



# Hamilton Essentials

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**Location:** The city of Hamilton is strategically situated at the western tip of Lake Ontario midway between Toronto and Niagara Falls. The original settlement formed between the lake and the Niagara Escarpment, which rises up to a height of 335 metres. The rock face proved a challenge to expansion but accesses were cut in the rock so that roads could carry people to the top. As the city began to expand, more development took place on what the locals refer to as Hamilton Mountain. The city of Burlington borders Hamilton on the west, Grimsby on the east and travelling south of the city towards Lake Erie is one of Canada's largest First Nations Reservations — and home to the Six Nations.

**Origin of the Name:** Hamilton is named for George Hamilton (1788-1836), a wealthy merchant and politician who purchased 257 acres of land in Barton Township from James Durand in January 1815. Hamilton and Nathaniel Hughson, who was a property owner in the area as well, collaborated to prepare a proposal for a courthouse and jail on Hamilton's land. Hamilton then offered a large parcel of that land to the crown for the future site.

**Date of Incorporation:** Hamilton was incorporated as a town in 1833, and as a city in 1846. As it expanded, it annexed portions of Ancaster Township to the west, portions of Saltfleet Township to the east and portions of Barton Township to the east and south, eventually annexing all of Barton Township by 1960. When Regional Government was implemented in 1974, the city of Hamilton became part of the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth. In 2001, it became the amalgamated city of Hamilton.

**Motto:** Together Aspire — Together Achieve

**Nickname:** The Hammer, Tiger Town and Steeltown

**Coat of Arms:** Created in 2001 for the amalgamation of the city of Hamilton with the city of Stoney Creek and the towns of Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, and Glanbrook.

**City Flag:** The city flag was designed by Bishop Spence, Canada's leading specialist in the Science of Flags or Vexillology, and granted to the city on July 15, 2003. The flag is divided with a Canadian Pale in royal blue with borders of golden yellow. The flag uses two major elements taken directly from the city's Grant of Arms. The golden yellow Cinquefoil is a heraldic flower of five petals that is the badge of the Clan Hamilton and represents the name of the city. The links circling the Cinquefoil, also golden yellow in colour, have two meanings — first, a circle of links is the standard heraldic symbol for unity, and second, they symbolize steel. The six larger links are symbolic of the six communities joined in unity.

**Flower:** Chrysanthemum

**Time Zone:** Eastern

**Area Code(s):** 905 and 289

**Postal Code Span:** L8E to L9H

**System of Measurement:** Metric

**Driving Age:** 16

**Voting Age:** 18

**Drinking Age:** 19

**Statutory Holidays:** New Years Day (January 1), Family Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of February), Good Friday (the first Friday before Easter Sunday), Victoria Day (the first Monday before May 24), Canada Day (July 1), Civic Holiday (the first Monday in August), Labour Day (the first Monday in September), Thanksgiving (the second Monday in October), and Christmas Day (December 25).

**Sister Cities:** Shawinigan, Quebec; Mangalore, India; Fukuyama, Japan; Racalmuto, Italy; Flint, Michigan; Ma'Anshan, China; Abruzzo, Italy; Sarasota, Florida and Monterrey, Mexico.

## Did you know...

that McMaster University alumni include two Nobel Prize winners — Dr. Myron Scholes and Bertram Brockhouse? Other grads include Roberta Bondar, Tommy Douglas (the father of Canadian Medicare and grandfather of Keifer Sutherland), Dalton McGuinty, Russ Jackson and Ivan Reitman.

## They Said It

"It's a blend of professional and working class ... I like to have the plumber sitting beside the professor and both laughing at different things in the same joke."

– Comic Ron James said of his joy in performing in Hamilton.

## POPULATION

The current population of the city of Hamilton is 692,911, up from 662,401 in 2001. This makes Hamilton the ninth most populous city in the country and the third largest city in the province. The population of all of Ontario in 2006 stood at 12,160,282. Hamilton's population was a little over 4 percent of the total Ontario population. In comparison, the population of Toronto, just 80 km away, was 2,503,281 and the population of Ottawa, the national capital, was 812,129.

According to studies carried out by the city of Hamilton, the population is expected to increase by approximately 81,000 households by 2031. The existing land area of the city will accommodate approximately 40,000 new dwellings.

## POPULATION DENSITY (PEOPLE/KM<sup>2</sup>)

**Hamilton: 451.6**

Toronto: 3,972

Tokyo: 5,751

New York City: 10,194

Alberta: 5.1

Ontario: 13.9

## Did you know...

that Hamilton's population has increased by over 100,000 people since 1976?

## POPULATION IN PERSPECTIVE (GMA)

Toronto: 5,597,000

Vancouver: 2,187,721

Ottawa: 1,302,055

Calgary: 1,079,310

**Hamilton: 692,911**

Source: Statistics Canada.

## Take 5 KEN ROBERTS' FIVE ESSENTIAL BOOKS ABOUT HAMILTON

Ken Roberts is chief librarian for the Hamilton Public Library. In addition to heading up the Hamilton Library system, Roberts is the newly elected president of the Canadian Library Association. The Hamilton library system was a co-recipient of the 2002 Ontario Library Association's President's Exceptional Achievement Award and Roberts himself won the 2001 Canadian Association of Public Libraries Outstanding Service Award.

1. *The Dictionary of Hamilton Biography Volume 1-4* (1981-1999) is the only biographical dictionary for a city in Canada. It documents not only the famous citizens but also the infamous and ordinary.
2. *A Mountain and a City: the story of Hamilton* by Marjorie Freeman Campbell (1966) was the first comprehensive history of the city written. There were other books about Hamilton written previously but they were not this extensive.
3. *Hamilton: A People's History* by Bill Freeman (2001) is the most recent comprehensive history of the city. It was a companion piece to the first video history of Hamilton [*Hamilton's history: where the rubber meets the road.*]
4. *The Head-of-the-Lake: a history of Wentworth County* by Charles M. Johnston (1967) is the only comprehensive history of the county of Wentworth.
5. *Hamilton at war: on the home front* by Margaret Houghton (2005) is a unique perspective on a Canadian city during a definitive period in our history.

## YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM

- You can get to an address downtown only making two right hand or two left hand turns.
- You love Hutch's fish and chips.
- At least once a summer you make the trek to Port Dover for Lake Erie perch.
- You know what the Jolley Cut is.
- "Large double-double to go, please" is your favourite phrase and everyone knows what to give you in return.
- You don't have to be religious to walk across the harbour.
- You think that "soot" and "rust" are normal colours for a car.
- You take vacations in New Jersey.
- You can find Clappison's Corner.
- You hate the Argos.
- You've climbed at least one set of stairs up the Mountain.
- If you're a smoker, you've bought at least one bag of reserve smokes.
- You dream of the day when the NHL will arrive.
- You used to hang out at the Chicken Roost.
- The sight of vacant stores is not unusual.
- You've been to a dance or a banquet at the Royal Connaught.
- You still call the airport Mount Hope.
- You've been to a lilac festival.
- You're fed up with all the plans for the Lister Block.
- You know what the Linc is.
- You're glad the Red Hill fight is over.
- You remember Tiny Talent Time.
- You know all about Plasinet.
- You've seen the CN Tower across the lake on a clear day.

## HAMILTON WHEN . . .

- You know that two wrongs don't make a right but three lefts just might.
- You remember when the area code was 416.
- You object to being mistaken for someone from Burlington.
- You know that Mac is the university, not an apple or a computer.
- You call the Niagara Escarpment the Mountain.
- You have an Evelyn Dick story. Or know someone who knew her. Or actually knew her. Or really know what happened to her.
- You've fed pigeons in Gore Park.
- You've been stuck in traffic for an hour waiting for the lift bridge to come back down at the beach strip.
- You know what RBG, CCIW and HECFI stand for.
- You're completely confused by all the newly designated two-way streets.
- You don't want to check into the Barton Street Hilton.
- You know what follows "Oskee Wee Wee."
- You've lined up for Stoney Creek Dairy ice cream on the first sunny day in spring.
- You know that Copps Coliseum isn't named for Sheila.
- You've called the Roy Green show.
- You're still hanging on to that 1972 Grey Cup ticket stub.
- You've taken the bone-rattling ride across the city on the Beeline Express.
- You brag about having the first Tim Horton's store.
- You can look in 4 directions and still see a Tim Horton's each way.
- All the roads in "Hamilton" are plowed in the winter before any other township.
- You know who Bruiser is.

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

	Males	Females
0-14	46,155	43,740
15-24	35,145	34,140
25-44	67,090	69,850
45-64	65,095	67,960
65+	32,205	43,190

Source: Statistics Canada.

MEDIAN AGE

- Men 38.5
- Women 40.7

**Take 5** MAYOR FRED EISENBERGER'S FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT HAMILTON

Mayor Eisenberger was born in Amsterdam in 1952 and immigrated to Canada, settling in Hamilton with his family when he was eight years old. Fred graduated with honours from Mohawk College in planning and community development, and has since taken courses towards his Bachelor of Environmental sciences at the University of Waterloo and political science at McMaster. He was first elected to Hamilton City Council as the representative for Ward 5 in 1991 and became mayor in his second attempt in 2006.

1. Webster's Falls.
2. The escarpment.
3. The fact that Hamilton is green and fully developed.
4. Future opportunities and the many possibilities that make it exciting to be in Hamilton.
5. The future of the city is bright and Hamilton is a "small big town" that is warm, welcoming and close. The community is very much connected.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

	Ontario	Canada
Males	75.9	75.4
Females	81.3	81.2

Source: Statistics Canada.

**Bio** THOMAS MCQUESTEN

If you love to scuffle through the autumn leaves in Gage Park, sniff the spring tulips in the Royal Botanical Gardens or watch the wild birds in Coote's Paradise, don't forget to offer thanks to Tom McQuesten. A successful Hamilton lawyer and politician, McQuesten's love for green spaces still blooms across the city's landscape today, more than 60 years after his death.

As a city councillor (1913-20) and member of Hamilton's Board of Parks Management (1922-48), he spearheaded the purchase and development of more than 2,500 acres of parkland in the Hamilton area, including Gage Park, Inch Park, Scott Park, Mountainside Park and Coote's Paradise.

In 1932, under McQuesten's greening influence, Hamilton boasted the largest acreage of developed parklands and playgrounds of any Canadian city. McQuesten, whose family's Jackson Street mansion Whitehern is now preserved as a historic museum, was also instrumental in bringing both McMaster University and the Royal Botanical Gardens to the city.

In 1934, he was elected to the provincial government and appointed Minister of Highways. In that role, he oversaw the construction of the Queen Elizabeth Highway, as well as many other Ontario highways and bridges. He also served as Chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission and oversaw the construction of the Niagara Parkway, the Floral Clock and the School for Apprentice Gardeners, which still provides training in park maintenance.

McQuesten was named Hamilton Citizen of the Year shortly before his death in 1948. The book *Green City: People, Nature & Urban Places* is one of just 11 industrial cities that have managed to successfully co-exist with nature, something the author attributes directly to McQuesten.

### CRADLE TO GRAVE

- Births (yearly) 6,227
- Deaths (yearly) 4,553

Source: Ontario Ministry of Government Services.

### MARRIAGE

- Rate of marriage in Hamilton: 3.7 (per 1,000 population)
- Marriage rate in Nunavut, Canada’s lowest: 2.3
- Marriage rate in Prince Edward Island, Canada’s highest: 6.0
- National marriage rate: 4.7

Source: Statistics Canada.

## Take 5 BEN ZAMBIASI'S FIVE WORST THINGS ABOUT BEING A RETIRED TI-CAT LINEBACKER

A star linebacker with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats from 1978 to 1987, Ben Zambiasi was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 2004. He lives in Hamilton with his wife and daughter, and hates having to watch football games from the Ivor Wynne stands rather than the sidelines.

1. People coming up to me and saying, “Wow! I always thought you were so much bigger!”
2. Being an armchair quarterback instead of trying to rip the quarterback’s arm off.
3. Longing for the days when I had to eat four meals just to maintain my weight.
4. Learning that tackling the competition and knocking them on their butts is not considered a transferable job skill for most career choices.
5. Not seeing my teammates, who loved and understood the game as much as me. Thank goodness for alumni events.

## Take 5 FIVE TOP TOURIST ACTIVITIES FOR OVERNIGHT VISITORS

1. Visiting Friends and Relatives
2. Shopping
3. Outdoor/Sports Activity
4. Sightseeing
5. Visiting Historic Sites

Source: Tourism Hamilton.

### FAMILY STRUCTURE

- Number of all families (married and common law, single parent): 195,905
- Percentage of married-couple families: 73
- Percentage of common-law-couple families: 10
- Percentage of male lone-parent families: 3
- Percentage of female lone-parent families: 14

Source: Statistics Canada.

### URBAN / RURAL LAND AREA (PERCENTAGE)

Community	Urban	Rural
Ancaster	15	85
Dundas	47	53
Flamborough	2	98
Glanbrook	9	91
Hamilton	100	0
Stoney Creek	39	61

### Did you know...

that Isabella Whyte, now resting in the Hamilton Cemetery, is rumoured to have been Queen Victoria’s half-sister?

## Take 5 FIVE HAMILTON FIRSTS

1. The first telephone exchange in the British Commonwealth happened in Hamilton in 1878.
2. The first matches in the country were made by the Green family in the early 1830s.
3. Lifesavers (candies) were invented by the Beechnut Company of Hamilton in 1933.
4. Westinghouse in Hamilton was the first company in Canada to manufacture radios (1923) and electric air cleaners (1944).
5. Hamiltonians Solomon Robinson, John Robinson and John Lewison produced the first ice cream cones in Canada at their King Street plant in 1908.

### URBAN / RURAL POPULATION (PERCENTAGE)

Community	Urban	Rural
Ancaster	78	22
Dundas	94	6
Flamborough	36	64
Glanbrook	28	72
Hamilton	100	0
Stoney Creek	92	8

Source: City of Hamilton.

## They Said It

*“Sure, the Hammer has its warts but we’ve got rings around our fingers for the city of Hamilton.”*

– Songwriter Kathleen Edwards, who recently moved to the city and is married to Hamiltonian guitarist Colin Cripps.

### VISIBLE MINORITIES

Not a visible minority	86.4 percent
South Asian	3.0 percent
Black	2.8 percent
Chinese	1.9 percent
Southeast Asian	1.2 percent
Latin American	1.1 percent
Arab	1.1 percent
Filipino	0.8 percent
West Asian	0.7 percent
Multiple	0.4 percent
Korean	0.3 percent
Other	0.2 percent
Japanese	0.2 percent

Source: Statistics Canada.

### RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION (PERCENTAGE)

Protestant:	34
Catholic:	37
Other Christian:	3
Christian Orthodox:	3
Buddhist:	1
Muslim:	2
Hindu:	1
Jewish:	1
Other religions:	>1
None:	18

Source: Statistics Canada.

## Did you know...

that Columbia International College is the largest private boarding university-preparatory school in Canada with students from 51 different countries?

## They Said It

*"Hamilton in 50 years will be the forward cleat in a 'golden horseshoe' of industrial development from Oshawa to the Niagara River... 150 miles long and 50 miles wide... It will run from Niagara Falls on the south to about Oshawa on the north and take in numerous cities and towns already there, including Hamilton and Toronto."*

– Westinghouse President Herbert H. Rogge in a 1954 speech to the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce.

## LANGUAGE (SPOKEN MOST OFTEN AT HOME)

English: 88.7 percent

French: 0.4 percent

Non-official language: 10.9 percent

Source: Statistics Canada.

## FULL-TIME STUDENTS ENROLLED

### Universities and Colleges

- McMaster University: 21,286 full time, 3,835 part time and 5,336 summer sessions
- Redeemer University College: 849 full time
- Mohawk College: 10,000 full time, 47,000 part time and 3,000 apprentices
- Columbia International College: 1,300 foreign students

### Schools

- Public schools: over 55,000 students enrolled in 60 schools
- Dundas Calvin School: 231 students
- Calvin Christian School: 420 students
- Hillfield Strathallan College: 1,100 students

## They Said It

*"Hamilton built Canada. Those who know a bit of history know Hamilton was the financial capital of Canada long before Bay St. in another city not far away. It had one of the first homes with electric lighting and an elevator. The list of firsts goes on and on."*

– Jamie West, broadcaster.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

McMaster University is named after Senator William McMaster (1811-1887), who bequeathed substantial funds to endow "a Christian school of learning." The university was incorporated under the terms of an act of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 1887. The new university, housed in McMaster Hall in Toronto, offered courses in arts and theology. Degree programs began in 1890, with degrees first being conferred in 1894.

In 1930, McMaster relocated to Hamilton and in 1957 the university became a non-denominational private institution. Today, more than 60 percent of the student body comes from outside Hamilton to study everything from arts and science to engineering to medicine to business and beyond. The university is the major knowledge generator in the city.

Redeemer University College is a small undergraduate liberal Christian arts and science school located in a rural section of Ancaster. It was originally founded in 1982 and until 2000 it was known as Redeemer College.

While Mohawk College's main campus is in Hamilton, the school has campuses in nearby Brantford and Stoney Creek. Mohawk grew out of what in 1947 became the Provincial Institute of Textiles, located at what is now the Wentworth Campus. It was one of the first Ontario schools to offer specialized post-secondary training in the technical fields. A decade later, it was renamed the Hamilton Institute of Technology.

Its main campus sits on 66 acres of land that originally grew food for the patients at the mental hospital across the road. The original root cellar for that farm forms part of the student centre known today as the Arnie. Today it is a leading college in engineering, applied arts and business, and health technology.

## HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

- Physicians: about 800
- Dentists: 359
- Nurses: 10,338 in the Local Health Integration Network that includes Hamilton
- Pharmacists: 370

## CANADIAN COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY

(Percentage of respondents)

	Hamilton	Canada	Ontario
Overweight	55.5	48.5	49.2
Physically active	50.9	49.0	48.8
Has a regular Dr.	94.7	84.4	90.4
Regular smoker	24.4	21.9	20.6

Source: *The Canadian Community Health Survey.*

## COMMUNICATIONS

Daily/weekly newspapers include the *Hamilton Spectator* daily newspaper plus *Hamilton Community News*, who publish the following weeklies; the *Dundas Star News*, *Ancaster News*, *Stoney Creek News* and the *Mountain News*. *View Magazine* is a weekly free paper with lists of groups playing at various clubs in the city, and *Hamilton Magazine* is a glossy magazine with features about the city.

## Weblinks

### City of Hamilton

[www.myhamilton.ca](http://www.myhamilton.ca)

The main page to find out everything you need to know; services, departments, recreation, culture, public health, social services, projects, news, and business — just to name a few.

### Hamilton Tourism

[www.tourismhamilton.com](http://www.tourismhamilton.com)

The official tourism site that will fill you in on tours, events, festivals, arts, shopping, campgrounds, attractions, and so much more.

### The Hamilton Spectator

[www.thespec.com](http://www.thespec.com)

Hamilton's own daily newspaper; check it out online to keep up with the latest news.