## Aquatic benthic macroinvertebrate and habitat data on wadeable streams from 2004 to 2016

December 2018


## About Kawartha Conservation

## Who we are

We are a watershed-based organization that uses planning, stewardship, science, and conservation lands management to protect and sustain outstanding water quality and quantity supported by healthy landscapes.

## Why is watershed management important?

Abundant, clean water is the lifeblood of the Kawarthas. It is essential for our quality of life, health, and continued prosperity. It supplies our drinking water, maintains property values, sustains an agricultural industry, and contributes to a tourism-based economy that relies on recreational boating, fishing, and swimming. Our programs and services promote an integrated watershed approach that balance human, environmental, and economic needs.

## The community we support

We focus our programs and services within the natural boundaries of the Kawartha watershed, which extend from Lake Scugog in the southwest and Pigeon Lake in the east, to Balsam Lake in the northwest and Crystal Lake in the northeast - a total of 2,563 square kilometers.

## Our history and governance

In 1979, we were established by our municipal partners under the Ontario Conservation Authorities Act. The natural boundaries of our watershed overlap the six municipalities that govern Kawartha Conservation through representation on our Board of Directors. Our municipal partners include the City of Kawartha Lakes, Region of Durham, Township of Scugog, Township of Brock, Municipality of Clarington, Municipality of Trent Lakes, and Township of Cavan Monaghan.


## KAWARTHA

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## Executive Summary

Watercourses are considered regulated features by Kawartha Conservation and as such are routinely monitored through an Environmental Monitoring Program. Biomonitoring using a standard approach to collecting live bottom dwelling organisms, also known as benthic macroinvertebrates, on streams is a core program area. The specific purpose of this report is to summarize data collected from 218 sampling events on shallow streams from 2004 to 2016 to set expectations for what benthic macroinvertebrate communities would be typically encountered within wadeable streams within Kawartha Conservation's jurisdiction. This represents the largest dataset in the Kawartha Lakes region for which benthic macroinvertebrate data are summarized. In the absence of any other large published datasets, these taxa community summaries can serve as a benchmark, or average expected, against which data collected on streams of similar habitat conditions can be compared. Aquatic habitats in this dataset are mostly represented as small streams sampled in the spring. Results indicate that benthos taxa, including those considered sensitive, vary in presence and abundance throughout Kawartha Conservation's jurisdiction. Several taxa are relatively common and abundant while others are relatively rare and sparse. Descriptive statistics have been summarized for each taxa and certain taxa groupings that serve as benchmark values against which data collected by practitioners can be compared, including those involved in monitoring, habitat restoration, and/or education programming.

## Acknowledgements

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### 1.1 Introduction

Aquatic benthic macroinvertebrates (hereafter referred to as benthos) are organisms such as insects, spiders, worms, crustaceans, mollusks, and other taxa that are visible with the naked eye and that dwell within the substrates in water-based environments. They require an aquatic environment for all or a significant part of their life cycle and contribute to functioning ecosystems upon which life depends. Benthos populations respond to changing environmental conditions, therefore they are also valued for their role as indicators of water resource health. Using living organism to monitor resource health is termed biomonitoring, the data from which represents exposure from multiple sources that originate on land, air, and in water.

Watercourses (i.e., lakes, rivers, and streams) are important landscape features that provide numerous environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural benefits and as such Kawartha Conservation is active in monitoring their ecological status through an Environmental Monitoring Program within their department of Integrated Watershed Management. There are approximately $2,876 \mathrm{~km}$ of flowing watercourses (e.g., streams and rivers) within Kawartha Conservation's jurisdiction. A significant portion of these are shallow wadeable streams, which are particularly susceptible to negative impacts associated with development (e.g., urbanization) and other disturbances (e.g., sedimentation).

Given that benthos respond to changing environmental conditions, water management organizations (including Kawartha Conservation), have for decades been collecting benthos data on streams to help support water management decisions. In spite of these efforts there remain two significant challenges when using these data to assess water resource health. Firstly, there is no consolidated and easy-to-access background information to help set expectations of what benthos would be present within streams in the Kawartha Lakes region. Secondly, no established benchmarks exist to determine what benthos would expected to be present within the spectrum from most-pristine, through to moderately-healthy, to severelydegraded streams. These challenges (i.e., lack of expectations), inherently limits to a certain degree the ability of practitioners to biomonitor our watercourses and determine if more or less management is needed because there are no published "point-of-references" or "benchmarks" against which to compare data.

The purpose of this report is to addresses the first challenge by making available existing benthos and aquatic habitat data on wadeable streams that have been recorded within Kawartha Conservation's jurisdiction using the now industry-standard Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) approach. These data, in the absence of any ecosystem health standards or criteria against which to compare the resident benthos community on a stream of interest, will at a minimum serve as a "point of reference" dataset that, for example, will allow comparisons to be made for major groups of benthos taxa against "expected abundance values". The second challenge (i.e., establishing benchmarks), will be addressed in a subsequent project.

Specifically, the objective of this report is to publish information within scope of the following questions:

- What geographic locations, stream morphology, and aquatic habitat conditions are represented?
- What major types of aquatic invertebrates live within these streams and are certain taxa present more often or in higher numbers than others?
- What is the average abundance for each major type of aquatic invertebrate, including those that are considered sensitive, for the entire dataset and by major physiographic region?
- Is the abundance of sensitive aquatic invertebrates affected by the amount of natural, agricultural, and/or developed land use within their stream catchments or by geography?


### 1.2 Methods

The dataset summarized in this report was obtained from Kawartha Conservation, and includes 218 sampling events within Kawartha Conservation's jurisdiction for which benthos and aquatic habitat data were collected via the Streams Module within the OBBN protocol (Jones et al. 2007). The selection of sampling sites and sampling frequency for any given sampling event varied on a project-specific basis and were either collected in a fixed, random, or opportune basis. Benthos were collected using a 0.5 mm mesh D -net using the travelling kick-and-sweep method. Most sampling events (99\% of total) consisted of three benthos collection areas along a meander sequence within a wadeable stream. Benthos specimens were typically preserved in $70 \%$ isopropyl alcohol and tallied under a microscope to a 27-Group Taxa level of taxonomy by, or in the presence of, a certified OBBN professional.

Geographical Information Systems (ESRI, 2018) were used to obtain additional data for each sampling event. Land cover within the upstream drainage area for each sampling event was calculated by interpreting 2013 orthophotography according to Ecological Land Classification methodology (Lee et al., 1997; Credit Valley Conservation, 1998), into one of the following three categories: Natural (e.g., forests, wetlands, grasslands, open water, etc.), Developed (e.g., urban and rural development, manicured lawn, aggregate, roads, etc.), or Agriculture (e.g., croplands, pasturelands, etc.). The major landscape feature, termed Physiographic Region, in which each sampling event was located was obtained from Chapman and Putnam (1984).

Summary statistics were calculated in MS Excel, and are summarized at the site-, collection area-, or upstream catchment-level of detail. Benthos data for each sampling event are an average of the three collection areas, whereas aquatic habitat data are at individual collection areas, or for the entire meander sequence, as per the OBBN protocol. Table 1 provides a summary of terms used in the report to qualitatively describe benthos and aquatic habitat data.

All benthos data summarized in this report are located in Appendix A. All data were entered into the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network Database (OMOECP, 2018) and are available for download.

## Table 1: Definition of terms used to summarize data.

| Term | Definition |
| :---: | :---: |
| Occurrence | The percentage of sampling events in which a taxa is present, relative to all sampling events. |
| Abundance | The percentage of organisms present within a taxa at a sampling event, relative to all other organisms present within that same sampling event. |
| Average Abundance | Abundance as averaged for all 218 sampling events. |
| Absolute Abundance | Values expressed as select percentiles, relative to 100\%; >95\% (Extremely High/Common), 7595\% (Very High/Common), 50-75\% (Fairly High/Common), 25-50\% (Fairly Low/Rare), 5-25\% (Very Low/Rare), <5\% (Extremely Low/Rare). |
| Relative Abundance | Values expressed as select percentiles, relative to their average abundance; >11.3\% (>95th, Extremely High), 8.5-11.3\% (75-95th, Very High), 2.0-8.5\% (50-75th, Fairly High), 1.0-2.0\% (2550th, Fairly Low), 0.6-1.0\% (5-25th, Very Low), <0.6\% (<5th, Extremely Low). |
| Physiographic Region | CP (Carden Plain), GBF (Georgian Bay Fringe), ORM (Oak Ridges Moraine), PDF (Peterborough Drumlin Field), SCP (Schomberg Clay Plains) |
| Well represented | A relatively high number of sampling events contained these aquatic habitat features. |
| Not well represented | A relatively low number of sampling events contained these aquatic habitat features. |
| Not Represented | No sampling events contained these aquatic habitat features. |
| Normal Range | Between $5^{\text {th }}$ and $95^{\text {th }}$ percentile. |
| Atypical Range | Typically, between the $1^{\text {st }}$ and $5^{\text {th }}$ percentile and between the $95^{\text {th }}$ and $99{ }^{\text {th }}$ percentile. |

### 1.3 Results

Table $\mathbf{2}$ provides a summary of aquatic habitat data.

## Date and Month Sampled

The data summarized in this report includes 218 sample events on wadeable streams between 2004 and 2016, and most (75\% of total) occurred in 2006-2008 and 2012-2014. Sampling was undertaken between late spring and early fall, and most ( $61 \%$ of total) occurred in May. The data represent 149 unique site locations within the jurisdiction of Kawartha Conservation, and were sampled anywhere from one to seven times (average of 1.5). These data represent approximately 45\% of all benthos sampling events known to exist in watercourses from 1975 to 2017 within or immediately adjacent to Kawartha Conservation's jurisdiction (Figure 1).

## Stream Location

Sampling events exist on streams within all major subwatershed reporting units in Kawartha Conservation's jurisdiction (Figure 2). East Cross Creek contains the majority of the sampling events ( $20 \%$ of total), which is almost double that of the next subwatershed. There is an apparent lack of sampling events on streams within central and north-east subwatersheds. The sampling events are located in all six physiographic regions (Peterborough Drumlin Field, Schomberg Clay Plains, Oak Ridges Moraine, Dummer Moraines, Georgian Bay Fringe, and Carden Plain), with most ( $76 \%$ of total) existing in the Peterborough Drumlin Field, and a lack of sampling events (1.4\% of total) in the Carden Plain and Georgian Bay Fringe.

## Catchment and Riparian Land Use

Agricultural land use was well represented, as the catchments upstream of each sampling event ranged from 0 to $90 \%$, and averaged $45 \%$, with most (as indicated by the $75^{\text {th }}$ percentile) having $64 \%$ or lower. Natural land use was also well represented, ranging from 0 to $98 \%$, and averaged $45 \%$, with most having $63 \%$ or lower. Developed land use was not well represented, ranging from 0 to $100 \%$, averaging $10 \%$, with most having $10 \%$ or lower. Land use immediately adjacent to the sampling event was mostly natural ( 74 to $92 \%$ ), with moderate amounts of agriculture ( 4 to 18\%), and low amounts of development (4 to 9\%).

## Aquatic Habitat: catchment and channel size

Sampling events were located on $1^{\text {st }}, 2^{\text {nd }}, 3^{\text {rd }}$, and $4^{\text {th }}$ order streams, with the majority ( $73 \%$ of total) being located on small streams (either $2^{\text {nd }}$ or $3^{\text {rd }}$ order). Upstream drainage areas ranged from 0.1 to $188 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$, and averaged $13.8 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$, and most were $15.8 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ or smaller. Given that all streams were wadeable, they were relatively narrow (wetted widths ranged from 0.2 to 17 m , and averaged 3.1 m , and most were 3.7 m or less) and shallow (maximum depths ranged from 20 to 1250 mm , averaged 283 mm , and most were 360 mm or less).

## Aquatic Habitat: instream conditions

The streams are slow-to-moderate in terms of velocity, as maximum hydraulic head ranged from 0 to 200 mm , averaged 12 mm , and most were 15 mm or less. Fine particles including sand, silt, and clay comprise the majority ( 64 to $66 \%$ ) of the dominant and subdominant stream substrates with sand being the most prevalent ( 35 to $42 \%$ ). Coarse particles including gravel, cobble, and boulder are less prevalent ( 34 to $36 \%$ ) with boulder and bedrock being significantly underrepresented. Given most sampling occurred in the spring,
water temperatures were relatively cool (ranging from 5.9 to $26^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, averaging $14.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, with most being $17.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ or less. Canopy cover was variable but was often low, with $40 \%$ of events being in the 0 to $25 \%$ range. Aquatic plants were typically sparse (>75\% absent), and the plants that were present are either submerged ( $23 \%$ present, and occasionally abundant) and/or emergent (15\% present, and occasionally abundant). Algae was noted as present in at least $55 \%$ of events, including moderate-to-high amounts of attached (32\% present, and $13 \%$ abundant), and moderate amounts of filamentous (15\% and 9\% abundant).

Table 2: Aquatic habitat data collected in the field and through mapping.

|  | N | Average | Max | 75th | Median | 25th | Min |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Wetted Width (m) | 647 | 3.1 | 17.0 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 1.3 | 0.2 |  |
| Max Depth (mm) | 648 | 283 | 1250 | 360 | 230 | 150 | 20 |  |
| Water Temperature ( ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) | 183 | 14.1 | 26.0 | 17.1 | 13.8 | 10.5 | 5.9 |  |
| Max Hydraulic Head (mm) | 648 | 12 | 200 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Bankfull Width (m) | 161 | 4.6 | 16.0 | 6.0 | 3.9 | 2.4 | 0.9 |  |
|  | N | 0-24\% | 25-49\% | 50-74\% | 75-100\% |  |  |  |
| Canopy Cover (\%) | 216 | 40.3 | 13.9 | 20.4 | 25.5 |  |  |  |
|  | N | Developed | Natural | Agriculture |  |  |  |  |
| Riparian: 1.5 to 10 m (\%) | 434 | 4.1 | 91.9 | 3.9 |  |  |  |  |
| Riparian: 10 to 30 m (\%) | 432 | 8.8 | 78.7 | 12.5 |  |  |  |  |
| Riparian: 30 to 100m (\%) | 429 | 7.9 | 74.1 | 17.9 |  |  |  |  |
|  | N | Bedrock | Boulder | Cobble | Gravel | Sand | Silt | Clay |
| Substrate: Dominant (\%) | 643 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 7.9 | 25.5 | 42.3 | 19.8 | 3.9 |
| Substrate: Subdominant (\%) | 641 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 15.8 | 17.9 | 34.5 | 22.3 | 7.2 |
|  | N | Abundant | Present | Absent |  |  |  |  |
| Macrophytes: Emergent (\%) | 638 | 2.2 | 15.4 | 82.4 |  |  |  |  |
| Macrophytes: Rooted (\%) | 638 | 0.8 | 3.4 | 95.8 |  |  |  |  |
| Macrophytes: Submerged (\%) | 636 | 2.8 | 22.5 | 74.7 |  |  |  |  |
| Macrophytes: Freefloating (\%) | 636 | 0.5 | 3.8 | 95.8 |  |  |  |  |
| Algae: Floating (\%) | 644 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 98.4 |  |  |  |  |
| Algae: Filamentous (\%) | 644 | 8.5 | 14.8 | 76.7 |  |  |  |  |
| Algae: Attached (\%) | 644 | 12.6 | 32.1 | 55.3 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Average | Max | 75th | Median | 25th | Min |  |  |
| Catchment: Area (km ${ }^{2}$ ) | 13.8 | 188.0 | 15.8 | 6.3 | 2.6 | 0.1 |  |  |
| Catchment: Agriculture (\%) | 45.3 | 90.4 | 63.8 | 53.5 | 27.9 | 0.0 |  |  |
| Catchment: Natural (\%) | 44.7 | 98.4 | 62.8 | 38.0 | 26.9 | 0.4 |  |  |
| Catchment: Developed (\%) | 10.1 | 99.6 | 10.3 | 7.4 | 4.8 | 0.2 |  |  |
|  | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th |  |  |  |
| Stream Order (\%) | 7.3 | 33.9 | 39.0 | 18.8 | 0.9 |  |  |  |
|  | CP | DM | GBF | ORM | PDF | SCP |  |  |
| Physiographic Region (\%) | 0.5 | 6.0 | 0.9 | 7.8 | 76.1 | 8.7 |  |  |



Figure 1: All known benthic macroinvertebrate sampling events undertaken by organizations in-and-around Kawartha Conservation's jurisdiction, by year. Grey bars indicate sampling events summarized in this report.


Figure 2: The percentage of sampling events within each major subwatershed reporting unit in Kawartha Conservation's jurisdiction.

## Benthos Communities: 27-Group Taxa

Benthos 27-Group data are summarized in Table 3 and Table 4. All taxa in the 27-Group level, as defined in the OBBN protocol, were recorded in this dataset. In terms of the presence at any given sampling event, the following taxa were either extremely common (greater than 95\%) or very common ( 75 to $95 \%$ ): Midges, Beetles, Caddisflies, Mussels, and Mayflies. The following taxa were either extremely rare (less than 5\%) or very rare (5 to 25\%): Hydras, Flatworms, Damselflies, Crayfish, Truebugs, Aquatic Moths, and Mosquitos. In terms of average abundance when present in an event relative to all other taxa, the following taxa were either extremely high (greater than 11.3\%) or very high (8.5 to 11.3\%): Midges, Aquatic Sowbugs, Caddisflies, Mussels, Mayflies, Stoneflies, and Scuds. The following taxa were either extremely low (less than 0.6\%) or very low ( 0.6 to 1.0\%): Crayfish, Hydras, Flatworms, Horse/Deerflies, Dragonflies, Nematodes, Helgrammites, Damselflies, and Aquatic Moths. All taxa except Midges were extremely low (less than 5\%) or very low ( 5 to $25 \%$ ), in terms of absolute abundance when present. In terms of maximum recorded abundance at any given site, no taxa were extremely high (greater than 95\%) and the following taxa were very high (greater than 95\%): Midges, Mussels, Snails, Scuds, and Aquatic Sowbugs. The following taxa were extremely low (less than 5\%) or very low (5 to 25\%): Helgrammites, Damselflies, Crayfish, Aquatic Moths, Hydras, Flatworms, Noseeums, Misc.Trueflies, Craneflies, Mites, Horse/Deerflies, Dragonflies, Nematodes, Leeches, Truebugs, and Mosquitos. Abundance values of zero (e.g., not present) are within the normal range of all taxa except Midges, as such higher values than normal for all other taxa are most appropriate for use for comparative analyses.

## Benthos Communities: 5-Group Taxa

Benthos 5-Group data are summarized in Table 3 and Table 4. Insects are extremely common (greater than $95 \%$ ) in the dataset, in very high ( 75 to $95 \%$ ) numbers in total, and at most in extremely high (greater than $95 \%$ ) numbers. Crustaceans are very common ( 75 to $95 \%$ ) in the dataset, in very low ( 5 to $25 \%$ ) numbers in total, and at most in very high ( 75 to $95 \%$ ) numbers. Mollusks are very common ( 75 to $95 \%$ ) in dataset, and when present tend to be found in fairly high ( 50 to $75 \%$ ) numbers relative to other taxa, and in very low ( 5 to $25 \%$ ) numbers in total, and at most in fairly high ( 50 to $75 \%$ ) numbers. Worms are very common ( 75 to $95 \%$ ) in dataset, in very low numbers ( 5 to $25 \%$ ) in total, and at most in very high ( 75 to $95 \%$ ) numbers. All other taxa are fairly common ( 50 to $75 \%$ ) in dataset, in extremely low (less than $5 \%$ ) numbers in total, and at most in very low ( 5 to $25 \%$ ) numbers. Abundance values of zero (e.g., not present) are within the normal range of all grouped taxa except Insects, as such higher values than normal for the other grouped taxa are most appropriate for use for comparative analyses.

## Benthos Communities: Physiographic Distribution

Benthos community data by physiographic region are summarized in Table 5. When comparing the dataset to the four other physiographic regions with available data (excluding Carden Plains and Georgian Bay Fringe), the Dummer Moraines supported relatively higher numbers (as indicated by average abundances being more than twice the dataset) of Aquatic Sowbugs, Truebugs, Crayfish, Aquatic Moths, and Damselflies, and relatively lower numbers (as indicated by average abundances being less than twice the dataset) of Scuds, Aquatic Earthworms, Noseeums, Misc. Trueflies, Mites, Horse/Deerflies, Nematodes, Mostiquoes. The Oak Ridges Moraine supported relatively higher numbers of Caddisflies, Mayflies, Noseeums, Helgrammites, Crayfish, and Damselflies, and relatively lower numbers of Scuds, Snails, Aquatic Sowbugs, Horse/Deerflies, Leeches, Mosquitos, and Truebugs. The Schomberg Clay Plains supported relatively higher numbers of Blackflies, Nematoes, and Damselflies, and a relatively lower number of Caddisflies, Mayflies, Stoneflies, Craneflies, Helgrammites, Mosquitos, Truebugs, and Crayfish. The apparent and magnitude of differences observed should be interpreted with caution, given data are mostly represented in Peterborough Drumlin

Field and have not been tested to exclude the influence of other important drivers of benthos community (e.g., specific land use disturbances, natural differences in aquatic habitats, etc.).

## Benthos Communities: Sensitive Taxa

Data for sensitive taxa, as represented by Stoneflies (the taxa considered the most sensitive of all 27-Group taxa) and the grouping of Mayflies, Stoneflies, and Caddisflies (the group of taxa considered the top-3 most sensitive of all 27-Group taxa) are summarized in Table 3 and Table 4. Stoneflies were fairly common in the dataset, being present in 68\% of sample events. Their abundance ranged from 0 to $65.7 \%$, averaged $6.1 \%$, and most (as represented by the $75^{\text {th }}$ percentile) of the sample events had $7.4 \%$ or less. When these taxa were present at a site, their average community composition was $9.1 \%$ of all taxa in the sample. Their normal abundances are between 0 and $27.6 \%$. In terms of physiographic region (excluding Carden Plains and Georgian Bay Fringe) higher numbers tend to be found in Dummer Moraines and significantly less were found in Schomberg Clay Plains (Table 5). The grouping of Mayflies, Stoneflies, and Caddisflies were extremely common in the dataset, with at least one of those taxa being present in nearly all (95\%) sample events. Their grouped abundance ranged from 0 to $80.9 \%$, averaged $20.9 \%$, and most of the sampling events had $32.4 \%$ or less. When these grouped taxa were present at a site, their average community composition was average 22.0\% of all taxa in sample. Their normal abundances are between 0 and $64.3 \%$. In terms of physiographic region, higher numbers are found in Dummer Moraines and Oak Ridges Moraine, and significantly less in Schomberg Clay Plains (Table 5).

Figure 3 and Figure 4 show a plot of the community composition of sensitive taxa compared to major land use categories (i.e., natural, agricultural, and developed) within the catchment of each sampling event. The relationship between land use and Stoneflies, as indicated by the trend lines, indicates a slightly positive or neutral correlation with natural and agricultural land use, and a negative correlation with developed land use. The relationship between land use and the grouping of Mayflies, Stoneflies, and Caddisflies, indicates a positive correlation with natural land use, and a negative correlation with agricultural and developed land use. With respect to developed land use and Stonefly abundance, there is an apparent threshold at 20\% development given that above this value there are limited sites with Stoneflies. This should be interpreted with caution as sampling sites with high amounts of development within their catchments are relatively underrepresented, compared to natural and agricultural land use.

Figure 5 and Figure 6 show the location and community composition values of Stoneflies and the grouping of Mayflies, Stoneflies, and Caddisflies. In terms of geography, sensitive taxa do not visually appear to be isolated to any given area but rather they are widely distributed within Kawartha Conservation jurisdiction. Locations with the highest (as represented by the top $3^{\text {rd }}$ percentile) relative abundance of Stoneflies had an average value of $19.0 \%$, and ranged between $8.3 \%$ and $65.7 \%$. These sites were located in the Dummer Moraines, Oak Ridges Moraine, and Peterborough Drumlin Field, and in the subwatersheds of: Cameron Lake, East Cross Creek, Emily Creek, Fleetwood Creek, Hawkers Creek, Lake Scugog, Martin Creek South, Nonquon River, Pearns Creek, Pigeon Lake, Pigeon River, Staples River, and Sturgeon Lake.

## Other Organisms

In addition to benthic macroinvertebrates, several other animal organisms were incidentally collected through sampling and documented in this dataset including: terrestrial or semi-aquatic invertebrates (Flies, Wasps, Ants, Spiders, Water Striders, Millipedes, Grasshoppers, Collumbola), fishes (Brook Trout, Brook Stickleback, Northern Redbelly Dace, Sculpin sp.), zooplankton (Daphnia, Cladocera, Copepoda), and amphibians (Anuran Tadpoles, and Salamanders).

Table 3: Categorical summaries of all taxa occurrence and abundance.

| Taxa | Occurrence | Average Abundance (relative, when present) | Abundance (absolute, when present) | Abundance (absolute, maximum) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 27-Group Taxa |  |  |  |  |
| Midges | Extremely Common | Extremely High | Fairly Low | Very High |
| Beetles | Very Common | Fairly High | Very Low | Fairly High |
| Caddisflies | Very Common | Very High | Very Low | Fairly High |
| Mussels | Very Common | Very High | Very Low | Very High |
| Mayflies | Very Common | Very High | Very Low | Fairly Low |
| Aquatic Earthworms | Fairly Common | Fairly High | Extremely Low | Fairly Low |
| Snails | Fairly Common | Fairly High | Very Low | Very High |
| Stoneflies | Fairly Common | Very High | Very Low | Fairly High |
| Scuds | Fairly Common | Very High | Very Low | Very High |
| Noseeums | Fairly Common | Fairly High | Extremely Low | Very Low |
| Misc. Trueflies | Fairly Common | Fairly High | Extremely Low | Very Low |
| Craneflies | Fairly Common | Fairly Low | Extremely Low | Very Low |
| Mites | Fairly Common | Fairly Low | Extremely Low | Very Low |
| Horse/Deerflies | Fairly Common | Very Low | Extremely Low | Very Low |
| Blackflies | Fairly Rare | Fairly High | Extremely Low | Fairly Low |
| Dragonflies | Fairly Rare | Very Low | Extremely Low | Very Low |
| Aquatic Sowbugs | Fairly Rare | Extremely High | Very Low | Very High |
| Nematodes | Fairly Rare | Very Low | Extremely Low | Very Low |
| Helgrammites | Fairly Rare | Very Low | Extremely Low | Extremely Low |
| Leeches | Fairly Rare | Fairly Low | Extremely Low | Very Low |
| Damselflies | Very Rare | Very Low | Extremely Low | Extremely Low |
| Crayfish | Very Rare | Extremely Low | Extremely Low | Extremely Low |
| Truebugs | Very Rare | Fairly Low | Extremely Low | Very Low |
| Aquatic Moths | Very Rare | Very Low | Extremely Low | Extremely Low |
| Mosquitos | Very Rare | Fairly Low | Extremely Low | Very Low |
| Hydras | Extremely Rare | Extremely Low | Extremely Low | Extremely Low |
| Flatworms | Extremely Rare | Extremely Low | Extremely Low | Extremely Low |
| 5-Group Taxa |  |  |  |  |
| Insects | Extremely Common | n/a | Very High | Extremely High |
| Crustaceans | Very Common | n/a | Very Low | Very High |
| Mollusks | Very Common | n/a | Very Low | Fairly High |
| Worms | Very Common | n/a | Very Low | Very High |
| Other | Fairly Common | n/a | Extremely Low | Very Low |
| Sensitive Taxa |  |  |  |  |
| Stoneflies | Fairly Common | n/a | Very Low | Fairly High |
| Mayflies, Stoneflies, Caddisflies | Extremely Common | n/a | Very Low | Very High |

Table 4: The normal range of taxa abundance (green) as defined as between the $5^{\text {th }}$ and $95^{\text {th }}$ percentile, the atypical range (red) as defined as below $5^{\text {th }}$ percentile and above $95^{\text {th }}$ percentile.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Min | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 55 | 60 | 65 | 70 | 75 | 80 | 85 | 90 | 95 | Max |
| 27-Group Taxa |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Scuds | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 3.0 | 4.7 | 7.4 | 10.0 | 14.2 | 20.0 | 36.2 | 83.5 |
| Dragonflies | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 6.8 |
| Mussels | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 4.8 | 6.3 | 7.9 | 9.7 | 12.7 | 18.3 | 22.7 | 35.6 | 81.5 |
| Noseeums | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 3.7 | 6.4 | 16.0 |
| Midges | 0.3 | 4.1 | 8.8 | 12.1 | 15.7 | 18.1 | 21.0 | 23.0 | 26.1 | 29.8 | 31.8 | 34.7 | 39.5 | 43.5 | 45.7 | 47.2 | 50.0 | 54.0 | 59.8 | 67.0 | 93.5 |
| Hydras | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| Beetles | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 3.6 | 4.5 | 5.7 | 6.8 | 9.2 | 10.8 | 14.0 | 15.9 | 20.8 | 30.5 | 51.8 |
| Mosquitos | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 5.9 |
| Crayfish | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 2.1 |
| Mayflies | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 3.2 | 4.1 | 5.0 | 6.5 | 9.0 | 11.4 | 16.0 | 21.1 | 34.2 | 45.3 |
| Snails | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 3.5 | 6.2 | 9.4 | 14.7 | 26.0 | 77.7 |
| Truebugs | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 12.5 |
| Leeches | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 11.0 |
| Mites | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 3.6 | 10.8 |
| AquaticSowbugs | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.9 | 3.1 | 5.6 | 17.3 | 33.5 | 83.2 |
| AquaticMoths | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 4.1 |
| Helgrammites | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 4.2 |
| Misc.Trueflies | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 3.8 | 5.3 | 21.8 |
| Nematodes | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 5.8 |
| AquaticEarthworms | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.7 | 6.9 | 12.6 | 47.2 |
| Stoneflies | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 3.6 | 5.0 | 7.4 | 11.0 | 14.8 | 19.9 | 27.6 | 65.7 |
| Blackflies | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 3.2 | 4.7 | 10.7 | 42.4 |
| Horse/Deerflies | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 6.0 |
| Craneflies | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 3.4 | 6.2 | 11.1 |
| Caddisflies | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 3.7 | 4.5 | 6.4 | 7.8 | 9.1 | 11.8 | 15.3 | 18.0 | 21.7 | 25.3 | 51.0 |
| Flatworms | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.1 |
| Damselflies | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 3.2 |
| 5-Group Taxa |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Insects | 1.5 | 15.1 | 26.1 | 37.9 | 50.3 | 55.6 | 64.5 | 70.9 | 74.1 | 76.3 | 77.9 | 81.9 | 85.3 | 87.3 | 89.8 | 91.0 | 93.1 | 94.7 | 96.2 | 97.5 | 99.7 |
| Crustaceans | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 3.1 | 4.4 | 7.3 | 12.0 | 16.4 | 19.8 | 30.2 | 40.8 | 59.3 | 89.1 |
| Worms | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 4.4 | 7.6 | 12.7 | 52.0 |
| Mollusks | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 3.6 | 4.9 | 6.8 | 8.3 | 10.7 | 12.6 | 15.8 | 21.1 | 26.2 | 41.9 | 60.6 | 94.4 |
| Other | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.7 | 4.2 | 11.0 |
| Sensitive Taxa |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| \%Stoneflies | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 3.6 | 5.0 | 7.4 | 11.0 | 14.8 | 19.9 | 27.6 | 65.7 |
| \%Mayflies,Stoneflies,Caddisflies | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 5.0 | 5.7 | 8.2 | 9.6 | 11.9 | 16.1 | 20.6 | 24.7 | 28.1 | 32.4 | 40.8 | 48.5 | 52.7 | 64.3 | 80.9 |

Table 5: Benthos average abundance relative to physiographic region. Bold indicates more than twice as high as dataset average or twice as low as dataset average.

| Taxa | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Dataset } \\ & \text { (N=218) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{CP} \\ (\mathrm{~N}=1) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { DM } \\ (\mathrm{N}=13) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { GBF } \\ & (\mathrm{N}=2) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { ORM } \\ (\mathrm{N}=17) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PDF } \\ & \text { ( } \mathrm{N}=166 \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { SCP } \\ (\mathrm{N}=19) \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 27-Group Taxa |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Midges | 33.8 | 1.3 | 27.9 | 29.9 | 25.2 | 35.3 | 34.7 |
| Mussels | 8.0 | 1.3 | 5.5 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 8.1 | 13.2 |
| Caddisflies | 7.9 | 0.3 | 9.3 | 18.5 | 17.4 | 7.4 | 2.2 |
| Beetles | 7.6 | 0.6 | 9.5 | 23.7 | 14.5 | 6.8 | 6.1 |
| Mayflies | 6.9 | 0 | 8.3 | 2.2 | 15.4 | 6.4 | 3.2 |
| Scuds | 6.8 | 83.5 | 1.4 | 0.6 | 3.2 | 6.2 | 15.5 |
| Stoneflies | 6.1 | 0 | 11.3 | 0.5 | 7.0 | 6.3 | 0.9 |
| Snails | 5.3 | 1.0 | 8.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 5.8 | 3.9 |
| AquaticSowbugs | 5.2 | 5.6 | 11.0 | 0 | <0.1 | 5.2 | 6.5 |
| AquaticEarthworms | 2.6 | 5.0 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 3.7 |
| Blackflies | 2.2 | 0 | 1.6 | 10.9 | 2.5 | 1.9 | 4.4 |
| Noseeums | 1.4 | 0 | 0.5 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Misc.Trueflies | 1.4 | 0 | 0.5 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 0.8 |
| Craneflies | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 0.5 |
| Mites | 0.8 | 0 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.1 |
| Dragonflies | 0.5 | 0 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| Horse/Deerflies | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| Leeches | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.2 | <0.1 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| Helgrammites | 0.3 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.3 | <0.1 |
| Nematodes | 0.3 | 0 | <0.1 | 0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| Mosquitos | 0.2 | 0 | 0.1 | 0 | <0.1 | 0.2 | 0 |
| Truebugs | 0.2 | 0 | 0.8 | 0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Crayfish | 0.1 | 0 | 0.3 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | <0.1 |
| AquaticMoths | 0.1 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.5 | $<0.1$ | 0.1 | <0.1 |
| Damselflies | 0.1 | 0 | 0.2 | 0 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Flatworms | <0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <0.1 | 0 |
| Hydras | <0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | <0.1 | <0.1 | 0 |
| 5-Group Taxa |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Insects | 70.5 | 2.9 | 72.1 | 94.6 | 89.6 | 70.3 | 55.2 |
| Mollusks | 13.3 | 2.4 | 13.8 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 13.9 | 17.1 |
| Crustaceans | 12.1 | 89.1 | 12.6 | 0.6 | 3.4 | 11.5 | 22.1 |
| Worms | 2.9 | 5.0 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 1.7 | 3.1 | 4.3 |
| Other | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Sensitive Taxa |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stoneflies | 6.1 | 0 | 11.3 | 0.5 | 7.0 | 6.3 | 0.9 |
| Mayflies, Stoneflies, Caddisflies | 20.9 | 0.3 | 28.9 | 21.2 | 39.9 | 20.1 | 6.3 |



Figure 3: Relationship between abundance of Stoneflies and upstream land cover.


Figure 4: Relationship between abundance of Mayflies, Stoneflies, and Caddisflies, and upstream land cover.


Figure 5: Location of sample sites, showing relative abundance of Stoneflies as High (top third percentile), Moderate (middle third percentile), Low (bottom third percentile), and None (none present).


Figure 6: Location of sample sites, showing relative abundance of Mayflies, Stoneflies, and Caddisflies, as High (top third percentile), Moderate (middle third percentile), Low (bottom third percentile), and None (none present).

### 1.4 Discussion

This report provides published data to help address a key challenge associated with benthos monitoring by providing a summary of background information that sets expectations of what benthos would be present within wadeable streams in the Kawartha Lakes region. These data, in the absence of any other published dataset, serve as a useful "point-of-reference" against which future benthos monitoring data can be compared. This is the largest dataset in the Kawartha Lakes region for which benthic macroinvertebrate data have been published, and all data are now accessible via the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network.

Aquatic resource managers and practitioners in the Kawartha Lakes region and beyond will find these data summaries useful, particularly in the disciplines of environmental monitoring (for example, by comparing the abundance of sensitive taxa found in sampled streams), habitat restoration (for example, by setting benthos presence expectations for rehabilitated streams), and education programming (for example, focusing identification skills on taxa that we expect to encounter).

Opportunities to make these data even more relevant and applicable include: increasing taxonomic precision (e.g., from 27-group to family-level), collecting data on minimally impacted through to severely impacted streams (e.g., to set benthos expectations for healthy and degraded streams), collecting data on highly urbanized streams (e.g., to fill data gaps within the development stressor category), and collecting data within aquatic habitats that are underrepresented in this dataset.

The following provides brief answers to the specific questions posed in the introduction.

## What geographic locations, stream morphology, and aquatic habitat conditions are represented?

Table 6 provides a summary of the degree of representativeness for each of these variables. In general, the dataset does provide a good spectrum of aquatic habitats that are typically encountered on wadeable streams within the Kawartha Lakes region, however practitioners should take note of which types are more represented than others. Those that are well represented are likely best suited for benthic macroinvertebrate comparisons (e.g., sampling events located on small streams within the Peterborough Drumlin Field downstream of natural and agricultural landscapes, having relatively shallow and narrow channels with well vegetated riparian areas, etc.). Comparisons should be interpreted with caution for habitats that are not well represented (e.g., sampling events located within the Carden Plain downstream of developed catchments on bedrock substrates, etc.), and not recommended for comparisons on habitats that are not represented at all within the dataset (e.g., sampling events on large, deep, and wide streams in the winter).

Table 6: Aquatic habitat measurements and how well represented they are in dataset.

| Aquatic Habitat Measurement | Well represented | Not well represented | Not Represented |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Date and month sampled | - 2006, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014 <br> - May | - 2004 <br> - April | - January, February, March, November, December |
| Stream location | - East Cross Creek <br> - Peterborough Drumlin Field | - Central jurisdiction <br> - North-east jurisdiction <br> - Carden Plain <br> - Georgian Bay Fringe <br> - Streams within Cameron Lake subwatershed <br> - Janetville Creek <br> - Martin Creek North <br> - Pearns Creek <br> - Rutherford Creek |  |


| Aquatic Habitat <br> Measurement | Well represented | Not well represented | Not Represented |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Catchment and riparian land use | - Natural catchments <br> - Agricultural catchments <br> - Natural riparian areas | - Developed catchments <br> - Developed riparian areas |  |
| Aquatic Habitat: catchment and channel size | - $2^{\text {nd }}$ and $3^{\text {rd }}$ order streams <br> - Catchments between 2.6 and $15.8 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ <br> - Wetted widths between 1.3 and 3.7 m <br> - Maximum depths between 150 and 360 mm <br> - Bankfull widths between 2.4 and 6.0 m | - $5^{\text {th }}$ order streams | - $6^{\text {th }}$ order streams and larger <br> - Catchments greater than $188 \mathrm{~km}^{2}$ <br> - Wetted widths greater than 17m <br> - Maximum depths greater than 1250 mm <br> - Bankfull widths greater than 16m |
| Aquatic Habitat: instream conditions | - Maximum velocities between 0 and 15 mm hydraulic head <br> - Water temperatures between 10.5 and $17.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ <br> - Absent macrophytes | - Boulder substrates <br> - Bedrock substrates <br> - Abundant macrophytes | - Maximum velocities greater than 200 mm <br> - Water temperatures less than $5.9^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and greater than $26^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ <br> - Abundant floating algae |

What major types of aquatic invertebrates live within these streams and are certain taxa present more often or in higher numbers than others?

All benthos within the 27-Group Taxa were recorded in the dataset, but not all taxa were equally represented. Some benthos were found more or less often, or in higher or lower numbers, than others. Table 7 provides a summary of the benthos that are considered the most common or rare, and most abundant or sparse. Results indicate that taxa vary in presence and abundance and not all taxa are equally represented. Several taxa including Midges, Beetles, Caddisflies, Mussels, Stoneflies, and Scuds are most often encountered at sampling events, and when they are present occur in relatively high numbers compared to other taxa. In contrast, Flatworms, Hydras, Mosquitos, Aquatic Moths, Truebugs, Crayfish, Damselflies, Helgrammites, Nematodes, Dragonflies, and Horse/Deerflies are least often encountered and occur in relatively low numbers compared to other taxa. Midges were encountered at every sampling event and by far had the highest average abundance, whereas Hydras and Flatworms were almost never encountered and had the lowest average abundance.

Table 7: Benthos taxa summarized as common, rare, abundant, and/or sparse.

| Common | Rare | Abundant | Sparse |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Midges, Beetles, Caddisflies, | Flatworms, Hydras, | Midges, Caddisflies, Mussels, | Flatworms, Hydras, Crayfish, |
| Mussels, Mayflies | Mosquitos, Aquatic Moths, | Mayflies, Stoneflies, Scuds | Aquatic Moths, Damselflies, |
|  | Truebugs, Crayfish, |  | Helgrammites, Nematodes, <br>  <br>  <br> Damselflies |

## What is the average abundance for each major type of aquatic invertebrate, including those that are considered sensitive, for the entire dataset and by major physiographic region?

Table 8 provides numerical values that serve as "point-of-reference" expectations for comparison purposes. For example, results from this dataset indicate that average abundance for Aquatic Sowbugs is $5.2 \%$, their normal abundance range is between 0 and $33.5 \%$, and they are typically found in higher numbers in streams within Dummer Moraines and in lower numbers in streams within the Oak Ridges Moraine. If a site having comparable aquatic habitats was then sampled using OBBN, the obtained abundance values of Aquatic Sowbugs could be compared against these values to determine if they are within, or outside, of these expectations. If the taxa of interest are also considered an indicator organism (as is the case for Aquatic Sow Bugs where higher numbers typically indicate more
degraded conditions) then higher or lower values relative to this dataset could indicate for example better or worse conditions than would be "expected".

## Table 8: Abundance values for each 27-Group Taxa. Sensitive taxa are in bold.

| Benthos | Average Abundance (\%) | Normal Range of Abundance (\%) | Abundance is at least twice as high in the following physiographic region: | Abundance is at least twice as low in the following physiographic region: |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AquaticEarthworms | 2.6 | 0-12.6 |  | DM |
| AquaticMoths | 0.1 | 0-0.7 | DM |  |
| AquaticSowbugs | 5.2 | 0-33.5 | DM | ORM |
| Beetles | 7.6 | 0-30.5 |  |  |
| Blackflies | 2.2 | 0-10.7 | SCP |  |
| Caddisflies | 7.9 | 0-25.3 | ORM |  |
| Craneflies | 1.3 | 0-6.2 |  | SCP |
| Crayfish | 0.1 | 0-0.7 | DM, ORM | SCP |
| Damselflies | 0.1 | 0-0.9 | DM, ORM |  |
| Dragonflies | 0.5 | 0-2.0 |  |  |
| Flatworms | <0.1 | 0-0.0 |  |  |
| Helgrammites | 0.3 | 0-1.3 | ORM | SCP |
| Horse/Deerflies | 0.5 | 0-2.0 |  | DM, ORM |
| Hydras | <0.1 | 0-0.0 |  |  |
| Leeches | 0.3 | 0-1.6 |  | ORM |
| Mayflies | 6.9 | 0-34.2 | ORM |  |
| Midges | 33.8 | 4.1-67.0 |  |  |
| Misc.Trueflies | 1.4 | 0-5.3 |  | DM |
| Mites | 0.8 | 0-3.6 |  | DM |
| Mosquitos | 0.2 | 0-1.2 |  | DM, ORM, SCP |
| Mussels | 8.0 | 0-35.6 |  |  |
| Nematodes | 0.3 | 0-1.8 | SCP | DM |
| Noseeums | 1.4 | 0-6.4 | ORM | DM |
| Scuds | 6.8 | 0-36.2 |  | DM |
| Snails | 5.3 | 0-26.0 |  | ORM |
| Stoneflies | 6.1 | 0-27.6 |  | SCP |
| Truebugs | 0.2 | 0-0.7 | DM | ORM, SCP |

## Is the abundance of sensitive aquatic invertebrates affected by the amount of natural, agricultural, and/or developed land use within their stream catchments or by geography?

Results indicate that sensitive benthos in Kawartha region streams do respond to land use within their catchments. Table 9 provides a summary of the response for each land use category. Sensitive taxa tend to respond positively with natural land use (e.g., higher natural cover equates to more sensitive taxa), negatively with developed land use (e.g., higher development equates to less sensitive taxa), and is variable for agriculture. There are indications that benthos communities vary by geography, for example relative to the entire dataset, sensitive taxa are found in higher abundance in the Oak Ridges Moraine than in the Schomberg Clay Plains. This observation however may simply be related to the level of disturbance for example there may be typically higher natural cover and fewer stressors in Oak Ridges Moraine streams. The usefulness of using Stoneflies, and the grouping of Mayflies, Stoneflies, and Caddisflies, as indicators of aquatic ecosystem condition within the Kawartha Lakes region has been somewhat verified given they have been demonstrated to respond to stressors (e.g., development), they are widely distributed within the Kawartha Lakes region, and they have a wide range of abundance values.

Table 9: The relationship between sensitive taxa and catchment land use.

| Sensitive Taxa | Relationship with Increased Catchment Land Use Within the Following: |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Natural | Developed | Agricultural |
| Stoneflies | Positive | Negative | Positive |
| Mayflies, Stoneflies, and Caddisflies | Positive | Negative | Negative |

### 1.5 References

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Appendix A: Benthos data for each sampling event.

| SuC01 | July 17, 2012 | 4911530 | 681605 | 29.1\% | 0.0\% | 3.3\% | 0.0\% | 22.5\% | 0.0\% | 23.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 9.3\% | 2.3\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 7.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.4\% | 0.0\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SuC01 | June 5, 2014 | 4911530 | 681605 | 47.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.5\% | 0.0\% | 41.7\% | 0.0\% | 7.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.3\% | 0.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.8\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.18 | 0.0 | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% |
| SuC01 | July 14, 2016 | 4911530 | 681605 | 29.6\% | 0.0\% | .5\% | 0.3\% | 53.5\% | 0.0\% | 6.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0 | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0 | 0.0\% | 0.3\% | 0.0 | 0.0\% |
| URB-020 | May 19, 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 52.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 18.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.6\% | 0.0\% | 26.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.9\% | 0.0\% |
| URB-023 | May 17, 2016 | 0 | 0 | 25.8 | 0.0\% | 0.7\% | 0.0 | 23.3\% | 0.0\% | 36.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.6\% | 1.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.7\% | 0.9 | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.3 | 0.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.9 | 2.1 | 0.6\% | 1.9\% | 1.2 | 0.0 |
| URB-025 | May 30, 2016 | 0 | 0 | 10.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.5\% | 0.0\% | 75.6\% | 0.0\% | 7.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% | 1.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.4\% | 0.4 | 0.0\% | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 2.3\% | 0.0 |
| URB-032 | May 20, 2016 | 0 | 0 | 8\% | \% | 0.8\% | 0\% | 46.4\% | 0\% | 9.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.9\% | 5.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.5\% | 0.3\% | 3.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0 | 0.0\% | 0.2\% | 8.6\% | 0.4\% | 4.2\% | 0.5\% | 0.8\% | 3.8\% | 0.0\% |
| URB-038 | May 20, 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0.3\% | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3\% | 78.3\% | 0.0\% | 9.4 | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 8.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.8\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.7\% | $0.0 \%$ | 0.0\% |
| URB-048 | May 31, 2016 | 0 | 0 | 2.1\% | 0.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.5\% | 43.8\% | 0.0\% | 19.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.9\% | 6.0\% | 0.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% | 25.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.8\% | 0.4 | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| URB-050 | May 25, 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 17.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.3\% | 0.3\% | 0.0\% | 2.5\% | 0.0\% | 59.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.5\% | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0\% | 0.3 | 17.8 | .0\% |
| URB-066 | May 25, 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 71.8\% | 0.0\% | 4\% | 0.0\% | 1.1\% | 0.0\% | 2.1\% | 0.4\% | 0.4\% | 1.4\% | 13.8\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.7\% | 0.7\% | 3.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.3\% | 1.0\% | 0.0\% |
| URB-095 | May 26, 2016 | 0 | 0 | 4.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.6\% | 0.0\% | 49.3\% | 0.0\% | 2.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.3\% | 3.7\% | 0.0\% | 2.1\% | 0.0\% | 11.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 24.7 | 0.0 |

