

Water Management Plan

No. 1 – January 2011

A new plan for the Grand

The Grand River flows through the heart of one of the richest, most diverse regions in Canada. Historically, the economic vitality of the Grand River watershed has been based on the area's abundant natural resources.

Much has been done in the past 100 years to protect and improve the natural environment. Many of those improvements came about through the implementation of various watershed management plans.

However, the 21st century has brought new challenges.

Population growth, intensive agriculture and climate change are all placing stress on the natural system, with implications for the continued health and prosperity of our communities.

A new plan to address existing and emerging issues is being developed by a broad group of agencies and organizations responsible for water issues in the Grand River watershed.

Three key issues

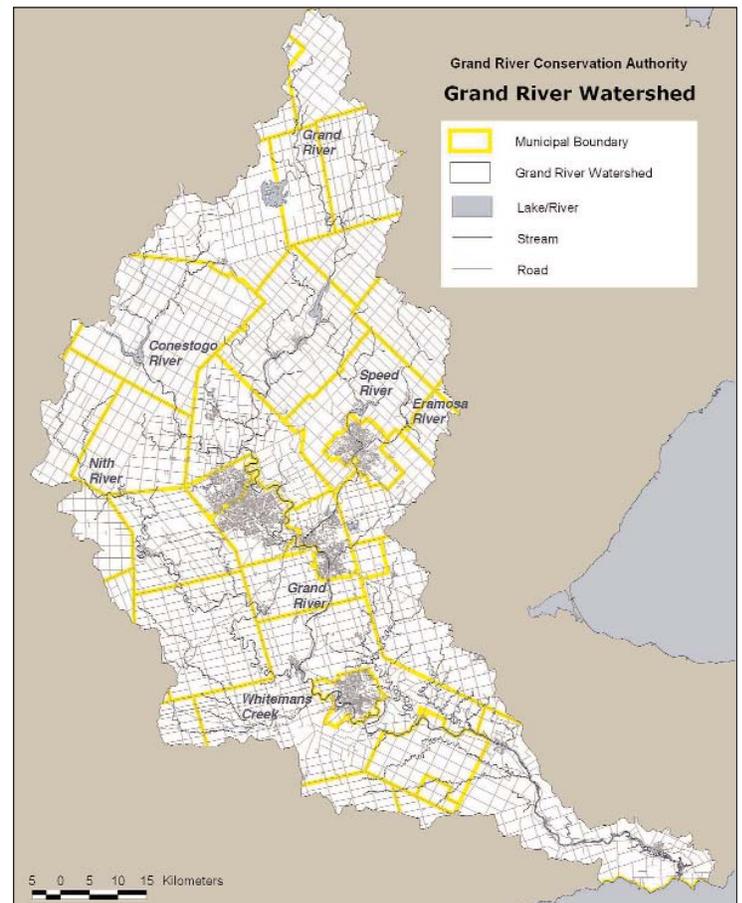
These issues are:

- Ensuring a sustainable water supply for communities and ecosystems;
- Reducing potential flood damages; and
- Improving water quality to maintain river health and reduce the Grand's impact on Lake Erie

The last comprehensive review was the 1982 Grand River



The Grand River at Dunnville, just upstream from Lake Erie.



Basin Water Management Study with 22 recommendations for action. Improvements included construction of dikes in Brantford and Cambridge, development of new water sources for the Region of Waterloo and Guelph, sewage treatment plant upgrades and other measures.

New study underway

Now, work has started on an action plan for the next 25 years and beyond. Representatives of the GRCA, municipalities, First Nations, provincial ministries and the federal government are working together to direct the development of a new Water Management Plan for the Grand River watershed.

Their goal is to create a new action plan by the end of 2012 to be implemented by the partner agencies.



Flooding remains an issue in some communities.

Managing the project

The project is guided by a Steering Committee made up of representatives of the organizations and agencies responsible for water issues.

The Steering Committee provides direction and guidance for the project. Committee members also raise understanding and awareness of the effort within their own agencies, acting as champions of the project.

Underneath the Steering Committee is a Project Team of technical experts assisting the steering committee.

They work with Program Director Lorrie Minshall to manage the studies and technical investigations.

Members of the Project Team also participate in Working Groups set up to examine specific elements of the project: water quality, water supply, flood control, Lake Erie issues and communications. The advice of outside experts will also be sought.

Partners

The Steering Committee and Project Teams include:

- Grand River Conservation Authority
- Municipalities
- Six Nations of the Grand River
- Mississaugas of the New Credit
- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of the Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Involving the watershed community

The goal of the Water Management Plan is to protect and improve the water resources important to the future of watershed residents and their communities.

Therefore, it's important that they be involved in the process.

A process is being developed to engage members of the public and key organizations in setting objectives for the Water Management Plan and developing ideas that can be incorporated in it.

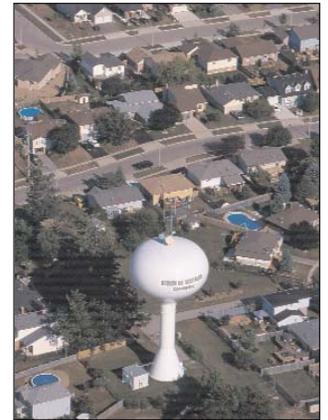
Check our website (see below) where information on activities and events will be posted as it becomes available.

Where to get more information

More information on the Water Management Plan can be found at the Grand River Conservation Authority website at www.grandriver.ca

The website includes an overview of the project, key documents that provide a more detailed look at the work, background reports, technical studies and more.

The website will be updated regularly with minutes, reports, news about public events and other information.



Future water supplies will be part of the study.

Program Director Lorrie Minshall

Lorrie Minshall brings more than 30 years experience in water issues to her job as Program Director for the Watershed Management Plan.

She has a degree in water resources engineering from the University of Guelph and a masters of business administration from McMaster University.

She has spent her career at the GRCA working in the areas of water resources planning, flood forecasting and warning, reservoir operations, policy development and land use planning.



Minshall

Prior to taking on this job, she was program director for the drinking water source protection program created to implement the Ontario Clean Water Act.