



# GRAND Actions

The Grand River watershed newsletter



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## Cover photo

*Residents of Galt watch as flood water comes up over an historic bridge on a sunny day in 1974.*



# Remembering the flood of '74

**By Janet Baine**  
GRCA Communications Specialist

**O**n a beautiful sunny day 40 years ago — May 17, 1974 — residents of the Grand River watershed were shocked when floodwaters came barreling down the river to overwhelm Galt and communities further south.

This 50-mm rainfall across the top of the watershed caused an estimated \$6.9 million (\$34.4 million in today's dollars) in damage, excluding cleanup. After the deluge and the cleanup, a provincial inquiry into the flood took months.

"Friday, May 17 was a sunny day in Cambridge-Galt," Judge W. W. Leach wrote in his report on the flood. "It was deceiving. The citizens did not realize the approaching catastrophe. They did not visualize the flood that was descending upon them from the north."

When the rain came, there was little that could be done because the GRCA's reservoirs were already full. By 7 p.m. on May 17, the Grand was rushing through downtown Galt at a rate of 1,490

## HERITAGE RIVER

cubic metres per second (m3/s), nearly 100 times the normal summer flow.

Dikes gave way in Bridgeport and Brantford. For a time, the Brantford water treatment plant was knocked out of commission, creating a state of emergency. Floodwaters also engulfed parts of Paris, Caledonia, Cayuga and Dunnville. In Galt the river flowed above the bridges and through historic downtown streets. Warnings were issued, but didn't get through to everyone affected.

There were many lessons learned and changes made to prevent this from happening again. GRCA staff, municipal flood coordinators, emergency personnel and residents are always on the alert for flooding — especially now 40 years later during the spring of 2014.

"We haven't stopped making improvements over the past 40 years. We have a very well-developed system and it is continually improving," says engineer Stephanie Shifflett. "But just because we are more prepared doesn't mean a flood is not



Riverfestival  
BRIDGEMAN  
Riverprize 2000  
for excellence in river management



Conservation  
ONTARIO  
Natural Champions





Scenes from the 1974 flood. From left, the river washed over the bridge in Bridgeport; rescue workers unload a boat on a downtown street in Galt; an aerial shot of floodwaters flowing through downtown Galt.

going to happen. There is still the potential for localized flooding, and property damage is still front and centre. Individuals also need to pay attention to warnings to stay away from rivers and not drive over flooded roads. This reduces loss of life, which is always the top concern.”

River flows have never again reached 1,490 m<sup>3</sup>/s in Cambridge, but it could still happen again. Each spring emergency workers do a drill and close and sandbag one of the three downtown bridges in Galt. They are ready to keep the water out of the historic streets.

### High risk this spring

“The overall flood risk is high this spring,” Shifflett told flood coordinators from across the watershed at a special meeting this February. “A rapid melt or a rapid melt in combination with rainfall will result in very high runoff, high river flows and break up of river ice.”

When the annual test warning was issued by the GRCA to emergency workers across the watershed on Feb. 4, 2014, the message was received and acknowledged at all locations, so the warning system is working well this spring. The GRCA sends out a test message each February as a way of finding and correcting communications issues.

Later at her desk, Shifflett looks out her office window onto the frozen landscape. She notes there are 200 mm (eight inches) of water in the snowpack in parts of the watershed and extensive ice on the river. Lake Erie also has a solid cover of ice. The land is already saturated due to wet weather in 2013. Spring sunshine will bring a big melt and conditions like this haven’t been seen since the 1970s.

Communities such as Grand Valley, West Montrose, New Hamburg, Ayr, Paris,

Brantford, Cayuga and Dunnville are particularly prone to ice jam flooding.

The debris left behind by the December ice storm is a complicating factor. As branches and trees are carried downstream, they could clog bridges and culverts, resulting in localized flooding.

### Keeping room in the reservoirs

The May 17 flood came after the spring melt when the reservoirs were completely full. Now the reservoirs are operated differently and space is left in them even after the spring melt. To prepare for the spring melt, the GRCA has already been lowering the water levels in its reservoirs to create more storage space and allow the reservoirs to capture as much water as possible in order to reduce downstream flows.

The reservoirs can sometimes cut flows by 50 per cent. However, there are limits to the amount of water they can hold, so sometimes it becomes necessary to release water from the reservoirs to protect the dams from overtopping.

Climate change adds a new dimension to flood forecasting in the future, and Shifflett has done research on the implications to the Grand River watershed.

“The intensity and frequency of future storms is unknown, because in the climate models the science isn’t there yet. Some climate processes are too hard to model at this point,” Shifflett says. This is especially true when it comes to bringing the impact to the local level, because climate change means more intense and more localized storms.

“We don’t know how severe localized events will be. We recognize that the climate is changing and we are including that in our decision making,” she says.

The new Grand River Water Management Plan includes a section on decreasing flood damage, Shifflett points out, and there are many components to this. Municipalities are working to improve stormwater systems. The GRCA’s floodplain mapping is continually being updated. There are improved forecasting tools and monitoring tools. For example, the GRCA is installing two cameras to provide real-time photos of the Grand River on the GRCA website. One camera is at the West Montrose gauge station and a second is located at the Brantford gauge station. The photos will provide information about ice formation and breakup, as well as river flow conditions.

### May 10 Local History Fair

People in Cambridge still remember that day. A local history fair in the City of Cambridge on May 10 is called *Shaping the Legacy of the Grand River* and focuses on this flood. It will include a showing of the film about the flood called *One Day in May*.

This film examines the causes and impact of the flood. The film is a popular item on the GRCA’s YouTube channel and continues to be viewed by students even though it is 40 years old.

The film is one of a series of movies made by Doug and Marilyn Robinson (now Marilyn Murray). In fact, they made a series of films about agriculture and natural resources, starting in 1965 and several of those were made for the GRCA.

During the filming of *One Day in May* they did lots of aerial photography, because so many roads were closed, Murray says. The footage they shot was also used during the inquiry into the flood.

The event will also include a presentation by Dave Schultz, GRCA communications

manager, about the 1974 flood. It runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Atrium at Cambridge City Hall. Space is limited, so preregistration is required. Call 519-740-4680 ext. 4621 or email [archives@cambridge.ca](mailto:archives@cambridge.ca).

### Flood information

- Subscribe to the GRCA News Release Service or sign up for Twitter @grca\_flood\_msg
- Information on river flows, rainfall and snow is posted online at [www.grandriver.ca/riverdata](http://www.grandriver.ca/riverdata)
- For information on the Flood Warning system, see the Flood Warning System page.

## Homer Watson: tree hugger and painter

By Janet Baine

GRCA Communications Specialist

Grand River artist Homer Watson (1855-1936) was a conservationist and a celebrity of his time who helped save a local forest.

Born beside the Grand River in the Village of Doon (now part of Kitchener), he travelled internationally but spent most of his life near the Grand River. A self-taught painter, he was also president of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (1918-1922) and the first president of the Canadian Art Club (1907-1911), an artist cooperative that predated the Group of Seven. His paintings were in collections across Europe and favoured by Queen Victoria.

Watson said nature was about “as fine a voice as one could listen to.” Unlike the Group of Seven painters who depicted Ontario’s wilderness, Watson painted local people and their relationship to the land in the Grand River watershed.

When he reflected on the ruin of his grandfather’s mill at Doon, Watson regretted the loss of the forest.

“Year after year the forest was spoiled to furnish food for the saw,” he wrote. The result was a ruinous waste to have brought down the great “cloud-cleaving pines.” This brought floods that he saw as nature’s vengeance.

The removal of up to 95 per cent of the trees in the Grand River watershed by the end of the 19th century was a reason for severe floods and the formation of the Grand River Conservation Authority in the 1930s. Now communities, individuals and the GRCA plant trees each spring to improve the health of the landscape. Watson saw this first-hand and helped to save one forest.

“His career in art was a lifelong study of the relationship between people and nature and the natural, a continuing analysis of the ‘rhythmic unison’ of all of nature,” wrote Paul Tiessen, professor emeritus at Wilfrid Laurier University in October 1997 in *Grand Actions*.

“He was especially fond of any human effort that showed cooperation with nature, and he found evidence of a large measure of that in the Grand River area.”

Watson would walk along the Grand River in Cressman’s Woods to find inspiration, and trees dominate many of his paintings.

In 1913, when Cressman’s Woods were put up for sale, Watson was among the local residents who saved it. Instead of allowing the forest to be sold to a portable sawmill owner, they gathered money and bought the land. Watson was the first president of the company that made the purchase and spoke at a shareholders meeting:

“The Ontario government did not feel

inclined to do anything so it was left to the generous spirits of those tree lovers living in Berlin, Waterloo, Preston, Galt and Hespeler to come to the rescue of the forest and, by producing the means in cash, they were enabled to withhold the destroying axe.” Saving the forest was a dream for him, and it took the partnership to show him the forest could be saved, he said.

For a time this land and Doon Pioneer Village were owned by the GRCA, but it is now called Homer Watson Park and belongs to the City of Kitchener.

### Gallery to host river events

Watson’s home is still an art gallery that is open year-round. The gallery has planned several events to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the designation of the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River, including river-related art lessons, camps and an art exhibit.

On Thursday, May 8, GRCA communications manager Dave Schultz will talk about the river at the gallery. Changes during Watson’s lifetime led to environmental issues and the formation of the GRCA. New challenges in the 21st century such as high population growth and climate change mean agencies with responsibility for water are coming together



One of many Homer Watson paintings, *Evening Scene* (1889), will be part of the upcoming exhibition June 14 to August 17. Watson knew that removing trees from the land was a reason for more extensive flooding during his lifetime.



Photo by Dave Schultz

Rick Hill gives a presentation at the 17th annual Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration, while moderator Amos Key Jr. of the Woodland Centre looks on.

to develop a plan that will address these challenges, and the talk is about this plan.

The 2014 Watson Exhibit at the gallery June 14 to Aug. 17, is focused on the theme of *Storms along the Grand River* and includes paintings from public and private collections. For more information about these events visit [www.homerwatson.on.ca](http://www.homerwatson.on.ca).

## 17th Heritage Day Workshop

The 17th annual Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration on Feb. 14 was the third and final one to focus on the War of 1812, which came to an end 200 years ago.

There was a capacity crowd of 200 attending the event at Six Nations Polytechnic in Ohsweken. The theme was *Crossroads of Conflict, Path of Peace: Legacy of a Living Culture*, and this shone a light on the impact the war had on the First Nations people.

Speakers included Rick Hill, who did a presentation on Making Peace After War and how the war divided some nations and

families. Dr. Carl Benn described the Six Nations dress, weaponry and tactics during the Sixty Year War for the Great Lakes, 1754-1814. Keith Jamieson, director of the Six Nations Legacy Consortium, spoke about the quest to install a 1812 Peace Monument to commemorate the important contribution of the Six Nations during the war. Carolyn King spoke about the Moccasin Identifier Project, an initiative that would recognize the moccasin as a universal symbol for Ontario's First Nations. A moccasin symbol placed at heritage and archeological sites across the province would help identify that area's ties to First Nations and provide educational links to that heritage.

A one-woman play written and performed by Paula Grove is targeted to young audiences. Based on a diary, it told the story of Sarah, a 12-year-old farm girl who witnessed the surrender of American troops after a brief, chaotic fight with Native warriors in 1813. She then undertook a dangerous trip across the front to relay a dispatch to the British Command to tell them of the victory. Sarah was selected as an unlikely messenger and risked her life while hiding the message and pretending she was out for a horseback ride.

Many years later, Sarah is a married woman who has raised a family and lived into old age. She and her husband have become prominent members of Hamilton society. Old Sarah recounted the events including the special friendship with a Six Nations girl who exposed her to another culture and ultimately helped her undertake her deed of courage.

Many volunteers contributed to this event, included acting Heritage Working Group chair Warren Stauch, committee member Eva Salter, Paula Whitlow of Woodland Cultural Centre, Eydie Styres and Pat Hess of Six Nations Tourism, Brad Melle of Chiefswood National Historic Site and Rick Hill and Heather George from the Six Nations Legacy Consortium.

Next year the workshop will take place Feb. 15. Each year it is in a different location with a different theme. It is hosted by the Heritage Working Group of The Grand Strategy, which formed in 1995 as a direct result of the Grand Strategy and the Canadian Heritage River designation.

G R C F

## New Haldimand Water festival

By Janet Baine  
GRCA Communications Specialist

A new children's water festival is coming to the southern Grand River watershed.

About 350 children will visit the Haldimand Children's Water Festival Oct. 1 and 2 at Taquanyah Nature Centre. The festival will teach children about the importance of water conservation, protection, technology and ecology. It offers hands-on learning that is fun and interactive and will be the third children's water festival in the Grand River watershed.

"The festivals are all about getting children outside, teaching them the importance of water and empowering them to initiate change in their homes, schools and communities around water and water use," said Sara Wilbur, executive director of the Grand River Conservation Foundation, which is seeking funding for the event.

## Water festival history

The Waterloo-Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival was among the first children's water festivals in the province when it started in 1996, and there are now 26 children's water festivals in Ontario.

Over the past 19 years, the Waterloo Wellington festival has educated 75,000 students at Doon Heritage Crossroads in Kitchener. This year the festival takes place May 26 to 30, thanks to donors and hundreds of volunteers.

The annual Brantford/Brant Children's Water Festival debuted in 2006 and will be held May 13 to 15 at Mohawk Park in Brantford for students from Brant, Brantford and Six Nations. The Haldimand Children's Water Festival is a two-day pilot that is expected to become an annual event. Long Point Region Conservation Authority is also helping to get this new festival off the ground, since Haldimand is in both watersheds. Other partners include the Rotary Club of Dunnville, TD Friends of the Environment, Habitat Haldimand, Ruthven

Park and Haldimand County.

Water conservation is a very important issue in Ontario. The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Gord Miller, wrote on his blog last fall that Ontarians are among the biggest consumers of water in the world.

"For household water use alone, the average Ontarian consumes about 270 litres of water per day, roughly twice as much as the average European. When you factor in all the other uses of water – for agriculture, electricity production, manufacturing goods – and divide it in on a per capita basis, the average Ontarian indirectly uses thousands of litres of water per day."

The statistics in Waterloo Region and Guelph show declining water use rates that are well below the provincial average, thanks to many programs.

To donate to the Haldimand children's water festival or one of the other children's water festivals, contact the Grand River Conservation Foundation at 1-877-29GRAND.

## Apply for scholarships

The GRCF is also accepting applications for three scholarships for students at a watershed institution:

- The Allan Holmes Scholarship for a graduate-level student focused on applied research. (Due May 15)
- The SC Johnson Environmental Scholarship for a student in third year or sixth semester. (Due May 31)
- The McEwen Clean Water Prize was not awarded in 2013, but will be available this year and is also for an undergrad student. (Due May 31)

**Applications** can be downloaded from the Foundation section of the GRCA website at [www.grcf.ca](http://www.grcf.ca) or are available by contacting the Foundation in Cambridge at 1-866-900-4722 or 519-621-2763 ext. 2372. The email address is [foundation@grandriver.ca](mailto:foundation@grandriver.ca).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

# Some Whitemans farmers find new sources of water

By Hajnal Kovacs  
GRCA staff

A pilot project on Whitemans Creek in 2013 found that the irrigators who grow crops are using water responsibly when they irrigate.

Farmers are constantly under stress to produce quality, high-yielding crops with the least amount of inputs. Pressure is especially high during a drought, when the fate of the crop is at stake.

Whitemans Creek, in the western part of the County of Brant near Burford, enters the Grand River just upstream of Brantford and is usually the first part of the Grand River watershed to experience low stream flows. Excellent soil means there are many cash crop farmers in the area who need to irrigate their crops during the growing season.

The Water Resource Adaptation and Management Initiative (WRAMI) helped irrigators along Whitemans Creek to



Photo by Dave Schultz

One of many fun hands-on activities at the Brantford/Brant Children's Water Festival. A similar event will be held at Taquanyah Nature Centre this fall thanks to the generosity of donors.

establish drought contingency plans. Each farmer needed a three-step plan: to ensure that an irrigation system is in place and working, use Best Management Practices (BMPs) year-round, and find a reliable water source with a permit to take water. By planning ahead, the cash crop farmers can plan for a drought.

There are five pond renovation projects taking place under the program in Brant and Oxford County. These projects will address that third, and most difficult, step of finding a reliable water source. Two of the projects will renovate and reactivate groundwater ponds, and three are increasing water storage in existing ponds.

The first project to be completed was to renovate an agricultural pond from the 1950s that has not been used for many years. Over time the natural springs clogged up with silt and the surrounding trees matured to reduce access. The farmer has a permit to take water from the nearby creek, but has now renovated the old pond so that he will not need to take as much water from the creek.

Details about this work with farmers on Whitemans Creek are available on the low water response page of [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca).

*Hajnal Kovacs worked as a drought contingency specialist and is now the Source Protection Program Assistant at the GRCA.*



From left Jayden Piluk, Bronwyn McPhee and Paul Clarke. Clarke, a teacher-librarian at St. Peter School, ensures that each student at his school plants trees every year. On planting days, younger students are matched with older students who already have planting experience.

and birds. It is also fun to plant trees, to be in nature, to help the environment, to get your hands dirty and to see the trees growing in the school yard.

“I see passionate, environmentally-aware students in higher grades that have been inspired by Paul’s enthusiasm and positive actions,” says Moritz Sanio, the Trees for Guelph coordinator who nominated Clarke for the award he received. Clarke also inspires other teachers, such as Sean Stafford at Holy Trinity, who had 300 students and 10 teachers out planting trees at his school and plans to make this an annual activity each spring.

Clarke began planting in 1995 when a Rotary Forest project took place at Margaret Greene Park behind the school. Since then, Clarke and the students have planted each year in the school yard and adjacent park. Now the school is surrounded by trees and these have become what Clarke calls “corridors of life,” providing habitat for plants and animals and increasing biodiversity.

Clarke has inspired other teachers and other schools to plant trees. He says it is a

tactile experience that the children enjoy, and it deepens their understanding of ecology and spirituality.

### Respect for the earth

“Sowing the seeds of respect for the earth is critically important, especially in this day and age,” he says. “There is an imperative here that drives us in a small way to do what we can. Helping the environment is like helping each other...It is corrective on many levels. The bottom line is that it comes back to hope and faith in our world, each other and our Creator God. It is integrating their connection to being better people in a very deep and meaningful way, and they love it.”

Sanio has noticed that the kids don’t want to stop planting — they continue through recess, at lunch and stay late after school to get the trees in the ground. The older kids help the younger ones to give each tree the best start possible. By the time they leave the school, they can look back and see the forest they have planted and know that it has made a difference.”

“For me, 70 per cent is getting kids to experience planting each year. It is not the

## WATERSHED AWARD

# Guelph teacher received award

By Janet Baine  
GRCA Communications Specialist

Teacher-librarian Paul Clarke beams when reasons to plant trees spill from the mouths of students at his school.

Clarke is the recipient of a 2013 Grand River Watershed award for his tree planting initiatives at St. Peter School in Guelph. He is committed to getting each child at St. Peter School planting trees every year. By the time they are in Grade 5, they have six years of planting under their belt.

They say it feels good to do something for the world and provide a home for animals

result, it is the process that is most important. We're blessed with a great canvas, and I believe that there is more momentum for planting as time goes on. Through the great connection with Trees for Guelph, more schools are doing this. It has been Ministry of Education mandated for the past few years," Clarke says.

## Do you know a watershed hero?

They're the individuals, families, groups and businesses that put their time and energy into improving the Grand River watershed.

Many do it without recognition, satisfied with the legacy they leave for future generations.

Well, the Grand River Conservation Authority thinks they deserve to be acknowledged, so it is looking for nominations for its annual Watershed Awards. The GRCA has presented the awards since 1976.

Once again, there are the two regular categories for environmental work. But this year a special one-time category was added in honour of the 20th anniversary of the designation of the Grand River system as a Canadian Heritage River.

### Award categories:

**Honour Roll Awards** are presented for a sustained record of environmental achievement over an extended period of time.

**Watershed Awards** for outstanding examples of environmental work

**Special Heritage Awards** for advancing the river-related heritage and recreational attributes that were recognized in the Heritage River designation.

The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2014. More information on the program, including short biographies of past winners and a nomination form, can be found on [www.grandriver.ca/awards](http://www.grandriver.ca/awards).



Everyone who attends Turtle Island Earth Day receives a tree to plant.

# Turtle Island Earth Day

By Janet Baine  
GRCA Communications Specialist

Each year for the past seven years the Turtle Island News in Ohsweken has hosted Earth Day for the community and handed out free trees.

Turtle Island News publishes magazines and Canada's only national native weekly newspaper. Their Earth Day event has grown over the years and the newspaper received a 2013 Grand River Watershed Award from the Grand River Conservation Authority. This year Earth Day will be celebrated on April 17.

"It started out with us giving trees out on Earth Day each year here at the office, and then we added a barbecue. It developed each year into a bigger and bigger event," explains Lynda Powless, the publisher of the paper.

The name, Turtle Island, comes from the Haudenosaunee/Iroquois creation story. According to the story, Sky Woman fell through a hole in the Sky World, and a great sea turtle rose up from the sea to become an island that we now call North America.

"We're a newspaper, so we use a lot of paper. Also, we are Six Nations-owned, so it is important to replace what we use. Encouraging people to plant trees is our way of helping to offset our carbon footprint,"

Powless says. "According to our Haudensaunee teachings we have a responsibility to protect and provide for the earth. We do that by giving back more than we take away."

### Festival has grown

Over the years they have given out thousands of trees to be planted in the area. Their parking lot is transformed into a festival with displays, demonstrations, environmental presentations by speakers and lots of take-home information and items related to the environment. Organizations and businesses that have an environmental connection come from Brantford, Caledonia and Hagersville and are invited to set up display tables at no cost.

"People come from both on and off the reserve, and school buses drop off classes, parent groups drive their children in and elders and community members all attend the event," says Powless. People plant their trees in their yards, at schools and beside the roads in the area. "We're flooded with people every year so we had to expand. It can create a traffic jam out front."

Last year they added speakers into the mix, with elders offering teachings on how to treat the earth as well as topics like beekeeping and how to preserve foods.



Photo by Derek Harris



## THE GRAND CALENDAR

### Rotary Forest Tree Planting April 26, Guelph Lake

This annual Earth Week event is creating a new 40-hectare forest at the Guelph Lake Conservation Area, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shovels are provided but you can also bring your own. Groups are encouraged to participate to assist with planting and there are also many activities.

### Brant County Tree Planting April 26, Lion's Park, Paris

Working with local organizations, the Grade 9 Advanced Planning class at Paris District High School has undertaken a class project to conduct a public tree planting event. The public is invited to help improve the environment by planting over 500 native trees and shrubs between 1- a.m. and 2 p.m.

### Grand River Adventure April 27 to May 2

This is the third annual canoe trip down the Grand River. It starts north of Grand Valley and ends at the mouth of the river on Lake Erie — 250 kilometres. This trip over seven days will raise funds for tree planting in the Grand River watershed. Funds collected are going to the Grand River Conservation Foundation. Donor names will be entered into a draw for many prizes. More information is available online at <http://raiseathon.ca/grandriveradventure>. or call Quiet Nature at 519-632-5218.

### Forest in the City Planting April 27, Brantford

Help plant a forest in Brantford 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The first two years has seen about 26,000 trees and shrubs planted, and the goal for 2014 is to plant another 10,000 native trees and shrubs. When completed, the 26.7 hectare New Forest will have a public accessible walking path. Bring your shovel. Event is rain or shine.

### Take a Kid Fishing Day May 3, Belwood Lake

This is designed for kids 8 to 14 and their parents. Kids learn fishing techniques from the pros. Space is limited to 120 kids per session and there is a morning and an

afternoon session at Belwood Lake east of Fergus, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Snyders Flats Tree Planting May 3, Snyders Flats, Waterloo

Volunteer tree planting at Snyder Flats in partnership with the GRCA and Trees Ontario, 10 a.m. to noon. This is one of many tree planting events across southern Ontario that weekend.

### Waterloo Earth Day, May 10

A free community event 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Laurel Creek Conservation Area. The focus is on the native tree planting and learning about the environment. There are also many fun and educational hands-on activities.

### Grand Opportunities Fly Fishing Forum, June 7

A day of on-river seminars and many related events about fly fishing sponsored by Friends of the Grand River. This is a great way to learn more and meet other anglers at Belwood Lake Conservation area.

**Note:** Events at the GRCA's conservation areas and nature centres are posted on [www.grandriver.ca/Calendar](http://www.grandriver.ca/Calendar).



Planting trees at the Guelph Rotary Forest.

## First winners of GRCA photo contest

Submit your photos to the GRCA photo contest, which has monthly random draw prizes until Oct 31.

In January, Heather Mead of Fergus won the random draw for a Grand River Parks membership, and in February Heather Greg of Rockwood won. There are three categories of prizes — recreation, riverscapes and historic photos taken before 1975.

The prizes are gift certificates valued at \$500, \$250 and \$100.

For full details and to submit photos, see [www.grandriver.ca/photocontest](http://www.grandriver.ca/photocontest).

## About Grand Actions:

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

### More information:

Current and back issues as well as complete subscription information is available online at [www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions](http://www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions).

### Submission deadlines:

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.

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