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Eco Holiday Market comes to Hamilton for the first time

By **Stephanie Ribson** December 8, 2023

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Shoppers could peruse items from sustainable vendors from across the GTA.

Shoppers could treat themselves or their loved ones to sustainable gifts at Hamilton's first Eco Holiday Market on Saturday (Dec. 2) at Gasworks.

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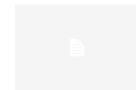
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Visitors could begin their journey through the market with a clothing swap, where they could donate their old clothes and reinvent their style with someone else's.

Brenda Hough Brendon said she wanted her unused clothes to go to someone who would give them new life.

"I spent a lot of time picking out these nice clothes that were just collecting dust in my closet," Brendon said. "I wanted someone to pick up one of my donated items and get that same sense of joy from when I originally purchased it."



Event organizer Delia Lin (centre) poses with volunteers.

Ocean Wise, a global conservation organization aimed at conserving and restoring the ocean, started the initiative in Vancouver under the name Zilch to offer a space to showcase local, sustainable businesses and to teach the community how to shop in an environmentally friendly way.

Event organizer Delia Lin brought the market to Hamilton through the Eco Action Accelerator Program at Ocean Wise.

"It's for youth under 30," Lin said. "You can receive a grant to start a service project in your city that's already been established elsewhere as long as it's geared towards alleviating climate change."

Lin included vendors from around the GTA who used sustainable materials in their packaging or sold upcycled items. One vendor came from Waterloo to help shoppers live a litter-less life by selling various reusable items like water bottles and grocery bags.

"I've always been passionate about the environment," Jana Salcevica, owner of **Fenigo**, said. "I grew up in Latvia, and everything was simple there. We didn't have all this throw-away stuff."

Lin said she might not be in the country next year to organize the market again but hopes someone else will pick it up with Ocean Wise as a legacy project.



Jana Salcevica (r) began Fenigo 15 years ago to help people live a litter-less life.

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Stephanie Ribson

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