

July 12, 2017

For immediate release

BQRAP has funding for shoreline damage.

This year, extreme weather caused unprecedented high water levels damaging many shoreline properties. As water levels start to recede landowners are beginning to realize the extent of the damage. Many shorelines have experienced severe erosion issues, as shorelines have been washed away. Not only creating aesthetics issues and impacting property values, but also washing sediment, debris, and nutrients into the Bay of Quinte and local waterways, causing water quality issues.

Through the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan's (BQRAP) stewardship programs, landowners can access a number of funding categories and receive technical support to help restore their shorelines and make them more resilient to extreme weather events.

There are a selection of categories designed to help improve the resilience of shorelines, like shoreline plantings. One of the contributing factors to shoreline erosion is having an expanse of lawn that is mowed to the water's edge. Since, grass doesn't have deep stabilizing roots it allows soil to be easily washed away. Adding native vegetation like trees and shrubs, with deep root systems, will help prevent erosion to a shoreline, and filter sediment and nutrient runoff (phosphorus), improving water quality. As well as, providing food, shade, and cover for fish and wildlife. Other categories like shoreline naturalization, help with structural issues providing options like bioengineering. Bioengineering incorporates plants in combination with natural materials such as logs, live stakes, and brush bundles, creating a natural appearance and habitat for fish and wildlife. Another category is water quality improvements, which encompasses a wide variety of project to stabilize shorelines and provide habitat.

Natural shorelines can better withstand the effects of extreme weather events and protect water quality in the Bay of Quinte. Today, the Bay of Quinte is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem. Taking a natural approach to restoring a shoreline will help keep it that way.

Check the categories, project criteria, and available funding limits, at www.bqrap.ca

Remember, always check with your local Conservation Authority about permits before undertaking any shoreline work.

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The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan is in partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation