

March 2023

## CSJ Blue Community Updates and Invites

Here is our latest summary of news and invitations to protect water as a human right, shared commons, and sacred gift. If you have any news to share or are interested in specific themes or issues, please contact the Program Manager:  
**Paul Baines (info@bluecommunitycsj.org)**

Consider forwarding this email to a friend or printing it off to place on coffee tables and to put up on bulletin boards for those preferring paper copies of this newsletter.



### WORLD WATER DAY – MARCH 22

#### CSJ Blue Community online event

To honour all the good work being done for World Water Day, we are hosting our own event on **March 27th from 2-3:30 pm**. We have two special guests who span the local and global levels. **Emma Ferm** will talk about making her high school in London Ontario a Blue Community and **Sr. Barbara Bozak** will report back from her recent participation at the United Nations Water Conference in New York City.

[RSVP here and we'll send you the Zoom connect information.](#) The event will also highlight some recent program news and invitations.



## NEW CSJ BLUE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Revised Poster and Companion Teacher Kit

Our BIG news is we have a NEW version of our poster **One River, Two Futures: reflections on water** and it is ready to be mailed out. This free, colourful, and large (24 x 36 inches) poster was created for education, reflection, and action on our relationship to water. For World Water Day, we have mailed out over 175 posters to 19 locations across Ontario.

The subject of water touches upon all the disciplines and so this kit is designed to offer the educator the dual benefits of context and classroom supports. This kit offers a vision of **water protection** (water quality), **water kinship** (our shared and sacred connections), and **water justice** (inequalities to water and decision making).

This companion kit zooms into the poster's six thematic parts and is followed by an extended resource section making further ties to grades, subjects, and school locations. Designed for both elementary and secondary schools, this kit gives teachers a summary of the issues while grounded in current research and critical thinking. This is a digital resource with many embedded links.

[Download this 9 page resource.](#)

## NEW BLOG POST

### World Water Day Summary

There is just so much to say about World Water Day this year that an entire blog post is needed to share the news. Here you will find the recording of our March 27th event, more details on new educational resources, and a lecture from water rights activist Maude Barlow that was recorded last October by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto. Plus, you can read about a few more updates on our connections with schools and our solidarity with the international water justice community. [See the blog here.](#)

## OTHER WORLD WATER DAY EVENTS

### Visit our Facebook page

Our Facebook page is the best place to visit for current news and events on water issues. There are many in-person and online events happening on or around March 22nd. [Like and follow our page](#)



Blue Community - Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph

@bluecommunitycsj - Religious Organization

[Learn More](#)

[bluecommunitycsj.org](https://bluecommunitycsj.org)

## NEWS

### **Oceans are gift from God, must be used fairly and sustainably, Pope says**

The Pope proposes three ways humanity could improve its relationship with the oceans:

**Review** with seriousness and urgency, strategies for growth that are based on waste and consumerism, unjust and unsustainable models of production, transportation, distribution and consumption.

**Unite** to protect and restore marine, coastal and river ecosystems, and promote greater awareness and people's sense of responsibility through education and cultural initiatives. This will help protect biodiversity in areas that do not come under the jurisdiction of individual countries.

**Form** more effective ways to manage, regulate and coordinate activity on oceans with systems of governance that demand more inclusive participation and support by Everyone. [Read the full article.](#)

### **High seas treaty: historic deal to protect international waters finally reached at UN**

Covering almost two-thirds of the ocean that lies outside national boundaries, the treaty will provide a legal framework for establishing vast marine protected areas (MPAs) to protect against the loss of wildlife and share out the genetic resources of the high seas. It will establish a conference of the parties (Cop) that will meet periodically and enable member states to be held to account on issues such as governance and biodiversity. [Read the full article.](#)

### **Healing Hamilton's relationship with its water**

Hamilton Harbour, located in the west end of Lake Ontario, is one of Canada's 12 Areas of Concern (AOC) in the Great Lakes. As challenging as addressing the severe degradation of Harbour's water is, healing the city's broken relationship with the bay is proving equally complex. Community science as a tool for remediation of both the water's health and the connection with the Harbour. [Read the full article and watch a 3 minute video](#) introducing the Bay Area Restoration Council and their dedication to Hamilton's waters.

### **Arrowhead water: BlueTriton hearing continues with testimony from members of the public**

"What is now exceedingly clear from the staff investigation, Amanda Frye's research and our own legal and scientific work is that BlueTriton and its predecessors have been taking water to which they have no valid right for nearly a century. The result has been a misrepresentation to the people of California and the United States that's been egregious in both its scope and its harm to our shared resources," said Michael O'Heany, executive director of nonprofit The Story of Stuff Project during his opening statement. [Read the full article.](#)

## Feds commitment to Onedia water supply met with hope and uncertainty

The project comes with an early estimated cost of \$57 million, a figure that includes extending the pipeline 18 kilometres from the nearest connection point near Mt. Brydges to Onedia and upgrading the outdated water distribution system in the community of 2,000 people. Onedia has been under a boil water advisory since September 2019. [Read the full article.](#)



## Hailed as green energy source, northern Quebec lithium project divides Cree

Nemaska Lithium says it wants its mine project to set a benchmark for environmental responsibility. Powered by renewable electricity from Hydro-Quebec, it will be one of "the greenest lithium producers in the world," says Perron (director of environment and stakeholder relations at Nemaska Lithium). "If the water becomes contaminated by the mine, I don't see how we can limit the damage to the food chain," says Thomas Jolly, who was chief of Nemaska from 2015 to 2019, stressing the importance of fishing to his community. [Read more about this project](#) that tries to balance green energy, economic development, community consent, and the long term health of the waters and those who depend on them.

## "Seven Weeks for Water" campaign

The World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) is providing seven weeks of theological reflections and other resources on water for the seven weeks of Lent and for World

Water Day on March 22. Reflections started on February 27, end on April 3rd, and focus on the gift of water, water as a public good, and the feminization of water poverty. [See EWN's website for more.](#)

## CELEBRATE THE SACRED GIFT OF WATER

### **Lush Documentary: Water Has a Memory**

12-minute video: *Matriarch and Environmental Ambassador for the Ponca Nation, Casey Camp-Horinek takes us through the occupied territory of Ponca City, Oklahoma. Through the ancestral teachings of her Ponca culture, Casey has been protecting the Water, Mother Earth and Father Sky through the Rights of Nature and climate justice—while defiantly standing up against giants of industry for Indigenous rights and future generations.* [Watch here.](#)

### **Blue Theology**

Based in California, Texas, and North Carolina, *Blue theology is a place where current science in marine biology meets a theology of creation justice. We host groups to engage in experiential learning, service projects, and contemplative practice with God's marine creation. At Blue Theology, we pray for the health of our oceans while exploring tidepools. We believe that ocean conservation is a spiritual practice. We become Blue Theologians, or faithful advocates for a healthy ocean, through our experiences. These experiences may include scientific data collection, kayaking alongside otters, participating in sand dune restoration, or collecting trash on the beach.* [Read more about this group.](#)

## REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- How are you engaging with World Water Day this year? Solo or in a group? Through education, advocacy, service, and/or reflection?
- Do you have access to wall space where our poster could activate people's curiosity on their relationship to water? If so, order one of our posters and if not, could the companion guide support your own learning and action for water protection, kinship, and justice?
- Does your community have a citizen science project where people can test their local lakes, rivers, creeks, and groundwater for contaminants? Do you know who to contact to understand how your waters are being regularly tested?
- In the 13 minute video called **Water has Memory**, Casey Camp-Horinek talks about knowing what her legacy will be as a water protector. She has a unique yet universal set of responsibilities to water. Based on your personal story and the watershed that supports you, what will be your legacy?

**Past and present updates and more can be found on our CSJ Blue Community website:**

[BlueCommunityCSJ.org](http://BlueCommunityCSJ.org)