



# Presentation to: City of Hamilton General Issue Committee

April 19, 2022  
Presenter: Vic Djurdjevic



## Brief introduction

- NTEC moto is EI2I – Education will inspire which will lead to Innovation
- NTEC was formed in 2014 to bring Nikola Tesla to Hamilton
- 2015 – Council approved Nikola Tesla Blvd moto was “Put Tesla on the Map” because of the Tesla Connection to Hamilton’s become the “Electric City”
- 2016 – Nikola Tesla Boulevard became a reality though NTEC fundraising campaign that put “Hamilton On the World Map”



- NTEC Tesla Blvd fundraising exceeded goal and costs
- Excess funds went to awards and scholarship for students
- Hundreds of awards to Bay Area Science & Engineering Fair (BASEF)
- Hundreds more to Grade 8 – HWDSB
  - Every school with grade 8 receives the Nikola Tesla award
- 5 x \$10,000 scholarships at McMaster University



**ALL CURRENT FUND RAISING IS DEDICATED TO STUDENT AWARDS**



- **Bill 293 – Nikola Tesla Day Act passed by Ontario Legislature led by MPP Tom Rakocevic. NTEC was major backer of the bill and Hamilton's History figured very prominently in the Legislature**

## **Coming up**

- Awards to Schools
- Wine and Cheese
- July 10<sup>th</sup> – Nikola Tesla Day
- 2023 Tesla Electric City Festival
- Later this year Public Art Project to be installed and dedicated



# Public Art Project Hamilton the Electric City, Nikola Tesla & the Five Johns

<https://www.hamilton.ca/things-do/arts-music/public-art/hamilton-electric-city-public-art-project>



## Brief hiccup here

- NTEC felt that the Project would miss the mark on telling the three elements of the story
  - Nikola Tesla
  - Hamilton the Electric City
  - The Five Johns

Issue resolved, agreement reached with staff.



- NTEC is planning a Wine & Cheese to announce the winner of the Public Art project at the Cataract Building (1<sup>st</sup> Building in Hamilton to have AC Electricity.

(Tentative June TBD, 2023)

Hamilton  
1<sup>st</sup> building with  
Hydro  
Cataract Power  
Co. Ltd  
366 Victoria Ave N





## Planning to hold a Dedication of Public Art on site

- target date **November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, on the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of Decew I Power Generating station that send power to Hamilton





July 10<sup>th</sup> , 2023

**NIKOLA TESLA DAY**



July 10<sup>th</sup> , 2022

**NIKOLA TESLA DAY**

on Eve of the day, NTEC would like to bring a Tesla Coil in front of City hall to demonstrate the spectacular power and light show

Source:

Hamilton Spectator  
August 26, 1898

# POWER TURNED ON

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Cataract Company's Powerful Machinery  
Set in Motion at Decew's Falls  
Yesterday Afternoon.

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The Current Reaches Hamilton and  
Makes Things Lively at the  
Sub-Station.

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Volts, Numbering 22,000, Are Converted  
to 2,400 Volts—The Start Was  
Most Successful.

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Yesterday was an important day for the directors of the Cataract Power company. It marked the near completion of the company's plans for supplying city business men with power for their works and factories. Out at Decew's falls—33 miles away—were gathered representatives of the company and Manager Leyden, and the big ma-

chinery was set in motion without a hitch. The water from the Welland canal was turned into the penstock, and 200 feet below the big turbines revolved and set the generators in motion to turn out electrical power and send it along the wires to Hamilton.

At the city end—in the sub-station on Victoria avenue north—yesterday afternoon were waiting a small party of interested citizens, among them John Patterson, J. Moodie and J. Moodie, Jr. At 4 o'clock the power flowed into the two transformers and a 30 horse power motor, giving ample indication that the work so far was a success. From 4 to 10 o'clock the power continued, the visible evidence, besides the motor, being an immense star inside and a maple leaf outside the building, both in incandescent lamps, and an arc lamp.

The power being brought from the generating station is 22,000 volts, the highest potential known in Canada. By means of the two transformers this is reduced to 2,400 volts for city use. When all the connections are complete the power will be carried from the transformers along ducts in the floor of the station, through which air is blown by a fan. From there it will be carried to the wires, and into the premises of those who have purchased power. The company's biggest customer is the Hamilton Electric Light and Power company, and the Cataract managers will get their lines into the works as soon as possible. They hope to have everything in working order within a few weeks.

The power at the Victoria avenue station will be turned on again this afternoon.

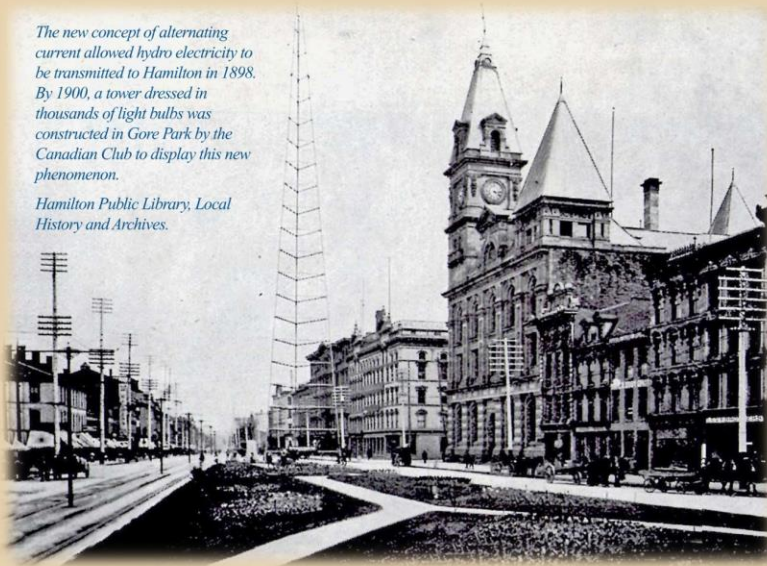
It is intended to have a formal opening of the works as soon as things have been fixed up in ship-shape order.

# HAMILTON: THE ELECTRIC CITY

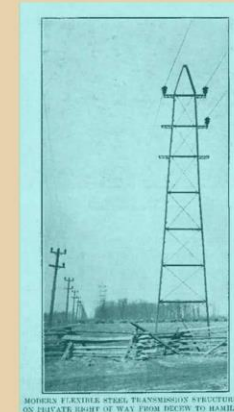


*The new concept of alternating current allowed hydro electricity to be transmitted to Hamilton in 1898. By 1900, a tower dressed in thousands of light bulbs was constructed in Gore Park by the Canadian Club to display this new phenomenon.*

*Hamilton Public Library, Local History and Archives.*



From the beginning of the 19th century, settlers were attracted to this region by the power of water cascading over the Niagara Escarpment. But it was not until 1896 that five Hamilton businessmen known as "The Five Johns" (John Dickenson, John Gibson, John Moodie Sr., John Patterson and John Sutherland), had the foresight and courage to invest in the new concept of hydro-electric generation and transmission. Backed by the economic strength of the Bank of Hamilton and technical advice from the Royal Electric Company, they formed the Cataract Power Company. With water drawn from the Welland Canal, inexpensive hydro-electric power was generated at DeCew Falls and transmitted 27 miles (43 kilometres), an unheard of distance, to a power sub-station on Victoria Avenue. Thus, Hamilton became the foremost electrified city in Canada and achieved world leadership in electrical power development.



[www.archives.org](http://www.archives.org)



The Cataract Power Company evolved into the Dominion Power and Transmission Company in 1907 with head offices at the Hamilton Terminal Building (seen at left), which became the hub of one of the country's most extensive interurban electric railway systems offering service to Brantford, Dundas, Oakville and Grimsby. The horse-drawn Hamilton Street Railway was one of the first to adopt electricity.

A port city like Hamilton with major railways, combined with abundant electrical power, attracted many new manufacturers such as Westinghouse, Otis Elevator and numerous cotton/clothing companies. Hamilton was dubbed the "Manchester of Canada". True to the vision of its electrical entrepreneurs, the city's population and economy expanded dramatically. As a symbol of that growth and prestige, a 100 foot (30.4 metre) lighted tower was constructed in Gore Park (1900 - 1923), inspired by the Eiffel Tower of the 1889 Paris World Fair.

*Postcard ca. 1907 showing artist's conception of proposed Hamilton Terminal Station. The glass-covered bay area to the left of the building was never built.*  
[www.hamiltonpostcards.com](http://www.hamiltonpostcards.com)



Hamilton Historical Board  
City of Hamilton  
2013



Hamilton



**August 25, 2023**  
**125 Anniversary of the Arrival**  
**of Power to Hamilton**  
**Let Celebrate this occasion**



# The Tesla Electric City Festival

## Sunday September 24, 2023

### Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology

# TESLA ELECTRIC CITY FESTIVAL



FEATURE:  
TESLA SCIENCE FAIR

HAMILTON MUSEUM OF  
STEAM & TECHNOLOGY



900 WOODWARD AVE.

HISTORY • INVENTION • INNOVATION • FUN • FOOD • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • MARKET PLACE • MAKERS • DEMONSTRATORS



# The Tesla Electric City Festival





**The Tesla Electric City Festival**  
**Sunday September 24, 2023**  
**Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology**

**Request :**  
**Council approval for the use of the facility**



None of this would have been  
possible without the dedication  
of this City Council

**Thank You for your support**



## Ask of City council

1. Approve the use of Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology – Sept 24, 2023 for the Tesla Electric City Festival
2. Request Tourism to participate and promote the Celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hamilton as the Electric City
3. Authorization for Tesla Coil Display in front of City Hall July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at dusk