



THE CITY OF  
**HAMILTON**  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 9, 2008

The Hon. Herb Gray, Canadian Section Chair  
Ms. Irene B. Brooks, Acting U.S. Section Chair, International Joint Commission

Dear Chairs and Commissioners:

You have been presented with details of the effects that proposed Water Level Regulation Plan 2007 will have on the lands of the Royal Botanical Gardens, the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan, and the City of Hamilton. In my absence this evening, I ask that this letter serve to reinforce and confirm for you the interests and concerns of our community.

Hamilton is a maritime city – the busiest port in Lake Ontario which contains Cootes Paradise Marsh, the most significant natural sanctuary in western Lake Ontario.

While enjoying a vibrant industrial history, our City has suffered the legacy of a polluted harbour and degraded environment. In 1985, Hamilton was the first Great Lakes community to initiate Remedial Action Planning. We have pulled together and invested close to \$1B in pollution abatement and environmental enhancements. A target of 2015 has been set to de-list Hamilton Harbour as an Area of Concern under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Hamilton has received commitments of support in excess of \$140M from the federal and provincial governments but is seeking an additional \$170M to complete remedial actions.

Hamilton's image as a polluted community with a toxic harbour is no longer accurate. While full restoration of our natural attributes will be completed by 2015, it will even longer to overcome the negative perception of our City. In a new economy, that kind of perception puts constraints on economic development and can hold us back from attracting the best and the brightest. The restoration of the Cootes Paradise Marsh and the de-listing of Hamilton Harbour is the right action for the environment and will help create future economic success for the City of Hamilton and its citizens.

On behalf of the community of Hamilton working on the restoration of the Cootes Paradise Marsh, I respectfully request that you reject Plan 2007 and instead recommend the approval of Plan B+ which sets Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River on the route to recovery.

Please consider your role in protecting and enhancing the environment. In approving Plan B+, I am certain that future generations will thank you and history will judge that you made a land mark decision to recognize Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River as first and foremost a natural system.

Sincerely,

Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor of Hamilton

c.c. David Sweet, M.P. Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale  
Mike Wallace, M.P. Burlington