

HAMILTON HARBOUR REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (HHRAP)

PRESENTATION JANUARY 25TH AT THE DISCOVERY CENTRE

ENTITLED: ENVIRONMENTAL EXPECTATIONS

Reconvening the HHRAP Stakeholder Forum

The Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan has been ongoing since stakeholders first met in 1985 to consider the condition of the Harbour. Since that time much work has gone on to improve the environmental conditions of the Harbour. In simple terms, the water quality is about twice as good as it was in the 1980s and the fish and wildlife conditions and habitat have improved considerably. The end goal of any Remedial Action Plan is to reach a point where the condition of the area is sufficiently improved to be removed from a list of sites on the Great Lakes known as “Areas of Concern”.



In an Area of Concern (AOC) 14 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) are considered. These represent our environmental end points or desired outcomes. If impaired, a *realistic, achievable, and measurable* delisting objective is required. The RAP Forum Stakeholders group which last met from 1998 to 2002 is being reconvened in 2012 to re-examine the delisting objectives. The RAP Forum is comprised of approximately 40 stakeholders representing government agencies, environmental groups, citizens groups and the RAP community implementers including industrial, municipal and university partners. Meetings are open to the public. The Chair will be someone recommended to

the RAP Stakeholder Forum. A professional third party facilitator will keep RAP Forum members engaged in the process and the meetings moving forward. Recommendations will be taken from Technical Teams and Advisory Committees to the RAP Stakeholder Forum in a series of five evening meetings being held at Canada Centre for Inland Waters. Following a public presentation on the afternoon and evening of January 25th, 2012 the focus of the first meeting in February will be to review the process, identify the BUIs and provide a brief history of the RAP. At the next three meetings in March, April and May, the RAP Stakeholder Forum will review the BUIs. At the fifth meeting in June any unfinished business will be completed. A second public presentation will be held in the fall. Fact sheets are being provided to the RAP Forum Stakeholders providing some background and updated delisting objectives.

For those choosing to attend the Stakeholder Forum meetings, this process will provide a great overview of the harbour, what’s been done and the future direction. At the Great Lakes basin level most of the RAPs are going through the process of updating their BUI delisting objectives.

The public are welcome to attend these sessions. Please pre-register with Kathy Trotter from the HHRAP office. Email: Kathy.Trotter@ec.gc.ca or by telephone at 905-336-6279.

The presentation on January 25 at 2:30 PM and 7:30 PM at the Discovery Centre at 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton will provide more details on this process to update our delisting objectives and desired environmental conditions for the Harbour.

