

## 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>	Kirk McElwain
<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

## Beach management at conservation areas

The GRCA and the three watershed health units are working together to educate people about how they can reduce the risks of getting sick when swimming in a natural body of water.

New signs have been installed at the GRCA's nine beaches. These explain the conditions that lead to an elevated risk of water-borne illness in a natural body of water. The conditions include recent heavy rain, cloudy water, high wind and waves, and large numbers of birds nearby.

GRCA staff will continue to take water quality samples every other week during July and August. This information will be used to help monitor long-term trends in water quality at the swimming areas. Staff will continue to do a daily beach check.

The new signs are part of a joint communications plan that replaces the beach posting process used for the past few decades. A smaller version of the sign is posted at each park gatehouse and a handout is also available at the parks.

A web page, including a recent rainfall table, is also available for park visitors at [www.grandriver.ca/beaches](http://www.grandriver.ca/beaches).

summer to ensure there's enough water in the river system for drinking water and waste water treatment plants. Based on this operating strategy, GRCA reservoirs have limited flood control storage during the drier summer months, when reservoirs are already 90 to 96 per cent full. This limited extra storage helped delay peak flows downstream by a few hours.

The GRCA has a sophisticated network of rainfall and flow gauges throughout the watershed that monitor conditions 24 hours a day. In the event of a heavy downpour, or high river flows, GRCA staff are immediately notified and an action plan is put in place to notify watershed residents. Part of this action plan involves municipal flood coordinators, who notify residents directly and close roads that are at risk of flooding.

River flows have receded throughout the watershed, but people are urged to remain cautious on local waterways. A large amount of debris was washed into rivers, and a number of warning buoys upstream of dams were displaced but most have now been replaced.

A web page about this flood is available at [www.grandriver.ca/flooding](http://www.grandriver.ca/flooding).

## Record rainfall June 23 results in flooding

More than 120 mm of rain fell across the northern part of the watershed during the early morning hours on Friday, June 23.

This rainfall, the highest daily total on record based on records dating back to 1950, resulted in significant flooding throughout the Grand River watershed. Weather forecasts leading up to the event indicated minimal rainfall and localized severe thunderstorms, but there was no indication of rainfall of this magnitude or extent.

The GRCA's major reservoirs serve two purposes. They help provide maximum flood control in the spring and fall when it is needed most, and also support flow augmentation in the

## Upper Cedar Creek study

Waterloo Region is undertaking a subwatershed study of the Cedar Creek subwatershed with support from the GRCA.

The study will focus on the northwest subwatershed lands in Kitchener and North Dumfries.

Subwatershed studies provide technical background on the surface water, groundwater and ecosystems within the area. The goal is to maintain, restore or enhance the health of the system. This study will recommend how and where potential development and other changes could occur in a sustainable manner.

The terms of reference for the project were developed by Waterloo Region and the GRCA. The study is being led by Matrix Solutions Inc. The study includes physical characterization and



assessing development potential and impacts. It will also create an implementation plan and an integrated monitoring plan.

As a result of the study, there may be changes to the regulated areas including floodplains, wetlands and watercourses.

Public meetings for this project are expected to begin in the spring of 2018 and will include consultation for revisions to the GRCA's regulation mapping in the watershed.

The study is being funded and administered by the Region of Waterloo, while GRCA staff is providing in-kind contributions, including project management, technical review and detailed base mapping.

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## Hazard mapping study

The GRCA will lead the Haldimand County Lake Erie Shoreline Hazard Mapping study on behalf of Haldimand County, Long Point Region Conservation Authority and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

This study will update hazard mapping associated with flooding, erosion and dynamic beach conditions. Hazard mapping will help flood and erosion-related emergency response and planning. It will also help with planning and permitting decisions in at-risk communities, including Dunnville and Port Maitland.

Updated and consistent mapping across the three conservation authority jurisdictions within Haldimand will help in development and implementation of shoreline-related land use planning policies.

Currently, all three conservation authorities have separate Shoreline Management Plans covering the Lake Erie shoreline in their watersheds.

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## Proposed update to CA legislation

On June 14, Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Kathryn McGarry, announced proposed changes designed to modernize Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act at the GRCA head office in Cambridge.

The ministry is proceeding with Conserving Our Future: A Modernized



Heavy rainfall across the northern part of the watershed on Friday, June 23 resulted in flooding in many areas. Rainfall of 120 mm at Luther Marsh was the highest daily total on record since 1950 when records began. This photo by A. Kaastra was taken on the Grand River at Wilson Flats, upstream of West Montrose.

Conservation Authorities Act after input received through two years of consultation.

The document provides a long-term work plan and priorities for implementing changes proposed in the new legislation to increase accountability and improve programs.

The province's proposed changes address key priorities identified and promoted by Conservation Ontario and the conservation authorities including the GRCA throughout the consultation.

Conservation authorities, including the GRCA, look forward to working with the ministry in support of this new action plan.

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## Wellington County renews RWQP support

Wellington County has recently renewed its support for the Rural Water Quality Program for five more years and committed \$425,000 for environmental projects carried out by landowners in 2017.

The goal of the program is to help rural landowners make changes on the land that will improve and protect the water quality in Wellington County, also benefiting the communities downstream. Landowners apply for grants for projects they would like to undertake. The GRCA has staff available to help them work out the project details and complete their applications.

The landowner receives 50 to 100 per cent of the costs, depending on the type of project. The landowner contributes the balance in cash, materials or labour. Participation in the program is voluntary.

This program launched in Wellington County in 1999. More than 2,600 projects worth approximately \$21 million have been completed. The GRCA delivers similar programs in other parts of the watershed. For more information contact

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

It is a summary of the June, 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:

July 28 at 9:30 a.m.,  
GRCA Administration Centre

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