

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

restoring and preserving water quality

The Bay of Quinte is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem.
Now, we must make sure it doesn't deteriorate.

Why is the Bay of Quinte an Area of Concern?

In 1985, the Bay of Quinte was designated an Area of Concern by the International Joint Commission (a Canada - U.S. Great Lakes watch dog), under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Areas of Concern are locations in the Great Lakes system where human activities have severely damaged the quality of the environment.

Each Area of Concern must develop and implement a Remedial Action Plan or "RAP" to address the environmental damage. Currently, the Bay of Quinte RAP is approaching its final phase.

However, municipal involvement in the long term protection of the Bay is vital.



Originally, the environmental issues identified in the Bay of Quinte were due to:

- **EXCESS NUTRIENTS (PHOSPHORUS)** - Excess nutrients (phosphorus) in the Bay of Quinte primarily come from sewage treatment plants, agricultural land practices, and storm sewers.
- **PERSISTENT TOXIC CONTAMINATION** - Generally, historical industrial sites were/are responsible for chemicals found in the Bay of Quinte.
- **BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION** - Studies show that current sources of E. coli bacteria are from non-human sources. Heavy rainfall, causing excess stormwater runoff from both urban and rural sources, is the primary trigger of elevated E-coli levels.
- **LOSS OR DESTRUCTION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT** - It has been estimated that 12,000 hectares of coastal wetlands have been lost over time, within 3.2 km around the Bay of Quinte, due to agriculture and development pressures.

These environmental issues were placed into different categories so they could be monitored and assessed. These categories are called environmental challenges. The Bay has 11 out of a possible 14 environmental challenges under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, e.g., Loss of fish and wildlife habitat, Restrictions on drinking water or taste and odour problems, etc.

Today, the Bay of Quinte is well on its way to being removed from the Areas of Concern list. Our next update will cover the status of the 11 environmental challenges identified for the Bay of Quinte.

To find out more about the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan and why it is a success story. Visit our web site www.bqrap.ca or contact, Sarah Midlane-Jones, BQRAP Communications smidlanejones@bqrap.ca - 613-394-3915 ext 214

Please make the Bay of Quinte part of your campaign agenda.