

# ANNUAL ACTION REPORT 2017-2018

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## OUR MISSION:

TO BRING ABOUT GREATER  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL  
JUSTICE THROUGH RESEARCH,  
EDUCATION AND ACTIVISM.

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# Reflections & Action

Page 1

This year has been one of self reflection, change and ongoing resistance to the rise of the far-right for OPIRG.

Based on previous reflections, a lot of this year has been focused on knowledge mobilization and action that centers Indigenous solidarity and sovereignty, state violence, anti-poverty work, anti-racism and climate change. We also set out to continue making research more accessible to all and to foster deeper relationships and idea sharing between diverse communities. One of OPIRG's goals is to support the development of radical research that is useful to community based campaigns and projects working for social change and to foster a space for this exchange to take place.

The fourth year of our Rebel Knowledge Symposium was a success, bringing together grassroots organizers, academics, critical researchers, artists and activists involved in a diversity of struggles. This year, our workshops, panelists, and keynotes highlighted the tensions and potentialities of bringing together different movements to build a stronger, intersectional, anti-capitalist resistance in our struggles for social and environmental justice.

As of the writing of this report, we've had to say good-bye to Brad Evoy, whose deep dedication to radical social change and justice for all has had a meaningful and lasting impact on the work we do at OPIRG as well as on the wider community of Guelph. We've also welcomed Natali Euale as full-time staff, along with many Work Study and part-time contract workers into the OPIRG Guelph space.

One of our greatest challenges continues to be the rise of the far-right both locally and abroad. The right has always existed in what we now call 'Canada' but we are now seeing a rebranding of far-right extremism. The so-called "alt-right" have been popularizing ideas of white supremacist misogyny leading to multiple acts of violence.

Locally, Doug Ford's Conservative government has been aiming its attacks at LGBTQI2S+ folks, immigrants, asylum seekers, financially marginalized communities, education, Black and Indigenous People of Color and social and environmental justice organizing, among others. In response, OPIRG looks to develop more tools, resources and campaigns to support directly affected communities.

For OPIRG, anti-fascist resistance is now more personal than ever as we are currently facing the threat of being defunded by the Ford government's so called "Student Choice Initiative". This #FalseChoiceInitiative directly threatens to defund student support services deemed "non-essential" by the Conservatives. As student fees are the major source of funding for OPIRG, the reality of being forced to shut our doors in the next year is imminent. If you're interested in finding out ways that you can support OPIRG in our current struggle against the Student Choice Initiative please come see us at the OPIRG office or email us at [opirg@uoguelph.ca](mailto:opirg@uoguelph.ca).

Lastly, OPIRG would like to thank all of our amazing volunteers and Directors for all the work and passion they consistently give to help OPIRG grow!

\*OPIRG Guelph acknowledges that our organization is located on occupied Attawandaron/Attawandaronk (Neutral) territory and treaty land of the Mississaugas of the New Credit. We commit to decolonizing ourselves, our work and our relationships.

# Who's Behind the Scenes?

Page 2

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adjowa Karikari

David James Hudson

Rachel Taylor

Daniela Mendivil

Benjamin Stewart

Gabrielle McPolin

Luisa Lazo

## OPIRG STAFF

Kiran Bhattarai  
Office & Speed River Project Coordinator

Brad Evoy  
Organizational & Policy Development Coordinator

Mandy Hiscocks  
Volunteer Programming & Community Engagement Coordinator

### Temporary Staff:

Library and Archives (work study)  
Temilade Akintola - Fall 2017/Winter 2018  
Tiger Zheng and Natali Euale - Spring & Summer 2018

Symposium Coordinator 2018  
Tammy Kovich

Assistant Coordinator, Speed River Projects Events (work study)  
Jessica Wojcik - Summer/Fall 2018

Speed River Project (work study)  
Marika Li - Summer 2017  
Natassya Lu - Fall 2017

Chief Returning Officer 2018  
Miriam Kearney

All permanent and term staff are unionized with CUPE 1281. This means along with other staff and other OPIRG chapters, we have a collective agreement that outlines the work conditions and relationship with that staff have with the Board of Directors.



## OPIRG--THE PROVINCIAL NETWORK

OPIRG Guelph is one of the twelve Ontario-based PIRGs that participate as members of Ontario PIRG. Each OPIRG chapter has two seats on the Board of Directors of Ontario PIRG, which is incorporated as a charitable organization. Ontario PIRG meetings are held at least twice yearly in person, one of which is the AGM.

Membership in Ontario PIRG means access to great programming and development opportunities like the Public Interest Schools, Board Training Schools and Issue-based Network Meetings. This network provides the PIRGs with a valuable tool for sharing skills and experiences that make us stronger organizations. Any volunteer at an OPIRG can contribute to the provincial network!

Each PIRG holds a portfolio which are designed to spread the responsibility for tasks amongst the chapters so that each chapter member can be involved with the running of the organization. Want to know more? Just Ask!

**Provincial Board Members:** Rachel Taylor (Chapter Board), Brad Evoy (Chapter Staff)

**Note:** As of the writing of this report, Obehi Okaka (Chapter Board) and Natali Euale (Chapter Staff) are the current Provincial Board Members representing our chapter.

# Things We Do

Page 3

## Radical Resource & Zine Library

The OPIRG Guelph resource library is dedicated to providing alternative and independent publications to our action groups, volunteers, community members, and University of Guelph students. We aim to carry books, zines, and periodicals that are not available in most libraries, particularly those from small and independent publishers.

We achieve this through careful selection of materials, coordinating with the community, volunteers, staff, and board on acquisition decisions, and having our book collection available through the University library system TRELIS. Over the last year, we've been working to integrate more of our collections into the Library system.

Suggestions for new materials are always welcome!

## RadiOPIRG

RadiOPIRG is our weekly radio show on CFRU 93.3FM, Guelph's campus community radio station. We keep you updated on OPIRG activities and events; and play talks, interviews and music focused on environmental and social justice that you won't hear on mainstream radio.

RadiOPIRG continues to air on Thursdays on CFRU 93.3FM in the 12-1pm time slot. Tune in, or listen live or to the archives online at [www.cfru.ca](http://www.cfru.ca).

Volunteers are always welcome – it's fun, and no experience is necessary! All CFRU training is free but is not required to participate in RadiOPIRG. Let us know if you're part of a group or project focused on environmental and social justice and would like to come on the show.

## Activist Training—Workshops

OPIRG workshops are fun, and free! Do you have an idea for a workshop you'd like us to offer, or one you'd like to facilitate? Get in touch with us! We have some funding to make it happen!

Throughout the year, OPIRG Guelph hosted anti-oppression trainings for OPIRG members and other groups on campus.

Last year, the OPIRG Board decided to open up its own trainings to wider community members and supporters going forward, in an attempt to further the benefit of these workshops and ensure that access to our resources were furthered in the community.

As part of the Summer Institute, in partnership with the Guelph Resource Centre for Gender Empowerment and Diversity, we also offered two trainings:

« **Nalaxone Training and Harm Reduction** – with Sanguen Health Centre

« **Art, Activism and Water Protection** – with Guelph Anti-Pipeline

**Consensus decision-making and Anti-oppression are both mandatory workshops for active OPIRG members. If you are currently involved in OPIRG, or would like to get involved, and have not had these trainings yet please get in touch with the Volunteer Coordinator.**

# Action Groups—The heart of activism at OPIRG!

Page 4

Action Groups are made up of five or more people who choose to focus on a particular issue or area related to social and environmental justice. Each Action Group receives funds, organizational support, training, space to meet and organize, and access to OPIRG's networks of student and community activists. All you need to start a group is an idea for a project or campaign that fits within the OPIRG mandate. We can help you to find other interested people to work with, and go over the proposal form with you.

As of the writing of this report, Guelph Anti-Pipeline, Fossil Free Guelph, and Students Offering Welcome are still active. There are also two new groups that formed in the fall of 2018: Rebel Rhythms, a radical samba-based drumming group, and United Against Oppression. There are also people interested in organizing regular political documentary screenings, and in doing solidarity work with Palestine. If you're interested in getting involved with any of these groups, or in starting your own, please get in touch with the Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer@opirgguelph.org](mailto:volunteer@opirgguelph.org).

## Students Offering Welcome

Students Offering Welcome was formed in January 2016 in response to the escalating refugee crisis and the expected arrival of hundreds of Syrian refugees in Guelph. Their goals are to raise awareness about the situation of refugees and newcomers, to help with settlement, and to raise funds for people still living in refugee camps.



SOW kicked off the year with an information session, then helped out with Guelph's 2017 Newcomer Celebration. They then partnered with Migrant Justice Solidarity Guelph to host the first Radical Reels film screening and discussion during DisOrientation. In November the group held a successful bake sale to raise funds for Rohingya refugees. In January SOW turned 2 and had a party to celebrate. They then held another bake sale to raise money for bus tickets for refugee families in Guelph, and capped off the year with a screening of Ai WeiWei's documentary Human Flow. Throughout the year they collected donations of clothing and furniture for newly arrived families, and continues to offer hands-on support by helping with things like child care and ESL.

## Migrant Justice Solidarity Guelph

Migrant Justice Solidarity Guelph (originally Migrant Justice Guelph) was formed in the winter of 2017, partly as a response to the January 29 shooting at the mosque in Quebec City and the rising Islamophobia in Canada and the U.S. since the inauguration of Donald Trump. Their aim was to help secure and defend migrants' rights, as well as to expose and challenge the oppressive systems that subject migrants to exclusion, marginalization, exploitation and systemic discrimination.

In September the group teamed up with Students Offering Welcome to host the first Radical Reels film screening and discussion during DisOrientation. The main project of the group was looking into the challenges people without status face when trying to access services in Guelph, and in March the document *Barriers to Access to Services in Guelph* was completed. If you would like to take up the work of making services more accessible to non-status folks in Guelph, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer@opirgguelph.org](mailto:volunteer@opirgguelph.org).

# Action Groups—The heart of activism at OPIRG!

Page 5

## Guelph Anti-Pipeline (GAP)

Guelph Anti-Pipeline Action aims to raise awareness and engagement in challenging oil dependency. Since coming together in early 2013 GAP has been opposing resource extraction projects through awareness campaigns, supporting land defenders, and fundraising. They take direction in their work from Indigenous land defenders.



Throughout 2017-18 GAP ran a fundraising program called Empties Against Enbridge to raise money for Chippewas of the Thames First Nation's legal fees. They hosted a workshop called Why We Should Resist Pipelines followed by a new member's meeting, and organized transportation from Guelph to the Water Gathering in Aamjiwnaang First Nation. They ended the semester with an event called Water is Life: Land Defense Panel and Collaborative Discussions, co-hosted by the Art Gallery of Guelph. In the winter semester GAP hosted a Radical Reels film screening of Black Snake Killaz: A #NoDAPL Story and then held a very successful fundraiser for Indigenous led land defense projects and groups in Canada called Resisting Extraction: A Concert in Support of Land Defenders. Over the summer GAP organized a workshop for the Summer Institute called Art, Activism and Water Protection.

## Fossil Free Guelph

Fossil Free Guelph is calling upon the university to freeze all new investments in fossil fuel companies immediately and to divest completely from these companies in five years. Originally part of Guelph Anti-Pipeline Action, they became a separate group in the spring of 2014 in order to put more energy into the divestment campaign.



After a referendum on divestment in 2015-2016 showed that undergraduates overwhelmingly want divestment, the University agreed to begin a consultation process to consider 'responsible investment' – a process in which FFG played a large role and which led to the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Special Action Requests. Amidst massive student support, Fossil Free Guelph's proposal was submitted to the committee on April 6, 2017 and presented at the April 21 Board of Governors meeting for them to consider over the summer months.

The fall of 2017 started off with an information booth and a new members' meeting. Throughout the year the group continued to do outreach and education on divestment. In October they, along with many supporters, met with the Ad Hoc Committee on Special Action Requests to discuss the proposal and make their case for divestment. In January the Board of Governors met to make a final decision, but said they needed more time and postponed the decision. The semester ended with a party as some FFG members said goodbye to Guelph.



# Partnerships

Page 6

At OPIRG we recognize the value of working in solidarity with other groups in the Guelph community to build stronger movements for social change. One of the ways we do this is through our campus and community partnerships in order to reach a greater audience, to benefit from the skills and knowledge of others, and to live out our values of cooperation and diversity of tactics.

Listed below are our 2017-18 partners:

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### GUELPH BLACK HERITAGE SOCIETY:

The Guelph BME (British Methodist Episcopal) Church, now the Guelph Black Heritage Society (GBHS), was built by former fugitive slaves who arrived in the area via the Underground Railroad. The purpose of the GBHS is to preserve the historical significance of the BME Church by creating a cultural, historical and social centre within Guelph and Wellington County. Their vision is to enhance the awareness of the Guelph community regarding its Black heritage and the role of Guelph and Wellington County through various activities including staging presentations during Black History Month, Emancipation Day and throughout the year. The GBHS is also a resource for the community, providing space for events, workshops, meeting space for clubs etc. <https://www.guelphblackheritage.ca/>



### INDIGENOUS HEALING AND WELLNESS PROGRAM:

The Indigenous Healing and Wellness program is an Indigenous community guided Initiative based in Guelph. This program is part of the Guelph Community Health Centre and its primary focus has been to work in partnership with the Indigenous community (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit) and other health service providers to identify strategies that will improve health services for Indigenous folks living in the Guelph-Wellington region.

## CAMPUS PARTNERS

### MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION:

The Muslim Student Association is a faith-based club, and resource center serving the Muslim student community on campus. The club has a lot to offer through a variety of services. Prayer accommodations are provided for daily prayers as well as weekly Friday prayers. They do their best to inform the Muslim students on campus of the different eateries that sell Halal food with clear stickers and they organize social and religious events in order to give the opportunity to students to learn and discover Islam. <https://gryphlife.uoguelph.ca/organization/uofgmsa>



# Our Events

Page 7

We kicked off the year with an Open House and lots of fun events during Orientation Week. We participated in DisOrientation 2017, collaborating with many other organizations to host a slew of events focused on social and environmental justice.

We continued our RADICAL REELS film series that launched in 2017, once again in partnership with Cinema Politica. We screened Refugees Welcome, In The Shadow of Borders, The Prison in Twelve Landscapes, Birth of a Family, The Road Forward, Pride Denied: Homonationalism and the Future of Queer Politics, Whose Streets?, Black Snake Killaz: A #NoDAPL story, and Seed: The Untold Story. OPIRG has a renewed membership in Cinema Politica and will continue to host these documentary film screenings, so if you have any suggestions for films or topics please let us know!

RADICAL READS also continued this year, exploring zines from our Radical Resource Library. We read Undoing Borders: A Queer Manifesto, Native People's Spirituality and the Marketplace, Colonization and Decolonization, Occupation is my Occupation, The Case of Leonard Peltier, The Green Nazi & Fascist Ecology, Black Anarchism, Intermezzo, Betrayal, and Survival in Solitary.

This year we did something a little different during the Summer Institute, and held two meetings to discuss the recent election of Doug Ford's Conservative government in Ontario. First we gathered to watch a livestream of a panel discussion called Defeating Ford's Agenda: Let's get organized! which was hosted by Briarpatch Magazine in Toronto. We met again about a month later for an Organizing Against Ford in Guelph Networking Meeting.

**In addition to the many events organized by our Action Groups and those organized by other groups and supported by our Programming and Funding budgets, here are the events we hosted and co-hosted in 2017-18:**

- *Book Launch of Why Don't The Poor Rise Up? Organizing Twenty First Century Resistance, edited by Ajamu Nangwaya (Editor) and Michael Truscello*
- *Take Back The Night*
- *An Evening with Tony Miller*
- *Amy Goodman In Conversation*
- *Guelph: Sisters in Spirit Vigil*
- *12th annual ACT: Decolonizing Thanksgiving Dinner*
- *Guelph Film Festival screening: Accidental Anarchist*
- *Black Experience Project Panel Discussion*
- *Buy Nothing Day*
- *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence*
- *Winter Pride events*
- *Book Launch of Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present, by Robyn Maynard*
- *Justice for Colten Boushie Rally*
- *May Day Celebration and BBQ*
- *Provincial Election 2018: Guelph All Candidates Meeting*

**If you have ideas for events, or events you'd like to run and need help with, we might be able to provide funding and/or logistical support. Get in touch!**



# Rebel Knowledge Symposium

Page 8

Aiming to bridge divides and build relationships, Rebel Knowledge is a convergence of radical academic and community research, activism and art. Under the broad theme of "interlocking struggles", our 2018 symposium explored the various ways in which our struggles—and the structures of injustice against which we fight—interact with and depend on one another. Our Symposium Coordinator for 2018, Tammy Kovich did an amazing job—with the help of our committee, other staff, and volunteers—of continuing the evolution of our Symposium space!

This year we kicked off the symposium weekend by hosting a book launch event for *Unsettling the Commons: Social Movements Within, Against and Beyond Colonialism* by Craig Fortier. Our keynotes included: "Rediscovering Our Rebel Hearts: Against the Neoliberalization of Social Justice, Towards Radical Relationships" with Kai Cheng Thom and the amazing panel "Class at the Intersections: Anti-Capitalism in Divergent Struggles" with Jaydene Lavallie, Franklin López, and Cedar. Our sessions included:

- "Art as Activism: Pop Culture, Speculative Fiction, and Social Justice"
- "Gentrification, LGBTQ2SI+ Communities and Modes of Resistance"
- "Whose Media? Our Media: The Nuts and Bolts of Independent Media Production"
- "Exploring Intersections Between Feminism, Poverty, the Environment, and Animal Rights"
- "Combatting the Far Right: The Politics and Practices of Anti-Fascism in South Western Ontario"
- "Complicating Diagnosis: An Introduction to Disability and Mental Health Justice"
- "Framing Climate Change: Climate Activism in Uncertain Times"
- "Students Against Injustice: Tactics of Boycott and Divestment in Higher Education"
- "Co-opting Struggle: Non-Profits as Impediments to Radical Resistance"
- "Acknowledging the Land While Doing Climate Change/ Environmental Justice Work: How & Why We Do It"
- "Sexism Armed: Gender Violence and Barriers to Justice"
- "The Political Ecology of Food Security: Towards Sustainable and Just Food Systems"

At this time, we're just wrapping up from our 2019 Rebel Knowledge symposium with our coordinator Liz Homer! In response to the direct threat of fascism and the far-right in Ontario, this year's theme was "The Fight Against Ford: Resisting the Tory Attack". More will be in the 2018-19 Annual Action Report on this, but if you have feedback or want to get involved in future planning email [Natali\\_organizational@opirgguelph.org](mailto:Natali_organizational@opirgguelph.org).



Keynote Speaker Kai Cheng Thom

# Speed River Project

Page 9



## A Bit of History

As part of our Speed River Project, OPIRG has been involved in large-scale naturalization initiatives, ecological monitoring, and community outreach activities in the Speed and Eramosa river corridors for almost four decades. Throughout the many years of running this project, it has become apparent that regular planting of trees, shrubs and herbs into the river corridors help further the work of ecological restoration. The objectives of the Speed River Project are as follows: first, to provide meaningful environmental stewardship opportunities for students and the broader community and second, to engage in action-oriented projects intended to enhance the ecological health of the river corridors.

## Funding

This report provides a brief description of funding sources and different activities implemented during the Fall of 2017 to the Summer of 2018. So far, OPIRG's Speed River project has received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Environment through their Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund every year starting in 2014. Most recently, funding was requested under the project name "2Rivers Restoration: Improving Water Quality and Riparian Biodiversity". For the 2Rivers Restoration project, OPIRG Guelph teamed up with the City of Guelph and their River System Advisory Committee. Apart from the Ontario Ministry of Environment's generous support, the success of the Speed River Project has been possible through the support of many individuals and organizations, including volunteers, park stewards, OPIRG Guelph's staff and Board of Directors. The three main activities discussed in this section are as follows: community tree planting, park maintenance and removal of invasive species.

## Community Tree Plantings

Part of the Speed River Project has been to diversify and rehabilitate the degraded Speed and Eramosa river banks through community-based naturalization activities. This year, we focused on increasing plant diversity along the riverbanks through planting native trees, shrubs and herbaceous species, and controlling the growth of the exotic invasive plant species. The ultimate outcome of this work is to protect the habitat for urban wildlife (e.g., frogs, beavers, songbirds, etc.). During the Fall of 2017 and the Spring/Summer of 2018, several tree planting days were held at the Hilltop Road, Edward Johnson's school yard, York Road Park, Hadati Creek, Margaret Green Park and Wolfond Park.



# Speed River Project

Page 10

## Community Tree Plantings (cont.)

In the Fall of 2017, OPIRG held five different tree planting events. About 150 volunteers took part in planting around 455 native plants (295 trees, 135 shrubs and 25 herbaceous species) at Hadati creek, Hilltop Road, Wolfond Park and Edward Johnson's school yard. The trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants for this project were purchased from local nurseries.

Similarly, in the Spring and Summer of 2018 we held six river restoration/tree planting events. With the help of our dedicated volunteers, we succeeded in planting 741 native plants (230 trees, 290 shrubs and 221 herbaceous plants) along the Speed and Eramosa river banks, particularly at York Road Park, Margaret Green Park and Wolfond Park.

Overall, from the Fall of 2017 to the Summer of 2018, 200 native plants were planted with the help of our volunteers; among these plants, 525 were trees, 425 were shrubs and 246 were herbaceous species. The trees and shrubs comprised more than 30 different native species including: Red Maple, Silver Maple, Sugar Maple, Service Berry, Tamarack, Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, White Birch, White Pine, White Spruce, Pussy Willow, White Cedar, Eastern Hemlock, Black Cherry, Choke cherry, Nannyberry, American Highbush Cranberry, Buttonbush, Silky Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, Elder Berry, Winter Berry and Staghorn Sumac. Herbaceous plant species included: Blood Root, May Apple, Anemone, Solomon Seal, Swamp Milkweed, Swamp Aster, Ohio Goldenrod, Marsh Marigold, Michigan Lily, and Wild Blue-Flag. The selection of these species was specifically aimed at supporting the habitats of different wildlife species as well as other aquatic and terrestrial species. So far, the survival rate of trees and shrubs looks very good (approximately 80%).

## Park Maintenance and Invasive Species Removal

In the Fall of 2017 and the Spring of 2018, chicken wires were installed on selected trees at Wolfond Park and York Road Park to protect them from beaver damage. During the Spring and Summer of 2018, under the leadership of members Meera, Sue and George, the Wolfond Park Neighbourhood Group mobilized dozens of volunteers to pull out Garlic Mustard from an area of about 50 square metres at the Wolfond Park. The cleared area is now covered by about 100 native plants including: Blue-Stemmed Goldenrod, May Apple, Woodland Sunflower and Star-Flowered Solomon's Seal. These native species were planted to help replenish the soil and stop the growth of Garlic Mustard.



This Spring, we will be removing the buckthorn baggies applied last Spring 2018 at Hadati Creek and we're excited to see if buckthorn baggies work out for invasive species control. OPIRG staff, volunteer park stewards and RSAC volunteer member have been regularly monitoring previously planted trees and shrubs along the river bank and water them as per required with the help of community volunteers and OPIRG staff.



# 2Rivers Festival & Cleanup

Page 11



## 2Rivers Cleanup: Revive. Restore. Rehabilitate

OPIRG has been doing a river cleanup for almost 40 years. By engaging our community in identifying and mitigating the sources of pollution, both seen and unseen, we can revive our rivers. The Speed and Eramosa Rivers were once renowned for their teeming fish populations. The abundant river life that once thrived here were clear indicators of the health of these waters. By restoring natural habitats we can set the stage for the return of native populations. By rehabilitating the physical barriers to fish migration, we can clear a path for the speckled trout that once thrived here - to return.

This year we ran our 39th annual 2 Rivers Cleanup, formerly known as the Annual Speed River Cleanup, to remove the visible waste from the rivers and river's bank.

On the morning of May 5th, 2018, volunteers, OPIRG staff and other community groups convened at Royal City Park to begin the cleanup. We organized six different groups of volunteers according to their preferred area of focus along the river and assigned a trained staff member or volunteer as the Crew Leader for each section.



After an opening welcome and land acknowledgement to honor the Indigenous stewards of the rivers and the land in this area, the volunteers were eager to begin. The most polluted areas of the river confluence were located behind businesses in the downtown area of Guelph, where trash primarily from overflowing dumpsters from surrounding businesses and from illegal household dumping, entered the river. The cleanup was focused on these impacted areas, which spanned approximately 300 metres of river in total. The hard work and dedication of our volunteers, staff and community partners has guaranteed the success of this project since its inception.

## 2Rivers Festival



The 2Rivers Festival celebrates the uniqueness of the Speed and Eramosa rivers and the inspiration they provide. OPIRG was one of the founding members of the festival and was a sponsor and organizer in 2018.

On May 16, 2018, OPIRG Guelph staff and about 30 community volunteers gathered at York Road Park for our Garlic Mustard Pull, pesto making and native wildflower species planting. OPIRG provided garbage bags, small shovels, mulch buckets, and 99 native herbaceous plants for Garlic Mustard removal and replacement. Mulch was applied around the native plants to ensure they survived transplantation and to prevent invasive Garlic Mustard from growing again. We ended the event with community pesto making!

# Finances

Page 12

## Summary Statements of Financial Position as of August 31, 2018

Assets	Year 2017/2018	Year 2016/2017
Total Current Assets	\$232,512	\$193,910
Capital Assets	\$5,138	\$4,657
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$237,695</b>	<b>\$198,567</b>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Account Payable and Liabilities	\$15,037	\$30,461
Income and other tax payable	0	\$0
Deferred Revenue	\$3,707	\$5,067
Net Assets	\$222,656	\$168,106
Total Liabilities and net assets	\$237,695	\$198,567
Revenue	Year 2017/2018	Year 2016/2017
Donation and fundraising	\$2,235	\$4,410
Grant for program	\$31,785	\$24,162
Membership fee University of Guelph's Student	\$312,284	\$303,374
Others	\$1,713	\$1,494
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$348,037</b>	<b>\$333,474</b>
Expenses		
Wages and benefits	\$199,049	\$196,860
Office administration	\$30,807	\$30,743
Programs	\$72,690	\$76,542
Amortization	\$1,371	\$1,542
Total expense	\$303,917	\$305,687
Total Capital loss this year	0	0
<b>Total net income (loss) for the year</b>	<b>\$44,120</b>	<b>\$27,787</b>

**Note:** The summary financial statements are based on audited Financial Statements which are available upon request and presented annually at the OPIRG Guelph Annual General Meeting.

## Major Funding Sources of OPIRG Guelph 2017-2018

Name of fund providers	Amount
The University of Guelph Student Levy	\$312,284
Great Lake Community Guardian Fund-round 2 (Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) for Speed River Project	\$22,023
Work study University of -Guelph	\$6,402
Others/donation and fund raising	\$3,948
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$ 348,037</b>



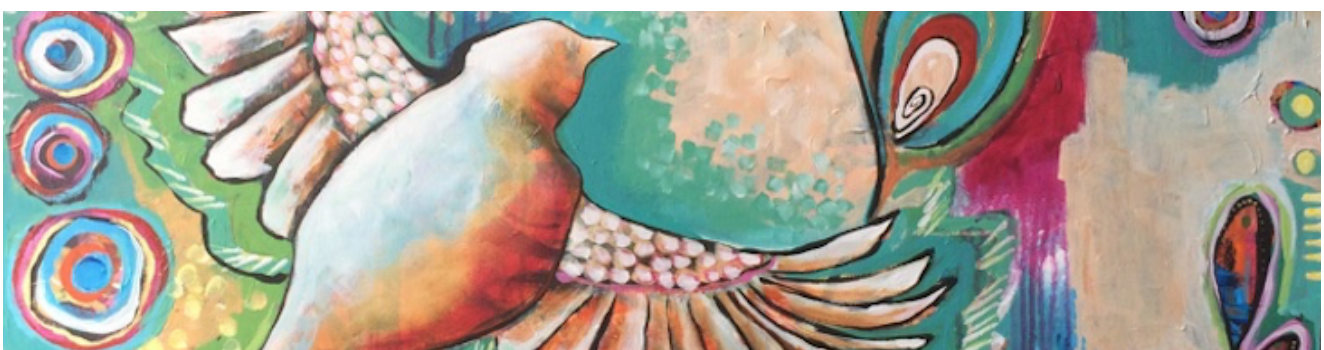
# Finances

Page 13

## Funding Grant Summary

#	Recipient	Event / Project
1	Slow Food Youth Ontario	Disco Soup
2	Revolutionary Student Movement Guelph	Promotion of their group
3	ACT Dinner Organizing Committee	ACT: Decolonizing Thanksgiving Dinner
4	Council of Canadians	Water is Life: International Trade Agreements and the Threat to Water as a Public Commons
5	Environmental Sciences Symposium Organizing Committee	2018 Symposium: "Planting for a Greener Future"
6	People's Law Firm	People's Defence Fund test case at the Human Rights Tribunal
7	Billisumaa Freedom Catering	Catering for charity event commemorating the victims of the Quebec Mosque shooting
8	Footnotes	Production of the 2018 Footnotes - U of G's undergraduate feminist journal
9	Guelph Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals	"Why Veg?" panel discussion
10	End Immigration Detention Network	Political Education Network
11	Guelph Queer Equality	"Working Within the Cis-Tem: A Panel of Trans Folks"
12	The Guelph Seed Library	Seed Saving Workshops
13	Plastic Free Guelph	"Straws Suck" and "Ditch the Bag" campaigns
14	Waterlution — A Water Learning Experience	Youth Advisor Leadership and Cultural Knowledge Training
15	East Hamilton Rent Strike Defense Fund	Legal defense for rent strikers
16	Peel Multicultural Council	2018 Youth Forum for newcomer immigrant and refugee youth
17	Tiny House Warriors	Building costs for Tiny Houses on Kinder Morgan pipeline route

**Note:** OPIRG Guelph's Funding Committee makes the decisions regarding this funding.



# #FalseChoiceInitiative

## #FightFordsAttacks

Stand in solidarity with student funded organizations in the wake of the Ford government's "Student Choice Initiative". This initiative directly threatens to defund student support services considered "non-essential". The following organizations and services rely on student fees for funding:



Guelph Student

Food Bank



the peak

