



Waterlogs - February 2023

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

WATER LEVELS

What a crazy winter, we have had so far. At this point in time, it's anyone's guess what weather conditions are going to be a month or so down the road. It could be plus 30 or minus 30, either way water levels will be on people's minds. Here are some links to help shoreline residents understand water levels, who is responsible for what, and how to protect your property.

Water Level Information

It's important to understand that water levels on the Bay of Quinte are influenced by Lake Ontario. Lake Ontario/Bay of Quinte water levels are primarily determined by rain, snow, wind, and other natural factors. The Moses- Saunders Dam at Cornwall, does provide some limited control over water levels and flows.

Lake Ontario water levels and flows are managed under Plan 2014. The International Joint Commission (IJC), after 14 years of scientific study and public engagement, advanced Plan 2014 as the preferred option for regulating Lake Ontario.

Plan 2014 is designed to provide for more natural variations in water levels, which are needed to restore ecosystem health. The Plan moderates extreme high and low levels, to better maintain system-wide levels. Regulating levels and flows has provided benefits to various uses and interests by allowing for hydropower production; improving conditions for commercial navigation, recreational boating and water intakes; and reducing the flooding and erosion of shoreline communities. You can find additional information on the IJC and Plan 2014 at these links.

www.ijc.org

https://www.ijc.org/sites/default/files/Plan2014FactSheet_EN.pdf

Current and forecast Lake Ontario water information

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>

<https://www.ijc.org/en/loslr>.

Your local Conservation Authorities do not control Lake Ontario/Bay of Quinte water levels.

Protecting your property from water damage

High water levels can cause flooded basements, erosion issues, and contaminated wells. For flooded 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 well water in flooded areas - 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 requires a permit from your local Conservation Authority and may require a permit from the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, 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 - www.ltc.on.ca

Quinte Conservation - www.quinteconservation.ca

Catarauqui Conservation - www.crca.ca

www.bqrap.ca

In partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation



Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias)

Photo courtesy of Terry Sprague

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

Citizen scientists help protect wetlands and wildlife around the Bay of Quinte.

Quinte area naturalist, Terry Sprague will explain how you can participate in **FrogWatch Ontario** and/or the **Marsh Monitoring Program** and help us understand about the health of local wetlands by observing for birds and frogs.

This is a free online presentation.

Monday, March 6, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

Register on Eventbrite to receive the link.

<https://mmpbqrap2023.eventbrite.ca>



For information on this evening
smidlanejones@bqrap.ca
613-392-3915 ext 214
www.bqrap.ca



Every year, the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP) needs volunteer citizen scientists to monitor local wetlands. Naturalist and columnist, Terry Sprague hosts an information session explaining how you can help protect local wetlands and wildlife by collecting information on birds and frogs. This year, the presentation will be a virtual event on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Terry will discuss two programs, the FrogWatch Ontario program, which is a family-friendly activity; and the Marsh Monitoring Program, which is more structured, ideal for the outdoors enthusiast. The FrogWatch Ontario Program records amphibians once a week from April through June and the results are submitted online. The Marsh Monitoring Program records wetland birds and frogs, between May and July. Frogs are monitored three times approximately 15 days apart. Wetland birds are monitored twice for 15 minutes and the monitoring must be at least 10 days apart. Monitoring sites are at a variety of locations like cottages, backyards, or at designated monitoring locations.

"The information collected tells us about the presence and abundance of both species in coastal and inland marshes, and contributes to our understanding of these species and their habitat needs." says Terry.

In the Bay of Quinte, the environmental challenges related to fish and wildlife populations and habitat are classified as restored, under the bay's remedial action plan. Now, citizen scientists are vitally important as "boots on the ground" focusing on ensuring wetlands and wildlife don't revert to the conditions that required a remedial action plan in the first place. The information gathered ensures the long-term protection of this area's wetlands and wildlife.

In the past couple of years, the programs have experienced the retirement of a key number of volunteers. There are several important wetland locations that are available for monitoring. This presentation gives you an excellent overview of the two programs and support is offered to all volunteers throughout the monitoring season.

Register on Eventbrite at <https://mmpbqrap2023.eventbrite.ca> to receive the presentation link.

Registration closes on Monday, March 6th at 1:00 pm.

GRAB YOUR LUNCH AND LEARN ABOUT COVER CROPPING FROM LOCAL FARMERS.

Why they decided to plant cover crops.

What worked for their soil conditions and terrain and what didn't.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 - 12:30pm - 2:00pm

This free webinar will be a facilitated panel discussion. The plan is that each panelist will have 10-15 minutes or thereabouts to provide a brief overview of their farming operation and how they are using/managing cover crops in their operation (what works, what you are "still learning" about", ideas for the future, etc). Some of the panelists have been using cover crops for a number of years and other are new to the practice. There are a variety of operational types, soil conditions, and terrains that will be discussed. Plus, there will be a question & answer session with the panelists too.

Register at: <https://bqrapcovercroplunchandlearn.eventbrite.ca>

When you register your name will be enter in a draw for the chance to win a \$50.00 cash prize.

Cover Crop Lunch and Learn
Grab your lunch and learn about cover cropping from local farmers.
Why they decided to plant cover crops.
What worked for their soil conditions and terrain and what didn't.

FREE Webinar

Panel discussion with
Kevin Cole - Hunco Farms, Cobourg
Norm Lamothe - Woodleigh Farms, Cavan
Matt Glen - Glen Isle Ag., Keene
Scott Honey - Warkworth

Facilitated by Jim McComb
Q&A after panel discussion

Cover Crops provide -

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

March 22, 2023 - 12:30pm - 1:45pm
Register on Eventbrite to receive the link and the chance to win a \$50.00 cash prize

Register at:
<https://bqrapcovercroplunchandlearn.eventbrite.ca>

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

www.bqrap.ca
613-394-3915 ext 214 - smidlanejones@bqrap.ca

In partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation
photo courtesy of kingsagriseed.com

START PLANNING FOR SPRING

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Rural Stewardship

LIVESTOCK FENCING
• Install fencing to restrict livestock access to a waterway or wetland.
Grant rate - 75% - maximum up to \$7,500

ALTERNATE WATERING SYSTEMS
• To be eligible for funding, livestock must be fenced out of a waterway or wetland
Grant rate - 75% - maximum up to \$7,500

SHORELINE/WATERWAY PLANTING PROJECTS
• Native plants and materials to help with plant survival (mulch, plant guards, hemp mats) for an area along a shoreline/waterway or wetland
Grant rate - 75% - maximum up to \$1,000

Erosion/Water Quality Improvement Projects
• stream bank stabilization • barnyard runoff control
• manure storage improvements • constructed wetlands
• erosion control structures • storm water management
Grant rate - 75% - maximum up to \$7,500

Free Soil Testing
Knowing what's going on with your soil is the first step in creating high yielding sustainable agriculture.
Book your site visit, Today.

Jason Jobin
Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Lower Trent Conservation
P: 613-394-3915 ext 225
E: jason.jobin@ltc.on.ca

Cover Crops
We offer a cover crop seed grant of \$30.00 per acre - grant maximum up to \$2,500.

Robert Ormston
Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Quinte Conservation
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E: ROrmston@quinteconservation.ca

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
www.bqrap.ca

Rain Gardens provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators
Why a Rain Garden? Because it has a job to do.

- Providing habitat for wildlife and pollinators, such as birds, butterflies, and bees
- Helping protect streams, rivers, and lakes from pollutants carried by stormwater runoff
- Increasing the amount of water entering the ground, which re-charges aquifers
- Beautifying your yards and neighbourhood

You could be eligible for a grant of **up to \$750** towards native plants, soil, compost, gravel, mulch, a contractor or rental equipment to establish a functioning rain garden. If you live in Belleville, Trenton, Napanee, Deseronto or Picton.

Details at: www.bqrap.ca

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

Winter is a great time to plan spring projects. A great place to start is by contacting our stewardship technicians. They will help you with the planning and application process. Details about our programs <https://www.bqrap.ca/get-involved-learn/rural-stewardship/>

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