



Grand River Conservation Authority



The Grand: A Canadian Heritage River

INSIDE

Feature

Sharing passion for the outdoors 1

What's Happening

\$600,000 in funding 2

Forestry award 2

Elora restoration 3

Water Forum 4

Brantford quest 4

Photo contest wins 4

Watershed Awards

Planting trees in the farm field 5

Look Who's Taking Action

Blanding's turtle research 5

Buckthorn threat 6

Calendar 8

Cover photo

Bird box building at Youth Outdoors Day at Luther Marsh. Now is the time to register for this event which takes place Sept. 10. Photo by Sharon Grose



Sharing passion for the outdoors

Rain or shine, 200 young people will gather Sept. 10 for Youth Outdoors Day at Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area.

Since its inception 10 years ago, nearly 2,000 youngsters between 9 to 16 years old have discovered that learning about the outdoors is fun when the lessons are hands-on. The outdoors has a great deal to offer kids, but sometimes they need a little nudge to discover it. At this event they have the chance to enjoy fishing, bird watching, camping or the simple pleasure of spotting an acrobatic osprey.

Youth Outdoors Day was started by staff from the Guelph branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources and it has expanded every year, attracting quite a following.

Last year 36 station leaders and over 70 volunteers assisted with the day, helping to set up the tents, prepare the sites, prepare meals and help groups of young people tour the stations.

"As a parent turned volunteer, I have experienced first-hand the benefit of such a day," said Sharon Grose, a member of the board. "I attend-

ed the first event with my oldest son. I was amazed at the enthusiasm and passion of volunteers who were willing to share their skills. We've seen reptile displays, dog training, archery — a lot of activities that you would not find anywhere else. My son Nick has taken up hunting and fishing and now is one of the volunteers. My other children look forward to volunteering and attending."

Tenth year for Youth Outdoors Day

Instructors bring their skills and provide the gear so that young people can see and feel what it's like to handle a bow and arrow, build a bird house or band a bird. Many of the kids have never done these activities before. Other activities include falconry, fish identification, fly fishing, target shooting, wildflower identification, wetland discovery and butterfly banding.

"Our goal is simple. We want today's youth to be exposed to outdoor adventures and activities. and to learn what opportunities are out there so they can enjoy the great outdoors. We plant a

seed, and then hopefully the students will become interested and possibly become future environmental stewards," Grose said.

Youth can register online at www.youthoutdoorsday.com. Register early as space is limited and the deadline for registration is Aug. 31. There is no charge and young registrants must be accompanied by an adult. Donations are appreciated and a tax receipt can be issued for donations over \$25.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

\$600,000 for research over three years

The Grand River Watershed Research Consortium was one of four recipients from across Canada to be selected by the Canadian Water Network (CWN) to direct up to \$600,000 for local watershed research.

The GRCA and 18 government and non-government partners (who form the Grand River Watershed Research Consortium) have been awarded the opportunity to direct the Canadian Water Network (CWN) funds towards research that will identify plants or animals that are good indicators of the changes occurring in the river system. This information will be integrated with current water quality and river flow monitoring.

This research will lay the scientific foundation for assessing 'aquatic cumulative effects' in the Grand River watershed. It will allow researchers and water managers to understand more completely how multiple factors are driving changes in the river and to predict the impacts of population growth, climate change and management alternatives to river health.

"The CWN grant will allow us to bring together some of the brightest minds in the country to determine the best way to measure changes in the Grand River watershed in an integrated

fashion," says Barb Veale, coordinator of policy planning and partnerships for the GRCA. "The commitment of our partners to this process will enable us to take what's learned and apply it to management decisions to improve the health of the watershed."

The work of the consortium will feed directly into ongoing efforts to update the 1982 Grand River Water Management Plan.

Other recipients of CWN funds included projects in the Northumberland Strait, New Brunswick, Tobacco Creek, Manitoba and the Muskoka Watersheds in Ontario. There were 29 submissions.

"CWN is excited to be working with these dedicated watershed management groups," said Dr. Kelly Munkittrick, CWN scientific director. "Through the consortium process we will co-invest in the research but — just as important — facilitate the development of enduring partnerships between end users and researchers."

The CWN will provide \$200,000 over the next three years for consortium-directed research. The consortium will solicit research proposals through a call for research to be posted on the CWN website at www.cwn-rce.ca in July.

Martin Neumann receives award

Martin Neumann, the GRCA's supervisor of terrestrial resources, was recognized with an award from the Ontario Professional Foresters Association.

The award, which is named for E.J. Edmund Zavitz, Ontario's first provincial Forester and the person known as "The Man Who Saved Ontario with Trees and Determination," recognizes significant contribution to forest conservation. Neumann is the first recipient of this award and it has special meaning for him.

"I took inspiration from Zavitz's work long before I received this award, because he was not only a pioneer in

forestry, but he was also applying forestry concepts to healing the landscape. This is what we do," Neumann said.

Neumann received a forest technician diploma from Sir Sandford Fleming College and a Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree from the University of Waterloo. From 1982 to 1992, he was forest technician with the GRCA, where he worked closely with the community and private landowners to implement the planting of over six million trees across several hundred properties in the Grand River watershed.

After taking a two year secondment with the Canadian Forest Service as Program Officer for Ontario's Tree Canada program, Neumann returned to the GRCA in 1996 as forest resource planner.

In addition, he has held positions as a director of the Ontario Forestry Association and co-chair of its private woodlands committee, founding co-chair and current president of Trees for Guelph and director and Conservation Ontario representative for the Forest Gene Conservation Association.

He now heads the terrestrial resources department at the GRCA and focuses on



Martin Neumann

restoration of forests, wetlands and prairie habitats.

Eight award recipients

A total of eight awards were given out by the forestry association.

A second Guelph resident, Andy Kenney, also received a forestry award. Kenney is also a first recipient of this award, which is called the Jorgensen-Morsink Award for work in urban forestry.

Kenney teaches forestry and is the coordinator of the University of Toronto's Master of Forest Conservation program. He was on the advisory committee for the Grand River Watershed Forest Plan and wrote the section about urban forests. His knowledge, caring, energy and enthusiasm make him a favorite of students exposed to his firm but considerate style, according to OPFA. He is also an advocate for urban forestry.

Awards also went to Anne Koven, Toronto; Laird Nelson, Codrington; Rick Monzon, Alliston; Yves Vivier, Englehart; Michael Rosen, Ottawa and Susan Jarvis, London.

Elora Gorge stream restoration

There is no longer a swimming area at Elora Gorge Conservation Area, unless you are a tuber who is flushed into the Grand River by the fast water at the Chute at the top of the tubing run.

This is because the swimming pond at the Elora Gorge Conservation Area has been turned back into a natural free-flowing stream.

Elora Gorge Conservation Area was Ontario's first official conservation area when it opened in 1954. The pond was created in 1957, soon after the small stream was dammed to create a swimming hole.

"This reflected the environmental attitude and knowledge of the era regarding small streams and the role they play in the environment," said Cam Linwood, communications coordinator



The swim pond at Elora Gorge Conservation area as it was before the dam was removed. It may have cast a clear reflection on a summer evening, but it was often closed due to poor water quality.

for the GRCA. The pool was about 200 feet across and 500 feet long and about three to four feet deep in most areas.

We now know that water quality deteriorates when free flowing streams are dammed. The current trend is to restore some ponds to the meandering creeks that they once were. This type of restoration took place on Marden Creek north of Guelph last year, at Chilligo Creek in Cambridge and at Taquanyah Nature Centre in the southern Grand.

After 54 years, the concrete control

structure that created the Elora swim pond had started to fail. An increasing number of nearby Canada geese meant that the water quality was poor, resulting in frequent beach closures.

Anyone who wants to swim can visit the Elora Quarry Conservation Area just down the road, east of Elora which is an exceptional swimming spot. The conservation authority is considering alternatives including a water play area for young children.



The stream is now finding its way where the Elora swim pond used to be. Trees have been planted and the area surrounding the stream will be naturalized.

Photo by Al Stranding



Monique Dubé

Grand Water Forum September 16

On Friday, Sept. 16, the GRCA will host the 11th annual Grand River Watershed Water Forum to be held at the GRCA office in Cambridge.

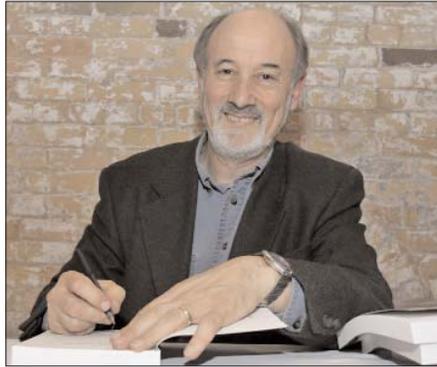
This year's theme for the conference is "A sustainable watershed: can we get there from here?"

Over the past decade the Water Forum has become one of the premier environmental events in the province. It attracts about 300 people who come to share information about their water-related products, services and research with peers and to network with practitioners and decision makers from across the watershed.

This year's forum will explore the theme of sustainability in the Grand River Watershed which is among the fastest growing watersheds in the province.

York University professor Peter Victor, recently awarded the Canada Council Molson Prize for outstanding lifetime achievement, will be a keynote speaker. An environmental economist, Victor will describe the content of his latest book *Managing Without Growth* which provides novel approaches to managing without economic growth while sustaining our environment and improving our lives.

The other keynote speaker is Monique Dubé, Canadian Research Chair, Aquatic Ecosystem Health Diagnosis, University of Saskatchewan.



Peter Victor

She is the recipient of numerous awards; most recently, the 2011 Canadian Geographic Environmental Scientist of the Year. Her signature project, The Healthy River Ecosystem Assessment System (THREATS), is a tool that assists decision makers identify when important changes have occurred in the quality of the water in rivers.

Other speakers include:

- ◆ Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
- ◆ Kirk Stinchcombe: principle of Econnics, a Victoria-based consulting firm specializing in water use efficiency
- ◆ Thomas Schmidt: Commissioner of Transportation and Environmental Services, Regional Municipality of Waterloo
- ◆ Bob Gibson Professor Environment and Resource Studies, University of Waterloo
- ◆ John Fitzgibbon: Professor, Rural Planning and Development, University of Guelph
- ◆ Joe Farwell, CAO of the GRCA

To register for the Water Forum visit: www.grandriver.ca/waterforum.

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are also available. If interested please call 519-621-2763, ext. 2251.

Quest for Brantford culture

Culture Quest is an interactive photo scavenger hunt puzzle at 15 museums and art galleries in the Brantford area.

Visitors can pick up a quest card at Lynden Park Mall Guest Services, any of the participating sites or at Tourism Brantford. They then visit as many sites as possible in order to match the photos to their locations.

All ballots with five or more correct matches will be entered into a draw for prizes. Culture Quest started May 29 and ends Sept. 30 The grand prize draw will be made Oct. 3. Prizes have been donated by the participating sites that include Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, the Bell Homestead National Historic Site, Brant Museum, Chiefswood and the Mohawk Chapel. There are many prizes, smaller contests and draws.

Photo contest submissions

Please keep sending your submissions to the GRCA photo contest.

The grand prize is a Nikon D90 digital SLR camera and the category prizes

are a \$300 gift certificate for Henry's Photo stores for the top photo in each of the three photo categories. The categories are: (1) People of all ages enjoying local conservation areas; (2) Conservation area land and waterscapes; (3) Conservation area flora and fauna (birds, insects, plants and animals).



Anyone who enters the contest during the month is entered into a monthly random draw for a vehicle pass for the season.

The May winner of this draw was Alan Thompson of Brantford and the June winner was Hannah Braam of Welland. The contest and monthly draws continue until March 31, 2012.

Photos need to be submitted electronically in digital format as a JPG file and full details are available online at www.grandriver.ca/photocontest.

Planting trees among the corn, soybeans and wheat

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

Rows of trees grow in among the corn, soybeans and wheat on the two farms operated by Paul and Steve Cressman near New Hamburg.

The brothers have planted 4.5 kilometres of trees across their 87 hectares of land.

The old way of thinking is that trees get in the way of farming, but the Cressmans have taken a different approach by incorporating them into their land management system. Their forward-looking approach resulted in a 2010 Grand River Watershed Award from the GRCA for this conservation work.

“My father used to say if every farmer would plant one windbreak north and south, it would change the climate,” Paul said. Since 2004, the brothers have taken this a few steps further.

A tour of their properties show single, double and even triple rows of trees of various sizes and species, depending on when they were planted. Some of the 7,000 trees are so small they can hardly be seen in the grass while others are



WATERSHED AWARDS

now taller than the farmers. There are several rows running north and south and a couple running east-west.

“It takes a few years before a farmer will reap the benefits of a windbreak, but then it adds to their yield year after year,” said forestry specialist Nathan Munn, who advised the Cressmans on this project. The windbreaks help protect the crops from summer storms, which could be more frequent as a result of climate change.

Neighbours are planting trees

“Some of our neighbours thought we were crazy for planting all these trees,” Paul says. “Now our neighbours are planting trees, too. We have to do more education with how windbreaks increase crop yields. A lot of people still don’t know this.”

They have also planted nearly two hectares of trees along the 250-metre stretch of Wilmot Creek that runs through their property. This helps to sta-

bilize the stream banks, slow down the runoff and ensure the water is cleaner when it reaches the stream. It also provides shade that cools the water and will make it possible for trout to live in this stream.

“The Cressmans have been great advocates of trees and have convinced many of their neighbours to plant on their farms,” said Munn. As a result, by next year 12.5 hectares of land will be planted as a buffer along the creek as it runs through four farms.

Some neighbours remember pulling brook trout from the creek when they were children and this may be possible again in the future. This buffer will cool the water, filter and reduce farm runoff. It will improve the health of the aquatic life.

The Cressmans started out planting the trees themselves but grants are now available to cover up to 100 per cent of the cost of tree planting, depending on the municipality and the type of project. They have tapped into these grants with the help of the GRCA.

Cressman said he can also claim his time and equipment expenses related to cutting the grass around the trees and maintaining them. This tax benefit is through the Environmental Farm Plan.

Help tally Grand turtles

By Brennan Caverhill
Species at Risk / Turtle Biologist,
Toronto Zoo, Adopt-A-Pond

Turtles are in trouble in Ontario. Seven of the eight species native to the province are considered to be “Species at Risk” and most are protected by new provincial and national laws. Next to habitat loss, road mortality is one of the biggest threats to their remaining populations, and threats to



Paul and Steve Cressman stand by some of the trees they have planted on their farm near New Hamburg.

Photo by Janet Baine



Brennan Caverhill holds a Blanding's turtle, a species that he is monitoring in wetlands around Highway 24 north of Brantford. He is urging people to report their turtle sightings through Ontario Turtle Tally and take a photo, if possible.

Photo by Rebecca Mitchell.

most other freshwater turtle populations in North America.

Roadways destroy, degrade, and fragment turtle habitat. Vehicles driving on roads injure and kill individual turtles, primarily pregnant females searching for nesting sites.

Fortunately, public education campaigns like the Toronto Zoo's "Ontario Turtle Tally" are informing motorists and landowners about these threats, and people are starting to lend a helping hand. Highway 24 south from Cambridge through Brant and Norfolk Counties to Lake Erie in Ontario is smack dab in the middle of the Grand River watershed. It is also a hot spot for turtle mortality, and researchers from the zoo are doing work to help understand and protect turtles in this area. GRCA staff, including Tony Zammit, Becky Mitchell and Mark MacDougall, have provided data on water chemistry to better understand the Blanding's turtle habitat in the watershed. This is likely a hot spot for Blanding's turtles because there are lots of wetlands nearby and it is close to Lake Erie, which is a source of turtles.

Blanding's turtles are easily identified

by their bright yellow chin and throat, which led some native communities to call it the turtle with the sun under its chin. They have slate grey shells with yellow flecks and are about the size of a bike helmet. This means they are smaller than a snapping turtle when full grown, and larger than the common painted turtle.

If you want to learn more about turtles in Ontario, the current project, and how you can help, feel free to join the Ontario Turtle Tally. Report your turtle sightings by submitting your observations of species, location and, if possible, a photo online or by e-mail to



Blanding's turtle.

Photo by Brennan Caverhill

aap@torontozoo.ca. The purpose is to collect, record and store location and species information on Ontario turtles, including Species at Risk. Ontario Turtle Tally is funded through generous support from Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program and the Government of Ontario's Species at Risk Stewardship Fund.

The most important time for turtles in Ontario is June to early July, when females lay their eggs. Be sure to keep your eyes open for turtles and help where you can, especially during this time.

How you can help turtles

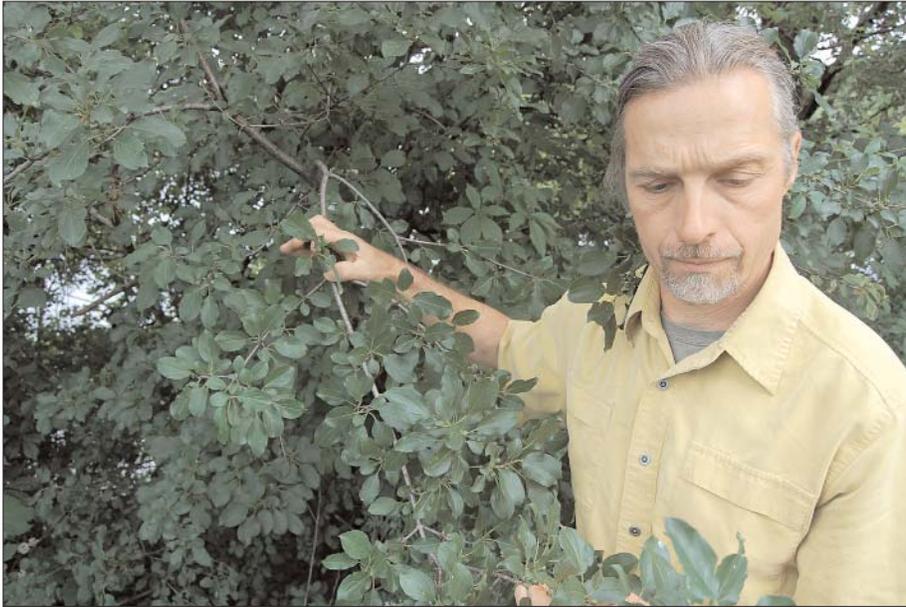
- 1) Never take a turtle from the wild, or release a pet turtle into the wild.
- 2) Slow down when driving near wetlands, and keep an eye out for turtles. If you see one, take it off the road.
- 3) Report your turtle sightings to the Toronto Zoo's Ontario Turtle Tally at www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/TurtleTally.asp and teach your friends and family about turtles in Ontario.

Fighting invasive buckthorn

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

A little known alien invasive tree — European buckthorn — is quietly degrading the biodiversity of the Grand River watershed.

Foresters are starting to fight back and they need all the help they can muster. The trouble is that people are pretty attached to their greenery and find it hard to believe that a tree that has popped up in their yard could possibly be bad for the environment. Even avid gardeners and environmentalists are often unaware that their cherished buck-



Trees for Guelph co-ordinator Moritz Sanio examines a female buckthorn growing close to the water. There are both male and female buckthorn, and the females are identifiable by the berries that carry seeds, which the male trees do not have.

thorn is detrimental to the environment.

“It is a serious threat, it’s a ticking time bomb and most people don’t even know about it,” says Moritz Sanio, coordinator of Trees for Guelph. “It started on the perimeter of the city and is spreading from there. Now it is erupting in backyards, so it is vitally important for people to take steps to remove it from their own property. This has to be a joint effort.”

The seeds are widely scattered by birds and viable for five years. Buckthorn’s Latin name is *Rhamnus cathartica* because small berries it produces moves through a bird’s system very quickly and the bird deposits the seed with a nice package of fertilizer in a new location where buckthorn will soon pop up.

Murray Cameron, general manager park maintenance and development for the City of Guelph also has an intense distaste for buckthorn.

“People think it is a tree, so it must be good habitat and a food source. But it terribly degrades the diversity, air flow and sightlines. If buckthorn trees are cut off at the ground, will sucker up quickly. It is backbreaking to remove it,” he says.

Cameron, Sanio and Martin Neumann, manager of terrestrial resources with the Grand River Conservation Authority represent organizations that have teamed up in a pilot program to remove buckthorn in Guelph, beginning with its removal in places where trees are being planted through the Trees for Guelph program. It feels like an uphill battle. They believe Guelph is an epicentre of buckthorn and that it grows more intensively there than elsewhere in Ontario. This makes the challenge of curtailing its exploding population in Guelph even greater than in other communities.

“We aren’t sure why it is so established in Guelph, but it could relate to the Ontario Agricultural College that dates back to 1864. The plants were introduced from Europe because they are a natural green fence that is impassible for animals and ideal as hedgerows. They grow so densely that livestock can’t get through. Native plants don’t thrive in areas that include buckthorn, and in fact this is a natural green fence that has run amuck,” says Cameron.

He and other city staff got a nasty browbeating from city residents when

they destroyed some buckthorn while removing trees damaged during severe wind storms in June.

Cameron says he sees buckthorn being cared for by landscapers at apartment buildings and even City of Guelph staff have trimmed around it when it has popped up on city property. It causes the most trouble in newly-planted native areas, and this is where the city and Trees for Guelph are working to remove it.

When they are small, buckthorn plants can be pulled up by their roots. But when they grow bigger, the roots hold tight and it is very challenging to remove them.

The density of buckthorn in urban areas means it is a good place to dump garbage or to hide illegal activity from public view. Police and parents have both helped the city to remove buckthorn at some locations.

Did you know?

Even though it is a small tree, European buckthorn (also called common buckthorn) is one of 24 noxious weeds in Ontario — akin to giant hogweed and ragweed — and is listed on the Weed Control Act. These are the plants that a weed inspector can order a property owner in a rural area to remove. If the buckthorn is not removed,



The berries on a female buckthorn plant are green and turn black by late July. Remove female plants first, because they are the seed producers. The berries remain on the plant throughout the winter, making the tree easy to identify during the winter months.



A way to clearly identify buckthorn is to scrape away the bark. The under layer of European buckthorn is a brilliant orange so it really stands out.

About Grand Actions

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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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then the inspector can bring in a crew to take it out and present the property owner with the bill. It is listed because it is an alternate host for a fungus that impacts oats and because its leaves and bark are a strong laxative for humans, not because of its invasive properties.

Despite this legislation, buckthorn thrives. It is seen as an ornamental garden plant, incorporated into hedges and is often found invading native plant gardens, although it is not sold.

Identifying buckthorn

Common buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* and glossy buckthorn *Rhamnus frangula* are known to spread aggressively. They grow up to six metres tall

and the stems are 25 cm or 10 inches in diameter. Buckthorn is among the first trees to come into leaves in the spring and hold onto its leaves late in the fall, so there is no fall colour. It flowers early in the season and female plants form small black berry clusters in July.

It rapidly produces seeds early in the season that germinate quickly. It has both male and female plants, and one strategy to remove plants is to focus first on removing the female plants to stop seed production.

The roots of plants need to be dug up completely, or they will sprout suckers, quickly replacing any tree that is cut down.



The Grand Strategy Calendar

Youth Outdoors Day, Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Sept. 10. This is a chance for 250 young people 9 to 16 years old to learn about the outdoors through hands-on experience and nearly three dozen stations. They may have the opportunity to build bird houses, band birds, try a bow and arrow or fly fishing, use a dip net or learn about camping. Registration is free and can be done online at www.youthoutdoorsday.com.

11th Annual Grand River Water Forum, 400 Clyde Rd., Cambridge, Friday, Sept. 16. This year's theme is "A sustainable watershed: can we get there from here?" This event attracts nearly 300 people who will hear experts speak about the future of the Grand River watershed from a variety of perspectives. For information, see attached flyer or visit www.grandriver.ca/waterforum.

At Husking Time Women's Conference An, Chiefswood National Historic Site, Six Nations of the Grand Territory, Saturday, Sept. 17. This is an opportunity for women to learn the Iroquoian perspective to healing and wellness through a day of hands-on workshops. For more information, call 519-752-5005 chiefswood@execulink.com.

Run for the Toad, Pinehurst Lake Conservation Area, Saturday, Oct. 1. The 25 and 50 km trail race is in its 10th year at Pinehurst! Runners and walkers representing many provinces and states participate in this event, which is Canada's biggest trail event. Please refer to the website runforthetoad.com for more information and register early as this is a always a sold-out event.

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

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

Grand River Conservation Authority, c/o Katherine Balpataky
400 Clyde Road, Box 729
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6
Phone: 519-621-2763 ext. 2315, Fax: 519-621-4844
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 9, 2011.

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

Morning Program

*Preliminary Program:
Additional speakers will be added*

- 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. *Registration & Coffee*
- 8:00 - 2:00 p.m. *Interactive Exhibits & Displays*
- 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. **Welcome & Greetings**
- 8:45 - 9:15 a.m. **2011 Watershed Report** – Joe Farwell, CAO, Grand River Conservation Authority
- 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. **Keynote Speaker:** Peter Victor, Professor, Environmental Studies, York University; author of *Managing Without Growth: Slower by Design, Not Disaster*
- 9:45 - 10:15 a.m. *Refreshment Break*

10:15 - 11:55 a.m.

Panel Discussion: A Sustainable Grand River Watershed: A Journey or a Goal?

What does "sustainability" look like in a watershed with high population growth and intensive urban and rural land use?

- Bob Gibson, Professor, Environment and Resources Studies, University of Waterloo
- John Fitzgibbon, Professor, Rural Planning and Development, University of Guelph

11:55 - 1:15 p.m.

Luncheon ~ Networking ~ Interactive Exhibits

Afternoon Program

- 1:15 - 1:20 p.m. **Welcome**
- 1:20 - 1:40 p.m. **Keynote Speaker:** Monique Dubé, Canadian Research Chair, Aquatic Ecosystem Health Diagnosis, University of Saskatchewan
- 1:40 - 2:00 p.m. **Developing A Plan for The Grand** – Lorrie Minshall, Director, Grand River Water Management Plan
- 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. **Panel Discussion: Securing our water supplies.**

Will we have sufficient sustainable water resources to satisfy growing urban communities while meeting the ecological needs of the watershed?

- James Etienne, Senior Water Resources Engineer, GRCA
- Thomas Schmidt, Commissioner of Transportation and Environmental Services, Regional Municipality of Waterloo
- Kirk Stinchcombe, Principle of Economics, a Victoria-based firm specializing in water use efficiency

3:00 - 3:25 p.m.

Wrap-up: Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

3:25 - 3:30 p.m.

Closing Comments

www.grandriver.ca/waterforum



GRAND RIVER WATERSHED
WATER FORUM

A Sustainable
Watershed:

Can we get
there from
here?

Friday, September 16, 2011
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

Keynote Speakers - A Sustainable Watershed: Can We Get There From Here?

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

"A Sustainable Watershed: Can We Get There From Here?" will explore the challenges of moving one of the highest growth areas in Ontario on a path to sustainability. The keynote speakers and panelists will examine the issue of sustainability from a variety of viewpoints: urban pressures, farm intensification, the needs of the natural environment and more. This event will be of interest to decision makers at all levels of government, businesses, farmers and others who care about the future of the Grand River watershed.

Peter Victor
Professor, Environmental Studies, York University

Economist Peter Victor wants Canadians to question the pervasive assumption that nations must strive for economic growth in order to prosper and find happiness. In his book

Managing without Growth: Slower by Design, not Disaster, the York University professor offers an alternative solution to economic development that promises to sustain the environment and improve our quality of life.



Peter is the recipient of the 2011 Molson Prize awarded by the Canada Council for the Arts for his contribution to the cultural and intellectual heritage of Canada. Peter has served as an Assistant Deputy Minister at the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. He grew up in England and is a founder of the emerging discipline of ecological economics.

Dr. Monique Dubé
Canadian Research Chair, Aquatic Ecosystem Health Diagnosis, University of Saskatchewan

Monique Dubé has a motto: *Science is for service*. Her passion for building partnerships, integrating ideas and solving local water issues has shaped her career as a researcher, public servant and now as Canada Research Chair in Aquatic Ecosystem Health Diagnosis at the University of Saskatchewan.



Monique's work is changing the way watershed authorities approach integrated water resource management and assess the cumulative effects of water threats. She is the recipient of the 2011 Canadian Geographic Environmental Scientist of the Year award. Monique serves on scientific



advisory panels for the UN and Canadian oil sands monitoring. She is also a musician, devoted wife and mother and a multi-sport endurance athlete.

Joe Farwell
Chief Administrative Officer, Grand River Conservation Authority

Joe Farwell started his career with the GRCA in 1988 as a soil conservation engineer. He was named CAO in November 2010. Joe is president of the Canadian Dam Association and a member of the Provincial Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act Advisory Panel. He grew up on a Huron County farm and now lives in Cambridge.



Gord Miller
Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

Gord Miller was sworn in as the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario in 2000 and has now been re-appointed for his third term. As an independent officer appointed by the Legislative Assembly, Commissioner Miller oversees 14 ministries and monitors and reports annually on government compliance with the *Environmental Bill of Rights*, progress on reducing GHG emissions and activities in Ontario to reduce the use of electricity, natural gas, propane, oil and transportation fuels.



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