

Grand Times



Grand Times/Issue 22:1

Spring 2018

From the President's Desk:

It's true time really does fly! It's hard to believe that thirty years (1988) have past since four Gentlemen (Walt Crawford, Warren Yerex, Larry Halyk and Jack Imhof) were sitting in a coffee shop scribbling on a napkin, a dream that the Grand River from Belwood lake down stream for a distance could become a trout fishery all due to there being a bottom draw at Shand Dam! A Tailwater Fishery? That's right it started with a dream/rough plan! No one had any ideal that it would be the success story that it has become, but with all the hard work over the past Thirty years, First by Trout Unlimited (1988-1994) and then Friends of the Grand River (FOGR) (1995-present) along with our watershed Partners, MNRF, GRCA, DFO, and the Fly Fishing clubs of Ontario. It truly is a World Class Trout Stream.

In the early years we all hoped that one day it would be a self sustainable trout stream, but that just hasn't and won't happen due to many limiting factors, but there is a percentage of natural-spawn brown trout in the system. What percentage are natural, now that is the million-dollar question, We, (FOGR) know that they are successful at spawning in the gravel as well we have found live alevin with eggs sacks still attached during natural reproduction studies carried out by FOGR and we have also found young of the year during the same study period. There are reports every year of wild fish (natural) being caught by anglers. So, when someone tells you that these fish are not able to reproduce, ask to see their scientific data that backs up their claim; gut feelings or wild guesses don't count! The only real way of ever finding out if it could become natural self-sustaining or a section of the tailwater could, is to stop the stocking effort altogether and at what price I ask? Do you really want us to mess with success? Are you prepared to risk the experience of today for tomorrows unknown? Why not enjoy and cherish what we have had over the last thirty years. Yes, it's a stocked fishery with a wild component, but consider the quality of the brown trout fishery you have on the Grand River Tailwater Brown Trout Fishery before criticizing it. The Grand rivals some of the best, ask yourself one very simple question, where can I go and fish a dry fly with a legitimate chance at hooking multiple fish over 20" during a spinner fall? There are not many rivers that I know of where this is possible in the world never mind Ontario. The Grand is one of your best chances! Of course, none of this is possible without the support of our membership and their volunteer efforts over the years. It's going on 23 years that I have been on the board of Friends of the Grand River and I've seen a lot of changes, mostly for the good, but I'm concerned about the future. With the decline in membership over the last few years, I really wonder if we have reached a pinnacle point in conservation and in the fast pace lifestyle of today, are our rivers taking a backseat? I challenge you this year to get involved in just one project, for one day, it does make a difference. And if you can volunteer for more than one project, one day, all the better. I'd also like to encourage you to renew your membership in Friends of the Grand River and ask a friend to consider joining Friends of the Grand River. There is enough water in Ontario that if each resident could claim a section of a stream to do conservation work on, there would still be water that needs friends!

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, May 06, 1 p.m.

Fergus Fire Station
Board Room
Fergus

Road cleanup

TBA at AGM

Fergus Arena, Cty. Rd 18

Tree planting

April 28, 2018 9 a.m.

Pierpoint access

Contact : Terry Ryckman

519-843-3806

Grand Opportunities

Saturday, June 02, 10 a.m.

Belwood Lake Conservation
Area, Fergus

Fish stocking

Dates: May 7th & 8th

See page 3 for details

Conestogo River

Trash Cleanup

Date TBA

Contact : Archie McLarty

519-751-7671

For details

Fish Stocking

Dates: May 9th & 10th

See page 3 for detail

Why should you be a Member of Friends of the Grand River?

When you consider the limited opportunities for world class Brown Trout fishing in Southern Ontario and the success story of the Grand River Tailwater Brown Trout Fishery, "Why wouldn't you want to part of Friends of the Grand River's success story", would probably be a better question!

The Friends of the Grand River (FOGR) develops, promotes and implements projects that preserve, conserve and enhance the ecology of the Grand River watershed. The group is action-oriented with many of its activities designated as work projects that benefit the Grand River Brown Trout Fishery in Center Wellington and are considered the lead partner in this fishery. Examples of projects undertaken by this group of dedicated volunteers include Fish Stocking, Spawning Recruitment studies, River Access, Stream Rehabilitation, Tree Planting, River Watch poaching patrol, Road clean-ups, encouragement of osprey reintroduction, Education, and so much more. The Friends of the Grand River focuses its actions on education, recreational activities, and projects that enrich individual appreciation of the Grand River. FOGR presents a unified voice to the parties that develop policies and projects affecting the Grand River watershed, and strives to be part of the decision-making process that determines such developments.

FOGR is a charitable non-profit organization incorporated in 1995. The organization is made up of volunteers, with an elected board of directors. The funding for projects is raised through membership fees, donations, sponsorship and fund raising events

Why should you be a member?

Conveniently located in Central Ontario, the Grand River offers activities such as camping, canoeing, fishing, hiking, and outdoor enjoyment.

The Grand River is a precious environment that we must all help to maintain and preserve. The Friends of the Grand River need members and membership involvement to help ensure the future of the Grand River watershed.

What good does your Membership do?

Together with the aid of membership volunteers, Friends of the Grand River's conservation efforts have resulted in real significant improvements in and along the Grand River

- 37,000 trees planted to improve water quality

- 90 Special fishing regulations sign posted and damaged signs reposted yearly on the Grand River

- 150+ bags of garbage per year collected from river roads

- 8 river side Litter Control Kiosks collecting 150+ bags per year

- 780,521+ yearling (5"to10") brown trout stocked since 1989 with an average of 25,000 pre year

- Improvement of river access locations through Landowner agreements, trails, and parking areas

- Reduction in poaching through education

- Educational Research (water quality, trout spawning, economic impact of recreation)

- Providing scientific and public opinion input for management decisions

- Stream habitat improvements on Grand River and tributary streams

- Trout spawning redd counts.

All of this is not achievable without your financial support. Please help us keep up the good work by joining and renewing your membership yearly with the Friends of the Grand River. The Grand River gives us so much, but it depends on its friends.

FUNDRAISING RAFFLE 2018

Is it your year to WIN?

A full SAGE X Series Outfit worth \$1,600.00 could be yours for \$10!

Generous donations of fundraising prizes from **SAGE Fly Rods and Bob McKenzie Agencies** in the past seventeen years have allowed us to raise over \$60,000.00 and heading fast towards over \$65,000.00 for conservation activities in the Grand River watershed. As well there have been Sixteen very happy winners of top-of-the-line SAGE rod packages in our membership.

Bob McKenzie Agencies represents the SAGE, REDINGTON and RIO line of fly-fishing products in Ontario.

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

The outstanding prize in this year's 2018 Conservation Fundraising Raffle is a complete SAGE outfit.

Here's the prize package:

SAGE X 4-pc Fly Rod (winner's choice of any single hand rod in the X series)

SAGE Spectrum LT series Reel, sized to match,

RIO Fly Line to match the outfit Approx retail price, **\$1600.00.**

A maximum of **350 tickets** will be sold, at **\$10 per ticket.**

Renew your membership or become a member 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, Saturday June 02, 2018

Grand River Tree Plant 2018

Planting Area

The Richard Pierpoint Access

Anderson Street, Fergus

Date April 28, 2018 at 9.00am

We will be planting in a new area this year. The area is the Richard Pierpoint access at the corner of Lomond St and Anderson St. S, Fergus (Tombstone Area). Or you can just go on google maps and punch in the GPS coordinates in the space bar and it will take you right to the site .
43.715536, -80.355559

So come get some dirt on your boots, swap a few stories, plant a few tree's and help out the environment.

All you need are boots, a shovel and a willing heart.

Friends of the Grand will look after the rest!

For more information contact

Terry Ryckman @ 519-843-3806

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

Kiosk Sponsorship

Is your club or business looking for a way of getting involved in the Grand River Tailwater Brown Trout Fishery? Why not sponsor a kiosk for the 2018 season?

The 2018 cost is \$500.00

You get recognized for your contribution on our web site, a corporate membership as well as a sign on the kiosk. The deal also includes clearing the kiosk as often as needed.

For more information: contact

Jason King boostcreep@hotmail.com

Terry Ryckman at (519) 843-3806.

Stay up to Date with FOGR on Facebook

This is where we will also be announcing upcoming events and dates. So between the Website and FOGR's Facebook page it is easier than ever to stay up to date with what is happening. The links to Facebook are also on our website just click on the icon



About Fish Stocking

If you are interested, get your name on the list if you can help. It is always an interesting opportunity to see some new spots on the river and meet some like minded individuals. Dates can change at the last minute and it always takes place during the weekdays

Grand River Dates May 7th & 8th 2018.

Grand River List - Jason King

boostcreep@hotmail.com

Conestogo River Dates May 9th & 10th 2018

**Conestogo River List - Brad Knarr
519-747-1824**

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, May 06, 2018

1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Fergus Fire Station
250 Queen Street West
Fergus, Ontario

Come join us, find out what FOGR has planned for 2018. 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.

Volunteer Opportunities

At FOGR we are always looking to expand our positive impact on the Upper Grand River. As a lean organization run by a group of volunteers we know we could use more help in the preservation and conservation of the watershed! Specifically we could use anyone with experience or skills in the following areas of expertise:

Marketing/Communication
Fundraising/Events management
Technology (website management)

If you or someone you know has a few hours a month to help Friends of the Grand expand our impact by providing leadership in these areas please let us know by reaching out to Rob Voisin at robvoisin@gmail.com

Thank you again for your support!

Grand Opportunities Saturday June 02nd, 2018 Belwood Lake Conservation Area

10 a.m. to 4:00 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 opportunities.

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 \$15.00 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 an item or two, this is the place to look for that great deal; who doesn't need more equipment!
- **Please note that all used equipment is sold as Visa, cash or cheque**
- Meet friends and like-minded people who have a story or two of their own.

The main concept on Saturday June 2nd 2018 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. Or contact Larry McGratton (519)843-3102. •

Sage Rod Draw Tickets

For your convenience we have provided tickets to Three Fly Shops for over the counter purchase of Raffle Tickets. The First Cast Fly Shop in Guelph
Grand River Outfitting and Fly Shop in Fergus
The Drift Outfitters and Fly Shop In Toronto

Conestogo River Projects

Conestogo Trash Cleanup

Date still to be announced at the time of printing
Meet at the Macton access site. A truck or two to haul away the booty would be appreciated. Probably to be followed by a Happy Hour in Heidelberg.

Contact: Brad Knarr

Kids Fishing Day

June 03, 2018

FOGR supported this worthwhile event in the past by hosting the Lunch BBQ and volunteering our help, if you are interested in getting involved this year please Contact.

Larry McGratton 519-843-3102

Grand River Road clean up Date TBA at the AGM

Meet at the
Fergus Community Centre

Belsyde Ave E, Fergus, Ontario

We want to get it done when it is dry enough that we don't have the ditches full of water but before the grass starts to grow, hiding a lot of the trash.

For more information on the road clean up contact Scott Tomblin.

IDK FSHN <stomblin01@gmail.com>

2018 Membership Dues

You will notice that this year we have revamped our membership format, we have still provided a membership option at the original price of \$30.00 and provided one new option for those who feel they'd like to contribute a little more. The new system will be known as a sliver or gold membership 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 2018 Sage Conservation Rod Draw at the same time as renewing or becoming a new member. Due to Ontario Lotto rules, tickets cannot be sold to members under the age of 18 years old.

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____ @ _____

Are you Interested in Volunteering Yes _____ No _____

Newsletter / Correspondence Electronic Media _____ Hard Copy _____

Membership without a ticket (circle one):

Sliver \$30 Gold \$50 Corporate \$500

\$ _____

Memberships with one ticket (circle one):

Sliver \$35 Gold \$55 Corporate \$505

\$ _____

Extra Rod Draw Tickets: _____ X \$10.00

\$ _____

Additional Gifts (Charitable tax receipts provided)

\$ _____

Total amount:

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

\$ _____

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

Reminders for all upcoming project's will be sent out via email/eletter announcement prior to the date and Posted to FOGR website and facebook pages

Please make sure you include your up-to-date email address in your membership form so you can receive the reminder.