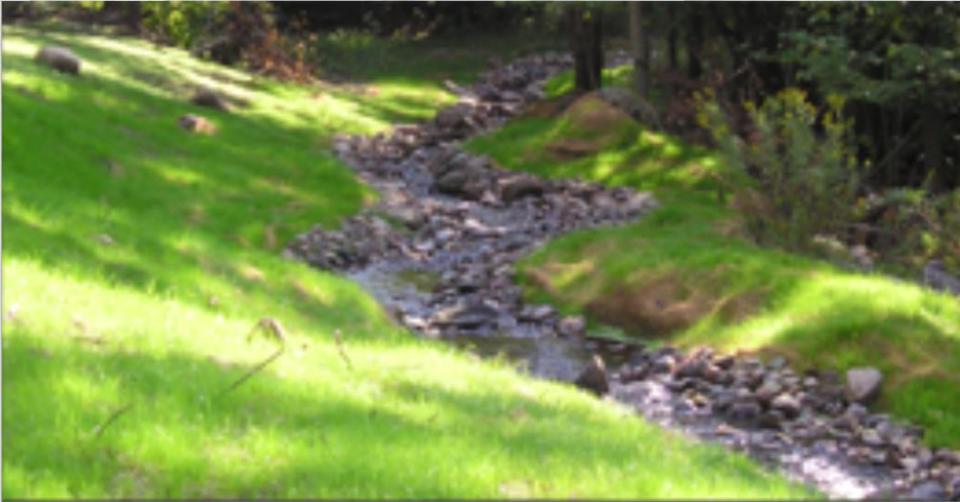


# CALEDON HEADWATERS REHABILITATION INITIATIVE



## PROJECT GOAL

The Town of Caledon is home to many headwater tributaries (Boyce's, Centreville, Coffey, Hopeful, and Cold Creeks) of the Upper Humber River watershed, as well as the upper extent of the main branch of the Humber River. In the west, the Town also extends into the Credit River watershed. The goals of the Caledon Headwaters Rehabilitation Initiative are to:

- Rehabilitate brook trout and Atlantic salmon habitat in the Upper Humber watershed and appropriate tributaries;
- Reintroduce Atlantic salmon within the watershed as part of the larger Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program;
- Rehabilitate redbreast dace habitat in Caledon Creek, which is part of the Credit River headwaters;
- Involve the community and private landowners in various aspects of this restoration work in order to promote public education of environmental issues and create a sense of environmental stewardship.

## THE NEED

The Town of Caledon remains largely rural with a fair amount of forested land cover, however human impact on this area has still been noteworthy and these important cold water tributaries require rehabilitation and protection. Some of the impacts include:

- Man-made barriers such as perched culverts, dams and online ponds can be found throughout the Upper Humber watershed. These structures restrict the movement of native fish populations, blocking trout and other species from reaching the headwater habitat critical to their spawning and reproduction. In addition to being a physical barrier, online ponds also decrease downstream water quality. Due to the large surface area to volume ratio, the water within the online pond heats up considerably. The water flowing downstream is often too warm and low in oxygen to sustain the coldwater species native to the area.
- Excess sediment is washed into the creek from surrounding roads and deposits over the

gravel substrate needed by trout and many other species for spawning.

- Some creek sections within the Caledon area are lacking a riparian buffer from the surrounding subdivision, backyard or farm. These buffers are important as they...
  - provide shading to the creek;
  - slow and filter runoff before it enters the watercourse;
  - provide support to the stream banks, thus preventing erosion;
  - act as a source of leaves and woody debris which are an important part of the bottom of the aquatic food chain; and
  - provide wildlife corridors throughout the watershed

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ontario Streams has been active within the Caledon area since early 1998. Each year project components are completed under the categories of Barrier Mitigation; In-stream Habitat Rehabilitation; Riparian Regeneration Atlantic Salmon Restoration; and Monitoring. Some highlights of this work include:



Perched culverts that act as barriers to fish movement before mitigation

- Twenty-two barriers have been mitigated. This ongoing effort to mitigate barriers have included the installation of rocky ramp and step-pool fishways; baffles; the construction of by-pass channels; online pond decommissioning projects; and the installation of bottom-draw overflow structures on both public and private lands.
- Approximately 9.25km of riparian habitat planted throughout Caledon

- Nearly 5 km of in-stream habitat rehabilitated. Work has been on-going in partnership with a dedicated Adopt-a-Stream group on Boyce's and Centreville Creeks within the community of Caledon East since 2001. Additional efforts have taken place on Hopeful, Coffey and Caledon Creeks.
- Yearly brook trout and brown trout spawning surveys, as well as temperature monitoring, benthic sampling and electrofishing surveys take place at strategic locations throughout the watersheds.
- Ontario Streams has participated in Atlantic salmon stocking, as part of the OMNR and Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunter's (OFAH) Atlantic Salmon Reintroduction Program. Between 2008 and 2016 we have experimented with different in-stream egg incubation methods, the results of which are posted under the Publications section of this website.

### PARTNERS

The Caledon Headwaters Rehabilitation Initiative has received both financial and in-kind support



Perched Culverts mitigated by K-Dam Step Pool Fishway

from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry since the project's inception. This contribution has been integral to the initiative's success and continuation to date. Environment Canada's Great Lakes Sustainability Fund has also been a major financial donor to the project over the years.

The Town of Caledon; the Town of Caledon Community Green Fund; Toronto and Region

Conservation Authority; Environment Canada's Environmental Damages Fund; Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; TD Friends of the Environment; Shell Environmental Fund; Evergreen-Home Depot Paper Hammers Program; Trout Unlimited; Winter Hatches Fly Fishing Club; Chateaux of Caledon; and private landowners have all made generous contributions to this initiative over the years. Beneficial partnerships have also been established with Credit Valley Conservation; Halton-Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship; Ontario Stewardship; Credit River Anglers Association; and Izzak Walton Fly Fishing Club.

Volunteer support from the community, private landowners, local organizations and businesses has also been valuable to our success in the Caledon area. Of particular note are the contributions made by the Islington Sportsmen's Club; Headwaters Fly Fishing Club; 1st Caledon East Guides and Pathfinders; Trout Unlimited; the Caledon East Wetland Environmental Team; and many local schools.