

Trees For Trout: Stewardship Rangers & City Of Cambridge Team Up

Setting The Stage For Ideal Habitat For Local Fishing

By Cambridge Now! Local News



Above Photo: Mill Creek Stewardship Rangers

Trees & Teamwork For Trout

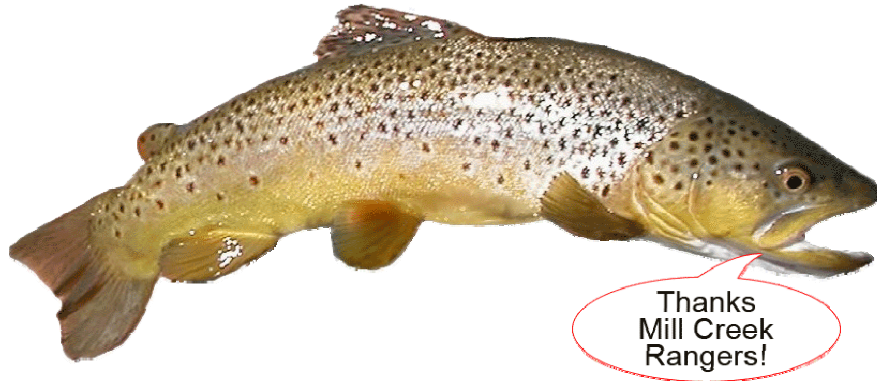
In-stream Clean Up Initiated

Cambridge, Ontario - Projects to improve the trout-bearing Mill Creek are in the works in Cambridge . The Mill Creek Stewardship Rangers planted indigenous species of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers on Wednesday August 10th, as well as conducted an in-stream clean up, removing in-stream rock dams, fixing erosion sites, and shoring up the banks of Mill Creek at two locations in Soper Park.

"The City congratulates the Friends of Mill Creek and Mill Creek Stewardship Rangers for their contribution to creating a healthier stream in Cambridge through planting along its banks and performing in-stream clean ups of debris and litter," says Paul Willms, Environmental Planner for the City of Cambridge .

Members of the Mill Creek Stewardship Rangers will plant 10 large trees, 40 shrubs, and 30 wildflowers along Mill Creek as part of the 2011 projects that stretch into Puslinch Township and the headwaters.

The Mill Creek planting on August 10th caps off a successful year for the Cambridge Stewardship project, as well as a 5th anniversary for this community-based tree planting effort and a 12th anniversary for the Friends of Mill Creek. Cambridge Stewardship was initiated by Cambridge City Green in partnership with the City five years ago and 1,000 volunteers have planted over 5,000 indigenous trees, shrubs, and wildflowers at 14 sites across the city.



Funding partners for the 2011 Mill Creek project include: The City of Cambridge; Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation and the Ages Foundation; TD Friends of the Environment Foundation; Waterloo Stewardship Network; and Cambridge City Green. Over the past five years, these and Cambridge Stewardship's other generous funding partners contributed \$5 for every \$1 of City tax dollars in their support for the establishment of indigenous plants and a healthier environment in Cambridge.

In addition to the contributions of the funding partners, the volunteer planters put in "sweat equity." "Cambridge City Green volunteers, funding partners, and groups like the Mill Creek Rangers work hard on these projects which enhance our natural heritage," says Willms. "They come back over the years and are pleasantly surprised by the growth and change at these planting sites."

The mission of City Green's Cambridge Stewardship project is to establish indigenous trees, shrubs, and wildflowers across the city. Enhancing areas with native vegetation provides many benefits including groundwater recharge, shade through increased canopy (and therefore cooler temperatures for coldwater streams like Mill Creek), enhanced habitat, and increased biodiversity in an urbanizing landscape that has seen many invasive plant species recently established. But it's not just about the plants, it's about people and community development – by involving local schools, businesses, and community organizations like the Friends of Mill Creek and young people like the 17-year-olds employed as Stewardship Rangers this summer, people gain a better understanding of the ecosystems "in their backyard" and the benefits of a healthy local environment and urban rivers and streams.

(Below) Paul Willms, Environmental Planner for the City of Cambridge



(Below) Cambridge Environmental Stewardship Trailer

