

McKinnon Pond Diversion

Capital partnered with Dufferin Aggregates in 2006 to help create a 187-metre channel in the Mill Creek watershed. This environmental project led to an improved habitat for fish and other wildlife, and a desirable breeding ground for brown trout. The project has been used for educational purposes by the Friends of Mill Creek Junior Rangers, the University of Guelph, and the Grand River Conservation Authority.

In past decades, widening and deepening of the creek created an agricultural pond that was no longer used, which created situations that raised the average temperature of the creek by as much as 4 degrees Celsius. This significantly affected the cold-water fishery that was present before. The by-pass channel was created to divert the water flow away from the pond and speed up the creek flow to bring the temperature back to ideal conditions.

It took three years to plan and finally implementing the project. The success was dependent upon the partnership of landowners, government agencies, and sponsors. One year following the construction of the by-pass by Capital and Dufferin, the Brown Trout had returned to the Creek downstream of the former pond.