrastructure and services however I am a fiscally conservative person by nature and I don't want to see us spend money on the wrong investments at the wrong time.

JEFF JOHNSTON



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

The pace and scale of development have been frantic to say the least, yet I support development and the county's plan as long as we keep ahead and are able to provide all the social and continued services & infrastructure that reflect the county's plan and the needs and wants of the community while keeping in mind it's only a guideline and staying flexible to change within our limits.

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

The benefits of zoning changes in the downtown reflect growth yet maintaining the character and appearance while always keeping the businesses and people who live in the area and the impacts upon them. Communication is key while reflecting their concerns. Consistency of zoning should be maintained.

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

Communication and informing people of the Paris pool and how it came to be

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

through community fundraising by The Paris Lions club. I would support the need for another pool while recognizing that a multi use facility may better represent long term. More community engagement and working with partners in the community to enhance the possibility of another pool all the while keeping it affordable and one that reflects growth.

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

Public transit is an interesting one and working with Provincial partners to keep it affordable and accessible while we work towards grants to enhance. Also keep in mind we had transit when we worked with the City of Brantford and their public transit. Maybe a working relationship would be the benefit or at least being open to exploring different avenues of working together to make The County of Brant stronger and more viable together.

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

Brant Transit does provide a valuable service and one that could be expanded with access and affordability in mind, one that addresses the needs and wants county wide.

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

Negotiation and communication are what is needed to reflect the need for farmland and environment concerns are addressed regarding water and other services while recognizing the value of the land.

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

As an employee of Hydro One, I was in the logistics chain of the smart meter roll out, which involved a large geographic area and a big change in the way Hydro companies do business. Timelines were everything so working together and looking over the horizon for possible impacts, questions and concerns.

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

A one-year moratorium, I do agree with while recognizing that provincial partners have already implemented data centres etc. Controlling our data keeps it safe and secure and within Canada laws. Regina may be a good place to begin and after seeing former Prime Ministers Stephen Harper & Jean Chrétien and Prime Minister Carney come together for a sovereign Canada does speak volumes. All the while we need to keep in mind environment impacts and es-

pecially other water and power usage. Caution while embracing new technology.

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

The County's long term financial plan is a good guideline to start yet staying flexible to provincial elections and their impact upon a financial plan. That being said, the county guidelines are an amazing place to start.



JAMES MCCULLOCH

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

Like taxes, growth is a constant, whether the community supports it or not we have been given little if any choice in the matter. We must do our best to achieve controlled growth, supported by strategic investments in infrastructure, strong financial oversight, and a commitment to affordability. Council must ensure that growth benefits both new and existing residents while protecting taxpayers from unnecessary financial burdens. If we plan properly, growth can strengthen our communities, expand our tax base, improve services, and preserve the quality of life that makes the County of Brant such a desirable place to call home.

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

Residential development in downtown Paris can provide important benefits, including new housing opportunities, increased support for local businesses, and a more vibrant year-round downtown and an increased tax base. However, growth must enhance, not diminish, the character of our community.

Paris's historic architecture, riverfront, walkable downtown, and small-town charm attract residents, visitors, and businesses. New development should respect the downtown's scale, design, and heritage character while enhancing the qualities that

make Paris "The Prettiest Little Town in Canada."

There will be challenges with respect to parking, increased traffic flow, municipal services and infrastructure. These increased pressures should be addressed by growth-paying-for- growth, without increasing the tax burden on existing residents.

Controlled development that increases housing choice, preserves our heritage and downtown character, and ensures infrastructure keeps pace with growth can strengthen downtown Paris without sacrificing what makes it special.

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

I support exploring the need for an indoor public pool, provided there is demonstrated demand, a sustainable funding model, and limited impact on taxpayers. A public pool would improve access to affordable recreation, swimming lessons, fitness programs, and year-round activities for families, youth, and seniors while reducing reliance on Brantford facilities.

Indoor pools are expensive to build, operate, and maintain, creating long-term financial obligations that could increase property taxes if not properly planned. Outdoor pools cost less but provide only seasonal access and limited programming.

The County of Brant should pursue available grants, development charge revenue from new growth, community sponsorships, user fees, and fundraising partnerships. Growth-related infrastructure funding should help offset capital costs where appropriate.

My priority would be a needs assessment and business case that evaluates demand, costs, and funding options, ensuring improved access to aquatic facilities without creating an undue financial burden on current taxpayers.

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

As the County grows toward its projected population of 59,000 by 2051, we should continue evaluating public transit options. Given our geographically dispersed communities, I believe on-demand and regional transit solutions are likely to provide better value for taxpayers than a traditional fixed-route system in the near term. Any future transit investment should be driven by demonstrated demand, sustainable funding, and affordability for taxpayers.

From a long-term planning perspective, it makes sense to evaluate the possibility of public transit connections between County of Brant hubs that clearly defines the thresholds of when such a plan would become economically feasible and sustainable.

Without sufficient ridership, a fixed-route transit system would create ongoing operating costs that ultimately increase the burden on property taxpayers.

What changes or improvements would

you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

Brant Transit's on-demand model is more practical and cost-effective than a traditional fixed-route system. Before a decision can be made on whether the service needs to be expanded, we first need to identify the current issues and fix them, otherwise we are simply compounding the pain points and not providing real value.

The County should evaluate current challenges, including service availability, wait times, coverage areas, operating hours, and overall reliability. Once these issues are identified, the County needs to develop a plan with measurable results to address gaps and improve customer experience.

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

My position is that any agreement involving the Brantford Municipal Airport must protect County taxpayers and agricultural land first.

I would support discussions with the City of Brantford only if they are limited to the airport property itself. I do not support the sale or transfer of County-owned land that is currently designated for agricultural use. Prime farmland is a valuable and finite resource that should be preserved for future generations.

Any transaction must be based on an independent fair market valuation, with the County receiving full market value for the land. I would insist on a single upfront lump-sum payment at closing. I do not support deferred payments, vendor take-back arrangements, or any structure that effectively makes the County a financier of the transaction. County taxpayers should not be exposed to financial risk or uncertainty.

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

Throughout my career in technology, I have worked within large, complex organizations and led cross-functional teams to deliver measurable results. In one role with a major telecommunications company, I led a team of four people evaluating a long-term software purchase. By thoroughly analyzing actual business needs, we determined significantly fewer licenses were required, resulting in upfront capital savings of \$18 million and an additional \$3 million in operating savings over three years.

At a large financial services organization, I led a team of 12 individuals to re-platform 26 applications onto a more cost-effective platform. This initiative generated \$120,000 in upfront savings and reduced operating expenses by \$1.7 million annually over three years.

My role in both initiatives was to bring stakeholders together, challenge assumptions, analyze the facts, and make financially responsible recommendations. I will bring that same analytical, evidence-based approach to County Council, ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Paris Keeps Terry Fox’s Dream Alive



Heidi Wright addresses participants gathered at Paris District High School on Sunday for the 46th Annual Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. Wright has become a source of inspiration for local families facing cancer after losing her husband, Gary Wright, at age 57 on July 23, 2024. Gary was diagnosed with glioblastoma in 2021.



Participants gather at Paris District High School on Sunday, Sept. 20, ready to set out on the annual Terry Fox Run. The Paris event raised \$15,100 for cancer research as of press deadline. Paris’ event was one of 260 held across the province as Terry’s Marathon of Hope has surpassed over \$1 billion since 1981.



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)

A Terry Fox Run participant gives his four-legged companion a lift along the route Sunday. Walkers, runners, cyclists, rollerbladers and plenty of four-legged friends enjoyed sunny skies as they took part in the annual Paris event in support of cancer research.

Paris Horticultural Society keeps our community clean



(SERRYN STEPHENSON PHOTO)

The Paris Horticultural Society completed its final Adopt a Road cleanup of 2026 on September 19. Dedicated volunteers collected 10 bags of garbage, 3 bags of recyclables, and 2 oversized pieces of waste along the route from the Paris Fairgrounds up Keg Lane to Trussler Road, a timely clean up following the Labour Day Paris Fair. Pictured from left to right are Nancy Chipman, Marlene Harrison, Edith Stone, Pat Moore, and Brenda Simpson.

Vote

EMAD YOSIF

—“JOE”—

☒ CANDIDATE FOR
WARD 3 COUNCILLOR

COUNTY OF BRANT

Paris

☒ Safe neighbourhoods

☒ Roads & services

☒ Local business

For more info:
www.emadyosif.ca

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Fifteen years serving Paris from behind the counter. Now ready for the council table.

You Already Know Joe!

*Paid for by the campaign to elect Emad Yosif Ward 3

Local junior talent takes home Paris Fair honours

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

Exhibitors from Paris and neighbouring County of Brant communities earned hundreds of ribbons in the Hall competitions at the 2026 Paris Fair.

The following results include junior prize-winning entries from Paris, Mount Pleasant, Glen Morris, St. George, Oakland and Scotland. In the interest of space, classes without a finisher from one of those communities have been excluded. Where competitors from other communities placed in a listed class, their names have been omitted so we could publish the names of local prize winners. In next week's edition we will feature the winners of the adult categories.

PRIMARY ART: AGE 8 AND UNDER

Fall: 1. Henry Bruyn, Paris; 1. Hudson Gabsch, Paris; 2. Ainslie Gabsch, Paris; 2. Freya Habinski, Paris; 3. Sully O'farrell, Paris.

A famous landmark from anywhere in the world (Eiffel Tower, pyramids, CN Tower, etc): 1. Hudson Gabsch, Paris; 1. Zev Kalvapalle, Paris; 2. Ainslie Gabsch, Paris; 2. Hudson Gabsch, Paris; 3. Thomas Richardson, Paris.

Agriculture (farm animal, landscape, etc): 1. Hudson Gabsch, Paris; 2. Hunter Allison, Paris; 2. Reid Hobart, Paris; 2. Thomas Richardson, Paris; 3. Ainslie Gabsch, Paris; 3. Audrey Garbedian, Paris.

Video game-inspired: 1. Maverick Janisse, Paris; 2. Nolan Ferren, Paris; 3. Rowan Velez, Paris.

Movie or TV show inspired: 2. Nolan Ferren, Paris; 3. Winifred Cairns, Paris.

Picture made from objects found in nature: 2. Felix Prost, Paris.

Animal(s): 2. Hudson Gabsch, Paris; 3. Thomas Richardson, Paris.

Earth Day / recycled art: 2. Ainslie Gabsch, Paris; 3. Hudson Gabsch, Paris.

Bullying / equality poster (no larger than 11"x17"): 2. Addison Kelley, St. George.

Abstract: 1. Winifred Cairns, Paris.

Fun and fantasy: 2. Bryce Kelley, Paris.

Outside the box (anything else that doesn't fit): 1. Andi Aiston, Paris; 2. Caius Giles, Paris; 3. Sully O'farrell, Paris.

Digital Art (use digital technology): 2. Audie Kloss, Paris; 3. Nina Adique, Paris.

SPECIAL: Jellycat Art - find inspirations at babybhome.com: 3. Nina Adique, Paris.

JUNIOR ART: AGE 12 AND UNDER

Fall: 1. Connor Latulippe, Paris; 2. Austin Mayne, Paris; 2. Avika Kalvapalle, Paris.

Agriculture (farm animal, landscape, etc): 1. Brielle Neziol, Paris; 1. Jacob Speagle, Paris; 1. Marcus Aiston, Paris; 2. Eli Forbes, Paris; 3. Brixton Young, Paris.

A famous landmark from anywhere in the world (Eiffel Tower, pyramids, CN Tower, etc): 1. Mason Fowler, Paris; 2. Alyssa Connor, Paris; 2. Reese Vlasic, Paris.

Video game inspired: 1. Stella Grigg-mcGuffin, Paris.

Movie or TV show inspired: 1. Ashton

Santos, Paris.

Picture made from objects found in nature: 2. Alexander Sangster, Paris; 3. Oscar Herriman, Paris.

Animal(s): 2. Holly Gemmill, Paris.

Earth Day / recycled art: 1. Stella Grigg-mcGuffin, Paris; 2. Hollis Amalfa, Paris.

Abstract: 1. Brielle Neziol, Paris; 3. Reese Vlasic, Paris.

Fun and fantasy: 2. Stella Grigg-mcGuffin, Paris.

Outside the box (anything else that doesn't fit): 1. Maggie McIntosh, Paris; 2. Peyton Meza, Paris.

SPECIAL: Jellycat Art - find inspirations at babybhome.com: 1. Alexander Sangster, Paris; 1. Grace Black, Paris; 2. Brielle Neziol, Paris.

TEEN ART: AGE 15 AND UNDER

Landscape or environment: 1. Holly Gemmill, Paris; 3. Holly Gemmill, Paris.

Still life (objects): 3. Charlotte Speagle, Paris.

Architecture / buildings: 1. Joshua Connor, Paris; 3. Landon Neziol, Paris.

Dream world / imaginary place: 2. Connor Chase, Paris.

Pattern design (mandala, geometric, repeating patterns): 3. Brandie Vanderpols, Paris.

Black and white design: 1. Landon Neziol, Paris.

Digital art (computer / tablet created): 2. Bryson Balkwill, Paris; 3. Megan Latulippe, Paris.

Media-inspired (movie, TV, or video game): 1. Gabriel Gomez, Paris.

Nature-based art (natural materials): 1. Connor Chase, Paris.

Mini artwork (max 6"x6"): 1. Landon Neziol, Paris; 3. Joshua Connor, Paris.

TEEN ART: AGE 18 AND UNDER

Portrait (person or self-portrait, include photo): 2. Savannah Brown, Paris.

Landscape or environment: 1. Ivy Winegarden-macdonald, Paris; 2. Tatum Spencer, Paris; 3. Maggie Radke, Paris.

Still life (objects): 2. Harley Emary, Paris.

Around the World (landmark or cultural scene): 2. Tatum Spencer, Paris.

Fantasy / creature design: 1. Savannah Brown, Paris; 3. Tessa Farrish, Paris.

Storytelling scene (art that tells a story): 1. Savannah Brown, Paris; 3. Megan Latulippe, Paris.

Abstract art: 1. Harley Emary, Paris; 2. Lauren O'nahr, Paris.

Digital art (computer / tablet created): 1. Tessa Farrish, Paris; 3. Tessa Farrish, Paris.

Recycled art (found objects): 1. Harley Emary, Paris.

Mini artwork (max 6" x 6"): 1. Savannah Brown, Paris; 2. Harley Emary, Paris.

JUNIOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Farm animal: 1. Avika Kalvapalle, Paris; 3. Stella Grigg-mcGuffin, Paris.

Best friend(s): 2. Olivia Grupstra, Paris; 3. Lily Ryan, Paris.

A pet or pets: 1. Charlotte Holyome,



Paris; 3. Louie Vlasic, Paris; 4. Lilah Wills, Paris.

Candid shot of people having fun at the fair: 1. Louie Vlasic, Paris; 2. Violet Andrade, Paris; 3. Alexander Sangster, Paris.

Any other subject: 1. Brooklyn Richardson, Paris; 1. Lily Zammit, Paris; 2. Edith Esposito, Paris; 2. Olivia Hamilton, Paris; 3. Natalie Hodgkinson, St. George; 4. Callie Guest, Paris; 4. Harvey Wright, Paris; 5. Nolan Vellenga, Paris.

A visit to the farm: 1. Clara Sangster, Paris; 2. Lily Ryan, Paris; 3. Alexander Sangster, Paris.

My pet at play: 1. Lauren O'nahr, Paris; 2. Edith Wright, Paris; 3. Brandie Vanderpols, Paris.

My vacation: 1. Alexander Sangster, Paris; 2. Clara Sangster, Paris; 3. Rowan Velez, Paris.

Water fun: 2. Lauren O'nahr, Paris; 3. Brianna Montemayor, St. George.

Nature closeup: 1. Rohnan Paterson-astle, Paris.

Tree(s): 3. Louie Vlasic, Paris.

Winter: 2. Louie Vlasic, Paris.

Selfie at the Fair: 1. Lauren O'nahr, Paris; 2. Alexander Sangster, Paris.

A public space: 1. Clara Sangster, Paris; 2. Alexander Sangster, Paris; 3. Lauren O'nahr, Paris.

Action: 1. Reese Vlasic, Paris; 3. Brianna Montemayor, St. George.

Open - Black & White only: 1. Harvey Wright, Paris; 2. Edith Wright, Paris.

From a seed: 1. Harvey Wright, Paris; 3. Charlotte Holyome, Paris.

Illuminated at night (colour only): 1. Lily Zammit, Paris; 2. Nolan Vellenga, Paris; 3. Reese Vlasic, Paris.

SPECIAL: Lake or pond reflection: 1. Reese Vlasic, Paris; 3. Edith Wright, Paris.

My town (colour only): 1. Louie Vlasic, Paris; 3. Bryce Fisher, Paris.

Landscape (colour only): 1. Brooklyn Richardson, Paris; 1. Harvey Wright, Paris; 1. Rohnan Paterson-astle, Paris; 3. Edith Wright, Paris.

JUNIOR VEGETABLES & FRUIT

3 onions, any variety: 3. Lily Ryan, Paris; 5. Izzi Platz, Paris.

3 heads of garlic: 2. Janey Buck, Glen Morris; 3. Lemmy Buck, Glen Morris.

3 red tomatoes, cherry (0-5 years of age, mark age): 1. Camille Sheaves, Scotland; 2. Joel Heinrichs, Paris; 4. Lemmy Buck, Glen Morris.

3 red tomatoes, cherry (6-10 years of

age, mark age): 1. Thomas Richardson, Paris; 2. Jase Heinrichs, Paris; 5. Lily Ryan, Paris.

3 red tomatoes, cherry (11-18 years of age, mark age): 3. Lahara Lockett, Paris; 5. Fischer Hunter-zronik, Paris.

3 red tomatoes, NOT cherry: 2. Olivia Turnbull, Paris; 4. Rowan Morgan, Paris; 5. Lemmy Buck, Glen Morris.

3 green tomatoes: 1. Rowan Morgan, Paris; 2. Janey Buck, Glen Morris; 4. Alyssa Connor, Paris; 5. Lily Ryan, Paris.

3 sweet peppers, any variety: 5. Janey Buck, Glen Morris.

3 hot peppers, any variety, named: 5. Juniper Pelleboer, Paris.

3 jalapeno peppers: 1. Joel Heinrichs, Paris; 2. Lemmy Buck, Glen Morris.

Butternut squash: 1. Rowan Morgan, Paris; 2. Lily Ryan, Paris; 3. Dylan Ryan, Paris.

Squash, any variety, named: 1. Janey Buck, Glen Morris; 2. Lemmy Buck, Glen Morris.

Eggplant: 2. Eva Bylsma, St. George.

Zucchini: 1. Joshua Connor, Paris; 2. Lemmy Buck, Glen Morris; 2. Rowan Morgan, Paris; 3. Lahara Lockett, Paris; 4. Janey Buck, Glen Morris; 4. Thomas Richardson, Paris.

3 cucumbers: 3. Connor Latulippe, Paris.

3 beets (1" top left on): 1. Rowan Morgan, Paris.

Pie pumpkin: 3. Lahara Lockett, Paris.

3 pears, named: 1. Janey Buck, Glen Morris; 2. Lemmy Buck, Glen Morris.

Mud Pie decorated to look like a map of Canada, using items from nature (10 & under, mark age): 2. Bryce Kelley, Paris; 5. Kara Kelley, Paris.

SPECIAL: Homemade stuffed scarecrow, dressed to feature any country, entry NOT to exceed 1 meter on a firm base: 1. Rowan Morgan, Paris.

SPECIAL: Decorate a fruit or vegetable to look like a NATIVE ANIMAL OF YOUR CHOICE COUNTRY: 5. Mae Hodgkinson, St. George; 5. Natalie Hodgkinson, St. George.

SPECIAL: Decorate a fruit or vegetable to look like a WORLD GLOBE: 2. Mae Hodgkinson, St. George.

JUNIOR GRAIN, CORN & HAY

Tallest stock of corn, CUT OFF AT ROOT TOP (10 & under, mark age): 2. Bryce Kelley, Paris; 4. Kara Kelley, Paris.

Tallest stock of corn, CUT OFF AT

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

ROOT TOP (11 & over, mark age): 1. Luke Cochrane, Paris; 2. Caleb Lamb, Paris; 3. Logan Cochrane, Paris.

JUNIOR FLOWERS

Sunny Day, yellow flowers, weeds or garden, add a flag from a warm country, not to exceed 8" (up to 8 years): 3. Will Punturiero, Paris; 4. Juniper Pelleboer, Paris.

Sunny Day, yellow flowers, weeds or garden, design a flag representing Paris (historical, favourite thing etc), not to exceed 8" (9 to 18 years): 1. Eva Bylsma, St. George; 4. Eva Bylsma, St. George.

Hydrangea, any colour, one bloom, with foliage, add flag with green, label on entry tag, not to exceed 8": 5. Eva Bylsma, St. George.

Hosta leaf, over 6" wide, design and make an insect that could hide under the leaf: 2. Eva Bylsma, St. George; 3. Casey Shiplo, Paris.

Hosta leaf, 3 to 6" wide, variegated, add a flag from favourite country other than Canada: 1. Eva Bylsma, St. George; 4. Bryce Kelley, Paris.

Hosta leaf, under 3" wide, decorate with 1-2 tiny things: 2. Lily Zammit, Paris; 3. Jack Ferren, Paris; 4. Eva Bylsma, St. George.

Dahlia, one bloom: 1. Jase Heinrichs, Paris; 2. Eva Bylsma, St. George; 5. Reese Vlasic, Paris.

Arrangement in yellow and orange, decorate container or include something else that is orange or yellow, not to exceed 10": 3. Jase Heinrichs, Paris; 5. Eva Bylsma, St. George.

Tea Party - flowers in a teacup/mug, any colour, add flag from a country where tea is popular, not to exceed 10": 1. Eva Bylsma, St. George; 5. Violet Lawrence, Paris.

Wildflowers in a creative vessel (eg. popcorn container): 3. Eva Bylsma, St. George; 5. Will Punturiero, Paris.

Floating single rose, any colour, any size, add coloured pebbles: 1. Lahara Lockett, Paris.

Gladiola, single spike, any colour, decorate vase with same colour ribbon or bow: 3. Izzi Platz, Paris.

Geranium, 1 bloom, RED, with own foliage, add Canadian Flag: 1. Jack Ferren, Paris; 3. Nolan Ferren, Paris.

Geranium, 1 bloom, any other colour, with own foliage, add a luggage tag with a destination you want to visit: 4. Eva Bylsma, St. George.

Small multicoloured bouquet of flowers in a container, add a world globe: 4. Will Punturiero, Paris.

SPECIAL: Largest, most mature, sunflower, HEAD ONLY, no container. Decorate with birds that like sunflower seeds: 1. Lily Ryan, Paris; 2. William Lawrence, Paris; 3. Juniper Pelleboer, Paris.

JUNIOR BAKING

Using Ireland's flag colours (green, white, orange) make a necklace (string allowed) all other items edible - on a 7" plate: 1. Will Punturiero, Paris; 2. Sophie Stachiw, Paris; 3. Alexia Zigomanis, Paris; 4. Olsen Janisse, Paris.

Make and decorate a 2-3" Rice Krispies squares - on a 7" plate: 1. Isla Morris, Paris; 1. Janey Buck, Glen Morris; 1. Maia Wisdom, Paris; 3. Sophie Stachiw, Paris; 4.

Isabella Tkachuk, Paris; 5. Lemmy Buck, Glen Morris; 5. Will Punturiero, Paris.

Decorate a purchased cookie with a happy face, only edible decorations - on a 7" plate: 3. Isabella Tkachuk, Paris; 3. Lemmy Buck, Glen Morris; 5. Sophie Stachiw, Paris.

Make a "Trail Mix" using your favourite treats, displayed in an undecorated 500mL jar: 2. Will Punturiero, Paris.

Make a snack for the Paris Fair Ambassador, include 3 items - on a 7" plate: 1. Sophie Stachiw, Paris; 2. Janey Buck, Glen Morris.

Using a country's flag colours make a popcorn mix, display in an undecorated 500mL jar, label the country on the entry tag - on a 7" plate: 1. Blake Hodgkinson, St. George; 1. Natalie Hodgkinson, St. George; 2. Maverick Janisse, Paris; 2. Olivia Grupstra, Paris; 3. Alexander Sangster, Paris; 3. Myla Janisse, Paris; 4. Finnegan Velez, Paris; 4. Oscar Herriman, Paris; 5. Rowan Velez, Paris.

3 chocolate chip cookies - NO NUTS - on a 7" plate: 1. Carson Wight, Paris; 1. Nina Adique, Paris; 2. Megan Latulippe, Paris; 2. Rowan Velez, Paris; 3. Casey Suckel, Paris; 3. Hazel Solak, Paris; 3. Isla Aiston, Paris; 4. Brayden Albert, Paris; 4. Mae Hodgkinson, St. George; 4. Oakley Mcpherson, Paris; 5. Felicity Lewis, Paris; 5. Piper Head, Paris; 5. Quinton Ballio, Paris.

Make and decorate a cupcake with a flag other than Canada's, only edible decorations, label the country on the entry tag - on a 7" plate: 1. Alexander Sangster, Paris; 2. Hazel Solak, Paris; 2. Paisley Akimov, Paris; 3. Avika Kalvapalle, Paris; 3. Oscar Herriman, Paris.

3 brownies - NO NUTS - on a 7" plate: 1. Alissa Carr, Paris; 1. Finnegan Velez, Paris; 1. Isla Grupstra, Paris; 2. Jacob Speagle, Paris; 3. Piper Head, Paris; 4. Adelaide Velez, Paris; 4. Felicity Lewis, Paris; 4. Rowan McLaren, Paris; 5. Lauren O'nahr, Paris.

Make a lunch for a fair volunteer - on an 8-10" plate, no more than 6 items: 2. Alexander Sangster, Paris; 2. Mae Hodgkinson, St. George; 4. Callie Coverdale, Paris; 4. Nash Coverdale, Paris; 5. Elsa Olenski, Paris; 5. Whyatt Emary, Paris.

2 of your favourite muffins, same variety, recipe attached on a 3x5" index card - on a 7" plate: 1. Clara Sangster, Paris; 2. Connor Latulippe, Paris; 3. Rowan Velez, Paris; 4. Alexander Sangster, Paris; 4. Lauren O'nahr, Paris; 5. Lucy Witt, Paris.

Make a display of 3 sugar cookies - on a 7" plate: 2. Avery Speagle, Paris; 2. Clayton Mayne, Paris; 3. Jacob Speagle, Paris; 4. Eleanor Garbedian, Paris; 5. Whyatt Emary, Paris.

Make and display 3 star sugar cookie - on a 7" plate: 4. Charlotte Speagle, Paris; 5. Landon Speagle, Paris.

Make and display 1/2 a loaf of bread that you would use for a sandwich, label (white, whole wheat, sourdough, etc) on entry tag, in a plastic bag: 1. Paisley Akimov, Paris.

Make and display 3 Hungarian Paprika Cheese Sticks using the following recipe - on a 7" plate: 1. Carson Wight, Paris; 1. Lauren O'nahr, Paris; 2. Harley Emary, Paris; 3. Megan Latulippe, Paris; 4. Bower Farrish, Paris; 5. Charlotte Speagle, Paris.

JUNIOR SEWING

Create a picture of a flag from any country using yarn, felt, buttons or other sewing notions: 2. Mae Hodgkinson, St. George.

String buttons on a piece of yarn, no longer than 12". The pattern of the buttons will be the feature judged: 1. Kara Kelley, Paris; 4. Isabella Tkachuk, Paris.

Using a sock, make a hand puppet of any animal: 1. Freya Habinski, Paris; 2. Natalie Hodgkinson, St. George.

SPECIAL: Dress a teddy bear to represent any culture from around the world (5 or less items, securely attached): 1. Bryce Kelley, Paris; 2. Lacey Wills, Paris; 4. Kara Kelley, Paris; 5. Zev Kalvapalle, Paris.

Machine sew a tote bag using non traditional fabric (placemats, towels, etc): 1. Brooklyn Richardson, Paris; 2. Isla Grupstra, Paris.

Any hand-sewn item: 1. Elsa Olenski, Paris; 2. Eleanor Garbedian, Paris; 3. Finnegan Velez, Paris.

Any sewn item using recycled fabric (jeans, shirt, blanket, etc): 1. Stella Grigg-mcGuffin, Paris.

Any machine-sewn article of clothing: 2. Elsa Olenski, Paris; 3. Brooklyn Richardson, Paris.

Decorate a T-shirt or sweatshirt representing a country or nationality of the world: 1. Isla Grupstra, Paris.

Design on paper a dress/costume used for a wedding or fancy event, using pencil crayons or markers: 2. Lahara Lockett, Paris.

Quilt block, designed on paper, using your own design, mounted, no larger than 12x12": 2. Lahara Lockett, Paris.

SPECIAL: Create a hand puppet using a sock. Creativity and sewing will be judged. Label your creation on the entry tag: 3. Elsa Olenski, Paris.

SPECIAL: Any machine-sewn item, NOT CLOTHING: 1. Chloe Walsweer, Paris; 5. Brooklyn Richardson, Paris.

SPECIAL: 2 machine-sewn pillowcases: 1. Brooklyn Richardson, Paris.

SPECIAL: Sew one of the following: cosmetic/toiletry bag, pencil case, jewelry travel bag, reusable lunch bag, zippered bag to store small toys: 1. Mylah Mcpherson, Paris; 5. Elsa Olenski, Paris.

Using marker print the name of a country on an 8 1/2"x11" piece of paper. Machine sew over the letters, tracing letters with the sewing needle: 1. Alexander Sangster, Paris.

Design on paper a dress/costume used for a country's cultural celebration, or their native dress, label country's name on entry tag: 1. Lauren O'nahr, Paris.

SPECIAL: Any knit or crocheted custom creation: 1. Isla Farrish, Paris; 2. Adrianna Svirik, Paris.

SPECIAL: Handwrite out the instructions for darning a sock: 1. Lauren O'nahr, Paris.

JUNIOR COLLECTION & CRAFTS - AGES 5 AND UNDER

Using a paper tube, create a Canadian gnome: 1. Casey Shiplo, Paris; 3. Ainslie Gabsch, Paris; 5. Charbel Hajjar, Paris.

Using a paper plate, make a farm animal: 1. Alessandra Das, Paris; 2. Ainslie Gabsch, Paris; 3. Autumn Brown, Paris; 4. Alexia Zigomanis, Paris; 4. Isabella Tkachuk, Paris.

Make a pet rock: 1. Casey Shiplo, Paris;

3. Alessandra Das, Paris; 4. Nash Archer, Paris; 4. Will Punturiero, Paris; 5. Ayla Fazakas, Paris.

Using recycled products, make a robot (paper cups, popsicle sticks, yarn etc): 3. Casey Shiplo, Paris.

Using cereal, create a picture of a flag, label the country: 2. Lemmy Buck, Glen Morris.

Make a Valentine to give to a family member: 1. Casey Shiplo, Paris; 1. Isabella Tkachuk, Paris; 2. Charbel Hajjar, Paris; 3. Winifred Cairns, Paris.

Decorate an Easter egg, does not have to be a real egg: 1. Ainslie Gabsch, Paris; 3. Isabella Tkachuk, Paris; 4. Lemmy Buck, Glen Morris.

Make a handprint Thanksgiving turkey: 1. Casey Shiplo, Paris; 1. Will Punturiero, Paris; 2. Charbel Hajjar, Paris; 2. Isabella Tkachuk, Paris; 3. Kara Kelley, Paris; 5. Autumn Brown, Paris.

Make a pinecone Christmas ornament: 1. Casey Shiplo, Paris; 3. Juniper Pelleboer, Paris; 5. Ainslie Gabsch, Paris.

Craft made from a kit, securely mounted, provide & attach kit instructions: 1. Casey Shiplo, Paris; 1. Sophie Stachiw, Paris; 2. Winifred Cairns, Paris; 3. Nash Archer, Paris; 5. Kara Kelley, Paris.

Craft NOT made from a kit, securely mounted: 2. Juniper Pelleboer, Paris; 3. Audie Kloss, Paris; 4. Nash Archer, Paris.

SPECIAL: Create a bird feeder that represents another country, use recycled MILK product containers: 1. Autumn Brown, Paris; 1. Casey Shiplo, Paris; 2. Juniper Pelleboer, Paris.

JUNIOR COLLECTION & CRAFTS - AGES 6 TO 9

Using a paper plate, make an animal from another country, label your animal: 2. Hollis Amalfa, Paris; 4. Hayes Amalfa, Paris; 5. Reese Vlasic, Paris.

Create a pet rock: 1. Lacey Wills, Paris; 2. Eowyn Das, Paris; 3. Riley Guest, Paris; 4. Mae Hodgkinson, St. George; 4. William Lawrence, Paris.

Paint any pottery item: 1. Thomas Richardson, Paris; 2. Hunter Allison, Paris; 2. Lacey Wills, Paris; 3. Clayton Mayne, Paris; 4. Logan Christman, Paris; 5. Lilyan Chase, Paris.

Using a wooden spoon, create a child from another country: 1. Samuel Hajjar, Paris; 2. Jackson Lintott, Paris; 4. Nina Adique, Paris; 5. Callie Coverdale, Paris; 5. Lacey Wills, Paris.

Make a robot using recycled materials from home (paper cups, small boxes etc): 2. Connor Das, Paris; 5. Kairi Dunphy, Paris.

Make a Valentine's Day card: 1. Samuel Hajjar, Paris; 2. Hollis Amalfa, Paris; 3. Janey Buck, Glen Morris; 3. Sloan O'farrell, Paris; 4. Willa McKeown, Paris; 5. Callie Coverdale, Paris.

Make an easter Bunny using an upcycled sock, no-sew project: 1. Reese Vlasic, Paris.

Make a Halloween mask: 1. Hollis Amalfa, Paris; 2. Theodore Zigomanis, Paris; 3. Hudson Gabsch, Paris; 4. Freya Habinski, Paris; 4. Willa McKeown, Paris.

Make a pinecone Christmas tree. Paint and other supplies may be used: 3. Hunter Allison, Paris; 3. Thomas Richardson, Paris; 4. Hayes Amalfa, Paris; 4. Hudson Gabsch, Paris; 5. Callie Coverdale, Paris.

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Craft made from a kit, securely mounted, provide and attach kit instructions: 1. Reese Vlastic, Paris; 1. Thomas Richardson, Paris; 3. Mae Hodgkinson, St. George; 4. Bryce Kelley, Paris; 5. Lilyan Chase, Paris.

Craft NOT made from a kit, securely mounted: 1. Jackson Lintott, Paris; 4. Gus Cairns, Paris; 5. Lilyan Chase, Paris; 5. Sully O'farrell, Paris.

SPECIAL: Create a house you would see in another country using Lego, Knex or Duplo, label the country. No size limit: 2. Connor Latulippe, Paris; 3. Bryce Kelley, Paris; 4. Violet Williams, Paris; 5. Sloan O'farrell, Paris.

SPECIAL: Create a bird feeder that represents a specific country, label the country, using recycled MILK product containers: 1. Connor Latulippe, Paris; 1. Maggie McIntosh, Paris; 2. Hollis Amalfa, Paris; 3. Connor Das, Paris; 4. Felix Prost, Paris; 5. William Lawrence, Paris.

JUNIOR COLLECTION & CRAFTS - AGES 10 TO 13

Cricut craft (t-shirt, card, paper craft etc) Around the World theme. Adult help allowed: 2. Alyssa Connor, Paris; 5. Kathryn McLaren, Paris.

Around the World themed door decoration (wreath, swag, ribbon etc): 2. Alexander Sangster, Paris; 3. Alyssa Connor, Paris; 5. Lahara Lockett, Paris.

Make and paint any pottery item: 1. Aubrey Balkwill, Paris; 3. Jacob Speagle, Paris; 5. Nash Coverdale, Paris.

Using a wooden spoon, create a child from another country, label which country they are from: 1. Alexander Sangster, Paris; 3. Oscar Herriman, Paris.

Using any medium, make a friendship bracelet: 3. Edith Esposito, Paris; 3. Lahara Lockett, Paris; 4. Alexander Sangster, Paris.

Make a robot using recycled materi-

als from home (paper cups, small boxes etc): 1. Stella Grigg-mcGuffin, Paris; 3. Brooklyn Richardson, Paris.

Decorate a Halloween pumpkin, NOT a real pumpkin: 4. Alexander Sangster, Paris.

Christmas ornament: 5. Alexander Sangster, Paris.

Craft made from a kit, securely mounted, provide and attach kit instructions: 2. Oscar Herriman, Paris; 5. Alexander Sangster, Paris; 5. Marcus Aiston, Paris.

Craft NOT made from a kit, securely mounted: 3. Myla Janisse, Paris; 4. Louie Vlastic, Paris; 5. Hailey Struthers, Paris; 5. Rowan McLaren, Paris.

SPECIAL: Create a building from another country using Lego, Knex or Duplo, label the country, no size limit: 3. Carter Walsweer, Paris; 5. Alyssa Connor, Paris; 5. Harvey Wright, Paris.

SPECIAL: Build a tractor using milk product containers: 1. Louie Vlastic, Paris; 2. Hudson Gurney, Paris; 3. Alyssa Connor, Paris; 5. Avika Kalvapalle, Paris.

JUNIOR COLLECTION & CRAFTS - AGES 14 TO 18

Any article to show your carpentry skills, may be made at home or school, no size limit: 2. Charlotte Speagle, Paris; 3. Teagan Bennett, Paris; 4. Jaidyn Bennett, Paris.

Cricut/Silhouette craft not using heat transfer (card, sign, etc): 1. Tatum Spencer, Paris.

Create a string project with the theme Around the World: 2. Charlotte Speagle, Paris.

Make a piece of jewellery representing a country or culture, any medium, label the country: 1. Lauren O'nahr, Paris.

Make a robot using recycled materials from home (paper cups, small boxes etc): 1. Brianna Montemayor, St. George; 2. Connor Chase, Paris.

Make a bouquet of Valentine's Day paper flowers: 1. Megan Latulippe, Paris; 3.

Avery Van Stowski, Paris.

Using recycled sock(s), create a stuffed bunny: 1. Brianna Montemayor, St. George; 2. Edith Wright, Paris.

Fall or Halloween inspired wreath or door hanger: 2. Lauren O'nahr, Paris; 3. Aubrey Akimov, Paris; 4. Clara Sangster, Paris.

Christmas ornament: 2. Lauren O'nahr, Paris.

Craft made from a kit, securely mounted, provide and attach kit instructions: 4. Clara Sangster, Paris; 5. Lauren O'nahr, Paris.

Craft NOT made from a kit, securely mounted: 1. Edith Wright, Paris; 2. Brianna Montemayor, St. George; 4. Connor Chase, Paris; 5. Avery Van Stowski, Paris.

SPECIAL: Make a Lego, Knex or Duplo exhibit with the theme Around the World, no size limit, label the exhibit: 2. Hailey Lamb, Paris; 4. Lauren O'nahr, Paris.

SPECIAL: Any article that was made in tech class at school, any medium, no size limit: 1. Teagan Bennett, Paris; 2. Bryson Balkwill, Paris.

SPECIAL: Create an activity farmers do on the farm using recycled MILK product containers: 1. Brianna Montemayor, St. George; 1. Brianna Montemayor, St. George; 1. Lauren O'nahr, Paris; 2. Charlotte Speagle, Paris; 3. Lauren O'nahr, Paris.

JUNIOR ART & WRITING

Print the word - World: 1. Nash Archer, Paris; 2. Ainslie Gabsch, Paris.

Art - on a paper plate, using green and blue colours, show the earth's land and water: 1. Nash Archer, Paris.

Print the following - Our World: 4. Sully O'farrell, Paris.

Art - Draw a 4" x 5" flag from a country: 4. Sully O'farrell, Paris.

Print the following - Around the World: 1. Hayes Amalfa, Paris; 2. Maggie

Hobart, Paris; 2. Thomas Richardson, Paris; 3. Mae Hodgkinson, St. George; 5. Zev Kalvapalle, Paris.

Art - Make a handprint, decorate as an animal: 2. Hayes Amalfa, Paris; 5. Kairi Dunphy, Paris.

Print the following - We love our world: 1. Hudson Gabsch, Paris; 1. Nina Adique, Paris; 5. Hayes Amalfa, Paris.

Art - Draw and name the national flower from your favourite country: 2. Andi Aiston, Paris.

SPECIAL: Print the Poem: 1. Audie Kloss, Paris; 1. Isla Grupstra, Paris; 2. Isla Aiston, Paris; 3. Hollis Amalfa, Paris; 3. Natalie Hodgkinson, St. George; 4. Isla Flewelling, Paris; 4. Nolan Ferren, Paris; 5. Sloan O'farrell, Paris.

Art - Decorate a hangable styrofoam ball to look like the earth: 5. Natalie Hodgkinson, St. George.

SPECIAL: In Cursive writing copy the poem: 1. Samuel Hajjar, Paris; 2. Myla Janisse, Paris; 5. Freya Habinski, Paris.

In cursive writing - choose a country and describe all the attractions you would see (minimum of 100 words): 3. Mason Fowler, Paris; 4. Jack Ferren, Paris.

Art - Using an 8 1/2" x 11" paper, create a postcard illustrating the attractions of the country you chose: 4. Violet Andrade, Paris; 5. Quinlan Prost, Paris.

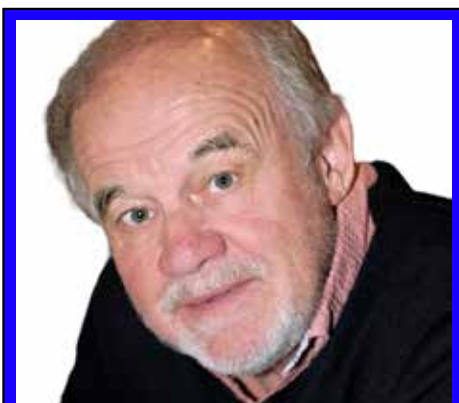
In cursive writing - choose an international landmark and write about its history (150-200 words): 1. Lahara Lockett, Paris.

Art - Build a model of your international landmark: 1. Alexander Sangster, Paris.

In cursive writing - choose a country and write a brief history of that country (4-6 paragraphs): 1. Aubrey Balkwill, Paris.

SPECIAL: Create a poster illustrating a country's flag, dress, food and famous landmark: 3. Jack Corbett, Paris.

LIVING RETIRED: 'Fit To Be Tied!'



By Gary Chalk
Non-Pulitzer Prize
Winning Columnist

Living Retired

ward the bed.

The other morning was my turn to make the bed, and in what turned out to be a moment of weakness, I yanked the bed sheets off and threw them in the laundry. They did not need to be washed; I was just too lazy to make the bed. Before Jan could make a blanket statement about my sheet decision, the bedsheets were in the washing machine, sort of...

With all that white linen gathered in my arms I trudged to the laundry room looking like Stay Puft Marshmallow Man in Ghostbusters. At the washing machine I had to untangle myself from the sheets and believe me that was a chore.

As it turned out, it was even more of a chore trying to slug all that soaked linen

into the dryer. I tossed in a couple of dryer sheets — what a mistake that turned out to be. You ever tried to find missing dryer sheets in a big ball of fluffy dried bedsheets? I knew they were in there somewhere. I gave up! I traipsed back to our bedroom — tripping over the dried bedsheets! The worst was about to happen. I discovered it was not easy — make that IMPOSSIBLE! — to fit fitted sheets over a mattress. Here is why: 'Fitted' in layman terms means, 'GOOD LUCK TRYING TO STRETCH THESE THINGS OVERTOP THE MATTRESS!'

I like to think I am a reasonably intelligent Living Retired guy — is that an oxymoron? — but how do you know what side is the inside and what side is the outside of a linen bedsheets? Is there a tag? I couldn't find one. It got even worse...

What makes 'Fitted sheets' 'Fitted' is the elasticized edges. I placed my two hands in two corners and stretched my arms wide. As I pulled them out wide, they snapped back. It was like playing an accordion. In and out. In and out...

I stood at the end of the bed with my

hands stretched out into two corners of the fitted bedsheets. PLOP! Like a sumo wrestler I did a faceplant onto the mattress. Laying on my belly I stretched the two top corners of the fitted sheet overtop the mattress, and then using my feet I tried to stretch the two bottom corners out — that's when the top corners instantly sprung off! This went on forever on all four corners. I was playing Whac-A-Mole!

I gave up! I threw in the towel. But what happened next was even MORE IMPOSSIBLE! Have you ever tried to fold fitted sheets to store them in the linen closet! You need a PhD in geometry.

Jan summed things up. "Gary, when it comes to fitted sheets, you are unfit. Next time you make the bed read 'Fitted Sheets for Dummies.'"

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

Congratulations!

For a century, the Paris Legion has honoured and supported our veterans while providing service, leadership and friendship throughout our community.

Proudly celebrating with you,
THE KIWANIS CLUB OF PARIS-BRANT



Branch 29 Paris

Legion open house shines spotlight on women who held the line at home

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

As the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 celebrates a century in Paris, an upcoming open house will turn the spotlight on a different side of wartime service: the women who held families and communities together on the home front.

The Paris Legion Branch 29 100th Anniversary Committee, working with the Paris Museum and Historical Society, has carefully assembled an exhibit exploring the lives, work and sacrifices of women in Paris and Brant County during the Second World War.

Entitled Stitches, Strength and Steel: Holding the Line at Home — Women and WWII, the exhibit will feature artifacts, photographs, archival material and local stories highlighting everything from domestic life and fundraising to factory work and the countless ways women supported those serving overseas.

The public is encouraged to drop into the Legion during the open house to explore the displays and help Branch 29 celebrate its 100th anniversary.

For Cheryl Humphrey, a member of the Legion's 100th anniversary committee, the inspiration for the exhibit grew partly from her own interest in traditional home crafts and a realization of how essential those skills once were.

"I have been involved with home-crafts for decades and have personally realized that they are not just 'women's crafts' but survival crafts," Humphrey said.

"Without the stitching, cooking, and other domestic skills, home life would have been unmanageable and chaotic."

She noted women were often managing households under vastly different circumstances than those experienced today, while also coping with husbands, sons and fathers serving overseas.

"Big battles had to be faced and overcome right here at home," Humphrey said.

Women also stepped into jobs traditionally held by men, including at manufacturing sites in Paris, Brantford and the County of Brant that were devoted to wartime production. At the same time, women were left to operate households, shops and home industries, while fundraising and producing comfort items for troops overseas.

Some of the stories uncovered for the exhibit provide a remarkably personal connection to that period.

Paris Museum and Historical Society curator Tina Lyon drew on artifacts and archives collected and catalogued by museum volunteers over decades while researching material for the exhibit.

The exhibit has also drawn on support from several other organizations and historians. The Canadian Military Heritage Museum has loaned several displays to the Legion, while the Princeton Museum assisted with research into the wartime Milkweed Collecting Campaign. The Brantford Public Library and County of Brant Public Library's Paris branch provided access to local historical archives, while historian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Honouring Those Who Served. Celebrating a Legacy of Community.

With gratitude, respect and remembrance — congratulations on 100 years.

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**PARIS LEGION
AT 100 YEARS!**

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE.**



Celebrating the centenary of the Royal Canadian Legion Thank you for supporting and honouring veterans and their communities for 100 years!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Bonnie Sitter, who specializes in the Farmerettes, shared articles and research related to their wartime contributions.

Among the items Lyon selected are letters connected to Annie Broughton, who sent care packages to soldiers through the Overseas League (Canada) Tobacco and Hamper Fund.

Soldiers receiving the packages were required to send Broughton a thank-you note, but for many, the correspondence did not end there.

"She continued to correspond with many of these soldiers throughout the war. We have 750 letters sent from 'her' soldiers," Lyon said.

A museum volunteer has been transcribing the collection, offering a window into the experiences and thoughts of soldiers communicating with someone back home.

Another display explores signature quilts and how needlework became a means of raising money for the war effort. Residents would pay to have their names included on squares, which local women embroidered and assembled into a quilt before it was raffled, with proceeds supporting the war effort.

Visitors may also discover the surprising wartime importance of something commonly found along roadsides and in fields today — milkweed.

Humphrey explained that children and community organizations were among those mobilized to help

during the war. Milkweed became particularly valuable because its lightweight, buoyant and waterproof floss could replace kapok in life preservers for sailors.

"Come see the whole story at the open house," Humphrey said.

The exhibit will also have an educational role. Ten local school classes, ranging from Grades 4 to 8, are confirmed to attend, giving students an opportunity to see how the global conflict affected everyday life in their own community.

For Lyon, preserving those stories is important because wartime history extends beyond soldiers and battlefields.

"The stories of those who silently aided at home need to be preserved and revealed to the public so people can understand the hardships and strength that 'people at the Homefront' exhibited," she said.

The open house is free to attend and community members are encouraged to drop in, explore the exhibits and take part in Branch 29's centennial celebration.

The open house runs Monday, Sept. 28 to Thursday, Oct. 1 from 10 am to 7 pm each day and on Friday, Oct. 2 from 10 am to 6 pm.

While there is no admission charge, donations will be gratefully accepted. Funds will go back to the Paris Legion, helping members maintain the aging building and supporting the branch's continued work in the community.






Thank you for a century of standing with our veterans, honoring the fallen, and building stronger communities. Let us not forget.

Claudine Craigie
Ward 4 Candidate | County of Brant

www.claudinecraigie.com
519-658-1029
claudine.craigie@gmail.com



Congratulations!

For 100 years, the Paris Legion has brought people together, keeping the stories and sacrifices of our veterans alive while continually stepping forward to support the community it calls home.

The Optimist Club of Paris salutes Paris Legion Branch 29 on 100 years of making a difference in our community.



WILL BOUMA
MPP, Brantford-Brant

*We salute the men and women
in uniform – active, retired
and departed.*

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Congratulations

Thank You




TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED AND FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM




Branch 29
Paris Ontario Canada

1926 • 2026

SO WE CAN STAND **SHOULDER TO SHOULDER** HAND AND HAND
TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY **FOR THE BETTER**

Serving Paris Since 1931

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: A century of service, sacrifice, and community at Paris Legion Branch 29



By Chris Whelan

There are institutions in our town that do more than simply occupy a street address, they anchor the very soul of our community. As 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion, Paris Branch 29 stands proudly as a pillar of fellowship, remembrance, and civic support. For a century, Branch 29 has ensured that those who put everything on the line for our freedoms are never forgotten, while simultaneously serving as a welcoming home for genera-

tions of Paris families.

In the aftermath of the First World War, communities across Canada were filled with young men who had returned home altered by the horrors of the Western Front. They needed support, medical assistance, and a place to reconnect with comrades who understood what they had endured.

In October 1926, Paris Branch 29 received its charter as part of the newly formed Great War Veterans' Association transition into the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League (later named the Royal Canadian Legion). The initial membership comprised local Great War veterans, led by early presidents including Leslie Wilson.

In those early days, before the construction of a permanent home, the branch met in rented quarters across town, including a three-story building on Mechanic Street known affectionately to locals as "The Hole in the Wall." From these modest beginnings, the legionnaires immediately set to work raising funds for veterans in need, organizing social dances, and advocating for pensions.

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Branch 29 stepped up to serve a new

generation of soldiers and families. Legion members organized scrap drives, collected cigarettes and warm clothing to send to troops overseas, and offered a steady support system for anxious parents and spouses waiting for news from the front.

One of the most vivid moments in local wartime history occurred on Friday, May 30, 1941, when the 1st Battalion of The Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada ("The Duffs") paraded through Paris. Led by Lieutenant-Colonel S.C. Clegg, hundreds of uniformed soldiers marched up Grand River Street lined with packed crowds, waving Union Jacks, and cheering wildly. Schoolchildren were given a holiday to welcome the troops, and about 800 of the men slept on the ground at the Paris Arena that night before heading off to war.

For decades, Branch 29 preserved the memory of that historic parade, eventually framing and presenting the large archival photograph of the event to local institutions to ensure the town's wartime spirit was never forgotten.

The permanent home the Legion occupies today at 70 William Street has a deeply meaningful history of its own. The property originally belonged to Franklin Smoke, a respected local resident, politician, and dedicated Legion member. Upon his passing on November 8, 1937, Mr. Smoke bequeathed this home to Branch 29. The branch officially opened the residence as the Canadian Legion Memorial Home, establishing a permanent sanctuary just before the world was plunged into conflict once again.

Following the end of World War II, Branch 29 experienced a massive surge in membership. The William Street home became a vital nerve center for veterans returning from Europe and Asia, a place to gather, conduct business, transition back to civilian life, and host community events.

To keep pace with this growing membership and the expanding needs of the town, the original Smoke residence underwent major renovations and structural expansions over the years. What began as a grand family home was thoughtfully transformed into a modern, multi-use community hall, complete with dedicated meeting rooms, a larger auditorium, and expanded banquet facilities capable of hosting everything from wedding receptions to civic ceremonies.

Alongside the veterans, the Branch 29 Ladies Auxiliary, chartered in 1934 under early leaders like Mrs. H.C. Zabell, proved to be an indispensable force. The Auxiliary organized banquets, managed catering for community events, and raised tens of thousands of dollars for local charities, hospitals, and youth sports teams.

Over the decades, Branch 29 expanded its scope far beyond veteran care to become one of the town's most active philanthropic organizations. The Legion anchored local



1940s Photo taken by the Paris Star of The Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles parading down the main street of Paris, Ontario, May 30, 1941.

youth programs by sponsoring minor hockey leagues, baseball teams, figure skating, and track and field, ensuring generations of Paris kids had access to organized sports. In education, the branch supported young scholars by awarding annual bursaries to graduating Paris High School students while fostering reflection through Remembrance Day poster and literary contests. Beyond sports and schools, Branch 29 consistently poured vital financial support back into the community, regularly donating critical funds to the Willett Hospital, local food banks, and senior programs.

Branch 29 has been carried through the decades by dedicated members who gave back endlessly to the community. Korean War veteran Bill Little, a former PPCLI infantry officer who served in 1951–1952, served multiple terms as Branch 29 President, expanding membership and ensuring that the stories of Canadian service members remained central to school educations.

Equally vital was town historian Fred Bemrose, who spent decades meticulously handcrafting annual Remembrance Day displays inside the hall. Bemrose gathered hundreds of photographs, original uniforms, medals, and personal artifacts of local men and women who served in WWI, WWII, and Korea.

His displays allowed visiting families and school groups to place names and faces to the supreme sacrifices made by Paris residents.

Whether leading the solemn march to the Paris Cenotaph every November 11th, hosting Friday night euchre and dart leagues, or holding Sunday dinners, Paris Legion Branch 29 remains a vital gathering place.

As Casandra and the rest of our team at *The Paris Independent* join the community in congratulating Branch 29 on its 100th anniversary, we honor not only the veterans who founded it, but every volunteer, auxiliary member, and citizen who has kept its torch burning for a century.

Here's to 100 years of service, memory, and fellowship, and to the next century of standing strong for Paris.

brant.ca | info@brant.ca | 519.44BRANT (442.7268)



Celebrating 100 Years!

Congratulations to the **Royal Canadian Legion** on their 100th Anniversary!

The **County of Brant** proudly recognizes a century of service, remembrance, and dedication to our Veterans and community.

Thank you for **100 years** of service and remembrance.



brant.ca/Legions

The County of Brant is proudly adding special **Remembrance Day** crosswalks and banners in communities across the County this Fall.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates @BrantCommunity

Coming Soon to Paris!



HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: The forgotten munitions workers of the Paris Town Hall

NEIL EDWARDS & CHRIS WHELAN

Constructed in 1854, the former Paris Town Hall holds a distinguished place in Canadian architectural history as a designated national historic site. Built in the civic Gothic style, predating Ottawa's Parliament Buildings by five years, it was strategically placed at 13 Burwell Street. At the time, this was the heart of a rapidly growing community, situated right off Governor's Road (Highway 2/Dundas Street), the primary arterial route surveyed to connect Lake Ontario to London when London was briefly considered a safer, inland choice for upper Canada's capital.

From its inception, the Town Hall was designed as a multi-purpose hub. The lower level housed a municipal market and jail cells, while the entire upper level was built as a grand, open-concept assembly room. Featuring soaring, vaulted wooden ceilings that produced exceptional natural acoustics, this upper hall served as Paris's primary opera house and performance venue for its first half-century. It hosted traveling vaudeville troupes, theatrical plays, orchestral concerts, public lectures, and early magic-lantern slide shows. Known today as the Bawcutt Centre, efforts are well underway to restore this iconic landmark into a vibrant community arts venue once again.

Over the decades, the building underwent several remarkable transitions. It served as the original headquarters for hand-knitting company Mary Maxim, operated as a private residence, and hosted local auction houses. Passersby descending the Dundas Street hill can still spot faded ghost-signage on the exterior brick for the Wheeler Needle Works factory, which took over the space in 1919.

While these chapters are familiar to many local history enthusiasts, a far lesser-known story unfolded within these walls during the First World War: the old Town Hall was transformed into a wartime munitions facility.

The G.W. McFarlane Engineering Com-

pany operated two distinct shell works in Paris during the war. The primary plant was a massive industrial complex at 6 Adams Street (near Silver Street, on the site later occupied by Wabco). The Adams Street facility produced up to 2,000 artillery shells a day, employing 40 to 50 women per shift to handle heavy manufacturing. The Town Hall served as a vital auxiliary workshop focused on precision lathe work and finely machined metal components.

These female workers were not performing administrative tasks. As local men enlisted and shipped overseas, women stepped directly onto the factory floor. They took on high-risk, physically demanding production jobs, operating heavy machinery, grinding metal, and inspecting components with micro-precision.

Alongside older men exempt from military duty or possessing specialized mechanical trades, women managed every stage of production permitted at the facility. Because the Town Hall lacked heavy foundries or high-explosive loading lines, work here concentrated on finishing stages: operating high-speed power lathes to smooth steel hulls, checking casing tolerances with micrometers and go/no-go gauges, and applying anti-corrosive enamel coatings before packing the finished steel shells into wooden shipping crates.

Though live explosives were not handled within the Paris shell works, the work was inherently dangerous. Machinery in the 1910s was driven by high-overhead line shafts and exposed, fast-spinning leather belts. A loose sleeve, long hair, or a momentary lapse in concentration could result in severe crushing injuries or tragic entanglements. Fast-turning lathes threw hot steel shavings and sharp metal slivers, posing a constant hazard to eyes and skin.

Chemical and environmental hazards were equally punishing. Inhaling thick enamel fumes in poorly ventilated spaces led to respiratory distress and severe dermatitis. Extended exposure to hot machining oils, coal smoke, and sulfur fumes often resulted in toxic jaundice, a painful liver inflammation that left workers with a yellowed complexion.

Compounding these hazards were brutal operating schedules. Female employees routinely worked 10-hour shifts, seven days a week, logging 70 hours with minimal rest. Lifting and stacking steel shell hulls, weighing anywhere from 15 to over 100 pounds depending on caliber, caused chronic joint strain and severe back injuries.

Despite these hardships, wage inequities were stark. Women earned between 20 and 30 cents an hour, averaging \$15 to \$20 a week, even with piece-work bonuses for high-speed inspection, while male machinists and supervisors earned 45 to 60+ cents an hour (\$25 to \$40+ weekly). No female supervisors were employed.



Intermediate Turn Stage in the Manufacture of a 75mm. US. Shell, Dominion Bridge Co., Ltd., Library and Archives Canada, Department of National Defence collection, PA 186264, CIRCA 1916-1917

Despite the risks, thousands answered the call. Across Ontario and Quebec, the Imperial Munitions Board reported that over 35,000 women joined the war effort in munitions manufacturing. In Paris, many left domestic roles or stepped away from local textile jobs at Penmans to work the machine lines.

Tragically, only one fatality is formally documented in the Paris shell works. James Stevenson, a local veteran, had enlisted with the 48th Highlanders before transferring to the 74th Battalion. After serving two years in the trenches of France, he contracted severe rheumatism and was invalidated home. Upon returning to Paris, he took a job with McFarlane Engineering. While installing a new power transformer at the site, a ladder he was carrying accidentally contacted a high-tension electrical wire. Despite immediate medical aid, Stevenson succumbed to his injuries on November 25, 1918, just two weeks after the

Armistice was signed.

James Stevenson's story survives today in large part through the efforts of Homes of Heroes, a local initiative dedicated to researching, preserving, and honouring the memories of Paris veterans. Stevenson remains unique as a veteran recognized both for his overseas military service and his subsequent contribution as a wartime industrial worker.

Yet, while records preserve Stevenson's name, the dozens of women who operated the high-speed lathes at the Town Hall and filled the shifts at Adams Street remain nameless in surviving company files.

Homes of Heroes continues its work to identify every Paris veteran and home-front contributor from all eras of service. To read these local stories, or to share historical details, photos, or family memories that can help fill the gaps in our town's history, visit www.homesofheroes.ca or contact the team directly at info@homesofheroes.ca.



John Hastings inspecting shells at the Paris Shell Works (1917) 6 Adams Street Paris.



(LIBRARY & ARCHIVES CANADA. PHOTO)

Northern Electric Co. Ltd. factory, 1916. Image courtesy of Library & Archives Canada.

Branch 29 backs Homes of Heroes with \$500 donation

NEIL EDWARDS

Paris Independent Contributor

Paris Branch 29 of the Royal Canadian Legion is doing today what it has done for the past 100 years – supporting the community of Paris and honouring the men and women who have served our country, Canada, both in times of war and times of peace.

Last Wednesday, Branch 29 donated \$500 to Homes of Heroes, in order that this community project can work beside the Legion in its goal to identify the men and women of the Paris community who have served in the Canadian military, or the military of our Allies, and then recognize their service and sacrifice. The goal of Homes of Heroes is to honour those men and women by placing a sign, in the three weeks before each Remembrance Day, in front of the houses where veterans once lived. Last year, Homes of Heroes placed approximately 40 signs in front of houses throughout Paris. Their goal this year is to place 100 signs. The generous donation of Branch 29 will help to achieve that goal.

As part of its 100th Anniversary Celebra-

tion, Paris Branch 29 is holding an Open House at the Legion from September 28th to October 4th. The event is called “Stitches, Strength and Steel, Holding the Line at Home”. The theme is to showcase what our women and children did in the daily battles at home during WWII. That is, the women from Paris who did not serve in the military at that time, whether with the Canadian Women’s Army Corps, the Women’s Division of the Royal Canadian Air Force or with the Women’s Royal Canadian Naval Service. And we cannot forget the Canadian Nursing Sisters who served overseas. One from Paris, Dorothy Baldwin, was recognized in the Paris Independent just last week.

For 100 years, Paris Branch 29 has been an integral part of the Paris community and should remain so for the next 100 years. It is the single institution in our country that offers constant support and recognition to the men and women who have served in the military on behalf of Canada. They deserve our respect and honour. Show it as Branch 29 celebrates its 100th Anniversary. We all need to celebrate our heroes. Paris is a home of heroes!



(JEFF JOHNSTON PHOTO)

Pictured presenting a \$500 cheque on behalf of the legion to the Homes of Heroes Project are Chuck Prystupa (left) and Barry Humphrey (right). Neil Edwards (centre) accepts the donation.

Paris Legion honours members for years of service



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Members of the current Paris Legion Branch 29 executive gather for a group photo during the branch’s centennial year, continuing a tradition of leadership and service that has supported local veterans and the Paris community for generations. Pictured are Earl Mac Donald (Poppy Chairperson), John Perron (Executive member), Roy Haggart (Past President), Chuck Prystupa (Membership Chairperson), Kati Osbourn Howie (Lottery Chairperson), Helen Banks (Secretary), Andy Moran (Past President), and Barry Humphrey (President).



Paris Legion Branch 29 recognized members for their years of service during a presentation on Sept. 16. Fifteen-year pins were presented to Irene Adeney, Martin Corbett, D. Fyffe, Gerry Paxton and Gerard McKenna, while Daniel Aitchinson, Stanley Hutchinson, Brian Buckley, Heidi Ostner, John Ostner and Christopher Sutton were recognized for 10 years of service. Pictured is Gerry Paxton receiving his 15-year service pin along with Legion President Barry Humphrey.



100 People Who Care Brant turns donations into community impact

100 People Who Care Brant are a "Giving Circle" where the power of community amplifies the contributions of the individual. Three times a year, the group nominates worthy charities from Brantford, Brant County, and Six Nations to receive thousands of dollars to support immediate needs.

In April of this year, the group completed their first donation cycle. Several charities were nominated, and a random wheel narrowed down the choices to three finalists. These organizations were then invited to submit a video to the members to explain what this donation would mean to them.

Tight voting saw Soup for the Soul selected and ultimately awarded almost \$8,000 for their kitchen upgrades to continue serving hundreds in our community daily. They were excited and grateful to purchase new knives, sharpeners, and cutting boards in an effort to improve safe food handling, safety for volunteers and speed and efficiency. They are also sourcing options for additional upright fridges and freezers to keep up with fresh and frozen storage of food donations and prepared foods.

The work of the other two finalists is equally important to our membership and our community, and we wanted to highlight their needs as well.

Brant Community Health Care System Foundation is seeking support to help its littlest patients.

NICU neopuff neonatal resuscitators help babies access air and oxygen to keep their heart rate up to allow them to heal and thrive when they need a little extra support at birth. The neonatal intensive care unit at Brantford General Hospital sees approximately 300 patients each year and that number continues to grow. As a Level 2 B NICU, the goal is to keep care of the tiniest patients close to home. The department has a goal of providing these Neopuff resuscitators in every patient room at a cost of \$15000 as currently they must be shared and transferred between patient rooms.

Stedman Community Hospice is seeking support to create an art and music therapy space.

The care provided by Stedman Hospice goes beyond medical support to finding ways to process what is often hard to put into words. They have a goal to provide an art and music therapy space to provide comfort, creativity, and healing not only for patients but also for their family and the whole community. Programs at Stedman support those living with illness, those in need of palliative care, and anyone in search of grief support. By offering creative complementary therapies, their goal is to strengthen the emotional well being of all and to provide a space of hope.

Our next voting and donation cycle start this Fall; will you join us? Message us through our website to join for as



100 People Who Care Brant raised \$7,900 for Soup for the Soul during its April giving cycle. The funds are helping the organization continue providing free, nutritious meals to people in need in the community. Pictured, from left, are Sarah Disher-Neddow, 100 People Who Care Brant steering committee; Jeanine Van Hout, Soup for the Soul; and Callum Thomas, 100 People Who Care Brant steering committee.

little as \$25 per cycle. Your donation joins with others to maximize the impact!

100 People Who Care Brant is a local giving circle committed to making a meaningful impact on the community. By uniting individuals from Brantford, Brant County, and Six Nations of the Grand River, the group is able to pool donations and provide substantial support to local charities. The concept is simple: members contribute between \$75 and \$300 annually, with donations made in three payments. The collective power of these contributions transforms individual donations into substantial support for local causes. Now is the perfect time to join! In September, all registered members will have an opportunity to nominate a charity of their choices to be considered for the group's funding.

To learn more about 100 People Who Care Brant and how you can get involved, visit www.100PeopleWhoCareBrant.ca or email 100whocarebrant@gmail.com

100 PEOPLE WHO CARE BRANT

Serving Brant, Brantford & Six Nations

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

How it works:

Simple: Members contribute from \$75-\$300 annually, divided into three payments spaced a few months apart.

Impactful: Our collective power transforms individual donations into substantial support for local causes.

Empowering: Join us and experience the #powerof100. Ready to make a difference? Connect with us today to learn more! 100whocarebrant@gmail.com.

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Meet-Cutes and Manuscripts with The County of Brant Public Library

COUNTY OF BRANT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submission

The clouds roll in... the rain begins... the Toronto skyline blurs into a haze of heavy charcoal. A man appears, drenched to the bone, a wilted rose dangling from his fingertips. He rakes a hand through his unruly curls and smiles as though he isn't about to risk it all...

You don't need a title page to know what's happening. You've entered the world of romance, a genre so skilled at setting the stage that readers can recognize it in a single rain-soaked moment and happily follow it wherever love leads.

A good romance draws you into its world. It sneaks you inside the minds of characters, pulls at your heartstrings, infuriates you, devastates you, and has you cheering when the sun begins to shine again with a "happily ever after."

Renowned romance author, and upcoming library guest, Farah Heron knows exactly how to draw in her readers, keep them invested, have them rooting for the heroes of her stories, and celebrating with them when her novels come to an end. She is a master of her craft and a well-loved, widely followed Canadian author.

Having just published her 12th book, Heron has been praised for her writing by CBC Books, USA Today, Entertainment Weekly, and NPR. You've likely seen her books on library and bookstore shelves, and for those in the know, her name continues to appear more and more frequently as an author to watch.

"I've been a romance reader almost all my life" says Heron. "When I started writing, romance was the only genre that I wanted to write. I've always been a fan of character-driven stories with a lot of character growth... To me, romance is hopeful. The characters can go through a lot, but the reader (and the writer!) knows going in, that the characters will be happy at the end." Heron will be joining the County of Brant Public Library for its annual Ontario Culture Days author event on Satur-

day, September 26! This year, the library is thrilled to welcome Farah Heron for a two-part day, offering Meet-Cutes and Manuscripts, a hands-on romance writing workshop in the morning and an author interview and Q&A session in the afternoon.

The morning program is perfect for both novice and experienced writers, whether they write for fun or publication. Participants will explore dialogue, realistic character development, growth through relationships in writing, and ways to continue expanding their craft and advancing their work. This free event is open to teens and adults and allows writers to gather together and learn in an encouraging and fun environment.

Later that day, the community is invited to join the library for an Author Interview and Q&A with Heron. This program will include readings from Heron's work, discussion, and inspiration as attendees learn more about her writing journey and creative process. The interview will be led by the County of Brant Public Library in conjunction with the Muslim Women of Brant.

Both free events will include refreshments, opportunities to connect directly with the author, and access to many of the writing resources and supports offered by the library.

Ontario Culture Days is a not-for-profit organization that celebrates artists and cultural groups across the province. Through an annual multi-week festival that champions arts, culture, and heritage, the organization connects the public with local creators while highlighting the rich diversity of Ontario's cultural sector.

Each year, the County of Brant Public Library embraces Ontario Culture Days by promoting and celebrating diverse Canadian authors. Representing a variety of genres, backgrounds, and perspectives, Ontario's authors are making waves across the literary landscape.

"We're so thrilled to welcome Farah Heron to the County of Brant," says Emma Johnston, Coordinator of Community Inclusion. "Her books are not only a delight



to read, but they also draw readers in with realistic and often complicated characters. She's unafraid to touch on difficult subject matter and to create people and situations that are simultaneously challenging and delightful."

The County of Brant Public Library hosts many author events each year, from Indie Author Nights to large-scale author visits.

The library invites the community to join its Ontario Culture Days celebration on Saturday, September 26. The Writing Workshop takes place from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Author Event runs from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (after hours among the stacks)

Register today at: www.brantlibrary.ca/calendar or call 519-442-2433

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Which animal has fingerprints that are so similar to humans they can confuse forensic investigators? | 6. Which famous scientist developed the three laws of motion? |
| 2. Which country consumes the most chocolate per person each year? | 7. What does UN stand for? |
| 3. What is the largest moon in the Solar System? | 8. What was Dolly Parton's middle name? |
| 4. What is the only continent with no active volcanoes? | 9. Which animal's egg case is often called a "mermaid's purse"? |
| 5. What is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature? | 10. A tax or duty to be paid on a particular class of imports or exports is known as a ____? |

This week's answers are found on pg. 22

ON

ontario culture days

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brant.ca/CultureDays

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Enjoy **free** cultural activities and experiences, workshops, art exhibits, performances and more!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

Currently, there are no proposals before the County of Brant for an AI data centre. In the absence of a specific application, I do not believe imposing a blanket moratorium is a productive use of Council's time or resources.

Any possible proposal would be evaluated on its own merits using facts, expert analysis, and the County's planning processes. Council has a responsibility to consider all potential impacts, both positive and negative, including water consumption, energy requirements, noise, environmental effects, economic development opportunities, employment, tax assessment growth, and infrastructure capacity.

Data centres vary greatly in their resource requirements. It all depends on their design, cooling technology, energy sources, and location. Decisions should be based on evidence rather than assumptions.

My approach would be to carefully evaluate any future proposal, engage residents, review independent technical assessments, and ensure any decision protects taxpayers, infrastructure, the environment, and the long-term interests of County residents.

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

If elected, I would use the plan to evaluate whether new projects and investments support both the County's short-term and long-term infrastructure needs. As our population grows, we must ensure roads, water and wastewater systems, recreation facilities, emergency services, and other critical infrastructure keep pace in a financially sustainable manner. My professional background has taught me the importance of careful analysis, measuring costs against benefits, and finding the most efficient use of resources.

I would bring that same approach to Council, ensuring tax dollars are spent wisely and that residents receive value from every investment.

When considering new priorities, I would ask three questions: Is it necessary? Is it affordable? Does it provide long-term value to residents? By balancing fiscal responsibility with strategic investment, we can support growth, maintain services, and protect affordability for current and future taxpayers.

Highschool sports kick off this week



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

PDHS football players hit the field for practice last week as the Panthers prepare for the start of the fall sports season. Football returns to the school's outdoor field this year, with home games scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 26 and Oct. 3. The junior Panthers kick off at 11 a.m., followed by the senior team at 1 p.m. Fans are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets and cheer on their hometown athletes.

Only 30 years ago, Canada's last Indian Residential School closed

**September 30 is the National Day
for Truth and Reconciliation**

Understand the history and
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of reconciliation

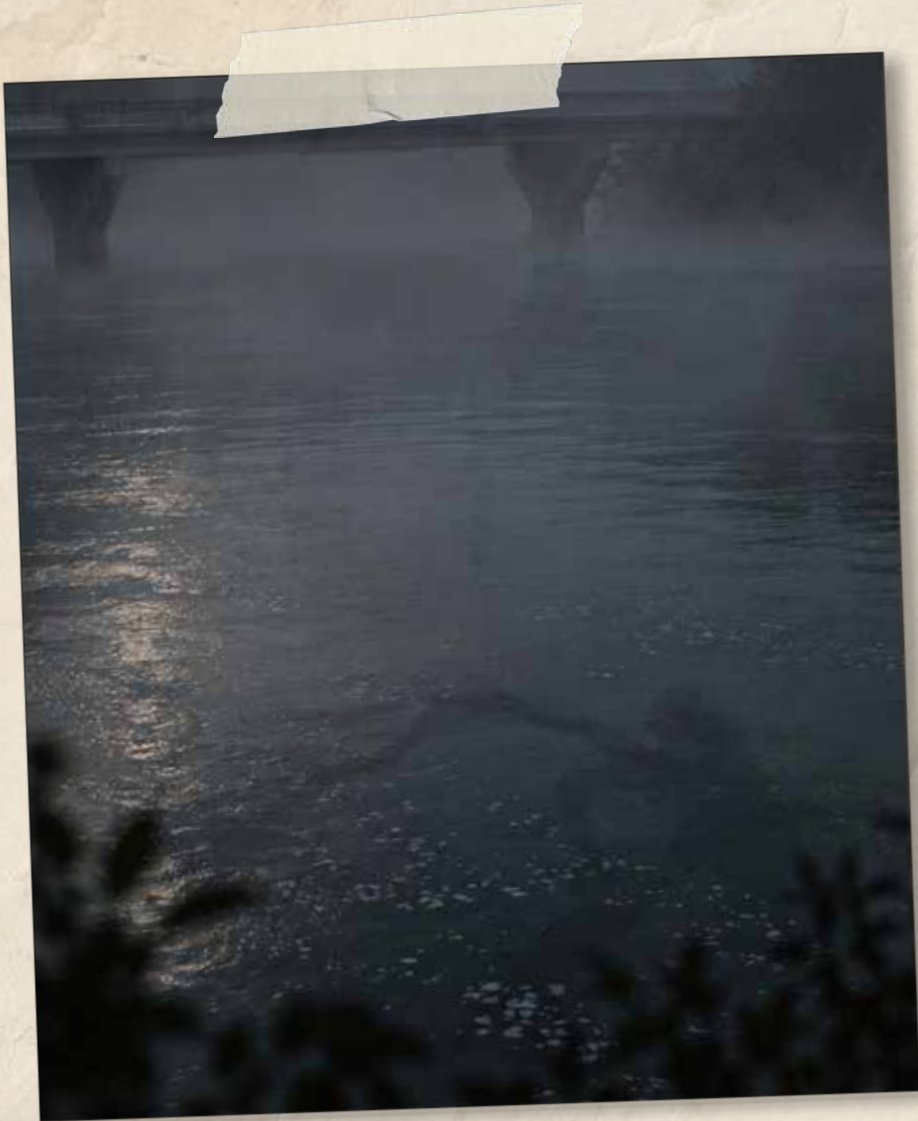
ontario.ca/TruthAndReconciliation
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DOWNTOWN PARIS
FIELD NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2026



EVERY
RIVER
HAS A STORY.

SOME
RESURFACE
IN OCTOBER.

Some were born in the water.
Some were carried here by the current.
Some came seeking refuge.
And some have been waiting beneath
the surface for a very long time.

KEEP WATCH.

Evidence is beginning to surface.
Sightings expected October 2026.

WHERE TWO RIVERS MEET, STRANGE THINGS GATHER.

DOWNTOWN
PARIS



Riddle

A man shaves several times a day,
yet still has a beard. Who is he?
A barber

--

What five-letter word becomes
shorter when you add two letters
to it?
Short - Shorter

--

If two's company and three's a
crowd, what are four and five?
Nine

--

I have no beginning, no end, and
no middle. What am I?
A circle

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PET OF THE WEEK

ETTA, BANJO, FLUFFY & BEAR

Meet our Pets of the Week:

7 years ago, several staff from the clinic adopted 4 puppies from a litter. Last week they held a birthday party for them all. Of course they had a few extras join in on the fun. Happy 7th Birthday to Etta, Banjo, fluffy and Bear.

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



Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 22

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We must slow the pace at which we improve the capabilities of AI models. Progress will still seem fast, and we must make wise use of the time we gain.”

Excerpt from Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei's essay published on Saturday, Sept. 12, in one of the many warnings issued by industry professionals this past week regarding the potential dangers of rapidly-advancing artificial intelligence.

Word Search

THINGS THAT GET STUCK IN YOUR HEAD

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

- MELODIES
- TUNES
- EARWORMS
- RHYMES
- SLOGANS
- DIALOGUE
- MOVIE QUOTES
- TV THEMES
- SOUND EFFECTS
- DANCE MOVES
- MEMES
- JOKES
- NAMES
- PASSWORDS
- OLD SONGS
- CHILDHOOD SONGS
- COUNTING RHYMES
- ALARM SOUNDS
- NOTIFICATIONS
- VOICEMAILS
- SCHOOL SONGS
- BIRTHDAY SONGS
- MARCHING BANDS
- MYSTERY TUNES
- SILLY WORDS

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QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Koalas | 6. Sir Isaac Newton |
| 2. Switzerland | 7. United Nations |
| 3. Ganymede (Jupiter) | 8. Rebecca |
| 4. Australia | 9. Shark |
| 5. Mercury | 10. Tariff |

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



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.

WEEKLY *Horoscope*
September 23 - September 29 2026

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

A fresh opportunity appears, Aries. A brave choice brings motivation and renewed confidence. Stay open—it encourages steady progress and reveals rewarding new possibilities ahead.



TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

Steady progress unfolds, Taurus. A thoughtful choice brings clarity, stability and renewed confidence. Trust your instincts—it encourages success and creates opportunities ahead.



GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21

Fresh inspiration arrives, Gemini. A conversation sparks curiosity, optimism and motivation. Stay flexible—it encourages growth and reveals bright new possibilities ahead.



CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

Meaningful connections deepen, Cancer. A kind gesture brings comfort and renewed confidence. Follow your heart—it encourages harmony and strengthens very meaningful relationships ahead.



LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Your confidence grows, Leo. A well deserved success reflects patience and determination. Keep moving—it attracts greater recognition and encourages exciting new possibilities ahead.



VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

A helpful discovery brings clarity and momentum. Trust your instincts—it encourages success and new opportunities.



LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23

Positive change restores balance and growing confidence. Stay positive—it strengthens connections and encourages rewarding new opportunities ahead.



SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

Your inner strength rises, Scorpio. A positive development rewards patience and very fine planning. Trust yourself—it encourages success and builds lasting new momentum ahead.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21

Fresh adventures await, Sagittarius. A great change inspires optimism and renewed confidence. Trust your best instincts—it encourages discovery and unforgettable experiences ahead.



CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20

Steady effort brings progress and renewed confidence. Stay focused—it encourages truly success and creates valuable opportunities ahead.



AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18

Fresh inspiration arrives, Aquarius. A new idea encourages confidence and bright possibilities. Trust your best vision—it encourages creativity and meaningful progress ahead.



PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

A thoughtful surprise brings comfort, confidence and unexpected joy. Follow your heart—it encourages happiness and reveals rewarding possibilities.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - on Tuesday, September 25th at 7:30 PM in the Sacred Heart Parish hall at 17 Washington Street, Paris.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Lansdowne Children's Centre Heroes Walk and Roll - Lansdowne Children's Centre's eighth annual Heroes Walk and Roll takes place Saturday, September 26 at Brant Park in Brantford. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with the Walk & Roll led by 2026 Youth Ambassador Mason Bowen at 12:30 p.m. Families can enjoy a day of inclusive activities and entertainment, including Touch a Truck, inflatables and games, storytime, a cheerleading demonstration, a live reptile show, live music from The Shrubberies, and a market featuring local artisans and small businesses.

SEPTEMBER 26 & SEPTEMBER 27

Drumbo Fair - Looking for a family friendly, small country fair? Welcome to Drumbo Fair - September 26-27, hosted by the Drumbo Agricultural Society, 42 Centre St., Drumbo, ON. "One Price for All" admission of \$13 (all attractions included). Enjoy our popular "Children's Village" (inflatables, ponyrides, creation station, candy toss and more), live entertainment, agricultural shows, fair exhibits, dog agility shows plus much more! Visit drumbofair.com for more info.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Grand River Women's Probus Club: grandriver.probuscanada.ca - invites semi-retired and retired women to its monthly meeting on Monday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to noon at Best Western Hotel, 19 Holiday Dr., Brantford. Come for friendship, fellowship and an interesting presentation by Robert Stanczyk, Curator of Bell Homestead. New faces are always welcome! See the website for attendance details.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Brant Men of Song Choir Practices - The Brant Men of Song will be holding their choir practices on Tuesdays on September 8h, 15th, 22nd, and 29th 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.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

Men's Probus Club of Brantford - Thursday, Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course, 320 Balmoral Dr., Brantford. The guest speaker will be a member of the Loewith family, owners and operators of Summitt Station Dairy in Copetown since 1947. The club welcomes retired and semi-retired men interested in fellowship, guest speakers, activities and social events. For information, call Bill Hyde at 519-442-0510 or visit brantfordprobus.ca.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Paris Optimist Club Youth Dance: open to students in Grades 5-8. DJ begins each dance at 7 pm and runs to 10 pm. Optimist Club volunteers chaperone all dances. High school students are welcome to attend as volunteer chaperones. Dance takes place at 51 William St Paris (Syl Apps Community Centre). Entry costs \$5, and a concession booth will sell pop, chips, candy and pizza. All proceeds support the Paris Optimist Club and its projects for the youth of our community.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Fall Library Book Sale : 10:00AM TO 4:30PM - PARIS BRANCH | 12 WILLIAM ST. PARIS | COME FILL A BAG - OR TWO - WITH YOUR FAVOURITE AUTHORS

Be sure to come early for the best selection of titles - great selection of Young Readers, Teens, Pre and school-age children. All proceeds from library book sales and community fund-raising go to support educational and Brant library programs - book sales and other fund-raising efforts by the Brant Friends of the Library go to programs such as Early reading introduction series - 'Books for Babies' and the Children's Summer Reading Programs. Two cash Academic Excellence Awards are presented to Paris District High School for achievements in Literacy and History plus copies of a 2 volume set of 'At the Forks of the Grand'. A wry and entertaining history of the founding and development of Paris. SEE YOU THERE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Paris Horticultural Society: is hosting its first meeting after summer break on October 7th starting at 7 PM with a social time, the program will begin at 7:30 PM. Our guest speaker for the evening is Chuck Beach talking about "The Importance of the Urban Forest". Lots to learn!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Oxford Philatelic Society Circuit Book (Stamp) Fair: Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Free Admission & Parking. Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs. Contact: dheaton3e3@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY

Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree - Every other Friday, 1-4pm be fall-ish and come to the Ingersoll Country Music Jamboree at Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S. Ingersoll. Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! September 18, October 2, 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

MONTHLY

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



CAMBRIDGE MALE CHORUS
-- CALL FOR SINGERS &
PIANO-ACCOMPANIST

Founded in 1960, the Cambridge Male Chorus (CMC) has provided many years of concerts in Cambridge and surrounding areas singing a mix of choral works including Pop, Broadway, Spiritual, Traditional, and more. We are actively looking for more choristers - experienced or not - please consider joining us. We are also searching for an experienced accompanist. Our leader is well-known Music Educator and Choral Director, Ms Brenda Uchimar. Rehearsals occur on Mondays from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at Trinity Anglican Church, 12 Blair Rd., Cambridge, ON. For more information: call Nelson at 519-588-8672 or e-mail cuthben@gmail.com or visit our website: <https://cambridgemalechorus.com>.

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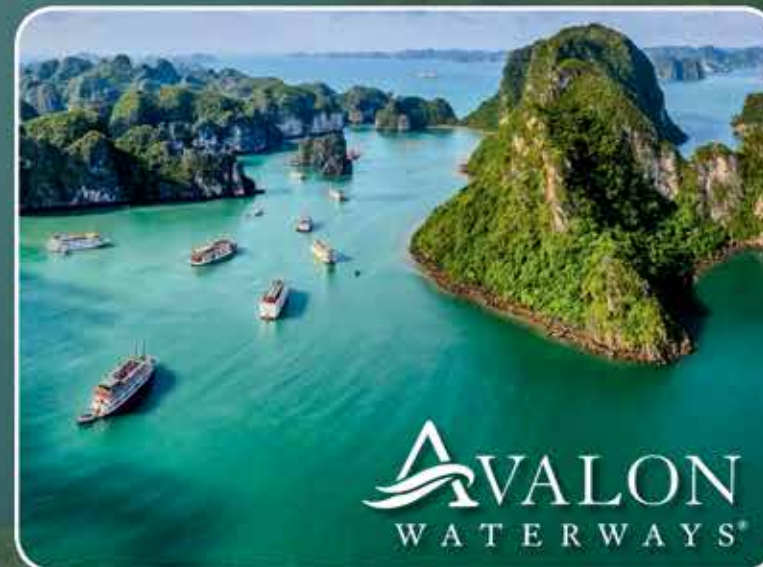
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