

CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY #1	BOOMER CREEK TRIBUTARY IN WATERLOO REGION
CONCERN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • streambank erosion and poor vegetation cover • 35 cattle pastured on Farm A • 35 cattle pastured on Farm B
LANDOWNER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two adjoining landowners • both run mixed cattle/hog operations • culvert crossings were already in place on both farms (i.e., prior to fencing)
ACTION TAKEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consulted Grand River Conservation Authority • fenced 720 m (2400 ft.) between 1999 and 2001 • installed, in total, an additional 1200 m (4000 ft.) page wire fence • created 10 ft. buffers on either side of creek on both farms • established one row of trees in the buffer on the north side of the creek on both farms • did not plant other side of the creek into trees • planted a mix of white ash, silver maple, red maple, sugar maple and black cherry saplings at 3 m (10 ft.) spacing
BENEFITS TO DATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • since the cattle have been restricted from the creek, the channel has become noticeably narrower and deeper • grass cover has re-established itself on the streambanks, and erosion is no longer evident • tall grasses now shade the creek and filter



Shown here is the Boomer Creek Tributary before fencing.



A few months after fencing in 2002, trees were established on the north side, as evidenced by the white tree guards.

CASE STUDY #2

CONESTOGA RIVER TRIBUTARY IN WELLINGTON COUNTY

CONCERN

- two creeks cut through this pasture
- 25 cow-calf pairs had unrestricted access
- streambanks were severely eroded in several locations

LANDOWNER

- Roger Weber

ACTION TAKEN

- built 1740 m (5800 ft.) of five-strand high-tensile fence in 2000, with the help of family members
- constructed three bed-level crossings (reinforced by concrete slats)
- installed two nose pumps in each of the three pasture sections as alternative water sources
- restricted cattle from the crossing area, except when they are rotated into the next pasture
- retired 2.5 ha (6.25 ac) of land to buffer/trees
- established green ash and bur oak saplings as well as white pine, white spruce, and white cedar seedlings in the buffer on both sides of the creek

BENEFITS TO DATE

- by fencing the two creeks, three paddocks for rotational grazing management were created
- convenience: “the rotational grazing system is working well, with nose pumps in each section – all I have to do is open up the gates and chase the cattle into the next pasture”

“This is something everyone should be doing, to protect the water for future generations.” Roger Weber



Secondary creek before fencing. Note severe bank erosion.



Several months after fencing.

CASE STUDY #3	HOGG CREEK, SIMCOE COUNTY
CONCERN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flash high flows and flooding • streambank erosion • loss of young calves in creek during springtime • problem in summer with foot rot from cattle having stream access
LANDOWNER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian and Vivian Jones initiated projects in 1991 • Son Ian and wife Barb Jones, who now own the property, continue to support the buffer
ACTION TAKEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fenced 2.5 km (1.5 mi.) of stream (5 km or 3 mi. of streambank) • installed 1,130 m (3,765 ft.) of fence • retired 26 ha (64 ac) of pasture • fenced top of bank so that fence would be straight and easier to maintain • created average width of 23 m (75 ft.); at widest part, buffer is 90 m (300 ft.) on both sides of the stream • installed 1 pasture pump and 1 gravity-fed water source • used ¾ in. stone to create a low-level crossing that was gated – used to move cattle from pasture to pasture (no access while in pasture) • planted 13,100 trees in 1992 – work done by 350 Boy Scouts and local volunteers – 2 years later, tree survival rate was 96% • stabilized banks • placed bird boxes – work done by school groups
BENEFITS TO DATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safer during calving season • creek is narrow and deeper • flash high flows and flooding drastically decreased to almost none



Vivian, Brian, Ian and Joshua Jones – three generations caring for a buffer strip in North Simcoe County.



“We lost 17 acres from pasture, which had to be compensated. In 1995–97, our son Ian used this project to introduce intensive rotational grazing to compensate, and the result was not needing to rent additional pasture land.” Brian Jones



“The buffer is a great recreational spot for the kids. They travel back and forth. It is a great benefit for our grandchildren.” Brian Jones