

The Paris Independent

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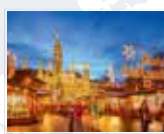
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Primary Care Access Clinic Opens in Paris



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

From left: Tina Gabriel, Roxanne Pierssens-Silva and Lynda Kohler, the three executive directors behind the new Primary Care Access Clinic model serving Brantford, Brant and Norfolk. The collaborative program expands access to primary care for residents without a family doctor or nurse practitioner.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A new Primary Care Access Clinic opened in Paris on Nov. 10, marking the latest step in a regional effort to help residents without a family doctor or nurse practitioner receive timely, team-based care. The Brantford site launched one week earlier on Nov. 3, while the Simcoe clinic, on which the entire model is based, has

already been operating successfully for six months.

The three clinics, developed through the Brantford, Brant, Norfolk Ontario Health Team (BBNOHT), are operated collaboratively by PrimaCare Community Family Health Team, Norfolk Family Health Team and the Grand River Community Health Centre. Together, the organizations are working to better serve the estimated 20,000 people in the region who are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Paris braces for another year of roadwork in 2026

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant is bracing for another significant year of construction in 2026, with a major multi-year road reconstruction project planned for the East Flats neighbourhood in Paris, adding to an already long list of infrastructure work that has tested residents' patience in recent years.

With Grand River Street North through downtown Paris and Dundas Street East at Paris Road already closed for large-scale reconstruction this year, many residents say the town feels like one big construction zone. Just two years ago, the north end of Grand River Street and Market Street were also closed for extensive watermain replacements.

While many residents recognize the need for these critical upgrades, others have voiced frustration over what they see as poor planning and overlapping projects that leave few clear routes through town. "The public does in fact understand the need to upgrade our community's infrastructure," wrote Paris resident Jeff Collings in response to a recent County social media post. "What is frustrating is the multitude of projects going on at the same time. Can we please finish one major project before forcing another?"

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Live at the Legion: No Road Back returns to the stage



(JIM YOUNG PHOTOS)

No Road Back musicians brought their high-energy mix of rock favourites and crowd-pleasing covers to the Paris Legion Branch 29 on Saturday, November 15th for the annual event that raises funds for the Canadian Cancer Society's Wheels of Hope program. Pictured is Kevin, Chuck, Maury and Alison of Chuck Jackson and Crossfield Bend, who opened things up. Jackson's participation stands out, says event Organizer Jim Young who noted, as he and his bandmates took the Paris Legion stage in the afternoon before performing later that evening at the Sanderson Centre in Brantford. "I think this action on Chuck's part shows how people truly give," Young said.



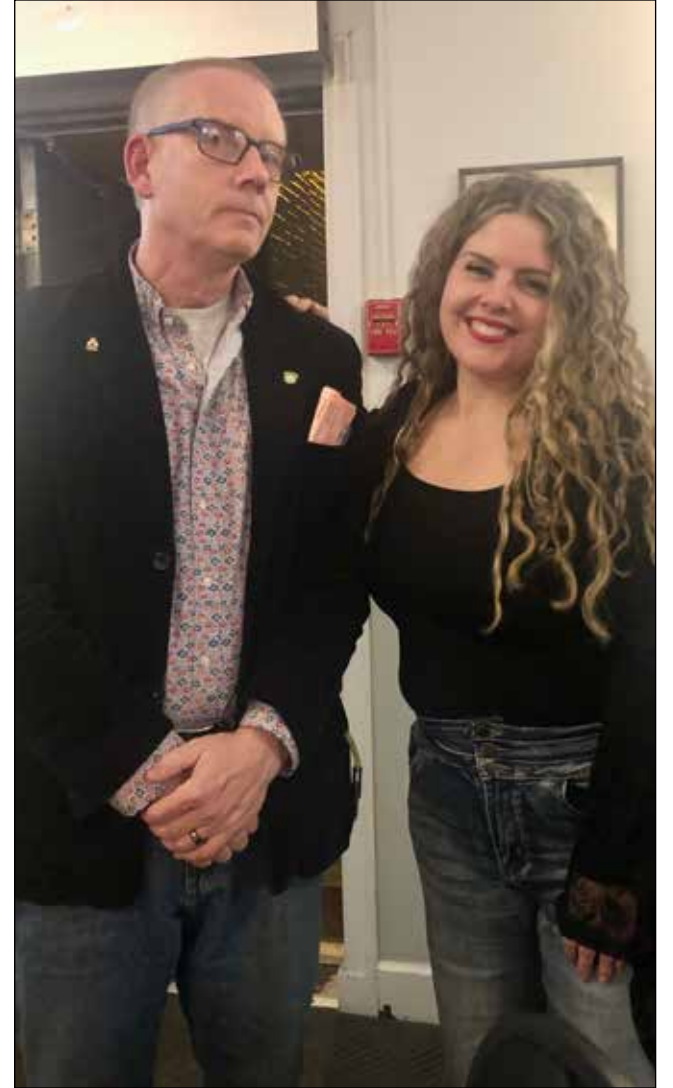
Starks and Blackmore performing at No Roads Back. The full day of music started just afternoon and went well into the night, with organizers labelling it even more successful than last year where \$3,500 was raised. Final figures were still being tallied as of press deadline.



Kirk, Gord and Jeff from Before Midnight



Gary Gray of Gray and Ludgate. This year's bill featured a wide range of local and guest artists.



Event organizer Jim Young and Allie Stenhouse. "No Road Back is truly about local people helping local people in need," Young said. "Any form of help for this event is welcomed and respected. Just by being there even, you are supporting a cause worthy of your time." Young thanked everyone who stopped in and contributed to this year's success.

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The Paris Independent

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Roadwork season extends into 2026 as County tackles aging infrastructure

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing residents to suffer through more dangerous conditions? Emergency services simply cannot respond when traffic is snarled on every road.”

The latest project on the horizon will see the full reconstruction of several residential streets on the east side of the Grand River, known locally as The Flats. Phase 1 of the East Flats reconstruction will begin in spring 2026 and continue through late that year, replacing aging underground infrastructure and improving road conditions on Joseph Brant, Smith, Nimmo, Portland streets, and Mick Jones Way (formerly Walnut Lane).

The work will include replacing undersized watermain, upgrading storm sewers, rebuilding roads and sidewalks, and improving overall drainage and safety. The County says the project will help ensure safe, reliable water service and extend the life of the road network in this historic neighbourhood.

Phase 2, which will include arterial roads such as Willow Street, is expected to begin in 2028 or 2029.

In response to growing online criticism, the County has launched an eight-week social media campaign explaining why so many major projects are happening simultaneously.

“Essentially, it will explore why major infrastructure is coming due at the same time, growth in Paris, and the need to build more climate resiliency into our infrastructure to handle more extreme weather events,” said Melissa Con-

nor, Manager of Communications, Operations.

Connor acknowledged that 2026 will be another “busy construction year” but emphasized that staff are working to coordinate and stage projects carefully. “There are a variety of reasons why these projects are scheduled for 2026,” she said, citing critical infrastructure replacements, grant funding deadlines, and projects led by other bodies such as the Ministry of Transportation or developers.

“Most of these projects are considered ‘once in a lifetime,’” Connor added. “This level of major construction occurs every 75 years. We just happen to be at that time in history.”

Paris has experienced exponential growth over the past decade, straining infrastructure that was never built to handle today’s population and development levels. County staff say these upgrades are essential to ensure reliable water, sewer, and storm systems for generations to come, and to meet the community’s needs as it expands.

“Staff have thoughtfully staged phasing of projects but inevitably, construction is messy, inconvenient and necessary,” said Connor. “Looking ahead, there are many years of necessary construction in Paris’ future. The County is committed to keeping the public as informed as possible.”

To help residents understand the scope and timing of the East Flats reconstruction, the County will host an open house on Monday, November 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the County of Brant Council Chambers, 7 Broadway Street West in Paris. Residents can view preliminary designs, speak with staff, and provide feedback about access, park-



(PHOTO CREDIT GRANT B VIA INSTAGRAM)

Paris, Ontario's charm is worth protecting but keeping it that way starts with speaking up and sharing your voice on local projects.

ing, and mobility concerns.

For those unable to attend in person, an online feedback form will be open until January 31, 2026.

Residents can stay up to date on upcoming roadwork and infrastructure projects by following the County’s social media pages or visiting brant.ca/MajorConstruction.

Three-Clinic model aims to support 20,000 residents without Primary Care

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

currently unattached to primary care.

“What makes this clinic unique is that it isn’t just a temporary stopgap,” said Tina Gabriel, Executive Director of PrimaCare Community Family Health Team. “It’s an access point designed to bridge the gap while people wait to be attached to a long-term provider. We are here to keep people connected, supported and cared for.”

The Paris and Brantford sites are expanding on the early success of the Simcoe clinic, which has demonstrated strong demand and effective outcomes since launching earlier this year. That foundation helped justify BBNOHT’s request for funding to bring the model to additional communities across the region.

“This is not just about getting a one-time appointment,” said Roxanne Pierssens-Silva, Executive Director of the Norfolk Family Health Team. “It’s about helping people navigate the healthcare system and connecting them to the right kind of support. The most comprehensive primary care is team-based care.”

Unlike traditional walk-in clinics, the Primary Care Access Clinic offers pre-booked appointments for non-emergency health concerns. Patients can be seen for acute issues, but the clinic also provides chronic disease man-

agement, prescription renewals, preventative screenings and guided support to navigate local health resources.

Staffing at each site includes a nurse practitioner, registered nurse and medical office assistant. Patients may also be linked with midwifery care, social workers or specialist referrals depending on their needs.

“This access clinic is a great example of how local organizations can come together to provide a service that any one of us could not provide on our own,” said Lynda Kohler, Executive Director of the Grand River Community Health Centre. “We are thrilled to be able to extend our reach and help as many residents as possible.”

The access clinic network is currently operating with short-term funding, but BBNOHT and the region’s Primary Care Network are actively seeking long-term support to make the initiative permanent.

“At this point the clinic is temporary,” Gabriel said. “But we are actively seeking ongoing funding so it can continue while we work to connect every person to a long-term provider.”

Patients are also encouraged to register with Health Care Connect to help facilitate attachment to a permanent provider.

Anyone in Brantford, Brant or Norfolk who does not

have a primary care provider is eligible to use the clinic. The service is not for emergencies.

Clinic locations and appointment details can be found at bbnoht.ca.

Primary Care Access Clinic Locations:

- **Paris:** 25 Curtis Ave. N., 2nd Floor – Suite 201
- **Simcoe:** 363 Colborne St. Brantford
- **Brantford:** 185 Robinson St. Simcoe

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Brant opens public consultation as long-term financial plan reviewed

Residents invited to complete the 2026 Budget Survey before the Nov. 24 deadline

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant is asking residents to help shape next year's budget as staff and Council begin their annual review of the municipality's Long-Term Financial Plan, a document that guides how tax dollars are managed, invested, and allocated across services and infrastructure.

"The Long-Term Financial Plan is an important roadmap that helps ensure we continue to deliver high-quality services while investing in our future," said Mayor David Bailey. "By keeping the plan current and involving residents in the process, we can make decisions that benefit and reflect our entire County."

The long-term plan is reviewed every year to reflect updated financial conditions, including growth projections, inflation forecasts, and feedback gathered from the community. The review also allows Council to revisit timelines, confirm priorities, and consider new initiatives for the upcoming budget cycle.

According to background materials previously presented to Council, the financial plan includes a 10-year forecast of expected revenues and expenses as well as the policies that guide fiscal decision-making. Consultants from Watson & Associates,

who prepared the 2026 forecast, noted earlier this year that preliminary modeling projected a 13.6 per cent tax increase before any mitigation strategies were applied.

Those projections represent "a raw set of data based on the expenditures and revenues in a particular year," consultant Byron Tan told councillors, adding that the County can reduce the impact on taxpayers by using reserve funds, adjusting project timelines, or taking on debt to spread costs over time.

In March, the County approved its 2025 budget, which included a 5.3 per cent property tax increase plus a 1 per cent local surcharge to support the new hospital project.

The 2026 process is now underway. A public engagement page has been launched at EngageBrant.ca/2026Budget, where residents can learn about the budget process and share their perspectives. Feedback can be provided in several ways, including:

Completing the 2026 Budget Survey online

Filling out a printed survey at Customer Service offices in Burford (126 Park Ave.) or Paris (66 Grand River St. N.)

Completing the survey over the phone by calling 519-44BRANT

Submitting comments or questions directly through the Engage Brant platform

The survey closes Monday, Nov. 24 at



The County's primary revenue sources include property taxes, user fees, and grants from provincial and federal governments. For each dollar received: 58 cents comes from property taxes, 34 cents comes from user fees and other sources and 8 cents comes from grants

4:30 p.m., after which a summary of community feedback will be published.

"We encourage residents to get involved and learn more about the budget process," said Heather Boyd, General Manager of Corporate Services. "Your input helps guide how we invest in services and infrastructure that matter most to our community, and plays a part in supporting our future needs."

A special Council meeting will be held Dec. 4 at 9 a.m. to present the annual re-

view of the Long-Term Financial Plan and share a summary of public input. The meeting will take place in Council Chambers at 7 Broadway St. W. in Paris and will be streamed live on the County's YouTube channel.

Residents can stay informed by subscribing for updates at EngageBrant.ca/2026Budget or by visiting brant.ca/Budget for more details on municipal finances and the budget process.

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EDITORIAL

If you don't speak up, don't complain later



Paris, Ontario's charm is worth protecting but keeping it that way starts with speaking up and sharing your voice on local projects.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Every time the County of Brant launches a new project, whether it's a road reconstruction, a park design, or a revised by-law, you can count on a familiar pattern online: a flood of complaints, frustrations, and "here's what they should have done" comments. What you see far less often is something far more important: meaningful participation before decisions are made.

The pessimist will say, 'Why bother giving feedback? They won't listen anyway.'

The optimist will say, 'My opinion matters - how could they not listen? I'll engage on all projects.'

I sit somewhere in the middle. Maybe they'll listen, maybe they won't. Maybe they'll take part of my suggestion and blend it with someone else's. But here's the truth I keep coming back to: how can I fairly criticize the outcome if I didn't take part in the process that shapes it?

And the opportunities to participate are everywhere.

The County has built a remarkably useful tool called Engage Brant, tucked neatly into brant.ca. If you've never explored it, you should. It's a surprisingly slick platform that gathers surveys, compiles resident comments, posts FAQs, outlines project timelines, and houses every relevant document in one place. Every major project runs through this hub, from roadwork and infrastructure upgrades to parks planning, to strategic reviews.

Yet engagement remains... underwhelming.

For a community this size, with the amount of passion and opinions shared daily on social media, the actual response rate on official channels is incredibly low. And here's the reality: the County cannot take your Facebook rant and treat it as meaningful input. They can, however, take the comments, survey responses, and ideas submitted through Engage Brant and compile them into public reports - reports that genuinely do make their way to council and committees. I've read those documents. They often include blunt criticism, opposing views, and thoughtful suggestions that don't always align with staff recommendations. And yes, councillors see them.

The same problem shows up at open houses. The County hosts public information sessions for almost every major project, yet these rooms are rarely full. Staff are there, ready to answer questions, explain timelines, and walk residents through the "why" behind decisions, but too often, people form opinions without ever attending. Everyone has an answer, but very few take the time to understand the process of how the County gets there.

In the last few months alone, residents have been invited to weigh in on a long list of topics: the East Flats construction plan, the 2026 budget process, a firearms bylaw review, the Community Planning Permit System, the Community Services Strategy, the new library branch, and designs for several new parks in Paris. These are big decisions with lasting impact. And the County is actively asking for your thoughts.

But instead, too many of us default to complaining after the decisions are made.

Let's be honest: commenting in a neighbourhood Facebook group feels good in the moment, but it accomplishes nothing. It doesn't get recorded. It doesn't get forwarded. It doesn't get attached to a staff report. It doesn't shape policy. It doesn't change a project.

If you want your opinion to count - make it count where it matters.

Engage on the platform created specifically for transparent input. A place where you can actually read background documents, understand the decisions being considered, and offer informed feedback rather than knee-jerk reactions. Because uneducated opinions don't just fall flat, they spread negativity without offering solutions.

We can do better. And honestly, we have to.

When residents show up, speak up, and participate, the county cannot simply bush

aside our voices. The more people who raise their concerns, the harder we are to ignore. And if the county asks for input, it has an obligation to treat that feedback seriously and meaningfully incorporate it into its plans.

We don't have to agree with every road closure, every bylaw revision or every design plan, and as of recently, every decision to remove parking from downtown. We won't. But we can at least work with staff, council, and each other in a constructive way. That starts by participating in the tools provided, not tearing down decisions after the fact.

You don't need to be an optimist or a pessimist. You just need to participate.

If we want a stronger, more collaborative community, it begins with showing up, and speaking up, before the decisions are made.

Letters to the Editor

Paris resident calls out dangerous trend at stop signs

Dear Editor:

I am concerned by the recurring traffic behavior: many drivers either ignore stop signs entirely or perform rolling stops without coming to a full halt.

This pattern seems widespread in residential areas where pedestrian

safety should be paramount.

While it may reflect local driving norms or enforcement practices, it raises questions about road safety.

I'd be interested to hear whether other readers have noticed similar patterns in Paris.

- C. Smith

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All aboard the 'Wigglebum Bus': Local couple drives passion for pets into unique dog walking service

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

JEFF JOHNSTON

Columnist

Jeff and I discovered a local pet care service recently that is turning heads and wagging tails across our community with the launch of its adorable, custom-painted vehicle affectionately known as the "Wigglebum Bus." Wigglebum Dog Walking Company, founded by dedicated dog lovers Krystyn Errington and her husband Nick, has transformed their personal passion into a thriving business, offering a unique pick-up and delivery service that promises canine adventures for its furry clientele.

For Errington, the journey began simply, driven by a lifelong affinity for dogs. "Wigglebum Dog Walking Company has always been a passion project," she shared. "We are both lifelong dog lovers, myself growing up with golden retrievers and Nick growing up while his mum bred Rough Collies." The real spark ignited six years ago when a friend needed a dog walker. Errington started taking her two dogs, Payton (a Golden Retriever) and Stella (her current dog), for strolls with her friend's pet.

"I quickly knew it was the perfect way to spend a day, with the dogs!" Errington recalled. As her client base expanded, she started matching dogs with similar personalities, eventually forming consistent weekly playgroups. This successful but physically demanding system, managed out of her personal vehicle for six years, necessitated a change. "It was time to get a work vehicle!" she explained, and thus, the Wigglebum Bus was born.

The company's growth is built on a clear division of labour and expertise. Errington manages the intricate scheduling and the critical socialisation side of the business. "Scheduling is my favourite part, planning everyone's fun for the week ahead. I feel like a party planner," she said with a laugh. Nick, meanwhile, focuses on private walks, with the couple crossing over to handle large groups and initial client on-boarding. "Large groups require an extra set of hands and new clients require private walks first!"

What truly sets Wigglebum apart from other pet care providers, Errington notes, is their unwavering commitment to client service. "Communication, reliability and flexibility is our number one," she stated, noting this is the feedback they constant-



ly receive. "We are dog lovers first, but we understand the ins and outs of customer service, sales and running a business, and it shows." The company offers online bookings, often accommodates last-minute requests, and sends a detailed "report card" after every visit. "We don't make it hard to get reliable care!"

The transition to the group adventures of the Wiggle Bus is a carefully managed, multi-step process focused on the dog's comfort and confidence. It all begins with a complimentary meet and greet at the client's home. Next, every new 'Wigglebum' undergoes two to three Private Walks to build a relationship, gauge their confidence, and determine their play style.

The next step is "Wigglebum Pairing," which involves walks with a single friend to work on leash skills, bond further, and introduce the dog to the bus in a calm, controlled manner. Only once approved can they join the "Wiggle Bus Pass," a two to three-hour grand adventure with multiple friends.

Safety is paramount on the bright green bus. "All Wigglebum's are belted into the seats with a back clipping harness," Errington ensured. The vehicle is sanitised weekly and carries both pet and human first aid kits. She stresses the importance of a slow acclimatisation process for each dog. "Some jump right on their seat and are ready to ride, others need a few rides alone to get the hang of things. Slow and steady wins the race!"

For Errington, the most rewarding aspect has recently been seeing the community's reaction. "The smiles, recently from humans! I have loved watching heads turn and faces light up as people see the Wiggle Bus for the first time, dogs aboard," she said.

She recalled a memorable story about Myka, their longest-standing client. Myka started four years ago, nearly a year old, suffering from significant reactivity towards people, dogs, and cars, making her impossible to walk after her mum injured

her shoulder. "We worked through so much together... introducing her to one friend at a time, we built her confidence up," Errington explained. Myka is now a Bus Pass regular and "one of my better walkers, is loyal, and trusts me to keep her safe. We find the dogs that need a bit more work, always stick close to our hearts."

Looking ahead, the Wigglebum dream is to expand their offerings further. "The dream would be property on the outskirts of the town so we can have our own private dog park," Errington shared.

For pet owners looking to support the Wigglebum mission, the founders say the easiest way is also the most powerful for small businesses: "Like, comment and share! We have appreciated all the support we have received since launching the Wigglebum Bus!"



Brantford-Brant posts highest unemployment rate in Ontario

Nearly 10,000 residents now unemployed as employment drops for the first time in months.

MEDIA RELEASE

Brantford-Brant recorded the highest unemployment rate in Ontario in October, reaching nearly 10 per cent - the community's highest level since the height of the pandemic.

Statistics Canada's seasonally adjusted estimates, released Friday, show the local unemployment rate climbed to 9.9 per cent, up 0.2 percentage points from September. The increase continues an upward trend that has marked recent months, even as unemployment fell elsewhere in the province

and across the country.

Nationally, employment grew by 67,000 positions in October, pushing Canada's unemployment rate down to 6.9 per cent. Ontario saw the bulk of those gains, adding 55,000 new jobs and lowering its provincial unemployment rate to 7.6 per cent—the first significant job growth in Ontario since June.

Brantford-Brant, however, has followed a different trajectory. From March to September, both employment and unemployment rose sharply, with 5,300 more residents entering the workforce while another

4,100 became unemployed. That pattern shifted in October, when local employment declined while unemployment continued to climb.

According to the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie, an estimated 9,800 residents are now unemployed, a level not seen since the summer of 2020, when COVID-19 shutdowns triggered widespread job losses.

The organization says the rising rate may mask deeper challenges beneath the surface. Many residents had been able to secure new positions in recent months, tem-

pering the impact of earlier job losses. But with employment now declining, concerns are growing about the strain on households heading into the holiday season. The board notes that, as in past downturns, residents may require additional community and mental health supports as financial pressures mount.

The Workforce Planning Board is one of 26 non-profit organizations in Ontario that lead labour force planning efforts. It is funded in part by the governments of Canada and Ontario.

Coal chutes reveal a hidden piece of Paris' Past



(DAVE PRESTON PHOTO)

Someone posed a very good question on Ask! Paris-Ontario recently. So, what is this a photo of? For those who guessed coal chutes, you are right. Located by Nimmo Street in the Flats of Paris, it's the remains of the coal chutes, once vital for fueling homes and trains in the area. These structures, like the ones shown, were used to unload coal from passing trains into storage bins for distribution. Locals recall how a few lumps of coal from these chutes would warm their homes, while children would play in and around the chutes, reminiscing on a bygone era of train travel and heating practices. This site was part of a historic train station and fuel distribution point, laying the foundation for what would evolve into the renowned local fuel company, Sibbick Fuels.

Yes, it's that time again —
Christmas is coming fast!



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The stories that shape us: Gratitude from Homes of Heroes



NEIL EDWARDS

Paris Independent Contributor

Lest we forget. These are powerful words, especially at this time of year when we take time out to remember those who fought and died to protect us and our home, our way of life. And they are powerful words for our Homes of Heroes project, because they speak to our very purpose -- to remember and honor all the veterans from Paris, not just those who died in service but also the ones who came home, and the ones who are continuing to serve, both in conflict and in peace.

And they are powerful words as well because they remind us not to forget all the people who helped us to try to achieve our goal, and we want to do that now. First, we want to thank Paris Legion Branch 29 for giving their blessing to Homes of Heroes. No action involving veterans in Paris can happen without the approval of the Paris Legion, and that is as it should be. But they

trusted us to treat our veterans with honor and respect, and we thank them for that opportunity.

Next, we must thank the research team at the Paris Museum. We have said before and it is still true that we could not have gotten nearly as far as we have without the diligence and energy they have shown towards our veterans, long before Homes of Heroes was even an idea. In particular, Carol Moore, Carol Goar and Norma Maus have been passionate about our veterans, and we relied heavily on the work that they had already done. We will continue to rely on their knowledge and experience and share ours with them.

We also need to thank all the people who helped us along the way. Like Bob Hasler and Marie Williamson, who shared their knowledge and their memories of the men and women of Paris who served, Bob through his book *The Junction* and Marie with her tours of Upper Town, and stories of all the people and places she remembers and shared with us. Also in Upper Town, Reg and Robin Graham gave us the names and homes that Marie might have missed, and it was an honor to share a toast with them to fallen soldiers. And we also need to thank Reg and Robin for their financial contributions. They were not asked to contribute, but anyone who knows Reg knows that he is a hard man to say no to. And Robin is just such a good guy. Both men are committed to honoring our veterans.

And we also need to thank our other fi-

nancial supporters, beginning with the Paris Firefighters Club. It seems so appropriate that theirs was our biggest contribution because just like our veterans, they also step up, and stand ready to serve, and put themselves on the line in our times of need. We all need to show our thanks to them, whenever and however we can. And we want to thank the Jim and Karla Stonham Team of Peak Realty as well for their financial support. Without these two major sponsors, we could not have placed signs in front of nearly 40 homes where veterans lived, or another 10 signs in front of the schools and churches in the central Paris area, that helped us to acknowledge our veterans and raise awareness of Homes of Heroes.

And we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge and thank the staff of the Paris Independent. We thank Chris Whelan for sharing with us his knowledge of the town and his good advice, and for giving us his time when photos were needed. And we appreciate Casandra Turnbull for giving us space in the newspaper to raise awareness of our cause. And of course, we need to thank Jeff "Stones" Johnston just for being there to ensure that everything was running smoothly.

But most of all, we need to thank all the people who contacted us to share the stories of their grandfather or father, aunt or uncle who were or are veterans. This time we focused mainly on Second World War veterans, in part because a lot of that work had

already been done by Museum researchers, but also because stories from that time are being lost or forgotten, and that should not be allowed to happen. Homes of Heroes was formed to preserve and make public those memories so they will never be forgotten. So, thank you to all those people who trusted us to share their families' stories. History books and documents, maps and artifacts tell part of the story, but it is the personal details, the stories, that enable these veterans to live again.

So, lest we forget. The last group we don't want you to forget is us. You will not be reading our articles in the Independent for a while, but Homes of Heroes will still be working behind the scenes, continuing to research and record the stories of our veterans. This was always going to be a multi-year project, so we will keep working, together with the Museum staff, to continue that task. So, if you have a story, even if it is a partial story, tell us about it through our email address info@homesofheroes.ca. And we will be continually adding to our website, www.homesofheroes.ca, so visit us there when you want to see what we are up to. We would even like to hear your ideas about how we can be doing better. This is a community project, and you are the community. So don't forget us. We will be back in touch before you know it.

Paris comes together to honour Remembrance Day



(CHRIS WHELAN PHOTO)

Legion member and past president Andy Moran lays a wreath at the Paris Cenotaph during last Tuesday's Remembrance Day service. Following a ceremony of reflection and remembrance, guests were invited back to Legion Branch 29 for a light lunch.



(MAYOR DAVID BAILEY PHOTO)

Despite harsh winter weather, a large crowd turned out at the Paris Cenotaph as the Colour Guard marched in to begin the Remembrance Day ceremony.



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.

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: The founder's shadow: A local patriarch fights to save Paris history



By Chris Whelan

For nearly 80 years, Robert Miss, has watched Paris grow, evolve, and now, rapidly expand. But from the windows of his home—the historic Hiram Capron House, built in 1831 by the very founder who named this town—he sees not progress, but an erosion of the past, threatened by the speed of development and what he feels is a growing disinterest in its irreplaceable heritage.

Miss has a passion for Paris that runs as deep as the Grand River is long. For years, he diligently offered his beautifully restored historic home, the former residence of Hiram “King” Capron, for the local Historical Society’s walking tours, only to be repeatedly declined. Now, dis-

illusioned, and facing the communication challenges of severe hearing loss, he has become so disheartened that he has contacted the Ontario Heritage Foundation to inquire about removing the commemorative plaque that sits outside his gate.

"It's a shame," his family notes, "that he has such a deep passion for this town's history, and he feels the community is unaware or uninterested in the significance of this property."

The Hiram Capron House is more than just an old home; it is a bulwark of Paris's identity. Built in 1831, it served as the first home of Hiram Capron, the Vermont native who settled in the Forks of the Grand, established one of Upper Canada's earliest iron foundries, and renamed the community 'Paris' after the local gypsum used for Plaster of Paris. His leadership earned him the nickname, "King Capron."

The recent closure and sale of the nearby seniors' home, Penmarvian (a.k.a. Grand River Estates), has fueled deep anxieties among long-time residents like Miss. The fear is palpable: that Penmarvian could be sold to a developer who will demolish the structure to maximize land use, setting a dangerous precedent. This concern is amplified by the sale of the adjacent old Paris childcare property, whose future also remains uncertain after being marketed for development. Let's not forget the extremely historic Old Town Hall (a.k.a. Bawcutt Centre) that sits in peril as its future is unknown.

The growth of Paris has been extreme, characterized by massive subdivisions placed on former natural spaces. For

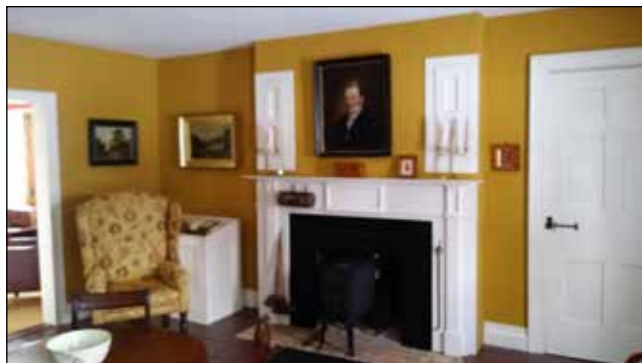
Miss, this change is not just visual; it's ecological. He reports a devastating loss of over 90% of the wildlife that once frequented the area behind his home, casualties of the relentless expansion.

His main, and increasingly validated, concern is that his own property, despite its profound historical value, will eventually be torn down. Discussions with Ontario Heritage have confirmed that this is not a far-fetched nightmare. Even if the property were donated to the community in the future, it could still be rezoned and demolished to make way for new development on the land.

The irony is stark: a commemorative plaque marks the 100th anniversary of Paris's incorporation as a Town and pays tribute to its founder, Hiram Capron, on a property that may not stand for much longer.

Paris is undeniably a town with high interest, yet the preservation of its heritage seems woefully lacking. The frustration felt by Miss, that his town's citizens are not given the opportunity to see or learn about these original homesteads—is a call to action for the entire community.

If residents and town officials do not quickly prioritize the protection of irreplaceable structures like the Hiram Capron House, the Penmarvian and the Old Town Hall, the very historical roots that make Paris unique will be flattened in favor of concrete and quick profit. We cannot afford to let the legacy of "King" Capron, and the soul of our town, be paved over. The time to recognize and safeguard these irreplaceable treasures is now, before the wrecking ball arrives.



Paris Christmas Hamper Program continues long tradition of community giving

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A decades-old holiday tradition is once again bringing the Paris community together as volunteers, students, service clubs and businesses rally to support the annual Paris Community Christmas Hamper Program.

The long-running initiative, started more than 30 years ago in the basement of local resident Marg Knill, has grown from just a handful of hampers to more than 150 delivered each year to families in Paris and the surrounding area. What hasn't changed is its purpose: ensuring every household can enjoy a joyful Christmas, regardless of circumstance.

Although applications are still coming in, the Christmas Hamper Committee says the need is steady and meaningful.

"There are so many factors that influence why an individual or family would utilize our services," said committee member Cherish Gamble. "Some families may need help once. Others may experience shifting circumstances from year to year. But the need is consistent, and that's why the program is here."

The committee says the hallmark of the program, this year and every year, is the community itself. Donations come from every corner of town: classrooms collecting canned goods, children choosing a

toy to donate at the parade, churches and service clubs hosting drives, businesses operating drop-off points, and firefighters running their annual toy drive.

"The community donations truly make this program possible, and our volunteers work from there to put it together," Gamble said.

Close to 100 volunteers lend their time during sorting week to organize food, stock shelves, pack gifts and assemble hampers before distribution day. It's a holiday scene unlike any other - volunteers in Christmas hats, music playing, boxes being filled and stacked - an experience the committee says is "a heart-warming reminder of what community looks like at Christmas."

While each hamper includes the makings of a holiday meal, extra groceries and age-appropriate gifts for children, Gamble said the program's impact extends far beyond what's in the box.

"Every item of food or toy donated is far more than food on the table and a toy under the tree," she said. "For some families, it means they were able to have a Christmas; it's that simple. For others, it means they could direct limited resources toward housing, medical needs or caregiving while still giving their family a holiday."

Families often express how supported they feel, she added. "A strong team works together, and a strong community is no different."

From students to emergency services, to local clubs and neighbourhood families, the committee says watching the program come together year after year never loses its impact.

"Seeing the community step up the way they do makes us all feel very proud and grateful to be part of this community," Gamble said.

For her, and many long-time volunteers, there's also a personal motivation.

"I continue to volunteer because I think everyone deserves to have a nice Christmas," she said. "Good things happen when people feel cared for and supported."

This year, the committee has one clear message for residents: the program only exists because the community keeps it alive.

"It's the community that makes this happen through donation and effort," the committee said in an email to the Paris Independent.

Applications for hampers are currently available through the County of Brant Customer Service office. Donations of non-perishable food, new toys, hats and mittens can be dropped off at locations throughout Paris until early December.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available for individuals, groups or businesses wishing to support a specific family. If you are interested, please contact Shirley Simons at 519-442-3550.

Christmas boxes will be located at several businesses throughout our community where residents may drop off your nonperishables and new toys for all age groups from newborn to 12 years old.

The Paris Firefighters Club will be present at Jingle Bell night in Paris on Friday November 21, collecting nonperishables, new toys and monetary donations. They'll also will be at Paris Canadian Tire November 27-30 where they will be collecting new toys and donations.

OPP and Paramedics will be running their "Fill A Vehicle" program the weekends of December 6&7 and December 13&14 at Sobey's, No Frills, Foodland, Burford and St. George, also a boot collection in Onondaga.

As Paris continues to grow, the committee hopes new residents will embrace the program as warmly as long-time locals have - ensuring the spirit of giving remains at the heart of the holiday season.



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Community volunteers pack food boxes during the 2024 Christmas Hamper sorting night, working together to ensure families across Paris and area enjoy a festive and worry-free holiday season.



(EMILY BUZSIK PHOTO)

Many hands make light work, thanks to the volunteers that step forward to sort the hampers.



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Jingle Bell Night set to spark the holiday season in downtown Paris

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Downtown Paris will come alive with twinkling lights, music, and holiday magic this Friday as the community gathers for one of its most cherished traditions: Jingle Bell Night. For many longtime residents, and for business owners who have weathered nearly a year of construction, this year's event represents far more than a festive evening. It marks a joyful comeback.

"Jingle Bell Night has always been regarded by our downtown retailers as a kickoff to Christmas shopping," said Paris BIA Chair Penny Ritchie, owner of Pennylane Dermal Solutions. "It's an event that we hope will draw our local community to shop local."

The 2025 celebration lands after nine challenging months for downtown shops affected by the closure of the Nith River Bridge and Grand River Street North. Ritchie says this year's gathering carries extra significance.

"It's no surprise our retailers have felt the closure," she said. "We're putting in extra measures to make this year's Jingle Bell Night even more spectacular. We want to see our businesses have a successful Christmas season."

With the Nith River Bridge reopening at 4 p.m. on the night of the event, the timing couldn't be better. Grand River Street North, between Mechanic and William Streets, will remain closed until 9 p.m. to allow the festivities to unfold safely. OPP officers will be on hand to manage traffic, particularly during the much-anticipated tree-lighting ceremony at 7 p.m.

Organizers promise one of the most vibrant Jingle Bell Nights yet. Visitors can expect:

- **Carolling** by Sacred Heart students and other local choirs
- **Performances** by Core Dance Project
- **Doug the Great**, returning on illuminated stilts
- **Roaming holiday characters** throughout the downtown
- **Tree-lighting ceremony** led by a Paris student selected from a community colouring contest
- **Paris Firefighters** collecting new toy donations for the annual Paris Community Christmas Hamper pro-



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Did someone say Christmas? Students from Sacred Heart School performed Christmas Carols in front of the Cenotaph at the 2024 Jingle Bell Night festivities. The school is returning this year to continuing their carolling tradition.

- gram
 - **Horse-drawn carriage rides** through the freshly revitalized downtown streetscape
 - **In-store specials, treats, and giveaways** from downtown retailers
 - **Free gift wrapping** at Wincey Mills
- "We have so many fun things in store," Ritchie said. "There will be prizes to win and treats to taste - and the carriage rides through our brand-new streetscape will be magical."

Ritchie says the best way the community can show its support is simple: choose local this holiday season.

"By remembering to shop local, you support our community," she said. "May-

be pop into a store you've never been in before."

Many shop owners spent the construction months finding creative ways to connect with customers, from online sales to curbside options, and are now eager to welcome people back inside their stores.

The spirit of giving is deeply woven into Jingle Bell Night, thanks in large part to the annual firefighters' toy drive.

"'Tis the season of giving," Ritchie said. "We know there are families struggling, especially in harder economic times. If you're able to, please give back to our community."

For Ritchie, who was born and raised in Paris, this year's event will be especially

meaningful.

"I can't wait," she said. "It's nice to see our small-town traditions continue. I think it will be an exceptional evening with the reopening of Grand River Street after the festivities."

As the lights turn on, the streets fill, and neighbours gather, Ritchie hopes visitors leave feeling the spirit that defines Jingle Bell Night.

"I hope they feel a sense of pride for our community," she said. "This is the perfect way to launch the holiday season."

Jingle Bell Night runs until 9 p.m. on Friday, November 21 with activities, shopping, entertainment, and holiday cheer throughout downtown Paris.





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SCAN ME

Weaving Our Stories: An interfaith women's retreat returns to Five Oaks in Paris

JULIA PAUL

Grant Haven Media Freelance Writer

As the pace of life accelerates toward the year's busiest season, a reflective and restorative interfaith retreat is returning to Five Oaks Retreat Centre from Nov. 21 to 23. Rooted in the universal structure of the hero's journey, Weaving Our Stories invites women from all backgrounds to explore their personal narratives, confront meaningful life obstacles, and rediscover the grounding power of shared community at the historic retreat property located at 1 Bethel Road, Paris, where the Grand River shapes a peaceful landscape.

As a co-facilitator, Niki Andre helps guide participants through an interfaith workshop designed for people of all faith.

"My work is about helping people experience embodied knowledge - getting it into your body and your heart."

This workshop is in conjunction with the work Dr. Amira Ayad does, who uses archetypal storytelling and the hero's journey framework in her therapeutic and spiritual care work.

"Amira is the person behind the retreat," Andre said. "She uses the archetype of the hero's journey to help people explore their own stories — what they're being called to in their life, and what challenges or obstacles might be standing in the way."

This event marks the second time the retreat has been offered. After its inaugural session, the response was overwhelming.

"It was one of the most requested programs they had,"

Andre said. "There was an overwhelming response of 'you must do this again,' so we are."

The hero's journey shapes the retreat's thematic structure, but Andre's role focuses on bringing the teachings into participants' bodies, hearts and spirits, ensuring the experience becomes more than an intellectual exercise.

Her offerings include:

Circle singing and collective music-making

Spoken word and poetic reflection

Yoga, breathwork and meditation

Ritual and contemplative practices drawn from participants' own traditions

These elements accompany Ayad's teaching on the seven stages of the hero's journey, creating a retreat that blends learning with creative, soulful experience.

Andre will once again be joined by Dr. Amira Ayad and spiritual director Tanya Dyck Steinmann.

Dyck Steinmann serves as the program coordinator at Five Oaks and also leads Wildscape Soul, her spiritual direction practice rooted in contemplative, nature-based exploration.

Ayad is a bestselling author, Natural Health Consultant, Registered Psychotherapist and a Spiritual Care Practitioner at Scarborough Health Network. She holds a Master's degree in Pharmaceuticals, a PhD in Natural Health and a Master of Pastoral Studies from the University of Toronto. Her work blends therapeutic insight, spiritual reflection and archetypal narrative structure — forming the foundation of the retreat design.

Weaving Our Stories is designed for women of all kinds, whether cis or trans, and for anyone seeking interfaith connection and opportunities for shared wisdom.

"It's for people who want to experience what I call beloved community," Andre said. "There's an African proverb, ubuntu — 'I am because you are, and you are because I am.' That's the spirit of this work."

Participants last year represented a broad range of traditions, including Indigenous, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Pagan and others. Andre noted that many appreciated hearing stories, allegories and cultural wisdom rarely shared side by side in mainstream spaces.

"It's rare to find spaces in our culture where these stories from different traditions can be honoured together," Andre said. "People really appreciated that."

Running from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, the retreat includes:

- Teaching sessions
- Reflective practices
- Sharing circles
- Fire-side storytelling
- yoga and meditation
- Structured and unstructured time for integration
- Ayad's signature fabric arts storytelling, including communal weaving and individual fabric story-books

Andre emphasized the importance of spaciousness: time for quiet, time for walking the grounds and time for personal processing.

"We're leaning more into the retreat side of things this year," she said. "It's meant to be really restorative."

Located along the Grand River on 77 acres, Five Oaks offers trails, wooded spaces, a labyrinth, a prayer room and peaceful places for reflection. The meeting of two rivers on the property is considered spiritually significant in Indigenous traditions, adding to the retreat's contemplative atmosphere.

"It's very peaceful, and the grounds are gorgeous," Andre said. "There are trails, a labyrinth, a prayer room and places where people can practise according to their traditions."

The retreat is nearly full, and Andre recommends contacting Five Oaks directly, as online registration may close early.

Single accommodation is \$374.

When asked to summarize the retreat in three words, Andre chose reflective, connective and joyful.

Above all, she said the experience offers something rare in a fast-paced world: a place to slow down, be cared for and reconnect deeply with oneself and others.

"This life is so busy," Andre said. "It's the perfect opportunity to take a minute for yourself, restore and experience self-care among like-hearted women."



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Niki Andre, Dr. Amira Ayad and Tanya Dyck Steinmann will co-facilitate the Weaving Our Stories interfaith women's retreat at Five Oaks Retreat Centre, located along the Grand River on 77 acres of trails, wooded spaces, a labyrinth, a prayer room and peaceful places for reflection.

Volunteers deck downtown Paris for the season



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

The “holiday elves” of the Paris Horticultural Society were hard at work this week, adding fresh Christmas greens and festive cheer throughout Downtown Paris. Their volunteer magic helps the season sparkle a little brighter. For upcoming holiday celebrations, visit brant.ca/HolidaysInBrant.



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Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. According to the Bible, which Apostle was a tentmaker?
2. What city is home to the Spanish Steps?
3. "Heaven is a Place on Earth" by Belinda Carlisle was released in what year?
4. What do you call a word that sounds like what it describes?
5. What is the sum of angles in a quadrilateral?
6. At what time of day did guns fall silent on November 11, 1918?
7. Who is the main character in The Lego Movie?
8. What kind of species can live on both water and land?
9. Which superhero is known as the “Caped Crusader”?
10. Which company introduced "Comet" cleanser back in 1956?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 23



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ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Parker's Panther pride carries her to NCAA Division 1 Hockey



Fresh off her graduation from Paris District High School, multi-sport standout Naren Parker is already making her mark well beyond the walls of PDHS. A driven student-athlete known equally for her competitive spirit and her leadership, Parker capped her high school career by earning both the School Spirit Award and the Athletic Leadership Award, honours she says reflect the effort, passion, and pride she poured into her years as a Panther.

For Parker, the dual awards were more than plaques, they were meaningful reminders of the community she helped shape.

"Being recognized with both the School Spirit Award and the Athletic Leadership Award is a true honour," she said. "I loved getting involved in school spirit and representing our community with pride."

Her involvement went far beyond the playing surface. A key member of the Athletics Council, Parker helped organize pep rallies and major school sporting events. When teachers encouraged her to take on a leadership role, she embraced the opportunity which was an experience she says taught her confidence, communication, and the importance of teamwork.

"I gained a new appreciation for how much effort goes into making school events happen," she added, noting that many students and staff contribute behind the scenes. "These awards reflect how much effort I have put into the sports I have played and the events I have organized."

Parker was a force across several Panthers teams - girls hockey, softball, and ultimate frisbee. Hockey was her longtime passion, and winning the girls hockey championship in her senior year was a highlight.

Growing comfortable in one sport opened the door to many more. "The friends I made on the hockey team inspired me to try out for the girls' softball team," she said. "Both teams were super competitive with such a great atmosphere."

Looking for something new to take on, she discovered a love for ultimate frisbee.

"Ultimate frisbee is one of the most fun games you can play," Parker said, noting the game's emphasis on communication and sportsmanship. "It really opened my eyes to good communication, patience, and leadership."

When asked which people shaped her journey the most, Parker named her hockey and softball coaches, and especially Mr. T, her leadership teacher, athletics council adviser, and ultimate frisbee coach.

"His energy and love for the game made everyone want to show up and try their hardest," she said.

One of her most cherished memories was travelling to OFSAA for ultimate frisbee, where the competition was fierce, and the players were exhausted. She recalls Mr. T lifting the team's spirits and pushing them to finish strong - and with joy.

Like many student athletes, Parker learned early how demanding the schedule could be. But she said the experience shaped her work ethic.

"Balancing academics, athletics, and school involvement taught me the importance of time management, discipline, and commitment," she explained. "Managing practices, games, and assignments pushed me to plan ahead and stay focused on my goals."

Those lessons, she added, continue to guide her now.

Today, Parker is skating into a new chapter - NCAA Division 1 hockey at Niagara University, where she is competing in her first season with the Purple Eagles.

"I love the atmosphere and how competitive hockey is here," she said. "Representing Niagara at the D1 level is something I take great pride in."

The transition has been both exciting and rewarding as she continues to grow under a strong coaching staff while forging new friendships through the game she loves.

Hockey has been Parker's favourite sport from the moment she first laced up at age three, thanks to her dad's one steadfast rule: all his daughters must know how to skate.

"Hockey quickly became more than just a sport. It became a huge part of who I am," she said. She loves the speed, intensity, and camaraderie of the game, and calls hockey the place "that feels like home." Before heading to University, Parker played for the London Devilettes U18 AA team.

Despite now competing at one of the highest levels of women's hockey, Parker still cheers for her childhood favourite, the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"Even though each year may be disappointing, you can't give up on something you really love," she said, a sentiment so many Leafs fans share. "So, I watch them every year just hoping one year they will win a Stanley Cup."

Congratulations to Naren Parker, our Athlete of the Month.



BRANT BATTALION

SCOREBOARD - WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9TH

Sunday, November 9

- U11A Battalions lose 2-1 against Elgin Thames 73s
- U12A Battalions win 3-1 against Norfolk Knights
- U21A Battalions lose 5-2 against New Hamburg Huskies
- U18B Battalions tie 2-2 against Plattsville Rage

Monday, November 10

- U13A Battalions lose 11-4 against St Marys Rock
- U11A Battalions win 5-2 against New Hamburg Huskies

Tuesday, November 11

- U13A Battalions lose 8-1 against Mt Brydges Cougars

Friday, November 14

- U11B Battalions lose 4-3 against Twin Centre Stars
- U13B Battalions lose 6-0 against Twin Centre Stars
- U16A Battalions win 2-0 against Delhi Norwich 59ers

Saturday November 15

- U11B Battalions win 1-0 against Norfolk Knights 2
- U21A Battalions win 8-1 against Tavistock Titans
- U13B Battalions win 4-1 against Delhi Norwich 59ers
- U15B Battalions win 4-2 against Twin Centre Stars

BC Lions U8 Team battles to Provincial Championship victory

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The BC Lions U8 football team capped off a remarkable season by capturing the provincial championship title in Cambridge. It was a victory made all the sweeter after a rocky start to their season.

The team, which is part of the UA Flag Canada program in Brantford, includes several Paris players – Luke Larion, Lucas Pooley, Gabriel McGee and Owen Cecchetto. They're joined by fellow teammates Rowan Fleming, Cormac Monaghan, Myles Cobb, Isla Grant-Hose, Levi Morrison, and Richard Farrugie, who all showed grit, growth, and teamwork throughout the season.

Under the guidance of dedicated coaches Jonathan Pooley and Brent Farrugie, the Lions transformed early setbacks into a series of hard-fought wins. Coach Pooley focused on developing line combinations that played to each player's strengths, while his post-game speeches, win or lose, inspired confidence and unity among the young athletes.

By the time playoffs rolled around in Brantford, the Lions were a force to be reckoned with. They battled their way to second place in the standings and ultimately

ly secured the home championship title.

That success earned them a trip to the provincial finals in Cambridge, where they faced challenging winter conditions and tough opponents. Despite the falling snow and back-to-back games, the Lions' determination never wavered. After a loss to Kingston in their first match, they bounced back with a win over Mississauga. When the schedule saw them face Mississauga again, they prevailed once more, setting up a rematch against Kingston in the finals.

In a thrilling championship game, the Lions delivered an outstanding performance, defeating Kingston in commanding fashion. Lucas Pooley earned MVP honours, while highlights included an epic catch by Luke Larion off a throw from his best friend and teammate Lucas.

Parents and coaches alike were bursting with pride as they watched the young athletes celebrate their incredible journey and it was all the more memorable as it was one that started with struggle but ended in triumph.

"We couldn't be prouder of all the kids," said Lindsay Lario. "From a tough beginning of the season, we saw how hard they all worked to become champions - for themselves first, and for the province second."



(MELISSA FLEMING PHOTO)

Members of the BC Lions U8 football team proudly display their provincial championship rings after capping off a season of hard work and determination with a title win in Cambridge. The team, part of the UA RISE Flag Football program in Brantford, includes Paris players Luke Larion, Lucas Pooley, Gabriel McGee and Owen Cecchetto, alongside Rowan Fleming, Cormac Monaghan, Myles Cobb, Isla Grant-Hose, Levi Morrison, and Richard Farrugie.

Small but mighty U12B Paris Ringette Team wins Gold at London's Pink in the Rink Tournament

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The U12B Paris Ringette team proved that determination and teamwork outweigh numbers, capturing gold at London's annual Pink in the Rink Tournament, held November 7-9. The young athletes battled through a challenging weekend and clinched the championship title with a 3-1 victory over Chatham in the final.

With only ten players on the roster this season, Head Coach Nicole Kipp describes her squad as "small but mighty." The team features a mix of new and returning players who, according to Kipp, "meshed immediately" both on and off the ice.

"Everyone contributed to all positions, showing skill, teamwork, and determination in every game," said Kipp following the Gold medal win. "We couldn't be prouder of how they came together."

Goaltending duties were shared throughout the tournament between Adelyn Robinson and Claire Van Houwelingen, who both delivered strong performances. Van Houwelingen took the net for the championship game, turning aside more shots than the team had faced all season to help secure the win.

Facing a powerful and previously undefeated Chatham squad, Paris rose to the challenge with an exceptional defensive effort. "We played a very strong defensive game from all five players on the ice to take the final," Kipp said. "The girls battled hard right to the final buzzer."

As the season continues, Kipp said the group's focus will be on building confidence and skill with each game. "We have lots to build on moving forward," she added. "We're excited to keep seeing these girls improve every time they step on the ice."



(MELISSA FLEMING PHOTO)

Pictured, back row - left to right, Charlotte Sullivan-Pries, Amelia Carman, Gabby Bird, Charly Chelchowski, Adelyn Robinson. Front row - left to right Jordyn Wallis, Erin Latty, Charlotte Kipp, Grace Brooks. Lying in front - Claire Van Houwelingen.

GUESS WHO?

Born on January 26, 1961, in Brantford, Ontario, I grew up with a hockey stick practically glued to my hands. By the time I hit the NHL, they were already calling me "The Great One." I shattered scoring records, won four Stanley Cups, and became the all-time leader in goals and assists—records that still seem untouchable today. Even after retiring, my name remains synonymous with hockey greatness. **Who am I?**

Answer: Wayne Gretzky!

Rockets shine with strongest outing of the season against Huntsville at Owen Sound Northern Lights Lady Classic

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Ayr Rockets U13 Local League team turned in their best performance of the season during the Owen Sound Northern Lights Lady Classic tournament held Nov. 14–16.

The Rockets, consisting of players from Paris, Brantford, Kitchener and Ayr, competed in four games across the weekend, but it was their 3–0 win over the Huntsville Sting that stood out as a defining effort. Ayr poured on relentless offensive pressure from the opening faceoff, generating wave after wave of shots and moving the puck with

confidence. Smart passing, strong positioning in front of the net, and cohesive play across all three lines contributed to the shutout victory.

Defensively, the group was equally solid. The Rockets kept the puck in the offensive zone for extended stretches, and when Huntsville managed to break out, Ayr's blueliners quickly closed gaps, stripped pucks, and limited any meaningful scoring chances on their goaltender. Coaches praised the full-team effort, noting leadership from veteran players and growing confidence from newer skaters.

Off the ice, the team strengthened its bond with plenty of laughs, including the chance to paint their coach's head after surpassing 20 shots on net in their third game.

The weekend also included a special highlight: a university matchup between the Waterloo Warriors and Toronto Varsity Blues at the Bayshore Community Centre. The Rockets watched the Warriors claw back from a 3–1 deficit to earn a 4–3 overtime win, serving as a lesson in grit and determination that capped off a memorable tournament experience.



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Ayr Rocket U13LL Team members include (in no order), Scarlett, Sydney, Milena, Calla, Izzy, Bella, Nat, Lucy, Thea, Claire, Charlie, Clara, Rylea, Olivia, Lilah and absent from the photo, Bea.



PARIS MINOR HOCKEY

SCOREBOARD - WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9TH

Sunday, November 9

- U11 LL#3 Wolfpack win 10-0 against Port Dover Pirates
- U9 MD Wolfpack lost 3-2 against New Hamburg Huskies
- U15 LL Wolfpack lose 7-3 against Waterford Wildcats
- U13 LL#2 Wolfpack win 4-2 against Burford Coyotes 2
- U18 LL#2 Wolfpack lose 5-2 against Langton Leafs

Tuesday, November 11

- U13 LL#2 Wolfpack win 3-0 against Ingersoll Express
- U15 LL Wolfpack lose 6-1 against Ayr Flames 2

Thursday, November 13

- U11 LL#1 Wolfpack win 4-1 against Delhi Norwich 59ers

Saturday, November 15

- U13 LL#1 Wolfpack lose 2-1 against Six Nations Blackhawks
- U11 LL#3 Wolfpack lose 5-1 against Six Nations Blackhawks 1
- U9 MD Wolfpack win 4-2 against Twin Centre Stars

Guess the athlete



Please guess this week's athlete below. This rugged and handsome athlete played for Mary Maxim bantam all stars 1966-67

The correct answer to last week is Teddy Attlebery "Ted" went on to be an all star goalie and played 3 years JRC hockey and won two all Ontario championships as coach-manager 03/04 for Paris.



Correct answers will be entered into a draw for a one week free home delivery of The Paris Independent newspaper (must live within the County of Brant to win). Thanks, Scoop Stewart. Send your submissions to: editor@theparisindpendent.com.

Arcady brings festive tradition and new music to Brantford stage



MEDIA RELEASE

A beloved holiday tradition returns later this month as Arcady presents Christmas with Arcady on Saturday, Nov. 29 at St. Andrew's United Church.

The concert, a seasonal favourite for many in the community, will feature Camille Saint-Saëns' Christmas Oratorio performed by Arcady's professional chorus, past and present Emerging Artist soloists, a string ensemble, additional instrumentalists, and Arcady dancers.

The second half of the program will offer a mix of reimagined holiday classics, including Stille Nacht and Adeste Fideles, and new works by Arcady's composer-director Ronald Beckett. This year's world premieres include an arrangement of the French carol Noel Nouvelet and King Witalaf's Drinking-Horn, a spirited setting of the Longfellow poem for male voices and strings.

In keeping with tradition, Beckett has written a new festive arrangement to open the show. This year's arrangement of a traditional French carol will feature the full ensemble.

Young voices will also be part of the celebration. The Arcady Youth Singers will join the performance, adding what organizers describe as a heartwarming, intergenerational element to the evening.

ational element to the evening.

Longtime concertgoers can expect returning favourites such as Scarf and Mittens, as well as the lively In Dulci Jubilo, which usually closes the concert on a high note.

Arcady was founded to support emerging artists by offering performance opportunities that help bridge the gap between student training and professional careers. The touring ensemble includes both established performers and young musicians on track to join the professional stage.

Critics have praised Beckett's seasonal compositions over the years. Robert Reid of the Kitchener-Waterloo Record noted that "Christmas music remains vital not only because of songs, carols and hymns from the past, but because of new music." James Reaney of the London Free Press described Beckett's music as "austere and beautiful in its long-ago way," while Murray Charters of Ontario Arts Review wrote, "it felt like he had tied the age of chivalry and the modern age together with a warm Christmas ribbon."

Tickets for the family-friendly concert are \$36 for general admission and \$14 for those under 18. They are available at arcady.ca, by email at info@arcady.ca, or by calling 519-428-3185. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church.

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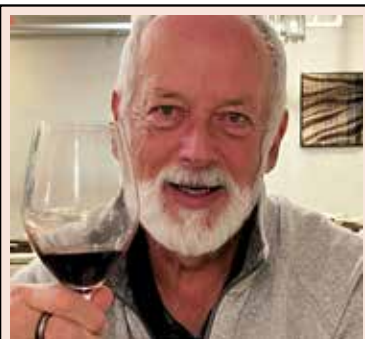
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www.patreon.com/TheParisIndependent

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

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The shared vision of two couples creates a dining dream



By Paul Knowles

"I love it when a plan comes together."

I'm guessing that none of the four young partners in the astonishing new Niagara-on-the-lake restaurant, Revé, is old enough to remember that quote. But it applies.

Because Revé is indeed the result of a plan that has come together, beautifully. Or, to quote from their website, "Four individuals with one collective dream: to curate a journey like no other."

That "journey" involves unique and amazing food, and all of the stories behind the culinary creations. And the four individuals are two young couples: Anna Katherine and Kevin Gillingham, and Nicole Pisarenko and Adriano Cappuzzello.

In many ways, this is a love story. Love for food. Love for the land. Love for culture. And love for each other.

Adriano is Chef. He's a native of Sicily, where his culinary story began. That's also where Adriano and Nicole's story began – she was on a study trip from Geroge Brown College when she met Adriano.

Anna and Kevin come to the restaurant business as event planners. But they shared the vision of running a superb restaurant with their friends.

And so, less than three months ago, Revé opened.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The fire of the candles and the moss on the ceiling feature invoke Revé's connection to the land and nature.

The moment you walk in the door, you begin to experience the story. Suspended from the ceiling is a unique bit of living décor – a large, moss-covered panel. Anna explains that their goal was to create an atmosphere to reflect the philosophy of the restaurant – food that is "farm to table," locally sourced from the Niagara Peninsula and southwestern Ontario.

And, oh, what food! Guests can order from a menu, but the hosts rather prefer that they don't. Because the true experience at Revé is to dine at the Chef's Counter, seated near the open fire, anticipating the next astonishing taste to come your way, each a step in a 10-course "blind journey".

So, we did. A visit and a story from Chef Adriano accompany each course. He explains the dish, and tells the story behind it. Many of the "tastes" involve a wonderful combination of Sicilian and Canadian cuisines. Like our third course, an exquisite beef tartare, prepared by Chef Adriano as a memory of Sicilian tuna tartare. But the grass-fed beef comes from Heatherbrae Farms in Wellesley!

Chef Adriano, who has worked in Michelin Star kitchens throughout Europe and Canada, consistently finds a way to combine the magic of uber-high-end recipes with food prepared by his Sicilian mother and grandmother. Such as delicious venison, dubbed "Mama's Pizzaiola", made with cherry tomato, oregano, black garlic zabalone, and undoubtedly several more secret ingredients.

The menu celebrates international flavours, from Sable Fish that reflects Korean barbecue, to Beef Bavette, a taste of France. Adapted and improved, of course, by Chef Adriano and his talented team.

I won't elaborate on all ten courses – because they will undoubtedly be changed by the time you dine at Revé. That's part of the charm – you don't know what you will be eating, but you know it will be amazing, an experience that stretches for hours.

Each course – a small serving, beautifully presented – is served on dinnerware hand-made specifically for Revé by a glass artist in Sicily. And by the way, you can

have a flight of wines paired with your food – in our case, several superb wines from Ontario or Sicily.

I mentioned that each course includes a story. In truth, Chef Adriano's personal story is captivating. Because his father knew the owner, Adriano was able to get a summer job in a Michelin-star restaurant in Sicily when he was only 14 years old. He immediately announced to his family that this was to be his calling, and that he didn't want to go to school any more. His parents overruled that idea, but Adriano continued to spend all of his out-of-school hours in high-end restaurants, learning the culinary arts.

At age 17, he moved to Madrid, working in a small restaurant where he was the chef. He told me that he spent his off-hours visiting other restaurants, for the first time encountering cuisines like Vietnamese and Mexican.

Adriano then moved to Malta, "where I got to work with Chef Andrew Pace. He's a visionary. He opened my eyes."

Eventually, after working in top-of-the-line restaurants in It-

aly and Berlin, he came home to Sicily. Where he met Nicole, who in turn brought him home to Canada. He continued to work as a chef, including at Langdon Hall, but now, his personal vision – shared by Nicole, Anna and Kevin – has become a reality in Niagara-on-the-lake.

The 10-course Chef's Counter tasting menu costs \$225; wine, either individual or a matching flight, is extra. If you normally eat at a fast-food joint, that will seem like a lot. But if you are a foodie, or more simply a lover of good food, you'll be hitting the website to make a reservation.

We sat next to a couple who were making their third trip to Revé in only a couple of months. They praised "the hospitality, the food, everything!"

They were right: Revé is just that good.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and Past-President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



The visionary owners of the new restaurant; from left, Chef Adriano Cappuzzello, Nicole Pisarenko, Anna Katherine and Kevin Gillingham.



Chef Adriano with his unique bread, stuffed with parsley.



The open fire adjacent to the "Chef's Counter"



Beef tartare; the beef is sourced by Heatherbrae Farms in Wellesley.

Riddles

What falls in Canada but never hits the ground in November?

Early winter flu!

Why did the moose wear a scarf in November?

Because it was “moose-chilly”!

Why did the maple leaf go to therapy in November?

It was feeling a little “fall-en” apart.

What’s a Canadian squirrel’s favorite November snack?

Acorn-y poutine!

Why do Canadian geese fly south in November?

Because it’s faster than walking in snowshoes!

Why did the hockey stick go to therapy in November?

It had too many issues with being crossed.

Why did the snowman start a diet in December?

He wanted to lose a few flake pounds before winter!

What did the snow say to the frost?

“You’re really crystal-clear about your feelings!”

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 23

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

CAMEO

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Cameo, a 6 year old yellow Labrador retriever was spoiled this month when her owner baked her a beautiful birthday cake. She was such a good girl and waited for her family to sing "Happy Birthday" before digging into this delicious "dog-healthy" cake, which is very difficult to do when you are a Labrador . Happy Birthday Cameo!

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



Word Search

COZY NOVEMBER

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

- Sweater
- Scarf
- Mittens
- Cocoa
- Soup
- Coffee
- Fireplace
- Blanket
- Books
- Candle
- Socks
- Fireplace
- Poncho
- Biscuits
- Frost
- Napping
- Journaling
- Knitting
- Snuggle
- Latte



WEEKLY

Horoscope

November 19 - November 26 2025

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



Momentum builds again, Aries. Stay focused and refine your goals. With discipline and direction, you'll turn small wins into lasting progress.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Patience still serves you, Taurus. Something you've been tending shows promise. Trust the process—steady effort brings satisfying results soon.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



Fresh ideas keep you inspired, Gemini. A lively exchange sparks motivation. Stay curious and flexible—new insights lead to creative success.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



Peace settles in, Cancer. You're finding comfort in clarity and emotional calm. Let intuition guide your next step—it knows what's best.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Your charm shines brightly, Leo. People are naturally drawn to your energy and optimism this week. Use that spark to ignite something bold, heartfelt, and unforgettable.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Structure supports progress, Virgo. Midweek reveals the rewards of your careful organization and quiet persistence. Stay attentive—your methodical pace ensures continued success.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Connections deepen, Libra. A balanced discussion strengthens mutual respect. With harmony restored, collaboration feels effortless and rewarding.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Insight sharpens, Scorpio. Observation reveals what action could not. Stay patient—your awareness now gives you a quiet advantage.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



Energy rises, Sagittarius. Optimism returns and inspires bold moves. Take a leap forward—confidence carries you toward new horizons.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Dedication defines your week, Capricorn. Even slow progress builds strength. Keep faith in your efforts—persistence ensures solid results.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Inspiration meets practicality, Aquarius. Let your originality guide steady action. A unique approach now turns vision into achievement.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Intuition runs deep, Pisces. Reflection brings clarity and renewed purpose. Express your feelings creatively—it restores balance within.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 19

Allison Janney, Actress (66)

NOVEMBER 20

Joel McHale, Actor (54)

NOVEMBER 21

Michael Strahan Athlete (54)

NOVEMBER 22

Mark Ruffalo, Actor (58)

NOVEMBER 23

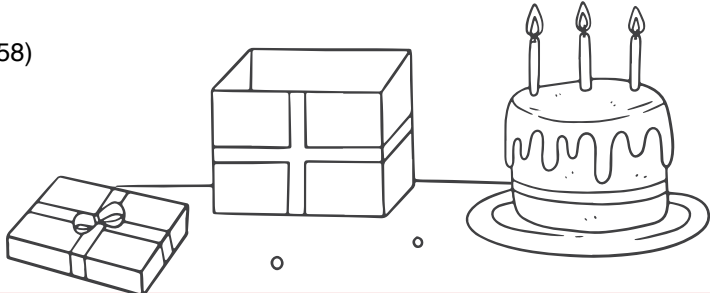
Miley Cyrus, Musician (33)

NOVEMBER 24

LiAngelo Ball, Athlete (27)

NOVEMBER 25

Christina Applegate, Actress (54)



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Jingle Bell Night - Join us for the tree lighting begins at 7 pm at Cobblestone Commons. Music, entertainment, firefighters toy drive. Start your Christmas shopping with this traditional kick-off event.

Brantford Symphony Orchestra presents: A Musical Meandering Through Time as performed by Multitaskers Inc - 7:30pm at the Coach House at Glenhyrst Gardens, 20 Ave Road, Brantford. Tickets: \$30 Adults and youngsters alike, available at: glenhyrst.ca.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Christmas Bazaar - The Catholic Women's League will be holding their Christmas bazaar from 12 pm to 3 pm at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 17 Washington Street, Paris.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting at Sacred Heart Parish Hall starting at 7:30 pm. Use the Queen Street parking lot door to enter.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6

Breakfast with Santa - Enjoy a festive morning with Santa, holiday activities, and a hot breakfast for the whole family. Registration required. Sat. Dec. 6, 9am–11am. Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Rd, Paris. 519-442-3212 | www.fiveoaks.on.ca

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Paris Optimist Club Hosted Youth Dance - The Paris Optimist Club is hosting a Youth Dance at the Syl Apps Community Centre, 51 William St in Paris from 7 pm to 10 pm. This month's theme is Christmas Best Dressed. Dance is for students in Grades 5 to 8 only. Students Grade 9 and older are welcome to attend as volunteers. Dance is chaperoned by adults. Entry fee is \$5.00 with a concession booth for pop, chips, candy and pizza. For any further information and to volunteer as a chaperone or as a high school student, please call 519.757.5020.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Brantford Symphony Orchestra with guests The Grand River Chorus perform Handel's 'Messiah' at the Sanderson Centre - 7:30pm. Tickets are \$44 and \$49 for adults, \$10 for students with ID, FREE for children and elementary students, available at: brantfordsymphony.ca.

Owl Prowl for Families - Explore the trails at dusk and learn about local owls on this family-friendly outdoor adventure. Registration required. Sat. Dec. 13, 5:00pm–6:30pm Five Oaks Centre, 1 Bethel Rd, Paris 519-442-3212 | www.fiveoaks.on.ca

OBITUARY

Hayhoe

June 1947 - September 2025



Paul Forsythe Hayhoe

The Lord has called Paul home. He is now "with Christ which is far better" Phil 1:23. From a young age Paul understood that before a perfect, Holy God he was a sinner and needed a Saviour. He accepted Jesus as his Saviour and lived his life to honour the Lord in his marriage, family, worship, friendships, work and through Christian outreach. Loving husband for 43 years to Dayle (McArthur). Devoted father to his deeply loved children, Kourtney (Geoff Rivers), Mychal-Ann (Mathew Pym) and Jeremy. Adoring Grandpa to his precious Grandchildren, Mackenzie, Eddie, Emma, Hadley and Penelope. He also leaves behind his sister-in-law, Laura McArthur (Larry Epworth deceased). Paul grew up in Woodbridge, Ontario where he had a wonderful childhood surrounded by his large, close-knit family - parents Edwin & Orma Hayhoe (deceased), siblings Dennis (Glenna deceased) (Thomasina deceased), Ralph & Sandra, Joy Carr (Arthur deceased), Elaine and Mo Thomson, Bernie & Susan, plus many uncles & aunts, cousins and second cousins. Paul had a large extended family of nephews and nieces, all of whom he loved dearly and prayed for daily.

After graduating from the University of Guelph Paul worked for Oakdale Golf & Country Club in Toronto and then at Foxwood Golf Course in Baden. He later owned and operated York. Landscaping in Woodbridge before moving to Glen Morris. From 1987 he owned and operated. AAA Equipment Rentals & Sales in Cambridge. After he retired from his business he very much enjoyed working part time for Battlefield Equipment in Cambridge until his health declined. Paul will be dearly missed by Dayle and his family and friends, but we take great comfort in God's Word and His precious assurance that "whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved" Romans 10:13 We know that Paul is now "absent from the body and present with the Lord" 2 Cor 5:8.

Funeral service was held at Dwayne D. Budgell Funeral Home, Paris, Ontario

CLASSIFIEDS

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

COMING EVENTS

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

ANNUIVERSARY 5

PARIS BEER CO. CELEBRATING 5 YEARS

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2025

TUES DAYS

HAPPY TUESDAYS
Happy Hour all day long with \$7 pints & food specials

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LIVE MUSIC IN THE TAPROOM
7-9pm, check website for who's playing

WED THRU FRI

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

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