

# GRAND ACTIONS

THE GRAND STRATEGY NEWSLETTER

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Grand River  
Conservation  
Authority



The Grand:  
A Canadian  
Heritage River

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The River Run Centre in Guelph, on the banks of the Speed River, was the site for the highly successful, first Grand River Watershed Forum, held in September 2001.



## A FOCUS ON WATER

by Barbara Veale, Grand River Conservation Authority

Water, a resource that many Canadians have taken for granted, has been the focus of much debate and discussion over the past twelve months. In the aftermath of the Walkerton tragedy, concerns about the protection of water sources and water quality have come to the fore. With record heat and low rainfall this summer, people experienced the effects of drought conditions. Restrictions and even bans on lawn watering were put in place by municipalities throughout southern Ontario. Many farmers watched their crops wither in the heat and dry weather. Golf course operators were asked to voluntarily reduce their water use for irrigation. Water quantity and allocation issues rose dramatically over the summer months.

These recent concerns have sparked interest in reassessing the health and management of our surface and groundwater in the Grand River watershed. This interest was apparent at the first Grand River Watershed Water Forum. Over 250 people attended the Water Forum at

the River Run Centre in Guelph to find out more about how our water is currently being managed by municipalities, businesses and the GRCA. The Forum was sponsored by the GRCA, The Grand River Foundation and the Ministry of the Environment.

The Water Forum opened with an address from the Hon. Elizabeth Witmer, Minister of the Environment. In her address, Mrs. Witmer commended the GRCA and its member municipalities for their efforts over the years, which have reduced flood damages, improved water quality, provided sufficient river flows for water supply, and protected natural areas. She noted that the process of building partnerships, finding effective solutions and taking collective action on a watershed basis was a model that the Ministry of the Environment will be promoting throughout the Province.

Welcoming the participants were Peter Krause, Chairman, GRCA; Karen Farbridge, Mayor, City of Guelph; Alex Lang, President,

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## WATER

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The Grand River Foundation; and Peter Mason, Chair, Water Manager's Working Group. The program was skillfully moderated by Lorraine Bergstrand, Mayor, Haldimand County, in the morning, and Chris Wren, ESG International Inc., in the afternoon.

Lorrie Minshall, Manager of Watershed Planning for the GRCA, set the context for the day. Lorrie indicated that the Grand River watershed, with a drainage area of about 7 000 km<sup>2</sup>, is one of the fastest growing areas in Ontario. A growth rate of 37% is expected over the next 20 years, resulting in a population increase of over 300,000 people. The majority of growth is expected to take place in existing urban areas in the central watershed where, paradoxically, moraines and sand plains with complex groundwater systems and sensitive and specialized wildlife habitats are located. Over 90% of the watershed is rural and intensively farmed. Rapid urban growth and agricultural intensification combined with recent drought conditions have increased the public's concern about protecting the quality of groundwater resources and surface water supplies, securing long-term water supplies, dealing with increasing wastewater, and maintaining a viable water-based tourism industry.

To tackle these pressing water concerns, the GRCA is working closely with watershed municipalities, provincial agencies, industry, Six Nations, and others to examine surface and groundwater characteristics, flows and linkages. This work is providing essential information about areas susceptible to contamination and potential sources of groundwater. A water budget is also in progress that quantifies the amount of surplus water available, after streamflow, evaporation and any human uses have been accounted for. If the water budget is



*The Grand River Watershed Forum was opened by the Hon. Elizabeth Witmer, Minister of the Environment.*

negative for a particular area, then too much water is being removed. Where positive, there is surplus water to allocate. The water budget is influenced by various factors such as climate change, land use change, population increases, and agricultural intensification. Future scenarios, looking at these and other factors, are being developed to determine impacts. The information collected to date already provides real insights into where and what types of development are appropriate and where new water-taking permits might be considered.

Low water conditions in 2001 prompted another joint initiative—the Low Water Response Plan. This plan ensures that the GRCA, watershed municipalities and high water-use industries such as golf courses and aggregate producers respond promptly and appropriately to low and critically low river flow conditions.

The GRCA and its partners are carrying out several initiatives to:

- 1: Achieve excellence in wastewater management.
- 2: Slow the growing demand for water.

- 3: Protect groundwater resources.
- 4: Expand the Rural Water Quality Program.
- 5: Maintain the existing water control system.
- 6: Develop long-term water quality and water budget/water supply plans.
- 7: Celebrate success.

A tradition of cooperative management is long standing in the Grand River watershed. In the 1930s, the deteriorating water quality and variable river flows created serious threats to the health and safety of watershed residents. Collective efforts resulted in dramatic improvements. Recent drought and water quality issues in Ontario have reminded us that our water is precious and must be carefully managed. We need to continue to work together to secure a healthy and safe environment, now and in the future. The key message of Lorrie's presentation was that people are indeed continuing to work together and are taking action to tackle pressing water issues on a watershed basis.

Municipalities in the Grand River watershed have played an important role in managing water. During the morning's panel presentation and discussion, Mike Murray, Regional Municipality of Waterloo; Dale Murray, Triton Engineering Services Limited (representing the Township of Centre Wellington); James Etienne, City of Guelph; and Patrick Halevy, City of Brantford; spoke about innovative programs and projects at the local level. Each municipality represented indicated a commitment to improving drinking water quality, securing long-term water supply, and improving wastewater treatment.

The lengthy lunch break allowed participants the time to share thoughts and expertise with others and to peruse the twenty-five informative and interactive displays that profiled new water technologies and innovative programs and services.

The afternoon began with an inspirational message by Henry Lickers, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Henry reminded us that water is more than something we must manage. It is a precious gift, given to us by our Creator. It is our lifeblood and the link that binds us together as a community. It provides solace and inspiration. It has a fascinating quality that draws us and speaks to us. We have a responsibility to treat water respectfully and with reverence for the benefit of and use by future generations.

Tracey Ryan and Thomas Schmidt spoke about two programs that have been started by the Regional Municipality of Waterloo to encourage water quality improvements in the agricultural and business sectors.

The Rural Water Quality Program is a source protection program, delivered by the GRCA and funded by municipalities, to cost-share selected agricultural best management practices to improve and protect ground and surface water quality. In 1998, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo was the first municipality to allocate funds (\$1.5 million over 5 years) towards this program. The County of Wellington and the City of Guelph followed suit in 1999 with an allocation of \$1.35 million over 5 years. In 2001, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs committed \$740,000 to a Healthy Waters Project in Wellington County and the federal Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative provided \$209,000 to expand the program beyond Waterloo-Wellington boundaries. To date, over 200 projects have been completed. Landowners have shared significantly in the cost of these projects. Improvements to local water quality are apparent. Tracey emphasized that the strength of the Rural Water Quality Program lies in the fact that it was developed locally with the agricultural

community and other stakeholders.

The Business Water Quality Program was modeled after the Rural Water Quality Program. The program, launched in June 2001, provides financial grants and technical assistance to local business, for equipment and training to prevent water pollution. The Regional Municipality of Waterloo is providing \$1.5 million toward the program over the next 5 years, with additional support from Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement is delivering the program. Thomas indicated that the program is available to any business in the Region.

Many businesses in the Grand River watershed have taken a proactive and aggressive role in reducing water use and improving wastewater quality. Lydia Chudleigh, St. Mary's Hospital, Kitchener; Kevin Jones, Ontario Centre of Environmental Technology Advancement; Shelly Speir, Westcast Industries Inc., Brantford; and Ralph Shapiro, Huntsman Corporation, Guelph; pro-

vided examples of how local businesses are committed to changing the way they do business by finding and using innovative technologies and "doing the right thing".

Peter Gray and Lisa Volpini from Frontline Corporate Communications Inc. gave insights to businesses and agencies on communicating environmental issues to the public using case studies including Walkerton and Ralgreen Crescent in Kitchener. Lisa emphasized the importance of Anticipating situations and being Prepared and Practiced. With these strengths in place, Credibility and control are the result or, as she illustrated, " $A + P^2 = C + c$ ". Also, communicating early and often with the public is key. Succinctly put, "no crisis is unforgivable; only the response is."

At the end of the day, Derek Doyle reminded us all that we are doing great things together and encouraged us to continue to collaborate to find effective solutions to water and other environmental problems on a watershed basis.

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*The Grand River Foundation announced this year's recipients of its three annual environmental scholarships at the Watershed Water Forum. (Left to Right), Sheri Flegel, Andrea Moher, Foundation President Alex Lang, and Melissa Fortin.*

## WATER

from page three

The important factors are commitment, political will, cooperation, and action. We are moving forward. We have reason to be proud of our achievements, to celebrate our joint successes, and to take a leadership role in watershed management locally, provincially and nationally.

The Grand River Watershed Water Forum was so well received by participants that plans are already being made for a follow-up event next year. It is anticipated that the Water Forum will become an annual event promoting continuing dialogue among water providers, water users, and water managers in the Grand River watershed.

### Watershed Wanders

The Grand River Watershed Water Forum also provided an excellent opportunity for the GRCA, The Grand River Foundation and other sponsors to acknowledge the work and dedication of Dr. Frank Glew. Frank has developed an educational unit and teacher's resource kit called *Watershed Wanders*. The kit features the Grand River watershed and is complementary to the school curriculum. As a retired educator, Frank has put endless hours of effort and dedication into the development of this kit. In Frank's words "It is our moral obligation to the future to plan and nurture a positive self concept in our children and grandchildren by encouraging them to find beauty, love and happiness in themselves, others, other species and the world."

The project is a very successful community project involving many players, including TD Friends of the Environment, the Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology, GRCA, The Grand River Foundation, and 11 watershed school boards. Funding from ten local chapters of the Friends

of the Environment Foundation and the Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology permitted Frank to distribute one free kit to every elementary school in the watershed.

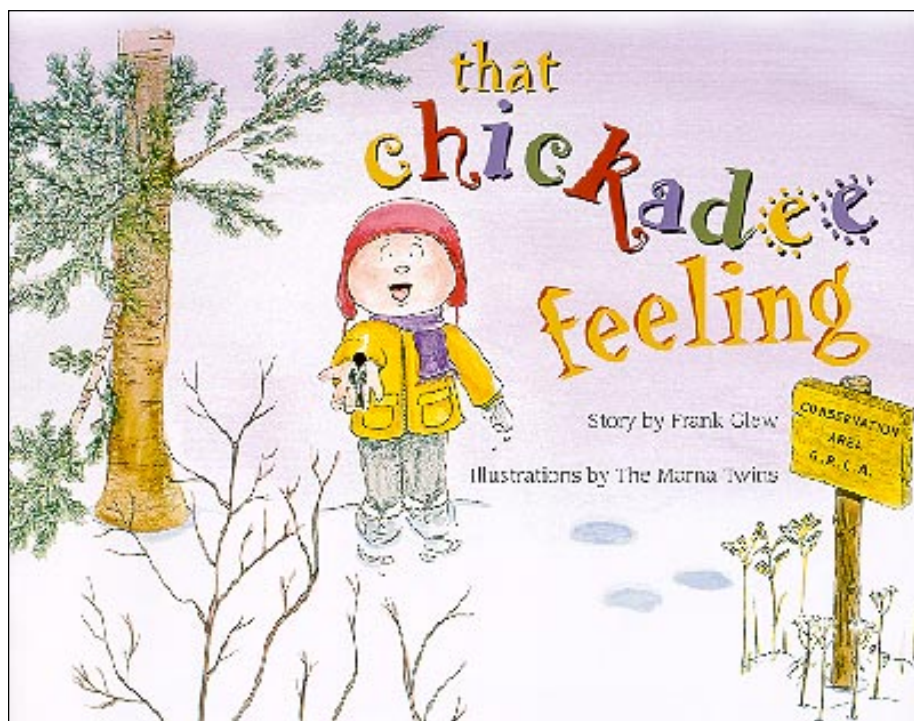
The most recent addition to the kit is a book written by Frank Glew. It is called *That Chickadee Feeling* and is a delightful story about a gregarious little Chickadee that is an inviting and spiritual vehicle for encouraging children to get in touch with nature.

At the Water Forum, Jennifer Orsan, from TD Friends of the Environment, presented Nancy Featherstone from the Wellington District Catholic School Board with a copy of *That Chickadee Feeling* and the accompanying teacher's guide in recognition of Frank's contribution toward educating our youth about the importance of conservation and stewardship.

### The Grand River Foundation's President's Reception

Since 1965, The Grand River Foundation has funded important conservation and environmental projects in the Grand River watershed. The Water Forum provided a unique opportunity and an excellent venue for the Foundation to showcase its fundraising achievements. For this reason, The Grand River Foundation became an enthusiastic sponsor of the Water Forum and decided to hold its annual fundraising event, the President's Reception, to conclude the Water Forum.

At the reception, a new, major fundraising initiative was announced by Foundation Director John Pollock, focussing on Children's Outdoor Education. Over \$18,000 was raised



*A new book by Frank Glew, "That Chickadee Feeling", will make an appealing Christmas gift for the youngsters in your life. Many watershed residents have fond memories of hand feeding chickadees in conservation areas and nature centres in the Grand River watershed. Don't forget to make a winter date for your family with a chickadee at Dickson Wilderness, between Galt and Cambridge, or at a nature centre near you.*

for this new program, which is a component of the Grand Champions—Clean Water Action Fund.

The Foundation also announced the year 2001 recipients of its three annual environmental scholarships, each worth \$1,500. Award winners are Sherri Flegel, Environmental and Resource Studies, University of Waterloo (Robert Haworth Scholarship); Andrea Moher, Geography and Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University, (Marcel Pequegnat Scholarship); and Melissa Fortin, School of Engineering, University of Guelph, (SC Johnson Environmental Scholarship).

## Autumn Trails in the Grand River Valley

by Katherine Jacob

Nature often hides its best secrets, waiting for brief periods throughout the year when it opens its treasure chest. It may be the few short weeks during spring when trilliums dot the forest floor, or the one summer evening a year when the Perseides meteor belt showers the night sky. Often you have to know when and where to look, or these natural events might pass you by.

Thankfully, autumn is the exception. One of the most vivid nature displays, it's visible throughout the Grand River valley. It highlights forests, brightens city streets, and even drops in at our doorsteps and backyards.

Trees actually hold yellow and orange in their leaves during the summer, but green dominates due to the strong presence of chlorophyll. In the fall, when the temperatures grow colder and the sun shines less, the chlorophyll breaks down and golden, orange and red hues paint the forests.

Although autumn can be seen all around us, there are spectacular trails in our region to visit during this time.



*A four metre (13 foot) walking bridge was made by Trees Unlimited in Welland, and Townsend Lumber in Tillsonburg and "won" by The Grand River Foundation at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in September. Cambridge volunteers placed it at the Dumfries Conservation Area, where it will make this natural area more accessible to hikers and nature lovers.*

Throughout the years, I've featured these pathways in the Kitchener Record's Trail Markers column. Following are my favourite Fall Colour Trails in Grand River Country:

In Cambridge, you can walk under a golden canopy on the Cambridge to Paris Rail Trail where the brilliant colours contrast with the blue of the Grand River. You'll see migratory waterfowl on the F.W.R. Dickson to Wrigley Lake Trail as you walk along two lakes.

Forests aren't the only places where fall colours are vibrant. Swamps hold their own tones, where reed stalks are tinted in bronze, sand and chestnut. On the Charles Whitney Trail in Cambridge's Riverside Park, creamy masses of seeds break through brown cattail spikes, spilling into puffy figures. Make sure you bring birdseed for the chickadees!

In Waterloo, maroon and tawny pigments dot the trails in Bechtel and Hillside Park. In Kitchener, the trails in

Steckle Woods wind from russett to amber. From Homer Watson Park's overlook, you can peer down on the treetops, a curtain of gold and vermilion wrapping the bend in the river. This scene is on the cover of Grand River Country Trails.

North of Guelph, Elora grows quiet after the rush of campers, tubers and kayakers. The trails that lead through the gorge and into the village take you through the serenity of a cedar forest, where traces of autumn drift on the air and in the river.

In Rockwood Conservation Area, leaves gather in the glacial potholes, some of these formations measuring up to 6 metres (20 feet) wide and 12 metres (40 feet) deep. An important migration stopover for shorebirds, Luther Marsh is one of the largest inland marshes in the province and is only an hour north of Kitchener (you must be careful hiking during hunting season).

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## AUTUMN TRAILS

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For longer fall hikes, the Grand Valley Trail takes you throughout the region and connects with the forty-seven kilometre, multi-use Elora Cataract trailway.

Whatever trail you choose, breathe in the fresh autumn air, the musty scents of fall and enjoy the trails!

*Katherine Jacob is a well-known watershed writer and photographer. She writes a weekly column for the K-W Record as well as travel articles for the Toronto Star and The Globe and Mail.*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival

The Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival promotes the art and heritage of quilting. This annual event is held throughout Waterloo Region and surrounding areas. It is one of the top 50 festivals in Ontario, and the largest quilt festival in Canada. There are over 40 events in 10 communities, including exhibits, workshops, lectures, merchants, teas, a huge quilt auction, the Ontario Juried Quilt Show, and more!

In 2002, watershed residents are invited to celebrate the Grand as a Canadian Heritage River through the artform of quilting. Quilts interpreting the life, geography or heritage resources of the Grand River watershed are welcome to be part of *The Grand River Quilt Celebration*. These quilts can feature both new quilted designs and old favourites. The Waterloo County and Elora Antique Warehouses have generously sponsored a \$500 viewer's choice award. The deadline for registrations is January 31, 2002 and quilts must be received for the exhibition by May 1, 2002.



*The Quilt Festival display was part of a shared exhibit with the GRCA and The Grand River Foundation at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in September.*

Sponsored by the Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival, GRCA, and The Grand River Foundation, *The Grand River Quilt Celebration* will be displayed in the GRCA headquarters from May 16-26<sup>th</sup> 2002. The display will also be available to other host communities.

Also, as part of the 2002 Quilt Festival, youth are encouraged to participate in celebrating the Grand River by entering the School Block Challenge. Students are invited to create designs in a 12 inch by 12 inch square using supplied fabric somewhere in the block. Small groups or an entire class can submit blocks that can be sewn by machine or hand, not quilted. There are three divisions for awards: pre-school-Grade 4, Grades 5-8, and Grades 9-OAC. All students will receive recognition for their entry. Entries must be submitted by April 19, 2002.

To receive registration forms for *The Grand River Quilt Celebration* or to find out more about the School Block Challenge, contact the Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival at 1-888-804-7909. For more information visit the website at [www.quiltcapitalfestival.com](http://www.quiltcapitalfestival.com)

### Canada's Outdoor Farm Show

Through a generous donation by Ginty Jocius and Associates, The Grand River Foundation, GRCA, and Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival placed a joint exhibit at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock on September 11-13, 2001.

On display were the American Sweet Chestnut Reintroduction Program, the Rural Water Quality Program, and the Grand River Quilt Celebration. Appearance at the Farm Show allowed each organization to showcase their efforts in the Grand River watershed as they relate to the agricultural community.

### Walkerton Inquiry

The GRCA with Conservation Ontario actively participated in the Walkerton Inquiry. Public hearings are drawing to a close and it is anticipated that Justice Dennis O'Connor will be forwarding recommendations to the Ontario Government early in 2002. In addition to submitting a paper entitled

*The Importance of Watershed Management in Protecting Ontario's Drinking Water Supplies*, Conservation Ontario participated in a number of expert meetings focusing on specific issues related to drinking water such as source protection, government responsibility, potential contamination, drinking water standards, and public involvement. During the summer, Conservation Ontario also participated in several public hearings focusing on the safety of Ontario's drinking water. Staff from the GRCA participated in all aspects of Conservation Ontario's submissions. The key message was that watershed management plays an important role in defining surface and groundwater characteristics, linkages, and availability and should be carried out in part to protect drinking water sources.

Justice O'Connor expressed an interest in finding out more about how watershed management was carried out by the GRCA. The Conservation Authority hosted an information session at its administration offices on September 21, 2001, to demonstrate various aspects of water management and its implementation to Justice O'Connor and his staff. At the conclusion of the presentations, he expressed his appreciation and commended the GRCA for the quality of its programs and the enthusiasm of staff.

## Pesticide-Free Lawn and Garden Advice

There is a growing concern in our country over the human health and environmental effects of lawn and garden chemicals. The Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) in Guelph is rounding out the first summer of a two-year, all-season program to help Guelph residents reduce pesticide use in their lawns and gardens. All spring, summer and fall, members of the Pesticide-Free Team have been conducting home consulta-

tions and workshops all over Guelph.

For ten dollars (or pay-what-you-can), consultation clients receive advice and learn tricks to keep their lawns and gardens beautiful and successful without harmful chemicals. To learn more about this program, call OPIRG at the University of Guelph 824-4120, ext. 2129. Email: [pesticidefreeguelph@yahoo.com](mailto:pesticidefreeguelph@yahoo.com).



## NOW AVAILABLE

### That Chickadee Feeling

Many outdoor people have experienced the magic of feeding a Black-capped Chickadee out of their hand. A new children's picture book captures this special moment. *That Chickadee Feeling* was written by Frank Glew, a retired Canadian educator with a doctorate in Environmental Science.

The story tells of a single mother and child bonding through an exciting meeting with the Black-capped Chickadee. The child is bored with television, computer and video games and wants something exciting to do. The mother wisely decides to take the child to a natural area for a chickadee experience. Here the child very quickly has a close personal encounter with a Chickadee and gets *That Chickadee Feeling*, a spine-tingling, overwhelming feeling of surprise as a chickadee lands on an outstretched hand. The child soon learns that a *Chickadee Feeling* can be obtained by other means. Mother and child discuss all the wonderful happy moments in their lives that are now known as *Chickadee Feelings*. The mother relates that her very, very best *Chickadee Feeling* was when she saw her child on the first day the baby was born. The story clearly shows the best gift you can give your child is your time. The book includes realistic illustrations of 24 local winter birds and teaches indirectly about the identification and

characteristics of a natural Chickadee animal community. The book is illustrated by twin sisters, Myrna and Marlene McBrien of Huntsville, both accomplished singers, artists and educators.

The book price is \$8.95 plus \$1.05 mailing. Profits from all book sales go to other environmental projects for our watershed schools.

To purchase a copy, contact the author at Pmara Kutata Enterprises, 46 Winding Way Kitchener, Ontario, N2N 1M1. Phone: (519) 742-6617. Email: [fsglew@kw.igs.net](mailto:fsglew@kw.igs.net)



## LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

### Making Connections

While participating in Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in September, The Grand River Foundation "won" a four metre (13 foot) walking bridge by Trees Unlimited in Welland, and Townsend Lumber in Tillsonburg. Bob McMullen, affectionately known as "The Trail Guy" in Cambridge, and the Rotary Club of Cambridge volunteered their time to prepare a site at the Dumfries Conservation Area in the heart of Cambridge, where a bridge was needed to connect two trail segments to complete the trail system. The walking bridge now serves as a major improvement to Dumfries Conservation Area, making this community gem more easily accessible to local residents and nature enthusiasts alike.

### Conestogo Dam Repairs

In the spring of 2000, attempts to close three of the four main gates at Conestogo Dam were unsuccessful. The cause was significant wear on the steel gate guides and cast iron roller wheels. Repair to these mechanisms

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## DAM REPAIRS

from page seven

was deemed critical to the watershed's water supply and flood control system. The cost of repairs was estimated to be \$1.2 million. The GRCA initiated negotiations with the Province of Ontario to secure assistance in funding necessary repairs.

While assistance from the Province has not yet been secured, the GRCA decided to proceed with the planned repairs. Two of the gates are being repaired this fall. The other two gates will be repaired in the fall of 2002 as all gates cannot be taken out of operation in any one construction season.

## THE GRAND STRATEGY CALENDAR

**Grand River Watershed Wetlands Forum. October 25, 2001.** 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. GRCA headquarters, 400 Clyde Road, Cambridge. The Wetlands Forum will focus on the importance, values and current status of wetlands within Ontario and the Grand River watershed, and current and future approaches to wetland management and protection. Registration is free. Contact Carol Bystriansky. Phone: (519) 621-2763 ext. 220. Email: [cbystriansky@grandriver.ca](mailto:cbystriansky@grandriver.ca)

**Managing Contaminated Land and Brownfield Redevelopment Conference, November 14 and 15, 2001,** at the Waterloo Motor Inn, Waterloo. Presented by Environmental Management Resource Centre for Business (Environmental Business Source Network) and Ontario Environment Industry Association (ONEIA). For information and registration details contact April Souwand, City of Cambridge. Phone: 519-740-4650 ext. 4601 or Sue Ruggero at [plan@idirect.com](mailto:plan@idirect.com).

**A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium, November 14-16, 2001,** at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston, near Barrie. The theme is *Conservation, Water and Health: The Ripple Effect*. This popular Conference offers expert speakers, instructive displays and networking and information opportunities for practitioners, non-government groups, municipal politicians and staff, consultants and others with an interest in the environment. For a detailed outline of the program, check the website at [www.uoguelph.ca/~claws/latornell](http://www.uoguelph.ca/~claws/latornell). Registration packages are still available from the Centre for Land and Water Stewardship, University of Guelph at (519) 824-4120 ext. 8329. Email: [claws@uoguelph.ca](mailto:claws@uoguelph.ca)

**Heritage Day Workshop, Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2002,** at the Cayuga Kinsmen Hall. The theme is *Passport to the Grand South*. The day will include speakers highlighting the rich cultural and natural heritage of the southern Grand River area and bus tours of significant heritage sites such as Ruthven and Chiefswood. More information will be available in the next issue of Grand Actions.

**7th Annual Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival, May 16-26, 2002.** For more information call 1-888-804-7909 or check the website at [www.quiltcapitalfestival.com](http://www.quiltcapitalfestival.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1988, drought cost Canada's agriculture industry \$1.8 billion in losses.
- When farmers realize there is no hope of crops surviving, they often plow fields under to prevent weeds from growing and to conserve what moisture is left in the soil.
- Lake Huron water levels have dropped 10 cm since last year and Lake Superior is down 15 cm.
- Drought also destroys wetlands and fisheries, and supports the spread of grass and forest fires.

## 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 on the Internet at [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca)

### For information on *The Grand Strategy*

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### For newsletter submissions

Contact the Editor, Liz Leedham, c/o Barbara Veale at the above address. Newsletter submissions must be made by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Publications Mail

Agreement # 40016692