



CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH

## Community-Based Research (CBR) Project Proposal Form

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### U-Links Administration Only

Project Number *(automatically generated by CBR database)*:

Recommended Courses and/or Disciplines *(i.e. GEOG4030Y, FRSC4890Y, IDST3700Y/3710H/3720H, ERSC3160H, PSYCH or Alternatives)*:

Recommended Faculty Advisors:

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### PROJECT TITLE: Study of the Artificial Bay at Halls Lake Causeway

#### A – CONTACT INFORMATION

Date: June 10, 2025

Contact person: Shelley Fellows

Phone: 226-344-8185

Email: shelleymfellows@gmail.com

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#### B – COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

a) Organization's name and address:

- a. Halls & Hawk Lake Property Owners Association
- b. c/o 1981 Big Hawk Lake Road, Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0

b) Briefly state the organization's purpose and the products or services offered:

- a. We are a property owners association, representing 650 property owners in the Big Hawk, Little Hawk, Kennisis River and Halls Lake region. Our mandate is to protect and enhance all elements contributing to the quality of life in our community, including an ecologically sound natural environment

c) Has an immediate supervisor or board approved this application?

- a. yes
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#### C - PROJECT SCOPE

- a) Full year undergraduate CBR projects are allotted 220 hours total, per 1-2 students on a single project. The condensed hours are similar to six weeks of full-time work. Full term students would be working on this project from September to April as part of a course, while balancing work from other

**courses as well. Half term students will be working on this project from September - December or January to April. Does the scope of your project fit within this timeframe?**

Yes • No • Comments:

**b) Select the theme(s) for your project:**

- Cultural • Economic • **Environmental** • Social • Other:

**c) Based on the timeframe and complexity of your project, please indicate the potential project scale:**

- **Single year project**
- Multi-year project (requiring follow up or several parts)
- **Ideal for undergraduate students**
- Ideal for graduate students (requires specialized knowledge/in-depth consideration of theory)

**d) Is your project appropriate for a single student or a group?**

Either, a pair or small group is ideal to balance field and lab work components

**e) Describe the purpose of the project:**

This project will assess the ecological and hydrological impacts of a causeway on Halls Lake installed in mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century; which transformed an island into a peninsula, leading to the creation of a shallow, vegetation filled bay. The project will gather baseline data on water chemistry, depth, aquatic vegetation and benthic macroinvertebrates in the artificial bay to better understand how altered water flow and habitat succession may be affecting the area. Comparisons will be made with existing water quality and benthic data from other parts of Halls Lake from other U-Links/Woodlands and Waterways EcoWatch program streams, along other data sourced from LPP, MECP/MNRF.

**f) How will the project benefit your organization and/or clients?**

The project will provide the HHLPOA with scientifically grounded baseline information about the condition of the artificially formed bay. Findings will support informed conversations around lake management, potential restoration options and further studies (investigating the feasibility of modifications that improve water flow). It will also help guide communications with municipal governments if mitigation is pursued.

**g) How will the results of this project benefit Haliburton County?**

The project addresses a broader concern about the long-term impacts of historical shoreline alterations on lake systems. It contributes to regional freshwater health monitoring and may serve as a model for other lake associations with similar issues. Findings may also inform policy discussions around shoreline development, aquatic habitat management and climate change resilience in Haliburton County.

**h) How did you hear about U-Links Centre for Community Based Research?**

- Word of Mouth**  Social Media  Newsletter  News Article  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## D – RESEARCH DESIGN

**a) What are the proposed research questions to be answered?**

- *What are the baseline physical and chemical water quality conditions in the artificially formed bay on Halls Lake?*
- *How do aquatic vegetation communities and benthic macroinvertebrate assemblages compare to other areas of the lake?*
- *How has the causeway altered water flow, depth, and ecological succession in the bay?*

- *What restoration options (modifying the causeway to allow flow) could improve ecological conditions?*

**b) What are your ideas on how these questions might be answered (i.e. survey, literature review, field work etc.)?**

- **Field Work** – Water sampling for chemical parameters (temp/DO/pH/Conductivity/Nutrients), bathymetric profiling for depth, aquatic vegetation surveying, benthic macroinvertebrate sampling using OBBN protocols)
- **Literature Review**
- **Data Analysis** -Compare existing water quality and benthic data from other Halls Lake (and surrounding lakes?) locations [Archived and available via U-Links]

**c) Do you have knowledge of or expertise with these types of research methods?**

Yes

## E - SCREENING AND/OR TRAINING

**a) Do the students require any specific screening or training? (e.g. police checks, confidentiality agreements, CPR, WHMIS):**

Yes  No

Comments:

*EXAMPLES: Projects involving vulnerable populations may require police checks. Some types of field work may involve WHMIS or other safety related training. Students and hosts working on boats need to understand and follow the U-Links Boat Safety Guidelines.*

## F – RESEARCH ETHICS

**a) Does the research involve human subjects? (i.e. surveys, interviews)**

Yes  No

*NOTE: If yes, the students may be required to submit an application for ethical review of the research. This process may take several weeks and will need to be taken into consideration when creating project timelines.*

**b) If your project involves collecting human subject data (i.e. interview transcripts), would you like access to that “raw” data at the end of the project, in addition to receiving the “summary” of data in the final report?**

Yes  No

**c) Does the organization/employer have policies about research ethics approval?**

Yes  No

**If yes, please explain:**

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## G – RESOURCES

*NOTE: All known and needed resources should be listed in this section (e.g. for project coordination, data collection and analysis, software, hardware, photocopying, office supplies, workspace, travel expenses, food and refreshments, training, etc.). Students' travel expenses are reimbursed by U-Links at the end of the term.*

- a) What resources are needed to support the research – financial or otherwise? Please indicate what, if any, resources your organization might be able to provide.**

We can provide volunteer-piloted watercraft for accessing the required areas of the bay and access through shoreline properties.

- b) Do you anticipate needing funding or other types of resources? If so, please explain (including any ideas on where resourcing may be obtained):**

No

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## H – KNOWLEDGE SHARING

*NOTE: Please note the researcher(s) will own the copyright for all work completed as part of his/her involvement, but the lead organization/group/employer may use all project outputs in whole or in part, as it sees fit as long as the researcher(s) is duly credited as the author. If work is completed collaboratively, copyright will be decided by all project participants.*

- a) How are the project results to be circulated and made useful to the broader community? Please indicate all that applies from the list below:**

- Academic article
- Conference/forum
- Manual
- Marketing, promotional, newsletter, outreach materials
- Policy brief
- Report
- Roundtable
- Video
- Workshop
- Presentation to the host organization
- Not sure of the above, let's talk some more

b) If there are special circumstances where results might not be made public, please explain:

*none*

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#### I - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

a) Are you able to credit U-Links when utilizing project results for the development of new programs, funding applications, policy, and other community endeavors? *(Suggestions: cite U-Links and display our logo in your organization's printed matter and on your website, credit U-Links when speaking about your project in public and in the press, social media etc.)*

Yes    No    Possibly

b) Following successful completion of the research project, with results beneficial to the goals of your organization, would you consider a financial contribution to U-Links?

Yes    No    Possibly

c) Can we highlight your project on our website and in social media?

Yes    No

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#### J – PROJECT PROMOTION

Please “insert” an image below to help promote your project proposal.