

For Immediate Release
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Art Gallery of Hamilton is pleased to introduce
Access AGH
a special Touch Tour programme for individuals with vision loss

October is **Art Beyond Sight Awareness Month** and the Art Gallery of Hamilton takes great pleasure in joining this important celebration by welcoming new audiences to the Gallery. **Beyond Sight** is an international initiative to call public attention to the need for and benefits of making art and visual culture accessible to people with vision loss and other disabilities.

Throughout the month of October, AGH is pleased to offer **Touch Tours** for pre-booked groups allowing a broader audience to experience art in new and innovative ways. **Access AGH** is a new initiative that will be more fully explored in 2009, but in honour of **Art Beyond Sight Awareness Month**, the Gallery is thrilled to introduce it for this special event. **Touch Tours** are available for student and adult groups of up to 15 people, and will focus on two to three specially selected works of art.

Members of the general public who are interested in experiencing **Access AGH** have two opportunities to take part in the **Touch Tour** programme: **Tour Day, Sunday, October 12 at 2:00 pm** and **Family Fun Day on Sunday, October 26 at 2:00 pm**. These tours are open to all – regular exhibition admission fees will apply. Admission is \$12.00 for adults, \$10.00 for students and seniors, \$5.00 for children (ages 6-17) and free for children under 5 years. AGH Members receive free admission.

At these two opportunities, participants will interact with one of the AGH's most well-known works, *Horse and Train* by Canadian artist Alex Colville. Specially prepared "touch boards" paired with a visual description will bring this painting to life for visitors. Using their sense of touch, participants will also interpret the sculpture *Stonecutter*, created in 1898 by Belgian artist Constantin Meunier. Finally, an experience of sound-based work by Canadian contemporary artist Pascal Grandmaison will round out the tour.

Visitors will be invited to wear blindfolds throughout the tour and will gain an appreciation for the **Art Beyond Sight** experience.

For further information, please contact Laurie at 905-527-6610 ext. 272 or by email at laurie@artgalleryofhamilton.com.

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