



Grand River Conservation Authority



The Grand: A Canadian Heritage River

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Farmer Heather Lekx and intern Maeda Welch with some of the fall veggies from the farm at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre.



Ignatius Jesuits of Guelph: Stewards of the land

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

When the Jesuits came to Guelph in 1852, they began working to solve the problems of the day in education, health care, eldercare and spirituality. They continue to work in these areas, but like Jesuits around the world, those in Guelph are also taking steps to counterbalance the ecological crisis.

"I would say the ecological crisis is ultimately a spiritual crisis. We've lost our spiritual connection to the land," says Jim Profit, director of the Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph. The Jesuits are using their 600-acre property in several ways to bring back the connection between people and the natural environment, so that land is no longer regarded only as a commodity.

Many of us go for a hike in the woods and simply feel revitalized or awed by nature. But to the Jesuits, this is a spiritual experience.

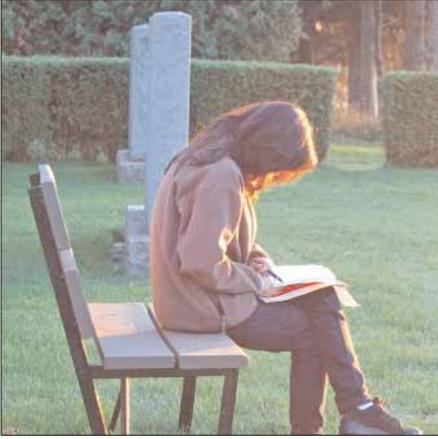
"When we experience the land, we experience

the divine," Profit explains. He is in charge of the Ecology Project, which brings ecology and spirituality together, looking for a hopeful response to the ecological crisis and leaving it up to people to find their own way of describing that connection to nature.

About 5,000 people come to the Ignatius Centre each year from around the globe for retreats. They walk, pray and sit in silent solitude for up to 40 days and are encouraged to explore the Jesuit property. The trails are also open to members of the community, who are welcome to walk the land as long as they don't disturb the natural environment and gardens.

"We really do believe this is a sacred space, not to be kept for our private use," Profit says. A Nordic ski club at the Ignatius Centre is now in its third year—another way of opening the land to a different group.

Five years ago the Jesuits decided they needed a land manager and hired Craig Chamberlain, who brings a background in horticulture and



A retreatant from Saskatoon at the beginning of a 40 day silent retreat.

healing gardens. He takes a systematic approach to ensuring the land is maintained and the natural areas are protected. John McCarthy is a Jesuit who is part of the Ecology Project and he just completed his PhD in forestry. Marianne Karsh is another forester who was recently hired to educate people about ecological issues.

About 150 acres of the property are wetlands, part of the Marden South Wetland Complex.

This month the Jesuits are launching a project to eventually turn 100 acres on the east side of Highway 6, including the Marden Creek and pond and the Speed River, into an old growth native forest. A finger of this land meets up with the Guelph Lake Conservation Area and will provide a green belt at the northern end of the city. People are being invited to contribute \$20 for a square metre of land to ensure it is planted and maintained. The funds will also help other programs, including those offered by the Guelph International Resource Centre (GIRC), which is a partner on this project.

The Jesuit land has become a magnet for people interested in environmentally sustainable practices.

"We don't advertise, but somehow they find us," Profit says. For example, they have 30 organic garden plots that are always filled. A further 10 acres are used by LandSaga Biogeographical Inc. for research on willow trees that grow quickly and have been helpful in land

remediation. Seven acres are used by the University of Guelph and Ontarbio (an organic cooperative) for an organic demonstration site.

When the Jesuits moved onto this property in 1913, they used organic farming techniques, but later migrated to conventional farming practices, as others were doing at that time. In the 1980s they began talking about farming organically and in the '90s they brought organic farming back to their 300 acres of farmland, Profit says.

It takes several years to convert the land, and their apple orchard is the last part of the farm to move towards organic agriculture, because orchards are very challenging to operate organically.

"We are committed to organic agriculture. I believe all agriculture needs to go organic," Profit says.

At the core of their farm is a Community Shared Agriculture project, called CSA, now in its sixth year. This allows about 160 families in the community to buy a share or half-share in the CSA and receive fresh organic produce each week during the growing season. Members can also take advantage of pick-your-own gardens such as peas, beans, tomatoes and flowers. There are other CSAs in our watershed, and this one is also a training ground for young farmers to learn organic techniques through an internship program. The Jesuits are very concerned about farmers and the farm crisis, so this program which helps connect members of the community with their food and local farmers is important to them. About 200 acres of the organic farmland is rented to two farmers.

The Jesuits are conscientious stewards of their wetlands, woodlands and organic farmland and are striving to make it economically viable and environmentally sustainable and to share it with the local community.

"A lot of things are going on here, and it is only now when I am talking about it that I realize why I am so busy," Profit says.



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless homestead.

Hoodless homestead open year-round

By Karen Richardson
Curator

Affectionately called the Willows, the childhood home of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless near St. George is designated as a National Historic Site and is open year-round.

Adelaide was born at the homestead in 1857, the youngest of 12 children. In 1881 she married John Hoodless from Hamilton. Through her personal and volunteer experiences, she recognized that girls needed a higher level of education, and she introduced domestic science into public schools in Ontario and eventually across Canada. She wrote the first Ontario textbook on this topic and helped establish three teacher training facilities. Hoodless was the visionary behind the formation of the Women's Institute and helped establish the YWCA, the Victorian Order of Nurses and the National Council of Women.

The homestead is owned by the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and was designated a National Historic Site in 1995. It was threatened with closure and new initiatives were needed to keep the site viable. Areas of concern included the lack of visitors, care of the collections, interpretation, programming and accessibility.

In September 2004, a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation resulted in renovations at the back of the homestead to increase program space and also provide tables, chairs, audio-visual equip-

ment, promotional materials and supplies. A grant received from Brant County provided a new walkway, while a Ministry of Culture (Heritage Operating Grant) assisted with operating expenses. Through these efforts we were able to offer a range of new programs both on and off site, helping to triple our visits from the previous year.



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless

In 2005 more outreach programming renewed interest in Hoodless and homestead visits increased by 20 per cent, while bookings increased rapidly, more than doubling in 2006. We offer a wide range of presentations with titles such as “Addie’s Story,” “Is There A Doctor in the House,” “The Grand Tour,” “A Woman’s Work Is Never Done” and “Victorian and Edwardian Christmas.”

Hoodless was nominated as one of the top 10 greatest women of Ontario in 2005, and she placed second behind Agnes Macphail, Canada’s first female MP. A monthly newsletter called the Homestead Gazette was introduced and includes events, articles of historical interest and stories from the archives.

In 2007 Hoodless will be one of 25 Canadians featured in an exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Quebec.

The Homestead is open year-round September to May on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and June to August, Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guided tours are offered. We also open at other times for special events and pre-booked group and school tours.

For information call 519-448-1130, or e-mail to hoodlesshomestead@sympatico.ca.

Website: www.hoodlesshomestead.ca



MILESTONES

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

2006 Water Forum: Building the toolkit for healthy waters

By Barbara Veale
GRCA Co-ordinator of Policy, Planning and Partnerships

Over 350 people attended the sixth annual Grand River Watershed Water Forum to learn more about innovative technologies and tools to ensure healthy river and groundwater systems.

Held on Sept. 15 and hosted by the water managers in the Grand River watershed, the event featured a roster of knowledgeable speakers from government agencies, the private sector and the GRCA.

Laurel Broten

Laurel Broten, Ontario Minister of the Environment, said that a year ago when she spoke at Water Forum she was a new minister about to introduce important legislation—the Clean Water Act—and she was also very pregnant.

“Today my twin boys are nearly one year old and the Clean Water Act is in third reading at Queen’s Park,” she said. “I want my sons, Ryan and Zachary, to grow up in a province that is clean and green. I want them to live in a healthy and sustainable world. And I want our drinking water in Ontario to be safe.”

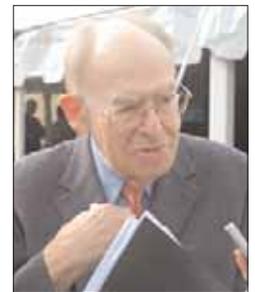
The Clean Water Act prescribes how existing and future sources of drinking water will be protected in Ontario. Broten said changes to the legislation resulted from input received during the public hearings, which emphasized collaborative planning and local solutions.

A Drinking Water Stewardship Program has already been announced and it will provide \$7 million for farmers and small rural businesses, \$5 mil-

lion for early action to protect wells and water intakes and \$2 million for education.

Herb Gray

Herb Gray is the Canadian chair of the International Joint Commission (IJC), formed by international treaty with the United States in 1909. Gray explained that the IJC works with various governments to clean up the Great Lakes and resolve disputes. The Grand River empties into Lake Erie, so there is a direct connection between the health of the Great Lakes and the Grand River. While a great deal of work has restored water quality in the Great Lakes, more work is still required.



Herb Gray

River ecology is endangered by alien invasive aquatic species such as the round goby, zebra mussel, rusty crayfish and sea lamprey. Collectively they destroy aquatic food sources, impact river habitat and compete with native species, he said. Another challenge is dealing with new chemical contaminants such as fire retardants and pharmaceuticals and the sediment and pollutants that enter the river system during storm events from both urban and rural sources. Due to its size, the Grand River watershed is critically important to the health of Lake Erie as well as the goals that have been set by the IJC for improving water quality. Two key areas of concern for the future will be coping with the impacts of climate change on the water regime and the effects of water contamination on human health. Gray called for a review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, last negotiated in the 1980s, in order to address some of the new concerns expressed in recent years.

Paul Emerson

Paul Emerson, Chief Administrative

Officer for the GRCA, launched the fourth annual watershed report for the Grand River watershed with the theme of Source Water Protection. With a rapidly growing population dependent on both groundwater and surface water from the Grand River system, source water protection in the Grand River watershed is especially critical. Emerson stressed the need for a shared watershed management approach based on extensive public participation to guide future decisions which protect and conserve our precious water resources.

Technological innovation

The morning panel featured five speakers who highlighted innovative approaches and technologies to improve local water regimes.

Robert Bailey

Robert Bailey spoke about alternative land use services (ALUS) or the ecological goods and services that are provided on privately owned rural lands through stewardship and conservation efforts. Bailey pointed out that the marketplace



Robert Bailey

rewards environmental exploitation, and as a result, regulatory mechanisms have been ineffective. One way to improve environmental stewardship by rural

landowners is using financial incentives to integrate conservation programs at the local level. Such a program needs to be shaped by local communities and administered by community partners.

Jim Higgins

Jim Higgins outlined a project which was undertaken by Jacques Whitford Consulting Engineers in the town of Alexandria in Eastern Ontario to upgrade the existing wastewater treatment plant. The upgrade consisted of four elements: a high performance aerat-

ed lagoon (HPAL), a new sedimentation pond, an engineered wetland and ultraviolet disinfection. Engineered wetlands use wetland vegetation to help filter contaminants and absorb nutrients. The advantage of this type of system is that it can treat waste water at higher flow rates and reduce the footprint of the operation.

Dave Richards

Dave Richards of the Ministry of Natural Resources spoke about the opportunity to restore degraded wetlands in agricultural areas where existing drains are no longer functioning well, or where a drain is ineffective and impairs water supply and water quality. Often changes carried out under the Drainage Act can still provide a legal drainage outlet but also improve the effectiveness of the wetland. Richards provided examples of several sites in Norfolk County where restoration not only improved the ecological function of the wetlands, but also helped landowners save money by reducing drain maintenance costs.

Andy Oding

Andy Oding from Reid's Heritage Homes, a local developer, said the company is collaborating with several partners (Earth and Environmental Technologies, Ontario Centres of Excellence, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the City of Guelph and the University of Guelph) to find a way to harvest rainwater from residential houses and use it in non-potable ways, such as for flushing toilets. The company will also construct an eco-house to showcase innovations in geothermal heating and energy and water conservation. Consumer demand for more eco-friendly housing designs is growing across Canada, and Reid's is responding to this demand.

Bill Annable

Bill Annable, a professor in civil and environmental engineering, spoke about the opportunities we have to stabilize rivers and streams through natural channel design. Rather than building concrete

channels to control erosion and sedimentation problems, Annable urged the use of engineering designs that closely mimic nature. He encouraged professionals to spend more time observing natural processes in the field and working with other disciplines to develop innovative solutions.



Bill Annable

Lorrie Minshall: Source water protection

The afternoon session opened with a presentation by Lorrie Minshall, Source Protection Program Director for the Lake Erie Source Protection Region. This region includes the watersheds of the Grand River, Long Point, Kettle Creek and Catfish Creek. Minshall described the process proposed for developing a collaborative source water protection plan. Work is currently underway to understand the hydrology of the watersheds and to consolidate technical studies already underway in municipalities with respect to groundwater, water quality and well head protection. It is anticipated that a Source Water Protection Committee for the region will be established in 2007. An initial assessment and early action report is scheduled to be completed in 2008, with the first Source Water Protection Plan being done by 2011.

Community innovations

The afternoon panel focused on innovations in community development that are leading toward healthy waters. Speakers in a variety of areas addressed initiatives that they are undertaking.

Cecilia Ferreyra

Cecilia Ferreyra, with the geography department at the University of Guelph, spoke about participatory evaluation as a useful tool to help communities achieve

healthy waters. Source water protection is the interplay of different dimensions (economic, social, ecological and political) and various stakeholder perspectives. Communities need to be actively involved in evaluation efforts because of this complexity, Ferreyra said. She also noted that although participatory evaluation is a time-consuming process, it is also valuable for social learning. In this context, she noted that the role of outside evaluators is no longer to be experts, but to be facilitators who help create safe spaces for multi-stakeholder dialogue and self-evaluation.

Peter Gray

Peter Gray spoke about the tremendous success of Ontario's children's water festivals. Spearheaded by the Children's Water Education Council (CWEC), these festivals for elementary students in Grades 2 to 5 provide interactive learning experience about all aspects of water and emphasize protecting it for future generations. Relying on volunteer and community partnerships, these festivals are now held in 15 communities including Waterloo-Wellington and Brantford, attracting over 40,000 participants a year. CWEC and Ontario

Water Works Association have recently developed a mobile toolkit with 10 activity centres to share their expertise and resources with other communities across Ontario.

Jack Imhof

Jack Imhof described the Exceptional Waters Program in the Grand River watershed between Paris and Brantford. The program engages people from local communities "so that waters of exceptional quality may be managed as a community resource to ensure their sustainability." Based on community input, background studies and an access management plan have been completed.

Thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, a coordinator was hired to work with the steering committee and the community to improve river access and signage and to develop several reports, including a "state of the resource" report and a draft resource management plan. The next challenge will be to pool community resources to implement the plan.

Tracey Ryan

Tracey Ryan concluded the panel presentation with a summary of the

Rural Water Quality Program. This collaborative program provides financial assistance to farmers implementing projects to improve water quality in priority surface and groundwater areas. Funding for the program comes primarily from watershed municipalities. The details of the program vary across the watershed, depending on the needs and perspectives of the local farming community who participated in shaping the program. Since 1998, over 1,600 projects have been completed—over \$5.4 million in grants have been distributed, contributing to an overall investment by farmers of \$14.7 million.

Gord Miller

The program concluded with summary remarks from the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Gord Miller. Miller emphasized that "maybe things are changing". He observed that the overall message from the speakers was very positive, with engineers incorporating ecological considerations into their plans and developers looking at eco-friendly designs. Community participation and collaboration as well as multi- or inter-disciplinary approaches help to create naturally flowing streams and develop toolkits. These are positive responses to the concerns of the increasingly concerned and active public.

Exhibits

Over 50 exhibits were an important part of the Water Forum, and these displays highlighted innovative technologies and approaches for improved water management and land use planning.

If you are interested in viewing the presentations, most are available on the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca

The S. C. Johnson Environmental Conservation Scholarship this year went to Erik Glemser, a fourth year environmental biology student at the University of Guelph. Glemser intends to pursue graduate studies in environmental toxicology.



Five Water Forum speakers enjoy the summary. From left are Jack Imhof, Tracey Ryan, Peter Gray, Cecilia Ferreyra and Peter Krause.

Water Toolkit

An online Water Toolkit offering useful information on a variety of water and land topics was launched as an integral part of Water Forum 2006.

The toolkit provides links to helpful websites with innovative solutions to water issues, information on stewardship techniques and available cost-sharing opportunities. Hosted by the GRCA on behalf of the water managers, the link is www.grandriver.ca/watertoolkit

Information is organized into four categories: innovations and best management practices; research and case studies; funding sources and incentives; and education and community involvement.

A special thank you is extended to Environment Canada for enabling a more searchable version of the site that will be available later this year.

If you have a website to be added to the Water Toolkit, instructions for submitting your entry are available on the website.



LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

South Hanlon boardwalk complete

Nearly 100 volunteers gathered for a weekend to complete the final 150 metres of boardwalk in the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area in Guelph, part of a 2.5-km trail connecting the Edinburgh south community with the Hanlon Business Park.

The boardwalk will reduce the impact of pedestrians through the conservation area and also complete a trail loop, while protecting the wetland.

"Many residents of this neighbourhood use the trail to walk to work. The boardwalk will benefit local residents and trail users throughout Guelph," says Dave Beaton, head of the project.



Volunteers complete a boardwalk designed to protect a wetland.

Key financial supporters this year include the city, Guelph Environmental Leadership (GEL) and Stantec, while United Rental provided equipment. About half the volunteers were from the University of Guelph.

"This project represents a huge milestone for trail development in the south end of Guelph," says Glynis Logue, GEL's executive director.

Over the last decade other groups who have provided stewardship in the area include the Hanlon Creek Rehabilitation Group, Hanlon Creek Conservancy, Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School, Guelph Field Naturalists, GRCA, Centre for Land and Water Stewardship and local businesses and residents.



Members of the Old Salts Canoe Club clean up the Kaufmann Flats in Waterloo at an October event. The club paddles the Grand and other rivers each week of the canoe season.

300 attend youth day at Luther Marsh

About 300 children from 10 to 17 years old and their parents came to the fifth Youth Outdoors Day Sept. 16 at Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area, north of Arthur.

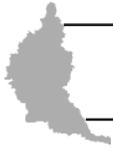
The annual event is designed to introduce kids to the great outdoors with fun activities and interactive learning stations. Several conservation groups and agencies started the event, and each year more people attend.

Kids are reconnected with the outdoors and are given opportunities to participate in activities such as fish ID and casting, fly fishing and fly tying, bird banding and wood carving. More than 60 volunteers shared their experience and love for the outdoors. Some volunteers showed off their specific expertise such as falconry, hunting, taxidermy and wood carving. A dedicated committee made up of volunteers spends the year getting ready for the day by collecting donations, prizes and food.

For more information about the day or to become a volunteer, check out the website at www.youthoutdoorsday.com or call Michelle Sumere at the MNR office in Guelph at (519) 826-4934.



A girl holds a chickadee at a bird banding demonstration.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Grand River dams are disappearing

Dams play an important part in the Grand River watershed, but modern thinking about small reservoirs suggests that they may actually have a negative impact on the environment. As a result, some dams are being removed, bringing the local landscape closer to what it was historically.

The large dams managed by the GRCA such as those at Belwood, Conestogo Lake, Guelph and Luther, provide many benefits to residents of the watershed. These structures help to regulate flows, reducing the effects of floods and drought, and they also help water treatment plants run efficiently to maintain public health. As an additional benefit, these structures create recreational opportunities for boaters, cottagers, swimmers and anglers, while dams may also have significant heritage value.

But many dams have no real purpose or are even decreasing water quality in the watershed. As dams that do not provide benefits to the watershed get older and need repairs, they are instead being removed to help improve the water quality and improve fish habitat.

Beatty Dam

The Beatty dam in Fergus was removed in 2004 because this wooden structure was breached during a spring freshet. Centre Wellington decided not to pursue replacing this historic structure to improve public safety. Now the "little falls" for which Fergus was originally named can once again be seen. The tumbling rapids are as beautiful as the curtain of water that used to be provided by the Beatty dam. The dam's main purpose was aesthetics, and the flowing river provides a great replacement.

The removal of the dam allows fish



The Beatty Dam was breached in the spring of 2004 and was removed later, leaving the "little falls" for which Fergus was originally named.

to access good habitat right in the town of Fergus, and the loss of the "backwater area" may be improving water quality and fish habitat. The Department of Fisheries & Oceans, Ministry of Natural Resources and Friends of the Grand River are studying the impact of removing the dam for future reference in other areas where small dams are scheduled for repair or removal.

Chilligo Dam

The Chilligo dam in Cambridge failed in 2000 and was then emptied, allowing the creek to find its natural course while water quality improved. Dams can create shallow areas where water stagnates and heats up excessively, damaging aquatic communities downstream. A restored stream channel means the water quality and natural functions of the stream improve. Still, the change can be a challenge for nearby residents, who become accustomed to the lake created by a dam. A steering committee led by Warren Yerex, supervisor of aquatic resources with the GRCA, has come up with a plan to develop three ponds beside the creek to help meet the community's aesthetic values. The \$475,000 project already has substantial in-kind support and some financial backing from the Cambridge North Rotary Club. There is a fundraising goal of \$175,000, said Sara Wilbur, director of the Grand River Conservation Foundation, which is helping with the project.

Taquanyah Dam

The Taquanyah dam was built by the GRCA over 40 years ago, but it had a negative impact on water quality and ecology. It was drawn down in 2004 and the resulting shallow lake was infested with carp, resulting in an unhealthy ecosystem.

A plan called "the new view" has been developed to create a wide variety of wetland, forest and aquatic habitat that will benefit local wildlife and people who want to see a variety of natural areas close together. Partnerships among the GRCA, MNR, Ducks Unlimited, Habitat Haldimand, Wetland Habitat Fund, Haldimand Stewardship Council, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and Six Nations are making this project possible. A Trillium grant came through Ducks Unlimited.

Archaeological work is underway, because excavation showed the site may have been home to native people. Once this is complete, the changes will follow.

A variety of dams in the Grand River system are being removed to help restore the health and vitality of the Grand and its tributaries. There are reasons to build dams and also valid reasons to remove them. Over the next several years, with the help of informed watershed residents who understand the many benefits of dam removal, the watershed is being managed effectively for the benefit of the environment and the people who live in the watershed.

Columbia Dam

A different approach is being taken at Columbia Lake on the University of Waterloo campus, where the dam is being relocated to improve water quality, temperature and the fishery.

The lake will be about three-quarters of its previous size and a berm will be beside it. The project also includes a wetland and a sediment trap at the north end of the lake. The area around the lake will be naturalized over several years.

This is a complex and expensive project being completed over a few years as funds are available. The change was most noticeable during the summer of 2005, when the lake was temporarily drained (for dredging and other work) during the first phase of the project. It will be drained once more before the project is complete.

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

For information on

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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



NOW
AVAILABLE

Aquatic species at risk poster

An aquatic species at risk poster is now available and can be picked up or ordered through the GRCA.

The Grand River supports an incredible variety of aquatic life. In 1994 the river and its major tributaries achieved the coveted status of Canadian Heritage River. The Grand is also considered a world class fishery, due in large part to the successful efforts of many partners. More than 80 species of fish and 34 species of freshwater mussels have been found in the river, making it one of the richest watersheds in Canada. Some of these species are rare in Canada and are

listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) under the federal Species at Risk Act.

The poster depicts seven fish (big-mouth buffalo, silver shiner, redbreasted dace, greenside darter, river herring, black redbreasted darter, and eastern sand darter), three turtles (northern map, blanding's and eastern spiny softshell), two mussels (wavyrayed lampmussel and round pigtoe) and the queen snake within the watershed that are at risk.

Many of these species are threatened by poor water quality as a result of human activities, but a team has developed a recovery strategy.

The free posters can be picked up at the GRCA Administration Centre, 400 Clyde Rd., Cambridge, and are also available by calling Jamie Ferguson at (519) 621-2761 Ext. 305.



The Grand Strategy Calendar

Canadian Chestnut Council Annual Meeting, Tim Horton Children's Camp, Onondaga Farms, near St George, Saturday Oct. 28, 10 a.m.

Everyone interested in restoring the American chestnut tree to Canada's forests is welcome. The agenda includes a tour of the CCC's Onondaga Farms planting site, a presentation by the Wild Turkey Federation, a progress report and displays.

Family Retreat, Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Ecology Project invites families to the grounds for a retreat. Children of all ages are welcome. The cost (including dinner) is \$25 for adults \$10 for children and children under 4 years are free. Call Marianne Karsh at 519-824-1250 ext. 257 to register.

A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium, Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, November 15-17. This is Ontario's premier conservation conference and the theme is Creating a Climate for Change. For more information, visit www.latornell.ca

Tenth Annual Heritage Day Workshop, Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex, 101 Father David Bauer Drive, Monday, Feb. 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The theme of the workshop is Explore your Waterloo: Yesterday, Today and Beyond. More information will be available in the next issue of Grand Actions.