

Grand Scale Sustainability

Sustainable Heritage Case Study
Class Presentation
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The Canadian Heritage Rivers System and the Grand River Watershed, Ontario

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Fig 1. "Then we took possession of the land" Meg Harder, 2017.
Used with permission of the artist.

Map

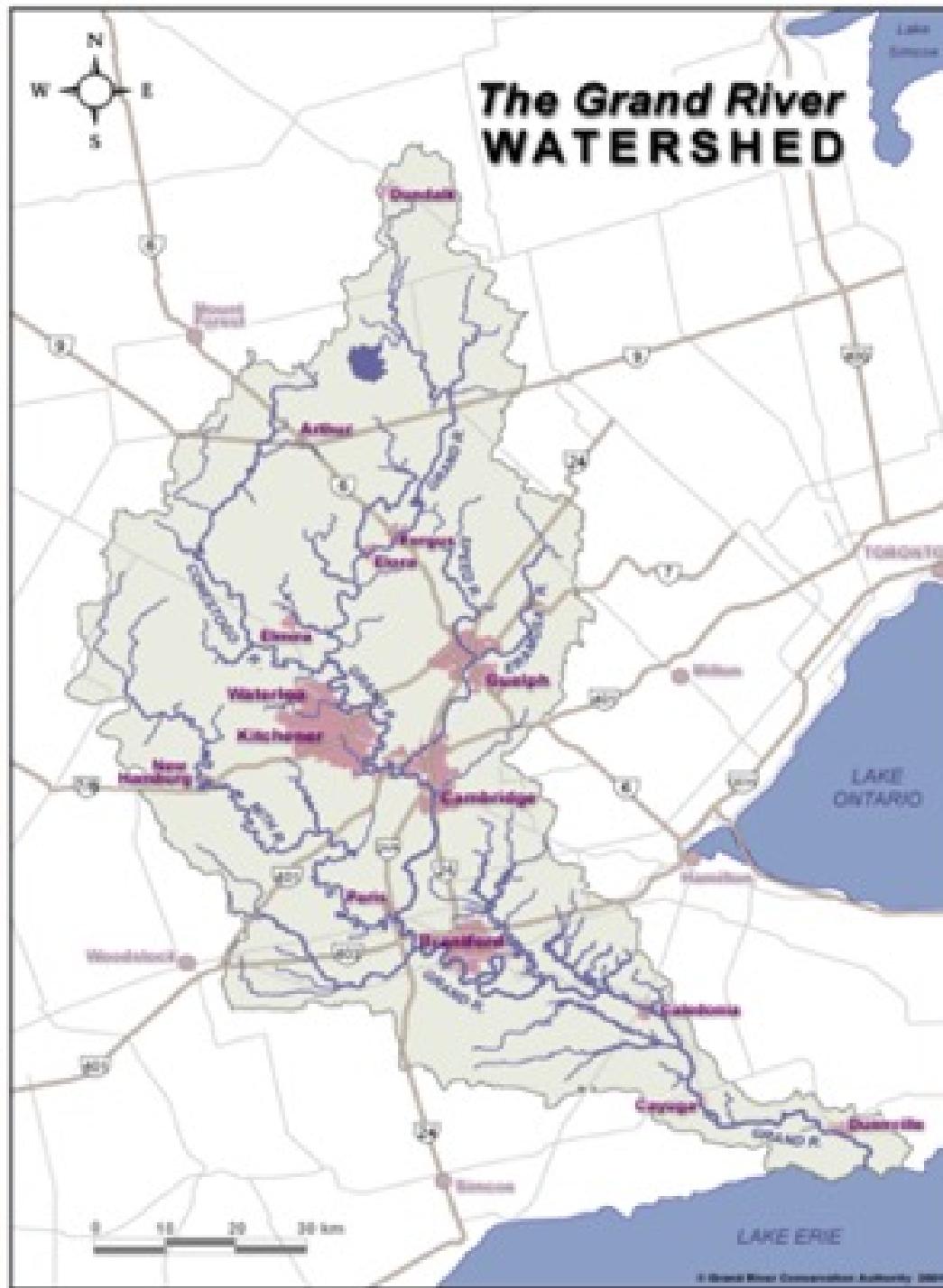


Fig. 2 "The Grand River Watershed" The rare blog

Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS)

Description

Vision of the CHRS:

"The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is a model of stewardship, cooperation and participation; one that engages society in valuing the natural and cultural heritage of rivers and river communities as essential to the identity, health and quality of life of Canadians."

Heritage Rivers System Principles, Procedures and Operational Guidelines, (2017), pg. 40

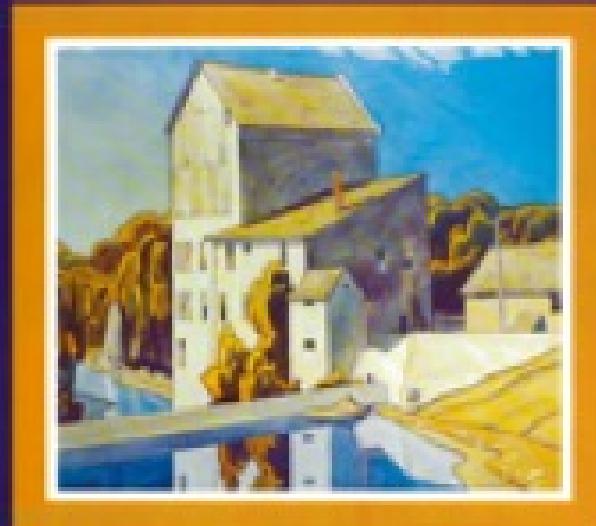
- Rivers are designated for their natural, cultural and/or recreational values
 - The Grand River designated for cultural and recreational values
- Grand River beginning of 'second wave' of CHRS designations
 - Not in National or Provincial Park
 - mixed urban and rural
 - Designation covers Grand + major tributaries (Conestogo, Eramosa, Nith, Speed)

The Grand Strategy:

"The area to be managed as a Canadian Heritage River will include the entire Grand River watershed"

The Grand Strategy, (1994), pg. 5

The Grand Strategy



for Managing the Grand River
as a Canadian Heritage River

Fig. 3 Cover for The Grand Strategy

Timeline

- 20,000-11,000 years ago Glaciers retreat
- Pre-contact – Grand River watershed used by Anishinaabe
- 1784 – Haldimand Proclamation
- 1800-1850s – Early settlement of watershed
- 1832 – Grand River Navigation Company & Canal building
- 1934 – Grand River Conservation Commission
- 1966 – Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) created
- 1986 – Canada Heritage Rivers System established
- 1992 – World Heritage Committee adopts cultural landscapes
- 1994 – Grand River designated Canadian Heritage Rivers System
- 2000 – GRCA wins Thiess International Riverprize

NB:  CHRS related



Fig. 4 "Flood of March, 1948" GRCA



Fig. 5 "1974 Grand River flood, Galt, Ontario" GRCA

Flooding in Cambridge at the Main St. Bridge 1948, 1974, and contemporary photos (Nov 2019)

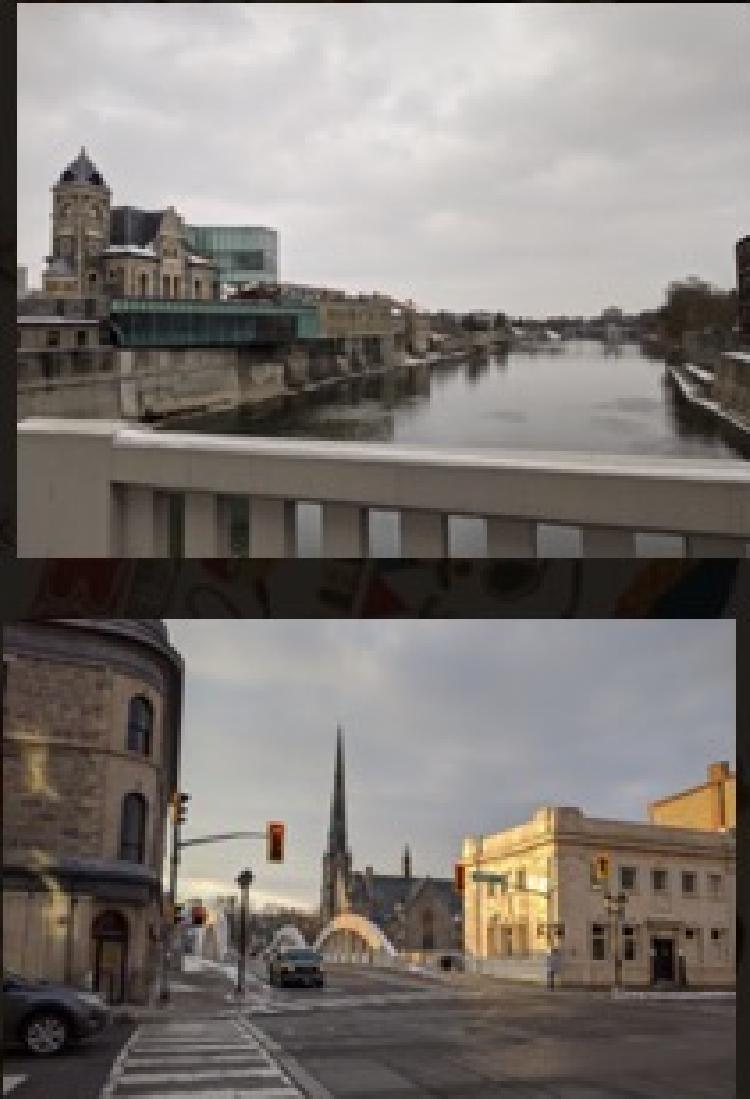


Fig. 6 "View from Main St. Bridge" Siebert, 11/18/19

Fig. 7 "Water and Main" Siebert, 11/18/19

Stakeholders & Rightsholders

Grand River Conservation Authority

- Managing body

Federal Government

- Parks Canada

Provincial Government

- Cost sharing and conservation authority legislation

Indigenous Rightsholders

- Mississauga of the New Credit
- Six Nations of the Grand River

Local governments

- Municipalities
- Regions & Counties

Special Interest Groups

- E.g. tourism groups or outfitters

Conservation Groups

- E.g. local heritage or nature conservation groups

Research Groups

- E.g. MOAs with universities

Lessons

- Watershed approach
 - Designation area allows for holistic approach
- Hydrosocial relationship
 - "...inseparable social and physical dimensions of water" (Linton & Budds, 2014, pg 175)
 - GRCA has developed new programs and tools
 - E.g. 2003 & 2013 heritage bridge inventories
- Plurality of stakeholders
 - 1994 Grand Strategy had 200+ stakeholders represented

Natural/Cultural Heritage

- Natural Heritage
 - River and tributaries
 - Largest watershed in southern Ontario
 - Remnants of Carolinian forest
- Cultural Heritage
 - Long Indigenous use of watershed
 - Industrial use of watershed
 - Dams & historic water management



Bennell's Foundry, Elora, Ont., Canada.

Historic post card showing Grand River at Elora

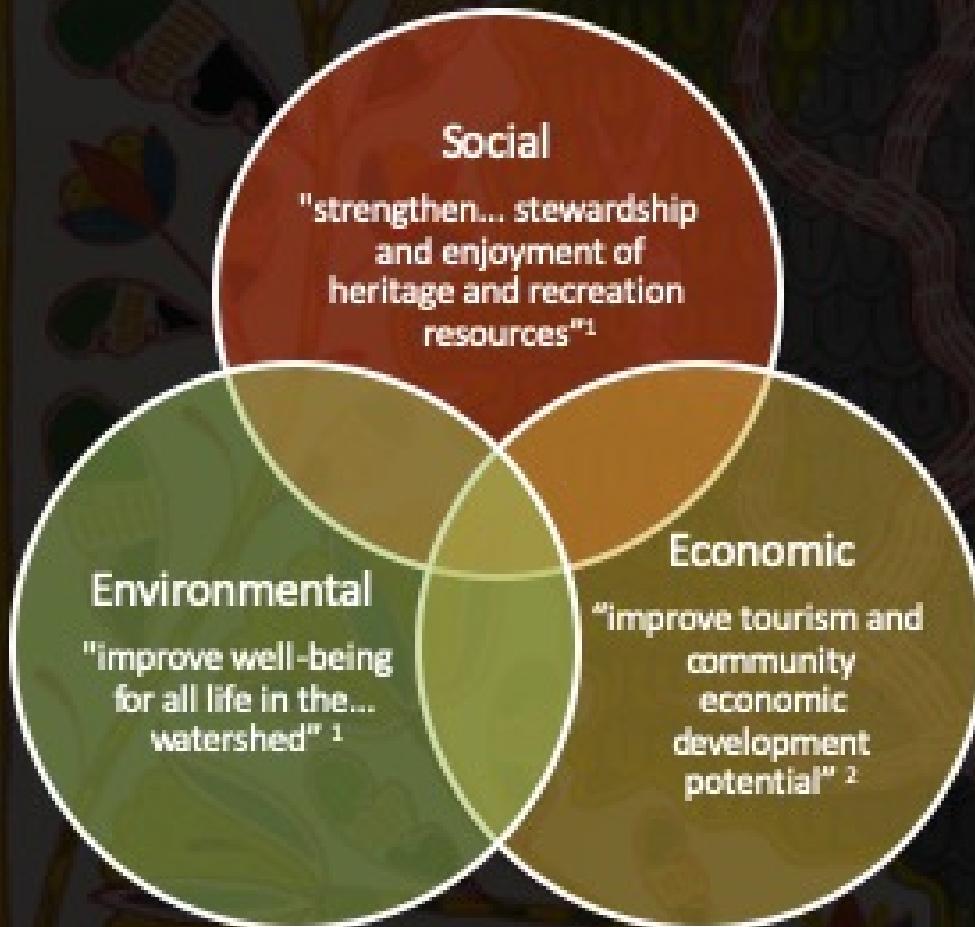
Fig. 8. A2014.35.3 - Wellington County, postcards, 1909-1927.
Wellington County Museum & Archives



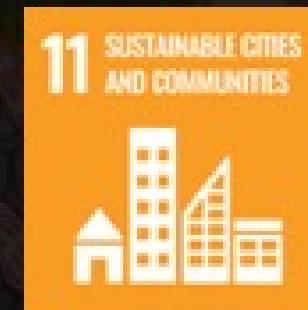
Shand dam (completed 1942) first multi-function dam in Canada. Built for water quality, flow, and supply.

"Grand river blitzkriegs will soon be a thing of the past". Toronto Public Archive, nd

Sustainability



6.B "Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management"



11.A "Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning"

1. Background Briefing, (2014), pg 2

2. Grand Strategy, (1994), pg. 7



Grand River at Fergus, Ontario

Fig. 10. "Grand River at Fergus" Siebert 11/19/19

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