The Couchiching Conservancy

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - 2022

Position: Biological Technician (TWO POSITIONS AVAILABLE)
Organization: The Couchiching Conservancy
Reports to: Dorthea Hangaard, Conserved Lands Manager
Location: Orillia, Ontario
Duration: 15 weeks
Start Date: May 16, 2022
Wage: $15.50 /hr (35 hours/week)
Accommodation: Available if needed
Application Deadline: Submit a resume and cover letter by Thursday May 5th

The Couchiching Conservancy is a non-profit charitable land trust that has helped to protect over 14,000 acres in the Couchiching Region. The Conservancy's mandate is to protect the special natural features of the Couchiching region for present and future generations, and we achieve this goal through land acquisition and stewardship projects on both private and public land. We are currently responsible for the stewardship and management of 45 Nature Reserves under our protection.

We are seeking two youth summer staff with strong field skills to join our Stewardship Team. The Biological Technicians will assist with invasive species control, support community science volunteers in the field, build and maintain trails, conduct inventories for flora and fauna, maintain field equipment, and enter field data. You will also incorporate adult and youth volunteers into some of the above activities.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Invasive Species Control:
With mentorship and training from our staff stewardship team, conduct monitoring for garlic mustard, dog-strangling vine (DSV), phragmites reed, buckthorn shrubs, and others. Carry out control programs for invasive species with assistance from Conservancy volunteers to help get the job done.

2. Community Science Program:
After taking training programs in several community science programs that align with your interests, assist stewardship staff in supporting these volunteer community science programs in the field, and become responsible for community science monitoring of a

few nature reserves. Choices include: reptile & amphibian monitoring, water quality monitoring, grassland bird surveys, wildlife on roads, bat monitoring, monarch monitoring, and large mammal monitoring using remote cameras.

3.   Property Maintenance:
Build and maintain public nature reserve trails with supervision and training from staff. After gaining experience, help to lead teams of youth volunteers in these activities.

4.   Biological Inventories:
Accompany staff on nature reserve field trips to conduct inventories of flora and fauna.

5. Equipment and Data Management:
   - Learn to maintain equipment for community science monitoring programs including water testing equipment, remote video cameras, bat monitoring, and parabolic microphones.
   - Input and organize data for each monitoring program, and ensure accuracy of data input by volunteers.
   - Collect and record appropriate weather data.

Skills:

   - Some field identification skills, especially invasive species and Species at Risk.
   - Able to use a GPS unit or smartphone map app such as Avenza to navigate.
   - Enrolled or completed post-secondary education in Biology, Environmental Science, Ecological Restoration, Ecosystem Management, or Fish & Wildlife.
   - Comfortable using landscaping tools such as weed whippers
   - Ability to manage time effectively, work as a member of a team and also independently.
   - Good written and verbal communication skills.
   - Good interpersonal skills as required in a team.
   - Organized with an attention to detail.
   - Knowledge of the Not-for-Profit sector and Land Trusts is an asset.

A valid Driver's License and a car are required.

   - All applicants must be between 15 and 30 years of age (inclusive) and legally eligible to work in Canada.   You do not need to be a student.
   - Hourly Wage: $15.50 per hour for a 35 hour work week. Typically, Monday to Friday, including some evenings and occasional weekends.
   - Please send a resume and cover letter to dorthea@couchconservancy.ca

We welcome applications from Indigenous, Visible Minority, and LGBTQ2 youth.

Funded by Canada Summer Jobs and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.