

# Grand River Bass Derby Established in 1987

Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Stanley Park, Kitchener

## Goals/Mission/Background

The **Optimist Club of Stanley Park (Kitchener)** is committed to assisting the youth of the Stanley Park community (and Kitchener-Waterloo) through various programs and projects, of which, the Bass Derby is one.

## Events/Activities/Actions (2011)

In 2011, the **Optimist Club of Stanley Park (Kitchener)** hosted its 25th annual **Grand River Bass Derby**. This live-release event is organized to increase awareness of local fishing opportunities and resources. The only fish that may be entered in this derby are smallmouth bass caught in the Grand River. All fish entries are measured, weighed and returned to the Grand River at various times during the event. The 2011 Derby involved over 600 registered participants including the Youth and Junior categories. The winning fish (19 7/8" in length) was caught by Chris Prince and earned him the \$2,000 first prize. The biggest fish in the Junior category (ages 9 - 5) was 17 5/8 inches in length and was caught by Zach Upton.

Proceeds from the derby are used to maintain and develop the Stanley Park Optimist Natural Area located along the J.A. Pollock Family Trailway of the Walter Bean Grand River Trail in Kitchener. This 8 hectare (20 acre) site includes two ponds for fish reproduction, a marsh area, a canoe launch as well as walking and biking trails.

## Number of Volunteers ⇨ Volunteer Hours

20-30 volunteers ⇨ approx. .300 hours

## Sponsors/Partners/Supporters ⇨ Contributions

Natural Sports ⇨ hosted the derby  
 Bingemans Park ⇨ provided the site for the fishing derby  
 Logel's Autoparts ⇨ sponsored the "tagged" fish and provided transportation for the fish



BASS DERBY LEADERS			
ADULT		JUNIOR	
1	CHRIS PRINCE 19 7/8"	1	ZACH UPTON 17 5/8"
2	ANDREW HEUTINCK 19"	2	LUCAS CARDOSO 17 5/16"
3	DAN COLLINS 19 3/16"	3	TYSON TESSIER 16 1/16"
4	BILLY FOLEY 18 15/16"	4	KYLE VAUGHAN 16 1/16"
5	CARA FITZGERALD 18"	5	LONDON YOUNG 16 1/4"

**First Place – Adult Division** – Chris Prince is shown with the smallmouth bass that earned him first place in the 25th annual **Grand River Bass Derby**. The final results ended up being as shown on the display board.

## 2011 Grand River Bass Derby

### Sponsors/Partners/Supporters

☆ Logel's Autoparts ☆ Stantec ☆ Toronto Sportsmen's Show ☆ P M Windows & Doors Ltd. ☆ Royal Lepage Scharf Realty ☆ Kipco ☆ IG Investors Group ☆ Lowrance ☆ Rick MacDonald Siding ☆ Quantum ☆ Joseph & Company ☆ Heintz Custom Woodworking ☆ Rapala ☆ Strassburger Windows ☆ Humminbird ☆ Canadian National Sportsmen's Show ☆ Milton's Restaurant ☆ Grand River Conservation Auth. ☆ Pelican ☆ Plano Tackle Systems ☆ Pure Fishing ☆ Excalibur ☆ Shimano ☆ Natural Sports ☆ ACL Steel ☆ T&J Seafoods ☆ ACL Steel Dean's Sport & Dive ☆ Techtown Dentistry ☆ Henry Walser Funeral Home ☆ D.A.Kurt Insurance ☆ Dean Thackery Roofing ☆ and the many contributors to the prize table

### Media Coverage

☆ CKGL News Talk, radio ☆ 96.7 CHYM FM, Kitchener radio ☆ Waterloo Region Record, newspaper ☆ Kitchener Citizen, newspapers ☆ CTV Southwestern Ontario, television



**What a Catch!** – Competitors at the **Grand River Bass Derby** proudly hold up their catch of the day. Participants are encouraged to come out for the day and test their fishing skills in a family friendly environment. As in past years, all youth (ages 5 – 8) got trophies and all entrants in the Junior Division received rod and reel sets. Hopefully they'll have fond memories of this year's derby and be back again!



Past proceeds from the Grand River Bass Derby were used to establish and enhance the Stanley Park Optimist Natural Area on the Grand River near Victoria Street north. Future proceeds are also committed to maintain and develop this area as a key public access point to the Grand River, fish spawning area and wildlife habitat.

For more photos of the 2011 Bass Derby, click [Photos of the 2011 Bass Derby](#)