

WESTERN UNIVERSITY FIELD-COURSE Helps Projects within Bkejwanong Territory

From September 14th - 19nd, professors Rick Fehr and Micha Pazner led 19 of their students from Western University on a field-course entitled "Community Based Research in First Nations Studies: Indigenous and Settler Planning in Southern Ontario". The learning objectives of the field-course are designed to introduce students to the historic and contemporary realities experienced by Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples on Walpole Island and the neighbouring community of Chatham-Kent. The course exposes the students to complex social and environmental histories and situations, all with the goals of enhancing the students' overall understanding of:

- the colonial basis of contemporary planning and policy-making;
- decolonization in the planning process;
- historical and contemporary interactions between people and diverse ecologies; and
- the ways in which Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples can work together toward common objectives.

The group booked lodging in Dover Township at the Cadotte cottage/ReX XIV Lodge for the week. They did some camping, canoeing, and Lori led preparation of some great home-cooked meals for the entire group. The group visited the Walpole Island Elementary School where they talked to Grade 8 students; went to the Health Centre where they learned about water issues and the work of the Centre and Akii Kwe from Penny Williams and Brenda Wheat-Sinclair. They visited the Heritage Centre to learn about WIFN's governance from Dean Jacobs; they visited Susan and Richard Carr's to learn about purple martins; and also had discussions at the lodge with Jennie Blackbird, Elaine Jacobs, David White, Jared Macbeth, and Clint Jacobs where they learned about our culture, language, history, and land uses. The group also cleaned purple martin houses, built Wood Duck nest boxes, removed invasive trees, planted native tree saplings and acorns, etc.



See next page for highlights of some of the work the group completed.



Dean Jacobs



Penny Williams & Brenda Wheat-Sinclair



Elaine Jacobs



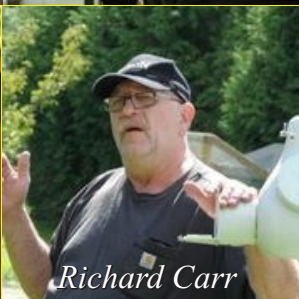
Jennie Blackbird



Rick Fehr & Clint Jacobs



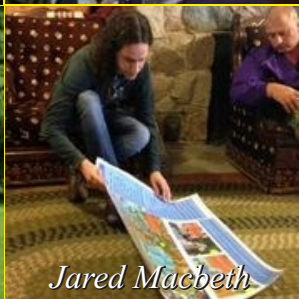
David W. White



Richard Carr



Susan Carr



Jared Macbeth



Pup that melted everyone's heart

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Western profs & students study Paw Paw Woods near Wallaceburg



Prof Micha Pazner instructs students on the use of GPS units and students map invasive trees



Clint leads Western students as they help remove invasive Black Locust trees from a tallgrass prairie



Keith leads Western students in collecting oak acorns for a planting project

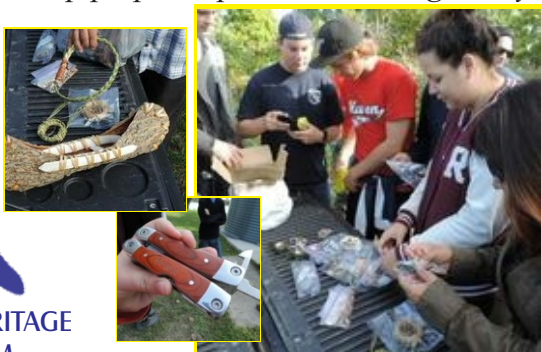


Nan cuts the lawn at Swan Lake Marsh



Western students help prep and plant trees along the dyke at Swan Lake Marsh, and mulch and water them too

Western students receive gifts for helping



Gchi-Miigwech Western Profs & Students!

