



November 6, 2014

Union Gas and Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority partner to protect Ganaraska River

PORT HOPE - With a \$2,000.00 grant generously donated by Union Gas and the help of Union Gas employees, the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority planted approximately 250 Spruce and Tamarack trees along the east shore of the Ganaraska River just North of Port Hope yesterday. The river runs under Dale Road, a highway with fairly heavy traffic and the trees will contribute to the filtering of water runoff from the urban environment, including Dale Road, before it gets discharged into the river. The planting will also provide shade and habitat to critical cold water fish species.

The Ganaraska River drains a total area of 278 square kilometers (km²). The main branch of the Ganaraska River is joined by 10 other tributaries; the largest being the North Ganaraska Branch. Protection of the Ganaraska River watershed has been influenced by surface water studies such as floodplain mapping and hydraulic studies. Regulations are also in place to protect people and property from flood waters, such as the flood that occurred in 1980, and to protect the natural features of the watershed. Flows in the Ganaraska River are generally resilient to stresses such as drought and water use, and adequately provide for aquatic habitat and human use. However, currently the river is at risk of erosion due to the lack of trees and planting the trees along the shore will help stabilize the bank and reduce erosion.

“We care about the environment. The nature of Union Gas is reflected in our company culture, whether we are building a pipeline or erecting an energy-efficient office building,” said Ed Gouweloos, Union Gas Utility Services Construction Manager, Cobourg. “That’s why we support important environmental programs in the communities we serve. Planting trees along the Ganaraska River will make a difference, and that is important to us at Union Gas.”

For more information on the Ganaraska River, as well as other important projects the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority is undertaking in our watershed, please contact the Conservation Authority at 905-885-8173 or visit www.grca.on.ca.

