



## April 2022 NEWSLETTER

### NOTTAWASAGA RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM

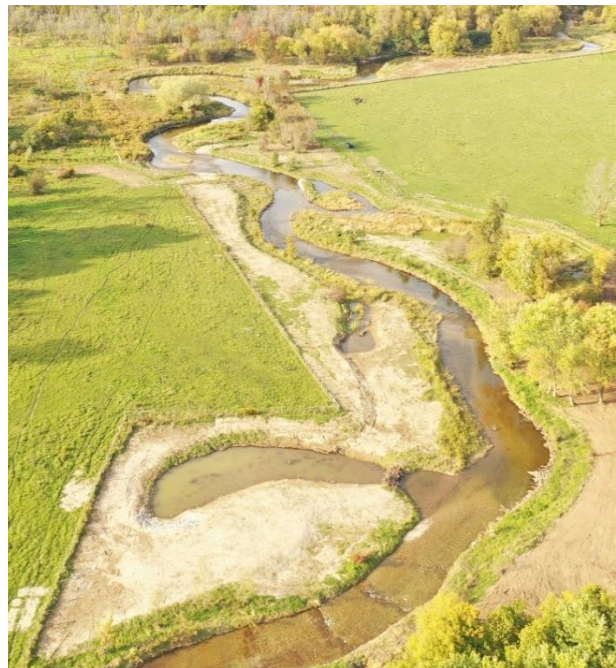
#### **Achievements, volunteer opportunities and more!**

The Nottawasaga River Restoration Program (NRRP) is entering its 5th year of operation and is emerging as one of the largest river restoration and trout stream habitat improvement initiatives in Southern Ontario. The NRRP is coordinated by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Nottawasaga Futures and South Simcoe Streams Network working in partnership with the Nottawasaga Steelheaders and Mono Headwaters Streams Committee. In 2021 collaborative efforts resulted in:

- Stabilizing 570 m of eroding riverbank with woody trout cover habitats.
- Realigning the river to construct a 70 m long trout spawning habitat.
- Planting 3,600 trees in stream-side corridors.



Before River Restoration



After River Restoration

This achievement was made possible thanks to our funding partners who contributed a total of \$200,000 towards this project. These partners include Bass Pro Shops-Cabela's, Patagonia, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Takla Foundation and World Wildlife Fund. A shout-out of appreciation also goes to participating landowners, the Township of Adajala-Tosorontio and the Town of Mono for their support!

## Background

The NRRP was developed with two major goals in mind:

- Maximizing the abundance of trout and salmon, and native species at risk (e.g. northern brook lamprey and lake sturgeon).
- Improving water quality in the upper Nottawasaga River.

To achieve this, we plan to extend the high-quality trout habitat at the Village of Hockley downstream by **31 km** to the mouth of Innisfil Creek near Alliston by restoring approximately **10 km** of degraded habitat in the Nottawasaga River and its Sheldon Creek tributary.



## Progress to Date and Future Targets

A total of **1.2 km** of river habitat has been restored in the past 3 years out of our overall 10 km program target. This large-scale work has been achieved by a hybrid technique including volunteer efforts and habitat construction using a 20-tonne excavator machine over the entire summer work season.

We are working towards the restoration of the remaining **8.8 km** in the next 7 years – approximately 1.3 km/year. To achieve this target pace, we will need to retain 2 excavators each year and are looking to develop new partnerships and funding sources to cover this additional cost.

As a first step, we have just completed production of a new Nottawasaga River Sport Fishing and River Restoration Documentary to help engage new partners!

## 2022 Work Plan

Our 2022 plan includes:

- Stabilizing the last **80 m** of eroding bank at the Breedon property on the Nottawasaga River north of Sideroad 20 Adjala bringing the total length of stream restored at this site to 880 m!
- Completing an additional **350 m** of bank stabilization on the Nottawasaga River on the next property downstream from the Breedon property where we have just received permission to start work.
- Stabilizing **350 m** of eroding bank on Sheldon Creek, on the west side of Simcoe Road 50. In January 2022, we installed 700 m of fencing at this property to exclude livestock from the stream. We are currently working with a river morphologist on a stream realignment design that will be needed for future work at this site.
- Meeting with other landowners and developing plans and agreements for an additional **520 m** of eroding bank stabilization and habitat improvement.

## 2022 Volunteer Opportunities

**Tree Planting** - Community participation in native tree and shrub plantings is part of the final stage to help establish forest cover along the restored banks. Volunteer tree planting events will be held through April, May and October 2022.

**Stream Restoration** – Community volunteers will help stabilize banks to prevent further erosion and improve stream habitat in July and August.



River-side tree planting.



Fish Community Monitoring.

**Monitoring** - Monitoring is a key part of any restoration effort both before and after works are completed. A fish community assessment work day has been scheduled for **August 30, 2022**. We are encouraging volunteers to join us as we hope to record an increase in trout numbers at the Breedon property due to the restoration of 880 m of river habitat!

## Contact Information

For more information about the NRRP, a link to the new video, volunteering opportunities or financial contributions, please contact Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services at (705) 309-0522 or e-mail [fdobbs@nvca.on.ca](mailto:fdobbs@nvca.on.ca).