



## Letter of Transmittal

June 2003

On behalf of the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan Stakeholders and the Remedial Action Plan Office we are pleased to present the 2002 Remedial Action Plan Stage 2 Update.

This Update is based on the 1992 Stage 2 Report and incorporates the considerable changes in and improvements to the Harbour that have occurred in the past ten years. It is intended to complement the 1992 Stage 2 Report and is still substantially grounded in the findings of the 1989 Stage 1 Report, Environmental Conditions and Problem Definitions. It retains the two all-important primary principles of an ecosystem approach and the elimination of persistent toxic chemicals; it has also added the additional principle of sustainable communities within the watershed.

This Update was begun in 1998 by assembling the original, and some new, Hamilton Harbour Stakeholders under the name of the Stakeholder Forum and with a mandate to endorse, modify or add to the recommendations of the 1992 Stage 2 Report. The review was carried out by a series of six Task Groups each consisting of scientists and stakeholders; each Task Group reported to the full Forum which then accepted or modified the report. When all were completed, the RAP Office combined them to create the new Update. The result is a document that presents an updated picture of the Harbour and contains recommendations that set out clearly who is responsible for implementing them and the long and short term timelines for their completion.

Throughout the Update process we have been pleased and impressed by the enthusiasm of all those involved. When the Draft Update was circulated for public consultation we found a wealth of support for both the ongoing work of improving the Harbour as well as the Update itself. We would like to acknowledge the enormous amount of work, which has been done in the past ten years by agencies and citizens that has led to the improvements we see today. We have great hopes that with the continuing support of all Stakeholders and citizens we shall achieve our goal of delisting by the International Joint Commission (IJC) in 2015.

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### Specific Acknowledgements

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