



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

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**Transport Canada Pickering Lands - Vimy Ridge Public School Planting**

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

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

Date Completed: November 28th - December 8th, 2017

UTM: 648593m E, 4870097m 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 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 28th the LOASRP was joined by students from the T.E.A.M. program (Teaching Esteem and Academics at Milliken) of Milliken Mills High School (Unionville). A total of 9 students and 5 teachers/support staff joined the planting, which lasted two hours. The group planted 100 shrubs and contributed 32 volunteer hours. The students of T.E.A.M. joined the LOASRP again on December 8th in order to plant the additional 100 shrubs. The location of these planting events is highlighted in Figure 1.



**Figure 1:** The location of the November 28<sup>th</sup> planting is shown by the red polygon in the above image. The visible intersection is Durham Regional Road 5 and Sideline 22