

News Release Communiqué



Ministry of Natural Resources

Ministère des Richesses naturelles

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ONTARIO WORKS WITH LOCAL PARTNERS TO SUPPORT BROWN TROUT FISHERY *Completes First Grand River Tailwater Fisheries Management Plan*

GUELPH — A five-year fisheries management plan for an upper reach of the Grand River will help ensure the area's internationally recognized brown trout fishery continues to thrive, Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay announced today.

“The new plan tells us what needs to be done to maintain the fisheries on this stretch of the Grand River, and is the result of more than two years of work by community volunteers, fishing organizations and three levels of government,” said Ramsay. “Local involvement through this kind of broad-based partnership is key to sustaining our provincial fisheries and keeping Ontario's rivers clean and healthy for future generations.”

“Developing this plan helped us to identify all the work that has been accomplished on the Grand River tailwater so far and to direct future activities to make this world-class fishery even better,” said Larry McGratton, president of the Friends of the Grand River.

The Grand River tailwater is the area of the river below the Shand Dam at Belwood Lake and extends downstream to the West Montrose covered bridge. A tailwater fishery is created when water from a bottom-release dam changes the river environment below the dam. The water released by the Shand Dam is colder than normal for the river, and is one of the conditions that allow species such as trout to thrive here.

The ministry worked with the Friends of the Grand River, the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Izaak Walton Fly Fishers, Ontario Streams, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Township of Centre Wellington, the Belwood Lake Cottagers' Association and the local fly fishing guiding community to create the Grand River Tailwater Fisheries Management Plan.

To obtain a copy of the tailwater fisheries plan, or to find out more about the Grand River Fisheries Management Plan, please contact the Ministry of Natural Resources' Guelph District office at (519) 826-4955.

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