

Quinte Conservation Annual Report



2012

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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.



BQRAP UPDATE



Quinte Conservation and the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP) work together on several projects. One is a rehabilitation project at Big Island Marsh. This is an area that has been historically recognised as in need of rehabilitation. This wetland was once more open and less dominated by cattails.

A successful method that has been used to rehabilitate other Quinte wetlands is to create channels and ponds through the cattail stands. The newly created channels and ponds increase the amount of habitat edge and open water, which encourages more diverse wildlife populations and provides spawning and nursery habitats for fish. BQRAP, Quinte Conservation and the Prince Edward Stewardship Council began this project in 2011-2012 and created two new channels throughout the cattail stands. In addition, BQRAP and Quinte Conservation staff collected some preliminary data for this project. The Big Island Marsh rehabilitation project will continue through Quinte

Conservation by a private funder.

The Bay of Quinte Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program has been successfully implemented out of Quinte Conservation since 2009. This program is a useful tool in assessing the health of coastal wetlands. It monitors the geo-physical and biological components of the wetland including, but not limited to, benthic macro-invertebrates, fish, submerged aquatic vegetation, birds, amphibians and different components of water quality.

The Algae Watch Program has been implemented through Quinte Conservation since 2010. BQRAP and Quinte Conservation staff worked together to implement this program in 2012. The program monitors water quality on the Bay of Quinte, with a focus on blue-green algae and contributing water quality factors including phosphorus, taste and odour compounds and phytoplankton biomass.



Quinte
CONSERVATION

PLANNING AND REGULATIONS 2012 Update

Quinte Conservation has regulations that protect lives and property from the dangers of flooding and protect floodplains, wetlands and other sensitive areas. Permits are required for work near these sites. 280 permits were issued in 2012 and one was denied. Our Regulations and Planning staff made 536 site visits which works out to about two visits per work day.

These knowledgeable and dedicated staff members work hard to protect our watersheds. The goal of our regulations are to protect life, prevent and reduce flood damage and conserve ecosystems. Our staff make sure that any development near hazardous lands is thoroughly examined. Hazardous lands include watercourses, wetlands, water bodies, slopes and escarpments.

Comments on land use planning applications (including severances, bylaw amendments, and subdivisions) and planning documents (official plans and zoning bylaws) are provided to municipalities following a site inspection. In 2012 there were 92 Consent to Sever applications, 2 Official Plan Amendments, 90 Zoning Bylaw Amendments and Minor Variances, 16 Site Plans and a review of 3 subdivision plans.



Protecting Our Watersheds

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



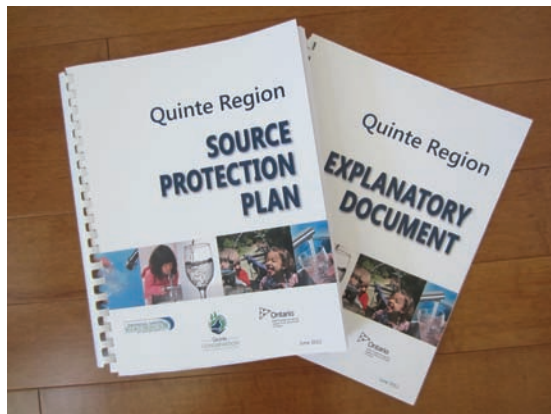
PROPOSED SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN SUBMITTED

The Quinte Region's Proposed Source Protection Plan was submitted to the Minister of the Environment on August 3, 2012. The proposed plan contains policies designed to protect 11 local sources of municipal drinking water from contamination and overuse.

Draft policies were refined by the Source Protection Committee early in the year and on April 12, 2012 the Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan was published on www.quintesourcewater.ca. Public review and comments were invited during a 36 day comment period. The Explanatory Document, which sets out the policy development process and rationale for each policy, was also made available. Three public meetings were held on: May 7 in Madoc; May 9 at Quinte Conservation and May 10 in Picton.

The Source Protection Committee considered the comments received during public consultation and produced the Proposed Source Protection Plan. This was presented to the Source Protection Authority (Quinte Conservation) in June and a further 30 day comment period was held. Following this, the Proposed Plan, Explanatory Document and comments received were submitted to the Minister for review. Approval from the Ministry is anticipated in mid-2013.

In September Quinte Conservation hosted several Plan implementation workshops. Source protection project staff met with the Fuel Working Group, Septic Working Group and Municipal Clerks



and Planners to discuss Source Protection Plan implementation preparation.

Under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Early Response Program 25 projects were completed. These projects helped address existing threats to the municipal drinking water supplies prior to policies coming into effect. Septic systems were inspected and upgraded or replaced if faulty. Abandoned or substandard wells were decommissioned. Many of the most serious threats were eliminated or addressed through this worthwhile program. In 2012, grants were available for the first time for fuel storage upgrades within the most vulnerable areas. In total over \$118,000 was spent on stewardship projects this year.

For more information about source water protection in the Quinte Region please visit www.quintesourcewater.ca.

FISH HABITAT PROJECT 2012 Update

In 2003 the City of Belleville constructed the Riverfront Trail running along the southern reach of the Moira River. Construction of this trail destroyed some fish habitat and the City of Belleville had to provide a suitable compensation plan to offset the damage. The compensation project included the creation of three low water refuge pools and an expansion of a natural spawning ground. The compensation project was completed in 2005.

Quinte Conservation staff sampled for fish in the compensation area in August 2012. The created habitats were assessed using non-lethal methods, seine netting and electrofishing, where possible.

The effectiveness of the created pools as a low water refuge area was quite evident during this sampling effort. As water levels reached an historic low, these three pool areas were abundant with fish species that would have traditionally had to leave the river to find deeper habitat. Fallfish and Rock Bass were the most common species collected during the sampling period, representing 29 % and 19 % of the total catch, respectively. American Eel comprised about 15 % of the total catch.

FAMILY FUN DAY A BIG SUCCESS



Quinte Conservation is \$5,100 closer to building an accessible trail. Communications and Marketing Specialist Jennifer May-Anderson says, "Our Family

Fun Day event in September was very successful. We raised just over \$5,000 toward building an accessible trail at the Quinte Conservation Area. Last year we raised enough money to hire a landscape architect to design the trail and now all money raised will go toward actually getting the trail built. The trail is expected to cost close to \$250,000."

May-Anderson adds, "We are so grateful to all those who purchased tickets, donated raffle items and volunteered their time to make this event a success. We are especially thankful to our generous sponsors, Union Gas and RBC Royal Bank. We believe everyone should have the opportunity to spend time in nature and this fundraiser is bringing us closer to that goal."

On Saturday, September 22 over 100 families came to Quinte Conservation to learn about conservation and nature, build birdhouses, and visit with nature experts all in an effort to raise funds for an accessible trail. Anyone interested in donating to the trail can call Quinte Conservation at 613-968-3434 extension 125 or email quinteca@quinteconservation.ca. Donations can also be made online at www.quinteconservation.ca.

2012 Board Members



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Janice Maynard

Quinte Conservation Chair
Quinte Conservation Vice-Chair

Moira River Watershed Advisory Board

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Addington Highlands
Township
Centre Hastings Municipality
City of Belleville
City of Belleville
City of Quinte West
Municipality of Tweed
Stirling / Rawdon Township
Township of Madoc
Tudor and Cashel
Townships

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Edgar Tumak
Heather Fox

Roger Cole

William Robinson

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Tyendinaga Township
Loyalist Township
Town of Deseronto
Township of Central
Frontenac
Township of Greater
Napanee
Township of South
Frontenac

Prince Edward Region Watershed Advisory Board

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John Drechsler
Ray Hobson
John Thompson
Jim Dunlop

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County of Prince Edward
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2012 Conservation Staff

Terry Murphy

Paul McCoy
Bryon Keene
Keith Taylor
Tammy Smith
Harry Stinson
David Smallwood

Catherine Sinclair
Brad McNevin
Tim Trustham
Samantha Carney
Christine McClure
Dave Eastcott
Lucille Fragomeni

Mark Boone
Amy Dickens
Curtis Vance
Julie Munro
Lynette Lambert

Nancy Marshall

Liping Kong
Jennifer May-Anderson

Maya Navrot

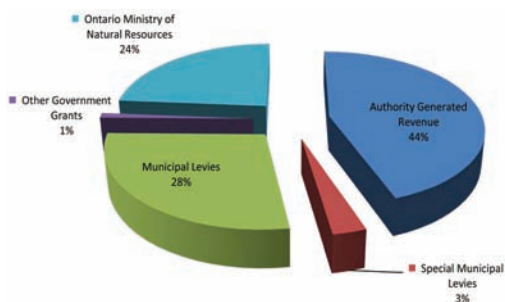
Nicole Campbell

Terry Sprague
David Dies
Jesse Platt
Mary Gunning

General Manager / Secretary
Treasurer
Planning and Regulations Manager
Water Resources Manager
Source Water Protection Manager
Corporate Services Manager
Field Operations Manager
Forestry and Field Operations
Manager
Regulations Officer
Regulations Officer / Biologist
Ecologist / Planner
Technical Administrative Assistant
Water Resources Technologist
Engineering Assistant
Source Water Protection
Communications Coordinator
Hydrogeologist
GIS Database Specialist
GIS Technician
Surface Water Specialist
Environmental Water Quality
Technician / Health & Safety
Source Water Protection
Administrative Assistant
Accounting Clerk
Communications and Marketing
Specialist
Conservation Education
Coordinator
Conservation Education
Coordinator
Naturalist
Field Operations Supervisor
Field Operations Assistant
BQRAP Environmental Technician

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2012 Revenue



2012 Expenditures

