



# Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

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## Media Update – 2010-06

### Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council Rangers

By Darren Bonenberg  
EGBSC - OS Ranger Crew Leader

This was the second year of the Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program operating at the Parry Sound Ministry of Natural Resources Office. This program runs in communities across Ontario for eight weeks each summer. The goal for the program is to provide community based work experience, personal development, skills, and training for youth who want to expand their commitment to natural resource stewardship.

The Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Ranger Team in Parry Sound consisted of 5 members; Tyson Pamajewon, Cody England, Evan Holmes, Trent Nevin, and crew leader, Darren Bonenberg. The team worked very well together and had an excellent work ethic in every job they took on. They were involved in a number of projects including working with the McKellar Conservation Association with their efforts to construct better spawning beds for walleye on Lee's Creek in McKellar. The crew, as well as several Summer Experience Program students, managed to place almost forty tons of rock into the river. They also constructed a number of bush latrines for placement on Crown Land campsites, and participated in two camping trips, one of which was spent at Killbear Provincial Park while the other was spend cleaning up Crown Land campsites on the Moon River.

While camping at Killbear Provincial Park, the crew repaired a significant portion of their rattlesnake fencing along the main road into the park. They were also given an introduction to Fox Snakes and rattlesnakes. They participated in a search for rattlesnakes with the Natural Heritage Education Leader from the park and were lucky enough to find one. The crew was unique this summer in that it was made up of rangers from a variety of hometowns. Cody England, from Etobicoke, remarked that the rattlesnake work was something that "he never he'd be involved with".

Over the course of the summer, the rangers developed a number of skills that will serve them well in years to come. These include how to navigate using GPS technology, how to identify various tree species, woodworking and carpentry skills, and tool operation. They also received training in Health and Safety, First Aid and boating.

The summer seemed to go by extremely quickly, but the crew definitely made the most of it. Their ideas and attitudes towards stewardship and conservation have changed and grown and will serve them extremely well in the years to come.



**Stewardship Rangers (L to R): Evan Holmes, Cody England, Darren Bonenberg (crew leader), Tyson Pamajewon and Trent Nevin; standing in front of a Moon River campsite fire pit soon to be rehabilitated.**