The Grand River watershed is rich in history and culture. It is the home of many tireless and charismatic workers who sought to improve the Grand River watershed and have in some way shaped Canada’s destiny. This edition of Grand Actions salutes three special women of the Grand.

**B. Mabel Dunham**

Mabel Dunham was a librarian and historian who worked tirelessly to educate the public and to promote the Grand River. She was born in Harriston on May 29, 1881, where she lived until her family moved to Berlin (now Kitchener). Her father was directly descended from the United Empire Loyalists who left Massachusetts for Canada. Her mother was Mennonite, and her parent’s backgrounds became topics for her history books. She studied English at Victoria College at the University of Toronto. Learning that a position was available at the Berlin library, she took a summer course in library science at McGill University and returned to fill the position in August 1908.

Mabel Dunham became Ontario’s first trained Head Librarian. Feeling the library should be more welcoming for children, she built up the children’s section and introduced a story hour. From 1908, until her retirement in 1944, she firmly established the library as a useful and enjoyable institution.

Mabel Dunham wrote five books in her lifetime. Her first two, *Trail of the Conestoga* and its sequel, *Toward Sodom*, dealt with the northward migration of the Mennonites. The next book, *Trail of King’s Men*, was the story of the United Empire Loyalist’s journey to Canada. *Grand River* was a panoramic picture of the river and surrounding area. Her last book, *Kristli’s Trees*, the story of a Mennonite boy, won Book of the Year for Children Award given by the Canadian Association of Children’s Literature.

Mabel Dunham was an influential, active and well-respected member of the community until her death in 1957. She was the first president of the University Women’s Club in Kitchener.
well as serving as president for the Waterloo Historical Society, Canadian Club, and Business and Professional Women’s Club. She was elected to the Kitchener Board of Education twice, becoming the first woman in the city to serve on a public board. She received an honorary doctorate from the University of Western Ontario in 1945. In 1953 the City of Kitchener honoured her by declaring her birthday, May 29, as Mabel Dunham Day.

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless steadfastly crusaded for social reform and education in health matters. Born near St. George, north of Brantford, she married John Hoodless at the age of 24 and moved to Hamilton. After the death of their son due to impure milk, she started a campaign to reform Ontario’s educational curriculum, which she believed was ineffectual in preparing women to safely run their households.

Adelaide Hoodless devoted her life to educating people about domestic science and health. She was instrumental in the development of the Young Women’s Christian Organization (YWCA) and the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), both still successful organizations. Widely respected as an authority on domestic science education and child welfare, she lectured throughout Ontario. In 1898, she published a book called Public School Domestic Science.

Perhaps her most important achievement was the founding of The Women’s Institute. In 1897, her speech to farmer’s wives in Stoney Creek inspired the crowd and resulted in the creation of The Women’s Institute.

The Women’s Institute, a rural university for women, grew rapidly and within ten years more than 500 institutes were organized across Canada. In 1900, she founded the Normal School of Domestic Science and Art. She convinced tobacco magnate Sir William Macdonald of Montreal to fund the Macdonald Institute of the Ontario College of Agriculture in Guelph, which trained Canadian women in the teaching of domestic science.

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless died suddenly in 1910 at the age of 52 while addressing the Federation of Women’s Clubs. Thanks to Adelaide Hunter Hoodless’ determination, Ontario added domestic science for girls and manual training for boys to the school curriculum. Women’s Institutes continued to be strong, around the world.

Margarette Rae Morrison Luckock

Rae Morrison Luckock worked hard to reform government and forged new ground for Ontarian women in politics. Born on October 15, 1893, Margarette Rae Morrison grew up near Arthur. Her father, James J. Morrison, founded the United Farmers of Ontario. As a result, she learned about political activism from childhood. In 1914, she married Richard Luckock and the couple divided their time between Arthur and Toronto, finally settling in Toronto in the 1920s. She worked as a seamstress until the depression, when she was laid off and forced to go on social assistance. During this time her daughter’s health failed and she eventually died in 1932 from scarlet fever. The tragedy motivated Rae Luckock to begin a lifelong battle for social programs. When the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) was formed she became very active in her district. She taught Sunday School for six years and was elected as trustee in the Toronto School Board in 1943.

Later that year she ran for provincial government and was successful in the Bracondale Riding. Rae Luckock and Agnes Macphail both won seats and were the first women elected to the Ontario Legislature. Although new MPPs were usually sworn in alphabetically, the CCF decided that Agnes Macphail should be sworn in first and Rae Luckock became the second female MPP in Ontario. She served as the CCF’s education critic, fighting for issues like funding for university scholarships, free tuition and improving rural education. She also advocated equal pay for equal work and paying homemakers for the work they did.

In the 1945 provincial election Rae Luckock was defeated along with most of her fellow CFC members. She turned her attention to the Housewives and Consumers Association (HCA) of which she was president for a brief time. She organized the incredibly successful “March of a Million Names” campaign in which the HCA collected one million signatures on a petition to protest high prices of consumer goods. As a result of the petition, the federal government took action against several milling and baking companies for artificially fixing the price of bread. In 1948, she was forced to leave the CCF because the HCA had been labelled a communist front. The incorrect label of communist hounded her for the rest of her life. Later the HCA joined with other women’s groups to become the Congress of Canadian Women. She
was elected as the first president and travelled around the world on peace conferences until diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. After spending the last 14 years of her life in hospital, she died on January 24, 1974.

In spite of personal difficulties and often opposition from many sides, these three women, and many other unsung heroines, have demonstrated courage and perseverance and made a lasting and valuable contribution to our watershed and society in general.

## MILESTONES

Milestones are progress or products of The Grand Strategy Joint Work Plan.

### The Grand Strategy Progress Report

Over the past four years, The Grand Strategy working groups have been actively involved in several projects and programs. A day-long workshop in October brought together members from six working groups including Fisheries, Forestry, Heritage, Grand River Country, Hydrology and Groundwater, and Water Managers. This provided an opportunity to review past challenges and achievements, and discover many common interests and opportunities for collaboration.

The increasing difficulty of safeguarding our watershed’s health, the consequences of current water management and land use decisions, and developing tools to address these issues are the challenges that face us.

Here are some of the successes reported by the Working Groups.

#### General
- The GRCA received the international Thiess Riverprize in Brisbane, Australia on September 6, 2000 for excellence in river management. The award recognizes recent accomplishments of the Conservation Authority, its member municipalities and its Grand Strategy partners in tackling pressing resource issues around the impacts of rapid development in our watershed – together.

- **The Focus on Watershed Issues and Background Report on the State of the Watershed** were prepared with input from partners summarizing the current state of the Grand River watershed. The report was prepared to identify the range of resource issues, the interconnectedness of these issues and what needs to be done to deal with them. These reports are now available in an interactive CD ROM format.

#### Fisheries Working Group
- **The Grand River Fisheries Management Plan** was completed in 1999. It is a community-based, cooperative undertaking between the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the GRCA with community partners, including Six Nations, angling groups and universities. This plan provides solid guidelines for fisheries management, rehabilitation projects and non-point pollution control. An Action Committee and a Fundraising Committee have been formed. The Action Committee held a number of public meetings and established 3 subcommittees based on geography and fisheries issues (upper, middle and lower watershed). The subcommittees will review local proposals and make recommendations to both the Marketing/Fundraising Committee and the Implementation Committee. The subcommittees are also responsible for local fundraising initiatives. The Marketing Committee is concentrating on raising funds to implement the “best bets” developed for the Fisheries Management Plan, with a target S4 M. All funds received will be allocated through the Action Committee.

#### Forestry Working Group
- **A Watershed Forest Plan** is being developed in 2000 with direct input from over 100 people who expressed an interest in participating. The plan will address the state of our Grand River forests, management challenges, solutions, and implementation. Watershed residents are invited to get involved using the GRCA’s interactive website at www.grandriver.on.ca

- **The Watershed Forest Plan** is financially supported by Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation, The McLean Foundation, Shell Environmental Fund, The Grand River Foundation, and the GRCA.

#### Heritage Working Group
- Three successful annual Heritage Day Workshops were organized and hosted in partnership with watershed municipalities and the GRCA. These workshops were well attended by participants from all over the watershed, who shared
  - See page 4
experiences and successes in planning, managing and making decisions about heritage through case studies, displays and informal discussion.

- A Heritage and Recreation Database Inventory highlighting outstanding human heritage features and outdoor recreational experiences in the Grand River watershed has been updated. This database is based on an inventory undertaken in 1987-88 by the Heritage Resources Centre, University of Waterloo as part of the background information necessary for the designation of the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River. The database now includes photographs, references, national and provincial plaque texts, and GIS reference coordinates.

**Grand River Country**

- Tourism organizations throughout the watershed are now promoting Grand River Country. The Grand River Country Destination Marketing Brand includes the entire area of the Grand River watershed. The philosophy is that tourists value experiences and the Grand River Country brand can be used to leverage existing brands and attractions promoted by individual municipalities and tourism organizations. A logo and trademark for Grand River Country have been registered.

- Promotion of Grand River Country is being undertaken by the partners using the award-winning Journey the Grand brochure, consumer shows, media tours, a 30-minute episode for Rogers TV “daytripping” series and co-op advertising in publications. Visit the Grand River Country website at www.grand-river-country.com

**Hydrology and Groundwater**

- An updated water well database and modern mapping technologies have been used to create regional scale Groundwater Mapping and a Technical Report describing this mapping.

- Climate Change Scenarios were developed to help estimate how climate may change in the future and how this may affect the Water Budget.

- The GAWSER Surface Water Hydrology Model has been upgraded to a continuous version to determine water availability from both surface and groundwater sources. This is being combined with information from other sources to estimate the Water Budget for different parts of the watershed.

**Water Managers Working Group**

- Water Quality Management and Water Budget/Water Supply Plans are being developed for the watershed that consider population growth, agricultural activities, and climate change factors. These plans will set out the most effective means of meeting water quality objectives in the future and show how future water needs will be met while maintaining the water quality and the natural environment.

- A dynamic Grand River Water Quality Model is being developed to predict the impact of sewage treatment plants, urban storm water runoff, and diffuse sources of pollution for the central Grand River with participation from watershed municipalities.

- The Regional Municipality of Waterloo initiated the Rural Water Quality Program in 1998. Developed locally with input from the farming community, this five-year, $1.5 million program is delivered by the GRCA for the Region. It provides financial assistance to farmers implementing best management practices to improve water quality such as livestock access restriction, milking house and manure storage, wellhead protection, fertilizer, chemical or fuel storage, erosion control structures, and nutrient management practices. This program was expanded into Wellington County in 1999. The County and the City of Guelph jointly provided $1.35 million over five years. Negotiations are currently underway to extend the program into the County of Brant. Over 120 projects have been completed. These projects represent over $600,000 in grants, $2 million in capital investment, and $200,000 in in-kind services provided by rural landowners.

- A series of Information Maps is being developed by the GRCA to identify erosion susceptible soils, sensitive streams and wetlands, and areas susceptible to groundwater contamination. This information will help in locating priority areas for cleaning up non-point source pollution.

- A voluntary Drought Contingency Plan was developed in response to the drought of 1998-99 to encourage:
  - reduction in water use for non-essential uses such as golf courses, public parks;
  - reduction in river flow targets to ration storage;
  - enforcement of water use by-laws;
  - promotion of water conservation and efficient water use.

At the workshop, the presentations clearly showed that progress is being made to advance watershed health and heritage. There are many links and connections among the interests and activities of the various working groups. It was recognized that joint meetings are essential in order for the
groups to see the “big picture”, share information and explore the possibility of undertaking joint projects where interests overlap. State-of-the-art management tools (GIS maps, technical models, and prediction tools) are being created to assist the GRCA, watershed municipalities, provincial agencies and community groups in making better resource management decisions at the local and watershed levels.

*Share the Resources - Share the Responsibility* makes sense and great strides are being made. We have a model of watershed management that is the envy of the world. But we cannot rest on our laurels. With rapid growth and changing rural and urban landscapes, we need to nurture *The Grand Strategy*, build new partnerships, anticipate issues and problems and tackle them in a timely fashion to ensure continued good health.

### WHAT’S HAPPENING?

#### GRCA Wins River Prize

Thanks to the conservation programs undertaken by the GRCA and its member municipalities over the past 60 years, the Grand River is one of the healthiest river systems in North America in a heavily populated area.

In September 2000, the GRCA was awarded the international Thiess Environmental Services Riverprize, the world’s most prestigious award for excellence in river management in Brisbane, Australia. The Riverprize, worth AUD $100,000 and sponsored by Thiess Environmental Services, is awarded during Brisbane’s Riverfestival. A panel of key river management representatives from national and international organizations judges the Riverprize.

This tremendous accomplishment is testimony to all of those who believed in the vision of a healthier watershed for the people of the Grand and who worked tirelessly to achieve that goal. This honour also recognizes the recent accomplishments of the GRCA in working with its partners through *The Grand Strategy*, our shared watershed management approach.

The proceeds from the Riverprize (about $82,000 Cdn.) have been transferred to The Grand River Foundation to support initiatives of the GRCA that improve river health and build community partnerships for action.

#### Oasis in the Centre

On Sunday, October 1, 2000, over 700 people attended the official opening of the “Oasis in the Centre” to mark the 150th anniversary of the Township of Wilmot. The Oasis is a small park located at Wilmot Centre on the site of the first Township Hall (circa 1850) on a half an acre of land donated by the Yantzi family. It features a low stone sitting wall representing the foundation of the hall – built to scale. A stainless steel map of the Township, showing the location of the early settlements is embedded in the cement floor inside the walls.

Sculptrist Ruth Abernathy designed the sculpture called “Leap of Faith” which features two teenagers jumping off a stone archway and into their future. The archway and the stone sitting wall that surrounds a courtyard was built by 83-year-old Wilmot stone mason Bud Clair and his sons Cam and Jim, from field stones donated by Township residents.

A backdrop of native trees, shrubs and flowers helps create the perfect setting for future generations to learn about the Township’s past and appreciate the beauty of the productive farmland surrounding the site.

The Oasis in the Centre is a “work in progress”. In the spring, native grasses, flowers and shrubs will be added. Individuals interested in becoming involved with a team of volunteers or who would like to donate to the continued care of this project are asked to call Marilyn Sarasus at (519) 696-3061.

#### Plowing Match Success

This display representing the Grand River was part of a children’s reading program at the Bloomingdale Library. It is one example of the imaginative efforts of the people of the Grand River watershed to learn about, protect and improve their river.
Over 96,000 people attended the International Plowing Match in Elora in September, with more than 18,000 visiting the GRCA display over five days. The exhibit, A Walk Through Your Watershed, received great reviews from visitors and was one of the few exhibits that experienced line-ups throughout the week.

The visual appeal of the display was created through the construction of a mini watershed complete with a wetland, lake and a running water-course. Visitors were introduced to several key concepts including: Value of Wetlands, Agriculture and the Rural Water Quality Program, Water Quality and Quantity, Urban and Rural Planning and Recreation. Everyone who walked though the tent was offered a free white pine seedling (12,981 in total). This led into the final message of the tent - ‘What You Do At Home Affects Everyone Downstream’.

A tree donation/coin drop was designed and constructed by Grade 9 and 10 students from Paris District High School, and raised $1,053.15 for The Grand River Foundation.

The display was primarily funded by Ontario 2000, who contributed $25,000 for the display and an additional $35,000 for 50,000 white pine seedlings. The Halton, Hamilton, Credit, Maitland and Saugeen Conservation Authorities contributed staff time and further financial support of $2,200. A significant donation was also received from R and M Construction who built and provided the equipment for the circulating stream.

Joseph Schneider Haus

On Sunday, October 15, 2000, over 350 people formally celebrated the national designation of Joseph Schneider Haus in Kitchener, Ontario. A new plaque, erected by the Department of Canadian Heritage, recognizes the importance of Joseph Schneider Haus as the best-preserved example of a pioneer Mennonite home and the finest symbol of the migration of Pennsylvania-Germans to Ontario. Joseph Schneider Haus is operated by the Regional Municipality of Waterloo as a museum, gallery and community resource centre. The designation of the house as a national historic site is the result of a two-year effort by Friends of the Joseph Schneider Haus.

Presidents’ Dinner

On September 28, 2000, over 180 people gathered at the Embassy Room at Bingeman Park in Kitchener to pay tribute to the contributions of the six past presidents of The Grand River Foundation including Betty Schneider, Gord Chaplin, Bob Murray, John Harris, Norm Lundvall and Marilyn Murray.

A special tribute was given to Marilyn Murray, immediate past president. In Marilyn’s honour, a hybrid chestnut tree produced by the GRCA’s Burford Nursery has been formally named the “Murray Chestnut”. The dinner was used as the venue to launch the Foundation’s Endowment Fund. Over $62,000 was raised from this event for the Fund.

Toyota Donates $40,000

On Saturday, September 23, 2000, over 150 Toyota team members and their families walked the Cambridge to Paris Rail-Trail in a volunteer effort to raise funds to build an educational nature centre at Shade’s Mills Conservation Area in Cambridge. Combined with a company donation, a total of $40,000 was donated to The Grand River Foundation.

When complete, the nature centre will be operated by the GRCA. It will be used daily during the school year by outdoor education classes of the Waterloo Catholic District Separate School Board, and during the summer by environmental day camps of the Cambridge YWCA.

Grand Data on Web

Data on water levels, water quality, rain and snowfall, and river conditions are collected by GRCA staff at several locations throughout the river system. This information is used to make water management decisions related to flood emergencies and day-to-day operations of the water control structures operated by the GRCA. Now this information is available, when it happens, where it happens, on the GRCA website.

Web surfers can access “real time” data on the Grand River by visiting the website at www.grandriver.on.ca
Watershed Report CD

The State of the Grand River Watershed Report, 2000, is now available on CD-ROM. The attractively-designed CD provides an interactive look at important watershed issues, future trends and the next steps towards creating a healthy future. The CD can be purchased from the GRCA for $20. For more information contact (519) 621-2761.

Look Who's Taking Action

Bloomingdale Library

Children at the Bloomingdale Branch Library had fun this summer and learned about the Grand River thanks to an innovative summer reading club program devised by librarian Jan Martin and sponsored by the Toronto Dominion Bank. With wilderness as the theme, Jan designed a wall display and activities based on the Grand River. Forty children were divided into four “canoe teams”, and each team advanced their canoe downriver by reading. Each team successfully read 100 books to reach Lake Erie (see photo, page 5).

A Grand River BINGO was designed so that all the children could complete most of the requirements, while taking a few moments to enjoy the natural beauties of the Grand River and its surroundings.

Taking Care of Turtles

As part of the City of Waterloo’s Community Parks Week 2000 celebrations, approximately 100 school children participated in creating turtle nesting habitat adjacent to the Laurel Creek Reservoir in Waterloo.

In early June, female snapping turtles move out of the Laurel Creek Reservoir and head for nest sites along sandy/gravel areas such as the road shoulders. Here they lay approximately 30 eggs that resemble ping-pong balls, buried deep within the gravel. Although many of the nests are preyed upon by animals such as raccoons, any undisturbed eggs will hatch in early autumn. New turtles then search for an aquatic home.

With recent residential development in this area, however, the road traffic has increased considerably resulting in turtles being hit by on-coming traffic as they cross the road. In response to public outcry, as well as to protect the turtles, alternate safer nest sites were created closer to the reservoir.

On October 3rd, approximately 100 grade 4 to 8 students from around the region carried buckets and wheelbarrows of gravel and sand into small clearings off of Beaver Creek Road and Laurelwood Drive. There it was dumped and shaped into 5m x 3m x 30cm sloped mounds, in areas where snapping turtles have been observed in the past. A close watch will be kept on these sites next spring to determine the success of this project. Interpretive signage will also be installed to educate the public about the nesting areas. This activity was supplemented with hands-on learning about water quality and turtle ecology at the Laurel Creek Nature Centre.

Project partners included Friends of the Environment Foundation, GRCA, Waterloo Region District School Board, Waterloo Catholic District School Board, Ontario Streams, local volunteers, school children and the City of Waterloo.

DID YOU KNOW?

• Life was hard for pioneer women in the Grand River watershed. Household chores included making soap. Potash, water and grease were boiled together, lime was added and the mix stirred constantly. Lye was formed after a number of days. This was drained off and added to a kettle of grease, which cooled into a thick layer of soap. Cut into bars, this was used for every form of washing from humans to clothes and floors.

• See page 8
DID YOU KNOW?  
from page seven

- On August 1, 1872, Elizabeth Simcoe wrote in her diary “The black squirrel is large and quite black. It is as good to eat as a young Rabbit”. On December 8, 1795, she wrote “…the tough skins from the inside of Pidgeon’s gizzards, hung up to dry and grated to a fine powder is an infallible cure for Indigestion”.
- Dr. Emily Howard Jennings Stowe, (1813-1903) of Mount Pleasant, was the first female public school principal in Canada, and the first female to openly practice medicine in Canada.
- Sara Jeannette Duncan (1861-1922), raised in Brantford, was an internationally renowned author. She published over twenty books, only one of which, The Imperialist (1904), had a Canadian setting.
- Dr. August Stowe-Gullen (1857-1943) of Mount Pleasant, was the first female to graduate from a Canadian medical university. She also helped her mother, Dr. Emily Stowe, to promote the suffrage movement for women.
- Mohawk poet, E. Pauline Johnson (1861-1913) of Brantford, gained international fame for her romantic writings on native themes. She also wrote about nature, religion and Canadian nationalism. In the 1890s, she published numerous poems, essays and short stories, and recited them on public stages in Canada and abroad. Her ashes are buried in Stanley Park, Vancouver.
- Under the guidance of librarian Mabel Dunham, the Berlin (Kitchener) library boasted a collection of 10,000 volumes within two years of its opening in 1904.

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THE GRAND STRATEGY CALENDAR

Watershed Forest Plan, Significant Resources Group meeting, November 17, 2000, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. GRCA Administrative Centre, Cambridge (lunch provided).

Watershed Forest Plan, Land Use Group meeting, November 17, 2000, 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. GRCA Administrative Centre, Cambridge (lunch provided).

Watershed Forest Plan, General Meeting, November 21, 2000, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., GRCA Administrative Centre, Cambridge.

Wetlands Conference, January 25, 2001, at the GRCA Administrative Centre. Anyone interested in wetlands issues and policies within the watershed is encouraged to attend. Sponsored by the GRCA For more information call Carol Bystriansky at (519) 621-2761 or email cbystriansky@grandriver.on.ca

4th Annual Heritage Day Workshop, February 19, 2001, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Walper Terrace Hotel, Kitchener. The theme is Heritage makes Sense: Discover Why. For more information contact Barbara Veale, (519) 621-2763, ext. 274, or email bveale@grandriver.on.ca

Ontario’s Rural Tourism Conference Beyond the City Lights, February 25 to 27, 2001, at Queen Landing Inn, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Early bird registration (by December 1, 2000) is $150 plus GST. The full conference rate after December 1st is $225 plus GST. Included are all conference materials, proceedings, two lunches, Sunday and Monday dinners, and refreshment breaks. For further information, contact Cathy Bartolic, at 1-800-628-4 or (519) 763-3160, ext. 229. Email: bartolic@oati.com

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is produced as a communications tool by the Grand River Conservation Authority on behalf of the partners in The Grand Strategy.

This newsletter can be seen (without photographs) on the Internet at www.grandriver.on.ca/gractndx.html

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For newsletter submissions
Contact the Editor, Liz Leedham, c/o Barbara Veale at the above address. Newsletter submissions must be made by the 15th of the month prior to publication, and may be subject to editorial change. Tax deductible donations and sponsorships toward the cost of producing this newsletter are always welcome. Please contact Barbara Veale at (519) 621-2761, ext. 274, for more information.

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