

Wonderful Watershed Moments!

APRIL 2018

Heart Lake Road, Watershed Wide Cleanup Campaign



LOCATION:

Heart Lake Road, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:

Saturday April 28, 2018

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:

City of Brampton, Region of Peel

PARTNERS:

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), City of Brampton, Councillor Whillans, Local Residents

TRCA's Watershed Wide Cleanup Campaign was conducted at several sites on Saturday April 28th, with Heart Lake Road being one of the ongoing sites targeted for litter removal.

Heart Lake Road is surrounded by designated Provincially Significant Wetlands with an abundance of wildlife and diverse ecosystems. This area is heavily impacted by illegal dumping of construction materials, household garbage and litter.

Due to inclement weather conditions, attendance was low however, Councillor Doug Whillans and local resident and member of Friends of Heart Lake Leo, attended the site to assist in removing litter and debris from the area. Along the way, several species of waterfowl were sighted such as bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* (image to left) red breasted mergansers and trumpeter swans.

Items collected included; multiple plastic garbage bags, bottles, cans, numerous plastic straws, cutlery, cups, wrappers and trays from fast food restaurants, a window blind, parts from vehicles and hundreds of cigarette butts.

These pollutants and contaminants enter these sensitive wetlands and are carried to local waterbodies by storm events. Microplastics and litter pose serious threats to both wildlife and human health and can remain in the system for thousands of years.

Future Watershed Wide Cleanup's will be scheduled for local residents and community groups to attend in order to continue cleanups that are required on an ongoing basis due to illegal dumping.

By participating in these types of stewardship activities, local residents and community groups contribute to enhancing natural areas and gain a better understanding to the importance of protecting these sensitive wetlands.



Positive Environmental Impacts

Garbage Bags Collected	Weight of Garbage (lbs)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
6	~ 130	2	6

