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Hamilton residents experience the Magic of Locke Street with late-night shopping

 By **Stephanie Ribson** November 24, 2023

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Santa visits with his fans.



Hamiltonians came to experience the Magic of Locke Street on Friday (Nov.17), where they could finish their holiday checklist with some late-night shopping and take a ride on a horse-drawn carriage along the brightly decorated street.

Many of the businesses on Locke had decorated their storefronts to match the festive theme of

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the night and were open to shoppers until 9 p.m. Visitors could support a wide variety of local artists while shopping at Forrest & Harbour

Co. Bridget Warren makes custom rings out of old silverware.

"I found one the other day from 1886 that had a woman's face on it, similar to Medusa," Warren said. "You can get a nice piece of silver by giving a piece of discarded silverware a new life."

The Locke Street Business Association organized the event and advertised photographs with Santa and a tree lighting at 6 p.m. At 5:50, a crowd of roughly 40 people gathered around three small pine trees leaning against the West Town's patio fence.



Spoon Rings by Bridget Warren were available for purchase.

After 20 minutes had passed, Victorian Carolers came to serenade the crowd, but the trees remained dark, with no BA staff in sight. Locke Street resident Nicole Shea, who comes to the event every year with her family, says there were more than 1,000 people at the tree lighting during the pandemic.

"I would like to see one big tree like they had during Covid instead of three small ones," Shea said.

The crowd gave up after 40 minutes and began heading across the street to the restaurant Mod Des Stu, where Santa and his helper had arrived earlier after touring the street. Parents could scan a QR code at the event and pay \$20 so their child could get a picture with Santa.

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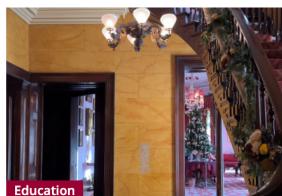


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