To book a school visit, contact:

Tara Bursey
Program Coordinator, Children and Youth
(905) 522-3003 x 29 / tara@wahc-museum.ca

Ask us about pairing one of our school visits programs with a program and tour of the Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology!

School Visits Policies:

- We request at least two weeks’ notice for bookings.
- School visits programs are $8.00 per student and free for adult supervisors.
- As a courtesy, please let us know 24 hours in advance if you need to cancel.

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Ask us about pairing one of our school visits programs with a program and tour of the Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology!
WAHC’s mission is to preserve, honour, and promote the culture and history of all working people. Opened in 1995, WAHC is a community museum and arts centre with permanent exhibits, contemporary arts and events.

Our museum amenities include:

- A gallery space that hosts three contemporary art exhibitions a year that address the diverse histories and cultures of working people.
- Permanent galleries that illustrate the histories and lives of workers in Hamilton and across the province through text, images and artifacts.
- A permanent collection of labour history ephemera and objects that tell stories of workers’ histories.
- A large backyard for use during public programs and school visits in the warmer months.
- A studio space for art-making activities for people of all ages.

WAHC’s School Visits program allows children and youth to engage in exciting programs that educate them about the important contributions of working people to our civic, cultural and national landscape.

School visits are 2.5 hours long, and can take place in the morning or afternoon. They include an interactive tour, discussion and an hour in the art studio. Our programs are customizable! Contact us to discuss options; see school visits booking information on the back cover.

Note: Grade levels suggested for each program are based on the Ontario primary and secondary curricula. Each program can be adapted for other grade levels upon request.

ALL FOR ONE, ONE FOR ALL:
Unions 101
Labour History | Social Studies | Career Education | Social Justice | Activism

The role of unions on a local, provincial and national level is something rarely discussed. However, over time, unions have been important advocates for the rights of workers, protecting their health and safety in the workplace and fighting for their economic security.

This program will explore the earliest union activity in both Hamilton and Ontario. It will discuss challenges for unions, as well as battles fought and won, such as the local strikes at Stelco and Westinghouse in the 1940s and the impact they had on Canadian society.

Through discussion, students will tackle some key questions: Why was there a need for unions in the 19th century? What jobs are non-unionized today, and how can unions play a role in community life? How can unions be of help to workers today?

Art Activity: “Student Union Banners”

Grade Level: Secondary
Curriculum Connections:
- Canada and World Studies
  - Civics (Grade 10)
  - Canadian History and Politics Since 1945 (Grade 11)
  - Canadian and World Issues: A Geographic Analysis (Grade 12)

Image: Sam Lawrence, Hamilton c. 1930s. Photo courtesy of McMaster Labour Studies.

Collective action and working collaboratively benefits our workplaces, schools and communities!
Art can be a vehicle for expressing what is important to us and making our world a better place.

**ART/WORK: Art & Social Change**
Visual Art | Art History | Activism
Social Justice

What is labour art? It encourages understanding and appreciation of the overlooked contributions working people make to our society. Examples of labour art forms include songs, buttons and badges, posters, photographs, leaflets and pamphlets, murals and paintings, and often involves artists working in collaboration with workers.

Students will explore how such art can be political and play an important part in protest movements and social change. This program will involve an in-depth, interactive tour of our contemporary exhibition and unpack its relationship to the lives of workers and to social justice issues.

**ART/WORK** is a chance for students to exercise their observational and interpretive skills, while learning how art can be used to engage the community and be a force of positive change.

**Art Activity:** “Protest Poster Art”

**Grade Level:** Secondary
**Curriculum Connections:**
Visual Arts (Grades 9-12)

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**ATWORK, AT HOME**
Local History | Social Studies
Community | Domestic Life | Visual Art

Generally, we think of home and work as two distinct places—one of toil and structure and one of family, recreation and rest. This program explores the connectedness of home and work for working people.

Students will learn about the history of workers’ housing and neighbourhoods in Hamilton’s north and east ends. They will discover how working families in Hamilton turned their homes into sites of work by vegetable gardening, producing handmade goods and renting rooms. Students will also explore how workers made themselves at home at work through “work families,” sports teams, special events and group celebrations.

**Art Activity:** “Assembly Line Drawing” or “Textile Techniques”

**Grade Level:** Primary
**Curriculum Connections:**
- People and Environments: The Local Community (Grade 1)
- Global Communities (Grade 2)
- Living and Working in Ontario (Grade 3)
- Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada 1750-1850 (Grade 3)

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**Image:** Labour Day Parade, Hamilton, c. 1946. Photo courtesy of McMaster Labour Studies.

**Image:** Preparing tomato paste in the North End, Hamilton c. 1930s. Photo courtesy of McMaster Labour Studies.
Immigrants have shaped Hamilton’s neighbourhoods through their customs, culture and work.

**THE WORLD IN A CITY**

**Immigration | Multiculturalism | Identity | Labour History | Local History | Visual Art**

In this program, students will learn the important role of immigration in shaping the history of workers in Hamilton and Ontario. Beginning with a background on WAHC’s historic home, the Custom House, students will learn about waves of immigration to Hamilton and the role of immigrants in shaping the neighbourhoods we live in.

After hearing the true story of a knitting machine brought to Hamilton from Italy and trying their hand at knitting fabric, students will learn about the types of factory work that allowed immigrants to make a living in the 19th and 20th centuries. They will discuss the role of immigration and diversity in our contemporary exhibition.

**Art Activity:** “New Flags” or “Textile Techniques”

**Grade Level:** Grade 6  
**Curriculum Connections:**  
Social Studies  
• Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada, Past and Present  
• People and Environments: Canada’s Interactions with the Global Community

**Image:** Wrecking Crew – James Street Incline Railway Building c. 1947. Photo courtesy of McMaster Labour Studies.

**HAMILTON: THE WORKERS’ CITY**

**Local History | Labour History | Industry | Contemporary Issues | Visual Art**

Ever wondered why Hamilton is called “The Ambitious City?” As work has always played an important role to Hamiltonians, this program will explore Hamilton as an industrial and post-industrial “workers’ city.” After an introduction to WAHC’s historic home, the Custom House, students will learn the trajectory of working class culture in Hamilton, from the rise of the earliest industries in Hamilton’s north end, immigration, the first unions, the strike of ’46 and its hometown hero, Sam Lawrence, to post-war prosperity.

Students will explore the history of factory work, changes in the local job market at the end of the 20th century and the types of work at the forefront of our local landscape today, from small business, arts and culture, education and medicine to steel.

**Art Activity:** “Community Mapping”

**Grade Level:** Grades 8 & 10  
**Curriculum Connections:**  
History  
• Creating Canada, 1850-1890; Canada, 1890-1914: A Changing Society (Grade 8)  
Geography  
• Global Settlement: Patterns and Sustainability; Global Inequalities: Economic Development and Quality of Life (Grade 8)  
Canada and World Studies  
• Canadian History Since World War I (Grade 10)

**Image:** Women Welders c. 1940. Photo courtesy of McMaster Labour Studies.