

# **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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**Week Ending September 18, 2015**

## **REPORTS**

1. Downtown Community Improvement Plan (CIP) 2015 Grant Awards

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. None

## **BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

1. GRCA General Membership Meeting Minutes – July 24, 2015
2. *GRCA Current* – September, 2015

## **ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE**

1. None

# INFORMATION REPORT



TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise

DATE September 17, 2015

**SUBJECT Downtown Community Improvement Plan (CIP)  
2015 Grant Awards**

REPORT NUMBER IDE-BDE-1508

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report provides a summary of the sixth annual Downtown Guelph Community Improvement Plan application process and awards.

### KEY FINDINGS

- The Downtown Renewal Office runs the application process and has Delegated Authority to award the minor CIP grant programs.
- This year the only program offered was the Minor Downtown Activation Grant. This program supports the renovation of vacant or underutilized space and is focused on creating additional economic development activity within the downtown.
- Eight applications were received representing a total construction value of \$2.7M – a very successful year for this type of grant application.
- A combined grant of \$240,000 was awarded to the top ranking application for the interior renovation of the historic Petrie Building at 15 Wyndham Street N and the adjoining property at 19 Wyndham Street N. The project leverages the public contribution by 3.55 times.
- The oversubscription to the program has left many excellent projects unfunded. Staff will be submitting expansion proposals to the 2016 Budget process for consideration to address the lost opportunities the underfunding of the program represents.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$247,214 was available for the program this year. \$130,000 was allocated for Downtown CIP program delivery in the 2015 Operating Budget. Additional funding from the Downtown CIP reserve totaling \$117,214 was available in 2015 due to prior years awarded projects withdrawing.

# INFORMATION REPORT

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## **BACKGROUND**

One of the key economic development tools in place for Downtown Guelph is the Downtown Community Improvement Plan. First adopted in 2010, the plan had major amendments approved in 2012. The Plan includes a suite of programs ranging from Feasibility Study Grants to the Major Downtown Activation Grants, the tax-increment based grants. The Downtown Renewal Office has been given Delegated Authority to run and award the smaller value grant programs. The larger Major Activation TIBG program remains a Council approval.

As a result of the Façade Improvement and Feasibility Study Grants expiring in 2014, the 2015 Downtown CIP Application Call consisted strictly of the Downtown Minor Activation Grant. This grant, introduced in 2012, focuses on mid-size renovation projects for vacant and underutilized downtown properties. Grants are based on contributing 30 per cent of a project's capital costs, up to a maximum of \$120,000 per address. This program relates directly to the bringing of new employment, commercial or residential activities into the Downtown resulting in more economic development and vitality being brought to the area through the re-investment.

The 2015 Downtown Minor Activation Grant Program call was launched on May 7, 2015 and ran for four weeks. 2015 saw more applications for the program than any year historically. Eight applications were received, seven of which met all program criteria and would have qualified for grants if funding permitted.

## **REPORT**

In total the eight applications submitted represented over \$2.7M in construction value and resulted in \$742,133 worth of grant requests. The eight applications combined represented activating over 37,000 sq.ft. of vacant or underused space in the downtown. This can be further broken down to: seven new residential units, 13,550 sq.ft. of office space and 14,810 sq.ft. of commercial space.

Each application was reviewed by Building and Finance staff for any outstanding permit or financial issues related to the applicants. In addition, Disability Services provided review and comments regarding the level of accessibility improvements each application represented.

All proposals were then evaluated by a team of staff from Downtown Renewal, Heritage and Urban Design using criteria listed in the Downtown Guelph CIP Implementation Guidelines. The review weightings focused on the degree of intensification, additional uses created and impact on assessed value, as well as the grading of project excellence; approximate number of jobs brought to the downtown and the approximate daily visitation anticipated.



# INFORMATION REPORT

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## **Awarded Project 2015:**

Although seven of the eight grants were excellent projects which met 100% of the CIP criteria, the Petrie Building at 15 Wyndham Street North and the neighbouring property at 19 Wyndham Street North was the highest ranking project based on:

- Type of Development (7,600 sq.ft. of commercial space and 3,100 sq.ft. of office space, this project activated more space than any of the other projects);
- Projects meets and exceeds CIP Principles and Goals;
- Project Excellence (will bringing the most estimated jobs and visitors to the downtown and signal the highest level of transformation).

## **Limited Funding Impacts:**

The Downtown CIP guidelines are written to award the ranked projects in sequence. Since the highest ranking project absorbed all the available funding, the remaining projects have had to be advised that there is no additional funding at this time. This represents not being able to support the creation of almost 6,000 sq.ft. of office and 12,000 sq.ft. of commercial space in addition to the creation of seven residential units.

## **Evaluation of Program to date:**

- Application Quality: The quality of the applications in 2015 was very high which indicates the time it has taken for this particular program to be understood and positioned in the local development and property ownership community.
- Seven of the eight applications met all the program criteria and scored very high in project excellence.
- The program response was higher than anticipated which for staff demonstrates the momentum picking up on the potential for opening-up vacant and underutilized space in the downtown.
- Funding: Downtown Renewal will be requesting through the 2016 Budget process continued support and potential expansion of the CIP funding to its original levels.

## **CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN**

City Building – Be economically viable, resilient, diverse and attractive for businesses.

## **DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION**

Financial Services  
Disability Services  
Policy Planning and Urban Design  
Building Services and Zoning

# INFORMATION REPORT

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## COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

## ATTACHMENTS

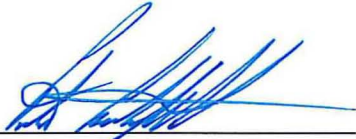
Appendix A – 2015 Recommended Grants

Appendix B – Downtown CIP Summary – 2010-2015

### Report Author

Ian Panabaker

Corporate Manager, Downtown Renewal



### Approved By

Peter Cartwright

General Manager

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# INFORMATION REPORT



## APPENDIX A - 2015 Recommended Grant Minor Downtown Activation Grant

#	Street	Proposed Improvement	Estimated Construction Total	Grant Request
15	Wyndham St N	Commercial 7,600 sqft		
19	Wyndham St N	Office 3,100 sqft	\$1,092,635	\$240,000
<b>Investment Ratio Private: City Dollars</b>			<b>3.55:1</b>	

## APPENDIX B Downtown CIP Grant Summary – 2010-2015

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Totals
Applications Received	31	29	26	20	26	8	<b>140</b>
Total Construction (\$)	\$550,213	\$1,006,428	\$3,081,130	\$1,463,525	\$1,263,833	\$2,766,412	<b>\$10,131,541</b>
Applications Awarded	16	18	18	16	13	1	<b>82</b>
City Awarded Grants Value (\$)	\$127,435	\$185,370	\$217,556	\$208,383	\$154,556	\$240,000	<b>\$1,133,300</b>
Total Construction (\$) (Awarded Grants)	\$310,158	\$610,268	\$802,315	\$715,305	\$557,704	\$1,092,635	<b>\$4,088,385</b>
1 City dollar :							2.6 Private Dollar



# Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership Meeting

Friday, July 24, 2015

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The following are the minutes of the General Membership Meeting held at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 24, 2015 at the Administration Center, Cambridge, Ontario.

**Members Present:**

J. Mitchell, Chair, L. Armstrong, B. Banbury, B. Bell, B. Coleman, B. Corbett, S. Foxton, G. Gardhouse, G. Lorentz, C. Lunau, V. Prendergast, W. Roth, M. Salisbury\*, P. Salter, S. Shantz\*, S. Simons, W. Stauch, G. Stojanovic, C. White, G. Wicke

**Members Regrets:**

H. Jowett, K. Linton, F. Morison, D. Neumann, J. Nowak

**Staff:**

J. Farwell, K. Murch, D. Bennett, D. Boyd, N. Davy, K. Armstrong, J. Griffin, S. Lawson, S. Radoja, D. Schultz, B. Brown, B. Parrott, L. Stocco, S. Wilbur

**Also Present:**

R. Martin, Cambridge Times

**1. Call to Order:**

J. Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. Roll Call and Certification of Quorum – 13 members constitute a quorum (1/2 of members appointed by participating municipalities)**

The Secretary-Treasurer called the roll and certified a quorum with 18 members present. A total of 20 members attended the meeting.

**3. Chair's Remarks:**

J. Mitchell welcomed members, staff and guests and made the following comments:

- On May 24, 2015 J. Mitchell participated in the Caldwell Cambridge to Paris Paddle which was hosted by the Grand River Conservation Foundation (GRCF).
- On May 27, 2015 J. Mitchell attended the Brant Waterways Foundation Fundraising Dinner. Brant Waterways Foundation has contributed to a number



of Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and GRCF projects including the canoe portage at Wilkes Dam and the Jerseyville trail parking area.

- On July 6, 2015 J. Mitchell chaired the Lake Erie Region Management Committee Meeting for Source Protection Planning. C. Ashbaugh has resigned as the Chair of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee effective December 31, 2015. Most of the work of the Committee has been completed and it will be moving into the monitoring stage.
- Today J. Mitchell will be attending the Guelph Rotary Club meeting at which time the Club will receive an International Rotary Award for its work with the Rotary Forest at Guelph Lake.
- The members of the Special Recognition Committee were reminded that they would meet in the Conference Room following this meeting.
- J. Mitchell invited D. Schultz to introduce L. Stocco, the new Manager of Communications.
- D. Schultz indicated that L. Stocco joined the GRCA on July 20, 2015. She is an Accredited Public Relations professional and a Certified Public Participation practitioner. She most recently worked in the education sector with the Halton Catholic District School Board. She will officially begin in her capacity as the Manager of Communications on August 4, 2015.

\*S. Shantz and M. Salisbury joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

#### **4. Review of Agenda:**

There were no additions to, or deletions from, the agenda.

Moved by: S. Foxton  
Seconded by: L. Armstrong  
(Carried)

THAT the Agenda for the General Membership Meeting of July 24, 2015 be approved as circulated.

#### **5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made in relation to the matters to be dealt with.

#### **6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

General Membership Meeting – June 26, 2015

There were no questions or comments with respect to the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of June 26, 2015

Moved by: B. Corbett  
Seconded by: W. Stauch  
(Carried)

THAT the Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of June 26, 2015 be approved as circulated.



**7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

None

**8. Hearing of Delegations:**

Not applicable

**9. Presentations:**

None

**10. Correspondence:**

a) Copies for members

- i. Correspondence from Jeanette Jamieson (undated) Re: Service as a Member of Grand River Conservation Authority.

b) Not copied

- i. Thank You card from Marilyn Wettlaufer to GRCA staff and members.

Moved by: S. Foxton  
Seconded by: Pat Salter  
(Carried)

THAT correspondence from Jeanette Jamieson (undated) Re: Service as a Member of Grand River Conservation Authority and the Thank You card from Marilyn Wettlaufer be received as information.

**11. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of By-Laws:**

None

**12. Presentation of Reports:**

a) **GM-07-15-71** Financial Summary for the Period Ending June 30, 2015

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Resolution 82-15

Moved by: G. Gardhouse  
Seconded by: B. Banbury  
(Carried)

THAT the Financial Summary for the Period Ending June 30, 2015 be approved.

b) **GM-07-15-72** Access Control Gates – Shade’s Mills Park

B. Corbett asked if others would have bid if they knew there were going to be a number of gates. D. Bennett answered that there are not a lot of companies that offer the kind of system that GRCA wants. He believes there would have been the same outcome if it was known that there would be a number of gates at GRCA parks. He also said that they estimated payback time is conservative.

V. Prendergast said the members are being asked to approve a test of the system and he assumed staff would come back to the members to move forward or find another direction. D. Bennett answered that staff intend to move forward. He then said that the gate system is being used in Provincial Parks and by other conservation authorities. He said staff did not intend to seek further approvals from the members. V. Prendergast said he has reservations because of GRCA's "tight" economic situation and there has been no estimate for the total system. D. Bennett said staff could report to the members on the payback in one year.

S. Foxton referred to year round access at Pinehurst Park. She asked if the gate will be at the road or at the gatehouse. D. Bennett said that staff have not yet evaluated Pinehurst Park. S. Foxton asked if staff have taken into account the cost of ploughing the laneway into the park. D. Bennett said that the laneway to the park has always been ploughed in winter.

B. Corbett asked about maintenance and longevity. D. Bennett answered that maintenance will be low and will be done by the company who installs the gates. He estimated the life span of the gates to be 15 to 20 years.

Resolution 83-15

Moved by: V. Prendergast

Seconded by: L. Armstrong

(Carried)

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority approve the purchase of equipment and software for the installation of an access control gate system at Shade's Mills Conservation Area from Key West Industries in the amount of \$35,660 excluding HST;

AND THAT Grand River Conservation Authority endorse the use of Key West Industries as the supplier of equipment and software for access control gate systems to be installed at other Grand River Conservation Authority locations over a five year implementation period.

c) **GM-07-15-73** Chief Administrative Officer's Report

J. Farwell highlighted the following:

- The Hillside Festival will take place at Guelph Lake from July 24 to July 26, 2015.
- The Canadian National Men's Rowing Team will be using Guelph Lake for a training camp this summer as it prepares for an Olympic qualifying event.
- The members were provided with information regarding the 50 Awesome Things Contest.
- Rockwood Park continues to be a popular site for film production. An episode of *Reign* was filmed on July 13, 2015 with an expected release date in November, 2015.
- The *Conservation Authorities Act* is being reviewed by the Province and a Discussion Paper has been prepared seeking feedback. Members were asked to encourage their municipalities to respond. A copy of the Discussion Paper will be circulated to the members.

Resolution 84-15

Moved by: S. Foxton  
Seconded by: S. Simons  
(Carried)

THAT Report GM-07-15-73 – Chief Administrative Officer’s Report be received as information.

d) **GM-07-15-74** Cash and Investments Status Report as of June 30, 2015

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Resolution 85-15

Moved by: B. Coleman  
Seconded by: G. Gardhouse  
(Carried)

THAT Report GM-07-15-74 – Cash and Investments Status as of June 30, 2015 be received as information.

e) **GM-07-15-75** Five Year Forecast 2015 to 2019

S. Radoja conducted a PowerPoint presentation indicating that:

- GRCA’s 2015 budget is approximately \$29.2 million
- The budget consists of three main categories: Operating Budget, Capital Budget and Special Projects.
- Major assumptions included in the forecast are: continued operation of existing programs; inflationary increases in compensation and benefits, property taxes, administration and operating costs; capital expenses for water control structures being held constant at \$1.5 million; and conservation area capital expenses being held constant at \$600,000.
- The forecast assumes up to \$8.0 million in spending related to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation, which is assumed to be funded by special project funding and/or reserves.

M. Salisbury referred to EAB and the inclusion of \$8.0 million in the forecast while staff said they could “get by” with \$2.0 million. S. Radoja said that the reference to \$2.0 million is just a portion of the anticipated cost over five years. M. Salisbury said GRCA is not treating trees and asked if this is the cost for harvesting. S. Radoja responded in the affirmative.

B. Corbett said he would not support the recommendation. He said this had to do with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the Province not “stepping up to the plate”. J. Mitchell reminded the member that the report is to be received as information.

S. Shantz referred to EAB and “front end costs”. She asked what will occur if the infestation moves more quickly. She also asked if funding would come from reserves. S. Radoja said that staff would have to come back to the members with some options. S. Shantz said the “general flavor” is to keep the municipal levy down. G. Lorentz pointed out that the Region of Waterloo funds the levy out of water and sewer rates.

S. Simons asked if the ash trees being removed are being replaced and if so, whether the cost is included in the budget. S. Radoja said she does not believe replanting will be a large cost and that it will be done mostly with external funding. S. Radoja reminded the members that Operations staff will provide regular updates to the members regarding EAB work.

G. Wicke noted there is nothing in the forecast dealing with the emergency spillway at Conestogo Lake. He asked if this project was still ongoing. D. Boyd said staff continue to deal with the Ministry regarding the size of the spillway that would be required. G. Wicke said that this is a matter of safety to property and life. He asked if the government has come up with a different plan. D. Boyd said that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests is the regulator and staff expect that a less expensive alternative will meet new Dam Safety Guidelines.

Resolution No. 86-15

Moved by:

Seconded by:

(Carried – 1 opposed)

THAT Report GM-07-15-75 – Five Year Forecast 2015 to 2019 be received as information.

J. Mitchell referred to the September 10, 2015 Special Budget Meeting noting that there are not many changes. She suggested that the budget be discussed at the General Membership Meeting in September, 2015.

Resolution No. 87-15

Moved by: B. Coleman

Seconded by: B. Bell

(Carried)

THAT the Special Budget Meeting scheduled for September 10, 2015 be cancelled.

- f) **GM-07-15-76** Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulations

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Resolution No. 88-15

Moved by: W. Roth

Seconded by: B. Coleman

(Carried)

THAT Report GM-07-15-76 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulations be received as information.

- g) **GM-07-15-77** Environmental Assessments

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Resolution No. 89-15



Moved by: L. Armstrong  
Seconded by: P. Salter  
(Carried)

THAT Report GM-07-15-77 – Environmental Assessments be received as information.

h) GM-07-15-78 Breach of Probation Decision, Implementation of Court Restoration Orders under Section 28(16) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*

B. Brown conducted a PowerPoint presentation indicating that:

- The landowner first developed in a GRCA regulated area without a permit in 2009.
- Between 2009 and 2015 GRCA was successful with respect to three separate charges.
- Lands that were graded and filled were subject to rehabilitation orders imposed by the Courts and registered on title to the subject property.
- GRCA has now been successful in obtaining a conviction with respect to a breach of probation charge.
- The landowner completed rehabilitation in June, 2015.
- A sentencing hearing is set for September 15, 2015 with respect to the breach of probation charge.

W. Roth referred to legal costs incurred with respect to this matter. He asked if there was any estimate of the cost of staff time. B. Brown answered there was not.

M. Salisbury said that he has heard some frustration with the penalty being one and one-half times the permit fee. He asked at what point GRCA takes this kind of action. B. Brown answered that the majority of landowners co-operate and were not aware that they required a permit. She said staff's first approach is to work with landowners. When charges are laid one of the considerations is whether the landowner is a multiple offender and whether it is a major infraction. She said each case is looked at individually.

G Wicke referred to legal costs of \$21,000 plus all staff time. He said GRCA has to get a different "deal" with the province. He then said GRCA is protecting wetlands in Ontario for all people in Ontario. He asked if Conservation Ontario could look into compensation from the province. J. Farwell said that the Discussion Paper from the Province addresses roles and once again encouraged the members to ask their municipalities to respond. G. Wicke asked whether it would be a good idea for the Chair and staff to visit councils to explain what is happening. He said GRCA may have to decide not to enforce the regulations. B. Brown indicated that \$21,000 relates only to the breach of probation charge.

C. Lunau referred to the upcoming sentencing hearing and asked if there would be an opportunity for GRCA to speak to sentencing and recover legal costs. B. Brown said staff will have an opportunity to speak but recovery of legal costs is not an option. C. Lunau said this could be incorporated into changes to the Act where it is a willful action. She said staff time is a cost to GRCA when they could be doing something else.

S. Foxton asked for a copy of the presentation. She said that she spoke with Premier Wynne. She referred to dumping fill on farmlands and said that the municipalities and conservation authorities cannot afford enforcement. She indicated that she, the Chair and J. Farwell will be meeting with three ministers at the upcoming Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) conference.

C. White said AMO is working on these issues which are complicated and require provincial legislation.

G. Stojanovic asked for clarification as to why legal costs cannot be recovered. N. Davy answered that these are not civil proceedings.

Resolution No. 90-15

Moved by: V. Prendergast

Seconded by: W. Stauch

(Carried)

THAT Report GM-07-15-78 – Breach of Probation, Implementation of Court Restoration Orders under section 28(16) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* be received as information.

i) GM-07-15-79 Current Watershed Conditions as of July 20, 2015

Dwight Boyd conducted a PowerPoint presentation indicating that:

- July, 2015 precipitation has been variable across the Grand River watershed.
- The average air temperature in July, 2015 was below the long term average.
- The level of Lake Erie is well above the long term average.
- Water levels in the large reservoirs are at or slightly above the normal operating range.
- Environment Canada predicts normal temperatures for the watershed for the July to September, 2015 period.

B. Corbett said he noticed boats and government vehicles in Dunnville testing soil and water. D. Boyd said that this activity does not involve GRCA but he can follow up with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

Resolution No. 91-15

Moved by: L. Armstrong

Seconded by: G. Gardhouse

(Carried)

THAT Report GM-07-15-79 – Current Watershed Conditions as of July 20, 2015 be received as information.

\*C. White left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

**13. Committee of the Whole:**

None

**14. General Business:**

None

**15. 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of By-Laws:**

None

**16. Other Business:**

None

**17. Closed Meeting: (motion required pursuant to Section 36 of By-Law 1-2014)**

Resolution 92-15

Moved by: B. Coleman

Seconded by: S. Foxton

(Carried)

THAT the meeting adjourn into closed session to discuss a property acquisition and labour relations matter.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

**a) GM-07-15-80 Property Acquisition – Township of North Dumfries (formerly Village of Ayr) [confidential]**

Resolution 93-15

Moved by: B. Corbett

Seconded by: L. Armstrong

(Carried)

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority accept title to a 0.22 hectare (0.55 acres) parcel of land adjacent to other Grand River Conservation Authority holdings in the former Village of Ayr, legally described as Lot 39 and Part Lot 40, Plan 673, Township of North Dumfries, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, to be more particularly described on a Reference Plan to be deposited at the nominal consideration of \$2.00.

**b) GM-07-15-81 Report of the Labour Relations Steering Committee [confidential]**

The Chair read the staff recommendation and suggested an addition to deal with non-union salaries. B. Coleman requested a recorded vote.

K. Murch spoke to the recorded vote that had been called for. He said that he would ask the members in favour of the recommendations to stand and be counted and then he would ask the members opposed to the recommendations to stand and be counted.

RECORDED VOTE

MEMBER		IN FAVOUR		OPPOSED		ABSENT
Armstrong		X				

Banbury		X				
Bell		X				
Coleman				X		
Corbett		X				
Foxton		X				
Gardhouse		X				
Jowett						X
Linton						X
Lorentz						X
Lunau		X				
Mitchell		X				
Morison						X
Neumann						X
Nowak						X
Prendergast		X				
Roth		X				
Salisbury		X				
Salter		X				
Shantz		X				
Simons				X		
Strojanovic		X				
Stauch		X				
White						X
Wicke		X				
TOTAL		16		2		7

Resolution 94-15

Moved by: V. Prendergast  
 Seconded by: G. Stojanovic  
 (Carried – 2 opposed.)

THAT the Grand River Conservation Authority ratify the Collective Agreement as negotiated with OPSEU Local 259 for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017;

AND THAT the Human Resources Policies be amended to incorporate the applicable changes for non-union staff;



AND THAT the salary ranges for non-union positions be increased by 2.0% effective January 1, 2016.

**18. Next Meetings:**

- General Membership Meeting  
Friday, August 28, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.  
Auditorium/Boardroom, Administration Centre, Cambridge
- General Membership Meeting  
Friday, September 25, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.  
Auditorium/Boardroom, Administration Centre, Cambridge

**19. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

**20. Grand River Source Protection Authority Meeting (if required)**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer

## GRCA General Membership

**Chair** Jane Mitchell

**Vice-Chair** Vic Prendergast

**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**  
Kelly Linton

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

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

**Region of Waterloo**  
Les Armstrong, 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 Stajanovic

**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

## Good summer for revenue

A combination of sunny weekends and rainy weekdays has led to good revenue for the GRCA this summer.

Year-to-date park revenue is approximately \$800,000 higher than it was at the same time last year. Park revenue is generally closely tied to favourable weather for those who enjoy outdoor recreation. This increase may also be due to additional marketing efforts by the GRCA.

The GRCA's three hydro turbines have also been operating at full capacity due to rain that has mostly fallen on weekdays. The turbines have been generating a lot of power, which means the GRCA has higher revenue from this source as well.

Hydro production can be viewed on the GRCA's website at [www.grandriver.ca/riverdata](http://www.grandriver.ca/riverdata).

## Three GRCA projects

Funding is in place for three projects to improve recreational facilities in 2016.

Improvements will be made to Apps' Mill Nature Centre in Brant County, as well as the Kay Marston Pavilion at the Elora Gorge Conversation Area. The boardwalk at the FWR Dickson Nature Trail just south of Cambridge will also be restored.

The Grand River Conservation Foundation will also help fund these projects on behalf of the GRCA.

## Dam and dyke projects

Three tenders for dam and dyke projects have been approved.

Bronte Construction will repair concrete slabs along the Brantford dykes for \$226,000.

Belwood Electric Ltd. will supply and install gain heaters to melt ice at the Shand Dam gates, for about \$255,000.

Rehabilitation of a small section of the Conestogo River near Drayton will be carried out by R & M Construction of Acton at a cost of \$258,000.

These projects will be funded by the GRCA levy and matched by the provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure program.

Work on these projects gets underway in September with completion expected by the end of the year.

## Provincial review underway of conservation act

The province is reviewing the Conservation Authorities Act and comments related to a provincial discussion paper about the act are sought before Oct. 19.

The review of the act is focused on governance, funding mechanisms and the roles and responsibilities of conservation authorities. A working group of Conservation Ontario, the association of conservation authorities, is preparing a response to the discussion paper.

The GRCA's report on the issue was presented at the board meeting. It will be forwarded to partner watershed municipalities for consideration. Any resulting changes will be discussed at the GRCA's September board meeting, before being forwarded on to the province.

## Caledonia mill proposal

A private group seeking to rebuild the Caledonia Mill and turn it into office space made a presentation to the GRCA board.

The mill was constructed in 1856 and operated as a mill until 1965. The interior of the building has not been used for 50 years. It is designated as an historic building and is a landmark for Haldimand County. Attempts by others to re-purpose and restore the mill have not succeeded.

This group plans to take the building down and rebuild it with a similar footprint. Components of the building as well as the foundation will be reused where possible. The intent is to maintain a similar structure, aside from an overhang that was a late addition onto the front of the building. The overhang will be removed to allow a river trail to continue through the property.





It has been a great summer to get out and enjoy Grand River Parks. This young man was enjoying the Byng Island pool for the first time.

The mill is in an area that is regulated by the GRCA. Planning staff will report back on the project after they review the details of the proposal. The project has been endorsed by Haldimand County.

## Water conservation urged in some areas

The low water response team decided Aug. 5 to place the lower Nith, Eramosa and Whitemans subwatersheds at Level 1 under the Ontario Low Water Response Plan.

By Sept. 2 this changed to Level 2 on Whitemans Creek. The team noted water levels in the creek dropped to below half of the average summer flow.

Also on Sept. 2, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry asked anglers to refrain from fishing in Whitemans Creek. Low water levels and high water temperatures can put the fish under stress, which can be compounded by fishing.

Level 1 means water users are asked to cut their consumption by 10 per cent, because stream flows were below normal summer levels. Level 2 is a request for a voluntary 20 per cent reduction in water consumption by holders of water permits.

## August had variable rain

Rainfall in many areas in the central and northern watershed was above average for August, while the southern watershed was drier than average.

For example, only about half the normal

rain fell in Brantford, while Conestogo's rainfall was 37 per cent above average.

August was 0.6 degrees warmer than the long-term average at the Shand Dam, where daytime temperatures there averaged in the mid- to high-20s, with one day reaching 30 degrees. But the central and southern watershed was warmer. Shade's Mills in Cambridge recorded daytime highs at or above 30 degrees on seven days.

Lake Erie remains above the long-term lake level. It is most likely that the lake levels will drop over the rest of the year, but will remain higher-than-normal. Reservoir levels in Shand, Luther and Guelph are within the normal range, while Conestogo is slightly above the normal range.

River augmentation increased slightly in August. On average, reservoir water accounted for about 60 per cent of the flow through Kitchener.

## Planting trees for trout

A free workshop in Burford will help property owners learn about things they can do on their land to help improve the fish habitat in nearby waterways.

The Trees and Trout Workshop will be held Tuesday, Sept. 15 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Scott family property in Burford. A rain date has been scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015.

The focus of the workshop is on planting native trees, shrubs and plants to create habitat and improve water quality in the nearby creek. The workshop will also pro-

vide information about funding opportunities for water quality improvement projects, and will include an electrofishing demonstration, weather permitting.

The workshop is an initiative of the GRCA's Conservation Services.

This issue of *GRCA Current* was published in September 2015.

It is a summary of the August 2015 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:

Sept. 25 at 9:30 a.m.  
GRCA Administration Centre

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