



It started in 1920, when the City of Hamilton recruited New York landscape architect Robert Anderson Pope to devise a street plan for what was then a largely unoccupied ravine in Hamilton's west end. It set in motion the development of one of the most self-contained, community-oriented neighbourhoods in not just the entire city, but the country.

Following the principles of the popular Garden City architectural movement, which emphasized self-sufficiency and architectural harmony, Pope implemented a sophisticated, decentralized plan that veered away from the traditional North American grid pattern and instead had streets radiating in concentric rings around a central shopping village and includes several parks and schools. Young professionals occupied the first homes in Westdale in 1920, but the wide range of housing options in terms of price and size began to attract a diversity of people. High-quality educational options grew in step with the population, and the relocation of



McMaster University from Toronto to the area in 1930 played a significant role in enhancing both the community's academic ambiance and cultural diversity. The vibrant intellectual and cultural happenings, close-by shops and services and extensive natural charms contribute to what residents view as the ideal neighbourhood, one that ranks among the most desirable places to live in Hamilton.

cultural
diversity

The spotlight's on Education

The area features esteemed public and private elementary, secondary schools and adult learning options. No fewer than four public schools are available for youngsters; private options also abound, including Catholic, Jewish and non-denominational institutions. Westdale High School is in the top five per cent of Canadian secondary schools (Fraser Institute 2001) and it is also the only public Hamilton high school offering a string music program, with a student orchestra and string quartets. Adding to its range of academic options, Westdale High will launch the world-renowned International Baccalaureate program in 2008.

French language programs are prominent in Westdale. Families take advantage of the rich French language programming available through

Hamilton's only Franchopone high school, Ecole Georges P. Vanier (grades 7 to 12). Westdale

High School offers a French immersion stream, making Westdale the only neighbourhood in Hamilton to offer public French immersion programming from senior kindergarten to grade 12 – all within walking distance from the village core.



intellectual
energy

McMaster University is a vital community element that offers a variety of cultural, recreational and academic resources. It's one of only four Canadian universities among the top 100 in the world, according to the Shanghai Jiao Tong University ranking, and is rated one of the best places to work in academia by *The Scientist* magazine.

The Museum of Art houses a permanent collection of close to 6,000 works. It is recognized internationally for its specialist collection of early 20th-century German prints and outstanding European paintings. In addition to temporary exhibitions, there is also Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art including work by Monet, Pissarro, and van Gogh. At McMaster's newly constructed David Braley Athletic Centre, a seniors' fitness program, children's summer camps and hundreds of fitness classes are all available to the public. With more than 1.6 million holdings, McMaster Libraries are available to the public for onsite study. McMaster also runs a free and popular lecture series, houses Ontario's only public planetarium, runs educational programs for local elementary and high school students, and hosts celebrity concerts as well as free lunch-hour student-performed concerts and plays.

Nature and recreation trails abound

for outdoor enthusiasts who delight in the community's walking, hiking and biking trails and captivating natural areas. The Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) are a major draw for nature lovers and include 20km of hiking trails, Cootes Paradise, wetlands, fields, forests and wildlife; and Escarpment Properties, Borer's Falls and white cedar old growth forest. The 32-km Brantford Rail Trail features the beautiful scenery of the Dundas Valley and also crosses part of the Bruce Trail. For a shorter route, there's the paved 7.5-km Hamilton Waterfront Trail, which meanders along the harbour from Princess Point to Bayfront Park, and through the Desjardins Canal with a floating walkway paralleling the boat channel.

Cootes Paradise attracts nature lovers with sightings of deer, beavers and bald eagles in lush, green settings near the water's edge. It was

natural beauty

officially designated a nature reserve in 1927 and is the largest remaining coastal marsh in western Lake Ontario. It is a known birder's paradise with sightings of rare water fowl and songbirds.

Neighbourhood parks and the Royal Botanical Gardens

Westdale and Ainslie Wood's dozens of public and private parks are perfect settings for picnics, playtime and appreciating nature. Featuring hardball and softball facilities, soccer fields, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, playgrounds, indoor and outdoor skating rinks, tobogganing hills, walking and hiking trails, tennis courts, community gardens, an aviary and even a new splash pad at Churchill Park, these parks provide opportunities for year-round outdoor fun. For a deeper understanding of plant life, nature lovers head to the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG), the largest botanical garden in Canada. A living museum of the world of plants, the RBG features 900 hectares of ecologically sensitive natural lands that feature five garden areas and four nature sanctuaries. With seasonal children's day camps, educational programs for school groups and more than 250 courses, workshops and activities offered year-round, the RBG is a prime nature learning centre for people of all ages.

The Cootes Paradise Fishway at the RBG

The brilliant flora and fauna of the largest remaining coastal marsh in western Lake Ontario can be viewed at the Royal Botanical Garden's Cootes Paradise Fishway. This 250-hectare restored wetland sanctuary provides valuable feeding and nesting habitat for a variety of birds, fish, mammals and amphibians. Visitors can watch Fishway staff as they protect the marsh by diverting thousands of big fish, such as carp, channel catfish and rainbow trout, back to Hamilton Harbour for spring spawning. Guided tours feature pleasant shore hikes and fascinating up-close looks at dozens of native fish species.





Resources for Living

The West End offers a wide range of convenient community and neighbourhood resources including public libraries, top-notch daycares, the renowned McMaster University Medical Centre, and several places of worship. An abundance of superior public and private elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools are in the area, within walking distance. Many well-maintained parks, several of which are equipped with sports facilities and one that includes a brand new splash pad, serve as year-round recreational sites. The area is well served by public bus routes and GO Transit, and nearby Highway 403 easily connects visitors and residents to downtown Hamilton, the Greater Toronto Area, Niagara and other communities. Westdale Village's plethora of nearby shops include financial services institutions, a pharmacy, dry-cleaning, a walk-in medical clinic and professional services of dentists, accountants, lawyers and physicians.

The Westdale area has a local grocery store and Ainslie Wood has a new grocery superstore. The City rents community garden plots, which are located near the Aviary, a favourite attraction for children.

Staying fit in the area is as easy as walking, running or biking the area's many local nature trails, working out at McMaster's David Braley Athletic Centre or signing up for one of hundreds of fitness programs such as swimming, dance, karate, yoga and fencing.



Architectural harmony in a community planned for walking

Walks through the tree-lined streets of west Hamilton's six residential neighbourhoods reveal a variety of architectural designs, motifs and features, including Arts and Crafts, Tudor Revival, English Cottage, Colonial Revival, Victory Houses and 50's Contempo. The area's architectural heritage is highlighted by a number of buildings of historical interest, including farmhouses and carriage houses dating back to the mid-1800s, and the George R. Allan School, built in 1927 in a Neo-Gothic style. Westdale Village has attracted the attention of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Hamilton region branch, which hosts tours of this historically significant area.



Westdale Village

At the heart of Hamilton's west end community is Westdale Village, an upscale shopping destination populated by one-of-a-kind shops and frequented by young families, seniors, academics and students alike. Village merchants search the world for the most interesting yet affordable merchandise, and the result is a paradise for discerning shoppers.

A stroll along the tree-lined and pedestrian-friendly streets of the village reveals boutiques with unique décor items, trendy fashion wear, sophisticated and casual eateries, a fine chocolate shop, a gourmet cupcake bakery, independent shoe stores and jewellers, an art gallery, an independent movie theatre with an artistic bent, and more.

Much more than just a shopping district, the village is a site for community gathering, and host to such events as Westtalia, a three-day family street festival loaded with great food and entertainment. Exuding the same small-town charm since 1925, when Canada's first planned community was built, but with the breadth and calibre of shops and services – more than 80 – Westdale Village offers an outdoor shopping experience with European flair.

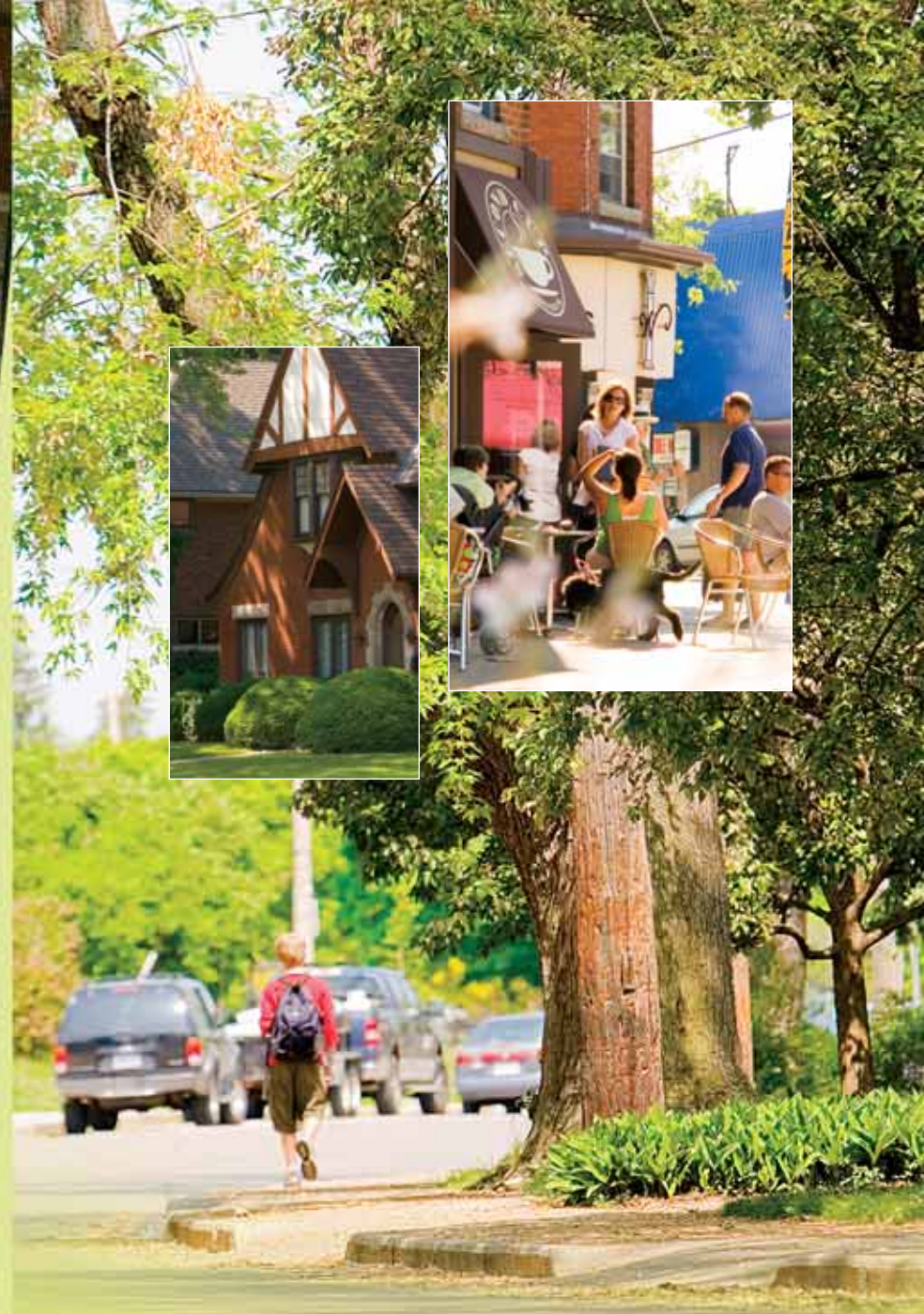


make yourself
at
home

IN THE WEST END

The Campus Town Association is a partnership among the Ainslie Wood/Westdale Community Association of Resident Homeowners Inc., the Westdale Village Business Improvement Association and McMaster University. © Copyright 2007. All rights reserved.

Tel: 905-525-9140, ext. 27305
cta@mcmaster.ca



make yourself
at
home

IN THE WEST END

HAMILTON | ONTARIO