

March 14, 2018

For immediate release

### **What's the dirt on dirt? What's the low-down on loam?**

How is soil formed? What's in soil that makes plants grow? Why are some soil types more productive than others? Where does soil get its food? When is soil the most productive? Who eats whom in the soil food web?

The Biology of Soil Health Workshop will address all these questions. This full-day event is an interactive, hands-on workshop for farmers to better understand the abundant life in soil; and learn how good soil health can: increase yields, reduce fertilizer needs, prevents erosion, and saves money.

Topics will include:

- beneficial soil functions (water infiltration & holding capacity, natural fertility, disease suppression, & carbon sequestration);
- organisms of the soil food web (who eats whom and why it matters)
- requirements of healthy soil ecosystems
- basic soil health principles
- how all the above relate to best management practices (conservation tillage, cover crops, and organic amendments).

There will be hands-on exercises that will include: identifying soil organisms, using a penetrometer, conducting slake & soil infiltration tests. Participants are invited to bring a one-litre sample of their own soil to view under magnification – What's in your soil?

As well, an OMAFRA representative will be present to review soil result from participants in the BQRAP Healthy Soils Program, using AgriSuite tools. Ducks Unlimited will discuss funding opportunities through their programs.

The workshop will take place on: Thursday, April 5, 2018 from 10:00 am - 4:30 pm at the Thurlow Community Centre, 516 Harmony Road, Corbyville.

Advanced registration required for this No-Fee session. As we need numbers for lunch.

Visit the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan web site for details [www.bqrap.ca](http://www.bqrap.ca)

To register contact - Sarah Midlane-Jones, Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan, 613-394-3915 ext. 214, [smidlanejones@bqrap.ca](mailto:smidlanejones@bqrap.ca) or Matt Caruana, Hastings Stewardship Council, 613-391-9034, [info@hastingsstewardship.ca](mailto:info@hastingsstewardship.ca)