



*Bringing Back
The Bay*

Number 29

April 2000

BARC
Newsletter

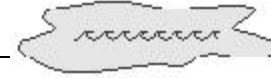


Homefront Harbourfront

**Charting
Hamilton
Harbour's
Future
Through
Community
Planning**

On February 26, 2000 more than 100 people attended BARC's 8th Annual Community Forum at CCIW. The theme was "Homefront Harbourfront", a look at urban planning issues and their role in the rejuvenation of Hamilton Harbour. This report highlights some of the presentations and discussions from the forum ...

Inside ... RAP Office Update



WELCOME!

Zoë Green, President, Bay Area Restoration Council

BARC President Zoë Green warmly welcomed the attendees, and stressed the purpose of the meeting, that is to encourage discussion and to share ideas. She pointed out the strong role that citizens play in the process and the positive impact that stakeholders have had in the past. Cooperation among the seven municipalities that have jurisdiction over the watershed, and the various watershed uses by industry, citizens, and others is a strong goal and necessary to achieve success in the process. Though the many stakeholders in this process represent many different communities, they

come together to form one single community. As everyone in the area has an impact on the watershed, the input of all citizens is necessary in the process. Speakers at the forum have important ideas and the ideas from the workshops can impact the planning process undertaken by BARC. Each of the three workshops and guest speakers provide attendees with access to the planning process for the watershed in the years to come. □



BARC volunteers Heather Wilson (left) and Kristin O'Connor (right) greet workshop participants.

GREETINGS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor Bob Morrow, City of Hamilton

Mayor Morrow thanked BARC for its support and stressed his commitment to working with BARC on its plans. He noted that he felt very blessed to have so many talented people coming together to make a difference in their communities. Mr. Morrow also expressed hope that the re-structured Hamilton-Wentworth

area would improve the planning process even further. The work done to improve and reclaim the waterfront for the community is invaluable, and he expressed the hope that a "century of fighting" between The Hamilton Harbour Commissioners and the City would conclude because of last year's deal. He also used the opportunity to

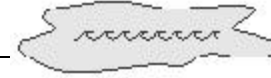
stress the importance of federal and provincial involvement, and noted success stories from the United States when higher levels of government became involved. He noted that change from the stereotypical image of Hamilton Harbour has already been evident, and that we owe it to the future to continue to improve it. □

Carol D'Amelio, Councillor, City of Burlington

Councillor D'Amelio expressed welcome from Mayor MacIsaac and thanked the attendees. She stressed the commitment made by

many people to improve the quality of the watershed area and noted the difference that people who take the time to care can have. She

commended BARC and RAP for the work they do, and this forum as a means of citizen input, as they "make things happen". □



INFLUENCING THE PLANNING PROCESS

Presented by Scott Snider, Lawyer

Scott Snider is a lawyer with Turkstra, Mazza Associates in Hamilton. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. Mr. Snider spoke to workshop participants about how the municipal planning process works and how citizens can influence it.

Nuts and Bolts of the Planning Process

Mr. Snider began his presentation with a discussion of the key components of the municipal planning process.

Constitutional jurisdiction over most planning matters is in the hands of the provinces (one exception relevant to Hamilton is the federal jurisdiction over harbours exercised by The Hamilton Harbour Commissioners). In Ontario, all planning is done under the auspices of the Ontario *Planning Act*.

While day-to-day decisions are made at the municipal level, planning is led by provincial policy. This means that the provincial government and its ministries have a role to play in setting policy to lead planning in all communities in the province.

For years, there was no formalized procedure and so provincial policy could be "produced from the bottom drawer of a bureaucrats desk at some

inopportune moment throwing an entire project into disarray." However since 1983 the *Planning Act* has had a procedure by which Provincial Policy Statements are approved by Cabinet and then published to guide planning at the local level. The nature of these policies has varied widely from government to government.

The *Planning Act* empowers municipalities to make use of a number of planning instruments. The most important one is the Official Plan. At its best, an Official Plan is a statement of a community's vision for its future. It contains goals, objectives and policies designed to manage and direct physical change and growth. All future public works and by-laws must be in conformity with the Official Plan. Hamilton-

"... your influence will vary in large measure with the time, resources, and energy you are prepared to invest in the issue."

Scott Snider

Wentworth's award winning Official Plan deals with issues such as responsive government, the environment, shelter, economic opportunities, and so on. It also includes specific policies to promote implementation of the RAP.

The second key planning instrument is the Zoning By-Law. A Zoning By-Law is a far more detailed land use document that sets out very precisely what can be done at any place in the municipality. These are prepared by lower tier municipalities.

Beneath the canopy of Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws are a number of other planning instruments such as plans of subdivision, site plans, bonusing by-laws, and so on.

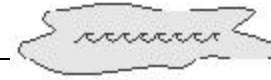
Influencing the Planning Process

At a theoretical level, all of us have an equal ability to influence what the Official Plan or Zoning By-Law will look like or how they will be implemented. The *Planning Act*

requires public notice and public meetings before amending or passing an Official Plan or Zoning By-Law. Anyone with a valid objection can appeal a municipality's decision to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). The

OMB is a quasi-judicial administrative tribunal which functions like a court but is less formal. All parties can call evidence which is then subject to cross-examination.

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INFLUENCING THE PLANNING PROCESS

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We all have an equal right to participate in a hearing at the OMB. This is a crucial option to level the playing field. It can often be frustrating to appear before a municipal council because it can seem like no-one is listening or there is no time or interest in getting into crucial technical issues.

At a practical level, your influence will vary in large measure with the time, resources, and energy you are prepared to invest in the issue. This is where organizations such as BARC play, or can play, such a crucial role because they permit individuals to pool their time and resources and skills to have a more effective role in influencing community planning.

It has been said that proponents never sleep. Planning instruments are never written in stone. They are always open to amendment or subject to different interpretations. Advancing a particular issue such as water quality in the harbour requires constant vigilance. For example, even being aware that an amendment to an official plan is proposed is not easy. Then there is the matter of gathering the various planning documents, technical expertise and legal assistance. Citizens or groups like BARC will often lack the resources

to do this. This is generally not the case for the proponents.

Strategies for Influencing the Planning Process

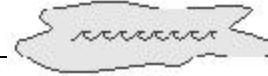
Some of the most effective means of participating in community planning are as follows:

- **Organize.** Pool your resources, time and talents with those who share your concerns. You will almost always be more effective than you would be on your own.
- **Sometimes, sheer numbers will carry the day.** It is often said that planning is politics. Projects can be defeated simply by the size of the opposition, despite technical studies in support. This is one clear advantage ratepayers have over proponents.
- **Never underestimate the power of being right.** Most politicians do want to do the right thing. However being right usually requires in-depth analysis and technical study. If you are right and supported by sound research you can apply relentless pressure.
- **Keep in constant contact with your local councillor and with staff.** You will have far more influence if you have developed a

relationship with the people who make decisions for your community. This cannot be a one-way relationship or one based on intimidation. Your councillors and staff need to know that they can trust you to be straightforward, honest, and have your homework done.

- **Get involved early.** Once an Official Plan is approved it is very difficult to overcome. If you wait for the site plan control stage it is too late to fundamentally affect the nature of the development. Also, projects develop momentum, staff become wedded to their opinions, and councillors make commitments.
- **Develop a track record** of being effective and hard-nosed but reasonable.
- **Hire the support you need when you need it.** Without professional help at key junctures you can easily be out manoeuvred by your opposition. Also by spending resources on key areas you demonstrate a firm commitment to your cause.

Finally, remember that the planning system is designed to be influenced. That is one of its fundamental objectives. □



UPDATE FROM THE RAP FORUM

Presented by John Gartner, RAP Forum

John Gartner was one of the original members of the RAP stakeholders group over 10 years ago. He is now a planning consultant in Toronto and Co-chair of the Hamilton Harbour RAP Forum's Urbanization and Land Management Steering Group. He introduced the RAP process and outlined the work of the RAP Forum.

The Original RAP Process

The RAP process began as a result of the International Joint Commission (IJC) agreement between the Canadian and American governments

called the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Hamilton Harbour RAP process involved representatives from the federal and provincial governments, municipalities, industry, citizens, municipal staff, and interested others. A draft report was issued in 1988, given to the IJC in 1989, and formally presented in 1990. The RAP Stage 2 Report was published two years later.

Mr. Gartner noted that public perception of the harbour has changed with improved access to the shoreline. He also noted that the second stage

of the process also continued to emphasize the importance of targets being reflective of regional goals. When the process began they targeted that 25% of the waterfront become accessible to the public. They have now achieved about 22% access, and hope to continue to work towards the goal.

The RAP Forum

The RAP Forum was established in 1999. It is a re-forming of the original

continued on next page ...

Membership Application Form

New Applications Only

Name
Address
City Postal Code
Phone Fax
Email

I am applying as a representative of an organization

Name of organization

I am applying as a private citizen

Please register me as a:

Member (voting) \$25.00

Associate Member (non-voting) \$20.00

Student / Other Member (voting) \$10.00

I would like to join a committee

How did you learn about BARC?

.....

.....

Donations

Donations

\$25.00

\$100.00

other \$

Your donation will support BARC's Public Awareness and Educational programs. Receipts for donations and membership fees are issued for Income Tax purposes.

Charitable Registration Number 892936584

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$ plus

DONATIONS \$ equals

TOTAL \$

Your membership includes a subscription to this quarterly newsletter. An electronic version of this newsletter is available on our web page at:

www.cciw.ca/glimr/barc

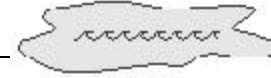
Cheques should be made payable to:

Bay Area Restoration Council

and mailed with completed form to:

Room B130F, Life Sciences Building

McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4K1



Workshop Session A:

HARBOUR WATER QUALITY

Presented by Leo DeLoyde, Town of Ajax

Leo DeLoyde is the former Head of Development and RAP representative for the City of Burlington. He is now Director of Planning and Development Services for the Town of Ajax. Mr. DeLoyde led a discussion on reducing the ecological footprint of urban and rural land use practices in the watershed.

The Ecological Footprint

In thinking about water quality it is important to think about the ecological footprint of urban and rural land uses in the watershed. Mr. DeLoyde

introduced the acronym "BGOTO", meaning a "Blinding Glimpse Of The Obvious", in describing how we cannot plan for the harbour without regard for what goes on in the watershed.

How Can We Reduce Our Impact on Water Quality?

The workshop discussion focused on what municipalities could do to reduce our collective ecological footprint. Some of the suggestions which came out of the discussions are outlined below:

- contain development within the existing urban envelope (intensification) to avoid sprawl and its associated problems;
- upgrade the wastewater treatment plants in the Hamilton Harbour area;
- continue the CSO tank program and replace the existing combined sewer/stormwater systems with a separated system;
- encourage higher density development projects and better environmental performance by offering developers tax incentives or bonuses, such as shorter time frames for plan approvals;
- continually educate the public about the new green technologies that are available and encourage them to use them and explore incentives such as tax breaks for being "green";
- develop a spill prevention program to protect the watershed from traffic and industrial accidents;
- encourage property owners to practice "at-source" stormwater management controls such as dry wells, rain barrels, and disconnecting roof leaders; and
- there should be an R2000 equivalent for environmental performance in houses which include features such as runoff water consumption. □

UPDATE FROM THE RAP FORUM

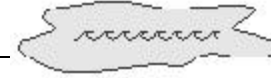
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stakeholder group that was in place at the time of the publication of the RAP Stage 2 Report in 1992. Its purpose is to oversee updates to the RAP and decide on their content. Forum membership sits at just over 50 stakeholders.

The Urbanization and Land Management Update is in recognition of the fact that human activities on land are the dominating influence over the quality of the aquatic ecosystem. There are three primary components to this update; land use and water quality, land use and human habitat,

and land use and access to water.

Mr. Gartner stressed the importance of community involvement in the process. He noted that the success of previous rounds of public input are good predictors for success this time around. In keeping with this statement he noted that there is an opportunity to help in this stage of the planning process. On June 15th at 5:30 p.m. at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters the Urbanization and Land Management Update will be presented to the RAP Forum. The public is welcome. □



Workshop Session B: **PUBLIC ACCESS**

Presented by Ken Hall, Past BARC President

Ken Hall has played a vital role in many aspects of the RAP including development of BARC and the Hamilton Harbour Watershed Stewardship Project. He has served as Executive Director, Vice-President, and President of BARC and is a leading force behind many local and provincial initiatives such as Hamilton-Wentworth's Vision 2020, the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve Discovery Centre, and "Our Millennium". Mr. Hall led a discussion on increasing public access to the harbour.

In The Beginning ...

One hundred years ago the issue of public access to the harbour really didn't exist. The harbour was a great

The original RAP set a goal of 25% of the shoreline to be publicly accessible. After considerable effort, today approximately 22% of the harbour shoreline is publicly accessible.

place for people to meet and enjoy recreational activities and there were many points of access. People could boat, swim, and picnic along the shore. Access to the shoreline changed with the beginning of World War II, due to the growth of industry, railyards, and the increased use of the harbour for the disposal of sewage fluid. This left

the once beautiful harbour a "highly polluted cesspool." Private property and No Trespassing signs also became more dominant along the waterfront.

With the development of the RAP in the 1980s, the issue of restoring public access emerged as a primary goal in the rejuvenation of the harbour. The original RAP set a goal of 25% of the shoreline to be publicly accessible. After considerable effort, today approximately 22% of the harbour shoreline is publicly accessible.

Increasing Public Access

The remainder of the workshop session explored ideas and opportunities for further increasing public access to the harbour, with a goal of maintaining the multi-use characteristics of the harbour and striking a balance between uses. The following are some

of the suggestions of workshop participants.

North East Shoreline

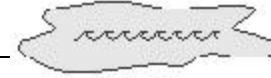
- Extend the trail across the CCIW property to the north side of the canal and then link with the Burlington Lake Ontario Trail to Spencer Smith Park.

- Area east of the northeast islands could provide an opportunity for increased public access.
- Public parking at CCIW for people walking the northeast trail.

Canal Zone

- Develop an historical park highlighting the existing lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's house. If they become available, move some of the historically designated houses on the beachstrip to concentrate them in the area.
- The fence at the CCIW impedes passage along the north side of the Canal and should be removed.
- There is a fantastic walkway along the south side of the canal but it needs care and attention (e.g. paint on the handrail).
- It is unfortunate that Fisherman's Wharf has become a car park.
- When creating the trail network from the canal to Confederation Park, a paved trail could accommodate bikers, skaters, and the handicapped while a sand/beach path could be reserved for walkers and bird watchers.
- A car stopping place should be built off Eastport Drive near the north end of the piers so travellers could pull off the road and look over the harbour.

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Workshop Session B: **PUBLIC ACCESS**

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Windermere Basin

- Run boat and bus trips along the industrial waterfront.
- Develop the plans for a North eastern Gateway to Hamilton.
- Improve the poor visual impact with trees, berms, and signage.
- Improve the walk north on Strathearne to Eastport Drive.
- Control effluent discharging into the Basin from the treatment plant.

Industrial and South Shore

Port Facilities

- Develop an enclosed elevated steel walkway across the industrial area so that activities can be viewed by walkers.
- Turn some of the abandoned empty brownfields into parkettes.
- Use boat tours, guided tours of plants, and interpretive signage to tell the history of the area.

- Support tree-planting initiatives of industries like Stelco & Dofasco.
- Improve walk along Burlington Street to Sherman Avenue and north towards the harbour.
- Provide lookouts throughout the area such as near Hillyard Street and the northwest of Pier 8.

West End Harbourfront

- Take down fences at Star which stop citizens from reaching the waterfront from Eastwood Park.
- Proposed marine museum at Pier 8 should include access to viewing bridges where ship traffic, loading, and unloading could be observed.
- Develop walkway from the escarpment to the harbour along Ferguson Avenue.
- Pier 4 and Bayfront Parks are overused and stressed and should not be so heavily used as commercial venues.
- Link West Harbourfront Trail to Dundurn Castle and the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Cootes Paradise

- Construct a floating boardwalk from the Fishway to the RBG Interpretive Centre linking with the West Harbourfront Trail.

Mouth of Grindstone Creek

- Area needs a garbage clean-up.
- Construct a shoreline trail from

the Desjardins Canal to the bridge at Valley Inn Road.

- Complete the Valley Inn Trail to link the boardwalk through Grindstone to the High Level Bar.
- Better signage of the historical site at Valley Inn.

South Shore

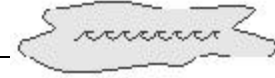
- Make agreements with cemeteries to permit a walking trail along the top of the bluff with lookouts on the Bay.
- Establish free boat launch at LaSalle Park.
- Return to historical harbour cruises using the historical triangular route of LaSalle Park, the Canal, and James Street as the docking areas.
- A joiner trail is needed at Indian point to link the North East Shoreline Trail with Brant Museum and Spencer Smith Park.

General Comments

- An anti-litter program is needed.
- An Adopt-A-Trail program would improve security, cleanliness, etc.
- In highway planning, trails should be included.
- Public access does not have to be only on public land. Agreements for access across private lands can be made.
- An ownership map of the harbour should be produced. □



Workshop leader Ken Hall.



Workshop Session C:

ON THE HOME FRONT

Presented by Heather Donison, Green Venture

Heather Donison is General Manager of Green Venture, a local non-profit community organization dedicated to improving the environment by helping people to save energy and water, reduce waste, avoid toxic chemicals and reduce air pollution on the "home front." She is also Chair of the Green Communities Association.

Ms. Donison stressed the impact that land and water uses in the watershed have on water quality and the ecological footprint of each individual home. Lifestyles and consumer choices impact water quality so to restore the harbour we should look for solutions in our own homes.

There are a number of programs designed to reduce our impact on water

quality in our homes. One of these is aimed at reducing pesticide use by homeowners by presenting alternatives, informing homeowners of the hazards pesticides pose, and through success stories from gardeners who have decided not to use pesticides.

Another positive initiative is the Hamilton Harbour Watershed Stewardship Program which, since 1994, has made 300 verbal agreements with landowners to act as stewards of their lands in the watershed. One hundred of these landowners have agreed to take part in rehabilitation projects on their properties.

Green Ventures has spearheaded an effort to reduce mercury in household appliances and products, which pose

a direct threat to people in their homes as well as when they are disposed of incorrectly.

The group discussion which followed Ms. Donison's presentation centred around natural landscapes and pesticide reduction. Some of the ideas generated included naturalizing properties (participants noted that only *noxious* weeds are prohibited by City by-laws); influencing neighbours and sharing tips on composting, organic gardening, and health; and encouraging schoolyard naturalization.

Though many of us already consider the impact we have on the environment, there are always opportunities to learn more and to take a leadership role in speaking to others in the community. □

Thanks!

BARC would like to thank all of the presenters, CCIW, volunteers, and participants who made the Homefront Harbourfront community forum a success.

In particular BARC thanks the Community Forum Steering Committee and volunteers including: Marilyn Baxter, Konrad Brenner, Linda Bryant, Dave Butler, Ken Hall, Kristin O'Connor, Sheila O'Neal, Gil Simmons and Heather Wilson.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 15 **Pond Workshop & Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Award Ceremony**
*Conservation Halton Main Office
2596 Britannia Road West, Milton
8:30 am to 1:00 pm (lunch provided)*
A free workshop for anyone with questions about building or maintaining ponds. Also celebrate the 1999-2000 Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewards. For more information or to register call 905-648-4427 ext. 164.

April 16 **Celebrating Paradise**
Royal Botanical Gardens Nature Centre
Come out and enjoy the beauty of Cootes Paradise and the RBG. Many activities have been planned such as nature hikes, tours, and marsh planting demonstrations. Contact the RBG at 905-527-1158 for more information.

April 29 & 30 **BARC Volunteer Planting Days**
May 6 & 7 *9:00 am to 1:00 pm*
Help enhance the new Waterfront Trail by planting trees and shrubs. Meet at Bayfront Park parking lot. Call BARC to register.

May 24 **BARC Annual General Meeting**
*Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
7:00 pm*
Guest presentations, awards, and elections. Call BARC for more information.

April 27 **SH*T HAPPENS**
*Woodward Avenue School
7:30 pm*
A discussion of human sewage and water quality in Hamilton Harbour. Sponsored by the Western Lake Ontario Environmental Coalition.

June 3 & 17 **Clean Up Days**
Spencer Smith Park and LaSalle Park
Help us clean up the shoreline and participate in some outdoor fun. Contact BARC for more information.

October 17-19 **Fourth State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC)**
Hamilton Convention Centre
SOLEC is a biennial conference to report on the health of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. The SOLEC process is a rare opportunity to bring stakeholders together to identify common objectives and data needs, and to encourage cooperative data collection and reporting. For more information visit www.cciw.ca/solec.

May 2 **Marsh Planting Information Night**
*Royal Botanical Gardens, Rooms 1 & 2
7:00 pm*
Join us for a slide show and information night to find out more about the AMAZING wildlife and habitat restoration at Cootes Paradise and Hamilton Harbour. Call BARC for more information.

See This Newsletter
on the Web!
www.cciw.ca/glimr/barc

Bringing Back The Bay April 2000

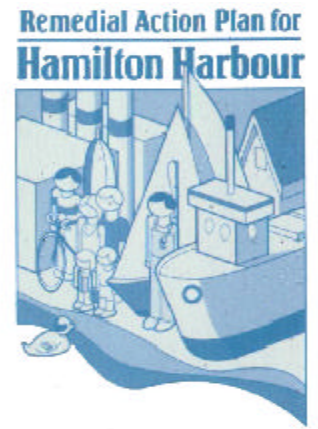
Bringing Back The Bay is the newsletter of the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC). BARC is an incorporated, non-profit, charitable organization established in 1991 to promote, monitor, and assess the implementation of the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan. Articles in this newsletter reflect the views of the individual contributors.

Editor: Jason Thorne

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RAP Forum Update

By Jason Thorne

The RAP Forum is moving forward in its work to update the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to meet the next generation of challenges in de-listing Hamilton Harbour as an Area of Concern. The RAP Forum began its work in April 1998 with a goal of producing an updated RAP for public consultation by late summer 2001. It is a re-forming and expansion of the original stakeholder group that was responsible for the original RAP Stage 2 Report in 1992. Its purpose is to guide the process of updating the RAP and approve the content of updates. Forum membership sits at just over 50 stakeholders.

dealt with in other phases of the update). The water quality update was coordinated by members of the Water Quality Task Group. The Task Group has been working on the update since the early summer of 1999 with input from the RAP Forum.

The RAP Forum concluded that the original RAP recommendations were very good ones, and for the most part remain valid. However experience over the past several years and new data means that more precision is now possible and appropriate in some areas.

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Water Quality Update

At its March 23, 2000 meeting, the RAP Forum approved its first set of updates to the RAP recommendations. These were in the area of water quality ("Water quality" for the purposes of this update refers to clarity and oxygen, nutrient and bacteria levels. Other related issues such as toxic substances are to be

Desired Environmental Conditions (* revised)

| Parameter | Harbour Initial Goal | Harbour Final Goal | Cootes Paradise | Grindstone Creek Area | Beaches |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Phosphorus (ug/l) | 34 | 17 | 60-70 | 60-70 | |
| Un-ionized ammonia (mg/l) | < 0.02 | < 0.02 | < 0.02* | < 0.02* | |
| Chlorophyll a (ug/l) | 15-20 | 5-10 | 20 | 20 | |
| Secchi Disk (m) | 2 | 3 | 1.5* | 1 | 1.2 |
| Minimum dissolved oxygen (ppm) | > 1 | > 4 | > 5* | > 5* | |
| Submergent / emergent aquatic plant area (ha) | 105 | 170 | 240 | 50 | |
| Suspended solids (mg/l) | | | 10 | 10 | |
| Bacteria (<i>E. coli</i> / 100 ml water) | | | | | < 100 |

RAP Forum Update (cont'd)

A fundamental question in the water quality update was whether the targets themselves needed revision. A decision on revising suspended solids targets was deferred because of a fairly high degree of uncertainty associated with the data supporting them. A decision on revising final loading targets was also deferred until such time as the initial targets have been met and some analysis of corresponding conditions can take place. The initial phosphorus and ammonia targets have been retained. The update also includes the loading targets for the Dundas and Waterdown Wastewater Treatment Plants in the delisting criteria which were not included in the original RAP. The update also includes greater precision about what constitutes compliance with RAP goals by specifying such things as sampling locations and frequencies.

Urbanization and Land Management

The Urbanization and Land Management Update is in recognition of the fact that human activities on land are the dominating influence over the quality of the aquatic ecosystem. The goal of the RAP Urbanization and Land Management Update is to "encourage watershed planning, land use and land management practices that continue to improve water quality within the Hamilton Harbour and its watercourses; human and natural habitats; and access to and aesthetics of the Hamilton Harbour's shoreline and watershed." To coordinate this update a Working Group and Steering Group were struck in the fall of 1999. These groups presented

their draft report to the RAP Forum on March 23.

The Urbanization and Land Management Update proposes collecting in one section of the RAP all of the recommendations pertaining to urbanization and land

Net Loading Targets in Kg per Day (* revised)

| Source | Phosphorus | | Ammonia | | Suspended Solids | |
|---------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------------|--------------|
| | Initial | Final | Initial | Final | Initial | Final |
| Woodward | 140 | 60 | 2270 | 530 | 3750 | 900 |
| Skyway | 30 | 12 | 470 | 115 | 500 | 200 |
| Dundas | 5 | | 22 | | 28 | |
| Waterdown | 1 | | 5 | | 5 | |
| CSOs | 70 | 5 | 160 | 20 | 1400 | 200 |
| Streams | 90 | 65 | | | deleted* | deleted* |
| Industry (combined) | | | 400 | 270 | | |
| Stelco | | | | | 4000 | 1500 |
| Dofasco | | | | | 3500 | 1500 |
| Total | 330 | 142 | 3300 | 935 | 13150* | 4300* |

use. This would be a significant change over the original RAP which addressed this issue sporadically throughout the document. Issues addressed in the update include:

- urban form and design;
- growth patterns and scale;
- sediment and erosion control;
- stormwater management;
- waste, toxic contaminants and pesticides;
- water conservation;
- habitat protection and restoration;
- land stewardship;
- public access; and
- significant views, vistas, and cultural landscapes.

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RAP Forum Update (cont'd)

Some of the highlights from the draft update include:

- increasing the length of riparian buffers by 10%;
- recommendation that all municipalities adopt a Top Soil Preservation or Site Alteration By-law;
- public education programs aimed at individuals and businesses to encourage reductions in pesticide use;
- identification and protection of important views, vistas and cultural landscapes of the Harbour;
- metering of all urban water users;
- completion of watershed studies for all creeks within the Harbour watershed within 5 years; and
- groundwater studies throughout the watershed to identify significant groundwater sites and develop policies for their protection.

Discussion of the draft update at the RAP Forum also indicated strong support for increasing the target for public access to the shoreline beyond the current target of 25%. Another common theme was to broaden the scope of land stewardship activities and Best Management Practices for issues such as riparian buffers to include urban as well as rural areas.

Next Steps

At the end of the March 23 meeting, Dr. Brian McCarry presented some preliminary objectives for the next phase of the RAP Update which will focus on toxic substances. A Toxic Substances Task Team is now being formed and will report back to the RAP Forum at their June 15 meeting. The RAP Forum will also be discussing final revisions to the Urbanization and Land Management Update at that meeting. Remaining subject areas for the overall RAP Update include Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Research, Monitoring and Public Education. □

Randle Reef Sediment Remediation Update

By John Shaw

Current activity is focused on responding to comments received on the draft Environmental Screening Report from the public consultation held in January. There were about 140 comments submitted on various aspects of the project proposal, but of most concern were the health and safety concerns raised by the United Steelworkers of America, Local 1005. Environment Canada, with input from participating agencies and RAP stakeholders (including the former Randle Reef Technical Steering Committee), is preparing a response to the public review that will be distributed to those that submitted comments as well as participating agencies and RAP stakeholders in early April. The final outcome of the environmental screening of the proposed project is expected by the end of May.

While the environmental assessment activities are ongoing, sampling and PAH analysis of additional sediment cores collected from the site in December is nearing completion. This data will contribute to a better definition of the zone for dredging and, in particular, the depth of the contaminated sediments. Draft bilateral agreements between Environment Canada and project stakeholders are complete and under review by the respective agencies. Draft tendering documentation has been prepared and is being updated with new information such as the final definition of the dredge zone.

Implementation will only occur upon receiving a decision on the environmental screening of the proposed project to proceed, at which time agreements will be finalized and the project may advance to the tendering stage. □

From The RAP Office

By Anne Redish, Interim RAP Office Coordinator

It is just over five years since I wrote my last column for the newsletter as the retiring President of BARC. For this issue it gives me great pleasure to be in touch with you again as the Interim Coordinator of the RAP Office. I am only here on a short-term, part-time basis, but when Louise Knox resigned last November and it became obvious that the position would not be filled for some time, I offered to help out. I may say that my admiration for all that Louise achieved increases every day!

My primary responsibility here is to ensure that the RAP Update proceeds and you will see elsewhere in this newsletter that a major step forward has been taken with the Forum's work on the Urbanization and Land Management section (*Editor's Note: see article on first page*). This was an area which the original RAP did not explore in much detail and I think we will make a considerable advance in improving the Harbour if we can implement the new recommendations.

Whilst dealing with the RAP Update takes most of my time, I am very much aware that supporting the implementation of the RAP is equally, indeed probably

more, important. Here, achieving the remediation of Randle Reef continues to be a slow process to which I give all the support and encouragement that I can. Again there is an article by John Shaw giving you more information on progress elsewhere in this newsletter.

A more immediately successful implementation is the agreement of the Region of Halton to accept the incorporation of the RAP phosphorus targets in the Ministry of Environment Certificate of Approval for the Skyway Wastewater Treatment Plant. Indeed, Halton is to be congratulated on their successes in the area of improved sewage treatment plant effluent.

Although I shall only be acting as Coordinator until the end of April, I anticipate continuing to act as the RAP Forum Chair. I am always happy to hear your thoughts and suggestions in either capacity so please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

The Forum meetings are open to members of the public and the stakeholders welcome your participation. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 15 at 5:30 pm at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters. □

RAP Office Update April 2000

RAP Office Update is the newsletter of the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Office which coordinates implementation of the measures identified to restore and protect the Hamilton Harbour Watershed ecosystem. The RAP Office tracks and reports on progress, manages issues which, if left alone, could impede progress, and supports continued public involvement and communication. Articles in this newsletter may reflect the opinions of individual contributors.

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