

September 8, 2026

Dear members of the Kamaniskeg Area Property Owners Association,

We are looking for volunteers for a Carleton University undergraduate field methods course. It is a required course for third-year students in our Geography and Environmental Studies programs. Our students will be learning how to conduct interviews in a professional manner, and we are looking for people who are willing to share their perspectives on environmental issues in the Madawaska Highlands.

The students will be asking KAPOA members about their observations of environmental change in general, and their perspectives on topics such as wildlife management, changes in shoreline vegetation, water quality, and the management of water levels. We did similar interviews with KOPOA members last year and our students really learned a lot from these experiences, which is why we would like to do it again. We hope to conduct 10 interviews that the students will use to produce their field research reports. Your answers will be kept completely confidential.

The interview would be done in person at a location that is convenient for you and will take about 20-30 minutes. They will be done over three days, from October 26 to 28. This year we are able to offer \$50 to each participant as a gesture of our appreciation. There is absolutely no obligation to do the interview if you change your mind.

You can learn more about our department, our programs, and the kind of research we do by visiting our website: <https://carleton.ca/geography/>. If you are interested, you can also read a short newsletter story on last year's field course here: <https://carleton.ca/geography/2025/students-dive-into-field-research-in-the-madawaska-region-as-part-of-their-ug-field-course/>.

Sincerely,



Derek Smith  
Associate Professor  
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies  
Carleton University  
Email: [dereka.smith@carleton.ca](mailto:dereka.smith@carleton.ca)  
Bio: <https://carleton.ca/geography/people/smith-derek-a/>  
Cell: (613) 237-0568