

Alex Bonenfant Waterfall Presentation





We are blessed to have over 100 waterfalls in Hamilton's city limits.

Hamilton has been nicknamed the "waterfall capital of the world" as a result.

Hamilton Issued Dozens Of Tickets To People Breaking Rules At Waterfalls Last Week

Residents are being reminded not to hike up the falls.

 **Patrick John Gilson**
Toronto Staff Writer

May 18, 2021, 10:40 AM — Updated

[This story was fact-checked](#) 



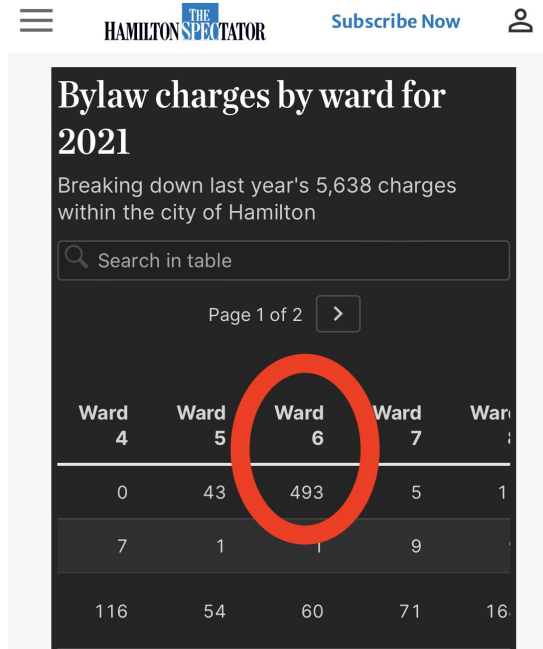


Park-related bylaw charges in 2021 (Enter prohibited area)

Ward 6 has Albion/Buttermilk Falls

Ward 14 has Chedoke Falls

Ward 15 has Smokey Hollow



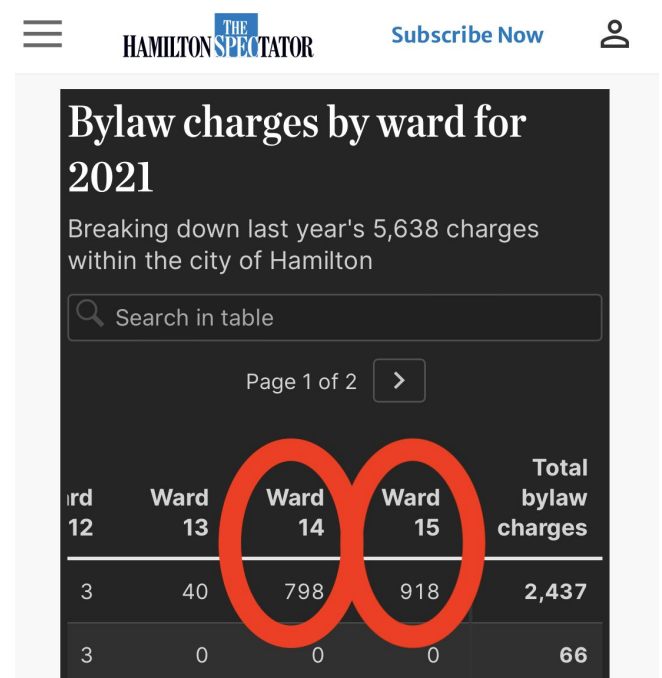
Bylaw charges by ward for 2021

Breaking down last year's 5,638 charges within the city of Hamilton

Search in table

Page 1 of 2 >

Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
0	43	493	5	1
7	1	1	9	
116	54	60	71	16



Bylaw charges by ward for 2021

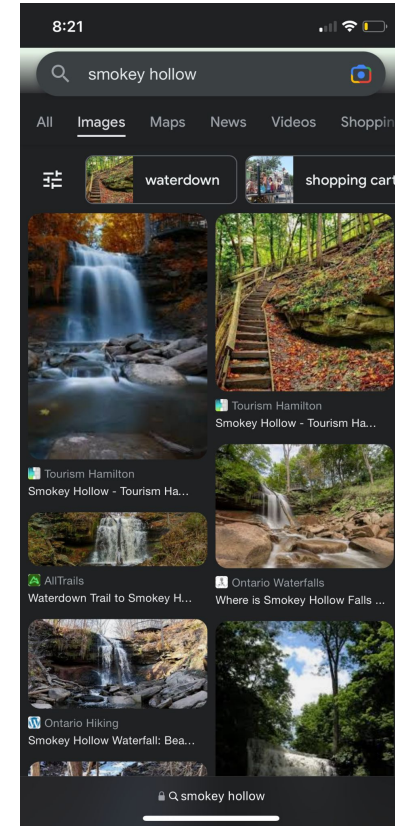
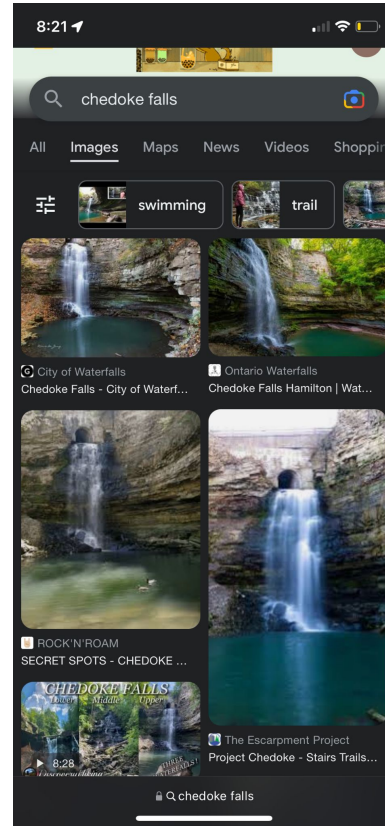
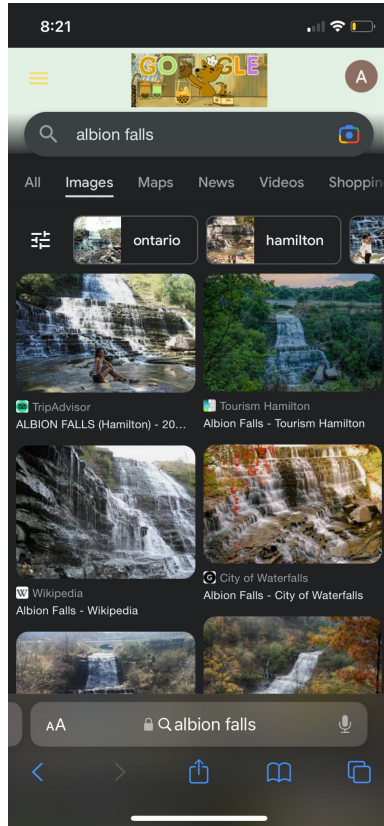
Breaking down last year's 5,638 charges within the city of Hamilton

Search in table

Page 1 of 2 >

Ward 12	Ward 13	Ward 14	Ward 15	Total bylaw charges
3	40	798	918	2,437
3	0	0	0	66

Google searches for Albion/Chedoke/Smokey Hollow





[Redacted Name]

As far as the stairs ... I have been safely visiting Albion Falls for 35 years and have never had an issue. There is a well worn trail to the bottom. Yes, it's not accessible for everyone but if you are physically fit and wearing decent hiking shoes it's really not that tough of a hike. My daughter has been there dozens of times since she was 4 and even helped with the illuminations.

Like Reply 4y



[Redacted Name]

I've been down to the falls, since I was a baby. Thankfully I was able to bring my son and nieces down there before it was Blocked off. Walking down there with 2 dog's, a toddler with help from my husband and we never has any accidents.

Like Reply 50w



[Redacted Name]

Nice! People should be allowed to enjoy the falls! We went all the time in years past and I'd like to go again!

Like Reply 4d



[Redacted Name]

I'd like to get back down there myself 🙄


Like Reply 4d



Petition I created to stop blocking waterfall access

Stop blocking access to Hamilton's popular waterfalls!



 [Alex Bonenfant](#) started this petition to Mayor Fred Eisenberger and [15 others](#)

Waterfall adventurers wanting to get to the bottom are being viewed as criminals in the City of Hamilton.

Hamilton is blessed to have more than 100 waterfalls within the city limits, and gets the well-deserved nickname "Waterfall Capital of the World."

Unfortunately, the natural wonders have recently received more visitors than the areas could handle, and rope rescues, especially at Albion Falls and Spencer Gorge became more frequent, and sadly, there were more deaths.

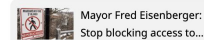
The city had a perfect opportunity to adapt to the new conditions, such as adding trails, safe viewing platforms to the top/bottom, and implementing reservation/paid systems to control the crowds, which would raise funds to

2,607 have signed. Let's get to 5,000!



 **At 5,000 signatures,** this petition is more likely to get picked up by **local news!**

-  Julie Weisensee signed 23 hours ago
-  Nicole Weisensee signed 1 day ago



 [Share on Facebook](#)

 [Send an email to friends](#)



 [Send a message via WhatsApp](#)

 [Tweet to your followers](#)



 [Copy link](#)

A screenshot of a mobile news article. At the top, it shows the time 8:27, signal strength, Wi-Fi, and battery icons. Below that is the 'THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR' logo and a 'Subscribe Now' button. The main image shows a waterfall with people and a 'NO TRESPASSING' sign. Below the image is the text 'HAMILTON REGION' and the article title 'Petition to 'stop blocking access' to Hamilton waterfalls gains momentum'. The article text reads: 'Oakville student says Hamilton should make waterfall access safer, not block it'. At the bottom, it says 'By Kate McCullough Spectator Reporter' and 'Mon., July 12, 2021 | 3 min. read'. There are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Email, LinkedIn, and Print. The website URL 'thespec.com' is at the very bottom.


City of Waterfalls FB Group Poll




 **Alex Bonenfant** created a poll in **Hamilton - The City Of Waterfalls.** ...
February 12, 2022 · 

Do you prefer viewing waterfalls from the top or the base?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top	10% >	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Base	90% >	

Add poll option...

 4 64 Votes 8 comments

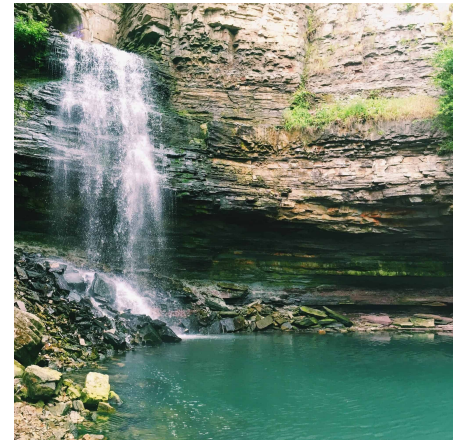
 Like  Comment  Send



Albion/Chedoke from top
(legal view)



Albion/Chedoke from bottom
(currently illegal)





Negative Is Positive

It's the plethora of negative oxygen ions generated by the crashing water that produces the positive effect. Invisible and unnoticeable as they're tossed into the air, the negative ions are incredibly powerful. Breathe 'em in and it's like recharging your personal batteries. You feel immediately refreshed—you may even feel euphoric. The higher the concentration of negative ions, the better you feel.



Blog Categories

- ✓ Country Tips and Resources
 - ✓ Swiss Alps
 - ✓ Swiss cities
- ✓ Swiss Alps Feature
- ✓ Swiss City of the Month
- ✓ Switzerland By Activity
 - ✓ Rail
 - ✓ Sightseeing
 - ✓ Photography
 - ✓ Hiking
 - ✓ Snowshoeing
 - ✓ Food
- ✓ Other

Archives

- ✓ October 2021
- ✓ September 2021
- ✓ July 2021

Cost of the bylaw enforcement last year



Extra enforcement to continue through 2022 near Hamilton water...



WATCH LIVE

WATCH LIVE: Funeral for former Ontario lieutenant-governor David Onley

Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger notes that the pilot program is funded, at a cost of just over \$360,000, from the tax stabilization reserve, “we’re not looking for new money for this, were going to existing reserves to fund it for one more year.”

Safe Infrastructure vs. other options

- Albion Falls' stairs are a great start for safer access, but for multiple waterfalls it can be costly and take a long time to build.
- Guided/self guided tours allow controlled access to the base every couple weeks, and is much cheaper than building infrastructure. This does not punish the hikers that used to hike down there with no issues.
- Can be first piloted at Albion Falls, and if the program is successful expand it to other falls like Chedoke.

- Hikers that are in good physical shape, have proper knowledge of the hazards in the area, as well as have proper hiking equipment are less likely to require a rescue, than an inexperienced hiker with flip flops
- Keeping tours every 2 weeks ensures the environmentally sensitive area doesn't become a victim of overtourism

The Crack at Killarney, another hike with similar terrain to Hamilton's waterfalls



What I learned from 2021-2022 when the enforcement pilot was running:

- If the program stays the same, expect people to continue ignoring signage, and bylaw struggling to keep them out.
- “If you do what you’ve always done, you will get what you’ve always gotten.”
-Tony Robbins