



Grand River
Conservation
Authority



The Grand:
A Canadian
Heritage River

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Cover photo

Tony Perrotta and Greentec International Inc. have built a thriving business recycling printer cartridges and old cell phones. The company also gives charities a chance to raise money by participating in the collection program.



Award winners are creating a greener Grand watershed

Each year the Grand River Conservation Authority recognizes the efforts of individuals and groups by presenting awards for outstanding examples of conservation and environmental work.

For 2005, the winner of the Honour Roll Award is S.C. Johnson and Son Ltd. of Brantford.

The winners of the Watershed Awards are Waterloo Region District School Board and Waterloo Catholic District School Board; Greentec International Inc., Cambridge; Wilfrid Laurier/Mohawk Environmental Group, Brantford; Hillside Festival, Guelph; John Jackson of Kitchener, founder of the Great Lakes United; Vlad Jelinek, Rosewood Farm, Grand Valley; and Arnold VerVoort and Family farm, Fergus.

Winners are honoured at a special ceremony during the GRCA annual meeting in February. As part of the event, a slide show detailing the accomplishments of each winner was presented. The show was written and photographed by Janet Baine.

This article, adapted from the script for the show, highlights four winners. The other winners will be featured in the next edition of Grand Actions.

Honour Roll Award

S.C. Johnson and Son Ltd., Brantford

S.C. Johnson and Son Ltd. has a long history of commitment to the environment which has led

to the company being named as winner of the 2005 Honour Roll Award.

The family-owned company and its employees in Brantford have undertaken countless local environmental initiatives.

The company and employees have undertaken many projects in conjunction with the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Grand River Conservation Foundation and other partner groups.

The company donated \$350,000 toward the cost of construction of the Apps' Mill Nature Centre near Brantford in 1981.

Since then, Apps Mill has offered programs to more than 250,000 elementary school students who have learned first-hand about the importance of the environment.

That commitment to educating children continued in 2003 when school boards were cutting back on outdoor education programs. S.C. Johnson stepped in with \$250,000 to launch the Foundation's Living Classroom Campaign for Outdoor Education.

Each year the company provides a university scholarship for an environmental studies student.

The company has also been a strong supporter of reforestation programs. By 1999 it was responsible for the planting



Darwin Lewis, then president of S.C. Johnson in Canada, participates in the opening ceremonies of the S. C. Johnson Rail-Trail in 1996.

of one million trees in the Grand River watershed. For years to come, those forests will be a testament to the company's commitment to the environment.

The company supported the development of the S.C. Johnson Rail-Trail

which opened in 1996.

Running 11 kilometres between Paris and Brantford, it was the missing link in the Trans Canada Trail system in this part of Ontario. Once it was completed, trail users could travel from Cambridge, to Paris and Brantford and then on to Hamilton without interruption.

In 2005 S.C. Johnson contributed \$80,000 for a new canoe launch at Cockshutt Bridge in Brantford, a launch that is well-used by canoeists and anglers.

Some of the projects supported by the company have not been as visible. It made a major contribution to the scientific study of water quality in the Exceptional Waters stretch of the Grand River between Paris and Brantford.

The company has also taken major steps, at great expense, to ensure its own environmental footprint is smaller. The company achieved a 70 per cent waste diversion rate in 2004.

Not only is ethanol used in the company fleet, but employees are encour-



Members of the S. C. Johnson donations committee: Debbie Mohr (left), Lynn Skirrow, Paul Steeds, Nancy Bevan and Angie Folz. Absent was Jim Huen.

aged to fill up with ethanol in their own cars.

S.C. Johnson adheres to a guiding philosophy, called "This We Believe" and its environmental commitment stems from this policy.

Company Chairman Fisk Johnson puts it this way: "As a company, S.C. Johnson is committed to investing in technology and programs that help preserve the Earth's resources. In the end, this is about doing what's right for business and the environment."

A committee of employees ensures that the company gives back to the community. Each committee member oversees the company's contribution to health care, education, environment, community and culture.

The committee fulfills requests that have the greatest impact on the greatest number of people.

The company's efforts on behalf of the environment have resulted in other awards over the years. In 1991 S.C. Johnson received the Lieutenant Governor's conservation award. The next year, it received a Canadian Environmental Achievement Award.

Watershed Awards

Waterloo Region District School Board and Waterloo Catholic District School Board

There's lots of greenery sprouting up on school properties in Waterloo Region.

Of the multitude of school boards across Canada, the two boards in Waterloo region are among the few



Dopko



Wendland



Grade 2 student Corey Buschlen enjoys some of the new green space at St. Teresa Catholic School, Kitchener.

working with Evergreen, a national organization dedicated to returning greenery to the city.

The two Waterloo boards work with Evergreen's local representative, Dennis Wendland, to make school yards greener and more fun.

The Waterloo Region District School Board and the Waterloo Catholic District School board are both replacing barren school properties with greener, kid-friendly ones.

Everyone brings their own ideas. Kids, parents, school staff and neighbours are all working together. They learn, form committees, develop plans, find money and hold community work days.

They're adding trees to give kids places to sit on sunny days. They're adding outdoor classrooms and peace gardens.

The public board has been working on schoolyard greening for 16 years with many people, such as Dan Dopko, a guidance consultant, leading the way.

One project in Breslau will be developed over five years and will offer a liv-

ing classroom, places for quiet activities and creative climbing equipment.

The Waterloo Catholic board has been doing this for a shorter time, but with great enthusiasm and growing results.

Evergreen is a national organization that is working intensively with both boards from the first step to project completion. Many trees by the playground may be small now, but they'll provide shade and comfort for generations to come.

Greentec International Inc., Cambridge

Tony Perrotta always had a passion for the environment. Ten years after starting his company, Greentec

International, he has opened a large new Cambridge facility.

It recycles laser and inkjet cartridges as well as cell



Perrotta



A crew comes ashore after taking part in a river clean-up day along the Grand River in a project sponsored by the Wilfrid Laurier University-Mohawk College environmental Group. (Photo courtesy The Brantford Expositor)

phones, with used items arriving from across the continent.

This way, they don't end up in a landfill site where they emit toxic contaminants that can get from the landfill site into the water.

Instead, these items are tested and sent back to the manufacturer to be reused, or they are broken down into components to be recycled.

While most items sent to Greentec earn a profit, Perrotta has developed a fundraising side to his company.

The program, called Thinkgreen, allows schools, community groups and sports clubs to collect ink cartridges and cell phones and turn them into money for their organizations.

Thinkgreen has diverted over 500,000 cartridges and cell phones from landfill sites and provided nearly \$900,000 to its participants.

Clarica, for instance, has raised money for the GRCA's rail-trail program through Thinkgreen.

Through partnerships with Tree Canada and American Forests,

Thinkgreen plants one tree seedling for every 12 recyclable cartridges or cell phones returned. More than 19,500 trees have been planted, removing over 3,000 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere.

Greentec is also committed to supporting the Grand River Conservation Foundation's Living Classroom Campaign for Outdoor Education. The company expects to raise \$200,000 for this through Thinkgreen.

Wilfrid Laurier-Mohawk Environmental Group, Brantford

People leave garbage in and around the Grand River in Brantford. Broken glass is a hazard and plastic bottles are the most common. While waste accumulates near the popular downtown park Brant's Crossing, nearby garbage bins are not well-used.

Student Tracey Bucci was inspired by a Laurier professor to gather other students to clean up the river in Brantford. She continued her studies at Mohawk

College in Brantford and the group became the Wilfrid Laurier-Mohawk Environmental Group.

The students hold monthly river

clean-ups, and an annual spring clean-up that gets the community involved.

The group makes presentations to city council and has co-operation from the mayor's office.

Their efforts have been recognized by the mayor, MPP and the MP.

Community supporters not only donate time, but also items like garbage bags and use of rafts.

Lots of members of the community and high school students help with the clean-up. Sometimes it is the small things that make a huge difference.

The group hopes that someday people will stop littering and be more respectful of the river.



Bucci

Henry Kock was a towering figure in Guelph environmental community

Reprinted from
The Guelph Mercury.

This obituary was prepared by Henry Kock's family and friends.

Henry Kock, a leading authority on native woody plants, died of brain cancer on Dec. 25.

Dubbed “Mr. Arboretum,” Henry was a horticulturist at the University of Guelph Arboretum for almost 25 years, until being diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme in July 2004. When the cancer recurred this past November, Henry never recovered from a second brain surgery, rendering him near-comatose.

Weeks earlier, Henry received a hand-written letter from David Suzuki urging him on in his good health.

A towering figure with a big, flowing beard, Henry was a longtime fixture in Guelph. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, he toured the province with his talks and slide shows, inspiring countless people to protect wild places, to propagate native plant species, and to liberate their gardens from pesticides. He transformed his own suburban property into a lush forest, referring to the place as the “Hotel of the Trees,” or a “bed and breakfast” for the 75 species of birds that flitted through his yard. Trees were his children, with juneberry among his favourite.

Henry received the Governor General’s Award for Forest Stewardship in 1998. He helped spearhead the Guelph Organic Conference long before such things became fashionable. Ann Clark, associate professor of plant agriculture, says “despite official reactions ranging from disinterest to outright hostility — which would have dismayed or crushed lesser people — Henry just soldiered on, quietly winning over people one at a time. Henry persuaded by his own example. He was a holistic thinker.



Henry Kock pedals through Guelph.

(Photo courtesy The Guelph Mercury)

I can think of no higher accolade.”

Born in the Sarnia area — Ontario’s chemical valley — to Dutch immigrant parents, Henry grew up working in the family business, Huronview Nurseries. Early on, he showed an extraordinary gift for plant-care and an abiding love of the outdoor world. According to his sister Helen Rykens, Henry’s bedroom was always crammed to the rafters with field guides and found natural objects — rocks, driftwood, plants, dead insects, snakeskins, feathers and tree seeds.

Henry graduated from the University of Guelph in 1977 with a focus on horticulture. He took time off during his

school years to get high, body surf, and to botanize from the Yukon to Mexico.

Henry found his calling at the Arboretum. Much of the greenery there today is owed to his creative hard work and knack for growing things. Colleague Brian Hamilton describes the Arboretum itself as “the embodiment of Henry which will flourish and inspire for years.” In recent times, Henry became increasingly drawn to a landscape filled with sturdy, individual elm trees that managed to resist the ravages of Dutch elm disease. His great legacy is the Elm Recovery Project, for which he traversed Ontario, collecting seeds from survivors. He later planted and tended these specimens for eventual dissemination back into the landscape. Henry referred to this scheme as a “dating service for lonely elms.” He drew strength from these survivors during his cancer treatment.

In 1991, Henry met the love of his life, Anne Hansen, an artist and drama secretary at the University of Toronto.

The Arboretum is the embodiment of Henry which will flourish and inspire for years.

— Brian Hamilton

His late sister Irene, a leading nuclear-free activist and good friend of Anne's, organized a canoe trip in Temagami that brought them together. They both showed up wearing mismatched canvas sneakers. Their bond was immediate and joyous, held together by a love of nature and shared sense of humour and politics. "I loved going on canoe trips with Henry and Anne," says friend Cathy Lang, "because their lovingness was contagious and an example to the rest of us." Their outdoor adventures took them to Georgian Bay and Canada's east coast. The spring bird migration was a highlight they never missed, at either a week in Rondeau Provincial Park or the Bruce Peninsula. When Henry became ill, Anne gave up her Toronto job and life to join him in Guelph.

Rallied for peace

They blended Anne's bicycle advocacy with Henry's biological eco-activism. Acutely aware of the language of activism, Henry stood for rather than against. He rallied for peace in Iraq, renewable energy, public transit, and urban bicycling. It was important to Henry that every year he attend Toronto's International Women's Day events with Anne, after which they'd take their bicycles across to Toronto Island and sit by the shore with their binoculars and a bottle of wine.

Henry's early days at the Arboretum were legendary. He chanced into the position of "landlord" of a low-rent old farmhouse owned by the university. Known as the "Tree House," it became a hub of activism and parties for Guelph radicals. At Halloween, Henry would dress up as a narcotics officer, or shave off his beard so as to confound his housemates. Ever-mindful of the welfare of others, Henry would place a standing order with a local taxi company so nobody drove home drunk. When Ralph Nader delivered a talk in Guelph, it was Henry who would pick him up from the airport in his Volkswagen van. Tom Klein-Beernink, a Tree House resident at

Henry would consult with various chickadees and blue herons about the fairest date for Hillside (Festival).

the time, says, "It's all Henry's fault that I'm poor. He gave me a bum steer into a life of social justice and non-profits." Henry is said to have operated a wine-making operation in his workplace, owing to the favourable equipment and temperature needed for the task.

Henry was also a co-founder of the Hillside Festival, which has grown to become one of Canada's premiere folk music events. A fellow organizer reminisced that "Henry would consult with various chickadees and blue herons about the fairest date for Hillside." And so it was that the festival was always held on the second weekend in July. A famous Hillside quilt shows Henry front and centre, dancing around in his famous purple skirt.

Stayed involved

After Henry's initial diagnosis, he enjoyed 16 months of relatively robust health. His involvement in the human condition beyond his own skin remained intact. In what would be his last days, he was drawn to witness at least six films on difficult, hard-to-watch social justice issues at the Guelph International Film Festival. Despite being on chemotherapy, he was able to bike, hike, and go on canoe trips. "Much of the time I was able to convince myself that he was misdiagnosed," says Henry's wife Anne. "Here we were hiking in Killarney Provincial Park, and Henry — the one who has cancer — is way ahead of the rest of us, bush-wacking up the mountain on an unmarked path. The rest of us would have been lost without him."

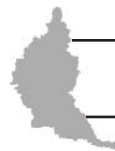
Henry spent his final month in a hospital bed. The hallway outside his room

often looked like the end of a portage, strewn with the backpacks, hiking boots, and outdoor gear of many loving friends who tended his bedside.

Henry had completed the first draft of a book on growing native trees from seed. Several of his botany colleagues now hope to bring this project to completion.

Henry is survived by his wife, Anne, his parents, Mary and Dick in Bright's Grove, his brother John Cook (Cynthia) in Forest, and his sister Helen Rykens (Dan McDermott) in Toronto, as well as a niece and two nephews. He is predeceased by his sister Irene.

Donations to the Elm Recovery Project (824-4120 ext. 52113) in Henry's memory will be greatly appreciated.



MILESTONES

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

Historic Freeport bridge celebrated

Heritage bridges form an important part of our local heritage through their ability to reflect the technology of the times, their contributions to social and economic development and their role in creating a strong sense of place. The Region of Waterloo values its old bridges and in 2004 published *Spanning the Generations: A Study of Old Bridges in Waterloo Region*.

The Freeport Bridge on King Street in Kitchener ranked as the region's most significant heritage bridge structure. The bridge has received a heritage designation by the City of Kitchener and is provincially recognized on the Ontario Heritage Bridge List.

The elegant bowstring truss bridge, constructed in 1925 and beautifully rehabilitated by the region in 2003, has seven spans and six piers and is constructed of reinforced concrete. The



Participating in the ceremony at the Freeport Bridge were Kitchener Centre MPP John Milloy (left), Kitchener Mayor Carl Zehr, Regional Councillor Jean Haalboom, Catherine Campbell McGregor, (daughter of the bridge engineer) and Regional Chair Ken Seiling

characteristic bowstring arches have become a distinctive regional feature as Bridgeport Bridge in Kitchener and Main Street Bridge in Cambridge are similarly constructed.

On Oct. 29, 2005, exactly two years after the Freeport Bridge was reopened following its very successful restoration, a celebration was held to honour the bridge's significant historical past and its bright future as a functional and beautiful piece of public infrastructure.

During the ceremony Catherine Campbell McGregor the 90 year old daughter of the engineer who built the bridge spoke and a heritage plaque was unveiled as part of the Region's Heritage Bridge Recognition Program. The historic plaque is located at the north end of the bridge and tells the story of the bridge with a display of interesting historic photos.

Similar plaques are planned for other key historic bridges in the Region including the Mill Creek Bridge and Parkhill Road Bridge in Cambridge.

Chiefswood marks 150th anniversary

Chiefswood, the birthplace and childhood home of the famous poet, E. Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake) will mark its 150th anniversary this year.

Built and designed by Mohawk Chief George H.M. Johnson between 1853-56, Chiefswood is testament to the enduring values of Six Nations and its place in North America.

Situated on the north shore of the Grand River, it was designated nationally significant in 1992 because of the significance of the Johnson family and the architectural features of the house. The home features two front doors symbolizing respect for two cultures; it welcomes visitors from both river and road.

Vestiges of the landscape described by Johnson in her work, "Moccasin Maker 'My Mother – Part III' which was published posthumously in 1913 are still evident at the site.

"All about the hills, and the woods, above the winding river, and along the edge of the distant forest, brooded that purple smokiness that haunts the late days of August – the smokiness that was born of distant fires, where the Indians and pioneers were 'clearing' their lands.

"The air was like amethyst, the setting sun a fire opal. As on the day when she first had come into his life, George helped her to alight from the carriage, and they stood a moment, hand in hand, and looked over the ample acres that composed their estate.

"The young Indian had worked hard to have most of the land cleared, leaving here and there vast stretches of walnut groves, and long lines of majestic elms, groups of sturdy oaks, and occasionally a single regal pine tree.

"Many a time in later years his utilitarian friends would say, 'Chief, these trees you are preserving so jealously are eating up a great deal of your land. Why not cut them away and grow wheat?' But he would always resent the suggestion, saying that his wheat lands lay back from the river. They were for his body, doubtless, but here, by the river, the trees must be – they were for his soul.

"And Emily would champion him immediately with, 'Yes, they were there to welcome me as a bride, those grand old trees, and they would remain there, I think, as long as we both shall live.'

"So, that first evening at home, they stood and watched the imperial trees, the long, open flats bordering the river, the nearby lawns which he had taken such pains to woo from the wilderness; stood palm and palm, and that moment seemed to govern all their after life."

The home is open seasonally from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving, other times by appointment only. Chiefswood is at 1037 Highway 54, south of Brantford. For more information visit www.chiefswood.com.



LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

'Tree Hugger Award' presented to GRCA

The Grand River Conservation Authority and its arborist have been commended for their reforestation efforts by a Waterloo group.

The 10,000 Trees Project of Waterloo presented its second annual Volunteer Appreciation Awards in November to the GRCA and Michael Bradley, the GRCA's arboriculture technician.

The Awards Night took place at the Brick Brewery Reception Room in Uptown Waterloo and was a thank you to the many community organizations and companies that have supported the efforts of the 10,000 Trees Project through 2005.

The two "Tree Hugger Awards" were hand-crafted by Janice Ditner, a Waterloo artisan.

The GRCA was recognized as a vital partner of the 10,000 Trees Project and a major sponsor of all three tree plantings in 2005. Two of the plantings involved the creation of an outdoor classroom at

the Laurel Creek Nature Centre in Waterloo and included the planting of 2,000 native species to create an arboretum and natural habitat for native birds and animals. Accepting on behalf of the GRCA was Ralph Beaumont, Manager of Communications, who was accompanied by Mary-Anne Cain of the Laurel Creek Nature Centre and Barbara Veale, Co-ordinator of Policy Planning and Partnerships.

The individual award was presented to Bradley who demonstrated exceptional personal dedication to the work and vision of the 10,000 Trees



Bradley

Project. He was a driving force behind the arboretum project and created a "how to" planting station at each event to encourage even the novice planter to take on the task.

Lisa Huhse, Chairperson of the 10,000 Trees Project, said 2005 proved to be a prolific year for the local non-profit organization.

With a goal of planting 10,000 trees by 2010, Huhse said "we are proud to say that we are more than half way to

achieving this goal, with many thanks to the GRCA and its staff."

For more information on the 10,000 Trees Project and its events, please visit their website at www.10000trees.org



DID YOU KNOW?

- Snowflakes generally fall from the sky at speeds between one and five miles per hour.

- The first official release of brown trout in Ontario was in 1913 in the Speed River, although it is believed that private individuals had been introducing browns into the river on their own.

About this newsletter

This newsletter is produced bi-monthly as a communications tool by the Grand River Conservation Authority on behalf of the partners in *The Grand Strategy*. This newsletter can be seen at www.grandriver.ca

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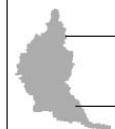
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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of January, March, May, July, September and November. Submissions may be edited for length or style.

Tax deductible donations and sponsorships toward the cost of producing this newsletter are always welcome.

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The Grand Strategy Calendar

Heritage: The Competitive Edge, Feb. 20 - A one-day seminar on the role heritage assets can play in local economic development. Presentations by experts on examples from Grand River communities as well as Toronto, Quebec City and Peterborough. Registration is free and includes lunch, but spaces must be reserved by Feb. 10. For more information see the Newsroom section of the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca To register contact Cathy Smith, City of Cambridge, 73 Water St. North, Third Floor, Cambridge, or by phone at (519) 740-4650 Ext. 4649, by fax at (519) 622-6184 or by e-mail at smithcathy@city.cambridge.on.ca

Greenways and Waterways: Ontario Nature's 75th Annual General Meeting and Conference, June 2-4 - To be held at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo. For more information call Jennifer Baker at Ontario Nature 1-800-440-2366 ext. 224. More information will be posted in early spring on the conference website at <http://cobalt.golden.net/~kwfnconference/>