

Living Lakes CANADA



Living Lakes Canada News Stream

March 2020

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Water, COVID-19 & Climate Change

In light of the quickly changing circumstances around the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and its health impacts, clean water for sanitation and hygiene has become immeasurably more important.

We are fortunate to have source water from lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater. Whether it's in the face of a pandemic or climate crisis impacts, progressive action plans for holistic water management, integrated across different sectors and coordinated beyond borders, will continue to support our well-being now and into the future.

World Water Day reminds us that we can honour the preciousness of water with gratitude and good stewardship. We send best wishes to our partner organizations in Canada and to our Living Lakes International friends around the world. Let's take good care of each other during these challenging times.



We're excited to launch our first film!..

"People Power for Healthy Rivers"

Living Lakes Canada worked with [Imagine Creative](#) to produce this 4-minute video — "People Power for Healthy Rivers: DNA Technology Meets Citizen Science in STREAM" — which features how the CABIN (Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network) protocol is being used in our [STREAM](#) project. STREAM, short for Sequencing the Rivers for Environmental Assessment and Monitoring, is the national water monitoring pilot working to collect a total of 1,500 environmental DNA samples from 15 watersheds across Canada over three years through community-based water monitoring.

STREAM is a partnership between Living Lakes Canada, World Wildlife Fund-Canada, the University of Guelph and Environment and Climate Change Canada.



People Power for Healthy Rivers: DNA Technology Meets Citizen Science in STREAM

DFO funds FIM Project in the Basin

Living Lakes Canada was awarded a Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk grant by the DFO to help protect at-risk aquatic species and their habitats in the Columbia Basin. The grant supports a four-year "Foreshore Inventory and Mapping (FIM) for Aquatic Species at Risk" project.

FIM (also referred to as Shoreline Habitat Inventory and Mapping or SHIM) inventories and maps shoreline habitats for fish and wildlife, assesses habitat value and establishes Foreshore Management Guidelines aimed to conserve sensitive habitats, improve ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change and protect species of conservation concern.

[READ THE FULL ANNOUNCEMENT](#)



Bruce MacDonald sampling for juvenile fish along the shore of Lake Kootenai.

Groundwater Data Report available

The **Living Lakes Canada Groundwater Monitoring Program** has completed a summary of the data collected by the program to date. This is technical document that summarizes information about the wells and aquifers being monitored in Columbia Basin, the data collected, and preliminary graphs that describe the data.

The data collected by our Groundwater Monitoring Program is intended to inform groundwater protection and management, and adaptation to climate change.

READ THE DATA SUMMARY REPORT



Groundwater Program Manager Carol Luttmer checks a well at the Nature Trust of British Columbia's Dutch Creek Hoodoos Conservation Area.

STREAM Pilot prepares for Year 2

Living Lakes Canada joined other **STREAM** partners — University of Guelph, WWF-Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada — in Guelph in February to review Year 1 of the three-year project, plan Year 2, and tour U of Guelph's Centre for Biodiversity Genomics Hajibabaei Lab where the collected benthic samples are being analyzed by DNA metabarcoding.

For 2020, the priority watersheds have been selected and include:

- the Yukon watershed
- the Fraser Basin, in the Nechako sub-watershed in B.C.
- the Winnipeg watershed in Ontario
- the Great Lakes (Northwestern Lake Superior) in Ontario
- the Ottawa watershed in Ontario

[READ THE FULL UPDATE](#)



2020 STREAM-CABIN TRAINING DATES

Ottawa, June 2-5

Yukon, July 13-17

Thunder Bay, July 20- 24

Kenora, July 27 -31

LEARN MORE

"Of the finished Year 1 STREAM community-based monitoring reports, perhaps the most interesting one is the Bow Valley report where you can see the difference in Whirling disease presence/absence hosts."

~ Living Lakes Canada STREAM Program Manager Raegan Mallinson

STREAM Report: Preliminary DNA Data, Bow River, AB

Hajibabaei Lab, Centre for Biodiversity Genomics, University of Guelph, Dec 2019

> CLICK HERE FOR THE REPORT <

Monitoring Collaborative update

The Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Collaborative database is in the final stages of development and testing before its launch as the collective hub of Columbia Basin-relevant water data collected by the water monitoring groups in the Basin. This information will help provide better understanding of the 10 watershed subregions in the Columbia Basin and support improved watershed management by decision-makers .

The anticipated **launch date is for April 30**. Keep an eye on our website and social media for the most current updates.



As part of the Monitoring Collaborative, we are working on the **Fresh Water Data Commons pilot project within our Supercluster Innovation Fund partnership**. The goal of this project is to collect water data in a cost-effective, real-time, and scalable manner then use that data to understand the water balance in ecosystems and stay abreast of water availability issues in different regions as they occur.

Living Lakes team members will also be involved in an Environmental DNA (eDNA) research component of the project that will assist with further validation of this emerging technology.

[READ MORE](#)



Canada's Digital Supercluster and Carl Data Solutions partner for Fresh Water Data Commons

Flathead Biomonitoring report

The **Flathead River Biomonitoring Program** Summary Report outlines the results from a biomonitoring program conducted by Living Lakes Canada staff between 2013 and 2017 in the Canadian Flathead watershed using CABIN (Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network) protocol. The project examined the aquatic health of five different sub-basins to observe any effects from forestry activities on benthic macroinvertebrates and their community composition at each site over the five-year period.

[READ THE REPORT](#)



The Flathead River is a trans-boundary tributary of the Columbia River, known for supporting habitat connectivity, high terrestrial biodiversity, and diverse aquatic life.

Kootenay Lake shoreline protection



The Kootenay Lake Partnership (KLP) — facilitated by Living Lakes Canada on behalf of the Regional District of Central Kootenay — is working on implementation and getting the word out about the [Shoreline Guidance Document](#) for Kootenay Lake. The KLP is an inter-government initiative that developed the [Shoreline Guidance Document](#) to help residents, developers and staff navigate existing complex First Nations, federal, provincial and local regulations. The document features an assessment of ecological, cultural and archaeological values along Kootenay Lake to guide shoreline development activities such as docks, retaining walls, vegetation removal and dredging in an effort to protect high value habitats. The Ktunaxa Nation Cultural Values Study identified trails, migration corridors, habitation and harvesting areas, among other values.

Over the next several months, the KLP is providing information, workshops and training for stakeholders around the Lake.

[VISIT THE KLP WEBSITE](#)

Operations Director announcement

Living Lakes Canada is excited to congratulate our Operations Director Heather Leschied (left) on taking maternity leave to welcome her second child to our

Living Lakes family. While she is taking time with her growing family, Avery Deboer-Smith (right) will be our acting Operations Director. Avery has been with the organization since 2017 and has a background in managing water related NGOs.

“I am honoured to fill Heather’s position while she is on leave. I have such a wonderful team to work with and my goal over the next year will be to keep the organization thriving as it already is,” ~ Avery



Heather Leschied (left) and Avery Deboer-Smith (right)

Meet our new Board Members



MANDI MCROBBIE

Board Member

Mandi spent her post-secondary academic years studying the impacts of development on significant ecological systems. She has lived in the Columbia Valley with her family for the past 20 years working with environmental and social NGOs. Mandi developed the award-winning Lake Windermere Project and is former branch manager at Wildsight Invermere.



JEN THEBERGE

Board Member

Jen is an ecologist, with a career largely based in protected areas management in central and western Canada. Her work has specialized in wildlife ecology and ecosystem monitoring and she has facilitated research regarding aquatic systems in both boreal and mountain biomes. Jen holds a Ph.D. in conservation biology from the University of Calgary.

Living Lakes Canada News



Collecting Valuable Data for High Elevation Monitoring Program

Living Lakes Canada team members Claire Pollock-Hall and Kyle Prince along with volunteer Kaylenna Olynyk were recruited to complete the monthly snow survey at a snow survey courses on the northeast end of Kootenay Lake, BC.

[READ MORE](#)



Columbia Basin Snow Surveys Helping Fill Water Data Gaps

The North Kootenay Lake Water Monitoring Project is working to improve understanding and prediction of how small- and medium-sized watersheds in the B.C.'s West Kootenay are going to behave in a changing climate.

[READ MORE](#)



Groundwater Management is Crucial in Upper Columbia Basin

Columbia Basin businesses and landowners who use groundwater for non-domestic purposes are reminded they are legally required to apply for a water licence. This change came into effect in 2016 with the new Water Sustainability Act.

[READ MORE](#)



Highlighting the Columbia Wetlands on World Wetlands Day

Our organization was founded in the Columbia Valley, headwaters of the transboundary Columbia River and home to one of North America's longest, intact wetlands system: the Columbia Wetlands.

[READ MORE](#)

Find Us at These Upcoming Events:

BC Groundwater Association Annual Convention, Tradeshow and AGM

Penticton, BC

Scheduled for April 16-18, 2020*

**Please check with event organizers*

[VISIT THE EVENT WEBSITE](#)



Comox Valley 2020: 3rd Annual Vancouver Island Symposium on Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate

Courtenay

POSTPONED until October 2020

[VISIT THE EVENT WEBSITE](#)

11th Annual Canadian Water Summit

"The Keys to a Blue Economy"

Ottawa, ON

June 10-12, 2020

[VISIT THE EVENT WEBSITE](#)



BCLSS Annual Conference - Save the Date!



BCLSS

Co-convened by BC Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS), Lake Windermere Ambassadors and Living Lakes Canada. The Plenary Speaker will be Bob Sanford, Chair in Water and Climate Security at the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health.

Location TBD (Invermere or Radium Hot Springs)

October 2-4, 2020

Watersheds 2020 Forum - Save the Date!

POLIS Project on Ecological Governance

"Stepping Stones to Watershed Governance"

Location TBD

October 14-16, 2020

[VISIT THE EVENT WEBSITE](#)



Related Reports & Resources

Living Lakes International Goals & Achievements

Brochure (Living Lakes Canada is featured on page 12), 2020

State of Climate Action in the RDCK Regional District of Central Kootenay, February 24, 2020

Draft Strategic Action Plan: Lower Columbia River

Watersheds Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, 2019

Opportunities & Education

CBWN Summer Mapping Program

- A reminder that the Columbia Basin Watershed Network (CBWN) Summer Mapping Program is open to all CBWN member groups until March 29, 2020 and is awarded in April, with Co-op students beginning in May. CBWN works in partnership with **Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre** (SGRC) at Selkirk College to support watershed groups. Every summer, four groups work with a supervised GIS Co-op student to find mapping solutions. Watershed groups engage their communities through research and mapping. **LEARN MORE AND APPLY.**
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Donate to Living Lakes Canada to support national and local collaboration for water stewardship. Our efforts ensure your donation will go to one of our projects where it will have the biggest splash!

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