

## 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

## GRCA part of provincial climate change committee

The GRCA's director of engineering, Dwight Boyd, is stepping down after several years as the chair of the Ontario Climate Advisory Committee.

However water resources engineer Stephanie Shifflett has been elected to the vice-chair position of this committee, so the GRCA will continue to have a strong presence.

The Ontario Climate Advisory Committee (OCAC) was established in 1992 to address a range of climate issues across Ontario. The committee is made up of 19 members from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, universities, the private sector and other organizations with an interest in climate issues.

The committee offers a unique opportunity to provide advice to Environment and Climate Change Canada regarding climate issues in Ontario. Shifflett is one of two representatives from conservation authorities on the committee.

Planning for the fall provincial flood forecasting and warning workshop in September is underway.

## WMP leads to more resilient watershed

The 2015 annual report on the first year of implementation of the Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan went to the GRCA board.

The WMP outlines 163 actions, with nearly 20 per cent of the actions already completed and 60 per cent in progress.

The plan was finalized and endorsed in 2014, and 2015 was the first full year of implementation. The 16 plan partners meet quarterly to report on progress and share their experiences. Continuous monitoring and adjustments to the plan are needed to ensure that the best practices achieve the intended results.

This voluntary action plan was developed over five years. It was completed and endorsed by all partners. It identifies what the partners have

agreed they will do and how they are progressing.

Reporting is done through the annual report each May and the plan's goals will result in a more resilient and healthier watershed that can better cope with challenges such as continued growth and climate change.

## CA legislation review underway

The provincial government has completed the first phase of its review of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

In response to feedback obtained during this phase of the review, the government has established five priorities for updating the legislative, regulatory and policy framework for the act.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has posted a report called *Conserving our Future* – proposed priorities for renewal on the Environmental Registry for comment. Responses to the posting are due on Sept. 9.

The province has scheduled several stakeholder engagement sessions and GRCA staff will be attending. Conservation Ontario, the organization that represents all 36 conservation authorities within the province, has set up a working group to provide feedback on the proposed priorities for review.

## Three water festivals in May

Three Children's Water Festivals in May saw about 7,000 students attend a day-long event with their class to learn about water issues, including water conservation.

The 11th annual Brantford-Brant Children's Water Festival was May 17 to 19. The following week the Haldimand Children's Water Festival took place at Taquanyah Nature Centre, followed by the Waterloo-Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival the next week.

The festivals give elementary school students an opportunity to learn about water by participating



in hands-on activities related to water and water science. About 750 high school students volunteered helped out at this event.

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## Cool dry May

May was very dry, with less than 50 per cent of the long-term average precipitation for the month.

The month had one significant rainfall May 13-14 with close to 20 mm of rain recorded across the watershed. A few other days recorded less than 5 mm of rain, which is not enough to produce runoff.

The dry conditions in May followed a fairly wet April and March. Overall precipitation March to May was close to average.

May was on the cooler side, with cool nights and slightly below normal daytime temperatures. The average air temperature in May at the Shand Dam was 11 C, which is about 1 C below the long-term average. April and May were the only two months in the last 12 with average temperatures below the long-term average.

Water levels in the large reservoirs (Shand, Conestogo, Luther and Guelph) are within the normal operating range for this time of year.

By May 24, augmentation accounted for almost 25 per cent of the flow through Kitchener, 10 per cent of the flow through Brantford and 10 per cent of the flow on the Speed River below Guelph.

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## Busy summer planned

Grand River Parks are offering a wider range of events than ever before this summer with a sizzling slate in June to kick off summer.

More than 40 June events are now listed online at [www.grandriver.ca/events](http://www.grandriver.ca/events) and more events will be added soon.

Whether you or your family want to hone your outdoor survival skills, search for pollywogs or see eagles nesting along the Grand River, the programs led by nature guides offer numerous opportunities to connect with nature.

The GRCA continues to add more diversity to the programs each year to meet the growing interest in the outdoors. In addition, many partners offer programs and sporting events at Grand River Parks —



Photo by Amber Morais Niemela

A life jacket loaner program is available at Grand River Parks for swimmers at beaches and pools. Through this program, park staff have life jackets on hand to loan out for free with a small, refundable deposit or photo identification as security.

some for spectators and others for participants.

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## Funding for mapping floodplains

Staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry confirmed that \$225,000 in funding will be provided to the GRCA to complete floodplain mapping pilot projects in 2016-2017. The outcome of this work will benefit conservation authorities and the province, as floodplain mapping is updated in Ontario and across the country.

Current funding will focus on work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to adapt the Corps hydrology model and flood forecasting framework for application in Ontario, including the Grand River watershed. A technology transfer workshop is also being planned for March 2017.

This will improve the information used by the GRCA and our many partners to make decisions in response to floods.

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## Season two of ParkBus

The ParkBus service has expanded its connection between urban Toronto and Grand River Parks this summer.

This service was offered for the first time in 2015 and it now has a full schedule of day trips to Elora Gorge and Rockwood parks from downtown Toronto.

Ontario's Minister of Tourism at the time, Bardish Chagger, visited Elora Gorge on May 21 for the official kick off of the second season of this service. The media were also invited to take the bus for a day trip.

This issue of *GRCA Current* was published in June 2016.

It is a summary of the May 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:

June 24 at 9:30 a.m.,  
GRCA Administration Centre

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