

# HPWWS initiates redside dace recovery program in Creek

Halton Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship (HPWWS) has initiated a redside dace recovery project on Silver Creek in Georgetown's Cedarvale Park.

The redside dace is a nationally endangered species of minnow. This colourful fish resides in small streams and requires cool clear water with overhanging vegetation. In Ontario its range is largely restricted to streams flowing into Western Lake Ontario, including the Credit River watershed.

Increasing urbanization with associated habitat loss and decreased water quality has impacted redside dace populations. Redside dace are extremely sensitive to turbidity and erosion during intense rainfall is a primary concern.

Members of HPWWS have completed a habitat restoration project by planting native trees and shrubs along Silver Creek through Cedarvale Park. An educational sign for park visitors to review information regarding the redside dace has also been installed.

The Town of Halton Hills has also instituted a 5-meter no-cut zone along the streambanks of Silver Creek, through Cedarvale Park, to protect riparian vegetation.

Project partners include the Town of Halton Hills, Credit River Anglers Association, Credit Valley Conservation, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Funding

for this project was made possible by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Species At Risk fund.

Residents of Halton Hills can assist in the redside dace recovery project by avoiding the use of pesticides which will maintain a healthy insect population, a primary source of redside dace food. In addition limiting the amount of stormwater runoff by using a rain barrel or disconnecting downspouts will reduce inflows into local streams which can lead to erosion.

The HPWWS is an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Stewardship Council which is primarily staffed with volunteers with a mandate to promote good stewardship practices on private and public land.

Further information is available from Derek Koniczny (HPWWS member) at 905-873-0517.



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## Police/Fire Report

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