



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

Friday, June 28, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Auditorium

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

---

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>8. Hearing of Delegations</b>	
<i>a. David Pady - Hunting at Vance Tract</i>	1
<b>10. Correspondence</b>	
<i>d. Fred Brunmeier - Hunting</i>	2
<i>e. Bev Bezplay - Hunting</i>	3
<i>f. Laura Murr - Hunting</i>	4
<i>g. Kathy White - Hunting</i>	5
<i>h. Judi Morris - Hunting</i>	6
<i>i. Virginia Buchanan-Smith - Hunting</i>	8
<b>12. Reports:</b>	
g. GM-06-19-64 - Wellesley Pond Update	
1. <i>Friends of Wellesley Pond - Case for Support</i>	9

**From:** [David Pady](#)  
**To:** [Eowyn Spencer](#)  
**Subject:** Vance Tract  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2019 4:53:53 PM

---

**TO GRCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP:**

I would like to Express my support for the staff and Irene Lapointe in their request to end hunting at the Vance Tract.

I agree with all of Irene's points.

In the past I have expressed concerns to the GRCA as a former Foundation Board member and as now the former chair of The Donkey Sanctuary of Canada, I was the chair until April 2019. Although Irene's property is between the Sanctuary property and the Vance Tract we still have hunters entering the Sanctuary property through hers and we see the tracks in the winter going through our woods. In our case we had a a stray bullet hit a donkey on one occasion. The vet came and it was removed with no long lasting effects.

We are also interested in working with your staff to improve and maintain the trails but our volunteers are reluctant to do so as long as hunting is permitted.

I feel it is a wonderful property that although popular would get a lot more use if hunting was banned.

Yours sincerely

David Pady

6985 Concession 4  
Puslinch, On  
N0B 2J0

519-993-2005

**From:** [Friedrich Brunmeier](#)  
**To:** [Eowyn Spencer](#)  
**Subject:** hunting  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2019 11:34:45 AM

---

**TO GRCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP:**

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Fred Brunmeier, my Wife and i reside directly opposite the Donkey Sanctuary, we have been using the trails to and into the Little Tract, however my Wife and i both are scared to walk this area during hunting season for fear of stray bullets or arrows in this small plot, we would really appreciate if hunting in this area was not allowed, also i have been noticing some spillover of hunting onto my property as well as tree damage by hunters even though it is clearly posted No Hunting,

thank you for your understanding,  
sincerely,

Fred Brunmeier

**From:** [PAUL BEZPALY](#)  
**To:** [Eowyn Spencer](#)  
**Subject:** hunting  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019 7:44:44 AM

---

TO GRCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP:

I would like to ask that you would stop the hunting in the area of the Donkey Sanctuary of Canada on concession road 4.

Bev Bezpaly (a volunteer of at the DSC)

**From:** [Laura](#)  
**To:** [Eowyn Spencer](#)  
**Subject:** Re Grca board meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 9:17:01 AM

---

If there is still time Please add the following comment Re the proposed hunting ban in the Vance Tract;

Dear GRCA Board Members I fully support the proposed hunting ban within the Vance Tract. I personally do not use the trails in the tract because of the safety risk related to hunting.  
in southern Ontario wildlife have fewer places of refuge as human population density increases in our area.

Thank you Laura Murr

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kathy White](#)  
**To:** [Eowyn Spencer](#)  
**Subject:** No Hunting in Vance Tract  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019 8:22:10 PM

---

I spoke to Dave Bennet last Friday, June 21, 2019 to thank him for the report and to advise him that I fully support removing the Vance Tract, Puslinch from the GRCA's areas where hunting is allowed. I also fully support the recommendation that no hunting in the Vance Tract come into effect on September 1 of this year.

In 1970 my parents purchased 12 acres on the west side of Downey Road, across from the Vance Tract. I have only been in the Tract once, in the early 1970's.

For the past 30 years I have lived with my husband and children on the same property purchased by my parents and during all that time, no one in my family has been in the Tract. It was just too dangerous.

We feel that the GRCA has encouraged hunters to come into the neighbourhood. The Vance Tract is surrounded by homes, and the report describes some of the conflicts which resulted. We have always questioned why the Conservation Authority would, on the one hand, sell tags to bow and gun hunters, while on the other encourage walking and hiking on the same property.

I hope to attend the meeting on Friday, and although not appearing as a delegate, I am prepared to answer any questions.

Sincerely,  
Kathy White

--

Confidentiality Warning: This message and any attachments are intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s), are confidential, and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, retransmission, conversion to hard copy, copying, circulation or other use of this message and any attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail, and delete this message and any attachments from your system. Thank you.

**From:** [Judi Morris](#)  
**To:** [Eowyn Spencer](#)  
**Subject:** Vance Tract - Wellington County Road 35, Puslinch  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019 8:54:47 PM

---

We live directly across from Vance Tract and have done so for over 30 years.

We have a hole in our steel barn from shooting there. That shot winged past my husband's head that day. We went over & wrote down the plate number & Phoned the OPP. By the time they arrived the people had left. The OPP followed up with a visit to the plate owner's house. The man admitted to being there & shooting that day with his son but he shot safe and No way was it them.

Whatever, we are just glad it missed him.

We have horses and every time there is shooting over there the horses are upset. I taught riding up until last year. Upon two occasions I had to stop a lesson because of target practice going on there. I understand target practice is not allowed - tell that to the child that fell off the pony she was riding because it spooked from repeated shooting.

The neighbours who live on the other side of Vance Tract, their dog was once shot. It survived after a couple of thousand dollars of emergency veterinary treatment

Duck hunting season rudely woke us up at first light. The swamp does not have so much water any more so that took care of itself.

I have my hobbies and I don't judge people with ones different than us. I would however if I had a shooting hobby, find someplace safe and less annoying to others.

I rode my horse in there for 20 years until suddenly there was a sign that I was not allowed to do so. Made no sense to me. I believe I was the only one that did that. It's not a big place to warrant people going to the trouble of trailering to ride there. I can't imagine anyone complaining because I was trouble - I did it for 15 min., at 6:00 a.m. before I went to work. I assume it was bureaucrats making across the board rules for us all to abide by without taking people into consideration.

I complained to the township about the shooting, I complained to the OPP, the county and the GRCA, with little or no response. In one of my letters (before email, I had to take the time to write a letter) I ended by saying something like this, " I abide by your not allowing horses in there, which I find grossly unfair ( I took care of the place up until then. Dealt with an infestation of burdocks, sawed fallen trees etc., kept the place nice for walkers or joggers - which of course I stopped once my horse was not allowed there,) If something untoward should happen to anyone on my property because of shooting in Vance Tract, I will spend my last dime taking every government involved and the people in charge at the time. And if anything should happen to a bike rider, a jogger, a passing vehicle, I will support there cause of suing the same. This is not a threat, this is just laying out what I will do in such a situation.

And that has not changed, it still stands today.

Judi Morris





**From:** [Virginia Buchanan-Smith](#)  
**To:** [Eowyn Spencer](#)  
**Subject:** Vance Tract  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019 5:14:41 PM

---

Eowyn,

I am deeply concerned that hunting is still allowed in the Vance Tract. It is not compatible with the greatly increased population in this area; a population which is only going to increase as Guelph and Puslinch grow. People with loaded guns or lethal bows and arrows should not be in the only GRCA recreational space on the south edge of Guelph's city limits.

I reside in the same block as the Vance Tract, and have been here since 1972.

Sincerely,  
Virginia Buchanan-Smith

## **Wellesley Pond Project Case for Support V2**

**May 22**

### **Overview**

In the 1800's, the Pond powered the local mills. Since about 1900, it has been used mainly for recreation and is the centrepiece of the Village. However, it is in need of some TLC. This was identified and raised as a concern at the Wellesley Community Forum in April of 2016. This led to more discussions and meetings and eventually the formation of the Wellesley Friends of the Pond (WFOP). Like many residents, we are concerned about water quality, shoreline erosion, the invasive carp population and the overall quality of the pond habitat that is essential for a healthy pond.

WFOP is an autonomous and independent citizen advisory group. We work closely with the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), who is the administrative owner of the pond and the Township of Wellesley who has responsibility for much of the maintenance around the pond. Ultimately, the restoration of our pond will be a collaboration between the residents of Wellesley and the GRCA.

### **Project History and Objectives**

There are three project objectives that balance the ecological needs of the pond and the community desire for the traditional recreational and cultural space that has long been enjoyed by village residents.

- Improve water quality
- Improve pond habitat quality and quantity
- Ensure that the project plan allows for existing community activities on and around the pond.

We arrived at these objectives through discussion and with feedback from the community. It is important to keep in mind that the proposed plan for the pond has been revised twice to ensure that all three objectives are met and that there is balance in meeting the needs of the pond and residents.

In 2017 funding from Waterloo Region Community Environment Fund was used to hire a consultant with expertise in pond ecology. Several versions of a plan were developed and shared with the community. Feedback was provided and a Working Plan was accepted by Wellesley Friends of the Pond in May 2018.

### **Why is the Project Necessary?**

The current pond is a large, man-made, shallow pond with slow moving water and in places standing water. This results in higher water temperatures, accumulation of sediment and lower dissolved oxygen levels in the water. As well, nutrients trapped in the pond, due to slow moving water, and higher water temperatures contribute to excessive algae growth and degraded aquatic habitat for many species.

There is also significant erosion in a few places, notably near Queens Bush Road on the south pond. At the time of the last dredging, material from the pond was added to this area and others without sufficient materials and plantings to stabilize the bank.

Invasive and nuisance species like geese and carp further impact and reduce community enjoyment of the pond.

These problems will not improve with time. Erosion will continue, water temperatures and nutrient loads will remain high leading to even more algae growth. The pond habitat will become less able to

sustain desired species. Impacts downstream from higher water temperatures and nutrients will increase. Eventually, the case for maintaining the pond as is will become untenable.

### **What are the Key Elements of the Pond Restoration and Enhancement Plan?**

The plan includes the following key parts:

- Excavation of the pond to remove all accumulated sediment. This will increase depth to about average 7 feet, improve water flow and decrease temperature
- Creation of some naturalized areas to help improve water quality and shoreline habitat and stability
- Preservation of the overall appearance of the pond south of Queen's Bush Rd where the ponds maximum width will be about 350 feet. (equal to length of a soccer field)

Elements to address water quality are:

- Excavation of sediment in the entire Pond will increase depth to 7 feet in deepest areas
- A narrowed channel near the bridge and installation of some in water features (log vanes, tree sweepers) will direct and increase water flow velocity
- An expanded parkland area on the east of the Pond will eliminate an area where water sits and algae accumulates.

All of these elements will reduce sediment accumulation, increase flow, reduce time that water stays and heats up in the Pond.

Naturalized areas are important for the overall health of the Pond:

- The plan includes grassy areas for shrubs and trees and some armour stone along the shore for access to the water on the south side. These features will enhance the space for community use, discourage the geese and better support the bank to reduce erosion.
- Naturalized areas and wetlands, especially on the north side will act as a filtering system to remove sediment and excess nutrients from the water, including storm water runoff.
- On the north side, features like root wads, log structures and rock piles will reinforce the bank and provide habitat for increased fish, reptile, bird and insect species.

Elements to address erosion:

- The proposed plan will use a berm of new, stable materials behind which the excavated materials from the pond will be placed
- The shoreline will be stabilized initially with a mat-like material that will hold materials in place. Various plants will be added to the "riparian zone" along the shoreline to stabilize the bank for the long term

### **Community Support for the Plan**

Large majorities of the residents who attended the community meeting February 11, 2019 and who completed the feedback survey confirmed the need to address the problems affecting the health of the pond and agreed with the proposed plan. In summary, key results are as follows.

- 97% agreed that the pond needs some attention and work
- 88% support the proposed plan

- 86% agree that the proposed plan will improve water quality
- 77% agree that the proposed plan will restore and enhance habitat in and around the pond
- 65% agree with the proposed plan for parklands and green space
- 88% felt that WFOP efforts to communicate with the community about the proposed plan and project was adequate.

Many residents added comments to their survey forms in support of the plan.

“The enhancement of habitat will improve not only the natural habitat but also the civilized/urban habitat by creating natural green space in the middle of the village.”

“Expanded parklands should be designed to encourage environmental education. Cooperation with WDPS is important.”

“Naturalized areas should comprise well over 50% of the new greenspace, and ideally, maybe even 90% with a network of trails for educational, recreational and even research purposes.”

“This proposal is better than the three original plans.”

“This is an important project for our community. Thank you to WFOP for taking a lead to drive this forward.”

“I better understand why the area of the pond needs to be reduced, but still love the idea of a more natural look to the pond and surroundings than something manicured.”

Space for community activities should not be a factor at this time. First we need to focus on water quality, erosion and appearance. After all of that is funded then start to plan for community activities. I think a habitat for fish, birds, and insects is more important than manicured green space.”

“The pond is an important part of Wellesley and I am so happy we can keep/have the pond.”

### **How Will the Pond Project Benefit the Community and the Environment?**

The project will restore critical elements of the pond ecology ensuring ongoing sustainability of the pond and the habitats it provides. The project will also enhance the pond by adding more parklands that will be planted with native species of trees, shrubs and flowering plants with trails and open space to enable access by residents. Benefits to the community are:

- The Pond will continue to be the village centerpiece. Restoration and enhancement will enable the community to more easily sustain the health of the Pond and justify the ongoing expense of maintaining the dam.
- The project will provide new, additional parkland space
- The new parklands and trails will provide residents with more opportunities for recreational activities on and near the Pond, for nature appreciation and for health and fitness activity like walking.
- The restored and enhanced space will provide a much improved environment and space for community events like the Lion’s Fishing Derby, Art Round the Pond, Lucy Pearles Pop Up Vintage Market

- Wellesley District Public School has already used the Butterfly Garden for a field study of pollinator friendly plants. A healthy pond with some naturalized areas will continue to provide these sorts of educational activities
- The Pond and parklands will provide healthy habitats for desirable species of fish, birds, amphibians, insects, mammals. An environment that is good for a diversity of species is good for humans too
- The water that leaves the pond will be clean and cool, contributing to a healthy ecosystem downstream.

### **Project Vision**

We know that residents of Wellesley feel that the Pond is the centrepiece of the village. It is much admired, often as we drive by or walk through the park from David St to Nafziger Road. We believe that The Pond can be much more.

We envision the Pond as a place where people want to spend some time; family picnics, fishing with the kids, strolling through the parklands in the evening enjoying the ambience of a beautiful space with high ecological values. We see school kids using the park and pond as a natural laboratory for their studies, increasing their awareness and respect for the environment that sustains everyone. People will want to spend more time at the Pond because it is healthy, with good water quality and sustainable, beautiful green spaces.

We see the Pond as a big part of the economic development of the Village spurring more investment in the Village core linking the Pond, The Mill and the surrounding commercial streets attracting new businesses, visitors and customers.

### **How will the project be funded?**

WFOP will implement a fundraising campaign. Sources of funds include grants from government and private foundations, major gifts from individuals and community event fundraising. The project will not be funded through Township tax revenues or from GRCA.

The project is a special opportunity for donors:

- To invest in the future of Wellesley. Imagine a restored and enhanced Pond that is the busy centrepiece of the village, connected to activities at the Mill and in the parks
- to assure the ponds future because it is healthy and sustainable and an asset to the watershed
- to invest in the quality of life for everyone in the community
- to make a positive impact on the health of the environment
- to be a leader building community pride.