



GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

Success Story



Angela works on Best Management Practices and report from the 2021 field season

Green Job Protects Parry Sound's Species at Risk

ANGELA VANDER EYKEN'S DREAM JOB IS TO help species at risk.

Now, as the Landscape and Wildlife Technician for the Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere, she is well on her way to achieving that goal.

"I've always wanted to work with wildlife. This opportunity is going to be really integral in getting me more exposure to different wildlife surveys, different techniques and different practices that can be used to help recover species at risk populations or protect their populations," Angela says.

The CPRA Green Jobs Initiative, which is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Skills Strategy program, gave Angela the unique opportunity to work with the Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere this winter.



GEORGIAN BAY MNIDOO GAMII BIOSPHERE, ONTARIO

Canada

This project is funded by the Government of Canada



Angela in the GBB turtle hatchery room



Angela stands with a bilingual road sign that is in English and Anishinaabemowin

Angela says she wanted to apply because she heard about the organization's wildlife and environmental projects - including work in road mitigation that aims to reduce wildlife mortality on roads, as well as projects that are based on wildlife and environmental science.

"It aligned well with my personal interests and my goals for myself," Angela explains, adding that she was also excited for the opportunity to work in Parry Sound, Ontario. "The Parry Sound area is beautiful, so I definitely wanted to see the area, explore it and also get a chance to work in this area as well."

As a Landscape and Wildlife Technician, part of Angela's work is developing wildlife fencing and working in partnership with other townships to develop ecopassages that help wildlife cross roads safely. She also focuses on developing best management practices for roads, which road crews can reference to help reduce impacts to wildlife and species at risk.

During her work experience, Angela had the opportunity to participate in different training experiences - for example Wilderness First Aid, as well as a workshop on Wildlife, Fencing and Roads with Eco-Kare International and other partners.

Angela says the opportunity has also helped her explore her passion for helping wildlife, particularly reptiles and amphibians that live near wetlands.

"I get to learn more about road ecology. I get to work in a beautiful landscape with amazing like-minded people. And I

get to do things that really matter," she says. "Whatever I do, whether that be at work or my own personal life, I want to do things that matter. So I definitely feel like that's aligned really well."

Angela's supervisor Tianna Burke, a Conservation Biologist with the Georgian Bay Mniidoo Gami Biosphere, says the funding from CPRA made it possible for the organization to help further inform, educate, facilitate and provide leadership for more sustainable communities - including continuing to collaborate on an important Species at Risk Conservation project called Maamwi Anjiakiziwin.

"Being able to put this funding towards hiring Angela has been a huge help for me in the work that I'm doing, because I have an increased capacity now to be able to meet objectives, especially with the Maamwi Anjiakiziwin project," says Tianna, adding that as a non-profit charity organization, the Biosphere's work is completely reliant on grants, donations and memberships. "Any of the funding that we are able to receive increases our ability to do work all along the coast - creating connections, fostering relationships, and working towards sustainable communities and ecological mindsets. The funding allows us to take on more ideas, expand our projects, work with more partners, and have more support for the outreach we do!"

To learn more about the Georgian Bay Mniidoo Gami Biosphere, visit: gbb.ca.

For more information on the Maamwi Anjiakiziwin project, visit: <https://maamwigeorgianbay.ca/>. 🍁