

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending May 16, 2014

REPORTS

1. "Wednesday" Guelph Farmers' Market – 2014
2. 2014 Public Works Week Open House & Career Education Events

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Canadian Professional Hockey League – Regarding bringing a franchise to Guelph

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. Grand River Conservation Authority – GRCA Current, May 2014 Issue

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. None

INFORMATION REPORT



TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Operations, Transit & Emergency Services
DATE May 14, 2014

SUBJECT "Wednesday" Guelph Farmers' Market - 2014

REPORT NUMBER OTES051420

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report is to inform Council that the Guelph Farmers' Market will host a summer Wednesday afternoon market in 2014. In 2013, the summer Wednesday afternoon market was placed on hiatus due to the temporary market relocation to Exhibition Arena. The Guelph Farmers' Market Vendor Executive is supportive of the continuation of this successful initiative in 2014. The 2014 Wednesday market will start Wednesday June 4th, with the last market day Wednesday August 27th.

KEY FINDINGS

2014 will be the second year to offer a summer mid-week Guelph Farmers' Market to the public. A summer Wednesday afternoon market was undertaken as a pilot project in 2012 and was considered a success by both vendors and customers.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The summer Wednesday afternoon Guelph Farmers' Market will be funded through revenues obtained from selling space to vendors, therefore having no impact on the 2014 budget.

BACKGROUND

Public Works staff, in collaboration with the Farmers' Market Executive Committee, undertook an eight week pilot project in the summer of 2012 to host a Wednesday Guelph Farmers' Market. The pilot project was acknowledged as being successful with the expectation from both vendors and customers that it would continue in the following years. The summer Wednesday afternoon Guelph Farmers' Market did not occur in 2013 due to the closure of the Guelph Farmers' Market building for renovations.

INFORMATION REPORT



REPORT

In 2012, Council was informed that staff were undertaking an 8 week "Pilot Project" to host a summer Wednesday afternoon Guelph Farmers' Market in the Farmers' Market building at the request of our vendors and customers. The pilot project was looked upon as being successful with the expectation from both vendors and customers that it would continue in the following years.

In 2013, the Guelph Farmers' Market building was closed during the summer months due to a major renovation and market vendors were temporarily re-located to Exhibition Arena. The summer Wednesday afternoon Guelph Farmers' Market was placed on hiatus with the agreement of the Guelph Farmers' Market Vendor Executive in order for vendors, customers and staff to focus on the relocated market to ensure its success.

In the early part of 2014, staff undertook a public survey where the results indicated that both customers of the Guelph Farmers' Market and market vendors recommended that we operate a summer Wednesday market. In addition, the Guelph Farmers' Market Executive Committee and the Downtown Guelph Business Association are in agreement that we host a summer Wednesday market in 2014.

Therefore, staff will operate a summer Wednesday afternoon Guelph Farmers' Market beginning on Wednesday, June 4th 2014, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm., ending Wednesday, August 27th, 2014.

Staff will closely monitor the weekly performance metrics including net operating loss/revenue, vendor participation, and customer activity. If the results are less than indicative of a successful market, staff will make a joint decision with the Guelph Farmers' Market Vendor Executive on whether or not to continue.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

2.2 Deliver public services better

3.1 Ensure a well designed, safe, inclusive, appealing and sustainable City

3.3 Strengthen citizen and stakeholder engagement and communications

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

Operations, Transit & Emergency Services - Public Works

Community & Social Services – Corporate Building

Corporate & Human Resources – Corporate Communications

INFORMATION REPORT



COMMUNICATIONS

Advertisements in "City Page," The Guelph Tribune
Dates and activity information on City of Guelph website
Guelph Farmers' Market newsletter and posters at the Market

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This project will be funded through revenues obtained from selling space to participating market vendors. No negative impact on the existing operating budget on the Guelph Farmers' market is projected.

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INFORMATION REPORT



TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Operations, Transit & Emergency Services

DATE May 14, 2014

SUBJECT 2014 Public Works Week Open House & Career Education Events

REPORT NUMBER OTES051421

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REPORT

To inform City Council of the activities and events that are planned in recognition of National Public Works Week May 20 – 24, 2014.

KEY FINDINGS

This report presents background information about National Public Works Week.

This year's theme "**Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow...**" conveys key impacts public works professionals have on city infrastructure and community assets.

Information is also provided regarding educational activities coordinated with the Upper Grand District School Board and the Specialist High Skills Major Program.

The report also outlines the various activities being offered during the Public Works Week Open House celebrations being held on Saturday May 24, 2014.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The program is funded through the 2014 Public Works Operating budget.

BACKGROUND

National Public Works Week was established in 1960 as an annual event by The American Public Works Association (APWA) for the purpose of educating the public about the contributions that Public Works professionals make in our community and how they improve the quality of life for city residents. The Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA), which the City of Guelph has membership in, fully supports this annual event.

INFORMATION REPORT



REPORT

In honour of National Public Works Week the City of Guelph's Public Works Department has partnered with the Human Resources Department, Engineering Services Department and with the Upper Grand District School Board to offer an interactive working experience in Public Works' trades. The following are activities planned for the secondary school students enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major Program:

1. Vehicle Inspections using the MTO Safety Checks
2. Traffic Sign Maintenance and Construction Zone Traffic Control setup
3. Manhole and Catch Basin Repair
4. Roadway Maintenance Asphalt Repair
5. Sidewalk Inspection and Repair
6. Construction Project Planning using GIS (Engineering)
7. Urban Arboriculture Inspection and Tree Climbing Demonstrations

As an educational tool, the students enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major Program will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on field demonstrations during this week. On Wednesday May 21st, staff will be closing the road way at Cedar Street to conduct an interactive construction demonstration for students. Staff members from our urban forestry crews will be present at Silvercreek Park to host Agriculture and Environmental Studies students in order to highlight the activities involved in conducting a tree hazard assessment and participate in a tree climbing demonstration. Students will also have the opportunity to use our GIS tree inventory system. The Fleet maintenance staff at 45 Municipal Street will be hosting one student per morning during the week of May 20 – May 23 to instruct on vehicle inspections using MTO Safety Checks and other duties of qualified vehicle technicians.

The Engineering Services Department has arranged for students to experience construction project design and planning activities using Geographic Information System (GIS) and other engineering software applications. As well, students will be taken on a tour of stormwater management facilities to gain an understanding of the role of these facilities in flood and environmental protection.

International Engineering professionals who are interested in transitioning into the municipal sector are invited to participate in a networking opportunity on May 22nd at City Hall. The City of Guelph has also developed a mentoring program that promotes leadership skills through mentoring international professionals as they transition into the Canadian workforce.

INFORMATION REPORT



This year's theme "**Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow...**" conveys key impacts public works professionals have on city infrastructure and community assets.

The weeklong recognition will conclude with the Public Works Open House on Saturday May 24th from 9 am – noon at 50 Municipal Street. The Open House will feature exhibits showcasing the important work that Public Works professionals do. Interactive heavy equipment and large truck displays will be available for youth and adults to explore. As well, staff members will be on hand to engage with the community and to answer questions. Children are invited to navigate our tricycle traffic and parking obstacle course, visit the colouring/craft table and paint a snow plow blade. With a donation to the Food Bank residents will have the opportunity to ride in an aerial bucket truck. The Water Works Department's "Water Wagon" will be available for residents to fill their reusable water bottles and highlight that they too have an Open House for the public on the same day. Subject to availability, the Guelph Fire Department may stop by with a pumper truck highlighting the close interaction between Emergency Services and Public Works during emergency events.

Finally, new to the event this year will be the presence of the Guelph Library "Book Mobile," one of the many vehicles owned and maintained by the Public Works Fleet Division. The contents of the Book Mobile will be customized to the event and will include books and resources related to Public Works and Engineering for all ages. Library staff will be in attendance to assist with the borrowing of library materials.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

- 1.1 Engage employees through excellence in leadership.
- 3.3 Strengthen citizen and stakeholder engagement and communications.

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

Human Resources
Engineering Services
Corporate Communications
Guelph Public Library
Water Works
Guelph Fire Department

INFORMATION REPORT



COMMUNICATIONS

Advertisements in local newspapers; The Guelph Tribune, The Guelph Mercury
Radio spots on local radio stations; CJOY 1460 and MIX 106.1 radio stations
Event information on The City of Guelph website
Temporary street closure notifications delivered to residents of Cedar Street

ATTACHMENTS

ATT-1 National Public Works Week Specialist High Skills Major Activity Guide

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Public Works Week Planning – Career Education

DATE National Public Works Week – May 20-23

FROM Joanne Oliver

DIVISION Human Resources

PROJECT TEAM Joanne Oliver, Don Kudo, Raven Rise

SUBJECT Carer Education Events Summary in Support of National Public Works Week

Career Education and Employee Development

About Public Works Week – Workforce Development Activities

Public Works 2014 theme is Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow. The theme aligns with the efforts of our organization's leader and our corporation as we move forward in the transformation of our local government.

Public Works week is annual event, and creates a platform to introduce our community and our employees to the many of the career opportunities available within Public Works employment sector. Our career development activities have been recognized as a leading practice within our community, our province and at the national level.

The workforce development activities that will run from May 20-23 include:

1. Demonstrations, tours and hands on activities in partnership with our public and separate school board Specialist High Skills Major program.
2. A networking opportunity that is developed in support of our City's Economic Development Plan (Prosperity 20/20). It recognizes how successful integration of international professionals into our local labour market positively impacts our community's wellbeing.
3. A speed networking lunch on May 22 will support our leaders in learning more about workforce development opportunities for their teams. These

Public Works Week Planning – Career Education

programs in particular support our employees in developing and honing their:

- Cross cultural communication skills – specifically related to recruitment, on boarding and employee development
- Coaching and mentoring skills

The City of Guelph has built a strong relationship with our local Student Success offices. During Public Works week, our teams host classes to participate in “reach ahead” activities. These activities help provide a job preview to students that are enrolled in the Construction, Environment and Transportation Specialist High Skills Major Programs (SHSM).

The program for 2014 includes:

Our Fleet Services

Date: May 20-23, 2014

Location: 45 Municipal Street Fleet Services

SHSM: Transportation Students

With over 700 pieces of equipment in our care, our Fleet Services team works together to ensure they are safe for operation, and operated in a manner that reduces their impact on the environment. Students will spend a part of the morning observing an MTO Safety check on one of our 1 or 1.5 tonne trucks. A brief discussion of our Green Fleet practices will follow.

Our teams can host 1 student from 9:15 – 12:00 noon each day.

Special clothing: Please wear CSA Approved (green patch) work boots that are over the ankle, and long pants. This is a shop environment, and clothing may come into contact with grease and dirt.

Contact person Les Preston (supervisor) 822-1260 extn. 2024

Public Works Week Planning – Career Education

Demonstration Activity

Our Public Works teams welcome up to 40 students from Specialist High Skills Construction classes to participate in this highly interactive roads maintenance event. The students have an opportunity to understand how highly inter-related much of their work truly is.

Date: Wednesday, May 21 , 2014 with a rain date of Thursday, May 22

Location: Cedar Street

Time: 9:15 – 12:00 noon

SHSM: Construction and Transportation

Students must wear CSA Approved (green patch) work boots that are over the ankle, and long pants. This activity is out of doors.

1. Students will have an opportunity to learn about the set up a roadway construction closure – using temporary traffic control signs – to help secure the site for the repair activities scheduled on this day. This set up is required for all on road construction activities and will be consistent with the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, MTO, requirements known as “book 7”. Students will also have a chance to see how technology like GIS is used to help manage our assets in the field.
2. Students will have a chance to participate in the repair of a catch basin. These catch basins are part of over 350 km of storm sewers and 18,000 associated structures that are maintained by our operations team in the City of Guelph. Once the repairs are completed, the students will have a chance to use our CCTV (closed circuit television) inspection system to see how technology is assisting us in detection and repairs of damage to our underground storm water collection systems.
3. On this morning, students will join our roads crews and participate in one the hundreds of street repairs and restorative work repairs our teams perform to our road way systems every year.

Public Works Week Planning – Career Education

4. Students will have a chance to participate in inspection of our sidewalks, learn more about the reasons why the grooves are placed at corners on sidewalks and other accessibility features, and even have a chance to make a sidewalk from concrete. Our teams know the importance of keeping our travelers on foot, in strollers and in wheelchairs moving effectively around this city. We have almost 700 km of sidewalks that our teams work to keep in good repair each year.

Urban Arboriculture

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 with a rain date of Thursday, May 22

Time: 9:15 – 12:00 noon

Location: Silvercreek Park (West section) at Edinburgh and Wellington

SHSM: Environmental

Students must wear CSA Approved (green patch) work boots that are over the ankle, and long pants. This activity is out of doors.

In celebration of National Public Works Week, the Forestry team has put together a morning dedicated to participating in activities that highlight the activities involved with maintaining healthy urban trees. Our team can host a total of 15 students for this unique opportunity. They will assist with a tree hazard assessment, an inventory activity using GIS, an opportunity to don the personal protective equipment (PPE) required for a climb and to try their skills at making the various knots to help with a safe climb.

Public Works Week Planning – Career Education

Networking Event for International Professionals Seeking to Transition into the Canadian Municipal Sector

Date: Thursday, May 22, 2014

Time: 10:00am – 12:00 Noon

Location: City Hall Meeting Room C

Programs:

- Conestoga College - International Professional Internship Program
- Lutherwood Employment Programs
- Professional Access into Employment (PAIE) a program supporting environmental engineers
- University of Guelph

International professionals will have an opportunity to learn firsthand about the strategies our team members have used to transition their international experience into the municipal sector. Our guests will have an opportunity to learn more about our recruitment process, current engineering projects and local programs that support international professionals to transition their skills and experiences towards successful employment here in Canada.

Participating departments include:

- Engineering
- Waste Water Services
- Solid Waste Resources
- Corporate Projects
- Information Technology
- Human Resources

Public Works Week Planning – Career Education

Local Employment Success Programs attending:

The City of Guelph understands that valuing diversity enables us to deliver services better. Please let us know if there are any particular accommodations that might be needed to help you be most successful in this networking opportunity.

Have questions about 2014 Public Works Week: Transitioning your International Experience towards Canadian municipal careers? [Contact careers@guelph.ca](mailto:careers@guelph.ca)

Reserve your ticket today:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2014-public-works-week-transitioning-your-international-experience-towards-canadian-municipal-tickets-11483269769>

Speed Networking Lunch

On May 22nd, City of Guelph leaders will have a unique opportunity to participate in a speed networking opportunity to connect with some fantastic local workforce development opportunities.

We will be in Meeting Room C from 12:15 – 1:00

Networking highlights include:

Mentorship

The City of Guelph has partnered with local experts in workforce development to launch the area's first mentoring program that provides opportunities for employers to develop the leadership skills through mentoring international professionals in skills that are needed to successfully transition into the Canadian work environment.

Public Works Week Planning – Career Education

We currently have 4 people that are using this program as a development opportunity, and they will be available to let you know about their experiences.

Mentoring can be very effective for leaders and aspiring leaders that hope to:

- Strengthen leadership and coaching skills
- Improve inter-cultural awareness
- Expand communication skills
- Gain an international perspective on your field or occupation
- Spot talent for potential recruitment - before your competition
- Please consider the developmental needs of your team, and encourage them to drop by and learn more.

Internships for International Professionals

Conestoga College has a 4 month (flexible) paid internship for international professionals. They attract interest from experienced professionals from across the region, and many people with Financial, IT, Engineering experience. Our **IT team** used this program in 2013, and found it to be a very rewarding experience. HR will support the hiring department with a specialized onboarding program.

This can be a helpful program for departments and leaders that are interested in:

- Benefiting for skilled professionals for short term work assignments
- Deepening cross cultural communication skills as it relates to supporting employee development, on boarding and team building

Professional Access into Employment (PAIE) <http://paie.trca.on.ca/>

A specialized program that supports international **environmental professionals**. The internship lasts for 4 months (flexible) are partners a program participant with your department. The benefits of participation are similar to the program listed above. Our **Water Works** team had a student from this program in 2014.

Public Works Week Planning – Career Education

Construction Project Planning - Using GIS

Date: Friday, May 23, 2014

Location: 1 Carden St. (Guelph City Hall)

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

SHSM: Construction and Transportation

A class of 10 students will have a chance to join members of our infrastructure team to turn data into plans that will help determine what projects get the green light for construction above and below the road. Areas of focus will be a review of how repaving projects are prioritized, including planning for transit and bicycles as well as cars. Students will have an opportunity to review our GIS and plans for construction projects in 2012.

This work will be conducted in the office environment. We encourage students to dress appropriate for the office environment. Some examples of appropriate attire (for non-uniformed staff) include:

- Collared sports shirts
- Sweaters
- Casual oxfords / loafers (running shoes are acceptable for school visits)
- Casual slacks
- Skirts typically fall to or below the knee

Public Works Week Planning – Career Education

Storm Water Management Ponds

Date: Friday, May 23, 2014

Location: 1 Carden St. (Guelph City Hall)

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

SHSM: Environment or Construction

Storm water management ponds temporarily hold rainfall, melted snow or water runoff from things like watering your lawn or washing your car. Water is collected from the local storm sewer, treated to remove large pollutants, and then slowly released back to our waterways. We manage storm water to control flooding and reduce pollution in our rivers and waterways.

Up to 20 students have an opportunity participate in a group will tour to several sites to examine different ponds in use at the City. Students will also have a chance to see firsthand how water management activities are planned and managed for the City of Guelph.

Please dress appropriately for this outdoor activity. Long pants and sturdy shoes are recommended as the students will be walking around the storm water ponds.



CANADIAN
PROFESSIONAL
HOCKEY LEAGUE

Monday, May 12th, 2014

Dear Mayor Karen Farbridge and Members of Council,

I am the lead proponent for the new, **independent** Canadian Professional Hockey League (CPHL). The CPHL is going to provide dynamic and creative entertainment for hockey fans across Canada, and I would like to seek your assistance to bring a franchise to your community.

We feel that there is a niche professional hockey market **between** the National Hockey League and the premier, minor professional American Hockey League, for cities and regions across Canada. The CPHL brand of hockey will appeal to the fans of the sport who want to witness a competitive game played with a high level of the sport's core set of skills (skating, passing, shooting and checking), at a fan friendly ticket price.

The CPHL has determined that the beauty and essence of the game can be brought to professional hockey through the refinement of the official rules of the current professional hockey leagues throughout North America. Three key CPHL rule changes in combination with each other will make the CPHL stand alone amongst all professional and amateur leagues **throughout the entire world**. These particular rule enhancements will provide improved safety for the players, and will create more player and puck movement, to delight and entertain the fans of hockey.

Hockey roots are deeply entrenched in our Canadian culture and passion for the game galvanizes our nation from coast to coast to coast. We envision that the CPHL style of hockey is where the future of the sport is headed in North America and it is this style of play that will ultimately keep more Canadian children aspiring to play hockey into their teenage years and beyond.

I would like to formally ask you to refer this letter to your Economic Development Department and to circulate it freely to your business and entrepreneurial community (Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce, Business Associations, etc.) for their consideration of this economic opportunity. Proposed ownership models that are available include: sole, limited partnership and community based. Please refer to the CPHL website (www.thecphl.ca) to gather further information about the Canadian Professional Hockey League.

I thank you for your assistance to promote this economic opportunity for your community.

Sincerely,

Ron Smith

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 waters rose high during spring melt

Rain and snowmelt meant that flood waters rose high in April and 11 flood messages were issued by the GRCA, including two flood warnings.

Fortunately the weather allowed for gradual melting of the river ice and snow pack with limited rainfall.

The two biggest reservoirs, Belwood Lake and Conestogo Lake, were filled to capacity in mid-April. Snow on the land was enough to fill the reservoirs two times over.

While flooding did occur in low-lying areas close to the waterways, the impact of the flooding was much less than it could have been because of the gradual melt.

The 11th flood message on April 16 was a termination notice.

While there were a few ice jams, these were relatively minor, considering the amount of ice in the river system.

Rivercams in Brantford and West Montrose

The GRCA has installed webcams at two locations along the Grand River to help with real-time monitoring of river conditions.

Every hour, at the top of the hour, the most recent photo and video are posted on the GRCA's rivercam page. These supplement the data that comes from the GRCA's network of river flow, rainfall and temperature monitoring stations.

One camera is in West Montrose near the covered bridge and looks downstream.

The other camera is in downtown Brantford looking downstream at the Veterans Memorial Parkway (formerly BSAR) bridge

These areas are prone to ice jams which can cause sudden increases in water levels and flooding. These cameras are particularly helpful during the winter and spring to monitor ice conditions and water levels.

Storm damage to trees

The GRCA now expects to spend more than \$400,000 on clean up related to ice storm damage. However as the clean up continues, this number could increase.

At the end of April GRCA spending on ice storm clean up had reached \$375,00.

The provincial government has announced a program to provide financial assistance to municipalities and conservation authorities that have been impacted by the ice damage.

If the GRCA is eligible for this funding program, then the majority of the clean up costs could be covered by the program.

Any costs not covered through this program will have to come from the GRCA's budget or from reserves. Program guidelines will be released in May.

Some delays to opening Grand River parks

Most Grand River Parks opened May 1, but there are some delays during the early part of the season due to continuing work to clean up damaged trees left behind by the devastating December ice storm.

Clean up has been completed at Belwood Lake (Fergus), Brant (Brantford), Byng Island (Dunville), Laurel Creek (Waterloo), Rockwood (Rockwood) and Shade's Mills (Cambridge). Conestogo Lake opening has been delayed to May 15 due to the cleanup.

While the Elora Gorge opened May 1, camp sites on the south side will open May 15 and those on the north side will open in mid to late June. At Guelph Lake, some trails may remain closed and customers should check with park staff for up-to-date information.

At Pinehurst Lake day-use areas, camping areas and the Captain Kidd Trail are open, but other trails will remain closed until further notice.

At all parks, customers should use caution in wooded areas and be alert to hanging or damaged



Riverfestival
MUSKOKA
Riverprize 2000
For excellence in river management



Conservation
ONTARIO
Natural Champions



branches and trees. Elora Quarry, Elora will open in June, as it normally does.

Unfortunately it will take even more time for the damage to be cleared away from the passive areas, and residents need to check the Newsroom for updates.

New website project

The GRCA is planning to redesign two websites and has a project team working toward this goal.

A consulting firm will be hired for each of two phases of this website project. The first phase is design and this is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The websites will then be built in 2015.

The websites are www.grandriver.ca and www.sourcewater.ca.

Plans are underway for former waterfowl park

The GRCA has taken the first steps towards rehabilitating the former Kortright Waterfowl Park on Niska Road in Guelph.

The 47 hectare park had been leased by the Niska Wildlife Foundation but the lease has ended and the land has now returned to the GRCA. For the rest of this year, the property will remain closed to the public while the GRCA carries out safety assessments and addresses deficiencies.

The GRCA intends to work with the community to develop a master plan for the property. The park opened in 1977 and was popular but attendance dropped off in the 1990s and the park was closed in 2005.

"No Trespassing" signs have been posted. GRCA staff will examine boardwalks, bridges, a dam and other water structures to see what state they are in. It's also expected that there is considerable damage to the trees as a result of overgrazing by deer, as well as damage caused by several ice storms.

The GRCA is also urging the public to stay off the property to respect the privacy of two representatives of the Niska Wildlife Foundation who will continue to occupy a home and other buildings until the end of the year

Lots of camp programs

Grand River Parks and nature centre summer camps are great places for kids to con-



Photo by Ann Loeffler

Extremely high river flows due to melting snow and rainfall in mid-April brought some flooding-0in low lying areas. This is the view from the Conestogo Dam when flows were around 170 cubic metres per second. They did get as high as 250 cms, compared to 4.5 cms during the summer. The fog was created by the cold lake water being discharged into 20-C air temperatures.

nect with nature this summer.

The GRCA has updated and increased the variety of summer camps on offer at the five nature centres locations (Belwood Lake, Rockwood, Guelph Lake, Laurel Creek and Apps' Mill). Many kids come for a few weeks each summer. A few camps are already sold out but there are still many different types of camps for kids six to 16 years old.

Camp information is available on www.grandriver.ca/naturecentres and camp registration website is www.grandriver.eventbrite.ca.

In addition, nature centre staff are providing many visitor service programs suited to families at the Grand River parks. For more on these programs and on other GRCA events, check www.grandriver.ca/calendar.

40 years after the flood

On a beautiful sunny day 40 years ago — May 17, 1974 — residents of the Grand River watershed were shocked when floodwaters came barreling down the river to overwhelm Galt and communities further south.

This 50-mm rainfall across the top of the watershed caused an estimated \$6.9 million (\$34.4 million in today's dollars) in damage, excluding cleanup. After the deluge and the cleanup, a provincial inquiry into the flood

took months.

There were many lessons learned and changes made to prevent this from happening again. GRCA staff, municipal flood coordinators, emergency personnel and residents are always on the alert for flooding — especially now 40 years later during the spring of 2014.

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

It is a summary of the April 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, May 23 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 current issue of *Grand Actions* newsletter is available at: www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions