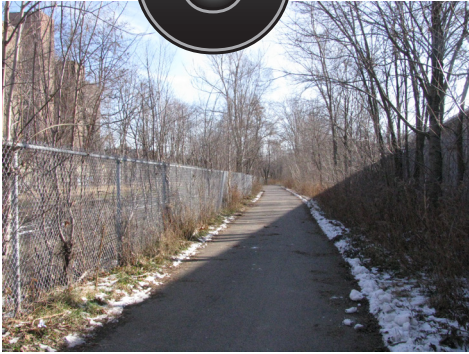


STINSON FOCUS

Stinson Walk



Photo credits:
Diane Girard & Linda Matthews



StinZine

Issue #009 :: February 2016
A publication by the Stinson Community about Stinson



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STINSON EYE SPY FEATURE

Where Have You Seen This Before?



#2
Answers hidden in this issue

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome back, Stinsonites!
In this issue, we have tried to address what Stinson is doing to create a Complete Streets Neighbourhood. Complete Streets is a big idea that takes a lot of work, and this issue is far too small to do the subject justice. However, if you're interested in improving Stinson's streets, please contact us for more information on how you can get involved in making our streets safe, clean and attractive for all users. Email us at: stinzine@stinsoncommunity.ca, or mail your letters to:

StinZine
c/o: Stinson Community Association
93 West Avenue South
Hamilton, ON L8N 1S1

f t We're Social! For more information and extra content, go to: www.stinsoncommunity.ca/news-magazine

Stamp: This is our handy Info-Stamp. When you see it, you know that there is extra content on the stinsoncommunity.ca website.

STINSON EVENTS PAGE

STINSON 101 OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, February 24th ~ 6:3-8:30 PM
at Central Memorial Recreation Centre
R.S.V.P. via info@stinsoncommunity.ca



SCA & Neighbourhood COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Civic Square:** ACTIVE
- Ice Rink:** subject to weather change.
- Songs From The Bishop:** ACTIVE; now making fundraising plans.
- Participatory Budgeting:** seeking new chair; contact SCA for details.
- Outreach:** ACTIVE
- Fundraising:** NEW! If you want more events in 2016, join now!
- Events:** NEW! Plans under way. Join now!
- Complete Streets:** ACTIVE; we're building a new committee. Join now.
- Beautiful Alleys:** NEW! For more information, search for 'Beautiful Alleys' on Facebook. Tell Carlos Pinho or Brenda Duke we sent you.

The SCA meets every second Thursday of the month at Central Memorial Rec Centre (West and Stinson), between 7 and 9 PM. Come out, meet your neighbours, and get involved. Refreshments served. Child-minding is available; email lsaad@sprc.hamilton.on.ca ages of children

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Five Minutes with: Bryce Huffman

by Erika Morton

So, what would it take to create a mural for a place like Carter Park?

Just ask Bryce Huffman.

Bryce was the winner of a public art contest, after he submitted a proposal to the City of Hamilton for the mural project to be installed at Carter Park.

Bryce was informed about the opportunity through the encouragement of a few kind people. He was hesitant to submit to the contest at first, but thankfully he did.

Bryce's submission will lead to a colourful, vibrant and active mural at Carter Park that we can all look forward to seeing in the spring. You will find it behind the new basketball court, on the wall of the Claremont Access.

But Who IS Bryce Huffman?

Bryce is from Hamilton, and grew up in what we now call the Stadium District. However, he knows of Carter Park, as he took swimming lessons at Central Memorial Recreation Centre when he was a child.

He recalls that the park is actively used for sports, such as kids playing basketball. It seems his memories of Carter Park are well-represented in the mural he created last fall/winter.

Bryce explained that he wanted to keep the mural drawing simple, loose and focused on creating movement. You will find images that include a mixture of sports, nature, and youthfulness captured in the mural.

As a young person within Hamilton's arts community, Bryce has a diverse range of

experience and skills. His arts pathway started with animation drawing, which led to taking illustration at Sheridan, and he also found his way with the arts when he started to enjoy the use of spray paint as his arts medium.

These days, Bryce can be found showing art work at galleries during art crawls, working on other mural projects (McLaren Park and Earls Court are two additional projects he has completed), and he currently works as a tattoo artist at Cottage 13 Tattoo and Piercing (224 King St. West at Caroline St.).

Bryce notes that there is a real growth in Hamilton's arts community and that there can be many opportunities to do projects, such as the neighbourhood murals. He hopes that the Carter Park mural makes the space more inviting and welcoming to the community. He also hopes to see more projects for community and artists to work on together. He mentions that these projects should happen not just downtown, but all over the City of Hamilton.

So, what did it take for Bryce to complete the Carter Park mural?

Well, he notes that he received some advice from another local mural artist, Lester Coloma. As well, there was some thoughtful drawing and re-jigging of his original concept, plus his excitement to see its completion.

Also important were his three space heaters, and long johns were essential too. Bryce's studio for this project consisted of a small

space on John Street without heat, and he worked on this project last winter when we had minus 30 temperatures.

I will admit to having been keen to head back to my warm car after visiting his studio one winter afternoon. I was so impressed by what I saw in the studio, I can only imagine how fantastic the mural will look once it's installed at Carter Park.





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WALKING WITH Maggie

By: Maggie Day-Myron

HAMILTON WENTWORTH INCLINE - part 2

After the successful opening day of The Wentworth Street Incline railway, it continued to be a great success, and was very popular. Not only did it serve as a very convenient transportation system to get people up and down the mountain, it also attracted many sightseers to our neighbourhood. The word soon got around that the views were spectacular, and for most people it must have been an incredible sight when seeing the beautiful panoramic vista of their city (and for most, it was probably for the first time). Even today, when we travel up and down the mountain with ease, seeing Hamilton and all the surrounding area, whether day or night, offers a view to be proud of.

In 1906, to make the most of all these crowds coming up and down the mountain, an enterprising young actor/comedian, George Summers, saw the advantage of the location and took a risk, along with the lease, from William B. Sherman, and opened the Mountain Park Theatre. It had enough room for 700 people, and ran successfully for 11

years. An estimated 73,000 people ascending the Wentworth Street Incline Railway each summer season to attend the open-sided, air-cooled theatre at the top of the escarpment. George and his wife Belle produced, directed and acted in about 150 plays, giving over 1,100 performances, and putting on plays that sold out continually. Their three children, Mable, Hazel, and Raymond all followed their parents' love of the theatre, and became renowned entertainers in the Hamilton area. The Mountain Park Theatre was forced to close down after suffering a fire on December 21st, 1914, and as there was no fire department on the mountain at that time, it sadly burned to the ground. Although George wanted to rebuild, the city would not issue a building permit, so it never reopened. The name Summers Lane is now part of its legacy at Hamilton Place.

Both incline railways (Wentworth and James Streets) made a significant impact for the people of Hamilton, and the early 20th Century proved to be remarkable in many ways for

transportation. Aviation and motorized vehicles were on the horizon, and they changed the way people travelled forever. Horse-drawn carts and carriages were on the way out, along with the incline railway. Proper roads were built over the trails and the escarpment was made accessible to cars, buses and pedestrians. After many years success, it was the popularity of the car, along with the depression, that caused such a drop in people using the railway, and the company went too far into debt. As the city refused to help financially, the incline railway declared itself bankrupt. By the time the Wentworth Street Incline made its last trip on August 16th, 1936, it was estimated that after nearly 40 years, an amazing 20,000,000 trips had been made up and down the line. Attempts by local residents over the next 13 years to get the railway working again were in vain, as the city steadfastly refused to assume the company's debts. The railway was finally dismantled in 1949 leaving only the wooden stairs behind.

The original wooden steps were built in 1903 and had 570 steps. After a rock slide in March of 1983 they were replaced with metal steps just east of the position of the original steps and they

now follow the path of the old East End Incline Railway. There are 498 steps and have become the most popular of the remaining escarpment stairs, with an estimated 2,000 people using them on a daily basis mostly between the hours of 6 am and 6 pm.

The FUTURE? City officials are contemplating the idea of gondolas going up and down the Escarpment and have even added the idea to the transportation master plan (TMP). Having never had the courage to go up the stairs this sounds like a great idea to me.



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DO YOU LIKE TO READ?

I love to read. Maybe you, or someone you know, love to read too.

by Diane Girard

Fabulous concept, the barter system!

If so, did you know that Stinson has 5 free places to access books by either foot, bike or bus? Two are in our midst. Three are close by.

Firstly, there is the HPL (Hamilton Public Library) Community Bus that visits our neighbourhood every Monday from 6 to 8pm on Grant Avenue South, next to the Stinson Street School Lofts, near Alanson (excepting Statutory Holidays). The very friendly staff members are extremely helpful. This is so reminiscent of how I remember my childhood library to be.

If you are internet savvy, you can access, through your account, the catalogue and place a hold yourself and change the default location of Central to the Stinson bus and it will arrive on the next bus visit, if available. Or you can ask the staff who will find it and do all the work for you. Amazing! The HPL evens phone calls to alert you that your request is ready and emails to remind you when to return.

Secondly, there is a new 'Little Free Library' located on the southwest corner of Stinson and West Avenue. It offers a free book exchange to anyone. 'Take a book – Give a book' is a great way to share with your neighbours.

Thirdly, there is the Barton Library at Barton and Milton Avenue, just 3 blocks east of Wentworth North on Barton.

Fourth, there is the Concession Library at the top of Wentworth stairs, Concession and Cliff Avenue, northwest corner, 2 blocks east of Upper Wentworth, for the energetic people looking for some cardio.

Fifth, there is the Central Library, located downtown on York Boulevard between Bay and James Streets on the south side. It is the crowning glory of our library system with its new glass frontage and layout. Check out the massive computer availability, 5 floors of books of every type, huge DVD and Blue-Ray collection, large collections for young and old and historical. I have personally used all of these resources and find that they all have great features to offer.

I am currently checking out various other neighbour libraries as I am accessing the DVD collection more and more. My current favourite is the Stinson Bus. It is a jewel in our midst that needs to be accessed as much as possible. Please consider using it, so we can keep it in our neighbourhood.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SoBi Bicycle Share!

by Ben Babcock

Wow, it's February already. Time to renew my SoBi Bike Share membership!

Hard to believe it's already been a year since signing up.

A few laughed when SoBi launched a year ago, during the height of winter. And SoBi laughed back.

SoBi's rugged design keeps winter at bay. With full fenders, waterproof electronics, non-rusting wheels and an enclosed drive train that means no chain to rust or freeze up, these bikes are winter ready.

Winter riding requires a hat, gloves and a scarf but it sure beats waiting at the bus stop. I'm still out there in the wind and the snow but at least I'm on my way, and that gives me a very warm feeling.

My own bike is now tucked away for the winter. Looking back, I can barely remember the last time I used it. SoBi Bicycle Sharing has turned out to be so handy and carefree that I rarely use my own bike these days.

Because with SoBi, maintenance, repairs and concerns about theft are a thing of the past. When I lock up at a hub and get that 'Thank-you' message, I am carefree. And I don't even have to return home the same way; I can walk, bus, take a cab, or accept a ride from a friend I've bumped into downtown.

With two stations right inside the Stinson neighbourhood and another six stations located just steps beyond at the edges of the St. Clair, Gibson,

Landsdale, Beasley and Corktown neighbourhoods, there are always bikes available.

Two of the stations are located directly beside (Blythe Street, West Avenue) the dedicated bicycle lanes running the width of the Stinson neighbourhood.

The local non-profit company that runs SoBi is always adding new features. My favourite this year is the ability to rent a second bike, on the same account, for the same low price of \$5 per hour.

With my free-to-ride membership and a second rented bike, two of us can head downtown and get there in fifteen minutes for about \$1.25 total cost. For short trips like this, SoBi is even more affordable than taking the bus! That same trip would cost \$5.50 (or \$4.30 using Presto) for two people traveling on the HSR, while a taxi would cost about double that again. So it turns out that SoBi Bike Sharing is an incredibly affordable and convenient way to get around.

For less than the cost of one month's HSR pass you can ride SoBi for an entire year. An \$85 membership allows you an hour of free riding every day for a year. Additional riding time is available at low cost and is billed by the minute, not by the hour, or by quarter hours, but by the minute.

Make this year your year to get back on a bike. Try SoBi and make use of Hamilton's growing bike lane network for a few trips, and you will never look back.

SLOWING DOWN STINSON

by Eleni Jalbout

My family and I recently moved from Toronto to Stinson Street, and are enjoying meeting the people, exploring the streets, and visiting the establishments that make up this diverse neighbourhood we now call home. However, living right on Stinson Street, we have growing concerns about street and traffic safety that exceed those concerns we had living in bustling downtown Toronto.

My specific concerns stem from Stinson being a main two-way traffic vessel that has a long, straight-away stretch between Victoria and Erie streets. I hope to address this as a new resident, with the help of other Stinson residents. My goal is to either have the City of Hamilton put a stop sign in at Stinson and Emerald, or speed bumps between Victoria and Erie. Either of these would go a long way in calming traffic on this busy street that consists of a large number of families with young children who walk to and from school.

I can tell you that as a parent, I am worried about my children's safety on this street. The speeds with

which many motorists – and even city buses – speed along Stinson is simply unacceptable. The speed motorists are gaining is attainable due to a lack of speed bumps or adequate stop signage, as well as a lack of speed limit signs between Victoria and Erie.

Stinson Street is a great street on which to live and raise children, but a lot can be done to make it safer. We have options on how to address slowing down Stinson, which will benefit everyone in this neighbourhood.

Who can get involved in slowing down Stinson? Obviously the members of this community are the key to voicing their concerns on speeding buses and cars, as well as offering viable solutions for the speed factors. There are plenty of bike lane signs on Stinson, but no mileage stating a speed appropriate for a residential zone.

If residents raise their voices, Councillor Jason Farr can play a vital role in giving the city the push needed to make our beloved neighbourhood safer.

Is a **Mess** Always a Bad Thing?

by Linda Matthews

Certainly not if you happened to order this delicious dish at Rebel's Rock Irish Pub. Although owners Kate and Troy specialize in traditional Irish fare, the original "Dawn's Mess," named after the daughter of a regular at Rebel's Rock, was added to the menu and has morphed into many popular variations including curry, chicken and cheese. Be sure to ask Kate how this dish originated next time you are at Rebel's Rock.

All foods served at Rebel's Rock are freshly prepared onsite where Kate personally creates all of the rubs, sauces and gravy, etc. from scratch. This allows her to provide dishes that are gluten-free and shellfish-free upon request.

Originally from Toronto, Kate and Troy took a leap of faith, leaving other occupations to relocate to Hamilton in 2000. They were drawn in by the

charming character of the house located at 537 King Street E. where they have created a cozy, relaxed eatery.

Come in, sit awhile. Enjoy live music most Saturday evenings along with Tuesday blues and jazz nights, then come back to an open jam session on Sundays after 3pm. Check the website for dates and times.

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, be sure to visit Rebel's Rock for a taste of true Irish!

Mama Kate, as she is lovingly known by staff and patrons, will be serving up a selection of specialties, including Guinness lamb shanks, specialty stews, and their famous fish and chips. To celebrate the occasion, Rebel's Rock will be hosting Irish dancers from Graham School of Dance, throughout the day.

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