

The Paris Independent

Issue #187

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025

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Paris Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall, 139 Silver St. Paris
(story on page 10)

Tuesday April 15, 7:00 - 9:00pm
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GOLDEN WEEKEND FOR PARIS AT THE BUFFALO OUTDOOR CLASSIC
U8 Paris Wolfpack Team 1 travelled to Buffalo March 26-28th to compete in the Buffalo River Outdoor Classic. They brought home Gold, showcasing once again that hockey is our national sport! Pictured are team members and coaches (in no order), Jake Cordingley, Tatum Fennema, Andy Corbett, Max Beechey, James McGiver, Eldin Dunbar-Litwiller, Nolan Ferren, Leo Peirce, Bodhi Desloovere, Henley Gagnon, Marley Mac, Bennett Keen. See story page 16

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)



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Are you Ready for the Downtown Dig?

CASANDRA TURNBULL
Managing Editor

Like it or not, the Downtown Dig is starting. We all know the dig is required to replace underground infrastructure and while that work is necessary, the downtown will receive a long overdue facelift that includes a wide range of enhancements that comply with accessibility standards. The end result will be refreshing but what does the road to the dig look

like for area residents?

It will all begin with the West River Street construction, referred to as phase 1 of the project. That work, contracted to BEECH Infrastructure, begins this week and is expected to last until the end of summer, said Adam Crozier, Director of Corporate Strategy.

The West River Road Construction spanned for five to six months last year but hit unexpected delays last year when contractors

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Excitement Builds for this Weekend's Paris Maple Syrup Festival

PARIS INDEPENDENT
Submitted Content

The Lions Club of Paris is gearing up for the 12th Annual Paris Maple Syrup Festival, taking place this Saturday, April 12th from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Paris Fairgrounds. This highly anticipated event promises a day filled with delicious food, exciting entertainment, and family-friendly activities—all in celebration of one of Canada's sweetest traditions.

This year's festival is bigger than ever, with double the number of vendor booths, offering a variety of products such as local maple syrup, handmade jewelry, clothing, baked goods and artisan crafts. Most vendors will be indoors, ensuring a comfortable shopping experience for attendees.

As always, the Paris Lions will be serving up their famous pancakes, with sausages generously donated by Strodes, and locally produced maple syrup from Grand River Maple. Coffee and hot chocolate for the event is being provided by Tim Hortons. Other delicious food options include poutine, perogies, burgers, fries and pogos, making sure there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Festivalgoers can also look forward to live entertainment throughout the day, including

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3

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Downtown Dig starts with West River this week, Grand Street River North end of April

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

found the gas main was too shallow under the sidewalk so the project was halted until Aecon could dig up the sidewalk this spring.

The timing couldn't be worse because that construction, on what could have been a viable alternative route around the dig, is now part of the dig.

Phase 2 of the Downtown Dig focuses on Grand River Street North from the Nith River Bridge to just north of the Barnes Farm Dance intersection. Phase 2 is broken into three sub phases so county staff could plan appropriate traffic detours through downtown during construction. Phase 2A was scheduled to kick off on April 7th, with the closure of the main portion of Grand River Street North between Mechanic and William Streets. That initial step is now delayed until the end of April as Enbridge is still replacing natural gas infrastructure in the downtown core.

Motorists got a taste of what's to come last Thursday during the rush hour commute home. Enbridge was completing essential work at the Grand River/William Street intersection resulting in traffic grid lock from all directions as people tried to access downtown. It was an early reminder that the next few months will be trying at best and planning your route with some extra lead time might just be the best course of action. Thursday's unexpected congestion may have brought some frustrated motorists out to the County of Brant's Downtown Dig Open House held that evening to learn more about the project.

A couple hundred residents stopped by the drop-in style open house at the Paris Fairgrounds on April 3rd to speak with project engineers, and members of the county's economic development, operations and communications team. Enterprise Brant and the Brantford-Brant Business Resource Enterprise were on hand to speak to business owners and lend support.

Residents who attended brought lots of questions, many pertaining to specifics around where to park, when things will

be closed and how construction will affect their lives. The underlining theme from many residents were concerns that too many projects were coinciding at the same time and despite best planned routes, driving in Paris was going to cause lots of headaches the next few months. Business owners are equally concerned with how the closure of the main street will affect their sales this summer, normally a very busy time of year.

Crozier said the county has established some good relationships with local businesses to hear their concerns and learn their delivery schedules so they could provide alternatives during construction.

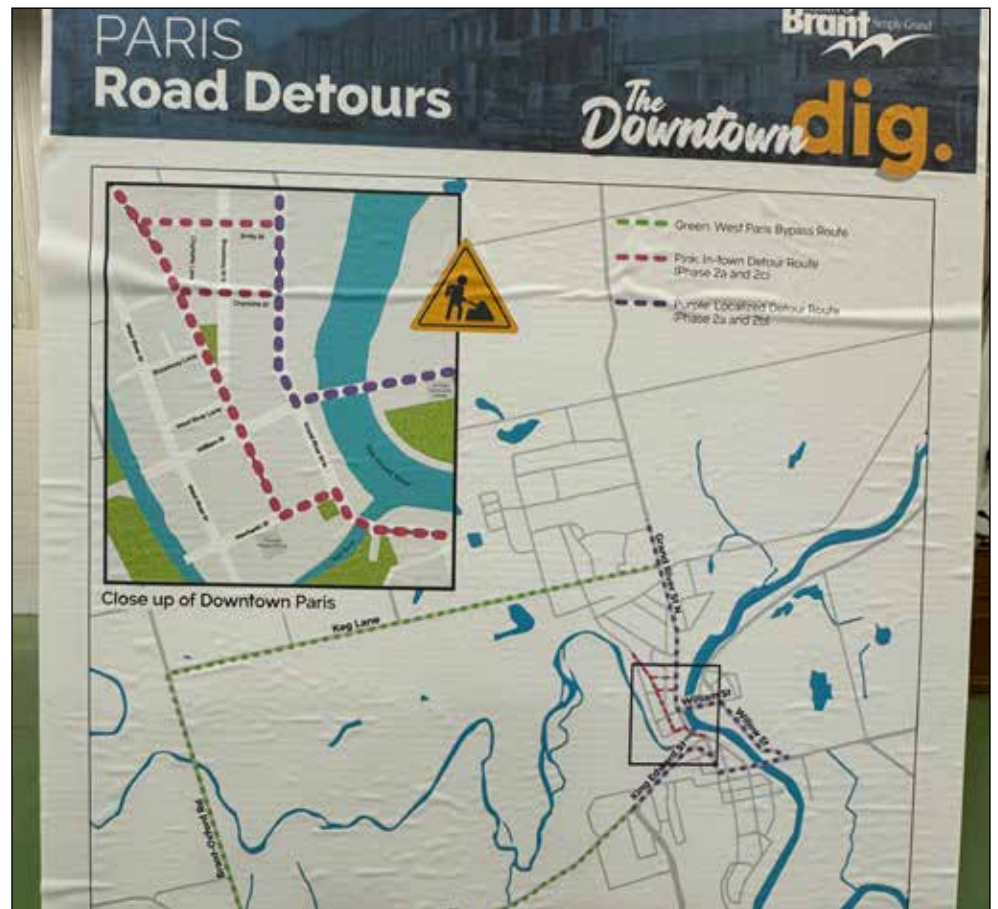
When phase 2A starts in the heart of downtown, motorists can bypass the construction by accessing the main intersection still or can bypass that main intersection on a detoured route that runs along Broadway Street, parallel to Grand River Street North. Last week county staff laid down a series of speed bumps on Broadway Street to reduce speeding as the detour route passes through a community safety zone at Paris Central School and past a library and several churches. That local bypass brings motorists to and from Mechanic Street where access will remain open over the Nith River bridge during phase 2A.

The most difficult work will be replacing the sanitary sewers in phase 2A, said Crozier, noting the sewers are buried deep and on a very shallow grade.

"That portion of the project has to be stabilized before we move to phase 2B," he said. Phase 2B is the closure of Grand River Street North from Mechanic Street just past the Nith River Bridge, leaving the only in town access to and from one end of town to another via Willow and William Street.

With the nice weather upon us soon, Crozier hopes more residents will take advantage of walking by parking at Lion's Park and using the footbridge to connect to downtown.

To help alleviate traffic pressure in town, county staff are also urging motorists to



This map outlines specific in-town and around-town detours once construction begins downtown. West River Street, Grand River Street North and Paris/Road Dundas Street will be under construction at the same time. Using the west by pass outlined in green might be a time saver for motorists attempting to travel from one end of town to another.

use the west bypass, which is identified as the preferred Paris bypass in the Paris Master Transportation plan. The west bypass takes motorists along the outskirts of Paris from Keg Lane and Brant Oxford Road in the North end to Bishopsgate Road and Powerline Road in the South end. It connects motorists from both Highways 401 and 403 without entering Paris.

"We have signage ordered and it should be installed any day now to encourage the west bypass," said Crozier. "We will have temporary signals at Brant Oxford Road and Keg Lane as we recognize turning left on Brant Oxford can be difficult."

The county will also install another temporary signal at Powerline Road and Bishopsgate Rd to help with traffic flow as increased motorists rely on the bypass.

The west bypass might just be the best option if you're travelling to and from Brantford as another construction project gets underway next week on Paris Road.

A new sanitary sewer will be installed on Paris Road, Oak Park Road and a portion

of Dundas Street East. The timeline for this project runs concurrent with construction downtown and on West River Street.

To help manage all the construction, it's suggested residents rely on important information about detours, updates, timeline changes and on the County's EngageBrant website. Not only is it a tool for people to stay informed, but also a mechanism for county staff to hear the concerns and suggestions of residents.

Dana Steane, Public Consultation Specialist with the County's Strategic Initiatives Department said residents can subscribe to the Downtown Dig page enabling them to receive timely emails and stay informed throughout the project. There's a question board for people to post questions and receive answers, which remains live throughout the project. Find out more at www.engagebrant.ca/downtown-dig

You can also follow municipal511.ca for roads reports.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the birthstone for April?
2. Where did the SS Edmund Fitzgerald sink?
3. What does CNN stand for?
4. What U.S president served 4 terms?
5. What was Blackbeard's real name?
6. How many continents are there?
7. Peabody Museum of Natural History is located at what University?
8. What is the only country lemurs are native to?
9. A perfect game of 10-pin bowling consists of how many points?
10. In what country is the current season of "The White Lotus" based?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27



NEWS

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Come for the Pancakes, Stay for the Entertainment at Paris Maple Syrup Festival



You simply cannot host a Maple Syrup Festival without pancakes and you cannot serve pancakes without a dedicated group of community-minded volunteers, like the ones pictured above during the 2024 Festival. When asked for their names to showcase their commitment to the community, they simply replied, 'we're here to help, not for the fame.' In that case, thank-you for all your help!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

performances by Joan Minery and the Voices of Sing IT, the Thompson Road Band, and an interactive line dancing session led by STOMPtastic. To add even more excitement, Doug "The Great" Hunt and performers from the Glass Slipper Company will be mingling with the crowd, bringing magic and fun for all ages.

In the spirit of giving back, the County of Brant will be collecting non-perishable food donations to support local food banks. Attendees can also enter a draw for a chance to win exciting prizes.

"This year's festival is shaping up to be a wonderful experience for people of all ages," said Lion Ted Bickell, one of the

event organizers. "We're excited to showcase the best of our community with great food, music and fun activities."

The 12th Annual Paris Maple Syrup Festival is free to attend, making it the perfect event for families, friends, and visitors to come together and celebrate the season.

Come for the pancakes, stay for the fun—this year's festival is sure to be one to remember!

The Lions Club of Paris has been serving the local community since 1931, supporting various charitable initiatives and hosting events that bring people together. The annual Maple Syrup Festival is the club's most anticipated event, raising funds to support local projects while celebrating a truly Canadian tradition.



Visit this year's Maple Syrup Festival on April 12th at the Paris Fairgrounds to get your pancake fill and to restock your shelves with delicious, local maple syrup.



Pancakes and syrup aside, one of the biggest allures of the festival is its amazing entertainment. Doug the Great is just one of many performers who take the festival to new heights.

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EDITORIAL

Spring flood leaves trail of debris and closes park and river access points

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

As the thaw of winter grips the land, we are reminded of the raw power of nature and the delicate balance we must maintain with our environment. The recent spring flood has not only left a trail of debris in its wake but has also prompted the closure of several cherished parks and river access points in the County of Brant.

Penman's Dam in Paris, Ontario, once a serene spot for nature enthusiasts and locals alike, now stands as a testament to the force of nature. The debris scattered around the area serves as a reminder of the unstoppable flow of the river and the need for caution during these times.

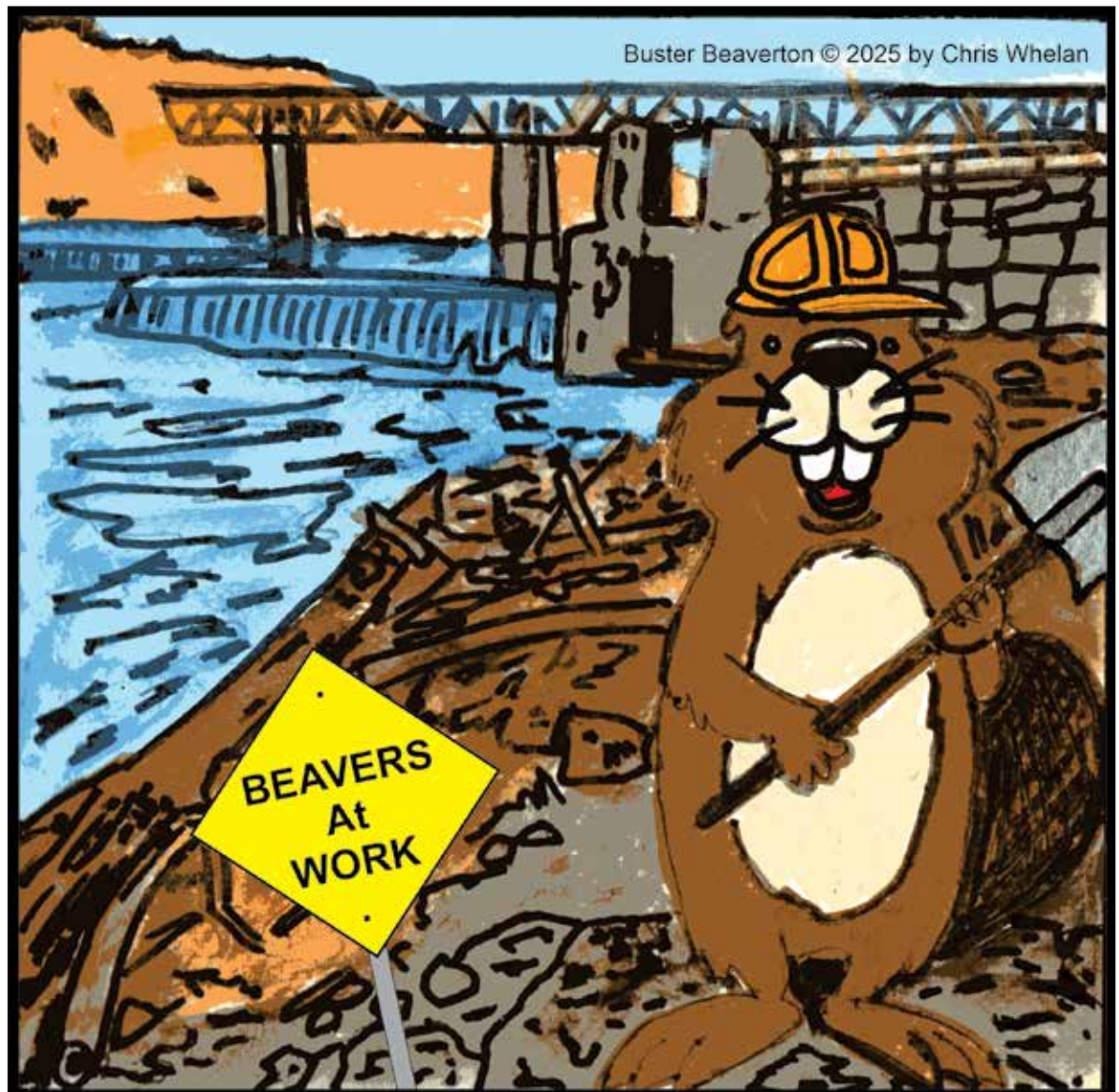
Amidst the chaos of the flood aftermath, a beaver tirelessly works on collecting wood for its building projects. A stark contrast to the destruction around, this beaver symbolizes resilience and adaptability in the face of adversity.

The closure of parks like Bean Park, Optimist Park in Paris, and the Eric Thomlinson Access Point in Glen Morris is a necessary step to ensure public safety. The fast-flowing rivers and slippery banks pose significant risks, and it is crucial for everyone to heed the warnings and stay away from these areas until further notice.

We must remember that while nature can be awe-inspiring, it can also be unforgiving. Let us take this opportunity to reflect on our relationship with the environment and strive to be better stewards of the land we call home.

In the meantime, let us all stay safe, exercise caution, and respect the power of nature as we navigate through these challenging times. Together, we can overcome these obstacles and emerge stronger on the other side.

Stay safe, stay vigilant, and let us all work towards a brighter, more sustainable future for our community and our planet.



The County of Brant parks and river access points were closed late last week due to flooding. Residents were not able to access Bean Park and Optimist Park access points as well as the Eric Thomlinson access point in Glen Morris. The county urged the public to stay cautious around all bodies of water as current weather conditions have caused rivers and creeks to flow quickly and banks are particularly slippery posing significant risks, especially with debris piling up. Buster Beaverton reminds you to stay safe!

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Paris Family Launches 'Team Gary' Hike for Hospice Campaign



Eric Farrace, a member of Team Gary, and Heidi Wright, Gary's wife, and Schae, Gary's daughter, made a \$6,500 donation to Stedman Community Hospice on behalf of Team Gary supporters last September. They are pictured with Julie Powell, President and CEO of St. Joseph's Lifecare Foundation.



Gary and Heidi Wright at Stedman Community Hospice where Gary spent the last six weeks of his life. Gary's courage united a community 'to fight together.' Heidi and her children, Skylar and Schae, are fundraising for the Annual Hike for Hospice event on May 4, 2025.

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Stedman Community Hospice is a home away from home.

When families walk through the doors of the Brantford-based facility, they're greeted with kindness, compassion and an overwhelming sense of serenity as they brave the final steps of a loved one's journey. It may be an end of a life experience, but it usually cultivates the beginning of new friendships as one Paris family found out last year when their beloved patriarch Gary Wright was admitted to Stedman Community Hospice on June 6, 2024 following a valiant battle with brain cancer.

"Upon arriving we were welcomed by the kindest staff, dressed in every day casual clothes, that had a special way of calming our fears," explained Heidi Wright, Gary's wife and lifelong partner. Gary and Heidi share two children, Skylar and Schae. Gary was diagnosed in June 2021 with Glioblastoma. He endured two surgeries to keep the cancer at bay but a recurrence in February of 2024 eventually led to the end of his battle. He passed away July 23, 2024.

"The care that Gary received was incredible. The compassion that I witnessed from PSW nurses and spiritual care was above and beyond. They have a passion, which Gary told them numerous times," said Heidi.

That's just one of the reasons why the Wright family is fundraising and participating in the 21st Annual Hike for Hospice on May 4, 2025.

"Gary's journey at Stedman has opened my eyes to the need for funds. Hospice is a needed part of end of life, where families can come together and just be," she shared. "To show my gratitude, I will be fundraising for Stedman

to allow other families to experience the care so needed at end of life, to have and feel the support our whole family felt."

Stedman Community Hospice's annual operating budget is \$3.8 million. After government funding, there is a shortfall of about \$1.67 million. That is why donations through fundraisers like the Hike for Hospice, which has raised more than \$3.4 million since its inception in 2004, as well as the Handbags for Hospice fundraiser that has raised \$1.1 million since 2013, are so important.

As Heidi reflects on her family's experience at hospice, she noted it was all the things the staff and volunteers took care of to help them through the toughest time of their lives, so they could spend as much time as possible with Gary. Things like lining up physiotherapy, to ordering a wheelchair and even offering spiritual care to help families so they can create lasting memories through hand sculpture art, photographs, voice recordings, all the things a family cherishes in the years following their loved one's passing.

Not long after admission, the Wright family quickly realized that Stedman Community Hospice was the best place for Gary to receive peaceful and comfortable care.

"Gary's bed could be wheeled right out to the patio and the beautiful gardens, where he slept, visited or ate a meal. The gardens are the most incredible sight I have ever seen. Volunteers work diligently on maintaining their beauty," Heidi recalls. In those gardens is where she found her own inner peace and allowed herself to grieve for what was to come but also finding moments of gratefulness for the care Gary was receiving.

The impact of their time at Stedman Community Hospice is still very powerful, more than nine months since

Gary passed away. Heidi just completed a 10-week Spousal Loss Bereavement Program, supplied by Stedman Community Hospice at no cost.

"I gained understanding and knowledge towards my grief and gained some friendships in that group. So funding isn't just for the patient, it's for families affected by loss and counselling is also offered one-on-one."

Heidi and her children launched their Hike for Hospice fundraising campaign just two weeks ago with an initial goal of \$500. They've already doubled that goal and there's no telling how much they will raise, after all, the Wrights are no strangers to fundraising for important causes.

During Gary's cancer journey, they often held fundraising walks and events in support of the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada under the name Team Gary. Just months after his passing, Team Gary came together again to raise money for the Paris Terry Fox Run, living up to the group's motto 'in this town we fight together.'

Fundraising and sharing Gary's story has become important in keeping Gary's memory alive, which they do to remind people of the impact one person can make with some faith and a whole lot of resilience.

If you'd like to donate in Gary's memory visit <https://www.stedmanhike.ca/> and search for 'Team Gary.'

"I want to emphasize my thanks to anyone and all whom have donated and whom will be donating," said Heidi, who in our little town is famously known for her delicious sourdough bread. "As a perk, anyone who donates will be put into a draw for a loaf of my (getting famous) sourdough bread," she ended, once again highlighting the true resilience and positivity that's just part of the Wright way.

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Volunteers Needed for Growing Scouts Program

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Scouting in Paris has grown to new heights and to help manage the increased interest in this youth program, leaders are looking for more volunteers.

1st Paris Scouting has more than 100 years of history in Paris, thanks to a sponsorship with St. James Anglican Church that has provided a space for the program to grow.

During the pandemic, 1st Paris Scouts pivoted its programs to a virtual platform and when restrictions lifted, the desire to enroll children in programs with a strong focus on social activities grew exponentially. Numbers nearly doubled in all age categories – Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Scouts.

That growth led the organization to expand its meetings from their centralized space at St. James Church to include Paris District High School, offering more evening meetings to accommodate the active group of eager beavers.

Now, the organization hopes to attract more volunteers to lessen the pressure on current volunteers who are handling larger groups. While many of the current volunteers are parents of participants, that is not a requirement, said Dan Tapley, Group Commissioner/Pack Scouter - 1st Paris. What is a requirement is that all volunteers provide a Police Record Check and go through an interview and reference check before they are approved.

A willingness to jump right in, combined with a natural curiosity, make for some of the best group leaders.

“Two biggest qualities are to be a kid at heart and have a willingness to learn,” said Tapley. “Our youth tend to enjoy when an adult says, ‘I don’t know, let’s find out.’”

Tapley started his Scouting journey about 10 years ago when his son was a Beaver Scout in Dundas. His involvement started with helping update the group’s website and eventually led to a volunteer leader the following year. When his family moved to Brantford he continued to Scout in this area.

“I’ve developed friendships with other volunteers locally and across Canada,” said Tapley. “I love giving a voice to youth who may be shy and more reserved. I also live for that ‘A-Ha Moment’ where a youth goes from being



Scouter Peter McLean helps a young Beaver Scout with a carpentry project.

scared to try something to ‘I did it.’”

Paris Scout Volunteers meet once a week with the youth and there are a few weekend camps throughout the year. Tapley said they make volunteering as flexible as possible and it’s not uncommon to have volunteers who can only do the weekly meetings and others who are only available for the weekend camp outs. In short, they will accept any time the volunteer is willing to provide.

Volunteers don’t actively lead the youth, it’s quite the opposite. Scouting programs are youth-led which means every week volunteers and youth explore different areas of life that the youth express interest in, creating some spur of the moment life skills in tandem with some traditional outdoor skills.

“We typically intersperse active games with learning,” said Tapley. Older youth have worked towards creating their own hiking staves, finding that perfect branch during a hike and putting their knife skills to use. Younger youth enjoy exploring different types of bugs, animals and plants in nature. This community has an abundance of resources to assist with these lessons.

“We recently had a four-week series of meetings around a Scouts Canada National Challenge based on the Quebec Carnival. Youth got to make maple syrup taffy, create sashes like Bonhomme Carnaval and use coloured ice cubes to create art.”

If you have a natural curiosity and desire to continually learn new things this could be the volunteer opportunity for you.

Tapley said he likes the opportunity to disconnect from his day job and immerse himself in some camaraderie and laughter. To learn more about this opportunity visit the 1st Paris Scouting Group on Facebook or email Tapley at dan.tapley@scouts.ca



Scouters Angela Robb (Left) and Heaven-Leigh Dalton (right) along with some Cubs learning to use a tarp stretcher in an emergency.

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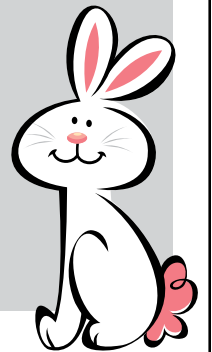
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Market Street Railway Crossing not a Candidate for Whistle Cessation

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Paris Councillor Steve Howes has the answer to a burning question, “Can’t we get CN Rail to stop sounding the whistle at the crossing on Market Street, especially at night?”

You’ve probably seen the question posed in a Paris social media group at one time or another. It’s almost always asked by a newer resident in the north end, generally followed up with “do you ever get used to it?” Some residents even share instructions from Transport Canada’s website on how a municipality can apply for Whistle Cessation, but the answer isn’t that cut and dry.

Howes admits his response is general, stating it’s very difficult to get CN to stop blowing the whistle and he usually follows that response with what he calls ‘local context’ in sharing a memory of a teen hit by a train near the Market Street crossing over 20 years ago.

Last week Howes found the perfect opportunity to address that question on behalf of constituents while at the Good Roads Conference in Toronto.

“I figured it was an appropriate oppor-

tunity for me to meet with CN Rail and refresh my knowledge on the details and facts related to applying for Whistle Cessation,” he shared on a social media post that garnered thousands of views within hours.

“The short answer is that yes, in select circumstances a Whistle Cessation might be negotiated, however in those situations, the Municipality takes on all future liability for any accidents involving the crossing and the train AND the local taxpayers have to foot the bill (over \$1 Million) for many extra safety measures that have to be added to the silent crossing,” he announced.

The Paris crossing has another deterrent – poor site lines caused by curvatures on the tracks just east of Market and a road with a hill leading up to the crossing. It’s also adjacent to high pedestrian traffic from nearby stores, schools, and businesses. These, says Howes, are a perfect combination of ingredients that prevent Market Street from being a candidate for Whistle Cessation.

Some advice from the longtime resident, who’s always lived near the tracks, “you do reach a point where you don’t even notice it anymore!”



Paris Councillor Steve Howes with Salar from CN Rail at the Good Roads Conference in Toronto last week. Howes spent some time chatting with Salar about what qualifies railway crossings for whistle cessation.

Safety a Continued Theme at Ontario Good Road Association Conference

LUKAS OAKLEY

Paris Independent Contributor

This past week, representatives from the County of Brant council, including myself, attended this year’s Ontario Good Road Association Conference in Toronto. This conference brings together municipal elected officials, municipal staff, professional associations, and industry experts in transportation infrastructure. Unlike most years, and most conferences, the provincial government, along with most of its ministries, pulled out of the conference. So we, and the other attendees, did not have the opportunity to delegate on your behalf to the government. However, there were still many educational sessions, keynotes, and learning opportunities to attend!

This year’s two keynote speakers were David Zipper, senior fellow at the MIT Mobility Initiative, and Wes Marshall, author of *Killed by a Traffic Engineer*, both speaking on road safety. The first presentation addressed the growing trend worldwide, but particularly in North America, of “car bloat”, or the rapidly increasing size and weight of personal vehicles. From the shift away from sedans being the vehicle of choice to SUVs and trucks, as well as just the sheer increase in size in those vehicle classes. These trends have resulted in rising pedestrian fatalities and rapidly increasing infrastructure maintenance costs. This is something I think we can see reflected in our own downtown, with longer trucks jutting into the active traffic lane from the angled parking. It was very thought provoking, and I have requested data from our operations department to quantify what increased costs can be attributed to heavier vehicles damaging our roads more quickly. Mr. Zipper also high-

lighted other jurisdictions, such as the City of Montreal, or France, which have taken steps to regulating or taxing heavier vehicles to both offset these increased costs and impacts, as well as encourage constituents to consider smaller vehicles or alternative forms of transit.

The second keynote speech explored how the relatively recent science of traffic engineering has been fraught with perhaps flawed traffic safety theories, and the need to reconsider our assumptions on engineering safe streets. In particular, the running theorem has been that wider streets are safer streets, but empirical data appears to suggest otherwise. Wide streets tend to encourage faster driving, despite what may be posted on speed limit signs versus narrower streets, increasing both rates of accidents and the consequences of those accidents. Dr. Marshall also critically examined the way we classify traffic crashes, often to human error rather than acknowledging the potential systematic errors that influenced the human error. One such example, and again one that can be reflected in downtown Paris, are accidents at left-hand turns at signalled intersections. We categorize accidents from drivers that hit crossing pedestrians as a “human error” (of which, for certain, is a contributor), but without acknowledging that we are asking drivers to circumnavigate lanes of traffic, keep track of pedestrians and more. What is provably safer, is ensuring pedestrians and traffic do not cross at the same time, like our Barnes Dance intersection on Grand River St N and William St. Since we have changed from a permissive left hand turn at that intersection, to the current paradigm; we have had no reported vehicle-pedestrian accidents.

Safety continued to be a theme at several



The first presentation addressed the growing trend worldwide, but particularly in North America, of “car bloat”, or the rapidly increasing size and weight of personal vehicles. These trends have resulted in rising pedestrian fatalities and rapidly increasing infrastructure maintenance costs.

of the concurrent sessions, with one that I attended highlighted strategies for public engagement on road safety. One of the presenters demonstrated an app, not dissimilar to the game *Pokemon GO*, which encouraged (and paid!) users of the app to identify aging or damaged infrastructure or identify invasive species for removal. In the several European cities that have used their app, they spoke to how the app saved taxpayer dollars and enhanced service response times by crowdsourcing investigative work.

As has been a theme in the political zeitgeist as of late, there was also a panel on the Future of Canada-US relations, with the panelists speaking to what we as municipal government can do to be prepared for the next several years of uncertainty. The highlights included encouraging local participation in the upcoming federal election, shopping local and supporting local businesses, and ensuring politicians at all

levels in Canada building relationships with their peers across the border.

Overall, this year’s Good Roads conference gave me a lot to consider in terms of public safety in our roadways, and fostered lots of excellent discussion with my council colleagues and staff in our Operations department. It was of course disappointing that the provincial government denied us the opportunity to speak to them on important topics to enhance services in the County of Brant, but we have members of council attending several of the other conferences throughout the year for more opportunities. The next conference I will be attending and reporting back to the public on will be the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference in Ottawa at the end of May. It will be the first time a member of our council will be attending this particular conference, so I am looking forward to learning, advocating, and reporting!

GrandBridge Energy Crews Assist with Power Restoration Efforts near Alliston

MEDIA RELEASE

GrandBridge Energy

GrandBridge Energy has deployed two crews to the Alliston area as power restoration efforts continue following a devastating ice storm that hit central Ontario at the end of March.

Nine GrandBridge Energy employees were deployed on the evening of Monday, March 31 to assist where the damage is extensive following a support request from Hydro One through the Ontario Mutual Assistance Group (OnMAG).

Eight GrandBridge Energy Powerline Technicians and one Field Operations Manager are currently assisting to rebuild a section of overhead powerlines on Highway 124 north of Shelbourne where hydro poles have snapped, and powerlines are strewn across the ground. To aid in these rebuild efforts, GrandBridge Energy also sent four bucket trucks, two radial boom derricks (RBDs) and three pickup trucks.

"We're incredibly proud of our team members who have stepped up to help Hy-



GrandBridge Energy South Operations crew members, left to right, Griffen Mills, Ryan Seymour, Chad Sayles and Tyler Korobka.

dro One restore power in the Alliston area following the recent ice storm," says Sarah Hughes, President & CEO of GrandBridge Energy. "Thousands of people remain without power during a time when weather conditions are unpredictable. I commend all utility workers from across the province who have come together to help get the lights back on in the hardest-hit communities."

GrandBridge Energy Vice President of Operations, Ernie Vidovic, added, "There is an added element of danger when working to repair infrastructure following a storm. Safety is always paramount. Crew members are taking time away from their families to assist with the extensive restoration efforts and we thank them for their dedication."

With clean up efforts ongoing, safety must remain top of mind. Remember to stay back at least 10 metres from a downed powerline, about the length of a school bus. If you see a downed powerline, always assume it is live and call 911. Never attempt to clear tree limbs that are leaning on or caught in powerlines. Call your local utility to report the situation.



GrandBridge Energy North Operations crew members, left to right, Gerry DeGier, Jake Thompson, Carson Bolger and Matt West.



Crews working on downed power lines in the Highway 124 area, north of Shelbourne.

PDHS Collects Three Awards at National Theatre School Festival

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Paris High School entered the National Theatre School Festival and earned three awards for its performance of *The Astonishing and Dangerous History of Maze-field the Frog*.

The Festival's District Level Competition took place at Brantford Collegiate Institute March 26-28th where students from PDHS' drama club performed in front of sold-out crowds. It was an opportunity students have prepared for since the start of the school year, convincing Drama Club and English Teacher Kaitlyn Bishop to enter the festival.

"The show was amazing tonight," said Teacher Advisor Kaitlyn Bishop following the school's performance. "I am so proud of all their hard work today."

The performances were adjudicated by Tyler Collins, who participates in theatre

studies at Sheraton in Journalism, is an Arts Editor for the Oakville News and is a Director and Actor in Community Theatre Productions.

Various acting awards were up for grabs and Paris took home three. Thomas Whitney received an acting award for his portrayal of the meanest boy in the world. Micah Leitch, Student Director, accepted the Costuming Award and the entire ensemble was thrilled to accept the Spirit of the Festival Award.

"That's the award my students really wanted," said Bishop. The award is given to the school whose infectious spirit is evident throughout the festival.

The last time PDHS entered the National Festival was about five years ago. Bishop said as the drama club begins to build momentum at PDHS, she hopes this will become a biannual tradition.



The Paris District High School Drama Club won Spirit of the Festival Award at the National Theatre School Festival District Level Competition on March 26-28th. The award is given to the school whose infectious spirit is evident throughout the festival

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

The OPP warns Ontarians targeted in smishing fraud

MEDIA RELEASE

Ontario Provincial Police

Cybercriminals are ramping up text-based scams to steal personal and banking information. This tactic, known as "smishing", a combination of "SMS" (short message service) and phishing, relies on deceptive text messages to trick recipients into clicking malicious links or calling fraudulent numbers.

Smishing messages often appear to come from financial institutions, courier companies, online retailers or government agencies. Clicking on these links can lead to identity theft, financial fraud or malware being installed on your device. Examples of smishing attempts are available in the additional content section to help Ontarians recognize these scams.

In 2024, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) received almost 9,500 reports of identity fraud and over 3,900 reports of personal information theft.

How to Protect Yourself from Smishing Scams:

- Do not click on links, reply to messages or call numbers from unknown senders.
- Report suspicious texts by forwarding them to 7726 (SPAM).
- Delete all suspicious messages immediately.
- Keep your smartphone secure by updating your operating system and security software.
- Use multi-factor authentication for banking, social media and other sensitive accounts.
- Verify any unexpected text messages by checking official websites or contacting organizations directly.
- If you are a victim of smishing frauds, ensure to review the CAFC guide on What to do if you're a victim of fraud.

For more information on fraud prevention, visit opp.ca and sfo.opp.ca.

If you suspect fraudulent activity or have been a victim of fraud, report it immediately to your local police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or online via the Fraud Reporting System.



(CRA) Notice: Your Ontario trillium benefit (OTB) file has been successfully processed as of November 19, 2022. In addition, a annual return of \$322.50 (CAD) has been received. Please visit <http://162.0.237.36> to complete your claim application.

Ontario Courts: This is a final reminder regarding your unpaid fine that has not yet been settled. It is strongly advised to resolve your case as soon as possible, before February 29, 2024, by paying the late fee of \$7.50 on the website <https://ontariocourts-webpayment.com>. This action will allow you to close the case and prevent any additional charges.

Federal Candidates Forum Taking Place April 15 at Paris Fairgrounds

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

With the election just weeks away, Paris and Glen Morris residents will have an opportunity to get to know the candidates in their new riding during a Federal Election Candidates Forum on April 15th at the Paris Fairgrounds.

Hosted by the County of Brant Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Brant County Federation of Agriculture, the Paris Agricultural Society and the Grand Erie Elementary Teachers Federation, the Forum will feature four of the five registered candidates in the Flamborough-Glanbrook-Brant North riding: Dan Muys – Conservative, Chuck Phillips – Liberal, Peter Werhun and Nikita Mahood. Green Party candidate Anita Payne confirmed she is not participating in the forum.

A moderator will ask candidates a series of questions compiled from suggestions put forward by the sponsoring organizations and the Chamber, said Susan Morton, executive director of the County of Brant

Chamber of Commerce. Candidates will be given a set time allotment to answer each question, monitored by a timekeeper. There will be no question or answer period for the audience but if time permits, there may be an opportunity to mingle with candidates before and after the forum.

"We felt it was important for residents in the County of Brant to have an opportunity to meet the candidates that are running in the riding, as they're unfamiliar to the community," said Morton. The federal electoral boundaries were changed in 2023 and took effect in 2024. Part of the County of Brant, Wards 1, 2 and 3, is now in the riding of Flamborough/Glanbrook/Brant North. Wards 4 and 5 remain in the Brantford-Brant South-Six Nations riding.

The Chamber of Commerce regularly hosts municipal, provincial and federal candidate forums prior to elections. Morton said they are grateful to the sponsoring organizations for coming together to bring this important event to the community.

The federal election takes place on April 28. Advance Polls open from April 18 -21.

OPP Seeks Information in Historical Missing Person Case

Robert William COMMU last seen March 31, 1996

MEDIA RELEASE

County of Brant OPP

The Brant County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is continuing to seek information from the public in connection with the disappearance of Robert William COMMU, who was last seen on March 31, 1996, in South Dumfries Township.

At the time of his disappearance, Robert was 29 years old and was known to frequent areas along the Grand River. He was reported missing after he could not be located, and initial search efforts at the time did not result in locating him.

Investigators have interviewed family members, coworkers and associates. Police also received reports that Robert may have been last seen with two unidentified males in a pick-up truck in the days leading up to his disappearance. If anyone has any information about these two males or relating to Robert's disappearance, they are being asked to contact investigators at 1-888-310-1122.

The Brant County OPP continues to follow up on all leads and is working with the National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR) to explore all available avenues.

Robert William COMMU is described as follows:

- Height: 183 cm ('6'0")
- Weight: 82 kg (180 pounds)
- Hair: Long, brown
- Eyes: Blue
- Distinguishing mark: Tattoo of a lion with wings on his right upper arm
- Last seen wearing: A white leather jacket with black sleeves and a red maple leaf on the back

Anyone with information regarding the disappearance of Robert William COMMU is being urged to contact the Brant County OPP at 519-442-2242 or 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit a tip online at ontariocrimstoppers.ca where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

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THE GEM

- MARKETPLACE -

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THE GEM MARKETPLACE: Where Community, Creativity, and Commerce Converge

Tucked away in the quaint town of Paris, lies a hidden gem that is breathing new life into retail business start-ups: The Gem Marketplace. Picture a charming mini-retail mall nestled by the serene Grand River, where seven unique store spaces are seamlessly connected to a delightful vintage store, forming a vibrant hub of innovation and opportunity.

What makes The Gem Marketplace truly special is its welcoming embrace of the local community. Situated in the heart of downtown Paris, this restored heritage building serves as a canvas for budding entrepreneurs to showcase their talents and connect with a wide audience. With a market base of 1.5 million people within a short travel distance, including the residents of Paris, Brant County, and Brantford, the marketplace offers a bustling environment for businesses to thrive.

Equipped with modern amenities such as high-speed WiFi, heating, air conditioning, and more, The Gem Marketplace provides entrepreneurs with a ready-to-use space to kickstart their dreams. Imagine stepping into your own store on day one, ready to greet customers and share your passion for unique, locally-made products.



Whether you are shopping at the Gem Marketplace in the summer or the winter, it's always a unique experience that is an inspiration of creativity and commerce.

But The Gem Marketplace is more than just a place to shop—it's a community hub where local artisans and environmentally conscious businesses come together to create something truly special. By curating a diverse range of tenants who champion handmade and sustainable goods, the marketplace fosters a spirit of collaboration and support among like-minded entrepreneurs.

Unlike traditional retail models that come with hefty investments and long-term commitments, The Gem Marketplace offers a middle ground for aspiring busi-

ness owners to dip their toes into the world of brick-and-mortar retail without the overwhelming risks. It bridges the gap between antique-mall setups with their commission structures and full-scale retail stores, providing a safe space for entrepreneurs to experiment, learn, and grow.

For anyone strolling through the charming streets of Paris, The Gem Marketplace is an inspiration of creativity and commerce. It symbolizes the power of small businesses coming together to create something greater than the sum of its parts. From locally crafted goods to eco-friendly products, each store within the marketplace tells a story and invites customers to be a part of something special.

So, whether you're a resident of Paris looking for a unique shopping experience or a visitor eager to explore hidden treasures, The Gem Marketplace welcomes you with open arms. Step inside, discover something new, and be a part of a community that celebrates creativity, craftsmanship, and connection. In a world where big-box stores dominate, The Gem Marketplace stands as a refreshing reminder of the magic that happens when local businesses thrive and communities come together.

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Inside the Gem Marketplace

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Inside "The Gem" Marketplace

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THE GEM

- MARKETPLACE -

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Saturdays in Paris Winter Series Ends with Grand Finale

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Winter edition of Saturdays in Paris has come to end with a grand finale inspired by the Winter Games.

The programming provided 13 weeks of exciting activities at various locations in Paris' downtown core with the events ranging from a roving Murder Mystery to a Downtown Sampler Tour with bite-sized samples galore, to pop-up mini dance and movement classes. Who could forget the three toasty selfie stations and 13 different arty activities and creation stations presented by forest + folk or decorating musical instruments for S'mores & Songs week, making colourful noodle crafts for the Grand Mac & Cheese Competition and vibrant neuro doodles with artist, Patti Gallant. It was a season of memories no doubt!

The Paris Winter Games finale, held on March 29th attracted just as much attention. Participants collected medals (stickers) in four different categories, Shop, Eat, Create and Move. There were spots dotted throughout the downtown with silly movement activities and places for creativity and, of course, all our brilliant boutiques, tasty eateries and local gems. Participants who collected three medals in each category were eligible for a grand prize draw, a gift basket full of goodies from generous downtown businesses including Heather's Got Tea, Van Laeken Family Farm, Original Gourmet Kettlecorn, Paris Pub, Link Street Sausage House, La Trenza Tacos, Snax, One Sixty One, forest + folk, The Grilled Cheese Effect, Baby B Home, The Rustic Palm, Cocoa & Crumbs and Rebel & Royal.

The prize draw winner was a father/daughter duo, Jim & Evie, and it was meant to be them because they've participated in a number of the Saturdays in Paris events, are enthusiastic locals and have really enjoyed this event series. When asked for their thoughts on Saturdays in Paris, eight-year-old Evie said, "It is a nice thing to do on a Saturday!" and Jim added, "being out in the community and seeing people support local business is wonderful."

We really hope they enjoy their grand prize!

It's been amazing to see the support and energy of Saturdays in Paris and, in turn, the downtown businesses in Paris. With so much uncertainty ahead with the downtown dig, tariffs and all the other things going on in the world, it was wonderful to have something whimsical to do on a Saturday and great to be able to support the downtown businesses through a traditionally quiet time of year.

With all that in mind, Saturdays in Paris will continue

for a mini-Spring series, swirling every Saturday in April from 1 pm and 4 pm across the downtown.

The 'Many Hands' public art project took place this past Saturday on April 5th. This upcoming Saturday, April 12th is the Downtown Paris Maple Map - a return of our Downtown Sampler Tour with a maple focus - like a trip to Costco but across the whole of the downtown (maps available at The Paris Winery Mills Co, Rebel & Royal and Maple Syrup Fest at the Fairgrounds). This is a nice extension of the Lion's Club's Maple Syrup Festival making it on sweet day in Paris! On April 19th is the Grand Easter Egg Hunt with two hunts, one with candy and one with a colouring sheet and a (non candy) prize. On April 26th is the Paris Umbrella Parade a technicolour and fun promenade around downtown Paris with wacky umbrellas you make and bring from home or create with forest + folk. Materials are first come first serve and if you have any umbrellas gathering dust to donate to the event, you can drop off at Van Laeken Family Farm in the Winery Mills, seven days a week. Find out more on www.SaturdaysInParis.com



(SARAH EVANS PHOTO)

A happy hopscotcher has a little fun in the Winery Mills during the Paris Winter Games, while others cheered from the sidelines.



(SARAH EVANS PHOTO)

A group of happy shoppers pose for a photo at One Sixty One during the finale of Saturdays in Paris.



(SARAH EVANS PHOTO)

The prize draw winner was a father/daughter duo, Jim & Evie, and it was meant to be them because they've participated in a number of the Saturdays in Paris events, are enthusiastic locals and have really enjoyed this event series.



Alex Vanderkooy, owner of Grand River Shirts Co.

(SARAH EVANS PHOTO)

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MAY 3, 2025

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THEN AND NOW: Walking through downtown in Paris' earliest days



By **Wayne Wilkinson**
Paris Historian / Artist



(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

Hi everyone! I'm excited to become a small part of this terrific hometown newspaper! We will endeavor to put this column out twice a month. Whether you are a seasoned Parisian or new to our beautiful historic town, I'm sure that you'll enjoy seeing what we used to look like.

The locations in the pictures will all be familiar to you as you recognize the main intersection at William and Grand River Streets. You'll notice in the 1910 photo of the bank that the entrance is in

the center of the front. Years ago, it was moved to the south end as you see now.

The 1872 photo is one of my favourites. This block of businesses was known as the Kerr block, built by Archibald and Thomas Kerr in 1855. The large store at the corner was Joseph Bullocks grocery store. Bullock moved to this location in 1867 from where DBI is now. You'll notice the printing office sign. This belonged

to the 'Paris Transcript newspaper, located above the grocery store, which was established in 1868. To the right, you notice a livery sign. This was actually the entrance to the livery behind the building. Paris had numerous liveries to service all the hotels in town. This one was close to the 'Bradford House ' hotel [which became the Arlington hotel] and the 'North American' hotel where the Baptist church is now.

The other three businesses in this block were: M. Willsons grocery store, the John Chase drug store, and Patton Bros Hardware. At the extreme left is the Chas.

Whitlaw flour mill where Rexall and the Bank of Montreal are located.

Hope you enjoyed this glimpse of this historical part of Paris.

Paris Muslim Community Celebrates Eid ul-Fitr with Joy and Unity



PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Muslim community of Paris came together on Sunday, March 30 to celebrate Eid ul-Fitr, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The event, organized by Masjid Bilal Paris & Community Center, was a beautiful gathering of faith, gratitude, and community spirit.

The day began with a large congregation for Eid Salah (prayer), bringing together families, friends, and neighbors to give thanks for the blessings of Ramadan. Held at Paris Highschool, the prayer service was attended by hundreds of worshippers who embraced the message of unity, compassion, and generosity that defines this special occasion.

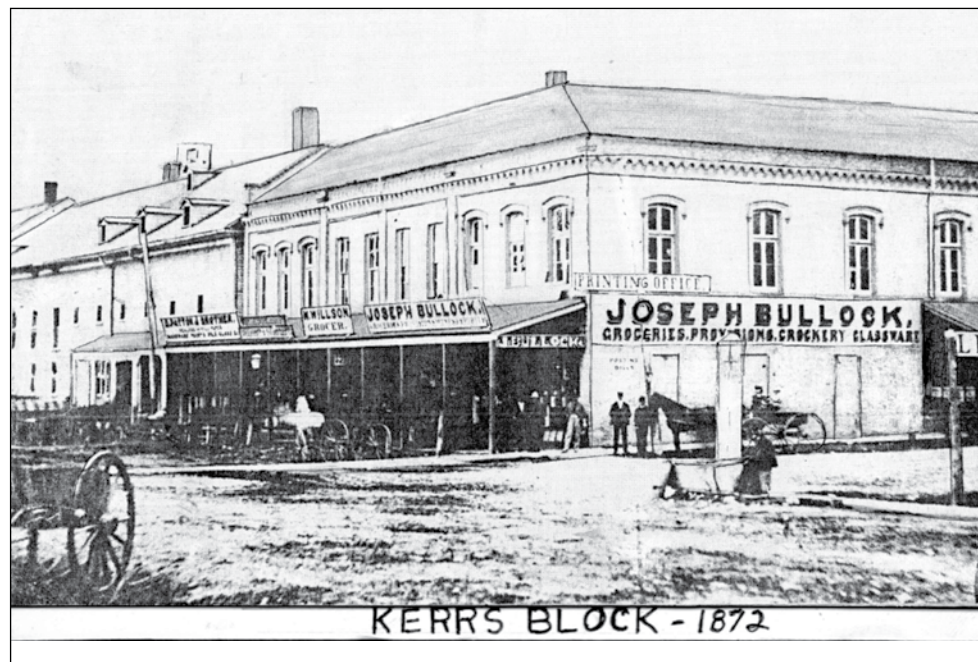
Following the prayer, the celebration continued with a community potluck, where attendees enjoyed a variety of delicious traditional dishes shared by families from diverse backgrounds.

The event also featured fun-filled activities for children, including a train ride, scooters, and special goodie bags, ensuring that the youngest members of the community had an unforgettable experience.

"We are incredibly grateful for the amazing turnout and the warmth of our community," said Muhammad Tariq, President of Masjid Bilal Paris & Community Center. "Eid is not just about celebration; it's about togetherness, reflection, and giving back. Seeing families and friends come together in such a joyful atmosphere is truly a blessing."

As the sun set on a day filled with prayers, laughter, and shared meals, the Eid celebration in Paris stood as a testament to the growing diversity and inclusivity of the town. It was a reminder that, regardless of faith or background, the spirit of togetherness brings people closer.

Masjid Bilal Paris & Community Center extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and contributed to the event's success.



(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

Household Hazardous Waste Days for County residents



The County of Brant and the City of Brantford have partnered to offer more **Household Hazardous Waste days** for residents throughout the year! To learn more, including acceptable and unacceptable materials, visit brant.ca/HazardousWaste.



Mohawk Street Landfill
20 Morrison Road, Brantford
8:00 am to 4:00 pm*

2025 Dates

- April 12
- May 3
- June 14
- July 12
- August 9
- September 13
- October 18
- November 15

*ID may be requested to confirm residence in Brant or Brantford



brant.ca/HazardousWaste

Award Winning Novelist Emma Donoghue fills #ForParisCentre

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Fans of Irish Canadian award-winning novelist Emma Donoghue packed into the #ForParisCentre on April 6th afternoon to listen to her share her love for literacy as part of One Book One Brant's 20th Anniversary celebration.

Over 250 tickets were purchased for the sold-out author event where Donoghue answered burning questions about her literacy works and shared some insight into her creative mind. It's the largest One Book One Brant crowd to date, and that's no surprise as Donoghue's book *Room* won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Commonwealth Writers' prize and was shortlisted for the Man Booker and Orange Prizes. Her novel *The Wonder* was short-listed for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and she co-wrote the 2022 screen adaptation for Netflix.

The One Book One Brant community read, *The Pull of the Stars*, was a finalist for the Trillium Book Award.

"We've been talking about this, doing book clubs for the last month and it's finally here," said Emma Johnston, Adult Program and Outreach Services for the County of Brant Public Library.

Councillor Lukas Oakley emceed the afternoon, noting how fantastic it is to see literacy as front and centre in the community for the last 20 years. "It's as important as ever now that we take time to celebrate Canadian authors," said Oakley.

Johnston conducted a live interview with Donoghue covering everything from the One Book One Brant pick *The Pull of the Stars*, to Donoghue's newest novel *The Paris Express*. Audience members had a



Emma Johnston, Adult Program and Outreach Services for the County of Brant Public Library, interviews Irish Canadian award-winning novelist Emma Donoghue during One Book One Brant's 20th Anniversary Author event at the #ForParisCentre on April 6th.

(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

chance to ask Donoghue questions about her novels, answering questions that arose during book club meetings or while reading her books. It was a casual discussion filled with great insight from one of Canada's most brilliant literary minds, combined with the right amount of humour and laughter.

At one point during the question-and-an-

swer period, Donoghue couldn't help but comment, "I appreciate that your community all picks a book to read together!"

Donoghue's visit to Paris also served as a stop in her current book tour to promote her newly released novel, *The Paris Express*, about the infamous 1895 disaster at the Paris Montparnasse train station.

Pick up next week's Paris Independent to find Donoghue's answers to all our burning questions as she gave readers a unique opportunity to learn about her writing process, decipher how she builds her characters, story arcs and settings and find out what's next on her very busy schedule this year.



This year's event was by far the largest gathering of any One Book One Brant author event, largely due to Emma Donoghue's popularity. More than 250 tickets were sold.

(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

Paris Firefighters

Fundraising Hockey Game

Sunday, April 13/25 At 3:30 PM

*** Boot Drive & food donations welcomed ***

PARIS STATION

V
S

AIRPORT FIRE STATION

Brant Sports Complex - Don Gurney Pad

944 Powerline Road, Paris Email: Info@CLBrant.com

In support of:

Donations of non-perishable food, being collected, to support: The Salvation Army

County of Brant to Participate in 2025 Communities in Bloom Competition

PRESS RELEASE

County of Brant

The County of Brant is thrilled to announce its participation in the 2025 Communities in Bloom competition, following a successful inaugural year in 2024. This year's theme, 'Edible Gardens', presents an exciting opportunity for residents to embrace sustainability, food security, and community beautification through gardening."

We are excited to once again showcase the natural beauty of the County of Brant through the Communities in Bloom program," said Mayor David Bailey. "With the 2025 theme of 'Edible Gardens', we encourage residents to start thinking about how they can incorporate fruits, vegetables, and herbs into their gardens to create beautiful, functional, and sustainable spaces."

The County of Brant is renowned for its stunning rural landscape, rich farmland, and thriving local businesses that embrace farm-to-table practices. By participating in this year's competition, the County aims to highlight the importance of growing food locally, reducing environmental impact, and strengthening our relationship with the land, ensuring a more resilient and sustainable future for our community.

Residents are encouraged to start planning their 2025 gardens and explore cre-

ative ways to integrate edible plants into their landscapes. Whether through backyard gardens, community plots, or container gardening, everyone can play a role in making the County of Brant greener, more sustainable, and food secure.

Stay tuned for fun and exciting ways to get involved in Communities in Bloom throughout the spring and summer! The County will be launching contests, initiatives, and opportunities for residents to showcase their edible gardens and win exciting prizes.

The County is also looking for businesses and individuals interested in sponsoring planters in downtown Paris that will promote downtown beautification and welcoming the judges during their tour in July.

"Communities in Bloom is about celebrating the beauty, sustainability, and spirit of our community," said Stacey Ellins, Director of Parks and Recreation. "We can't wait to see how our residents bring this year's theme to life and contribute to making the County of Brant an even more vibrant place to live."

For more information on sponsorship opportunities and how to participate, visit brant.ca/BrantInBloom and follow the County of Brant on Facebook, Instagram and X at [@BrantCommunity](https://www.instagram.com/BrantCommunity) for updates.



In July 2024 the County of Brant was proud to host judges Karen Stephenson and Matt Robertson for the 2024 Communities in Bloom program. The judges visited several locations throughout the County of Brant including Paris, St. George, Glen Morris, Mt. Pleasant, Cainsville, Scotland, and Burford.

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The Paris Independent SPORTS

Golden Weekend at Buffalo River Outdoor Classic

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Another Paris team crossed the border at the end of March and returned home with one great big team accomplishment from the Buffalo River Outdoor Classic.

The U8 Wolfpack (Team#1) crammed eight games into the weekend and only lost one on their pursuit to the Championship win. The first two games of the weekend were played at the Classic Outdoor Rink in Aurora, New York. With original benches from the first Winter Classic Game, it was a unique experience for the players and their fans.

In the first game, Paris faced the Rochester Junior Americans 1. They started off on a tear with a 7-0 win. Goaltender James McGivern earned the shutout and Leo Peirce was credited with a highlight reel goal with a blast from the slot right past the goalie.

In the next game against Toledo Cherokee, Paris' momentum continued where they cruised to an 8-1 win. Max Beechey picked up a hat trick, while Bennett Keen and Jake Cordingley scored beauty goals.

Saturday's games were played at the Buffalo State University rink.

Paris started the day off against South Pittsburgh Rebellion and it wouldn't be the only time they would play one another in the tournament. This was also the first time Paris struggled to find the back of the net thanks to some tough goaltending from South Pittsburgh goalie. Eventually, Jake Cordingley's relentless forecheck helped Andy Corbett cash in three goals. The Cordingley / Corbett duo stole the show and led the team to a 3-1 finish.

Up against Rochester Junior Americans in game four, Paris couldn't take down their opponents as easily as they did in game one. Tatum Fennema and Bodhi Desloovere put forth some great defensive plays to preserve the team's 2-2 tie. Max Beechey scored both of Paris' markers. Paris almost stole the win with one minute left on the clock when Eldin Dunbar-Litwiller, on a Bobby Orr rush with some great moves, was robbed by the goalie on what would have been the game winner.

During game five versus Toledo Cherokee, Paris faced another strong goalie. Marley Mac and Henley Gagnon were the stars in this one with a goal each. Marley had an amazing top shelf snipe, and Henley had a great finish on a nice rush through three opposing players to beat the goalie with a hard wrist shot.

"More impressive was the compete level of both of these players as well as Nolan Ferren," said Head Coach Chris Lit-



U8 Paris Wolfpack Team 1 travelled to Buffalo March 26-28th to compete in the Buffalo River Outdoor Classic. They brought home Gold, showcasing once again that hockey is our national sport! Pictured are team members and coaches (in no order), Jake Cordingley, Tatum Fennema, Andy Corbett, Max Beechey, James McGivern, Eldin Dunbar-Litwiller, Nolan Ferren, Leo Peirce, Bodhi Desloovere, Henley Gagnon, Marley Mac, Bennett Keen.

willer. "They were everywhere on the ice, and they prevented the other team from having any puck control."

Max Beechey also added yet another goal to make it a 3-1 final for Paris.

It was the sixth game of the tournament when Paris would suffer its first loss against South Pittsburgh Rebellion. The team had difficulties solving their goalie and Pittsburgh got a little luck on a line change that saw them score the first of their two goals, said Litwiller.

Max Beechey scored Paris' only goal the 2-1 loss. Pittsburgh played a very physical game that left a few Paris players rattled after the game.

After a 4-1-1 record, Paris tied for second place and moved on to the semi finals versus Rochester Junior Americans 2.

Paris dominated the play with a relent-

less pursuit of the puck and great passing to secure the 6-1 and trip to the championship game. Max Beechey picked up another two goals, Henley Gagnon also scored two goals, Eldin Dunbar-Litwiller had one goal and two assists, Marley Mac fired another top corner goal, and Bennett Keen fired off two assists.

"It was one of the best overall team efforts of the season," said Litwiller.

Paris was faced with the physical South Pittsburgh Rebellion in the final game, and they were determined to rise to the challenge and show their opponents that Canada was bringing home the Gold. With their elbows up, the team stood their ground, despite multiple Pittsburgh penalties early in the game.

"Nolan Ferren, Tatum Fennema and small but mighty Henley Gagnon lead

the team, standing up to the rough play by Pittsburgh with a little bit of our own toughness," said Litwiller. He added it was Paris' superior team play and passing that made the difference.

"Knowing that it was the last game of the season the boys came out with their best effort of the season. It was a real treat to watch as a coach."

The final score was 2-0 for Paris. Pittsburgh could only muster 5 shots on net as the Wolfpack goalie James McGivern stopped them all. Max Beechey and Marley Mac scored Paris' goals with assists from Eldin Dunbar-Litwiller and Nolan Ferren.

Litwiller also thanked his assistant coaches, Chad Beechey, Matt Ferren and Dave Corbett, also Manager Jason Gagnon for all their hard work all season.

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50th Anniversary of Scotts Colonels Midget A Championship

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

The Championship team that proved the third time is the charm, the 1974-1975 Paris Scotts Colonels were a team that earned their right to be heroes of Paris hockey history. After losing in the '72-73 Midget A Finals to Bowmanville and losing to Ganoque the following year, this team went on a historic run that brought victory and made Paris a hockey town again.

Coached by Tom Jensen, quite an athlete in his own right, part of the 55-56 Guelph Sr A Biltmores and with the AHL's Philadelphia Ramblers before an eye injury cut his promising playing career short. The team was also coached by Barry Jordan, having his own distinction playing Jr B in Woodstock and Sarnia, and managed the team as well.

Speaking with coach Tom Jensen's son Dave, his dad knew he had "a bunch of thoroughbreds, that he had to be hard but fair with them."

He went the extra mile with these boys having practice Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 am before school. Tom also was the president of the hometown famous Mary Maxim Co., where him, his buddies and some townsfolk ponied up enough money so the boys could take a coach, not school bus to the semis and finals.

During regular season and playoff games, the Paris Scotts Colonels won a whopping 60 out of 70 games. At a Guelph AAA midget tournament, the boys played impressively, holding their own against those bigger centres, population teams and came away with a 3-1-1 record for second place. In playdowns prior to reaching the Ontario finals against Bowmanville, Paris eliminated Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, South London, Merritton and Leamington - losing only one game of 14.

A team made up of returnees Ken Kirby, Mike Beechey, Brook Tinkess, Randy Novak, Chris Watling, Robb Wilson and Andy Stryker. Joining that year's Dan Beechey, Jim Amy, Ken Lane, Craig Smith, Carey Cline, John Clarke, Ray Miller, Rob Cruickshank and Steve Smith. They were regarded as a team distinguished as most sportsmanlike in conduct and ability. They also breezed through their midget southern

counties to win their division. Even the infamous owner of Kentucky Fried Chicken, Harland Sanders himself was rooting for the hometown boys, as seen in the telegraph below.

After losing the last two finals, the boys were motivated to bring the championship home for Paris. After a 6-game battle these boys captured the town, there was a buzz in the air, and the whole town rallied around them. The games were packed to the rafters, blowing the doors off the capacity of the old Syl Apps barn with 1100 fans packing in the building. I was one of them, fortunate to witness the local hero's triumph. Scotts Colonels won the hard-fought, scrappy affair 4-2 of the series, winning the last home game 6-3.

After the final buzzer, the roof blew off the arena and pandemonium broke out. Three trips to the finals, and they finally achieved the elusive title of Ontario Midget A champions. Paris had not had a winner in 45 years.

This team had several guys drafted to the OHA Junior A; Kenny Kirby for the Sudbury Wolves, Robb Wilson captained the tier two A Pembroke Lumber Kings, Randy Novak, Andy Stryker, Kenny Lane, and Captain Mike Beechey all ended up playing Junior B for Brantford.

To everyone I spoke to for this article, they all said this was an awesome team effort. They fought hard for each other, and every man knew his job; whether it was grinding, protecting, playmaking, or scoring - it was a total team effort. The boys declared that this championship was not getting away.

Thanks to Carey Cline, John Clarke, Robb Wilson, Dave Jensen, and Captain Mike Beechey for taking the time to speak with me and share the memories of the 50th anniversary. I hope I captured the spirit of this championship run, as it meant a lot to this town and to me as an avid young hockey fan. It gave the town something to rally around, which they did big time, and put Paris on the map.

Thank you, 1974-1975 Scotts Colonels, for bringing the cup home and making us a hockey town once more.

Always a pleasure, Scoop Stewart signing off.



The 1974-1975 Paris Scotts Colonels who brought the cup to Paris, reaffirming our town as a hockey town to reckon with 50 years ago.

Paris Titan named PJHL Rookie of the Year



Cole Kersey (far left) pictured with his brothers Jack and Blake. Cole was named the PJHL Rookie of the Year. (GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Content Shared by Paris Titans

Paris Titan Cole Kersey has received the 2024/2025 PJHL Rookie of the Year Award.

Kersey, a Scotland, Ontario native, played a total of 43 games with the Paris Titans this season and demonstrated his skills both on and off the ice.

"My favourite moments from this season had to be going to the rink with the boys. Just getting to the rink, in an atmosphere with 25 boys who love the game just as much. Playing alongside my two brothers, Blake and Jack was something I never expected to experience but will always look back on. I will never forget this experience or the memories I've made as I continue my journey through junior hockey," said Cole in a Titans social media post last week.

This was a unique season for Cole as he played alongside his brothers Jack and Blake. On a December 20th, 2024 game, Cole scored a goal with the assist going to both of his brothers. The following night he netted another goal with the assist to Blake, showing how well the brothers work together.

Reflecting on his career so far, Cole said "Since day one hockey has always been part of my life and the person I am. Throughout all my years of hockey I have made many valuable friendships and appreciate everyone who has been involved in my journey from coaches to family. I would not be the player I am today without the dedication and support from the people around me and coaches alongside me."

The 18-year-old forward finished the season with 13 goals and 20 assists.



The 1974-1975 Paris Scotts Colonels were so popular even the infamous owner of Kentucky Fried Chicken, Harland Sanders himself was rooting for the hometown boys, as depicted in this telegraph

Figure Skaters Put on Stunning Gala Performances

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Paris Figure Skating Club held its year-end Gala on March 29th at the Brant Sports Complex in Paris. The gala showcased skaters' solo performances from the past year, along with a few group routines.

The younger skaters in the club's CanSkate and Pre CanSkate classes were grouped by colour to show off all the skills they achieved over the year. A total of 95 skaters participated in the gala, which included one special 'Team Paris' number that featured around 40 skaters who competed in at least one competition this year.

"We would like to thank all the volunteers that come and help set up, clean up and run the show – from lighting to ice captain to dressing room parents, we could not do the show without all the assistance from our skating families!" said Club President Lisa Campbell.



Participating in the 'Team Paris number', left to right (back row) Aya Darnbrough, Chloe Todd, Clara Sangster, Alex Meyer, Nora Glowala, Razi Valtchanov, Alessia Chedhomme, Grace Kissonchand, Quinlynn Bodnar, Lily Skrzypek, Autumn Harding (middle row), Macey Thompson, Ella Ballard, Erin Plaquet, Emily Percival, Samantha Hutchinson, Isabella Smith, Ella Knill, Sherry Osinga, Madelyn Tapp, Lauren Tiller, Tianna Tone, Anika Wilson (front row), Lauren Smith, Anna Bruder, Mallory Coulter, Lahara Lockett, Alyssa Connor, Alissa Carr, Charlotte Black, Lily Zammit, Sophie McLean, Sophie Slater, Anna Maxwell, Grace Black, Reece Garbedian. Absent, Azeezah Akinyemi, Fareedah Akinyemi, Ella Dobrucki, Deanna Funge, Nathan Garbedian, Abbi MacDonald, Breanne Pike, Samantha Smith, Brenda Steinnagel



Participating the 'Girl of the Year' number, left to right, Grace Black, Lahara Lockett, Mallory Coulter, Samantha Smith, Lily Zammit, Charlotte Black, Alissa Carr, Abbigale Igoe, Anna Maxwell.



Participating in the 'Mayhem' number, left to right (back row) Abi MacDonald, Tianna Tone, Erin Plaquet, Emily Percival, Madelyn Tapp, Sherry Osinga, Isabella Smith, Ella Knill (front row) Breanne Pike, Ella Ballard, Macey Thompson, Lauren Tiller, Ella Dobrucki, Samantha Hutchinson.

Presenting the Bill England Memorial Rookie of the Year

As the Paris Curling Club season comes to an end, the executive is handing out annual awards to its members. On March 31st, the Bill England Memorial Rookie of the Year Award was presented to Jordan Prior, pictured with Tim Berkley. The award is presented to a Monday Night Men's league curler who is in their first or second season, voted upon by members. The award is in honour of Bill, a longtime member of PCC who was always helpful in encouraging new curlers. Bill new the importance of fresh faces around the club and was always willing to help grow the game he loved. Bill passed away several years ago, but his memory lives on through this award graciously donated by his family.



(PARIS CURLING CLUB PHOTO)

Cheer Teams Hope to Make a Big Impact on World Stage

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

An independent cheerleading gym in Brantford is about to get some attention on the world stage this month.

Impact Cheer Athletics is sending four competitive teams to the All-Star World Championship in Orlando, Florida next week, marking a first for the locally owned gym that has grown leaps and bounds since it started in 2020.

"We are incredibly proud of our athletes and coaches for earning this opportunity and excited to see them compete on the international stage," said Ashley Sherman, owner and operator of Impact Cheer Athletics. She leads with 26 years of experience in the industry, which shaped her approach to open the gym during the early months of 2020. It was not an easy task during a global pandemic. With just five athletes training in a backyard, it's since grown into a thriving cheer gym that offers competitive cheerleading, recreational classes, tumbling, camps, private lessons and even birthday parties. Recently she expanded to offer recreational classes in Norfolk County, closer to her childhood hometown of Delhi.

"With an incredible coaching staff and a growing group of dedicated athletes, we continue to evolve, pushing the boundaries of what our program can achieve."

A few years ago, one of those boundaries may have been an opportunity to compete at Worlds, but that boundary was broken last year when two teams, Scratch (U12 Level 2) and Calico (U12 Level 1) earned an At-Large Bid to Worlds. It took everyone by surprise and with the costs and planning required to attend, they deferred their bid to 2025. This season, the Post Cats (U16 Level 3) earned their At-Large Bid and Wild Cats (U16 Level 2) are paying to attend. On April 15-18 all four Impact Cheer Athletic Teams will board a plane to compete on the world stage.

"I'm most excited to watch them showcase their hard work, experience the electric atmosphere of an international competition, and create lasting memories as a team," said Sherman.

Teams that earn At-Large Bids to Worlds have special advantages, explains Sherman. They automatically advance past the Battle Round, giving them a direct path to compete among the best. Sherman likened it to receiving a 'Golden Buzzer' on America's Got Talent.

"It's a prestigious honour and a recognition of the team's exceptional performance at their qualifying event."

Taking a closer look at each team, Sherman broke down what makes each squad unique and what attributes will lead to their success at Worlds.

She describes the Posh Cats as a team of athletes who never give up, despite any obstacles thrown their way. They push for excellence and their talent combined with their resilience and determination will make them a force to be reckoned with on the competition floor.

Paris resident Andrea Graham's daugh-

ter, Mackinley is a member of the Posh Cats. She agrees with Sherman, saying it's been a tough season for the squad, but their resilience persevered during the Cheer Challenge Cup in Blue Mountain last month when they earned their At-Large Bid.

"They have worked so hard this year and spirits were down quite a bit, so earning this bid was much needed boost for the team's confidence," Graham said, adding the smiles on their faces spoke volumes. In fact, the team had planned to buy into the Worlds, something you can do if you don't earn a bid, but their recent At-Large Big will make the trip more meaningful for the team. Mackinley is one of numerous Paris teens who are members of Impact Cheer. She's been with the gym for a few years now and was a member of last year's U12 Level 2 Team Storm (rebranded Team Scratch this year) that earned an At-Large Bid but deferred it to 2025. Mackinley aged out of U12 but luckily won't miss out on the opportunity to experience Worlds now that Team Posh earned their bid.

Wild Cats (U16 Level 2) bring an unmatched level of synchronization and energy to the mat, said Sherman. Their chemistry is undeniable which helps with their sharp execution and precise movements, making them standout competitors. Sherman thinks their infectious energy and passion will make them truly memorable.

Team Scratch is best known for demonstrating exceptional tumbling and stunt difficulty, one of the many reasons they earned an At-Large Bid at a qualifier in 2024. Their routine is packed with dynamic elements that highlight their skill, confidence and unwavering commitment to excellence. Their fierce competitiveness and teamwork will make them a team to watch at All-Star Worlds.

Last, but certainly not least, Calico was one of the first teams to earn an At-Large Bid last year proving their potential early on. Since then, they've continued to grow demonstrating impressive technique and strong fundamentals. Their determination, passion and focus will set them apart, said Sherman.

Leading and mentoring international level competitive teams is only possible with the help of a great group of coaches, said Sherman. "Two of them, Meg and Hayley will be joining me at the competition to support our athletes and help them perform at their absolute best."

As an Impact Cheer Athletics parent, Graham can attest to the dedication of the coaching team that goes out of their way to create a family-like atmosphere at the gym.

"One of our coaches cheered for Team Canada for years and won multiple championships. She has brought an incredible amount of knowledge," said Graham. "The gym's growth since we started has been incredible too. It's great to see a woman-owned business do well and flourish."

Sherman lives in Paris with her fiancé Mitch. She operates the only cheer gym in Brant, Paris and Norfolk County area.



The U12 Team Calico was one of the first teams to earn an At-Large Bid to All-Star Worlds last year proving their potential early on.



The U12 Team Scratch is best known for demonstrating exceptional tumbling and stunt difficulty, one of the many reasons they earned an At-Large Bid at a qualifier in 2024.



The U16 Posh Cats consists of a team of athletes who never give up and strive for excellence.



The U16 Wild Cats bring an unmatched level of synchronization and energy to the floor.

Anniversary Spent Indulging in Couples Therapy at the Shooting Range



SPORTS Report

By George Le Gresley

After 42 years of marriage, my wife and I had wanted to do something different to celebrate our wedding anniversary. Ever since we heard about a local gun range that offers the chance to shoot a variety of weapons, we added that experience to our bucket list.

Our experience with firearms was quite limited. I shot a World War II .22 caliber rifle when I was a Sea Cadet many years ago, and Kathy may have fired a gun on a duck hunt when she was very young with her father. After a quick online search, we found Urban Tactical located in the industrial area west of Brantford.

Looking at their website, I found several experience packages available, such as the “Black Widow,” which I passed on as I hoped to keep my marriage streak going. Then, the perfect package for our date popped up - “Couples Therapy.” It was like this package would be ideal for us to celebrate our wedding day!

When we arrived at U.T., which stands for Urban Tactical, we realized that it was a store cater-



George and Kathy Le Gresley thought there's no better way to spend their anniversary than letting off some steam during a couple's therapy at Urban Tactical!

ing to individuals who enjoyed hunting, stocked with camouflage clothing and everything a hunter might need or want. We checked in at the desk, and since we did the waivers online, all we had to do was to show some photo ID, go to the shooting range waiting area, and wait for our instructor. Looking through the window, we observed many people with their rifles and handguns shooting at targets. Two gentlemen, a senior and his son were members of the range and got together every week to target shoot. Neither were hunters but enjoyed their weekly time together at the gun range.

Our instructor and range officer, Chato, arrived and provided us with a rundown on the safety

gear to protect our eyes and hearing. The main message was safety for the shooters, the observers and our instructor. When we entered the range, the first thing I noticed was that the range had an excellent air exchange system. I knew this because the last gun range I visited was located in the basement of Danforth Tech in Toronto, which had no ventilation and was initially used for training World War II soldiers. The air in the gun range was cool and clean.

Chato covered the menu of what we were going to shoot, how to hold the weapon properly and what to expect—before shooting our first handgun, a Glock 17, learning how to have the gun properly for safety and aiming. The heroes on TV that I watched



Kathy takes aim with their range officer (GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTOS) Chato.

for research purposes all seemed to be holding their Glocks properly, but I wondered how they shot their guns on the run and never missed. We learned that if we had to shoot at bad guys on the run, they had a good chance of getting away unharmed. Next, we shot a gun that, yes, I'm dating myself, almost looked like a “Johnny Seven” toy gun. Look up the commercial for the “Johnny 7” on YouTube with the tagline of “Seven Guns in One”! For me it was an awkward gun to fire. Our last two rifles were shotguns. Our instructor emphasized where to

place the butt of these high-powered rifles on our shoulders to absorb the shock to the body.

In the end, we both had fun, were safe and our bucket list was lighter. Would I want to do this again? I came away satisfied that I outshot my wife, hitting the target after I used to be a Sea Cadet, and I enjoy playing cribbage against her; a win doesn't come often.

If you're interested in learning more about this experience, visit urbantactical.com for additional information.

Paris Youth Softball looking for players, volunteer coaches

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Paris Youth Softball season is set to start in a few weeks, but the association put a call out last week for more players and volunteers to step forward.

Player registration closed on April 1st however, players are still required to fill the rosters for the U13 and U15 girls' teams. The Association also sent an email to parents asking for volunteers to step forward to help coach the U11 boys' teams as they cannot field a team at the start of the season without coaches.

Coaching is one way to give back to your community. It helps young players develop skills and confidence and fosters love for the game.

The organization is run by volunteers and in recent years has seen a decline in

individuals willing to step forward and help. Without volunteers, the youth will lose out on the chance to play softball in the community and for some youngsters – it's the best part of summer. Every baseball loving child should get an opportunity to build relationships on a team, find the joy in connecting bat on ball, or the thrill of snagging a pop fly.

If you know someone who wants to play, is willing to step forward and coach, or volunteer time to help the executive run the association, you can reach out via email to parisyouthsoftballassociation@gmail.com. There's also an opportunity for high school students to fulfil their required volunteer hours in the PYSA canteen this summer, inquire by email if you know someone who is interested. Many hands make light work.



Paris Youth Softball is swinging into action soon. The association is still looking for players to fill the U13 and U15 girls' rosters, as well as volunteer coaches for the U11 boys' teams.

Paris Billiards Beat at Sharkeys in Brantford

SCOOP STEWART

Sports Correspondent

The numbers were down because of the flu going around, but the intensity of play was up as much as ever. Week after a week these old sharp shooters just seemed to get better and better.

MVP:

Greig Graham for being designated driver to the birthday boy Floody, so he could have a couple birthday pops. If that's not an MVP, I don't know what is.

Winners:

The team of Oscar Emerson and Jeff Johnston danced, sang and chatted (a lot) their way to victory. Some might say they lulled their opponents into a trance before striking.

Runners up:

Uncle Larry Pickering and Steve Kopp were the duo that most of us picked as the team to beat but Emerson and Johnston had other plans.

Winners of the losers:

After almost going zero for April, Robb Willson and Paul Dalpe squeaked out a win in the final game of the night.

Good guy award:

Goes to the birthday boy Jimmy Flood who confided in me that the best way he can spend his birthday is with the four beautiful ladies in his life, his mother-in-law, wife, and two gorgeous daughters. What a sweetheart.

Quote of the evening:

By the winner, Oscar Emerson "I finally got a partner that can play." Sorry Motor.

Shot of the night:

Once again Billy (eight ball) Beechey played fantastic, in the second game of the night Billy made the break and ran the table... Nobody else got a shot. Way to go, Billy.

Thanks again to Codi and Dan for their awesome hospitality, "always a pleasure!" This is Scoop Stewart signing off till next week.

Women's Dart League Draws Laughs and Some Sharp Shooters!

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The word is out! The Paris Legion has opened their doors and dart boards to the women of all ages from Paris and surrounding areas.

Women travel from as far as Hamilton to join the ladies every Thursday evening at the legion for a night of growing skillful dart throwing and laughs, leaving Steve the bartender wanting more. For the past three years, up to 20 women gather on Thursday nights from 7 pm to 9 pm to play a game of "301-straight in-double out.

The night starts with each player picking their number to see who their partner will be for the evening. This makes it even more fun as each week the teams are different creating new friendships every week. The night is filled with many "high

fives" and cheers as teams pursue their dreams of keeping up their winning streak.

This week's top score was Bonnie with a 121. The low score, even though she tried real hard, was Patti with a 0. Also, we would like to send birthday wishes to Booner, aka Kris.

It really doesn't matter though, it's all about the fun, laughs and friendships that have grown to become closer and closer every week. It is the favourite night of the week for all of us during the coldest months of the year and is a great night out with the girls. Stay tuned for updates and pictures of our theme nights, those who shoot the best scores, and comical stories of the evenings we play.

Ladies Dart League
Paris Legion Branch 29

Leagues Crown Winners as Curling Season Comes to an End



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Congratulations to team Cunningham who were the winners of the Women's Day League Spring draw at the Paris Curling Club. Pictured from left to right, Sue Cunningham, skip; Tracy Sage, vice; Lyn Clarridge, second and missing from the photo, Sam Brinker, lead.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Pictured are the winners of the fourth draw for the Interfaith League at the Paris Curling Club. Left to right are Gary Elmes, second, Sheila Lobsinger, lead, Neil Murray, vice, Dan Nadon, skip. Congratulations team. Well done. Come join us Monday mornings for a winter of fun and fellowship!

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: The Battle of Vimy Ridge: A Commemoration of Valour and Sacrifice



By Chris Whelan

During World War I, Brant County, experienced a surge in industrial activity and enlistment as it played a vital role in the war effort. The G.W. McFarlane Engineering Company repurposed the Old Town Hall into a bustling machine shop, contributing to the production of essential shells. Concurrently, the B. Bell and Son Company in St. George seized a contract for shell manufacturing, triggering a hiring spree. The demand for machinists soared, prompting factories to operate at full capacity with workers labouring double shifts.

Meanwhile, the Paris Armoury doubled as a pivotal recruiting station for enthusiastic young men, reflecting Brant County's high enlistment rate, where over 5,500 citizens, approximately one in every eight residents, heeded the call to serve.

The 215th Battalion CEF, stationed in Brantford, initiated recruitment in early 1916 across Brant, Norfolk, and Haldimand counties. Community support

thrived as letters penned by overseas-serving Paris soldiers were featured in the local Paris Star newspaper. In remembrance of the fallen, the Paris Cenotaph, crafted by the Hunter Granite Works in Simcoe, Ontario, was unveiled on November 11th, 1930. Bearing the inscription "1914 - 1918 / TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND TO THE MEMORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF PARIS WHO FELL AND IN HONOUR OF THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE GREAT WAR," the monument stands as a timeless tribute to the town's wartime sacrifices and contributions.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge, a momentous chapter in our local history, unfolded from April 9 to April 12, 1917, amidst the backdrop of World War I. This critical engagement marked the first time the Canadian Corps, consisting of all four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, was tasked with seizing the strategically vital Vimy Ridge from German forces. Joined by the British 5th Infantry Division and supported by artillery, engineers, and labour units, the Canadian divisions, including many young men and women from our town, alongside their allies, embarked on a daring mission that showcased their unwavering courage and resolve under challenging circumstances.

Employing innovative tactics like the creeping barrage strategy, the Canadians advanced methodically, minimizing their exposure to enemy fire. The attack com-



On August 26, 1914, the first volunteers from Paris to serve in World War 1 were given a big send off. They were driven to the Grand Valley Railway Station, then taken by Model T's to Brantford. The volunteers (in the background) are: Napoleon Larin, Aylmer Fraser, Sergeant A.E. Cullum, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Ivor Murray and William Mears – Photograph and write up courtesy of D.A. Smith Collection, Paris Museum and Historical Society.

menced at 5:30 a.m. on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917, now commemorated as Vimy Ridge Day in Canada. Every artillery piece available to the Canadian Corps roared to life, with light field guns laying down a barrage that advanced in calculated increments, while medium and heavy howitzers established standing barrages against known defensive systems further ahead.

By 6:25 a.m., the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Canadian Divisions had suc-

cessfully reached and seized their initial objective, the Black Line. However, the 4th Canadian Division encountered significant challenges during its advance, delaying the completion of its first objective. After a brief pause to consolidate positions, the advance resumed. The 1st Canadian Division made significant progress towards its second objective, the Red Line, by 7:00 a.m., with the 2nd Canadian Division and 3rd Canadian Division also making notable advancements.

Despite obstacles, including an exposed left flank due to the 4th Canadian Division's delay, the Canadian forces persevered. As the day unfolded, the Canadians pushed forward, capturing key positions such as the Blue Line, Hill 135, and the town of Thélus. The relentless advance continued, culminating in the securing of the Brown Line by 2:00 p.m. Only isolated German strongholds, including the northern half of Hill 145 and "the Pimple," remained in enemy hands.

Supported by additional reinforcements and a relentless artillery barrage, the Canadians launched a final assault on "the Pimple" on April 12, ultimately wresting control from the entrenched German troops. By nightfall, the Canadian Corps stood victorious, firmly in control of Vimy Ridge.

The toll of this historic battle was heavy, with the Canadian Corps enduring 10,602 casual-

ties, including 3,598 killed and 7,004 wounded. The German Sixth Army suffered significant losses, with approximately 4,000 soldiers taken as prisoners of war. The valour displayed by the Canadian soldiers was duly recognized, with four Victoria Crosses awarded for acts of heroism.

This triumph not only secured a crucial advantage for the Allies but also ignited a sense of national pride and identity for Canada on the world stage. Vimy Ridge marked a pivotal moment in Canada's history, symbolizing the bravery and sacrifice of its soldiers and solidifying its emergence as a distinct nation.

Among the courageous fighters at Vimy Ridge were veterans from the County of Brant, particularly from the town of Paris. These local heroes answered the call of duty, leaving behind their homes and families to serve in a conflict that reshaped the course of history. Their sacrifices, alongside those of countless others, are immortalized in local memorials like the Paris War Memorial, standing as a testament to their courage.

The names engraved on these memorials serve as a poignant reminder of the profound impact of war on families and communities, preserving the legacies of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Even after 108 years, it is imperative that we never forget their bravery and selflessness.



(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTOS)

Canadian Soldiers Celebrating after the Battle of Vimy Ridge (May 1917). Photograph courtesy of Canadian Dept. of National Defence Library and Archives

Get your Pets Healthy SNAX at Wincey Mills Paris



Mayor David Bailey (far left), Paris Councillor Steve Howes (far right) and County of Brant Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Susan Morton (second from right) were at the Wincey Mills on March 28th to help Paris resident Tiffany Martin with the official Grand Opening of her new business venture called Snax. Snax is a homemade brand dedicated to nourishing dogs with fresh, wholesome ingredients. Founded by dog nutrition enthusiast Tiffany, it's more than just a pet food brand—it's a passion project rooted in a deep commitment to canine health and longevity. The name comes from Tiffany's Mini Aussie puppy who has inspired this venture with his boundless energy and love for real, nutritious food. Follow SNAX online at www.dogsnax.ca or visit the booth at Wincey Mills Paris.

The Paris Independent













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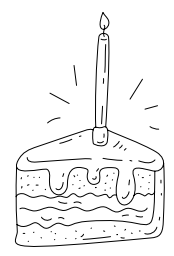
WEEKLY Horoscope

April 6 - April 12, 2025

<p>ARIES Mar 21 - Apr 20</p> <p>This week you are going to take action on a project that has been on your mind for awhile, Aries. Trust your instincts, but make sure you are not moving too fast.</p>		<p>LIBRA Sept 23 - Oct 23</p> <p>Libra, you are able to express your thoughts with clarity and charm, which is why personal relationships often come easy to you. This week you may use this superpower to make friends.</p>	
<p>TAURUS Apr 21 - May 21</p> <p>This week brings an opportunity for intellectual pursuits, Taurus. You might think to enroll in a higher education class or a take a course on a specific hobby that has been on your mind.</p>		<p>SCORPIO Oct 24 - Nov 22</p> <p>You may soon find yourself reevaluating how you spend your money or what you value most in life, Scorpio. This is a good time to check financial goals and adjust them.</p>	
<p>GEMINI May 22 - Jun 21</p> <p>Partnerships are key right now, Gemini. You might want to pursue new professional relationships. Embrace your ability and willingness to adapt and facilitate change.</p>		<p>SAGITTARIUS Nov 23 - Dec 21</p> <p>There is a sense of fresh energy surrounding you this week, Sagittarius. If you have been putting off something, now is the time to take the leap.</p>	
<p>CANCER Jun 22 - Jul 22</p> <p>You need to take care of your body and mind, Cancer. Now is as good a time as any to begin this pursuit. Even small adjustments can lead to long-term health benefits.</p>		<p>CAPRICORN Dec 22 - Jan 20</p> <p>Capricorn, focus on rest and relaxation in the days ahead. You have been putting in a lot of work lately and now is a time to focus on your inner self and recharge.</p>	
<p>LEO Jul 23 - Aug 23</p> <p>Leo, this is your week to look into matters of self-expression and creativity. Pour your energy into anything that gets you excited. Your enthusiasm may draw others in as well.</p>		<p>AQUARIUS Jan 21 - Feb 18</p> <p>Collaborations with others could prove fruitful this week, Aquarius. Don't hesitate to lean on your social network when you need to get something done.</p>	
<p>VIRGO Aug 24 - Sept 22</p> <p>Virgo, home life takes center stage this week, and you might feel a strong desire to nurture your space. Decluttering and organizing could bring more harmony to your home.</p>		<p>PISCES Feb 19 - Mar 20</p> <p>You might be presented with a way to take your professional life to the next level, Pisces. Strategize about how to move forward in this regard, and think through all decisions.</p>	

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|--|
| APRIL 6
Candace Cameron-Bure, Actress (49) | APRIL 10
Mandy Moore, Actress (41) |
| APRIL 7
Francis Ford Coppola, Director (86) | APRIL 11
Ken Carson, Rapper (25) |
| APRIL 8
Skai Jackson, Actress (23) | APRIL 12
Brandon Urie, Singer (38) |
| APRIL 9
Elle Fanning, Actress (27) | |



Paris Resident Recounts Snowbird Experience Under New Trump Administration



**PARIS TRAVEL
COLUMNIST**
Karon Sinning

Before starting this piece, I re-read last year's story about our first year as snowbirds in Florida. Such optimism. The Trump era has changed many things about our retirement plan.

Most of the positive parts are still good. We have made great friends here and new people we meet are also very welcoming. Of course, the weather is fabulous. We were saddened to find out the Activities Director from last season, whom we counted as a friend, had been replaced by someone else. We would come to understand that replacement in the weeks ahead.

The Canadian dollar was already a difficult nut to swallow, but the true difficulty began with Trump's inauguration on Monday, January 20th.

Monday morning coffee hour is a staple to park life here. At 8 am, most residents meet in the clubhouse for coffee and a donut/bagel or toast. This is a time spent socializing, meeting new friends, maybe making plans with existing friends for things to do in the coming week. We have largely enjoyed this. It's a quarter mile from our trailer site to the clubhouse and on dry mornings it's a lovely walk, passing a cow field on the way.

Coffee hour, January 20th, inauguration day, we were greeted by a life-size cutout of Trump just inside the main door. A TV behind him was playing the American national anthem as sung by the J6 (January 6) choir. Yes, such a thing exists!

This was definitely not a typical coffee hour. There was grumbling in the room and a definite nervous energy in the hall. Before things got rolling, the manager went up on stage to the microphone. After getting everyone's attention, he proceeded to

praise Trump and declare himself as a J6er. Claiming they had been persecuted for 4 years but would now be justified. Also, that everything that was seen on TV were lies. There was one portion of the room who applauded, but they were certainly in the minority.

From there things took a nose-dive!

The "helpful" managers from last season, a Husband and Wife team, became little mini dictators. The Pioneer Creek Family and Friends Facebook Group was the first to suffer. There are two Facebook groups in the park, one run by the managers and the other by the residents. Within days of the inauguration, the Wife posted that they would be taking down the Family and Friends page and residents had 30 days to get any photos off it that they wanted saved. Was that even possible? Can one entity remove a Facebook page they weren't part of?

I can only surmise that this was just an intimidation plan, as the page is still there and still active. Albeit with a name change. It is now just the "Family and Friends" page.

The activities so loved by residents soon took a major hit. The metal and wood shops had historically fundraised the money to operate these centers, buying all necessary supplies and even constructing a new building. The funds raised were meticulously accounted for and carried a balance of around \$5-7,000.

The organizers of the shops were ordered to turn over all funds to management. When this didn't happen immediately, members of the shops were accused of stealing equipment. Posts were made to the management page stating that if anything were removed, the police would be notified. Management installed cameras inside the building. Finally, the building was chained shut. Only being reopened after the money and books were turned over. Members of these shops had run the programs here for over 20 years. The shops did reopen, but now the management controls all purchases and funds.

The next episode saw "BAD APPLE" boxes being placed around the park inside communal areas such as the pool, clubhouse and laundry facilities. Posts were made to the management page that this would allow residents to turn in their neighbours anonymously for "bad behaviour".

At this point residents did

speak up! To protest! This whole plan reeked of Nazi tactics. The Husband and Wife soon became known to us as the Gestapo. They literally patrolled the park almost all day, just spying on people. Even cruising around in their personal vehicle to go "incognito".

Then the "deportations" started. Long time residents who had purchased park model trailers, even last year's Activities Director and the woman who ran the Family and Friends Facebook page were told their leases wouldn't be renewed. In the park you can purchase your unit, but the land is leased from the park. They had until April to sell. In all there were 7-8 residents evicted. We know for sure the Activities Director and her husband are Democrats.

I spoke personally to the Activities Director and she said they weren't given a reason. They had purchased their unit last year, planning on moving here permanently.

One of the other evictions was a fellow and his Chinese wife. Management claimed he had altered the electrical panel outside their unit. Something he emphatically denied. Regardless, they were out.

Information provided by the Canadian Snowbirds Association seemed to change daily. As of April 11 2025, all Canadians staying in the US longer than 30 days will need to complete paperwork declaring their "alien" status. The fingerprinting requirement changed on a daily basis, ending with Canadians being exempt, for now, from that requirement.

Recently, the Snowbirds' page directed me to the US Immigration page and the link provided the following information,

Alien Registration Requirement

On Jan. 20, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14159, Protecting the American People Against Invasion, which directed the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that aliens comply with their duty to register with the government under section 262 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (8 U.S.C. 1302), and ensure that failure to comply with the registration requirement is treated as a civil and criminal enforcement priority.

The INA requires that, with limited exceptions, all aliens 14 years of age or older who were not registered and fingerprinted (if required) when applying for a U.S. visa and who remain in the United States for 30 days or longer, must apply for registration and fingerprinting. Similarly, parents and legal guardians of aliens below the age of 14 must ensure that those aliens are registered. Within 30 days of reaching his or her 14th birthday, all previously registered aliens must apply for re-registration and to be fingerprinted.

Once an alien has registered and appeared for fingerprinting (unless waived), DHS will issue evidence of registration, which aliens over the age of 18 must carry and keep in their personal possession at all times.

It is the legal obligation of all unregistered aliens (or previously registered aliens who turn 14 years old) who are in the United States for 30 days or longer to comply with these requirements. Failure to comply may result in criminal and civil penalties, up to and including misdemeanor prosecution, the imposition of fines, and incarceration.

Many aliens in the United

States have already registered, as required by law. However, a significant number of aliens present in the United States have had no direct way to register and meet their obligation under INA 262. USCIS has established a new form, G-325R, Biometric Information (Registration), and an online process by which unregistered aliens may register and comply with the law as required by the INA.

Registration is not an immigration status, and registration documentation does not create an immigration status, establish employment authorization, or provide any other right or benefit under the INA or any other U.S. law.

We've also been warned that any law enforcement can stop us and demand these papers. Failure to provide them can result in a \$5,000 fine and/or 6 months in jail. These new requirements are certainly a deterrent to our planned retirement plan.

There are many Canadians in this park, who will not be returning next season. We are among them. The loss in income for Floridians will be significant, I'm sure. As usual it is the everyday person, Canadian or American, who will suffer by an arbitrary order from Captain Chaos.

We have made quite a few American friends here in Florida, and hope to keep contact with them, however long distance that may be.

We are lucky to have access to a home in Malta and we will be returning there next winter. Another Canadian couple in the park will be trying Portugal. I'm sure we aren't alone in not returning to the US.

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Riddles

Why was the maple syrup late?
It got stuck in a sticky situation.

What did the maple syrup say
to the waffle?
You're my butter half!

Why is maple syrup always so sad?
Because it's sappy.

How do you fix a broken heart with
maple syrup?
You pancake it back together.

What's a pancake's favorite song?
*"Pour Some Sugar on Me" by Def
Leppard.*

How do pancakes greet each other?
Long time no flip!

I flippin' love pancakes, they really
stack up!



Maple syrup is un-
be-leaf-able!

Roses are red,
violets are purple,
You're real sweet
and so is
Maple Surple

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 27

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

DAVE

Meet our Pet of the Week:

This is "Dave". Early in the week, a client found this little kitten abandoned in a field curled up in a ball. Dave is approximately 13 weeks old and has settled into his new home at the Paris Veterinary Clinic.

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



Word Search

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL



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

- Boiling
- Bucket
- Canadian
- Festival
- French Toast
- Local
- Maple Tree
- Pancakes
- Sap
- Shed
- Spicket
- Spring
- Sugar
- Syrup
- Tapping
- Taste
- Tourists
- Vendors
- Waffles
- Woods

Local Labour Market Report Finds Workers Want More Training to Grow Skills

MEDIA RELEASE

Workplace Planning Board of Grand Erie

A new study suggests that local employees and employers can do more to develop work skills, so that the needs of both groups are better met.

The study is timely, since more focus is being placed on the need for the skill development of workers, says the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.

“Employers have said that they can’t find workers with the right skills and qualifications, and this has been a barrier for their hiring and growth,” commented Danette Dalton, the planning board’s executive director.

“We wanted to hear from workers about their experience with skills and training, in-

cluding if they believe they’ve been given training opportunities.”

The Grand Erie Workforce Skills and Training Survey heard from 300 employees and job seekers in Brantford, Six Nations of the Grand River, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk counties. The study was supported by the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development.

Dalton said the findings point to some key differences in the experiences of job seekers versus employers.

More than 50 per cent of workers said they are interested in additional job training, professional development courses and technical skills training. Yet, about 40 per cent of respondents reported that their managers do not encourage them to develop their skills. And only half of respondents

said they were told of training opportunities when they were hired.

Dalton said that past research found that local workers have been quitting jobs because they feel they don’t have the opportunity to use all their skills or to grow their skills.

“Employers can strengthen their ability to reduce quits by training their managers, educating them about the numerous skill development programs available through industry associations, Employment Ontario organizations and other trainers,” she said.

The survey also heard suggestions from respondents on how to improve access to skill development, with the top three being: providing online training, in-person training during work hours, and programs that allow them to learn at their own pace.

Respondents said they go online to learn

new skills, with 80 per cent frequently using Google and YouTube, while less than 1 in 3 people use more formal learning tools such as LinkedIn Learning, and only five per cent frequently use free courses available from public libraries.

“Job seekers can more easily prove to employers that they have learned certain skills if they can show they’ve finished recognized online training programs,” Danette said. “There are so many great programs out there, including many that are free and provide certificates or micro-credentials that look impressive on a resume.”

A report and infographic showing highlights from the survey can be found on the planning board’s website at: www.workforceplanningboard.org/workforce-surveys

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Seniors Active Living Expo - 9:30 am to 2 pm at Sojourn Church. County of Brant invites you to celebrate Seniors Active Living Expo. Drop in activities throughout the day. Contact heather.Slot@brant.ca to arrange transportation if required.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Free Spring Soup Lunches - offered by St. Paul’s United Church Auditorium. April lunch is on April 10th at 12 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Women Inspiring Women – Women’s Institute monthly meeting - from 7-9 pm at the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead, 359 Blue Lake Rd., St. George. Celebrating a Decade of Awesomeness! Our 10th Birthday Party.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Free Community Story Time - from 12 pm to 4 pm at Riverside Bookshelf, 32A Dundas St, Paris. Story time featuring the children’s book *Why Are you So Quiet?* By Jaclyn Desforges.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Spring Market - Telfer Place Paris presents its annual Spring Market, from 9 am to 1 pm at Telfer Place, 245 Grand River St N Paris. If you’re interested in becoming a vendor reach out to Laura or Erin at 519-442-8005.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Paris Firefighters Fundraising Hockey Game - in support of Community Living Brant beginning at 3:30 pm at the Brant sports Complex, Paris. Boot drive and food donations welcome.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

The Brant Men of Song - hold their rehearsals on Tuesdays from 7 pm to 9 pm at the First Baptist Church located at 70 West St. Brantford. New members are always welcome to attend and learn more about their activities.

Federal Elections Candidates Forum. Get to know the Flambrough-Glanbrook-Brant North Federal Candidates at a Forum hosted by the County of Brant Chamber of Commerce at the Paris Fairgrounds beginning at 7 pm.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Easter Egg Hunt - at Cedarview Church from 11 am to 1 pm followed by a family BBQ. Everyone welcome.

Easter Celebration - at Sojourn Church, 112 Scott Ave in Paris, beginning at 9 am. Come learn the story of Easter, sing some songs, Hunt for Eggs, Bounce in the Castles, pet some animals, enjoy some snacks, and more. There is something for everyone so bring the whole family!

Easter Fun at Moore Farms - 497 Pinehurst Rd beginning at 10 am to 2 pm. Join us for a Eggstra special of fun on the farm. Egg hunt starts at 10 am sharp.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

The Brant Men of Song - hold their rehearsals on Tuesdays from 7 pm to 9 pm at the First Baptist Church located at 70 West St. Brantford. New members are always welcome to attend and learn more about their activities.

The Knights of Columbus - will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday at Sacred Heart Parish Hall starting at 7:30 pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Paris Optimist Club YOUTH DANCE - held at the Syl Apps Community Centre, 51 William St Paris from 7 pm to 10 pm. This chaperoned dance includes a DJ and snack bar. Admission is \$5. Dance open to students in Grades 5-7.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Community Tree Planting Event - from 10 am to 1 pm at Mount Pleasant Nature Park, 755 Mount Pleasant Rd. Bring your own shovels, gloves and proper footwear! Optimist Club will provide a free BBQ lunch.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

The Paris Museum and Historical Society is holding their Annual General Meeting at 2 p.m. at the museum located at the Syl Apps Community Centre. Applications to become Board directors are now welcomed. To be considered, please contact the nominating committee at info@theparismuseum.com giving brief information about yourself and the talents and experience you would bring to the society.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

The Brant Men of Song - hold their rehearsals on Tuesdays from 7 pm to 9 pm at the First Baptist Church located at 70 West St. Brantford. New members are always welcome to attend and learn more about their activities.

MONDAY, MAY 5

Mental Health & Wellness Fair, - Cowan Community Health Hub, 25 Curtis Ave N Paris from 4 pm to 7 pm. Free food and refreshments, multiple vendors, games and fantastic prizes, activities table for children. Learn about healthy eating habits from dieticians and explore benefits of movement and exercise and how it impacts your mental health.

The Paris Independent

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE’S HOW:

Deadline: Friday prior at 10 a.m.

Contact:

info@theparisdependent.com

- The Paris Independent Community Calendar allows non-profit organizations to promote their free admission community events at no charge. Event listings can include the event name, date, time and location as well as contact information (ie phone number, email address or website).
- If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, The Paris Independent offers the following options for promoting your community events:
 - Coming Events Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst
 - Coming Events Boxed Word Ad in Classified section (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst
 - Display Ad - Sizes begin at a Small Classified Display ad (3.3" x 2.5") - \$35 + hst

CLASSIFIEDS

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

COMING EVENTS

AN EVENING OF MUSIC: JOIN US IN THIS RENOVATED PARIS LANDMARK! - SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025 Get ready to groove into the soulful vibes of Toronto's premiere Funk Rock experience on May 3rd 2025, as Yasgurs Farm returns to the #forParis Centre! Immerse yourself in a fusion of 60s and 70s classics, sprinkled with the improvisational magic of jazz and the infectious energy of jam band culture. Join us for a night of timeless tunes, irresistible dance beats and original grooves that'll have you moving all night long.

- **Time:** 8:00 p.m – doors open at 7:00 p.m with a full cash bar available
- **Venue:** #forParis Centre, 164 Grand River St N, Paris
- **Tickets:** \$29.95 for the show, option to add the Big Easy Buffet
- **How to Reserve:** Visit the website at forpariscentre.ca/events/yasgurs-farm

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.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Diamond | 5. Edward Teach |
| 2. Lake Superior | 6. Seven |
| 3. Cable News Network | 7. Yale |
| 4. Franklin D. Roosevelt | 8. Madagascar |
| | 9. 300 |
| | 10. Thailand |

OBITUARY

Campbell

February 20, 1935 – April 2, 2025



Elaine Mae Campbell

Passed away peacefully, at the Brantford General Hospital, on Wednesday April 2, 2025. Elaine was in her 91st year. Predeceased by her beloved husband of 67 years, Jim Campbell (2024). Loving mother of Greg (Janet) and Jeff (Frances). Grandmother to Timothy (Lisa) and Scott. Great-grandmother

to Mackenzie (Tristan) and Dylan. Elaine will be dearly missed by many extended family members and friends.

Elaine graduated in 1956 from the BGH Nursing program – she went on to pursue a successful career in nursing for over 50 years. Later on in her career, she returned to McMaster University to complete training to become a nurse practitioner. An avid sports fan, she enjoyed watching Blue Jays baseball games and curling matches. She was an avid quilter, loved attending bible study group, and enjoyed baking and gardening. Elaine had the privilege to travel to many places with her husband Jim, some of their favourite destinations were Florida, Europe, Israel, and travelling across Canada. Above all else, Elaine was a woman of faith, which was the guiding light that helped her navigate life's trials and tribulations.

Friends will be welcomed at the Dwayne D. Budgell Funeral Home on Saturday April 12, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. A Memorial Service will follow in the Funeral Home Chapel at 2:00 p.m. Elaine's service will be Live Streamed starting at 1:50 p.m. In Elaine's memory, donations to the Salvation Army or Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

BUDGELL'S
Paris, ON
519-442-2200

Online condolences and donations may be made at www.budgellfuneralhome.ca

Paris Lions Club 12th Annual Maple Syrup Festival

Saturday April 12, 2025

8 am - 3 pm

Paris Fairgrounds

Vendors, Food Trucks, Maple Syrup, Pancakes, Entertainment



The Paris Independent

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

Dan MUYS

YOUR CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE
IN BRANT NORTH

CANADA FIRST – FOR A CHANGE

- ✓ Canada First Plan for a Strong Economy – it’s time to think big again!
- ✓ Ensure Canada is a sovereign, self-reliant country – standing on our own two feet and diversifying our exports and unleashing a generational economic boom!
- ✓ The only thing we control is what we do at home. The best way to stand up to Trump is to be strong here.
- ✓ We have smart people, an abundance of resources – Canada can and will succeed!
- ✓ But we now have to do better than the past Liberal decade of decline

✓ Plus, we need real action on the Cost-of-Living crisis – income tax cuts for the middle class and seniors, cutting the carbon tax for real, for good



ABOUT DAN

- Lives in Lynden with his wife Tracy
- Born and raised on a small farm in Copetown
- Proudly served as the Member of Parliament for Flamborough since 2021
- Successful 25-year career in the private sector before politics in the agri-food and energy sectors across North America
- Booth at Paris Fair last September and will always continue to be available and accessible in the community for you



“I have worked alongside Dan Muys since 2021 and I have had a front row seat to see his knowledge, passion and commitment to the Canadian People. While I am disappointed to see Paris, St. George and Brant North move to another Member of Parliament, I know everyone will be in good hands with Dan Muys and I strongly recommend that you vote for him on April 28th.”

- Larry Brock, Brantford-Brant South-Six Nations



“Dan has been a trusted friend and advisor for many years. His hard work, pragmatism, and tenacity have earned him a reputation that gets things done in government: promises made, promises kept.”

- Will Bouma, MPP for Brantford-Brant

FROM HIS PARIS FAIR BOOTH AND RIVERS AND ROOTS TO EVENTS AND DOORS IN PARIS, IT’S IMPORANT TO DAN TO BE ENGAGED IN THE COMMUNITY.



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Conservative