

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

Council: August 16, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. WILSON.....

Preventing Outbreaks of Algae Bloom in the Future

WHEREAS, City Staff are aware of and are closely monitoring the developing situation with respect to the toxic algae bloom currently impacting Hamilton Harbour and have fielded multiple complaints from the public;

WHEREAS, as an effort to improve Hamilton Harbour conditions, the City recently completed major upgrades to the Woodward Ave. Wastewater Treatment Plant and is currently exploring options to upgrade the Dundas Wastewater Treatment Plant;

WHEREAS, as an effort to improve non-point source pollution impacts to Hamilton Harbour, the City is developing a Watershed Action Plan which in the future will implement long term actions to help mitigate algae blooms from occurring;

WHEREAS, the City is advancing opportunities to improve the capture and treatment of wet weather flow that enters its combined sewer system, thereby reducing combined sewer overflows and wastewater treatment bypasses;

WHEREAS, Hamilton Harbour is not unique to toxic algae outbreaks that are prevalent in many water bodies across North America due to many different factors which are being exacerbated by the impacts of Climate Change;

WHEREAS, there does not exist an annual City program that delivers short-term preventative measures to protect the City's harbourfront from the impacts of toxic algae blooms;

WHEREAS, options to manage the current algae bloom in Hamilton Harbour present both health and safety and environmental challenges and could inadvertently make immediate and longer term conditions worse;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That, the General Manager of Public Works be directed to provide a report to the Public Works Committee on the details of the current algae bloom and offer a preliminary overview of a program, including resources and measures that could assist Hamilton's efforts in preventing such outbreaks in future years.