

WATERLOGS AUGUST 2017



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.

IT'S ANOTHER SUMMER OF SCIENCE ON THE BAY

LAKE STURGEON RESEARCH PROJECT

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) have undertaken research to determine if a Lake Sturgeon population can be re-established in the Bay of Quinte. Lake Sturgeon can grow to be the largest (over 150 pounds) and longest lived (over 100 years) fish in the Great Lakes. They are listed as a Species at Risk in the Ontario waters of the Great Lakes and are classified as "Threatened" meaning the species lives in the wild, is not endangered, but is likely to become endangered if steps are not taken to address factors threatening it. Historically, harvesting, dams and other river barriers, habitat loss, and poor water quality were responsible for the decline of Lake Sturgeon throughout North America.

This summer, twenty young Lake Sturgeon were released into a tributary of the Bay of Quinte, with the hope of tracking the survival and habitat used by these fish. It is hoped that information like this could lead to establishing an additional spawning population. Female Lake Sturgeon don't breed until they are 24 to 26 years old and about 55 inches long, and only spawn once every four, five, or six years thereafter. The fish released were 3 years old, so it will take over 20 years to find out if these fish return to the release site to breed or any of the other tributaries running into the bay. In the meantime, a lot of research data about their movements and survival rates will be collected, as the fish were implanted with tracking tags. If you accidentally catch one of these fish, please release it (take a picture if possible) and notify MNRF at the Glenora Fisheries Station (613 476-3255) so they can collect data about the fish. Today, there are strict regulations or elimination of commercial and recreational fishing of Lake Sturgeon in Ontario.

Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte Community Well Being Day Camp students were invited to release the young Lake Sturgeon, definitely a highlight of summer camp activities.



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In partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation

WATER SOLDIER - OPEN HOUSE

Water Soldier is continuing its southward progression down the Trent River towards the Bay of Quinte. It is, now, located as far south as Glen Ross. If it reaches the Bay of Quinte it will negatively impact both boating and the fishery. To find out more about this invasive plant and its possible impacts on the Bay, attend one of the open houses planned for September.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Peterborough District, is inviting public comment on the proposed control of the invasive aquatic plant water soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*) in the Trent River.

Water soldier is a prohibited invasive aquatic plant, native to Eurasia that was first observed in the Trent River in the fall of 2008. Water soldier is an "evergreen" perennial plant resembling aloe vera or spider plants, with sharp, serrated leaf edges. It forms dense mats of floating and submerged vegetation that can aggressively out-compete other aquatic plants and negatively impact the biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems. Water soldier also poses a threat to navigation and recreation. The population of water soldier in the Trent River is one of only two known wild occurrences in North America.

Wednesday, September 6, 2017
Campbellford Resource Centre
65 Bridge Street, Campbellford
Open House: 3pm - 7pm

Thursday, September 7, 2017
Quinte West Public Library
7 Creswell Drive, Trenton
Open House: 3pm - 6pm



HASTINGS COUNTY PLOWING MATCH AND FARM SHOW

It was another great year, at the Hastings County Plowing Match and Farm Show with partners Lower Trent Conservation and the OFAH Invasive Species Program. This year's event was held in Quinte West on August 23 - 24. We had 1,110 people visit our booths over the two days. It's always great to talk to rural landowners about the programs and services we provide.

