

Quinte Conservation Annual Report

2010

New Trail Maps **P.2**

Source Water Protection **P.3**

Climate Change **P.3**

Financial Report **P.4**

Who We Are

Quinte Conservation is one of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. We are a community based environmental protection agency. Our main goal is to ensure the healthy co-existence between the community, its environment and its economy. Our area of jurisdiction includes the watersheds of the Moira, Napanee and Salmon Rivers and all of Prince Edward County. We provide important conservation advisory services to our 18 local municipalities within our 6,000 square kilometer region. We own over 12,000 hectares of land and 39 water control structures. Our success is based on local initiative, watershed jurisdiction and partnerships in resources management.



Algae Watch Program Launched at Quinte Conservation



Starting in July 2010 Quinte Conservation began monitoring blue-green algae levels in the Bay of Quinte. This project is funded through the Ministry of the Environment's Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship program, a Drinking Water Source Protection initiative under the direction of the Ontario *Clean Water Act, 2006*. This act aims to preserve and protect the quality and quantity of municipal drinking water sources.

These algae (cyanobacteria) populations can grow into large masses or "blooms" in warm, shallow, slow moving, nutrients-rich waters. Project Manager Keith Taylor explains, "The data we collect helps us to understand the risk these toxins pose to our municipal drinking water systems and recreational areas."

Quinte Conservation hired Nicole Irvine to spearhead the project and Tiffany Empey as the project technician. Other partners in the program are: Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan, Ministry of the Environment, Environment Canada, Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit, Lower Trent Conservation, City of Quinte West, City of Belleville, Town of Greater Napanee, and Prince Edward County.

The Bay of Quinte is a source of drinking water for many people living and playing within the Quinte, Lower Trent and Cataraqui Conservation regions. The Algae Watch Program involves monitoring by Quinte Conservation staff, municipal members, and local volunteers. The data gained by monitoring efforts will be used to better understand blue-green algae presence within the unique environment of the Bay of Quinte. One goal of the program is to increase the public awareness of blue-green algae and the potential for toxic blooms.



Quinte
CONSERVATION



NEW TRAIL MAPS at all Quinte Conservation Areas

Quinte Conservation is pleased to announce that all public trails at our Conservation Areas were mapped and marked this past summer. Two summer students in the Ministry of Natural Resources Summer Experience Program worked hard to accomplish this task.

Black and white or coloured maps are available for download on the Quinte Conservation website. Trails have been marked with colour-coded rectangles painted on trees and rocks. Brochures featuring the new maps are also available at the Quinte Conservation office in Belleville.



These new trail maps will encourage the public to get outside and enjoy healthy activities in the fresh air. The maps clearly show how long the trails are so people can go for a quick hike, or take the whole afternoon to explore any of our Conservation Areas.



Protecting Our Watersheds

Approximately 117,000 people live within the Moira, Napanee, and Salmon River watersheds and Prince Edward County.



CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

in the Quinte Region

Scientific predictions about the effects of climate change are becoming a reality. Scientists are forecasting that over the next 100 years the temperature in this area may increase by as much as 4 to 5 degrees Celsius and precipitation decrease by 10%. The combined effect of this would have significant impact on our local water resources. To keep informed and up to date on this potential Quinte Conservation has recently been involved in a province wide project to assess areas that may be susceptible to climate change and evaluate the state of monitoring networks in such areas.

A review of 21 sub watershed areas in the Quinte Region was completed to assess susceptibility to climate change. This was completed through a review of factors related to how prone the areas are to drought conditions, the amount of water use, the water quality conditions, and the role of dependence on shallow groundwater in each area. Based on this review a number of areas in the Prince Edward Region were assessed as being more susceptible to climate change than other parts of the watershed. Since these areas are relatively developed and there is existing

Low water at Beaver Meadow Conservation Area



impact on the water resource they have been identified as being ideal for monitoring for adaptation to climate change.

An area in the north part of the Quinte Region, on the Canadian Shield was also identified as being ideal for monitoring related to the detection of climate change. The historic monitoring of this area has been ongoing for a long period and there is little development. This provides a good baseline to allow detection of changes.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION IN QUINTE



Work continued toward the development of a plan, by 2012, to protect sources of municipal drinking water in the Quinte Region. The source water protection program is funded and directed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. A local multi-stakeholder Source Protection Committee, formed in 2007, has been gathering required technical and scientific knowledge and will begin to create the plan in 2011.

The Proposed Assessment Report was submitted

to the Minister of the Environment in August. The report is a science-based technical document that brings together key findings about water in our region and describes vulnerable areas where spills, pollution, contamination and overuse could harm our water sources. There were four public meetings and two public comment periods as part of the process to produce the Assessment Report.

The Source Protection Committee met nine times in 2010. On a tour of the Madoc and Tweed area they examined an old well being decommissioned and visited a farm stewardship project that will improve handling and application of agricultural source material. Both projects were funded through the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program and were two of the 18 projects completed this year in the Quinte Region. Up to 80% funding is available to landowners for stewardship projects on private property located near municipal groundwater wells and surface water intakes.

For more information visit
www.quintesourcewater.ca.

BIOMONITORING PROJECT

Species at Risk

2010 marked the beginning of monitoring for a partnership that began the previous year. In 2009, Quinte Conservation partnered with South Nation Conservation, City of Ottawa, Rideau Valley Conservation, Mississippi Valley Conservation, Cataraqui Region Conservation, Ontario Ministry of Environment and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to conduct bio-criteria monitoring throughout south-eastern Ontario. The goal of this five year project is to increase knowledge and awareness of aquatic systems throughout South-eastern Ontario.

The first year of sampling started in the summer of 2010 and involved inventorying fish, benthic invertebrates, species at risk (mussels, fish and invertebrates) as well as water sampling and habitat characterization.

Water quality parameters will also be measured at each of about 190 sites including pH, total phosphorus, nitrates, alkalinity and metals. All species at risk, mussels, fish and invertebrates will be inventoried. A detailed habitat description and threats inventory will be provided for all sites.

2010 Board Members



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John Wise

Quinte Conservation Chair
Quinte Conservation Vice-Chair

Moira River Watershed Advisory Board

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Tom Lafferty
Egerton Boyce
Terry Cassidy
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Eythel Grant

Rita Cimprich

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Tom Simpson

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Fred Lang, Vice-Chair
Gary Smith
William Robinson

Carl Bresee
Roger Cole

Edgar Tumak

Prince Edward Region Watershed Advisory Board

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Stacey Hatch
Brian Marisett
John Thompson
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Township of Madoc
City of Belleville
City of Belleville
City of Belleville
City of Quinte West
Tudor & Cashel Townships
Township of Addington
Highlands
Municipality of Marmora
and Lake
Township of Stirling
Rawdon
Municipality of Centre
Hastings
Municipality of Tweed

2010 Conservation Staff

Terry Murphy

Paul McCoy

Bryon Keene
Keith Taylor
Lucille Fragomeni
Tammy Smith
Harry Stinson
David Smallwood

Catherine Sinclair
Brad McNevin
Tim Trustham
Darrin Tone
Amy Dickens
Mark Boone
Julie Munro
Lynette Lambert

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Jennifer May-Anderson

Liping Kong
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Jennifer White
Mary Gunning
Nicole Irvine
Tiffany Empey

General Manager / Secretary
Treasurer
Planning and Development
Manager
Water Resources Manager
Source Water Protection Manager
Communications Manager
Corporate Services Manager
Field Operations Manager
Forestry and Field Operations
Manager
Regulations Officer
Regulations Officer / Biologist
Ecologist / Planner
Water Resources Engineer
GIS Database Specialist
Hydrogeologist
Surface Water Specialist
Environmental Water Quality
Technician
Conservation Stewardship
Coordinator
Source Water Protection
Administrative Assistant
Naturalist
Conservation Education
Coordinator
Communications and Marketing
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Field Operations Supervisor
Environmental Technician
BQRAP Environmental Technician
Algae Watch Project Leader
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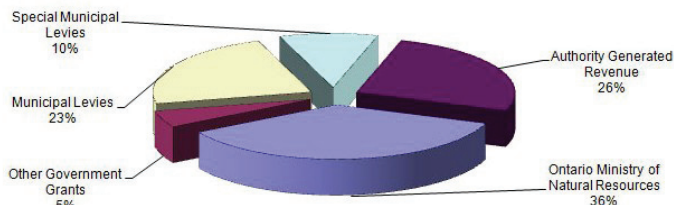
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quinteconservation.ca

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2010 Revenue



2010 Expenditures

