

# Wonderful Watershed Moments!

OCTOBER 2018

## Oak Ridges Community Centre, Community Based Restoration with Local Residents



**LOCATION:**  
Oak Ridges Community Centre, Humber River Watershed

**DATE:**  
Saturday October 13, 2018

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
York Region, Town of Richmond Hill

**PARTNERS:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Town of Richmond Hill, Local Residents



A very enthusiastic group of local residents attended Oak Ridges Community Center to participate in a community based restoration and invasive species control activity. Oak Ridges Community Centre is recognized as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® (LEED) building. LEED is a rating system for energy efficiency and recognized as the international mark of excellence in over 160 countries.

TRCA staff provided a safety talk, planting demonstration and more than 70 people got underway to plant 175 native trees and shrubs, placing a mulch mat and mulch around each piece.

Participants also took part in citizen scientist activities as part of TRCA's Young Tree and Shrub Monitoring and Maintenance Program (YTMP). Through YTMP, a percentage of plant material is tagged with a unique identification number and baseline measurements and general observations are recorded. Maintenance strategies are put in place and additional information is collected over a period of three to five years to track impacts of storm events, insect infestation, disease, wildlife browse and determine success of plant material.

Invasive vegetation is a contributing factor in the failure of plant material at sites. Part of TRCA's protocols are to engage participants in removing invasive plants as a control method to help new plants establish. At this site, a group of participants pulled over 100 European buckthorn using a specialized tool called an Extractagator, preventing encroachment of this invasive plant.

These activities provide a better understanding of greenspace, its value as wildlife habitat and protecting recreational areas in urban settings. It also educates on the importance of maintaining these areas through litter cleanups and returning to collect data on health and success of plants..



### Positive Environmental Impacts

Vegetation Planted	# of Pieces Planted	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	Invasive Plants Removed	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
Trees	55	140	100 +	~ 70	210
Shrubs	120	180			
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>100 +</b>	<b>~ 70</b>	<b>210</b>

