

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending April 17, 2014

REPORTS

1. None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Town of Petrolia – Resolution regarding hydro rate increases
2. Stewardship Ontario – Industry funding for Municipal Blue Box Recycling for 2013 Program Year
3. Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario – Program to authorize selling Vintner's Quality Alliance ("VQA") wine at eligible Ontario farmers' markets beginning May 1, 2014

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. Grand River Conservation Authority – April 2014 Current
2. Link to March 13, 2014 Committee of Adjustment Meeting Minutes
http://guelph.ca/wp-content/uploads/Cof-A_minutes_March_-13_2014.pdf

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. Heritage Guelph – Resignation received from Russell Ott
2. Temporary Extension Application for Liquor Sales Licence – The Gordon Street Arena, 97 Gordon Street



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PETROLIA

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www.town.petrolia.on.ca

“Celebrating our Heritage. Investing in our Future”

April 8, 2014

Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Premier of the Province of Ontario
Via email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Wynne,

During our regular session of Council on April 7, 2014, the below noted resolution was brought forward for the attention of your office;

MOVED: Mary-Pat Gleeson

SECONDED: Tim Brown

WHEREAS the province of Ontario’s recently released Long Term Energy Plan anticipates that consumers will face hydro rate that will rise by 42% over the next five (5) years;

WHEREAS the Minister of Energy recently announced that past FIT prices are driving electricity prices higher and that changes to domestic content requirements for construction or future renewable energy projects are necessary to lower future electricity rates;

WHEREAS the recent Auditor-General’s report advised of extreme amount of waste in the energy sector, particularly at Ontario Power Generation and Hydro One, due to high labour costs and a generous public sector pension plan;

WHEREAS decisions including but not limited to the cancellation of Gas Plants in Ontario could cost taxpayers close to \$ 1.1 billion;

WHEREAS recent increases announced by Union Gas and Enbridge, will cause great financial burden to the residents and businesses of the Town of Petrolia;

WHEREAS it is essential for the residents and businesses of the Town of Petrolia to have access to affordable Hydro & Natural Gas to thrive and prosper;



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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Town of Petrolia Call on Premier Wynne and the Province of Ontario to take immediate action to prevent these and any other rate increases from being implemented;

AND THAT this motion be circulated to all Ontario Municipalities for support.

Carried

C - 03 – 04/7/2014

Thank you for receiving our correspondence, we look forward to hearing from your office regarding this item of concern effecting our residents and business owners.

Yours truly,

Mandi Pearson
Deputy Clerk/Operations Clerk

CC: Ontario Municipalities via email



Thinking
beyond
the box

Stewardship Ontario

March 31 2014

Guelph, City of
1 Garden St.
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

RE: Industry funding for Municipal Blue Box Recycling for 2013 Program Year

Packaging and printed paper companies, represented by Stewardship Ontario, fulfill their responsibilities to fund 50% of the net cost of the Blue Box Program by making cash payments to municipalities on a quarterly basis. Stewardship Ontario is pleased to enclose the **forth quarterly** payment for 2013.

The total payments distributed to municipalities in this quarter amount to almost \$23 million. This year, Stewardship Ontario will distribute a total of \$91 million in cash to Ontario municipalities on behalf of the companies that are responsible for packaging and printed paper under the Blue Box Program. This brings the total cash payment from industry to municipalities to \$613 million since the program began in 2004.

In addition to the direct cash payments, Stewardship Ontario continues to work with municipalities to complete projects that receive financial support under the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF). Stewardship Ontario also continues to develop local markets for recyclables collected from Ontario's blue boxes by investing in innovative Ontario companies with new recycling solutions.

A key initiative has been the development of the "Plastics is In" public education campaign, under which Stewardship Ontario has provided assistance to municipalities that have expanded the range of plastics they collect, in order to take advantage of advances in processing technology and capacity that we have seen as a result of our market development efforts. We are now exploring opportunities to increase the capture of composite paper packaging, with several successful trials having already taken place.

Initiatives like this demonstrate how, by working together, we can make significant improvements in the performance of Ontario's renowned Blue Box recycling system. To find out more about these programs, please feel free to contact me at the address noted below.

I wish to briefly address the 2014 payments which, as you know, are the subject of an arbitration process between Stewardship Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the City of Toronto. Stewardship Ontario has offered to make interim payments to municipalities to ensure payments continue to flow on the usual schedule. Details will follow with the exact timing and amount of these payments.

Sincerely,

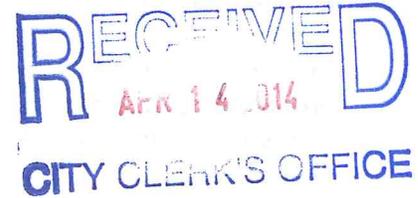
David Pearce
Managing Director
Stewardship Ontario



CITY CLERK'S OFFICE



April 11, 2014



Blair Labelle
City Clerk
City of Guelph
City Hall, 1 Carden Street
Guelph ON N1H 3A1

Dear Mr. Labelle,

As outlined by Regulation 720 under the *Liquor Licence Act* (www.e-laws.gov.on.ca), Vintner's Quality Alliance ("VQA") wine may be sold at eligible Ontario farmers' markets beginning on May 1, 2014. As the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) will be administering this new program, I would like to take this opportunity to outline key aspects that may impact municipalities, including municipal authority to restrict VQA wine sales within their jurisdiction.

To participate in this program, wineries must obtain an authorization from the Registrar of Alcohol and Gaming ("Registrar") for an occasional extension of their on-site winery retail store. Authorized occasional extensions will only be permitted to operate within farmers' markets that meet the definition provided in Regulation 720 under the *Liquor Licence Act*:

"farmers' market" means a central location at which a group of persons who operate stalls or other food premises meet to sell or offer for sale to consumers products that include, without being restricted to, farm products, baked goods and preserved foods, and at which a substantial number of the persons operating the stalls or other food premises are producers of farm products who are primarily selling or offering for sale their own products.

Regulation 720 also provides a municipality with the ability to prohibit the sale of VQA wine at any or all farmers' markets located within it by providing a written objection to the Registrar (by mail or email of a scanned copy of the signed original to farmersmarkets@agco.ca). A municipality will be able to exercise their authority to object at any time, regardless of whether VQA wine has been sold at a particular farmers' market previously.

Additionally, municipalities that operate farmers' markets or permit farmers' markets to operate on municipal property, may be able to set further rules for VQA wine sales within those farmers' markets, as long as the rules do not contravene the AGCO's regulatory framework as set out in the *Liquor Licence Act*, Regulations and Registrar's policies. The AGCO will conduct inspections to ensure compliance with the LLA, Regulations, and Registrar's policies.

.../2

A list of farmers' markets that intend to allow VQA wine sales will be posted on the AGCO web site. This list will be updated on a weekly basis and can be accessed after May 1, 2014 at www.agco.on.ca.

The AGCO will be hosting a webinar on April 23, 2014 from 11:00am to 12:00pm to provide details of the program to municipalities, wineries and farmers' market operators. Please email farmersmarkets@agco.ca to register.

VQA wine sales at farmers' markets is a pilot program and the AGCO welcomes any feedback that you may have that will assist in improving it.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Major". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jean Major
Chief Executive Officer
and Registrar

GRCA General Membership

Chair Jane Mitchell

Vice-Chair Vic Prendergast

Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Melancthon and Southgate and Town of Grand Valley
Tom Nevills

Townships of Mapleton and Wellington North Pat Salter

Township of Centre Wellington
Joanne Ross-Zuj

Town of Erin, Townships of Guelph/Eramosa and Puslinch
John Brennan

City of Guelph
Bob Bell, Maggie Laidlaw

Region of Waterloo
Les Armstrong, Todd Cowan,
Jan d'Ailly, Rob Deutschmann,
Jean Haalboom, Ross Kelterborn,
Geoff Lorentz, Claudette Miller,
Jane Mitchell, Warren Stauch

Municipality of North Perth and Township of Perth East
George Wicke

Halton Region J. Barry Lee

City of Hamilton Jeanette Jamieson

Oxford County Bruce Banbury

County of Brant
Brian Coleman, Steve Schmitt

City of Brantford
Robert Hillier, Vic Prendergast

Haldimand and Norfolk Counties
Lorne Boyko, Fred Morison

Flood watch underway

March ended with a flood watch message for what could be a challenging spring melt.

At the end of the month, the Grand River watershed had above-average snowpack. Snow melt began to expose some bare fields in the southern part of the watershed, however woodlots and fence rows still had snow. The north still has full winter conditions and the snow melt is expected to continue through most of April.

Ice along the Grand River was beginning to deteriorate with the increased flows and sunshine. Ice between Lake Erie and Cayuga was generally intact at the end of March. Risks included potential for ice jams in the river system and initiate ice movement was underway. Common ice jam locations include Cayuga, New Hamburg, and West Montrose and the associated river systems.

The County of Haldimand, in conjunction with the GRCA, asked the Coast Guard to send an icebreaker to clear ice from the mouth of the river and offshore in Lake Erie.

The Samuel Risley arrived March 30 and broke up the ice to reduce the risk of flooding along the Grand from Dunnville to the mouth during the spring melt.

Both the lower Grand River and Lake Erie have had heavy ice cover this winter. Typically, during the spring melt, ice on the river breaks up before the lake thaws. As river ice reaches the mouth, it has no place to go. The resulting ice jam blocks the flow of water from the river into the lake, leading to flooding.

At the end of March, the major reservoirs at Belwood, Conestogo, Guelph, Luther, Woolwich, Laurel, and Shades were at low winter holding levels and had maximum storage available.

Post ice storm cleanup shifts to rail-trails

Cleanup work on GRCA properties moved to the Cambridge-Paris Rail-Trail on March 31. A team using an excavator worked its way from Cambridge to Paris, removing trees and branches

damaged in the December ice storm.

The work on this trail was expected to last about a week.

Most GRCA parks and trails remain closed while GRCA crews and contractors continue their efforts to make the properties safe again.

Three parks that were open for winter activities (Laurel Creek, Shade's Mills and Belwood Lake) have completed their winter season and are now closed.

Those three parks and most other GRCA paid-admission parks are scheduled to open for the summer season on May 1.

Ready for tree planting season

Some tree numbers are up and some are down as we get set for tree planting season in the Grand River watershed.

The GRCA has seven planting events in watershed communities that the public is invited to attend and help out. There are many other projects that involve specific groups of volunteers, such as students, companies and community organizations. These volunteers are helping to plant trees while also learning about ecology. This is more than the usual number of planting events.

The GRCA has hired contractors to plant 290,000 trees in many locations this spring, which is about on par with last year. The most northerly of these projects is a riparian buffer on a property close to Shelburne. The most southerly project is a living snow fence that will be planted in Haldimand County to help make Junction Road safer during winter weather. This is the first living snow fence for Haldimand through the Rural Water Quality Program.

About 38,000 trees were sold to landowners both online and over the phone, and these will be picked up at the GRCA. This number is a little lower than last year.



Trees and shrubs removed along dikes

In March, contractors worked along sections of the Brantford Dike and the Bridgeport Dike to remove trees and shrubs to maintain the structural integrity of the dike.

The work was done along Morrison Road in Brantford, which runs off Mohawk Road and leads to the Brantford Sanitary Landfill during the last two weeks of March. A crane used to remove the trees and shrubs from the top of the dike.

Trees pose a threat to the integrity of the dike. The root balls can weaken the structure of the dike. In addition, if a tree were to fall over it could leave a hole in the dike that could be eroded by heavy rain or high water, potentially leading to a failure.

Similar work was done on the section of the dike that runs through the Bridgeport Sportsfield in Kitchener. Trees and shrubs are being removed from the face of the dike. The trail on top of the dike was closed during the work.

Maintenance of this sort is carried out regularly on the dikes. They were built in the 1980s to provide protection to low-lying sections of the city.



Photo by Art Smith

The Canadian Coast Guard ship Samuel Risley came to the mouth of the Grand River at Port Maitland on March 30 to clear a path for the ice to come down the Grand River during the spring melt.

Children's water festival coming to Haldimand

A new children's water festival is coming to the southern Grand River watershed.

About 350 children will visit the Haldimand Children's Water Festival in early October at Taquanyah Nature Centre. The festival will teach children about the importance of water conservation, protection, technology and ecology. It offers hands-on learning that is fun and interactive and will be the third children's water festival in the Grand River watershed.

The Waterloo-Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival was among the first children's water festivals in the province when it started in 1996, and there are now 26 children's water festivals in Ontario.

Over the past 19 years, the Waterloo Wellington festival has educated 75,000 students at Doon Heritage Crossroads in Kitchener. This year the festival takes place May 26 to 30, thanks to donors and hundreds of volunteers.

The annual Brantford/Brant Children's

Water Festival debuted in 2006 and will be held May 13 to 15 at Mohawk Park in Brantford for students from Brant, Brantford and Six Nations.

First winners of GRCA photo contest

Three random draws for a Grand River Parks membership have been drawn for the GRCA photo contest, which is continuing until Oct. 31.

The winners of these random draws are Heather Mead (Fergus) in January, Heather Greg (Rockwood) in February and Nick Wagner of Kitchener in March.

At the end of the contest there will be winners in three categories of prizes — recreation, riverscapes and historic photos taken before 1975. The prizes are gift certificates valued at \$500, \$250 and \$100.

For full details and to submit photos, see www.grandriver.ca/photocontest.

This issue of *GRCA Current* was published in April 2014.

It is a summary of the March 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 the copying, forwarding and distribution of *GRCA Current*.

Next board meeting: Friday, April 25 at 9:30 a.m., GRCA Administration Centre.

Reports mentioned in *GRCA Current*: www.grandriver.ca/MeetingReports.

For coming events, please see www.grandriver.ca/Calendar.

The March-April issue of *Grand Actions* newsletter is available at: www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions