



Grand River
Conservation
Authority



The Grand:
A Canadian
Heritage River

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Cover photo

A snapping turtle on a walkway at the GRCA headquarters before laying her eggs.

Photo by Janet Baine



Snapping turtles now at risk

By Janet Baine
Communications Specialist

If you want to know how important wetlands are, ask a snapping turtle.

They've been around since prehistoric times and if they could speak, perhaps they'd tell us the dinosaurs were easier to live with than humans.

These creatures are Canada's largest freshwater turtle and can weigh up to 16 kilograms. They spend most of their lives in water, and prefer shallow waters so they can forage during the summer and hide under the soft mud during winter. They are often seen floating in shallow wetlands with only their noses exposed.

Snapping turtles were recently added to the Ontario list of Species At Risk and are listed as a "species of concern."

It takes 15 to 20 years for a snapping turtle to reach maturity, so adult mortality greatly affects the species' survival. During the spring and summer, many turtles cross roads in search of mates, food and nest sites. This is risky for turtles, as they are slow to get out of the way of moving

vehicles and many don't make it across to the other side safely. Turtles often take advantage of artificial structures for nest sites, including roadside slopes, gravel shoulders, and berms that are close to dams and gravel pits.

One female snapping turtle comes each year to lay eggs in the gravelly garden near the administration centre of the GRCA. Then a few months later, an e-mail goes out to all staff to be careful not to run over the newly hatched turtles as they leave the parking lot.

The range of snapping turtles extends from Ecuador to southern Ontario, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia. They have small lower shells and cannot pull their head, tail and limbs into their shells for protection. This is why they bite when threatened. But they rarely bite when in the water.

All native turtle species in Ontario have declined due to many factors, including wetland loss, water pollution, road mortality, increased predation of turtle eggs and the pet trade. The only native turtle species that remains fairly common and widespread in the province is the midland painted turtle. All but one, the western paint-



Baby snapping turtles are tasty treats to many predators, such as raccoons and skunks. While these are natural predators, their numbers have grown due to human activity. These two are likely hatchlings of the turtle featured on the cover.

Photo by Mark Anderson

Many actions improve rivers

There are many reasons for the improvements in fish populations in the Grand River watershed.

Habitat restoration, water quality improvement, education and the many partnerships that have developed over the years are other strategies.

People have raised and released fish into local waterways for over 100 years in the watershed. Although the emphasis by fisheries managers is increasingly focused on improving fish populations by improving the habitats that they depend upon, fish stocking is still an important fisheries management tool.

If a stream is being stocked but the habitat can't support the fish, then stocking is only a temporary fix. It is treating a symptom of a problem, and not the problem itself. "There is some controversy about fish stocking. Some people promote increased stocking as the solution to declining fish populations. However, there is an array of options to improve and manage fish populations and it is important to ensure that there is balance in these options," said Art Timmerman, fish and wildlife biologist at the Guelph office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

MNR offers funding to many partners through the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program. In the Grand River watershed, this includes funding to the Brant Rod and Gun Club to raise trout and the Dunnville Hunters and Anglers Conservation Club that raises walleye for stocking into the Grand River.

The Waterloo Stewardship Network has supported in-class trout hatcheries at two schools — Grand River Collegiate and Waterloo Collegiate in Waterloo Region.

The classes receive about 400-500 eggs from MNR, which they raise to the fingerling stage, which takes two to three months. These are then released by

ed turtle, are found in the Grand River watershed.

Species at risk in Ontario are legally protected under Ontario's Endangered Species Act. All listed turtle habitats (but not the species itself) have some legal protection under the Ontario Planning Act, although this responsibility falls to municipalities.

Interestingly, however, snapping turtles can still be hunted in some locations, but they cannot be harvested for commercial purposes.

Send observations to the Amphibian and Reptile Atlas

Ontario's reptiles and amphibians are becoming increasingly rare.

In fact, three-quarters (18 of 25) of Ontario's reptile species are listed as species at risk, according to the Amphibian and Reptile Atlas.

Volunteers are invited to submit their observations of reptiles and amphibians found throughout Ontario to Ontario's Amphibian and Reptile Atlas. Observations can be submitted via an online form, an Excel spreadsheet (useful for submitting multiple observations) or a printable data card that can be mailed in.

For more information, visit www.ontarionature.org.

Species At Risk Status in Ontario

Midland painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta marginata*), common and widespread

Western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta belli*), common and widespread, but not found within the Grand River watershed

Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), non-native

Northern map turtle (*Graptemys geographica*), special concern

Snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), special concern

Eastern musk turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*), threatened

Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), threatened

Eastern spiny softshell turtle: (*Apalone spinifera*), threatened

Wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*), endangered

Spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), endangered

Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*), insufficient data to assess, maybe non-native

At risk status:

Extinct: Exists nowhere in the wild

Extirpated: No longer exists in the wild in Ontario but that still occurs elsewhere

Endangered: At risk of becoming extinct or extirpated in Ontario

Threatened: At risk of becoming endangered in Ontario

Special Concern: A species that is sensitive to human activities or natural events



The Grand River in Brantford is known as the Exceptional Waters and the fishing is good thanks to habitat improvement, education, partnerships, water quality improvements and fish stocking.

the students at sites where brown trout stocking programs exist (Conestogo River and the Grand River tailwater). The number of fish is small because there are challenges associated with students rearing the eggs. The students usually end up with fewer than 100 two to three cm long fish to be released into the river on a field day.

Fish stocking is part of a river ecology and restoration field day for these students. They also plant and maintain trees on these outings. During the past couple of years, the students have planted over 1,500 trees along stream banks at key restoration sites. These hatcheries are supporting environmental and geography programs.

Pauline Johnson Collegiate in Brantford has also received funding through the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program for an in-class trout hatchery. An article about teacher Tom Sitak appeared in the last issue of *Grand Actions* because he was a recipient of a 2009 Grand River Watershed award for his work over many years.

Provincial hatcheries

The province operates nine provincial

fish culture stations which produce approximately eight million fish for stocking in public waters each year. MNR with its partners stocks the tailwater fisheries in the Grand River between Shand Dam and West Montrose and the Conestogo River between the Conestogo Dam and Hawkesville with brown trout every year. As well, four ponds in the watershed at Ayr, Marden, Mount Pleasant, Rockwood and Mill Creek in Cambridge are stocked with brown trout. These are close to urban areas and are stocked so that kids can experience catching a fish and taking it home to eat.

Brantford hatchery close to 25 years

By Bruce E. Hill

As a conservation club, the Brant Rod and Gun Club has been active in stocking local ponds and waterways with trout and bass since the 1940s.

However, it wasn't until 1982 that the first trout hatchery encouraged by Ministry of Natural Resources biologist Dave Reid was built on club property on Landon's Creek. Eggs were collected

from Landon's and Whitemans creeks and hatched in upwelling boxes. Incubator boxes were designed, built and supplied by MNR.

Rainbow trout from Young's Creek and brown trout were nurtured until the fingerling stage and returned to Whiteman's or Young's Creek.

Volunteers worked long hours and overcame problems including silting around the pump, breakdowns, high water and extreme cold resulting in ice blockage. One Christmas day volunteers chopped ice to ensure proper water flow and huddling in the hatchery that had become cold.

Paul Helm Memorial Hatchery

The indefatigable fish hatchery chairman, Paul Helm, along with MNR biologist Larry Halyk suggested that a new well and hatchery could be built in the red pine forest across the road from the Brant Rod and Gun Club. This was accomplished in 1985, in spite of Helm's death. It opened on May 6, 1986. This compact but well-engineered structure received financial support from MNR, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and many private donations, but it was the work of volunteers that made Helm's dream come true.

From 1986 to 1995, rainbow trout eggs collected from Big Creek were raised at the hatchery and almost 400,000 were returned to the waterways as fingerlings. Speckled trout eggs were collected from Patterson and Brandy creeks in Norfolk County and approximately 6,000 fingerlings returned to those streams.

Until 2000, the eggs were being harvested from brown trout in late fall from Whiteman's, Landon's, Venison and Fisher's creeks and released to the same streams. Since 2003, brown trout eggs have been supplied from various Ministry of Natural Resources hatcheries and the resulting fry have been released in the Conestogo River tailwater.

This August, MNR with the assistance of volunteers will carry out a bio-



Students from Pauline Johnson Collegiate have an in-class fish hatchery and undertake numerous activities to improve the fishery.

mass study of Whitemans Creek (the last study was in 1998). The results of this should show the health of the brown trout fishery in Whitemans Creek and provide the future direction for the BRGC hatchery.

This year's 31,000 brown trout fingerlings from the Paul Helm hatchery will be released in September. Several thousand fingerlings will be released in the upper Grand River tailwater, Carroll Creek, and the remainder in trout ponds such as Mt. Pleasant Park.

A range of other possible stocking locations is being considered for future years. One is to place brown trout in ponds, where future anglers are introduced to the sport and can experience their first catch. Handicapped people also enjoy the outdoor experience at these ponds.

Another possibility is to rehabilitate one or more area streams which historically supported trout. This will require hundreds of hours of volunteer work, but it is an opportunity to restore a cold water stream to its natural trout-generating capacities.

As the hatchery approaches its 25th anniversary, brown trout will continue to be reared and make a valuable contribution to the fisheries of Brant County and

its rivers and streams.

Bruce E. Hill is on the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan Implementation Committee, which received an award from Fisheries and Oceans Canada in 2009.



WATERSHED AWARDS

Thanks Norm for asking

As you visit trails and outdoor facilities, you can thank Norm Lundvall for asking.

Lundvall received the 2009 Grand River Watershed Award for helping the Grand River Conservation Foundation raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for GRCA projects.

He has the distinction of being the longest serving volunteer in the history of the foundation, having served for 36 years as a director.

Lundvall's tenure as a leader of the foundation began in 1971. Since that time, he chaired most of the foundation's committees. He also served as president of the board from 1994 to 1998, a time of great activity which included more

than \$1.5 million raised to establish the GRCA's 75-km rail trail network.

"We never thought we would raise that much money," Lundvall said.

The board then took on more responsibilities and became more committed to going out and raising funds for specific projects. Lundvall was also a key organizer and fundraiser for the Alf Hales Trail in downtown Guelph that runs behind the River Run Centre. He was the founding force behind the foundation's very successful ongoing partnership with Gilbert MacIntyre & Son Funeral Home, which has provided over \$200,000 to date for public facilities and trails at Rockwood Conservation Area.

"Some people have asked me how can you go out and ask for donations. You have an objective, you take on the responsibility that you are going to raise funds and you go to a circle of people that you know and you stick your hand out. But the important thing is that you have to ask. And then when you ask, people feel good. They say yes, I will give," he said.

"A lot of people can't ask. They will write a letter and then hope that a cheque is sent. They can't ask, they just haven't got whatever it is. But it isn't magic, it just has to be done."

Although he stepped down from the foundation board in 2008, Lundvall continues to be active as a member of the Grand Champions volunteer team, most recently participating in community interviews to assess the foundation's strategic direction and serving as a member of the planning committee for the 2009 President's Gala.



Norm Lundvall in Rockwood.

The GRCA presents watershed awards each fall to individuals and organizations for outstanding examples of conservation and environmental work. To see a short slide show about Lundvall, visit the GRCA's Youtube channel: www.youtube.ca/grandriverca.

Attend 35th annual Watershed Awards

The GRCA will present the annual Watershed Awards on the evening of Thursday, Sept 16.

This free event will take place in a grand marquee tent on the front lawn at the GRCA headquarters, 400 Clyde Rd. in Cambridge at 7 p.m.



Ken Kirkby

The annual watershed report will be presented by GRCA CAO Paul Emerson. The keynote speaker for the evening is Ken Kirkby from British Columbia, an artist who first made inukshuks known through his work. He and other volunteers of the Nile Creek Enhancement Society have successfully brought back pink salmon to a stream that was essentially devoid of fish. He will speak about volunteerism.

Each year since 1976, the authority has presented awards to individuals, families, organizations and businesses that have taken action to protect and enhance the natural environment of the Grand River watershed, so this year marks the 35th time these awards will be presented.

"We are so grateful for all the work that has been done over many decades by so many people. It has really made a difference and continues to make a difference to improve the watershed," said Alan Dale, chair of the GRCA.

At the awards evening, the Grand River Conservation Foundation's Community Conservation grants will be

presented to three organizations and eight schools from across the watershed for projects that they will undertake this year. The S.C. Johnson Environmental Scholarship will also be presented.

This is the first time that the watershed awards are being held in the evening in conjunction with the Water Forum, which will take place on Friday, Sept. 17. If you would like to attend the free Thursday event, please contact Sonia Morgan at 519-621-2763 ext. 2315 or smorgan@grandriver.ca by Sept. 10. See the attached flyer for information about attending Water Forum.



LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

Learn more about rare Chestnut tree

Interested audiences will be able to hear presentations about the rare American chestnut tree at no cost thanks to an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant.

The presentations will be offered by the Canadian Chestnut Council (CCC), a scientific and charitable organization dedicated to preserving the American chestnut in southern Canada and restoring it to woodlots and native forests in the Carolinian Zone. For information, contact Kelly Schafer, outreach co-ordinator, CCC, 519-823-1458 or visit www.canadianchestnutcouncil.org.

The American chestnut is one of North America's most important forest trees and the only chestnut native to Canada. It is in danger of being lost forever. The wood from the chestnut was easily worked and durable. It was used for interior trim, furniture and fencing. Some split rail fences constructed of American chestnut early in this century are still standing. The annual chestnut crop made the tree important, providing a reliable food source for wildlife and early settlers. True chestnuts are sometimes confused with horse chestnuts and Buckeyes (*Aesculus* species), which

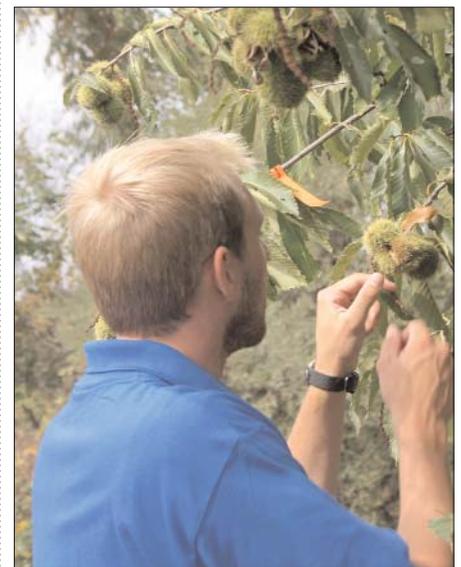
have compound leaves and inedible nuts.

Older people in the farm community may remember the spread of the chestnut blight epidemic of the 1920s to 1940s. The disease came from Asia and entered from the United States, spreading across southern Ontario. Virtually all American chestnut trees were attacked and killed.

Only a few blight-free trees, perhaps numbering in the hundreds (some ranging up to 50 years old), have escaped infection. A few of these bear nuts. Because of the distance separating most trees, cross-pollination does not occur or occurs rarely.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) designated the American chestnut as a threatened species in 1987. American chestnut still survives throughout its original natural range in southern Ontario, including the southern part of the Grand River watershed, although at dramatically reduced populations. Many of the big old trees have died off.

"The tree signifies the importance of continuing to generate public interest in the restoration of the chestnut," said Kelly Schafer. "It also represents our gratitude for funding and support that make this work possible, such as this grant from the Ontario Trillium



A rare American chestnut tree.

Foundation as well as the important partnership with the Tim Horton Children's Foundation.”

The GRCA's Burford Tree Nursery grows American chestnuts from seeds when these are available. There used to be a stand of trees nearby, but those older trees have died and this source of seeds is no longer available. The GRCA also operates a small American Chestnut Museum at Burford which is open to visitors at no charge.

The grant for \$19,000 will be spread over 32 months, ending in June 2012, and will provide outreach presentations, upgrade marketing initiatives, increase memberships, develop partnerships and enhance volunteer activities for the preservation of the American chestnut in southern Ontario.

The CCC will also be developing educational resources to be distributed to teachers within the range of the chestnut to aid in classroom discussions and learning around habitats and endangered species.

Presentations are available in Brant, Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand, Niagara, Norfolk, Elgin, Kent, Essex, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, Wellington and Waterloo. The CCC is booking presentations for service clubs, naturalist groups, classrooms and other interested audiences. A display is also available.

Partners make tree project work

John Small
MTO environmental planner

During a recent Ministry of Transportation of Ontario planning study aimed at upgrading the Hanlon Expressway in Guelph to a freeway, MTO heard concerns from neighbours about traffic noise interfering with the enjoyment of their outdoor living areas and they requested noise barriers.

In some locations along the Hanlon where the homes are elevated above the highway, noise barriers would not be

effective. As a result, MTO investigated other measures to cut down the highway noise.

Recognizing an opportunity to improve conditions on the east side of the Hanlon and south of Kortright Road, MTO environmental staff approached Trees for Guelph and the GRCA. They proposed planting trees in some open areas within the woodlands along Hanlon Creek. They offered \$10,000 to acquire plant materials from the GRCA nursery. With funding in hand and support from the GRCA and the City of Guelph, Trees for Guelph organized a planting event.

On April 27 and 28, Trees for Guelph supervised students from John F. Ross Collegiate who planted more than 450 trees of 25 native species in forest clearings behind the homes on Deerwood Chase, east of the Hanlon Expressway. Biodiversity and appropriate native species are a key element of this project.

“It really is a great example of getting a whole group of people with common goals together, from MTO to the GRCA to the high school students and even the local resident who offered water. It wouldn't have been as successful with-



Neighbour Ben McCabe provided water for the trees that were planted.

out this co-operation,” said Moritz Sanio, Trees for Guelph co-ordinator.

It will take years for these trees to reach a size where they will mitigate highway noise, but there will soon be a visual screen from the Hanlon. As highway noise goes, out of sight is usually out of mind.

The deer discovered the trees and began to feast on them, but Sanio says he has a couple of ideas to get them to look elsewhere for dinner.

“The residents there are absolutely ecstatic with the plantings. Some came out and helped plant, and there are changing attitudes about dumping in the area,” Sanio said.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Call now for GRCA trees in spring 2011

Call now for GRCA trees next spring. If you own a property that is more than a hectare (2.5 acres) of land, exclusive of buildings, and you would like to plant trees next spring, call the GRCA now.

The GRCA planted 451,000 trees this spring, and more than 200,000 of them were on private land.

“We anticipate planting more trees next year and we find landowners have a keen interest in this,” said Tracey Ryan, supervisor of conservation services. “Now is the best time to plan for trees for next spring.”

A phone call to the GRCA now means your name will be added to the list for site visits, because demand for this service is high. But the sooner you call, the greater the likelihood that you will have a future forest on your property next spring. GRCA staff are already doing site visits to work with landowners to come up with a planting plan that outlines what species are best suited to

the location.

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. GRCA staff will help find funding sources to minimize or even eliminate the cost. There may also be some site preparation necessary before planting can take place. Some projects may be suitable for fall tree planting, although most trees are planted during the spring.

Orders for trees to be planted by the GRCA on private land must be for a minimum of 500 seedlings or 30 saplings/potted trees. The deadline for ordering trees that will be planted by the GRCA is Dec. 1. The deadline to order trees to be planted by landowners themselves is not until March 1, 2011, and orders must be for 200 seedlings or 20 saplings or more.

“Interest in tree planting has begun to rebound because of increased awareness and several new funding programs,” said Ryan.

A provincial initiative will see 50 million trees planted across the province

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.

For more information, check the Forestry section of www.grandriver.ca. If you live in Waterloo Region, call Jessica Robbins at 519-621-2763, ext. 2277; Mapleton residents may call Lindsay Watchorn at 519-621-2763, ext. 2259; and landowners in all other parts of the Grand River watershed can call Nathan Munn 519-621-2763, ext. 2262.

Hunters convicted for shooting swans

Two Toronto-area hunters pleaded guilty on June 2, 2010, to one offence each under the Migratory Birds Convention Act 1999 in an Orangeville court.

Duarte Carvalho and Joaquim Inacio pleaded guilty to hunting one trumpeter swan each during a closed season. They were each sentenced to pay a \$1,500 fine. In September 2009, hunters reported that two large white birds had been shot at Luther Marsh near Grand Valley,

Ontario. An Environment Canada Enforcement Branch officer and conservation officers from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources arrived at the marsh and, after questioning, laid charges against the two hunters.

In addition to the fine, Carvalho and Inacio are prohibited for one year from applying for, using, or holding a migratory bird hunting permit.

Trumpeter swans were once hunted and harassed to the point where, in 1933, only 77 were breeding in Canada. The swan carcasses in this case had large yellow wing tags indicating they were part of a restoration project to boost the trumpeter swan population in Ontario.

Environment Canada investigates offences with the objective of ensuring that companies, governments, and the general public comply with legislation and regulations that protect migratory birds. Environment Canada supports the conservation and protection of Canada's natural capital through the enforcement of the Migratory Birds Convention Act 1994, Canada Wildlife Act, Species at Risk Act, and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act.

The item above is an enforcement notification from Environment Canada.

Bird's eye view on osprey nest

Web cameras are providing a real-time view of a young osprey family just outside of Kitchener.

The feathery couple have been affectionately named Hera and Zeus. At 2 p.m. on April 27, Lisa Willms and Bob Reitzel observed one egg. By June 6 there were three young osprey in the nest and they had been named Goofy, Emily (short for Emily Carr), and the youngest is Graffiti.

The young will stay with their parents until September before migrating south. The URL is www.birdsofbreslau.com.



Two tagged Trumpeter swans, such as this one, were shot at Luther Marsh.

Grants available to attend symposium

There are funds for 30 grant recipients to participate in Ontario's premiere conservation symposium this fall — the A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium. This grant provides support for students and active members of the conservation community so that they may attend the annual A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium Nov. 17 to 19. This year the theme is focused on biodiversity.

The funds for these grants are provided through the profits of a dream auction

About Grand Actions

This newsletter is produced bi-monthly by the Grand River Conservation Authority.

Do you want to subscribe or change your subscription?

If you would like to receive this newsletter either by mail or e-mail, please send your contact information. There is no cost to subscribe. Please ensure your contact information is complete and up-to-date.

Do you want to search for a past article?

Current and back issues are available online at www.grandriver.ca.

Do you want to submit to Grand Actions?

Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions may be edited for length or style. Photos and event information is also welcome. We do our best to publish items, but we are not able to guarantee publication.

Contact information:

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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.



held last year. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment will also provide funding for representatives from non-government conservation organizations to attend the symposium.

The grant includes: one three-day registration package, meals and two nights accommodations at the Nottawasaga Inn. Successful applicants will be asked to double up for accommodations due to limited room availability.

Transportation is not included.

Applicants must be able to declare and demonstrate that without the grant they would be unable to attend the symposium. Successful applicants must commit to full symposium attendance and complete and return an evaluation following the symposium.

For more information, see www.latornell.ca. The application deadline is Sept. 10.



The Grand Calendar

Saturday, August 7, Waterloo Dragon Boat Festival, Laurel Creek Conservation Area, Waterloo. Get your team of at least 20 together. Practice sessions are available in the weeks leading up to the regatta, along with qualified coaches and steerspeople. Visit the Waterloo Dragon Boat Festival website www.waterloodragonboat.org for more information and to register.

Saturday, Sept. 4, Trisport Triathlon and Duathlon Weekend II, Guelph Lake Conservation Area. Participate in a Try-a-tri, the Duathlon or the Triathlon. This event features a variety of distances at the same great site as the June Triathlon and a safe, fast course. For more information, please view the TriSport Canada website www.trisportcanada.com.

Sunday, September 12, Best Bites - A Taste of the Region - Medieval Style, Shade's Mills Conservation Area, Cambridge, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of food, wine and music. Fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Preston Hespeler and Cambridge Memorial Hospital Foundation. Call 519-740-4966 or visit www.bestbitestickets.ca to purchase tickets.

Inspiring Grand Transformations: Our Preferred Future, 10th Annual Grand River Watershed Water Forum, GRCA, 400 Clyde Rd., Cambridge, Friday, Sept. 17, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The focus of this year's forum is to explore innovative solutions and preferred directions in addressing changes that will impact future water quality and watershed health in the Grand River watershed. To learn more and to register, please check the conferences section of www.grandriver.ca, see attached flyer, or contact Sonia Morgan at 519-621-2763, ext. 2315 or smorgan@grandriver.ca.

Saturday, Sept. 18, Doors Open Haldimand County, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Haldimand County opens its doors to 10 unique properties for community members and tourists alike. Distinctive exhibitions, programs and tours are planned for each site. Visit the Doors Open website or e-mail Haldimand Museums for more information museums@haldimandcounty.on.ca.

Saturday, September 25, Doors Open Brant, Apps' Mill Nature Centre and other locations, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tour the nature centre, join an interpretive hike to the historic Grist Mill, and participate in nature crafts and programs for children.

Note: A more complete listing of events is available in the Calendar on www.grandriver.ca.

To register, please fill out the registration form and mail to:

Grand River Conservation Authority, c/o Sonia Morgan
400 Clyde Road, Box 729
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6
Phone: 519-621-2763 ext. 2315, Fax: 519-621-4844 or
E-mail: waterforum@grandriver.ca

You can also register on-line at
www.grandriver.ca/waterforum

Registration fee:
\$100 + \$13 HST
Student/Senior:
\$55 + \$7.15 HST

Please register by September 10, 2010.

NAME	
JOB TITLE	
AFFILIATION	
ADDRESS	
CITY	POSTAL CODE
TELEPHONE	
E-MAIL ADDRESS	
CREDIT CARD: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD	
CREDIT CARD NUMBER	EXPIRY DATE
NAME ON CARD (if different from above)	

Please make cheques payable to the Grand River Conservation Authority and complete a separate registration form for each person attending.

The Water Forum will be held outdoors under a "grand" marquee on the grounds of the GRCA Administration Centre. **Please dress accordingly.** Lunch is included in the registration and will accommodate vegetarian diets.

ORGANIZING PARTNERS: Grand River Conservation Authority, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Ontario Centres of Excellence - Earth & Environment Technologies, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, City of Guelph, MTE Consultants Inc., Six Nations EcoCentre, Trout Unlimited Canada

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee
8:00 - 2:00 p.m. **Interactive Exhibits & Displays**

8:30 - 8:40 a.m. **Welcome and Greetings**

8:40 - 9:00 a.m. **Ontario Minister of the Environment** - Hon. John Gerretsen (invited)

9:00 - 9:15 a.m. **2010 Watershed Report** – Paul Emerson, CAO, Grand River Conservation Authority

9:15 - 9:45 a.m. **Grand River Watershed Water Forum - A 10 Year Retrospective** – Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

9:45 - 10:15 a.m. **Refreshment Break**

10:15 - 11:45 a.m. **Panel Discussion: A Grand Future**

- Rob Nixon, Maintenance & Engineering Leader, Owens Corning, Guelph
- Tim Jackson, Tech Capital Partners & CEO, Accelerator Centre, Waterloo
- Municipal Water Managers Working Group
- David Rudolph, Executive & Scientific Director, The Water Institute and Professor, Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Waterloo (invited)

11:55 - 1:10 p.m. **Luncheon ~ Networking ~ Interactive Exhibits**

Afternoon Program

1:10 - 1:15 p.m. **Welcome**

1:15 - 1:45 p.m. **Keynote Speaker** – Ken Kirkby, Renowned Artist & President, Nile Creek Enhancement Society, Bowser, British Columbia

1:45 - 3:00 p.m. **Panel Discussion: A Grand Community**

- Mark Reusser, Zone Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Larry Mellors, Grand River Fisheries Management Committee
- Blain Albin, Grand River Dinner Cruises
- Crawford Reid, Chairman, Grand River Conservation Foundation

3:00 - 3:25 p.m. **Wrapping It All Up** - Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

3:25 - 3:30 p.m. **Closing Comments**

www.grandriver.ca/waterforum



GRAND RIVER WATERSHED
WATER FORUM

Inspiring Grand Transformations:
Our Preferred Future

Friday, September 17, 2010
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Grand River Conservation Authority
400 Clyde Road, Cambridge, Ontario
www.grandriver.ca/waterforum



GRAND RIVER WATERSHED WATER FORUM

Over the past decade, the Grand River Watershed Water Forum has grown to become a premiere gathering of experts on key water issues, growth trends, emerging technologies and innovative solutions.

Inspiring Grand Transformations: Our Preferred Future will allow us to collectively look forward as we focus on ensuring healthy and resilient watersheds for years to come. This event will be of interest to government leaders, municipalities, businesses, farmers, tourism and recreation providers; as well as individuals who truly care about the Grand River Watershed.

Keynote Speakers - Inspiring Grand Transformations: Our Preferred Future

Gord Miller

Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

Gord Miller was first sworn in as the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario in January, 2000 to oversee the continued implementation of, and compliance with, the Environmental Bill of Rights. He has now been re-appointed for his third term. He oversees 14



ministries and monitors and reports annually on environmental activities in Ontario. Prior to his appointment as Environmental Commissioner, Gord worked as a scientist in pollution abatement and in environmental education and training.

Photo: Hayley Easto

Gord, besides providing his unique observations in summarizing the day's discussions, will also look back at the past ten years of the Water Forum, encapsulating the discussion, actions and changes that have transpired as we continue toward "our preferred future" in water management.

Ken Kirkby

Renowned Artist & President, Nile Creek Enhancement Society, British Columbia

Ken Kirkby's passion for melding both the cultural and natural worlds of Canada is truly awe inspiring. At 18, he arrived in Canada ready to explore the country and its people. He has created countless works depicting the arctic and first nations cultures, including the world's largest oil-on-canvas portrait "Isumataq" which introduced many of us to the inukshuk (stone cairn) built by the Inuit. Ken's valuable contributions to the arctic government led to being awarded the 125th Anniversary Confederation of Canada medal.



From his home on Vancouver Island where he continues to paint, Ken has dedicated countless hours to the restoration of nearby creeks. He and other volunteers of the Nile

Creek Enhancement Society successfully brought pink salmon back to a stream that had been essentially devoid of fish. In so doing, the Society was awarded the first ever Environmental Restoration & Rehabilitation Gold Award in 2007 by Canadian Geographic and the Canadian Government for its accomplishments.

Paul Emerson

Chief Administrative Officer, Grand River Conservation Authority

Paul Emerson grew up in Paris, Ontario. He holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies Degree from the University of Waterloo and is a member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. During his time with the GRCA



his duties have ranged from general conservation labour and field inspections to responsibility for the administration of the authority's resource planning / regulation programs. In 2000, Paul was appointed to the position of Chief Administrative Officer. He is a Director and Past President of the Brant Waterways Foundation, and a former Executive Committee member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Water Forum Panel Discussions

This year's panel discussions have been adapted to incorporate an exchange of ideas between the participants, as well as an opportunity for significant interaction from the audience. The morning panel will focus on *Our Grand Future*, discussing how we are managing and conserving our water resources; while the afternoon panel, *Our Grand Community*, will highlight the importance and appreciation for our watersheds. All panelists will be looking toward *Our Preferred Future*.

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