

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending January 11, 2019

REPORTS

1. None

INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS

1. Consultation – Ontario's Environment Plan

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Grand River Conservation Authority Strategic Plan 2019-2021
2. Council Resolution re: Voters' List for Municipal Elections
3. Council Resolution – Declaration of Office

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. [Committee of Adjustment Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2018](#)

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. None

| Provincial/Federal Consultation Alert | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|----------------|---|
| Title | Ministry | Consultation Deadline | Summary | Proposed Form of Input | Rationale | Lead | Link to Ministry Website |
| Consultation- Ontario's Environment Plan | Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks | January 25, 2019 | To address the challenges the province faces to protect our air, land and water, reduce litter and waste, and support Ontarians to continue to do their share to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and help communities and families prepare for climate change. | Online submission | <p>The environment and the impacts of climate change are a key policy concern for the City of Guelph. In responding to the proposed Plan, the City will be able to highlight areas of potential opportunity, as well as areas where the province should provide additional attention to.</p> <p>Comments to the province will also invite the City of Guelph as a potential partner in supporting the province develop regulations and programs related to this program in the coming term.</p> | Melissa Bauman | https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4208 |



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

Phone: 519-621-2761 Toll free: 1-866-900-4722 Fax: 519-621-4844 www.grandriver.ca

December 31, 2018

RECEIVED
JAN 09 2019

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Mr. Stephen O'Brien
City Clerk
City of Guelph
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

Re: Grand River Conservation Authority Strategic Plan 2019-2021

On behalf of the Grand River Conservation Authority, I am pleased to share with you our updated Strategic Plan.

Following updates to the Conservation Authorities Act in late 2017, GRCA began the process of reviewing its strategic plan. In early 2018 a consultant was retained to facilitate workshops with all levels of staff and the board of directors. Feedback from these sessions provided valuable insight we needed to update our vision and mission statements, and to streamline our strategic priorities in to four key areas. Each priority contains a unique set of deliverables, designed to increase our accountability and carry us towards attainable goals.

With this new strategic plan, we can continue to build our way towards a healthier, more vibrant watershed.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Farwell".

Joe Farwell, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan 2019 | 2021

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY





Cover photo: Grand River near Belwood, Ontario, by Sara Hannaford.
This page: Recreational river users, Grand River in Brantford, Ontario, by Doug Hall.

OUR PATH FORWARD

The roots of our organization go back to the 1930s, when the leaders of the day recognized the importance of working together to manage the Grand River and the land it drains. They knew that the vitality, health and prosperity of their communities was reflected in the health of the river, and they joined together to take an active role in managing it.

Today, the watershed population is growing at a rapid pace. Coupled with climate change, this growth will put stress on the Grand River and its natural features.

More than ever, the role of the Grand River Conservation Authority — and the relationships with our partners — will be critical to the health and vitality of our communities.

We invite you to read our Strategic Plan, a guiding document that will enhance and build on our programs over the next three years. Over our history, we have fostered a culture of collaboration, cooperation, innovation and respect, guided by our municipal leaders. Our priorities lie in preserving this culture, and in recognizing that by protecting the land and waters where we live, we secure our own future.


Helen Jowett
Chair, Board of Directors


Joe Farwell
Chief Administrative Officer

OUR VISION

A healthy watershed where we live, work, play and prosper in balance with the natural environment.

OUR MISSION

We will work with local communities to reduce flood damage, provide access to outdoor spaces, share information about the natural environment, and make the watershed more resilient to climate change.

OUR VALUES

- Resilience**
We provide effective leadership, and respond to change.
- Collaboration**
We listen and learn from others. We value a wide range of perspectives and recognize that progress requires flexibility, and a commitment to sharing ideas and working together.
- Innovation**
We encourage and leverage advancements in technology, scientific methodologies and trends in education and communications, because these are integral to success.
- Courage**
We carry out our obligation with conviction, and commitment to our beliefs and values.
- Respect**
We strive for clear and respectful communication within our organization, with our partners, and with members of the public.



OUR COMMITMENT

We focus on teamwork, development, engagement and positive change:

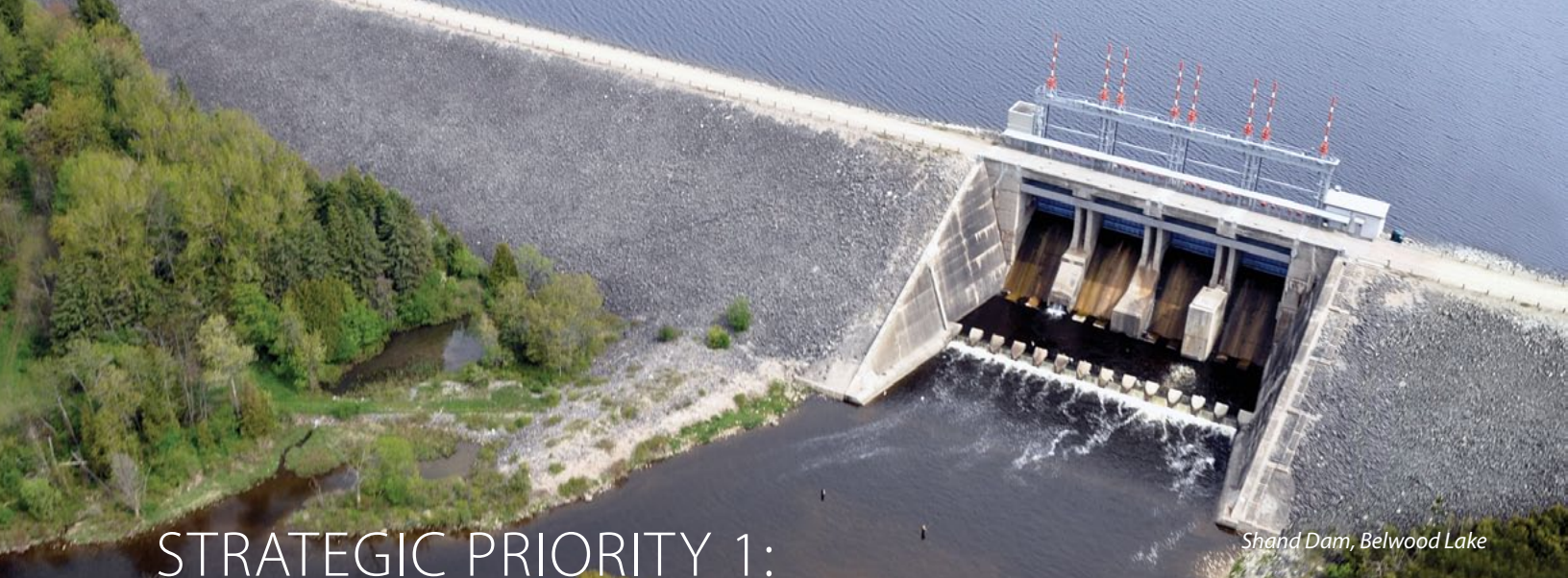
The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) operates a wide range of programs in engineering, planning, land management, recreation and education. Our staff teams are well-trained, and committed to serving public needs. We maintain an innovative and positive work culture at the GRCA, where knowledge is freely shared.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2019 | 2021

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 Protecting life and minimizing property damage from flooding and erosion. <i>Page 6</i> | 2 Improving the health of the Grand River watershed. <i>Page 7</i> | 3 Connecting people to the environment through outdoor experiences. <i>Page 8</i> | 4 Managing land holdings in a responsible and sustainable way. <i>Page 9</i> |
|---|--|---|--|

THAT is our destination.

THIS is the plan to take us there.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:

Protecting life and minimizing property damage from flooding and erosion

As a source of power, transportation and water supply, the Grand River attracted settlers who developed communities along its banks. Homes and businesses are still located in the floodplain today. With settlement, land was cleared for agriculture, wetlands were drained, forests cut down, and later, vast areas were paved. This changed how the rivers respond to rain. Built infrastructure like dams and reservoirs are operated to mimic the natural river flows, but the risk of flooding remains.

WHAT WE DO

The GRCA operates a flow-monitoring network, and operates dams and dikes to manage high flows. We operate a flood forecasting and warning system. New development in the floodplain, and other hazard areas like steep slopes, are regulated to minimize future risks. We plant trees and restore natural areas to minimize the impacts of large rainstorms.

FUTURE TRENDS

With climate change, there is increasing risk of extreme storms. As well, longer and hotter summers put strain on reservoir operations to ensure there is an adequate supply of water to the river.

KEY ACTIONS

- Update mapping to further identify flood risk and other natural hazard areas.
- Manage and update infrastructure to deal with expected changes in rainfall patterns.
- Upgrade the monitoring, flood forecasting and warning systems.
- Update GRCA permit policies.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:

Improving the health of the Grand River watershed

The Grand River watershed is home to almost 1 million people. Municipalities work to update and improve wastewater treatment plants, and farmers continue to apply best management practices. Even so, nutrients continue to flow into our rivers and streams and fuel aquatic weed growth. This problem impacts Lake Erie, with the Grand being a significant nutrient source for the lake. Municipalities and landowners rely on a mix of groundwater and surface water.

WHAT WE DO

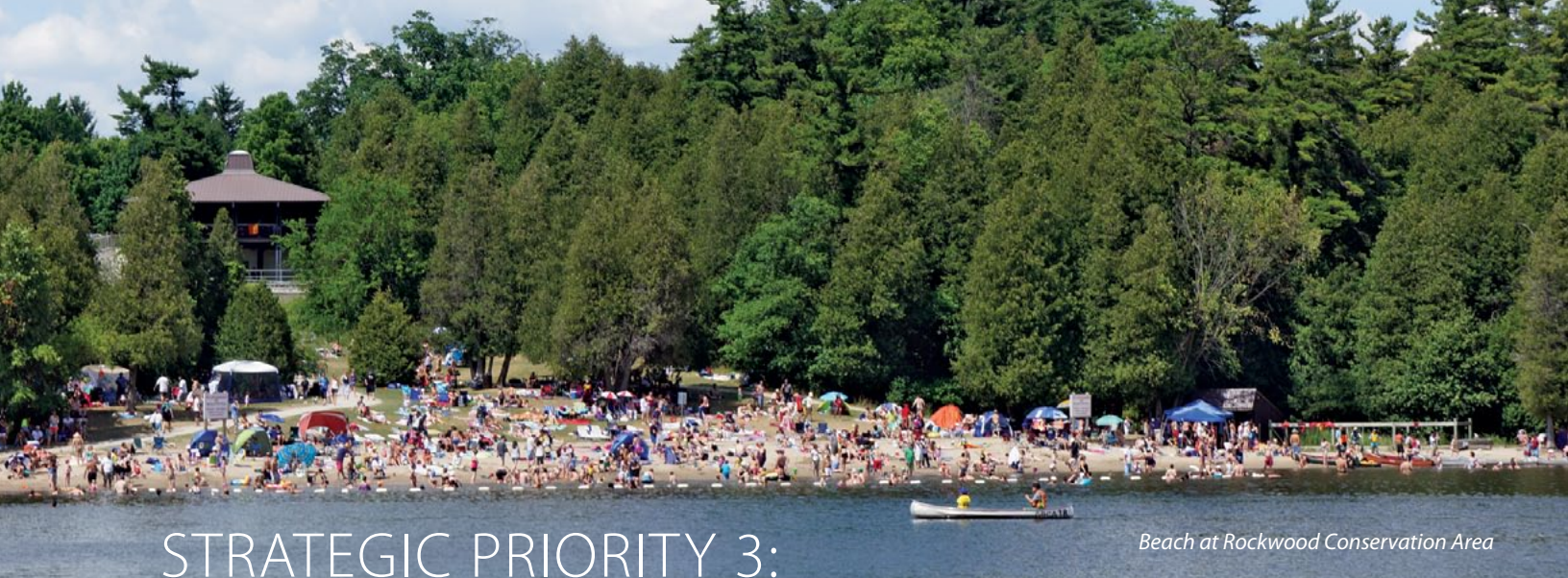
The focus of GRCA programs is to improve watershed health. We encourage and support landowners and residents to take actions that protect and enhance it. We work with farmers to keep soil and nutrients on their fields. We support landowners to create and enhance natural areas, forests and stream-side buffers. Major reservoirs on the Speed, Conestogo and Grand rivers supply the majority of flow in summer, helping reduce harmful impacts on aquatic ecosystems. We work with partners and First Nations through the Grand River Notification Agreement. We coordinate the Water Management Plan that highlights actions of municipal partners, landowners, government partners and the GRCA to improve watershed health. We carry out subwatershed plans and identify opportunities to enhance natural features.

FUTURE TRENDS

Changing climate and growing population continue to impact water quality and quantity in our rivers and streams. Continued monitoring of watershed conditions will inform decisions. As land values and competition for space increase, restoring and preserving natural spaces will become more important.

KEY ACTIONS

- Support municipalities in optimizing wastewater treatment plants.
- Engage the provincial and federal governments to develop programs to reduce nutrient loads in rivers and streams, and ultimately Lake Erie.
- Continue to work with municipalities on drinking water source protection.
- Continue to work with landowners to reforest and restore natural spaces.



Beach at Rockwood Conservation Area

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:

Connecting people to the environment through outdoor experiences

Evidence suggests that engaging in outdoor recreation is important to human health and well-being. The GRCA creates connections with the natural environment by providing outdoor spaces and environmental education. The demand for outdoor recreation is growing. As a Canadian Heritage River, the Grand and its major tributaries are recognized for their human heritage and recreational values. There is increasing interest in spending time on, or next to, the river.

WHAT WE DO

The GRCA operates 11 active Conservation Areas on a user-fee basis. Many of these areas have important natural heritage features. We also operate five Nature Centres, providing curriculum-based environmental education programs in partnership with school boards, as well as nature-based day camps, and evening and weekend programs for the public. The Grand River Conservation Foundation is instrumental in supporting the environmental education program.

FUTURE TRENDS

With a growing population, public attendance in the active Conservation Areas is expected to continue to grow. Capital upgrades will be required in both the Conservation Areas and Nature Centres in order to meet user needs. Some assets are nearing the end of their useful life.

KEY ACTIONS

- Implement infrastructure upgrades for the Conservation Areas.
- Prepare operational plans that balance revenue generation with protecting natural features in the Conservation Areas.
- Prepare capital forecasts for the Nature Centres and develop a long-term funding plan.
- Construct a new Nature Centre at Guelph Lake.
- Work with member municipalities to encourage river-related links and trails between communities.



Hazard tree removal on rail-trail

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:

Managing land holdings in a responsible and sustainable way

Over time, the GRCA has acquired significant land holdings, totaling about 20,000 hectares. In addition to our conservation areas and lands for dam infrastructure, we own protected natural areas with limited public access, urban parkland maintained by municipalities, and several rural properties.

WHAT WE DO

Lands around Belwood and Conestogo reservoirs support a cottage lot program with over 700 tenants. In addition, houses on land purchased for reservoirs and natural areas have been rented to tenants for several years, and this program is winding down. Land is being evaluated and sold where appropriate, with funds placed in a reserve for high-priority projects like future land acquisition or repairs to our flood control infrastructure. Hydro is produced at GRCA dams where economically feasible.

FUTURE TRENDS

Passive areas, especially those near urban centres, are expected to see a significant increase in public use. With increased use there is potential for conflict among user groups and impacts on sensitive natural areas. Passive areas and rail-trails are managed with limited resources. Invasive species like emerald ash borer and phragmites, and weather-related events like ice and wind storms, will continue to cause damage to GRCA properties and natural areas.

KEY ACTIONS

- Prepare management plans for our passive lands where there is a high level of conflicting uses, and establish a long-term funding plan for these areas.
- Prepare lands for sale where appropriate.
- Continue to actively manage hazard trees in accordance with the Tree Risk Management Plan.
- Manage and enhance GRCA natural areas with funding support from partners.

The
GRAND RIVER Watershed



POPULATION
About 1,000,000

Most live in the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo, Guelph, Cambridge and Brantford.



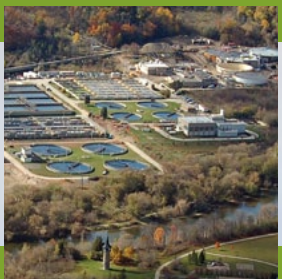
50 MUNICIPAL DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS

About 28% of the water comes from the Grand and Eramosa rivers.



70% AGRICULTURAL LAND

Agriculture is the dominant land use. Urban areas make up less than 5%.



30 SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS

These discharge into the Grand River and its tributaries.



Conestogo River, looking downstream from Conestogo Dam, by Marlene Coulter

Grand River Conservation Authority

www.grandriver.ca | 1-866-900-4722

400 Clyde Road, PO Box 729, Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6



*Canoeing the Grand River
near Brantford, Ontario*



January 7, 2019

Town of Kearney
8 Main Street
Kearney, ON
P0A 1M0

Dear Clerk;

The following resolution was carried and adopted at the regular meeting of Council held January 2, 2019;

Moved by: Councillor Fergusson and Seconded by: Councillor Fisher

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron support resolution No. 10.(d)(iii)/21/11/2018 received from the Town of Kearney in regards to the creation, maintenance and general quality of the municipal voters' list.

CARRIED

Please find attached the above noted correspondence from the Town of Kearney.

Sincerely,

Susan Cronin
County Clerk

Cc: Ontario Municipalities

County Clerk

Corporation of the County of Huron, 1 Court House Square, Goderich, Ontario N7A 1M2 CANADA

Tel: 519.524.8394

Fax: 519.524.2044

Toll Free: 1.888.524.8394 Web: www.huroncounty.ca

Subject: Council Resolution re Voters' List for Municipal Elections

Good afternoon,

In light of the recent municipal election, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney passed the following resolution in regard to the creation, maintenance and general quality of the Municipal Voters' List:

Resolution # 10.(d)(iii)/21/11/2018

WHEREAS concern over the quality of the Municipal Voters' List is not a new phenomenon;

AND WHEREAS in 2012, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) published a "Voters' List Position Paper" and since that time has been advocating for transformational changes to the way that Ontario creates and maintains the Voters' List for municipal elections;

AND WHEREAS the Preliminary List of Electors which forms the Voters' List in Ontario is supplied by data from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC);

AND WHEREAS despite the incremental changes made by MPAC, MPAC has a limited ability to fix the currency and accuracy issues that impairs the current process and the Voters' List continues to be flawed with data inaccuracies and outdated information;

AND WHEREAS a transformational solution to the way that the Voters' List is created and managed is required;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney supports the re-establishment of the multi-stakeholder working group between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Finance, AMCTO, MPAC and Elections Ontario in exploring and identifying ways to create and maintain the Voters' List for Municipal Elections;

AND FURTHER Council requests an update be provided from this 'Voters' List Working Group' on the transformational solutions being discussed;

AND FURTHER that this resolution be circulated to all Ontario Municipalities for their consideration and support.

CARRIED

We hope that this resolution will be of interest to your Municipality, and that you will support this endeavour moving forward.

Sincerely,

Cindy Filmore

Senior Office Assistant
Town of Kearney
Ph# (705) 636-7752
Fax (705) 636-0527

Municipalité de
Municipality of

mATTICE~
VAL CÔTÉ



Sac postal / P.O. Bag 129, Mattice, Ont. P0L 1T0
(705) 364-6511 – Fax: (705) 364-6431

December 11th, 2018

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Office of the Minister
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON
P5G 2E5

Attention: Honourable Steve Clark, Minister

Honourable Minister,

Re: Paragraph 4 of the Declaration of Office

Section 232 of the *Municipal Act, 2001 (Ontario)* provides that a person cannot take a seat on the council of a municipality until he or she takes the declaration of office on the form established by the Minister for that purpose.

In its current version, the declaration of office contains a statement whereby newly elected members of Council promise and declare their faith and allegiance to the Queen. Said statement is considered by many as irrelevant to the current political state of affairs, while many others find it simply offensive.

The Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté recently passed the enclosed resolution requesting that your Ministry amend paragraph 4 of the Declaration of Office in order to address these very legitimate concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Marc Dupuis
Mayor

Encl. Resolution no. 18-190

Municipalité de
Municipality of

**mATTICE~
VAL CÔTÉ**

Sac postal / P.O. Bag 129, Mattice, Ont. P0L 1T0
(705) 364-6511 – Fax: (705) 364-6431



Meeting no. 18-15

Resolution no. 18-190

Date: December 10th, 2018

Moved by: Daniel Grenier

Seconded by: Steve Brousseau

WHEREAS the requirement for members of municipal Council to be faithful and to bear true allegiance to the Queen is considered by many to be outdated and representative of a different era, and;

WHEREAS said requirement can go against or be contrary to an individual's culture, principles and beliefs, and;

WHEREAS said requirement presents an obstacle for some individuals who would have otherwise been willing to run for Council and serve at the municipal level of government;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and its Minister modify the wording of paragraph four of the Declaration of Office to make it more inclusive and representative of the times, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ministry consider replacing paragraph four of the Declaration of Office with the following wording: "I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to my country, Canada, and to its three founding nations", and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, to our provincial and federal parliament representatives, Guy Bourgouin and Carol Hughes, and to all Ontario municipalities.

Carried ☒ Defeated ☐ Deferred ☐

Mayor, Marc Dupuis
Presiding Officer

Recorded Vote

(unanimous unless indicated below)

| Name | Yeas | Neas | Abstention |
|------------------|------|------|------------|
| Dupuis, Marc | | | |
| Brousseau, Steve | | | |
| Grenier, Daniel | | | |
| Lemay, Richard | | | |
| Malenfant, Joyce | | | |

Certified by:

Guyline Coulombe
Guyline Coulombe, CAO/Clerk