

PREFACE

In 1992, a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was prepared for Hamilton Harbour, one of the Areas of Concern (AOC) identified pursuant to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Remedial Action Plans consist of three parts: A Stage 1 Report - Environmental Conditions and Problem Definition; a Stage 2 Report – Goals, Options and Recommendations; and a Stage 3 Report – Evaluation of Remedial Measures and Confirmation of Restoration Uses.

In 1989 the Hamilton Harbour AOC submitted its Stage 1 Report, “Environmental Conditions and Problem Definition” to the IJC and this was accepted the following year. A second edition of this Report was submitted to the IJC in 1992 along with the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan Stage 2. It is anticipated that the Submission of a Stage 3 Report will not be forthcoming prior to 2015. With these time lines in mind, it was considered prudent to examine work completed on the RAP to-date and endorse, modify or add to recommendations contained in the 1992 RAP Stage 2 Report. This updating process was begun in 1998 by recalling the RAP Stakeholder group under the new name “RAP Forum”. The RAP Forum completed the review and update of the 1992 Stage 2 Report using Task Groups comprised of scientists and Forum stakeholders. During the following four years, the Task Groups completed their work and reported back to the Forum. The Forum then endorsed or modified the work of the Task Groups.

This RAP Stage 2 Update was then prepared by the Hamilton Harbour RAP Office staff and edited by a technical team of scientists and, in many cases, the Chairs of the RAP Forum Task Groups.

The Stage 2 Update 2002 Report is intended to complement the 1992 Stage 2 Report. It is a continuation of the RAP process and has purposely followed a similar format as the original report. The original report contains the original evaluation of remedial options; the update provides the current status and the next steps forward in the remediation process.

The RAP Forum found that the approach and remedial actions taken in the Hamilton Harbour RAP are principally sound and the update does not deviate from the original courses of action set out in the 1992 RAP Stage 2 Report. The RAP continues to take an ecosystem approach to restoring water quality, clean up sediments, and re-establishing fish and wildlife habitat in the Harbour. The ultimate objective of the Plan is to restore and preserve the benefits of the Harbour for present and future generations.

Release of this Stage 2 Update represents the work to-date of the RAP Forum and Task Groups. It has not been officially adopted by the federal or provincial governments, or approved by the International Joint Commission.

Figure 1. Hamilton Harbour Watershed Municipal Boundaries

