



Hamilton

COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Council
DATE:	February 5, 2026
SUBJECT:	Hamilton Winterfest Program Update
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Ryan McHugh Manager/Acting Director, Tourism and Culture Division Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan McHugh".

This communication update is to provide information about Hamilton Winterfest, a festival featuring free and affordable cultural and recreation events and activities from January 31 – February 16 (Family Day), including:

Community Events

Dozens of community partners organize events from ice skating to concerts, workshops, exhibitions and more at indoor and outdoor venues across the city.

Signature Events

Each weekend of Winterfest will feature a signature event.

On February 7, Frost Queens, in partnership with the House of Adam & Steve, returns for a 4th year with both all-ages and 19+ shows featuring some of Hamilton's hottest drag performers, presented in the Studio Theatre at Theatre Aquarius (190 King William St).

The Valentine's Day weekend features a series of events at the Cotton Factory (270 Sherman Ave N), kicking off on Friday, February 13 with A Night of Art – Art Studio Tour.

On February 14, Hamilton Aerial Group's La Nuit D'Hibernation offers a cabaret style performance event featuring mask, shadow puppetry, song, and aerial dance, hosted on the 3rd floor and Love Bites: A Valentine's Dinner prepared by Jonny Blonde takes place at The Mule Spinner (11 Lansdowne Ave).

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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On Sunday, February 15, the Treat Yourself Market takes over the space before the Family Day Art-stravaganza closes out Winterfest on the holiday Monday, February 16.

Winterfest Family Day Art-stravaganza

Explore the Cotton Factory Monday, February 16 for a variety of free and affordable exhibits, activities and programs, including musical, dance, story-reading, and a family friendly rave, as well as the McMaster Mobile Planetarium.

Smörgåsbord

A 5-day event hosted at Hamilton's Magnolia Hall, Smörgåsbord offers creative workshops, dance parties, live music, and a buffet of family-friendly fun over the long weekend. Taking place from Thursday, February 12 to Monday, February 16 at the beautifully-restored hall located at 115 Hunter St W.

Please share via social media and channels and Ward newsletter.

Contact

For more information about events, dates and locations visit hamiltonwinterfest.ca or contact Ryan McHugh, Manager of Tourism and Events by email at Ryan.McHugh@hamilton.ca or by telephone at (905) 546-2424 Ext 4132

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

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