

Waterlogs - September 2021

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

INVASIVE SPECIES FOUND IN BAY



“Houston we have a problem” A BIG ONE!

Water Soldier has been marching its way down the Trent River since 2008, when it was found near the hamlet of Trent River. Now, it has been found in the Bay of Quinte. This invasive species could have devastating consequence for the Bay’s ecosystem, fishery, and recreational activities. Potentially, causing hefty financial implications for municipalities and tourism operators.

Water soldier is a cold tolerant invasive perennial aquatic plant that is native to Europe and northwest Asia. Water soldier is a submerged aquatic plant which has 40cm long sword shape leaves with serrated edges that are sharp enough to cut swimmers or anyone handling the plant. It becomes buoyant during the summer months forming dense mats of floating vegetation that choke out native species and are so thick that some boats can’t move through the mats. As the leaves mature, they become waterlogged and the plant sinks below the surface. The mature plants produce offsets, like a household spider plant.



The Bay of Quinte is prime habitat as the plant grows in standing or slow flowing waterbodies up to depths of five metres. This plant will have a major impact on the ecosystem, because of the dense mats of floating vegetation it creates. As well, it has the potential to alter surrounding water chemistry, which may harm phytoplankton (the base of the food chain) and other aquatic organisms.

What has been done to stop the spread of this invader? Since 2008, a number of research, control and management strategies have been undertaken to better understand the biology and management of this invasive plant. In 2014, federal and provincial agencies and other organizations implemented a control program, using a herbicide. Due to the size of the infestation, control efforts have focused on addressing the source populations and preventing further downstream dispersal of the plants.

What can you do to help stop the spread? Boaters can learn to identify the plants and avoid infested areas, reduce boat speeds so the wake doesn’t dislodge plants and offsets, and inspect their boat, trailer, and equipment to ensure they don’t move the plant to another waterbody. Shoreline property owners on the Bay of Quinte are asked to report any sightings of Water Soldier 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/>.



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.

You own your septic system and are responsible for its safe operation, maintenance, and repair.

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

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

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This is a Rain Garden. . .

- It provides habitat for wildlife, such as birds, butterflies, and bees
- Helps protect streams, rivers, and lakes from pollutants carried by stormwater runoff
- Helps protect communities from flooding
- Increases the amount of water entering the ground, which re-charges aquifers
- Beautifies your yard and neighbourhood



You could be eligible for a \$500 grant to establish a functioning rain garden.

www.bqrap.ca

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Be the first person in your neighbourhood to build a rain garden. Get the trend started with your yard and be eligible for up to \$500 to establish a functioning rain garden.

Plus, you will receive technical advice on choosing the best location, the correct size of rain garden for your home, and help with picking the native plants that will thrive in your yard.

You will also receive this awesome lawn sign that lets your neighbours know you are the neighbourhood trendsetter.

Here is some inspiration from Green Communities Canada Rain Garden Tour featuring rain gardens from across the country (check under Trenton)!

<http://www.raingardentour.ca/ontario.html>

Our **Greening Your Grounds** webinar will show you the start to finish details that will make your rain garden the envy of the neighbourhood.