



Somali Heritage Week

Hosted by the Somali Community in Hamilton

Wednesday, June 25 to Tuesday, July 1, 2025

Kicks Off with a Somali Flag Raising Ceremony

Thursday, June 26, 2025 from 9am to 12pm
Hamilton City Hall's Forecourt
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario



For Immediate Release (Monday, June 23, 2025): The Somali Community in Hamilton is hosting a flag-raising ceremony in celebration of Somali Heritage Week (June 25 to July 1, 2025). This is a vibrant, engaging annual celebration designed to showcase the richness of Somali culture and heritage to the broader Hamilton community.

The flag raising ceremony is a free community event that will take place on Thursday, June 26, 2025, from 9am to 12pm at Hamilton City Hall's Forecourt located at 71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

"This is an opportunity to bring together residents, allies, and supporters from across Hamilton to honour the Somali community's contributions and celebrate our shared values of inclusion and unity," says Somali Community in Hamilton's President and Board Chair Mohamed Abdile.

The event will include remarks from community leaders (Mohammed Abdile, Shamso Elmi, Faisal Hassan and Amani Omar), youth voices (Abdullahi Abdi), City of Hamilton officials, along with cultural performances that reflect the spirit of Somalia.



Mohamed Abdile, President and Board Chair, Somali Community in Hamilton

"Our event is a symbol of the strength of multiculturalism and the contributions of Somali Canadians to the fabric of Hamilton. This ceremony is a lead up to Somali Independence Day and Canada Day which both take place on July 1st," says Somali Community in Hamilton's Executive Director Shamso Elmi.

Somali Heritage Week provides a meaningful platform for celebrating and preserving Somali cultural traditions. This week-long celebration features a diverse lineup of events that highlight the artistic, historical, and culinary expressions of the Somali people. From traditional music and dance performances to film screenings and culinary showcases, each day will offer unique opportunities for education, entertainment, and cultural exchange.

In addition to fostering pride and unity within the Somali community, Somali Heritage Week also aims to strengthen intercultural understanding across Hamilton's diverse population. By inviting all community members to participate, the event encourages meaningful dialogue, builds bridges between cultures, helps break down stereotypes and promotes mutual respect and appreciation throughout the city.

Somali Heritage Week Highlights:

Somali Flag Raising Ceremony

Thu, Jun 26, 2026

9am to 12pm

Hamilton City Hall – 71 Main St W, Hamilton, ON

Basketball Tournament

Fri, Jun 27 to Sun, Jun 29, 2025

6pm to 9pm

St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School

– 270 Locke St S, Hamilton, ON

Somali Festival

Sat, Jul 5, 2025

12pm to 8pm

Central Park – 171 Bay St N, Hamilton, ON

Live performances, traditional cuisine, children's activities, arts, crafts and more.



Somali Heritage Week is more than a celebration; it is a commitment to unity, identity, and cultural pride. Everyone is welcome to take part in honoring and experiencing the richness of Somali culture.

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