

## THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

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# Harbour cash a critical boost

**N**ew funding from the federal and provincial governments is a huge boost to the city's efforts to have Hamilton harbour delisted as a Great Lakes pollution hotspot within 10 years.

For many Hamiltonians who remember the harbour at its worst – less than two decades ago – it looks as if what was once thought impossible might actually come to pass.

A clean harbour would be a huge selling point in the effort to attract the best and brightest minds to our city. A clean harbour will go a long way to rehabilitating Hamilton's image as a dirty, polluted city. A clean harbour would help ensure our future as a viable community.

The federal government's pledge of up to \$35 million is accompanied by up to \$15 million from the province and \$25 million from the city. This is a wonderful example of what can be done through collaborative efforts involving all levels of government. And it's a clear indication that there has been an easing in the relationship between the federal government and the city on harbour issues, a relationship that has, in the past, been periodically acrimonious.

This influx of funding will target three areas crucial to the harbour's rehabilitation – improvements to wastewater treatment, reductions in the sewer overflows into the harbour during heavy rains and the naturalization of the Windermere Basin.

The city estimates that it will cost about \$600 million to complete the harbour clean up. In the financial scheme of things, yesterday's funding announcement is a small step to a much bigger goal. It is nonetheless a vital step and one that bodes well for future collaborations between the federal, provincial and municipal governments. And that certainly bodes well for the future of our harbour and our city.

*Lee Prokaska*