

The Forestry Technician course at Algonquin College in Pembroke, Ontario is a one year condensed course that can be very demanding but also very rewarding says a former graduate of the program.

In her own words, Nicole Bergevin says: “The year at Algonquin was a new, but not quiet novel, experience for me. Having previously spent four years in the post secondary system at university I thought I knew what to expect when I came to Algonquin College last September. How wrong was I! College life is nothing like university life. Students here were different. They were much more willing to work together to achieve success; to support each other and learn from each other, rather than focus only on themselves. The teaching styles (and the teachers), along with the smaller classroom sizes created greater bonds between the students and allowed for students to play off each other’s strengths. We’ve learned to work together and rely upon each other for support, both academically and emotionally. It didn’t seem to matter what your struggle was, there was always someone else there who could understand and offer help. Sometimes that help was with course material, or time management. Sometimes that help simply meant being a sounding board and a friendly ear. Being such a small group we had to rely on each other, and because we did, together we’ve all grown, both individually and as a whole. And I’d like to think that growth was for the better.

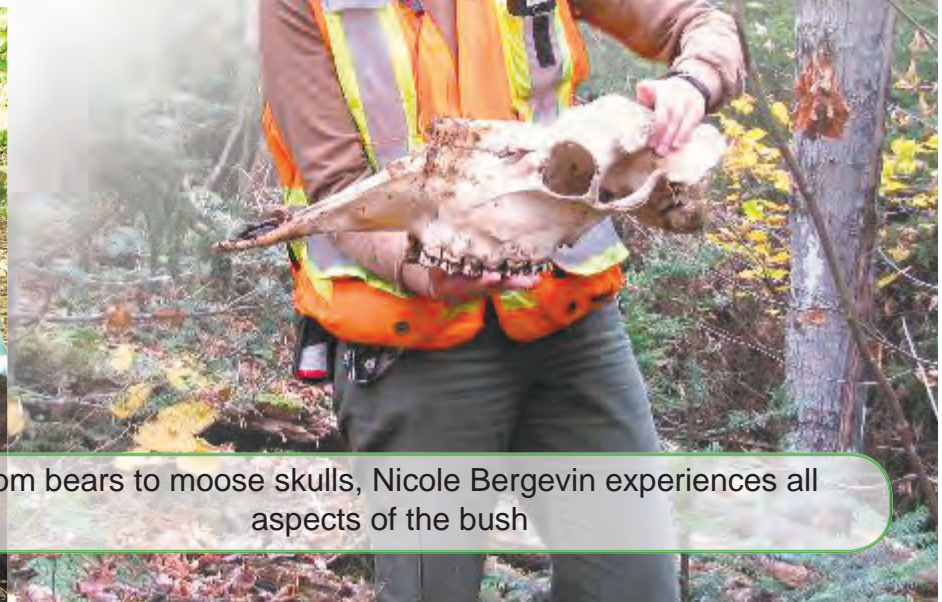
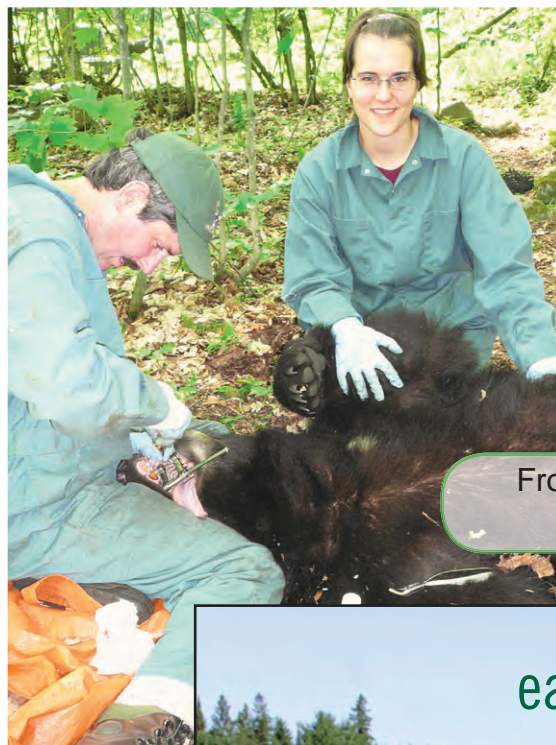
Throughout the year we were presented with both mental and physical challenges that brought us together as a class and helped us to grow as individuals. The program taught us that there is more to forestry than simply logging. Forestry encompasses the growth, management and care of the forests of our great country along with the care of

all things in it. This course has given us the skills to confidently enter the work force and taught us that there is no hill too high to climb if we just put our minds to it. ACOV gave us more than just a traditional education... it gave us a future.”

Originally from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Nicole attended the University of Guelph where she obtained her Honours Bachelor of Science in Zoology (2007) prior to coming to Algonquin College in 2010/2011. Nicole received her Forestry Technician Diploma and graduated at the top of her class. During her time at Algonquin, Nicole was a member of the school’s varsity Loggersports team. She also served on various organizations in the Pembroke community including the Canadian Institute of Forestry

(CIF) and Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest.

Since graduation Nicole has worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ontario Parks as a Research Technician and with the CIF where she worked as a marketing coordinator and knowledge exchange specialist. Nicole expects to continue her career in forestry and wildlife conservation and management. ◇



From bears to moose skulls, Nicole Bergevin experiences all aspects of the bush

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Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley has been training forestry workers for over 40 years at our Pembroke Campus. Our fast-track program allows students to earn their Forestry Technician Diploma in a compressed format of just 47 weeks instead of two years.

program features include:

- One-third of the classes are field trips including training in Algonquin Park
- Earn government and industry-recognized certifications such as tree marking, firefighting, chainsaw operator, land management, bear awareness, aircraft safety and night navigation
- Small class sizes with professors who are well-connected to forestry industry and government employers
- 2 weeks of professional certifications and 2 weeks of field placement

For more information about Forestry training in Pembroke, Ontario, contact us at 613-735-4700, ext. 2756 or visit us at: algonquincollege.com/pembroke

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