

Samantha Brown has always been an environmentalist. She was raised watching National Geographic TV specials and she started clearing out decades-old garbage from the ravine in her parent’s backyard when she was old enough to understand that littering hurts the environment.

After high school she travelled looking for inspiration and found some in Kamloops, B.C. fighting forest fires.

Following that experience, Samantha knew she wanted to get into the forestry field. Algonquin College offered her exactly what she was looking for. Being a restless soul, she knew she couldn’t commit to a four year program. The Forest Technician Program at Algonquin College is a two year diploma condensed into 12 months.

She was also worried about being cooped up in a classroom but was relieved with the amount of field work – from stream surveys, to ecology, to harvesting methods, and the lessons tailored to hands-on learning.

“Not only is the classroom outdoors for 50% of the time – it takes place in beautiful Algonquin Park and the surrounding forests of Renfrew County,,” she said.

Upon graduation she took on an internship with the Forestry Stewardship Council of Renfrew County. Here she developed a Demonstration Forest program, and designed and implemented demonstration forest sites in Renfrew County. She moved on to work for the Ministry of Natural Resources as a Fire Ranger in Haliburton.

“My education at Algonquin College definitely helped me land this job – having already studied fire management and having a natural resources diploma I was a shoe-in!” she said.

Helicopters and swamps, wet boots and roaring flames, and travel to BC and Montana made the two summers she spent doing this a memorable experience.

Next came Canmore, AB. to work for a private consulting company surveying the Mountain Pine beetle damage in the gorgeous Bow Valley.

“The one thing about working in the natural resources sector is that you are bound to see some wild and faraway places that you would not have seen had you been doing something else” Samantha says.

After her second summer of firefighting in Ontario, Samantha worked as an assistant stewardship coordinator for the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network. She had the opportunity to work with private landowners and groups on projects ranging from endangered species habitat restoration to invasive species management to wetland

creation projects and Tallgrass prairie restorations and prescribed burn plans.

She put the knowledge she learned at Algonquin College about the dynamics of fish and wildlife habitat, soils, freshwater systems and tree planting and care to good use.

Samantha is presently working for the Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations Inc. (FOCA) as the Lake Planning Program Coordinator assisting waterfront property owners to make good, stewardship-based decisions as individuals and as communities to keep their lakes pristine.

After holding all of these different positions, Samantha has realized that working with, and educating land owners about environmental stewardship is a growing sector in natural resources management and that here, she has an impact and makes a living at the same time!

“The knowledge base that I received at Algonquin College has stretched farther than I imagined!”



Samantha Brown



EARN A FORESTRY DIPLOMA IN LESS THAN ONE YEAR

Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley has been training forestry workers for over 35 years at our Pembroke Campus. Our fast-track program allows students to earn their Forestry Technician Diploma in just 47 weeks instead of two years.

Program features include:

- One-third of the classes are field trips including training in Algonquin Park
- Earn industry-recognized certifications such as tree marking, firefighting, chainsaw operator, log scaling, GIS
- Small class sizes with professors who are well-connected to forestry industry employers

For more information about Forestry training in Pembroke, Ontario, contact us at (613) 735-4700, ext. 2756 or visit us at:



Longlac Wood Industries Inc.

Katamaki Road
Longlac (Ontario) Canada

Founded in 1904, Kruger Inc. is a major producer of publication papers, tissue, lumber and other wood products, corrugated cartons from recycled fibers, and green and renewable energy. The Company is also a leader in paper and paperboard recycling in North America. Kruger operates facilities in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, in the United States and the United Kingdom and has 9,000 employees.