A Remedial Action Plan or a “RAP” is an important scientific endeavour that is a 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 (delisting) by the International Joint Commission (a Canadian-American environmental “watchdog”). In this process, the environmental concerns and various resources are placed into Beneficial Use Impairments that can be monitored and assessed so that ultimately the AOC can be delisted.

Bay of Quinte RAP Restoration Council
c/o Lower Trent Conservation
714 Murray Street, RR 1, Trenton, ON K8V 5P4
I am pleased to have this opportunity on behalf of my colleagues on council to thank the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan team for helping to restore our beautiful Bay of Quinte. “The Bay” is a huge attraction for recreational purposes in the winter and summer months. Locals and vacationers from all over enjoy fishing and boating as well as many other water sports. The Bay of Quinte RAP is an integral part in helping with our tourism industry, which in turn boosts our economy.

The environmental quality of the Bay of Quinte is crucial for our fish, bird and wildlife populations, drinking water and recreation. This is a wonderful initiative and the “RAP” team is to be commended for their continuous hard work in helping to make our community a better place.

Yours very truly,

Neil R. Ellis
Mayor
Our volunteers are the best - Community Wildlife Monitoring Program

In the next several years, the goal of the Bay of Quinte RAP is to change the status of the Bay of Quinte from an “Area of Concern (AOC). As we get closer to achieving this goal, the continual monitoring of our wetlands is vitally important to keep pushing forward.

The Community Wildlife Monitoring Program keeps growing in popularity. This year, we had over 100 people attend the March workshop; led by Quinte’s popular naturalist and columnist, Terry Sprague. “Interest in the Community Wildlife Monitoring Program continues to grow every year. Volunteers are eager and enthusiastic to get involved and contribute what they can to a better understanding of wetland bird and amphibian populations,” said Terry.

Over the course of the evening, Terry was able to give everyone pointers on how to monitor a marsh, whether it was in their backyard, at the cottage, or a selected monitoring site.

Check our web site for updates on the CWMP.

Back to the Bay - What a night it was!

This evening was a celebration of the positive environmental changes that have occurred with the Bay of Quinte over the past 15 years. The Bay of Quinte RAP and its partners have instituted actions to rehabilitate the Bay’s overall ecosystem. Now, it is time to celebrate these achievements, look to the future challenges and acknowledge the importance of a sustainable environment to the community and the Bay.

The evening included four thought-provoking speakers, giving their diverse and entertaining perspectives on the importance of sustainability to the community and the Bay. They were: Terry Murphy - Quinte Conservation, Jim Kelleher - Lower Trent Conservation, Bob Willard - Sustainability Guru and Heather Candler - Batawa Development Corporation. Scott Millard received the first “Back to the Bay” award for his 30 years of research on the Bay with Project Quinte. As well, we were thrilled to have two-time Juno award winner Jenny Whiteley perform.
Beneficial Use Impairments of the Bay of Quinte

RAP’s are important scientific endeavours. Each newsletter, from now on, will explain a little about these challenges. The Bay of Quinte has 10 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Beneficial Use Impairment</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Science and Monitoring Forum 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
<td>Review status of BUI, but recognize hot-spots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Degradation of fish and wildlife populations</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
<td>Review status of BUI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fish tumours and other deformities</td>
<td>Needs Assessment</td>
<td>Needs Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Degradation of benthos</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
<td>Review status of BUI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Eutrophication or undesirable algae</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
<td>Review status of BUI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Restrictions on drinking water or taste and odour problems</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
<td>Needs Assessment. Research is needed on the source and effects of algal toxins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Beach closures</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
<td>Review status of BUI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Degradation of aesthetics</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
<td>Review status of BUI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
<td>Review status of BUI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Loss of fish and wildlife habitat</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
<td>Review status of BUI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Involvement - Algae Watch Program

Does your drinking water come from the Bay of Quinte? Are you interested in knowing more about blue-green algae? Quinte Conservation and partners have begun an Algae Watch program to monitor levels of blue-green algae in the Bay.

These algae (cyanobacteria) populations can grow into large masses or “blooms” in warm, shallow, slow moving, nutrient-rich waters. Some types of cyanobacteria can produce harmful toxins. Data collected this June to October will help us to understand the risk these toxins pose to our municipal drinking water systems and recreational areas.

Public awareness and education are a focus of the initiative. Informative workshops and a volunteer monitoring program are planned. Interested potential volunteers may contact Nicole Irvine at (613)968-3434 ext.102 or nirvine@quinteconservation.ca

Other partners in the program are: Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan, Ministry of the Environment, Environment Canada, Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit, Lower Trent Conservation, City of Quinte West, City of Belleville, Town of Greater Napanee, and Prince Edward County.
In May, our first monthly E-Newsletter was sent out. This new initiative is designed to keep you up-to-date as possible with the Bay of Quinte RAP activities.

In the next several months, we will:

- cover interesting facts about what is happening “Out on the Water” with our summer monitoring program.
- keep you updated on the Habitat Enhancement Program which is helping implement the removal of a concrete retaining wall and the naturalization of the shoreline.
- provide cool osprey facts and other interesting items.

If you would like to receive a copy, please go to our web site and click on the “Subscribe” to our newsletter button.

Water Quiz - How much do you know?

1. Water is the only substance found on earth naturally in three forms -------, --------, --------.

2. About ------ of the earth is covered in water.

3. Fresh water lakes and rivers, ice and snow, and underground aquifers hold only ------ of the world’s water. By comparison, salt water oceans and seas contain ------ of the world’s water supply.

4. ------ of the earth’s fresh water exists in the form of glaciers and permanent snow cover.

5. Of the total world’s fresh water supply, ------ is groundwater, including soil moisture, swamp water and permafrost.

6. Only ------ of total global fresh water is stored in lakes and rivers.

7. ------ percent of the world’s wetlands have been lost since 1900.

8. Almost ------ or 891,163 square kilometres, of Canada’s total area is covered by fresh water.

9. Approximately ------ of Canada’s fresh water drains north, while ------ of the population lives within 300 kilometres of the southern border with the United States.

10. Wetlands totalling an area of more than ---------- square kilometres cover about 14% of the land area of Canada.

Here are the answers in random order. Go to our web site to find out if you are correct.

solid, 2.5%, 97.5%, 68.9%, 30.8%, 50%, 85%, 0.3%, liquid, 60%, 1.2 million, 9%, 70%, gas.
New web site and Facebook

Our web site has been redesigned. It makes finding the information you are looking for a simple process. We have added new features, like being able to sign up online for our newsletters. As well, under the publications link you will find historical and technical reports and publications on the RAP.

We have also added a calendar to keep you informed on environmental community events. On that note - if you have any events you would like added to the calendar, please send them to - smidlanejones@bqrap.ca We do reserve the right to decide what is posted.

We have joined Facebook, so sign up as a fan and keep up-to-date on what we are doing and post comments on the RAP process. We would love to have a conversation with you.

Quinte Sustainable Living Symposium

This year, we were both an exhibitor and a presenter. Throughout the day, we talked to people about the importance of sustainability to the Bay.

As well, we presented a well attended workshop with naturalist Terry Sprague, titled Backyard and Shoreline Habitat Enhancement. Terry gave people great ideas for improvements they could make to their own backyards and shorelines.

Enhanced Marsh Monitoring Program

The Enhanced Marsh Monitoring Program contractors are monitoring 21 wetland routes around the Bay of Quinte. This is an in-depth program that does both bird and amphibian monitoring.

The data gathered from this program helps the RAP in its efforts to restore BUIs #3 and #14. (see chart)
The ospreys are back and in the process of raising their young. In our new monthly E-Newsletter, we will provide interesting facts about these summer residents.

The osprey (Pandion haliaetus) is a large raptor that feeds exclusively on live fish. Ospreys are dark brown on the back and white on the belly and chest. The head is mostly brown with a distinct, dark stripe across the eyes. Although closely related to hawks and eagles, they are unique among raptors—possessing owl-like feet and wings that bend in flight like a gull—and the sole member of the genus Pandion and family Pandionidae. Ospreys can be found on every continent except for Antarctica, and they look the same all over the world. Our osprey monitoring helps us address the environmental challenges:

BUI #3 - Degradation of fish and wildlife populations.
BUI #14 - Loss of fish and wildlife habitat.

Out On The Water. Ice-out Monitoring

As soon as the ice went out, the dedicated RAP crew was out on the water monitoring fish populations in wetlands around the Bay. Whether the fish are big or small, they are all important to a healthy diverse ecosystem. As we get into the warmer summer months, monitoring will continue and we will keep you updated on interesting discoveries. This wetland monitoring helps us to meet the scientific requirements to address several of the environmental challenges in the Bay.

BUI #3 - Degradation of fish and wildlife populations.
BUI #14 - Loss of fish and wildlife habitat.

The Ospreys Are Back

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IAGLR - International Association of Great Lakes Research

The Bay of Quinte was spotlighted at this international conference in May with a presentation session called “Ecosystem Health and Recovery of the Bay of Quinte, Lake Ontario: Past, Present and Future”.

The Bay of Quinte is fortunate to have a long history of scientific research going back 30 years. The longest ongoing research initiative is Project Quinte which started in 1972. It is a long-term multi-agency research and monitoring project that studies, compares and evaluates the Bay of Quinte’s biological, chemical and physical attributes before and after phosphorus control was implemented. The science presented at this conference represents years of work and is vitally important, as the Bay of Quinte RAP moves towards its goal of “delisting” the Bay in the near future. Delisting means removing the Bay’s Area of concern designation by showing that environmental challenges that caused the Bay to be put on this list in the first place have been remediated and restored.
Quinte Children’s Water Festival
The Quinte Children’s Water Festival was organized by Lower Trent Conservation and partners to educate youth about the importance of water, in a hands-on environment with interactive activities and demonstrations. This year’s festival was held on May 26-27 on the shores of the Bay of Quinte at Centennial Park in Trenton. There were 670 school children registered and they participated at 31 interactive centres. The Bay of Quinte RAP is delighted to be a partner in this educational program.

Follow the Yellow Fish Road™
It got a little fishy in the Village of Colborne on June 9th. Teams of volunteers from local high school ENSS, Lower Trent Conservation, Castleton Girl Guides, and members of Cramahe Council painted yellow fish by storm drains and hung informational door hangers on residents’ doors to raise awareness about preventing pollutants from entering our storm drains.

In most municipalities, like Colborne, storm drains flow directly into the local waterbody without being treated. Almost anything other than clean rainwater is harmful to fish and other aquatic life. This includes soap used to wash your family car (that is not biodegradable), excess fertilizer on the lawn that washes into the storm drain, dirt and oil from your driveway, and construction materials. These materials have an impact on all aquatic life, including plants, insects, fish and animals, as well as the humans that depend on the local waterbody.

The Yellow Fish Road™ program is coordinated by Trout Unlimited Canada, an organization that helps to conserve and protect Canada’s fresh water ecosystems and their coldwater resources for current and future generations.

For more information on this program contact Daniel Orr | Communications Assistant | Lower Trent Conservation | 613.394.3915 ext 250

FOR INFORMATION
Sarah Midlane-Jones, Communications
613.394.3915 ext 214 • smidlanejones@bqrap.ca

RESTORATION COUNCIL
Lower Trent Conservation • Quinte Conservation • Ontario Ministry of the Environment • Environment Canada • 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 • CFB Trenton

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Lower Trent Conservation, 714 Murray Street, RR 1 Trenton, Ontario, K8V 5P4