



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

Transport Canada Pickering Lands - Community Planting

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

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

Date Completed: November 25th, 2017

UTM: 648573m E, 4870129m 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 November 25th, the LOASRP was joined by members of the community for a public planting event along Mitchell Creek. The event attracted 16 volunteers, who managed to plant 200 shrubs during a three hour long event. These volunteers contributed 48 volunteer hours, and managed to plant an 800m² plot of ground on the west side of the pond. The location of the November 25th planting is shown in Figure 1, and photos from this event are shown in Figures 2 and 3.



Figure 1: The location of the November 25th planting is shown by the blue polygon in the above image. The visible intersection is Durham Regional Road 5 and Sideline 22



Figure 2: Members of the community joined the LOASRP for a planting on Transport Canada property.



Figure 3: A group photo of some of the volunteers who joined the public planting event