

# Panel hears host of proposals on waterfront

**BY DANA BROWN**

The redesign of Hamilton's waterfront should embrace the city's industrial history, not ignore it.

"We've got an incredible industrial history here and rather than trying to avoid it in waterfront regeneration, I think we should embrace it and include it whenever possible," said Scott Koblyk, president of the Bay Area Restoration Council.

Koblyk was one of about 60 people at the restoration council's 15th annual workshop which discussed waterfront rejuvenation.

Representatives who helped plan and implement waterfronts in Port Dalhousie, east and west Toronto and the surrounding area and Windsor were on hand to talk about what was done well and what could have been improved.

After the panel discussion, Koblyk said by following the lead of cities such as Windsor, Hamilton has a good chance to use its industrial heritage to its advantage.

Windsor used artifacts of its industrial history in its waterfront design, like using old rail barge lifts as lookouts and fishing piers.

Justin Readman, project manager of waterfront recreation and environmental planning for the city, said Hamilton has looked at how the city's industrial legacy might fit into the waterfront design.

Hamilton, still being in the early stages of its waterfront development, has the benefit of looking to other municipalities to see what works and what doesn't. Some mistakes Hamilton officials hope this city will avoid include a waterfront that is only really active six months of the year like Port Dalhousie.

The panel also stressed the need to focus on an eco-conscious plan, including creating ample fish habitats.

In Hamilton, a preliminary study found there were more fish in Macasa Bay and the main basin of the harbour than expected. That's made it important to consider a fish-friendly design, Readman said.

The city's biggest challenge is working with groups who already have leases on waterfront lands, he added.

The next round of public consultations will be in April.

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