



Waterlogs - May 2021

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

WASTEWATER

Here's a topic not many people think about. Wastewater! Did you know there are different kinds? Did you know wastewater often ends up in the same body of water as where your drinking water comes from?

Wastewater is a term typically used to describe liquid wastes from two types of sources. The first source, sanitary sewage, is generated from homes, businesses, institutions and industries. The second source, stormwater, is generated from rain or melting snow that drains off rooftops, lawns, parking lots, roads and other urban surfaces. Wastewater is collected by sewer systems.

There are two types of wastewater collection systems;

1. a combined sewer, and
2. a separate sewer system.

Combined sewer systems combine both the sanitary sewage and stormwater collection. During periods of heavy precipitation, overflows caused by overloading the combined sewer collection system may result in a direct discharge of partially treated sewage into waterways. [More info on wastewater](#)

On the other hand, separate sewers have isolated the sanitary sewage collection from that of stormwater collection. These days, wastewater treatment plants have compliance orders that set limits on their discharge. For example, around the Bay of Quinte effluent discharge rates for phosphorus are 0.3mg/L and most of the plants bordering the Bay are meeting or exceeding this requirement.

However, stormwater is a different matter, while new developments must meet stormwater guidelines, many older sections of urban areas still discharge stormwater directly into the nearest body of water - untreated. A substantial number of stormwater outfalls to the Bay of Quinte have no water quality management features.

Urban stormwater runoff makes a significant contribution to the phosphorus loads entering the Bay of Quinte. Lawn fertilizers, soil, dust, litter and pet waste all add phosphorus to stormwater as it races across urban pavements and roofs. As urban areas expand to accommodate population growth, phosphorus loads are expected to increase.

There's an old saying, "If you don't want to drink it, don't let it go down the storm drain."

Some ways homeowners can help reduce pollutants from entering local water ways are :

- Wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest-resistant.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas.

In partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation

- Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely.
- Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products.
- Properly dispose of hazardous products through a household hazardous waste collection program.
- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard.
- Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns.
- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly.
- Build a rain garden.

BUILD YOUR OWN RAIN GARDEN

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,
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Bay of Quinte
Remedial Action Plan
Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

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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EUTROPHICATION

Excess algae and phosphorus in the Bay of Quinte



1 lb P = 500 lbs Algae

1:13 / 2:12

YouTube

COVER CROPS

What Best Management Practice gives farmers all these benefits?

- Reduced Soil Erosion
- Added Organic Matter
- Reduced Nutrient Losses
- Improved Soil Fertility
- Reduced Pest Populations
- Reduced Compaction
- Improved Soil Structure
- Water Management
- Emergency Forages

Cover Crops

We offer a cover crop grant of \$10.00 per acre up to 100 acres

If you are interested
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