



Grand River  
Conservation  
Authority



The Grand:  
A Canadian  
Heritage River

## INSIDE

### Cover story

Watershed Award winners honored 1

### Milestones

Management plan for tail-water 4

Heritage Day builds a bridge across time 5

### Now Available

Posters of Heritage River quilt available 6

### Taking Action

Burford Nursery recognized 7

Foundation seeking volunteers 7

Foundation awards conservation grants 8

Group seeks marsh monitors 8

Cover Photo: John Malcolmson (left) and Gil Henderson of the Tim Horton Children's Foundation Onondaga Farms have turned the one-time cattle farm into a environmental learning centre for children.



## Watershed Award winners honored for their efforts

*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 2004, the winners of the Watershed Awards were the Cambridge Sculpture Garden, the Ancient Mariners Canoe Club, Tim Horton Children's Foundation Onondaga Farms, Larry Mellors and Aaron and Jason Richardson.*

*They were honored at a special ceremony held in February. As part of the event, a slide show detailing the accomplishments of each winner was presented. The show was written and photographed by Jim Reid.*

*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.*

### Tim Horton Children's Foundation Onondaga Farms

Farmer Gil Henderson is well known for his interest in the environment, and in the future of our children. He's been raising prize winning cattle and farming Onondaga Farms near St. George for 30 years.

In order to ensure a legacy for our children and the environment, he turned his farm over to the Tim Horton Children's Foundation a few years ago, where it has established its head office.

The foundation converted the farm into one of six Tim Hortons Children's Camps, but one with a strong environmental and ecological bent.

They built the Eco-Centre, topped by the third largest telescope in Canada. They established children's educational programs for children of all abilities and installed a computer lab, donated



*The Tim Horton Children's Foundation Onondaga Farms is a summer camp for underprivileged kids as well as a year-round environmental education centre.*

by Microsoft Canada.

The camp also received a donation of an insect collection worth \$250,000.

The foundation continued environmental programs on Gil's former farm by preserving natural areas.

They are encouraging the restoration of the trumpeter swans and also installed 300 nesting boxes for bluebirds and wood ducks.

They hired John Malcolmson to build and strengthen children's programs with a wide range of school boards.

The programs include learning about the flora of the Grand River watershed.

Urban kids learn first hand about the importance of sound agricultural practices.

In conjunction with the GRCA, the foundation is growing tree seedlings for children to plant in urban centres in the Grand River valley.

They've also established an American chestnut nursery to assist in the development of blight-resistant chestnut trees.

It's not all work and no play though. There's a swimming pool that holds 150 kids and a climbing wall for safe and adventurous activity.

Where does the money come from? The change customers put in counter boxes or donate on Camp Day helped to

fund this \$12 million project.

There was a lot of planning involved to change Onondaga Farms into Tim Horton Children's Foundation Onondaga Farms. But it only took nine months to transform farmland into the first Tim Horton camp with the environment as part of its programs.

It took more than funding and planning. It took dedication to make the dream come true, the dream of "fostering within our children the quest for a brighter future."

### Cambridge Sculpture Garden

There are many windows onto the Grand River in Cambridge. One of the newest is the Cambridge Sculpture Garden.

The garden is in Galt on Grand Avenue South, across from the Southworks Mall. The original proposal was to turn the land into a parking lot. However, a number of groups worked together to turn it into a place for art and sculpture. – Rockwell International, the City of Cambridge, Connon Nursery, Compact Sod, Clerical, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and the GRCA.

One of the members of the

Cambridge Sculpture Garden Committee was Judy Welsh, a landscape designer who volunteered to develop the drawings and plans for the site.

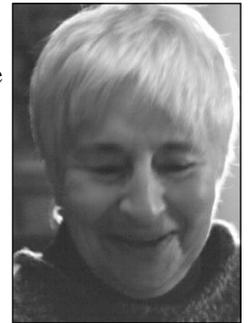
Members of the Cambridge Sculpture Garden Committee, such as Margaret Hitchcock, have assisted her.

Working at arm's length from *Hitchcock* the Galt Horticultural Society, what were the results?

They saved an ancient oak that is now guarded by a tall, lanky sculpture called "A Question of Who's In Charge Here?"

The sculpture garden has held a number of children's programs. The garden also borders the Trans Canada Trail.

One of the permanent pieces in the garden is Andreas Gehr's coiled metal sculpture that once



*Hitchcock*



*Welsh*



*The statue "A Question of Who's in Charge" stands in the Cambridge Sculpture Garden near a stately oak tree.*

graced the entrance to the GRCA offices on Clyde Road in Cambridge.

Now that it is in place in the sculpture garden it has become part of the river landscape.

Some works have astonished visitors with their grandeur, towering above the Grand.

One sculpture, shaped like a hive, nestles in the oak resembling a part of nature.

Extensive plantings now cover the site. A number of them are native varieties that shelter and offer places for appreciation of the river.

### **Ancient Mariners Canoe Club**

Another Cambridge group committed to the Grand is the well-known Ancient Mariners Canoe Club. In spite of its ancient name, it is an energetic and youthful group.

This 80-member club, which is for

people 55 and over, meets regularly at Cambridge's Durward Centre where they plan future activities and set goals for the club with the good spirit that characterizes the Mariners.



*Members of the Ancient Mariners Canoe Club take a break during their trek down the Grand last June.*

Current president is John Ferguson, who manages a consulting business in Kitchener.

Two of their goals are to raise the profile of the river and to help clean it up.

In June 2004 they undertook an unusual trip to fulfill these goals. Over one day, different groups from the club put into the river at different locations and canoed the whole length of the river.

Each canoe carried a flag bearing the Canadian Heritage Rivers and Ancient Mariners logos.

Along the way, they stopped at Grand River Heritage sites, and were interviewed by reporters.

And knowing that the river is a resource we all share, they share it with other users including the many anglers they passed along the way.

On their day trip they passed the railway abutments upriver of Paris. And stopped for refreshments after portaging the Paris Dam.

They observed Grand River farms that are reducing runoff into the river with buffer strips on its banks.

Throughout their trip, they reflected on the beauty of the river.

They had the chance to observe wildlife at close range-or at a bit of a distance. Some had to outrun a storm but

everyone arrived at their destinations, safe and sound, including the final group which finished the day at Port Maitland on Lake Erie.

All the club members returned to Cambridge and celebrations at the GRCA.

Who would have imagined such a journey when the club was founded in 1988?

The club has taken on many other activities such as hiking and cross-country skiing.

With an interest in history, they also tour historic sites. Surely the future holds many more expeditions for the Ancient Mariners to give them the opportunity to appreciate and conserve the Grand.



## MILESTONES

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

### Management plan in place for Grand River tail-water

By Steve May  
Grand River Fish Management Plan Implementation Coordinator

**A**fter more than two years of work, a management plan is in place to protect and enhance the world-class brown trout fishery found in the tail-water of the Shand Dam.

The recently completed Grand River Tail-Water Fisheries Management Plan will ensure that the Grand tail-water fishery will continue to provide high quality angling experiences for years to come.

The tail-water is the section of the Grand between Shand Dam and West Montrose. Cold water released by the Shand Dam changes the river environment below the dam. The cool waters allow species such as trout to thrive for



*An angler casts his line in the Grand River in the tail-water section between the Shand Dam and West Montrose. A new management plan sets out steps to protect and enhance the world-famous fishing area.*

a number of kilometres downstream of the dam.

Development of a management plan for the Grand River tail-water fishery is one of 42 "best bets" identified in the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan that was released in 1998 to address fisheries issues throughout the watershed. The tail-water plan identifies all the work that has been completed in the tail-water area and will direct future activities to make this fishery even better.

Fisheries biologists from MNR, GRCA and Trout Unlimited Canada identified that the waters below the Shand Dam and Belwood Lake had the potential to create a cold-water fishery and in 1989 a stocking program was initiated. The fishery has blossomed into one of the best brown trout fishing destinations in eastern North America, attracting anglers from around the world to fish its clean waters and abundant brown trout.

The tail-water plan is the culmination of three public consultation meetings and more than two years of work by community, fishing organizations and

agency volunteers. The plan identifies what needs to be done to maintain and improve this stretch of the Grand River, and is the result of work by community volunteers, fishing organizations and three levels of government.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, the Friends of the Grand River, the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Izaak Walton Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited Canada, Ontario Streams, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Township of Centre Wellington, the Belwood Lake Cottager's Association and local fly fishing guiding community were all involved with the creation of the plan.

Volunteer and government agency representatives have already completed a lot of work in this area to improve the fishing experience in the tail-water. This work is ongoing, but there is now a management plan that can direct this fishery into the future.

There are plans to tackle a large-scale habitat improvement project between Inverhaugh and the Nichol/Woolwich Townline to improve fishing opportunities and fish habitat in over seven kilo-

meters of river. This plan will use large structural enhancements in the river to create needed winter, summer and spawning habitat for fish in the area.

A research symposium is scheduled to help gather the best possible data for future management decisions. This symposium is expected to take place this fall and participation from agency, volunteer and academic representatives is expected.

Improvements to river access will continue, as will the cooperative fish stocking program, River Watch and improvements to riparian habitats on the main stem of the river and in the tributaries of the tail-water.

With a dedicated group of agency personnel and volunteers looking after this portion of the river the future looks bright for anglers visiting this well cared for fishery.

To obtain a copy of the tail-water fisheries plan or to find out more about it and the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan, please contact Art Timmerman, Area Biologist, Ministry of Natural Resources Guelph (519) 826-4935.

The plan will also be available on the GRCA website at [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca)

## Heritage Day forum builds a bridge across time

By Barbara Veale  
Coordinator of Policy, Planning and Partnerships, GRCA

Despite adverse weather, the eighth annual Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration attracted more than 200 eager participants. The theme for the workshop was Bridging Time – a theme that proved to be very apt.

The four keynote speakers focused on bridging time by highlighting aspects of our heritage that connect the past to the present. These included heritage bridges of the Grand, artifacts of natural history that tie us in time to the



*Al Koop (right) of the Older Voices, performs at the Heritage Day Workshop, with the support of Izzie Collier (left) and Madi Feniak.*

last ice age, limestone construction and adaptive re-use of buildings in Fergus and Elora, and the influence of David Boyle on the intellectual life of Elora residents in the late 1800s and to the present day.

Don McAlpine from the Fergus Pipe Band opened the event in true Scottish style, with the swirl of bagpipes. Older Voices, a performing troupe of local drama students and history buffs, regaled the audience with vignettes of the past, bringing to life colourful characters of Centre Wellington's past. A number of informative displays highlighting the heritage of Centre Wellington were also featured.

**Stephen Robinson**, Robinson Heritage Consulting, detailed the methodology used for ranking bridges that cross the watershed's five heritage rivers: the Grand, Nith, Conestogo, Eramosa, and Speed Rivers. Using the criteria adapted from the Ontario Heritage Bridge Program and the Region of Waterloo's Bridge Inventory, 69

bridges were considered significant, including the David Street and Victoria Street bridges in Elora and several concrete bowstring bridges in Centre Wellington and the County of Wellington. This work was completed in 2004 and incorporated into the Ten-Year Monitoring Report for the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River.

Robinson pointed out that there is more work that needs to be done in order to study and rank other bridges in the watershed that cross smaller tributaries and to make the current inventory data accessible to the public.

**Dr. Peter Storck**, Senior Curator Emeritus at the Royal Ontario Museum, an institution whose forerunner, the Ontario Provincial Museum, was established with the assistance of David Boyle in the late 1800s, provided the audience with a fascinating archaeological journey, describing artifacts found in Ontario that date back to the retreat of the last ice age over 11,000 years ago. Through the research carried out by

Storck, we can start to bridge time by learning more about the people who occupied Ontario so long ago. Storck indicated that much of the archaeological evidence needed to tell the story of the first settlers in Ontario after the ice age has been lost. More sites are in danger of being lost as a result of new development and disturbance through agricultural use. More research is needed to locate, excavate and catalogue ancient archaeological artifacts.

Limestone buildings, so prevalent in Centre Wellington, were the subject of **Dr. Stephen Thorning's** presentation. Thorning highlighted the various techniques that were used during the 1800s and early 1900s for construction. Limestone, taken from the banks of the Grand River, was a common material used in the construction of mills, factories and homes in the immediate vicinity of the river in Centre Wellington. Many of these buildings have survived over the past century despite fires. Many limestone buildings were refurbished after fires by recycling the original stone into new walls. Most have been adapted for modern use.

Fine examples include the Elora Mill, Wellington County Museum and Archives, Fergus Market, Elora Centre for the Arts (former Elora Public School), and the St. Andrew Mill condominiums (former Monkland/Walkey/Fergus Mill).

**Dr. Gerald Killan** concluded the formal presentations with an engaging talk on the life and times of David Boyle. David Boyle was an advocate of hands-on learning. He believed that children should experience teaching in the field, exploring natural history. As principal of the Elora Public School between 1871 and 1881, Boyle found the Elora Gorge an appropriate classroom for his students. Killan suggested that the intellectual life of Elora was awakened and enriched by Boyle's leadership in maintaining the third largest Mechanics Institute library in Canada, starting a Natural History Society, establishing a

museum, and hosting community debates on a variety of controversial topics such as Darwin's book "Origin of the Species" and other scientific thought.

Boyle left Elora for Toronto in 1883 taking with him his collection of native artifacts and relics that he had collected in the Elora area. In 1888, the Canadian Institute appointed him as Canada's first full-time professional archaeologist. From 1896 to 1911 he served as curator at the Ontario Provincial Museum. Boyle gave the bulk of his archeological collection to the Ontario Provincial Museum and in 1933 it was transferred to the David Boyle Room at the Royal Ontario Museum.

The day concluded most fittingly, with a reception at the Centre for the Arts, housed in the former Elora Public School. Exhibits by local artists were displayed and hors d'oeuvres by local restaurateurs were offered.

Two special door prizes donated by the authors were drawn including Gerald Killan's book *David Boyle: From Artisan to Archaeologist* and Peter Storck's book *Journey to the Ice Age: Discovering an Ancient World*.

By all accounts, the Heritage Day Workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. Many commented that it provided an excellent venue for sharing information and ideas, celebrating successes, and inspiring further community action to strengthen heritage appreciation and protection within the Grand River watershed.

A special thank you is extended to the Township of Centre Wellington, the primary sponsor of this year's Heritage Day Workshop and the local arrangements committee comprised of representatives from Heritage Centre Wellington, the Township of Centre Wellington, and The Grand Strategy Heritage Working Group. Local merchants also helped make the event a success by donating goods and services including Zehrs Markets; Elora Mill Inn; Drimmie's Flowers; Breadalbane Inn; Alpha Graphics; Elora Centre for the Arts;

Goofie Newfie Bar & Grill; Little Katy Variety; Angel's Diner; Murray's Bakery; Grand River Caterers; and the Centre Wellington Chamber of Commerce.

The Heritage Day Workshop is hosted every year by the Heritage Working Group and is co-sponsored by the Grand River Conservation Authority and watershed municipalities.

The ninth annual Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration is scheduled for Heritage Day, Monday, February 20, 2006 at a location to be determined.



NOW AVAILABLE

## Posters of Heritage River quilt available

In 2004, the tenth anniversary of the Grand River and its tributaries as Canadian Heritage Rivers was celebrated throughout the Grand River watershed. This special occasion coincided with the 20th anniversary celebration of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS). Both milestones were acknowledged at the Fourth Canadian River Heritage Conference held in June 2004 in Guelph.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the CHRS, the conference commissioned an illustrative quilt – a piece of art to capture the essence of Canadian Rivers. The artist selected for this task was Judy Gascho-Jutzi from Kitchener.

“The quilt picture evolved over the many months,” said Gascho-Jutzi. “I had a picture in my mind of vignettes with the river flowing through them. There were many aspects to feature: the historical, the cultural, the natural and the recreational - all values of the Canadian Heritage Rivers.

“The main focus of the quilt was always the river, in all its magnificence, showing its many faces, power and beauty, a life force representative of the geographical diversity of Canada.”

The finished quilt a fitting tribute to



*The Heritage Rivers Quilt, created by Judy Gascho-Jutzi of Kitchener, is unveiled by Adair Ireland-Smith, managing director, Ontario Parks and Heritage River conference co-chair and Nik Lopoukhine, director general, National Parks Directorate, Parks Canada*

Canadian Rivers and an extraordinary work of art. It is now housed in Ottawa in the offices of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System secretariat.

The quilt caused such a stir when it was unveiled that Gascho-Jutzi has decided to share her work in poster and card format. Posters are available for \$15 and cards are available for \$4. Prices include taxes but shipping and handling are extra. Contact Judy at (519) 743-9836 or judy\_gascho\_jutzi@hotmail.com to order copies.



## TAKING ACTION

### Burford Nursery recognized for forest stewardship

The Burford Tree Nursery, operated by the Grand River Conservation Authority, has received the forest stewardship award in recognition of the nursery's efforts to grow and re-establish rare native trees in southern Ontario.

The award was presented March 1 at the Forest Leadership Conference in Toronto. Bruce Graham, superintendent of the nursery, accepted the award.

"The Burford Tree Nursery has helped to significantly increase the biodiversity of forests in the Grand River watershed and in other areas of southern Ontario," said Mike Apsey, past-chair of Wildlife Habitat Canada. "It seems to me that the Burford Tree Nursery is doing everything right. People, wildlife, our forests and the environment all benefit from its efforts."

Since it opened in 1984, the Burford Tree Nursery has produced more than three million seedlings. Some of the rare tree species grown at the nursery include pig nut hickory, butternut, flowering dogwood and the American chestnut.

The nursery takes up about 43 hectares (106 acres) of former tobacco farm.

It concentrates on growing trees that are native to the two climate zones of



*Graham*

the Grand River watershed: the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence zone in the region north of Cambridge, and the Carolinian Zone in the south.

The nursery is also home to the Chestnut Recovery Program, which aims to help restore the Sweet (or American) chestnut to southern Ontario after being virtually wiped out by a virus during the early and middle 20th century.

The Forest Stewardship Recognition Program award is presented annually to individuals, organizations and companies for outstanding stewardship in Canada's forests.

This year, ten forest stewardship awards were presented. Winners received a limited edition print of a painting entitled *New Morning* by BC artist Don Li-Leger.

The founding partners of the Forest Stewardship Recognition Program are the Forest Products Association of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Canadian Forest Service and Wildlife Habitat Canada.

### Foundation seeking volunteers

The Grand River Conservation Foundation is a team of hardworking community leaders who raise funds, and friends, in support of the GRCA's work.

The Foundation's most recent success was *The Living Classroom – Campaign for Outdoor Education*, which raised more than \$1.8 million and raised the profile of the GRCA significantly.

The Foundation is looking for business and community leaders from throughout the watershed who have a passion for our work and the outdoors, and who could spend an hour or two per month promoting and fund raising for GRCA projects.

If you are interesting in getting involved, please contact Sara Wilbur, Director of Development at the Foundation at (519) 621-2763 x272, or by email at swilbur@grandriver.ca.

## Foundation awards conservation grants

Each year, the Grand River Conservation Foundation presents Community Conservation Grants to help finance projects undertaken by organizations to improve river access, protect and improve natural areas or undertake other works.

The money comes from two Foundation endowment funds: The Thiess Riverprize Fund and the Grand Champions Fund. The Thiess fund was established with the GRCA's monetary award when it was named the world's top watershed management agency in 2000. The Grand Champions Fund holds the foundation's endowment donations.

Recipients of 2005 grants are:

- Ancient Mariners Canoe Club, Cambridge, \$1,000 to improve river access at Glen Morris (County of Brant)
- Laurentian Senior Public School, Kitchener, \$1,000 for schoolyard naturalization
- New Dundee Optimist Club, New Dundee, \$1,000 to naturalize land at Alder Lake Park in New Dundee
- Myrtleville House Museum,

Brantford, \$1,200 for native tree planting

- Drayton Rotary Club, Drayton, \$1,000 for parkland trails and naturalization
- 10,000 Trees Project, Waterloo, \$1,000 for reforestation projects
- Cambridge Sculpture Garden, Cambridge, \$1,000 for beautification of dike lands

Applications for 2006 grants will be open during the late summer and fall of this year. Information will be available at [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca).

## Group seeks marsh monitors

The Marsh Monitoring Program is looking for interested naturalists to monitor birds, amphibians and their habitats in marshes throughout the Great Lakes basin in both Canada and the United States.

Volunteers conduct surveys during spring and early summer in marsh habitats, documenting the presence and abundance of birds and amphibians within these biologically rich environments. To date, data submitted by volun-

teer monitors has been used to detect significant changes in population trends of marsh birds and amphibians, to develop indicators of wetland health, and to provide practical information for marsh habitat management.

For more information about the program and how to participate, please contact Kathy Jones at [aqsurvey@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:aqsurvey@bsc-eoc.org) or 1-888-448-2473 ext. 212.

The Marsh Monitoring Program is delivered by Bird Studies Canada in partnership with Environment Canada Conservation Branch – Ontario Region, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency – Great Lakes National Programs Office. Additional financial support is provided by the Toronto Dominion Friends of the Environment Foundation.

## About this newsletter

This newsletter is produced bi-monthly as a communications tool by the Grand River Conservation Authority on behalf of the partners in *The Grand Strategy*. This newsletter can be seen at [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca)

### For information on

#### **The Grand Strategy contact:**

Barbara Veale,  
GRCA, 400 Clyde Road,  
Box 729, Cambridge, On. N1R 5W6  
Phone (519) 621-2763 Ext. 274  
Fax: (519) 621-4844  
E-mail: [bveale@grandriver.ca](mailto:bveale@grandriver.ca)  
Web site: [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca)

#### **For newsletter submissions contact**

Dave Schultz, GRCA  
Phone: (519) 621-2761, Ext. 273  
Fax: (519) 621-4844

E-mail: [dschultz@grandriver.ca](mailto:dschultz@grandriver.ca)

Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of January, March, May, July, September and November. Submissions may be edited for length or style.

Tax deductible donations and sponsorships toward the cost of producing this newsletter are always welcome.

#### **Publications Mail**

Agreement #144871



GRCA Chair Peter Krause (left) and Foundation Past President Tom Land with Judy Major-Girardin of the Cambridge Sculpture Garden.