



Habitat Restoration Project 2009

- Duffins Creek: Pickering, Ontario -

Transport Canada Pickering Lands Gabion Stone Clean Up

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

Habitat Project Funding Lead: *Canada-Ontario Agreement*

Date Completed: *October 8, 2009*

The Gabion Stone Clean-up project is located on the Transport Canada Pickering Lands at the road crossing on the 8th Concession Road near Claremont, ON. The site was identified as a barrier to fish passage during a MNR Duffins Creek Barrier Survey in 2008. The site had a large quantity of gabion stone dumped into the creek, which was slowing down the flow of the water and holding back sediment (figure 1). The completion of this project will increase and restore natural fish habitat, restore natural water flow, minimize sediment holding and improve water quantity downstream. On October 8th, 13 volunteers (46 hours) from Port Hope High School with the High Skills Major Program removed the stone from the stream by hand (figure 2). Before any stone was unturned a double silt fence was constructed of straw bales with wooden stakes downstream of the gabion stone. The students removed the stone and placed it along the shoreline on both sides of the creek to stabilize the banks. Only the gabion stone was removed from the creek bed and the natural substrate was exposed and left to re-create its own path in the spring. Students reported sights of minnows moving upstream as they removed the barrier. The straw bales were left in place until the water cleared up after about two hours. The total length of Duffins Creek enhanced/restored was 20m (figure 3).



Figure 1: Failed gabion along Duffins Creek on the Transport Canada Lands in Pickering, Ontario.



Figure 2: Port Hope High School students remove gabion by hand to restore flow of stream for fish passage.



Figure 3: Duffins Creek on Transport Canada Lands after gabion was removed.