



Winners of the first AquaHacking

Initially called River Rangers, the founders of Water Rangers (Kat, Ollie and Mark) won the 2015 AquaHacking competition with their prototype of an open data platform for community scientists!



AQUA HACKING

SOMMET DE LA RIVIÈRE DES OUTAOUAIS / 2015
OTTAWA RIVER SUMMIT

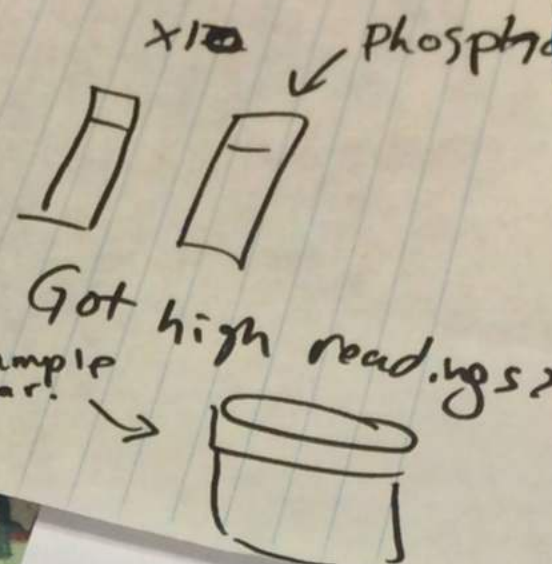
Kat's father inspired Water Rangers

Bob Neville was a long-time **community scientist**. He had collected (on paper!) years of water quality data, but had no way of easily share his results with the local community.

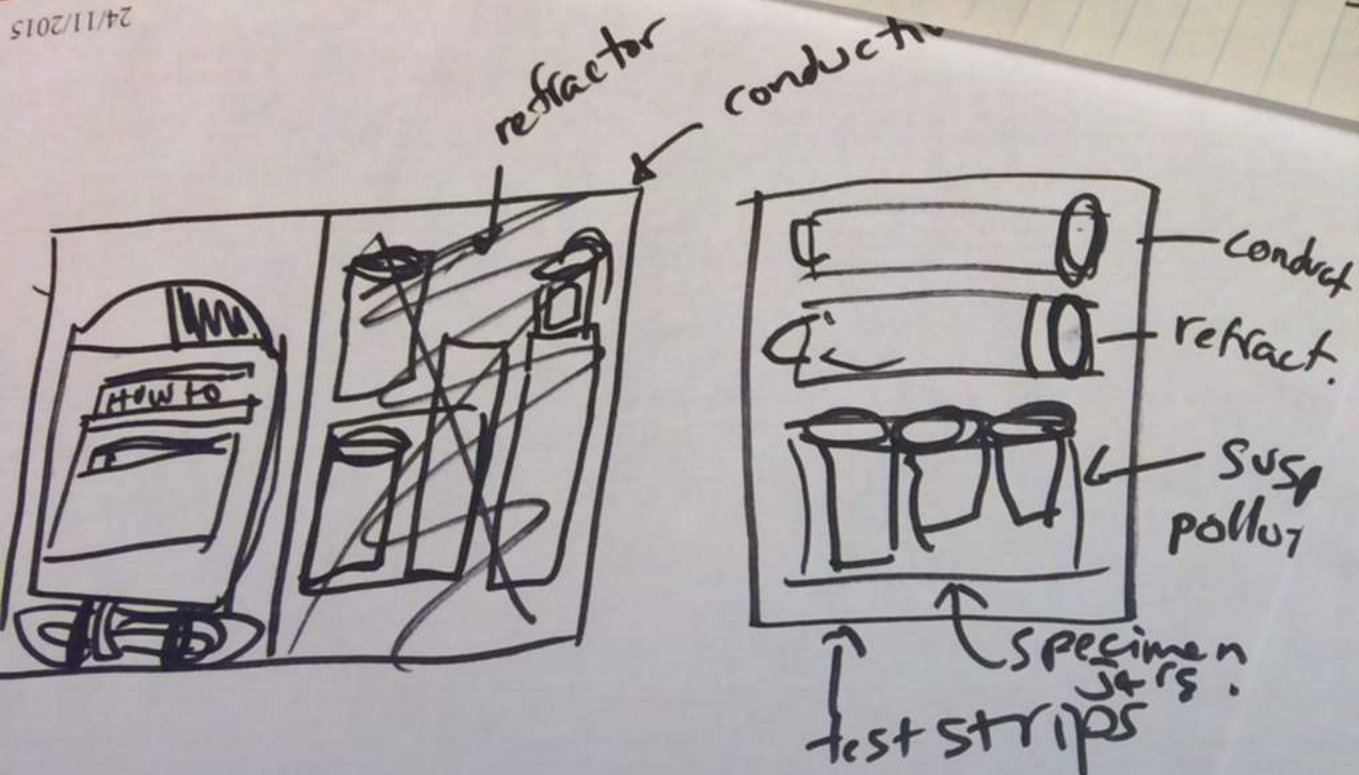




Suspect
Pollution?
This is
the first step



24/11/2015



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Testkits created to respond to a need

The community wanted an easy way to **collect data** to **share** on the platform. You asked and we listened! The first testkit was launched in 2017.

Expanding the team!

Since then, the Water Rangers team has grown and spread across Canada! Here is our current team!



I joined Water Rangers in 2021 as Director. However, I have worked with Water Rangers since 2016, and witnessed the deep and transformative impact Kat and the Water Rangers testkits had on people and communities. I'm so proud of this team and it's tangible contributions to community science, and taking data to action.

Gabrielle Parent-Doliner, Director

Working at Water Rangers has truly been the best. For six years, I've had the privilege of working alongside passionate people, all driven by a mission we deeply believe in. Watching the community science movement grow has been inspiring, powerful, and a true reminder of what we can achieve together.

Laura Gilbert, Community & Operations Manager





It's an incredible gift when your passion and your work come together. I'm beyond thrilled to have been a part of the amazing work Water Rangers is doing for the last two and a half years. Every day, I'm inspired by our team and the incredible community of water testers; proving just how powerful and transformative community science can be!

**Nikolas MacLean, Sustainability
& Social Enterprise Manager**

Having admired Water Rangers for years, it's been a true privilege to join the team for the past year and a half. I love helping build tools that empower people to understand their water, connect with it, and take action to protect it — and I'm excited to see what we'll accomplish together in the next 10 years!

Kiersten McCutcheon, Community Data Coordinator



Working with Water Rangers has been a highlight of my water career. Being surrounded by people who care so deeply about water in Canada, and are motivated to make a difference and inspire communities to act, has been an absolute privilege. I cannot wait to see what the next 10 years bring!

Emily Hines, Communications Consultant



Our overseas team!

Volunteer-run in the UK, we're grateful to all volunteers, with special mention to our lab leads (Aly, Alan, Alistair and Fiona), the ZERO folks (especially Steph, Ben, and Mark) and members of the River Wey Trus!.



We "met" Water Rangers as we emerged from Covid in 2021 and were looking to restart the water testing and invertebrate sampling programme along the River Wey. Water Rangers is now used by 31 active groups in the UK, testing 398 locations, is part of the national citizen science project CaSTCo working with catchment partners across the country.

Alistair Young, Trustee

Being part of the Water Rangers team has given me the opportunity to make a hands on contribution to the efforts being made in the fight to monitor and effect change in such a vital resource as our water systems. I am also continuing to learn new things and enjoy being part of such a great bunch of enthusiastic people!

Fiona Poulter, UK Coordinator



Special thanks!



Shout out to Jordan Ross, long-time volunteer (assembling those first testkits back in 2017!) and our now incredible board chair!



Special thanks to Emelia Duguay, long-time Water Rangers extra-ordinaire... from grant writing, to assembling testkits, to any and all things that needs doing, you have been an integral part of our organization's success!

Getting a testkit from us? It's thanks to these three incredible humans, who help design and assemble each one:
Philippe, William and Leo!



Looking back on past team members

We are so grateful (and love hearing from) our former team members!



... and it all started with Kat's vision

Every waterbody's community has the tools they need to take care of them. Every lake, river, or stream has enough data to know whether or not they are healthy.



Ten years in, I still can't imagine Water Rangers without the people who made it real... to every volunteer who got their feet wet, every partner who opened a door, and our small, mighty team who showed up day after day... thank you!

Together we learned that data is powerful because it's shared, and that community is the engine behind every impact. I'm so grateful for what we've built—hand-in-hand—and excited for what we'll make possible next.

Kat Kavanagh,
Founder and
Executive Director

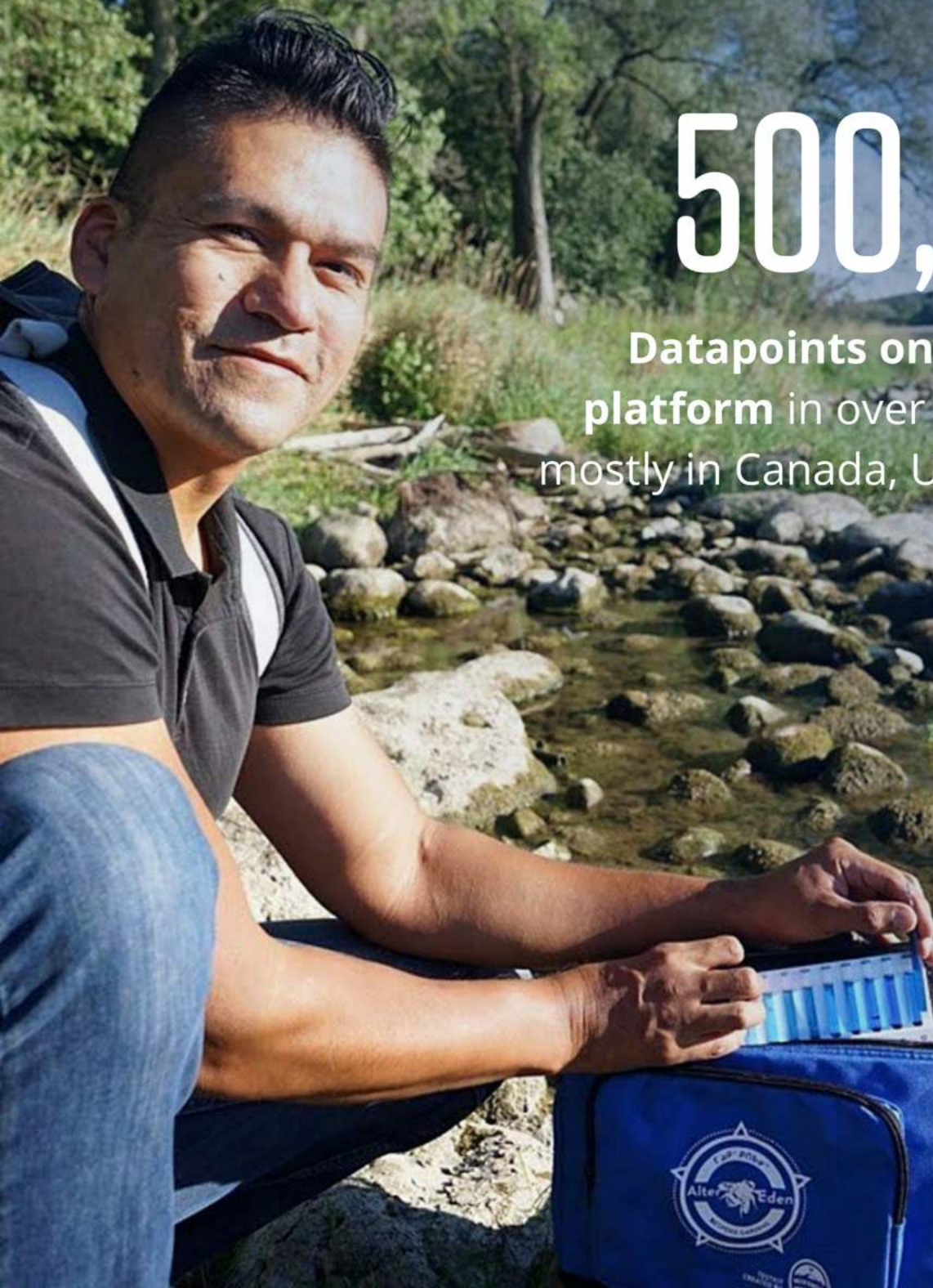


Celebrating 10 years of open data!



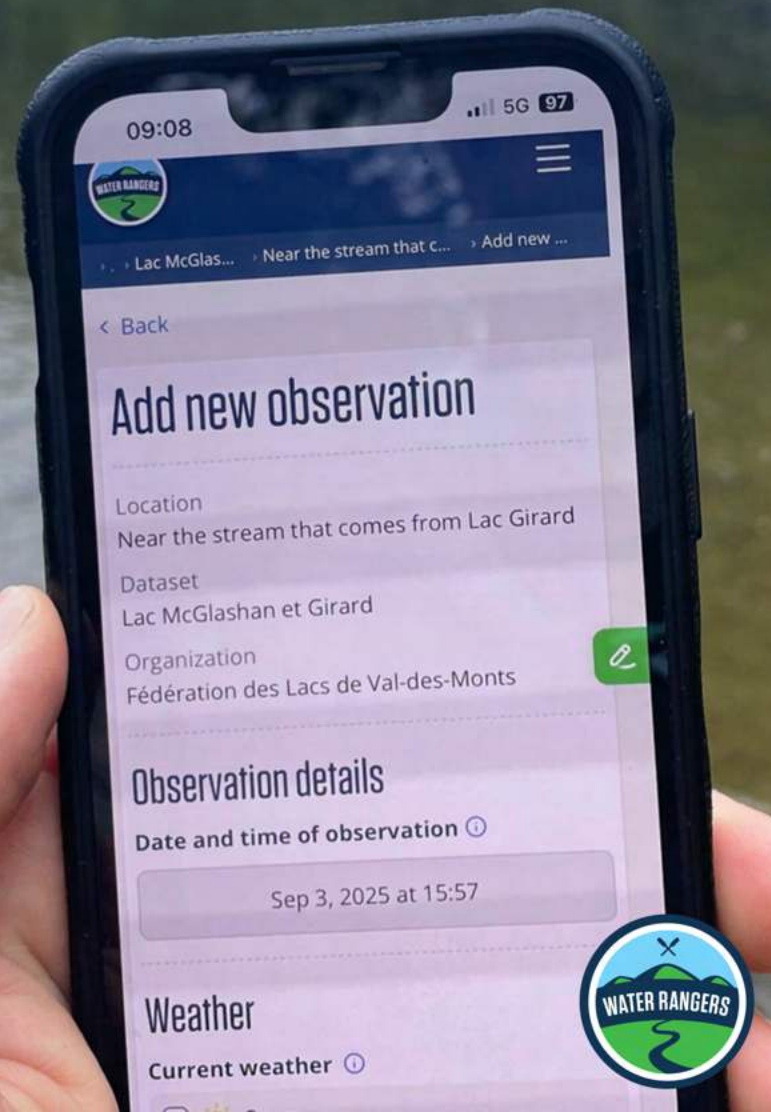
500,000+

Datapoints on our open data platform in over 9,000 locations, mostly in Canada, USA, and the UK.



Upgraded data platform

Our new data platform features clear equipment tracking, a smarter structure and better sharing, built-in visualizations, and a future-ready foundation to keep growing the movement! data.waterrangers.com



400+

Datasets shared by 260+ organizations... with over 50 sharing automatically with our friends at Datastream, and 20+ UK datasets shared with data.castco.org!



Pictured: Dr. Kerri Finlay from the University of Regina



Thank you to our dev team!



The Water Rangers data platform and app wouldn't exist without the dedication of our dev team. From Ollie's leadership in building the platform, with support from Mark, Elliott, Dylan, and Keith, each has played a key role. We're deeply grateful for their talent, generosity, and passion!

Without you, our open-data platform wouldn't exist.

Pictured Ollie and Mark out water testing during white-water rafting



PUBLISHED BY **WATER RANGERS**

POWERED BY  **AQUA
ACTION**



WATERSHED REPORTS

The Watershed Reports guide freshwater action with key recommendations and support investment in open data and monitoring across Canada. Water Rangers is proud to be their new steward, powered by AquaAction. watershedreports.ca

Our **NEW Education Testkit** is here! Redesigned with years of educator feedback in mind! The kit now includes tools to measure **salinity** and **nitrate levels**, plus upgraded components for an even smoother, more accurate water testing experience! The kit is currently available in English.



A group of people, mostly young adults, are gathered outdoors on a grassy area next to a body of water. They are dressed in casual outdoor attire, including jackets, hats, and scarves, suggesting a cool day. Some individuals are holding small containers or equipment, likely used for water sampling. The background shows a line of trees and a cloudy sky. The overall atmosphere is one of community participation and environmental stewardship.

Celebrating 10 years of our
community collecting data!





262

Locations
monitored by 115
data collectors

13,800

data points
collected

35,000 m²

wetland and
forest
replanted

Lake Erie Rangers

Since 2021, Lake Erie Rangers have collected vital monthly water data, filling key gaps across the basin. With new support from the Canada Water Agency in 2024, we're piloting innovative monitoring for chloride, E. coli, and more! We're so grateful for their dedication to protecting the lake we love!



“

I don't think people realize how lucky we are to live around the Great Lakes. [...] I keep testing because I want to know our lakes will be around for future generations to benefit from. I hope that the data will get the opportunity to be used to educate people about our lakes, influence policies in our governments, appreciate our lakes better so they can be better taken care of, and encourage more people to participate in citizen science projects.

Isabelle Kolodziej, Lake Erie Ranger since 2021



University of Regina

Since 2020, Water Rangers and the University of Regina have been equipping community members with water quality testkits to fill data gaps in Saskatchewan and to provide better ways for communities there to be involved in water stewardship.

402

locations
monitored

1,700

observations

 University
of Regina
 Faculty of
Science



“

Every school group, homeschool circle, newcomer and immigrant center, every angler (old and young)- every group or organization that visits the HRAA learns the basics of water testing with the Water Rangers kits! When you teach someone to read water, you teach them to love it- and to protect it. Every test result becomes a reminder: water belongs to all of us, and it needs our care.

**Sarah Blenis, Project manager,
Hammond River Angling Association**





Shortlisted for the
2025 Environmental
Monitoring Awards!

E. coli Community Lab launch

Water Rangers keeps on innovating in the UK! We launched a community-run lab in 2024 in collaboration with ZERO Guildford, the River Wey Trust and Surrey University. Run by volunteers, it uses a certified method to help monitor swimming and boating locations at spots across Surrey and Hampshire (sponsored by local businesses and charities).



Celebrating our
community!

Top individual data contributors

Danelle Haake

National Great Rivers: Winter Chloride Watch
3,184 observations

Dennis Hatfield

Little Lagoon Preservation Society
1,543 observations

John Coates

Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
1,279 observations

Guy MacLeod

Sharbot Lake Water Monitoring
1,088 observations

Don Ross

County Sustainability Group
1,067 observations



10 years of recognition

🏆 **Winners:** AquaHacking, GLOS Challenge, WWF Water Tech Challenge

🌟 **Honours:** Tay Watershed Environmental Award, WatersNext “Early Adopter”, Nature Inspiration Awards (finalist), Ashoka Fellow (Kat)

🙌 **Recent Recognition:** Water Canada Award nominations (Gabi for Steward of the Year, Watershed Reports for Early Adopter/ Innovation Partnership), Shortlisted for the 2025 Environmental Monitoring Awards (UK)!



Made possible because of...

We're mission-driven organization, and our impact wouldn't be possible without the support of many:

CANADIAN FUNDERS: AquaAction; BioTalent; Canada Summer Jobs; Canada Water Agency; Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition; Career Launcher; CEPGP; DataStream; Digital Research Alliance of Canada; ECO Canada; FCGP; Government of Ontario; Government of Saskatchewan; LUSH; MEC; MITACS; Ontario Trillium Foundation, The Living Data Project; NSERC PromoScience; RBC Foundation; Tree Canada; WWF.

UK FUNDERS: Godalming Town Council, Surrey County Council, CaSTCo, Thames Water, ZERO Guildford, River Wey Trust.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
(Canada) Jordan, Katie, Rachel, Mark, Natalie; (UK) Alistair, Katie, and Daisy.



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Ontario
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de l'Ontario



Thank you!

It's been an amazing decade...
See you on the water!