

GRAND

THE GRAND STRATEGY NEWSLETTER

ACTIONS

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Grand River
Conservation
Authority



The Grand:
A Canadian
Heritage River

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Cover photo

This photo by Karen Anderson, of the City of Waterloo, shows a natural and attractive Clair Creek in Waterloo after rehabilitation by community volunteers and city staff. See page 2 to find out what the area looked like before restoration and planting.



GOING FOR THE GOLD

by Liz Leedham

The Grand River watershed was the chief winner this summer when two of its municipalities brought home the top medals from the Nations in Bloom competition in Stuttgart, Germany. Gold went to Guelph and Waterloo followed closely with a Silver medal. The prestigious international awards for "liveable communities" were presented in October after a rigorous selection process in which 42 finalists from 20 countries were chosen from 600 entries.

Nations in Bloom is the world's only competition for local communities that focuses on good environmental management and the creation of liveable communities. It was started in 1997, as a brainchild of the International Federation of Park and Recreational Administration (IFPRA), and the competition is held yearly at a different host location.

Entrants are divided into population categories, and communities are not compared with others within their category but rather on how

they perform in respect to the judging criteria. Each of these criteria carries equal marks.

Sections of the judging criteria are:

- Enhancement of the Landscape;
- Heritage Management;
- Environmentally Sensitive Practices;
- Community Involvement; and
- Planning for the Future.

The first step was a 4,000 word written submission showing how each community is addressing each of the judging criteria. Two teams of three judges included environmental and landscape management professionals from around the world. Chosen finalist communities sent three delegates to Stuttgart to make a 35-minute presentation, and face questioning from the judges.

Guelph and Waterloo competed in Category C (cities with a daytime population up to 200,000). The bronze medal was shared between

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GOLD

from page one

St. John, New Brunswick, and Whittlesea, Australia.

Gus Stahlmann, Commissioner of Community Services in Guelph, feels that his community's strengths are its protection of both built and environmental heritage, and the strong community and private sector participation in improving and protecting these resources. Efforts include everything from schoolchildren planting trees to citizen participation in innovative waste management program and water conservation. He feels that this competition was a good way to measure Guelph's activities against others on a larger scale, and to learn from others.

The networking between cities in other countries has produced useful spin offs, including an agreement to sell Guelph's recycled plastic to a city in China for reuse. An earlier mentoring and partnership with Zlin, a city in the Czech Republic, resulted in that community becoming a Nations in Bloom contestant. According to Gus Stahlmann, the value of the competition is focusing community efforts and creating community pride. He says "In this competition there are no losers. Everyone wins".

Some of the features that make Waterloo one of Canada most liveable cities include its community trail linkages; watershed rehabilitation and protection efforts; a city-wide Environment First policy, which includes an innovative pesticide reduction program; Uptown Waterloo enhancement and community events; the preservation of heritage buildings and adaptation of some historic buildings for modern use. Many community achievements were showcased to show how Waterloo is meeting the challenge of strong population growth.

Waterloo's delegation to the competition was unusual in that it had the only competition committee



Clair Creek in Waterloo, after subdivision construction and before rehabilitation. Replanting and rehabilitation projects (see page one) have made this an attractive, natural area, enjoyed by both residents and wildlife.

headed by a volunteer, Mark Whaley. Mark is representative of the 6,000 volunteers that contribute energy and experience to making Waterloo a great place to live. If volunteer contributions could be quantified in Waterloo, they would amount to a value of five million dollars in services to the community. Mark feels that, in Waterloo, volunteers are valued and placed in positions where they have an equal role to play with city staff and government.

Mark also notes, "Residents in the Grand River watershed are very fortunate in having the resources to carry out environmental protection, and this is not a reality in many places in the world. We can use our streams and the Grand River with the confidence that we are not endangering downstream users. This does not happen in other countries. We have an obligation to continue our presence at the competition, not as prizewinners but as teachers. We can show others our successful model. Our challenge is to live our leadership".

A Grand Gift

by Dave Schultz, Grand River Conservation Authority

It's a fair bet that the name Eugene Mattyasovszky means little to residents of the Grand River watershed.

That's not surprising, given that much of his life was spent in the Toronto area where he and his wife settled after they fled Hungary during the 1956 revolution. In Toronto he worked as a town planner before taking up an 18-year career as a professor of planning at the University of Toronto.

But it is the people of the Grand River who have benefited from the legacy left behind by the Mattyasovszkys when they both died within a few months of each other in 1984. Thanks to their generosity and foresight, hundreds of acres of environmentally sensitive lands at the north end of the Grand River are protected so they can continue to be a source of clean water for the 800,000 residents of

the watershed.

Eugene Mattyasovszky was born in Budapest in 1912 and earned his doctorate in geography in 1936. Early in his career he emphasized the importance of linking the sciences—particularly biology and ecology—to the task of urban and regional planning. Mattyasovszky rose through the ranks of the planning profession in his native Hungary, and gained national and international attention for his work. Like many of his countrymen, though, he rankled at the controls imposed by the Communist ruling party. In 1956 he and Clara fled to Canada, with little more than the clothes on their back.

Mattyasovszky landed a job with the old Township of Toronto, now a part of Mississauga. In 1960, he attracted the attention of Dr. John Dakin, the new head of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Toronto. Eugene Mattyasovszky was just what the department needed—a man who understood both planning and ecology and had the intellectual power to marry the two disciplines. Mattyasovszky's wit and sharp analytical mind made him an inspiring teacher and a leader among the members of the planning department faculty.

Mattyasovszky loved fishing, hunting and bird watching, spending many weekends in the Muskokas. He also spent time in the north end of the Grand River watershed, hunting and fishing in the Luther Marsh area. Ultimately, that would establish the link between the Mattyasovszkys and the GRCA.

Mattyasovszky retired in 1978 and lived in the Don Mills neighbourhood of Toronto, where he continued his theorizing on the biological underpinnings of urban planning. But, sadly, his retirement was short. He died in April 1984. Soon after, his wife Clara

was diagnosed with cancer. The couple had no heirs. They were childless and any relatives were an ocean away, locked behind the Iron Curtain. Clara looked for an appropriate beneficiary for their estate, and eventually turned to the GRCA and its sister organization, the Grand River Conservation Foundation. She decided to leave almost all of her estate to the Foundation to help finance future GRCA projects.

Clara died in December 1984, a few months after her husband. Over the next couple of years the estate was processed and the money transferred to the Foundation.

The Foundation and the GRCA started to put the money to use in the north end of the watershed, in the region called the Keldon Source Area, roughly 4,000 acres near the village of Keldon on Highway 89, an area of wetlands, forest and farmland and a critical source of groundwater feeding the Grand River.

It has been one of the GRCA's highest priorities to acquire this land, and the money in the Mattyasovszky Fund has financed the purchase of over 750 acres.



Eugene Mattyasovszky, Grand benefactor.

Some of the money has also gone into preserving and restoring wetland habitats around the Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Area, one of the largest inland marshes in the province. Money from the Mattyasovszky Fund was invested in the Monticello Project, rehabilitating 230 acres of significant wetland and wildlife habitat, with other money coming from Ducks Unlimited, the Ontario government, the state of Ohio and the American government under North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

The importance of these projects goes far beyond just providing a place for ducks to live. It is critical to the entire Grand River ecosystem that source areas such as these be protected. Justice Dennis O'Connor, in Part 2 of his Walkerton report, wrote that "source protection keeps the raw water as clean as possible to lower the risk that contaminants will get through or overwhelm the treatment system." O'Connor's first recommendation was that "drinking water sources should be protected by developing watershed-based source protection plans."

With the money left by the Mattyasovszkys, the GRCA and the Foundation have been able to do precisely what O'Connor has recommended for all Conservation Authorities—protect sensitive source areas.

Now, 18 years after the death of Eugene and Clara, the Mattyasovszky Fund has reached its end, although the benefits flowing from it will continue for generations.

Forty years ago, Eugene understood the importance of looking at planning and environmental issues with a broad view. Two decades ago, Clara put her husband's theories into action by dedicating their inheritance to protecting the natural heritage of the Grand River. We have plenty of reason to be thankful to them both for their thoughtfulness and their foresight.

Giving for the Grand

The Grand River Conservation Foundation was created in 1965 to support environmental programs and projects within the Grand River watershed, particularly those of the GRCA. Its directors come from all parts of the watershed.

In recent years, the Foundation has underwritten the development of several rail trails, raised money for GRCA nature centres, supported development of Grand River fisheries, purchased equipment for the Burford Tree Nursery, financed tree planting efforts and contributed to the Waterloo-Wellington Childrens' Groundwater Festival and the Eddie Lackenbauer Fishing Camps.

The Foundation is launching a major fund-raising campaign to support outdoor education for elementary school children throughout the watershed.

In addition to accepting bequests, such as the one made by the Mattyasovszkys, the Foundation also has programs for planned giving which provide tax advantages during the donor's lifetime. For more information call (519) 621-2761 or write to the Grand River Conservation Foundation, 400 Clyde Rd., Box 720, Cambridge, Ont. N1R 5W6.

MILESTONES

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

A Grand Water Trail

The Grand River over the past ten years has become one of Southern Ontario's most used waterways for recreation. The stretches of river in the Fergus-Elora area and south of Cambridge are becoming increasingly popular. Municipalities in the Grand River watershed are now viewing the



river as an asset for recreation and economic development. At the same time, it is becoming apparent there is a need to manage the variety of recreational activities on and adjacent to the river to address a host of issues such as user conflicts, overuse, littering, access, signage, and environmental damage.

North American Water Trails Inc., is a non-profit group dedicated to fostering the development, enjoyment and stewardship of recreational water trails in North America. The Board of Directors met for the first time in Canada this fall. Many of the Board members are in the business of managing recreational waterways across North America. In October, at the GRCA Administration Centre, Cambridge, the NAWT Board members shared their experiences and knowledge with representatives of municipal parks and recreation departments, river-based businesses, and river user groups such as canoeing clubs. Board members, Andy Knapp, Karen Stimpson and David Brickley provided insights regarding the development, maintenance and promotion of well-known and established water trails including the Lake Superior Water Trail, Maine Island Water Trail, and the Potomac River Water Trail.

Several key messages were given:

- Water trails don't just happen. Their creation and upkeep requires the active involvement of trail builders, trail managers, and trail users.
- Water trails connect people with places and foster a sense of community awareness and nature appreciation.
- Water trails need to be appropriately managed to minimize human impacts on the environment. Access points and rest areas need to be properly designed and located. There is a finite number of trail users that can use the waterway over a given period of time without causing degradation.
- Education and outreach are important for fostering an ethic of stewardship and teaching appropriate use.
- Water trail users can contribute significantly to the local economy.

Ryan Plummer, Assistant Professor at Brock University and Jack Imhof, National Biologist with Trout Unlimited Canada, presented the results of research undertaken as part of a multi-agency initiative to develop self-sustaining community models to help

manage river corridors of exceptional quality in three Ontario watersheds including the Grand River. It was estimated that in 2000, 7,963 people used the stretch of the river between Paris and Brantford. The most popular activities included canoeing, hiking, fishing, camping and cycling. Although no statistics have been reported for the stretch of the river between Cambridge and Paris, one outfitter estimated that over 20,000 people paddled that stretch in 2002.

Participants indicated a concern that as use of the Grand River and its corridor increases so will management issues around access, infrastructure, overuse, and conflicting use. Alternatively, there is an excellent opportunity to take a proactive approach to responsible river use by promoting the Grand River as a water trail. The participants requested that the GRCA continue to facilitate further discussions early in the new year.

More information about North American Water Trails Inc. is available at www.watertrails.org

Rural Water Quality Update

by Tracey Ryan, GRCA

The Rural Water Quality Program is a source water protection program that provides financial and technical assistance to rural landowners to undertake best management practices that improve and protect surface water and groundwater. To date the program has provided technical assistance to over 600 landowners in the watershed. The project receives funding from three levels of government through various agencies and programs.

The program has been very well received across the watershed. GRCA Conservation Services staff provide on site consultation for each project. Every project is reviewed by a local committee who allocate the funds to deserving projects. This ensures that

every project approved for funding will result in a water quality improvement. Program delivery focuses on people and not on paper. The personal attention provided to each landowner ensures that projects are suitable to the situation from an agronomic point of view while at the same time gaining the highest environmental benefit.

The table on page six shows the number of projects already completed and the dollars allocated to the projects in each of the municipalities.

To date there have been 552 projects completed. This includes over 70 manure storage facilities, 19 erosion control projects and 23 wellhead protection projects. There have been 69 nutrient management plans completed. This represents over 5,500 hectares of land where nutrient spreading practices will be more efficient and effective. There have been 85 fencing projects that have restricted over 3,500 animals from more than 41 kilometres of watercourse. Many of these landowners also planted trees along the stream to create a better buffer. There were 120 projects to plant trees and retire fragile agricultural land. These

projects include stream buffers, wind-breaks, erosion prone slopes and groundwater recharge areas. Over 135 hectares have been retired from agriculture. Over 100,000 trees have been planted on these lands. The tree planting was carried out through the GRCA's forestry program.

The Rural Water Quality Program is continuing to the end of 2003. There are over 300 projects yet to be completed representing an additional \$1.5 million in grants committed. Throughout the next year GRCA staff will be working with the various levels of government to secure additional funds to continue the program.

Brant/Brantford Farm Projects

Nine projects designed to improve water quality in Brant-Brantford have been approved under the Rural Water Quality Program. The nine projects will have a total value of more than \$50,000. Of that amount, \$27,000 will come in the form of grants from the RWQP with participating farmers

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RURAL WATER QUALITY PROJECTS COMPLETED IN THE GRAND RIVER WATERSHED				
Area	# of Projects	Grant \$ Provided	Landowner Contribution	Total Investment
Waterloo	222	871,949	1,023,136	1,895,085
Wellington	253	853,714	922,764	1,776,478
Perth	47	184,814	266,171	450,985
Oxford	7	22,571	13,328	35,899
Brant	14	15,664	6,713	22,378
Hamilton	3	5,465	1,547	7,012
Halton	3	16,105	20,101	36,206
Dufferin	3	4,646	2,694	7,340
TOTAL	552	\$1,974,929	\$2,256,454	\$4,231,383

BRANT

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paying the balance.

The projects are the first approved under the \$1.4 million program that started in August. It was created to help farmers adopt new farming practices to protect water from becoming polluted. The program is a combined effort of the County of Brant, City of Brantford, GRCA, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Millennium Green Grow committee and area farm groups and associations.

Included in the first round of approvals are:

- Three projects for construction of fences along watercourses to keep livestock out;
- Three projects to divert clean water from livestock yards;
- One project to assist in development of a nutrient management plan;
- One project to plant trees on erosion-prone land along a watercourse;
- One project to establish an alternative water supply to end use of a stream.

The GRCA administers the program on behalf of the funding partners. More than 60 landowners have contacted the GRCA for information so far.

Requests for grants are approved by a review committee made up of representatives of local agricultural organizations and chaired by Councillor Willie Maertens of Brant County and Councillor Marguerite Ceschi-Smith of the Brantford.

The city and county each contributed \$50,000 to the program. The provincial government is contributing \$715,000 and the Millennium Grow Green Committee \$10,000. The GRCA provides administrative support. Farmers are required to pay a portion of program costs, depending on the nature of the project.

Landowners in Brant County should contact the GRCA or the Long

Point Region Conservation Authority for more information about the program. The GRCA can be reached at (519) 621-2761. Email: tryan@grandriver.ca. The LPRCA can be reached at (519) 428-4623. Email: conservation@lprca.on.ca

Program information is available at the GRCA's website at www.grandriver.ca

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Groundwater Festival A Winner

On October 29, 2002, The Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival, one of the volunteer Programs at Doon Heritage Crossroads, Kitchener, received the prestigious Outstanding Achievement Award for Volunteerism in Ontario.

The Outstanding Achievement Awards for Volunteerism in Ontario recognize extraordinary leadership, innovation and creativity. The contributions of The Waterloo-Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival volunteers affect many areas of our everyday

lives. Since 1996, Doon Heritage Crossroads has hosted seven Festivals, bringing together more than 3,500 volunteers to educate over 28,000 students in Grades 2 through Grade 6. Through the use of 40 interactive, hands on activity centres, students learn about important water issues. Volunteers teach students about the importance on conserving daily water, protecting our water resources, understanding the water cycle, discovering the interface between water and technology in their lives, and fostering respect for water and the environment.

Brantford Blooms

All of Canada now knows what Brantford residents have known for years. Brantford is a blooming nice place to live. The City of Brantford carried off the national Communities in Bloom award, presented this year in Kelowna, BC. Brantford was the provincial winner in 2001, and all provincial winners with a high qualifying score are invited to compete nationally the following year.

The awards are presented in



At the Waterloo-Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival, at Doon Heritage Crossroads, children enjoy games that teach them about the value of water and the issues associated with providing clean water to our communities.

population categories, with Brantford competing in the 50 to 100,000-population group. Two judges visit each city to award marks on the following categories.

- Tidiness;
- Environmental Awareness;
- Community Involvement;
- Natural and Architectural Heritage Conservation;
- Urban Forestry;
- Landscaped Areas;
- Floral Display; and
- Turf and Groundcover Management.

A local Communities in Bloom Committee identifies those areas to be highlighted on the judges' tour. Categories one to four are marked out of 100, while categories five to eight are marked out of 150. The final marking is given as a percentage of 100, and from one to five "blooms" are awarded accordingly. Brantford received five blooms. The judges also provide a full report to the competitors, a useful tool for self-evaluation and measuring progress.

The Communities in Bloom competitions started in Canada in 1995, based on a well-established European program. Raymond Carriere of Quebec introduced the concept to Canada and provincial and national competitions were born. The movement has grown at a fast pace and 800 people were seated at this year's awards dinner. Brantford has received five blooms each year, and welcomes even more competition as more communities become involved.

Heritage Day Workshop

For the past five years, the Grand Strategy Heritage Working Group has hosted a very successful workshop for Grand River watershed residents. Through these workshops, residents learn about the river's fascinating history and the issues related to the conservation and interpretation of our

heritage resources. By highlighting successful case studies and providing opportunities for people to interact, these workshops helped them to better manage, plan and make decisions about their local heritage.

Plans are well underway for our 6th Annual Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration. The theme is "*Grand Renewals: Adaptive Reuse and the Cultural Landscape*". Knowledgeable speakers will provide insights on what constitutes a cultural landscape and where they are within the Grand River watershed; why adaptive reuse is important in retaining our cultural landscapes, and case studies of successful efforts to undertake adaptive reuse.

The workshop will be on Friday, February 14, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Guelph Youth Music Centre, 75 Cardigan Street, Guelph. The Music Centre, on the banks of the Speed River, was previously a warehouse owned by the City of Guelph. The \$1.2 million cost of renovating the building was raised by a small group of supporters who contributed over 20,000 hours of volunteer labour, solicited in-kind donations of construction materials, and sought public and private financial support. The venue is a fitting location, in keeping with the workshop theme.

Registration is free but is limited to 200. To ensure a place please register early. Registrations will be accepted until February 7, 2003. To register contact Cheryl Coutts or Vaille Laur at the City of Guelph. Phone: (519) 837-5616. Email: planning@city.guelph.on.ca You can also register on-line at www.city.guelph.on.ca/planning.

Canadian Rivers Day

The very discovery and exploration of Canada was made possible by our country's rivers. A new celebration—Canadian Rivers Day—will commemorate that history and promote the natural, cultural and recreational values of Canada's rivers. In Ottawa, on June 21,

2002, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Sheila Copps, signed a Ministerial Proclamation to "declare that the second Sunday of June will be celebrated henceforth as Canadian Rivers Day".

Among the groups calling for an annual Canadian Rivers Day was the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, comprised of representatives from the Government of Canada and all the provincial and territorial governments. The distinguished non-profit organization Rivers Canada, founded by President Dr. David Goranson, has agreed to undertake a leadership role in coordinating nationwide activities for the first Canadian Rivers Day to be celebrated on June 8, 2003.

In British Columbia, Canadians have been celebrating BC Rivers Day for over two decades and the day is now the largest rivers-related event in North America. It would be great if all Canadians could build on the precedent set by British Columbians by taking an active part in Canadian Rivers Day and celebrating our rivers history and contribution to our communities.

The proponents of Canadian Rivers Day stressed the opportunity it will provide to bring Canada's river communities closer together on tangible projects for conservation, interpretation and enjoyment. For more information about Canada's great rivers visit the website www.chrs.ca

Website Wins Award

The team that put together the Real Time River Data section of the GRCA website has been presented with a merit award from the Showcase Ontario Awards of Excellence Program. The program was established by the provincial government to honour excellence in information technology within the Ontario government and the broader public sector, which includes

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WEBSITE

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conservation authorities.

The River Data section of the GRCA website (www.grandriver.ca) provides real-time information about conditions along the Grand and its tributaries. It provides information on river levels and flow, reservoir levels and river water quality, including water temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, air temperature and precipitation. The information is used by water and sewage treatment plant operators, municipal water managers, recreational users of the Grand River system and the media.

Members of the team who put together the website were George Sousa, Manager of Information Systems; Mark McKinnon, Network Application Specialist; Zoe Green, GIS Programmer Analyst; Lara Vujanic, Mapping Clerk; and Dwight Boyd, Senior Water Resources Engineer.

Map is Tops, Too

A colorful new map of the Grand River watershed will be featured in a new calendar put out by ESRI Canada, a company that produces mapping and geographic information system software.

The map has been selected from among 50 entrants to be included in the company's 2003 calendar. The map, developed by Lara Vujanic, GRCA Mapping Clerk, shows the rivers and major tributaries of the Grand system, municipal boundaries, urban areas, roads and GRCA properties including conservation areas, nature centres, hiking trails and reservoirs. It also shows the topography of the Grand River watershed.

The map was produced using ArcInfo 8.1 and ArcView GIS 3.2a software. It is being distributed to municipalities, schools and others throughout the watershed.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Annually, Canada's rivers discharge 7% of the world's renewable water supply—105 000 cubic metres per second.
- Canada's rivers and lakes contain enough water to flood the entire country to a depth of more than 2 metres.
- Canadians are the trustees of almost 25% of all of the world's wetlands, currently covering 16% of the land area of Canada.

- Approximately 60% of Canada's fresh water drains north.
- Canada holds 20% of the world's fresh water, but has only 7% of the world's fresh renewable water.
- The highest waterfall in Canada is Della Falls, B.C. at 440 metres.
- The longest Canadian river is the Mackenzie River in the N.W.T. at 4241 kilometres.
- The largest lake entirely in Canada is Great Bear Lake in the N.W.T. at 31 328 square kilometres.
- Water consumption usually drops 18-25% after a water meter is installed.
- On average, 14% of municipal piped water is lost in pipeline leaks—up to 30% in some communities.

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

For information on *The Grand Strategy*

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For newsletter submissions

Contact the Editor, Dave Schultz, at dschultz@grandriver.ca.

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.

Publications Mail

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THE GRAND STRATEGY CALENDAR

January 6 to March 31, 2003, Heritage Planning Workshops. The School of Planning and the Heritage Resources Centre, at the University of Waterloo, will offer a Heritage Planning Workshop on Monday evenings (4:40 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.) from January 6 to March 31, 2003. Themes covered include the philosophy of heritage, legislation and regulation, the business of heritage, and techniques of evaluation and measurement. Participants can work towards a Heritage Planning certificate. For information contact the Heritage Resources Centre. Phone: (519) 888-4567, ext. 3066. Email: hrc@fes.uwaterloo.ca

Friday, February 14, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Heritage Day Workshop, at the Guelph Youth Music Centre. See page seven for information.