



## **GRCA Offers Several Funding Options to Assist with Tree Planting**

In the 2014 tree planting season, over 30,000 trees were planted across the local watershed with assistance from the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA). The GRCA is encouraging landowners to start thinking about tree planting for the 2015 season. It is never too early to start planning!

Trees provide many benefits to the local ecosystem by increasing woodland connectivity, creating and enhancing wildlife habitat and often act as a buffer and filtration system for stormwater runoff before it gets into the water. Trees also enhance the natural beauty of the watershed for residents to appreciate and enjoy. There are many ways to incorporate tree planting on your property, including:

- Establishing windbreaks to help reduce home heating costs, or shade trees to reduce home cooling costs. Windbreaks can also help control snow drifting.
- Re-establishing large scale reforestation on marginal land to increase wildlife habitat, or provide future additional income through timber management or other forest resources.
- Increasing forest connectivity by planting in areas that will increase and enhance existing forest or woodlots.
- Enhancing stream banks and river valleys by planting species that stabilize banks, increase stream shading, create habitat and reduce runoff.

There are several options available through the GRCA when considering tree planting depending on your needs. The GRCA offers the purchase of tree seedlings at a minimum bundle of 25 to plant at your own leisure, or have the GRCA plant the trees for you if there are over 500.

Funding is available to assist in the purchase and/or planting of tree seedlings. The Clean Water – Healthy Land Financial Assistance Program offers funding of 50% of the cost of a minimum of 500 seedlings to a maximum of \$2,500.00. Additional funding is also available to landowners planting more than 1 hectare or 2.5 acres of land.

The GRCA has also partnered with the Municipality of Clarington, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority and the Municipality of Port Hope again for 2015 to provide free trees to Clarington and Port Hope residents to plant along the rural road side on their property. The goal is to restore the trees that once lined rural roads, an initiative that was started in the 1870s across the province – check out the *Trees for Rural Roads Program* for 2015!

If you want to avoid winter this year, spend some time planning for a spring 2015 tree plant project with help from the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority.

For more information on how you can participate in the 2015 tree seedling program or funding programs, contact Kestrel Wraggett, Stewardship Technician at 905-885-8173 x 247 or [kwraggett@grca.on.ca](mailto:kwraggett@grca.on.ca).