

Wonderful Watershed Moments!

AUGUST 2018



LOCATION:

Heart Lake Road, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

DATE:

Friday August 17, 2018

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:

Region of Peel, City of Brampton

PARTNERS:

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

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

Conservation Youth Corps (CYC) is a volunteer program that enriches the lives of young people through volunteering and learning about conservation and the environment. Teams of high school student volunteers work with professional conservation staff for one week, performing a variety of outdoor conservation activities.

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

Students collected over 170 lbs. of garbage including; multiple plastic garbage bags, bottles, cans, numerous plastic straws, cutlery, cups, wrappers and trays from fast food restaurants, a laundry basket, parts from vehicles and hundreds of cigarette butts. They also observed wildlife including a garter snake, leopard frogs and trumpeter swans. Pollutants and contaminants enter these sensitive wetlands and are carried to local waterbodies by storm events. Micro-plastics and litter pose serious threats to both wildlife and human health and can remain in the system for thousands of years.

In the afternoon, the group were given the opportunity to participate in TRCA and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Learn to Fish program where they learned rules and regulations of safe and sustainable fishing.

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
22	~ 174	30	150

