

Two MSc Opportunities in Aquatic Biodiversity Recovery within Killarney Wilderness Park at the Cooperative Freshwater Ecology Unit (CFEU), Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario

Research Topic: In recognition of the UN Decade of Restoration and the 50th anniversary of the publication of seminal papers on the effects of air pollution of wilderness lakes of Ontario, we are seeking two excellent candidates to conduct broad scale biodiversity (includes zooplankton, macrobenthos, fish) studies within Killarney Wilderness Park, to assess biological recovery in response to massive North American investments in pollution controls that began in the 1980s. More recent changes in climate, including brownification and arrival of warm water species, will make this a challenging but exciting project.

The project will build on long-term water quality monitoring data (>40 years), extensive previous biodiversity surveys, and access to paleolimnological reconstructions of pre-industrial conditions, but will also incorporate novel experimental work and data collections (tissue contaminants, stable isotopes, genomics, etc.).

Ideal Candidate: Applicants should have a strong academic background in aquatic ecology with an interest in restoration ecology, aquatic community responses to environmental change and have good statistical skills. The project involves extensive fieldwork in rugged terrain (canoeing, camping, hiking, portaging, gillnet fish assessment, etc.). A valid Ontario G driver's license is required and successful candidates must be able to swim and successfully conduct training in wilderness first aid, and other safety courses. Good communication skills are needed to participate in public education sessions at the Park.

Competitive NSERC level remuneration, guaranteed GTA (>75% average), and access to several local scholarships are available. Positions will be supervised by Dr. John Gunn (CRC in Stressed Aquatic Ecosystems) at CFEU (<https://www3.laurentian.ca/livingwithlakes/about/staff/john-gunn/>), which is located within the award winning Living With Lakes Centre (<https://www3.laurentian.ca/livingwithlakes/>), on the edge of Ramsey Lake in City of Greater Sudbury (<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/>). Please email a letter of interest, your CV, a copy of your academic transcripts (unofficial copies are acceptable) and the names of three references to jgunn@laurentian.ca. The positions will begin in May 2021.