

# ***Randle Reef Sediment Remediation***

## **ENGAGING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Sheila Allan – Environment Canada



**CANADA**

**UNITED  
STATES**

British  
Columbia

Western Canada

Ontario

Eastern Canada

**CITY OF BURLINGTON**

*Lake  
Ontario*

**RANDLE REEF AREA**

**CITY OF HAMILTON**

**Hamilton Harbour**

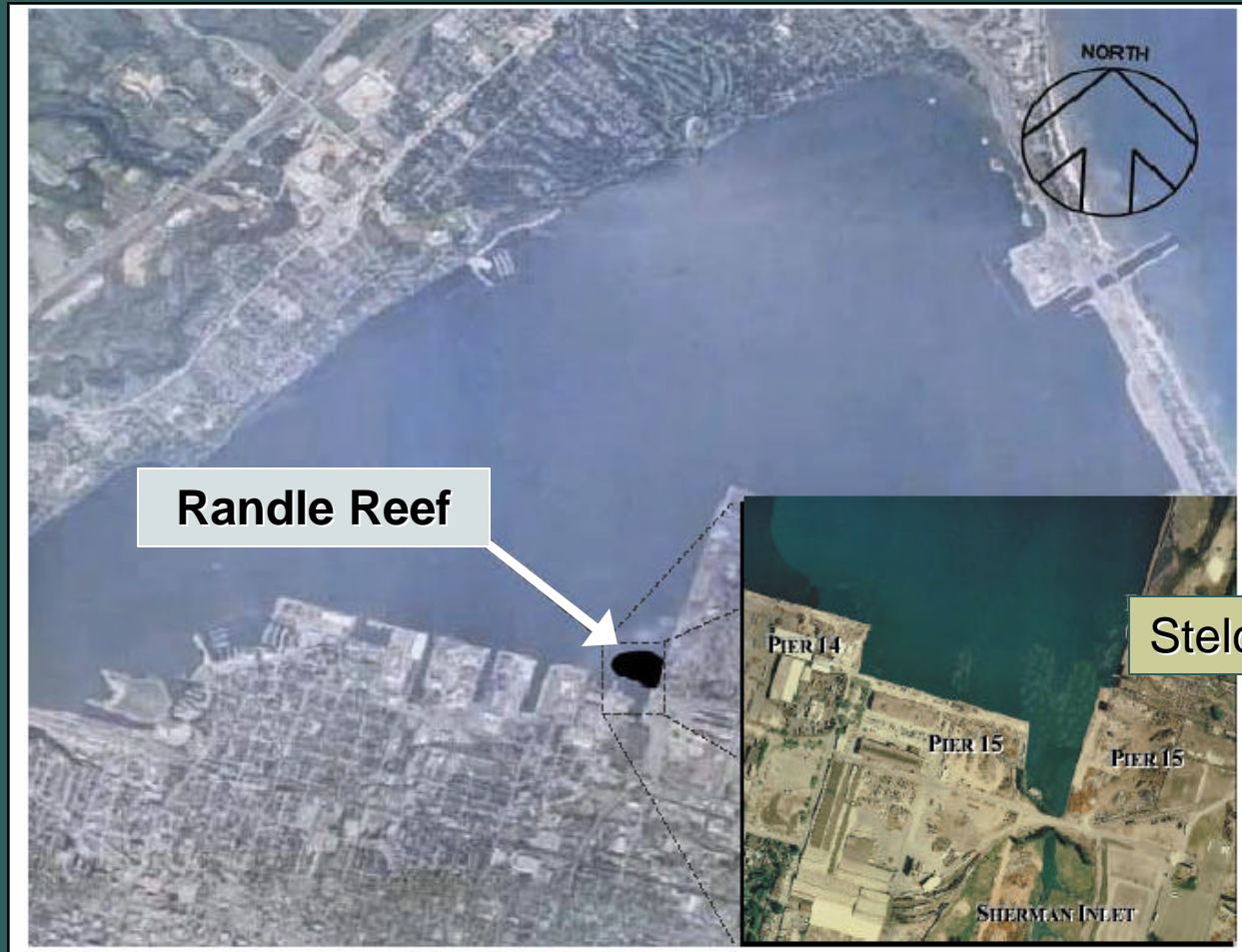


# Remedial Action

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- Remedial Action Plan started in 1986
  - Community based actions in partnership with industry, ENGOs, academia and governments
- 1991 - Bay Area Restoration Council
- Randle Reef identified as “hot spot”



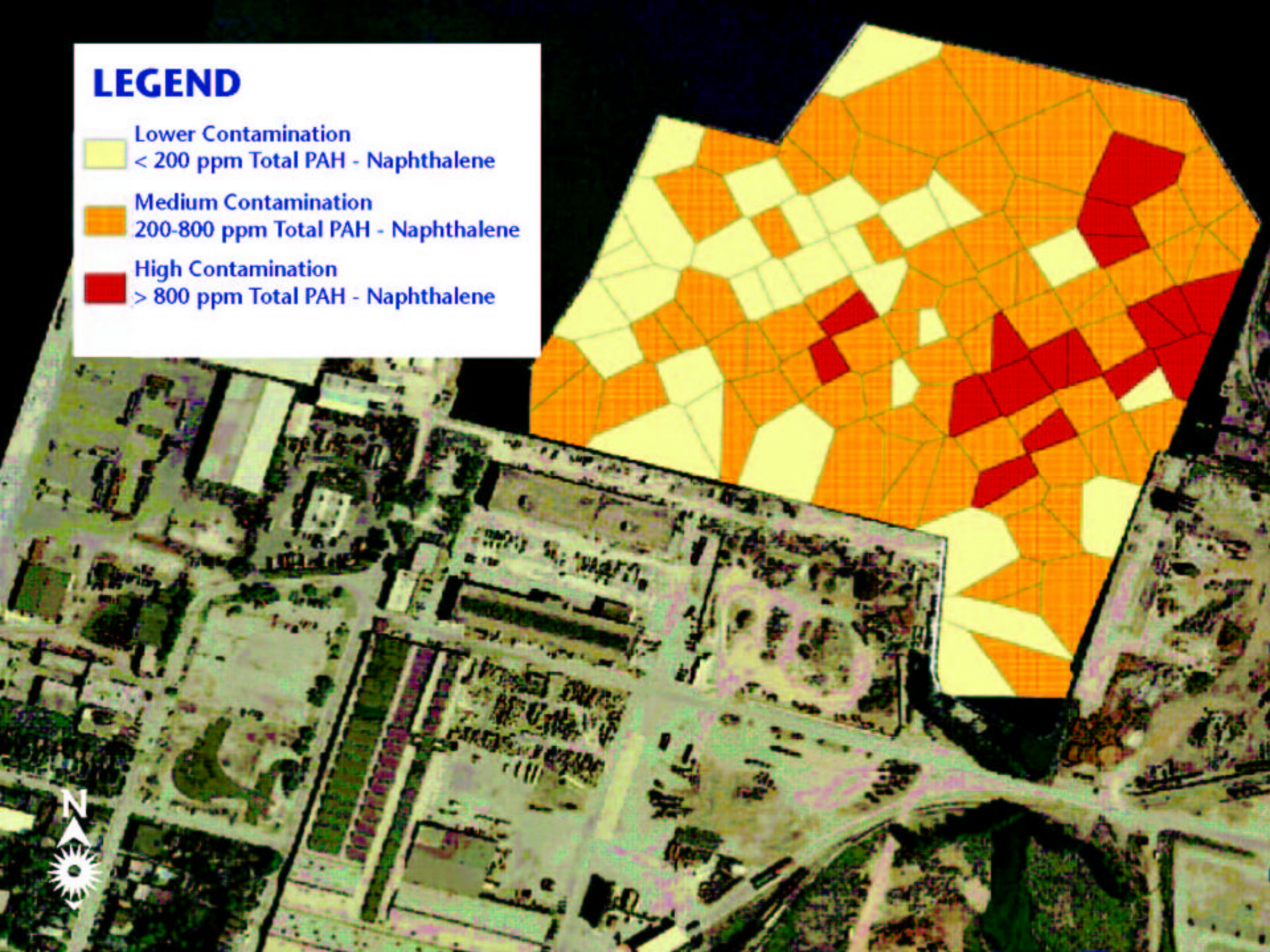


High levels of PAHs make site one of most contaminated in Great Lakes



## LEGEND

- Lower Contamination  
< 200 ppm Total PAH - Naphthalene
- Medium Contamination  
200-800 ppm Total PAH - Naphthalene
- High Contamination  
> 800 ppm Total PAH - Naphthalene



# EA Process

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- 1995 - federal EA triggered by Environment Canada's funding commitment
- Approx. 20 alternatives were considered
- Involved any or combination of containment, removal, reuse, disposal (with or without treatment)

# “Do Nothing”

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- Continued risk of exposure to contaminants
- Migration of contaminants within the harbour
- Wouldn't meet federal, provincial and international commitments to remediate site



# Removal & Disposal

- High cost
- Risk of exposure
- Duration/uncertainty
- Problems with disposal
- Lack of partnerships
- Limited area of remediation



# Removal & Reuse

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- Health risk to steelworkers
- Effects on downwind communities
- Contrary to toxics virtual elimination policies
- Limited area of remediation



# *In-situ* containment

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- Inconsistent with objectives of no further infilling
- Disruption of harbour uses
- Poor aesthetics
- Loss of fish habitat
- Least favoured





# Public Advisory Group

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- Public Advisory Group formed Nov. 2001
- 17 organizations including federal, provincial & municipal governments, industry, shipping, citizens, ENGOs, workers' safety, technical experts
- Open door approach

## PAG Approach *cont'd*

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- Started with blank sheet
- Wide range of interests:
  - aquatic ecosystem restoration, human health & safety, economic opportunities, navigation, aesthetics, timeliness, affordability, sustainability
- Democratic process
- Roundtable plus one-on-one meetings

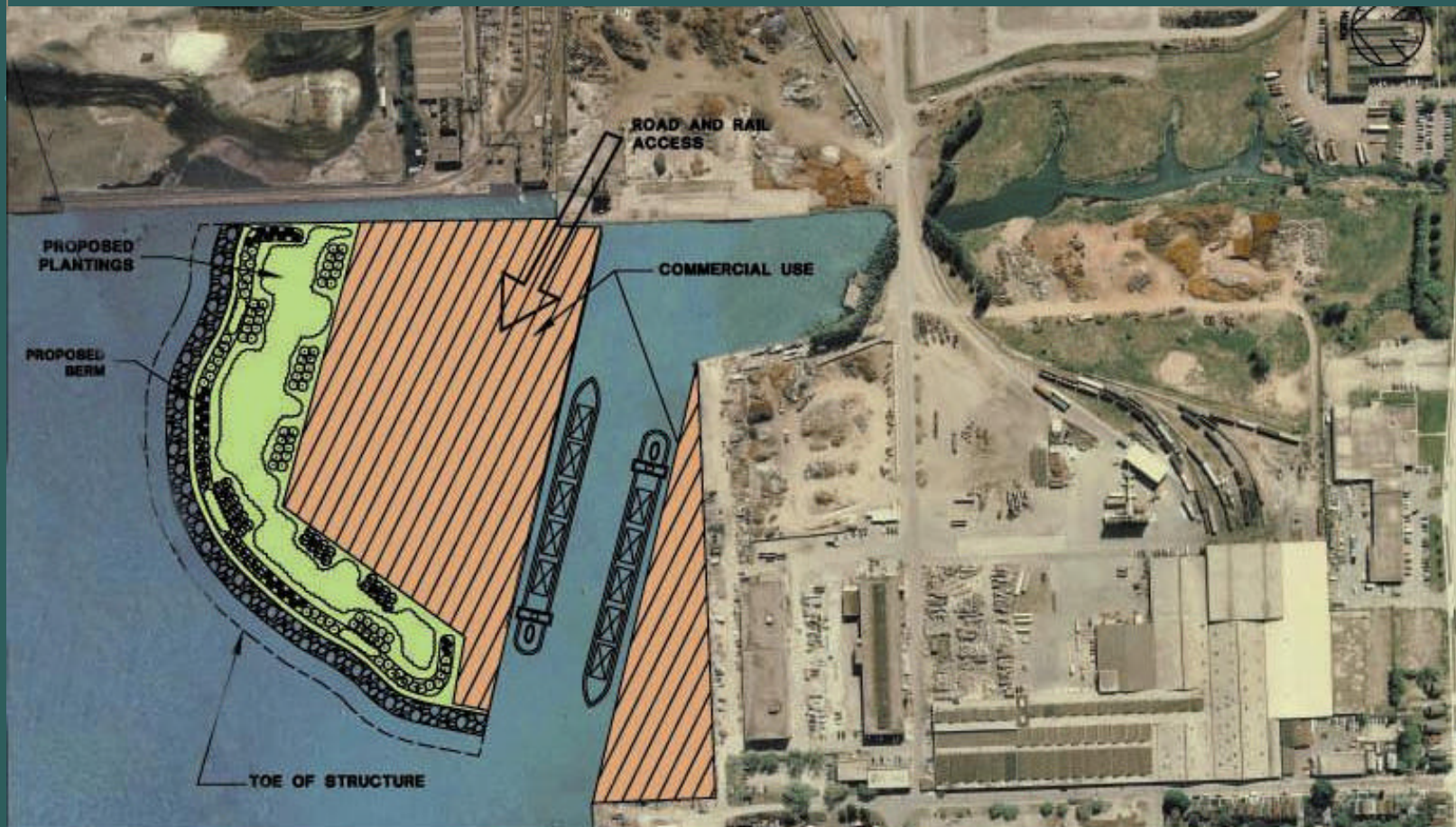
# The Criteria:

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- Minimal health risks in removing and handling contaminants
- Harbour cleanup (more than targeted zone of contaminated sediment)
- Partnerships and funding
- Timeliness and certainty



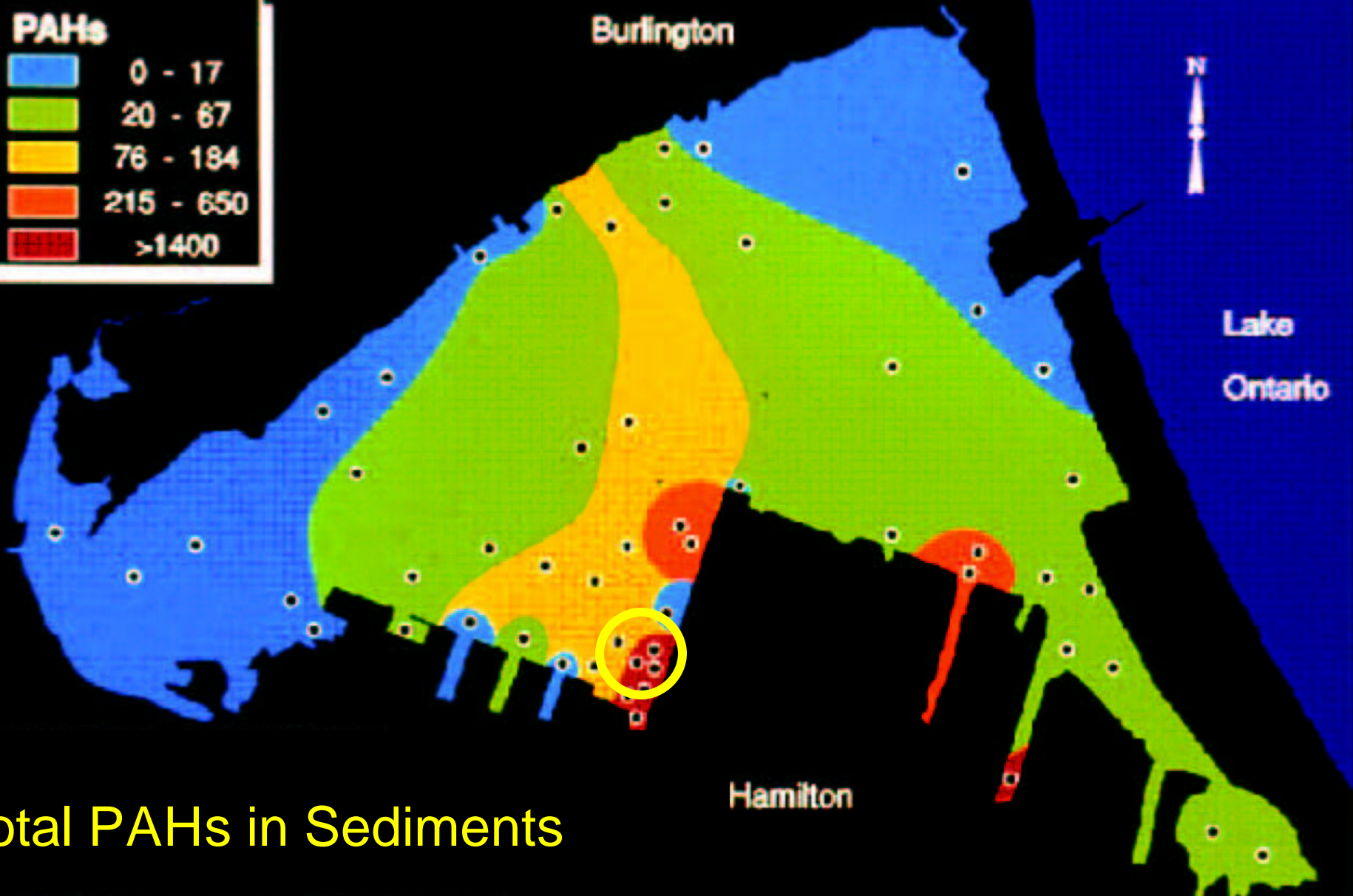
# Mixed Use Containment Facility



# More than “Site Cleanup”

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- Multiple interests led to alternative with:
  - least health risk
  - economic benefits
  - strong partnerships
  - habitat opportunities
  - remediation of larger area to meet shared objective of “a whole harbour solution”



...a Whole Harbour Solution



# Lessons to Share

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- Public interests best addressed by multi-stakeholder advisory group
- Members become spokespersons for the project – less “Them against Us”
- New information, better outreach and interest-based negotiations can lead to a 180° turnaround in opinion