



GRAND RIVER
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY
2006 SPRING REPORT

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Keeping it green

You can save your lawn, money and water – all at the same time

By Dave Schultz
GRCA Communications Co-ordinator

We call it drinking water, but not much of it actually ends up in a glass.

Much more ends up going down the drains of our homes, stores, schools and factories.

And in the summertime a staggering amount is sprayed on lawns – whether they need it or not.

There are costs associated with putting all of that treated, filtered and tested water on our lawns – economic costs and environmental costs.

Water treatment plants and distribution systems have to be built to handle peaks that can be as much as 40 per cent above average daily consumption.

When demand peaks in the summer, it can strain a water system to the point where fire protection and emergency response may be com-

promised.

And last, but not least, the water sprayed on all of those lawns is water that has been removed from groundwater systems or the river – water sources that are already under pressure.

Lawn and garden experts agree that a lot of lawn watering is unnecessary. Overwatering your lawn is like taking money and pouring it into a hole in the ground.

An inch a week

Most lawns need about 25 mm (one inch) of water a week to thrive, even during dry weather. Most places in the Grand River watershed get about that much rain in an average July or August week, so it's quite possible that homeowners could go an entire summer without watering the lawn once. Even if a lawn does go brown, it's dormant, not dead, and will bounce back with the first rain.

Of course, rain doesn't appear on a weekly schedule, but even during a dry spell, the experts say that putting 25 mm of water on your lawn once a week is enough to keep a lawn alive and green. For most

lawns, that's one two-hour watering.

That's what the experts recommend, but that's not what many people do, judging by water use statistics from communities in the Grand River watershed.

The Region of Waterloo operates a water treatment system serving more than 425,000 people in Waterloo, Kitchener, Cambridge and surrounding towns.

The average daily water consumption is about 160,000 cubic metres a day. (A cubic metre of water would fill three or four bathtubs.)

But in the summer, when lawn watering and other outdoor water uses are in full flight, consumption can rise by 30 to 40 per cent.

The problem for the region is that the summertime peaks are uncomfortably close to the capacity of the system. The problem became more acute in 2004 when the region decided to take one of its well systems out of operation to deal with a contamination problem. That knocked out close to five per cent of the region's supply.

Over in Guelph, the water system

Continued on Page 3



GRCA staff member Crystal Cole holds a handful of a fescue grass mix as she stands along the Laurel Creek dam in Waterloo. The GRCA is using fescue grasses on its dam embankments because they require less water and stay green longer during dry spells.

Along the Grand

Out and about

Enjoy the best the Grand River watershed has to offer at GRCA parks.

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A busy year

The GRCA was active in a wide range of activities during 2005.

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Award winners

Individuals and organizations were honoured for their work to improve the environment.

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THE GRAND RIVER

A Canadian Heritage River



The GRCA How To Reach Us

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Planning and Permits:
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Conservation Areas: 519-621-2763 ext. 250

Belwood Lake (Fergus)	519-843-2979
Brant (Brantford)	519-752-2040
Byng Island (Dunnville)	905-774-5755
Conestogo Lake (Drayton)	519-638-2873
Elora Gorge (Elora)	519-846-9742
Guelph Lake (Guelph)	519-824-5061
Laurel Creek (Waterloo)	519-884-6620
Luther Marsh (Grand Valley)	519-928-2832
Pinehurst Lake (Paris)	519-442-4721
Rockwood (Rockwood)	519-856-9543
Shade's Mills (Cambridge)	519-621-3697

Reserve a campsite:

By phone	1-866-ONT-CAMP
Online	www.grandriver.ca

Nature Centres:

Apps' Mill (Brantford)	519-752-0655
Guelph Lake	519-836-7860
Laurel Creek (Waterloo)	519-885-1368
Shade's Mills (Cambridge)	519-623-5573

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THE GRAND
is published twice a year by the GRCA, and distributed in newspapers to households in the Grand River watershed.
Additional copies are available.

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Printed by Grand River Valley Newspapers



A Message FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND THE CAO



It's been said that in the future, it's more likely that conflicts will be over water, rather than oil. It doesn't have to be that way, though. Careful management of this most precious resource will go a long way toward reducing the possibility of future conflict.

The Great Lakes system is the world's greatest source of fresh water. However, they are also a particularly fragile resource because it takes so long to replenish any water that is lost from the lakes.

That's why Ontario and the Great Lakes states of the U.S. have moved to protect the lakes from exploitation that would undermine their value as a source of drinking water and as a natural habitat.

The possibility of building a pipeline from the Great Lakes to supply the thirsty southwestern part of the U.S. is greatly reduced as a result of this agreement.

But the threats to the Great Lakes go far beyond those posed by moving water out of the Great Lakes through pipelines and bulk water shipments. Protecting the Great Lakes is a job for all of us that, literally, starts right in our own backyards.

The Grand River flows into Lake Erie and is a significant contributor of water to the lake.

By taking care of the Grand River, its tributaries and its groundwater systems, we're doing our part to take care of the health of Lake Erie.

It's a big job. Farmers are investing in their land to adopt best practices to help ensure that the water running off their farms is clean. Municipalities are upgrading their sewage treatment plants to improve the quality of the effluent that enters streams and rivers of the Grand systems. Industries are looking for ways to cut back water consumption in their manufacturing processes.

Homeowners can contribute, too, as our articles point out,

by adopting water-saving techniques for their lawns and gardens.

All of this action to protect our water supplies is evidence that people are placing a higher value on water, and know the importance of taking action.

That kind of approach is going to be needed even more in the future as we wrestle with the issues raised by urban growth and agricultural intensification.

Municipalities are taking steps to control where and how much our cities grow and to ensure that we are making best use of our available water resources.

We must ask some difficult questions as we attempt to find the balance that can result in growth that is sustainable

How will growth impact not only our "built" infrastructure (roads, sewers, schools, landfills), but also our "green" infrastructure (streams, wetlands, forests, air)?

Can the moraine systems in the watershed withstand the impacts of this growth?

Is a Great Lakes Pipeline a tool to aid sustainable growth or a symptom of unsustainable growth?

We must also ask ourselves whether there are limits to growth.



Peter Krause
Peter Krause
Chairman



Paul Emerson
Paul Emerson
Chief Administrative Officer

WHO SPEAKS FOR YOU?

The municipality where you live appoints one or more representatives to the (GRCA) board to oversee the budget and activities of the Conservation Authority. They speak on your behalf at the GRCA.

Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, East Luther Grand Valley, Melancthon, Southgate:
Paul Chantree

Townships of Wellington North and Mapleton:
Pat Salter

Township of Centre Wellington: Jean Innes

Town of Erin, Townships of Guelph-Eramosa and Puslinch: Archie MacRobbie

City of Guelph: David Birtwistle, Dan Moziar

Regional Municipality of Waterloo:
(Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, North

Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich) – Jane Brewer, Jean Haalboom, Ross Kelterborn, Peter Krause (GRCA chair), Joe Martens, Claudette Millar, Jane Mitchell, Ralph Shantz, Bill Strauss, Lynne Woolstencroft

Town of North Perth, Township of Perth East:
George Wickie

Regional Municipality of Halton: (Halton Hills and Milton) – Barry Lee

City of Hamilton: Jeanette Jamieson

County of Oxford: (including Townships of Blandford-Blenheim, East Zorra-Tavistock, Norwich) – Alan Dale (GRCA 1st vice-chair)

City of Brantford: Robert Hillier, Vic Prendergast (GRCA 2nd vice-chair)

County of Brant: Brian Coleman, Gord Moore

Haldimand and Norfolk counties: Craig Ashbaugh, Lorne Boyko

The GRCA's Vision

To be a leader in ensuring a healthy and sustaining relationship between the natural environment of the Grand River watershed and the demands on this environment by all forms of life.

The GRCA's Mission

To work with partners to conserve the natural process and resources that support a safe and healthy environment for future generations in the Grand River watershed.

The GRCA's values

Openness, clarity, understanding, sensitivity, action, holism, integrity, accountability, trust, flexibility, fairness, preparedness, creativity, innovation.

Give your yard some culture

Michael Bradley has a lot of lawn to take care of. Hectares and hectares of green fields throughout the Grand River watershed.

Bradley is the arboriculture technician for the GRCA and has a role in helping to maintain the thousands of hectares of land owned by the GRCA.

He knows a few steps that will help any homeowner cut down on the amount of time, effort and money spent on keeping lawns and gardens healthy, even in the driest of summers.

Better lawn and garden cultural methods go a long way, says Bradley.

"Good lawn care practices will reduce the need for watering."

Here are some of his tips:

Don't cut your grass too short

It's a lawn, not a putting green. If you cut it too short, that puts stress on the plant and prevents it from developing deep roots. Keep your grass at 6 cm to 8 cm and it will develop a root system that will retain more moisture from the soil.

Thin the thatch

Thatch is a layer of leftovers – twigs and other debris – that accumulate on a lawn. As the materials break down they can form a seal on the lawn that prevents water from penetrating and makes it more difficult for grass seed to spread.

Bradley recommends using a thatching rake in the spring to thin out the thatch.

Air it out

In high traffic areas, such as backyard playgrounds, the soil can be compacted through constant use. If it becomes too hard, rain will run off, rather than soak in, and won't reach the roots of the grass.

He suggests aerating the lawn. An aerator pulls out plugs from the lawn, allowing the dirt around the hole to spread out, loosening the soil.

Fescue to the rescue

Most lawns are planted with Kentucky blue grass, which looks great but can be thirsty.

A low-water alternative is fescue grass, which stays green longer in

dry weather and bounces back faster after a drought. Bradley is using fescue grasses on the face of GRCA dams where it's important to have good grass cover to prevent erosion.

Go native in your garden

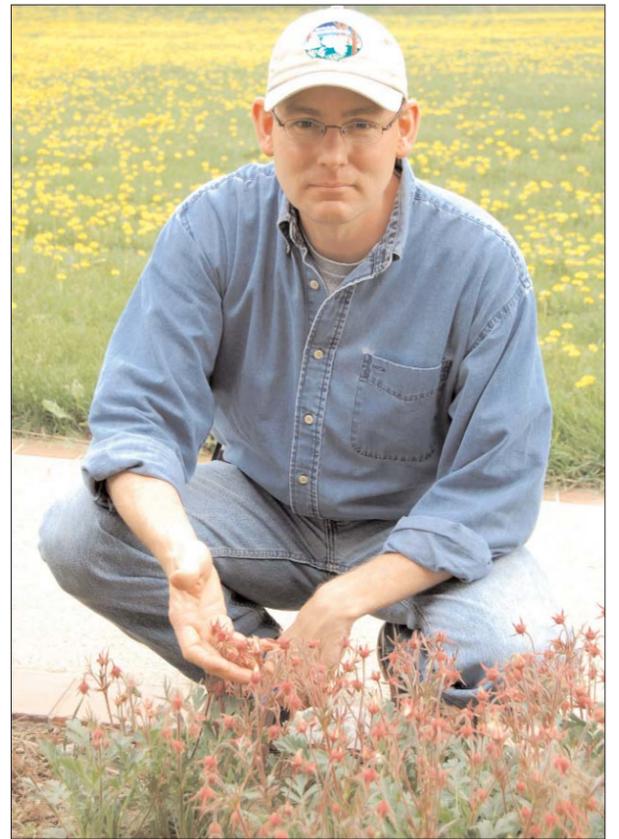
By planting a garden dominated by native plant species you can cut down on your watering.

Native species are plants that were found in the Grand River watershed prior to the arrival of European settlers. Because they developed in the soil and climate of the region, they can withstand dry weather and full sun better than many imported plants.

The GRCA has "naturalized" the gardens around its head office in Cambridge with tallgrass prairie species that were common in the Cambridge-Brantford area.

Among the species in the garden are butterfly milkweed, prairie smoke, bluestem grass, asters, wild strawberry and black-eyed susans.

Although it was a lot of work converting the gardens, the amount of care they need drops every year.



GRCA arborist Michael Bradley shows off some of the prairie smoke in a garden at the GRCA offices in Cambridge that has been planted with native species that require little water.

Most accept water restrictions: survey

Continued from Page 1

can produce about 72,000 cubic metres a day to serve about 125,000 residents and in the past has come quite close to hitting the maximum when summer demand peaked at 40 per cent above average daily use.

Those kind of big peaks puts municipal leaders in a bind. They can either invest a lot of money expanding their water systems in order to meet peak demand – which may only occur two or three days a year – or they can get residents to cut back on demand.

Most municipalities have chosen the second course of action – outdoor water use restrictions – because it's better for the environment and taxpayers' wallets.

Cost of expansion

In 2001, the City of Guelph commissioned a study that attempted to answer this question: How much would it cost to increase our water supply to do away with outdoor water use restrictions?

The study looked at the average daily water use, compared it to current summer

demand and projected how the demand might grow if outdoor water use restrictions were eliminated completely.

The study outlined the cost of developing a new well to meet the demand, the cost of treating the water and the cost of building a storage tank. Taking all of that into account, it would cost anywhere from \$12 million to \$22 million to supply enough water to do away with the restrictions and would push water rates up anywhere from 17 to 32 per cent.

Both Guelph and Waterloo Region have found that an appeal to the public for water conservation does work.

In Waterloo Region, the region implemented outdoor water use restrictions from May to September in 2005 and found that its peak one-day demand dropped by 10 per cent compared to 2001, when rainfall and temperatures were similar.

Per capita water use in 2005 was down 15 per cent in 2005, compared to 2001.

One dramatic example of the effect of the program came when the region delivered a water conservation flyer to homeowners during the last week of June, and

then watched consumption drop by 45,000 cubic metres per day the next week.

Guelph's summertime water demand has dropped sharply since it implemented its outdoor water use restrictions in 2002. The peak day demand is now only about 20 per cent higher than the average daily demand, instead of 40 per cent before the restrictions came in.

'A way of thinking'

A recent report on the Guelph water system attributes this to the fact that "water efficiency has become a well-established way of thinking in the City of Guelph."

The introduction of water restrictions has generated some complaints and concerns from residents who questioned why they needed to cut back but according to a Waterloo Region report, most residents have accepted the value of the program.

A survey done in July 2005 showed that 87 per cent of the respondents were aware of the restrictions and 80 per cent "strongly" or "somewhat" agreed with them.

Going green

Here are some places to get more information on lawn care and water conservation.

Use an Internet search engine to find these sites:

- Health Canada – Healthy Lawns
- OMAFRA – Lawn Maintenance:
- CMHC – Low Maintenance Lawns
- CMHC – Water Saving Tips for Your Lawn and Garden
- Environment Canada – Lawn Care
- Cornell University – Choosing Lawn Grasses

For information on lawn watering and outdoor water use bylaws in your community, check the website for your municipality, or the Low Water Response section of the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca



Enjoy the best the Grand has

For more than half a century, the GRCA has operated some of the province's premier recreation areas, featuring all the best the Grand River watershed has to offer.

From the lush land around Luther Marsh, to the rushing waters of the Elora Gorge and the wide expanse of the Grand near Byng Island, there's something for nature lovers of all types in the watershed.

The GRCA operates 12 conservation areas offering thousands of campsites, hundreds of kilometres of trails and plenty of places to drop a line and catch a trout, bass or pike.

Here's a rundown on GRCA parks, which are open until mid-October.

Byng Island Conservation Area - Dunnville

This 190-hectare park is set amid a Carolinian forest that is perfect for bird-watching, hiking, fishing, canoeing and boating on the Grand or Lake Erie. The campground has about 375 sites. The park also has a 0.8 hectare (2 acre) swimming pool with a picnic area and playground nearby.

Brant Conservation Area - Brantford

This 185-hectare park has more than 450 campsites nestled in a bend of the Grand. The huge 0.6 hectare (1.5 acre) swimming pool is great for the whole family. The park has picnic sites, three playgrounds and plenty of trails. It's a popular stopping off point for canoe trips.

Pinehurst Lake Conservation Area - Paris

A mature Carolinian forest shelters a spring-fed kettle lake, where swimmers, boaters and anglers can enjoy a sunny

afternoon. The nine-hectare lake has a sandy beach, with a playing field and picnic area nearby. Trails wind through the forested 140-hectare park, which has about 300 campsites. This is the park's 50th anniversary year.

Shade's Mills Conservation Area - Cambridge

This day-use park is along the eastern edge of the city. It's a popular spot for picnics, swimming, fishing and non-motorized boating. There's a disc golf course, with discs for sale at the gatehouse. The park has 14 km of hiking trails through a mature hardwood forest surrounding the 36-hectare reservoir.

Laurel Creek Conservation Area - Waterloo

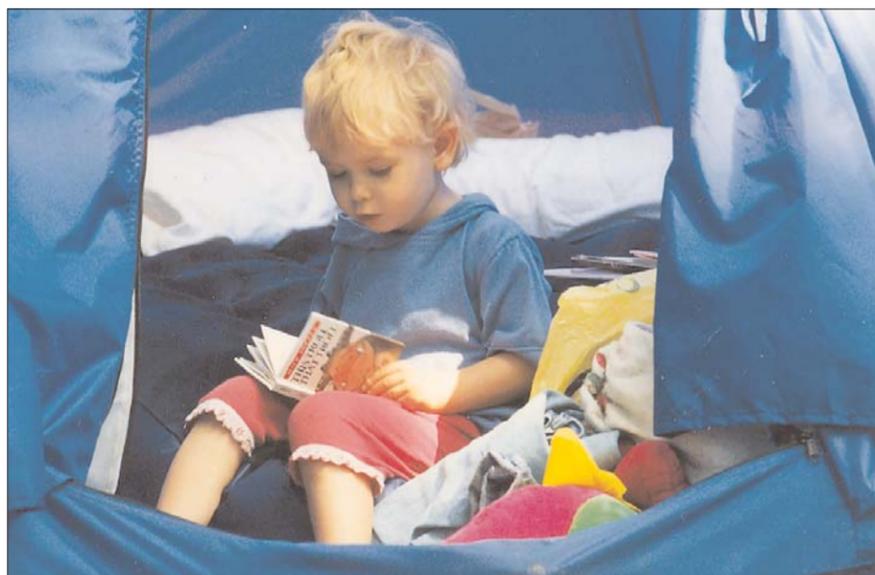
Just minutes from the cities of Waterloo and Kitchener, this park offers a quiet place to relax and enjoy the outdoors. Swimming, windsurfing, hiking and bird-watching are popular activities at the 294-hectare park. The park has more than 130 campsites and picnic facilities.

Rockwood Conservation Area - Rockwood

Towering limestone cliffs, caves and glacial potholes are a few of the natural wonders at Rockwood. There are hiking trails along the lake and Eramosa River. The lake is also stocked each spring with trout. The park has more than 100 campsites, a swimming beach, picnic areas and a miniature golf course.

Guelph Lake Conservation Area - Guelph

This 1,600-hectare lake, created by the construction of



Camping at a GRCA park can be a great way to get away from it all.

Guelph Dam in 1976, is a favorite spot for picnics and hiking and camping on its 440 sites. It's also the home to major events including the Hillside Festival and triathlons. Windsurfers and sailors can catch the wind on the lake, which also has two beaches.

Elora Quarry Conservation Area - Elora

The centre of attraction is the 0.8 hectare (two acre) limestone quarry encircled by sheer cliffs up to 12 metres high. This day-use park is tree-covered, making it a great spot for picnicking.

Elora Gorge Conservation Area - Elora

Limestone cliffs plummet 22 metres into the bubbling Grand River as it makes its way through the Elora Gorge. Hiking trails line the gorge. Tubing down the rapids is an exciting and popular attraction. The 200-hectare park has about 350 campsites, picnic shelters and playgrounds.

Conestogo Lake Conservation Area - Drayton

Conestogo Lake is in the heart of Mennonite Country. The Y-shaped lake,



Canoeing on the Grand River near Byng Island Conservation Area.

FOLLOW THIS SIGN TO THE CONSERVATION AREAS		UNSERVICED CAMPSITES	HYDRO & WATER SITES	FULL-SERVICE CAMPSITES	DUMPING STATION	SWIMMING FACILITIES	BOATING	PLAYGROUND	TRAILS	CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	CONCESSIONS	SIZE (HA)
BELWOOD LAKE	(519) 843-2979					Beach	M	•	3K		S	1,347
BRANT	(519) 752-2040	270	140	30	•	Pool		•	1K		F-B	184
BYNG ISLAND	(905) 774-5755	235	148			Pool	M	•	1K		F-B	190
CONESTOGO LAKE	(519) 638-2873	75	100			Beach	M	•	2K		F-B	2,348
ELORA GORGE	(519) 846-9742	312	165	69	•	Beach		•	5K		F-T	200
ELORA QUARRY	(519) 846-5234					Beach					F	32
GUELPH LAKE	(519) 824-5061	305	135		•	Beach	NM	•	5K		F-B	1,607
LAUREL CREEK	(519) 884-6620	76	54		•	Beach	NM	•	8K	8K	B	294
LUTHER MARSH	(519) 928-2832						NM		27K			5,200
PINEHURST LAKE	(519) 442-4721	105	185		•	Beach	NM	•	8K	13K	F-B	104
ROCKWOOD	(519) 856-9543	50	45		•	Beach	NM	•	10K		F-B-G	79
SHADE'S MILLS	(519) 621-3697					Beach	NM	•	14K	10K	F-B	177



to offer

created by Conestogo Dam in 1958, stretches six kilometres up each arm. It offers fishing, boating and swimming. The campground has 175 sites. Picnicking and hiking are other popular activities.

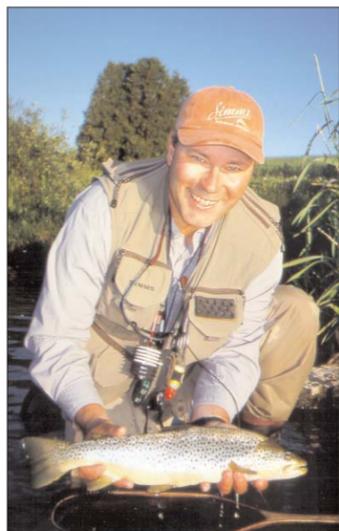
Belwood Lake Conservation Area - Fergus

The 1,350-hectare lake was created with the construction of the Shand Dam in 1948 and provides boating, water-skiing and some of the best fishing around. The park has picnic grounds, a stocked fishing pond for youngsters and a swimming beach on a spring-fed quarry. Downstream is a premier fly-fishing reach.

Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area - Grand Valley

A biological treasure in the river's headwaters and home to many rare species, Luther Marsh

offers hiking, biking, skiing, birding, hunting and great nature photography.



The fishing is great, whether you're dropping your line in a river or a GRCA reservoir

Grand River Country

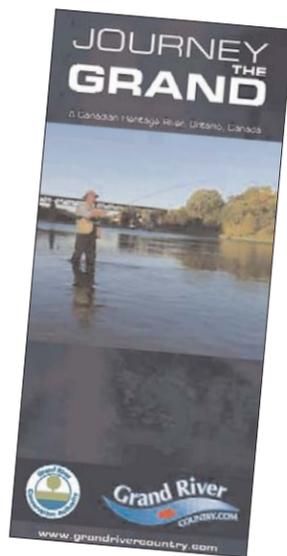
This summer will be an excellent time for your family to visit the beautiful parks, famous historic sites and natural attractions close to home in the Grand River watershed.

Grand River Country is a partnership that promotes tourism activities and opportunities along the Grand. Grand River Country partners in 2006 include Centre Wellington (Fergus-Elora), Guelph, Cambridge, Brantford, Six Nations-New Credit, Haldimand and the GRCA.

Find the best shopping, the best parts of the river to canoe, the prettiest trails to cycle or hike, and some of the unique cultural festivals and events by checking out the new website



at GrandRiverCountry.com
Or look for one of the new Grand River Country brochures at your local Grand River Conservation Area or local tourist information centre.



Your investment in a better environment

This year the GRCA will spend just over \$23 million to prevent flooding, improve water quality, protect water supplies, provide environmental education, operate conservation areas and trails and manage other sensitive environmental lands.

Watershed management and monitoring - \$7,225,730

Activities include operation of flood and erosion control structures such as dikes and dams; flood forecasting and warning; water quality monitoring; restoration and rehabilitation projects; watershed and subwatershed studies, and administration of floodplain regulations.

Environmental advisory services - \$687,100

This program involves reviewing municipal planning documents and recommending environmental policies for floodplains, wetlands and other environmentally significant areas; providing advice and information to municipal councils on development proposals and severances; and providing outside consulting services on a fee-for-service basis to other conservation authorities and other countries.

Watershed stewardship - \$2,695,420

Some activities are reforestation through the Burford Tree Nursery and tree planting programs; the Rural Water Quality Program; implementing projects under the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan; providing conservation information through brochures, publications, the website and media contacts.

Conservation land management - \$3,592,300

This includes expenses and revenues associated with the acquisition and management of land owned or managed by the GRCA including woodlots, provincially significant wetlands (e.g. Luther Marsh, Dunnville Marsh), passive conser-



Reservoirs such as Belwood Lake near Fergus help reduce flood damages and provide a source of water during dry summer months.

vation areas, rail-trails and cottage lots at Belwood and Conestogo lakes. Activities include forestry disease control, woodlot thinning and hydroelectricity generation.

Recreation and education - \$6,105,589

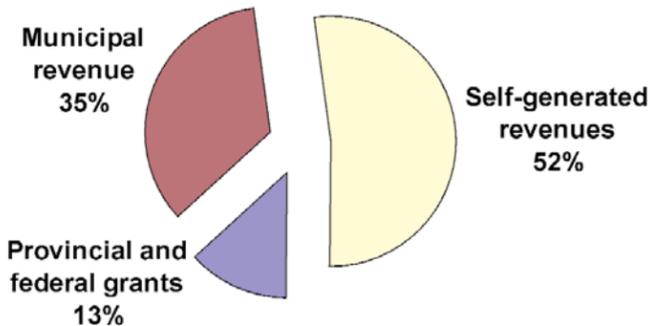
Recreation: This includes the costs associated with operating the GRCA's 12 active conservation areas that offer camping, hiking, fishing, swimming, skiing and other activities. The parks record more than one million visits each year and are financially self-sufficient in their operating and capital costs.

Education: The GRCA operates five nature centres, which provide curriculum-based programs to students from six school boards and independent schools throughout the watershed. In addition, members of the public attend day camps and weekend family events. The majority of this funding comes from school boards and the Grand River Conservation Foundation.

Corporate services - \$2,589,550

This includes the cost of head office functions such as accounting and human resources, as well as the cost of insurance, consulting and legal fees and expenses relating to the general membership board.

GRCA Revenue Sources



Your share: \$7.66

If you live in the Grand River watershed, a small portion of your municipal property taxes goes toward a levy for the GRCA.

This covers just over a third of the cost of GRCA activities including flood protection, reducing pollution and protecting natural areas.

For 2006, the municipal share of the GRCA budget is about \$7 million, which works out to \$7.66 per person.



Highlights from a busy year in the Grand River watershed

The Grand River Conservation Authority is one of the world's oldest conservation agencies. It's also one of the province's largest, with a mandate to protect natural resources in an area of 6,800 square kilometres with a population of more than 925,000 people living in 31 municipalities.

The GRCA has broken down its work into seven broad areas of responsibility which form the basis of its business plan and direct its operations during the year.

In addition to their regular efforts, GRCA staff had to deal with the impact of the wild weather that hit the Grand River watershed.

■ Two tornadoes carved through Belwood Lake and Conestogo Lake conservation areas, damaging many cottages and thousands of trees.

■ A string of heavy downpours, with rainfall measuring 80 mm in two hours on July 14 and 100 mm in a day on July 16 flooded basements and roads in the central part of the watershed.

Here are other highlights from 2005:

Reduce flood damages

■ The GRCA managed its network of reservoirs to reduce flood damages in 2005. Flood warnings were issued in January, March, April and August.

■ New flood warning gauges were installed on Nith River in New Hamburg and the Grand River near Brantford.

■ Safety reviews and emergency plans are being developed for major dams.

Improve water quality

■ Under the Rural Water Quality Program, farmers and municipalities invested \$1.7 million on 174 projects to keep water clean on the farm. This helps to protect the quality of water in rivers and in groundwater supplies.

■ Four small dams were removed, which improves water quality and natural habitats: Taquanyah (Cayuga), Chilligo (Cambridge), Beatty (Fergus) and Columbia Lake (Waterloo).

■ Water from GRCA reservoirs ensures there is enough water in rivers and streams to assimilate effluent from wastewater treatment plants.

Ensure secure water supply

■ Water from GRCA reservoirs was

released during dry months to keep rivers and creeks flowing. During the driest spells, the amount of water coming from reservoirs accounted for 95 per cent of the flow at Grand Valley, 80 per cent at Kitchener, 60 per cent at Guelph, 60 per cent at Cambridge and 40 per cent at Brantford.

■ The Low Water Response Team issued water conservation advisories during dry weather.

Protect natural areas

■ The GRCA launched a program to measure forest health in 11 locations as part of the national Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network.

■ A prescribed burn at F.W.R. Dickson Wilderness Area helped restore the land to its natural state as a tallgrass prairie landscape.

■ The Paris-Brantford stretch of the Grand River received special attention through the Exceptional Waters Program, which oversaw development of new access points and undertook several studies

■ A three-year study of the Southern Grand and its relationship to the Lake Erie ecosystem was completed.

■ About 2,000 trees were planted at the new Laurel Creek Nature Centre arboretum in Waterloo.

■ New signage and trail improvements were among changes at Dumfries Conservation Area in Cambridge.

Support watershed planning

■ The GRCA worked with other con-



A river clean-up in the Exceptional Waters section of the Grand near Brantford



Clean-up work started within hours after two tornadoes struck Belwood Lake and Conestogo Lake Conservation Areas in August 2005.

servation authorities and municipalities to conduct studies and gather information that will be needed for a source water protection plan under the Clean Water Act.

■ Regulations protecting natural areas such as wetlands, floodplains, slopes and the Lake Erie shoreline were updated during 2005.

■ Guidelines were developed to help landowners and developers assess the impact of projects on wetlands.

■ A trails workshop was held to discuss improvements in Waterloo Region, Wellington and Dufferin.

Environmental education

■ The five GRCA nature centres attracted more than 56,000 children and 7,800 adults for outdoor education and weekend family events.

■ The GRCA provided staff and other support for a series of environmental events: Sunoco Earth Day, Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival and the new Brantford-Brant Children's Water Festival, launched this year.

■ The Fifth Grand River Watershed Water Forum attracted more than 400 people to discuss growth and the environment in the Grand River watershed. Environment Minister Laurel Broten and Justice Dennis O'Connor, who conducted the inquiry into the Walkerton water tragedy, were among the speakers.

Outdoor recreation

■ More than 1.1 million paid visits were recorded at the GRCA's 12 conservation areas during 2005, with total revenues of about \$5.46 million.

■ The 50th anniversary of the Pinehurst Lake Conservation area, near Paris, was

celebrated. A pavilion in the park was named after the first superintendent, Clarence Sutor.

■ Major steps were taken to implement a community-based program to develop new fishing ponds, wetlands and other natural areas at the Taquanyah site near Cayuga.

■ GRCA parks were the settings for many community events such as fishing shows, bike races, dragon boat races, music festivals and cross-country runs.

■ Two major movies and some commercials were filmed at GRCA parks, including Cheaper by the Dozen 2 at Rockwood and Silence at Elora Quarry.



Christine Korol examines the lichen attached to tree bark as part of a project to measure forest health.





Community support revitalizes Dumfries

The Dumfries Conservation Area is the legacy of Percy R. Hilborn, a successful businessman, Rotarian and industrialist who had the vision to protect a 75-hectare parcel of land in central Cambridge in 1967.

The park is becoming increasingly known to hikers, walkers and outdoor enthusiasts as a wilderness within the city – a mix of open space, wetland and hardwood forest, including two ponds and the meandering Groff Mill Creek.

Today, the community has rallied around the park as an outstanding community resource



offered at no charge to the public. In 2005, the four Rotary Clubs

of Cambridge adopted the park as the focus of their 100th anniversary celebrations, providing funds for an interpretive kiosk and the large sign on Hespeler Road that makes the park better-known to the public.

Babcock & Wilcox Canada Ltd., one of Cambridge's leading employers and a multi-year supporter of the GRCF, has played a leading role in getting residents onto the trails at Dumfries, and enabling them to understand more about the park once they get there.

B&W's green leadership has enabled the GRCF to develop a trail brochure, signs for the interest and safety of visitors to the park and the larger sign on Dunbar Road that attracts nature lovers to the property.

Together, these partners are making a great natural resource even better.

For more information about enjoying or getting involved at Dumfries, click on <http://www.grandriver.ca/Foundation/dumfriesCA.pdf>.



Babcock and Wilcox Canada, and four Cambridge Rotary Clubs helped finance new signs, brochures and trail upgrades.



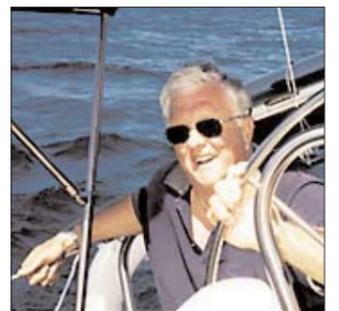
Dumfries Conservation Area is a popular place for hikes, bike rides and community events such as the annual kite festival.



Golf tournament honours long-time GRCF supporter

Tuesday, June 27 marks the Foundation's first annual golf tournament. This year we honour the memory of R. Grant Erwin, a former member of the Foundation's executive committee, whose vision and leadership led to the development of The Living Classroom – Campaign for Outdoor Education.

To date, more than 120,000 elementary school children have had the opportunity to attend curriculum-based outdoor education programs with



Grant Erwin

the proceeds of the campaign. The tournament will take place at the Galt Country Club. Proceeds will support a variety of recreation forestry



About the foundation

For more than 40 years, the Grand River Conservation Foundation has