

# Wonderful Watershed Moments!

MAY 2018



**LOCATION:**  
Heart Lake Conservation Area, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

**DATE:**  
Thursday May 31, 2018

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

**PARTNERS:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Louise Arbor Secondary School



## Heart Lake Road Watershed Wide Cleanup Campaign with Louise Arbor SS Students

Students from Louise Arbor Secondary School gathered at Heart Lake Road to participate in a Watershed Wide Cleanup effort and learn about two important TRCA led projects taking place in the area; Heart Lake Road Ecology Citizen Science Monitoring Project and the Heart Lake Turtle Population Study.

Students were given a safety talk, safety vests were donned and the group headed out to collect garbage and litter from areas near the designated Provincially Significant Wetland complex, bisected by Heart Lake Rd. There is considerable illegal dumping which negatively impacts this sensitive ecosystem. Students worked in teams collecting 17 large garbage bags of garbage and litter removed from the site.

Students also learned about the ongoing Heart Lake Road Ecology Citizen Science Monitoring Program. The objective of this project is to better understand which species are being impacted by interactions with vehicles, how many interactions were occurring and suggest mitigation measures to protect local biodiversity in the wetland systems between Sandalwood Parkway and Mayfield Road. Participants were also given information about the directional fencing and dedicated wildlife passage installed in 2016. Along the way, students found a dead Midland Painted Turtle on the road that had been killed by a vehicle, further highlighting the need to install additional mitigation infrastructure along the road.

Participants also got to meet TRCA's research team conducting a Turtle Population Study at one of the wetland areas along Heart Lake Road. The researchers shared their experience and information about the study with students. Students observed; traps, capture methods, data collection of measurements of each turtle and tagging protocols. They also had the opportunity to release the turtles back to the wetland after data had been recorded.

Participation in these types of activities provide a better understanding to the importance of greenspace and a heightened awareness of local biodiversity and assist with maintaining a healthy watershed.



### Positive Environmental Impacts

Garbage Collected (Lbs)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
17	10	30