

The Paris Independent

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(KAITLYN BISHOP PHOTO)

Members of the Paris High School Drama Club's upcoming performance including (top left): Mykaela Cutting, Alex Grygorcewicz, Brianna Montemayor, Avery Halabecki, Alexander Champagne, Avery Monrad, Terry Woodman-Drew, Sophie Sidebottom, Lainey Reynolds, (middle left) Jade Little, Abby Merrylees, Micah Leich, (bottom left) Owyn Noonan, Tyson Leversage, Aurora Saulnier, Meghan Balog, Comet Daniels, Grace McLaren, Thomas Whitney and Keira Timmons. Absent is Kailey Fair and Aloura Rousak.

You're Invited to an Astonishing Show!

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Paris High School drama club is entering the National Theatre School Festival this year and to make sure their performance hits all the right notes, they are hosting a public performance this weekend - and you're invited!

A special community performance of The Astonishing and Dangerous History of Mazefield the Frog takes place on Friday, March 21 at 7pm in the school's lower gymnasium. Tickets

will be available at the door for \$10 each, cash only. This performance will boost the cast and crew's confidence and highlight their hard work on stage before the National Theatre Festival begins. The district-level competition takes place on Friday, March 26 - 28 at Brantford Collegiate Institute where they will compete against half a dozen other area schools with the winner advancing to regionals, and then provincials, explains PDHS Drama Club and English Teacher Kaitlyn Bishop. She also serves as Teacher Advisor for the production.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Paris man's Got Talent!

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

A Paris man is following his dreams, which led him to the big stage in front of a national audience on Canada's Got Talent.

You can catch 38-year-old Jonathan Pooley on season 4 of Canada's Got Talent (CGT) on March 25th at 8 pm ET on Citytv. Pooley's performance airs during the season's second episode where contestants with varying skills will compete for the \$1 million grand prize provided by Rogers.

Pooley, a passionate signer with musical talent practically running through his veins, had to keep mum about the details of the performance. In an interview with The Paris Independent, he did disclose that it was a surreal experience, being surrounded by so much talent and energy and meeting others who shared the same passion for performing.

"From thinking my time had passed to standing on the stage in front of Shania, Howie, Katherine and Kardinal, it felt like a dream come true. Seeing the judges in person was unreal and I'm excited to watch the episode on March 25th to relive it all," he added.

He'll also have a chance to relive the performance during a live interview on Breakfast Television at 9 am on Tuesday, March 25th.

This isn't the first time Pooley has been in the limelight. In 2007 he competed on Canadian Idol, making it to the top 60 before he dropped out. He admitted he was young, and the pressure was too much.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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Paris man describes Canada's Got Talent experience as surreal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Even after that, I kept pursuing music for a while," said Pooley, who was a member of a group called FameCity Boiz that performed in Europe, the United States and across Canada. The rush of that lifestyle all changed one day when his girlfriend at the time – who's now his wife – called to share the news that they were expecting a baby.

He recalls, "At that moment, I knew I had to shift gears and focus on something more stable. So I got a 'real job' or at least a more secure one!"

That secure job eventually landed him another job as a TTC bus driver. Over the years, he and wife Heather welcomed three boys, Preston, Lucas and Aidan. Life was good, until a few years ago when he noticed he wasn't feeling himself.

"I was struggling with thoughts I'd never had before, thoughts about no longer being alive. It got to a point where I finally opened up to my wife about it and she convinced

me to go to therapy instead of trying to handle it all on my own," said Pooley, openly sharing his very personal struggle because drawing awareness to Mental Health is extremely important. Pooley went to Brant Mental Health Solutions, in Brantford where he received therapy from a psychotherapist named Patricia. It was a life-changing decision. He learned coping mechanisms to help him get back on track but perhaps the most startling realization, that wasn't so obvious at the time, was how much he missed the music.

"I needed to incorporate more of my passion into my everyday life. And one of those passions was music," said Pooley.

He did just that. He started making up little songs about being a TTC bus driver, just having fun to help pass the time and he shared those videos online. People enjoyed them and as the positive feedback flooded in, he decided to post some covers too. That's when Canadian rapper, singer and actor Drake saw one of his videos and shared it. It went viral.

"Suddenly, things kind of took off. Now I've had several million views on TikTok and Instagram, posted on various popular platforms, several news stories and articles and TV appearances and I've gained support from people all over the world," he shared, adding it's incredible to see how much joy music has brought to not just his everyday life but to others as well. It also made him realize that his ship had not sailed, and it was not too late to take the plunge, follow his dreams and sign up for Canada's Got Talent. The time was right.

Pooley's love of music is deeply rooted in his upbringing. His dad and uncle are musicians, his sister loves to sing just as much as he does and his cousin Kris is a successful musical director, currently working on American Idol, and has collaborated with industry stars from Sabrina Carpenter to Katy Perry and more. Pooley admits he's been singing his whole life, it's just a natural extension of who he is.

In his spare time, Pooley enjoys the quiet life in Paris, living in the Pinehurst subdivision since 2019. He's a volunteer coach on his son's Under Armour Flag Football team in Brantford, he spent some time coaching a team for the Paris Soccer Club and his family enjoys being active in the community.

You can catch Pooley's performance at 8 pm on March 25th. Season 4 of CGT does premiere on March 18th at 8 pm ET on Citytv.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF HYPE PUBLIC RELATIONS, ROGERS TV MARKETING)

Jonathan is interviewed on his TTC bus for a segment of Canada's Got Talent.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF HYPE PUBLIC RELATIONS, ROGERS TV MARKETING)

Jonathan Pooley during his performance on Canada's Got Talent. His episode airs on Citytv at 8 pm on March 25th.



Jonathan Pooley is pictured with his wife Heather and children Preston, Lucas and Aidan. The family enjoys a quiet, active life in Paris

Fill Your Plate – and Your Belly!

Girl Guides Host Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser March 22

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Do you like spaghetti and are longing for any reason to avoid meal prep this weekend? Keep those pots and pans in your cupboard and join a group of Paris Girl Guides as they host a community dinner to support their upcoming trip to the Muskoka region this August.

To help raise funds to make the weeklong summer camp experience possible, members of the 79th ON Leap Group will host a spaghetti supper at St. James Anglican Church in Paris from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm on Saturday, March 22.

Your \$15 admission price includes all the fixings of this classic meal, spaghetti and meat sauce (vegetarian sauce available upon request), garlic bread, salad and a drink. The local guides, and their families, will serve the meal and sell homemade des-

serts they've prepared. The evening also includes a silent auction table thanks to the contributions of several generous local business owners.

Leap 2025 is an Ontario Provincial Camp held at Rousseau Lake College from August 3-9, hosting up to 1,200 campers and volunteers from across Ontario and Nunavut. The 79th ON Leap Group is composed of girl guides ranging in age from 9-16 years old, including three girls from the 6th Paris Guides, three girls representing the 2nd Paris Pathfinders, two girls from the 1st Paris Rangers and one guide from the Brantford Rangers. They will be accompanied by two leaders, Kyra and Taya Humpartzoomian.

"The importance of these trips is for the girls to experience and meet new friends from different areas," explained Annette Wight, a longtime Paris Pathfinder leader. Over the years she has witnessed first-hand the impacts these friendships.

While they are at camp making new friends, they'll have the opportunity to try new experiences.

"The girls will choose from dozens of program options, rock climbing & high rope courses, archery and hiking, canoeing, kayaking, sailing and stand-up paddle boarding and cool down periods at the beach with swimming," shared Wight. They'll even conduct innovative STEM experiments with robotics, participate in meaningful community projects and enjoy off-site adventures. The weeklong experience is all about making memories and developing confidence and leadership skills.

Proceeds from Saturday's spaghetti dinner will help subsidize the cost of the camp, and every little bit helps them take part in this fundamental life experience, added Wight.

The community can get involved in a couple ways. The most obvious is to just show up and enjoy a night out without

cooking and cleaning. Let the Guides serve you and leave full and satisfied. Tickets are \$15 at the door. If you are tight for time, no need to worry, you can grab and go! You can place your takeout order in advance via email: ON79thLeapgroup2025@hotmail.com

Finally, don't forget to purchase a tasty dessert, made especially by the 79th Leap Group, and place your name on some of the silent auction table items. You don't have to be present when the auction closes to claim your prize. Organizers will reach you by phone if you've won to arrange a time to collect your prize and pay. If you're a local business who would like to donate to the silent auction table, reach out by email to arrange your donation.

Dinner will be served between 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at St. James Church located at 8 Burwell St, Paris.

PDHS Drama Club prepares for National Theatre School Festival

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The last time PDHS entered the National Festival was about five years ago, led by Bishop, who has extensive theatrical experience dating back to her very own high school years. The Paris students are excited to be a part of this year's festival and as the drama club begins to build momentum at PDHS, Bishop hopes this will become a bi-annual tradition.

Last year PDHS opted out of the competition in favour of putting on a full-scale school production of 'She Kills Monsters.' The time commitment involved in competing in the National Festival or putting on a full-scale production is intensive, so it is either one or the other, said Bishop.

Despite the intensity, the students are handling it very well, she added. "They are so excited; they are helping me keep it all together. Their dedication is really pulling it together and that is what I am most proud of and why I do it."

Bishop said the students selected the script at the beginning of the year, showing their dedication early on. The script comments on youth culture, global warming and really makes the audience wonder what kind of world we live in, versus the image of the world we think we live in, which is an integral part of the punch line.

Despite the emotionally heavy topics, Bishop said the students were ready to tackle it because, "They are big on promoting change and wanting to open those discussions; they do not shy away from that at all. They want to use theatre as a vessel for their voice."

The script follows sisters Clare and Sara. Sara is cool, and Clare is not. Sara's boyfriend gave her a frog that she does not want, so she passes it along to Clare. Clare reluctantly accepts -- only to learn that the frog can talk, his name is Mazefield, and he wants to bring about the apocalypse.

Clare and Mazefield make a deal: Mazefield will find Clare a date for the school dance, and Clare will meet with two foreign spies for Mazefield and report back to him. Both bungle their missions. Mazefield cannot find Clare a date, and Clare accidentally invites the foreign spies to the school dance. It all comes to a head at the dance in an unexpected and heart-warming conclusion.

Student Director Micah Leich said part of the script's allure was the irony of the punchline, as well as the overall humour it will bring to the audience.

"We thought it was just so odd that there was a person playing a frog," explains Leich. "When the frog is first told of all these things happening in the world, it is by these two spies from an Eastern country. It is supposed to be a big comedic moment

because they realize there is no need to form an apocalypse because the world we live in is already pretty bad," teased Leich. He also pointed out that the play is relatable to the current high school teen scene, even if the main character is not your typical high school teen!

"Our main character is not your typical teen but it's great they can still be the main character even if they are not like everyone else," said Leich, accentuating an important message that it is okay to be who you are, not who everything thinks you should be.

As student director, what's Leich's favourite part of the production? Easily, the cast, he answered. "I wouldn't enjoy it as much if it wasn't for the people we casted in the roles. They work extremely hard to bring these characters to life. It's a short play with not a lot of back stories on the characters."

The cast made sure the performance is true to script, which is a national festival requirement, however, they did add their own artistic touches. Leich brought the cast and crew together at the start of the year to write the vision statement used to enter the festival.

"I felt to be fair everyone should have a say in it. It's a lot easier to come up with a statement with a large group of creative people," said Leich.

The group did implement one artistic change to the script, making the character of Mazefield the frog look like a frog, as much as possible with their limited props and costumes. The change just adds another element of humour, one the cast is proud of.

In addition to the public performance on March 21st, the Drama Club will present for students in Grades 7 and 8 from three local elementary schools on March 20th which gives them confidence heading into the district level competition, but also gives PDHS an opportunity to showcase the drama club to future students, said Bishop.

Paris' district level performance takes place on March 28th at 6 pm. It is the last night of district level performances so by the end of that night, a winner will be selected to advance to regionals. The performances will be 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.

There will be various acting awards for first-time performer, directing, best assemble and spirit of the festival. PDHS will attend all performances from March 26 to March 28 to support all district level schools and cheer one another one.

The final night of districts will also offer students the opportunity to participate in free workshops to develop their skills and mix and mingle with other schools. "It's a really great camaraderie," said Bishop.

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EDITORIAL

Community Newspapers Connect Neighbours, Strengthen Bonds

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Canadians are steadfast on shopping local right now, and rightfully so. People are making a conscious effort to buy Canadian made products and support Canadian companies, who employ Canadians, in turn supporting the Canadian economy. It's an initiative we should have adopted a long time ago to nourish our independence and guarantee our own economic growth and prosperity.

Unfortunately, it's a lesson we are adopting in the 11th hour of a terribly unnecessary economic trade war with our neighbours to the south. Regardless of your opinion on the tariffs, or what side of the political spectrum you sit on, the surge in Canadian pride and relentless determination to come together in the face of adversity should be a welcome sight for everyone.

Piggy backing on that shop local, support local mantra, I'd like to bring that conversation to a municipal level and conveniently tie it into the launch of this very local community newspaper.

Welcome to the first print edition of the Paris Independent. We're the same local news source you've trusted for the last three and a half years, bringing you the stories, successes and news cultivated by local people you work, live and play with in Paris!

Not only is this a Paris-centric publication, it's for the people of Paris brought to you by the people of Paris. That's right, our editorial staff and contributing columnists live in Paris and have a firm pulse

on what is going on in the community. Trust me when I say you will read stories in this publication that you will not see in any other publication. You will see the names of your neighbours and know when the kid down the road wins a gold medal in hockey or when a fellow parent from your kid's school receives an award. You'll know when a Paris team brings home a title, when council makes an important decision, or when a longtime resident achieves an honour. You'll know what's happening each week in the community, read the opinions of people you know, and you'll see great deals from local entrepreneurs, giving you reasons to continue to shop local in town. These are all great examples of why a community newspaper is a local treasure (remember how scarce community news became when the Paris Star stopped reporting community events and news, eventually leading to its demise?).

The other secret to the success of community newspapers is the contributions from you, the reader and supporter who want their stories to be shared, who want the community to know of the great things happening in their own backyards. That's why we will accept your submissions and are always open to suggestions for local coverage. If you have an idea, we want to hear it. It's the stories from a diverse group of residents that paves the way for a sense of connection that we all long to have and be a part of.

In a world where the news is at your fingertips, and the national headlines are just a click away, it's the community newspapers that are making you feel connected



with your neighbours and proud to live in a small town like Paris. Let the heart-warming stories emerging from your community serve as a reminder that not all news is bad news and there is good in the world, at least a lot of good news right here in Paris, Ontario!

Supporting your Paris Independent, as you've done over the last few years, will only ensure local journalism remains in the community, free and accessible for all. Thank-you for picking up a copy and stayed tuned for more news next week!

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The Paris Independent

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Letters to the Editor

Bringing Local News back into the Hands of the Readers

To the Editor:

I'm just writing to say thank you so much for persevering to bring important information to our community, and a huge congratulations on your first print edition!

Being a Gen X'er, I love the newspaper in my hand and used to often laze about on a Saturday with the paper spread out all over the living room.

To be living an abundant, peaceful life in a beautiful community surrounded by rugged nature, with kind and friendly people and exceptional culture is the best life I could've asked for.

Thank you, Paris Independent for being part of that and I look forward to enjoying some downtime with your paper in hand!

Shar O'Neill, "Parasite" since 2002

Thank-you for promoting community connection

To the Editor:

I've really enjoyed looking for your newspaper every Saturday morning. You do a great job of promoting community events, especially for the non-profit sector. Moving to providing paper copies can only extend your reach. Congratulations on your next chapter! I'm so glad we have this way of connecting.

Marilyn Sewell, Paris, Ontario

The Paris Independent

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR BY EMAILING THEM TO INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

Some Q&A about Paris' new print newspaper

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

By Stewart Grant



As loyal readers of the Paris Independent already know, the previously online-only Paris Independent newspaper (established 2021) has recently partnered with my company, Grant Haven Media. Together, we are very excited to present you with this first print edition of the Paris Independent. Within this Q&A format, I'll tell you more about it.

Aren't newspapers dying?

The main ones that are dying are the ones that are owned by conglomerates who forgot that a local newspaper was supposed to be full of local news; not content recycled from their other newspapers. There are independent newspapers all over Canada that are still doing well because they have stayed true to their community. That's what we intend to do here with the Paris Independent with our amazing and deep local team led by Chris Whelan and Casandra Turnbull.

How is a free newspaper going to survive?

One thing that has never changed is people's desire for local news. The most important job for us at the Paris Independent is to fill each week's publication with community news, information, and features that you can't find anywhere else.

The next thing to do is make the newspaper free and easily accessible for anyone who wants to read it. We don't want people to contemplate whether to buy it for

a dollar or two at the local store – we just want them to pick up for free and enjoy it. Having it freely available at grocery stores, coffee shops, key retail locations and community gathering spaces means that it will be visible and easy to find throughout Paris. Mail subscriptions are also available (for a price to cover our costs), and of course the paper can still be read for free online from anywhere in the world.

If we have a newspaper that is free for all, and full of Paris and area news that people want to read, then this will be the best possible place for local businesses to advertise – especially given our very reasonable ad rates. It is these advertisements that help cover the cost of printing the newspaper and paying our staff.

Why do you sound so optimistic?

I've been involved in community newspapers for ten years, since buying my hometown St. Marys Independent in 2014. Since then, I have bought or started a number of community newspapers, all with this same philosophy of restoring local journalism. It's certainly not easy, but it is very rewarding.

The most successful of the community newspapers that I own is the St. Marys Independent, and I think that St. Marys and Paris have a lot in common – not just in their beauty but most importantly in their community spirit. Something that I say a lot is “it takes a community to make a successful community newspaper.” What I mean by that is that when everyone does a little bit, together we can accomplish anything. Here's some examples:

- A local business can invest in advertising so to increase their sales
- A local business that doesn't need to advertise can instead sponsor a community-oriented aspect of the paper to make a positive difference
- An individual can celebrate a happy moment by placing an announcement (i.e. birth, wedding, anniversary) within the newspaper

- A family can honour a loved one through the placement of an obituary or in memoriam
 - An individual can contribute to our local news by sending us a story idea, emailing us a photo they have taken, writing an article or letter to the editor, or informing us of an upcoming event
 - An individual can tell others about our newspaper or buy a gift mail subscription for a family member or friend
- Want to get involved through any of the various ways above? Please contact us at info@theparis-independent.com.

How can I be sure to get the paper each week?

As mentioned earlier, we'll make the Paris Independent available in three different ways:

- several pick-up locations throughout Paris (for free)
- optional mail subscription (for a small monthly fee; to subscribe, visit www.patreon.com/TheParisIndependent or call 519-655-2341)
- online at www.granthaven.com/paris-independent (for free)

That's all the questions for now, but if you have any more for me, please send me a note at stew@granthaven.com. Along with the rest of your Paris Independent team, I'm really excited about how the newspaper can contribute to the community, both now and into the future.

The Paris Independent

Guiding Principles

1. Everyone has a story
2. The news should be free for all to enjoy
3. Good news beats bad news
4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)
5. Newspapers document history
6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

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CASANDRA TURNBULL AT STORIES@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM**

Deliciously competitive Chili Cook Off Fills the Legion

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

There was a combination of a chill and chili in the air on March 8th as community members warmed up with some of the town's best chili recipes at the 2nd Annual Cook Off at the Paris Legion.

Back by popular demand, the Chili Cook Off had a dash of competitiveness, sprinkled with just the right amount of spice as eight teams competed for the top honour. Last



There was nothing silly about the winning recipe that took top honours from the Paris Legion's March 8th Chili Cook Off. The team called 'Red-Hot Silly Peppers' won this year's trophy. Team members included Don and Rob Cruickshank and Jerry Hamor.

year's inaugural champions, Mayor David Bailey and partner Jim Triemstra could not attend this year, so the title was up for grabs and there was no shortage of fun smack talk as teams vied for the trophy.

Ward 2 Councillors Steve Howes and Lukas Oakley were back with their secret recipe, which they confessed to have been painstakingly fine-tuning. "We feel confident we can take home a victory," they admitted, leading up to the cook-off. Howes added that the legion has a long history of creating events like this chili cook-off, and it creates memorable occasions for the community of Paris.

"Our community is fortunate to have a Legion that supports the community in so many ways," said Howes.

The Paris Optimist Club also entered this year's cook-off for a second year, with Optimists Lynda, Lesley, Marilyn and Andrée professing the day a success filled with a lot of fun.

This event encourages local food businesses and self-proclaimed home cooks to share their secret mouth-watering chili recipes which are judged by participants who ultimately choose the best chili in town.

Close to 100 people paid a small admission to sample the entries, with all the proceeds going to new chairs for the Legion's lounge area once the final design is approved, said Legion President Roy Haggart.

The 2025 chili champions were the Red-Hot Silly Peppers – Don and Rob Cruickshank and Jerry Hamor. Second place went to the Red-Hot Chili Peppers – Heidi and Derrick Ostner and Kelley and Kieran McPate. And who could resist trying the Red-Hot Chili Peppers entry, after all they bag pipes lured you to their table!

Rounding out the top three was a tie between the Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant and Steve Howes and Lukas Oakley.

"I think all the teams did a great job with their chili and interacting with competitors and patrons," said Haggart, who was happy with the turnout. "There were lots of laughs throughout the afternoon."

Haggart took the opportunity to extend a special thank-you to the Brant County OPP Detachment for their donation towards the event and to all the volunteers, especially, Gloria, Frank, Brenda, Helen and Barry for their hard work.



Who could resist a delicious chili recipe, especially as the sound of bagpipes lured you to the table! The Red-Hot Chili Peppers claimed second place. Team members included Heidi and Derrick Ostner and Kelley and Kieran McPate.



Paris' Ward 2 Councillors Lukas Oakley (centre) and Steve Howes (left) tied for third place. The councillors called the event 'deliciously competitive' and were happy to share honours with the Kiwanis Team.



The Kiwanis Team tied for 3rd place. Kiwanis members pictured left to right, Tim Risebrough, David Tisdale, Wendy Eveleigh, Candace Tisdale, Sheila Moore, Wendy Gallagher.

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Library Board Moves Forward with New Central Library Planning

MEDIA RELEASE

County of Brant Public Library

After careful deliberation, the County of Brant Public Library Board has decided on the next steps for the New Central Library project in Paris, prioritizing community needs, responsible planning, and long-term sustainability.

As a first step, to ensure the new library branch meets the evolving needs of the County of Brant's growing population, the Library Board will conduct new, updated needs analysis and site selection studies. The previous studies, conducted nearly a decade ago, no longer reflect the County's realities. These updated assessments will evaluate present and future service demands, guiding the responsible development of a new facility. To fund the studies, the Library Board will request Council approval to spend \$40,000 from the Library's Capital Reserve Fund.

Transparency and collaboration remain central to this process. "Our mission is to deliver library service that fosters learning, innovation, and community engagement," said Library Board Chair Fred Gladding. "Our vision is to

create a physical space that will be loved and well-used for generations to come. We want to work hand-in-hand with the community to understand its needs, and with Council to ensure we have their support before development begins."

While the Board is disappointed that the Bawcutt Centre collaboration will not be moving forward, it remains committed to delivering a modern, inclusive space that serves as both a cultural cornerstone and a welcoming environment for all residents.

"In some ways we're starting from square one again," said Library Board Vice-Chair Marilyn Sewell. "Our staff have done an incredible job working in the cramped space of the current branch, but it's simply not enough. Council has already acknowledged the need for a new facility. Now, we need to test the assumptions that have guided our work so far and re-engage the public to help shape priorities for location, services, and facility size."

As always, community input will play a vital role in shaping the future of the New Central Library in Paris.

March is Fraud Prevention Month OPP and GrandBridge Energy Remind Residents to Remain Vigilant

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

March is Fraud Prevention Month and residents are being reminded to remain vigilant against scams.

Fraud continues to impact Canadians as criminals are using increasingly sophisticated tactics to deceive victims.

This week, County of Brant OPP reported that one local individual was defrauded over \$1,900 while attempting to buy a camera through Facebook Marketplace.

The complainant reported that after sending the payment via e-transfer, the seller ceased all communication and deleted the advertisement. The suspect used a fraudulent name and identification to facilitate the transaction.

When it comes to buying or selling online, the OPP remind residents to meet in a safe, public location to complete transactions. The OPP detachment on Bethel Road offers a safe place to exchange transactions. Officers are also reminding people never to send money in advance of receiving the item and always use secure payment methods. You should always check the seller's identify and be cautious of newly created accounts with little to no activity. The golden rule be skeptical of the deals that seem too good to be true.

Buy and sell scams are popular, but criminals will also try to lure victims through phishing scams where they pose a legitimate company to trick you into provide personal and financial information. The Emergency Grandparent Scam is used to impersonate a loved one and request urgent fund transfers. The investment and cryptocurrency came lures people into fake

investment opportunities, including cryptocurrency schemes, often promising high returns with little to no risk.

GrandBridge Energy, the local electricity provider for Cambridge, Township of North Dumfries, Brant County and Brantford, is also reminding residents to remain vigilant against ongoing scams targeting both residential and business customers.

In a press release issued last week, the utility company advised, "Fraudsters continue to use various tactics to deceive individuals, posing as utility representatives and threatening immediate disconnection of service unless payment is made. These scams typically involve phone calls, text messages, or emails demanding urgent payments through prepaid debit cards, gift cards, or cryptocurrency like Bitcoin."

GrandBridge is urging customers to ignore suspicious texts and emails, and to contact the phone numbers found on your monthly bill if you receive a suspicious call. Customers can also register for My Account on the GrandBridge Energy website where you can stay up to date with payments and account balances.

Finally, GrandBridge Energy reminds residents as part of its standard procedure, regulated by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), GrandBridge Energy always provides customers with multiple advance notifications before any service disconnection. This includes an overdue notice phone call and a hand-delivered notice to the service address.

Anyone who believes they have been a victim of fraud is encouraged to contact the Brant OPP at (519) 442-2242 or report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.

Brant County OPP investigating series of vehicle thefts in Paris

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Brant County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a series of high-end vehicle thefts that occurred between February 6 and March 10, 2025, in the south end of Paris.

Between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., five vehicles were reported stolen. In each case, the vehicles were taken without access to the keys, and GPS tracking was disabled shortly after the theft. Two vehicles have been recovered in Mississippi Mills, Ontario, and two have been recovered in Quebec, while one remains outstanding.

Incidents Summary

February 6, 2025

Stolen: Black 2024 Lexus TX35

Recovered: Highway 7, Mississippi Mills

February 14, 2025

Stolen: Blue 2023 Toyota Tundra

Status: Recovered Mississippi Mills

March 2, 2025

Stolen: White 2023 Lexus RX350

Recovered: Quebec

March 3, 2025

Stolen: Black 2024 Lexus RX350

Recovered: Terrebonne, Quebec

March 9-10, 2025

Stolen: Blue 2023 Ford Raptor

Status: Outstanding

Investigation and Prevention Efforts

The Brant County OPP has increased patrols in the affected areas and is working with regional partners to identify those responsible. Residents are reminded to take precautions to help prevent vehicle thefts.

Lock all doors and remove valuables when leaving a vehicle unattended.

Park in well-lit areas and use additional security measures such as steering wheel locks or tracking devices.

Store key fobs in signal-blocking pouches to prevent relay theft.

Review home security footage and report any suspicious activity.

Call with Information:

The Brant County OPP is asking anyone with information, security footage, or details regarding these thefts to contact investigators at 519-442-2242.

Anonymous tips can be provided to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.crimestoppersbb.com



This blue 2023 Ford Raptor R, valued at \$180,000 was stolen overnight from a Paris driveway on Monday, March 10th. The vehicle was last observed in the driveway at around 7:00 p.m. by the complainant. The truck was later confirmed to have been in the driveway until around 9:00 p.m. by a neighbour's security camera. Brant County OPP conducted a canvass of the area, including speaking to neighbours with security cameras, but no footage relevant to the theft was located.

Acclaimed Canadian Author Coming to Paris

Emma Donoghue is the County of Brant Public Library's One Book One Brant Community Pick

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

For 20 years One Book One Brant has remained a literacy phenomenon in the community and to mark the milestone, the County of Brant Library has pulled out all the stops to bring a world-renowned Canadian author to the forefront of the celebration.

Keeping in line with One Book One Brant's (OBOB) mandate to select a Community Pick novel penned by a Canadian author, this year's selection was *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue. And in true OBOB fashion, Donoghue will make an appearance in Paris for the wrap-up author meet and greet on Sunday, April 6th from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Paris Community Church's #ForParisCentre.

There was a little bit of fate pulling a star like Donoghue to town, shares Emma Johnston, Adult Program and Outreach Services for the County of Brant Public Library.

"Last year I reached out to Emma to come to One Book One Brant, and I actually got her on the phone, I was shocked," said Johnston. "I was telling her we are in Paris Ontario, and she said, 'I'm in Paris France!' She was there working on her new novel, so she wanted to revisit the idea in a year when her book would come out."

Fast forward to 2025 and Donoghue has started to launch that book, titled *The Paris Express*. Since the timing was a bit off to make *The Paris Express* this year's OBOB selection, library staff opted for *The Pull of the Stars*, another great Donoghue masterpiece. However, they couldn't resist the opportunity to turn the author meet and greet into a soft book launch for *The Paris Express* as well.

Johnston confesses to reading almost all of Donoghue's books, labelling her a very talented author. That assessment is fair, after all she is a National Bestseller, Giller Prize Finalist, short-listed for a Dublin Literacy Award, and shortlisted for the Man Booker and Orange Prizes. She's not just a novelist, but a screenwriter, playwright and literacy historian.

"How deeply honoured we are to have Emma Donoghue with us," said Johnston. "We are a small town that's a part of her a really big book launch and to be included is a really huge honour."

Donoghue's *The Paris Express* is a historic novel based on an 1895 trainwreck disaster that was captured in a series of extraordinary photographs, one of which is placed at the end of Donoghue's novel as the inspiration



Acclaimed author Emma Donoghue will be in Paris on Sunday, April 6th from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Paris Community Church's #ForParisCentre to help celebrate One Book One Brant's 20th anniversary and to launch her new book, *The Paris Express*.

to the story she wrote about the fascinating characters that took a ride on *The Paris Express*. It's a gripping story that captures everything from politics to glamour at the end of the 19th century.

It's not the only novel where Donoghue manages to pull the reader back in time. This year's OBOB selection *The Pull of the Stars* brings readers to the height of the Great Flu in Dublin, 1918. Nurse Julia Power works at an understaffed hospital in the city centre's maternity ward,

in a city ravaged by war. Doctor Kathleen Lynn, on the run from the police, and a young volunteer helper, Bridie Sweeney step into Julia's regimented world and in over three days, these women change each other's lives in unexpected ways.

Johnston said library staff chose *The Pull of the Stars* because it appeals to a wide range of readers and her approach to writing is so diverse and captivating.

"In my experience she personalizes the history – and that is a fascinating way to approach it," said Johnston.

One Book One Brant launched 20 years ago with the simple idea of bringing literary enthusiasts together to share in a specific read that would spark insightful discussion. Year after year the event returned each spring, like clockwork, attracting crowds of readers eager to turn the pages of a new Canadian author.

"The community likes to come together and read together, it's fun. They get to chat about what they are reading and explore Canadian authors and attend events to support that one read," said Johnston. "We've brought in some fantastic authors over the years, but Emma Donoghue is our biggest one!"

Of course, Johnston said she must thank the community for keeping the OBOB tradition alive.

"We are so grateful to the community for keeping One Book One Brant alive for 20 years – thank-you to everyone who has participated!"

To prepare for Donoghue's upcoming visit, you can pick up a copy of *The Pull of the Stars* from any County of Brant Library branch. You can also attend a Book Club meeting; the next one takes place on March 27th at 6:30 pm at the Burford Library. Anyone who has read *The Pull of the Stars* is welcome to attend.

The library has also partnered with Spicy Jan from Tasty Road Trips to present 'The Paris Express Grand Adventure' on March 22nd. That two-and-a-half-hour afternoon adventure is a curated experience to immerse yourself in the hidden gems of downtown Paris, Ontario. It's a fun opportunity to stack 'our Paris' up to the 'Paris' in Donoghue's book. Tickets for that event are still available by online registration <https://brant-ca.libcal.com/event/3853018>.

The April 6th book launch/author meet and greet will include an interview sit down with Donoghue, a Q&A period and Riverside Bookshelf will have books for sale for Donoghue to autograph.

Voice your opinion on Community Safety and Well-Being

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The County of Brant is inviting residents to participate in the update of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan with a series of engagement sessions open to the public this week.

The focus of this engagement process is to provide community members with an opportunity to share their perspectives on safety, well-being, and social development priorities in the County.

There is an engagement session on March 19th from 10 am to 11:30 am at the Syl Apps Community Centre, 51 William St, Paris; on March 21st from 12 pm to 2 pm at Scotland Community Centre, 85

Simcoe St; and on March 25 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Brant Youth Centre (geared for residents ages 11-15) at Syl Apps Community Centre.

"We want to hear from as many people as possible, from all walks of life," said County of Brant Community Safety and Well-Being Supervisor, Brian Grice. "Whether you've experienced challenges or have ideas to improve community supports, your insights will help shape a plan that meets the needs of all residents."

The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan focuses on key issues such as youth empowerment, mental health and addictions, building safe and connected communities, and fostering a strong sense of belonging for everyone. As required by the

Police Services Act, this plan is reviewed every five years to ensure that local services and programs continue to meet the evolving needs of residents.

"Ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents is a top priority for the County of Brant," said County of Brant Mayor, David Bailey in a press release issued by the County of Brant.

"This updated plan will be shaped by the voices of our community, and we encourage everyone to take part in the conversation. Your feedback will help us create a safer, healthier, and more connected County."

The plan is a coordinated effort, led by county staff, but involves an entire Ad-Hoc Committee and the efforts from the

following organizations: Brant OPP, Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, Child and Family Services of Grand Erie, County of Brant Police Services Board, Grand Erie District School Board, Grand Erie Public Health, SOAR Community Services and Willowbridge Community Services.

If you can't make one of the public open houses, the engagement process also offers residents a chance to participate, online, print and phone survey, focused discussions with identified groups, and in-person pop-up engagement events. Complete the online survey at www.EngageBrant.ca/CSWP2025 or call 519-442-7268. Engagement closes on April 17th.

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HVAC company celebrates 25 years in business with Reader Favourite award win

With years of service and stellar reviews, Comfort Plus keeps homes comfortable, even in stressful times. For many homeowners, the day that you have to call an HVAC company is usually a stressful day.

"Your furnace and your air conditioner never break when it's a convenient time, so it's nice to be able to put minds at ease and provide a service to the community that helps people out in times like that," says Shawn Dailley, Owner of Comfort Plus Heating and Cooling.

Comfort Plus has been serving their customers in the Cambridge-Brantford area since 1999 and have just been voted a Reader Favourite award winner by CambridgeToday readers. The business has a staggering 4.9-star average on Google reviews, which is especially impressive for a service that people often contact because they have a problem.

One review of Comfort Plus reads, "Great experience as a relatively new client of Comfort Plus. David the technician has been excellent on each of his visits. Very happy with the service so far, and I particularly appreciate David's very clear and concise explanations as to what is going on with our furnace and AC. Our slightly older furnace is working many times better now thanks to David's maintenance!"

Shawn notes that their business believes in helping customers with preventative maintenance to keep everything running smoothly. They have an ongoing preventative maintenance program, with different equipment coverage options and the option for secondary equipment add-ons. This coverage includes cleaning, inspection and adjustment of equipment each year, no after hours up-charges, priority service, and more. This way, Comfort Plus can help customers out



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

before they need help.

The positive feedback that the company often receives is that their technicians are helpful at educating customers on not only the current issue, but what their options are going forward. The majority of their team is local to Cambridge-Brantford, and Shawn says that they all enjoy feeling like what they're doing is making a difference in their own community.

"We appreciate the trust that the community puts in us to help them out in those times—and to help them be prepared for those times proactively too," he adds.

Shawn sees the Cambridge area as one that supports local, independently owned businesses, which has led to

Comfort Plus Heating and Cooling's 25 successful years of serving customers.

"We want to thank everybody who took the time to vote. It means a lot to us to feel that appreciation. Our technicians and our office staff work very hard to provide a high level of customer service, so when customers call in and let us know that our technicians have done a great job, or when we receive something like this award, it means a lot," says Shawn.

"It means we're moving in the right direction. That kind of feedback makes our hearts happy."

For more information, contact 519-752-2250 or visit comfort-plusheatandcool.com



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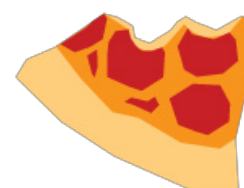
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A Chill Saturday in Paris

RUBY JONES

Cultural Correspondent

It was a pretty chill Saturday In Paris on March 8th as folks gathered to participate in the Chill Moves event created to bring peace and positive movement to anyone who decided to partake.

Saturdays in Paris, offered by the Downtown Paris BIA and Big Cityyy Arts, in association with Heart of Ontario and Hamilton Halton Brant Regional Tourism Association, started in January, running consecutively until the end of March.

The Chill Moves Day was filled with gentle and grounding movement spaces and calming creative activities. The County of Brant Public Library hosted the Canadian Tai Chi Academy and gave people a chance to try their skill at Tai Chi, while local wellness facilitator Anna Carter offered Qigong. Jessica Pacey led Pilates and Mindful Movement spaces at Right As Rain Health Collective and local artist Patti Gallant ran a relaxing, neuro-graphic art pop-up! Overall participants reported it was a soothing day for the mind, body and soul.



Maeve Brown poses with ski bunnies made by forest + folk, they will be at The Paris Wincey Mills Co for March so pop down and get a pic!



(SARAH EVANS PHOTOS)

Jessica Pacey - owner of Right As Rain Health Collective in the Royal building - leads a group of guests in a mini Pilates class, this basement studio had cozy and chill vibes which was perfect for these recharging and relaxing spaces.



Patti Gallant helped people of all ages to try this accessible and flexible art practice which is as meditative as it is creative!



Artist Patti Gallant demonstrates how to create a neuro-graphic art sketch which is a creative exercise that is known for bringing calm, boosting mindfulness and for helping to process stress and anxieties!

Costume Life Drawing Series offered at Wincey Mills

RUBY JONES

Cultural Correspondent

Paris is a town full of artists and art lovers and there's never a shortage of arty things taking place all the time. If you like to indulge your artistic self, make note of this once-a-month activity that you can find at The Paris Wincey Mills Co, a Costume Life Drawing event presented by Big Cityyy Arts and forest + folk.

Big Cityyy Arts introduced these life drawing events in Paris few years ago and in 2024 they joined forces with art makers, forest + folk, to bring a seasonal series, with themes. Each series consists of three sessions, once a month, each lasting three hours long. It's a creative space for artists of all ages, mediums and levels to flex their art practice and to have the opportunity to draw something exciting and different. Two costumed life models hold poses, ranging from one minute to thirty minutes.

The Spring Costumed Life Drawing series kicked off in February with a fabulous Fox theme, March was a dreamy Hare theme and there will be a colourful finale with a Bird theme on Tuesday, April 8th. All the themes were inspired by amazing masks created by forest + folks' Lisa Franklin and the costumes are provided and styled by local artist and maker Prinx Lydia. Shout out to Paris Performers' Theatre for supporting with curtains and costumes too!

There are three types of tickets available for each series: a series pass which gets you access to all three events, with a little savings on your tickets, general admission



A colourful and quick sketch by artist Heather Verplanke capturing both models in a seated and relaxed pose!

tickets for those who want to go for an a la carte with experience, and pay what you can tickets for people who need to pay less or want to pay more than the general admission price - because art is for everyone!

These arty events get busier and buzzier with each one, with artists joining locally and from all over Southern Ontario. It's absolutely amazing to see what is created in only a few minutes, and how everyone improves and becomes freer within their practice, as they practice.

Join us for the Spring finale on Tuesday, April 8th 2025, via www.BigCityyyArts.com

The Summer Costumed Life Drawing series will run May to July in downtown Paris, with the dates and themes to be announced soon.



Facilitators and models, Lisa Franklin and Prinx Lydia, pose in costumes inspired by the Hare, with a medieval twist!

Despite economic uncertainty, local unemployment rate remains low

MEDIA RELEASE

March 7, 2025

Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie

Brantford-Brant's labour market saw little change last month, but the unemployment rate still climbed slightly.

The local jobless rate was estimated to be 5.3% in February, up from January's 5%, according to seasonally adjusted figures based on a Statistics Canada survey of households, which was conducted Feb. 9 to 15.

The Brantford area continues to have the lowest unemployment rate among nearby communities such as Hamilton, Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, St. Catharines-Niagara and London. However, Brantford's employment rate – the proportion of the population aged 15+ who are working - is middle of the pack.

"The fact that employment was little changed locally, regionally and across Canada can be read as a sign that many employers pressed pause last month in the face of U.S. tariffs," said Danette Dalton, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. "Businesses are in a wait-and-see mode, neither adding nor reducing staffing."

Nation-wide job numbers were virtually unchanged last month, and Canada's unemployment rate remained at 6.6%. Meanwhile, Ontario's unemployment rate dropped to 7.3%, due mainly to fewer people looking for work.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on Canadian goods would start February 4, but on February 3 paused them, saying they would start March 4. Since then, the U.S. has announced that Canadian steel and aluminum will face tariffs starting next week, while tariffs on some other goods would be paused until April.

"There's a lot of confusion and uncertainty right now, especially with U.S. announcements changing almost daily, so it is understandable if businesses have put things on hold," Dalton said.

Dalton said the planning board will monitor impacts on the area's labour market and will work with governments, business groups and community services to support businesses and workers.

Even with all the uncertainty, local employers have still been posting job openings, though it isn't clear if people have been hired to fill those openings, she said.

The planning board's Grand Erie Jobs platform saw 1,600 new job postings in February, and the number of businesses with postings reached 1,000. Grand Erie Jobs displays postings from major online job boards.

The Workforce Planning Board is one of 26 non-profit organizations in Ontario that play a leadership role in labour force planning. The Workforce Planning Board is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

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New hospital entering critical planning stage

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Brant Community Healthcare System's (BCHS) plan to build a new, modern hospital facility is entering a critical stage in the coming months.

After years of master planning and lobbying various levels of government for financial commitment and support, the BCHS communications department issued a press release this week to share a project update that focusses on the Functional Program process that will start in late spring.

This stage of the process involves detailed planning for future hospital services and will determine the number of inpatient beds, the extent of outpatient services, models of care, and the space required for BCHS programs, including Emergency Medicine, Diagnostic Imaging, Surgery, Birthing, Pediatrics, Mental Health and various support services. To advance this important work, BCHS is requesting additional planning funds from the Ministry of Health.

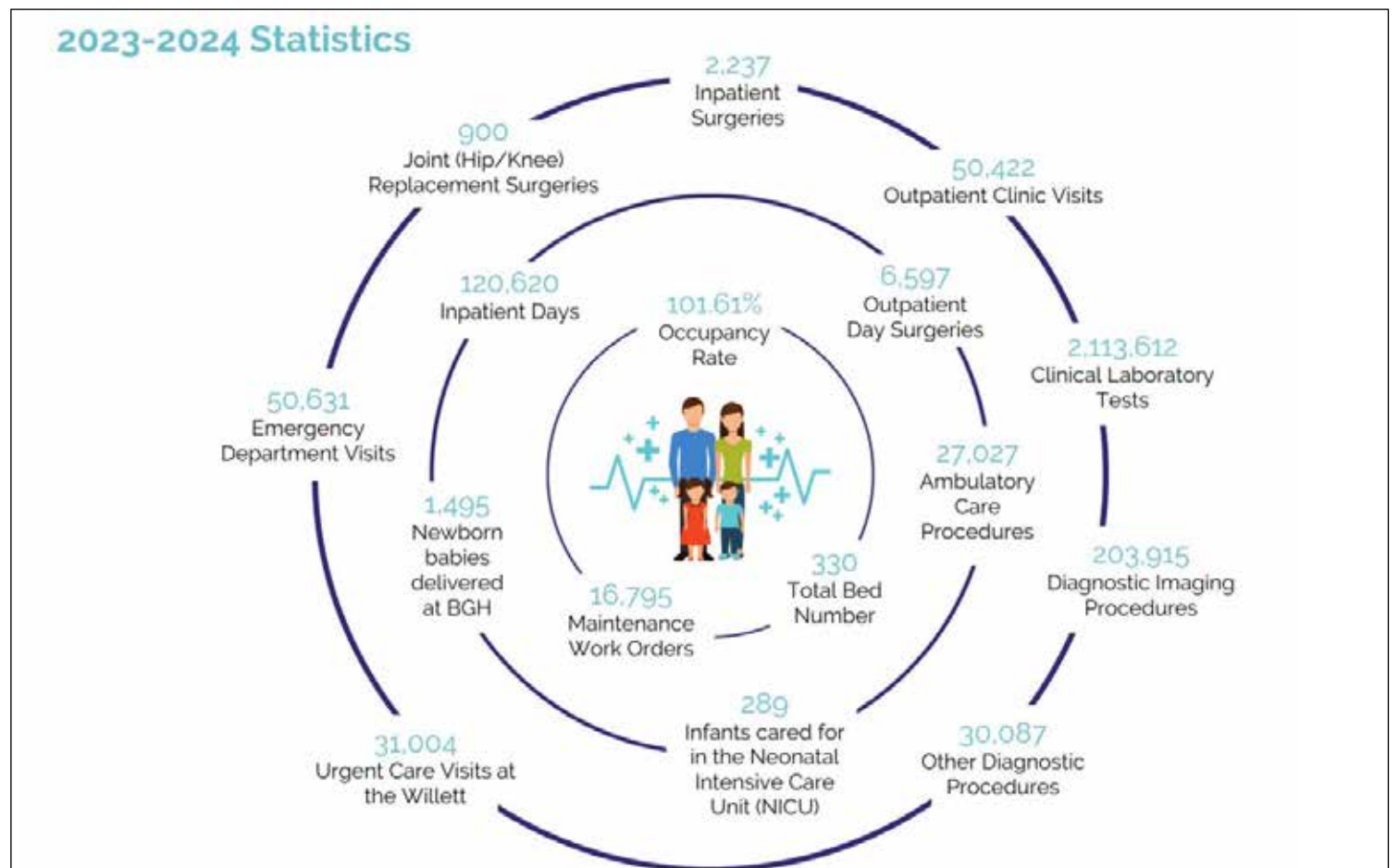
"We remain committed to building new hospital facilities that will support exceptional care for our community in the future," said Bonnie Camm, President & CEO of BCHS. "In partnership with the Ministry of Health, we are eager to move forward with Functional Programming and stay on track for government approval to build much-needed new hospital facilities."

In preparation for the Functional Program stage BCHS is developing a hospital Vision and Guiding Planning Principles that will serve as a roadmap for each stage of the redevelopment journey. To support this effort, they have engaged Stantec Architects to lead the Visioning and Guiding Principles work and assist with planning beyond this stage.

The BCHS is also ramping up their internal redevelopment office to ensure readiness for this significant milestone. This office, comprised primarily of project management resources, will lead detailed planning for future hospital services including a closer look at the design requirements, phasing plan, project budget and schedule.

BCHS first lobbied the Ministry of Health in 2014 for new hospital facilities. Following subsequent submissions in 2015 and 2017, BCHS submitted a revised Pre-capital stage proposal in January 2020, which the Ministry accepted.

In March 2022, Honourable Premier Doug Ford and former Honourable Minister of Health Christine Elliott announced approval of a \$2.5 million Capital Planning Grant to support the early planning stages of hospital redevelopment.



A close look at the community's healthcare needs in 2023 and half of 2024. The local healthcare's 20 Year Growth rate is projected to be 36.8% according to the Ministry of Finance summer 2023 release. Local healthcare saw a 10% growth increase between 2022 to 2023 alone, which was not forecasted.

In October 2023, BCHS made its proposal stage submission and has since engaged in extensive options, analysis and consultations with the Ministry.

In 2024, BCHS welcomed key government representatives for site visits, including a July 2024 visit from Assistant Deputy Minister, Hospitals and Capital, Catherine Wang. She discussed the proposed plan and toured the facilities. In October 2024, the Honourable Minister of Health Sylvia Jones also visited the Brantford General site. The BCHS is still awaiting acceptance of the plan, according to the press release.

The Re-Imagine BCHS Committee is working to align strategies and advocate for government approval of the new facilities. Both the City of Brantford and County of Brant Mayors sit on the committee, along with representatives from Six Nations of the Grand River, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Brantford-Brant Chamber of Commerce and BCHS Foundation, Board of Directors, Patient and Family Advisors and BCHS CEO, Chief of Staff and Senior Leadership Team.

To learn more about the hospital redevelopment project, visit www.reimaginebchs.ca

The Paris Independent Pick Up Locations

Arlington Hotel

Brant Sports Complex

Brave Waves Swim School

Canadian Tire

Cobblestone Public House

Detour Café Paris

Farah Foods

Hub Pharmacy

Jay's No Frills

K.R.S. Hairstyling

Paris Beer Company

Paris Branch - County of Brant

Paris Inn

Paris Jewellers

Paris Pizza

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29

Secret Lunch and Catering

Sly Apps Community Centre

Sobeys

Stillwaters

Telfer Place Retirement Residence

The Gem Marketplace

The Paris Wincey Mills Co.

Willett Urgent Care Centre

Wrights Variety

The Paris Independent

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Toffifee Fundraiser Raises \$31,474 for BCHS Foundation

Funds dedicated to diagnostic imaging equipment for BGH and Willett

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

It's hard to say no to a box of chocolates, and that's likely the success behind Canadian Tire Brantford's annual fundraiser that brings in critical funds for the Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS) Foundation.

Right around the time the Christmas decorations are flying off the shelf and people are out and about holiday shopping, Brantford Canadian Tire builds a pyramid of Toffifee chocolates in the entryway of their Lynden Rd store. From November 2024 to late January 2025, \$2 in sales from each box went directly to the BCHS Foundation, supporting the SC Johnson Departments of Medical Imaging and Cardiac Diagnostics at the Brantford General Hospital and The Willett in Paris.

Through community support, the store came very close to its \$40,000 goal, raising a total of \$31,474 for diagnostic imaging equipment.

"We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has shown their con-



(PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BRANT COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FOUNDATION)

Pictured (Left to right): Dr. Lee Ferrao, Chair BCHS Foundation Board; Julie Childerhose, Director of Diagnostic Imaging BCHS; Collin Sexsmith and Bruno Ricchio, Canadian Tire; Kero Moussa, Director BCHS Foundation Board; Haidee Scheers, Development Coordinator, Special Events BCHS Foundation.

tinued awareness and support of our growing community and its healthcare needs", said Dr. Lee Ferrao, Chair of BCHS Foundation Board. "It is truly an honour and privilege to work alongside our dedicated community partners to achieve our mutual goals and ensure better healthcare for all. The success of the Toffifee Chocolate fundraiser has been a wonderful demonstration of the power of collaboration, and we are incredibly grateful for the generosity of those who contributed to this cause. Thank you to Canadian Tire and our community for their support and generosity."

The BCHS Foundation extended its sincere gratitude to Canadian Tire Brantford for their partnership and commitment to local healthcare, as well as all the individuals and families who purchased Toffifee chocolates.

For more information on the BCHS Foundation, or to make a donation and build a stronger healthcare system in your community, please visit <https://bchsfoundation.thankyou4caring.org>

Indigenous Family Space Now Open at BCHS

MEDIA RELEASE

Brant Community Healthcare System, March 12

In an effort to advance reconciliation efforts and ensure Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS) services remain responsive to Ogweho:weh patient needs, BCHS has officially opened Onkwehon:we Raotihwa:tsire Kanakti:yo (translated in the Mohawk language) and Anishnaabe Gudwehaangiswin aachkinigan (translated in the Anishnaabe language) as the original peoples' family room at the Brantford General Hospital. The announcement of this new Indigenous Family Space is an important step forward in creating a welcoming, inclusive healthcare experience for First Nations, Indigenous and Métis people at BCHS.

"This expanded site is a welcome addition and a permanent space for our people to come together," said Michelle Bomberry, Manager, Indigenous Programming for BCHS. "Our valued tradition of community is important, and this space was designed with our direct input. It is a culturally safe place to be ourselves, practice our healing, and importantly and this will be a central point where Ogweho:weh families can gather."

The new Indigenous Family Room is located on the first floor of the Brantford General Hospital and is near the Emergency Department entrance on Terrace Hill Street. The room is part of the \$32 million Emergency Department (ED) Renovation Improvement Project. It includes modern amenities, such as a kitchen, lounging areas and a congregating space in the middle of the room to accommodate traditional ceremonies and dialogue.



With a commitment to reconciliation, the BCHS has also created an Indigenous Health Services Team and hired Ms. Bomberry as BCHS' Manager, Indigenous Programming in the Fall of 2024.

"We are consistently striving for a better BCHS, and much of that work calls us to be reflective of the services we provide and the steps we need to take to truly champion inclusivity, understanding and trust," said Bonnie Camm, President and CEO, BCHS. "Our work towards truth and reconciliation contin-

ues and we will have more to share with the community in the coming months as we work to finalize our organization's first Indigenous Health Strategy."

Ms. Camm also extended her gratitude to the Indigenous Advisory Committee of the Board and the BCHS Indigenous Health Team for their guidance and leadership. "Their wisdom and partnership have been vital in shaping spaces and services that reflect the needs of Ogweho:weh patients and families," she said.

With support from generous donors, the BCHS Foundation has raised over \$8 million to date to meet both provincial funding requirements and to purchase essential medical equipment for the ED Project. Without the support from our donors, the renovation project would not be possible. Information about the ED Renovation Improvement Project is available on the hospital's Reimagine BCHS website.

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Get the Perfect Cuppa Tea at Heather's Got Tea!

Heather's Got Tea is a boutique in the heart of downtown Paris which specializes in luxury loose leaf tea and stylish gifts. Popping up in The Gem Marketplace in 2023, Heather's Got Tea is a women owned, and lead, small business, from life-long Paris resident Heather Ashby. Heather's parents co-owned a business in downtown Paris for decades and she's kept the tradition going with her own spot located on Grand River St North.

With a passion for quality brews, Heather's Got Tea invites you to peruse their amazing loose leaf tea selection which you can ponder, smell and select from their delightful display. Choose from their vibrant selection of tea blends that are available for purchase by the ounce, and range from the most classic English Breakfast, Masala Chai and Pure Green to the more adventurous Beachside Bonanza, Caramel Almond Apple and Cinnamon Apricot Chai.

Along with their loose leaf tea library, you can shop an exclusive line of signature HGT tea blends, created in house. They come in pretty packing, pre-measured three ounces for thirty or so cups of tea and there are several dozen flavours to choose from including best sellers Heather's Blend



If you're new to the world of tea, Heather's got you covered with a wonderful selection of accessories for making the perfect cuppa!

(SARAH EVANS PHOTO)

(black tea with chocolate and rose), Rip Van Winkle for sleep (valerian root, chamomile, lemongrass) and Golden Turmeric (turmeric, ginger, carrots, dandelion).

If you're new to the world of tea, Heather's got you covered with a wonderful selection of accessories for making the perfect cuppa! Classic teapots imported from England - otherwise known as a 'Brown Betty' - more modern tea brewing gadgets

for the scientific sipper and easy peasy teapots for everyday use are all available. Heather's Got Tea offers a great selection of options for steeping your leaves for the perfect brew and sipping it too. They have all the necessities covered too to accommodate every tea drinker's lifestyle: elegant tea party sets with all the accoutrement, everyday pieces for making and enjoying at home or single use tea bags you can fill

with your favourite blend and enjoy on the go.

Heather's Got Tea also boasts a lovely selection of tea vessels, bone china cups, funny mugs, travel tea totes and more. This shop is a perfect place to start your wellness journey or pick up a gift for a tea lover. In addition to their amazing range of teas and tea accessories, they also have unique gifts that reflect the charming owner and brand, such as a curated range of ladies' accessories, the work of a few Canadian artists, sassy cards and fridge magnets, and self-care treats.

Heather's Got Tea is a bright boutique with wit, caliber and expertise, offering you a luxurious loose leaf tea shopping experience in-store. Visit Heather's Got Tea in downtown Paris, inside The Gem Marketplace (51 Grand River St North) for the tea-total experience and be sure to follow them on Facebook and Instagram @HeathersGotTea for tea-centric events, pop-up tastings and for the latest Heather's Got Tea shopping locations.

They also offer an easy website for shopping online too; browse HeathersGotTea.ca and get free shipping on orders over \$75.

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Paris Seniors' Club donates to Legion upgrades



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

The Paris Seniors Club presented the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 a cheque for \$1,000, which will be used to improve the lighting in the Legion's club room during their ongoing renovations. Pictured making the donation is Paris Seniors Club President Brenda Carbballo (left) and Paris Seniors Club Treasurer Jeanette Johnson (right). Accepting the cheque on behalf of the Paris Legion is Barry Humphrey. The Paris Seniors Club is a seniors' group that meets twice a week for games, fellowship and fun. Their current meeting location is the Paris Legion; however, they will have a new home at the Paris Community Centre once it is operational. You must be 55+ years of age to join the club. For more information reach out by email to gprice238@gmail.com or by phone 519-442-2032.



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Weekend Quiz

1. Which country has the highest life expectancy?
2. What is the most common surname in Canada?
3. How many minutes are in a full week?
4. What is the 4th letter of the Greek alphabet?
5. How many dots appear on a pair of dice?
6. What is acrophobia a fear of?
7. December 26 is known by what name in Ireland?
8. Where would you be if you were standing on the Spanish Steps?
9. Which is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres?
10. What is the tallest type of tree?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
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The Paris Independent SPORTS

Paris curlers among winners at annual Marchfest Men's spiel

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Paris Curling Club held its annual Marchfest Men's Invitational Eat & Beerspiel February 28-March 2nd. This popular spiel attracted 20 teams from not just the Paris club, but across Ontario and the United States. Teams competed in round-robin play on Friday and Saturday and then were seeded for playoffs on Sunday.

The 1st Event winners, representing the Brantford Harlequins Rugby Football Club, was Team Staats – Austin, Gavin, Jay and Dan. The 2nd Event winners, representing the Galt Curling Club, was Team Williams – Doug, Chris, Andy and Steve. The 3rd Event winners, representing the Ayr Curling Club, was Team Shannon – Tim, Scott, Scott and Chris. Finally, the 4th Team winners, representing the host club, The Paris Curling Club, was Team Maude – Dane, Bryan, Marty and Shawn.

This annual tournament isn't possible without hard work of the organizing committee, Lisa, Ashley, Erika and Ellay as well as PCC volunteers. A special shoutout goes to the Ayr Pipe Band and PCC member Kieran for piping the curlers onto the ice for the finals on Sunday – a longstanding curling tradition.



4th Event Winners from the Paris Curling Club's Annual Marchfest Men's Invitational, representing the host club, was Team Maude, pictured left to right, Dane Monkhouse, Bryan Maude, Marty McComb and Shawn Easton.

Brantford Red Sox Announce Reverse Tariffs Season

Free admission to 2025 home games to honour Canada-USA Solidarity

MEDIA RELEASE

Brantford Red Sox, March 6

The Brantford Red Sox Baseball Club of the Intercountry Baseball League (IBL) has officially declared the 2025 baseball season as **Reverse Tariffs Season** at Arnold Anderson Stadium. In a historic announcement, the Red Sox are making all 21 home games for the 2025 season free for all fans, ensuring that every child, adult, and community member can attend without any admission charge.

This unprecedented initiative comes from new team owner Terry Smith, who acquired the club just two days ago. Smith's decision is driven by a desire to celebrate the 114-year legacy of the Brantford Red Sox, to recognize and thank the community for its unwavering support, and to honour the city's deep baseball roots. By making every home game accessible to all, Smith aims to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for fans throughout the season.

Beyond celebrating Brantford's baseball heritage, Smith sees this as an opportunity to highlight the enduring friendship between Canada and the United States. In a symbolic gesture to "reverse the tariffs," the Red Sox are removing financial barriers to attending games and reinforcing the spirit of unity and mutual appreciation between the two nations.

Smith emphasized that the Reverse Tariffs Season is about more than just baseball—it's a celebration of Brantford's rich history and the deep bond between Canada and the U.S.

"This Reverse Tariffs Season is very important to me because we want the Red Sox and the City of Brantford to Celebrate the 114 years that the Red Sox have been playing in Brantford, because we want to Celebrate the Greatness of the City of Brantford, because we want to Thank

Everyone in Brantford for supporting the Red Sox for all these 114 years, because we want the Brantford Red Sox to do our part to Reverse the Tariffs, and because we want to display the Great Love and the Tremendous Respect that all Americans and all Canadians have for each other."

2025 is now officially Reverse Tariffs Season with the Brantford Red Sox. The team invites fans from across the region to take part in this landmark season and experience the joy of baseball at Arnold Anderson Stadium—completely free of charge.

Paris Soccer Club wraps up indoor season

Another sure sign of spring is when soccer moves from indoors to outdoors! The Paris Soccer Club wrapped up its indoor season, which runs from October to February at the Syl Apps Community Centre. The club is gearing up for its outdoor season that begins in May. Registration is open at <https://ParisSoccer.PowerUpSports.com> If you want to learn more about the club visit: www.ParisSoccer.ca

Congratulations to the teams pictured for winning their divisions!



U8 Co-ed Winners: Congratulations to the Light Blue team for winning 1st place with 9 wins, 3 ties and 4 losses.



U8 Co-ed Runner Ups: A close 2nd place went to the White team with 8 wins, 4 ties and 4 losses.



U11 Co-ed Winners: Congratulations to the Red team for winning 1st place with 10 wins, 4 ties and 2 losses.



U11 Runner Up (Black): The 2nd and 3rd place teams were really close right up to the last day of play with the Black team coming in second place with 9 wins, 5 ties and 2 losses.



U14 Co-ed Winners: congratulations to the Black team for winning 1st place with 9 wins, 3 ties and 4 losses



U14 Runner Ups: A close 2nd place went to the Red team with 7 wins, 5 ties and 4 losses.

Paris Titans Lose Playoff Series to Woodstock

GEORGE LE GRESLEY

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

The Paris Titans travelled to Woodstock on February 28th to face the Navy Vets, trailing in the best-of-seven series three games to one. Woodstock gave the Titans four power play opportunities in the first period, none of which netted a goal. Titan Defenseman Owen Lalonde had the best scoring chance, ringing the puck off a goalpost. At the end of the period, neither team scored.

The second period was penalty-filled, with both teams filling the penalty box. Titan's goalie, James Gall, was kept busy, snuffing out Woodstock's scoring chances. With four minutes left in the period, Woodstock scored to take a one-to-zero lead at the end of two periods.

In the third period, the Titans seemed to lose self-control, getting thirteen penalties in total instead of focusing on tying or taking the lead on the scoresheet. In the end, Woodstock scored, making the final 2-0 and eliminating the Titans from the playoffs.

Head coach Dave Ferris agreed that their power play needs work. Unfortunately, the playoffs started a few days after the regular season, with no opportunities to work on their game or practice on the ice. The Titans are still a very young team with room to improve. With only four players leaving the roster due to being too old to play at the Junior level, the future looks brighter for the Titans.

For general manager Richard Towle, there is no break, as scouting continues and training camp starts in August, intending to compete for the PJHL championship.



It was a penalty-ridden final game for the Paris Titans who recorded 20 penalties against the Woodstock Navy Vets on February 28th. At one time, five Titans were serving time in the sin bin during the third period.

(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

PARIS SPORTS HEROES: Andy 'Clink' Moran Reflects on Great Game of Hockey

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

Welcome to my new column that will be running once a month about Paris sporting legends and local heroes. It's awesome to have the first article on my personal favorite hockey player Andy Moran, Paris's own great eight, as that is the number he wore for the Paris 29ers in Intermediate B team hockey from '73 to '83.

Andy started his hockey career playing what was called schoolboy hockey in

Grades 7 and 8, then moved on to Paris minor hockey for a couple of years. He climbed the hockey ladder quickly and played four years for the Paris Junior C Mounties and won the league championship in '67. His final year of Junior, he played Junior A for the Brantford Forresters, then moved up to Intermediate A for five years with the Brantford Bears and the Brantford Forresters where he won another all-Ontario championship in '71/'72 losing only one game all year.

In '72, he had a cup of coffee with the Amarillo Wranglers of the America Hock-

ey League... they were the farm team for the Pittsburgh Penguins. As I mentioned earlier, he started with the Paris Intermediate B 29ers in '73 and that's where I caught the great eight in action. Rumor has it Andy never raised the puck and was nicknamed "Clink" by Coach Vic Porter for the sound it made when the puck hit the bottom of the iron net.

His centerman for most of junior and Intermediate B was another local hockey star, Billy Robb. Robby would work tirelessly all over the ice to get the puck to Andy, who is a natural goal-scoring machine and won several league scoring championships. When I asked Andy about favorite teammates, Billy Robb was at the top of his list along with Wilson, Dafoe, Al Hill, Roddy, Davidson, Brian Blair, and his good friend and my old teacher, Stan Woroz.

After Intermediate, Andy played old-timers hockey and travelled the world to Florida, Quebec, Holland, California, and France. The highlight of his old-timers' career was playing in the World Master Games in Toronto in 1985 with some old Toronto Maple Leafs like Mike Pelyk, Norm Ullman, and his good friend Roddy Davidson. They lost in the finals to a team made up of all ex-NHLers.

He had to hang up his skates when he was 65 after two new knees and two new hips. When asked why he loved hockey so much, Moran replied, "Great game, great people."

Thanks for all the great memories down at the old Syl Apps barn, Andy! Till next time, this is old Scoop, Stewart, saying keep your stick on the ice.



Paris's own Great Eight, Andy Moran, as that is the number he wore for the Paris 29ers in Intermediate B team hockey from '73 to '83.

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Paris Minor Hockey hosts Lisa Dalpe Memorial Tournament

Matching Lisa's love for the game, teams exhibit grit and determination

CHRIS WHELAN & CASANDRA TURNBULL

Paris Independent Editors

Lisa Dalpe was a fixture of the Paris community and a person that everyone knew. Whether she was at the Ink-saters store she owned with her father, former Paris Reeve and Councillor Gord Gibson, or at a rink watching her sons play hockey, Lisa had a big personality and spread positivity and kindness to those around her.

In April of 2015 after suffering from bronchitis, Lisa and the Dalpe family were told the news that Lisa had a rare form of kidney cancer that had metastasized to other organs in her body progressing her case to Stage IV. Despite the struggles Lisa was going through, she remained a rock for Zac (who faced pressures the NHL training camp season), his brothers Phil and Ben, and their father Paul until the very end. The Dalpe matriarch encouraged the family to continue living their lives to the fullest, especially since she was not able to.

Through things like pictures and stories, Lisa's memory is passed on to the people that did not get a chance to meet her. One of those legacies is an Annual Lisa Dalpe Memorial hockey tournament, hosted by Paris Minor Hockey Association, where Lisa's boys got their start. That tournament took place February 28 - March 2nd at the Brant Sports Complex.

Two of Paris' U9 Local League teams took part in the tournament. Team#1 went 1-1-1 in round robin play. They started off with a strong 6-0 victory over the Six Nations Blackhawks. In game two they faced a tough Lucan Team (who would go on to win the tournament), losing 11-5. In game three they tied Cayuga 2-2 and advanced to the quarter finals where they lost to Hagersville, 4-2.

Paris U9-LL2 started the tournament strong with an 8-2 win against the Centre Wellington Fusion Friday morning. Andrew Fenn and Tesla Alonzo scored the team's goals while Hunter McLagan was a standout on defence.

They continued in good form Friday afternoon but ran into outstanding goaltending for the Six Nations Blackhawks Team 2. Despite Harper Stec also providing excellent goaltending for Paris and strong play by many for Paris including Landon Connolly and Max Igoe, Paris fell 3-2 in the afternoon game.



The U9 Local League Team#1 coach reports the squad had a great tournament and amazing season, adding "We are the reason Tillsonburg's back still aches! Who's the big dawg? Woof!" Pictured, bottom left, Jack Graham, Arthur Hazeldine, Graham Batson, Jonathan Dueck, Baariz Bilal, Cecil Burbridge, Noah Wilkinson. Middle, Brooks Collier, Tyler Salitra, Josh Rawlings, Wesley Platt, Aiden Paskaruk, Mitch Witt. Top Row, Adam Collier, Mark Wilkinson, Mark Burbridge, Joel Graham.

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

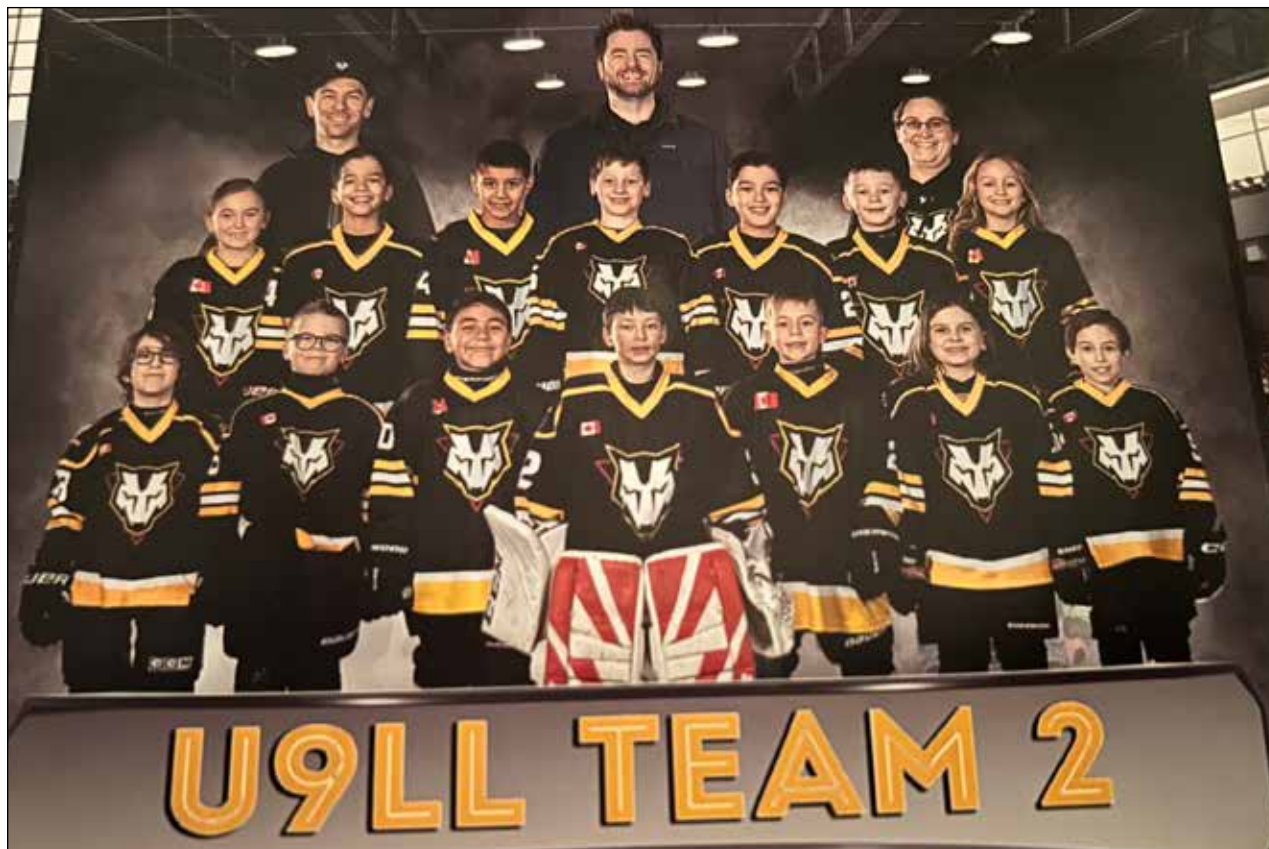
Saturday morning U9-LL2 roared back in to the win column with a 5-3 victory over Hagersville. Andrew Fenn was excellent again, scoring all five goals for Paris. Strong team defence ensured those five were enough, lead by Liam Stevens.

As part of a three-way tie at the top of Pool B, U9-LL2 headed to a quarter final matchup with the Cayuga Stars Saturday afternoon. Paris played valiantly in a very closely fought game, with a particularly impressive performance by Will Carre on defence. Unfortunately, a late game surge by the Stars was enough to put them through to the Semi-Finals and to eliminate U9-LL2 from the final

rounds of the tournament.

Reached for comment, U9-LL2's coaching staff reported that they could not have been more proud of the team's effort, performance and attitude throughout the tournament. They also passed on apologies to anyone seated at nearby tables during a rather boisterous team lunch Saturday afternoon between games!

Lucan (Green) ended up winning the entire tournament with a 5-0 shutout over Six Nations Team 2 in the finals.



Pictured left to right, top row: Coaches Greg Stec, Tim Carre and Jacquelyn Howe-McLagan. Middle row: Skye Williams, Liam Stevens, Landon Connolly, Max Igoe, Justin Stevens, Sawyer Mulloy Willaert, Tesla Alonzo. Bottom row: Elliott Taylor, Will Carre, Dylan Thomas Villegas Anave, Jace Bryson, Hunter McLagan and Andrew Fenn.

(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

This week at Sharkey's Billiards!

SCOOP STEWART

Sports Correspondent

The MVP this week was Robb Wilson whose offensive and defensive play was put on display all evening long.

Winners: MVP Rob Wilson along with runner-up MVP Steve Kopp blew the competition away with their shot making and shot blocking abilities.

Runners up were Stones Johnson and Willie Dafoe, their strategy to lull their opponents into a sleep like trance worked magnificently if some of their competition actually forgot they're playing pool.

The winners of the losers this week was (finally) Chris Whelan as a loser... After six weeks of being in the winner of the losers he lost his crown to Jason Holmes and Tony Panzera.

The good guy award goes to Quinn Attlebery, son of the infamous Andy Attlebery and grandson of the famous Dick Attlebery.

There were too many shots of the week to count, from Motor to Dalpe about his comments about the donut line last week.

Something to ponder – The quote of the week "you miss 100% of the shots you don't take." - The great one.

Till next week, this is Scoop Stewart signing off ... always a pleasure.

Skaters represent Paris at competitions across Ontario this season

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

It's been a very busy season for members of the Paris Figure Skating Club. In addition to honing their skills and testing those skills in front of judges, local skaters have also laced up to compete in various competitions.

"We are so excited to share that we had 44 of our skaters representing The Paris Figure Skating Club at various Skate Ontario competitions this season in different levels and categories! Great Job Team Paris! Your Club is so proud of your efforts and wonderful skating," said Lisa Campbell, president of the local club.

Here's a list of all skaters who competed throughout the season in various levels:

Star 1

Anna Bruder, Alissa Carr, Alyssa Connor, Nathan Garbedian, Reece Garbedian, Lahara Lockett, Lauren Smith

Star 2

Grace Black, Alessia Chedhomme, Nora Glowala, Abbigale Igoe, Grace

Kissoonchand, Anna Maxwell, Sophie McLean, Alex Meyer, Lily Skrzypek, Sophie Slater, Samantha Smith, Chloe Todd, Raziel Valtchanov, Lily Zammit

Star 3

Charlotte Black, Quinlynn Bodnar, Mallory Coulter, Maya Darnbrough, Ella Dobrucki, Deanna Funge, Autumn Harding, Janine Smith, Clara Sangster, Tianna Tone, Anika Wilson

Star 4

Azeezah Akinyemi, Fareedah Akinyemi, Ella Ballard, Abigail MacDonald, Breanne Pike, Emily Percival, Isabella Smith, Madelyn Tapp, Macey Thompson

Star 5

Ella Knill

Star 6/7

Samantha Hutchinson, Sadie McRoberts, Erin Plaquet

Star 10

Camryn Wilson

Adult

Sherry Osinga, Lauren Tiller



Back Row – Clara Sangster, Ella Ballard, Erin Plaquet, Ella Knill; Front Row - Grace Black, Charlotte Black, Mallory Coulter, Sophie McLean



Ella Knill



Camryn Wilson



Sherry Osinga



Charlotte Black, Grace Black



Breanne Pike



Nora Glowala



Clara Sangster



Lahara Lockett, Alyssa Connor



Lauren Smith

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The reluctant fisherman



By Paul Knowles

There was good news and bad news. The good news was, we were going to stay in a “Treehouse Cabin” at Shogomoc Reach, in south-western New Brunswick. Cool! The potentially bad news was, Shogomoc Reach owner Mark Alward, an award-winning tournament fisherman, was going to take us out fishing.

I am not a fisherman, in the same way that I am not the Pope. Not even close. Many years ago, I was invited to be part of a bass fishing group that spent a day each year on Long Point Bay. Others caught fish. I got sick on the way home. And thus ended my fishing career. Until we went to visit Mark Alward.

Mark met us at the cabins. They’re called “Treehouse Cabins” and while they are not suspended in trees, they are built among the trees that line the shore of the absolutely beautiful Saint John River. They are way more than comfortable, fully furnished with everything you might need for a pleasant getaway. They are raised on stilts, so the view of the river, seen from welcoming Muskoka chairs on the porch, is spectacular.

And Mark has supplied a variety of amenities, from horseshoes to (plastic) axe throwing. There is

a long, inviting dock reaching out into the river, just begging visitors to snap a selfie. Most importantly, perhaps, there is a hot tub tucked into a private corner of the space under the raised cabin.

In short, since we’d come with some food supplies, it was very clear that we could happily stay at the Treehouse Cabin for our entire stay, never venturing afield.

But this was not to be, for our itinerary also noted that Mark was going to take us fishing.

We piled into his pickup truck, hauling a trailered boat, and headed to a secluded lake he knows and loves. En route, he regaled us with stories about fishing tournaments, about building the two existing cabins and his plans to build two more, and about the unique folk who live in this part of New Brunswick. Like many terrific Maritimers I have met, Mark is a fabulous storyteller.

Now, about that boat. I could not help but notice that this craft had a large, flat surface at the front of the boat. The kind I had seen in pictures and videos, with fisherfolk standing to fish while the boat rocked on the waves.

That, I knew, I could not do. I have a lousy sense of balance, and I was confident that I would end up in the lovely, secluded lake, soaked and scaring the fish and probably getting snagged on someone else’s hook in the process.

After a rather exciting trip on rather exciting back roads, we arrived at the lake, and Mark backed the trailer into the water, and launched our boat. We clambered aboard, and settled back – in a sitting position – to enjoy the ride as we headed for the area where Mark was sure we would catch fish.

The lake was calm and peaceful.

And Mark had a small, clever motor that uses GPS to keep the boat in one spot. Nonetheless, I still knew I could not risk standing up in the boat.

“Stand up in the boat,” said Mark. “Here’s your pole, and it’s baited. Do you know how to cast?”

I had a vague memory of using a casting rod and reel. I also knew that if I cast, the momentum was likely to carry me straight into the drink. But I tried.

And, to my shock – and probably Mark’s, as well – I succeeded. I didn’t topple into the water. I soon had my sea legs (and yes, okay, it was very calm), and actually began hauling in bass!

Over the course of a couple of highly enjoyable hours, I landed about half a dozen. I am loathe to mention that my partner tripled that take, while Mark, who spent a lot of his time putting lures on our hooks, still outdid me by a considerable number.

But I figured I had succeeded on two counts – I actually caught fish, all of which we released, and I stayed dry. Amazing!

All the time we were on the lake, we were entirely alone. No one else appeared, on shore or on the water. We heard the cry of loons. It was magical.

And when Mark drove us back to the cabin, it was pretty magical there, too. There are fire pits closer to the river, with more Muskoka chairs. The two cabins are nicely distanced from each other – we greeted the couple who were staying in the other cabin, as we passed them on our way down to the dock, but that was the extent of human interaction.

Shogomoc Reach is near Ritchie, New Brunswick, a 45-minute drive

from Fredericton, along the Saint John River – also known as the Wolastoq in deference to the original name given by First Nations inhabitants.

For more information, visit <https://treehousesnb.com>. Mark would be glad to host you, and happy to take you on one of the most enjoyable fishing adventures you

will ever experience. As a bass fishing expert, I can confidently guarantee this.

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



Our Treehouse Cabin at Shogomoc Reach, New Brunswick, with the Saint John River in the background.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



Mark launching the boat, with no help at all from the author.



Our host and fishing guide, Mark Alward.



Success!



Two cabins now, with more to come.

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: The Legacy of the Irish and Whisky in the Early Years of Paris



By Chris Whelan

As we just celebrated St. Patrick's Day on Monday, let's revel in the way Whisky, long considered the water of life by the Irish, wove a colorful thread in the fabric of Paris's history. Whisky played an important role in the development of the Town of Paris, for it was the production of whisky that brought Norman Hamilton to Paris to seek his fortune after having emigrated from New York to live in Mudge Hollow (Canning) where he worked in a grist mill. Hamilton was the first true industrialist to come to Paris. He was an entrepreneur in numerous fields and successful in most. These included running a grist mill, gypsum plant, logging operation for making whiskey kegs (Keg Lane), raising hogs, and in real estate.

In 1831 he built a distillery on the river flat that lies between Grand River St. North and the west bank of the Grand River roughly where the medical arts building (post office) is today. His farm was known as Hillside (Hamilton Place), and he came up with a profitable way to make use of his own surplus of grain.

Soon Hamilton would be producing 90 gallons of whisky a day and selling it for 13 cents a gallon. At the same time Hamilton cleverly assembled a bevy of pigs to feed on the discarded whisky mash and he built a pen, slaughter house and pork packing factory to care for the hog operation. Most people in Paris and vicinity looked upon Hamilton as a public benefactor. In the days when roads were bad his distillery quickened the economic life of the village.

A pioneer farmer usually had a surplus of grain that he wanted to exchange for other commodities. He found the cost of exporting this surplus to the outside markets too high to be profitable. His surplus would usually rot during the damp weather. Hamilton did much to solve this problem. He

took a pioneer's surplus of grain and transformed each bushel into three or four gallons of whisky. Since Hamilton was usually short of cash, he gave half of the whisky back to the pioneer and kept the other half. The pioneer then exchanged what he did not drink for goods at the local stores. Hamilton exported the larger part of his whisky and in doing so indirectly helped to pay for goods that were imported into the village. If a pioneer had pigs to sell, he could usually get a good price at the distillery and if he had no use for whisky, he could exchange his pigs or grain for a barrel or more of salt pork which was an essential food during the winter months.

In about 1848 Hamilton quit making whisky. Patton and Currey then built a distillery on the west bank of the Nith River, at the south end of what is now Lions Park. Cheap whisky enlivened early Parisians and there were three distilleries listed in operation in 1850. Many Parisians drank large amounts and were seldom completely sober. This was very common in the 19th century to cope with the trials of pioneer life. As a result, there are many interesting tales of pioneer life in the 1800s in Paris.

In the Wild Whisky days of the 1850s, Paris had no less than 17 licensed taverns in a town of little more than 1,000. On the road to Brantford there stood a saloon called the Brick which was under the ownership of Tilly Yates on the southwest corner of Paris Rd and Hardy roads. The Brick was better known for its ladies of the evening. As Ms. Yates operated her establishment, she gained two other names, Calamity Jane, and Two-Gun Kate because she always toted two loaded guns. She became one of the area's most legendary characters.

Some young lads from Paris would often venture here to escape their quiet town in search of adventure and to toss down a few drinks which sometimes led to arguments followed by dustups. It was then that Two-Gun Kate earned her reputation, whipped out her guns and fired one over their heads. The lads knew that it was time to clear the premises. If they were not so inclined, Kate, being a crack shot, wouldn't hesitate to wing one of them. It was in one such brawl around March 1883, that she hit a Paris man in the leg and embarrassed him to no end, the man

swore he would get his revenge. In 1885, around Christmas time, five men associated with the Paris man, decided it was time to get even. When Tilly got word that they were coming, she called her bouncers and locked and barred the doors. The gang approached and was emphatically told that if they knew what was good for them, they would move on. They dropped into another tavern until they regained their nerve and decided to return to the Brick that same night. When they found the doors still barred, they began using rocks and a small battering ram to gain entry. When a back window was broken, Tilly got the guns out, shots were fired, and the mob moved on with zero casualties. Tilly Yates was a force to be reckoned with and few men ever tested her again after that night. Among the antics for which the Brick was famous, was its collection of dancing girls who arranged themselves in their colourful ruffled skirts on the front balcony on warm sunny Sunday afternoons. From this perch they took great delight in heckling the carriages being driven by young men who were taking their ladies out for a pleasant afternoon drive. The men would speed up the horses while the ladies would turn their heads away from such lewd scenes. Other roads led to Paris, but this was by far the most popular.

By the 1950s the Brick had become an apartment building and eventually it was demolished altogether and replaced by a new building. But the legend of Two Gun Kate and the Old Brick Saloon has been retold for generations.



(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

Photo of Norman Hamilton's House on Grand River Street North



(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

Photo of the Hamilton distillery c1840 in foreground. The former Congregational Church is seen on River Street (GRSN) today it is now a vacant lot behind Paris Central School.



Photo of The former Brick Saloon on Paris Rd. c1950s

(BRANT HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

Take a Walk with me through Paris as we leave no stone unturned!

STONES Around Town

By Jeff Johnson
(a.k.a. Stones)

In a quaint picturesque town like Paris, there's a charm that resonates through its streets. I find myself immersed in the warmth of the coming spring and in the chance meeting of new acquaintances, one hello and a wave at a time.

Amidst the blanket of snow, reminiscent of bygone eras, the spirit of Eleanour Gilchrist and her Scratching Post (column) and Rawd Kinfitt's play by play come to mind; all these and more accompany me on this journey as I share parts of Paris with you – the reader!

Think of this column as an adventure as I take you through

what's happening in town, celebrating the vibrant souls of the past and present who grace the streets of Paris. Expect a sprinkle of humour within as we take a serendipitous walk together, maybe to visit the local bakery or The Branch29 Legion (even you can be a 29er!) or a stop at The Paris Museum housed in the former Syl Apps Arena where there's a memorial to the great Toronto Maple Leaf Captain. Did you know a Maple Leaf captain hailed from Paris, Ontario?

As we delve into Paris, we may find our way to the Old Sacred Heart Cemetery to take in the family plot and the memorial for Cardinal George Flahiff (born and raised in Paris). Flahiff served in Winnipeg Manitoba where he is laid to rest. The rich Parisian culture and heritage beckons us to become not just visitors but cherished and appreciative members of this community.

Venture with me outside of Paris and through the sprawling Brant County, where I shall unveil hid-

den gems and locales that are sure to captivate and grab your curiosity, from the St George Arms and Legion to the Mill in Mt. Pleasant, the Drumbo Pub where Pete's legendary burger awaits or a visit to Glen Morris to the Riverside (it may entice you to canoe, kayak or paddleboard down the Grand River, who knows?). If there ever was a right of passage for Paris and Brant County, it's to float down the Grand River, peaceful and fun as it is. There's no shortage of history and beauty along the banks of the almighty Grand.

This community thrives on unity and kindness. One vibrant woman, who will never be forgotten in our community and was a pillar of downtown unity, was Lisa Dalpe, co-owner of her family's business called Inksater's. She worked there for years alongside her father Gord Gibson at the landmark store downtown where Piper & Oak Furniture is today. She was a superb hockey mom to Zac, Phil and Ben and a Paris promoter extraordinaire. Lisa cre-

ated so many memories and traditions in Paris from the downtown "Trick or Treats" to "Jingle Bell Night," she truly was the greatest Parisian of our generation! So let us spread smiles far and wide from Lisa Dalpe Way downtown Paris (the path alongside the County Office and BMO) to every county line and towns along the way.

Remember to bask in the suns embrace as we navigate through the labyrinth of Stones unturned. Join me on this voyage of discovery, where every encounter is a chance to forge new bonds and savour the essence of a town and community that holds infinite sto-

ries, history and nicknames within its heart. Together let's unravel the mysteries of Paris, a chance to learn more about this beautiful town. I extend an invitation to be not just a companion but a cherished confidante and perhaps a Parisian at heart.

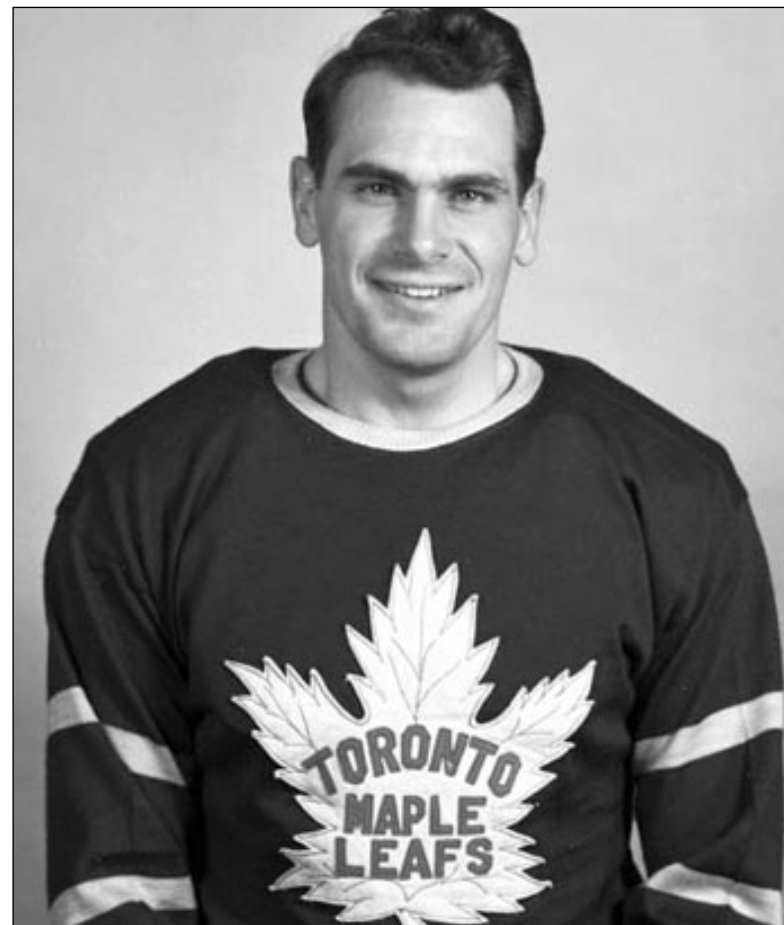
I'll conclude with a quote from long time Paris resident and former Councillor and local business and family man Gord Moore, "with change comes progress and with progress change."

I heard this as a young teen and I finally get it Mr. Moore, may you Rest in Peace.

Yours sincerely,
Stones



Lisa Dalpe and one of her sons, Zac Dalpe. Lisa's zest for life and kind-natured approach to business was at the heart of downtown Paris for many years.



Syl Apps (our former arena and community centre was named after him) was the captain of the Toronto Maple Leafs. His jersey was retired in 1993.

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS

Keep your dollars in Canada to support local businesses and strengthen communities.

OBITUARY

Bonnett



Margaret Hodge Bonnett
(nee Findleton)
June 18, 1926 – March 7 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Margaret on Friday March 7 2025, 3 months short of her 99th birthday, with family by her side. She is predeceased by husbands Sidney Hodge (1965) and Eric Bonnett (2005), son Sydney (2001) and parents, brothers

and sisters. Loving mother to son Neil (Donna), daughter Patricia Muise (Kevin Grosvold). Cherished grandmother to Kelly Wilke (Blaine), Sydney, Kimberly (Gary) Miller, Sarah Hodge, Kevin Hodge (Sylvia), Elysia Ashton (Jordan), Brendan Muise (Lindsay), Alec Muise (Kelsey) and Matthew Grosvold. Margaret was "GG" to her many beloved great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and 2 great-grand puppies (Tux and Ruby). She will be fondly remembered by step daughter Susie and Robert (her buddy) Murdoch, many nieces and nephews and friend Cathie Scull. Margaret was a Wren Steward for the British Navy during WW2 and came to Canada as a war bride living in Toronto, Scotland ON, Port Dover and lastly Paris ON where she resided at Telfer Place. Mum transitioned through Telfer Place (independent, assisted living, long term) and was respected and loved by friends and staff through the years. The family is so grateful for the excellent care and love that she received from the staff at Telfer Place. Margaret will be honored at her Celebration of Life by family at a later date. Donations to the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated.

Arrangements entrusted to Wm. Kipp Funeral Home (184 Grand River St. N, Paris) at www.wmkippfuneralhome.com.

OBITUARY

Smith



Judith Ann Smith
(nee Hawthorn)
July 23, 1951 – March 2, 2025

Passed away peacefully at the Hamilton General Hospital, surrounded by her loved ones, on Sunday March 2, 2025. Judy was in her 74th year. Predeceased by the love of her life, her late husband Rick in 2015. Loving mother to Becky (Dan) and Richard (Sheila). Judy was a proud "Gammie" to Taylor, Cole, and Skylar. Pre-deceased by her brother Daniel Hawthorn and survived by her loving sister Sandra (John) Gignac. Judy enjoyed spending time with her grandkids and visits from her many friends. Judy and Rick enjoyed many trips throughout the years and are now reunited overlooking the Smokey Mountains.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Dwayne D. Budgell Funeral Home. In accordance with Judy's expressed wishes, cremation has already taken place and no formal services will be held. In Judy's memory, donations to the Sato Saved End of the Line Dog Rescue and Rehabilitation would be appreciated by the family.

Rest in peace Gammie. You will be greatly missed.

OBITUARY

Haynes



John Milton Haynes
March 25, 1958 – February 13, 2025

It is with great sadness we share the sudden passing of John Haynes on Thursday, February 13, 2025, in his 67th year. Beloved husband to Deborah (nee Malcolm) of 47 years. Much loved father of Valerie (Jason) Haynes-Hilts, Michelle

Doherty and Jessica (Michael) Mercer. Cherished Papa of Alexis, Liam, Rhylee, Ethan, Owen and Amber.

He is survived by his brother Rodger (Susan) Haynes, sisters Maureen (James) Little and Karen {K.C.} (Steve) Pongracz. Predeceased by his parents John & Hazel Haynes, sister Jacalyn Haynes and son John Haynes. He will be greatly missed by all his extended family.

Affectionately known as Bobo to family and friends. He always had a joke and loved to make people laugh. He was a proud employee of Thompson Printing & Lithographing Ltd, 50 years this year. John was an active member of his local Legion. Participating in many of the activities hosted there over the years. Oftentimes, you could find him in the garage working on his latest woodworking or DIY project.

John lived a life full of laughter, kindness and unwavering devotion to those he held most dear. His absence has left an unfillable space, but his love and laughter will continue to echo in the hearts of those who loved and knew him.

As per John's wishes, cremation has taken place. Respecting his wishes of no funeral we will hold a Celebration of Life at the Branch 29 Royal Canadian Legion (70 William St., Paris) on Saturday, March 22, 2025 from 1pm – 4pm.

In lieu of flowers a donation to the Heart & Stroke Foundation or Diabetes Canada would be greatly appreciated. Online condolences and donations may be arranged through Wm. Kipp Funeral Home (184 Grand River St. N, Paris) at www.wmkippfuneralhome.com or by contacting 519-442-3061

CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday!

March 14



Wishing Chris Whelan a very Happy Birthday!

OBITUARY

Robbins



Jennifer Annette Robbins
(nee Graham)
January 31, 1969 – February 27, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Jennifer Annette Robbins announces her passing on February 27th 2025, in her 57th year, at the Hamilton General Hospital, after a short but courageous battle with cancer. After

successfully beating it in 2020 she fought its return with dignity and a strength not known by many. She passed away peacefully with her husband by her side.

Jenn leaves behind her husband and true love, Ken Robbins, along with her five children/step children Bryce (Olivia), Alexa and Brooke Finucan and Lauren (Cash) Seraphim and Madelyn Robbins. Jenn was a cherished and much loved "Gram" to Theodore and Eloise Seraphim. She is survived by her mother Linda Graham, her beloved sisters Kathy (Robert) Allan, Wendy (James) Keillor, her in-laws Ray and Marion Robbins, nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces. She is predeceased by her father Ronald Graham (2011).

Jenn was a unique and special soul. Easily recognizable from the second she said "Hello", she had an exceptional eye for colour and design and was a gardener extraordinaire. Following in the footsteps of her botanist grandmother, her work of floral art will be seen all year round as you pass her house at the "top of the hill" in Paris ON. She has certainly left us with a lasting gift of seeing her specially placed perennial plants sprout to life every spring, including the one hundred new Dutch tulips she so expertly planted last fall.

The family wish to express their eternal thank you to neurosurgeon Dr. Sharma, his Neuro team, nurses and medical staff of 7 West at the Hamilton General Hospital.

Friends were welcomed at the Dwayne D. Budgell Funeral Home Ltd., 1105 Rest Acres Road, Paris Ontario, on Friday, March 7th, 2025 A Celebration of Life took place in the Funeral Home Chapel on Saturday, March 8th, 2025. Cremation has taken place. Donations in Jennifer's memory made to either the Neuro Unit on 7 West at the Hamilton General Hospital or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

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

MEMORIES AND MILESTONES

Share them with your local community.

Let us help you honour and celebrate every chapter of life – from anniversaries to obituaries, and everything in between. Commemorate the moments that matter in

The Paris Independent

Let us help create a meaningful announcement:
info@theparisdependent.com

Riddles

Why are waterbeds so bouncy?

They're filled with spring water.

Which month of the year is the shortest?

May. It only has three letters.

Why is Yoda such a good gardener?

He has a green thumb.

What can you find in the middle of April and March but not at the beginning or end of either?

The letter R!

What goes up when March rain comes down?

An umbrella.

Which crime-fighter likes March the most?

Robin

What falls during March but never gets hurt?

The Rain

Why are flowers so popular?

They have a lot of buds.

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 26

PET OF THE WEEK

Nominate your Pet of the Week by emailing info@theparisdependent.com



JINGLES

Meet our Pet of the Week:

Jingles is a 3 1/2 year old domestic shorthair, who loves to be outdoors catching birds and exploring the backyard. But always comes home when treats are offered.

When not outside he likes to cuddle up to his favorite human, Sarah Leavoy and help her relax.



Word Search

FIRST DAY OF SPRING

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

- Blossoms
- Bulbs
- Bunny
- Butterfly
- Daffodil
- Daylight
- Garden
- Grass
- March
- Rainbow
- Rain Showers
- Robin
- Spring
- Sunshine
- Tulip
- Umbrella
- Warm

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Optimist Club Youth Dance - The Paris Optimist Club will hold its next monthly Youth Dance. The dance is for students in grades 5 to 8 only. The DJ begins the Dance at 7:00 pm and it ends at 10:00 pm. Volunteers must arrive at 6:45 pm. The Dance is held at the Syl Apps Community Centre, 51 William Street in Paris with adult chaperones to make sure everyone has a great time. Entry fee is \$5.00. For any further information and to volunteer as a chaperone or as a high school student, please call 519-757-5020

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Brant Men of Song - Come check out a rehearsal 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.

Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting - at Sacred Heart Parish Hall starting at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Experience Fanshawe College's at Open House - All locations are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Meet faculty and current students from all areas of Fanshawe
- Drop-in and ask about your program interests, career options and becoming a Fanshawe student
- Hear from college experts on student life, admissions, financial aid, and more!
- Explore our campuses at London, Woodstock, Simcoe, St. Thomas, Clinton and Tiverton

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Paris Horticultural Society will be hosting its April meeting at the Paris Fairgrounds. The meeting begins at 7 pm with social time. We are looking forward to learning about hazelnut production with guest speaker Stephanie Sharp from Glenridge Hazelnuts, a local family farm out of St. George. Come on out and meet your neighbours!

The Brant Condominium Corporations' Association invites all condo owners, directors of boards, and managers to a FREE presentation on the Pros and Cons of Self-Managing your condo complex versus having a Property Manager. Presenter is Chris Mendes, associate lawyer with SV Law. Time: 2pm. Place: Sherwood Restaurant at 799 Colborne St E Brantford.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Celebrate Spring Artisans & Vendors Market - at St. George United Church from 10 am to 2 pm. Your \$2 donation helps to support the local food bank. Our popular vendors and artisans offer great gift and decorating ideas as well as yummy treats for spring, Easter and summer fun! For information, contact rmwoodleyrobinson@gmail.com or 519-448-3842.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

One Book One Brant Meet The Author - from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Paris Community (formerly Presbyterian) Church. We are excited to announce that acclaimed author Emma Donoghue—renowned for Room, The Pull of the Stars, The Wonder, Akin, and Frog Music—will join us to celebrate the 20th anniversary of *One Book, One Brant!* As part of this special event, Emma will debut her highly anticipated new book, *The Paris Express*.

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.

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 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.

SEND US YOUR FREE NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY CALENDAR EVENTS BY EMAILING US AT: INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

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

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

Here We Grow Again!



The Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant was very pleased to welcome Wendy Gallagher to the club at their March meeting. Pictured left to right, sponsor Wendy Eveleigh, Wendy Gallagher, club President Tim Risebrough. The Kiwanis Club of Paris-Brant meets the first Monday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Paris Legion, 70 William Street. If you're interested in making a difference in your community and have time to volunteer with a service club, you can reach out via email to kiwanisparisbrant@gmail.com or visit www.parisbrantkiwanis.org

(KARLA STONHAM PHOTO)

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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.

COMING EVENTS

PARIS SKETCHERS CLUB MARCH MEETING - SATURDAY, MARCH 22 at 3 pm. This month's sketching location is the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, Hamilton Airport (Please note, if you are joining us, there is a \$16 admission to the airport).

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





www.SaturdaysInParis.com

SATURDAYS in Paris

Every Saturday 1 PM - 4 PM
In January, February & March 2025

Free, fun and flexible activities for people of all ages throughout downtown Paris, Ontario!





ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Paris Independent

**SUBMIT YOUR MEMORIAM,
THANK YOU, OBITUARY, OR
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

QUIZ ANSWERS


1. Monaco
2. Smith
3. 10,080
4. Delta
5. 42
6. Heights
7. Saint Stephen's Day
8. Rome
9. Africa
10. Redwood



WEEKLY Horoscope


March 17-March 23, 2025

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20



Aries, forcing an agenda right now might backfire. It is best to be patient and let things unfold organically. A few new people may come to your aid this week and support you.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21



You might need to reconsider what you have been fighting for, Taurus. A current battle could be particularly hard to win, so you will have to rethink your strategy.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 21




Someone in a position of power might try to convince you that their way is the best approach this week, Gemini. You are determined to stick with what you think is right, but keep an open mind as well.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22




Cancer, avoid impulsive decisions right now, particularly those that are financial gambles. Poor or selfish actions can deliver consequences that are hard to reverse.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23




Leo, what you desire could be in direct conflict with what a loved one in your home wants. Instead of trying to force your ideas on them, figure out a way to compromise.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22



Virgo, the universe is calling the shots right now and time is moving at whatever speed is right. It might seem like very slow progress, so you'll need to remain patient.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23




Libra, this week you might be tempted to put wants before needs. Self-control is needed or you could start spending more than is financially wise right now.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22




Scorpio, frustrating exchanges between you and loved ones might leave you retreating to quieter spaces. Any communication is better than no communication, so keep that in mind.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21




Sagittarius, you can resist a certain situation, but you might need to remain flexible as you do so. Don't fight battles unnecessarily right now. Look for the silver lining if need be.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20




Capricorn, shortcuts can compromise your personal growth. The pathway to greater success is to work hard and put in the hours necessary to reap the most lasting rewards.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18



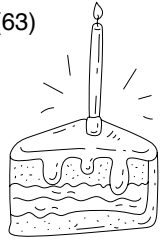
Aquarius, you have more power than ever before, but remember it comes with extra responsibility. Always use your authority wisely and think through decisions thoroughly.

PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20



Pisces, if you hope to make progress, you may have to change tactics. What you have been doing simply isn't working. Start looking at other strategies.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>MARCH 16
Lauren Graham, Actress (58)</p> <p>MARCH 17
Hozier, Singer (35)</p> <p>MARCH 18
Lily Collins, Actress (36)</p> <p>MARCH 19
Nico Collins, Athlete (26)</p> | <p>MARCH 20
Xavier Dolan, Actor (36)</p> <p>MARCH 21
Matthew Broderick, Actor (63)</p> <p>MARCH 22
Dave Portnoy, Media Personality (48)</p> |
|---|--|
- 

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