



Grand River  
Conservation  
Authority



The Grand:  
A Canadian  
Heritage River

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Doug Ratz on the trestle bridge overlooking the Grand River near Elora.



## 2008 award recipient Doug Ratz behind Grand organizations

By Janet Baine  
GRCA Communications Specialist

*Doug Ratz is one of six 2008 Grand River Watershed Award recipients. These awards were given out Oct. 30 to honour those who have put their time and effort into improving the natural environment in the Grand River watershed.*

Long before green was in and touted by politicians of every stripe, Doug Ratz worked to counsel others on environmental concepts, says long-time friend Derek Graham.

Ratz was part of many organizations, usually working quietly in the background and not in the limelight.

The former Elora resident who now lives in Alma turned to volunteer work in 1984. Health problems led his doctor to advise him to stop working as a carpentry teacher and he volun-



## WATERSHED AWARDS

teered for several organizations.

"Volunteer organizations are where you find optimistic people," Ratz says.

He is a founder of the Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence, Ontario Streams and Friends of the Grand River. He was appointed by the province to the GRCA board for three years until 1990. Ratz was also a member of the committee that formulated the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

Ratz has been well recognized for his work and received many awards — in 1994 he was selected as Elora's citizen of the year. He also received the Bruce Buckland award from the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Ratz understands water issues very well. He helped find funding to put up fencing to keep livestock out of Swan and Carroll creeks that feed into the Grand River. He also worked with the GRCA and the Ministry of Natural Resources to establish many new river access points that opened up recreational use in the tailwater area of the Grand River south of Belwood Lake. This area now boasts a world-class trout fishery.

But most of all, Ratz is also a hands-on person. He used his carpentry skills to build garbage and information kiosks and bird boxes. He ensured the rafts that were used for concerts in the Elora Quarry for the Elora Festival stayed afloat and looked after them with the help of his wife Gwelda. The couple also looked were responsible for the swan program in Elora for eight years.

Ratz also enlisted the help of young people from the Portage Residential Centre in Elora who had struggled with substance abuse, teaching them a meaningful skill as they helped with these projects and experienced the satisfaction of seeing the benefits of their work.

Each year Ratz arranged for overstocked trees from nurseries to be planted by students in the area. Now when he visits these sites that include the waterways and trails, Ratz is amazed at how big the trees have grown.

To Ratz, the partnerships that have formed to improve the local environment are the key to their success.

“The most important thing in all of this we were doing is the partnerships between the municipal jurisdictions and the people that actually do the work. Those partnerships grew,” he says. “The really strong message we need to say is thank you and lets use this as an example and build on those partnerships.”

The 12-minute visual presentation and information on all of the six 2008 Watershed Award recipients can be viewed on the “Watershed Awards” section of the GRCA’s website, [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca).



A crew of volunteers cleaned up the Port Maitland lock in August.

## Port Maitland lock brought back to life by volunteers

The Port Maitland “On the Grand” Historical Association is bringing the Port Maitland Lock back to life and turning it into a tourist attraction.

The lock is on the feeder canal, which originally brought water to the Welland Canal. It was built around 1842. For a



Bill Warnick

time when the Welland Canal was being rebuilt, the feeder canal was a link bringing boats between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

“It’s about 200 feet long and it’s the only remaining lock on the feeder canal,” says historian Bill Warnick. A few years ago, he noticed the lock was overgrown and being treated like a dump. In fact, this old lock was barely visible from the road a few feet away and many residents didn’t know about it.

Warnick wrote an article about it and found a lot of people who shared his concern. In 2003 they began to work together to clean up the lock. Each year crews of volunteers take garbage away and improve the landscaping. They have

planted 7,000 spring flowers, installed signs with historical information and put in a memorial bench so that visitors can enjoy the view.

The historical association works closely with nearby businesses which help out by routinely cutting the grass near the lock. Some Haldimand County politicians and staff have also been a big help. Businesses, such as George Barnes and Sons Excavating, Mosaic Canada Ltd. and Innophos Canada have jumped on board, offering support.

The group has big dreams for the Port Maitland Lock. These include replacing the gates to the lock which are now below the water level. They plan to put in special lighting that resembles old fashioned gas lamps. They want to move a 170-year-old orange building owned by the county closer to the lock so that it can become an interpretive centre. This was once the Earleejune fisheries building.

The historical association also received a community conservation grant for \$1,000 from the Grand River Conservation Foundation and this will help get the ball rolling on some of these plans, Warnick says.

# 100 scientists talk about Grand River health

By Janet Baine  
GRCA Communications Specialist

The Grand River is perhaps the most intensively researched river in Ontario, but scientists don't know what their peers are up to.

About 100 researchers, water managers and representatives from agencies gathered to share their thoughts and hear from a dozen speakers at Science Dialogue on River Health. This was the third year that scientists were invited to this type of day-long event. But it was the first time for a theme and directed discussion about river health.

A repeated message of the day was that the 1982 Grand River Basin Water Management Study — a multi-disciplinary, multi-year study of the river — has been a road map for water management over past decades. But an extensive update to this study needs to be undertaken.

## A research framework

"It's time for the GRCA and its partners to update the road map," said GRCA CAO Paul Emerson. "The last one was done in 1982, and it seems like every 20 or 25 years prior to that there was one done. When we look back over these, there was great success, but we have reached the end of this road map. It's time to embark on developing an update." This update would provide a scientific framework for research that would allow scientists to keep tabs on each other's work and ensure that the work contributes to the overall picture.

Many things have changed over the quarter-century since the 1982 basin study — there are new challenges such as climate change, a growing population and changes to land use. Developments in technology and science mean innovative solutions are available that simply weren't around in 1982.

The historical context for a water management plan update was set out by

Barbara Veale, coordinator of policy, planning and partnerships for the GRCA. Emerging water quality issues were highlighted by Sandra Cooke, the GRCA's senior water quality supervisor.

Two panels were led by Dr. Isobel Heathcote, the past co-chair of the Canada-United States International Joint Commission's Science Advisory Board. The first panel looked at the factors that contribute to the river's ability to handle



Isobel Heathcote

nutrients and contaminants.

Presentations were made by Dr. Kelly Munkittrick from the University of New Brunswick, Dr. Patricia Chambers of Environment Canada and Dr. Sherry Schiff, University of

Waterloo.

Schiff said she has been asked about the impact a new water treatment facility could have on dissolved oxygen or nutrient levels, but the issues are so complex that she can't answer these questions.

"We have to have a [research] framework in place if we are going to answer those 'what if' questions. Right now there are a lot of questions that we can't answer," she said.

The afternoon panelists were Jack Imhof of Trout Unlimited Canada, Dr. Hans Schreier of the University of British Columbia and Dr. Bill Annable of the University of Waterloo. They discussed innovative ways to enhance or rebalance the natural processes in the river to improve water quality and protect biodiversity.

Scientists from several disciplines including geography, geology, engineering, planning, chemistry, ecology and biology used to work independently on watershed health, Annable said. They work for different agencies, governments and educational institutions, and there is nowhere that all the research findings



## SCIENCE DIALOGUE

are available so that they can share research and develop innovative approaches.

"Now everybody is starting to talk together and work towards being harmoniously integrated, which leads to cross-pollination of ideas, better science and creative solutions," he said.



Mark Servos

At the end of the day, Dr. Mark Servos, scientific director of the Canadian Water Network, suggested that steps need to be taken for researchers

to share their work.

"There needs to be clear vision that is built on a long-term commitment to environmental goals," Servos concluded. He urged the scientists to work on developing a vision and to let politicians worry about finding funding for an integrated research framework and monitoring.

All of this will cost money, and the price may seem high, but not integrating everyone to work together may cost even more and may hurt future generations, he said.

This event was sponsored by the GRCA, Canadian Water Network, the Ontario Centres of Excellence and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

"Researchers are very interested in continuing to talk about issues and solutions," Veale said afterwards. "We want to have stronger ties with them, to go to them for advice, identify research gaps, and they can help us make better water management decisions."

The challenge is that there is still no mechanism to bring everyone together, but event organizers are going to consider ways of doing this.

# The Grand learns from Australia

There are many lessons that water experts and researchers in the Grand River watershed can learn from Queensland, Australia.

Dr. Eva Abal, the scientific coordinator of the South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership in Australia, crossed the world to speak to 100 scientists in the Grand River watershed and also 350 people who attended the 2008 Water Forum.

The experience of Queensland applies to the Grand River, because the GRCA wants to update the 1982 Grand River basin study. Queensland has already undertaken this type of project to provide a road map for river monitoring, future research and actions that need to be taken.

## Far-reaching plan

Abal described a far-reaching plan that began in 1992 to solve the water challenges. The Australian drought of many years, the ecology and the growing population were leading to severe water problems.

In Queensland water use is severely restricted — for example, people are not allowed to water their lawns and their showers are limited to four minutes.

All the water researchers are working together on the Healthy Waterways Strategy on improved environmental and water quality targets for 2026.

The strategy outlines 500 actions that will help bring about these changes. Abal said scientists are not sure if this will be enough, but only the actions that governments have already agreed to take on are included in the list. They vary from riparian restoration to treating wastewater and recycling it for use.

Abal said there must be a balance in the triangle of three key elements—research, monitoring and management. Queensland developed an Integrated Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program, which uses rigorous science to measure waterway health using a broad range of



*Dr. Eva Abal spoke about the science of water management in Queensland.*

biological, physical and chemical indicators of ecosystem health.

“The integrated approach to monitoring is more cost-effective than the disparate monitoring that the individual [municipal] councils and organizations were doing,” Abal said.

All of the 500 committed actions are based on this integrated monitoring and a report card is issued each year with grades from A to F, showing where there are changes. All of this began when two people wrote a proposal and received a \$1 million grant to develop an integrated monitoring plan. Baseline research was undertaken for two years to find out what needed to be monitored, and then the integrated plan was put in place.

“We’re at a watershed moment here in the Grand — please excuse the pun — and a lot of what has happened in South East Queensland can provide a map for us,” Barb Veale, coordinator of policy, planning and partnerships said after hearing Abal speak. “They are further along than we are in terms of providing action, research and management, so there is a lot we have to learn.”

For full details on the strategy used in South East Queensland, visit [www.healthywaterways.org](http://www.healthywaterways.org).



## WATER FORUM

### Climate change means more research

By Janet Baine  
GRCA Communications Specialist

Interest in environmental and water issues is at an all-time high, so the eighth annual Grand River Watershed Water Forum attracted big name speakers, over 350 delegates and lots of press coverage on several topics.

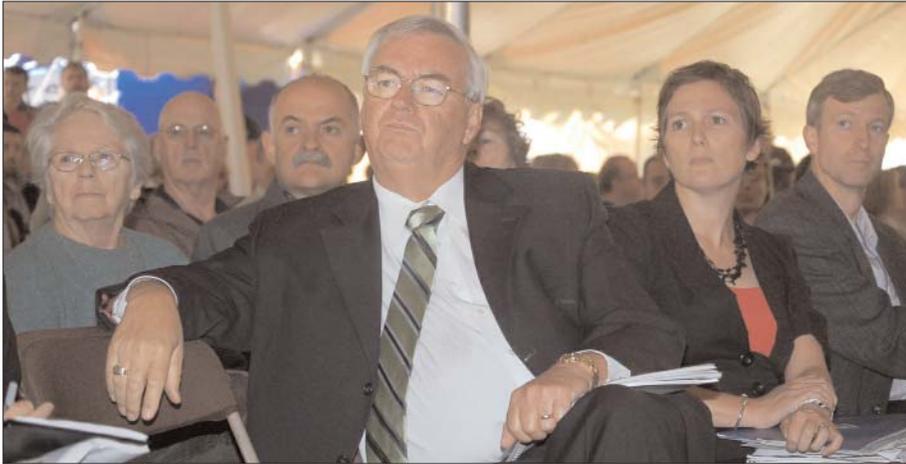
The theme of the event was Reflecting Change ~ Mirrored in the Water. Climate change, an increasing population and land use alterations are adding to the stress of the natural environment. The forum explored the nature and extent of these stresses.

Sixteen speakers took the stage during the day. The program and presentations made by the speakers are available in the Water Forum section of [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca).

Climate change was discussed extensively during the day, starting with a morning presentation by Jim Bruce, a member of the Intergovernmental Panel



*Climate change expert Jim Bruce.*



*Ontario Minister of the Environment John Gerretsen listens to Paul Emerson's presentation about the need for an update to the management study.*

on Climate Change (IPCC).

The change in climate is taking place more quickly than the "most disastrous predictions" of the IPCC, he said. He predicts more drought, warmer weather, more severe rain and more natural disasters. This means municipalities will need to adapt their infrastructure. They will need to develop new standards for culverts and storm sewers so that they can handle water from intense storms.

"The debate on climate change is over. Everything I've heard about it shows it is here and we better start dealing with these issues," said Ontario Minister of Environment John Gerretsen.

### **Best in class**

He commended the GRCA's Rural Water Quality Program, calling it the



*John Gerretsen answers questions during Water Forum.*

"best in class" in delivery as well as the first such program in the province. GRCA staff members from this department work in rural areas to protect waterways from livestock, plant trees and improve wetlands and natural features.

Gerretsen released his 2008 report on drinking water, saying the province is working with partners, including conservation authorities, to address water issues in programs such as source water protection and Great Lakes management. While these programs are steps in the right direction, Gerretsen acknowledged that more work needs to be done in the Grand River watershed.

Just before Gerretsen took the stage, GRCA CAO Paul Emerson described the Grand River Basin Water Management Study, which was completed in 1982. This far-reaching study addressed severe water problems including increasing floods, declining water quality and finding enough water to meet future needs. Emerson stressed that funding for an update to the basin study is now urgently needed.

Gerretsen looked at Emerson and urged him to "keep putting pressure on. That is the only way to get change." He then turned to Mayor Mike Hancock, whose city has received \$12 million for Brownfield redevelopment, and said, "Isn't that right, Mr. Mayor?"

## **The Grand soft path of water**

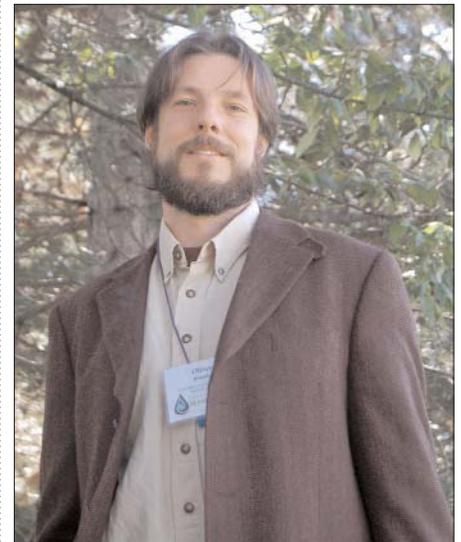
Oliver Brandes has been encouraging Canadians to think differently about water, and in September he brought these ideas to the Grand River.

The associate director of the Polis Project on Ecological Governance, a think-tank at the University of Victoria, spoke to the GRCA board and staff as well as attendees of Water Forum.

What Brandes calls "the soft path of water" can mean big savings in both water and money. This approach is very different from the linear way we now think of water, which is cleaned in a centralized system, sent out for distribution, used and then becomes wastewater. All of this requires expensive centralized infrastructure such as wastewater treatment plants.

The soft path means decentralized decision-making and water distribution, as well as many small water systems that better match the quality of water to its use. For example, using rainwater or grey water to flush toilets instead of tap water.

Decentralized decision making and water distribution are essential for the future of water, he said.



*Oliver Brandes is working with GRCA staff to find the soft path of water in the Grand River watershed.*

## Set water goals first

Select a goal about how much water you will need several years down the road and then find a path to get there. "Define a sustainable future first and work backwards to link the present to the future," he said.

Look to nature, which doesn't have a linear approach to water. There are many small and circular systems that communities around the world need to create.

Brandes and the GRCA are looking at how much water can potentially be saved by taking this new approach within this watershed. He has also worked with the City of Guelph and is interested in the practical application of these ideas, as well as the theory.

"The trouble with water is they aren't making any more of it," Brandes said.

## People first in Guelph wastewater solution

The City of Guelph's wastewater staff has a poopy job, but they are meeting the challenge.

At last year's Water Forum, Ontario Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller said the City of Guelph faces the toughest job in wastewater treatment in Ontario.

This growing city is on the Speed River, which is a relatively small river. It has a limited capacity to absorb effluent from the wastewater treatment facility and remain healthy.

Rather than putting additional funds into infrastructure improvements, the city chose to invest in people. They made operational changes and encouraged staff efficiency through training. This has decreased the gap between knowing how to manage wastewater and doing it consistently, said Gerry Wheeler, the optimization program facilitator at the city's Wastewater Services Division.

So far, Guelph has deferred \$11 million in water infrastructure costs. Continuing on this path will help avoid



*Gerry Wheeler of the City of Guelph's wastewater services.*

\$20 to \$30 million more, Wheeler said.

In practical terms, since May 22, the city has been consistently removing more ammonia. A five-year chart shows fewer wastewater treatment bypasses — when wastewater directly enters the river — since 2006, because of the operational changes.

### Eliminate bypasses

These improvements were noted by Ontario Environment Minister John Gerretsen earlier in the day.

"I was recently in Guelph and had the opportunity to hear about the excellent work the city has been doing to optimize their wastewater system and eliminate bypasses into the Grand," he said. "My ministry has been working closely with other municipalities to make sure they are doing all they can to minimize bypasses. Prevention is the first step in ensuring we have safe, high-quality water."

The city has also released a picture book for children called, *All About Wastewater*. It explains the wastewater treatment process used in Guelph.

Presentations from each of the 2008 Water Forum speakers, including Gerry Wheeler, are posted on [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca) in the "Water Forum" section.



NOW AVAILABLE

## Tree order deadlines are approaching

Watershed landowners who would like the GRCA to plant trees on their land must place their orders by Dec. 1.

Orders must be for a minimum of 500 trees or 30 saplings/potted trees. The deadline for trees to be planted by landowners themselves is March 1 and orders must be for 200 seedlings or 20 saplings or more.

Tree planting in the watershed is expected to grow from 180,000 in 2008 to more than 230,000 in 2009. But this is nowhere near the rate of one million in the 1980's, before government funding cutbacks.

"Interest in tree planting has begun to rebound because of increased awareness and several new funding programs," says Tracey Ryan, supervisor of conservation services with the GRCA.

A provincial initiative will see 50 million trees planted by 2020 to fight climate change and green the province. Trees Ontario is coordinating this and the GRCA is a partner to help make funds available to eligible landowners.

Including Trees Ontario, there are more than 10 programs that fund tree planting on private land in the watershed. Sometimes funding can come from more than one program, so funding for a project can be as high as 80 or even 100 per cent.

Ryan expects that demand for tree planting will continue to increase. An Environics landowner survey found almost 50 per cent of landowners with less than 25 acres are interested in planting trees.

For more information, check the "Forestry" section of [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca), e-mail [tryan@grandriver.ca](mailto:tryan@grandriver.ca) or call 519-621-2763, ext. 2269.

# 10th anniversary celebration of the 1998 Grand River Fisheries Management Plan

By Janet Baine  
GRCA Communications Specialist

A series of public meetings and a celebratory dinner early next year will mark the 10th anniversary of the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan.

This fisheries plan covers the entire watershed. If all the rivers, creeks and tributaries were lined up end to end, there would be 20,000 km of shoreline, so creating a plan of this magnitude was an enormous undertaking.

It took four years and a team of 26 people representing the Ministry of Natural Resources, the GRCA and a dozen community organizations. The real secret of the fisheries plan was cooperation. People worked together and looked beyond their own perspective or the needs of their community to find creative solutions.

"The big challenge was to get everyone to leave their hat at the door and consider what happens up and down the river," said Larry Mellors, who has been part of the fisheries plan committee since it started. He received a 2004 Watershed Award for his work as did others who have been part of this plan.

In September 1998, following an extensive series of public meetings, the 118-page fisheries plan was published. It is available in the fisheries section of [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca) along with accomplishments and updates. It incorporates a management plan, an implementation plan for each subwatershed, extensive technical background and manuals about how the plan was created and how the implementation committee would work with the community.

"It is really remarkable how far we have come in improving aquatic ecosystems," says Warren Yerex, supervisor of Aquatic Resources at the GRCA. "The plan reflects the views of the communities along the Grand River and the hopes

of many people."

Today river clean up events, tree planting, educational seminars and river improvement projects are all undertaken annually by volunteer groups throughout the watershed.

A successful project that began in 1999 was improvements to the stretch of river between Shand Dam and West Montrose, called the Grand River Tailwater Fishery. This has become one of the best-recognized brown trout fisheries in North America.

The GRFMP also identified the stretch of the Grand between Paris and Brantford as "Exceptional Waters," and funding from the Trillium Foundation helped make significant improvements in this area.

The plan recognized that there wasn't much scientific information about the fisheries in the southern Grand. As a result, data has been collected over three years and this will be the basis of a fisheries management plan this section which has a major influence on Lake Erie.

A healthy fishery provides a multitude of benefits to the watershed and indicates a healthy watercourse.

The GRFMP Implementation Committee is setting up a several evening open houses early next year. These will highlight some completed projects and consider some future projects for each area.

"We're looking to gather feedback on key items and high priority issues that people have in their part of the water-



*Brook trout*

## MILESTONES



shed. We'd love to have anyone who has an interest in assisting or providing input come to the meetings," said Al Murray from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

### Fish plan open houses

A community group will host each of the open houses which take place 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in these locations:

**Fergus: Wednesday, Jan. 7,** Wellington County Museum, County Rd. 18 between Fergus and Elora.

**Waterloo: Wednesday, Jan. 21,** location to be determined.

**Brantford: Tuesday, Feb. 3,** The Brant Artillery Club (Gunners Club), 115 Henry St.

**Dunnville: Monday, Feb. 16,** Dunnville District Hunters and Anglers Clubhouse.

**Six Nations: Wednesday, March 18,** Six Nations Tourism Building, 2498 Chiefswood Rd., Ohsweken.

### Fundraising fish dinner

The fisheries management plan implementation committee is hosting a banquet and symposium on Saturday, Jan. 31 in Brantford. The symposium begins at 1 p.m. with several speakers, followed by a dinner and silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$50 and available from Warren Yerex 519-621-2761, Al Murray 519-826-4914 or Larry Mellors 519-758-9400. The event takes place at the German Canadian Club, 194 Henry St., Brantford.

Donations for the auction don't have to be related to fishing and will be gratefully accepted. Details will be in the fisheries section of the GRCA website, or call 519-758-9400.



*Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Michael Chan, medal recipient Paul General and Lieutenant Governor David C. Onley.*

## Paul General receives provincial medal

Paul General of Ohsweken is one of 12 recipients of Ontario's 2008 Medal for Good Citizenship.

General is known as an environmental voice for the Six Nations of the Grand River and is a leading expert on the ecology and heritage of the Grand River watershed, the citation says.

He has managed the Six Nations Eco-Centre in Ohsweken for over 15 years and contributed to forestry, fisheries, aquatic and terrestrial programs.



### LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

General has also made outstanding contributions to the preservation of the archeological heritage of Ontario and is a member of the Heritage Working Group. He is an artist, lecturer, and the author of several technical reports and academic publications.

## 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](http://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.

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

**Mini Groundwater Festival, Sunday, Guelph Lake Nature Festival, Nov. 23, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Come and celebrate water. There will be fun, educational activities for kids of all ages. Learn how we can protect one of our most important resources. Program cost is \$5/person. Please phone 519-836-7860 to pre-register.

**The Kitchener-Conestogo Dream Home Lottery main prize draw is Dec. 7, 2008.** The home is about 2,300 sq. ft. and has a variety of special features. It is located at 22 Parkdale Drive in the Huron Village area of Kitchener. Tickets are \$100 or three for \$250 and the Grand River Conservation Foundation will be a recipient. The house is open weekend afternoons. To learn more and purchase a ticket, go to [www.rotarydreamhome.com](http://www.rotarydreamhome.com) or call 866-294-6466.

**The 15th Annual Environmental Sciences Symposium, Sunday Jan. 10, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., University of Guelph.** The theme is Towards Climate Positive and will be an exploration of carbon neutrality and an optimistic approach to dealing with climate change. Speakers include Severn Cullis-Suzuki and Sarah Harmer. For more information and to register, visit [www.uoguelph.ca/~envsymp](http://www.uoguelph.ca/~envsymp).

**Fish Banquet and Symposium, German Canadian Club, Brantford, Saturday, Jan. 31, starting at 1 p.m.** The afternoon symposium will feature several speaker and be followed by dinner and silent and live auctions to raise funds for fisheries projects in the Grand River. For information including open house meetings, see the story on page 7.

**28th Annual Guelph Organics Conference, University of Guelph, Jan. 25-28.** This conference provides a comprehensive program of over 30 workshops, an organic expo and sampling fair. For more information visit [www.guelphorganicconf.ca](http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca) or call 519-824-4120 ext. 56205.

**12th Annual Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration, Wilmot Recreation Complex in Baden, Monday, Feb. 16, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The theme of the workshop is Rural Routes ~ Rural Roots: A Heritage View of the Countryside. The event is free and donations are welcome. Registration and program information is in an attached flyer and it is also posted on [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca).



Grand River  
**HERITAGE DAY  
WORKSHOP 2009**

**RURAL ROUTES • RURAL ROOTS**

# Rural Routes ~ Rural Roots: A Heritage View of the Countryside

**Morning Program**

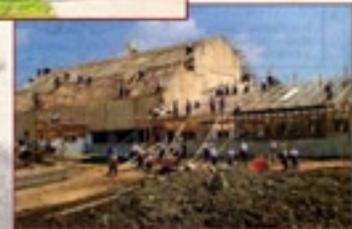
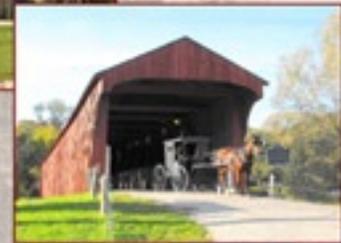
- 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. A Visual Tour of the Countryside
- 9:15 - 9:20 a.m. Welcoming Remarks
- 9:20 - 10:10 a.m. Historical Overview of the Countryside  
- Ken Seiling & Geoff Hayes
- 10:10 - 10:30 a.m. Launch of the Heritage River Inventory – Barbara Veale
- 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Refreshment Break & Displays
- 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Showing Our Roots in Wilmot Township

**Lunch Buffet & Displays**

- 11:45 - 12:55 p.m. Enjoy a taste of local fare from Wilmot, Wellesley & Woolwich Townships!  
View the displays to learn what makes these Townships so unique!

**Afternoon Program**

- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Rooted and Growing in Woolwich Township
- 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Catch the Culture in Wellesley Township
- 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. A Creative Rural Economy: Dan Taylor, Economic Development Officer, Prince Edward County
- 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Reception at Castle Kilbride National Historic Site. Tour the "jewel" of Wilmot Township.



Celebrating 15 Years as a  
Canadian Heritage River

**Monday February 16, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Wilmot Recreational Complex** located at 1291 Nafziger Road, Baden ON

*Registration is free and limited to a first-come, first-served basis.*

Donations will be gratefully received at the event. Registrations will be accepted until Friday February 6, 2009.

To register, please return the completed form or send the appropriate information to Pat Mighton at:

**Email:** dpmighton8@golden.net **Fax:** 519-696-3416 **Address:** 2148 Bethel Rd. R. R. #1, New Dundee, ON N0B 2E0

Registration forms are also available at [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca) and [www.wilmot.ca](http://www.wilmot.ca)

For more information, please contact the Township of Wilmot at (519) 634-8444 or Toll Free at 1-800-469-5576

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title (If applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you will be staying for lunch

*HOSTED BY: The Heritage Working Group of The Grand Strategy*

*SPONSORED BY: Township of Wilmot, Township of Woolwich, Township of Wellesley, Region of Waterloo, Grand River Conservation Authority*

*ORGANIZED BY: Township of Wilmot, Township of Woolwich, Township of Wellesley, Region of Waterloo, Grand River Conservation Authority, Heritage Working Group, Wellesley Historical Society, Waterloo Historical Society, Woolwich Historical Society, Heritage Wilmot*



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