



CPRA ACPL

GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

Success Story

Raena carrying waste during a beach cleanup in Tracadie Bay.

Green Job Inspires Student to Pursue a Career in Environmental Studies

RAENA PARENT'S GREEN JOB AS A watershed technician at the Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed taught her many things – from pruning trees to working as a team.

But it also inspired her to change her career path and pursue a master's degree in environmental studies.

"Thanks to working here, I'm hoping to do more environmental work," says Raena, who graduated with a B.Sc. Honours in Psychology. "I'm working on trying to get into a master's program in environmental studies and keep studying that connection between the natural environment and people. The watershed really helped me find that love, and has given me more learning opportunities."



SUFFOLK,
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Canada

This project is funded by
the Government of Canada



Raena pruning a tree that was planted during a previous project.



Raena preparing tree guards for deciduous trees at a planting site.

“I feel so grateful for the opportunity. I didn’t know I could have the skills that I’ve gained. It’s definitely given me a lot of confidence”

Raena Parent, Watershed Technician

Throughout her studies in psychology, Raena started to take some biology classes which inspired her to find a job working with the outdoors, where she could make an impact on the environment.

When she saw the Winter River–Tracadie Bay Watershed Association was hiring a watershed technician – a job that was made possible thanks to the CPRA Green Jobs Initiative – she instantly applied.

“I just went looking and was lucky enough to find this one,” says Raena.

As a watershed technician for the PEI-based organization, Raena planted and pruned trees, ensured a healthy fish habitat, cleaned up shorelines and roads, and maintained hiking trails.

Many of the jobs were new to her, but she enjoyed every minute of it.

“I actually had never dealt with trees before,” she says, adding that she learned a lot about trees and where best to plant them. “I learned how to identify the different kinds of trees we have on the island, and knowing where they are best suited depending on sun, shade, and moisture.”

Raena also says the job gave her the opportunity to work both independently and as a team.

“I feel so grateful for the opportunity. I didn’t know I could have the skills that I’ve gained. It’s given me a lot of confidence, but also so much gratitude,” she says.

Sarah Wheatley, the organization’s watershed coordinator, worked with Raena as both a mentor and manager.

She says that Raena’s background in psychology, as well as supervisory experience in the restaurant industry, stood out to her as great qualities for the job.

“I do make an effort to try to get people with a diverse range of skills. If you have five people out there and they all went through the same school program, they all have the same way of thinking about something. Whereas if they all went through different programs and have different backgrounds, then they’ll all bring a different perspective. So it’s better for problem solving and coming up with unique solutions,” Sarah says, adding that watershed work often involves thinking of unique solutions with limited resources.

In her role, she says she is always looking for funding sources and the Green Jobs funding helped the organization hire a passionate student like Raena.

It also gives them the opportunity to introduce their important work to young people, and provide them with some of the skills they need for a career in the green jobs sector.

“Mentoring young people is really key for our organization,” Sarah says. “Having funding opportunities like this allows us to hire more young people and mentor them along in their career.” 🍁