

## 2017 RBC Blue Water Project Leadership and Community Action Grants

(All amounts are in CAD, unless otherwise indicated)

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### RBC Blue Water Project Leadership Grants

**Canadian Water Research Society, (\$50,000):** To support the growing network of individuals and organizations committed to the future of the transboundary Columbia River Basin, CWRS propose to work with RBC and other corporate and private philanthropic organizations to create a funders' collaborative.

**Invasive Species Council of British Columbia, (\$50,000):** Healthy and balanced aquatic ecosystems are critical for maintaining water quality and the importance cannot be understated. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) have proven to have devastating impacts on freshwater environments: often changing species distribution, decreasing oxygen content and ultimately lowering water quality and damaging urban water infrastructure. If not managed, the impact of AIS on

In 2017, the ISCBC will expand into three additional urban communities and develop a web-based resource accessible to all participants and any BC communities ready to work together to take action against AIS.

**Local organizations:** \$107,500 in Community Action Grants will be shared by these 17 organizations in British Columbia:

- BC Conservation Foundation (\$10,000)
- BC Tomorrow (\$5,000)
- City of Surrey (\$10,000)
- Comox Valley Land Trust (\$5,000)
- Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society (\$3,000)
- DRS Earthwise Society (\$5,000)
- Evergreen (\$5,000)
- Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition (\$4,500)
- Georgia Strait Alliance (\$5,000)
- Langley Environmental Partners Society (\$5,000)
- Mainstreams Environmental Society (\$2,500)
- North Shore Neighbourhood House (\$10,000)
- Powell River Salmon Society (\$2,500)
- Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (\$10,000)
- Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society (\$10,000)
- Vancouver Island University (\$5,000)
- Wildsight (\$10,000)

## ALBERTA

### RBC Blue Water Project Leadership Grants

**City of Calgary Parks, (\$75,000):** The City of Calgary Parks (Calgary Parks) manages over 8,000 hectares of parkland and natural areas, as well as 800km of pathways for citizens to enjoy. In addition, Calgary Parks manages Calgary's public parks, pathways, civic cemeteries and open spaces.

In 2013 a major flood event damaged significant stretches of riverbank along the Elbow and Bow Rivers in Calgary, Alberta. The high water eroded riverbanks, left substantial debris, and stripped away vegetation; leaving the riverbanks vulnerable to more damage in the future. The Elbow and Bow River channels link neighbourhoods, parks and green spaces to one another and are central to life in Calgary. In 2016, the RBC Foundation supported Calgary Parks with a \$88,000 grant to undertake a series of initiatives aimed at restoring and improving the Elbow River channel, including tree and ground cover planting, beaver wiring and flood debris removal. The second phase of the project will build upon the first phase of work and focus on addressing the restoration and improvement of two key urban waterways—the Elbow and Bow River channels.

**Green Calgary Association, (\$24,000):** Because Calgarians have such a significant impact on the health of our rivers in the way that we manage and use water in our homes, communities, workplaces and schools, one of the biggest impacts we can have in addressing pollutants affecting our rivers is to educate and encourage positive behaviour changes in our citizens. This project is a continuation of the successful efforts of our local storm water management and water education initiatives.

**Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, (\$100,000):** The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) is a joint Canada-US not-for-profit organization. Their vision is an interconnected system of wild lands and waters stretching from Yellowstone to Yukon, harmonizing the needs of people with those of nature. In 2017, they will begin the "closing" phase of the campaign, working with the public and decision-makers to turn interest into action, and to complete the protection of this critical region. They will also expand our "Love your Headwaters" program to Calgary, where they will use the same meticulous approach, combined with innovative outreach, to connect Calgarians with their headwaters in the Rocky Mountains.

**Local organizations:** \$25,000 in Community Action Grants will be shared by these 3 organizations in Alberta:

- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Northern Alberta (\$10,000)
- Saskatchewan Riverkeeper (\$10,000)
- Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society (\$5,000)

## SASKATCHEWAN

**Local organizations:** \$10,000 in Community Action Grants will be given to this organization in Saskatchewan:

- Safe Drinking Water Foundation (\$10,000)

## MANITOBA

### RBC Blue Water Project Leadership Grants

**FortWhyte Alive, (\$50,000):** This project will bring together stakeholders and the general public to:

- develop opportunities for citizen science in freshwater monitoring
- help to adopt a standardized protocol for freshwater monitoring in Manitoba and a data archive for gathered information
- enhance and expand on the education opportunities at FortWhyte including school programs, public education programs, volunteer engagement, public demonstration sites and interpretive displays
- engage Manitobans in understanding water conservation and stormwater retention through the Slow the Flow and Yellowfish Road Programs as well as onsite low-cost rain barrel sales
- offer immersive training for University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg students as a field-site for research in an urban environment
- - plan for lake restoration onsite at FortWhyte Alive, information from which can be transferred to other Canadian sites with poor water quality

**Lake Winnipeg Foundation, (\$35,000):** Working in collaboration with urban schools, this project will educate and mobilize Manitoba students to become local water champions who will mobilize others into action to support the long-term health of Lake Winnipeg and the urban waterways which flow into it.

**Local organizations:** \$2,500 in Community Action Grants will be given to this organization in Manitoba:

- The Upper Assiniboine River Conservation District (\$2,500)

## ONTARIO

### RBC Blue Water Project Leadership Grants

**Municipality of Wawa, (\$45,000):** The Wawa Lake Rejuvenation – Green Stormwater Management project is located along Wawa Lake in the Municipality of Wawa, the sole source of drinking water for the community. The project includes the construction of a series of bioswales and a wetland to manage storm water currently flowing into the Lake untreated. It will also include an educational component through the construction of multilingual (English, French and Ojibway) signs that inform residents and tourists about the importance of stormwater management and how wetlands and bioswales address this problem.

**St Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences, (\$40,000):** For this project, the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences will work with partners to expand the 'Great St. Lawrence River Clean Up' in exciting new ways. In 2017, the project will target four new sites for shoreline and in-water removal of garbage and debris, including two sites in the Mohawk lands of Akwesasne.

**Hamilton Conservation Foundation, (\$25,000):** The Hamilton Conservation Authority's watershed is 50% urban and 50% rural. The majority of the 500,000 population lives, works and plays in our urban watersheds where we are fortunate to have some highly significant wetlands and creeks. The foundation will be teaching landowners

ways to increase infiltration on their properties; taking action to protect local amphibians and reptiles currently at risk; celebrating salmon in the Spencer Creek; and thanking landowners committed to protecting and improving the health of this watershed.

**The Town of Saugeen Shores (\$20,000):** The Island Street beach is one of Saugeen Shore's most popular tourist beaches. The Island Street storm sewer outlet has adversely affected the Island Street beach by creating a growing pool of stagnant water and debris. The stagnant water poses possible health risks to users through the creation and widening of a wet beach which have been documented to foster growth of invasive plant species (phragmites) and increase the incidence of e-coli and total coliform.

The reconstruction of a constructed wetland (to help replicate the historical wetland feature) may provide possible benefits which include flood-risk reduction, climate change adaptation, water quality enhancement, as well as increased public health.

**Credit Valley Conservation Foundation (\$60,000):** The Urban Stormwater Mitigation Initiative aims to improve watershed health by mitigating increased urban stormwater through the restoration and creation of green infrastructure. The Initiative includes undertaking studies to create conceptual design plans and design drawings for restoration works for both Lornewood and Clearview Creeks. A major component of the initiative is the outreach and public participation in the process through a youth peer-to-peer engagement initiative and public information centres in the Clearview and Lornewood watersheds. These activities will not only educate the public on stormwater management challenges in urban areas but also seek their input into the conceptual design and changes to local public lands.

**Ducks Unlimited Canada, (\$50,000):** Through the Province of Ontario's Places to Grow Act of 2009, Northern York Region and Southern Simcoe County will shoulder considerable urban development through the 2030s. This area comprises the southern boundary of the Lake Simcoe watershed which includes the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Ducks Unlimited Canada is proposing to drastically improve the ecological performance of a provincially significant wetland which filters nutrients and toxins from the Holland River and the receiving waters of Lake Simcoe by reconstructing a portion of the 218 hectare publicly owned Holland Marsh wetland which will vastly improve the connectivity between the wetland and the river.

**The Living City Foundation, (\$50,000):** During routine fisheries monitoring in the summer of 2015, Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) captured five adult Grass Carp along the Toronto Waterfront, which garnered extensive national and international media coverage. As one of the members of the invasive Asian Carp family, Grass Carp have the potential to cause extensive damage to aquatic ecosystems in the Great Lakes basin, particularly to coastal wetlands. TRCA is proposing to continue implementing the Toronto Region Asian Carp Surveillance Program (TRACSP). The scope of the surveillance program will be two-fold, targeting areas (a) that are habitats that are suspected to have high potential for sustaining Asian Carps and (b) where Asian Carps have been reported during past monitoring efforts. With this data, TRCA will be better equipped to reduce the threat of ecosystem destruction, particularly in coastal wetlands, through an adaptive management approach to the restoration of coastal habitats.

**The Riverwood Conservancy, (\$38,000):** In the heart of Mississauga, the health of the wetlands and shorelines of Riverwood's 150-acre urban oasis are under threat. The once-idyllic MacEwan Pond is overrun by invasive, non-native Phragmites grasses, and six smaller Phragmites colonies now threaten the Credit River shoreline and the 10,000m<sup>2</sup> Chappell Wetland.

**Georgian Bay Forever, (\$32,000):**

Stemming from the great success of the last two years, GBF wishes to continue to broaden the scope and growth of this project. This project engages communities and municipalities and creates environmental stewards, of all ages, in fighting against the invasion of Phragmites along the coastal shoreline and beaches in the town of Collingwood and other communities located around Georgian Bay.

Phragmites negatively affects the recreational and ecological functions of invaded habitats by outcompeting native plant species, resulting in substantially decreased water and habitat quality and biodiversity. This is especially problematic for migrating waders, waterfowl, and species at risk.

GBF and partners will engage stakeholders in championing the project, mapping and monitoring stands and training groups on removal best practices in order to assist with coordinating hands-on removal initiatives in their own communities.

Key objectives continue to be: restore coastal wetlands, raise public awareness and engagement and create environmental steward

**Kawartha Region Conservation Authority, (\$25,000):** With the assistance of an RBC Blue Water Leadership Grant in 2016, Kawartha Conservation further developed its "BlueScaping" program: community-focused outreach that promotes innovative, lot-level stormwater management to address urban stormwater issues. The full-time BlueScaping stewardship position engages the community in many ways: landowner workshops where residents learn about stormwater landscaping on their properties; rain barrel and native plant sales to encourage uptake; a BlueScaping guide for hard copy and online distribution; the establishment of our BlueScaping webpage; youth outreach through Yellow Fish Road events; and the construction of a BlueScaping feature in Port Perry and coordination of another to be built in spring 2017 in Lindsay.

**Local organizations:** \$171,840 in Community Action Grants will be shared by these 26 organizations in Ontario:

- Toronto Botanical Garden (\$7,500)
- Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (\$10,000)
- Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning (\$4,800)
- Carolinian Canada Coalition (\$5,000)
- The City of Hamilton – Hamilton Water (\$10,000)
- Heartland Forest Nature Experience (\$10,000)
- Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (\$10,000)
- The Halton Region Conservation Foundation (\$5,000)
- Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake (\$5,000)
- Waterloo Region Green Solutions (\$5,000)
- Gamiing Nature Centre (\$5,000)
- Greening Nipissing (\$5,000)
- Lower Trend Region Conservation Authority (\$5,000)
- Peterborough Green-Up Association (\$5,000)
- Scugog Lake Stewards Inc. (\$2,500)
- The Couchiching Conservancy (\$10,000)
- The Land Between (\$5,000)

- The North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (\$10,000)
- Whitefish River First Nation Community Support (\$7,040)
- Ecologos Environmental Organization (\$10,000)
- Water First Education and Training Inc. (\$10,000)
- ReForest London (\$5,000)
- Brant Waterways Foundation (\$5,000)
- Essex Region Conservation Foundation (\$5,000)
- Kettle Creek Conservation Authority (\$5,000)
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (\$5,000)

## QUEBEC

### RBC Blue Water Project Leadership Grants

**Negawatts Production, (\$15,500):** L'EAUGIC est un projet qui vise l'utilisation efficace de l'eau par les ménages du Québec. Il consiste à accompagner les municipalités québécoises dans la mise en place d'une patrouille de sensibilisation à l'économie d'eau qui intervient directement auprès des citoyens par des visites à domicile, des événements publics ou des ateliers éducatifs.

Ce programme d'accompagnement aide les municipalités dans leurs efforts d'économie d'eau en formant leurs agents de sensibilisation, en fournissant les outils d'intervention et les produits économiseurs d'eau et en assurant un suivi hebdomadaire auprès de chaque patrouille. De plus, comme les agents collectent des informations liées à l'utilisation de l'eau, un rapport complet et des recommandations sur les mesures pertinentes à mettre en place sont remis aux municipalités participantes.

En offrant maintenant ce projet à la grandeur du Québec, nous visons une réduction substantielle de la consommation d'eau et une préservation accrue de la qualité de cette ressource.

**Fondation de la faune du Québec, (\$75,000):** Le lac Saint-Charles revêt une importance stratégique en raison de son rôle de réservoir d'eau potable et d'habitat faunique. Or, en raison de l'anthropisation croissante de son bassin versant, plusieurs de ses affluents subissent des contaminations, contribuant ainsi à la dégradation de l'eau du lac. C'est notamment le cas du fossé Bellevue, dont l'eau est de mauvaise qualité et la charge sédimentaire importante en raison de la présence dans son bassin d'un ancien site d'enfouissement partiellement déboisé, de carrières et sablières, d'un réseau de drainage fortement canalisé, de zones sensibles à l'érosion et de grandes surfaces imperméabilisées. Le projet proposé vise à améliorer la qualité et à mieux gérer la quantité des eaux qui parviennent par ruissellement jusqu'au fossé Bellevue et au lac Saint-Charles, et ce, en réalisant des travaux de revégétalisation et en aménageant des marais artificiels sur un terrain de 4 ha situé à l'exutoire de l'affluent.

### Community Action Grants

- Action Saint-François (\$5,000)
- Enjeu et Environnement Jeunesse Inc. (\$10,000)
- Fondation du Mont-Saint-Bruno (\$5,000)
- Groupe d'éducation et d'écovigilance de l'eau (\$10,000)
- Nature-Action Québec Inc. (\$9,500)
- Parc de la rivière Mitis (\$10,000)

## ATLANTIC CANADA

### RBC Blue Water Project Leadership Grants

**PWMG-GSBP Inc., (\$35,000):** The Petitcodiac River watershed comprises a mosaic of ecologically significant ecosystems within the UNESCO-designated Fundy Biosphere Reserve of southeastern New Brunswick. The veins of the watershed course through 2,071 km<sup>2</sup> of land spanning multiple municipal jurisdictions, while supporting the most densely populated area of the province (over 160,000 residents). Threats include rapid sprawl, increasing instances of clear cut, raw sewage overflow measures, and insufficient waste water infrastructure. Building on successes and experience from our 2015 and 2016 RBC Leadership Grants, we propose to monitor microplastics in the watershed for the first time, reach ambitious community clean up goals, promote local tap water to reduce plastic water bottle waste, and work with an internationally renowned artist and regional arts festival to create a sculpture out of garbage to illustrate its impact on the environment. The project will be a national game-changer for urban freshwater by integrating innovation, experience, collaboration, and action!

**Local organizations:** \$39,200 in Community Action Grants will be shared by these five organizations in Atlantic Canada:

- Atlantic Coastal Action Program – Saint John Inc. (\$9,200)
- Atlantic Salmon Federation (\$5,000)
- Clean Annapolis River Project Society (\$10,000)
- Conservation Corps Newfoundland and Labrador (\$10,000)
- Town of Stratford (\$5,000)

## UNITED STATES (Financial references in USD)

### RBC Blue Water Project Leadership Grants

**Conservation Lands Foundation, (\$35,000):** New Mexico's Rio Grande and its tributaries supply water to Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Taos, Native American Pueblos and dozens of small communities—water for more than half of the state's 2 million residents. The Conservation Lands Foundation respectfully requests a \$35,000 grant to partner with military veterans, conservation corps, the Bureau of Land Management and community volunteers to restore up to 83 floodplain acres in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. Our team will remove invasive tamarisk and re-establish native plants to inhibit run-off, improve water quality and enhance river habitat that is vital to New Mexico's economy, agriculture, wildlife and communities. Additionally, this project will provide valuable training, mentoring and resource management experience for veterans and conservation corps workers and will educate and inform surrounding communities and youth about river conservation and how the National Conservation Lands are helping to protect water quality in our important waterways.

**Sonoran Institute, (\$55,000):** Tucson's roadways were designed to shunt water quickly down streets, towards watercourses. Flooding is a persistent problem, and stormwater entering streams is heavily polluted. Storm frequency and intensity are worsening due to climate change. This project will demonstrate water quality and flood mitigation benefits of Green Infrastructure (GI) by building a large pilot GI demonstration site in a low-income neighborhood and assisting residents in identifying other smaller GI demonstration sites. It will serve as a model to fund and carry out similar projects in the city.

Beneficiaries include residents around Airport Wash in Tucson's southside; RBC Wealth Management employees, whom we will train and engage in project activities; and other Tucson residents who will benefit from wide-spread

use of GI. The project links to a broader initiative to create a city-wide GI fund (or utility) advocated by the Community Water Coalition, Ward 1 Councilwoman Regina Romero, and other elected officials.

**Tampa Baywatch Inc., (\$45,000):** The McKay Bay South Oyster Reef Creation and Enhancement Project will create approximately 3,170 linear feet of new oyster shell bars and two 45' diameter circular oyster beds along 4,000 feet of the southwestern shoreline of McKay Bay. Oysters are critically important hard bottom communities that occur naturally throughout the Tampa Bay estuary, centralizing around freshwater inputs. Expansion of hard bottom surfaces in McKay Bay will create a greater surface area for settling oyster larvae and create habitat niches for other benthic organisms. Additionally, this project will improve long-term water quality conditions through natural biological filtration services that oyster provide. The proposed project will also benefit the Tampa Bay community by promoting environmental stewardship while offering hands-on opportunities to participate in Tampa Bay habitat restoration activities.

**The New York Botanical Garden, (\$50,000):** NYBG has enacted an organization-wide Sustainability and Climate Change Program which includes a focus on the installation of green stormwater infrastructure that will adequately respond to precipitation events without increasing the burden on the outmoded and overloaded NYC stormwater system. As part of NYBG's Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan, which is designed to reduce adverse effects to the natural environment while directly improving the neighborhood, the Conservatory Permeable Paver Stormwater Detention Lot Project will install permeable paving within existing parking areas to receive, detain, and infiltrate stormwater on campus before it is discharged to the city's Combined Sewer System (CSS). This project surrounds the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the largest greenhouse in the United States and a New York City Landmark for more than 100 years, making it a highly visible example of urban clean water management. Each year, NYBG's Conservatory attracts more than one million local and international visitors.

**Local organizations:** \$215,000 in Community Action Grants will be shared by these 35 organizations in the United States:

- Alliance for the Great Lakes (\$10,000)
- Augusta Canal National Heritage Area Inc. (\$3,000)
- Battenkill Conservancy – New York (\$3,500)
- Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper (\$2,000)
- Camp Fire USA Minnesota Council (\$10,000)
- Charles River Conservancy Inc. (\$5,000)
- Citizens Campaign Fund for the Environment (\$2,000)
- Friends of Casco Bay (\$7,500)
- Friends of the Chicago River (\$10,000)
- Friends of the Mississippi River (\$10,000)
- Great River Greening (\$10,000)
- H2O For Life (\$3,000)
- Hudson Highlands Land Trust Inc. (\$2,000)
- Inland Northwest Land Trust (\$2,500)
- Living Lands & Waters (\$10,000)
- Maine Island Trail Association (\$5,000)
- Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy (\$10,000)
- Mississippi Park Connection (\$2,000)
- National Aquarium in Baltimore Inc. (\$5,000)



- National Audubon Society, Inc. (\$10,000)
- North Carolina Coastal Federation (\$6,000)
- Raritan Headwaters Association (\$10,000)
- Reeves-Reed Arboretum (\$6,000)
- Rensselaer Land Trust Inc. (\$2,000)
- Rivanna Conservation Alliance (\$3,000)
- Rocking the Boat Inc. (\$10,000)
- Save the River Inc. (\$5,000)
- Scenic Hudson Inc. (\$6,000)
- Spark Youth (\$10,000)
- Stony Brook-Millstone Watersheds Association (\$6,000)
- The Fund for Lake George Inc. (\$5,000)
- The River Project Inc. (\$4,000)
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (\$2,000)
- Wilderness Inquiry Inc. (\$10,000)
- Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (\$7,500)

**INTERNATIONAL** (Financial references in CAD unless otherwise indicated)

#### **AUSTRALIA**

**Landcare Australia, (\$30,000):** Since 2012, RBC and Landcare Australia have partnered together, providing funding to a range of community projects that support the Protecting Our Urban Waterways Program, and engaging employees in environmental volunteering. The continuous support has enabled the program to expand to the greater Sydney area, improving foreshore areas by decreasing weeds and removing marine debris.

Landcare Australia would like to expand on the program by supporting additional community projects, including cleaning up the Parramatta River to make it swimmable again by 2025, and providing opportunities to people with disabilities to work in bush regeneration along Sydney's Northern Beaches.

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

**London Wildlife Trust, (51,000 GBP):** This diverse and exciting project will enhance London's urban waterways for people and wildlife, meaningfully engage communities with their local freshwater habitats and help make London more resilient to flooding and drought by creating wildlife-rich Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

#### **MALAYSIA**

**World Wide Fund for Nature, Malaysia (WWF-Malaysia), (\$33,000):** Klang Valley (KV), the heartland of Malaysia's industry and commerce is home to about 7.2 million people or more than a fifth of Malaysia's total population. In 2014, prolonged dry spell caused drastic drop in levels of water supply dams combined with increasing water demand led to water rationing in KV that lasted several months. Such water disruption occurrences indicate the worsening water crisis in KV. There is a strong need to educate the urban community in KV to not take water for granted and to instill in them good water management practices besides making them understand the inter-linkages between catchment forests, rivers and water resources, and why integrated management of these components is vital. Changing the way public thinks about and manages water, and providing them with the

knowledge and skills to take the necessary actions is a critical step in helping to ensure the country's water security.

**Reef Check Malaysia, (\$32,000)** The program aims to continue efforts started in 2016 to rehabilitate a patch of coral reef at Tekek Village, Tioman Island Malaysia. This reef sustained physical damage in 2014 due to a storm. The storm's landslides on land which in turn washed large trees from land onto the reef, smashing corals that have been growing there for decades. The program looks at physically replanting corals to promote quick recovery.