

# Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN)

## Training Course Fall 2019

A course co-hosted by Conservation Ontario and the  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and  
Parks

24-26 September  
2019

Dorset Environmental Science Centre

(1026 Bellwood Acres Road, Dorset, Ontario)

Instructors:

Chris Jones

Ph.D.

Sarah Sinclair

In partnership with:

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## COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN), which is coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, is an aquatic macroinvertebrate biomonitoring network for Ontario's lakes, streams, and wetlands.

This course covers biomonitoring theory, sampling methods, benthic-invertebrate identification, and bioassessment calculations. The training is recommended for anyone interested in using benthic macroinvertebrates to monitor streams or lakes using provincially standardized methods. Participants demonstrating proficiency are awarded a certificate of network membership.

The course will be held by OBBN-certified trainers over three consecutive days and will include a field practicum. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

### Instructors:

Chris Jones is Ontario's Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) benthic- invertebrate-biomonitoring scientist. His research is aimed at improving biomonitoring methods by better characterizing reference conditions for Ontario's waterbodies, deriving biocriteria (numerical pass/fail thresholds) for biomonitoring indices, and understanding sources of variation in benthic community composition. Chris is an SFS-certified taxonomist, and coordinates Ontario's Benthos Biomonitoring Network (a province-wide, lake-, stream-, and wetland-biomonitoring collaboration).



Sarah Sinclair is posted at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre as Conservation Ontario's Biomonitoring Technician. Sarah is an SFS-certified taxonomist. She oversees the OBBN's quality-assurance program by checking taxonomic identifications and enumerations for hundreds of samples each year.



### **Personal Gear List:**

A variety of field and laboratory equipment, as well as protocol manuals and assorted hand-outs will be provided; however, students are encouraged to be as self-sufficient as possible. Students having access to waders and a microscope are particularly advised to bring these items to the course.

Suitable outdoor clothing, appropriate for the season is further suggested, as is sunscreen, rain wear, PFD and a warm hat and gloves.

### **Hospitality:**

Registrants are responsible for their own meals and lodging. There are local accommodations nearby at the Nordic Inn, Dorset. There is one grocery store in Dorset and a couple of restaurants that are open sporadically. There is also the option of staying in either Bracebridge or Huntsville and carpool daily (30 - 45 min). There are several restaurants, grocery stores, hotels, motels and bed & breakfasts in those towns.

**Course Fee:** \$350 (plus HST and registration fee)

### **Registration Process:**

Please register online at the following link:

[https://www.regonline.com/SEP\\_2019\\_OBBN\\_Training](https://www.regonline.com/SEP_2019_OBBN_Training)

Contact Sarah Sinclair for further information about course details: (705) 766-2821 or obbn@ontario.ca

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# **AGENDA**

## **DAY 1**

Time*	Topics
08:30-09:00	Sign-In
09:05-09:25	Welcome; Purpose and format of Course; Goals for Day 1
09:25-09:45	Background OBBN Components, Principles, and Status Update
09:45-10:15	Bioassessment Study Designs and Biocriteria
10:25-11:30	OBBN Methods
11:30-12:00	Protocol Question and Answer
12:00-13:00	Lunch (gather sampling equipment)
13:00-15:30	Sampling: Lake and stream
15:40-17:30	Process samples to obtain 100-count sample

## **DAY 2**

Time*	Topics
09:00-09:10	Goals for Day 2
09:10-10:30	Introduction to benthic macroinvertebrate identification (27-group level; slide show)
10:30-10:40	Break
10:40-12:00	The major groups of benthic macro-invertebrates (demonstration using Dorset reference collection)
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-17:00	Practice identification skills and use of keys

## **DAY 3 (morning session)**

Time*	Topics
09:00-10:00	Review
10:00-12:00	Standard OBBN certification quizzes

## **DAY 3 (afternoon session, optional)**

Time*	Topics
13:00-15:00	Demonstration: statistical concepts and calculations involved in a bioassessment -Matching reference and test sites -Summarizing composition with indices -Evaluating test-site condition

\*Timeslots are approximate.

**Course Location:**

