



Habitat Restoration Project 2009

- Duffins Creek: Ajax, Ontario -

Greenwood Conservation Area Bridge Erosion Mitigation and Planting

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

Habitat Project Funding Lead: *Canada-Ontario Agreement*

Date Completed: *August 20, 2009*

This stream restoration project was at non trial site on the conservation property. It had been used by community members and this activity is what cleared the stream bank of vegetation. A downstream footbridge also had caused erosion along the bank. Water had eroded away the bank behind the bridge supports causing excess sediment to enter the creek, which is known to impede aquatic life (figure 1). By affecting the integrity of the bank, downstream sections were being compromised, which was evident



Figure 1: Evident stream bank erosion.

during the spring freshet. Visits to the site by TRCA staff determined that using root wads, woody debris and shrub planting would be the best course of action for the creek and its inhabitants. Full removal of the bridge and the gabion basket abutments was not possible this year so stabilization and naturalization of the upstream bank was planned as Phase 1. The direct benefits of the Greenwood Conservation Area Bridge Erosion Mitigation project would be to reduce the amount of sediment entering the creek, improve in-stream and riparian habitat, and enhance/increase the riparian cover. On August 20th, 2009, alternation of 30m of stream bank begun by anchoring root wads with soil spikes (figure 2). The project was successfully completed over five August days (187 hours) with help from 42 individuals from the TRCA, the O.F.A.H., the CSSP, the Peterborough MNR Stewardship Rangers and local community volunteers. The project was successfully completed over five August days (187 hours) with help from 42 individuals from the TRCA, the O.F.A.H., the CSSP, the Peterborough MNR Stewardship Rangers and local community volunteers. The riparian area directly behind the newly constructed bank and the area between the logs and root wads down to the toe were planted in the summer with 50 potted 80cm pussy willow shrubs and 52 potted 50cm red osier dogwood shrubs to further stabilize the bank (figure 3).



Figure 2: Root wads, logs and river stone in place along the bank to stabilize slope.



Figure 3: Volunteers after successful completion of the bank mitigation and planting project at Greenwood Conservation Area.