



Ontario Public Interest
Research Group of
Peterborough

Annual Report
2017-2018

Honoring Peterborough/Nogojiwanong

Acknowledging the Peterborough Area:
Whose Land is it Exactly?

OPIRG-Peterborough recognizes that we work and are located on the traditional territory of Nogojiwanong meaning *place at the end of the rapids*. Nogojiwanong is the traditional territory of Curve Lake First Nation an Anishnabee community located near Lakefield, Ontario but is honoured through the Williams Treaties signed in 1923. We would like to acknowledge the Hiawatha First Nation, and Alderville First Nation.



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Mission Statement

OPIRG works to create and sustain student and community-based engagement through research, education and action on social justice and environmental issues; challenging oppression in all its forms; and using consensus-based decision-making in a non-hierarchical and accessible setting.

About OPIRG

We provide a space and resources for Peterborough and Trent community members to work on programs, awareness-raising campaigns, workshops and other activities focusing on social justice issues; to encourage a critical approach to the institutions and systems students are learning about in classes; to facilitate skill building that will enable students to use their academic knowledge for social change. OPIRG carries out this mission through our work as a student-funded, non-profit organization dedicated to research, education and action on a variety of issues including environmentalism, human rights, gender rights, peace, sustainability, diversity rights and social equity, among others. OPIRG volunteers and staff members organize speakers, films, conferences, publications and campaigns on a wide variety of topics that fit within our mandate.

A Brief History

Established in 1976, OPIRG Peterborough is a campus-based, community-oriented, non-profit organization committed to research, education and action on social justice and environmental issues. We receive a refundable levy of \$13.36 which allows us to organize speakers, films, conferences, publications and campaigns on a wide variety of topics that fit within our mandate. We also offer skills development workshops and research-for-credit opportunities.

Research

In previous years, we have done research projects such as OPIRG Ethical Food Sourcing projects, OPIRG's Supermarket Tour; Public Space and Accessibility in Peterborough; Anti-Homophobia Resources for Teachers; Queer Issues in High School Curriculum; and much more.

We always welcome new research ideas and encourage anyone interested in doing a project to get in touch by emailing opirg@trentu.ca.

Programming

Free Market

OPIRG Peterborough's Free Market began by the initiative of a small group of Trent students in 2005, who wanted to promote the values of reusing and recycling over discarding and "re-consuming". By opening the Free Market 'store', they were able to serve the environmental purpose of reducing waste materials through reuse, and the social justice purpose of providing free goods to those who need them.



This year, the Free Market is now located on the first floor of Sadlier House by the OPIRG Peterborough office. The Free Market is usually open Wednesday 9am-noon and Friday 9am-5pm.

A big thank you to the volunteers for their tireless work to ensure that the space is organized and accessible for folks. Their dedication is amazing and allows the Free Market to continue in its operations.

Green Dishes

Green Dishes is a waste-reduction project designed to eliminate the need for disposable dishes at community events in Peterborough. Green Dishes is a non-profit dish-lending program that enables organizations to borrow large quantities of reusable dishes for community events. Organizations sign out dishes from OPIRG and return them cleaned and washed.



This year, OPIRG Peterborough cut costs of each dish by \$0.05 to improve affordability for those who use the program.

Some groups/events that have borrowed Green dishes from us this year include:

- Students Association of International Development
- Reframe Film Festival
- Trent International
- Trent University's Society for Ecological Restoration
- Trent Radio
- Aging Activisms
- GreenUp
- Trent Trill College Formal
- Trent Spanish Club

For more information on our Green Dishes program, please visit <https://opirgptbo.ca/green-dishes/> or email opirg@trentu.ca.

Working Groups

Working groups are essentially collectives- groups of people who voluntarily agree to work together on a common issue towards a common goal while sharing responsibilities and decisions equally.

End Immigration Detention Network

Peterborough

End Immigration Detention Network Peterborough (EIDN) is a campaign aimed to put to an end the detention of migrants in Canada. In 2016 there was an exhibit showcasing art and poems by detainees, held rallies and demos, dropped banners across the country, called on our MP Maryam Monsef, to use her position to rally for the end of indefinite detention, and petitioned Ralph Goodale, Canada's Minister of Public Safety, to end the practice of holding migrant detainees in Canadian prisons without charge.

'Like' us on our Facebook page contact us on our email endimmigrationdetentionptbo@gmail.com to learn more.

F/re/e Crafting: Upcycle Collective

Free Crafting: Upcycle Collective is a working group that is open to the Trent/Flemming/Peterborough community. We are Free Market-focused and work to educate students and community members about self-sufficiency, eco-consciousness and ethical consumerism by reducing the stigma of used goods and hosting DIY events. If you want to learn a new skill or have something to teach, come hang out! You are always welcome!

Feminist Book Club

Our mission is to provide a support network for people who identify as feminists to learn about and discuss feminism and assist each other to apply helpful feminist ideas gleaned from research and discussion to our own lives. The purpose of the group would be, ultimately, to better the lives of the people within the book club as well as those within their communities, as applicable, through feminist education, the development of critical thought and the benefits of group support.

We meet regularly to learn more about feminism and support each other in overcoming the harmful effects of patriarchy in our own lives. We focus on the themes of historical feminism, contemporary feminism, intersectionality, rape culture, purity culture, feminist issues in the media and feminist issues in the government. Discussions will continually have a practical element to them. The questions, “Should this concept be applied to our lives?” and if so, “How can this concept be applied to our lives?” will be asked regularly.

For information on how to become a working group please visit <https://opirgptbo.ca/working-groups/working-groups-policy/> or email opirg@trentu.ca.

Events and Important Dates:

March 2017

During March, we held our last Annual General Meeting, organized Anti-Racism and Consensus Decision Making workshops, and held multiple class talks.

April 2017

On April 9th OPIRG Peterborough held a Free Market Giveaway.

May 2017

In May, we held a volunteer appreciation event, our working group End Immigration Detention Network had a banner drop, one of our programs (Make Trent Safe) held a meeting, and we attended board training school.

June 2017

In June, we held a Make Trent Safe meeting, collaborated to host the Chocolate, Cheese and Activism event and had two staff begin their summer jobs.

July 2017

During July we took part in the Sad Fest.

August 2017

In August, we sent out a few newsletters, and there was an application deadline for the Coordinator job.

September 2017

September was very busy with our Disorientation week of events as well as new student staff beginning their contracts.



November 2017

Although there was not a full time Coordinator for a few months, our current Coordinator started their position with us in November. We also held a “Get to know your PIRG” event for the community to learn more about us.

December 2017

In December, we attended a few levy groups meetings, and sent out a newsletter.

January 2018

During January, we sent out a monthly newsletter, attended levy and refundable levy groups meetings, tabled on campus, and sponsored “Voicing the Earth Body”.

February 2018

Last month, we worked with the Centre for Gender and Social Justice to host Self Love Week. We also continued to attend Levy groups meetings, offered a rad environmentally friendly gift basket giveaway on social media and donated funds towards the Colten Boushie Fundraiser.



GET INVOLVED!

We are looking for amazing people to join our team!
OPIRG Peterborough is looking for individuals who value the importance of student and community-based engagement through research, education and action on social justice and environmental issues. There are opportunities to volunteer, become a board member, start a working group, and much more!

For more information visit our website www.opirgptbo.ca or email us at opirg@trent.ca.