



Habitat Restoration Project 2010

- Cobourg Brook: Cobourg, Ontario -

Cobourg Conservation Area South Bridge Riparian Buffer Planting

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

Habitat Project Funding Lead: *Ontario Wildlife Foundation*

Date Completed: *April 16, 2010*

This project is located in downtown Cobourg, at the Cobourg Conservation Area, south of Elgin Street West and east of William Street. The Cobourg Conservation Area is visited by a high volume of people each day. The planting site is along Cobourg Brook where the main trail crosses a foot bridge. The Town of Cobourg maintains the Conservation Area and was cutting the grass to the edge of the creek; not leaving a buffer for the stream. The lack of riparian buffer has led to a severe erosion problem at the site (figure 1). The benefits of the Cobourg Conservation Area Riparian Buffer Planting were such that it would increase riparian habitat, provide bank stability and minimize erosion. The 1,310 m² area planted was right off the main foot path, many people walked through this area so we put in snow fence to keep people out

of the planting area. A total of 67 potted shrubs including red osier dogwood (40), aronia (15), fragrant sumac (10) and nannyberry (2) were planted along the shoreline (figure 2). Behind the shrubs we planted six foot bare root silver maple (50) and white cedar field clumps (75) on April 16th with support from 39 volunteers from Crestwood Secondary School (figure 3). The students supported the planting with over 40 hours as part of our 2010 Earth Day Stream Clean-up along Cobourg Brook (figure 4).

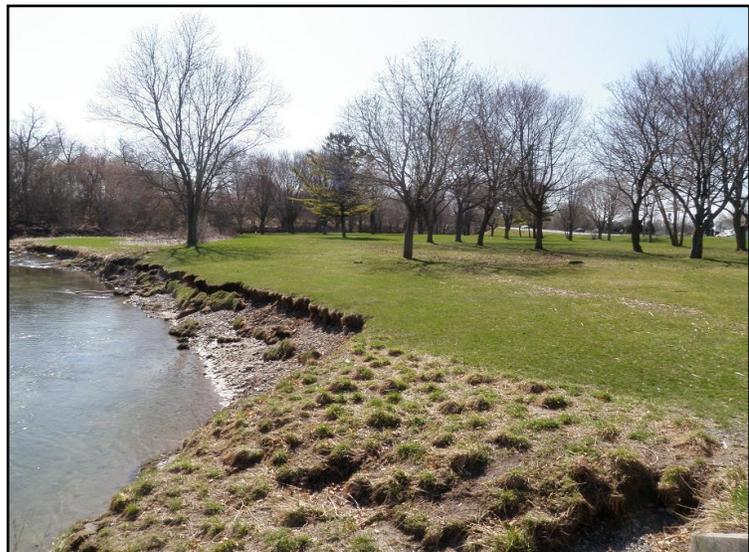


Figure 1: Riparian area eroded by foot traffic in the Cobourg Conservation Area.



Figure 2: Shrubs and trees along the Cobourg Brook in the Cobourg Conservation Area.



Figure 3: Volunteers from Crestwood Secondary School planting shrubs and trees along the Cobourg Brook.



Figure 4: Group of volunteers posing by the Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program sign in the Cobourg Conservation Area after planting project was complete.