

A scenic view of Wellesley Pond. In the foreground, a dark wooden bench is positioned on a grassy bank, facing the water. The pond is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. In the background, a residential area with several houses and trees is visible under a blue sky with light clouds. The text "Wellesley Pond Enhancement Project" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Wellesley Pond Enhancement Project

Friends of the Pond



Friends of the Wellesley Pond



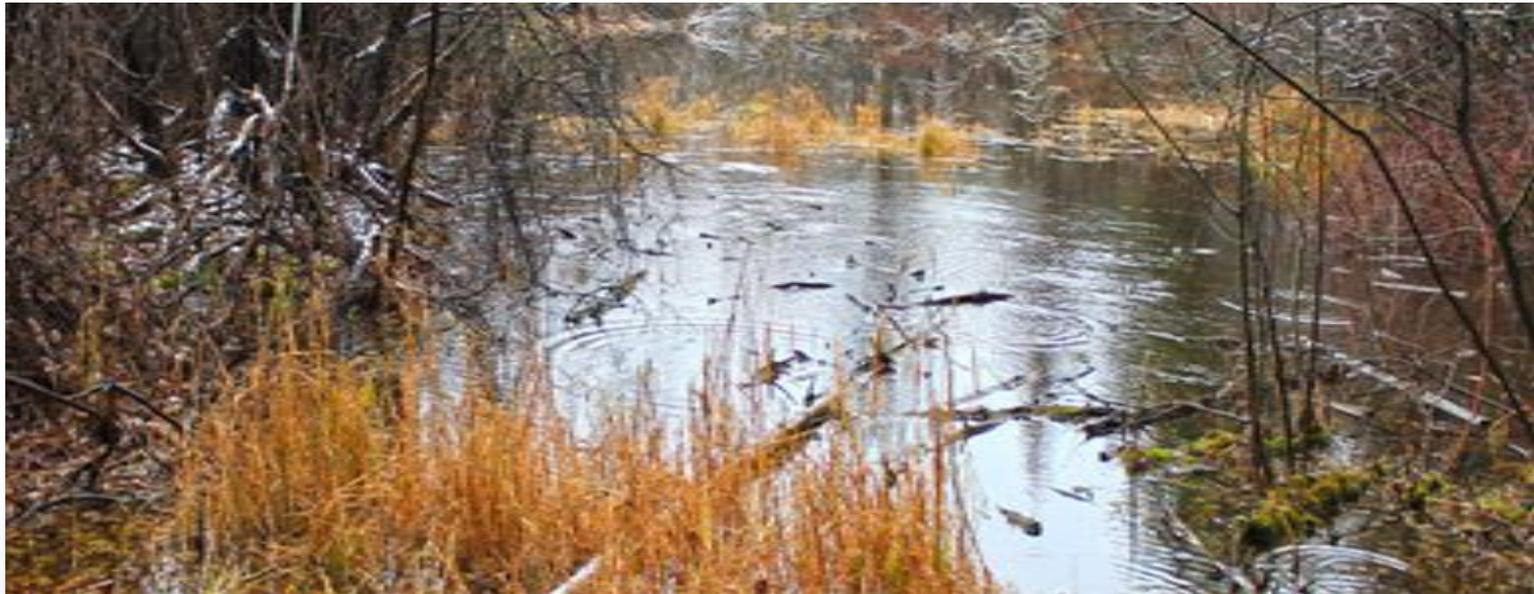
- First organized by Board of Trade about ten years ago in order to enhance the pond. Efforts did not produce results.
- Friends of the Pond re-formed in 2016 with intention to improve the ecological health of the pond.
- Membership in the committee was solicited December 18, 2016 from the Lions, BoT, ABC Committee, Horticultural Society, Greenwood R & C and several local churches.
- Committee expanded as the need for expertise arose and village residents expressed interest.



Project Objectives

- Improve water quality,
- Restore and enhance habitat for plant and animal species in and around the pond
- Maintain space and capacity for community functions and activities on and around the pond.

Probable Original Pond Site



Natural Stream Bed



Albert Erb Park, 1902-1906 (Ottmann)



Wellesley Pond



Queen Street bridge during pond draw-down, 1905. (Ottmann)



Swimming in the pond, really, 1920s



Skating on the Pond (Ottmann)



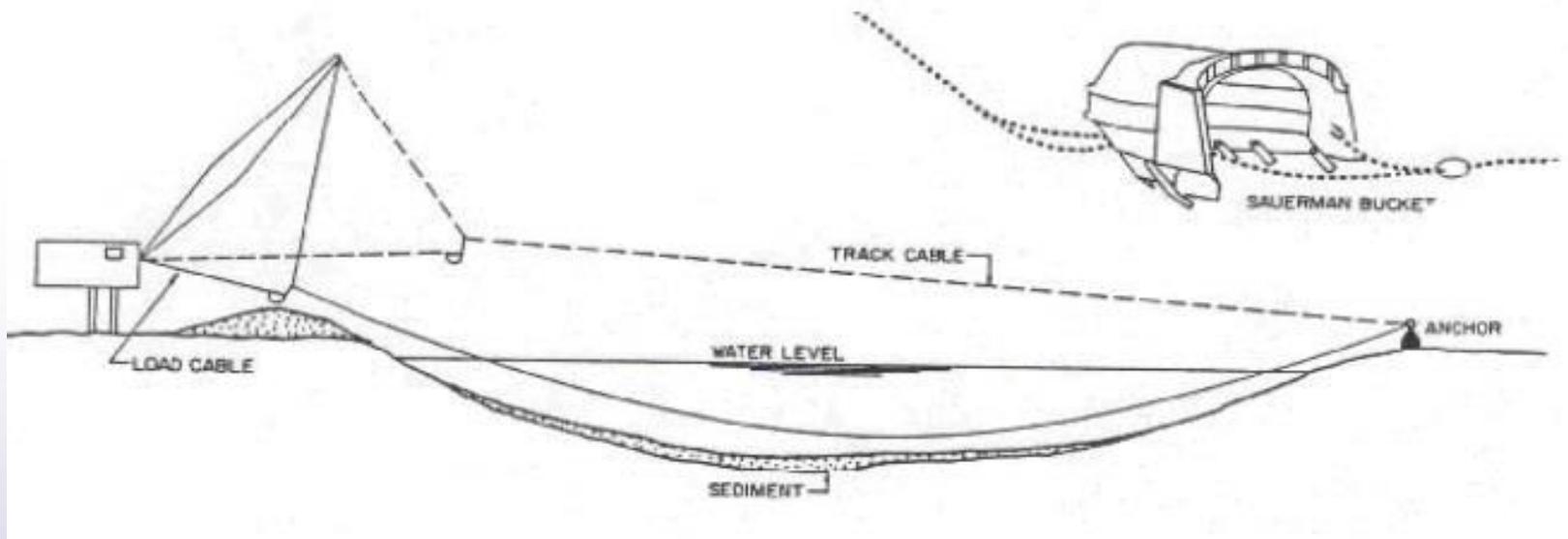
Dredging of Wellesley Pond, 1955



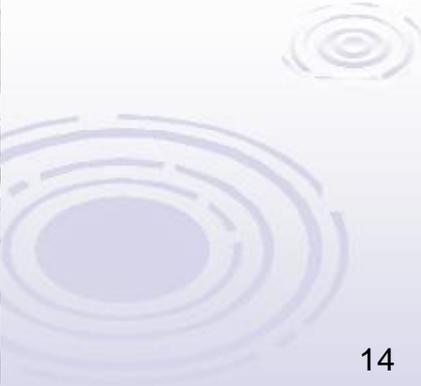
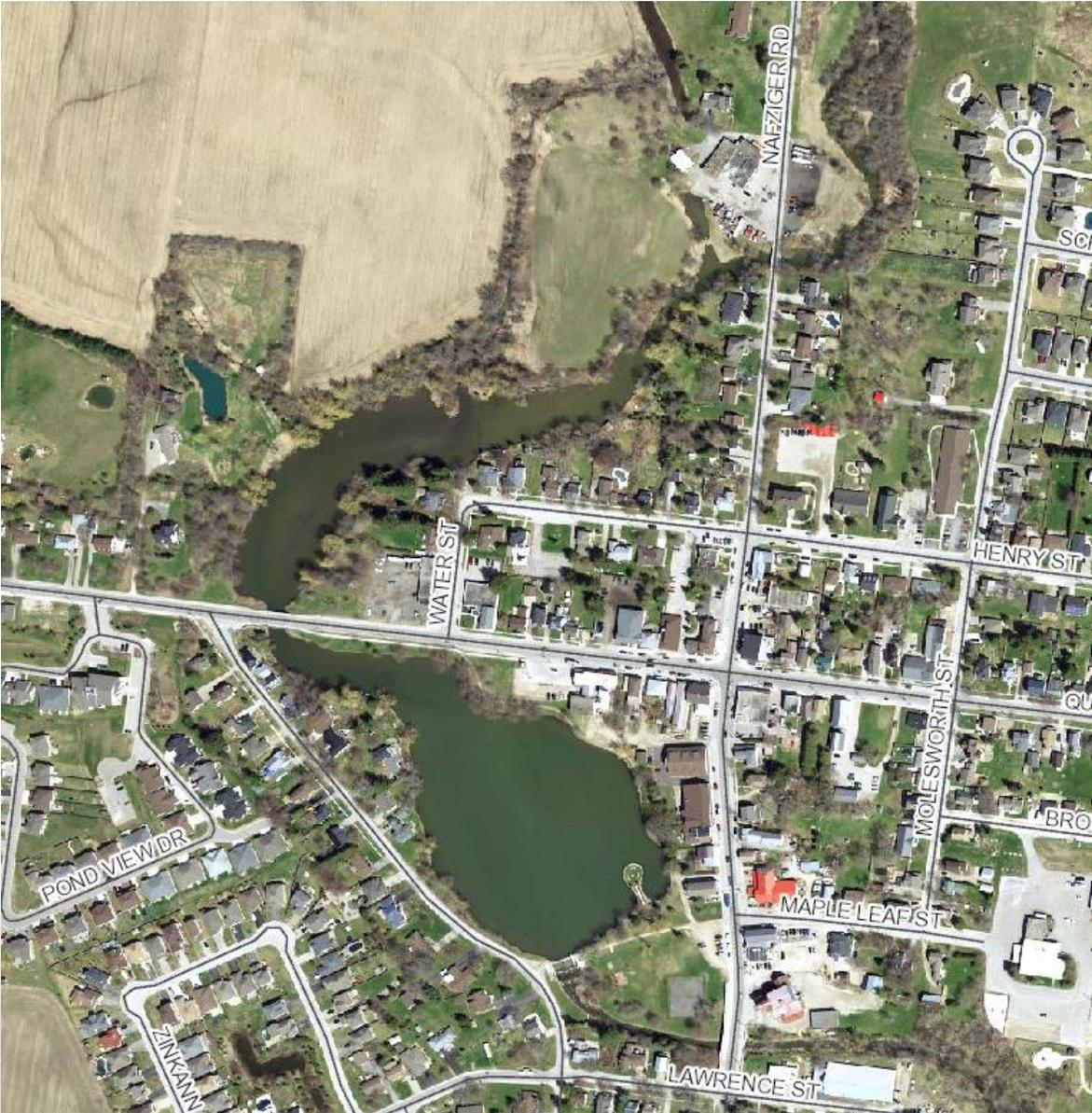
Pond Dredging 1988



- Dredging organized by Mayor Albert Erb
- 50,000 cubic feet removed
- Dredged material used to create trail, enlarge shoreline and create island.



Wellesley Pond



The Pond as We Like to See It



South of Queen's Bush



North of Queen's Bush



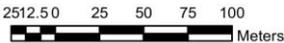
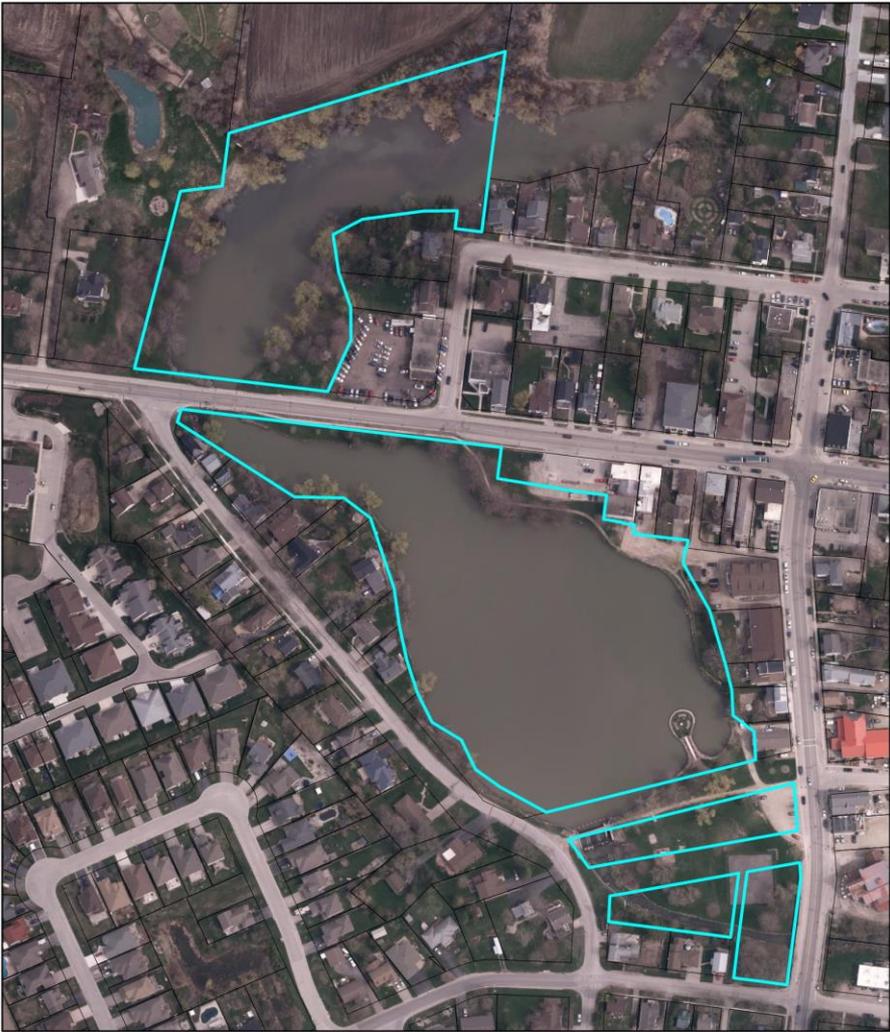
Alongside David Street



GRCA Property



Wellesley Pond - GRCA Lands



Wellesley Pond Ecology



- Between 2005-2007 the GRCA and the Wellesley community undertook biological and water quality surveys: natural fish species, trout, bass, have been replaced by invasive species, carp. Invasive plant species, Canadian thistle, have been established along shoreline.
- University of Guelph student research project in 2010 to investigate causes of water quality problems: bottom feeding carp uproot water plants and degrade shoreline, Canada geese foul water with droppings, residential run off from culverts introduces pollutants.
- The pond is ever more frequently blighted with toxic blue-green algae

Blue-green Algal Blooms, Spring 2018



Canada Thistle



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Canada Geese



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- **Since the introduction of the Rural Water Quality Program in the late 1990s, the water entering the pond from the Campbell Drain has improved dramatically.**
 - **The pristine water of Firella Creek is the other main source flowing into the pond.**

Rural Water Quality Program, 2000



Firella Creek





Water Temperature

In 2016 the GRCA conducts water temperature monitoring at and hires a consultant for preliminary sediment sampling of the pond: sediment is clean and absent of toxins, but water is 10 degrees warmer leaving the pond than entering; this creates oxygen poor water and inhibits survival of native species. Proliferation of warm water fish species is evidence of warm water throughout the pond.

Wellesley Pond Fish



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