Connecting People and the Bay

ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

BAY AREA RESTORATION COUNCIL
ECOLOGY · INDUSTRY · RECREATION
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) is a non-profit group at the centre of community efforts to revitalize Hamilton Harbour and its watershed.

Perhaps you’ve heard the saying that all things are connected – we are strands in the web of life and that what we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

The work we do at the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) focuses on making that connection; showing that our harbour reacts to what we do to it, good or bad.

I’m pleased to say that much of our work this year shows that positive impacts are being made. A highlight was a key report we published scientifically confirming that fish and wildlife in Hamilton Harbour can recover if we stay the course on clean up activities. Clearly, past actions are paying off. Plantings, reduced contamination and other Remedial Action Plan projects are working. The science shows it: we’re making real progress.

As the harbour improves, we also see the effect on our community. People have new and better places to connect with nature and with each other: on extended, publicly accessible harbour trails, during the new annual Port Days, and at the Canada Marine Discovery Centre.

Over the next year, BARC staff and dedicated volunteers will continue to promote harbour revitalization, educate and engage the public, increase our profile, and improve our services. Thanks to generous funders, we’ve already grown our team to do just that, including adding a full-time Communications Coordinator.

We’ll also continue to influence the decision makers who can make harbour health a priority because forward-thinking citizens and governments are critical to the continuing success of harbour remedial action.

For yet another year, I’m excited to see the progress we’re making toward our goals and I encourage you to join us in our work. Our region has a long history of leaders who are passionate about our environment and committed to a healthy harbour that is the gem of our community and the foundation for commerce and recreation. Help us continue the great work we and our many partners are already doing. Make the connection – together, we are bringing back the bay!

Dr. Roland R. Weiler
President
June 2, 2005
Toward Safe Harbours: Progress Toward Delisting was a major BARC research report that received significant media attention. Its main finding showed researchers are tracking the right indicators and that if current programs continue, we’ll be able to fully evaluate fish and wildlife recovery when it comes time to prove to the International Joint Commission that the harbour is restored (target: 2015).

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

Armed with tools like this research, BARC advocates for the harbour and works with all levels of government. This year, we presented to and supported politicians on issues like the benefit of water rate increases to improve wastewater and sewage infrastructure, the Royal Botanical Gardens, and Halton’s Official Plan.

Other outreach activities included:
- Our 13th annual Community Workshop, Stories of the Bay: Personal Perspectives
- Involvement in the new Hamilton Area Eco-Network (Eco-Net)
- The Sandbar and the City, BARC’s Harbour History Night from local author, John Terpstra
- Contributing to the Hamilton Harbour RAP and local committees
- BARC’s Volunteer Recognition Night and harbour tour in June
- Participation in community events including: the Hamilton Port Authority’s first annual Port Days and the opening of the Canada Marine Discovery Centre

HELPING US CONNECT

Making connections with the public through programs like Yellow Fish Road couldn’t happen without the support of funders like the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Hamilton Community Foundation and others.

With their funding, we established the Watershed Watch Communications Program, expanding our communications and education work, adding staff and improving areas like the look of our e-newsletter. Our subscriber list jumped 52% over last year and our website traffic increased 23%.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

As the community resource for harbour restoration information, BARC uses newsletters, websites, media and other tools to get its message out. This year, we received strong media support, with high value articles written about or by BARC and by citizens writing to support us, the harbour and common concerns like the future of the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG).
Vital Volunteers

Children, parents, couples and grandparents really dig BARC’s planting and clean up days. They tell us there's no better way to feel in touch with nature than having dirt on their hands or mud under their feet.

“”We have a blast [at Earth Day]. You can see the animals and know that what you are doing is for them and not for yourself – great satisfaction”.

Tina Floriani

Earth Day is our most popular event with 500 volunteers participating last year, digging homes for more than 1,000 trees and shrubs at Princess Point and Cootes Paradise.

Several Marsh Volunteer Plantings added an extra 650 plants in the ground by season's end.

These eager volunteers have a powerful impact, helping BARC and the RBG regenerate life in marshes to encourage the return of fish and wildlife, restoring habitat areas, and creating beautiful settings for the entire community to enjoy.

Last year, BARC was pleased to be recognized for outstanding leadership, innovation and commitment to enhancing and restoring urban greenspace with the Evergreen Foundation’s Hands for Nature Award.

Tales and Snails

Learning by doing. That's the idea behind Classroom Mini Marsh. Elementary school students from across Hamilton and Halton plant and nurture tiny marshes in their classrooms, watching snails and aquatic plants grow. Teaching aides help make the connection between the mini marsh and the larger one in their own community while emphasizing the value of local habitat restoration.

BARC, the RBG and the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation brought 275 mini marsh kits to 58 schools last year.

In the “outdoor classroom”, BARC partnered with local historian, Brian Henley, again this year on his many popular Harbour Walking Tours. Brian’s way with facts and stories show people of all ages the connections area residents have had with the harbour for centuries.

Brian might mention the newly opened Canada Marine Discovery Centre on his tour, the site of last fall’s BARC Nature Discovery Day where a crowd of hundreds learned about fish, wildlife and water savings.

“We have participated in the program for four years now, and every year I recommend the program to other teachers because it has consistently been a great experience for both the students and myself.”

Jodi Miller, Teacher at Maple Lane Elementary
Every one of us lives in a watershed. Most of us live in the one named for Hamilton Harbour. While the harbour is the most visible part of our watershed, in a vast network of connected systems, about 50 percent of its water actually comes from creeks and streams.

We're connected to that network too. Our activities have a huge impact on harbour health, from pesticide use to urban development around our cities.

This year, BARC supported greenbelt legislation to protect local natural areas and continued a partnership with the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program which encourages rural landowners to protect their land's natural features. Agreements are in place on over 7500 hectares of land and 450 volunteers are protecting their land, making a significant impact on the renewal of Hamilton Harbour.

“I arrived in Hamilton 20 years ago, and I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else in the world. However, being a water person I was very upset when I saw the condition of the harbour. Fortunately, during my 20 years in Hamilton I’ve noticed with great delight the improvement in the water, and BARC must take full credit for this lasting gift to the city.”

John Dolbec, CEO, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
Restoring the Harbour, Together

The Bay Area Restoration Council teams up with other organizations and individuals for harbour restoration. BARC thanks all our dedicated partners, volunteers and members for their contributions.

2004-2005 FUNDERS AND DONORS
BARC is thankful for generous funding from Environment Canada, the Hamilton Community Foundation’s Protecting Our Environment Together (POET) Initiative, the Port of Hamilton Spill Control Group, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The latter is an agency of the Ministry of Culture that receives $100 million of government funding generated through Ontario’s charity casino initiative annually.

FUNDEES
Canada Helps
City of Hamilton
Environment Canada
Evergreen
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Hamilton Community Foundation
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Ontario Trillium Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

IN-KIND DONATIONS
Bert Oldershaw
Burlington Sailing & Boating Club
City of Burlington
City of Hamilton
Conservation Halton
Hamilton Conservation Authority
Hamilton Harbour RAP Office
Hamilton Port Authority
Hamilton Waterfront Trust
McMaster University
Royal Botanical Gardens
Royal Hamilton Yacht Club
Stelco Hamilton

CORPORATE DONATIONS
Conservation Halton
Dofasco
Hamilton Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER)
Mountain Equipment Co-operative
Valley City Ltd.
VFT Inc.
Port of Hamilton Spill Control Group (POHSCG), which includes:
  Bunge Canada
  Columbian Chemicals Ltd.
  Dofasco Inc.
  Hamilton Port Authority
  IKO Industries Ltd.
  Petro-Canada
  Provmar Fuels Inc.
  Seaway Marine Transport
  Stelco Hamilton
  Sun Canada Pipeline
  Vopak Terminals of Canada Inc.
  Westway Terminals Canada

BARC IMPLEMENTATION AWARD
This 11th annual award goes to an agency or organization showing exceptional leadership or support for harbour restoration. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has played a vital role in the bay’s restoration since the Remedial Action Plan began. Their leadership and constant involvement has resulted in tremendous improvement to the quality of the fish and wildlife habitat around the harbour.

BARC RECOGNITION AWARD
We present this award to individuals who contribute substantial efforts to restoring and protecting the health of Hamilton Harbour and its watershed.

Brian Henley, Dr. Brian McCarry and Joanna Ranieri

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Dr. Roland R. Weiler, PhD.
President, Retired Oceanographer
Scott Koblyk
Vice President, Freelance Writer
Martin Keller
Treasurer/Secretary, Environmental Management
Garnet Cowssill
Communications Professional, Hamilton Conservation Authority
Bruce Gall
Civil Engineer, Aldershot Community Council
Robert Matthews
V.P. Marketing, Hamilton Port Authority
Jo-Anne Rzadki
Program Coordinator, Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship
Andrew Sebestyen
Environmental Manager, Stelco Hamilton
Laurel Thompson
Business Consultant, Royal Hamilton Yacht Club
Margaret Walton
GIS Specialist, Royal Botanical Gardens

OUTGOING
Dr. Brian McCarry

COMMITTEES
Finance & Administration
Public Awareness
Education
Monitoring

STAFF
Marilyn Baxter, Executive Director
Sherry Houston, Communications Coordinator
Jennifer Parkin, Special Projects Intern
Joanna Ranieri, Researcher (to September 2004)
Philip Anthony and Ryan Dore, Summer Students
**Financial Statements**

**Estimated Receipts and Expenditures**

**Year Ended March 31, 2005**

**RECEIPTS**

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Environment Canada</td>
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<td>Other Federal Government Income</td>
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<td>Provincial Income</td>
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<td>Corporate Donations</td>
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<td>Member Donations</td>
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<td>Trillium Foundation Grant</td>
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<td>Hamilton Community Foundation and Other Grants</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
<td>$ 468</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>$ 1,427</td>
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<td>Deferred to FY 05/06</td>
<td>$ 38,200</td>
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<td><strong>Total Receipts</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 171,718</strong></td>
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**EXPENDITURES**

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<td>Computer</td>
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<td>Conference, Fees, Travel</td>
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<td>Workshop</td>
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<td>BayLinks</td>
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<td><strong>Project Totals</strong></td>
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<td>Wages</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 172,062</strong></td>
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| **Net Surplus (Deficit) for Year** | $ (344) |

**Balance Sheet**

**As At March 31, 2005**

**ASSETS**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Current Account</td>
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<td>GIC Investments</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 119,886</strong></td>
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**LIABILITIES**

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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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**SURPLUS**

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<td>Opening Balance</td>
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<td>Add: Current Surplus (Deficit)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Surplus</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 119,886</strong></td>
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This statement does not include gifts in-kind.

Donations are tax deductible.

Charitable Registration No. 89293 6584 RR0001

Beckett Lowden Read, LLP Chartered Accountants are retained to review the organization’s financial statements. For a copy of full audited financial statements, please contact the Bay Area Restoration Council.

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*I am always amazed about the variety of views and sites when you drive around the harbour in a day. Where else do you get the opportunity to see a beautiful natural site [Cootes], a quiet park for reflection [Bayfront], the exciting workings of the port and industry, and the dream homes of the north shore?*

Kristin O’Connor
YOU CAN HELP!
Do you want to make a difference for a healthier, more vibrant Hamilton Harbour? Show your support for the bay and for the work of BARC:

- Become a member.
- Make a donation.
- Volunteer for a hands-on planting day.
- Contribute your ideas – attend our annual workshop.
- Keep up-to-date – subscribe to our new BARC e-Bulletin, emailed monthly.
- Spend time by the bay.

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