

# Wonderful Watershed Moments!

SEPTEMBER 2018



**LOCATION:**

Heart Lake Road, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

**DATE:**

Thursday September 13, 2018

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**

Region of Peel, City of Brampton

**PARTNERS:**

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Louise Arbor Secondary School Students

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

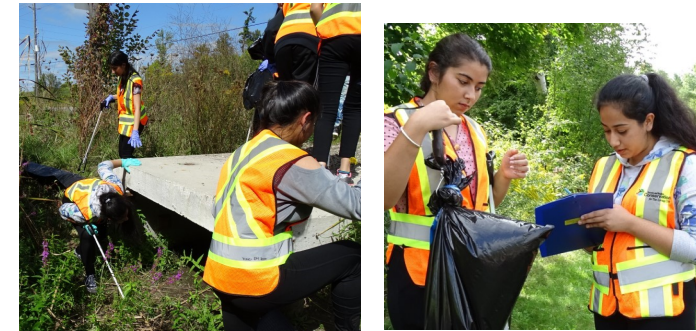
Louise Arbour Secondary School has partnered with TRCA on several occasions over the years, participating in various environmental activities .

The school’s Environmental Studies curriculum is designed to teach students about diverse natural areas, study different ecosystems and learn about the concept of sustainability. Students were able to gain an understanding of these topics by gathering at Heart Lake Road to participate in a Watershed Wide Cleanup effort and be introduced to other related TRCA projects taking place in the area.

Students were given a safety talk, safety vests were donned and the group headed out to collect garbage and litter from areas surrounding the designated Provincially Significant Wetland complex bisected by Heart Lake Rd. A considerable amount of litter collects and illegal dumping takes place in the area which negatively impacts this sensitive ecosystem. TRCA staff also provided an overview of the ongoing Heart Lake Road Ecology Citizen Science Monitoring Program, the objective of which is to better understand which species are being impacted by interactions with vehicles, how many interactions are occurring and mitigation measures needed to protect local biodiversity. Participants learned about the dedicated wildlife passage and directional wildlife fencing installed in 2016, and how this mitigation has assisted in reducing wildlife fatalities.

As part of the days activities, the students had an opportunity to meet staff from TRCA’s research team at Heart Lake and learn about a turtle population study taking place at the site and teach students how a wildlife tracking system operates to monitor movement of turtles that have been equipped with GPS transmitters.

Louise Arbour students have consistently proved to be a very dedicated group at all activities they have participated in with TRCA staff. TRCA’s goal is to bring awareness to the value and importance of natural spaces and diverse ecosystems and these types of activities, and groups such as Louise Arbour students, prove the value and success of engaging students, community groups and local residents.



### Positive Environmental Impacts

Garbage Bags Collected	Weight of Garbage (lbs)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
6	~ 100	22	66

