

GRAND ACTIONS

THE GRAND STRATEGY NEWSLETTER

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Grand River
Conservation
Authority



The Grand:
A Canadian
Heritage River

INSIDE

Cover Story

Watershed award
winners honoured 1

Milestones

Pinehurst celebrates
50 years 2
Taquanyah reservoir 4

Look Who's Taking Action

Students help with
new Guelph trail 5
New Brantford tree
nursery 6
Heritage award 7

What's Happening

Water Forum 2005 7
Visitors from China 7
Registry submissions 8

Grand Strategy Calendar

8

Cover photo: Jason and Aaron Richardson are at the forefront of environment friendly farm techniques on their 2,500-acre family farm west of Dunnville.



Award winners: Larry Mellors and Richardson Family Farm

Each year the Grand River Conservation Authority recognizes the efforts of individuals and groups by presenting awards for outstanding conservation and environmental work. At a ceremony earlier this year, the 2004 award winners were recognized and a slide show detailing the accomplishments of each winner was presented by Jim Reid.

This month we're featuring recipients of two of these awards: Larry Mellors and Aaron and Jason Richardson. The Ancient Mariners Canoe Club, Tim Hortons Children's Foundation and Onondaga Farms have already been featured in Grand Actions.

Larry Mellors

A retired property tax assessor, Larry Mellors' "other job" has been working on stream and river restoration for over 30 years.

"Larry Mellors has been a fixture on the

Grand River since anyone can remember," says Bob Scott, Exceptional Waters coordinator. "He is an avid angler, preferring steelhead. In an effort to encourage the steelhead population in the Grand, Larry has become a participant in many conservation programs."

He began by helping to build stream bank stabilizers in Young's Creek near Simcoe, which is outside the Grand River watershed, and this led to monitoring how this rehabilitation was improving the fishery. He then designed a fishway on the Saugeen River near Walkerton, which is still functioning to improve the river's fishery.

Closer to his home in Brantford, Mellors has been working with the Brantford Steelheaders, the GRCA and local students to improve water quality in tributaries of the Grand.

On Whitemans Creek, stream bank stabilizers have been installed, while debris has been left in



Larry Mellors is a Brantford resident who has volunteered for 30 years to improve the Grand and other rivers.

place in some areas to silt in and help create a healthy, fast-flowing stream. This has improved water quality and clarity in the creek and helped stabilize the banks, which are home to rare and beautiful Carolinian trees. As part of this project, Mellors taught kids how to fly fish the creek they were improving.

Mellors has been working with the community on D'Aubigny Creek in Brantford, one of only two cold water trout streams in the area. He also helped install bank stabilization structures next to the soccer field along the creek. Trees planted by students over a decade ago have created a buffer strip that keeps soccer balls, players and runoff out of the creek.

The work at D'Aubigny has narrowed the creek and increased the rate of flow, leading to great improvements in the quality of the water in this important watercourse.

Few things in this world bring as much contentment as improving the environment and water quality. The results of the work of Larry Mellors and community members are obvious in the Grand River through Brantford, where fishermen take advantage of them.

"Good water makes for good angling, and Larry's efforts, as much as anyone's, have been sustained over a long period of time," Scott says.

Richardson Family Farms

There are thousands of farms in the Grand River watershed, but it is a safe bet that not many of them are working 2,500 acres of land and have been in the family for five generations.

Jason and Aaron Richardson keep Richardson Family Farms, located west of Dunnville, in business and make it more environmentally friendly, while their father, Grant, is a former president of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

The diversified farm raises dairy and beef cattle and has been selling seed locally for 50 years. Corn, soybeans, winter wheat, alfalfa, barley and red clover are planted on a five-year rotation, while tofu soybeans are shipped to Japan.

Although this is a large scale farm, preserving the environment is important to the family. Manure is stored in a roofed structure to reduce runoff, while the hardwood bush is managed and was thinned to provide logs that were milled into the lumber for this large barn.

The family works their land with low-till and no-till equipment. In addition to saving money, no-till reduces the need for herbicides and reduces gas consumption and emissions. An 80-acre field on the Richardson farm includes five acres of grassed waterways to reduce erosion and prevent runoff from the clay soil from entering watercourses.

Wetlands and woodlands thrive cheek-by-jowl on the family farm. Ample buffer strips reduce soil runoff into small creeks, while protecting wetlands bordering the Grand.

On dry land, more buffer strips meander along the shores of the river and keep soil, fertilizer and manure on the land where it belongs and out of the Grand River.

No-till planting, crop rotation, Hickenbottom drains, a grassed waterway and a forest all work together on the farm, while the waters of nearby Lake Erie look better each year as a result of these efforts.



MILESTONES

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

Pinehurst Park successful even before it opened

Pinehurst Lake Conservation Area was a success even before it opened, proclaimed a headline of The Galt Reporter 50 years ago.

Traffic was jammed, as more than 2,000 carloads of people came to view the park the weekend before the official opening, held on Thursday, June 30, 1955.

And why the popularity? At that time, there were precious few public outdoor recreation areas in the Grand River watershed. People welcomed the idea of a beautiful park where they could swim, fish, boat and camp so close to their homes in Kitchener, Paris and today's city of Cambridge.

Pinehurst Lake was the second conservation area opened by what was then known as the Grand Valley Conservation Authority, forerunner of the GRCA.

The first was Elora Gorge Park, which was officially opened the previous year to make this rugged natural feature of Wellington County available for public use.

Pinehurst Lake was indeed a logical next step in the conservation area system of parks. The original park property encompassed just 94 acres (34 hectares), and has purchased the previous year from two adjacent landowners. Cost of development was \$25,000 – not much in today's dollars, but a significant investment 50 years ago.

The main features of Pinehurst were the natural stands of unique Carolinian forest, 40 acres (16 hectares) in total, as well as the 23-acre (nine-hectare) spring-fed kettle lake. This combination allowed for an exceptional park that fea-



Pinehurst Lake attracts 100,000 visitors annually.

tured a wide range of outdoor activities.

The park facilities were planned and developed personally by Pinehurst's first superintendent, Clarence Sutor of Paris. It was Mr. Sutor who laid out the road system, beach and camping areas, which remain the basis for the park as visitors appreciate it today.

Just prior to the official opening, the 12-metre-deep lake was stocked with largemouth bass, whose descendents still provide excellent fishing opportunities to modern day visitors.

On hand for the June 30 opening ceremonies were Conservation Authority Chairman Garfield Disher of Dunnville, along with board member Kay Marston of Elora.



*Superintendent
Clarence Sutor*

Mrs. Marston was the guiding visionary who encouraged development of both Elora Gorge and Pinehurst parks.

Officiating



that day was J. N. Allan, Ontario Minister of Highways, accompanied by MPP Harry Nixon of St. George.

It wasn't long before a new \$22,000 stone and wood pavilion was constructed at the beach area, based on the design of a similar structure in an Indiana state park. This was opened for use the following summer by Nixon, and immediately proved to be a welcome addition.

There have been many other major improvements at Pinehurst over the years. Additional land has been purchased, expanding the park to its current 348 acres (140 hectares). Both serviced and unserviced camp sites are now available at 277 sites, and four special sites have been developed as group camping areas.

The original beach pavilion was replaced in 1978 with modern structures housing food concessions and change rooms. This allowed Pinehurst's season to be expanded into the winter months, featuring some of the best cross-country skiing in this part of southern Ontario.

The past 50 years have been kind to Pinehurst Lake Conservation Area. The park remains a unique natural jewel, appreciated even more by visitors as populations grow in nearby towns and cities.

Since its opening, attendance figures show that an average of 100,000 people annually visit Pinehurst Lake, meaning that an estimated five million visitors have enjoyed their excursions to the park over the past 50 years.

Events coming up this summer at Pinehurst Lake Conservation Area include the annual family fishing derby on Saturday, July 16 with 100 participants. Also, Run for The Toad, Saturday, Oct. 1, is expected to attract 550 cross country runners who will race 25 or 50 kilometres.

Remove a dam, transform a landscape



Felix Barbetti says removing the Taquanyah dam is improving water quality for fish downstream, such as this trout he is releasing at the Dunnville fishway.

Improve water quality, recreation

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications

Several groups and government departments are working through the challenges of turning the former 37-hectare (90-acre) Taquanyah Reservoir near Cayuga into a varied landscape of ponds, wetlands and woodlands, with a cold water stream running through it.

"It's a big deal to drain a reservoir," says Warren Yerex, supervisor of aquatic resources for the GRCA, as he unfurls a large map showing the community's vision for the area. "We wanted a living example of how dam removal can benefit the local environment."

The dam and the reservoir are gone and the new landscape is emerging. Work on what has been dubbed "the new view" began in 1999 and meets the goal of improved water quality sought by the GRCA and environmental experts. But equally important, it offers new recreational and educational opportunities to the community and has garnered its full support.

Dunnville resident Roy Schofield was

especially frustrated after the Taquanyah Nature Centre, located beside the reservoir, closed due to funding cuts in 1996, because there was nowhere else for school children in Haldimand to learn about the environment. He later became adamant about having the water put back into the reservoir, because it offered a beautiful vista of the area.

He and other members of Habitat Haldimand, formed by the stewardship council, became stewards of the property by maintaining and upgrading trails. After a series of meetings, the group learned that the reservoir, dating back to the 1960s, was in fact detrimental to the natural environment. Restoring a cold-water stream would be better, and, as conservationists, the group jumped onside, Schofield says.

The water level of the reservoir was dropped one metre four years ago and it was drained entirely over several months this winter. By April, the reservoir was gone. Now parts of the area look like a "moonscape" and it will take four or five more years to rehabilitate.

Other features of the new landscape include fishing ponds, seasonal wetlands, enhanced trails (including those that are wheelchair accessible) and ponds designed specifically for herp-

fauna, such as salamanders, toads, frogs, turtles and snakes.

Mill Creek runs through the conservation lands and is one of only two cold water streams in the lower Grand area. Without the reservoir, the 1.25-km creek is finding its new pathway and it is expected to support trout and other coldwater fish.

Habitat Haldimand has refurbished the nature centre, installed a new front gate and, with funding from the Living Classroom program of the Grand River Conservation Foundation, the nature centre reopened in September, 2003. A new feature of the property will be a small eight-hectare (20-acre) teaching lake in front of the nature centre, and Schofield hopes this will go in this fall.

Felix Barbetti, a member of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters who has retired from working at the Ministry of Natural Resources, doesn't mince his words when he describes the importance of eliminating stagnant water created by the dam and reestablishing the stream.

"I don't have much good to say about warm water. It collects silt, eats up nutrients," and is detrimental to the environment and aquatic life, he says. "A river is like a living system that is trying to recover its pathway," which is why reservoirs continually need maintenance and dredging.

"What is good for the fish is good for the people, ultimately. If fish are healthy and their meat is healthier to eat, then it



Roy Schofield (left) and members of Habitat Haldimand improve fencing.

means the environment we live in is healthier," he adds.

Barbetti says the transformation of Taquanyah has been "glacially slow but very positive," and he has enjoyed the sense of progress that has been made as a result of having several partners and agencies working together, all bringing expertise.

Taquanyah was a well-kept secret because it is in a rural area and even many local people didn't know much about it, says Lorraine Norminton, former Haldimand stewardship coordinator and the woman who brought the groups together for the project. In some ways, because not many people knew about it, the project was easier to bring to fruition, she says. Norminton believes the more people around the table to create a project like this, the better, even though you never know how it will come together.

"The most exciting thing is having all the landowners onside. They are generational in Haldimand County, so they've been there for years and years," she says. The entire six-km stream that leaves the property and goes to the confluence of Roger's Creek will be fenced off by the property owners, so the cattle won't be able to get into the stream. While this aspect is not part of the project, it is happening because the local community is very supportive of improving water quality.

All the groups brought funding or in-kind support to the project. Those not already mentioned include the Ministry of Natural Resources, the County of Haldimand, Six Nations EcoCentre and several environmental groups including Ducks Unlimited, the Wetland Habitat Fund and Trout Unlimited. Niagara College students helped design some site-specific restoration plans, and Ontario Power Generation will put in a windmill to power the wetland pumps.

Barbetti says the GRCA is a progressive organization. He's involved with other similar projects that are starting on the Thames River and in the Hamilton Harbour watershed, but it is like rein-

venting the wheel each time, he says.

A very positive side effect of the project is the influence it will have on the children who visit the education centre, since they will learn moving water is important to improving water quality and diversity in the natural environment, Barbetti says. Fishermen have noticed a difference on Mill Creek, he adds.



LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

South Guelph residents bike to school and work

By Glynis Logue,
Guelph Environmental Leadership
and Tony Zammit, GRCA ecologist

Environmental stewardship and community appreciation were celebrated on Earth Day with a recognition ceremony in front of Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School in Guelph for groups that contributed to the 2.5 km Hanlon Commuter Trail.

The trail, constructed by volunteers in 2003, runs from Kortright Road South to Clair Road West through Preservation Park and Hanlon Creek Conservation Area and allows residents to get from their homes to school or work without



Teacher Carol Smelsky and students prepare to install a bird box along the trail.

Photo by Glynis Logue

driving.

"The idea was to connect the local residential area, schools and the Hanlon Business Park, so that people could walk and/or bike, instead of driving during the daily commute," says Glynis Logue, executive director of Guelph Environmental Leadership and organizer of the April 27 event.

The week before the ceremony, teachers and students at the high school planned a series of activities, including several related to the trail. With expertise from the GRCA's forestry department, the students planted over 300 native shrubs and wildflowers to help naturalize the area along the trail and provide shade. GRCA staff also helped the students with 30 bird boxes that the students designed, built and installed along the trail to attract birds such as eastern bluebird, tree swallow and house wren.

As part of the Earth Day festivities, a recognition plaque was unveiled to permanently display the names of more than 40 businesses and not-for-profit groups that made the Hanlon Trails Project a reality through donations and in-kind support. The trail was built entirely through donations and by volunteers.

Logue anticipates the trail will reduce air pollution by decreasing dependence on cars and at the same time promote healthy living. She hopes it will be a catalyst to create an alternative commuting network in the city.

Her organization teamed up with staff at the City of Guelph and Bishop Mac High School to involve as many students as possible in environmental activities during Earth Week. All 750 Bishop Mac students were involved in these events, and plans are already underway for next year, says teacher Leo Barei.

Guelph MPP Liz Sandals and other community leaders were on hand to help celebrate Earth Day and recognize support received from the community during the Hanlon Trails Project.



Sal Turco of Apotex Pharmachem (left) and Brantford Mayor Mike Hancock plant one of 230 saplings at a community nursery established at Apotex. The trees will be grown until they are large enough to be transplanted by tree spade to city schools and parks to improve Brantford's urban forest, which provides shade and clean air to its citizens.

Apotex Pharmachem: Growing trees for Brantford's schoolyards

Earth Day in Brantford was marked by the creation of a unique new tree nursery at Apotex Pharmachem Inc. that will supply shade trees to local schools and parks.

More than 100 company employees provided the muscle to plant maple, oak, ash and cherry saplings on an unused portion of company land. The saplings, purchased from the GRCA's Burford Nursery, will mature for four or five years before being transplanted to schools and parks. When the trees are larger, they will be able to survive in high traffic areas. The generosity of Apotex will offset the cost of purchasing larger trees, which is often prohibitive.

Schoolyards are often treeless expanses of grass and asphalt, despite the known risks associated with exposure to the sun's UV radiation. Any trees are usually at the front of the school, where students spend very little time. Budget constraints mean that schools rely heavily on outside support for tree

planting and greenspace development.

Treed areas in schoolyards provide many benefits, including providing a shady spot for students on hot days, and they can become an outdoor classroom during the warmer months. They also provide shelter from winter winds and can lower heating costs in winter as well as cooling costs in summer. Trees help reduce global warming by incorporating carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) from the atmosphere into their roots, trunks and leaves.

Research even suggests that treed areas and other greenspaces are mentally and psychologically beneficial, increasing cognitive function and reducing bullying and other negative behaviour.

The target for a healthy urban area, according to American Forests, a non-profit leader in the field, is 40 per cent canopy cover. Urban forest cover varies across the Grand River watershed from a high of 29.8 per cent in the City of Waterloo to a low of 23.5 per cent in

Brantford. The tree planting program initiated at Apotex will improve this situation.

Now that the idea has been put into action, the groups involved hope that it is the beginning of a larger tree-planting initiative in the city. Then other corporate and community partners will follow suit.

The nursery concept came from Sal Turco, safety, health and environmental officer at Apotex, who helped plant trees at his children's school through Trees For Guelph last year. Turco brought management and staff together with outside partners for the initial phase of the project. The GRCA and the city's parks department provided technical expertise, while mulch came from the city. John Punter of Bond Fence prepared the site for planting, and Lanny Schira of STS provided watering equipment.

The kick-off ceremony for the project included representatives from each group involved: Apotex president Dr. Keshava Murthy, Brantford Mayor Mike Hancock, Brant MPP Dave Levac and representatives of the Brantford Community Foundation.

"We all agree that it is a good idea to plant trees," said Jim Berhalter, vice-president of finance at Apotex, summarizing the feelings of the day.

Heritage Award

Cambridge resident Jan Liggett received an Ontario Heritage Award for lifetime achievement.

The annual heritage awards program allows communities to recognize individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to built, cultural, natural and her-



Jan Liggett

itage garden preservation. For the first time this year the Ontario Heritage Foundation recognized 36 people province-wide for lifetime achievement related to heritage conservation, and

Liggett was one of the recipients of this award.

Her nomination paper says: "Jan leads by example. She and her husband are restoring their designated commercial building and century stone home. She encourages others to consider Cambridge's built and natural heritage as important resources for the city."

Liggett is a long-time community leader and a strong advocate and lobbyist for heritage preservation. Among her many contributions to heritage conservation, she has served as president and vice-president of the Heritage Cambridge branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. In addition, she took a college law course and volunteered as the agent for Heritage Cambridge in an OMB hearing to protect the Blair Heritage District from unsuitable development, resulting in a favourable decision.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Water Forum

The Grand River Watershed Water Forum has become an important gathering of experts on water issues, trends and initiatives.

The fifth annual water forum is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 16 on the grounds of the GRCA at 400 Clyde Road, Cambridge.

The theme is "A Fine Balance - Managing Water and Growth". This year's speakers include Justice Dennis O'Connor, who headed the Walkerton inquiry, and MPP Maria Van Bommel, rural parliamentary assistant with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Additional speakers with experience in provincial affairs, local government, industry and environmental management will discuss the implications of the rapid growth taking place within the watershed, with a special focus on provincial growth policies. Details are available at www.grandriver.ca



Spring is tree planting season, and the Chinese delegates all wanted to lend a hand to Janet Cox when they visited Melvin Gingrich's farm near Floradale.

Photo by Anne Loeffler, GRCA

Visitors from China dig in during visit to Grand River watershed

Fifteen representatives of universities and government agencies from two areas of China visited the Grand River watershed April 17-29 to learn more about best management practices for watershed management.

The delegates were from the cities of Dalian, Yingkou and Gaizhou in the northeast province of Liaoning and the southern province of Hainan. They are grappling with how to best manage the Biliu River watershed in Liaoning and the Nandu River watershed in Hainan. These rivers are the primary source of water for millions of people, and it is enormously challenging for the delegates from these two watersheds in China to maintain or improve water quality, while accommodating rapid population growth.

The delegation met with GRCA board members, attended a one-day training session led by staff at the administration centre in Cambridge and toured the watershed to see first-hand some of the

programs, projects and management techniques practised by the GRCA. The delegation also visited the University of Waterloo, Region of Waterloo, City of Hamilton, Credit Valley Conservation and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

According to preliminary feedback from a questionnaire survey about this visit, the members of the Chinese delegation particularly appreciated the well-organized presentations and site tours that gave them insight into Canadian practical experiences of resource management.

The visit was part of a larger project called EcoPlan China, a multi-year project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency to enhance the capacities for environmental management in China. The project is led by the University of Waterloo and is supported by the Region of Waterloo, City of Hamilton and the GRCA.



The Grand Strategy Calendar

Mudcat Festival, June 8-12, Dunnville. An annual community celebration focused on the Grand River, the festival consists of five full days of entertainment. Events take place throughout the town and a free "people mover" will run on Saturday. Information is available by calling the Chamber of Commerce at (905)774-3183, or by visiting the website at www.linetap.com/dunnvillechamber/mudcat

Cambridge Riverfest, Saturday June 11, Dickson and Riverbluffs parks, Cambridge. This annual family event is fun for kids and adults of all ages, with dragon boat races, free daytime and evening concerts, free kids entertainment and activities, and food and craft vendors.

Canadian Rivers Day, Sunday June 12. Posters are available free of charge for any community group that wishes to hold a local event to mark Canadian Rivers Day. They are available in two sizes: 18 by 28 inches and 11 by 17 inches from Max Finkelstein at Parks Canada. E-mail Max.Finkelstein@pc.gc.ca or call (819)997-4930. They can also be e-mailed in PDF.

Pinehurst Fishing Derby, Saturday, July 16. An event geared to families. For information, call (519)442-4721.

Hillside Festival, July 22-24 on the island at Guelph Lake Conservation Area. The festival is a three-day, five-stage community-based celebration of music, dance, drumming and the spoken word. Children 12 and under and seniors 65 and over are free, while weekend, day and evening passes are available. For more information, call (519)763-6396 or visit www.hillside.on.ca

Port Maitland Festival of History, Saturday, July 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dunnville Airport. The festival seeks to preserve local history through involving local, historically minded individuals and groups. This year there will be up to 65 displays on topics including genealogy, antique boats, black history, period folk music and canal history.

Mill Race Festival of Traditional Folk Music, July 29-31, downtown Cambridge. Staged by the Mill Race Folk Society, this will be the 13th year for the festival, which is a free event. For more information, call Cambridge Tourism (519) 622-2336; 1-800-749-7560.

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Aug. 12-14, Fergus and District Community Centre Fergus. This is the 60th year for the festival, which includes the World Scottish Athletic Championship, North American Highland Dance Championship, Scottish swordsmen, a visit by author Diana Gabaldon, Celtic music, a military tattoo and interactive education for all ages. Weekend passes are \$40 for adults, \$35 for students and seniors, and free for children 12 and under. Daily passes are also available. For more information, call (519) 787-0099 or visit www.fergusscottishfestival.com.

Cobblestone Festival, Aug. 12 & 13, 19&20 on the grounds of historic Hamilton Place, an 1844 cobblestone house in Paris, Ontario. The festival celebrates the unique cobblestone architecture found in Paris and is an annual event that also showcases the works of local artists. More information is available by calling the festival at (519) 442-1890 or by visiting www.cobblestone-festival.ca.

Registry reminder

The Grand River Conservation Authority is compiling submissions for the 2004 Grand Actions Registry.

You are invited to submit a description of your 2004 achievements by June 30, 2005 by completing the form found by following the registry link on the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca

If you are aware of others who have undertaken activities to improve the health and heritage of the Grand River watershed, please encourage them to submit as well. For more information contact Linda Caron by phone: (519) 621-2763, ext. 279; fax: (519) 621-4945; or e-mail: lcaron@grandriver.ca

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

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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

Please comment on draft EIS guidelines

Submission deadline June 30, 2005



Draft Environmental Impacts Study Guidelines were prepared by GRCA staff to assist the implementation of GRCA's Wetlands Policy.

Section 7.3.14 of the Policy states that "the GRCA will work with its member municipalities to develop technical guidelines and standards for the completion of Environmental Impact Statements and site specific studies." GRCA is currently seeking input from all watershed municipalities, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Conservation Authorities, Ducks Unlimited, homebuilders, and the general public.

The draft guidelines can also be downloaded directly from the GRCA Spotlight section of our website (www.grandriver.ca). This broad consultation process will also enable the general public to comment on the current draft, and express any concerns. Once this consultation process is complete, a staff report will be submitted to the GRCA Planning and Operations Committee and Board for approval.

Please note that comments should be submitted to GRCA by June 30.

We appreciate your input, and request that comments be submitted to Tony Zammit by email (tzammit@grandriver.ca) or fax (519)-621-4844.

Registration Form

Key Water Issues ▲ Growth Trends
▲ Emerging Technologies ▲ Innovative Solutions

5th Annual
Grand River Watershed

Water Forum

To register, please fill out the registration form and mail to
Grand River Conservation Authority,

c/o Carol Bystriansky, 400 Clyde Road, Box 729, Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6.

Phone: (519) 621-2763 ext. 220, Fax: (519) 621-4844 or

E-mail: waterforum2005@grandriver.ca

You can also register on-line at <https://www.grandriver.ca/waterforum/register>

Please register by September 9, 2005

Please complete a separate registration form for each person attending.

Registration Fee: \$75.00
Student Registration: \$45.00

Name: _____

Job Title: _____ Affiliation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Expiry Date: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Name on credit card if different from above: _____

May we include your contact information on our list of participants for the registration package? Yes No

Do you wish to subscribe to the Grand Actions Newsletter? Yes No

Please make cheques payable to the Grand River Conservation Authority. The Water Forum will be held under a "grand" marquee on the grounds of the GRCA Administration Centre. Please dress accordingly. A buffet luncheon is included in the registration and will accommodate vegetarian diets.

Exhibit Space is available (\$200.00 including one registration; skirted tables are \$25.00 extra) on a first-come, first-served basis. To register your exhibit, please download the form from our website at www.grandriver.ca or contact Sonia Morgan at (519) 621-2763 ext. 304, Fax: (519) 621-4945 or email: smorgan@grandriver.ca

Morning Program:

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

Registration & Coffee

Moderator

Rob Messervey, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

8:30 - 8:45 a.m.

First Nations Thanksgiving - Ed Thomas

8:45 - 9:00 a.m.

Greetings

9:00 - 9:20 a.m.

Maria Van Bommel, Parliamentary Assistant (Rural), Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

9:20 - 9:50 a.m.

3rd Annual State of the Grand River Watershed Report - Paul Emerson, CAO, Grand River Conservation Authority

9:50 - 10:00 a.m.

Watershed Sponsor Acknowledgement - Jack Gorrie, Stantec

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Refreshment Break

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Mayors' Panel Discussion on Growth and Water

Ken Seiling, Chairman, Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Charles Bagnato, Mayor, Town of Brockton

David General, Chief, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

Mike Hancock, Mayor, City of Brantford

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Questions & Answers

12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch and Interactive Exhibits

Afternoon Program:

Moderator

Dr. Paul Parker, University of Waterloo

1:15 - 1:30 p.m.

Hon. David Ramsay, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources (Invited)

1:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Public Involvement - It Can Make a Difference -

Dennis O'Connor, Associate Chief Justice of Ontario

2:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Emerging Issues & Innovative Solutions - Panel Discussion

Research into Action: How Water Research by Environment Canada's

National Water Research Institute Benefits Canadians - Alex Bielak,

Environment Canada's National Water Research Institute

Protecting Our Great Lakes Waters: Implications for Ontario in

Implementing the Great Lakes Charter Annex - Rob Messervey,

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

2:30 - 2:50 p.m.

Refreshment Break

2:50 - 3:20 p.m.

Emerging Issues & Innovative Solutions (continued)

Niagara Water Quality Protection Strategy - Bob Seele, Regional

Municipality of Niagara & Ron Scheckenberger, Philips Engineering

Drinking Water Quality Management System: An Evolution of

Drinking Water Supply in Ontario - Andrew Henry, Lake Huron &

Elgin Area Primary Water Supply Systems

3:20 - 3:40 p.m.

Questions & Answers

3:40 - 3:55 p.m.

Wrap Up - Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner for Ontario

3:55 - 4:00 p.m.

First Nations Thanksgiving - Ed Thomas

*A day of discussion and debate regarding
the impact of future growth on
the sustainability of our water resources*

A Fine Balance: Managing Growth and Water

Friday, September 16, 2005
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Grand River
Conservation Authority**

400 Clyde Road, Cambridge, Ontario

5th Annual Grand River Watershed
Water Forum

September 16, 2005

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Grand River Conservation Authority, Administration Centre

400 Clyde Road, Cambridge, Ontario

The Grand River Watershed Water Forum is an important gathering of experts on key water issues, growth trends, emerging technologies and innovative solutions.

This year's forum — A Fine Balance: Managing Growth and Water — will provide government leaders, municipalities, businesses, farmers and others with the information they need to protect and improve our vital water resources.

Keynote Speakers at the 5th Annual Water Forum are:



Maria Van Bommel,
*Parliamentary Assistant (Rural),
Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs*

Maria Van Bommel's career has included farming, accounting, small business, and national team management coordination. She is currently the Ontario Federation of Agriculture member services representative for Lambton and Middlesex counties. As well, she is the Chair of the Rural Caucus, member of the standing committee on general government, member of the Education Policy Committee, co-chair of the Industrial Pollution Action Team and a Member of the Tax Assessment Working Group.

Ms. Van Bommel was a founding member of Middlesex's Women for the Support of Agriculture, then the Canadian Farm Women's Network. She is also the founder of the Ontario Farm Women's Network. As a member of the Liaison Committee of Ontario Farm Organizations, she was an outspoken defender of the family farm during the 1980's. She has served as a director on the Middlesex Federation of Agriculture and as provincial director on the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.



Paul Emerson,
*Chief Administrative Officer,
Grand River Conservation Authority*

Paul Emerson grew up in Paris, Ontario. He holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies Degree from the University of Waterloo and is a member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. During his time with the GRCA his duties have ranged from general conservation labour and field inspections to responsibility for the administration of the authority's resource planning/regulation programs.

In 2000, he was appointed to the position of Chief Administrative Officer of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Mr. Emerson is a Director and Past President of the Brant Waterways Foundation, and a former Executive Committee member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.



Dennis O'Connor,
Associate Chief Justice of Ontario

Justice Dennis O'Connor was called to the bar in Ontario in 1966. He practised law until 1973 when he was appointed a magistrate in the Yukon Territory where he served until 1976. From 1976 to 1980, Justice O'Connor taught law at the University of Western Ontario and from 1980 to 1998,

he practised a broad range of litigation with Borden, Elliot, a large Toronto law firm. From 1980 to 1984, he acted as the chief negotiator for the Government of Canada for the Yukon Indian Land Claim. He served as an elected bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada (the

Province of Ontario) from 1987 to 1995. In 1998, he was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal and in 2001 he was appointed Associate Chief Justice of Ontario. In June 2000, he was appointed Commissioner of the Walkerton Inquiry and delivered two reports in the early part of 2002. In February 2004, the Federal Government appointed Justice O'Connor to conduct the Arar Inquiry.



Gord Miller,
Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

Gord Miller has served as the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario since 2000 and oversees the implementation of the Environmental Bill of Rights. As an independent officer appointed by the Legislative Assembly, Commissioner Miller monitors and reports annually on government compliance with the provisions of the Environmental Bill of Rights and reports annually on government compliance with the provisions of the EBR. He was reappointed to this position in April for another five year term. Prior to his appointment, he worked for the Ministry of the Environment for 14 years. He has extensive experience with the environmental issues, including approval and inspection activities, municipal sewage, drinking water, solid waste management, hazardous waste, noise, air pollution and land use planning. He holds a B.Sc. (Hon.) in Biology from the University of Guelph and an M.Sc. in Plant Ecology.

HOSTED BY: The Grand Strategy Water Managers Working Group

ORGANIZING PARTNERS: Grand River Conservation Authority, Grand River Conservation Foundation, City of Guelph, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Six Nations EcoCentre, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Environment Canada, CRES Tech, Canadian Water Network, Trout Unlimited Canada, Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement (OCETA), Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee



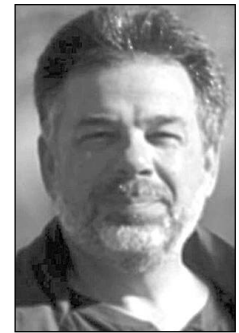
Thank you to our Watershed Sponsor – Stantec





The Ancient Mariners Canoe Club of Cambridge for various projects to improve the Grand River.

Last year's winners...



Larry Mellors of Brantford for support of fishery development projects.



John Malcolmson behalf of the Tim Horton Children's Foundation Onondaga Farms nature and science camp.



Farmers Jason and Aaron Richardson of Dunnville for environmentally-friendly farming practices



Margaret Hitchcock and Judy Welsh on behalf of the Cambridge Sculpture Garden.

Call for nominations

The Grand River Conservation Authority

2005 Watershed Awards

For more than 25 years the Grand River Conservation Authority has recognized the efforts of individuals, families, groups and corporations to improve the environment of the Grand River watershed.

The GRCA presents two awards:

- The *Honour Roll Award* recognizes a sustained record of achievement over a period of time.
- *Watershed Awards* for outstanding examples of conservation and environmental work.

Nominations

Anyone can nominate a candidate simply by filling out the form on the other side of this page.



Self-nominations are not allowed.

For corporate nominations, the emphasis will be on efforts undertaken by the company to support public or community environmental programs and projects.

Selection of winners

The winners will be selected in August by the Special Recognition Committee of the GRCA.

The winners are honoured at a ceremony during the GRCA's annual meeting in February at the GRCA headquarters in Cambridge.

Deadline for applications is July 29, 2005.



Grand River Watershed Conservation Awards

Nomination Form

The Grand River Conservation Authority presents awards annually to individuals, families, groups and corporations to honour those who have made a tangible contribution to the preservation, enhancement and improvement of the Grand River watershed and its natural heritage.

- **Honour Roll Awards** are presented for a record of achievement extending across several years.
- **Watershed Awards** are for specific projects or programs.

Type of nominee: Individual or family Group Corporation
Name of nominee:
Address:
..... Postal code:
Telephone: Fax:
E-mail:

Brief summary of achievement

a) Describe activity, project or record of achievement. Please include when and where the project(s) or activities took place, number of participants (if applicable), and other relevant highlights in two or three short sentences.

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b) What makes the accomplishment(s) special. Who benefits and how did this improve the health of the Grand River and its surrounding lands?

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Supporting Material (Optional)

Please attach photographs, newspaper clippings or other materials, if available, which support the nomination.

Name of nominator: (No self-nominations, please)
Address:
Telephone: E-mail:
Signature: Date:

Please submit your nominations by July 29, 2005 to:
GRCA Special Recognition Committee, 400 Clyde Road, Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 5W6
Phone: (519) 621-2761, Fax: (519) 621-4844; E-mail: grca@grandriver.ca