

2011/2012 TOURIST GUIDE tourismhamilton.com



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An annual membership starts at just \$57. Membership benefits include free or preferred admission to all garden areas and special

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Royal Botanical Gardens wins:

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Online

WELCOME TO HAMINATION









If you're new to the city you're in for a surprise. If you're a return visitor, prepare to be impressed all over again.

Inside the pages of this year's Experience Hamilton Tourist Guide you will read about Hamilton's distinctive urban feel, stunning nature and proud history. You will be inspired to get outside and enjoy our spectacular waterfront access, escarpment trails and unparalleled conservation and recreational lands. Enjoy exploring

our world-class attractions including Royal Botanical Gardens, one of the world's largest of its kind, or the wildly popular drive-through reserve, African Lion Safari. Learn about Hamilton's fascinating military history and discover our vibrant art scene from the prized collections of the Art Gallery of Hamilton to the emerging galleries creating buzz throughout the city and beyond. Finally savour the huge range of flavours from our award-winning fine dining, to local street festivals to the bounty of local produce provided by the surrounding farmland.

For up-to-date listings, great package ideas and many more inspiring stories, visit tourismhamilton.com

After experiencing our rich history, culture and spectacular nature, I'm sure you will agree that Hamilton is a city like no other. You've got to see this!

Sincerely,

BB Bratina

Robert Bratina, Mayor

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touris

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Printed in Canada







On the cover:

The Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum features aircraft from WWII to present day and hosts the return of the Hamilton International Airshow in June. warplane.com



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contributors



Liz Fleming is a columnist for the Toronto Star and TripAtlas.com, the editor of Niagara Life Magazine, and a travel writer who takes adventure seriously. A big fan of the outdoors, she highly recommends the Hamilton area to fellow hiking, biking and fishing enthusiasts.



Lisa Hannam sourced the best shopping spots in the city for and raves: "Hamilton has some great stores that could rival those in Toronto and NYC. We have our own retail gems." Hannam's writing has been featured in The Hamilton Spectator, Best Health Magazine, Reader's Digest, Marketing, and Oxygen.



Amy Kenny is a Hamilton-based writer and visual artist. Her paintings and textile art are available at select galleries and boutiques in Ontario, British Columbia and the Isle of Man. Her non-fiction has been published by National Geographic, Canadian Geographic, Tidings Magazine, Hamilton Magazine and HMag. Her award-winning fiction has appeared in Monday Magazine and Room.



John Kernaghan is an award-winning feature writer who has worked in journalism for 40 years. He most recently was the restaurant reviewer for The Hamilton Spectator. Kernaghan also spent 10 years as a sports columnist and has written about food, travel and recreation for 30 years. He likes travel, dining out, cycling, swimming and cross-country skiing.



Phil King is a partner in OK&D and one of the agency's account leads on tourism and has been a contributor to the Experience Hamilton Guide, since its inception. Phil has also written for a wide range of private and public sector organizations in the Hamilton area, including; the Art Gallery of Hamilton, Food Share, City Kidz and An Instrument for Every Child.



Paul Wilson blew into town 30 years ago to work at the Hamilton Spectator newspaper and learned to love this place. For most of his career at the paper, he wrote a popular three-times-a-week column called StreetBeat. He recently stepped away from that to become a citizen at large.



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It doesn't get much easier than this. Ideally located in Southern Ontario, in the hub of Canada's most popular travel destination, Hamilton is simple and affordable to reach. The city of half-a-million wraps around the western tip of Lake Ontario. Situated half-way between Toronto and Niagara Falls, Hamilton is less than a one hour drive from each, making it an ideal central destination, intriguing detour or convenient stopover.

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES

For a stress-free airport experience it's tough to beat John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport. Its accessibility, affordable amenities and lack of congestion make the airport a fast-growing alternative to other major airports in the region.

Beginning in May 2011, the airport offers **WestJet's** summer domestic service with direct flights to Moncton, Halifax, Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton. Other WestJet destinations include Orlando, Cancun and Punta Cana. More Cuban destinations are available out of HI airport through **Hola Sun**. Also new in 2011, Hamilton International Airport offers Canada's only non-stop flights to Prague, Budapest and Krakaw.

Quick access to major highways including the Queen Elizabeth Way and the 401, 403 and 407 Highways makes travel into Hamilton by road a cinch. Bus lines including GO Transit, Greyhound and Coach Canada also offer regular service for those who prefer to sit back, relax and watch the scenery go by. VIA Rail also transports passengers from across Canada to nearby Aldershot.

For help planning your route to Hamilton, visit tourismhamilton.com/gettinghere

If you're visiting Hamilton, keep your eyes open for a very special welcome courtesy of the Lady Hamilton Club.

For the last four decades, the group of volunteer women has welcomed countless visitors to the city and helped reveal its many charms. In 2011, the club celebrates its 40th year as Hamilton's tourism ambassadors. Look for their friendly smile and signature uniform (a navy blue blazer with a Hamilton's official flower, the mum, pinned to the lapel) at special occasions, sport events, conventions and through Tourism Hamilton's Visitor Centre in downtown's Jackson Square at 2 King Street West.

At your service:

Tourism Hamilton's

Visitor Information Centre

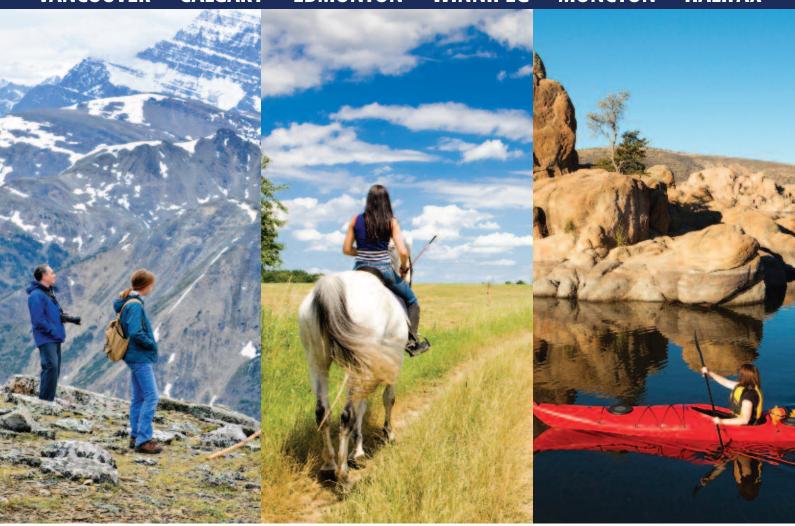
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for flight info flyhi.ca/westjet John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport is based in the heart of the Golden Horseshoe, mid-way between downtown Toronto and Niagara Falls. Serving all of Southern Ontario, Hamilton Airport is easy to get to and the only things it's missing are long lines, a crowded terminal and expensive parking! So whether you are traveling for business or leisure remember; fly easy. fly hamilton.

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find it fast!









Your definitive source for everything that's happening in Hamilton, with interactive maps, visitor reviews, music and entertainment listings, new blogs, featured packages – and the best calendar of festivals and events in the city.



Bicentennial of War of 1812 1812hamilton.com











CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

- New featured sites: War of 1812 Bicentennial, Live Music in Hamilton and Canadian Country Music Awards
- Up-to-date listings of attractions, restaurants & accommodations



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Canadian Country Music Awards countrymusichamilton.com

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By Phil King

OFFER EASY GETAWAYS

Looking for the perfect mini-vacation this summer? Whether you're planning a family getaway, a romantic weekend for two or an outdoor adventure, Hamilton offers lots of fun-filled, affordable vacation packages.

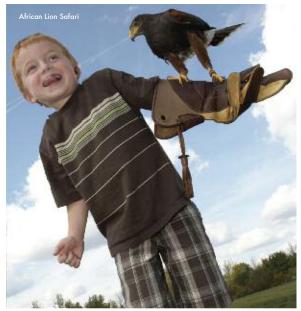
Here are just a few of our easy-to-get-to getaways:

WHEN YOU GO

African Lion Safari 1386 Cooper Road Cambridge, N1R 5S2 1 800 461 9453 Wild Waterworks 585 Van Wagners Beach Road Hamilton, L8E 3M5 905 547 6141 conservation hamilton.ca Lakeland Kartway 585 Van Wagners Beach Roa Hamilton, L8E 3L8 905 544 3951 Canadian Warpland Heritage Museum 9280 Airport Road Mount Hope, LOR 1W0 905 679 4183 warplane.com Hamilton
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9280 Airport Road
Mount Hope, LOR 1W0
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SUNSPIASH RAFARI





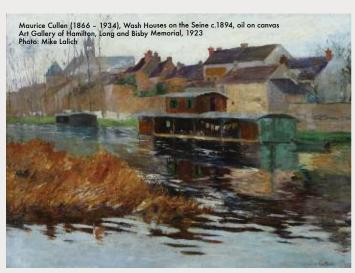
Your family adventure starts with a visit to African Lion Safari, Canada's Original Safari Adventure, where you'll get closer than you ever imagined to thousands of exotic birds and animals and enjoy live shows all day long. Then relax with an overnight stay at one of our family friendly hotels, such as the Holiday Inn Express. Just a short drive away is Wild Waterworks with its enormous wave pool, Little Squirt Works and six amazing water slides. Other attractions in this beautiful lakeside area include miles of waterfront trails, go-carting fun at Lakeland Kartway or the Adventure Village Amusement Park with rock-climbing, batting cages, mini-golf and much more.

the most beautiful scenery in Ontario

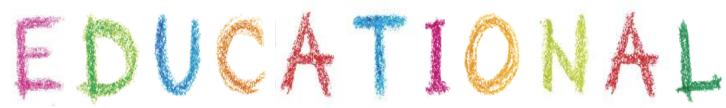
For high-flying family fun, follow your day on safari with a relaxing stay at the Courtyard by Marriott with its indoor pool and kid-friendly amenities. The Courtyard is only a short-drive to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, where you can test your skills with real flight combat simulators and see Canada's preeminent collection of aircraft from WWII to the present, including a beautifully-restored, flying Lancaster Bomber, one of only two air-worthy Lancs in the world. Father's Day in June sees the return of the museum's very popular Hamilton International Airshow. Military enthusiasts will also enjoy a visit to Hamilton Harbour where you can tour HMCS Haida, the last remaining Canadian Tribal Class Destroyer from World War II. The Harbour, managed by Hamilton Waterfront Trust, has become one of the city's favourite family attractions with boat and tram rides, restaurants and waterfront trails, offering some of the most beautiful scenery in Ontario.

Another great, family-friendly side trip is **Puddicombe Estate Winery**, featuring Ontario's only guided **Agricultural Wine Trail**, award-winning wine tastings, a children's village and train rides.

FRENCH CONNECTION Art & Culture Lovers







HANDS-ON LEARNING ATTRACTIONS

With so many fun-filled learning opportunities, soaking up knowledge has never been easier or more enjoyable. Did you know for example, that African Lion Safari is one of the world's leading breeders of Cheetah and Asian Elephants? You'll learn even more when you take the Safari's guided tour bus or attend their popular, all-inclusive animal shows featuring parrots, birds of prey and elephants. Be sure to ask your safari guides about the many wildlife breeding programs the park manages to ensure the care and preservation of these exotic animals and birds.

After your day-long safari adventure, you're probably ready for a little self-preservation of your own and a good night's rest. Hamilton offers several family-friendly and affordable hotels to choose from in the area, including the Day's Inn, Visitors Inn and Courtyard by Marriott. During day two of your learning adventure, head to Hamilton's other world-renowned centre for the protection of exotic species, Royal Botanical Gardens. In addition to its beautiful gardens, RBG also has thousands of acres of natural woodlands, wetlands and nature sanctuaries that are home to many endangered species, including many species of game fish, bald eagles, water fowl and threatened species of amphibians.

WHEN YOU GO

tourismhamilton.com

Romance is in the air with a visit to the Art Gallery of Hamilton, featuring an exhibit of major Canadian artists inspired by late 19th-century Parisian culture. The AGH's French Connection year gives visitors the unique opportunity to experience works by Picasso's mentor, Eugene Carriere, as well as works by the French masters Rodin, Matisse and Manet.

Après your Gallery tour, relax at the newly-renovated and beautifully-appointed Sheraton Hamilton Hotel which is connected directly to the Gallery and offers magnificent views of the bay and escarpment. Enjoy fine French and Continental cuisine at the Sheraton's Chagall's restaurant or stroll hand-in-hand to the nearby Bistro Parisien; Hamilton's authentic French bistro for some delectable foie gras on brioche toast or steak frites. Reservations are recommended. For a taste of Hamilton's laid back, hipster scene, head over to the new Mulberry Street Coffeehouse in the art-hub of James Street North for latte and homemade snacks, amidst exposed brick and local art.

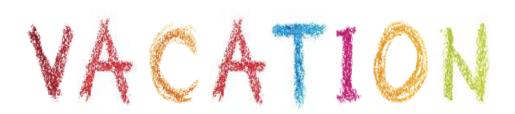
For a romantically-inspired evening, consider a short, evening stroll to passionate performances by **Opera Hamilton** or the **Hamilton**

Philharmonic. Theatre-goers will enjoy a play at Theatre Aquarius, one of the region's most popular venues for musicals and live theatre. Theatre Aquarius' 2011 line-up includes award-winning productions such as Sherlock Holmes: the Final Adventure, Queen Milli of Galt, Wingfield Lost & Found and The Full Monty.

All of these performances are within easy walking distance of the recently-opened **Days Inn** which puts you at the centre of everything Downtown Hamilton has to offer.

Only a five minute drive from your hotel and with romance still in full bloom, Day Two takes you to **Royal Botanical Gardens**, where your senses will be awakened by the fragrance of thousands of flowers, from the exotic scents of French Lilacs in spring, to the cascading colours and romantic scents of RBG's 2,600 hybrid and climbing roses in bloom from June to October.

RBG also manages hundreds of acres of woodlands, marshes and other natural areas, intersected by 55 kilometres of winding trails that offer relaxing nature walks and endless inspiration for your romantic getaway.



As Canada's largest botanical gardens, RBG is also a recognized horticultural leader in the preservation of unique species of plants and trees. Indoors, the **Mediterranean Gardens** offer the perfect environment for exotic orchids and flowering orange and lemon trees. Outdoors, amidst the many gardens and the Arboretum, you'll find thousand of plants, flowers and trees including the Cucumber Tree, an endangered species of Magnolia.

Hamilton's Children Museum is another great place to mix fun with learning. Interactive exhibits like Brain Teaser encourage children to stretch their imaginations, while the Doo Wop Diner allows kids to put on their dancing shoes and cook-up their favourite dish... a little messy but lots of fun! Children can also get in front of the camera and project themselves onto the big screen, while they explore their creativity with the "Lights, Camera, Action" exhibit, adding a little celebrity sizzle to their learning vacation in Hamilton.



Walk through HISTORY

Hamilton was at the forefront of Upper Canada's early development and visitors can literally walk through Canadian history, while exploring our collection of grand historical homes and monuments throughout the downtown core. The city even boasts its own castle. **Dundurn Castle** was home to Sir Allan MacNab and designated as one of Canada's leading National Historic Sites. Admission to Dundurn includes guided tours and entrance to the adjoining **Military Museum** which houses displays from Canada's involvement in the War of 1812, Boer War and World War I.

The lush parkland surrounding **Dundurn Castle** is the perfect place for an afternoon picnic, with some of Hamilton's most magnificent views overlooking Hamilton Harbour. For a truly "local-food" experience, tour Dundurn's beautiful two-acre kitchen garden to experience the bounty of traditional gardening practices. After harvesting heirloom produce, follow your costumed guide-cook to the castle's 19th century kitchen and help prepare a seasonal feast using historic recipes cooked on a wood-fired range.

Dundurn is also right across the road from Canada's oldest municipal cemetery with fascinating gothic monuments honouring the city's founding fathers. Stroll through the cemetery at your leisure to immerse yourself amidst the spirits of Hamilton's history.

Or, take a night tour offered by **Haunted Hamilton**, which provides walking "ghost tours" through haunted places of interest in the downtown core. After your tour, put your feet up and relax at the **Admiral Inn** which conveniently overlooks both Dundurn and the Cemetery. Hamilton also offers many interesting and historic B&B's, such as the **Rutherford House**, situated in the Durand Historic District, close to many of the historic stops along your walking tour.





visitors can literally walk through Canadian history

After an evening visiting Hamilton's ghostly haunts and a good night's rest, you'll be ready to explore Hamilton's other major historical sites, from the architectural elegance of Whitehern Historical Home and Gardens, which blends Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian designs, to the Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology, a tribute to Hamilton's industrial heritage, with daily demonstrations of 45-foot high, 70-ton steam engines that actually pumped the first clean water to the city over 140 years ago!

History buffs will also want to plan a short, road-trip to Westfield Heritage Village, close to African Lion Safari and one of the most interesting historical attractions in Ontario. With over 30 historical buildings and costumed interpreters, Westfield captures the charm and spirit of early Canadian culture.

Featuring one of Canada's largest outdoor wave pools, 6-storey body slides, giant tube slides, the Eazy

Make a splash with the whole family. Visit...

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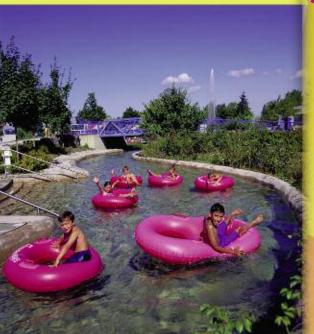
Adventure Golf.

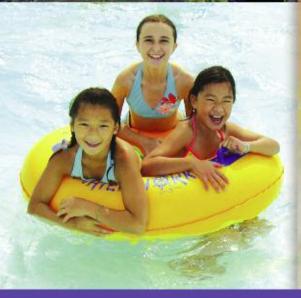
Do the works and visit:

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Call: 1-800-555-8775 Or visit: www.conservationhamilton.ca

GeT away FROM IT all... close to home

Hamilton offers exceptional outdoor getaways for nature lovers. Bordered in the west by the Niagara Escarpment, an UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve and the bay and lake in the east, it literally takes only minutes for your vacation to morph from urban excursion to outdoor adventure.

Whether hiking or biking, Hamilton's trail system criss-crosses the entire city and can link you to the Bruce Trail, the Ontario Waterfront Trail or the Rail Trail which runs through Paris, Brantford and Cambridge. Hikers can also enjoy virtually uninterrupted treks through many of Hamilton Conservation Authority's areas linked in many places to natural reserves, managed by the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Exhausted from all your outdoor adventures? Plan a stay at Hamilton's popular 4-star hotel, the **Visitors Inn**. This hotel is close to many of the city's best trails, as well as McMaster University. Features include a heated pool, Jacuzzi, state-of-the-art exercise centre and sauna; the perfect place to unwind and relax after a day of hiking or biking.

exceptional outdoor getaways for nature lovers

Hamilton is also home to over 125 waterfalls, such as the popular Webster's and Tews Falls which can be easily accessed from hiking trails and offer great photo-ops all year round. In the winter, the Hamilton Conservation Authority even co-ordinates a program for enthusiasts to test their skills ice-climbing at Tiffany or Tews Falls.

In addition to incredible trails and scenery, Hamilton's conservation areas also offer swimming, fishing, camping and boating. In-line skaters will also enjoy skating alongside **Hamilton Harbour** or the **Hamilton Lakefront Boardwalk** offering miles of smooth skating surface, great eateries and magnificent scenery.

Cyclists will be overwhelmed by the wide choice of outstanding road and trail riding experiences throughout the city. To find bike-friendly trails, cyclists can pick-up the **Hamilton**





Bikeways, Trails and Parks Map. This guide will help you gauge the difficulty of each trail and also provides both rural and urban routes. Along the way, you'll find a wide variety of interesting B&B's that fit perfectly with your itinerary and give you a chance to explore the area. Historic homes such as the Osler House in Dundas, childhood home of the famous physician, Sir William Osler, offers visitors the perfect location from which to tour the town, which is one of Ontario's oldest and most historical communities.





Art Gallery of Hamilton





Imagine an unforgettable ceremony in an urban sculpture garden, cocktails in an art-filled atrium, dining and dancing in a glass-enclosed pavilion. Offer an entire gallery for your guests to explore.



shop at AGH

Browse a dazzling array of distinctive personal gifts, home décor accents and original creations by local artists and artisans. Choose original art from our Art Rental and Sales programme.

Jean-Baptista Cerpeaux (French 1827–1875) Beccharte with Roses, after 1868 traster

Throughout 2011, experience The French Connection, the AGH's year-long celebration of French and

Francophone art and culture. In September, enjoy the best in film at the AGH World Film Festival.

plaster Art Gallery of Hamilton The Joey and Toby Tanerbaum Collection, 2002 Photo: Roy and Carole Timm of Wavelength

Middle and Right photo by Mike Lailch



www.artgalleryofhamilton.com

123 King Street West, downtown Hamilton
[T] 905.527.6610 [E] info@artgalleryofhamilton.com
For complete exhibition, programming and Gallery hours information, please visit www.artgalleryofhamilton.com











PLAY IT YOUR WAY

GREAT SPORTS GETAWAY

If you are looking for a sport-themed weekend, Hamilton has plenty to offer. Canadian Football League fans can visit Ivor Wynne

Stadium to watch the Hamilton Tiger Cats. With nine home games taking place between June and October, including the much anticipated Labour Day Classic, there is plenty of opportunity to watch your favorite team. The Ticats have been busy building on their already impressive offense, which has fans eager for the 2011 season. Football fans visiting the city can check-in at the Days Inn Hamilton, conveniently located in the heart of downtown close to Ivor Wynne Stadium, then make a point of visiting the Canadian Football Hall of Fame where memorabilia and interactive exhibits celebrate the game at professional, university and amateur levels. In the evening, keep your pulse racing by heading to OLG Slots at Flamboro Downs. With over 800 machines and the adjoining racetrack, there's never a shortage of thrills.





"hidden gem" and one of the top public golf courses in Ontario.

A complete list of golf courses in the Hamilton area can be found at tourismhamilton.com.

Newcomers to Hamilton's thriving sports scene are the Hamilton Nationals Major League Lacrosse franchise. The former Toronto-based team will play the 2011 season from their new home in the Ron Joyce Stadium starting May through August. Conveniently

combine your time at the field with some time on the fairways

To complete your sports weekend, combine your time at the field with some time on the fairways. Hamilton is home to many public, private and semi-private golf courses that will challenge players of all levels. King's Forest Golf Club is one of the best municipally-owned courses in Canada, recognized by Ontario Golf Magazine as a

located minutes from Ron Joyce Stadium is the Visitors Inn Hotel. Other notable hometown teams are the Hamilton Thunderbirds Baseball Club, playing throughout the summer at Bernie Arbour Stadium, and the Hamilton Bulldogs AHL Hockey team whose 2011/12 season kicks off in October at Copps Coliseum.



Walk a mile in their shoes! Visit the website: www.hamilton.ca/museums



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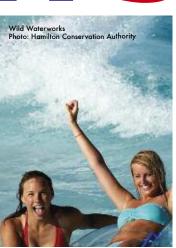
By Liz Fleming

APLACE FOR ALL Seasons Seasons

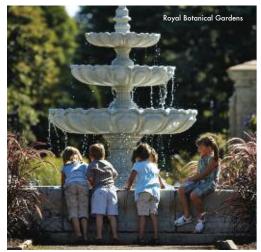








Need to get back to nature? With its picturesque shoreline and lush wooded trails, Hamilton offers a natural playground for any outdoor adventurer.



Hamilton's many parks, gardens and conservation areas offer a wealth of opportunities to relax your mind, sooth your soul, and work your muscles.

Renowned for its trail-building expertise, the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) has routes that cover hundreds of scenic kilometers. With more than 125 waterfalls, outstanding birding and wildlife viewing opportunities, Canada's largest botanical garden, the famed Bruce Trail, and the dramatic Niagara escarpment - a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve - Hamilton is simply spectacular, no matter what the season.

WHEN THE WARM BREEZES BLOW

You've been advised to stop and smell the roses, but when spring arrives, savor the scent of the world's largest lilac garden at Royal Botanical Gardens, then enjoy 55 kilometers of walking trails set in 2,700 beautiful acres.

Lace up your hiking shoes and hit the trails, many of which will take you past our



famous tumbling waters. Be sure to check out Webster's Falls, Albion Falls and Tews Falls, three of the scenic highlights that earned Hamilton the title "City of Waterfalls". The new QEW Pedestrian Bridge also links the Red Hill Valley Trail System with the waterfront trail along the shores of Lake Ontario.

Rather bike than hike? There are five great waterfall cycling trails – the Escarpment Rail Trail, the Dofasco Trail Loop, the Tews Falls Circuit, the Hamilton-Brantford Rail Trail and the

a summer must-do for the whole family

Chedoke Rail Trail. So let the breezes blow as you pedal, then treat your toes to a dip. If you'd prefer to do your riding in a more urban setting, you'll find Hamilton has on-street, signed bike routes and designated cycling lanes. Best of all, if you get weary, HSR buses are now equipped with front bumper bike racks so you and your bike can both hop aboard for a quick ride home. Pick up one of Hamilton's detailed cycling maps for great trail ideas. Available at Tourism Hamilton Visitor Centres (in Jackson Square and Hamilton International Airport).

Love the water? Whether you're longing for a lazy day of fishing, yearning to sail away, or yearning to dive into the crazy fun of a water park, Hamilton has a refreshing solution. Confederation Park's Wild Waterworks has everything from six-storey-adrenaline-junkie waterslides to Little Squirt Works for the wee ones, a rollicking wave pool and nearby Adventure Village. It's a summer must-do for the whole family!

If cruising is more your speed, try a daytime harbour tour aboard the Hamiltonian Sightseeing Tour Boat and soak up the history of one of North America's most fascinating harbours. For an evening of dining and dancing on the water, opt for a cruise on the elegant Hamilton Harbour Queen. Those who prefer to view the impressive shoreline of western Lake Ontario from dry land, can hop aboard the trackless Waterfront Trolley. The Royal Hamilton Yacht Club offers sailing lessons and spectacular water-front views. It is also host to the 2011 Rotary Mobility Cup.

Fishing's what you fancy? You'll find northern pike, catfish, largemouth bass and more waiting for you at the Valens Conservation Area, where you can try your luck in the annual John Burns Memorial Fishing Derby in July. The well-stocked ponds in the Fifty Point Conservation and Christie Conservation Areas are also great places to fish for rainbow trout and bass. Want something bigger? Chinook salmon snap up the bait in Lake Ontario and there are fishing charter companies ready to take you to them.



For summer travelers craving campfires and s'mores, Hamilton has your fix. The **Hamilton Conservation Authority** has serviced family and group campsites tucked into beautiful pine and spruce forests. Stay a weekend or a week! Be sure to bring your camping gear.

WHEN THE SNOW FLIES

In Hamilton, we love to see the temperature drop and the snow begin to fall. A winter wonderland creates a great backdrop for snowy outdoor adventure. Come celebrate winter on the water. The recently opened Waterfront Outdoor Skating Rink at Pier 8 is fun for the whole family – and it's free. Ice-skating is also available in the Valens Conservation Area, or you can grab your skis and enjoy ten kilometers of groomed cross-country trails. Still keen?

spectacular, no matter what the season

Try another ten kilometres of great groomed trails at the Christie Lake Conservation Area. Really eager? The Dundas Valley Conservation Area's trail system offers more than 40 exhilarating kilometers of cross-country trails.

Winter adrenaline junkies can experience the cool thrills of ice-climbing up frozen waterfalls. For more than 25 years, climbers have tackled towers of ice at Tiffany Falls and at Tews Falls in the Spencer Gorge/Webster's Falls Conservation Area.

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walking the down own core

By Paul Wilson

Grab your Experience Hamilton Guide and bring it along on an eyeopening walking tour of Hamilton's historic and revived downtown core.

Calling all adventurers. The next tour leaves now for an exotic trek through the very heart of an authentic Canadian downtown core. In these times of suburban malls and big-box power centres, some of us have forgotten what a real downtown looks like.

City cores everywhere struggled in recent decades. So did Hamilton's. But there was too much proud history here to just let it go. Now, one corner at a time, our core is coming back.

Downtown Hamilton has good bones. The Globe and Mail took a look around not so many years ago. It saw that the core had faced challenges, but declared "the historic depth and sometimes surprising strength of local institutions certainly set Hamilton apart from the typical techno-burbs spreading throughout the Golden Horseshoe."

"It is Ontario's oldest and densest city outside downtown Toronto," the paper wrote, "with a truly urban texture and feel."

So let's head out right now. You could do this walk in an hour. But feel free to take twice that long, and gawk and dally and dine. We begin at (A) the **Tourism Hamilton Visitor Centre** in **Jackson Square** at the corner of James and King Streets.

Staff there will tell you how to reach the north end of the mall and our first stop, the newly-renovated

tourismhamilton.com





(B) Hamilton Public Library. This modern airy space now definitely has a wow factor. It also has 50 computers on the first floor, and you don't need a library card to access them. Feel free to e-mail the folks back home.

Now stroll over to those big windows beyond the kids' department. You're looking down at (C) the **Hamilton** Farmers' Market. It's been around for nearly 175 years, but just got a major facelift. That includes the installation of the restored **Birks clock**, a one-tonne timepiece that started ticking in downtown Hamilton in 1930. It features four knights who come out to duel every 15 minutes.

Both the library and the market have doors opening out onto York Boulevard. That fine stone structure in front of you is (D) the **Coppley building**. They started making menswear here in the late 1800s, and they still do.

a truly urban texture and feel

Head east to James Street North (E). Take a left and within a few blocks you've landed in Europe. When Italy or Portugal score big soccer victories, the street parties happen right here. There are galleries, cafés, food markets, stores selling shoes, hammocks, jewelry, vintage goods and art supplies.

Proceed up the west side of the street and be sure to stop in at 165 James North, home of (F) the HIStory + HERitage storefront museum. It's the creation of Graham Crawford. After a successful business career, he bought an old Chinese bakery and turned it into a smart cleanlined space. He covered the walls with monitors and photographs that tell Hamilton's story. Why did he do it? "I wanted people to fall in love with this city again."

Stay on James to a block north of Barton and you'll be rewarded with the spectacle of the still-grand (G) CN Station, a National Historic Site. Once an important hub of business and gateway for immigrants to Canada, it is



now home to LIUNA Station. You can't catch the train anymore, but today many gather here for elegant banquets and weddings under a gold-leaf ceiling.

Now work your way back down James Street North on the east side. That gothic beauty in stone is (H) Christ's Church Cathedral. If the door's locked, there's usually someone in the adjoining office to let you see the quiet grandeur within.

A couple of blocks south, we pass (1) the 1920s Lister Block, home to one of the first indoors malls in

Canada. Debate raged for years over whether to save this ailing six-storey landmark. In the end, the city bought it for \$25 million and a fully-restored Lady Lister reopens soon.

fall in love with this city again

It's a left here onto King William. If you're already peckish, the first block is home to (J) Reardon's, where corned beef is king. In 2012, Paul Reardon will celebrate his family's 100th year in the meat business in downtown Hamilton.



Moving east on King William, we pass (K) the FilmWork Lofts, a new condo development that sold out fast. Every year more people are making downtown their home. This project was carved out of the old Hamilton Spectator newspaper plant. Check the pictures in the lobby.

Next we pass, (L) Theatre Aquarius, home of Hamilton's professional theatre, drawing more than 130,000 patrons a year. A few blocks east, take a right at Jarvis.

Now we're on King Street, at (M) the Jarvis Square clock. Dead ahead, the flagship location of the famous (N) Denninger's Foods of the World. Get a fresh, plump jam-filled Berliner to go. Or sit down for some zesty sausage goulash. You've earned it.

We're moving west now on King Street. Beside the newly renovated (O) Crowne Plaza Hotel, sits the empty but majestic 1916 (O) Royal Connaught Hotel. Twelve silent storeys, waiting for a saviour.

Now we're at (P) Gore Park. We're proud of the fountain that sits in its midst. It looks just like the original



erected 150 years ago, and parts of it are indeed that old. Take a load off; let the waters soothe you.

Then walk though the park to the statue of Queen Victoria and do what Hamiltonians have done for generations - for good luck, rub the tail of the larger-than-life lion that sits obediently at her feet.

Then slip just up the street to the corner of Main and James, to where, in many ways, time has stood still. This intersection is unchanged in some 80 years, a gem on each quadrant - the Hamilton Club, the Bank of Montreal, the Landed Banking and Loan, and most spectacular of all, (Q) the Sun Life/ Pigott Building complex.

Step into the lobby of the Pigott, Hamilton's first skyscraper, and admire the stained-glass depictions of the men who built this wedding-caketopped tower.

Right next door, are the offices of (R) Tourism Hamilton. There's no information counter here, but they'd be glad to point you to other treasures just around the corner - the free TH&B Railway Museum at the GO Centre; the tranquil Whitehern Historic House and Garden behind City Hall; the elegant AGH, Ontario's third largest public art gallery.

There is but one downtown Hamilton. It's the real thing. Accept no imitations.

MEETINGS • TRADE SHOWS • SEMINARS • CONFERENCES • WEDDINGS



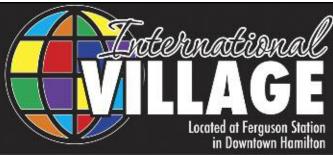
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MUSIC IS DEEPLY EMBEDDED

By Phil King

Local entertainment critic and rock aficionado, Graham Rockingham suggests that "rock 'n' roll never really hit Canada until that day in 1958 when Ronnie Hawkins stepped out of his Cadillac to play the first night of a two-week engagement at Hamilton's Golden Rail saloon." Fast forward 53 years and Hamilton is still rockin' and has the bona fides to prove it, launching the careers of notable artists such as Rick Danko and the Band, Daniel Lanois, Neil Peart of Rush, Skip Prokop of Lighthouse, Teenage Head, Jackie Washington, King Biscuit Boy and Crowbar, Junkhouse and The Arkells. As a crucible that continues to form new artists, Hamilton's music scene showcases live entertainment almost every night of the week across all genres. Clubs like the Casbah, Corktown, The West Town Bar & Grill and This Ain't Hollywood offer you the chance to catch up-and-coming bands in more intimate club settings before they move-on to greater fame and larger venues.

Lou Molinaro, a seasoned music promoter and co-owner of **This Ain't Hollywood**, in the James Street North art district, identifies what makes the city a hotbed for musical creativity. After promoting music across Ontario for nearly 25 years, Molinaro identifies Hamilton as one of North America's most "underrated musical cities."

"It continuously produces artists who are accepted nationally and internationally," says Molinaro. "Some say that it's the magic in the water. I tend to think that it's a community that has a strong foundation on an artistic level. Musicians from Hamilton are true fans of the art."

Tom Wilson currently touring with his band Lee Harvey Osmond, pays

WHEN YOU GO

Casbah 306 King Street W Hamilton, L8P 1B2 905 521 4441 casbahlounge.ca Corktown 175 Young Street Hamilton, L8N 1V7 905 572 9242 corktownpub.ca

The West Town Bar & Grill 214 Locke Street S Hamilton 905 570 1412 thewesttown.ca

LTON'S

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thisaint
hollywood.ca

Pearl Company 16 Steven Street Hamilton, L&L 5N3 905 524 0606 thepearl company.ca CFMU 93.3 McMaster University Hamilton, L8N 454 905 528 9888 cfmu.msu mcmaster.ca





his respects to Molinaro's efforts to support live music. "This Ain't Hollywood is run by music lovers. Its décor honours Hamilton musicians and they set their stage for the future. From Johnny Winters to Harlan Pepper, This Ain't Hollywood let's the music speak first... the #1 stop for open ears and true hearts." Molinaro credits his club's success to being part of a neighbourhood that has a strong passionate and artistic presence. "You can see, hear and feel these vibrant artistic explorations that are being continuously created along our historical street."

Another great venue to catch live music is **The Casbah**, which has long been one of Hamilton's premiere locations to catch home-grown favourites and higher-profile touring artists. The room has hosted the likes of the **Robyn Hitchcock**, **Cowboy Junkies**, **Sloan** and even a surprise show by the legendary **Pixies**.

The Corktown is another popular club that caters to live music, with a large stage, first-rate sound system, great food and a welcoming neighbourhood pub atmosphere. The Corktown offers a broad musical

a neighbourhood that has a strong passionate & artistic presence

Another James Street North venue that's getting rave reviews for an eclectic mix of live music is the Pearl Company, which has also been a catalyst for the city's emerging art scene. James Street North is also emerging as a magnet for Hamilton's club and dance scene. As the driving force behind McMaster University's student radio station CFMU, Program Director, James Tennant follows this scene closely and recommends a few of his favourites: The Brain, says owner/musician Jeremy Greenspan of the Junior Boys, should be like "James North's living room." Not a bad analogy. Low-key but artsy, nestled into a storefront in a heritage building, The Brain largely attracts young artistic types (though during an art crawl, a broad range of people fill the bar to the brim). There is a slightly raised dance floor in the back, which is good, as The Brain hosts some of the best DJs in town on weekends, spinning obscure vinyl in various formats. A healthy selection of offbeat taps and bottles is also a draw.

line-up that includes rock, blues and jazz with Friday's getting especially rowdy as the Corktown hosts its weekly East Coast Kitchen Parties.

If you're looking to discover emerging talent, be sure to check out the **West Town's Songwriters Showcase** on Locke Street, which runs every Tuesday night and brings out a great line-up of established and aspiring performers.

Hamilton's live music scene will be thrust into the national spotlight from November 16th to the 20th, during the annual Hamilton Music Awards attracting visitors from across Canada. The city's best venues all feature local musicians with many record labels showcasing their rising stars at larger venues such as the Westside Concert Theatre. City-wide performances culminate in the Awards concert and presentation at Mohawk College's McIntyre Theatre. It's a great time to immerse

yourself in the local music scene but buy your tickets early for the Awards Show, as this is usually a sold-out event. Hamilton Music Awards Producer, Jean-Paul Gauthier says, "2011 is shaping up to be a very exciting year with many artists releasing new albums. This always makes for a great Awards show and Festival"

From September 8th - 12th, 2011, country fans will be taking over Hamilton with Country Music Week and The Canadian Country Music Awards. Spanning four days, this major event showcases the best of Canada's country performers, many of whom have gone on to international stardom. In addition to the main Awards Presentation, fans can enjoy the Songwriters Café and New Artist Showcase.

Accommodation and performance packages are currently available but selling out quickly, so plan your trip early.

Hamilton is also an emerging destination for Jazz fans. The Hamilton Music Collective, lead by ex Blood, Sweat & Tears saxplayer Darcy Hepner presents an incredible ensemble of musicians, complimented by performances with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, as well awardwinning, guest jazz artists from across North





America. The Collective performs throughout the year, with a fall ensemble line-up and a special concert series. Hepner, who now teaches in Mohawk College's Music Program, identifies HPO performances at Hamilton Place's Great Hall as some of his most memorable. He also cites the Studio Theatre, next door to Hamilton Place as another favourite. "It's an intimate space with excellent sound, where we've heard some wonderful singer/songwriters, jazz and chamber music." Not surprisingly, many local artists of all genres like to perform their CD launch concerts in the Studio Theatre. As someone who knows his way around the music scene, Hepner's favourites are worth noting: "Gallagher's for R&B, the Cat & Fiddle for jazz and the Augusta House, for its excellent food and great local musicians every night of the week."

the best of canada's country performers

The cross-over and sharing of musical inspiration amongst rock, indie, jazz, country and classical performers is a big part of what makes the Hamilton's music scene so rich and vibrant. In addition to its traditional operatic performances, **Opera Hamilton** also plays annually to pop sensibilities with its Popera performances. In a similar musical vein, the **Brott Music Festival** augments its popular classical concert series with opera, dance, visual art and even a tribute to rock and roll. The Festival, which runs annually from June through August, features the **National Academy Orchestra** which allows gifted student musicians to perform with leading professionals. Brott, a world-renowned classical conductor, suggests that the Orchestra's performances are truly unique because of "the chemical reaction between experience and youthful enthusiasm" amongst the Orchestra members.

Speaking of leading orchestras, the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra is considered one the finest regional orchestras in Canada. Its 2011 schedule offers an incredibly wide-range of performances that blend classical, chamber, jazz and even pop music with coincidently, guest performances by Tom Wilson, as well as Darcy Hepner and the Hamilton Jazz Orchestra.

Whatever your tastes in live music, Hamilton has the right blend of well-seasoned and exciting new performers to satisfy even the biggest musical appetites. Dig in! **livemusichamilton.com**

tourismhamilton.com





Delicious

By John Kernaghan

Hamilton's emerging local food scene is sure to satisfy your hunger for homegrown dining.

No one has measured the elapsed time between the field to the plate at Hamilton restaurants, but it a remarkably swift transition for a city of 500,000 people.

"People just show up at the back door," says Fraser Macfarlane of top-ranked **Quatrefoil Restaurant**. "It takes no time for them to get from the farm to down here."

Some of those farmers specialize in miniature vegetables required by fine-dining restaurants. Others who knock on the door represent local specialty shops. Either way, these are not the kind of relationships that can develop as easily in more sprawling cities.







"Down here", as Macfarlane calls it, is the valley town of Dundas, which has become a foodie node with a cluster of specialty shops and cafés. Above the valley range, a wide variety of farms produce the vegetables, proteins and dairy products that serve Hamilton restaurants.

"It's been a culinary dream come true," adds his wife and partner Georgina Mitropoulos.

For Mitropoulos, who worked in London for food star Marco Pierre

trained in the kitchen of hell's kitchen despot gordon ramsay

Quatrefoil's contemporary French cuisine informed by local produce has earned national recognition including two prestigious top-ten rankings from Toronto Life and En Route, Air Canada's magazine. It was also named Rookie of the Year by Tourism Hamilton as the brightest new business in the city.

"The speed at which the accolades have come in is what is most surprising," says Macfarlane, who trained at one point in the kitchen of Hell's Kitchen despot Gordon Ramsay.

White, the restaurant is a return home. She grew up in Dundas and her memories of beautiful produce gracing the family table were a powerful incentive to come back and renovate an older home into the chic Quatrefoil.

"Our family just loved fresh, fresh vegetables. And I knew this area appreciates good food." Fraser and Georgina occasionally find time to do their own foraging for produce like ramps, the wild leek with the garlicky-onion flavour.







She points out the restaurant joins a tradition developed in the cluster of shops and cafés within a block of it. There's **Picone Fine Food**, a 95-year-old business that grew from a market-garden farm, **Cumbrae's Butchers** and **Detour Coffee Roasters**, as well as **Mickey McGuire's Cheese Shop** and **The Horn of Plenty**, which offers organic foods.

Crump and Schormann co-wrote the **Earth to Table cookbook**, which preaches an eat-local message that plays out on the tables at the Locke Street spot and the **Ancaster Mill**, where both met and worked side-by-side.

international cuisine backed by the finest in local produce

Add to all this a growing farmer's market open every Thursday throughout the summer and early fall, and you realize Dundas is just one flourishing food destination.

The latest addition on Locke Street is Earth to Table Bread Bar. It's the creation of Chef Jeff Crump, a dean of the local food movement in Ontario, and Pastry Chef Bettina Schormann. It is a folksy spot with unique bread pizza dough and a wide variety of artisan baked goods as well as pristine salads. The restaurant's bold mission statement: "good ingredients matter" covers the back wall, painted a tough-to-miss red.

The stunning restaurant built into the side of the Niagara escarpment is easy on the eyes and very kind to the stomach with a menu that reflects the best of local producers.

"The future is bright for Hamilton," says Crump. "The Bread Bar is proof of that. People know what good food is, they just need places to go to get it. Hamilton has that and it will only widen."

Crump came to the city eight years ago and recalls one of his first impressions being how quickly it segued from urban to rural, a boon to restaurants.



Another Locke Street spot which echoes the local-food movement is **The Courtyard**. Owners Stephen and Bob Bernstein can draw from their own farm in Dundas to grace the plates of the their fine-dining restaurant.

Visit The Cheese Shoppe on Locke for tastes of the many fine Canadian and imported cheeses. There's also the Locke Street Farmers' Market running every Thursday in the summer.

Nearby is Cake & Loaf Bakery, scheduled to open on Dundurn Street this spring. This newcomer grew from a home-based operation and strives to produce baked goods from 100 per cent local ingredients.

Owners Josie Rudderham and Nicole Sherman spin out fragrant whole-grain bread and decadent jam-filled muffins, as well as sundry cakes, tarts and cookies.

Near Dundurn on Aberdeen Avenue is **Seven Windows**; a high-end restaurant with a bright, sophisticated setting in an old bank building. It offers international cuisine backed by the finest in local produce.

GROW IT MAKE IT BAKE IT

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HAMILTON FARMERS' MARKET

For more information please visit hamilton.ca/hamiltonfarmersmarket

Hamilton's core reflects the city's wide ethnic demographic with many Italian, Portuguese, Indian, Thai and Korean restaurants. The 70-stall **Hamilton Farmer's Market**, newly renovated with a large glass façade near its original 1837 site, is a leading smorgasbord for the senses.

people know what good food is

Produce from the market lands later in the day on plates of downtown restaurants like **Incognito**. The John Street South spot was named Tourism Hamilton "Restaurant of the Year" recently and is a key member of the annual late summer celebration of downtown dining called **Localicious**.

Other restaurants of note in the core are Boo's Bistro, La Piazza Allegra, Acclamation and spots featuring old-world charm such as Shakespeare's Dining Lounge and LoPresti's at Maxwell's.







BACK TO THE FARM

A drive in the country is merely minutes from downtown Hamilton and that means quick access to fresh and organic foods at roadside stalls or country markets.

RAISE A GLASS TO LOCAL WINERIES

Hamilton also produces award-winning wines within its boundaries thanks to gold medals for Ridge Road Estate Winery's 2009 Riesling and 2009 Vidal.

hand-crafted wines made in small batches

Rockton Berry Farm Country Market is one of many local country destinations with a unique blend of gourmet foods, deli and baked goods. The "Agri-Tourism Business Winner" at this year's Tourism Awards, edged out the popular Earth to Table Cookbook, Ancaster Farmers Market, Puddicombe Estate Farms and Winery and Waterhall Farm for the honour. Waterhall offers seasonal fresh vegetables, herbs and flowers and has a sideline in antique furniture and collectibles, as well as a small zoo sure to delight the little ones.

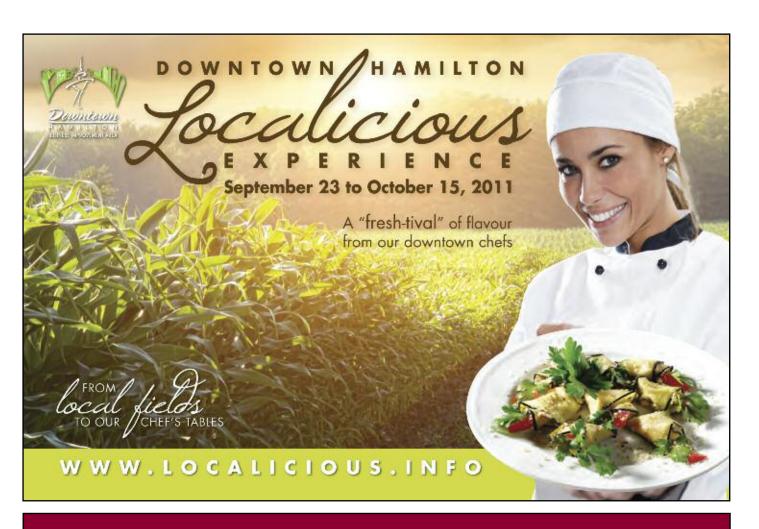
Get your apple-picking fix at the charming Carluke Orchards in Ancaster or pick up a pumpkin at Dyment's Farm in Dundas. Both offer a gourmet market and activities for the family. Other pick-yourown farms include E.D. Smith Fruit Farms, a 125-year-old farm in Winona, Lindley's Farm and Market, famous for its berry picking and corn maze and Murphy's Country Produce in nearby Binbrook.

For a list and map of fresh-food destinations see environmenthamilton.org/food

The boutique winery won the awards in the All Canadian Wine Championship and added two new releases to their lineup this spring, the 2008 Baco Noir and 2009 barrel-fermented Chardonnay. The winery is located on the lip of the Niagara Escarpment with fine views of Lake Ontario and prides itself on hand-crafted wines made in small batches from carefully sorted grapes.

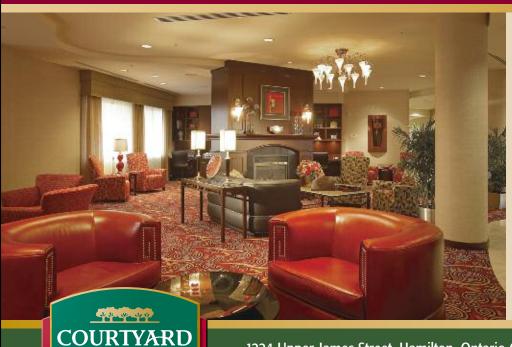
Hamilton's second winery, Puddicombe Estate Farms and Winery, is a family operation dating back to 1797. Puddicombe offers a general store, bake shop, café and antique train rides on the Little Pudd, a former amusement-park train which travels through orchards, vineyards and waterways on the farm.





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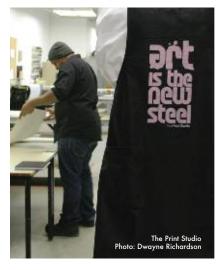


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On By Amy Kenny ever V CORINGER







Behind the floor-to-ceiling windows of Hamilton's **The Print Studio** stands a display of T-shirts and aprons. Each bears the same screen-printed slogan - "art is the new steel". It's a statement indicative of Hamilton's attitude toward itself. This is a city that embraces its industrial past even as it moves forward with its artistic present.

JAMES STREET NORTH

The Print Studio, a gallery and workspace that showcases work by established artists and offers instruction to aspiring printmakers, is located in what was once an armoury discount store. It's just one of many such places to have cropped up on James Street North in the last decade and transformed the strip into an artistic and creative hub.

You Me Gallery, which shows local art and community projects, opened in 2003. The polished concrete countertops and ornately inlaid floors of Mulberry Street Coffeehouse belie the laundromat that used to operate here. Some of the paintings on the walls were done by the artists who occupy studio space on the floors above. Around the corner, Artword Artbar transformed an existing tavern into a live music venue with converted gallery space. At the corner of James and Cannon Streets, a former men's clothing shop now houses Hamilton Artists Inc. – an artist-run centre established in 1975. Newly renovated, the centre now hosts exhibitions, performances and public events in revamped galleries and an outdoor courtyard.

In 2010, the Globe and Mail called Hamilton the new Brooklyn and

Hamilton Artists Inc. 161 James Street N Hamilton, L&R 2K9 905 529 3355 hamilton artistsinc.on.ca

while there are surface similarities (affordable rent, a tight creative community and a refreshing lack of pretension), visitors will find that Hamilton's arts scene has its own distinct flavor, with a variety of unique and inspiring pockets from east to west.

ART GALLERY OF HAMILTON

On the south side of King Street, across from the bustle of Jackson Square Mall and west of historic Gore Park, is the Art Gallery of Hamilton. Founded in 1914, this is Ontario's third largest public art gallery. Recently renovated, the stunning gallery boasts sleek, open and streamlined exhibition spaces. AGH hosts a permanent collection of more than 9,500 works including historically significant Group of Seven originals and stunning contemporary sculptures like Kim Adams' Bruegel-Bosch Bus, an ongoing mixed-media installation.

Highlights of the 2011-2012 season includes
The French Connection, a show that explores
the Paris-inspired works of Canadian painters
from the turn of the century and The Messenger.
This retrospective of the work of Alberta-born
William Kurelek brings together more than 80
paintings spanning the artist's career.

OTTAWA STREET NORTH

Ottawa Street has long been the go-to neighbourhood for those in search of fabric and antique shops. In recent years however, it's also gathered steam as an arts district.

Enter the sun-soaked interior of Allsorts Gallery and browse a space that's equal parts exhibition and retail. Allsorts provides a venue for local artists to showcase original prints, paintings, silver, blown glass sculptures, hand-thrown pottery, textiles and more. And since featured crafters are part of the collective managing Allsorts, you often end up buying

straight from the artist.

Cross the street and head south to check out Earl's Court Gallery and Under the Moon.
The former boasts a 1,600-square foot exhibition space in addition to an on-site framing facility. The latter sells vintage books (with a focus on fine arts and classic literature), as well as a selection of historical artwork, prints and antique home décor items.

MCMASTER MUSEUM OF ART

The leaded-glass windows and ivy-draped limestone buildings of the McMaster University campus provide the perfect backdrop to the McMaster Museum of Art (in the Alvin A. Lee building), one of the country's finest university art collections. The pay-what-you-can price of admission (free for seniors and students) allows entrance to five galleries where you'll find a broad range of works including Impressionist renderings from Monet and van Gogh, Inuit art, and contemporary and Canadian pieces from the 20th century.

DUNDAS

Known for its 19th century streetscapes, the valley town of Dundas also has a rich artistic reputation.

The Carnegie Gallery, located in the same building that served as the town's first public library in the early 1900's, features a classic Beaux Arts-style façade. The gallery shows the work of almost 100 members in addition to two exhibitions that rotate monthly. Inside, find an inspiring collection of textiles, water-colours sculpture and pottery. Around the corner from Carnegie is the intimate campus of the Dundas Valley School of Art. The school attracts close to 4,000 art-lovers annually who help put on special events and a popular spring art auction.

JAMES STREET NORTH ART CRAWL

This evening event sees more than 30 local galleries, shops, studios and restaurants open their doors to the public for an after-hours street party that celebrates the arts renewal taking place in downtown Hamilton. Live music, street performance and interactive exhibitions add to the festive vibe. Do the crawl in chauffeured style by booking a seat on the Art Bus - a shuttle that departs Hamilton's multi-arts venue, the **Pearl Company**, for a guided hop-on, hop-off tour of local galleries. Watch for the much-loved street art party on the second Friday of each month.

SUPERCRAWL

2011 marks the third year for this award-winning fall festival. On Saturday September 10, James Street North will be closed to traffic. In 2010, Supercrawl's mix of live dance, visual art installations and outdoor markets drew more than 20,000 attendees downtown. Two full-sized stages hosted performances from musical acts including Cadence Weapon, Elliott Brood and Bruce Peninsula. With the addition of a live theatre stage and a few extra surprises, 2011 promises to raise the bar once more.

FILM FESTIVALS

This fall (Sept. 23-Oct. 2, 2011), the Art Gallery of Hamilton hosts the third annual World Film Festival — ten days of international and Canadian cinema shown at venues including the AGH, Mohawk College and Westdale Theatre. Featured films are chosen by the AGH in tandem with the Toronto International Film Festival's Film Circuit Group. For an art-film fix year-round, check out the AGH's ongoing I ♥ Film Series.

Hamilton also has a homegrown film festival. Since 2008, HAMILTON24 has been pitting filmmakers against the clock with an event that gives production teams 24 hours to conceptualize and complete a short film with winners screened at a gala. The festival recently broadened its scope to include similar contests for fashion, dance, music and visual art.

PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

The City's Public Art project aims to install works throughout Hamilton. Since its inception, a series of civic information-gathering sessions have helped the city identify strategic locations for these pieces. Locke Street will feature the first fruits of this effort when "stanzas of a meandering poem" are incorporated into the street's sidewalks. Similar projects will be installed on James Street North, the Dundas Driving Park and the King William Street Police Station.

HAMILTON **TURNED THE** Tide of the War



Hamilton prepares to mark bicentennial of decisive 1812 Battles

By John Kernaghan

Historians will argue the nuances, but the popular view is that were it not for events at two of Hamilton's strategic heritage sites, Canadians might now be saluting the Stars and Stripes instead of the Maple Leaf.

With the bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812 already warming up in 2011, several key sites help tell the story of a pivotal point in the war which pitted British troops against the Americans and Haimlton's historic

For more history visit: 1812.tourismhamilton.com

DUNDURN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Dundurn Castle and the Hamilton Military Museum at Dundurn National Historic Site sits in a waterfrontpark that was known in 1812 as Burlington Heights due to a commanding view of Burlington Bay.

In the midst of the two-year conflict, June 1,1813, some 1,600 men, many bringing families with them, took over the Heights to secure it as a key supply depot.

one of the war's decisive battles

Evidence of that occupation shows up in a tour of Dundurn Castle, where a stout, low-vaulted brick room from a building which predated Sir Allan MacNab's classic home is seen as a powder magazine used to supply troops.

At Dundurn's Military Museum, artifacts recovered from the grounds include two original uniforms, swords, muskets and cannon shot used in the war.

There's also an exhibit telling the story of two American schooners which sit 100 metres down off the Lake Ontario shore. The Hamilton and Scourge sank in a storm in August, 1813 and were discovered in 1973. The Museum offers digital sonar photos of the wrecks, which is a graveyard for 53 American sailors.

Guided tours of the Dundurn grounds help bring the War of 1812 into full context. Among the highlights is the story - some call it legend - of unsung hero Billy Green, the 19-year-old who made his way to British commander John Vincent at Burlington Heights to warn the British of the large American force at Stoney Creek. That led to one of the war's decisive battles.

BATTLEFIELD HOUSE MUSEUM & PARK

Battlefield House in Stoney Creek, (a 25-minute drive from Dundurn), is the site of a riveting and decisive battle. It was the destination of 700 British troops and a small band of Iroquois warriors who set out of Burlington Heights on foot in the dead of night June 6. They struck the American stronghold defended by 3,500 men in a silent bayonet attack and sent the invading force towards Niagara.

The Battle of Stoney Creek was a significant victory, even though some historians note the British at first recoiled from the field, not sure they had succeeded. But no American land force ever again penetrated that deep into Canada.

The towering Stoney Creek monument is silent testimony to the key battle of the war. The story really comes to life June 4th - 5th with the annual Reenactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek, which offers an opportunity to mingle with reenacters in period costume, both settlers and soldiers, and witness the depiction of the battle. The weekend-long event draws thousands of spectators and is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

In 2012, Dundurn and the Stoney Creek battle site will be officially connected by an 1812 Trail guide.

THE BLOODY ASSIZE IN ANCASTER

Another significant local landmark of 1812 is Ancaster where treason trials were held to convict men involved in the raids of 1813 and 1814. The trials came to be known as the **Bloody Assize**, after eight men were hung in 1814 in sight of the garrison on Burlington Heights.

For visitors interested in getting close to the site of the trial, there are two restaurants of note.

The Coach & Lantern is a classic English pub in a former stagecoach stop, a 175-year-old building across the street from the site of the courthouse which was home to the Bloody Assize.

The Ancaster Mill is one of Hamilton's finest restaurants in a complex built around the original mill used to imprison offenders.





HONOURING MILITARY CONTRIBUTIONS & HISTORY

TAKING FLIGHT OVER HAMILTON

In 2011, the city welcomes the return of the Hamilton International Air Show after a 10-year absence. The show is returning to its roots as the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum showcases its vintage aircraft in the skies above Hamilton and area.

The June 18 and 19 events at John C. Munro International Airport will feature aircraft like the Boeing Stearman , the North American Harvard, the DC3 Dakota, the Beech 18, the Chipmunk, the Cornell, the Tigermoth, the Westland Lysander, the Fairey Firefly, the PBY Canso, the B25 Mitchell and the Avro Lancaster Bomber.

The Lancaster is one of just two in the world still capable of flying which remain from the 7,300 built in Canada and Britain.

The aircraft can be seen up-close in the museum and anyone who buys a membership in the museum could get an upgrade to ride in one the World War II birds.

MARCHING IN STEPS

Another significant event is the Canadian International Military Tattoo at Copps Coliseum June 25 and 26. This stirring show offers 400 musicians on the arena floor, all in colourful parade uniforms and marching in step to celebrate the contributions of the nation's military.

The 2011 Tattoo marks its 20th anniversary and honours two key events: the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Navy and the 60-year anniversary of the Korean War.

The show will present interactive histories of the navy and the war to remember the sacrifice and accomplishments of the men and women of the naval services and those who served in Korea in the early 1950s.

NAVAL HISTORY ON BOARD

Visitors can get a first-hand look at some of that naval tradition at Pier 9 on the city's waterfront by visiting the destroyer HMCS Haida, the last remaining vessel of its kind.

Visitors can board and tour the Haida, designated a National Historic Site, starting in May.



A Shopping Guide to the Best Buys in Hamilton

By Lisa Hannam



Whatever your shopping style, Hamilton's retail districts have you covered. You just need to know where to look.

MAIN WEST AND KING WEST

Main and King Streets offer the most chic boutiques in Hamilton.

Angela's Fashion Corner has two floors of glam gowns, Adele caters to the fashion-forward career woman, and Milli draws clients come from all over Canada and the United States to shop in the high-end boutique. With labels like Lanvin, Missoni, Sonia Rykiel and many more, it's like stepping inside the pages of Vogue.

Metro Clothing would fit right into retail strips like Queen Street West in Toronto or NYC's SoHo. Its cheeky knickknacks and ultra-trendy fashions make it a popular haunt for students. Best of all, their prices are student-budget friendly.

If you're on the hunt for Canadian artisan keepsakes, including bags jewelry, stationary, and home décor, stop into the Shop At AGH. Make sure to also check out the shop's Art Rental and Sales, specializing in works by Canadian and local artists. Whatever you purchase, it's sure to be a conversation-starter.







one of the prettiest boutiques in the area

JAMES STREET NORTH

If it's been a little while since you've visited James Street North, then you must come back. The strip north of King Street has been transformed in recent years into Hamilton's new emerging arts district with new shops, galleries, bars and cafes.

Stop into Mixed Media, to browse a great selection of Canadian art supplies. The hub for local artists also carries lovely journals, stationary and beautiful art books. White Elephant has to be one of the prettiest boutiques in the area. The vintage store displays delicate hand-made jewelry and lovingly-sourced vintage clothes, accessories and décor.

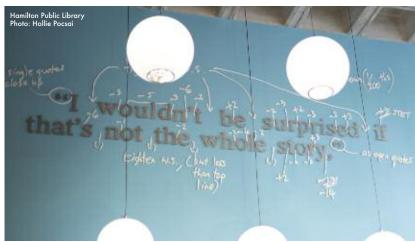
Despite all the changes, parts of James Street remain unchanged. Sometimes it can feel like you're stepping back in time, especially at **Morgenstern's**. You'll feel like a kid again, shopping with grandma, as you peruse the racks of frilly little girl dresses and little boy suits.

Lloyd D. Jackson Square, at the corner of James and King is Hamilton's downtown shopping mall with stores and eateries catering to every taste. Grab a book and snack at the newly renovated Central Library and Hamilton Farmers' Market and head to the Jackson Square rooftop where you can join the summer crowds loitering and lunching in the summer sun.









Just east of James, visit **Black Bird Studios**, for a great mix of elegant evening gowns, girly prom dresses and saucy lingerie. You can buy off the rack or commission a custom garment.

Irving's Famous Clothes first opened its doors in 1915 and has seen the area through its ups and downs. A steadfast fan of the area, its owner offers European suiting at very reasonable prices.

EAST DOWNTOWN

For local-minded shoppers, this is one area absent of big corporate businesses. Many of the shops here have been family-owned for decades. Others are new stores, taking advantage of the walk-by traffic and the gargeous long retail spaces.

a little splurge item for yourself

The exposed brick and narrow storefront of consignment and vintage shop, MODify Your Closet, evokes a Parisian boutique. Find great deals here on brands like Prada, Bob Mackie and others. Savour global flavours and delicious imported products at Denninger's Foods of the World. You'll find cheeses, crackers, teas, and confectionary from just about anywhere, as well as kitchen gadgets not found at department stores. Treat yourself to a pre-made dinners, such as cabbage rolls, perogies or cottage pie.

Venetian Jewellers is a family-run business handed down through generations of diamond experts and watchmakers now importing high-quality lines from Italy, as well as contemporary jewelry and watches.

If you believe the bathroom to be the most important room in any home, then **Home Etcetera** is worth a visit. While half of its business is one-of-a-kind lighting fixtures, the other half is bathroom installations. The window display, a row of toilets painted in jewel-tones and precious metals, takes the idea of porcelain thrones to a new level.

LOCKE STREET

Locke Street is packed with personality and style. Each store is truly different from its neighbour.

Lulu & Lavigne has a real homey feel, thanks to its rustic décor and charmingly set tables. Its owner has a talent for staging cozy yet contemporary settings. She also does custom upholstery and drapes. It's also a good spot for shower gifts, semi-precious stone jewelry and purses.

Find women's wear that is European-minded with an Asian attitude and Hamilton-designed but made in Bali at **Kataya**. Shoe-lovers can indulge their inner Carrie Bradshaw at **Solee Shoes**, which has brought high-end women's footwear and bags to the area.

Pure Home Couture brings a Parisian sense of style to Locke with home décor, gardening, baby clothes, perfume and accessories. Their scented soaps, skin creams, jewelry, dishes, garden accessories and pretty stationary make a perfect gift.

Step inside **Citizen Kid** and you'll feel just like a kid in a candy shop. Only here, the shelves are stocked with skill-teaching toys that are child-safe, Canadian-made, eco-friendly, natural and fair trade.

tourismhamilton.com

Want a gourmet nibble? Grab a snack, or the perfect hostess gift at the Cheese Shoppe on Locke where you can try the chèvre noire with locally-made wild boar prosciutto. Or pop into Forrats Chocolate and indulge in their handmade Tequila Rose truffles or gooey caramel squares. Go ahead and satisfy those sweet and salty cravings.

OTTAWA STREET

Behold, Hamilton's famous fabric district. In recent years, the east-end strip famous for its textiles has welcomed more furniture and design stores, making it an ideal one-stop shopping destination for home décor. Along this street you'll find a mix of shoppers, from elderly women who continue to make their own clothes, professional decorators, families looking for a bargain on furniture made to last, as well as fashion students looking for school supplies.

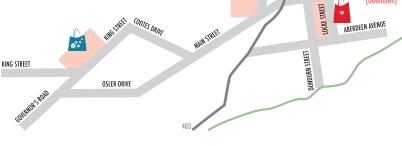
each store is truly different from its neighbour

Stores like Nova Sewing Center, European Textiles, A Big Big Wallpaper Store, Foam Upholstery Supply and many, many others, serve professional decorators and fashion designers from across the region and as far as the U.S. But the street is also an ideal stop for the homeowner looking to breathe new life into their house or stage it for quick sale.

The **Bra-makers Supply** is one of Ottawa Street's newest and most intriguing arrivals. Touting itself as the world's only store providing bra-making certification, Bra-makers has earned international attention.

Students travel from across the country to learn the art
of bra-making as well as lingerie and swimsuit design.

The area is also well-known for its antiques. You just might find a makeup vanity similar to what your



mother used to have or the books your dad would read to you. **Antique Avenue** and **Antiques Unlocked** are a collector's dream, with antique furniture, vintage handbags, retro soda signs, polished silverware and much, much more.

The popular furniture consignment store, **The Millionaire's Daughter** understands the thrill of finding a deal. The longer the item remains on the floor unsold, the lower the price drops. Knowing when to wait and when to snatch up that perfect piece is all part of the fun. Good luck!



YORK BLVD.

*





WESTDALE

During the school year, the area is packed with McMaster University students. But with its great shops and cafes, Westdale is much more than a student neighbourhood.

If you're looking for a unique greeting card, a table centrepiece or a new it-bag, head to Write Impressions, right next to Second Cup. It's more than a stationary store, it's a style haven. Next door is Zoran Designs, which sells jewelry designed by a local father and daughter team. While they do custom designs, their display counters show off ready-to-buy pieces that are worth a looksee.

The Casual Gourmet is home to all the kitchen gadgets found in the pages of a glossy food magazine. If you have a sweet tooth, Cupcakes and Walker's Chocolates are literally steps from each other.

DUNDAS

Stepping out of the big city and into a small quaint town centre is what visiting Dundas feels like. Enhance your shopping experience with a horse-drawn carriage ride in the winter or a trip to the Dundas Farmer's Market in the summer every Thursday.

Ellënoire is a beauty shop, with handmade soaps, natural cosmetics and signature scent blends. They have made it their mission to offer customers products with ethical and safe ingredients. Ask the perfume chemist to custom blend your signature scent.

The Keeping Room has been described as a "toy store for cooks" and is packed with culinary tools and gadgets.

David William Shoes has two floors of trendy shoes and boots. No need to crush on a pair of Hunter wellies or a Michael Kors heels on a Hollywood starlet when you can own your own pair.

Don't be fooled by the union jack logo on the sign for One Rebellion. You won't find British souvenirs. Head down to King's Cross for that. This modern clothier sells the most

a toy store for cooks packed with culinary gadgets

Dakota Mae Boutique & Beauty Bar is known for its racks of cocktail and prom dresses, but has recently expanded the fashions with yoga-style jeans, comfy cotton tops and much more. Also here is the owner's private label, Lucy & Leopold, as well as the designs of Jason Meyers, of Project Runway Canada fame.

fashionable jean brands and casual wear, including Hudson, Buffalo, and others. U.K. designer brands such as Ben Sherman, Fred Perry and Bench also line the tourismhamilton.com/whattodo



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The Canadian International Military Tattoo in Hamilton Copps Coliseum, June 25/26, 2011 Tickets: 905-523-1753, 1-888-523-1753 www.canadianmilitarytattoo.ca







Four Seasons of Family Festival Fun

Festival season in Hamilton means something different to everyone. For some, it's warm summer nights with friends around the band shell. Others think of street performers, tempting food and great peoplewatching. There's the art and culture lovers and those who prefer to honour their history. And then of course there's the young and the young at heart. For them it's all about the midway rides, messy ice-cream cones and creating great family memories.

tourism**hamilton**.com

Whatever your take on festivals, Hamilton has what you're looking for year-round. Read on for a snapshot of some Hamilton festival and event highlights throughout the seasons. For updated and complete listings visit tourismhamilton.com/events

SUMMER

Summers in Hamilton are jam-packed with festivals and events. One of the most popular is It's Your Festival, held every Canada Day weekend in Gage Park. The four-day multi-cultural event is the country's oldest and largest Canada Day celebration. It attracts 250,000 visitors annually and features music, food and crafts from around the world. Another popular weekend-long event is Festival of Friends, the largest free music festival in Ontario. The now iconic Hamilton music festival is held every August and features popular headliners and up and coming artists. In 2011 the festival moves to a new location at Ancaster Fairgrounds.





great entertainment, street parties and delicious restaurant offerings

Food also plays a big role on the Hamilton festival circuit with a range of mouth-watering summer festivals. Downtown Hamilton comes alive

at the annual **Mustard Festival** featuring great entertainment, street parties and delicious restaurant

offerings, all served with an extra "zip of

mustard." The Festival is a perfect fit for Hamilton, home to the world's largest miller of dry mustard, G.S. Dunn which plays a major role at the festival. Other popular food-themed festivals include the popular Waterfront Wingfest, the sweet and nostalgic Ice Cream Festival at Westfield Heritage Village and the delicious Winona Peach Festival.

Other cultural summer highlights include the Brott Music Festival featuring classical, jazz and pop performances, the Hamilton Fringe Festival, showcasing exciting and emerging theatre, the Hamilton Mardi Gras Carnival where performers and spectators alike can "jump up" in a colourful parade culminating in Bayfront Park.

FALL

The **Telling Tales Festival** helps kick off back-to-school in September. The weekend event held annually at Westfield Heritage Village draws book-loving families to share great story-telling in the picturesque surroundings of nearby Rockton.

Surrounded by beautiful farmland, Hamilton is an ideal place to enjoy a range of popular fall fairs including the Ancaster Fall Fair, Binbrook Fall Fair and Rockton World's Fair. Enjoy everything from sheep shearing and cow milking demonstrations, to great rides and tempting treats, all against a stunning background of changing autumn leaves.

Another signature event held in November is the Canadian Aboriginal Festival which celebrates the best in aboriginal culture. One Festival highlight is the Pow Wow, Canada's largest, which features more than 1,000 dancers from across the continent. The Festival also features lacrosse competitions, educational workshops and the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards.

Also in November is the annual Mum Show in Hamilton's Gage Park. The event celebrates the city's official flower with thousands of spectacular blooms found throughout greenhouses in the park.

WINTER

Hamilton comes alive for the holidays. One winter highlight is the Nutcracker Ballet and Festival celebrating dance and art.

The look and feel of Christmas past comes to life at Dundurn Castle, decorated every year in cedar boughs, ribbons and dried flowers for the National Historic Site's Victorian Christmas which includes traditional seasonal desserts and guided evening tours. Or visit Whitehern Historic House and Garden for their Christmas-time Nutcracker Tea event.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas at Westfield Heritage Village helps visitors experience Christmas traditions through self-guided lantern tours, theatre and food against the picturesque setting of a historical farm and village.



SPRING

A great start to the Spring season is the annual Sweet Taste of Spring Maple Syrup Festival, also held at Westfield Heritage Village. Explore the making of maple syrup from the tree to the table through different periods including the methods of Canada's First Nations, 19th century pioneers and modern times. A traditional wagon ride and pancake breakfast are also on the menu.

Another popular favourite is the Food and Drink Fest held at Copps Coliseum. The culinary expo draws big crowds for its exciting variety of local and international wines, specialty beers and culinary offerings created by some of the region's most popular restaurants, breweries and wineries.

Street performers flock to Dundas for its annual International Buskerfest. The popular street party shuts down quaint downtown Dundas to car traffic, opening the street up to street sales, children's activities, food vendors, as well as some of the best street performers in the world.

June in Hamilton is also packed with incredible military and historical tributes. The annual Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek marks its 30th year in 2011. Thousands of spectators travel to the site of the pivotal battle of the War of 1812 at Battlefield Park to witness history brought to life. The Canadian International Military Tattoo in Hamilton is marking the

the best street performers in the world

There's lots to do with mom in Hamilton come Mother's Day. Tour architectural and historically relevant gems throughout the city free of charge during Doors Open Hamilton or visit Royal Botanical Gardens for their spectacular Lilac and Tulip festivals and treat mom to their traditional Mother's Day Brunch.

20th Anniversary of "Connecting Canadians to their Military Through Music" with 400 musicians dressed in brilliant uniforms marching in step at Copps Coliseum in downtown Hamilton. And after a ten-year hiatus, the spectacular Hamilton International Air Show returns to the skies over the city just in time for Father's Day.



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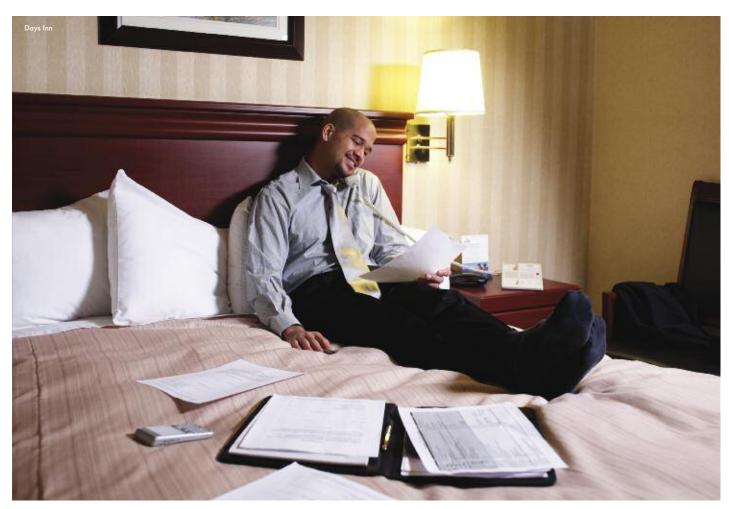


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CLOSE TO IT

Hamilton offers a wide range of new and recently-renovated hotels that are close to our area's many attractions.

The Sheraton Hamilton Hotel has just completed a multi-million dollar makeover and offers luxurious rooms, fine amenities with indoor access to the Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton Place, Hamilton Convention Centre, and shopping. The Crowne Plaza is another newly-renovated, luxury downtown hotel within walking distance of theatre, dining and shopping. The Days Inn is a short distance to the Hamilton Convention Centre, art galleries and many fabulous restaurants.

There are also some excellent hotels outside the core, including the Visitors Inn, close to McMaster University offering excellent fitness facilities and an indoor pool. Courtyard by Marriott is one of Hamilton's most family-friendly new hotels, near John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport and offers an indoor pool, fitness centre and Courtyard Café. Carmen's C Hotel is Hamilton's newest luxury hotel and provides complimentary shuttle-service to Hamilton Airport. The Holiday Inn Express provides convenient QEW access and is a consignment hotel partner for African Lion Safari.

If a traditional hotel isn't your style, Hamilton is home to many B&B's, each with its own unique character and personality. In the summer, three separate college and university residences offer affordable accommodation options. And if you prefer the outdoors, there are a variety of public and private campgrounds close to the city and many attractions. For a complete listing of accommodations in the area, visit tourismhamilton.com/wheretostay



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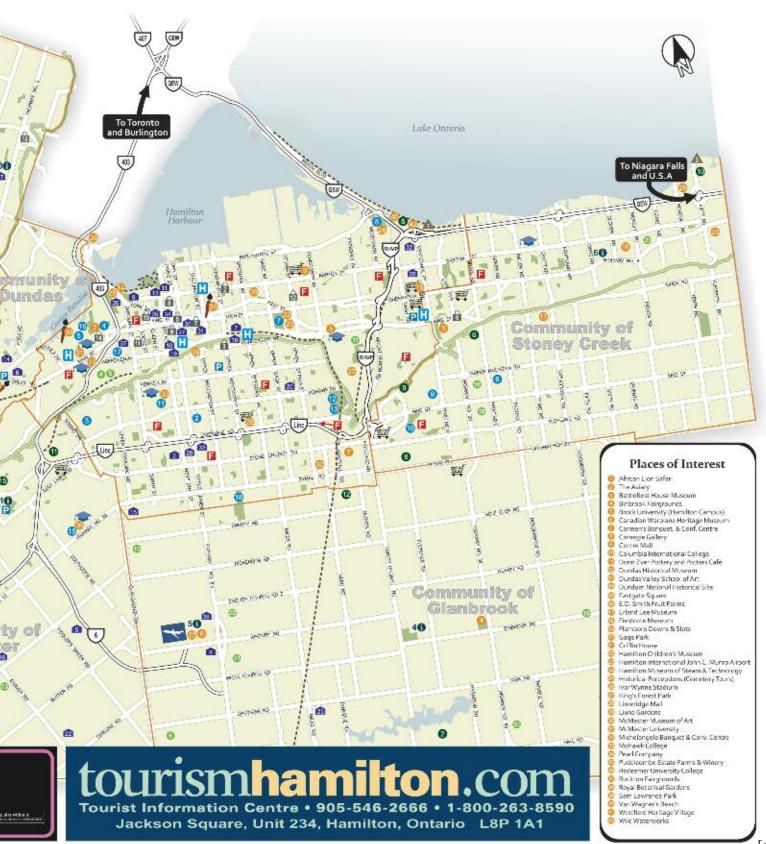
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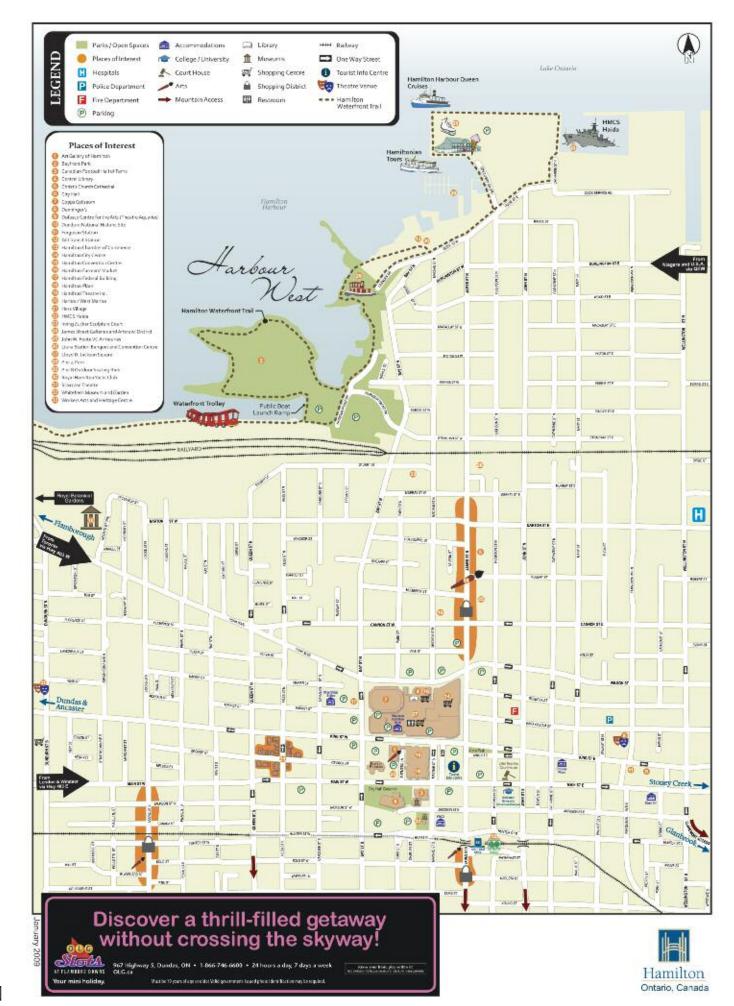
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