



MAGNETAWAN FIRST NATION
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, RESOURCES & THE
ENVIRONMENT
2022 NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM LANDS MANAGER

Another busy year has passed! This summer was as fun and exciting as ever, we had 3 community summer student employees this year. We are so happy to have student employees returning to work with us summer after summer. We also now have 2 community members working with us as full-time Technicians: Terry, and Thunder. Terry is returning to work with the Lands Department, he has been a part of the Species at Risk program from the beginning! We are happy to have him back with us, and the expertise and experience he brings to the team! Thunder is currently away until February as his family welcomes a new baby. Thunder started with us last winter and he quickly assumed a leadership role; when the summer students arrived, he was quick to take the lead with directing and helping them.

I am very proud of the Lands Team, and I am happy to report that our many annual deliverables and work plan items are nearing completion, as is our fiscal year.

As you will read in our newsletter, we have been very busy, from incubating 1500+ turtle eggs, to eradicating invasive plants. We hope to continue this work and we have applied for future funds to support it.

This year some of our funding agreements have expired, so we re-applied! Funding sources like the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk or the Indigenous Guardians Program support our efforts of monitoring and documenting species

at risk on our lands. Writing proposals is difficult and exciting, and now we wait for the hopeful approvals!

Every year it seems that our efforts and connections grow, which means that our conservation outreach is really working! We are proud to share and teach other communities how to be stewards of their land and how to accomplish Species at Risk and environmental protection programs themselves.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and browsing the photos from this year. Looking forward to many more programs, activities, meetings and visits within the community.

Gchimiigwech, Samantha Noganosh

A YEAR IN REVIEW

It feels like yesterday when we were assembling our 2021 newsletter and excitedly anticipating another field season approaching in 2022! It has been another action-packed year and we are now able to reflect on some of our department and community highlights over the last year.

One of the biggest highlights was celebrating 10 years since the initiation of our Species at Risk program! We were able to celebrate this milestone in July with community members and program partners as COVID restrictions continued to ease. To read more about this celebration, turn to page 7. We even made the local newspaper! Further to this milestone was the hosting of our 7th Annual Indigenous Lands, Resources, and Environmental Management Conference in March which has grown to

include over 200 participants of communities, industry, and academic partners in our region.

This year, we also welcomed back some new, and some previous seasonal staff to conduct an extremely successful field season. Our incubation program, reptile monitoring program, and outreach initiatives kept us busy throughout the season which started way back in April with the early arrival of Spring. We hope you'll enjoy reading more about what we got up to throughout this newsletter

As always, we are so grateful to our community for supporting us and our programs. Miigwech

for your participation and guidance as we would not be able to do what we do, without YOU!

SOCIAL MEDIA

We have rebranded our social media accounts and encourage anyone with Facebook or Instagram to check us out! We regularly share updates on events, activities, and lands-based community notices, as well as what we get up to throughout the active season in the field!

Facebook and Instagram: @magfn.aakii

STAFF UPDATES

Thanks to funds partially provided by the Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program and the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk, we were fortunate to once again support a large team this summer while retaining some crucial program and technical lead staff.



SAMANTHA NOGANOSH - *Lands, Resource & Environmental Manager*
samantha.noganosh@magfn.com (705-383-1107)

Sam diversified her skillset by assisting the field crew during spring emergence this year!

Whether it was tubing Massasaugas, checking on turtle eggs, or directing animal rescue calls, Sam did it all while continuing to serve as Lands Manager. Her experience and knowledge base of lands management led to requests to present on various occasions at province and national speaking engagements. She was also Shared Value Solutions Woman Crush Wednesday for the month of January: info.sharedvaluesolutions.com/blog/meet-our-january-wcw-samantha-noganosh



ALANNA SMOLARZ-*Species at Risk Biologist and Program Coordinator*
alanna.smolarz@magfn.com (519-755-1155)

Alanna has been working hard over the last year to build upon and expand the Species at Risk program. Her expert eye for finding turtles and snakes, along with her passion for outreach and education complements the work we do perfectly.



NADINE PERRON - *Conservation Biologist and Wildlife Specialist*
 nadine.perron@magfn.com (519-546-9256)

Nadine's dedication to animal rescue and rehabilitation, coupled with her deep respect for conservation and land guardianship are what makes her so special. She has focused her energy this year on coordinating partners, our incubation and rehabilitation program, and building new relationships to contribute to our growing network of communities and organizations focused on conservation.



TIFFANY GARON - *Lands Clerk*
 tiffany.garon@magfn.com (705-383-1107)

We are so thankful Tiffany joined our team this year and have enjoyed everything she has brought to the department! Tiffany is the first friendly face you see when you walk in the Lands Department and when she's not busily working in and around the office, she is outside tending to our new community vegetable garden (funding provided by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation).



THUNDER NOGANOSCH-JUDGE - *Lead Field Technician*

Thunder returned this year as the Lead Field Technician but retained the "Massasauga Magnet" title for the second year in a row! His initiative to mentor some of our younger community members is inspiring and we are so happy he is part of our team!



TERRY JONES - *Research Technician*

Terry spent most of his summer assisting MSc candidate, Brooke Carroll, track turtles across Magnetawan. His positive attitude and uncanny goose-call laugh brings so much joy to our department. He will be continuing to work for us throughout the fall and winter with the hope of returning for another field season next year.

Community Summer Staff



DERIAN SMITH - *Summer Technician*

Derian returned as an old pro this season and lent a helping hand on various projects throughout the summer. He often assisted Richard Noganosh on various land maintenance projects while continuing to be an incredible navigator in the field. He is also following in Thunder's footsteps as

"Massasauga Magnet (in-training)" which has been incredibly useful!



DELSIN NOGANOSH - *Summer Technician*

Delsin was the newest member of our team this year and was ready to jump right in...literally! His eagerness to participate in wetland surveys, turtle releases and road surveys was greatly appreciated, and we hope he decides to return next summer.



ALLEN LEWIS-TRODD - *Summer Technician*

Allen returned for another season of turtle awesome activities! It was great to have him back to help with some of our department outreach activities and road surveys. His enthusiasm is infectious and DJ skills are unmatched!

Research Partners



KYLE VINCENT returned as a part-time staff member while completing his Master's research on wildlife interactions on railroads. His turtle expertise and technical knowledge were such a huge asset to the team and we appreciate all his hard work.



BROOKE CARROLL returned this year as a research student to begin the fieldwork portion of her Master's thesis project. When she was not out and about on the land tracking turtles with Terry, she was always willing to lend a hand with various projects going on in the department!

Other students working in-part with Magnetawan First Nation Lands Department:

- Shilah Lefevre: University of Guelph, "Algonquin Wolf Project"
- Kraig Matthews: McMaster University, "Decolonizing Ontario Parks"
- Claire Kemp & Kathryn Yarchuk: University of Guelph, "Community Camera Monitoring"

Community Involvement

Every year we are amazed at the support we are shown from the community. As a department that values community input and prioritizes the values and expectations of our members, we are honoured and pleased to direct our work accordingly to meet and exceed those values and expectations. Whether it is attendance at some of our outreach events, participation in surveys, or simply just stopping by to say hi, we appreciate you all so much.

Our team works tirelessly to ensure our departmental activities and project deliverables align with the communities expectations, while also maintaining the highest level of respect for the land and the relationship we are responsible for nurturing. This responsibility to care for Mother Earth is something we instill in our staff and incorporate into our daily work.

If it were not for the support of YOU and this community, we would not be where we are today and for that we are forever thankful. As always, chi-miigwech to you all for making this year one of the best ever! We hope you'll enjoy reminiscing and reading all about what we got up to throughout this newsletter.

10 YEAR MILESTONE

This year marked 10 years since the initiation of our Species at Risk Program! It is crazy to think it has been a DECADE since this program kicked off here at Magnetawan with funds secured by the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk. As I am sure we all remember, back in 2012, James Baxter-Gilbert and Julia Riley initiated their Master's research in Dr. Litzgus' lab and lived in a trailer by the log cabin! So much has changed, including that we now have an entire building dedicated to Lands, (but still have a trailer in our driveway)!

We were fortunate to celebrate this summer with some community members and partners as a way of saying miigwech to everyone for their part in making our program what it is today!



One of our founding partners, Dr. Jackie Litzgus from Laurentian University, recently provided a letter-of-support to our 4th, multi-year AFSAR project renewal that we wanted to share with you that speaks to the foundation upon which our program is built and continues to serve as:

"I have been privileged to work with Magnetawan FN's Species at Risk (SAR) program since it first began. I have watched and admired as this program expanded in scope, support and capacity; I have watched the community embrace, share and lead knowledge about the SAR on their lands. Magnetawan FN's SAR program has become the gold standard to which other lands and

environment departments aspire. The long-term work at Magnetawan FN launched the evolution of Two-eyed Seeing approaches, before that terminology was normalized into contemporary science.”

Miigwech Dr. Litzgus!

Pictured: James, Julia, Jackie and members of our team (Nadine, Kyle, Brooke) had the chance to catch up at the 2022 Canadian Herpetological Society Conference in New Brunswick this year (read more on this on page 13). It was great to see them again IN

PERSON and we hope one day they will return for a visit to Magnetawan FN!



REPTILE MONITORING

Turtle, Mishiikenh, Tales

10 years of SAR work is a LONG time but to ensure we continue building this long-term dataset, our reptile monitoring program has yet to slow down! As our community knows, our turtles are incredibly important and some of the most threatened and endangered in Ontario and Canada.

Supported by the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk since 2012/13, our program aims to support the recovery of our turtle species that are at risk by: filling knowledge gaps, identifying critical habitats, reducing road mortality, and informing mitigation particularly along roads including highway 69 and 529. This milestone year led to the discovery of several new critical habitats and the addition of MANY new turtles to our population dataset!

Each year, we eagerly anticipate the spring melt which marks the beginning of our active season. The first animals to arrive are the mishiiken who brave the cold water (sometimes when there is still ice on the

surface!) to bask in those warm spring rays of sunshine. We use a combination of ***Exploratory Surveys, Hoop Netting, and Turtle Tracking*** to locate and survey for our beloved mishiiken in a variety of habitat types. These surveys are supplemented by our road surveys that are conducted seasonally.



Whenever we catch a turtle, we first look to see if it has ‘notches’ on the marginal scutes. These notches are used to identify individuals that have been caught in previous years. For instance, this Blanding’s turtle was given the

code 2L2R in 2013 (left photo) and was caught again in 2022 (right photos). Notice the identical blotch pattern as well?!

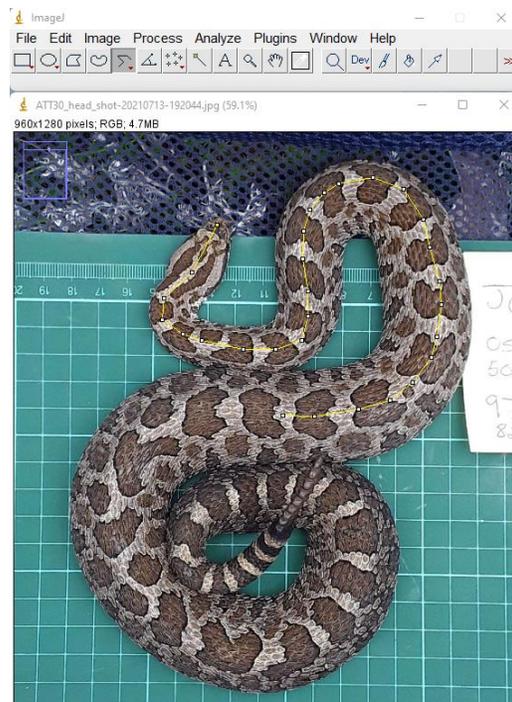


Massasauga, Zhiishigwe, Monitoring

It was another great year for Massasauga monitoring at Magnetawan First Nation! We identified several new individuals, found a new gestation site, and saw some of our old friends that were caught in previous years!

At the beginning of each season we start with hibernation surveys at our known hibernacula sites (mossy wetlands) and some opportunistic surveys at potential sites that can be identified in the field or by aerial imagery. We prioritize areas close to roads and located in or near potential land-use changes related to development.

Once we capture a snake, we check for PIT tags if it was caught before, measure and weigh them, and also take photos with a scale grid. These photos are then entered into a program which we use to measure the length of the snake, as seen in the photo.



We try to teach all staff and partners safe handling techniques for Massasaugas, including the process of 'tubing' the snakes which requires patience and persistence. As seen in the photos below, Brooke and Terry are masters at this technique!





Terry pictured tubing a snake which allows for safe handling during processing

We also conducted gestation surveys this year and identified a new site that was occupied by 2 mothers! One female gave birth to at least 9 babies, two of which are pictured below cuddled up together. We will be checking this same site next year to determine if there are other females using the sites and hopefully locate adjacent habitats that more snakes may be using.



Below is a summary of all the new common turtles and Massasaugas we have caught since 2012 and added to our population database. This does not include the countless recaptures we have successfully found over the years that we use to determine changes in body condition, weight, and overall growth.

Year	Painted	Snapping	Blanding's	Massasauga
2012	4	7	39	28
2013	6	5	14	26
2014	0	0	9	13
2015	0	9	16	N/A
2016	0	0	2	5
2017	0	0	4	24
2018	11	2	6	6
2019	19	8	16	31
2020	18	8	7	29
2021	31	9	22	31
2022	55	4	29	24

INCUBATION STATION

We had another successful nesting and incubation season this year! Since 2018, we have been collecting eggs from Magnetawan First Nation and surrounding region that are located in areas where the nests are at risk of being destroyed (either by predation, construction, or recreational activities). We either collect the eggs or place nest cages over nests (under the proper provincial, Endangered Species Act, and federal, Species at Risk Act, permits).

The collected eggs are then placed into incubators and cared for until they begin to hatch in August. Once the hatchling turtles are ready to go, we bring them back to the wetlands that they have come from and wish them a good life.

This year, our nesting and incubation program was the most successful it's ever been with just over 1500 eggs incubated and cared for (compared to just over 1000 eggs in 2021). The photo below showcases the nest cavity once we excavate very carefully from the surface:



We were also fortunate enough to help members of the Lands Department at Nipissing First Nation to conduct nesting surveys. Biologists Nadine and Alanna

travelled to Nipissing First Nation and met up with Nikki Commanda to survey a turtle nesting hotspot that also happens to be a popular camping site. Unfortunately, some of the nests had been destroyed by predators but they were able to locate and excavate a painted turtle nest!



When the eggs hatched, we returned them to Nikki who released them in their home wetland. She later shared that they decided to name the 7 hatchlings after the 7 Grandfather teachings!



HATCHLING RELEASES

As a way of sharing the joy that hatchling turtles bring, and to gain a few extra helping hands, we invite some of our partners each year to help with hatchling releases. We had repeat visitors from Wahnipitae with some new members of their Lands team:



We also incorporated some releases as part of the filming for Waterworlds (more on that on page 13 “In the Media”). We used a canoe

to access more coastal wetlands on Giroux Lake (where some of the nests were found) and increase the dispersal distance of the hatchlings. This improves their survival as predators are less likely to find them when they are well dispersed.



By helping protect the eggs and incubating them until they hatch, we increase their chances of survival from less than 1% to about 6%. It may seem small, but it helps!

CONFERENCES

This year we hosted our 7th Annual Indigenous Lands and Resource Management conference virtually on March 2 and 3, 2022. It was great to have so much interest and we determined it was our largest participation with over 200 registrants!



We were once again honoured to have Christine and Hilton King open each day in a good way! We heard from various other

First Nation community Lands Departments including Daniella Baker and Stan Judge from Wasauksing FN, Nikki Commanda from Nipissing FN, Sara Lehman and Anthony Laforge from Wahnipitae FN, and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek as well as others from across the region.

To end each day we were fortunate enough to have a recording from the High School Drum group organized by Allen Lewis-Trodd and Derian Smith. Chi-miigwech boys!



Not only did we host our annual ILRM conference, we also attended and presented at several provincial and federal conferences on a variety of topics related to our SAR program, Lands Management, and community science. It is an honour to be recognized for our efforts which would certainly not be possible without our entire community for which we are very proud to represent. As always it is great to catch up with old friends at these events while networking and making new connections!



Here is a summary of our conference participation:

- Canadian Herpetological Society (September 16-19, Fredericton, NB)
- Latonell Conservation Symposium (October 17-18, Burlington, ON)
- The Wildlife Society's 29th Annual Conference (November 6-10, Spokane, WA)
- Aambe Maam Wiiz Dhaa: Start Standing Together (November 22, Rama!)
- Ganawenim Meshkiki, Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative, Inaugural Conference (November 21, Nottawasaga Inn)
- 6th Annual Indigenous Consultation & Engagement Atlantic Conference
- Ontario Aboriginal Lands Association Annual General Meeting
- Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre Annual General Meeting (July 19-20, Whitecap Dakota First Nation Saskatchewan)

IN THE MEDIA

WATERWORLDS FILMING

Over the last year we have been participating in discussions and planning for an upcoming film series on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network which will

feature Magnetawan First Nation and the monitoring we do in the river and the wetlands. *"Water Worlds is going to be the first underwater documentary series to be filmed from our Indigenous perspective."*



The filming took place over the course of a week and included underwater videography, drone footage, and the filming of the Water Ceremony shared by Christine King for the release of our baby turtles. We are extremely excited for the results and will share the release of the final series with the community when it airs!



NORTH STAR NEWSPAPER

The news of our 10 year celebration quickly spread and we were even featured in the Parry Sound North Star! In case you missed it, you can read the article online by searching: Parry Sound Now, "*Magnetawan First Nation's species at risk program hopes to preserve lands, waters for another decade*" (published on October 1, 2022)



NEWS

Magnetawan First Nation's species at risk program hopes to preserve lands, waters for another decade

Magnetawan First Nation's species at risk program marks anniversary

By Taylor Clark Parry Sound North Star
Saturday, October 1, 2022



GEORGIAN BAY FOREVER

We have developed a great partnership with Georgian Bay Forever that has stemmed from the initiation of our Phragmites management work (read more on page 16). This mutually beneficial partnership is reciprocated as we were asked to write articles for both their spring and fall newsletters. Not only did we share the progress of our Phragmites removal efforts, but also the accomplishments and goals of our program since its initiation.

For free copies of these newsletters, please stop by the office anytime!

MAAMWI ANJIAKIZIWIN – TOGETHER, LAND, RENEWAL, LIFE

Over the last few years, our collaborative Species at Risk Conservation partnership with Sister Nations across the coast and the Georgian Bay Biosphere organization has evolved into a project under the Federal Community Nominated Priority Place fund. *"It is our hope that we can improve collaborative relationships resulting in*

better decisions and directions for how we, as humans, use and benefit from the coast, in order to better conserve and steward these lands and waters for Species at Risk”

~ maamwigeorgianbay.ca

GREAT NORTH ARROW

After a surprising few rattlesnake sightings in Magnetawan (the town!), MFN biologist Alanna Smolarz was contacted to provide an article in the local newspaper. Sightings in the town of Magnetawan have not previously been documented which suggests there is still so much for us to learn about these wonderful snakes! To read the article, titled: Fear not! Recent Massasauga Rattlesnake sighting creates local “buzz” , you can find it online greatnorthandarrow.com in the 2022 August Section A and B

CONSERVATION THROUGH RECONCILIATION PARTNERSHIP (CRP)

Lands Manager, Samantha, and SAR Biologist, Alanna, participated in a sharing series with the CRP. *“In this episode, Samantha and Alanna describe their connections to the lands and waters of Georgian Bay, describe their work at*

Magnetawan First Nation, and explain how the Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership has opened the door to forming new relationships with others in similar situations to their own”

~conservation-reconciliation.ca/community-connections/alanna-smolarz-and-samantha-noganosh

THE POINTER

In January this year our department was contacted to provide comments on the Provincial Audit that was released in November, 2021. This detailed report exposed the *“utter failure of Provincial officials to uphold legislation designed to protect Ontario’s endangered, threatened and other at-risk species. The government’s current processes are doing the exact opposite, the audit found - government failures are actively harming species at risk in Ontario”*

~thepointer.com/article/2022-01-15/

We were proud to provide our perspective on this topic and will continuously work to assert our values to direct change whenever we can.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

With money from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant, we were able to build vegetable gardens in our backyard as well as some garden boxes around our building. Our Lands Clerk, Tiffany, took it upon herself to maintain and harvest from these wonderful gardens and share with the community! We are looking forward to expanding this area and being able to grow more of our own food for the community next season and encourage interested community members to contact Tiffany ([705-383-1107](tel:705-383-1107), tiffany.garon@magfn.com) to be added to the delivery list when the vegetables and herbs are ready to be shared!



Before Garden Construction

Preparation of Garden Beds

Mid-season harvest time!

MANAGING INVASIVE PHRAGMITES

Phragmites has quickly become one of the most difficult invasive plant species to manage in Ontario. This fast-growing, dense, and extremely resilient plant can spread quickly by seed and root dispersal. The best way to manage this species is to stop the spread while you are ahead! With grant money secured from the Invasive Species Center, and with the help from Georgian Bay Forever, members of our team identified small patches of invasive phragmites both on land and in the Magnetawan River. We developed a plan to remove these patches and continuously monitor them over the next few years. Our first cut happened in 2020 in the river which we have been monitoring since. We also cut a developing patch near the railroad that was more of a terrestrial site.

If you think you have seen invasive Phragmites growing on Magnetawan or in our region, you can report it to the Lands Department, or upload your sightings to eddmaps.org (or download the app). Combatting phragmites will be a team effort and we hope you will join us in the fight against phrag!



IN THE RIVER:



River Patches before Phrag. control

River Patches after Phrag. cut control

WORKSHOPS

LAND VISIONING TOOL

We were honoured to be asked by Kassie McKeown from Cambium Indigenous Professional Services and the Ontario Aboriginal Lands Association to host their multi-day Land Visioning Tool workshop. This toolkit-based program is meant to help First Nation Lands departments learn how to prioritize and incorporate species at risk monitoring into the management of their lands. There were 10 representatives from various communities across Ontario who attended from July 19-21.



With 10 years of Species at Risk programming under our belt, we are very proud to be able to share our successes and

learning process with others looking to do the same in their own communities. It was a great few days of learning and sharing from each other and we are excited to see the Land Visioning Toolkit used in communities across Turtle Island!



HIDE TANNING (SPRING, FALL)

This year we were fortunate enough to have experience Hide Tanning Knowledge Keeper and Teacher, Amber Sandy, join us for some spring and fall hide tanning! Members of our staff and some community members learned how to string up a hide to a hand-made frame and begin frost scraping and removing the hair.



Later in November, we continued this incredible workshop in partnership with Georgian Bay Anishinaabek Youth. Once again, Amber joined us but this time for a whole week and she also brought one of her teachers, Brenda Lee!

It is difficult to put into words how special this workshop was! Overall, we had a moose, 2 deer, and a bear hide to work on and learn the various techniques and stages of working the hides.

We were also fortunate enough to have many participants drop in throughout the week including the Georgian Bay Biosphere staff and the Parry Sound highschool class.

We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn, to share, and to simply spend some beautiful time together. We wrapped the week with a gift offering to our teachers which was incredibly special given that the art was done by community member, talented artist, and hide camp participant Mishiikenh Kwe.



We also want to thank the men who came and set up the tipi last minute. It became a beautiful and cozy space to work on the hides and gather together.



If you would like more information on our upcoming January 2023 Hide Tanning Workshop continuation please reach out to Nadine Perron for details (705-383-1107, nadine.perron@magfn.com)

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

If you couldn't already tell, we LOVE talking about turtles and snakes! We took the opportunity to do just that at various outreach events this year while sharing more about our program and what we do to protect and conserve our species at risk and the land upon which they live.

We were invited to present to the Parry Sound Highschool in at the beginning of May. It was great to connect with the students there including our very own Allen Lewis-Trodd and Derian Smith.

We also had a tent set up at the Britt Community Festival on August 6 where members of our staff discussed Species at Risk, our program, how the public can help protect our species, and ways that we are working as Guardians of the land. We hope to be invited back and make this an annual event whereby we can connect with local communities in our region. Miigwech to our entire team who came out on one of the hottest days of the summer to help set up!



For the second year in a row, our Department and community was invited back to participate in Science North's National Day of Truth and Reconciliation open house. Terry, Derian, Alanna and Kyle set up another display table to share information to visitors and even some of the Science North staff! We also had the chance to present in the auditorium space with the assistance of their resident Mikinaak (Snapping Turtle).

Miigwech once again to all the community members who came up to see us and tour around Science North!



SPECIAL EVENTS

We love getting to connect with community members and with Anishinaabe culture through workshops and events. This year, with the easing of some COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to take part in several special events on Magnetawan First Nation and across our region:

SHAWANAGA SUGAR BUSH VISIT



Lands staff visited the Shawanaga maple shack this spring and learned the process of making maple syrup!

CRANBERRY PICKING



The summer and fall conditions this year led to a bountiful cranberry crop! We were so thankful to be able to harvest some for our friends, family, and fellow community members. It was also great to have some others join us at the cranberry marsh!

YOUTH MENTORSHIP

Our Elder advisor, Richard Noganosh, showed some of our community youth technicians how to harvest birch bark. After taking the time to find the right tree, Delsin was able to harvest some pieces to be turned into baskets later on.



YOUTH KNOWLEDGE SHARING

MSc students Claire and Kate invited youth to participate in a knowledge sharing and paint-night pizza party to discuss what biodiversity meant to them and the building of a moose knowledge network. You can see some of the participants' artwork on the side of our office sea-bin!

BATS OF GEORGIAN BAY

We are members of the Georgian Bay Bat project led by Shawanaga First Nation's biologist and partner consulting company, Myotistar. This summer we were able to host a Bat Night whereby nets were used to safely catch some bats which were then outfitted with transmitters to allow us to track their movements manually and via the MOTUS tower network (Did you know we have one such tower installed on top of our Band Office!?). We also accidentally caught an adorable flying squirrel (bottom picture)



LAMPRICIDE TREATMENT

We were given the incredible opportunity to check out this year's lampricide treatment from the sky! The lampricide treatment occurs every 2-3 years in streams, rivers, and tributaries that feed into the Great Lakes. It is meant to target the larval stage of the invasive sea lamprey after they have swam up river to spawn. A recent study found that "The average adult sea lamprey index decreased by 26% and lake trout wounding rates decreased by 21% across the Great Lakes basin during 2010 to 2017 when compared to 2000 to 2009" (Jubar et al., 2021; Prioritizing lampricide treatments in Great Lakes tributaries and lentic areas during 2000–2017)

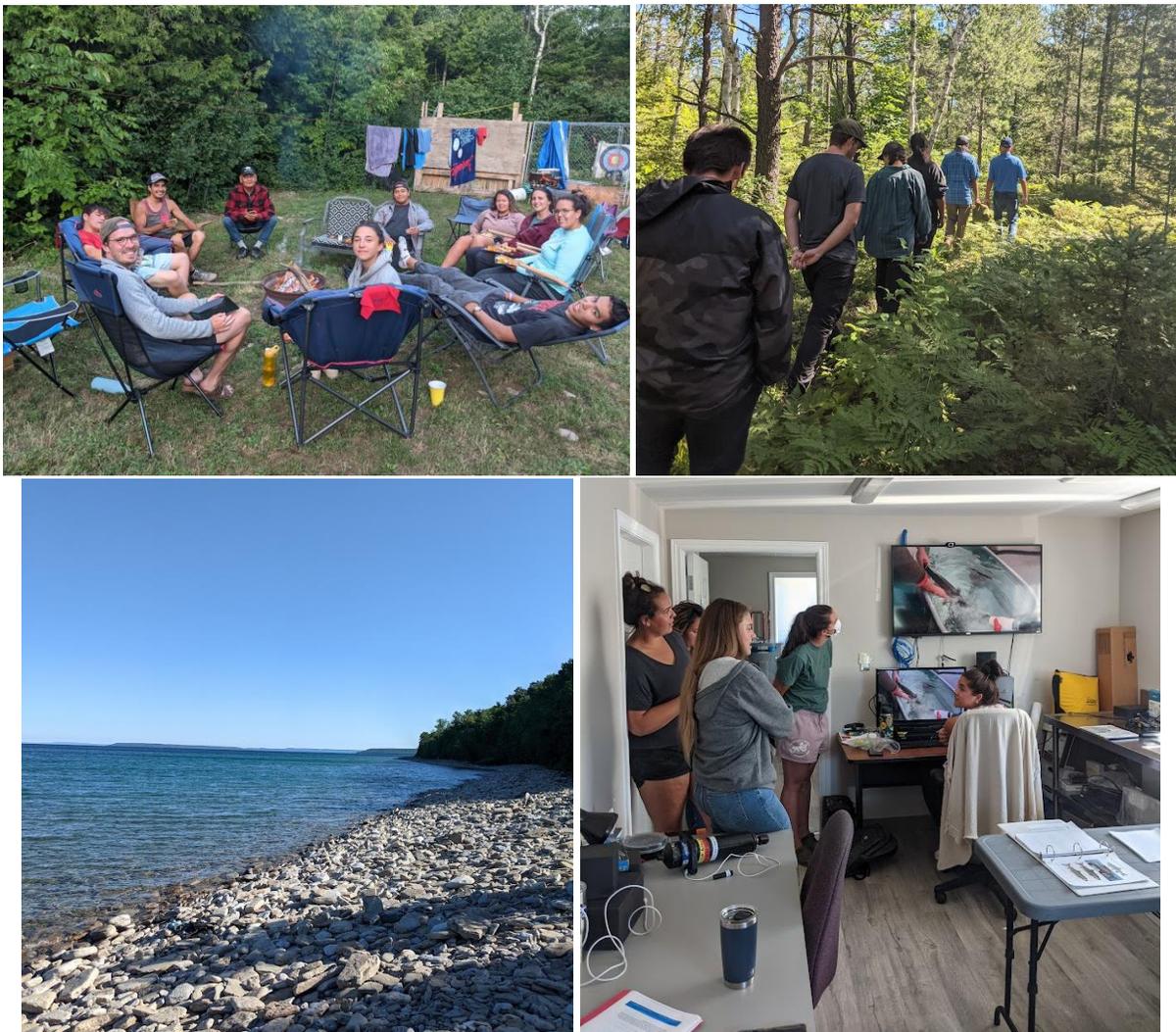
We brought along some 'biologists in training' to share this opportunity with and teach them about invasive species. The helicopter pilot was even kind enough to show us a closeup of the Henvey Inlet Wind Farm AND even tried to help us locate a travelling turtle by letting us bring our tracking equipment to try out! Unfortunately, it didn't work but it was a fun experience overall and at least we can now say we have tried tracking turtles by helicopter!



TRAVELLING BIOLOGIST(S)

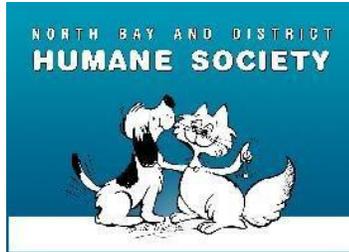
From August 9-11, our entire department had the privilege of visiting Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory. Our gracious hosts, Elisha and Naomi Jones from the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, invited us to come see what they focus on in their communities. We met with some members of the Coastal Waters Monitoring Program and learned about the incredible fisheries work being done around their coast and across the great lakes, including sturgeon work! It was a pleasure spending time with these talented kwewag as well as “The Elder from Nawash” who treated us to a medicine walk on their traditional hunting grounds.

This experience may have inspired some fisherman in our crew to become fishery biologists instead of terrestrial biologists!



This summer was jam packed with amazing things and we are already planning for a bigger and better 2023 season! See you then!

SUPPORTERS, FUNDING AND PARTNERS



MAGNETAWN FIRST NATION



DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT



TURTLE FILL IN THE BLANKS



1. Turtles are _____ blooded.
2. Turtles are one of the oldest and most primitive groups of _____.
3. Most turtles have _____ toes on each limb.
4. All female turtles lay their eggs on _____.
5. Turtles have great _____.
6. Turtles have a _____ not teeth.
7. A baby turtle is called a _____.
8. Some turtles are an _____ species.
9. A turtle is not a _____.

Answers: Cold, Reptiles, Five, Land, Eyesight, Beak, Hatchling, Endangered, Tortoise



MAGNETAWAN FIRST NATION

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

WORD SEARCH 2022

S	W	O	P	L	K	G	H	E	X
T	W	S	S	P	E	C	I	E	S
C	A	M	N	B	V	G	I	F	D
B	T	A	C	A	M	H	L	K	E
D	E	E	R	V	U	I	L	M	K
R	R	E	C	D	S	D	B	A	T
M	O	S	E	D	Y	E	P	G	C
O	N	N	E	M	O	C	A	N	L
N	E	E	G	U	S	A	T	E	I
A	S	O	W	W	R	M	O	T	M
R	U	T	T	E	B	P	I	A	A
C	O	V	V	T	U	R	L	W	T
H	L	A	N	L	O	E	D	A	E
B	E	R	S	A	L	M	U	N	C
B	E	S	M	N	C	E	L	O	H
E	L	A	N	D	C	O	D	E	A
A	I	F	P	E	C	E	S	O	N
R	E	R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	G
S	M	O	O	S	E	B	L	I	E
S	M	G	O	P	F	S	H	O	O
W	I	N	O	W	E	L	A	W	D
I	N	C	U	B	A	T	I	O	N
B	E	T	N	T	U	R	T	L	E
M	A	G	N	D	I	E	M	F	Y
H	A	T	C	H	L	I	N	G	S
V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S
T	E	M	A	S	E	K	A	N	S

WORDS TO SEARCH:

FROG SEEDS
 WATER HIDE CAMP
 SNAKES INCUBATION
 BEAVER VEGETABLES
 TURTLE MONARCH
 BAT LAND CODE
 BEARS WETLAND
 SPECIES CLIMATE CHANGE
 RECYCLE
 MOOSE
 DEER
 MAGNETAWAN
 WOLF
 HATCHLINGS

****ONCE WORD SEARCH AND FILL IN THE BLANK ARE COMPLETED, PLEASE DROP OFF AT LANDS OFFICE AND YOU WILL BE RECEIVE A PRIZE*****