

**SPRING/SUMMER/FALL 2017**



**LOCATION:**  
Heart Lake Road, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

**DATE:**  
May to October 2017

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
Region of Peel, City of Brampton

**PARTNERS:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Region of Peel, City of Brampton, Ontario Road Ecology Group, York University Local Citizen Scientists



## Heart Lake Road Ecology Volunteer Monitoring Study with Local Resident Citizen Scientists

Heart Lake Road between Sandalwood Pkwy and Mayfield Rd in Brampton bisects a designated Provincially Significant Wetland. Wildlife including turtle, frogs, snakes, waterfowl, songbirds and mammals attempt to cross the road to access feeding, breeding and hibernation areas resulting in high levels of wildlife fatalities.

TRCA in partnership with the City of Brampton, Ontario Road Ecology Group, York University and local concerned citizen scientists have been monitoring and recording observations of wildlife vehicle collisions (WVCs) along Heart Lake Road since 2011. Through this study features have been put in place along the road in an attempt to alert drivers, calm traffic and provide suggestions for mitigation features to assist in reducing wildlife fatalities.

In 2016, a dedicated wildlife passage and specialized wildlife directional fencing were installed, to provide connectivity between these fragmented wetlands.

From May 1st to October 31st, local residents received training in safety and data collection protocols to participate as citizen scientists and monitor both mitigated and unmitigated areas along Heart Lake Road. This ongoing study provides additional data of WVCs that occur during this sensitive time period of wildlife activity and movement. Data will be analyzed to develop ongoing statistics of mitigation success and plan for future protective mitigation.

These engagement activities provide participants with a chance to understand the value of diverse natural areas, appreciate local wildlife, understand impacts of roads on wildlife communities and the importance of citizen science to the advancement and discovery of new, innovative road ecology mitigation strategies.



### POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

# of Citizen Scientists	Total Hours Monitored	# of WVCs Observed	# of Turtle Nests Located
9	~400	~700	20