



Filming in the City of Hamilton

Introduction

Hamilton, Ontario has become a very popular destination for filmmakers from all over North America and the world. The City offers hundreds of unique filming locations and attracts dozens of film and television productions each year. Some of the notable movies and television series filmed in Hamilton include *The Incredible Hulk*, *West Wing*, *Man of the Year*, *Four Brothers* and many more.

What is my first step if I am interested in filming in Hamilton?

The first thing you should do before filming in the City of Hamilton, whether on public or private property, is to contact the City's Film & Television Office. Staff will be able to clearly explain the process of getting started including what you need to know regarding the City's rules and regulations for filming. Staff will go over the City's Film By-law (09-179) and its accompanying policy and help answer any questions you may have.

The Film By-law was established to provide a framework for all forms of filming (except for press purposes) which might occur in the

City of Hamilton. It specifically states that no filming shall take place without a valid filming permit issued by the City of Hamilton and it goes further by laying out some of the requirements to attain and to keep this permit.

What is the process for getting approval to film in Hamilton?

City staff will circulate all Film Permit Applications to appropriate staff and any external parties as necessary depending on the extent of the filming request. This circulation and notification process may take ten business days (or more if a road closure is requested).

What paperwork do I need to complete to film?

You will need to complete the following documents (all are available online or at our offices):

- A Production Information Sheet;
- Provision of Insurance Certificate as specified;
- A Film Permit Application Form for each location; and
- Signing of the Release and Indemnity Form (as provided by the city of Hamilton);

Depending on the details of your particular production, City staff may require additional approvals or paperwork.

Are there any regulations for using special effects and stunts?

The use of guns, gun-fire, explosives, bomb mock-ups, flash powder, detonators, flammable liquids/materials and the filming of dangerous stunts require notification of and approval from the appropriate authorities, including Hamilton Police Services and the Fire Department. Paid Duty Officers (ERU Officers) and Emergency Medical Services Personnel are required on set for the detonation of pyrotechnic special effects and dangerous situations. All costs associated with these filming activities, including any clean-up, are at the expense of the Production Company or applicant.

What could some of the other possible requirements be?

Additional requirements may include approval for road closures, lane closures, parking, pyrotechnics, etc.

Do we have to notify residents or businesses in the area where we are filming?

The production company may be required to notify residents and the local business community (specifically the City's Business Improvement Areas) in writing five (5) business days prior to the start of filming. To find out where the Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) are located, you can view maps online at www.investinhamilton.ca/business-improvement-areas/business-improvement-areas.html. The Director of each of the BIA's where you are filming should be one of the main points of contact.

What are some key areas to consider that will help reduce any impacts on the general public?

Noise: Make sure you abide by the City's Noise By-law. The Noise By-law covers things like the location of silent areas (i.e. hospitals), operation of machines, sound levels, barking dogs etc.

Lighting: Lighting for filming should be orientated away from neighbouring residences.

Generators: All generators used on streets or in public areas should be equipped with silencing attachments.

Night Filming: Filming cannot take place in residential areas between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. without proper notification to residents.

For more information contact:

Film & Television Office
Economic Development and Real Estate
Planning and Economic Development Department
City Hall
71 Main Street West, 7th floor
Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 4Y5

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 905-546-4233 or 1-800-868-1329
Email: film@hamilton.ca
Website: www.hamilton.ca/film

