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Thanks to the Generosity of Tree Planting Partners, Lynde Shores Conservation Area is a Forest to be Reckoned With

December 8, 2021, Oshawa, ON – Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) is grateful for the efforts of numerous partners who, together, planted more than 3,500 native trees this fall at Lynde Shores Conservation Area. This tree-planting project is the final chapter to complete conservation land improvements made over the past 12 months at the now expanded site. This future forest will greet visitors as they arrive at the Halls Road entrance and access the new trail that connects to the existing trail system at the Conservation Area.

Lynde Shores Conservation Area is one of eight Conservation Areas owned and managed by CLOCA and receives more than 100,000 visitors each year. Since the onset of the COVID pandemic, visitations have increased dramatically, and with this Conservation Area being CLOCA's most popular, it was time for this 272-hectare property in the Town of Whitby, to incorporate new public-use infrastructure. In addition to the expansion, CLOCA is elated about the restoration work just completed that increases forest cover for the Conservation Area, as well as the Lynde Creek watershed. The Lynde Marsh Coastal Wetland within this Conservation Area is a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW), and this newly reforested area will buffer and increase biodiversity in the uplands surrounding this sensitive PSW.

With a focus on tree planting, CLOCA wants to ensure the ongoing efforts to adapt their watershed community to the impacts of climate change. By planting in more urban Conservation Areas, as they have done for over 60 years, this contributes to a more resilient future, continuing to reverse the trend of biodiversity loss where it is most at risk. Alongside the traditional ecological benefits of trees, they can and do provide much needed shade to reduce the effects of urban heat islands and provide more comfortable outdoor spaces during intense summer heat events. In addition to the human benefits, the tree planting at Lynde Shores Conservation Area will also provide important habitat for resident wildlife and migratory birds that stage here each spring and fall.

With the generous contribution from CLOCA's partners—Natural Resources Canada, Trees for Life (Formerly Highway of Heroes), TD Tree Days, Tree Canada and U-Haul Canada—CLOCA's Restoration Coordinator, Roy Mosher, coordinated the planting of this 'instant' mixed conifer and deciduous forest.

“Typically, CLOCA’s forest restoration efforts include planting conifer seedlings first, allowing deciduous trees to seed-in when the forest gets to be about 50 years old,” said Mr. Mosher. “At this site, because of the generosity of our partners, we were able to purchase significantly larger trees and plant them at a higher density. This was intentional to help this new forest resist the browsing activity of our resident deer population that has decimated previous plantings,” he added.

It is hoped the deer will not find the more mature trees quite as palatable as they do the seedlings, particularly deciduous seedlings that are easily consumed.

In addition to thanking their partners, CLOCA extends their thanks to Lynde Shores Conservation Area visitors for their patience during this work and invite them to see what has been created and restored, to make these ‘natural’ experiences even more enjoyable.



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About Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) is a local, community-based, environmental organization and one of 36 Conservation Authorities responsible for managing watershed resources across Ontario. Established in 1958, CLOCA's jurisdiction is based on the watershed boundaries of four major watercourses and 18 minor watercourses draining an area of over 639 square kilometres. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's watershed stretches from the municipal boundaries of Ajax/Pickering to Clarington, and north from Lake Ontario to the crest of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority provides a wide variety of science-based watershed management programs and services, delivered in partnership with their municipal partners, local landowners, environmental agencies, and all levels of government. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's municipal partners include the Region of Durham, the cities of Oshawa and Pickering, the towns of Ajax and Whitby, the Municipality of Clarington, and the townships of Scugog and Uxbridge.