

Wonderful Watershed Moments!

JULY 2018

Heart Lake Road, Watershed Wide Cleanup and Learn to Fish with Conservation Youth Corps Students



LOCATION:

Heart Lake Road, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:

Friday July 20, 2018

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:

Region of Peel, City of Brampton

PARTNERS:

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Peel Conservation Youth Corps Students

TRCA's Watershed Wide Cleanup program was in action along Heart Lake Road between Sandalwood Pkwy and Couttryside Dr. This stretch of Heart Lake Road is surrounded by designated Provincially Significant Wetlands with an abundance of wildlife and diverse ecosystems and negatively impacted by illegal dumping of construction materials, household garbage and litter.

TRCA welcomed participants from the Conservation Youth Corps (CYC) who attended the site to assist in removing litter and debris from the area. Along the way, youth sighted wildlife including a DeKay's brown snake (*Storeria dekayi*), leopard frogs and trumpeter swans. TRCA's CYC program engages secondary school students in Peel and York Region to gain environmental awareness and hands-on field experience. These activities provide students with 35 hours of curriculum based volunteerism they are required to achieve throughout secondary school studies.

Items collected included; plastic garbage bags, plastic 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. 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.

Once students completed the clean-up along Heart Lake Road they were given the opportunity to participate in the Learn to Fish program where they learned the basics of fishing rules, regulations and licencing for sustainable fishing.

By participating in these types of stewardship activities, students, 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
24	~ 118	38	190

