

## 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

## 2017 Watershed Awards

The GRCA held its 42nd annual awards event on Oct. 19.

The top award — the Honour Roll award — went to Marilyn Murray of Guelph, who has been contributing to the work of the Grand River Conservation Foundation for three decades.

In addition, five 2017 Watershed Awards were given out:

- Apotex Pharmachem Inc. in Brantford has been working with the City of Brantford and other partners at the Brant Tree Coalition to plant trees.
- Nature Guelph is an active club that has taken on many nature projects and has been increasing the connection between nature and city residents for 51 years.
- Both Karen Bateman and Marilyn Swaby are volunteers with the Young Naturalist program where they play a key role in shaping the next generation of nature enthusiasts and stewards.
- Cambridge City Green's stewardship initiative engages the community to enhance the city's natural environment by planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers.
- Stuart Wright has made an outstanding environmental contribution through his involvement in the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA).

## 2017 Environmental scholarships and grants

Three scholarships were given out by the Grand River Conservation Foundation to support students attending post-secondary institutions in the watershed.

The SC Johnson Environmental Scholarship of \$4,000 went to Melissa Johnston, University of Guelph. The Allan Holmes Scholarship of \$3,000 went to Amy Rose Dietrich, University of Waterloo, and the McEwen Clean Water Prize of \$2,000 went to Allie Leadbetter, University of

Waterloo.

The Foundation also provided five community organizations with \$500 community conservation grants. These went to the Arthur Trails Group, Communitrees (Fergus), Kinbridge Community Association (Cambridge), Pollination Guelph and the Salvation Army Hope and Unity Garden (Kitchener).

## YMCA play area at Dumfries

The Chaplin YMCA in Cambridge has approval from the GRCA board to construct an enclosed children's play area on a small portion of Dumfries Conservation Area.

The YMCA approached the GRCA in June, asking for a licence agreement for non-exclusive use of this 0.06-hectare area next to the YMCA. Their plan is to create a shaded area with two pavilions that will incorporate sun shelters and picnic tables to be used for children's programming. The area will be surrounded by chain link fencing with a gate. In addition, the YMCA has agreed to assist the GRCA by constructing an information kiosk.

## New PA Day Camps at nature centres

For the first time, four GRCA nature centres are offering PA Day Camps.

Kids six to 12 (born 2005 to 2011) are invited to unplug from technology for the day and connect with the outdoors at Laurel Creek (Waterloo), Guelph Lake, Apps' Mill (Brantford) and Shade's Mills (Cambridge).

Campers will spend the day engaged in many types of nature activities designed to interest them in the outdoors in fun and educational ways.

More information and registration for these camps, as well as Winter Break Camps at Laurel Creek (Waterloo), Guelph Lake and Apps' Mill (Brantford), is available online at [www.grandriver.eventbrite.ca](http://www.grandriver.eventbrite.ca).



## Wet weather

Storms October 11 to 15 resulted in heavy rains, especially in the northern part of the watershed, while the remnants of tropical storm Nate delivered heavy rainfall in the southern part of the watershed on October 9.

This wet weather followed a dry September. The southern part of the watershed was especially dry, with both Shade's Mills and Brantford stations recording only about 30 per cent of the long-term average.

The first part of October was also much warmer than normal. This followed mixed temperatures in September, including three days which exceeded 30 degrees at Shand Dam. The average temperature in September was 17 degrees, which is three degrees warmer than the long-term average.

Water levels in the large reservoirs are being drawn down to their winter holding levels. The need for river augmentation increased in September and continued into October. In September, approximately 60 per cent of the flow through Kitchener and Guelph came from the reservoirs, along with 30 per cent of the flow through Brantford.

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## New planning fees

Resource planning fees are updated each year and will come into effect January 1, 2018.

Fees for permit applications, plan review, title clearance and inquiries are increasing by two per cent, rounded to the nearest \$5. The Home Builders/GRCA Liaison Committee was consulted, while the fee schedules of nearby conservation authorities and local municipalities were considered. The fees help to cover the GRCA's costs associated with planning, engineering, aquatics and terrestrial staff time.

The subdivision/condominium base fee is increasing to \$30,000. It is based on a per hectare calculation and had been capped at \$25,000 since 2013. A new fee has been added for subdivisions that applies to reports submitted four or more times. The new \$500 fee will assist with multiple submissions of the same report that don't address previous GRCA comments.

There will be no increase to the \$75 fees related to Rural Water Quality Program projects, expired permits and plans to amend an approved permit.



Environmental Education Specialist Duane Brown and a student from a class that is helping to remove a section of invasive phragmites, the very tall grass behind them at Taquanyah Conservation Area. The class is helping implement a plan to protect an endangered plant, Virginia mallow, seen in the foreground.

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## Warnings about high water in Lake Erie

The water level of Lake Erie has been well above the long-term average for some time, and the GRCA issued high lake level watch messages on October 24 and again at the end of the month.

Strong southwest winds can result in water moving towards the lower Grand River, even without any rainfall events. The winds have the potential to cause high waves and a storm surge that raises water levels along the northern shore of Lake Erie, resulting in shoreline flooding and erosion.

When a storm surge is possible, police and the Haldimand County flood co-ordinators are advised to monitor the situation and take any necessary actions, such as closing roads and bridges and advising area residents.

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## Wellesley Pond

Three options to enhance Wellesley Pond are under consideration by the community.

The pond is a centerpiece of Wellesley, but has experienced issues with water quality and nuisance geese in recent years.

Three concept drawings related to the pond project are at [www.wellesley.ca](http://www.wellesley.ca). Residents can attend an open house Wednesday November 8, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at

the Wellesley Community Centre, or email comments to the township until November 17. The three concepts and comments will be considered by the Friends of Wellesley Pond that is making the decision on the final design.

The Friends of Wellesley Pond and the Community of Wellesley naturalized sections of shoreline around the Wellesley Pond this summer.

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

It is a summary of the October, 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:**  
November 24 at 9:30 a.m.,  
GRCA Administration Centre

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