IV. 2 Urbanization and Land Management Component

The initial problems (pre 1990) with urbanization and land management in the Hamilton Harbour watershed included: urban sprawl, filling of wetlands, and clearing of woodlands; all resulted in a decrease in the natural heritage of the watershed. These actions also promoted high levels of contaminants and nutrients in watershed runoff.

Before the RAP process began in Hamilton, the focus on the physical attributes of water limited the scope of initiatives not directly tied to the Harbour. Based on the over-riding "ecosystem approach" of the RAP, the stakeholder group pointed out the necessity to include recommendations regarding the lands adjacent to the Harbour. Land Use is one of the secondary principles identified in the 1992 Stage 2 Report:

> "That the issue of the character and appropriateness of the land uses situated adjacent and in close proximity to the harbour is of major consequence and must be addressed if a successful and comprehensive plan for remediation of the Hamilton Harbour is to be achieved." (1992 Stage 2 Report, p. 38)

Through this means, though limited in scope, the initial policy initiatives broke new ground. The Urbanization and Land Management Task Group further recognized the importance of the relationship of the Harbour to its watershed by including a number of new recommendations.

By 2001, watershed plans had been prepared for the three major tributaries within the watershed; a landowner stewardship program had contacted over 3000 landowners; and environmental planning was part of the ongoing development practice of the watershed municipalities and conservation authorities. As a result, cleaner sediment is now entering the Harbour and improvements have been noted in various water quality parameters for stations in the centre of the Harbour. It is difficult to judge progress, but the remediation in this component is approaching the halfway point.

Emerging issues in urbanization and land management include:

- ensuring RAP targets are embraced in municipal planning documents,
- the pressure to expand urban boundaries and transportation networks,
- implementing watershed plan environmental strategies,
- enforcement of erosion control measures,
- the need for water conservation, and
- engaging the development industry.

IV.2.1 Firm Urban Boundaries

Recommendation No. ULM – 1 (2000 Rec. A)

That in considering matters of growth management structure, urban form and design, greater attention and emphasis needs to be placed on growth management and in particular to the establishment of firmer urban boundaries, to encourage more compact urban growth and to discourage urban sprawl; thereby, facilitating the preservation of natural spaces and the rural area. Changes to the urban boundaries should only occur after study, consideration of alternatives within the urban boundary, and having due regard to the impacts on the ecosystem and to its capacity to sustain the related growth.

Responsible Agencies and Targets

City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Regional Municipality of Halton

Ongoing Target

ULM – 1.1 Immediate action required.

Status

It is recognized that greater attention and emphasis needs to be placed on growth management and in particular to the establishment of firmer urban boundaries, to encourage more compact urban growth and to discourage urban sprawl; thereby, facilitating the preservation of natural spaces and the rural area. Changes to the urban boundaries should only occur after study including having due regard to the impacts on the ecosystem and to its capacity to sustain the related growth.

In the early 1990's the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth adopted VISION 2020 as its guide to decision making in seeking to become a "Sustainable Region" by the year 2020. Two of the most important strategies proposed in the original VISION documents and reinforced in the 1998 "Strategies for a Sustainable Community" were the establishment of a firm urban boundary and the creation of new forms of urban development. These guidelines were incorporated in the Hamilton-Wentworth Region's Official Plans. A review of urban boundaries is to be part of the amalgamated City of Hamilton's New Official Plan, which is scheduled to start in 2002. This review is known as GRIDS (Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy). Focus on the redevelopment and revitalization of Downtown Hamilton is being looked at through the Downtown Plan and the ERASE (Environmental Remediation And Site Enhancement) Brownfields Program.

Halton Region's Official Plan defines firm urban boundaries. No expansions to the urban boundaries are proposed for the Harbour area. Urban area expansions are only considered in the context of the Region's overall land needs for urban growth. Infilling and intensification opportunities exist only within existing urban areas in Halton.

The City of Burlington has Smart Growth Policies in its Strategic Plan. Part of their 25 year long goal is that urban development only takes place on lands within Burlington's current urban boundary. In the North Aldershot Central sector, some low density residential development has

been approved. The development does not require an expansion to the City's urban boundary as it is intended to retain the unique low density character of the area.

IV.2.2 Riparian Buffers

Recommendation No. ULM – 2 (1992 Rec. 4)

As opportunities arise, appropriately scaled riparian buffers be secured adjacent to watercourses throughout the Hamilton Harbour watershed.

In the rural area, the farming community implement Agricultural Best Management Practices, including such measures as conservation tillage, buffer strips, cover crops, crop rotation and structural controls, to minimize sediment loading from agricultural lands.

Responsible Agencies

OMAF, agricultural community, Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Regional Municipality of Halton

Short Term Targets

ULM – 2.1 **(2003)** Identify extent of riparian buffers within the urban and rural areas of the watershed and identify opportunities for restoration.

ULM – 2.2 **(2003)** Increase linear extent of riparian buffers by at least 10%.

ULM – 2.3 **(2003)** Program/study to identify areas where it would be practical to implement riparian buffers within the urban area and appropriate standards.

ULM – 2.4 **(2003)** Suitable subsidies be made available to encourage landowners to implement erosion control measures and riparian buffers.

Long Term Targets

ULM – 2.5 **(2015)** Implement best management practices on all agricultural lands adjacent to a watercourse within the Hamilton Harbour watershed.

ULM – 2.6 **(2015)** All farms adjacent to a watercourse within the Hamilton Harbour watershed participate in the Environmental Farm Plan.

ULM – 2.7 **(2015)** All rural watercourses within the Hamilton Harbour watershed be buffered by a 15 metre vegetative riparian buffer adjacent to warmwater fish habitat and a 30 metre vegetative buffer adjacent to coldwater fish habitat.

ULM – 2.8 **(2015)** Establish appropriate riparian buffering in urban watersheds.

Status

It is thought that much of the suspended solid and sediment loading of the Harbour is due to riparian erosion in agricultural areas. The Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program (HHWSP) and the Environmental Farm Plan are two examples of programs that encourage best management practices on agricultural lands to minimize sediment loadings. Ongoing work of the HHWSP is intensifying in areas already started and expanding into new areas of the watershed. An increased public awareness and interest in the program is due in part to water quality concerns raised after the Walkerton tragedy. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) and

its partners/farm organizations work together to assist farmers with the identification and adoption of on-farm best management practices; the intent is to reduce effects on stream water quality through the delivery of technical advisory services and through program efforts such as the Environmental Farm Plan and the delivery of Nutrient Management Planning workshops in the Halton, Wentworth & Wellington areas. There is a general lack of consistent financial and educational assistance available to encourage rural landowners to implement progressive sediment control programs.

The City of Burlington's Official Plan contains policies requiring the establishment and/or preservation of riparian buffer strips adjacent to watercourses in new development areas. The Hidden Valley Park Stream Restoration Project includes the re-establishment of 2.6 km of riparian habitat adjacent to Grindstone Creek.

IV.2.3 Erosion and Sediment Controls

Recommendation No. ULM – 3 (1992 Rec. 5)

Minimize erosion and sedimentation during land clearing and construction activities. Management practices must continue to be developed, adopted and enforced by municipalities and conservation authorities. Training programs for inspectors and construction site supervisors continue to be provided.

Responsible Agencies

City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Regional Municipality of Halton, Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, OMNR, Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association

Short Term Target

ULM – 3.1 **(2003)** All land clearing and construction activities have a sediment and erosion control plan in place and functioning prior to the commencement of any land clearing.

Status

Erosion and sedimentation are not limited to subdivision construction; therefore, the recommendation was expanded to include all land clearing and construction activities. Erosion and sediment controls are a required part of the development process and the municipal plan review for all municipalities and conservation authorities in the watershed. Sediment and erosion control guidelines, entitled "Keeping Soils on Construction Sites", have been developed by Hamilton Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton, and continue to be promoted for construction activities. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) oversees the administration of the Aggregates Act, the Lake and Rivers Improvement Act, and the Public Land Act.

Inspection and enforcement of this issue has been a problem, particularly for land clearing prior to planning approvals. In part, the ineffectiveness of ongoing erosion and sediment control on construction sites may result from unclear responsibility for enforcement. An additional recommendation (ULM – 4) was added to help address this issue, which recommended that municipalities adopt a Top Soil Preservation or Site Alteration By-law.

IV.2.4 Top Soil Preservation or Site Alteration By-Law

Recommendation No. ULM – 4 (2000 Rec. C)

Municipalities adopt a Top Soil Preservation or Site Alteration By-law to require landowners and developers to implement sediment and erosion control measures and ensure that these measures are functioning effectively during land clearing and site alteration.

Responsible Agencies

City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Regional Municipality of Halton

Short Term Target

ULM – 4.1 **(2003)** All municipalities adopt a Top Soil Preservation or Site Alteration By-law.

Status

The Towns of Dundas and Flamborough were the only watershed municipalities to have implemented a Site Alteration By-law. Since the amalgamation there has been no action to extend the scope of those by-laws across the new City of Hamilton.

The City of Burlington, in consultation with the public, is proposing to implement both a Site Alteration by-law and a Top Soil Preservation By-law to control and minimize erosion and sedimentation.

IV.2.5 Remediation of Sediment from Inappropriate Land Management

Recommendation No. ULM – 5 (1992 Rec. 6)

ULM – 5a Remediate sources of sediment from inappropriate land management practices identified through watershed, subwatershed and other studies.

ULM – 5b That sediments and contaminants from street cleaning in urban areas be disposed of in a manner consistent with RAP goals and targets.

Responsible Agencies

Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Regional Municipality of Halton

Short Term Targets

ULM – 5.1 **(2003)** Sites already identified be prioritized and remediated.

ULM – 5.2 **(2003)** Street cleaning in industrial sectors with landfilled disposal.

ULM – 5.3 **(2003)** Through the municipal EMS process, disposal options for snow storage, road sand and salts, be developed which prevent contaminants reaching the Harbour.

Long Term Targets

ULM – 5.4 **(2015)** All identified sites be remediated.

ULM – 5.5 **(2015)** Wastes from street cleaning processes on major highways in the watershed, in industrial areas, and on all parking lots and alleys, be disposed of in landfills.

Status

It is important to differentiate between natural sources of sediment (bed load) and sources from inappropriate land management practices. The latter have been and will be identified through watershed, sub-watershed and other studies.

The Hidden Valley Park Stream Restoration Project by the City of Burlington (2000-2002) is tackling a major sediment problem identified in the Grindstone Creek Watershed study. The 1.33 km rehabilitation is dealing with past channelization of the creek bed and road development work that led to unstable banks, loss of riparian vegetation, and an overall degradation of fish habitat including a potential for Type I cold water fish habitat. A reduction of sedimentation sources through re-naturalization of the reach includes: establishment of a natural meander pattern, re-establishing of a floodplain connected to the low flow channel of the creek, bank bioengineering, and relocation of adjacent parking lots away from the creek banks.

The municipalities control sediment influxes from street sweepings and snow storage. The City of Hamilton tests street sweepings before sending them to a landfill and reuses acceptable material in winter operations. Non-suitable materials are disposed of at a landfill site. The City of Burlington sends all of its street sweepings to landfill. The question of snow storage practices is new to the RAP, and the municipalities have not yet had an opportunity to respond on how they deal with this issue.

IV.2.6 Control of Urban Storm Runoff

Recommendation No. ULM – 6 (1992 Rec. 25)

Storm runoff is a source of bacterial contamination to the Harbour. Illegal or bad practices or malfunctioning infrastructure should be corrected to minimize bacterial discharge.

Responsible Agencies

City of Hamilton, Regional Municipality of Halton, City of Burlington

Long Term Target

ULM – 6.1 **(2015)** Urban storm runoff be controlled by municipalities through retention ponds, treatment monitoring systems or other means to prevent excessive bacterial and aesthetically deleterious discharges in sensitive areas of the Harbour (marshes, parks, etc.).

Status

The City of Hamilton started a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Review in 2001 in order to comply with provincial F-5-5 regulations. This study will refine the 1991 Pollution Control Plan with respect to CSOs in Hamilton. Only a portion of the City of Hamilton is serviced by a combined sewer system, mostly in the old downtown area; newer developments utilize separate systems for stormwater and wastewater. Recommendation WQ – 1c contains more information on the CSO Program in Hamilton.

Concerned citizen groups have observed that some outfalls on the Hamilton side flow constantly, even during dry weather periods. This needs to be investigated to determine the source of the flow (e.g., illegal connections, cross connections with combined sewer systems, or infiltration through broken pipes).

Halton Region and the City of Burlington have no current program for bacterial monitoring in stormwater, as there are no combined sewer systems in the watershed under their jurisdiction.

IV.2.7 Watershed Planning Network

Recommendation No. ULM – 7 (2000 Rec. F)

The Watershed Planning Network (WPN) continue to coordinate and promote consistency in the field of watershed planning for the Hamilton Harbour Watershed. In addition, WPN will provide a forum for open discussion on issues related to watershed planning. The municipalities and agencies involved continue in their resourcing and support of the WPN.

Responsible Agencies

City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Regional Municipality of Halton, Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, BARC, BAIT, Hamilton Harbour RAP, environmental organizations

Ongoing Target

ULM – 7.1 The WPN to meet a minimum of five times a year.

Status

The Hamilton Harbour Watershed Planning Network (WPN) consists of representatives from municipalities, conservation authorities, BARC, BAIT, Hamilton Harbour RAP Office and environmental organizations.

The network was formed in 1996 to promote sound planning, management, stewardship and remediation measures in the Hamilton Harbour Watershed ecosystem. The WPN helps to avoid

duplication and promotes consistency in watershed planning and management across the municipalities in the watershed area. The WPN also provides a forum for open discussion of issues, priorities, techniques, and data relevant to watershed planning.

IV.2.8 Shoreline Development

Recommendation No. ULM – 8 (1992 Rec. 36)

The conservation authorities promote the development of the Hamilton Harbour in line with the techniques contained in the recommendations of "Protecting Your Shoreline Naturally: Shoreline Protection Ideas for Fish and Wildlife Enhancement".

Responsible Agencies

Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, BARC

Target

There is no specific target for this recommendation. The brochure was reprinted in 2001. In addition, the Conservation Authorities are continually promoting the techniques with landowners every opportunity they get. BARC should be involved in this initiative.

Status

In an effort to encourage shoreline landowners to have regard for the aesthetics and habitat functions of the shore zone when undertaking development, Conservation Halton and Hamilton Conservation Authority developed a booklet entitled "Protecting Your Shoreline Naturally: Shoreline Protection Ideas for Fish and Wildlife Enhancement." The brochure contains information on:

- background about fish and wildlife habitat,
- existing conditions along Hamilton Harbour shoreline,
- ideas explaining how to improve/protect your shoreline while enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, and
- how to obtain permits that may be required.

Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, and BARC continue to promote this publication, last reprinted in 2001. Conservation Halton is also proposing to develop a stewardship program for shoreline landowners to complement the work of the HHWSP.

IV.2.9 Water Conservation Strategies

Recommendation No. ULM – 9 (1992 Rec. 40)

Municipalities (or other water service providers in the watershed) continue to budget for ongoing remediation and undertake strategies to achieve water conservation. Such strategies should include:

- *complete programs to meter all water customers;*
- *provide programs to encourage landowners to retrofit older homes and businesses with water saving devices and to reduce lawn watering;*
- *establish and maintain rate structures to represent the cost of suitable and appropriate water and wastewater system treatment, collection and distribution;*
- *allocation of a set proportion of the funds generated through water and sewer fees to the upgrading of water and sewer infrastructure for the ongoing remediation of the Hamilton Harbour;*
- *create links with other municipal and/or private programs to enhance water saving practices (e.g., grass cycling, rain barrels, downspout disconnect programs). Public agencies should show leadership in their procurement and retrofitting programs;*
- *incorporate in urban design, measures to control non point contaminants and increase, where appropriate, the permeability of hard landscapes; and*
- *initiate and participate in programs to educate the public about the benefits of water conservation.*

Responsible Agencies

City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Regional Municipality of Halton, BARC, Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority

Short Term Targets

ULM – 9.1 **(2003)** Meter all urban water users.

ULM – 9.2 **(2003)** Evaluate the merits of water conservation programs (retrofit older homes, reduction in lawn watering) and develop an implementation plan.

ULM – 9.3 **(2003)** Produce a water conservation action plan.

Long Term Targets

ULM – 9.4 **(2015)** Establish a rate structure to represent the cost of water and wastewater system. Costs should include needed upgrades and maintenance. A seasonal rate structure could be considered.

Status

The benefits of water metering generally occur as metered customers become more aware of their water usage and therefore reduce their consumption. These reductions can lead to a lower water demand, less wastewater to be treated, and a decrease in runoff from excessive lawn watering and driveway washing. Residential water metering is fully in place in the Region of Halton. The City of Hamilton is still in the process of metering all of its users with program completion anticipated in 2004. The provincial building code has been changed to require the use of water conserving fixtures in new homes.

Among other initiatives, the Region of Halton partnered with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to provide a "Household Guide to Water Efficiency". Halton promotes water efficiency to the general public at community events; enforces lawn watering restrictions when in place; and will evaluate low-flow toilets and dual flush toilets for future use in public buildings. Halton's Water Conservation Advisory Committee and staff will develop an updated Water Conservation Advisory Plan by 2003. Halton water and wastewater services are rate-supported; no subsidy is taken for water and wastewater services from property taxes. There is a progressive rate for water use in Halton; the more you use, the more you pay per unit used. As such, the potential exists for Halton Region to reduce capital costs of water infrastructure through results of conservation programs.

The City of Hamilton supports Green Venture's Wise Water Use program that promotes water conservation through presentations, displays, media releases, and product sales. The City of Hamilton places ads regarding lawn watering restrictions when in place. Hamilton is gathering information from other municipalities on subsidies for retrofits and discussing the possibility of a Toilet Replacement Program.

IV.2.10 Watershed Studies

Recommendation No. ULM – 10 (2000 Rec. H)

Complete watershed plans for areas where studies have yet to be undertaken. Implement the recommendations of the completed watershed studies and where land development or secondary plans are proposed, undertake a subwatershed study in advance of the development.

Responsible Agencies

Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority

Short Term Target

ULM – 10.1 **(2005)** Watershed studies be completed for all creeks within the Hamilton Harbour watershed.

Status

Watershed plans have been completed for the three major Harbour watersheds: Grindstone, Red Hill and Spencer Creeks. A summary document, entitled "Headwaters to the Bay: Planning for Sustainability in the Hamilton Harbour Watershed" compares the three watershed plans with the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan 1998 Status Report. The summary document highlights the similarities and differences among the studies in terms of problems, goals, targets, strategies, and emerging issues. Now, the municipalities and the conservation authorities will need to meet the challenges of implementing the recommended strategies.

Conservation Halton is currently undertaking the North Shore Watershed Study, which includes the remaining watercourses on the northern shore of Hamilton Harbour (Indian, Falcon, and upper Hager and Rambo Creeks) in cooperation with the City of Burlington. The study will be completed by 2003.

Hamilton Conservation Authority has completed subwatershed plans for Tiffany Creek and Borer's Creek. A subwatershed study for Flamborough Creek will be completed by the end of 2002. There are proposed plans to complete subwatershed studies for Red Hill Creek and the twelve sections of Spencer Creek by 2005.

IV.2.11 Stormwater Management Plans

Recommendation No. ULM – 11 (2000 Rec. I)

Implement stormwater management plans for all greenfield and brownfield development sites in accordance with "Stormwater Management Practices Planning and Design Manual" (OMOE 2000), as updated from time to time.

Encourage landowners to undertake such plans on their existing developed sites where warranted.

Responsible Agencies

City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Regional Municipality of Halton and Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority

Ongoing Targets

ULM – 11.1 Ensure all new greenfield and brownfield developments have proper stormwater management.

ULM – 11.2 Promotion of the concept of stormwater management plans for large-scale private land holdings.

Status

Conservation authorities and municipalities require stormwater management for all new green field development. The reason for including this recommendation in the RAP is to ensure it is implemented for both brown field and green field development in accordance with the most recent "Stormwater Management Practices Planning and Design Manual" put out by OMOE.

IV.2.12 Groundwater Studies and Monitoring Program

Recommendation No. ULM – 12 (2000 Rec. J)

Undertake groundwater studies and ongoing monitoring to identify significant groundwater sites and develop policies for their protection.

Responsible Agencies

OMOE, Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, Regional Municipality of Halton, City of Hamilton

Short Term Target

ULM – 12.1 **(2003)** Undertake groundwater studies and monitoring throughout the Hamilton Harbour watershed.

Status

OMOE has started a Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Partnership Network involving conservation authorities. Locally, the Hamilton Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton have an agreement with OMOE for the establishment of 20 monitoring sites in the watershed. The City of Hamilton, in cooperation with local conservation authorities, is also conducting groundwater studies to map aquifers and groundwater recharge areas out to the municipal border. The Region of Halton has completed an Aquifer Management Plan with policy recommendations to be incorporated into the Official Plan.

The importance of protecting and monitoring groundwater became evident in Ontario in May 2000 when the community of Walkerton experienced contamination of their drinking water supply resulting in serious illnesses and deaths. Mr. Justice Dennis O'Connor wrote in Part One of the Walkerton Commission of Inquiry report that, "because groundwater under the direct influence of surface water is vulnerable to contamination, additional treatment and monitoring steps need to be taken to ensure the safety of drinking water." (p. 123). The source of the contamination was found to be a combination of manure application on a local farm in April and heavy rainfalls in May.

IV.2.13 Inclusion of RAP Goals and Principles in Official Plans

Recommendation No. ULM – 13 (1992 Rec. 42)

Projects, developments, and environmental assessments occurring within the Hamilton Harbour watershed should reflect the goals and principles of the RAP through:

- *Complementary policies in Official Plans, including Secondary Plans;*
- *Updating (modernizing) Zoning By-laws to reflect new Official Plans;*
- *Implementing watershed and subwatershed planning;*
- *Conditions of development applications (plans of subdivision/condominiums, site plans, severances;*
- *Environmental Assessment Project File Reports;*
- *Environmental Study Reports.*

That existing environmental assessment procedures be maintained for all projects conceived within the area that may have an impact on the Harbour ecosystem or on the uses for which the Harbour water quality has been improved.

Responsible Agencies

City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Regional Municipality of Halton, Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association – see Appendix G Policy Map, Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority

Short Term Target

ULM – 13.1 **(2005)** All municipalities include the relevant provisions of the RAP in their respective Official plans.

Ongoing Target

ULM – 13.2 Municipalities advise BARC of ongoing Environmental Assessments and Official Plan Amendments (2001).

ULM – 13.3 Conservation Authorities review and report the progress that has been made towards addressing RAP targets through the watershed and subwatershed plans every five years.

Status

Hamilton Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton, in their review of projects or development applications, including environmental assessments, continue to ensure that the RAP is taken into consideration. The summary document "Headwaters to the Bay: Planning for Sustainability in the Hamilton Harbour Watershed" summarizes the extent to which RAP goals have been integrated into the watershed management plans. All three of the municipalities are undergoing a review or rewrite of their Official Plans and each have indicated that RAP provisions will either continue to be included (Region of Halton, City of Burlington) or will potentially be included (City of Hamilton). Particular emphasis is needed on urban boundaries and the implications of transportation corridors.

Environmental Management System (EMS) programs to reduce environmental impacts of industrial and municipal operations are being implemented by various BAIT partners. This is not part of the RAP, but internal environmental awareness by corporations is consistent with the spirit of the RAP.

IV.2.14 Adoption of the RAP by the Development Industry

Recommendation No. ULM – 14 (New Rec. K)

Create opportunities for the development industry to accept and adopt the RAP goals and principles (e.g. education programs, awards recognition, partnerships, and plan review).

Responsible Agencies

Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Regional Municipality of Halton, BARC, Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association

Short Term Target

ULM – 14.1 **(2005)** Conservation Authorities and other partners to meet with the development industry to promote RAP goals and principles and to develop an education program for residents of new developments to address environmental issues that include RAP goals.

Ongoing Target

ULM – 14.2 BARC and other partners recognize achievement in the development industry through appropriate award programs.

Status

The Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association (HHHBA) represents the development industry on the RAP Forum. Although the RAP message has been presented directly to other stakeholder organizations, the influential development industry has been overlooked. The HHHBA is willing to cooperate in closing this gap. HHHBA has indicated that some developments have prepared and distributed environmental education brochures for new homeowners.

The Vision 2020 Awards Program of Action 2020, BARC, and the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program are examples of current award programs that the development industry can be considered eligible for in order to recognize their achievements. The HHHBA President gives an environmental award to one of its members annually.