

Summertime bucket list - 50 things to do before the season ends

Town and country fun

1.

Ice cream dreams

Where's the best spot for ice cream? Hutch's on Van Wagners Beach Road? The Purple Pony on 346 Wilson St. E.? Hewitt's Dairy on Highway 6, just north of Hagersville? Maybe it's best to try a few before you decide (definitely). Two summers ago, Tourism Hamilton asked this question and mapped responses at tourismhamilton.com.

2.

Outdoor Yoga

All skill levels are welcome to yoga classes outside City Hall, 71 Main St. W., every Wednesday at noon all summer. The free, 45-minute classes are presented by the City of Hamilton and Moksha Yoga Hamilton. Make sure to bring a mat and water. Classes cancelled during rain. Or try yoga on the water at Burlington Beach (see number 46 for more)

Follow @cityofhamilton Or @tourismhamilton for updates.

3.

Parrot talk

Visit the parrots, parakeets and peacocks at the Aviary at 85 Oak Knoll Dr. Visit Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information visit friendsoftheaviary.ca or call 905-546-4842.

4.

Kidical Mass

An offshoot of a movement that started in Oregon, Kidical Mass organizes monthly family bike rides in Hamilton. The next ride is July 13 starting at Corktown Park at 2 p.m.

For more information go to the [Kidical Mass Hamilton Facebook group](#).

5.

Farmers Markets

Go early, grab a coffee and shop the vendors at the Hamilton Farmers Market at 35 York Blvd., or any other local market in the area. See if you can make a meal out of locally grown produce. Check out this link for a list: tourismhamilton.com.

6.

War of 1812

Learn about the War of 1812 at historic sites in Hamilton, including Dundurn Castle on York Boulevard or Battlefield House Museum & Park at 77 King St. W. in Stoney Creek. Admission rates and hours vary. For more information on these and other Hamilton historic sites visit the [Hamilton Civic Museums](http://hamilton.ca) page on hamilton.ca.

7.

Art Gallery

Go on a 40-minute guided tour of the Art Gallery of Hamilton, at 123 King St. W. Tours run every Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

For more information visit artgalleryofhamilton.com. Or visit any of the other many art galleries in the area. For a list, check out hpl.ca.

8.

Food Trucks



Visit the parrots, parakeets and peacocks at the Aviary at 85 Oak Knoll Dr. Visit Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Go rock climbing at Rattlesnake Point, a conservation area that offers stunning views of the escarpment in Milton, just north of Burlington.



All skill levels are welcome to yoga classes outside City Hall, 71 Main St. W., every Wednesday at noon all summer.



Ray Easterbrook shows off the restaurant's famous foot-long hotdog. Visit Easterbrook's Hotdog Stand at 694 Spring Gardens Rd.

Grab a bite at Food Truck Alley, where trucks gather to dish out their fare. Different trucks meet daily at the lot on Aberdeen Avenue, just east of Longwood Road.

Visit the [Food Truck Alley Facebook group](#) to learn more.

9.

Ghost Walk

Take a haunted tour of Hamilton with a ghost walk. A walk featuring the stories of Hamilton's most infamous mobsters and killers runs July 11 at 8 p.m. starting at The Radius Café. The next Custom House ghost walk is July 12 at 8:30 p.m., 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

To find future dates or book a tour visit [hauntedhamilton.com](#) .

10.

Spider pool

The newly opened — and free for the summer! — Rosedale Outdoor Pool on Greenhill Avenue features a giant spider water feature, a deck with seating and umbrellas and a heated gradual entry pool. It was designed with input from students from Rosedale Elementary School. 1 to 7 p.m. weekdays, and 1 to 4 p.m. on weekends.

For more information call [905-546-3724](#).

11.

Wine Train

Take a ride on Ontario's only wine train at Puddicombe Estate Farms and Winery, 1468 #8 Highway, Winona. You can pick your own fruit, visit the general store, hike trails, visit the children's village and tour the winery. The train runs 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekends during the summer.

For more information, visit [puddicombefarms.com](#) OR call [905-643-1015](#).

12.

Art Bus

Tour new galleries and studios on the first and third Fridays of each month. Bus leaves at 6:30 p.m. from the Pearl Company at 16 Steven St. To reserve a seat, call [905-524-0606](#) or email HamiltonArtBus@gmail.com. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for students, artists and seniors.

For more information visit [thepearlcompany.ca](#) .

13.

Rural Routes

Once a month from June to September the Rural Routes Eco-Farm Tour takes participants from downtown Hamilton to a nearby farm. The events are organized by Environment Hamilton and depart from the [Bread and Roses Café](#) at 27 King William Street.

Visit [environmenthamilton.org](#) for more information.

14.

Farm Crawl

Experience the taste of local farms with Farm Crawl Hamilton. The next tour is July 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will learn about sheep shearing, growing raspberries, beekeeping and other aspects of farming. Buy tickets online or at participating farms. Adults \$15, children \$7.50, kids under five are free.

For more information visit [farmcrawlhamilton.ca](#) , email farmcrawl@gmail.com or call [905-627-9208](#).

15.

Outdoor movies

Catch a movie under the stars at the Starlite Drive-In at 59 Green Mountain Rd. E., Stoney Creek. There are three screens that each play two movies after dark.

For box office information call [905-662-4800](#), email info@starlitehamilton.com or visit [starlitehamilton.com](#).

16.

Garden music



Take a lunch or dinner cruise on the Hamilton Harbour Queen down at Bayfront Park.



Take a spin around the outdoor rink at Hamilton Waterfront. The rink is open noon to 10 p.m. Sunday to Thursday; noon to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Pier 8. Skate to music, with a DJ on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.



Take a leisurely ride on 12 kilometers of shoreline trail on the Hamilton Waterfront Trolley. The two 37-passenger trackless trollies follow the western portion of Hamilton Harbour. Adults pay \$5, children four to 12 pay \$3 and children three and under are free.

Spend your lunch hour – noon to 2 p.m. — at Whitehern Historic House & Garden any Wednesday, where guests are treated to tea or lemonade (\$1 each) and a free outdoor concert. Chairs and tables are limited. Regular admission rates apply if you want to visit the museum at 41 Jackson St. W.

For more information visit the [Hamilton Civic Museum page at hamilton.ca](#).

17.

Seven Sundays

Unwind with free outdoor concerts at the bandshell in Gage Park at Gage Avenue South Sundays all summer.

For the schedule visit [sevensundays.ca](#).

18.

Gulliver's travel

Take a picnic to Gulliver's Lake, a campground and RV resort at 792 Safari Rd., Millgrove. Camp out or get a day pass – the grounds are open 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily. The 14-acre, spring-fed lake is great for swimming.

For more information call 905-659-7300 or email gulliverslake@carefreervresorts.com.

19.

Donkey sanctuary

Get your cute quota by visiting rescued donkeys at The Donkey Sanctuary. The 100-acre farm at 6981 Puslinch Conc. 4 RR#6 is a refuge for abandoned and abused animals. During the warmer months the sanctuary is open Wednesdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adult admission is \$10 and kids and seniors are \$5.

For more information call 519-836-1697 OR visit thedonkeysanctuary.ca.

20.

Bounce

Jump on the new giant, floating water toys on the five-acre, spring-fed, quarry lake at Emerald Lake at 7248 Gore Rd., Puslinch. The park also includes a splash pad, an over 200-foot water slide, snack bar and picnic area, volleyball and basketball courts. Admission is \$15 a person and kids under three are free. The park is open 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For more information call 905-659-7923 OR visit emeraldlake.ca

21.

Go on a safari

See lions, giraffes, cheetahs and monkeys up close as you drive through the African Lion Safari at 1386 Cooper Rd. Open for its 45th season 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, admission is \$32.95 for adults and \$25.95 for kids 3-12.

For more information visit lionsafari.com

22.

Summer Promenade

Check out the live music, food trucks and artisan vendors at Gore Park. The Gore Park Summer Promenade runs every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information visit downtownhamilton.org

23.

Patio

Augusta Street? Waterdown? The waterfront? Upper James? Find your favourite patio spot and stop for a drink or bite to eat. Tourism Hamilton has created an app for Android, iPhones and iPads that maps out Hamilton's patios.

To download the app or for more information visit tourismhamilton.com/app

Waterfront

24.

Waterfront wheels

New this summer, visitors to Hamilton Waterfront can rent bikes of all sizes — including tandem bikes and surrey bikes with benches — noon to 8 p.m. daily at Pier 8. The price per hour ranges from \$6 to \$30 (helmets are free).

For more information visit hamiltonwaterfront.com.

25.

Lace up

Take a spin around the outdoor rink at Hamilton Waterfront. Bring your own or rent roller skates for \$6 a pair. Helmets are \$2. Rink is open noon to 10 p.m. Sunday to Thursday; noon to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Pier 8. Skate to music, with a DJ on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information visit hamiltonwaterfront.com.

26.

Trolley ride

Take a leisurely ride on 12 kilometres of shoreline trail on the Hamilton Waterfront Trolley. The two 37-passenger trackless trolleys follow the western portion of Hamilton Harbour. Adults pay \$5, children four to 12 pay \$3 and children three and under are free.

For more information visit hamiltonwaterfront.com.

27.

Boat tour

Tour Hamilton Harbour from the water with a 50-minute narrated boat tour. The 12-passenger boat leaves eight times a day between 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Harbour Tours ticket office. Adults are \$13.55, seniors and students are \$11.75, skids 12 and under \$6.75 and kids under three are free.

For more information visit hamiltonwaterfront.com OR call 905-525-4498.

28.

Dine on the water

Take a lunch or dinner cruise on the Hamilton Harbour Queen. Fun in the sun lunchtime cruises, romantic evening cruises. Prices range from \$47 to \$74 per person.

For more information visit hamiltonwaterfront.com.

29.

HMCS Haida

See what life was like aboard a Second World War Tribal class destroyer, HMCS Haida — a National Historic Site docked at Pier 9 at 658 Catherine St. N. Walk the decks of the decorated war ship and learn about the Royal Canadian Navy's history, including commemorating the 70th anniversary of D-Day. Admission is \$3.90 for adults and \$1.90 for youth. During the summer it's open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information call 905-308-8600 or email haida.info@pc.gc.ca.

30.

Bayfront Park

Take a stroll along the six-metre-wide paved pathway at Bayfront Park looking out over Hamilton Harbour at the foot of Bay Street North. It is linked to Pier 4 Park by Macassa Bay walkway.

Conservation areas

and parks

30.

Canoe

Rent a canoe at Valens Lake, swim at the beach, have a picnic or go for a hike. The 300-hectare conservation area is located at 1691 Regional Rd. 97, Flamborough. Admission for a car and driver is \$9, with \$5 for each additional passenger or bike/walk-in entry. Boat rentals are \$75 for the day or \$7 by the half-hour.

For more information call 905-525-2183 and conservationhamilton.ca.

31.

City of Waterfalls

Pick a waterfall you've never been to — there are more than 120 in Hamilton. Big and lush? Try Great Falls of Mill Street in Waterdown. Cute and on a low-key hiking trail? Canterbury Falls off Lions Club Road. Hike Spencer's Gorge to the famed Webster's Falls.

Visit waterfalls.hamilton.ca for more information.

32.

Disc Golf

Play an 18-hole round of disc golf at Christie Lake Conservation Area. It's like golf, but with flying discs instead of clubs and balls. Located off Highway 5 in Dundas, admission is \$9 for a car and driver, plus \$5 per additional person. Buy a membership for all Hamilton Conservation Areas for \$105. Stay for a picnic, swim at the beach, hike or fishing.

For more information visit [conservationhamilton.ca /](http://conservationhamilton.ca/)

[christie-lake.](#)

33.

Bruce Trail

Hike the Hamilton portion of the Bruce trail. Better yet, see if you can hike the entire Iroquois section. Each of the nine trail areas has its own club that provides badges upon completion. The Iroquois section runs from Beamsville to Milton.

For more information visit brucetrail.org.

34.

Eagles

See if you can spot the Bald Eagles at the Royal Botanical Gardens. The protected 2450 acres located at 680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington, is an ideal environment for the endangered predator. This year the returning pair of eagles chose a nest atop a pine tree in the Hopkin's Woods.

For more information visit rbg.ca .

35.

Guided hike

Enjoy a guided hike through the Dundas Valley and learn about the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve. The hikes, organized by the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, run every Saturday at 11 a.m. The non-profit group is now also doing guided hikes of Albion Falls Saturdays and Sundays at 12:30 p.m.

For more information visit giantsrib.ca or email info@giantsrib.ca.

36.

Go-Karts

Drive go-karts at Confederation Park — a 93-hectare fun-filled park on the shores of Lake Ontario at 680 Van Wagners Beach Rd. While you're there play a round of mini golf or the batting cages, grab some lunch at Hutch's, go for a swim at the Lakeland Centre.

For more information visit [conservationhamilton.ca /](http://conservationhamilton.ca/)

[confederation-park.](#)

37.

Waterpark

See how many waterslides you can hit at Wild Waterworks. While you're there, rent a cabana, float on the Eazy River, or ride the waves in the wave pool. General admission is \$21.90, children are \$14.30 and kids under two are free. Sundown admission is discounted. The waterpark is located at Confederation Park.

For more information call 905-547-6141, ext. 5007, email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca or visit [conservationhamilton.ca /](http://conservationhamilton.ca/)

[welcome-to-wild-waterworks.](#)

38.

Rock climbing

Go rock climbing at Rattlesnake Point, in the escarpment at 7200 Appleby Line in Milton, just north of Burlington. The conservation area boasts more than 235 routes within three designated area. Afraid of heights? Rattlesnake Point offers stunning views of the escarpment on its trails. Admission cost \$6.75 for adults, \$5 for kids five to 14.

For more information visit [conservationhalton.on.ca /](http://conservationhalton.on.ca/)

[rattlesnake-point.](#)

39.

Swim

Swim in one of Canada's largest outdoor swimming pools at Bronte Creek Provincial Park. Enter at the day use entrance on 1219 Burloak Drive, Oakville right on the boarder with Burlington. The 1.8 acres gradual entry pool costs \$3.25 for adult admission and \$2.25 for children, with kids three and under free. This is in addition to parking in the park – \$16 per vehicle. The park also includes trails and a 150-year-old play barn.

For more information visit brontecreek.org .

40.

Raptors

Book a raptor encounter and get up and close with the birds of prey at the Mountsberg Conservation Area. It's a birdwatcher's paradise where visitors can spot eagles, falcons, hawks, owls and vultures. The conservation area is located at 2259 Milborough Campbellville.

For more information visit conservationhalton.ca/mountsberg.

41.

Go Fishing

Fish Lake Niapenco at Binbrook Conservation Area at 5050 Harrison Rd, Binbrook. The reservoir is the largest inland lake in the Niagara Watershed and is home to northern pike, walleye, largemouth bass, small mouth bass, white and black crapie, yellow perch, pumpkin seed, rock bass, brown bullhead, and carp. There is a boat launch and fishing pier. It's open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information visit npca.ca/conservation-areas/binbrook or call 905-692-3228.

42.

Mountain bikes

Challenge yourself on Kelso's mountain bike trails. Kelso is part of Conservation Halton and is located at 5234 Kelso Rd, Milton. While you're there, canoe or kayak on Lake Kelso.

For more information or for trail maps visit conservationhalton.ca/kelso or call 905-878-5011

43.

Chickadees

Feed the chickadees on the boardwalk at Cherry Hill Gate, at the Royal Botanical Gardens on Plains Road West. It's part of the Hendrie Valley and can be accessed at the far west side of the parking lot. Cherry Hill Gate is one of four main trailheads that lead into 27 kilometers of walking trails.

For more information visit rbg.ca .

Burlington

44.

Swan song

Take a trip to LaSalle Park on North Shore Boulevard to watch the magnificent trumpeter swans. Better yet, go early and watch a spectacular sunrise. Best of all? It's free.

For more information visit burlington.ca .

45.

Brant St. Pier

Stroll the new Brant St. Pier and watch the sun set over Lake Ontario. Located at the foot of Brant Street in Burlington's downtown the pier stretches 137 metres over the water. After eight years of problems with the construction the pier opened last summer.

46.

Beach

Take a yoga class on the beach, or on a paddle board anchored in Lake Ontario at Burlington Beach. Enjoy a relaxing day at the Beachway Park & Pavillion, a two-kilometre trail that stretches from Spencer Smith Park to the Burlington canal. For more information visit Burlington.ca and click on Parks and Recreation. For class and rental information visit burlingtonbeachrentals.com

To check water quality call 905-825-6000.

47.

Movies under the stars

Enjoy free, family movies outdoors at a Burlington park Thursday nights starting at 9 p.m.. Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets. No pets.

For more information visit Burlington.ca and go to [Enjoying Burlington](#), click on [festivals & events](#) and scroll down to [Movies under the stars](#) On the event finder.

48.

Hotdog

Grab a foot-long hotdog at Easterbrooks Hotdog Stand at 694 Spring Gardens Rd. While you're there play a game of pinball or eat out back in the picnic area. (You can also try Willy Dog, which was recently named Canada's top dog by Mobile Cuisine. For other suggestions, check out this unofficial Spectator survey at bit.ly/1mRArR8.)

For more information on Easterbrooks call 905-527-9679.

49.

Concerts in the Park

Bring a blanket or lawn chair to Central Park for free concerts in the bandshell 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday and Sunday nights during the summer.

For the concert schedule visit Burlington.ca/concerts .

For more information call 905-335-7600, ext. 7947 or email music@burlington.ca.

50.

Splash and play

Visit the splash pad and park at the 6.37-acre Spencer Smith Park, on Burlington's waterfront. Located next to Discovery Landing on Lakeshore Road, the splash pad and park are free.

For more information visit burlington.ca .

noreilly@thespec.com

905-526-3199 | [@NicoleatTheSpec](https://twitter.com/NicoleatTheSpec)

What's your story?

If you have your own bucket list suggestion or story, or if you want to add (or subtract) items from our list, send us your thoughts (and photos!) to publish online.

Follow the links on the home page of thespec.com to "submit a story" via our Talk To Us platform.