

## 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 Foxton, 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



## April wet and warm

Precipitation in April was above-average across the watershed.

April was also fairly warm. Temperatures averaged 6.9 C at Shand Dam during the first half of the month, which is about 3.6 C warmer than normal.

April's only flood message was a watershed conditions statement issued April 6, after a watershed-wide rainfall event. This event resulted in high flows in watercourses throughout the watershed.

Shand, Conestogo and Guelph reservoirs were near the upper part of the normal range by the end of the month. The GRCA reservoirs are operated very carefully at this time of year, due to reduced flood storage capacity. Water will continue to be taken into storage during the first part of May, when lots of rain is expected.

The water level of Lake Erie continues to be well above the long-term average.

## Water Festivals in May

Three children's water festivals are taking place in May and they focus on five water-related themes — science, protection, technology, conservation and water attitudes.

The first festival is May 16 to 18 at Mohawk Park in Brantford. This festival is for Grade 4 classes from schools in Brantford, Brant County and Six Nations of the Grand River.

Next up is the Haldimand Children's Water Festival, May 24 to 25, at Taquanyah Nature Centre near Cayuga. This festival is also for Grade 4 students from schools in Haldimand County, Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the New Credit.

The final festival is the Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival, May 26 and May 29 to June 1 at Waterloo Region Museum. This festival is for primary students in the Region of Waterloo, Wellington County and the City of Guelph and is one of the longest-running water festivals in the province.

## More information needed on Hidden Quarry

GRCA staff has reviewed applications related to the Hidden Quarry project and will not make further recommendations on the project until more information is received from the applicant.

The proposal is for an aggregate extraction operation of nearly 25 hectares that is two kilometres east of Rockwood. It has a tributary of Blue Springs running through it, while two other tributaries and some wetlands are nearby. The owner has applied to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for a license for below water table extraction without dewatering. Zoning amendments are also required from Guelph/Eramosa Township and Wellington County for this project.

The GRCA has provided technical review comments in an advisory capacity, based on the GRCA's Memo of Understanding with Wellington County.

A report to the board noted that the GRCA has asked that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, County of Wellington and Township of Guelph/Eramosa defer consideration of the applications until the applicant's consultant undertakes additional groundwater analysis and has outlined several steps for this analysis that includes groundwater modeling and an updated ecological assessment.

Once the new information has been received by staff, they will make another presentation to the GRCA board for information.

## GRCA insurance coverage

The GRCA's general insurance policies have been renewed for one year, starting on April 1, 2017.

The GRCA purchases general insurance through a group consisting of Conservation Ontario and 34 conservation authorities in the province. Belonging to an insurance group can provide cost savings and other benefits, such as the sharing of risk management programs and

expertise. In addition to property, auto and liability policies, the group negotiated improvements in coverage for emerging trends such as cyber fraud.

The GRCA's insurance premiums will be lower than 2016, due to winding down of the residential rental program and changes in the way premiums are allocated to the members of the group.

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## Tree sale May 12

The GRCA's annual tree sale takes place at the forestry barn at the GRCA head office, on Friday, May 12, 8 a.m. to noon.

Trees available include small bare-root seedlings, two or three foot potted trees and five to seven foot saplings of many species. In addition to trees, the sale includes native wildflower seed mixes and wildflower plugs. Cancelled orders, trees not picked up and nursery overruns are part of this sale. The sale is first come, first served and line ups start early. Once the sale starts, five or six vehicles are brought to the loading dock. As those people leave, more cars are brought in.

The most popular trees sell out quickly, but there are always trees available at the end of the sale.

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## Summer camp now available at Taquanyah

Registration is underway for summer camps at six nature centres operated by the GRCA.

For the first time in many years, two weeks of camps are being held at Taquanyah Nature Centre near Cayuga. Belwood Lake has four weeks of camps — and is expanding beyond the popular fishing camps to offer more variety. Rockwood will run camps throughout the summer and registration is still available at the newly-renovated Apps' Mill Nature Centre near Brantford. Camp spots at Guelph Lake and Laurel Creek are nearly full.

Each week of camp has a different nature-based theme that is geared to specific interests and age groups. Descriptions of the camps and online registration are available at [www.grandriver.eventbrite.ca](http://www.grandriver.eventbrite.ca).

As of this year, these camps are accredited by the Ontario Camps Association (OCA). Accreditation reassures parents that the GRCA camps adhere to the highest



A grove of 150 large maple trees flanked by 600 white cedars was planted on Earth Day at the Guelph Lake Rotary Forest as the GRCA launched its Canada 150 campaign. The grove is shaped like a sugar maple leaf and will be visible from the sky as the trees grow. Inset is sugar maple flowers which are abundant this year.

standards of safety, supervision and quality programming as mandated by the OCA's standards.

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## Maples join Canada 150 producing excess flowers

If you park your car under a sugar maple tree you have probably noticed — sugar maples across the Grand River watershed have joined the Canada 150 celebrations by flowering abundantly this year.

While flowers may be produced by mature sugar maples every year, they only come in abundance in the entire population about every five to seven years. This is a year of abundance. The last time this happened was in 2013.

Maples have clusters of tiny delicate flowers that droop from a long thin flower stem, attached to the branch. By early May these flowers had finished blooming, but they remain on the tree as the new growth of sugar maple leaves unfold.

Because there are more flowers, there may also be more sugar maple keys that carry the seeds this fall, resulting in more small trees by next summer.

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## Warning booms installed

By early May, warning booms or white buoys have been installed upstream of GRCA dams to warn paddlers, anglers and boaters to stay away from the dams.

These are installed each spring as one of the many safety procedures developed by the GRCA to reduce the risk for people who enjoy water activities on rivers.

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

It is a summary of the April, 2017 business conducted by the GRCA board and other noteworthy happenings and topics of interest.

The Grand River Conservation Authority welcomes distribution, photocopying and forwarding of *GRCA Current*.

### Next board meeting:

May 26 at 9:30 a.m.,  
GRCA Administration Centre

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