



PIER 8 USER STORIES

Submitted by
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USER PROFILE 1

HELEN, 11

Student

In late September, students from Ryerson Middle School are greeted by an instructor from the Hamilton Conservation Authority, who uses The Greenway and its stormwater management system to show how cities can be environmentally sustainable. The bioswale – the ‘spine’ of The Greenway – channels rainwater from across the community to irrigate the trees and plants that are the ‘lungs’ of Pier 8.

Helen, a keen environmentalist, notes how the planting beds draw water runoff from each building to the bioswale. The HCA instructor has explained that overflow water is channelled from the bioswale to cisterns in the underground parking garages. Helen walks out to the Promenade and watches the clean water flowing into the Harbour. When her parents get home from work, Helen is going to ask them to connect the downspout from their roof to a rain barrel, so she can water the herb garden on the back porch.

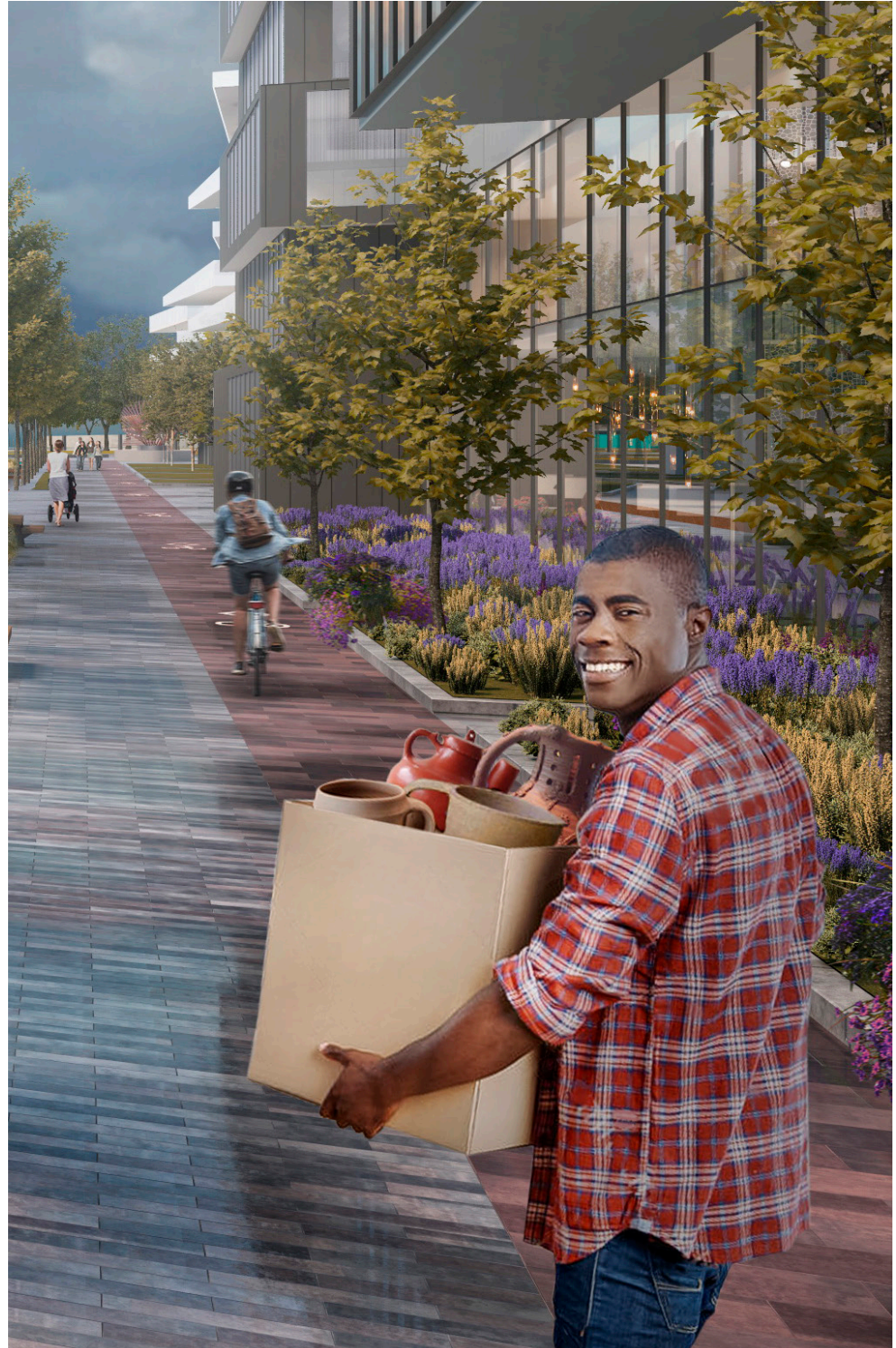
USER PROFILE 2

REID, 33

Ceramic artist

Walking over from his live-work space on Block 6, Reid is running through his mental 'to-do' list. For the past 3 years, he has worked with Hamilton Tourism and students from McMaster University's Marketing program on the annual Pier 8 Fall Craft Fair, which the Pier 8 Residents Association hosts in the plazas and ground-floor amenity spaces along The Greenway.

In anticipation of tonight's opening, the community rooms are alive with activity and brightly coloured artists' stalls that spill out onto the paved plaza. Reid reflects with satisfaction that the annual show has become a draw for visitors from across the city, and as far as Michigan and Illinois. Pier 8 is developing a reputation as a centre for unique Canadian craft and art, much of it created right here in the live-work units on Blocks 3 and 6.





USER PROFILE 3

STEPHANE + CATHERINE, LATE 50s

Empty-nesters

Retired from jobs in Toronto, Stephane and Catherine love the experience of waterfront living, and the humane scale and affordability of Hamilton. On their terrace on Block 2 they sip coffee and enjoy the view, before heading down to the underground garage to pick up the AutoShare they booked for their Niagara-on-the-Lake getaway. They still keep a car for longer trips into the States – like the Grand Traverse Coast Wine tour last summer – but for local travel they rely on their bikes and the HSR. The Pier 8 Shuttle takes them right to the GO station for visits back to Toronto, but their son is moving for a telecom job at Stryker, so by next year their transformation into full-time Hamiltonians will be complete.

USER PROFILE 4

NORMA, 78

Senior citizen

Norma was nervous about giving up her home in Gibson, and she thought she might feel a bit cramped in the new Delmanor seniors home on Block 16. Nothing could be further from the truth! The view over the Harbour to the Royal Botanical Gardens is a daily pleasure, and walks on the Waterfront have put the spring back in her step.

She sees more people – from all kinds of walks of life – than in the 40 years that she and Joe lived on Wilson Street. The real surprise, though, is the friendships she’s made with the youngsters in the child care down on the ground floor. She is developing a special bond with a 3-year old whose parents live in one of the nearby townhouses. She reminds Norma so much of her own daughter at that age.





USER PROFILE 5 /

THE ROSSIS

Domenic, 36; Daniella, 33; Mario, 6; Francesca, 4

From their townhouse on Block 6, the Rossis walk Francesca over to the child care centre on the ground floor of the Delmanor seniors residence (Block 16). She is telling them about Tia Norma, one of the Delmanor residents that she has made friends with at the “Move and Groove” sessions in the Delmanor lounge. Mario zips ahead on his scooter, but Daniella isn’t worried – the planters along the sidewalk protect him from traffic. After dropping off Francesca, the Rossis walk Mario up to Bennetto Elementary School, then hop on the HSR bus and continue downtown to work, discussing plans for the weekend.

THE DIHOODS

Waris, 45; Ali, 22; Roda, 16; Omar, 8; Sharif, 72, Najima, 67

Waris, her kids and her parents live in a three-bedroom affordable housing unit in Block 8 overlooking Guise Street. The accessibly designed building makes it easy for Sharif to navigate from the family's apartment to the ground floor lounge, where he chats with friends and keeps an eye on neighbourhood comings and goings.

Roda and Omar walk Najima to her ESL class at the Community Hub on Block 5. Ali is heading over there too, for a meeting of the Hub's Young Entrepreneurs group. Later, Ali and his friend Desmond will DJ at the opening of the new streetwear shop on Block 6.

This afternoon, Waris has an appointment at the Hub with representatives from McMaster University who are helping her apply to a part-time program to complement her accounting degree from Somalia, so that she can apply to practice in Canada.

After school, daughter Roda heads over to the Delmanor residence for her co-op assignment, helping McMaster social work students collect data for a study of the seniors/ pre-school program. At 6 pm, Roda heads to her part-time job at the Café Gateway on Block 7. She is a popular server with the local crowd, and her tips are mounting up in an RESP. They will help Roda realize a dream: to be the first member of her family to attend university here in Canada.



Najima, 67; Waris, 45



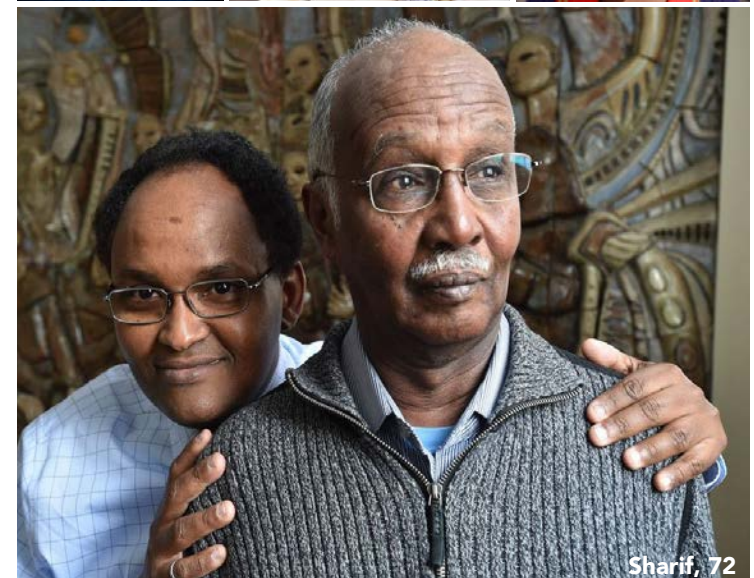
Ali, 22



Roda, 16



Omar, 8



Sharif, 72



USER PROFILE 7

FRIEDA, 37

Café owner

As she prepares for the lunch rush, Frieda preps fillings for her signature Café Gateway panini. Year-round, residents and visitors alike stop in for a bite on their way to an event at the Gantry Pavilion, a kids' basketball game at the Community Hub, or to warm up after an afternoon's skating on the Pier 8 Outdoor Rink. In the lead-up to the Spring Craft Show, Frieda's takeout service is a lifesaver for all the artists and artisans burning the midnight oil – particularly since she started getting in regular shipments from Donut Monster down on Locke Street.

There's a commotion as Pat, a retired business owner and local green thumb, enters with his Young Entrepreneur group from the Hub; he is brainstorming with them about a plan to supply area restaurants with locally grown food.

MIKE, 37

Business traveller from Chicago

Mike, 47, a business traveller from Chicago Mike is an avid Bears fan, but his Hamilton clients are out to convince him that the Hamilton Tiger-Cats represent real gridiron excitement. Before the game, his hosts take him to Pier 8 for another unique Hamilton experience: drinks at the brew pub overlooking Gateway Park, where he can order a flight of ales from Hamilton's finest local craft breweries, including Fairweather, Collective Arts and Rust City Breweries. After a couple of rounds, they even have him singing the famous Ticats cheer: "Oskee Wee Wee, Oskee Waa Waa, Holy Mackinaw, Tigers... Eat 'em RAW!!"





USER PROFILE 9

APARNA, 25

McMaster grad student

From her one-bedroom flat in Westdale, Aparna rides up Longwood Road North to Kay Drage Park. She follows the Waterfront Trail around Bayfront Park to Pier 8, where she grabs a drink from a water's edge kiosk and stretches out on the lawn in front of Block 3 to watch sailboats in the Harbour. One of the undergrads in her 2nd year biochem tutorial mentioned a new show of heritage waterfront maps in the commercial Harbour Gallery overlooking the Gantry Pavilion (Block 3). Like any bike touring enthusiast, Aparna is also a secret map nerd. She takes a last swig of water, chains up her bike, and heads into the building to pore over the beautiful calligraphy and hand-tinted engravings that trace Hamilton's historic waterfront.

STEFAN, 68

Retired Stelco worker

On the advice of his therapist at the Regional Rehabilitation Centre, Stefan augments his regular rehab program by walking from his Marina Towers apartment to the Tuesday afternoon AquaFit group in the Pier 8 Community Hub (Block 5). Afterward, he goes over to his girlfriend Elaine's place on Block 7. She has lunch ready. After they eat, they walk over to the Promenade and grab seats in the Gantry Pavilion for the Saturday night blues fest. While they wait for the concert to start, they get a couple of pints from the Nickel Brook event kiosk and stroll out to feed the ducks and swans in Hammer Harbour. The seagulls are on their own.

