



2022-2023

# LUSH REPORT

A project made possible by

**LUSH** FRESH  
HANDMADE  
COSMETICS

# Welcome!

What a year it's been! We've made big progress as an organization.

In this report, we highlight where we've nurtured water leadership in communities, how we supported Indigenous partners, and how we grew as an organization.

It's been such a pleasure to work with LUSH again this year, and we can't wait to work together again next year!



400+

Water quality  
samples collected

2

Youth leaders based  
in the community

# Meet our young water leaders!

Thanks to Canada Summer Jobs and LUSH, we were able to support two youth to work in communities in the Thames Blue Water Metis Council's region. Our youth were supervised by our staff as well as the Council, and provided those partners with much needed capacity to support community-based water testing. We created meaningful work experiences, supported our partners, and helped our waterways!

some waves!  
faisons des vagues!

a movement to protect our precious waterways by  
quality data gaps. Together, we can make a difference!

un mouvement pour protéger nos  
comblant les lacunes  
l'eau. Ensemble on

pocket)  
ngers.ca/contact  
in visit regula  
ay of every mont  
or Android apps  
s.ca/faq

ta sets.



# Thames Blue Water Metis Council - Youth Community Trainers

Meet Owen and Kaitlyn: two Metis citizens who joined our team this year, thanks to LUSH funding. We have been working with the Thames Blue Water Metis Council for two years and LUSH's funding also provided some testkits for their program. This year, Owen and Kaitlyn provided some much needed capacity for their community-based water monitoring program in London and in Grand Bend.

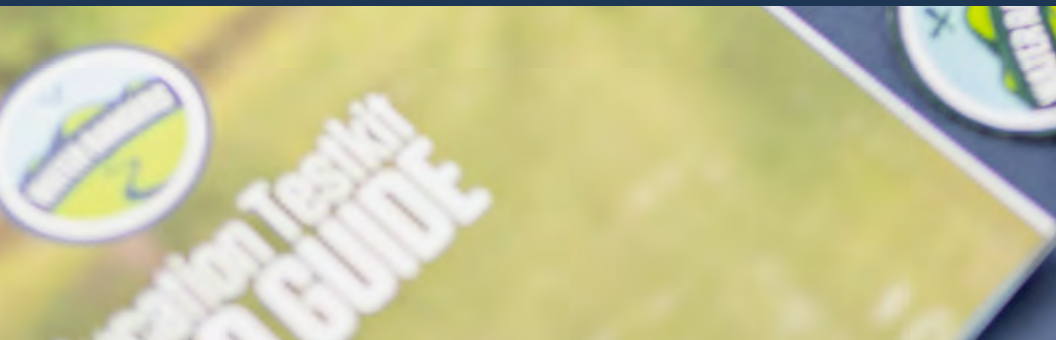
In June 2023, Owen and Kaitlyn hosted citizens at the annual Rendezvous, and through the summer they hosted monthly water sampling exercise using Water Rangers' Freshwater Explorer testkits, as well as other Metis-led engagement activities focused on water.



Owen and Kaitlyn  
teaching water  
sampling to Métis  
volunteers

# Testkits & collaborations

As in other years, we've had the pleasure to build relationships and support capacity in Indigenous communities through LUSH's funding for our water quality testkits. In the following pages, we're highlighting our favourite one from this year. Enjoy!





# Missanabie Cree First Nation

This summer, Water Rangers again worked with Missanabie Cree First Nation and their summer student role for a community youth. Ryan collected water quality data at unmonitored lakes in Missanabie Cree territory, north of Sault St. Marie.

Ryan used the Water Rangers Freshwater Explorer testkit to travel to different lakes in his community that lack baseline health data. The program was built on the work of Michael Tremblay, who piloted the role last summer.

# Zhiibaahaasing First Nation Indigenous Guardians

Zhiibaahaasing First Nation's Indigenous Guardians project engages four schools, including over 80 youth, in workshops on traditional knowledge and western science that will give them the capacity to respect, monitor, and collect data on six existing water monitoring sites. It also gives youth the opportunity to participate in decision-making on the identification of three new water monitoring sites to better inform law and policies for lands, waters, plants, and animals.

Thanks to the LUSH grant, we were able to provide 4 teskits to this initiative.



Zhiibaahaasing First Nation is located on the west end of Manitoulin Island



# Métis Nation of Ontario

Water Rangers began working with councils and members of the Métis Nation of Ontario in 2022. The Thames Bluewater Métis Council incorporated Water Rangers testkits as part of their work to reconnect Métis citizens to water, and be actively working towards self-governance and self-determination.

Water Rangers was invited to the Thames Bluewater Métis Council's second ever Rendez-vous in June, 2023. Our staff and volunteers organized a demo of the testkit with the Métis, set up a booth at the event. The two Métis helped lead a sampling demo on the beach, and

Thanks to LUSH, we provided some testkits to the Thames Blue Water Métis Council, and to the Métis Nation of Ontario for their work reconnecting to water and their traditional ways of life.

The program has grown significantly in year and we hope to continue this successful and fruitful relationship into the future.

*Kathleen Anderson, President,  
Thames Blue Water Métis Council,  
Métis Nation of Ontario  
Photo by Graham Perry*





# Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

Water Rangers created custom guides and testkits for Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. The kits were distributed to youth as part of the GEN SDG North Program and Youth for Water by the United Nations Association of Canada.

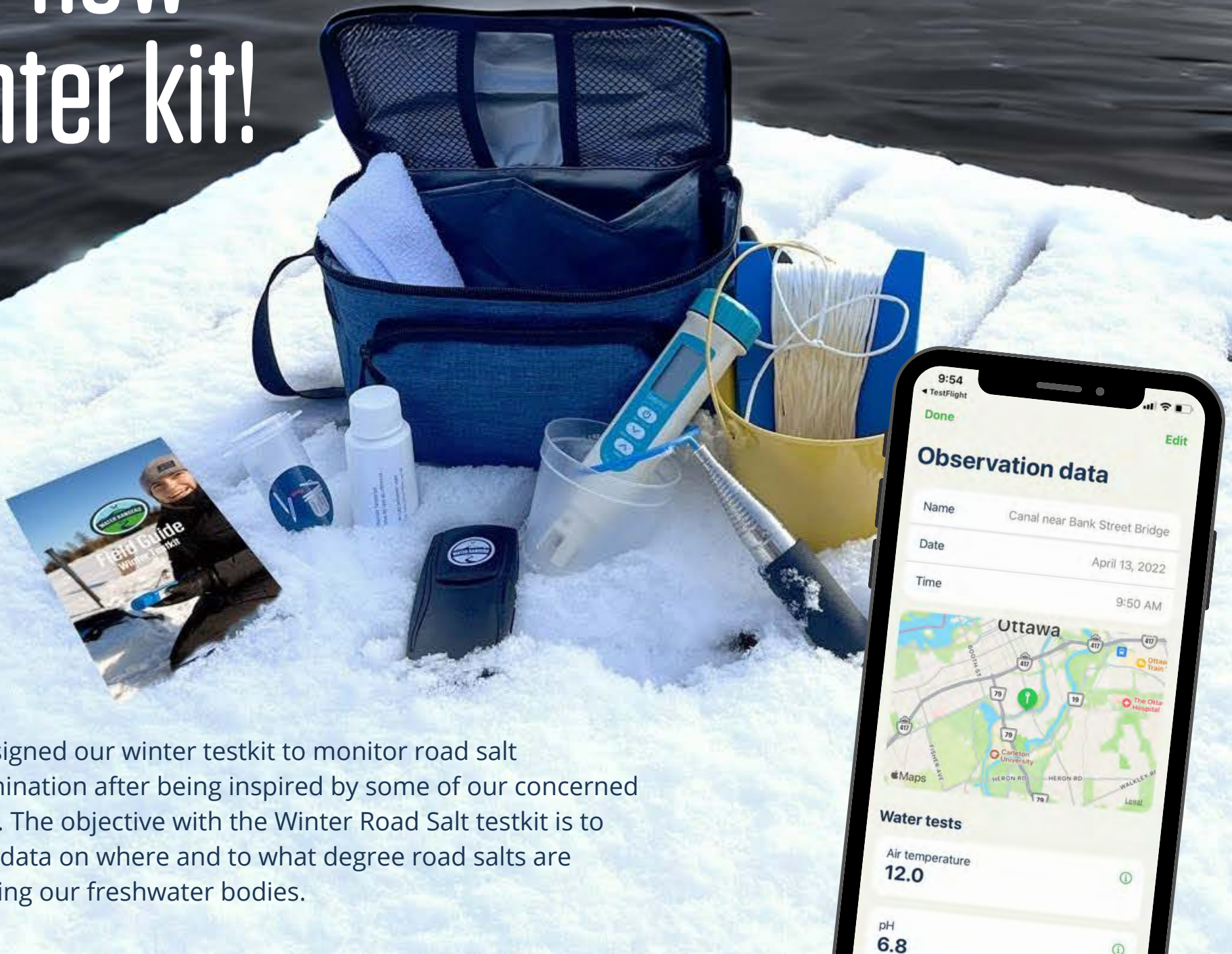


# Building our capacity & tools

We have grown so much in the past year, and LUSH's support helped us make it happen. From supporting communities across Ontario, data management, and especially helping us release our new WQX data standard, we're growing up as an org. Read on for a few of our highlights!



# Our new winter kit!



We designed our winter testkit to monitor road salt contamination after being inspired by some of our concerned testers. The objective with the Winter Road Salt testkit is to gather data on where and to what degree road salts are impacting our freshwater bodies.

# Meet Emma!

Emma joined us this spring to help us with building community capacity in Ontario and with data management. Some of the open data work she's done includes importing data from partners, conducting data quality checks, expanding our network, testing new equipment, and cleaning up our dataset!

“ Community-based water monitoring highlights the significance of collective responsibility. It empowers communities to actively participate in the protection of our watersheds to ensure their equitable management.

- **Emma Manners**  
Ontario Water Quality Coordinator



Emma Manners, Water Rangers Ontario Coordinator tabling at the Ontario Science Centre.  
Photo by Ontario Science Centre

# MEET THE WATER RANGERS

Dive into the health of water ecosystems with experts from Water Rangers.

11 a.m.—3 p.m.





# Advocating for CBWM

Water Rangers advocated for CBWM at a wide range of public and sector events in 2023 Here are a few of the highlights:

- IAGLR 2023 - Toronto, ON
- Thames Blue Water Metis Council's Rendezvous - Lake Huron, ON
- Great Lakes Beach Association conference - Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin
- River Symposium Cornwall, ON
- Grand River Metis Council Women Water Warriors' event - Kitchener, ON
- Two eyed seeing on the Humber : An InTO Ravines event.
- Ontario Science Centre - Toronto, ON
- Lake Erie Guardians wetland restoration planting event - Essex Region ON



**Waterbodies need your help!**  
Les cours d'eau ont besoin de toi!

Water quality testing  
Data collection  
Fielding resources

Help your community by collecting water quality data for streams, lakes, rivers, and oceans.  
Aidez la communauté à collecter des données sur la qualité de l'eau des lacs, rivières, et océans.

waterrangers.ca  
f waterrangers  
t water\_rangers  
i the\_waterrangers

# Thank you!

# LUSH FRESH HANDMADE COSMETICS

Without LUSH's generous support, we wouldn't be able to do what we do!

Questions? Contact @gabrielle@waterrangers.ca