



2021-2022

LUSH REPORT



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Welcome!

What a year it's been! We've made big progress as an organization.

In this report, we highlight where we've nurtured water leadership in communities, how we supported Indigenous partners, and how we grew as an organization.

It's been such a pleasure to work with LUSH again this year, and we can't wait to work together again in 2022-2023!

*Water testers, Métis Nation of Ontario, See page 9
Photo by Graham Perry*



3

Youth leaders based
in the community

200+

Water quality
samples collected

Meet our young water leaders!

Thanks to Canada Summer Jobs and LUSH, we were able to support three youth to work in communities in Sault St. Marie, Missanabie Cree First Nation, and the River Institute in Cornwall. Our youth were supervised by local partners, and provided those partners with much needed capacity to support community-based water testing. We created meaningful work experiences, supported our partners, and helped our waterways!



Keirstin Carroll Nordik Institute

Keirstin Carroll joined Dr. Elaine Ho-Tassane as a Water Rangers summer student at the Nordik Institute in Sault St. Marie. We have been working with Dr. Ho-Tassane for the past year, and LUSH's funding also provided some testkits for her program. This year, Keirstin provided some much needed capacity for their community-based water monitoring program.

In July 2022, our summer Water Quality Technician, Keirstin, hosted a shoreline cleanup at Bellevue Park in Sault St. Marie. Keirstin and Dr. Ho-Tassane led the volunteers in a clean up, as well as a water sampling exercise using Water Rangers' Freshwater Explorer testkits.



Dr. Elaine Ho-Tassane and Keirstin teaching water sampling to shoreline cleanup volunteers, Sault St. Marie



Michael Tremblay, Missanabie Cree First Nation

This summer, Water Rangers worked with Missanabie Cree First Nation to pilot a summer student role for a community youth. Michael collected water quality data at unmonitored lakes in Missanabie Cree territory, north of Sault St. Marie.

Michael used the Water Rangers Freshwater Explorer testkit to travel to different lakes in his community that lack baseline health data.

Michael and the community determined his role and activities. Water Rangers was dedicated to supporting Michael in the water-related projects determined by the Missanabie Cree, as part of our commitment to self-governance and self-determination.

We hope to explore the possibility of funding and supporting more opportunities like this next summer and into the future.

Emma Ehrenfeld, River Institute in Cornwall

For the past three years, we've been working with the River Institute as they've been developing their [Great River Rapport](#). This Rapport, developed in close collaboration with the Mohawks of the Akwesasne, seeks to present a holistic understanding of the St Lawrence River.

Community-based water monitoring is a part of including community in the process.

This year was special: thanks to LUSH and Canada Summer Jobs, Emma was embedded at the River Institute where she maintained their Water Rangers equipment (calibrating and replenishing), taught people at fairs, and collected water quality samples alongside the Institute's official monitoring program. Without this extra capacity, this collaboration wouldn't have flourished as it did!



Kat, our Executive Director went to visit Emma and get some photos taken to celebrate our collaboration!

Testkits & collaborations

As in other years, we've had the pleasure to build relationships and support capacity in Indigenous communities through LUSH's funding for our water quality testkits. In the following pages, we're highlighting our favourite one from this year. Enjoy!



Métis Nation of Ontario

Water Rangers began working with councils and members of the Métis Nation of Ontario in 2022. The Thames Bluewater Métis Council incorporated Water Rangers testkits as part of their work to reconnect their community to water, and be actively working towards self-governance and self-determination.

Water Rangers was invited to the Thames Bluewater Métis Council's first-ever Rendez-vous in June. Our staff and volunteers organized a demo of the testkit with the Métis, set up a booth at the event, and also filmed interviews with the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario and other council and community members.

These interviews are part of our next episode of the "Ripple Effect", our monthly video series featuring water experts and partners, to be released in August.

Thanks to LUSH, we provided some testkits to the Thames Blue Water Métis Council, and to the Métis Nation of Ontario for their work reconnecting to water and their traditional ways of life.

Margaret Froh, President, Métis Nation of Ontario
Photo by Graham Perry





*Gabi and Jess getting prepped for the Rendez-vous with the Thames Bluewater Métis.
Photo by Graham Perry*

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**We came out of the voyageur
culture. We are people of the water.**

- Kathleen Anderson, President,
Thames Bluewater Métis Council



Building our capacity & tools

We have grown so much in the past year, and LUSH's support helped us make it happen. From supporting communities across Ontario, data management, and especially helping us release our new iOS app, we're growing up as an org. Read on for a few of our highlights!



Meet Freddy!

Freddy joined us this spring to help us with building community capacity in Ontario and with data management. Some of the open data work he's done includes importing data from partners, conducting data quality checks, expanding our network, testing new equipment, and cleaning up our dataset!



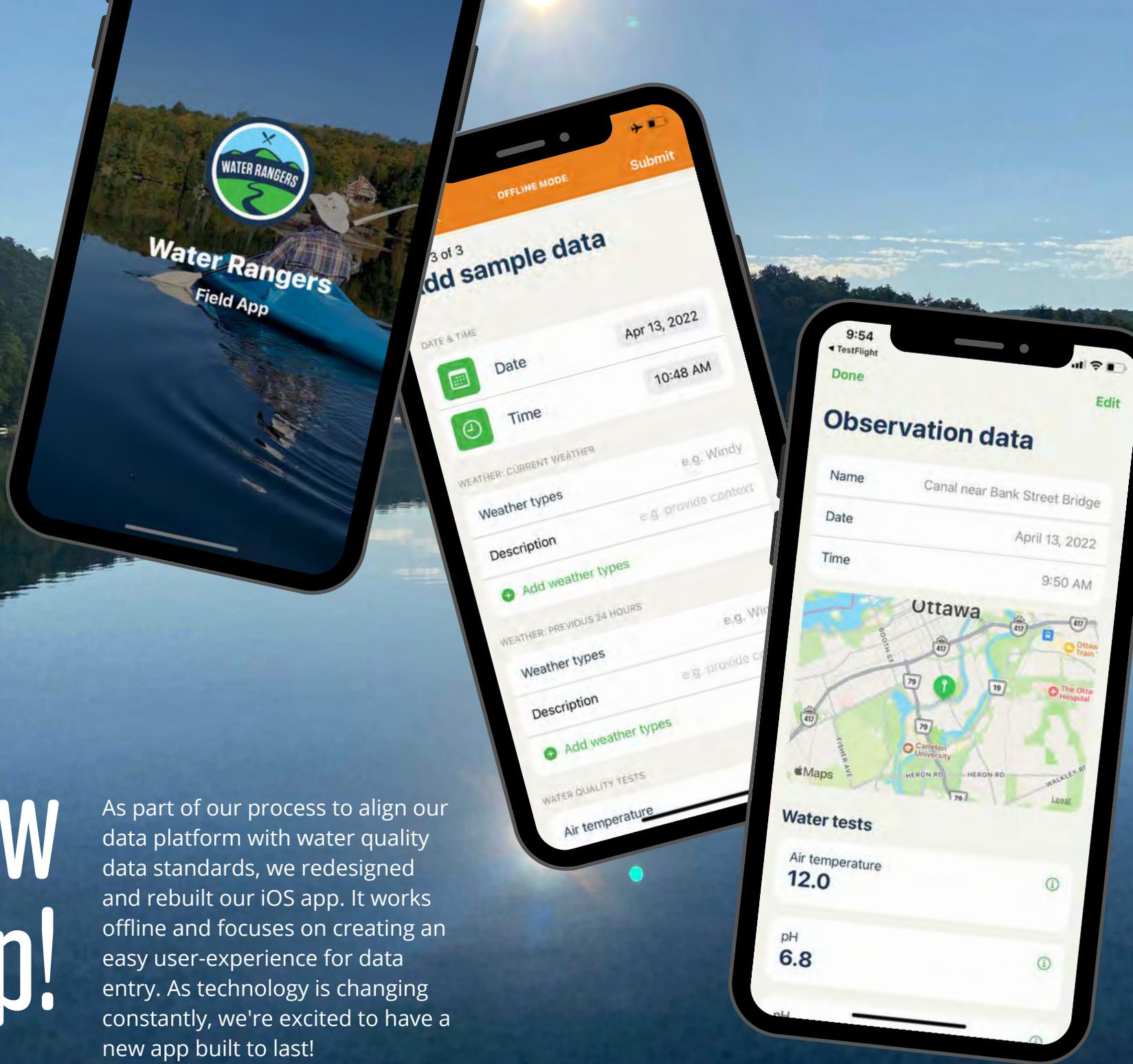
Water quality data is an important tool to help us preserve our watersheds. Coming from a science background, seeing communities take the initiative to do water quality monitoring using accurate and sustainable tools is truly inspiring!

- Freddy Liu
Ontario Water Quality Coordinator



Our new iOS app!

As part of our process to align our data platform with water quality data standards, we redesigned and rebuilt our iOS app. It works offline and focuses on creating an easy user-experience for data entry. As technology is changing constantly, we're excited to have a new app built to last!





Expanding the table

Over the past year, our team has been involved in initiatives to support groups everywhere in community-based water monitoring, as well as our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. Here are a few of the highlights:

- Co-drafted text and designed a visual ask to the Federal Gov. for Community-based Water Monitoring to be prioritized in the new Canada Water Agency.
- Co-organized the Community-based Water Monitoring pre-conference, where we brought Indigenous partners to present
- Our staff all completed OCAP (ownership, control, access, possession) training for Indigenous data.
- Supported and presented the "Business Case for Water Monitoring", which shows how cost effective it is compared to government programs
- Presented at University of Toronto to address climate grief and community action.



Thank you!

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Without LUSH's generous support, we
wouldn't be able to do what we do!

Questions? Contact kat@waterrangers.ca