



## Habitat Restoration Project 2013

- Humber River: Palgrave, Ontario -

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### Duffy's Lane Live Willow Shrub 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 750 live willow shrub stakes along the Humber River in the Albion Hills Conservation Area on Duffy's Lane. This is the final part of a revetment project completed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) at the end of summer. We had staff from Ontario Streams, the Community Stream Steward Program (CSSP) and an OFAH high school co-op student (three person-hours) to 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 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. The Bring Back the Salmon habitat team planted live willow stakes along 90m of stream bank (205m<sup>2</sup>) to add 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:** Live willow stakes ready to go; pre-cut and packed in snow to keep them cold (dormant).



Figure 2: Live willow stakes being installed by partner staff.



Figure 3: The crew inserting the willow stakes with a mallet.