

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



Brantford dike repair this fall

Work on the dike downstream of Veterans Memorial Bridge in Brantford will take place this fall and winter.

The GRCA awarded a \$668,000 contract to Dynex Construction Inc. to complete work on a 220-metre section at the base of concrete slabs along the dike to protect and stabilize it. The slabs are heavily exposed to damage during ice breakup in this part of the river and they have deteriorated over time. Armour stone and rip rap (large loose stones) will be put in place where the riverbed meets the concrete slabs.

Repairs above the water in this area were completed in 2015 and the more complex in-water work will now take place. The project was planned and designed before the February, 2018 ice jam, which had a significant impact on this part of the river. A nearby sediment bar on the river will also be removed to increase and restore the river channel.

Puslinch Tract Master Plan to be updated

The GRCA plans to update the Master Plan for Puslinch Tract Conservation Area, which is just south of Highway 401 in Puslinch Township.

The property has been owned by the GRCA since 1999 and has become a very popular passive area. It is especially popular for mountain biking. It is also popular for hiking, dog walking (dogs must be leashed), skiing and birding.

A Master Plan completed in 2004 identified the environmental characteristics of the property and looked at recreational uses.

Increased use has led to challenges managing the property. These relate to parking, conflicting uses, creation of ad hoc trails and property damage. The master plan process will engage user groups to identify concerns and help find and implement solutions.

The GRCA is seeking approval from the

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to use the GRCA's land sale reserve to cover the costs for the master plan update.

EAB annual spending to increase to \$600,000

The GRCA has included \$2.8 million in spending in the five-year forecast for 2018 to 2022 to manage the emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation.

The actual cost is hard to predict, because it depends on factors such as the rate of the infestation, how the ash trees are removed and if the area needs to be replanted with other species of trees.

In recent years, the GRCA has allotted \$400,000 per year in costs related to hazard tree management due to EAB and the annual budgeted expense is increasing to \$600,000 per year to help cover costs. The GRCA received approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to use \$1.8 million from its land sale proceeds reserve to help cover the cost.

GRCA and OPSEU Local 259 ratify collective agreement

The GRCA board and Ontario Public Sector Employees Union (OPSEU) Local 259, representing approximately 110 employees, have voted to ratify a new collective agreement.

GRCA Chair Helen Jowett is pleased that the agreement was reached without any disruption. She thanked the bargaining team for working towards a fiscally responsible resolution that provides fair, equitable and competitive compensation to employees.

Over the four-year contract, OPSEU Local 259 members will receive wage increases of 1.75 per cent in 2018 and 1.5 per cent per year in 2019, 2020 and 2021. The agreement also provides market adjustments to specific job grades.

The GRCA has accounted for the immediate

financial impact of this collective agreement in the 2018 operating budget.

Heavy rains in August

Abundant rainfall during August helped the watershed recover from the dry summer conditions, but not as much as might be expected.

During the third week of August, 123 mm of rain fell at Luther Marsh, 100 mm in Cambridge, 90 mm at Belwood Lake and 50 mm at Brantford. This increased the inflow to the reservoirs and helped to stabilize reservoir levels. However, the impact of all the rain was not as much as expected, because it has been an exceptionally dry summer.

The watershed went into a Level 1 Low Water condition on July 12. Throughout the summer, water users, including municipalities, were asked to voluntarily reduce their water use by 10 per cent.

Capital spending for parks over 10 years

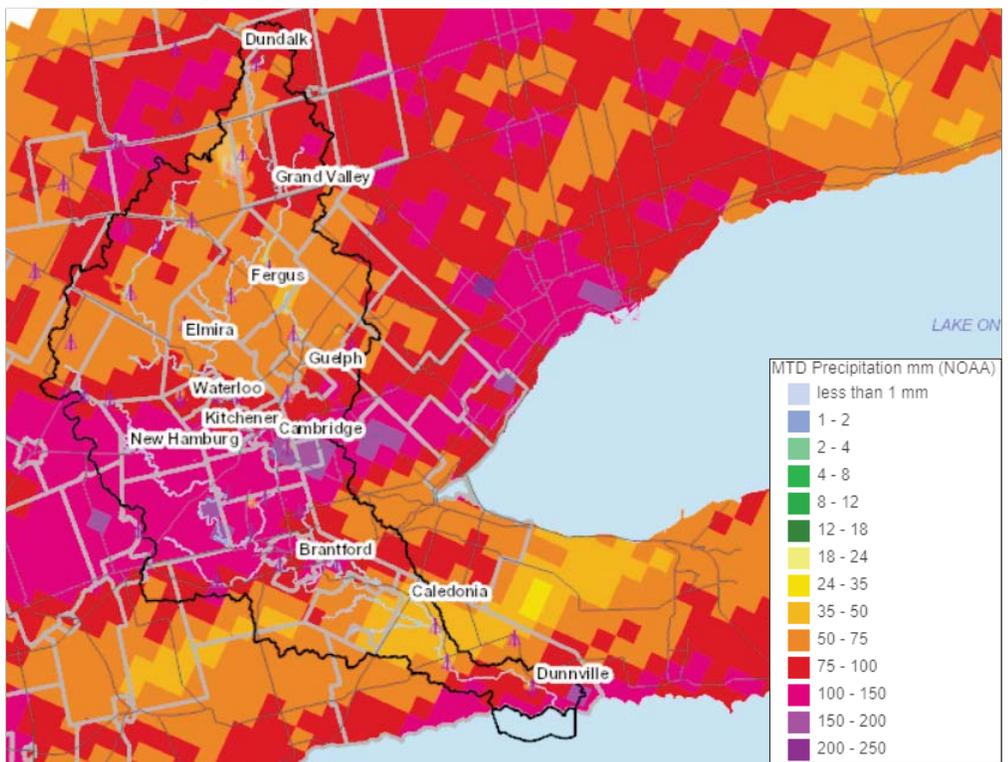
The GRCA expects to spend \$12 million on capital projects in Grand River Parks over the next 10 years until 2027, according to the capital forecast.

Capital spending will focus on six priority areas: aging infrastructure, washroom improvements, providing diverse camping accommodation (this could include more serviced sites, yurts or cabins), installing automatic entry gates at more parks, improved trails and beach access routes, and updating play structures.

There are a number of large projects proposed for Elora Gorge Park in 2018 and 2019. Sanitary servicing upgrades for the Pines campground will be completed in 2018. Projects for 2019 include expansion of the Pines campground, repairs to the low level bridge and automatic entry gates at the front entrance.

Two new playgrounds at Guelph Lake and one at Byng Island have been in use for about a month. In 2019, three playgrounds will be replaced at Brant Park. Construction of the new Guelph Lake workshop will begin in the fall of 2018 and will be completed in 2019.

The capital forecast identifies projects at



This weather radar map shows rainfall during the month of August. This information is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and is available, along with other weather information, on the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca/riverdata. Weather radar is one way to measure rainfall, but the most accurate way is taking manual measurements. This is also done by GRCA staff at some locations.

each park and proposes timing. Since the parks are primarily funded through self-generated revenue, it is always a challenge for the GRCA to identify funding sources and meet the increasing demand for park services.

planning and permitting decisions in at-risk communities and flood and erosion-related response and mitigation planning. The project will also update municipal risk assessment information for shoreline flooding.

Hazard mapping meeting September 15

A Public Education Centre (PEC) on September 15, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., will help keep community members informed of a study to update the Lake Erie shoreline flood, erosion and dynamic beach hazard mapping.

This open house event is at Selkirk Centennial Community Centre in Haldimand County and will not include formal presentations. Attendees can learn about the project, ways to protect their property from flooding and erosion, and provide their comments. County and conservation authority staff will be available to answer questions.

Consistent hazard mapping across conservation authority jurisdictions along Lake Erie is needed to support land use

This issue of *GRCA Current* was published in September, 2018.

It is a summary of the August, 2018 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:
September 28 at 9:30 a.m.,
GRCA Administration Centre

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