

Lake Huron/Georgian Bay Watershed: A Canadian Framework for Community Action

This project was provided partial funding through the Lake Huron/Georgian Bay Framework for Community Action to increase the capacity of local organizations, engage the community, and turn local interests and concern into environmental action consistent with 'Framework' principles – see www.lakehuroncommunityaction.ca

Project Synopsis

PROJECT TITLE: Manitoulin Streams Restoration Projects 2016 - 2017

RECIPIENT: Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association (MSIA)
(<http://www.manitoulinstreams.com/>)



RECIPIENT'S MISSION: *To create, through the rehabilitation and enhancement of important cold water streams, healthy and self-sustaining river ecosystems that contribute to the ecological, economic and social health of Manitoulin Island and the Great Lakes that surround it.*

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The Manitoulin Streams Restoration Projects seek to provide ecological, environmental, social and economic benefits to the Lake Huron basin by engaging local community members in stream restoration projects. In doing so, the projects aim to enhance, and to spread awareness, of the role stream restoration plays in protecting and restoring water quality, natural habitats and biodiversity of Lake Huron tributaries.

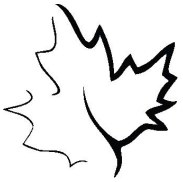
PROJECT PARTNERS:

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), Salamander Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Manitoulin Transport, Lafarge, M'Chigeeng First Nation, Township of Assiginack, Town of NEMI, Municipality of Central Manitoulin, Township of Billings, Town of Gore Bay, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), Ramakko's Source for Adventure, Little Current Fish and Game Club, Industrial Fabrication Inc., College Boreal, Camp Mary Anne, Sudbury Game & Fish Protective Association, Canada Summer Jobs, 4elements Living Arts, and various landowners and volunteers.

PROJECT LENGTH: 12 months

PROJECT SUMMARY:

In 2016, the Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association (MSIA) worked on two restoration projects where cumulative impacts from a variety of environmental issues affected critical spawning and aquatic habitats that bring socio-economic benefits to the local and First Nation communities. In response, MSIA brought together Ontario Stewardship Rangers, First Nation students and local volunteers to collectively restore 154 linear meters of streams. This was completed by installing 31 in-stream structures that helped enhance 585m² of fish and aquatic habitat. They planted 1600 native trees and shrubs improving 531m² of riparian habitat, conducted shoreline cleanups and removed log jams impeding fish migration to help improve the continuity of the streams. These efforts will help safeguard M'Chigeeng Creek and Mindemoya River ecosystems from



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erosion and sedimentation, increase available aquatic and terrestrial habitat and enable fish to access upstream spawning environments.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Established 1 private landowner agreement - Mindemoya River and working partnership with M'Chigeeng First Nation
- Planted 1600 native tree, shrubs and grass species to provide 531 m² wildlife habitat corridors
- Engaged local volunteers and to restore 154m of linear meters stream and install 585m² of in-stream habitat
- Installed 31 in-stream structures
- Installed 40m³ of spawning gravel and boulders
- Conducted shoreline garbage cleanup



M'Chigeeng First Nation - Lakeview School & Stewardship Rangers

NEXT STEPS:

- Seek funding to restore the top 10 streams on Manitoulin Island identified in the Strategic Plan
- Increase educational outreach to various local communities
- Develop media materials to increase public awareness of restoration needs
- Continue to communicate with local landowners and First Nation communities to promote future restoration efforts

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Developing a Strategic Plan or model that identifies restoration needs is essential
- Enhancing native grass establishment on sloping sandy shorelines is important

POTENTIAL FOLLOW-UP PROJECTS:

- Post-restoration assessments on the 2016 Mindemoya River and M'Chigeeng Creek restoration site by College Boreal and Laurentian University to evaluate the gains of the restoration efforts
- Restore additional sites identified by the Strategic Plan
- Develop programs to obtain interest from private landowner's in land stewardship activities on Manitoulin Island



M'Chigeeng First Nation - Lakeview School & Stewardship Rangers