

# CABIN

## Water Quality in Streams

### **CABIN–The Canadian Aquatic Bio-monitoring Network monitors and assesses the health of freshwater ecosystems.**

CABIN promotes collaboration and data-sharing among agencies across the country to achieve consistent and comparable reporting on freshwater ecosystem's quality and conditions.

This Environment Canada program supports the collection, assessment, reporting, and distribution of biological monitoring information. CABIN lets partners take their observations and make a formal scientific assessment using nationally-comparable standards.

UINR has completed training in CABIN field collection, data entry, reporting, and analysis. Training included online-learning modules, and a field-training workshop.

Many different organisms are used to assess changes in the environment including insects, snails, small marine plants, algae, small crustaceans, fish larvae, and fish. This is called biological monitoring or biomonitoring. These organisms are sensitive to a variety of disturbances and are recognized as environmental indicators.

CABIN uses insects that live under water to assess the health of aquatic ecosystem. They live in the bottom of streams and rivers and include larval stages of insects such as mayflies, dragonflies, and mosquitoes, as well as other animals such as worms and mites.



Examination of the number of mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies, are used to measure water quality. These insects are most sensitive to disturbances in their habitat. Special attention is given to places where there is an absence of any one of these insects.

- UINR monitors Middle River West, MacLeod's Brook, and Dennis Brook.
- Other sampling sites include Baddeck River, Humes River, Gold Brook, and Skye River.
- UINR has classified these brooks and rivers as "Good" under the CABIN program.



Angela Denny *Research Assistant*

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