

# THE WATERSHED OBSERVER

Serena River; Photo: Paul Mutch

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“What drives me to do this stuff is seeing all of this good environmental science lying around on shelves in ivory towers that nobody puts into practice.”

– Limnologist Dr. David Schindler, as quoted in *The Tyee*

## MESSAGE FROM LWF’S CHAIR

For a relatively small organization, LWF has a big voice and gets to sit at the table with all the right people when it comes to water protection. This didn’t happen by accident; it took a great deal of hard work. Not only has LWF amplified the collective voice of lake-lovers, calling for policies and programs that protect water, we’ve also used evidence to back up those calls.

LWF is lucky to have a group of experienced scientists on call, willing to review draft legislation and proposals from different levels of government, answer staff questions and ensure LWF’s water-monitoring programs are using scientifically rigorous methods to produce results which are being interpreted appropriately.

Evidence-based advocacy is at the core of our work. LWF sits on the advisory committee tasked with providing oversight to planned upgrades to Winnipeg’s north end sewage treatment plant – a role we are also using to hold the governments of Winnipeg and Manitoba accountable to their past promises. LWF has also advanced recommendations for federal action, in the position paper *Five Things the Federal Government Must Do for Lake Winnipeg*, co-written with the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective.

As our work continues, one thing is for sure: LWF’s commitment to clean, healthy water remains steadfast.

I wish you a great summer – enjoy your lake time.

– Selena Randall, Chair, LWF Board of Directors



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Subscribe to our e-update list at [lakewinnipegfoundation.org](http://lakewinnipegfoundation.org) for the latest LWF news. You can also follow us on social media!

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### INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES, DIGITAL CONNECTIONS

The Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective (LWIC) has a new website and a new podcast series!

Launched on May 18, the redesigned website features community profiles of First Nations around Lake Winnipeg, artwork created by local Indigenous artists, and more information about the collective's current calls to action and upcoming events.

LWIC's podcast series, *Niipowitamok / Nipawitan*, takes its name from the Anishinaabe and Cree words for "stand up" – a reflection of the need for us all to collectively stand up for water. The series will explore a range of topics related to land, water and Indigenous culture: from current policy issues to storytelling to interviews with elders, knowledge keepers, Indigenous youth, and other community members and allies.

*Niipowitamok / Nipawitan* is accessible through LWIC's website, Spotify and other digital channels.

Explore LWIC's new website at [lwic.org](https://lwic.org).



Beadwork medallion by Desmond Travers, Fisher River Cree Nation

### RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT ON LAKE WINNIPEG

Lake Winnipeg has been the focus of a growing body of research conducted in recent years – and LWF's science advisors are at the forefront of these efforts.

The *Journal of Great Lakes Research* is the official journal of the International Association for Great Lakes Research, a scientific organization made up of researchers studying the Laurentian Great Lakes and their watersheds, as well as other large lake ecosystems around the world.

The journal occasionally highlights selected topics, and Lake Winnipeg is the subject of one such special issue. Published in April 2021, the Lake Winnipeg-themed issue features 21 research articles on a diversity of topics including: sedimentation dynamics; zebra mussels; hydrodynamic and hydrologic modelling; Netley-Libau Marsh; evaluation methods for estimating phosphorus inputs from point and non-point sources; groundwater; and fish communities, habitats and behaviours.

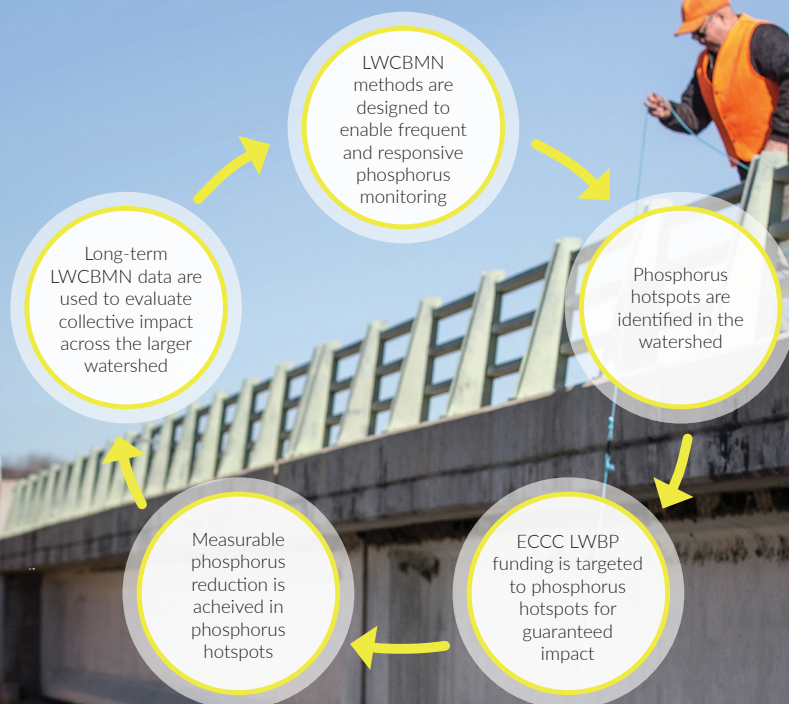
Multiple LWF science advisors are among the contributing authors, while two other advisors currently serve on the *Journal of Great Lakes Research's* editorial board. LWF is privileged to have access to such an esteemed group of scientists who collectively bring a wealth of experience and a depth of expertise to the foundation's work.

Ongoing research is an important part of freshwater solutions. It improves our understanding of the current state of Lake Winnipeg, enhances our ability to predict how the lake might respond to various natural and human-caused factors, and can be used to inform evidence-based policy decisions and management practices which will lead to improvements in Lake Winnipeg's health.

# THE DATA-TO-IMPACT CYCLE

## LWCBMN IN PRACTICE:

To effectively complete the data-to-impact cycle, Environment and Climate Change Canada must strengthen collaboration and support for community-based monitoring through its existing regional water programs. Phosphorus data from LWCBMN support regional decision-making and funding allocation for improved water quality.



## REALIZING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING

Since 2016 LWF has been coordinating the Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network (LWCBMN), a network of citizen scientists and watershed partners collecting water samples for phosphorus testing. Phosphorus data generated through the program are being used to identify phosphorus hotspots in the watershed and address shared community water-quality concerns.

While community-based monitoring (CBM) is a source of credible and valuable water data, recognized by community practitioners, academic researchers, government scientists and policy-makers alike, CBM data are not yet effectively integrated into government programs, policy or decision-making.

Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) regional water programs, including ECCC's Lake Winnipeg Basin Program (LWBP), are perfectly positioned to link community concerns and federal policy priorities. LWCBMN's phosphorus data directly inform LWBP's science priorities, and are interoperable with data generated by ECCC's Freshwater Quality Monitoring and Surveillance program.

In 2020, the federal government proposed a new Canada Water Agency. LWF is concerned that this as-yet-undeveloped agency could draw energy and funding away from the very real efforts of existing regional partnerships already working on the ground, across the country, to protect water.

Instead, we see great potential to use CBM to strengthen existing federal programs. The data-to-impact cycle highlights how LWCBMN data can be combined with the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program to result in actual phosphorus reduction. There is a risk of disrupting such cycles and undermining past investments if federal support for CBM is transferred away from existing ECCC water programs.

LWCBMN is an example of how CBM networks and regional water programs like LWBP can be integrated to solve the complex, region-specific challenges affecting Canada's fresh water, including Lake Winnipeg.

Continued collaboration and support through existing regional programs will ensure CBM continuity and maintain intact data-to-impact connections at the regional level, where water challenges are most effectively identified, addressed and resolved.

Find our policy brief, *Realizing the Full Potential of Community-Based Monitoring*, online at [lakewinnipegfoundation.org](https://lakewinnipegfoundation.org).



## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

### PAYWORKS PAYS IT FORWARD FOR LAKE WINNIPEG

Addressing complex environmental challenges requires collaboration. No one community, organization or sector can do it alone.

Collaboration and community engagement are also core values of Payworks, a company which provides payroll, HR and other workforce management solutions to clients across Canada.

Headquartered in Winnipeg, Payworks upholds a commitment to “paying success forward” by participating in meaningful ways in the communities where its employees work, live and raise their families.

Last year marked the company’s 20th anniversary. In celebration, Payworks has made transformative donations to a select group of Manitoba-based not-for-profit organizations. LWF was chosen to receive a \$100,000 gift to support ongoing advocacy efforts and fund on-the-ground activities.

“Lake Winnipeg means everything from life-giving fresh water to lifelong memories for so many members of our team,” says JP Perron, President and CEO of Payworks. “The work that LWF is doing is key to preserving those opportunities for future generations. Much like our own Pay it Forward staff volunteer program, LWF engages all community members to help make a difference, and we’re pleased to provide both support and visibility for their impactful initiatives.”

Payworks’ generosity reflects its commitment to community leadership and demonstrates how Manitoba’s private sector can play a critical role in freshwater stewardship. We are honoured by the trust placed in us – and excited to transform this investment into meaningful impact for Lake Winnipeg.

# Payworks



The JBJD + LWF Collection includes earrings, necklaces and a pin, all created using Lake Winnipeg lucky stones. Photo: Paul Mutch

### SHAPED BY WATER, SUPPORTED BY YOU

Local jewelry designer Johanna Brierley has launched a new collection in support of a healthy Lake Winnipeg.

The JBJD + LWF Collection was created using “lucky stones” from the beaches of Lake Winnipeg, discovered and generously donated by local lake-lovers. Lucky stones, also known as hole stones, holey stones, Odin stones or Hag stones, are stones that feature naturally occurring holes. They have long been considered magical – bringing good luck and offering the power of protection.

“These humble natural objects have enriched my life in so many ways,” Johanna says. “They have given me a greater connection to the environment where I grew up and fell in love with water. They have connected me to my family and to past generations. And ultimately, these stones have given me the opportunities to pursue my passions and create a life for myself as a working artist and goldsmith.”

Each of the 10 made-to-order pieces has been given a name inspired by Lake Winnipeg people and places: from “Viking,” a pair of tiny sterling-silver stud earrings, to “Elk,” a stunning bronze pendant necklace. All proceeds from the limited-time collection are being donated to LWF.

Purchase the JBJD + LWF Collection online at [johannabrierley.com](http://johannabrierley.com) until Dec. 31, 2021.

## DAVID SCHINDLER'S LEGACY

Dr. David Schindler; Photo: IISD Experimental Lakes Area



### An iconic scientist, a master communicator and a tenacious freshwater advocate

Limnology has lost one of its champions with the passing of Dr. David Schindler.

Raised on a farm in Minnesota, Schindler's academic path led him to a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University, where he received his PhD in ecology in 1966. Two years later, he became the founding scientific director of the freshwater research facility now known as IISD Experimental Lakes Area – a unique natural laboratory comprised of 58 small lakes in Canada's boreal forest near Kenora, Ont., which provides scientists with the opportunity to conduct whole-ecosystem experiments that mimic natural and human impacts on freshwater ecosystems.

Dave worked at IISD-ELA for over 20 years. During that time he led groundbreaking research projects on a number of pressing environmental issues including a now-famous experiment which demonstrated the connection between phosphorus loading and algal blooms in freshwater lakes.

In 1989, he left to become a professor at the University of Alberta, where he stayed until retiring to B.C. in 2013. His scientific output was prolific, and his career was high-profile and prestigious: he published hundreds of papers, and received numerous honorary doctorates and awards including the first Stockholm Water Prize – the Nobel Prize equivalent for excellence in aquatic science. He died on March 4, 2021, at the age of 80.

Schindler's passing inspired an outpouring of tributes. Colleagues, community members and friends remembered his passion for freshwater science; his love of the outdoors; his mentorship of young scientists; and the way he amplified Indigenous voices, spoke up for treaty rights and incorporated traditional knowledge into his work.

A common theme woven throughout the anecdotes and accolades was an appreciation for Schindler's ability to connect science with advocacy – something he did with integrity,

fearlessness and tenacity. Not only did he see research as a useful tool to inform policy, he also understood the value of using accessible public outreach and dogged government engagement to ensure policies were turned into meaningful action.

"Dave's scientific and public legacy remains as both an inspiration and a call to action," wrote Vincent L. St. Louis, Sherry L. Schiff and Carol A. Kelly in a retrospective published in *Science*, the academic journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Journalist Andrew Nikiforuk, contributing editor for the B.C.-based independent online news magazine *The Tyee*, described him as "a force of nature for nature" and quoted John Malcolm, interim chief of the Original Fort McMurray First Nation, with whom Schindler worked to protect their lands and waters from industrial pollution: "He was a world class spokesman for humanity. If words and tears could help, I would shed a thunderstorm for him."

David Schindler's contribution to freshwater science was significant, as was his impact on freshwater stewardship. LWF strives to emulate his approach in our work: pushing for evidence-based decision-making as we advocate for change and coordinate action. We are proud to carry on his legacy through our focus on phosphorus – using the findings of his pioneering experiments to drive policy change for the protection of Lake Winnipeg.



## LWF SUMMER EVENTS

We love connecting with LWF members and supporters throughout the summer – but safety comes first. As we plan for the 2021 outreach and fundraising season, we are following all public health regulations and prepared to adapt activities as needed. Subject to change, scheduled events include:

**JUNE 27: SAVE THE LAKE** | LWF will be taking part in this annual community fundraiser hosted by the Gimli Yacht Club and the Kiwanis Club of Gimli & District.

**JULY 2 - AUG. 7: BID FOR LAKE WINNIPEG** | Back by popular demand, LWF's online art auction features unique work created by lake-loving artists and craftspeople.

**AUG. 6: BIKE TO THE BEACH** | Building on the success of 2020's Founders' Ride, cyclists will once again challenge themselves to pedal from Winnipeg to Victoria Beach.

**AUG. 8: WALK FOR WATER VB & DISTRICT** | Our signature event returns to Victoria Beach! This year's walk will take place outside at the Village Green Stage.

**CAN'T JOIN IN PERSON?** | Secure donations can be made online at [lakewinnipegfoundation.org/donate](https://lakewinnipegfoundation.org/donate).



*cut mail-in form here*

## YOUR GIFT MAKES A HEALTHY LAKE WINNIPEG POSSIBLE



Donate online at  
[lakewinnipegfoundation.org/donate](https://lakewinnipegfoundation.org/donate)

OR



Mail your cheque and this form to:

Lake Winnipeg Foundation  
107-62 Hargrave St, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 1N1

Please find a cheque attached for:

☐ \$1,000    ☐ \$500    ☐ \$200  
☐ \$100    ☐ \$50\*    ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (specify amount)

\*All donations of \$50 or more will include a one-year membership.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Community: \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is ☐ in honour of: **OR** ☐ in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send recognition on my behalf to:

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# Lucky stones for Lake Winnipeg

The JBJD + LWF Collection, created by Johanna Brierley Jewellery Design. [johannabrierley.com](http://johannabrierley.com)



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