

Waterlogs - February 2021

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

SPRING-TIME FLOODING? YES, NO, MAYBE



Believe it or not, spring is just around the corner and if you live near a watercourse like the Bay of Quinte that could mean flooding. Over the past couple of years, water levels in the Lake Ontario basin have been high but currently, water levels are approximately 23 inches below the level there were at this time last year. Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River water levels are primarily determined by rain, snow, wind, and other natural factors. The Moses- Saunders Dam, provides some control over water levels and flows.

Water levels and flows on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River are managed under Plan 2014. This winter, the International Joint Commission (IJC) has approved the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River

Board's request for authority to deviate from Plan 2014, and as conditions permit, outflows from the Moses-Saunders dam on the St. Lawrence River have been increased to exceed Plan 2014 flows.

So, what does that mean? For a more in-depth understanding of the system's hydrologic conditions, water levels and outflows, including graphics and photos, visit the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board's web site and Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalLakeOntarioStLawrenceRiverBoard> (English), and more detailed information is available on its website at <https://www.ijc.org/en/loslr/b>.

Tips to help with water damage

High water levels can cause flooded basements, erosion issues, and contaminated wells.

For basements ensure your sump pump is working and elevate items off the floor.

If your well has been impacted by flood waters – do not drink the well water - have it tested before using it. <https://hpepublichealth.ca/well-water/>

If you have erosion issues, contact your local Conservation Authority.

All work along shorelines require a permit from your local Conservation Authority and may require a permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Your local Conservation Authority can provide you with options to protect your shoreline, and help with the permitting process.

Lower Trent Conservation - <http://www.ltc.on.ca/>

Quinte Conservation - <https://www.quinteconservation.ca>

MARSH MONITORING

Learn how citizen scientists help monitor Bay of Quinte wetlands through the Marsh Monitoring Program and FrogWatch Ontario. Naturalist and columnist, Terry Sprague hosts an information session explaining how these programs help protect local wetlands and wildlife by monitoring for birds and frogs. This year, due to Covid restrictions the presentation will be an online event on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm. You can register on Eventbrite at <https://marshmonitoringbqrap.eventbrite.ca> to receive the presentation link.

The FrogWatch Ontario program is a family-friendly activity, and the Marsh Monitoring Program is more structured, ideal for the outdoors enthusiast.

Volunteer opportunities for FrogWatch Ontario, the Marsh Monitoring Program and Ospreys might be available depending on Covid restrictions

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan



photo by Barry Kant

Marsh Wren - *Cistothorus palustris*

Learn about protecting wetlands and wildlife around the Bay of Quinte

Monday, March 8, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

This is a free online presentation

Please register on Eventbrite to receive the link.

<https://marshmonitoringbqrap.eventbrite.ca>

Learn how citizen scientists help monitor wetland birds and frogs through the Marsh Monitoring Program and FrogWatch Ontario

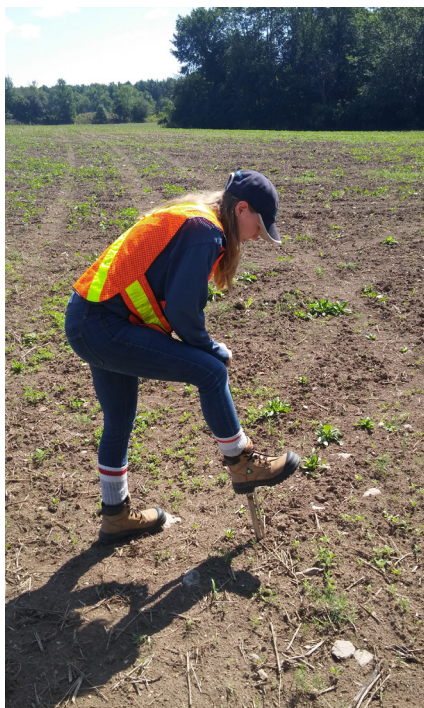
Volunteer opportunities might be available depending on Covid restrictions



For information on this evening
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BOOK YOUR FARM'S SOIL TESTING



Excess phosphorous from rural and urban sources has a direct impact on water quality in the Bay of Quinte. The Healthy Soils Check Up Program helps farmers improve water quality and save money by providing:

1. Free agronomic soil testing with analysis being done by an OMAFRA accredited soil lab.
2. Detailed field maps showing contours (slopes) and areas within the field that are more prone to erosion.

This program will help you keep nutrients and soil where you want them – in your fields, improving crop yields.

Knowing your baseline nutrient levels and implementing the 4 R's (right source/ product, right rate, right time, and right place) of fertilizer application will minimize nutrient transport from fields and maximize crop uptake and utilization.

The field maps will identify key erosion sites to help you adopt Best Management Practices (BMPs) to keep soil on your fields and out of local waterways.

To participate in the Healthy Soils Check Up, contact:

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