



Grand River
Conservation
Authority



The Grand:
A Canadian
Heritage River

INSIDE

Six Nations perspective
at Heritage Day 1

This one's for you 2

What's happening

Buffer projects 2

Millions in flood
damages averted 4

Earth Day

Guelph Lake Forest 5

Sunoco Earth Day 5

What you can do

Dual flush toilet
plunge 6

Did you know

Toilets big guzzlers 7

Now available

News release and
newsletter sign-up 7

DVD about Davisville 8

Calendar

8

Cover photos

*The Kanata Dancers
perform at the Heritage
Day Workshop in
Ohsweken. Inset: a
dancer from Emily C.
General School.*



Workshop offers a Six Nations perspective on Grand River heritage

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

The challenge of straddling two worlds was a reoccurring theme during the 11th Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration in Ohsweken Feb. 18.

"The Six Nations are very good at walking between worlds. We've had to do that through all of our history," historian William Woodworth told the capacity crowd of over 250 people.

The free day-long workshop was so popular that registration filled up before the event. In addition to a full slate of presentations on the theme "Restoring Grand Heritage: A Six Nations Perspective," over 20 displays were set up by aboriginal and non-aboriginal groups and the work of several Six Nations artists was also featured.

Woodworth noted the challenge of straddling two worlds goes back to the days when the Six

Nations first came to the Grand River feeling like refugees from New York.

He described the strong connection with the British that led to native support during the War of 1812. Later, members of the Six Nations also fought during WWI and WWII, said Rick Shaver of the Brant Military Museum.

Joseph Brant was described by Woodworth as having "one foot in a canoe and one foot on a ship which is not likely a very comfortable place to be." Brant acted as a cultural translator between the British and the Six Nations and was among the first of many people to play this role.

Poet E. Pauline Johnson's writing and performance was brought to life at the event by actress Julia Jamieson, who performed three vignettes just as Johnson would have done as she traveled across Canada performing and eventually she settled in Vancouver. Johnson was the daughter of an English mother and a Mohawk father and broke ground as a writer, performer, native person and a woman.

Museum consultant and Seneca Tom Hill gave a presentation on an exhibition that he is putting together about Johnson. It will open at the Woodland Cultural Centre in August 2009, putting Johnson's life story and 10 pieces of her writing into the context of the times. Hill believes a better understanding of the past is desperately needed today because there is often disrespect for the traditions and authority and we can be "blinded by the lights of the cigarette shacks."

According to Zig Misiak, a Brantford resident of Polish origin, fear results



Zig Misiak

when the two groups don't understand each other.

"Fear creates unpredictable results and education is the key to eliminating fear," he said. Misiak has been working with Tuscarora artist Raymond

Skye to bring an educational program to school children. The Six Nations Iroquois art cards are about the clan system based on animals.

Rick Hill spoke about the Red Hill Creek valley ecological stewardship program and the proposed Environmental Knowledge Learning Centre. He said the relationship to the land is essential to Six Nations identity.

The successes of Six Nations athletes, including marathon runner Tom Longboat, were described by Cheryl Henhawk.

Performances by the Kanata Native Dancers and the Emily C. General Soft Shoe Dancers brought music, movement and costumes to the event.

"This year's workshop helped improve the understanding between the Six Nations and other residents of the watershed," said Barbara Veale, the chair of the Heritage Working Group which hosted this event.

The Heritage Working Group formed in 1995 after the Grand River was

declared a Canadian Heritage River. The membership is drawn from all areas of the Grand River watershed and includes representation from government agencies, universities, heritage groups, national historic sites, museums, the GRCA, interested individuals and others. The GRCA provides administrative support for the Heritage Working Group, which promotes the celebration and conservation of human heritage in the watershed and plans the Heritage Day workshops. The workshop is held in a different part of the watershed each year.



Julia Jamieson

The 12th Annual Heritage Day Workshop is tentatively planned for rural Waterloo Region during Heritage Week (the third week of February). Some of this year's presentations are posted in the "Heritage Workshop" link on www.grandriver.ca. Details about the February 2009 workshop will be posted in the fall.

Sponsors were Chiefswood National Historic Site, Six Nations of the Grand, Two Rivers Community Development Centre, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the GRCA.

This one is for you...

This issue of Grand Actions is dedicated to all the readers who responded to the questionnaire we sent out last fall.

We especially thank the many donors who returned forms to us along with a donation. Through this annual campaign we collected \$3,305 in donations ranging from \$10 to \$200. Thank you! This is enough to cover the printing and mailing costs for one 2008 issue (this one!). It is also great inspiration for the newsletter team.



LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

Fencing and buffers improve stream

By John Shepherd
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Fencing streams from livestock and establishing buffer plantings along stream banks has long been recommended as an effective environmental practice.

Just how effective is the essence of a three-year project undertaken by the Grand River Conservation Authority. The GRCA Buffer Verification Project is one of 10 Greencover Canada demonstration projects carried out in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Greencover Canada is supported through the Agricultural Policy Framework, an agreement among the federal, provincial and territorial governments to make Canada's agricultural sector a world leader in environmentally sustainable production.

For almost 20 years, the GRCA has been helping landowners implement buffers along streams and creeks. Currently more than 100 kilometres of stream have been fenced or buffered throughout the Grand River watershed.

A total of 19 sites were chosen for the verification project based on their age, variety, and past assessments. The verification process includes aquatic assessments of fish populations, invertebrate surveys, vegetation inventories and photo records. The focus of the project is to replicate assessments done previously and to provide a benchmark for future assessments.

Fish population assessment

Fish sampling is done by electrofishing a stream at various points. The fish



Electrofishing upstream on the farm of Solomon Martin. Preliminary results show an increase of 78 per cent of total species across all sites after restoration.

are momentarily stunned which allows them to be netted and inventoried. Fish are typically present in even the smallest streams and are one of the most widely used and useful organisms for measuring water quality. Fish are a diverse group with a wide range of life requirements.

Some fish are sensitive to changes in water temperature, substrate composition, stream flow, or various water chemistry parameters, while others are tolerant of change in their environment. The structural and functional variety of fish communities makes them excellent indicators of water quality and provides an integrated view of stream health.

Electrofishing

Preliminary results from the electrofishing data show a general increase of 78 per cent of total species across all sites from pre-restoration to post-restoration. As well, there has been a nine per cent increase in the number of species found across all sites from pre to post-restoration.

Electrofishing involves passing an electric current through the water to draw the fish to the surface where they can be captured alive in a dip net. A cur-

rent passes through the water and is picked up by a positively charged anode. Fish within the current are stunned and orient in the direction of the current flow, swimming toward the anodes.

“I often wish I had a dollar for every person who observes an electrofishing survey and walks away shaking his head in disbelief as to how many fish are actually in a stream or stream selection,” says Tracey Ryan, supervisor of conservation services.

Aquatic invertebrates

Aquatic invertebrates are organisms which live part or all of their lives in water and have no internal skeletal system.

By determining the species or groups of bugs that live in a water body it is possible to evaluate the ecological health and productivity of the system. Aquatic invertebrates do not generally move around as much as fish and they are easy to collect. These invertebrates can be used to detect both recent and more historic impacts on a stream as well as track the recovery of a disturbed system.

Vegetation assessment

Conducting an inventory of vegeta-

tion along the banks of streams makes it possible to determine the presence of native or invasive plants as well as the growth of trees. Not only does it record the presence of agricultural weeds, it records changes in vegetation that occur over time. Photographs from pre and post restoration also show a positive change in vegetative cover and naturalization of the buffer. The photographs also provide evidence of bank stabilization and channel reformation from the previously degraded sites.

Social and Economic Impact

An important aspect of the project is the gathering of information regarding the social and economic benefits of stream restoration. In particular, a survey will be conducted among those farmers with established buffer strips on their farms. The object of the survey will be to determine if there is improvement in the level of enthusiasm for the practice and to see if attitudes have changed as buffers have matured. It is anticipated that information gathered in this way will provide guidance for the establishment of new buffers.

For more information contact: Tracey Ryan, supervisor of conservation services, GRCA, 519-621-2763, ext. 2269, or by e-mail at tryan@grandriver.ca. The GRCA’s web site is www.grandriver.ca.

You may also visit the Greencover Canada web site at: www.agr.gc.ca/greencover-verdir.



Samantha Mason identifies a fish.

Millions in flood damages averted on Jan. 9

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

Most of the people in the Grand River watershed were unaffected by flooding in early January, thanks to years of planning, millions of dollars invested and the work of many organizations.

On Jan. 9, you and I could get to work on time, pick up the kids or groceries and return home to dry basements.

“The flood infrastructure that cost millions of dollars over many decades pays for itself when one major flood is averted,” says Dwight Boyd, senior water resources engineer with the GRCA. For him and many others within the GRCA and other organizations, this is a job well done because not many people noticed the problem.

The warm weather front at that time was extremely unusual, not only because it became warm very quickly, but snow continued melting even through the night. This was accompanied by heavy rainfall of 50 millimetres across the watershed, so that the river system had to accommodate abundant water within a very short time.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The GRCA issued nine press releases to keep people informed of what to expect and where potential problems could occur. The seven reservoirs were used to reduce the river flows through Cambridge and Brantford by up to 50 per cent.

By contrast, the 1974 flood in Cambridge stands out in the memory of everyone who was there or has seen the photos. During that flood, about 1,500 cubic metres per second flowed down the Grand River at Galt. At the peak of the January event, flows reached 1,100 cubic metres and flood infrastructure held back about 500 cubic metres. Major dykes that have been constructed in Bridgeport, Cambridge and Brantford reduced the flood risk in these areas, keeping the water mostly in the river.

GRCA staff checked high water levels to help with future planning. Municipalities were very efficient at ensuring public safety by taking measures such as closing roads and bridges,

Boyd says. A new automated dialer system was used in New Hamburg to warn businesses and residents in problem areas. The media was very effective at letting people know what to expect and advising caution so that no one was hurt.

The GRCA's partner, Water Survey of Canada, a national water survey program, made good use of this research opportunity by collecting 21 manual flow measurements over two days. These help ensure the accuracy of rating curves that are used to estimate flows at different locations across the watershed.

“People shouldn't go away and say the river can't flood, it can flood,” Boyd says. But he is certainly glad to know that the systems in place to protect people and property proved to be effective when put to the test in January.

Three May deadlines

Three GRCA-related deadlines are springing up in May.

May 2 is the deadline to apply for funding for **Community Conservation Grants** of up to \$2,000 for registered charities and up to \$500 for elementary schools undertaking conservation projects in communities throughout the Grand River.

The same day is also the deadline to nominate individuals, families, organizations and businesses for the **2008 Grand River Conservation Awards** which are given out each year. Anyone can nominate someone.

Applications are accepted until May 31 for the **S.C. Johnson Environmental Scholarship**, which goes to a full-time student who has completed the third year or sixth semester of an honours program at a watershed university (Waterloo, Guelph, Laurier) or second year of engineering at Conestoga College.

More information is available on the website at www.grandriver.ca or by calling 519-621-2763 ext. 2271.



Flood infrastructure and flood control measures implemented over many years averted millions of dollars in damages this January. The flooding could have been as severe as the event in May 1974 in Cambridge.



New Rotary Forest at Guelph Lake

The Rotary Club of Guelph, the GRCA and the Grand River Conservation Foundation are working together to turn a farm field into a 40-hectare forest at the Guelph Lake Conservation Area.



Eric Beauchamp

The club will purchase and organize the planting of 5,000 trees a year over the next 13 years – a total of 65,000 trees – to establish the “Rotary Forest.” The GRCA, which owns the land, will prepare the site and then manage the new forest, which is opposite the Guelph Lake Nature Centre on Conservation Road.

The three project partners will look for community support from organizations, companies and individuals in the form of donations, tree purchase plans and help with tree planting.

The project kick-off is Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at an Earth Day and Environmental Showcase event — the first of many for Guelph. The project will end in 2020, which will also be the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Rotary Club in Guelph.

“This is a great project for Rotary, the GRCA and its foundation, but it is mostly a great project for the people of Guelph,” said Eric Beauchamp, president of the Rotary Club of Guelph. “We see this as a significant catalyst in the goal of increasing the urban forest canopy cover in and around Guelph. It’s also one small step in local efforts to counter the effects of global warming.”

Native tree species will improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

Laurel Creek is new location for Sunoco Earth Day

Sunoco Earth Day celebrations will help bring renewal to Laurel Creek Conservation Area.

Last fall, trees were removed from two hectares of the 15-hectare Scotch pine and red pine forest. This was a necessary step to slow the spread of the pine shoot beetles, which were killing the trees. Only dead or dying trees were removed, giving the remaining trees a better chance of survival, says Martin Neumann, supervisor of terrestrial resources for the GRCA.

Pine shoot beetles are often confused with the mountain pine beetles that have been causing national headlines as they chew their way through the forests of British Columbia, devastating the landscape and the forestry industry and moving east. But pine shoot beetles have been in Ontario since the 1990s.

“We were the hosts of the largest pine shoot beetle infestation in Ontario,” Neumann says. During the mid-1990s, they attacked 90 hectares of forest at Conestogo Lake. In that case, the damaged trees were left and nothing was replanted, because some native trees had already started to grow underneath. In the end, the pine shoot infestation was good for the forest, since native trees replaced the non-natives plantation that was attacked by the beetles.

Neumann hoped the area at Laurel Creek would be replanted this spring, even though there was no money in the forestry budget for this project. Unlike the forest at Conestogo Lake, Laurel Creek is an urban forest and it needs to be helped along with replanting. As it turns out, the solution to finding funds and assistance was simple.

Each year for about 10 years, Sunoco Suncor Energy Foundation has sponsored Earth Day celebrations in Waterloo region in various locations. This event always includes tree plantings. For the

past few years, it has been held at RIM Park. This year Sunoco Earth Day will be on GRCA property for the first time.

About 1,000 trees valued at over \$5,000 will be planted. All are native species — white pine, white ash, sugar maple, white cedar, silver maple, bitter-nut hickory, silky dogwood and red oak. The new native forest will be diverse, giving it a better chance of withstanding any future pest problems, which is especially important in the era of climate change.

“The pine shoot beetles are accelerating a process that we would have liked to see happen anyway,” Neumann says. “It would have likely taken 50 years for this transformation at Laurel Creek, now it will likely happen within a decade.”

This process of removing the most damaged trees in the fall and then replanting the area the next spring will likely take a few years, so Sunoco Earth Day could continue to be held at Laurel Creek Conservation Area for a few years.

Sunoco Earth Day is Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In addition to tree planting, it will offer visitors the chance to make eco-crafts, join the Marcell School of Drum drumming circle and take part in other environmental activities. It doesn’t cost anything to attend and anyone with their own mug will receive a free drink.



Red oak is a native tree that will be planted for Earth Day.

Taking the plunge for a dual flush toilet

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

I'm flush with enthusiasm after upgrading my one-and-only household toilet to a dual flush that fits my conservation values.

My new toilet uses a tiny puddle of water — a mere three litres — on most flushes. It has a second button for the six-litre “number two” jobs.

Dual flush toilets were developed in the 1980s and are required by law in water deprived Australia, so the technology is proven.

You can only imagine the secret shame I felt as a GRCA employee who owned an old water-wasting toilet. I'm not sure if it was a 13 or 18-litre, but it occasionally got so plugged up that it took three flushes, three buckets of hot water and vigorous plunging to clear.

Last fall, poised in mid-plunge above my porcelain bowl, I looked into the not-yet-swirling abyss and vowed to install a new toilet ASAP.

But I was skeptical of efficient ones. A friend's six-litre toilet had earned him a \$40 toilet rebate from Waterloo Region 10 years ago, but it doesn't perform its main task very well. In fact, his household water consumption went up after this toilet was installed.

I now know that Waterloo Region — the first in Canada to have a toilet rebate — solved this problem long ago with the help of the independent toilet testing centre for North America located in Mississauga. It is there that Bill Gauley and a team of toilet testers do their work on behalf of all of us.

At first, testing was paid for by municipalities, including Waterloo Region, so that they could be sure that the rebates are used for toilets that are scientifically proven to conserve water and that also perform their main function well. Now manufacturers pay for testing.

The comprehensive Maximum Performance (MaP) Report for toilets is



WHAT YOU CAN DO

in its 11th edition and it's online at www.cwwa.ca.

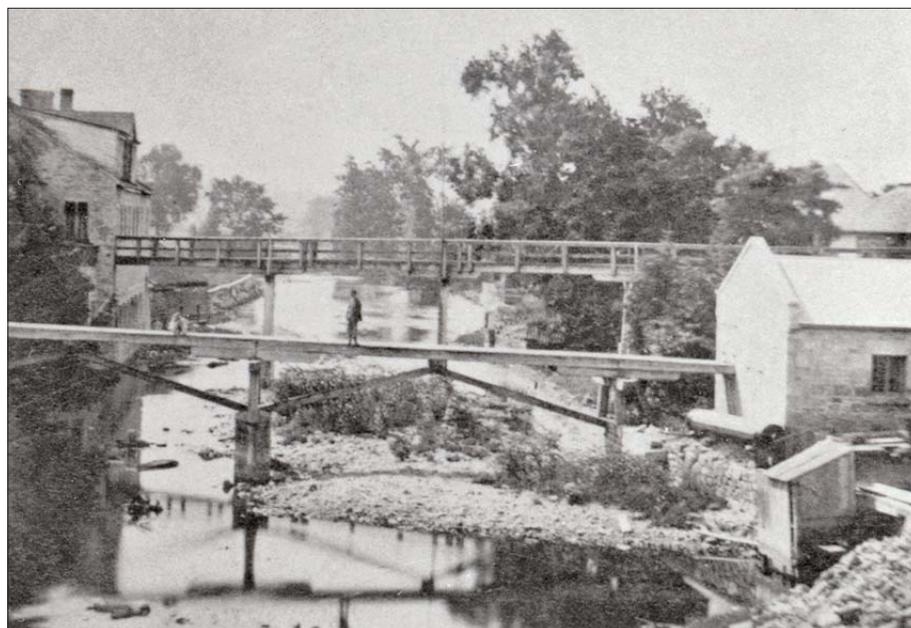
In the old days before this testing facility, the toilet test meant successfully flushing a ping pong ball, something my old water-guzzler could likely do with unparalleled charm. The MaP Report tests the success of 600 toilets in increments between 250 grams and megadumps of one kilo accompanied by toilet paper. It describes testing in detail — researchers load brown soybean paste into sausage skins to create test specimens. This report gave me faith in the effectiveness of miserly toilets.

Residents of Waterloo Region and Guelph receive a \$40 rebate for 6-litre toilets and a \$60 rebate for dual flush or High Efficiency Toilets (HETs) which average 4.8 litres per flush. Each munic-

ipality has a list of rebate-eligible toilets that have been tested and work well. In Guelph, where the water efficiency department has a sense of humour, the toilet list is called the Royal Flush All Stars. Check with your municipality before you go shopping.

Some toilets I saw lined up in local hardware stores didn't pass the minimum expectation of the MaP Report and weren't on the list published by the municipality. Local stores still stock some 13-litre toilets, which have been banned in the United States since the 1990s. But dual flush and HET are also easy to find.

A plumber quoted \$200 to install my toilet, but my cousin Bryan was visiting from Victoria last fall and he assured me toilets are a breeze to install. While Bryan talked me through the process, I installed my own toilet: I turned off the water supply, disconnected the old toilet, cleaned up the sticky brown goop at the base (he assured me it is wax and not



We've come a long way since the days when outhouses were perched right on the edge of the river, as this photo near Goldie Mill in Guelph shows. The outhouse is in the right bottom. Today 25 wastewater treatment plants discharge about 270,000 cubic metres of treated effluent on an average day into the Grand River system, and efficient toilets can make a big difference.

Photo courtesy of Guelph Museums

the substance I initially imagined), slid the toilet out of place, put on a new wax seal, slapped the new toilet in place and reconnected the water. Simple. All in all, this took an hour one Saturday morning and we were ready for the seven family members who came for lunch that day. This wasn't part of Bryan's original Ontario holiday plan, but it fit between Toronto's art galleries and the family history tour of Brantford, where he grew up.

My toilet cost \$750 including tax, so it was not inexpensive. But I noticed one dual flush on the Royal Flush All Stars was selling for \$100, so pricing is similar to other toilets. With my \$60 rebate and the \$88 annual reduction in water costs (based on the savings from the first two months), the pay back time for this "investment" will be under eight years. Then it will save money. If only my RRSPs did that well.

Finances aside, you have no idea of the relief I feel at this new found efficiency and the joy that comes with the steady stream of toilet puns I can now produce.



DID YOU KNOW?

Toilets biggest guzzlers

- ◆ The toilet is the biggest water guzzler in your home, at 29 per cent, so replacing an old toilet is perhaps the biggest step you can take to conserve water.

- ◆ The Region of Waterloo reports that an average family of three can expect to save up to \$92 per year on their water bill when they install a low flow toilet and save up to 52,000 litres of water annually.

- ◆ As of Jan. 1, 1996, the Ontario Building Code mandated the use of six-litre toilets in all new construction, but homeowners can install whatever toilet they want in existing buildings.

- ◆ In Ontario in 2005, about 13



The brief time when the bathroom had no toilet and plumbing skills were tested.

per cent of toilets installed were 13-litre, nearly 79 per cent were six-litre and eight per cent were dual flush.

- ◆ Test for a water leak by putting 10 drops of food colouring in your toilet tank and waiting 30 minutes. If the colour shows up in the bowl, the tank is leaking.

Waterloo Region:

- ◆ Since the toilet rebate program in Waterloo Region started in 1994, 50,500 inefficient toilets have been replaced, including 4,345 in 2007.

- ◆ If 18-litre toilets are being replaced, the water savings in 2007 was 2.6 million cubic metres.

- ◆ The rebate program more than pays for itself, since the savings in both water and wastewater treatment and deferral of capital expansion costs more than cover the program costs.

City of Guelph:

- ◆ Since starting the toilet rebate program in 2003, over 5,000 toilets have been replaced, including over 1,000 in 2007 and the city plans to provide 2,000 rebates in 2008.

- ◆ The Royal Flush program helps Guelph save approximately 500 cubic metres of water each day.

- ◆ On Feb. 1 Guelph introduced a \$100 rebate to replace top-loading washing machines with a new EnergyStar front-loading model (these use 35 to 50 per cent less water and half as much energy), and the rebates are being snapped up quickly.



NOW AVAILABLE

Source water newsletter sign-up

Anyone can subscribe to the newsletter to implement the Ontario Clean Water Act in the Lake Erie Source Protection Region, which includes four watersheds: Grand River, Long Point Region, Catfish Creek and Kettle Creek.

Editions of the newsletter will be produced after the monthly meeting of the Source Protection Committee. These meetings take place the first Thursday of the month.

To receive this newsletter, send a blank e-mail (no subject line) to SourceWaterNews-subscribe@sourcewater.ca.

The newsletter and the instructions can also be viewed on the Internet at www.sourcewater.ca.

You will receive an e-mail acknowledgement to which you must reply within five days to have your e-mail address added to the list. You will then receive a verification e-mail.

(Note: If you don't see the acknowledgement e-mail in a few minutes, check your Spam or Bulk mail folders.)

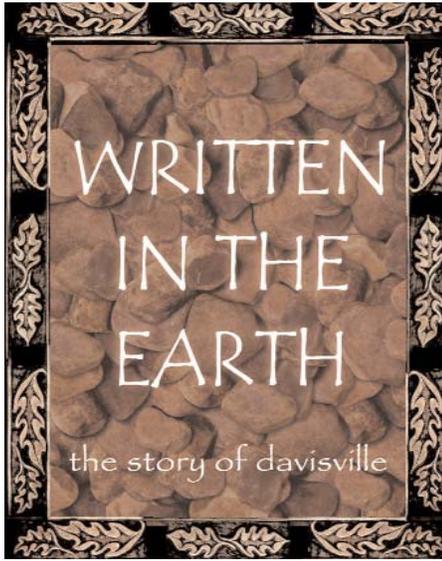
...and GRCA news releases too

You can now also subscribe to receive GRCA news releases by e-mail.

You will receive all of our news releases, including flood advisories and warning messages, at the same time as the news media.

You can add or remove your name from the subscription service at your own convenience.

To subscribe, and unsubscribe the instructions are the same as above, but a blank e-mail (no subject line) needs to be sent to GRCAnews-subscribe@grandriver.ca. Instructions are also in the news section of www.grandriver.ca.



Story of Davisville a lost settlement

Written in the Earth: The Story of Davisville is a 50 minute documentary now available on DVD which chronicles recent archaeological excavation on the Grand River, shedding light on the remarkable but little-known history of a lost hamlet near Brantford.

Starting in 2002, filmmaker Carol Bruce followed Dr. Gary Warrick of Wilfrid Laurier Brantford as he led his archaeological team in search of an early 19th century cabin community which had formed around the residence of Mohawk Chief Thomas Davis.

The story of Davisville is told by interweaving the archaeological detec-

tive story with the history of Davisville's inhabitants. These included Reverend Peter Jones, famous as the first ordained minister from the native community. From the traces they left behind on the shores of the Grand River, Warrick reconstructs the lifestyle of the Mohawks and Mississaugas who lived there almost 200 years ago.

The documentary was screened recently at the Ontario Archaeological Society Conference in Kingston and the Woodland Cultural Centre. It is tentatively scheduled for broadcast on Rogers Television Brantford this coming summer, and the DVD is now available from local educational distributor, www.GoodMinds.com for \$49.95. Their number is 1-877-8NATIVE.

About Grand Actions

This newsletter is produced bi-monthly by the Grand River Conservation Authority on behalf of the partners in *The Grand Strategy*. Current and back issues are available online at: www.grandriver.ca.

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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December. 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

This publication is printed on Rolland Enviro100, an FSC certified, environmentally-friendly paper. The paper is manufactured using 100% post-consumer fibre and is processed chlorine-free using biogas energy.



The Grand Strategy Calendar

Healthy Water, Healthy Growth, Healthy Guelph, a panel discussion, Sunday March 30, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., University of Guelph Arboretum. The panel will focus on the potential impacts of municipal and provincial growth strategies on future water quality in Guelph and downstream, followed by a discussion. For more information contact OPIRG 519-824-2091.

Introduction to Hiking, a day-long workshop, Saturday, April 12 in Fergus. Please see the Grand Valley Trail Association website at www.gvta.on.ca or call 519-576-4376 for more information. Registration is required by March 30, and the fee is \$40 per person or \$50 per family, which includes a one year membership to the GVTA.

Sunoco Earth Day Celebration, Laurel Creek Conservation Area, Waterloo, Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Environmental fun for the whole family. Come plant a tree, make eco-crafts, join the Marcell School of Drum drumming circle and take part in other environmental activities. This event is free, and don't forget to bring a mug for a free hot drink. This event has moved from RIM Park in Waterloo.

Earth Day, Guelph Lake, Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., first annual tree planting and Earth Day event for Guelph. Up to 2,000 trees will be planted by Rotary Club members and visitors, who will also participate in environmental activities.

Tree Planting and Clean Up Day, Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Conestogo Lake Conservation Area, Wallenstein. Help clean up the park and plant trees. Members of the GRCA's forestry department will demonstrate proper tree planting techniques and at 3 p.m. Marcel Labelle from Arthur will show visitors how he constructs birch bark canoes in the traditional way. Free hot dog and pop for participants. Admission to the park is free for Scout groups but park admission applies for other visitors.

Note: Events at the GRCA's conservation areas and nature centres are listed in the calendar section at www.grandriver.ca.

Mark your spring calendar!



1 Nominees sought for GRCA conservation awards

Deadline: Friday, May 2, 2008

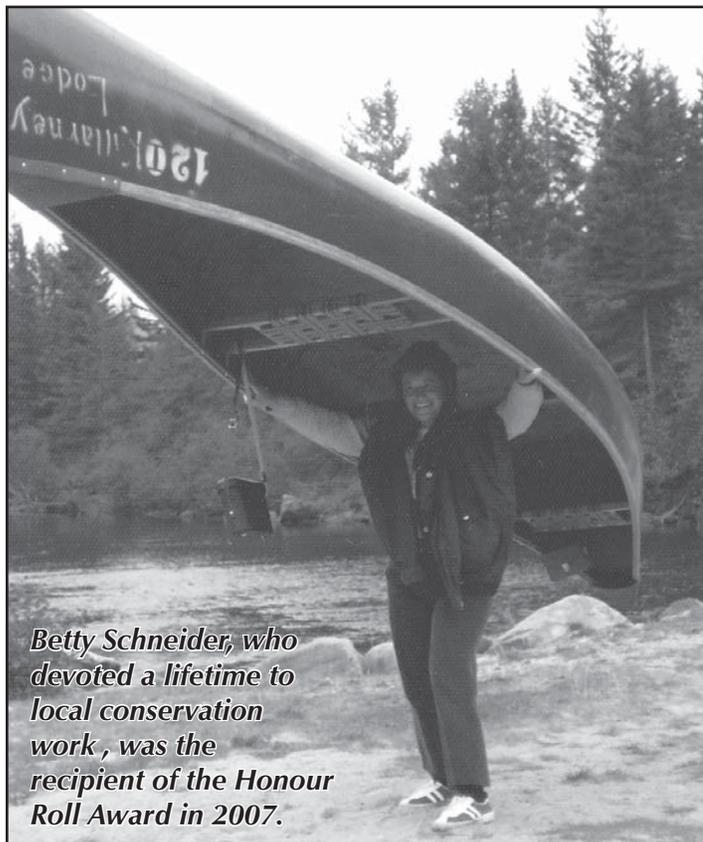
The Grand River Conservation Authority is looking for nominees for its 2008 conservation awards.

Each year the Grand River Conservation Authority presents awards to individuals, families, organizations and businesses that have taken action to protect and enhance the natural environment of the Grand River watershed.

It presents two awards: the Honour Roll Award for a sustained record of achievement over an extended period of time; and Watershed Awards for outstanding examples of conservation and environmental work.

Nominations can come from anyone in the watershed. The deadline for nominations is May 2. A nomination form is available from the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca. Look for the "Watershed Awards" link on the home page in the "Taking Action" section.

The winners are selected by the Special Recognition Committee of the GRCA board. The winners will be honoured at a special event this fall.



Betty Schneider, who devoted a lifetime to local conservation work, was the recipient of the Honour Roll Award in 2007.

2 Money for community conservation projects available from Grand River Conservation Foundation

Deadline: Friday, May 2, 2008

The deadline is approaching for community groups and schools to apply for Community Conservation Grants from the Grand River Conservation Foundation.

Each year the foundation awards grants of up to \$2,000 to qualified groups (must be a registered charity), or up to \$500 for elementary schools undertaking conservation projects in communities throughout the Grand River watershed. Eligible projects must be tangible and available for the use or benefit of the entire community.

Deadline for receipt of grant applications in 2008 is Friday, May 2. The award recipients will be selected by the end of June with the cheque presentations held in the fall. A final report may be requested of grant recipients within one year, or upon the successful completion of the project.

Applications can be downloaded from the Foundation section of the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca/foundation or by contacting the Foundation at (519) 621-2763 ext. 2271 in Cambridge.

3 Environment scholarship available for post-secondary students

Deadline: Saturday, May 31, 2008

Applications are being accepted until May 31 for the S.C. Johnson Environmental Scholarship. This scholarship, worth \$1,500, is made available by the Grand River Conservation Foundation to help university students continue their studies in conservation and environment related fields.

Applications are open to full-time students who have completed their third year or sixth semester of an honours program in a watershed university (Waterloo, Guelph, Laurier) or college (Conestoga). Students must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents, in the following programs of study: environmental sciences, engineering, chemistry or manufacturing

Deadline for applications is May 31. A selection will be made by the foundation's awards committee prior to Aug. 31. For further information and an application form contact the Grand River Conservation Foundation by e-mail at foundation@grandriver.ca or by phone to (519) 621-2763 ext. 2271.