

Mayor Guthrie and Members of Guelph City Council:

I am attaching the results of an FOI I filed with the GRCA last year around the MNR grant received for the purchase of the former Kortright Waterfowl Centre.

I am also attaching a copy of an archival news clipping from the Guelph Mercury from February 2, 1977.

I would ask that the Clerks include these 10 pages of documents in the agenda for this meeting so they are part of the official record.

The GRCA Strategic Plan includes "Asset Management". GRCA assets include infrastructure like the Guelph Dam, as well as land assets. In Guelph, those land assets are around 1,100 acres.

Just over a year ago, the GRCA approved the "Niska Management Plan" for the former Kortright Waterfowl Park land. The plan includes a recommendation to declare some of the lands surplus and to sell them. ***This plan has never come before Guelph City Council or staff for review and consideration. It needs to do so at the earliest opportunity.***

The GRCA recommendation to declare some of the Niska lands surplus and to sell them is based on a false acquisition history - that these lands were acquired for the Hespeler Reservoir Project which was eventually cancelled, so therefore the lands are no longer needed. There is nothing on the historical record to support this narrative. Persistent efforts by Guelph citizens to have this narrative corrected have fallen on deaf ears. The true acquisition history of these lands for the Hanlon Creek Conservation area and Guelph Valley Lands project is on the public record in historical documents which include GRCA and City of Guelph minutes, newspaper clippings and correspondence with the MNR. Dr. Hugh Whiteley has compiled many of these documents.

Over time, Guelph citizens have invested hundreds of thousands of tax dollars in the acquisition of conservation lands within Guelph to be safeguarded by the GRCA. Significant funding was also provided by grants from the Ministry of Natural Resources, with the understanding that the land acquisition was for the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area.

On page 2 of the FOI documents I have attached is a letter from then Minister of Natural Resources Leo Bernier. You will see in the subject line that the project is: ***"Valley Land Acquisition - Hanlon Creek Conservation Area"***.

Minister Bernier's letter is dated January 31st, 1977. Clearly, phone calls were exchanged, as 2 days later, on February 2, 1977, an article appeared in the Guelph Mercury, announcing receipt of the grant and completion of the purchase of the Kortright Waterfowl

Park. The quotes in the article express the intention that the lands would be protected from development in perpetuity. A copy of that newspaper article is also attached to this email.

You can imagine my surprise when GRCA CAO, Ms. Samatha Lawson, told a meeting of the GRCA that the letter they had retrieved for me from Minister Bernier did not in fact pertain to the former Kortright Waterfowl lands. Ms. Lawson based her assertion on the entry in the ledger on page 9 of the FOI documents - that the purchase price in the Minister's letter - \$320,000, did not exactly match the purchase amount in the ledger of \$300,000. However, the only other entry for 1977 was for a land purchase price of \$206,028.00 which is also not an exact match.

The historic Guelph Mercury article unequivocally establishes that the grant outlined in the Minister's letter was for the purchase of the Kortright Waterfowl Park, for the establishment of the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area.

At the same meeting that Ms. Lawson made this assertion, Councillor Billings asked if the letter provided to me was NOT regarding the grant for the Kortright Waterfowl Park, then where was that letter? Ms. Lawson stated that they were "unable to find it."

Section 1.4 of the GRCA's own acquisition and disposition policies require that, ***"The terms of the original acquisition shall be reviewed for compliance and consideration."***

[https://www.grandriver.ca/media/gesfq0eu/gm-08-24-70-b\\_land-disposition-policy\\_2024.pdf](https://www.grandriver.ca/media/gesfq0eu/gm-08-24-70-b_land-disposition-policy_2024.pdf)

I will flag that I also attempted to file an FOI for the "conditions of approval" that were attached to Minister Bernier's letter, but the GRCA was unable to locate them in their files. Perhaps they may be retrievable from the Archives of Ontario.

So at this point, if the grant letter IS for the former Kortright Waterfowl Park lands - the GRCA cannot insure compliance with the terms of the original acquisition, because they do not have that attached document.

And if the letter retrieved by my FOI is NOT for the former Kortright Waterfowl Park lands, then they do not have that letter in their possession and under that scenario, the GRCA is also not able to ensure compliance with the terms of the original acquisition.

It's a travesty that 116 acres of beautiful conservation land in Guelph has sat idle for more than a decade and is technically off-limits to Guelph citizens, with "No Trespassing" signs posted.

These lands were purchased with citizen tax dollars - both through a local tax contribution and Provincial tax dollars through the grants. That original investment is now worth millions. In the face of a looming parkland deficit, the value of that land is priceless.

Guelph City Council needs to urgently swing into action both to protect the financial investment of Guelph citizens, but more importantly to fulfill the vision of the legacy that former Mayor Norm Jary and the late Ken and Eileen Hamill worked so hard to leave for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Susan Watson



October 21, 2024

Susan Watson

by email: [susanejwatson@gmail.com](mailto:susanejwatson@gmail.com)

**RE: Freedom of Information Request 2024-02**

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As noted in the decision letter regarding the above-mentioned Freedom of Information Request, your fee for receiving copies of our records has been waived.

Our file search identified eight (8) pages of documents and maps in response to your request, and we determined that your request identified two separate matters as described below:

One, being a purchase of property in 1977 in the amount of \$320,000 with a 50% Provincial Grant.

Two, being a copy of the application made to the Ministry of Natural Resources by the GRCA for Provincial funds towards the purchase of the 116 acres of the former Kortright Waterfowl Park property (Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation) in Guelph.

We were unable to locate an original grant application, however, we did locate a Minister's Approval from 1977 for a land acquisition related to Hanlon's Creek Conservation Area in the dollar amount you identified in your request. A map or description of the property was not located with respect to this file. A map showing the boundary of the lands identified in the 1982 Hanlon's Creek Conservation Area Master Plan has been provided to illustrate the large area of related lands acquired throughout the 1970s.

Additionally, we located confirmation of the 116-acre property acquired in 1977 from the Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation and the financial details of that process. A map has been provided to illustrate the properties.

All records noted above are enclosed.

Should you have any further questions, please reach out to me directly.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eowyn Spencer".

Eowyn Spencer  
Supervisor of Administrative Services



Office of the  
Minister

Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

416/965-1301

Whitney Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto Ontario

Mr. Ron Fox  
Secretary - Treasurer  
Grand River Conservation Authority  
P.O. Box 729  
Cambridge, Ontario  
N1R 5W6



Dear Mr. Fox:

Project: Valley Land Acquisition - Hanlon Creek Conservation Area

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved the above-mentioned project in accordance with Section 23 and have authorized a grant under Section 39 of The Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1970, as shown below.

Date of letter of request for grant	November 4, 1976
Grant authorized under	M/A 55/77
Total cost	\$ 320,000.00
Rate of grant	50 per cent
Grant not to exceed	\$ 160,000.00

Please refer to the attached copy of the Report to Management Board for further particulars and conditions of approval.

You are advised, however, that before any work is proceeded with, the instructions on page C-2 of the Manual of Information regarding plans and specifications and tenders for contracts must be complied with.

The amount of regular grant payable by the Ministry on this and other projects in any year will be subject to the limitations imposed by the funding allocation to the Authority for that year. Should there be any conflict between funding requirements for grant approvals and funding allocations in any year, the latter will apply.

Yours sincerely,

Leo Bemier  
Minister

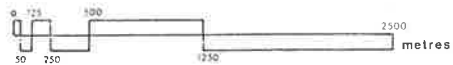
Attach.



# HANLON CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

## MASTER PLAN

Scale:



Project Boundary:



FP 11-10

# Harris, White, Matlow, Miller & Harris

Barristers and Solicitors

P.O. Box 604, 39 Dickson Street,  
Cambridge (Galt), Ontario N1R 5W1  
(519) 621-2430, 653-2828

John Maurice Harris, O.C./Arthur White, O.C., B.A. (1908/73)/Myron Matlow, B.A., O.B.  
Robert J. Miller, B.S.A., O.C./John Morgan Harris, B.A., O.B.  
George R. Ingram, B.A., O.B./Paul M. Mann, P.A., O.B.

Reply to: J.M. Harris, Jr.  
February 1st, 1977

## CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

We, HARRIS, WHITE, MATLOW, MILLER & HARRIS, Solicitors, certify that GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY is the registered owner of the lands described in Schedules "A" and "B" hereto, comprising 11.6 acres, more or less, in fee simple, free of encumbrances, subject to the following:

1. first mortgage in favour of Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation in the amount of \$240,000,
2. the bed of the Speed River as it flows through the property and designated as Parts 4 and 6 of reference plan 61-R-1483 being vested in the Crown,
3. the boundaries, acreage and dimensions of these lands and premises being located and confirmed by way of further survey and what defects such further survey would show,

the said parcel being acquired from ONTARIO WATERFOWL RESEARCH FOUNDATION at a purchase price of \$300,000 by a deed to it dated the 26th day of January, 1977 and registered the 27th day of January, 1977 as instrument 182018 in the Registry Office of Wellington South (No. 61).

HARRIS, WHITE, MATLOW, MILLER & HARRIS

PER: \_\_\_\_\_

John M. Harris

SCHEDULE A

ALL AND SINGULAR those certain parcels or tracts of land and premises situate, lying and being the whole of Clergy Reserve Lot Number Twelve (12) in the Sixth Concession being partly in the City of Guelph (formerly in the Township of Puslinch) and partly in the Township of Puslinch, in the County of Wellington, and the whole of Clergy Reserve Lot Number Thirteen (13) in the Sixth Concession, in the City of Guelph (formerly in the Township of Puslinch), in the County of Wellington, containing by admeasurement sixty-two (62) acres of land more or less and more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at the Southeast angle of Lot number thirteen (13);

THENCE North sixteen (16) degrees West along the division line between said lot number thirteen (13) and Lot number fourteen (14) twenty-six (26) chains, thirty (30) links (1735.8 feet) more or less to the limit between the Townships of Guelph and Puslinch;

THENCE South forty-five (45) degrees West along said Town line forty-five (45) chains (2970 feet) more or less to the Westerly angle of Lot number twelve (12);

THENCE North Seventy-seven (77) degrees, Fifteen (15) minutes East along the Southerly limit of said Lots twelve (12) and thirteen (13) to the place of beginning.

AND SECONDLY

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of Guelph (formerly in the Township of Guelph), in the County of Wellington and being composed of a part of Lot number nine (9) in the Fifth Concession of Division "G" containing three and one-half acres be and the same more or less and which may be more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at a point on the road between the Township of Puslinch and the Township of Guelph on the Southerly boundary of said Lot number 9 adjacent to the adjoining Lot number thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) in the Township of Puslinch and being distant South-westerly 700 feet from the Easterly angle of said lot number thirteen (13);

THENCE Northeasterly along the said Southerly boundary of said Lot Number nine (9), 960 feet to a point;

THENCE North ten (10) degrees West 315 feet to a point;

THENCE South thirty (30) degrees West 1,000 feet to the place of beginning;

SAVE AND EXCEPT PARTS 1, 2, 3 and 4 of REFERENCE PLAN

61-R-152 which lands were previously conveyed by registered instrument M-105159 to The Corporation of the City of Guelph and instrument M-105195 to University Village (Guelph) Limited.

AND THIRDLY

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the City of Guelph (formerly in the Township of Puslinch), in the County of Wellington and being composed of part of the North part of the Broken Front Lot number twelve (12) in the Fifth Concession of the said Township of Puslinch, containing fifty-four acres more or less and being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at the Northerly angle of said Lot twelve (12);

THENCE Southeasterly along the Northeast limit of said lot sixteen (16) chains, ninety-two and one-half links (1117.05 feet) more or less to a point in the last-mentioned limit one-third (1/3) the distance to the centre of the said concession;

THENCE at right angles to the last course to the centre of the main channel of the River Speed;

THENCE upstream Northerly, Westerly and Northerly along the centre of the main channel to the Northwesterly limit of said Lot 12;

THENCE Northeasterly along the last-mentioned limit to the place of beginning.

AND FOURTHLY

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the City of Guelph (formerly in the Township of Puslinch), and County of Wellington and being composed of the North part of the North half of Lot thirteen (13) in the Fifth Concession of the said Township more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at the Northerly angle of said Lot thirteen (13);

THENCE Southeasterly along the Northeast limit of said lot, sixteen (16) chains, ninety-two and one-half (92½) links (1117.05 feet) more or less to a point in the last-mentioned limit one-third (1/3) the distance to the centre of the said Concession;

THENCE Westerly and parallel to the road allowance between the Fifth (5th) and Sixth (6th) Concessions to the Southwesterly limit of said Lot;

THENCE Northwesterly and along the said last-mentioned limit to the Westerly angle of said Lot;

THENCE Northeasterly along the road allowance between the Fifth (5th) and Sixth (6th) Concession to the place of beginning.

SAVE AND EXCEPT lands shown as PARTS 2, 12 and 13 on REFERENCE PLAN 61-R-1483 conveyed to THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GUELPH by registered instrument number 182015.

SCHEDULE "B"

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being

FIRSTLY - the whole of Clergy Reserve Lot 12 in the 6th Concession being partly in the City of Guelph (formerly in the Township of Puslinch) and partly in the Township of Puslinch, in the County of Wellington, and the whole of Clergy Reserve Lot 13 in the 6th Concession, in the City of Guelph (formerly in the Township of Puslinch) and more particularly designated as PARTS 5, 6 and 7 on REFERENCE PLAN 61-R-1483;

SECONDLY - in the City of Guelph (formerly in the Township of Guelph) in the County of Wellington and being composed of part of Lot 9 in the 5th Concession of Division "G" and more particularly designated as PART 11 on REFERENCE PLAN 61-R-1483; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT shown as PART 1 of REFERENCE PLAN 61-R-752.

THIRDLY - in the City of Guelph (formerly in the Township of Puslinch) in the County of Wellington and being composed of part of the north part of the Broken Front Lot 12 in the 5th Concession of said Township and more particularly designated as PARTS 3 and 4 on REFERENCE PLAN 61-R-1483;

FOURTHLY - in the City of Guelph (formerly in the Township of Puslinch) and County of Wellington and being composed of the north part of the north half of Lot 13 in the 5th Concession of said Township and more particularly designated as PART 1 on REFERENCE PLAN 61-R-1483;

FIFTHLY - in the City of Guelph (formerly in the Township of Puslinch) in the County of Wellington and being composed of part of Lot 14 in the 6th Concession of said Township and more particularly designated as PART 8 on REFERENCE PLAN 61-R-1483;

SUBJECT TO an easement as more particularly designated as PART 5 on REFERENCE PLAN 61-R-752;

SIXTHLY - part of the original road allowance between the Townships of Guelph and Puslinch, now in the City of Guelph and closed by by-law 365 (registered instrument # 148) and more particularly designated as PART 9 on REFERENCE PLAN 61-R-1483;

SUBJECT TO an easement more particularly designated



Item 1-Niska Land Holdings



Legend

Municipal Boundary (GRCA)

Park - Local (GRCA)



Map Centre (UTM NAD83 z17): 560,781.47 4,817,071.77

This map is not to be used for navigation | 2015 Ortho (ON)

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Disclaimer: This map is for illustrative purposes only. Information contained herein is not a substitute for professional review or a site survey and is subject to change without notice. The Grand River Conservation Authority takes no responsibility for, nor guarantees, the accuracy of the information contained on this map. Any interpretations or conclusions drawn from this map are the sole responsibility of the user.  
The source for each data layer is shown in parentheses in the map legend. For a complete listing of sources and citations go to: <https://maps.grandriver.ca/Sources-and-Citations.pdf>



FP14

FLOOD PLAIN - GUELPH Hanlon's Creek  
W. 3.9

Year  
Required Grant  
Rate

Property No.	Vendor	TOPO MAP	Price	Deed No.	Acreage	Accumulated Acreage	Year	Grant Rate
FP14-1	David Smith	TRAN 40P	250,000.00	M111471	356	356		
FP14-2	Estate Henry A. Hanlon	9E	20,000.00	M109568	42.435	42.435	1971	65%
FP14-2	Guelph Woodlands Rtd	40P	219,923.25	M119889	92.956	135.391	1972	60%
FP14-3	Margaret Ann M. (Estate)	9E	345,382.50	M126049	98.153	233.544	1973	60%
FP14-4	Grant B. Smith et al. (Estate)	40P	281,550.60	M127930	104.275	337.819	1973	60%
FP14-5	Juniper Van de Vrie		645,100.00	140249	25.307	363.626	1974	65%
FP14-6	G.R.C.A. - Corp. City of Guelph (Easment)		.100	148461	-	363.626	1974	65%
FP14-7	G.R.C.A. - Corp. City of Guelph (Easment)		.100	148460	-	363.626	1974	65%
FP14-8	University Village (Guelph) Ltd		36,000.00	149302	10. -	373.626	1976	60%
FP14-9	Hanlon Park Developments Ltd		195,669.00	169385	65.223	438.849	1976	60%
10	Ontario Wetland Research Institute		300,000.00	182018	116.	554.859	1977	60%
FP14-11	Major Holdings & Developments Ltd		266,028.00	194416	69.676	623.525	1977	60%
FP14-12	Major Holdings & Developments Ltd		7434.00	196995	2.475	626.000	1978	64%
FP14-13	City of Guelph + GRCA		2.00	(8000)		626.002	1979	65%
FP14-14	Easment agreement + deed			264791				
FP14-14	George Selous & Son Malton		25000.00	272194	9.935	635.935	1980	65%
FP14-14	GRCA			quiet claim deed 531420			1980	65%
FP14-15	Hanlon Park Developments Ltd		2500.98	2500.98	5.633	641.568	1982	64%
FP14-16	GRCA to Hanlon Park Dev. Ltd		-	O.C. 2994/91	(2.093)	639.475	1982	65%
FP14-17	Univ. Village (Guelph) Ltd		9,900. -	267808	11.56	650.943	1983	64%
FP14-18	District Trust Co. (Smith & Son)		215,254.39	279.079	117.459	768.402	1984	65%
FP14-19	GRCA to City of Guelph (Easment)		2.00	264719	-	768.402	1983	64%
FP14-20	GRCA to City of Guelph		251,511.00	2329/84	(3.837)	764.565	1984	65%
FP14-21	GRCA to Ellen & Marjorie Juby		Copy only account	010341/1984	(.053)	764.512	1985	65%
FP14-22	Gift to Guelph C. Ltd		58,000. -	(Mfg. Dev. Village FP14-23)	(.560)	763.952	1987	N/A
FP14-23	GRCA to City of Guelph		2.00	504531		763.952	1988	N/A
FP14-24	Henry Hanlon		25,000.00	635693	2.365	766.285	1990	
FP14-25	GRCA s/t 508067 Ont. Ltd.		2.00	639600	.010	766.275	1991	
FP14-25	GRCA s/t C. of Guelph		2.00	688250	--	766.275	1993	
FP14-26	City of Guelph		2. -	119323	.059	766.334	1994	
FP14-28	Ministry of Transportation		750. -	Ex 100	(.174)	766.211	1996	



## GRCA PURCHASING KORTRIGHT

# \$160,000 Gov't

**By WAYNE CAMPBELL**  
 Staff Writer  
 Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) will complete purchase of Kortright Waterfowl Park within a few days after receiving a \$160,000 grant from Ontario ministry of natural resources.

The grant covers province's 50 per cent share of a \$320,000 purchase-price for the 116-acre park and its buildings.  
 City of Guelph pays 40 per cent (\$128,000) while the GRCA picks up the remaining 10 per cent (\$32,000) under a GRCA purchase formula.  
 The park at Hanlon Creek and Speed River in the southwest corner of the city is owned by Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation (OWRF).

**LONG STRUGGLE**  
 This week's transfer of ownership will bring to an end almost two years of struggling negotiations.

In 1975 OWRF announced it wanted to sell Kortright Park by the end of the year. Foundation trustees said they could no longer afford to operate the bird sanctuary.

City aldermen said they wanted the parkland kept in public use but didn't want to spend tax dollars attempting to run a waterfowl operation.

City council appealed to GRCA to buy the land last spring and GRCA formally approved purchase last September.

Meanwhile a citizens' group, Niska Wildlife Foundation, was formed to operate and maintain the waterfowl operation which OWRF was abandoning along with the lands.

Niska will continue as tenants of the GRCA.

For the GRCA the purchase increases the size of its Hanlon Creek conservation area to 547 acres.

Eventually it hopes to have 800 acres along the creek to protect wetlands from encroaching housing developments in Guelph's southwest corner, said Mac Coutts, GRCA general manager.

It will also provide parkland and open space for future residents of the area, he added.

For Niska workers struggling

through a severely cold winter of smashing ice and caring for sick birds, the purchase finalization is a ray of sunshine.  
 "I'm very happy, I think it's going to be an amicable arrangement," said Eileen Hammill, the park's general manager, about the change of landlords.

Everyone concerned with the bird sanctuary, and the lands felt the GRCA ownership was the best solution for the community, she added.

Mayor Norm Jary said today he was "very pleased" to have the matter completed. He and city council support GRCA's plans to protect the Hanlon Creek watershed.

"And as I told them (GRCA officials) at a meeting last fall this (Kortright Park) was a key parcel of land for the protection of the Hanlon watershed, since it was at the junction of the river and creek," he said today.

He praised Dr. John Roff and Prof. Ted Heeg, Guelph's GRCA representatives, for their work on the Hanlon watershed matter.

## Another Storm

**By THE CANADIAN PRESS**  
 Relief and rescue operations continue in the wake of a winter storm earlier this week, but Environment Canada warns that another storm is expected to move into Ontario late today or early Thursday.

The storm is expected to dump another five to eight centimetres of snow on areas still digging out from the earlier storm. The snowfall will not be accompanied by the high winds and blowing snow which caused havoc in much of the province this week. Temperatures will be milder, approaching the normal for this time of year.

The weather office said the new storm is not expected to be as fierce as the earlier one that blocked roads, closed schools, stranded motorists and resulted in the death of a Ferguson man.

That storm ended Tuesday, although much of the province is still feeling the effects of drifted snow, sub-zero tempera-

tures and winds with gusts up to 65 km.p.h.  
 Environment Canada predicted that clear skies across the southern part of the province today would aid work crews trying to clear parts of nine highways still closed Tuesday night.

A convoy of 12 to 14 oil tanker trucks and road-clearing equipment planned to push through snow-blocked Highway 4 from London today in an attempt to relieve fuel shortages in Lake Huron communities.

Escorted by provincial police, the convoy was to head for Exeter, Clinton, Goderich, Wingham and Kincardine with about \$1 million in supplies.

### SOME SCHOOLS REOPEN

Many schools, closed Friday when the storm began, reopened Tuesday or today, although many in rural areas remain closed.

Meanwhile, Premier William

Davis announced that the province is settling a settlement with the federal government over the storm, but the province is still recovering from the storm, and the province is still recovering from the storm, and the province is still recovering from the storm.

He said a study by the two provinces is needed to determine the need for action in such situations. But the province is still recovering from the storm, and the province is still recovering from the storm, and the province is still recovering from the storm.

In Ottawa, the government announced a \$1 million postal by R. member of the government, the cost of the Canadian for its relief.

## Years Count For Pensions

**OTTAWA (CP)** — Legislation changing the eligibility rules for federal old-age pensions may be in force before the end of the year if it encounters no serious obstacles in Parliament, government officials say.

A bill introduced in the Commons this week by Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde proposes a system under which the amounts collected under the old-age security program would depend on the number of adult years spent in Canada.

Benefits for both native-born Canadians and immigrants would be based on total years of residence in Canada between the ages of 18 and 65.

No one now receiving benefits would be affected by the new regulations. Nor would any Canadian resident who was at least 25 years old when the law came into effect lose any potential benefits.

## No Order To Fingerprint Local Employees Of UIC

**By JOHN D'ALTON**  
 Staff Writer

Al Bidewell, Unemployment Insurance Commission (UIC) district manager said Tuesday he does not expect the 29 local employees to be fingerprinted for security reasons.

The background of employees is obtained when they join UIC. These files are kept in the regional office and are referred to each year when the employees are evaluated. These files are also combed when vacancies occur or a promotion is in the offing, he said.

Collecting information would be

DO YOU SAY PHIL?

## Acquitted on Driving Charge

When a Hamilton man was charged with driving while impaired, he was acquitted after a trial. The judge found that the defendant's blood alcohol level was below the legal limit.

Estimates from defence witnesses pegged this quantity as being enough to last the defendant perhaps six months.

Four defence witnesses testified Tuesday morning. One was a close friend of Mr. Page, Ann Doyle, who said a group of people to which Mr. Page belonged frequently partied in Hamilton where the use of "bennies" was common.

She said the group would go on "runs", a colloquialism for a consecutive period of time when the pills were consumed. These runs lasted sometimes three days, she said, during which 10 to 15 pills a day were consumed. Mr. Page would take part in this type of activity three to four weekends a month, she said.

### NO RE-SALE

All witnesses who testified in Mr. Page's defence said they did not buy any drugs from him




DURING WINTERS LIKE THESE COSTS "BLOW" HIGHER



# GRCA

## “Asset Management”: Niska Landholdings

Susan Watson  
Guelph

- 
- ▶ The City of Guelph has invested hundreds of thousands of tax dollars in the acquisition of GRCA land assets, including the purchase of the Niska lands.
  - ▶ Today that investment is worth millions of dollars.
  - ▶ In the face of looming parkland deficits, that investment is priceless.

- ▶ The “Niska Management Plan” adopted by the GRCA just over a year ago recommends selling off part of the former Kortright Waterfowl Park/Niska lands.
- ▶ ***The Niska Management Plan needs to come before Guelph City Council for consideration and examination.***
- ▶ The Kortright Waterfowl Park purchase was funded with an MNR grant and tax dollars from Guelph citizens with the intent that the land would be part of a Hanlon Creek Conservation Area and be protected in perpetuity.
- ▶ The GRCA only contributed 10% of the purchase price.



Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

416/965-1301

Whitney Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto Ontario

# MNR Letter Jan 31, 1977

Mr. Ron Fox  
Secretary - Treasurer  
Grand River Conservation Authority  
P.O. Box 729  
Cambridge, Ontario  
N1R 5W6

JAN 31 RECEIVED  
FEB 4 1977  
GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Dear Mr. Fox:

Project: Valley Land Acquisition - Hanlon Creek Conservation Area

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Grant not to exceed	\$ 160,000.00

Please refer to the attached copy of the Report to Management Board for further particulars and conditions of approval.

You are advised, however, that before any work is proceeded with, the instructions on page C-2 of the Manual of Information regarding plans and specifications and tenders for contracts must be complied with.

The amount of regular grant payable by the Ministry on this and other projects in any year will be subject to the limitations imposed by the funding allocation to the Authority for that year. Should there be any conflict between funding requirements for grant approvals and funding allocations in any year, the latter will apply.

Yours sincerely,

Leo Bemier  
Minister

Attach.

# GRCA PURCHASING KORTRIGHT

# \$160,000 Gov't

By WAYNE CAMPBELL  
Staff Writer

Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) will complete purchase of Kortright Waterfowl Park within a few days after receiving a \$160,000 grant from Ontario ministry of natural resources.

The grant covers province's 50 per cent share of a \$320,000 purchase-price for the 116-acre park and its buildings.

City of Guelph pays 40 per cent (\$128,000) while the GRCA picks up the remaining 10 per cent (\$32,000) under a GRCA purchase formula.

The park at Hanlon Creek and Speed River in the southwest corner of the city is owned by Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation (OWRF).

### LONG STRUGGLE

This week's transfer of ownership will bring to an end almost two years of struggling negotiations.

In 1975 OWRF announced it wanted to sell Kortright Park by the end of the year. Foundation trustees said they could no longer afford to operate the bird sanctuary.

City aldermen said they wanted the parkland kept in public use but didn't want to spend tax dollars attempting to run a waterfowl operation.

City council appealed to GRCA to buy the land last spring and GRCA formally approved purchase last September.

Meanwhile a citizens' group, Niska Wildlife Foundation, was formed to operate and maintain the waterfowl operation which OWRF was abandoning along with the lands.

Niska will continue as tenants of the GRCA.

For the GRCA the purchase increases the size of its Hanlon Creek conservation area to 647 acres.

Eventually it hopes to have 800 acres along the creek to protect wetlands from encroaching housing developments in Guelph's southwest corner, said Mac Coutts, GRCA general manager.

It will also provide parkland and open space for future residents of the area, he added.

For Niska workers struggling

through a severely cold winter of smashing ice and caring for sick birds, the purchase finalization is a ray of sunshine.

"I'm very happy, I think it's going to be an amicable arrangement," said Eileen Hammill, the park's general manager, about the change of landlords.

Everyone concerned with the bird sanctuary, and the lands felt the GRCA ownership was the best solution for the community, she added.

Mayor Norm Jary said today he was "very pleased" to have the matter completed. He and city council support GRCA's plans to protect the Hanlon Creek watershed.

"And as I told them (GRCA officials) at a meeting last fall this (Kortright Park) was a key parcel of land for the protection of the Hanlon watershed, since it was at the junction of the river and creek," he said today.

He praised Dr. John Roff and Prof. Ted Heeg, Guelph's GRCA representatives, for their work on the Hanlon watershed matter.

# Another Storm

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Relief and rescue operations continue in the wake of a winter storm earlier this week, but Environment Canada warns that another storm is expected to move into Ontario late today or early Thursday.

The storm is expected to dump another five to eight centimetres of snow on areas still digging out from the earlier storm. The snowfall will not be accompanied by the high winds and blowing snow which caused havoc in much of the province this week. Temperatures will be milder, approaching the normal for this time of year.

The weather office said the new storm is not expected to be as fierce as the earlier one that blocked roads, closed schools, stranded motorists and resulted in the death of a Fergus man.

That storm ended Tuesday, although much of the province is still feeling the effects of drifted snow, sub-zero tempera-

tures and winds with gusts up to 65 km.p.h.

Environment Canada predicted that clear skies across the southern part of the province today would aid work crews trying to clear parts of nine highways still closed Tuesday night.

A convoy of 12 to 14 oil tanker trucks and road-clearing equipment planned to push through snow-blocked Highway 4 from London today in an attempt to relieve fuel shortages in Lake Huron communities.

Escorted by provincial police, the convoy was to head for Exeter, Clinton, Goderich, Wingham and Kincardine with about \$1 million in supplies.

### SOME SCHOOLS REOPEN

Many schools closed Friday when the storm began, reopened Tuesday or today, although many in rural areas remain closed.

Meanwhile, Premier William

Davis announced that the province is settling a net commitment of \$1 million to the Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation (OWRF) to purchase the Kortright Waterfowl Park.

He said the province is providing \$1 million to the OWRF to purchase the Kortright Waterfowl Park.

In Ottawa, a unanimous decision was passed by the cabinet to provide \$1 million to the OWRF to purchase the Kortright Waterfowl Park.

The cost of the purchase is being shared by the province and the federal government. The province is providing \$1 million and the federal government is providing \$1 million.

# Years Count For Pensions

OTTAWA (CP) — Legislation changing the eligibility rules for federal old-age pensions may be in force before the end of the year if it encounters no serious obstacles in Parliament, government officials say.

A bill introduced in the Commons this week by Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde proposes a system under which the amounts collected under the old-age security program would depend on the number of adult years spent in Canada.

Benefits for both native-born Canadians and immigrants would be based on total years of residence in Canada between the ages of 18 and 65.

No one now receiving benefits would be affected by the new regulations. Nor would any Canadian resident who was at least 25 years old when the law came into effect lose any potential benefits.



# Guelph Mercury - Feb 2, 1977

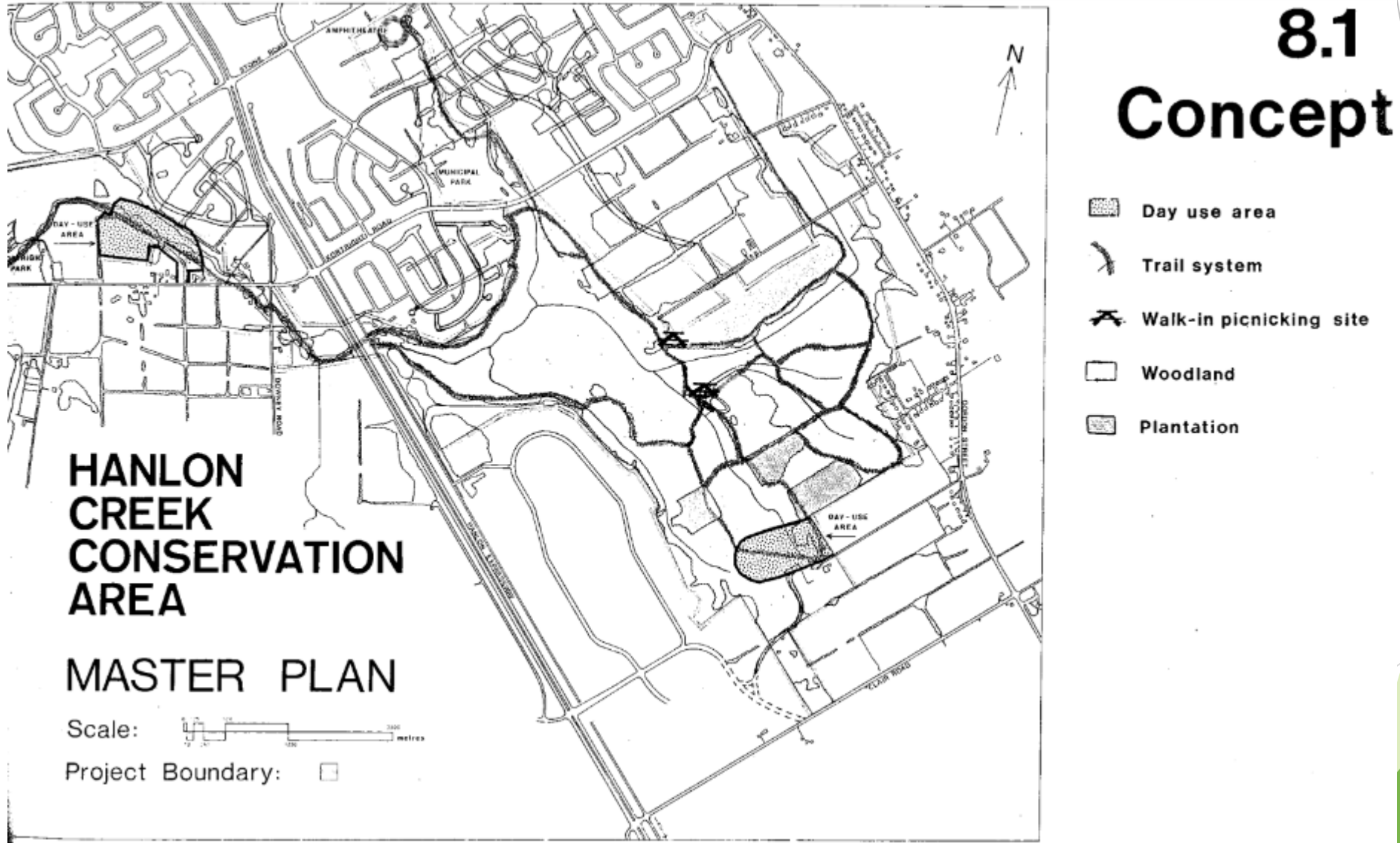
*“City of Guelph pays 40 per cent (\$128,000) while the GRCA picks up the remaining 10 per cent (\$32,000) under a GRCA purchase formula.”*

Guelph Mercury  
February 2, 1977

# Hanlon Creek Flood Plain Ledger

Account No.	Particulars	Grav. Fee	Price	Dwell No.	Average	Accumulation	Year	Grade
No.				No.		Scraper		Rate
FF14-1	David Lovell	22,000.00	2,500.00	44107	3.50	340	1971	65%
FF14-2	Estate Henry & Amelia	92,000.00	10,000.00	11108	92.00	42,445	1972	65%
FF14-3	Develop. Woodlands Hills	219,923.20		419887	92.90	138,371	1973	65%
FF14-4	Margaret Anne W.	205,342.50		426049	98.15	272,544	1974	65%
FF14-5	Frank A. Small et al	28,222.00		1225752	107.47	25,222	1975	65%
FF14-6	Sanitar Wash. Vase	65,126.00		176049	52.57	34,226	1976	65%
FF14-7	G.S.C. - Exp. City of Annapolis (Contract) 100			148461	-	1,126	1977	65%
FF14-8	G.S.C. - Exp. City of Annapolis (Contract) 100			148460	-	2,260	1978	65%
FF14-9	University Village (Contract) 100	26,000.00		149322	101	17,242	1979	65%
FF14-10	Marlene Park Developments	135,657.50		165305	15.20	418,500	1980	65%
FF14-11	Urban Waterfront Developments	300,000.00		182013	11.6	554,079	1981	65%
FF14-12	Urban Waterfront Developments	204,000.00		194016	19.00	613,245	1982	65%
FF14-13	Urban Waterfront Developments	713,000.00		150005	0.77	602,000	1983	65%
FF14-14	City of Annapolis + G.S.C.	2.00				122,000	1984	65%
FF14-15	Balance Payment + ad.			247771			1985	65%
FF14-16	Balance Payment + ad.	28000.00		222104	2.83	63,500	1986	65%
FF14-17	Marlene Park Developments (Contract) 100			250000	2.47	616,716	1987	65%
FF14-18	G.S.C. + Hanlon Park Dev. (Contract) 100			261014	(2.05)	243,731	1988	65%
FF14-19	Univ. Village (Contract) 100	9,800.00		267802	11.58	655,243	1989	65%
FF14-20	District Wash. Co. (Contract) 100	20,204.25		274073	117.45	768,402	1990	65%
FF14-21	G.S.C. City of Annapolis	200		267019		768,402	1991	65%
FF14-22	G.S.C. City of Annapolis			262014	(3.57)	768,402	1992	65%
FF14-23	G.S.C. + Urban Waterfront			262014		768,402	1993	65%
FF14-24	City of Annapolis			262014		768,402	1994	65%
FF14-25	Henry Kaulen	25,000.00		635693	2.385	766,285	1995	65%
FF14-26	GRCA s/1 598067		2.70	635600	.07	766,275	1996	65%
FF14-27	GRCA s/1 C. of Guertin		2.70	688250		766,275	1997	65%
FF14-28	Conrad Quispel		2.00	119303		766,275	1998	65%
FF14-29	Conrad Quispel		2.00	688250		766,275	1999	65%

# Hanlon Creek Conservation Area Master Plan, 1982



*“The main uses are to be walking trails and recreational fields with limited camping.”*

Progress Report on the Hanlon’s Creek Master Plan  
GRCA Minutes: April 16, 1975

Guelph City Council needs to act to protect the historic investments of Guelph citizens and champion the fulfillment of the original vision of the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area.