



Waterlogs - October 2021

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

RESTORING BUIs - WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Current status of the Beneficial Use Impairments

STATUS: RESTORED

- # 3 - Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
- # 4 - Fish tumours and other deformities
- # 6 - Degradation of benthos (underwater bugs)
- # 7 - Restrictions on dredging activities
- # 9 - Restrictions on drinking water consumption or taste and odour problems
- # 10 - Beach closings
- # 14 - Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

STATUS: SUBMITTED FOR REDESIGNATION APPROVAL

- # 11 - Degradation of aesthetics

STATUS: REDESIGNATION PROCESS UNDERWAY

- # 1 - Restriction on fish and wildlife consumption
- # 8 - Eutrophication or undesirable algae
- # 13 - Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations

The Bay of Quinte was designated an Area of Concern in 1985 by the International Joint Commission (IJC) (a Canadian-American Great Lakes watch dog), under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the United States.

Areas of Concern are communities, bays and rivers on the Great Lakes system where human activities have severely damaged the quality of the environment. Each AOC must develop a Remedial Action Plan (RAP), to address the legacy of local environmental issues.

In the Bay of Quinte there were 4 environmental issues identified - excess nutrients, bacterial contamination, toxins, and loss of fish and wildlife habitat. These issues were placed in to categories called BUIs (Beneficial Use Impairments), so they could be monitored and assessed. Each Beneficial Use Impairment describes a human or ecological use of the ecosystem that has been lost or impaired as the result of environmental degradation. Some examples are, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, degradation of aesthetic, restrictions on drinking water or taste and odour problems.

There were 14 BUIs identified for Great Lakes Areas of Concern by the IJC, 11 BUIs were attributed to the Bay of Quinte.

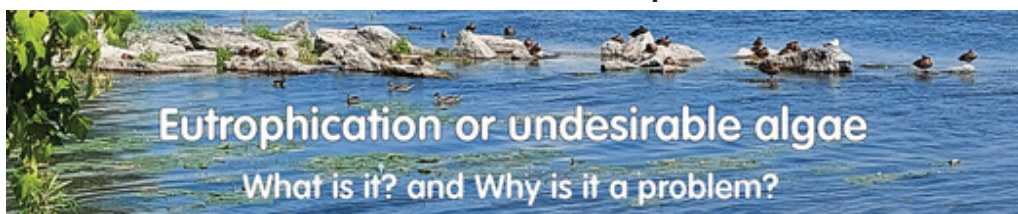
Is the Bay's ecosystem going back to pre-colonization days? No! Human influences have permanently altered the natural environment.

Restoring the BUIs does not mean that the AOC has returned to a pristine historic condition; but rather, that the problems identified in the 1990 RAP Stage 1 Report impacting the Bay of Quinte have been restored to meet the scientific criteria established for each BUI. The criteria are measurable environmental conditions that need to be achieved before the BUI can be considered restored.

Currently, the Bay of Quinte has 7 restored BUIs, one awaiting approval from the federal and provincial governments and the final 3 are at various stage of the restoration process. The criteria and videos about the BUIs can be found under the Current Challenge link on our website - www.bqrap.ca

BUI #8

Learn about Beneficial Use Impairment #8



In partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation

OUT ON THE WATER



As mentioned in the last newsletter, Water Soldier has been found in the Bay of Quinte. This is a late season reminder, if you are out on the water and spot Water soldier, please report its location to: 1-800-563-7711 or visit **EDDMapS Ontario**, or search for the '**Invasive Species in Ontario**' project on **iNaturalist.org** to report a sighting.

You can find out more about water soldier at:
<http://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/aquatic-plants/water-soldier/>.

PRAIRIE STRIPS



FARMPROGRESS.COM

Prairie strips prevent soil erosion, help pollinators

Here is a great idea to help with erosion and support pollinators. Prairie strips incorporate a mixture of native plants and grasses. They develop a phenomenal roots system that helps prevent erosion as well as, providing food for pollinators. This article has all the details on the benefits of establishing a prairie strip: <https://www.farmprogress.com/conservation/prairie-strips-prevent-soil-erosion-help-pollinators>

We have a grant that can help you establish these prairie strips. <https://www.bqrap.ca/communityprograms/landownerstewardship/>

BE SEPTIC SAVVY

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

FREE

Septic tank pump out

Do you live on the Bay of Quinte or one of its tributaries?
(up to 10 kms up the tribs)

www.bqrap.ca

Bay of Quinte
Remedial Action Plan
Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

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When working properly, septic systems can provide a safe and reliable way to treat your household wastewater. If you do not properly care for your septic system it could add excess phosphorus to nearby waterbodies causing algal blooms, and excess plant growth, and bacteria can cause localized health impacts for homeowners and their neighbours.

Regular maintenance can add years to the life of your system, saving you costly repairs and protecting the local environment.

<https://www.bqrap.ca/communityprograms/septiceducation/>

To book your site visit contact
Jason Jobin, BQRAP Environmental Technician, Lower Trent Conservation:
P: (613) 394-3915 ext 225 E: jason.jobin@ltc.on.ca

Christine Jennings, BQRAP Environmental Technician, Quinte Conservation
P: (613) 968-3434 ext 106 E: cjennings@quinteconservation.ca