



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

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 7th, 2017

UTM: 648759m 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 Clarendon, 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 7th, students and teachers from Vimy Ridge Public School (Ajax) joined the LOASRP for a shrub planting in the area adjacent to our 2017 TD Tree Days event. A total of 104 students (grade 7/8) planted 200 shrubs during an event that lasted 1.5 hours. The students contributed 156 volunteer hours. The location of the November 7th 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 7th 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 Vimy Ridge Public School begin planting on November 7th



Figure 3: A group photo of the grade 7's and 8's from Vimy Ridge Public School