

# HAMILTON

IT'S **HAPPENING** HERE



*Hamilton's own Arkells perform at the 2014 James Street Supercrawl – photo credit: Colette Schotsman*

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# HAMILTON: A SNAPSHOT

Rich in culture and history and surrounded by spectacular nature, Hamilton is a city like no other. Unique for its ideal blend of urban and natural offerings, this post-industrial, ambitious city is in the midst of a fascinating transformation and brimming with story ideas.

Ideally located in the heart of southern Ontario, midway between Toronto and Niagara Falls, Hamilton provides an ideal destination or detour. From its vibrant arts scene, to its rich heritage and history, to its incredible natural beauty, *it's happening here*.



## Where THE ARTS thrive

Hamilton continues to make headlines for its explosive arts scene – including a unique grassroots movement evolving alongside the city's long-established arts institutions. Inspiring, fun and accessible, the arts in Hamilton are yours to explore.

- Monthly **James Street North Art Crawls** and the annual **James Street Supercrawl** draw hundreds of thousands of music and art lovers to the city's revitalized core.
- **Art Gallery of Hamilton**, Canada's third largest public art gallery continues to celebrate its centennial with inspiring programming.



## Where NATURE surrounds

Bounded by the picturesque shores of Lake Ontario and the lush landscape of the Niagara Escarpment, Hamilton offers a natural playground for outdoor lovers – all within minutes of the city's core.

- More than **100 waterfalls** can be found just off the **Bruce Trail** along the **Niagara Escarpment**, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve that cuts across the city.
- **Royal Botanical Gardens**, Canada's largest botanical garden, home to 2,700 acres of beautiful gardens and spectacular nature sanctuaries.
- Thrilling family attractions: **African Lion Safari** (Canada's original drive-through safari) & **Wild Waterworks** (home to Canada's largest wavepool).



## Where HISTORY is revealed

One of the oldest and most historically fascinating cities in the region outside of Toronto, Hamilton is home to heritage-rich architecture, world-class museums and 15 National Historic Sites.

- **Dundurn Castle** brings Hamilton's Victorian era to life in a beautifully restored property overlooking the harbour while **Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology** exposes Hamilton's fascinating industrial heritage at this historic Waterworks.
- **Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum** is the country's largest flying museum and home to close to 50 vintage aircraft, including the iconic Avro Lancaster bomber.



## Rock Garden Rejuvenation Project

**Royal Botanical Gardens** is nearing completion on the much anticipated \$20 million upgrade to its historically significant **Rock Garden**. The once unsightly gravel pit was the centrepiece of an ambitious Depression-era project that blossomed into RBG's first display garden. It has since gone on to serve as one of Hamilton's most beautiful attractions.

Preview tours of the years-long rejuvenation, which includes a new state of the art visitor centre, are scheduled for the fall of 2015 prior to the official grand opening in 2016. Learn more about the Gardens' history and plan to visit to experience its incredible future.

## Hamilton Welcomes SoBi Bikes

Exploring Hamilton on two wheels just got a lot easier. In 2015, Hamilton welcomed a fleet of 750 shiny blue bikes, available for rent from more than 100 stations across the city. The **SoBi bikes** (Social Bicycles) are outfitted with GPS, making Hamilton home to the largest smart-bike system on the continent.



## Hamilton Kicks It Up for Pan Am Games

Hamilton will be on an international stage as host city for soccer at the **2015 Pan Am Games** this July 10 to 26. For two thrilling weeks, Hamilton will welcome thousands of players and fans to the city with teams from across the Americas vying for gold at the newly constructed **Tim Hortons Field/CIBC Pan Am Soccer Stadium**, on the site of the historic Ivor Wynne Stadium.

Hamilton will kick-it-up with great off-the-field action throughout the Games with Pan Am-inspired festivals featuring great food, music and multicultural celebrations.

## Supercrawl

Hamilton's favourite street party just gets bigger and better. An offshoot of Hamilton's famous monthly art crawls, **James Street Supercrawl** heads into its 7th year Sept. 11 – 13 with an expanded three-day schedule. Inspiring live music, dance, theatre and art installations will take over the downtown core in this much anticipated celebration.



## A Tale of Two Waterfronts

Hamilton is home two world-class waterfronts. Both Hamilton's **Beachfront** and **Downtown Waterfront** have undergone extraordinary transformations in recent years attracting locals and visitors alike with trails and amenities including waterparks, restaurants and diverse programming.

Already home to a unique outdoor roller skating rink, great restaurants and a touring trolley, Hamilton's **Pier 8** will be undergoing further transformation with the City's recent announcement of plans to open the waterfront to further development including shops, condos and parklands.



## Hamilton's Ontario Signature Experiences

Two famous Hamilton attractions were recently included in the Ontario Signature Experiences collection of unique and dynamic experiences that showcase Ontario to the world.

### 'Wake Up the Wild' at African Lion Safari

Go behind the scenes and witness the morning routines of Africa's most majestic animals on **African Lion Safari's Wake Up the Wild** tour, offering **close-up** access.

### Avro Lancaster Bomber Flights at Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

Canada's largest flying museum offers visitors an opportunity to relive Canada's military history in a most compelling way – by flying in the **Avro Lancaster**. Hamilton's famous WWII bomber is one of only two air-worthy Lancasters left in the world. Flights on other vintage aircraft also available.

## Food is the New Steel

Hamilton's culinary scene has exploded with new and innovative eateries. A big part of the city's exciting new food scene is a restaurant group called **The Other Bird**. Co-owners Erin Dunham and Matt Kershaw have opened a whopping five restaurants back to back in the span of a few short years, including the popular **Rapscallion Rogue Eatery** – offering a nose-to-tail experience – and **Two Black Sheep**, a popular late night cocktail and oyster bar. The pair recently raised over \$100,000 to help fund their newest spot – **The Mule** – a taco, tequila and Bourbon restaurant. It's one the most successful restaurant crowdfunding campaigns in Canada. Other great Hamilton food stories include the city's new **Pop Up** culinary experiences; a growing **coffee culture** and a hopping **local craft beer** scene.



## Old is New Again – Hamilton Heritage

The revival of once neglected buildings in the city's core is helping to drive incredible renewal in the city's core and beyond. A restoration movement focusing on adaptive reuse is bringing new life to Hamilton's buildings and revealing its gorgeous architecture and rich heritage.

Examples include: the development of the once glamorous **Royal Connaught** hotel into luxury condominiums and the stunning revival of the **Lister Building**, once a symbol of downtown decay and now a stunning architectural anchor in the city.

History and heritage lovers are also celebrating the recent opening of **Veterans' Place**, a striking new memorial to the meaning of military service in our community and country.

## For more information on Hamilton, please contact:

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