

Museum consultant and Seneca Tom Hill gave a presentation on an exhibition that he is putting together about Johnson. It will open at the Woodland Cultural Centre in August 2009, putting Johnson's life story and 10 pieces of her writing into the context of the times. Hill believes a better understanding of the past is desperately needed today because there is often disrespect for the traditions and authority and we can be "blinded by the lights of the cigarette shacks."

According to Zig Misiak, a Brantford resident of Polish origin, fear results



Zig Misiak

when the two groups don't understand each other.

"Fear creates unpredictable results and education is the key to eliminating fear," he said. Misiak has been working with Tuscarora artist Raymond

Skye to bring an educational program to school children. The Six Nations Iroquois art cards are about the clan system based on animals.

Rick Hill spoke about the Red Hill Creek valley ecological stewardship program and the proposed Environmental Knowledge Learning Centre. He said the relationship to the land is essential to Six Nations identity.

The successes of Six Nations athletes, including marathon runner Tom Longboat, were described by Cheryl Henhawk.

Performances by the Kanata Native Dancers and the Emily C. General Soft Shoe Dancers brought music, movement and costumes to the event.

"This year's workshop helped improve the understanding between the Six Nations and other residents of the watershed," said Barbara Veale, the chair of the Heritage Working Group which hosted this event.

The Heritage Working Group formed in 1995 after the Grand River was

declared a Canadian Heritage River. The membership is drawn from all areas of the Grand River watershed and includes representation from government agencies, universities, heritage groups, national historic sites, museums, the GRCA, interested individuals and others. The GRCA provides administrative support for the Heritage Working Group, which promotes the celebration and conservation of



Julia Jamieson

human heritage in the watershed and plans the Heritage Day workshops. The workshop is held in a different part of the watershed each year.

The 12th Annual Heritage Day Workshop is tentatively planned for rural Waterloo Region during Heritage Week (the third week of February). Some of this year's presentations are posted in the "Heritage Workshop" link on www.grandriver.ca. Details about the February 2009 workshop will be posted in the fall.

Sponsors were Chiefswood National Historic Site, Six Nations of the Grand, Two Rivers Community Development Centre, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the GRCA.

This one is for you...

This issue of Grand Actions is dedicated to all the readers who responded to the questionnaire we sent out last fall.

We especially thank the many donors who returned forms to us along with a donation. Through this annual campaign we collected \$3,305 in donations ranging from \$10 to \$200. Thank you! This is enough to cover the printing and mailing costs for one 2008 issue (this one!). It is also great inspiration for the newsletter team.



LOOK WHO'S TAKING ACTION

Fencing and buffers improve stream

By John Shepherd
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Fencing streams from livestock and establishing buffer plantings along stream banks has long been recommended as an effective environmental practice.

Just how effective is the essence of a three-year project undertaken by the Grand River Conservation Authority. The GRCA Buffer Verification Project is one of 10 Greencover Canada demonstration projects carried out in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Greencover Canada is supported through the Agricultural Policy Framework, an agreement among the federal, provincial and territorial governments to make Canada's agricultural sector a world leader in environmentally sustainable production.

For almost 20 years, the GRCA has been helping landowners implement buffers along streams and creeks. Currently more than 100 kilometres of stream have been fenced or buffered throughout the Grand River watershed.

A total of 19 sites were chosen for the verification project based on their age, variety, and past assessments. The verification process includes aquatic assessments of fish populations, invertebrate surveys, vegetation inventories and photo records. The focus of the project is to replicate assessments done previously and to provide a benchmark for future assessments.

Fish population assessment

Fish sampling is done by electrofishing a stream at various points. The fish