



GRAND Actions

The Grand River watershed newsletter



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Fields of trees in Burford

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

Mark Funk's frontline work in forestry, ecology and agriculture will help him in his new job at the helm of the Burford Tree Nursery.

About 60,000 of the 180,000 trees growing at the nursery are lifted out of the sandy soil each spring. They are replanted throughout the Grand River watershed by landowners, Grand River Conservation Authority staff and volunteers.

These are not ordinary trees. They are grown from locally-sourced native seeds and Carolinian species that are often hard to come by at other tree nurseries.

"If you could take a tour of the watershed and see the thousands and thousands of trees that have come from our nursery, it would be

beautiful," Funk said. He may be new to the nursery, but he knows the forests that germinated at Burford. Before assuming his position as superintendent of nursery operations last August, Funk was a forestry specialist with the GRCA. Along with other staff, he visited landowners and helped develop planting plans. He also helped plan large-scale tree planting events.

"I grew up on a vineyard in Jordan, in the Niagara area. Growing vines is a lot like growing trees, it's very similar. While I have an agricultural background, most of my education and work is in the forestry side," he said.

Funk has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, an ecosystem restoration certificate from Niagara College and is a certified arborist. In university, he became a "tree nerd" enjoying tree identification. He also worked for two other conservation authorities

Cover photo

About 180,000 trees are growing at the Burford Tree Nursery.





1. Paul Swartz plants seeds 2. Drying nannyberry seeds are a feast for bees 3. Co-op student Brelynn Howard spreads seeds to dry them 4. Pruning the branches off of trees so that they become whips 5. Nursery superintendent Mark Funk.

before landing at the GRCA.

He replaced Bruce Graham, who operated Burford nursery since it opened 30 years ago and retired last year.

30 year history of growing trees

The GRCA's first tree nursery was set up in 1945 at Belwood Lake, but the nursery moved to Burford 30 years ago.

It is on a former tobacco farm that was bequeathed to the GRCA by Lorraine Majowicz in 1984. The lighter soil and more southern location provide an earlier tree lifting season and the chance to grow more species of trees. Majowicz only asked that no hunting would be permitted on the land and that her bird feeders would stay well stocked with birdseed — an obligation that the staff honours today.

Unlike private businesses, this nursery aims for cost-recovery and not profit. It generates revenue through tree sales, but also

from donations and the general levy. It is a cornerstone of the GRCA's arsenal to improve the diversity, amount and health of forests within the watershed.

The core production has been bare root hardwood seedlings and saplings. Coniferous trees, such as white pine, are easier to source from other growers. Potted trees are also grown at Burford and these are used for windbreaks on farms and to replace the trees that have been killed by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Carolinian species of trees are also common at Burford.

"The nursery has changed a lot over the years. It responds to the gaps in the supply from other nurseries. We're not trying to be entirely self-sufficient. We are always going to buy some of our trees elsewhere," said Nathan Munn, the supervisor of forestry operations. "Currently the supply gap is in bare root deciduous saplings of appropriate native species and seed-sources. Other CAs

Forest Fact

The GRCA manages about 80 square kilometres of forest within the watershed and also works with area landowners to plant trees. Currently about 19 per cent of the watershed is covered in trees, but the goal is 30 per cent forest cover.

are having a hard time sourcing them, while our nursery is meeting our program needs for this stock type."

Seasons of growing

On a cold day in the dead of **winter**, Funk, forestry technician Paul Swartz and co-op student Brelynn Howard prune rows of trees in a field.

"We do a lot of pruning during winter. In December, I was out here all day, every day, five days a week," Funk said. Many trees from Burford are whips — slender two- or three-year-old trees that have had the

branches removed.

Spring is the busiest time. With help from a dozen seasonal workers, the trees come out of the ground and are brought to the GRCA's forestry barn at the head office in Cambridge. People come from across the watershed to pick them up so they can be planted.

"The tall stock is shipped bare root with no soil around the roots and no pots. This is less expensive for shipping and it is a less common way to ship trees. But it works for us, because we can get them in the ground quickly," Funk explained.

During the **summer** the focus is on ensuring that whatever the weather, the growing conditions are ideal for trees — ensuring they get the right amount of water, nutrients and that the pests are kept at bay. This keeps Funk, Swartz and a couple of summer assistants busy.

Fall is when seeds are collected, cleaned, dried and prepared for planting. About 60 species of trees that are native to the Grand River watershed are grown from seed at Burford. Seeds are collected in four different seed zones to ensure they are well suited to the climate and physical characteristics of the watershed.

"Going forward there will be a focus on growing unique trees that we can't find at other nurseries, like Carolinian species.

There will be a stronger focus on tall stock, to help replace the trees throughout the watershed that have been impacted by Emerald Ash Borer," Funk said.

Trees and landowners workshop March 5

To help rural landowners keep their trees healthy, the GRCA will host a free day-long workshop Saturday, March 5, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the GRCA head office, 400 Clyde Rd., Cambridge.

In recent memory the GRCA has not held a workshop as big as this that focuses entirely on trees. The day will include talks by GRCA staff and many partners. There will also be displays and a chance to network with other landowners concerned about trees.

"People want to learn as much as possible about how to help the trees on their property," says Karen Buschert, conservation outreach specialist with the GRCA and the organizer of this event. "It will help people learn what to do to keep their trees healthy during the current challenges such as climate change and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) as well as put them in touch with organizations and resources to solve tree problems."

Topics include planting, pruning, how to

tell if your trees are suffering from common diseases and why you should have a forest management plan. In addition, information will be presented on tree-related grants that are available to landowners within the Grand River watershed.

Participation is free, but pre-registration is requested. To register, please contact Karen Buschert at the Grand River Conservation Authority at kbuschert@grandriver.ca or 519-621-2763, ext. 2305.

Support for this project was provided through the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association from the education and outreach component of the Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through Growing Forward 2.

How landowners can buy GRCA trees

The GRCA helps landowners who want to plant trees on their property.

Trees are an important part of the GRCA's work to restore the natural environment. Trees and forests protect water quality in rivers and streams. They provide habitat for birds and animals and they add to the health of our communities by purifying the air.

The GRCA's tree planting programs are aimed at farm and rural landowners who have at least one hectare (2.5 acres) of land.

Landowners who want to plant their own trees can buy them online or by using the order form. These trees must be ordered by March 1.

They are eligible for help developing a planting plan as well as tree planting services (must be ordered by Dec. 1 of each year) and grants to offset the cost of the trees. A GRCA forestry specialist will visit the property. Check online at www.grandriver.ca/Trees for details or call forestry specialist Joe Heeg at 519-621-2761, ext. 2259.

In addition, anyone in the watershed can purchase trees at the GRCA tree "garage sale" that will take place Friday, May 20. Details will be in the GRCA events calendar.



Brelynn Howard is a Grade 12 student at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School who is completing a co-op term at Burford Tree Nursery. She plans to enter the environmental field as a career after she attends university.

Rivers advocate Dr. Hugh Whiteley

By Janet Baine
GRCA Communications Specialist

Retired University of Guelph engineer and hydrologist Dr. Hugh Whiteley is a passionate advocate for the rivers in his community.

For his years of dedication, especially to local waterways, he received a 2015 Watershed Award from the GRCA.

Whiteley's interest in water is rooted in genetics. One grandfather was a sea captain, the other operated a summer resort on Mara Lake in B.C. At age four he received his first paddle and accompanied his parents on many canoe trips.

As a child, he built snow dams in the spring and raced matchstick boats in the runoff streams in front of his Ottawa home. This led to a study of engineering at Queen's University with a fourth year undergraduate thesis on flood prediction.

Thirsty for more knowledge of water, he studied at Imperial College in London (Diploma in Hydrology) and at the St. Anthony Falls laboratory at the University of Minnesota (M.Sc.). Whiteley then applied his training in Guyana (Land of Three Rivers).

He arrived at the University of Guelph in 1966 to teach and also complete his Ph.D. in hydrology. His teaching and research focused on water flow within the landscape.

"A great contribution Hugh made to the GRCA is likely the development of the hydrologic modeling system that we use to run all our flood forecasting," said James Etienne, the GRCA's senior water resources engineer. "And he probably taught half of the engineering staff at the GRCA."

Flood forecasting model

Flood forecasting is a key activity of the GRCA, especially during the spring. Whiteley's streamflow modeling system is called the Guelph All-Weather Storm-Event Runoff Model (GAWSER). It was developed 35 years ago as a tool for research on causes of pollution in the Great Lakes when Whiteley was part of an international group - the Pollution from Land Use Activities Reference Group (PLUARG).

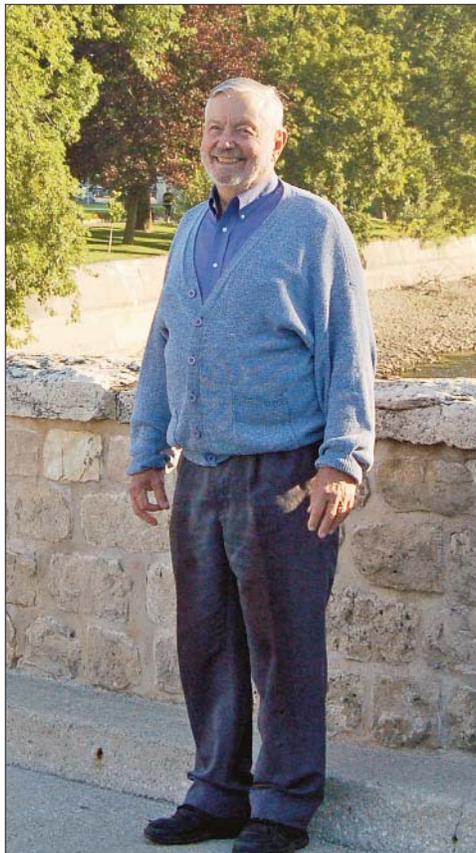
The GAWSER model examined the impact

of agricultural drainage on water quality of streams flowing into the Great Lakes. Whiteley applied this model in the Canagagigue Creek watershed, a tributary of the Grand River flowing through Elmira.

When floodplain mapping was being updated by the GRCA in the mid '80s, Lorrie Minshall, Whiteley's former student and an employee of the GRCA (now retired), asked him to adapt his model to estimate flood flows for floodplain mapping.

Two former students — Dwight Boyd, now the GRCA's director of engineering, and Dr. Harold Schroeder — adapted GAWSER for use in the Grand River watershed. Several other conservation authorities in southern Ontario also use it.

"The model did such a great job of modelling the hydrology of the Speed and Eramosa River and later the Grand River, it was adapted into the forecast model used by GRCA today to help manage and forecast floods," said Boyd.



Dr. Hugh Whiteley on Gows Bridge in Guelph is a long-time advocate for local rivers.

WATERSHED AWARD

When it comes to finding engineering solutions, Whiteley has always adhered to the mantra of the undergraduate engineering students at the University of Guelph – "all of us are smarter than any of us." For this reason, he said his achievements have all been collaborative efforts with the contributions and support of his colleagues.

"Likely the most important contribution he has made is the legacy of students he taught and inspired over his career. Many still reside in the Grand River watershed or are involved in water-related careers. Hugh's inquiring mind lit the spark that inspired many others," Boyd said.

A systems approach

"The ways of defining and solving water-resource problems are way better now than they were when I started," Whiteley said. "In the 1960s engineers defined a single narrow problem and then found a solution," but Whiteley said "focus on single issues results in a new set of problems. Instead, it is necessary to look at entire systems to find sustainable responses."

The Ontario approach to source water protection is an excellent example, he said. It considers water quality and quantity issues in an entire watershed and then finds lasting solutions, taking all aspects of water and land into consideration. Whiteley was a peer reviewer on a number of the Source Water Protection Studies in the Grand River watershed.

"As a peer reviewer and technical advisory committee member, he always has very good questions and they are not always easy questions to answer. You need that, because it leads to better results," said Martin Keller, source protection program manager at the GRCA.

In his home city of Guelph, Whiteley has chaired and has been a member of many water-related advisory committees. He chaired a citizen's advisory committee during development of the 1993 Guelph River Systems Management Plan and is a current

member of Guelph's water conservation and efficiency advisory committee.

"Dr. Whiteley has been a resident of Guelph since 1966 and since then he has been a constant contributor to river and water related policies in both academic and political spheres. He is a regular delegate to city council on river-related issues and provides insight on the implication of the decisions being discussed," wrote Guelph City Councillor Bob Bell in nominating Whiteley for the award.

MILESTONE

New source protection plan takes effect July 1

A plan to protect the sources of drinking water that was 10 years in the making has been approved and will take effect July 1, 2016.

The Grand River Source Protection Plan was approved by Ontario Minister of Environment and Climate Change Glen Murray. The plan and its associated documents are available at www.sourcewater.ca.

The source protection planning process began in 2006, when the Ontario government passed the Clean Water Act to protect sources of municipal drinking water throughout the province. It is based on technical studies, collaborative policy development and extensive public consultation.

The process was guided by the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, which is made up of representatives from municipalities, business, industry, farmers, landowners and other stakeholders. The committee also developed plans for the Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek and Long Point Region watersheds.

"Formal approval of the Grand River Source Protection Plan is a major milestone in the committee's work with its community, agriculture, industry, conservation authority, municipal and provincial partners to protect and enhance municipal drinking water supplies," says Wendy Wright Cascaden,



Craig Ashbaugh receives a pie made by Sally Martyn to thank him for serving as chair of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee since its inception eight years ago.

acting chair, Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee. "We look forward to measuring and monitoring the plan's future success."

She also commended Craig Ashbaugh, former chair of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, as well as staff of the GRCA. "I wish to formally recognize Craig for his leadership in bringing together all of the partners, shaping the decisions and guiding the planning process over the last eight years," said Wright Cascaden. "The Source Protection Committee also received excellent support and guidance from the former program director, Lorrie Minshall, as well as Martin Keller, source protection program manager and their staff. They made significant contributions to the development of an attainable plan and will play a key role in the successful implementation of the plan in the future. The approved plan is a considerable achievement that will benefit generations to come."

Committee continues work

The Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee is continuing its work to address risks to water quantity. These components will be included in a future update to the

Grand River Source Protection Plan.

With the approval of the plan, all 22 source protection plans are now in place across Ontario. These plans are local science-based plans designed to protect the water quality of the lakes, rivers and sources of underground water that supply municipal drinking water systems. The plans set out actions to eliminate, manage or reduce potential risks to drinking water sources.

Policies in the Source Protection Plans include a variety of approaches to manage and prevent risks to municipal drinking water. These approaches include education and outreach, the development of risk management plans, land use planning, and monitoring. The policies are designed to keep contaminants out of rivers, lakes and groundwater aquifers that are sources of municipal drinking water.

The source protection planning process is directed and funded by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. Local conservation authorities provide technical, communications and administrative support for the process.

David Lamble 2015 bird banding report

By David Lamble
Master bird bander

We had a very successful year in 2015 with 10,713 birds of 93 species banded.

Once again we did not band any species new to the permit, but did have record years for seven species — American bittern (five), downy woodpecker (40), hairy woodpecker (13), hermit thrush (136), sora rail (25), Swainson's thrush (70) and white-throated sparrow (95).

The population of our tree swallows continues to decline alarmingly. Once again we experienced a decline to only 881, near our lowest total since 1981, when we began our study. Many of our nesting boxes are empty, where in previous years they were filled with these lovely insectivores.

Although we did not band any ducks this year, one of our mallards, banded in 2004 as a young male, was shot this year in Tennessee, a distance of over 1,000 km. Our colour banded osprey are showing interesting movements, with reports of these birds, banded as youngsters, are now nesting as adults in Inverhaugh, London (Ontario), Pennsylvania and Ohio. The colour bands are easily read by bird watchers, using binoculars who report their observations to the banding office in Ottawa.

TAKING ACTION

One of our great blue herons, banded as a youngster in a nest at Luther Marsh in 2011, was found dead in Randolph, New York, this year, after being struck by a car. Many of our snow buntings are being recaptured by other banders all over Ontario, along the St. Lawrence River in Quebec and even in Labrador. One of our mallards banded as a young male in 2009 was shot this year in Drayden, Maryland, a distance of 713 km southeast of Luther Marsh.

Once again let me thank you for your support for my efforts to understand the changes in the populations of our bird species in Wellington, Waterloo and Dufferin counties.

Editor's note: Volunteer master bird bander David Lamble has been banding at Luther Marsh and in the upper Grand since 1981. This is the January letter about his banding activities.

The GRCA values the monitoring work that is carried out by individuals and organizations throughout the watershed.

Data collected over many years shows changing trends. This provides insight and allows the GRCA and others to make science-based decisions about managing natural areas.

Nearly 10,000 birds banded at Ruthven

By Rick Ludkin
Master bird bander

Banding is an addictive activity; go a week without it and you start to get the shakes, food doesn't taste right, and you sleep in fits and starts (but, of course, this last thing might just be old age).

When I get this antsy feeling I head for Ruthven and open a few nets (the nets by the feeders are still up).

We banded in every month of the year (as well as intensively — daily — in the spring and fall). In total, we banded 9,745 birds of 103 species.

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who made it happen.

Top 10 at Ruthven 2015:

1. Snow bunting: 3,462
2. American goldfinch: 706
3. Yellow-rumped warbler: 580
4. White-throated sparrow: 493
5. Dark-eyed junco: 380
6. Cedar waxwing: 267
7. American tree sparrow: 256
8. Ruby-crowned kinglet: 243
9. Song sparrow: 200
10. Gray catbird: 188

This excerpt is from the blog by Rick Ludkin, master bander at Ruthven Park www.ruthvenparknatureblog.com.

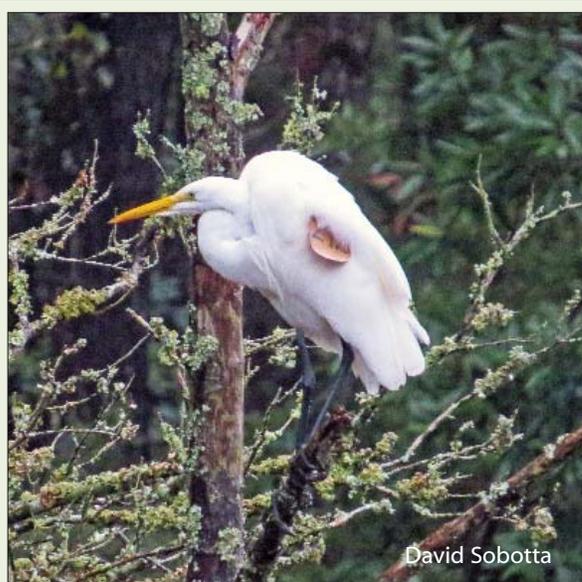
WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sharing experiences workshop March 5

Community-based environmental groups are invited to the fifth Sharing Experiences workshop, to be held on Saturday, March 5, at Puslinch Community Centre in Aberfoyle, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Organized by local conservation authorities and environmental organizations, the workshop features a keynote address by Gord Miller, Ontario's former Environmental Commissioner.

"The workshop will offer a mix of presentations and networking opportunities



David Sobotta

Egret with Facebook page

An egret known as "Frank 29X" was seen Sept. 2 at Belwood Lake by Dan MacNeal, who also saw it the previous year at Luther Marsh. He says this bird got him interested in bird monitoring and he helps with monitoring the egret population at Luther Marsh. This bird was banded at Nottawasaga Island on Georgian Bay. It has a Facebook page and a Twitter feed, and photographer David Sobotta has written about it in his blog. "Frank 29X" spends the winters in Swansboro, North Carolina where this photo was taken.

to help community members grow and sustain the environmental projects they are passionate about,” says Bronwen Buck, a GRCA staff member who is helping to organize the event. “It will address a range of topics including youth engagement, multicultural outreach and invasive species management.”

The workshop is free and includes lunch. Register online through www.eventbrite.ca by searching for Sharing Experiences workshop. It is hosted by the Elora Cataract Trailway Association, Grand River Conservation Authority, Friends of Mill Creek, Green Venture, Credit Valley Conservation, Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority and Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club.

Annual Heritage Day in Cambridge Feb. 12

The theme for the 19th annual Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration is Roots and Shoots and it will take place in Cambridge on Friday, Feb. 12.

The workshop will focus on the history of Block One, Dumfries Township, to mark the bicentennial of the settlement of this area. This land was purchased by William Dickson in 1816, and he named it after his hometown of Dumfries in Scotland. Presentations about natural heritage and indigenous history will be held in the morning. The focus of the afternoon will be on the changes since settlement — the architecture, industries and Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, founder of the Women’s Institute.

The workshop takes place at Forward Church, 455 Myers Road, Cambridge from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Heritage Working Group of the Grand Strategy.

Registration is free but space is limited so participants must register in advance. Register online by searching for this event on www.eventbrite.ca or print the form posted on www.grandriver.ca in the Heritage Day Workshop section. Registration (before Feb. 5 or until registration is at capacity) is being looked after by the City of Cambridge, 519-740-4517 ext. 4620, or hogued@cambridge.ca.

Donations are gratefully accepted through the Grand River Conservation Foundation at www.grcf.ca.



The new access gate means that Shade’s Mills Park in Cambridge is open year-round.

Shade’s Mills open year-round

Starting Monday, Jan. 4 2016, Shade’s Mills Park in Cambridge has a new automatic access gate that allows the park to open year-round.

People will be able to drive up to the gate, open it and drive in. Visitors can open the gate by swiping their membership pass or paying at the gate. Payment can be made using cash. The Grand River Conservation Authority is working with Visa and MasterCard to arrange payment with a credit card as well. This payment method will come when the credit card companies approve the change.

Entry with a Grand River Parks membership pass is free. Otherwise, entry is \$12 per car, regardless of the number of passengers.

“Visitors to Shade’s will be able to enter the park earlier in the morning. They can also enjoy the fall colours and early spring flowers. They couldn’t do that until now, because we were closed,” said Brian Hunt, Shade’s Mills superintendent.

The park will generally be open daily from dawn to dusk. The big advantage of the new gate is that people will be able to arrive at dawn for a run or to go fishing, rather than needing to wait until 8 a.m. The new gate also means people can experience the park during all seasons.

This type of gate is planned for other Grand River Parks within the next few years. Membership to Grand River Parks costs

\$125 and includes access to all 11 parks for a full year from date of purchase. The membership pass includes a coupon booklet for items like ski rental, canoe rental or tubing the Elora Gorge.

Check www.grandriver.ca/parks for information about Shade’s Mills Park and how to purchase a membership pass.

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Apply now for grants from GRCF

Applications are now being accepted for grants for schoolyard and community environmental projects offered by the GRCA and the Grand River Conservation Foundation.

The 2016 deadline for applications is Feb. 29. Grants will be distributed in the spring to schools and in the fall to community groups.

The two groups are offering Community Conservation Grants in two categories:

- Community groups can get up to \$1,000 for conservation projects that are tangible and available for use or benefit of the entire community. For example, previous recipients have built a river access point, carried out habitat restoration and planted trees.
- Elementary schools in the Grand River watershed can get up to \$750 to pay for natural elements (e.g. trees, shrubs, seeds, plants) of a schoolyard naturalization project.

Details and an application form are available on the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca. Look for “Community and School Grants”.

Money for the grants comes from two sources:

- The GRCA’s Thies Riverprize endowment Fund, which was established with the monetary portion of the GRCA’s 2000 Brisbane, Australia award for excellence in watershed management.
- The Foundation’s Grand Champions Fund, established through private donations to support local environmental work.

THE GRAND CALENDAR

Heritage Day Workshop, Cambridge, Feb. 12

The theme for 2015 is Roots and Shoots and will focus on settlement of Block One, Dumfries Township, to mark the bicentennial of the settlement of this area. It was purchased by William Dickson in 1816, and he named it after his hometown of Dumfries in Scotland. The event is sponsored by the Heritage Working Group of The Grand Strategy. It is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. The workshop takes place at Forward Church, 455 Myers Rd., Cambridge: www.grandriver.ca/HeritageDay/HeritageDay.cfm.

Shade's Mills Family Ice Fishing Day, Feb. 14

This is open to everyone from first-timers to seasoned anglers. Equipment and bait will be available, but there is a limited supply. This is a catch-and-release event, with prizes. A fishing license is not required for Canadian residents because it is license-free Family Fishing Weekend. Hot drinks and food will be available. The event runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pinehurst Lake Family Ice Fishing Day, Feb. 15

Try ice fishing 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Equipment and bait will be available for new anglers, but there is a limited supply. There are numerous draw prizes and you can win just

for entering. A fishing license is not required for Canadian residents because it is license-free Family Fishing Weekend. Hot drinks and food will be available.

Winter Family Fun Day at Rockwood Park, Feb. 15

Join us on Family Day for an outdoor winter fun day at Rockwood. This event will feature horse and wagon rides, skating, hiking, snow shoeing and a campfire. Free with a donation.

Guelph Lake Sled Dog Race, Feb. 20-21

Whether you are an experienced musher, a novice or are simply interested in experiencing the spectacle of sled dog racing, check out the Guelph Lake Sled Dog Race. The inaugural race is perfect for first time spectators. For more information, check www.glsdr.ca. The price is \$10 per vehicle.

Sharing Experiences Workshop, Puslinch, March 5

Community-based environmental groups are invited to the fifth Sharing Experiences Workshop, at Puslinch Community Centre in Aberfoyle, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The workshop provides presentations, discussion and opportunities to meet like-minded people. The goal is to provide resources and key take-home messages to help you develop or enhance environmental projects within your community. Details online at www.conservationhamilton.ca.

Day-long forestry workshop, GRCA head office, March 5

To help rural landowners keep their trees healthy, the GRCA will host a free workshop and expo 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the GRCA head office, 400 Clyde Rd., Cambridge. The day will include talks by GRCA staff and many partners. There will also be a chance to network with other landowners interested in tree planting and tree health. Participation is free, but pre-registration is requested. To register, please contact Karen Buschert kbuschert@grandriver.ca or 519-621-2763,

ext. 2305.

K-W Canoe Symposium, April 15, Princess Twin Cinema, Waterloo

This popular symposium features several speakers from across the province and starts at 10 a.m. Waterloo speaker, Gary Johnston, has paddled more rivers, lakes and streams in the Grand River watershed than anyone. He's within an hour's drive of 75 per cent of the watershed and can have a canoeing adventure after work and still get home before dark. Register online through Eventbrite.

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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Ice fishing at Shade's Mills