



Bringing Back The Bay

Number 41

April 2003

BARC
Newsletter

Bay Area Restoration Council Annual Community Workshop Report

A HEALTHY HARBOUR: *What's in it for us?*

By Scott Koblyk, BARC Director

On March 8, President Jim Thoms stood in the middle of a circle of 120 attendees at BARC's 11th Annual Community Workshop and told them that BARC hadn't bothered to make an agenda for the morning. In fact, he suggested quite emphatically that the people in the seats just might want to get busy and make their own darned agenda. To explain why, Jim needed to tell a story that began about eleven years ago.

Since we're now closer to the finish line than the starting line, BARC wanted to look forward with its community workshop.

The Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC), as Jim told the audience, was founded to promote, monitor, report, and be the public voice for the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Hamilton Harbour watershed. In that capacity, BARC has provided an annual report on the status of the Bay, informed the community about the importance of the restoration programme, and acted as a vehicle for personal involvement in the restoration efforts.

The Annual Community Workshop has been an effective forum for linking these goals and bringing together people and information in meaningful ways for over a decade. But the 2003 workshop was a little different.

Based on BARC's latest reporting, it is now reasonable to project that the Bay could be remediated to RAP standards by 2015. That means we're half-way there.

Since we're now closer to the finish line than the starting line, BARC wanted to look forward with its community workshop, and what better way to do that than to continue

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Over 120 people gathered in a circle -- ready to share their views and passion for the harbour.

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BARC's tradition of acting as a vehicle for personal involvement in Bay issues?

Jim Thoms stood before the group, therefore, and asked everyone for their involvement that morning, for an investment of their visionary powers.

BARC asked everyone for their visions of the future Harbour. How would you like to see the Bay Area in 2015? How will your grandchildren know the Harbour?

Images Of A Healthy Harbour



Imagining the Bay as it will be was much less difficult after the morning began with a multimedia show that showed the best of what the Bay is now. The Spirit of Nature photography group presented its beautifully photographed and choreographed show, "Hamilton's Waterfront, Naturally!" Without exception, the workshop attendees were impressed by the talent of the photographers, the quality of the presentation, and, most importantly, the incredible natural beauty and potential of the Bay area. There was no better way to fire the imagination and reinforce the importance of the work everyone was doing that day.

A New Perspective on the Annual Community Workshop

The goal of the 2003 Community Workshop was to turn the tables on the traditional workshop format and traditional workshop results. Instead of providing information and offering expertise, this year BARC wanted to hear from the attendees. We wanted to tap into the intellectual, experiential, observational, and emotional power of the people who assembled at the Royal Botanical Gardens Centre.

The key goal of the workshop was to give BARC members and the interested public the opportunity to provide input into visioning the future of the Harbour and waterfront from a 'people' perspective. BARC wanted to find out what issues matter to you most about the Bay and how you envision the Bay's future. Just as importantly, BARC wanted to hear those messages in your words so that, as an organization, BARC could enhance its communication efforts and speak more effectively to the broader Hamilton community.

Lofty goals indeed. In fact, they may seem a little lofty to leave to the apparent randomness of a blank agenda, but the circle and open agenda were actually part of a process called Open Space Technology. In the Open Space

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**Marilyn Baxter and Jim Thoms
thank the workshop facilitator
Susan Hall (centre)**

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Technology (OST) format, participants create the agenda for the workshop based on a theme, in our case, the future of a healthy harbour. Every idea from the group can become part of the agenda and then each agenda item attracts small-group discussion among the people interested in that particular topic.

A New Process for Discussion

The facilitator was Susan Hall, a trained professional in OST, who led the group through a process that was new to almost everyone, but to both Susan's and the group's great credit, the workshop got off to a fast start and just kept gathering momentum. Very quickly, an agenda grew of topics for which the workshop participants had a passion. The result was the following menu of small-group discussion topics – our agenda!

1. The Harbour in Winter
2. An Environmentally Responsible Port
3. Pier 8 Redevelopment
4. A Restored Natural Windermere Basin

5. Access for Recreational Use
6. Getting More People out on the Harbour
7. Pesticides in the Harbour/Watershed
8. West Nile: Mosquito Control Impact on Bay Area
9. Trail System Connection to RBG
10. Wetlands
11. Tourism and Economic Attraction
12. Involving the Agricultural Community in Watershed Restoration and Stewardship
13. Restoration and Naturalization of Rivers and Streams in the Watershed
14. Discouraging Feeding of Birds in the Harbour
15. Economics and Tourism
16. Air Pollution
17. Linking the Environmental Landscape to Trail System
18. Future of Bayfront Park

The workshop attendees each had the opportunity to attend sessions on two of the above topics. The key points of each discussion were documented and returned to a final full-group closing session where the report of each discussion group was submitted.

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This discussion group called for more boat ramps and activities to bring people to the water's edge.



M. Baxter

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The products of these efforts were, literally, hundreds of ideas. That even BARC's most ambitious expectations for quantity and quality of input were exceeded is a testament to our facilitator, Susan Hall, certainly, but mostly to the participants whose passion for the Bay came through emphatically.

What Happens Now?

The information and ideas gathered at the workshop will further develop BARC's communication plan -- a plan that is integral to our communication with politicians, media, and the community, as well as shaping our publications, including our web page.

A full report will be compiled for the BARC Board of Directors and posted on BARC's website for your viewing at www.hamiltonharbour.ca.

The results of the 2003 BARC Annual Community Workshop are going to play a significant role in how BARC directs its efforts.

Imagine: A Vision of the Bay Area

You're probably more than a little curious, however, to read the output of the workshop discussion here. In its final form, the workshop report is almost thirty pages, far too many for an environmentally-conscious organization to print and circulate as broadly as this newsletter, so we'll take a different approach.

Imagine the Bay in 2015 when we will find cleaner water, greater public access, and broader biodiversity, just to list a few important improvements that will come from meeting the RAP goals.

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The results of the 2003 BARC Community Workshop are going to play a significant role in how BARC directs its efforts.

As Jim Thoms mentioned in his opening address at the workshop, we are at the crucial half-way point in the remediation process. From this point on, BARC is stepping up its efforts to ensure that the great work of more than a decade continues, and that the entire Bay Area community is helping push that work towards a point of sustainable success.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday May 8, 2003

7:00 pm

LaSalle Park Pavilion

50 North Shore Boulevard East, Burlington

Keynote Speaker:

Roger Wheelock

President & CEO, Royal Botanical Gardens

Elections and Business



Annual Implementation Award and Recognition Awards



Refreshments



For more information call 905-527-7111
or visit www.hamiltonharbour.ca

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What if, however, we were able to take just a fraction of the ideas presented at the workshop and turn them into reality? What would the Bay be like then? How would our experience of it be different? Let's find out ...

A Day at the Harbour on May 28, 2015

I decided to leave my bike at home today and walk down to the water. The James Street streetcar was running, of course. I could have hopped aboard when it passed me, clacking along its rails, filled with locals headed the same place I was, but with the sun out and a nice breeze, walking was the best way to go.

James Street is one of my favourite ways to get to the Bay. I love the way the view opens up and you can see where you're headed.

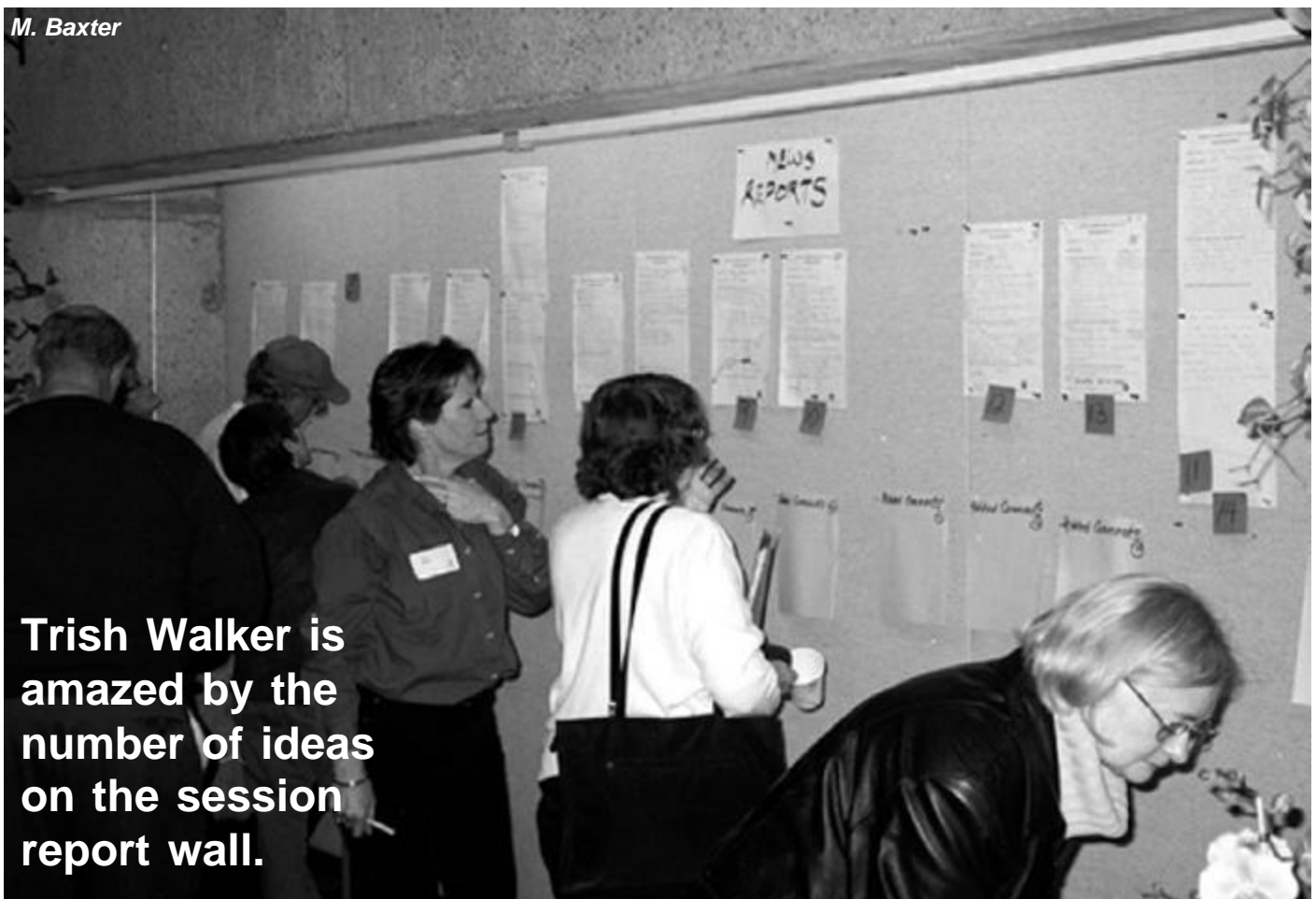
As I got closer to the waterfront, I noticed that even the homeowners and renters with the smallest gardens almost all have those little signs recognizing their pesticide-free green thumbs. It's great to see.

Last week when I went for my bike ride along the shore, I went west. With the weather being as warm as it has been lately, I was glad to grab a juice and cool off for a bit under the pavilion at Bayfront Park and check out the new steam engine in the former CN shunting yard. Today, though, I decided to head the other way. I hadn't been east of Pier 8 in a while, so I figured it was time.

The last time I was that far east along the water was probably in February during WinterFest for the light show and the fireworks. The guy who owns the chestnut wagon made a killing on roasted nuts and hot chocolate. I wonder

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M. Baxter



Trish Walker is amazed by the number of ideas on the session report wall.

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if it's the same guy who owns the frozen yogurt kiosk in summer. It's like a license to print money.

If I had had the kids with me, this would have been a great day to rent a paddle boat. We could have raced the *CanAm Spirit* as it pulled out from the Waterfront Inn at Pier 8. I can't believe how active the pier is now, not just with the paddle boats and cruises to Toronto and Rochester, but the Bay Tour Boats have been running for a decade now. It's hard to believe it's been that long.

When I got to the Waterfront Trail, I turned east and almost immediately got stuck behind a 'swan-jam.' A family of trumpeter swans had attracted a bunch of kids desperate to feed them. Luckily, their parents were paying attention to the signs, so the swans, who didn't look hungry anyway, were doing what they do best which is, I guess, look imposingly beautiful. Fantastic birds!

At the water's edge, I wasn't absolutely sure, but I think I caught a glimpse of a pike. It was a big fish, long and sleek. Hopefully, it didn't become too enthralled with the bait being offered by the fisherman a little ways up the path. I'm glad he was enjoying the natural bounty and everything, but I hope he was a catch-and-release guy.

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M. Baxter



Participants paid close attention to involving the agricultural community in restoration and stewardship.

Thanks for Being Part of the Vision!

The 120 attendees at the community workshop were the stars of the show. Thanks for contributing your experience, perspective, insight and expertise to the vision of the Bay. Your input was critical to the next phase of BARC's activities and hopefully to the destiny of the Bay.

Special thanks for attending go to:

- John Bryden, MP
- Dave Christopherson, MPP
- Rick Craven, Burlington Councillor
- Ted McMeekin, MPP
- John Hall, RAP Coordinator

Thanks for Making the Workshop Possible!

The Bay Area Restoration Council is grateful for the support of the many participating organizations and community members, and our workshop sponsors, Environment Canada and the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Thanks also to:

- Susan Hall of SMH Consulting
- The Spirit of Nature Photography Group
- Wendy-Erin de Blauw, Marc Peverini, Scott Koblyk and Trish Walker
- Community Stakeholder Steering Committee
- BARC Public Awareness Committee

And to the organizations who provided displays:

- Aldershot Community Council
- Burlington Sailing & Boating Club
- Giant's Rib Discovery Centre
- Green Venture
- Hamilton Coalition on Pesticide Issues
- Hamilton Port Authority
- Hamilton-Wentworth Stewardship Council
- Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan
- Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program
- LaSalle Park Marina

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Though I suppose he could eat what he caught if that was what he wanted.

I didn't linger very long with the pike and the swans because I wanted to see my new word in action. The kids taught me "littoral" last week. They're doing this massive ecology and local environment unit at school and they both came home on Wednesday going on about the improvements to the "littoral edge" down at Windermere Basin. Apparently, it's a great birding area.

"This is a very caring, concerned group of people."

- workshop participant

I figured I'd check it out. Plus, I wanted to get towards the industrial part of the harbour because I wanted a better look at the transportation containers they've got now at

Dofasco and Stelco. There sure was a lot less stuff in the air from what I was used to just a few years ago with the piles of material out in the open. And with all the different colours on the containers, they actually make for quite the attractive view in an artistically industrial sort of way.

I still prefer all the reeds and grasses and marshland of Cootes Paradise, but the industrial area is actually welcoming now. There's lots of greenbelt space and it's interesting to be able to see the mills and the working harbour from a different angle.

When I got back to our apartment, I was so excited I started doing the math on buying a new house. Renting is fine and the new apartments downtown are great, but it's time for us to own our own home. Since the Smart Growth plan kicked in and the development in rural areas has slowed down, we've got some great redeveloped properties going up for sale within an easy walk of the Bay.

Better buy now before the prices go through the roof.

Focusing on the Finish Line

If the fictional future diarist who gave us his submission above describes a vision or two of the Bay that inspires you, you are experiencing the same thing the majority of people at the 2003 workshop experienced.

Participant feedback included comments like, "I hope to live long enough to see the fruition of these dreams." Now, however, we can picture the day those dreams come true -- we can see the finish line.

There is still a staggering amount of work to be done, but we can see the way to do it and, thanks to the participants at the workshop, we can see better what the incentives are to do that work. As one of the participants wrote on her evaluation, "This is a very caring, concerned group of people." Together, we can bring back the bay! ☐

Bringing Back The Bay April 2003

Bringing Back The Bay is the newsletter of the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC). BARC is a confederation of community stakeholders devoted to revitalizing Hamilton Harbour and its watershed. Articles in this newsletter reflect the views of the individual contributors. The funds for this newsletter have been provided by Environment Canada.

Editor: Jason Thorne

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ECOLOGY · INDUSTRY · RECREATION

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The Bay Area Restoration Council is a confederation of community stakeholders devoted to revitalizing Hamilton Harbour and its watershed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 14

West Harbour Planning Area Study Open House

4:00 to 8:00 pm, Liuna Station

Call the City of Hamilton at 905-540-5101
for more information.



April 26

Arbour Day Events!

- *Hamilton Beach Planting Event* -

- *Arbour Day in Aldershot* -

- *Natural Areas Clean-up* -

- *Court Cliffe Community Planting Event* -

Call 905-527-7111 or visit www.hamiltonharbour.ca for
more information.

April 19

Sunoco Earth Day Community Shoreline Planting Event

Starts at 11:00 am at Princess Point

Fun for everyone! Call 905-527-7111 for information.



May 8

Bay Area Restoration Council

7:00 pm at the LaSalle Park Pavilion

Annual General Meeting, elections, awards and guest
presentation. Call 905-527-7111 for more information.



May 3, May 31 and June 11

Three marsh planting days at Cootes Paradise!

Start time 9:00 am

Call 905-527-7111 for details and to pre-register.

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

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other \$

Your donation will support BARC's Public Awareness
and Educational programs. Receipts for donations and
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Charitable Registration Number 892936584

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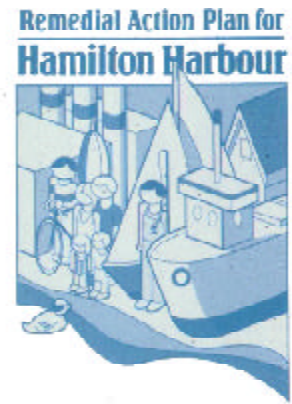
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Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4K1



Issue 30

April 2003

From the RAP Office
What's Happening?

By John D. Hall, MCIP, RPP, RAP Coordinator

In the January issue of the *RAP Office Update* I wrote about the "Importance of Implementation". So what's happening? Here are some highlights.

Research and Monitoring

Our Hamilton Harbour RAP is science-based. Several dates stand out. February 14 was our third annual "Harbour" Research and Monitoring Workshop followed on February 20 with Royal Botanical Garden's tenth annual Cootes Paradise/Grindstone Creek Estuary Workshop. September 26 will see our first workshop reporting on "Watershed" research and monitoring. These events are opportunities for our scientists and implementers to present their findings (albeit many are preliminary) and discuss future actions. One highlight, as a result of the RAP Stage 2 Update, greater focus in 2002 was placed on Windermere Arm, the southeast portion of the Harbour. Studies identified continuing impacts of contaminants on fish. Sediment showed a disconcerting indication that PCB contamination may be continuing in surficial deposits. As a result, more work is ongoing to define the condition of sediment and to look at potential contaminant sources in Red Hill Creek and the lands surrounding the Windermere Arm.

Beginning in 2003, the RAP Office will prepare a Monitoring Report that will catalogue all monitoring known to be ongoing within the Harbour. Trends will be updated annually where available. This work will complement the BARC monitoring initiative that looks at progress towards delisting. In addition, the "Contaminant Loadings and Concentrations to Hamilton Harbour" report, prepared for 1990 – 1996, will be updated to 2002.

Water Quality

Hamilton is reaching the final stage of the Environmental Assessment for the construction of upgrades to the Ewen, Royal

and Sterling combined sewers. It is hoped that these projects can move to construction this year so that benefits to Cootes Paradise will result in 2004.

A testing of the Waterdown WWTP will be carried out to define a program that will optimize performance, thereby creating the best quality effluent possible from the plant. This plant can account for over 50% of the base flow through the lower Grindstone Creek.

At the Skyway WWTP, a project is starting that will utilize ultraviolet light to disinfect effluent discharge thereby reducing dependence on chlorination.

Superbuild funding has been secured to upgrade Woodward WWTP primary treatment in order to reduce the potential for bypassing wet weather flows. This upgrade, along with the upgrades to its secondary treatment, should produce better quality effluent in 2003/4. The effectiveness of these upgrades will determine if the Woodward plant can meet initial RAP water quality targets.

Toxic Substances and Sediment Remediation

Randle Reef remediation continues as our highest priority. A containment option for contaminated sediment at Randle Reef, complemented by the ability of the containment structure to accommodate most of the remaining contaminated sediment targeted for remediation in the Harbour, is continuing towards detailed design and implementation. A public meeting is anticipated in the spring.

Plans are being completed for remediation of contaminated sediments in the Dofasco Boat slip. The RAP Stage 2 Update identifies remediation to begin in 2003. This is a project of Dofasco on its own property.

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Hamilton is in the process of updating its sewer use bylaw. It is hoped that more contaminants will be specified for control thereby reducing the potential for contaminants to move through the sewer system into the Harbour.

Final upgrades to containment and leachate controls at the Rennie and Brampton Street landfills are being completed. Local citizens have been the driving force behind this remediation and are now working in concert with the City to ensure this source of PCBs is controlled.

Urbanization and Land Management

A Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy (GRIDS) is underway in Hamilton. This study has the potential to determine the impact of different growth strategies to be considered in the updating of Hamilton's Official Plan. In simple terms, the study needs to define targets for effluent discharges from different proposals, costs of maintaining infrastructure and the impacts on the natural heritage system. For its part, the RAP set loading targets for the Harbour and its watersheds and advised any growth scenarios should not surpass these.

The City of Hamilton is updating its air photography and mapping of the natural heritage system. This work will allow the updating of ecological corridor linkages and the evaluation of the natural heritage system with respect to Environment Canada's Guidelines for Habitat Rehabilitation within the Great Lakes - vital input into any new Official Plan.

Conservation Halton is completing the preparation of a North Shore Watershed Study in 2003 encompassing the Indian, Falcon, Hager/Rambo and several other small creeks draining directly to the Harbour.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration

A RAP Wildlife Management Advisory Committee is preparing a Goose Management Plan for the Harbour and Lake Ontario waterfronts. This will result in a coordinated initiative to prevent geese from becoming a source of contamination to beaches and parks, and over-competing with native waterfowl.

The RBG is leading a study of water quality requirements for the restoration of the Cootes Paradise marsh. Scientists from the Canada Centre for Inland Waters, along with University researchers and City of Hamilton staff, will update water quality targets contained in the RAP.

Windermere Basin received Superbuild funding in 2003 and work can begin on a final design for public open space and fish and wildlife restoration. A sediment trap designed into the basin to prevent the discharge of sediment from the Red Hill Creek is to be dredged by the City of Hamilton. These two projects will need to be coordinated.

Two additional opportunities to develop plans for naturalizing the east and south shores of the harbour have recently developed. At Fisherman's Pier, the Hamilton Port Authority's proposed (Lake Ontario) marina development will allow for the Harbour shoreline to integrate naturalized features along the predominately armourstone water's edge. Similarly, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project staff will be working with Stelco to prepare a design for naturalization of a very large section of the Stelco shoreline that was established approximately fifteen years ago as a vegetated shoreline buffer.

Public Access and Aesthetics

The Hamilton Waterfront Trust will be building a trail from Pier 4 to Pier 8 which will connect with Parks Canada's Marine Discovery Centre and the World War II Tribal Class Destroyer, H.M.C.S. Haida.

Planning for a trail to connect the west end of the Harbour from Hamilton to Burlington should be finalized in 2003 allowing for trail construction in subsequent years. Similarly, plans for trails along the eastern shoreline of the Harbour will be integrated into the Windermere Basin and Fisherman's Pier projects.

These are some of the key highlights for 2003/ They are by no means the full extent of this year's activities to implement the RAP. The work completed in any given year depends on the leadership of our BAIT partners and the desires of our citizens and politicians to make these activities priorities. □

RAP Office Update April 2003

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. The funds for this newsletter have been provided by Environment Canada.

Editor: Jason Thorne

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