

Office Progress Report 2010

General Administration

- Maintained BQRAP office – communications, technical and administrative
- Ongoing administration – budget management, agreements, contracts, proposals, reports
- Filled 2 positions – Watershed Projects Leader, Data Technician
- Production of an online library of BQRAP documentation
- Job posting for Community Based Social Marketing Program Coordinator
- Distributed 3 RFPs
- Coordinated monitoring, technical and science projects on the Bay of Quinte
- Established 3 Technical Working Groups (fish contaminants (BUI#1), fish & wildlife (BUI#3,14), lower food web & water quality (BUI#6,8,9,10,11,13) to evaluate BUI status and make recommendations to the Restoration Council

Meetings

- 5 Restoration Council meetings - Presentations from: Jeff Ridal, Jim Hoyle, Sue Watson and Susan Doka
- 4 Delisting Steering Committee meetings
- 9 Technical Working Group meetings
- 3 Phosphorus Management Strategy meetings
- 3 Habitat Enhancement Program meetings
- 10 BQRAP administration meetings
- 5 BQRAP team meetings (LTC & QC)
- 2 benthos meetings
- 4 CBSM meetings – phosphorus
- 3 6-E-15 Natural Heritage meetings
- 2 Natural Heritage workplan meetings with consultant
- Trent River mouth administrative controls meeting

Technical Projects and Monitoring

- Project Quinte ecosystem monitoring at long-term offshore stations
- Collected water samples for e-coli and human sewage DNA marker analysis at four RAP beaches and open water locations in the Bay
- Collected water samples for algal communities and toxin analysis at four RAP beaches and open water locations in Bay (funded through Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Program)
- Annual offshore fish population monitoring
- Monitored fish, wildlife and habitat in Sawguin Marsh
- Monitored aquatic invertebrates, water quality, and submerged aquatic vegetation in fifteen coastal wetlands in the Bay of Quinte
- Monitored nearshore fish communities using electrofishing
- Monitored water temperatures for Fish Habitat model
- Conducted a review of past Natural Heritage report, current initiatives, municipal policies to establish a workplan for a Bay of Quinte Natural Heritage Strategy
- Conducted a review of fish barriers to identify potential mitigation projects
- Evaluation and preliminary design of a coastal wetland rehabilitation project at Big Island Marsh

Presentations

- 2 Grade 9 science classes at St. Paul's Secondary School
- Grade 9 geography class at Nicholson Catholic College
- Queen's University CIVL 370 class
- Loyalist College – Public Relations students
- Batawa Clear Bag Program
- Lower Trent Board of Directors – new member orientation
- Belleville Fish and Game Club

Administration Office

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
c/o Lower Trent Conservation
714 Murray St, R. R. # 1 Trenton, ON K8V 5P4
613-394-3915 - www.bqrap.ca

Communications

- 4 Discoverers & Creators speaker series events – September, October, November, March
- Community Wildlife Monitoring Workshop
- Shoreline Habitat Enhancement Workshop
- Participated in Living Green in Quinte
- Habitat Enhancement Program
- Photo Contest with a Twist - received 145 photos, judges selected 15 for interpretation by local artists
- Participated in Quinte Children's Water Festival & distributed 32 education manuals to teachers
- Participated in the Hastings County Plowing Match & Farm Show
- 2 semi-annual newsletters
- 11 monthly e-newsletters
- BQRAP advertising- Quinte Mall, Belleville buses
- Radio spots – speaker series, photo contest, community wildlife monitoring program, shoreline habitat enhancement workshop
- Community-based Social Marketing Pilot Project
- Interviews with local newspaper and on radio - CJBQ
- Print ads - EMC, Picton Gazette, Napanee Beaver, Intelligencer
- 9 press releases
- Back office on web site
- BQRAP on Facebook and Twitter
- Information requests – university & college students, teachers, public

Conferences

- IWA Diffuse Pollution and Eutrophication Conference
- AD Latorell Symposium
- 6E-15 LiDAR Workshop

Reports Received

- Assessing Fish Contaminant Sources in the Bay of Quinte Area of Concern: Protocol document preparation and assessment of September 2008 fish contaminant data (Draft) (SLRIES, 2010)
- Bay of Quinte Region Pollution Prevention and Control Plan (Keene, 2011)
- Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Report #19 (Project Quinte members, 2010)
- Current Status and Trends of Aquatic Wildlife In the Bay of Quinte Area of Concern (Draft) (Hughes et. al., 2010)
- Data Analysis and Fish Tumour BUI Assessment for the Lower Trent Lakes and Interconnecting Waterways (Baumann, 2010)
- Eastern Lake Ontario Fish Community Index Netting Protocol, 2010 (Hoyle, 2010)
- Trent River Sediment Strategy: Evaluation of Administrative Controls (Draft) (Environment Canada, 2010)
- Preliminary investigation into the occurrence of human fecal contamination in the Bay of Quinte using microbial source tracking markers (Edge, 2010)
- Bay of Quinte Natural Heritage Strategy – Draft Report (Beacon Environmental, 2010)

Restoration Council

Lower Trent Conservation • Quinte Conservation • Environment Canada • Ontario Ministry of the Environment • Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources • Fisheries and Oceans Canada • Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs • Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte • Quinte Watershed Cleanup Inc. • CFB Trenton

Staff

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Birds, Boats and Blue Sky - Garry Kirsch

A Remedial Action Plan or a "RAP" is an important scientific endeavor that is part of many communities around the Great Lakes. A RAP is the response of government, industry, and the local community to environmental concerns that are believed to impair the use of various resources such as drinking water, fish, and recreation. A RAP is a process to remove the Area of Concern designation by the International Joint Commission (a Canadian-American environmental "watchdog").



Healthy Bay • Healthy Community
ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Habitat Enhancement Program



This year, a successful partnership took place between the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program and the Bay of Quinte RAP's Habitat Enhancement Program. This collaboration helped with the planning, implementation and funding of a shoreline restoration project. This project saw the removal of over 300 feet of concrete retaining wall from 3 properties along the Bay of Quinte and a shoreline naturalization planting project at a 4th property. The removal of the wall and rehabilitation of the shoreline address the criteria for environmental challenges 3 & 14.

Out in the Field



It has been an exciting year out on the water. Our intrepid environmental technician Mary is out monitoring from ice out to freeze up with colleagues from various partner agencies. Mary puts in long days in all kinds of weather. Here are some highlights.

- Annual offshore fish population monitoring.
- Monitored fish communities in five coastal wetlands in the Bay of Quinte.
- Monitored wetland dependent birds and amphibians in eleven coastal wetlands in the Bay.
- Monitored fish, wildlife and habitat within an area of a past habitat creation project in Sawguin Creek Marsh.
- Monitored aquatic invertebrates, water quality, and submerged aquatic vegetation in fifteen coastal wetlands in the Bay of Quinte.
- Monitored nearshore fish communities using electro-fishing.
- Monitored water temperatures for Fish Habitat model.
- Assisted in the retrieval of temperature loggers used in DFO's Fish Habitat model.

Community Outreach

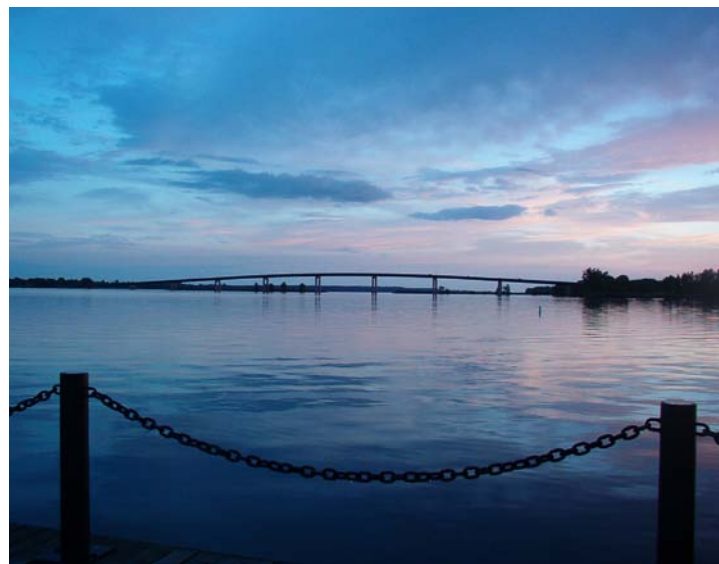
Interacting and partnering with the community is a priority for the RAP. We implement and participate in programs engaging a variety of community partners, below are some examples.

- Back to the Bay - An evening celebrating the Bay
- Community Wildlife Monitoring Program
- E-newsletters - Waterlogs
- Discoverers and Creators Speaker Series
- Photo Contest with a Twist
- Community-based social marketing - Non-phosphorus lawn fertilizer project - partner
- Habitat Enhancement Program
- Quinte Children's Water Festival - partner
- Living Green in Quinte - partner



Community Wildlife Monitoring Program 2010

Attendance at the 2010 Community Wildlife Monitoring workshop hit a record of 102 people.



Sunsets and Sunrises by Gary Dafoe

For our Photo Contest with a Twist we received 145 photos. The judges picked 15 top-notch entries and now area artists are interpreting them. The show will be in July 2011, watch our web site for details.

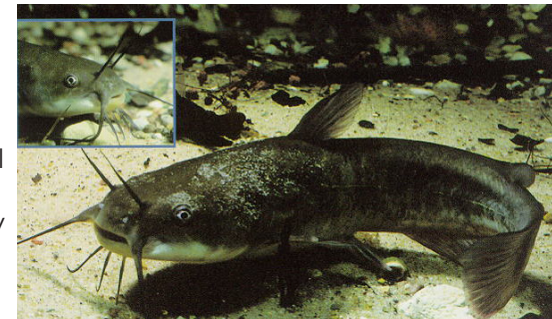
Environmental Challenges = Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI)

There are a total of 14 environmental challenges identified for Areas of Concern. The Bay of Quinte has 10 of these environmental challenges. These are known as beneficial use impairments in the Remedial Action Plan process. The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan, and its partners, are successfully undertaking actions to rehabilitate the Bay.

Beneficial Use Impairments of the Bay of Quinte (Bay of Quinte RAP Stage 2 Report, 1993)			
#	Beneficial Use Impairment	Status	Proposed Status 2010
1	Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired	Review status of BUI
3	Degradation of fish and wildlife populations	Impaired	Review status of BUI
4	Fish tumours and other deformities	Needs Assessment	Not Impaired - 2010
6	Degradation of benthos	Impaired	Review status of BUI
8	Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Impaired	Review status of BUI
9	Restrictions on drinking water or taste and odour problems	Impaired	Review status of BUI
10	Beach closures	Impaired	Review status of BUI
11	Degradation of aesthetics	Impaired	Review status of BUI
13	Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations	Impaired	Review status of BUI
14	Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Impaired	Review status of BUI

A Success Story

Exciting news, the Bay of Quinte RAP has enough scientific evidence to change the status of one of the environmental challenges facing the Bay - "Fish tumours and other deformities." Based on the results of a detailed and lengthy study, it was determined that liver tumours in Bay of Quinte brown bullheads are no longer a concern. Brown bullheads were used for this study since they are considered an indicator species that live near or on the bottom of lakes, rivers, and streams.



The Restoration Council, which directs the Bay of Quinte RAP, includes members from local Conservation Authorities, federal and provincial agencies and non-government organizations. They work together to implement the recommended actions to restore the Bay of Quinte. The Restoration Council approved the change in status of the environmental challenge, *fish tumours and other deformities*, to not impaired. Over the next year, there will be more exciting announcements about the success of the Bay of Quinte RAP's restoration efforts. Stay tuned.

Technical Working Groups

As the RAP moves ever closer to its goal of changing the Bay's AOC (Area of Concern) status, it must have the scientific evidence to support changing this designation. This science must be defensible and quantifiable. The Technical Working Groups are evaluating the criteria for the 10 environmental challenges impacting the Bay. The working groups are divided into a Fish Contaminant group, which covers environmental challenge #1, a Fish and Wildlife group covering #3,14 and a Lower Food Web and Water Quality group covering #6,8,9,10,11,13.



Each working group is to provide a scientific evaluation of the environmental challenge's status, identify any gaps in monitoring data, create and present draft reports to assist the Restoration Council in the decisions for re-designation of each environmental challenge. Finally, they provide recommendations for long term monitoring strategies required for eternal vigilance after the Bay is no longer an AOC.