

Grand Times



Grand Times/Issue 15:1

Spring 2011

From the President's Desk:

Dear Members:

It's hard to believe were at the start of 2011 and the year's just seem to fly by (no pun intended). A question I'm asked quit often is what do you feel the turn over of membership is percentage wise in FOGR? I can honestly say that about 15% of members do not renew their membership each and every year for one reason or another, but 20% of our annual membership are new members so it usually balances out. It really doesn't matter what those numbers are, what matters is that those individual were good enough to join in the first place and help out for however long they could and that's much appreciated. In no way could this fishery have been accomplished by just a few volunteers, it took a lot of hard work by many volunteers to get the Grand and Conestogo river's to where they are today and it's going to take just as much to keep them there, so with that said.

What a year it's going to be. Along with the usual project of Fish stocking, Tree planting, Road & River clean-ups, Access point maintenance...ect on the Grand and Conestogo River, we will be developing a new access point on the Grand at the John Black school area above Fergus and finalizing the Wilsons flats twin bridges access point (negotiated by FOGR) that the township has just finished along with the new bridge. There will be a chance to also help volunteer this fall at the Grand River Spey Clave on Oct 15th 2011. So may I suggest you roll up your sleeves and get ready to get a little dirty.

If you are unable to volunteer your time and wonder how you can get involved, it's quite simple — support FOGR by becoming a member or renewing your membership. Make sure that your voice is heard!

FOGR not only sits at the table with the government agencies, but it is considered an equal partner in this fishery and presents a unified voice to the parties that develop policies and projects affecting the watershed. FOGR strives to be part of the decision-making process that determines such development, always keeping the fishery and health of the river at the front and foremost.

So, in closing I'd ask that each and every one of you renew your membership and encourage a friend in becoming a Friend of the Grand River in 2011

Tight Lines,

Larry R. McGratton

President

Friends of the Grand River
P.O. Box 271
Fergus ON N1M 3E2

(519) 843-3102

or

(519) 843-3806

www.friendsofthegrandrivers.com

Dates to remember:

Grand River

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m.

Belwood Conservation Area
Fergus

Road cleanup

Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.

Fergus Arena, Cty. Rd 18

Tree planting

Saturday, April 30, 2011

8.30 a.m.

Location still to be
Announced

Contact : Terry Ryckman@

519-8433806

For details

Grand Opportunities

Saturday, June 04, 10 a.m.

Belwood Lake Conservation
Area, Fergus

Fish stocking

Who knows? Weekday, short
notice. See story on page 4

Conestogo River

Tree planting

Contact : Archie McLarty @

519-751-7671

For details

Cleanup

Contact : Archie McLarty @

519-751-7671

For details

FUNDRAISING RAFFLE 2011

A full SAGE VXP Outfit worth \$1,000 could be yours for \$10!

Generous donations of fundraising prizes from SAGE Fly Rods and Bob McKenzie Agencies in the past ten years have allowed us to raise over \$37,000.00 and heading fast towards \$40,500.00 for conservation activities on the Grand, and there have been ten very happy winners of top-of-the-line SAGE rods in our membership.

Bob McKenzie Agencies represents the SAGE line of fly-fishing products in Ontario.

This year, in recognition of the great volunteer efforts by FOGR members in conservation activities, SAGE, Bob McKenzie Agencies and Ontario Sage dealers have once again been generous in their support .

The outstanding prize in this year's 2011 Conservation Fundraising Raffle is a complete SAGE outfit,

Here's the prize package:

**Sage VXP rod4-pc. Fly rod (choice of any single-handed model)
Sage 4200 Series reel ,size to match
Rio line to match**

Approx retail price, \$1000.00CND. A maximum of 350 tickets will be sold, at \$10 per ticket.

Renew your membership, or join FOGR, at the same time as purchasing your tickets and receive a \$5 discount on a one-year membership in the Friends of the Grand River.

The draw will be held at FOGR's Grand Opportunities Fly Fishing Forum, Sunday June 04, 2011. •

Canadian Fly Fishing Forum

**Saturday April 9th and Sunday April 10th 2011
Burlington Holiday Inn Hotel**

Friends of the Grand River will be at the forum
Please stop by the FOGR booth and say hello, the volunteers that are manning the booth are always delighted to here from fellow members

For more information on the forum,
See the Izaak Walton web site
<http://www.iwffc.ca>

Grand River Tree Plant 2011

April 30th 2011 for time and location contact
Terry Ryckman @ 519-843-3806

Reminders for all upcoming project's will be send out via email/eletter announcement prior to the date.

Please make sure you included your email address in your membership form so as you can receive the reminder.

Grand River Spey Clave

Sponsored By
Friends of the Grand River
October 15th 2011
Bean Park, Paris Ontario
8:00am to 4:00pm

Donations

If anyone has an item they wish to donate please contact
randyflyfisher@rogers.com

All proceeds from the raffle and any donations are being donated to The Friends of the Grand River.

Kiosk Sponsorship

Is your club or business looking for a way of getting involved in the Grand River brown trout fishery.

Why not sponsor a kiosk for the 2011 season?

You get recognized for your contribution on our web site as well as on the sign on the kiosk.

The deal includes clearing the kiosk as often as needed.

For more information: contact
Terry Ryckman at (519) 843-3806. •

Conestogo River Projects

Tree Plant 2011

For date, time and location contact
Archie McLarty @519-751-7671
alt@quixnet.net

Conestogo River Clean up

For date, time, location and more info, contact
Archie McLarty @519-751-7671
alt@quixnet.net

Coming
Events ->

Coming
Events ->

Coming
Events ->

Coming Events

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, April 17th 2011

2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Belwood Conservation Area

(Shand Dam) Wellington County Rd No. 18

Come join us, find out what FOGR has planned for 2011. Have you got some time to volunteer? Would you like to be on the Board or just hear what we're doing? This is the place to sign up for that project you want to get involved in. Call Larry McGratton for more information on the AGM (519) 843-3102).

Road clean up

Saturday April 16 2011, 9 a.m.

Meet at the Fergus Arena, Belsyde Rd. (County Rd. 18)

Take a look at the river with only one week 'til opening of trout season.

Is it buggers, nymphs or dries to start the season?

Call Ed Wallace (519) 846-9934 for more information on the road clean up .

Grand Opportunities Saturday June 04th, 2011 Belwood Lake Conservation Area

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Once again Friends of the Grand River is proud to present this highly popular event. Your level of skill really doesn't matter — from the highly experienced angler to the beginner, there is something for everyone at grand opps. We will offer:

- Free fly fishing seminars
- Learn some of the secrets of the Grand from the best instructors Ontario has to offer you and It's FREE (except for park admission)
- BBQ lunch is \$10.00 a plate - Friends of the Grand style (just ask anyone who was there in the last couple of year's what that means!)
- Used Equipment sale — need to sell something or purchase a item or two, this is the place to look for that great deal, who doesn't need more equipment.
- Play a few games, take a chance with a few of those hard-earned bucks, it may be your lucky day.
- Meet friends and like-minded people who have a story or two of their own.
- Sign up for the Women's Introduction to Fly Fishing Seminar (maximum of 12 spots, so sign up early) — it's free

The main concept on Saturday June 04th , 2011 is to have fun while supporting the efforts of Friends of the Grand River. Why not come out and show them how much you appreciate their efforts. For more details see the web site

So, what do I get for my membership?

Friends of the Grand River is a volunteer-run organization. No paid staff, no business consultants, just a lot of hard-working people trying to better the resource.

If you join, you get the chance to do some grunt work. If paper and managing is your line, join the board.

And (Oh yes!) you get the very odd hard-copy newsletter. If you need more contact than that, provide us with your email address and you will receive our eLetters as well.

You get representation — on the fishery management plan committees we speak on your behalf when things come up like changes to the fishing regulations, stocking densities, enforcement issues, etc.

Friends of the Grand has a voice which is recognized for its candor, honesty and sometimes for being strident. But we get things done. If you are part of that "We" we'll be even stronger. Join now. Or rejoin. We want you. It's not an old boys' club. Every member counts. •

2011 Membership Dues

Despite inflation we have kept our prices down. \$30 per year for a single member/family, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for students under 16. To further assist the membership with saving funds we have given you a \$5 reduction in your membership if you purchase a ticket for the 2011 Sage Conservation Rod Draw at the same time as renewing or becoming a member. Due to Ontario Lotto rules tickets can not be sold to members under the age of 18 years old.

2011 Memberships expire at the end of April 2012. You will get a membership card in the mail.

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____ @ _____

Membership without a ticket (circle one):

Youth (\$10) Single/Family (\$30) Senior (\$20) Corporate (\$100)

\$

Memberships with one ticket (circle):

Single/Family (\$35) Senior (\$25)
Corporate (\$105)

\$

Extra Rod Draw Tickets: _____ X \$10.00

\$

Total amount:

(cheques made payable to "Friends of the Grand River"— thanks)

\$

Mailing address: Friends of the Grand River P.O. Box 271, Fergus Ontario N1M 3E2

About fish stocking

You may have noticed no date given for fish stocking on page 1 .

That's not because we're being awkward. Stocking the fish is dependent on the weather, River flows and the temperature of the water in the river must be pretty close to the temperature in the fish tanks at the hatchery.

The Ministry of Natural Resources lets us know a few days ahead of time, that's why it's a short-notice event.

It's also a mid-week event.

Get your name on the list if you can help. It is always an interesting opportunity to see some new bits of the river and meet some like minded individuals. •

Grand River list - Al Newsome <alnewsome1@gmail.com>

Conestogo River List - Brad Knarr 519-747-1824

Grand Times

Grand Times is a publication of the Friends of the Grand River, an incorporated organization dedicated to environmental efforts in the Grand River watershed.

The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the organization's policies.

Your editorial team:

- Larry McGratton
- John Dadds
- Ian Martin