Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan fonds

RG 504


Brock University Archives

Creator: Niagara River Remedial Action Plan Committees and Team (Ontario)

Extent: 1.66 metres of textual records (4.5 boxes)
1 VHS cassette tape
1 audio cassette tape
1 CD-ROM
2 buttons

Abstract: Fonds contains material relating to the Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan. Most of the material is meeting minutes and reports.

Materials: Meeting minutes, reports, correspondence, promotional material, audio and video cassette tapes.

Repository: Brock University Archives

Processed by: Chantal Cameron

Finding aid: Chantal Cameron

Last updated: June 2014

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Administrative History
The Niagara River Remedial Action Plan was part of an initiative to restore the integrity of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. In 1972, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was signed by both Canada and the United States to demonstrate their commitment to protecting this valuable resource. An amendment in 1987 stipulated that Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) be implemented in 43 ecologically compromised areas known as Areas of Concern. The Niagara River was designated as one of these areas by federal and provincial governments and the International Joint Commission, an independent and binational organization that deals with issues concerning the use and quality of boundary waters between Canada and the United States. Although the affected area included parts of both the Canadian and American side of the river, Remedial Action Plans were developed separately in both Canada and the United States.

The Niagara River (Ontario) RAP is a three-stage process requiring collaboration between numerous government agencies and the public. Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority are the agencies guiding the development and implementation of the Niagara River (Ontario) RAP. The first stage is to determine the severity and causes of the environmental degradation that resulted in the location being designated an Area of Concern; the second stage is to identify and implement actions that will restore and protect the health of the ecosystem; and the third stage is to monitor the area to ensure that the ecosystem’s health has been restored. Stage one of the RAP commenced in January 1989 when a Public Advisory Committee (PAC) was established. This committee was comprised of concerned citizens and representatives from various community groups, associations, industries and municipalities. After several years of consultation, the Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan Stage 2 Report was released in 1995. It contained 16 goals and 37 recommendations. Among them was the need for Canadians and Americans to work more collaboratively in order to successfully restore the water quality in the Niagara River.

Stage three of the Niagara River (Ontario) RAP is currently ongoing, but it is estimated that it will be completed by 2015. At that point, the Niagara River Area of Concern will be delisted, although monitoring of the area will continue to ensure it remains healthy.

Scope and content

Fonds contains material relating to the work and activities of the Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan Committees. The bulk of the material is meeting minutes and reports. Other materials include correspondence, newsletters, news clippings, promotional material, and audio and video cassette tapes. The meeting minutes contain notices of meetings, agendas, and minutes, as well as some other related material including correspondence, reports, calendars of events, and news clippings. The majority of the meeting minutes are those of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC), but some other committee minutes are also included in some of the files. Minutes of the International Advisory Committee (1990-1993) and the Land Use Sub-Committee notes (1991) are filed separately. The original order of the material has largely been retained.
Organization

The records were arranged into three series:

   Sub-series A: Minutes
   Sub-series B: Goals & Objectives
   Sub-series C: Membership
   Sub-series D: Correspondence

   Sub-series A: Reports
   Sub-series B: Niagara River Repository bibliography
   Sub-series C: Newsletters
   Sub-series D: Other resources

   Sub-series A: Workshops
   Sub-series B: Welland River Clean-up Project
   Sub-series C: Radio interview

Common acronyms:

AOC: Area of Concern
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
IAC: International Advisory Committee
IJC: International Joint Commission
PAC: Public Advisory Committee
RAP: Remedial Action Plan

Inventory:


1.1-2.29 Minutes, 1989-1996. Contains meeting minutes, agendas, notices of meetings, as well as related material including correspondence, reports, calendars of events, and news clippings. The majority of the minutes are those of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC), but some other minutes are also included in some files, such as the Technical Sub-Committee minutes and the Executive Committee minutes.

2.30 Land Use Sub-Committee notes, 1991, n.d. Contains notes from a meeting of the committee on April 10, 1991, a newspaper clipping on federal funding to promote tourism in southern Ontario, and an article, *Tourism in Niagara Falls*.

2.31 International Advisory Committee minutes, 1990-1993. Also includes the IAC’s mission statement.

**Sub-series B: Goals & Objectives, 1990-1993, n.d.**


2.33 Goals & Objectives—Selection Process, 1990-1992. Includes correspondence; forms completed by various individuals and organizations selecting their preferred objectives & goals; a compilation of objectives for consideration by the PAC, August, 1990; and objectives from a PAC meeting, November 13, 1990.


**Sub-series C: Membership, 1989-1993, n.d.**

2.35 Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Membership, 1990-1993. Contains minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, July 28, 1992, with an attached list of PAC sub-committees and their members; an attendance list of the PAC containing member’s names and affiliations; public involvement guidelines for Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans, February 1990; Niagara River PAC roster, November 1993; and a draft flow chart of the process for review, submission and response—Remedial Action Plan, stage 2 report.


**Sub-series D: Correspondence, 1990-1995**
Stage I correspondence, 1990. Contains a letter from Ian Brindle, Chair of the Public Advisory Committee, to Ontario Premier David Peterson, dated January 31, 1990, as well as Premier Peterson’s reply.


Correspondence regarding international issues, 1993-1994.


Government of Canada, 1990-1994, n.d. Contains reports, fact sheets, newsletters and brochures by Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Includes promotional material, including 2 buttons, for the Yellow Fish Road program, which sought to raise awareness of the dangers of disposing of hazardous waste material in storm drains.


3.18 International Joint Commission Reports—Other, 1986-1993, n.d. Includes brochures about Remedial Action Plans; the third biennial report of the International Joint Commission, December 1986; the final report of the Great Lakes Educators Advisory Council to the IJC, 1993; Great Lakes Science Advisory Board 1993 report to the International Joint Commission; and a report from the International Air Quality Advisory Board to the International Joint Commission, titled Progress by the Parties in completing an inventory of toxic air emission and in assessing toxic air deposition in the Lake Superior basin, 1993.


3.23 Formal release of Stage 2 report, June 1995. Contains an agenda for the release of the Stage 2 report, as well as a newsletter from Gary Pillitteri, MP for Niagara Falls, featuring an article on the release of the Stage 2 report.


4.2 Niagara River Remedial Action Plan booklet, n.d. Contains two booklets (one in French and one in English) published by the Niagara River RAP titled *The Niagara River: How did we get to this stage?* Also includes completed response cards from the public that were included in the booklet.

4.3-4.5 Beak Remedial Options, 1991-1992. Contains reports by Beak Remedial Options for the Niagara River RAP, as well as related correspondence. Reports include a draft titled *Options for the remediation of environmental problems in the Niagara River (Ontario) Area of Concern: Phase I: Preliminary identification of remedial options*; a draft of *Phase II: Screening of remedial options*; and a final copy of the Phase II report.

4.6 Regional municipality of Niagara reports, 1989, n.d. Contains booklets on the Welland water pollution control plant, the Stamford Niagara pollution control plant, and the Anger Avenue, Town of Fort Erie pollution control plant.


**Sub-series B: Niagara River Repository bibliography, 1989, 1996**
Contains a copy of the Niagara River Repository bibliography (1996), a collection of reports and documents keeping the public informed on pollution in the Niagara River Area of Concern. Material is available at the Niagara Falls Public Library, Victoria Ave. branch. Also contains a list of publications by the Ministry of the Environment relating to the Niagara River, 1989.

**Sub-series C: Newsletters, 1990-1997**


4.11 Fact sheets, 1991-1995. Contains fact sheets for the Niagara River RAP, as well as other areas that are part of the Great Lakes RAPs, published by the federal-provincial RAP Steering Committee. Includes fact sheets on Spanish Harbour; Severn Sound; Bay of Quinte; Port Hope Harbour; Metro Toronto & region; Hamilton Harbour; Wheatley Harbour; Detroit River; St. Clair River; Thunder Bay; Peninsula Harbour; Jackfish Bay; Nipigon Bay; St. Mary’s River; Collingwood Harbour; and the St. Lawrence.


**Sub-series D: Other resources, 1988-1995, n.d.**


4.16 Waterways Walkabout, 1988, 1992. Contains two editions of a guide to recognizing, identifying and documenting sources of water pollution. Written by Mike Dickman, Biological Sciences Department, Brock University.
4.17 Promotional material, 1990, 1995, n.d. Contains several brochures and booklets, including *A field guide to aquatic exotic plants and animals; Working together for the Great Lakes: Remedial Action Plan; Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Regulation: what it means and how it works; Buffalo sewer authority secondary treatment plant*; and *The Niagara Anglers: news and views*.

**Series III: Activities, 1990-1997, n.d.**

**Sub-series A: Workshops, 1992-1993**

4.18 Ecosystem approach to pollution control planning in the Niagara River AOC, June 1992. A workshop hosted by the Public Advisory Committee of the Niagara River RAP and held at Brock University. Includes workshop materials such as summaries of presentations, a list of participants, workshop agenda and follow-up comments.

4.19-4.20 Remedial options workshops—Stage 2, 1993. Contains agendas, workshop summaries and comments regarding various issues including water quality, sediment quality and biota and habitat quality. Also includes a review of the draft report.

**Sub-series B: Welland River Clean-up Project, 1990-1997, n.d.**


5.1-5.4 Reports, 1995, 1996. Titles include *The Full-Scale Welland River Reef Clean-up Project*, main report and supplementary data (2 volumes); *Welland River Reef Clean-up Environmental Screening Report; Sediment and Biological Investigation of the Welland River at Welland, Ont.* (Jaagumagi, Bedard & Petro); and *Welland River Reef Clean-up Project contract C1: Sediment Removal and Treatment* (Atlas specialty steels).
Sub-series C: Radio interview, 1991

5.5 An audio cassette tape of an interview with Ian Brindle (Chair of the PAC) and Phil Weller broadcast on the radio station CJRN, November 7, 1991.

Related material:

