



**Grand River Conservation Authority  
Addendum - General Meeting**

**Friday, June 23, 2017**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Auditorium**

**Grand River Conservation Authority  
400 Clyde Road, Box 729  
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6**

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	<b>Pages</b>
<b>10. Correspondence</b>	
<i>d. Janet Dagleish - Speed River/Hanlon Creek at Niska Bridge</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>e. George Renniger and Cynthia Folzer - Niska Waterfowl Park Lands in Guelph</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>f. Linda Liddle - Former Niska Waterfowl Park re-designation</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>g. Ainsley Otten - Niska</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>h. Janet Arnott - Niska</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>i. Joe Sciorilli - Niska</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>j. Kriss Lockhart - Niska</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>k. Emily S. Damstra - Niska</i>	<i>8</i>

**To:** GRCA Board Members  
**Subject:** GRCA lands: SPEED RIVER / HANLON CREEK AT NISKA BRIDGE  
**Date:** Monday, June 19, 2017 9:00:17 AM

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**From:** Janet DALGLEISH  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 18, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** Grand River Conservation Authority  
**Subject:** GRCA lands: SPEED RIVER / HANLON CREEK AT NISKA BRIDGE

To Sarah Wilbour, CAO, and members of the Board of GRC:

A proposal to sell GRCA land for development on either side of Niska Bridge appears to be under consideration.

This seems to contradict the intention behind Horace Mack's 1948 purchase of the land near the bridge as an animal and bird sanctuary and the original land acquisition by GRCA in the 1970's, which was to be maintained as an open space resource....**and to protect it from future development!**

Currently, the land in question on either side of Niska Road is under cultivation and provides a valuable buffer for wildlife between the fairly narrow corridor under trees along the river and the existing residential development on Ptarmigan Drive

Much of the land was donated or purchased with public money and should not now be regarded as a resource to be plundered to top up the GRCA coffers. **It should not be sold**, but should be maintained as a vital environmental resource for our city, our county and the Grand River catchment area.

Sincerely

Janet Dalglish, June 2017

**To:** GRCA Board Members  
**Subject:** FW: Niska Waterfowl Park lands in Guelph  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 8:49:35 AM

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**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 4:23 PM  
**To:** Joe Farwell; Sara Wilbur  
**Cc:** Keith Murch  
**Subject:** FW: Niska Waterfowl Park lands in Guelph

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**From:** George Renninger  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 2:25 PM  
**To:** Grand River Conservation Authority  
**Subject:** Niska Waterfowl Park lands in Guelph

Dear Sara Wilbur, CAO, and Board of the GRCA,

In 1977 the Grand River Conservation Authority was given the lands known as the Niska Waterfowl Park in Guelph along the Speed River, which were purchased with public money. This was done to protect the lands from development, so that they would be preserved for wildlife and for people to have access to the wild spaces there. This is even more important now that the Province's Places to Grow Policy is filling in spaces within the City with housing for an ever increasing population. Now I understand that the GRCA is considering selling the lands for development. The City of Guelph has made this possible by changing the designation of these lands to permit development. The sale and development of these lands would betray the public trust put in the GRCA to preserve the lands and betray its own mandate to conserve the waterways of the Grand River system. We object strongly to any move on the part of the GRCA to dispose of the Niska Waterfowl Park lands.

Sincerely,  
George Renninger and Cynthia Folzer

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**To:** GRCA Board Members  
**Subject:** FW: former Niska Waterfowl Park re-designation  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 8:52:41 AM

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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 8:38 AM  
**To:** Helen Jowett; Chris White; Joe Farwell; Keith Murch  
**Cc:** Samantha Lawson  
**Subject:** FW: former Niska Waterfowl Park re-designation

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**From:** L Liddle [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 11:06 PM  
**To:** Grand River Conservation Authority  
**Cc:** CAM GUTHRIE  
**Subject:** former Niska Waterfowl Park re-designation

Dear GRCA Chair Helen Jowett, Vice Chair Chris White and all Board Members of Grand River Conservation Authority

I wish to let it be known that I am totally, totally opposed to the appeal to change of use of the former Niska Waterfowl Park (part of Hanlon Creek Conservation Land) from Open Space and parkland to Medium and low-density housing. This land was purchased in 1977 using 90% of Guelph taxpayers money to protect it from development. I was in support of that expenditure, but now, I, as a taxpayer, feel like my voice and those of us who oppose such a change in designation are not being shown any respect nor are we being heard. The almighty dollar shouts louder than we do I guess. Do you ever wonder why the "wild" animals are taking up residence in the city? It is because we are taking over their habitats. Please. please protect our greenspace and the many trees that filter the air and produce oxygen . You might be amazed how much one tree can produce, let alone a forest full.

Don't be pushed around by the developers and the dollar signs- have a heart and preserve our park!!

Sincerely

Linda Liddle

**From:** Ainsley Otten  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 9:25 PM  
**To:** Grand River Conservation Authority; Mark MacKinnon; [mayor@guelph.ca](mailto:mayor@guelph.ca);  
[karl.wettstein@guelph.ca](mailto:karl.wettstein@guelph.ca)

**Subject:** Rezoning of Guelph GRCA Land

Hello,

I do not support the rezoning of part of the Hanlon Creek Conservation lands on Niska Rd. in Guelph; additionally, I would be extremely upset if they were sold in the future. Guelph residents spent time and tax dollars 40 years ago to ensure this area would be conserved for many generations to come. I believe their efforts should be honoured both for current residents and the future. As the city's density increases, greenspaces will become ever more valuable to us. The historic nature of the Speed River valley lands area and its close proximity to transit and urbanites makes it even more valuable, unique and worth protecting.

I remember visiting the former waterfowl park as a child, and now as a resident of Ptarmigan Drive my children enjoy these lands. We often see deer, coyotes, vultures, geese and other wildlife on the lands, from our yard.

I believe that a nature reserve is a better use of Guelph's conservation land than allowing urban sprawl to continue to destroy greenspace next to the Speed River.

Please protect our greenspace in Guelph.

Thank you for your time and support to maintain the greenspace many enjoy and value so much.

Ainsley Otten

-----Original Message-----

From: Janet Arnott

Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 4:50 PM

To: Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Development of Niska waterfowl park

I am just one of many of my neighbours that are very concerned over the proposed development of the Niska waterfowl park. This protected area has been the habitat for many species of animal, fish and birds. These creatures have already been dislocated with the Kortright Hills development. The GRCA should stand by their agenda to protect this area as their name suggests and not succumb to greed. There are sightings of bobcats/ Cougars, coyotes, deer, bush wolves and most recently fisher cats. It is a disgrace to develop this habitat. The river water supply should remain in its natural state. This area also has trails that many enjoy.

Kortright Hills is already at a disadvantage as there is only one route out of the area via Downey Road. Downey Road is overloaded with traffic coming from the south. This area can not handle any more traffic that would happen if there was more development in this area.

I strongly disagree with this proposal to develop this area

Janet Arnott

Sent from my iPad

**From:** jsciorilli jsciorilli  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2017 9:28 AM  
**To:** Grand River Conservation Authority  
**Subject:** Niska Waterfowl Park

Hello Chair Helen Jowett and Vice Chair Chris White,

We have lived on Trendell Lane since 1995 and the reason we bought in this area is the fact that just a view from our house we can enjoy the conservation lands next to the river. We have walked along the Speed River many times and have enjoyed it immensely.

I am writing to you to let you know that our family does not support the sell off of the Hanlon Creek Conservation lands on Niska Road. We implore you to protect our greenspace from any type of development now and for future generations.

Thanks you for your time,

Joe Sciorilli

June 20, 2017

To Sara Wilbur, CAO, Board of Grand River Conservation:

My name is Kriss Lockhart and I currently live with my wife and 2 boys in the Kortright Hills neighbourhood that will be impacted by any decision to develop conservation land.

I am a Captain with WestJet and was relocated to southern Ontario 2 years ago. WestJet opened a base in Toronto three years ago and continues to transfer pilots from out west. Moving here from BC, I am continually asked by colleagues who are considering relocating what areas they should consider. I continue to sing praises about how much we like Guelph. I want to be able to continue promoting this area.

A big reason for us choosing Guelph and specifically our neighborhood was the greenspace that a lot of the neighbourhoods back onto. We live in a quiet pocket of Guelph that doesn't see a lot of through traffic. We love that our boys can bike and safely walk to school. Expanding Niska Road will increase the amount of traffic flowing through our neighbourhood and, rumour has it, transport trucks will also be allowed to use this road, making it unsafe for our children to navigate.

I use the greenspace and trails around our neighborhood to go biking and hiking with my family all the time. I recently took my 12-year-old on a walk through the area that will be affected and I found it difficult to explain to him the logic behind the decision to develop this area. We need to be preserving conservation land and the areas along our waterways. This is a habitat for many animals; deer, snapping turtles and brown trout specifically.

My understanding is that this greenspace was purchased with public funds and therefore the public should have a say in what happens to the land. We are genuinely concerned that this decision is 100% being driven by economics. Sadly, this is the world we live in but am positive we will regret moving forward with developing this area. I absolutely do not want to see the land off Niska Road developed. I urge you to listen to what local citizens say about this subject and consider an alternative.

Love Kriss Lockhart



**From:** [Eowyn Spencer](#)  
**To:** [Eowyn Spencer](#)  
**Subject:** FW: GRCA lands on Niska Rd.  
**Date:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 12:06:43 PM

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**From:** Emily S. Damstra  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 10:30 AM  
**To:** Grand River Conservation Authority  
**Subject:** GRCA lands on Niska Rd.

Dear GRCA Chair Helen Jowett, Vice Chair Chris White, and Board members of the Grand River Conservation Authority,

As a resident of Guelph and a firm believer in the importance of natural areas near urban areas, I want you to know that I do not support the sell off of part of the Hanlon Creek Conservation lands on Niska Rd. in Guelph. We need all the green space we have! It strikes me that selling off those lands is counter to the mission of a Conservation Authority, or at least it should be.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Emily S. Damstra**  
Guelph, Ontario