

MARA VAN MEER

18 Young St, Trenton, ON, Canada, K8V 1Z1

(613-920-0750)

maravanmeer@outlook.com

HIGHLIGHTS

- Currently attending Sir Sandford Fleming College in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Applications Specialist
- Experience implementing Python to enhance workflows, adept in HTML5, CSS, jQuery, and JavaScript to create and manage web content
- Extensive leadership and coordination experience in both professional and educational settings
- Applied enthusiasm, motivation, organization, flexibility, problem solving and time management skills in the facilitation of collaborative projects
- Team player committed to learning as well as professional/community development
- Thrive on being challenged and developing creative, innovative solutions

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FEBRUARY 2020 – PRESENT

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT,

TRENT UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- Currently collaborating with the course development team to construct online content for an introductory GIS course (GEOG 2090H), responsible for enhancing visual aids for the course by completing modules and adding screenshots as well as specific directions
- Responsible for reviewing course conversion materials and providing suggestions for potential improvements, working remotely to complete course conversion plan
- Converting the previous in-person lab manual to virtual activities using a variety of technology applications, creating software demonstrations and videos to creatively communicate course curriculum
- Independently managing hours to follow the completion plan and meet strict deadlines

APRIL 2019 – NOVEMBER 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT,

ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE (OLTA)

- Co-founder of student consulting team MC2 Environmental Consulting, hired by OLTA to complete a research project documenting the history of the Land Trust Movement throughout Ontario, including the summary of several historical documents in an annotated literature review
- Summarized a general timeline of key legislation, non-profit organizations, and individuals impacting the conservation movement throughout the 1900s
- Facilitated interview questions and consultations with several key individuals involved in the land trust movement to provide context for influences and processes
- Acted as communications manager, maintaining contact between OLTA and the student team, responding to all inquiries within 24 hours. Administered the completion of the project proposal, project health and safety plan, and project invoice

APRIL 2019 – AUGUST 2019

ASSISTANT GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) TECHNICIAN,

CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (CLOCA)

- Updated the watershed plan from 2012, in which I maintained several geodatabases, .mxd templates, metadata, and map layers

- Worked to design, create, organize, as well as update maps, digital data, reports, and statistics within CLOCA's database
 - Conducted a georeferencing project involving the scanning, georeferencing, and mosaicking of over 400 historical aerial photography from 1954 and 1967
 - Mosaicked LIDAR data to update several tiles and used the resulting DEM to calculate building heights for a study area
 - Consulted several other departments including the Natural Heritage Department and Planning Department to assess project requirements and co-ordinate cartographic output
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MAY 2018 – SEPTEMBER 2018

**NATURALIST & LIGHTHOUSE CENTRE COORDINATOR,
PRESQU'ILE PROVINCIAL PARK**

- Facilitated the management of the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre, including general management, addressing concerns from the public as well as administering training for several employees
- Independently developed and directed numerous educational programs for a variety of diverse audiences, including children programs and evening programs
- Customized and revitalized several educational programs from previous years that were outdated or irrelevant
- Catalogued and organized all props, textbooks, and materials used by the Natural Heritage Education team for easier accessibility in the future
- Researched information about environmental processes and applied knowledge to public inquiry

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER 2019

**2019 ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE (OLTA) GATHERING,
ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE**

- Presented as part of a panel within a session titled "Youth Working in the Land Trust Community"
 - Discussed the importance of documentation and organization of key legislative documents
 - Addressed several questions from attendees regarding youth engagement and conservation leaders
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NOVEMBER 2018

**HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT,
SIR SANDFORD FLEMING COLLEGE**

- Hosted an information kiosk describing the semester abroad offered as part of the Ecosystem Management Technician program at Fleming college in Lindsay, Ontario
 - Discussed my personal educational experience and learning expectations based off the college curriculum
 - Spoke to several educational co-coordinators about the beneficial experience of a semester abroad for students
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JANUARY 2018 – APRIL 2018

**CONSERVATIONIST,
ASKARI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION PROGRAMME**

- Contributed to the management of 17,500 hectares of African bush
- Developed and implemented a mapping project of 5000 ha within the reserve related to bush encroachment using GPS data, vegetation plots, Esri suite of software, and Avenza Map Publisher
- Engaged in data collection and analysis to monitor nocturnal mammals, complete benthic invertebrate surveys, as well as update/ manage reserve data records
- Worked as part of a team to complete laborious tasks such as fence installation, creation of road erosion drainage systems, and the removal of old farming fences
- Followed protocol closely in dangerous situations and under pressure

EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2019 – PRESENT

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) APPLICATION SPECIALIST, SIR SANDFORD FLEMING COLLEGE

- Post graduate program utilizing technology to analyze, store, manipulate, summarize, and interpret geographic data in a variety of diverse applications
 - Numerous focuses including web-GIS applications, database development and maintenance, integrating AutoCAD design files in GIS, performing quality assurance and control, and problem solving to complete technical tasks
 - Experience publishing content to ArcGIS Online and managing content through ArcGIS Server
 - Adept usage of python and SQL to enhance workflows, as well as experience writing in HTML5, CSS, jQuery and JavaScript to create and manage web content
 - Proficient in interpreting business needs as well as creating an entity-relationship diagram to maintain and manage data
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SEPTEMBER 2016 – APRIL 2019

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY, SIR SANDFORD FLEMING COLLEGE

- Leading edge of conservation and restoration, placing emphasis on identification skills and management
- Gained numerous hands-on skills including biological measurement, water sampling, compassing, wildlife monitoring, wildlife identification
- Knowledge of Ecological Land Classification, data management, project management, statistics, photogrammetry, and grant writing
- Knowledge and experience with several protocols including Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP), Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES) and Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 2018 - PRESENT

PUBLISHED WORK

- “KLSA and Fleming College: Dissolved Oxygen in the Kawartha Lakes” published in the Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association Water Quality Report 2018
 - Summary of Project Scope and Deliverables, OLTA Website, 2019
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JANUARY 2019- APRIL 2019

PARTNERSHIPS CO-LEAD, 11TH ANNUAL ECOHEALTH CONFERENCE

- Co-led the partnerships student team for the 11th Annual EcoHealth Conference hosted by Ecosystem Management students and held in March 2019
 - Acted as the official liaison between the planning committee and internal/external partners, including the Office of Sustainability, the Frost Sustainable Campus Initiative, all Fleming Campuses, Fleming Alumni, and participating Ontario Universities
 - Directed a poster exhibit to showcase student projects, developing a call for poster abstracts, the review and approval of abstracts under a strict deadline, as well as the organization of poster display
 - Maintained constant contact with the alumni office to establish a contact list of alumni for the event, developed special recognition for alumni at the event
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SEPTEMBER 2018 - DECEMBER 2018

WATERSHED TECHNICIAN INTERN, KAWARTHA LAKE STEWARDS ASSOCIATION (KLSA)

- Prepared a water quality assessment for three lakes within Kawartha Lakes as part of a four-person team
- Worked as project manager, responsible for ensuring field work was completed on time and safely
- Ensured project objectives were achieved via consultation with the president of the KLSA
- Held several leadership positions including communications manager, in which I facilitated all contact between the KLSA and Fleming College

CERTIFICATIONS

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES DESIGNATION, 2019

- Sir Sandford Fleming College, *Lindsay*, ON

ONTARIO BENTHOS BIOMONITORING NETWORK CERTIFICATION, 2019

- Sir Sandford Fleming College, *Lindsay*, ON

CPR AND FIRST AID, 2018

- Presqu'ile Provincial Park, *Brighton*, ON

RECOGNITION

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE, SOUTH AFRICA SEMESTER ABROAD 2018

- Sir Sandford Fleming College, Frost Campus, *Lindsay*, ON

ACADEMIC SCHOLAR 2016-PRESENT

- Sir Sandford Fleming College, Frost Campus, *Lindsay*, ON

LOU RINALDI MPP AWARD 2016

- Bayside Secondary School, *Bayside*, ON

INTERESTS

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| • Basketball | • Snowshoeing |
| • Bird watching | • Ultimate Frisbee |
| • Camping | • Volleyball |
| • Canoeing | • Wildlife photography |
| • Hiking | • Yoga |