

PW16054(a)  
Item 7.1



Hamilton

# Clean Harbour Outreach Program

August 12, 2020

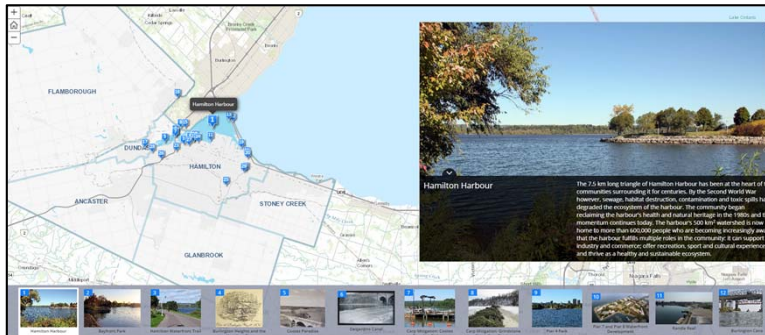
Public Works Department  
Hamilton Water Division

# Council Direction

In June 2016, Council approved establishment of the Clean Harbour Outreach Program (PW16054). The program consisted of two elements:

1. A study to identify opportunities for reducing the discharge of medical waste and personal care products into the harbour. This study should endeavour to determine the source of the pollutants and develop strategies for eliminating these events; and,
2. Develop a community outreach program to raise awareness of the adverse effects of sewage overflows into the harbour and the environment, the unique operations of the Hamilton combined sewage system and with an emphasis on the role homeowners can play in reducing these occurrences through their own actions at home.

# Outreach Program



To keep residents informed of our progress the Clean Harbour Program webpages were developed and outline the following:

- The history and value of the harbour to the Hamilton community;
- The City's actions over the last 30+ years in support of harbour restoration;
- Descriptions of operating systems;
- Actions residents can take to mitigate harbour pollution; and,
- Ongoing project updates related to the Woodward Upgrade Project.

[www.Hamilton.ca/CleanHarbour](http://www.Hamilton.ca/CleanHarbour)

# Floatable Study

Cole Engineering Group Ltd. was contracted to complete a floatable waste study, which included:

1. A baseline assessment of current practices and procedures with respect to floatable waste;
2. An evaluation of the current sewer system's operation and performance;
3. Identification of municipal best practices in the reduction of floatable material discharge and accumulation;
4. Field inspections and monitoring which included:
  - Surface level inspections at accessible CSO outfalls
  - Catch basin inspections
  - Temporary booms installations at the Birch, James and Eastwood outfalls
  - Site specific recommendations based on the unique characteristics of each outfall

Study was finalized in 2020 and included a number of non-technical and technical recommendations.





## Improved CSO Signage



Continued support of programs that reduce floatable waste

## Non-Technical Actions

Community sharps disposal bins

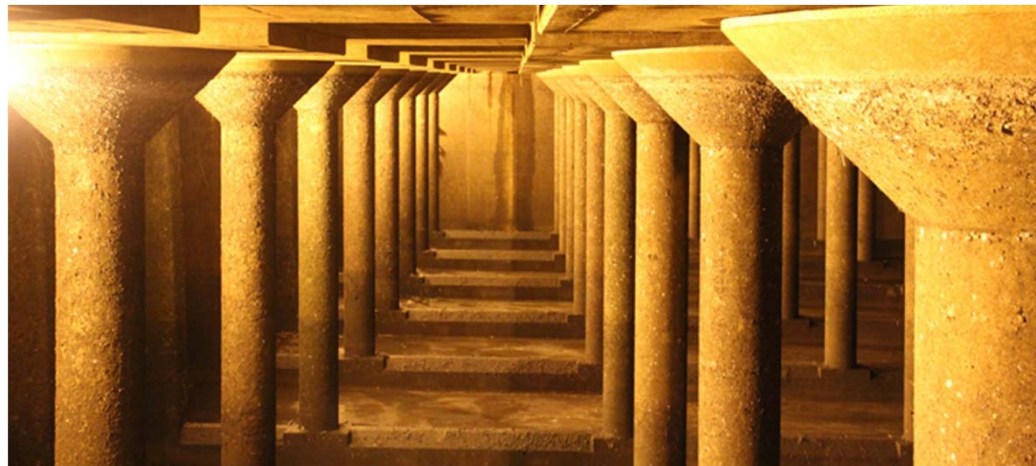


## Technical Actions - Inspections



Periodic and post-event inspections of CSO outfalls

Improved logging and inspections at CSO tanks



6



# Technical Actions – Enhanced Boom Program (Pilot)



Timeline: Pilot completion in 2021

7

# OWN YOUR THRONE

8



# Own Your Throne – Key Messages

- 1) Only the 3Ps are safe to flush
- 2) Flushing anything else can damage the harbour and shoreline
- 3) Flushing anything else can damage your home and cost you money in repairs
- 4) The City of Hamilton spends time and money repairing infrastructure when anything else is flushed



HAMILTON, THERE ARE SOME  
NEW HEROES IN TOWN



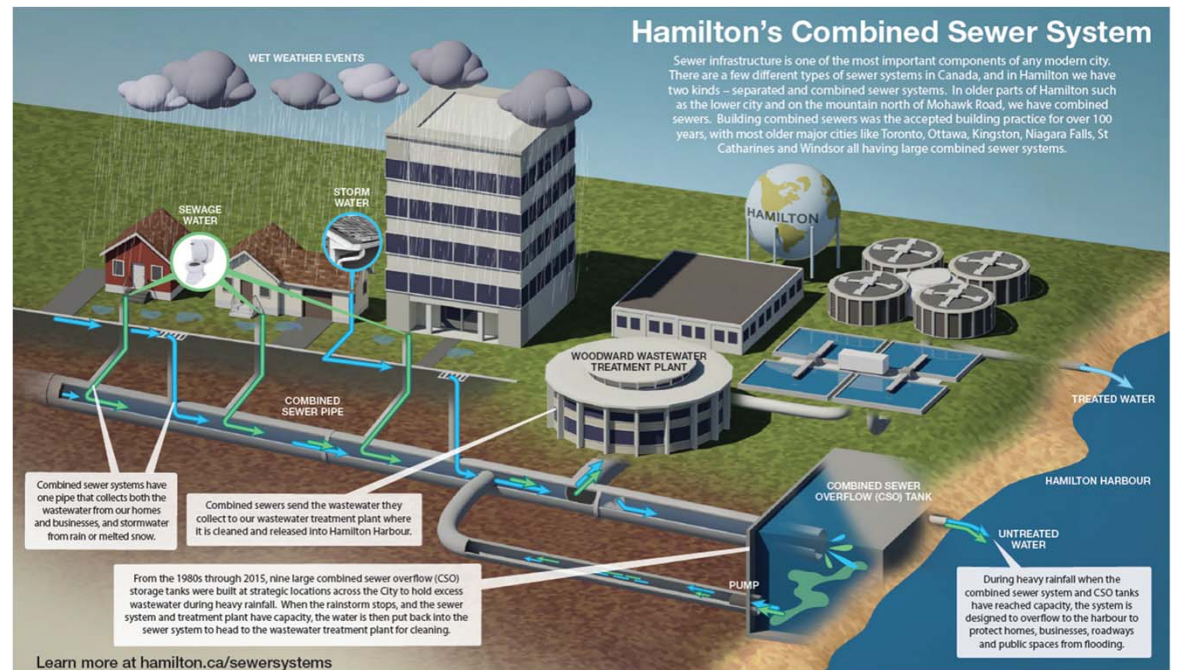
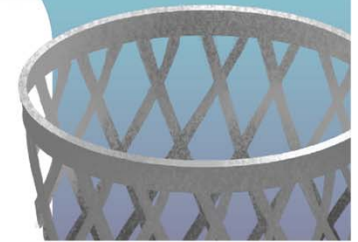
Learn more at  
[hamilton.ca/OwnYourThrone](http://hamilton.ca/OwnYourThrone)



### Did you know?

Disposable wipes are made of tough, durable materials that don't break down in the sewer system. Even if your wipes state they are flushable, they can still create clogs that damage your home's pipes and the City's wastewater infrastructure. Instead, keep all wipes out of your pipes and toss them in the waste bin.

Only flush the 3Ps – pee, poo and toilet paper.



# Outreach Activities

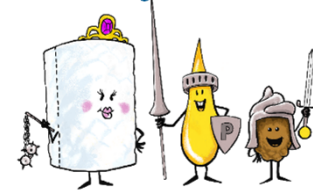
- World Water Day Eco-Challenge - (2019)
- Water Week: Sustainability Day - McMaster University (2018 & 2019)
- Youth Eco Summit - Mohawk College (2018 & 2019)
- Doors Open Hamilton (promoted at 2 locations - 2019)
- Eco-Fairs within the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board (2019)
- GameJam at CityLabs in collaboration with Mohawk College - (2019)
- Public Works Day - Bulldogs Game (twice in 2019)
- Future City Builders - McMaster University (2019)
- H2O Forum hosted by Bay Area Restoration Council and Hamilton Port Authority (2019)
- Mayor's New Year Levee - 2020







## Survey Results



- 67% increase in awareness that it costs taxpayers money every time a sewer clog needs to be fixed
- 100% increase in awareness that things flushed down your toilet can make it to Hamilton Harbour
- 23% increase in awareness that disposable wipes are not designed to be flushed
- 9% increase in awareness that disposable wipes can cause clogs in the sewer system
- 63% increase in acceptance that “flushable” labelled products are not flushable
- 48% increase in acceptance that food waste is not flushable
- 48% increase in knowledge of acceptable flushable materials
- 43% increase in number of respondents who indicated they do not flush disposable wipes at all
- 20% increase in number of respondents who only flush the 3Ps

12

# Awards



## Hermes Gold Award

Communications/Marketing Campaign

13

## Sneak Peak



14



# Questions?

Resources:

[www.Hamilton.ca/CleanHarbour](http://www.Hamilton.ca/CleanHarbour)

[www.Hamilton.ca/OwnYourThrone](http://www.Hamilton.ca/OwnYourThrone)

15