

# IF THIS BUILDING IS EMPTY, WHY AM I HOMELESS?



SUBMITTED BY ROBYN GILLAM

It must be 40 years ago that I saw this message spray painted on a boarded-up house in downtown Toronto. Not much has changed.

It's common knowledge that buildings slated for renovation, redevelopment or demolition often sit empty for a long time. In our neighbourhood, both the

Jamesville townhouse complex and 500 MacNab have been vacant for over two years. The old Clarke's tavern on James Street, slated for demolition, from which tenants were evicted in late June, still stands untouched. While all residents of the city buildings were rehoused, the units are removed from circulation, leaving impossibly long lists and wait times for the exploding number of people in

need of affordable housing.

Gord Smythe, a former Clarke's resident whom I interviewed last spring, was homeless for six months before finding city accommodation. For Smythe, who is on ODSP, it could not have come soon enough. In an interview with CBC Hamilton on November 24, he explained: "It's definitely not camping, it's surviving. It's a really hard life...moving ev-

ery time you have to move wasn't acceptable." Although Smythe's relieved to be housed, he emphasized that the homelessness problem is devastating and won't go away.

While a pilot project in Hamilton has successfully rehoused people with complex needs and another in Kitchener has provided tiny homes, the visible homeless are only the tip of a very large iceberg. The overvaluation of real estate, exacerbated by the Pandemic, has all but abolished security of tenure in residential properties.

Those responsible for redevelopments argue that the process takes time, with planning permits, environmental assessment and remediation, tendering contracts, seasonal working conditions and so on. However, time is a luxury that the precariously housed and homeless do not have. Smythe told me he wondered how the Jamestown complex across the street could be empty in the midst of a Covid related housing crisis and others have also asked the same question.

The city's plan for redeveloping social housing stock for mixed use and/or with private-public partnerships has generated much discussion, but it has begun to study possible reuse of vacant buildings and lots downtown. However, estimates of their extent, let alone their utilization, cannot be agreed upon.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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# IF THIS BUILDING IS EMPTY, WHY AM I HOMELESS?

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The most popular fix proposed for the affordable housing crisis, exacerbated by the economic fallout of the pandemic, is building new stock. This appeals to all levels of government as it stimulates the economy locally, regionally and nationally. However, elsewhere in the world, cities are looking seriously at how to refurbish buildings or else reuse their components as a means of carbon reduction. For example, in the UK, the building industry uses 60% of all materials and produces 45% of all CO2 emissions,



which includes demolition, as well as construction. Put in local terms, it could take many years before the LRT is even carbon neutral, factoring in the demolition and proposed replacement of over

80 units of housing. Of course, it also takes time to rehabilitate abandoned or badly maintained housing stock, but it's possible that some or even most work can be done without displacing people. Housing advocates have noted that emergency accommodation in hostels and hotels is not a permanent solution. Surely it would help if buildings can remain inhabited for longer periods, while awaiting redevelopment or refurbishment,

as, for example, in the planning stages. It's also common knowledge that buildings deteriorate much faster when they are vacant and can pose significant health and safety risks, as in the case of the toxic fire at the former Mr. Used on Barton Street East this summer. If we don't want to see people living in parks or on the street, there needs to be a more thoughtful and time-sensitive response to their needs. In many cases, the solution could lie in not displacing them at all. The issue of homelessness in Hamilton is covered by the Hamilton Spectator; building sustainability is discussed in the Guardian's Cities in Depth.



## NENA UPDATE: WHAT IS YOUR NORTH END NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION UP TO?

With so much happening in the North End, the volunteers with the North End Neighbourhood Association (NENA) are often busy.

You may have seen the "Save Our Park" signs around the neighbourhood. NENA believes that the Simcoe Tot Lot (at Bay and Strachan) should not be sold to developers and rather stay a park. If you agree check out our website for how you can help: [northendneighbourhoodassociation.com/saveourpark](http://northendneighbourhoodassociation.com/saveourpark)

NENA has been working with the city on the development at Jamesville (James & Strachan). The developer has recently submitted their design proposal to the city for review. NENA has analyzed the development proposal and created a draft report on the design with concerns and recommendations. Included in NENA's draft report is the request for maintaining the maximum building height to six stories, rather than seven; consideration of the massive tree loss on this site; accessible design in pedestrian spaces; and traffic

and parking affecting the surrounding neighbourhood. NENA's draft report can be found at: [northendneighbourhoodassociation.com/jamesville-redevelopment](http://northendneighbourhoodassociation.com/jamesville-redevelopment).

Did you know that a tall tower is being considered at the Pier 8 development? The tower could be up to 45 stories. This change in plan is part of an OMB decision and would lead to a larger number of family size units being constructed at Pier 8. The city has recently released an Opportunity Study and Development Guidelines and can be found at: [hamilton.ca/city-planning/planning-community/piers-7-and-8-urban-design-study](http://hamilton.ca/city-planning/planning-community/piers-7-and-8-urban-design-study)

Finally, upon NENA's request, Councillor Farr has asked City staff to study a few items at Bayfront Park: decreasing traffic speeds along Harbour Front Drive; adjusting bus routes to allow for a transit stop near the Bayfront Parking lot; and electrification for the food trucks servicing the park. Keep an ear out for progress on these issues.

NENA is currently meeting online and everyone is welcome. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm. If you would like to receive notification and meeting links for our meetings sign up for our newsletter at [northendneighbourhoodassociation.com](http://northendneighbourhoodassociation.com).

Sign up is at the bottom of the home page. <https://www.northendneighbourhoodassociation.com/>

We look forward to seeing you there!

# HOPA | PORT P O R T S | UPDATE



Did you know that there are a number of different types of vessels that transit the Great Lakes- St. Lawrence Seaway, each designed for a specific purpose? Two types you will commonly see at the Port of Hamilton are "Lakers" and "Salties". Though these vessels may look similar at first glance, they each have unique features that set them apart from one another.

Lakers, also known as lake vessels are designed specifically for use in the Great Lakes- St. Lawrence Seaway; they are not capable or authorized to operate in the open ocean. The Great Lakes have a unique set of weather, water and ice conditions and these vessels are designed to handle it all. Laker vessels carry dry bulk cargoes including grain, iron ore, sugar, sand and salt. Most are equipped with self-unloading technology enabling the crew to unload the vessel without the need for shore side personnel or equipment. Identifiable by a large steel boom extending down the deck from the ship's superstructure, bulk material is carried along conveyor belts and lifted up and out onto the adjacent dock via the pivoting boom.

Salties or ocean-going vessels can operate almost anywhere in the world. These vessels are designed to carry dry bulk, break bulk and even project cargoes. For example, a Saltie might arrive at the Port of Hamilton importing construction materials to be used in projects across the GTA and leave the port exporting Ontario grown grain to overseas markets.

Next time you are by the Harbour see if you can spot the difference between the different types of vessels! You can always check what vessels are in port using the Vessel Tracker at [www.hopaports.ca](http://www.hopaports.ca).



# CRIME STOPPERS

## OF HAMILTON

### JANUARY IS NATIONAL CRIMESTOPPERS MONTH

Hello to you from Crime Stoppers of Hamilton. I would like to start by wishing everyone the happiest and safest of holidays this year. Please take the time to enjoy family and a little relaxation when you can.

Crime Stoppers of Hamilton has continued to grow its footprint in the community and not alone. As I have said before we are not only for the community, but we are part of the community. As we near the end of 2021 I want to share a couple initiatives we have launched.

We recently launched "Campus Crime Stoppers" partnering with McMaster, Mohawk, and Redeemer to bring Crime Stoppers on campus. This partnership will continue to grow with the hopes of more campuses joining us in providing education to students and staff as well as expanding program awareness. Like our Crime Stoppers "On the Water" program and partnership with HOPA (Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority) and the Hamilton Police Marine Unit, Campus Crime Stoppers is also a reminder to those who know of a committed or about to be committed crime that they have an anonymous avenue to report while continuing to keep one another safe and others from being potential victims themselves. We see these campuses as communities within our Hamilton community and we couldn't be happier.

We are so excited to announce we have finally put up our city entry signs for those visiting our fantastic city. They are located as you enter Hamilton from the QEW onto the Redhill Parkway Southbound and when you exit onto York Blvd from the 403 Hamilton near Dundurn Castle. These signs are not about saying there is crime in Hamilton, they announce to everyone visiting that we are a proud part of the community, and the community is a proud part of Crime Stoppers. We have finally joined many surrounding communi-

ties with these signs with the help of the City of Hamilton.

We continue to work on our Youth Ambassador Program engaging youth in our community, looking to help grow future leaders, while giving support. We hope to get back to in person community events.

January is National Crime Stoppers month so be sure to watch for us on social media, Facebook, twitter, Instagram and now LinkedIn.

Finally, as the holiday season is upon us, we at Crime Stoppers would like to give some TIPS of our own.

It only takes a moment for YOU to be the VICTIM of a crime.

- Don't FLASH your CASH – Keep it away and out of sight from those who may be around you

- ATM's – cover your pin and don't walk away counting the cash for those who want to see

- Cybercrime, protect your banking information, physical theft isn't the only threat to consumers

- Be wary of online deals that seem too good to be true

- Don't shop for the criminal, HOW you ask? – By loading your car up with recent purchases or leaving them unattended and walking away. Criminals watch for this!

- PLEASE, PLEASE – LOCK YOUR CAR and VALUABLES up, keeping valuables away and out of sight

- Distraction thefts – keep everything in sight, know your surroundings.

- If possible, shop during daylight hours, going with friends or family members

Sadly, there are those who see the holiday season as opportunity to victimize our communities. Remember Hamilton, your VOICE fights crime, so take part in having criminals answer for their actions, call Crime Stoppers with your tips at 1 800 222 TIPS (8477) or submit a tip via the web and TOGETHER let's continue keeping our community STRONGER and SAFER!

We look forward to 2022.

## FROM THE NORTH END BREEZES ARCHIVES...

We've been taking a look back in time by sharing some of The North End Breezes' archives. This month, we have some content from January issues in the 70s and 80s! Do you remember when the Breezes looked like this?

VOLUME XVI JANUARY

### THE BREEZES - YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD'S BULLETIN

A few months ago, we described the very elementary way in which THE BREEZES is produced, largely through volunteer help.

In order to make this production job easier, we have been given a grant from THE HAMILTON FOUNDATION.

We now have two tasks ahead of us - to work out how to produce THE BREEZES more effectively, and what its content should be.

THE BREEZES is a bulletin intended to serve the residents of the North End neighbourhood, that is, you, dear reader.

We know you have all kinds of good ideas, so please, write them down - tell us what you like what you don't like, what you would like to read more, or less, about in THE BREEZES.

Just grab a piece of paper and a pencil, jot down you BREEZES wish list, and then drop it in the office at 485 John St. N.

Thank you very much.

#### Above:

Not much has changed in 50 years! We are still volunteers and we still want your input. We are here to serve you!

#### Below:

Bennetto Programs in 1984 - what a fun offering!

Limit of 15 per week.	P. 4
Courses: 1. Calligraphy	Jan. 24
2. Beauty Seminar	Jan. 31
3. Chinese Cooking	Feb. 7
4. How to Build a Rec Room	Feb. 14
5. Photography	Feb. 21
6. Dried Flower Arranging	Feb. 28
7. C.P.R. Heart Saver-Theory	Mar. 6
8. C.P.R. Heart Saver-Practical	13.
9. Plant Show	Mar. 20
10. Public Speaking	Mar. 27

Please Note: each course is an introduction in the subject area. Refreshments will be served. If there are a large no. of participants want a 8-10 week course, these will be made available. PLEASE SIGN UP IN ADVANCE to avoid disappointment.

**"Bennetto's Bubbling Seniorlites"** a new program for retirees. Come and get a snack preview at Open House, Jan. 18 & 19, 6-8:30p.m. Program will include carpet bowling, bingo, euchre, crafts and much more. If interested in joining leave name at the centre. ADULT KARATE CLASSES - Tues. 8-9 p.m. Sat. 10-11 a.m. Cost: \$3 federation fee plus 50¢ per class or \$4 monthly.

SOCIAL BARTENDING COURSE - Wed. 7-9p.m. must be 19 yrs. or over. Course begins Wed., Jan 25, cost: \$8 for 8wks. Demonstration can be seen Thurs., Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

#### INCOME TAX CLINICS

We have received many calls about Income Tax clinics.

YES!! the days this year for providing this service will be Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays only 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Donations are appreciated. We are a registered charitable organization and donations are income tax deductible. Receipts are given unless otherwise stated. You MUST phone for an appointment!! 529-8883

Left: Tax clinics were just as important 50 years ago!

#### DIALOGUE on Hamilton Harbour

6.

#### COMMUNITY PLAN FOR HARBOUR CLEAN-UP UNDERWAY

Dear Resident:  
Hamilton Harbour has been identified as one of the most polluted bodies of inland water in Canada. Over the next few months the Federal/Provincial Remedial Action Plan (RAP) writing team wants to hear your opinions on how the Harbour is to be used in the future. If we all share the responsibility today, residents and visitors can enjoy the benefits offered by the Harbour's restored environmental reserves in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Sally M. Leppard  
Chairman  
Hamilton Harbour Stakeholder Group

#### WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

- \* Industrial and municipal discharges into the Harbour
- \* Pollution from land use activities drain into the Harbour
- \* Shoreline filling
- \* High water levels
- \* Bacteria
- \* Shipping
- \* Costs

WHAT CAN BE DONE? Undertaking the necessary remedial works will be the responsibility of the many Harbour users according to their areas of operation.

A Remedial Action Plan being developed by Federal & Provincial ministries is not just another study - it includes:

1. Assessment of the current environmental condition of the area of concern.
  2. Where the pollution comes from
  3. Future desired uses for the area
  4. Remedial actions necessary to achieve desired uses.
  5. Costs.
  6. A Plan of Action.
- And it cannot be developed without community input and support.
- YOUR COMMUNITY IS INVOLVED Public Meeting February 24, 1987

So much from decades ago is still relevant in our neighbourhood today!

1985

No. 9

#### TRUCK TRAFFIC

On September 13, 1984 a meeting was held to discuss the issue of truck traffic on neighbourhood streets. The meeting was well attended by residents wishing to resolve this extremely annoying and dangerous situation. Also on hand were our aldermen, Bill McCulloch and Vic Agro, and representatives of the local Police and City Traffic Committees.

There were many good suggestions made by those attending which we were assured would be carefully looked into and a further meeting held to inform us of the results. This second meeting is to be held on January 16, 1985 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Parish Hall, John and Macaulay Sts.

In addition to the groups represented at the last meeting there will be a member of the planning committee to bring us up to date on the plans for the Pier 4 Park (beside the Leander Boat Club) and the now city owned Lax Property.

All interested residents are urged to attend!!!



# BOOK CLUB CORNER

SUBMITTED BY KIT DARLING AND THE MEMBERS OF THE BAY AREA BOOK CLUB

In December we discussed Practical Jean by Trevor Cole. Jean Horemarsch lives in an Ontario small town, is a creative but largely inept potter, described by a Quill and Quire reviewer as a “general underachiever”. She spends several months caring for her mother who is dying of cancer. After her mother’s death, Jean reflects on the pain and suffering and only regrets that she didn’t suffocate her and save her the agony. And that revelation leads to the unusual decision to ‘help’ her friends, all essentially middle-aged, healthy women, avoid the long-drawn-out process and pains of aging and a protracted and painful death. Some of us could not get into the book despite best efforts. Most of the members however, enjoyed the book. They appreciated the author’s



writing style, satire and humour. They felt that Jean was very ill, but that many of her issues stemmed from her childhood. The plot and characters led to a discussion on mortality and morality and the suffering that aging can bring. A different book for sure!  
- Kit Darling

We Had a Little Real Estate Problem by Kliph Nesteroff. Nesteroff’s new book takes a long overdue look at the history of Native Americans in com-

edy, letting comedians tell their own stories and the impact of racism on their lives. Beginning with the first Native Americans as entertainers in Wild West Shows in the 1800s. Then vaudeville and Will Rogers who presented as a cowboy despite his tribal roots. “I’m not one of those Americans whose ancestors came over on the Mayflower, but we met them at the boat when they landed”, Rogers quipped. By the 1920s Native comedy was changing and all comedians shared the same problems of waiting for stage time, playing to empty rooms, and feeding their families. In 1977 Charlie Hill broke ground as Richard Pryor’s first Native American guest. It was Hill who gave this book its title when he quipped, “My people are from Wisconsin. We used to be from New York. We had a little real estate problem.” Native Americans see humor as a form of resistance to the loss of their culture, language, and tribal lands as well as to the systemic racism and harassment that hinders access to work and education. A well researched book and a good read as told through the vibrant stories of the comics themselves.  
- Paige Turner

The Mist by Ragnar Jonasson. This may have been the “noir-est” Nordic Noir that I have read to date. Set in the short, dark days of December, primarily in the remote moors of eastern Iceland on an even more remote and isolated farm. Detective Insp. Hulda Hermannsdottir is struggling to return to work at her Reykjavik office while recovering from an undisclosed tragedy when she is assigned to investigate 2 murders at an isolated farm. She is also haunted by the unresolved disappearance of a young woman. And of course here is a blizzard to contend with. Lots of twists and turn and the slow reveal of the “who, what and when” but not necessarily the “why”. An excellent read. - Kit Darling

*Note: The bookmobile is at Bennetto Recreation Centre, Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:00. There is no access to the bookmobile to browse, but staff are on hand for contactless returns and holds pickup.*

*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 .*

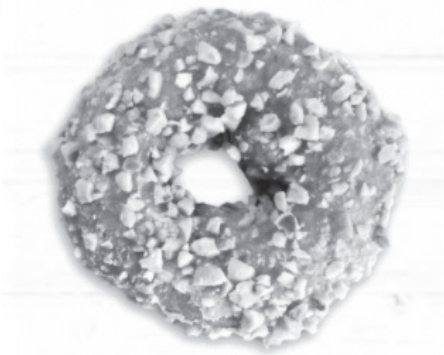
## Let The Breezes Help You Promote Your Business!

Let’s get down to business.....We want to help you promote your business while you struggle with restrictions. Send us a quick email about how you are continuing to serve the North End and we will feature you in an upcoming issue free of charge.  
Email [ads@northendbreezes.com](mailto:ads@northendbreezes.com)

Do you tweet?  
Do you have a couple of hours a week?

The Breezes would love your expertise! The Breezes needs someone to help with our social media platforms on Twitter and Facebook.

Please contact:  
[office@northendbreezes.com](mailto:office@northendbreezes.com)



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**UPDATE: In-person services on Sundays, following the Covid19 protocols of face masks and social distancing**

**Pre-registration is needed due to attendance restrictions. You can register for the services by visiting our website at [www.jamesnorth.church](http://www.jamesnorth.church) and following the link.**



**500 James St N, Hamilton**

**Contact Phone: 905.527.3972**

**Email: [office@jamesnorth.church](mailto:office@jamesnorth.church)**

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

**[www.jamesnorth.church](http://www.jamesnorth.church)**

We are enjoying in-person worship services, following the Covid19 protocols of face masks and social distancing. Pre-registration is preferred as we are limited in numbers, but you are still welcome to just walk on over and we'll find a space for you! Check our website ([www.jamesnorth.church](http://www.jamesnorth.church)) for registration and service times as they change according to the protocols and attendance. If we have 2 services they are at 9am and 11am. If we have one service it is at 11am.

James North Baptist Church (formerly Hughson Street Baptist) has been a part of the North End for the past 134 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.

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.

We've been in our new building now for just over a year – have you dropped in for a look yet? We would be glad to welcome you any Sunday or check out our live-stream. 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. Our website is the place to go for up-to-date information



## St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish

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

[stlawrencehamilton@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:stlawrencehamilton@hamiltondiocese.com)  
[www.stlawrencehamilton.ca](http://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 or Tuesday~

Wednesday - Confession 6:30 p.m. Mass 7:00 p.m.

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.

### **Sacraments of Marriage or Baptism:**

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



## *The North End Breezes Team*

The Breezes is published on the first day of the month and delivered to 4,200 homes and businesses. Contact us at 905-523-6611 x.3004, by email at [office@northendbreezes.com](mailto:office@northendbreezes.com) or on our website: [www.northendbreezes.com](http://www.northendbreezes.com)

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**North End Breezes Board of**

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**Circulation & Distribution:** The Board, JoAnn Osti, Sheri Selway, Sandra Hudson, Cameron Kroetsch and Steve Osborne along with a dedicated team of volunteers.

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. We strive to publish articles based on these principles and the applicable time frame for the content.

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 enthusiastic volunteers who produce a monthly newsletter in order to promote community connectivity and mutual support by engaging our North End Neighbours.

### **NORTH END BREEZES VISION:**

The North End Breezes will be a vital resource that promotes harmony, pride and collective community action in a diverse and dynamic neighbourhood.

### *Help us grow your Breezes.*

*We are looking for ideas, submissions, advertisers. Please email your thoughts to [office@northendbreezes.com](mailto:office@northendbreezes.com) or call 905-523-6611 x.3004. Leave your contact name and number and we'll get back to you.*

*Do you already contribute to our publication? Are you interested in sharing your thoughts about layout, design and content? Let's get together! I'd love to hear your ideas. Email or call and let me know. Thanks, Brenda*



# WALKABOUT: THE BARD AND BEAR GA

SUBMITTED BY KEN HIRTER

What's new for January 2022 strolling along James Street North finds me chatting with the New Kids on the Block. The new to-go place is so cool, retro and a vintage throwback to just the good ole days of boardgames. This months Walkabout finds me at "The Bard and Bear Games Cafe".

Our story is of this husband-and-wife team and the love of Board games that brought together the idea to create a community gathering place. Their motto for “The Bard and Bear Games Cafe. “To Bring People Together At The Table”.

Let me tell you, this place doesn't disappoint the most ardent fan of board games. The extensive game wall has a vast array of games to appeal to all ages. Set in a wonderful comfortable setting with a range of table settings for 2 or more. Reservations are also available upon request.

The Bard offers a cool gift nook tucked in the back corner next to the snack and finger food delights with sweets on their menu game board. The Cafe Bar offers an array of hot & cold beverages - all that is missing is a fireplace in this cozy community space that brings everyone together around to just play games and have fun. Coming soon will be an addition to the menu of Beer, Wine and

Spirits.

I asked their favorite games - for Steven it is Carcassonne with Megan's choice being Castle of Burgundy. As for the top 3 customer picks (subject to change) they are as follows:

1. Wavelength
2. Ticket to ride
3. Mousetrap

With the January blahs kicking into to gear or before winter hibernation hits why not head to the Bard and Bear Games Cafe located at: 237 James Street North.

For more general information and to book reservations for your table they can be reached at: (905) 523-0739, THEBARDANDBEAR@GMAIL.COM, Instagram @THEBARDANDBEAR or at [www.thebardandbear.com](http://www.thebardandbear.com)

I would like to thank Steven and Megan for taking time out to chat games, food and more...

Visit “The Bard and Bear” today and make it a Good ole Fashion game night tonight with friends & family.

Check out what's new for 2022 in your community neighborhood and continue to support the new shops & stores along the way.

Cheers

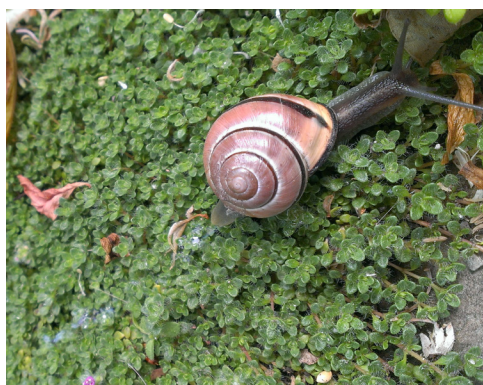


## WHO ARE YOU PLANNING YOUR GARDEN FOR?

SUBMITTED BY CANDY VENNING

Maybe a bit of a personal question, but just who is your garden for? At this time of year, I really start to dream and plan ahead with my ‘garden goals’. A place for myself in the hammock is high on the list, but I also have other guests on my mind – here’s who I’m hoping to invite:

Birds Although we won't see them all at our birdfeeder as many are waterfowl and lots migrate south; we will see some Dark-eyed Juncos coming in from further north. In summer we can expect to find a surprisingly large number of species around the Hamilton area & migrating along the lakes. – almost 500 bird species call Ontario home! Birds eat berries, seeds and insects (see below) so planting native plants for the food web is essential



as that's the food chain they co-evolved with. e.g., Arrowwood *Viburnum* – a caterpillar host, caterpillars feed baby birds, also bears fruit for adult birds.

Bees – Almost 400 native bee species in the greater Ontario region (the European honeybee is not in danger of going extinct anytime soon). Plant flowers! e.g., Globe Thistle/Echinops (a fantastically architectural plant that bees thrive on), Hyssop, Chives, *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Pycnanthemum* (Mountain Mint), *Solidago* &

native Asters just for a start.

The bees need more than just nectar and pollen, they require habitat and as most are solitary, ground nests and or empty cavities in stems and branches are home; leave some messy areas just for them.

Butterflies & Moths, wasps flies and other flying insects – sphinx moth, hummingbird moth and their caterpillars are fascinating to watch, often the only food for baby birds. Wasps may be annoying at your picnic (bees don't want your food) but they are a pollinator and eat many other insect types that you may consider to be pests like aphids. Plant natives like Liatris, New Jersey Tea, and the Monarch's all-time fave, Milkweed/Asclepias (*Asclepias tuberosa* or *Asclepias incarnata* as opposed to Common Milkweed)

Worms, woodlice, centipedes, slugs, snails, millipedes, beetles, spiders, ants—Not usually our favourites, it might be time for a rethink. Distributing seeds,

eating smaller organisms, eating dead plant material - they're the cleanup and recycling crews. I've had great success in feeding these creatures what they need (leaf litter and branches or wood chips) so they leave my plants alone. Worms, Insects and their larvae are part of the food chain, (repeating myself but ...it's true) especially for birds. Did you know hummingbirds eat mainly insects?

Soil – it's a complex ecosystem unto itself, alive with organisms and microbiota. Remember not to keep turning soil over, this effectively sterilizes the beneficial life out of it. Do add lots of leaves and/or top with compost. No need to dig or till it in, rain, worms and gravity will take care of distribution.

Mushrooms – breaking dead plant material down into useable nutrients. I’ve started artistic little brush piles in the shady spots, in hope of seeing more of the fungi kingdom. If you’re a foodie consider logs impregnated with mushrooms – haven’t



# MES CAFE



tried this myself yet but looking forward to it.

Plants – Trees and shrubs, native plants, ornamentals, herbs, teas, edible flowers, vegetables and fruits. Most of us think of this group first when using the ‘G’ word because a garden without plants is...sad.

Plant Native species! OK, you’ve heard this before, but why should you bother planting natives in the garden? The number one reason; they have evolved alongside the very birds, bees and butterflies (see above) that need them for food and shelter. Keep your dahlias and even your roses (although singles are better than doubles for pollinators) but mull over the idea of only 30% of the garden as ‘yours’ to grow non-native plants. A new way of thinking, maybe a bit controversial? However, you just might warm to those garden guests as their own type of interest and ‘garden goals’.



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\* Days and time may vary depending on Mohawk’s academic delivery schedule

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This Employment Ontario project is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.



*There are many sides to every story. The Breezes is committed to sharing varying perspectives on the issues that are important to our neighbours. Please read the following articles, and contact the writers with any questions.*

# SAVING OUR PARK

SUBMITTED BY SHERI SELWAY

Hardly anyone knows “Simcoe Tot Lot” at the corner of Bay Street and Strachan, yet it is listed on the City Website as a Park. How did it come to be? Why is it there? Many years ago, people lived on BOTH sides of Strachan and people lived where that open space is now. Bay Street was straightened – it used to curl around in front of those houses beside the park – one resident told me nearly to their porch! Of course, that was before Bayfront Park. Strachan was also moved a bit so it matched the entrance to drive down to Bayfront Park.

A proposed “Perimeter Road” had been discussed in a variety of planning documents since the 1960’s and the properties on Strachan were acquired during the pe-

riod of “urban renewal” or “Neighbourhood Improvement Program” as it was called. In 1990, council adopted a plan for a 4 – 6 lane “perimeter road” with an interchange at Bay Street crossing to the south onto Stuart.

Eventually it was decided NOT to build the Perimeter Road. For more information see page 25 of the West Harbour Opportunity and Challenges Report of 2002 on the City website (Hamilton.ca).

In summary, houses have been removed from that land for over 40 years due to urban renewal and a possible perimeter road. Most current residents only remember the space as grassy area, an overlook to the Bay. Some residents remember the lost homes. A few residents remember their homes.

Sorry, I didn’t mean to go into so much

history but I wanted you, our neighbours, to understand just why that space is there. So, for years it is considered a “park” or open space. People would park there for the July 1 fireworks or “Aquafest” (no longer a festival). Kids would hang out, play ball, fly kites etc. Just grass and open space.

Then, residents became interested in planting a garden there about the same time the Chinese Community got a grant for a cultural garden. It was perfect. An initial grant, plus a LOT of fundraising, and committee work, the Sunset Garden was born. Volunteers spent hours planning, digging, weeding and planting. (Still do.) People contributed “Sunset” poems in a variety of languages. A donation walk was made. United Nations flags were hung out and the grand opening happened about 6 years ago. Small events

took place on the site.

The City now wants to sell that space to the developer who is also doing the Jamesville site. But small green open spaces in built up areas are extremely important. Yes, I know, there is a park across the street. But this is different. It is accessible and many possibilities exist. Pollinator gardens already exist. But use your imagination.... So much more is possible.

We agree with sustainable development, and not increasing the urban boundary. We also see the importance of small green spaces for accessibility, mental and physical health.

You can help support the Save Our Park (Sunset Garden) campaign by getting a sign in your front yard. Signs are available at the northendneighbourhoodassociation.com website.

# SAVE OUR NON-PARK?

SUBMITTED BY BILL CURRAN

Concerned that ads and lawn signs include troubling mistruths by the North End Neighbourhood Association (NENA), I don’t want the City to cave to a few people that I consider NIMBYists trying to derail an approved housing development on this vacant land. As a North End resident and architect I wholeheartedly support this needed infill and intensification project.

(As disclosure, our firm are the architects only for the new CityHousing apartments that will be built at Jamesville; we have no interest in this land parcel).

**FACT: IT IS NOT A PARK AND NEVER WAS**

This property was occupied for decades by businesses and homes that the City purchased for redevelopment. This 1911 map shows the site fully occupied: <http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A34209/-/collection>

Purchased for an off-ramp for the cancelled Perimeter Roadway along the rail line, it is simply vacant land awaiting its next use.

The Sunset Garden is a few people using public land for their project. Created as a ‘garden’ when those people ‘noticed’ the land sale, they developed a garden plan using the name of esteemed North End activist Gil Simmons until her family objected, then changing to the ‘multi-cultural garden’ in an effort to legitimize the name.

This land is only about 1/6 used for the

‘Sunset Garden’ flowerbeds. The City provided a temporary lease in 2014; there is a written contract! And they got \$10,000 in taxpayer money for their project. The City already found a new home for the Garden across Bay Street and agreed to fund from taxpayers’ money to relocate the Garden; both the Gardeners and NENA know this, so it is troubling why there is even a campaign. It has never been a park, and is not a park today!

**FACT: Our entire community approved this development numerous times.**

During the Setting Sail Plan process starting in 2001 this vacant land was slated for residential development. This plan was approved repeatedly by the entire community, including by NENA.

This Map clearly shows this land as ‘Low Density Residential’:

[www2.hamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/FF347D40-0F2F-47FA-ABA9-6763C81288A5/0/SettingSailSecondary-PlanMarch2005.pdf](http://www2.hamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/FF347D40-0F2F-47FA-ABA9-6763C81288A5/0/SettingSailSecondary-PlanMarch2005.pdf)

Approved in 2012, the sale started in 2017: <https://www.hamilton.ca/government-information/news-centre/news-releases/cityhousing-hamilton-now-accepting-requests>

**FACT: The vacant lot is not being sold for cash for the City.**

This lot is being sold with the Jamesville housing to a developer. In return the City is receiving 46 new affordable housing apartments on James Street AND 117 affordable housing apartments built by Indwell. Redeveloping the property for market housing will pay for this. In my

opinion, it is a mistruth to say the City is selling this vacant lot for cash. There is significant, clear benefit to the City from this sale! If this land is now removed from the agreed deal the City will receive fewer affordable housing units.

**FACT: An unused ‘park’ is an unneeded ‘park’.**

Few use this vacant land because it is across the street from the huge, popular Bayfront Park, and people gravitate to the powerful water’s edge.

The North End fortunately has abundant parks: Bayfront Park, Pier 4 Park, Bayview Park, Pier 7 park/rink, the Waterfront Trail, Eastwood Park, Jackie Washington Park, Bennetto School/Rec Centre Park and the Wellington Street allotment gardens. We also have the huge new Copps Pier 7-8 park. The Jamesville redevelopment includes a new park at the corner of James and Strachan that is larger than the Sunset Garden! Do we really need this as another park?

**FACT: We cannot stop Sprawl and urban boundary expansion without Infill and Intensification.**

A majority voted against Sprawl and for infill and intensification instead, so the City must develop all vacant, publicly owned land to its highest and best use. If we don’t intensify here, then where? You cannot have it both ways!

**FACT: This could be seen as an example of NIMBYISM.**

A few people are demanding that our long-approved Setting Sail Plan change and theirs is but one voice to consider. In my opinion, some people against devel-

oping this vacant lot are the same people who appear to be simply anti-change, objecting to EVERY new development in our neighbourhood, including at 468 James St. N., 600 James at Burlington and at Pier 7-8.

## SUMMARY

A healthy, vibrant city is more than parks, it consists of a balanced mix of homes, workplaces and recreation spaces. A neighbourhood can have too much park space, reducing vitality and the number of homes possible.

We, as a City, cannot afford to own and maintain unlimited parks. Look at the failure of the recent John-Rebecca Park, (called Tupperware Park), built with millions of tax dollars and now unused, sad dead trees, plants and asphalt. Did we really need this park, 2 blocks from 3 other parks? Can we afford unused parks when other neighbourhoods have needs and our city infrastructure dollars are stretched?

The City already provided a new home for the Garden across Bay Street and committed to again use thousands in taxpayers money to relocate the Garden, and both the Gardeners and NENA know this, so it is troubling as to why there is even a campaign on this issue.

Tax dollars are precious and must be spent to achieve maximum benefit to ALL our citizens.

Can we afford to miss opportunities to build homes and the vitality and taxes that they bring? Where will we intensify if we turn everything into parks???

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 9



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION  
FOR “SAVE OUR NON-PARK?!”  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

From: PatrickSimmons  
Sent: July-08-21  
To: curran@tcarch.ca  
Subject: Fwd: Save our Parkette Saga

Hi Bill,

Thanks for your note. My apologies for not getting back to you sooner. I appreciate your efforts to let me know what is happening in the North End, particularly in connection with my mother’s name and the parkette. Here are my thoughts:

From an urban design perspective I do not see how an argument could be made to retain this as a parkette. I can see how those living in the immediate vicinity would object to this parcel being built on. Few people would want to see development happen on an empty park-like property adjacent to their house.

There are some instances where empty lots should be retained. This isn’t one of them. Development of this land makes a great deal of sense. There is plenty of adjacent and nearby parkland, both passive and active. What the North End truly needs is increased density as well as varied zoning and building types. This part of the cityscape is an open wound that could be healed by thoughtful infill. The neighbourhood would be helped by a mid- to low-rise residential or mixed use development at this location, screening the community from the rail lines, providing more active street life and upgrading the local housing stock.

Everything I learned studying Urban Design at Harvard and in the intervening 20 years practicing architecture in communities like Hamilton, supports the development of this site. I think Mum would agree as would most planners and designers.

I have a fairly accurate view of what my mother would have thought. We spoke a great deal about precisely this kind of issue. She was very much of the Jane Jacob’s school of thought. I would be glad to speak with anyone about this issue if that would be helpful.

All the best,  
Patrick Simmons, OAA, RAIC,  
LEED AP

THE ANNUAL  
PET VISIT

SUBMITTED BY JANICE ARSENAULT

Spring is just around the corner which means it is time to start thinking about your pets annual vet check up. The annual check up is an important step in maintaining and monitoring your pets ongoing health as well as addressing any changes in your pets health status and any new or ongoing behavioural issues your pet may have. We are all aware of the need to update vaccinations annually but there are other issues that your vet will be looking for at the annual health assessment.

Your vet will do a coat and skin check for hair loss, lumps, rashes, discoloration or unusual spots. The condition of your pets skin and coat can hold clues to any health issues that you may not have noticed. Poor coat condition can be the result of something as simple as a poor diet that is easily corrected with dietary changes. Poor coat condition can also be a sign of an underlying hormonal imbalances, such as excessive cortisol levels seen with Cushing’s syndrome, abnormal thyroid levels, or diabetes which can be confirmed by a blood test and controlled by medications or other veterinarian recommended treatments.

Another important part of the annual check up is to look for signs of parasites such as intestinal worms, fleas, ticks, mites and heartworms. Ensuring that your pet is treated for parasites in a timely manner will ensure the ongoing health and comfort of your pet. Preventative treatment for fleas, ticks and heartworm can be picked up at your annual vet visit. Heartworm is a parasite that infects dogs and sometimes cats, although cats are more resistant to this parasite. Heartworm is treated preventively as it is costly, time consuming and can sometimes have fatal complications in severe cases once contracted. Treating heartworm preventively also helps reduce the prevalence of heartworm in the animal population, thus limiting transmission of the disease.

The body condition of your pet will also be assessed during your visit. Just like us, our pets sometimes over



indulge and can become overweight. An overweight pet is not a healthy pet as they are at higher risk of medical conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, liver disease and will also be at a higher risk of anesthetic complications if they require surgery. The annual check up is the perfect time to discuss any changes that you may need to make to your pets diet or ways to increase or maintain their activity levels at different life stages to maintain a healthy body condition.

Your pets dental health will also be checked. Although we may not think about our pets dental health as often as we think about their physical health, it is a very important part of their overall wellbeing. Approximately two thirds of dogs and more than half of cats over the age of three have some form of dental disease. The most common problems seen are periodontal disease (inflammation or infection of the tissues surrounding the tooth) and fractured teeth. Left untreated periodontal disease can become infected and may cause eating to become painful for your pet. Your vet may recommend a dental cleaning for your pet which will be done under anesthetic during a future visit.

Any behavioural issues you may be having with your pet can also be addressed with your vet during your pets annual visit. It is important to address



new behavioural issues as soon as possible before they become an ongoing issue and your vet is the perfect place to start looking for appropriate solutions and recommendations.

The annual vet visit, as you can see, is about more than just updating your pets immunizations. Ensuring that your pet lives a long, healthy and happy life starts with making sure that any health issues are treated as soon as possible and that preventive treatments for heartworm and fleas are maintained. The annual vet visit is an important part of keeping your pet healthy and happy.



## A LOT HAS CHANGED SINCE THEN

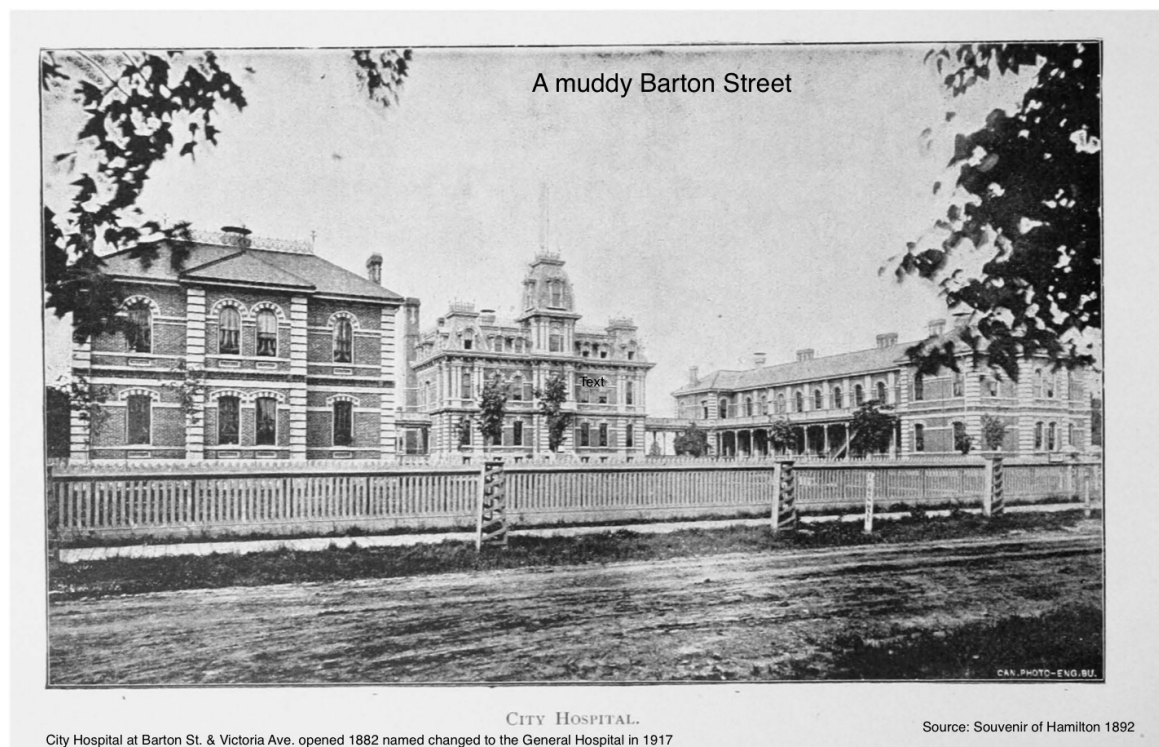
SUBMITTED BY BRAIN ROULSTON

The village of Hamilton, in the beginning, was shaded by large trees, some of which were hundreds of years old with several small ravines, bogs, streams and dense vegetation. The wind, frogs croaking, crickets chirping, birds singing; maybe the laughter of children playing nearby or the waves lapping down along the shores of Burlington Bay may well be the only sounds that you would hear. Then there's the booming sound of the horses' hooves and the rattle of the carriages as they pass by on the street. Horses, and sometimes oxen, were the primary modes of transportation on land in and around this tiny village in the 1830s.

In the early days, travelling or walking around the streets of Hamilton was anything but easy, and was not for the faint of heart. Until gas lights became available in the latter half of the 18th century, the streets were nearly pitch black at night unless you had a lantern or were lucky enough to have the moon as your source of light.

Depending on the season, the streets were either dry, rutted and hard-baked paths or a muddy, snow-covered impassable mess. Driving a team of horses through the streets was no picnic either, and you often had to navigate around tree stumps, large immovable boulders or rocks. Sheep, pigs, goats, dogs, and chickens were just as ubiquitous on the early streets of Hamilton as their two-legged counterparts, and it was not unusual to step into some excrement when crossing the street.

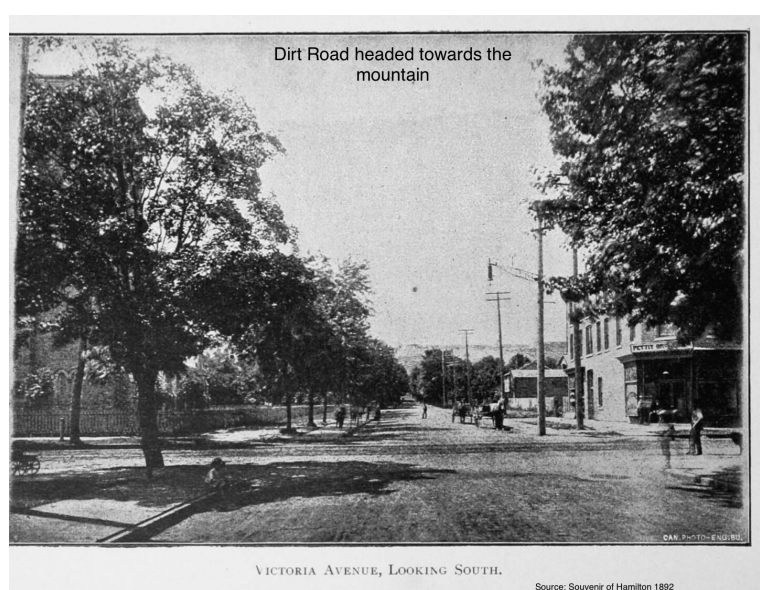
On the other hand, cattle were not seen on the streets of Hamilton in the early days since sheep were the most abundant livestock owing to their wool and mutton. Cows first appeared in Saltfleet Township in the late 1800s, after early Scottish pioneers cleared enough acreage for grazing cattle and hay to keep them alive during the winter.



Hamilton's incorporation brought planked sidewalks, which were a massive improvement to almost getting ran over by teams of horses while walking or trudging through mud, standing water, or snow. The boardwalks required constant maintenance, and the planks lasted two, maybe three years before they needed replacing. People often stepped on rotted boards, falling through and injuring themselves.

A settler coming into town one autumn evening in 1832 recounted his trip from the mountain as a muddy mess to present-day McCauley Street. After then, it became slightly better as he came to a corduroy road that was poorly maintained. Trees had become favoured as the most affordable and conveniently accessible material for roads and streets and used in many parts of the world since the Roman times. Trees were chopped and set horizontally over the roadbed before filling with mud or whatever material was available, and were well known for their bone-rattling, wheel-destroying, gut-wrenching rides through marshy and muddy terrain. Horses risked breaking legs as they slowly made their way over these roads.

Next in the evolution of our streets were planked roads, a Canadian invention that spread quickly across the border into the United States. The roads were built using sawed wood-



en planks 4" ( 10 cm) thick laid across the roadbed. They remained popular well into the early 1900s. Plank roads and bridges still exist to this day in lightly travelled areas throughout the province. The first the owners of the Model T Fords were more than happy to travel on these plank roads because they were smooth. Unfortunately, like the plank sidewalks, plank roads were too costly to maintain and repair. They required gravel as a foundation, and deteriorated sections were filled with stone, making them slower and bumpier. They also posed a risk to the horses, who frequently slid and fell when the planks were wet and exceedingly slick. Horses often stepped through rotted sections of the plank road as well. Plank roads eventually went out of favour with travellers, who then began to travel by rail. Along with plank roads came the much-hat-

ed toll gates. Some were located on York, John, James, Main, Barton streets and at both ends of King Street.

Asphalt walkways emerged on Hamilton's main streets in 1883. Paving offered stable footing for horses and a smooth ride for buggies. Paved roads became more common a few years after John Moodie Jr. acquired his Winton at the TH&B (Go Station) station on Hunter Street for \$1,000 from the Winton Motor Carriage Company in Cleveland, Ohio, in April 1898 and drove it through the streets of Hamilton. It was both Hamilton's and the Dominion of Canada's first gasoline-powered automobile.

When high-wheeled bikes gave way to the safety bikes, which were similar to what we use now, it started a new trend for bicycles in the late 1880s. Places like Hamilton were under

pressure to provide a smooth surface on which they could ride. The bicycle's rising popularity increased the pressure to improve Hamilton's streets and roads connecting to other towns and villages. Day trippers, bike tourists and bike racers became a thing. The people that rode bicycles, later automobile owners, were influential in advocating the government for good roads in Ontario. It became known at the time as the Good Roads Movement.

Hamilton started paving the streets in a big way between 1899-1902. Large delegations from cities across America came to inspect and learn about Hamilton's paving techniques. Much of what they knew was taken back and used. After several failed attempts, the Works Department of Hamilton solved a paving problem that practically every city in North America faced; they could replicate the consistency of Bermuda asphalt (a tar that was imported by ship from Bermuda and used for paving). They named it Tar-Macadam, and street workers considered it to be the best; it became popular among the locals back, plus it was only a fifth of the cost of Bermuda asphalt. Tar-Macadam was suitable for residential streets and streets where traffic is spread evenly over a large surface area.

A story in the Hamilton Evening Times on November 11, 1901, spoke of a delegation from Elmira, N.Y. The City of Hamilton organized a tour over regular pavement, asphalt and tar-macadam roads. The Mayor of Elmira, NY, Frank H. Flood, said city engineers across the U.S. have read or heard about Hamilton's Tar-Macadam. In a speech later that day, he was quoted as saying, "Taken from your size (city), your roads are the best I have ever seen."

The paving also made it easy to keep the dust down and the city cleaner by spraying water on top. With labour at 18¢ per hour, it cost the city \$1.06 per square yard to initially pave our streets. In 1902 thirty-six kilometres of cement sidewalks were laid; the following year, more than ninety-seven kilometres.



## NORTH END BREEZES FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

*Ad content subject to approval by the Board of Directors in keeping with the Mission and Vision of North End Breezes. Submit your ad - call 905-523-6611 ext 3004 or email office@northendbreezes.com*

- Looking for a professional cleaning lady in the Northend for my 3 bedroom home , no stairs or animals. Must have own tools such as vacuum cleaner, mop and cleaning products. If interested e-mail me @ mleclercq@cogeco.ca
- Roommate wanted to share an apartment. Reasonable rent plus shared responsibilities. Please call 289-389-1070
- Lawn Mowing: I am a 14 year old boy looking to make some money over the summer by mowing lawns in the north end. If interested call Ezra Oucharek at 905-517-1661.
- Children's Birthday Parties: Make your child's birthday the talk of the neighbourhood. Earlee the Entertainer will make it happen Magic, balloons, paintable tattoos for only \$75.00 per hour North End Neighbours – special rate of \$65.00 per hour Call Earl Ross – 289-439-0166
- Downtown Delivery Driver: Looking for a MATURE adult to do deliveries in the City of Hamilton's lower city. Trips / tips / extras you keep. You should have a float of at least \$75 to make change for customers as a float will be provided to you to purchase items. If you are interested, please call 905-921-9339 and ask for Pearl.
- Be a driving force in your community! Drivers are needed to provide transportation for seniors to get to medical appointments. Flexible schedule and mileage reimbursement. Please call 905-529-0700 or email voncsshamilton@von.ca

## Some Technical Housekeeping at The Breezes

The North End Breezes is getting busier and we love it! More articles, more news and more volunteers -- keep them coming!

To streamline things, we have added two new email addresses:

For general inquiries:  
**office@northendbreezes.com**

For articles and submissions:  
**articles@northendbreezes.com**

For ad sales, inquiries and invoices:  
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**Circle of Security Parenting Group** - In this 8-session workshop for moms and dads of children 0- 6 years, participants watch video clips, learn strategies to enhance the parent-child attachment relationship and improve child behaviour, and discuss these issues with the leaders and other parents.

8 weekly sessions on Zoom, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Tuesday's, starting January 18, 2022

For more information or to register, please visit: [mcmasterchildrenshospital.ca/family-resources](http://mcmasterchildrenshospital.ca/family-resources)  
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## JOIN OUR TEAM!!



The Board of Directors is looking for eager volunteers to bring new ideas and skills to the table.

Now in our 49<sup>th</sup> year, The Breezes is looking to put some new wind in our sails that will lead us forward. If you have skills in technology, event planning or fundraising, we can use those skills to grow our team. The North End Breezes relies on our volunteers to bring the community news to you. We require minimal commitment of two hours per month. Contact us for details and to discuss how you can be part of the team! Email [office@northendbreezes.com](mailto:office@northendbreezes.com)



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