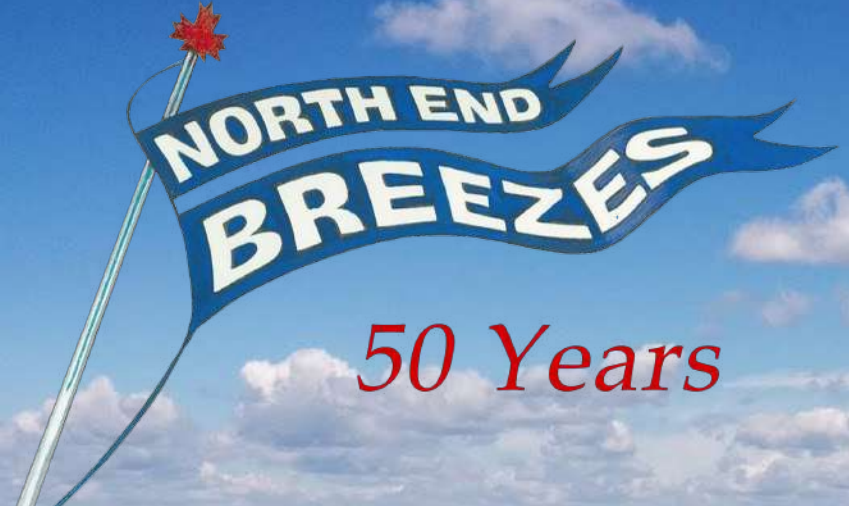




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COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE AND BLOCK PARTY BRINGS NORTH END TOGETHER FOR A DAY OF MUSIC, FOOD, AND FUN



SUBMITTED BY
CHRISSY CHRZAN ET.AL.

The sun was shining, the grills were sizzling, and the music was pumping at this year’s North End Garage Sale and Block Party - a day that brought neighbours, friends, and families together in the best way possible.

From early morning bargain hunters to evening dancers, the event was packed with energy and heart. Over 40 homes participated in the community-wide garage sale, and about 10 booths at Welcome Inn. Thank you to Annabel Krupp and Cat McKay for helping with signage and marketing materials for the event and to Kristina, Sheri, Cassandra and Kelsey for help at Welcome Inn. A huge thank you to Welcome Inn for the generous donation of lawn space for the day - it was fun to see the community out and about!

The community generosity didn’t stop at the garage sale as the party continued over at the North End Block Party. Renee and John grilled up a mountain of hotdogs, Joel kept everyone going with delicious sandwiches, and Abed served up his famous falafel. Special thanks to Maria, who handed out what seemed like 500 Freezies - a perfect treat on a warm summer day - and to everyone who brought homemade sweets and snacks to share.

Kids had a blast thanks to Amara-ine and Jelka, who led fun games and activities throughout the afternoon. Meanwhile, Daniil offered free bike tune-ups that kept wheels turning and spirits high. A huge thanks goes out to all the musical acts: Anne Marie Pavlov & Tony T, BA Johnston, Jack Stearns Ley, Matias & Felix Rozenberg, Jupiter Allan, all the members of Earth Wind and Choir and Colin & Peter. Very special thanks to Phil and Jack, who made sure everything sounded amazing from start to finish.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

ABOUT THIS MONTH: AUGUST

SUBMITTED BY CHRISSY CHRZAN & SHERI SELWAY

August derives its name from Augustus Caesar, the first Roman Emperor who gave his name to this late summer month. Originally called Sextilis (the sixth month in the Roman calendar), it was renamed in 8 BCE to honour Augustus and was given 31 days to match July, named after Julius Caesar. August marks the height of summer in the Northern Hemisphere, traditionally associated with harvest time, warm evenings, and the final weeks before autumn’s arrival. It’s a month of transition, where summer’s abundance begins to give way to the changing seasons.

Highlights

Emancipation Day - August 1, 1834 This date marked a pivotal moment in history when the Slavery Abolition Act came into effect throughout the British Empire. While the Act was later repealed in 1998 during legislative restructuring, slavery remains abolished. Canada now observes this date as Emancipation Day, though many Canadians remain unaware that both Black and Indigenous peoples were once legally enslaved in Canada. The original Act had limitations—only children under six were immediately freed, while others had to serve their owners for an additional four to six years. Thousands of African Americans sought refuge in Canada before the American Civil War. August 1 now serves as a day for Canadians to reflect, educate themselves, and engage in the ongoing fight against racism and discrimination.

Civic Holiday - August 4 Ontario’s Civic Holiday remains

optional for employers. Many know it simply as the August Long Weekend, a popular time for summer getaways.

Nagasaki - August 9, 1945 The second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, just three days after Hiroshima, marking the final acts of World War II.

IBM Personal Computer Launch - August 12, 1981 The IBM personal computer made its retail debut, selling for \$1,565 without disk drives—a revolutionary moment in computing history.

International Youth Day - August 12 This day is recognized by both Canada and the United Nations. This observance highlights that half of the world’s population is 30 or younger.

Celestial Event - August 14 Jupiter and Mars appear to nearly touch in the night sky—an optical illusion caused by planetary alignment that won’t occur again until 2033. The timing coincides with the peak of the Perseid Meteor Shower on August 12, with optimal viewing before dawn on August 11-12.

India’s Independence & Acadian Day - August 15, 1947 India gained independence from British rule. Canada also celebrates Acadian Day on this date, honoring one of the nation’s oldest Francophone communities, with significant populations in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland.

World Humanitarian Day - August 19 This day is observed by Canada and the United Nations.

Pluto Reclassification & NATO Establishment - August 24 This date holds dual significance: in 2006, Pluto was reclassified as a dwarf planet, and in 1949, NATO was established with 12 founding countries (now expanded to 32 members).

“I Have a Dream” Speech - August 28, 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic speech to over 200,000 people in Washington, D.C., demanding equality and justice.

Public Service Pride Week - Third Week of August In 2017, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a formal apology to the House of Commons for discrimination against 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and those falsely accused of being security risks. The Canadian Armed Forces lifted its ban on LGBTQ+ service members in 1992, and the Human Rights Act was amended to include sexual orientation in 1996.

Local Events:

North End Area

- August 1: Lucky Lion Night Market at Bayfront Park
- August 2: Brott Music on Pier 8
- August 8: Art Crawl on James North
- August 8-10: Pride at the Pier (Pier 4 Park)
- August 14, 21, 23-24: HMCS Haida events, including the ship’s 81st birthday celebration

Sources:

- Emancipation Day — August 1 - Canada.ca
- Acadian Culture | The Canadian Encyclopedia
- About - Public Service Pride
- All the meteor showers coming to Ontario in 2025 | INsauga
- Calendar of health promotion days - Canada.ca
- Important and commemorative days - Canada.ca
- Events Calendar - Tourism Hamilton
- Time and Date

IF MUSIC BE THE SOUL OF LOVE, PLAY ON

SUBMITTED BY FRANK PROCTOR

I have recently been made aware of a wonderful Non-profit organization that deserves more attention. Concerts in Care Ontario brings professional musicians into senior’s homes, long term care and assisted living facilities across Ontario, to bring the joy and stimulation of live music to our senior, and often frail population who, now, can’t get to concert venues. Since 2011, Concerts in Care Ontario has provided more than 2,500 concerts, touching over 120,000 seniors in person with an additional 188,000 views of our virtual concerts. These concerts represent more than 5,000 musician engagements. The concerts are 45 to 60 minutes in length, including narrative and storytelling about the music, the musicians, and the instruments. As a volunteer Ambassador for Concerts in Care, I recently attended a performance at Tansley Woods in Burlington where several dozen residents were wheeled in by caring staff. I had the pleasure of introducing Gareth Burgess on guitar and vocals and Kieth Dindayal who is

an expert pan vibes player and a respected jazz performer in the Toronto area.

Listening to the songs made famous by Harry Belafonte and others, you could almost imagine being on a beach in Jamaica or Barbados. Before the music started, many of the residents exhibited little signs of being cognizant, and then to watch them come alive, tapping their toes or gently slapping their thighs was an amazing thing to witness! The world of medicine is beginning to embrace the notion that music is a powerful tool for helping us to understand and manage our brains, our emotions and our bodies. Since Concerts in Care is in growth mode they negotiate reasonably with residences because they really want residents to have access to this beautiful music. The musical genre can vary from classical, jazz, The American Songbook, Musicals, Dixieland and other popular repertoire. CIC is your turnkey operation and hire, schedule and prepare the musicians, so all that’s left is for the audience to enjoy the performance. You’re encouraged to gain more insight by going online to search for Concerts in Care Ontario. I’m looking forward to once again play the volunteer Ambassador role on Friday, August 8th at First Place, Hamilton.

Bennetto Community Centre

After School Program

Accepting New and Returning Applicants
Aug. 18-26th for the 2025-2026 School Year

Applications can be picked up and submitted at the reception desk.
Bennetto Community Centre
450 Hughson St. N



Hamilton

CONTACT:
AGETTY@COMPASS.ORG



TWO SPIRIT AND LGBTQIA+ INTERGENERATIONAL KITCHEN
2nd Monday of the month 5:30 pm

TRANS FEMALE INTERGENERATIONAL PEER SUPPORT
3rd Wednesday of the month 6 pm

TRANS ID CLINIC
3rd Thursday of the month 5:15 pm

TRANS AND NON-BINARY GAMING GROUP (TTTG)
4th Monday of the Month 5:30 pm

TRANS AND NON-BINARY GROCERY PROGRAM
Last Friday of the Month 1 pm

GENDER OAR PROGRAM
ongoing

Westdale Law

Barristers & Solicitors, & Notaries Public

David R. Simpson
James R. Simpson, QC

Real Estate, Wills and Estates, Powers of Attorney,
Mortgages & Small Business Law



Looking for a welcoming, down-to-earth church in the North End?

James North is a church where everyone is valued, no matter their background, education, or income.

We love being part of this diverse and vibrant neighbourhood! James North has been in the North End since 1887.

It is our desire to offer a place of hope and connection for individuals and families navigating life's challenges.

We are more than just a church service on Sundays. Check out our website to see the various ministries and programs we regularly offer.



Sunday Morning Service
10:00 – 11:30AM
with Children's Ministry for
kids from birth to Grade 5

500 James St. North
905.527.3972
office@jamesnorth.church



<http://jamesnorth.church>



St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish

125 Picton Street E.,
Hamilton, Ontario L8L 0C5
905-529-3921
stlawrencehamilton@hamiltondiocese.com
www.stlawrencehamilton.ca
Office Hours: Tues-Fri 9am-4pm
In case of after hours emergency please call
365-888-1275

Pastor: Rev. Peter Jurzyk
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule:

~No Mass Monday~
Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 p.m. Mass
Wednesday and Friday 12:00 noon Mass

Confessions before Mass on Tuesday,
Thursday and Saturday.
Adoration before Mass on Thursday.

*NB: Please check our website for
weekly updates and changes*

Sacraments of Marriage or Baptism:
Please contact the parish office to make an
appointment to meet with Father Peter.

Upcoming Events and News

Feast of St. Lawrence
St. Lawrence was a deacon who lived in Rome in the 3rd century A.D. He was appointed as Archdeacon of Rome by Pope Sixtus II and was given the responsibility of caring for the treasury and riches of the church. When Pope Sixtus died, the Roman emperor ordered Lawrence to hand over the riches of the church to the state, but Lawrence instead distributed as much of the riches to the poor as he could and then when he had to appear before the emperor, he presented the city's indigent, crippled, blind, and suffering, and declared that these were the true treasures of the Church: "Here are the treasures of the church. You see, the church is truly rich, far richer than your emperor!"

Our annual Feast of St. Lawrence is on August 10. Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by a community celebration. All are welcome!

Hall Rentals are available! Call the office or
visit stlawrencehamilton.ca/hall-rentals for more information



Welcome Inn
Community Centre

We're looking for
Volunteers
who are
interested in
helping out in
our food bank

**We are especially in
need of help unloading
our food truck from:**

**9:45am - 11:00am
on Mondays,
Wednesdays,
Thursdays and Fridays**

For more information about
volunteering in our food
bank, contact:

ruth@welcomeinn.ca

welcomeinn.ca/donate





HAMILTON
OSHAWA
PORT
AUTHORITY

DID YOU KNOW... HOPA PORTS IS FUELING ONTARIO'S AGRIFOOD FUTURE?

When we think of HOPA Ports, Hamilton and Oshawa, steel might come to mind first. But did you know that about 31% of the cargo passing through our ports is agri-food products? This includes sugar, grains, and fertilizers, which support farmers, food makers, and our local communities.



A glimpse into Harbour West Marina, HOPA Ports

SUGAR

Hamilton will soon be home to Canada's largest sugar refinery, thanks to a \$135 million investment by SucroCan at Pier 15. This refinery, opening in 2025, will have the capacity to refine 1 million tonnes of sugar annually. Beyond baking and beverages, our refined sugar is used in candy, sauces, preserves, and processed goods. It's one of the reasons Ontario's food and beverage sector is worth over \$60 billion and employs about 120,000 people.

GRAIN

In 2024, agriculture represented 40% of HOPA's commercial value. From Ontario corn, wheat and soybeans, to wheat for milling that is shipped from the Prairies, our ports strengthen the food system by reaching both local and international markets.

Ontario Corn, Wheat and Soybeans: Local farmers produce high-quality corn, wheat and soybeans that are shipped internationally for food processing, cooking oils, bio-fuels and animal feed.

Western Wheat: Wheat from the Prairies arrives at the Port of Hamilton and is milled into flour at Pier 10, serving local food processors within 100km and contributing to

more than 9,500 jobs.

Canola: Hamilton also processes canola, producing edible oils, meal, and biodiesel for local markets.

FERTILIZER

Our ports are vital for importing fertilizers, which support Ontario farmers. In 2024, HOPA moved more than 500,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer products. These nutrients ensure optimal crop yields, leading to high-quality corn and wheat for local mills and international supply chains.

What does this mean for our community?

Local farmers get reliable access to fertilizers and export routes for their crops, reducing long-distance trucking and air pollution. Food manufacturers benefit from proximity to refined sugar and local flour, cutting supply chain costs and building resilience. Consumers enjoy fresh, locally milled products, and the environment benefits from reduced highway emissions by using marine and rail transportation.

Did you know? The next loaf of bread, candy bar, or corn-based product you eat might be made from ingredients connected to HOPA's Hamilton food hub, where agriculture meets global trade.

Learn more: www.hopaports.ca/ontag

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATE

All HPL Branches are closed on Sunday, August 3, Civic Holiday, Monday, August 4, Sunday, August 31, and Labour Day, Monday, September 1. Bookmobile is off the road. Extended Access and Study Halls are not available.

2025 Summer Reading Club Continues Until September 2! There's still time to enjoy a summer of fun activities, events, prizes and giveaways with this year's travel-themed Summer Reading Club! Register in person or online, pick up a tracker at any HPL branch, and start reading!

Summer Reading and STEAM Buddies Avoid the summer slide. Until August 18 (except for Civic Holiday Monday, August 4), this program encourages reluctant readers to enjoy books by making reading fun through board games, science-based activities, and more. It helps children who have finished grades one through six to continue reading throughout the summer months. Browse dates, times and locations at our website to fit your schedule.

Back to School with HPL! Find activities, book lists, tutoring help, online courses and more for students and their families, and for educators too. Visit our website for the wide collection of resources.

Lendporium - Borrow Unique Items from HPL! Your Hamilton Public Library card lets you borrow anything in our Lendporium, including Art Gallery of Hamilton and Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) passes, birding backpacks, early year engineering kits, and home devices. Explore and borrow away this summer.

Hamilton Civic Museums and Your HPL Library Card Explore Dundurn Castle, Whitehern Historic House and Garden, and other Hamilton Civic Museums FREE with your Hamilton Public Library card. Each person over the age of five must have a physical or

digital Hamilton Public Library card to gain free entry. Learn more at www.hpl.ca/museum to plan your next visit.

Explore Outdoors with Conservation Passes from HPL Get outdoors and start exploring with Hamilton Conservation Authority, Grand River Conservation Authority, and Niagara Peninsula NaturePlus passes. Borrow one or all with your HPL library card.

Hamilton Reads 2025 Have you heard? Local author, Pasha Malla's newest novel, *All You Can Kill*, is this year's Hamilton Reads title choice. Borrow the book and then participate in branch programming before November's Grand Finale event.

Linkedin Learning and BrainFuse for Students and Job Seekers From online studying and tutoring services to job search resources and tools, visit Brainfuse and Linkedin Learning free with your HPL library card.

Online Resources at HPL Read. Watch. Listen. Learn. From magazines to movies to music, access a variety of online resources for your entertainment on a budget (free with your HPL library card).

Our virtual branch at hpl.ca is always open. Questions? Call 289.779.7588, email askus@hpl.ca, or chat with Staff at hpl.ca.

Discover the endless benefits that come with an HPL library card. Borrow more, free passes and entry to local museums, free PRESTO cards for kids, create in Makerspaces, and more.





Bennetto Community Centre

After School Program

Accepting New and Returning Applicants
Aug. 18-26th for the 2025-2026 School Year

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Bennetto Community Centre
 450 Hughson St. N

 **Hamilton**

NORTH END BREEZES TEAM

The Breezes is published on the first day of the month and delivered to 4,200 homes and businesses in print and reaches across the City on-line. Contact us at 289- 933-4810, by email at office@northendbreezes.com, on our website: www.northendbreezes.com, or visit our socials @northendbreezes.

Website: www.northendbreezes.com | Visit our socials @northendbreezes



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Cardio, Balance & Strength (55+) 10:00am – 11:00am *\$3.05 per visit	Open Gym (Family) 10:30am – 12:00pm	Open Gym (13-17) 5:00pm – 6:30pm	Open Gym (Family) 10:30am – 12:00pm	Cardio, Balance & Strength (55+) 10:00am – 11:00am *\$3.05 per visit		
Open Gym - FREE (Family) 5:00pm – 6:30pm		Open Gym (13-17) 7:00pm – 8:30pm	Pickleball (18+) 12:30pm – 2:30pm	Open Gym (9-12) 5:00pm – 6:30pm		
Open Gym (13-17) 7:00pm – 8:30pm			Open Gym (6-12) 5:00pm – 6:15pm	Open Gym (Family) 7:00pm – 8:30pm		
			Pickleball (18+) 6:30pm – 8:30pm			

PROGRAM	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Open Swim 18+	9:45-10:45am		10:30-11:30am*		9:45-10:45am*	10:30-11:30am	Closed
Water Fit	10:45-11:30am		9:45-10:30am				
Open Swim	1:15-2:45pm	1:15-2:45pm 6:45-8:30pm*	1:15-2:45pm 6:45-8:30pm*	1:15-2:45pm 6:45-8:30pm*	1:15-2:45pm 6:45-8:30pm FREE	1:15-2:45pm	
Open Swim (Family)	6:45-8:30pm	9:45-10:45am					
Length Swim Swims marked with a * 2 lanes only	11:45-1:00pm	12:00pm-1:00pm 6:45-8:30pm*	10:30-11:30am* 11:45-1:00pm 6:45-8:30pm*	12pm-1:00pm 6:45-8:30pm*	9:45-10:45am* 11:45-1:00pm	11:45-1:00pm	
Open Swim 55+					10:45-11:30am FREE		

For information on swim admission criteria and supervision requirements:
<https://www.hamilton.ca/things-do/recreation/customer-service/swimming-policies-guidelines>

COMING TOGETHER TO MAKE 'HERSTORY'

SUBMITTED BY VIVIAN MEDLEY

In the wee hours of June 20, 2025, a group of women giddy with nervous excitement (and perhaps a lack of sleep!), stole into the darkness like a group of clandestine high school girls about to execute a scathingly brilliant but almost certainly ill-conceived plan. Only these women ranged in age from 48 to 78 and their plan was anything but ill-conceived. Indeed, it was a plan that was thoughtfully developed, scrutinized and repeatedly revised over 12 months. If all went according to Hoyle, and Mother Nature cooperated, these women would make 'herstory' as the first all-women crew to cross Lake Ontario in a dragon boat. So, forfeiting a few hours of sleep seemed like a small price to pay for such an impressive accomplishment!

The genesis of the Crossing Lake Ontario adventure, dubbed CLOsure 2025, was innocent enough. Hamilton's breast cancer survivor dragon boat team, Knot A Breast (KAB) organized a team building evening at the Playhouse Cinema in the Spring of 2024. The feature was a documentary about 4 women who successfully rowed across the Pacific Ocean. At the end of the evening, one inspired KAB member dared to share with another that she would love to do something like that in a dragon boat. The second teammate agreed it would be amazing. A third teammate soon chimed in, and in no time, the seeds of an exciting adventure began to germinate. Further research uncovered that while an all-male crew and a mixed crew had paddled a dragon boat across the open waters of Lake Ontario from Niagara on the Lake to Toronto, there had never been an all-female crew attempt the crossing. The epic adventure these 3 women were searching for was now obvious. And they wanted to add to the significance of this event by turning it into a fundraiser. The charity of choice was Options for Independent Living and Development (OFILD), which provides housing and access to support to adults with special needs right here in Hamilton. The goal, a lofty \$30,000.

The recruitment began with an email blast to local dragon boat teams announcing the CLOsure 2025 adventure and seeking like-minded, experienced paddlers. Despite valid concerns over safety (given the unpredictability of the weather on Lake Ontario), all the logistics involved, and the endurance required to make the 52 km journey over an estimated 8 hours (especially since paddlers



PHOTO CREDIT DEVON VON HOFFEN



race short distances measured in meters and timed in minutes), 31 women from 6 dragon boat teams bravely committed to the venture. The organizers, Marla Iyer, Judy Anne Sleep and Helen Shearer, are members of Hamilton's Knot A Breast (KAB) team, as were 12 others. The remaining paddlers are members from Hamilton-based Lively Dragons and Warlocks and the Niagara region Canal Dragons, Hope Floats and Jordan Harbour Hooligans. In past years, some of these women would have raced against each other. But on June 20, 2025, these women put their rivalry aside and came together to set a record and to raise funds for a worthy cause.

As part of the safety measures in place, the dragon boat was accompanied from the NOTL Sailing Club by GAMRU South

Shore Search and Rescue to the half-way point where the all-female crew of the Toronto Search and Rescue (T-SAR) Marine accompanied them to their destination at the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club (TSCC). Two safety pontoon boats, generously donated by Carefree Boat Club (along with gas and a Captain!), also accompanied the crew.

The experience, skill and unwavering confident demeanor of both Coach Brenda Arndt and Steersperson Lori Dwyer undoubtedly contributed to the safety and success of the Crossing.

The Crossing took 10 hours from shore to shore and covered a staggering 63 km (due to course adjustments recommended by the Coast Guards). Among other qualities, it required laser focus, agility and dexterity, endurance and trust. The waves were oft times 3' high and to avoid capsizing the crew needed to immediately respond to the Steer's commands to 'Bear Down' and 'Power' through them. Crew had to master, in real-time, transferring from dragon boat to safety boat and back on a rotating hourly schedule. They had to paddle (and sit or stand, as in the case of the Steers) for hours on end. The crew had to believe in

each other and know for certainty that they were there for each other; it was teamwork at its best! CLOsure 2025's success was fueled by all the above and by all those who came together to support this wild, epic journey!

Memories of the Crossing abound as a Memory Book is being compiled. But the visual can't capture the intangible associated with this journey: the palpable tension during the first 15-20 minutes when it was uncertain if the Crossing could continue given the volume of water flooding into the boat; the sense of wonder and awe (and a bit of fear!) at losing sight of shore (literally and figuratively), the excitement of spotting the CN tower and the crew spontaneously bursting into song with a rendition of 'Oh, Canada', the joy (and relief!) on hearing the heartwarming cheers of family and friends along the Toronto shoreline, the overwhelming sense of accomplishment felt at the post-Crossing celebrations at the TSCC (and ongoing today!) and the inspiration of meeting the residents of OFILD and Kathleen Ward, the woman who started it all! All this needs to be shared in person; and the first annual reunion of the CLOsure 2025 crew has been planned where they will relive the memories of 31 women coming together to make 'herstory'.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE AND
BLOCK PARTY BRINGS NORTH END
TOGETHER FOR A DAY OF MUSIC,
FOOD, AND FUN

SUBMITTED BY CHRISSY CHRZAN ET.AL

Pulling off an event like this takes a village, and we’re grateful to the setup and take-down crew, as well as the Traffic Control team, for their professionalism and support. The day ran smoothly thanks to their efforts behind the scenes. We also want to thank the City of Hamilton staff and the Ward 2 office for their support in making this celebration possible. And to Stevan Garic for organizing the Block Party and Chrissy Chrzan for organizing the garage sale. Most of all, thanks to everyone who showed up — who danced, sang, laughed, connected, sold some of their things or picked up new finds and made this one of the most memorable days of the summer. The North End once again proved that community is about showing up, pitching in, and celebrating each other.

Here’s to next year! If you have any ideas of how to make this big North End day better next year please email northendgarage-sale@gmail.com or northendparty@gmail.com and to donate to Welcome Inn as well please visit <https://welcomeinn.ca/donate/>



TONY T



ANNE MARIE PAVLOV



present the

NORTH ENDER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Honouring Community Spirit

NOMINATE BY SEPT 15, 2025!

AWARD CATEGORIES:

- 🏆 Ed Stewart Legacy
- 🏆 Community Builders
- 🏆 Heritage
- 🏆 New: Professional

**AWARD CEREMONY:
Oct 4th!**



SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION:
<https://forms.gle/PZ59vgr98bE681Jw8>

OR SCAN QR



BA JOHNSTON



RAFAELA

HAMILTON TO BURLINGTON: THE LEGACY OF WABASSO PARK AND THE BRANT HOUSE

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN ROULSTON

When Col. Alexander Brown and his son Alexander Jr. established their wharf at present-day LaSalle Park, it brought profound changes to the quaint village of Wellington Square, now Burlington. Initially serving merchant vessels, the wharf welcomed passenger steamboats from Hamilton, the beginning of a significant transformation.

Burlington's progression into a tourist destination began when William Applegarth Jr., built a 26-room, two-story mansion. Later, the mansion was transformed into a large tavern called Victoria Pleasure Grounds, with a grand ballroom, and luxurious rooms. Against centuries-old oak trees and a flat beach meeting Burlington Bay, the tavern became a place of laughter and serenity, attracting Hamilton's elite during the 1830s and 1840s.

As Hamilton industry developed about the 1860s, garbage and industrial waste pollution impacted recreational activities along Hamilton's shoreline. The advent of steamers without paddlewheels transformed trade and travel on the Great Lakes and Hamilton Bay. They quickly became essential for shoreline communities, ushering in unprecedented development. Initially, it was mainly the wealthy who could afford trips. Working-class residents continued to use Hamilton's beaches.

In 1878, Victoria Pleasure Grounds was rebranded Oakland Pleasure Grounds where Hamiltonians attended summer picnics organized by workplaces or churches. Oaklands also offered non-alcoholic drinks, wine, lager beer, free lunch, and bowling in a newly built alley.

In the mid-to-late 1870s Hamilton's population gained disposable income and a desire



Image courtesy of the Burlington Public Library, Burlington Digital Archive. Used with Permission.

for leisure travel. The Hamilton Steamboat Company dominated the bay with steamers like the MAZEPPA, MACASSA, and MODJESCA. This company and others recognized the growing demand. They began operating multiple daily trips across the bay to Toronto, Grimsby, Port Dalhousie, and Brown's Wharf (LaSalle Park).

By 1902, Burlington was a bustling summer resort, offering cottages, camping, and boating. This lasted for decades and shaped the town's future. Hamilton Radial Rail Lines were introduced during this time, making travel to Burlington easier. A trip from Hamilton cost twenty-five cents for a day at the beach.

In 1903, Mr. H. Knapman established the Canadian Amusement Company creating an amusement park on the beach near today's Burlington Skyway with boat houses, swings, and snack bars and eventually carousels, pony rides, and a miniature Ferris wheel. By the 1950s, there was also a small roller coaster from a closed amusement park near Buffalo. The Pier Ballroom hosted Saturday night dances and Sunday talent contests featuring local and international artists.

Burlington became well-known because of The Brant House, originally the home of Chief Joseph

Brant. Later owned by William Hendrie, the building served as a family home until 1899, when Alfred B. Coleman, owner of A.B. Planing Mill & Lumber Company on Hughson St. South, bought it. He built the Brant Hotel, with 300 guest rooms for \$100,000. The hotel was unique with an 8,000 square foot rooftop dining room, beautiful gardens, and modern conveniences such as private and public washrooms with hot and cold running water, electricity, heating, and even an elevator! These features were relatively rare in Canadian hotels. A room cost \$2.50 per night. The property also included picnic areas and a bandstand.

In 1917, during WW1, the federal government expropriated the Brant and turned it into a military hospital with all the patient amenities, including operating rooms for injured and sick soldiers. The large verandas were boarded up and made into wards, the guest rooms became hospital rooms. Shut down after the war the building remained empty for some time. Unfortunately, due to vandalism, the hospital caught fire, and its interior was gutted.

Because Wentworth was a dry county, A.B. bought property across from the hotel fronting Lake Ontario and built his "Country Club," a gentleman's club

where guests could smoke, drink, play cards, and swim. Coleman would eventually turn his Country Club into a new hotel called the Brant Inn after World War I. In 1925, the hotel caught fire. There are two versions of how the fire began.

The first version was on a cold February day. The wind was blowing in off the lake, and Murray Anderson decided to open the main dining room, which was unusual as it was never opened in the dead of winter. An employee fired up the fireplace, so it was nice and comfortable. Two diners smelled smoke and told Murray. He sent an employee to the basement to check it out. The employee returned and told them the place was on fire. The chimney hadn't been cleaned out, and the fire started there.

The 2nd version involved a coal-fired train climbing the steep incline beside the inn. The engineer stoked the boiler. Thick, black smoke billowed from the smokestacks, a stray cinder landed on the inn's roof, igniting the dry timber. Hotel employees attempted to extinguish the fire using garden hoses, but their efforts were unsuccessful. Rebuilt in brick the following year, a Hamilton restaurateur, a man named Kendall and Murray Anderson, rented the hotel until 1938 when Kendall and Anderson bought the inn.

Before World War 2, Brant Inn borrowed a popular idea from a Havana nightclub. A terrace with a revolving dance floor seating 1700 guests became so popular that some paid \$20 per person, then a considerable sum, to dance to Eddie Duchin's music. The Brant Inn, in a small town with about 4,000 residents, became North America's most popular and famous nightclub in the 1940s and 1950s, outdoing nightclubs in Miami, New York, and Havana. Top performers includ-

ing Liberace, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Johnny Mathis, Andy Williams, and Lena Horne. And big bands such as Count Basie Orchestra, Benny Goodman, Guy Lombardo and the Dorsey brothers performed and delighted audiences. They drew large crowds of people from Toronto, Hamilton, Guelph, Kitchener, and Galt and from places like Upper New York State, Tennessee, and the Carolinas. Burlington was easy to get to by water, had a friendly atmosphere, beautiful shorelines, and great boating opportunities. It was an excellent place for adventure and relaxation. On a memorable summer evening, Stan Kenton, a famous jazz bandleader, pianist, and composer with a creative music style performed for 1,600.

Paul Hanover, CHML radio host called the "Mayor of the Morning," started his popular radio show, "Meet Me at the Brant" in 1946. It was broadcast live across Canada from the Brant Inn and featured performances and interviews with many of the famous visiting entertainers.

Wabasso (once Victoria, then Oakland and now LaSalle) Park declined slowly from the late 1930s. Water pollution from Hamilton finally made its way across the bay, affecting water quality and making swimming unappealing. Increasing car ownership encouraged people to explore more distant destinations. The Great Depression in the 1930s also contributed to the decrease in visitors. By 1947, the amusement park had closed but the area continued to be utilized for picnics, athletic competitions and sunbathing.

Meanwhile, Brant Inn declined as rock 'n' roll changed taste in music. Toronto started multiple clubs and performers became too expensive for Brant's budget. Murray, the heart of Brant's music scene, was also slow to adapt.

The Brant packed them in for one final time on New Year's Eve 1968. The Brant Hotel, the pride of Burlington and the city's glory days as a tourist mecca was demolished in 1969 to make way for the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital, marking the end of an era.

MPP UPDATE

SUBMITTED BY
MPP ROBIN LENNOX

Dear neighbours,

Hamilton is known as the ambitious city. An ambitious city should be one in which every person has a safe place to call home.

Over the past couple of weeks, we've received hundreds of responses to our community survey asking Hamilton Centre residents what their biggest concerns are and where they want our policy focus. Consistently, addressing the housing crisis was #1 on the list.

Most people in Hamilton Centre rent their home, and what we heard when we went canvassing door-to-door in the North End is that many people are spending >50% of their monthly income on rent - some as much as 80%! With the cost of living increasing and many facing rent increases each year, this simply isn't sustainable.

Recently, I met with elected leaders from Hamilton Centre representing all three levels of government - Councillor Kroetsch, Councillor Wilson, and

MP Rana. We met to discuss what we can each bring to the table in addressing housing affordability in Hamilton and we are committed to continuing that work in the coming months.

We know we need real rent control and to clamp down on above-guideline rent increases that are forcing people out of their homes. This will continue to be a major priority for us as we try to advance legislation at Queen's Park.

We also heard in our survey results that across the board, Hamiltonians see the need for more supportive housing units as a key strategy to address our homelessness crisis. It was the top-rated policy proposal on our survey. We need to move people into safe, permanent, and dignified housing that will meet their needs and reduce unsheltered homelessness in our communities. It also makes financial sense - for every \$1 invested in supportive housing, we could save \$1.5-2 in healthcare, social services, and justice costs.

These are just a few of the solutions we are working on to try to address Hamilton's housing crisis, but there is so much more work to be done. Together, we must be ambitious in confronting the housing and homelessness crises.

Robin Lennox
MPP, Hamilton Centre

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www.hamilton.ca/PrenatalGroups



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TASTEBUDS
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MY SUMMER STAYCATION

SUBMITTED BY KEN HIRTER

This year I am letting my feet take me to the fantastic things to do right here, from festivals, parks and street fairs. So far this summer it has been so much fun and kept the tourism dollars local.

Walk, bike or stroll the kilometers of trails from Bayfront Park along the harbour to Waterfront Park on Pier 8 it's all yours to discover right in the heart of the North End. It is absolutely stunning. There is so much beautiful greenspace and it is close to the urban core. It is getting in touch with good ole mother nature at it very best. The area has an up north, cool vibe. Having Bayfront Park cleaned up was just in time for the spring and summer.

There are fun things to do as you walkabout, ride about or drive through the North End this summer.

HARBOUR-WEST TROLLEY TOUR starts next to Williams Fresh Café and takes you to Princess Point (RBG) It is a very informative trolley ride with a history lesson and a learning experience as well. Fun for all the ages, so go out and buy your boarding pass today. (adults \$10, seniors \$8:50, children 4 – 12 yrs \$7 and children 3 and under free. Debit or credit card only. No Cash accepted.

Daily Service runs from June 28th till September 1st.

Ride the Little Red Trolley Car you will not be disappointed.

CANADA DAY AT BAYFRONT PARK

This years Fireworks display at Bayfront Park was colorful and I must say Hamilton; it was simply the best to take in this year. This day long celebration attracted over 10,000 people and was a sea of red and love with so much community spirit. Over 15 food trucks were busy serving steady lines of the hungry folks. The entertainment was stellar. It was so nice to hear, see and experience this year. It was awesome.

OPEN STREETS HAMILTON was held on June 22nd and saw King Street closed to traffic from John Street to Gage Park. There



were many booths, restaurants, stores and activities to keep you busy and entertained as well. If you missed it the good news is that you can catch Open Streets again on Sunday September 28th.

ITALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL celebrating their 75th anniversary with a delightful 2 day festival. The festival on James Street North on June 21st and 22nd was such a success this year that it will be back next year. So save the date June 20th and June 21st 2026.

The stunning mural depicting the street festival is so beautiful, capturing the old country European feel. From the Italian foods, music and fireworks, it was lovely to experience and take in this year. "Hamilton's Italian Heritage is more than reflection. It is active, evolving celebration of identity, full of resilience, generosity and joy. It reminds us that heritage isn't something to remember, but something to live."

So whether it be DJ music roller skating



next door at William Café, the music band stand with groups and solo performances throughout the summer you can bring a lounge chair,

sit back relax and enjoy the local musicians and singers. At dusk you can catch the beautiful harbor lights and gorgeous sunsets.

This year do a Summer Staycation, put money back into your neighbourhood

This year the recovery of the past few years continues with the Hamilton clean up Blitz here in the North End. It takes a Community and all the people to take part. Making it great once again to see and enjoy.

And if you don't live in the North End, its easy to get here on the ROUTE 99 WATERFRONT SHUTTLE. FREE to ride and visit Hamilton's waterfront attractions like Bayfront Park and Hamilton Harbour. Shuttles run seven (7) days a week, every 30 minutes between 10am. & 9.00pm. Operates from the last Sunday in June to Labour Day.

For a listing of the wonderful calendar



events here in North End for August 2025. HAMILTON WATERFRONT TRUST Information @hamiltonwaterfront.com

Get out and enjoy being a tourist in your city and take in the adventures that await you. Hamilton's North End - yours to rediscover this summer.

Please note that tourism Hamilton provides handouts of "Things To Do - August 2025. Looking for more? Check out Hamilton Bucket List for must see and experiences in our City. Please visit their website or location at the Tourism Hamilton Information Center, 28 James Street North.

Website: [HTTPS://tourismhamilton.com/bucketlist/](https://tourismhamilton.com/bucketlist/)

Have a safe and wonderful summer season everyone.

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AGES 9-13

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 10AM-2PM

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Spots are limited — don't miss out! This is a Hamilton Police run program.

For further information, please contact nrakas@hamiltonpolice.ca



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