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| **A message from Executive Director of the Concession Street BIA, Cristina Geissler:**In these difficult times, I want each and every one of you to know that we are here for you. Our office will remain closed to the public until it is safe to return but I am fully accessible and will be trying to keep you up to date on the most current resources available.We are all hoping that the government announces funding help for small businesses in the coming days and we will continue to spread the message to support small business in any way possible right now and always. I will continue to fight for you, the business owners who make this area so great. Sending you all love and prayers during this challenging time.**BIA Contact Information:**Cristina Geissler:  concessionbia@gmail.com or 289-933-8899 |

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| Community SafetyAs many of our Concession Street businesses close in response to the COVID19 crisis, we can expect a spike in bad behaviour in our community.  Just last night we saw a rash of tagging between Upper Wentworth and Upper Wellington.  We have already been in contact with Hamilton Police Services and more beat officers and police patrols have been ordered for our area.  We ask that any businesses that remain open to please be extra vigilant to suspicious or unusual activity.  It takes a village – and collectively we need as many eyes on our street as possible.  If you see anything – or suspect that a crime is in progress – please call 911 immediately.  If you seen unusual behaviour you can also call the non-emergency number 905-546-4925.  Our Crime Manager with HPS is Amberlee Woodard.  Please either let the BIA office know or contact HPS directly as soon as you see anything.We are also asking businesses to please leave extra lights on in your shops.  If you are closed, police patrols can more effectively see if anyone is in your space that should not be there.  Safeguard your shop and our community.  It’s a small thing but every bit helps!Bunny HopDue to the COVID-19 situation, the Concession BIA has decided to change our Bunny Hop to an online colouring contest.  We have two versions – one simpler for kids and another more detailed on for older kids.  All folks have to do is take advantage of being home, download the pages from our website, colour and return them to the BIA office (sliding them under the door).  Submission deadline is Saturday April 11th.  Prizes will be gift certificates to our businesses on Concession Street.  All winners will be chosen by our Events Committee.The BIA will purchase gift certificates from as many businesses who want to participate ($10).  We have chosen $10 so the BIA can purchase from as many businesses as possible.  Although $10 will not buy the winner a lot, once business goes back to normal these gift certificates will hopefully act as a motivator to get folks back into our shops and spending again.Streetfest and Sidewalk SoundsIt is unclear what we will be allowed to do with respect to our larger scale events.  Any changes required will be communicated as we have something to share.  All direction will be dictated by the City of Hamilton on the future and feasibility of these events. |

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| Supporting Local Businesses While our business community is resilient and adaptable we know it will be a challenge for all small businesses. We encourage all businesses to:  * Promote your stores e-commerce sites
* Encourage Customers to purchase gift certificates that can be used in the future
* Offer deliveries to the surrounding areas
* Reduce hours accordingly
* Provide pre-order options
* Share your neighbour's posts
* Share the BIA's posts

Below is the latest information we have from the Federal Government with respect to access to financial aide through this crisis:[**https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html**](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html)Help us share us share the message and tag us on your posts @concessionbia with **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram** |

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| Hamilton's COVID-19 Response As part of the City of Hamilton's emergency preparedness planning, they've been working with Hamilton Paramedic Services, hospitals, primary care providers, Ontario Ministry of Health colleagues, and academic institutions. This includes implementing a plan to monitor, detect, and contain and prevent the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The City’s Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been activated and is coordinating preparedness planning to ensure the continuity of essential City services. **All City of Hamilton facilities are now temporarily closed to the public (City Hall, Municipal Centres, Recreation Centres, Community Centres, Libraries.** For a full list of closures and the most up-to-date resources and information specific to the City of Hamilton click the buttons below.   |

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| [**Hamilton COVID-19 Information**](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=82f25d11f3&e=730c079670)  |

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| [**Hamilton COVID-19 Closures**](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=46021cbb56&e=730c079670)  |

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| [**City of Hamilton Twitter Updates**](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=ec4e089bc9&e=730c079670)  |

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| ****Additional Resources***** [Government of Ontario: Provincial Information on COVID-19](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=5f21cb9b80&e=730c079670)
* [Public Health Ontario](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=653c81731c&e=730c079670)
* [Government of Canada: Outbreak Updates](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=17cf4a66bb&e=730c079670)
* [Government of Canada: Risk-Informed Decision Marking for Gatherings](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=5e12475011&e=730c079670)
* [Government of Canada: Travel Advice and Advisories](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=78d2656095&e=730c079670)
* [Public Health Agency of Canada](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=e79d5893a6&e=730c079670)
* [Canadian Chamber of Commerce: Pandemic Preparedness For Businesses](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=0d49a03808&e=730c079670)
* [World Health Organization: Coronavirus Disease](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=a2b8a5ef7f&e=730c079670)
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| ****Ontario Chamber of Commerce - Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit****The Ontario Chamber of Commerce has prepared a Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit for businesses across the province. The document is helpful for considerations such as operational changes and as businesses re-open to new social norms in the coming weeks.   |

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| [**Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit**](https://hamiltoninternationalvillage.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ed993458c2fa35b10c5748e40&id=ff1467c34b&e=730c079670)  |

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| **Our mailing address is:**534 Concession St.,Hamilton, ONL8V 1A6concessionbia@gmail.com289-933-8899[www.concessionstreet.ca](http://www.concessionstreet.ca)    |

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