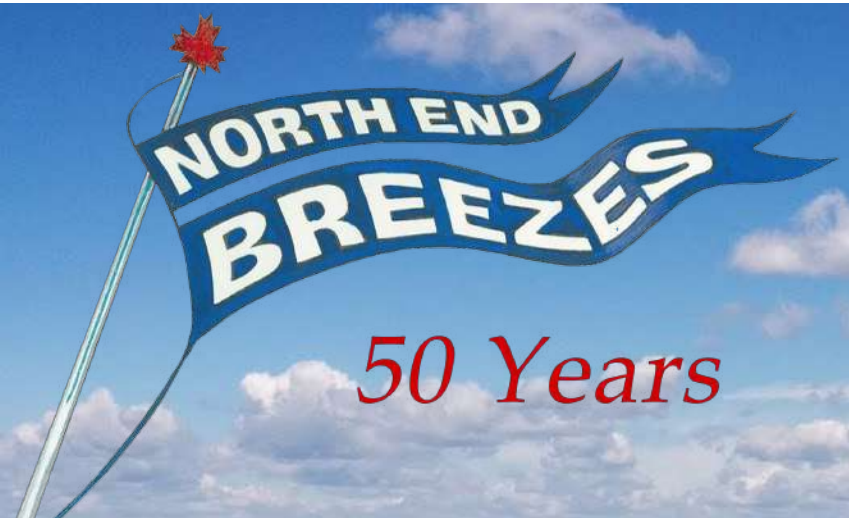




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JULY 2025 | VOLUME 6 | OFFICE@NORTHENDBREEZES.COM | WWW.NORTHENDBREEZES.COM | FOLLOW THE NORTH END BREEZES ON SOCIAL @NORTHENDBREEZES

CELEBRATING SENIORS AT WELCOME INN



Lynn John



Jan Finch



Marne Patterson



Megs Smith

SUBMITTED BY KEN HIRTER

June 10th was a beautiful afternoon when we gathered to Celebrate seniors at Welcome Inn for Seniors Month. Over 100 people came out to celebrate Seniors month. This annual BBQ is also a great way to kick start the summer season and wonderful yearly reunion with family and friends.

This year's theme for Seniors Month is "Fit, Active and Healthy Seniors" highlighting the importance of wellness, social engagement and life long learning. It is a time to acknowledge and honor the amazing seniors in our life and community here in the North End, Hamilton and across the province.

Ruth Kaulback, Senior Coordinator opened this year's celebration with gratitude and thanks. I am so happy for Compass, St. Matthews House and the Welcome Inn to be able to gather today. I helped to coordinate with Christine Sorbara, Community Development Worker here at Compass to bring our seniors together. Thanks to Kelsey on the BBQ and to the crew of servers. We enjoyed a summertime BBQ favorite of hamburgers with all the trimmings, potato salad with chips, all topped off with ice cream sandwiches. The beverage bar served coffee, tea and water.

Local singer Paula French was back again to entertain us with pop and rock tunes from the 1960's and

1970's and beyond. It filled the air with musical memories of the past, sung so beautifully by Paula. She even had the kids yet again at the Bennetto school up dancing on the lawn along with the seniors. Yet again it bridged the generation gap with music and was wonderful to see.

I sat and spoke to 4 special and delightful seniors here at the Welcome Inn Community Centres Seniors Diner Club. I asked the question, what does Seniors Month mean to you?

"Seniors month is very important. It is where we all are recognized and celebrated, not just for the month of June, but always." Megs Smith ~

"Grateful for seeing the importance of seniors. Old is a state of mind and I don't live in a state." Jan Finch

"It is honoring the special senior population. Offering wonderful programs and to bring awareness to the great adventures within the North End and Hamilton." Marne Paterson ~

"It is a gathering of all my friends celebrating Seniors month. I volunteer here at the Welcome Inn Community Centre where all of the seniors are so celebrated each and every day." Lynne John

Did you know that the Welcome Inn Diners Club has been serving home style cooking since 1966. Next year they will be celebrating

60 years here in the North End.

Thanks again to Kristina Santone, Ruth Kaulback, Keri Dengerink and the host of volunteers that had everything running smoothly throughout the afternoon. Yes, the rain did back off and the weather showcased a delightful afternoon. Thanks to Christine Sorbara and volunteers and St. Matthews House as well.

A wonderful Community Event that I look forward to attending every year. It is another beautiful start to the summer season. Fun was had by all who attended in celebrating one another.

(Pictured - Lynne John, Jan Finch, Marne Paterson, and Megs Smith)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Please pass along to Brian Roulston that I really enjoyed his article on Richard Springer in the June Breezes. I particularly liked the description of the terrain. I have found clam shells in my garden

from when there was water here.

I love the history of the northend as much as Brian. Thank goodness for Bill Manson & Margaret Houghton & The Head-of-The Lake Historical Society & the dedication of folks like Brian.

The northend is truly a treasure chest of history. A community with both famous & infamous people & history galore!

Brian brings those people & that history to life. I still have his article - This Is Our Street - Sawyer Street - in my binder because a bygone owner of our home worked at the Sawyer-Massey plant.

Just on my block, Hughson, were William Johnson boatbuilder of The Lizzie, Charles Lee elected to city council board for St. Andrew's ward, the Thompson Boat House family, Mahoney Ice Company,

& the Jobborn family of Jobborn Manufacturing. My father was born at Macnab & Murray streets in 1913, across from The 3 Sisters or The Painted Ladies, the terrace homes that Hamilton's famous architect James Balfour built for his daughters. I grew up on Catharine N where there is the upcoming street party/garage sale. My husband's family lived on Bay St. N by about 1937. Behind was the Cotton Factory & next door was

Mr George Halcrow who was a city alderman & then MPP for the Labour Party from 1919 to 1923.

Here we are, give or take 100 years later, in the North End, on Hughson St., in a brick Gothic Revival worker's cottage & proudly loving every minute of it.

Pat & Larry Taggart

ABOUT THIS MONTH: JULY EVENTS

SUBMITTED BY CHRISSY
CHRZAN & SHERI SELWAY

July is named after Julius Caesar, who was born in this month. A Roman dictator, he lived from 100–44 B.C. July's birthstone is the vibrant ruby, and its flowers are the larkspur and the water lily. The zodiac signs for this month are Cancer (June 21–July 22) and Leo (July 23–August 22). July is typically the hottest month of the year!

Canada Day – July is a federal statutory holiday commemorating the enactment of the British North America Act in 1867, uniting the colonies of the United Canadas, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick into a single Dominion. At Confederation, there were four provinces: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Today, Canada includes 10 provinces and 3 territories.

Notable events on this day include the flooding of the Saint Lawrence Seaway in 1958 and the first colour television broadcast in 1966.

Canada Day is widely celebrated with fireworks, music, and community events—but it is also a day of reflection. Many Indigenous peoples use the occasion to raise awareness about the impact of colonization, Residential Schools, and ongoing injustices. See you at Bayfront Park — and yes, there will be fireworks!

Did You Know?

- July's full moon is often called the Buck Moon —when male deer begin to grow their antlers.
- July 6: Louis Pasteur administered the first successful rabies vaccination to a boy bitten by a rabid dog.
- July 7: It's World Chocolate Day, possibly commemorating chocolate's introduction to Europe in 1550. Treat yourself — maybe even host a chocolate party!

Key Dates in July

- July 9 – Nunavut Day: Celebrates the passing of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act and the Nunavut Act in 1993. Nunavut officially became a territory on April 1, 1999. Festivities often include communal meals, games, dancing, and cultural events.
- July 20 – World Chess Day: Celebrate the game of kings!
- July 20–26 – National Drowning Prevention Week: As we live near a large body of water, this is a great time to brush up on water safety. However, do not swim in the Bay — water quality may be poor.
- July 24 – International Self-Care Day: A reminder that self-care is essential every day. Eat well, move your body, get enough rest, stay connected — and keep your mind sharp!
- July 28 – Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval: In 1755, approximately 10,000 French settlers (Acadians) were expelled from the Maritimes and the Gulf of St. Lawrence region.

dians) were forcibly deported from what is now Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Many died due to disease, famine, and harsh conditions during transport.

- July 30 – International Day of Friendship: Proclaimed by the United Nations in 2011, this day celebrates the power of friendship to promote peace and build inclusive communities.

What's Happening in Hamilton

Be sure to visit tourismhamilton.com for local events!

- July 19–26 – Brott Music Festival
- July 19: Jeans ‘n Classics
- July 24: Hollywood and The Rite of Spring
- July 26: Broadway Dreams
- July 19 – Farm Crawl Hamilton, A family-friendly opportunity to explore local farms and learn where our food comes from.
- July 26–27 – Celebrate Women in Canadian HistorY, Join the festivities at the HMCS Haida Historic Site — just a short walk away!

For more important commemorative dates in July, Google:

- Health Canada Calendar of Health Promotion Days
- The History Place – This Month in History
- Time and Date – July Overview

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SUBMITTED BY NORTH END BREEZES EDITOR, BRENDA DUKE

There's a lot happening with The Breezes! We're busy launching our annual North End of The Year Award. Nominations are open and you can enter your candidate at [North End of the Year Nomination Form 2025](#). We've added another category this year, to give you more choices.

We'll be at the 26th annual Park 'N Party on July 23rd so stop by and say hello! If you are holding an event and would like us to attend, drop us a line at office@northendbreezes.com

I want to take this opportunity to thank Mariko Bown-Kai for her role as Secretary on the Board of Directors as she steps down to pursue her career opportunities. We will be looking to fill that role. If you have an administrative background, or experience on or working with a Board and have time to attend one meeting per month to take notes, this is an excellent opportunity to join our Board.

As well, Maureen (Moe) Scally assumed the role of Treasurer in an interim position a year ago. We are looking to relieve her of that and fill the position with someone who has basic financial/bookkeeping skills and ideally, knowledge of quicken software.

Please send a resume outlining
your skills and experience to of-
fice@northendbreezes.com

As always, reach out to me by email or by phone at 289-933-4810 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Or contact us at:

office@northendbreezes.com

articles@northendbreezes.com
to submit an article

ads.northendbreezes@gmail.
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Visit our website for all the news on line:

www.northendbreezes.com

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

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

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

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

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



Sunday Morning Service

10:00 – 11:30AM

with Children's Ministry for kids from birth to Grade 5

500 James St. North
905.527.3972
office@jamesnorth.church



<http://jamesnorth.church>



St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish

125 Picton Street E., Hamilton, Ontario L8L 0C5
905-529-3921

stlawrencehamilton@hamiltondiocese.com

www.stlawrencehamilton.ca

Office Hours: Tues-Fri 9am-4pm

In case of after hours emergency please call
365-888-1275

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

Weekday Mass Schedule:

~No Mass Monday~

Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 p.m. Mass

Wednesday and Friday 12:00 noon Mass

Confessions before Mass on Tuesday,
Thursday and Saturday.

Adoration before Mass on Thursday.

*Please check our website for
weekly updates and changes*

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

Upcoming Events and News

July 12 our men's club is planning a Pasta dinner! Tickets are \$10 - Look for the ad in this edition of the Breezes for more details.

Congratulations to the Graduates of St. Lawrence School and good luck in your next endeavours.

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

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



Welcome Inn
Community Centre

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

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

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

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

ruth@welcomeinn.ca

welcomeinn.ca/donate





HAMILTON
OSHAWA
PORT
AUTHORITY

HARBOUR WEST MARINA: *A SUMMER GEM BOOSTING HAMILTON'S WATERFRONT ECONOMY*



A glimpse into Harbour West Marina, HOPA Ports

Situated within Hamilton's evolving waterfront lies Harbour West Marina, a popular destination for anyone looking for the scenic views of Lake Ontario. A short walk from Hamilton's historic downtown, the marina is more than a place to dock boats, it serves as a gateway to everything the city has to offer.

Each year, nearly six million people travel to Hamilton, collectively spending about \$810 million, a testament to the city's growing allure to tourists.

Harbour West Marina's location is unique. Whether you're interested in roller-skating, exploring historic ships, strolling along scenic trails, or indulging in the diverse culinary scene on James Street North, they're all just minutes away.

The marina is also celebrated for its warm community. In 2024, Harbour West Mari-

na hosted two Boater Appreciation events with live music, excellent food, and vibrant energy. "These events celebrate the summer season and our boating community," said Rory McGuinness, manager of Harbour West Marina.

With top-notch facilities and a team that feels like family, it's no wonder many boaters have called Harbour West Marina 'home' for years. The marina offers meticulously maintained facilities, including modern docking systems, clean restrooms, and convenient access to supplies and services. After a day on the water, guests can easily explore the vibrant urban scene, from the eclectic mix of shops and galleries on James Street North to the city's historic landmarks.

Learn more: www.harbourwest.ca

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATE



All Branches are closed on Tuesday, July 1st, for Canada Day, Sunday, August 3, and Monday, August 4, for the Civic Holiday. Bookmobile is off the road. Extended Access and Study Halls are not available.

2025 Summer Reading Club Kicks Off Saturday, June 28! From June 28 to September 2, enjoy a summer of fun activities, events, and giveaways with this year's travel-themed Summer Reading Club! Register beginning Saturday, June 28, in person or online pick up a tracker at any HPL branch, and start reading!

Summer Reading and STEAM Buddies Avoid the summer slide. From July 7 to August 18 (except for Civic Holiday Monday, August 4), this program encourages reluctant readers to enjoy books by making reading fun through board games, science-based activities, and more. It helps children who have finished grades one through six to continue reading throughout the summer months. Registration opens Monday, June 23.

New! Bookmobile Visits Promise Summer Fun at Hamilton's Waterfront HPL's Bookmobile will visit Hamilton's waterfront (77 Discovery Drive) throughout the summer. HPL Staff will lead games, activities, programs, and recommend library materials every Saturday from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. See you there! Visit our website for a list of Bookmobile sites across Hamilton.

Save the Date: Steel Town Love at Central Library On Saturday, July 12, join other romance book enthusiasts at Central Library for a day of swoon-worthy events including author talks, signings, workshops, a vendor market, and more. Registration is now open!

Lendporium Launches Your Hamilton Public Library card lets you borrow anything in our Lendporium, including Art Gallery of Hamilton passes, birding backpacks, early year

engineering kits, and home devices. Explore and borrow away this summer.

Hamilton Civic Museums and Your HPL Library Card Explore Dundurn Castle, Whitehern Historic House and Garden, and other Hamilton Civic Museums FREE with your Hamilton Public Library card. Each person over the age of five must have a physical or digital Hamilton Public Library card to gain free entry. Learn more at www.hpl.ca/museum to plan your next visit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH END BREEZES TEAM

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Maureen Scally, Interim Treasurer
- Chris Pearson, Community Connector
- Mark Mackesy, Board of Governance Officer
- Mariko Bown-Kai, Secretary
- Julie Maue

PUBLICATION TEAM

- Brenda Duke, Editor
- Kit Darling, Editorial Assistant
- Katie Fitzgerald, Layout and Design
- Marie Mushing, Website Design
- Cat McKay, Marketing & Socials

Circulation & Distribution: The Board, Sheri Selway, Chrissy Chrzan and Maureen Snowball 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 over 50 years 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.

Facebook - facebook.com/northendbreezes
Instagram - instagram.com/northendbreezes
Twitter - twitter.com/northendbreezes
Website: www.northendbreezes.com



We'd Love Your Feedback

HELP US PLAN THIS YEAR'S NORTH END EVENTS!

Take our quick survey here:





Centre Name: Bennetto Community Centre

Address: 450 Hughson St. N.

Phone: 905-546-4944

For real time program info:

hamilton.ca/gym



GYM SCHEDULE – SUMMER 2025 – June 30, 2025 – August 31, 2025

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

NOTES: Centre will be Closed July 1, 2025 (Canada Day), August 4, 2025 (Civic Holiday) and September 1, 2025 (Labour Day)

Program staff are there to set up and supervise programs and are not there to replace parent/guardian supervision.

SWIMMING SCHEDULE - SUMMER 2025 – June 30, 2025 – September 01, 2025

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

NOTES: Centre will be Closed on Tuesday July 01, 2025 (Victoria Day), Monday August 04, 2025 (Civic Holiday), Monday September 01, 2025

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

Bennetto Community Centre

After School Program

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

Applications can be picked up and submitted at the reception desk.

Bennetto Community Centre
450 Hughson St. N



CONTACT:
AGETTY@COMPASSCH.ORG



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

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

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

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

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

GENDER GEAR PROGRAM
ongoing

SUPPORT KNOT A BREAST'S ONGOING BOTTLE DRIVE - EVERY BOTTLE COUNTS!

SUBMITTED BY SHEILA SPENCER

Knot A Breast (KAB) the Dragon Boat Team of courageous breast cancer survivors paddles out of Macassa Bay Yacht Club. One very special paddler on the team, Geri Schweinbenz took the initiative to start a bottle drive. It was her vision to raise funds for our team by collecting alcohol bottles and cans, and using the return dollars to support many of our expenses. In the very first year, she inspired her teammates and together they raised significant funds in this shared mission. Before we lost our treasured Geri, she arranged for her neighbours to continue dropping off bottles at a teammate's home—a tradition that still carries on today.

Geri was more than a teammate; she was a mentor to many, a leader, and one of our finest paddlers. She warmly welcomed new members, served on our Board, and made an unforgettable impact on our team. Her headstone proudly reads "Paddles Up", a phrase that encapsulates her spirit and passion.

To honor Geri's legacy, we continue her bottle drive year-round. You can contribute



by e-transferring funds from bottle returns directly to info@knotabreast.com with the message "Geri's Bottle Drive." In addition we are hosting an in-person bottle drive on July 20, 2025 from 9 AM to Noon at Macassa Bay Yacht Club for those who wish to drop off their bottles in support of our team.

Please help—every bottle truly counts! Your support ensures that Geri's legacy lives on, empowering KAB breast cancer survivors to paddle together, stronger than ever.



camp KIDACA

Summer Mode: off ☐ on

Registration now open for Camp Kidaca (12 - 15 years)

Special Guests Include:

Week 1 (Jun 30-Jul 4)	Skateboarding is Positive at Central Memorial Recreation Centre
Week 2 (Jul 7-11)	Toronto Rush at Central Memorial Recreation Centre
Week 4 (Jul 21- 25)	Archery Tag at Central Memorial Recreation Centre
Week 5 (Jul 28- Aug 1)	Beats by U! at Central Memorial Recreation Centre
Week 7 (Aug 11-15)	Astronomy in Action at Bennetto Community Centre
Week 8 (Aug 18-22)	Knight School Academy at Bennetto Community Centre

Only \$208.72/week

For more info or to register: hamilton.ca/CampKidaca

 Hamilton



SUMMER AT THE WATERFRONT

SATURDAYS 1PM-3:30PM 77 Harbourside Way, Discovery Centre

hpl.ca/bookmobile

Visit HPL's Bookmobile every Saturday for games, activities, library materials, and more.

 Hamilton Public Library

ANGRY BIRDS: MAYHEM IN MY BACKYARD

SUBMITTED BY ROBYN GILLAM

Like most of us, I see my backyard as an oasis. Every Spring I look forward to the return of birds like robins and doves who nest, feed and fill the air with their melodious songs. Not this time. On venturing outside I was assaulted by piercing shrieks and whacks on the head from furious interlopers whose calls continued to loudly reverberate through closed windows and doors.

Red-winged blackbirds had invaded my garden. Without my realizing, they set up their nests, defended their territory and murdered other baby birds. They patrolled the area relentlessly keeping robins and even squirrels at bay. The male birds, resplendent in Hi-Viz vests or epaulettes over black plumage, swooped out of the trees where they had been lurking whenever I ventured outside,



batting at my head while all the while making high-pitched warning shrieks. Although I'm familiar with these birds, I did wonder what they were doing here.

Red-winged blackbirds can be found across most of north America, but their breeding area is confined to sub-arctic Canada and the north-eastern United States. They generally feed and nest near bodies of water and can often be seen perched on tall reeds or cattails, singing their distinctive "conk-lo-ree" song, more industrial than melodious. Unlike the male blackbird, the female has a brown, speckled plumage which allows her to nest

safely, while blending into the surrounding vegetation. The male displays his bright colours to attract females and as a warning to those threatening the nest. In past years I have often encountered them walking around the West Harbour, even getting the odd head-bump during the spring nesting season. Now they are not just in my backyard, but all over downtown. You can see them in the trees around the Ferguson Street bridge and even hanging out in central downtown.

Over the past couple of years, I have noticed that most of the reeds and scrub around the water's edge have been cleared away in Pier 4 Park and adjacent areas. I am not sure why park management is doing this. It could be to make the area appear tidier, improve visibility and security and remove breeding areas for vermin and other invasive species. However, it also means the red-winged blackbirds can no longer nest at the water's edge, and their distinctive cries have been noticeably absent during my walks there.

Any removal or change to existing habitats can not only displace animals accustomed to using it but also has a knock-on effect on other species. The displacement of red-winged blackbirds to trees and gardens also means that other birds must find another home. Although this might not be too far away, it does bring change to micro-environments which can have good, bad or neutral effects, depending on your species or point of view.

In managing the shoreline, Hamilton Parks have a complicated task that must balance the viability of the plant and animal habitat with the needs and demands of the human population. While most of the reeds and ground cover have been cleared away on the West Harbour, the reedy shore at the start of the Bayfront Trail remains untouched, as monogamous Mr. and Mrs. Swan raise a family that humans find irresistibly cute. Those nasty, polygamous Red-Wings had to move elsewhere. If I was them, I'd be angry too.

For more information on red-winged blackbirds, see Cornell University <Allabout-birds.org>

NORTH END BREEZES
50 Years
present the

**NORTH ENDER
OF THE YEAR AWARDS**
Honouring Community Spirit

NOMINATE BY SEPT 15, 2025!

AWARD CATEGORIES:

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

**AWARD CEREMONY:
Oct 4th!**

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

OR SCAN QR

JOIN US FOR THE 26TH ANNUAL

PARK 'N PARTY

July 23, 2025
4 - 7 pm

COMPASS COMMUNITY HEALTH
438 Hughson St. N.

FREE COMMUNITY BBQ

- LIVE MUSIC • FACE PAINTING •
- BOUNCY CASTLE •
- AND OVER 20 COMMUNITY PARTNERS •

HOSTED BY

COMPASS
COMMUNITY HEALTH

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HOW THE BEAVER BECAME CANADA'S NATIONAL SYMBOL

SUBMITTED BY
BRIAN ROULSTON

What connects Hamilton, a revered priest, and the historic Hudson Bay Company? The answer: the humble beaver. The beaver is more than just Canada's national symbol, this industrious aquatic architect has shaped Indigenous traditions, fueled trade, and even influenced politics. Join me as we uncover the beaver's remarkable story.

The beaver is a highly intelligent and resourceful rodent (Rodentia) which thrives in lakes, streams, and ponds, where it skillfully constructs dams to shape its environment. Beavers are native to Canada and the United States but can also be found in many other parts of the world like Russia, China, and Mongolia. In Europe, they are at home in countries like Norway, Sweden, Germany, and France. Over time, beavers have made their way to Argentina, Chile, and even Australia.

Long before European settlers arrived in Canada, the beaver played a vital role in the Indige-

nous peoples survival. Its fur was used to create clothing, while its bones were crafted into tools. The beaver's nutritious meat provided a valuable food source, and a substance secreted by its glands served as an effective lure for trapping other carnivorous species.

As European demand for beaver pelts surged in the 17th and 18th centuries, the animal became central to Canada's economy and exploration. The Hudson Bay Company and the North West Company depended on Indigenous peoples and later French explorers to supply pelts prized for their warmth and water resistance. At the time, Europeans had nearly driven their own beaver populations to extinction, fueling high demand for Canadian pelts.

By the mid-19th century, Canada itself had nearly wiped out its beaver population. However, conservation measures were eventually introduced, allowing the species to recover. Today, beavers thrive across the country, their numbers restored thanks to dedicated efforts to protect their habitat.

Beyond the beaver's economic role, it has left a lasting mark on Canadian culture—featured in cartoons, artwork, and even postage stamps.

On April 23, 1851, Canada introduced the 3-Pence Beaver designed by Sir Sandford Fleming, its first official stamp—also notable for being the world's first stamp to feature something other than a monarch or statesman.

The beaver was proudly displayed on the regimental insignia of at least 14 regiments of the Canadian Forces. Symbolically, it stood at Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele during World War I, as well as throughout the liberation of Europe in World War II. The beaver also appeared on numerous propaganda materials and Victory Bond posters, reinforcing its significance in Canadian identity and wartime efforts.

Since 1937, the beaver has adorned the Canadian nickel, a design created by G.E. Kruger-Gray, who also designed Canada's penny and 50-cent piece.

Sean O'Sullivan grew up in Ham-

ilton with his four brothers and a sister. He attended St. John's Baptist School and later Bishop Ryan High School.

At just 11 years old, in 1963, O'Sullivan worked on Ellen Fairclough's campaign, which ultimately ended in defeat. However, the loss didn't deter him; instead, it sparked Sean's interest in politics. That same year, Sean's father, the General Manager of what was then the Sheraton-Connaught Hotel, introduced the family to John Diefenbaker, Canada's 13th Prime Minister (1957–1963). Diefenbaker became a mentor to Sean, solidifying his passion for politics. Sean majored in politics at Brock University, where he earned several scholarships and for a brief period he worked as a reporter for the Hamilton Spectator.

In 1972, at just 20 years old, Sean made history in Canada as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party by becoming the youngest person at the time to be elected as a Member of Parliament to the House of Commons, representing Hamilton-Wentworth. He earned a reputation for his deep understanding of political issues and was re-elected in 1974. Many believed Sean would one day become Canada's Prime Minister. On January 24, 1975, Sean O'Sullivan introduced Bill C-373, seeking to officially recognize the beaver as a symbol of Canada's sovereignty and its contributions to Indigenous peoples and early explorers. O'Sullivan received overwhelming support for the bill, which had garnered hundreds of letters and signatures

from across the country. The popular CBC Radio program *As It Happens*, known for its unique blend of interviews, human-interest stories, offbeat and quirky news stories from around the globe played a key role in amplifying public enthusiasm. Hosts at the time Barbara Frum and Alan Maitland received an astonishing 13,000 letters and postcards from Canadians backing O'Sullivan's efforts.

The bill officially passed final reading on March 24, 1975 and received royal assent from Queen Elizabeth II, cementing the beaver's place as a national emblem of Canada. Interestingly, Oregon too designated the beaver as its state animal in 1969, while New York followed suit in 1975.

Sean O'Sullivan left politics in 1977 to pursue religious studies. He was ordained a deacon by Gerald Emmett Cardinal Carter, Archbishop of Toronto. Later, O'Sullivan was ordained a priest, earning the title of Father Sean O'Sullivan. Father Sean O'Sullivan was diagnosed with leukemia in 1983 and passed away March 9, 1989 at 37 years of age.

The beaver's journey from a vital resource for Indigenous peoples to a cherished national symbol reflects Canada's rich history and evolving identity. Featured on military insignia and wartime propaganda, it symbolized resilience and determination during both World Wars. Today, the beaver stands as a strong symbol of hard work, determination, and Canadian pride.



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WARD 2 UPDATE

SUBMITTED BY WARD 2 COUNCILOR
CAMERON KROETSCH



Summer is here and it's great seeing many of you out and about at events in Ward 2. In June, I saw hundreds enjoying nice weather, strolling up and down James Street North, and

enjoying our neighbourhood parks.

There has been a lot of discussion about Jamesville, including media reporting on the condition of the property. A media release from City Housing Hamilton admitted, despite complaints from residents and discussions with the Ward 2 office since last year, they did not do a good job of maintaining the property. They've apologized and addressed many of the issues raised and will be following up more closely to ensure the property is maintained until it can be demolished.

It is useful to review what has brought us to this point. About 10 years ago, City Housing Hamilton and the City began to empty Jamesville of its tenants. As the last of the tenants were leaving, they were assured the project would be completed in short order and they'd be able to return to their new homes. That was a major miscalculation and a failed promise. It put many families in a difficult position. As I've heard from many North Enders, the impacts were felt across the neighbourhood, including in classrooms at Bennetto Elementary School.

The project was awarded to a development team following lengthy community consultation and approved by Council in August 2022. CN filed an appeal of the development in September 2022. In it they said they'd reached out to the City with their concerns in July 2021, though no settlement negotiations were entered into at that time by the City or CHH. As a result, by the time the OLT processed their appeal, we had lost



nearly 2 years we could have been using to resolve this dispute. Since my election, the dispute has continued through legal settlement negotiations with CN before the OLT. Despite our attempts to resolve things, we haven't reached a settlement.

I pushed the City to release the developer's updated project plans, which we did last year. I also secured, as part of those plans and in consultation with North Enders, additional greenspace, the conservation of more trees, the potential for ground level retail, and the permanent preservation of the Sunset Cultural Garden. I also put forward policy changes at the CHH Board of Directors to ensure that what happened to Jamesville residents never happens again.

I acknowledge that despite all best efforts, CN has not agreed to the City's proposals. With a hearing scheduled for later this year, the City is going to have to take a much more aggressive approach.

I will do everything I can to support a resolution as soon as possible. We have some tools at our disposal and I will be asking for them to be used if a settlement is not reached soon. I am hopeful we'll have good news to share soon and can move the project forward. I am actively working to ensure the site can be demolished as soon as possible. That remains a priority, but it requires coordination between the City, City Housing Hamilton, and the developer to ensure it is done properly, in a manner that's safe for everyone in the neighbourhood.

As you know, Jamesville is contaminated. It's not simple a matter of knocking buildings down. Many planning and environmental laws, regulations, and policies have changed since the project was first built and any new project must conform to current standards. When I have more information, I'll share it here, online, and in my newsletter. I do have to respect the confidential settlement process. I'm limited as to what I can share publicly. It's part of the job and I take it seriously.

I also have a brief update about Eastwood Park. The engineers hired to evaluate the safety of Eastwood Arena have come back with their analysis. What's been shared so far is that while it will be possible to reopen the arena in the short term, it's not viable long term without a considerable financial investment. City staff will be sharing more information with me soon, including plans to move things forward, and I'll share them with you as soon as I can.

If you'd like to reach out about these issues or anything else, please email the Ward 2 Team at Ward2@hamilton.ca. It's always more effective to reach out to the Ward 2 Team by email, but you're welcome to call us at (905) 546-2197 if that's easier for you.

Until the next issue of the Breezes, be well, take care of one another, and enjoy the summer!

Cameron Kroetsch



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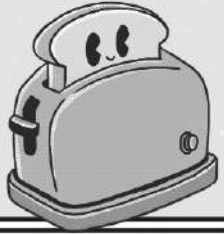
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MPP UPDATE

SUBMITTED BY MPP ROBIN LENNOX

Dear neighbours,

As the summer weather has rolled in, it's so wonderful to see fellow Hamiltonians out and about at events and enjoying time in community together! Our constituency office has its doors wide open at 630 Main St East - come see us if you need any help navigating provincial services like OHIP, Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program, ID issues, or anything else we might be able to help with. When not in the office, our team is excited to be tabling at many weekend summer festivals and events so we can celebrate everything Hamilton has to offer.

You may also find me knocking on your door as we canvas the riding over the summer to hear about what most matters to you right now. We know that these are still tough times for many in Hamilton, especially with recent lay offs announced from ArcelorMittal and ongoing tariff threats. We are continuing to advocate for workers in our city and for increasing the resilience of our community through healthcare, housing, and good public education and affordable childcare for our kids. Look out for us on your street so we can hear from you!

We're also facing challenging times in trusting our current government in light of recent revelations about the Greenbelt and the power-grab legislation of Bill 5. It's clear that the Ford government selling off the Greenbelt was never about building housing. It was about lining the pockets of developers who were allowed to draw the Conservative government maps of which

areas they wanted removed from Greenbelt protections.

In June, the Information and Privacy Commissioner - Ontario's transparency watchdog - reported that the Ford government violated legal record-keeping obligations by using "code words", permanently deleting emails, and demonstrating a lack of transparency about decisions made related to the Greenbelt.

"Without a full and accurate record of decision-making, the public is left in the dark about government actions that affect their communities and the environment." - Information and Privacy Commissioner

These alarming findings come on the heels of the Conservative government passing Bill 5 - legislation that gives the Premier and his Ministers unprecedented power to override municipal and labour laws and environmental regulations in any location they designate a Special Economic Zone. First Nations leaders have been at the forefront of opposition to Bill 5 given the threat it poses to treaty rights.

With the recent IPC findings regarding the Greenbelt and an ongoing RCMP investigation underway, we have to ask ourselves: can the Premier really be trusted with the unprecedented powers granted by Bill 5?

We've heard from thousands of Hamilton community-members who have written emails, signed petitions, and shown up for demonstrations opposing Bill 5 over the past month. We need to continue to organize until we get Bill 5 repealed. Stay tuned for updates on local actions against Bill 5 happening in Hamilton Centre this summer!

In solidarity,

Robin Lennox, MPP, Hamilton Centre



BAY AREA
RESTORATION
COUNCIL

BAY AREA RESTORATION COUNCIL - COMMUNITY WATER LEADERS

SUBMITTED BY CHELSEA URQUICO

Have you seen a group of folks with blue backpacks near the water's edge at Bayfront Park, you were watching the latest cohort of Community Water Leaders learn how to monitor the quality of the water, and nine other sites of interest around the Hamilton Harbour watershed.

The Community Water Leaders (CWL) program is run by the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) and open to anyone 18+ interested in learning more about local water issues and getting some hands-on experience monitoring local water quality. Over a period of six weeks, CWLs gather water quality data at 10 sites of interest, and additionally each week, gather at a different location within the Hamilton Harbour watershed for a workshop on a specific topic. This cohort's workshop topics include Frog Call Surveying with the Hamilton Conservation Authority, Freshwater Birding with the Hamilton Naturalists Club, and Invasive Species in Marshlands with the Royal Botanical Gardens, just to name a few.

At the first meeting, Program Coordinator Kaeley Cole demonstrated how to measure several water quality metrics such as depth, dissolved oxygen, total dissolved

solids, conductivity, pH, and temperature. These measurements are uploaded to the BARC's Water Rangers portal, which has observations dating back several years. Not having had any previous experience in environmental monitoring, it was a bit intimidating learning all of the terminology, but Kaeley was happy to answer any questions I had about the process of water quality testing.

BARC Executive Director Chris MacLaughlin then led us on a short walk around the waterfront trail, stopping at various points to share some of the history of Bayfront Park and tHamilton Harbour. As we stopped at the map outlining the geography of the Hamilton Harbour and overlooking a peninsula with the CN tracks at left, the High Level Bridge & the Fishway, sailboats and seadoos crossing the water, several stationary bulk carriers in the harbour, and further in the distance the Skyway Bridge and the industrial sector, he prompted us to reflect on the various uses of the water, the complexity of the systems it is a part of, and the interactions between wildlife, people and industry.

As the summer gets into full swing and more people are out enjoying various activities in and around the harbour, let's take this opportunity to better understand our watershed, its history, the ways it has impacted us and how we might shape our impact on it, not just this season, but for the many seasons to come. If you are interested in learning more about the Community Water Leaders program or would like to be a part of the upcoming Fall cohort, reach out to Kaeley Cole at kaeley@bayarearestoration.ca or myself at itschels@proton.me as I'd love share what I've learned from the experience.

ENCAMPMENT REMOVAL LINKED TO CRIME REDUCTION IN THE NORTH END

SUBMITTED BY ANNABEL KRUPP

Residents in Hamilton's North End may have noticed a recent decline in crime; specifically assaults, break & enter, theft. At the June 4 North End Neighbourhood Association meeting, Central Division's Crime Manager, Sgt. Ken Kaija, reported that incidents in the area are trending downward.

This positive shift was largely attributed to the removal of encampments in and around the neighbourhood. In March 2025, City Council rescinded the Encampment Protocol, allowing for enforcement of Hamilton's bylaw prohibiting camping in city parks. Around the same time, the Hamilton Police Service expanded its dedicated encampment team from two to six officers. Together, these changes have helped address long-standing safety concerns.

Police also confirmed what many suspected: many of the individuals living in the former encampments were not local residents. Warrants issued during enforcement efforts revealed that a significant number had been brought here from out of town.

Efforts to address open-air drug use have

also increased. Previously, Ontario's Bill C-5 (2023) limited police response to drug use in public spaces. However, a new partnership between Hamilton Police and St. Joseph's RAM (Rapid Access Addiction Medicine) Clinic has changed their approach. Officers are now able to offer treatment options in compliance with Bill C-5 and therefore are authorized to seize drugs and paraphernalia when encountered. In more serious situations, such as those involving violence, children, or large quantities, charges may be laid.

The transition to tiny home communities has shown additional benefits. These units require residents to sign in and out, and to undergo checks for prohibited items upon return. Police noted that, from a crime pre-

vention standpoint, this model is performing better than the former Bayfront Park encampment.

While trends are encouraging, police continue to stress the importance of community reporting. Some incidents still go unreported, limiting the ability to assess and respond to local needs. Residents are encouraged to report non-emergency issues online at www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca/how-to/report-a-crime or by calling 905-546-4925. An officer is assigned to follow up on online reports.

Although challenges remain, collaborative efforts between police, service providers, and the city are showing results—contributing to a safer and more stable North End.

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