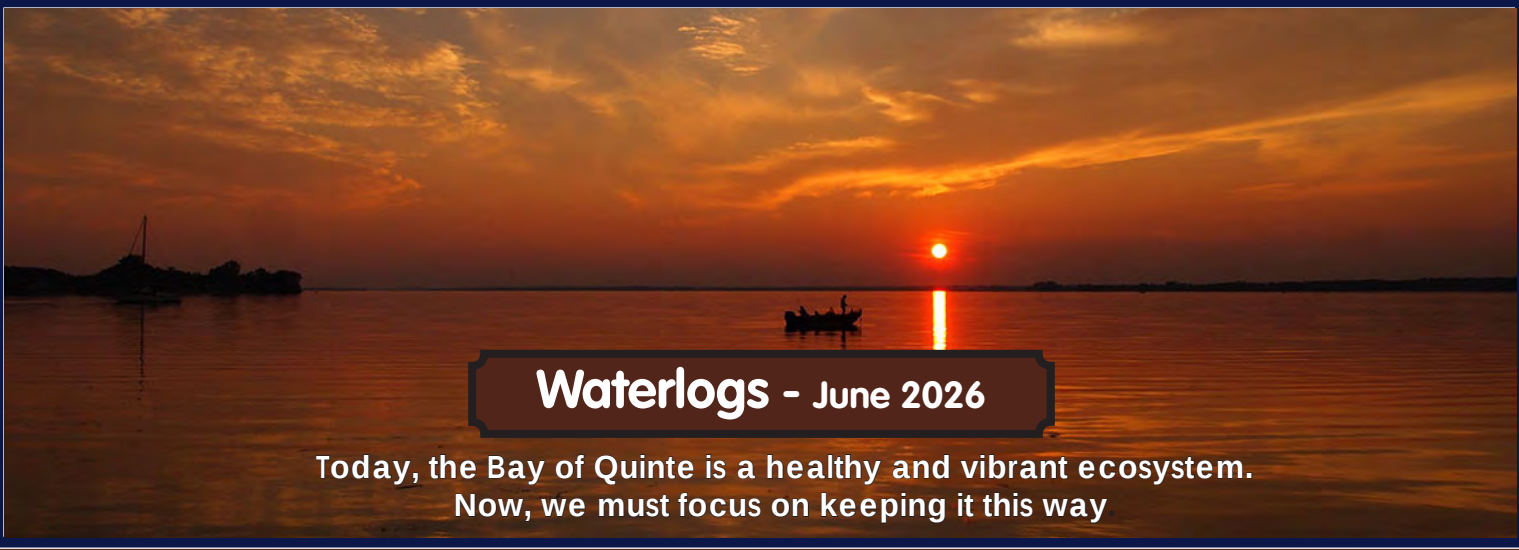




Waterlogs - June 2026

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

RETURNING THE BALANCE

Spending more time outdoors is one of the great joys of the summer season. The other week, I was taking a walk along the Bayshore Trail, and so were a lot of other people. It made me wonder how many people realize the vast improvement in the Bay's water quality from the 1970s when it was very degraded. For those of you who remember the Bay back then it was like pea soup, you could scoop up algae by the handful.

Now, after decades of rehabilitation, the Bay of Quinte can be described as fishable, swimmable, drinkable, and beautiful. Most of the environmental challenges related to these issues are classified as restored, meaning they have met the scientific criteria set out in the Remedial Action Plan.

Restoring these environmental challenges does not mean the Bay has returned to a pristine historic condition, human influence has permanently altered the ecosystem. Instead, it means that the problems identified in the 1990 RAP Stage 1 Report have improved enough to meet the scientific criteria established for each challenge. These criteria are measurable environmental conditions that must be achieved before a challenge can be considered restored.

Fishable - Three environmental challenges related to this issue were the **Degradation of fish and wildlife populations**, **Degradation of benthos** (underwater bugs), and **Loss of fish and wildlife habitat**. All three met the scientific criteria required for a status change and were classified as restored in 2018.

Swimmable - The environmental challenge related to this issue was **Beach closures**, which was classified as restored in 2019. The RAP target was that Health Unit beach posting days should not exceed 20% of the annual swimming season, from Victoria Day to Labour Day. To assess this target, the RAP reviewed data from four Health Unit-monitored beaches: Centennial Park in Deseronto, Kingsford Mills on the Salmon River, Frankford Park on the Trent River, and Centennial Park in Northport.

Drinkable - This environmental challenge focused on **Restrictions on drinking water and taste or odour problems**. In the urban centers around the Bay of Quinte, drinking water is drawn from the Bay or its tributaries. It must meet Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards, among the strictest in the world. Ontario protects drinking water through a multi-faceted, source-to-tap system. This environmental challenge was classified as restored in 2020.

Beautiful - The environmental challenges **Degradation of aesthetics** addressed nearshore man-made issues related to water colour, clarity, odour and debris. It was classified as restored in 2022.

Eight of the original eleven environmental challenges have been deemed restored. Remaining are Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, Eutrophication (undesirable algae), Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations. All should have final assessment reports completed in the next year.

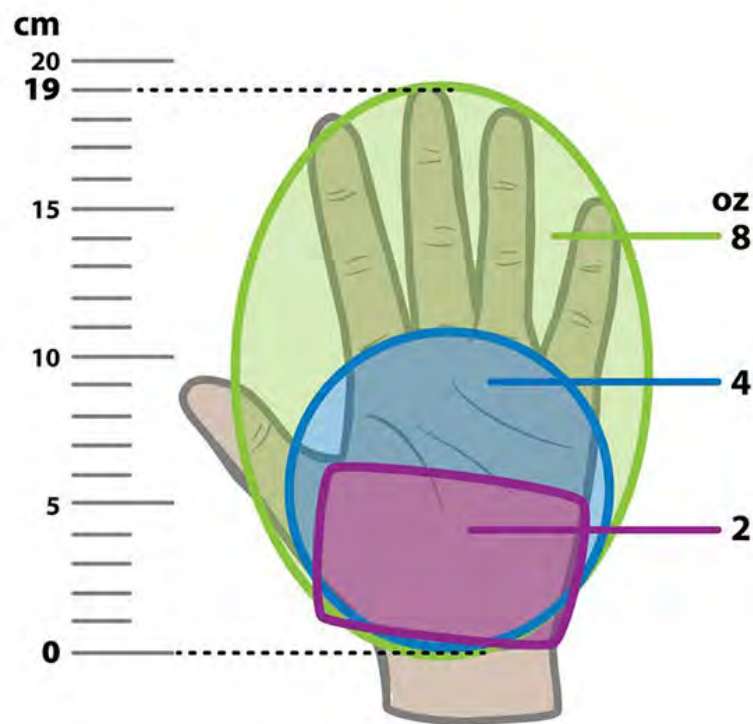
As the RAP winds down, a **Phosphorus Management Plan** is under development to ensure water quality does not decline. Everyone has a role to play in protecting the Bay's water quality, whether by supporting stewardship projects, advocating for water quality issues, volunteering as a citizen scientist, or encouraging local politicians and municipalities to take action to keep the Bay healthy and vibrant.

Water quality is everyone's responsibility.

In partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation



A visual guide to fish serving sizes



average adult male palm (~19cm)

Number of fish fillets in one fish meal

Our consumption advice is based on an average fish meal of 227 grams (8 ounces, half a pound or approximately a fillet of dinner plate length) for an average-size adult weighing 70 kilograms (154 pounds).

Use the palm of your hand to visually gauge the size of your fish meal

- half of your palm is approximately 2 ounces of fish
- your whole palm is approximately 4 ounces of fish
- the palm of your hand including your fingers is approximately 8 ounces of fish, (half a pound, or approximately a fillet of dinner plate length, or an average fish meal of 227 grams).

This amount is the basis for the consumption advice in the advisory tables.

Natural Waterfronts

You could be eligible for a cost-sharing waterfront planting program.

Grant rate - 75% - maximum up to \$1,000.

Natural waterfronts protect against erosion, support wildlife, and improve water quality.

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



Raven Chartrand
Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Lower Trent Conservation
P: 613-394-3915 ext 225

www.bqrap.ca

 **Bay of Quinte**

Kaitlin Maurer
Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Quinte Conservation
P: 613-968-3434 ext 107

Shoreline Planting Program to help you establish native plants on your shoreline. We offer a free site visit to help you decide on the best approach for your shoreline. If you decide to go with our planting program, we develop a customized planting plan for your property.

Not sure where to start, contact our stewardship technicians. They will help you to create, protect, or rehabilitate a shoreline. Also, we offer a grant for the purchase of native plants.

PLANNING FOR SPRING

www.bqrap.ca

Reduce phosphorus loss to waterways and soil erosion

* 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

* Cover Crops *

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

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Remedial Action Plan
Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

Raven Chartrand
Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Lower Trent Conservation
613-394-3915 ext 225
raven.chartrand@ltc.on.ca

Time to start planning those spring projects. Contact our stewardship techs to get the process underway. Book your free site visit, Today

Rural Stewardship Program