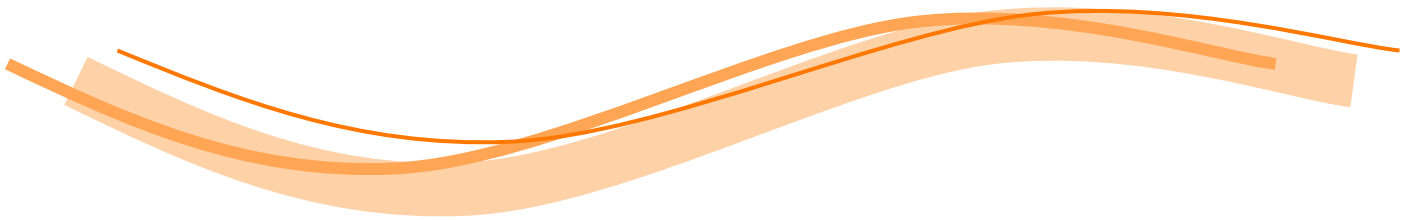




# HEART OF ONTARIO





## HEART OF ONTARIO

Just a short drive from anywhere in southern Ontario - and “just next door” in Quebec - Hamilton Halton Brant is home to signature landscapes that include the Niagara Escarpment, the Grand River, the Bruce Trail, Lake Ontario shorelines and a collection of more than 100 waterfalls.

These unique natural settings create a beautiful backdrop for some of Ontario’s best trails, recreational routes and outdoor activities.

The area also boasts renowned heritage sites, attractions and museums, a vibrant arts scene, distinct downtowns and delectable dining. Come on a tour of the communities in this exciting region...

**Hamilton:** Hamilton boasts the spectacular Niagara Escarpment, over a hundred waterfalls, new waterfront trails and attractions and family adventure destinations such as African Lion Safari. The vibrant cultural scene includes historic sites such as Dundurn Castle, Whitehern House and Gardens as well as the province’s third largest gallery, the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

**Burlington:** Nestled between Lake Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment, Burlington is ideally located. Enjoy unique shopping and exquisite dining in a walkable downtown. Burlington’s beautiful waterfront comes alive with festivals, patios, water play and model boating – with a sand beach that is perfect for relaxing. Burlington is your ideal base to visit the world-renowned Royal Botanical Gardens as well as the new Burlington Performing Arts Centre, art gallery and museums. Get outdoors on the golf courses, scenic hiking and cycling trails – plus take in lively festivals such as the Sound of Music and Canada’s Largest Ribfest.

**Oakville:** Whether seeking the natural beauties of its pristine waterways, excellent Lake Ontario sport fishing, historic and cultural attractions, exquisite dining, or a one-of-a-kind shopping experience - Oakville’s distinctive neighbourhoods along the shores of Lake Ontario boast an array of activities and amenities.

**County of Brant:** The County of Brant’s many villages and hamlets boast small town charm and hospitality. In fact, the town of Paris has been referred to as the prettiest small town in Canada. Find four seasons of fun including fishing, swimming, skiing and camping. Take time to enjoy nature on the trails, paddle the Grand River, browse through unique shops, cozy cafes, and step back in time visiting museums and historic cobblestone buildings.

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	<p><b>Six Nations of the Grand River Territory:</b> These nations located on the banks of the Grand River are home to the Haudenosaunee - the people of the longhouse. Come and celebrate the unique heritage and culture of the people of the Six Nations. The Grand River Champion of Champions Pow Wow attracts over 400 dancers from across North America each July.</p> <p><b>Halton Hills:</b> Halton Hills is made up of a unique combination of urban towns, historic hamlets and stunning rural landscapes. Hike the Bruce Trail along the Niagara Escarpment, taste fresh produce at local farmers' markets, watch artists design and create in their studios, shop the picturesque main streets of the towns or choose the call of the mall at one of Canada's newest outlet malls.</p> <p><b>Brantford:</b> Situated on the picturesque Grand River, and steeped in over 11,000 years of history and culture, Brantford is known as the Telephone City. It was here in 1874 that Alexander Graham Bell first conceived the idea of the telephone. In addition to touring the homestead of this Canadian innovator, visitors can enjoy over 40 kilometres of natural trails and the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts, a fully restored vaudevillian playhouse.</p> <p><b>Milton:</b> Escarpment Country - a unique setting located at the foot of the scenic Niagara Escarpment. As the fastest growing community in Canada, Milton offers a wealth of natural and man-made attractions, leisure pursuits and recreational activities - including rock climbing, hiking and skiing, fairs, festivals and farmers markets. Don't miss out on these great offers when you visit Hamilton Halton Brant</p>
<b>Location</b>	Located in the centre-south of Ontario, the region boasts the picturesque shoreline of Lake Ontario to the south and the winding Grand River to the north. Cutting through the region is the striking Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, with its dense forests, waterfalls and endless trails.
<b>Geography</b>	The Heart of Ontario includes County of Brant, City of Brantford, Halton Region (City of Burlington, Town of Halton Hills, Town of Milton, Town of Oakville), City of Hamilton, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations.
<b>Name</b>	The Heart of Ontario is exactly descriptive of this region! The town of Hamilton was conceived by George Hamilton.
<b>Population</b>	The population of Metro Hamilton is nearly 700,000.
<b>Language</b>	English

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<b>Currency</b>	Canadian Dollar
<b>Tipping</b>	This is home from home – so tip as you usually reward good service.

<b>CLIMATE</b>	
<b>General climate</b>	As for Toronto and Montreal
<b>Today's weather</b>	Saturday, June 28th 2014 is sunny and 27C – a typical summer's day
<b>Best time to visit</b>	This region is a great spot for a short break any time of year.

<b>GETTING AROUND</b>	
<b>Getting There</b>	Drive down the Queen Elizabeth Way or west on the 401 and you're there before you know it!
<b>Cities</b>	<p>The cities and towns within Hamilton Halton Brant have served as the stage for some of Canada's most significant events. Today, museums and preserved heritage sites tell these stories with interactive heritage programming that brings our country's history to life.</p> <p>Tour the homestead where Alexander Graham Bell placed his first call, ride the rails at Ontario's first and largest electric railway museum and learn about Canada's early industrial revolution while touring a 150-year-old waterworks. Celebrate the sports, the players and the plays behind Canada's legacy in sport at the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame.</p>
<b>Distances</b>	Most of the region is only 30 to 60 minutes' drive away from Toronto, so you can plan a day trip or a short break with ease. From Montreal, the region is a perfect weekend break destination.
<b>Boats</b>	<p><b>Hamiltonian Tour Boat</b></p> <p>The 12 passenger tour boat offers a leisurely narrated 60 minute tour of the Hamilton harbour with the captain providing interesting stories and history of one of North America's most noteworthy harbours.</p> <p>47 Discovery Drive, Hamilton, ON L8L 8K4 905-525-4498</p>
<b>Trains</b>	<p>The <b>Halton County Radial Railway</b> and the OERHA was formed in 1953 by a group of men who wanted to save Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) streetcar 1326 from being sent to the scrap yard. After the donation of this streetcar, the dream grew. Land that used to be a part of the Toronto Suburban Railway in Nassagaweya Township was acquired, and subsequently, a number of other street and radial cars were eventually rescued. The museum's grand opening to the public took place in 1972.</p> <p>Since the beginning, the vision of the HCRR was to inform, educate and inspire the public about the electric railway history of Ontario and Canada. Today, the museum displays and operates a variety of historic streetcars, radial cars and work cars, and maintains a collection of photographs, memorabilia and archival materials. The oldest rail car in the collection dates from the late 1800s.</p>

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	<p>Admission to the Halton County Radial Railway includes unlimited historic streetcar rides on two kilometers of scenic track, which stops at our famous ice cream shop (approximately a 20 minute ride), access to the grounds, display barns and historic Rockwood Station.</p>
<p><b>Deals</b></p>	<p><b>Red White and True – Canadian Heritage Offers</b></p> <p>The Canadian Heritage Passport, available for download at <a href="http://www.theheartofontario.com">www.theheartofontario.com</a> , features over \$400 in savings with 20 amazing offers on Red, White and True activities in Hamilton Halton Brant, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two-for-one admission at National Historic Sites including: Battlefield House, Bell Homestead, Chiefswood National Historic Site, Dundurn Castle, Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology and Whitehern Historic House and Garden</li> <li>- Two-for-one admission at the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum, Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, Ireland House at Oakridge Farm, Joseph Brant Museum and Westfield Heritage Village</li> </ul> <p>Eight other offers for unique Canadian experiences          Nature Unexpected – Outdoor Adventure Offers          Available for download at <a href="http://www.ourtruenature.ca">www.ourtruenature.ca</a> , these offers provide great savings on some of the region’s most exciting outdoor activities.          Sample offers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Niagara Escarpment rock climbing and rappelling for beginners, from \$135</li> <li>Self-guided Grand River kayak trips, from \$50</li> <li>Star Gazer’s Drift - guided group night rafting on the Grand River from \$300 for a group of 6</li> <li>Family tubing on the Grand River</li> <li>45% off admission to Conservation Authority parks</li> <li>25% off a river and ranch horse riding and paddling experience</li> <li>25% off standup paddle boarding on the Grand River Outdoor adventure</li> </ul>

<p><b>ACCOMMODATION TYPES</b></p>	<p>Excellent full function hotel choices are here aplenty, but there are also some lovely B&amp;B’s and even camping options too.</p>
<p><b>Authentic Experiences</b></p>	<p>Looking for a unique experience that simply can’t be duplicated anywhere else on the planet?          Hamilton Halton Brant’s Authentic Experiences combine the region’s signature landscapes, leisure activities and cultural gems into accessible, easy-to-book packages. Check out <a href="http://www.theheartofontario.com/see-do/authentic-experiences">www.theheartofontario.com/see-do/authentic-experiences</a></p>

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**Voyage Into Paradise**

Voyage Into Paradise is a fabulous two-day, two-night luxury Grand River and Cootes Paradise paddling experience featuring a guided Voyageur Canoe trip, First Nations storytelling, music and dance, a behind-the-scenes canoe tour of the world-famous Royal Botanical Gardens, two nights at a luxurious hotel and gourmet meals.

Pricing for the trip is \$449.00 per person inclusive.

Trip dates for 2014:

May 23-25

June 20-22

July 25-27

**Bruce Trails Waterfall Walks**

Experience waterfalls, scenic vistas, Carolinian forests and the natural beauty of the Niagara Escarpment on a two-day or five-day Bruce Trail Waterfall Walk. Led by an experienced guide, you'll see a total of 19 stunning waterfalls on the 25-kilometre, two-day hike and 28 waterfalls on the 45-kilometre, five-day hike. Off the trails, you'll enjoy outstanding local cuisine and overnight accommodations in the area's best hotels. Pricing ranges from \$588 for the two-day trip to \$1499 for the five-day trip.

Trips dates for 2014:

**Two-Day Trips**

April 25-27; May 9-11; May 30-June 1; June 13-15; July 11-13; August 15-17; September 12-14; October 3-5; October 17-19

**Five-Day Trips**

May 9-13; June 13-17; September 12-16; October 3-7

**Wake Up the Wild**

Go "behind the scenes" at African Lion Safari during this privately guided tour with a Game Warden to witness the morning routines of some of the park's most majestic animals. Watch a pride of African lions devouring their morning feast. Then go off road in a rugged "open air" truck on an incredible tour of the African savannah! Wrap up your safari adventure as you enjoy a morning feast of your own with a gourmet breakfast.

Pricing is \$145 for children, \$155 for youth and \$165 for adults.

Trips are offered from June 7 to September 14, 2014.

<b>LIFESTYLES</b>	
<b>Kids</b>	Pick apples at the beautiful <a href="#">Carluke Orchards</a> in Ancaster, grab your own Halloween pumpkin at <a href="#">Dyment's Farm</a> in Dundas or visit <a href="#">Rockton Berry Farm</a> . Country Market for its mouth-watering blend of fresh produce,

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	<p>gourmet deli and baked goods. Visiting the Rockton Berry Farm is a unique country experience - a boutique, gourmet food, deli and specialty bakery, and when in season, scoop ice cream and frozen yogurt, all wrapped up under one roof.</p> <p><a href="http://www.carlukeorchards.ca">http://www.carlukeorchards.ca</a>  <a href="http://dyments.com">http://dyments.com</a>  <a href="http://www.rocktonberryfarm.com">http://www.rocktonberryfarm.com</a></p>
<b>Teens</b>	<p><b>Personal Computer Museum, Brantford:</b>          With over 45 interactive computer displays and over 1,000 computers, this shrine to the PC houses the largest known collection of computers and video games in Canada.</p> <p><b>African Lion Safari</b>          Come 'face to face' with over 1,000 exotic birds, animals that roam free in large Game Reserves. Live animal shows, Misumu Bay Wet Play. It's a full day of family fun. May 7 to October 10, 2011          R.R. #1, 1386 Cooper Rd, Cambridge, ON N1R 8B2          Tel: 519-623-2620          Website: <a href="http://www.lionsafari.com">http://www.lionsafari.com</a></p> <p><b>Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum</b>          9280 Airport Rd. Mount Hope          Home to over 40 aircraft from WWII to military jets; including an operational Avro Lancaster. Vintage aircraft flying, restaurant, gift shop, displays, guided tours.</p>
<b>Romance</b>	<p>My pick for a romantic spot would be one of the 100+ waterfalls that grace the region – see the separate section on waterfalls below.</p>
<b>Zoomers</b>	<p><b>Dundurn National Historic Site</b>          Visit the magnificent home of Sir Allan Napier MacNab, one of Canada's first premiers. Discover mid-19th-century Hamilton on your tour of more than 40 rooms on three floors.          610 York Blvd. Hamilton Tel: 905-546-2872 <a href="mailto:dundurn@hamilton.ca">dundurn@hamilton.ca</a></p>
<b>UNIQUES</b>	<p><b>Six Nations of the Grand River</b>          The Six Nations of the Grand River Territory is a league of nations comprised of the Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, Mohawk, Oneida, and Tuscarora. The Tuscarora who are originally from North Carolina joined the confederacy in 1722.          The traditional account of how the Iroquois Confederacy was formed began with "the Peacemaker" who brought teachings of the peace, power and righteousness which is known as "The Great Law of Peace". "The Great Law of Peace" is the founding constitution of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and is the underlying basis for our society. Fifty Chiefs, Clanmothers and Faithkeepers were appointed</p>

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	<p>as the “Caretakers of the Law” each with their respective jobs and duties to follow. It is in this way that the “The Great Law of Peace” is perpetuated and remains intact and alive today.</p> <p>The Chiefs pass their title down to their successors and are chosen by the Clanmothers who are the head of each Clan (family). The Clans include three each from the land, water and the sky – the Turtle, Eel, Beaver, Heron, Hawk, Snipe, Bear, Wolf and the Deer.</p> <p>Haudenosaunee - “People of the Longhouse” are a matrilineal society, which means ones Clan and Nation are passed down to a child from his or her mother. People from the same Clan are not allowed to marry each other, as a Clan constitutes a familial relationship.</p>
<p><b>Surprising</b></p>	<p><b>The people of Six Nations are the oldest living participatory democracy on earth.</b> Their 800 year-old model of self-government served as an inspiration for Thomas Jefferson, the leading author of the U.S. Constitution.</p>
<p><b>History</b></p>	<p>In pre-colonial times, the Neutral Indians used much of the land but were gradually driven out by the Five (later Six) Nations (Iroquois) who were allied with the British against the Huron and their French allies. A member of the Iroquois Confederacy provided the route and name for Mohawk Road, which originally included King street in the lower city. In 1784, about 10,000 United Empire Loyalists settled in Upper Canada (what is now southern Ontario), chiefly in Niagara, around the Bay of Quinte, and along the St. Lawrence River between Lake Ontario and Montreal. They were soon followed by many more Americans, some of them not so much ardent loyalists but attracted nonetheless by the availability of inexpensive, arable land. At the same time, large numbers of Iroquois loyal to Britain arrived from the United States and were settled on reserves west of Lake Ontario.</p> <p>The town of Hamilton was conceived by George Hamilton (a son of a Queenston entrepreneur and founder, Robert Hamilton), when he purchased farm holdings of James Durand, the local Member of the British Legislative Assembly, shortly after the War of 1812. Nathaniel Hughson, a property owner to the north, cooperated with George Hamilton to prepare a proposal for a courthouse and jail on Hamilton's property. Hamilton offered the land to the crown for the future site. Durand was empowered by Hughson and Hamilton to sell property holdings which later became the site of the town. As he had been instructed, Durand circulated the offers at York during a session of the Legislative Assembly and a new Gore District was established of which the Hamilton town site was a member.</p> <p>Initially, this town was not the most important centre of the Gore District. A permanent jail was not constructed until 1832 when a cut-stone</p>

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	<p>design was completed on one of the two squares created in 1816, Prince's Square. Subsequently, the first police board and the town limits were defined by statute on February 13, 1833. Official City status was achieved on June 9, 1846, by an act of Parliament.</p>
<p><b>Relive History</b></p>	<p>From the simple home purchased by an African-American slave who escaped from a Virginia plantation in the late 1820s to the 40-room Italianate-style villa that was home to a Premier of the United Canadas, step back in time at over a dozen beautifully preserved homes.</p> <p><b>Dundurn National Historic Site</b>, Hamilton: This 40-room Italianate-style villa built in the 1830's on the former site of a fortified military encampment established by the British in 1813 was once home to Sir Allan Napier MacNab, railway magnate, lawyer and Premier of the United Canadas (1854-1856).</p> <p><b>Fieldcote Memorial Park &amp; Museum</b>, Ancaster: This cultural heritage centre collects, preserves and exhibits local history and promotes the fine arts and the celebration of natural heritage through beautifully landscaped gardens and walking trails.</p> <p><b>Griffin House</b>, Ancaster: Explore the history of Eeneral Griffin and other early Black settlers at this preserved early 19th-century home, set on a hilltop overlooking the beautiful Dundas Valley.</p> <p><b>Whitehern Historic House &amp; Garden</b>, Hamilton: Prominently situated in a walled garden, Whitehern is an outstanding example of a 19th-century urban estate originally owned by a wealthy industrialist.</p> <p><b>Erchless Estate</b>, Oakville: Explore Oakville's heritage through year-round guided tours and exhibitions, special events and workshops on the historic grounds of Erchless. The estate was once home to six generations of Oakville's founding family.</p> <p><b>Ireland House at Oakridge Farm</b>, Burlington: This historic site reflects farm life over four generations with tours, educational programs and special events hosted all year round.</p> <p><b>Joseph Brant Museum</b>, Burlington: Guided tours, permanent and changing exhibitions, interactive displays, a hands-on discovery gallery, educational programming and special events tell the important story of the historical founding settlement and development of the Burlington area.</p> <p><b>Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Estate</b>, Brant: Situated in the</p>

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	<p>rolling hills of Brant County, the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead is the birthplace and childhood home of a Canadian original who played a key role in the advancement of some of our country's key institutions.</p> <p><b>Myrtleville House Museum</b>, Brantford: Learn about and experience early Canadian life in this 10-room Georgian homestead that was home to four consecutive generations of the Good family, who originally emigrated to Canada from Ireland.</p> <p><b>Southwest Ontario Barn Quilt Trail</b>, Brant: Explore this unique route and discover stories of community through colourful Barn Quilts, large decorative murals painted on large pieces of signboard that are either mounted on a barn or other building that use the art of quilting blocks to depict something in the history of the family, building or community.</p> <p>Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton: Step back in time and witness the evolution of Canadian culture as history comes alive at this site that features log buildings, a blacksmith shop, a railway station and locomotive, a one-room school and more.</p>
<p><b>Military Heritage</b></p>	<p>Climb aboard Canada's most decorated war ship, marvel at the only flying Avro Lancaster in North America, view amazing artifacts at southern Ontario's largest military museum and retrace the steps of the brave troops that fought the Battle of Stoney Creek.</p> <p><b>Battlefield House Museum &amp; Park</b>, Stoney Creek: A National Historic Site, this early 19th-century homestead was once home to the Gage family, who retreated to the cellar during the War of 1812 as the Battle of Stoney Creek raged outside.</p> <p><b>Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum</b>, Hamilton: One of the world's largest displays of operational aircraft, this distinctive delta-shaped building houses over 40 historic aircraft, including the only flying Avro Lancaster in North America.</p> <p><b>Hamilton Military Museum</b>, Hamilton: Investigate the War of 1812, the Rebellion of 1837-38, the Boer War and World War I at the Hamilton Military Museum. Visitors can also experience a reconstructed World War I trench, a medals display and exhibit gallery.</p> <p><b>HMCS Haida</b>, Hamilton: Touring Canada's most decorated war ship will give you a first-hand appreciation for the challenges faced by the ship's outrageous crew during decisive and important sea battles.</p>

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	<p><b>Canadian Military Heritage Museum, Brantford:</b> Southern Ontario's largest military museum houses collections from the War of 1812 to the present day and features artifacts from the army, navy, air force and restored vehicles.</p>
<b>Must Sees</b>	<p>The <b>Niagara Escarpment</b> as it curves its way through this region, together with its many waterfalls and the Bruce Trail which is the finest hiking path in Ontario.</p>

<b>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</b>	<p>Hamilton was the host of Canada's first major international athletic event, the first Commonwealth Games (then called the British Empire Games) in 1930.</p> <p><b>Canadian Football Hall of Fame, Hamilton:</b> With a collection of over 30,000 Canadian football artifacts including trophies, helmets, playing equipment, game and record balls, jerseys, sweaters, flags, banners, photographs, films and videos, this is a must-see for any true football fan.</p> <p><b>Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum, Oakville:</b> Located on the famed Glen Abbey Golf Course and home to the Canadian Open Trophy, The Canadian Golf Hall of Fame celebrates the game – today and yesterday.</p>
<b>Outdoor Adventure</b>	<p>Discover knockout nature in Hamilton Halton Brant! Home to the Grand River, the Niagara Escarpment, the Bruce Trail, dozens of breathtaking waterfalls and miles of shimmering shorelines - Hamilton Halton Brant's true Canadian landscapes are the perfect backdrop for outdoor adventures. Whether you're an experienced outdoor adventurer or an eager new explorer, it's never been easier to connect with some of Canada's most important geography in a whole new way. Amazing hikes, paddles, pedals and climbs await.</p> <p>Spend less time driving and more time doing with an adventure in Hamilton Halton Brant. Check out <a href="http://www.ourtruenature.ca">www.ourtruenature.ca</a> for spectacular outdoor ideas. For instance - bring along a GPS or smartphone with a geocaching app and take part in a modern-day scavenger hunt!</p> <p>Imagine seeing the first bald eagles to hatch on Lake Ontario's Canadian shorelines in over 50 years. You'll find them nestled between Lake Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment at the Royal Botanical Gardens' Cootes Paradise. This offers access to a 320-hectare river-mouth marsh, glacial plateaus, 16 creeks and 25 kilometres of shoreline through its 18- kilometre trail system. The Marsh Boardwalk provides access to the Spencer Creek Delta, one of the largest creek deltas on Lake Ontario.</p>

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	<p>Or, for instance - as one of southern Ontario's last glaciers slowly began to melt about 13,000 years ago, the impact of the dissolving ice on stone created a series of fascinating geological features that include sinkholes, disappearing streams, caves and valleys. Visit the Eramosa Karst to see what is believed to be the largest number of these unique karst features in any protected area in the province!</p> <p><b>Eramosa Karst Conservation Area</b> features trails, boardwalks and bridges to encourage exploration of these unique geological formations - including a natural dolomitic limestone bridge and Ontario's tenth largest cave. Bring your binoculars too - Eramosa Karst Conservation Area is also a feeding area for threatened bird species, including the bobolink and the chimney swift.</p> <p>Spend a day exploring at <b>Crawford Lake Conservation Area</b> and discover just how intertwined the studies of geology, archeology and history can be. Crawford Lake is a "meromictic lake" which means that the layers of the water do not mix. With a basin that's deeper than its surface area, the waters of Crawford lake are rarely, if ever, disturbed by wind or temperature changes. This lack of mixing creates radically different environments for organisms to live in. It also means that the annual layers of sediment at the bottom of the lake provide an accurate record of the human and natural history of the lake and surrounding area that goes back hundreds of years.</p>
<p><b>Golf</b></p>	<p>There's a host of excellent golf courses dotted throughout the region. Here's just a few:</p> <p><b>Apollo Valley Golf Club</b>  2462 2nd Concession W Lynden  9 holes in a country setting. Great for juniors, seniors and beginners. Rentals available.</p> <p><b>Carlisle Golf &amp; Country Club</b>  523 Carlisle Rd L0R 1H0  Offer 27-holes of spectacular golf. This meticulously maintained course will challenge any caliber of player.</p> <p><b>Century Pines Golf Club</b>  592 Westover Rd Troy  Challenge this new 18-hole championship golf course re-designed in 2001 in a parkland motif by renowned Architect Ted Baker or relax on the beautiful patio for a cool beverage.</p> <p><b>Chedoke Golf Club</b>  563 Aberdeen Ave. Hamilton  Minutes away from downtown Hamilton and incorporating the scenic Niagara Escarpment, the Chedoke Golf Course features two 18-hole</p>

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	<p>courses that offer fair and challenging layouts.</p> <p><b>Chippewa Creek Golf &amp; Country Club</b>          9639 Chippewa Creek Rd. W, Mount Hope          The layout at Chippewa verges on the spectacular, sculpted over gently rolling terrain, amongst water hazards and through scenic woodlands.</p> <p><b>Copetown Woods Golf Club</b>          P.O. Box 100 Copetown          Copetown Woods Golf Club is home to one of the area's finest Championship golf courses and an elegant Victorian style Clubhouse.</p> <p><b>Glancaster Golf &amp; Country Club</b>          555 Glancaster Road Mount Hope          This par 71 course is a challenging 6,200 yards over gently rolling terrain, with bunkers and water coming into play on many holes.</p> <p><b>Hamilton Golf &amp; Country Club</b>          232 Golf Links Road Ancaster          The Hamilton Golf and Country Club is a private 27 hole championship golf course, established in 1894.</p> <p><b>Heron Point Golf Links</b>          2787 Dunmark Road Alberton          Heron Point has played host to several Canadian Tour events, including the 1997 Canadian Masters won by Mike Weir at 18 under par.</p>
<b>Fishing</b>	<p><b>The Grand River</b> offers excellent fishing opportunities, and is home to over 80 different species of fish which represent over 50% of all the species found in Canada.</p>
<b>Horse riding</b>	<p><b>Conestoga River Horseback Adventures</b>          Trail rides, sleigh and wagon rides, camps, lessons and parties. Family owned and very friendly. <a href="http://www.horsebackadventures.ca">http://www.horsebackadventures.ca</a></p>
<b>Hiking</b>	<p><b>The Bruce Trail</b> is Canada's oldest and longest footpath and it winds its way through Hamilton Halton Brant providing the only continuous public access to the rocky cliffs of the magnificent Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. Walk from waterfall to waterfall on a guided or independent hike - with over 100 waterfalls, acres of Carolinian forest and stunning scenic lookouts. The Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment offer "must-see" experiences for hikers and climbers of all abilities.</p> <p><b>Hiking Sites and Trails</b></p> <p>The Bruce Trail          Hilton Falls Conservation Area          Christie Lake Conservation Area          Kelso Conservation Area          City of Waterfalls          Limehouse Conservation Area</p>

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	<p>Conservation Halton          Limehouse Kilns          Country Heritage Park          Mount Nemo Conservation Area          Crawford Lake Conservation Area          Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area          Dundas Valley Conservation Area          Royal Botanical Gardens          Eramosa Karst Conservation Area          Spencer Gorge / Webster's Falls Conservation Area          Greenbelt Walks</p>
<p><b>Cycling</b></p>	<p>Whether you're looking for a smooth cruise around a leisurely loop, or the adrenalin rush of a rocky ride down an ancient limestone ridge, Hamilton Halton Brant has amazing cycling routes, paths and trails just waiting for your two wheels. And now cyclists can cruise the new route inspired by Hamilton's famous Around the Bay road race.</p> <p><b>Cycling Trails and Routes</b></p> <p>Brant Conservation Area          Hilton Falls Conservation Area          Dundas Valley Conservation Area          Kelso Conservation Area          The Hambur          Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail</p> <p>The <b>Waterfront Trail</b> is a perfect (and mostly flat!) path for bikers. For mountain bikers, parts of the <b>Bruce Trail</b> are very challenging. Find bicycle friendly businesses in: Niagara and other Greenbelt Regions including Hamilton, Halton, York, Peel, Durham &amp; Northumberland; plus County of Frontenac. Accommodations, Restaurants, Cafes and Attractions. Click to go to Welcome Cyclists Website <a href="http://www.welcomecyclists.ca">http://www.welcomecyclists.ca</a></p> <p><b>The Bike Train</b> is a fun, economic and environmentally friendly way to enjoy a self-guided biking getaway in Ontario. The Bike Train provides passengers with bikes a convenient roll on, roll off service to the doorstep of Ontarios' premier tourist destinations. Click to go to Biketrain.ca website at <a href="http://www.biketrain.ca">www.biketrain.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Canoeing</b></p>	<p>As well as the Grand River, a Canadian Heritage River, Lake Ontario has as a variety of smaller inland lakes. So Hamilton Halton Brant is a great destination for paddlers! Whether you choose to bring your own watercraft or rent something for the day from an area outfitter or conservation area, it's easy to float your boat in this neck of the woods.</p>

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	<p>Water experiences await you in so many ways - by stand-up paddleboard, canoe, raft, kayak, canoe, or Voyageur canoe.</p> <p><b>Grand River:</b> Cruise through history and spectacular scenery along the Grand – a Canadian Heritage River. Explore the river by canoe, kayak or enjoy a relaxing lunch or dinner cruise in season.</p>
<b>Football</b>	<p>The <b>Canadian Football Hall of Fame</b> is a not-for-profit corporation, located in Hamilton that celebrates great achievements in Canadian football. It is an open to the public institution. It includes displays about the Canadian Football League, Canadian university football and Canadian junior football history. It includes a gift shop and the Hall recently opened a website. The main feature of the Hall is the central portion of the museum where inducted members, each with a metal bust depicting their head, are displayed. There are also featured displays that highlight each Canadian Football League team's history, and an interactive field goal kicking exhibit.</p> <p>The Canadian Hall of Fame officially opened on November 28, 1972. It is located in downtown Hamilton, beside the former Hamilton City Hall and Family Courts Building, which is inside the former Andrew Carnegie library on Main Street, between Bay Street and MacNab Street.</p> <p>The Canadian Hall of Fame is easily identified by the slightly-larger-than-life metal sculpture Touchdown, featuring a successful receiver being tackled. Currently, the Canadian Football Hall of Fame has honoured over two hundred inductees.</p> <p>The Canadian Football Hall of Fame is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is seven dollars for adults. During many months the Grey Cup is displayed in the Hall's foyer. During each Hamilton Tiger-Cats home game the Hall extends hours until game time, though Ivor Wynne Stadium is several kilometres east of downtown Hamilton.</p> <p><a href="http://www.cfhof.ca">http://www.cfhof.ca</a></p>
<b>Running</b>	<p>The <b>Around the Bay Road Race</b> circumnavigates Hamilton Harbour or Burlington Bay. Although it is not a marathon distance at 30kms, it is the longest continuously held long distance foot race in North America. I have had the pleasure of running this race six times now and it's in my Top 10 Races:</p> <p><a href="http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Planning/ChrisTop10Lists/Marathons.aspx">http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Planning/ChrisTop10Lists/Marathons.aspx</a></p> <p>It's also featured on the Travel Show Pinterest site at:</p> <p><a href="http://pinterest.com/TravelShow/races-and-places">http://pinterest.com/TravelShow/races-and-places</a></p>

<b>CULTURE</b>	
<b>First Nations Culture and Heritage</b>	Experience Canada's largest First Nation, the world's first Royal Chapel belonging to native people, a 15th Century Reconstructed Iroquoian

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	<p>Village and one of North America's most popular Pow Wows.</p> <p><b>Six Nations Of The Oakville County Of Brant Grand River Territory:</b> This Iroquois nation located on the banks of the Grand River is home to the Haudenosaunee - the people of the longhouse. Come and celebrate the unique heritage and culture of the people of the Six Nations. The Grand River Champion of Champions Pow Wow attracts over 400 dancers from across North America each July.</p> <p><b>Crawford Lake</b> Conservation Area's 15th Century Reconstructed Iroquoian Village, Milton: This palisaded Iroquoian village offers visitors a unique opportunity to explore two reconstructed longhouses and learn from hands-on displays, exhibits and seasonal demonstrations.</p> <p><b>Chiefswood National Historic Site</b>, Ohsweken: Visit the birthplace and childhood home of Mohawk poetess E. Pauline Johnson. This wonderful historic house and museum features a selection of original furnishings and Johnson family artifacts.</p> <p><b>Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks</b>, Brantford: Built in 1785, the Chapel is the oldest Protestant Church in Ontario and the first Royal Chapel in the world belonging to native people.</p> <p><b>Woodland Cultural Centre</b>, Brantford: The Woodland Cultural Centre is an integral cultural and educational centre within the Brantford and Six Nations communities that protects, promotes, interprets, and presents the history, language, intellect and cultural heritage of the Anishinaabe and Onkwehonwe people.</p>
<p><b>Arts</b></p>	<p>Discover unique collections and exhibits at the Art Gallery of Hamilton, Burlington Art Centre, Oakville Galleries, Brantford Arts Block and Glenhyrst Art Gallery. Catch exciting live theatre at Hamilton Place, Oakville Centre, Sanderson Centre (an historic vaudeville theatre) and Theatre Aquarius. Take in a great concert at Copps Coliseum.</p> <p>Founded in 1914, the <b>Art Gallery of Hamilton</b> is Ontario's third largest public art gallery. The Gallery has over 9,000 works in its permanent collection that focus on three areas: 19th-century European, Historical Canadian and Contemporary Canadian.</p> <p>The <b>McMaster Museum of Art</b>, founded on campus in 1967, houses McMaster University's collection of more than 6,000 works of art, including exhibitions on the historical and contemporary work and the Herman Levy collection of Impressionist painting.</p>

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	<p>The <b>Burlington Art Centre</b> is home to Canada's foremost collection of contemporary Canadian ceramics.</p>
<p><b>Music</b></p>	<p>The Heart of Ontario celebrates song with a symphony of festivals, concerts and shows guaranteed to entertain music fans of all persuasions.</p> <p><b>Hamilton Place/Copps Coliseum, Hamilton</b> Featuring year-round concerts, dance performances and live theatre, Hamilton Place is known for its gorgeous interior and spectacular acoustics.</p> <p><b>Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts, Brantford</b> A downtown Brantford entertainment destination since 1919, the Sanderson Centre's magnificent design and architecture represents a remarkable past and reflects the evolution and growth of heritage and culture today.</p> <p><b>Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, Oakville</b> Enjoy live theatre, dance and music 260 nights of the year at this home of the best local and international live entertainment right in the heart of downtown Oakville.</p> <p><b>Burlington Performing Arts Centre, Burlington</b> Enjoy excellent sightlines and proximity to the stage, world-class acoustics and an intimate connection to the performers on stage at the only freestanding green performing arts centre in Canada.</p> <p><b>Junos 2015</b> The 44th Annual Juno Awards are heading back to Hamilton for the 6th time. Taking place on March 15, 2015 the awards will broadcast live on CTV from the FirstOntario Centre with Juno Week starting on March 9. In 1995, Hamilton was the first city to host the awards in an arena and give music fans access to a live Junos experience</p>
<p><b>Films</b></p>	<p>Hamilton has become a popular destination for the television and film industries, attracting dozens of film and television productions each year.</p> <p>Hollywood actors who have filmed in Hamilton recently include: Don Cheadle, Jeff Daniels, Michael Keaton, Harvey Keitel, Eugene Levy, Dolph Lundgren, Shirley MacLaine, Michael Madsen, Steve Martin, Edward Norton, Chris O'Donnell, Michelle Pfeiffer, Christopher Plummer, Randy Quaid, Tim Roth, Martin Sheen, John Travolta, Mark Wahlberg, Christopher Walken, Ellen Page, Sigourney Weaver, Kevin Spacey, Kelly Preston and Robin Williams.</p> <p>One of my favourite local films is <b>Saint Ralph</b>, a 2004 Canadian drama</p>

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	<p>film written and directed by Michael McGowan. Its central character is a teenaged boy who trains for the 1954 Boston Marathon in the hope a victory will be the miracle his mother needs to awaken from a coma.</p>
<p><b>Museums</b></p>	<p>Hamilton has built on its historical and social background with attractions including the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, the HMCS Haida National Historic Site (Canada's most famous warship and the last remaining Tribal Class in the world), Dundurn Castle (the residence of a Prime Minister of Upper Canada), the Royal Botanical Gardens, the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, the African Lion Safari park, the Cathedral of Christ the King, and the Workers Arts and Heritage Centre.</p> <p><b>HMCS Haida:</b>  She is the last remaining example of the 27 Tribal Class destroyers built for the Royal Canadian Navy, the Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy between 1937 and 1945. It has been said that The Tribals were "magnificent in appearance, majestic in movement and menacing in disposition". Technologically, they represented the most advanced naval architecture, marine propulsion systems and weaponry of their time.  Once, HAIDA was a mighty fighting ship. Today, she is an irreplaceable historic artifact and her significance has been formally recognized by the Canadian Historic Sites and Monuments Board. Not only is the ship historically significant, but she is a cultural asset representing a life style, however transient, of more than a generation of Canadians who served in Canada's Navy between 1943 and 1963. The thousands of men who sailed in Haida represented a total cross section of Canadian society during that period. Today, Parks Canada owns and operates HMCS HAIDA as a National Historic site.  Pier 9, 658 Catharine Street North, Hamilton  <a href="http://hmcshaida.ca">http://hmcshaida.ca</a></p> <p><b>Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum</b>  A living museum featuring the aircraft used by Canadians or Canada's Military from the beginning of World War II up to the present. The Museum's collection includes aircraft that really fly and several that remain on static display and are interactive workshops.  The museum strives to allow the visitor to experience and interact with our displays. One could climb into the cockpit of a real WWII trainer or a real jet fighter, the Avro CF-100. There are interactive flight combat simulators which will surely test the flight skills of any aspiring aviator. The Museum also offers the visitor an educational experience that will take them back through Canadian history. The Museum has interactive video displays, movies, photographs and memorabilia from Canadian</p>

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	<p>History. It's situated adjacent to Hamilton International Airport at 9280 Airport Road, Mount Hope.  <a href="http://www.warplane.com">http://www.warplane.com</a></p> <p>The <a href="#">Bell Homestead National Historic Site</a> in Brantford was the Bell family's first Canadian residence and the place where Alexander Graham Bell discovered the fundamental concept of the telephone in 1874.</p> <p><a href="#">Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks</a> in Brantford is the oldest Protestant Church in Ontario and the first Royal Chapel in the world belonging to native people.</p> <p><b>Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology:</b>  Housed in a 150-year-old Waterworks, this National Historic Site has preserved two 70-ton steam engines and offers various exhibits and special events including Live Steamer Days from May through October. Halton County Radial Railway, Milton: Ontario's first and largest electric railway museum features historic electric railcars operating on two kilometres of scenic track.</p> <p><b>Bell Homestead National Historic Site, Brantford:</b>  From 1870 to 1881, this was the Bell family's first Canadian residence and the place where Alexander Graham Bell discovered the fundamental concept of the telephone in 1874.</p>
<p><b>Festivals</b></p>	<p>Throughout the year Hamilton Halton Brant hosts a number of festivals and special events that have developed a reputation as some of the best in the province. Here are just some suggestions:</p> <p><b>Frosty Fest, February</b>  Brantford's annual winter carnival takes place over Family Day weekend. Enjoy ice carving, horse-drawn trolley rides, figure skating shows, a street midway, free skating and snow taffy!</p> <p><b>Bronte Creek Maple Syrup Festival, March</b>  Fresh Ontario maple syrup begins flowing at Bronte Creek Provincial Park on the first Saturday in March when the park's 1890's costumed interpreters demonstrate how to tap maple trees, make maple syrup and maple sugar. Enjoy wagon rides, pancake breakfasts, maple taffy and more.</p> <p><b>8th Annual Walter Gretzky Street Hockey Tournament, May</b>  Once named the largest Street Hockey Tournament by Guinness World Records (2010), this tournament hosts teams of men, women and</p>

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children of all ages across North America at BHi Brantford. Share in the fun while giving back to the fight against lung disease at this annual fundraiser.

**Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek, June**

Experience the drama, pageantry and excitement of the Battle of Stoney Creek of June 6th, 1813; one of the most important events in Canada's history. Bring the whole family for games, food, demonstrations, musical entertainment, fireworks and the Re-enactment itself.

**Burlington Sound of Music Festival, June**

Canada's largest free music festival features live jazz music of every genre spread out over 10 performance areas throughout Burlington's Downtown and Waterfront.

**Canadian International Military Tattoo, June**

Celebrate the music and pageantry of Canada's military tradition with performances based on an ancient military tradition of stirring music, dancing, pipes & drums and military displays

**Downtown Milton Street Festival, June**

The Downtown Milton Street Festival hosts great live entertainment featuring over 40 performing artists presenting live music, comedy and demonstrations. The special Kidz Zone makes this free festival fun for the whole family.

**Burlington's Canada Day Celebrations, July**

Bring your national pride and explore the abundance of Canadian inspired activities and musical entertainment all day long in Spencer Smith Park.

**Brantford International Villages Festival, July**

The Brantford International Villages Festival offers an exciting cultural experience at over 15 locations, with each festival hall featuring the various ethnic communities of Brantford offering continuous cultural entertainment including music, dancing, unique cuisine and beverages with cultural displays of costumes and history.

**It's Your Festival, July**

This is one of the nation's largest Canada Day festivals and features a diverse range of activities including a Baby Contest, Spelling Bee, Canada's largest birthday cake and more.

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**Grand River "Champion of Champions" Pow Wow, July**

35th Annual Grand River Pow Wow features dancers from across Canada and the US. More than 100 craft and artisan vendors including over 30 food vendors on-site. Everyone is welcome including Bus Tours and Groups. Free Parking.

**Burlington Children's Festival, August**

This festival is all about kids having FREE fun and features great live music, a sandcastle contest, crafts, play areas and more.

**Dundas Cactus Festival, August**

This free family fun Festival runs for three days and includes three entertainment stages, event zones, a parade and over 100 street vendors.

**Winona Peach Festival, August**

This is a family event with something for all ages! From arts and crafts, commercial exhibits, a car show, free entertainment and more food than you can imagine!

**Paris Fair, September**

For over 150 years, this annual event held each Labour Day weekend is truly a jewel in the crown of Ontario Fairs. Enjoy grandstand entertainment, agricultural displays, craft exhibits, livestock shows, midway rides and much more!

**Telling Tales: A Family Festival of Stories, September**

This inspiring free family festival celebrates the best of Canadian children's authors and illustrators in a beautiful historic village - for babies to teens.

**St. George Applefest, September**

Visit one of the Premier Festivals in Ontario. Filled with good food, tons of shopping and on-going entertainment enjoyable for the whole family.

**Rockton World's Fair, October**

The Rockton World's Fair has been a Thanksgiving tradition for over 160 years offering traditional fall fair fun including a demolition derby, midway rides and a spelling bee, as well as pumpkin competition, a pie-making contest and horse-riding shows.

**Fall Into Nature, October**

Celebrate Halton's autumn colours. Enjoy a variety of outdoor experiences including chair lift rides atop the Niagara Escarpment, live

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	<p>music, First Nations dancers, wagon rides, children's activities and more!</p> <p><b>Junos 2015</b> The 44th Annual Juno Awards are heading back to Hamilton for the 6th time. Taking place on March 15, 2015 the awards will broadcast live on CTV from the FirstOntario Centre with Juno Week starting on March 9. In 1995, Hamilton was the first city to host the awards in an arena and give music fans access to a live Junos experience.</p> <p><b>Pan Am / Parapan Am Games 2015</b> Hamilton Halton Brant is proud to be a partner in welcoming athletes from 41 countries to the province in July 2015. In addition to being home to both the Milton Pan Am / Parapan Am Velodrome and the Hamilton Pan Am / Parapan Am Soccer Stadium, our region's accessible public transit options to event venues in Toronto and Niagara make it a great accommodation option for visitors travelling to Ontario for the games</p>
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<p><b>ATTRACTIONS</b></p>	<p>It's easy to get active at challenging golf courses, ski facilities, hiking trails or cycling our rural routes. Sports fans can cheer at speedways, horse tracks or catch sports teams such as the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Hamilton Bulldogs, Brantford Blast and Dundas Real McCoys. Glen Abbey Golf Club, designed by Jack Nicklaus, serves as the home of the Royal Canadian Golf Association and the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame &amp; Museum.</p>
<p><b>Beaches</b></p>	<p>On the Waterfront - Hike the breath-taking <b>Waterfront Trail</b>, and in the warmer seasons, picnic on sandy beaches, make a splash at Wild Waterworks, take a scenic cruise on the Harbour Queen, tour HMCS Haida and sail model boats or skate at Discovery Landing. Boaters can enjoy the lake and stop at attractions on their tour at LaSalle, Bronte, Oakville, Harbour West marinas.</p>
<p><b>Waterfalls</b></p>	<p>Hamilton is called "The City of Waterfall" for good reason. You can explore over 125 waterfalls, including <b>Tews Falls</b>, one of the highest falls in Ontario at over 41 metres. Check this website out for information on the waterfalls of this area: <a href="http://www.cityofwaterfalls.ca">http://www.cityofwaterfalls.ca</a></p> <p>Enthusiast Chris Eklund, assisted by Joseph Hollick and author Rose Keefe, has privately published three books celebrating the waterfalls of Hamilton: <i>The Golden Age of Waterfalling</i>, which consists of a rare photos dating from 1889-1905; <i>Hamilton- the City of Waterfalls</i>, a glossy hardcover volume cataloguing all the waterfalls known at the time of publication, and <i>Winter Waterfall Magic</i>, a photo collection of Hamilton's most scenic falls in their winter coats.</p>

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	<p>I have also included Ball's Falls on my Pinterest board of favourite waterfalls around the world:  <a href="http://www.pinterest.com/TravelShow/waterfalls/">http://www.pinterest.com/TravelShow/waterfalls/</a></p>
<b>Wildlife</b>	<p>Get closer than you ever imagined to over 1,000 exotic birds and animals at <b>African Lion Safari</b>. See native and exotic animals like big cats or raptors at Killman Zoo, Mountsberg Conservation Area, and Twin Valley Zoo.</p>
<b>Parks</b>	<p><b>Outdoor Adventure</b> – Explore over 8,000 unspoiled hectares of conservation land featuring lakes, rivers, marshes, waterfalls, caves and cliffs with 4 conservation authorities in the Region Hamilton, Halton, Grand River and Niagara Peninsula. Enjoy picnics, bird watching, fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, cycling, skiing, geocaching, and rock climbing. The region also boasts hundreds of kilometres of hiking and bike trails for outdoor enthusiasts.</p> <p><b>Kelso Conservation Area</b> is a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts. Indulge in a swim at a sandy beach, fish for trout in the glistening lake or get energized with some great downhill skiing at Glen Eden Ski and Snowboard Centre. Mountain bikers can test their skills on marked trails on the majestic Niagara Escarpment or hikers can trek the rugged Bruce Trail. You can also rent kayaks, paddle boats and canoes. Hundreds of picnic tables dot the rolling landscape and shelters are available for company and family picnics.  <a href="http://www.conservationhalton.on.ca">http://www.conservationhalton.on.ca</a></p>
<b>Gardens</b>	<p><b>Royal Botanical Gardens</b>          Surround yourself in the breathtaking spectacle of Royal Botanical Gardens, an exhilarating, year-round trip through some of nature's most beautiful work. The Gardens' 1,100 hectares (2700 acres) of cultivated gardens, indoor plant scapes and natural lands provide a 12-month wave of colour, from the lushness of the indoor Mediterranean Garden in January to brilliant poinsettia displays in December. The Royal Botanical Gardens has five geographically separated garden areas.</p> <p>RBG Centre is the headquarters and information centre. Along with a variety of visitor services, RBG Centre includes greenhouses, special collections and floral displays, both indoors and out.</p> <p><b>Hendrie Park (Rose Garden)</b>          Season of interest: May through October          Major horticultural features include roses, medicinal plants, scented plants, lilies, climbers and espaliers, woodland plants and many of our smaller feature gardens.</p>

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	<p><b>Laking Garden</b>  Season of interest: May through October  Major horticultural features include irises, perennials, peonies, daylilies, ornamental grasses and the Heritage Garden.</p> <p><b>Rock Garden</b>  Season of interest: May through October  Major horticultural features include spring bulb display, summer annuals display, flowering cherries, azalea display and many unusual trees and shrubs.</p> <p><b>Arboretum</b>  Season of interest: all year  Major horticultural features include lilacs, rhododendrons, magnolias, flowering shrubs, trees, Ontario native trees and shrubs, conifers, native plants, hedges, dogwoods and redbuds, hawthorns, flowering crabapples and the Maze.</p> <p>Start your visit at the RBG Center, at the hub of the Gardens! Visit the restaurant and gift shop, and catch the free shuttle bus to some of the other garden areas.</p> <p>Open daily 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tel: 905-527-1158  Address: 680 Plains Road West, Burlington  Website: <a href="http://www.rbg.ca">http://www.rbg.ca</a>  For more information from the Travel Show files, go to:  <a href="http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/images/upload/Royal%20Botanical%20Gardens%20Research.pdf">http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/images/upload/Royal%20Botanical%20Gardens%20Research.pdf</a></p> <p>Also visit the carefully restored Gairloch Gardens and Gallery, Erchless Estate Gardens and Glenhyrst Gardens.</p>
<b>Orchards</b>	<p><b>Chudleigh's</b> was established in 1957. Over the years, the farm has evolved beyond 'pick your own fruit' to include children's entertainment, a retail store, a fully licensed restaurant and many exciting events. 3 generations later, they continue this tradition, entertaining thousands of guests each year. Some of the features of the farm include 100 acres of apple orchard with over 28,000 trees - that's 35 continuous miles of tree rows; a children's play area with huge bales of straw surrounding two giant slides, and a giant straw maze. Country lunches are served from July until October out-of-doors, where you can see the beautiful Niagara Escarpment. <a href="http://www.chudleighs.com">http://www.chudleighs.com</a></p>
<b>Historical Sites</b>	<p>Celebrate local history by visiting one of over 20 unique museums including Joseph Brant Museum, Bell Homestead, Dundurn Castle, Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, Westfield Heritage Village,</p>

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Myrtleville House Museum, Oakville Museum at Erchless Estate, Halton Hills Museums, Halton County Radial Railway and Halton Region Museum.

### **Dundurn Castle**

Dundurn Castle is a historic neoclassical mansion on York Boulevard in Hamilton. Sir Allan MacNab, later prime minister of the united Province of Canada between 1854 and 1856, hired architect Robert Wetherall and construction of this stately home was completed in 1835. The 18,000-square-foot house took three years and \$175,000 to build. The seventy-two room castle featured the latest conveniences of gas lighting and running water.

Dundurn Castle became famous all over the country for its grand entertainments. Sir John A. Macdonald and King Edward VII are among those who have been entertained there.

It is currently owned by the City of Hamilton who purchased it in 1900 for \$50,000. The City has spent nearly \$3 million renovating the site to make 42 of the original 72 rooms open to the public. The rooms have been restored to the year 1855 when its owner Sir Allan Napier MacNab, 1st Baronet, was at the height of his career. Costumed interpreters guide visitors through the home, illustrating daily life from the 1850s. It is now designated as a National Historic Site of Canada.

[http://www.hamilton.ca/CultureandRecreation/Arts\\_Culture\\_And\\_Museums/HamiltonCivicMuseums/Dundurn/Dundurn\\_Castle.htm](http://www.hamilton.ca/CultureandRecreation/Arts_Culture_And_Museums/HamiltonCivicMuseums/Dundurn/Dundurn_Castle.htm)

### **Joseph Brant Museum**

Burlington's community museum is a replica of the original homestead of Joseph Brant 'Thayendanegea' (1742-1807). In 1798, the Mohawk and British captain was granted 3,450 acres at the 'head-of-the-lake' (Burlington Bay) by King George III, awarded for his services to the Crown during the Seven Years War and the American Revolution. Built to commemorate Joseph Brant at the urging of the Hon. T.B. McQueston, Minister of Highways in Ontario, and with the help of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, Thayendanegea Chapter; construction began in 1937, with the official opening of the Museum to the public on May 23, 1942.

Over the years, the Museum has added a number of important acquisitions to the collection, including personal artifacts owned and used by Joseph Brant and the Eileen Collard Collection of Historic Costume and Textiles. Committed to the preservation of Burlington's past, the Joseph Brant Museum is a place for exploring a wealth of cultural traditions, issues and ideas that inspire within and beyond our borders.

<http://museumsofburlington.com>

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	<p><b>Bell Homestead</b>          This sturdy homestead was the site of one of the most important scientific breakthroughs in history. On July 26th, 1874, the young Alexander Graham Bell sat in the dale here, in a spot he called his "dreaming place", and pondered the quest for a "speaking telegraph". As he stared down at the Grand River that warm summer day, inspiration struck: Bell grasped the principle on which his most famous invention, the telephone, would work. On a subsequent visit to his parents here two years later, he mounted one of the three crucial public demonstrations that proved the telephone was a practical form of communication. Bell's invention would reshape the world. These momentous events created such affection for this mid-Victorian farm that in 1909 the Bell Telephone Memorial Association purchased the property and deeded it to the Brantford Board of Park Management, for use in perpetuity as a public parkland and memorial of the invention of the telephone in Brantford. The Bell Homestead, as it quickly came to be known, opened its door to the public for the first time in 1910. For a century, the Homestead has welcomed visitors from far and wide. As one of Ontario's oldest historic home museums, it has grown significantly in that time, with three restored historic buildings and an eclectic collection of original Bell family artifacts. Together they tell the story of how a young teacher of the deaf came to invent the telephone.  <a href="http://www.bellhomestead.ca">http://www.bellhomestead.ca</a></p>
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<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Shopping</b>	<p>With its collections of distinct downtowns, Hamilton Halton Brant is a great destination for holiday shoppers looking to escape the chaos of the mall and find truly unique gifts. There's also a fantastic range of holiday programming sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit. With unique shopping districts in picturesque downtowns offering quaint shops and galleries, to premier shopping malls and destination stores such as IKEA, Mountain Equipment Coop, and the Hide House, you'll find everything you're looking for and more.</p>
<b>Markets</b>	<p><b>Ancaster Farmer's Market</b>          272 Wilson St. East Ancaster          The Ancaster Farmer's market has an abundance of the seasons best local produce with a large section grown as nature intended.</p> <p><b>Hamilton Farmers' Market</b>          55 York Blvd. Hamilton          There are rows of excellent product filling the Farmers' Market. From farm fresh product to coffee and donuts, each market day is a remarkable sight that attracts regular customers and tourists alike.</p>
<b>Casinos</b>	<p><b>OLG Slots at Flamboro Downs</b> features 750 slot machines. A complimentary shuttle is available from Downtown Hamilton. Hours of</p>

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	operation Monday to Wednesday 9 am to 3 am, Thursday to Sunday 24 hours.967 Highway 5 W.Hamilton
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CUISINE	
<b>Food</b>	Local farms produce many delicious seasonal products displayed fresh at markets, farms and roadside stands. Well known farms that do tours include Chudleigh's, Springridge, Dymont's, Lindley's, William Dam Seeds and E.D. Smith Cherry Farm. There are numerous farmers' markets open in season in the area. The area also boasts three wineries: Puddicombe Estate Farms, Ridge Road & Scotch Block all offering tours and tastings There's Nichel Brook, Camerons and Trafalgar breweries, and over 1,000 dining establishments, plus numerous culinary-themed events for Foodies to enjoy.
<b>Wine</b>	Hit the wine trail in Hamilton, the gateway to <a href="http://www.winecountryontario.ca">Niagara's wine country</a> . <a href="http://www.winecountryontario.ca">http://www.winecountryontario.ca</a> . Local wineries include the award-winning <a href="#">Ridge Road Estates</a> and <a href="#">Puddicombe Estate Farms &amp; Winery</a> , ideal for a fall outing with the whole family thanks to weekend events such as the Country Wine & Harvest Festival and Halloween Ho-Down. See also the separate Chris' Travel Notes for Wine Country Ontario at: <a href="http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Destinations/Canada/ONTARIO/OntarioWineCountry.aspx">http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Destinations/Canada/ONTARIO/OntarioWineCountry.aspx</a>
<b>Restaurants</b>	Located in the heart of Burlington's downtown Restaurant district, <b>The Martini House</b> is a place where creations of the finest cuisine and an inviting atmosphere harmonize. <a href="http://www.martinihouse.ca">http://www.martinihouse.ca</a> Try dinner at <b>Quatrefoil Restaurant</b> in Dundas, featuring contemporary French cuisine. <a href="http://www.quatrefoilrestaurant.com">http://www.quatrefoilrestaurant.com</a>

MORE INFO	
<b>Brochures</b>	Call the numbers below or pick up brochures from one of the many tourist offices in the region.
<b>Websites</b>	<a href="http://www.theheartofontario.com">www.theheartofontario.com</a> <a href="http://www.tourismhamilton.com">www.tourismhamilton.com</a> 1-800-263-8590 <a href="http://www.halton.ca">www.halton.ca</a> 1-866-4HALTON <a href="http://www.brant.ca">www.brant.ca</a> 1-888-250-2296  Connect with Hamilton Halton Brant on Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/TheHeartofOntario">https://www.facebook.com/TheHeartofOntario</a>  Follow Hamilton Halton Brant on Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/heartofontario">https://twitter.com/heartofontario</a>

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