



GRAND Actions

The Grand River watershed newsletter



November/December 2011 • Volume 16, Number 6

What's Inside:

Features

Egret roost1

Look Who's Taking Action

Smart about road salt 2

Barbara Kidd award 3

What's Happening

Grand Actions sign up 4

The problem with Carp ... 5

Eflows workshop 5

Trees for Mapleton 6

WMP workshop 7

Heritage Day Workshop .. 7

Now Available

Interpretive signs 7

Pictures from the sky 8

Calendar 8

Cover photo

Luther Marsh is now the largest known egret roost in Canada.

Photo by Kevin Tupman.



Canada's largest known egret roost is at Luther Marsh

By Janet Baine

GRCA Communications Specialist

Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area, near the headwaters of the Grand River, has been confirmed as having the largest known roost of great egrets in Canada.

At dawn one August morning Chip Weseloh of the Canadian Wildlife Service and volunteer Linda McLaren counted 320 egrets leaving the roost.

"This is the largest numbers we have ever counted at Luther. The previous high count was 304 in 2009," wrote Weseloh. Five wing-tagged birds (green wing-tags) were seen that morning and three of those birds had been banded earlier

in the year as young-of-the-year at Nottawasaga Island in Georgian Bay near Collingwood. Nottawasaga Island is also the largest breeding colony of great egrets in Canada. The two others had been similarly banded at Chantry Island near Southampton. Weseloh and volunteer Tina Knezevic had counted 285 egrets coming into the Luther Marsh roost one evening earlier in August. Twenty-two of these were tagged, and the four tags that could be read indicated the birds had also come from Nottawasaga Island.

All birds roost, meaning they have a period of inactivity similar to sleep in humans. Some bird species roost alone, others including some egrets and herons, roost communally. At Luther, the egrets roost in a small swampy area of the Monticello Project where great blue herons, black-crowned night-herons and green herons nest. Egrets, which are a type of heron, are not known to nest there yet.

Weseloh and his assistants are doing most of the field work and submitting monitoring reports each year to the GRCA. GRCA staff enter the data





Photo by Alan Wormington

A tagged great egret.

into a central database to document the numbers of egret and other significant species on GRCA lands.

“Egrets are a beautiful, very graceful bird. They are one of our largest birds, so they are easy to view in the wild,” said Tony Zammit, aquatic and terrestrial ecologist with the GRCA. Although Weseloh and his volunteers have located over 25 egret roosting sites in southern Ontario, the one at Luther is by far the largest. The large number of egrets roosting at Luther Marsh likely represents a significant proportion of Ontario’s egret population. Luther Marsh, which provides a variety of wetland habitat for roosting, feeding and resting, could be one of few safe havens for egrets in Ontario.

The egrets gather at Luther Marsh starting in late June and remain through September before they head to the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the United States for the winter.

Great egrets are a little smaller than great blue herons, but they are distinguished by their black legs, completely white plumage and absence of a crest. They nest in shrubs and trees off the ground, or lower in marshes. Egrets usually lay three or four eggs in May or June, and young egret can fly at seven or eight weeks old. They breed on islands in Georgian Bay, the islands in western Lake Erie and at High Bluff Island at Presqu’île Park as well as Toronto harbour in Lake Ontario.

The *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario* says that they may breed in the southern Grand River close to Lake Erie and at Luther Marsh, however the GRCA has not yet confirmed nesting and breeding in these locations. Egrets are not at risk, but they are a rare breeder in Ontario. The Monticello Marsh is part of the larger Luther Marsh and was

constructed in the fall of 2000 with assistance from Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. A berm and viewing mound at the Monticello Marsh section of Luther Marsh allows visitors to experience the marsh without getting their feet wet and this is a good spot to see birds. Some waterfowl remain in the vicinity year-round and it is open for viewing for those who have paid admission.

LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

Smart about road salt

By Janet Baine
Communications Specialist

Salt is a key ingredient to winter road safety, but it is also detrimental to ecosystems and the water supply.

Did you know that rock salt or sodium chloride, the most common kind of winter salt, is not effective in melting ice when the temperature is below -10 degrees? Or that putting down more salt doesn't melt ice more quickly? If salt is used only when necessary and in the right amount, safety can

still be maintained and there is less salt to make its way into the groundwater and surface water.

In 1999, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo noticed increasing levels of sodium and chloride in almost all their water supply wells. After studying the problem, they concluded that the main source was from winter road deicing and that decreasing use of salt on roads by 25 per cent could stabilize levels in the water supply wells over the next 10 to 20 years, said Eric Hodgins, manager of hydrogeology and source water with Waterloo Region.

At the same time as they were assessing the contribution from roads, levels of salt and chloride at one supply well rose higher and faster than the others, Hodgins said. This well was beside a new mall and parking lot where private contractors were responsible for winter maintenance. The Region then began to work with private contractors on reducing the application of salt to parking lots and sidewalks.

“People think they need to drive on bare roads all through the winter. It is this expectation and others that lead to over application of salt,” Hodgins said. He recommends that people consider the negative impact of salt on the environment and change their expectations. We also need to do what we can personally to be prepared for winter, such as wear appropriate footwear



Photo by Donald Graham

The Region of Waterloo is cutting use of road salt by 25 per cent and has spearheaded the Smart About Salt program to reduce salt use on roads. It is becoming a province-wide program.

and ensure tires can handle snow conditions.

In 2004, Environment Canada issued a Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of Road Salts.

“This led to significant improvement in the way road salt is managed by provincial and municipal road authorities in Canada” says Bob Hodgins (no relation to Eric) who was a technical advisor on developing the code.

“Every ounce of salt used in the winter eventually finds its way into our water. What doesn’t end up in storm drains, local streams and rivers eventually seeps into the ground and can find its way into underground aquifers,” Bob Hodgins says. “High levels of sodium and chlorides in the water affect the well-being of people, vegetation, fish and wildlife.”

He was hired by Waterloo Region to start working on a new program, called Smart About Salt. By the end of 2008, about 40 contractors, businesses and municipalities had joined the Smart About Salt™ winter salt management program to reduce the salt used on roads, parking lots and sidewalks. This voluntary program recognizes organizations that take specific steps, like training staff and using new technology to reduce their use of winter salt. It is modelled on the success of the Environmental Farm Plan program.

In 2010, Smart About Salt became a provincial not-for-profit council with three founding organizations — the Region of Waterloo, Landscape Ontario (because during the winter many landscapers do winter maintenance) and Building Owners and Management Association (Ottawa chapter). The Ontario Good Roads Association joined shortly after. The Smart About Salt Council hopes to entice more contractors, facility managers and municipalities to be certified in being Smart about Salt.

Did you know?

- Salt is not effective at temperatures below -10 degrees, when it is better to use sand or other deicing salts.
- It can take years or even decades for salt to seep through the aquifer into the groundwater, so overusing salt now has an impact far into the future.
- Putting down more salt does not make ice melt faster.

- Our expectation that we can drive on ice-free roads and walk on ice-free sidewalks throughout the winter is part of the salt problem.

- Wearing proper winter footwear and using snow tires is a good way to help Reduce the impact of winter road maintenance and the risk of accidents.

Learn more on www.smartaboutsalt.com, or at the Dec. 8 information session in Cambridge listed on the back page

Arthur School's Green Queen

By Janet Baine

GRCA Communications Specialist

“Don't blow it — good planets are hard to find” is written on every email Barbara Kidd sends.

The retired teacher was recognized by the GRCA with a 2011 Watershed Award for greening up Arthur Public School over the past few years.

She had students clamouring to join the green teams and blue teams, parents spreading mulch on new gardens and local companies going out of their way to support the environmental efforts of the school. Kidd

has become an expert in writing grant proposals to get funds for environmental programs. And the principal at her school is one of her biggest supporters.

“Barb worked tirelessly to search for grants to support our efforts to be environmentally conscious,” said Brent Ellery. “Just when I think we have done enough, Barb pushed us to the next level.”

The school ground sports an established forest with mature trees that has been cleaned up so children can play there during recess. In addition, there is a new butterfly garden at the front of the school and an outdoor classroom near the forest. A Community Conservation Grant from the Grand River Conservation Foundation helped to pay for the large rocks where the children sit in the outdoor classroom.

In 2011, a literary garden was planted with red maple, blue spruce and silver birch — these are also the names of a series of books used to teach an appreciation of literature through the Forest of Reading program that is used at the school.

The pavement play area for Kindergarten students was replaced with a new garden and a maple tree for shade.

Each student in the school received a tree seedling thanks to Copernicus Educational Products, an educational products company. Students also planted seedlings in a small



Children playing at recess in the outdoor classroom at Arthur Public School.



Barbara Kidd retired last June from Arthur Public School.

tree nursery on the school grounds. They have also planted trees in the community.

In one year, Arthur Public School diverts 700 kilos of waste from landfill sites through the recycling and composting programs.

“We have a great community partnership with All Treat Farms, a composting company based in Arthur that also produces mulch. Together we’re doing our best to educate people, young and old, about the importance of composting,” Kidd says.

The school has a Gold Medal in the ECO Green School program. It has also been designated as a gold medal school by Green Legacy, a Wellington County tree planting initiative. It is a level two Earth School through the SEEDS Foundation based in Alberta, because it has completed 2,000 environmental projects.

In the process of these achievements, Kidd has been nicknamed the Green Queen and her workspace was called the Green Headquarters. A children’s book in the works has a main character modelled after her.

Kid has carefully recorded all of the school’s efforts in a binder that she will soon pass on to another Green Queen as of September. In fact, she is hoping a few teachers will share the tasks that she has carried out, because of the time and commitment it takes.

Her plan after retirement last June is to continue with environmental initiatives as a volunteer and perhaps as a consultant to other schools.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

New Grand Actions e-mail auto-sign-up

Grand Actions has a new updated look and is now a full colour publication when viewed or downloaded from www.grandriver.ca/grandactions.

Links are also embedded in the online newsletter, making it easier to go to the web to find specific information.

This update has been done by our designer Tracy Riley, who has also updated our other publications, GRCA Minutes (which comes out monthly) and The Grand (twice a year). Grand Actions is the last of these publications to get a total makeover.



Back issues since 1999 are posted on www.grandriver.ca/grandactions.
New auto-subscribe by e-mail

E-mail subscribers to Grand Actions can now subscribe automatically by sending a blank e-mail (no content in subject line) to: GrandActions-subscribe@grandriver.ca. Anyone already on the subscription list will continue to receive this bimonthly newsletter just as they did previously. But you will be able to automatically unsubscribe by sending a blank email to: GrandActions-unsubscribe@grandriver.ca. You can also easily forward Grand Actions to friends, coworkers or others within your organization. Full details on GRCA information services are listed on www.grandriver.ca/Newsroom/news.cfm.

Subscriptions by mail

Receiving the print version in the mail is the same as it has always been. Send an e-mail to jbaine@grandriver.ca with your name, address and any changes you would like to make or call 519-621-2763, ext. 2302 and provide your name and address. The print version is still only available in black and white as a cost saving measure.

A 2011 form for those who are current subscribers is attached, but it only needs to be completed by mail subscribers or those who wish to donate.



Photo by Tracy Riley

There were many activities at the 2011 Forest Fest at Shades’ Mills Conservation Area in October, including a raptor display by the Canadian Raptor Conservancy. This free event in Cambridge attracted about 200 people despite the wet weather.



Carp can grow to be very large in the Grand River and other waterways and reservoirs, but they have a detrimental impact on the ecology. Many people enjoy carp fishing.

The problem with carp

Carp are big and plentiful and many anglers love catching them, but they are extremely destructive in natural ecosystems.

They start out as minnows, which is why minnows and live bait buckets should never be dumped in natural waterways including ponds, rivers and reservoirs.

Unwanted goldfish, aquarium plants and water should also not be released outdoors. As they grow, goldfish lose their gold colour and are grey or olive in colour.

The problem is that carp and goldfish are highly competitive and destructive fish. They have been here so long that they have become naturalized and are reproducing, so people don't realize they are non-native. They damage and degrade the ecosystem by replacing native species. They are scavengers that forage for food by dislodging plants, making the water murky so that it becomes uninhabitable to other fish species. They are "generalists", so they eat the plants, insects and small fish, transforming the natural ecology so there is less biodiversity.

For example, in the small lake at Victoria

Park in Kitchener, dozens of these fish would respond as soon as a person stopped on the bridge while on a stroll through the park. The fish would gather at that location, swim to the surface and repeatedly open and close their mouths in what looked like a silent request for food.

As part of the much-needed \$10 million clean-up of Victoria Lake that is taking place over the next few months, all the fish were



Photo by Galen Yerex

The scale of a carp.

removed in October. The native species were released elsewhere and the carp and goldfish were destroyed.

The worst thing that people can do, aside from releasing these fish into the wild is to feed them. The fish at Victoria Lake had been fed so often that they learned how to request food. It is also not good to feed waterfowl in natural areas, such as geese and ducks.

Aquatic plants are also a problem

Chilligo Conservation Area in Cambridge was restored over the past couple of years by keeping two ponds offline to ensure the creek flows freely and cleanly.

Now this carefully constructed wetland contains an invasive exotic plant — water lettuce.

"Someone probably put it there, thinking they were doing a good thing," said Robert Messier, GRCA ecologist. "From there, it could get into the whole Speed River system."

These free floating plants with small white flowers form a mat, restricting water flow and preventing sunlight from penetrating into the water, effecting fish and other aquatic life. The GRCA will likely remove it in the spring, Messier said.

Educating people about natural aquatic ecosystems takes lots of time and many conversations, but in the end people nearly always want to do the right thing for the environment.

For more information check www.invadingspecies.com.

Ideas flowed at e-flow workshop

A day-long workshop on the e-flows for river systems held at the end of October was hosted by the GRCA and about 130 people from across the province attended.

Water managers have been working to improve their understanding of e-flows, also called environmental flow requirements. This means taking a holistic look at natural

river flows that support healthy aquatic ecosystems and human well-being. The healthy flow will vary at different times of the year.

The goal of this workshop was to bring together practitioners, researchers and water managers to talk about steps to integrate e-flow requirements into water management and planning in the Grand River watershed. This was the first time such an event has been held in Ontario.

There were 11 speakers and two panel discussions on both the policy and science aspects of e-flows at the workshop. The group spent part of the morning defining what “ecological flow requirements” means to them.



Amanda Wong

“The workshop went very well. Everybody had been thinking about eflows, but they didn’t

know where to start because science, policy and governance all have to be taken into consideration,” said Amanda Wong, water resource analyst at the GRCA and organizer of the workshop.

The attendees included biologists, planners, policy people, geomorphologists, hydrologists and engineers. Participants included staff from the provincial government, other conservation authorities, consulting firms and local universities.

The group heard about examples of e-flow work that is international, national, provincial and local to the Grand River watershed.

During the afternoon they considered scientific approaches and a framework for ecological flow assessments.

The event was hosted by the GRCA, Trout Unlimited Canada and WWF-Canada.

A website section at www.grandriver.ca/eflows provides more information on this workshop, links to resources and e-flow information for specific reaches within the Grand River watershed.

This workshop is a follow-up to a 2005 pilot project through Conservation Ontario. The GRCA plans to continue this work through the Grand River Water Management Plan and other projects.

Trees for Mapleton now 10 years old

The Trees for Mapleton program is 10 years old.

Trees for Mapleton has been dedicated to planting trees because current tree cover in the township is under 10 per cent, and it is even as low as three to four per cent in some areas. This is a long way from the 30 per cent forest cover recommended by Environment Canada for a healthy watershed.

Mapleton Township has some of the lowest tree cover in the Grand River watershed due to its highly productive agricultural land and the hardworking farming history, said Myles Henderson, the Trees for Mapleton coordinator.

Tree advocates say that planting trees in the right location is a farm production tool, just like seeds, soil, drainage and machinery. By adding trees as buffers along streams, as living snow fences, shelter belts around homes and farm buildings and wind breaks along farms, tree cover would increase by 20 per cent in Mapleton Township and farm

yields could go up. So far, Trees for Mapleton has more than 160 property owners planting trees, but there is room for more.

One of the first of these was Paul Day who has planted 20,000 to 25,000 trees on his property since 1974. He says he still has room for more. It is the economic factors that are the most convincing for many landowners, including Day.

“Trees are a production tool, just like seeds, soil drainage and machinery,” he said. For example, the price of heating and powering barns may vary, but a \$40,000 heating bill for a barn each year is common. Trees around that barn can cut these costs by 25 per cent.

“We’re up against emerald ash borer. It is biting at our heels and taking trees out,” said Day, who is also chair of the Trees for Mapleton steering committee. Woodlots in Mapleton have about 25 per cent ash and the ash borer has been found within 50 km of Mapleton, so it is a relevant topic this year.

For more information contact Myles Henderson at 1-866-900-4722 ext. 2259 or mhenderson@grandriver.ca.



Photo by Janet Baine

Mapleton Township has some of the lowest tree cover in the Grand River watershed.

Groups take part in workshop on water plan update

There was a mood of optimism and cooperation in the GRCA auditorium where 33 representatives of the environmental non-government community met on Nov. 10 to talk about the Grand River Water Management Plan.

Many described it as “an important first step” towards involving the people who play an active role in addressing local, regional and national water and conservation issues at the grassroots level.

In small groups, they talked about the intentions behind each of the draft water objectives that have been drafted as the basis of the plan. There was general agreement that the list of objectives is comprehensive and that the objectives address the issues that matter most. But several participants stressed the importance of acknowledging the limits of the natural system as a central component of the plan.

The GRCA will share ideas that came out of the meeting with members of the project team and the steering committee. The goal is to revise the water objectives based on feedback received through this meeting, the public survey and other engagement activities.

“It was worth the drive from Dunnville to attend,” says Roy Schofield, Director of Habitat Haldimand. “We can only hope that the input will be valued and used in moving forward with the Plan.”

For more information about the roundtable meeting, the survey and the Water Management Plan visit www.grandriver.ca/wmp.

War of 1812 focus for Feb.17

In commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812-14, the theme for the 15th Annual 2012 Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration is Crossroads of Conflict, Pathways to Peace: Divided Loyalties.

The event is part of a series of bicentennial commemorations which will take place during the next two years in Ontario.

It is hosted by the City of Brantford, County of Brant, GRCA and the Grand Strategy Heritage Working Group. It takes place at the South Dumfries Community Centre and Arena in St. George on Friday, Feb. 17.

How is the War of 1812-14 relevant to the Grand River watershed?

The workshop program will explore the influence of the Grand River in shaping military strategies and the trials and tribulations that arose for the people of the watershed as a result of conflicting political ideologies between Canadians and Americans.

Presentations about the war by leading experts and local historians will be interspersed with live historical vignettes and personal stories. Exhibits and displays highlighting various perspectives on the war will be integral to the event. The day culminates with a Victory reception, providing participants with the opportunity to meet, mingle and discuss key insights and discoveries with others.

Learn more about this tumultuous period and how it influenced and was influenced by the people and places in the Grand. Registration is free, however donations to help support the event will be gratefully received on-line at www.grandriver.ca or at the event. Participants must be pre-registered to attend.

Register online

Register online by visiting www.brant.ca and following the EZReg Register Online links or contact Krystyna Lazar, County of Brant, 66 Grand River St. N. Paris, phone: 519-442-6324 ext. 3023 or e-mail recprograms@brant.ca.

NOW AVAILABLE

New signs tell Grand River story

People who use recreational areas in Waterloo Region will notice new interpretive signs going up to provide information about the Grand River.

A grant for the Telling the River Story interpretive sign project came from the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation's Community Fund and the Florence Louise Marsland Fund. The main purpose of the signs is to improve understanding of the river and engage more people in river activities.

“We are delighted to support the GRCA's Telling the River Story aquatic signage project,” said Rosemary Smith, CEO of the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation.

“We believe that the Grand River and its tributaries play a special role in our community history and recreational opportunities. The signs help to tell our river's story, providing knowledge and education on water management and preservation.”

Six sets of two signs each are going into information kiosks, most of which are new. These are at the gatehouse of Laurel Creek Conservation Area and by the Laurel Creek Reservoir, close to the Shand Dam at Belwood Lake Conservation Area, by the parking lot at the Woolwich Reservoir, at Pilkington Outlook and by the pedestrian bridge that is under construction at Pioneer Tower. These signs focus on various aspects of the river including the tailwater fishery, dam management, the value of natural areas and recreational opportunities.

“These signs offer a depth of knowledge to visitors along the Grand River and at our parklands,” said Crystal Allan, GRCA supervisor of aquatic resources. “The new aquatic signs will inform the public about the river's ecological functions and water management operations such as flood control. The more people know about the Grand River the more aware they are of its potential.”





Maps from the sky

Google isn't the only organization providing photographic maps of all the properties in the Grand River watershed on the Internet.

The South Western Ontario Orthophotography Project, 2010 (SWOOP) provided high-resolution imagery covering the entire Grand River watershed that is now available on the GRCA's website. The imagery is available thanks to this partnership of over 70 organizations. The project area covered by these photos spans over 45,000 square km stretching from Windsor to Niagara and up to the Bruce Peninsula. SWOOP imagery covering the entire Grand River watershed is provided for online use on the GRCA website.

The photos were taken from an airplane that flew over the watershed in April and May 2010 when there was a minimal amount of leaves on the trees and snow on the landscape. This new imagery was updated in October on the GRCA website. It is one of many layers on the mapping tool that is

included on the Grand River Information Network (GRIN) section of the GRCA website. This new layer is called ORTHO_2010.

You can check what your property looks like from the sky, or find a recreational area such as a river access point, or GRCA rail-trail, or find the extent of a wetland. This system is used by planners and property owners across the watershed when they consider new development, because it also shows the 31 per cent of the land that is regulated by the GRCA.

"We are continually working to keep our GIS maps up-to-date, and are pleased to make this available to our partners, municipalities and the public," said Bryan McIntosh, geomatics coordinator at the GRCA.

The GRCA has always been a leader in geomatics and this is among the mapping tools available at no charge to anyone who would like to use them.

The mapping tool is online at www.grandriver.ca/GRIN/GRIN.cfm.

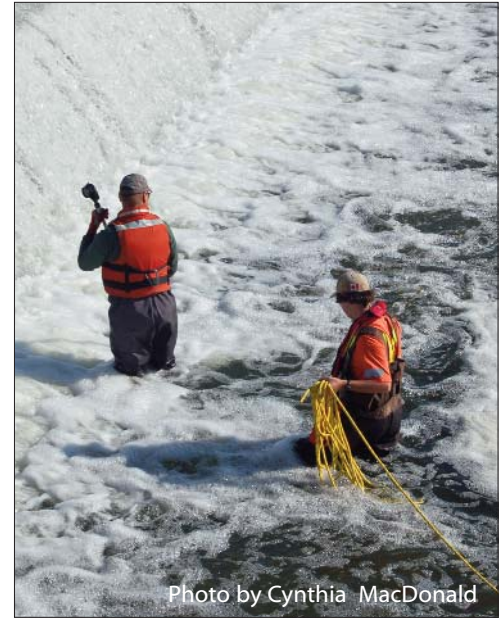


Photo by Cynthia MacDonald

GRCA staff take measurements at Parkhill Dam in Cambridge.

THE GRAND CALENDAR

Smart about Salt information Session, Holiday Inn, 200 Holiday Inn Drive, Cambridge Dec 8, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

This free session is for facility managers, snow and ice contractors and insurers and explains the goals of the program, who should become certified and the certification process. It is sponsored by the Region of Waterloo and is geared to local organizations that are responsible for snow and ice control. Check www.smartaboutsalt.com for information.

Environmental Sciences Symposium, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012 in Science Complex Atrium of the University of Guelph

The focus for the symposium this year is "An Environmental Outlook on Agriculture a Public Perspective." For more information and to register, visit www.enviroscisymposium.com.

Guelph Organics Conference, Seeds of Co-operation, University of Guelph, Jan. 26-29

This conference provides a comprehensive program of workshops, an organic expo and sampling fair as well as a Friday night keynote talk and forum about farmers and their stewardship. For more information visit www.guelphorganiconf.ca or call 519-824-4120 ext. 56205.

Heritage Day Workshop, Feb. 17, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., South Dumfries Community Centre, St. George

The Heritage Day Workshop will explore the influence of the Grand River in shaping military strategies during the War of 1812-14. Registration information is posted attached and in story on page 7.

Note: Events at the GRCA's conservation areas and nature centres are posted on www.grandriver.ca/Calendar.

About Grand Actions:

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

To subscribe by mail or e-mail:

There is no cost to subscribe. Please ensure your contact information is up-to-date.

More information:

Current and back issues as well as complete subscription information is available online at 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.

Contact information:

Janet Baine, *Grand Actions* editor
Phone: (519) 621-2763, Ext. 2302
E-mail: jbaine@grandriver.ca

This publication is printed on Rolland Enviro100, an FSC certified, environmentally-friendly paper. The paper is manufactured using 100% post-consumer fibre and is processed chlorine-free using biogas energy.



100%

Share the resources – Share the responsibility

Follow the GRCA:





GRAND Actions



Please complete this form if you would like to **make a donation** or **update your mail subscription** and return it in the postage-paid, self-addressed envelope. E-mail subscribers can use the automated self-subscribe option on www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions.

Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Title (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

- Please keep mailing Grand Actions to me.
- Please take me off the Grand Actions mailing list.

E-mail subscriptions are now automated and full instructions are on www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions. This means that anyone who would like to receive Grand Actions by e-mail or unsubscribe can do so by e-mail. If you have been receiving Grand Actions by e-mail, you don't need to do anything, because you have already been added into this automated system.

Comments and Suggestions:

I am enclosing a voluntary donation of \$_____ to go toward the cost of newsletter publication and distribution. Please make cheque payable to the **Grand River Conservation Foundation** and note on the cheque that your donation is for the Grand Actions fund. The foundation is a legally separate organization which channels funds to GRCA projects. Donations by credit card can be made online at www.grcf.ca. All donations will receive a tax receipt (Registered Charity #11894 6045 RR0001). The foundation will have your contact information and adheres to Imagine Canada's Ethical Fundraising and Accountability Code. We very much appreciate your donations!

Thank you for helping us to keep our costs down and our mailing list up-to-date by ensuring that each copy of Grand Actions is well-read. For more information e-mail jbaine@grandriver.ca or call 519-621-2763, ext. 2302.

Thank you!



Grand River Watershed
15th Annual Heritage Day Workshop & Celebration
 Friday, February 17, 2012 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 South Dumfries Community Centre & Arena
 7 Gaukel Dr., St. George, Ontario

Crossroads of Conflict, Pathways to Peace: Divided Loyalties

Morning Program – Moderator: Kate Carter, Professor, Laurier Brantford

- 8:30-9:00 a.m. **Registration** (*refreshments will be available*)
- 9:00-9:05 a.m. **Town Crier** – Larry Davis
- 9:05-9:25 a.m. **War of 1812 Bicentennial Promotional Video** - produced by the Brantford, County of Brant, Six Nations and New Credit War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee
- 9:25-9:30 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks** – Ron Eddy, Mayor, County of Brant
- 9:30-10:00 a.m. **Historical Overview of the War of 1812: Role of the Grand River and its Residents** – Ron Dale, Superintendent, Niagara National Historic Sites
- 10:00-10:30 a.m. **Why Commemorate the War?** – Adrienne Horne, Western Corridor Bicentennial Alliance
- 10:30-11:00 a.m. **Refreshment Break & Displays**
- 11:00-11:15 a.m. **War of 1812 Trivia Challenge** – Karen Dearlove, Curator, Chiefswood National Historic Site
- 11:15-11:45 a.m. **Historical Vignettes** – Performances by local thespians

Buffet Lunch – Displays

Afternoon Program – Moderator: Sean Allen, Reporter, Brant News and Host, Talk Local Brant, Rogers TV

- 1:00-1:05 p.m. **Town Crier** – David McKee
- 1:05-1:10 p.m. **Welcoming Remarks** – Chris Friel, Mayor, City of Brantford
- 1:10-1:55 p.m. **A Desert Between Us and Them** – Bill Darfler, Yvonne Drebert and Zack Melnick
- 1:55-2:20 p.m. **Historical Vignettes** – Performances by local thespians
- 2:20-2:50 p.m. **Personal Stories of the War of 1812** - Rick Hill, Grand River Territory of the Six Nations
- 2:50-3:20 p.m. **Quakers, Mennonites and Tunkers: Pacifists, Protestors and Participation in the War of 1812**
Jonathan Seiling, University of Toronto
- 3:20-4:30 p.m. **'Victory' Reception** featuring 'Pearls of Time'

Registration is free but space is limited. All participants must be preregistered.

*Registrations will be accepted until **Friday, February 10, 2012** or until the registration is at capacity. Donations to help defray costs will be gratefully received and can be made online at www.grandriver.ca or at the event.*

Register online by visiting www.brant.ca and following the EZReg Register Online links or return a completed form to Krystyna Lazar, County of Brant, 66 Grand River St. N. Paris, ON N3L 2M2 Email: recprograms@brant.ca Phone: 519-442-6324 ext. 3023 Fax: 519-442-3461

Name: _____
 Title: _____
 Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

HOSTED BY: Heritage Working Group of The Grand Strategy

SPONSORED BY: City of Brantford, County of Brant, Grand River Conservation Authority,

ORGANIZED BY: City of Brantford, County of Brant, Grand River Conservation Authority, Heritage Working Group of The Grand Strategy





SUPPORT A HEALTHY LANDSCAPE,
CLEAN AIR & GREAT NATURAL PLACES...

This holiday season

GIVE GREEN

GIVING GREEN is a great choice for that hard to buy for person – and it’s an investment in our natural world for generations to come!

Your holiday gift of:

\$50 buys an outdoor learning kit for a child attending a class at one of our Nature Centres - bringing discovery of nature to their fingertips

\$30 will cover the cost to plant a tree in your Grand River valley community; or

\$20 will help care for the GRCA’s natural areas and trail systems, which are free to the public and add so much to our quality of life.

Each donor will receive a thank you letter, tax receipt and a beautiful holiday card. If you prefer, we can send the holiday card directly to the recipient so that it arrives in time for the holidays.



It’s easy to give:

Click www.grcf.ca
Call **1-877-29-GRAND** or
E-mail the Foundation at
dhartley@grandriver.ca

Please note that orders must be placed by December 16, 2011. Charitable receipts will be issued for donations.

The Grand River Conservation Foundation supports priority programs of the Grand River Conservation Authority. These programs enrich the natural values of the Grand River watershed and encourage people to enjoy and learn from the outdoors.

