



Living Lakes CANADA

Living **Lakes** Canada News **Stream**

January 2020

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Top 5 Watershed Moments of 2019



Our mission to mainstream water stewardship across Canada expanded in leaps and bounds in 2019! Here are 5 highlights:

1. **Final Recommendations were released** from national Roundtable Discussion on Community-Based Water Monitoring, which we co-convened with WWF-Canada, The Gordon Foundation, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada in Ottawa in November 2018.
2. We saw the development of the **Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Collaborative** through to the home stretch amidst Columbia River Treaty Negotiations.
3. Our STREAM team delivered **CABIN courses in 5 priority watersheds** across Canada for the **STREAM** project.
4. Members of our team shared best practices at the **Living Lakes 15th International Conference on Lakes & Wetlands** in Valencia, Spain.
5. Executive Director Kat Hartwig was featured in *Water Canada Magazine* as a **Canadian Water Steward**.

We're excited for 2020 — a year of Vision!

Don't miss our 2018-19 Annual Report



Inside our **2018-2019 Annual Report**, meet the Living Lakes Canada team, funders and partners, gain insight into all our active programs, find links to reports, articles and more. This annual report covers Living Lakes Canada activity in our 2018-2019 fiscal year, from October 1, 2018 through to September 30, 2019.

We have a limited number of print copies available. Please contact info@livinglakescanada.ca.

Fresh Water Data Commons



We're excited to announce our involvement in the **Fresh Water Data Commons** pilot project, which is being funded by the Digital Technology Supercluster. Project partners include Carl Data Solutions, Teck Resources, Microsoft, Astra Smart Systems, i4C Innovation, the University of Victoria and Genome BC.

This project is a pilot that will assist the **Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Collaborative** in some of the development of the open source database that will house water monitoring data from the Columbia Basin.

Specifically, for the Fresh Water Data Commons pilot project, water data will be collected in real-time using low-power, low-cost sensors in an initial pilot area that will cover 20 square kilometres in the Fruitvale and Trail areas. Concurrently, water data provided by Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Collaborative will be uploaded to the database, which is expected to be up and running by February 2020.

READ THE FULL ANNOUNCEMENT

Realizing Roundtable outcomes



Living Lakes Canada continues to participate in a consortium of key community-based water monitoring organizations working towards realizing the final recommendations put forward by the Roundtable Dialogue for Community-Based Water Monitoring, collectively developed recommendations for federal action. We are interested to have the Federal government endorse these priorities in relation to water protection in Canada, and to be considered in the design of the new Canadian Water Agency.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

STREAM-ing into 2020



5th National CABIN Forum, Yellowknife, NWT

In October, we attended two workshops in the Northwest Territories to share best practices from the STREAM project's summer field season. [Read our blog about this amazing experience.](#)

Our STREAM team will be joining other STREAM partners — University of Guelph, WWF-Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada — in Guelph this February to review Year 1 of the 3-year project and tour U of Guelph's Centre for Biodiversity Genomics where the collected benthic samples are being analyzed by DNA metabarcoding.

Anyone interested in understanding the health of their river or stream system can contact us to learn more about the STREAM project. Email

raegan@livinglakescanada.ca.

LEARN MORE ABOUT STREAM

Read the STREAM blogs:

- [Taking in teachings from Northern Canada's water stewards](#)
- [Start-up water monitoring program benefits from STREAM](#)
- [Sudbury stewardship group inspired by STREAM training](#)

Groundwater Monitoring expands



Volunteer Corinna Strauss assists with groundwater level monitoring on The Nature Trust of British Columbia's Hoodoos Conservation Property north of Fairmont, BC.

The Living Lakes Canada Columbia Basin Groundwater Monitoring Program is now monitoring groundwater levels in wells in or near the communities of ʔaḡam, Blewett, Brisco, Castlegar, Cranbrook, Creston, Duhamel, Fairmont, Invermere, Playmor Junction, and Windermere.

We have signed data sharing agreements with the majority of the well owners

which allow us to share the data with the public on the [BC Real-time Water Data](#) website. Check out the website to see how groundwater levels change seasonally and year to year! In 2020, the Columbia Basin Groundwater Monitoring Program will continue to expand by installing more groundwater monitoring equipment in other wells throughout the Basin.

If you are interested in groundwater monitoring in your area contact groundwater@livinglakescanada.ca.

[READ THE FULL GROUNDWATER PROGRAM UPDATE](#)

All existing well owners who were using groundwater on and before February 29, 2016 for non-household use (e.g. agricultural, industrial, commercial and institutional) are legally required to apply for a water license by March 1, 2022 as per the Water Sustainability Act.

Please visit groundwater.gov.bc.ca.

LLC attends transboundary conference



Lake Roosevelt Forum Conference in Spokane, Washington in November 2019

In November 2019, Living Lakes Canada attended the Lake Roosevelt Forum Conference in Spokane, Washington. This conference provided an opportunity for our team to network with individuals and groups working on projects that tie into Living Lakes Canada's Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Collaborative. Partnering with groups south of the border in the future would allow a larger diversity of water data to be shared.

[READ MORE HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE](#)

LLC meets with Basin water stewards



CBWN Board Member Alan Thomson speaks at a meeting in Nelson in November.

From November 25-28, 2019, Living Lakes Canada joined the Columbia Basin Watershed Network (CBWN) Program Manager and a research student from the University of Vermont to host CBWN Fall Meetings across the Columbia Basin and network with member groups.

The purpose of the meetings was to receive updates from CBWN members, ask about monitoring needs, and share information about the [Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Collaborative](#) and the Fresh Water Data Commons pilot.

[READ A RECAP ABOUT THE CBWN TOUR](#)

[READ THE CBWN FALL MEETING REPORT](#)

Flathead Report & CABIN film



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

Soon to be released, 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 on benthic macroinvertebrates and their community composition at each site over the five-year period.

And stay tuned for a **short film** produced by Living Lakes Canada featuring how the CABIN protocol is being used in the **STREAM** project (Sequencing the Rivers for Environmental Assessment and Monitoring), a partnership between Living Lakes Canada, World Wildlife Fund-Canada, the University of Guelph and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

[READ ABOUT THE FLATHEAD RIVER BIOMONITORING PROGRAM](#)

Meet our new Team Members



ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR
Prudence-Elise Breton

Prudence has always been interested in relationships between people and their natural environment. She holds a Master's degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies and has held multiple managerial and coordination positions in the non-profit sector and has been involved with various Boards and steering committees.



ACTING FIM PROJECT MANAGER

Ryan Cloutier

Ryan recently joined the LLC team as acting Foreshore Inventory and Mapping (FIM) Program manager. He brings a wealth of project management and technical experience gained from working in the consulting world, for industry, and in government. Ryan holds a Master's degree in science from Simon Fraser University and is a Registered Professional Biologist.



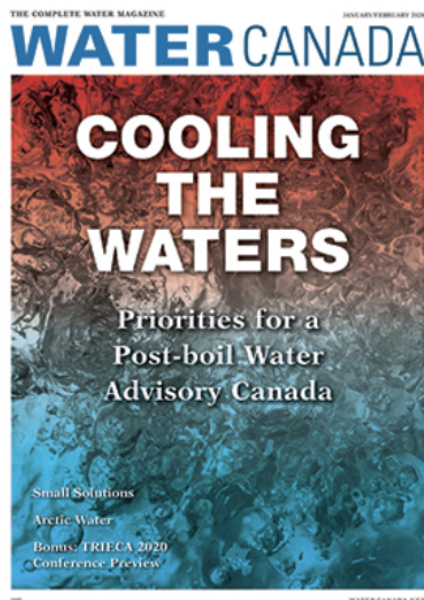
KLP COORDINATOR

Kristin Aasen

Kristin stepped into the role of Kootenay Lake Partnership (KLP) Coordinator in December 2019. She has served as a local government planner for the Cities of Nelson and Castlegar, the Regional District of Central Kootenay and Salt Spring Islands Trust, and holds a Master's in Environmental Studies in Planning, and a Post-Degree Diploma in Non-profit Management.

[READ MORE ON OUR 'ABOUT US - TEAM' PAGE](#)

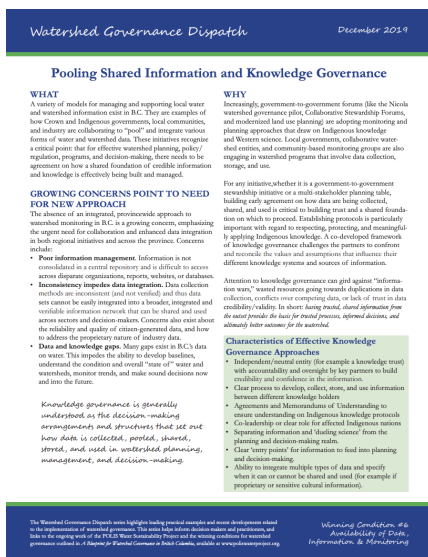
LLC in the News



Blueberry River First Nations CABIN course featured in Water Canada Magazine

Living Lakes Canada and WWF-Canada delivered a CABIN training to the Blueberry River First Nations in B.C.'s Peace Region last summer for the STREAM project. This training is the subject of a feature story in Water Canada Magazine's just-released Jan/Feb 2020 issue: "The Quality of our Water: Working with the Blueberry River First Nations to restore and rehabilitate the watershed."

[READ THE FEATURE STORY](#)



Monitoring Collaborative profiled in Watershed Governance Dispatch series

The Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Collaborative currently facilitated by Living Lakes Canada is one of 3 models showcased in the December 2019 instalment of the POLIS Water Sustainability Project's *Watershed Governance Dispatch* series as demonstrating the characteristics of effective knowledge creation and sharing in action.

[READ MORE](#)

Find us at these Upcoming Events:

11th Annual Canadian Water Summit

"The Keys to a Blue Economy"

Ottawa, ON

June 10-12, 2020

[VISIT THE EVENT WEBSITE](#)



Watersheds 2020 Forum - Save the Date!

POLIS Project on Ecological Governance

"Stepping Stones to Watershed Governance"

Location TBD

October 14-16, 2020

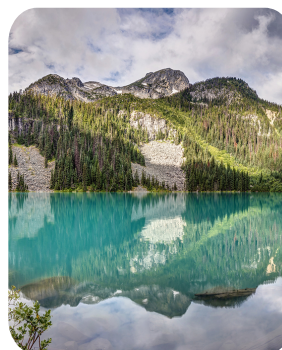
[FOR PAST FORUMS VISIT THE EVENT WEBSITE](#)

BCLSS Annual Conference - Save the Date!

BC Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS), Lake Windermere Ambassadors, and Living Lakes Canada are partnering to co-convene the BCLSS Annual Conference to share best practices regarding lake stewardship for community groups.

Fairmont Hot Springs, BC

October 14-16, 2020



Related Reports & Resources

Vancouver Island Groundwater Applicant Pilot Project Pilot runs until March 1 2020

Groundwater pumping drains rivers in BC and globally Watershed Sentinel, Dec 13 2019

Position Paper: A Watershed Security Fund for British Columbia POLIS, First Nations Fisheries Council, BC Wildlife Federation & BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative, Nov 27 2019

Webinar Recording: Mining Law Reform and Water Sustainability in B.C. POLIS, Oct 31 2019

Innovation Brief: Water Sustainability Plans University of Victoria, Oct 2019

Opportunities & Education

Water's Next Award Nominations are Open for 2020

- Every year, Water Canada's Water's Next awards program honours the incredible achievements and ideas of individuals and companies that successfully work to make a positive change to water in our country and abroad. Submit nominations by March 27. [LEARN MORE](#)

WWF-Canada's Generation Water Tech Challenge

- WWF-Canada is seeking bold and transformative solutions to help achieve their goal of ensuring all of Canada's freshwater is healthy. [LEARN MORE](#)

Your donations help us help water!



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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