



Habitat Restoration Project 2012

- Humber River: Palgrave, Ontario -

Albion Hills Conservation Area Trail Side Live Staking

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

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

Date Completed: *November 29, 2012*

The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program planted 600 live willow and dogwood shrub stakes along the Humber River in the Albion Hills Conservation Area. This is the second part of the revetment project at the Albion Hills Conservation Area. We had help from three Ontario Streams Program staff and finished the project in two and a half hours. 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 live staking method of planting is used in areas where stream banks have been reconstructed and covered with erosion fabric (placed to hold soil down) because it is hard to dig and plant shrubs through the fabric. Partner staff planted live stakes along 10m of stream bank to create 50m² of woody stemmed vegetation along the water's edge. This project improved Atlantic Salmon habitat by providing shade for the coolwater creek and stabilizing the stream bank to reduce erosion.



Figure 1: The revetment site at the start of the live staking.



Figure 2: Live willow stakes being installed by Ontario Streams.



Figure 3: The crew inserting and hammering in the stakes with a mallet.