

Annual Report 2014



When all the trees have been cut down, when all the animals have been hunted, when all the waters are polluted, when all the air is unsafe to breathe, only then will you discover you cannot eat money.

Cree Prophecy



Bay of Quinte
Remedial Action Plan
Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

OFFICE UPDATES

ADMINISTRATION

- Maintained BQRAP office – communications, technical, and administrative
- Budget management, agreements, contracts, proposals, reports
- Coordinated monitoring, technical, and science projects on the Bay of Quinte
- Implementation of BQRAP delisting workplan - approved by Restoration Council
- Organized and held 2 meetings with representatives from municipalities and facilitated the selection of a municipal representative for Restoration Council
- Filled a position to assist with the Septic Inspection Program
- Meeting with Bay of Quinte Mohawks

MEETINGS

- 4 Restoration Council meetings
- 1 Delisting Steering Committee meeting
- Numerous conference calls and emails with Technical Working Groups
- 3 Habitat Enhancement Program meetings
- 2 Algae monitoring meetings
- 8 BQRAP administration meetings
- 4 meetings/conference calls regarding long-term monitoring

TECHNICAL PROJECTS AND MONITORING

- Project Quinte ecosystem monitoring at long-term offshore stations
- Water sample collection for algal communities and toxin analysis at several locations in the Bay, including the 4 RAP beaches
- Annual offshore fish population monitoring
- Monitoring of aquatic invertebrates, water quality, and submerged aquatic vegetation in fifteen coastal wetlands in the Bay of Quinte
- Monitoring of nearshore fish communities
- Monitoring water temperatures for Fish Habitat model
- Phosphorus model completed for the Bay – initiated work on watershed phosphorus model
- Finalized Natural Heritage Strategy and distributed to municipalities
- Coordinating and tracking progress of Technical Working groups in BUI criteria development/confirmation and status
- Septic Stewardship Program
- Habitat Enhancement Program
- Community Wildlife Monitoring Program

CONFERENCES

- IAGLR

COMMUNICATIONS

- Participated in the Hastings County Plowing Match, Quinte Children's Water Festival, Trenton Woodlot Conference, Walleye World, Stormwater Open House, 2 Water Department 'talk to an expert' evenings at the Mohawk Community Centre
- Held a Country Living 101 Infomart in conjunction with community partners
- Displays and presentations to community stakeholders and the public
- Produced Annual Report
- 12 monthly newsletters
- BQRAP advertising - Quinte Mall, Quinte Sports Centre (arena boards)
- Radio campaigns - Habitat Enhancement Program, Community Wildlife Monitoring Program, Country Living 101
- Interviews with local newspaper and on radio
- Print ads - EMC, Picton Gazette, Napanee Beaver, Intelligencer, and specialty publications
- 9 press releases
- Continued updating of BQRAP website
- BQRAP on Facebook and Twitter
- Promoted drinking water taste & odour survey
- Direct mail campaign for Septic Program
- Completed 4 BUI Videos and posted on website
- Maintained BQRAP online library
- Information requests – university & college students, teachers, public

RESTORATION COUNCIL

Lower Trent Conservation • Quinte Conservation • Environment Canada • Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change • Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry • Fisheries and Oceans Canada • Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs • Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte • CFB Trenton

STAFF

Anne Anderson - Special Projects Coordinator, Lower Trent Conservation
anne.anderson@lfc.on.ca 613-394-3915 ext 219

Shan Mugalingam, PhD, P.Eng. - BQRAP Technical Specialist, Lower Trent Conservation
shan.mugalingam@lfc.on.ca 613-394-3915 ext 213

Sarah Midlane-Jones - Communications, Lower Trent Conservation
smidlanejones@bqrap.ca 613-394-3915 ext 214

Mary Gunning, BQRAP Environmental Technician, Quinte Conservation
mgunning@quinteconservation.ca 613-968-3434 ext 166

Brad McNevein - Biologist, Quinte Conservation
bmcnevein@quinteconservation.ca 613-968-3434 ext 107

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
c/o Lower Trent Conservation, 714 Murray St, RR 1, Trenton, ON K8V 5P4

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SCIENCE

WHAT IS A BENEFICIAL USE IMPAIRMENT?

A Beneficial Use Impairment is a condition that interferes with the enjoyment of a water use.

2014 STATUS SUMMARY BENEFICIAL USE IMPAIRMENTS

BENEFICIAL USE STATUS: IMPAIRED

- BUI 1 Restriction on fish and wildlife consumption
- BUI 8 Eutrophication or undesirable algae
- BUI 9 Restrictions on drinking water or taste and odour problems
- BUI 13 Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations

BENEFICIAL USE STATUS: IMPAIRED - UNDERGOING REDESIGNATION

- BUI 3 Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
- BUI 4 Fish tumours and other deformities
- BUI 6 Degradation of benthos
- BUI 7 Restrictions on dredging activities
- BUI 10 Beach closures
- BUI 14 Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

BENEFICIAL USE STATUS: IMPAIRED - PENDING FURTHER ANALYSIS

- BUI 11 Degradation of aesthetics

CHANGING TIMES



Since 1985, the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP) has been working to change the status of the 11 beneficial use impairments (BUIs) identified for the Bay of Quinte. Today, the Bay has reached the point where some of those BUIs are ready to have their status changed to unimpaired. The first 3 BUIs that are ready to undergo the redesignation process are:

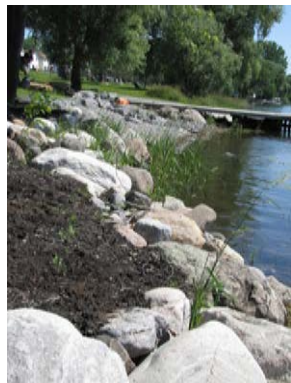
- Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
- Degradation of benthos (underwater bugs)
- Loss of fish and wildlife habitat.

(The Bay's wildlife populations were never identified as impaired)

These beneficial use impairments have all met the criteria necessary to change their status to unimpaired. Now, redesignation reports will need to be written and public consultation must happen, which will take place in the coming year. Then, the reports will be sent to the federal and provincial governments for review and approval. Your input is vital, please send your comments and/or questions to fish@bqrap.ca.

PROGRAMS AND UPDATES

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



In 2014, the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan's (BQRAP) Habitat Enhancement Program (HEP) provided funding assistance and technical support to twenty landowners around the Bay of Quinte. The program allocated funding for: livestock fencing, waterway plantings, shoreline naturalizations, alternate watering sources and habitat naturalization projects for a total of \$40,000. These projects will improve water quality and enhance, protect, or restore habitat for fish and wildlife, keeping the Bay of Quinte a vibrant and healthy ecosystem.

COMMUNITY WILDLIFE MONITORING PROGRAM



Every year, the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan needs volunteers to monitor frogs and birds in local wetlands, as these species are great indicators of wetland health. Quinte area naturalist and columnist, Terry Sprague and the BQRAP host a Marsh Monitoring evening that teaches local volunteers about frog and bird monitoring. Terry mentors the volunteers through their season of monitoring and the results are sent to

Bird Studies Canada to provide data for long-term population trends.

BEACH MONITORING

BQRAP, in conjunction with the Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit, monitors 4 beaches around the Bay: Centennial Park at Deseronto, Kingsford Mills on the Salmon River, Frankford Park on the Trent River, and Centennial Park at Northport. Currently, these beaches are meeting the Health Unit targets that beach postings should not exceed 20% of the annual swimming season.

To change the status of BUI#10 - Beach closures, the RAP Restoration Council was waiting for the final report on the results of DNA studies on the source of E. coli contaminants. The report has been received and studies show that current sources of E.coli bacteria are from non-human sources. This BUI can now start the redesignation process.

PHOSPHORUS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

In 2014, the BQRAP started the process of developing a Phosphorus Management Strategy for the Bay. This document will guide future management actions to ensure the Bay doesn't return to the conditions that required a Remedial Action Plan in the first place.

ALGAE WATCH PROGRAM

Monitoring continues year-round. Water samples are collected and analyzed for general chemistry which includes nutrients such as phosphorus, algal toxins, and algae species identification.

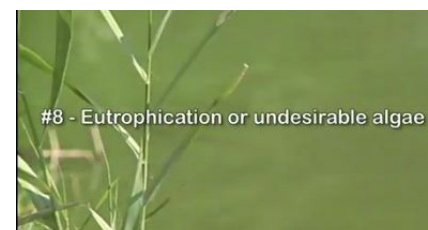
COASTAL WETLAND MONITORING

Wetlands are transitional areas between land and water providing habitat for fish and wildlife, improving water quality, and enhancing flood protection. In the summer, the Bay of Quinte RAP partners monitor for birds, frogs/toads, fish, aquatic invertebrates, water chemistry, and vegetation in 15 representative coastal wetlands around Bay.

STORMWATER RETROFIT PLANNING

In 2014, efforts continued to implement retrofit stormwater management facilities in urban areas. The Environmental Assessment for the Herchimer Avenue outfall in Belleville was completed and recommended installing an advanced oil-grit separator to treat stormwater runoff before it discharges to the Bay. Planning for 2 more stormwater projects is underway, involving Picton and Deseronto.

NEW VIDEOS



In 2014, the BQRAP produced 4 videos addressing the 3 environmental health issues that are ready to have their status changed to unimpaired. The fourth video covers the positive changes made to phosphorus levels in the Bay. You can view the videos at www.bqrap.ca.

COUNTRY LIVING 101

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
COUNTRY LIVING 101
Do you live on a rural property? Learn how to protect your drinking water and the quality of your natural environment.

Kim Yee, Ministry of the Environment
Learn how you can protect your well and drinking water. The Importance of Proper Well Construction, Well Maintenance, and Well Abandonment

At our information stations you can speak one-on-one with environmental professionals about your rural property.

Topics include: wells, septic systems, waterway & wetland regulations, shoreline living, native plants, invasive species, species at risk, tree planting, recycling and composting.

Information stations by: Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan, Lower Trent Conservation, Quinte Conservation, Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit, Hastings Stewardship Council, Quinte Waste Solutions.

Tuesday, April 22 - 7:00 pm
Bay of Quinte Golf and Country Club
Free admission

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
presents
Country Living 101
Rural properties provide unique challenges and opportunities for your clients.

Give your clients the most up-to-date information from environmental professionals.

Presentations starting at 1:00 pm:
Wells - construction and maintenance - Kim Yee - Ministry of the Environment
Septic Systems - Mark Boone - Quinte Conservation
Waterway & Wetland Regulations - Janet Noyes - Lower Trent Conservation

Visit our information stations on: wells, septic systems, waterway & wetland regulations, shoreline living, native plants, invasive species, species at risk, tree planting.

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Bay of Quinte Golf and Country Club

Country Living 101 presented 2 sessions about the joys and challenges of rural living. For the afternoon session, Real Estate agents were invited. Presentations covered the proper care and maintenance of wells, septic systems, and permits and regulations affecting rural properties. The evening session was open to the public. Kim Yee, well specialist from the MOECC, discussed the importance of proper well construction, maintenance, and abandonment. There were information stations setup by BQRAP and a variety of community partners at both sessions, so people could talk to environmental professionals about a variety of topics.

SEPTIC STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Be Septic Savvy
When was your last pump out?
Every 3 to 5 years is recommended.
www.bqrap.ca

In 2014, the Septic Stewardship Program team completed 40 site visits. This was a voluntary educational program providing homeowners with a free checkup of their septic system (tank and leaching bed), and helpful advice on the care and maintenance of the system. As well, the program paid to have the septic tank/holding tank pumped out as part of the checkup.

STAY CONNECTED

On July 1, 2014, the new Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation came into effect. Under this new legislation, we require your consent to continue providing you with information about the BQRAP. Please send an email to smidlanejones@bqrap.ca saying: Yes, I would like to keep receiving information about the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan. Please include your first and last names, the legislation requires this. You can unsubscribe anytime by clicking the link included in the newsletter email.

www.bqrap.ca