



Waterlogs - July 2022

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

ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE LONG-TERM PHOSPHORUS GOALS IN THE PMP



Last month, point sources of phosphorus were highlighted. This month's topic is non-point sources of phosphorus. Non-point source loads of phosphorus, from both urban and rural sectors, are significant to the Bay of Quinte. There are many tools available to focus efforts on phosphorus reduction in the Bay including education and awareness, stewardship, cost-sharing incentives, and regulation. The two non-point sources requiring management actions are agriculture and urban stormwater.

- Reduce non-point phosphorus loading from agricultural land use by 20% based on current annual load estimates.
- Reduce urban non-point stormwater loadings by 50%. This can be accomplished through adoption and implementation of existing recommended Pollution Prevention Control Plans, enhanced stormwater management controls, retrofits, and use of Low Impact Development technologies.

Urban Stormwater

Stormwater is a significant source of phosphorus to the Bay. Currently, Stormwater Management facilities for all new developments are required to meet Level 1 guidelines under Municipal Official Plans. However, there are a number of older stormwater facilities and outfalls that require upgrades. When upgrading and planning for stormwater infrastructure, consideration of phosphorus reduction should be a top priority. The use of green infrastructure for on-site controls such as porous pavements, rain gardens, etc. should be encouraged as part of infrastructure upgrades and development proposals. As well, avoiding P-fertilizer application to gardens/lawns/sports fields, unless found necessary by soil tests, should be practiced by municipalities and urban and rural homeowners.

All municipalities surrounding the Bay of Quinte should adopt and implement the Master Drainage Plans and Pollution Prevention Control Plans that have been completed for their areas.

Urban home owners should be encouraged to reduce phosphorus inputs to the Bay by undertaking Best Management Practices on their property like creating rain gardens, installing permeable pavers, reusing grey water on gardens, and planting native plants species.

Agricultural land use

Rural landowners are encouraged to use Best Management Practices to reduce phosphorus loads. Thereby, reducing erosion and runoff, and increasing infiltration, helping keep soils and phosphorus on the fields and out

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of local waterways. Best Management Practices are practical and affordable approaches to conserving soil and protecting water quality without sacrificing productivity. Farmers can choose a suite of Best Management Practices depending on what they produce, their production techniques, and their farm's unique soil characteristics, economics, and production challenges.

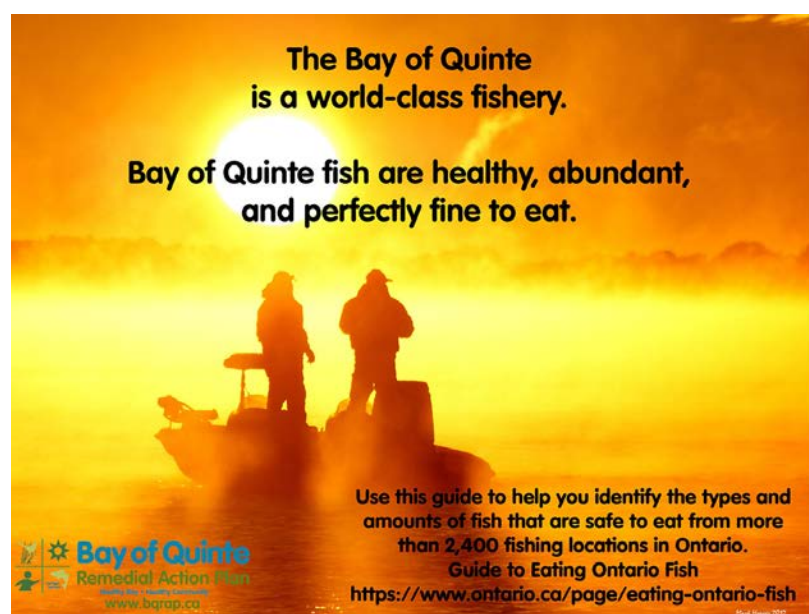
Examples of Best Management Practices that reduce phosphorus loads include:

cover crops, improved manure storage, erosion control structures, vegetative cover along shorelines and stream banks, fencing and alternative water systems to keep livestock out of waterbodies, soil testing, and the 4 R's of nutrient stewardship (right source, right rate, right time, and right place).

Urban and rural stewardship programs have been successful in reducing non-point source phosphorus inputs to the Bay because they combined education with incentives to adopt Best Management Practices, resulting in changes to land management over time. BQRAP offers a variety of stewardship programs for both urban and rural non-point sources.

[Draft discussion paper](#)

GUIDE TO EATING ONTARIO FISH



You can use this guide and the interactive map to help you identify the types and amounts of fish that are safe to eat from more than 2,400 fishing locations in Ontario including the Bay of Quinte.

Learn how to choose and prepare fish to reduce contaminants.

Fish can be an important part of a balanced diet. They are a great source of high-quality protein, beneficial omega-3 fats, and other nutrients. At the same time, there is a risk of exposing ourselves and our families to harmful contaminants in fish, such as mercury. Based on their size, type, and location, certain fish may be more suitable to eat than others.

The Guide to Eating Ontario Fish provides easy-to-use information to help choose fish caught from Ontario lakes and rivers to minimize exposure to toxins. Consumption advice in the guide is based on guidelines provided by Health Canada.

Guide to Eating Ontario Fish

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/eating-ontario-fish>

PHOSPHORUS MANAGEMENT PLAN VIDEO



A Long Term Phosphorus Management Plan needs to be in place to continue to improve water quality in the Bay and ensure it doesn't backslide to conditions that required a Remedial Action Plan in the first place.

Currently, the Bay is meeting the phosphorus targets outlined in its Remedial Action Plan.

However, water quality in the Bay will be subjected to additional stressors from population increases, land use development, and climate change. **Phosphorus Management Plan video**

SHORELINE PLANTING PROGRAM

IS YOUR RESIDENTIAL OR AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY ON A WATERFRONT?

YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR A COST-SHARING SHORELINE PLANTING PROGRAM.

Natural shorelines protect against erosion, support wildlife, and help to protect water quality.

The program includes a free site visit, the creation of a customized shoreline-planting plan, and native trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

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Shorelines are a critical and sensitive link between land and water, often called “the ribbon of life”. The land and shallow water that meet at the water’s edge provide a nursery for the wildlife. Here, fish spawn, aquatic insects find mates, waterfowl nest, and turtles scramble ashore to lay their eggs. When development destroys the vegetation, all living things are affected.

Also, shoreline vegetation helps to protect water quality. Shrubs, trees, grasses and wildflowers all play a role in removing sediments and pollutants from rainwater runoff.

This shoreline planting program includes a free site visit, the creation of a customized shoreline planting plan, and subsidizes the native trees, shrubs and wildflowers recommended for your shoreline. **Book your shoreline site visit, Today!**

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)

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Bay of Quinte
Remedial Action Plan
Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

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You are responsible for your septic system

Most rural homes and cottages use a septic system.

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. As well, 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. **Book your site visit, Today!**