



THE HAMILTON ASSOCIATION
FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF LITERATURE
SCIENCE AND ART
Since 1857



Tiffany Falls photo by Bernadette Ryan

Free Public Lectures

2025–2026

Held in Rm. 1A1, Ewart Angus Centre,
McMaster Medical Centre,
1200 Main St. W., Hamilton, L8N 3Z5

HAALSA 2025–2026

Lecture Series

Saturday, 7:30pm, Sept 13, 2025

On Teaching Art

by Rae Bates

Teaching art is work with a long history. What is the nature of this work today and what are the conditions in which it unfolds? Drawing on a lifetime as a student and teacher of art, Bates will explore what it means to share knowledge. Rae Bates is the founder of Hamilton Studio School, an independent art school providing visual arts learning for adults, youth and children. The third generation in her family to work in the visual arts, she has 25 years of experience painting, illustrating, writing, researching and teaching in Hamilton.

Saturday, 7:30pm, Oct 4, 2025

What Our Buildings Say About Us

by Shannon Kyles

From Indigenous pointing trees through European revivals to sleek modern, our structures reflect what is happening in our culture. Shannon Kyles will explore Ontario's ever-changing public taste in architecture and what has inspired it. She recently released her first book, *The Story of Ontario Architecture: What We Built and Why We Built It*.

CBC Radio's architectural columnist for many years, Shannon Kyles has taught Ontario architecture at Mohawk College for 30 years, maintains a website, ontarioarchitecture.com, and has restored both a Regency cottage and a Georgian carriage house.

Saturday, 7:30pm, Nov 1, 2025

**Canada's Secret
Manhattan Project**

by Gilles Sabourin

Before the famous Manhattan Project on the atomic bomb, a British project nicknamed Tube Alloys was started at Cambridge University, moving to Montreal in 1942. Gilles Sabourin's award winning book, *Montreal and the Bomb*, tells this surprising story of famous physicists, forgotten women scientists, spies and more. He will also present new findings on a subgroup of the Montreal Laboratory located at McMaster University.

Nuclear engineer Gilles Sabourin worked for 30+ years on the safety of CANDU nuclear power plants, including 25 years for Atomic Energy of Canada. He is a member of the ACS (Association des communicateurs scientifiques du Québec) and juries the Hubert-Reeves Prize for Communication in Science.

Saturday, 7:30pm, Dec 6, 2025

**A Perspective on Lithium-Ion Battery
Technologies**

by Gillian Goward

Batteries enable the social media world, polarize our vehicle choices, and offer the elusive promise of storage for intermittent renewable energy (solar **and** wind). Is electrification a climate change solution or a red herring? Will we run out of lithium? Dr. Goward will guide us in examining these very important questions.

Dr. Gillian Goward chairs the Department of Chemistry & Chemical Biology at McMaster and holds the Faculty of Science Research Chair in Magnetic Resonance in Materials for Energy Storage. Her research focuses on lithium-ion batteries, fuel cell and other alternative energy devices. In 2023 she received the prestigious Gerhard Herzberg Award for outstanding achievement in the science of spectroscopy.

THE 25th DR. JOHN RAE LECTURE

Saturday, 7:30pm, Jan 10, 2026

**The Last Ship: Exploring Sir Ernest
Shackleton's 'Quest'**

by John Geiger

Dive into the thrilling tale of the expedition to find Sir Ernest Shackleton's last ship, *Quest*, on which the famous polar explorer died, thus ending the Heroic Age of Exploration. CEO of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, John Geiger had directed the RCGS' role in finding Franklin's ship, the *Erebus*, in 2014. In 2024 he led the team that found Sir Ernest Shackleton's lost ship *Quest*.

Bestselling author of seven books, John Geiger C.M. is a recipient of the Order of Canada among many other honours. In 2015 he co-conceived the *Indigenous Peoples' Atlas of Canada*.

Saturday, 7:30pm, Feb 7, 2026

Phages to the Rescue

by Zeinab Hosseinidoust

Dr. Zeinab Hosseinidoust leads a team of bioengineers in training at McMaster University. She has a patent portfolio on bacteriophage bioengineering built around impactful scientific publications that challenge the status quo. Her team's mission is to create innovative technologies that enable integration of bacteriophages (aka phages, viruses that exclusively target bacteria) as antimicrobials in health care and beyond. In her talk, she will provide an overview of history and status of phage therapy and outline the outstanding challenges. She will present the technologies her team has developed to make phage antimicrobials more scalable, stable, and accessible.

Zeinab Hosseinidoust, PhD, Peng, is Canada Research Chair in Bacteriophage Bioengineering, and Associate Professor in McMaster's Department of Chemical Engineering, School of Biomedical Engineering, The Farncombe Family Digestive Health Research, the Brockhouse Institute for Materials Research and the Michael G DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research. See www.hosseinidoustlab.com/

Saturday, 7:30pm, Mar 7, 2026

Hamilton Harbour's Invasive Round Goby
by Sigal Balshine

What happens when an invasive fish species establishes itself in a highly human-modified aquatic environment? The Round Goby is a small bottom dwelling fish that has had big impacts on Hamilton Harbour and the Great Lakes. Dr. Balshine and her research team explore the effect of this species on Hamilton Harbour's ecosystem and how to manage it.

Dr. Sigal Balshine, a professor in McMaster's Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour, is also an affiliated faculty member of the Department of Biology. Her research centres on evolutionary behavioural ecology with a special focus on sociality, breeding system evolution and anthropogenic impacts on behaviour.

Saturday, 7:30pm, April 11, 2026

Finding Our Future through the Wampum Covenant
by Daniel Coleman & Rick Hill

Two colleagues and friends share their experience of trying to live by the treaty principles of the Two Row Wampum (1610s) and the Silver Covenant Chain (1660s) to navigate the river of life more effectively, increasing the viability of relationships between different worlds. In light of climate change, ancestral knowledge from the European ship **and** the Indigenous canoe must be more thoughtfully engaged. This presentation is our lifeline to each other as individuals and as communities.

Dr. Daniel Coleman (Scots-Irish/Danish Canadian), teacher and writer, recently retired from McMaster's Department of English & Cultural Studies. Rick Hill O.C. (Tuscarora, Six Nations), artist and historian, recently retired as Mohawk College's Specialist in Indigenous Innovation.

Executive Council 2025-2026

<i>Dr. Herb Schellhorn</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Ms. Bernadette Ryan</i>	<i>Past President</i>
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<i>Mr. Patrick Fazari</i>	<i>Councillor</i>
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<i>Ms. Lynne Serviss</i>	<i>Councillor</i>

The Hamilton Association, one of the oldest non-profit cultural organizations in Canada, has encouraged the advancement of knowledge in the community through free public lectures and support for local arts and sciences for more than 150 years and also sponsors the following awards for teens in the Hamilton area in partnership with the Hamilton Public Library and Dundas Valley Orchestra, and at the Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair.

THE MAITLAND BANTING SILVER

QUILL AWARD

- an award of up to \$250 for short fiction by teenage entrants in the Hamilton Public Library's Power of the Pen competition.

YOUNG POET AWARD

- an award of up to \$250 for poetry by teenage entrants in the Hamilton Public Library's Power of the Pen competition.

Find entry details for the Maitland Banting Silver Quill Award and Young Poet Award at <https://teens.hpl.ca/power-pen/>

YOUNG MUSICIAN AWARD

- a \$250 award for excellent performance, administered by the Dundas Valley Orchestra together with the opportunity to perform at a DVO concert. The focus is on musicianship and interpretation, Details at www.dundasvalleyorchestra.ca/
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da VINCI SCIENCE FAIR AWARD

- one or more awards of up to \$250 for students in the Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair. See www.basef.ca/

Information about award winners can be found on the HAALSA website.

The Association is grateful for donations to help continue its work and provides charitable receipts. Forms are available at www.haalsa.org

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**The Annual General Meeting, via Zoom, will be announced on the website.**

**Please check the website for a location map, directions, parking advice, and possible cancellations.**

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