BRING BACK THE SALMON LAKE ONTARIO

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Habitat Restoration Project 2007

- Duffins Creek: Uxbridge, Ontario -

Barkey Property Low-level Crossing

Habitat Project Lead: *Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)*

Habitat Project Funding Lead: *OFAH and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority*

Date Completed: *September 24, 2007*

The Barkey property is an active agricultural property that is located on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The landowner has interests in horses, beef, hay and cash crops. He had previously undertaken a project with the TRCA to construct a low-level crossing for his farm equipment and cattle and to install livestock fencing. This was completed over fifteen years ago and the both the crossing and the fencing was in need of repair (figure 1). Construction of the new low-level crossing began on September 20th and the project ran for three days. Once the crossing boundaries were determined, excavation was begun. Both approaches were re-graded and the stream channel was diverted further to the west. Previously, the channel had meandered haphazardly through the east side of the crossing. Once the excavation was completed the entire crossing site was covered with a synthetic filter cloth and then backfilled with gravel and river stone (figure 2). During this time over five hundred tonnes of fill was added to the site. During the project proper in-stream

Figure 1: The Barkey property before the new low-level crossing was constricted in the summer of 2006.

sediment control methods were employed. Project benefits include halting the large amount of sediment that had been entering the sub-watershed via this site, the areas up and downstream of the crossing had additional plantings done to assist with improving water quality, provide cover and bank stability, and the new channel has improved the in-stream habitat, within an hour of the project being completed speckled trout were observed using the new channel.

Figure 2: The Barkey property after the low-level crossing reconstruction.