



Spring 2020



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## Emma Lake Action & Understanding Project Update

This year three private sites in the Emma Lake area were planted with a total of 206 plants. Species included Red-Osier Dogwood, Saskatoon Berry, Creeping Juniper, White Spruce, Paper Birch, and many others. Five more private sites on Emma Lake will be selected in the Summer. To date, we have planted a total of 555 native plants using [Watershed Canada's Natural Edge Program!](#)

Our Healthy Lakes educational campaign is underway. Articles, posters, flyers, social media posts, and an educational survey have been designed and will continue to be shared this year. Our upcoming watercraft video will also be shared this year. The video shows impacts lake users can have on wildlife, shorelines, and water quality at the lake and introduces some best management practices for healthy lakes. We are looking forward to releasing the video this Spring!





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## Emma Lake Shorelines at Work Demonstration Site



Our Shorelines at Work Demonstration Site at Emma Lake is taking shape. The 3,600 square foot site is publicly accessible and is located north of McIntosh Point along Agnes St. The site was compromised with erosion and monoculture grass. NSRBC staff developed a planting plan and collaborated with the District of Lakeland and local volunteers to level the eroded area, install erosion control mats and plant 80 native plants. More plants will be added to the site in Spring 2020 while engaging local youth groups. A large educational sign was designed by NSRBC staff in collaboration with District of Lakeland and Saskatchewan Polytech representatives and will be mounted in Spring 2020.



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## Onion Lake Cree Nation Climate Station



Katherine Finn (NSRBC), Bob Patrick (UofS), Eugene Lewis (OLCN)



The NSRBC helped install a remote climate station on Onion Lake Cree Nation. The intention of this data collection is to provide localized weather information to the community members of Onion Lake. Previously the most accurate weather information was collected from Lloydminster. The Climate Station collects hourly information on the local temperature, precipitation, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, and barometric pressure. The data from the climate station is automatically uploaded to the internet. Accurate weather information will allow community members to know what their local situation is. With the uncertainty of the impacts of Climate Change, the collection of this data will allow for Onion Lake to record changes over time.

[Click here](#) to watch our climate station installation video at Muskeg Lake Cree Nation.

Video created by Steven Wiig



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## Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Health Fair



On October 28, 2019, NSRBC attended the Muskeg Lake Health Fair at Kihiwaciston School. Students came from Blaine Lake high school to tour booths, enjoy lunch and listen to a health care speaker. The booths varied in health themes from nutrition, dental, maternity and woman's health, and mental health and more. NSRBC presented the ground and surface, water models. These models demonstrate how our land-use activities have an impact on our water resources and can affect water quality. At Muskeg Lake, community members are very interested in the potential impacts of agriculture and residential activities on their lakes. They also are very interested in ways to improve water quality and wildlife habitat at the same time.



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## NSRBC Poster Contest

Congratulations to the NSRBC Wetlands & Wildlife Poster Contest winners!

### 1st Place Winner - Ayla Peterson

The first place and winner of the \$100 prize is Ayla Peterson from École Debden School. Ayla's poster shows the different types of wildlife seen around water. Ayla's poster reminds us to help protect the homes of wildlife.



## 2nd Place Winner - Sahar Ahmad

Second place and winner of the \$50 prize was Sahar Ahmad from École Vickers Public School in Prince Albert. Sahar drew a picture reminding us that water is the driving force of nature.



## 3rd Place Winner - Afton Grimard

Third place and winner of the \$25 prize was Afton Grimard from École Debden School. Afton shows the comparison of a polluted river vs. a healthy river. His poster shows what happens when we pollute our rivers and reminds us to keep them clean.

## Welcoming New Faces



### Maria Mora

Maria is originally from Ecuador; South America and has been living in Saskatchewan since September 2014. Currently, Maria is part of the NSRBC's staff as a Watershed Manager. She is supporting the project "Community Nominated Priority Places for Species at Risk" in the Redberry Lake, Muskeg Lake, and Mistawasis Nêhiyawak areas. She is finishing a Ph.D. program in the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan where she's been working with Mistawasis Nêhiyawak on alternative approaches to water governance built from Mistawasis needs, worldviews, and knowledge. She enjoys working with people and having the opportunity to learn from their experiences and wisdom. Maria also likes to travel and discover the wonders of different cultures and landscapes.

**Steven Wiig**

Steven left Canada when he was 19 to see the world and taught English to pay his way. He has lived in many countries, including, Vietnam, Thailand, Southeast Asia, and Eastern Africa! While overseas he discovered his passion for Permaculture. After completing certificates in Permaculture Design and Permaculture Consultancy, Steven worked on several projects overseas. These projects focused on holistic development, including, growing organic food, natural building, water conservation and storage, alternative community structures, and water and food security. Now back in Canada after 13 years overseas, Steven has continued online studies with Gaia College and started his business *Holistic Landscape and Design*. Steven is now currently working with Muskeg Lake Cree Nation; he designed and helped the youth plant a Food Forest with hundreds of edible trees and shrubs. He now has the position of Climate Change Adaptation Community Coordinator and hopes to create a Permaculture training program for Muskeg residents.



**We are Proud to Recognize Our Funding Partners:**



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