



Habitat Restoration Project 2011
- Duffins Creek: Pickering, Ontario -

Greenwood Conservation Area Rodar Park Boulder Placement

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

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

Date Completed: *August 17, 2011*

The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program placed boulders in Duffins Creek along 30m of slow moving stream at the Greenwood Conservation Area, Rodar Park. OFAH staff, the Aurora District Ministry of Natural Resources Stewardship Ranger crew and one volunteer from Georgian College helped complete the project with a contribution of one person-hour on August 17, 2011. The process of working in the stream requires permitting and a detailed plan; this process was completed with the assistance of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The technique of strategically placing large stationary boulders on the stream bottom provides an element of roughness that slows the water down. This is important to Atlantic Salmon because by slowing the water down with boulders, stream bed materials (sand, small rocks and sediment) are better sorted to improve salmon spawning habitat. As well the area downstream of a boulder has reduced water velocity that allows young salmon to rest and wait for food to float past in the current. All stream inhabitants benefit from boulder placement because the diversity and degree of habitat complexity it adds to the stream channel has a strong effect on the amount and type of different living organisms present.



Figure 1: Rodar Park boulder placement site before restoration.



Figure 2: Stewardship Ranger crew rolling the large boulders.



Figure 3: OFAH staff and a volunteer shimmy a boulder through the stream with a strap.



Figure 4: Photo of the group standing beside the placed boulders.



Figure 5: A finished pod (grouping of 3-5 boulders) in the stream.