



Today, the Bay of Quinte is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem. Now, we must focus on keeping it that way. The RAP is developing long-term monitoring and management strategies to ensure the Bay remains healthy in the future.

WATER SOLDIER - LET'S KEEP IT OUT OF THE BAY OF QUINTE



photos by: Kristina Osborne

How easy is it for an invasive species to be introduced where it doesn't belong, easier than you might think? Here is a quick scenario. A few years back, someone visited the local garden centre and was shopping for new plants for the water garden. There it was, it looked really cool, like the top of a pineapple or a giant aloe plant. It would look great in the backyard water garden, so home it went. At the end of the gardening season, it got tossed in a nearby wetland or along the shoreline. That's how easily the invasive plant, water soldier, may have been introduced to the Trent River.

Water soldier is a cold tolerant invasive perennial aquatic plant that is native to Europe and northwest Asia. It is a submerged aquatic plant that has 40cm long sword shape leaves with serrated edges that are sharp enough to cut swimmers or anyone handling the plant. It becomes buoyant during the summer months forming dense mats of floating vegetation, which choke out native species and are so thick that some boats can't move through the mats.

As the leaves mature, they become waterlogged and the plant sinks below the surface. The mature plants produce offsets, like a household spider plant. The plant grows in standing or slow flowing waterbodies up to depths of five metres. It has the potential to alter surrounding water chemistry, which may harm phytoplankton (the base of the food chain) and other aquatic organisms.

In 2008, an inter-agency working group was formed to coordinate research, monitoring, control and prevention strategies. Several techniques have been used to combat water soldiers progression like: mechanical harvesting, application of a herbicide, and manual pulling of the plants. However, water soldier continues to spread down the Trent River towards the Bay of Quinte, which is ideal habitat for this plant. It likes sheltered, shallow bays with soft substrates and depths of 0.5 – 2 metres, typical, up to 4 metres. Sound like the Bay of Quinte ?

If you live along the Trent River, you can help by learning to identify the plant and report any sightings to EDD Maps at <http://www.eddmaps.org/Ontario> (Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System). This program provides real time tracking of invasive species occurrences with local and national distribution maps. They have an app you can download to your smartphone, so you can submit sighting directly from the field.

Boaters should avoid infested areas, reduce boat speeds so the wake doesn't dislodge plants and offsets, and inspect their boat, trailer, and equipment to ensure they don't move the plant to another waterbody. Everyone should avoid purchasing water soldier for their water gardens and aquariums. Ask your local garden centre for only non-invasive and native species. To dispose of water soldier, dry or freeze the plants and put them in the garbage. Do not throw them into any waterbody. You can find out more about water soldier at www.invadingspecies.com. There is also a hotline you can report sightings to: 1-800-563-7711.

In partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation

www.bqrap.ca
OVER

PHOTO CONTEST WITH A TWIST



Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
PHOTO CONTEST WITH A TWIST 3

It's Summer and the Livin' is easy.

Enter our photo contest with that perfect shot of summer fun on the Bay of Quinte.
Contest ends September 1, 2016

Now, for the twist, if your photo is one of the winning entries, it could be interpreted by an area artist(s) in a different medium - oil, watercolour, glass, wood, acrylic, fibre, metal, etc. Finally, the original photographs and the artists' interpretations will be displayed at the Belleville Art Association gallery.



Details at:
www.bqrap.ca

613-394-3915 ext 214
photocontest@bqrap.ca

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Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Call for artists
Bay of Quinte Interpreted 3

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We are looking for artists to interpret any of the winning photos from Photo Contest with a Twist 3, using the medium of their choice - glass, oil, metal, wood, pottery, watercolour, acrylics, etc. The photos and the interpretations will be shown in a public exhibition.



Photo: End of a Day - Julie Eckert

Details at: [www.bqrap.ca](http://www.bqrap.ca)  
If you are interested in participating contact Sarah at:  
613-394-3915 ext 214 or  
[photocontest@bqrap.ca](mailto:photocontest@bqrap.ca)



Interpretation: Barbara Chappelle



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

Get outdoors this summer and make memories on the Bay of Quinte. Photograph those great moments of summer fun, whether its: bird watching, pets, fishing, boating, sunsets, or the family vacation. Then enter your photos in our Photo Contest With a Twist 3, now here is the twist. If your photo is chosen as one of the winners, it will be interpreted by an area artist in a different medium - watercolour, glass, oil, pottery, wood, etc. The winning photos and interpretations will be displayed at the Belleville Art Association gallery as part of their Nov/Dec show.

## LANDOWNER STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

*You can help reduce excess algae and aquatic plant growth in the Bay.*

Our landowner stewardship programs can provide funding and assistance with design, permits, and other technical aspects of your project. Find out details at:

<http://www.bqrap.ca/communityprograms/landownerstewardship/>

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Bay of Quinte  
Remedial Action Plan  
Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

Why has water quality improved in the Bay of Quinte?  
Sign up for our newsletter to find out.

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