



May 24, 2016

Dear Upper French River Cottagers Association,

Nipissing University's Integrative Watershed Research Centre (IWRC) is initiating a stable water isotope survey of the French River during the summer of 2016. The goal is to collect several 'snap-shot-in-time' surveys of river water over the **Canada Day weekend (July 2nd - 3rd), the last weekend of July (July 30th-31st) and the last weekend of August (27-28th)**. This project will allow us to better understand the movement and cycling of water through the Sturgeon River-Lake Nipissing -French River basin.

Stable water isotopes are increasingly included in surveys of water quality and can provide complementary information on water movement, including estimates of how long water has resided in an upstream lake, and what proportion of lake water, groundwater, or snowmelt (in the spring) is mixing to make up the river at any sampling point. Each water sample collected during our surveys will be analyzed for naturally occurring isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen, parts of the water molecule, in the Department of Geography at Nipissing University.

In Canada, examples of water isotope surveys of lakes and river systems include Okanagan Lake and its downstream river in BC, the Oldman River basin in AB, and the Tay River in eastern Ontario. Locally, we have conducted surveys on the Wasi River flowing into Callander Bay and we regularly survey major rivers inflowing to Lake Nipissing.

To conduct the French River surveys planned for this summer, **we are looking for volunteer residents to collect water samples during one or several of the survey dates listed above**. Given your organizations' interest in water quantity and quality we thought your members might be interested in participating in this effort. With many volunteers taking samples on the same day, we will be able to map stable water isotope values over the entire river system. Results will be added to an online map with their dates and locations for volunteers to share in survey results.

We are hoping with your help, residence within your network could hear about our sampling campaign and volunteer. Each volunteer will receive a sampling kit with return postage and simple sampling instructions. We would be happy to provide your organization with extra sampling kits that you could distribute or use. Please see our website at iwrc.nipissingu.ca or contact us for further information.

Thank you,
The IWRC team

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