



Habitat Restoration Project 2012

- Humber River: Palgrave, Ontario -

Albion Hills Conservation Area Stream Bank Live Shrub Staking

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

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

Date Completed: *December 7, 2012*

The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program planted 3,400 live willow and dogwood shrub stakes along the Humber River in the Albion Hills Conservation Area. We had help from three Fleming College and Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School student volunteers. Willow and dogwood 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 are then 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 roots in the spring. The volunteers contributed a total of 15 person-hours of planting over three days along 130m of stream (November 29 to December 7, 2012). The area along the water's edge had been impacted by old gabion basket abutments left from a foot bridge removed as part of another 2012 project. Also, very little woody-stemmed vegetation was present along the shoreline of the rest of the park, so we planted a total area of 300m². This project improved Atlantic Salmon habitat by providing shade for the coolwater creek and stabilizing the stream bank to reduce erosion, as well as providing an example for community members of good stream stewardship.



Figure 1: The OFAH habitat truck full of live stakes.



Figure 2: Ontario Streams and OFAH staff hammering live stakes into the rocky base of the shore.



Figure 3: Thomas A. Stewart Co-op students installing live stakes along the stream bank.