

## Our Watersheds

### How Can We All Make A Difference?

York Region forests, lakes, rivers and wetlands all work together in a natural balancing act, providing us with clean air, pure drinking water, forests to walk in and a land rich in natural heritage potential. It is up to us to protect and ensure a healthy natural system for future generations. A few things we can all do are:

- Plant native trees and shrubs; water and mulch them for first three years
- Buffer our streams, lakes, forests and wetlands with wide, natural areas
- Let only rainwater flow down storm sewers into our rivers
- Conserve water, preserve permeability to replenish ground water systems
- Consume less, reuse and recycle

Many environmental programs are available to the public that can help you plant trees on private land, upgrade or decommission private wells, upgrade septic systems, manage manure, restrict livestock from streams, manage milk house waste on farms, enhance wildlife habitat and clean-up our land and water. For more information, call 1-877-464-9675 Ext 5241.



### Partnerships Are Key

**York Region Greening Strategy** is a plan to help ensure that York Region's natural environment is protected for present and future generations. York Region recognizes the support of a wide variety of community and individual partners who help make the Adopt-a-Stream Crossing Program a success in York Region.

**York Environmental Stewardship (YES)** is one of 40 stewardship councils across Ontario working under the umbrella of Ontario Stewardship. YES works together with York Region landowners, partner organizations and volunteers to promote the responsible care of land and natural resources for future generations.



Thanks to the these organizations for their support:

- York Environmental Stewardship
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Ontario Streams
- Environment Canada

For further information leave a message for :  
Adopt-a-Stream Crossing Program Coordinator  
Phone: 1-877-464-9675, Voice Mailbox:9815  
Email: [Forestry@york.ca](mailto:Forestry@york.ca)



## Adopt-a-Stream Crossing Program

Working together with York Region community and school groups to enhance forest cover and habitat in and around Regional road stream crossings.



# Adopt-a-Stream Crossing Program

During the early settlement of Ontario, streams and rivers provided transport for people and goods, as well as energy and food for consumption. As a result of subsequent settlement, many of these waterways suffered from straightening, sewage discharge and the removal of vegetation. This in turn led to lack of habitat diversity, depletion of fish populations and human health problems.



Through years of road and culvert improvements, many crossings have been stripped of vegetative cover which has left streams vulnerable to sand and silt loads as well as run-off from vehicle contaminants and winter road salt. Lack of vegetative cover also increases stream temperatures which can be harmful to stream ecology.

Today, we know that the health of our streams is related to the quality of our health as a community. The Adopt-a-Stream Crossing Program was therefore developed by York Region under their Greening Strategy to restore many of the degraded stream areas at Regional road stream crossings in York Region.

## Program Overview

The Adopt-a-Stream Crossing program enhances forest cover in and around streams at Regional road crossings by involving nearby schools and community groups in stream stewardship programs. Landowners and individual families can also participate.

Projects involve naturalization work, including tree and shrub planting, pickup of litter and on-going monitoring of newly planted sites. Educational materials are also provided prior to planting day.

## Why Get Involved?

- Fun** Have fun while learning about your local stream ecology
- Friends** Join your friends and share a memorable experience
- Fitness** Stay in shape while making a difference
- Future** Enhance the Natural Environment  
“ We do not inherit the earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children”  
(Cree Philosophy)

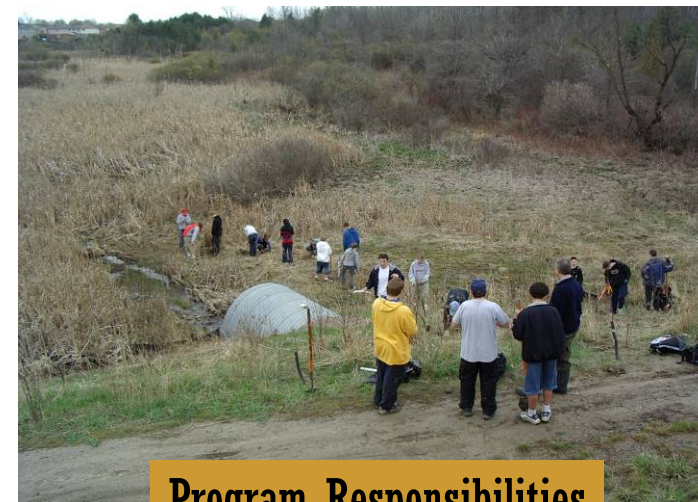


## Benefits to Partners

**Education**– The program is easily incorporated into High School curricula or clubs. Curriculum-based materials to classes prior to the planting day.

**Community Hours**– Suitable for the Ministry of Education community hours requirement for Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

**Stewardship** - The program instills and promotes community stewardship and a sense of ownership which leads to improved land care in the future.



## Program Responsibilities

As part of the program we supply:

- Safety Vests and Gloves
- Shovels
- Road signs for safety
- On-site safety instructions for working around busy roads, water and uneven ground
- Plant Material

\*\* Students are responsible for wearing weather appropriate clothing on the day of the planting and sturdy footwear.

\*\*Teachers are responsible for student organization and ensuring school safety standards are met.