

FRIENDS OF THE PARKETTE  
Simcoe Tot Lot  
Bay and Strachan Streets  
Hamilton ON



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## PRESS RELEASE

The Simcoe Tot Lot at the corner of Bay and Strachan Streets in Hamilton is in a prime location, situated directly opposite to the most beautiful park in the city (if not in all of southern Ontario), **Bayfront Park**, with its Waterfront Trail, Macassa Bay Yacht Club and postcard views of Burlington Bay. The Simcoe Tot Lot adds to and enhances the entrance to Bayfront Park and features a view that ties the city to the waterfront.

The Tot Lot also enjoys a spectacular view of sunsets over the Hamilton Harbour.

In 2012, the City Councillor for Ward 2 wanted to sell this one-acre parkette to developers. Local residents felt strongly that the beautiful entrance to Bayfront Park was in jeopardy, so they stepped up and created a petition with more than 1000 signatures. Since then, through the assistance of the Jamesville Community Hub, a connection was made with a group from the Chinese Community who had received a \$10,000 grant from the 2013 Ward 2 Participatory Budget to place a garden near the Bayfront. Councillor Farr approved the garden going into the Simcoe Tot Lot.

And so the **Sunset Cultural Garden** was born.

With donated services of Candy Venning (landscape architect) and Simon Mangan (landscaper), both of **Venni Gardens**, the Sunset Cultural Garden has expanded from a small perimeter garden to complete landscape design for the Parkette.

The central feature is an installation of poetry compiled through submissions from many individuals and community groups and resulting in 12 poems in different languages, including Chinese, Romanian, English, Korean, Arabic, Somali, Gujarati, Sicilian, Michif, German, Spanish and Filipino.

We are also very proud of our partnership with the **Hamilton Mundialization Committee**, who have established a partnership with the Sunset Cultural Garden and the **Cities of Nanning and Jai xing, China**. Each city, along with the Hamilton Mundialization Committee itself, will be donating a magnolia to the garden - in Chinese culture a magnolia symbolizes nobility and a love of nature.

The Friends of the Parkette have also partnered with **Neighbourhood Action Strategies** to create the central 'plaza' and poetry installation; and with **Evergreen City Works** to place native indigenous plants in the more than 3000 square feet of garden (all planted by volunteers!). For garden maintenance, there are also plans to create a responsible rain catchment area, to avoid using city water.

Concrete benches have been donated by **Liuna Local 837** and **Mohawk College** and each magnolia will be planted behind a bench to provide shade and a peaceful resting spot that looks out over Bayfront Park and enjoys some of the most exquisite sunsets in the City.

Our goal is that the Sunset Cultural Garden will become a lasting and beautiful addition to the City of Hamilton, celebrating our neighbourhood's diverse cultures, with appeal both for the local and city-wide residents plus a draw for Chinese tourists and, indeed, tourists from all over the globe who are visiting Bayfront Park.

### **LAUNCH PARTY**

To celebrate the completion of the garden, we have received a Pan Am grant for our launch party, called **Bloomin' June**, which will take place **SATURDAY, JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>** from **3 to 5pm** at the Sunset Cultural Garden, corner of Bay and Strachan Streets. There will be poetry readings, multicultural dancers, ceremonial tree plants and a ribbon cutting ceremony.

We hope you can attend.

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### **DONORS/PARTNERS**

- THE WELCOME INN - - the Friends of the Parkette have partnered with the Welcome Inn, who provide bookkeeping services and through them we have charitable status and can provide a charitable receipt to donors
- EVERGREEN CITY WORKS – providing \$5000 grant for indigenous plants
- CHINESE COMMUNITY – members of the Chinese community have donated \$10,000, their grant from the Ward 2 Participatory Budget, as the start up funds for the Sunset Cultural Garden
- NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION STRATEGY – NAS is donating \$9500 to the Sunset Cultural Garden to pay for the central 'plaza' and poetry installation and to the pathways throughout the parkette
- LIUNA Local 837 – have donated 4 concrete benches; and are building 2 more
- MOHAWK COLLEGE – worked with LIUNA Local 837 on building the benches
- HAMILTON MUNDIALIZATION COMMITTEE – coordinated our link with the Cities of Nanning and Jai xing and have donated \$500 for a Magnolia
- CITY OF NANNING, CHINA – have donated \$500 for a Magnolia
- CITY OF JAI XING, CHINA – have donated \$500 for a Magnolia
- NORTH END NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION – have worked diligently with the Friends of the Parkette to engage and inform the community
- JAMESVILLE HUB – Brandon Braithwaite of Jamesville Hub has been invaluable in offering administrative and other expertise, meeting weekly with the Friends of the Parkette for the past 9 months
- ALNAN ALUMINIUM Co. Inc. – in partnership with Kromet International Ltd. have donated \$5000 for a steel sign, 16ft x 3ft
- KROMET INTERNATIONAL LTD. in partnership with Alnan Aluminium Co. Inc. have donated \$5000 for a steel sign
- ALLIANCE CONCRETE – build of all pathways and the central installation at a reduced price
- HAMILTON BUILDERS – gravel pathway screening at reduced price; donation of stones for "Donor Walk"
- MUSEUM OF STEAM AND TECHNOLOGY – donated herbicide to garden
- NOT SO HOLLOW FARM – providing Ontario native wild-type plant species
- PAN AM GAMES – The Friends of the Parkette applied for and received a \$1500 grant for their Garden launch event.











