

ANNUAL ACTION REPORT 2019-2020

OUR MISSION:

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

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Reflections & Action

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This year has been one of constant mobilizing & action, as well as one of many changes & reflections about our capacity and purpose as an organization.

The network of PIRGS in so-called Ontario were hit hard by the Ford government's Students Choice Initiative (SCI). In a blink of an eye our organization became "non-essential" and many student support groups on campus were struggling alongside us to continue to do our best to provide services for our communities, with limited funding and capacity.

And yet, we celebrated some big wins this year! Due to the powerful organizing of students & student unions in Ontario, the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario (CFS-O) and the York Federation of Students (YFS) won their legal challenge over the unlawful Students Choice Initiative against the Ministry of Colleges and Universities under the Ford government! As of the writing of this report our struggle with the SCI continues as the Ford government appealed the ruling. The appeal was heard on March 29th and we are awaiting the ruling

A lot of this year has also been focused on knowledge mobilization and direct action centering Indigenous sovereignty and climate justice, sparked by #ShutDownCanada movements across Turtle Island and world-wide youth-led climate strikes largely motivated by the #FridaysForFuture movement.

The ongoing violations of Wet'suwet'en law on their unceded lands by the colonial government of Canada, Coastal Gaslink and the RCMP sparked outrage and mass #ShutDownCanada solidarity actions all over the world.

The #ShutDownCanada movement ignited a lot of conversations about land theft & returning stolen lands, the sovereign right of Indigenous Nations to govern themselves based on their own laws, and about ongoing police violence against Indigenous peoples. In response to calls to action by Indigenous land defenders, one of our long-term action groups, Fossil Free Guelph, increased the pressure on the University of Guelph board of directors to finally #Divest from Coastal Gaslink and other fossil fuel investments and succeeded in their demand. Way to go!!

The fifth year of our Rebel Knowledge Symposium was a direct response to these movements, the theme being "The Earth Is on Fire: Moving from Climate Crisis to Climate Justice". Under the broad theme of "climate justice", our 2020 symposium was geared towards people who are involved in climate justice struggles, those who want to get involved, and those whose organizing and research are valuable contributions to the struggle.

This year also brought to light the suppressed reality of systemic anti-Black racism that is deeply structured within the Canadian nation-state. We saw historic solidarity actions led by #BlackLivesMatter organizers and their allies in response to ongoing cases of police brutality and murders of Black people. Organizers across Turtle Island called for governments to #Defund, #Disarm and #Abolish the police, and invest in Black communities.

OPIRG looks to be accountable to Black & Indigenous communities and communities of color who are at the frontlines of these struggles. We acknowledge that these communities are overrepresented in instances of environmental racism, police violence and other forms of oppression. We will work to develop more tools, resources and campaigns to support directly affected communities.

Who's Behind the Scenes?

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniela Mendivil

Benjamin Stewart

Gabrielle McPolin

Obehi Okaka

Rachel Vear

Paul Costello

Blakeney Smith

Millie Currie

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 STAFF

Kiran Bhattarai

Office & Speed River Project Coordinator

Natali Euale Montilla

Organizational & Policy Development Coordinator

Mandy Hiscocks

Volunteer Programming & Community Engagement Coordinator

Temporary Staff:

Library and Archives (work study)

Jason Richards - Fall 2019/Winter 2020

Programming Support (work study)

Matilda Ofori - Fall 2019

Obehi Okaka - Winter 2020

Assistant Coordinator, Speed River Projects Events (work study)

Telesphore Marie - Fall 2019

Chief Returning Officer 2020

Elizabeth Cyr

Note: As of the writing of this report, Mandy Hiscocks is our current Organizational & Policy Development Coordinator, Natali Euale Montilla is our Volunteer Programming & Development Coordinator & our Speed River Project & Officer Coordinator positions are temporarily vacant.

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: Blakeney Smith (Chapter Board), Natali Euale Montilla (Chapter Staff)

Note: As of the writing of this report, Blakeney Smith (Chapter Board) and Mandy Hiscocks (Chapter Staff) are the current Provincial Board Members representing our chapter.

Things We Do

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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. Unfortunately, the pandemic has impacted community and student access to our library. We are hoping that as things shift in the future we will be able to offer our space and resources once more!

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 3-4pm time slot. Tune in, or listen live or to the archives online at 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 hosts anti-oppression and consensus decision-making trainings for OPIRG members and other groups on campus. This year, we partnered with campus group 'Guelph Queer Equality' for our anti-oppression trainings.

Based on community requests for specific trainings, OPIRG also offered a 2-part workshop about police violence for activists. The first part covered a general "Know Your Rights 101" and the second part focused on resisting policing in our communities. We partnered with Kate Nixon from Your Downtown Guelph Friends on this training.

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 at vpce@opirgguelph.org

Action Groups—The heart of activism at OPIRG!

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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, Rhythms of Resistance, Climate Justice Guelph, Student-Worker Alliance & Students Offering Welcome are our current Action Groups. 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 vpce@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.



This year, SOW slowed down a bit due to a lot of its members graduating from UoG and leaving the community. However, they continued providing direct support throughout the year to newcomer families in the form of fundraisers for bus passes, grocery gift cards, locating affordable housing and collecting donations of furniture, as well as providing ESL services to families wanting to learn English.

Rhythms of Resistance

Interested in social justice? Interested in drumming? This is a group for people passionate about playing music together and harnessing samba's power to promote social justice causes. The Guelph-based group rehearses once a week Thursday nights, performs at rallies and events, and participates in ethnographic research on what makes a group like this sustainable through time.

Throughout 2019-2020 Rhythms of Resistance took to the streets to support frontline struggles by providing samba beats at occupations & rallies including Guelph solidarity actions with the Wet'suwet'en Nation, the large UoG student walkout in response to the climate crisis, keeping the energy up at the Indigenous Solidarity with Black Lives event on "Canada Day" and at the disruption of the local climate change town hall to demand action from 3 levels of government around the impacts of extractive industries in Canada on Indigenous communities and the land.

Action Groups—The heart of activism at OPIRG!

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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 2019-20 GAP focused its efforts on solidarity actions for Wet'suwet'en land defenders. In the winter of 2019, GAP hosted a film screening fundraiser of the film "INVASION", co-hosted with the Art Gallery of Guelph. INVASION is a film about the Unist'ot'en Camp, Gidimt'en checkpoint and the larger Wet'suwet'en Nation standing up to the Canadian government and corporations who continue colonial violence against Indigenous people. In 2020, GAP continued implementing a diversity of tactics, including direct action and other consciousness raising events in response to the international call to action from Unist'ot'en Camp after the RCMP raided their territory, in which Unist'ot'en demanded the immediate stop to resource extraction projects that threaten the lives of future generations.

Fossil Free Guelph

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. Fossil Free Guelph believes that the impacts of climate change are a pressing reality and that there is an urgent need for us to react as a society. The most important step toward reducing global green house gas emissions is to curb the growth of the fossil fuel industry. FFG asks the university to freeze new investments in fossil fuel companies and, over a five year period, divest from them completely.



After many years employing a diversity of tactics to secure full divestment from fossil fuels at the University of Guelph, Fossil Free Guelph held a mass student walkout in the Spring of 2020 in Solidarity with Wet'suwet'en Land Defenders. Hundreds of students joined FFG in this action to demand the university's divestment from Coastal Gaslink and all other fossil fuel investments. In a historic win, April 22, 2020, the University of Guelph's Board of Governors voted on a motion to divest from fossil fuels in an online meeting. Three members of Fossil Free Guelph participated in the discussion and many students, alumni, and others listened in on the conversation. After deliberation from members of the Board, the motion to fully divest from fossil fuels within a 5-year period passed with a majority vote. This is a notable achievement after 7 years of dedication and commitment from the students of Fossil Free Guelph to fight for divestment and a better future for the earth and all who inhabit it.

This year, Fossil Free Guelph also hosted a concert fundraiser called 'DivestFest', a celebration of the Divestment movement at the University of Guelph and a fundraiser for OPIRG Guelph after we lost over 30% of our funding through the Student Choice Initiative. Thanks to all the folks who were part of organizing this event, we really appreciate you!

Partnerships

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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 2019-20 partners:

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Guelph Film Festival

The mission of the GFF is to inspire community engagement and appreciation of the arts. Their programming focuses on documentary films that respond to their three priorities: social justice, the environment, and community building. The GFF sees each film it presents as a catalyst for change by inspiring discussion and outreach. Each year they host special guests to lead post-film talks including directors, film subjects, or knowledgeable community members to connect film content to local initiatives.



CAMPUS PARTNERS

Muslim Students' Association: Islamic Awareness Week 2020

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>



Guelph Black Students' Association: Black History Month 2020

The Guelph Black Student Association (GBSA; formerly known as the C.J. Munford Center), established in 1994, functions as a resource center for diverse and minority students on campus. The association focuses on issues of diversity, race, and other significant factors relevant to the lives of students of colour, and tries to encourage the inclusion, respect, and education of the beautifully unique and present black and minority faces on campus.

<https://gryphlife.uoguelph.ca/organization/gbsa>



Our Events

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As part of Orientation week, we kicked off the year with an Open House and an Art & Activism workshop called "Creative Resistance" showcasing how art can be a resistance technique to advocate for social and environmental justice.

Although RADICAL REELS Guelph was inactive this year because of limited capacity, we continue to partner with Cinema Politica to screen films that challenge conventional narratives and that explore stories from directly affected communities and struggles. As of the writing of this report, we have renewed our partnership with Cinema Politica and are open to suggestions of new films to screen for our Radical Reels series. To check out what films are available follow this link:

www.cinemapolitica.org

Our RADICAL READS reading group was also inactive this year, but we are open to starting up again based on community and student interest, even if it means meeting online. We're focused on zines and smaller articles—so that students and community members already with deep reading lists can take a dive into interesting discussion topics without feeling like this is another course or big project. Discussion at RADICAL READS will be casual, but follow the mandate and anti-oppressive ideals of OPIRG Guelph. If you are interested in starting a bi-weekly reading group with us, email us at: **opirg@uoguelph.ca**

Due to our temporary loss of funding from the Student's Choice Initiative and the following pandemic, OPIRG's capacity to continue to offer our regular programming was very limited. Throughout the year, we focused our efforts on collaborating with other groups on direct action and consciousness raising events.

In addition to our Rebel Knowledge Symposium, Speed River Project events, 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 2019-2020:

- *OPIRG Guelph Climate Strike UoG Student Walkout - Part of Climate Strike Week of Action*
- *Provincial Election 2019: Guelph All Candidates Meeting- Social Justice Issues*
- *15th annual ACT: Decolonizing Thanksgiving Dinner 2019*
- *Book launch of Full Spectrum Resistance, by Aric McBay*
- *Guelph Film Festival screening: Conviction*
- *Fridays for Future Strike for Climate Guelph*
- *Used Books & Clothing Fundraiser for OPIRG's Rebel Knowledge Symposium*
- *Screening of Sub.Media documentary: Prelude to a Disaster, followed by a performance by notable Canadian hip hop artist Lee Reed*
- *Feminist Holiday Market*
- *Queer Identities Week*
- *May Day Celebration and BBQ*
- *Know your Rights: A workshop on dealing with the police*
- *Resisting Policing and Supporting Targeted Communities: workshop*

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

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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 "climate justice", our 2020 symposium was geared towards people who are involved in climate justice struggles, those who want to get involved, and those whose organizing and research are valuable contributions to the struggle. The topics explored centered around these questions: How can our climate justice movements better center the voices and experiences of Black and Indigenous people, and people of color who are constantly the targets of environmental racism? And how do we better bridge our struggles and diversify our tactics to build a long-term movement for climate justice?

The goal this year was to develop a more effective, intersectional and intergenerational movement around climate change. We kicked off the symposium with an introduction to climate justice featuring members of our Symposium organizing team: Gabrielle McPolin, Ben Stuart, Obehi Okaka, Natali Euale Montilla & Millie Currie. Our sessions included:

- *System Change Not Climate Change: Capitalism vs. the climate*
- *Solidarity and Mutual Aid for Decolonial Futures*
- *Beyond resilience. Community-led direct action for regeneration*
- *Seeds of Change: Frontline Resistance to Environmental Racism*
- *Reclaiming our Power: Voices from the "Expected Casualties" of Climate Disaster*
- *Bombing & Burning: Militarism, Military Spending and the Climate Emergency*
- *Unlivable Homes: Migrant justice in a climate crisis*
- *Something for Everyone: Diversity of tactics in the struggle for climate justice*
- *I Took Care of the Movement but the Movement Didn't Take Care of Me: Dealing with Activist Burnout*
- *Prepping and Planning for More Disruptive Actions*



2020 Symposium Organizing Team: (Left to Right)
Mandy, Natali, Millie, Obehi, Gabby, Ben, Kiran

At this time, we've just wrapped up from our 2021 Rebel Knowledge symposium! In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's theme was "Another World Is Possible: A look back on a year of Covid & emergent strategies for change". More will be in the 2020-21 Annual Action Report on this, but if you have feedback or want to get involved in future planning email us at opirg@uoguelph.ca

Speed River Project

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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 2019 to the Summer of 2020. 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.

Community Tree Plantings & Invasive Species Pulls

Part of the Speed River Project has been to diversify and rehabilitate the degraded Speed and Eramosa river banks through community-based naturalization activities. We kicked off the year with a community tree planting and identification workshop at Wolfond Park as part of Guelph's Climate Strike Week of Action in September 2019. This workshop focused on rebuilding bird and pollinator habitat close to home, planting native plant and tree species, identifying native plants and shrubs and removing invasive species. We ran a second community tree planting and invasive species pull in the Fall of 2019 at York Road Park. This time, we focused on planting native trees and shrubs along the Eramosa River. We also engaged community members in a discussion about our river systems and various ways to improve the quality of water for ourselves and downstream communities and habitats.

The trees and shrubs we planted comprised about 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. Thank you to all of our volunteers who came out to support us and to help rehabilitate Guelph's rivers and ecosystems!

2Rivers Festival & Cleanup

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2Rivers Cleanup: Revive. Restore. Rehabilitate



OPIRG has been doing a river cleanup for more than 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 41st annual 2 Rivers Cleanup, formerly known as the Annual Speed River Cleanup, to remove the visible waste from the rivers and river's bank.

Due to the pandemic, our 2 Rivers Cleanup looked quite different this year. Since we couldn't gather in person, we decided to create an instructional video and slide show with information about the history of the cleanup, current challenges facing the rivers, and how folks can help keep the rivers clean. Our video included a list of all the items needed to do a river cleanup on your own, with your family or with a small group of people while physically distancing. In the slide show, we also provided an ecological overview of the Speed and Eramosa River System, outlined safety tips for doing a cleanup, impacts of river pollution, when and where to clean and how to sort and dispose of the garbage you find. We hope to be able to gather with our community again this year for our 43rd year of the cleanup! If you are wanting to find out more about how to do a cleanup on your own or with a small group we are happy to share our video with you! Please email us at: opirg@uoguelph.ca



2Rivers Festival & Cleanup

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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 2020. This year we gathered virtually to run three different events as part of the festival.



Garlic Mustard Pull & Pesto Making Workshop

On May 6th, 2020, OPIRG Guelph staff and participants gathered for a Garlic Mustard pull and pesto making workshop online. Garlic mustard is an invasive herb native to Europe. It spreads quickly, interfering with the growth of other plants including several species at risk. While it is not a good food source for wildlife, it is high in vitamins A and C, and it makes great pesto. In our virtual session, OPIRG Guelph staff outlined the biology, habitat and history of the garlic mustard plant, its impact on native species, how and when to safely pull and dispose of the plant and finally, how to make a basic garlic mustard pesto! We provided two instructional videos for participants, one on how to safely pull garlic mustard and the second providing a step by step process for preparing pesto with the plant.

Bringing Nature Home: Habitat Restoration Workshop



On May 9th, 2020 OPIRG Guelph staff ran a second online workshop focusing on rebuilding ecosystems along the river corridor by planting native groundcover, shrubs and trees. We partnered with the Wolfond Park Community Group for this event. Meera Dyer and our staff member Kiran Bhattarai led this workshop, teaching participants why and how to build your own pollinator garden!

Invasive Species Pull Competition

On May 12th, 2020 we ran our third online workshop as part of the 2 Rivers Festival which was similar to the Habitat Restoration workshop in that the focus was on pulling invasive species safely and rebuilding ecosystems along the river corridor by planting native groundcover, shrubs and trees.

We are so thankful for the support of our dedicated staff and volunteers who continue to show up for our events, supporting us while we figure out how to best provide services to our community during the pandemic. We appreciate you!

Finances

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Summary Statements of Financial Position as of August 31, 2020

Assets	Year 2019/2020	Year 2018/2019
Total Current Assets	\$331,834	\$281,859
Capital Assets	\$15,549	\$17,337
Total Assets	\$347,383	\$299,196
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable Liabilities	\$8,750	\$10,196
Deferred Revenue	n/a	\$4,500
Government remittances payable	\$3,468	n/a
Net Assets	\$335,165	\$284,500
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$347,383	\$299,196
Revenues		
Donations and fundraising	\$4,989	\$1,475
Grants and programs	\$10,953	\$17,103
Literature and merchandise sales	\$14	\$93
Membership fees	\$273,903	\$321,541
Total Revenues	\$289,859	\$340,212
Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	\$10,033	\$16,894
Amortization	\$936	\$1,250
Insurance	\$4,301	\$3,539
Interest and bank charges	\$228	\$256
Memberships and licenses	\$532	\$507
Office	\$2,710	\$5,579
Professional fees	\$3,996	\$3,351
Projects and programs	\$16,936	\$47,518
Telephone	\$3,823	\$6,030
Travel	\$161	\$807
Wages and benefits	\$199,304	\$197,083
Total Expenses	\$242,960	\$282,814
Earnings (Revenue - Expenses)	\$46,899	\$57,398
Interest Income	\$3,766	\$4,443
Total Excess Revenue over Expenses (Net income)	\$50,665	\$61,841

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.

Finances

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Funding Grant Summary

#	Recipient	Event/Project
1)	Matt Soltys	Lessons Learned for Climate Activism: Workshop
2)	Wellington Water Watchers	Global Climate Strike Week of Action
3)	Plant-Based Guelph	A Night of Plant Based Innovation: Event
4)	Footnotes Guelph	Annual Feminist Journal at UoG
5)	Max Nava Carillo	For Temazcal Ceremony (sweat lodge) in Guelph and other Indigenous (Nahuatl) knowledge sharing work & events

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

Although our budget was substantially decreased by cuts to our funding due to the Student Choice Initiative, we were still able to provide some funding for student and community members in need of support in the year 2019/2020.

