

# SHAWNA O'FLAHERTY

Restoration Ecologist

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D-30 Pinewood Ave, Toronto, ON



Bilingual (English & French) restoration ecologist and scientific communicator with experience in scientific public speaking engagements. Recognized student mentor, co-founder of Society for Ecological Restoration (SER-UQAT) chapter and Board Member for SER-Eastern Canada. Seeking environmental restoration or planning opportunities upon completion of an MSc in spring 2024.

## EDUCATION

UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC EN ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE (2022-2024)

MSc Ecology and Forestry Ecosystem Management (EXPECTED COMPLETION JUNE 2024)

Forest Research Institute (IRF) and Research Institute for Mines and Environment (RIME)

**Relevant Experiences:** NSERC-funded thesis-based MSc program co-supervised in partnership with Insectarium de Montréal – Espace pour la vie. Planned and executed a 3.5-month fieldwork research protocol on mine sites in northern Québec, with one year of lab experience. Courses include Statistical Analysis and Modelling, GIS, Community Engagement, Mining Revegetation and Scientific Communications. Co-founded a student chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration on campus. Presenter at 2023 RE3 Québec: Reclaim, Restore, Rewild conference (Québec City) and at 150 Years of entomology in Québec conference (Montréal) in English. French-language poster accepted for the 17<sup>th</sup> Centre for Forest Research Conference in May 2024 (Gatineau).

**Thesis Topic:** Impact of mining sites revegetated with native flowering plants on communities of pollinator insects in the context of the boreal forest. (Thesis submitted in English)

MCGILL UNIVERSITY – BIELER SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT (2020-2021)

Diploma in Environment

**Relevant Experiences:** 1-year graduate diploma in environmental studies. Relevant coursework includes Environmental Research Design, Principles of Statistics, Wildlife Conservation, and the Biology of Fungi.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY (2003-2006)

BA Specialization Communication and Journalism

**Relevant Experiences:** Photojournalism, Publication, Communication Theory, Feature Writing. Writing experience at the two campus newspapers, The Link and The Concordian.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION – Eastern Canada Chapter (Remote)

*Board of Directors, Head of Communications, November 2022–present*

- Board of Directors member since November 2022, representing the communications and webinar planning subcommittees
- Head of Communications since February 2024
- Plans and executes all website updates, manages social media posts in English and French
- Grew online engagement with the chapter by more than 50% since assuming the position
- Assists webinar planning and moderate restoration-themed webinars
- Assisted in the planning of the RE3 Conference and co-ran a Symposium on Restoring Peripheral Resource Regions in Québec during the conference

### AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATION, Guelph, ON

*Bilingual Lending Service Representative, September 2021–January 2022*

- Plan administrator for the federal agricultural loan program (Advanced Payment Plan)
- Managed loan applications for the Québec market
- Fielded customer service requests for agricultural loans
- Ensured privacy of sensitive personal client financial data

### ARTS & LEISURE TOURS, Woodbridge, ON

*Travel Designer, March 2019–March 2020*

- Designed customized tours of Europe
- Booked all travel services for clients (hotels, trains, private transfers, touring experiences and museum tickets, restaurant reservations)
- Ensured seamless customer service journey pre-travel, in destination, and upon returning

### KENSINGTON TOURS, Toronto, ON

*Product Development Analyst June 2017–November 2018*

*Destination Expert, November 2014–June 2017*

- Researched and curated unique bespoke luxury tour products for Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe
- Provided in-depth long-term planning for product releases with a mix of quantitative and qualitative analyses to anticipate upcoming tourism trends
- Wrote touring copy for the website
- Engaged with vendors and stakeholders
- Consulted with clients to provide personalized customer service with concierge services
- Hosted in-house product training sessions and client-facing webinars about new travel trends

GOWAY TRAVEL, Toronto, ON

*Senior Travel Sales Consultant, September 2011–November 2014*

- Crafted customized tourism itineraries to Asia including airfare
- Negotiate pricing with overseas vendors
- Participated in a mentorship program with new hires

G ADVENTURES (Gap Adventures at time of employment), Toronto, ON

*Chief Experience Officer, May 2010–September 2011*

- Bilingual sales consultant in a fast-paced call centre environment
- Highly knowledgeable about a portfolio of adventure travel products that covered all continents as well as polar expeditions

## KEY SKILLS

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- Knowledgeable about ecological restoration in Canada
- Expert organizational skills
- Expert long-term planning skills
- Experienced with ArcGis and R
- Expert-level Canadian French (written and spoken), including within the field of restoration
- Fieldwork and lab work experience
- Interdisciplinary education combining creative skills with scientific experiences