



GRAND Actions

The Grand River watershed newsletter



November/December 2014 • Volume 19, Number 5

What's Inside:

Features

Weather watchers 1

Watershed Award

Hillside nets top award ... 3

Heritage River

Heritage River awards 4

Milestone

WMP ready to go 5

Foundation

New GLNC in the works .. 6

\$50,000 donation 7

Give Grand 7

Conservation grants 7

Three scholarships 7

Calendar 8

Cover photo

*A summer storm rolls in
north of the village of
Wellesley.*

Photo by Anne Loeffler



Seeking weather watchers

By Janet Baine

GRCA Communications Specialist

Weather watchers can become “citizen scientists” and share their data through a volunteer network that has come to Ontario.

“This will help us document storms and snow,” says the Grand River Conservation Authority’s main weather and flood watcher, Dwight Boyd, who hopes many people in the watershed will join this network. “Lots of farmers and others already have rain gauges and are collecting this information. This organization offers a way for people to engage and share their weather information to help us at the same time.”

Historically, Environment Canada had a broadly based climate network. Lots of those volunteers have retired and their weather stations are not operating anymore. This has left a gap in weather information, says Boyd, who is the GRCA’s director of engineering.

Volunteer weather watchers are families and people of all ages and from all walks of life. They

spend a few minutes each day measuring and reporting precipitation. This data is recorded through a website and is available for anyone to see when they click the “view data” tab on www.cocorahs.org/canada.

More eyes on the weather

Called the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), this organization started in Colorado after severe flooding there. Ontario joined a few other provinces on this network in the spring. There are now 147 weather watchers in Ontario, but only a few are within the Grand River watershed.

The GRCA has seven manual weather stations that measure precipitation across the watershed and 24 that are automated. Climate change means there are more localized weather patterns, so more weather watchers are needed. For a watershed like this one that is the size of Canada’s smallest province, it would be helpful to have volunteers collecting weather data in every area.



The Grand River
A Canadian
Heritage River



Photo by Janet Baine

Dwight Boyd points to rain mapping from Environment Canada that uses data from many sources, including the CoCoRaHS network. He hopes many weather watchers in the Grand River watershed will join the network. This will help predict flood risks and explain weather patterns.

“Data from CoCoRaHS is used by flood and drought forecasters, meteorologists, farmers, schools, gardeners, engineers and many more,” says volunteer coordinator Karla Jackson, who trains the volunteers. “Often CoCoRaHS fills in many of the gaps that exist between automated stations,

providing a better indication of localized precipitation events.”

Boyd says this information will be useful in documenting why the river levels change and also in predicting the risks in the future.

The data is also going directly into Environment Canada’s evolving weather monitoring system along with weather radar and data from climate stations and observations to create rainfall maps that cover the country.

“Right now the mapping has a 10-kilometre grid, but in the future it will be a 2.5-kilometre grid, which will provide much more accurate data,” Boyd says.

Along with training, CoCoRaHS observers use a monitoring kit which includes an official CoCoRaHS rain gauge and snow measuring equipment. Each day, when volunteers input their observations online, the data is immediately available.

The kit is \$30 and can be purchased online. Boyd has one, and he is looking forward to setting it up in his own backyard.

The training is available online in videos and PowerPoint tutorials. Jackson is visiting communities for information sessions when there is a group of interested people. She held sessions in Guelph in November, but can do sessions for specific groups who are interested.

Anyone interested in signing up or

learning more can send an email to ontario@cocorahs.org or apply directly through the website at www.cocorahs.org/canada.

Did you know?

On Sept. 26, 1939 the first entry in the log at the Shand Dam weather station showed maximum temperature for that day was 9.4 C, and the minimum was 2 C. Observations were first made by engineers and workers building the Shand Dam, which was completed and officially opened with great fanfare in 1942. So the GRCA’s first weather monitoring station started 75 years ago. At the time, the Shand Dam was a big work site with lots of temporary housing for workers.

Back in time to 1999

Now the GRCA’s weather information can go back in time.

A new section on the GRCA’s website provides weather information that goes back as far as the 1999.

So if you had a perfect paddle on Canada Day seven years ago, you can check the river flows at that time and keep it in mind for the future. Or, if you remember the day when rainfall was so heavy that there was water in your basement, you can find out if this could also happen during an upcoming storm.

Click the data monitoring link on <http://maps.grandriver.ca/>



Once set up by a volunteer, the gauge collects snow or rain. It might be a good Christmas gift for some watershed residents.



A rain gauge in summer set up in a field.

Hillside Festival nets top GRCA award

By Janet Baine

GRCA Communications Specialist

After 31 years of pushing environmental initiatives a little further, Hillside Festival is as green as the trees at Guelph Lake Island.

While a few thousand people flock to the island during the festival, the imprint they leave is small. For this reason, Hillside received a 2014 Honour Roll award from the Grand River Conservation Authority.

"This recognition fills us with gratitude toward all of the community people who helped us get where we are," said Hillside's executive director Marie Zimmerman after receiving the award. Hillside's website says, "Thank you to all of you — our patrons, volunteers, board, service providers, and staff — for igniting so many flames and helping them burn quietly with your gentle concentration."

Instead of a financial pie chart, Hillside has a pie chart about greenhouse gas emissions that it has saved and the many ways this has been achieved.

Hillside has reusable mugs, dishes and cutlery. These are washed by volunteers using solar hot water. The food and beer is local. Patrons sort their own waste, fill up their reusable bottles with free water, ride their bikes or catch a free bus to the festival. Volunteers bury organic materials on site to be composted. Even the beer mugs seem to strive for self-improvement: a few years ago they were plastic, then biodegradable plastic and now stainless steel.

Exceeded goals every year

Zimmerman says she is often invited to speak about festival greening. These are notes from her cheat sheet:

"In 1984, when the festival began, the objective was to create as little waste as possible on site. This objective has gradually been refined to lessening our footprint as much as possible in terms of waste and energy used in all areas of the festival and by all people. Target audience? Everyone from patrons who throw out waste, to volunteers who move equipment and people around the site, through to the technical production

crew. Results? Our objectives have been exceeded every year. We have saved 593 tonnes in CO2 emissions over about 21 recorded years, which is an average of 28 tonnes per festival."

Nine major initiatives characterize the greening of Hillside over the past three decades. They are in the areas of hospitality, transportation, solar power, festival programming and activities, offering free

water, paperless promotion, waste management, technical production and the permanent main stage with a green roof. A volunteer green team raised funds for the green roof and continues to raise money that is dedicated to greening the festival.

It is hard to believe the festival can delve even further into these greening initiatives, but the board plans to.

Board president Luke Weiler said the



Hillside Festival brings 5,000 people to the island at Guelph Lake Park each July. This well-run festival has brought many benefits to Guelph Lake and it is a partnership that works. Hillside volunteers put the environment first.



Guelph's Hillside Festival received the 2014 Honour Roll award. From left are Joe Farwell, GRCA CAO, Hillside site director Lloyd Grinham, Marie Zimmerman, executive director, Luke Weiler, Hillside president and Jane Mitchell, GRCA board chair.

festival is investigating powering a stage using bicycles, in addition to the solar power that has been used for a few years.

Because of Hillside Festival, Guelph Lake has a green roof stage, solar hot water for campers and about 5,000 more trees.

Five Watershed Awards

In addition, there were five 2014 Watershed Award recipients. These included the **Guelph Hiking Trail Club** which has been encouraging people to get outside and hike since 1972; University of Waterloo professor Emeritus **Emil Frind** for his activities in water stewardship; Arthur residents **Buck Ross and Joyce Spies**, who have been excellent stewards of their land; **Bird Studies Canada**, which has undertaken many monitoring programs within this watershed and engaged hundreds of volunteers; and retired teacher **Fraser Gibson** of Kitchener, who has devoted lots of time and commitment to sharing his love of nature and education.

Upcoming issues will feature stories about the 2014 Watershed Award recipients.

Heritage River awards

In October the GRCA recognized some of the many people who helped bring about the designation of the Grand as a Canadian Heritage River 20 years ago.

This took place during the 2014 Watershed Awards and 20th anniversary celebration at the Waterloo Region Museum in Kitchener. The GRCA gave out many Heritage River Certificates and pins and three Heritage River Awards.

It took years to inch the Grand River slowly towards nomination and then designation. This is because it was the first river that was not a “wild and scenic” or natural heritage river to qualify. Designation of the Grand River broke new ground, leading to designation of other rivers including the Rideau, the Humber and the Thames rivers.

It also brought international recognition to the Grand River, including the Thies International Riverprize that was conferred on the Grand River in 2000 for excellence in river management. Since then, Lake Simcoe,



Three Heritage River Awards were given out to the Heritage Resources Centre, Barbara Veale and Eva Salter. From left are Gordon Nelson, Jane Mitchell, Barbara Veale, Robert Shipley, Eva Salter, Joe Farwell and Bradley Fauteux, managing director of Ontario Parks.

has also received this prize.

Most importantly, however, was the recognition that came from the local community which turned attention to the Grand and its tributaries, undertaking hundreds of improvement projects.

Eva Salter

Eva Salter was a member of the co-ordinating committee in 1994 and has been an excellent promoter of the Heritage River designation at the provincial level and a key resource for the Heritage Working Group for 20 years. She lives in St. Catharines and works for the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. She first visited the Grand River when she was a teacher working in Elmira.

Heritage Resources Centre

The Heritage Resources Centre at the University of Waterloo did the initial research for the river designation in a report. The centre was just being formed and has since carried out many other Heritage River projects including an inventory of heritage bridges in 2013.

Barbara Veale

Barbara Veale was co-chair of the co-ordinating committee in 1994 and was a member of the GRCA staff until 2013. She led many initiatives to keep the Canadian Heritage River designation on the front

burner over the past 20 years.

“We need to celebrate this achievement, but also reflect and look to what we can do in the future,” Veale said.

Heritage River Certificates

In addition to these awards, about 20 Heritage River pins and Heritage River Certificates were given to people who were instrumental in the designation of the Grand River in 1994. Those invited to receive the pins and certificates included members of the Grand Strategy steering committee, the Grand Strategy coordinating committee, the GRCA board in 1994 and a few others such as former GRCA CAO Mac Coutts. See www.flickr.com/grandriverca for photos of those who received these pins and certificates.

Bradley Fauteux, managing director of Ontario Parks and the Ontario representative on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, was the guest speaker at this event and helped hand out the awards. When all this work was underway, Fauteux was a Fergus teen paddling and fishing on the Grand River. He told the crowd that feeling a passionate connection to rivers started at a young age and is what brought him to his current position.

He challenged those gathered for the evening to ensure that younger people feel the connection to the river so they too will become excellent river stewards.

Grand River Water Management Plan approved and ready to go

By **Dave Schultz**

GRCA Communications Manager

A plan to address water supply, water quality and flooding issues in the Grand River watershed has been endorsed by water management agencies from all levels of government and is ready for implementation.

The Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan has been five years in the making. It's a product of a collaborative partnership of municipalities, provincial ministries, the federal government, Six Nations of the Grand River and the Grand River Conservation Authority.

Copies of the plan and more information are available on www.grandriver.ca/WMP.

Representatives of the plan partners met in September at the GRCA head office in Cambridge to mark the completion of the plan and to discuss its implementation.

Sandra Cooke, the GRCA's senior water quality supervisor and the co-ordinator of the project, said this plan charts the path forward.

"No one agency can manage all aspects of water," said Cooke. "This plan came together because all of the partners were willing to work collaboratively with a shared sense of trust and mutual respect."

Three key challenges

The plan includes 43 recommendations and 165 action items that the partners have already agreed to undertake. The action items respond to the three key challenges facing the watershed today: high population growth, extensive agriculture and a changing climate.

As the action items are implemented there will be improvements in water quality in the Grand River and its tributaries. This will also have a positive impact on the health of Lake Erie, because the Grand is one of the largest sources of nutrient pollution in the eastern basin of the lake.

All of the partner agencies have formally endorsed the plan. Most municipalities in



Sandra Cooke was one of the leaders in the collaborative process that brought together many groups and organizations for the plan.

the Grand River watershed, as well as the Six Nations Elected Council, have passed motions of endorsement during the past few months.

In addition, federal and provincial ministries have signed letters endorsing the plan. Letters came from Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Several working groups

Several committees and working groups have been set up to maintain momentum in implementing the action items in the plan.

Early in the 20th century, the Grand River system was severely degraded and prone to frequent flooding. It was sometimes referred to as an open sewer. Over the past 80 years, the implementation of a series of water management plans has led to a significant improvement in the health of the river system. The last plan was published in 1982.

MILESTONE

The new plan builds on that document and brings it up to date to address 21st century pressures.

The new plan is a compilation of action items that the partners have already voluntarily agreed to carry out.

For example, several municipalities have already planned significant investments in their sewage treatment plants that will result in cleaner water leaving the plants. Many have also adopted an approach to change the treatment processes in the plants to improve effluent quality. Municipalities have also undertaken water conservation programs to reduce the demand on the river and groundwater systems.

The strategies the GRCA uses to manage its reservoirs will continue to provide sufficient flows for water supply, wastewater and environmental needs into the future as well as reduce flood damages. However, climate change may require reservoir operating strategies to be flexible. Ongoing improvements and investments will also be made in improved floodplain mapping, flood forecasting and floor warning systems.

Another challenge for the river system is the nutrients, such as phosphorous and nitrogen, that run off the land from both urban and rural areas. They contribute to excessive weed growth and reduce water quality. The commitment of the partners to continuing the Rural Water Quality Program and developing new approaches to managing urban stormwater will help address the problem.

The development of the plan cost about \$2 million. About \$900,000 came from by the provincial government through its Showcasing Water Innovations Program which encouraged the development of ideas that can be shared across Ontario and beyond. Environment Canada contributed \$120,000. The remainder was paid by the GRCA.

Modern Guelph Lake Nature Centre will thankfully retain old-school charm

By Deirdre Healey
Guelph Mercury

A creepy tarantula, soccer games in the bitter cold, strange puppet shows and the smell of fermenting school lunches.

Those are just some of the fond memories I have of the years I spent visiting the Guelph Lake Nature Centre.

For those of you who haven't had the unique experience of spending time at this spot, the nature centre is a place where you go on class field trips once a year to learn about the great outdoors from pond ecosystems to bird habitats. It's essentially a house near the Guelph Lake Conservation Area that has been transformed into an education centre, and it holds special memories for anyone who has grown up in Guelph within the last 30 years.

From what I remember, it was a break from the mundane view of the chalk board for a day of hiking through the trees in

search of animal tracks, wading in the water with nets trapping crayfish and daring yourself to hold snakes, turtles and even a tarantula in your hand. It was a chance to do something different, explore the outdoors and have fun.

Sharing enthusiasm for nature

It was also where you had the opportunity to hang out with Dan the Nature Man and his partner, Greg. Unfortunately for Greg, kids struggled to come up with a catchy name for him, but he was adored just the same. Decked out in their khakis and matching button-up shirts, this dynamic duo was a staple of any visit to the nature centre. They were always super keen about sharing all the interesting—and sometimes gross—facts they knew about the wild. Although their puppet show skills weren't the best, they did enjoy pummeling us on the soccer field. And despite the some 30 years that they have been on the job as the nature

FOUNDATION

centre tour guides, I have been told that they still haven't lost their enthusiasm.

When I heard about plans to rebuild the centre, I worried that the experience for future generations would change, that its simple yet unique charm would be lost. The idea to replace the centre has been tossed around for a few years, but the Grand River Conservation Authority is in the midst of ramping up its fundraising campaign and focusing on making this new facility a priority. So far they have raised one-third of the projected \$3 million needed to construct the building, but are hoping to speed things up so they can break ground within the next couple of years.

New bigger facility

Instead of an outdated 3,000-square-foot house that looks out over the lake, kids will soon be spending the day in an 8,000-square-foot complex within the Guelph Lake Conservation Area. The building will have four classrooms, instead of one, and it will be surrounded by a landscape created for learning that will include specially designed nature trails, ponds and fields. Essentially, the goal is to expand the school field trip programs, as well as offer educational activities for the public on evenings, weekends and throughout the summer.

It will be bigger and better, but what about the memorable oddities that made the nature centre a special place? Well, it turns out all the important stuff will remain the same. The conservation authority has been in constant discussion with students, teachers and nature centre interpreters to get a feel for what the new centre should entail. And, not surprisingly, they want to retain all the same quirky characteristics that have been etched in my mind since my school days.

For starters, Dan the Nature Man and Greg will still be there. They will still have their collection of reptiles for kids to freak out at or smother. There will still be



Greg Meredith leading a group of summer campers on a hike at Guelph Lake.



Dan "the Nature Man" Schneider

adventurous hikes and messy pond tromping expeditions. Dan and Greg will continue to hone their puppetry skills with shows for the kids. And those lunchtime soccer games that happened rain, snow or hail will also remain.

So, despite the fancy new facility, I am happy to learn that thousands of kids will continue to have the same special Guelph Lake Nature Centre experience that I once did. And I'm sure it will only be a matter of time before the smell of fermenting school lunches permeates this new place as well.

If you are interested in learning more about the new Guelph Lake Nature Centre Complex, or would like to learn about how you can support the development of this new facility, contact Sara Wilbur, executive director with the Grand River Conservation Foundation at swilbur@grandriver.ca or 519-621-2763 Ext. 2272. More details are available at www.grcf.ca.

\$50,000 for new nature centre

Bob Desautels made a \$50,000 commitment to the new Guelph Lake Nature Centre Complex on behalf of the Woolwich Arrow Pub and Borealis Restaurants in Guelph and Kitchener.

"We believe this is an investment for the future," said Desautels. "Educating children about the environment is absolutely critical."

He said it is the children who will help create a sustainable future if they're given the right tools to start with. Other donors to this project include Ken and Marilyn Murray, Bill and Mimi Hamilton, Ann Guthrie and Linamar Corporation.

Give Grand this season New trails and tree planting

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

For Marilyn Murray, gift giving is an expression of commitment to family, community and nature.

Between them, Marilyn and her second husband Ken Murray have 12 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and eight spouses or partners of their grandchildren to think about at Christmastime.

Marilyn has found a personal gift that works much better than what she could scout out at shopping malls, because it represents her own values. Most important, she hopes her gift to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren will help lead them to a lifelong commitment to giving back to their communities.

"I want them to know that you don't have to give much, but it is important to give," she said.

This idea for gift giving came to her after she heard about someone else making a charitable donation in the name of their grandchildren each year as a gift.

Initially, Murray asked each grandchild to select a charity of their choice and she made a donation in their name to that charity. However, instead of sending many smaller donations to a variety of organizations, last year she opted to contribute to one organization that means a great deal to her on behalf of all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She selected the Grand River Conservation Foundation.

All these smaller gifts are adding up to make a big difference. Murray expects the donations will be used for the proposed trails around the new Guelph Lake Nature Centre.

"It is a subtle way that lets me mentor my grandchildren to support the things that they believe in," she said. "It also allows me to put extra money into a project that I believe in."

Give Grand

The Foundation's Give Grand program makes it easy for people to give a gift this way during the holiday season or at any other time of year, such as birthdays.

A gift of \$30 will plant and support one tree, or will help develop one metre of trail. The GRCA plants up several hundred thousand trees a year and planting takes place throughout the watershed. This

program doesn't allow you to pick the location of the trail or tree, but chances are there are GRCA trails and trees near where you live.

Each donor receives a thank you letter, a tax receipt and a beautiful holiday card for gift giving. Or, the card can be sent directly to the recipient of the gift so it arrives in time for the holidays.

A donation can be made by going to www.grcf.ca and clicking on the "Donate Now" button, or calling 1-877-29GRAND, or emailing dhartley@grandriver.ca. If your order is received by Dec. 13, 2014, the thank you letter and holiday card will arrive in time for Christmas.



Marilyn Murray

GRCF gives out conservation grants

The Grand River Conservation Foundation awarded three Community Conservation Grants to organizations.

- Ruthven National Historic Site near Caledonia for a Butterfly Meadow Senses Project
- Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp & Retreat Centre near New Hamburg to naturalize a former gravel pit
- Rotary Club of Dunnville to beautify the "Muddy the Mudcat" statue area

In addition, conservation grants of \$250 each are being provided to 10 schools in the watershed. The schools use the grants for naturalization projects.

Three scholarships awarded by GRCF

The Grand River Conservation Foundation awarded three 2014 scholarships to post-secondary students.

This was the third year for the Allan Holmes Scholarship, named for the former



Volunteers including Carolyn Crozier from Communitrees in Elora planted 88 new trees along the Elora Cataract Trailway. They went back in November to give the newly-planted trees the best chance of surviving winter by:

- A small area around each tree was cleared of undergrowth
- Generous mulching but kept away from trunk, forming doughnut shape around the tree
- Flexible plastic tree wraps placed on deciduous trees, ensuring wraps extend slightly into soil
- An animal repellent was painted onto smaller trees and main branches of shrubs
- Snow was tramped down/compacted around trees in winter

THE GRAND CALENDAR

Organics Conference & Expo, Jan. 29 to Feb. 1

Celebrating its 34th year, the 2015 event includes international speakers, seminars and introductory workshops on key topics including: permaculture, organic production and certification, urban agriculture, organic livestock and pasture issues, pollination and urban bees themes plus many, many other workshops which will help both producer and consumer. There is a free Organic Expo/Tasting Fair with 160+ exhibitor tables (includes almost 35 food samplers) on Saturday/Sunday. For more information visit www.guelphorganicconf.ca or call 519-824-4120 ext. 56311.

Heritage Day Workshop, Guelph, Feb. 13

Mark your calendar to attend the 18th annual Heritage Day Workshop taking place in Guelph. The theme for 2015 is Timeline/Waterline: Grand Culture at the Confluence. This workshop is about

Guelph's connection to World War I and the Natural and Cultural History of the Guelph area. The event is sponsored by the City of Guelph, Grand River Conservation Authority and the Heritage Working Group of The Grand Strategy. The workshop takes place at the John McCrae Royal Canadian Legion Branch (57 Watson Parkway South) in Guelph. Complete the attached registration form or download a copy from www.grandriver.ca.

Order trees from the GRCA anytime before March 1

Landowners can order trees to be planted on their own properties of 2.5 acres or more (exclusive of buildings) from the GRCA until March 1. Orders must be for 200 seedlings or 20 saplings or more. For more information or to arrange a visit to your property, check the Forestry section of www.grandriver.ca/trees, email trees@grandriver.ca or call 519-621-2763.

(Continued from page 7)

CAO of the GRCA who passed away in 2010. The recipient was **Keegan Hicks**, a PhD student at the University of Waterloo who is doing research on the Grand River.

The McEwen Clean Water Prize was received by **Graeme McDonald**, who is enrolled in the Master of Science program at the University of Guelph. It is named after a long time supporter of the GRCA.

The S. C. Johnson & Son Limited Scholarship went to **Joel Gretton**, a University of Guelph student. This award is given out each year to a full-time student in the third or sixth semester of an honours program at a watershed university or a college student in the second year.

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.

To subscribe by e-mail:

GrandActions-subscribe@grandriver.ca

To subscribe by mail, change your subscription or for information:

Janet Baine, *Grand Actions* editor
Phone: 519-621-2763, Ext. 2302
E-mail: jbaine@grandriver.ca
Mail: Box 729
400 Clyde Road
Cambridge ON N1R 5W6

This publication is printed on Rolland Enviro100, an FSC certified, environmentally-friendly paper. The paper is manufactured using 100% post-consumer fibre and is processed chlorine-free using biogas energy.





GRAND Actions



Please help keep our
mailing list up-to-date

Update your mail subscription. Return this form
in the postage-paid, self-addressed envelope.

Name: _____

Organization: _____
(If applicable)

Title: _____
(If applicable)

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ Take me off the mailing list

☐ Change my address

☐ New subscription

It's easy to
subscribe by email!

To have Grand Actions sent to your
inbox, send a blank email to:

GrandActions-subscribe@grandriver.ca

You will receive an email back. Reply to it
within five days. Unsubscribe at any time.

For more info:

www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions

Send your **comments & suggestions**

Help to keep our costs down by ensuring each copy of
Grand Actions is well-read, and by keeping our mailing
list up-to-date. For more information email
jbaine@grandriver.ca or call 519-621-2763 x2302.

Thank you!



If you've enjoyed this free newsletter, consider
helping us by donating to plant a tree or to develop
one metre of nature trail. See reverse.





A gift of
nature



givegrand 

What do you give someone who has everything? A tree, of course! Or how about a metre of nature trail?

Choose to *Give Grand* this holiday season. A gift of \$30 will plant and support one local tree, or will help develop one metre of trail.

\$30

plant a **TREE**
build **TRAILS**

Each donor receives a thank you letter, tax receipt and a beautiful holiday card for gift giving. If you prefer, we can send the card directly to the recipient so it arrives in time for the holidays.

It's easy to give:

- Go to www.grcf.ca and click Donate Now
- Call 1-877-29-GRAND
- Email the GRCF at dhartley@grandriver.ca

Place orders by December 13, 2014. Charitable receipts will be issued for donations.

The Grand River Conservation Foundation

supports priority programs of the Grand River Conservation Authority. These programs enrich the natural values of the Grand River watershed and encourage people to enjoy, and learn from, the outdoors.



www.GRCF.ca

18th Annual Grand River Watershed Heritage Day Workshop & Celebration

Friday, February 13, 2015: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

John McCrae Royal Canadian Legion Branch
57 Watson Parkway South at York Road, Guelph, ON



Timeline/Waterline: Grand Culture at the Confluence

8:30-9:00 Registration (*refreshments will be available*)

Morning Program **THE GREAT WAR REMEMBERED, Susan Ratcliffe, MC**

9:00 Opening - **Robin Aggus** pipes in students and dignitaries

The Maple Leaf Forever sung by students from John McCrae P.S.

9:10– 9:30 Welcoming Remarks: Grand River Conservation Authority, City of Guelph and recognition of other local politicians present.

9:30 –9:45 **Dr. William Winegard, Col. John McCrae and new statute**
John McCrae P.S. students recite "*In Flanders Fields*"

9:45 –10:15 **Bev Dietrich, In Flanders Field: John McCrae Story**

10:15 –10:45 **Dr. Terry Crowley, Speedwell Hospital**

10:45-11:15 Washroom and refreshment break

11:15-12:15 **Hugh Brewster, "Colonial Rabble" to Shock Troops: Canada in World War I**

12:15 - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch** - soup and sandwich buffet and trivia quiz, displays

Afternoon Program – AT THE CONFLUENCE, Warren Stauch, MC

1:30 **Paul General, Six Nations, Welcome and Territorial acknowledgment**

1:30 – 2:00 **Alex Sinclair, River Songs**, original member of Tamarack

2:00 – 2:30 **Stan Kozak and Evan Ferrari, From Dumpsites to Wildlife Habitat-The role of community organizations**

2:30 – 3:15 **Susan Ratcliffe and Bob Giza, Two Beautiful Rivers**

3:15 – 3:45 **Norah Chaloner, Yorklands Green Hub**

3:45 - 4:00 Adjournment and singing of *Oh Canada*

Sponsored by: The Grand Strategy Heritage Working Group, the Grand River Conservation Authority, the City of Guelph, and the Yorklands Green Hub

Registration to the workshop is free but space is limited. **All participants must be preregistered.**

Registrations will be accepted until **Friday, January 30th, 2015** or until the registration is at capacity. Donations will be gratefully received at the event or online at www.grcf.ca.

To register, please return the completed form or send the appropriate information to **Grand River Conservation Authority – Attn: Nathan Garland – 400 Clyde Road, P.O. Box 729, Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6** or ngarland@grandriver.ca

Registration forms are also available at www.grandriver.ca ✂

REGISTRATION FORM (please print or type)

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please check if ☐ you will be staying for lunch ☐ you will not be staying for lunch