



ANNUAL REPORT 2007

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# The year in review

## January: Groups appealed waste incineration

The year got off to a strong start with an application from Loyalist Township residents, local landowners, Lake Ontario Waterkeeper,



and Trustee of Lake Ontario Gord Downie to appeal two environmental approvals issued to Lafarge Canada Inc. The approvals permit Lafarge to collect, store and burn various types of waste. Waterkeeper's independent experts have concluded that the proposal will pose serious risks to the environment and human health, particularly in terms of airborne contaminants.

## February: Water diversion threatens Great Lakes

Proposed amendments have been made to the Ontario Water Resources Act. The amendments would allow the diversion of water from one Great Lake to another Great Lake. Of all the parties involved, Ontario has the fewest incentives to conserve municipal water supplies or to protect drinking water quality. There's always another Great Lake. We can always build a bigger pipe. For these reasons, Waterkeeper recommended that the province show good faith and ban Intra-Basin diversions.

## March: Ministry to review Environmental Assessment Act

Waterkeeper and Environment Hamilton requested a review of Ontario's Environmental Assessment approvals

program. Using the Environmental Bill of Rights, Waterkeeper argued that the Environmental Assessment Act should impose a duty on the Minister of the Environment to respond to requests for reassessment within a reasonable period of time. Waterkeeper also argued that new approvals issued under the Act should come with renewal or expiry dates. This month, the Ministry of the Environment considered Waterkeeper's application, and will review the relevant subsection of the Act.

## April: Appealing Lafarge Alternative Fuels Project

The Ministry of the Environment approved the Lafarge Alternative Fuels Project last December, which involved the burning of tires, plastics, bone meal and other waste materials in its cement kiln in Bath, Ontario. Waterkeeper and other concerned groups had to show

that no reasonable person could have made the same decision, and that the Ministry's decision could result in significant harm to the environment. In its April 5, 2007 decision, the Tribunal declared that the groups had met this test. Waterkeeper and others won the opportunity to appeal the Ministry of the Environment's approvals for the project.

## May: New Fisheries Act bad for habitat, clean water

A new Fisheries Act known as Bill C-45, was in the midst of second reading in the House of Commons. If passed, the new Act would weaken Canadians' access to the legal system, diminish corporate accountability, and undermine environmental justice across the country. Waterkeeper prepared a backgrounder on the changes to habitat protection and pollution prevention provisions in the new Act.

## June: Improving Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Waterkeeper asked organizations and individuals concerned with Great Lakes

issues to submit their ideas for consideration for a rewritten Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement before the deadline. The Agreement is one of the most important binational commitments to protecting water quality and



aquatic habitat on the Great Lakes. This was a great opportunity to bring forward concerns about emerging threats that weren't covered by the original Agreement.

**July: Climate concert series**

On July 7, 2007, more than 20-million people tuned into Live Earth, a 24-hour, 7-continent concert series intended to "trigger a global movement to solve the climate crisis." Robert F.

Kennedy, Jr., Chairman of Waterkeeper Alliance, spoke to the crowd at Giants Stadium in New York. His call to join grassroots environmentalists "at the barricades" became one of the event's most talked-about moments.

**August: Fisheries Act ignored in Hamilton Harbour**

The Hamilton Harbour Commissioners recently filled in part of the mouth of Sherman Inlet, one of the few remaining natural areas in the Harbour, to create more land. This month, the Premier of Ontario announced \$30-million in funding for capping and filling Randle Reef, a mass of coal tar and heavy metals deposited into Lake Ontario by the steel industry over decades. The head of Fisheries and Oceans' enforcement arm in Ontario said that Sherman Inlet could be restored when Randle Reef is covered over. But under



the Fisheries Act, the community should not be asked to choose between habitat in the harbour and habitat in the inlet; the community should get both.

**September: Three shows promote watershed protection**

This month, three incredible live shows organized by Waterkeeper and Protecting Escarpment Rural Land (PERL) brought art and activist

together in honour of environmental protection on Lake Ontario's watershed. Chris Brown was joined onstage in Toronto by The Citizen's Band and Waterkeeper Mark Mattson. The show then headed to Wolfe Island for a live taping of Living At The Barricades, followed by performances by Chris Brown, Kate Fenner and Tony Scherr. The Barenaked Ladies then joined Sarah Harmer and PERL for a fundraiser on Mount Nemo in Burlington, Ontario.

**October: Clean Water Primer released**

Waterkeeper released the finalized Clean Water Primer #2: Federal Environmental Laws and Tools: A Canadian's Guide to key policies, rules, and procedures that protect the nation's waterways. The Clean Water Primer helps Canadians learn about their environmental rights and understand how to use the

tools and processes available to them. It also serves as a backgrounder for policy-makers and administrators seeking to understand the importance of legal tools to the general public.

**November: Speaking out on uranium contamination**

Grassroots groups released details of uranium contamination in human test subjects from Port Hope, Ontario this month. Private citizens, pundits and government officials condemned their neighbours for voicing concerns about uranium pollution. Waterkeeper's opinion is that in a town like Port Hope, where neighbour is pitted against neighbour and the most basic information is not available, a full investigation is the only legitimate option.

**December: Revitalizing Oshawa Harbour**

Oshawa Harbour needs a new governance structure, one with the authority and the resources to protect and develop the Harbour for the public interest well into the future. The federal government appointed Crombie to sort through conflicting visions for the Oshawa Harbour. To aid in the development of an effective, responsive governance structure, Waterkeeper submitted recommendations for revitalizing and protecting the Oshawa Harbour to David Crombie.

**To read Waterkeeper's submissions or newsletters on any of these issues, please visit our new web site:**

[www.waterkeeper.ca](http://www.waterkeeper.ca)

# Our Team

## Staff

President and Waterkeeper: Mark Mattson

Vice President: Krystyn Tully

Assistant to the Waterkeeper: Kaija Siirala

Office Administrator: Julia Hambleton

Communications Coordinator: Avi Grand

Canadian Field Coordinator: Brett Rogers

Public Interest Articling Students: Kathryn Tucker, Laura Bowman

Summer Law Intern: Kent Elson

## Board of Directors

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Ron Deibert

John Rishworth

Rob Cross

## Trustees

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Adele Hurley

Moses Znaimer

Denise Donlon

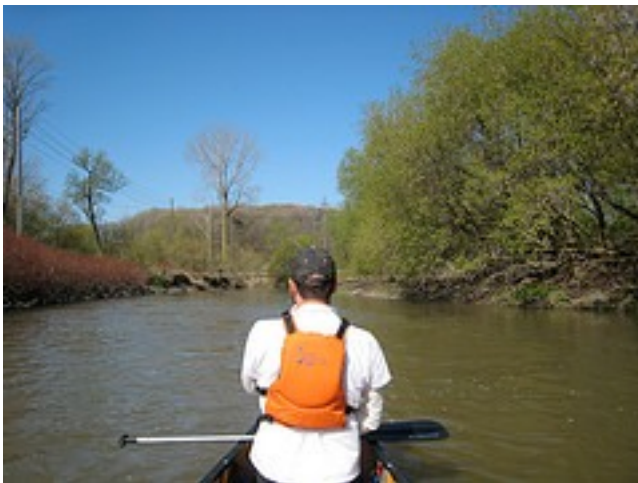
## Pro Bono Students

Sanjaya Ranasinghe

Anne Sabourin

Justin Tam

Rebekah Church



# Financial information

Follow this [link](#) to the CRA website to view our financial information for 2007.



Hard copies of our complete audited statements are available upon request. Just email your request to us at [admin@waterkeeper.ca](mailto:admin@waterkeeper.ca).