

GRAND

THE GRAND STRATEGY NEWSLETTER

ACTIONS

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 5 - MAY/JUNE 2000



Grand River
Conservation
Authority



The Grand:
A Canadian
Heritage River

INSIDE

Feature

The Grand by Pedal and
Paddle 1

Milestones

Forest Plan Workshop 3

What's Happening?

A Canadian Dream 3

Grand Relay Routes 4

Sustainable Community

Symposium 4

Doon Crossroads 4

Now Available

Vertical Reacher 5

Haldimand-Norfolk

Cycling Map 5

Look Who's Taking Action

Silt to Silver 5

Beer Store Earth Day 6

Trees for Guelph 6

Guelph Community

Boating Club 6

Sunoco Earth Day 6

William Wilson 7

Brantford Northwest

Pedestrian Bridge 7

Did You Know? 7

Calendar 8

Cover photo

Adrian O'Driscoll and his son Joe accompanied the Schneiders on the canoe trip described in this month's feature article.



THE GRAND BY PEDAL AND PADDLE

by Dan Schneider, Grand River Conservation Authority

"I want to bike!" said my seven-year old daughter. "I want to canoe!" said my nine-year old daughter. So we did both.

Biking was the first adventure. And weather was our first challenge. After a March replete with resplendent, balmy, summer-like days, I confidently set the biking date for the first weekend in April. On the eve of our adventure, it snowed.

Undeterred, Sophie and I chose a section of the Cambridge to Paris Rail Trail as our route. Early spring sun had melted the snow, and we set off along the trail at Glen Morris in high spirits. At least, I thought, we would have the trail to ourselves this frigid morning.

Within ten minutes, we were passed by over 500 cyclists, all taking part in a cross-country race starting at Adventures on the Grand. But we didn't mind the assault, and my daughter Sophie began to enjoy the spectacle of grim, bespattered racers grunting past. "Why do they have numbers on their bikes, Daddy?" "Why

are they so dirty, Daddy?"

Soon enough, we were left in peace. We rolled through tranquil woodlands - through is advisedly chosen, because you feel immersed in nature on rail trails. We pedalled through waves of spring smells, the sweet smell of balsam poplar buds, the damp organic smell of wet spring leaves, the fresh watery smell of the Grand River. We rolled through the sounds of spring, the plaintive whistling of chickadees, the cheerful chatter of a song sparrow, the chuckling of rapids on the Grand.

Considering the snow had just melted, the trail was remarkably dry, posing no problems for my narrow, street-type wheels. The raised bed of the former Lake Erie and Northern Railroad provided some great views down towards the river.

Teeth chattering, we (well, OK, it was just me who was cold, Sophie was fine in her snowsuit and boots) admired the beautiful vista at the Murray overlook.

• See page 2

PEDAL AND PADDLE

from page one

Turkey vultures soared low in the strong wind, eyeing us hopefully, I thought, to see if we might perish before we made Paris. Farther along, I spied wild leeks poking through the woodland leaves. We stopped for a quick snack. We both enjoyed the strong onion flavour before I realized that we were meeting folk in Paris and we were unequipped, breathmint-wise.

Back on our trusty metal steeds, we resumed our trek towards Paris. Along with a few other recreational bikers, we occasionally passed hikers and joggers, all enjoying the rail trail in early spring. All too soon we rolled into Paris. This peaceful, sleepy town, perched between the Grand and Nith Rivers, seemed like a seething metropolis compared to the rail trail.

Sophie felt seven-year old pride in our bike trek, and I felt the glow of a just-completed family adventure in nature. Next time, we'll try other sections, or the whole trail from Cambridge to Brantford. At just over 30 kilometres long, it's a good day excursion. I'm looking forward to tackling the even longer, Elora Cataract Trailway or the Brantford to Hamilton Rail Trail.

A week later, I found myself drifting downstream from Cambridge towards Glen Morris. The Grand was chugging along at a good pace, but with our current drought conditions, much slower than during normal April flows.

Our canoe's crew (consisting of my nine-year old daughter, Kiera, and my twelve-year old niece, Mara) really enjoyed the lesson in river canoeing. Reading the water became a fun challenge for them, and they soon became experts at spotting the surface turbulence created by rocks that lurked just underwater. "Rock straight ahead," they would chorus, "go starboard!" As I expected, we did scrape at times, but with a canoe as blemished as an old



There are many ways to enjoy the Grand River. These students are taking part in a river expedition on the Grand as part of a day camp experience through Apps' Mill Nature Centre, Brantford. Some local outfitters now provide public rafting outings.

hockey player's face, I wasn't going to worry about a few more scratches. Occasional small rapids were exhilarating, and required no special white-water canoeing skills (although I wouldn't want to drift through them sideways). Cambridge to Glen Morris is a kid-friendly section that avoids a more challenging rapids section just downstream.

Along the way, we were constantly entertained by the river's abundant wildlife. Canada Geese honked and splashed out of our way, while others hunched quietly on nests along the shore. Mallards were everywhere, and we occasionally scared up some more unusual ducks, including four beautiful black-and-white bufflehead males that whirled away like little wind-up helicopters. I was surprised to discover a huge mute swan standing guard on the riverbank; beside him, his mate nestled comfortably on a clutch of eggs. Once, we drifted past a Great Blue Heron, hunched Quasimodo fashion on a huge black willow.

Between the many wildlife highlights,

we enjoyed drifting past beautiful scenery. From Cambridge to Paris, the Grand passes through Carolinian forest, a rare type of southern Ontario woodland that thrives in the Grand's sheltered valley. Often, we steered close to shore, looking in among the trees to spot early spring wildflowers. At the forest-river edge, Kiera spotted a muskrat, mouth full of grass for its nest, before it slipped into the water and dived.

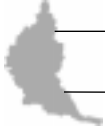
Hardly after we set off from Cambridge, it seemed, our take-out point at Glen Morris was in sight. But even this short, two-hour, river cruise gave us a new look at the Grand valley. More used to canoeing our northern lakes, I felt great having experienced a river in our own back yard. My crew of two hardened voyageurs also agreed it was an awesome day. We'll do it again.

If you go:

The book, *Canoeing the Grand*, is an important resource, with good maps and information about different sections of the river. It is available from the GRCA (see address on page 8) or

local bookstores and outfitters. Brochures describing all the GRCA Rail Trails are also available at the GRCA headquarters. Stay a good distance away from dams, even small ones - the currents above and below the dam can be extremely dangerous.

Dan Schneider is a GRCA Resource Interpreter. He is a well-known nature and travel writer and especially enjoys introducing children to nature.



MILESTONES

Milestones are progress or products of *The Grand Strategy* Joint Work Plan.

Forest Plan Workshop a Success

On April 1st, 51 people gave up a beckoning, spring Saturday to attend a workshop and show their support and enthusiasm for the proposed Grand River Watershed Forest Plan. There was general agreement that the only way for a plan of this nature to succeed is to build it from the ground up, a plan written by the community for the community.

Virgil Martin, from the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, focused on the Historical Perspectives and Values of the Grand River Forest including several photos showing forest and land use changes in the last 140 years. Dwight Boyd, a Senior Water Resources Engineer with the GRCA, gave an educational presentation on the effects of forests on the hydrology of the Grand River watershed. Several other speakers presented topics ranging from the values of community participation to lessons learned from other successful projects. The afternoon allowed the participants time to have open discussions and ask questions of staff and presenters. Progress was made towards defining the role of the plan in relation to the sustainable

future of the watershed, developing a mission statement for the plan, setting goals and strategies and deciding what steps the group would take next.

There is no doubt that the forests of the Grand River watershed play a vital role in many aspects of managing natural resources. They provide ground water recharge areas for aquifers, supply an economic base for many watershed residents and are home to a staggering variety of plant and animal life. Response to the plan so far indicates that there is no shortage of optimism that something can be done to ensure a fitting forest legacy for the future, and that the watershed communities have the willingness to do it. For more information contact Jason Culp, Watershed Forest Specialist, at (519) 621-2761 ext.295, or by e-mail at jculp@grandriver.on.ca



WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Celebrate a Canadian Dream

Imagine stepping onto a trail in your community and knowing that if you keep walking, you'll end up on the shores of the Pacific, Arctic or Atlantic Oceans. This dream is becoming a reality as the world's longest recreational trail — the Trans Canada Trail nears completion.

As it winds its way through the heart of the Grand River watershed, the Trans Canada Trail will link the communities

of the Grand with each other and the rest of the country. Much of the trail will be alongside the Grand River, and trail users will experience the Grand's distinctive heritage and beauty as they pass through floodplains, wetlands, Carolinian forests, rare prairie grasslands, lush countryside, and vibrant urban centres.

The Trail brings us one step closer to achieving the vision in *The Grand Strategy for Managing the Grand as a Canadian Heritage River* (1994) of a network of interconnecting trails to attract increasing numbers of vacationers to the Grand River watershed.

Between February and September 2000, the official inauguration of the Trans Canada Trail will be celebrated with the Trans Canada Relay 2000, hosted by communities throughout Canada. You can learn more about the Trans Canada Trail at www.tctrail.ca

Over 5,000 Canadians will carry water drawn from the Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic Oceans along the 16 100 kilometre route while cycling, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling or horseback riding. Special community events will be held along the route.

The Relay culminates on September 9th, 2000, in the National Capital Region where the waters will be symbolically joined in a newly-created Trans Canada Trail Fountain.

In the Grand River watershed, celebrations are being planned along the relay route between August 14th and August 20th. On these days, the relay will wind across the Grand River watershed from three directions, (north, west and south), with carriers transporting water from the Arctic and Pacific Oceans.

Relay 2000 is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate our great Canadian Dream come true. Get involved — be a part of history. Join the celebrations in your community.

Grand Relay Routes

On August 14th, the Trans Canada Relay 2000 will enter the Grand River watershed from the northeast near Hillsburgh and will proceed along the Elora Cataract Trailway to Belwood. On August 15th, it will extend from Belwood to Elora, and the next day will move from Elora to Guelph, and then to Elmira. The relay will pass through the Region of Waterloo and the County of Brant along the Cambridge to Paris Rail Trail on August 17th and 18th and enter the City of Brantford on the 19th. At the same time, the relay will be entering the watershed on August 18th at Oakland and will go through Mt. Pleasant on August 19th to join up with the relay coming from the north at Brantford. On August 20th, the relay will move along the Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail into the Dundas Valley.

In the south end of the watershed, the relay will pass through Dunnville and Caledonia on August 20th. The following day, the relay will commence from Caledonia and will converge with the route from Brantford at Hamilton Harbour. For more information regarding specific community events, call your local municipal office.

Sustainable Community Symposium

On Saturday, April 1st, approximately 100 people gathered at the Orangeville Convention Centre to explore needs and challenges relating to social, environment, heritage and economic issues – the four pillars for sustainable communities. The symposium was conceived as the start of a community building exercise to increase the sharing of information such as infrastructure expertise and skills. Hosted by Environment Canada and the County of Dufferin, the event featured speakers presenting information

around four key themes including:

1. Atmospheric Hazards, Community Safety and Public Participation
2. Social Values and Evolving Issues
3. Environment, Agriculture and Economic Futures and,
4. Natural Heritage, Conservation, Recreation, Education and Community.

Keeping the headwaters area healthy is particularly important for residents of southern Ontario and the Grand River watershed as it is the source area for five major Ontario Rivers including the Grand, Maitland, Saugeen, Nottawassaga and the Credit. We applaud the County of Dufferin in initiating this community process and for setting an example for other watershed communities in promoting sustainability.

Doon Heritage Crossroads

Doon Heritage Crossroads, the sixty-acre living history museum in Kitchener, has ranked number one in a recent assessment of more than 200 community museums in Ontario. The assessment was part of the annual Community Museum Operating Grant Program

administered and funded by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

Museums were evaluated on their ability to meet a number of museum operating standards in such areas as research, artifact collection records, staff training, exhibits, public interpretation, education programs and conservation of the collection.

Doon Heritage Crossroads celebrates life in a re-created Waterloo County village in the early 1900s, in addition to preserving objects from the Region's history. The Region of Waterloo assumed ownership of the village from the GRCA in 1983. Over the years there has been a steady expansion of services including wheelchair accessibility to most of the buildings. Each year the non-profit site hosts over 40,000 visitors from the Region and all over the world. Special events and celebrations allow visitors to feel part of the past and take part in hands-on activities and re-creations of holiday customs. Doon Heritage Crossroads is open all year. For more information, call (519) 748-1914.



School children outside the Post Office at Doon Heritage Crossroads enjoy a chance to dress up and experience a quieter, more simple era.

NOW AVAILABLE

Vertical Reacher

"Keeping Ontario Beautiful" starts with the our own communities. Spring is a time when the environmentally-conscious become involved in cleanup projects and the restoration of beauty. A new product from R & B Distribution will make this job easier, safer and more appealing to most of us who do not like to handle garbage.

The Vertical Reacher combines dexterity for picking up the smallest items such as cigarette butts and pop can tabs, and strength for lifting water-logged items like bottles filled with water. There have been no reported injuries while using the Reacher, and even individuals with back problems can participate in a cleanup program.

R & B Distribution is a company that has a strong environmental interest. Owners James and Betty McKinnon's initial project in 1998 was the Wrigley's Corner Cleanup. In 1999, their goal was to encourage community involvement and as a result there was an inspiring cooperation from Heritage Truck Lines Inc. in the Waterloo Region's Adopt a Road Program. Community involvement continued with the contribution of the Ayr Boy Scouts in this year's spring clean up of 5.3 kilometres of road from Ayr to Highway 24.

James and Betty used the Reacher for garbage cleanup since the initial project, and the simplicity of use and overwhelming results have prompted the launch of a campaign for others to experience the benefits of this product.

The Reacher costs \$18.95, with a discount for orders of 10 or more. For more information contact James or Betty, R & B Distribution, at 519-632-8240 or 1-888-999-9068, or email: randbdist@on.aibn.com



James McKinnon demonstrates the Vertical Reacher on a roadside clean up.

Haldimand-Norfolk Cycling Map

Cycling is a healthy, non-polluting way to see the special beauty of the Grand River watershed and neighbouring areas. Eleven recommended cycling routes in Haldimand-Norfolk region are shown on an innovative tourist map, *Cycling in Haldimand Norfolk*.

The pocket-sized map was co-produced by the Haldimand-Norfolk Cycling Advisory Group and Haldimand-Norfolk Economic Development with support funding from Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation. You can order complimentary copies by calling 519-586-TOUR or e-mail: cycling@kwic.com. Copies are also available from tourism and municipal offices throughout the Haldimand-Norfolk region.

LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

Ten Years of Silt to Silver

by Eleni Turnbull

It seems like only yesterday when a rather green group of the new Laurel Creek Citizens' Committee first gathered at Laurel Creek Conservation Area in Waterloo ten years ago. Our mission was creek and habitat restoration, put the riffles back into Laurel Creek; restore the health of our creeks so that brown trout would once again feel at home here. A rather lofty ambition, but we called ourselves the "Siltbusters", and as siltbusters, we felt we had a chance to get it right!

Hardworking bodies, dedicated souls, and many hours later, our efforts showed significant progress. This winter I walked the creek areas where we have worked, and I am proud of the visible improvements. The brown trout are back in Laurel Creek (I saw a school of at least 40) and enchanting silvery riffles are a lovely sight to see and hear.

In our archives we have two videos about our work, as well as several photo albums showing the work sites, and works in progress. Not to mention the numerous cheerful and energetic volunteers who have joined our efforts. It pleases me that we have also become an outdoor, hands-on learning experience, science-classroom-in-the-creek that has benefited so many elementary and high school students.

I wonder who will get the prize this year for the most sensational slip, trip and stumble until your chest waders get soaked. Soaked on the inside, that is!

For more information about the Laurel Creek Citizens' Committee, or to become a volunteer, please call Pauline Richards, at (519) 888-6917.

Beer Store Earth Day

On April 15th, thirsty Beer Store customers also helped the environment. The Grand River Foundation participated in an Earth Day promotion with Beer Store patrons at nine locations in the Grand River watershed. Customers at these stores contributed their empty bottle returns to local conservation work. Over \$3,200 total was raised for trail and stream rehabilitation work.

Many GRCA staff volunteered their time on the day, as well as the volunteers from Friends of the Grand River in Fergus, Elora Cataract Trailway Association in Guelph, and Bill Thompson and the Lackenbauer family in Kitchener.

Trees for Guelph

Once again, Guelph and area students are thinking globally and acting locally.

Trees for Guelph would like to thank everyone involved in this spring's tree planting activities. Students from St. James High School and Central Public School, Guelph, completed a naturalized planting along the Auden Drain with funding support from Shell Environment Fund.

Guelph Collegiate Vocation Institute students planted 250 white ash and sugar maple saplings at Starkey Hill, a popular hiking spot southeast of Guelph. Funding for this project is through the Enbridge Community Based Environmental Community Initiative Program.

Students from Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener participated in their school Envirothon by planting a variety of native trees and shrubs along a walking trail at McNeil Consumer Healthcare in Guelph. For more information about Trees for Guelph contact (519) 621-2763, ext. 268.



Brant MPP Dave Levac (centre) helped greet donors at the Earth Day Beer Store promotion held on April 15th, assisted by Brantford Beer Store employee Dan Kring (left) and student volunteers Gini Beaumont and Jill Kring. Customers at the Brantford store contributed to the \$3,200 total raised for local environmental work.

Guelph Community Boating Club

The Grand River watershed is blessed not only with fine river recreation, but also several large reservoirs. These provide not only flood control for local communities and water for consistent river flow in the summer, but are also great recreation areas for environmentally-friendly boaters. Guelph Lake has been home to the Guelph Community Boating Club since 1977. Small sailboats predominate in the Clubs "stable" but canoes, kayaks, sailboards and rowing shells are also represented. The Club's Cooperative Boating Program makes sailing possible for many who enjoy the water but do not have their own craft. The club has twelve sailboats which are shared by 225 family members. The smallest boat in the Co-op program is the Optimist Pram, a great favourite with children. The most popular boats are capable of carrying two or three people.

Thirty different communities around Guelph are represented in the 400- strong

membership with about half the members participating in the rapidly-expanding Cooperative Program.

For more information about the Boating Club, contact the Membership Secretary, Cassie Henwood, (519) 826-6873, or email shenwood@easynet.ca

Sunoco Earth Day

The Sunoco Earth Day event at Southwest Optimist Park in Kitchener was a great success. On April 29, over 250 people turned out to plant 1,000 trees and shrubs. Nature crafts, face painting and other entertainment made this a fun day for many families.

The event owes its success to many partners including Earth Day Canada, Sunoco Inc. and the Suncor Energy Foundation, the GRCA, City of Kitchener and the Southwest Optimist Club. Thanks to all who organized the event and to all who participated in the planting, the future will be greener and healthier for this part of the Grand River watershed.

William Wilson

Since the mid-seventies, William Wilson of Cambridge has been observing and recording bird species along the Speed and Grand Rivers between the 401 bridge and the Galt Golf and Country Club, and from Riverside Park to the river's confluence. His records include weekly observations, from 1994, along the Linear Trail of the Cambridge Riverbank Trail System.

The area at the confluence of the Speed and the Grand Rivers is recognized as a premier winter waterfowl feeding and resting area in the Region of Waterloo and acknowledged as an Environmentally Sensitive Policy Area (ESPA 36) in the Regional Official Policies Plan. Bill Wilson's meticulously collected records and recommendations were used in 1995 to delineate and extend the boundaries of ESPA 36. He has also prepared and revised regularly a checklist of birds for the Riverbank Trail Committee for distribution to Linear Trail users.

To date, Bill has observed and recorded 208 species in the checklist area. Of these, 44 species are known to breed in the area. His hobby provides not only fresh air and good exercise, but current and valuable information on local bird populations.

Although the Wilsons are dedicated bird watchers and travel to many other areas at home and abroad, Bill enjoys the challenge of continual observation of his home turf. He compares his hobby to that of playing the piano. His home area provides him with regular practice and hones his skills for the more exotic areas he visits.

Bill Wilson would like to see bird observations extended to other sections of the Cambridge Riverbank Trail. Trail users with bird identification skills and an interest in contributing to a database for developing other bird checklists should contact Bill at (519) 653-1274 or email wgwilson@mgl.ca

Northwest Pedestrian Bridge Brantford

Hikers and residents of the City of Brantford will both benefit from a new bridge in Brantford. The two-level bridge will carry both city utilities and pedestrians over the Grand River. The lower deck carries water and sewer pipes to the northwest part of the city. The upper deck is part of the local trail connection with the Trans Canada Trail.

Before construction by the City of Brantford, the Six Nations of the Grand River endorsed the concept and will be partners in the opening celebrations on June 17, 2000 at 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For the event, vehicle access will be allowed through the Blue Circle Aggregates property off Hardy Road. Celebrations will include a ceremonial tree planting, the blessing of the bridge, and a reading by Mona Staats of the Six Nations. Many other attractions at the event will include music, dancers, canoe rides, and a four gun salute by the Brant Muzzleloaders.

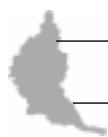


Marlene Hawkins admires the fine job done by her grandson Jeffrey McArdle at the Sunoco Earth Day tree planting in Kitchener.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1982, it was estimated that there were 3,059,000 sites for public picnics in the Grand River watershed.
- The Brant Park and Byng Island Conservation Areas have two of the largest outdoor swimming pools in Ontario.
- The highest recorded temperature in the Grand River watershed was at Brantford on July 7, 1988, at 38.5°C.
- Water skiing is a common past time on river stretches above the Caledonia Dam and the Dunnville Dam in the southern part of the river.
- There are about 103 kilometres of trails registered with the Trans Canada Trail that are owned or jointly owned by the GRCA.
- The Trans Canada Trail will be the longest hiking trail in the world at 16 100 kilometres.
- The Trans Canada Trail will enter the Grand River watershed through the Elora Cataract Trailway in the north and link the communities of Guelph, Fergus, Elora, Elmira, Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Paris, Brantford, Caledonia, and Dunnville.
- Tom Longboat (1886-1949), from the Six Nations near Brantford, was the first Canadian to make his living solely from sports. He was an outstanding Canadian runner who won the Boston Marathon in 1907, and competed in the 1908 Olympics.
- Grand River Country is a joint marketing initiative of various tourism organizations and GRCA to draw visitors to the area for a more extended stay.
- In 1891, West Side Park in Waterloo was created around Abraham Erb's mill pond. The lake became

• See page 8



THE GRAND STRATEGY CALENDAR

Cambridge Tour-de-Grand, Annual Cycling Tour, May 28, 2000. Cycle routes for all abilities. Register for a map, group leader, T-shirt, refreshments and sag wagons. Call (519) 740-4681, ext. 4229, for information.

Belwood Lions Club Pike Derby, Belwood Lake, May 27 to 28, 2000. For details on registration contact Gerry Ellen, (519) 843-2990.

Ensuring the Future of Heritage Elms, June 2, 2000, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Organized by the Ontario Shade Tree Council and hosted by The Arboretum, University of Guelph. Information available at (416) 631-8111.

Flyfishing Forum, Belwood Lake, June 3, 2000. For registration and other details call Larry McGratton, (519) 843-3102.

Caring for Our Land: Stewardship and Conservation in Canada, June 3 to 6, 2000, a National Millennium Conference at the University of Guelph. Contact Peter Mitchell, (519) 824-4120, or email claws@uoguelph.ca

21st Annual Speed River Clean-up, June 3, 2000 at 9:30 a.m. Royal City Park Guelph. For more information call OPIRG-Guelph at (519) 824-2091.

Environment Sustainability Awards, June 8, 2000, at the City Hall, Kitchener. Awards will be presented in recognition of environmental innovation in the Region of Waterloo.

Kiwanis Club Canoe Trek, Sunday, June 11, 2000, Cambridge to Paris, with barbecue and prizes. Kiwanis supply the canoe for \$30 adult, \$25 child. Cost \$20 adult, \$15 child, with own canoe. Proceeds to Kiwanis Youth Programs. For information call Ross McDonald at (519) 622-1628.

Homer Watson House and Gallery, 6th Annual Open House and Lawn Party, Doon, Sunday June 11, 12 noon to 4 p.m. Opening of the millennium show *The Landscapes of Homer Watson*. Activities include a celebrity paint-off with Peter Etril Snyder, demonstrations, entertainment and refreshments. For information contact Homer Watson House at (519) 748-4377

Ecological History Walking Tour, Speed River, Sunday June 18, 2000, at 1:00 p.m. from the Boathouse Tearoom, Guelph. Official trail head sign unveiling with guided tours of the river. For more information contact Brian at OPIRG-Guelph at (519) 824-2091, or email: speedrp@yahoo.com

River Rendezvous 2000, June 23 to 25, at Bingeman Park, Kitchener. A celebration of rivers sponsored by Ontario Streams. For details call Ryan Plummer at (519) 824-4120 or see the website www.riverrendevous.com

International Conference on Climate Change Communications, June 22 to 24, 2000, Sheraton Hotel, Kitchener. Topics include stakeholder perceptions and understanding of climate change, raising awareness and overcoming barriers to action. Contact Keith Warriner at (519) 888-4567, ext. 3678, for registration and event details.

Byng Island Grand Pool Opening, Sunday, June 25, 2000, at Byng Island, Dunnville, at 1 p.m. Free pool admission. Park admission applies.

DID YOU KNOW?

from page seven

known as Silver Lake and the park became Waterloo Park.

- Waterloo Park was famous in the early 1900s for its concerts. Under the leadership of Professor C. F. Thiele, the Waterloo Musical Society Band became a well-known part of national musical history.
- The Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail is built on the abandoned roadbed of the Toronto Hamilton and Buffalo Railway, which was affectionately known as the "To Hell and Back".

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is produced as a communications tool by the Grand River Conservation Authority on behalf of the partners in *The Grand Strategy*.

This newsletter can be seen (without photographs) on the Internet at www.grandriver.on.ca/gractndx.html

For information on *The Grand Strategy*

Contact Barbara Veale, GRCA, 400 Clyde Road, Box 729, Cambridge ON N1R 5W6.

Phone: (519) 621-2761.

Fax: (519) 621-4844

Email: bveale@grandriver.on.ca

Website: <http://www.grandriver.on.ca>

For newsletter submissions

Contact the Editor, Liz Leedham, c/o Barbara Veale at the above address. Newsletter submissions must be made by the 15th of the month prior to publication, and may be subject to editorial change. Tax deductible donations and sponsorships toward the cost of producing this newsletter are always welcome. Please contact Barbara Veale at (519) 621-2761, ext. 274, for more information.

Publications Mail

Agreement #1448471