



# HAMILTON DAY



## 11 local spots for shopping, dining, walking or relaxing

by Andrea Douglas

Hamilton is a dynamic, growing city – the 2021 census data shows the population grew by six per cent since 2016, surpassing the provincial average; and according to the City’s data, Hamilton has already hit the \$2 billion mark for construction value this year. So if you haven’t been downtown or to one of the many shopping districts across the city lately, you may be pleasantly surprised by what new businesses and community resources you’ll find.

Get out and explore parts of our city you’ve never been to, or haven’t visited in awhile – not just on Hamilton Day, but any day. Shop at local businesses. Your support helps our communities to thrive.

Avoid parking aggravations by taking the HSR, or renting a Hamilton Bike Share bicycle or Bird scooter.

Here’s a quick summary of some of the neighbourhoods that local business call home, to help you plan a visit.

### Ancaster Village

Dating back to 1793, the Village of Ancaster’s historic architecture and leafy streets invite you to go for a stroll – many of the businesses are housed in heritage buildings. Take a walk along Wilson St. E. to shop for home decor, designer clothing and accessories, knitting and quilting supplies, specialty foods and more. Relax at one of the Village’s spas and beauty salons. Cap off the day with a delicious meal at one of the fine dining establishments.

*Getting there:* Take the 5A Meadowlands from downtown Hamilton to Wilson St. E and Academy St.

### Barton Village

This stretch of Barton St. E. is an up-and-coming foodie destination where you’ll find new, trendy restaurants and cafés along with long-time Hamilton favourites, as well as vintage stores, hair and beauty studios, and more.

*Getting there:* Take the 02 Barton to Barton St. E., between Wellington St. N. and Sherman Ave. N.

### Concession Street

The oldest shopping district on the Mountain, the Concession Street community runs along the escarpment brow, offering amazing views of the lower city and so many unique stores to explore. Shop for toys and collectables; costumes and accessories; records, DVDs and video games; or supplies for lizards, birds and other small pets. Grab a bite at one of the many restaurants and bakeries, and then have fun at an escape room, karaoke bar, board game lounge or theatre show.

*Getting there:* Take the 23 Upper Gage, 24 Upper Sherman or 25 Upper Wentworth/Wellington to Concession St., between Upper Wellington St. and Upper Gage St.

### Downtown Dundas

Nestled in the heart of the beautiful Dundas Valley, the quaint downtown area of Dundas has over 100 shops, restaurants and services. Stroll along King St. W. to admire the historic 19th-century buildings as you shop for arts and crafts; clothing and accessories; sporting goods; jewellery; a wide selection of home, garden and kitchen items; specialty foods; and much more. Visit the Carnegie Gallery or the Dundas Valley School of Art’s Faculty Art Show to view or purchase local artwork.

*Getting there:* Take the 05 Head Street via Downtown Dundas from downtown Hamilton to King St. W. and Cross St.

### Downtown Hamilton

The core is bursting with unique local businesses – from the boutiques, home decor shops, artists’ spaces and ethnic grocery stores on James St. N.; to the restaurant row on King William St.; to the many shops and services on John St. N. and surrounding historic Gore Park. Don’t forget to stop in at the Hamilton Farmers’ Market, connected to Jackson Square, for even more specialty groceries, bakeries, prepared foods, florists and artisans.

*Getting there:* From out of town, take GO Transit to the Hamilton GO Centre or West Harbour station.

### Downtown Stoney Creek

Shop, dine and have some “me time” in the Old Town of Stoney Creek. Minutes from the Battlefield House Museum and Park National Historic Site, this pretty shopping district offers an eclectic mix of jewellers, hobby and comic stores, beauty salons, wellness services, professional services, specialty foods and restaurants.

*Getting there:* Take the 05 King at Highway 8 via Downtown Stoney Creek from downtown Hamilton to King St. E. between Lake Ave. Dr. and New Mountain Rd.

### International Village

Just a short walk from the core, the International Village has the perfect gift for that difficult-to-shop-for person on your list – offering vintage clothing and housewares, books, records, specialty foods and local arts and crafts. In the evening, the Village is a great place for date night: enjoy international cuisine at one of the many restaurants, and then grab a drink at a bar or nightclub, or see a show at Theatre Aquarius.

*Getting there:* Walk from downtown. Or, take the 01 King to Main St. East or King St. E., between Mary St. and West Ave.

### Locke Street South

Take a walk on Locke – more than 90 retail stores, professional services, cafés and restaurants await you.

This neighbourhood in the southwest is known for its housewares, antiques, collectables, local art and handmade goods; books, toys and hobbies; jewellery and accessories; specialty foods; trendy restaurants and cafés; hair and beauty salons; and more. Visit the outdoor farmers market on Saturdays from May through October.

*Getting there:* Take the 07 Locke to Locke St. S. between Main St. W. and Charlton Ave. W. scooter.

Here’s a quick summary of some of the neighbourhoods that local business call home, to help you plan a visit.

### Ottawa Street

Known as a textile district since the First World War, Ottawa Street continues to be popular among interior decorators, DIYers and fashionistas with its many fabric, sewing supply, upholstery, furniture, antique, vintage and fine art stores. You’ll also find record stores, collectables, great restaurants, specialty foods and, on Saturdays from April to December, an outdoor farmers market.

*Getting there:* Take the 02 Barton to Barton St. E. and Ottawa St. N.; or, the 03 Cannon or 41 Mohawk to Cannon St. E and Ottawa St. N.

### Waterdown Village

Charming Waterdown Village, on the scenic Niagara Escarpment, just a 20-minute drive from downtown Hamilton, is perfect for a relaxing day out. Pamper yourself at a spa or beauty salon, then have a leisurely lunch at one of the many cafés, pubs and restaurants. There are also gift stores, specialty foods, service-based businesses and more.

*Getting there:* It’s worth the drive! Waterdown Village is located along the Dundas St. E. and Hamilton St. N. corridors in Waterdown, Ont.

### Westdale Village

In the west end of Hamilton, close to McMaster University and Cootes Paradise, is a walkable community with more than 80 retail stores, services and eateries. Stroll along King St. W. to shop for books, stationary, art supplies, kitchenware, baked goods and more. Because the area is popular with students and families alike, there are tons of places to eat or grab a drink – until the end of November, there are two giant patios set up in front of the restaurants at King and Marion Ave. N. You could also see a film or live music event at the historic Westdale Theatre.

*Getting there:* Take the 1A University Plaza, 51 West Hamilton Loop or 5A Meadowlands to King St. W. between Cline Ave. N. and Sterling St.; or, take the 06 Aberdeen to Longwood Rd. S. and King St. W.

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Shop. Dine. Explore. Join us in the Village.

*Shop Local This Hamilton Day*  
Saturday November 4th!

**Family Friendly  
Live Entertainment on  
Hamilton Day!**

**Discover the Remarkable History &  
Charm of the Ancaster Village!**

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