

Wonderful Watershed Moments!

AUGUST 2018



LOCATION:
Heart Lake Conservation Area, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:
Friday August 3, 2018

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

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



Heart Lake Road Watershed Wide Clean-up and Learn To Fish with Conservation Youth Corps

TRCA hosted Conservation Youth Corps (CYC) students for a Watershed Wide Cleanup (WWC) on Heart Lake Road between Sandalwood Pkwy and Countryside Dr. This stretch of Heart Lake Road is surrounded by designated Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW) with an abundance of wildlife and diverse ecosystems but is heavily impacted by illegal dumping of construction materials, household garbage and litter.

After a safety talk by TRCA staff the CYC crew began the clean-up armed with garbage pickers and garbage bags collecting over 750 pounds of garbage around the PSWs. This enthusiastic group were keen to expand their reach from the road to the wetland and found a variety of items including a home theater sound system and old tires. Students were also tasked with collecting cigarette butts, which is the top offender of litter at most sites and can cause significant health issues to wildlife. The cigarette butts will be sent out to an agency that collects these items to create amenities to improve green spaces such as park benches.

Following the clean-up, students had the opportunity to participate in the TRCA and MNRF Learn to Fish Program at Heart Lake Conservation Area. Students learned about the local aquatic ecosystem, fish identification, fishing skills and then given an opportunity to fish along the Heart Lake Shoreline. Through this experience they were better able to understand how clean-up efforts affect the lives of these aquatic species.

Engaging local students in these type of activities help create green leaders of the future. Through hands-on activities to enhance natural areas, students are learning the importance and value of greenspace and wetlands.



Positive Environmental Impacts

Garbage Collected # of bags	Total Weight collected (lbs)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
58	769	31	155

