

Good day members of the GRCA Committee,

Subject: Initiative for Public Safety Awareness Around Low Head Dams in the Grand River Watershed

I am writing to again express my concern regarding the safety risks posed by limited signage around low head dams within the Grand River watershed. As you are likely aware, these structures can present significant hazards for recreational users, including boaters and swimmers. The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) has long been regarded as a vital resource for public safety in our region. Your commitment to protecting the watershed and promoting responsible recreational use makes you an essential leader in fostering a safe environment for all who enjoy our waterways.

Given the increasing popularity of water-based activities, it is crucial for the GRCA to take an even more proactive stance in communicating the risks associated with low head dams. I would like to propose the following initiatives for consideration:

1. Communication with other Dam owners regarding signage and markings:
 - a. Encourage dam owners in the Grand River Watershed to consult with you and the Ministry of Transportation regarding proper signage around dangerous dams.
 - b. Encourage Dam owners to review the signage and safety measures at their dams,
 - c. Encourage the installation of clear and visible signage at low head dam sites, indicating the potential hazards and advising on safe practices.
 - d. Encourage and ensure organized and uniform signage in the watershed.
2. Work with municipalities and cities in the watershed to create river access point signage:
 - a. Give recreational users the opportunity to find important safety information about the river.
 - b. View of a river map with known dangers labeled.
 - c. Communicate the importance of personal safety information (life jackets, proper equipment, who to call in case of emergency)
 - d. QR code or links to check river flow and advisory's
3. Create a more user friendly information page about flow rate and water level.
 - a. Keep the chart but explain how to use the information in a more user friendly way.
4. Increase the spread of Public Awareness Campaigns:
 - a. Collaborate with local user groups or social media efforts to increase the spread of your educational campaigns.

By taking these steps, the GRCA can reinforce its role as a trusted resource for public safety and enhance the overall well-being of our community while enjoying the beautiful Grand River watershed.

Thank you for considering these important aspect of public safety in the watershed. I look forward to your involvement as a leader in the Grand River Watershed.

Sincerely,

Amy Haertel

River Access Point Safety Movement