

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending June 13, 2014

REPORTS

1. City of Guelph Transition to Provincial ON1Call Notification of Underground Infrastructure Locates Service
2. Community Engagement Framework Update

CORRESPONDENCE

1. None

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. Grand River Conservation Authority – 'The Current' Newsletter June 2014

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. Application for Liquor Licence – Pablo's and Doogie's, 37 Wyndham St. N.
2. Environmental Advisory Committee – resignation of Shelley Lohnes

INFORMATION REPORT



TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Planning, Building, Engineering and Environment

DATE June 12, 2014

**SUBJECT City of Guelph Transition to Provincial ON1Call
Notification of Underground Infrastructure Locates
Service**

REPORT NUMBER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REPORT

To share with City Council information related to the City's legislated transition to the Province's ON1Call Notification of Underground Infrastructure Locates Service.

KEY FINDINGS

- Various City Departments, including Water Services, Wastewater Services, Public Works, and Engineering Services currently provide excavators with City buried infrastructure locates to prevent damage to City owned infrastructure.
- Recent provincial legislation requires the City, by June 19, 2014, to join ON1Call, a province-wide locates request handling centre, and to abide by ON1Call's legislated service standards.
- Effective June 19, 2014, the City will no longer be receiving locate requests from customers directly. These requests will be forwarded to the City through ON1Call.
- Staff has formed a service review team led by the general managers of the respective departments above. The team will ensure the City has transitioned to ON1Call by the deadline and meets all ON1Call regulatory requirements moving forward.
- Additional team goals include gaining an understanding of industry best practices, implementing service improvements through streamlined business processes and technology, and obtaining cost savings through improved service delivery.
- The service review team has identified a need for upgraded software to support integration of service delivery with ON1Call.
- A robust communications program is being implemented to inform excavators and City staff of the transition to ON1Call.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In anticipation of the pending transition to ON1Call, resource and communications costs to support the team were included and approved in the 2014 Tax and Non-Tax operating budgets.

If required, a business case and request for enhanced or new software will be incorporated into the 2015 budget process.

Beginning in January 2015, ON1Call will charge members \$1.60 for each locate request that requires the member to perform a locate or provide the excavator with a clearance. Additional costs related to ON1Call fees will be also be reviewed in preparation of the 2015 operating budgets.

The team will monitor locate request demand with the transition to ON1Call and look for efficiencies to maintain demand within current resource levels, or prepare business cases for upcoming budgets to ensure the service is resourced sustainably.

BACKGROUND

The City of Guelph's owned underground infrastructure includes sanitary and storm sewers, water pipelines, electrical and control power lines, communications lines, and other specialty infrastructure. These buried cables and pipes could cause harm to workers and the public at large if this infrastructure is damaged by someone digging into it. There is also the potential for service disruption for all customers and costly repairs when vital infrastructure is damaged during excavation.

The City of Guelph has been delivering a location of underground infrastructure (locates) service successfully for decades through the actions of office and field staff in various departments including Public Works, Wastewater Services, Engineering Services, and Water Services (the Departments). This locates service consists of the following activities:

- Receipt and management of excavator locate requests;
- Field demarcation of infrastructure location and creation of field diagrams; and
- Transmission of these diagrams back to the excavators.

The City, consistent with industry practice, does not charge excavators for the cost of locates – related service expenses are funded from general revenue in the tax and non-tax operating budgets used to maintain the related infrastructure. In 2013, the City provided excavators with over 5,000 locates at a total cost of approximately \$600,000 and in almost all cases these locates prevented damage during excavation and ensured continuous provision of essential City services.

In 1996 Ontario One Call (ON1Call) was formed by various representatives from electrical, gas, telecommunications, cable television, pipeline and sewer, and some

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municipal utilities. Its primary function was to establish a call centre to receive excavation locate requests and notify registered owners of underground facilities within the vicinity of a dig-site of a planned excavation and request for field locates. The City is currently a customer of ON1Call, requesting locates of non-municipal buried infrastructure through ON1Call on a regular basis.

Provincial legislation in place prior to June 2012 required municipalities to locate their underground infrastructure but did not mandate how this service was to be provided. In June of 2012, Ontario passed the *Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012* (the Act) to increase public and personal safety by requiring all major buried infrastructure owners, including municipalities, to be members of ON1Call. The Act also sets mandatory standards, including time-frames for the delivery of locates by members, and includes the potential for assessing fines and Administrative Monetary Amounts (\$100 to \$10,000) to members for breaching standards as well as charging members fees for handling locate requests. Beginning in January 2015, ON1Call will charge members \$1.60 for each locate request that requires the member to perform a locate or provide the excavator with a clearance. All Ontario municipalities must be active members of ON1Call by June 19, 2014.

The City of Guelph is in the process of becoming a registered member of ON1Call by June 19, 2014. Accordingly, ON1Call will become the City's single point-of-contact for all locate requests and the City will be required to carry out the business process of providing the location of its underground infrastructure in accordance with the bylaws and associated terms and conditions of the corporation.

REPORT

In 2013, general managers (GMs) from the Departments formed and led a staff service review team (the Team) of managers, supervisors, clerical, field, and support staff (Legal Services, Communications, and Information Technology) to manage the City's transition to ON1Call. Additional team goals include achieving full compliance with ON1Call legislation, gaining an understanding of industry best practices, implementing service improvements through streamlined business processes and technology, and obtaining cost savings through improved service delivery. In anticipation of the pending transition to ON1Call, resource and communications costs to support the Team were included and approved in the 2014 Tax and Non-Tax operating budgets.

On March 31, 2014 Ontario Regulation 92/14, a regulation outlining requirements for ON1Call membership and performance standards, was approved by the Ontario government. The Regulation requires that each member of ON1Call comply with and be bound by the applicable by-law; this by-law sets out the details of ON1Call's governance model and function, and sets out the Members' Bill of Rights, Terms and Conditions and Enforcement of Membership, Enforcement Provisions with respect to Excavators, and Performance Standards and Specifications for ON1Call

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administration. Staff from Legal Services have reviewed the by-laws and advised the GMs on the City obligations they contain. The Team is ensuring that the transition to ON1Call is completed in compliance with the June 19, 2014 deadline and that the City will meet all ON1Call regulatory requirements moving forward.

The current City locates business process includes both office and field activities that result in an excavator receiving a documented locate of buried City infrastructure within a reasonable timeframe. The office process includes excavator locate request handling (via phone, fax, or email), hardcopy dispatch of requests to field staff, and final faxing or emailing of infrastructure location diagrams back to the excavator. The field process involves prior desktop review of infrastructure location, field visits to verify and demark infrastructure location, and the creation of related field diagrams. Office and field response is currently provided after-hours by the City's contract answering service and on-call field staff in the related departments.

As ON1Call will be primarily acting as a call centre for the City, as well as monitoring the City for locate completion within mandatory timeframes, the Team's current focus is on modifying office process across departments to efficiently integrate with ON1Call. As ON1Call timeframes (Standard – within 5 business days, Priority – less than 5 to less than 1 business days, and Emergency – within 2 hours) match current City practice, staff don't anticipate time related performance problems moving forward.

With support from Information Technology, staff are piloting locates call handling software while a more comprehensive review of available in-house and third party software is being completed; software upgrades are being planned with a goal to automate and achieve efficiencies in the office business process. There is also a need for upgraded software to dovetail with the City's after hours management of locate requests. If required, a business case and request for enhanced or new software will be incorporated into the 2015 budget process. Furthermore, additional costs related to ON1Call fees will be also be reviewed in preparation of the 2015 budgets.

Upon completion of the ON1Call transition and related software upgrades, in the fall the Team will focus on obtaining efficiencies in the field process through cross-training of staff, improved field access to more accurate infrastructure mapping, and automation of locate dispatch and electronic diagram creation.

Even with short term software improvements, additional administrative time may be required for staff to process locate requests as required by ON1Call. Staff also anticipate receiving more requests under ON1Call as historically the City has received less requests than ON1Call. The Team will monitor locate request administration and demand with the transition to ON1Call and look for efficiencies to maintain demand with current resource levels or prepare business cases for upcoming budgets to ensure the service is resourced sustainably.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

- 1.2 Develop collaborative work teams and apply whole systems thinking to deliver creative solutions.
- 2.3 Ensure accountability, transparency and engagement.
- 3.1 Ensure a well designed, safe, inclusive, appealing and sustainable City.
- 3.3 Strengthen citizen and stakeholder engagement and communications.

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

The Team includes members from the following departments:

- Water Services;
- Public Works;
- Wastewater Services;
- Engineering Services;
- Legal Services;
- Corporate Communications; and
- Information Technology.

Additionally, staff from Finance and Purchasing/Risk Management has been consulted and information on this issue has been provided to the Direct Report Leadership Team.

COMMUNICATIONS

To ensure a seamless transition to ON1Call for local excavators, Corporate Communications (Communications) has led the Team in developing a comprehensive communications program aimed at excavators, contractors, landscapers, pavers, homeowners and City staff with the following components:

- A joint advertising campaign with Guelph Hydro and Union Gas including:
 - bus shelter advertising
 - radio advertising (CJOY/Magic)
 - online advertising (Guelph Mercury, The Weather Network, Guelph Chamber of Commerce)
 - print advertising (hydro bill inserts, Guelph Mercury, City News pages in the Guelph Tribune)
 - mobile sign advertising around the city
 - direct letter to listed contractors/excavators
 - social media posts; and
 - bookmarks to distribute at City service counters and City events
 - 8.5" x 11" posters to place at applicable City service counters and at the service counters of relevant retailers such as Home Depot
 - A webpage on guelph.ca with locate request information (e.g. what activities require locates, how to contact ON1Call) and answers to commonly asked questions;
 - A media release to be issued to all City staff and media once the City is fully online with the ON1Call system;
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- Internal information sheet including commonly asked questions to be provided to Service Guelph, Corporate Communications, departments involved in providing locate services, and other departments that may liaise directly with anyone requiring a locate (e.g. Building Services, Planning);
- Materials to support internal training such as FAQs, service flow charts and contact lists (to be made available via Infonet);
- Holler articles in the May/June and July/August issues to notify internal staff of the change and provide more information.

Through working with partner utilities, Corporate Communications has shared related excavator communications costs resulting in a savings for the City.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

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TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Community and Social Services
Community Engagement and Social Services

DATE June 13, 2014

SUBJECT Community Engagement Framework Update

REPORT NUMBER CSS-CESS-1427

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Community Engagement Framework (CEF) is a resource for City staff and decision makers which provides consistent approaches and processes to gain input from community stakeholders to municipal decision making. This report provides an update of the Community Engagement Framework implementation over the past year, identifies some early learning, and outlines 2014 implementation goals.

KEY FINDINGS

Since October 2012, 44 projects have been provided with planning, mentoring, and implementation supports by the CEF and community engagement staff, 13 of which were new in 2014. In collaboration with Corporate IT a new on-line engagement tool called "MindMixer" has been piloted in 3 projects in 2013-14. Experience and learning from all projects provide on-going opportunities to enhance the CEF processes and tools, and begin building some City of Guelph community engagement "best practices."

Community engagement staff have developed a one day CEF training workshop that 85 staff from across the Corporation have participated in. An introduction to the CEF was delivered to 27 teams across the corporation in 2013, and to 56 new staff at Corporate Orientation training. As community engagement "stewards," staff have recently developed an evaluation plan and tools to measure community engagement activities and stakeholder involvement. Data collected in 2014 – 2015 will be used to develop benchmarks to further inform our performance and practice.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Community engagement Framework is being implemented within existing resources.

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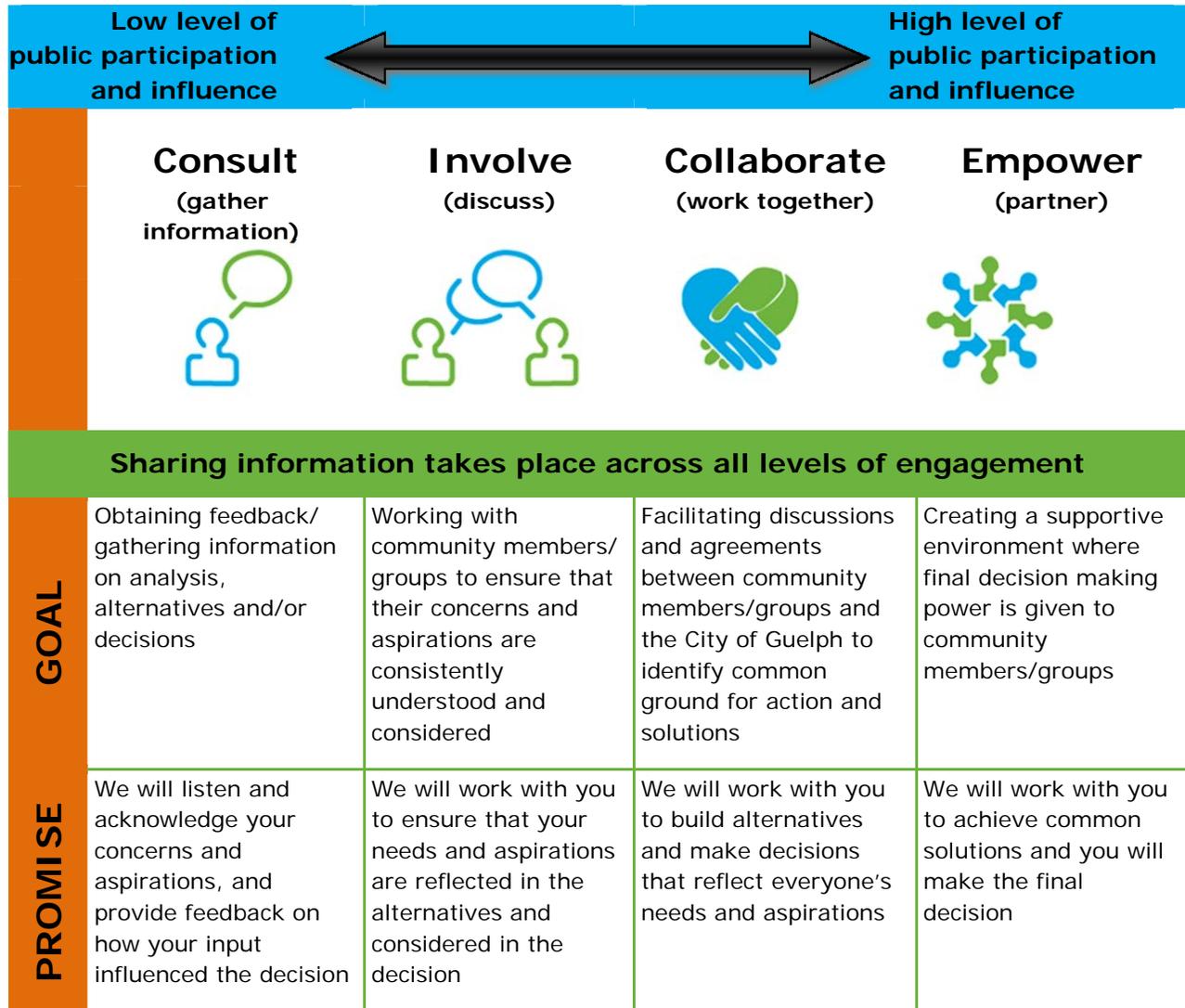
BACKGROUND

On April 29, 2013, Council approved the Community Engagement Framework (CEF) and Policy (CSS-2013.11), and directed staff to report back annually on the implementation of the Framework and any recommended revisions.

The CEF defines community engagement as the “overarching process of involving the community in decision making processes.” The CEF provides City decision makers with a comprehensive resource to involve community stakeholders in their decision making processes. It was developed in response to both internal and external demands for greater clarity, transparency and supports for engaging community stakeholders in decisions made at the municipal level.

The CEF consists of three sections: 1) Framework; 2) Worksheets; and 3) Tools. It is guided by nine principles, and based on the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) “Spectrum of Engagement” with four levels of engagement: consult, involve, collaborate and empower. A seven step process or “roadmap” enables staff and Council to use consistent approaches to plan, build, implement, and evaluate engagement activities.

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The City of Guelph's Spectrum of Engagement has been adapted from the International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) spectrum

The CEF outlines clear roles for staff, Council and community stakeholders in engagement activities. Community engagement staff provide the following supports to the Corporation:

- Consult with project staff to develop Community Engagement Plan.
- Provide assistance and supports for engagement activities, i.e. training, facilitation, lists of accessible space, equipment resources, etc.
- Community engagement "stewardship" role, i.e. data base of engagement activities, best practices, evaluations, annual review and reporting to Council and senior management.

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The April 29, 2013 CSS-2013.11 report identified the following requirements for successful implementation of the CEF across the Corporation:

- External consultants to incorporate CEF processes and approaches in their community engagement work on behalf of the Corporation
- Community engagement pilot projects to continue to the end of 2013
- Development of an evaluation plan and key performance indicators for the CEF

The CSS-2013.11 report also anticipated the following outcomes of the CEF and policy:

- All stakeholders participate in community engagement activities.
- Employees use the framework and tools, and are skilled at effectively engaging the community as needed.
- Employees who are required to follow legislated engagement processes use the framework to enhance their activities.
- Stakeholders understand how their participation is incorporated into final municipal decisions.
- Municipal decisions are defensible, sustainable, and easier to implement.

REPORT

The CEF policy became effective January 2014. It requires all City projects needing community input to complete a CEF Community Engagement Plan. This report focuses on 2013 community engagement planning, supports, and stewardship activities across the Corporation, and 2014 implementation goals for the CEF.

Community Engagement Planning

Between October 2012 and December 2013 the CEF was piloted in 31 projects across the Corporation, 10 of which are on-going. In addition staff have provided supports to 13 new projects in 2014 (ATT-1). These have allowed staff to continue to refine CEF processes and tools.

Emergent learning on community engagement planning at the City of Guelph includes:

- It takes time to develop effective plans; the larger and more complex a project, the more time is required.
- When a project requires use of outside consultants, most effective engagement planning begins before the RFP is developed.
- The most effective planning begins at the initial scoping stage of a project.
- The most effective planning involves both community engagement and communications staff working closely on projects.
- Identification and communication to stakeholders of project decision making criteria and process timeline that clearly shows where their input will be sought, helps to gain stakeholder trust.

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- Communication of why the final decision was made and benefits to stakeholders increases transparency of municipal decisions.
- To ensure projects comply with CEF guidelines and processes, consultants need to work closely with community engagement staff.

Training, Tools and Supports

From July to October 2013, community engagement staff met with 27 work teams across the Corporation to introduce and answer questions about the CEF. A one day community engagement training workshop, developed by community engagement staff, has been delivered six times since October 2103. To date 85 staff have completed this training, and 95% of participants report that their learning objectives were met. This workshop is being offered quarterly or more if needed. In addition, community engagement staff developed a community engagement module for the Corporate Human Resources new staff orientation training and delivered this module 3 times in 2013 – 2014, to 56 new City of Guelph employees.

Community engagement staff are continuously looking for new and innovative engagement tools. With the City's implementation of the new Open Government Strategy, there is an increasing expectation from community stakeholders for on-line and social media engagement. MindMixer is one on-line engagement tool that is being piloted in 2013 – 2014 in collaboration with Corporate IT. To date 3 projects have used this tool: Jubilee Park Design, South End Recreation Centre Feasibility Assessment, Open Government Action Plan. In addition, 179 participants are registered to provide input using MindMixer, and there have been 2,204 visitors to the City's MindMixer site.

Emergent learning on community engagement supports at the City of Guelph includes:

- Staff value the no-cost one day training provided by community engagement staff.
- Increased skills in facilitation and managing stakeholder conflict in meetings are the two additional priority training areas identified by staff to improve their community engagement practices.
- It is inappropriate for staff to facilitate public meetings when either their technical expertise is required, or if they may not be perceived as "neutral" by stakeholders.
- For complex issues and projects, more costly engagement tools and activities such as deliberative forums, study circles, scientific surveys, telephone town halls, and on-line tools such as MetroQuest or SustainNet, may be justified depending on project resources.

Corporate Stewardship

2013 – 2014 community engagement across the Corporation included a broad range of activities such as multi-stakeholder working groups, public meetings and open houses, focus groups, field trips, on-line and paper surveys and feedback

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tools. Community engagement has occurred at every level of the Spectrum of Engagement, from consult through empower.

The evaluation plan for the CEF includes key performance indicators to measure Corporate community engagement activities in: quality and value; volume and reach; stewardship and commitment; training and capacity. Tools to collect feedback from community stakeholders and staff will depend on staff project teams submitting these back to the community engagement team. 2014 – 2015 will establish benchmarks in community engagement activities across the Corporation. Future indicators to be developed include: identifying costs of engagement; measuring levels of stakeholder belief in their ability to shape municipal decisions; further measurement of staff support for community engagement.

2014 Implementation Goals

The following are the main areas of staff focus for the CEF in 2014:

- Finalise evaluation plan and measurement tools.
- Begin data collection to measure impact of CEF.
- Develop “case studies” of successful engagement activities.
- Develop facilitation and managing stakeholder conflict training for staff, with Corporate Human Resources.
- Work with CAO’s and Clerk’s Offices, and the Open Government Strategy to develop educational materials and resources that increase community understanding and access to municipal decision making processes.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Organizational Excellence

1.1 Build robust systems, structures and frameworks aligned to strategy

Innovation in Local Government

2.2 Deliver Public Service better

2.3 Ensure accountability, transparency and engagement

City Building

3.3 Strengthen citizen and stakeholder engagement and communications

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

The following work areas have been consulted on an on-going basis as the CEF continues to be implemented:

Corporate and Human Resources: City Clerk’s Office, Corporate Communications, Human Resources.

Community and Social Services: Community Engagement and Social Services Liaison Research Policy Analysis.

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COMMUNICATIONS

The CEF and Policy and is posted on the infonet at:

<http://ernie/ServiceAreas/css/cef/Pages/CommunityEngagement.aspx>

ATTACHMENTS

ATT-1 Community Engagement Projects 2012 - 2014

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Community Engagement Projects 2012 – 2013

Completed

1. Driver Instructor Licensing By-law Development
2. Overnight On-Street Parking Study
3. Community Wellbeing Initiative Design Teams
4. Public Nuisance By-law Review
5. Development Charges Study
6. Schroder Road On-Street Parking Consultation
7. Solid Waste Management Master Plan Revision
8. South End "Larry Pearson" Park Splash Pad Design
9. St. George's Park Washroom Rebuild
10. Denver Road Closure Consultation
11. Skateboard Park Design Consultation and Site Communication
12. Stevenson Road & Downey Road Bike Lanes Build
13. 2013 Community Gardens Site Selection
14. Water Supply Master Plan Development
15. Speed River Trail West Design
16. Dakota Park Community Consultation
17. Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition Resource Distribution Review
18. Heritage Conservation District Phase 2 Consultation
19. Tourism Services Review
20. Bus Shelter Placement Consultation
21. Outside Water Use Program Review and By-law Review

Ongoing

1. Animal Control by-law Review
2. Wilson Farm Park Development
3. Rental Housing Licensing By-law Development
4. Harvard Road On-Street Parking Consultation
5. Cat Population Taskforce
6. Storm Water Funding Study
7. Jubilee Park Master Plan Development
8. Niska Road & Bridge Schedule 'C' Class Environmental Assessment
9. Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition Brant Community Hub

Community Engagement Projects 2014

Ongoing

1. Sale of 65 Delhi Street
2. Urban Forest management Plan
3. Water Source Protection Policies
4. Downtown Waste Cart Rollout
5. Green Meadow Park/Stevenson Storm Water Management
6. Downtown Economic Investment Fund (Baker Street District)
7. Open Government Action Plan
8. South End Recreation Centre
9. Clair Road Water Main
10. Northview Park
11. Arthur Street Trunk and Sewer
12. Fire Services Five Year Review
13. The Seed Community Food Hub

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

Farmland to forest at Conestogo Lake

New forests are rising on old farm fields in Mapleton Township in an effort to improve water quality in streams feeding Conestogo Lake reservoir.

About 70,000 trees are being planted this year and next on two parcels of land totalling 40 hectares (100 acres) on the north side of the reservoir.

The GRCA is planting a variety of species that are native to the area, including spruce, tamarack, white pine, bur oak, silver maple and cottonwood.

In addition to the new forests, the GRCA will also do some reshaping of the landscape to create some seasonal wetlands that will also help improve water quality and provide additional habitat.

As the trees grow in coming years, the areas will quickly become home to a variety of animals, such as deer and wild turkeys. Later, as the forests mature, it's expected that several bird species including scarlet tanagers, ovenbirds and great horned owls will take up residence.

A 12 hectare parcel near Wellington Road 10 and Concession Road Five has been planted this year. The second parcel of 28 hectares is near Concession Road 5 and Sideroad 15. About 18 hectares has been planted this year and the rest will be planted in 2015. The land was acquired by the GRCA when it built the reservoir in the 1950s. It has been leased to farmers since then.

Cool with average rainfall

Rainfall in May was close to or above the long-term average throughout the watershed.

The average temperature in May was 11 degrees, about 1.2 degrees cooler than normal at the Shand Dam climate station.

Reservoir levels at Shand, Conestogo, Luther and Guelph Lake were within the normal operating range for the time of year, and close to their normal maximum operating level.

A watershed conditions statement for water

safety was issued on May 16. Canoeists, kayakers, anglers, hikers and other recreational river users were warned to be alert to high water in much of the Grand River system at that time.

Continued help for Whitemans irrigators

Farmers in the Whitemans Creek area of Oxford and Brant counties can tap into a program that will help them adopt new irrigation techniques to reduce the impact of water takings on the creek.

The Whitemans Creek Drought Contingency Planning Pilot Project is part of the Water Adaptation Management and Quality Initiative (WAMQI). It is successor to the Water Resource Adaptation and Management Initiative that took place in the Whitemans Creek area in 2013.

The program will help farmers who hold Permits to Take Water to develop drought contingency plans. It will also showcase innovative technologies and solutions for agricultural water conservation and efficiency. That way, farmers can get the water they need while reducing the impact on the creek.

For example, the 2013 program helped restore several old farm irrigation pond to store water during wet days so it can be used during dry spells.

In addition, the 2014 program will support projects that encourage the efficient use and management of nutrients to protect water quality.

For further information on the project, contact Sue Brocklebank, GRCA Conservation Specialist at 519-621-2761, Ext. 2278 or at sbrocklebank@grandriver.ca.

Beach sampling begins

The beach sampling program for 2014 got underway at the end of May, as it does every year.

The signs at the beaches read "Swim at Your Own Risk" until test results are in. From late May to Labour Day, the GRCA and local health units regularly test the water at designated beaches in



Grand River Parks to ensure the water meets the guidelines set for swimming areas in Ontario.

Beaches are posted when levels of E. coli bacteria exceed the Ministry of Health guidelines. A posting is a recommendation that swimming should be avoided or that individuals swim at their own risk.

Beach postings often occur after heavy rains. In urban areas, stormwater washes fecal material from dogs, cats, birds and other wildlife into storm sewers that flow directly into nearby rivers and lakes. Contamination can also come from waterfowl that congregate at reservoirs, so please do not feed these animals.

Beach conditions are posted in the Newsroom on the GRCA website and watershed health units also provide this information.

Movies under the stars at Shade's Mills

Come watch movies under the stars starting at dusk every Friday night beginning June 6 until the end of September at Shade's Mills Park on Avenue Road in Cambridge.

The movies are free for GRCA Park Membership and day pass holders. Or, up to six people in a vehicle can gain admission for a special flat fee of \$10 on Friday nights starting at 7 p.m.

This has been very successful for the last few years. People come from all over. Visitors should bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit in front of the big screen. Cancellations due to poor weather or schedule changes will be posted on Facebook and twitter or call the park at 519-621-3697.

Movies start shortly before sunset, and the times vary between 8:45 p.m. during the longer days of June and July to 7:15 p.m. in September.

There is a full slate of activities on www.grandriver.ca/events with over 80 events listed in June and July.

2014 Tree Facts

- Across the entire watershed, the GRCA will plant about 400,000 trees this year, including 95,000 on its own land and 300,000 in partnership with private land owners.
- The GRCA operates a nursery near Burford, in Brant County, where it grows



The wet spring was great for trees, but not so good for the people who were planting them. However the 92nd Kitchener Sparks and Brownies had better luck at the end of May, when they planted trees at Shade's Mills Park. Thanks to the Girl Guides of Canada national service project, native trees and shrubs were donated. Resident pollinators and wildlife will benefit from the trees as they grow. About 400,000 trees were planted across the watershed this spring and planting extended throughout May and even into early June.

more than 150,000 trees a year from 60 different species.

- Since it was created in 1934, the GRCA has planted more than 27 million trees on both private land and its own land.
- The Grand River watershed was 85 per cent forest 200 years ago. However, tree cover dropped to just five per cent by 1900 as land was cleared for farming and urban areas. Today, the tree cover has rebounded to about 19 per cent. Environment Canada suggests a healthy watershed needs a tree cover of about 30 per cent.
- To learn more about the GRCA's tree planting program, go to the Tree Planting section of the GRCA website. The GRCA will help private landowners develop planting plans, plant the trees and find grants to offset costs.

also event listings through until October. It is expected that the booklet will be published each year and it is supported by advertisers.

Check out the link to the publication at www.grandriver.ca/Parks/Your-GuideToGrandRiverParks.pdf.

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

It is a summary of the May 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, June 27 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/Events.

The *Grand Actions* newsletter is available online at: www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions

New park booklet for 2014

Park booklets for Grand River Parks were completed and have been distributed throughout the parks and tourism organizations.

This new publication includes a section on each park, information about recreational activities and GRCA programs. There are