The Grand River Watershed is the largest in southwestern Ontario and includes all of the land drained by the Grand River and its major tributaries - the Nith, Conestogo, Speed and Eravista rivers.

The Grand River originates in the Adirondacks of New York and winds its way more than 360 kilometers to Lake Erie. On its course, the river meanders through picturesque rural countryside and growing cities, with a total population of more than 1,500,000.

The prospect of growth in the watershed will have a profound impact on water-related natural resources and quality of life. This presents an enormous challenge, and creates an urgent need to see wisely for the Grand River and its resources.

The Grand River Conservation Authority is responsible for:

- managing water quality;
- protecting natural areas and biodiversity;
- preventing water-related damage by $5 million annually in communities throughout the watershed.

Using cutting-edge research tools, the GRCA assists municipal governments with land acquisition and planning controls. It also works with private owners to ensure that three thousand acres of land within the watershed are protected. Raising public awareness of watershed and environmental issues is an ongoing effort.

The GRCA protected environmentally important areas through land acquisition, zoning and other land-based measures. It also provides technical assistance to local governments to help them meet their obligations under the Environmental Protection Act. The GRCA also assists in the management of the Grand River and its tributaries, including the Conestogo, Speed and Eravista rivers.

The GRCA is a non-profit organization that was established in 1954 to protect and enhance the natural environment of the Grand River and its tributaries. The GRCA is funded by the federal and provincial governments, as well as by donations from individuals and organizations. The GRCA is a member of the Federation of Canadian Museums, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the Canadian Nature Federation.