For more than forty years, the Grand River Conservation Foundation has worked with the GRCA to enrich the natural values of the Grand River watershed, and encourage people to enjoy, and learn from, the outdoors.
River Conservation Authority undertakes, efforts which have few or no sources of public funding. But the story doesn’t end there. Our donors do more than protect our natural world: they make life better for people. Our residents stay healthy because of the clean air that trees provide, kids have a place to bike the trails with family and friends, and businesses attract employees because of the quality recreational opportunities that our rivers and lands provide. The total picture? A positive impact on every person in the community.

When someone says the word ‘conservation’, what comes to your mind?

For some people it’s a warm breeze in the trees; for others seeing animal tracks criss-crossing fresh snow; still others picture the sun setting along a sparkling river. To us, conservation is all that. But it’s also about the people who enjoy it every day, no matter where they live in the Grand River watershed.

At its essence, our Foundation’s job is to channel donations to support conservation work that the Grand River Conservation Authority undertakes, efforts which have few or no sources of public funding. But the story doesn’t end there. Our donors do more than protect our natural world: they make life better for people. Our residents stay healthy because of the clean air that trees provide, kids have a place to bike the trails with family and friends, and businesses attract employees because of the quality recreational opportunities that our rivers and lands provide. The total picture? A positive impact on every person in the community.

2009 was a very important year for the Grand River Conservation Foundation. We spent a great deal of time listening to people in the watershed, learning their views and hearing their stories as we plot our future direction. Whether a farmer in Dufferin County, a business person who relies on the river in Dunnville and Port Maitland, or anywhere in between, each person has their own tale to tell. We invite you to read on and hear some stories of the river.

Sincerely,

David Hales
Chairman
J. Crawford Reid, FCA
Vice Chairman
Sara Wilbur, CFRE
Executive Director
“This is a little piece of heaven. I’ve been coming out to Rockwood for years, since before it was a park.

My wife Della passed away four years ago and I’ve said goodbye to a few friends since then. Some people come here to mourn, but I come here to be happy. I’m here three or four times a year – sometimes with my grandson. He likes to watch the turtles sunning themselves. For me, the wind and the water are like music.

This is a good place to have your name.”

In 2009, the GRCF celebrated ten years of partnership with Gilbert MacIntyre and Son Funeral Home, providing thousands of people per year with the opportunity to remember loved ones and to enjoy the trails winding through the GRCA’s Rockwood Conservation Area.

Pat Hannigan, Guelph
Pictured at Rockwood Conservation Area
“Out here you can see the sky. You can’t do that in the city, even though Waterloo is right across the river.

We started coming here when Lucy was a puppy. Every spring we return and every visit brings new changes – the wildflowers, and the trees, and the water.

Sometimes I come here with a friend, but when I’m alone I can be reflective. My Dad loved the outdoors and nature – when I first came here and heard the red winged blackbirds, it felt as if he was talking to me.”

Through the generosity of the Kitchener-Conestoga Rotary Club, in 2009 a new Rotary Forest was created at Snyder’s Flats, on the east side of the Grand. Hikers, dog-walkers and nature enthusiasts enjoy the water, grasslands and the 15,000 new trees – the first of three years of plantings – in this great new community resource.
“One of the reasons we moved here was because of the ponds. John and I both grew up in rural areas, and we have fond memories of fishing with our dads down by the local creek. Now that the pond restoration is complete, our kids will share those memories. Dmitri goes exploring like boys do – he throws rocks into the water and takes pictures of butterflies. Nadya likes to lie on the grass and watch the fluffy clouds float by and see if she can find the mommy and baby toads that croak at night.

I feel our children are building a relationship with nature by embracing it, and that will last them a lifetime. It’s a privilege to live so close to nature, and to share this beautiful experience with our children.”

The Taves Family, Cambridge
Susan, John, Nadya and Dmitri

After ten years of planning, 2009 marked the beginning of the Fishermills Pond restoration. With donations totaling more than $150,000, the community created a great, new natural place for kids and families in a high-growth area of Waterloo Region.
The generosity of many donors enabled more than 1,900 kids, who otherwise would not have had the opportunity, to attend outdoor education programs at GRCA Nature Centres in 2009. Additional support for operating costs and learning tools ensured the students’ experiences were the best they could be.

“Taquanyah is an incredible place to take students for a day. It’s wonderful for our class to close our eyes and just listen in quiet to the first ten sounds we hear, or to run fast in habitat games, squealing in delight at the wonder of being free.

I’ve been a teacher for 28 years, and some of my fondest memories are with students at this truly unique and beautiful site. Learning about both the fragility and strength of things in nature gives the students a sense of a world bigger than their own; a sense of harmony that can and should exist within their global home.”

Christine Mulholland, Hagersville Elementary School

On visiting the Taquanyah Nature Centre in Haldimand County
“We get a lot of satisfaction from this. Five years ago, our staff planted what would become a tree nursery for the Brantford community on a corner of our property. That effort re-started a community-based tree planting effort – the Brant Tree Coalition – involving government, schools, boards of education and other interested groups. The idea was to raise the awareness of the urban forest in Brantford and to create a sustainable solution to addressing the challenges of improving the canopy cover.

Today, the trees that we’ve grown are used throughout the community. Our employees enjoy planting trees each year at various events, but the connection and expansion into the community is even more satisfying.”

Jim Berhalter, Brantford
Vice President of Finance & Administration, Apotex Pharmachem Inc.
“It’s tough to meet the demand. We get calls every week from people who want to clean up their wells or plant trees on their property to make their water cleaner. All they need is a little help.

For more than 12 years we’ve gotten to know people the old-fashioned way – over a coffee at the kitchen table or at the farm gate. People understand that they each hold a piece of the water quality puzzle on their land, and they are willing – it’s just a matter of funding. The rural non-farm stewardship guide workshops are the first step. To have 30 neighbours sitting in one room talking about initiatives on their land is very inspiring. After the meeting we were overwhelmed with requests for help with tree planting and restoration projects. It’s an exciting time!”

Tracey Ryan, GRCA
Supervisor of Conservation Services

In 2009, GRCF was the recipient of an RBC Blue Water Fund Leadership Grant. The grant provides opportunities for thousands of farmers and rural residents to improve water quality on their lands through access to advice and financial support.
“We take great pride in Dumfries! When our staff got together to plant trees at Dumfries Conservation Area, it was another way of giving back to the community in which we operate. It’s not only important to the environment, but also to our health, today and tomorrow. As a proud employer in the Region of Waterloo for over 165 years, we think of that connection with future generations – and our employees and their families greatly value their visits to Dumfries, which has come to feel like the “Central Park” of Cambridge, right around the corner from our headquarters.”

Mike Lees, Cambridge
President, Babcock & Wilcox Canada

Many memorial forest partners, individuals and groups supported the planting of more than 25,000 trees in 2009. These trees clean our air and water, improve habitat for wildlife and make our landscape more beautiful.
In 2009, contributions from more than 650 donors made our water cleaner, our lands more resilient and our community more engaged in the natural world around us.

...manages an area roughly the size of Prince Edward Island.
...has protected more than 50,000 acres of land.
...won the Thiess Riverprize in 2000 for worldwide excellence in river management.
...manages river flows through the operation of three large and four smaller dams which play a significant role in flood control in our communities.
...provides outdoor education to more than 50,000 children per year at four full-time Nature Centres.
...operates 2,500 camp sites and 12 Conservation Areas which are visited by more than 1 million people per year.
...has planted more than 26 million trees since its inception.
...operates a 75km rail-trail network throughout the Grand River valley.
### Financial Overview - 2009

#### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receipted donations</td>
<td>$616,297</td>
<td>$357,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-receipted donations</td>
<td>$20,538</td>
<td>$34,360</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book &amp; other merchandise sales</td>
<td>$15,484</td>
<td>$13,337</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special events &amp; sponsorships</td>
<td>$56,268</td>
<td>$22,864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>$78,097</td>
<td>$38,819</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>$8,874</td>
<td>$25,329</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$795,558</strong></td>
<td><strong>$414,967</strong></td>
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#### Expenditures

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements to Foundation projects</td>
<td>$560,789</td>
<td>$532,782</td>
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<tr>
<td>General expenses</td>
<td>$28,015</td>
<td>$24,497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund-raising expenses</td>
<td>$19,351</td>
<td>$7,095</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book purchases</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>$34,717</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>$8,874</td>
<td>$8,992</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$651,746</strong></td>
<td><strong>$573,516</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Net Revenue & Fund Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund balances beginning of year</td>
<td>$1,771,626</td>
<td>$1,930,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current year net change in funds</td>
<td>$143,812</td>
<td>$(158,549)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fund balances, end of year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,915,438</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,771,626</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All funds held within GRCF are restricted internally or externally for specific projects, with the exception of one undesignated fund which is allocated annually by our Board of Directors for the highest conservation priorities.
Our donors

Thank you to all of those individuals and organizations that made an investment in our quality of life through the Grand River Conservation Foundation.
Watershed Memorial Partners
Batesville Canada
Beckett-Glaves Family Funeral Centre
Dignity Group – Schreiter-Sandrock, Ratz-Bechtel and Westmount Funeral Homes
Gilbert MacIntyre and Son
Funeral Home and Chapel Limited
Wm. Kipp Funeral Home Limited

Bequest & Life Insurance
Commitments
Chuck Corrigan
Lloyd Gower
Keith Gummow
Kerry Long
Marilyn Murray
Ruth Reeves
Sara Wilbur-Collins
Gloria Yeung
Anonymous (4)

Estate Gifts
Estate of Alison G. McQuay
Estate of Carol Winifred Shields
Rotary Club of Cambridge North
Rotary Club of Guelph
Rotary Club of Cambridge - Dumfries Park Project
Royal Bank of Canada, Rockwood Branch
Ruth Reeves
S.E.L. Recycling Services Inc.
Sabinia Pirobmo
Sallitt Trustee Inc.
Samuel W. Stedman Foundation
Sandra Goy
Sandra Kolka
Sara Wilbur-Callies and Peter Collins
Sarah Lowe
S.C. Johnson and Son, Limited
Scheidt Construction Inc.
ScotiaBank
Shawn Fish
Shirley Baskett
Spantek Inc.
St. John’s Kilmarnock Middle School
St. Marys Cement Inc. (Canada)
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
Steve Gemmell
Susan Forest
Sangenta Crop Protection Canada Inc.
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
Tedd and Mary Bough
Terra View Homes
Terry Ellery
Terry Reidell
The Co-operators Group Limited
The Corporation of the City of Brantford
The Corporation of the Township of Rudolph
The Mountain Equipment Co-op
Annual Fund, Vanier Foundation
The Olde School Restaurant
The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Inc.
The Toronto Dominion Bank
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.
Thomas and Barbara LeBrun
Thomas and Margot Pick
Tony Zammit
Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc.
Tree Canada
Trout Unlimited Canada
University of Guelph
University of Toronto,
Centre for Environment
University of Waterloo
Van/Harten Surveying Inc.
Vicki Beard
Victoria Little
Victoria Park East Golf Club
Virt and Barbara Sisson
Waterloo Importers Inc., Ian Mudisch
Wayne Snyder
Weedy ColЛАen
Wilf Jenkins
Williams and Brenda Ingartta
Anonymous (1)
… and many other donors of up to $100

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this important list. If you notice any errors or omissions, please accept our apology and let us know so we can update our records.

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Dignity Group – Scheinman Sandrock,
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Our leaders

Thank you to the leaders in our community who provide the GRCF with guidance and direction.

David Hales, Waterloo – Chair
J. Crawford Reid, Brantford – Vice-Chair
Kerry Long, Kitchener – Past Chair
Alan Dale, Norwich – GRCA Chair
Doug Brock, Waterloo
Martin Ehlert, Sheffield

Lloyd Gower, North Dumfries
C. Thomas LeBrun, South Dumfries
Ian MacNaughton, Breslau
Ian Murdoch, Waterloo
Joy O’Donnell, Brantford

David Pady, Guelph
Terry Reidel, Kitchener
Vyrts Sisson, Brantford
Randy Walden, Cambridge
Alex Wilson, Hillsburgh

Special thanks to retiring Board members Bill Bennett, Anita Hills-Krause, Thomas Pick, and John Pollock.
Grand River Conservation Foundation

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E-mail: foundation@grandriver.ca
www.grcf.ca

The GRCF adheres to Imagine Canada’s Ethical Fund Raising and Financial Accountability Code. Charitable Registration Number 11894 6045 RR0001

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