

Work Experience

STORIES

Raising Endangered Turtles – Caitlin’s Job as a Lab Assistant



Caitlin has always had an interest in animals and biology so she was very excited to learn she could do her work experience hours at a near-by secret turtle lab. The lab is set up to help boost the survival rate of endangered western painted turtles who often succumb to bullfrogs and other predators in the wild; in other words, raising baby turtles!

Caitlin’s job in the lab is to help feed the turtles, clean their tanks as well as monitor and ensure their well-being. Being a lab assistant has been a real learning experience, “the turtles are the highlight of my week.” For Caitlin, the biggest takeaway from her time at the lab is “having

the chance to try out a career instead of studying it and risking not enjoying it.”

Having Work Experience students has been rewarding for lab too, “It has been a pleasure training and working with the Seycove students through the WEX program. They have all shown a high level of competence and willingness to learn with expanding levels of responsibility for an endangered species”, says Kym Welstead, Species at Risk Biologist. Adds Kym, “I’m glad there is a connection to the local community...I look forward to having continued involvement in the WEX program.”

If you have a student currently in grade 9-11, it is not too late to add the Work Experience course to their schedule for next year. The course is worth four credits and students gain valuable work experience and opportunities that will help them better determine and understand their career focus. For more information on the course, please contact the WEX Facilitator, Janice Knapp – jknapp@sd44.ca. To add the course, please contact your student’s grade counsellor.