GET READY FOR DOORS OPEN:
NEW SITES AND OLD TO ENJOY IN THE NORTH END

Submitted by Robyn Gillam

For 17 years, Doors Open Hamilton has made it possible for the general public to visit historic and other interesting sites that are not always accessible. The whole idea started in France, quickly spreading around Europe and then to North America, beginning with Toronto in 2001. Currently the Ontario Heritage Trust coordinates Doors Open in 36 localities all over the province.

This year, while there are interesting sites open all over Hamilton, the following are in the North End. For several years, the church of St. Lawrence the Martyr has been part of the programme. This attractive brick Romanesque-style building, in the heart of the North End at Mary and Picton Streets, was built in 1890 and is the third oldest Catholic church in Hamilton. It features an imposing altar of Italian marble and a certified historic Casavant organ.

HMCS Star is almost due north of the church at 650 Catherine St. North, adjacent to HMCS Haida. Although the Star is a military museum, it also the home of the naval reserves and a training site for male firefighters. These are just a few of the many fascinating places open on the weekend of May 4th to 5th. If you are interested, check the Doors Open website at doorsopenontario.on.ca/en/hamilton for the exact times that each site is open.

An exciting new addition to Doors Open lies just outside the North End on 210 Hillyard, in the port industrial lands. The Hamilton Port Operations Centre is an innovative new structure, designed and built by Atkinson Engineering in 2016. Its design, especially the windows, suggest a ship, and its upper story provides a panoramic view of the harbour. It contains an exhibition area relating to shipping and other harbour activities, including an historic model boat, created by Morris boatbuilders.

Other interesting sites adjacent to our neighbourhood are the Workers Arts and Heritage Centre (WAHC) and the Cotton Factory. WAHC is located on Stuart Street, adjacent to Bayfront Park. Originally built in 1858 as a Customs House, it has its own ghost and an interesting history of multiple use. It now houses rotating exhibitions and events that celebrate the lives of working people. The current show looks at female firefighters. These are just a few of the many fascinating places open on the weekend of May 4th to 5th. If you are interested, check the Doors Open website at doorsopenontario.on.ca/on/hamilton for the exact times that each site is open.
This month’s Walkabout Profile of People making a Difference within our Community for the month of May we have the radiant and delightful mom to be Gladys Flores.

Gladys is a life-long North Ender. At the age of 4 Gladys, her parents and five siblings relocated here to Canada. Proud of her Guatemalan ancestry her family were refugees, immigrating here in 1987.

Her family settled in Hamilton’s North End residing in the City Housing Community and she is very thankful for all the assistance and for the North End Community; “for all the love that was shown and in the support that was provided when my family needed it the most.”

I asked what is “IMPORTANT to you: “My family comes first and giving back and to contribute back to the Community.”

“What is your ‘JOURNEY’ in Life”: “Being the BEST person that I can be, which has always centered on children.”

Gladys is a Child & Youth Coordinator since 2010 at the Welcome Inn Community Center. Her work with the Children & Youth programs are as follows:

- The Learning & Fun after school program for kids at Bennetto and St. Lawrence School from the grades 1 to 8.
- The LEAD Teen Program for local youth ages 14 - 20
- The Welcome Inn Summer Day Camp for kids ages 5 - 11 which provides fun for all in attendance.

Gladys believes “It’s not about what happens to you, it’s about how you react to it.”

Kids are amazing & resilient, but what they need most are loving adults in their corner to help them grow and to learn. For more information on these programs you can contact Gladys.

E-mail: e:gladys@welcomeinn.ca or call 905-525-5824 or stop by during business hours at 40 Wood Street.

In Closing and with Mother’s Day on Sunday May the12th approaching I asked if she had any special shout outs: “Thanks to my Mom and all of the woman out there, who step up and nurture & sacrifice to better the lives of our children”.

Gladys is a proud mom of 3 with number 4 arriving this summer.

“VIENE UN VARON !!!!! “ Which translates to “It’s a boy ! “ Congratulations Gladys!”

I would like to thank Gladys for taking time out of her busy schedule to sit down and for sharing & caring for the children and for sharing her story with me.

Till next month, take care of you and those around you. Cheers

WOMEN OF HAMILTON:

JANE’S WALK

Who was Jill Simmons? Who was Tersilla Komac? Hint: both have a connection to the North End! Join Sheri and Cathy on a Jane’s Walk to have a conversation about some of the Women of Hamilton and the contributions women have made to our city.

On our walk, we will discuss women’s issues in the past, such as the right to vote, birth control, prohibition; and issues facing women today, such as electing more women, pay equity, diversity, inclusion and recognition, with a look toward the future.

On Friday we will meet with Nnrinder Nann and Maureen Wilson, recently elected to Council. The walk will also feature several present-day women’s organizations such as SACHA, and the YWCA as well as historical places such as the Wesleyan Ladies College and the first birth control clinic in Canada. Although the walk is only about 3 Km, plan for approximately 2 hours. Accessibility? It will be on city sidewalks.

Jane’s Walks are free, citizen led walks inspired by Jane Jacobs. Walks are held during the first week of May to celebrate her birthday.

Walk 1: Friday May 3, 10:45 AM at City Hall. Meet Nnrinder and Maureen at 11:00.

Walk 2: Saturday May 4, 10:00 AM at the YWCA 75 MacNab Street South.
Hello again, Breezes readers. I have some North End news you can use this issue. Also a few dates (some solid, others approximate) that are signs of continued progress in your beautiful neighbour- hood where there are even signs that signs are progressing well. And with that a big thank you to local artist, Matt Fletcher, for the wonderful new work welcoming everyone to the North End from various corners.

**Ferguson Avenue**

This summer, one of our roughest residential routes will finally receive full on renewal. From the pipes below to the surface above, expect a major transformation for the better on Ferguson Avenue North.

The Ferguson renewal project tender has closed, and we are proceeding with the project award. Details pertaining to construction along with contact information will then be circulated to residents. For those who live on Ferguson, be sure to read these details over when they come to your door and if you have been intending to change any feeder pipes or alter a driveway entrance, this would be a good time to get it done.

**Eastwood Overhaul**

On Thursday, May 23 at Bennetto Recreation Centre at 6:30pm, I will be hosting a Town Hall on Eastwood Arena and Park. Both the park and the rink will be the main topic as we discuss the future and the current needed budgets that will soon bring the evolution of Eastwood.

We will also go over the funding and time-lines respecting our Bennetto Recreation Centre expansion coming in a few years to the North End.

**John Street Bridge**

For many years we had been waiting to hear when CN was going to start rebuilding the John Street Bridge. There were a few false starts along the way. Then a lull where two Cellar Dweller Christmas events went by before we heard thing. Then, suddenly our friends at CN sent a note to the city that I quickly tweeted out. The bridge work was about to begin (a few months ago) and before we knew it, detour signs went up and the bridge came tumbling down.

We know the detour has been a challenge for some and especially on the easterly side of the North End who live on or close to John. So, let’s be certain we have more knowns than unknowns going forward. What your ward 2 office has heard is this; the bridge is to reopen in late September. That said, we can also share the contact for the CN project Senior Design and Construction Officer. If you have questions respecting the John Street Bridge project, please contact Robert J Versteegen at CN. Office: 905-669-3157

Until next time, Breezes readers. Remember, you may contact me any time. If you need some garbage tags, a green or blue bin or with any questions respecting local issues, please call or email.

**Jason Farr**

**Ward 2 Downtown**
THIS IS YOUR STREET, NORTH ENDERS...
SUBMITTED BY BRIAN ROULSTON

Ferrie Street is a two way street that runs from Nichol Street in the west to Hughson Street then from John Street to Emerald Street in the east. It was named after Colin Campbell Ferrie born in Glasgow, Scotland 1808. Ferrie was appointed as Hamilton’s first mayor and served for one year in 1847. In 1856 Colin Ferrie, once a major player in Hamilton and the area’s local commerce, died in his 48th year due to an enlargement of the heart. At the time many attributed his death to stress due to his financial meltdown after a series of financial setbacks. This included the sinking of two ships carrying company goods to supply his ailing stores and other businesses.

The base of the Ferrie Street hill at Nichol Street was the boat works of J. Whittaker and J. Massie. This area was once home to many waterfront industries, marine foundries, ice houses and more.

In between Hughson St. and John Street is the Bennetto School area. Up to 500 elementary school students attend classes here daily. Originally known as the Picton Street School in 1889 on the corner of Picton St. and Catherine St. It was renamed the Bennetto Elementary School in 1921. This was done in honor of the highly respected Susan B. Bennetto who spent a half a century at this school, thirty of those years were as the school’s principal. Following a devastating fire the school was rebuilt on John Street. Eventually, the school relocated to its current location in 2002 in the former Centennial School along Simcoe St.

Today, a large 30,000-square-foot medical clinic stands called the North Hamilton Community Health Centre, sometimes referred to as the North End Community Health Center. It was built in 2011 at a cost of $15.8 million and serves 8000 residences each year. Also occupying this stretch of land is the Bennetto Community center.

Ferrie Street continues on the other side at John Street until it dead ends at Wellington Street where the Ferrie St. Bridge once rose over the old Northern Railway track (now CN). Prior to the building of that bridge at least 10 people were killed by trains at that track while crossing the intersection of Ferrie and Wellington. A walkway now goes down the hill to Wellington Street.

Crossing over Victoria Street and running alongside is what was once a massive 740,000 sq-ft (6.87 Hectares) building built during the war. It was the largest BOFOR anti-aircraft gun plant in the British Commonwealth during WW-II. After the war Otis Elevator used it for several years. Then in 1954 Studebaker started manufacturing cars here; that ended in the 1960’s. Today, only a small 30,000 sq-ft (.29 Hectares) corner of that once huge factory still stands as a reminder of its heritage. The building is currently being renovated into office space while the land is being redeveloped into a commercial and mixed use zone.

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Across the street sits The Hamilton Community Health Centre that was originally the Hamilton-Wentworth branch of the VON. The VON currently has presence in the building and next door. Ferrie St. street leads back into a residential area at Emerald Street where today it officially ends.

Just another reason to join our folding team!
Coffee & Donuts supplied by:
GRANDAD’S DONUTS
Hamilton, ON L8L 1J7
289-700-0905
Support our supporters!
St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish
‘where faith builds community’
125 Picton Street East,
Hamilton, ON L8L 0C5

Pastor: Rev. Peter Jurzyk

**Sunday Mass:** 11:00 am

**Weekday Masses:**
- Tues: Mass at 7:00 p.m.
- Wed: Mass at 8:00 a.m.
- Thurs: adoration and opportunity for confession 6:15 p.m. and Mass 7:00 p.m.
- Fri: Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Please check our website to confirm weekly mass times

Phone: 905-529-3921
Call the parish office to book an appointment with the priest, book a home visit for the sick, inquire about sacraments, and for hall rentals.

Email:
- stlawrencehamilton@hamiltondiocese.com
- facebook.com/stlawrencehamilton/
- www.stlawrencehamilton.ca

**Office Hours:**
- Mon 9am-1pm
- Tues 9am-3pm
- Wed 9am-3pm
- Thurs 9am-3pm
- Fri 9am-1pm

Call the office for hall rental information or visit the hall rental page on our website: [http://stlawrencehamilton.ca/hall-rentals/](http://stlawrencehamilton.ca/hall-rentals/)

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**Hughson Street Baptist Church**

383 Hughson St N, Hamilton

**Contact Info:**
- 905.527.3972
- office@hughson.ca
- www.hughson.ca

**Office Hours:**
Mon to Friday
9AM - 4PM

**SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**

Bennetto School 10:00AM

47 Simcoe St E, Hamilton, ON

Hughson Street Baptist Church has been a part of the North End since 1887. Each Sunday we gather for a lively time of worship with music, and relevant teaching from the Bible. There is a program for children who are babies right through Grade 8. During the week we have several Youth centered programs and our Coffee’s On drop-in on Friday mornings. Give us a call, or check the website for details: www.hughson.ca
SPRING IS HERE!
SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE FERARRA

Ah Spring! When all things are new and fresh and tender. We welcome new leaves and grass and flowers and babies from birds and puppies and our own newborns. In the spirit of fresh renewal, I was uplifted by a recent article in Time magazine on the ‘art of optimism’. With Cicely Tyson-age 94-on the cover, and over 30 people who want to inspire us to elevate our expectations. To avoid wallowing in bad news and troubling times-and rise above it to a high-minded, happy-even magical-outlook.

The theme is: HOPE. No matter what is happening in the big world-or your own little world-there is reason to hope, to be joyful, and open to possibilities. Contributors to the article include artists, activists, actors, founders, advocates-and people who have suffered from current hot-button issues of hunger, poverty, racism, abuse, corruption, immigration, violence. People who have every reason not to have hope.

Yet-they not only have hope-they are joyful and enthusiastic in their choice of humanity, forgiveness, empathy, decency, educating folks to learn and grow, having patience, learning tolerance and acceptance of others’. A reflection, of all that is truly good in people. And reflecting on the commentary, I felt good and positive, I felt hopeful, I felt inspired and enthusiastic to contribute positively to our community.

This Spring, this is what I wish for everyone: that each person recognizes the opportunity of seeing the good in others, and in themselves, and sees the hope in every situation. This Spring, enjoy every moment, rain or shine…and give a big smile to hope.

SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE FERARRA

We will be open on VICTORIA DAY (Monday May 20th) for the following programs:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>POOL</th>
<th>GYM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leisure Swim 55+ 10:15-11:00am</td>
<td>Open Gym (Family) 10:30am-12:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Fit 11:05-11:50am</td>
<td>Open Gym (9-17yrs) 12:45-2:00pm</td>
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<td>Length Swim 12:00-1:00pm</td>
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<td>Leisure Swim 1:15-2:15pm</td>
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On Friday May 31, 2019, we will be hosting our last FREE monthly movie night before the summer break. Come join us to watch a movie on the gym wall at 6pm. Thanks to all that came out and enjoyed the movies. We hope to see you again soon!

Want a refreshing summertime activity for your kids? Swim lessons are available all summer long. Contact your local community centre and ask about their summer swim lessons and registration information before June 11th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Moving forward, The Breezes is looking at new ways to stay afloat! A solid base of volunteers to deliver to our residents in certain areas, contacts to deliver door to door in apartments and a wider network of drop stations. We’ll help you build a team so you can be part of the change.

It’s all in the works and depends on you. A few hours of your time at the beginning of the month can make the difference.

Do you live in one of these areas on this map? Do you walk around your neighbourhood? Pick up your kids at school or walk your dog? If you want to meet your neighbours and learn about your community, we need your help! Please email office@northendbreezes.com

BENNETTO COMMUNITY CENTRE
450 Hughson Street North
905-546-4944
www.hamilton.ca/rec

Calling all Campers 5-11 years’ old and Camp Leaders: July 2nd – 26th Monday through Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm

HOW TO REGISTER:
Bring a parent or guardian to Welcome Inn Community Centre Wednesday April 24th anytime between 5:30 and 7:30 pm - First come, first served.
*North End families will be given priority*
$60 per child/week

Questions?
Contact: Gladys Flores, Children’s Programs Coordinator
T+ 905-525-5824  E+ gladys@welcomeinn.ca

As the weather gets warmer, consider trying something new that connects you with the neighbourhood and the great people in it.
We have several volunteer opportunities:
• New Horizons Thrift Store Assistant.
• Seniors Program Assistant. (April – June)
• Day Camp Leader (July)
• Food Bank Assistant

Connect with Ruth to get the conversation started. ruth@welcomeinn.ca OR 905-525-5824

Are you a senior who would like to connect with friends in your neighbourhood? We would love to meet you! Join us on Tuesday’s @ 12:00 pm for our Seniors Diners Club.

The homemade meal is always delicious, the laughter is plentiful, and the activities are lots of fun.

Cost: $4.50
Questions? Call Ruth @ 905-525-5824
NENA UPDATE

Next Meetings:
Wednesday, May 1, 2019
Wednesday June 5, 2019
7:00 – 8:00 PM at
Bennetto Community Centre

April was a busy month. Two of NENA’s new committee held meetings and hearings on Pier 8 appeals at the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) took place at the municipal building that houses the Ontario Court of Justice and Provincial Offences Office at 50 Main Street East.

Jon Davey, chair of NENA’s Environment and Climate Committee reports that on April 10th this committee had its first meeting at Williams Café on Pier 8. Eight people attended and discussed numerous topics, with an emphasis on how we can improve our air and water quality, as well as reduce our carbon emissions. He reports there was a great energy at the meeting and considerable discussion about potential solutions for various environmental issues that we face at a local level: from algae blooms, need for active transportation, improved use of land and biodiversity, just to name a few. We also discussed the many upcoming environment-related events that will be happening across the city, including spring trash pickup events that not only keep our neighbourhoods beautiful, but also are a great way to meet and get to know your neighbours.

You can stay informed of upcoming events by following NENA’s Environment and Climate Committee on Twitter at @nenacclimate. If you’d like to know more about the committee or be part of it, please send an email to nenapresident@gmail.com or attend our monthly meeting.

For more up to date information visit:
www.NorthEndNeighbours.com
MAY EVENTS

May is Here! And we are celebrating Jane’s Walk and Doors Open Hamilton events in our neighbourhood or nearby, Mother’s Day and Victoria Day. The annual Rain Barrel Sale fundraiser for The Breezes is on May 11, order yours by May 1st at rainbarrel.ca/northendbreezes. Here are some family friendly and neighbourhood events. Some are free and some have a fee.

Have a neighbourhood event to list? Send to events@northendbreezes.com by the 12th of the previous month.

MAY events

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>WE 1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>NENA Monthly Meeting: Updates on issues affecting our neighbourhood.</td>
<td>Bennett Community Centre</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>Talking About Death Won’t Kill You: the Essential Guide to End-of-Life</td>
<td>Central Library Hamilton Room</td>
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<td>Conversations. Authr Dr. Kathy Kortes-Miller, palliative Care</td>
<td>Discovery Centre RSVN</td>
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<td>researcher, discusses her TED talk and book.</td>
<td>&amp; hamilton.ca/</td>
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<td>TH 2</td>
<td>4:30</td>
<td>Hamilton Port Authority AGM and Report to the Community</td>
<td>Central Library Discovery Centre RSVN</td>
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<td>Includes update on the Westport Modernization Project</td>
<td>&amp; hamilton.ca/</td>
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<td>FR 3</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Hamilton Public Library Launch of Hamilton Music Archives</td>
<td>Central Library</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Launch ceremony of the Music Archives</td>
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<td>Rush: Time Machine (movie)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Free Friday Night Art Tour…</td>
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<td>…continues at the Art Gallery of Hamilton AGH</td>
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<td>SU 5</td>
<td>11-4</td>
<td>Golden Horseshoe Live Steamer Days</td>
<td>Museum of Steam &amp; Technology, 800 Woodward Ave.</td>
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<td>TH 9</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>National Post Card Week</td>
<td>Central Library, Wentworth Pk.</td>
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<td>FR 10</td>
<td>12:45</td>
<td>Noon Hour Concert: Dover Lynn Fox</td>
<td>Central Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA 11</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>The Breezes Rain Barrel Pick Up and Plant Sale</td>
<td>468 James N. @ Pictson</td>
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<td>“Important part in Hamilton’s history, from mothers, matrons, educators</td>
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<td>and even a murderer.”</td>
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<td>SU 12</td>
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<td>Mothers Day</td>
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<td>SA 16</td>
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<td>Stories in the Stones: War of 1812 Tour</td>
<td>Hamilton Cemetery</td>
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<td>MO 20</td>
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<td>Victoria Day</td>
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<td>FR 24</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Noon Hour Concert: Gunter Ott Blues Band</td>
<td>Central Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA 25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Stories in the Stones: Civil War Tour</td>
<td>Hamilton Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>FR 31</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Noon Hour Concert: HPO Violin &amp; Viola Duo</td>
<td>Central Library</td>
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Welcome Inn

Tuesdays Noon Seniors Dinners Club A hot lunch followed by entertainment. Suggested donation $4.50

Welcome Inn 40 Wood Street

Have a neighbourhood event to list? Send to events@northendbreezes.com by the 12th of the previous month.

NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES

SUBMITTED BY BOB WOOD

The Hamilton Community Legal Clinic provides a variety of services including legal advice & referrals, legal representation, public legal education, community development and law reform. This year has been busy with some new initiatives and activities to improve services to the client communities we serve. Here are a few examples:

Together We Rise

In February we launched Together We Rise! S’Elever Ensemble! Program. A newly formed coalition of agencies and allies is working with us to combat anti-Black racism and facilitate access to justice for Hamilton’s Black community. The Coalition came together as result of feedback gathered as part of a bilingual celebration during last year’s African Heritage month. That celebration focused on Access to Justice for Hamilton’s Black Community.

Queer Justice Project/Le projet de justice queer

Another collaborative undertaking was launched in March at Hamilton Artists Inc. on James Street North. Queer people often face legal problems that are tied to their sexual orientation and gender identity. Historically, the law has been used as a tool of oppression against the Two Spirit and LGBTQ community. This oppression continues to affect the community today. The Project aims to shift the balance and build capacity in the queer community.

Check out the new website at www.queerjustice.ca/

Hamilton Legal Outreach (HLO)

The Clinic, in partnership with Legal Aid Ontario (LAO), started a project in 2014. Hamilton Legal Outreach (HLO) is designed to change the way individuals who live with mental health issues and addictions issues receive legal services. Traditional legal services require people with legal issues to initiate contact with a service provider. The HLO model is different. It meets people “where they’re at” by attending different sites and collaborating with community agencies who are already providing support services. Find out more at https://www.hamiltonjustice.ca/mental-health-addictions

The Definition of Disability is Changing in Ontario

The Ontario government is planning to change the definition of disability. The change will make it harder to get the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) support. Anyone who qualifies now should apply before these changes occur.

Those who currently have a family doctor should contact their doctor as soon as possible to make an appointment to have an application filled out. Those without doctors can get assistance at specially designed sign-up clinics. The clinics are staffed by medical and legal professionals. In May, the clinics will run on Tuesdays (9th & the 23rd) from 12:00-3:30 PM at the First Pilgrim United Church 200 Main St. East in Hamilton.

Bob Wood is a Community Worker at the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic.
**BOOK CLUB CORNER**

SUBMITTED BY KIT DARLING

April’s book was *Smoke River* by Krista Foss. The background of this first novel by Hamilton author Foss draws on the turmoil surrounding land claim disputes informed by the incidents at Oka and Kanehsatake and most closely the recent Caledonia dispute. We meet characters on both sides of the issue – and those in the middle. As the plot develops, we gain insight into the lives of the characters, the scars caused by ingrained racism, parental expectations and abandonment borne by young and old, indigenous and non-indigenous. Members agreed that they particularly enjoyed her character development and the way that she worked in backstory to explain characters current situation.

And here are some recommended reads available from the Hamilton Public Library. Visit the Bookmobile at Bennetto Recreation Centre on Tuesday (2:30 to 4:30) and Thursday (6:00 to 8:00) or go online at hpl.ca to reserve a copy.

**The Enchanted, by Rene Denfeld**

This book overwhelms you with deep feelings. It is beautiful & painful. It is the story of an archea prison system as seen through the eyes of an inmate who survives his time in his dark ages dungeon on death row by reading and creating a fantasy world. Yet he is very aware of his surroundings, all the complexities of the institution and all the people within its walls. - Paige Turner

**Dear Mrs. Bird, by A.J. Pearce**

This novel, set in London during WWII, tells the story of Emmeline Lake and her best friend Bunty as they try to stay cheerful despite German planes making nightly bombing raids over the city. When Emmeline takes a job typing for a newspaper, she comes up against the formidable Mrs. Bird who writes an advice column. Tensions escalate. Funny yet moving and a good portrayal of ordinary people in extraordinary times. A tribute to the men and women who fought courageously on the home front. - Paige Turner

Have you read any of our recommendations? Liked any of the same books we talked about or disagreed totally? Let us know at bayareabookclub@bell.net.

We have been asked whether anyone can join the book club. Our books are supplied by the Hamilton Public Library and come in a bag of 12. This obviously limits us to 12 members at a time. We currently have 12 members, but if you wish to be put on a waiting list, email us at the above address. Alternatively, check out the many book clubs run by the Hamilton Public Library.

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**WELL RAISED VEGGIE GARDENS ALWAYS SAY ‘PEAS’**

SUBMITTED BY CANDY VENNING, VENNI GARDENS

Although it’s far from new, one of the growing trends over the last few years is the addition of raised bed gardens – with less bending over, they’re easier to care for and provide a confined & defined area to (usually) grow veggies in front or backyards.

The first consideration is what kind of wood to build with; both cedar or untreated pine work well, being the least chemically treated and most easily available woods. Staking in the corners, and reinforcing with cross bars as soil gets heavy and pushes/bows out the boards if it’s over 3’.

Many people get very enthusiastic their first season but be sure you have full sun (this won’t work under a tree or in the shadow of a house) also avoid going too big the first year. I recommend starting with a planting area approx 2’x 3’ x 16‘X deep, adding additional beds as necessary or garden at grade if your raised bed is successful. No sun in your yard? Join a community garden group to get your own little sunny plot or volunteer with Victory Gardens or Hamilton Community Garden Network.

The best soil is made-at-home compost (look to my last article for more on soil) or mushroom compost with a bit of bagged manure mixed in. Triple mix is fairly low in nutrients but you can add bagged manure if it’s your only option, potting soil is usually for houseplants or annuals and doesn’t serve veggies well. Spreading leaf, straw or dried grass as mulch keeps moisture in and weeds out.

When choosing what to plant, remember that one squash or zucchini grows huge and quickly sprawls out across an entire yard. Instead of planting one of everything, consider high value items that you will use straight from the garden regularly. To me it’s cherry tomatoes, edible flowers like nasturtiums & borage, herbs like Thai basil, chives, parsley, arugula, and rosemary. Runner Beans are beautiful and easy to grow up 3 poles tied together, on a purchased trellis or even chain link fencing. Carrots, zucchini and potatoes are so cheap at the market I don’t see the value in adding them to my limited urban space.

If food gardening really floats your boat then take a closer look at ‘permaculture’ & growing perennials like Haskap berries, rhubarb, red or Black currents (not prickly or invasive like raspberries) and Asparagus. Flowering perennials that attract beneficial insects should be added to your food garden so your crops get great pollination. I recommend Echinacea & Black eyed Susan, Monarda, Liatris, Anise hysso, and Asters.

A final but crucial element that many don’t consider is the need for consistent watering, veggies and tomatoes are annuals after all, requiring plenty of water to produce edible fruits or roots. ‘Drip line’ irrigation, on a timer, is easy to install and ensures your hard work doesn’t wither away while you’re frolicking at Hamilton Beach.

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**LOCAL HERO:**

**MARGIE KNEULMAN**

SUBMITTED BY SHERI SELWAY

Many people travel, but one of our neighbours is raising money before she goes to Guatemala! Not only is Margie Kneulman, taking donations and doing fundraisers, like a recent Fajita Fundraiser, she is selling homemade soap and marmalade to help people in Guatemala who were affected by last year’s volcano. Already her efforts have purchased 4 stoves. I went to a school for hot meals for the students, I went to a medical clinic, and 2 went to communal Kitchens. These stoves will heat water and cook meals and benefit many.

In June 2018, Guatemala’s Fuego volcano erupted causing more fatalities than ever recorded; an estimated 200 people died. Authorities estimate that over 2 million people lost their homes as large areas are covered with ash. They are presently living in communities of wooden pre-fabricated shelters, cooking in outdoor kitchens made of branches and tarps. They are waiting for new housing that may not be ready until next January. Donations are helping to build new outdoor communal kitchens, buy school supplies, and food.

The next fundraiser will be June 15. It will be a silent auction and soap sale. Please contact Margie if you have something to donate to the auction, or wish to donate to the effort. FB Messenger Margarett Kneulman or phone or text 905 975 4704.

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Noticed by your neighbour:
You know spring has officially arrived when you start to see and hear news about the annual Jane’s Walk Festival. Jane’s Walk is a series of free, citizen-led walking conversations inspired by urbanist and activist Jane Jacobs. Hamilton has been participating since 2013.

The “Walk” honours Jane’s ideas and legacy. Although she was not a formally educated planner, Jane had great visions for city design. And her body of work has had a profound influence on planners, architects, politicians, and activists alike.

Jane Jacobs thought of cities as adaptable ecosystems that thrive when communities are designed so that home, work, and play are all within reach. She believed local residents should have a voice in how their cities develop, and encouraged citizens to get to know more about the dynamics of their neighbourhoods. In her 1957 essay “Downtown is for People” she wrote, “No planner can find what will work for our cities by looking at… suburban garden cities, manipulating scale models, or inventing dream cities. You’ve got to get out and walk.

Jane’s Walks are intended to get people walking and talking in our neighbourhoods. They invite us to come out and see for ourselves what makes our city great. Walks are organized and led by everyday Hamiltonians who want to share what they know about special places in the city and typically last from one to two hours. Walks are an opportunity to meet our neighbours, make new friends, learn something new or share our knowledge. We can join a walk in a neighbourhood that we know or choose a walk somewhere we’ve never explored. To date, hundreds of participants have enjoyed walks throughout the lower city, on the mountain, and in Stoney Creek, Dundas and Ancaster.

Jane’s Walks give us an opportunity to have meaningful conversations about the past, present and future of our neighbourhoods - from the architectural aspects to the psychosocial and environmental impacts that affect our everyday lives. The walks also provide us with a platform to make our voices heard inside City Hall. Staying informed and connected on a local level was important to Jane Jacobs.
Mexican Corn Soup

Prep Time: 10 mins  |  Cook Time: 30 mins
Total Time: 40 mins  |  Servings: 6

INGREDIENTS:

SOUP
4 cups fresh sweet corn kernels or thawed frozen corn
3 Tbsp olive oil
1/2 cup diced onion
1/2 cup diced celery
1 small potato cut into 1-inch cubes
4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1/2 tsp. dried marjoram (or oregano)
1/2 cup diced onion
1/2 cup diced celery
1/2 tsp chili powder.
Lime wedges for drizzling

Topping
1/2 cup corn kernels
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
1/4 cup chopped cilantro
Zest from 1/2 lime
1/2 tsp chili powder.
Lime wedges for drizzling

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Place a large soup pot on the stove-top over medium-high heat. Add the olive oil. When it’s hot, add in the onion and cook, stirring, until translucent.
2. Reduce the heat to medium and add the chopped celery and a pinch of salt and stir to combine. Cover the pot and cook until the vegetables start to soften, stirring occasionally to prevent them from browning, about 3-4 minutes.
3. Add the potatoes, marjoram (oregano), salt, black pepper and cayenne and stir.
4. Add the chicken stock and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Cover the pot and lower the heat to medium low. Simmer until the vegetables are tender, about 20 to 30 minutes.
5. Add most of the corn kernels, reserving about 1 cup. Simmer the soup for another 10 minutes.
6. Puree the soup in the pot with an immersion blender. Taste for seasoning and add more salt or pepper if necessary (be sure to season well to bring out flavours). Add the reserved corn kernels. Turn the heat off under the pot after adding corn/corn milk and let stand 5 minutes, so the hot soup cools it slightly. If soup is too thick, add some water to thin and heat.
7. Meanwhile, heat a skillet with a little bit of oil over medium high heat. Cook the 1/2 cup corn kernels, stirring regularly, until lightly browned. Set aside.
8. To serve, spoon soup into bowl. Top with browned corn kernels from your skillet. Top with some crumbled feta cheese and a dollop of sour cream. Sprinkle with a bit of chipotle chili powder and chopped cilantro. Garnish with lime zest.

“Let’s take our time.” We said. “Enjoy our freedom. After all, our kids are leaving the nest. Do we really want to be tied down?”

The only problem is, temptation is around every corner. Literally, every breed around every corner! Afghans to Airedales, Weimaraners to Whippets and everything in between. There is such an eclectic mix of dogs in our North End neighbourhood. Our walks through Bayfront Park have me looking longingly at each one we pass. Usually followed by the statement, “Maybe we should get a dog like that!”

I have probably even stopped you on occasion to ask if I can pat your dog.

Bailey was a Collie/Retriever/German Shepherd mix. Protective, active and smart, he would have made a great farm dog. Instead, he got stuck with us. And while I don’t miss the shedding and his over protective nature, I do miss his warm welcomes home, unconditional love and comforting companionship. That is why I’m looking to you, our dog loving readers, to write in to the Breezes to let me know which breed, in your opinion, makes the best pet. I’d like to hear your recommendations. Just email me at office@northendbreezes.com with “Best Dog” in the subject line. Send a digital photo and brief description on what makes your dog so special for a chance to have your four legged friend featured in an upcoming article, “Dogs in the Hood”. Alternatively, feel free to stop me in the park...but don’t be surprised if I stop you first.

TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE: DOGS IN THE HOOD

SUBMITTED BY ROSE DIVECHA

Call me crazy, but I’m thinking about getting another dog. I had a dog for fourteen years, who you may remember from my November 2017 Breezes story, “Walk the Walk”. About a year ago, Bailey went to the proverbial farm in the sky and my husband Rob and I promised each other we wouldn’t rush into acquiring another pooh any time soon.

Send your upcoming events to events@northendbreezes.com to be included in our monthly calendar and on our website: www.northendbreezes.com

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THE NORTH END BREEZES Board of Directors is currently seeking a new member to help provide strategic and operational direction. This position will be instrumental in moving us forward to build sustainability. If you are interested in becoming a North End Breezes board member email office@northendbreezes.com with responses to the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in our organization?
2. What relevant experience or employment history do you have for this position?
3. What contributions do you think you could make to the organization? What is your area of expertise?
4. What other volunteer commitments do you have?
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