



**Habitat Restoration Project 2017**  
*- Duffins Creek: Claremont, Ontario -*

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**Transport Canada Pickering Lands - Claremont Public School Planting**

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

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

Date Completed: October 20th, 2017

UTM: 648771m E, 4870213m N

In 2014, OFAH assisted in the removal of an online pond in the headwaters of Duffins Creek (Durham Region) on a tributary called Mitchell Creek. The project is located on the Transport Canada Pickering Lands Site (near Claremont, Ontario) and is in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Initial construction funding was provided by the federal Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program (RFCPP) and the Toronto Dominion Bank Friends of the Environment Foundation (TDFEF) (2014). The first phase of the project was the disconnection of Mitchell Creek from the on-line pond and the construction of a by-pass channel.

Phase two of the bypass channel project, which began in 2015, is the reforestation of the surrounding property. In 2017, phase two continued with additional tree and shrub planting activities. The roots from the planted trees and shrubs will stabilize the soil of the stream banks, and the leaves of the shrubs will help to shade the stream, cooling water temperatures during the summer. The entire shrub structure will also add to the riparian buffer of Mitchell Creek, which provides structural protection from physical debris such as blowing garbage, and chemical protection as the plants take up nutrients that may be in excess due to adjacent land uses. This habitat protection benefits juvenile Atlantic Salmon, as they utilize stream habitat for up to three years before traveling to Lake Ontario.

On October 20th, the LOASRP was joined by students from Claremont Public School (Claremont) for a shrub planting event. The students planted in an area adjacent to the TD Tree Days event, which is in-fill planting for an area which was planted in 2016. A total of 138 students attended the event (grades 1-8), planting 180 shrubs over the course of the day. The students contributed approximately 207 volunteer hours. The location of the planting is shown in Figure 1, and a photo from the event is shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 1:** The location of the October 20<sup>th</sup> planting is shown by the purple polygon in the above image. The visible road intersection is Durham Regional Road 5 and Sideline 22



**Figure 2:** Students from Claremont Public School assisting with a shrub planting on October 20<sup>th</sup>.