

# GRCA Current



February, 2017 • Volume 22 Number 2

## GRCA General Membership

**Chair** Helen Jowett

**Vice-Chair** Chris White

**Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Melancthon and Southgate and Town of Grand Valley**

Guy Gardhouse

**Townships of Mapleton and Wellington North**

Pat Salter

**Township of Centre Wellington**

Kirk McElwain

**Town of Erin, Townships of Guelph/Eramosa and Puslinch**

Chris White

**City of Guelph**

Bob Bell, Mike Salisbury

**Region of Waterloo**

Les Armstrong, Elizabeth Clarke, Sue Foxtan, Helen Jowett, Geoff Lorentz, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Wayne Roth, Sandy Shantz, Warren Stauch

**Municipality of North Perth and Township of Perth East**

George Wicke

**Halton Region**

Cindy Lunau

**City of Hamilton**

George Stojanovic

**Oxford County**

Bruce Banbury

**County of Brant**

Brian Coleman, Shirley Simons

**City of Brantford**

Dave Neumann, Vic Prendergast

**Haldimand and Norfolk Counties**

Bernie Corbett, Fred Morison

## Both chair and vice-chair return for second year

Both GRCA board chair Helen Jowett and vice-chair Chris White will continue leading the GRCA board.

They were acclaimed by the GRCA board of directors at the general membership meeting January 27 for a second one-year term. As per the GRCA by-laws, a member is eligible to be re-elected to the role of chair or vice-chair for up to a maximum of five one-year terms.

Jowett is a Region of Waterloo councillor for Cambridge and White is the mayor of Guelph/Eramosa Township.

The 26-member GRCA board is composed of representatives appointed by the municipalities within the Grand River watershed.

## Everton Mill burns down

The Everton Mill east of Guelph burned to the ground on the morning of January 19.

The GRCA is securing and cleaning up the site, and insurance on the building will cover these costs. Police are investigating the cause of the fire. The mill had been vacant for many years.

The Heritage River Inventory referred to this as the Hortop Mill. It was built in 1821 by Rufus Everts as a saw and grist mill. Later, the mill was operated by William Hortop, who produced soft flour which was sold to Christie's Bakery in Toronto. Flour produced at the mill was exported throughout the world under the brand name of Lily White Flour. The roadside mill remained in the Hortop family until it was purchased by the GRCA in 1966.

In January. It issued the first water safety message of the year on January 3 due to runoff from a storm at the end of December. A Colorado low came during the week of January 9 bringing snow, rain and more warm weather.

A flood watch message was issued January 12 and updated January 13, when there was some ice jam flooding in Cayuga.

Most of 2016 was very dry, with the exception of a few months with intense precipitation. December was one of those very wet months. However, the southern part of the watershed has not been receiving as much precipitation as normal.

In January, the watershed moved from the Level 2 low water condition declared in August, 2016 to Level 1, because the reservoirs returned to normal operations. The main concern at the end of January was the recovery of the groundwater system from the extended dry period in 2016.

## GRCA will host Rogers communications tower

A cellphone tower will be constructed on GRCA land near Puslinch Lake.

The communications tower will be 50 metres high and is being installed by Rogers Communications Inc. to improve cellphone coverage in Puslinch Township and along Highway 401.

The tower will be along Wellington Road 32 on the site of a demolished house. The former driveway will be used for access.

This is a lease agreement is for five years, with a provision for three further five-year terms of renewal.

## Warm wet weather

Wet weather has returned to the Grand River watershed and this bodes well for the water supply.

The heavy precipitation resulted in a busy month for the GRCA's Flood Operations Centre

## Volunteer program grows

The GRCA's new volunteer program has taken root in the Grand River watershed.

In 2016, nearly 2,800 volunteers contributed more than 7,400 hours through the program,



which was a 25 per cent increase in hours over the first year. Among other activities, they helped out at 42 events organized by the GRCA and partners. These take place at Grand River Parks and on other GRCA properties.

The goal of the program is to increase volunteer opportunities and formalize volunteering at the GRCA. It promotes the work of the GRCA, builds and enhances community partnerships and connects more people to the watershed in a meaningful way.

A focus of the program is working with companies that offer their staff an opportunity to volunteer. Eight companies and 14 organizations participated in the program in 2016.

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## FSC certified firewood tender awarded

The GRCA sells Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified firewood that has been sustainably sourced during the camping season at its eight parks.

The \$650,000 contract to supply this firewood for the next three years went to J.H. Keeso & Sons Ltd. of Listowell, which also had the two-year contract that recently expired. They will supply wood for the next three camping seasons.

FSC certification is an international program that ensures the wood comes from responsibly managed forests that meet FSC's strict environmental and social standards.

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## Chair appointed to source protection

Wendy Wright-Cascaden has been appointed as the chair of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

Wright-Cascaden has served as acting chair of the committee since September 2015 and has been a member of the committee since 2007. She is a retired planner with more than 35 years of municipal experience, much of it as a senior manager and department head at the City of Cambridge.

This committee is one of 19 across Ontario that were created under the Clean Water Act.

It updates and reports on implementation of the source protection plan that covers the



Blowing snow on the roads is a danger to drivers, but trees can help. People with a farm or country property can help make winter driving safer by planting living snow fences. Trees improve visibility and reduce drifting snow. There is a program that provides grants for this type of project. Call 519-621-2761 and ask for a forestry specialist to learn more.

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Grand River, Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek and Long Point region. The plan is very extensive and was 10 years in the making. This plan came into effect on July 1, 2016.

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## Managing trees March 4

A trees workshop will answer questions landowners have about trees and help them to develop skills and strategies to maintain and improve their trees.

The event takes place Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the GRCA head office in Cambridge. Participation is free and lunch is included. To register, visit [www.managingtrees.eventbrite.ca](http://www.managingtrees.eventbrite.ca), email [ruralwater@grandriver.ca](mailto:ruralwater@grandriver.ca), or call 519-621-2763, ext. 2262.

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## Three volleyball courts at Shade's Mills

Three beach volleyball courts will be constructed at Shade's Mills Park this summer, thanks to funding from the Trillium Foundation and a unique partnership with the Scorpions Youth Volleyball Club.

The courts will be used by the Scorpion leagues and park visitors. They will also be available for rent for small tournaments.

The courts will be built with the same quality of sand that is used at the Olympics, and they will be the only public courts with this quality sand in Waterloo Region.

They will be located near the existing beach volleyball court, which will be replaced.

Five more volleyball courts may be constructed at Shade's Mills in the future.

This issue of *GRCA Current* was published in February, 2017.

It is a summary of the January, 2017 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:

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

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