



October, 2018

WHY A BLUE COMMUNITY?

- Neighbours without access to clean drinking water.
- Growth of bottled water use in society.
- Risk of water privatization.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Reconnect with our watersheds as sources of life, not just resources.
- Reconcile our relations with the lands and waters and the Indigenous nations who continue to protect them.
- Support existing efforts to protect water as a shared commons and sacred gift.
- Examine and change our personal choices that waste and pollute water.

Newsletter

PAST EVENTS

August 15th: Toronto Faith in Action: Clean-up Humber Bay Shores

September 8th: Hamilton mass and prayer about the sacredness of water with talk about the Blue Communities pledge.

September 19th: London presentation about the project in the morning and shared talk in the afternoon about the sacredness of water and the Thames River watershed. Special guest: Lela George (Oneida Nation water protector).

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 15, 16, and 17: 3 presentations in Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, & North Bay about becoming a Blue Community & local water issues & actions. Guest in SSM, Candace Day Neveau, (Bawating Water Protectors).

October 24th: Peterborough presentation about the sacredness of water and the Blue Communities pledge. Special guest Dorothy Taylor (Sacred Water Circle).

October 29th: Toronto presentation with special guest Dr. Debby Wilson Denard (Anishinaabekwe) and an evening *Theology on Tap* talk called "The Gift of Water: from creation to commodity".

November 2: Pembroke talk about the Ottawa River watershed and how the Federation has been serving the Blue Communities pledge. Presentation and discussion.

More events & updates added to our website:

<https://bluecommunitiesnow.wixsite.com/water>

Great Lakes are Stressed

Images



Beach clean-up in Toronto, Paul & Lela George presenting in London, Blue Communities stickers & pamphlet, Paul in Hamilton after tea talk, and Great Lakes stress map.



TYPES OF ACTIONS WE CAN MAKE

- Support existing efforts to protect water as a shared commons, human right, and sacred gift.
- Reflect on your water impacts through daily choices and intentions.

ACTION EXAMPLES

- Wellington Water Watchers in Guelph Ontario, needs help teaching Canadians about the negative impacts of bottled water and putting limits on this industry.
- The Council of Canadians are researching and holding the Federal government accountable on the promise to end Drinking Water Advisories. Learn and support their work.
- A network of Blue Communities across Canada is affirming public control of water systems. Can your community be added to this network?

PRESENTATION PREVIEW

We looked at communities close to London and in the Great Lakes who don't have safe and affordable access to tap water. Not only are there about 100 Drinking Water Advisories across Canada for First Nations communities, there are 6 reserves within a few hours from London on DWAs.

Drinking Water Advisories



First Nations with DWAs:

- Six Nations of the Grand River
- Ojibway Nation of Saugeen
- Hiawatha First Nation
- Couchiching First Nation
- Chippewas of Rama First Nation
- Munsee-Delaware First Nation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We started off our Hamilton and London talks with a land and waters acknowledgment. Here's part of the London one written by Paul Baines. See the blog post for the full version

As we gather together on this beautiful day, let's acknowledge the following at the start and carry these words throughout this event and our shared futures here in London.

Unlike the Thames river in England, the river here is called Deshkan Ziibi by the Anishinaabe people who have also shared these lands and waters over time with the Haudenosaunee peoples (such as the Oneida Nation) and Attawandaran peoples.

Let's acknowledge the water here specifically. Not as anyone's home or resource or playground, but as the source for all life – a life force itself. To Stoney Creek, as connected to the Thames River, Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie, the Great Lakes, and our blue planet – may our work today be a respectful act of love and reciprocity.