



Habitat Restoration Project 2015

- Duffins Creek: Ajax, Ontario -

Annie Crescent Park Bank Stabilization

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

Habitat Project Funding Lead: *TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Trout Unlimited Canada*

Date Completed: *September 1 - November 7, 2015*

In early September, the Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program partnered with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC) and Town of Ajax to undertake two activities along Duffins Creek in Annie Crescent Park, Ajax. The first project was a bank stabilization project that started out with TRCA staff installing a sediment fence to stop any additional erosion caused by working in the water, preventing any harmful alterations to existing fish habitat. As the park trail was too close to the creek's edge and causing problems with erosion of the streambank (a lack of space for trees to grow), the Town of Ajax had the trail moved further away while construction equipment was onsite completing the restoration work.



Figure 1: Annie Crescent Park stream bank before restoration, sediment fencing install has started.

The eroded stream bank was reconstructed with a more gradual slope and large woody material, including root wads (stump with roots attached), were anchored to the bank with aircraft cable. The root wads mimic natural root structures found in less disturbed areas. Also, over time they allow the stream bank to trap sediment during high water rain events and build the bank up again. The stream bank was finished off with round river stone to fill in the smaller spaces. The work took place from September 1 to September 18, 2015 and the sediment fence was left in for another month to collect sediment as the newly restored bank settled. This project improved Atlantic Salmon habitat by providing shade under the overhanging root wads, stabilizing the stream bank to reduce erosion and visually illustrate the importance of habitat restoration to community members that bike and hike these public lands.



Figure 2: Bank stabilization during construction.



Figure 3: Bank stabilization after construction.