

## Busy Saturday on tap for environmentalists

**ERIC MCGUINNESS**  
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April 5 is shaping up as a super Saturday for Hamilton nature lovers and environmentalists.

The Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) is holding its 16th annual community workshop that day and both the Land's Inlet Nature Project and Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club are holding open houses.

For its event, titled We Want to Swim, BARC is bringing together a panel of Canadian and American experts to explore the issue of beaches being closed by bacterial pollution, focusing on the fact Bayfront Park Beach was closed to swimming 86 per cent of the time last summer.

Panelists will be Ellen Sargent, the Chicago Park District's deputy director of natural resources; Jane Lee, a city public health inspector responsible for beach monitoring; Tom Edge from Environment Canada's National Water Research Institute in Burlington; and Ted Bowering of Toronto Water.

Admission is free to the workshop being held at the Parks Canada Discovery Centre, 57 Discovery Dr., from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, go to [www.hamiltonharbour.ca](http://www.hamiltonharbour.ca) or phone 905-527-7111.

The Land's Inlet project, in its second year, is creating a 250-metre corridor of trees, wildflowers and other native plants along the edge of an inner-city valley that was once a harbour inlet. It runs on either side of Simcoe Street between Wellington Street and Ferguson Avenue north of Barton Street, across the CN rail tracks from the infamous Plastimet fire site now occupied by Jackie Washington Park.

The Head-of-the-Lake Land Trust, an arm of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club, wants to show off its progress with site tours and photo displays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bennetto Community Centre, 450 Hughson St. N.

Admission and refreshments are free.

More information on the project can be found at [www.hamiltonnature.org](http://www.hamiltonnature.org).

Also free will be the Bruce Trail club open house being held to recognize -- and recruit -- volunteers who build and maintain the 130-kilometre Iroquoia section of hiking trail along the Niagara Escarpment from Grimsby to Milton.

Trail upkeep equipment will be on display along with photos of last year's building projects.

Anyone interested in the Bruce Trail is welcome from 10 to 2 p.m. at the Optimist Hall in Sealy Park, 115 Main St. S., south of Dundas Street in Waterdown.

For more information on the Bruce Trail Conservancy and its member clubs, visit [www.brucetrail.org](http://www.brucetrail.org).

[emcguinness@thespec.com](mailto:emcguinness@thespec.com)

905-526-4650