

## Ottawa delivers \$30m to complete Randle Reef puzzle

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Canadian Environment Minister John Baird today pledged \$30 million toward the estimated \$90-million cleanup of Hamilton Harbour's Randle Reef, badly polluted by toxic chemicals deposited by iron and steel makers since the late 1800s.

Jim Hudson, executive director of the Bay Area Restoration Council, said the federal contribution, together with \$30 million pledged by the Ontario government earlier this year, will make it possible to start capping and containing the toxic coal tar deposits late next year or early in 2009.

Speaking at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club, Baird called it the largest and most toxic pollution hot spot on the Canadian side of the Great Lakes, and said "that's why cleaning up Randle Reef is among our government's highest priorities."

The gift was welcomed by Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Burlington Mayor Cam Jackson and dozens of other local politicians, environmentalists, scientists and business leaders, including NDP MPs David Christopherson and Wayne Marston, who sat in the front row.

Baird looked down at the the opposition MPs and said, "I never thought I'd see David Christopherson applauding me."

Christopherson, who served in the Ontario legislature with Baird, replied with a smile, "The things you do for your city."