

News Release

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

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April 10, 2015

For immediate release

BQRAP provides funding for habitat projects.

Today, the Bay of Quinte is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem. Now, we must focus on keeping it that way. Everyone has a role to play in keeping the Bay healthy. Your actions, no matter how small, impact the water quality of the Bay.

Once again, the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP) is providing funding assistance to local landowners for stewardship projects. This program provides a variety of funding levels for: livestock fencing, waterway plantings, and shoreline erosion projects. The application deadline for the spring funding period is Friday May 1, 2015.

Around the Bay of Quinte, shorelines and wetlands that provide fish and wildlife habitat have been destroyed by human activities. Some, property owners alter their shorelines, destroying native shoreline habitat, this leads to erosion problems and reduces habitat quality. As well, the wetlands around the Bay have been impacted by development and agriculture.

As development pressure increases, maintaining and restoring shorelines and wetlands will be critical to the health of the Bay. Adding or maintaining vegetation along a shoreline or wetland will help with erosion problems and act as a filter for sediment and nutrient runoff (phosphorus) from adjacent land. Fencing livestock out of a waterway or wetland will benefit water quality by reducing bank erosion, lowering sediment inputs and stopping bacterial and phosphorus contamination from defecation.

In 2014, the BQRAP provided funding assistance and technical support to twenty landowners around the Bay. Funding was allocated for a variety of projects, for a total of \$40,000. Each of the projects provided a significant benefit to the Bay by improving fish and wildlife habitat, reducing erosion, or lowering phosphorus inputs.

If you have a project in mind and would like to find out if it's eligible for funding assistance and technical support, visit www.bqrap.ca or contact,
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The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan is in partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation