

**2026 First-Year Math & Stats in Canada
Conference:
*University Mathematics and Statistics Courses
Under the Microscope***



**May 8th -- 10th, 2026
McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada**

Thank you to our conference sponsors!

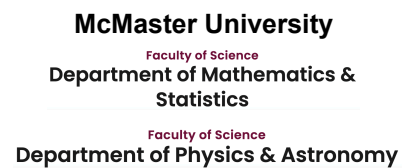


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For any questions or concerns, please email Miroslav Lovric (lovric@mcmaster.ca) and Lee van Brussel (vanbrulw@mcmaster.ca).

Welcome!

First-Year Math & Stats in Canada (FYMSiC) is delighted to welcome you to McMaster University (Main Campus) for the third in-person conference, starting on Friday, May 8th, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., and ending on Sunday, May 10th, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

Conference check-in opens on Friday, May 8th, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the Hamilton Hall and will be available all day. After Friday, May 8th, 2026, please contact Miroslav Lovric (lovric@mcmaster.ca) and Lee van Brussel (vanbrulw@mcmaster.ca). We may not be able to accommodate on-side registration during the conference.

McMaster University is located in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Main campus map:

downloadable pdf

<https://parking.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2020/11/Campus-Map-2018-90X39-01.pdf>

or

interactive online map

<https://discover.mcmaster.ca/map/>

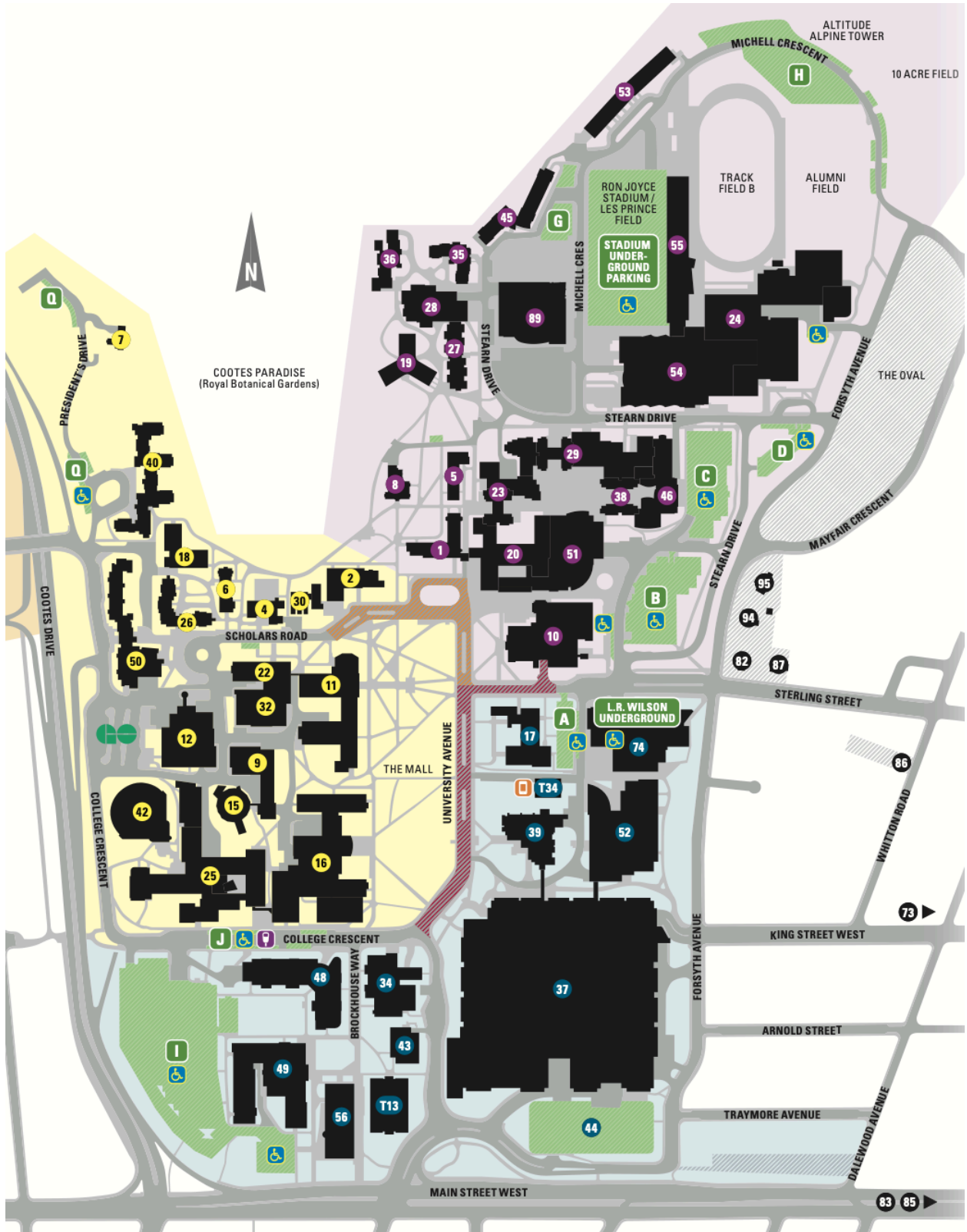
All academic activities will take place in Hamilton Hall (number 2 on the main campus map on page 4).

Math Cafe is in Hamilton Hall on the main floor.

Friday Dinner will be at the Phoenix Crafthouse & Grill, also known as the Refectory (number 4).

If you book campus accommodation, you will be in Les Prince Residence (number 53).

McMaster University Main Campus Map



About McMaster University & Hamilton, Ontario

Question: What do all these names have in common?

Senator William McMaster, Lincoln Alexander, Dan Levy, John Candy, Martin Short, Dave Thomas, Ivan Reitman, Roberta Bondar, Ivor Wynne, Adam Van Koeverden, Surparna Bannerjee, John Mighton, Arkells, Miroslav Lovric, and Lee van Brussel.

Answer: McMaster University

McMaster University is a public research university located in Hamilton, Ontario, founded in 1887. It is consistently ranked among Canada's top research-intensive universities and is a member of the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities. McMaster is particularly well known for its contributions to health sciences, engineering, business, social sciences, and humanities, and for pioneering problem-based learning in medical education. The main campus covers approximately 300 acres, bordered by Cootes Paradise and the Royal Botanical Gardens, making it one of the largest and greenest university campuses in Canada.

Hamilton, Ontario is a mid-sized city with a population of over 570,000, located at the western end of Lake Ontario. It serves as a key economic and transportation hub in the Greater Golden Horseshoe region. Historically known for manufacturing and steel production, Hamilton has diversified into sectors such as healthcare, education, technology, and the arts. The city is home to more than 100 waterfalls, extensive conservation areas, and a growing downtown featuring cultural institutions, restaurants, and public transit connections. Hamilton offers a lower cost of living compared to nearby Toronto while remaining within commuting distance, making it an attractive location for students and professionals.

Conference Schedule

Friday, May 8th, 2025

8:30 a.m. -- All Day	Conference Check-in
9:00 a.m. -- 9:15 a.m.	Welcome & Announcements
9:15 a.m. -- 10:30 a.m.	Plenary Lecture - Daniel Clegg & Saleem Watson
10:30 a.m. -- 11:00 a.m.	Stewart's Textbook Cabinet & Coffee Break @ Math Cafe
11:00 a.m. -- 12:30 p.m.	Focus: Active Learning Show n' Tell Presentations
12:30 p.m. -- 1:45 p.m.	Lunch Break @ Math Cafe
1:45 p.m. -- 3:00 p.m.	Focus: Assessment Show n' Tell Parallel Groups & General Discussion
3:00 p.m. -- 3:30 p.m.	Stewart's Textbook Cabinet & Coffee Break @ Math Cafe
3:35 p.m. -- 4:45 p.m.	Keynote Address - Carl Wieman
5:15 p.m. -- Late	Dinner @ Phoenix

Saturday, May 9th, 2025

9:00 a.m. -- 9:15 a.m.	Welcome & Announcements
9:15 a.m. -- 10:30 a.m.	Focus: Math and Stats Outside of the Classroom Parallel Groups
10:30 a.m. -- 11:00 a.m.	Coffee Break @ Math Cafe
11:00 a.m. -- 12:30 p.m.	Focus: Hacks in Managing Courses / Classrooms / Assessments / Student Concerns / Learning with AI / 5-minute Lightning Talks with Discussion
12:30 p.m. -- 1:15 p.m.	Lunch Break @ Math Cafe
1:15 p.m. -- 1:45 p.m.	Vendors' Time
2:00 p.m. -- 5:00 p.m.	Socializing Activities & Ad Hoc Meetings
5:15 p.m. -- 7:00 p.m.	<i>Pizza Pi Party @ Math Cafe</i>

Sunday, May 10th, 2025

9:00 a.m. -- 9:15 a.m.	Welcome & Announcements
9:15 a.m. -- 10:30 a.m.	Plenary Lecture - Tyler Holden
10:30 a.m. -- 11:00 a.m.	Coffee Break @ Math Cafe
11:00 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m.	Focus: Supporting Good Students Discussion
12:00 p.m. -- 12:15 p.m.	Closing Conference & Goodbye
12:15 p.m. -- 1:30 p.m.	Lunch @ Math Cafe

About 2026 FYMSiC Conference

We have a fantastic set of speakers!

Keynote speaker:

- **Carl Wieman** (Stanford University)



Carl Wieman is a Cheriton Family Professor and Professor of Physics and of Education, Emeritus at Stanford. He holds a joint appointment as Professor of Physics and of the Graduate School of Education. He has done extensive experimental research in atomic and optical physics. His current intellectual focus is now on undergraduate physics and science education. He has pioneered the use of experimental techniques to evaluate the effectiveness of various teaching strategies for physics and other sciences, and served as Associate Director for Science in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. In 2001, Professor Wiemann was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.

Plenary lecturers:

- **Daniel Clegg** (Palomar College, Coauthor of Stewart's calculus textbook)



Dan Clegg is a professor of mathematics at Palomar College in southern California. He did his undergraduate studies at California State University, Fullerton and his graduate work at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Dan's teaching career began while still a graduate student at UCLA. James Stewart spotted Dan's talent for teaching during a chance meeting at a mathematics conference. Stewart subsequently asked Dan to review the manuscript for the 4th edition of his calculus textbook and to author the solutions manual for the multivariable chapters. Since that time Dan has played an ever-increasing role in working on the editions of the Stewart calculus books. Most recently, he and Saleem Watson completed the 9th edition.

- **Saleem Watson** (California State University, Coauthor of Stewart's calculus textbook)



Saleem Watson is Professor emeritus of Mathematics at California State University, Long Beach. Saleem attended college at Andrews University in Michigan and graduate school at Dalhousie University and McMaster University, where he was a student in James Stewart's harmonic analysis class. After completing a research fellowship at the University of Warsaw in Poland, Saleem taught for several years at

Penn State University. James Stewart spent a sabbatical leave working with Saleem on research at Penn State, and subsequently asked Saleem to join him in writing a precalculus textbook to accompany the calculus book Stewart was writing at the time. Saleem and Dan Clegg recently completed revising the calculus textbook to its 9th edition.

- **Tyler Holden** (University of Toronto Mississauga)



Tyler Holden is an Associate Professor, Teaching Stream at the University of Toronto Mississauga. He enjoys doing fundamental research on education problems generally ignored by people who are seeking tenure. He also willingly gave up the greatest teaching load one could ask for to teach proofs to first-year students. This latter decision has caused him to question his decision-making abilities.

Our goal for the 2026 FYMSiC conference is . . .

to spark meaningful, energizing conversations about the teaching and learning of university mathematics - examining the current landscape and imagining the future. Together, we will explore what works and what does not, but can be improved! Be it in the classroom, in assessments, and in supporting the teaching team and students!

This year's conference program will feature presentations from our FYMSiC friends on topics such as:

- **Active Learning** - your take on engaging students in the classroom
- **Assessments** - approaches that work or you want meaningful feedback
- **Hacks** - practical tips for running courses, managing assessments, addressing student concerns, and navigating the use of the AI
- **Supporting Good Students** - resources that inspire deep learning

We would love to have our FYMSiC friends actively involved! We warmly encourage our friends to present and share their wonderful ideas.

Also, we have a few fun activities planned, too!

We hope you enjoy our FYMSiC conference!

Thank you for joining us and participating. :-)

2026 FYMSiC Conference Organizers

Andie Burazin (University of Toronto Mississauga)

Rebecca Carter (Queen's University)

Lauren DeDieu (University of Calgary)

Miroslav Lovric (McMaster University)

Lee van Brussel (McMaster University)

www.firstyearmath.ca

Registration

The conference registration fee is **\$200.00 CAD** which includes HST (13% tax). This fee covers the cost of meals:

- Friday, May 8th - Morning & afternoon coffee breaks; Lunch; Dinner
- Saturday, May 9th - Morning coffee break; Lunch; *Pizza Pi Party* Dinner
- Sunday, May 10th - Morning coffee break; Lunch

There are some sit-down dining options near McMaster University's main campus; most nearby restaurants are grab-and-go.

To register for the conference, we ask you to complete these two steps.

1. Registration Form (Google): <https://forms.gle/aqP3DXfJxUDthABk9>

This form will help us to plan the conference program (among other things, this is the place where you can submit a proposal for a talk), as well as social activities.

2. Conference Registration Fee and Campus Accommodation Booking Portal: register.mcmaster.ca

Please see page 11 and page 12 for instructions on how to pay for the conference registration fee and book campus accommodation.

Please register and book campus accommodation as soon as possible as there is a limited number of rooms available.

Note that accommodation is **not** included in the conference registration fee.

Registration, online payment, and campus accommodation deadline is **Thursday, April 30th, 2026.**

How to pay for the Conference Registration Fee and book Campus Accommodation

1. Please log into the conference [Portal](#) (register.mcmaster.ca). To create a guest account, follow **create one here** link. Fill out the required information, and click **SAVE & CONTINUE**. If, at a later time, you need to come back to the portal, click **Guest Login** button.
2. Once you sign in, select **General Registration**, located in the maroon ribbon at the top of the page (ignore the remaining options in the ribbon).
3. A search bar will appear and provide the code: **FYMSIC** (all letters are uppercase) and **SEARCH** in order to access the registration and accommodation.

NOTE: The conference start date is set up for May 7th, 2026, as the campus accommodation opens on that day. The conference starts, as advertised, on Friday, May 8th, 2026.

4. Click **SELECT** for our conference, then **SAVE & CONTINUE**.
5. Fill out missing information, and (the last question on this page) state whether or not you require campus accommodation.

At this moment, or soon after, you will receive an email from McMaster University Conference & Event Services, which will look like this:

Dear testing,

Thank you for creating an account with McMaster University's Conference & Event Services!

Your registered username/email is lovric57@gmail.com. With your new account, you can easily submit Requests for Proposals, register for conferences and events, purchase tickets, and more. Once you log into the Portal, simply choose an option from the top navigation bar to get started.

If you've submitted a Request for Proposal, our team will review it and get back to you shortly.

Having trouble with registration or a purchase? You can log back in anytime on the [McMaster Conference & Events Services Registration Portal](#).

If you forgot your password, you can reset it by clicking here: [Forgot Password](#)

Sincerely,

Conference & Event Services
McMaster University

Please ignore the highlighted part of the message in the above email.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

6. Select **FYMSIC 2026 General Registration (\$200)** by clicking on **ADD TO CART**, then on the next page select a number of registrations and click **ADD TO CART** once again (sorry, it is not us, it is the IT people who created this portal).
7. The portal will take you back to the Registration Fees page. Click **SAVE & CONTINUE**.

CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION

(Optional; see alternatives under Accommodations on page 13)

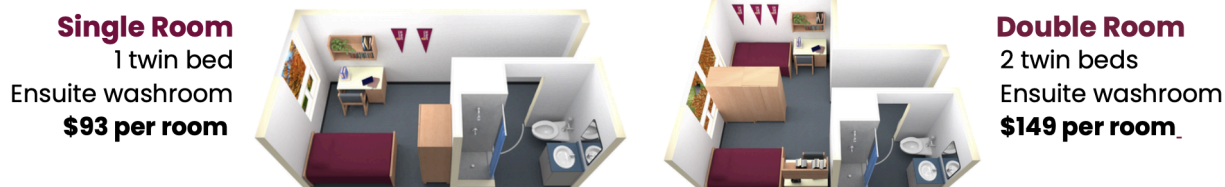
8. For those who requested campus accommodation: select the check-in and check-out dates and the type of room (single or double); click **Calculate Total** to see how much it will cost, not including HST (13% tax); and click **ADD TO CART** in any of the tiles.

NOTE: The portal will let you book a room in the interval from May 7th, 2026, to May 10th, 2026. If you plan to arrive sooner than May 7th or leave later than May 10th, send an email to reserve@mcmaster.ca to book extra days.

9. Next, you are taken to the Guest Accommodation Terms and Conditions. At the bottom, enter your email (as your agreement with the terms and conditions) and **SAVE & CONTINUE**.
10. The next page shows your cart with accepted payment options and cancellation policy. If all looks good, select **PAY NOW**.
11. Complete the payment. Your registration and accommodation are booked. **DONE**.

Accommodation

On-campus accommodation is available in Les Prince Hall (number 53 on the Main Campus Map on page 4) at McMaster University in single or double rooms:



Note that these on-campus accommodation prices in the above picture are per night and do not include HST (13% tax). To book on-campus accommodation, please see page 11.

Off-campus accommodation options:

1. Visitor's Inn Hamilton (<https://visitorsinn.com/>) which is the closest hotel to McMaster University's main campus and about a 25-minute walk.
2. Two hotels in downtown Hamilton that are on a bus route or a short drive:

Hampton Inn by Hilton Hamilton

https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/yhmhmx-hampton-hamilton/?SEO_id=GMB-AMER-HX-YHMHMHX&y_source=1_OTM1NjM3ODQtNzE1LWxvY2F0aW9uLndlYnNpdGU%3D

Sheraton Hamilton Hotel

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/yhmsi-sheraton-hamilton-hotel/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0>

3. A slightly higher-end option is Barrack's Inn (<https://thebarracksinn.com/>) which is about a 10-minute drive from campus.

Please note that accommodation is **not** included in the conference registration fee.

Getting to McMaster University

Here are a few helpful starting points when travelling to McMaster University's main campus:

- From Toronto Pearson International Airport
 - Go Bus 40 from Toronto Pearson International Airport (Terminal 1 Ground Level Door Q or P) → Main St. W. @ Paisley Ave. S.
 - GO Train/Bus Schedule: <https://www.gotransit.com/en>
 - Duration: approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes
 - Cost: \$12.75 adult fare (you can tap on and off with your credit card on the bus)
 - Uber/Lyft (Terminal 1 Ground Level Door Q or P or Terminal 3 Arrivals Level Door D)
 - Duration: approximately 45 minutes (but traffic-dependent)
 - Cost: \$120 -- \$130 one-way
 - Limousine/Taxi (Terminal 1 Arrivals Level Door C or D or Terminal 3 Arrivals Level Door D, E, F)
 - Duration: approximately 45 minutes (but traffic-dependent)
 - Cost: \$150 -- \$160 one-way
- From Hamilton International Airport
 - Uber/Lyft (rideshare pick-up and drop-off zone is located along the terminal curb at the west end of the sidewalk)
 - Duration: approximately 30 minutes
 - Cost: \$30 -- \$40 one way
 - Limousine/Taxi (across the street from Arrivals doors)
 - Duration: approximately 30 minutes
 - Cost: \$40 -- \$50 one way
- From Toronto (Downtown)
 - Two options:
 1. Go Train Lakeshore West Line from Union Station → Aldershot Go Station + GO Bus 15 or Uber
 2. Go Train Lakeshore West Line from Union Station → West Harbour Go Station + Uber
 - GO Train/Bus Schedule: <https://www.gotransit.com/en>

Parking

Parking is available on campus for daily use and overnight stays.

At the moment, parking services are undergoing changes in the way parking is organized and paid. *We will send an email to all registered participants with the parking information in due time.*

For now, to get a feel for what parking options are available and cost, please visit: <https://parking.mcmaster.ca/getting-to-campus-2/driving-parking/pay-for-parking/#tab-content-daily-parking>

Map with the locations of all parking spaces at McMaster University main campus: <https://parking.mcmaster.ca/map-of-mcmaster-university/>

Dietary Restrictions

When you register for the conference, please indicate your dietary restrictions in both the Registration Form and the Conference Registration Fee and Campus Accommodation Booking Portal. In collaboration with McMaster University Catering Services, we will do our best to accommodate.

Dinner on Friday, May 8th, 2026, will be at the Phoenix Crafthouse & Grill on campus. Please see the typical food items offered: <https://www.phoenixmcmaster.com/menus>

Accessibility

For any accessibility concerns, please email Miroslav Lovric (lovric@mcmaster.ca) and Lee van Brussel (vanbrulw@mcmaster.ca).

Wifi

eduroam is available on McMaster University main campus. As well, there will be a guest Wifi account; login and password information will be provided closer to the start of the conference.

In-case of an Emergency

During the conference, call or text Miroslav Lovric (905-923-3361) or Lee van Brussel (289-697-1593).

McMaster University Campus Police is available at all times for urgent matters (905-522-4135).

Saturday Socializing Activities

Option 1: Walking Through the Woods

Lions and witches and bears, oh my!

Cootes Paradise is a nature preserve located at the western end of Lake Ontario and is a part of Hamilton's Royal Botanical Gardens. We will begin our walk on campus and follow the trails behind the university, which connect to a network of beautiful paths. Our route includes visits to Sassafras Point and Princess Point for some great lookout spots.

This is a light leisurely walking activity on mostly flat terrain (soil, gravel, and boardwalk). Some sections include small hills or a few stairs. We plan to walk for approximately 1.5 hours with breaks.

Option 2: Dundas Historic Scenic Walk

Want to feel like you have stepped into a Hallmark movie or an episode of Gilmore Girls?

Join us for a relaxing guided historic walk through Dundas, one of the region's most charming and well-preserved heritage towns.

We will start from campus and head to Dundas by HSR Bus 5, Uber, or carpool. Our guide will lead us through the town's 19th-century architecture, restored stone buildings, Victorian homes, and landmarks that showcase its early mills and vibrant community history. The guided portion will last about an hour, followed by free time to wander on your own, perfect for exploring local cafes, shops, or a brewery.

This gentle, scenic walk is perfect for anyone who loves history, architecture, or simply wandering a picturesque small town at a leisurely pace.

Option 3: Planetarium + Board Games

Maybe a quieter, more leisurely time is more your speed? If so, you are in luck!

Step into the cosmos at the Rotholme Star Dome Planetarium at McMaster University! Whether you are a stargazer or curious explorer, this immersive space brings the night sky to life with dazzling shows about stars, planets, and the universe. Perfect to sit back for an hour and enjoy a journey through space!

After your space mission is over, we will have a variety of board games available with coffee, tea, and cookies. This is perfect for anyone who prefers a relaxed pace while still enjoying good company, friendly conversation, and a bit of strategy (I want to take over the conference! Muahahaha!). It is a great way to unwind, connect, and have fun without the rush after a long day at our conference.