



ROCKY RAMP IMPROVES LOCAL FISH PASSAGE

COBOURG - The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA), in partnership with the County of Northumberland and Floatfishing.net Conservation Group, and through funding provided by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, completed a project to improve fish passage over perched culvert on the west branch of Cobourg Creek at Dale Road. The project involved mitigating a 20” drop that was a partial barrier to upstream fish passage, particularly to non-jumping fish species. “This project will help improve fish passage, resulting in an improvement to the health of the fish community within Cobourg Creek,” states Brian Morrison, GRCA Fisheries Biologist.

In the summer of 2014, the GRCA and the County of Northumberland completed the construction of a rocky ramp fishway at the dam. A rocky ramp fishway is a layer of rock placed over the obstruction in a manner that resembles natural riffle and pool features. The project allows for unimpeded upstream fish access to approximately 40km² km of additional high quality stream habitat. Shortly after completing the project, several different species of fish were observed using the rocky ramp to access upstream habitats. This project supports the 2010 rocky ramp that was constructed downstream to enhance fish access within the west branch of Cobourg Creek.

