



# ASAAGAKIIGAN

*"Things that Grow Out Of the Ground, Change, and Die"*

## *Plants of Our Homelands*

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# CANADA'S FOREST REGIONS



# Plant Topics

- ❖ Traditional Knowledge and Western Biological Science
- ❖ How we have traditionally used our growing things and their value to us
- ❖ The services of the forests of our Homelands
- ❖ The services of the vegetation in our Communities
- ❖ How we can use our knowledge of the growing things of our Homelands for resource development negotiations and impact monitoring



Bog Rosemary



## Western Biological Science and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge







Traditional Knowledge is based on reasoning and hypothesis or trial ideas, observation, experimentation, evaluation of results, and the creation of practices based on the outcomes. Innovative vision using collective knowledge is also a part of the body of traditional knowledge that has come down to the present. The body of knowledge that has kept First Nations people alive on this land for thousands of years is a result of growth, innovation, and adaptation to the vast environmental changes which have occurred on this land over thousands of years.

The Scientific Method is also based on hypothesis, experimentation, observation, analysis of results, and the creation of theories that, if consistent with application, become principles or laws of different sciences.



## How we have traditionally used our growing things and their value to us



The Elders of Lac Seul First Nation say – “We used everything”.





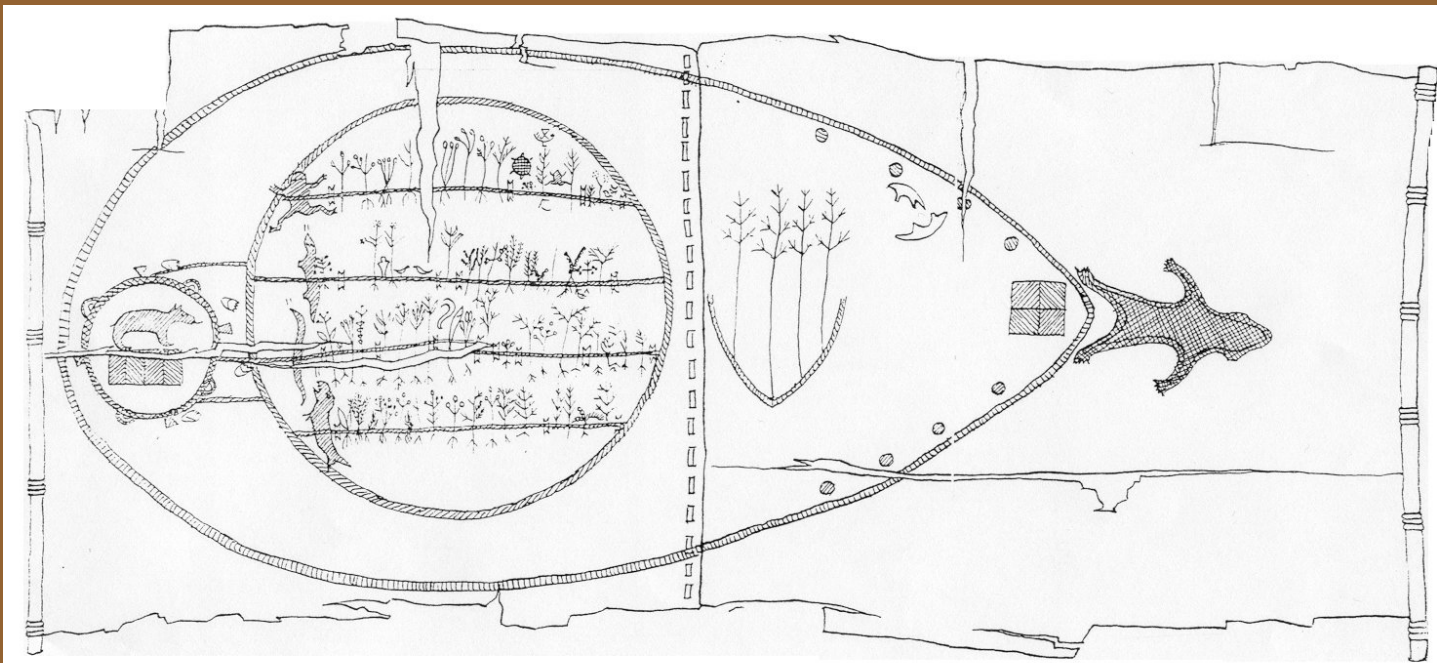
Jack Pine Inner bark snack



Lambsquarters and Beans







**Figure 12. Lac Seul Bear Scroll, Lac Seul First Nation, Lac Seul, Ontario, Canada. (Dewdney 1975:148-149).**



**The services of the forests of our Homelands  
and The services of the vegetation in our  
Communities**









# Why Bring Forest And Plant Ecosystems Back into the Community

- ❖ Bring back the forest into the lives of the people
- ❖ Provide teaching opportunities and beautify the community
- ❖ Keep the air clean and catch road dust
- ❖ Protect and clean water
- ❖ Provide habitat for many living beings (biodiversity)
- ❖ Decrease the heat island effect created by buildings and cleared and paved land
- ❖ Provide sun protection
- ❖ Improve the health of people and other living beings
- ❖ Shelter homes from weather and conserve energy
- ❖ Provide climate change buffer and adaptation properties



# How We Can Use Our Knowledge of The Growing Things of Our Homelands for Resource Development Negotiations and Impact Monitoring



River Alder

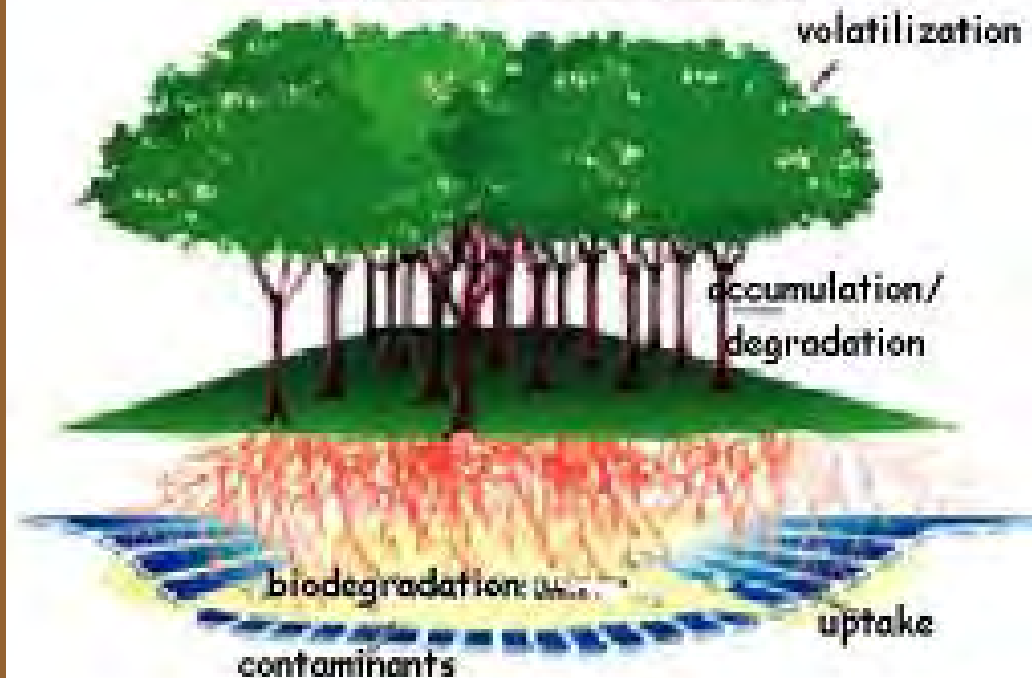


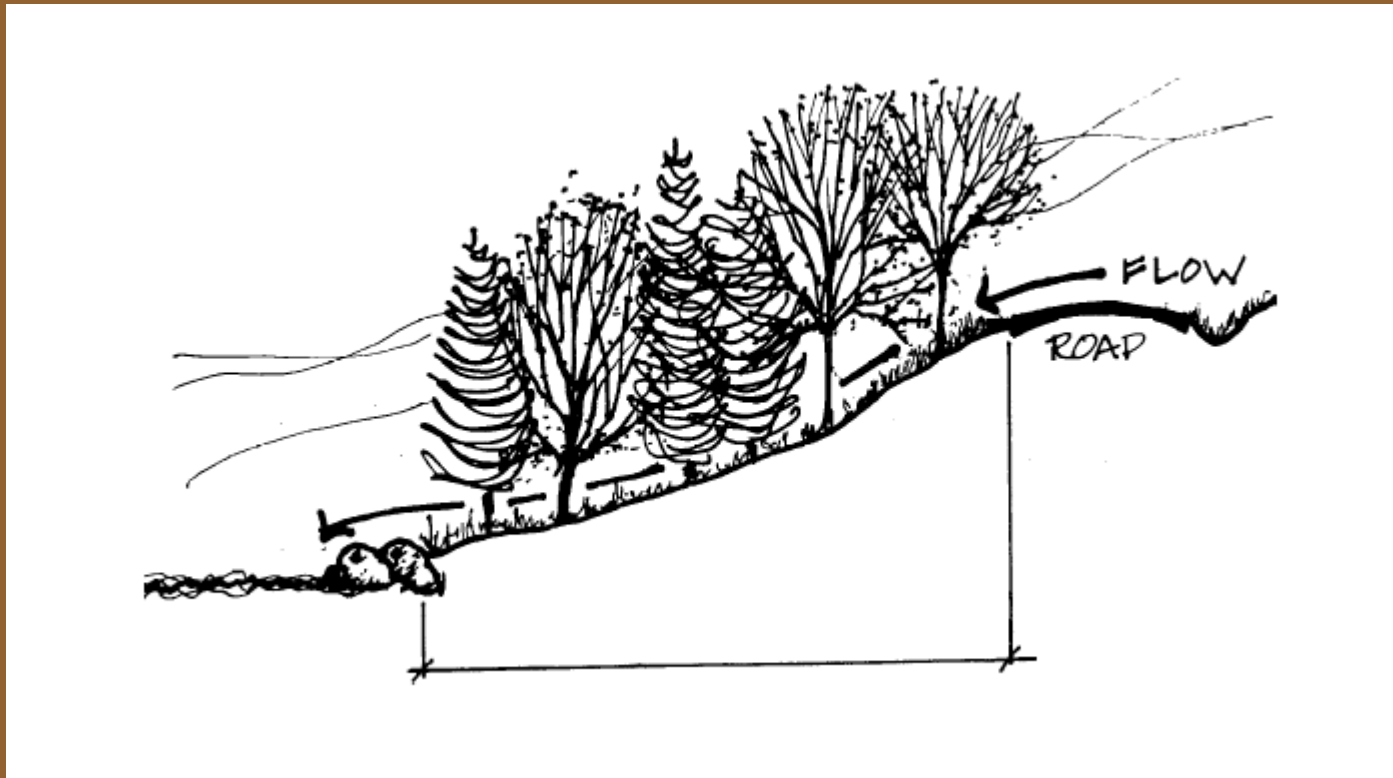
Blue-Joint Reed Grass



Cattail

## Phytoremediation Overview





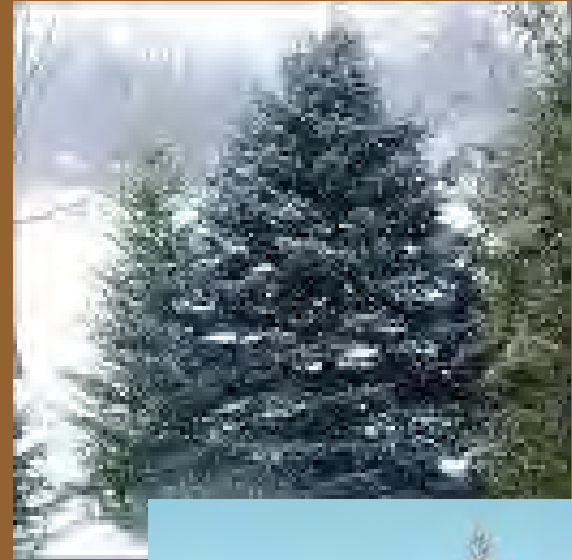
Trees and plants help to prevent road run off and dust contaminating lakes and streams





## Plants Also Show Us When There Is Contamination





All of these trees and plants are being tested for their  
phytoremediation values





Mychorrizhae growing in the soil works in combination with above ground plant systems providing clean up of contamination



Elders Teaching and practicing plant TEK





# *Miigwech*

