

# INFORMATION ITEMS

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Week Ending August 17, 2018

## REPORTS

1. None

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS

1. None

## CORRESPONDENCE

1. GRCA Current, August 2018
2. Town of Aurora Resolution re: Motion (b) Greenbelt Protection

## BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. [Committee of Adjustment Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2018](#)

## ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. None

# GRCA Current



August, 2018 • Volume 23 Number 7

## GRCA General Membership

**Chair** Helen Jowett  
**Vice-Chair** Chris White

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

**Townships of Mapleton and Wellington North** Pat Salter

**Township of Centre Wellington**  
Kirk McElwain

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

**City of Guelph**  
Bob Bell, Mike Salisbury

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

**Municipality of North Perth and Township of Perth East**  
George Wicke

**Halton Region** Cindy Lunau

**City of Hamilton** George Stojanovic

**Oxford County** Bruce Banbury

**County of Brant**  
Brian Coleman, Shirley Simons

**City of Brantford**  
Dave Neumann, Vic Prendergast

**Haldimand and Norfolk Counties**  
Bernie Corbett, Fred Morison



## Variable rainfall

July started out very dry and ended with heavy rainfall in parts of the watershed.

Most areas of the watershed received more than half of the normal July rainfall over the last 10 days of the month. Some of the rain came during all-day soaking events, while other rain fell during short localized thunderstorms.

The dry conditions mean the reservoirs were used to increase flows in the rivers. About 80 per cent of the flow through Kitchener and close to 40 per cent of the flow through Brantford was from reservoir discharges. On the Speed River, close to 50 per cent of the flow below Guelph was from reservoir discharge.

Temperatures were well above the long-term average during the month, with daytime highs close to 30 C on many days. At the Shand Dam climate station, the average temperature during the first half of July was 22 C, which is 2.5 C above normal.

The GRCA reservoirs were at a normal operating level at the end of July. The level of Lake Erie continues to be above the long-term average.

## Water conservation urged

A call for a voluntary 10 per cent cut in water use was made July 12 by the Grand River Low Water Response Team and this remains in effect.

The team is made up of representatives of major water users including municipalities, farmers, golf course operators, water bottlers, aggregate businesses, Six Nations and others.

Under the Ontario Low Water Response Program, the team placed the Grand River watershed in a Level 1 condition. Level 1 results in a request for a 10 per cent reduction in water consumption by all water users, including municipalities, aggregate operations, golf courses, water bottlers, farms for irrigation, as well as private users.

For residents, the most effective way to conserve water is to follow their municipal outdoor water use bylaws, which limit watering to specific days

and times.

The water in the reservoirs is released gradually during the summer and fall to ensure there is enough water to support the operation of municipal drinking water plants and wastewater treatment plants. Flow augmentation also helps support the overall health of the river system. Stream flow is low in many of the smaller watercourses, as well as those that do not receive flow augmentation from the reservoirs.

Water levels in the reservoirs will continue to be monitored throughout the summer to ensure flow targets can be maintained if dry conditions persist.

More information on the Low Water Response Program is available on the GRCA website at [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca).

## Appointments to Foundation board

The GRCA approved one new member to the Grand River Conservation Foundation board and reappointed five members at the GRCA board meeting in July.

The new member is Kathy Reston, General Manager of Finance and Corporate Compliance at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada (TMMC), a long-time Foundation partner.

The five reappointments are Floyd Davis of Burford, James den Ouden of Waterloo, Joel Doherty of Cambridge, Paul General of Six Nations and Joy O'Donnell of Brantford.

The Foundation has 15 volunteer board members from across the watershed. In addition, the Chair of the GRCA, Helen Jowett, sits on the board. The Chair is Malcolm Matheson, President of Steed and Evans in Heidelberg, and Wayne Fyffe of Paris, a retired health care executive, is the Vice-Chair of the board.

The Foundation was founded in 1965 and has raised more than \$13 million for a variety of GRCA programs and projects. In 2017, about 90 per cent of the contributions directly supported conservation. Learn more at [www.grcf.ca](http://www.grcf.ca).

## Preparing for flooding

GRCA staff continue to meet with Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMCs) in Waterloo Region.

Some municipalities in the region are updating their emergency response plans for floods. The group is developing a generic template that will be adapted to the specific needs of each township. The GRCA assists by providing technical information and advice.

A meeting is taking place with the CEMCs in August to discuss the lessons learned from recent large floods and to share information, experiences and approaches.

Flow forecasting staff from Ontario Power Generation visited the GRCA in July to see how the GRCA collects and organizes information to support flood forecasting and notification.

## Cover crop funding

Applications for cover crop funding can be submitted now for payment in spring 2019. The per-acre incentive is offered to applicants in Wellington, Brant, Haldimand and Dufferin counties, as well as Waterloo Region, through the GRCA's Rural Water Quality Program (RWQP).

The benefits of cover crops are numerous — they can reduce erosion, build better soil structure and improve soil health.

Over the last five years, more than 235 producers received the cover crop incentive. The rate varies by county program and is between \$20 and \$100 per acre. The municipalities fund this Rural Water Quality Program and the GRCA administers it.

More information is available about the cover crop program by contacting the GRCA at [ruralwater@grandriver.ca](mailto:ruralwater@grandriver.ca) or calling 519-621-2761 and asking to speak to a conservation specialist.

## Park survey

The GRCA is taking steps to improve your experience at Grand River Parks and we're looking for feedback.

Take a few minutes to complete a short survey that is available at the gatehouse of each park. An online version is posted on [www.grandriver.ca/parks](http://www.grandriver.ca/parks). Both are available until September 3.



Day campers at Laurel Creek Nature Centre in Waterloo learned about forestry as they watched GRCA arborists cut down a maple tree over a pedestrian bridge.

The survey is designed to capture the opinions of current and recent park visitors. Your feedback is important. It will help us plan improvements to facilities and park user experiences, in order to serve you better.

To thank you for your time, you will have an opportunity to enter to win a Pelican Venture 100 kayak package, which includes a kayak, paddle, life jacket and boat safety kit, valued at approximately \$500. A Grand River Parks membership pass will also be awarded to one lucky winner.

## Looking back to 1942

After the Shand Dam opened in August 1942, people flocked to the area to see it. It was Canada's first multipurpose dam and the biggest dam in Canada at the time.

By the late 1950s, Belwood Lake Park near Fergus had a boat launch, a picnic pavilion and a wading pool. Families would picnic at Belwood Lake and watch the motor boats and water skiers. This was still a new sport and a novelty to watch.

Now the park is very popular for day use visitors and it provides many recreational activities.

This issue of *GRCA Current* was published in August, 2018.

It is a summary of the July, 2018 business conducted by the Grand River Conservation Authority board and committees, as well as other noteworthy happenings and topics of interest.

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

### Next board meeting:

August 24 at 9:30 a.m.,  
GRCA Administration Centre

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[www.grandriver.ca/events](http://www.grandriver.ca/events)



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August 10, 2018

**Delivered by email**  
[doug.ford@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.ford@pc.ola.org)

The Honorable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Room 281, Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of June 12, 2018**  
**Re: Motion (b) Greenbelt Protection**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on June 12, 2018, and in this regard Council adopted the following resolution:

**Whereas the Town of Oakville has passed a similar resolution; and**

**Whereas the Greenbelt is an integral component of land use planning that complements the Growth Plan to encourage smart planning, the reduction of sprawl, protection of natural and hydrological features and agricultural lands; and**

**Whereas the Greenbelt has protected 1.8 million acres of farmland, local food supplies, the headwaters of our rivers and important forests and wildlife habitat for more than 12 years; and**

**Whereas a permanent Greenbelt is an important part of the planning for sustainable communities; and**

**Whereas there is a tremendous amount of land already planned and available in excess of the development needs of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) without weakening the protections provided by the Greenbelt; and**

**Whereas efforts to open the Greenbelt to create the opportunity for land speculators to build expansive homes, at immense profits, in remote areas; and**

**Whereas opening the Greenbelt would move the urban boundary thus creating more sprawl and increased traffic; and**

**Whereas the costs of sprawl result in increased taxes, because 25% of the costs of sprawl are downloaded to existing property tax payers; and**

**Whereas programs like the proposed inclusionary zoning regulations will assist municipalities in advancing the supply of affordable housing stock without the need to expand the built boundary;**

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora stands with its municipal neighbours to undertake continued action to maintain and grow the current Greenbelt, of which the Oak Ridges Moraine is a part; and**
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That the Province be strongly urged to extend Greenbelt protection to include the appropriate white belt lands within the inner ring, lands that are the most immediately vulnerable to development in the province; and**
- 3. Be It Further Resolved That this resolution be distributed to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, all Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Environmental Defence, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, STORM Coalition (Save The Oak Ridges Moraine), Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, The Regional Municipality of York, and members of Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt, and leaders of the various Ontario political parties.**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Yours sincerely,



Michael de Rond

Town Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

MdR/lb

Re: Town of Aurora Motion (b) Greenbelt Protection

August 10, 2018

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Copy: Andrea Horwath, Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario  
John Fraser, Interim Leader, Ontario Liberal Party  
Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario  
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Environmental Defence  
Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation  
Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt  
STORM Coalition (Save The Oak Ridges Moraine)  
Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation  
Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) Municipalities  
The Regional Municipality of York