

# Wonderful Watershed Moments!

OCTOBER 2017

## Phyllis Rawlinson Park, Native Tree and Shrub Planting and Citizen Science Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring and Maintenance Program with OM MacKillop Public School Students



**LOCATION:**  
Phyllis Rawlinson Park, Rouge Watershed

**DATE:**  
Tuesday October 17, 2017

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
York Region, Town of Richmond Hill

**PARTNERS:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Town of Richmond Hill, York Region, OM MacKillop Public School Students and Teachers



Grade 6 and 7 students from OM MacKillop Public School joined TRCA staff at Phyllis Rawlinson Park to participate in a native tree and shrub planting to help enhance a section of valley land within Rouge River watershed.

Participants were welcomed by TRCA staff, given a safety talk, planting demonstration to assist with quality and got underway to plant 70 native trees and shrubs. Despite very cold weather including the seasons first frost, the group persevered making sure each piece of plant material was planted properly with mulch being placed around the base.

Each student had the opportunity to become a citizen scientist by participating in TRCA's Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring and Maintenance Program (YTMP). Through this program, a representative percentage of plants are tagged with a unique ID number, measurements are taken and general observations recorded. Each year data is collected and maintenance strategies are developed to assist with successful growth. This program also tracks effects of climate change, storm events, wildlife browse, insect infestation and disease which negatively impact vegetation.

Participants also had an opportunity to participate in a scavenger hunt searching for animal tracks and learning of local wildlife within Phyllis Rawlinson Park.

These types of activities provide a better understanding of natural space within urbanized settings and educate residents on healthy, diverse ecosystems.



### POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Vegetation Planted	# of Pieces Planted	Total Area Enhanced (square metres)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
Trees	20	50	52	155
Shrubs	50	75		
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>155</b>