

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending December 11, 2015

REPORTS

1. None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. GRCA re: Planning, Permit & Inquiry Revised Fee Schedule
2. GRCA *Current*, December 2015
3. GRCA re: Approval of the Grand River Source Protection Plan
4. [MMAH re: Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review Advisory Committee report - *Planning for Health, Prosperity and Growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe: 2015 - 2041*](#)

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. None

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. None



TO: Municipal Clerks, Planning, Building and Engineering Staff
Adjacent CA's

FROM: Nancy Davy, Director of Resource Management
Fred Natolochny, Supervisor of Resource Planning
Beth Brown, Supervisor of Resource Planning

DATE: December 1, 2015

SUBJECT: **GRCA Planning, Permit and Inquiry Revised Fees
Effective January 1, 2016**

The General Membership of the Grand River Conservation Authority has approved a revised GRCA fee schedule for Plan Review, GRCA Permit and Inquiry services. The fees will be implemented throughout the Grand River watershed **effective January 1st, 2016**.

We have attached the revised fee schedules. Please ensure that copies of the attached fee schedule are available to municipal staff and prospective applicants.

Announcement A free, web based mapping tool, is available to the public to review GRCA maps of areas regulated under Ontario Regulation 150/06. We note that the text of Ontario Regulation 150/06 defines the areas that are regulated. However, this mapping tool will provide municipal staff and the public with some guidance on the areas regulated by the Conservation Authority. To use this mapping tool please go to www.grandriver.ca On the home page click on "Map Your Property" under the Planning and Permits heading.

Proposed activities or works within the areas regulated by the GRCA will require a permit from the GRCA, in addition to a building permit from the municipality.

The policies regarding Ontario Regulation 150/06 and a series of checklists that will aid the public and development industry to prepare satisfactory reports and plans for applications or inquiries can be found under the planning and regulations section of our website at www.grandriver.ca. The Plan Review and GRCA permit fees are also posted on the GRCA website under the planning and regulation section.

Please note that GRCA [GIS data access](#) is available to download or order data for use with your GIS directly off of the GRCA website.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Plan Review or Permit Service Fees please contact Fred (ext. 2229) or Beth (ext. 2307) at (519) 621-2761.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Davy".

Nancy Davy
Director of Resource Management
621-2763, ext. 2235
ndavy@grandriver.ca

JANUARY 1st, 2016 FEE SCHEDULE
GRCA Permit, Plan Review, Title Clearance and Inquiry Fee Schedule

Permit Fee Schedule

Category of Permit Application	Fee for Development Applications	Fee for Alterations or Interference with Wetlands, Shorelines and Watercourses Applications
Minor - <i>No technical reports required.</i>	\$380	\$380
Standard - <i>Detailed report and/or plans required.</i>	\$560	\$990
Major - <i>Requires one or more reports with high potential for impacts on flooding, pollution, conservation of land or shoreline processes.</i>	\$8,525	\$5,590 Culvert/Bridge replacement \$8,525 All other applications
Large Fill – over 1,000m ³	\$8,525 plus \$0.50/m ³	
Works initiated prior to GRCA approval	2 times the fee for the category	
Rural Water Quality Programs or GRCA projects	\$75	
Expired Permit	\$75	
Plans amended to an approved permit	\$75	

Inquiry Schedule

Category of Application	Fee
Title Clearance and Inquiry Fee	\$215/property

Plan Review Fee Schedule

**italized – please see Fee Notes*

Category of Application	Fee
Subdivision and Vacant Land Condominium	
Base fee	\$2,090
• per net hectare	\$1,090/hectare
Applicant driven modification or Red line Revision	\$1,390
Final clearance for registration of each stage: technical review required	\$5,590
Final clearance Processing Fee: no reports or review required	\$215
Official Plan and/or Zoning Bylaw Amendment	
Major	\$2,090
Minor	\$380
Consent	
Major	\$990
Minor	\$380
Minor Variances	
Major	\$560
Minor	\$250
Site Plan Approval Applications	
Major	\$2,925
Minor	\$380
Complex Applications	
	\$8,525
Below Water Table Aggregate Applications	
No features of interest within 120 metres of licence limit	\$8,525
Features of interest within 120 metres of licence limit	\$37,145
Above Water Table Aggregate Applications	
No Features of interest within 120 metres of licence limit	\$380
Features of interest within 120 metres of licence limit	\$8,525

When reading the Permit and Planning fee schedule, please refer to the **Fee Notes** outlined below.

Fee Notes

1. All fees are made payable and submitted directly to Grand River Conservation Authority.
2. Applicants are encouraged to consult with staff prior to submission of all applications to determine the extent and nature of the information required to accompany the application, and to determine the appropriate fee.
3. Permit applications that fall into one or more categories will be charged one fee, at the highest rate.
4. Plan review applications that fall into one or more categories will be charged one fee, at the highest rate.
5. The Conservation Authority may provide a refund or require the applicant submit additional funds for a permit or plan review fee if it is found that an incorrect fee has been submitted.
6. *Minor Categories* – Low risk of impact on natural hazards or natural features. Plans required. No technical reports required.

Fee Notes (cont'd)

7. *Standard Permit* Category – Moderate hazard risk and/or potential impact on natural hazards or natural features. Detailed plans required. Scoped technical reports required.
8. *Major Permit* Category– High hazard risk and/or potential impact to natural hazards or natural features. Detailed plans required. One or more technical report required (Environmental Impact Study, Hydraulic Analysis, Storm Water Management, Geotechnical, etc.). Development permit applications for: golf courses, trailer parks, campgrounds, lifestyle communities will be considered as a major permit.
9. *Major Plan Review* Category– High or Moderate hazard risk and/or potential impact on natural hazards or natural features. Detailed plans required. One or more technical reports (may be scoped) are required.
10. *Complex Plan Review* Category- Planning Act (e.g. OPA/ZC) and/or Site plan applications for: golf courses, trailer parks, campgrounds, lifestyle communities.
11. *Large Fill* - The fee is applicable to material placed within the Conservation Authority's regulated areas. Grading associated with *Planning Act* approvals is not considered a large fill application.
12. Major permit applications that have previously paid application or clearance plan review fees to the GRCA will be charged fees under the Minor or Standard category.
13. Permit fees are non-refundable, except where review indicates that no permit is necessary.
14. *Expired* permit - After a permit has expired, a new application must be submitted. For applications to replace a prior permit received within one year of expiry a fee of \$75 is required. Any changes to the plans or a lapse of more than one year will require a full review and the Schedule of Fees in effect at the time will apply.
15. The subdivision or vacant land condominium base fee including per net hectare fee will be capped at \$25,000.
16. The net hectare fee will be based on the initial submission and will exclude lands outside of the development limit (e.g. natural hazard, natural heritage areas and buffers). Stormwater management facilities and other open space or park uses are to be included in the net hectare fee calculation.
17. At the submission of a subdivision or vacant land condominium application, 70% of the base fee and per net hectare is required. Prior to issuance of conditions of draft plan approval, the remaining 30% of the fee is required.
18. A Processing Fee will apply for a clearance letter for a subdivision or condominium application where no technical review/reports (e.g. no Erosion and Sediment Control plan, SWM brief, etc.) are required.
19. For Aggregate Applications, features of interest include all Natural Heritage, Natural Hazard and surface water features.

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, 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 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

Award for dam safety

The Canadian Dam Association has recognized the GRCA with a corporate award for work in the area of dam safety.

This is an award related to advancing dam safety and the GRCA has been recognized by its peers within the Canadian dam safety community.

The award itself says that it “recognizes valued contributions, commitment and support of advancement of knowledge and safe management of dams.” The GRCA has been improving its dam safety program over many years to bring it to the rigorous program that it is today.

The GRCA operates 27 dams. Seven of these are actively used to manage river flows within the watershed and are classified as multi-purpose dams. These dams serve two key functions — controlling floods and supplying water to the river when there is not much rainfall. Other benefits include hydro production and recreation in the reservoirs that are created by the dam system.

The GRCA’s other 20 dams are generally run-of-the-river dams or earthen embankment dams with small head ponds.

Changes to park fees

New 2016 park fees will come into effect Jan. 1.

The rate for a Grand River Parks Membership will remain the same as last year at \$125. The membership includes a booklet of discount coupons for activities such as canoe rental, ski rental and tubing. This will be the third season of the membership program, which replaced vehicle windshield stickers. The change is popular.

Daily admission rates are going to be constant at all parks: \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Many parks had the \$6 fee in 2015, but for some the fee was \$5.75.

The rate structure for overnight camping has been simplified and seasonal camping rates will increase by about three per cent.

In coming up with the new rates, the GRCA looked at statistics from other camping providers

in the area.

The report on these changes is available on www.grandriver.ca/meetingreports with the November agenda. The fees will also be posted online at www.grandriver.ca/parks.

Ice storm funding received

The GRCA has been reimbursed for cleanup costs that came in the wake of the severe ice storm in December 2013.

The cleanup of hazard trees on GRCA-owned land took six months. The GRCA submitted a claim for \$548,000 to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing by the December 2014 deadline. The province reimbursed the GRCA in two payments--\$192,000 this past April and the balance of \$351,000 in October. This is \$5,000 shy of the overall claim.

This money is going back into the GRCA reserves, which is where it initially came from.

Source Protection Plan approved in December

The GRCA announced Dec. 3 that the plan to protect the sources of municipal drinking water in the Grand River watershed was approved by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and will take effect July 1, 2016.

The Grand River Source Protection Plan was approved by Minister Glen Murray. The plan and its associated documents are available at www.sourcewater.ca.

The source protection planning process began in 2006, when the Ontario government passed the Clean Water Act to protect the sources of municipal drinking water throughout the province. The plan is based on technical studies, collaborative policy development and public consultation.

The process was guided by the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, which is made up of representatives from municipalities, business, industry, farmers, landowners and other stakeholders. The committee also developed plans for



the Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek and Long Point Region watersheds.

New planning fees

New resource planning fees comes into effect Jan. 1, 2016.

The fees remain the same as last year for minor applications. But the new schedule reflects a two per cent increase for permit applications, plan review, title clearance and inquiries.

The number of permits and planning applications changes each year. To Oct.31, 2015, 650 permit applications were received, compared to 671 in 2014 and 753 in 2013.

To date in 2015, there have not been any below water table aggregate applications, while only one large fill permit was received.

The fees help to cover the cost of GRCA staff time for planning, engineering, aquatics and terrestrial resources.

GRCA staff consulted with the Home Builders/GRCA Liaison Committee and the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association before setting the new fees.

Warm weather trend

Precipitation in the northern part of the watershed was near the long-term average through November, but well below average in the southern watershed.

The first significant snowfall was recorded Nov. 21 and 22, with over 20 cm of snow at Luther Marsh. But warm weather that followed meant this snow melted and river levels went up.

For the third month in a row, temperatures have been above average, due to El Niño. The average temperature in November at Shand Dam was 5.7 degrees, which is 4.7 degrees above the long-term average. The thermometer reached 20 degrees in November on some days and in some locations, which is rare for the time of year.

The level of Lake Erie is well above the long-term average. Lake Erie shoreline flood messages were issued on Oct. 28 and Nov. 12 due to high winds that caused the lake to rise at Port Maitland. Some minor flooding was reported as a result of the second incident. Reservoirs are slightly above normal.

The Grand River Low Water Response Team removed the Low water conditions on



Photo by Anne Loeffler

This was the first major snowfall at first light on the morning of Nov. 22 near the Nith River. However, the warm rays of the sun melted the snow quickly. We are likely to have a mild winter due to the warming impact of El Niño.

Nov. 9; it had been in place since Aug. 6 through the Lower Nith, Eramosa, Mckenzie and Whitemans subwatersheds.

www.grandriver.eventbrite.ca.

These programs feature nature-themed activities with the goal of introducing children to a lifetime of appreciation for the natural world.

Two GRCA houses to be demolished

The GRCA will demolish two vacant houses in Erin Township that are on property that the GRCA has owned since the mid-1970s.

Houses are sometimes part of larger property acquisitions that have been made by the GRCA. These two 1940s bungalows on Highway 125 share one driveway. They were initially rented out, but are now vacant.

Demolition of vacant houses on GRCA-owned property reduces liability.

Winter adventure camps

Winter Adventure Camps are scheduled at Laurel Creek and Guelph Lake nature centres during the winter holidays.

The camps take place Dec. 21-23 and Dec. 29-31 at Guelph Lake and Dec. 21-22 and Dec. 29-30 at Laurel Creek.

These camps allow children 6 to 12 to get outside and experience nature during the holidays. Registration is available

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

It is a summary of the November 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:

Dec. 18 at 9:30 a.m.,
GRCA Administration Centre.

Agendas, reports, GRCA Current:

www.grandriver.ca/MeetingReports

Subscribe to GRCA Current:

GRCAcurrent-subscribe@grandriver.ca

Coming events:

www.grandriver.ca/Calendar

Grand Actions newsletter:

www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions



Grand River Conservation Authority GRCA NEWS

**December 3, 2015
Release on receipt**

Grand River Source Protection Plan approved

A plan to protect the sources of municipal drinking water in the Grand River watershed has been approved by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) announced today.

The Grand River Source Protection Plan was approved by Minister Glen Murray on November 26, 2015 and will take effect July 1, 2016. The plan and its associated documents are available at www.sourcewater.ca.

The source protection planning process began in 2006, when the Ontario government passed the Clean Water Act to protect the sources of municipal drinking water throughout the province, and is based on technical studies, collaborative policy development, and extensive public consultation.

The process was guided by the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, which is made up of representatives from municipalities, business, industry, farmers, landowners, and other stakeholders. The committee also developed plans for the Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek and Long Point Region watersheds.

“Formal approval of the Grand River Source Protection Plan is a major milestone in the Committee’s work with its community, agriculture, industry, conservation authority, municipal and provincial partners to protect and enhance municipal drinking water supplies,” says Wendy Wright Cascaden, Acting Chair, Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee. “We look forward to measuring and monitoring the Plan’s future success.”

She also commended Craig Ashbaugh, former chair of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, as well as staff of the Grand River Conservation Authority. “I wish to formally recognize Craig for his leadership in bringing together all of the partners, shaping the decisions and guiding the planning process over the last eight years,” says Wright Cascaden. “The Source Protection Committee also received excellent support and guidance from the former Program Director, Lorrie Minshall, as well as Martin Keller, Source Protection Program Manager, and their staff. They made significant contributions to the development of an attainable plan and will play a key role in the successful implementation of the Plan in the future. The approved Grand River Source Protection Plan is a considerable achievement that will benefit generations to come.”

The Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee is continuing its work to address risks to water quantity. These components will be included in a future update to the Grand River Source Protection Plan.

With the approval of the Grand River Source Protection Plan, all 22 source protection plans are now in place across Ontario. Source protection plans are local science-based plans designed to protect the water quality of the lakes, rivers and sources of underground water that supply municipal drinking water

systems. The plans set out actions to eliminate, manage or reduce potential risks to drinking water sources.

Policies in the Source Protection Plans include a variety of approaches to manage and prevent risks to municipal drinking water. These approaches include education and outreach, the development of risk management plans, land use planning, and monitoring. The policies are designed to keep contaminants out of rivers, lakes and groundwater aquifers that are sources of municipal drinking water.

The source protection planning process is directed and funded by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in conjunction with municipalities. Local conservation authorities provide additional technical, communications and administrative support for the source protection planning process.