An Overview Of 2007

By Jeff Borisko, Implementation Manager

Communication and Public Outreach

- 9 Big Cleanup Bulletins, 2 Newsletters, Annual Progress Report.
- Exhibitor 19th annual Plowing Match, 3rd annual Sustainable Living Symposium.
- Print campaigns; agriculture stakeholder recognition.
- Radio campaign; volunteer recruitment Marsh Monitoring Workshop, attendance record broken.
- Member of partner/stakeholder committees including Trent River Mouth Investigation Steering/Technical/Communications (contaminated sediment), Napanee Natural Heritage Study.
- RAP Co-chair updates at 24 Board of Management municipal councilor meetings.
- Assisted in launching new environmental sections in local libraries.
- 2 workshops attended; LaMP-based Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Lake Ontario, Municipal Wetlands Extension Project.
- BQ tour with MNR planners; information on local issues.
- BQRAP publications displayed locally/regionally; over 60 locations.

Progress Monitoring

- IBU delisting criteria workshop, June 19th; 8 of the 10 criteria approved as presented or following discussion/revision.
- Installation of raptor nesting structures/predator guards in support of Fish and Wildlife Management Plans.
- Coastal Wetland Status report/BQRAP Delisting Target recommendations, Environment Canada.
- Implementation of 3-year BQ Master Drainage Plan supported by the Ministry of the Environment.

The Big Cleanup is made possible by the substantial support and financial assistance we get from our partners. They are the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Canada - Restoration Programs Division, and Canada’s Great Lakes Sustainability Fund.

For More Information
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A calm, clear day for sailing lessons on the Bay of Quinte in Belleville. P. Johanson photo

For the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan, 2007 was, simultaneously, a year of change and a year of transition. The federal government undertook a reorganization of RAP funding, and this in turn produced changes and delays which amended our current work plan. As well, my long-term predecessor retired at the end of November and I joined Quinte RAP on December 10th. In spite of the year that was, The Big Cleanup continued its work and accomplished a number of things.

Administration

- 5 meetings of BQRAP Restoration Council held.
- 2 funding proposals submitted re monitoring/stewardship of coastal wetlands/shorelines.
- 2 motions/letters of support provided to local environmental groups.
- 3 external contractors hired/supervised re-implementation issues.
- Multi-year work plan amended to address funding shortfalls; now ends 2011.
- Support provided to Co-ordinator, Community Wildlife Monitoring Program.

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Community Wildlife Monitoring Program

2008 IS THE YEAR OF THE FROG.
A green frog rests on a mass of fragabil in the Sawquin Marsh.
Frogs are an important part of marsh monitoring.

P. Johanson photo

The annual Marsh Monitoring Workshop with Co-ordinator Terry Sprague broke previous attendance records. Two workshops were combined into one this year with 52 people in attendance; the previous record was 50. A vigorous monitoring season is now underway. Quinte has once again demonstrated that its citizens are passionate about volunteering.

Status Of Toxic Sites

Bakelite, Belleville: The court cases finally concluded this spring after numerous delays and frustrations. Quinte Conservation spearheaded the action and partnered with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment conducted its own case. Sentencing is expected around the beginning of May.

Deloro Mine Site, Deloro: The Environmental Assessment is in the approval process, after which the project will proceed to the licensing phase. A Waste Nuclear Substance License is required from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. The timeline for construction is now 2010-2014.

Trent River Mouth, Trenton: The Trent River Mouth Investigation Steering Committee (2005-2007) completed its work and found no risk to human health, or the health of fish, fish-eating birds, or animals. Monitoring of source control initiatives and downstream sediment quality will continue. The Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments are available at www.ene.gov.on.ca, publication numbers 5767e and 6393e.

REPORTS RECEIVED

Recommendations For Assessing Fish Contaminant Sources in The Bay of Quinte Area of Concern (01/08)
St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences

Contaminant Fate in The Bay of Quinte: A Modeling Assessment (11/07)
University of Toronto

Bay of Quinte Area of Concern: Coastal Wetland Status and Remedial Action Plan Delisting Target Recommendations (06/07)
Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada

Ecological Risk Assessment for the Trent River Mouth Sediment Depositional Areas (05/07)
Dillon Consulting

Aquatic Environment Assessment, Canadian Forces Base Trenton (04/07)
Aquafor Beech Ltd. for Defense Construction Canada

Analysis of Changes in Breeding Bird Community Richness in Lower Great Lakes Basin Areas of Concern and Surrounding Federal Ecoregions (04/07)
Bird Studies Canada

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THE RAP RESTORATION COUNCIL
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RAP attended a Species At Risk workshop in March. Jeff Hathaway of Sciensational Snakes is holding Eastern Ratsnakes (pantherophis alleghaniensis), a nationally-threatened species.

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