



Habitat Restoration Project 2008

- Duffins Creek: Pickering, Ontario -

Cherry Downs Golf Course Barrier Removal

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

Habitat Project Funding Lead: OFAH

Date Completed: *September 10 - 12, 2008*

This project involves the removal of a 10m by 6m cement bridge with 6 culverts (1m diameter) that were blocking the water flow and movement of fish upstream. The Cherry Downs Golf and Country Club has not used the large cement bridge for 20 plus years due to the installation of an arch eagle bridge downstream for golfers to cross the creek. The bridge-blocked water at base flows, dropping water levels downstream and at peak flow blew out the bank to approximately 12m wide (figure 1). The benefits of the barrier removal project were such that it would decrease sediment buildup, allow spawning Atlantic salmon to migrate upstream and forage fish populations to mix. The focus of much of the project was the removal of a failed/poorly placed bridge and naturalizing the stream bank and surrounding riparian zone. On September 10th with the installation of a 12m long snow fence temporarily staked into the creek bed with the inner portion being covered with a synthetic filter cloth for silt capture. Removal of the failed cement bridge and reconstruction of the stream bank took two days. Crews from the OFAH and TRCA accomplished this project using a rented excavator owned and operated by a local contractor (3 days) and with a large Kubota tractor with a dump trailer donated and operated by the golf course (2 days). Once all the cement was removed from the stream and riparian area the bank slope was re-graded to a 2:1 ratio. One load of river round stone was then placed along the bank and into the water, immediately along the creek edge to recreate a stable shoreline (figure 2).



Figure 1: Cement bridge located on Cherry Downs Golf Course which was restricted flow of river and impeding fish species from travelling up and down the stream.



Figure 2: Stream after the cement bridge was removed and river stone placed along the shoreline.