



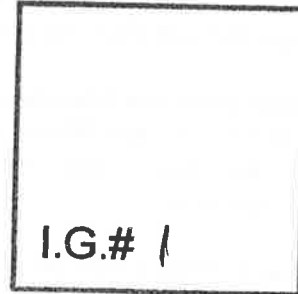
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

OPEN LETTER TO ONTARIO'S MINISTER OF FINANCE

Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

December 9, 2013

The Hon. Charles Sousa
Minister of Finance
7th Floor, Frost Building South
7 Queen's Park Cres.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7



Dear Minister:

It has been brought to my attention that your Government plans to continue massive cuts to the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF), which has been in place for years to support municipal budgets.

These cuts can best be characterized as downloading by stealth.

In 2012, I am told that municipalities in Wellington County received a combined total of \$11.17 million in OMPF funding. That number dropped to \$10.25 million in 2013. Our OMPF funding is expected to fall again next year to \$9.42 million.

This means that from 2012-2014 the municipalities in Wellington County will experience a cut of over \$1.7 million.

How were these cuts determined? Were the cuts applied uniformly across the province, or were some municipalities hit harder than others? Was the size of the municipalities, either in terms of geography or population, taken into account? Was the tax assessment ratio (residential and farm to commercial and industrial) of municipalities considered?

How can you justify these cuts? Was party politics in any way, shape, or form a determining factor in which municipalities were cut the most? Obviously, it would be fundamentally undemocratic and completely unacceptable for any municipality to be hit harder because of its traditional voting patterns.

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Last year at this time, municipalities were informed of the cancellation of the Ministry of Transportation's Connecting Link Program, another example of downloading by stealth.

Your Government's decisions to cut Connecting Link and OMPF funding, taken together, will have a serious, deleterious impact upon our many local municipal budgets across the province. As my colleague Randy Pettapiece, MPP rightly pointed out in a letter to you a few days ago, this will likely mean higher property taxes, reduced services, or both.

Municipalities understand that the province has a huge deficit and that under your Government, over the past 10 years, the provincial debt has doubled. As elected Councillors, they have to make difficult decisions every day, just as we must do in the Provincial Legislature.

What you seem to fail to recognize is that our municipal Governments should be viewed as our partners. You seem to fail to recognize that they should be treated with respect. You seem to fail to recognize that "one-off" decisions involving the complex provincial-municipal financial relationship tend to disproportionately punish smaller municipalities, which also tend to be least able to absorb them.

I urge you to reconsider the cuts to the Connecting Link and OMPF programs, and look for ways to help smaller and rural municipalities instead of hurting them.

Sincerely,



Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills

TA:dr

Cc: Scott Wilson, CAO, County of Wellington
Andy Goldie, CAO, Township of Centre Wellington
Kathryn Ironmonger, CAO, Township of Erin
Janice Sheppard, CAO, Township of Guelph/Eramosa
Karen Landry, CAO, Township of Puslinch
Randy Pettapiece, MPP, Perth-Wellington
The Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
The Hon. Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing



The Waterloo Wellington
Rehabilitative Care Council

For immediate release
November 27 2013

Patients to benefit from improved access to emergency stroke care at Guelph General Hospital; part of new integrated stroke system

Guelph General Hospital will be the home of expanded emergency and acute services to treat stroke patients for Waterloo Wellington and South Grey. As of December 2nd at 7 p.m., GGH will:

1. Become a "tele-stroke" site linking the hospital via provincial e-Health services to additional expertise in stroke care;
2. Provide clot-busting medications through its emergency department to appropriate stroke patients, helping to improve outcomes when minutes count; and
3. Dedicate eight acute care beds for stroke patients in a specific inpatient unit.

These steps are part of a plan to improve access to specialized care across Waterloo and Wellington led by the Waterloo Wellington Rehabilitative Care Council and the Waterloo Wellington Integrated Stroke Program. The goal is to develop an integrated system of care that is more responsive to patients' needs, offers the best care supported by the latest research and provides consistent care across Waterloo Wellington.

Families are asked to know the signs and symptoms of a stroke and call 911 immediately to save a life. Symptoms to watch for include sudden vision changes, weakness or numbness, trouble speaking, dizziness and/or a headache. Paramedics will quickly bring patients to a designated stroke centre depending on their needs while managing symptoms during transport.

"I would like to congratulate and sincerely thank our clinical teams and our local, regional and provincial partners. They have worked diligently to plan for a new model of care that will improve access to both emergency stroke care and specialized inpatient stroke care at Guelph General Hospital. This change will see Waterloo Wellington and South Grey patients coming to GGH for stroke care. Waterloo patients will continue to receive their stroke care at Kitchener's Grand River Hospital," said Eileen Bain, Guelph General Hospital's vice president of patient services and chief nursing executive.

Guelph General Hospital will work in tandem with Kitchener's Grand River Hospital to provide acute stroke care services for Waterloo Wellington. Until now, GRH has been the only Waterloo Wellington hospital providing clot-busting medications and having a dedicated stroke unit.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death across Waterloo Wellington. 870 people a year will have a stroke. Regional studies have shown Waterloo Wellington patients have experienced poorer outcomes from stroke in the past compared to others across Ontario.

Last August, the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network's board approved the creation of an integrated stroke program for hospitals and community service agencies. The plan is based on a business case for stroke care as part of a Waterloo Wellington rehabilitative care effort.

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The Waterloo Wellington Rehabilitative Care Council

Improvements in stroke services will build a system of care that meets the needs of stroke patients through their recovery by:

- Providing fast access to emergency care and clot-busting medications at GGH and GRH (when appropriate) to save brain function in the early stages of a stroke;
- Improving access to acute in-patient stroke unit care with specially-trained staff to reduce complications and improve patient outcomes;
- Improving access to specialized in-patient rehabilitative care to ensure patients start down the path to recovery earlier, a practice shown to produce better outcomes; and
- Ensuring community services are in place and easy to access to give patients confidence and support to continue their recovery in their own homes or the community.

Further changes to improve stroke care will include the following:

- Providing dedicated stroke rehabilitation at Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Grand River Hospital's Freeport Site and St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph. These sites are putting stroke rehabilitation best practices in place to help improve recovery for stroke patients;
- Coordinating community care to ensure patients have better access to health services after their hospital stay; and
- Providing consistent standards for all stroke care providers across Waterloo Wellington along with a single care pathway. This change will ensure stroke care is consistent for all patients, no matter where they live or are receiving treatment.

These changes will be in place by April 2014.

"In Waterloo Wellington we have among the best cancer and cardiac programs in the province. We're now improving the quality of stroke care for all of our residents. This work will save lives, improve recovery times, result in better outcome, and ensure all residents have the same access to high quality care across our area," said Bruce Lauckner, CEO of the Waterloo Wellington LHIN.

"There has been strong cooperation between health service providers to make these changes happen. We're all focused on improving care and quality of life for stroke patients and their families, especially in the expansion of emergency stroke care coming to Guelph General Hospital," said Marianne Walker, chair of the Waterloo Wellington Rehabilitative Care Council.

For more information, please contact:

Perry Hagerman, Guelph General Hospital
519-837-6440 extension 2774

Mark Karjaluoto, Waterloo Wellington Rehabilitative Care Council
519-749-4300 extension 2788

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Ministry of Energy

Ministère de l'Énergie



Office of the Minister

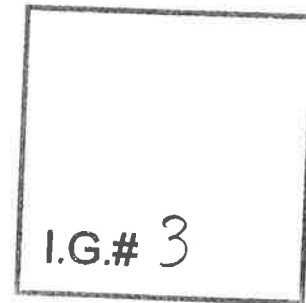
Bureau du ministre

4th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Tel.: 416-327-6758
Fax: 416-327-6754

4e étage, édifice Hearst
900, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Tél. : 416 327-6758
Télec. : 416 327-6754

December 2, 2013

His Worship Dennis Lever
Mayor
Township of Puslinch
admin@puslinch.ca



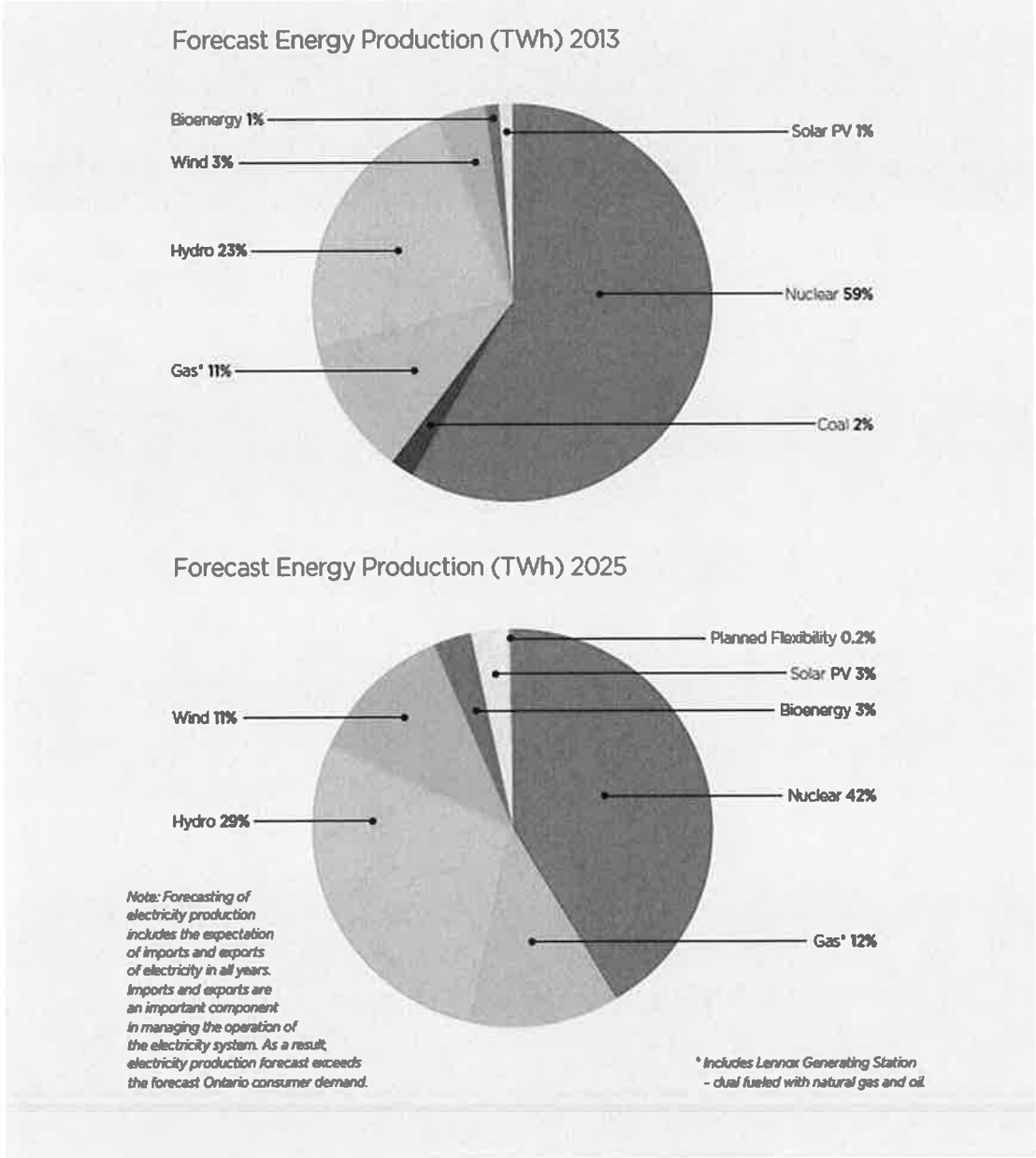
Dear Mayor Lever,

As you may be aware, Ontario has been engaged in a comprehensive review of its energy plans for the future. This review of the Long-Term Energy Plan involved an unprecedented process of consultation and engagement for the ministry, with sessions held online and around the province with municipalities, First Nation and Métis communities, stakeholders and the public. I am pleased to inform you of the release of Ontario's updated Long-Term Energy Plan, *Achieving Balance*.

The new plan, which reflects input from thousands of Ontarians from across the province, encourages conservation and provides the clean, reliable and affordable energy Ontario will need now and into the future. It balances five principles that will guide future decisions: cost-effectiveness, reliability, clean energy, community engagement, and an emphasis on conservation and demand management before building new generation.

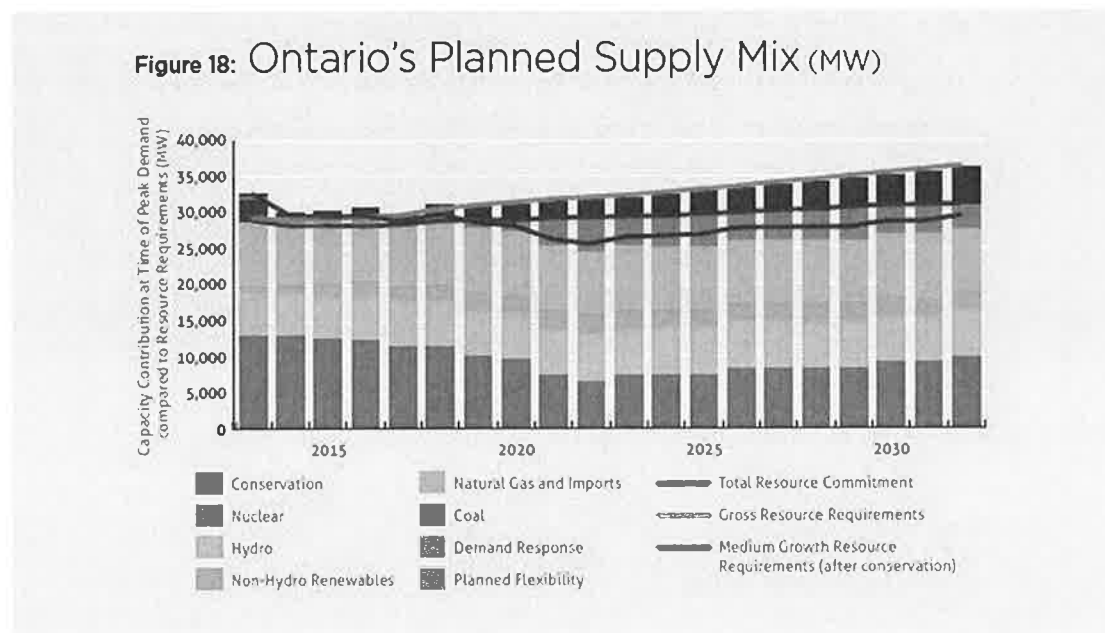
An important feature of the plan is the recognition that municipalities are a key stakeholder in energy planning. Communities must be allowed to take a more central role when implementing provincial policy objectives. The opportunity for communities to participate in energy infrastructure must be balanced with their responsibility to take ownership of local decisions.

Ontario's new Long-Term Energy Plan builds on the significant progress we have made in transforming the province's electricity system into one that Ontarians can count on. We are proud of the fact that Ontario has virtually eliminated coal from our electricity system with the last plant to close in 2014. The phase-out of coal is the single largest climate change initiative in North America that was costing Ontarians \$4.4 billion annually in financial, health and environmental costs.



Key to the new plan is its flexibility. We are committing the resources to meet electricity demand growth that will be lower than previously anticipated as the economy continues its transition to an efficient, lower energy intensive future. We are ensuring we have the

supply to meet the likely demand, and keeping options open to meet higher demand if needed. By reporting annually on the outlook for demand and supply, we will be able to make prudent adjustments to our energy investments.



The release of the new Long-Term Energy Plan follows the most comprehensive set of consultations and engagements ever undertaken by the Ministry of Energy. Almost 8,000 people took an online survey and shared their views on conservation, energy supply, regional planning and imports. Over 1,000 submissions were received through the Environmental Registry and by the Ministry of Energy. Staff also sat down with representatives of almost 50 local distribution companies to obtain their views and suggestions on how to improve and maximize the delivery of conservation in Ontario.

We travelled to 12 communities from Kenora to Whitby and Sault Ste. Marie to Ottawa to hear Ontarians' views on the options that should be addressed when it comes to electricity. We also met with representatives of nearly 100 First Nation and Métis communities and organizations in 10 engagement sessions across Ontario.

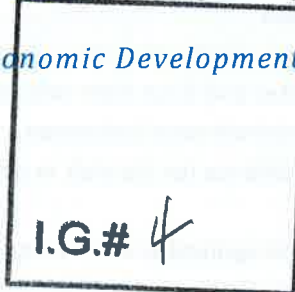
This process of consultation and engagement informed the direction of the Long-Term Energy Plan and we will continue to make engagement a priority in our energy planning.

I hope you enjoy reading *Achieving Balance*. It represents our commitment to a cost-effective, reliable and clean energy system for all Ontarians. I look forward to working together to implement Ontario's new Long-Term Energy Plan.

Sincerely,



Wellington County Municipal Economic Development Group



Minutes
Elora Centre for the Arts, Elora,
November 5, 2013
9:30 a.m.

Present:

John Brennan (Town of Erin), George Bridge (Mayor, Town of Minto), Alex Goss (LIP), Gerry Horst (OMAFRA), Kathryn Ironmonger (CAO, Town of Erin), Mandy Jones (Town of Minto), Karen Landry (Township of Puslinch), Don McKay (Councillor, County of Wellington), Kirk McElwain (Township of Centre Wellington), Carolyn O'Donnell (County of Wellington), Andrea Ravensdale (County of Wellington), Doug Reddick (MEDI), Jana Reichert (County of Wellington), Patricia Rutter (Township of Centre Wellington), Jane Shaw (WWCFDC), Janice Sheppard (Township of Guelph/Eramosa), Carol Simpson (WFPB), Patty Sinnamon (Township of Mapleton), Dale Small (Township of Wellington North), Chris White (Warden, County of Wellington), Scott Wilson (County of Wellington)

Regrets:

Rose Austin (Saugeen Economic Development), Brad Dixon (GRCA), Crystal Ellis (Mapleton Township), Andy Lennox (WFA), April Marshall (Township of Wellington North), Scott Williams (GWBEC)

Others Present:

Michael Simon (Manager Employment Services Wellington County), Genny Smith (Guelph/Eramosa & Puslinch BR&E Coordinator)

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as written.

Moved by John Brennan, seconded by Jana Reichert.

Carried

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held October 1st, 2013 as written.

Moved by Jana Reichert, seconded by Gerry Horst.

Carried

4. Workforce Strategy Prioritization Session

The Workforce Strategy will prioritize what development strategies are important to move forward with once the report is approved by County Council. The top five strategies are to:

1. Support Youth Retention
2. Support New Immigrants and Youth in the community
3. Support Young Graduates and have them return to community for employment
4. Incubator models to promote new businesses
5. Prepare community residence for the shift in demographics

The following strategies were recognized as short term, six months to a year.

Strategy 3: Supporting young graduates and having commuters stay within the community for employment.

Strategy 4: Incubator businesses to assist with the start-up through business networking, combine overhead costs, marketing and more.

Strategy 1: Promoting pre-employment development to support youth retention with qualifications and needs for employment.

The Workforce Adjustment Protocol for businesses closing and downsizing/upsizing will include the township/town Chamber, Municipality, training agencies and MTCU in the discussions. Pre-employment programs will be discussed with manufacturers, colleges, school boards, career councillors so they can support the youth's decision for employment and help them reach their goal. Ontario Works, schools, colleges, industries, chambers, the County and Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) will be included with the discussions regarding promoting and developing a centralized portal for postings of local jobs. The County will research the transportation needs for those commuting to work and the attraction and retention of employment within the County. Small business incubators discussions will include each municipality, Innovation Guelph, the WWCFDC and the Town of Minto, the pilot. For businesses starting the succession planning process will be discussed with OMAF, WWCFDC and small business centres.

The Festivals and Events Committee met after the Group meeting and agreed the 2014 Guide should be revamped. Jana will draft a Request for Proposal to be shared with the Group at the December meeting.

Next meeting will be held December 3rd, 2013 in the WWCFDC Boardroom at 9:30am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am

George Bridge, Chair

Jane Shaw, Recording Secretary

GRCA Current



November 2013 • Volume 18, Number 10

GRCA General Membership

Chair	Jane Mitchell
1st Vice-Chair	Vic Prendergast
2nd Vice-Chair	Jan d'Ailly
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

Smaller Parkhill hydro project proposed

A smaller Parkhill hydro proposal will be submitted to the Ontario Power Authority during a new window for applications in November.

In June the GRCA learned that a proposal for a 1,200 kW power generating station at the dam in Cambridge was turned down by the OPA's Feed-In Tariff program. But a new window for applications is expected Nov. 4 to Dec. 14 and the GRCA is set to submit a plan to build a 500 kilowatt unit. This could result in \$600,000 in revenue each year for the GRCA once it is operating. The GRCA already operates power plants at Guelph, Shand and Conestogo dams.

The Grand River Conservation Foundation has raised \$280,000 for the project, which is expected to cost about \$5 million.

Enbridge pipeline safety

Enbridge's senior public relations advisor Ken Hall was invited to make a presentation to the GRCA board about the pipeline that crosses the Grand River watershed.

In September people concerned about Line 9 made a presentation and asked the GRCA to sign a statement of concern to be submitted to the National Energy Board. The pipeline dates back to 1976 and runs between Montreal and Sarnia. Changes have already been approved to the part of this line called Line 9A that runs between North Westover in Hamilton and Sarnia and through the Grand River watershed.

Last summer Enbridge applied to reverse the flow and increase the capacity of Line 9B that runs between North Westover and Montreal. This is undergoing the hearing process. The GRCA will write to the National Energy Board and request that any safety requirements applied to Line 9B through the current hearing process, also be applied to the approved Line 9A, which crosses this watershed.

GRCA staff plan to meet with Enbridge Pipelines to discuss safety systems and protocols

for the pipeline, particularly the siting of isolation valves at key river crossing. These include the Grand River, Horner Creek, the Nith River and a branch of Fairchild Creek.

Wet balmy October

October was four degrees warmer than usual at the Shand Dam, where daytime temperatures hit the low 20s early in the month, although went down later in the month.

Lots of rain meant that river flows throughout the watershed were above average. Whitemans Creek and the lower Nith River have recovered from low water levels earlier in the fall. The reservoirs are also higher than normal due to the rain.

Two watershed conditions statements were issued in October due to heavy rainfall which rapidly increases river flows on Oct. 7 and Oct. 22, leading to concerns for safety of those close to the rivers. The first resulted after watershed wide rainfall of 20 to 50 mm of rain, while the second was specific to the upper part of the watershed which received 40 mm over a few days, saturating the ground.

The watershed conditions reports are available on www.grandriver.ca/WSconditions.

2013 Grand River Watershed Awards

The GRCA held an awards night on Oct. 23 and gave out six awards.

The top award — the Honour Roll award — went to **Ron and Nancy Clark** of Caledonia

The Clarks have given generously to the Grand River Conservation Foundation over many years. They were the lead donors for the restoration of Taquanyah Conservation Area and Nature Centre. They have also worked with the municipality to revitalize Kinsmen Park on the river in Caledonia.

In addition, five 2013 Watershed Awards were given out. They went to:

- **Paul Clark** is a Guelph teacher who has been



planting trees for 17 years. He ensures that all students at St. Peter School plant trees each year. This has transformed the area around the school.

- The **Turtle Island News** has been holding an Earth Day Festival for the past seven years in Oshweken. Since 2006, thousands of trees have been given out.
- The late **Lynne Woolstencroft** of Waterloo was a dedicated politician who undertook many environmental initiatives during her political career.
- **Bernd Brandt** has planted 25,000 trees of 20 species on his property in Oxford County, creating a beautiful forest
- **George and Peggy Sarson** of Waterloo started Run for the Toad at Pinehurst Lake in 2002. Now it is Canada's biggest trail run and the Sarsons have improved the amenities at Pinehurst.

Awards are given out each fall by the GRCA. More information and videos are available on the GRCA website: www.grandriver.ca/award.



One Honour Roll Award and five Grand River Conservation Awards were given out by the GRCA in October 2013. From left are Ron and Nancy Clark, George and Peggy Sarson, Amy Catherwood (for Turtle Island News), Peter Woolstencroft (for Lynne Woolstencroft who passed away in May), Jane Mitchell (GRCA chair), Bernd Brandt, Joe Farwell (GRCA CAO) and Paul Clarke.

Two scholarships awarded by GRCF

The Grand River Conservation Foundation awarded two scholarships in October.

This was the second year for the **Allan Holmes Scholarship**, named for the former CAO of the GRCA who passed away in 2010. The recipient is Celia Kennedy, a PhD student in environmental sciences at the University of Guelph. She is working to develop a suite of field methods and tools for investigating how groundwater and surface water interact in bedrock rivers, like the Eramosa River. The \$5,000 scholarship will help with her river-related research.

The **S. C. Johnson & Son Limited Scholarship** of \$1,500 went to Michelle Burger, a University of Waterloo student who is majoring in environment and resource studies with a minor in biology. This award has been given out for 13 years to a full-time student in their third or sixth semester of an honours program at a watershed university.

GRCF gives out conservation grants

The Grand River Conservation Foundation awarded four Community Conservation Grants as well as awards to four schools.

- A grant of \$500 to **Ruthven National Historic Site** near Caledonia will help provide more nesting habitat for purple martins, a small bird that is in decline in Ontario.
- A grant of \$500 went to the **Hamilton Naturalist Club** which will restore a riverside area at the Amaolo Nature Sanctuary along Fairchild Creek. The sanctuary is in a part of Hamilton that is within the Grand River watershed.
- A grant of \$1,000 went to the **Alma Community Recreation Association** to create a labyrinth surrounded by a native species Memory Arboretum.
- The **Guelph Enabling Garden** received \$500 for the therapeutic garden at River side Park along the Speed River for native trees, plants and supplies.

In addition conservation grants of \$500 each are being provided to four schools. The schools use the grants for projects including school-based gardens, outdoor learning areas and educational conservation projects. These grants were presented at each school. The winning schools are:

- St. George German School, St. George
- Forest Glen Public School, New Hamburg
- St. Joseph Catholic School, Fergus
- Saginaw Public School, Cambridge

Heritage River fact

It was a long and winding river road that led to the designation of the Grand River as a Canadian Heritage River.

The Grand River and its major tributaries were designated 20 years ago in 1994 as Canadian Heritage rivers. But the designation process began five years before that.

The Grand and its tributaries were the first in southern Ontario to be designated.

This issue of GRCA Minutes was published in November 2013.

It is a summary of the October 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 photocopying, forwarding and distribution of GRCA Current.

Next board meeting: Nov. 29 at 9:30 a.m., GRCA Administration Centre.

Reports mentioned in GRCA Current: www.grandriver.ca/MeetingReports.

For coming events, please see www.grandriver.ca/Calendar.

Grand Actions newsletter available at: www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions

GRCA Current



December 2013 • Volume 18, Number 12

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City of Brantford	Robert Hillier, Vic Prendergast
Haldimand and Norfolk Counties	Lorne Boyko, Fred Morison

Aggregate extraction north of Everton

The GRCA is considering a proposal by Cox Construction to extract aggregate from a part of a GRCA property in the Town of Erin.

Cox operates a gravel pit and wants to expand their pit onto adjacent GRCA land north of Everton.

GRCA staff have told Cox that there needs to be a net environmental gain in the long term if this project is to be completed. A rehabilitation plan would be approved by the GRCA and negotiations for compensation may consider royalty payments and potential future land exchanges.

Staff will return to the GRCA board with a recommendation regarding the proposal once Cox Construction has provided details and the implications for GRCA.

\$80,000 in Upper Grand Restoration Fund

About \$80,000 is in the GRCA fund for water quality projects on private land in the Upper Grand.

Since 2002 the Rural Water Quality Program has provided a total of \$315,000 to landowners in the Upper Grand for 135 projects. The funds for these projects come from a variety of sources such as Trees Ontario and the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Fund. In 2007, the GRCA set up the Upper Grand Restoration Fund to make sure consistent funding is available. The fund provides up to \$50,000 annually for projects.

Through this program, 66 tree planting projects have been undertaken with 132,000 trees planted on 78 hectares (194 acres). In addition, 14 kilometres of windbreaks have been planted and one kilometre of living snow fence. Six kilometres along rivers have been fenced to keep 800 livestock out of the waterways.

The Rural Water Quality Program provides funding to landowners to share the cost of projects that improve water quality. Many watershed

municipalities provide annual funding for the RWQP. In the Upper Grand Dufferin County provided \$50,000 in 2012, and is being asked to provide money each year.

Dam and dyke maintenance update

Several large capital projects are being completed this year and many more are included in the five year forecast.

The Luther Dam embankment repair is now nearing completion, while the elevator at the Guelph Dam will be finished by the end of this year. Reconstruction of the Drimmie Dam in Elora should be finished early in 2014. The total cost of these projects in the 2013 budget is around \$2.7 million.

The five year dam and dyke maintenance forecast shows that the GRCA expects to spend \$1.5 million per year between 2014 and 2018.

The GRCA owns 29 dams, including seven that manage river flows and 22 smaller, run-of-the-river dams or earthen embankment dams. These dams are regulated by the province, which released new Technical Guidelines for approved projects that could have a significant impact on the biggest future project for the GRCA, which is a proposed emergency spillway at the Conestogo Dam.

New Feb. 28 deadline for conservation grants

The community conservation grant application deadline in 2014 is Feb. 28.

The GRCF is awarding grants of up to \$1,000 to qualified community groups and up to \$750 to elementary schools. The grants are for tangible conservation projects in communities throughout the Grand River watershed. Eligible projects must be available for the use or benefit of the entire community to receive grants.

The Grand River Conservation Foundation wants to let people know about the earlier cut off



for applications. The change allows schools and organizations to receive the funds earlier, as most projects take place in the spring.

School grants are for trees and other greenery that is part of school yard greening projects.

Grant recipients will be notified in the spring. A final report may be requested of grant recipients within one year, or upon the successful completion of the project.

Applications can be downloaded from the Foundation section of the GRCA website at www.grcf.ca, or by contacting the Grand River Conservation Foundation in Cambridge at 1-866-900-4722 or 519-621-2763 ext. 2372 or email foundation@grandriver.ca.

Watershed full of water

November started out wet, with the highest single-day rainfall (20 to 35mm) for the month recorded on Nov. 1, when a watershed conditions statement for high flows was in effect.

The Conestogo Reservoir climate station recorded the wettest conditions during the month with 152 per cent of normal precipitation, while the Shade's Mill climate station recorded the least with only 78 per cent of the long-term average to date.

Although the temperature was 0.8 C above the long term average at the Shand Dam, there was still a mix of rain, sleet, freezing rain and snow. Daytime temperatures ranged from the mid-teens to below freezing, while overnight the thermometer dropped to -14 C on one occasion.

Reservoir levels have been high throughout the fall due to precipitation and construction in the river which required low flows. By the end of the month, all reservoirs except Conestogo were at, or close to, their normal operating range.

Stream flows throughout the watershed have been high and the ground was saturated, resulting in a lot of runoff.

Trail access for hunters

Tony Jackson of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters made a presentation to the GRCA board about access to the rail-trail north of Paris for hunters.

In 2012 signs were installed along the GRCA-owned rail-trail that say, "Possession



Merry Christmas from the GRCA to you! This deer lives at Pinehurst Lake Conservation Area.

and carrying firearms on trail prohibited." Jackson asked that the wording be changed to "All firearms must be unloaded and encased while using this trail".

Hunters use the trail near Blue Lake Road and East River Road to get to an island in the middle of the Grand River that is used during duck hunting season, September until December.

The board asked staff to look into the matter and report back in December.

Send your children on a Winter Adventure

Winter Adventure Days are taking place at Apps Mill (near Brantford), Laurel Creek (Waterloo) and Guelph Lake nature centres on Jan. 2 and 3.

Kids can come for one or both days. Register online at www.grandriver.eventbrite.ca.

Winter Adventure day camps are fun and educational. Children 6 to 12 will have hands-on, environmental programs that feature activities such as snow shoeing, tobogganing, snow sculpture building and animal tracking (depending on weather conditions). The adventure days are a great opportunity to get the kids away from their holiday electronics and outside for some winter fun.

The cost is \$37.50 per day, with the possibility of extending the program to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This issue of GRCA Current was published in December 2013.

It is a summary of the November 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 photocopying, forwarding and distribution of GRCA Current.

Next board meeting: Friday, Jan. 24 at 9:30 a.m., GRCA Administration Centre.

Reports mentioned in GRCA Current: www.grandriver.ca/MeetingReports.

For coming events, please see www.grandriver.ca/Calendar.

The November-December issue of Grand Actions newsletter available at: www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions