

## 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

## Wet cool weather

Most of the climate stations in the watershed recorded a month's worth of rain during the first week of May, and the month continued to provide lots of rainfall.

A slow-moving weather system May 3 to 5 delivered heavy rainfall to southern Ontario. Rain gauges in the Grand River watershed recorded 60 to 75 mm of rain during this time. This resulted in the closure of the low level bridges in St. Jacobs and Cambridge, as well as a warning about potential flooding in New Hamburg, Ayr and at several seasonal trailer parks along the Grand River.

Many comparisons were made to the May 1974 flood; however, a great deal has changed in flood management within the Grand River watershed since that time. There are many more processes in place to improve outcomes, and the rain arrived more slowly. The reservoirs reduced the peak flows by up to 30 per cent directly downstream of the reservoirs and by about 20 per cent in the central Grand River.

May was also cooler than normal, continuing a trend set this spring.

Water levels in the reservoirs are in the normal operating range, thanks to the high precipitation. Lake Erie continues to be well above the long-term average.

water management that got underway several decades ago with two previous water management plans.

## Parkhill Dam project consultation underway

The GRCA is planning to build a hydro plant at Parkhill Dam in Cambridge and pre-consultation for an Environmental Assessment of the project is underway.

These pre-consultation meetings are with stakeholders and provide them with information about the project before the Environmental Assessment begins. The meetings are intended to increase awareness of the project. The stakeholder groups include regulating agencies, Six Nations of the Grand, Mississaugas of the New Credit, the City of Cambridge, nearby landowners and others.

The first public information centre to learn more about the project is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Cambridge Mill – Falls Room. A second public information centre will be scheduled for September.

If you would like to be added to the contact list to receive information about this project, please email your request to [parkhill@grandriver.ca](mailto:parkhill@grandriver.ca).

## Third annual report of the Water Management Plan

The third progress report on the Grand River Water Management Plan covering 2016 is complete and now posted on the GRCA website.

The plan itself was endorsed in 2014 and compiles actions from 16 partners to advance the plan's goals. Since 2014, members of the Water Managers Working Group, a committee of senior staff representing partner organizations, have been meeting quarterly. Each year the group prepares a report to summarize completed actions and track the progress of those still underway.

This continues the collaborative approach to

## GRCF looks back on positive results in 2016

In 2016 the Grand River Conservation Foundation provided nearly \$1.27 million for many types of projects related to the GRCA.

Over the course of the year, donations that ranged from \$5 to \$250,000 were given, mostly by individual donors.

The projects that benefited from these funds include the winter program expansion, the learning grounds at the future site of the new Guelph Lake Nature Centre, park trail improvements, an amphitheatre and natural playground at Shade's Mills, memorial trees and many more.



During the year, the Foundation raised nearly \$1.2 million. Some of this money is held for future projects and some was given out during the year.

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## Changes to Elora Quarry

The GRCA is taking steps to improve the visitor experience at Elora Quarry this summer, with a focus on increasing public safety and decreasing the overall environmental impact to the park.

The maximum daily capacity of the park has been set at 1,300 guests. On days when maximum capacity is reached, visitors will be encouraged to visit nearby Grand River Parks such as Elora Gorge, Belwood Lake and Guelph Lake, as well as other local attractions.

Most recently, overcrowding of this popular summer swimming location has begun to put significant pressure on the local environment around the park, as well as negatively impact the experience that visitors expect at Grand River Parks.

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## Subscribe to GRCA events this summer

The GRCA's parks and nature centres, as well as many partners, are offering abundant opportunities to get outside and enjoy nature close to home this summer at GRCA facilities.

These programs are now in full swing. There are more than 40 events listed in June on the GRCA's online calendar at [www.grandriver.ca/calendar](http://www.grandriver.ca/calendar).

Individuals can subscribe to categories of events that are of interest to them, such as park events, sports events and fishing events. In this way, they will receive an email in their inbox each Wednesday that covers the upcoming events over the next 14 days.

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## GRCA offering Canoeing 101

Four Grand River Parks are offering the opportunity for local residents to experience a bit of Canadian heritage for Canada 150 by taking Canoeing 101 this summer.

This two-hour introduction to canoeing is available at Shade's Mills (Cambridge), Laurel Creek (Waterloo), Pinehurst Lake (Ayr) and Rockwood. The introductory



There were smiles all around June 6 when the last planting project for spring 2017 was done. The wet spring bodes well for tree survival, but it delayed some plantings, such as this windbreak made up of 400 Norway spruce in Haldimand. All together, about 175,000 trees were planted by the GRCA this spring.

program will help local residents become comfortable in one of Canada's very first modes of transportation — the canoe.

It includes instruction in canoe safety, paddle strokes and basic manoeuvres. It is geared towards new paddlers, or paddlers who would like to refresh their skills and get some help with their strokes. Register with a partner, or by yourself.

The \$20 canoeing sessions start at 6 p.m., but early arrival will allow paddlers to pick up their equipment and meet up with their paddling partner.

Preregistration is required and can be done online at [www.grandriver.eventbrite.ca](http://www.grandriver.eventbrite.ca).

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

It is a summary of the May 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:

Friday, June 23 at 9:30 a.m.,  
GRCA Administration Centre

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