

JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 1 | OFFICE@NORTHENDBREEZES.COM | WWW.NORTHENDBREEZES.COM | FOLLOW THE NORTH END BREEZES ON SOCIAL @NORTHENDBREEZES

WALKABOUT: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

SUBMITTED BY KEN HIRTER

This month's Walkabout is a fond trip down Memory Lane and we bid a fond final good bye to the "Hamilton City Centre" formerly known as the "Hamilton Eaton Centre"

YESTERDAY: The corner of York and James Street North has seen a lot of changes since the late 1800's. Once the home of Hamilton's City Hall to the opening on June the 23rd, 1927 of the grand ole lady known as the Eaton's Department Store with its top floor beautiful restaurant, charm and character of yesteryear as reflected in its architecture and regal elegance.

In 1989 the old building was then demolished and in its place 1990 saw a new era with the opening of "The Hamilton Eaton Centre" which reflected a downsized version of "The Toronto Eaton's Centre". It showcases the design and architecture of 1990. Sadly in 1999 with the demise of the Eaton's Department store chain closures it went from the Hamilton Eaton Centre to Hamilton City Centre Mall.

TODAY: The City Centre celebrated its 50th Anniversary on August 22nd and as of this writing has officially closed its doors December 26th, 2022. This past November we saw pop-vendors, shopkeepers and residents gathering, reflecting back and saying a final goodbye and sharing memories. The mall will then be vacant by mid January with demolition slated to begin mid 2023. The last few days I saw many people taking their last photographs and cherished memories of that of Hamilton City Centre at the corner of James Street North and York Boullvd.

The bright lights will dim and the metal door connected to "The Lloyd D. Jackson Square" mall will close. (Please note that Harts Department Store will be re-locating to 276 Kenilworth Ave N. the date is to be determined.)

TOMORROW: In 2019 the City Centre Mall was sold



to INB Development and in its place plan to build 4 residential towers ranging from 26 to 40 storeys above a 9-storey podium beginning sometime in 2023. The historic Clock Tower will be lovingly restored and re-located in the forthcoming huge pedestrian courtyard.

I will miss my walkabout through the City Centre Mall



and the magical twinkling bright lights, the architecture seen from the glass elevator, the skylights and the pillars and posts. Like they say....out with the old and in with the new era. Thanks for the memories.Happy New Year and till next month, take care and cheers.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

BY BRENDA DUKE

Well friends, it’s the start of a New Year, 2023, and my fifth year (I think) as the Editor/Coordinator of the North End Breezes! When I retired, I was looking for a way to stay connected and active with my community. I never dreamed that I would fall completely in love with the people I met in the North End. I’m honoured to be part of and share the history and the dreams of this unique piece of Hamilton.

I want to take this time to reach out and thank each of you that contribute to this publication.

Our delivery volunteers ~ you bring a piece of yourself to our success with each paper you drop and hopefully make new friends while you learn about the people and places that make the North End special.

Our writers ~ the regulars, like Ken Hirter, Brian Roulston, Candy Venning, Robyn Gillam, to mention a few, who have faithfully walked the streets

interviewing people, shared their knowledge of the history of this area and “dug up” secrets to spread beauty and know how. Our readers enjoy learning about it all and trying new ideas. We have writers who have joined us from other areas who share what they are learning as they too fall in love with the North End. Some are “new”, like Linda Benson, and are quickly becoming regulars, and some pop in periodically to bring special touches, information and helpful tips.

Our Community Partners ~ these are the service providers in the North End that keep us up to date on things that are happening, the where and when to find out about what you need. Many have been with us from the beginning. They keep our readers informed and help us meet our financial needs.

Our business partners ~ the people who continue to fill a need for the residents and spend their hard-earned dollars to help us pay the bills. Some have been around forever and will always be a part of the NE history. Fishers, Our Corner, Brusey Awnings, The Yacht Club, and some of them are newer to the area. They’ve hung their hat in the North End, showing faith in our future. Show your spirit by shopping local and helping them to thrive.

Our Board of Directors ~ an ever changing group of people from different areas of expertise that bring their talents to the table to direct our publication team ensuring another 50 years of community

news. Read about our current board members in this issue.

Our Publication Team ~ that small but mighty group that keep the wheels turning and move us forward each month. Kit Darling, my right hand (couldn’t do it without her), she “nags” so I don’t look like a tyrant. Katie Fitzgerald, the magician behind each issue who pulls all the pieces together and meets our chaotic schedules, Marie Mushing, the genius who brought us into the present with a stellar website so we can spread our news further and reach even more people. This is the team that makes me look like I’m doing an okay job!

Our Readers ~ where would be without each of you? From the loyal “old guard” who wait for the paper each month to the “new crowd” eager to learn about the place they’ve made their home. We do it for you!

I can’t promise to thank you all in person or in print but I do know that without you and the many, many people that walk the neighbourhood and spread the word (Sheri Selway, Chris Pearson, take a bow), we wouldn’t be here today looking forward to celebrating our next 50 years.

Thank you all! Here’s to a happy, peaceful New Year and Welcome 2023!

THE TIMING OF THE STORY OF HANNUKA

SUBMITTED BY NATHANIEL FINESTONE

In 2022 Hannuka took place between December 18-26. In 2021 it took place between November 28 and December 6, the year before that it was December 10-18 and the year before that it was December 22-30. Some of you might be wondering, why is it always eight days? And why aren’t they the same days every year like Christmas or at least within the same week like Easter and most statutory holidays?

To answer that we have to go back to approximately 2500 years ago when the Kingdom of Judea (modern day Israel and Palestine) was under occupation by Hellenic Greeks. While the Greeks never sought to destroy the Jews under their rule (unlike many

other conquerors before and since) they sought to displace Judaism as the dominant religion of the people and sacked the holy temple in Jerusalem. In response to this the Maccabi family led a successful Jewish rebellion against the much larger and well supplied Greek army. While a full victory would take many more years, when the Maccabis took back Jerusalem and went to rededicate the Holy Temple, they found there was only enough oil to last for one night. Travel times being what they were in those days the nearest source of oil was four days away so they would have to wait 8 days (four days there and four days back) until they could fully rededicated the temple. But then there was a miracle and the oil lasted for the full eight days. So now every winter, Jews all over the world light candles to commemorate that miracle and to celebrate the survival of our religion and culture.

But why aren’t they the same eight days every year? The short version is that they are, just not on our modern calendar. The Jewish calendar is different from the standard Gregorian calendar used

all around the world today. Whereas the standard calendar uses the rotation of the earth around the sun to count out 365 days a year divided into 12 months, with an extra leap day to keep it on track, The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar, using each full moon to delineate the new month. But this presents a problem, what about those extra days? A lunar calendar will cycle through 12 months in around 354 days so without any kind of intervention holidays would get earlier and earlier each year. So the rabbis of yore intervened.

Every four years the Jewish calendar will add an entire thirteenth month to the year to keep all the holidays in the same season every year. Thus the holidays run on a cycle, each year for three years Jewish holidays will be earlier, until a leap year comes around and pushes them all a month ahead. So while last year Hannuka overlapped with Christmas, this year it will not.

So if you ever wondered what that Jewish candle holiday was all about, now you know!

COUNCILLOR UPDATE



SUBMITTED BY WARD 2 COUNCILLOR CAMERON KROETSCH

Happy New Year North Enders! I hope you were able to take some time to relax and unwind at the end of 2022 - it was a long and difficult year for many in our community.

For the Ward 2 Team, December was a whirlwind of new routines and connections but we took some time off to rest and rejuvenate and we're ready to hit the ground running in 2023. If you haven't heard, we increased our office hours to better serve residents. We're now open until 8:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

In December, I had the privilege to speak at the Stop Sprawl HamOnt rally held in the forecourt at City Hall and a response to grave injustices in our city. I was proud to represent Ward 2 and grateful for the opportunity to offer solidarity and support.

We're kicking off 2023 by rolling out our Ward 2 communication tools including a public calendar, newsletter, and website. Our website will include notices, maintenance and road repair information, and it's where the Ward 2 Team will keep track of the motions I bring forward at Council meetings. The new website - www.ward2hamilton.ca - will launch later this month.

This January will also see the relaunch of the Ward 2 Community Council, with an amended terms of reference and a renewed focus that will include tenants, tenant organizations, and other community groups.

As always, we're here to support you. Please reach out to the Ward 2 Team directly at Ward2@hamilton.ca or through our new office phone number at (905) 546-2197. See you out there!

**Find Out What is
Happening in Your
Community**
with the
**North End
Neighbourhood
Association**

MEETINGS EVERY MONTH

We meet the first Wednesday each month at 7pm. Meetings are currently on zoom.

Everyone is Welcome!

This is the place to meet your neighbours and hear about what's happening in the North End.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

www.facebook.com/NorthEndNeighbours

www.twitter.com/nenhamilton

Check out our website and
sign up for our e-newsletter at
www.northendneighbourhoodassociation.com



The North End of the Year Award deadline has been extended!

The deadline for nomination is now JANUARY 15, 2023. Award Presentation will be January 28th. Email office@northendbreezes.com for information or follow the link to the application: <https://bit.ly/3G4sxzF>

THE ADVENTURES OF LOGAN THE CAT



SUBMITTED WITH THE HELP OF SHERI SELWAY

One day I scampered out the door to wander around! I love wandering. I am so beautiful that people notice me and point. At least I think it is my beauty! I usually wander around and come home but today, I wandered too far because I followed another animal that was also black, with a white stripe. (It smelled bad!) But I went too far and I got lost!

But I wasn't too worried. I know how to handle myself outside. I can catch small critters, chase birds and beg at people's houses. Remember, people notice me. I would go to a porch, sit and sleep and when someone came home, I would MEOW like I was singing! Often I would get patted and sometimes I would get food!

I wandered all around Macaulay Street, but I couldn't find my home! But I THOUGHT I knew how to care for myself. I kept chasing squirrels and ran away from dogs. I sometimes found food in garbage, but it wasn't the same. I missed my family! THEY would feed me and I loved to sleep on their bed! So warm.

It started to get cold. I liked to go onto porches and sleep because it was warmer and I felt a bit safer! I would still MEOW, because I was hoping for yummy food!

What I did not know, was that the people on the street liked me! They watched me and wondered where my home was. They talked about the cold weather and

worried about me. One day those humans decided that someone on the street should take me inside! How cool was that! But.... I still wondered where my old home was.

My new house was nice. The humans were nice to me. They FED me! Yummy! And I slept nice and warm on blankets, or sometimes on their bed. But I was a bit lonesome. They seemed to be gone a lot. But I just wandered around. It was quiet, warm and safe. When they got home, we played!

Then suddenly, one day, they put me in a funny place, like a box but I couldn't get out! I meowed and meowed. I tried to get out. THEN, I was outside and inside one of those things that got down the street but don't have feet. Weird! (It was a car!)

And I found myself somewhere else. They let me out again. Another house! And I had food, and a safe place to sleep. All the humans were patting me! I didn't know it but this was going to be my new home! Finally, I got used to it. I had food that I liked. I think I started eating a lot! And a nice warm place to sleep. And this human left a mug of water on the table one day. I just assumed it was for me, but she yelled and wouldn't drink it! I don't know why!

Another thing I found out later was this human found a note on a telephone pole about a lost cat. (That was me!) She phoned and MY humans came to this new house! WOW!

They stayed for awhile, patted me and watched me because I am beautiful and cute. The humans talked A LOT! Then they went away. They let me STAY at the new house. I like it here. I look out the window, run around, chase toys and eat and sleep! I feel glad that so many humans were nice to me.

Sheri Selway helped Logan write this true story. She is very thankful that Logan's previous owner let her keep Logan! And happy that all the people on Macaulay West are such good neighbours!

HOPA P O R T S



HOPA UPDATE

For the second year in a row, HOPA Ports is proud to be recognized as one of Hamilton-Niagara's Top Employers (2023). At HOPA Ports, we believe collaboration, continuous improvement and innovation are vital to our business, our tenants and our local community. HOPA's values include respect and inclusivity, accountability and productivity. We believe it's important to offer a safe, healthy and family-friendly work environment, in addition to our commitment to long-term sustainability and growth. The Top Employers program selected HOPA based on its competitive approach to compensation, flexible work options, and initiatives to connect staff with our port communities. HOPA is involved in a range of community initiatives each year, with a focus on youth and education, envi-

ronmental protection and marine advocacy. HOPA also provides two paid days every year for its employees to volunteer locally, and matches employee donations to charitable causes. HOPA's vision is to create and lead an integrated port network on the Great Lakes. As we grow, we'll need more great people to join our team. Keep an eye on our website www.hopaports.ca for seasonal and permanent opportunities.





Sunday Worship
10:00 – 11:30AM

Children's Ministry
Nursery to Grade 5



500 James St N, Hamilton

Contact Phone: 905.527.3972

Email: office@jamesnorth.church

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9AM - 4PM

www.jamesnorth.church

James North Baptist Church (formerly Hughson Street Baptist) has been a part of the North End for almost 135 years. We have been more than just a worship gathering on Sundays as we minister to as many people during the week as we do through our Sunday worship times. Under the leadership of Pastor Dwayne Cline, we believe the Lord has called us to a very simple philosophy of ministry – we seek to bless the North End of Hamilton in Jesus' name.

With the easing of Covid19 protocols we have returned to one worship gathering as we can set up to accommodate a full house. There is an area where seating will still have physical distancing in place for those who want to ease back into crowds a little more slowly. We'd be glad to welcome you any Sunday.

We believe the gospel changes everything. The good news of the gospel is that the death of Jesus Christ has paid the price for our sin, taking the penalty we deserve on Himself, saving us with certainty because of His resurrection. The gospel grants us purpose, hope and a new perspective on joy and fulfillment. Life may not always be easy, but our hope in Jesus Christ gives us strength for the journey. At James North we strive to continually offer the hope of Jesus to others through our ministries and programs.

Perhaps you haven't had a chance to visit us in our new building at the NE corner of James St N and Picton Ave. It still feels new, although we've been here since August 2021. We would be glad to welcome you any Sunday or you can check out our live-stream to watch from home. You could also come by on Fridays from 9-11am for Coffee's On where our Food Bank is open to help those who need a little boost.

Check our website for up-to-date information (www.jamesnorth.church)



St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish

125 Picton Street E., Hamilton, Ontario
905-529-3921

stlawrencehamilton@hamiltondiocese.com
www.stlawrencehamilton.ca

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 - Confession 6:30 p.m. Mass 7:00 p.m. (new)

Wednesday - Mass 12 noon (new)

Thursday - Confession and Adoration 6:00 p.m., Mass 7:00 p.m.

Friday - Mass 9:00 a.m.

Saturday-Confession 9:30 a.m., Mass 10:00 a.m.

Please check our website for most up to date schedule

Sacraments of Marriage or Baptism:

Please contact the parish office to make an appointment to meet with Father Peter.

Parish News

Congratulations to our Turkey Roll 50/50 winner Darlene Sullivan!

St. Lawrence Parish would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the businesses and individuals who sponsored, volunteered for or attended our Nibbles and Bids, The Penny Sale, Bake Sale and our Turkey Roll in 2022 - it was so great to see everyone gathered together again! We truly appreciate the support of the North End Community. Happy New Year Everyone!



Hall Rentals are available!

Call the office or visit stlawrencehamilton.ca/hall-rentals for more information.

Please keep an eye on the bulletin or our parish website for further updates.
www.stlawrencehamilton.ca



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for making
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The Welcome Inn Community Centre

is looking for
Community Visitation
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- In-depth volunteer experience
- Come join our vibrant community!



Contact Kari at 905-525-5824 or kari@welcomeinn.ca

Want another way to help out?

One of the best ways is to donate food to our food bank!

Non-perishable food items, including proteins, are always appreciated.



MEET THE BREEZES' BOARD OF DIRECTORS



THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

PAUL HAVERCROFT, PAST-CHAIR

My wife Diana and I moved to Hamilton in 2007 when I took up the role of Associate Pastor at James North Baptist Church (it was called Hughson Street Baptist Church in those days). A couple of years later I was invited to join the Board of the North End Breezes. Being a part of this Community Paper has been a good way to find out more about the neighbourhood I live in and also broaden my connections with the many people and organizations that are a part of it. Knowing that the paper has a dedicated readership in the North End keeps the Board on its toes to provide some good reading and information each month, and it has been good being a part of that process. While my time on the preparation side of the paper has come to a close, I will be looking forward to getting the paper in my mailbox in the days to come. In the meantime, I continue on at the church and the many ways we look to serve our North End neighbourhood.



KRISTINA SANTONE, SECRETARY

I love living in the North End and I'm very excited to be on the North End Breezes Board. As a former Managing Editor of a small publication and a love for all things "in print", small and local, I was immediately drawn to the Breezes. I've also been involved with a variety of Not-for-Profit organizations in the past, most recently at the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO). As their Executive Director, I've been working to modernize the organization with a strong focus on education and advocacy while also creating meaningful partnerships with like-minded organizations. I particularly enjoy building community and creating safe and inclusive spaces for everyone to be a part of. I have a love of old cookbooks, coffee, good food, and a genuine curiosity for people's stories. I live in the North End with my husband and two small children and I'm looking forward to being a more active member of this community!



CHRISSY CHRZAN, SOCIAL MEDIA

Chrissy moved to the North End 3 years ago after living overseas for years. An advocate for community, she became part of the North End Breezes - to promote the mission to foster connection, collaboration and friendship throughout the neighbourhood. In her day job, she has been a marketing consultant for brands and small business for 20+ years. She's often found out and about in the area, delivering the Breezes or puttering outside in her garden. She also has a cat named Bowie, who has many fans in the North End.



JAMIE VANDERBERG, FINANCIAL OFFICER

Collaboration and community involvement are two passions of mine! Since starting at Welcome Inn Community Centre four years ago as its Executive Director, I have been working to deepen our partnerships with other organizations in an effort to reduce some of the systemic injustices present in our community. I believe in the value of working together with our neighbours, and I love this north end community.

In my version of an ideal world, we all work together to make our communities more welcoming and inclusive, and safe and inviting. I am a father of four and an outdoor enthusiast, passionate about canoe-tripping, whitewater thrills and running. (Yes, I am clearly a glutton for punishment). Over the years, I've developed a deep appreciation for local poetry and writings from within the indigenous community. Storytelling is one of the most human endeavours, and I believe all voices are important. This is part of the reason that I joined the board of The North End Breezes—I love the local stories that are included in each month's edition!



ELIZABETH A. POYNTER, CHAIR

I’m an artist, traveller, avid bird-watcher and gardener. Over the years I’ve had wonderful opportunities to meet and work with people in and from many different countries. Their lives and problems have been my focus. My volunteer work has been the same, International and local. How lucky I have been. I moved to the North End seventeen years ago after twenty-five on the mountain because of the character of the neighbourhood and the proximity to the water and trails. The friendly people were a bonus. When I walk over the bridge on James North, I know I’m home. The North End has such a rich history and the Breezes is a part of that. I don’t know of any other truly local community newspaper that has lasted so long. The passion of the volunteers keeps it going strong. The Breezes is part of what makes the North End unique and I’m delighted to be on the board. I deliver your paper too so if you see me out there say Hi!



KEITH THOMPSON, MARKETING

I live in the North End with my wonderful wife and our dog Ozzy. I like urbanism, walkable neighbourhoods, mixed-use developments, and Leeds United football club. I am fascinated by the way that communities are created and sustained by the built form of architecture, art, community events, and good land-use planning. I like to walk to Bayfront Park and meet new neighbours along the way. I’m a marketer by day and a wannabe amateur chef by night. I also play a mean trombone.



CHRISTOPHER PEARSON,
COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

I was born in Toronto and moved to Guelph at the age of 23, working as an Industrial Mechanic/Millwright. I came to Hamilton in 1997 and moved to The North End in 2006. I retired in 2010 when I was diagnosed with Auto Immune Muscle Disease. I started volunteering with North End Neighbours around 2011 and was President in 2012. From there, I have volunteered with Welcome Inn, Horizon Thrift Store, and joined the Board of the Breezes in 2013. You can see me most mornings at Our Corner Pub for breakfast. I enjoy walking around the North End and I love stopping to chat with anyone who will put up with me.

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 on-line. Contact us at 289-933-819, by email at office@northendbreezes.com, on our website: www.northendbreezes.com or social@northendbreezes.com.

Published by North End Breezes Board of Directors: Kristina Santone, Chrissy Chrzan, Chris Pearson, Elizabeth Poynter, Keith Thompson, and James Vanderberg

Chair: Elizabeth Poynter

Financial Officer: James Vanderberg

Secretary: Kristina Santone

Social Media: Chrissy Chrzan

Marketing: Keith Thompson

Community Connector: Chris Pearson

Co-Ordinator: Brenda Duke

Editorial Assistant: Kit Darling

Layout + Design: Katie Fitzgerald

Web Site Development: Marie Mushing

Circulation & Distribution: The Board, Sheri Selway, Steve Osborne and Chrissy Chrzan along with a dedicated team of volunteers.

When submitting an article for the Breezes we also like to share the content on our social channels. Please include as many pictures as possible and a couple lines of copy we can use for Facebook, Instagram and Twitter posts. The articles written represent the opinions of the individual and must meet the Mission and Vision of The Breezes and the Board of Directors as set out.

Articles may be edited for length, tone, clarity and are subject to publication based on available space.

Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month prior to publication. We appreciate an early notice by the 10th of the month if you want to reserve ad space and early submission gives us time to edit your articles. Pictures and logos are accepted and will be included as space allows.

NORTH END BREEZES MISSION

The North End Breezes is a not-for-profit team of volunteers who produce a monthly newspaper and online publications to promote connectivity, share community news and encourage mutual support by engaging our North End neighbourhood community.

NORTH END BREEZES VISION

The North End Breezes is a vital resource in the North End that promotes harmony, pride and collective community action in a diverse and ever-changing neighbourhood. For 50 years now we’ve been a resource for the community and rely on our volunteers to keep the information flowing for years to come. Help us grow your Breezes. Please email your thoughts to office@northendbreezes.com or call 289- 933-4810.

Follow us here:

Facebook - facebook.com/northendbreezes
Instagram - instagram.com/northendbreezes
Twitter - twitter.com/northendbreezes

NORTH END BREEZES
PUBLICATION GUIDELINES

To be accepted for publication, your article must meet the following guidelines:

- No personal or confrontational attacks
- No aggressive language
- Must be factual and cannot contain inaccuracies, you can include sources
- Must meet our limitations for space
- Must include the authors name and a

contact email or telephone for follow up

- Any images submitted should be a high resolution jpeg, must support the article and have the permission of the subject or copyright holder
- Articles must meet the Mission and Vision of the North End Breezes
- Deadlines are generally the 15th but might vary by 1 or 2 days due to holidays and printer deadlines.

Contribute to community engagement and mutual respect and support; promote har-

mony, pride in our community and collective community action.

We welcome yours as long as it is expressed in a non-confrontational manner and is not a personal attack on another individual.

We reserve the right to edit articles for length, clarity and adherence to our guidelines. We cannot guarantee to submit edited articles to the author for approval

Brenda Duke

Editor/Coordinator
office@northendbreezes.com

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www.hamilton.ca/PrenatalGroups



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for more information.







Are you a North End business or organization? We're looking for more amazing partners to distribute the Breezes.

Contact us at office@northendbreezes.com with location and # of papers wanted monthly to be added to our upcoming deliveries. 



A GARDENER’S NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS

SUBMITTED BY CANDY VENNING

2023 Resolutions - A different kind of new year’s list – feel good, be happy!

1) Attend at least one event held by Environment Hamilton – whether it’s tree planting or a rally for saving the Greenbelt; getting involved is good for you! Honestly, volunteers are always needed, and it helps fight feelings of environmental despair/ ecosystem anxiety. Bonus, you meet some awesome, like minded, people!

2) Visit Green venture’s Eco House at 22 Veevers Drive for their seedling sale, any other event or just to go for a stroll and meet the wonderful volunteers who work there (call ahead – they’re often hosting community events off site)

3) Support an initiative via the RBG as a volunteer. This could be your first opportunity to wear waders in Cootes Paradise to monitor native water plants, or your chance to learn to remove and identify invasive species on land. The RBG is a green gem of biodiversity right on our doorstep, she’s worthy of all the support we can give, be that time or money.

4) Host or attend a neighbourhood clean-up – often there are spring cleanups that focus on areas such as the laneways behind our homes. Alleys, parks and anyplace with litter – get in touch with Brenda Duke, CN Track Gang or CP Rail through Beautiful Alleys for information on organized cleanups at hamiltonalleys@gmail.com. There’s ‘Team up to Clean up’ as well as trailers offered through the city’s ‘Keep Hamilton Clean and Green Programs’. They’ll supply gloves, bags and tools. Don’t think of it as picking up after others but rather preventing plastics from washing into our lakes and oceans or as cleaning up so everyone, however abled, can appreciate a litter free walk around the neighbourhood.

5) Join The Hamilton Naturalists Club, membership is a pittance and they regularly host interesting speakers, guide folks on hikes and support cleanups, land acquisition and more – these dedicated volunteers have been around since forever and are a wealth of knowledge and resources.

6) Join Pollinator Paradise an initiative of Environment Hamilton and the Hamilton Naturalists Club at hamiltonpollinatorparadise.org. Help build a corridor of native

plant species across the city of Hamilton that will provide food and shelter for pollinators. Together we will strengthen and enhance Hamilton’s unique biodiversity.

7) Visit a local farm like McQuesten (mcquestenurbanfarm.ca), Branching Path, Plan B Organics or any small farm business, buy some produce and support local. Volunteer at a local Church garden that provides produce for the community. There’s a multitude of (but never enough) local community gardens. You can rent a plot or volunteer, learn new tricks or share what you know. Sink your teeth into the battle for food security and enjoy fresh vegetables.

8) Buy yourself a ‘grabber’ (aka long stick with pincers for picking up garbage) and next time you hit the waterfront especially between Bayfront and Princess point – make a game of seeing how many items you can pick up (the variety is horrifying but helpful for keeping wildlife safe)

9) Contact FLAP to volunteer - flap.org/ and head out early one morning to look for injured birds as a result of window collisions. Yup, this is a somewhat heart-breaking task BUT with documentation the information is now leading to changes in the building code (did you know stickers must be placed on the outside of windows to break the reflection of greenery or sky and it’s not just tall buildings that injure or kill birds?). They’ll help you learn about the perils of the built environment for birds, and how to protect migrating birds in an urban habitat.

10) Consider ditching one habit and saving that money for monthly giving – IE – brew your own fabulous coffee to take with you (vs single use disposable ‘to-go’ coffee) and assign that monthly amount to Hobbitstee Wildlife Refuge, for instance, but it could also be donated to Eco justice, the RBG, Environment Hamilton etc.

11) Add 5 – 500 native plants to your garden or gift some to someone you know with a garden. Starting natives from seed is a great way to go – cold stratification is as easy as putting seeds outside in a pot in January (see previous articles or Google for more info)

I commend you for reading this far and If you can show me you’ve done 10 out of the previous 11 initiatives – I will design a backyard plan for you! Get in touch for details @VenniGardens on Instagram or candyvenning@gmail.com

P.S. Volunteering to plant trees, remove invasive species or look for injured birds – would each count as 2. Happy New Year!!

GREAT NEWS FOR LOW INCOME RENTERS

The one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit aims to help low-income renters with the cost of renting. You may be eligible for a tax-free one-time payment of \$500 if your income and the amount that you pay on rent qualify.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) administers this one-time payment. To apply for this new federal one-time payment, you do not need to receive other housing benefits such as the Canada Housing Benefit, which is co-funded and delivered by the provinces and territories.

Applications are open until Friday, March 31, 2023.

You must meet the eligibility criteria:

- You were born on or before December 1, 2007 (at least 15 years old on December 1, 2022)
- Your principal residence was in Canada on December 1, 2022 (For this benefit, your principal residence is the place where you normally live and pay rent.)
- You were a resident of Canada in 2022 for tax purposes.
- In 2021, you had an adjusted family net income of:
 - \$35,000 or less for families
 - \$20,000 or less for individuals
- The 2022 eligible rent that you paid was:
 - paid in the 2022 calendar year
 - paid for any of your qualifying principal residences in 2022
 - equal to at least 30% of your 2021 adjusted family net income
- The applicant must be alive on the day on which their application for the one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit is made.
- To apply for this new federal one-time payment, you do not need to receive other housing benefits such as the Canada Housing Benefit, which is co-funded and delivered by the provinces and territories.

To apply online visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/child-and-family-benefits/top-up-canada-housing-benefit.html>

WINTER PARENTING WORKSHOPS

Circle of Security Parenting Group – Saturday mornings 10 a.m.-12 p.m., starting January 14, 2023. In-person at St. Martin’s Manor, 500 Mohawk Rd. W. Hamilton.

- 8-sessions for moms and dads of children 6 months to 6 years.
- Learn strategies to enhance the parent-child attachment relationship and improve child behaviour.

Ready, Set, Smile! – Creating Meaningful Social Routines with Your Toddler at Home

Single session, Virtual workshop, Tuesday evenings 7:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.,

January 24 and March 21

- Learn the importance of shared smiling between you and your toddler
- Social routines can increase interaction and promote communication
- Get ideas and strategies to try out with your toddler.

Parents can register at:www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/mcmaster-childrens-hospital/family-resources/course-offerings/

For any questions, please call 905-521-2100 x 77406.

MEMORIES OF THE BARTON STREET ARENA

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN ROULSTON

Another January is upon us, and Hamilton is in the midst of another winter. Jack Frost is nipping at our noses, snow shovels are swinging, and dreams of getting drafted into the NHL or competing in figure skating at the Olympics are being acted out in skating arenas around the city. There was a time when there were no arenas, no goalie pads, and no hockey sticks at all.

Long before there was a First Ontario Centre or its predecessor, the Hamilton Forum, between the years of 1840 and 1875, Scottish soldiers in Nova Scotia enjoyed the Scottish game of Shinty. Shinty is played today similarly to field hockey, with 12 members on each side, two of them goalies. A ball smaller than a tennis ball with a corked core covered in leather is used. A hooked stick made of ash and about 48” (1.2 m) long, known as a caman, is used similar to a hockey stick. Like in hockey, you try to shoot it between your opponent’s goalposts. The history of shinty in Scotland is older than the Bible and the written word. Shinty was adapted by Scots who settled in Canada to play in the cold on a frozen body of water. At the time, there were many regional variations of the game. The word “shinty” or “shinny” is still a widely used term for a pickup game of street or ice hockey throughout Canada.

One of the ways the British exercised influence over Canada was by participating in sports that originated in the United Kingdom. One of these sports was cricket. In 1834, Toronto and Guelph played the first formally acknowledged cricket match in Canada. Throughout the 1830s and up until Confederation in 1867, cricket grew popular in places like Victoria, BC; Montreal; Quebec City; and several townships in Ontario. The sport was dominated by garrisons, soldiers, and upper-class Canadians; the working class was mostly excluded from participation in this sport. Cricket’s popularity in Canada declined as opposed to the rest of the Commonwealth due to a number of factors, including a lack of exposure and participation, the dominance of American sports, and the fact that the game was never really meant to be played on frozen grass or in the snow during the winter. Although cricket and baseball have certain similarities, baseball eventually became more popular in Hamilton throughout the 1860s. Baseball prevailed mainly because it was seen as a working-class sport. The old Crystal Palace at today’s Victoria Park was the most popular place to play the game in those days.

Around the time of Confederation, “lacrosse,” a sport comparable to hockey, became popular. Many amateur and professional hockey players currently play lacrosse over the offseason to maintain their eye-hand coordination, physical endurance, and physical contact skills.

In 1875, hockey, as we know it today, was de-



The Hamilton Forum aka The Barton
Street Arena

Courtesy Walter Frith

veloped at McGill University, and it became more popular in Canada as the country was looking to find its own identity. On March 3 of that year, at the Victoria Rink in Montreal, a game was played in an indoor arena for the first time. From then on, Canada had two recognized sports: hockey and lacrosse. Men and boys enjoyed playing a game of hockey on ponds, rivers, and lakes with snow banks acting as the boards and wooden posts or even tree branches for the goalposts. Hockey quickly became a worldwide phenomenon as it spread to Yale University in the United States and then to Vienna in 1885. From there, it quickly spread to other European countries like Belgium, France, and Switzerland, the U.K. and Germany joined later.

To play hockey at a competitive level, the athletes needed to be in great physical shape, and to capitalize on that, many of these young men joined the military. Before the first world war, there were games between battalions, such as Army vs. the Navy or the Marines against the Air Force. Even today, some soldiers will carry their sticks when deployed. They have played pickup games of hockey in places like Kandahar and the Persian Gulf. Hockey greats such as Guy LaFleur, Don Cherry, and others have travelled and played exhibition games against military personnel.

Without citation, in 1890, it is believed that the first organized hockey game held in Hamilton was played between the Bank of Hamilton and the John Knox, Alfred Morgan & Company, Wholesalers of Dry Goods.

The world’s first purpose-built hockey arena was the Westmount Arena in Montreal in 1898; it was built because the “rinks,” as they were called then, were too small to handle the large crowds. These much bigger rinks were now called “arenas,” whether they were built in Vancouver, Halifax, Waterloo, or Hamilton.

In 1910, Hamilton, with a population of just over 100,000 people, saw a new roller skating and lacrosse arena built between Bristol Street and Sherman Avenue, capable of accommodating 1500 people. It was located across from Woodland Park and the old Westinghouse

property; little did they know the role it would play in Hamilton’s sporting and entertainment future. On a gorgeous, sunny New Year’s Day in 1913, thousands of out-of-towners and residents gathered for a skating session on the new, freshly laid ice. Unfortunately, they would be disappointed when they were turned away from the new Alerts Arena due to the incomplete installation of the ice-making equipment. The arena’s power had only been switched on the previous day, and it would’ve taken two or three days to build the ice. They would not have been able to accommodate the crowd if the arena had been opened that day anyways. The grand opening would now take place on Wednesday, January 8, 1913. From Saturday, January 4, through Tuesday, January 7, the ice belonged to the hockey players. Despite bitterly cold temperatures and light snow that evening, the new Alerts Limited Arena opened to a capacity crowd at 8:00 p.m. It was estimated that 1200 skaters took to the ice that night. A live band, the 13th Royal Regiment, played many of the most popular tunes of the day.

The arena was remodelled by the Abso-Pure Ice Company, and it reopened as the Britannia Arena, aka the Barton Street Arena, in November 1920. It was also affectionately known as “The Barn” or simply “The Arena.”

The city was awarded an NHL franchise called the Hamilton Tigers, and three weeks after the opening, it played host to its first NHL game on December 22nd. General seating cost 80¢, and the best seats in the house sold for \$2.25. An 8,000-seat expansion was announced in 1925 and was ready to go. Unfortunately, the Hamilton Tigers, who were poised to play in the Stanley Cup that year, went on strike. Neither side budged, and instead of competing for the Stanley Cup, the Hamilton Tigers were sold. They were briefly known as the “New York Hamilton Tigers,” but by the time training camp rolled around, the name was changed again to the New York Americans.

The Barton Street Arena began a slow and steady decline until March 1944, when it was closed down due to fire code violations and

overcrowding issues. It was revamped and reopened again in 1948. Ken Soble, whose name is honoured and now adorns a low-rent apartment building on the corner of Macnab and Burlington Streets, bought the old Barton Street Arena in 1953 and rechristened it “The Hamilton Forum.” There were other maybe not-so-flattering nicknames, like “The Igloo” or the “World’s largest penalty box.” Due to parking regulations at the time, Soble had three choices: use Woodland Park across the street for parking, approach Canadian Westinghouse for permission to use its Birch Street parking lot, or build the forum on what is now The Centre on Barton, then the former grounds of the Hamilton Jockey Club, which at the time had been turned into an empty field. The city and the Forum reached an agreement, and the building was rebuilt from the ground up. 150 men worked tirelessly, sixteen hours a day, for over three months to reconstruct the arena, brick by brick, at a cost of between \$500,000 and \$750,000.

On October 1st, 1953, the Hamilton Forum opened to over 4000 people. Norm Marshal, the one-time CHML radio sportscaster and later a former CHCH sports and news anchor, was the master of ceremonies. The evening’s feature was an exhibition game between Hamilton’s own OHL team, the Hamilton Tiger Cubs, and the NHL’s Detroit Red Wings, with Gordie Howe and Ted Lindsay. Through the 1960s, the junior A Hamilton Redwings would play every Thursday night, and it would be televised live on CHCH. King Clancy is reported to have scored his first professional goal at The Barn. On the ice were some of the top hockey players of the day, including Bobby Orr and Bobby Hull.

The Harlem Globe Trotters and the Barnum & Bailey Circus were just two of the many events that took place at the Forum. Wrestling and boxing matches were held every week during the winter. Some of the old-timers would attest there were just as many fights outside the arena, and sometimes they were more interesting.

Frank Sinatra’s T-Bird and the original Batmobile are said to have made an appearance at a car show at the old Forum.

Following Ken Soble’s death, The Forum changed hands several times until it underwent its last facelift in 1974. The last team to play in the Hamilton Forum was the Hamilton Fin-cups, a mixture of the last two owners’ names, Joe Finocchio and the brothers Ron and Mario Cupido. At 5:00 pm on a hot and sunny Friday afternoon in September 1976, the kids skated off the ice for the final time at the Forum’s final hockey school practice. Thirty minutes later, without fanfare or even a tear, the Hamilton Forum was no more as it met its fate with the wrecking ball. On the 2-acre site where the Forum had stood, 29 3-bedroom single-family homes priced at \$49,000 were constructed, and it would be called Forum Village.

Sadly, there are no plaques or any indication that the Barton Street Arena ever existed; it is truly a ghost of Hamilton’s past.

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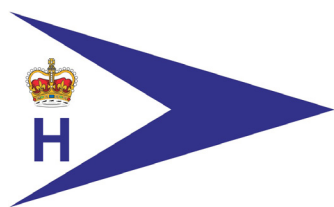
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