

ANNUAL REPORT 2003/2004



A Harbour Revival



BAY AREA RESTORATION COUNCIL

ECOLOGY · INDUSTRY · RECREATION



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Signs of a Harbour Revival are Everywhere.

The Bay Area Restoration Council is a community non-profit group at the centre of efforts to restore and protect the environmental health of Hamilton Harbour and its watershed.

Look no further than the harbour's shores for evidence: more people are using new waterfront trails than ever before; exciting developments like the Canada Marine Discovery Centre are adding vibrancy to the bay; and, together with our Remedial Action Plan partners, the Bay Area Restoration Council recently confirmed a major milestone: the halfway mark in harbour cleanup.

This was a high point for our organization. We work hard every day to restore, protect and promote the environmental health of our harbour and its watershed, taking tremendous pride and satisfaction in the little things: every tree planted, every child learning about marshes through our classroom program, every new piece of data showing our harbour is recovering from past days of pollution and destruction. But we're always working toward the bigger picture of a clean harbour. As we celebrated the halfway mark, we also celebrated the persistence and enthusiasm of committed implementation partners, helped by volunteers, over 300 BARC members, and our staff, led by the very dedicated Marilyn Baxter. Their work is leaving true signs of renewal.

Hamilton Harbour has become a wonderful place to stroll close to nature, to watch ducks paddle close to shore, to boat or kayak, and to watch the shipping and industrial operations of a world-class port. People that have only seen Hamilton from the Skyway Bridge are surprised when they step out of their car to find a natural gem tucked in our harbour.

As the community non-profit group and watchdog organization assessing and promoting cleanup projects for the bay, we're excited to see this revival take place. And we're excited to be a part of it. Our past fiscal year focused on communicating the need for a continued push for harbour and watershed cleanup. That emphasis will carry on this year as BARC continues to strengthen public support and seeks input on harbour issues – something that is critical to restore habitat, add more waterfront accessibility, and improve water quality by the targeted year, 2015. It's already working. Join us as we carry out the rest of our work. Together, we're bringing back the bay.

R. R. Weiler
Dr. Roland R. Weiler
President

Spreading the Revival Idea

Energy is contagious. When you watch hundreds of people pour into Bayfront Park on any given weekend to boat, walk, or visit Cootes Paradise, you can feel the enthusiasm for nature. It is the Bay Area Restoration Council's (BARC) job to harness that appreciation for the harbour, acting as the main community resource for harbour cleanup information, and to raise awareness about revitalization issues.

In November, the Ontario Trillium Foundation honoured BARC with one of six 2003 Environment Great Grants Awards. The award was based on the *BayLinks Communications Strategy*, a campaign to increase public awareness of Hamilton Harbour restoration programs and to encourage community participation. BARC developed a plan, launched a new logo and website, and produced new marketing materials. BARC also partnered with *The Hamilton Spectator* on an award-winning series on harbour renewal called "Bringing Back the Bay."

The foundation awarded BARC a second grant to continue communications work that will have a lasting impact. A multimedia presentation based on a virtual tour of the harbour is now complete, media coverage has increased, a development plan is underway, and other projects are planned over the next two years.

BARC also took its message directly to citizens with a quarterly newsletter, the delivery of close to 40 presentations to groups such as the Bay Area Leadership Initiative, Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER), and by staffing booths at events like HMCS Haida's arrival in the Port of Hamilton.

Other than the constant message of harbour cleanup, BARC addressed other timely topics at public meetings. In September, the message was progress and the interest and media coverage was substantial as the Rt. Honourable Herb Gray, Canadian Co-Chair of the International Joint Commission, helped release the Stage 2 Update of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for Hamilton Harbour. The scientific update showed that the

harbour responds to restoration efforts and RAP partners are halfway to achieving cleanup goals.

Randle Reef was the focus of another important message when BARC and Environment Canada presented the cleanup plan for this site at an information session. BARC has been involved in the Randle Reef contaminated sediment remediation process for years and this was an excellent opportunity to show the community that progress is being made for this environmental hotspot.

BARC spoke out at Hamilton City Council in support of increased water and sewer rates to fund much needed infrastructure improvements. A rise in rates will help upgrade wastewater treatment plants and protect the harbour from sewage overflows during heavy rainfalls that bring untreated sewage into the harbour, causing excess algae and foul odours.

Other outreach activities included:

- *From Watershed to Waterfront*, BARC's annual community workshop. One hundred and fifty citizens, community leaders and mayors contributed great ideas for the future of the bay area, with a keynote on smart growth from Shelley Petrie of the Toronto Environmental Alliance.
- A *Low-Salt Diet for Cities* public meeting, focusing on salt's effect on aquatic habitats.
- A meeting with CEOs and multi-level politicians, in cooperation with the Remedial Action Plan office, to stress the necessity of continued RAP participation.
- Production of *Toward Safe Harbours*, a report assessing the progress of RAP cleanup efforts.
- Monitoring local planning issues and recommending actions consistent with the goals and objectives of the Hamilton Harbour RAP.
- Contributing to about 30 RAP and local committees, representing the public's use of the harbour, including ensuring harbour health was an issue during the municipal election.





Bringing the bay back to life means replacing plant species lost over the years due to pollution and development. From Earth Day to the *Marsh Volunteer Program*, more than 375 enthusiastic citizens worked with the Bay Area Restoration Council last year to restore the delicate habitat areas around Hamilton Harbour. People turned out to plant at the annual Earth Day event at Princess Point. Others gave their time and energy throughout the season to wade in marsh mud to help BARC and the Royal Botanical Gardens plant in Cootes Paradise. Seventy more volunteers collected 100 bags of garbage during the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. Volunteers showed they cared about the bay in a big way, making a lasting impact on the revival of Hamilton Harbour.

Restoring Natural Habitat





A Refreshing Approach to Learning

Watching children learn about the marsh ecosystem by growing their own mini marsh habitat gives us hope that our environmental future is bright and that a revitalized harbour will be in the safe hands of a new generation. The Bay Area Restoration Council, the Royal Botanical Gardens, and TD Friends of the Environment brought *Classroom Mini Marsh* to 200 elementary classes last spring for a true hands-on learning experience. Students planted and nurtured aquatic plants and were captivated when the snail in their marsh had babies. The program captured their attention while helping them understand the ecology of a marsh, the role of native plants, and local habitat restoration activities.

While kids grew mini marshes in classrooms, eight *Brian Henley Harbour Walking Tours* educated hikers last year about the harbour's natural beauty and cultural history. BARC teamed up with this local author and historian for the first time to promote the tours in order to educate people about the harbour, and help reveal the hidden stories behind the bay's evolution.

Renewing the Land: Protecting the Watershed

With about 50 percent of Hamilton Harbour's water coming from creeks and streams, the 500 square kilometre watershed surrounding the harbour must also be restored and protected to ensure clean water comes into the bay.

The Bay Area Restoration Council continued its support of the *Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program*, which encourages rural landowners to protect their land's natural features. That protection can include erosion controls and guarding against loss of wildlife habitat and creek contamination. Twenty-two rehabilitation projects were completed in 2003, bringing the total remediated habitat to over 48 hectares. Ten new landowners also signed on to the program. All together, 350 owners now volunteer to bring their land back to life, and make a significant impact on the renewal of the harbour itself.

Reviving the Harbour, Together

The Bay Area Restoration Council teamed up with many other individuals and organizations to achieve progress this year. BARC is thankful for the contributions of dedicated volunteers, members, and partners.

2003-2004 FUNDERS AND DONORS

BARC is grateful for generous funding from Environment Canada and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture that receives \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative annually, funds the *Baylinks Communications Strategy II* project.

FUNDERS

City of Hamilton
Environment Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Human Resources Development Canada
Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Ontario Trillium Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Beckett Lowden Read Chartered Accountants
City of Burlington
City of Hamilton
Conservation Halton
Hamilton Harbour RAP Office
Hamilton Conservation Authority
Hamilton Port Authority
McMaster University
Royal Botanical Gardens
Royal Hamilton Yacht Club

CORPORATE DONATIONS

Dofasco Inc.
OPIRG McMaster
Stelco Hamilton
Valley City Ltd.
VFT Inc.

BARC IMPLEMENTATION AWARD

This 11th annual award for an organization showing great leadership and support for harbour restoration went to *The Hamilton Spectator* for the ambitious 30-page plus series on Hamilton Harbour, and for consistent, well-balanced reporting of local environmental issues over the years.

BARC RECOGNITION AWARD

This award is presented to individuals who contributed substantial efforts to restoring and protecting the health of Hamilton Harbour and its watershed.

David Butler, Murray Charlton, Wendy de Blauw, Susan Hall, Mark Sproule-Jones and Jim Thoms

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Roland R. Weiler, PhD. – *President, Retired Oceanographer*

Scott Koblyk – *Vice President, Freelance Writer*

Dr. Brian McCarry, PhD. – *Treasurer/Secretary, Chemistry Professor, McMaster University*

Linda Axford, *University Planner*

Kathy Renwald, *Journalist/Producer*

Jo-Anne Rzadki, *Program Coordinator, Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship*

Andrew Sebestyen, *Environment Manager, Stelco Hamilton*

Laurel Thompson, *Business Consultant, Royal Hamilton Yacht Club*

Margaret Walton, *GIS Specialist, Royal Botanical Gardens*

OUTGOING

Dr. Mark Sproule-Jones

Jim Thoms

David Butler

Dr. Joseph Minor

COMMITTEES

Finance & Administration, Public Awareness, Education, Access and Monitoring.

STAFF

Marilyn Baxter, *Manager*

Joanna Ranieri, *Intern*

Christine Korol, *Summer Student*

Marc Peverini, *Summer Student*





Financial Statements

This statement does not include gifts in-kind.

Deferred revenue represents unspent Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant funding.

Donations are tax deductible.
Charitable Registration No. 89293 6584 RR0001

Beckett, Lowden, Read Chartered Accountants are retained to review the organization's financial statements. For a copy of full financial statements, please contact the Bay Area Restoration Council.

Estimated Receipts and Expenditures

Year Ended March 31, 2004

RECEIPTS

Environment Canada	\$ 50,500
Other Federal Government Income	\$ 22,454
Provincial Income	\$ 13,000
Corporate Donations	\$ 5,500
Donations	\$ 2,606
Trillium Foundation Grant	\$ 39,000
Other Grants	\$ 4,301
Membership	\$ 4,067
Interest	\$ 600
Other	\$ 1,840
Total Receipts	\$ 143,868

EXPENDITURES

Accounting	\$ 1,361
Conference, Fees, Travel	\$ 2,123
Telephone	\$ 987
Insurance	\$ 1,658
Office	\$ 8,622
Projects:	
Newsletter	\$ 9,140
Public Awareness	\$ 9,952
Programs	\$ 6,606
Workshop	\$ 2,020
BayLinks	\$ 30,327
Project Totals	\$ 58,045
Wages	\$ 75,898
Total Expenditures	\$ 148,693
Net Surplus (Deficit) for Year	\$ (4,825)

Balance Sheet

As At March 31, 2004

ASSETS

Current Account	\$ 58,023
GIC Investments	\$ 30,000
Accounts Receivable	\$ 33,910
Total Assets	\$ 121,933

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 5,231
Deferred Revenue	\$ 36,000

SURPLUS

Opening Balance	\$ 85,527
Add: Current Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (4,825)
Total Liabilities and Surplus	\$ 121,933

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you've enjoyed a sunset view across Hamilton Harbour; if you're one of thousands who walk, bike, or rollerblade along a waterfront trail; or if you boat, cycle, or jog around the bay, then you have something in common with the Bay Area Restoration Council – you believe in a clean harbour for the heart of our community.

Here's how you can show your support for BARC, and for a healthy harbour:

- Stay informed. Visit www.hamiltonharbour.ca
- Speak out for Hamilton Harbour.
- Volunteer: join a planting day.
- Become a member. Make a donation.

We're Bringing Back the Bay



BAY AREA RESTORATION COUNCIL

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Room B130F, Life Sciences Building
1280 Main Street West
McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4K1

Phone: 905-527-7111
Fax: 905-522-6066
Email: barc@hamiltonharbour.ca

www.hamiltonharbour.ca

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