



Grand River
Conservation
Authority



The Grand:
A Canadian
Heritage River

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Cover photo

Walter Martin, a retired university professor, was presented a Watershed Award for his efforts to plant more than 15,000 trees on his Waterloo farm. (Show script and photos on Pages 1 and 2 by Jim Reid.)



Making the Grand River watershed even better

Each year the Grand River Conservation Authority recognizes the efforts of individuals and groups by presenting Watershed Awards for outstanding examples of conservation and environmental work.

For 2003, the winners of the Watershed Awards were Walter Martin, Ontario Pork, the Walter Bean Grand River Community Trails Foundation, the Waterloo-Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival, the Puslinch Lake Conservation Association, and Suncor Energy Products

They were honored at a special ceremony held in November. 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 three award winners. The other winners will be featured in the next edition of Grand Actions.

Walter Martin: tree planter extraordinaire

Walter Martin is a retired professor of English literature, who used to teach at the University of Waterloo.

He owns a farm just up the road from the urban development that's moving north on Erbville Road in Waterloo.

He moved to the farm 23 years ago and began some extensive conservation activities.

He was particularly concerned about the runoff and erosion from his farm to a nearby wet-

land and to a tributary of the Grand that flows across the farm.

From the road, you can see that much of the farm is now covered by the 15,000 trees he has planted over the years.

The once bare laneway is sheltered by mixed plantings. A hardwood and softwood forest is developing south of the farmhouse. He has planted cedar windbreaks to shelter cropland. And he rents land to a nearby farmer who plants crops in rotation.

He and his wife also raise thoroughbred racehorses that thrive, surrounded by the naturalized farmland.

Quite a range of wildlife is flourishing as well from the sky above to the land below.

A nearby church used to be visible from the front of his house. Today, if you're standing in the attic of the house, and if the wind is right, there are so many trees that you can just make out the steeple. It's a good feeling when you can't see the forest for the trees.

Ontario Pork: every day is Earth Day

Ontario Pork represents 4,000 pork producers in Ontario.

Crystal McKay is the communications specialist who is helping to present the association's work to the public.

Part of this story is about the environmentally sound work of pork producers in Ontario.

Ontario Pork works to ensure environmentally friendly farming practices at pork farms across the province.

The association prints a wide range of publications to help ensure that pork production takes the environment into account.

One of their slogans is "Every day is Earth Day on the farm."

They've even produced a series of portraits featuring concerned pork producers. The series was eventually turned into a popular calendar.

All of this information is backed up



Crystal McKay of Ontario Pork

by educational farm tours where pork producers can share best farming practices with other farmers.

These tours cover the latest manure injection techniques and the use of Global Positioning Systems to apply manure effectively.

On-site wells monitor groundwater on the farm to ensure that groundwater is kept clean.



Charlie Ormston and Doug Letson have been two key leaders behind the development of the Walter Bean Grand River Trail.

Ontario Pork has also organized tree planting days. An Earth Day tree planting was held last year near Moorefield to stabilize stream banks and reduce runoff. Children from many local schools attended.

Walter Bean Grand River Trail: linking communities

The best trails lead us back to nature and to an understanding of how important the natural world is to us.

The Walter Bean Grand River Trail leads us to the river. In 1999, the Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation decided to honour Walter Bean, a distinguished resident of Waterloo Region, with a foundation that would build a trail in his name.

Charlie Ormston and Doug Letson, two members of The Walter Bean Grand River Community Trails Foundation, are leading the effort to raise money to complete the 78-kilometre trail linking Cambridge and Kitchener-Waterloo in the heart of the Grand River watershed.

So far the Foundation has raised \$6.4 million for the trail.

Some of funding has been raised through the sale of fine art prints.

Major donors receive major recognition at kiosks at trail entrances. There is also recognition of the wide range of donors pulling together to build this community trail, and of the municipalities that will maintain the trail.

In addition, these kiosks provide a wealth of information about the Grand River and its watershed environment.

The trail is extremely popular with hikers of all ages. Cyclists like the smooth surfaces winding through forested areas. And anglers use the trail to gain access to a quiet afternoon of fishing the Grand.

Curious hikers will also come across many well-known, and some not-so-well-known heritage sites.

The Walter Bean Grand River Trail has traveled a long way since its inception the year after Mr. Bean passed away.

Entrance points are heavily used. Trail crossings built early in the development of the trail are being well maintained.

There are many trails in the Grand River watershed. But the Walter Bean Grand River Trail is special. It has committed volunteers like Doug Letson and Charlie Ormston working to lead it through the heart of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo. And it leads us to the heart of our watershed—the Grand River.



LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

Stewardship groups involved in grass-roots projects

By Al Murray
Stewardship Co-ordinator
Waterloo Stewardship Network

Ontario Stewardship was launched by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in 1995 to bring together landowners, individuals, groups and resource agencies with an interest in



Members of the Brant Woodlot Owners Association tour a 40-year-old white pine plantation to learn about plantation thinning operations

responsible land care and sustainable resource use.

Across Ontario, there are 40 community-based stewardship councils, including 10 within the Grand River watershed. The ministry provides stewardship co-ordinators to support the work of the councils.

Ontario Stewardship works to promote a stewardship ethic “in which humans care for the land as one part of the natural system. To participate in environmental stewardship is to make a personal commitment to the land and to sustain and enhance it for generations to come.”

Stewardship councils have been involved in a large number of projects and programs in the Grand River watershed. Here's a sample:

- In cooperation with Ducks Unlimited, the Dufferin/South Simcoe Land Stewardship Network is undertaking a major wetland-related initiative focused on the area around Luther Marsh
- Students from Elora Public School planted tree seedlings at Grand Moraine Growers, part of the Community Forestry Project initiated by the Wellington Stewardship Council along with a number of partners.

- The Brant Resource Stewardship Network facilitated the creation of the Brant Woodlot Owners Association.

- Members of Habitat Haldimand are working with a variety of partners to improve grassland and nesting habitat for barn owls

The councils use an ecological approach to create and enhance healthy environments. The Ontario Stewardship Council network is involved in more than 600 projects each year, including natural resource education, wildlife habitat enhancement and forestry. Many of these projects result in economic development and enhanced community leadership.

The council initiatives support events that draw people to the community, assist new business ventures, and increase the ability of landowners to generate benefits from natural resources. These projects encourage local employment, increase community capacity, and empower local leaders to act and direct local initiatives. This, in turn, encourages the volunteer commitment of time, expertise and financial resources that have made Ontario Stewardship a unique community-led, government-supported model.

Ontario Stewardship involves more than 11,000 volunteers who contribute more than 170,000 volunteer hours each year, working with more 2,000 registered partner organizations and individuals. Monetary in-kind effort from these partners reaches over \$6.5 million with total levered dollars at a staggering \$14.5 million. This adds up to a total contribution and effort for natural resources at \$21 million dollars. The ministry's investment in staff and support to the community brings this to over \$24 million.

Ontario Stewardship has two key components: the influential volunteer members of the local stewardship councils and the ministry's stewardship co-ordinators.

The Community Stewardship Councils are active groups that share a

strong commitment to the program purpose and represent landowners, land interests and resources in the area. They are respected people who provide a forum to recognize and influence community involvement and interest in stewardship. Representation is predominantly landowners such as woodland owners, loggers, farmers, cottagers, naturalists, and recreationalists. Each council has a chairperson and the council members act much like a board of directors, in addition to getting directly involved in many projects.

The councils provide a forum to foster stewardship, influence responsible land care by landowners and land interest, and seek funding opportunities to support their initiatives. They work with existing community groups to avoid duplication of efforts. They also encourage co-operation among agencies and associations through their focus on projects that require shared efforts.

Stewardship co-ordinators are paid by the ministry to work for the community through the stewardship council. They help build the necessary relationships and partnerships, working collaboratively with agencies and associations, and provide a window to the science and information within the ministry and the provincial stewardship network. They take an active role as the spokesperson for the council.

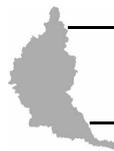
They have a local network of personal contacts in the community, and have a responsibility to be an active participant in the greater network of 40 stewardship councils, a key to the success of this program.

By working within this larger network they create a broader sense of purpose, lend some consistency to the program, maintain currency with programs and developments, obtain and give practical advice on how to build relationships and develop other skills and techniques.

The program has created a new relationship with communities, found better efficiencies, unexpected alliances, and

most importantly illustrated the tremendous value of true partnerships. Community Stewardship Councils in the Ontario Stewardship program are always looking for new partners, ideas and volunteers. To become involved in the program, contact your local Stewardship Council or visit the website at www.ontariostewardship.org.

Stewardship Council within the Grand River watershed: Dufferin/South Simcoe Stewardship Network, Brant Stewardship Network, Wellington Stewardship Council, Norfolk Land Stewardship Council, Waterloo Stewardship Network, Haldimand Stewardship Council, Perth Stewardship Council, Hamilton Stewardship Council, Resource Improvement Oxford, and Halton/Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Kennedy to kick off River Conference

The past and future of Canadian rivers will be the focus of discussion at the 4th Canadian River Heritage Conference in Guelph from June 6-9.

Keynote speaker at the conference opening will be Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who has a long and distinguished record as an environmentalist with a special interest in protecting the Hudson River in New York State.

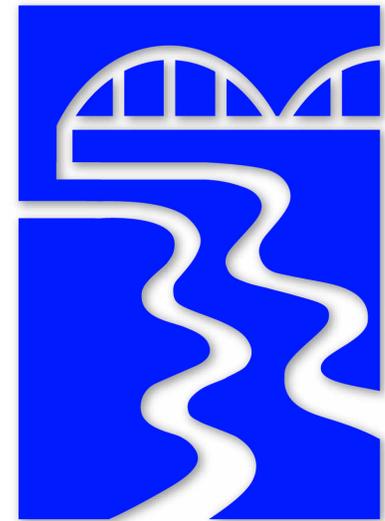
The conference is expected to draw about 300 delegates from Canada, the U.S. and other countries who will attend sessions at the University of Guelph.

Registration information will be available at the conference website in mid-February. The address is <http://www.riverconference2004.ca>



Kennedy

The 4th CANADIAN RIVER HERITAGE CONFERENCE



GUELPH, ONTARIO
June 6 - 9, 2004

The conference is being hosted by the Canadian Heritage River System, which is marking its 20th anniversary; the Grand River Conservation Authority, which is celebrating the Grand's 10th anniversary as a Canadian Heritage River; and Parks Ontario.

More than 80 speakers are expected to take part in 25 different seminars on river recreation, cultural heritage, natural heritage, eco-cultural tourism and community issues.

The speakers will provide information on case studies and lessons learned in river management, said Barbara Veale, co-chairman of the conference's organizing committee. Papers will be presented on river ecology, the cultural aspects of river development and other issues critical to the use and protection of rivers, said Veale.

The delegates will be a mix of river managers, academics, government officials and others with an interest in recreation and protecting rivers and their heritage, said Veale, who is the GRCA's co-

ordinator of policy planning and partnerships.

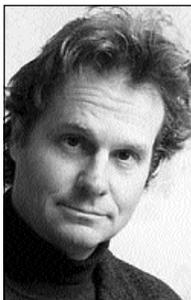
The other co-chair of the organizing committee is Don Gibson, national manager of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

The co-chairs for the conference itself will be Peter Krause, chair of the GRCA, and Adair Ireland-Smith, managing director of Ontario Parks.

Kennedy will be the main speaker at the opening gala at the River Run Centre in Guelph on June 6. He is a member of the Hudson Riverkeeper, an organization dedicated to protecting the water quality of the Hudson River and Long Island Sound, near New York City. As the group's lead lawyer he has successfully prosecuted governments and companies for failing to comply with pollution laws. He is also president of the Waterkeeper Alliance, an international organization dedicated to protecting water.

Other keynote speakers at the conference include:

- Wade Davis, a British Columbia native, is an explorer-in-residence for the National Geographic Society. Davis is an anthropologist and botanical explorer who has gone on expeditions to the most remote corners of the world. He has published scientific and popular articles and



Davis

books on subjects ranging from Haitian voodoo to the global biodiversity crisis. He also hosted and co-wrote the television series Earthguide.

- James Raffan, originally from Guelph, has a background in biology and cultural geography, including a stint as a professor at Queen's University in Kingston. He has written extensively about canoeing in Canada and has been acclaimed nationally for his work.

- Mark Angelo is a river conservationist, teacher and writer who is the

head of the Fish, Wildlife and Recreation program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

- Roberta Jamieson is the elected band council chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She was the first aboriginal woman in Canada to get a law degree. She served as commissioner of the Indian Commission of Canada, and for 10 years was the Ontario Ombudsman.



Jamieson

In 2001 she was elected band council chief in Six Nations, her home.

A major highlight of the conference will be a public concert and celebration of the Grand's anniversary as a Canadian Heritage River.

The concert will be held at Guelph Lake Conservation Area on Monday, June 7. The concert will be open to the public and feature artists including Tamarack, Garnett Rogers, Nonie Crete and Elizabeth Hill.

Veale said the conference and concert are a way to "celebrate the successes" of the Grand's 10 years as a heritage river.

"There have been a lot of activities to advance river health and promote greater appreciation of the heritage of the river," she said. "The designation has promoted an awareness and pride in the river which has led to actions taking place that might not have happened otherwise," she said.

"We want to celebrate what has happened and keep the momentum going," she said.

When the Grand was designated a Heritage River, a management plan for the heritage aspects of the river was presented to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board.

This year, the GRCA is leading preparation of a 10-year monitoring report which will report on progress made in the past decade and update the management plan for the future.

Heritage River cleanup May 29

Saturday, May 29 has been chosen as Heritage River Cleanup Day. This event, coordinated by the Grand River Conservation Authority, is part of the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the designation of the Grand River and its major tributaries, the Speed, Eramosa, Nith and Conestogo Rivers as Canadian Heritage Rivers.

Watershed municipalities and groups throughout the watershed are encouraged to plan community river, trail and road clean-ups, offering residents an opportunity to actively participate in a collective project which will visibly improve the river and its banks, increase public awareness of the river system and attract public attention to the anniversary.

To register your cleanup event for May 29, 2004, contact Sonia Morgan at (519) 621-2763 ext. 279 or e-mail smorgan@grandriver.ca

If you have planned a river, trail or road cleanup on another day in 2004, we'd like to hear about it as well. All clean-up activities, regardless of when they occur will be acknowledged and celebrated during the 4th Canadian River Heritage Conference at the 10th anniversary celebrations planned at Guelph Lake Conservation Area on Monday, June 7th.

Uncovering Feeder Canal's Lock 27

By Angus Scott
Managing Editor
Dunnville Chronicle

One of the best-preserved remnants of Dunnville's old Feeder Canal is receiving international attention.

The canal section, found on the east side of the Grand River near the old IMC site, will be a stopping point this year for international visitors attending the World Canal Conference.

A group of volunteers spent a day last



This lock from the old Feeder Canal in Dunnville has attracted the interest of canal experts from around the world.

fall at Lock 27 cleaning debris from the hand-laid brickwork marking the southern terminus of the Feeder.

Organizers of the conference, which will be held in Niagara in June, have expressed an interest in the Dunnville site.

“They had been scouting around, looking for sites to visit on the Grand River,” says Lee Rozon, Parks Development Supervisor for Tourism Haldimand.

About 40 organizers stopped by the lock last fall to have a look.

“They were just astounded at the limestone work and how well preserved it is,” said Rozon.

“They have asked that they be permitted to showcase the cleanup and restoration efforts of this lock. There will be approximately 47 visitors from the U.S. and Europe who have an interest in this type of work.”

The 200-foot-long Lock 27 was the largest on the Feeder Canal, says local historian Bill Warnick, who instigated the cleanup project.

“It’s the only remaining lock on the Feeder.”

The Feeder Canal was originally built as part of the Welland Canal system. Its original purpose was to feed water into the Welland Canal.

But by July 1830 the Feeder had taken on a more important role.

As boat traffic and interest increased, the decision to expand use of the Feeder was made.

In an article written for his self-published *Grand Dispatch*, Warnick chronicled the history of the Feeder.

“For the first 15 years the Feeder Canal did not open into the Grand River at Port Maitland. Instead it left the junction heading westward to Broad Creek, now Stromness, and from there veered northwesterly to Dunnville. With the building of the 32-lock second Welland Canal in 1842, the section between Stromness and Port Maitland was finally excavated. At this time a stone lock measuring 200 feet in length, 45 in width with a nine-foot mitre sill was built. This lock when first built was said to be one of the best, if not the best, on the Welland Canal.

“The major significance of this lock was that vessels could travel from the lower Grand River to the upper Grand.

“Until the connection was made between Port Maitland and Stromness, ships had to tie up at Dunnville in the lower river and off load. The cargo would then be reloaded onto another ship or barge and sent up the river as far as Brantford or down the Feeder Canal

passing Stromness, then onto the junction and Lake Ontario.”

The construction of the lock created a second outlet to Lake Erie for the canal and also turned out to be very useful during the period of 1845 to 1850 when renovations made the Welland Canal between Welland and Lake Erie unavailable.

Warnick wrote that as many as 575 vessels passed up and down the Feeder each year “carrying grain for Cleveland, lumber for building Chicago, sand and gravel for building piers and roads throughout the Great Lakes, and plaster of paris for Buffalo. Cheese manufactured at Port Maitland and Stromness was shipped throughout the United States, as was cord wood to heat homes.”

The lock, built by John Brown, the same engineer who built the Mohawk Island Lighthouse, was rebuilt in 1904, an indication, says Warnick, that the Feeder Canal was still actively used.

The cleanup project was a preliminary effort to tidy the area up. It was aided by Larry Barnes and Adam King, who operated a backhoe to clear out the debris. They started at 9 a.m. and finished at about 4 p.m.

“Things went really well,” said Warnick. “Most of the garbage at the east end of the lock is now gone.”

Shrubs and trees that were starting to send roots into the brickwork are also being removed.

“We plan to return in the spring to do a people cleanup up,” said Warnick.

Rozon said the local site will likely be marked by historic plaques.

The Grand Valley Trails Association is interested in connecting to the site as a point of interest and the Southern Grand River Advisory Board is also interested in aiding the restoration project, she said.

For more information or to help with the spring cleanup contact Lee Rozon at (905) 765-4993 or lrizon@HaldimandCounty.on.ca

DO IT YOURSELF

Native plants in the home garden

By Lori Balcerak

After several dry summers marked by watering restrictions in many communities, home gardeners may be wondering what they can do this summer to keep their gardens bright and lively.

One solution is to use native plants, which developed in this region and are adapted to the region's climate.

Many native flowers that are seen in the wild, can actually be grown in home gardens. Here is a description of four of these plants.

One of the more common wild flowers admired by gardeners is the black-eyed Susan. This yellow flower with a black center has a long bloom time and will add color to your garden all summer. Normally found in prairies or along roadsides, it is a very hardy plant that



Black-eyed Susans are an attractive wildflower suited to climate of the Grand River region

likes to live in poor, dry soil. Black-eyed Susan will produce an abundance of seed, but each plant only lives for two seasons.

Another plant that produces a lot of seed is the harebell. This flower is purple, grows about 18 inches tall, and also has a long bloom time. Harebell is normally found in dry grasslands. The plant tolerates drought well and likes full sunlight, which makes it great for rock gardens. Butterflies and bees are attracted to the flower but mammals, such as deer and rabbits, are not.

Another butterfly-attracting plant is swamp milkweed. This plant grows up to three feet in height, with a beautiful pink flower with a cinnamon scent. The plant blooms in mid summer, but it is worth the wait as it is a major food source for butterflies, especially monarchs. Mammals will stay away from milkweed as it is toxic to them. Seed will form in pods in the fall, but the plant will spread from its roots as well. Swamp milkweed is usually found along streams and in wet areas, but after spring it is a drought tolerant plant for the garden. Also keep in mind that this variety of milkweed is not the same as common milkweed that grows in abundance in the wild.

Prairie smoke is another beautiful pink wildflower. This plant grows low to the ground and blooms in early the summer, and when in bloom the flowers have two-inch plumes. Keep in mind that this plant may not bloom in its first season, but it is spectacular once it does flower. Prairie Smoke produces abundant seed and it also spreads to create a ground cover. If your garden is sand or loam with full sun, this an excellent plant.

This is just a small sample of wildflowers that may be grown in your garden. Native plants are often perennial and easy to grow, making gardening easier. They come in a variety of colors and heights, as well as moisture and soil tolerances, which makes almost every garden niche a possibility to house one.

NOW AVAILABLE

Map is getting plenty of attention

A new map of the Grand River watershed is becoming famous, all over the map.

The 24x36 inch full colour map contains a wealth of information about the watershed, which is the largest in southern Ontario.

The contours of the watershed are shown in colour-coded elevation information. Rivers, lakes and most major streams are identified. Also shown on the map are highways and roads, municipal boundaries, urban areas, conservation areas, GRCA properties, rail trails and other features.

The map was developed by GRCA graphics technician Lara Vujanic and published in 2002.

The map was produced using a suite of software tools to ensure that the information is as precise as possible. The first step was to gather Geographic Information System (GIS) layers such as roads, boundaries and natural features to produce a base map with ESRI's mapping software, ArcInfo. Then the map was edited, labels and titles applied and other creative touches added using programs such as Adobe Illustrator, MAPublisher and PhotoShop.

The result was a product that was visually pleasing, finely detailed and accurate.

It was distributed to all watershed primary schools, municipal offices, GRCA staff and board members and other interested parties. It's also available for sale from the GRCA.

Since it was published in June 2002



the map has received a lot of attention from across the continent.

First, it was selected by ESRI Canada to appear in its annual calendar, which it uses to highlight maps produced using its software. An excerpt from the map appeared on the January 2003 page of the calendar and can be seen on the company's web site at esri.ca in the "maps online" section.

In August 2003, another software company, Avenza Systems, which makes MAPublisher, gave the GRCA map an honorable mention in its annual international competition. And finally, in September the U.S. Library of Congress contacted the GRCA to obtain a copy of the map to be placed in its cartographic collection.

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

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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

Celebrating 150 years of Brant history

In 2002, the County of Brant celebrated its sesquicentennial. In honour of the occasion, County Council decided to publish a pictorial history book highlighting the history of the county over the past 150 years.

Written and researched by Angela Files and Ruth Lefer, the book "1852-2002: A

Celebration" outlines the unique culture, personality and characteristics of the county's former six constituent municipalities – the Town of Paris and the townships of Brantford, Burford, Oakland, Onondaga and South Dumfries. When the two-tier county system ended in 1998 after 147 years, these six municipalities joined together to work co-operatively as the municipality of the County of Brant.



Assistance of the Brant Historical Society, Brant Museum and Archives and a host of other contributors and funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation made this project a reality. Copies of the book are available by contacting the County of Brant Municipal Office at (519) 449-2451.



DID YOU KNOW?

- It takes about one million cloud droplets to provide enough water for one raindrop.
- Two "prominent citizens" has a lucky escape in March 1858. The Galt Main Street bridge was carried away by ice. The two were carried downstream some distance on a bridge section before it grounded. Here they climbed a tree and were rescued by boat.
- The first bridge over the falls at Elora was built by Roswell Matthews in 1819.



The Grand Strategy Calendar

Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration: "Grand Legacies: Boom, Bust and Beyond." Monday, Feb. 16, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Paris Fairgrounds, Paris. A roster of knowledgeable speakers will provide insights about the industrial past and its importance to shaping settlement within the Grand River watershed. Registration for the workshop is free but is limited to 300 on a first-come, first-served basis. Register by Monday, Feb. 9 Contact John Quinn, City of Brantford, 100 Wellington Square, City Hall, Brantford, Ontario N3T 2M3 Fax: 519-752-6977. Phone: (519) 759-4150 or e-mail: jquinn@brantford.ca

The Queen's Bush Settlement: Black Pioneers, 1939-1865. A lecture by Ian Easterbrook about the book by Linda Brown Kubisch. Tuesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. Unitarian Church, 122 Harris Road, Guelph. Sponsored by the Wellington Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, and the Wellington County Historical Society. The book provides an overview of the Black settlement of the northern reaches of present-day Waterloo and Wellington counties, the involvement of missionaries, the AME and BME church, with an emphasis on the people, some of whom returned to the United States; others migrated elsewhere in Ontario. Genealogists will be introduced to the author's prodigious research, in this country and in United States repositories. Ian Easterbrook is an independent researcher who spends much time as a volunteer at the Wellington County Museum and Archives.