



Art Gallery
of Hamilton

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Hamilton Strong with the AGH

Anonymous donor allows the Art Gallery of Hamilton
to open its doors for free this summer



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Now, more than ever, the mental and emotional wellness of Hamiltonians must be protected and nurtured. That is why the Art Gallery of Hamilton is offering free admission for all visitors from Canada Day to Labour Day as part of its *Hamilton Strong* initiative. Free admission during July and August was made possible by the generosity of a private donor.

"Hamilton Strong is about standing in solidarity with our fellow Hamiltonians, who have supported us throughout our 110-plus years," says Shelley Falconer, President and CEO at the Art Gallery of Hamilton. "A generous donor has stepped forward, allowing us to waive our admission fees during the summer months and provide a place for wellness, healing, reflection, and community."

Current AGH Members will automatically receive a 2-month extension on their membership, and anyone who purchases a year-long AGH membership in July or August will receive an extra two months at no additional charge.

"We become stronger when we are united during difficult times like these," says Falconer. "*Hamilton Strong* is for everyone – those who are experiencing financial insecurity, those who are swept up in the anxieties of political instability, or those who simply need a safe haven from the craziness of the world."

Medical professionals around the world are now prescribing visits to museums and art galleries to help support people's mental well-being. When mental health is improved, many related physical ailments – from high blood pressure to migraines – often see improvement as well. A visit to the AGH may be just what the doctor ordered.

A summer visit to the Gallery provides an opportunity for visitors of all ages to refresh and rejuvenate. Whether one is seeking solace from the world's problems or an opportunity to experience art, the AGH stands ready to help people to find a better headspace.

Visitors can experience the various exhibitions at the AGH – including *Helen McNicoll: An Impressionist Journey*, *Taking Root: Recent Acquisitions*, and *The Shape of Curiosity* – completely free of charge. From the Gallery's permanent collection, pieces by celebrated artists like the Group of Seven, Tom Thomson, Emily Carr, Norval Morrisseau, and Alex Colville, are also on view. From classical to contemporary art, the AGH offers something for everyone.

Families with small children can enjoy playing in the Irving Zucker Sculpture Garden – which features remarkable works by artists like Barbara Hepworth and Keith Haring – or they can enjoy fun games and art activities in the family-friendly AGH Creative Lab.

Although admission is free until Labour Day, donations are always welcome to help support AGH exhibitions and programming. The Gallery is extremely grateful to the private donor who made *Hamilton Strong* possible, as well as the many other donors and partners who support the AGH throughout the year.

Photos for use in an article can be downloaded [here](#).

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About the Art Gallery of Hamilton

Founded in 1914, the Art Gallery of Hamilton is the oldest and largest public art gallery in southwestern Ontario. Its permanent collection, which is focused on historical Canadian, International, and Contemporary art, numbers more than 11,200 works and is recognized as one of Canada's finest. The AGH is a vital creative hub and centre of lifelong learning that enables people of all ages to enrich their lives by gaining a deeper understanding of art.

For more information, interview requests, and images, please contact:

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