

The Paris Independent

Issue #188

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(SARAH EVANS PHOTO)

A DOUBLY SWEET SATURDAY IN PARIS!

Four-year-old Phoenix devours some delicious pancakes at Saturday's 12th Annual Maple Syrup Festival held at the Paris Fairgrounds. Phoenix has come to the Maple Syrup Festival with his mom, Ashleigh, and siblings since he was born! Hundreds of residents had their fill of pancakes, syrup and local entrainment at the festival, hosted by the Lions Club of Paris. See story on page 6.

Proposal to keep library downtown

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

The Paris Wincey Mills Co. group is advocating for the establishment of a new main library branch in downtown Brant County to address the community's growing needs.

The current main library branch on William Street in Paris has become inadequate for the county's requirements, prompting discussions about relocating to a refurbished old town hall. However, a \$40-million proposal for this relocation was rejected by the council earlier this year due to concerns over insufficient

parking facilities.

In a potential solution, Wingbury Properties, known for its downtown brewery, market, and office space developments, has suggested a unique approach.

The developer is in talks with the county regarding a "land swap" initiative and

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Meet the Candidates

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The Federal Election is just weeks away and Paris residents are still looking for more information on the candidates in their new riding.

A 2023 shuffle in riding boundaries now puts residents of Paris, St. George and Glen Morris in a newly created riding called Flamborough-Glanbrook-Brant North. Residents in other areas of the County of Brant – Harley, Muir, New Durham and Cathcart are now part of the Brantford-Brant South – Six Nations riding.

The incumbent candidate in Flamborough-Glanbrook-Brant North is Conservative Day Muys. He is running against Chuck Phillips representing the Liberal Party, Peter Werhun representing the NDP, Nikita Mahood representing the PPC and Anita Payne representing the Green Party. Aside from signs on lawns and the occasional social media post, little is known about these candidates, who are also stepping into new jurisdiction and will have to represent constituent concerns in territories they're not familiar with covering.

The Paris Independent reached out to all candidates with the same set of questions. We've opted to publish their responses as they were provided to us to give readers an accurate reflection of the candidate's views.

Green Party candidate Anita Payne responded to our inquiry to say she will be on the ballot for the Green Party but is not actively campaigning, filling what would have been an empty ballot for the Green Party in this riding.

"By becoming the registered candidate in FGNB, I am helping our Co-leader, Jonathan Pedneault, to participate in the leaders' debates," said Payne.

She added, "Also there are voters who strongly

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Meet your Federal Flamborough-Glanbrook- Brant North Candidates

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feel that they will only vote if there is a Green candidate to vote for. So, I am facilitating their democratic right to vote with their heart. Unfortunately, our first-past-the-post electoral system makes it difficult for small or new parties to elect MPs, even when there is widespread national support for the party.”

DAN MUYS CONSERVATIVE PARTY



How are or have you familiarized yourself with key issues important to our Brant North community, as this is a new extension of your riding?

I have been out in the community talking to people since last summer. I had a tent at the Paris Fair last September – twelve hours per day, for all five days of the Fair. I talked to thousands of people there about their concerns and to introduce myself. I have held 15 Coffee Chats for people from North Brant to drop in and discuss federal politics and answer any questions on their mind.

Also, I opened a Campaign office in St. George last December and have been operating there ever since.

Last Fall I started knocking on doors in Paris, St. George and Glen Morris to hear directly from residents. I have covered much of Paris and St. George, but there's more to do in the remaining days of the campaign. I have also meet local farmers in small group coffee meetings. I will continue to engage directly, if I am honoured to be elected to serve. This will include more door-knocking. My goal is to listen, learn and act.

My wife and I live in Lynden, we are 20 minutes to Paris and less than 10 minutes to St. George. I am deeply committed to north Brant and being out in the community constantly, accessible to people as their MP. That is what I have done for the past 4 years as MP in Flamborough – always at every fair, festival, community event and holding drop-in mobile office hours throughout the riding.

What do you see as the top three concerns of Brant North residents?

One: Cost-of-living. I hear this at so many doors. People are squeezed and over-taxed. The cost of housing is out of control. We need to cut taxes to bring relief. The cost of housing is a huge issue and needs to be tackled so young people can believe in the dream of home ownership again.

Two: The need for a strong economy as we fight the tariffs from Trump. The best way to stand up to Trump is to ensure Canada is booming as a sovereign, self-reliant

country. We have smart people and are blessed with all the resources the world wants. We can be a powerhouse yet over the past 10 years of Liberal government we have become the worst performing economy in the G7 and OECD. It doesn't have to be this way!! We must and will unleash Canada's great potential so the Canadian standard of living can grow again. Diversifying our trade with other countries is critically important so we are never again 77% dependent on the U.S. for trade. For example, Germany and Japan both came to Canada for our liquified natural gas. The current government said no. That was a missed opportunity to diversify our trade and reduce our economy's reliance on the U.S.

Three: Crime and safety on our streets. We are seeing an alarming increase in vehicle thefts, home invasions and violent crimes. This is not just in Toronto any longer but moving westward. Getting hard drugs off our streets is part of this. I heard this from a father in a north Paris neighbourhood, worried about his children.

What are the top priorities of your party's platform this election?

Conservatives have a Canada First plan to reduce the cost of living and unless a generational boom in the Canadian economy so Canada is a sovereign, self-reliant country standing on its own two feet. Protected by a proud, properly-equipped military and strong borders – under our beautiful Canadian flag!

We can't control what Trump does, but we CAN control what WE do. We need to cut taxes, cut red tape and think big again. Canada has EVERYTHING the world wants. We should be booming. We're not because of bad government policies over the past 10 years. We must change that so life in Canada is affordable again, our middle class can prosper again and home ownership is achievable.

Why did you decide to run for federal office? Please share a bit of what led to that decision.

Reluctant at first, I was encouraged by my wife Tracy, friends and the previous MP for Flamborough when he retired. In 2021, I left a 25-year career in the private sector because I strongly believe Canada can be so much better.

The middle class dream of Canada is slipping away. What my brothers and I could see possible after a modest upbringing on a small farm in Copetown is not possible today for young people and new Canadians. The cost of housing is a big impediment. One-third of that cost is now government!

My Omas and Opas came to Canada from The Netherlands, after the Second World War, in search of opportunity and freedom. That hope is the promise of Canada which I am working to help restore. This is not the Canada of 10 years ago. Our standard of living is declining but it surely doesn't need to be this way!

I ran for office to help turn Canada around. Canada is worth fighting for!

PETER WERHUN, NDP



How are or have you familiarized yourself with key issues important to our Brant North community, as this is a new extension of your riding?

The only way to really know about the issues in an area is to talk to the people who live there. My first canvassing stops have been in Paris and I'm proud that my first endorsement was from the Brantford & District Labour Council. As a new part of the riding, I want to make sure we put extra time and effort into the area to bring people together.

I know that a lot of people are concerned about the riding changes, but my promise is to be Brant North's representative in Ottawa, not Hamilton's representative in Brant North.

What do you see as the top three concerns of Brant North residents?

The ones that come up most often at the doorstep are tariffs, housing, and a Poilievre government (for and against). Tariffs and housing are big concerns for my party and for me personally – especially since Brant North is beyond the Greenbelt and doesn't have a lot of the protections found in the rest of the riding. But the Poilievre issue has been surprising given where polls were until recently. All I can really say is that if you want strong representation in Ottawa, you don't have to let this election become a referendum on Trudeau, Carney, or Poilievre. We've seen leaders come and go but the system stays the same – Brant North deserves more than a tick in Column A or Column B, you deserve a party and representative that is going to fight for your interests.

What are the top priorities of your party's platform this election?

Mobilizing to protect Canadian workers and small businesses in an uncertain time. It's been great to see us come together to buy Canadian in the past few weeks. But it's going to take a lot more in a world where the old rulebook has gone out the window.

It's not enough to demand patriotism – if we are going to ask everyday Canadians to sacrifice by spending more for Canadian goods and services, we need to deal with housing costs and grocery prices so that they have more money to spend. Our platform will deal with that by asking more of those who have benefitted the most in the past few years, so that we can build a stronger Canada for everyone. The NDP knows that it's not enough to buy Canadian – we have to build Canadian (again) too.

Why did you decide to run for federal office? Please share a bit of what led to that decision.

I am an international trade lawyer and fight for workers and small businesses to make sure their voices are heard in Ottawa. But I did not see leadership out of the Liberals or Conservatives that understood the gravity of the time we are in and the need for big changes.

For decades, I've seen governments rise and fall and things are still going in the wrong direction. We need to start thinking about politics differently because we no longer have the luxury of getting “satisfactory” results and hoping it's enough – we need to start excelling again as a country.

The NDP stood up when I was a kid and said, “We don't oppose trade, but we need to make sure that we do it with human rights, workers, and the environment in mind”. And they were called anti-trade “socialists” in Parliament. I'm glad that other parties are starting to understand how vulnerable decades of failed trade policies have left us. But, after all this time, I just don't trust them to get it right.

CHUCK PHILLIPS LIBERAL PARTY



How are or have you familiarized yourself with key issues important to our Brant North community, as this is a new extension of your riding?

I have lived in St. George and the Brant North region for most of my life. It is where I chose to build my businesses, give back to my community through my hospital work, and live with my wife. I understand the needs of my community, neighbours, local businesses, and more, as well as the need for real representation in Ottawa where our voices and ideas can be used to deliver a positive impact for our community for everyone.

While communities such as Paris, St. George, and others in the region may be new to Flamborough-Glanbrook-Brant North, the impact that the people here have and their ideas will continue to drive positive change for our community.

What do you see as the top three concerns of Brant North residents?

Over the last number of weeks, I have had the opportunity to knock on thousands of doors across the riding and in the Brant North region. While there are many issues at play in federal politics, the three main questions I keep hearing at the doors are:

One: What are you going to do to ensure that we can stand strong against Donald Trump? Our party and

myself have been clear - Canada will never become the 51st state. However, Pierre Poilievre and his Conservative Candidates seem to think differently and have welcomed the idea of Canada joining the United States. We need a leader like Mark Carney and our Liberal Team to continue to stand strong against Donald Trump, his tariffs and ongoing trade war, and ensure that Canada can remain one of the strongest nations on earth. Only our Liberal team can do that.

Two: Paris and St. George are growing fast. What are you going to do to ensure that there is enough housing in the region for people? More and more people are wanting to move into our riding, and part of the fastest growing parts of our riding are in Brant North with Paris and St. George. With a commitment to ensuring housing gets built, cutting taxes for first-time home buyers, and working collaboratively with our municipal partners, developers, and more, we have a plan that sets out a real path forward to ensure that everyone has a home. We also need to acknowledge the other needs of these expanding areas of our riding as well, like ensuring roads and other key infrastructure get built, and we work with the province and municipalities to ensure that everyone can get around safely.

Three: What are you going to do to ensure that Brant North and the people here get an equal voice with everyone else in the riding? Our riding is one of the largest in the region, stretching from Upper Stoney Creek in Hamilton all the way to the most northern part of Brant County. While our community may have expanded this election, that does not mean that your access to your MP should get harder to access. I have committed to opening an office in every part of this riding, including in the Paris and St. George region, to ensure that the voices of the newly added part of our riding can be heard just as much as people in Waterdown, Binbrook, Mount Hope, or Upper Stoney Creek.

What are the top priorities of your party's platform in this election?

This election comes down to one main issue: ensuring a secure and strong future for Canadians, Canadian jobs, and a strong economy that can continue to grow. Our Liberal team and I understand this. That is why we have set out a strong platform to address some of the issues that our country is facing during this challenging time.

Make no mistake, our past relationship that we had with the USA is over. While we might not be able to go back, we can continue to move forward and expand our market places to European countries, provide support to our Canadian job sectors that produce so much, and work to expand our capacity here in Canada to grow, build, and develop new technologies right here at home. We also need to support our Canadian workers, farmers, small businesses, and trade schools. That is why we have committed to ensuring that more

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people are able to attend a trade school through investments in tuition. We have set out support for our farmers to ensure that they can continue to grow, produce, and ship their goods across provinces by taking down the trade barriers between our provinces. We have set out a plan to invest in energy projects across the country to ensure a clean, green future for everyone.

The safety of Canadians and members in our community cannot be overlooked either. We have set out a strong plan to ensure the safety of Canadians. Through investments and a plan to strengthen our law enforcement and justice system to fight organized crime and trafficking, better protect families and children, and stop the flow of drugs and guns from the U.S. border, we are going to keep Canadians and their families safe. A Mark Carney-led government will stand strong against President Trump's tariffs, create new jobs, cut taxes for the middle class, and build the fastest-growing economy in the G7. Liberals will build a strong Canada.

Why did you decide to run for federal office? Please share a bit of what led to that decision.

This election is about who is best fit to defend our Country and ensure that we can remain a strong nation with strong people in it. There is no question that President Donald Trump and his administration have changed things for us over the last few months, but that does not mean that we should not fight back for our Canadian values and way of life.

Our community is in need of leadership with a leader like Mark Carney and a Liberal MP to stand up to Donald Trump, ensure the safety of our community, economic growth, support for farmers and other sectors, and someone who can deliver for the people in our community. That is why I decided to step forward to run. In these times, the Leader of the Conservative Party and his Party are the wrong people at the wrong time to lead us.

I am proud to be a candidate for our riding of Flamborough-Glanbrook-Brant North under Mark Carney and look forward to representing my community in the House of Commons with all of my ability if elected.

NIKITA MAHOOD
PEOPLE'S PARTY OF CANADA



How are or have you familiarized yourself with key issues important to our Brant North community, as this is a new extension of your riding?

In order to get to know the concerns of residents in the Brant North communities, I have been holding weekly "Coffee and Chat" sessions at Old Mill Cafe in St. George, every Wednesday from 2-3pm, in order to meet local residents and learn what issues are important to residents. I have also emailed and called my new PPC members that I have gained in this new area, as well as done some canvassing door-to-door.

What do you see as the top three concerns of Brant North residents?

In my conversations with residents of Brant North, there are several important areas of concern that people have shared with me. I have learned that residents of Brant North are suffering with affordability of food, bills and housing prices. Many are upset that our tax dollars are being sent overseas to fund foreign wars, instead of helping Canadians who are struggling.

I have also heard concerns from many residents about the effects of gender ideology in schools, and how it is affecting women and especially children. While Brant North residents generally believe in LGBTQ people's rights to live their lives freely and without persecution, I frequently have heard from community members that these subjects do not belong in school and children need protection from influences that lead to elective treatments that should be illegal for minors, such as puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapies. I also am listening to residents about how women's spaces, such as sports, change rooms and jails need to remain as spaces for biological women. Brant North residents are also telling me about an unwanted potential amalgamation with the City of Brantford. While this is a municipal issue, I am happy to advocate at the municipal level in defence of the wishes of this community, as I have already done so in Hamilton.

What are the top priorities of your party's platform in this election?

The People's Party of Canada's top issue this election is to make Canada affordable for residents. We would prioritize the needs of Canadian residents over funding globalist endeavours such as the Paris Accord (which we would exit), funding over a million immigrants per year (we would halt and reduce to 150,000 immigrants under raised qualifications), we would additionally scrap all carbon pricing measures that have quietly remained after the carbon tax.

We are also prioritizing the protection of our children from woke ideologies. We would repeal bill C-4 which has made it illegal for a parent to intervene in their child's gender transition and was voted in unanimously in the HoC. We would swiftly make gender-related procedures on minor children illegal, among many other measures to protect our kids.

We would work on a cooperative and fair-trade deal with the US, and address border-related concerns so that we can return to having a productive trade relationship with the US. We have no hope of winning a trade war and need to stop this tactic as it is hurting Canadians.

Why did you decide to run for federal office? Please share a bit of what led to that decision.

I decided to run for federal office because I have lost faith in the system as it stands and that sweeping measures are needed to get our country back on track. We are having our rights slowly picked away, while the government is ballooning and the values of democracy are slipping away. Government is positioned between parents and children, our freedom of speech is being diluted and it has become taboo to question "acceptable belief systems" such as climate alarmism, gender ideology, and mass immigration. The PPC stands boldly to protect our rights and freedoms, and we are not going to stop doing so until Canada has returned to the beautiful free country it once was.

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EDITORIAL

We're now OCNA official!



FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

By Stewart Grant

75 years ago, the Ontario Community Newspapers Association (OCNA) was established. Over its three-quarters of a century, the industry association has had an inside view of the evolution of the media industry as it has worked to support and advocate for its members.

As you can expect, the association's roster of members has shrunk dramatically over the last decade, as dozens of long-time community newspapers were first acquired by media conglomer-

ates and then later shuttered as those companies struggled to adapt to the internet age. The Paris Star is a prime example.

OCNA Executive Director Gordon Cameron noted during his report last weekend at the association's Annual Independent Publishers' Retreat that in 2024 the OCNA had shrunk to just 131 members – a drop of 60% from the high of 324 newspapers that comprised the membership in 2011.

Despite the challenges that continue to face the industry, the overall feeling among the independent publishers last week was one of optimism. For the first time in over a decade, the OCNA's membership numbers have increased. Since last year, the association has grown by four and now sits at 135 members. The newest of these is the Paris Independent, which was formally approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting on Friday morning.

The Paris Independent is a unique but appropriate example of how a newspaper can thrive in 2025. After all, this

was a newspaper that started as an online-only product, as Chris Whelan, Casandra Turnbull and the rest of their strong team gradually built up an audience over 3+ years to set the stage to evolve into a print publication. The reason for their success is a timeless one – it's all about local. Whereas the conglomerates have failed because they became more and more disconnected from the communities that they were supposed to serve.

There are many independent newspapers across the province that continue to do well as they have stayed true to their mission of serving their communities, who in turn support them through advertising and subscriptions.

Our admittance to the Ontario Community Newspapers Association is an important milestone for the Paris Independent as we work to restore community journalism in the area. Thanks to everyone who has helped us get this far and we look forward to continuing to grow.



(COLLEEN GREEN PHOTO)

Grant Haven Media and Paris Independent Publisher Stewart Grant holds a copy of the Paris Independent the night the newspaper was formally approved as a new member of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association during its AGM.

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

Restoring small-town journalism, one community at a time!

The Paris Independent

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Brant County revisiting rules around additional residential units

CELESTE PERCY-BEAUREGARD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Brant County is considering upping the number of additional residential units (ARU) some residents can have on their property.

It's a key step in the county's process to develop more "affordable and diverse" housing options while supporting "focused growth and infrastructure," according to a report councillors saw Tuesday night.

If passed, the bylaw change would mean eligible people could add up to three units — such as a converted basement apartment, garage additions, or detached unit — to a primary residence without a public hearing or council approval.

It means neighbours wouldn't have a say either, Coun. David Miller clarified.

A building permit would still be required, and there would be parameters on parking, building height, lot coverage and setbacks.

The change would allow for "gentle intensification," and increase the supply of "diverse and affordable

housing options," according to the county's online engagement forum.

The revised zoning permissions would also help the county get federal funding for infrastructure improvements, Jeremy Vink, the county's director of planning, told councillors.

"We're trying to service some needs and give opportunities for people to provide some different housing types in our existing communities," he said.

The change would apply to property owners in fully serviced areas of Paris and St. George. Current bylaws already allow for two ARUs in addition to a primary unit.

It could add around 4,000 housing options to the areas — but staff do not anticipate many landowners participating, the report said.

Since 2020, the county has had building permits for 68 urban and 25 rural ARUs, all but one in Paris.

Councillors will make a decision on May 27. Residents can provide feedback on housing needs at engagebrant.ca/housingneeds until April 22.

EDITORIAL

Check out Paris' Egg-stravagant Easter events

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Easter is just around the corner and Paris businesses and organizations have a lot of fun events to offer locals looking for a hoppy way to spend the holiday.

This is one of the great things about living in a small town, everyone is eager to celebrate holidays with free activities designed to get people out and about, encouraging socializing with neighbours and friends.

A couple Paris churches are offering some free events and services on Saturday, April 19th. Cedarview Church, located at 20 Cedar St (just off King Edward Street) offers a fun Easter egg hunt, games and a BBQ from 11 am to 1 pm. Sojourn Church also hosts their Easter Celebration beginning at 9 am. Sojourn Church is located at 112 Scott Ave. This celebration includes bouncy castles, animals, snacks and more, so bring the whole family for some wholesome fun.

Make your way downtown on Saturday where you might just run into the Easter Bunny hopping around. Word on the street is the Easter Bunny is stopping in at the Rustic Palm, a local business on Grand River Street North, any time after 10 am. Not only will you get a special meet and greet with the bunny, but there will also be a fun egg hunt, games and special prizes available.

Later that afternoon, the Paris Legion is hosting another Egg Hunt (there will be no shortage of chocolate and candy for the

kids this weekend!) from 1 pm to 2 pm. Participants are encouraged to bring their own basket, and sorry to the older kids and adult 'kids' but this event is for children ages 10 and under.

Moore's Family Farm is having an egg-stra special day of fun on the farm from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday as well. Don't miss the egg hunt that starts at 10 am and meet and greet with special (top secret) guests from 12 pm to 1 pm. Don't miss the opportunity to cuddle with live chicks and bunnies!

If you're willing to make the short drive out of town to Burford, join the Burford Optimist Club for an Easter Egg hunt from 9 am to 11 am at the Burford Agricultural Society Fairgrounds. This free event also includes face painting and some special Easter character appearances.

Last but not least, Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead National Historic Site hosts its ever-popular Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 18th from 10 am to 2 pm. This event is absolutely packed with families so be sure to get there early to secure a parking spot. You MUST have tickets for this event – get your tickets online on Eventbrite – they are \$5 /person. This Easter celebration includes Doug the Great, a petting zoo, hot chocolate, food trucks and more.

If we missed promoting your FREE event, please consider sending us an email (stories@theparis-independent.com) next time and we'll be sure to find a special spot in the paper for your



Buster Beaverton is hoppy there's so many sweet FREE Easter events taking place across Paris and Brant County this weekend.

activity.

The Paris Independent sends a gigantic thank-you to all the organizations and individuals who take the time to plan these free

events so people in the community have something fun to look forward to, something that doesn't break the bank and creates lasting memories.

However you celebrate, we hope it's a sweet time spent with family, friends and neighbours.

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Double events draw folks in a Maple mood to Paris



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Rubyy Jones

The second Saturday of April is, and has been for twelve years, the Lions Club of Paris' annual Maple Syrup Festival. This year the event popped up at the Paris Fairgrounds, both indoors and outdoors from 8 am to 3 pm. It was buzzing and busy the entire day, which was great to see as the event shifted from its usual downtown location.

In front of the special events building at the Paris Fairgrounds, the Lions Club of Paris set up a stage for performances and parked their food truck where volunteers served pancakes, and sausages, which generated a massive line all day long. There was ample seating in the picnic area where you enjoyed your food and could watch some line dancing at the same time. If you wanted more than pancakes, there was a nice selection of food trucks with flavours and menus for all kinds of tastes: pierogies, churros, poutine, Filipino cuisine and more.

Inside the events building, the two largest rooms featured dozens of various vendors ranging from local businesses to Brant organizations, classic festival stalls and more seating to eat indoors. The Lions Club sold its 50/50 raffle tickets; congratulations to the winner Stuart Nicholas!

Stilt walker, Doug The Great, greeted all the guests and the vocal stylings of the young people of SING IT started the day. The entertainment line up continued

with STOMPtastic and Brantford Line Dancing that both performances and offered line dancing lessons, while The Thompson Road Band rocked out and the charming characters of The Glass Slipper Company dazzled all the youngsters.

Those in a maple mood were invited to head to Paris' downtown core for more rich flavour! Twenty-five businesses took part in a special Paris in Saturday Maple Map event, offering various maple flavoured, scented and themed treats. Thorn & Petal offered maple candies attached to individual flowers, Dog-Eared Cafe whipped up their signature Maple Oat Latte, From The Attic Interiors provided tea light versions of their Maple Sugar candle, and What's The Scoop – on their opening day of the season - gave out generous scoops of maple ice cream.

It was a very sweet Saturday and amazing to see so many people supporting the different events in Paris, from the long-standing traditional Maple Syrup Festival to



It was a long line all day long for the Lions Club of Paris' food truck, where pancakes were flipped and served fresh with a side of maple syrup. (SARAH EVANS PHOTO)

the sweet and Saturday in Paris. The community vibes and civic support were on show, in a way that should make everyone in-

involved and engaged very proud. We look forward to next year's Maple Syrup festivities already!



Line dancers participate in the Line Dancing Flash Mob organized Joan Minnery of Brantford Line Dancing. (SARAH EVANS PHOTO)



The Girl Guides of Paris were one of many vendors packed into the Paris Fairgrounds during the Maple Syrup Festival. (LIONS CLUB OF PARIS PHOTO)



Located inside the Fairgrounds Exhibition Centre, the Labron Group was on site to give out some rich treats, and they weren't the only ones. (LIONS CLUB OF PARIS PHOTO)



If you didn't fancy pancakes there was a variety of food from numerous food trucks to select from at Saturday's Maple Syrup Festival. Warmer weather and no rain in the forecast helped attribute to great attendance. (LIONS CLUB OF PARIS PHOTO)

Proposal to establish New Main Library Branch in Downtown Paris

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has proposed providing 20,000 to 25,000 square feet of space in a new construction for the library. According to library board meeting minutes, the library would enter into a leasing agreement with Wingbury for a period of 20 to 30 years.

Although the plan is still in the early stages, Alison Newton, the county's chief administrative officer, expressed optimism about establishing a clear direction for the project by the year's end.

The proposed site for the new library branch is 28 Mechanic St., currently a municipal parking lot that previously housed an OPP station. Wingbury owns the land at 12 Broadway St. W., formerly the Cedar House bar and grill, which is deemed more suitable for parking. The county is exploring a potential exchange of these properties, irrespective of the library relocation.

Fred Gladding, chair of the County of Brant Library Board, indicated the

board's interest in further evaluating the Wingbury proposal. Community consultations and site studies are underway to assess various options, including the Wingbury initiative.

While the former OPP lot was previously considered for the new main branch in 2019, plans were deferred due to pandemic-related uncertainties in 2020. Subsequently, a project to restore the old Paris town hall was approved in 2021, with intentions to transform it into the Bawcatt Centre community hub and main library.

However, with the current uncertainty surrounding the town hall's future, discussions are ongoing about potential adjustments to the restoration plans to accommodate the library relocation.

Mark Maxwell, the county's director of engineering and infrastructure planning, proposed focusing on exterior restoration work for the town hall, such as masonry, window, and roof repairs, while delaying some interior renovations until a definitive plan for its use is determined.



The main branch library as it currently sits on the corner of William and Broadway Streets. A new main branch is proposed at 28 Mechanic St, currently a municipal parking lot that housed the OPP station. The proposal is in the very early stages.

Leadership change at Grand Erie Public Health: Brent Richardson departs CEO Role

CHRIS WHELAN

Editor

Brent Richardson, who was appointed as CEO of the newly merged Grand Erie Public Health at the start of the year, has stepped down from his position.

Sources revealed that Richardson was relieved of his duties following a confidential board meeting held Thursday, April 3rd.

A confidential memo circulated among staff stated, "As of today, Brent Richardson is no longer associated with Grand Erie Public Health," announcing the appointment of interim leadership by the board.

In a media release to the development, GEPH board chair Amy Martin expressed, "This marks a significant moment for Grand Erie Public Health. We are dedicated to welcoming a new CEO who will shape the future of our integrated organization and ensure that our communities receive top-quality, timely, and fair public health services."

Brad Stark and Sarah Page will assume joint leadership responsibilities at GEPH until a permanent CEO is appointed, according to the official statement.

Richardson, previously listed on the provincial 'Sunshine List' with an annual income of \$272,106, played a key role in overseeing the merger between the former BCHU and Haldimand-Norfolk health units, before being appointed as the CEO of GEPH effective January 1.

Following the departure of the controversial Jo Ann Tober in June 2022, Richardson assumed the CEO position in October 2022.

Tober, who retired, continued to feature on the Sunshine List in 2024 as the "retired CEO" with a salary of \$101,885.

During her tenure, complaints arose among staff, culminating in a comprehensive investigation by the provincial Ministry of Health in 2017, which probed various issues within the agency,



Brent Richardson was relieved of his duties at the newly merged Grand Erie Public Health following a confidential board meeting on April 3rd.

including concerns related to the then-executive director, Tober.

Richardson and the former board of health made headlines in May of the previous year when a legal notice was sent to Brantford city council advising against discussions regarding the potential incorporation of the local health agency as a city department rather than merging it with the Haldimand and Norfolk unit.

The move drew criticism from Mayor Kevin Davis and several council members, with Davis denouncing it as "outrageous" to restrict council discourse on the matter.

In response, Richardson defended the action as an effort to prevent unnecessary complications for the city, citing the ongoing merger process in coordination with the Ministry of Health.

Attempts to reach Richardson for comment were unsuccessful.

Local unemployment rate starts to rise, says March report

PRESS RELEASE

Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie

A spike in the number of out-of-work residents pushed up the Brantford area's jobless rate in March.

About 800 more people were unemployed last month in Brantford-Brant, raising the local jobless rate to 6.1 per cent, up from February's 5.3 per cent, according to seasonally adjusted estimates from Statistics Canada, which surveyed residents in the first half of March.

Norfolk's unemployment rate also climbed in March, reaching 6.4 per cent, according to figures that are not seasonally adjusted.

Employment fell by 33,000 in Canada in March, causing the national unemployment rate to increase to 6.7 per cent. Ontario saw a 28,000 drop in employment and the provincial jobless rate climbed to 7.5 per cent.

"In Brantford, 5,500 people were estimated to be unemployed in March, but that is still below the numbers from last fall, so we can't necessarily point the finger at tariffs," said Danette Dalton, executive director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.

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.

"Statistics Canada is reporting that the largest number of job losses in Canada last month was in retail and wholesale trade, but there wasn't a dramatic change here."

Dalton said that while there wasn't a U.S. tariff slapped on all Canadian-made products, tariffs on steel and automobiles will impact manufacturers and people who work in those industries. A car maker in Windsor has already announced a 2-week shutdown.

"We're home to a major steel-maker, Stelco in Nanticoke, and other steel-related companies," she said. "Hundreds of our residents commute to jobs at Toyota plants in Cambridge and Woodstock, CAMI in Ingersoll and Ford in Oakville. And Grand Erie is home to auto parts manufacturers that employ several thousand people."

Companies impacted by tariffs are encouraged to keep in touch with the planning board, municipal economic development departments, chambers of commerce and industry associations, Dalton said.

"Sharing information and talking about how to soften the blow of tariffs on businesses and workers is crucial. Tariffs are a community-wide issue, a human issue, not just a business issue."

Elementary Students harvest hands-on lessons at Bite of Brant

KIMBERLY DE JONG

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

One-thousand Grade 5 students and teachers from various public, catholic and private schools across the City of Brantford and the County of Brant, descended upon the Burford Fairgrounds for the 30th annual Bite of Brant event, which took place on Tuesday, April 8 and Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

The educational program, which won an Excellence in Agriculture Award in November of 2024, is designed to teach students about the local agriculture sector, and instill them with an appreciation for high-quality Ontario grown food.

During the event, farmers and educators alike were set up across 20 different stations, each representing the various commodities of the County's agri-food industry. Classes were split up into two groups and the youngsters rotated between each station every 12 minutes, asking questions and getting hands-on experience.

Jean Emmott, a dairy farmer, retired educator and a member of the core planning committee, said that since the students are at an age where they're becoming more aware of the world around them, the program provides them with a new perspective on the role of food in their everyday lives.

"By Grade 5, they're at the point where they're starting to prepare some of their own meals or helping their younger siblings, so it gives them something to think about," she said. "They're often going to the grocery stores with their families and so now they'll know to look for that Foodland Ontario or Maple Leaf 'Product of Canada' label. At this stage as well, they're also starting to look at careers and thinking about what they might want to do when they grow up; they're also our future decision makers, so when an issue arises down the road, hopefully, they will remember some of the input that they've gained today."

Over the course of the event, students got to learn about honey bees, soil health, the



Mark Eddy teaches a group of students about cattle farming during the 30th annual Bite of Brant event on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

early history of agriculture, what the inside of a chicken egg looks like, as well as various farming equipment and careers.

Several viewing areas also had many youngsters in awe of the sheep, goats, piglets and cows that were on site, and they enthusiastically asked questions as they learned about the care that goes into raising livestock and the processing that follows.

With an overall pizza theme to the day, the students gained an understanding on how even fast-food first starts in the farmer's fields. Each group got hands-on experience in milking procedures with a life-size cow model, grinding wheat into flour and planting their own basil and tomato seeds.

Emmott said that one of her favourite parts of the program is seeing everyone actively participating.

"It's wonderful to hear from the volunteers that the kids are so engaged, and to

see the look on those kids' faces," she said. "And it's not just them, but the teachers and the parent volunteers as well; it's so important that we are making the adults just as aware of the program and the content as we are the students."

Jennifer Guest, a Grade 4/5 teacher from Mt. Pleasant School, has been to Bite of Brant five times now, and she said that the best part is always seeing how the kids light up.

"My favourite part of the day is seeing the kids having that connection with agriculture, with nature, and seeing the joy in their faces as that's happening," she said. "Seeing that expression on their face when they have those 'wow' moments, like learning how much a tractor costs, is always so great."

Guest added that she appreciates how much her students can relate what they're

learning at Bite of Brant, back to their curriculum in the class.

Emmott later said that none of this would be possible without the generosity of all the volunteers who have been involved year after year.

"I have to give a big congratulations to the 100-plus volunteers and the core committee. They do such an amazing job and we are so blessed to have each of them, as well as the support of their families," she said, with a smile. "Actually, we have three families here where the third generation of farmers are now volunteering as presenters, and about ten or 12 that are second generation too. On top of that, we also have six stations, and another five volunteers who have been here all 30 years, as well. That commitment from all of our volunteers, it's really important and it's what has made the program a success."

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Paris Pizza & Shawarma prides itself on offering a diverse menu that caters to all taste buds. From piping hot pizzas with generous toppings to fragrant shawarmas bursting with traditional spices, each dish is crafted with care and attention to detail. The blend of Italian and Middle Eastern cuisines creates a unique dining experience that is sure to leave you coming back for more.

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For those seeking Halal options, Paris Pizza & Shawarma is proud to offer a selection of Halal-certified dishes, ensuring that everyone can enjoy a delicious meal with peace of mind. Additionally, their pizza toppings range from classic favorites like pepperoni and mushrooms to more exotic choices like lamb gyro

and falafel, allowing you to customize your pizza just the way you like it.

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Satisfying your cravings has never been easier with Paris Pizza & Shawarma's convenient ordering options. Whether you prefer to dine in the comfort of your own home or pick up your order on the go, the choice is yours. Simply peruse the menu online, place your order through the website, or give them a call at (519) 442-0101. With both pickup and delivery services available, enjoying a delicious meal from Paris Pizza & Shawarma is just a phone call away.

Hours of Operation

- **Monday - Sunday:**
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Next time you find yourself in Paris, Ontario, be sure to stop by Paris Pizza & Shawarma to savor the flavors of the Mediterranean and the Middle East. With a menu that caters to all tastes and preferences, it's the perfect spot to indulge in a culinary adventure that will leave your taste buds tingling and your heart full.

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Mayor Bailey appointed Strong Mayor Powers

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

County of Brant Mayor David Bailey is among 169 mayors across the province who was appointed with Strong Mayor Powers, the province announced last week.

Mayor Bailey's powers come into effect on May 1, 2025, marking significant expansion of Ontario's commitment to streamline local governance and help ensure municipalities have the tools required to reduce obstacles in decision making.

Mayor Bailey commented on the appointment last week, "Here in the County of Brant, we take pride in working together—with Council, staff, and our community. Collaboration is how we've built trust and moved important projects forward with open dialogue and shared purpose."

He went on to say the County of Brant is a very well-run municipality and at this time, "I have no intention of using the powers unless it's a benefit to my council and the community."

The provincial government expanded the powers as a means to help municipalities build more homes, transit and deal with other infrastructure projects.

In a press release issued by Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister Rob Flack said "By extending strong mayor powers to these additional municipalities, we are providing mayors every tool at our disposal to empower them to get homes and infrastructure built faster. Mayors know their municipalities best, and we support them in taking bold actions for their communities."

Ontario's strong mayor powers, initially

introduced for Toronto and Ottawa in 2022, have been gradually rolled out across the province. The province currently has 47 municipalities with these enhanced powers, including City of Brantford Mayor Kevin Davis.

Strong Mayor powers and duties include:

- Choosing to appoint the municipality's chief administrative officer.
- Hiring certain municipal department heads and establishing and re-organizing departments.
- Creating committees of council, assigning their functions and appointing the chairs and vice-chairs of committees of council.
- Proposing the municipal budget, which would be subject to council amend-

ments and a separate head of council veto and council override process.

- Proposing certain municipal by-laws if the mayor is of the opinion that the proposed by-law could potentially advance a provincial priority identified in regulation. Council can pass these by-laws if more than one-third of all council members vote in favour.
- Vetoing certain by-laws if the head of council is of the opinion that all or part of the by-law could potentially interfere with a provincial priority.
- Bringing forward matters for council consideration if the head of council is of the opinion that considering the matter could potentially advance a provincial priority.

Meanwhile in Council Chambers....



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

Who says you can't have a little fun in Council Chambers? Last week Mayor David Bailey and Blandford Blenheim Mayor Mark Peterson executed a fun wager by swapping jerseys and wearing them in Council Chambers. The mayors made a fun bet on the Paris Firefighters versus Blandford-Blenheim firefighters hockey game that took place in Plattsville on March 30th. The outcome of the game depends on who you ask, but we have it on good authority that Paris lost to Blandford 6-5 in an overtime shoot out!



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

It was a visit filled with some fun and education when Ms. Martin's Grade 5 class from Sacred Heart School visited Council Chambers on March 31st. Mayor Bailey gave the students a tour of Council Chambers and his office as part of the students' studies on the Canadian Government. "I was sincerely impressed with their questions and enthusiasm," said Bailey.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What year did the Toronto Maple Leafs last win the Stanley Cup?
2. What country is Easter island located in?
3. NASA's third mission to the moon was called what?
4. What does DM mean on social media?
5. What part of the cell contains genetic material?
6. What do Pandas primarily eat?
7. What temperature scale is based on absolute zero?
8. What's the name of the current that pulls swimmers away from the shore?
9. What is the largest muscle in the human body?
10. What day is Queen Elizabeth II birthday?

This week's answers are found on pg. 26

Optimists hopeful for attendance boost at monthly youth dances

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

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

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

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

could socialize with peers in a safe, supervised environment."

Fast forward a couple decades, and while the town has changed drastically, there's still very few youth-based activities. It's through the dedication of volunteers that the dance has survived. Attendance has fluctuated over the years but until late last year, Optimist members were happy to welcome upwards of 200 students in Grades 5 to 8.

Last year attendance took a hit with only 35-40 kids attending and that has them very worried. This long-standing tradition, and great opportunity for youth to have a safe environment to go to once a month for some entertainment, is at risk.

Optimist members want parents to know this is a safe, chaperoned dance for youth. A small army of volunteers chaperon the dance in every aspect; monitoring the hallway and washrooms and making sure kids are on their best behaviour, no different than the behaviour that is expected of them at school. The kids have no 'in and out'

privileges, once they sign in, they stay in. Everyone is required to provide the name and phone number of a parent/caregiver, the school they attend and their grade. High School students volunteer at the coat check where all hats and bags must be checked in. The DJ is instructed to play songs/videos that are age-appropriate, and volunteers are firm in their stance of no abusive or offensive language.

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

Despite the decline in attendance, Optimist Club members are not ready to throw in the white towel just yet. The club is willing to take the necessary steps to bring attendance numbers up through marketing at schools, community centres, on social media and through the media. This dance is not a fundraiser, rather an outlet to make sure youth have a fun social event to attend.

"One of the main mandates of Optimist Clubs is to bring out the best in youth.

By giving them opportunities to enjoy an evening with their friends, they build confidence and develop basic social and life skills; it's important," reiterated Henwood.

The next dance is on Friday, April 25th at the Syl Apps Community Centre from 7 pm to 10 pm. Admission is \$5, and that fee helps cover the cost of hosting the dance. There's also a concession stand where youth can purchase snacks and drinks. The final dance before they break for summer, is May 16th from 7 pm to 10 pm.

Help spread the word so we can bring this dance back to its original upbeat glory. It's not easy parenting youth in today's technology dominated world. Take advantage of an opportunity get them to disconnect from the wifi and reconnect with friends in a social atmosphere. It would be a real shame to see a tradition like this one fade away but continue to hear people complain there's just not enough for youth to do anymore.

Provincial honours for local student

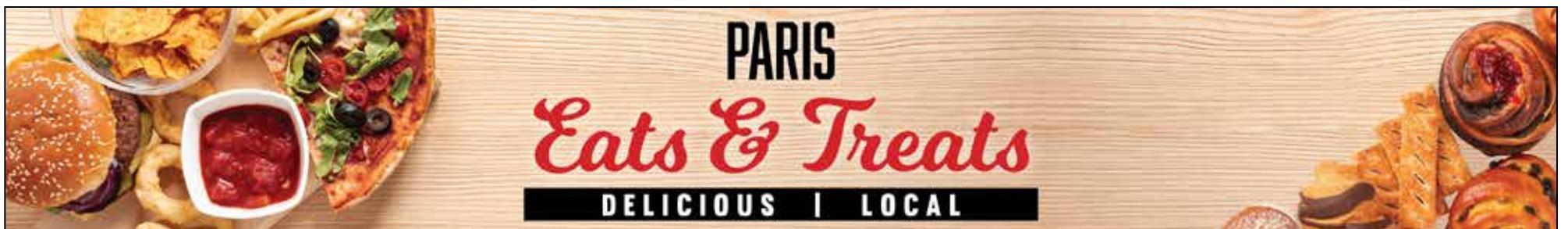


The Paris Legion Branch 29 held its annual Poster and Literacy contest on Sunday, January 12, 2025. With a theme of War and Remembrance, students from schools across Paris competed, showing their best work. Each winner received a framed certificate and a cash prize. Students represented PDHS, Sacred Heart, Cobblestone Elementary and Holy Family Schools. Mason Fowler, a Grade 3 student at Sacred Heart School, entered the War and Remembrance Poster contest with a colour entry that displayed impressive artistic talent for an eight-year-old student. He placed first in the Paris Legion contest, Zone B-2, first in district and third in Ontario. Branch 29 Legion sends a huge congratulations to Mason on this fine accomplishment.

(PARIS LEGION PHOTO)

The Paris Independent Pick Up Locations

Arlington Hotel	Grand River Estates	Sobeys
Brant Sports Complex	Jay's No Frills	Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House Paris
Brave Waves Swim School	John M Hall The House of Quality Linen	Stillwaters
Canadian Tire	Little Paris Bread Co	Telfer Place Retirement Residence
Cobblestone Public House	Mary Maxim	Tim Hortons - Rest Acres
Cobblestone Medicine and Rehab	Northville Pharmacy	Tim Hortons - Paris Road
Community Hub Pharmacy	Paris Beer Company	Tim Hortons - Grand River St N
County of Brant - Paris Office	Paris Inn	The Gem Marketplace
Cowan Community Health Hub Primacare	Paris Jewellers	The Grand Bayou Cajun Kitchen
Detour Café Paris	Paris Pizza	The Paris Winncy Mills Market
Dog-Eared Cafe	Park Lane Terrace	Walter's Greenhouses & Garden Centre
Egg Smart	Queensview Retirement Community	Willett Urgent Care Centre
Elberta Farms Country Market	Rexall Pharmacy	Wrights Variety
ESSO - Dundas St	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29	
ESSO - Grand River St N	Scott's Family Restaurant	
Farah Foods	Secret Lunch and Catering	
	Sly Apps Community Centre	



Stacked Pancake Paris a delectably delicious experience

Whether you've got a hunger on for a stack of pancakes, waffles, french toast or a fully loaded homemade hamburger, Stacked Pancakes has all your cravings covered!

Located at 1070 Rest Acres Road in Paris, once you walk in and sit down you'll notice an underlining theme about this family-owned business: everything is made from scratch ensuring you have a delectably delicious experience.

The hardest part of your visit will be narrowing down your selection – NY blueberry cheesecake, double berry or cookie butter pancakes, the selection will make your stomach growl. Don't stop at pancakes; let yourself be tempted by the stacked hash-brown dishes, stacked omelets, or settle with a lighter option of corn & black bean avocado toast - there's something on the menu for all appetites!

But why stop at breakfast? Enjoy a brunch sandwich and homemade soup, juicy chicken breast grilled to perfection on a southwest sandwich, or a mouthwatering hamburger made from scratch every single day; I bet you don't know Stacked Pancake offers an equally tasty lunch menu too?

This culinary gem is tucked within the commercial plaza on Rest Acres Road, owned and operated by a husband and wife team who bring a wealth of experience to the restaurant, combined with a well-rounded understanding that investing in your team with a hands on approach always produces the best results.

Sachin and Rakhil Kapil own four Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House locations in this region with a fifth one opening on Henry Street in Brantford by the end of this year. Their success is built on dedication, determination and an easy to approach persona that resonates well with their teams across all their locations.

The Kapils always had a shared goal to



Stacked Pancake Paris team from left to right, Owner Sachin Kapil, Jerrica, Vaishali, Ashley, Nupinder, Owner Rakhil Kapil and Gurpreet.

(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTO)

be entrepreneurs right from the first day they immigrated from Chandigarh, a City in North India, to Canada in 2016. Up-rooting came with many challenges that required a strong never-give-up attitude because at the end of every day, they knew one day they were going to build their own empire.

"When you move from your own country to a new country, you have an ambition to come back to the level you were at when you left," said Sachin, who was in the mortgage industry in Chandigarh. Rakhil was employed in the insurance industry. So, stepping into the food and hospitality world was out of their realm of experience and comfort, but they knew it was the right step.

In 2019 when Stacked Pancakes was preparing to franchise out, the Kapils were approached by a close friend, Mayur Gandhi with the idea of purchasing the store/franchise. Together, they entered a

partnership that has grown to soon-to-be five locations over the last six years. Mayur is still involved as an accountant and administrator while Sachin and Rakhil spend their time rotating between their restaurants: Brantford, Paris, Cambridge, and Stratford. Right from the beginning, they understood to make the business profitable, they would need to own several locations.

Months after opening their first restaurant on King George Road in Brantford in 2019, the pandemic hit. It complicated matters but was a blessing in disguise at the same time. As the world shut down and people were confined to their homes, the Kapils had to learn every aspect of the business. They had to learn how to pivot and adapt and found themselves doing many things they never imaged they would have to do as owners – wash dishes, learn how to line cook, take phone orders, work with food products that they were

not familiar with in the least bit; it was all a learning curve.

"We thought it would be more managing than hands on. In India, when you own a business, you have a team that works for you," said Rakhil.

"We were in the mindset we just needed to know the basics. Quickly we realized we had to be hands on," added Sachin. The duo laughs now at their early mindset and inexperience. The pandemic helped them grow together and taught them many valuable lessons about endurance and entrepreneurship.

During the pandemic, Sachin was presented with a life-changing opportunity of working with corporate's head office team to train new franchisees before they opened their stores. He learned a lot about Stacked's policies and the restaurant industry but most importantly how to work with people, which has been an invaluable lesson he's applied within all their restaurants to help build strong teams in a family-like atmosphere.

They opened second franchise location in Paris in 2022, at the tail end of Covid. They weathered the storm and are happy to see business is booming. They attribute their success to the support of their strong team, who share their vision to stack the best food on the plate every day and deliver it with impeccable service.

Stacked Pancake Paris is open 7 am to 3 pm daily, every day of the year except Christmas day. Pop by this Easter Weekend and try out a stack of the ever-popular Cinnamon Pancakes or their famous handmade hamburgers. If you're an early riser take advantage of the Express Breakfast between 7 am to 9 am for only \$6.99. Whatever you're craving, go on an empty stomach because without a doubt, your plate will be stacked full of food made with careful attention to detail.

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Paris man's journey on Canada's Got Talent continues

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The singing bus driver from Paris, Ontario is still in the running for Canada's Got Talent (CGT).

Jonathan Pooley's audition on the CityTV series aired on March 25th where he performed in front of celebrity judges Shania Twain, Katherine Ryan, Howie Mandel and Kardinal Offishall. He is just one of thousands of Canadians vying for the top prize of \$1 million donated by Rogers. It's the biggest cash prize in Canadian television and it's accompanied by financial advice from CIBC.

Pooley received approval from three of the four judges to remain in the running for CGT's top prize.

"It was another surreal moment," said Pooley in a follow up interview with The Paris Independent. "Of course, I was a little disappointed that Shania didn't say yes—she's a legend, one of the most successful female country artists of all time. But I took her feedback as a challenge to grow."

Now Pooley is playing the waiting game to see if he will advance to the competition's second round - The Eliminations. After earning three yeses in the auditions, he's one of many acts being considered as the judges deliberate and narrow down their favourites to a top 14. That news will be revealed at the end of the April 29th episode. If selected, he'll return to perform again for the judges, who could send him straight to the finale, into a public vote, or



Paris man Jonathan Pooley made it through the audition round of Canada's Got Talent and is now waiting to see if he will compete in the semi finals of the CityTV series.

home for good.

Following his audition round performance, which he said was a dream come true hearing the standing ovation from the crowd, Pooley called his younger sons Lucas and Aidan who were at his sister's house while he performed.

"I don't know if they fully understood

what had just happened—they were busy having fun with their cousins—but for me, the first people I wanted to share that moment with were my wife and my kids. That's what made it even more special."

Pooley's wife Heather and oldest son Preston were in the audience cheering him on.

The waiting game to see if he advances might just be the hardest part of this journey.

"As you probably noticed, the talent this year is next level—just elite across the board. So, if I do get selected, I'll be incredibly grateful. It would be a huge opportunity to really show what I'm capable of and push past those first-round nerves."

While he waits, Pooley said he's working through any usual doubts and insecurities that try to creep in by reminding himself that he's living his biggest dream and to just enjoy the moment.

"It's not just what I've wanted for myself, but what my wife, kids, friends, family and supporters have always believed in for me too."

Pooley said he's also grateful for the support he's received from the Paris community and surrounding areas. He's embracing his opportunity to be a local celebrity and represent small town Paris on televisions across the nation.

"When I started singing again, especially as the Singing Bus Driver, it was because I felt like I had lost my sense of impact outside of being a husband and a father. I didn't feel unique. But now, seeing people excited that I'm from Paris, Ontario, and watching their messages of support roll in—it's humbling."

He added that every kind word and every cheer reminds him that people are taking time out of their lives to say, 'we're behind you,' and that powerful message is boosting his amazing journey so far. "I'm ready for whatever comes next!"

Award Winning Novelist Emma Donoghue visits Paris, shares insights from her new book

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

The County of Brant celebrates the 20th Anniversary of One Book One Brant with an author visit from award-winning novelist Emma Donoghue on April 6th. Donoghue is an Irish Canadian novelist, screenwriter, playwright and literary historian and her famous literary works drew a sold-out crowd that packed the #forParisCentre with enthusiastic fans, captivated by her insights as she shared intimate details of her novels.

It's the largest One Book One Brant crowd to date, and that's no surprise as Donoghue's book *Room* won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Commonwealth Writers' prize and was shortlisted for the Man Booker and Orange Prizes. Her novel *The Wonder* was shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and she co-wrote the 2022 screen adaptation for Netflix.

The One Book One Brant community read, *The Pull of the Stars*, was a finalist for the Trillium Book Award. It tells the story of a maternity room nurse in an understaffed hospital in a war ravished Dublin in 1918 at the height of the Great Flu. Over the course of three days, the small cast of

characters have a monumental impact on each other's lives as they bring new life into an uncertain, fearful world.

Donoghue revealed that the idea for the novel came during a train ride in the autumn of 2018. She accidentally left her laptop at home, so she picked up a copy of the *Economist* magazine and read about the 1918 flu pandemic.

"I was captured by a detail in article that pregnant women or women who just gave birth were most likely to catch the flu or have complications from it," said Donoghue.

She read a lot of medical books and mid-wife material to try and capture an accurate image of a maternity ward over 100 years ago. She wrote the novel and sold it in 2019. It was set to come out in mid 2020 and Covid hit. She feared the pandemic would halt its production.

"I thought they are going to cancel it. No one is going to want to read about a pandemic during a pandemic," she recalled. Turns out she was wrong. Her publicists pushed for its early release.

Pull of the Stars got its name from a medieval Italian theory that any disease outbreak, called an influenza, was thought to be influenced by stars.

Donoghue's visit to Paris also served

as a stop in her current book tour to promote her newly released novel, *The Paris Express*, about the infamous 1895 disaster at the Paris Montparnasse train station. She saw a picture of the disastrous crash site and knew it would be the basis of her next novel. She moved to Paris for a year to write the novel. She recalls living that year in both 2022 and 1895 and called it surreal experience. Her daily walks down the Paris streetscapes and the things she witnessed were brought to life in her book.

"One of the things that drew me in about it (the crash) was it was set in a time with such enthusiasm for technology, so I thought I want the people on this train to be people who are excited about new technology and speed."

Donoghue spent a great deal of time developing the characters of different wealth and status. She started by developing characters for people she knew would be on the train, such as the crew. Then she created a handful of passengers, the big wigs as she called them, who filled first class. To learn more about these characters, she had almost 40 articles to draw on from the French press.

"It might seem like a coincidence they were on the train that day, but I think they were why it happened (the crash)," said

Donoghue, referring to one millionaire character who insisted the train stop near his house to attach his private railway carriage. The delay caused the train to speed up to get back on schedule.

In the end, said Donoghue, "It's all about one entitled millionaire messing things up for the rest of the world."

The irony of her words, in comparison to current events, was not lost on the audience that roared with laughter.

Donoghue spent months researching her characters, making sure they had a good backstory and brought the right vibes to each class. She placed a real essence on time throughout the novel, a subtle nod to a ticking clock, knowing all the characters were within the last hours of their lives.

Following her live interview with Emma Johnston, Adult Program and Outreach Services for the County of Brant Public Library, Donoghue stayed to sign autographs and mingle with star-struck fans who were thrilled to meet such a creative literary mind.

Copies of Donoghue's books are available at all County of Brant Library Branches or at Riverside Bookshelf on Dundas Street in Paris.

Lend your story to the Voice of the River

Grand River Community Play Project will make a stop in Paris



**CULTURAL
CORRESPONDENT**

Ruby Jones

The Grand River and Nith River converging downtown Paris is one of the most beautiful aspects about this town.

It's a spot steeped in history, industry and stories of all kinds - Indigenous stories, nature stories, stories of workers, of women and of animals. It's so ingrained in our history that an exciting and innovative theatre is in the making to gather, record and then present these stories. This community play will connect the communities and inhabitants that live along the Grand River, making a stop in Paris too. Titled, The

Voice of The River: Grand River Community Play Project, will be produced by the Canadian Centre for Rural Creativity.

After several years in development, this August the production will start at the headwaters of the Grand in Dundalk and will work its way down the river to the mouth at Lake Erie stopping in natural settings, villages and towns along the way. The Voice of The River is about community and the meaningful connection to Indigenous leaders and inhabitants along the Grand River. It is an inclusive and creative activity involving artists, municipal and Indigenous leaders, scientists, Elders, Community folk, children, NFP organizations, educational institutions - and most importantly, the Grand River.

This is an all-inclusive event - anyone can participate in whatever manner they are comfortable. Between now and August, production members will visit participating communities to host story circles. These circle stories include workshops in everything from building a unique community large puppet, costumes, stitching unique story-telling quilt squares, building set pieces, making props, and all manner of performance in



If you have a story to share about the Grand River, which you'd like to be a part of an upcoming play called *The Voices of the River*, be sure to pop by Wincey Mills on Tuesday April 22nd at 7 pm to share your story and learn more about this community collaboration. (MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTO)

acting and singing with plenty of Grand River storytelling.

This is a project about storytelling - in all the ways stories can be told - in spoken word, in song, in dance, ceremony, in art installation, in craft, in silence, through different cultural lenses, and via technology. And the people of Paris and Brant are invited to get involved! Whether that's through telling their stories, supporting in creation of props, costumes or other theatrics, helping

with set up and take down, etc, there are so many ways to get involved, to support this event. You can learn more about it at an open community meeting on Tuesday April 22nd from 7 pm at The Paris Wincey Mills Co.

This community meeting is open to anyone who wants to learn more about the project as an individual or representing an organization. If you feel comfortable bringing and sharing a story of the Grand River - or the Nith,

or the land around it - there will be space and time for sharing, listening and reflecting.

The Voice of The River series finale will happen at Chiefswood Park with celebrations, ceremonies, entertainment, refreshments and folks coming together from up and down this stretch of the Grand River. Come along and learn more about this totally unique and original community creation! You can also learn more on www.ruralcreativity.org



We Need Volunteers!

The Provincial Summer Games are coming to Brantford this Summer July 10-13th!

Over 500 volunteers are needed to help in the following areas:

- Sports and event venues
- Opening and Closing ceremonies
- and many more!

More information will be forthcoming, including the use of an app and sign-up for schedules, times and venues.

All volunteers will be required to complete a Police Record Check that is valid within one year.

Register at <https://provincialgames.com/volunteer/>

Thank you for your interest!






Paris Lions Club donations to Special Olympics Games



The Paris Lions Club made a recent donation to the Special Olympics Games. Pictured is Paris Lion Ted proudly presenting a cheque to Special Olympics Games Ambassador Spencer! This generous donation will directly support the Special Olympics Provincial Games coming to Brantford this summer.

Ladies Dart League: Marg Attlebery records highest score

It was another fun filled night of laughter and celebration at Branch 29 Legion. Thursday nights the Legion erupts with the arrival of the 'crazy girls'. Music gets turned up and furniture rearranged to set the stage. Funny start to the night was trying to count the number of players. If all else fails do roll call count off.

Last night saw the return of some old faces Marg Attlebery and Kris Ayres welcome back! Marg didn't miss a beat with the high

score of the night of 96!

The tone was set for a party with the birthday girl of the night Michele Sowden receiving best wishes from all and even won the 50/50!

Next week will be our Easter darts. Spring better join us for our celebration! Pictures next week so stay tuned. All ladies welcome at the Legion 7 pm to 9 pm Thursday to join in the fun.

Paris Billiards Beat at Sharkeys in Brantford

SCOOP STEWART

Sports Correspondent

Thursday night Paris billiards league was dominated by Oscar Emerson. Here's a look at this week's highlights.

MVP

Oscar Emerson, hailed as the MVP of the night, achieved a flawless record of 10 wins and zero losses. A remarkable feat that left spectators in awe, proving that excellence knows no bounds.

Winners

In a display of sheer skill and finesse, Oscar Emerson alongside the formidable Jim Flood conquered their adversaries with precision and grace, triumphing like masters of the game.

Runners up

The seasoned duo of Uncle Larry Pickering and Jason Holmes in a thrilling final showdown, alas they were outplayed by Oscar Emerson and his teammate Floody.

Winners of the losers

Steve Kopp and Robb Willson secured their well-deserved title as the Winners of the losers with an unmatched display of talent and resilience.

Good guy award

Beyond his exceptional skills on the table, Oscar Emerson also shone as the embodiment of sportsmanship, selflessly taking on the role of designated driver for his companions from the north end of Paris, embodying the true spirit of camaraderie without seeking any recognition or reward. Never asking for any gas money... Nor does he ever receive any.

Shot of the night

Every shot taken by Oscar Emerson was a work of art, executed with a cold and calculated precision that left opponents in awe, showcasing his mastery of the game and leaving a lasting impression on all who bore witness to his brilliance.

Quote in the evening

By Oscar Emerson "first pancakes off the griddle are for the kids," said the elder statesman as somebody luckily made a ball early in a match.

It was a privilege to watch the old pro Oscar Emerson shark his way around the table all evening. Scoop Stewart signing off for another week always a pleasure.

OPP briefs

OPP seek assistance in identifying theft suspect

On April 3, 2025, at approximately 9:27 a.m., members of the Brant County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a theft at a Grand River Street North business, in Paris.

It was discovered that a theft had occurred on April 1, 2025, at approximately 7:20 a.m. It was determined that a female suspect entered a store and removed approximately \$500 worth of products. The suspect then exited the store and entered a white coloured van, which left the area in an unknown direction.

The suspect is described as a middle-aged white female, with medium-long blonde hair, wearing white shoes, black pants and sweater, a blue jacket, a grey scarf, and carrying a large grey tote bag.

The OPP is continuing to investigate and is asking businesses in the area with video surveillance systems to check their footage to see if they may have captured the suspect or the vehicle involved. Anyone with information is being asked to call police at 1-888-310-1122.

Should you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a secure web tip at www.crimestoppersbb.com.

The investigation is continuing.



Images of a person wanted in connection to a theft from a Grand River Street North business on April 1st.

Officer discovers break and enter at north end convenience store

On April 5, 2025, at approximately 7:30 a.m., while conducting patrols in North Paris, a member of the County of Brant OPP discovered a break and enter at a convenience store on Grand River Street North.

Upon investigating, the officer observed a damaged glass door on the south side of the building.

A female suspect was captured on video surveillance and is described as wearing a long winter coat with the hood up, goggles, a face mask, and gloves.

The OPP is continuing to investigate and is asking residents and businesses in the area with video surveillance systems to check their footage to see if they may have captured the suspect involved. Anyone with information is being asked to call police at 1-888-310-1122.

Should you wish to remain anonymous you can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or leave an anonymous online message at www.crimestoppersbb.com where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

The investigation is continuing.

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

The Paris Independent SPORTS



Sponsored by Paris Canadian Tire

U9MD Wolfpack teams wrap up a successful season

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Submitted Content

The Southern Counties U9MD Year End Tournament was held from April 4–6 at the Brant Sports Complex in Paris. The Paris Wolfpack proudly entered two teams into this event: the U9MD Tier 1 team competed in the “A” division, while the U9MD Tier 2 team played in the “C” division.

Both teams enjoyed highly successful seasons, with every player showing noticeable improvement both on and off the ice. The growth, effort, and dedication from these young athletes were truly impressive.

A huge shoutout goes to all the volunteers who supported our teams throughout the season—your time and commitment played a big part in making this year such a success. Thank you!

Paris Wolfpack U9MD Tier 2

This team capped off an impressive season by going undefeated in the Southern Counties Year-End Tournament, securing the gold medal in the C division.

The team’s remarkable weekend began on Friday with a thrilling 7-5 victory over the Plattville Rage. Later that day, Paris pulled off a 7-1 win against the East Elgin Attack. Next, they faced off against the Delhi 59ers and earned a 4-1 win. That was followed by a dominant 4-0 shutout against the Tavistock Titans. In the semi-finals, Paris was placed against the fourth-place East Elgin Attack for a second time and won with a close final of 3-2. The championship game was an intense battle that Paris won 4-3 in overtime. This victory marks the end of an unforgettable season for the



Pictured with their gold medals are (in no order) Gordon Fisher, Avery Speagle, Bradley Enes, Lennon Smith, Hayden Norton, Christian Bark, Austin Mayne, Nathan Farrell, Noel Farrell, Beau Gallant, Madelyn Taylor, Freddy Promoli, Cecil Burbridge, and our all-star goalie, William Rosebrugh. Coaches: Josh Fisher, Mike Norton, Darryl Bark, Isaac Rosebrugh and team manager Holly Taylor

Paris U9MD Tier 2 team, who demonstrated skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the tournament. Congratulations to the Paris Wolfpack U9MD Tier 2 team on their well-deserved gold medal!

A special thank you to the team’s sponsors for the 2024/2025 season: Brantworth

Mechanical, All Pro Systems Ltd, Primemax Energy Inc., Brant Overhead Doors, The Electricians, City Air- GTA Heating & Air Conditioning, Brant Mutual Insurance - Breagh Lengyell – Personal, Farm and Commercial Agent, Desloovere Electric, Lanca Contracting, The Healing Patch, BC

Plumbing, Isaac Rosebrugh Mortgage Broker & Realtor, and Cambridge Brass

Paris Wolfpack U9MD Tier 1

It was an incredible season for the Paris Wolfpack U9MD Tier 1 team! Every game was a battle, and they showed incredible resilience throughout the Southern Counties Year End Tournament. Despite a tough 2-1 loss to the Norfolk Knights to start, the team bounced back with impressive wins, including a solid 7-2 victory over the Delhi 59ers and a hard-fought 4-3 win over the Tillsonburg Tornadoes.

After finishing in 1st place in the round robin, they faced Norfolk once again in a dramatic 1-0 shutout in the semi-finals, showcasing their determination and grit. While they came up short in the final against a strong Tillsonburg team, earning silver in the A division is a huge accomplishment. This was an amazing season for the Paris Wolfpack U9MD Tier 1 team—Congratulations to all the players, coaches, and supporters on a job well done!

A special thank you to the team’s amazing sponsors this season, the players, coaches and parents appreciate your support. Sponsors included: DCB Electrical Inc, Mainsteel, Dudley Lambert LLP Lawyers, Slager Exteriors, Handkind Construction, Greatway Financial, Quality Custom Exteriors, Stybek Roofing, Assante Wealth Management- Evelyn Oliver, Phil Russ Construction, Willson Sand and Gravel, GB Excavating Inc, and Tora Inc.



Pictured, in no order, are Beckett Willson, Emerson Lambert, Oliver Korslick, Wesley Neves, Cohen Wallis, Eli Forbes, Oliver Mac, Dawson Jager, Carter Goodman, Hudson Boakes, Mason Slager, Maddox Vieira and our amazing goalie “The Great Wall of Brittain” Levi Brittain. Coaches: Cam Wallis, Matt Lambert, Josh Korslick, Blair Goodman, Dallas Boakes and Xavier Cormier.

Paris Curling Club Choose Your Own League Winners

The season is ending at the Paris Curling Club and some teams are sweeping up with some impressive hardware! The Tuesday Night and Thursday Night Choose-Your-Own Leagues, generally considered the most competitive leagues in the club, allow curlers to choose their own team with no gender restrictions. The leagues are played as one long round robin season with every team playing one another at least once. The teams are then divided into A, B and C divisions and playoffs follow. The 2024/2025 Thursday Night CYO winners include: 'C' Champions Team Doran and Team Cunningham who played to an 8-end tie and decided to leave it that way! Team Cunningham consisted of Susan Cunningham, Max Todd, Darryl Maidment and Bruce MacGregor and Team Doran consisted of Jonah Doran, Ryan Benson, Robin Parker and Clark McDonald. 'B' Champions was Team Vivian – Jeff Vivian, Bill Skoretz, Gavin Jacklyn, John Brown, and Bruce Hawley.



Thursday CYO 'A' Champions was Team Hofstetter - Tucker Hofstetter, Justin Fraser (absent from photo), Dane Monkhouse and Ian Henwood.



Tuesday CYO 'A' Champions, and defending champions at that, was Team Maude - Bryan Maude, Michael Johnson, John Brown and Randy Knowles.

Interfaith League Duck Trophy Presented



Pictured are the winners of the Paris Curling Club's Duck Trophy, presented by Mike Bell from Becket and Glaves Funeral Home. Accepting the award is Sheila Lobsinger, lead, Neil Murray, vice, Dan Nadon, skip, absent, Gary Elmes, second. The Interfaith League curls every Monday morning at the Paris Curling Club from October to March. Come join a relaxed, fun-loving group who shares lots of laughs and friendships.



Tuesday Night CYO 'B' Champions was Team Vivian – Jeff Vivian, Kevin Scheifele, Max Todd and spare Gavin Jacklyn (Absent, Wray Brimmer and Bill Giroux).

PARIS SPORTS HEROES:

Great things come in small packages

SCOOP STEWART

Paris Independent Sports Reporter

This Paris local sports hero could do it all. First off, besides being a multi sport athlete, Wilfred Robinson Cockburn (better known as Buzz Senior.) was only 5'6" but was an excellent athlete plus a gentleman and a scholar first. I knew his son Keith Buzz Junior and we played hockey every other year, so I got to know senior pretty good over the years. He was always dressed, immaculate or "Dapper Dan" as my mother used to say and always had a smile on his face.

Buzz Sr. started his career in 1938-39 and he played pro hockey for the Miami Clippers in the inaugural season of the Tropical Hockey League and won rookie of the year! When the war broke out, Buzz joined the Air Force and played from 1941-46. He played goalie for the R.C.A.F. hockey team while in the service. When the war was over, he came back to Paris and picked up where he left off.

In 1946-47 he backstopped the Brantford Redmen to an Intermediate Provincial A Championship. Buzz Sr. also played Intermediate and Senior A with the Aly-

mer Trojans. In the summertime he was an outstanding second base man and played senior baseball with the Brantford Red Sox for several years.

Buzz Sr. was also an avid bowler that played at the Broadway bowling lanes in Paris in a few men's leagues for years and in 1957 Bowled a perfect 5 pin game (score 450)!

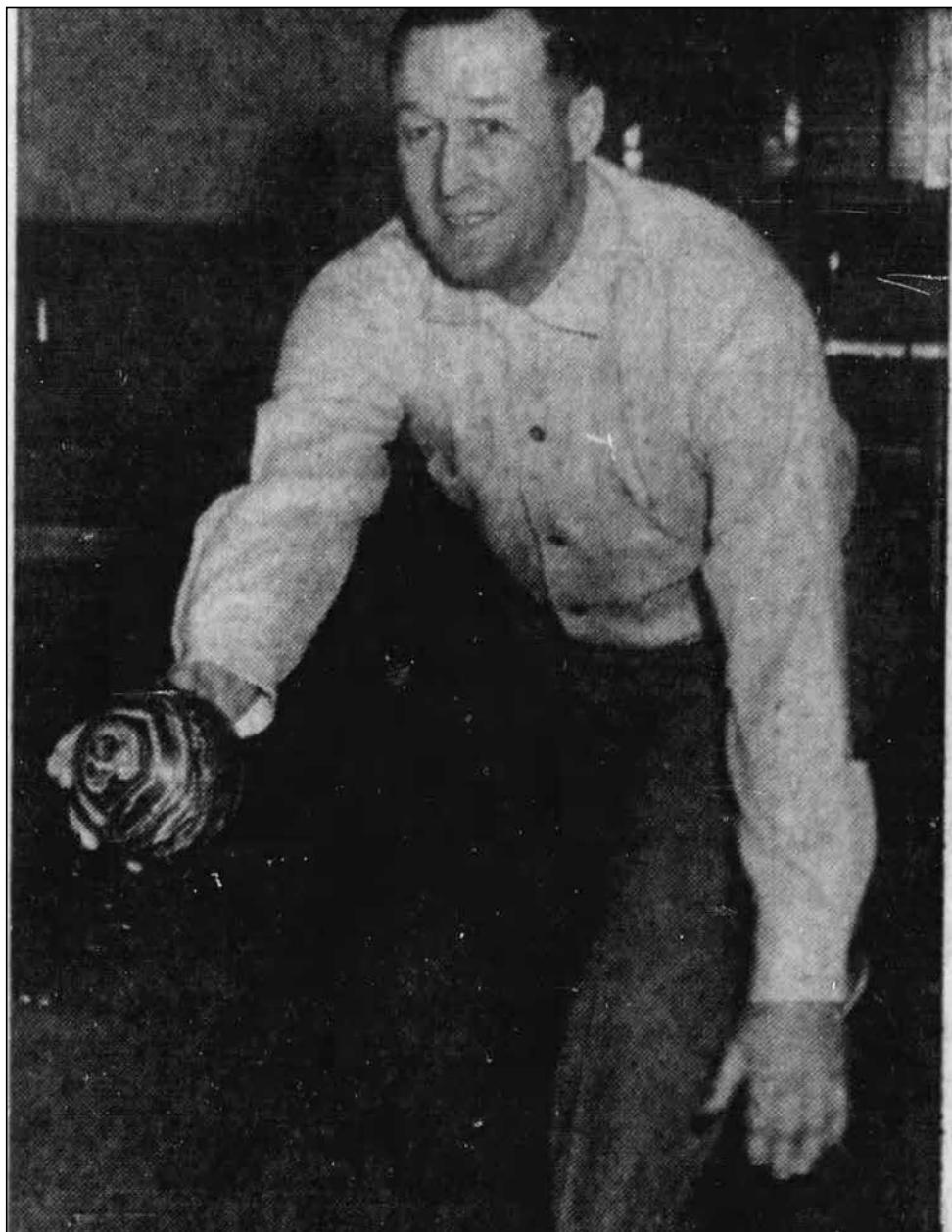
After Buzz was done competing for himself, he lent his time and experience to coach minor baseball and hockey in Paris, umpire minor ball in various local towns, volunteered with the Paris 29ers intermediate hockey club from 1970-80 and volunteered with the Brantford Alexander's junior A hockey club from 1978-84.

Just to top things off besides being pro hockey goalie, inter county baseball star, good if not great bowler he also was an avid golfer and a proud member of the hole in one club. WOW! I asked Buzz Junior if dad was good at all sports and very modestly like his father said anything with hand eye coordination would not take him long to master.

This is Scoop Stewart signing off until next month when we will talk about the father and son hockey stars (Ace and Motor) "always a pleasure".



Pictured during his pro career with the Miami Clippers, 1938-39. Buzz is pictured with Kit Clein (left) and Maddy Horn (right), pro speed skaters.



Buzz Cockburn realizes a bowler's dream – a perfect game! Photo obtained from 1957 Brantford Expositor.

Club Champions Crowned



The Paris Curling Club opted out of its typical year-end weekend tournament to determine its Club Champion instead using a different format to crown the top team. The club looked at the season wins from its most competitive leagues: Tuesday and Thursday evening Choose-Your-Own leagues and the team with the most wins was awarded the Club Championship title. This year's group played strong all season and finished with a record of 17-4-1 on Tuesday nights. A big congratulations goes out to the Team Flewelling, pictured from left to right, Mike Schell, Mike Flewelling, Amy Henwood, Dane Monkhouse.

Strongman Competitors display remarkable strength and sportsmanship



SPORTS Report

By George Le Gresley

In Canada's history, we have seen many strong men. Of note was Louis Cyr, who lifted 18 men on a platform weighing 4,336 pounds (1,967 kg) and lifted a 534-pound weight with one finger, just to name a few of his achievements. Although one can't say if these feats were fact or legend, Monsieur Cyr's strength was legendary.

Strongmen competitions are something I think most people watch when there isn't much on television. There is no doubt, that these guys are strong, lifting enormous weights in unusual events. So, what motivated me to

go to a strongman competition in Guelph? I have a friend, Scott Noble, who is my son's brother-in-law and favorite uncle to my youngest grandchildren. Scott is an exceptional individual, as he generously gives his time to building water wells and water delivery systems in parts of Africa and Cuba, builds beautiful custom wood furniture and is a talented renovator of homes. Besides all these things that take up his time, he has been training diligently by lifting huge weights. Although I'm not sure what motivates him to do this, he has been diligent in his training and I was going to cheer him on.

The first thing you notice at a strongman competition is that strongmen and women come in different sizes. They are all there to compete but also to cheer on others to do their best in all their events. Watching these folks compete, you can't help but applaud and cheer them on to do one more lift.

The first event was a car squat, in which participants lifted the rear end of a Toyota Echo and counted the number of times they did it. To make things harder, a 10-kilogram plate was added to every repetition. This event can

only be described as torture, with a judge screaming at the lifters to push one more lift of the vehicle behind them.

Next, a log lift, which looked like a large welder's tank, with handles inside and where on the outside extra weight plates were added!

The "Husafell Carry" is a timed event in which the competitor carries a pentagon-shaped steel can filled with heavy plates over a distance.

The "Frame Carry," a combination speed, weight, and speed event, involves a competitor lifting a frame down one length and, on the return lap, using extra weights to make it just a bit more difficult!

The final event is when the competitor has to hold a 24 kg kettlebell with their arms outstretched for as long as they can without breaking a horizontal plane.

In the end, I learned that these athletes who dedicate a lot of time and deal with injuries to this sport do it to beat their personal bests. They are a group, wherever they land on the leaderboard, that encourages each other to do their best. They are indeed true sportsmen and women.



(GEORGE LE GRESLEY PHOTO)

Scott Noble showing his strength in the log lift at the Weight Pit Strongman competition in Guelph on March 29th.

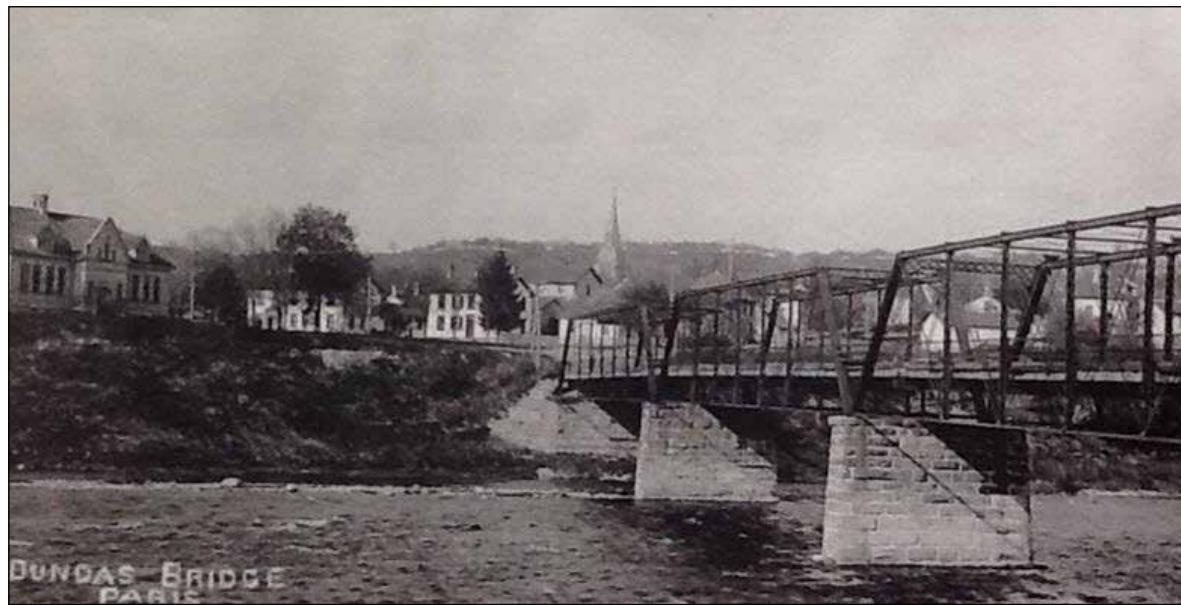
Reminiscing of the bridge that once connected Flats to Upper Town

STONES Around Town

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

In my wanderings through the intricacies of our cherished town, an array of musings and discoveries unfolds before me, igniting both contemplation and delight. Join me as we delve into the enchanting realm of Paris, leaving no stone unturned.

With a light-hearted spirit, I find myself reminiscing about the bygone iron bridge that once connected us to the old south end of Paris from the Flats. For many of us who grew up in the Willow Street vicinity across the Grand River from upper town, the old iron bridge stood as a pivotal link over the Grand River from Dundas Street before the advent of



A 1910 picture of the bridge that once connected the flats to the south end of Paris. In the far left of the photo is the old South Ward School, now the Paris Children's Montessori.

today's high-level bridge. Initially serving as a primary thoroughfare, the bridge later transitioned into a pedestrian passageway, offering a shortcut for us youthful denizens en route to South

Ward Elementary School (today's Montessori Children's Academy at 2 Ball Street). Over time, as the bridge weathered and aged, its structural integrity waned, prompting its eventual closure

to the public. Despite this, we resourceful youngsters persisted in using it until the town administration, compelled to act, allocated approximately \$10,000 for the bridge's removal.

Reflecting on the sagacious words of the late Gord Moore, who spoke eloquently about the symbiotic interplay between progress and change, "with change comes progress and with progress comes change," I find newfound resonance in his words. What once eluded my comprehension as a youth now resonates deeply with me.

As I draw this week's narrative to a close, the profound wisdom of my dear friend Croosh reverberates in my thoughts: "Safety is a six-letter word and a seven-day concern." Wherever his spirit may now reside, his counsel remains steadfast. Let us heed his admonition and safeguard the well-being of all who call this town home. In the spirit of camaraderie, I bid you adieu, my dear readers.

I invite your reflections and insights, with a gentle reminder to embrace kindness in all our interactions, for therein lies the essence of our shared journey.

Yours in contemplation and unity, Stones

First Responders fire up the crowd during friendly fundraising game



In no order, members of the Paris Station include Tyler Svirk, DJ Linkert, Mark DeWachter, Nate Ferris, Phil Dalpe, Jon Morris, Butch Poland, Paul Watson, Matt Amy, Tom Granby, Jamey Brosseau, Dan Aiston, Terry Exner, Rodney Marcellus, Luc Lawrence, Phil Ruiss, Joe Tothe and Richard del Rosa. Members of the Airport/County Stations include Chad Box, Will Gall, Alex Grinton, Curtis Smethurst, Matt Gingras, Adam Steenburg, Braden Foster, Joshua Blayney, Dwayne Hill, Ethan Tollar, Rob Mercer, Jace Chowhan, Brodie Smith, Zachary Nastasuik, Keith Stouffer, Bobby Lake and Carson Couture.

(MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

Paris Fire Stations 1&9 hosted the Airport/County Stations in a fundraiser game that brought just the right mix of competitiveness and recreation to the Brant Sports Complex on Sunday afternoon.

A couple hundred fans flocked to the arena on April 13th for the fundraising game in support of Community Living Brant, an organization that has supported adults with developmental disabilities in Brant County and Brantford for over 70 years.

Grace Morton kick started the opening ceremonies with a flawless rendition of O 'Canada. Fifteen-year-old Morton, who lives in Paris, takes lessons at the Triple Arts Academy and has sung since the age of 5. She said she was happy to be a part of the afternoon. Her dad is a member of the Brantford Police Services, so her family regularly attends events in support of the community's first responders.

There was a silent auction table set up in the lobby with generous donations from local businesses and County of Brant Fire Prevention officers Carly Murray and Lisa Herbert played games with young visitors to promote fire safety. The Food Donation bin, in support of the Salvation Army Food Bank, was overflowing from community support.

The game got underway with the same energy and competitiveness you'd expect at an OHL playoff game, not two recreational hockey teams that play for fun and to let off a little steam. Paris struck first just over a minute into the game, on a sharp shot from Phil Dalpe. Paris held that lead until the end of the first period when Airport netted two quick goals in the last five minutes to end the period with Paris trailing 2-1. Airport added its third goal of the game only a minute into the second period, but Paris responded minutes later when Nate Ferris tipped in a loose puck out front of the net to make it a 3-2 game. It was all Airport for the next two goals,

despite Rodney Marcellus' heroic dives between the pipes to keep the puck out. He moved with ease for a seasoned goalie, showing the crowd some skills stay with you for life! Luc Lawrence fired a bullet top shelf to end the second period and close the gap to 5-3.

Paris' momentum picked up when Tom Granby stepped up on Airport's Rob Mercer, said Dalpe, and the fans loved it too.

The first half of the third period was relatively quiet with both teams trading some key defensive plays and playful jabs. Spectators were starting to wonder if the two referees, Mike Sinclair and Sean Koeck, were asleep on the job since they didn't put anyone in the sin bin despite some questionable holds. Halfway through the third, Airport looked to secure their lead with a goal but not to be out done, Paris had a little steam left in the tank to respond when Ferris slid another one past the Airport goalie to make it 6-4. The excitement was short lived for Paris fans as Airport clapped back 10 seconds later for the final goal of the game, making it a 7-4 Airport victory.

The game's standout players were recognized: Nate Ferris from the Paris Station picked up the third star, Zachary Nastasuik, representing the Airport team, received the second star and Curtis Smethurst, also from the Airport team, received the first star of the game.

Dalpe said Paris felt a little defeated post-game, noting they know what they need to work on before the next game, but "all in all, it was fun!"

It was hard to tell what team brought more support as an equal amount of excitement erupted when players scored goals, made saves or broke up breakaways. They may have worn different jerseys, but they are family. They all fight on the same team off the ice and that comradery as very apparent on the ice from the fun jabs to playful fights, it was entertaining and interspersed with moments of genuine hockey skill.



Community Living Brant Executive Director Cristin Ladner drops the puck on Sunday's fundraising game between the Paris Firefighters and Airport/County Firefighters. Pictured taking the face off for Airport is Chad Box and for Paris is Richard del Rosa.



Emma Linkert, 8 (right) and Avery Linkert, 6 (left) cheer on their dad DJ Linkert, a firefighter with the Paris Station.

(CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTOS)



Paris goalie Tyler Svirk makes a dramatic dive and save during the third period. (MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)



Tom Granby squares off with Jamey Brosseau in the third period. (MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)



DJ Linkert celebrates with Luc Lawrence after Luc scored Paris' third goal of the game. (MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)



Three-year-old Henry Granby and 6-year-old Teddy Granby were Team Paris, cheering on their dad, Tom Granby. (CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTOS)



Richard del Rosa takes a shot on net while teammates Nate Ferris and Luc Lawrence wait to catch a rebound. (MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)



Paris Station firefighter Luc Lawrence gets caught up in a moment with an Airport player during Sunday's game. (MICHELLE MALVASO PHOTOS)



Sparky, along with Fire Prevention Officer Carly Murray, helps some local children learn some key fire prevention facts, while having a little fun. (CASANDRA TURNBULL PHOTOS)

HISTORIC PARIS

PARIS PAST: Reflecting on the Legacy of Cardinal George Bernard Flahiff and the Roots of Sacred Heart Church



By Chris Whelan

On Tuesday, the 22nd of August 1989, the Catholic community mourned the passing of a remarkable clergyman, Cardinal George Bernard Flahiff, in Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital. At the age of 83, the retired Archbishop of Winnipeg and former superior general of the Basilian Fathers of Toronto succumbed to heart failure after battling Alzheimer's disease.

Cardinal Flahiff was widely recognized for his progressive views within the church, advocating for the ordination of women, empowering the laity, and modernizing church liturgy. Despite his esteemed position, he was known for his humble and gentle demeanor.

Born in Paris, he attended Sacred Heart School and Paris District High School before pursuing higher education at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. It was there that he crossed paths with Lester Pearson, the future Prime Minister of Canada, who inspired him to consider a diplomatic career. However, in 1927, Cardinal Flahiff chose a different path and joined the Basilian Fathers, a teaching order with a rich history.

Following his ordination in 1930, Cardinal Flahiff continued his studies in Europe and later returned to Canada to teach medieval history at the University of Toronto. His leadership within the Basilian Fathers culminated in his appointment as Archbishop of Winnipeg in 1961 and his elevation to cardinal status in 1969.



Back home: Cardinal George B. Flahiff (left) a native of Paris who became archbishop of Winnipeg in 1961 and a cardinal in 1969 chats with Father Angelico Valeriotte, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Paris and Ron Hannon, vice-chair-

man of the church board, outside the church on Sunday. Cardinal Flahiff, who was ordained in 1930, was professor of medieval studies at the University of Toronto from 1934-54. He retired as the Winnipeg archbishop four years ago.

The Expositor Mon, Jun 30, 1986 -Page 8, Cardinal George B. Flahiff (left).

(PARIS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

As a cardinal, he played a pivotal role in the church's central administration, assisting popes and representing Canada at significant gatherings like the Second Vatican Council. His contributions extended beyond national borders, with engagements in the Canadian Catholic Conference and the National Liturgical Conference in the United States.

Throughout his lifetime, Cardinal Flahiff received numerous accolades, including honorary

doctorates from esteemed universities and the Companion of the Order of Canada in 1974. In 1982, he retired and returned to the Basilian Fathers in Toronto.

A wake was held in his honor at St. Basil's College Chapel in Toronto, followed by a prayer service at St. Basil's Church. The funeral mass, led by Archbishop of Toronto G. Emmett Cardinal Carter, took place at St. Michael's Cathedral, marking the final farewell to a beloved clergyman

whose legacy continues to resonate within the Canadian Catholic community.

In remembering Cardinal George Bernard Flahiff, we are also reminded of the rich history and enduring faith that lay at the heart of Sacred Heart Church in Paris, Ontario. The foundation of this church was built upon the unwavering dedication of a community of Catholics, predominantly of Irish descent, who, in the early days, faced the challenge of being

geographically distant from the nearest place of worship. Their arduous 36.5-kilometer pilgrimage to Dundas for Mass not only symbolized their deep faith but also strengthened their sense of unity and communal spirit.

The year 1836 marked a significant turning point in the parish's narrative when a group of committed individuals from Brant County recognized the need for a local Catholic Church. Driven by the necessity to have a nearby spiritual haven, these pioneers gathered to select the site for what would eventually become the first Catholic Church in the region.

The generosity of Hiram Capron, the esteemed founder of Paris, played a pivotal role in realizing the dream of a local place of worship. In 1837, on land graciously provided by Capron, a modest frame church emerged, serving as a beacon of faith in the growing community. This humble structure not only offered a sanctuary for worship but also laid the groundwork for a spiritual heritage that would endure for generations to come.

During the early years of the church, priests from Dundas undertook the demanding journey to minister to the spiritual needs of the parishioners. Despite the challenges of distance and limited resources, the members of the parish showcased unwavering dedication and a steadfast commitment to their faith. The shared journey of faith and the sense of community that blossomed within Sacred Heart Church mirrored the spirit and values that Cardinal Flahiff embodied throughout his life.

As we look back on the intertwined histories of Cardinal Flahiff and Sacred Heart Church, we honor not only their individual legacies but also the enduring bonds of faith, unity, and resilience that continue to shape the fabric of the Catholic community in Paris and beyond.

The
Paris Independent

Contribute to your local community newspaper!

Send articles, sports or event recaps, and photos to
stories@theparisinddependent.com

Forty years of adventure at Circle Square Ranch, anniversary celebrations planned



Over the years, as camper registration expanded, Circle Square Ranch added 4 cabins, a bunkie and, in 2009, a lodge to serve as a small retreat center. In 1993, a Day Camp program was developed and became one of the most popular options. In 2011, ownership of Circle Square Ranch was transferred to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, making the Grand River location one of nine camps across Canada, working alongside InterVarsity's dynamic campus ministry. Join Circle Square Ranch in celebrating 40 years by attending an event – or have your kids make some memories of their own by signing up for summer camp!

PARIS INDEPENDENT

Media Release

Over 30,000 children in southern Ontario and beyond have had some of their most memorable summer moments at Circle Square Ranch, a 135-acre site in the Grand River basin.

When Crossroads Christian Communications, aired a children's program called Circle Square back in the 1970's, Canadian kids loved the show so much that the non-profit decided to take the experience off the screen and created Circle Square Ranch summer camps!

Circle Square Ranch Grand River, located on Colborne Street East, just outside of Brantford, Ontario, and a short drive from Paris, opened in 1985. The Ranch is fully accredited by provincial camping associations, and trained leaders provide an inclusive and outstanding experience for all campers, inspired by their faith and commitment to do their best to help every kid know they are loved and cared for.

This year, in addition to day camp and summer camp for hundreds of kids aged 6-16, Circle Square Ranch will host over 50 different groups on retreats, dozens of school trips, and some special anniversary celebration events.

Anniversary Celebrations:

***Camp Open House: Sunday May 4th, 1-5pm**

Returning campers, potential campers and anyone interested in Circle Square Ranch are invited to an open house! Explore camp, pet the farm animals, and meet the staff team – special summer camp discounts will be available!

***40th Anniversary Alumni Celebration – Sunday June 1st, 1-5pm**

Celebrate 40 years of life-changing adventures and memories of camp! Ranch Alumni are invited to join current staff and volunteers for an afternoon, walking down memory lane and re-connecting with old friends.

“Circle Square Ranch is not just a special summer memory – for so many kids it’s a place where they were inspired to learn new skills, meet lifelong friends, grow in faith, and challenge themselves in so many areas.” says ‘Sheriff’ Steve Richardson, Camp Director since 1999. “Over 40 years we have seen campers grow up, join staff, and send their own kids to camp. We are excited to celebrate this milestone and introduce Circle Square Ranch to the next generation of campers!”



WEEKLY
Horoscope

April 13 - April 19, 2025

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20



Expect some valuable insight regarding your future to emerge in the next few days, Aries. It won't be difficult to set plans in motion when you have the right people on your side.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23



Libra, carefully schedule your time this week, as you cannot afford to get behind on your assignments at work or in school. You also have many important appointments on the calendar.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21



Taurus, take a breather and give some careful thought to your recent experiences and your expectations going forward. You will benefit from this in the long run.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22



Scorpio, someone comes to you for advice this week and wants you to keep their situation private. You need to help them without betraying their request for confidentiality.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21



You are focused on your work, Gemini. However, distractions are beyond your control right now and will pull your attention away from what matters to higher-ups.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21



It is possible your mind will wander this week, Sagittarius. You might not be able to focus on the tasks at hand, and will need to focus extra hard to limit distractions.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22



Romantic endeavors are a little hard to plan and consider right now, Cancer. Just stick to what your intuition is telling you and you will come out just fine in the end.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20



Capricorn, pay attention to detail in all things that you do. Be mindful of this when tending to professional and personal matters.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23



Leo, you might be called upon to be a mediator for friends or loved ones who need a fresh set of eyes. Keep a cool demeanor and a level head and you can lead them to a resolution.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18



Aquarius, the simplest resolution is often the best one. Keep this mind when tackling a perplexing problem in the days ahead.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22



Virgo, you are drawn to creative projects, but avoid using them to put off other endeavors. These distractions will only delay the inevitable and then you'll be pressed for time.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20



Pisces, you are eager to sail through your to-do list, and certain tasks need to be postponed to address those that are high-priority. Rearrange things accordingly.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 13
Rick Schroder, Actor (55)

APRIL 14
Chris Wood, Actor (37)

APRIL 15
Jordan Chiles, Athlete (24)

APRIL 16
Sadie Sink, Actress (23)

APRIL 17
Victoria Beckham, Designer (51)

APRIL 18
Conan O'Brien, TV Host (62)

APRIL 19
Loren Gray, Singer (23)



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GRANTHAVEN.COM**

Paris woman makes best of Snowbird experience in Florida



PARIS TRAVEL COLUMNIST
Karon Sinning

While there have been many changes for Canadians here in the US, life in the park can still be fun. For me, there was still the stained glass workshop, where I completed a small candle holder. I also branched out of my comfort zone and tried quilting.

I had already thought about sewing and had made an inquiry with classes offered in Paris by Prinx Lydia, at Rebel & Royal for the spring. I am definitely not a sewer, but with three months ahead of me, I borrowed a sewing machine from a friend before we left Paris. This turned out to be a great move!

I didn't even know how to thread the dang machine! While signing up was a little rocky, I was initially told I needed more experience, the lady I had origi-

nally spoken to, Donna, quickly let me know that she would personally help me with whatever I needed. She started me out on a placemat.

The class is quilting and there are a great bunch of ladies in it. The projects these women make are astounding. From blankets to purses, if it can be quilted, they can make it! Personal sewing machines are brought into the clubhouse and set up wherever you can find an electrical outlet. The clubhouse offers very large tables for laying out fabric which is ideal for larger projects.

However, for the purposes of this workshop a quilted bag was chosen. Kits for the Flamingo bag was purchased for all and work on them quickly started up. I admit to falling a bit behind, having to learn some basics first, like threading the machine and winding a bobbin! Donna is an amazing teacher. An actual retired Grade 2 teacher, she kept everything I needed to know at a simple level and soon I was whizzing away!

I was not the only newbie in this class, but I'm certain I was the most inexperienced. All the ladies were very encouraging when they knew this was my first sewing project. Not just my first quilting project.

You start by cutting out the pieces. The pattern for the Flamingo, which becomes the handle of the bag, has to be cut.

Then other pieces were cut by measurement. Some of the more experienced sewers were quick to produce their bags, but I was not the only one taking my time.

As we are in a travel trailer, there was nowhere other than the clubhouse I could set up a sewing machine. Being a great teacher, Donna offered me extra help by sewing in her unit, a park model trailer. This was just the encouragement I needed. In a couple of mornings I was able to catch up with the rest of the class.

I also had visitors come this year. My cousin from North Carolina and my sister and a friend from Paris. This meant I would be missing a few of the quilt classes. With Donna's help, I was able to complete my bag just as my cousin arrived in February.

We also attended a Blue Jays baseball game, and the boys of summer won 13 to 3 against Detroit Tigers! An all-around great day!

It was lovely to have family and friends to tour around with. We got to enjoy a few things we hadn't done last year: the Lipizzan Horse show, the chain of lakes boat tour in Winter Haven, the massive RV show in Tampa, an airboat tour and dining out at some pretty great restaurants.

Afterwards it was back to sewing! Donna arranged a trip to the Quilt Show in Lakeland about 45 minutes from us. When we arrived, we met a lovely lady



Paris resident Marie Williamson (sitting) accompanied Karon on the Chain of Lakes Boat Tour during a recent stay in Florida. Karon made the best of her Snowbird experience, despite the many changes for Canadian residents under a new Republican government.

named Bert, who was on her own. We added her to our group of 4 and had a great time at the show.

Also this year, I met a couple of DNA cousins from my mother's side of the family. I have been enjoying the genealogy sites, especially Ancestry. However, Jill had contacted me through 23andMe last year. We were not able to connect in person then. But this year we were both determined to meet! Jill would bring her sister June and come to where we were in Bowling Green. They are in

the Tampa area so about 1.5 hr drive to us.

We met at our local breakfast restaurant, Gloria's, and had a great time discussing family connections. We were able to determine based on our designation as second cousins once removed, that we were related through shared great grandparents. Jill and June were both lovely and I hope to stay in touch with them.

While we are heading to Malta next year, I hope to stay connected to the very good friends we have met here.



Karon and her partner Roy during a Blue Jays Spring training game at Dunedin (Florida). The Jays beat Detroit 13-3.

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Riddles

What kind of bean can't grow in a garden?

A jelly bean.

What happens if you tell a duck an Easter joke?

They'll quack up.

Where does the Easter Bunny get a hair cut?

At the hare salon.

What is the Easter Bunny's favorite dance move?

The bunny hop.

What kind of stories does the Easter Bunny like best?

The ones with hoppy endings.

What is the Easter Bunny's coffee order?

Eggs-presso.



Knock, knock

Who's there?

Doughnut

Doughnut who?

Doughnut forget who stuffed all the Easter eggs this year!

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 26

Sponsored by:



PET OF THE WEEK

MOOSE

Meet our Pet of the Week:

This is Moose. Moose is a 3 yr old Holland lop rabbit who was not feeling well last week but is back on track to good health in time for Easter. He loves hay, an assortment of veggies and lots of cuddles.

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



Word Search

HAPPY EASTER!



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

- Basket
- Bunny
- Candy
- Chick
- Chocolate
- Colourful
- Decorative
- Dye
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Family
- Fun
- Jelly Beans
- Pastels
- Peeps
- Spring
- Tradition
- Tulips

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EMAIL TO INQUIRE INFO@THEPARISINDEPENDENT.COM

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

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

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

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

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

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

APRIL 23 - APRIL 26

Book Fair! The Brantford Symphony Orchestra BOOK FAIR fundraiser takes place April 23-26, hours are 9:30 am- 8 pm Wed-Fri, and 9:30 am- 3pm Saturday. Location: 'One Market' building (1 Market St. at Dalhousie St. T-intersection), Brantford. For more info please call: 226-552-6685.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

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

MONDAY, MAY 5

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

MONDAY, MAY 24

Spring Volunteer Day at Five Oaks - Join us 10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m for a fun-filled day of giving back! Help us tackle property tasks like raking, wood splitting, painting and more! All ages welcome - there's something for everyone, and lunch is included! Volunteer hours are recognized for students. For details visit www.fiveoaks.on.ca or call 519-442-3212



ATTENTION!
URGENT:
BRANCH 29 NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 is in urgent need of volunteers to fill key executive positions. Without support, the future of our branch is at serious risk.

General Meeting:
Wednesday, April 16 @
7:30 PM

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. 1967 | 6. Bamboo |
| 2. Chile | 7. Kelvin Scale |
| 3. Apollo 13 | 8. Riptide/rip current |
| 4. Direct message | 9. Gluteus Maximus |
| 5. Nucleus | 10. April 21st |

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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COMING EVENTS

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

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

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HARVEST
 BY KEN CAMERON
APRIL 30 – MAY 4, 2025
 KNOX UNITED CHURCH

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 OR MUSIC & BOOKS LOCATED IN AYR




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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.

OBITUARY

Power

January 8, 2025



Gerald Michael Power (Jerry)

Passed away peacefully at the Brantford General Hospital on January 8th in his 86th year.

"Jerry" will be greatly missed by his son John, granddaughters Ava and Miley and partner Vickie.

He will also be missed by many family members and his friends at Flamboro Downs.

Jerry "The Baker" lived in Paris. He owned and operated The Paris Bakery for many years.

The Paris Independent

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD HERE!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO!



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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

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Dan MUYS

YOUR CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE
IN BRANT NORTH

CANADA FIRST – FOR A CHANGE

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

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

ABOUT DAN

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



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

- Larry Brock, Brantford-Brant South-Six Nations



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

- Will Bouma, MPP for Brantford-Brant

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



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