



## Habitat Restoration Project 2011 - Credit River: Terra Cotta, Ontario -

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### Forge Park Planting

Habitat Project Lead: *Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters*

Habitat Project Funding Lead: *TD Friends of the Environment Foundation*

Date Completed: *November 8, 2011*

The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program planted 398 large potted shrubs along the Credit River at Forge Park in the village of Terra Cotta. The Atlantic Salmon Program partnered with a staff member from the Ministry of Natural Resources and 27 Grade 6 environmental students from Belfountain Public School, who planted all of the shrubs in under 2 hours. A mixture of native shrub species were planted along the 85m long stream bank in the park to create a riparian buffer (vegetated area along the water's edge) to expand the size of the filter that absorbs and cleans the runoff (salts and warm water) from the park before it enters the stream. The students took initiative and asked the private landowner to the south of the park for permission to plant some shrubs along with providing the landowner with some education about the importance of providing a riparian buffer for the stream. Permission was granted for 10 shrubs on a small section of the property beside the park, a good start to a larger potential planting opportunity. A total area of 509m<sup>2</sup> was planted which further benefits the Atlantic Salmon by providing soil stability along the bank to reduce erosion and shade the coldwater creek to protect it from thermal pollution.



Figure 1: The Forge Park site before planting.



Figure 2: Potted planting material being unloaded by the students.



Figure 3: Belfountain Public School students planting shrubs in Forge Park.



Figure 4: Belfountain Public School students after planting 398 shrubs in 2 hours.