

Rattlesnake recovery

Professor John Middleton, of Brock's Environmental Policy Institute, is part of a team working on a recovery plan and conservation effort involving the Massasauga Rattlesnake in the Wainfleet Bog, near Port Colborne.

The team, which also includes Brock graduate Kim Frohlich, of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, conducted field work this spring to find the rattlesnakes in the bog as they emerged from hibernation, fitting some of them with radio transmitters. Information on the rattlesnakes' movement within the bog is critical for planning the rehabilitation of the bog to ensure the future of the snake population. The Massasauga Rattlesnake, Ontario's only venomous snake, is listed as threatened under the Canadian system for endangered species. Only four populations remain in the province, of which the most precarious is in the Wainfleet Bog.

More information on the plan is available on the "Sistrurus Information Network" at www.terra-plex.com/sin/