

Waterlogs - August 2021

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

SAFE PASSAGE



Benefits of Hedgerows

How many times do you need to say something until people remember it? There was a study from Microsoft investigating the optimal number of exposures required for audio messages. They concluded between 6 and 20 was best. Repetition, Repetition, Repetition..... I found an article in an old BQRAP newsletter from 2001/02 that talks about removing hedgerows from farm fields and some of the consequences, I think it's time to repeat the message. This article was written by well-known Quinte area naturalist and author Terry Sprague.

Safe Passage

"there are scarcely any hedgerows here, and the long dreary miles of roads and fences give a cold look to the country.

There is also a sad want of clumps of trees for shade and shelter also, about the homesteads."

A recent statement perhaps? No, actually, that statement was made in 1854 by Catherine Parr Traill in her book, *The Canadian Settler's Guide*.

Have we acted upon her concerns? In our aerial tours around the Quinte area we would say, not.

As agriculturists face continuing pressure to produce more, harvest it faster, and do so with a livable profit margin uppermost in their minds, the pressure is on to acquire larger machinery and expand fields. Time is money. Fencerows that decades ago served their purpose in separating small herds of dairy cows from equally small fields of corn, tomatoes and cereal crops, are no longer needed.

All over the world, they are being unceremoniously removed.

So what's the big deal?

You can read the **entire article** [here](#).

Terry's article talks about the impacts to wildlife through the loss of travel corridors. However, removing hedgerows has numerous other consequences like increased soil erosion, due to the effects of wind and heavy precipitation events, which are becoming more frequent as the climate changes.

Wind and water erosion reduces cropland productivity and contributes to the pollution of adjacent watercourses, wetlands and lakes. Soil erosion is a major contributor of phosphorus to watercourses. Phosphorus tends to attach to soil particles and, thus, moves into surface-water bodies from runoff. The increase in extreme weather events predicted with climate change will magnify the existing water and wind erosion situations.

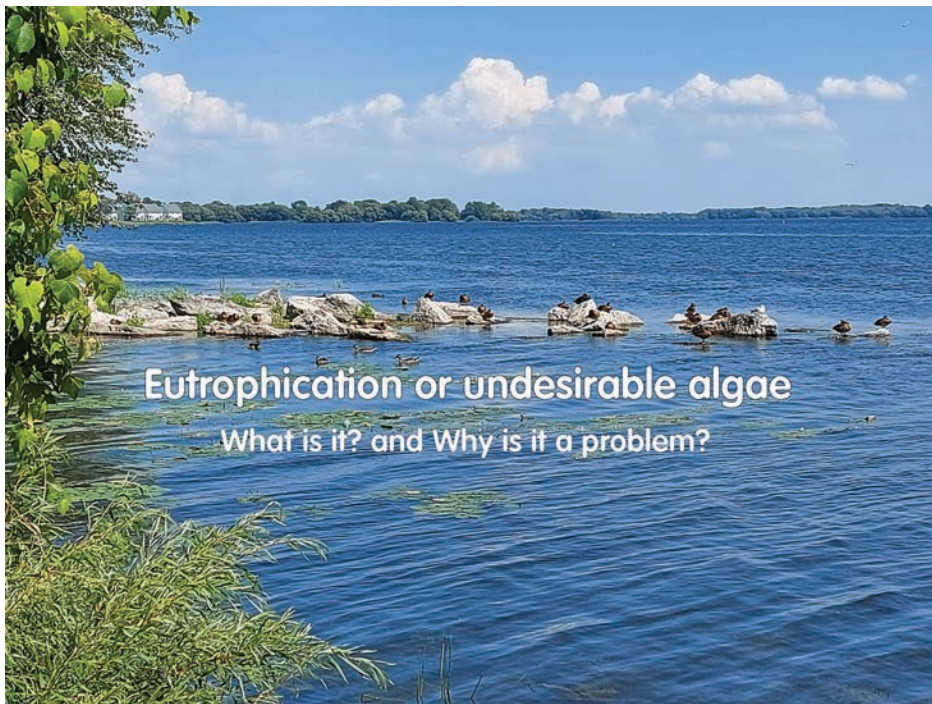
Leaving hedgerows provides a host of benefits for wildlife and water; providing habitat for travel corridors for wildlife giving safe passage, helping prevent soil erosion from wind and water thereby keeping top soil where it belongs on farm fields and reducing phosphorus input to local waterways. OMAFRA has great information on both water and wind erosion - <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/12-053.htm>

STORY MAP

Eutrophication - "the process by which a body of water becomes enriched in dissolved nutrients (such as phosphorus) that stimulate the growth of aquatic plant life usually resulting in the depletion of dissolved oxygen."

The BQRAP has reduced the amount of phosphorus entering the Bay from both point and non-point sources. 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. **Check out our new Story map**

Despite the reductions in phosphorus inputs, the current phosphorus levels are still a major concern. This is why a **Phosphorus Management Plan** is under development.



AGRICULTURAL DEMONSTRATION SITES



photo courtesy of - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP), offers area farmers free agronomic soil testing with analysis completed by an OMAFRA accredited soil lab. Participating farmers are also provided with detailed field maps showing contours (slopes) and areas within the field that are more prone to erosion.

As well, the BQRAP is looking for farmers around the Bay of Quinte willing to host demonstration sites, which highlight the benefits of a variety of best management practices. We are also testing cutting edge field scale mapping showing areas of soil erosion and deposition in limited areas of the Bay of Quinte where data is available. The mapping can be offered to farmers located in these areas who are interested in providing feedback on its potential as a management tool.

In addition, BQRAP provides **grants** for livestock fencing, waterway plantings, cover crops, erosion/water quality improvement projects and alternate watering systems.

For details on any of these projects contact, Jason Jobin, Lower Trent Conservation, 613-394-3915 ext. 242, jjobin@ltc.on.ca or Christine Jennings, Quinte Conservation, 613-968-3434 ext. 106, cjennings@quinteconservation.ca

RAIN GARDEN INSPIRATION

Everything that goes down the stormdrain ends up in the nearest body of water. *Untreated.*



Building a rain garden on your property will help protect streams, rivers, and lakes from pollutants carried by stormwater runoff.

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.

For information contact:
E: jason.jobin@ltc.on.ca
P: 613-394-3915 ext 225
www.bqrap.ca

Bay of Quinte
Remedial Action Plan

Thinking of building a rain garden? Here is some inspiration. This Green Communities Canada Rain Garden Tour features rain gardens from across the country (check under Trenton)! <http://www.raingardentour.ca/ontario.html>
Check if you are eligible for our \$500. grant. www.bqrap.ca