WINTER 2021

HOUSINGMATTERS

bringing you what matters about your housing

Welcome BACK TO 500 MACNAB ST N!

The building, also known as the Ken Soble Tower, officially reopened on September 24, 2021 with a ribbon cutting event headlined by Hamilton's Mayor Fred Eisenberger and local MPs. The building (146 units) has been retrofitted and modernized to provide high-quality, affordable housing for seniors.

The Honourable Filomena Tassi, Minister of Labour, said the Federal government invested in the project because it met the objectives of "helping seniors live well, and in dignity, creating more affordable housing and achieving ever-higher levels of sustainability." Tenant occupancy started in September and will continue until the end of year.

Originally built in 1967, 500 MacNab is the oldest high-rise multi-residential building in CityHousing Hamilton's portfolio. At 18 storeys and more than 80,000 sq.ft., it is one of the largest EnerPHit projects in the world, meaning incredible thermal comfort for tenants, low operational costs and minimal climate impacts.

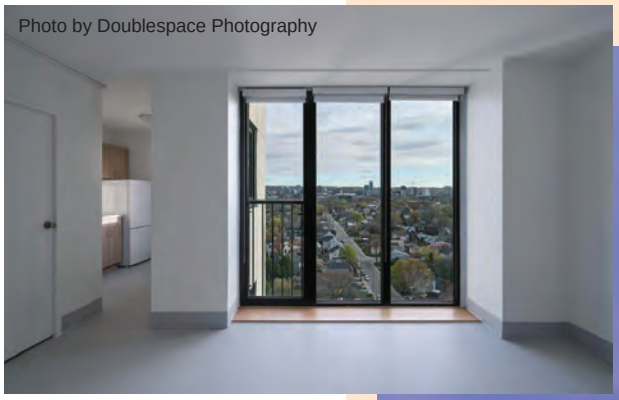


Photo by Doublespace Photography

Welcoming tenants back to 500 MacNab is one of the biggest milestones for CityHousing Hamilton this year. The project is one of the most ambitious social housing transformations in the country, paving the way for the nation's aging housing supply to secure a healthy, resilient future for thousands of Canadians.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Accessible

- 20% of all units are barrier-free, including all common areas and outdoor gathering spaces.

Efficient

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 95% and total energy consumption by 75%.
- Triple glazed windows.
- Designed for a changing climate using 2050 temperature projections to test thermal comfort in all seasons.

Modern

- New plumbing, ventilation for fresh air supply, fire alarm system, modernized electrical and more sprinklers for fire suppression.
- New kitchen, bathroom and finishes in all units.

Photo by Doublespace Photography

MESSAGE FROM MONIQUE TAYLOR, MPP

COVID-19 has challenged our community for the past two years, and there has been a disproportional impact on those who are seeking housing. This has not been an easy time for our community members and many have experienced economic hardship at some point during this pandemic. The affordable housing crisis has only been exacerbated during this time, but the staff and volunteers at City Housing Hamilton (CHH) have shown up for Hamilton residents.

CHH has helped more than 13,000 people find affordable and safe housing, and they have consistently fought to maintain these services during the pandemic. I am extremely proud of the work CHH has been doing and to have an organization such as CHH operating here in our community. CHH has continuously supported our residents, and so it is time for us to help support them.

The need for housing is growing in Ontario and in the Hamilton area. City Housing Hamilton cannot continue to support their tenants if they do not have sufficient funding. CHH not only finds affordable housing, but they also run a variety of community programs in partnership with different organizations. Just this past summer, they had great success with their community garden program. With 30 gardeners and 4 volunteers, their joint partnership with First Start Farm, Fortinos and HARPS saw great improvement in the gardens at Vanier Towers. This project produced food for tenants and provided a relaxing green space to enjoy.

CHH needs more funding to keep great community projects such as the community garden program running. Their work is vital to the city of Hamilton, but they cannot continue their fight for affordable housing without the proper funds. As your MPP, I am here to support the CHH, their staff, volunteers and the residents they serve. I hold this organization close to my heart, as they are dedicated to providing opportunities to those who need it in our community. I am truly grateful for all they do, and I will continue to support them and call for more funding so they can keep providing these great services and programs to our community.

Monique Taylor, MPP
Hamilton Mountain

CITY OF HAMILTON

Sam Merulla

COUNCILLOR, Ward 4 - East Hamilton

City Hall, 71 Main St. W., 2nd Floor, Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5
Phone: (905) 546-4512 • Res: (905) 544-5055 • Fax: (905) 546-2535
Email: Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca

"I want to thank you all for your continued efforts in keeping our community safe – keep up the great work."

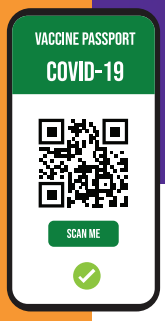
GETTING YOUR VACCINE 'PASSPORT'

Proof of vaccination is now a requirement to access things like indoor restaurants, concerts, gyms and more. There are different ways that you can access your vaccination receipt:

First – make sure you and your loved ones get the vaccine! If you need to get your first or second vaccine please book by calling 1-888-999-6488 or visiting https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/. To find out about clinics happening in Hamilton at https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination.

Do you require accommodation at our clinics or through the vaccine hotline? Please call 905-546-2489 or email askcity@hamilton.ca to identify your needs.

Do you require transportation assistance to attend a vaccine clinic? Please call DARTS at 905-529-1717 and press 0.



Once you have your vaccine you can save proof electronically on your phone or carry a paper copy of your vaccine receipt. If you have a green Ontario photo health card, you can download or print your vaccination receipt by going online to: https://covid-19.ontario.ca/proof-covid-19-vaccination. Call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at **1-833-943-3900** to receive your receipt by mail. This phone service is available 7 days a week from 8am to 8pm in more than 300 languages.

You can also get your vaccine receipt printed and laminated at the library for FREE! Find out more by visiting the library or going online: https://www.hpl.ca/VaccineCertificates.

You will also need to present a valid form of ID when accessing places that require a vaccination receipt. Documents that may be used as proof of identification include:

- Birth certificate
- Citizenship card
- Driver's licence
- Government (Ontario or other) issued identification card, including health card
- Indian Status Card/Indigenous Membership Card
- Passport
- Permanent Resident card

Let's all work together to continue protecting the health and safety of everyone in Hamilton!

Written by Carly Fisher

NEW NEIGHBOURS

We are excited to announce that Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre is coming to 181 Main St. W!

Urban Core is a local nonprofit that has been offering a range of health and wellness programs in Hamilton for over 20 years. They are a strong, innovative leader that focuses on bringing accessible and appropriate healthcare and services to the inner-city community.

The agency has grown and needed to find a larger location. While they work on building a new home, CityHousing Hamilton agreed to rent part of the main floor where our reception and |staff offices used to be.

Urban Core has been renovating the space so they can offer services like primary health care, chiropody services, mental health and counselling services, housing services, health promotion programs, food programs, settlement services, chiropractic clinic, and a dental clinic.

CHH tenants will be able to access many of these services! Urban Core hopes to begin offering services out of 181 Main as early as December 2021 and will be our neighbours until 2023.

For more information on what programs and services will be offered from 181 Main please contact: **905-522-3233** or **connections@hucchc.com**

HAMILTON URBAN CORE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

HUCCHC also offers many other services like

- JD Support
- Housing
- Employment
- Health Settlement
- Other access facilitation and much more!

Website: www.hucchc.com
Ph: 905-522-3233
Email: administration@hucchc.com
71 Rebecca St., Hamilton ON L8R 1B6

WINTER MAINTENANCE HOSE BIBS

For tenants that have an outdoor water faucet or hose bib, be advised that water can freeze inside the tap and pipes. This can damage the pipes and cause them to burst – leading to leaks or flooding in your home. To prevent your hose bib from freezing during the colder months, please remember to:

- ✔ Turn off the valve (inside)
- ✔ Remove the hose
- ✔ Drain the hose
- ✔ Leave the valve open

WINTER MAINTENANCE CLEARING SNOW

Tenants that have walkways and public sidewalks attached to their units are required, by the lease agreement, to clear the snow within 24 hours of any snowfall. After every snowfall, please keep everyone safe by clearing your snow!

WINTER MAINTENANCE EXHAUST VENTS

Do you have a gas meter, exhaust vent or vent opening for your furnace, hot water tank or dryer? Make sure its not damaged or full of snow as this can lead to dangerous carbon monoxide building up in your home.

DURING WINTER AND SNOWFALLS:

Check your gas meter, gas piping and appliance vents often to ensure they are clear of snow and ice:

- ✔ Gently brush off snow or ice with a soft broom or brush.
- ✔ Do not hit, kick, use sharp tools, or apply salt, chemicals or hot water to remove snow or ice.
- ✔ Be careful not to bump your meter when removing snow.
- ✔ Do not pile snow against your gas meter or appliance vents.
- ✔ Call the Maintenance Department for assistance if needed.

PROTECT YOURSELF WITH THE HSC TENANT INSURANCE PROGRAM

Low-cost insurance that covers your personal property, living expenses, and the cost of claims against you in the event of a disaster. Starting at less than $19 a month.

HSC

Why do I need tenant insurance?

Your landlord's insurance only covers damage to the building or property owned by them. It does not cover loss or damage to your property. The HSC Tenant Insurance Program provides:

- Coverage for your personal property if it is lost, damaged, or destroyed because of other insured perils.
- Coverage for additional expenses such as hotel bills, restaurant meals, and moving costs, if you're forced to leave your building.
- Coverage for you or a member of your household if you are held legally responsible for damage to the property of others or injuring other people.

In addition, the lease agreement you signed with your landlord may require you to have tenant insurance.

Coverage At Affordable Rates

Insurance is available in one-year terms. You can pay in full when you first sign-up or pay an initial down payment and then 10 monthly installments. For the Option 1 installment plan, it would be $36.99 initially then $18.49 for 10 months. For the Option 2 installment plan, it would be $48.00 initially then $23.99 for 10 months.

	Option 1	Option 2
Contents Coverage Limit*	$10,000	$20,000
Additional Living Expenses Limit	$2,000	$4,000
Liability Coverage	$500,000	$1,000,000
Deductible on property losses	$500	$500
Total cost for 12 months (tax included)	**$221.91**	**$287.99**

For full policy wording, details, and fees, please visit https://tenant.hscorp.ca.

*Contents coverage is paid on an Actual Cash Value basis. Actual Cash Value is calculated using the replacement cost of insured contents less depreciation for condition, resale value, and normal life expectancy.

How do I get tenant insurance?

It's easy. You can sign up either online or by phone.

1. Visit https://tenant.hscorp.ca or call 1 866 940 5111 (Marsh's Private Client Services).
2. Supply all of the information required (see "Things You'll Need to Have Ready" below).
3. Payment:
   - Annual credit card payment: You pay the full amount in one payment and your certificate of insurance is available immediately.

   - Monthly bank account payments: Payments are automatically deducted from your bank account over the course of the year. Your certificate of insurance is sent to you when the downpayment is received.

Please note: No personal cheques, money orders, or cash payments are accepted.

If you are an Ontario Works client or you receive Ontario disability benefits, your shelter allowance may cover the cost of this insurance. Please contact your caseworker for more information.

Things You'll Need To Have Ready

- Your current mailing address and the address where you'll be using the insurance (if different).
- The coverage option you've selected.
- Payment details (e.g. your credit card or your bank account information including transit, institution, and bank account numbers).

Apply for the HSC Tenant Insurance Program today by visiting **https://tenant.hscorp.ca** or calling a licensed insurance broker from Marsh's Private Client Services at 1 866 940 5111.

HSC

Insurance brokered by Marsh Canada Limited

MARSH

Insurance underwritten by XN

XN WORLDWIDE INSURANCE

STAY WARM THIS WINTER
"SIMPLE TIPS TO STAY COMFORTABLE"

Do keep the area around your heater clear.

Do remove or fully seal and cover your air conditioner.

Do make sure all windows and balcony doors are completely closed.

Do make sure your thermostat is on.

Do wear a sweater, socks and slippers and put an extra blanket on your bed. Sitting? Use a blanket or throw.

Don't block the heaters with furniture or long curtains.

Don't use space heaters; this will result in your heat not turning on.

Don't use your oven. This is a fire hazard and will result in your heat not turning on.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RENT

Starting July 1, 2021, your household income will be determined once per year based on the tax information you file with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). We will use this information to calculate your rent-geared-to-income (RGI) subsidy.

CityHousing Hamilton

Previous Process	Process starting July 1, 2021
Rent is calculated annually and sometimes quarterly	Rent is calculated annually (once per year)
Changes in employment must be reported	Changes in employment do not have to be reported
Recalculations happen whenever there is a change to household income throughout the year	You can request **one** recalculation each year (**only** if your **household income** decreases by *at least* 20%)

YOU MUST CONTINUE TO REPORT THE CHANGES BELOW WITHIN 30 DAYS.

If someone in your household:

- Moves in or out, or if there is a new child
- Starts or stops going to school full-time
- Starts or stops receiving OW or ODSP benefits
- Has a change in their non-benefit income on their OW or ODSP benefits
- Has their income taxes reassessed

In order to keep your RGI subsidy, you must provide a copy of your Notice of Assessment or Proof of Income Statement from CRA. This applies to all tenants, regardless of income.

*****If you received CERB during 2020 we highly recommend that you provide your 2020 Proof of Income Statement*****

All tenants are encouraged to register for a My CRA Account with Revenue Canada.

Every person in your household who is 18 years of age or older MUST file their income tax every year and provide their Notice of Assessment or Proof of Income Statement from CRA.
**People in your household who are 16 and 17 years of age do not have to file taxes if they are in school full-time. They must provide proof of full-time school attendance.*

Help with Income Tax

If you have not done your taxes, there is help! Call the Social Planning and Research Council at 365-366-1767 for more information.

It's Annual Renewal Time!

The Annual Renewal Package is mailed to all households once every year. You must complete and hand in your Annual Renewal paperwork by the date indicated.

We will no longer be retroactively adjusting your rent for late submission of paperwork. If you become ineligible for subsidy and your unit is charged the market rent amount you will be responsible for any arrears accumulated.

If you have completed your paperwork, you will receive your rent letter during the month before your renewal date - even if you submit paperwork early.

Submit your Annual Renewal Paperwork:
BY MAIL: CityHousing Hamilton, 55 Hess St S PO BOX 2500, Hamilton, ON L8N 4E5
BY EMAIL: Email your Tenant Administration Representative
IN PERSON: 181 Main St W, Hamilton, ON L8P 4S1. **Main reception, 3rd Floor** (during open hours) – access from exterior elevator
Drop box, Ground Floor (24/7) – slot located to the right of exterior elevator door

If your building offers on-site hours/drop box this is also a convenient method of submitting paperwork.

If you do not know who your Tenant Administration Representative is or if you have questions, contact CHH Reception: 905-523-8496 ext. 7303
CHHReception@hamilton.ca

PREVENT COOKING FIRES FROM HAPPENING TO YOU

Cooking brings people together; it provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. **But,** did you know that unattended cooking is one of the number one causes of residential house fires in the City of Hamilton? Statistics show that in the past five years, the majority of Hamilton Fire Department responses to CityHousing buildings have been due to cooking related fires/incidents.

TIPS

By following a few kitchen fire safety tips, you can help to prevent these fires:

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire…

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.

Smoking is another leading cause of fires in Hamilton. Smokers should regularly check their furniture for fallen cigarettes or embers, which can smolder for hours before igniting into flames. Make sure to properly extinguish cigarettes and never leave lit cigarettes unattended. Dispose of cigarettes safely in a metal container. Never throw cigarettes over balconies, as this poses a major fire risk.

Smoke alarms save lives!

Practice safe cooking measures

Butt out!

Plan your escape

Test your smoke alarms monthly

HAMILTON
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention
55 King William Street
Hamilton, ON L8R 1A2
www.hamilton.ca/fire

Hamilton

SENIORS' CENTRE WITHOUT WALLS

New Phone Program!
Get connected with older adults 55+

Call 905-973-0891 to sign up
for free trivia, workshops and guest speakers
offered over the phone.

hamilton.ca/seniors

city kidz

City Housing Hamilton Partners up with City Kidz during the holiday season to assist families in need with gifts for their children.

If you would like to donate, please contact:

OFFICE HOURS
Due to COVID-19, our office is temporarily closed to walk-in visitors. Please call to make an appointment first.

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

ADDRESS
601 Burlington St E, Unit A
Hamilton, ON L8L 4J5

Phone: 905-544-3996
Email: info@citykidz.ca

(Re)Entering the Workforce

Are you planning to enter/re-enter the job market?

Do I have the necessary skills?

Do I need to retrain?

What job opportunities are available?

Where can I get help in the community?

Where	When
Hamilton Literacy Council YWCA Bldg. 75 MacNab St. South, Floor 3	Mondays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (8 weeks)

Covid-19 protocols are in place:

- Masks
- Distancing
- Hand sanitizers

Free

Thank you to our funders:

Hamilton
City Enrichment Fund

Call: 905.529.9907 or email: info@hamiltonreads.ca

WHAT IS CYCLING WITHOUT AGE?

OFFICIAL LAUNCH HELD SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

HAMILTON & BURLINGTON CHAPTER

It's a world-wide initiative that gives senior citizens and others who cannot cycle an opportunity to have a safe slow bicycle ride through their neighbourhood on a Dutch built tri-shaw (three wheeled ELECTRIC bike) piloted by trained volunteer guides. This outdoor activity coupled with the company of their volunteer pilot can lead to memory stimulations, active citizenship, the building of new relationships, and connecting older people to their communities. Established in Denmark in 2012, there are now over 2500 chapters, 35,000 pilots, and more than 30 chapters in Ontario alone.

The Hamilton and Burlington chapter of Cycling Without Age was initiated by retired accountant Nancy Gray and her friend from McMaster Jill Axisa. Jill and Nancy have been planning and working on this chapter since June 2018. The Hamilton location of the chapter has become a reality since Tammy Heidbuurt, Director of Business Development and Community Partnerships at New Hope Community Bikes got involved. With generous financial donations from both HOPA and McMaster, CWA Hamilton & Burlington was able to purchase its first trishaw.

Most surprising to the co founders was the immediate reaction from readers of the CBC story. Ten people wrote the next day to indicate their interest in signing up as pilots. Given that its now October, and the cycling season is winding down, these potential pilots will likely complete their on- road training next spring and be ready to ride take passengers then. And that's a good thing as a partnership arrangement with CityHousing Hamilton in underway. CityHousing approached CWA Hamilton regarding their recently re opened their 500 McNab Seniors Apartment building which houses 137 seniors residing right beside the Waterfront Trail. City staff is keen to set this up for those who may be interested in going for rides next spring.

For further information reach out to:

Nancy Gray
Co-founder CA Hamilton & Burlington at

cwahamilton@gmail.com

https://cyclingwithoutageca/hamilton-burlington/

905-399-4965