When double-crested cormorants began moving into great blue heron nests at Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area, the GRCA was in a tight spot.

The heron population at Luther has been declining since 1994, while cormorants are recent residents at Luther Marsh and their numbers have grown quickly. Both species raise their young in large nesting colonies, and the concern was that the cormorants could be putting the herons at risk.

Cormorants are greenish-black, medium-size birds that swim under water and eat small fish. Herons are larger grey birds with long legs that wade into the water to do their fishing. Both species build nests in trees, but cormorants are also capable of nesting on the ground.

Double-crested cormorants have an interesting history in Ontario. A native species, their numbers peaked in the late 1940s. As with many other birds at the top of the food chain, the pesticide DDT had a detrimental impact on them and their numbers declined to low levels by the late 1960s. A DDT ban in the early 1970s led to a very successful comeback, and between 1973 and 1993 in the Great Lakes their numbers grew 300-fold to over 38,000 pairs.

They have started to move from Great Lakes coastal areas to smaller inland bodies of water to establish breeding colonies. The best available information indicates they made their first appearance at Luther Marsh as early as 1981, but breeding was not confirmed until 2004.

Cormorants have been making headlines
across the province this year because of their propensity for killing the trees they nest in and because they are a potential threat to fish and other birds, including herons. For example, Presqu’ile Provincial Park has as many as 6,940 breeding pairs of cormorants, and competition and aggression towards black-crowned night herons and great egrets, both rare breeders in Ontario, has been documented by Ontario Parks, which undertook a cormorant cull in order to control cormorant numbers in this area.

In the western basin of Lake Erie, cormorants appear to be threatening rare Carolinian woodlands, while significant negative impacts are being documented in other coastal and inland areas around the Great Lakes basin. Cormorant management has become a contentious issue among stakeholder groups, landowners and concerned citizens.

This spring the GRCA, like many other government agencies on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border, was considering holding a cormorant cull. The GRCA board decided to hold off and instead recommended that more information was needed to justify a cull. Cormorant and heron nest surveys took place in June, and for now the GRCA is keeping a close eye on the birds and taking other, non-lethal measures to protect the heron population at Luther Marsh.

### Heron colony decline

The heronry at Luther Lake has been monitored since 1955. The heron population reached a low of only 12 pairs in 1974. Over the past 40 years, the GRCA has supported the heronry by erecting artificial nesting platforms and moving fallen tree trunks into areas to create suitable nesting sites for them. By 1994, they peaked at approximately 162 pairs, but then declined to 84 nesting pairs in 2000.

GRCA staff set out by motor boat and headed for the heronry equipped with binoculars and Global Positioning Units. The primary objectives were to count nests occupied by either species, thoroughly document and map the colony, and assess the the impact of cormorants on the great blue herons.

The breeding colony occurs in a flooded swamp made up of exposed dead white cedars which are vulnerable to wind and rough water. Harsh weather has probably led to a steady decline in available nesting sites. Several dead trees contained multiple nests, and cormorants were found in about 30 per cent of them. Occasionally the two species occupied separate nests within the same tree, with the herons always in the higher nest.

Monitoring confirmed there were only 52 breeding pairs of herons in 2006. The number of breeding pairs of cormorants went from four in 2004 to 25 in 2005 and 31 this year. The increase in the cormorant population was not as dramatic in 2006 as was feared earlier in the spring.

Although comorants are more numerous at Luther Marsh than ever before and are breeding within the heron colony, there is little evidence that they are responsible for causing the heron decline, which began over a decade ago. Nor is there evidence of direct competition or aggression between the two species. Many factors may be impacting the heron decline, but the number of available nesting sites appears to be the real limitation.

### Good neighbours?

If the number of cormorants continues to rise, the heron population may diminish further due to competition for nests. Cormorants also have the potential to alter or destroy wetland or forest habitat and may exclude sensitive species by competing for similar food and nest resources.

Artificial new heron nesting structures will be placed in areas that are unsuitable for cormorants, which need deeper water and larger schools of fish.

Funding is being sought from a variety of sources to add 20 new nests a year over the next five years at Luther Marsh. New nests were added in 2006, thanks to funding from Ducks Unlimited Canada. These are located on a newly created, shallow, open water wetland north of Luther Lake and are well suited to herons, which tend to wade into the water to do their fishing.

The management plan for Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area is being updated jointly by the GRCA and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The new plan will provide long-term management guidelines regarding the new inhabitants of Luther Marsh.
Mapping Grand culture

By Janet Baine
GRCA communications specialist

The Heritage Working Group of the Grand Strategy held a workshop on cultural mapping in November that was attended by 60 people from across the watershed.

Cultural mapping means identifying all the cultural resources in a community, then assessing the strengths and opportunities and putting a plan in place to develop culture as a community asset. This is a whole systems approach that considers culture as one of the “puzzle pieces” that make up a community. Other pieces include the environment, social equity and economic development.

It’s not a new name for an old practice, but a new way of looking at culture that originated in Australia in the 1990s, explained Eva Salter, consultant for the Ministry of Culture and one of the speakers at the workshop. Culture is a driver for wealth creation and sustainability and it may be a way of solving other challenges in a community, such as engaging youth at risk.

The four pillars of cultural mapping are politicians, municipal staff, the cultural community, and business and other community leaders, who all need to work together to create the cultural map.

A similar session took place in Haldimand in September and attracted 120 people. In fact, so far 1,500 people from across the province have attended forums to explore cultural mapping in their respective communities. Some cities, such as Barrie and Orillia, have completed this process.

Robert Shipley, professor of planning at the University of Waterloo, also spoke at the forum. He explained how to nominate outstanding Grand River historic sites to the Canadian Register of Historic Places, located online at www.historicplaces.ca.

“Ontario is woefully underrepresented in this,” he said, noting that a team of UW students will begin working on the documentation for sites within the Grand River watershed in order to increase the number of registered sites. The team is available to municipalities, and Shipley is hoping some will kick in funding in order to help cover the cost of the students and increase the number of registrations in their municipality. For more information, contact Robert Shipley at (519) 888-4567 ext. 35615 or e-mail rshipley@fes.uwaterloo.ca.

LOOK WHO’S TAKING ACTION

Non-profits go green

By Stephanie Ellens-Clarke
Cambridge Social Planning Council

A forum to motivate non-profits to use more environmentally friendly practices and provide them with the tools to do this was hosted Oct. 20 by the Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries.

Called Non-Profits GoGreen, the forum was part of a project created because Cambridge residents placed environmental sustainability as a community priority in household surveys.

The forum encouraged non-profit organizations to play a leadership role by embracing green practices and it was held at the GRCA administration centre and sponsored by the Grand River Conservation Foundation. Agency representatives heard presentations from John Grotheer, president of Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro; Kathleen Barsoum, from the Region of Waterloo waste management promotion and education team; and Sherry Buckingham, manager of environmental services and a green team member at Cambridge Memorial Hospital. Forum participants were given information about eight pilot projects at different organizations and were guided on how their own agencies could go green.

Green toolkit

A toolkit was released as part of the forum as a guide that contains ideas that non-profits can implement easily. It describes the positive environmental results of these tools and outlines the financial savings that may result from using them.

The toolkit is divided into 10 sections that cover areas including energy efficiency, water conservation and meetings and conferences. Each section includes implementation ideas from the pilot sites that ran in the summer.

Here are some lessons learned from the pilot projects:

• The process of “going green” can be difficult and progress can be slow
• Actions must be in place to counter indifference and resistance
• Determining baselines and tracking progress is difficult but necessary to evaluate the programs
• Reduction should be the first step, followed by reuse and then recycling
• Staff at the pilot sites transferred what they learned at work to their practices at home.
Collaboration between agencies offers opportunities to share costs and provide each other with support and encouragement.

For more information about this project, visit the “Non-Profits GoGreen” web page at: www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org/environment or call the office at 519-623-1713.

At husking time women's conference at Chiefswood

A first ever conference for women to explore traditional Iroquoian methods of healing and wellness was held on the grounds of Chiefswood, and a similar event is planned for next year.

Chiefswood, a national historic site near Brantford, is the birthplace of Canadian poet Pauline Johnson.

A series of concurrent workshops ranging from traditional healing to food preparation and Iroquoian fashion were presented during this day-long event. Women came from within 150 km of the site. For many it was not only the first visit to Chiefswood, but also to Six Nations. All workshops were interactive, making them engaging and productive.

Speakers included Beverly Jacobs, president of the Native Women’s Association of Canada, and Amos Keye, language director of the Woodland Cultural Centre.

Conference funding was provided by the Ontario Community Builder’s Fund and Six Nations Economic Development, while a host of businesses also helped make the day a success.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

GRCA achieves ISO 14001 registration

The GRCA is the first conservation authority in the province to be awarded the international designation of an ISO 14001 registered company.

The GRCA has a strong environmental code of conduct for its own internal operations. With this in mind, managers opted to strive towards designation, a process that took three years.

“ISO 14001 registration is an internationally recognized badge of honour worn by organizations with a strong environmental conscience,” explains Michael Bradley, the GRCA staff member who led this initiative. “It will be one of the many badges that the GRCA wears to remind its partners that it is dedicated to environmental preservation in all of the facets of its business.”

The GRCA’s environmental management system is based on the ISO 14001 International Standard for Environmental Management. This standard provides a framework for organizations to identify and manage their organization so it has less of a negative impact on the environment in every area.

The GRCA hired a consultant to audit the environmental management system for compliance to the ISO 14001 standard. This audit took place in the fall and was successful and the auditor has issued a certificate of registration under ISO 14001.

Waterloo's 150th marked in 2007

By Jill Armstrong
Heritage Resources, City of Waterloo

In 2007 the City of Waterloo celebrates 150 years of prosperity and progress in a year-long celebration.

With a population of more than 110,000 and a reputation for being a global leader in technology, Waterloo still proudly maintains the ‘stability’ displayed on the municipal crest.

Next year marks an opportunity for Waterloo residents to celebrate this milestone. With a focus on community involvement, a volunteer committee has identified many ways to reach out to people in the city, asking for stories and photos to help mark the sesquicentennial.

A seed fund will help pay for events and programs led by community groups. High schools and elementary schools have been challenged to organize their own commemoration of Waterloo’s 150th.

On Jan. 14 the celebration begins with the Mayor's New Year's Levee at RIM Park, and special events and projects will take place throughout the year.

Heritage Collection exhibition

Feb. 16 marks the public opening of “Village Crossroads to Smart City: Waterloo 1857-2007.” This exhibition traces the history of 150 years of municipal government from village to town to city. It highlights the people and businesses that have helped make Waterloo: from the mills and breweries through the
insurance companies, hotels and manufacturers, to the universities and high tech firms. The exhibit at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery will continue until April.

Parade and Picnic

Like many municipalities, Waterloo has a long history of parades and street celebrations. Music, in particular, has played a large part in the community, and this event will focus on traditional and contemporary music. On May 27, the anniversary of village incorporation, a parade will run through the main streets and end with a city-wide picnic in Waterloo Park.

Canada Day

On Canada Day, the City of Waterloo will join with the University of Waterloo Federation of Students to offer a spectacular fireworks display at Columbia Lake. The University of Waterloo is also celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2007, while the Federation of Students celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Legacy of leaders

One of the activities already underway was spearheaded by the Waterloo Public Library. The library asked the community members to nominate 150 people who have made a significant contribution to Waterloo over its 150 years. The selected 150 individuals will be profiled and celebrated through a Legacy of Leaders gala on Oct. 18.

Legacy projects

A key component of the celebration is developing lasting memorials that will permanently mark the anniversary. These include the commission of public art, with the primary piece to be located in the new public square in Uptown Waterloo.

The 150th kilometre of community trail will be completed in 2007 and will be marked with special signage. Signs will also mark a new walking route of the Uptown, and an expansion of the ‘History Walk’ around Silver Lake.

Another Legacy project will be launched in the fall: an update of Kenneth McLaughlin’s book “Waterloo: An Illustrated History” by Dr. Sharon Jaeger, assistant professor of Canadian History at Wilfrid Laurier University.

The real legacy of the sesquicentennial is that it will allow Waterloo, as a community and a municipality, to celebrate accomplishments and to look to the future. It also acknowledges those individuals, organizations and businesses that have contributed so much to the Waterloo of today.

10th Heritage Day Workshop

The 10th annual Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration will be hosted by the City of Waterloo and the GRCA at the Waterloo Memorial Recreational Complex on national Heritage Day, Monday Feb. 19.

The theme for the day-long workshop is Explore Your Waterloo: Yesterday, Today and Beyond.

Waterloo has a rich history. It has grown from strong industrial roots in the nineteenth century to a progressive and highly innovative community in the twenty-first century.

To learn more about the city’s evolution from its humble beginnings to one of the world’s top seven intelligent communities, please register online after Dec. 19 at www.city.waterloo.on.ca/HeritageDayWorkshop or contact Peggie Bednarek by e-mail at pbednarek@city.waterloo.on.ca, by fax at (519) 886-5788, or by phone at (519) 747-8643.

Pioneer award for George Stormont

Former GRCA communications director George Stormont was one of four Pioneer award recipients at the 2006 A.D. Latomell Conservation Symposium.
With a background in advertising and communications in the insurance industry, Stormont embarked on a 22-year career at the GRCA in 1969. He brought with him a professional, outgoing, enthusiastic attitude and made an immediate impact on many levels.

Stormont pioneered a program he dubbed “Lands for Learning,” which would see conservation authority lands shared with watershed school boards to provide hands-on, curriculum-related outdoor education studies. The program expanded quickly, and by 1981 had broadened its scope to include four permanent nature centres providing four different school boards with quality outdoor education for students.

Another of Stormont’s significant accomplishments is in the production of GRCA educational movies and videos about the Grand River, acting as technical advisor. One of his favourites was the animated film S.P.L.A.S.H., produced in cooperation with the National Film Board of Canada. These films brought conservation concepts to a wide audience.

He had a hand in the formation of the volunteer-based Grand River Conservation Foundation in 1965, which has raised over $10 million since its inception. It has undertaken many conservation projects, including major reforestation work, land acquisition and trail development. The Foundation’s successful “Grand River Reflections” coffee table book was the result of another of Stormont’s marketing ideas.

His dedicated vision, hard work and marketing savvy have laid a solid foundation for conservation authorities in Ontario. The approaches and concepts developed during his tenure were truly innovative and will continue to serve as enduring inspiration.

The prestigious Pioneer awards are presented annually to individuals who have been pioneers in conservation. The other recipients are Sally Beaton of Richmond, Robert Bowles of Orillia, and Ron Reid of Washago.

Healthy wetlands project launch

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

A new three-year program to conserve and enhance wetlands in the Middle and Upper Grand will provide up to 100 per cent funding for demonstration projects that protect, restore or enhance wetlands and wetland habitat.

Called the Headwaters Healthy Wetlands project, this program was launched Nov. 10 and builds on the success of the Healthy Wetlands for the Upper Grand pilot project that ran for three years until 2005.

The new program also expands to include not only the Upper Grand, but also the Middle Grand (roughly from Guelph north) and the Upper Saugeen River watershed. This area represents the southwest half of the Dundalk Plateau, the highest point of land in southern Ontario and the headwaters for five major river systems, including the Grand and Saugeen rivers.

“Conserving and restoring wetlands in the headwaters is a cost-effective way to protect drinking water at its source,” says Robert Messier, coordinator of the project. The goal of the project is to promote the value and functions of wetlands to landowners who initiate projects, as well as downstream watershed residents.

This will be accomplished through technical and financial assistance for wetland enhancement projects, workshops and tours, and assisting municipalities and agencies to develop and implement policies that better protect existing wetlands.

Messier expects that this program will help landowners consider the many benefits of wetland rehabilitation and that wetlands contribute to sustainable agriculture. The benefits will be realized by local residents and will continue downstream all the way to Lake Erie.

He is also looking for people to join the project review committee and help select the projects that will receive funding through this program.

Jon and Jean Gerhardt are retired landowners who were at the program launch. They have a 50-acre property which is mostly made up of a treed swamp, and they are interested in the technical help this program may provide so that their wetland and wildlife habitat can be as healthy as possible.

Examples of projects that can receive full or partial funding under Headwaters Healthy Wetlands include small wetland restorations, buffer plantings, livestock exclusion fencing, alternative watering sources or any other innovative project that illustrates benefits to wetlands and agriculture.

While different groups see wetlands in different ways, they are all working together to protect and enhance wetlands through the Headwaters Healthy Wetlands project, Messier says. Farmers want their agricultural lands to be productive, landowners are looking for healthy wildlife and conservation authorities are interested in maintaining water quality and quantity. This project is led by Ducks Unlimited Canada, but it is a collaboration between several groups—the Grand River Conservation Authority, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, Grey Forest Stewardship Network, Wellington Stewardship Council, Dufferin/South Simcoe Land Stewardship Network and the Wetland
Habitat Fund. The program was made possible thanks to a $154,500 grant over three years from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

For program details or to arrange a site visit, contact Robert Messier at (519) 621-2763 Ext. 310.

Bruce Duncan tribute

Bruce Duncan, former nature interpreter at the GRCA’s Taquanyah Nature Centre, passed away Nov. 11 from injuries he sustained in a car accident. He was 60 years old and the general manager of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority at the time of his death.

During his 15 years with the GRCA, Bruce shared his passion for wildlife and concern for the environment with thousands of school children. He was a friend and mentor to his GRCA colleagues, as well as an unassuming expert in nature.

Bruce initiated programs such as environmental day camps that continue to this day at GRCA nature centres. He also founded the Niagara Peninsula Hawk Watch Program, which monitors raptor migrations.

In 1988 Bruce moved on to become an outdoor educator and environmental planner with the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority.

Bruce shared his love of nature with his family, treasuring camping and hiking trips with his wife, Janet, and his children, James, 13, and Katie, 10.

A tribute memorial is being established at Taquanyah to commemorate Bruce’s leadership in conservation and to enhance the site.

Donations, eligible for a charitable donation receipt, can be made to the Grand River Conservation Foundation/Bruce Duncan Memorial Fund by cheque or online at www.grandriver.ca/foundation.

Organic conference looks to youth

By Natalie Cajic

Young people may be leaving the farm to work in the city, but the Guelph Organic Conference hopes to reverse the trend.

Held annually at the University of Guelph, the Jan. 25 to 28 conference provides a comprehensive program of over 30 workshops and an organic expo and sampling fair with over 135 tables.

This year’s theme is “Next Generation Organics” and includes workshops on youth opportunities in the organic sector, as well as the ethics of organics and organics and the Internet.

The keynote speaker is Michael Ableman, an author, photographer and farmer described by the Los Angeles Times as “hopeful and inspiring.” His most recent book, “Fields of Plenty: A Farmer’s Journey in Search of Real Food and The People Who Grow It” (Chronicle Books 2005) chronicles a road trip with his eldest son, Aaron, as they visit innovative artisanal farmers across North America.

Registration for the workshops or the keynote address is available at the conference website. The expo and sampling fair is free with plenty of organic food and beverages for sale, as well as other items.

For more information, visit www.guelphorganicconf.ca.

The Nov. 2, 1942 edition of the Toronto Star featured the village of Arthur on the front page, recognizing it as Canada’s most patriotic village.

The headline read, “Arthur village gives sons and money to aid the war.”

The write-up covered most of the front page and included interviews with four mothers from the village: three of the four were widows and a total of 17 sons and daughters from the four families were in the Armed Services.

The folks at home were also recognized for their support of the War Bond Drives. Arthur was believed to be the first village in Canada to reach its quota in the first campaign and had led all communities in North Wellington in every subsequent campaign.

A plaque was erected in 1995 in Arthur recognizing these contributions during World War II.

Organic conference looks to youth

By Natalie Cajic

Young people may be leaving the farm to work in the city, but the Guelph Organic Conference hopes to reverse the trend.

Held annually at the University of Guelph, the Jan. 25 to 28 conference provides a comprehensive program of over 30 workshops and an organic expo and sampling fair with over 135 tables.

This year’s theme is “Next Generation Organics” and includes workshops on youth opportunities in the organic sector, as well as the ethics of organics and organics and the Internet.

The keynote speaker is Michael Ableman, an author, photographer and farmer described by the Los Angeles Times as “hopeful and inspiring.” His most recent book, “Fields of Plenty: A Farmer’s Journey in Search of Real Food and The People Who Grow It” (Chronicle Books 2005) chronicles a road trip with his eldest son, Aaron, as they visit innovative artisanal farmers across North America.

The keynote speaker is Michael Ableman, an author, photographer and farmer described by the Los Angeles Times as “hopeful and inspiring.” His most recent book, “Fields of Plenty: A Farmer’s Journey in Search of Real Food and The People Who Grow It” (Chronicle Books 2005) chronicles a road trip with his eldest son, Aaron, as they visit innovative artisanal farmers across North America.

Registration for the workshops or the keynote address is available at the conference website. The expo and sampling fair is free with plenty of organic food and beverages for sale, as well as other items.

For more information, visit www.guelphorganicconf.ca.

The Nov. 2, 1942 edition of the Toronto Star featured the village of Arthur on the front page, recognizing it as Canada’s most patriotic village.

The headline read, “Arthur village gives sons and money to aid the war.”

The write-up covered most of the front page and included interviews with four mothers from the village: three of the four were widows and a total of 17 sons and daughters from the four families were in the Armed Services.

The folks at home were also recognized for their support of the War Bond Drives. Arthur was believed to be the first village in Canada to reach its quota in the first campaign and had led all communities in North Wellington in every subsequent campaign.

A plaque was erected in 1995 in Arthur recognizing these contributions during World War II.

The Nov. 2, 1942 edition of the Toronto Star featured the village of Arthur on the front page, recognizing it as Canada’s most patriotic village.

The headline read, “Arthur village gives sons and money to aid the war.”

The write-up covered most of the front page and included interviews with four mothers from the village: three of the four were widows and a total of 17 sons and daughters from the four families were in the Armed Services.

The folks at home were also recognized for their support of the War Bond Drives. Arthur was believed to be the first village in Canada to reach its quota in the first campaign and had led all communities in North Wellington in every subsequent campaign.

A plaque was erected in 1995 in Arthur recognizing these contributions during World War II.
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 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
Web site: www.grandriver.ca

For newsletter submissions contact:
Janet Baine, GRCA
Phone: (519) 621-2763, Ext. 302
Fax: (519) 621-4844
E-mail: jbaine@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

A Grand gift that keeps growing

This holiday season, give a greener Grand River watershed for generations to come.

With a donation of $30 to the Grand River Conservation Foundation, you can cover the cost of planting a tree in the Grand River watershed as part of our 2007 reforestation program.

Each year the GRCA plants more than 100,000 trees across the watershed to make it a healthier and greener place.

Donors will receive a card certificate bearing the name of the gift recipient as well as a charitable donation tax receipt. This is an ideal choice for the person who has everything, and it is also an investment in our natural world. Orders must be placed by Dec. 15 to ensure certificate delivery.

The GRF supports priority programs of the GRCA, enriching the natural values of the Grand River watershed and encouraging people to enjoy and learn from the outdoors.

Please note that gifts cannot be ascribed to specific trees.

For more information, see the GRF section of the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca/foundation or call (877) 29-GRAND.

The Grand Strategy Calendar

Next Generation Organics is the theme of the 26th annual Guelph Organics Conference at the University of Guelph Jan. 25-28. The conference provides a comprehensive program of over 30 workshops, an organic expo and sampling fair with over 135 tables. For information, call (705) 444-0923, or visit www.guelphorganicconf.ca.

Upstream ~ Downstream: A Film and Speaker Series About Guelph’s River System, sponsored by OPIRG-Guelph’s Speed River Project. The first of this series was Nov. 27 and featured local historian Susan Ratcliffe and the first part of the film, “The River Remembers.” Part two will be Thursday, Jan. 11, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and covers Watershed Issues and features a speaker as well as the second part of the film, “The River Remembers.” Part three is titled Watershed Priorities and takes place Thursday, Jan. 25, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The theme of part four is Watershed Actions and takes place Thursday, Feb. 8, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. To register send an e-mail to opirg@uoguelph.ca or call (519) 824-2091. Look for details about location and speakers in the new year at OPIRG-Guelph’s calendar of events page at www.opirgguelph.org.

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. Register online after Dec. 19 at www.city.waterloo.on.ca/HeritageDayWorkshop or contact Peggie Bednarek by e-mail at pbednarek@city.waterloo.on.ca, by fax at (519) 886-5788, or by phone at (519) 747-8643.
Exploring Waterloo: Yesterday, Today and Beyond

Morning Program – Yesterday & Today – Moderator: Mark Whaley, Councillor, City of Waterloo

- 8:30-9:00 a.m. Registration (beverages will be available)
- 9:00-9:10 a.m. Welcoming Remarks
- 9:10-9:30 a.m. Celebrating Waterloo’s 150 Years – Mary Dalton, City of Waterloo’s 150th Anniversary Committee
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. A Natural History of Waterloo Region – Dr. Mary-Louise Byrne, Wilfrid Laurier University
  Pre-European History of Waterloo Region – Scarlett Janusas, Archaeologist
  Cultural History of Waterloo Region – Dr. Kenneth McLaughlin, University of Waterloo
- 10:30-11:00 a.m. Refreshment Break & Displays
- 11:00-12:00 p.m. Tours and Concurrent Sessions –
  Session 1 - Walking Tours of Uptown Waterloo – Warren Stauch, Joleen Taylor, Karen Richardson
  Session 2 – Best Practices for Environmental Sustainability – Denise McGoldrick, City of Waterloo
  Session 3 – Milestone Histories: What are we Celebrating Again? – Dr. Sharon Jaeger, Wilfrid Laurier University
  Session 4 - Tell Me More: Intergenerational Heritage Projects – Anne Chafe & Tiffany Oliver, City of Waterloo
  Session 5 - Opportunities and Challenges with Heritage Districts – Don Roth, City of Waterloo & Marg Rowell, Waterloo Municipal Heritage Committee

Buffet Lunch – Displays

Afternoon Program – Beyond

- 1:30-2:00 p.m. 10 Goals to the Region of Waterloo’s Success – Dr. John English, Canadian Centre for International Governance
- 2:00-3:00 p.m. Panel Discussion – How Does Heritage Fit In?
   Martin de Groot, Waterloo Regional Arts Council
   Ken Seiling, Chair, Region of Waterloo
   Dr. Geoffrey Hayes, University of Waterloo
- 3:00-4:00 p.m. Reception – Village Crossroads to Smart City: Waterloo 1857-2007 at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery

Registration is free but limited on a first-come, first-served basis. Donations will be gratefully received at the event. Registrations will be accepted until Friday, February 9, 2007.

To register, please return completed form to: Peggy Bednarek, City of Waterloo, Environment and Park Services, 265 Lexington Court, Waterloo, ON N2J 4A8 Email: pbednarek@city.waterloo.on.ca Fax: 519- 886-5788 Phone: 519- 747-8643

Online Registration (available after December 19, 2006): www.city.waterloo.on.ca/HeritageDayWorkshop

HOSTED BY: Heritage Working Group of The Grand Strategy
SPONSORED BY: City of Waterloo and Grand River Conservation Authority
ORGANIZED BY: City of Waterloo and Heritage Working Group

Photo: Albert Street, showing Town Hall, Waterloo, ON (circa 1915) - City of Waterloo Heritage Collection
Share Your Success
Submit Your Grand Actions Today!

If you or your group, association, business, agency or municipality has undertaken activities/actions/events in 2006 that improve the Grand River watershed, promote heritage appreciation, or celebrate the Grand River, we’d like to hear all about it!

Each year, the GRCA compiles a registry of actions/activities/events which are undertaken by a wide range of people. Everything from performing and visual arts, events, educational seminars, and municipal planning policies, to “hands on” environmental and heritage protection and restoration work is included. By profiling and celebrating the numerous activities that take place in the watershed each year, new opportunities are offered for creative partnerships, exchange of information and know-how, and increased public awareness and support.

Don’t miss out in having your efforts included in the Grand Actions Registry. Submission forms are available on the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca

Please submit your actions by April 30, 2007 to Barbara Veale:
Telephone: (519) 621-2763 ext. 274
Fax: (519) 621-4945
E-mail: bveale@grandriver.ca
Canada's Premiere Organic Event

2007 Guelph Organic Conference
January 25-28, 2007

"Next Generation Organics"

Four full days of incredible workshops and seminars for both experienced and novice growers, as well as interested consumers ... an outstanding Trade Expo & Sampling Fair filled with over 135 organic exhibits ... a public forum ... and of course the best food anywhere!

University of Guelph
University Centre Building

For more information and regular website updates:
www.guelphorganicconf.ca
For a brochure, call 519-824-4120, ext. 56205