



Habitat Restoration Project 2013

- Humber River: Palgrave, Ontario -

Albion Hills Conservation Area Wetland Live Willow Staking

Habitat Project Lead: *Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)*

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

Date Completed: *December 3, 2013*

The Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program planted a wetland area (flows into the main channel of the Humber River) with 250 live willow shrub stakes in the Albion Hills Conservation Area. We had staff from Ontario Streams, the Community Stream Steward Program (CSSP) and an OFAH high school co-op student help install willow stakes. 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 Bring Back the Salmon habitat team planted live willow stakes in a wetland area measuring 625m². The woody stemmed vegetation will soak up water that runs off the adjacent field and store it to improve mid-summer base flow conditions, benefiting migrating Atlantic Salmon.



Figure 1: CSSP staff member hammering live willow stake into the wetland.



Figure 2: Mallet and seven live willow stakes partially inserted into the ground. The stakes are inserted below the layer of grass and soil is hammered overtop to prevent the frost from pushing them out of the ground in the spring.



Figure 3: Bring Back the Salmon habitat partner team after installing 250 live willow stakes.