

The Paris Independent

Issue #261

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

FREE

weewatch

Quality Licensed Child Care, Close to Home.

- ✓ Reduced Parent fees - more affordable
- ✓ Educational Programming
- ✓ Experienced Providers

Secure September Spaces Now

519-758-2703 | www.weewatch.com



Sanderson Centre Presents

Artists in Conversation
Paul Hoffert

October 13, 2026 | 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$48.00

Tickets available at sandersoncentre.ca or call 519.758.8090



Questions about selling?
Get expert advice



Alex Faux
REAL ESTATE BROKER
(519)802-6709 DIRECT
alexfaux.ca



exp
REALTY BROKERAGE
RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - INVESTMENT



PARIS HISTORY RINGS AGAIN

A piece of Paris history has come home. The historic Paris High School bell was officially unveiled at Queensview Retirement Community on Sept. 8, returning to the site where it once rang for generations of local students. The bell was saved after the school closed in 1923 and preserved for decades by Murray Taylor and his daughter, Jean Cline. Pictured from left are Carey Cline; Kevin Pidgeon, president of Queensview Retirement; County of Brant Mayor David Bailey; Brooke Emerson of 214 Carson Construction; and Sharon Morton from the Paris Museum and Historical Society. Special recognition to Brandon of Unrivaled Roofing and Masonry, who completed the construction and masonry work for the bell's new home and the Paris Museum & Historical Society for their assistance in bringing the relocation project to life.

Time capsule buried in Downtown Paris

MEDIA RELEASE

On Sept. 10, County of Brant Mayor David Bailey, local students and representatives from Navacon Construction buried a time capsule

at Cobblestone Common in downtown Paris, marking another milestone as this phase of the Downtown Dig nears completion.

The time capsule captures a snapshot of our community in 2026 and includes messages

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Paris' next major construction project to begin next month

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Paris residents will have an opportunity next week to learn more about, and voice their concerns over, the next major infrastructure project slated for the community, as the County of Brant prepares to begin work on West River Street and Broadway Street West this fall.

The County will host a public information open house on Monday, Sept. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. at County of Brant council chambers, 7 Broadway St. W.

The drop-in event will give residents an opportunity to review project information and speak directly with members of the project team about the planned reconstruction, including construction timing, traffic impacts and access during the work.

The \$8.81-million project will replace and upgrade aging underground infrastructure along Broadway Street West and West River Street, including wastewater and stormwater services, while adding a new watermain and reconstructing the roadway.

A multi-use path will also be constructed along the corridor, creating dedicated space for pedestrians, cyclists and other forms of active transportation where no dedicated pedestrian facilities currently exist.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Sandra Etherington
Real Estate Broker

Selling Paris, Brant, Oxford County
& Brantford Real Estate
519-754-5217
sandra.etherington@century21.ca

You can count on my 35 years of
experience in Real Estate sales.

CENTURY 21
Heritage House Ltd.



THANK-YOU PARIS!

Horsfall's
Garage

Proudly Serving Paris & Area for the past 40 years

50 Curtis Ave N, Paris
519-442-4422

Hours:
Monday - Friday
8 am - 5 pm

County dashboard tracks progress on major projects across Brant

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant has provided its latest snapshot of major projects underway across the municipality, highlighting progress on everything from parks and road reconstruction to fire facilities, wastewater infrastructure and long-term growth planning.

The September Major Project Dashboard was presented to the Policy Development Committee on Sept. 1. Developed by the County's Corporate Initiatives team, the dashboard is updated quarterly and provides council with high-level information on major strategic projects, including their status, upcoming milestones and budget outlook.

For Paris residents, the dashboard contains updates on several projects that are either under construction or expected to move forward over the coming months.

Among them is the Arlington Subdivision Community Park and Splashpad at 7 Becker St. Construction on the 5.2-acre park began last November and grading issues have since been resolved and fencing installed. Playground, paving and concrete work is expected to be completed by late fall, while the ball diamond is scheduled to be seeded this month. The overall park is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2027 and remains anticipated to be on budget.

Meanwhile, the proposed Brant Sports Complex expansion continues through the design process. The project would add approximately 53,000 square feet to the existing facility, including additional dressing rooms, gymnasium space and multi-purpose areas.

A request for pre-qualification of contractors was issued in August, with submissions under review by staff and consultants. The County has also applied for federal funding through the Build Communities Strong Fund and is pursuing provincial funding. The project is currently identified as anticipated over budget, with an expected completion date in 2028.

Work is also moving forward on Deer Ridge Park in the Nith subdivision. The first phase is expected to go to tender this year, with construction anticipated to be completed by the second quarter of 2027, weather permitting.

Several major infrastructure projects in Paris are also progressing.

The Downtown Dig remains on track for an estimated October completion for this year's construction. The current phase includes Grand River Street North south of Charlotte Street to Mechanic Street, the Grand River Street North and William Street intersection, and William Street from the bridge to just west of Grand River Street North. Additional work on Mechanic Street, Broadway Street West and Wil-

liam Street is planned between 2028 and 2030. The project is anticipated to remain on budget.

Elsewhere, reconstruction of Main and Dumfries streets is approximately 99 per cent complete. Minor deficiency corrections remain underway, with completion expected in the fourth quarter of this year.

Construction also continues on the Dundas Street East, Paris Road and Oak Park Road servicing and reconstruction project. The next stage includes work on the north side of Dundas Street East, storm sewer installation, curbs, sidewalks and paving, along with completion of the Paris Road-Dundas Street intersection and a sanitary sewer tunnel bore beneath the CN bridge. Surface asphalt, sidewalks and other finishing work are expected to continue into 2027.

Farther north, the next phase of Grand River Street North reconstruction, between the Watts Pond Road area and north of Silver Street, includes four roundabouts, widening to four lanes, a multi-use path and new sidewalk. The construction tender was awarded earlier this year, with construction scheduled to begin in the third quarter of 2026.

Planning is also getting underway for the Paris East Secondary Plan, which will address future development in the area, including traffic, servicing, stormwater, road networks, urban design and land uses. Dillon Consulting Ltd. has been awarded the contract, with the project beginning this month and expected to continue through 2027.

Another longer-term initiative is an update to the Paris Master Servicing Plan, which will examine infrastructure requirements to accommodate anticipated growth through 2051. A shortlist of consultants has been completed, with a request for proposals identified as the next step.

The County is also advancing its Paris Downtown Flood Mitigation Strategy. Detailed design for flood protection works on the east side of the Nith River has reached approximately 90 per cent, while environmental assessment work continues for a proposed flood wall along the west side of the Grand River behind downtown buildings. Public consultation has been placed on hold to avoid confusion with the ongoing Downtown Dig, with an open house planned for 2027.

Construction of the new North Paris fire station is also underway following the award of the construction contract to Lanca Construction in September 2025. The facility is intended to improve emergency response times and reduce call volume at the existing Paris station, while allowing for future full-time firefighters and EMS accommodations. Completion is currently expected by the end of April 2027, with the project anticipated to remain on budget.

Not every project is proceeding without

Young voices preserved for future generations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from local students sharing their hopes, ideas and questions for future generations.

"Thank you to all of the students who participated by sharing their hopes for the future in the time capsule," said County of Brant Mayor David Bailey. "Many years from now, I know there will be a lot of excitement when this capsule is opened, and our future residents get to see what children from 2026 had to say about the community and the world they hoped to see."

The time capsule project began in June, when Grade 5 and 6 classrooms

at Paris-area schools were invited to contribute messages and questions for the future. Their submissions provide a unique glimpse into what young people are thinking about today and what they imagine life in the County of Brant may look like years from now. A permanent sidewalk marker has been installed at Cobblestone Common to identify the location of the time capsule for future generations.

The installation comes as the County enters the final stages of the Downtown Dig (Grand River Street North phase), with completion expected in October 2026. An official opening date will be shared once confirmed.



(COUNTY OF BRANT PHOTO)

Pictured with County of Brant Mayor David Bailey are North Ward School students Ben and Olivia Turnbull.



challenges. The dashboard lists both the Brant Sports Complex expansion and the Noise By-law Review as anticipated to be over budget.

The latter included a noise study conducted at Paris Drinks Fest in August, with results expected to help inform a revised bylaw scheduled to come before committee later this year.

The dashboard also identifies several

projects completed since its previous May update, including the Parks Master Plan, Community Forestry Strategy and a progress update and next-steps report for the Downtown Paris Master Plan.

County staff said the dashboard is intended to provide a snapshot rather than exhaustive details on each project. It is available through the council portal and the County's Projects, Plans and Reports webpage.

Culture Days to bring art, fashion and family fun across Brant

RUBY JONES

Cultural Correspondent

Culture Days returns this fall, bringing several weeks of arts, culture and heritage programming to communities across the country. For the second consecutive year, Brant has been named an official Ontario Culture Days hub, recognizing the community as a destination for exceptional local programming and giving residents and visitors access to a variety of free and pay-what-you-can events, workshops and cultural experiences.

The festivities will start on Friday, Sept. 18 and run until Sunday, Oct. 4, offering fashion events, literary meet ups, arty activities, pop-up exhibitions and more.

Paris is bursting with opportunities for cultural creativity. Check out The Grand Gallery's series of eight solo exhibitions, each for a day or two, kicking off the County of Brant Culture Days season on Friday, Sept. 18. Dierdre Ann Photography will showcase her exhibition and there will be opportunities to meet the artists, enjoy conversation and engage with interactive artworks.

Local arts organization Brant Art Matters will present a free workshop on Saturday, Sept. 26 at St. Paul's United Church, where professional local artists will share tips and insights to help artists become successful and sustainable vendors at art markets.

The Other Paris Fashion Week also returns for its third annual celebration on Saturday, Oct. 3 at the For Paris Centre. The evening gala will feature a runway show, wearable art exhibition and artisan showcase.

Burford, Mount Pleasant, Glen Morris and St George all have a great things happening too. 'What's The Texture of Your Town' is an interactive and exploratory event taking place in Glen Morris. Instead of mapping Glen Morris by streets or landmarks, participants will map their experience through texture and artistic capture on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 3rd.

Burford is home to a ground breaking Geocache event called Fall Fest 2026, held from Sept. 23rd to Sept. 27th. Attendees can expect a packed schedule featuring geocaching adventures for all skill levels, family-friendly activities, themed events, trackable trading, photo opportunities, and chances to meet fellow geocachers from all walks of life.

Over in Mount Pleasant, visitors can enjoy a doubleheader of Culture Days activities on Oct. 3, starting with Brant Railway Heritage Day followed by Nature Trails and Tails at Mount Pleasant Nature Park. Spend the afternoon birdwatching, exploring colourful art installations by Patti Gallant and taking part in an interactive storybook walk designed for all ages. Registration is encouraged to reserve a bird



(SARA EVANS PHOTO)

Meggie McEwen and Jennifer Hogan take part in the 2025 Other Paris Fashion Week. The popular fashion event returns for its third year on Saturday, Oct. 3 as part of Brant Culture Days, featuring a runway show, wearable art exhibition and artisan showcase at the For Paris Centre.

feeder, but drop-ins are welcome to enjoy the activities and an afternoon outdoors.

St George is hosting a number of cool cultural events this year, including the Brant Culture Days 'Hub Day' during the annual Applefest celebrations on Sept. 19-20, with live entertainment, hands-on activities, and the chance to learn about all the wonderful

free programs and events happening in the County throughout Culture Days. This dynamic three weeks is a great opportunity to explore your town and County, to connect with like minded folks and neighbours, and to engage in the arts, culture and heritage in our own backyard and community. Find out more on CultureDays.ca



Sept 18 - Oct 4, 2026

Free Arts, Events & More!

Culture Days is a national celebration of arts, culture and creativity, running from September 18 to October 4, 2026.

Celebrate the **Kick-Off to Culture Days** at St. George Apple Fest on September 19 and 20! Culture Days performances will take place from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm.

To learn more or find event details visit brant.ca/CultureDays

County of Brant Simply Grand

#GoodTimesinBrant

SCAN ME

brant.ca/CultureDays



Branch 29
Paris



1926 - 2026

**100 Years of History.
Come Celebrate
With Us.**

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

*Stitches, Strength and Steel,
Holding the Line at Home*

Explore historical displays and learn how Paris women contributed during WWII.
Free entry. Donations accepted

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
TO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1
10 AM TO 7 PM**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2
10 AM TO 6 PM**

MEET & GREET

Meet the Executive. Discover the Legion.

Learn about the Legion's programs, services, leagues, and the many ways it gives back to our community.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
1 PM TO 4 PM**

**AN EVENING OF
LIVE BLUES**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 • 7-10 PM

Featuring
**JUNO AWARD RECIPIENT
CHUCK JACKSON**
and acclaimed blues singer
CHERYL LESCOM

\$20 PER TICKET

*Tickets Available at the
PARIS LEGION BAR
70 WILLIAM ST., PARIS*

LEGION IS OPEN TUESDAY - FRIDAY. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BAR.

Ward 1 Candidate Q&A: Ward 1 candidates answer questions from Paris Independent readers

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

All certified ward 1 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 2.

DENISE LOUISE DYMENT



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

I support growth in our Brant County. Development needs to be planned, phased and matched to infrastructure, transportation, schools, recreation, emergency services and the financial capacity of the Municipality. I find myself aligning with the County's newly approved Official Plan. Highlights call for managed, phased and sustainable development. Infrastructure that leads growth, fiscal responsibility and housing diversity that would protect our County's unique traditional attributes is the desired direction.

By 2051, the projected population of the 'Plan' is 59,000 with 26,000 job opportunities. This should only be a guideline. The future pace and development should always be aligned with infrastructure delivery and fiscal sustainability.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris rep-

resents 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.

I believe that the potential is very positive but the quality and scale of the development should enhance the existing heritage character of Paris. The benefits include more residents, economic growth, greater vitality downtown, additional diversified housing, efficient infrastructure, increased tax revenue and together it reinforces Paris as an attractive destination. Challenges are traffic/parking, infrastructure pressures, impacts on historical character, construction disruption, pressure on municipal services, affordability concerns, gentrification/ displacement and the loss of development balance.

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

Yes, I would support a County-owned indoor pool. The answer is to create an affordable aquatic facility that the County can sustainably operate for decades while providing equitable access to residents across Paris, St. George, Burford and the rural parts of the County. Exercise, in the form of aquatics is so important, especially for our aging population. For the interim, I would first propose improved affordable access and transportation to the Brantford Gretzky Centre while commissioning for a County indoor aquatic space.

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?

Having worked for Brantford City Transit, I can personally attest to the overall importance alternate transportation is for many. County wide public transit is a worthwhile investment for Brant. The most economical solution would be to evolve Brant Transit into a rural transit network. The pilot would be to schedule buses on the strongest corridors, supplemented by on-demand service in the lower density areas. Paris would be the County's principal transit hub with community connections that hook up with Brantford Transit.

Provincial and Federal funding should be pursued aggressively. Ontario's Dedicated Gas Tax program provides Municipalities with transit ongoing funding. The Canada Public Transit Fund now provides longer term transit infrastructure funding. Council would also establish a dedicated annual transit budget but should in good faith put a ceiling on the tax-supported subsidy.

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

Transit that would meet Brant County needs are as follows: more frequent and flexible service, same-day and short notice bookings, more predictable pickup times, better connections into Brantford, fixed routes in high demand areas, more service to rural communities, affordable fares/passes, improved accessibility, better integration with other transportation, more stop/pickup passenger infrastructure and of course public feedback. Transit should be a realistic option for people who work, go to school, attend appointments and/or participate in community activities/sports.

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?

First of all, given that the process is currently paused, I would use this time to renegotiate the terms. The agricultural lands surrounding the airport with the inclusion of some homes/ businesses should be protected against development that is not strictly related to the airport. Land transferred should be completed on a as needed basis and only for the airport's operation and related employment uses. Agricultural and environmentally sensitive lands should permanently be protected against development. Our County should be compensated for land use. The agreement should outline clear responsibilities for infrastructure and services going forward and make all terms legally enforceable.

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?

In 1989 I was hired onto the Hamilton Wentworth Regional Police Services as a police constable. I applied for the position of Community Services Officer in 1997. At the time, I did not understand the enormity of the tasked region, the diversity within the area and the overwhelming lack of police/community involvement. My responsibilities were three-fold; attend community events, provide Police education in the area schools and Neighbourhood Watch. The community events and school presentations were straight forward. Neighbourhood Watch was non-existent. I started by holding very large Community meetings between 100-150 in attendance. I explained the program and separated the participants into residential areas.

Each were given a list of positions to fill. I collected the lists and then made home visits to all the appointed coordinators. From here we developed ideas to set up boundaries for each area, mail outs to educate about the program and contact information to become a member.

Neighbourhood Watch areas popped up all over Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough and Waterdown. The focus of my attention was opening the lines of communication between the police and the public. After my four-year term, 134 Neighbourhood Watch programs were actively committed. Crime rates lowered because the community worked in conjunction with the police.

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?

I believe we need to understand the potential impacts before approving major developments that could place significant demands on our water supply, electricity grid and local infrastructure. A one-year pause is not rejecting technology. There will be enough time in the future for technology takeover. Let's get this right the first time. Investment in Brant County means taking the time to obtain independent technical studies by consulting experts and County residents. We need to establish what our County requirements at present are for water consumption, energy use, noise, emissions, emergency planning and environmental protection. What will the cost be for our communities? Caution, transparency and proper studies are the responsible approach.

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?

This is a very in-depth question. Approaching this as a newly appointed Council member, I would treat the L.T.F.P. as a decision-making tool. Whatever decisions we make today, will change the County's financial capacity and residents' tax burden over the next decade or two. Any major financial decision that is going to impact the entire County far into the future would benefit by following a 'template' or 'priority list.' We can never forget or neglect underlying costs. A proposal to consider a 10-million-dollar aquatic facility. The question isn't can we afford \$10,000,000 construction cost. The reality includes annual operating budgets, staffing, maintenance, insurance, utilities and renewal costs.

My educational background did not include in-depth financial operations. Council would definitely benefit from a presentation detailing the aspects of Long-Term Financial Planning given by either the Treasurer or CAO. Knowledge is power. Understanding financials for County's future should be the responsibility of both the Council members and the treasurer.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

MARY-JANE BROWN

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

Population is expected to reach 59,000 by 2051. Growth is a necessity for any community and Brant is considered a high growth area in Ontario. This pace of growth can be acceptable provided there is a balanced approach between residential housing and commercial/industrial development. Often municipalities approve residential growth at a pace exceeding that for industrial, resulting in bedroom communities.

Factors to consider when approving development are the percentage of jobs available to residences proposed, condition of roads near development, services available, and impacts on surrounding areas. The current Cainsville Employment Hub Strategy proposes to increase the job density from 15 to 30 jobs/hectare resulting in 7,600 jobs in the Cainsville area. I am supportive of the current and projected growth development as long as all these factors are appropriately addressed and the preservation of farmland occurs. The growth needs to occur in developed areas, minimizing settlement sprawl.

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

Potential benefits include more residents, thus increasing the tax base for services, more customers for the downtown businesses, various opportunities for small and unique businesses to start up to meet the needs of these new residents. I have not determined if some units will be considered affordable to lower income residents or offered as seniors' housing as potential benefits. If developers make use of new building techniques like modular construction, the process can be completed in a

timely fashion, thus minimizing disruption to downtown Paris.

Potential challenges include increased traffic, congestion, and parking limitations. It must be ensured that the marketing of this development to potential owners or tenants will consider the parking needs on a per unit basis. There will be further demands for services – garbage pickup and snow removal. Currently, no grocery store is available to the increased residents downtown. There will be a need for one to promote more pedestrian traffic as the closest ones are generally too far to walk.

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 would support the development of a public swimming pool. Brant can collaborate and partner with a regional YMCA to establish a new swimming facility. Consider Brantford's cost sharing with Wilfrid Laurier University which has been successful in establishing a YMCA. Within Brant there is a Community Partnership Policy in place which can be explored to possibly assist in bringing a new pool to the County. The Regional YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington Brantford is not currently listed as a Community Partner of Brant County. In the Engage Brant Parks & Rec Engagement Summary of 2023, an indoor pool was one of the top 5 desired amenities found in the 1100 responses. However, in collecting public input, it was clearly identified that an indoor pool was not an option for the expansion of the Sports Complex. The proposed expansion should not proceed without addressing the key demand of the residents. Perhaps other options should be explored. For example, can some of the proposed flooring areas in the new expansion be considered for a pool.

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?

My focus is to ensure that projects adopted meet most residents' needs in a cost-effective manner. In considering the KW-Cambridge area, public transit is only used for 5.3% of all daily trips. The use of personal vehicles in Brant County area is the primary means of transportation. Establishing a public transit system within the County would be very costly and may not address the needs of the majority of residents. Consistent with my response to question 5, I would support expansion of Brant Transit as detailed there. Currently, the County is partnering with Brantford Transit to pilot a service for employment areas near Paris.

As the County grows, there may be further demand for a transit system. Partner-

ing opportunities with Brantford to offer fixed bus routes and potential cost sharing could be examined. Partnering with the Province to expand GO services can also be explored. A Business Case can be proposed followed with a cost-benefit analysis then put to the electorate for a vote before committing to a County wide transit system.

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

A public engagement initiative was undertaken to determine if changes/improvements were needed by the County from March 31 to May 2 2025. However, only 112 responses were obtained in the survey and only 190 people responded to a poll asking for recommendations. From that study, the primary wants were more wheelchair vans, ease of booking, and regularity of scheduling.

However, 63% of the respondents indicated that they have rarely or never used this service. This is a small sample to make a decision on. I would support expanding the service to include more accessible vehicles, along with improvements to the booking app, and possibly an expansion of the service should data support there is a need. In the 2024 Transit User Data, it was found that 91% of the rides provided met the rider's needs. Unless a poll is conducted where respondents indicate significant dissatisfaction with the current service, major changes to existing service is not warranted.

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?

The specific outcome I would work towards is to ensure that the minimal amount of agricultural land (only marginal if possible) is included. Key concerns I would address include ensuring that there is significant demand for this airport expansion. This proposal has mainly been driven the Brantford's Economic Strategy.

While I understand that the proposal is mainly to provide services for smaller private planes, rather than larger passenger terminals, I question whether the land attached to the airport is insufficient to allow this expansion. Only if the existing land base will not support the proposed design expansion, will I consider that neighbouring agricultural lands be included in the project. Given that Brantford is situated roughly halfway between Hamilton and London, where full-service airports exist, it must be determined if there is a need to expand into the neighbouring land base. Detailed market data must be gathered to support this project.

When I attended a meeting in June, I was shown that the runway needed to be lengthened into an agricultural area. Since the proposal is not to accept larger planes,

the need for a longer runway must be examined in addition to an expansion of servicing for repairs, training, and medical transport.

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?

When I operated my accounting practice, I also worked in the educational program of the legacy CGA program before merging into CPA which is a large national and complex organization comprised of many diverse members. As part of this, at least twice per year, Professional Application Exam sessions occurred in Vancouver where I attended first as an assessor, then as a Team Lead Assessor, and ultimately as Examiner. Professional accountants from many different provinces across Canada were assembled in these sessions into teams where each team was assigned to assess a portion of the exam individually. With this process, many individuals brought their own views and perspectives into the assessing process.

As a Team Lead, the strategy was to develop consensus within the teams so that a consistent standard could be applied to that question. This required skills in negotiation, team building, and respect for divergent views. As Examiner, I managed a large team of assessors and staff from the Association to complete the process professionally and efficiently. For 14 years, I developed the skills of management, team building, and motivating others.

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?

I would be willing to propose a motion for imposing a one-year moratorium on AI data centers. I don't believe that such a large amount of resources should be devoted to a data center when they should be primarily allocated to existing businesses and residents. Because these centers can deplete water supply greatly, there can be many negative results to the surrounding area. Since my focus is to support agriculture which contributes over \$50 billion to Ontario's GDP and provides approximately 1 in 9 jobs, these centers should not occur in farming areas.

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 LTFP is needed to address capital infrastructure and financing along with operating costs to support growth. Essentially 2 years have passed since it was first drafted and many risk factors have changed.

I would use the plan as a guide to ensure

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

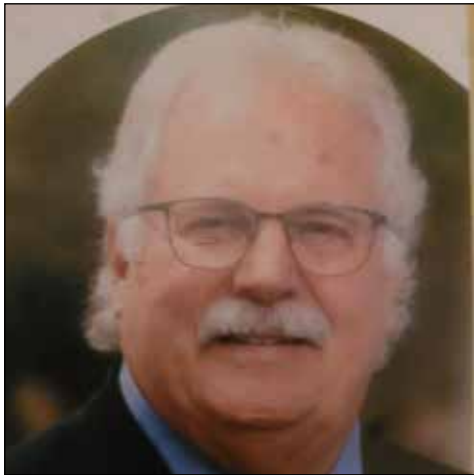
Local news. Community stories. Delivered right to your inbox.
Subscribe today at www.granthaven.com/paris-independent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

that the tax rate increases do not exceed which has been forecast in that plan. As of 2025, a special levy of 1% has been added to the property taxes for the new hospital. It is worth noting that the total operating expenditures from the 2024 audited financial statements indicate an 8.7% increase from what was budgeted. In the LTFP, operating expenditure was forecasted to increase by 9.9% in 2025.

It will be valuable to compare what the actual results for 2025 are compared to the original LTFP and related budget. The LTFP is a tool to be used to ensure that the actual costs of tax supported services do not exceed the percentage increases forecast at 4.5% per year from 2025 to 2034.

STEVE SCHMITT



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?

There are many diversities in the County of Brant. Because of this, current and projected development differs greatly. Growth of any kind needs in-depth planning for each phase in each part of the County. Growth comes with financial costs, and each individual part of the County, whether it's agricultural lands, residential villages, or commercial areas, will have different needs and goals for expected growth. Each requires in-depth studies to demonstrate the viability, potential concerns, and financial costs before any growth should occur. Viable agricultural lands need protection. Land use must be strategized and prioritized very carefully. Especially those abutting all settlement and municipal areas.

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.

Downtown Paris needs to be kept viable, but it also needs to retain its historic value and character. There are many reasons and dividing factors in this development. Two of the most glaring are parking and a safe flow of traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular. Any further development should take into consideration what currently exists and how future development benefits the historic value that the street scape has while recognizing the need for residential

growth. Old and new can be made to complement each other. All long-range planning should take this into consideration.

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?

An indoor pool facility would greatly benefit the County. Again, a costly item to build and maintain. Where would be the best location so that it is central for the County as a whole? Does the cost determine the immediate need or is it a long-range planning item? A hard and serious look fiscally, to see if this can happen in the near future. Partnerships would need to be explored, along with possible funding grants. At this time, it does not appear to be an immediate possibility.

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 population grows, transportation becomes more needful. However, I don't think a public transit system is something that the County of Brant could financially sustain. I believe it is something that would require investment from neighbouring municipalities as well as potential input from the Provincial and Federal governments. We have, I believe, the basic system with Brant Transit. The need to improve and enlarge that service is going to become more important.

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

We need to look closely as to who is using the Brant Transit service. Are there possible improvements for efficiencies in reliability, hours of operation and rider satisfaction? Is the system working as expected? As this is the only current public transportation system for County of Brant residents we need to ensure that it is operating as best as it can so that the needs of residents, who rely on the service for employment, educational, medical and recreational are met.

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

I would strive for an outcome that is fair to the County and its people. Especially those directly involved in land ownership. I am pleased that the boundary negotiations were paused so that more time can be given to such an important decision. It is my hope that when these negotiations resume, both the County and the City will let cooler heads prevail, and give more thought to the lives and livelihoods of those close to or directly involved with the boundary adjustment. These negotiations need to be taken slowly. Once the land is gone it cannot come back.

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?

I have served numerous consecutive terms as councillor for the Township of South Dumfries and eight years as a County of Brant Councillor for Ward 1. I have served on numerous committees both as a Councillor, a rate payer and a community volunteer. My contributions were sometimes as a leader, sometimes as a listener, and sometimes as a motivator. I want to believe that in most cases the result was positive and resulted in successful outcomes.

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?

I believe that with this process and the uncertainty about the services needed to cover such centres, a one year moratorium is fair. There is much to learn and numerous issues to thoroughly understand before we reach a decision. Not enough is known about the impacts on water, energy, pollution and noise. We must be responsible for the people of the County of Brant before making a decision of this magnitude.

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?

There are and will be many new priorities in the new term of Council with this Long-Term Financial Plan. Will this plan continue to work given these new priorities and the potential for many new players at the table? That is yet to be decided. This question in itself brings up many concerns at to the long-term affordability of services for County residents. They are the people who have entrusted the members of Council to be responsible and use their tax dollars in the most financially responsible manner.

MIKE PETRELLA



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

I believe the County has experienced

too much growth too quickly, particularly in Paris and soon to be in the surrounding area. Growth itself is not the problem, but uncontrolled growth can place enormous pressure on infrastructure, services, and taxpayers.

Before approving future development, Council must ensure that roads, water, wastewater, emergency services and recreational facilities can support the additional population. We must also ask who is paying for that growth. Existing residents should not be expected to subsidize new development through continually increasing property taxes.

I support responsible and sustainable growth, but development must proceed at a pace the community can realistically absorb. Council must also listen more carefully to residents who are concerned about losing the character and quality of life.

Growth should pay for growth. Careful planning and fiscal responsibility must come before simply approving more development. Also, I believe most residence have little issues with low density housing and big issues with the high-density model.

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 could bring benefits, including new customers for local businesses and additional housing opportunities. However, Council must carefully consider whether the potential benefits outweigh the costs and impacts.

Downtown Paris is one of the County's most valuable assets. Its heritage, character and small-town atmosphere cannot be replaced once they are lost. Significant development will also create new pressures on traffic, parking, infrastructure and municipal services.

My concern is that taxpayers should not be left paying for infrastructure upgrades or other costs created by private development. Before approving projects of this scale, Council must clearly understand the financial impact and ensure developers are contributing their fair share.

I support investment and revitalization, but not development at any cost. Growth must complement the community, respect its character and make financial sense for the people already living here.

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?

Public swimming facilities can be valuable, but pools are extremely expensive to build, operate and maintain, while also creating significant liability and long-term costs for taxpayers. Council must carefully consider whether the demand justifies the ongoing expense.

I believe splash pads offer a more affordable alternative, providing recreation for families with significantly lower operating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

costs and liability. My priority would be ensuring residents have access to quality recreational opportunities while being responsible with taxpayer dollars. We should always look for practical solutions that deliver the greatest benefit at the lowest long-term cost. The current splash pad in St. George I believe does this well.

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?

Transportation is important, particularly for seniors, students and residents without access to a vehicle. However, the County must be realistic about the cost of operating traditional public transit across a large rural municipality.

Before creating an expensive new system, I would want to see clear evidence of demand, projected ridership and a complete accounting of both capital and long-term operating costs. We cannot continue creating new services without considering how they will be paid for year after year.

Due to the unique geography of the County this may be a matter best left to the private sector.

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

Before expanding Brant Transit, I believe Council should focus on making the existing service as efficient and effective as possible.

We need to understand where demand exists, where service gaps occur and whether taxpayers are receiving good value for the money invested. Decisions about expansion should be based on ridership and demonstrated community needs—not simply the assumption that bigger government services are always better.

I would support improvements that make the system easier to use, more reliable and better suited to recurring needs such as employment, education and medical appointments. I would also encourage regular reviews of costs, ridership and customer feedback.

My approach to spending tax payer money will always be practical: improve what works, correct what does not and avoid creating unnecessary long-term expenses. Public transportation has an important role, but every taxpayer-funded service must be regularly evaluated to ensure it remains efficient, necessary and affordable.

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 would be straightforward: I would not support any agreement until it is clearly demonstrated that it protects the long-term interests of County of Brant residents.

Before transferring County lands, Council must understand the complete financial implications. What future assessment of revenue or development op-

portunities could the County lose? Who will be responsible for future infrastructure costs? How will agricultural lands and surrounding communities be affected?

I would also want complete transparency regarding what the County receives in return. Cooperation between municipalities is important, but County Council has a responsibility to protect its own taxpayers and assets.

Once land is transferred, the decision may be impossible to reverse. For that reason, Council must proceed carefully and negotiate from a position that protects County residents.

Any agreement with Brantford must be fair, financially responsible and provide a clear long-term benefit to the County of Brant.

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?

I have been fortunate enough in my professional career to work with some extraordinary people over many different business ventures. In most cases multiple parties can win and better their positions when logical minds get together, and greed can be discouraged. I believe one of my strengths is the ability to remain independent while still working cooperatively with others. Agreement does not require abandoning your principles, and disagreement does not have to prevent progress.

My role in one form or another has always been the person who gets pen to paper and finishes the job.

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

Yes, I would support a temporary moratorium on approving artificial intelligence data centres until their full impact is properly understood.

This is not about opposing technology or investment. It is about responsible government. Before approving developments that could place significant demands on water, electricity and infrastructure, Council has a responsibility to understand both the benefits and the potential costs.

Residents also deserve answers regarding noise, environmental impacts and whether taxpayers could eventually be required to fund infrastructure upgrades necessary to support these facilities.

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

The Long-Term Financial Plan should be one of the most important tools guiding Council's decisions. Every new project, service or priority eventually has to be paid for, and taxpayers deserve a Council that considers the long-term consequences of every dollar it spends.

Before supporting a major investment, I would ask: Is it necessary? Can we afford it? What will it cost to operate and main-

tain? Are there less expensive alternatives? And are taxpayers receiving real value?

I believe governments must exercise the same financial discipline expected of families and businesses. We cannot continually add services, facilities and staff while expecting property taxes to remain affordable.

My priorities would be maintaining essential infrastructure, controlling unnecessary spending, limiting debt, and ensuring growth pays for growth.

A good deal of the current financial stress felt by many is not the fault of municipal council, however it would be our job to make sure we aren't adding to that stress.

JOHN KEMP



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?

Current and projected growth in the County of Brant has been predominantly dictated by the province. I believe that the previous Council has struggled with this and done a fair job of reconciling the issues for present and future development. We need to carefully consider how we balance future expansion of farmland versus urban areas on an ongoing and case by case basis.

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 developments within a town core or city are common; they can add to the character of the community. They can provide benefits to business owners and residences. They can also provide challenges regarding the best use of space whether that be business or residential. Those decisions need to be carefully considered in every instance, and I will continue to do so.

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?

Swimming facilities in the county of Brant need to be supported by public need. I have not yet seen a study indicating the demand nor have I seen a study indicat-

ing the cost of such facility or proposal for where it might be located when such reports are available, I will certainly consider them thoroughly. Swimming as a valuable physical activity for all ages, particularly valuable in the winter when other activities are less available.

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 within the County of Brant could be improved. I have received complaints from several residents. I have not personally used the service. I do intend to look into this more thoroughly. If the county were to advance the service, it would have to be carefully evaluated in terms of funding and available options.

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

I cannot comment on what improvements to make to transit until I study the issue.

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?

Proposed boundary adjustment in the City of Brantford regarding the airport is something I haven't studied carefully. It's not in my ward - so that it's not on my 'top priority' list. I have been somewhat disappointed in how the process has progressed. That's my only contribution currently is regarding the process, not regarding the actual boundaries.

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?

I established the Giant Hogweed Mitigation Project as an organization to coordinate the various land managers, land owners, and land users around the Grand River to minimize the human hazards caused by giant hogweed. In that capacity we have representations from 14 stakeholders organizations, six municipalities, and attempt to; educate the public, assist Landowners, and reduce the number of giant hogweed plants.

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?

If elected to Brant County Council, I will carefully consider the artificial intelligence Data Centre proposed moratorium. There are many faces to this issue: infrastructure required to provide the power, and one water that may or may not be used for cooling systems - but the driving force is whether or not the community of Brant will benefit from that. There may be better opportunities to use Brant County funding and talent.

The County has adopted a Long-Term

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Council approves zoning for 256-bed long-term care home in north Paris

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Plans for a new 256-bed long-term care home in north Paris have cleared a key planning hurdle, with County of Brant council approving zoning changes for the Park Lane Terrace property.

Council approved the zoning bylaw amendment for 295 Grand River St. N. at its Sept. 8 meeting, three months after the proposal was first presented during a statutory public meeting. The 12.6-hectare, or 31.1-acre, property is owned by Omni Quality Living and currently contains the Park Lane Terrace long-term care home.

The amendment establishes the land-use permissions needed for a proposed five-storey, 256-bed long-term care facility fronting Ann Wilson Way. Detailed matters including the building layout, traffic, parking, lighting, servicing and engineering will still be reviewed through a future site plan control application.

The approval also sets the zoning framework for eventual redevelopment of the balance of the property, allowing a mix of residential, commercial and institutional uses. When the proposal came before council in June, much of the discussion centred not on the long-term care home itself, but on what future development could mean for neighbouring residents. Residents raised concerns about density, traffic, building heights and development behind existing homes on Bradbury Crescent and surrounding streets.

At that meeting, County senior planner Ryan Cummins stressed that development of the remaining lands would require additional planning applications, studies and approvals and could take several years.

The zoning approved this month allows the Grand River Street North frontage to eventually accommodate residential development with commercial uses at grade. Other portions of the property can accommodate a broader range of housing, includ-

ing single-detached, semi-detached, duplex and triplex homes, as well as apartments and mixed-use buildings with ground-floor commercial space.

County planning staff said including lower-density housing options is particularly appropriate along the southern portion of the property, where the site meets the existing low-density neighbourhood.

A holding provision will remain on those future development lands, meaning additional requirements related to municipal infrastructure, phasing, studies and development agreements must be satisfied before development can proceed.

The existing Park Lane Terrace home will remain on its own parcel. The zoning amendment permits a minimum frontage of 11.8 metres for that property to facilitate its future severance, although a site plan amendment will be required to establish a new entrance configuration.

Transportation and servicing details will continue to be worked out as the project

advances. The County is reconstructing Grand River Street North and Ann Wilson Way between 2026 and 2028, meaning new entrances and servicing will have to be coordinated with that work. The proposed entrance to the new long-term care home will also have to be coordinated with entrances for the new North Paris fire station.

Two letters of objection were received from neighbouring residential property owners during the planning process, raising concerns about potential conflicts between future development and the existing low-density neighbourhood to the south.

Despite those concerns, staff recommended approval, concluding the proposal conforms with the County's Official Plan and is consistent with the 2024 Provincial Planning Statement. Staff said the amendment supports compact development within Paris, makes use of existing infrastructure, provides opportunities for a wider range of housing and facilitates additional long-term care capacity.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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?

Brant Counties long-term financial plan is presently in place, was well de-

veloped, and well considered. I will continue to use that plan while we continue to evaluate its adequacy and its applicability, and make adjustments as required. The importance of this plan is to manage the funding of the county appropriately - to respect and serve the residence of the county.

JOHN MACALPINE

Candidate did not respond as of press deadline.

Support us on
patreon

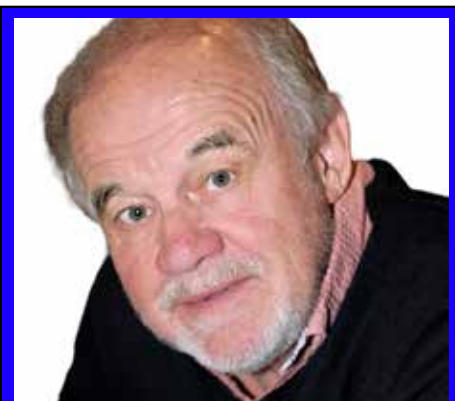
Paid subscriptions available at:

www.patreon.com/TheParisIndependent

Send emails to:

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

LIVING RETIRED: 'Flying Pants'



By Gary Chalk
Non-Pulitzer Prize
Winning Columnist

Living Retired

I looked down at myself. I didn't see pants. All I saw was a plethora of pockets! There were the usual two front pockets. But below those two front pockets were two more, larger pockets. These pockets had zippers. AND, below those pockets down beside my knees were two more pockets — even larger, with more zippers. That was SIX POCKETS just on the front — no wonder I couldn't see my pants! The pockets continued with the usual two back pockets, these had Velcro closures. And, you will never guess what's inside all of these pockets: smaller hidden pockets!

I wasn't buying it. "Jan who is kidding who? I am wearing pockets that are sewn together to make it look like a pair of pants. Don't try to tell me these are pants. These are not pant pants, they are pocket pants."

"Gary, those pants are made specifically for traveling. They are casual, comfortable, and lightweight. They won't crease sleeping on the plane. You look good in them. And besides when we take excursions off the cruise ship you need to have places to put stuff."

I shrugged and put my hands in my pockets. Well, I tried. There are so many pockets I didn't know which pockets to put my hands in. Unfortunately, I started at the two front pockets with Velcro. It was like trying to get my hands into Fort Knox — IMPOSSIBLE. I couldn't rip the Velcro open!

Next, I tried slipping my hands in the pockets with zippers down beside the knees. Guess what? You need both hands AND hold your leg at the right angle AND drop everything in your hands to finagle the zipper open!

I wouldn't give up. Finally, I got my hands in the two front pockets that have no closures. But this is where I realized that these pockets had smaller pockets in them. I didn't like the feel of my hands inside pockets that were inside my pockets. Jan stared at me in disbelief. "Gary, what are you doing with your hands in

your front pockets? You're moving them around — well let's say it you shouldn't be doing what you're doing."

Two hours later Jan and I were at the airport about to go through Security. It's a bottleneck of travellers hoisting carry-on luggage into bins on a moving conveyor belt. Everybody is asking two questions: "Do I have to take my iPad out of my backpack?" and "Do I have to take my shoes off?" This when it happened...

"Please remove everything from your pockets." OMG!

Here is what my pocket pants produced: passport, pen, pencil, paper, paperclip, pills, and pocket lint. I was peed off!

On the other side of the metal detector, I gathered the plethora of pocket paraphernalia into my pocket pants.

Here's the thing: my travel pants have almost as many pockets as my suitcase has zippers. Don't get me started.

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

We met in **PARIS**

for fabulous food,
stunning scenery
and new memories
with an old friend



The prettiest little
town in Canada,
right in the middle
everything



downtownparis.ca



HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: The return of the High School bell



By Chris Whelan

On Tuesday, September 8, 2026, a long-silent piece of Paris history finally found its voice once again. Stones and I had the privilege of attending the "Return of the High School Bell" ceremony at the original site of the first Paris High School on King Street, a property now home to the Queensview Retirement Home.

At 2:00 PM, a crowd gathered to celebrate the restoration and reinstallation of the historic brass bell. Ringing out over the banks of the Nith River for the first time since 1923, its clear chime brought more than a few nostalgic smiles to the faces in attendance.

The site served as a School from 1858 until its closure in 1923, with the bell standing as an enduring symbol of local education and community life. For decades, its distinctive tone called generations of young Parisians to learn, grow, and contribute to our town. Following the high school's closure and the subsequent relocation of students to a new facility, the historic bell was preserved through the foresight and care of Murray Taylor and his daughter, Jean Cline. Recognizing its irreplaceable heritage, they safeguarded the artifact so that future generations could maintain a tangible connection to the town's educational roots.

Thanks to an early history written around 1923 by Franklin Smoke (and preserved by the Paris Museum and Historical Society), we can trace the fascinating evolution of the school that once housed this very bell.

Long before it was known as Paris High School, local secondary education began as the Paris Grammar School. The very first meeting of the Grammar School Board took place on June 26, 1853, under Chairman Dr. Robert McCosh, Rev. David Caw, and Rev. C. Ruttan.

In those early days, there was only a single teacher: Mr. Stafford Lightburne. He earned a salary of £150 per annum (roughly \$600 in old Canadian currency), for which he was expected to keep the school open on Saturday mornings with a mere two-week summer break.

Classes were initially held inside the Town Hall's Council Chamber. However, in February 1856, the Town Council needed the space back, forcing the school into a vacant home on the corner of Town Hall

Square, and later into the lower room of the South Ward School in April 1857.

Finding a permanent location triggered an intense rivalry between Upper Town and Lower Town interests. The Board initially purchased 1.5 acres on the flats from Hiram Capron, but community push-back was so fierce that the Board called in Rev. Professor Ormiston of Hamilton to arbitrate. Professor Ormiston ultimately chose a site on King Street purchased from Joseph Steele, and Capron accepted the return of the flats land in exchange for a ward school lot elsewhere.

On July 15, 1857, the Board made a decision that would shape Paris education for four decades: they appointed J.W. Acres as Head Master of the Paris Union School (a merger of the Grammar and Public School Boards).

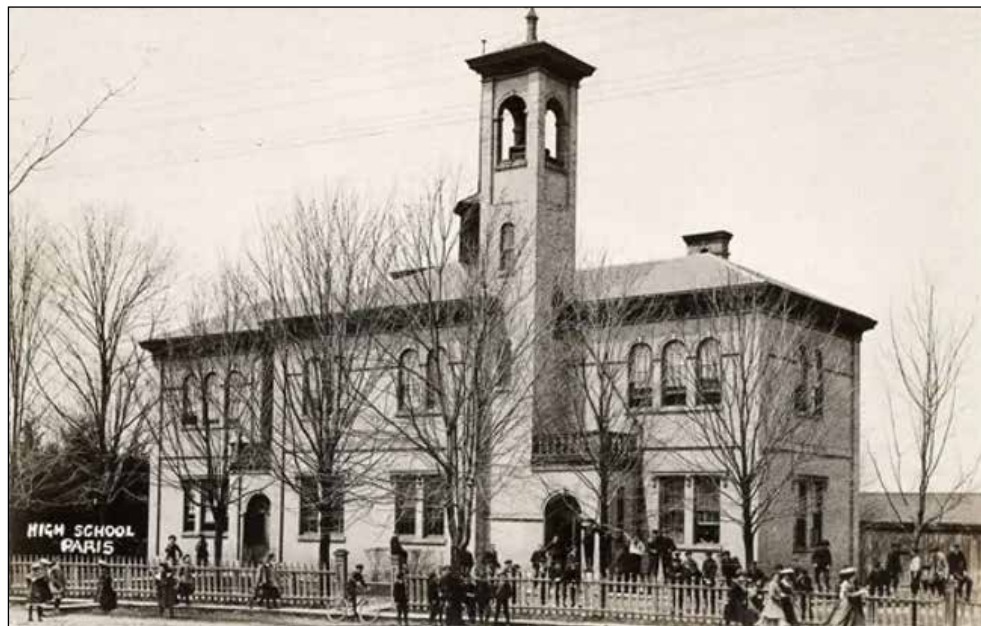
For forty years, until his retirement in 1897, Mr. Acres served the town with quiet devotion. Walking on foot to supervise all public schools across town, his starting salary was just £175 (\$700), never exceeding \$1,100 in a single year. Despite not holding a university degree when hired, Acres studied privately while teaching, taking leave to write his examinations at Trinity University in Toronto to earn his B.A. Under his leadership, the Paris Grammar School became renowned across the province.

The actual building on King Street was constructed by contractors Turnbull & Thomson for £2,501 (plus \$201.48 in extras). The brand-new school officially opened its doors on August 9, 1858.

The early days were full of colorful local moments: In 1860, Mr. Acres requested a holiday for the Paris Show. The Board refused, but allowed a day off on Friday so students could see the visiting Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII). During the border panic of 1866 (The Fenian Scare), the Board offered the school and grounds to house His Majesty's troops free of charge for a year. While the troops weren't needed, the scare prompted the installation of 30-foot gymnastics and drill sheds on the bank for military training. In September 1868, the Board granted a holiday so students could watch a town lacrosse match. Acres himself was an avid cricketer, inspiring the Paris Cricket Club's famed regional



Queensview Retirement Community (2013) sits on the former site of Paris' first Grammar School (1858), High School (1895), and Elementary School (1923).



1910 photo of the original High School & bell tower at 70 King Edward St. Paris. A grammar School was built here in 1858 then it became the High School from 1895 to 1923.

reputation during the 1870s and 1880s. In October 1873, the famous school bell was officially installed in the building's tower at a cost of \$50.00. Early janitors included W. Howie, Sergeant Henry Sylvester (a retired British Army regular who drilled the boys), and Samuel Lee, who cared for the grounds for over two decades.

Following Mr. Acres' retirement in 1897, the school continued to grow through the tenures of principals such as I. Levan, Dr. Bell, Miss Blanche Willson, W.A. Glass, and C.W. Butcher. By 1923, secondary ed-

ucation in Paris had outgrown the old King Street structure, leading to the construction of a new \$80,000 facility on the northern outskirts of town.

While the original 1895 King Street building eventually gave way to modern developments, the restoration of its 1873 bell brings a piece of that rich history back home. Hearing it ring out over the Nith River once again is a fitting tribute to the educators, students, and community leaders who built the foundation of education in Paris.

Letter to the Editor

Letter writer sets the record straight on Paris' Grammar School Bell

To the Editor:

On Tuesday Sept.8th, I was part of a large crowd at Queensward Retirement Home enjoying the ceremony honouring the restoration and display of the old Grammar School bell. Congratulations to all involved with his historic and worthwhile project. The bell and tower couldn't be more beautiful!

Reading the plaque however leads one to believe the bell didn't show up until 1895. This is not true as the bell is much older than this. The 1895 date has nothing to do with the bell. 1895 is the year the school officially became 'Paris High School', with elementary children now going to other schools, whereas before 1895 they were all in the old school together. The bell rang for 22 years before

1895, being made by an unknown bell foundry in 1873, and that same year being installed in the Grammar school bell tower. It's interesting that a year earlier in 1874, the much larger bell was installed in the 'Old Town Hall', and as we know, is proudly displayed in our town parking lot. Really then, since this beautiful monument at Queensward is about the bell, would it not be appropriate to have a small plaque to accompany the lovely plaque already there, with information about the bell and how it became part of our school history in 1873 NOT 1895?

In conclusion, what a credit it is for Paris to now have 2 bells made one year apart, beautifully displayed for everyone to enjoy!

Wayne Wilkinson | Paris, Ont

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@theparisdependent.com

Paris Fair delivers another memorable weekend where friends meet

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

The Paris Agricultural Society celebrated the conclusion of the 168th Paris Fair after a Labour Day weekend marked by record exhibit entries, major concerts and a community-wide effort to recover from severe weather just hours before opening day.

A powerful storm swept through the Paris Fairgrounds Wednesday evening, one day before the fair was scheduled to open, damaging displays, exhibits and vendor setups across the grounds.

In the hours that followed, volunteers, members and others rallied to clean up and make repairs, allowing the gates to open as planned at 5 p.m. Thursday.

The weather improved for the remainder of the weekend, giving fairgoers five days of agricultural exhibits, competitions, en-

tertainment, food and family activities.

Agriculture remained at the heart of the event, with the Paris Agricultural Society reporting a record-breaking number of exhibit submissions in 2026.

Entries ranged from Homecraft and Junior exhibits to livestock and equestrian competitions, while agricultural education programming highlighted the skills and traditions that have been part of the fair for generations.

Country music was another major draw, with Chris Lane performing at the Grandstand Saturday night, followed by Brett Kissel and Lindsay Ell on Sunday.

The concerts were part of a busy entertainment schedule that also included long-time fair favourites such as the midway, demolition derbies, live entertainment, family activities and agricultural programming.

Organizers also introduced new experiences this year, including Afternoon Tea,



(BRONWYN MONKHOUSE PHOTO)

Paris Fair Ambassador Lauren O'Nahr was joined at the fair's inaugural High Tea by Rockton World's Fair Silver Ambassador Terri Mand, Miss Six Nations Kymberly Farmer and Mrs. Regional Canada Aleria McKay. The sold-out event featured an afternoon of tea, treats and live handpan music.



(BRONWYN MONKHOUSE PHOTO)

Eleven women from Knox United Church's Kindred Spirits dressed for the occasion — hats and all — as they enjoyed the first-ever High Tea at the Paris Fair.



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)

which gave guests an opportunity to gather for scones, sandwiches and sweet treats in a quieter setting during the busy weekend.

Hundreds of volunteers and members worked behind the scenes throughout the fair, with their efforts taking on added significance following Wednesday night's storm.

"Our volunteers are the heart of this organization," said Amy Warner, General Manager of the Paris Agricultural Society. "Whether they were helping recover after the storm, welcoming guests, preparing a

show ring, organizing exhibits or doing one of the countless jobs most Fairgoers never see, they showed exactly what community looks like."

The Paris Agricultural Society thanked its volunteers, members and the community for supporting this year's event.

For 168 years, the Paris Fair has brought residents and visitors together over Labour Day weekend, and organizers said this year's event demonstrated that the people behind the traditions remain central to its success.

SURROGATES NEEDED!

Receive Expense Coverage of up to **\$45,000**

Help make a family's dream come true. Your generous gift can help intended parents welcome the baby they've been dreaming of.

Contact us Today!

SURROGACY IN CANADA ONLINE



(519) 527-2404



www.surrogacy.ca



sally@surrogacy.ca

Canadian Law Compliant



Experienced



Trusted

hear right canada
Quality Hearing Care For Less

Access to quality hearing care *for less.*



FREE
hearing tests and consultations



A NEW CLINIC
offering the latest hearing technology



QUALITY
hearing solutions
for less

Proud to Bring a New Choice for Hearing Care to Paris



Phone: **226-493-0110**



Address: **1 Hartley Ave, Paris, ON**

Proudly Canadian
Owned & Operated

Paris Legion Honours Five-Year Members



Sue Bohar receives her five-year membership pin at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 in Paris last week, joined by Earl MacDonald, Barry Humphrey, Mark Ford and Chuck Prystupa. Also recognized for five years of membership were Jamey Brosseau, Kim Clark White, Andrew Cronkwright, Mel Ferdorki, Erik Hager, Susan Dalton, Nancy Gorelle, Rick Mackenzie, Norman McIntyre, Tracey Munday, Noel Vandall and Neil Murray. Members who have not yet received their pins are asked to contact Mark Ford to arrange pickup.

Brant launches snowplow naming contest

County of Brant residents are being invited to put their creativity to work by helping name five municipal snowplows, one for each of the county's five wards.

The Grand Snowplow Naming Contest opened Sept. 9, giving residents of all ages the chance to submit their best, funniest or most uniquely Brant-inspired names.

Residents can submit one name for the snowplow representing the ward where they live. Entries must follow the contest rules and cannot exceed 20 characters.

"Our Roads team takes a lot of pride in the work they do to keep people moving safely throughout the winter, and we thought this would be a fun way for residents to connect with the people and equipment behind that work," said the County of Brant's Director of Roads, Greg Demers in a press release issued last week. "We are looking forward to seeing the creativity from each of our five wards and, of course, seeing the winning names out on the roads this winter."

Submissions will be accepted until Oct. 9. County staff will then review eligible entries and create a shortlist of names for each ward.

Residents will get the final say, with community voting running from Oct. 26 to Nov. 6. Participants will be able to vote for their favourite shortlisted names in all five wards. The five winning names, one from each ward, will be announced Nov. 9.

Each winning name will be displayed on a County of Brant snowplow. Winners will also receive a road sign featuring their plow's new name and be invited to meet members of the Roads team, take a photo with the newly named snowplow and enjoy hot chocolate and treats before the winter season begins.

Residents must have an Engage Brant account to participate and may submit one name for the ward in which they live.

Contest rules and the submission form are available through the County of Brant's Engage Brant website. Entries close Oct. 9.



**READ US
ONLINE**

WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM/PARIS-INDEPENDENT



Healthy Farms, Cleaner Water

Priority Watersheds Phosphorus Reduction Funding

Contact our conservation specialists to start your application!



Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000:

- Alternative phosphorus application practices
- Cover crops & Crop nutrient plans
- Erosion control structures
- Field windbreaks & Stream buffers
- Livestock fencing
- Soil testing
- Use of no-till or strip-till planting equipment

Landowners in the Nith River or Fairchild Creek Watersheds are eligible



Not in this area? Give us a call to find out what other funding is available.

To learn more, contact:

Grand River Conservation Authority

Website: www.grandriver.ca/priority-watersheds

Email: ruralwater@grandriver.ca

Phone: 519-621-2763 ext. 2278 or 2242

This project was undertaken with the financial support of
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de



Canada
Water Agency

Agence de l'eau
du Canada



Scan to visit the website



20 Studios • 26 Artists

**September
26 & 27**
10am-5pm 10am-4pm

norfolkstudiotour.ca

LOOK FOR THE YELLOW SIGNS!

The Paris Independent

**SUBMIT YOUR HELP WANTED,
ANNOUNCEMENTS OR
BUSINESS DIRECTORY ADS.**

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

St. George Apple Fest promises a bushel of fun this weekend

PARIS INDEPENDENT STAFF

What began with a single block of Main Street has grown into one of St. George's biggest weekends of the year.

The St. George Apple Fest returns Sept. 19 and 20, bringing two days of live entertainment, family activities, vendors, food and, of course, plenty of apples to the village.

The festival has come a long way since its modest beginnings, when organizers closed just one block of Main Street for the community celebration. Today, Apple Fest stretches across three blocks of Main Street, one block of High Street, two municipal parking lots and two parks.

Festival coordinator Jean Ilett Tucker said this year's event continues a tradition that has been bringing the community together for more than four decades.

"We are proud to continue a 42-year tradition of bringing our community together. An event of this size doesn't happen without an incredible amount of time, dedication and hard work. Our volunteers put in countless hours planning, organizing and implementing every aspect of the festival, and it is their commitment and passion that truly makes Apple Fest happen. I am proud to be part of such an amazing team and to help carry this beloved tradition forward for another year," said Jean Ilett Tucker, Festival Coordinator for St. George Apple Fest.

Thousands of visitors are expected to make their way to St. George over the weekend to take in a festival that has become an annual September tradition.

This year's Apple Fest will feature artisan vendors, local food, farm-fresh produce, live entertainment and activities for children, with plenty of opportunities to sample the food that gave the festival its name.

Visitors can expect everything apple, from homemade pies and fresh-picked fruit to apple dumplings, cider and candied apples. Local farm markets will also have fresh produce and preserves available throughout the weekend.

Saturday's entertainment gets under-

way at 11:30 a.m. with STOMPtastic Line Dancing, followed by opening ceremonies at noon.

The Saturday stage will stay busy throughout the afternoon and evening with Bradley Michaels at 12:20 p.m., The Green Bloods at 1 p.m., The Dirty Boyz at 2:15 p.m., Atkinson Brothers Band at 3:30 p.m., Cobby's Kitchen Party at 4:45 p.m., John Atlee Band at 6 p.m., Powerglide at 7:15 p.m. and Always on Friday closing out the night beginning at 8:30 p.m.

The entertainment continues Sunday, starting at 11:30 a.m. with Big Cityyy Arts – The Other PFW Fashion Show. The Paris Port Dover Pipe Band takes the stage at 12:30 p.m., followed by New Moon Junction at 1:45 p.m. and Grass Tax at 3 p.m.

There will also be plenty to keep younger festivalgoers entertained.

The Kids Zone lineup includes Barry O, a reptile show, a princess show featuring Ariel and Rapunzel, St. George's own rapping sensation Felix Munce, Doug the Great, a foam party, Rumpel & Friends and a Birds of Prey Show, among other activities and entertainment.

Organizers are also encouraging clubs, seniors' groups, community organizations and bus tours to consider Apple Fest as a day-trip destination.

The festival has earned recognition well beyond St. George over the years. It has been named one of Ontario's Top 100 Festivals 10 times, received the 2018 #GoodTimesinBrant award and most recently earned a 2025 Achievement Award from Festivals & Events Ontario.

This year, organizers are billing Apple Fest as an "Adventure Tour," inviting visitors to explore everything the festival — and the community hosting it — has to offer.

Admission and parking are free, although visitors are encouraged to arrive early to secure a parking spot.

From apple treats and local produce to music, family entertainment and the atmosphere of a bustling small-town festival, Apple Fest will once again offer plenty of reasons to spend a September weekend in St. George.



SAVING UP TO \$200,000
ON A NEW HOME TODAY
MEANS MORE FAMILIES IN
MORE HOMES TOMORROW



Learn how you can save up to
\$200,000 on a new home
ontario.ca/MoreHomesFaster



Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Who is lead singer of Pearl Jam? | 6. What is the name of the fictional city where Batman lives? |
| 2. What is the name of the AI chatbot developed by OpenAI? | 7. Which company owns Pixar? |
| 3. What sport is featured in the television series Ted Lasso? | 8. Which famous toy has the slogan "You can be anything"? |
| 4. Which social media platform is known for its "For You" page? | 9. What year did Canada fully abolish the death penalty? |
| 5. What is the best-selling console of all time? | 10. Mach 1 is known as what? |

This week's answers are found on pg. 22

Brant Farm Crawl: New agri-tourism initiative gives visitors behind-the-scenes look at farm production

DIANE BALTAZ

Grant Haven Media

A new agri-tourism initiative organized by the County of Brant enabled local residents to try everything from harvesting hazelnuts, sampling local haskap wine and talking directly with farmers about how they grow and market their crops.

The County launched the “Brant Farm Crawl” on September 12 as a self-guided, ticketed driving tour of five farms. These stops provided greater, behind-the-scenes opportunities to learn how local food and agricultural products are produced and marketed, and to discover how and where to buy Brant-produced products.

This year’s event was organized with mentorship from Farm Crawl Hamilton, which has run farm crawls since 2012. It was supported with funding through the regional tourism association, RTO3 – Hamilton Halton Brant under the 2026-2027 Partnership Fund Program.

The participating farms were: Glenridge Hazelnuts, Glen Morris; Moore Farms, Paris; Brantview Apples & Cider, St. George; Browndale Farm, Paris; and Blue Gables Acres, Paris.

These farms already had established sales venues, such as farm stores, wine and

hard cider tasting facilities, or online sales. Most of the host sites provided samples of their products as well as opportunities for the “farm crawlers” to purchase locally produced goods. Some farms offered field tours with tractors pulling visitors in wagons, provided games or play areas for the kids, and picnic areas.

Moore Farms added talks by local producers of bottled milk and honey and a nutritionist; they hosted a local artisan market in addition to selling lunches from their food trailer, the Longhorn Smokehouse.

Kimmy and Delano Osmond of Blue Gables opened their event tepee where visitors sampled their haskap and other berry wines or enjoyed a haskap cheesecake that Kimmy created.

Browndale Farms opened their Holstein barn with robotic milking facilities for families to view their dairy cows and calves.

Glenridge Hazelnuts made pick-your-own hazelnuts available for the first time since their trees began producing approximately five years ago.

All the crawl hosts answered multiple questions about growing and marketing their crops and provided educational information to visitors.

“Agri-tourism has been getting more popular in the last few years as well so I wanted to plan an event similar to Doors Open where people could visit farms while getting more background info on where their food comes from,” said Brant Tourism Development Officer and Farm Crawl planner Tia Chisholm in an email.

Hamilton’s Farm Crawl model fit the bill; therefore the County approached its organizers.

“We wanted a variety of farms so each one could offer a unique experience; so between hazelnuts, apples/cider, dairy, cattle and a haskap orchard, I believe we succeeded in finding a variety.”

The County sold 225 tickets prior to the Farm Crawl, said Chisholm. Admission as free for children under five.

Stephanie Sharp of Glenridge Hazelnuts organized her family’s Farm Crawl venue,



(DIANE BALTAZ PHOTOS)

Ali Hall of Paris said that she liked the farms with the animals the best during the Brant Farm Crawl.

set in an open field between their 16,000-tree orchards.

“The County reached out to us in the spring about the Farm Crawl, and we were so excited to participate,” said Sharp. “We always enjoy having groups tour the orchard and educating people on hazelnut production in Ontario... We aren’t yet open to the public on a regular basis, so this seemed like another great opportunity to share our story, what we do, and the products that we have available.”

“We have also followed the Farm Crawl Hamilton for some time and think it is such a great initiative to connect community with farms and provide agriculture education,” added Sharp.

At the region’s first haskap estate winery, Delano and Kimmy Osmond of Blue Gables fielded many questions about the wines, jams and other products derived from their haskap bushes. “I like the exposure of the products,” Delano said.

Brad Little of Brantford tried his hand at harvesting hazelnuts using an implement provided by Glenridge Hazelnuts. “It’s

a fantastic idea,” he said about the Farm Crawl concept. “We get closer to experiencing where and how they’re grown. You hear about the 100-mile diet, but it’s amazing how much you can get locally.”

Ten-year-old Ali Hall of Paris visited all five sites with her parents. “I like the places with the animals,” she said, referring to the Holsteins at Browndale and Moore Farms’ Black Angus and Longhorn cattle.

Chisholm said the County aims to expand the Brant Farm Crawl in 2027.



Gary and Joan Hilker of Paris discussed haskap wine production with vintner Delano Osmond.



A Holstein cow at Browndale Farm checked out Sheila Lobsinger and Ken Linington of Paris.



COUNTRY MILLS
FEED & FARM STORE

EVERYTHING RURAL

in one convenient stop!

PRODUCTS YOU NEED. SERVICE YOU TRUST.





ANIMAL CARE



PET SUPPLIES



LAWN & GARDEN



FARM ESSENTIALS



ANIMAL FEED



FOOD & MORE

QUALITY PRODUCTS FOR FARM, HOME & FAMILY  **VISIT US TODAY!** AYLMER • BURFORD • INGERSOLL • NORWICH • THORNDALE

The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

MOUNTIES REPORT: Mounties stampede Merchants in season opener



By George Le Gresley
Sports Columnist

Opening night last Saturday had a different look - and a winning feel - as the Paris Mounties opened their season with a convincing 5-1 stampede over the Norwich Merchants.

There was another noticeable difference from the previous two seasons. The Mounties logo at centre ice, reflected on the players' uniforms, was jazzed up with three gold stars on the shoulders and gold highlights through the logo's stripes.

Perhaps the new look, along with the dominant start signals the beginning of a golden era of Mounties hockey.

The home opener ceremony kicked off with player and coach introductions, the national anthem, and the ceremonial puck drop with former Mounties players and coaches Phil Dalpe and Tyler Brown.

The first five minutes of the first period was even, with the Norwich side holding a slight edge until six minutes in, when Mounties Austin Christian took a minor penalty. Last season, Paris' penalty kill was disorganized and gave up a lot of goals; Saturday night, they looked organized and were effective on this penalty and

subsequent penalty kills.

At 10:37 of the first period, Griffin Mordue, opened Paris' scoring on assists by Lincoln Swerdfeger and Jay Metler for a 1-0 Mounties lead. At 5:39, the Mounties had their first power play of the season. Last year's team was at a disadvantage on the man advantage, having allowed numerous short-handed goals and scoring chances to the opposition. In this game, it looked organized and effective, so much so that Colton Main scored with assists being credited to Mettler and Logan Pipe. The period ended with the home side having a 2-0 lead over the Merchants.

Four and a half minutes into the second period, the Kersey brothers made the scoresheet, with Cole getting the goal and an assist being credited to brother Jack Kersey and Mettler. Nine minutes later, the Merchants scored, and the period ended with the Mounties leading the Merchants 3-1. There was one little tussle between a Merchant, who was the size of a football offensive lineman, and the Mounties' Swerdfeger, who could only throw up-ercuts, as his dance partner was that much taller!

The third period was dominated by the Mounties, with Captain Ryan O'Keefe-Gardner potting a goal early in the third period, assisted by Ethan Markle. The Merchants pulled their goaltender for a man advantage in the final four minutes of the period, allowing Aiden Switzer popped in an empty-net goal to make it 5-1 in favor of the Mounties.

If there were three stars awarded, the first star would go to rookie goalie Owen Closs, who, as a 17-year-old, showed a lot of poise in his first PJHL start. Owen put



(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)

Paris Mounties Captain Ryan O'Keefe, Zac Dalpe, Tyler Brown and Norwich Merchants Gavin Bremner during the ceremonial puck drop at the Paris Mounties home opener at the Brant Sports Complex on Saturday, Sept. 12. Paris beat the Norwich Merchants 5-1.

aside 26 shots and gave a lot of credit to his teammates for being in position to mitigate many of the opposition's scoring chances.

Second star goes to the coaching staff, led by head coach Zac Rinaldi, who, this early in the season, has the team playing better hockey.

Third star goes to the team for putting on a good show and having a successful season in the Doherty division.

On Sunday afternoon, the Mounties travelled to Dorchester to face the Dolphins and lost a close one, 7-6.

The Mounties return home this coming Saturday, September 26, at the Brant Sports Complex, with a 7:30 puck drop.



Tyler Crisostomo takes a face off.



Paris' Colton Main scores a power play goal in the first period, assisted by Jay Metler and Logan Pipe.



Ethan Markle battles for the puck.



Paris Mounties goalie Owen Cross prepares for a shot.



Cole Kersey buries the puck for the Mounties' third goal of the game, assisted by brother Jack Kersey and Jay Metler.



Logan Pipe takes a shot on net, blocked by Merchant goalie Darren Hagerty.

Richard Ward strikes Gold at Special Olympics

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

Richard Ward returned from the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games with a trio of medals and hopes of taking his talents to the world stage next year.

Ward competed in track and field at the national Games in Medicine Hat, Alta., from Aug. 10 to 15, capturing gold in the 800 metres, silver in the 400 metres and bronze as part of the 4x400-metre relay team.

Ward, who has family in Paris and Brantford, was inducted into the Brant County Sports Hall of Fame in 2024.

His sister, Lisa Merner said he enjoyed an unforgettable experience at the Games, including making new friends and having his own cheering section on hand for encouragement.

Ward is now hoping to qualify for the Canadian team that will compete at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Santiago, Chile, in 2027.

Before then, he will turn his attention from the track to the snow. Ward is head-



ing to North Bay in January to compete in snowshoeing at the Special Olympics Ontario Provincial Winter Games.

His family and friends say they are incredibly proud of his accomplishments and the hard work he has put into his sports.

Paris Duffers Golf Report

GREIG GRAHAM
Paris Independent Contributor

The Duffers' Brownie Lights It Up.

There are times, few and far between, when one of our own stands out above the rest for their skill with the crooked sticks. Yes, our wall of fame has few inductees. That changed this past Friday at the Burford Golf Course as one of our own single handedly wrestled the links to it's knees. Not to take anything away from Happy Al and Chicken who dominated Barefoot Bergie and his son-in-law Dusty. There was no mercy shown to the newcomer Dusty but Bergs generously took blame because his daughter is going to hold one of them accountable for the family shame.

It also overshadows how Dino and Kopper won the last three holes to overcome a down two deficit for their win over Sinc and Swanee for the milk.

The match of Double G and Big Ferg also featured a come from behind versus

Hoogs and Enzo. Although this round ended in a tie it is all but lost in the hoopla that occurred in the feature match.

BB and Fever could only watch in awe as Brownie, with his sidekick AA, dominated. Down five holes going to the 18th Feve and Beech had the hutzpah to press and paid the price. Double the milk and double the pain. Brownie was way too much on this day. Although it's not uncommon to see the likes of Rory or Tiger get back to back birdies, it is a feat that escapes most Duffers except our man of the hour. Although he refused a post game interview his manager AA confirmed that not only did Brownie accomplish this act but in between holes he also saved a child from a burning building and acquired world peace. What a guy.

Even though that was all a tough act to follow the gang will be back next week and attempt to claim their own spot on the Duffers wall of Fame. Until then keep em in the fairways.



PARIS CURLING CLUB

OPEN HOUSE SOCIAL

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH

SCAN HERE!

7:00 - 10:00 PM

FREE TO ATTEND

MEET CLUB MEMBERS AND CONVENORS

SPECIAL NEW MEMBER SIGNUP DISCOUNT

Email fun@pariscurlingclub.com for more info!



Inaugural Hospital Bed Races raise more than \$223,000 for patient beds

MEDIA RELEASE

The inaugural Hospital Bed Races raised more than \$223,000 to help purchase new patient beds at The Willett in Paris and support equipment replacement at Brantford General Hospital.

The Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation announced the May 23 fundraiser brought in \$223,362.37, aided by community donations and a matching donor. Sixteen teams took part in the first-time event, presented by Sleep N' Comfort, racing retired hospital beds while raising money for local health care.

Rain forced organizers to move the races indoors to the Brantlyn Community Centre, but the change in venue did little to dampen the competition as teams arrived in themed costumes and raced in front of supporters.

Funds raised will help purchase 32 patient beds for The Willett, while also supporting patient bed replacement needs at Brantford General Hospital.

“Hospital beds are one of the most essential pieces of equipment used every single day throughout our hospitals,” says Kari Wilson, Executive Director of the Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation. “The Ministry of Health does not fully

fund this type of patient equipment, which is why community support through events like Hospital Bed Races is so important.”

In addition to the races, the event included sponsor activities, entertainment and food trucks. Awards were handed out for the fastest team, top fundraiser and best theme or costume.

The Brantford Firefighters emerged with the event’s signature prize — the “golden bedpan” trophy. The foundation credited participating teams, sponsors, volunteers, donors and those who attended with help-

ing make the inaugural fundraiser a success.

The money comes as BCHS continues redevelopment work through its reimagineBCHS initiative. The foundation raises money for equipment and technology at Brantford General Hospital and The Willett that is not fully covered through government funding.

Organizers are already looking ahead to another edition of the unusual fundraiser.

“We hope to see you at the 2027 Hospital Bed Races!”



(BRYAN YOUNG, BCHS FOUNDATION PHOTOS)

Members of the Brantford 99ers hockey organization traded their skates for running shoes while keeping some familiar gear as they hit the course in helmets, jerseys and other hockey equipment during the Hospital Bed Races.



Brantford firefighters race a retired hospital bed during the inaugural BCHS Foundation Hospital Bed Races on May 23. The team ultimately took home the coveted “golden bedpan” trophy at the fundraiser, which raised more than \$223,000 in support of new patient beds and equipment.

Suspicious fire guts Rose Court Motel



(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

The Rose Court Motel at 12 Paris Rd. sustained severe damage following a suspicious fire early Sept. 8. Emergency crews were called to the motel around 3:30 a.m., and Paris Road was closed to traffic for nearly three hours. All residents were accounted for and no injuries were reported. County of Brant OPP continue to investigate the cause of the fire. Anyone with video footage or information is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at www.crimestoppersbb.com

GRAHAM HORNER
for
MAYOR
BRANT COUNTY

GRAHAM HORNER
for MAYOR
BRANT COUNTY

BRANT COUNTY
HAS HARD WORKING
PEOPLE, THEY NEED
TO BE HEARD,
EVERYONE
HAS A VOICE.

Remembering Paris Nursing Sister Dorothy Baldwin



NEIL EDWARDS

Paris Independent Contributor

Dorothy Baldwin was born in Toronto on October 10, 1893. She was the daughter of Robert and Mary Baldwin. Robert was a farmer. The family later moved to Warwick Street in Paris. Along with her parents, who are buried in the Paris Anglican Cemetery, Dorothy was a member of St. James Anglican Church.

Dorothy had graduated as a nurse and enlisted as a nursing sister in the Canadian Army Medical Corps in Toronto on May 2, 1917. Upon her arrival on June 8, 1917, she was immediately posted to the No. 16 Canadian General (Ontario Military) Hospital in Orpington, Kent. Almost two months later, Dorothy was transferred to No. 3 Canadian Stationary Hospital in Doullens, France, beginning work on July 28, 1917.

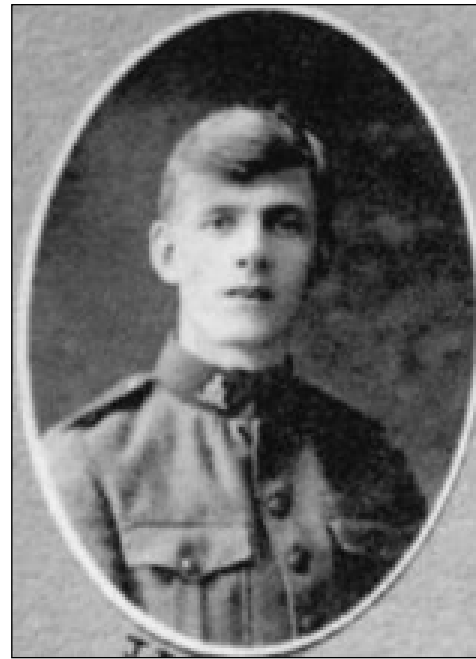
Dorothy was on duty in the officer's ward of No. 3 Canadian Stationary Hospital, Doullens on May 29, 1918 when German aircraft dropped bombs on the hospital, completely destroying the north wing. Nursing Sister Dorothy Baldwin was injured in the attack, and she died the following day. Two other Canadian nursing sisters, Agnes MacPherson and Eden Pringle, were also killed during that raid. At 23



Nursing Sister Dorothy Baldwin, a Paris resident who served with the Canadian Army Medical Corps during the First World War, died from injuries sustained when German aircraft bombed the No. 3 Canadian Stationary Hospital in Doullens, France, in May 1918.

years of age, Pringle was the youngest Canadian nurse to die during the war. Dorothy Baldwin was buried with other victims of the attack — including MacPherson and Pringle, who lie next to her — on May 31, 1918, in Bagneux British Cemetery, in France.

A total of more than 2,800 Nursing Sisters served in the Canadian Army Medical Corps during the First World War and 2,504 of those served overseas in England, France and the Eastern Mediterranean. By the end of the war, approximately 45 Nursing Sisters had given their lives, though only seven died from enemy bombing attacks on a hospital. The other German air raid, on the hospital complex at Étaples, France in May 1918, killed four nursing sisters. Overall, at least 58 Canadian nursing sisters died in service during the First



James Findlay of Paris was 24 when he was killed during a German bombing raid on the hospital complex at Étaples, France, in May 1918. Before enlisting, Findlay worked as a machinist at Penmans No. 1 Mill in Paris.

World War from enemy action, disease, or drowning (such as the sinking of the hospital ship HMHS Llandovery Castle). Their sacrifice is commemorated by a memorial in the Hall of Honour in the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, Ontario.

In an interesting but tragic coincidence, another casualty of the bombing of the hospital complex in Étaples was James Findlay, also from Paris. He had emigrated from Yorkshire, England and worked as a machinist in Penmans No. 1 Mill. He was wounded in November, 1916 and returned to the firing line in the 13th Battalion of the Canadian Army Medical Corps. James was 24 years of age when he was killed in the

bombing raid that killed the four Nursing Sisters. He is buried in the Étaples Military Cemetery.

When we think of war, especially the brutal, dehumanizing, horrific First World War, we might think of the men who fought and died in the muddy trenches of the Somme or Ypres or Passchendaele. Or perhaps we think of the victory at Vimy Ridge which has since become an important symbol for Canada, the place where Canadians from across the country delivered an unprecedented victory, all four divisions of the Canadian Corps fighting together for the first time in the war. And we might forget that over 10,000 Canadians were killed and wounded to achieve that victory.

And even more rarely do we think of the individual men and women who grew up in Paris or immigrated here. Who went to school and worked here.

Who raised families here. These individual men and women from Paris are the ones that Homes of Heroes wants you to think about. That is why we want to collect and share their stories and place signs in front of the houses where they lived. Whether they were killed in action or killed trying to save others. Or even whether they came back to Paris to their families and their jobs and their ordinary lives. They were people who walked the same streets that we walk today. And lived in some of the same homes. Paris is a home of heroes. Can you add to a story? Then contact us at info@homesofheroes.ca and let us share it. If you can't help to tell a story, then read their stories on our website, www.homesofheroes.ca.

All our veterans, whether they died in battle or died trying to save others, or even came home to Paris unscathed, they all deserve to be remembered and honoured.



40 William Street Paris, ON, N3L 1L3 | www.riverrealtyteam.ca

REAL ESTATE AS IT *SHOULD* BE...

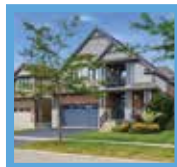


SHELLY GRACEY

MLS #: 40858559

\$999,000

591 GOVERNORS RD E, PARIS
4 BEDS | 3 BATHS

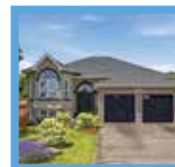


ANDREA CLENDENING

MLS #: 40855157

\$1,150,00

14 MCQUEEN DR, PARIS
4 BEDS | 4 BATHS



CALLUM THOMAS

MLS #: 40847245

\$799,900

2 DUNTON LN, PARIS
5 BEDS | 2 BATHS



BRIAN STOLP

MLS #: 40853040

\$624,900

#11-72 JOHNSON RD, BRANTFORD
3 BEDS | 3 BATHS

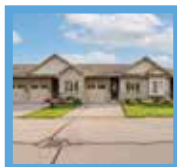


SHELLY GRACEY

MLS #: 40846058

\$705,000

41 GRIFFITHS DR, PARIS
3 BEDS | 2 BATHS

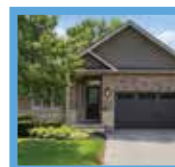


ANDREA CLENDENING

MLS #: 40855444

\$490,000

14-194 DONLY DR S, SIMCOE
3 BEDS | 3 BATHS



ANDREA CLENDENING

MLS #: 40860758

\$819,900

4-30 CEDAR ST, PARIS
3 BED | 3 BATH



SANAZ JEWELL

MLS #: 40848574

\$749,000

78 LILAC CIR, CALEDONIA
4 BEDS | 3 BATHS

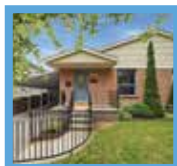


ANDREA CLENDENING

MLS #: 40855130

\$964,900

14 WINDYWOOD LN, NORWICH
4 BEDS | 3 BATHS



ANDREA CLENDENING

MLS #: 40842916

\$540,000

58 AMELIA ST, PARIS
3 BEDS | 2 BATHS



BRIAN STOLP

MLS #: 40855056

\$497,000

#202-7 GRAND RIVER ST N, PARIS
1 BED | 1 BATH



BRIAN STOLP

MLS #: 40848556

\$749,900

#61 & 63 LAUREL ST, PARIS
3 BEDS | 3 BATHS

WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM

WEEKLY

Horoscope

September 16 - September 22 2026

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20



Fresh momentum builds, Aries. An unexpected idea brings motivation and renewed confidence. Stay open—it encourages steady progress and reveals truly rewarding new possibilities ahead.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21



Steady opportunities emerge, Taurus. A practical choice brings clarity, stability and renewed confidence. Trust your judgment—it encourages success and opens opportunities ahead.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 21



Bright ideas emerge, Gemini. A new conversation sparks curiosity, optimism and new motivation. Stay flexible—it encourages growth and reveals exciting possibilities ahead.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22



Warm connections surround you, Cancer. A thoughtful gesture brings real comfort & renewed confidence. Follow your heart—it encourages harmony and deepens meaningful relationships ahead.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23



Your determination shines, Leo. A personal victory reflects patience and growing confidence. Keep moving—it attracts greater recognition and encourages exciting possibilities ahead.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22



A helpful insight creates clarity and steady momentum. Trust your instincts—it encourages success and strengthens key valuable new opportunities ahead.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23



A fresh perspective restores balance and growing confidence. Stay positive—it strengthens connections and encourages rewarding possibilities ahead.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22



Your inner strength grows, Scorpio. A promising opportunity rewards patience and smart planning. Trust yourself—it encourages success and builds lasting new momentum ahead.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21



New adventures await, Sagittarius. A positive change inspires optimism and renewed confidence. Trust your own instincts—it encourages discovery and unforgettable experiences ahead.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20



Steady effort brings progress and renewed confidence. Stay focused—it encourages achievement and creates meaningful opportunities ahead.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18



New inspiration arrives, Aquarius. A fresh idea encourages confidence and exciting possibilities. Trust your best vision—it encourages creativity and meaningful progress ahead.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20



Hope grows, Pisces. A thoughtful surprise brings comfort and renewed confidence. Follow your heart—it encourages happiness and reveals truly rewarding possibilities ahead.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 16

Amy Poehler, Actress (55)

SEPTEMBER 17

Patrick Mahomes, Athlete (31)

SEPTEMBER 18

James Marsden, Actor (53)

SEPTEMBER 19

Jimmy Fallon, TV Host (52)

SEPTEMBER 20

Jon Bernthal, Actor (50)

SEPTEMBER 21

Liam Gallagher, Musician (54)

SEPTEMBER 22

Joan Jett, Musician (68)

An illustration at the bottom of the 'Famous Birthdays' section showing three birthday gifts of varying sizes and a round cake with three lit candles on a plate.

You're invited!

OPEN
HOUSE
&
HEALTHY
AGING
EXPO

SAT., SEPT. 19th
11am-2pm

The logo for Queensview Retirement Community, featuring a stylized green and blue wave graphic above the word 'QUEENSVIEW' in a serif font, with 'RETIREMENT COMMUNITY' in a green box below it.

Retirement living with care

CALL TO DISCOVER MORE
226-457-0682

VISIT US: 70 King Edward Street, Paris
Queensviewrc.ca
or Email: Emb@queensviewrc.ca

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HEATING



Wise Heating and A/C Ltd.
Serving Paris and area for over 70 years

519-442-3431
info@wiseheating.ca

MECHANIC



50 Curtis Ave N, Paris
519-442-4422

Proudly Serving Paris & Area
for the past 40 years

RESTAURANT



Homemade Burger & Fries
ONLY \$12 - Tuesdays
Dine-in with beverage purchase

CALL 519.442.2704
27 DUMFRIES ST, PARIS

SAND & GRAVEL



Locally owned and operated by a proud Canadian family since 1947
Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 7am-5pm
519-621-0771

LOCATED AT 1368 BEKE ROAD
CAMBRIDGE, ON N1R 5S5

ROOFING



PARIS ROOFING

519-442-0492

PLUMBING & HEATING



Plumbing, Heating & Excavating Inc.
Princeton, ON
Water Treatment | Wells & Pumps | Septic Services | Bin Rentals | Directional Drilling

Now Offering Full Electrical Services
ECRA/ESA #7018760

519-458-4488 | info@hunterplumbing.ca | www.hunterplumbing.ca

FUNERAL HOME



Jason J. Vernoooy

PARIS CHAPEL AYR CHAPEL
519-442-3061 519-632-8228

wkfh@rogers.com | wmkipppfuneralhome.com

HEATING & COOLING



COMFORT PLUS
HEATING AND COOLING

Air Conditioning • Heating • Gas
Fireplaces • Indoor Air Quality • Air
Cleaners • Ventilation • Custom Ductwork
• Tankless Water Heaters • Maintenance
Plans • Installation and Services

24 Hour Service

Brantford - (519) 752-2250
166 Grant St., Brantford, ON N3R 4B9
info@comfortplusheatandcool.com

DECOR



SALES
DECORATING
CENTRE
"MORE THAN JUST A PAINT STORE"

MORE THAN JUST A PAINT STORE

MONDAY - SATURDAY 8 a.m - 3 p.m.
42 Grand River St, North
519-442-3152

ACCESS & PARKING AT BACK OF STORE

THIS
COULD BE
YOUR AD HERE!

CONTACT US
FOR MORE
INFO!

CUSTOM STONE FABRICATION



BGGQ BRANTFORD
GRANITE & QUARTZ

519-442-1400 | 535-B PARIS RD, PARIS
WWW.BGQ.CA

PHARMACY



COMMUNITY HUB
PHARMACY

25 Curtis Ave N., Paris
(Located in the Cowan Community Health Hub)
Tel: 519-750-1264

Independently Owned and Operated

DELIVERY AVAILABLE • PARIS' ONLY COMPOUNDING PHARMACY

CLASSIFIEDS

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Eddie Vedder | 6. Gotham City |
| 2. ChatGPT | 7. Disney |
| 3. Soccer (football) | 8. Barbie |
| 4. TikTok | 9. 1999 |
| 5. PlayStation 2 | 10. The speed of sound |

PHARMACY



NORTHVILLE
PHARMACY

Independently Owned Pharmacy
Serving Paris & Area Since 1998

300 Grand River Street N., Paris
Tel: 519-442-4283

Built around having what you need & delivering the service you deserve.

MEMORIES AND MILESTONES

Share them with your local community.
Let us help create a meaningful announcement:
info@theparisdependent.com

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 15, 22 & 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.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Paris Horticultural Society- is hosting its first meeting after summer break on September 16th starting at 7 PM with a social time, the program will begin at 7:30 PM. Our program for the evening is members sharing their gardening year "Successes, Misses, Still Working On". We are also celebrating 40 years with a members only flower show. Come on out to the Paris Fair Grounds; join us for the open meeting at 7 pm and see what we are all about. You may want to join the Friendly Garden Club!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Paris Terry Fox Run - Sunday September 20th at 11 am at Paris District High School. Register online at terryfox.org.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Etonia Princeton United Church - 101 #2 Hwy. Etonia. Roast Beef Dinner (with pie and refreshments) 5:00 to 6:30 p.m | Adults \$25; children (12 and under) \$6; preschoolers free Tickets at the door. Takeout available. Wheelchair accessible.

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

8th Annual Heroes Walk and Roll Fundraiser -in support of Lansdowne Children's Centre at Brant Park, 119 Jennings Rd. Everyone is invited out to come together in support of infants, children, and youth, facing communication, physical, and developmental needs. The hero-themed event provides family-friendly entertainment, exciting activities, accessible games, interactive experiences, and plenty of opportunities to celebrate our favourite heroes. Learn more about how you can dress up, show up and participate at <https://www.lansdownecentre.ca/heroeswalkandroll>.

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.

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 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.

EVERY SECOND MONDAY

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



ANNUAL FUN FAIR

FOOD, GAMES AND AUCTIONS

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
1985 BEKE ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, ON
10AM - 3PM

WWW.COUNTRYSIDECAMP.COM



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



READ US ONLINE



WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM/PARIS-INDEPENDENT

Explore THE WORLD with us!

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS HERE

STONETOWN TRAVEL



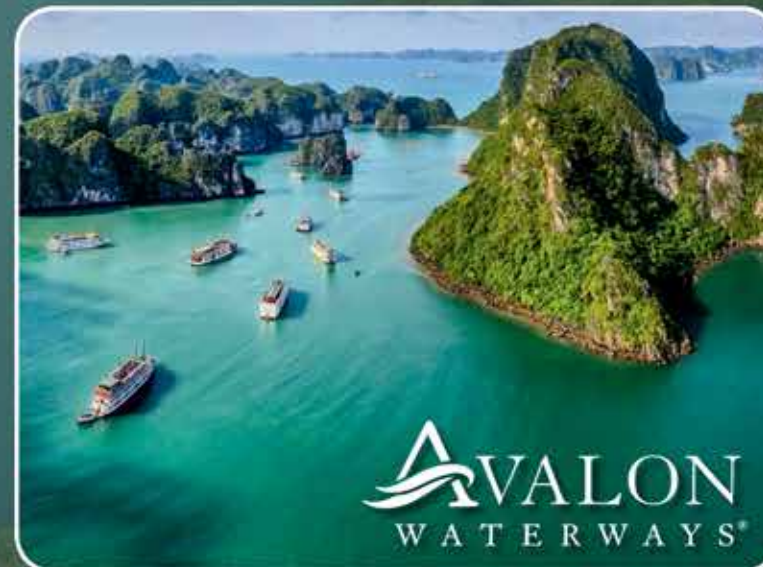
**SHAMROCK
ROYAL IRELAND**
JUNE 25 – JULY 10, 2027



**RHONE RIVER CRUISE PLUS 2
NIGHTS IN FRENCH RIVIERA**
August 30 to September 9, 2027



**DISCOVER CROATIA, SLOVENIA
AND THE ADRIATIC COAST**
September 11-22, 2027



**VIETNAM, CAMBODIA & THE MEKONG
RIVER WITH HANOI & HA LONG BAY**
January 21 to February 5, 2028

Book Your Dream Trip Today! Limited slots available!

GROUP TRIPS HOSTED BY

**STONETOWN
TRAVEL**

ST. MARYS BRANCH: 143 QUEEN STREET EAST, ST. MARYS, ON N4X 1B4
519-284-2332 | agent@stonetowntravel.com | TICO #5003192

NEW HAMBURG BRANCH: 210 MILL STREET, NEW HAMBURG, ON N3A 1P9
226-333-9939 | newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com | TICO #5003193

www.stonetowntravel.com