BYLOT ISLAND

UQTR researchers, and decades of seasonal research

Hi, I'm the Greater Snow Goose. As you can see from the map on the bottom right, I'm a great traveler. My wings take me back to my birthplace every year... But we can see that the landscape has changed.

Here is how...

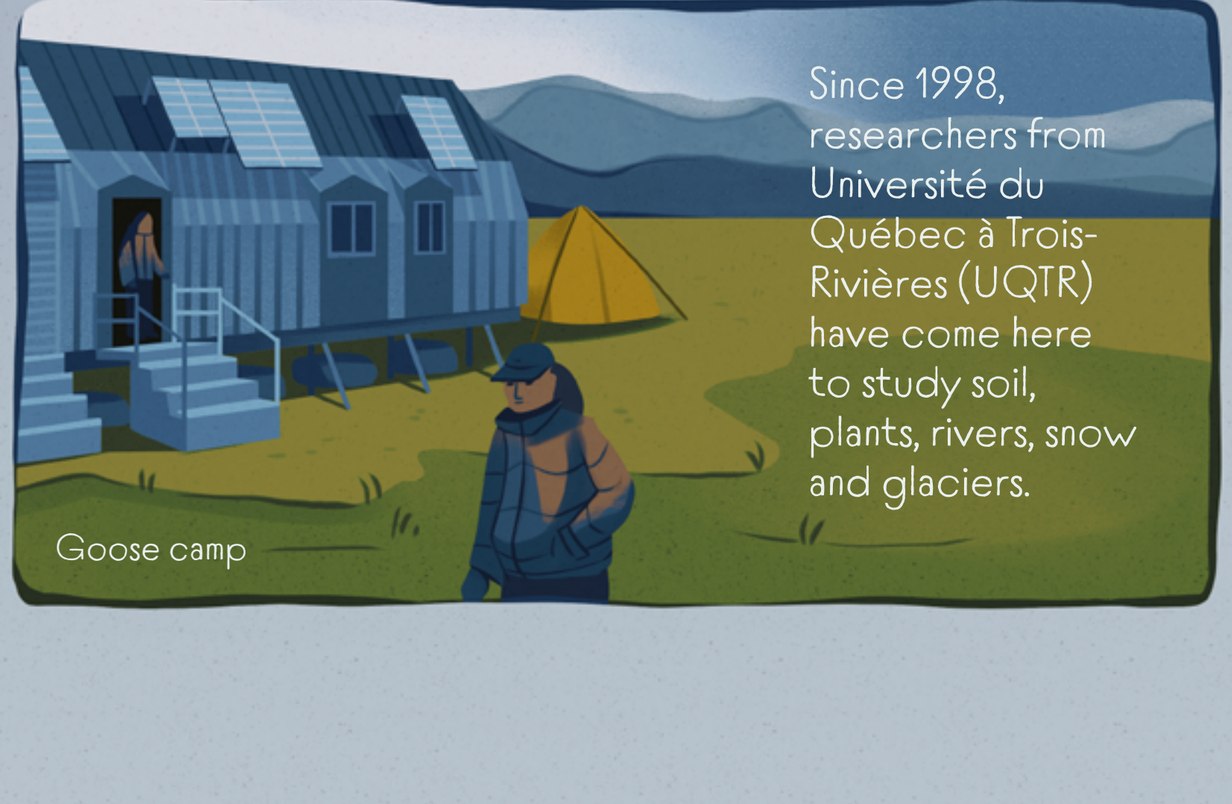


Qarlikturvik Valley

Hello, Arctic fox here!

I live with the Greater Snow Goose on this island with its unique fauna, flora and landscape.

For many years we observed a strange structure called "Goose camp".



Since 1998, researchers from Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR) have come here to study soil, plants, rivers, snow and glaciers.

A LONG TRIP

Inspired by: https://bylot.cen.ulaval.ca/en/animalgoose.php

CENTRE D'ÉTUDES NORDIQUES
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Researchers dig and track the different layers of snow to gather information about the snowpack such as grain size and layer hardness.

Cameras capture images of the glacier, vegetation and snow, while weather stations record temperature and precipitation throughout the whole year.

Soil cores inform us about the carbon from plants, animals and microorganisms stored in the soil and how susceptible it is to escape to the atmosphere. A job that looks pretty messy to me.

Some researchers interested in arctic vegetation gather information on the present species and measure plant characteristics such as height and vegetation cover.

A funny-looking bird takes photos of the ground that are used to draw up maps of the changing environment. They call it a drone.

Inuit people noticed the Land is changing and researchers try to document and understand these changes to better prepare for the future.

They also harvest and count berries in a specific area to keep track of what is produced each year.

Snow impacts the ecosystem. By measuring its thickness every year, we learn how it impacts permafrost temperature and the water cycle.

Oh!
Note the little nuggets of ice in these soil samples!

Water from rivers and glaciers is collected to analyze elements such as carbon, oxygen, and microorganisms. These can give an indication of water quality.

We realize that changes are taking place here. All this work, then shared with Inuit, will allow researchers to understand the effects of these transformations and what they mean for the future of the Arctic and their inhabitants.

Just as I use various elements of the landscape to get my bearings, researchers use instruments to locate the exact position of a geographical point, such as GPS equipment.

Look how much vegetation there is in this plot! Usually, I keep it short but researchers want to find out how productive vegetation can be by setting up these fences.