



Innovative partnerships boost conservation projects

By Janet Baine

OSSGA teams up with the Grand River Conservation Foundation to help build a new dam in Cambridge

An innovative partnership with the Grand River Conservation Foundation (GRCF) and the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA) will help build a new hydro facility planned at the Parkhill Dam in Cambridge (Galt).

The project is in the planning phase and is expected to cost between \$7 and \$8 million to build. It will double the



The Grand River and railway bridge in Cambridge, Ontario

Grand River Conservation Authority's (GRCA) hydro production capacity.

The association has offered to help raise money to pay some of the capital costs of the project.

Already, the association and its member companies have raised nearly \$250,000 during the first months of their five-year commitment to this project, which includes funds raised at a gala dinner at the Cambridge Mill restaurant Oct. 18, 2012.

"We think it is fabulous that an entire industry has come to the table so generously to support this project," said Sara Wilbur, executive director of the GRCF. The foundation is the GRCA's charitable partner, supporting projects which have few or no other sources of public funding.

"Members of the OSSGA have been generous supporters of GRCF for years, and this new project will be a model for other projects of this kind throughout the province. The project is also going to be a showpiece for everyone in Cambridge to see," said Wilbur.

"The industry sees real value in creating green solutions to put more resources into the conservation stream," said Moreen Miller, chief executive officer of OSSGA. "This project will create perpetual funding for the work that the GRCA does."

The GRCA already operates three hydro generating facilities at Shand Dam, Conestogo Dam and Guelph Dam. During the summer when water flows are low, the new Parkhill hydro facility will produce about 600 kWh of power, about the same as the existing Shand Dam site. But in the spring when there is far more water passing by the dam, it will produce about 1.2 megawatts of power. This is enough electricity for about 575 homes. ●

This article first appeared in the Grand River Conservation Foundation newsletter and was reprinted with permission.



ABOVE: GRCA CAO Joe Farwell, OSSGA CEO Moreen Miller, OSSGA past chair Terry Waites and GRCF executive director Sara Wilbur at the gala fundraiser last October



Jack Hayward (Tri-City Excavating), Don Sloat and Tony Iacocca of Lafarge Canada Inc.

