



Grand River  
Conservation  
Authority



The Grand:  
A Canadian  
Heritage River

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Photo by Christopher Smith, The Brantford Expositor

*Brant Waterways Foundation directors Scott Malcolm and Wendy Prowse display the Grand River Conservation Authority's Honour Roll Award. They're standing on a section of the Gordon Graves Memorial Pathway near the Lorne Bridge in Brantford.*

## Honouring watershed stewards

So many people from so many walks of life help to make our Grand River watershed a better place to live.

Each year the Grand River Conservation Authority recognizes the efforts of individuals and groups by presenting two awards.

The Honour Roll Award recognizes a sustained record of achievement over a period of time.

Watershed Awards are presented for outstanding examples of conservation and environmental work.

For 2002, the Honour Roll Award was presented to the Brant Waterways Foundation. Winners of Watershed Awards were the Kitchen Family, owners of Erlhaven Farms in Oxford County; the members of the Home Depot Green Team at the company's Waterloo store; Bill Thompson, outdoor writer with the Kitchener-Waterloo Record; Margaret R. (Peggy Lang) of

Brantford; and the Lower Grand River Land Trust.

They were honoured at a special ceremony held in December. As part of the event, a slide show detailing the accomplishments of each winner, was presented. This article, adapted from the script for the show, highlights four award winners. The other two winners will be featured in the next edition of Grand Actions.

### Brant Waterways Foundation: building a path to a better future

The 2002 Grand River Conservation Authority Honour Roll Award was presented to the Brant Waterways Foundation in Brantford and Brant County.

The Brant Waterways Foundation was founded in 1988. Its goals were clear: to fund projects that preserve, protect, restore and improve the natural resources of the Grand River, its tributar-

ies, related bodies of water and adjacent lands in Brantford and the County of Brant.

Its current president is Dr. Glenn Young, who is one of the strongest supporters of the foundation's projects. Over the years, the organization has been led by a dynamic board, including founder Mary Welsh.

The list of educational and environmental projects is long and impressive.

For the past five years the foundation has focused on an extensive trail system, known as the Gordon Glaves Memorial Pathway in honour of a former foundation president who was very active in local community efforts.

The pathway is more than 40 km long. Most sections of the trail parallel the Grand River as it meanders through Brantford. Twenty-six kilometres on the east side of the river also form part of the Trans Canada Trail, linking Brantford to both Hamilton and Cambridge along an extensive rail-trail network.

Brantford's paths are also part of the Grand Valley Trail, a 250-kilometre foot-path stretching from Alton in the north to Rock Point Provincial Park on Lake Erie.

The pathways are scenic and ideal for walking, cycling, jogging and even cross-country skiing. (For more information about the trail system visit the web site at <http://www.city.brantford.on.ca/gordonglaves/thepathway.htm>)

How has the public responded to the trails? There were 130,000 trail visitors last year. They ranged from families to people out for a walk near one of the shelters along the trails, from kids out for a ride on their bikes to mothers taking a quiet crossing of the Grand on the trestle bridge.

Trail users are offered ever-changing vistas of the river and the city. Peaceful strolls along the floodplain of the river



*Dr. Glenn Young*



*Evan Kitchen and his family were honoured for their conservation efforts on their Oxford County farm.*

open up onto high vistas of the Grand River valley. Downtown views overlook the Grand and the trails running along the GRCA flood protection works.

There are many reasons the trails have become so popular. Trans Canada Trail information kiosks stand cheek-by-jowl with plaques dedicate to the history of the area.

Trails pass by most of Brantford's historic sites, such as the Mohawk Chapel and the first power generating station in Ontario. Important local projects are featured prominently.

Information about the watershed environment is available for visitors such as the local students who visit the trails as part of their schoolwork.

Trail markers are colour coded to match the tens of thousands of trail brochures that are distributed each year.

### **Erlhaven Farms: taking care of the land**

Erlhaven Farms is located in Oxford County, on the western edge of the Grand River watershed.

The farm has been in the family since 1918 and is now managed by Evan

Kitchen and his wife, and Evan's father James and his wife.

From the road, the cash crop and dairy farm looks like many other farms in Oxford County.

But there are a few differences. The Kitchens planted windbreaks with the Ministry of Natural Resources 20 years ago, and more windbreaks recently with the GRCA.

They've also carried out many other projects to improve and sustain water quality in Kenny Creek, which flows through their farm.

They use a soil saver to reduce soil loss in their cornfields, which have produced good crops even in dry years.

Grassed waterways on rolling land reduce soil runoff into the creek. Applying liquid manure with an airway reduces the chance of runoff and applies the fertilizer where it is needed.

They've also reduced herbicide use on crops such as soybeans.

Closer to Kenny Creek, they've worked with the GRCA to plant trees to buffer the creek from farming impacts and to retire fragile lands along the creek.

Electric fences and a cattle crossing keep their cattle out of the creek. However, the herd can still drink from the creek by using a nose pump without disturbing the water in the stream.

The Kitchens have also worked with the GRCA to stabilize the banks of the stream as it winds through their property.

What are the results of all this work on the part of the Kitchen family?

Soil loss, erosion and runoff have all been reduced at Erlhaven Farms, which has been good for water quality in Kenny Creek, which eventually flows into Whiteman's Creek and then into the Grand River near Brantford.

### **Peggy Lang: a going concern**

**P**eggy Lang is a retired teacher in the Brantford area. The term "going concern" may have been coined to describe her commitment to her interests in heritage, education and the environment.

In addition to teaching for 27 years, she was a Wolf Cub leader and Sunday School teacher.

When she was teaching school she insisted on presenting the history of the Grand River and the GRCA's work to

manage it. She did this by borrowing many GRCA teaching resource materials.

Peggy is also interested in Native culture and taught native children during her career.

One of her many interests is gardening and trees. Peggy has worked with the St. George Garden Club, Paris Horticultural Society and Glen Morris Garden Club. And she has created a garden at the church of St. John the Evangelist.

She's a strong supporter of the Glenhyrst Art Gallery and its Tea Room.

In 1994, her interest in the natural world led her to become a supporter of the GRCA's Burford Tree Nursery west of Brantford.

The tree nursery has a renowned American chestnut recovery program. Peggy came by her interest early: her parents built their own house and installed chestnut trim throughout, when the wood was common.

Part of her support involves promoting the work of the Burford Nursery by distributing its brochures to horticultural groups far and wide.

Peggy's promotion of the nursery work is important for its wide range of native tree restoration programs.

Peggy's passion for local history, Grand River watershed history and Canadian history has led to a bit of a letter-writing career. Over the years GRCA administrators and chairmen have all received letters that sometimes start "If I were chairman of the GRCA I would do this..."

She has written so often to Prime Minister Jean Chretien that she's now on his Christmas card list. Her letters of support for the monarchy have received replies from as far away as Buckingham Palace.

It's pretty certain that she'll remain an untiring booster of the issues that are important to people who live in the Brantford area and in the Grand River watershed.

### **Home Depot Green Team: innovation on the store floor**

**H**ome Depot stores pride themselves on having helpful employees.

The employees at the Waterloo Home Depot are even more helpful than you would expect.

They're helping conservation and the environment in many ways.

Some businesses fill the dumpster out back and forget about it. Home Depot used to.

George Dunseith works in the shipping department at the Waterloo Home Depot and he used to see a lot of waste become landfill. He didn't like what he saw and received approval to start some recycling programs with a Green Team.

All staff now separate recyclables into different waste streams.

Cardboard is sent to one area of the store then compacted and bundled into 50-pound blocks. Two or three of them leave the store every day for recycling.

Plastic wrap and bags are now compacted and recycled, instead of being thrown out.

Suppliers to Home Depot are encouraged to send products on reusable ship-



*Peggy Lang has been a big supporter of the Burford Tree Nursery and its Sweet Chestnut Recovery Program which is led by nursery Superintendent Bruce Graham.*



*George Dunseith and the Green Team at the Waterloo Home Depot store developed an innovative recycling program now being implemented in other stores.*

ping pallets. Their drywall supplier even recycles the slats separating the sheets of shipped drywall.

Damaged products used to be compacted and shipped to landfill. George and the Green Team thought that there had to be a better way.

They found one. Damaged items are now sent to Habitat for Humanity to be repaired and sold. Nationwide, last year, the sale of these products brought in \$500,000 in revenue for the good work of Habitat for Humanity.

The lumber department used to be a recipe for waste going out the back door. Now the metal strapping around the lumber is recycled. Waste lumber is picked up for recycling into mulch, and bedding for farm animals.

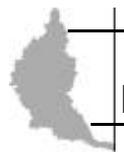
The store also holds a Green Thumb College for customers who want to learn how to reduce environmental impacts around their homes.

The Waterloo Home Depot is also involved in Kitchener-Waterloo's 10,000 Trees planting project. They've taken part in the restoration of Laurel Creek and a number of other community programs.

What's the future hold for Home Depot? Many of the innovations at the Waterloo store are now in place at all Home Depot stores across Canada. Home Depot is looking at implementing similar programs at its 1,500 stores across North America.



*See the next edition of Grand Actions for stories on outdoor writer Bill Thompson and the Lower Grand River*



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### Watershed residents on provincial panel

Three residents of the Grand River watershed have been named to sit on a 17-member panel providing the provincial government advice about source protection plans.

The panel was named by the Ontario government in December to deal with recommendations contained in Part II of the Walkerton Report released by Justice Dennis O'Connor in May 2002.

Justice O'Connor said that a key component in a plan to safeguard drinking water is to develop watershed-based source protection plans. The plans would identify water resources and threats to water safety and then propose steps to protect water from becoming polluted.

Peter Krause, chairman of the GRCA as well as chairman of Conservation Ontario, was one of three representatives of Ontario conservation authorities named to the panel.

"This is a crucial step in protecting Ontario's drinking water," said Krause. "Source protection is a vital component in watershed management because what happens upstream impacts directly on the water resources and users downstream."

Also serving on the panel is Tim Lotimer, a hydrogeologist who operates a consulting firm, Lotowater Ltd. in Paris. Lotimer was named as a representative of the Ontario Water Works Association.

After his appointment, Lotimer told The Kitchener-Waterloo Record: "One of the things we learned at Walkerton is that policy isn't enough, you need regulations. I think people will demand it."

The third watershed resident on the panel is Theresa McClenaghan, who also lives in Paris. She is a lawyer with the Canadian Environmental Law Association, which represented Walkerton residents during the O'Connor inquiry. CELA also produced a major study on water safety for the inquiry.

In September she was a speaker at the GRCA's Grand River Watershed Water Forum where she discussed the Walkerton report and the importance of source protection.

Other members of the panel represent Ontario municipalities, agriculture, developers, environmental groups, business and the aggregate industry.



*McClenaghan*

## Foundation names chairs for outdoor education campaign

In many parts of Ontario, outdoor education programs are under threat, the victims of budget restrictions.

But in the Grand River watershed, outdoor education programs are secure thanks to a commitment made by the Grand River Conservation Foundation.

The Foundation has committed to raise the money needed to guarantee that every child at a school in the watershed will be able to participate in outdoor education programs a minimum of three times during their elementary school career.

To carry through with the promise, the Foundation is organizing a fund-raising drive led by two long-time Foundation members and community philanthropists.

Marilyn Murray of Puslinch Township will be chair of the fund-raising group. John Pollock of Cambridge will be the honorary chair.

Outdoor education has been an integral part of the operations of both the GRCA and the Conservation Foundation.

The GRCA's outdoor education program began in the 1970s as Lands for Learning. Since then, in partnership with watershed school boards, and with the support of the Foundation, the GRCA has developed five nature centres for outdoor education use. This amounts to an investment of more than \$3.5 million in lands and facilities.

The Foundation helped to construct three of the nature centres: Laurel Creek Nature Centre in Waterloo, Apps' Mill S.C. Johnson Nature Centre near Brantford and Shade's Mills Toyota Nature Centre in Cambridge. As well, the Foundation funds family, youth group and environmental day camp programs.

Each year the nature centres are visited by more than 40,000 children from five of the six watershed school boards. An additional 10,000 children visit the



*Marilyn Murray (left) and John Pollock have been named chair and honorary chair of a campaign to raise money for outdoor education in the Grand River watershed.*

centres in family, group and camp programs.

Murray and her husband Ken were recently presented the Philanthropist of the Year Award by the Waterloo-Wellington Fund Raising Executives for their work on behalf of a variety of arts, education and Conservation organizations.

She has been a board member of the Conservation Foundation since 1986 and was president from 1998 to 2000.

She holds a degree from the University of Guelph and worked for the school for 10 years in its development and donor relations departments. She also served the university as a volunteer, sitting on the board of governors, the senate and several committees.

During the past 30 years Murray's community activities have included work on behalf of the Guelph and Ontario Chambers of Commerce, the United Way, Hespeler Meals-on-Wheels, Guelph Services for the Physically Disabled, Musica Viva Guelph, the Homewood Foundation, the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre and the Ellis Pioneer Chapel.

Pollock has been a member of the board of the Conservation Foundation since 1985.

He is the chairman, president and chief executive officer of Electrohome Ltd. in Kitchener. He holds degrees from the University of Toronto and Harvard, and was granted an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo.

Pollock has been involved with several other corporations, serving as a director of Budd Canada Inc., Canadian General-Tower Ltd., S.C. Johnson and Son Ltd. and Cambridge North Dumfries Hydro.

He has served on committees with the University of Western Ontario and the University of Waterloo. Pollock has been involved with several arts organizations, including the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery and the K-W Art Gallery.

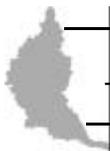
He has been a member of the Science Council of Canada, Junior Achievement of Canada, the Kitchener Rotary Club, the K-W Gyro Club and the Freeport Hospital board of directors.

## Grand featured on TV show

The Grand River is featured in a current edition of The Great Outdoorsman show on the Outdoor Life Network.

The show features hosts Rob Worsnop and Tracie Holmes on a journey down the Grand from Cambridge to Brantford, guided by Adam Fernley of Heritage River Canoe and Kayak of Brantford. Points of historical and natural significance are highlighted, including the extensive trail systems along this stretch of the river. The show was produced by Canadian Sportsfishing Productions.

It was first broadcast in December and will be aired on Thursday, Feb. 6 at 8 a.m. and Friday, March 14 at 8 a.m.



## LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

### Fishing program gets a boost

For the past six summers, the Eddie Lackenbauer Fund of the Grand River Conservation Foundation has helped to send physically disabled and underprivileged children to GRCA fishing camps. Named in honour of Eddie Lackenbauer of Kitchener, the camps follow in the footsteps of Mr. Lackenbauer's love of the outdoors and his fondness for introducing children to his passion for the environment.

From the beginning, three camps were held each year at the Shade's Mills Conservation Area in Cambridge, serving children primarily from the Region of Waterloo, as recommended by school boards, service clubs, and health and social service agencies.

New for 2002 was expansion of the camps to a session each at the Brant Conservation Area in Brantford, and the Guelph Lake Conservation Area. This was made possible through the many donors to the Foundation's Eddie



Peter Krause (left), chairman of the GRCA, receives a \$5,000 donation from Bill Thompson on behalf of the Fishing Forever Foundation.

Lackenbauer Fund, and through two donations of \$5,000 each from the Fishing Forever Foundation, which is chaired by Bob Izumi.

Bill Thompson, executive director of the Outdoor Writers of Canada, along with Lackenbauer family members, was an initiator of the Eddie Lackenbauer Fund. At a recent GRCA board meeting, Thompson presented the Fishing Forever Foundation cheque to GRCA Chairman Peter Krause.

"As a member of the Fishing Forever Foundation board, it gave me great pleasure to present the cheque to Mr. Krause," said Thompson. "But as a director of the Eddie Lackenbauer Fund, the pleasure was even greater and I commend the Fishing Forever board and especially Bob Izumi for their vision of children in the outdoors."

Donations to the Eddie Lackenbauer Fund for kids' fishing camps, can be made through the Grand River Conservation Foundation. If you know a child who would be eligible and benefit

from the camps, have a sponsor contact the GRCA in February 2003.

### Registry celebrates efforts to improve Grand watershed

Every year, thousands of people take part in efforts to improve the Grand River watershed, from clearing debris out of streams to promoting the heritage of this historic river valley.

The work they do, whether as individuals or in groups, is recorded in the Grand Actions Registry, which is published annually.

The seventh edition, which outlines efforts undertaken in 2001, is now available in hard copy and on-line at the GRCA's website at [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca).

The latest edition contains 282 entries documenting thousands of actions which took place during the year. Included is everything from performing and visual arts, public events and educational seminars to hands-on environmental and heritage protection and restoration work.

The on-line version of the registry allows users to sort activities under three themes: heritage appreciation, recreation and watershed improvement. Users can also sort entries by activities, such as tourism, research, education or advocacy.

The Registry is produced each year with several goals in mind:

- to recognize those who are actively involved in improving the health and heritage of the Grand;
- to encourage groups to work together by providing contact names and other information;
- to guide community activities to "hot spots" within the watershed where the resolution of resource issues is critical; and
- lend credibility and profile for community and individual actions

Limited copies of the Registry are available from the GRCA.

For further information about the Registry contact the editor, Barbara Veale at the Grand River Conservation Authority: (519) 621-2763 ext. 274; fax: (519) 621-4844; E-mail: bveale@grandriver.ca

## 9th Annual Latornell Conservation Symposium

Ontario's most prestigious and well-attended annual conservation conference, the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium, was held on November 13-15, 2002 at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston, near Barrie.

Now in its ninth year, this conference continues to grow, attracting a wide range of highly respected speakers and over 650 delegates from diverse backgrounds ranging from conservation authorities, federal and provincial agencies, municipalities, university students, private business and community groups.

The main sponsors for the event, Conservation Ontario and the Centre for Land and Water Stewardship, University of Guelph, partnered with many other

Ontario groups and agencies to organize and deliver an exceptional program.

Chaired by Barbara Veale, Coordinator of Policy Planning and Partnership for the Grand River Conservation Authority on behalf of Conservation Ontario, this year's conference explored "Conservation in Action: Crossing Boundaries and Connecting Communities."

This theme acknowledges that the solutions to our burgeoning resource problems in Ontario lie in recognizing and understanding the interrelationships between land, water and humans and in creating collaborative partnerships and integrated approaches that cross political boundaries and use natural boundaries such as watersheds.

The program presented at the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium explored the many resource issues and opportunities that are shared by Ontarians.

It highlighted some of the leading-edge research that is being undertaken to identify and quantify natural characteristics and functions in the natural environment and how they are being impacted by urban and rural growth. This information is critical in order to guide the decisions and actions of municipalities, conservation authorities and government agencies. Examples of innovative technologies, policies and successful community initiatives were also featured.

Environment Minister Chris Stockwell offered words of welcome to the delegates and indicated his government's commitment to working with conservation authorities and others to develop source water protection strategies by early 2003.

David McGuinty, of the National Round Table on the Environment and

Economy stressed that we have to change the way we do business in order to achieve sustainability - that means we need to address fiscal and economic policies that run counter to conservation efforts. Tony Fuller, a professor at the University of Guelph provided his views regarding the trends in today's rural society and gave us an insight as to how the rural community may evolve over the next 29 years.

Gord Miller, Ontario's Environmental Commissioner encouraged delegates to continue their efforts to bring environmental and growth issues to the forefront of the political agenda.

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion, Chair of the Central Ontario Smart Growth Panel, suggested that conservationists need to better communicate issues to politicians in order to influence decisions based on sound science.

One of the unique aspects of the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium is the emphasis on student participation. A number of graduate students and student interns were given the opportunity to moderate the concurrent sessions. Six graduate students from the University of Guelph presented posters on their research in the field of resource management. Several students from various universities in Ontario were sponsored by conservation authorities to attend the symposium. Students were encouraged to mingle and share their research and views with other delegates. Many delegates were energized by the knowledge, enthusiasm and friendly atmosphere that prevailed throughout the entire symposium.

The first ever Dream Auction was a huge success and raised more than \$4,000. This money will be used by the Latornell Steering Committee to provide financial assistance to students and non-government group representatives for next year's event.

The symposium concluded with a very timely panel discussion moderated by Brian Nixon, Ministry of the



McCallion

Environment, on the implementation of Part II of the Walkerton Report containing 93 recommendations to ensure that Ontario's drinking water is adequately protected. Panelists included Dick Hunter, Conservation Ontario; Jim Anderson, Ducks Unlimited; Paul Muldoon, Canadian Environmental Law Association; and Cindy Toth, City of St. Catharines.

Next year marks the tenth anniversary of the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium. Steering Committee members are making special plans for the event to be held Nov. 12-14, 2003 at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston.

## 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 on the Internet at [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca)

### For information on *The Grand Strategy* contact:

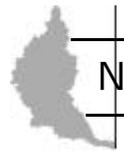
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Newsletter submissions must be made by the 15th of the month prior to publication and may be subject to editing for length or style. Tax deductible donations and sponsorships toward the cost of producing this newsletter are always welcome.

**Publications Mail**  
Agreement #144871



NOW AVAILABLE

## A sky-high view of the watershed

Members of the general public can purchase aerial views of their property or any other part of the Grand River watershed.

The photos were taken in the spring of 2000 to provide GRCA and municipal staff with up-to-date information about land use in the watershed. More than 2,300 "tiles" were produced of the watershed. Each tile covers an area of about 3.3 km by 2 km.

The information is also available under licence to landowners and consulting firms who are involved in development plans.

Members of the general public can buy them for \$30 in person (cash or cheques) or \$50 by mail order.

The photos are at a scale of 1:4000, measure 36 inches by 39 inches and are printed on premium photopaper.

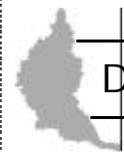
Please note that they are available only on a "tile-by-tile" basis, thus cannot

zoom in on a particular property or feature.

Check out this website for more information. Click on "product sample" to see what each tile looks like:

<http://www.grandriver.ca/index/document.cfm?Sec=9&Sub1=33>

An index map is available online.

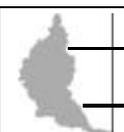


DID YOU KNOW?

- There are more than 200 community groups within the watershed who actively promote the health and heritage of the Grand River watershed.

- The Grand Actions Registry was first published in 1975. Since that time, 1,542 separate submissions have been received from a wide range of sectors, representing tens of thousands of actions and activities undertaken to improve heritage appreciation, watershed health and celebrate the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River.

- The year 2004 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Grand River and its major tributaries, the Nith, Conestogo, Speed and Eramosa Rivers as a Canadian Heritage River.



## The Grand Strategy Calendar

**Feb. 28. The Ontario Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society** will be holding a conference in the Great Hall, Huron College, University of Western Ontario, in London on the theme "Public Issues - Government action: Will it Work?" There will be discussions on several issues including source area protection, the Oak Ridges Moraine, municipal planning, and nutrient management. For more information contact Marsha Paley, (905) 873-2575; e-mail: [mpaley@town.caledon.on.ca](mailto:mpaley@town.caledon.on.ca)

**Feb. 4 and 21. Grand River Fisheries Management Plan.** Public meetings will be held in Kitchener at Bingeman Park on Feb. 4, and Elora at Wellington Terrace, Cuthbert Street on Feb. 21 to provide updates on implementation of the fisheries plan and to look at future projects. Both meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact Warren Yerex, GRCA, Cambridge, (519) 621-2763, Ext. 249 or Mitch Wilson, Ministry of Natural Resources, Guelph, (519) 826-4914.

**May 23. Trails Workshop.** An interactive workshop on trail links for the Waterloo-Wellington-Dufferin region. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the GRCA head office, 400 Clyde Rd., Cambridge. For more information contact Barbara Veale at (519) 621-2763, Ext. 274 or by e-mail at [bveale@grandriver.ca](mailto:bveale@grandriver.ca).