INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending August 14, 2015

REPORTS

1. None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing re: Community Hubs
2. GRCA Current, August 2015
3. GRCA re: Grand River Watershed Water Management Action Plan: 2014 Annual Report on Actions

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. Tourism Advisory Committee Resignation – Sandra Pitts

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. None

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tel. 416-585-7000
Fax 416-585-6470
www.ontario.ca/MAH

Ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement

Bureau du ministre

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Ontario

MIN15-67309

August 12, 2015

Dear Heads of Council:

I am writing to thank the many municipal leaders, individuals and organizations who provided input to inform the work of the Premier's Special Advisor and Advisory Group on Community Hubs.

The mandate of the Advisory Group was to review provincial policies, research best practices and develop a framework for adapting existing public properties to become community hubs.

The Special Advisor has presented the group's findings and recommendations in a report to the government, titled: *Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan.*

The report is now available online: Ontario.ca/communityhubs

The Special Advisor will continue to work with government, individuals and organizations to inform the implementation of the report.

Comments or questions about the report and work being undertaken on community hubs in Ontario can be directed to: community.hubs@ontario.ca

Best regards,

Ted McMeekin
Minister

c. Association Municipalities of Ontario

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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Ontario

MIN15-67309

12 août 2015

Madame, Monsieur,

Je vous écris pour remercier le grand nombre de leaders municipaux, de particuliers et d'organismes qui ont fourni des commentaires destinés à orienter les travaux du Groupe consultatif chargé du cadre pour les carrefours communautaires et ceux de la conseillère spéciale que la première ministre a nommée pour soutenir ce groupe.

Le Groupe consultatif avait pour mandat d'examiner les politiques provinciales, de rechercher les pratiques exemplaires et d'élaborer un cadre pour adapter les biens publics actuels afin qu'ils deviennent des carrefours communautaires.

La conseillère spéciale a présenté les conclusions et les recommandations du groupe dans un rapport destiné au gouvernement, intitulé : *Les carrefours communautaires en Ontario : un cadre stratégique et plan d'action*.

Il est maintenant possible de consulter ce rapport en ligne :
http://www.ontario.ca/fr/page/carrefours-communautaires

La conseillère spéciale continuera à travailler avec le gouvernement, la population et les organismes, afin d'encadrer la mise en œuvre de ce rapport.

Les commentaires ou les questions concernant le rapport ou les travaux relatifs aux carrefours communautaires en Ontario peuvent être adressés à : community.hubs@ontario.ca

Veuillez agréer, Madame, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

Le ministre,

Ted McMeekin

c. Association des municipalités de l'Ontario

GRCA Current

August 2015 • Volume 20 Number 7

GRCA General Membership

Chair Jane Mitchell

Vice-Chair Vic Prendergast

Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Melancthon and Southgate and Town of Grand Valley
Guy Gardhouse

Townships of Mapleton and Wellington North Pat Salter

Township of Centre Wellington
Kelly Linton

Town of Erin, Townships of Guelph/Eramosa and Puslinch
Chris White

City of Guelph
Bob Bell, Mike Salisbury

Region of Waterloo
Les Armstrong, Sue Foxton, Helen Jowett, Geoff Lorentz, Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak, Wayne Roth, Sandy Shantz, Warren Stauch

Municipality of North Perth and Township of Perth East
George Wicke

Halton Region Cindy Lunau

City of Hamilton George Stajanovic

Oxford County Bruce Banbury

County of Brant
Brian Coleman, Shirley Simons

City of Brantford
Dave Neumann, Vic Prendergast

Haldimand and Norfolk Counties
Bernie Corbett, Fred Morison

Canadian rowing team at Guelph Lake

The Canadian National Men's Rowing Team is using Guelph Lake for a training camp this summer as it prepares for an Olympic qualifying event.

That means other boaters will have to take care as they travel around the lake. The team is practising July 24 to Aug. 14 to prepare for the Olympic qualifying regatta in France. They will be holding two or three practice sessions a day in a special course set aside for their use. The practices will usually be held at 7 a.m., 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. In addition, the team may also row in other parts of the lake.

As a safety precaution during practice times, other boaters are asked to avoid entering or crossing through the race course to avoid interfering with the rowing shells. The training camp is hosted by the Guelph Rowing Club, which has its home base at Guelph Lake.

New controlled gates at Grand River Parks

Shade's Mills Park will be the first Grand River Park to have access-controlled gates, which will be installed this fall.

Installation of this type of gate was recommended through business plans that were prepared for each of the conservation areas in 2012.

The new gate will allows visitors with a membership to gain entry to the park using their membership card. Others will be able to pay the entrance fee at the gate using automated equipment.

The automated gate may be used for year-round access to Grand River Parks and will reduce staffing and overtime costs. Shade's Mills now has an "honour box" where visitors can deposit their fees, but few people use the fee box. The GRCA's new membership card system was put in place in 2013 to replace the vehicle window sticker.

Over the next five years, controlled access gates will be installed at all 11 Grand River Parks: Brant Park and Laurel Creek in 2016, Pinehurst Lake and Rockwood in 2017, Belwood Lake and Guelph Lake in 2018, Byng Island and Elora Gorge in 2019 and Conestogo Lake and Luther Marsh in 2020.

Key West Industries of Guelph won the contract to supply the gate, cash station, card reader and other related equipment at Shade's Mills at a cost of about $40,000. The total cost of the new gates at all the parks is estimated to be $417,000.

Filming at Rockwood

Rockwood Conservation Area continues to be popular for film producers.

An episode of Reign, a television series about Mary, Queen of Scots, was filmed on July 13 at Rockwood and is expected to air this November.

A new children's movie, Bark Ranger, has been released on DVD. This movie was filmed almost entirely in the park last summer.

Pollinator garden at Guelph Lake

TDI International of Guelph was awarded a contract to create the Operation Pollinator Garden at Guelph Lake Park.

This will be installed on a 3.7-hectare (nine-acre) parcel of land near the main park entrance as part of the planned Guelph Lake Nature Centre Complex. TDI will excavate two ponds and create viewing mounds that will be surrounded by interpretive and recreational trails. These will provide teaching opportunities associated with nature centre programs. An outdoor classroom and amphitheatre are included in the design, but are not part of the project.

Excavation of the ponds and creation of mounds is the first phase of the project. The tender was issued May 15. There were eight bids on the project, and TDI's was the lowest bid for $96,000 plus taxes.

A donation of $100,000 from Syngenta will be used for this project. The donation came through

Riverfestival Brisbane
Riverprize 2000 For excellence in river management
Conservation Ontario Natural Champions
The Grand River A Canadian Heritage River

the Grand River Conservation Foundation. Work got underway in late July.

A combination of aquatic and wetland plants will be planted in the ponds, while native meadow plants and wildflowers will be planted in the pollinator garden. A variety of native trees will also be planted.

Stocco named new communications manager

Lisa Stocco, a communications professional with more than 15 years in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, becomes the Manager of Communications for the Grand River Conservation Authority on Aug. 4.

She joins the GRCA from the Halton Catholic District School Board where she has worked since 2003. She served in several posts, most recently as manager of strategic communications. Prior to joining the school board, she was the assistant manager of public and media relations at the former Intesa Bank Canada. Stocco holds a degree in mass communication and French studies from York University, and a post-graduate certificate in journalism from Humber College. She is an accredited member (APR) of the Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS) where she currently serves as co-president of CPRS Hamilton.

Stocco replaced Dave Schultz as communications manager. Schultz joined the GRCA's communication department in 2002 and will be staying at the GRCA to help develop a new GRCA website until his retirement at the end of the year.

New amphitheatre at Shades Mills

Construction of a new amphitheatre and trails in the area above the beach at Shade's Mills Park in Cambridge is underway.

The amphitheatre will accommodate up to 75 people and will be used for the very popular Movies Under the Stars series on Friday nights. It will also be used for nature centre programs and special events.

Visitors will notice construction of this $30,000 project underway until mid-September. A stage and upgraded projection system are also part of this project. Accessible trails will be winding through the area and will eventually link the beach, parking lot and amphitheatre areas.

Luther Marsh, July 29: GRCA staff counted 76 egrets, four active heron nests (all with young still on the nest), five ospreys, a pair of sandhill cranes, a single loon, several hundred swallows and more. Luther is a birding hotspot within the watershed.

Contract for union staff

The GRCA board voted in support of a new three-year collective agreement which covers 111 full-time, part-time and seasonal staff who are members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU).

The previous collective agreement expired at the end of 2014 and negotiations for a new agreement concluded on July 8. The agreement provides for a wage increase of 1.5 per cent in 2015 and 2 per cent in each of 2016 and 2017.

Dry July follows wet June

Although rainfall was below average in many parts of the watershed, the wet conditions in June left the ground saturated in July.

Rainfall in July was about average only at Conestogo and Woolwich reservoirs. The two locations with the lowest recorded rainfall for the month were Brantford at 51 per cent and Shand Dam at 38 per cent. Intense storm events resulted in high runoff early in the month.

July was also slightly cooler than average for the first three weeks, but then it heated up toward the end of the month with temperatures reaching 35 C in some locations.

Water levels in Lake Erie are well above the long-term average. However, the lake is expected to drop slightly over the rest of the year.

Reservoirs are at or slightly above the normal operating range for this time of year. River augmentation has been less this year than is typical for July.

This issue of *GRCA Current* was published in August 2015.

It is a summary of the July 2015 business conducted by the Grand River Conservation Authority board and committees as well as other noteworthy happenings and topics of interest.

The Grand River Conservation Authority welcomes distribution, photocopying and forwarding of *GRCA Current*.

Next board meeting:
Aug. 28 at 9:30 a.m.,
GRCA Administration Centre.

Subscribe to GRCA Current:
GRCAcurrent-subscribe@grandriver.ca

View meeting reports:
www.grandriver.ca/MeetingReports

View coming events:
www.grandriver.ca/Calendar

Grand Actions newsletter:
www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions

400 Clyde Road, P.O. Box 729 Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6

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RECEIVED
AUG 10 2015
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

August 5, 2015

Stephen O'brien, Clerk
City Of Guelph
1 Carden Street, City Hall
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Dear Stephen O'Brien and members of Council,

I am writing on behalf of the partners of the Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan to present the *2014* Annual *Report on Actions* to you and your council.

The goals of the Water Management Plan are to improve water quality, secure water supplies, reduce flood damage potential, address the effects of climate change and reduce the Grand River's impact on Lake Erie.

The Plan is the product of a voluntary partnership of municipalities, provincial and federal agencies and First Nations. The Plan was endorsed in 2014 and this is the first annual progress report on the actions in the Plan.

The Plan was developed in a collaborative process focused on finding the "best value solutions" – the most effective and efficient ways to achieve the goals. The Plan aligns the existing projects and programs of the partners so they can work together to improve the management of water issues.

Most of the Actions are things the Plan partners are already doing, or plan to do. Other Actions are best practices, which partners can implement voluntarily to address water issues.

Enclosed, please find copies of the *2014 Report on Actions*, which provides an overview of the Actions completed in 2014. It can also be downloaded from our website at www.grandriver.ca.

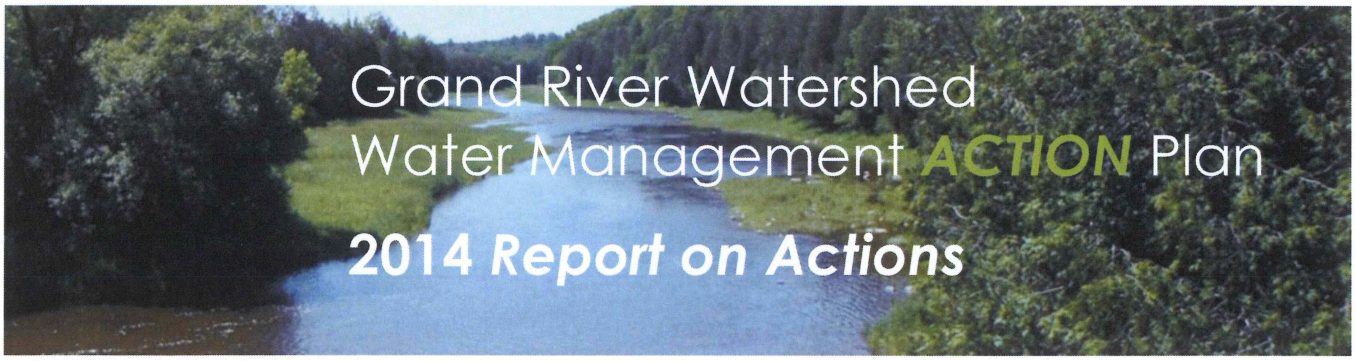
Please feel free to distribute these documents to the members of council and senior staff.

We would be happy to appear before council to provide additional information and to answer questions. To make arrangements please contact Sandra Cooke, Chair Water Managers Working Group, at scooke@grandriver.ca or 519-621-2763, Ext. 2224.

Yours truly,

Joe Farwell

Joe Farwell, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer
Grand River Conservation Authority



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4 Ensuring Water Supplies
5 Improving Water Quality
7 Building resilience
8 Looking Ahead, Challenges

Partners

Brant
Brantford
Cambridge
Centre Wellington
Environment Canada
Grand River Conservation Authority
Guelph
Haldimand
Kitchener
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Oxford
Region of Waterloo
Six Nations of the Grand River
Waterloo

Introduction

The Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan calls for annual progress reporting on the implementation of actions, starting in 2015.

The Actions identified in the Plan move us toward achieving the goals – to reduce flood damages, ensure water supplies, improve water quality and build resilience to deal with a changing climate.

This inaugural *Report on Actions* summarizes activities from the previous year and provides insight into the collective work plans of the partners for the coming year.

In addition, watershed conditions are highlighted. A complete report that summarizes watershed conditions and trends will be parpared every five years starting in 2019.

Partnerships and co-ordination

The Plan was endorsed by 27 municipalities, Six Nations of the Grand River, Environment Canada, the provincial ministries of Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources and Forestry, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the GRCA Board in 2014.

Four meetings of the Water Managers Working Group, the Plan's main implementing body, will take place in 2015.

Stormwater managers continue to meet to discuss best practices for stormwater management. Wastewater managers are meeting to continue to optimize wastewater treatment plants and share lessons learned. The southern Grand River working group continues to advance work in the Dunnville area.

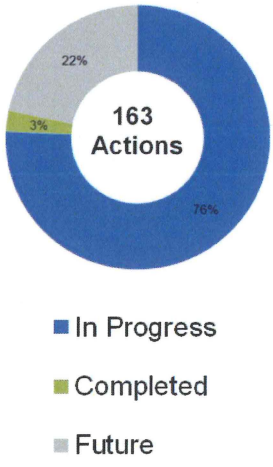
Partners are working together to optimize efforts for monitoring the conditions of the watershed to support good stormwater, wastewater and land use planning. Good information supports good decisions. This work will enable a comprehensive report on the status of the watershed to be completed for 2019.

Summary of progress

2014 marks the first year of Plan implementation.

Partners are advancing 120 of the 163 actions listed in the Plan. Some actions have been completed and are highlighted in this report while other actions are scheduled to start in the next few years.

Status of the Implementation of Actions

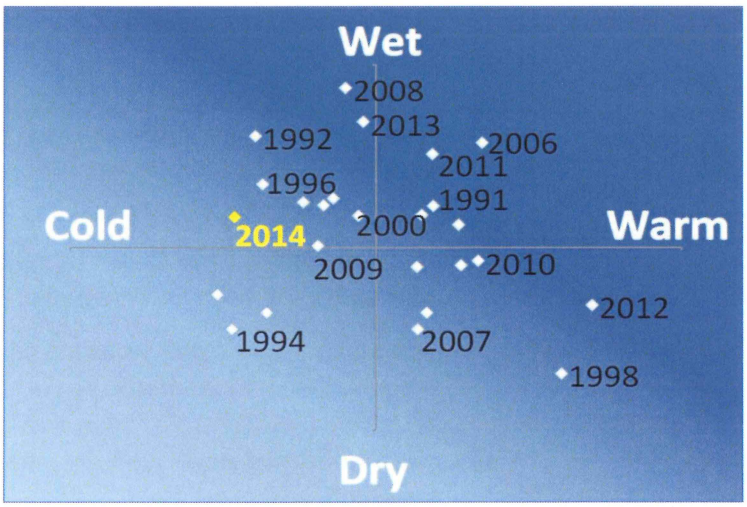


Watershed conditions

In 2014, conditions were generally wetter and cooler than average and reservoir levels were above average due to the wet conditions. Dissolved oxygen levels in the river were generally good due to the high flows.

Water resource engineers operate the reservoirs to maintain river flows to meet ***low flow targets*** on the Grand River at Doon and Brantford. This is important for the Region of Waterloo, City of Brantford, and Six Nations who take some or all of their drinking water from the river. Flows are also maintained to dilute the treated wastewater discharged from wastewater treatment plants. Consideration is given for the ecological needs of the river system as well. Active reservoir management helps to maintain a healthy river system.

*River flows were **consistently above** the **low flow targets** in 2014*



Watershed conditions were generally cooler and wetter than average in 2014. This chart shows yearly conditions as described by deviations from average annual precipitation (wet/dry) and temperatures (warm/cold) since 1990. 2014 is highlighted in yellow.

Reducing flood damages

Reservoir operations, flood forecasting and warning

The seven multi-purpose reservoirs managed high flows in both the spring and fall. The reservoirs effectively reduced downstream flooding. For instance, the reservoirs cut river flows by 25% in the spring and up to 55% during a large snowmelt event in November.

Watershed flood coordinators met in February 2014. All municipalities successfully responded to the test flood alert.

The flood program issued many statements in 2014

Seven multipurpose reservoirs and dams are operated to reduce flooding and maintain water in the river during the summer. Ongoing maintenance is needed to maintain these assets.

Dam embankment upgrade completed at the Luther Dam, Amaranth Township, to ensure future stability of the dam.

Dam and dike safety studies

The GRCA owns and operates 29 of the 150 dams in the watershed. There have been safety studies completed for specific components of each GRCA dam. In 2014, a dam embankment study for the Luther Dam and a gate reinforcement analysis for the Shand Dam were completed.

Major repairs and maintenance was completed on six GRCA dams in 2014 including the rebuilding of Drimmie Dam in Elora; stop log replacements at Damascus and New Dundee dams; concrete restoration on a wingwall of the Wellesley Dam; gates and gate seals repaired or replaced at Guelph and Conestogo dams, and new fencing erected at the Caledonia Dam.

Floodplain mapping and emergency preparedness

Accurate floodplain mapping is the foundation of emergency preparedness. In 2014, the GRCA and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry started a project to update floodplain mapping.

Permits and plan review to reduce future flood damages

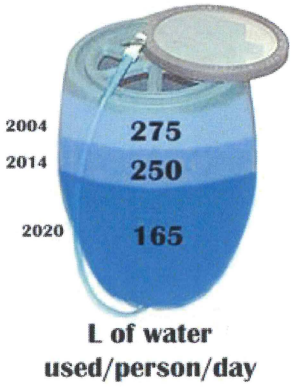
To reduce future flood damages, the GRCA has the responsibility to regulate activities in natural and hazardous areas. This is done through the application of regulations affecting areas in and near rivers, streams, floodplains, wetlands, slopes and the Lake Erie shoreline.

104 ***permits*** were reviewed to protect people from flooding and ensure damage to property was avoided or minimized

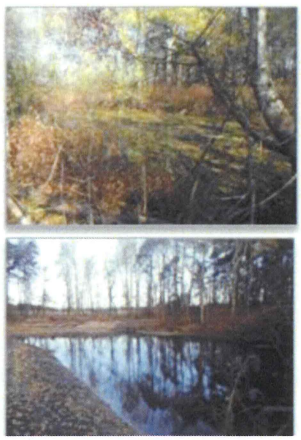
236 ***permits*** were reviewed near wetlands to ensure water stays in place and does not cause downstream flooding

3 ***subwatershed studies*** were endorsed – Waterloo North, Cambridge West and Freeport Creek, to maintain the natural water cycle

Permits and plan review prevent future flood damages



Average per person water use has dropped to about 250 L per person per day in 2014 from 275L. The future target is 165 L per person per day for Guelph and the Region of Waterloo.



Renovation of an old irrigation pond, before (top) and after (bottom), helps reduce takings directly from creeks.

Many agency partners worked together with the farming community to identify alternative water supplies for irrigation.

Ensuring water supplies

Water supply planning and water security

Water budgets help identify where and how much water is available for municipal supplies, irrigation and environmental needs. Water budgets are being considered as a way to help the process of issuing a Permit To Take Water in Ontario.

The Tier III Water Budget for the City of Guelph and Region of Waterloo is now complete. The Whiteman's Creek Tier III Water Budget study has started.

Many municipalities are actively managing water demand through conservation programs. They regularly develop master plans for long-terms water supply management.

The Region of Waterloo and City of Guelph completed their Water Supply Master Plans in 2014. The Region has also completed a Water Efficiency Master Plan. Conservation efforts continue to be encouraged and, as a result, water demand is decreasing.

Drought contingency planning

A specific drought contingency plan for Whitemans creek subwatershed was completed.

A drought contingency plan for the Grand River watershed was completed.

The agricultural community was active in the Whitemans Creek watershed in 2014 by implementing irrigation system assessments and identifying alternative sources of irrigation water. Work was done through the Water Adaptation Management and Quality Initiative (funded by Agriculture Canada and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs under Growing Forward – 2. Other project partners were the ministries of Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources and Forestry, Brant and Oxford Federations of Agriculture, Farm and Food Care and GRCA.

Protecting drinking water

Drinking water is an important use of both ground and surface water in the watershed.

The proposed Grand River Source Protection Plan was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in 2013; reviewed and updated in 2014 for resubmission in 2015.

Six Nations commissioned its new water treatment plant. Brant upgraded the treatment system at the Mount Pleasant municipal well and they are bringing the Bethel Road municipal wells into service.

A groundwater study was completed for the Bethel wells to determine the wellhead protection area.

Improving water quality

Managing point sources

Wastewater treatment plants are significant sources of nutrients to the river system in the summer. Municipalities are improving their plants through upgrades and optimization.

Centre Wellington upgraded the Elora wastewater treatment plant. It now includes nitrification, tertiary filtration and biosolids stabilization.

Haldimand County's application of the Composite Correction Program demonstrated additional capacity that resulted in the re-rating of the Cayuga plant, deferring significant capital costs.

The Region of Waterloo continues to upgrade the Kitchener and Waterloo wastewater treatment plants.

Mapleton, Wellington North and Brant worked with the GRCA to complete Comprehensive Performance Evaluations of their plants to identify opportunities to improve plant performance and/or opportunities to realize additional capacity.

The new Elora wastewater treatment plant will improve river water quality for the world-class brown trout tailwater fishery

*The **Composite Correction Program** is an approach to address performance and capacity limiting factors at wastewater treatment plants. The first step of the CCP is a **Comprehensive Performance Evaluation**, which evaluates the operation, design, maintenance, and administration of a plant to determine the factors that may be affecting performance or capacity.*

Managing urban non-point sources

Stormwater management in the central watershed helps reduce flooding in urban areas and improve local and downstream river water quality. Partners have committed to developing a community of practice through the Stormwater Management Working Group.

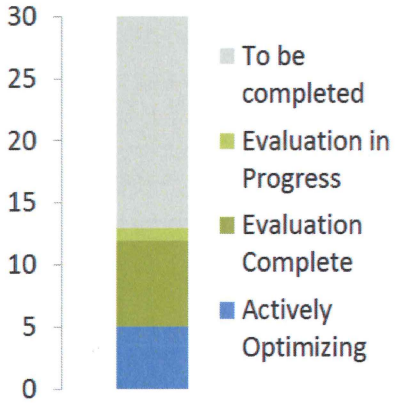
Brantford completed a Master Servicing Plan that included wastewater and stormwater. Kitchener initiated a Stormwater Master Plan update.

Funding for stormwater management is being addressed through a study in Guelph.

Nearly 1,300 Waterloo and over 5,100 Kitchener residents/businesses have received credit for adopting stormwater best management practices since the stormwater credit programs were started.

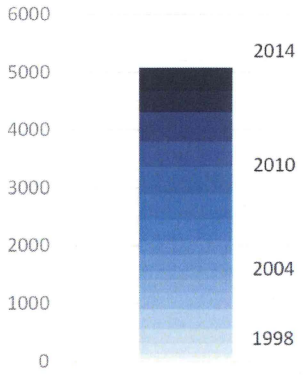
The RAIN Program conducted 128 home/business visits and recognized 6 leaders with Community Action Awards in Kitchener and Waterloo. They started reaching out to Cambridge residents.

Municipalities across the watershed continue to promote the Smart About Salt program. The Region of Waterloo launched its Curb the Salt campaign.



The Wastewater Optimization Program is gaining support across the watershed; 12 of the 30 plants in the watershed have completed a Comprehensive Performance Evaluation.

*Optimization efforts continue in **Brantford**, **Haldimand** and **Guelph**.*



Total number of completed Rural Water Quality Program projects since 1997 exceed 5000!

Conservation Services staff are using advanced GIS tools and approaches to engage the farming community about erosion and keeping valuable soil on the land

The Southern Grand River estuary near Port Maitland.

Improving Water Quality *continued*

Managing rural non-point sources

Since 1998, the Rural Water Quality Program has provided financial incentives and technical assistance to rural landowners to implement projects to improve and protect water quality. The agricultural community implemented 380 projects in 2014.

In 2014, the program was available in 75% of the watershed with funding from Waterloo Region, Wellington, Guelph, Brant, Brantford, Oxford and Haldimand. Limited funds were available in the remainder of the watershed.

These projects led to an additional 4,100 kilograms of phosphorus remaining on the land, bringing the total to 104,000 kg of phosphorus retained each year.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs supported further development of decision-support tools to promote efforts to reduce soil erosion and nutrient movement off the farm. As a result, the GRCA developed detailed maps to help identify erosion areas or 'hotspots' in six sub-watersheds in the Nith River basin. Work continues in 2015 in the Conestogo River basin.

Improving natural river processes

Streams and rivers in the Grand River watershed carry water and sediment to Lake Erie while also providing valued habitat for fish, amphibians, aquatic insects and plants. Work to facilitate natural river processes in many small streams and the larger rivers will help to support a healthy watershed.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Environment Canada supported studies to improve the technical understanding of the southern Grand River through a formalized decision analysis, development of a new digital elevation model and new river bathymetry.

In partnership with the Fisheries Management Plan Implementation Committee, GRCA collected temperature data near a small dam on McKenzie Creek.

Kitchener naturalized 1.3 km of stream in Schneider Creek subwatershed to help improve water quality in Victoria Lake.

Mill Creek Stewardship Rangers rehabilitated over 450 metres of Mill Creek.

Building resilience requires a commitment to data-based decision making

Data collection, evaluation and decision making

Water monitoring programs in the watershed include stream flow, water quality and groundwater. The data collected by these programs help inform water management decisions.

GRCA and Water Survey of Canada collect stream flow data at 55 stream flow gauges. The data provides the information needed to prepare for and forecast flooding. It also informs the management of the reservoirs to ensure that flow targets are met.

Ambient groundwater is monitored at 27 wells throughout the watershed by the GRCA in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. The GRCA also monitors ambient groundwater conditions at 23 more wells. Wells are equipped with data loggers for continuous measurement of water levels and temperature. In 2014, the ministry supported the instrumentation of 3 groundwater wells with telemetry for real-time monitoring. In addition, many municipalities have their own groundwater monitoring programs.

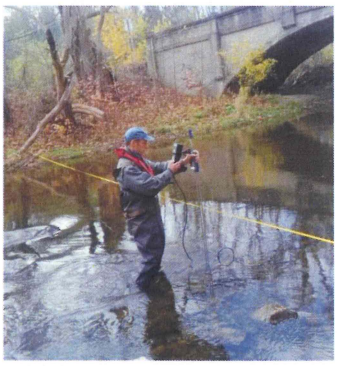
GRCA collects river water quality 10 times a year at 37 sites in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. In addition, the ministry recently started collecting water quality data at a new site in the Grand River estuary downstream of the Dunnville Dam.

The Region of Waterloo monitors river water quality at 28 sites above and below their wastewater treatment plants to inform current and future wastewater management. In addition, they evaluate the health of the aquatic community every three years.

A 3-year research project sponsored by the ***Canadian Water Network*** on Aquatic Cumulative Effects Assessment in the Grand River concluded in 2014. Plan partners will use this research to inform their operational monitoring. The Grand River watershed continues to be a focus of many innovative projects sponsored by the ***Southern Ontario Water Consortium***.

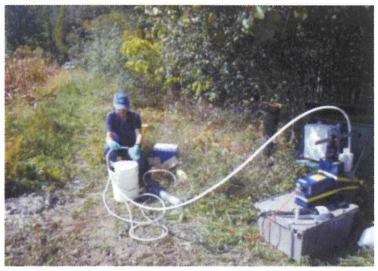
The Ontario Geological Survey continues to map the overburden sediments in the watershed. They have focused recently on areas in Haldimand, Wellington and Dufferin counties. These projects allow water managers to understand and better manage the aquifers in these areas.

Cities of Kitchener, Waterloo, Guelph, Brantford, Region of Waterloo and non-government organizations like Trout Unlimited collect water data for informing subwatershed planning, characterizing conditions and river restoration.



Collecting river flow data allows engineers to calibrate flood forecast models

Collecting stream water quality samples help to gauge the health of the stream



Long-term groundwater level data enables hydrogeologists to understand how aquifers respond to changing climate conditions

Looking Ahead – short, mid and long-term workplans

2015-16

- Water Managers will review and optimize water monitoring efforts
- Region of Waterloo to start Wastewater and Biosolids Master Plans
- Centre Wellington to start Water Supply Master Plan
- Nutrient targets will be set for Lake Erie in 2016
- Master Servicing Plan for Paris is expected to be complete in Brant
- Guelph WWTP anticipates the completion of a pilot plant to treat concentrated wastewater
- Environmental assessments to consider wastewater servicing and treatment are expected to be completed for Arthur, Mapleton, Drumbo and St. George
- New hydrography for the watershed should be complete
- Kitchener anticipates completion of the Stormwater Master Plan
- Brantford plans to launch a stormwater flow monitoring program and Subwatershed Master Plan studies.

2017-19

- Major treatment upgrades at the Kitchener WWTP are expected to be completed
- GRCA will review the reservoir operating policy and work with the MOECC to review low flows for wastewater planning
- A watershed resources conditions report will be completed by Plan Partners by 2019
- Water managers will sponsor cost-benefit analysis for evaluating point vs nonpoint source controls for future water quality improvements
- The Implementation Committee will review the Water Management Plan in 2019 & if necessary, initiate a process to update the Plan

2020+

- Brant will carry out studies with plans to upgrade the Paris and St. George wastewater treatment plants
- Water Managers will investigate producer-municipal partnerships to jointly manage nutrients and organic wastes for energy production

Challenges and barriers to success

Having a water management plan is only the beginning. The success of the plan will lie with the partnerships and the people to tackle the following challenges:

1. ***Maintaining engagement*** as people retire or move on, the transfer of knowledge to new staff and sharing lessons learned or approaches will be critical.
2. ***A commitment to implement*** the actions and report on progress – *a plan only succeeds if implemented*
3. ***Allowing innovation.*** Innovative approaches that may not be consistent with current regulatory practices are needed to achieve the goals of the Water Management Plan.