

## GRCA General Membership

<b>Chair</b>	Helen Jowett
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Chris White
<b>Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Melancthon and Southgate and Town of Grand Valley</b>	Guy Gardhouse
<b>Townships of Mapleton and Wellington North</b>	Pat Salter
<b>Township of Centre Wellington</b>	Kelly Linton
<b>Town of Erin, Townships of Guelph/Eramosa and Puslinch</b>	Chris White
<b>City of Guelph</b>	Bob Bell, Mike Salisbury
<b>Region of Waterloo</b>	Les Armstrong, Elizabeth Clarke, Sue Foxton, Helen Jowett, Geoff Lorentz, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Wayne Roth, Sandy Shantz, Warren Stauch
<b>Municipality of North Perth and Township of Perth East</b>	George Wicke
<b>Halton Region</b>	Cindy Lunau
<b>City of Hamilton</b>	George Stojanovic
<b>Oxford County</b>	Bruce Banbury
<b>County of Brant</b>	Brian Coleman, Shirley Simons
<b>City of Brantford</b>	Dave Neumann, Vic Prendergast
<b>Haldimand and Norfolk Counties</b>	Bernie Corbett, Fred Morison

## Water conservation urged

Water users throughout the Grand River watershed were asked on June 29 to cut their consumption by 10 per cent, because of the unusually dry weather this year.

Low rainfall since mid-April has contributed to reduced stream flows on tributaries throughout the watershed. The GRCA has increased augmentation levels at its large reservoirs in order to maintain low flow targets on the Grand and Speed rivers.

The call for the reduction came from the Grand River Low Water Response Team, which met in a conference call on Wednesday. The team is made up of representatives of major water users including municipalities, farmers, golf course operators, water bottlers, aggregate businesses, Six Nations and others.

The Low Water Response Team decided to place the entire watershed at Level 1 under the Ontario Low Water Response Program. Level 1 is a request for a voluntary 10 per cent reduction in water consumption by all water users, including municipalities, aggregate operations, golf courses, water bottlers, farms for irrigation and private users. For residents, the most effective thing they can do right now is to follow their municipal outdoor water use bylaws, which limit watering to specific days and times. On July 7, the Whitemens Creek subwatershed was placed in Level 2, reducing water use by 20 per cent.

## New mapping for Kitchener's Schneider Creek

The GRCA has been working with the City of Kitchener and the Region of Waterloo on a study to update floodplain mapping for the reach of Schneider Creek between Stirling Avenue and Sydney Street in Kitchener.

This section of the creek is designated as a Two-Zone policy area, meaning the floodplain is divided into two areas — the floodway and the flood fringe. Development is generally prohibited in the floodway and allowed, with restrictions, within the flood fringe.

The result of the study, completed by MMM Group, is updated mapping of the extent of the floodplain and floodway limits. The GRCA board endorsed the new mapping and it will be used as the guiding document when dealing with planning matters and permit applications within the area.

In addition, the study looked at scenarios that may come about, given the high potential for large-scale redevelopment in this area. These lay out potential opportunities for future development and will be further considered through a planning process led by the City of Kitchener.

## Sad news on osprey nest

June 24 brought sad news on the osprey nest.

Early in the morning a raccoon climbed up the nest pole and invaded the nest. The adult female osprey attempted to defend the two chicks, but unfortunately was not successful and the chicks didn't survive.

Since April, many OspreyCam viewers have enjoyed watching the birds in their natural environment. While it is sad that the osprey chicks will not fledge this year, it reminds us that the lives of osprey are not easy and they face many dangers.

Both adults have been back on the nest since the attack and do not appear to be physically injured. The GRCA is investigating changes to prevent a similar occurrence at this nest in the future.

## Brantford dike work

The GRCA will spend more than \$80,000 repairing the Brantford dikes.

The work will be carried out by Robert M. Simon Construction Ltd. which was awarded the tender for dike and landfill area erosion repair. The GRCA manages the Brantford dike system to ensure it can hold back water during flooding. This includes routine mowing of the dike, annual inspections and repair projects. Part of the dike above a storm outlet has slumped, causing a hazard to mowing. It needs to be repaired to



ensure that the drainage outlet continues to function.

Geotechnical investigation and design work was completed by Ecosystem Recovery Group in 2015, leading to this final design and tender. The work includes extending the outlet, creating a more gradual slope, building a headwall and installing a railing to improve safety.

Funding for this project has been included in the Water Control Structures maintenance budgets, with half coming from the GRCA and the other half from the province.

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## Dry June weather

The late spring and early summer of 2016 has been very dry so far and the reservoirs are being used to help ensure there is enough water in the local rivers to meet the needs of all communities downstream.

While May was dry, cooler temperatures during the month helped to keep water on the land. June has brought some very large, dry air masses that pull moisture from the land and, as a result, the natural river flows are down.

By the middle of June, reservoir water accounted for about 70 per cent of the flow through Kitchener, 30 per cent of the flow through Brantford and 35 per cent of the flow below Guelph.

Reservoirs are within the normal operating range for this time of year. The summer is expected to be dry and there could be remnant hurricanes that could bring rain to help the watershed recover in the fall.

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## East side lands study

A master environmental servicing plan and secondary plan is underway for a portion of lands referred to as the east side lands, generally located east of the Grand River, between highways 7 and 8, in Cambridge and Woolwich Township.

This area was identified by the Region of Waterloo for future growth.

The GRCA is part of this project that includes a subwatershed study and other high-level studies that will guide development in the area. These studies include stormwater management, transportation, water and wastewater servicing, utilities and a fiscal impact



A full slate of activities led by nature guides is underway at Grand River Parks, including a new series on wilderness survival skills. Here a family learns how to build a shelter at Shade's Mills Park. See the activity calendar [www.grandriver.ca/events](http://www.grandriver.ca/events).

analysis. A Secondary Plan for the lands in Cambridge will also be undertaken.

The GRCA is contributing \$10,000 to this \$650,300 project and has created detailed base mapping. It is anticipated that mapping features such as wetlands and floodplains will be updated and used to amend the GRCA Regulation mapping for the area.

A draft subwatershed study is expected to be completed before the end of this year. The final master environmental servicing plan and secondary plan will be completed by spring, 2017. This work needs to be undertaken before the land can be developed.

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## New Foundation chair

Robin-Lee Norris, a senior partner with the law firm Miller Thomson LLP in Guelph, will be the new chair of the Grand River Conservation Foundation for the next two years.

The GRCF is a registered charity with a board made up of community leaders from throughout the watershed. Their role is to raise funds for GRCA projects that have few or no other sources of revenue, such as trails and outdoor education facilities.

The Foundation held its annual general meeting in June and also elected Malcolm Matheson, president of Steed and Evans Limited in Heidelberg as the new vice-chair.

At the meeting, the board welcomed new member George Lourenco of Capital Paving in Guelph for a three-year term. The previous chair, Joy O'Donnell of Brantford, has completed her two-year term and continues serving on the board as past chair.

Three long-standing directors who had each served terms as board chair — David Hales, Doug Brock and Crawford Reid — retired as a result of completing their terms.

This issue of *GRCA Current* was published in July, 2016.

It is a summary of the June 2016 business conducted by the Grand River Conservation Authority board and committees, as well as other noteworthy happenings and topics of interest.

The Grand River Conservation Authority welcomes distribution, photocopying and forwarding of *GRCA Current*.

### Next board meeting:

July 22 at 9:30 a.m.,  
GRCA Administration Centre

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