



## COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	April 15, 2024
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	City of Hamilton Watershed Action Plan Public Engagement (City Wide) HW2403
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Cari Vanderperk Director, Watershed Management Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

Reducing point source contamination into Hamilton Harbour has been a major investment focus over the past few decades and with the completion of the Woodward Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades, a shift of focus on non-point source contamination is required. Non-point-source contamination of watersheds comes from many sources and are more challenging to identify and address. An example is urban and rural runoff that carries contaminants into our natural water bodies during rain events.

In order to continue progressing toward improved conditions in Hamilton Harbour, a collaborative effort is required to plan, develop, and execute watershed actions that are within the care and control of the City of Hamilton (City). By bringing together a group of experts from partner agencies, Indigenous representatives, as well from departments across the City, previous reports and data have been analyzed and projects are being prioritized that will support the efforts to delist Hamilton Harbour as an Area of Concern, as identified by the International Joint Commission.

Hamilton Water has retained the consultation services of AECOM to review the proposed actions and support ongoing partner and public engagement. Public engagement is an important aspect of this work and will commence from April 15<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup>. Once public input is received the City of Hamilton Watershed Action Plan (Watershed Action Plan) will be further refined, and a recommendation report will be brought forward to the General Issues Committee for approval later this year.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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The purpose of this Communication Update is to advise Council on upcoming public engagement activities related to the Watershed Action Plan. Following an engagement plan, developed by City staff and partners, and in consultation with the Community Engagement Team, an Engage Hamilton webpage was launched on April 15, 2024.

The Engage Hamilton webpage includes a project timeline, a Frequently Asked Questions section and information on upcoming virtual and in-person engagement events along with a short survey, all of which can be found via the following link:

- <https://engage.hamilton.ca/watershedactionplan>

The public is invited to attend the first virtual public information meeting on Thursday May 2, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to learn more about the Watershed Action Plan and ask questions. The virtual public meeting will be recorded with the video posted on Engage Hamilton shortly after the event. Registration is required through the Engage Hamilton webpage noted above.

The following in-person, pop-up type engagement opportunities are planned in the coming months:

- Sunday, May 26th – Open Streets Hamilton – King Street Downtown
- Saturday, June 22nd – Carlisle Optimist Club Duck Dash – Courtcliffe Park
- Sunday, June 23rd – Open Streets Hamilton – King Street Downtown
- Monday, July 1, 2024 – Canada Day – Bayfront Park

The in-person pop-up events were identified through the engagement plan as an important approach to engagement for the Watershed Action Plan. Traditional engagement methods, such as public open houses, are often scheduled at inconvenient locations and times. Pop-ups reduce this barrier and allow a broad audience to provide comments and ask questions. A fulsome Consultation Report (or Summary Report) will be developed which will include an overview of the engagement activities, including comments received and how input was considered for all Watershed Action Plan engagement events.

Hamilton Harbour represents one of the largest natural features in the community and should be safe and accessible to all residents. Addressing non-point contamination issues within the watersheds will further change the status of health, safety, and image within the City. Population growth, greenfield development and urbanization, agricultural production, and a changing climate will continue to exert pressure on the quality and supply of water resources. Addressing existing and emerging watershed quality issues is critical for all who live, work, and recreate in the City.

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City staff are available to meet one-on-one with Councillors to review details of the proposed Watershed Action Plan within each Ward as requested. If you have any questions regarding this communication or to set up a meeting, please contact Cari Vanderperk, Director, Watershed Management at [Cari.Vanderperk@hamilton.ca](mailto:Cari.Vanderperk@hamilton.ca).

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A