

WATERLOGS AUGUST 2016



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.

A SUMMER OF SCIENCE ON THE BAY - COASTAL WETLAND MONITORING

As summer continues so does monitoring on the Bay of Quinte. To remove the Bay from the bi-national Areas of Concern list, all the criteria outlined for the 11 environmental challenges identified for the Bay must be addressed.

To accomplish this, numerous BQRAP partner agencies are on the water collecting research data for a variety of water quality indicators like: fish populations, wetland habitat, phosphorus levels, algae species, and a host of other indicators.

This month, we're highlighting the BQRAP Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program. Over the summer months 15 wetlands are monitored for: water quality, underwater bugs, fish and wildlife, and vegetation. Every week from May to October BQRAP staff and Quinte Conservation are out on the water collecting this important data.

The monitoring addresses the criteria established for the environmental challenges - #3 Degradation of fish and wildlife populations and #14 Loss of fish and wildlife habitat.

It's estimated that 12,000 hectares of wetland habitat has been lost within 3.2 kms of the Bay of Quinte primarily to unnatural infilling for agricultural and land development purposes. As well, water level regulation, within Lake Ontario, has reduced the fluctuations necessary for maintaining habitat diversity. Resulting in dense monocultures of cattails in the Bay of Quinte. Additional strains are placed on remaining wetlands as population densities increase. Monitoring of coastal wetlands provides data that is valuable for their protection, restoration, and management.

Coastal wetlands provide many ecosystem services that offer large financial benefits. They are important habitat for fish and wildlife providing spawning areas, food, and shelter, maintaining healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations. In turn, creating recreational opportunities for residents and providing an influx of tourist dollars to the area. Also, they act as filters, removing pollutants, improving the water quality, helping to reduce the need for additional costly water treatment. They act as giant sponges to reduce the impact of floods, mitigating property damage, and in times of drought release water back in to the ecosystem helping to maintain water levels.

Everyone has a part to play in keeping water quality healthy in the Bay. The BQRAP has programs that can help private landowners protect local wetlands and shorelines by providing cost-savings for projects like: livestock fencing, cover crops, waterway plantings, shoreline restoration, agricultural soil testing, and septic pump outs. Remember Healthy Bay • Healthy Community



PHOTO CONTEST WITH A TWIST

Our Photo Contest with a Twist 3 comes to a close on Sept 1, 2016. Next, the 10 winning photos will be chosen. Over the next couple of months, the artists who have agreed to interpret these photos will be busy completing their works. The photos and the interpretations will be displayed at the Belleville Art Association gallery, as part of the November/December show. Drop by the gallery at 392 Front. St, Belleville and enjoy the Bay of Quinte Interpreted show. Below are samples of the photos we have received so far.



photo by Julie Eckert



Photo by Sean Scally



photo by Mark Hopper



Photo by Justin Anderson

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
www.bqrap.ca

Why are fish and wildlife populations healthy and diverse in the Bay of Quinte?

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