

WATERSHED *moments*



LOCATION:
Heart Lake Conservation Area (HLCA), Etobicoke
Creek Watershed

DATE:
Friday August 23, 2019

REGION/MUNICIPALITY:
Region of Peel, City of Brampton

IN COLLABORATION WITH:
Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation, Four
Colours Drum Circle, DG Group



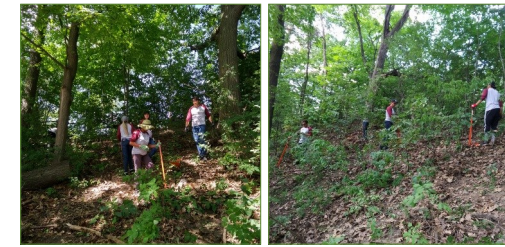
Heart Lake Conservation Area (HLCA) Community Invasive Vegetation Maintenance Activity

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) hosted employees from DG Group for an invasive vegetation control and maintenance activity at Heart Lake Conservation Area (HLCA).

HLCA is located on Heart Lake Road, north of Sandalwood Parkway and occupies 169 hectares in the Etobicoke Creek watershed, within the City of Brampton. Its diverse ecosystem includes two kettle lakes, the headwaters of Spring Creek, a wetland complex, and one of the largest individual blocks of forest in the Etobicoke Creek watershed. This area has been negatively affected by invasive, non-native European buckthorn which is listed as a noxious weed in Ontario's Weed Control Act. It rapidly out-competes native plant species, degrading the quality of wildlife habitat.

After a warm welcome by members of Four Colours Drum Circle and a drumming ceremony, the group removed buckthorn from the area. Participants were trained to use extractigators, a special tool that removes the entire plant including the root system. Larger buckthorns were cut down by TRCA staff using hand saws.

Engaging residents and community groups to educate them to identify and practice control methods on invasive species and enhance natural areas, provides a better understanding of the importance of green space for recreational activities and habitat for local wildlife.



Positive Environmental Impacts

# of Buckthorn Removed	Total Area Enhanced (sq.m.)	# of Participants	Participant Hrs Contributed
~500	531.5	30	90



In collaboration with:

