



Intercultural collaboration in freshwater projects

Dr. Elaine Ho-Tassone, Algoma University and Lake Huron North

CWBM Collaborative Roundtable Pre-conference | April 7, 2022





Three case studies

1. Arts-based project with youth from Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation (waters contribute to Lake Erie's eastern basin): 2018-2020.
2. Community-based monitoring at Garden River First Nation (waters contribute to Lake Huron's North Channel): 2021-2022.
3. Community-based monitoring at Missanabie Cree First Nation (waters contribute to lower Lake Superior and the St. Marys River): 2022-2023.



Six Nations of the Grand River

Grand Expressions art exhibit (2018-2020)

Grand Expressions

Water-themed creations by Indigenous youth

March 20: Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum, 10 Huron Road, Kitchener – Water for All/Soupfest, main lobby. Free parking, paid access.

March 23-April 3*: Cambridge Centre for the Arts, 60 Dickson Street, Cambridge – 1st floor, amphitheater hallway. Free parking at City Hall, free access.

*Public reception **March 24, 6-8pm!**

April 6-17: Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre, St. Paul's University College, 190 Westmount Road N., Waterloo – room 228. Paid parking, free access.

April 29-May 24: THEMUSEUM, 10 King Street W., Kitchener. Paid parking, paid access.

May 26-28: Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum, 10 Huron Road, Kitchener – Waterloo-Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival, Shuh Barn. Free parking, paid access.

June 2-19: University of Waterloo School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability, Environment 2 building – room 2022. Free 15-minute parking/paid longer-term parking, free access.



Artist: Ashley Catrysse

www.GrandErieStudy.ca/arts



Artists: Thomas Anderson, Adriana Johnson, Steve Johnson, Hannah Wallace-Lund

Organized in partnership between Music for the Spirit & Indigenous Art and Elaine Ho, PhD Candidate, University of Waterloo



Grand Expressions

A Self-guided Tour (v.2)



Water-themed creations by youth from Six Nations of the Grand River



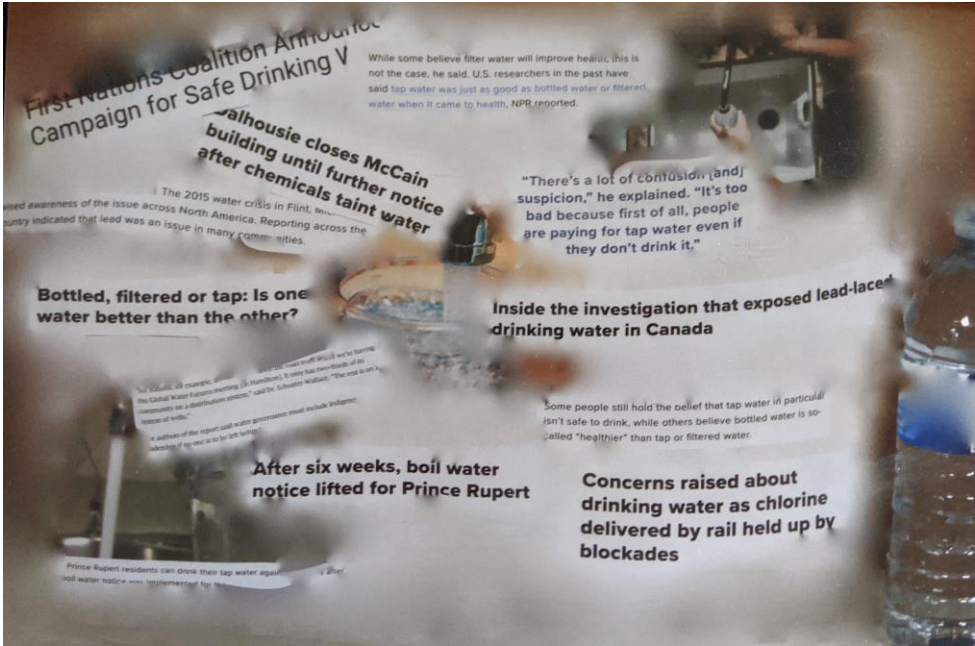
Organized in partnership between Elaine Ho (PhD Candidate, University of Waterloo) and Music for the Spirit & Indigenous Visual Arts, with support from our generous hosts



The Carolinian
CAFÉ & EATERY



Different 'data' formats



Intercultural collaborations: A settler's lessons learned

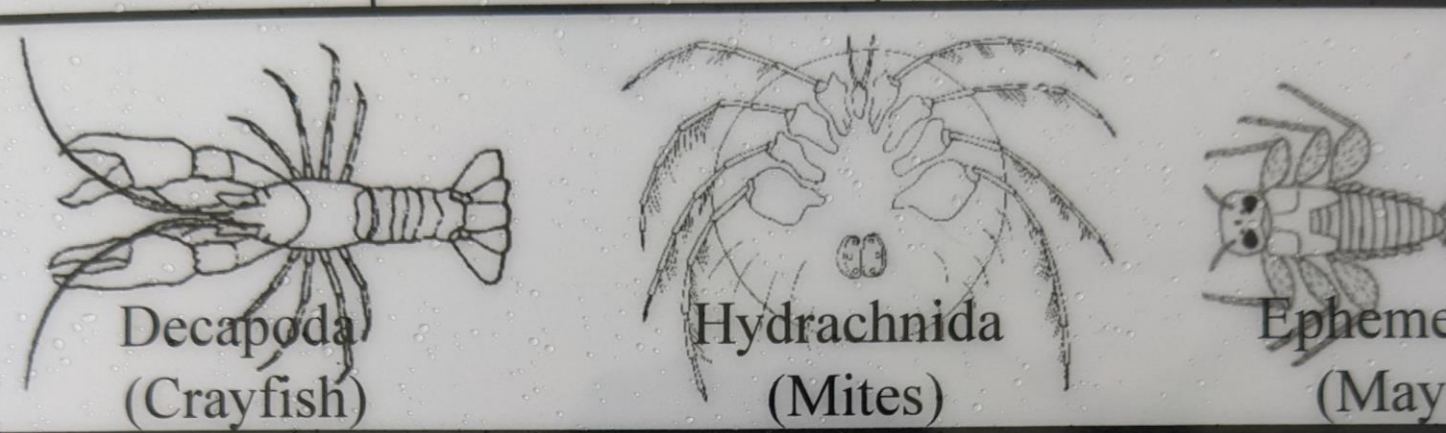
elaine.hotassone@algomau.ca



Garden River First Nation

Community-based water
quality monitoring (2021-
2022)

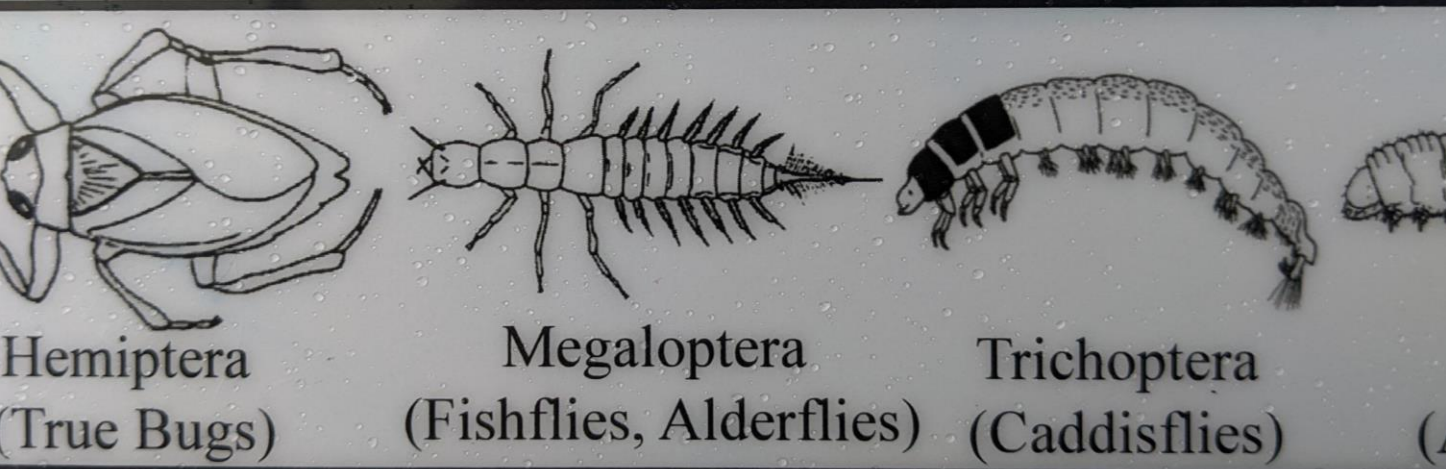




Decapoda
(Crayfish)

Hydrachnida
(Mites)

Ephemeroptera
(Mayflies)



Hemiptera
(True Bugs)

Megaloptera
(Fishflies, Alderflies)

Trichoptera
(Caddisflies)



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Missanabie Cree First Nation

Regional community-based ecosystem monitoring (2022-2023)

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Components of the project

- Collaborations with more than 15 organizations; MCFN is one piece of a larger, regional project.
- CBWM is the core component.
- Cultural activities - e.g., canoe conversations.
- Contemplating unique challenges regarding the sparse population and large, remote area.

RECOMMENDATIONS (LESSONS LEARNED)

Do, or Don't?

- **Do** recognize your own ignorance and take responsibility for your own education (e.g., it is not the Indigenous persons' responsibility to educate you)
- **Do** ensure consent is established and collaborative ideation occurs *from the start* (and is maintained)
- **Do** deliver on commitments; reciprocate
- **Do** co-create and build capacity
- **Do** create shared spaces
- **Do** question your worldview - e.g., whose ethics apply?
- **Don't** assume you know what is needed; do engage early
 - Vestment exists whether you recognize it, or not
- **Don't** justify inclusion; do justify exclusion
- **Don't** forget the importance of context, especially when collaborating interculturally



Please connect with me!

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

10 principles and values for the Grand River Watershed

- Water is essential and finite.
- What we put into the watershed returns to us in one form or another.
- Impacts are shared but unequally distributed.
- We are inextricably embedded within ecosystems and are co-dependent in many ways.
- Partnerships and collaboration are the foundation of program implementation.
- We openly acknowledge diversity, histories and strive to reconcile. We recognize and value diverse relationships between water and people.
- Data and communication are open, transparent, and accessible. Cultural and intergenerational knowledge are recognized as data.
- We will manage as stewards. Waters are treated as living, sentient beings - with love, respect, and gratitude.
- We recognize that iterative, adaptive processes do not fail (they improve). Proactive, precautionary approaches are applied when feasible.
- Managers should strive to measure and enhance community experiences as part of their assessment of watershed health.