



Habitat Restoration Project 2008

- Duffins Creek: Ajax, Ontario -

Greenwood Conservation Area Bank Stabilization Project

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

Habitat Project Funding Lead: OFAH

Date Completed: *August-September 15, 2008*

Community members were using this site as an unregulated dog swimming area. It was primarily this activity that had severely eroded the bank and caused excess sediment to enter the creek, which is known to impede aquatic life. By affecting the integrity of the bank, downstream sections were being compromised, which was evident during the spring freshet. The bank was also continuing to washout because it was devoid of riparian vegetation. Visits to the site by TRCA staff determined that using large root wads and woody debris would be the best course of action for the creek and its inhabitants (figure 1). The direct benefits of the Greenwood bank stabilization project would be to reduce the amount of sediment entering the creek, improve in-stream and riparian habitat, and enhance/increase the riparian cover. This project involved the completion of a 40m long root wad bank creation over the course of five full days. It required the use of heavy equipment and field crews from the TRCA, OFAH and Aurora District MNRF. The riparian area directly behind the newly constructed bank was planted in the summer with 150 potted willow shrubs to further stabilize the bank (figures 2 & 3).



Figure 1: Root wads and woody debris being placed along stream bank to stabilize the shoreline.



Figure 2: Core material was laid down and folded, additional localized soil and river stone were placed on top.



Figure 3: Completed bank stabilization project at Greenwood Conservation Area.