

GRCA General Membership

Chair	Helen Jowett
Vice-Chair	Chris White
Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Melancthon and Southgate and Town of Grand Valley	Guy Gardhouse
Townships of Mapleton and Wellington North	Pat Salter
Township of Centre Wellington	Kirk McElwain
Town of Erin, Townships of Guelph/Eramosa and Puslinch	Chris White
City of Guelph	Bob Bell, Mike Salisbury
Region of Waterloo	Les Armstrong, Elizabeth Clarke, Sue Foxtan, Helen Jowett, Geoff Lorentz, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Wayne Roth, Sandy Shantz, Warren Stauch
Municipality of North Perth and Township of Perth East	George Wicke
Halton Region	Cindy Lunau
City of Hamilton	George Stojanovic
Oxford County	Bruce Banbury
County of Brant	Brian Coleman, Shirley Simons
City of Brantford	Dave Neumann, Vic Prendergast
Haldimand and Norfolk Counties	Bernie Corbett, Fred Morison

GRCA's new strategic plan shapes the path forward

The GRCA board recently approved a renewed strategic plan, which will guide the direction of the organization for the next three years — 2019 to 2021.

New Vision and Mission statements have been written, and four Strategic Priorities are identified. The new plan includes key actions that will enhance and build on GRCA programs, while responding to emerging trends.

GRCA hired GLPI Inc. to help facilitate the process of renewing the strategic plan, which was last updated in 2012. Workshops were held with the management committee, staff members and the GRCA board. In addition, the update was informed by provincial public consultation tied to the recent update to the Conservation Authorities Act, along with information gathered during the 2017 GRCA Communications Audit.

The Plan will be available on the GRCA website later this year.

Federal grant applications submitted by GRCA

The GRCA is applying for just over \$1 million in federal funding from the National Disaster Mitigation Program for a variety of projects.

The GRCA is requesting funds for projects including a flood mitigation study for New Hamburg, minor floodwall stabilization works along Ballantyne Drive in Brantford, and equipment purchases including weather and flow monitoring infrastructure for systems that have reached the end of their design life.

This government funding program was set up to improve the state of knowledge regarding natural disasters in order to build safer and more resilient communities now and in the future. Of all potential natural disasters, the focus of the program is currently on flooding, which routinely represents the largest disaster-related cost to Canadians. The GRCA has made arrangements to

match the federal funding.

Dry September

September was dry, which contrasts with wet weather across the watershed in August.

Higher rainfall in August helped to stabilize the water levels of the large reservoirs. The Shand and Conestogo reservoirs are within their normal range for this time of year, while Luther is slightly above normal. The Guelph reservoir is below normal because the Speed River system remains low. On average, these reservoirs are now filled to around 30 per cent capacity, which is normal for this time of year.

During September, about 75 per cent of the flow through Kitchener and nearly 35 per cent through Brantford came from the reservoirs. On the Speed River, 55 per cent of the flow was from the Guelph reservoir.

The Grand River Low Water Response Team removed the Level 1 low water condition on September 14 as a result of high rainfall and higher stream flows in August.

Temperatures in September were also well above the long-term average, continuing the warm weather trend that has been underway since May.

The level of Lake Erie continues to be above the long-term average. While the average elevation in August was higher than the same time last year, it dropped in September. But Lake Erie remains high, and the potential for shoreline flooding and shore erosion is higher than normal over the fall through to early next summer.

Watershed fish plan celebrates 20 years

Since the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan (GRFMP) was approved 20 years ago, a committee has been working to improve river health.

Organizations and agencies worked together as partners to develop a collaborative process to





It was a happy day in September when past and present members of the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan Implementation Committee gathered for a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the plan at the GRCA head office in Cambridge. The fish plan was the first of its kind in the province and has resulted in many river improvements throughout the years.

gather input from communities across the watershed. The resulting plan was signed in September, 1998.

Since then, a committee made up of representatives of partner organizations and agencies has been meeting regularly to implement the fish plan. Together they have spearheaded countless initiatives to realize the potential of the watershed fisheries.

The watershed-wide fish plan was the first of its kind in Ontario and it remains a model in the province and elsewhere. It has garnered provincial and national awards and has brought international recognition to the Grand River.

Volunteers and organizations undertake work days, research, cleanups, planting events and annual fish stocking events. The partners have designed projects big and small to advance the 42 “best bets” that are laid out in the fish plan.

Anglers, ecologists, corporate volunteers and community members all dedicate time each year for the benefit of the local fisheries.

Planning for Alert Ready warning for flooding

A meeting is being arranged with Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) to investigate how the new Canadian Alert Ready system can be used to complement the GRCA's emergency preparedness plans

for the large dams that we operate.

This Alert Ready system is used to warn the public about emergencies. It is part of a national service designed to deliver critical and potentially life-saving emergency alert messages to Canadians through their cellphones.

The system has the potential to provide alerts related to dam breaks and flash floods within localized areas.

To learn more about Canada's Alert Ready system, visit www.alertready.ca.

Order trees from the GRCA for spring 2019

Rural landowners can now order trees from the GRCA for planting next spring.

Landowners who have at least one hectare (2.5 acres) of land are eligible to order trees that they can plant themselves. Online tree orders can be placed October 1, 2018 to March 1, 2019, and orders can also be taken by mail. Ordering early is advisable for the best selection of trees.

Landowners with at least two hectares (five acres) of property may also be interested in having a GRCA forestry specialist come to their property to put together a planting plan, arrange for the planting of their trees, and help them to access funding programs to offset the cost of their tree planting project (if applicable).

There is no cost for this planning service,

but demand is high, so interested landowners will be put on a waiting list to be contacted at a later date by one of the GRCA's forestry specialists. To be put on this waiting list, please email trees@grandriver.ca or call 519-621-2761 and ask to speak to a forestry specialist.

For more information, to order trees and to view the tree availability list, go to the forestry section of the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca/Trees.

This issue of *GRCA Current* was published in October 2018.

It is a summary of the October, 2018 business conducted by the Grand River Conservation Authority board and committees, as well as other noteworthy happenings and topics of interest.

The Grand River Conservation Authority welcomes distribution, photocopying and forwarding of *GRCA Current*.

Next board meeting:
October 26 at 9:30 a.m.,
GRCA Administration Centre

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