

# IJC Water Level Regulation Hearing June 9, 2008

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## INTRODUCTION:

- I am John Hall, HHRAP Coordinator and a former member of the Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG).
- With me are Tys Theysmeyer, Aquatic Ecologist with the Royal Botanical Gardens and Jim Hudson, Executive Director of the Bay Area Restoration Council.
- Each presenter will take five minutes and speak to a specific topic area. Further written information will be submitted within the commenting period.
- Of the range of interests considered in the selection of a water level plan only the environment and shoreline property owner will be addressed in these presentations as these are the aspects germane to our Remedial Action Plan.

## A. Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (HHRAP):

- Hamilton is identified under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement as an Area of Concern and as such it has filed with the IJC Stage 1 and 2 reports and is working on enhancements of Hamilton Harbour with delisting targeted for 2015. To date we estimate close to \$1 billion has been invested in the remediation of the Harbour with a total investment anticipated to be \$1.5 billion. I wish to acknowledge the support of the IJC and in particular Canadian Chairman, the Honourable Herb Gray in assisting our RAP to secure funding and advancing our remedial actions.
- The HHRAP took an ecosystem approach to its Remedial Action Plan and was one of the first places in the Great Lakes to adopt such a principle.
- One of the delisting criteria for Hamilton Harbour is the restoration of the Cootes Paradise Marsh and Grindstone Creek Estuary, both on lands of the Royal Botanical Gardens.
- Our local analysis of Plan 2007 leads us to believe that the Cootes Paradise wetland restoration project will be put in jeopardy and delisting of Hamilton Harbour as an Area of Concern may not be possible if Plan 2007 is approved.