

HAMILTON JAMAICA

Helping Jamaica Rebuild

PRESS CONFERENCE

Tuesday, November 4, 2024 at 10:20 am
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

For Immediate Release (November 3, 2025): The Jamaica Foundation (Hamilton), Afro-Canadian Caribbean Association of Hamilton and District, and Hamilton Caribbean Women's Group are joining forces in a coordinated response to the catastrophic destruction caused by Hurricane Melissa. Melissa is the first Category Five Storm ever to hit Jamaica and the most devastating in the country's history. The launch of Hamilton  Jamaica – Helping Jamaica Rebuild, is a coordinated citywide campaign to mobilize donations, partnerships, and local support to aid Jamaica's recovery and rebuilding efforts following the unprecedented devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa.

The campaign launch will be announced at a Press Conference on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 10:20 am at Hamilton City Hall located at 71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario. The Press Conference will take place in the upstairs foyer just outside of the Mayor's office. Confirmed speakers include Mayor Andrea Horwath (City of Hamilton), President Evelyn Myrie (Afro-Canadian Caribbean Association of Hamilton and District), President Winsome Plummer (Jamaica Foundation (Hamilton)) and Chris Garwood (Jamaica Foundation (Hamilton)).

The Jamaica Foundation (Hamilton) began in 1988 when Jamaica was devastated by Hurricane Gilbert. In 1992 Jamaicans residing in Hamilton, led by Ladnor S. DeLisser, then President, decided to celebrate Jamaica's 30th anniversary of independence. Incorporated in 2000 as a not-for-profit Ontario Corporation. Supporting causes from disaster relief, to acknowledging outstanding achievements, to coming to the aid of individuals in distress. Since its inception, it has pledged financial and moral support to the Jamaica National Children's Home for abandoned children in Mona, Kingston, Jamaica which provides life-affirming life skills programs for children. Additionally, it strives to inspire local Jamaicans to participate in their heritage through education.

Hamilton Caribbean Women's Group (HamCar) was founded in 2005 by Jamaican-born Hayley Pantou. It is dedicated to fostering unity, building community and celebrating Jamaican culture in the City of Hamilton. Its purpose is to positively impact the Hamilton community and provide a positive environment for Caribbean women by hosting various events, such as their annual Fish Fry.

The Afro-Canadian Caribbean Association of Hamilton and District (ACCA) is a charitable non-profit organization that was founded in 1979 by early Black immigrants. ACCA has invested in lifting up Black excellence throughout the City of Hamilton. Today ACCA offers youth mentorship and seniors programs and is a strong voice on issues facing the Afro-Canadian Caribbean community in Hamilton. ACCA's creed is Unity, Strength and Progress. Therefore, through its members ACCA strives to provide a vehicle for uniting all African, Canadian and Caribbean people residing in the Hamilton region. At the core of ACCA's values is the belief that all residents have the right to a good life.

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