The Grand River WATERSHED

The Grand River Watershed

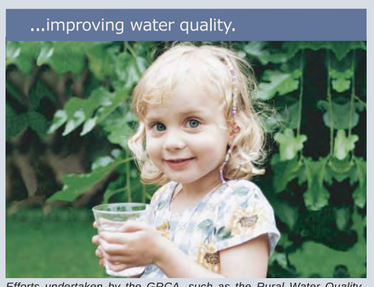
The Grand River Watershed is the largest in southwestern Ontario and includes all of the land drained by the Grand River and its major tributaries — the Nith, Conestogo, Speed and Eramosa rivers.

The Grand River originates in the highlands of Dufferin County and winds its way more than 300 kilometres to Lake Erie. On its course, the river meanders through picturesque rural countryside and growing cities, with a total population of more than 800,000.

The prospect of growth in the watershed will have a profound impact on water, related natural resources and quality of life. This presents an enormous challenge, and creates an urgent necessity to care wisely for the Grand River and its resources.

The Grand River Conservation Authority is responsible for...

...improving water quality.

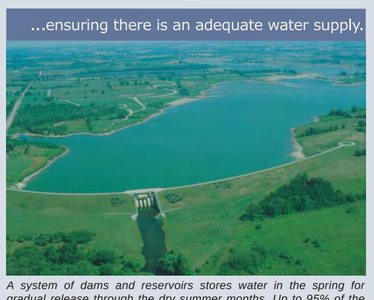


Efforts undertaken by the GRCA, such as the Rural Water Quality Program and water quality research, play a critical role in protecting the sources of rural and urban water supplies.

...protecting natural areas and biodiversity.

The GRCA protects environmentally important areas through land acquisition and planning controls. It also works with private landowners to help them preserve and enhance their forests, streams and wetlands.

...ensuring there is an adequate water supply.



A system of dams and reservoirs stores water in the spring for gradual release through the dry summer months. Up to 95% of the water flowing in the Grand comes from these reservoirs — critical for municipal water supplies.

...reducing flood damages.

The GRCA flood management system — dams, dykes, river monitoring, flood regulations and flood forecasting — reduces flood damage by $5 million annually in communities throughout the watershed.

...watershed planning.

Using cutting-edge research tools, the GRCA assists municipal partners in developing plans for managing development, sustaining the environment and sharing water supplies.

...environmental education.

Raising public awareness of watershed and environmental issues is a key objective of school and public education programs. These are undertaken by the GRCA at its four nature centres and in watershed communities.

...recreation.

Every year more than one million people take advantage of the GRCA's trails, natural areas and Conservation Area parks for fishing, camping, hiking, swimming, sailing and picnicking.

Canadian Heritage Rivers System / Le Réseau des rivières du patrimoine canadien

The Grand - A Canadian Heritage River

Riverfestival Riverprize 2000 — For excellence in river management

GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Elevation (m) above sea level

521-542
501-521
480-501
460-480
439-460
419-439
398-419
378-398
357-378
337-357
316-337
296-316
275-296
255-275
234-255
214-234
193-214
173-193

Settlement

General Built-Up Area
Town/Village

Transportation

Major Highway
Secondary Highway
Main Road

GRCA Features

GRCA-owned property
GRCA Conservation Area
Nature Centre
Elora Cataract Trailway
Cambridge to Paris Rail Trail
SC Johnson Trail
Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail

Boundaries

Grand River Watershed Boundary
Other Conservation Authority Boundary
County/Regional Municipality Boundary
Township Boundary

Drainage

River/Stream
Lake/Reservoir

SCALE: 1 : 225,000

5 2.5 0 5 10 km

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This map is for information purposes only, and the Grand River Conservation Authority takes no responsibility for, nor guarantees, the accuracy of all the information contained within the map. This map should not be used for navigation or analysis.
GRCA Data Sources: This map utilizes various data sets, collected by the GRCA's Geomatics Program in order to resolve watershed issues and aid in decision-making, including: Watershed Orthoimagery (2000), Virtual Drainage Project (1999), GRCA Property (1998), Classified Landcover/LANDSAT Imagery Project (2000), DEM/Shaded Relief creation (2001), among others. Contact the GRCA for more information.
Other Data Sources: Highway and lake systems outside GRCA boundary: © 2000, Government of Canada with permission from Natural Resources Canada. Road network within watershed boundary: Portions of this map are produced under license from Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada with permission of Natural Resources Canada.
Software: This map was created using ArcInfo 8.1, ArcView GIS 3.2a, Adobe Illustrator 9.0.1, Adobe PhotoShop 6.0 and MAPublisher 4.0
Note: The GRCA owned property shown on this map represents approximately 95% of the GRCA's total land holdings. Very small parcels are not included on this map.