



## YOUNG BRANTFORD BROTHERS QUICKLY DEVELOPING SKILLS IN BOXING RING

Linden and Owen Paquette show off trophies from their recent exploits in the boxing ring.

PHOTO BY SEAN ALLEN, BRANT NEWS

SEAN ALLEN  
sallen@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

The Summerhays brothers – Terry, Gary and John – represent the storied history of the sport in Brantford.

The Aucoin brothers – Dave and Chris – are currently on the pro circuit.

If two young Brantford brothers follow through with their passion for the sport of boxing, they might be the next set of Brantford siblings to be known for their fists and footwork.

Linden and Owen Paquette have taken a shine to the sport, training out of the Brantford Black Eye Boxing Club.

Despite their youth – Linden is 14 years old and Owen is 10 – the brothers

have already taken the sport to the next level, fighting in club shows in front of an audience.

Linden is 1-1 in the ring and coming off a strong exhibition showing in his last outing.

Owen is 3-0 and took home a large trophy after scoring a technical knockout of his opponent in the second round during a match in St. Catharines.

“When I get in the ring I

can feel that it’s my sport,” Owen said.

“The coaches at the club are so great, they make you want to train harder, get better and show it off in the ring,” Linden added.

The Paquette brothers got their start at the club just a year and a half ago when dad, Darryl, was looking for a sport outside of the traditional hockey, soccer or baseball.

“Kids that come from

martial arts or boxing backgrounds have a confidence to them,” Darryl said. “It’s great for conditioning and great for discipline.

“They instantly fell in love with the sport and it’s all they want to do now.”

Father and sons are at the boxing club training five days a week – though Linden has to miss the full-time routine on occasion for work.

When the boys’ skills in the ring started showing, coach Jackie Armour approached Darryl about having them fight in sanctioned bouts.

“Jackie saw something in them and the minute he brought it up, they jumped all over it,” Darryl said.

Darryl describes his boys’ styles as “the calm and the storm.”

“Linden is conservative and he’s intellectual about sports,” he said. “At his first fight, I was waiting for someone to bring him a coffee and doughnut in the ring because he was so relaxed.

“Owen is a redhead and his hair colour shows his personality. He’s raring to go all the time and is bouncing up and down in the ring before a fight.”

Linden, a Grade 9 student at St. John’s College, got his first official bout in September at a show in Mississauga.

It was a back and forth affair that Armour said could have gone either way, but Linden ended up on the wrong side of a split decision.

“He gassed out in the second round,” Darryl said. “You could tell he was disappointed because I think he knew that skill-wise he was better.”

Linden buckled down his training for the Ontario Bronze Gloves the next month.

He fought an opponent two years his senior but walked away with the gold medal in the 88-pound divi-

sion for his age bracket at the event.

It was a unanimous decision as the ref gave his opponent two standing eight-counts during the three-round bout.

Linden showcased even more improvement in an exhibition rematch with his opponent from the Bronze Gloves in November at a show in Hamilton.

Owen, who is in Grade 5, had his first fight last April – the day before his 10th birthday.

He fought again in May at a local show hosted by the Brantford Black Eye Boxing Club and scored another win.

Not content to rest on his laurels, Owen started taking on more advanced strategy, training under Armour by working on his angles in the ring.

“I have fast feet and power punches, but I knew I needed to improve my angles,” Owen said. “It felt amazing for it to come together.”

Owen showed off his new dynamic attack last month at an event in St. Catharines. He scored a knockout win in the second round.

“I could feel the adrenaline come out in that one punch,” Owen said.

The trophy Owen received for the victory is more than half his height.

Both brothers said they can’t see themselves anywhere but the boxing ring in the future, but their dad is content to let them follow their own path.

“I like to just give them the tools, they can make the choice with what to do,” Darryl said. “At the end of the day, I get to spend a lot of time with my kids and they are confident, happy and love what they are doing.

“As a parent, that’s all you want.”

Owen said there is one other fringe benefit to boxing training.

“If anyone is ever bugging you, you can give them a little shot,” he said.

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**SPORTS DIGEST**

**Brant ready for smashball**

In an effort to expand the appeal of volleyball to players looking for a little more adrenalin, the Brant Youth Volleyball Club would like to introduce youth to smashball.

The high-octane version of volleyball is played by only two to three players per side – as opposed to six – on a smaller court with a lower net.

Smashball focuses more on the big hits at the net, as opposed to the key first and second contacts in traditional volleyball. The development of the sport has been a tool for attracting more boys to the game.

The Brant club is one of four locations selected by the Ontario Volleyball Association to pilot the program. An eight-week course will begin in mid January at a cost of \$80, but final details haven't been worked out yet. The target is to attract at least 30 boys aged 12 and under.

The Brant Youth Volleyball Club is first seeking coaches to help with the program. Specific training in smashball will be provided by the OVA.

For further information, contact Richard Beedham from the Brant club at 519-448-3785 or info@byvc.ca.

**LOCAL SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL**

**Senior Lions rely on teamwork**

ACS volleyball team two years removed from junior title

SEAN ALLEN  
 sallen@brantnews.com  
**BRANT NEWS**

Now three games into the senior girls high school volleyball season, the Assumption College Lions haven't dropped a set.

But the victories haven't been easy.

The St. John's College Green Eagles came close to stealing the second set in the season-opening game on Dec. 1. And the Brantford Collegiate Institute Mustangs had an early 8-3 lead in the third set last Thursday, before the Lions roared back.

The Lions also swept the North Park Collegiate Trojans in three sets on Tuesday.

The girls use their close relationship on and off the court to recapture momentum when they need it.

"If just one of our girls was out, I don't think our team would work the same," Grade 12 captain Emma Orr said. "When someone's down, the other five on the court pick them up."

The Lions largely feature the same roster of players that won the junior championship two years ago when the bulk of the team was in Grade 10. But the connection goes deeper.

"The core of the team also comes from a rep team," Orr said. "We've been playing together for



ACS Lions player Emma Orr looks to block a hit by BCI Mustangs player Madison MacBride during a senior girls high school volleyball game at Assumption College last Thursday.

PHOTO BY SEAN ALLEN, BRANT NEWS

years in and out of high school."

Despite the early success, Orr said the Lions still have plenty to work on.

"There is a lot of season to play and we have a lot more to learn," she said. "We all need to communicate and continue to gel together as a team."

"We are feeling good about ourselves, but not getting cocky."

The Lions have plans to enter some regional tournaments with the hopes that their season will progress to the point where they get to see some of the teams again at the CWOSSA (Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association) tournament.

"We are trying to get

ourselves out there and hope to make it far enough to see those teams again later on," Orr said.

Fittingly, if the Lions and Paris District High School Panthers both continue their undefeated seasons on Thursday, the Lions and Panthers will meet for the final game before the Christmas break on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Meanwhile, the defending champion BCI Mustangs senior girls fell to the Green Eagles in four sets on Tuesday to fall to 0-3. But that's the same record the team had last season before they went on to win the championship.

With the victory, the Green Eagles are now 2-1 on the season.

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# Trojans looking to shake runner-up status

North Park boys hockey team opens season 2-0-1

SEAN ALLEN  
sallen@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS



NPC Trojans player John Parker-Jones points to teammate Josh Donohue after Donohue finished off a beautiful passing play during an odd-man rush to go up 3-0 on the PJC Thunderbirds during a boys high school hockey game last Thursday at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre. PHOTO BY SEAN ALLEN, BRANT NEWS

Senior members of the North Park Collegiate Trojans have had to watch the Brantford Collegiate Institute Mustangs hoist the boys high school hockey championship trophy for the past two seasons.

They are determined to end that streak this year and are off to a great start. "It's going to be hard, but we are willing to put in the work," captain Will Hurley said.

While they haven't faced their arch nemeses just yet, the Trojans are 2-0-1 on the young season and itching for their first crack at the Mustangs on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Hurley said the Trojans returned a majority of the key players from last season, who helped push them to the championship game before falling to the Mustangs.

"Our strong players are back and we still have strong goaltending," he said.

The Trojans roll two top-notch scoring lines, with John Parker-Jones, Danny Bosett and Josh Donohue leading the charge as the first unit.

Last Thursday against the Pauline Johnson

Collegiate Thunderbirds at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre, the line hooked up for a beautiful goal on an odd-man rush.

Bosett hit Parker-Jones with a cross-ice saucer pass, which Parker-Jones one-timed onto the stick of a streaking Donohue, who chipped it into the net to make it 3-0.

The Trojans went on to win 4-0, also getting goals from Eric DeDobbelaer on a top-shelf wrist shot in the first period, Andrew Brown on a breakaway where he

went five-hole and Hurley on a wrist shot from the hashmarks in the dying minutes.

Not always the case on high school hockey teams, Hurley said most of the Trojans have experience at a high level of minor hockey.

"And those who don't, have shown they belong," he said.

The BCI Mustangs are 3-0 on the season, while the Paris District High School Panthers first loss came to the Trojans on Tuesday by a score of 2-1.

## DuChene defends 10K title

Brantford's Krista DuChene defended her title at the popular Tannenbaum 10-kilometre road race in Toronto on the weekend.

DuChene, who posted a qualifying time for the Canadian Olympic team last spring in the marathon, was back on the racing circuit following recovery from a broken bone in her foot suffered in late August.

She ran a 10-km time of 35:57, finishing as the top



Krista DuChene runs across the finish line at the Tannenbaum 10-kilometre road race in Toronto. SUBMITTED PHOTO

female and eighth overall at the race.

Other Brantford runners also coached by Rick Mannen at the race

included Sarah Kondo, who finished 75th in a personal-best time of 41:33, and Vito Tuori, who was 200th in a personal-best time of 47:29.

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# Trojans win Arizona hoops tournament

Senior boys team getting late start on local season following cross-border trip

SEAN ALLEN  
sallen@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

The North Park Collegiate Trojans haven't had a chance to play much basketball against their local opponents this season.

But they've been extremely busy and their confidence level is high from tournament play.

The Assumption College Lions agreed to postpone Tuesday's scheduled match-up between the Trojans and Lions after the Trojans success on the weekend at a

high school basketball tournament in Arizona. The Trojans won the Mohave Holiday Classic tournament in Bullhead City.

"We went 2-1 in the round robin," coach Todd Andrew said. "Then on Saturday we won our quarter-final and semifinal to make the cham-

pionship against Arlington High School from Riverside, California, which is actually the team that beat us.

"We played a much different game, perhaps a little less jet-lagged and beat them 61-45 in the final."

Trojans point guard Matt Minutillo was named the

tournament MVP, while Grade 10 players Ethan Andrew and Cal Hager were named tournament all-stars. The Trojans have won two of the three tournaments they've played so far this season.

In addition to star point guard Minutillo, the team

that finished second to the Lions last season also returns fifth-year forwards Matt Krason and Ryan Timms. Grade 12 Kyle Webster will be taking on a bigger role, with Hager and Ethan Andrew as big contributors playing up at senior a year early.

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**TOP LEFT:** NPC Trojans player Judah Stewart goes for a layup with ACS Lions player Connor Carter defending during a junior boys basketball game at Assumption College on Tuesday. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Trojans player Dawson John gets past a block attempt from Lions player Kendall Hippolyte. **ABOVE:** PJC Thunderbirds player Darius Benjamin defends against SJC Green Eagles player Zach Dawson during a senior boys basketball game at Pauline Johnson Collegiate last Thursday. **BELOW:** T-Birds player Ryan Pakula brings down a rebound against the Green Eagles.

PHOTOS BY SEAN ALLEN, BRANT NEWS



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# Second-place Dunlops roll into Brantford

## Express Your Selfie night at Blast game on Friday

SEAN ALLEN  
sallen@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

Brantford fans are in for a treat if the visiting Whitby Dunlops and hometown Blast repeat their performances from their first meeting of the season.

The team's treated Whitby fans to a defensive showdown, settling the affair in an eight-round shootout on Nov. 21, with Blast defenseman Mike Burgoyne the only player to find twine in the showdown.

"We hope the intensity and excitement from the shootout game in Whitby carries over at home this Friday night," Blast general manager Peter Ham said. "That game was so entertaining and we fully expect another hard-fought battle against a very good hockey team in the Dunlops."

The Blast defeated the Dundas Real McCoys 5-2 on the road this past Friday to move to 5-3-0 on the season.

The 14 points has the Blast squarely in third place, seven points back of the Dunlops.

The team will look to start closing the gap at Friday's game by solving Dunlops goaltender Jason Guy, who leads the Allan Cup Hockey league with a 2.57 goals-against average.

In addition to regular Friday fan offers, including

the Harvey's hamburger goal if the Blast score five or more times and a Mother's Pizza delivered to the loudest fan, it will be the Blast's third annual Express Your Selfie night at the Brantford and District Civic Centre.

Fans are encouraged to post creative selfies on social media, tagging the Brantford Blast accounts

on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Lyan Photography's Ryan Johnson and Lisa Cassidy will judge the submissions to pick the top three.

Those photos will be put to a fan vote online, with the winner receiving a season's pass for the remaining Blast schedule into the playoffs.

The puck drops against the Dunlops at 7:30 p.m.

### Sean's Hamburger Handicap

The Brantford Blast and Whitby Dunlops shut each other out on Nov. 21, settling things in an eight-round shootout before either goaltender allowed a puck to get past them. With Allan Cup Hockey's goals-against average leader Jason Guy expected back between the pipes for the visiting Dunlops on Friday, one might think Blast fans would be denied.

But the Allan Cup trophy paid a visit to Brantford this past weekend for the Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour. We think seeing the trophy up close will make the Blast players as hungry as their fans.

### Chances of a "Hamburger Goal" at Friday's game: 57%

Brantford Blast ticket holders are treated to a free original hamburger from Harvey's restaurant on King George Road in exchange for their ticket stub within 48 hours of a Friday night Blast home game in which they score five or more goals.



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Brantford 99ers	vs.	Stratford Cullitons
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▶ SPORTS SNAPSHOT



Nash Kinrade watches as Major Ballachey School Bears teammate Gynjer Slezak hits a shot over the net during a junior co-ed volleyball tournament last Thursday. Thirty-two teams from Brantford, Brant and Six Nations participated in the one-day tournament, which featured simultaneous action on three courts at the Branlyn Community Centre. Branlyn Community School won the morning bracket and St. George-German won the afternoon bracket. The two teams will square off on championship night on Monday, Dec. 14, at North Park Collegiate. The junior final at 6 p.m. is followed by the intermediate girls final at 7 p.m. and the intermediate boys final at 8 p.m. Major Ballachey won the spirit award at the junior co-ed tournament.

PHOTO BY BRIAN SHYPULA, BRANT NEWS

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# Local fighters dole out Season's Beatings

Brantford fighters go three-for-three for hometown crowd

SEAN ALLEN  
sallen@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

The local contingent representing on a 12-fight card at the Brantford Hotel this past weekend gave the hometown crowd plenty to cheer about.

Brantford fighters out of Caged Dragon MMA went three-for-three on the card, which was hosted by the Copernicus Drive fitness and training facility.

"It was a sold-out crazy crowd," Caged Dragon owner Todd Whetter said. "From the very first fight, it was an intense night."

Brantford's Alex Rozicki defended his World Kickboxing Federation championship in Muay Thai, up-and-coming St. John's College student Thomas Raby made up for a previous loss on his record in a rematch and Brantford's Zhao Churchill dominated a much more experienced opponent.

"I was proud of all the fighters," Whetter said. "They represented us well." Unfortunately, local Arshprit Singh didn't get to fight because he and his opponent weighed in too far apart, despite both falling in the catchment for their WKF division.

"They have a secondary rule where inside that division they have to be within five pounds of each other," Whetter said. "They just missed it."

But the other three more than made up for one less local on the card.



Alex Rozicki

Churchill was fighting an opponent who has taken his Muay Thai skills to bouts all over the world.

"Most people thought Zhao would be on the losing end," Whetter said. "But he had one of the best fights I've ever seen him have."

Rozicki defended his 71-kilogram Ontario WKF belt for the second time. He took on Yuki Yamanaka from Ottawa.

"It was a really close fight, but Alex shutdown Yuki's offense after the first round and pulled off a first round decision," Whetter said. "He's an eight-time Muay Thai champ now."

For Raby, it was a big match and the chance to avenge a previous hometown loss that he suffered in June 2014 at the hands of Toronto's Adam Elfhal.

But he was also trying to bounce back from a title fight the weekend prior at an event in Peterborough.

"I kind of got in his face a little after the second round," Whetter said. "I asked him if he wanted to



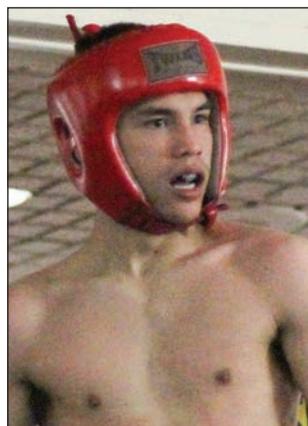
Thomas Raby

lose another title fight and clearly he didn't."

After a back-and-forth first round, Elfhal had a stronger second round by countering Raby's strength in the clinch. But following the pep talk from Whetter, Raby came out with a mission in the third and final round.

"He came out and owned the ring," Whetter said. "He threw (Elfhal) around in the third and everything he threw scored damage."

The 16-year-old Raby



Zhao Churchill

scored a unanimous decision.

The week prior in Peterborough, Raby lost to a high-level opponent from Montreal who was three years his senior.

"That was a good fight to take," Whetter said. "Win or lose, it was a tough fight and it made him hungrier. I think if he hadn't taken that fight, he wouldn't have had the same fire in his belly in the third round on Saturday."

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The NHL Alumni Benefit Tour took over the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre on Friday night. The fundraising game featured a host of former NHL players taking on local law enforcement players. Ten-thousand dollars was donated to Special Olympics Ontario and the associated Law Enforcement Torch Run. **AT LEFT:** Goaltender Mark Laforest is introduced to the crowd, accompanied by members of the Brantford Coyotes. **ABOVE:** The event raised \$10,000 for Special Olympics Ontario. **BELOW:** Game participants included, from left, Brantford fire Chief Jeff McCormick, former Toronto Maple Leafs player Tom Fergus and Wayne Gretzky's former enforcer on the ice, Marty McSorley.

PHOTOS BY SEAN ALLEN, BRANT NEWS



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# McSorley wants to see NHL focus on scoring

Longtime NHLer believes game could benefit from return to offence-first mindset

COLLEEN TOMS  
ctoms@brantnews.com  
FOR BRANT NEWS

Marty McSorley was thrilled to be part of the Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour.

"This to me is fun because when I watch the Rogers Hometown Hockey telecast I want to see which players they're bringing back to the community," he said.

Coming to Brantford for the Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour was much like coming home for the NHL alumnus.

"I grew up in Cayuga so I used to drive here and skate with a group of guys here," McSorley said while taking a short break from signing autographs in the Scotiabank tent set up at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre on Saturday.

"I played junior hockey in Belleville with some of the other guys that played in the American Hockey League so you got to know

the guys. At the (NHL alumni) game last night, there were a lot of people in the stands I got a chance to say hello to that I don't see very often."

During his tenure with the NHL McSorley was a versatile player that could play both forward and defense positions.

The valued teammate of Wayne Gretzky served as an enforcer while playing with the Edmonton Oilers and Los Angeles Kings. He became known as Wayne Gretzky's bodyguard.

"I didn't want to go sit in a penalty box but if I felt one of my teammates was (in a spot) where they were going to finish him every chance they could, then now I'm not worried about injuries, I'm worried about their safety," McSorley said. "So that's kind of where I felt fighting came into it."

McSorley believes hockey has "evolved" since he played in the NHL.

"Obviously injuries



Marty McSorley poses for a photo with Paris Torti, left, and brother Noah Torti after signing an autograph for them during the Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre on Saturday.

PHOTO BY COLLEEN TOMS, BRANT NEWS

were something that they wanted to address – getting hit along the boards," he said. "There's still the grind for the puck but you see guys pull off checks and different things by the boards."

Faster play and more precise coaching and officiating – including video playbacks – have contrib-

uted to changing the way hockey is played today.

"For the guys that go on the ice now, it's less important to score – it's more important not to get scored on," McSorley said. "I really believe that with these fourth-line players there's less pressure to score – just don't be a minus."

"And then if they advance

the puck, if they finish their shift in the other team's end, they've had a great shift. So I'd like to see them get back to the importance of scoring on everybody."

Overtime appears to reward teams for not winning with points, and that is something McSorley said might be worth addressing.

"But there are still great young players," McSorley said. "They make us proud and I really believe that. The game is different but I think society has demanded it in a sense."

The Los Angeles Kings' Anze Kopitar and the Anaheim Ducks' Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry are players that McSorley admires and often gets to watch in California, where he now resides.

"But I'm really excited to see (the Edmonton Oilers') Connor McDavid because he's really elevated that organization," McSorley said. "I've got to say I'm a

proud Oiler, I really mean that, so it is going to be fun to see his progress."

Although McSorley was well-known as a defenceman, he always pushed himself to be a better player. He credits coaches like Jacques Lemaire and Glen Sather for giving him opportunities to do that.

"When I see a coach in the NHL that plays their guys, plays all four lines and they put their guys in to give them opportunities, I think that's great," McSorley said. "One thing Glen Sather used to do with me is he let me practice with (Mark) Messier and Glenn Anderson and then I might play with (Mike) Krushelnyski or (Craig) MacTavish."

"He wanted me to get better and that was so motivating and so when something happened I was more than willing to go and step in and do the dirty work because I know I was given the opportunity to play."

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## SENIOR BOYS TAKE ROUND 2 AGAINST BCI TO CLAIM BRANT CHAMPIONSHIP

The St. John's College Green Eagles senior boys rugby team celebrates with the Brant championship trophy after defeating the Brantford Collegiate Institute Mustangs 24-5 on Thursday at George Jones Fields. PHOTO BY SEAN ALLEN, BRANT NEWS

SEAN ALLEN  
sallen@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

Usually meeting three times per year – in the Brant regular season, the championship and again at the regional tournament – the oldest members of the St. John's College Green Eagles have been waiting a long time to beat the Brantford Collegiate Institute Mustangs on the senior boys rugby pitch. "I've never beaten BCI in my whole senior rugby career," Green Eagles captain Zach Dawson said. "They are one incredible team and they compete every year for the Ontario championship, so it feels good to get one off them."

The Green Eagles controlled most of the matchup on Thursday at George Jones Fields as they claimed a 24-5 victory to take the Brant high school trophy and gain the mental edge on their rivals for the Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association tournament that will decide which team advances to the provincial tournament.

Both the Green Eagles and Mustangs will go to CWOSSA in Guelph on Wednesday, May 25, looking to book themselves a third meeting this season in the CWOSSA final on Thursday, May 26.

"Our goal is to win an (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Asso-

ciations) medal and we are probably going to have to play BCI again to get there," Green Eagles scrum half Connor Friel said. "After we got beat (by BCI) three weeks earlier, we knew we had to bring more to the table here. We put together new strategies and put it all together.

"But we are going to have to bring it at CWOSSA."

The Mustangs had won the regular season matchup with the Green Eagles 29-12 on April 28.

"We got what we deserved today," Mustangs coach Mick Ferras said. "We didn't have a good week at practice, we didn't prepare well and it showed on the field.

"When we got down,

collectively, we didn't have the will to win."

Ferras said it shouldn't matter that the Mustangs were playing without some key players who were out with injuries and that will be the same mindset the team must take into CWOSSA.

"Rugby is a 15-man game," he said. "Whether we are still missing (Tyler) Gagne or Walsham (Owen) next week, we can't look at it like, 'oh my, we can't play without them.'

"The kids that get to step in have to look at it as an opportunity to seize on their chance to play. It's high school rugby – everybody wants a chance to play."

"It's a great feeling," Friel

said. "That great interception by Wilson and all our hard work in practice paid off."

"We knew we were losing a lot of guys this year (to graduation), so this was our last chance," Dawson added. "Hopefully we'll meet (BCI) again in the CWOSSA final. We'll see how that goes down."

The Mustangs know they have another chance and only have to look to their predecessors from the 2013 season to know it isn't over.

The Mustangs lost to the Green Eagles in the Brant championship that year, but managed to win at CWOSSA and go on to earn the OFSAA gold medals as the top boys rugby team in the province.

"They have a whole week to look at what they did wrong and they have to respond to it," Ferras said of his players. "They're high school kids ... the sun will come out tomorrow. If we play the way we can, we'll be just fine."

### SJC WINS JUNIOR, BCI MIDGET

The junior Green Eagles claimed the championship with a 10-0 shutout of the junior Mustangs. Both teams are in CWOSSA on Wednesday and also trying to earn another rematch against each other in the CWOSSA final in Guelph on Thursday.

The midget title was won by the Mustangs with a 44-7 win over the North Park Collegiate Trojans.



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# St. John's girls make it four straight

Green Eagles hoping to improve on fourth-place provincial finish from 2015

MIKE PEELING  
mpeeling@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

It was a "four-peat" for the St. John's College Green Eagles last Wednesday when they took the Brant girls high school soccer championship from the Assumption College Lions in a 4-0 victory. Mimi Gratton led the team, scoring three of the four goals. Markie

Martorano scored the second goal of the afternoon game at John Wright Soccer Complex in Eagle Place.

Like many of the team members, Gratton had to switch up her typical position to make up for several injured players who were out for most or all the season. Martorano was one of those injured players, taking time off to nurse a thigh injury.

Goalkeeper Alex Girardi, who dealt with an injury on and off all season, earned the shutout for the Green Eagles.

Coach Jeff De Prosperis said he was happy with how his team played to win the local championship for the fourth year

in a row, but feels players have better soccer in them moving ahead to the Central Western Ontario Secondary School Athletics Association (CWOSSA) tournament on Thursday and Friday in Kitchener.

"I think they did all right overall," he said. "We've accomplished a lot this season."

De Prosperis attributed the high score to taking the different approach of having three strikers on the field.

"We really try to keep the ball and stretch it to the flanks, but we weren't doing that today," he said.

"Assumption is a really strong team, so fortunately our team did what they had to do to win."

The Lions were the only team to threaten the Green Eagles with a loss during the regular season, a game that ended the season in a 1-1 tie.

Assumption had the unenviable task of taking on the Paris District High School Panthers in the semifinals because the Green Eagles, Lions and Panthers had finished the regular season in a virtual three-way tie. The game was fairly close at 3-1. SJC managed to trounce the fourth place North Park Trojans 6-0 in the semifinals.

SJC won CWOSSA last year and took fourth at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) tournament.



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The St. John's College Green Eagles girls soccer team won the Brant championship for the fourth year in a row last Wednesday. PHOTO BY MIKE PEELING, BRANT NEWS

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# NPC boys celebrate first soccer championship in 13 years

MIKE PEELING  
mpeeling@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

The North Park Collegiate Trojans' Brant high school boys soccer championship win over the Assumption College Lions last Wednesday was cause for celebration considering the school hadn't hoisted the trophy in 13 years.

Coach Chris Haase said he's seen great improvement in the players over the last three years since he took over.

"They just get better and better each year," he said. "Last year we lost the championship to Assumption, so this is a nice redemption for us. I really think we outplayed them last year, but this year we were able to make the conversions to goals on our chances."

Haase said the 3-0 victory "feels good."

"They beat us last year, and I always feel like we



The North Park Collegiate boys won against the Assumption College Lions to take home the soccer championship last Wednesday. PHOTO BY MIKE PEELING, BRANT NEWS

left something out on the field," he said.

Haase said Tyler Froates in particular has been "outstanding for us."

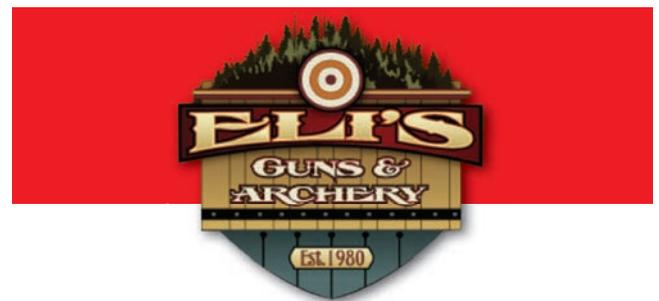
"He was outstanding on Monday and excellent today," Haase said. "He's been playing like a man possessed."

Noah Alagna scored the first goal with a wide shot, catching the goalie short on his left. The shot hit the post and went in.

Froates added the other two goals late in the game, well into the second half. He scored both barely more than a minute apart.

"He missed a couple of chances in the final last year," Haase said of Froates. "So this feels like a vindication for him."

Next the Trojans head to the Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association (CWOSSA) tournament on Wednesday in Kitchener.



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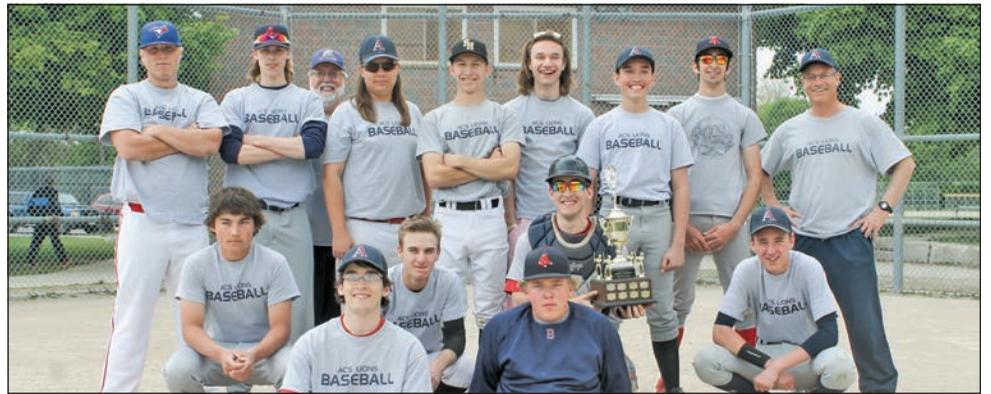
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The Assumption College Lions show off the Brant baseball championship trophy last Thursday. PHOTO BY MIKE PEELING, BRANT NEWS

## ACS Lions win Brant baseball championship

Winners compete in CWOSSA final on Wednesday

MIKE PEELING  
 mpeeling@brantnews.com  
**BRANT NEWS**

The Brant high school baseball championship seemed more or less decided by the end of the first inning.

The Assumption College Lions scored six runs in the first, while the Brantford Collegiate Institute Mustangs never got on the board at all.

The Lions scored four more runs in the next few innings, officially ending the game at 10-0 based on the mercy rule, long before the usual seven innings were up.

Coaches Doug Annear and Rob Webster said having a predominantly senior team made a big difference for the Lions because they showed the junior players

leadership and stepped up offensively and defensively.

No two players proved this true more than pitchers Jordan Stamp and Kaine Doumani.

"Their pitching was great and they hit really well, too," Annear said.

Stamp hit a triple to send the seventh run across the plate in the second inning, while Doumani did the same with a single to followup.

In the third inning, the Lions loaded the bases, but failed to turn the effort into any runs.

The bats kept going to finish off the Mustangs with two more runs in the fourth.

"Everyone was pounding the ball pretty good," Webster said.

The downside to having so many senior players is

that Assumption will lose most of its core team by the time the 2017 season comes around, meaning they will have to rebuild if they hope to repeat with another championship.

The Lions last won the trophy in 2014.

Assumption's baseball team also consisted of Brady Cappe, Reece Doumani, Braydin Ramey, Brandon Hill, Joe Cox, Gabe Bruder, Luc Tanguay, Brady Pomerleau, Simon VanDyk, Sandy Porter, Peyton Blinkhorn and Luke Hill.

The Lions defeated a team from Kincardine in a Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association qualifying game on Tuesday in Brantford, which moves them on to play in the CWOSSA final in Guelph on Wednesday.

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# Brantford fighters sweep on home card

SEAN ALLEN  
sallen@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

All five Brantford fighters got to take home trophies for winning their fights at the Brantford Black Eye Boxing Club's event on Saturday night.

But 17-year-old Nikita Abbott got another fun keepsake from her first fight.

One of the officials from Boxing Ontario came up to Abbott after the fight and gave her one of the judges' scorecards that had a spot of blood on it. The blood was from her opponent's nose, which Abbott opened up with some big punches in the second round.

"It was even more than I thought it could be," Abbott said of her long-awaited boxing debut. "To finally have a fight and to win it ... it's awesome."

Abbott scored a unanimous decision over her

39-year-old opponent Ida Jagaric of Toronto's Cabbagetown Boxing Club. In addition to giving Jagaric a sore nose, Abbott scored a standing eight-count in the third and final round of the fight to sway the judges.

In the main event of the evening, Six Nations' Karl "the Razor" Hess scored a unanimous win over Mohamed Alareeba, also of Cabbagetown.

Hess, who is now 4-0 since getting back into boxing full-time in the past year, scored two standing eight-counts against Alareeba, including one just 15 seconds into the fight with an aggressive start.

"My nerves were really going at the start," said Hess, who had never headlined a boxing card before. "But as soon as I saw I was hurting him a little, my confidence went way up."

Hess mixed in a large percentage of his shots to the body of Alareeba.

"I saw he was a lot bigger than me, so I wanted to



Brantford Black Eye Boxing Club fighter Karl Hess winds up to deliver a shot to Cabbagetown Boxing Club's Mohamed Alareeba during a night of fights at the Brant Curling Club on Saturday. PHOTO BY SEAN ALLEN, BRANT NEWS

slow him down (with those body shots)," Hess said. "It worked."

Ten-year-old Owen Paquette also put on a show for the hometown crowd, earning a victory.

"He had a setback in his last fight against a bigger, older opponent," coach Jackie Armour said. "So it was great to see him stay in the zone. He worked up and down, changed angles

... people can't believe what this kid's talent is for a 10-year-old."

Paul Hines, 41, made it a sweep for the Brantford Black Eye Boxing Club by winning the opening bout

in a decision over a Toronto opponent.

Also fighting out of Brantford, but for a different gym, Caged Dragon MMA's Isaiah Tottle-Flood earned a decision.

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Brantford Red Sox starter Nathan Forer tossed six innings of one-run ball to earn the win against the Hamilton Cardinals at Arnold Anderson Stadium on Saturday. PHOTO BY SEAN ALLEN, BRANT NEWS

## Red Sox throw hit parade in home opener

Brantford 2-1 after first week of IBL play

SEAN ALLEN  
sallen@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

The Brantford Red Sox batted around in the second inning en route to a huge 15-1 win in their home opener at Arnold Anderson Stadium on Saturday.

Combined with a win in Burlington on Thursday and a loss in Toronto on Sunday, the Sox are 2-1 following their first action in the Intercounty Baseball League this season.

This week, the Red Sox host the London Majors in a makeup game on Wednesday evening, host the Burlington Bandits at

8 p.m. on Friday and then visit Guelph and London on Saturday and Sunday.

Catcher Wayne Forman led off and was the final out in a huge second inning on Saturday, in which the Sox put up six runs.

Starter Nather Forer went six innings, allowing just one run and striking out eight Cardinals. Both Ricky Murray and Nick Burdett earned four RBIs to pace the offence. The Red Sox combined for 20 hits.

Last Thursday, the Sox used five pitchers – all throwing three innings or less – to shutout the Bandits.

On Sunday, Graham Tebbit surrendered five runs in three-and-one-

third innings as the Sox fell behind 7-4 in the fourth inning against the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The Red Sox rallied for two runs in the eighth inning, but it wasn't enough to catch the Maple Leafs in the 8-6 loss.

Brantford has been short a couple of bodies in the early going, with pitchers Tebbit and Casey Howard manning right field on the weekend.

Newcomer Murray has been a huge boon to the lineup, with his eight RBIs pacing the Red Sox, while returnee Tyler Patzelak is batting .571 through three games with two stolen bases.



Stillt walker Marty Chapple threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Brantford Red Sox game on Saturday. PHOTO BY SEAN ALLEN, BRANT NEWS

# Throwers have a field day at CWOSSA

Brantford Track and Field Club sending large contingent to OFSAA West meet

SEAN ALLEN  
sallen@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

The Brantford Track and Field Club is having such success with its high school competitors in the throwing field events it is starting to draw athletes from outside the city.

A Grade 10 student at St. Mary's High School in Kitchener, Cole Belkwell drives 45 minutes to train and practise with the club on the backfield of the Brantford Collegiate Institute campus.

"When I won (Central Western Ontario Secondary Schools Association) last year, I realized I should probably start doing this more seriously," Belkwell said. "There aren't a lot of throws coaches in Kitchener, so I put an ad out on Kijiji looking for one."

Belkwell received a reply from a team in London and from coach Sean Doucette at the Brantford club.

"I went down to London and the coach was really good," Belkwell said. "But I came to Brantford the next day and things just clicked."

Belkwell won the Canadian junior nationals under Doucette's tutelage a few weeks later.

He is one of eight athletes that are working with Doucette either with the Brantford Track and Field Club or with the team at BCI – or both – getting ready for the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations meet in Cambridge on Friday.

A sixth-place finish or better at CWOSSA last week earned the athletes the chance to compete at OFSAA West.

Belkwell not only earned his way through in discus and shot put – he smashed the previous CWOSSA records for junior boys.

His discus throw of 58.69 metres was more than three metres better than the previous record and



Athletes competing at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations West Regional track and field meet in Cambridge this week under the tutelage of Brantford coach Sean Doucette include, back row from left, Nicolas Nadeau, Cole Belkwell, Andrew Hazell and Hunter Jones, as well as, front row from left, Nicole Kelly, Kailee Cherewka, Janelle Hunte and Holly Taylor.

PHOTO BY SEAN ALLEN, BRANT NEWS

more than 14 metres better than second place last week in Kincardine.

Belkwell's shot put throw of 17.34 metres beat the CWOSSA record by half a metre and beat second place by almost four metres.

Among the other Doucette-coached athletes in the discus, shot put or javelin competition that

will advance to OFSAA West are BCI's Nicole Kelly, Janelle Hunte, Andrew Hazell, Hunter Jones, Nicolas Nadeau and Kailee Cherewka, as well as Assumption College's Holly Taylor.

Kelly won the midget girls shot put and placed fourth in javelin. Hunte was fifth in the midget girls discus throw.

Jones and Hazell finished fifth and sixth respectively in junior boys javelin.

Nadeau was fifth in the senior boys discus throw (and also finished fifth in the senior boys pole vault).

Cherewka and Taylor will both compete in discus and shot put, with Taylor also competing in javelin.

The duo finished first and second in senior girls shot put, with Taylor earning the gold. Taylor was second in discus, with Cherewka finishing sixth. Taylor was also sixth in javelin.

Belkwell has his sights set on breaking the OFSAA West records this week.

"They're tough records, but with some luck I can do it," he said.

The OFSAA West discus record is 2.57 metres better than Belkwell's throw at CWOSSA and the shot put record is just seven centimetres past his CWOSSA winning throw.

Plenty of other Brant athletes will move on to OFSAA West in the many

track and field events. Some of the other highlights from the CWOSSA meet include:

- Assumption College's Adrian Henry and Matt Turner finished first and second in the midget boys shot put.
- St. John's College's Trevone Zoysa won the junior boys 400-metre dash in a time of 53.26 seconds.
- St. John's College's Kayla Biersteker won the junior girls long jump and finished second in the triple jump.
- Paris District High School's Kyle Madden was second in the senior boys 800-metre race, 1,500-metre race and 3,000-metre race. Brantford Collegiate Institute's Noah Tinevez finished third in the 800-metre.
- St. John's College's Alyssa Biersteker was second in the senior girls long jump.

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Cozette Collin shows off her running medals won at the Big South track meet.

PHOTO BY MIKE PEELING, BRANT NEWS

## Collin sets Big South record

Brantford runner sets 1,500-metre mark at university meet

MIKE PEELING  
 mpeeling@brantnews.com  
 BRANT NEWS

Middle-distance runner Cozette Collin seemed satisfied with improving her personal best times until she broke a meet record running the 1,500-metre race.

The 21-year-old Brantford native and Assumption College School alumni just finished her third year at High Point University in North Carolina, where she runs the 800-metre and 1,500-metre as part of a 70-member female track and field team.

It was during the "Big South" meet, a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) event that features school teams from a few different states, when she ran the 1,500-metre in a time of 4:27.23 – beating the old record by about one second.

"It was my first gold medal," Collin said during

an interview at the Assumption track last week. "I was ranked seventh going in."

In her second year at High Point, Collin placed second in the same event.

Collin's time in the race was also 10 seconds faster than her previous personal best.

She attributed her major improvement on the track to more intense training, more strength training and a better diet, which meant almost always avoiding junk food.

"She is a really gifted and talented athlete," said her former coach Cory Currie of the Brantford Track and Field Club. "The sky is the limit for Cozette. You get what you put into it. And weight training and eating healthy pays off. It's what takes you to the next level – from good to great."

Currie said breaking the 4:20 mark would put Collin in an elite, nationally ranked level of 1,500-metre runners.

Although Collin demurred at the idea she could run at

the Olympic level, she aims for beating her personal best and possibly 4:20. She also wants to defend her title at next year's Big South meet.

Collin says High Point's female track and field team is a supportive, competitive group that trains together every day.

At the beginning of each school year, the team runs up a small mountain together just as a reminder they need to stay in shape over the summer.

To that end, Collin is hoping to do some "twilight runs" organized by Athletics Ontario for post-secondary school students over the summer.

"I really want to improve because I don't feel like I've peaked yet," she said. "I need to stay in shape."

Although she can't stay in North Carolina over the summer, Collin keeps in touch with her coach, Jenna Wrieden, who has taught her much about teamwork, to keep her training regime on track.



Brantford Galaxy players form a wall to block a Toronto Atomic FC penalty kick during a Canadian Soccer League game at Lions Park on Saturday. The teams played to a 0-0 draw in the season opener for the Galaxy. PHOTO BY SEAN ALLEN, BRANT NEWS

## Galaxy play to scoreless draw in season opener

SEAN ALLEN  
sallen@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

The Brantford Galaxy hit the post on an otherwise scoreless net in the second half of their season opener on Saturday at Lions Park.

That was the closest either team would come in the Canadian Soccer

League contest that also featured the visiting Toronto Atomic FC.

The game finished as a scoreless draw.

The Galaxy are in their second season since returning from a CSL hiatus.

Coach Tomo Dancetovic said it was an acceptable start to the season.

“Our side needs to do a lot of work to get where we

need to be to be competitive,” he said. “But that will come together as the new players get to know each other on the field.”

Brantford finished outside the playoffs in their return last season, settling for 11th place.

The Galaxy are home again this weekend, hosting the York Region Shooters at Lions Park at 7 p.m.



In the key moment of Friday's season opening 360 sprint car final at Ohsweken Speedway, Jake Brown, centre, passes Dylan Westbrook, left, and brother Mitch Brown, right, to take the lead in what would be his first career 360 sprint victory. PHOTO BY GARY EVES, FOR BRANT NEWS

## Jake wins 360 sprint debut in Ohsweken

Brantford's Jake Brown took advantage of a collision that featured his older brother Mitch with just three laps remaining in the 360 sprint car season opener at Ohsweken Speedway on Friday.

Sitting third behind Mitch Brown and Dylan Westbrook with the race winding down, Jake kept his car under control when Mitch and Westbrook touched wheels and spun out on the

inner half of the oval.

Jake held the lead through a yellow caution and won a two-lap dash to the finish line to claim his first checkered flag in the 360 sprints.

The younger Brown brother moved up from the crate sprint division at Ohsweken Speedway for this racing season.

“I feel like I've done something very few people can say they've done in winning my first ever 360 start,” Jake said.

Dane Lorenc and Ryan Turner finished second and

third.

Mitch was in the spotlight the next night in Brighton at the Southern Ontario Sprints series, leading from start to finish in the sprint car feature to kick off the defence of his series title.

Friday night racing continues at Ohsweken Speedway on May 27, with all five divisions in action for “Emergency Services Night.”

The speedway also announced that NASCAR's Kasey Kahne will compete in two events at the track in July.

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In the weeks leading up to June 11, you can help us to collect non-perishable food items and drop them off at our local Express office; located at 120 Colborne St, #106 (In Harmony Square), or if you'd like to help and need a box or tote bag to collect items yourself, please contact Annette Grant with Express - Brantford; (519) 750-0111.

And if you can join us this year on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at this year's Moonstone Rising Music Festival; and free Family Fun Day; Express - Brantford will be on location with a vendor spot to collect non-perishable food items; as well to support our local charity - the Salvation Army. This year's event is located at 645 Colborne Street, Brantford (ANAF Club).

If you are available that day and wish to work with Express to volunteer, please connect with Charlene Butler - [Charlene.butler@expresspros.com](mailto:Charlene.butler@expresspros.com).

Not only will you get the chance to help fight hunger in our community, but you can be the difference in helping change someone's life. Plus, everyone who volunteers will get a free Brand It Blue Day T-shirt to wear while we serve!

To be a part of this amazing day of service, contact Express - Brantford; you can email or call to register.

For more information on Brand It Blue Day, please visit [ExpressPros.com/BrandItBlueDay](http://ExpressPros.com/BrandItBlueDay).

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# Stand up paddlers tackle shallow water during annual race

COLLEEN TOMS  
ctoms@brantnews.com  
BRANT NEWS

Shallow water and cloudy skies didn't deter 35 stand up paddlers from descending on the Grand River Saturday afternoon. Participants of the fourth

annual SUP challenge, which saw paddlers race from Glen Morris to the Three Sisters Trestle Bridge just north of Paris, had to work a little harder to complete the 8.2-kilometre route due to low water levels.

"The challenge will be hitting rocks on the



Novice paddlers begin their race from Glen Morris to Paris. PHOTO BY COLLEEN TOMS, BRANT NEWS

bottom," Ontario SUP series organizer Henry Haiduk, said. "You have to be well-balanced and lean

forward so the fin doesn't hit bottom. "Because it is so shallow you can't take as deep of

paddles strokes, so it makes you slower and more tired."

Nonetheless, the event attracted about 10 more people than last year, with ages ranging from 14 to 70 in elite, open and novice categories.

"It attracts all age ranges and all abilities," Cathi Haiduk said. "It's a little bit

of something for everybody, whether they are doing it for the competitive side or just for the experience of going down the river and enjoying the scenery."

Henry said the sport is gaining in popularity because it is easy to learn. "There is zero learning curve" he said.

BRANT NEWS

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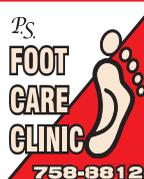
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