



Bringing Back The Bay

Number 30

July 2000

BARC
Newsletter

MAKING THE CONNECTION

The New Hamilton Harbour Waterfront Trail

By Stacey Cherwaty

The Bay Area Restoration Council, the City of Hamilton and its partners are involved with the construction of the new Hamilton Harbour Waterfront Trail and fish and wildlife habitat enhancements. The 3.4 km long multi-use trail makes its way along

hanging branches will create shade for fish, perches for birds and cover for water fowl.

The expanded trail system will provide residents and tourists a focal point to observe significant natural areas. Interpretive signage detailing historical and current events will be erected along the trail route to allow residents and

visitors alike to appreciate our past and look to the future as BARC, the City of Hamilton and its partners continue to work on enhancing our overall quality of life and principles of sustainability for Hamilton-Wentworth including achieving RAP goals.

Upon the completion of the trail, 22% of the Hamilton Harbour shoreline will be

Upon completion of the trail, 22% of the Hamilton Harbour shoreline will be accessible to the public, up from 13% in the 1980's.

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the shore from Bayfront Park to Princess Point and through the Desjardins Canal with a floating dock parallel to the boat channel. The trail connects to the Trans Canada Trail, the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail and the Desjardins Trail bordering Cootes Paradise.

Part of the Fish and Wildlife component includes a willow trench where over-



Planting trees and shrubs at the new Hamilton Harbour Waterfront Trail.

I nside

The Hamilton Harbour Waterfront Trail Meet The New BARC Board The Classroom Mini Marsh Program Dates To Remember plus RAP Office Update

Bay Area Restoration Council of Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton Regions Inc.
Monitors of the Remedial Action Plan for Hamilton Harbour and its Watershed

New RAP Partner Coming Soon: **THE HAMILTON PORT AUTHORITY**

By Mark Sproule-Jones, BARC President

Four years ago, I enjoyed a year as BARC President, after some five years on the BARC Board. I am now fortunate to be re-elected as President for 2000-2001, and I look forward to renewing old and building new partnerships.

One good partner in the RAP is about to disappear and almost 100 years of harbour governance end, with the imminent demise of The Hamilton Harbour Commissioners, one of the original RAP stakeholders. We face a challenge of uncertainty about the new Port Authority and a different mode of operations.

The Hamilton Harbour Commissioners helped to fashion the RAP. They played key roles in facilitating the Fish and Wildlife program that has so enhanced our West and North Ends of the Harbour. They have turned over land for parks and recreation, and with others facilitated the wonderful new waterfront trail due to be officially opened on July 1. They have been steadfast supporters of the Randle's Reef cleanup, right from the start of negotiations in 1994, and they were always prepared to forego income from their property where the dredge spoils are to be stored for dewatering. Only three years ago, they voluntarily agreed to use the offices of the Ontario Municipal Board to arbitrate over shoreline conflicts with the City of Hamilton.

Now The Hamilton Harbour Commissioners are about to conclude a major realignment of responsibilities and ownership of port sites and water lots with the City. Soon after we expect the Federal Government to replace the Commissioners with a Port Authority, constructed on a model it thinks will fit all major Canadian ports.

We are hopeful that the new Port Authority will be as supportive of the RAP as its predecessor.

We are pleased that Bob Edwards (Port Manager), Jeff Brookfield (Chief Planner) and Bob Hennessey (Chief Engineer) will be around to provide an institutional memory of the RAP and its partner organizations. Nevertheless this kind of major change does make the future more uncertain. BARC looks forward to working with the new Port Authority directors and to welcoming them to the BARC/BAIT family of stakeholders. □

Welcome to our new BARC Directors...

Janette Brenner is a Watershed Engineer Technologist for the Conservation of Halton. She is also a member of the Professional English of Ontario, Bruce Trail Association and the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Dr. Joe Minor is the chair for Friends of the Red Hill Valley. He developed the Classroom Wetland Nursery Program while working for the McMaster University Ecowise Program. He was also a member of BARC's Education Committee from 1994-1996.

Jo-Anne Rzadki is the coordinator for the Hamilton Halton Watershed Stewardship Program. HHWSP is a project of BARC, Hamilton Region Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton since 1994. She has also volunteered on many community conservation initiatives.

Dr. Mark Sproule-Jones is BARC's new president. He is the V.K Cops Professor at McMaster University and was a Principal Investigator of the McMaster University Ecowise Program from 1993-1996. He was also BARC's previous president in 1996.

Roland Weiler is a retired oceanographer. He was a past member on the HRCA Water Management Board and is on the BARC Monitoring Committee.

They will be joining the following Directors returning for the second year of their term:

David Butler, Royal Botanical Gardens

Craig McGinlay, Dofasco Inc.

William Stafford, Columbian Chemicals Canada Ltd.,
BARC Treasurer

Jim Thoms, Citizen-at-large, BARC Vice-President

And special thanks to all of our outgoing Directors!

Joseph Cooke

Zoë Green

Jim Quinn

CLASSROOM MINI MARSH PROGRAM

By Laura Pergentile

The Classroom Mini Marsh Program is implemented by the Bay Area Restoration Council and the Royal Botanical Gardens where a miniature marsh is planted and nurtured in a classroom community. It is the replacement for the Classroom Wetland Nursery Program. The Mini Marsh program offers a great opportunity for students to learn about the ecology of a marsh and to also gain a greater knowledge and appreciation of Cootes Paradise and the Hamilton Harbour.

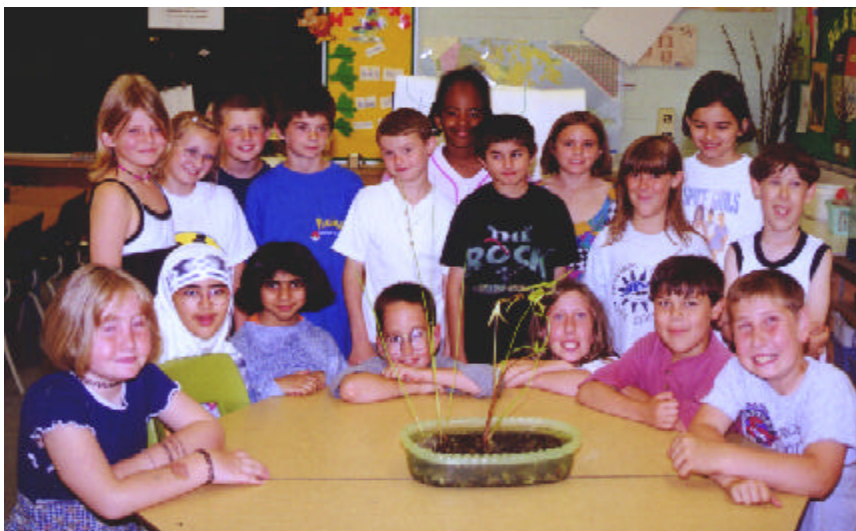
“It was a great experience. Since we couldn’t go see the real thing it brought the marsh alive to us! Thanks!” wrote Trina Webber, grade three teacher at Janet Lee Elementary School.

The new Mini Marsh program is a success. Forty-nine different schools from the Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton region participated. There was approximately 200 kits distributed to the schools. The kits consisted of an

instruction manual, four types of rooted marsh plants, an oval bowl, pea gravel and a snail. Classes also had the choice to rent a grow light that assists with the growth of the marsh if the appropriate amount of sunlight is unavailable. Forty-five grow lights were distributed to classes.

The program was such a great success because of the keen students and helpful teachers who participated. The Bay Area Restoration Council and the Royal Botanical Gardens would like to thank the Hamilton Naturalists’ Club for their generous donation of three hundred dollars to assist with the program.

It is a pleasure to announce that the feedback from the schools about the Classroom Mini Marsh Program is positive. Mrs. McDougall, a grade one teacher at Holy Family School wrote, “My class really enjoyed growing the mini marsh and I would like to participate next year.” □



Grade Three students at Mrs. Sindrey's class at Seneca elementary school gather around their successful mini marsh.

NEWS BRIEFS

Dofasco Wins BARC Implementation Award

Dofasco Inc. is the 2000 award recipient because of its tremendous efforts to improve Hamilton Harbour’s water quality. The Environment Management Agreement has been in place for three years which has led to an exemplary improvement in Dofasco’s process water effluent and air emissions. Also, there are tremendous improvements to the direct discharge effluent due to the state-of-the-art upgrades at the primary facility. Dofasco is involved in community organizations such as the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan, BARC, BAIT, and Vision 2020.

Previous BARC Implementation Award Winners are the City of Hamilton (1994), the Royal Botanical Gardens (1995), The Hamilton Harbour Commissioners (1996), the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority (1997) Conservation Halton (Halton Region Conservation Authority)(1998), and the Regional Municipality of Halton (1999).

1999 Towards Safe Harbours Report Released

The BARC Monitoring Committee has released its sixth annual progress report on the implementation of the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan. The Monitoring Committee contacted 50 stakeholders and asked them which harbour issues were their priorities

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FAILURE TO REPLACE COA COULD BE DEVASTATING TO THE GREAT LAKES

By John Jackson and Alexandra McPherson, Great Lakes United

As Great Lakes communities come off a recent win in the re-negotiation battle over the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, an expired Canadian-Ontario Agreement calls on the community to gear up for yet another fight.

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement To Remain Intact

The Great Lakes community won a major victory this spring when the U.S. and Canada decided not to proceed with revising the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) at this time, but instead to focus on implementing it.

Great Lakes United received a letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency saying in part “We have agreed that there are significant gains that can be made by focusing our efforts on the implementation of the existing Agreement. This would include additional emphasis on implementation of Remedial Action Plans and Areas of Concern.” GLU received a similar letter from Environment Canada committing to “intensify our efforts to implement the Agreement.”

New Canadian-Ontario Agreement Needed

Successful implementation of this Agreement in Canada hinges largely on whether or not the Federal and Provincial governments immediately set a course to

replace the expired Canadian-Ontario Agreement (COA). The Canadian-Ontario Agreement, which was signed by politicians back in 1994, has served as a useful policy compass to clean up the Great Lakes and work towards meeting the goals of the GLWQA. We are at a critical point in the clean up plans whereby more government attention and resources are needed to follow through with what has been started.

Currently there is no timeline on when and how the COA will be renewed. According

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to the Globe and Mail, this is one of the few times an anti-pollution pact in Canada has been allowed to lapse without any indication on when the two sides plan to draft a replacement.

No Action Yet From Ontario

Canada has written to Ontario asking for formal negotiations to begin. Despite the fact that at the end of March Premier Harris told the provincial legislature that “we enthusiastically would like to be able to renew the Great Lakes agreement with the federal government,” the Province has not yet responded to the Federal request to begin negotiations.

NEWS BRIEFS

and what they were doing to address them.

Thirty-seven submissions were made from the stakeholders which is the most ever for this report. The results are compiled in the Toward Safe Harbours report.

For a free copy please contact the BARC office.

Naturally, Hamilton!

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club has released a new Guide To The Green Spaces Of Hamilton-Wentworth. For a free copy contact the Hamilton Naturalists' Club at P.O Box 89052, Westdale Post Office, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4R5, or the BARC office.

BARC Office is Growing ...

BARC is pleased to welcome Stacey Cherwaty and Laura Pergentile to BARC. Stacey is the Special Projects Coordinator and was hired for 12 months through a federal government YES Internship Program. Laura will be on staff for 10 weeks through the Summer Career Placements program. They have already contributed tremendously to the delivery of BARC's public programs.

Failure to replace COA could undo years of work that has resulted in safer, cleaner lakes. A delegation of environmentalists and union members visited Parliament last fall to stress the importance of providing a sufficient budget to finish the job. Now citizens' voices are needed again to leverage political support to renew a strong COA. □

“MAKING THE CONNECTION”

(continued from front page)

accessible to the public. In the 1980's, only 13% of this shoreline was available for community and public use.

Volunteer Planters Make A Difference

Over 625 planters volunteered their time and had the unique opportunity to

Over 625 planters volunteered their time ... by planting thousands ... of rootstock, trees, and plants.

contribute to Hamilton's future by planting thousands of various species of rootstock, trees, and plants on April 29-30, and May 6-7, 2000 at the new Hamilton

Harbour Waterfront Trail. Families, scouts, air cadet squadrons, church groups, City staff, etc., all volunteered over these four days to help enhance the trail and get a first glance of this newly constructed path.

All of the volunteers conveyed a sense of accomplishment and excitement in contributing to the enhancement of the landscape as well as contributing to the future of Hamilton. Margie Goold expressed her sentiments

by writing a poem entitled "How we celebrated the Trail". Margie is the winner

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How We Celebrated The Trail

We loved working on the trail.
We planted trees and flowers,
It only took a few hours
We all together pitched in,
The situation was win win
Years from now our families will know,
That in the millennium year, we had a special place to go
To give nature a loving, helping hand
To keep her looking grand
All ages took part.
Everyone worked hard with heart,
Till the job was done
And we returned home, satisfied,
one by one.

by Margie Goold

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:

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and mailed with completed form to:

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“MAKING THE CONNECTION”

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of BARC’s “Celebrating the Trail” contest! Congratulations Margie! Certificates of Merit were issued to all volunteers in June as a thank you for their dedication, stewardship and commendable efforts.

BARC and the City of Hamilton will be coordinating future volunteer opportunities along the trail such as mulching, clean up activities, and nature nurturing days to continue to ‘Bring PEOPLE Back to the Bay’. A thank you is also extended to MRS and all of our volunteers.

The official opening of the Trail which was held on July 1st, 2000 was part of Hamilton’s extensive Canada Day Celebrations. Commemorative Trail hats were distributed to the first 2000 citizens who were pre-selected to walk the new trail at this Millennium event. □



Volunteers planting a tree along the Trail.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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. For more information visit www.cciw.ca/solec.

♦

September 14 (tentative)

BARC Membership Meeting

Royal Botanical Gardens,

Multi Purpose Room

7:00 pm

Topic will be dealing with the watershed and groundwater issues. Everyone welcome! Call BARC for more information.

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

click on
"What's New"

Bringing Back The Bay July 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.

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Office Update

Newsletter of The Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan Office

Remedial Action Plan for
Hamilton Harbour



Issue 19

July 2000

RAP Forum Update

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

The RAP Forum is setting its sights on continued harbour water quality improvements, reaching consensus on the Water Quality Task Group's recommendations.

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. Forum membership sits at just over 50 stakeholders.

In past issues of *RAP Office Update*, Jason Thorne has provided an excellent overview of the Water Quality update and I can only refer our readers to these and the minutes of the June 15th RAP Forum meeting. The most significant recommendation

The most significant recommendation contained in the Water Quality Update is the establishing of 2003 for most initial water quality targets and 2015 for meeting the final water quality targets.

contained in the Water Quality Update is the establishing of 2003 for most initial water quality targets and 2015 for meeting the final water quality

targets. Forum stakeholders felt that these targets are realistic and achievable.

In the case of Hamilton-Wentworth's proposals for the Woodward Waste Water Treatment Plant and Combined Sewer Overflows, the region's staff have recommended resources be increased in order to reach the RAP water quality targets in a ten year period rather than the present pace which would take thirty five years.

Urbanization and Land Management in the Harbour Watershed

The Urbanization and Land Management component of the RAP Update continued to receive valued input and discussion at the June 15th Forum meeting, in particular the setting of a target for public access to the Harbour. Presently set at 25%, most forum members seem to agree on increasing the target. The amount targeted and how it is achieved (public land or some form of public or private access agreements) is still being debated. This and other points raised by the Forum will be revisited by

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RAP Forum Update (cont'd)

John Gartner, Chair of the Task Force responsible for this component of the Update, Anne Redish Forum Chair, and John Hall RAP Coordinator.

Public Access is, of course, one of the most tangible parts of the RAP. We need some of the Wisdom of Solomon to bring back a recommendation for which consensus can be reached. Wish us luck or provide us with your input!

Toxic Substances in the Harbour

Dr. Brian McCarry presented the workplan for the Toxic Substances Task Group. The committee is taking a very pragmatic approach to this update; beginning with defining priority toxics, considering what information is available, and focusing on sources of contaminants that may be finding their way into the Harbour ecosystem.

"A" List of Toxics

1. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)
2. Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's)
3. Toxic Metals (Arsenic, Cadmium, Iron, Zinc - with chemical speciation if possible)
4. Mercury (with chemical speciation if possible)

"B" List of Toxics

1. Dioxins and furans
2. Organochlorine pesticides
3. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)
4. Current Use pesticides (e.g., 2,4-D, Mecoprop)
5. Ammonia (also Water Quality Task Group)

The Task Group is recommending that there should be two lists, "A" and "B", which reflect the relative importance of these contaminants on human and ecosystem health in the context of the Harbour.

Rather than concentrate their efforts on detailed loading calculations (these can be continued by others on a longer term ongoing basis), the Task Group suggests they focus on key zones of the Harbour that have been shown to have higher levels of contamination, since these zones are most likely to show ecosystem health impacts. In this regard additional sampling efforts to find sources of contaminants are recommended for the south shore, Windermere Arm and Windermere Basin.

Next Steps

The Fish and Wildlife Habitat Task Group is the next to be formed. Please call the RAP Office if you have an interest in being part of this group.

Our Bay Area Implementation Team (BAIT) has not met for some time. There are new faces around the table including my own. During the course of the summer I hope to meet individually with all our BAIT representatives. In September we need to meet to discuss "principles for implementation" and begin developing a workplan which defines who does what and when.

The next RAP Forum meeting is tentatively re-scheduled from November 16th to November 9th. Readers are reminded that all are welcome to attend Forum meetings, but please call to confirm this date with the RAP Office if you are not on the Forum's regular mailing list. □

From The RAP Office

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

Hi! I'm your new RAP Coordinator. While I am known to many of you, I may be unknown to some of our readers. So here is a quick sketch of who I am and how I got here.

A geographer by education and an environmental planner by profession, during the past twenty plus

I challenge all our readers to find one thing, just one thing, large or small, that you can do to make a difference for the implementation of the RAP.

years I have worked for Conservation Halton, most recently as the Director of Watershed Management Services. Between 1992 and 1998, on secondment to Fisheries and Oceans, I was the full time manager of the RAP Fish & Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project. This work continued on a part time basis when I returned to Conservation Halton in September of 1998. Conservation Halton has restructured its various service divisions to once again allow me to return to work on the RAP. This commitment by Conservation Halton is accomplished through an agreement with Environment Canada that maintains the autonomous position of the RAP Office (the Coordinator reports to the RAP Forum and the Bay Area Implementation Team). Environment Canada, in continuing to fund the RAP Office is making a firm commitment to the RAP.

If you haven't already guessed, "commitment" is the theme of this short epistle.

We owe thanks to Anne Redish for her commitment

to running the RAP Office during the past months in addition to her position as Chair of the RAP Forum. Keith Rodgers and John Gartner led the Water Quality and Urbanization and Land Management Task Groups respectively. Their commitment and those of the task force members has resulted in updates to the status and recommendations for remedial actions. This work not only reflects technical requirements necessary to de-list the Harbour but also represents consensus and, may I suggest, the ongoing vision of the RAP stakeholders. Brian McCarry heads the Toxic Substances Task Group and reported on their workplan at the June 15th RAP Forum meeting. The Fish and Wildlife, and Research and Monitoring Task Groups are the next in line and will require committed leadership.

Continuing on the commitment theme, during the past winter we saw the development of Hamilton-Wentworth's Water Management Strategy for upgrades to the Woodward Waste Water Treatment Plant and Combined Sewer Overflow System. BARC is assisting with the public review process for this initiative. But after all is said, it will require commitment on behalf of all those involved, both staff and politicians, to implement the upgrades and meet RAP water quality targets sooner rather than later. Our Water Quality Task Group suggests 2015 as the target date to reach final water quality targets for the harbour. Regional Staff suggest ten years. In our last RAP Coordinator's report, Anne Redish asked us to congratulate Halton for their upgrades to the Skyway

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From The RAP Office (cont'd)

Waste Water Treatment Plant, another act of commitment.

November of 1999 saw Hamilton commit to construct the West Harbour Waterfront Trail. It opened July 1st as part of Canada Day Celebrations. Fish and wildlife habitat and public access identified in the RAP have been substantially enhanced by this project. The City and its staff are to be congratulated on this very impressive accomplishment.

I could go on and on listing accomplishments and outlining commitment. Behind every accomplishment are the individuals who took it upon themselves to make a difference. We know these individuals; they are our friends, our colleagues, and our politicians. Frustration is also part of commitment, as known by those working on projects taking longer and requiring more effort than first envisioned. The results however will be even more gratifying.

Here is the point. We make progress one person at a time. I would challenge all our readers to find one thing, just one thing, large or small, that *you* can do to make a difference for the implementation of the RAP. Your commitment is worth it!

Reports Received at the RAP Office

The following is a sampling of some of the reports received recently at the RAP Office. Call for more details.

Lake Ontario Lakewide Management Plan-Making Progress. Lake Ontario Lakewide Management Plan Update 2000.

Protection of the Waters of the Great Lakes: Final Report to the Governments of Canada and the United States. International Joint Commission, Ottawa, February 22, 2000.

Down by the Bay: A Profile of Fishing and Fish Consumption in the Hamilton Harbour Area. Fran Scott, Fish and Wildlife Nutrition Project.

Methodology for Public Monitoring of Total Coliforms, *Escherichia coli* and Toxicity in Waterways by Canadian High School Students. Journal of Environmental Management (2000) J. Au, P. Bagchi, B. Chen, R. Martinez, S.A Dudley, G.J. Sorger.

RAP Office Update July 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.

Editor: Jason Thorne

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