



Habitat Restoration Project 2012
- Credit River: Terra Cotta, Ontario -

Terra Cotta Conservation Area Spring Pond 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 27, 2012*

The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program planted 2,374 live pussy and Bebb's willow shrub stakes along the Credit River at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area, Spring Pond. We partnered with three staff from Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and two from Ontario Streams. 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 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 Mississauga Humanitarian Environmental Leadership Program (HELP) contributed a total of 52 person-hour of planting along 150m of stream on November 27, 2012. The area (total of 2,550m²) along the water's edge was soft and highly fertile (nutrient rich) from the pond that was removed earlier in the year. This project improved Atlantic Salmon habitat by providing shade for the coldwater creek, stabilizing the stream bank to reduce erosion, decreasing downstream coldwater temperatures and keeping sediment out of Atlantic Salmon spawning habitat. The HELP students gained a better understanding of stream stewardship and planting methods.



Figure 1: HELP students being instructed by CVC staff, importance of live staking at this site.



Figure 2: Student with a bundle of live stakes at the edge of the new channel.



Figure 3: Student staking the outside bends of the new channel.



Figure 4: Photo of students after completing the live willow shrub staking.