



GRAND Actions

The Grand River watershed newsletter



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Cover photo

Larry Davis, town crier for the County of Brant at the Heritage Day Workshop.
Photo by Janet Baine



Looking back on the Grand: Impact of the War of 1812

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

The re-evaluation of the War of 1812 at the Grand River Watershed Heritage Day Workshop in February provided some hidden war stories that haven't been explored in depth in standard history books.

It was a capacity crowd at the South Dumfries Community Centre in St. George when more than 230 people gathered to learn about the war that is said to have defined Canada 200 years ago.

"It went very well and we certainly had a great turn out this year," said Barbara Veale, co-ordinator of policy, planning and partnerships, who was one of the organizers of the event.

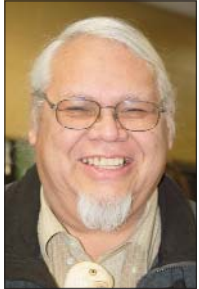
The complex North American landscape that led to the War of 1812 was aptly laid out early in the day by Ron Dale, the 1812 Bicentennial Project manager for Parks Canada. Two of the many factors were the British violation of American sovereignty on the high seas and the American's belief that they only needed to march into Upper Canada to take it over.

While the major battles took place elsewhere, the Grand River watershed "was in a constant state of turmoil, of being attacked," Dale said. "Sometimes the rumours of war are more frightening than the war itself...When the Americans arrived, they faced some well-trained British soldiers under the command of some strong British leaders, a Canadian militia and the



First Nations who were promised land.”

This war was a significant event that led to confederation in 1867, established the United States as a sovereign nation and set the border between Canada and the U.S. that remains today. Unfortunately, it also left some challenges in its wake.



Rick Hill

At the end of the war in 1814, the Canadians thought that they had won and the Americans also believed they had won. For the British, the War of 1812 was only a sideshow to their main goal of defeating Napoleon in Europe.

The First Nations, however, see the War of 1812 as a loss. The British said they would push for the First Nations to receive all the land west of Ohio, but this idea was abandoned during negotiations.

Rick Hill of the Grand River Territory of the Six Nations said the War of 1812 divided Native people. He told some stories about individual's participation in the war. Hill said those Natives who were elevated to prominent positions by the British were not necessarily representing the interests of the Native people. Some have become familiar names today, but not all of these are favoured by the Native people.

Untold stories

Untold stories of this war include those of the 7,500 fleeing refugees who came through the Grand River watershed in the wake of the war and the story behind the “traitors” and what motivated them. These are issues being covered by filmmakers Zach Melnick and Bill Darfler of Brantford in the documentary series that they are making called *A Desert Between Us and Them*. Information about this documentary is available online at

www.1812.visualheritage.ca.

Pacifists such as Mennonites did not want to take sides in the war that was going on around them. Jonathan Ceiling of the University of Toronto has researched this aspect of the history and he is spoke about the challenges they faced. He is also writing a book on the topic.

Maria Fortunado of the Western Corridor

Alliance spoke about the many tourism initiatives that are focusing attention on the War of 1812. The alliance jointly coordinates activities for the bicentennial in the central region of south-western Ontario. These stress the First Nation's contribution to the war effort. They include a driving route of 1812 as well as Brock's Walk, the area covered by General Brock during the war.

Artists are being engaged to create related art and there is a barn quilt project, in which quilt designs of the era are being painted on barns in rural areas. A “museum in motion” truck will visit locations with a display about the war.

Other initiatives include peace gardens, war reenactments, veteran grave markers for 1812 veterans and many more. Restaurants are developing special menus and there are commemorative beers and wines. More information about these initiatives are available on

www.westerncorridor1812.com.

For the next two years the Grand River Watershed Heritage Day workshop will focus on the War of 1812-14 and its impact on the people and places in the Grand River watershed. This year the Heritage Day Workshop was hosted by the Heritage Working Group and sponsored by the County of Brant, the City of Brantford and the GRCA.

The next Heritage Day Workshop will be held Feb. 16 in Haldimand County.

2012 provincial heritage awards

The Region of Waterloo received a 2011 Community Leadership Award from the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, in February.

The award was given because the region is a leader in promoting the heritage of its seven municipalities and providing stewardship to region-owned heritage resources.

Support for the annual Heritage Day Workshop was cited as part of the reason for the award. Four communities received this award and Waterloo region was one of them. The others were Township of Lake of Bays, Township of Scugog and the City of Brampton.

In addition, 15 individuals received this award and two of them are from the Grand River watershed. They are Marion Sheridan, a founding member of the Burford Historical Society who was nominated by Brant County and Peter Russell a geologist and founding member of the University of Waterloo's Earth and Environmental Sciences Museum.



Karen Verellen was among those demonstrating skills of 200 years ago, including quilting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Grand Bridge Inventory underway

An inventory of all bridges in the Grand River watershed will be undertaken over the next year.

Not much information has been compiled on the hundreds of bridges in some parts of the Grand River watershed, but most bridges in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and the Township of Centre Wellington have already been inventoried.

This project, led by the Heritage Resources Centre at the University of Waterloo and the GRCA, aims to fill in the missing gaps. It will identify bridges with significant cultural heritage value. The information about the bridges may be used by anyone, including planners, engineers, architects, property owners, developers and those in the tourism industry. This will be added into the GRCA's GIS mapping tool and heritage database.

This project is being undertaken thanks to funding of \$45,000 from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's Creative Communities Prosperity Fund (CCPF). The GRCA is providing \$2,000 and in-kind support is coming from many partners.

"The province is pleased to support the GRCA with this project, as it will help to provide important and useful information about our region's culture and heritage," said John Milloy, MPP for Kitchener Centre.

"Heritage bridges are cultural features that support the Canadian Heritage River designation of the Grand River and its tributaries. This project will help identify which bridges have significant heritage value," said Barbara Veale, co-ordinator of policy, planning and partnerships at the GRCA.

"This will help municipalities in the Grand River watershed with their cultural heritage mapping," said Eva Salter of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. "It will help them with their cultural planning." The project started in March and will be completed a year later.

The Heritage Resources Centre would like to invite people to share their stories, photos and documentation about local bridges.

"The public's contribution of their knowledge of the bridges in their community will help researchers to more efficiently build



a complete watershed inventory," said Lindsay Benjamin, a heritage planner who will be working on this project. These items can be sent to lebenjam@uwaterloo.ca or call 519-888-4567, ext. 36921.

Fun and learning at nature centres

By Dan Schneider
GRCA Resource Interpreter

In mid July, a group of small aquatic biologists stand in the shallow sunlit river, nets in hand, looking for living treasure.

Suddenly a cry of excitement pierces the valley, and a girl wades back to shore to add her prize to the growing collection. Much admired by the other collectors, the newly-caught crayfish joins an astonishing assortment of water animals, including mayflies, dragonflies, whirligig beetles, small fish and other river denizens. This is not just

another ordinary collection.

And this is not just an ordinary group of biologists. They are keen 6 to 10-year-old environmental day campers at a GRCA nature centre. Like the March break day campers, they're in the middle of a week of learning about the natural world. But strangely enough, they don't realize it. The activities, led by experienced nature centre staff, are so active and engaging that the kids rarely know that they're actually learning, through hands-on experience in the world's biggest and best classroom — the out-of-doors.

During the week, these children might trade in their water nets for bug nets, and learn about the host of insects and spiders that patrol our summer meadows. They will probably become pretend members of an ecosystem, deer, fox, coyote, rabbits, and even disease. They do this to simulate animal interactions during a predator-prey game. They will learn about the non-releasable animals kept at the nature centres and get to hold some of them. When at Rockwood, they don hard hats and carry flashlights into a small, safe cave system. By the time they emerge above ground, they are eager and somewhat experienced spelunkers. Add nature hikes, crafts and games, and it's an unforgettable experience.

Older kids, 10 to 13 years, can join an advanced day camp. Fun and hands-on learning about nature is meshed with more adventurous experiences, from geocaching to mountain biking to learning wilderness survival skills. The Naturalist-in-Training



The weather was great for kids at the March Break nature centre programs this year

(NIT) program is for older students (age 14 – 17). These are often graduates of the younger day camps, and have opted to continue to learn about the great outdoors. In addition, they learn how to teach younger children about the environment, using skills that GRCA interpreters pass on to them. They soak in facts and stories about nature, learn how to manage a group of children outside, and engage in essential safety lessons such as first aid. Later in the summer the NITS return to the nature centre to spend a week helping GRCA staff instruct junior campers and they also learn how to care for the animals. NITs gain great experience to add to their resumes, a diploma and enough hours to fulfill their high school volunteer requirements.

Online registration will soon open for summer programs. These are available at Guelph Lake, Laurel Creek in Waterloo, Rockwood and Belwood Lake conservation areas as well as Apps' Mill Nature Centre.

For more information on programs and dates, or to register kids in GRCA nature centre day camps this summer, check www.grandriver.ca/NatureCentres.

WMP survey results

By Katherine Balpataky
GRCA Communications Specialist

Water quality issues topped the list of concerns in the results of a survey conducted by the partners of the Grand River Water Management Plan.

While most respondents were confident that the majority of water objectives included in the Grand River Water Management Plan are being met, "water quality", "point and non-point source pollution", "water supply" and "wastewater" were cited as the most important issues facing the watershed.

The survey focused on getting input on the human uses, ecological needs and cultural values for water that were identified through other participatory processes across the watershed. The top five water uses, needs and values selected by more than 650 people were: passive enjoyment; household supply; wildlife and related habitat; fishing; paddling and boating. Responses to this question also showed that the list being used by the partners is inclusive.

Feedback gathered through the survey will be considered in the update of the Grand

River Water Management Plan. The update will address existing and emerging issues such as population growth and climate change that are placing stress on the natural system with implications to the future health and prosperity of watershed communities.

The Water Management Plan is being developed in partnership with GRCA, watershed municipalities, provincial and federal government agencies and First Nations. The plan will complement Source Protection Plans, the Forest Management Plan and Fisheries Management Plan to address broader watershed issues. The Water Management Plan will be completed in 2013.

To read a report on the full survey results or learn more, check online at www.grandriver.ca/wmp.

New flood terminology

The Grand River Conservation Authority has updated the terms it uses in flood and water safety messages effective Feb. 15.

The new terminology has been adopted by the GRCA and other conservation authorities across Ontario, as well as the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. These changes ensure messages are consistent and in line with severe weather terminology used by other agencies such as Environment Canada and the Weather Network.

The GRCA issues three levels of messages:

Watershed Conditions Statement (Previously High Water Safety Bulletin): a general notice of weather conditions that could pose a risk to personal safety or which have the potential to lead to flooding. There are two variations of these:

1. *Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety*: High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected

2. *Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook*: Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams or a rise in Lake Erie levels.

Flood Watch (Previously Flood Advisory):

Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

Flood Warning (No change): Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities and individuals should take action to deal with flood conditions. This may include road closures and evacuations.

The new terms were developed by a committee of representatives of conservation authorities, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Canada and other agencies.

Prior to the changes, some conservation authorities used different terms for the same types of messages. The new terminology is being used by all conservation authorities and the MNR.

In addition, the new terminology falls in line with that used by other weather agencies, such as Environment Canada and the Weather Network, which use "watches" and "warnings" for severe weather.

Monitoring weather and flood conditions is a shared responsibility of conservation authorities and MNR. The ministry's Surface Water Monitoring Centre in Peterborough monitors weather forecasts and water levels across the province, providing the information to conservation authorities.

The GRCA also has its own weather monitoring and water level program to provide more detailed forecasts for the watershed. The GRCA operates a network of automatic gauges throughout the watershed to measure river and stream flows, weather conditions and water quality. All of this information is available online in the River Data section of the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca/riverdata. The information is updated hourly.

When flooding is possible or about to occur, the GRCA issues flood messages to municipal emergency management officials and the media. The municipal officials then take action to warn local residents.

The GRCA also takes action to control water levels and reduce flooding through the operation of seven reservoirs.

Flood messages are posted on www.grandriver.ca/Newsroom/News.cfm. In addition, members of the public can receive flood messages directly through e-mail or Twitter.

Scholarships from the GRCF

Post-secondary school students in the Grand River watershed interested in improving the environment are eligible for three different scholarships offered by the Grand River Conservation Foundation. The foundation has a tradition of financially supporting students at all levels.

Allan Holmes Scholarship

New for 2012 is the Allan Holmes Scholarship. This Scholarship award of \$5,000 is available to students enrolled in a full or part-time graduate program focused on applied research in the field of resource management.



Allan Holmes

Candidates must be registered at a university within the Grand River watershed. Preference will be given to students involved in a research project that addresses the GRCA's vision of a healthy and sustainable natural environment in the Grand River watershed. The scholarship deadline is May 15.

S.C. Johnson Scholarship

The S.C. Johnson Environmental Scholarship has been available for many years. Applications are open to full-time students who have completed their third year or sixth semester of an honours program at a watershed university (Waterloo, Guelph and Laurier) or second year of engineering at Conestoga College. The award is \$1,500. The scholarship deadline is May 31.

Clean Water Prize

The \$1,500 McEwen Clean Water Prize is available to students who are pursuing a career in an environmental field. It's open to students registered at the Guelph, Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier (Waterloo and Brantford) and Nipissing (Brantford) universities, as well as Conestoga and Mohawk (Brantford) colleges. Students must be in second, third or fourth year or a graduate program in fields such as environmental science, engineering, emerging technologies,

governance or education. Preference will be given to students who attended programs at GRCA nature centres. The scholarship deadline is May 31.

For more information about the prizes or to complete the applications, visit www.grcf.ca or contact Doina Hartley at the Grand River Conservation Foundation at dhartley@grandriver.ca or at 519-621-2763, ext. 2372.

Conservation grant deadline May 1

The Grand River Conservation Foundation is accepting applications for Community Conservation Grants.

These grants are given out each year and this year \$5,000 is available through this program.

The foundation will award grants of up to \$1,000 to qualified community groups (must be a registered charity), or up to \$500 for schools (elementary only) undertaking conservation projects.

Eligible projects must be in the Grand River watershed and available for the use or benefit of the entire community.

The grant application and details about this program are available online at www.grcf.ca under Apply for Funding by May 1.

In 2011, two groups and five schools received funding through this program.

Call the GRCA now for trees in 2013

If you own a property that is greater than one hectare (2.5 acres), exclusive of buildings, and you would like to plant trees next spring, call the GRCA now.

GRCA staff have a waiting list of landowners interested in having a site visit with a forestry specialist. A site visit is best done throughout the summer or fall to start planting next spring. Many sites need to be prepared in the fall before the trees can be planted. A phone call now, means your name will be added to the list.

The GRCA can also help access funding programs to offset the cost for landowners. Many projects, such as, windbreaks, shelterbelts, riparian buffers, and large block plantings can receive 70-90 per cent of the cost covered through programs such as Trees Ontario and the Rural Water Quality Program.

For more information, check the forestry section of the GRCA website, www.grandriver.ca/TreeSales.

Grand River Watershed residents who live in Waterloo Region, Oxford County, Brant County, Hamilton Region, and Haldimand County, call Jessica Robbins at 519-621-2763 ext. 2277; residents of Wellington County, Perth, County, Halton Region, and Dufferin County, call Nathan Munn at 519-621-2763 ext. 2262.



A Trees for Guelph tree planting project. The organization received a Community Conservation Grant in 2011.

A volunteer's perspective on the awards

Archie McLarty is a Brantford area resident and a member of the Conestogo River Enhancement Workgroup, part of the Friends of the Grand River. He spoke on behalf of the award recipients when the awards were last presented. This is what he said.

Everybody knows this is the Grand River by virtue of its name. A rapidly growing number have found out for themselves that it is also a grand river by virtue of its gifts.

When I began my own involvement with the Grand in 1974, many generations had largely turned their backs on it. For far too long, the River was little more than an easy place to get rid of whatever you had that was otherwise tricky or expensive to discard properly, whatever "properly" meant in those days.

More recently, the River has been taken much more seriously. Although it still is receiving our wastewaters, now they've been given sophisticated treatment to reduce or eliminate impacts on river life. Now, if you choose to dump whatever you please along its banks, there's a very high likelihood that someone will see you and be motivated to phone it in and probably lend a hand in cleaning up that mess. And the River has responded with vibrant life and beauty.

Our community has awakened to the river, not simply as a feature of the countryside and downtown landscapes, nor even just as the source of our drinking water, but as the treasured amenity that has become the focal point and driving force behind historic urban renewal, growing civic pride and hundreds of kilometres of well used trails through its woodlands and wetlands. It is a drawing card for folks moving their homes, families and businesses to the watershed, a revival of diverse recreational pursuits and thankfully, an emerging crowd of faithful, watchful stewards keeping the gentle wave rolling down the Valley.



Archie McLarty

WATERSHED AWARDS

Volunteers have been quick to step up, not only to prompt our various government and industrial leaders to take real action for the better, but also to spot and fill the gaps the major programs left gaping. People of all walks of life, ages and talents came forward with their personally vocal or nearly anonymous commitment that this River means a great deal to them, and that, by golly, they would help push or more aptly, PULL the river and the community forward.

Tonight, out of those thousands of Grand Volunteers, a deserving handful have been nominated and chosen by the River's Community for recognition of their valuable and often selfless contributions. Tonight it has been a deliciously reluctant thrill for me to have been asked to speak briefly on behalf of the honoured recipients, to assure you of our humble gratitude.

There are many people in this room tonight who have understood and demonstrated eloquently what it means to be a Volunteer. It is the opportunity and privilege:

- To give something back
- To fulfill a debt
- To lend time and effort to a task one believes in
- To help undo a wrongful act of neglect or abuse
- To lead, mentor and educate by example
- To make a definite and lasting improvement
- To give one's fair measure without expectation, whether or not there was an audience
- To find reward when taking off one's boots at the end of the day, in the ache of achievement of a good day's work done well.

And despite all that altruistic activity, to Volunteer is surely to derive an enormously selfish personal enjoyment and satisfaction from the entire experience.

Public recognition of one's deeds and contributions can be a welcomed accolade

for many, yet perhaps for just as many, an uneasy nudging into the stark splash of limelight. It has been said about recognition that babies cry for it, and men die for it. While we haven't had to go to those extremes to reach this podium, we are, just the same, grateful and appreciative for this wonderful and memorable evening of celebration.

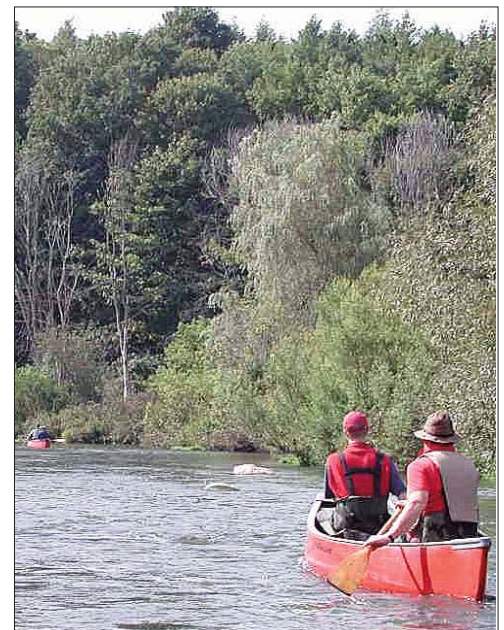
Want to help Crew? If you would like to volunteer with CREW this spring, they could use assistance with road and river clean up in mid-April and tree planting and fish stocking in early May. Call Archie at 519-751-7671.

Nominations due May 1 for awards

Go ahead, make someone's day by submitting a nomination for a Grand River Watershed Award.

The nomination deadline is May 1, 2012. If you know an individual, family or group that is dedicated to improving the environment of the Grand River watershed, consider nominating them for this award.

Check www.grandriver.ca/awards for the nomination form and details about nominating someone for this award.



Members of CREW paddle the Conestogo River to investigate work that needs to be done.

Fergus Lions Club receive award

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

Ten years ago the Fergus Lions Club started creating a special place of remembrance on the banks of the Grand River.

It is a place where 350 trees of many species are now planted as a tribute to the lives and memories of special people. There are also 15 memorial benches.

"What was once a little used piece of land has been sensitively transformed into a pleasant, tranquil area," said Trevor Ashbee, the horticulturalist for Centre Wellington. He drew up a list of 50 tree species and donors could select from the list.

Don Doyle came up with the idea and Joe Brooks became the driving force to get it going. Work crews turned up on Saturday mornings to plant and maintain the area.

About 150 people attended the official opening held in September 2001. The entrance is on the south side of Colquhoun Street between Beatty Line South and Johnson Street at the south end of Beatty Line, just past Calquhoun, west of downtown Fergus. There is a wall of plaques of the many individuals and groups who have made contributions.

The Grand River Arboretum was a project

of the Fergus Lions Club who held many Saturday morning work days to plant and landscape the property.

"It really brought the club together. Every time we did something there was all kinds of stuff to eat and drink," said Doyle.

Towards the centre of the park is the Lion's Tree — a big old tree that stands strong and tall among those that have been planted over the past 10 years.

"The beauty and quietness of this spot so close to the hustle and bustle of the town is a comfort and a refuge for family members who have planted trees in remembrance of loved ones," says resident Roberta Vliestra of Fergus.

The land once belonged to the Grand River Conservation Authority, but is now owned by Centre Wellington Township, while Lion's Club members look after the maintenance.

Now the project is complete and no new trees will be planted.

The Grand Valley Trail is next to the arboretum and the trail leads down the hill and along the Grand River.

The Fergus Lions Club is one of five recipients of a 2011 Grand River Watershed Award and was honoured at an awards presentation on Sept. 15 in Cambridge.



A bench in the Grand River Arboretum.

New forest in the city

The Brant Tree Coalition is spearheading a plan to create a 21-hectare (51-acre) "New Forest in the City" restoration project that will also help rejuvenate three natural streams that run through the property.

The land belongs to the city and is an undevelopable part of the city's Braneida Industrial Park, bordered by Henry Street, Garden Avenue and Highway 403. It will become a native Carolinian forest.

The tree coalition, a subcommittee of the Brantford/Brant Earth Week Event Committee, is inviting the public to help plant trees on Sunday April 22. High school students will also be planting on April 24 as part of the city's Earth Week celebration.

"If we plant 10,000 trees a year for five years, we can get this done," said Chuck Beach, chair of the Earth Week committee. "We believe this is a huge environmental restoration opportunity."

The Coalition has proposed the inclusion of a footpath with bridges spanning three creeks on the property as part of the project. It will cost just over \$320,000 which will be paid for through fundraising.

In five years, the tree planting will have been completed, mostly by high school students and industry representatives.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, GRCA and the city are providing guidance for the project.

See the Calendar on the back page for more information about the public planting event.



Clean up crew from the Fergus Lions club (seated from left) Roberta Vliestra, Frank Randall, Rienk Vliestra (standing from left) Don Doyle, Margaret Plue, Harold Plue and Norma Peterson.



Photo by Janet Baine

A kayaker disappears in the water at Parkhill Dam in March when spring came early.

THE GRAND CALENDAR

Guelph Rotary Forest Earth Day, Saturday April 21, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., across from Guelph Lake Nature Centre.

Residents of Guelph and area are planting a 40-acre forest at the Guelph Lake Conservation Area. Although the focus of the events is planting trees, there are many activities including music and vendor tents. A limited number of shovels will be provided so planters are encouraged to bring their own. Groups are encouraged to participate. Challenge your co-workers, your neighbours, your class and your family. A shuttle bus is available from downtown.

New Forest in the City Tree Planting, Sunday April 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Brantford.

Brantford Parks and Recreation with support from the Brant Tree Coalition is holding this event to encourage people to get out and plant trees. Planting will be at Bury Court, southwest of Highway 403 and Garden Avenue. For more information, contact Jennifer Middleton, Brantford Parks and Recreation Community Foundation at 519-756-1500.

Waterloo Earth Day, Saturday, April 28, Laurel Creek Conservation Area, Waterloo 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Waterloo Earth Day is a free fun-filled day of family activities with an environmental

theme. Activities include tree planting, bird box building, awesome nature shows, crafts and eco-tips to help your family reduce your ecological footprint. For more information contact GRCA at 519-621-2763 ext. 2277 or City of Waterloo at 519-747-8643.

Shimano Take a Kid Fishing Day, Saturday, May 5, Belwood Lake Conservation Area, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Shimano Take a Kid Fishing Day will be held at the Belwood Lake Conservation Area just east of Fergus. This event is designed for children ages 8-14 and their parents. Kids will learn how to cast, rig lures, tie flies, identify various fish species and their habitats and learn how to find and catch more fish. They will also get to see the latest fishing equipment and tackle in a safe, natural environment. There are two sessions per day running from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and again from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event is FREE for registered participants but park entry fees apply (\$2.75 children & \$5.50 adults). The event is limited to 120 kids per four hour session, so register early.

CAA /Trees Ontario Tree Planting, Saturday, May 5, Laurel Creek Conservation Area, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Hosted by CAA South Central Ontario and Trees Ontario, this Annual Community Planting Weekend is designed to bring CAA members, along with their families, friends,

and members of the general public together, to help plant trees. Please bring a shovel, gardening gloves and lots of energy. The CAA South Central Ontario and Trees Ontario will supply the trees, forestry specialists, mulch and snacks. Register for planting at www.treesontario.ca for the K-W event or for more information contact GRCA at 519-621-2763 ext. 2277.

Upper Grand Trailway Tree Plant, Saturday May 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bring your family to plant trees along the Upper Grand Trailway. Meet at the Trailway Parking lot. Lunch to be provided by the Grand Valley Lions Club. Contact Vada at 519-928-2841 or Donna at 519-928-5755.

About Grand Actions:

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

More information:

Current and back issues as well as complete subscription information is available online at www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions.

Submission deadlines:

The 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions may be edited for length or style. Photos and event information is also welcome. We do our best to publish items, but we are not able to guarantee publication.

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