



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

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### Greenwood Conservation Area Rodar Park Live Shrub Staking

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

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

Date Completed: *November 23, 2011*

The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program planted 2,500 live willow shrub stakes along Duffins Creek at the Greenwood Conservation Area, Rodar Park. We had help from one volunteer Whitby resident, a Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) employee, a Community Stream Steward Program (CSSP) staff member and two Atlantic Salmon program employees. Willow shrubs can be cut down to the base, leaving the roots, in the fall once they have gone dormant (dropped their leaves). The shrub stems can be cut into 30-60cm long stakes, flat at one end and cut at 45 degrees at the other. These stakes are inserted or pounded into the ground before the frost and will start to grow in the spring. The community volunteer contributed a total of four person-hours of planting along 215m of stream bank over two days. The area along the water's edge had very little woody-stemmed vegetation so we planted a total area of 807m<sup>2</sup>. This project improved Atlantic Salmon habitat by providing shade for the coldwater creek and stabilizing the stream bank to reduce erosion. As the willows grow it will provide an example for community members of good stream stewardship.



Figure 1: The top end of the live staking site before planting.





**Figure 2:** Bundles of live willow stakes before project start, 2,500 in total.



**Figure 3:** CSSP staff and volunteer Whitby resident planting at the bottom end of the site.