

## 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



## Seeking comments on updated mapping

The GRCA recently completed a project to update watercourse mapping throughout the Grand River watershed and has been seeking public comments on these changes.

Members of the public were invited to provide comments at sessions on Sept. 27 in Fergus, Sept. 28 in Paris and Sept. 29 in Cambridge. Online comments are being accepted until 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7 at [www.grandriver.ca/mapreview](http://www.grandriver.ca/mapreview).

The GRCA helps to protect natural areas and watercourses such as rivers, streams, flood plains, wetlands, steep slopes and the Lake Erie shoreline by regulating construction, grading, alteration and development activities in and near those areas. This is done through Ontario Regulation 150/06 under the Conservation Authorities Act. With more recent information now available, the GRCA is proposing amendments to the mapping that is currently used by the public for Ontario Regulation 150/06.

The proposed changes to the mapping won't affect the area that is currently regulated. However, they will more clearly show the regulated areas on the mapping, making it easier to visually identify these areas.

The updated watercourse mapping will be available to all external users for download once this review is complete.

## Level 2 still in effect

The entire Grand River watershed remains in the Level 2 low water condition that was first declared on Aug. 9 by the Grand River Low Water Response Team.

Rainfall across the watershed since Aug. 9 has been sufficient to maintain water levels. Recovery of the watershed to normal conditions is a slow process, and stream flow has been returning to low conditions in between the rain events.

The Grand River Low Water Response Team will continue to monitor conditions and will remove the low water status when the watershed

recovers to normal conditions.

## Water and wastewater treatment contract

The GRCA has hired R.J. Burnside and Associates to provide consulting engineering services related to water and wastewater treatment for three years.

The GRCA provides water and wastewater services to each its 11 conservation areas, Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area and five nature centres. Some of these sites are serviced by a direct connection to municipal services, while others have onsite systems.

The contract includes an option to extend these services for two more years at the discretion of the GRCA.

## Wetland violation resolved

The GRCA planning department worked with Brant County landowners who created a secondary access road in a wetland in 2015.

Following unsuccessful attempts by staff to resolve the violation, the landowners were charged under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act for development in a wetland without a GRCA permit.

However, the roadway has recently been removed and the wetland restoration has been completed to the satisfaction of GRCA. The charges have also been withdrawn.

## Environmental summer camps were popular

The GRCA's summer camp programs were popular this summer.

The GRCA offered 36 weeks of camp programming at five locations. In total, 1,430 campers attended programs and filled 90 per cent of the available camp spaces. Camp program also provided summer employment for 19 summer

students.

School programming got underway at all of the nature centres in early September and plans are underway for camps for kids during the winter break and March break.

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## Water managers and planners meet

The annual joint meeting of the water managers and planning managers from across the Grand River watershed was held Sept. 14 as part of the Grand River Water Management Plan implementation.

Over 35 people attended from various municipalities and government agencies. They discussed growth and development pressures in the context of the coordinated review of the four provincial land use plans. The implementation of the Water Management Plan was highlighted along with land use planning and actions taken to integrate water management into the natural heritage strategy and municipal official plans.

Growth and development pressures continue in the watershed, especially in the headwater region where the rivers have a limited capacity to receive more wastewater effluent. A broader subwatershed planning approach to wastewater treatment and river assimilation may result in new opportunities that can save significant capital infrastructure spending.

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## Traditional winter on the way

A traditional winter is in the forecast for the Grand River watershed.

Above-average temperatures are predicted by Environment Canada for the fall, with precipitation expected to be near normal. However, the water temperature of the Great Lakes is high, which means more lake-effect snow is likely to fall from the sky this winter.

The first half of September was drier than August with only one storm, and most of the rain fell in the northern portion of the watershed.

Water levels in Shand and Guelph reservoirs are below the normal operating range, Conestogo Dam is at the lower end of the normal range, and Luther is within its normal operating range for this time of year. Higher precipitation over the past month has



Happy fall! This photo was taken at Shade's Mills Park and submitted to the 2014 GRCA photo contest by Sarah Gray. The 2016 GRCA photo contest has been underway for several months and ends Oct. 28.

alleviated some of the pressure on the reservoirs for flow augmentation and reduced evaporative losses, but inflows to the reservoirs remain low.

River augmentation was high throughout the summer and continued to be significant into September. Augmentation accounted for approximately 75 per cent of the river flow through Kitchener, 35 per cent of the flow through Brantford and 50 per cent of the flow on the Speed River below Guelph.

months and has several steps before the final budget goes to the GRCA board in February. The GRCA will begin making budget presentations to the municipal councils starting in October.

A final GRCA budget will go to the GRCA board in February.

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## Budget process for 2017 is already underway

The GRCA board was presented with the first draft of the 2017 GRCA budget at the September meeting.

It includes \$29.4 million in expenditures and more special funding will be added before the budget is finalized.

The general municipal levy is budgeted to increase by \$266,000, or 2.5 per cent.

The draft budget outlines revenue and expenses for current GRCA programs. These are funded by the municipal general levy, other municipal funding by special agreements, provincial and federal grants, self-generated revenue and funding from GRCA reserves.

The GRCA's budget process takes several

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

It is a summary of the September 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:**  
October 28 at 9:30 a.m.,  
GRCA Administration Centre

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