

## Ontario Wildlife Foundation Final Report

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**Project Title:** Town Pond Dam Removal and Riparian Planting

**Project Objective:** Restore native shrub and tree community to aid in stabilizing streambanks with their deep binding roots, provide shade, and supply the stream with coarse materials which provide instream habitat and food for primary producers.

**Project Location:** Markdale, Ontario

**Project Overview:** Armstrong Creek is a coldwater tributary to the Rocky Saugeen River that provides habitat for the native Brook Trout population. In August of 2020, Trout Unlimited Canada, in partnership with The County of Grey, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, and GSS Engineering, removed the Town Pond Dam in Markdale, ON. The Town Pond Dam caused stream warming during the summer and promoted excessive water cooling during the winter. Removal of the dam allows cooler water to flow into the Rocky Saugeen River during the summer, improving water quality, stream stability, and benefit Brook Trout habitat in the Rocky Saugeen River.

The removal of the Town Pond Dam has allowed Armstrong Creek to revert to a more natural form gradually. This has allowed the once rich riparian areas to become exposed again. However, the new stream banks are unstable and largely barren of natural stream bank material that usually contributes to quality habitat for Brook Trout and other native coldwater fish species and a wide variety of aquatic insects and animals.



*Figure 1: Post Dam Removal substrate*



*Figure 2: Trout Unlimited and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Planting*

### Project Budget:

Native plant material was purchased from Verbinnen's Nursery Ltd in select numbers to increase biodiversity of the Town Pond Dam site.

|  |                    |            |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| Ninebark ( <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> )    | 40-75cm 1 Gallon   | 55         |
| Serviceberry ( <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> ) | 40-75cm 1 Gallon   | 55         |
| Nannyberry ( <i>Viburnum lentago</i> )         | 75-100cm 1 Gallon  | 50         |
| Spicebush ( <i>Lindera benzoin</i> )           | 40-75cm 1 Gallon   | 20         |
| Gray Dogwood ( <i>Cornus racemosa</i> )        | 40-75cm 1 Gallon   | 40         |
| Red Osier Dogwood ( <i>Cornus sericea</i> )    | 40-75cm 1 Gallon   | 50         |
| White Cedar ( <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> )      | 60-80cm 1 Gallon   | 40         |
| Pussy Willow ( <i>Salix discolor</i> )         | 40-75cm 1 Gallon   | 50         |
| Red Maple ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> )               | 40-60cm 2x5in plug | 60         |
| Larch/Tamarack ( <i>Larix laricina</i> )       | 40-75cm 1 Gallon   | 30         |
| Elderberry ( <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> )      | 40-60cm 2x5in plug | 75         |
| <b>Total</b>                                   |                    | <b>525</b> |
| Weed Mat                                       | 29cm round         | 525        |
| Plastic Tree Wraps                             | 120cm              | 90         |

### Project Financial Report:

100% of the funding from Ontario Wildlife Foundation went towards the native vegetation, weed mats, and plastic tree wraps purchased from Verbinnen's Nursery Ltd.

Work was completed on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 by Trout Unlimited Canada's Strategic Watershed Action Team with the help of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority staff, and Trout Unlimited Canada Happy Trout Chapter volunteers.

On behalf of Trout Unlimited Canada, we thank Ontario Wildlife Foundation for their support!

Thank you,

Trout Unlimited Canada

Trout Unlimited  
**CANADA**

