



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

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**Transport Canada Pickering Lands - TD Tree Days Planting**

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

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

Date Completed: *September 30, 2017*

UTM: *648781m E, 4870236m 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 Fund (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 September 30th, the LOASRP hosted a TD Tree Days event on the uplands adjacent to the pond and by-pass channel. This event involved 65 volunteers planting 300 trees during a total of 195 volunteer hours. The planting covered approximately 670 m<sup>2</sup> of upland area, the location of which has been indicated in Figure 1. Photos from this TD Tree Days event have been included in Figures 2-4.



**Figure 1:** The location of the September 30<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



**Figure 2:** TD Bank employees and community volunteers beginning to plant the pre-laid out trees



**Figure 3:** TD Bank employees putting the final touches on a planted Eastern White Cedar



**Figure 4:** Group photo of the planters who were able to stay right to the end of the event.