



Habitat Restoration Project 2012
- Duffins Creek: Claremont, Ontario -

Transport Canada Pickering Airport Lands Wetland Planting

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

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

Date Completed: *November 9, 2012*

The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program planted 617 trees and 1,792 large potted shrubs at a wetland reconstruction site on the Transport Canada Pickering Airport Lands. The newly-created wetland berms (two) were designed and built by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and Atlantic Salmon Program staff worked with 74 students from Fleming College, 21 from Dunbarton High School (Pickering) and one Crestwood High School (Peterborough) co-op student to plant the native material for a combined contribution of 264 person-hours. Green Side Up Environmental Services donated the time of two staff (20 person-hours) to deliver the trees and shrubs to the site. Wetlands protect cold groundwater outflows by holding water in the ground and feeding the main channel of Duffins Creek for a longer period of time. The 29,825m² of planted vegetation stabilize the soil and absorb water that is slowly released back into the stream, improving late summer base flow water levels. This is extremely important for migrating fish such as Atlantic Salmon that enter streams in the summer to spawn in the fall. Keeping the water cold is also important for downstream Redside Dace (provincially endangered) coldwater habitat.



Figure 1: Dunbarton High School students planting shrubs around the wetland.



Figure 2: The Dunbarton High School students after the planting was completed.



Figure 3: Fleming College students carrying white cedar trees into the planting site from the road.



Figure 4: Fleming College students spread out planting.



Figure 5: College students planting a dryer section west of the wetland.



Figure 6: Three college students planting showing off the shrubs they are planting.



Figure 7: A group photo of Fleming students after completing the project.