

Waterlogs - April 2021

Today, the Bay of Quinte is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem.
Now, we must focus on keeping it this way

TRENDS IN AGRICULTURE IN THE QUINTE REGION

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Trends in Agriculture in the Quinte Region

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 - 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Registration is required for this virtual event at
<https://trendsinaagriculture.eventbrite.ca>

Steve Duff, OMAFRA, Chief Economist
Trends in agricultural commodities in the Quinte Region.

Dr. Tom Bruulsema, Plant Nutrition Canada, Chief Scientist
Trends in fertilizer use in Ontario and water quality,
understanding 4R Nutrient Stewardship.

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Rural stewardship programs
free soil testing, cover crop grants, etc.

Additional info
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www.bqrap.ca



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Steve Duff, OMAFRA, Chief Economist will discuss - Trends in agricultural commodities in Bay of Quinte area – crops, livestock, etc.

Coming from dairy and beef background in Northumberland county, Steve completed a Masters in Ag Economics at the University of Guelph in 1996. Steve joined OMAFRA in late 1997 after a year as a policy researcher with the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. For close to 15 years,

he was OMAFRA's lead on business risk management programs such as AgriStability and Crop Insurance. Steve is currently OMAFRA's Chief Economist. He is also an adjunct professor of agricultural economics at the University of Guelph. Steve and his wife Robyn also operate a beef and cash crop operation near Colborne Ontario.

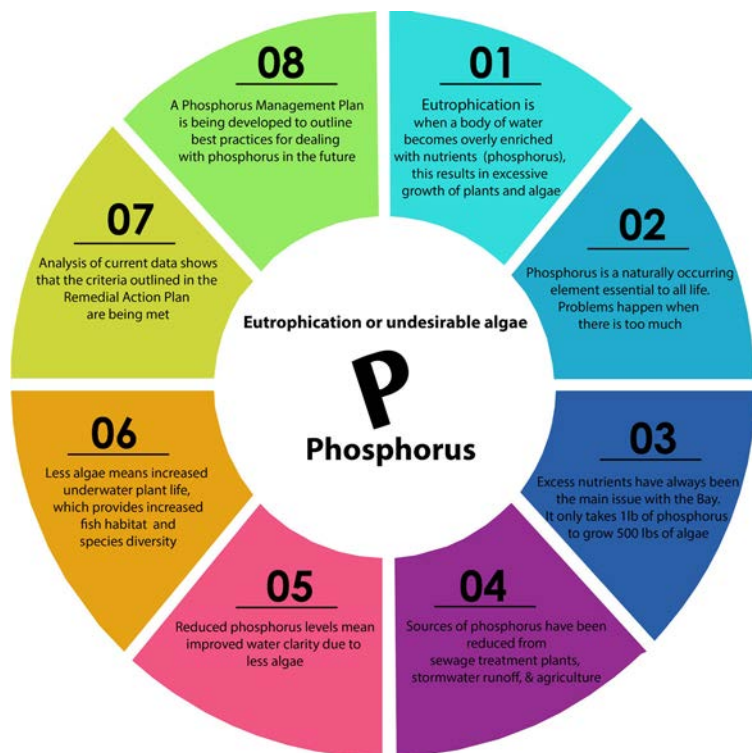
Dr. Tom Bruulsema, International Plant Nutrition Institute of Canada, Chief Scientist will present on - Trends in fertilizers use in Ontario and water quality, understanding 4R Nutrient Stewardship

Tom Bruulsema is Chief Scientist with Plant Nutrition Canada, providing support for the nutrient stewardship programs of the fertilizer industry since 1994. Raised on a farm near Hamilton, Ontario, he went to the University of Guelph for degrees in agriculture and crop science, then served as an agronomist with the Mennonite Central Committee in Bangladesh from 1986 to 1990, and subsequently went on to Cornell University for a PhD in Soil Science.

The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan will present on its Rural Stewardship Program, which offers local farmers free soil testing, and grants for cover crop, livestock fencing, alternate watering, and buffer zone. As well as, grants for projects that contribute to reducing erosion issues and nutrient loss risks on farms making a difference to their bottom line and the health of Bay of Quinte.

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EUTROPHICATION?



Eutrophication is the process in which a water body becomes overly enriched with nutrients in the Bay of Quinte that nutrient is phosphorus. The excessive growth (or bloom) of algae in a water body is an indicator of this process.

Phosphorus is a naturally-occurring element, essential to all life. In just the right amount, it's a beneficial, life-giving nutrient for rivers, lakes, bays, and streams. On the other hand, too much phosphorus plays havoc with nature.

In aquatic ecosystems like the Bay of Quinte, the ability of phosphorus to promote rapid growth causes problems. It takes only 1 lb. of phosphorus to grow 500 lbs of algae. This nutrient-enrichment process is known as eutrophication, and it's a classic example of too much of a good thing.

The BQRAP has reduced the amount of phosphorus entering the Bay from multiple sources, both rural and urban, such as sewage treatment plants, stormwater run-off, and agricultural land practices. With the reduction in phosphorus levels, water clarity

has improved due to reduced algae.

Underwater plants have re-grown providing fish with habitat, helping to increase the varieties of fish in the Bay.

Despite the reductions in phosphorus inputs, the current phosphorus levels are still a major concern.

A Phosphorus Management Strategy is being developed to outline best practices for dealing with phosphorus issues in the future.

BUILD YOUR OWN RAIN GARDEN

**Is your lawn a lazy
just demanding your time and money?**

Time to make it useful! Build a Rain Garden.

Why a Rain Garden? Because it has a job to do.

- Providing habitat for wildlife, such as birds, butterflies, and bees
- Helping protect streams, rivers, and lakes from pollutants carried by stormwater runoff
- Helping protect communities from flooding
- Increasing the amount of water entering the ground, which re-charges aquifers
- Beautifying your yards and neighbourhood



If you live in an urban centre around the Bay of Quinte you could be eligible for a grant of **up to \$500** for native plants, soil, compost, gravel, and mulch to establish a functioning rain garden.

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What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rain and melted snow that is not able to soak into the ground. As it runs over pavement and rooftops, it picks up a variety of contaminants and transports them through storm drains and eventually into the Bay of Quinte. These pollutants may include: pet waste, oil, gasoline, road salt, leaves, and litter.

By creating rain gardens, in urban areas, more stormwater will be able to naturally infiltrate into the ground.

You can be part of the long-term solution to improving water quality in the Bay of Quinte by decreasing the volume of contaminated stormwater leaving your property.

To learn if you are eligible for the \$500. grant and to book your site visit, contact:

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