120 South Town Centre Blvd Markham ON L6G 1C3 1-800-661-7211 905-752-8735 andrew.robertson@cgbgroup.com

## Robertson & Robertson Yacht Insurance Ltd.

July 20, 2010

Mayor & Members of Council City of Burlington

## Re: LaSalle Park Marina - Vision 2012

The president of the LaSalle Park Marina Association contacted me about the proposed installation of a permanent rock island wave breaker to protect the LaSalle Park Marina and I would like to share my thoughts with you.

As an introduction, Robertson & Robertson is a leading insurance brokerage for recreational boat owners in Ontario. For over 60 years we have insured boaters and contributed a significant amount of time and financial support to associations dedicated to improving recreational boating and advancing boating safety. Most recently I served as a director of the Ontario Marine Operators Association which is the largest recreational marine industry association in Canada.

Many boats at LaSalle Park Marina and the Burlington Sailing & Boating Club are insured through our brokerage. These boats have a higher incidence of claims caused by wave action and the losses tend to be more severe than we see at other municipal marinas in the Great Lakes. Our claims adjuster commented after a 2006 claim that wave generated losses at LaSalle are unavoidable because the floating break wall was not adequate for the conditions experienced on Burlington Bay. A suitable breakwater seems to be the best solution to protect the boaters who pay to keep their boats at LaSalle.

The potential to improve boating safety is another reason why I support Vision 2012. At present there is no safe harbour on the north shore of Burlington Bay where boaters in distress could seek refuge during a storm. This is particularly important for small sailboats if strong winds and waves make it impossible to safely reach Hamilton Harbour.

The proposal outlined in Vision 2012 would create a safer harbour that should eliminate wave generated damage and enhance boating safety in Burlington Bay so endorse it wholeheartedly. Through my work with the OMOA I have also seen how communities and local businesses benefitted from investments in municipal waterfront infrastructure and marinas to create a welcoming destination for transient boaters and tourists.

Attached is the summary report of the economic impact of recreational boating that you may find informative. The complete report is available online at  $\underline{www.nmma.ca}$ .

Sincerely,

Andrew Robertson

President

