



## **Fall 2014 Newsletter**

**Volume 25 Number 1**

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### **Another 25,000 + Trees planted along the Credit River this spring.**

Once again, our tree planting crew was hard at work trying to reforest the banks of the Credit. They planted in excess of 25,000 trees ranging from the lower end of the river (Erindale Park) all the way up to The Grange Sideroad. Tree species this year included: Eastern Cottonwood, Silver Maple, Black Walnut, Eastern White Pine, Eastern White Cedar, White Spruce, Balsam Fir and Tamarack. Funding for the crew was provided through the Ministry of the Environment and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Planting occurred on many public park sites in Mississauga, Brampton, Glen Williams and Norval and on a few select private landowner properties. Planting sites included: Erindale Park, Eglinton Ave, Streetsville Park, Britannia Ave, Creditview Road, Meadowvale Conservation Park,

below 407, Churchville Park, Steeles Ave, Glen Williams, and The Grange Sideroad. CRAA is always looking for new sites to plant as well. All of the Eastern Cottonwood and Silver Maples were outfitted with metal guards to prevent rodent damage and most of the conifers were outfitted with brush blankets to prevent being choked out by thick weed growth. Additionally, many of the larger Cottonwood planted in the past needed larger guards, so the crew tackled them as well.



Figure 1: 2 rows of guarded poplars (can you spot them?) line the banks along the Credit River below Steeles Ave.



Figure 2: Crossing the river to plant poplars on the other side.

In addition to the trees planted this year, the crew repaired and replaced guards that had fallen over or been damaged by wildlife. Beaver damage was very minimal over the winter, with only a handful of Ash Tree casualties, and they were not in the best shape to begin with due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Unfortunately we did lose 2 large poplars at Churchville, thanks to the beavers.

### **A New Planting Site!**

This spring, CRAA finally got the OK to plant the bank of the Croatia Park property. This site, located just south of Eglinton, has been void of trees or shade of any kind for many years, so getting the opportunity to plant it was a big success for CRAA. The crew planted 60 Eastern Cottonwood most of which are already over 5' in height. Trees at Croatia had to be watered almost daily throughout



Figure 3: Poplars planted by last year's crew at Maverick's (along Black Creek).

the summer, due to the hard, rocky ground they were planted in.



Figure 4: Poplars planted along the bare bank at Croatia Park.

### **Installing Temperature Loggers in the Credit.**

This summer, the tree planting crew installed 15 temperature loggers throughout the Credit River, from Eglinton Ave. all the way up to Old Baseline Road. They were installed at the beginning of August and retrieved at the beginning of September. The



loggers will be able to identify temperature trends and differences between the 15 different locations on the river. Water temperature is very important during the hot summer months because too hot of temperatures will result in mass juvenile mortalities, leading to weaker year classes down the road. While these loggers will provide interesting data comparing water temperatures throughout the watershed, manually taken water temperatures at Norval yielded a summer high temperature of 77 degrees Fahrenheit, which is incredible. It was only a few years ago that the Credit River would reach 95 degrees F in the summer (yes hot tub temperatures). Reforesting the watershed is certainly contributing to the decrease in water temps while global warming trends continue to rise. Temperature profiles for the Credit River using data from the temp loggers had not yet been computed at the time of this newsletter.



Figure 5: Attaching a temp logger to a rock.

## Levi's Creek Volunteer Day

September 27<sup>th</sup>, a few hard working volunteers came out to help plant some trees and give back to the great fishery we have here on the Credit. The goal was to reforest a small, but important tributary, Levi's Creek. The section planted, between Financial Ave. and Westbridge Way was almost completely void of tree cover so that made it an easy choice to target this year. A small tributary with no shade can easily add warm water to the main river, heating up its overall temperature, which could result in higher juvenile mortality rates. The tree crew planted 8,200 trees of varying species earlier in the year and additional funding allowed for another 2000 trees to be planted in September. Levi's Creek appears to have one of the highest survival rates as well, meaning it will be a forest in a handful of years! Thanks to those who came out to lend a hand!



Figure 6: A tamarack planted at Levi's Creek, outfitted with a brush mat.

## More Trees!

At the end of September, Quinn (crew leader) planted another 2,000 conifer trees at Levi's Creek (a tributary of the Credit River) with the aid of a few volunteers. Additionally, another 2,000 Eastern Cottonwood are on their way and will be planted along the river this fall as well. Quinn will guard the Eastern Cottonwood to prevent damage from beavers, deer, mice and rabbits and will continue to monitor each planting site until winter sets in.



Figure 7: Poplars planted in October 2014, at Erindale Park.

## Upcoming Events

Additionally, with another 25,000 trees are scheduled to be planted in spring 2015, keep an eye out for volunteer tree planting days in April and May of next year.

The hatchery could also use a couple more helping hands. Fish need to be fed, tanks cleaned etc. Please send an email to: [info@craa.on.ca](mailto:info@craa.on.ca).

CRAA could also use help with the website (updates, mailing list etc.) Please send an email to: [info@craa.on.ca](mailto:info@craa.on.ca) if you can help.



Figure 8: A monster Brown Trout lifted above Streetsville dam in mid September.