

# Hamilton Harbour...

## ...A “*Success*” in the Making

Presented by:

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Prepared by:

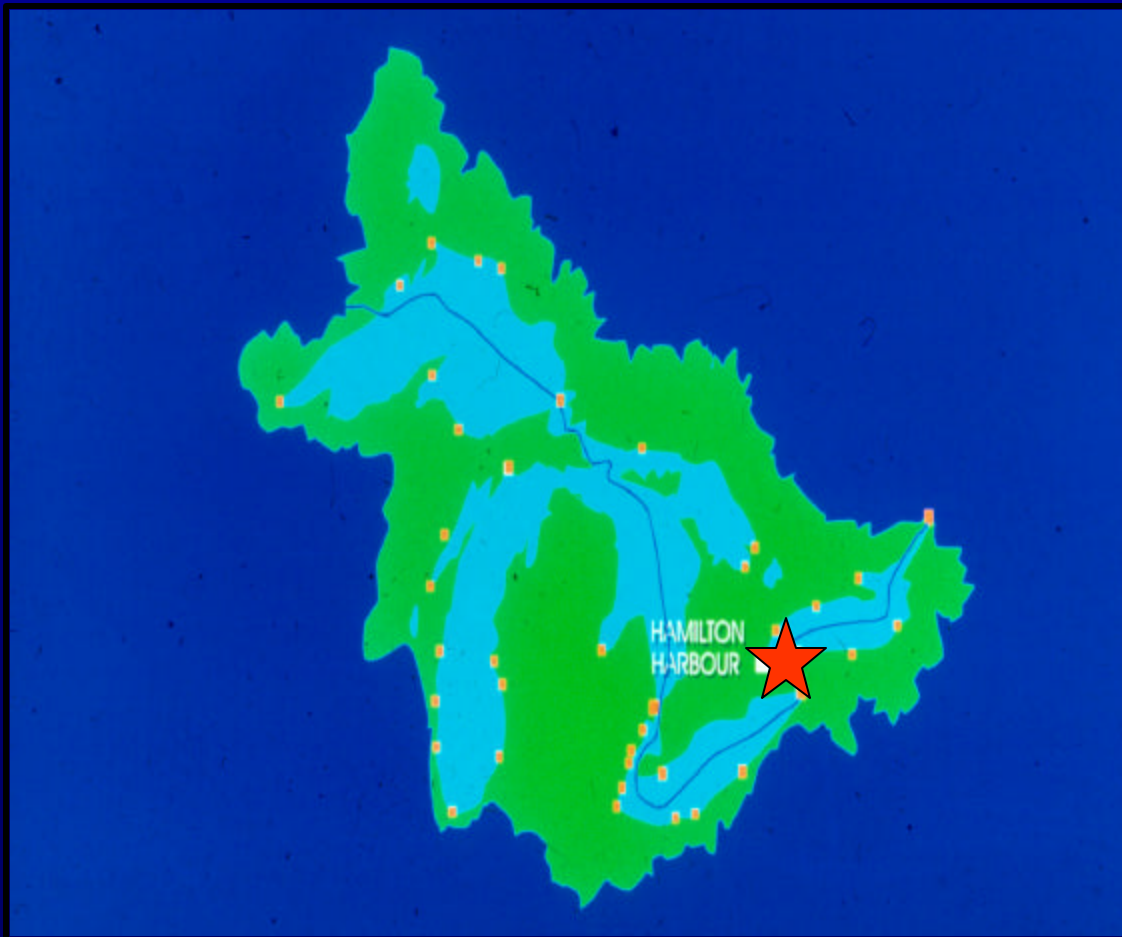
- Mark Sproule-Jones, BARC
- Marilyn Baxter, BARC
- Kathy Trotter, RAP

OCTOBER, 2000



# Hamilton Harbour...

## ...Area of Concern

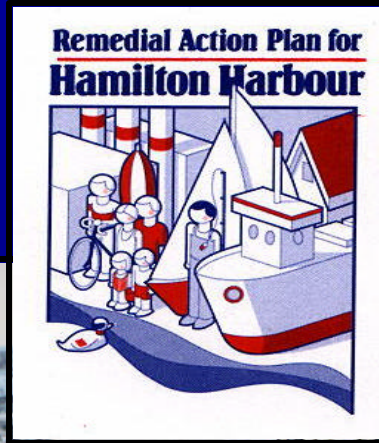


- Natural harbour at the western tip of Lake Ontario



# Hamilton Harbour...

# ...Remedial Action Plan



- Stakeholder approach used as a worldwide model



# Hamilton Harbour AOC... ...Current Governance

International Joint Commission

Canada - Ontario Agreement

Hamilton Harbour RAP

BARC

BAIT

Committees

RAP Forum



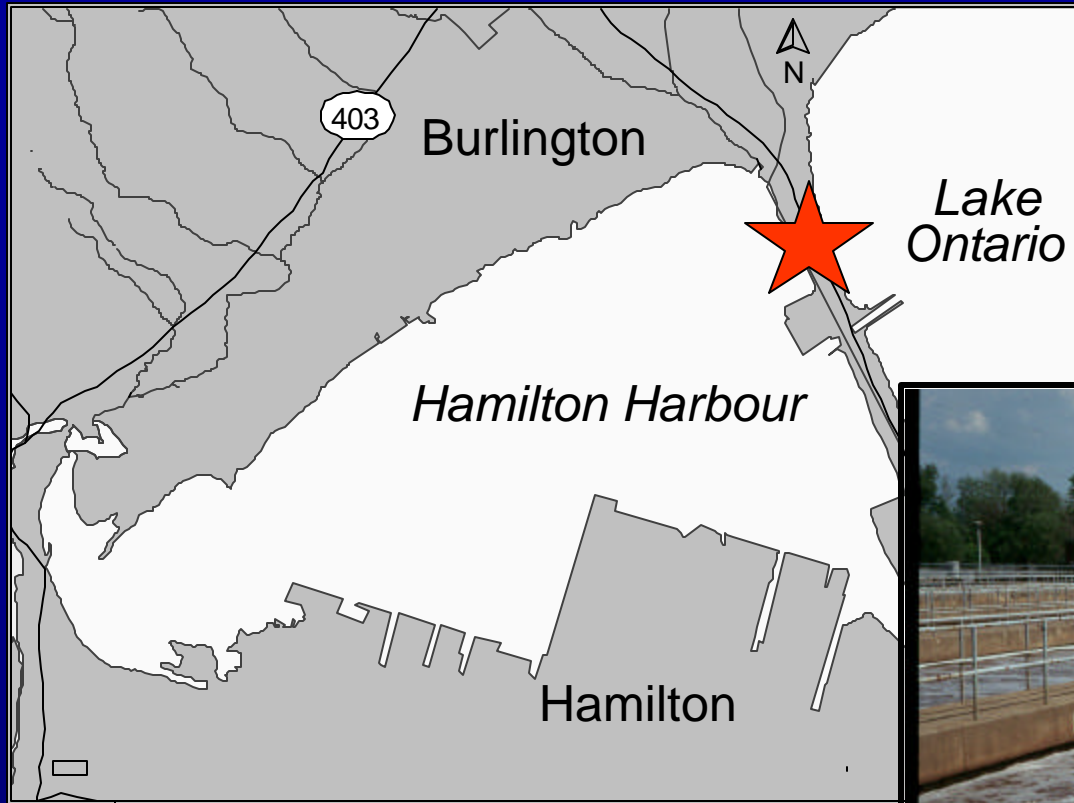
# Hamilton Harbour...

## ...Notable Successes



- Improvement in Water Quality
- Creation of Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Increased Public Access
- Protection of the Watershed





- **Halton Region Skyway WWTP Upgrades**



**...Water Quality Improvement...**





- ***Hamilton-Wentworth Region***  
**Combined Sewer Overflow Tanks**

**...Water Quality Improvement...**





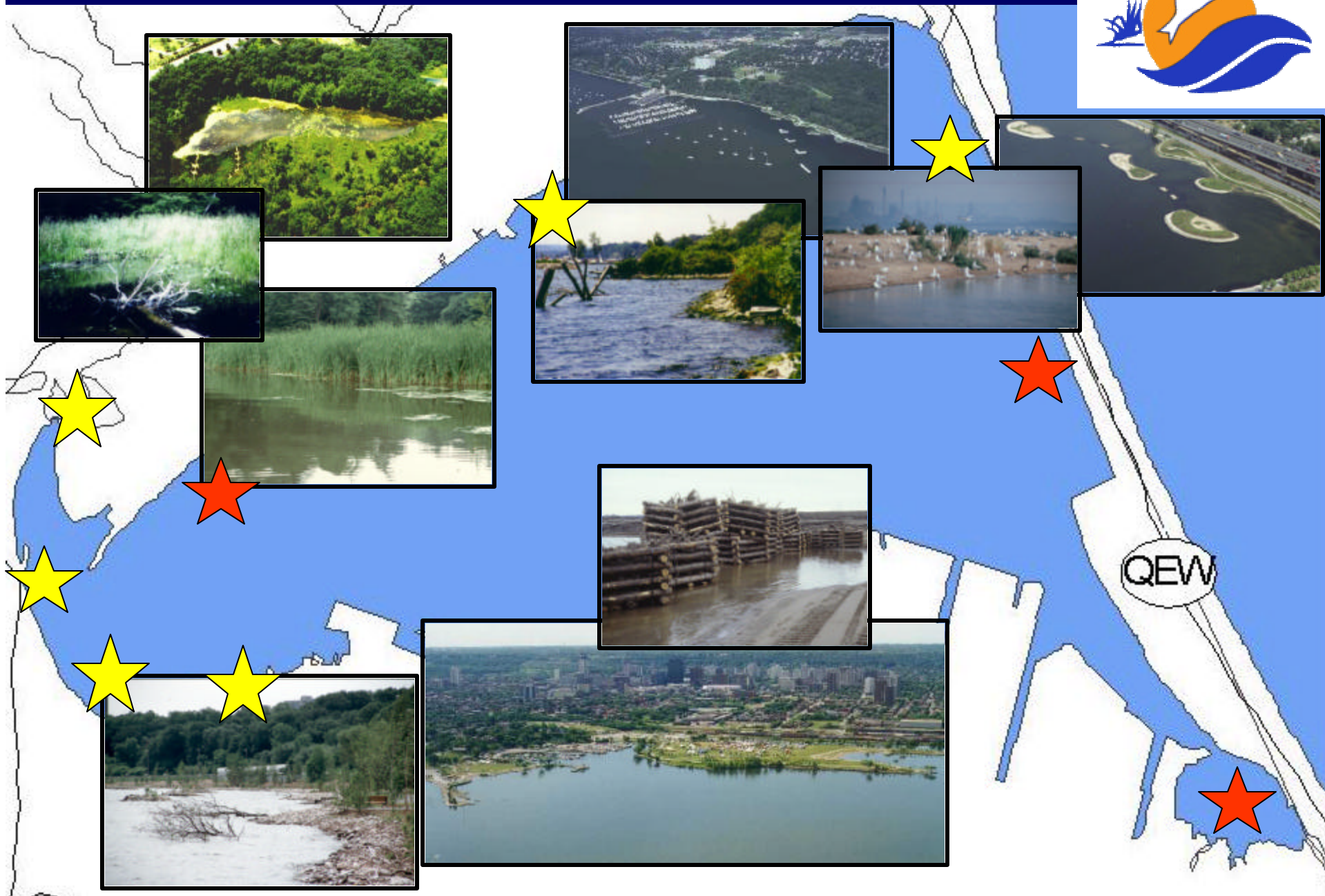
- **Industrial Abatement**

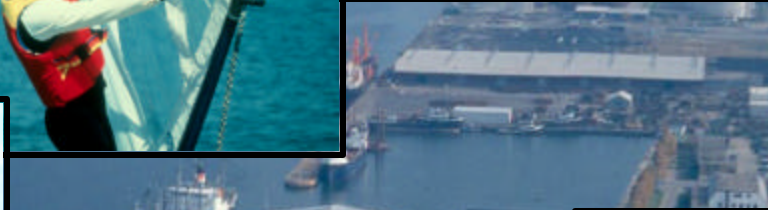
**...Water Quality Improvement...**





# ...Fish & Wildlife Habitat Created..





**...Increased Public  
Access...**





**...Protection of the Watershed.**





**The Bay  
Area  
Restoration  
Council...**

*...Bringing Back the Bay...*



- **Community Involvement**



*...Bringing Back the Bay...*

- Public Outreach

**Bringing Back the Bay**

**MAKING THE CONNECTION**  
The New Hamilton Harbour Waterfront

By Stacy Chenoweth

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 enhancement. The 3.4 km long multi-use trail makes its way along

hanging branches will create shade for fish, provide for birds and cover the water level.

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 installed along the trail route to allow residents and

visitors look to flourish work on life and Hamilton RAP projects.

Upon completion of the trail, 22% of the Hamilton Harbour shoreline will be accessible to the public, up from 12% in the 1980's.

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 Trees Canada Trail, the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail and the Desjardins Trail bordering Cosca Park.

Part of the Fish and Wildlife component includes a yellow trash along over-

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

**Inside** 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. Members of the Remedial Action Plan for Hamilton Harbour and its Watershed

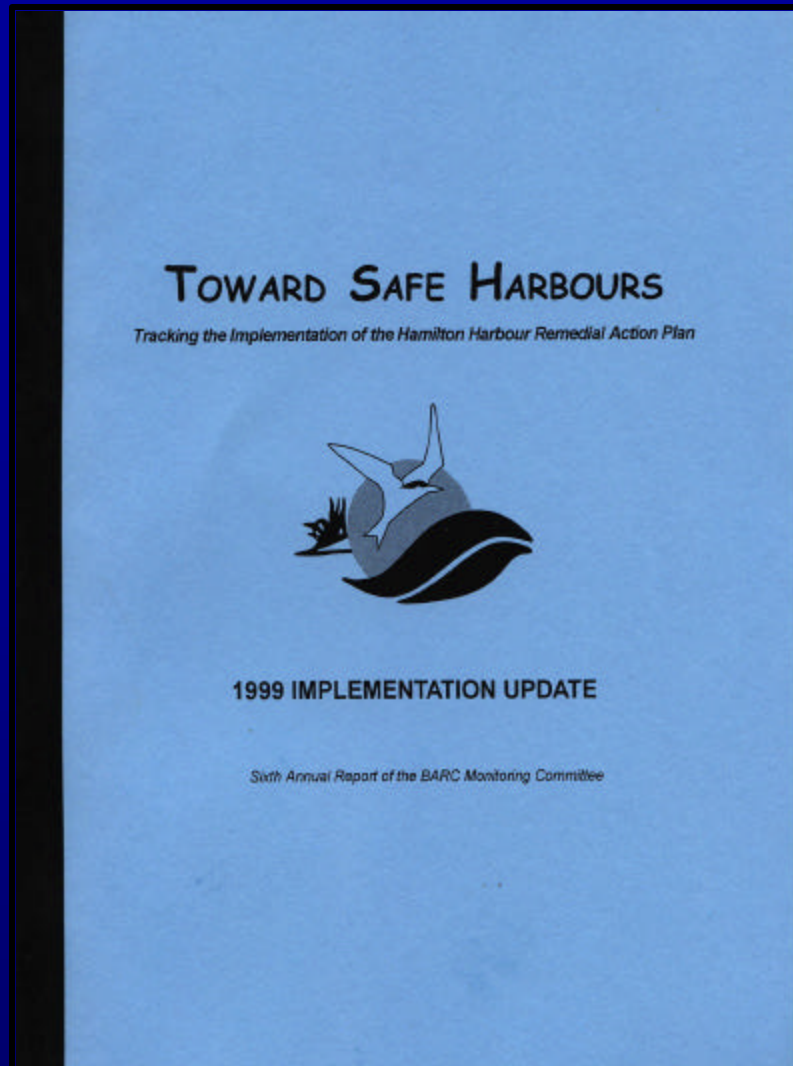


...Bringing Back the Bay...



# Annual “*Toward Safe Harbours*” Report

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- **Industry**
- **Government**
- **Local Municipalities**
- **School Boards**
- **Community Groups**

**...Assessing  
Implementation...**



# BARC...

# ...in 2000



## Waterfront Trail is worth bragging about

By WENDY DODD

It is not every day that I sit down for a cup of coffee with someone for the sole purpose of talking about something great that Hamilton has accomplished. However, this particular day started with a trip to the city's central parks building, an out-of-the-way place on a busy travelled section of Huron Street West. It almost seems like the city has done a great job of trying to hide this place. But, get to be discovered, great things have come out of this little workshop.

Meet Henry Ubbink, a parks engineer, technical assistant who played a key support role in the birth of The Hamilton Harbour Waterfront Trail. Ubbink has spent several months involved with this project and was more than happy to spend a little more time giving it the go-ahead. After learning a little of the behind-the-scenes things that have gone into building the trail, it became really, it starts to seem that the one of those big Christmas Eve

feels that I need to show up for at my own mother's house. It all seemed so great and wonderful, but I had no concept of the various activities that went on to that hour before my arrival and the factory was dropped on the table.

The people who work at Ubbink's office are all too familiar with the end-to-end planning, land acquisition, zoning for permits, legal work, soliciting the private and public funds and seeing that happens out of the public eye. The actual amounts of time are measured in years, not months, and involve several different departments of the city and the region. I can say that there is the equivalent to a small army of people who see the credit for this project.

Ubbink had all sorts of interesting tidbits of information about what goes into building a trail through the urban landscape. The greatest lesson, he believes, the planting of 1000 trees by 400 volunteers. It took close to \$1 million worth of different types of trees

to support the path, storm drainage, and provide a visually pleasing landscape. The trees that lead up to the High Level Bridge cost more than a quarter of a million dollars. (Incidentally, there are 12 steps for anybody who wants to see these things on site work.)

But for most urban physical aspects of the pathway is the floating platform that passes underneath the Highway and the CN tracks. This was modelled on a similar design in California and is the only one of its kind in Canada. It is actually made up of large precast panels received in concrete.

I had no trouble about some of the more natural aspects of the shoreline and pathwork. I found it disturbing that throughout the entire construction process there was not a single report of a fox hole, snake den, or even a snake or raccoon population that had to somehow be accommodated or relocated. Somebody reported seeing one snake, which is, I guess, a start. Hopefully, over time, some of these animals will return to this area, which must

have provided a home for all of them before the advent of steel companies and railway paths.

The update to the natural part of where the significant amounts of money was allocated to create habitat for the creatures native to the area surrounding the path. This includes shoreline protection, complete with a "fence" as well as some turtle habitat in the canal area. There was also money directed for providing bird nesting boxes along parts of the trail.

I have to ride to Market back to the Wendale house via the Waterfront Trail. It took about 12 minutes to get from the parks building at Market and Bay across to the Princess Point parking lot.

The city really has accomplished something worth talking about with this trail.



Don Doyle lives in Hamilton. He wrote the original version of this article for the Hamilton Harbour meeting and workshop. Barbara.





**PAST...**



**...PRESENT...**

**...AND FUTURE**



**WE ARE  
*Bringing Back  
The Bay!***

**Thank you partners!**

