

BEATY WATER RESEARCH CENTRE

# Annual Report 2020-2021

Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario,  
Canada



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## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

**Pascale Champagne, Director, 2017 - Sept. 2020:**

It has been a pleasure to be the inaugural director for the Beaty Water Research Centre. Over the last three years, the Centre's team launched its first graduate diploma program in Water & Human Health, increased the number of research faculty actively engaged within the Centre, trained over 100 Highly Qualified Professionals (HQPs), launched the Canadian Algae Research Technology Network, and most recently it is my pleasure to announce the launch of the Contaminants of Emerging Concern – Research Excellence Network. This new network will house researchers affiliated with the Centre who are actively engaged in research related to emerging contaminants in the built and natural environment that pose great environmental and human health risk. The Network will be launched in September 2021, and I will take on the role of Scientific Director for the initiative. The Network already has several research activities funded through provincial and national initiatives. Stay tuned for announcements of these initiatives this summer.



**Pascale Champagne**, Ph.D., P.Eng., D.WRE, F.EWRI, F.ASCE, F.CAE  
Director, Beaty Water Research Centre  
Queen's University

## INTERIM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

### **Kent Novakowski, Interim Director, Sept. 2020- Present:**

The Beaty Water Research Centre has seen tremendous growth under the leadership of Dr. Champagne, and I would like to thank her for her vision and effort. As the interim director, I'm looking forward to working with the researchers who have been long-time members of the former Water Research Centre, as well as the new members who have joined over recent years.

As the Interim Director, my focus will be to ensure continued success of the Centre's research activities, assist in the search for a new permanent Director for the Centre, and provide my support and guidance for transitioning the Educational Diploma Programs to an academic home where they can thrive.

I look forward to working with our researchers and graduate students over the next year and seeing the initiatives undertaken by Dr. Champagne begin to take root.



**Kent Novakowski, Ph.D., LEL, PGeo, FCSCE, FEIC**  
Associate Vice-Principal (Research), Interim  
Director, Beaty Water Research Centre  
Queen's University



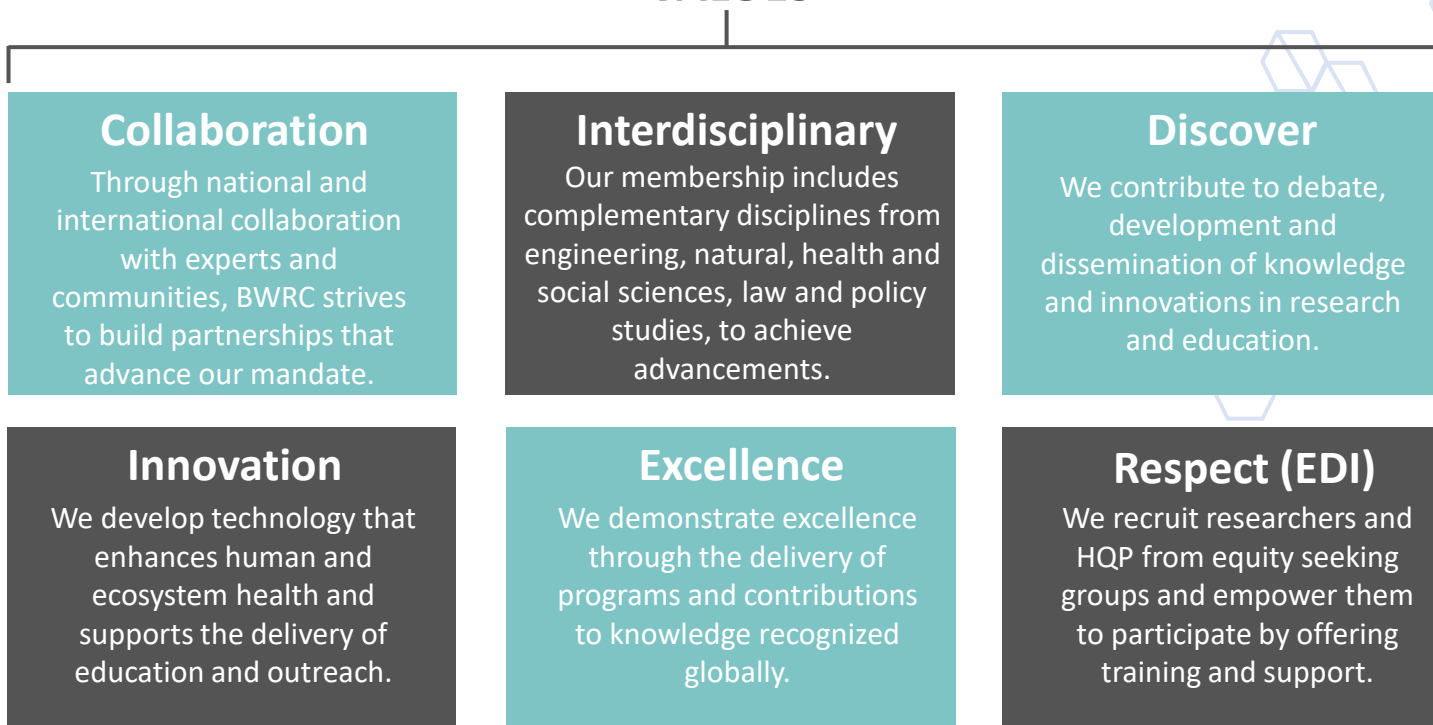
## VISION

The BWRC aims to be a world-class entity for collaborative research and education in the multifaceted realm of water-related issues for the Queen's University and Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) communities.

## MISSION

BWRC will develop and support opportunities in research, education, collaborations and international partnerships related to water. We are committed to fostering an environment that encourages collaborative research, excellence in teaching and the development of unique multidisciplinary approaches.

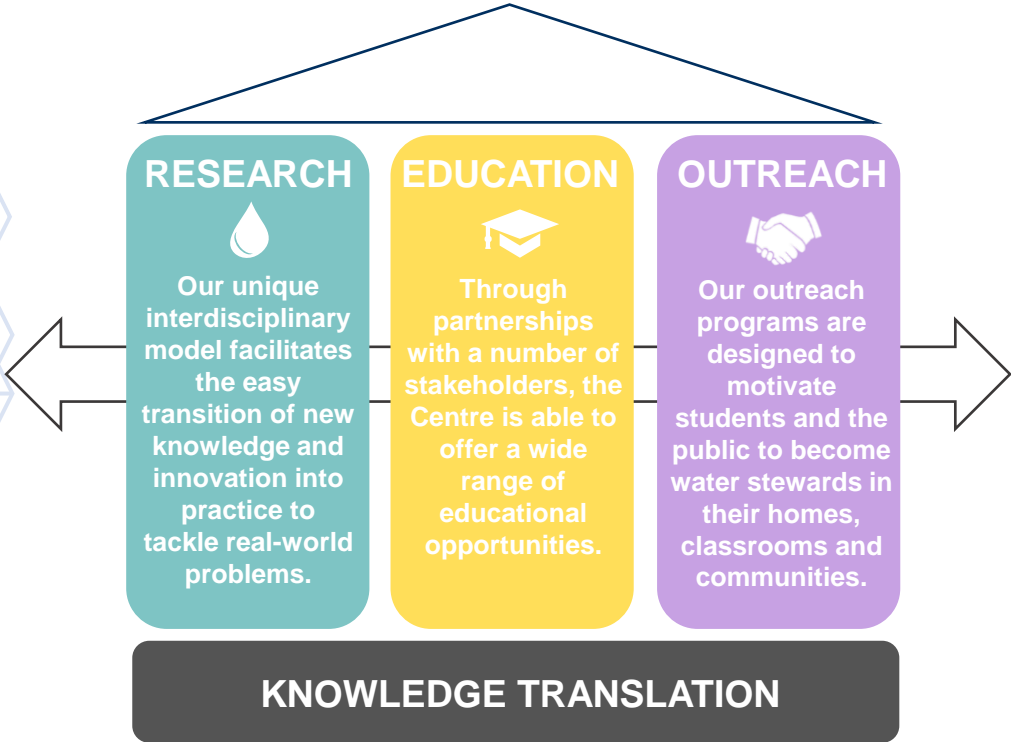
## VALUES



# OVERVIEW

The Beaty Water Research Centre (BWRC) is an interdisciplinary research and education Centre at Queen's University. We welcome collaborations with researchers, educators, policy makers, industry and communities on activities related to water access, resources, quality and use. Our research faculty are leaders in engineering, chemistry, biology, geology, geography and planning, health, computing and data analytics, business, law and policy.

As part of the Centre’s Education and Outreach mandate, BWRC develops strong partnerships with academic departments, industry, school boards, public health units and local water conservation authorities. Through these partnerships, we offer educational opportunities and internships across various disciplines for students, the public and professionals. In fall 2019, the BWRC launched the first of a number of accredited online diploma programs. Courses offered through the BWRC bridge the gap between disciplines, theory and real-world applications for all students, providing graduates with a competitive edge in their chosen field.



# OUTCOMES

## EDUCATION



### Interdisciplinary

Graduate Diploma Programs offer courses that span multiple disciplines, providing students an advantage in today's workforce.



### Synergy & Collaboration

Cross disciplinary collaborations in the delivery of programs providing learning opportunities that allow broad application of knowledge.



### Networking Opportunities

Our programs allow students to network with a wide variety of stakeholders, providing them with a kick start to their career.



### Skill Building & Future Workforce

Our programs help students build practical and professional skills to prepare them to become capable STEM employees.

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

We train our students to effectively translate knowledge from research findings to a broad audience.

## RESEARCH



### Enhanced Water Quality & Access

Interdisciplinary collaborations leading to the development of methods and innovation that improve water access and quality.



### Innovation in Water Treatment Systems

New technologies developed leading to improved water treatment systems and biosustainability.



### Sustainable Infrastructure Implemented

Natural and built infrastructure improvements implemented in response to climate change.



### Influence Environmental Policy & Law

Policies and innovations developed and implemented to improve water governance, use, resources and quality.



Through interdisciplinary collaborations, research knowledge is easily translated into action through implementation of innovation and policy development.

## OUTREACH



### Inform & Empower

Informing and empowering the community leading to changing behavior related to water quality and sustainability.



### Engagement for Collaborative Change

Informing and educating motivating students and the public to become water stewards in their homes, classrooms and communities.



### Align Activities with Knowledge Gaps

Stakeholder consultations leading to alignment of activities with knowledge gaps.



### Change Implemented

Implement knowledge and innovation by working with conservation authorities, industry, health units and municipal, provincial and federal government.



Our outreach events improve the flow of communication between researches, professionals, policy makers and the public to influence and implement change.



# FACILITIES

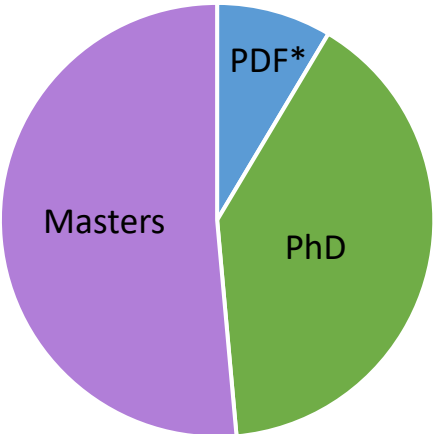
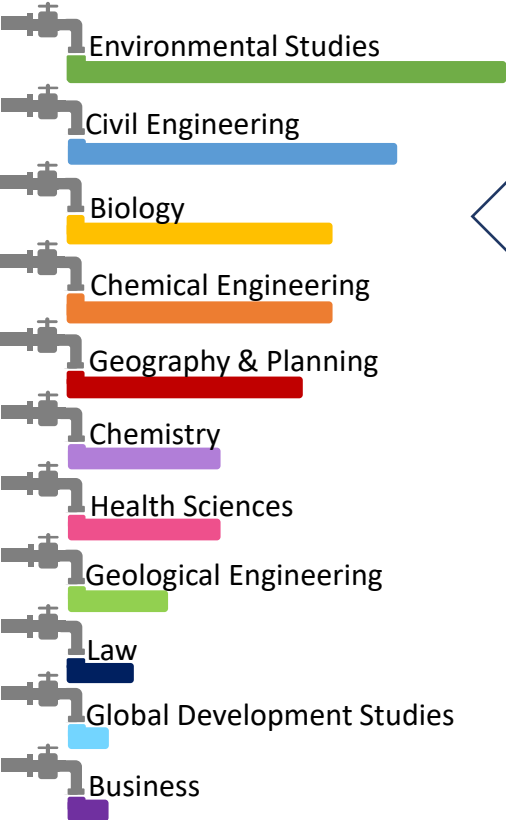
The Centre is located in a new state-of-the-art facility in Mitchell Hall at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. The Centre also has a strategic network of affiliated field and large-scale facilities that include:

- Queen's Coastal Engineering Lab
- Queen's Biological Station
- Kennedy Field Station
- Tay River Groundwater Network
- Loyalist Township Constructed Wetland
- Cape Bounty Arctic Watershed Observatory (CBAWO)

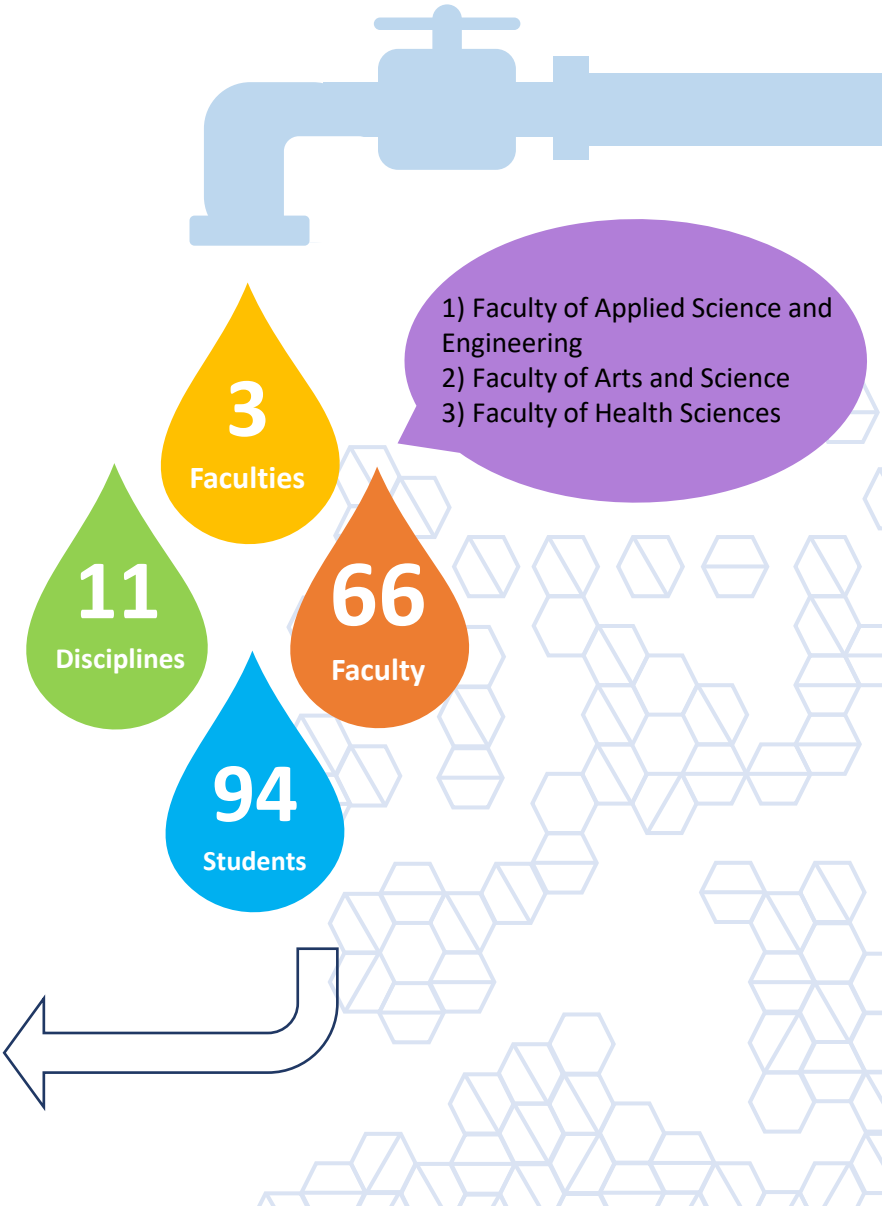


# YEAR BY NUMBERS

- 88 Publications
- 61 Research Projects
- 5 Virtual Lectures/Seminars
- 1 Virtual Conference







\*Postdoctoral Fellows



# RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

This year, we expanded collaborations with faculty from various disciplines at Queen’s, the Royal Military College of Canada and external academic institutions at national and international levels. Our research links to industry and non-profit organizations including conservation authorities, school boards and public health units. This year’s highlights include:

	Stephen Brown and Sarah Jane Payne received over \$500,000 from Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to participate in a province wide Wastewater Surveillance Initiative (WSI) to detect SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater.
	Sarah Jane Payne and Yves Filion established the Queen’s Drinking Water Quality Group and partnered with the City of Calgary for a successful NSERC Alliance Grant (\$450,000) that will investigate and characterize water quality degradation risks in Canadian water distribution systems.
	Pascale Champagne received a Mitacs Accelerate (\$180,000), in partnership with the Myera Group, that will investigate Agri-food processing opportunities for Indigenous farmers: optimization of fish waste fertilizer sourced from local integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) operations.
	<p>NSERC CREATE Leaders in Water and Watershed Sustainability program (QU - \$1.65 million), is currently supporting 20 HQP.</p> <p>Co-applicants of the NSERC CREATE training program in Persistent, Emerging and Oil Pollution in Cold Marine Environments (\$1.65 million - QU \$81,000).</p>





Several BWRC affiliated faculty received funding from the Queen's University Wicked Ideas Opportunity including: Pascale Champagne, Laurence Yang, Philip Jessop, Graeme Howe, Diane Orihel and Cathleen Crudden.



The Beaty Water Research Centre was a Finalist for the Canadian Museum of Nature, Nature Inspiration Award (Not-for-profit, Large Category).



Hosted LEADERS Virtual Symposium with the NSERC CREATE training program in Persistent, Emerging and Oil Pollution in Cold Marine Environments (PEOPLE Network).



Attendance of >125 Faculty, Staff and HQP's for across Canada for two days of keynote lectures, adjudicated student presentations and roundtable discussions on "hot button topics".



Projects associated with the Centre generated approximately **\$20 million** in research revenue.



Faculty affiliated with the Centre led **61 research projects** that aligned with activities addressing the mandate of the Centre.



Centre affiliated research generated approximately **88-peer review publications**.

# COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre made it a priority for staff, faculty and students to follow the advice of the Public Health Agency of Canada, and has continued its research, education and outreach initiatives with limited access to our laboratory and administrative spaces. This has reduced the numbers of graduate students recruited during the pandemic and therefore, the number of HQP's supported. Publications have seen only a slight decrease.

Although our activities were curtailed, BWRC has taken the lead in supporting provincial and national surveillance programs of research to track and predict COVID-19 outbreaks through wastewater-based epidemiology. We have done this by forming a collaboration with Queen's, KFL&A Public Health, Utilities Kingston and other municipal agencies, and have initiated the development of methods to detect the virus in wastewater samples. The Centre has also supported local health laboratories by providing them with the use of essential analytical laboratory supplies and equipment. Additionally, several of our affiliated faculty have been successful in obtaining funding for COVID-19 related research, have published related findings and have provided real-time knowledge mobilization through seminars to wider audiences.




QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY  
**CONTAGION CULTURES** | Lecture Series

**David McDonald** January 26, 2021 4:00 PM


David McDonald recently presented in the Contagion Culture series for his book: “Public Water and COVID-19: Dark Clouds and Silver Linings.”

**PUBLIC WATER AND COVID-19**  
DARK CLOUDS AND SILVER LININGS



Edited by David A. McDonald, Susan Spronk and Daniel Chavez

Contagion Culture - March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021



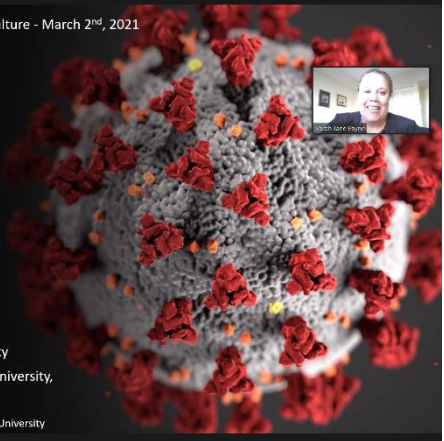
**Flushed Intelligence- Detecting outbreaks using wastewater-based epidemiology**

**Prof. R. Stephen Brown**, Dept. of Chemistry and School of Environmental Studies, Queen's University  
Director, LEADERS CREATE in Watershed Sustainability

**Prof. Sarah Jane Payne**, Civil Engineering, Queen's University,

**Dr. Geof Hall**, Beaty Water Research Centre

Slides: Sophie Felleiter, PhD Candidate, Civil Engineering, Queen's University



Stephen Brown, Sarah Jane Payne and Geof Hall recently presented in the Contagion Culture series on the wastewater-based epidemiology for COVID-19

# COVID-19

Title	Program	Investigators	Departments	Funding
The Wastewater Surveillance Initiative for SARS-CoV-2 at Queen's University	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	<u>Stephen Brown</u> , <u>Sarah Jane Payne</u>	Chemistry, Environmental Studies, Civil Engineering	\$586,356
SARS-CoV-2 transmission and immunity on the Queen's University campus - Canada's COVID-19 Immunity Task Force	Government of Canada	Anne Ellis, Stephen Vanner, <u>Prameet Sheth</u>	Medicine, Biomedical and Molecular Sciences	\$223,161
Developing Multiplexed COVID-19 Diagnostic Methods for Medical Surveillance	NSERC Alliance COVID-19	<u>Zhe She</u> , <u>Prameet Sheth</u> , Richard Oleschuk	Chemistry, Biomedical and Molecular Sciences	\$50,000
The application of metabolomics to enhance detection of COVID-19 & predict disease severity: A proof-of-principle study	Southeastern Ontario Medical Organization	<u>Prameet Sheth</u> , Stephen Vanner	Biomedical and Molecular Sciences \$	\$30,000
Coronavirus infection of the ocular mucosa to model infection and systemic immunity	Southeastern Ontario Medical Organization	<u>Martin Petkovich</u> , Drs. Rullo and tenHove	Biomedical and Molecular Sciences, Ophthalmology	N/A
Developing, validating, and implementing a portable diagnostic prototype (COVID-19 Scanner) for rapid, point-of-care detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) from nasopharyngeal swabs	Queen's COVID-19 Rapid Response	Aristides Docoslis	Chemical Engineering	N/A
Creating an integrated policy response to facilitate Canadian recovery from COVID-19	Queen's COVID-19 Rapid Response	Warren Mabee	Policy Studies	N/A



# NATURE INSPIRATION AWARD

In September 2020, the Beaty Water Research Centre was recognized as a Finalist for the 2020 Nature Inspiration Awards in the Not-for-profit (Large) Category. The Nature Inspiration Awards recognize individuals and organizations whose specific projects encourage Canadians to take an interest in natural history, create links with nature and contribute to its preservation.

Finalists receive national recognition through different media, including; press releases, advertisement in The Globe and Mail and The Walrus, social media exposure, brochures and the Nature Inspiration Awards website.

We were honored to be recognized this year, particularly in the same category as the David Suzuki Foundation.



**NOT-FOR-PROFIT (LARGE) AWARD**  
**PRIX ORGANISATIONS À BUT NON LUCRATIF – GRANDES**



**Beaty Water Research Centre**  
Kingston, Ontario



**David Suzuki Foundation**  
Vancouver, British Columbia



**Goodwill Industries of Alberta**  
Edmonton, Alberta



**Nature-Action Québec**  
Beloell, Québec

**7TH ANNUAL**  
**NATURE INSPIRATION AWARDS**  
**2020**

**7<sup>E</sup> ÉDITION**  
**PRIX INSPIRATION NATURE**

**ONTARIOPOWER**  
GENERATION

**WALRUS**

**NSERC**  
CRSNG

**THE GLOBE AND MAIL**

**Canada**  
canadian museum of nature  
nature  
musée canadien de la nature

# AWARDS

**2021 Ontario Professional Engineers Engineering Medal for Research and Development:** Michael Cunningham (Fig. 3)

**2021 Thieme Chemistry Journals Award:** Graeme Howe

**2020 John Charles Polanyi Prize:** Graeme Howe

**2020 Nature Inspiration Awards Finalist (Not-for-profit Organization):** BWRC Team

**2020 Canada's Massey Medal:** John Smol (Fig. 4)

**2020 Queen's Prize for Excellence in Research:** Michael Cunningham

**Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2020 Sustainable Community Award (Water):** Loyalist Township (Fig. 1)

**Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering:** Michael Cunningham

**2020 Queen's Engineering Outstanding Thesis:** Cole Van De Ven (former PhD student of Kevin Mumford's)

**2020 Queen's Distinguished University Professors:** John Smol

**LEADERS & PEOPLE Virtual Symposium:**

1<sup>st</sup> Eden Hataley (MES Candidate): *Assessing the sorption of the cyanotoxins microcystins to microplastics* (Fig. 2)

Runner up: Max Robinson (MASC Candidate): *Sediment Dynamics in a mixed primarily gravel cobble stream (The Salmon River, Ontario, Canada)*



Fig. 1

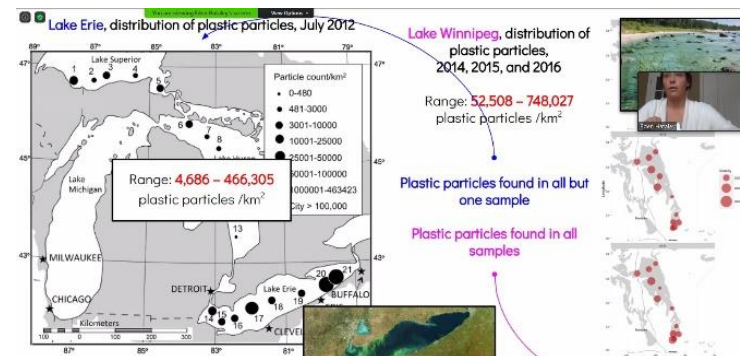


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

# LEADERS CREATE

The LEaders in wAtEr and wAtERshed Sustainability (the LEADERS) program is lead by Dr. Stephen Brown, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry and School of Environmental Studies. The program is funded (\$1.65M over six years) through the NSERC Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) and was launched in 2018.

This year we recruited an additional 6 HQPs through a competitive application process for a total of 21 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from the Departments of Civil Engineering, Biology, Environmental Studies and Geography and Planning.



## 2020-2021 STUDENT PROJECTS

Student	Program	Supervisor(s)	Department	Project
Julianah Adediji	PhD	Neal Scott	Geography & Planning	Landscape control on soil organic matter quality in High Arctic
Zoe Armstrong	MSc	Brian Cumming	Biology	Ecological impacts of long-term mercury and heavy metal exposure in the Cornwall waterfront
David Blair	PhD	Pascale Champagne, Stephen Brown	Civil Engineering	"Real time" detection and quantification of indicator organisms for source water protection
Jeffrey Cederwall	PhD	Diane Orihel	Biology	Understanding the ecological impacts of diluted bitumen in freshwater lakes and their watersheds
Francois Daudelin	MASc	Pascale Champagne, Warren Mabee	Civil Engineering	Transient heat flux models for uncertainty based waste stabilization pond design
Anbareen Farooq	PhD	Kela Weber	Chemistry and Chemical Engineering - RMC	The fate and effect of silver nanomaterials on subsurface wetland mesocosms



# 2020-2021 STUDENT PROJECTS

Student	Program	Supervisor(s)	Department	Project
Matthew Fyfe	MASc	Pascale Champagne	Civil Engineering	Microalgae to treat wastewater and emerging contaminants
Stephanie Graves	PDF	Diane Orihel	Biology	Testing the use of novel stable isotope tools to manage nutrient inputs
Lauren Halliwell	MASc	Pascale Champagne	Civil Engineering	Modelling wastewater stabilization ponds in the face of climate change
Eden Hataley	MES	Diane Orihel, Xavier Ortiz Almirall	Environmental Studies	Can microplastics act as a medium to concentrate waterborne microcystins?
Madeleine Kelly	MES	Anna Majury, Stephen Brown, Paul Hynds	Environmental Studies	Investigation of the levels of antimicrobial resistance in private well water derived <i>E. coli</i> in southeastern Ontario
Sarah Lavallee	PhD	Anna Majury, Stephen Brown, Paul Hynds	Environmental Studies	Exploring the knowledge, attitudes and practices of current well water stewardship in rural Ontario communities: Implications for drinking water vulnerability and public health risks
Tessa Latchmore	PhD	Anna Majury, Stephen Brown, Paul Hynds	Environmental Studies	Development of a QMRA for private well users in Ontario
Katherine Moir	PhD	Brian Cumming	Biology	Cumulative impacts on algal assemblages in Lake St. Francis: The importance of multiple stressors
David Patch	PhD	Kela Weber	Chemistry and Chemical Engineering - RMC	Release of silver nanoparticles from commercial products into the water cycle

# 2020-2021 STUDENT PROJECTS

Student	Program	Supervisor(s)	Department	Project
Max Robinson	MASc	Ana da Silva, Geof Hall	Civil Engineering	Sediment dynamics and growth/decay of biofilms in a mixed primarily gravel-cobble stream
Ioan Petculescu	MES	Anna Majury, Stephen Brown, Paul Hynds	Environmental Studies	Assessing the relationship of Total Coliform to <i>E. coli</i> in the context of drivers of microbial contamination of drinking water wells in Ontario
Matthew Senyshen	MSc	Dongmei Chen	Geography and Planning	Land use and climate change impacts on water temperature in the St. Lawrence River Watershed
Paisley Thomson	PhD	Valérie Langlois	Water Sciences - INRS	The effects of chronic exposure to agricultural retention pond water in amphibians
Baris Uzel	MSc	Neal Scott	Geography & Planning	The effect of winter warming on nitrogen transformation rates in High Arctic soils

## Participating Institutions



# LEADERS CREATE VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

The LEADERS Program collaborated with the Network on Persistent, Emerging, and Organic PoLLution in the Environment (PEOPLE), an NSERC CREATE program led by Dr. Bing Chen at Memorial University, to host a Virtual Symposium, “Water Management in a Changing Climate.” The symposium examined issues arising from persistent, emerging and organic pollutants, that pose ecological and health risks due to their persistent, toxic, carcinogenic and/or bio-accumulative properties and associated long term ecological and health risks. The Symposium featured keynotes from Dr. Denise Hardesty and Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace, over 30 presentations from graduate students at participating institutions and round-table discussions on a range of topics including Indigenous engagement in research and training.

**Symposium Program**

## LEADERS & PEOPLE 2020 VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

**Water Management in a Changing Climate**

A joint symposium for The LEADERS in water and Watershed Sustainability (the LEADERS Program) and the Network on Persistent, Emerging, and Organic PoLLution in the Environment (the PEOPLE Network).

LEADERS PEOPLE  
The two programs are funded by NSERC CREATE

August 31st – September 1st, 2020 | Zoom Meetings



CSIRO

**Britta Denise Hardesty**

**Changing our relationship with plastic (waste)**

Australia's National Science Agency



**Etuptamum: Two-Eyed Seeing**

Term coined by Mi'kmaq Elder, Albert Marshall, 2004.

Learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing

Learning to see from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing

...learning to use both eyes together for the benefit of all.



# RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT – DRINKING WATER QUALITY GROUP

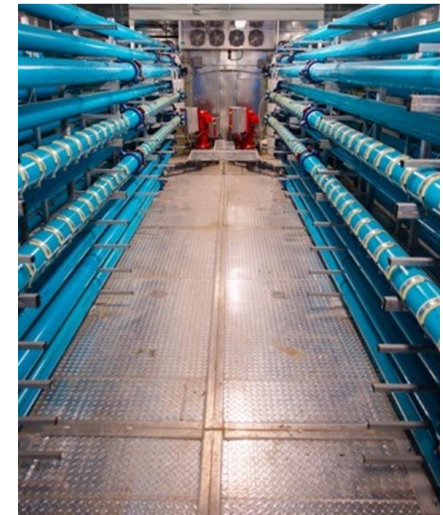
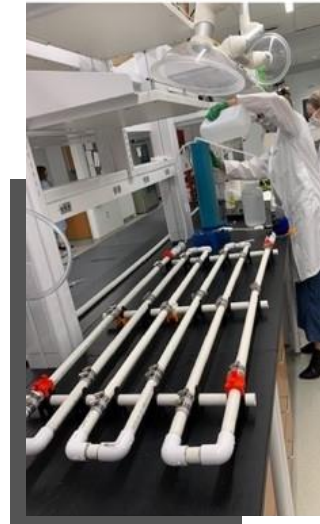


The Centre's portfolio focusing on contaminants of emerging concern will become a research excellence Network in 2021. As part of that portfolio, Drs. Filion and Payne have launched their Drinking Water Quality Group. This Group will focus on examining the factors and mechanisms that lead to poor water quality in drinking water systems and on developing innovative technologies and best practices to protect drinking water in Canadian systems. Research themes of this group will include:

- 💧 Metal accumulation and release in drinking water distribution systems
- 💧 Role of hydrodynamic forces and water quality in distribution systems in establishing biofilm properties (strength, microbial composition)
- 💧 Impact of antibiotics and metals in developing resistance in drinking water biofilms
- 💧 Effectiveness of disinfection technologies and operational best practices on controlling antibiotic resistance in drinking water systems
- 💧 Impact of water quality changes on downstream infrastructure
- 💧 Lead and copper corrosion control
- 💧 Accumulation and release mechanisms (microbiological, chemical, physical) for inorganic contaminants in premise plumbing



Leaders of the DWQG, Drs. Yves Filion and Sarah Jane Payne from Civil Engineering



Laboratory facilities in the BWRC (left) and Drinking Water Distribution Laboratory (right)



## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT – WICKED IDEAS

The Wicked Ideas Program at Queen's provides seed funding for interdisciplinary, high-risk, high-reward research that has the potential to make lasting and long-term positive change. As part of this initiative, the Centre's research faculty successfully received funding for the following two major research projects.

### ***Reducing the Greenhouse Gas Burden of Livestock by Harnessing Carbon-Neutral Algae to Produce Milk*** - \$75,000

**Principal Investigators:** Pascale Champagne, Laurence Yang

**Co-Applicants:** Martin Petkovich, Graeme Howe, Cao Thang Dinh, George diCenzo, Philip Jessop

### ***Solving the Water-Removal Bottleneck in Sustainable Chemistry***- \$75,000

**Principal Investigators:** Philip Jessop, Graeme Howe

**Co-Applicants:** Cao Thang Dinh, Warren Mabee

These two studies will provide innovative solutions to the reduction of greenhouse gases in the environment.



# EDUCATION

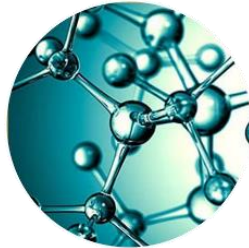
The Water & Human Health diploma was launched last year. This program is designed to give recent graduates and professionals an enhanced understanding of the role that water plays in driving health outcomes and ultimately, the sustainability of populations and communities. In its first year, the program recruited two cohorts of students who will continue until completion. To support expansion of the education program, the Centre is in discussions related to transitioning this diploma program and other education and outreach programs into a new academic home. The transition of this program into an academic unit will provide the program with a framework for continued success.

To learn more about the Water & Human Health Diploma, which contains four unique courses, visit our website:

## COURSES



Watershed  
Hydrology



Chemistry &  
Biology of Natural  
Waters



Water Policy &  
Governance



Water &  
Human Health

<https://waterresearchcentre.ca/whh-about/>

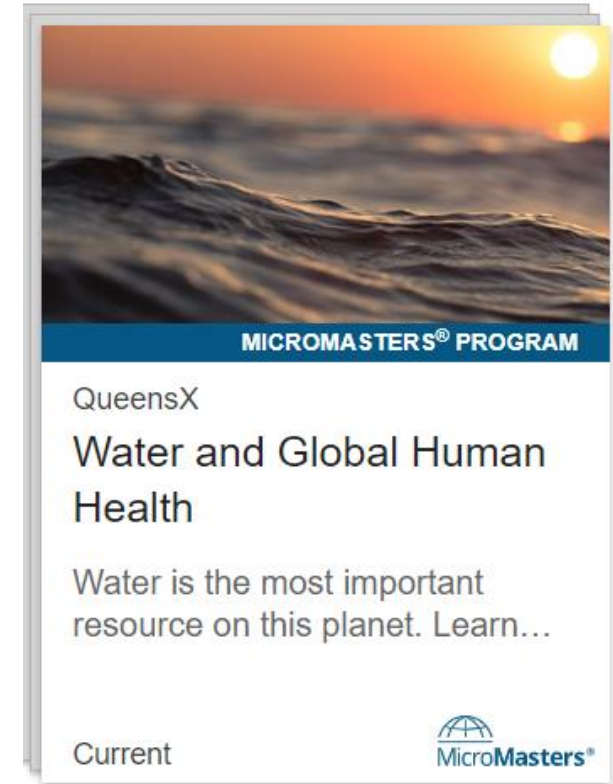
# EDUCATION

To support universal access to education, we have created a subset of our diploma courses for free participation through the edX platform. edX is an online platform for education and learning founded by Harvard and MIT. It currently hosts over 20 million learners, many top-ranked universities worldwide and various industry-leading companies. edX removes many of the traditional barriers to education including cost, location and access.

The BWRC offers a MicroMasters® program through edX, “Water and Global Human Health,” which consists of 6 graduate level courses taken over approximately 6 months. These courses are also available as stand alone offerings:

1. Water on Earth: An Introduction
2. Opportunities in Water and Health
3. Water Related Health
4. Global Water Use and Climate Change
5. Modelling Watershed Processes for Water Resource Management
6. Watershed Systems and Their Influence on Water Movement and Quality

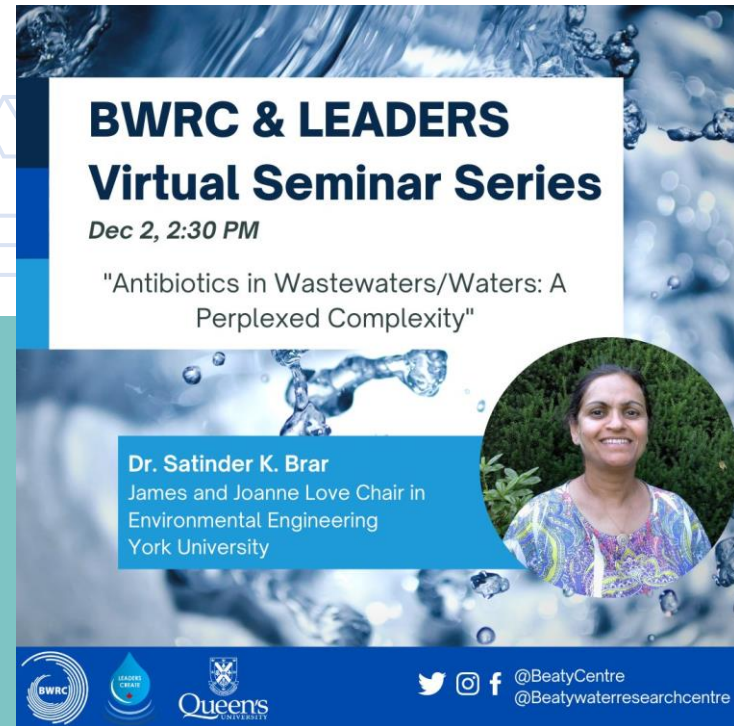
<https://www.edx.org/school/queensx>





## VIRTUAL SEMINAR SERIES


In September, the BWRC and LEADERS program transitioned their monthly Seminar Series to a virtual format. This year, we focused on encouraging our new affiliated research faculty to present including; Drs. Sarah Jane Payne, Laurence Yang, Graeme Howe and Prameet Sheth. This is an excellent way for new faculty to introduce themselves and their research to students and other researchers within the Centre, to spark the beginnings of interdisciplinary collaboration.









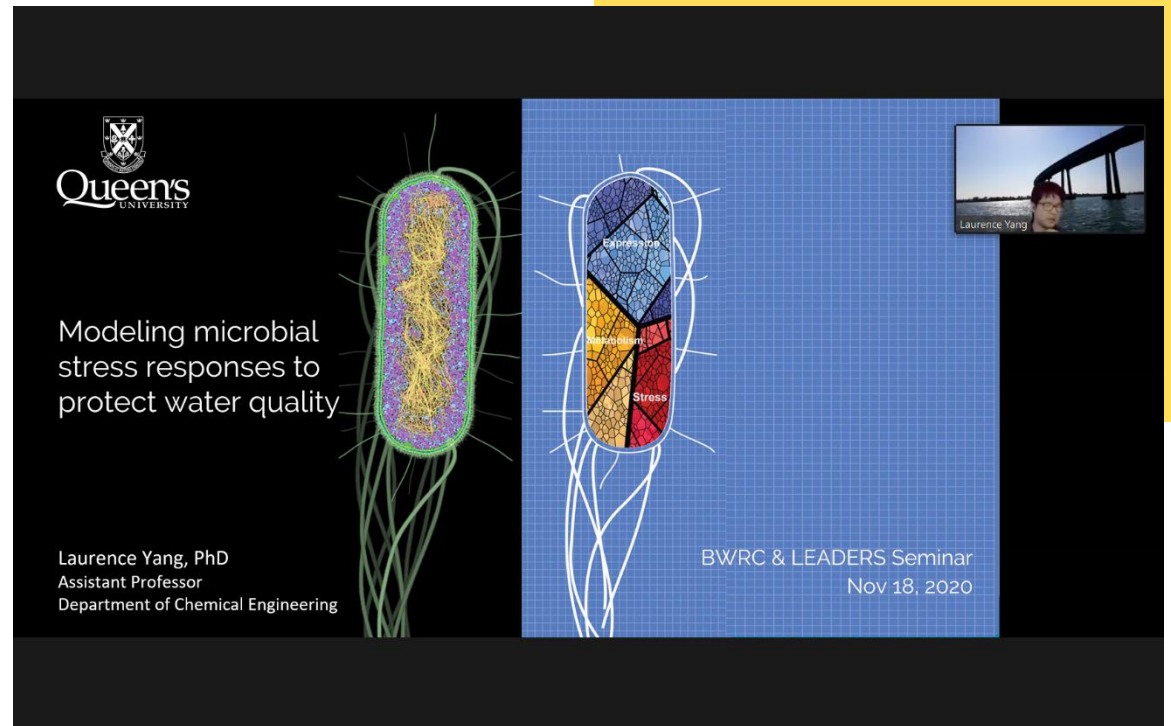
**BWRC & LEADERS**  
**Virtual Seminar Series**  
Dec 2, 2:30 PM


"Antibiotics in Wastewaters/Waters: A Perplexed Complexity"

**Dr. Satinder K. Brar**  
James and Joanne Love Chair in  
Environmental Engineering  
York University

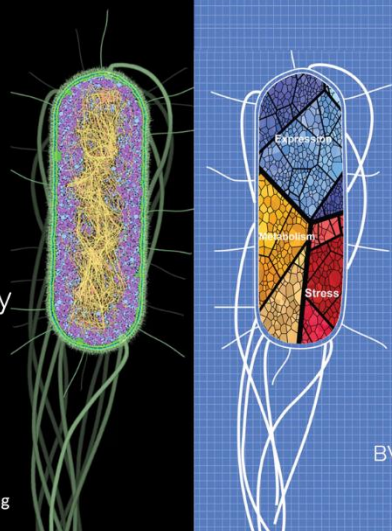


      @BeatyCentre  
@Beatywaterresearchcentre






Modeling microbial stress responses to protect water quality



Laurence Yang, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Chemical Engineering

BWRC & LEADERS Seminar  
Nov 18, 2020



Dr. Laurence Yang, a new faculty member with Queen's Department of Chemical Engineering. Dr. Yang joined the BWRC in winter 2020.



## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



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**Sophie Felleiter, MSc**  
Research Coordinator, BWRC  
and LEADERS project  
[sf60@queensu.ca](mailto:sf60@queensu.ca)

# ADVISORY BOARD

The Centre is governed by an Advisory Board. This board was established in 2019 and its members provide representation from the Queen’s Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Faculty of Arts and Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, industry and community organization members.




**Chair**  
**David Carnegie**  
Industry Partner,  
Malroz  
Engineering Inc.



**Pascale Champagne**  
Director BWRC



**Holly Evans**  
Community Partner,  
Cataqui Region  
Conservation  
Authorities



**Amir Fam**  
Associate Dean  
(Research), Faculty  
of Engineering and  
Applied Science



**Geof Hall**  
Associate Director  
BWRC, Education  
and Outreach



**Jyoti Kotecha**  
Associate Director  
BWRC, Research  
and Business  
Development



**Anastasia Lintner**  
Community  
Partner, Lintner  
Law



**Nicholas Mosey**  
Associate Dean  
(Research), Faculty  
of Arts and Science



**Kent Novakowski**  
Associate Vice  
Principal (Research),  
Office of Vice-  
Principal (Research)



**Steven Smith**  
Director of  
Research, Faculty  
of Health  
Sciences





**Bruce Anderson**  
Professor Emeritus,  
Civil Engineering



**Shelley Arnott**  
Professor, Biology



**Leon Boegman**  
Associate Professor,  
Civil Engineering



**Richard Brachman**  
Professor, Civil  
Engineering



**Stephen Brown**  
Associate Professor,  
Chemistry



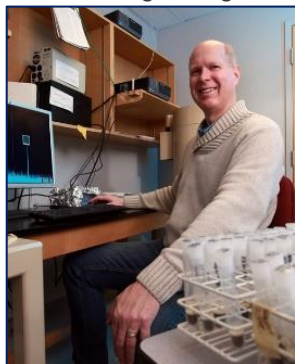
**John Casselman**  
Adjunct Professor,  
Biology



**Pascale Champagne**  
Professor, Civil  
Engineering



**Dongmei Chen**  
Professor, Geography  
& Planning



**Brian Cumming**  
Professor, Biology



**Michael Cunningham**  
Professor, Chemical  
Engineering



**Ana Maria da Silva**  
Professor, Civil  
Engineering



**Ryan Danby**  
Associate Professor,  
Environmental Studies



**George diCenzo**  
Assistant Professor,  
Biology



**Cao Thang Dinh**  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemical Engineering



**Aris Docoslis**  
Professor, Chemical  
Engineering



**Carlos Escobedo**  
Associate Professor,  
Chemical Engineering



**Gerald Evans**  
Professor, Biomedical  
& Molecular Sciences



**Yves Filion**  
Professor, Civil  
Engineering





**Geoff Hall**  
Adjunct Professor,  
Environmental Studies



**Anna Harrison**  
Assistant Professor,  
Geological Engineering



**Peter Hodson**  
Professor Emeritus,  
Environmental Studies



**Graeme Howe**  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemistry



**Michael Hulley**  
Associate Professor,  
Civil Engineering (RMC)



**Heather Jamieson**  
Professor, Geological  
Engineering



**Philip Jessop**  
Professor, Chemistry



**Ehssan Koupaie**  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemical Engineering



**Bernard Kueper**  
Professor, Civil  
Engineering



**Melissa Lafrenière**  
Associate Professor,  
Geography & Planning



**Scott Lamoureux**  
Professor, Geography  
& Planning



**Dan Lefebvre**  
Professor, Biology



**Anastasia Lintner**  
Adjunct Professor, Law



**Steven Liss**  
Professor,  
Environmental Studies



**Steve Lougheed**  
Professor, Biology



**Kristin Lowitt**  
Assistant Professor,  
Environmental Studies

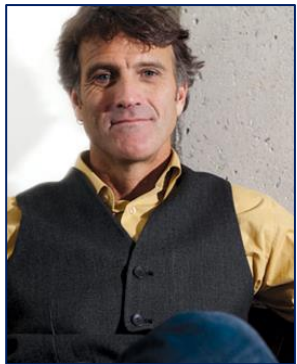


**Warren Mabee**  
Professor, Geography  
& Planning



**Anna Majury** Assistant  
Professor, Biomedical &  
Molecular Sciences





**David McDonald**  
Professor, Global  
Development Studies



**James McLellan**  
Professor, Chemical  
Engineering



**Louise Meunier**  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemical Engineering



**Kieran Moore**  
Professor, School of  
Medicine



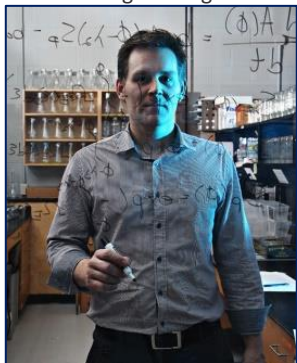
**Steven Moore**  
Adjunct Professor,  
School of Business



**Ryan Mulligan**  
Associate Professor,  
Civil Engineering



**Kevin Mumford**  
Associate Professor,  
Civil Engineering



**Bill Nelson**  
Associate Professor,  
Biology



**Kent Novakowski**  
Professor, Civil  
Engineering



**Diane Orihel**  
Assistant Professor,  
Biology



**Bruce Pardy**  
Professor, Law



**Sarah Jane Payne**  
Assistant Professor,  
Civil Engineering



**Martin Petkovich**  
Professor, Biomedical  
& Molecular Sciences



**Ugo Piomelli**  
Professor, Mechanical &  
Materials Engineering



**Juliana Ramsay**  
Professor, Chemical  
Engineering



**Victoria Remenda**  
Associate Professor,  
Geological Engineering



**Mark Rosenberg**  
Professor, Geography &  
Planning

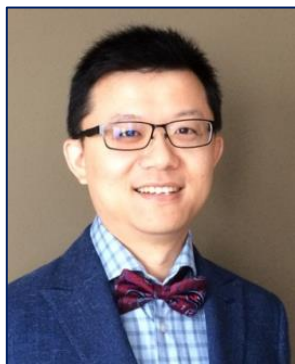


**Kerry Rowe**  
Professor, Civil  
Engineering





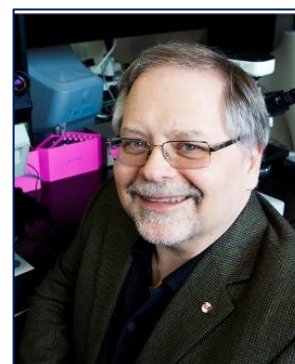
**Neal Scott**  
Associate Professor,  
Geography & Planning



**Zhe She**  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemistry



**Prameet Sheth**  
Assistant Professor,  
Pathology



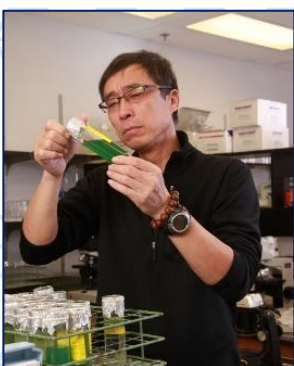
**John Smol**  
Professor, Biology



**Bruce Tufts**  
Professor, Biology



**Bas Vriens**  
Assistant Professor,  
Geological Engineering



**Yuxiang Wang**  
Associate Professor,  
Biology



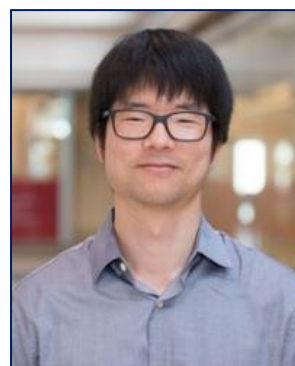
**Kela Weber**  
Associate Professor,  
Chemical Engineering (RMC)



**Graham Whitelaw**  
Associate Professor,  
Environmental Studies



**Louise Winn**  
Professor, Biomedical  
and Molecular Sciences



**Laurence Yang**  
Assistant Professor,  
Chemical Engineering



**Barb Zeeb**  
Professor, Chemical  
Engineering (RMC)

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project	BWRC Faculty Lead	Funding	Organization
Leaders in wAter anD watershed Sustainability (The LEADERS Project)	Stephen Brown	\$1.65 million over 6 years	NSERC CREATE
Methods for Automated Detection of Bacteria in Drinking Water	Stephen Brown	\$200,000	TECTA-PDS
The Wastewater Surveillance Initiative for SARS-CoV-2 at Queen's University	Stephen Brown, Sarah Jane Payne	\$586,356	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Wholly Green: Sustainability Through a Systems Approach	Pascale Champagne Michael Cunningham Philip Jessop Warren Mabee	\$250,000	NSERC Brockhouse Prize
Persistent, Emerging, and Oil PoLlution in cold marine Environments (PEOPLE CREATE Training Program)	Bing Chen Pascale Champagne - Queen's lead	\$1.65 million over 6 years	NSERC CREATE
Wastewater Treatment Systems under Changing Climate	Pascale Champagne	\$43,490	NRC New Beginnings
Wastewater Treatment with Native Microalgal-Bacterial Consortia from the Ecuadorian Amazon, Andean Region and Galapagos Islands	Pascale Champagne	\$15,000	Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) Collaboration Grants

# RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project	BWRC Faculty Lead	Funding	Organization
Biogeocementation of a Coal Mine Tailings Pond	Pascale Champagne	\$20,000	Mitacs Accelerate BGC Inc.
Photosynthetically-Enhanced Eco-Engineered Treatment Systems	Pascale Champagne	\$594,000	NSERC Discovery
Intersectorial Centre for Endocrine Disruptor Analysis	Valerie Langlois, Pascale Champagne	\$300,000	Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS) Regroupements de Recherche Émergente
Reducing the GHG Burden of Livestock by Harnessing Carbon-Neutral Algae to Produce Milk	Pascale Champagne, Laurence Yang	\$150,000	Queen’s University Wicked Ideas Funding Program
Agri-food processing opportunities for Indigenous farmers -Optimization of fish waste fertilizer sourced from local integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) operations	Pascale Champagne	\$180,000	Mitacs Accelerate Myera Group
Paleolimnology and Environmental Change	Brian Cumming	\$240,000	NSERC Discovery
Role of Climate Change and Fire on the Landscape of Cape Breton Highlands National Park	Brian Cumming	\$112,000	Collaborative Research Agreement



# RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project	BWRC Faculty Lead	Funding	Organization
Developing new, real-time, community-based environmental DNA protocols for assessing freshwater ecosystem health	Brian Cumming, Dongmei Chen, Stephen Lougheed, Shelley Arnott	\$249,614	New Frontiers in Research Fund – Exploration
Meandering Morphodynamics and Related Fluvial Processes	Ana Maria da Silva	\$215,000	NSERC Discovery
Electro-bio hybrid system for sustainable fuel and chemical production	George Colin diCenzo	\$63,000	Queen’s FEAS, Dean’s Research Fund
Electrode engineering for carbon dioxide electroreduction to fuels and chemicals	Cao Thang Dinh	\$165,000	NSERC Discovery Grant
Electrochemical CO2 conversion to fuels and chemicals	Cao Thang Dinh	\$125,000	CFI-JELF
Electrochemical production of ethylene from CO2	Cao Thang Dinh	\$25,000	Imperial Oil University Award
Hybrid Graphene-Metallic Optofluidic Nanostructures for the Point-of-Care Detection of Illicit Drugs and Biological Agents	Carlos Escobedo	\$140,000	NSERC
Microtechnology-based models of human organs and bacteria-based bio-robots for treating gynecologic cancer and infertility after cancer survival	Carlos Escobedo	\$150,000	Government of Ontario

# RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project	BWRC Faculty Lead	Funding	Organization
Investigating and Characterizing Water Quality Degradation Risks in Canadian Water Distribution Systems	Yves Filion, Sarah Jane Payne	\$450,000	NSERC Alliance City of Calgary
Using Real-time, Continuous, and High-Frequency Water Quality Data to Develop Early Warning Systems for Water Security in the Great Lakes	Yves Filion	\$1 million	NSERC Alliance
Energy Cost Savings in Canadian Water Distribution Systems Through Data Analytics	Yves Filion	\$258,000	NSERC Discovery
Examining the Mechanisms for Antibiotic Resistance Development in Drinking Water Systems	Yves Filion	\$20,000	Way Memorial Trust Award
Tracing enzyme mechanisms across evolution to elucidate the origins of enzymatic catalysis	Graeme Howe	\$157,500	NSERC Discovery and Discovery Launch Supplement
Solving the water-removal bottleneck in sustainable chemistry	Philip Jessop, Graeme Howe	\$150,000	Wicked Ideas/ Queen’s University
The Development of CO2-Switchable Polymers as Draw Solutes for Forward Osmosis	Philip Jessop	\$60,000	Mitacs Accelerate Forward Water Technologies
CO2-Triggered Draw Agents for Forward Osmosis	Philip Jessop	\$552,740	NSERC

# RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project	BWRC Faculty Lead	Funding	Organization
The WELLness Project	Anna Majury	\$25,000	Canadian Foundation of Infectious Diseases
UnWELL: Assessing the Presence of, and Implications for, Antimicrobial Resistant Organisms in Private Drinking Groundwater Wells in Ontario	Anna Majury	\$25,000	N/A
Remunicipalization: The Future of Water Services?	David McDonald	\$180,000	SSHRC
Bioaccessibility of inorganic contaminants from water and soil	Louise Meunier	\$142,500	NSERC Discovery
Detection of hexavalent chromium from drinking water and mine leachate	Louise Meunier	\$35,000	NRCan
The Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network	Kieran Moore	\$4 million	CIHR
Remediation Education Network	Brent Sleep – Program Lead Kevin Mumford and Kent Novakowski – Queen’s Leads	\$1.65 million over 6 years	NSERC CREATE
Remediation of Soil and Groundwater Impacted by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	Bernard Kueper	\$229,000	NSERC CRD

# RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project	BWRC Faculty Lead	Funding	Organization
The Role of Gases in Groundwater Contamination and Remediation	Kevin Mumford	\$135,000	NSERC Discovery
Impacts of Stray Gas Migration on Shallow Groundwater: Insights from Laboratory Experiments and Numerical Modelling	Kevin Mumford	\$537,475	NSERC SPG
Enhanced in situ thermal treatment of soil and groundwater: high temperature treatment and combined remedies	Kevin Mumford	\$320,000	NSERC Alliance
Protecting Canada’s Coasts from Extreme Waves and Water Levels	Ryan Mulligan	\$180,000	NSERC Discovery
Nature-Based Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience and Risk Reduction	Ryan Mulligan	\$105,500	Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC), Canadian Safety and Security Program
Understanding of Hydrodynamics and Sediment Dynamics Along Coral Reef-Lined Coasts	Ryan Mulligan	\$45,000 USD	US Geological Survey
Modelling Waves, Storm Surge, and Tides in the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy	Ryan Mulligan	\$36,000	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
High resolution nearshore wave and current modelling to investigate nonlinear wave effects on velocity profiles and sediment transport	Ryan Mulligan	\$94,180 USD	US Office of Naval Research (ONR-Global)



# RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project	BWRC Faculty Lead	Funding	Organization
Transitioning from hindcasting to forecasting: Advancing computational models to enable real-time simulations for public safety and resource management	Ryan Mulligan, Leon Boegman	\$100,000	Deans Research Fund, Queen’s FEAS
A Hybrid Mesocosm-ecosystem Facility for Aquatic Ecotoxicology	Diane Orihel	\$167,602 \$167,602 \$163,000	John R. Evans Leaders Fund, Canadian Foundation for Innovation, Ontario Research Fund for Small Infrastructure, Queen's University
Integrated aquatic animal responses to petroleum products in the environment for freshwater aquatic risk assessment	Diane Orihel	\$120,000	Grants and Contributions Program, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Advanced Multiplex Technology for Pathogen Detection and Recognition	Zhe She	\$144,090	National Defense (Canada), (IDEaS)
A 10,000-ton Algal Liver: Genetic Engineering for Improved Wastewater Treatment	Bas Vriens	\$250,000	NFRF Exploration
The environmental footprints of human trace metal use: from sources to sinks	Bas Vriens	\$294,699	Queen’s University RIG and Infrastructure Grants
Fate and Effects of Metallic Nanoparticles in Wetland Systems	Kela Weber	\$215,000	NSERC Discovery

# RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project	BWRC Faculty Lead	Funding	Organization
Field Testing of Novel Technologies for Restoring Challenging Contaminated Sites	Kela Weber	\$99,000	NSERC CRD
Development and Validation of Analytical Methods for Comprehensive Profiling of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Firefighting Foam Impacted Environmental Matrices	Kela Weber	\$187,698	SERDP
Demonstration of Smoldering Combustion Treatment of PFAS-impacted Investigation-Derived Waste	Kela Weber	\$75,000	SERDP
Remediation of Soil and Groundwater Impacted by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	Kela Weber	\$70,000	NSERC CRD
Learning models of metabolism and gene expression from biological big data	Laurence Yang	\$162,500	NSERC Discovery
Systems biology for health enabled by high-performance computing.	Laurence Yang	\$18,228 (in-kind)	Compute Canada



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4. Arredondo J, Woodcock N, Garcia-Valdez O, Jessop P, Champagne P, Cunningham M. (2020) Surface Modification of Cellulose Nanocrystals via RAFT Polymerization of CO<sub>2</sub>-Responsive Monomers – Tuning Hydrophobicity. *Langmuir*, 36(46): 13989-13997.
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7. Braga A, Cushing A, Saulnier R, Filion Y. (2020) Accumulation of discoloured material in a full- scale drinking water distribution system. World Environmental and Water Resources Congress 2020, Las Vegas, Nevada, May 17-21, 2020.
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9. Braga AS, Filion Y. (2021) Direct Observations of Fine Iron Oxide Particle Deposits on Pipe Wall Coupons in a Full-Scale Drinking Water System Laboratory. World Environmental and Water Resources Congress 2021, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 24-27, 2021.
10. Braga A, Saulnier R, Cushing A, Filion Y. (2020) Dynamics of material detachment from drinking water pipes under flushing conditions in a full scale drinking water laboratory system. *Urban Water J*, 17(8).
11. Cabrera MA, Pinzon G, Take WA, Mulligan RP. (2020) Wave Generation Across a Continuum of Landslide Conditions From the Collapse of Partially Submerged to Fully Submerged Granular Columns. *JGR Oceans*, 125(12).
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15. Di Battista V, Rowe RK, Patch D, Weber KP. (2020) PFOA and PFOS diffusion through LLDPE and LLDPE coextruded with EVOH at 22 °C, 35 °C, and 50 °C. *Waste Manage*, 117(4):93-103.

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS 2020-21

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- 18.** Duchesne AL, Brown J, Patch DJ, Major D, Weber KP, Gerhard JI. (2020) Remediation of PFAS-Contaminated Soil and Granular Activated Carbon by Smoldering Combustion. *Environ. Sci. Technol*, 54(19): 12631 – 40.
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- 22.** Garcia-Valdez O, Champagne P, Cunningham M. (2021) Perspective on the Controlled Polymer-Modification of Chitosan and Cellulose Nanocrystals: Towards the Design of Functional Materials. *Can. J Chem. Eng*, in press.
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- 26.** Haseeb S, Vanderveen J, Elamaldeniya D, Harris J, Boniface K, Lee R, Champagne P, Jessop P. (2021) Conversion of Lignin Pyrolysis Oil to Cyclohexyl Methyl Ethers for Use as Biomass-Derived Solvents. *Green Chem*, Preprint.
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- 29.** He O, Zhang Y, Wang P, Liu L, Wan Q, Yang N, Li W, Champagne P, Yu H. (2020) Experimental and Kinetic Study on the Coproduction of Furfural and 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural from Glucose. *Catalysts*, 11(1): 11.
- 30.** Hodson PV, Wallace SJ, de Solla SR, Head JA, Hepditch SLJ, Parrott JL, Thomas PJ, Berthiaume A, Langlois VS. (2020) Polycyclic aromatic compounds (PACs) in the Canadian environment: The challenges of ecological risk assessments. *Environ. Pollut*, 266: 115165.



## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS 2020-21

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- 33.** Julseth M, Ramsawak N, Payne SJ, Filion Y, Ruecker N (2021). Use of Principle Component Analysis to Identify Probable Causes of Manganese and Arsenic Occurrence in the Distribution System. World Environmental and Water Resources Congress 2021, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 24-27, 2021.
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- 35.** Lavallee S, Latchmore T, Hunds PD, Brown RS, Schuster-Wallace C, Dickson-Anderson S, Majury A. (2021) Drinking Water Consumption Patterns among Private Well Users in Ontario: Implications for Exposure Assessment of Waterborne Infection. *Risk Anal*, preprint.
- 36.** Lavallee S, Majury A, Brown RS, Schuster-Wallace C, Dickson-Anderson S, DiPellino S, Egan R, Hynds PD. (2020) Examining influential drivers of private well users' perceptions in Ontario: A cross-sectional population study. *Sci. Total Environ*, 763: 142952.
- 37.** Latchmore T, Hynds PD, Brown RS, Schuster-Wallace C, Dickson-Anderson S, McDermott K, Majury A. (2020) Analysis of a large spatiotemporal groundwater quality dataset, Ontario 2010–2017: Informing human health risk assessment and testing guidance for private drinking water wells. *Sci. Total Environ*, 738: 140382.
- 38.** Lin S, Boegman L, Rao YR. (2020) Characterizing spatial and temporal distributions of turbulent mixing and dissipation in Lake Erie. *J. Great Lakes Res*, 47(1).
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- 40.** Madison BN, Wallace SJ, Zhang J, Hodson PV, Langlois VS. (2020) Transcriptional responses in newly-hatched Japanese medaka (*Oryzias latipes*) associated with developmental malformations following diluted bitumen exposure. *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology - Part D: Genomics and Proteomics*, 35: 100685.
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## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS 2020-21

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- 49.** Mulligan RP, Franci A, Celigueta MA, Take WA. (2020) Simulations of Landslide Wave Generation and Propagation Using the Particle Finite Element Method. *JGR Oceans*, 125(6).
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- 55.** Nguyen TN, Salehi M, Le QV, Seifitokaldani A, Dinh CT. (2020) Fundamentals of electrochemical CO<sub>2</sub> reduction on Single-Metal-Atom catalysts. *ACS Catalysis*, 10: 10068-10095.
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# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

	Item	Actual
Revenue		
	Carry Forward	\$136,005
	*†Research Projects COVID 19 Sewage Surveillance	\$586,356
	Other Revenue	
	FEAS Centre funding	\$36,000
	FEAS Associate Director R& D	\$75,000
	Conference Sponsorship (WatIF & Annual)	\$15,052
	VPR-Director Stipend	\$8,000
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 856,413</b>
Expenses		
	Salaries and Benefits	\$131,289
	Non-salary Expenses (specify)	\$143,034
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$323,820</b>
Surplus (deficit)	The surplus is related to research funding which is committed.	\$532,611

\*This only captures research funding held within the Centre

† The total funding brought in through faculty membership is \$20 million

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