

2020



Princetoncraft



Annual Report

Ottawa RIVERKEEPER®
GARDE-RIVIÈRE *des Outaouais*

Kwey! Dear Water Lovers,

2020 has certainly been a challenging year for many in the watershed and around the world. We are happy to report, however, that the work of Ottawa Riverkeeper continued unabated! We continue to protect and promote the ecological health of the Ottawa River and its watershed, through a variety of initiatives. The watershed is larger than many countries, and spans many jurisdictions. This makes solving water issues even more complex! Ottawa Riverkeeper is uniquely positioned to bring stakeholders together to address these enduring issues and to find sustainable solutions.

It therefore fills us with great pride and sincere gratitude to be sharing our 2020 Annual Report! In the stories that follow, we share a glimpse at some of the many successes we have had and the strategic progress we have made at Ottawa Riverkeeper this year.

Physically distant, but connected by our shared love for the river and unbreakable desire to preserve it, our impressive roster of loyal volunteers, and the continued support from generous donors and funders, have continued to give our team the strength to keep growing and moving forward.

We have had to make some adjustments, relying more on digital means of connecting with the community, but we continued to share engaging and informative river content through webinars hosted by local experts, newsletter rebrands, social media, and so much more!

Though most of our interaction with you has been virtual, we still got out on the river as much as we could, collecting water samples for our ambitious new Watershed Health Assessment and Monitoring Initiative and Recreational Water Quality testing. We also encouraged you to get out and safely enjoy the watershed through participation in our citizen science projects and our first ever Watershed Beach Pass.

We are truly grateful to be able to continue acting as a voice for the river and cherish your support in these challenging times, and we look forward to the day when we can meet again in person, hopefully on the water!

Miigwech. In the flowing river spirit,



Geoff Green, C.M., C.Q.,
Chair of the Board of Directors



Elizabeth Logue
Riverkeeper



Patrick Nadeau
Executive Director

Watershed Health Assessment and Monitoring

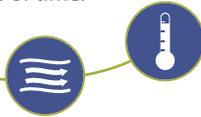
We launched our ambitious Watershed Health Assessment and Monitoring Initiative, a long-term project that will generate new data on 14 indicators of watershed health. The work we have done this year is just the beginning as we continue to build partnerships and collaborate with academic researchers, citizen scientists, and Indigenous communities.



We launched an online data portal, collecting data related to our 14 watershed health indicators into one place, including interactive dashboards for water temperature, dissolved oxygen and total phosphorus. We're making it easier than ever to take a deep dive into what the data says about the health of our watershed!



We installed monitoring equipment in streams to track water temperature, water levels, and conductivity over long periods of time.



In collaboration with researchers at the University of Guelph, we are assessing fish richness by measuring DNA left behind in the environment (eDNA).



Community-based monitoring (CBM)

Citizen science has been and will continue to be critical to the success of this initiative.



Algal Blooms



Ice on/off



4 projects



Land Use



Road Salt (Cl)

From Rigaud to Lake Temiskaming, we received reports from citizen scientists all over the watershed!



91 reports

Funding



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Beaches

We love it when people make the most of having such a beautiful river in their backyard! Some of the best places to access the water are public beaches, and that's why so much of our work in the summer is focused on encouraging people to explore their local beaches, and sharing information about water quality both publicly and with decision-makers.

Recreational Water Quality Testing



We analyzed water samples collected from throughout the watershed by Riverwatchers and our water quality intern, Caitlin.

856
samples



We used the results from Caitlin's regular monitoring of water quality at Gatineau public beaches to produce 14 recommendations for improved recreational water quality monitoring practices that we are discussing with Ville de Gatineau.

3
Gatineau
beaches

358k
clicks on
watershed
beaches



**SWIM
GUIDE**

We also posted our results on Swim Guide to keep the public informed about the quality of the water at their favourite local beaches.



Watershed Beach Pass



Our first ever watershed beach pass, which encouraged people to explore new beaches, thank lifeguards and take selfies was a success! Congrats to all out winners!

245
participants



Educating & Inspiring

If there is one thing we love more than learning about the Ottawa River and its watershed, it's sharing what we learn with you! We believe that people protect what they love, and it's hard not to fall in love with the river when you start to learn about all that it has to offer. Trust us, we learn new things every day, and we are head-over heels!

Youth Water Leaders



We welcomed the third cohort of the Youth Water Leaders Program.

21
participants

451
hours

This incredible group of dedicated individuals worked together to help protect and promote the health of the watershed!



Hickorynut

We continued to spread the word about this fascinating endangered freshwater mussel, the largest known density of which can be found in the Ottawa River.

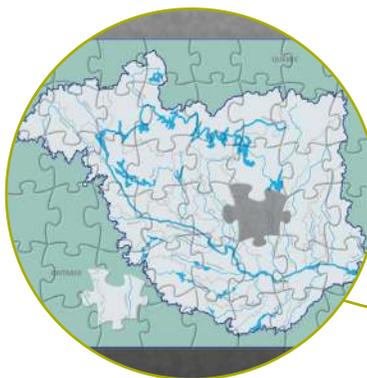


226
webinar
participants

We hosted several informative webinars where we heard from experts like Dr André Martel and Tim Haxton.

Digital Learning

Our learning library went digital, with fun and educational activities like an endangered species matching game, watershed map puzzle, and many more!



resources
used
1988
times

Recognition of Territory

The Ottawa River watershed is within the unceded, unsurrendered traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg people. We recognize the Algonquin Anishinaabeg peoples' responsibility as waterkeepers and water protectors and we will continue to work with them, and grow our knowledge of their traditional management and jurisdiction over their Territory.

Protecting the Watershed

Nuclear Campaign

We continued tracking the activities and risks associated with the Chalk River Laboratories, located on the banks of the Ottawa River, approximately 200 km upstream of Ottawa-Gatineau. This year we also broadened our scope, taking aim at weak nuclear waste policy at the federal level.



Together, we sent a clear message to the Canadian Government that we want stronger policy for disposal of non-fuel nuclear waste.

2308
petition
signatures

1417
letters to MPs



We spread the word with our animated video about the issue.

23 872
views

Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel

The City of Ottawa opened their combined sewage storage tunnel (CSST), a project made possible through collaboration between Federal, Provincial, Municipal governments. Ottawa Riverkeeper was closely involved with the push to make this happen, and it was part of the Ottawa River Action Plan that we championed. We are so happy to finally see this project become a reality!



43M
liters

This huge tunnel has a volume larger than 17 Olympic swimming pools, which will drastically reduce the amount of raw sewage that ends up in the river as a result of overflows.

River Community

Though we've had to remain physically distant, we found ways to come together virtually and stay connected through our shared love of the river and our desire to preserve it. Thank you to all our amazing Riverwatchers, volunteers, and everyone who has helped us to continue to be a voice for the river. It takes a watershed to protect a river!

Volunteers



Watershed Magazine

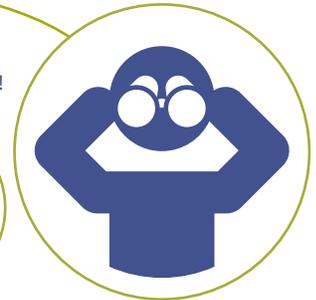
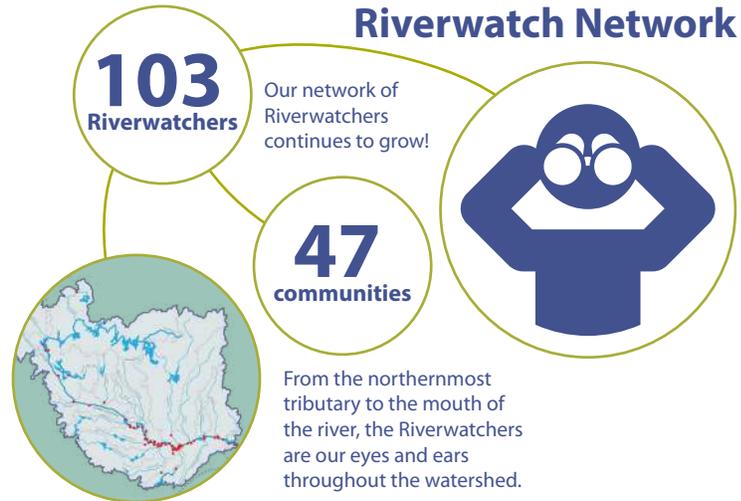


Surveying the Broader Community

Thanks to Abacus Data, we were able to survey the watershed community beyond our network and get a sense of what the river means to the rest of the watershed. Here are some of the highlights.



Riverwatch Network



Social Media



Gala: Deconstructed

What do you do when you're planning the biggest and best party in town, but you can no longer invite all your guests to come together by the riverside for a beautiful evening with live music, delicious food, and inspiring words from incredible people who share your love and passion for the river? Simple: you deconstruct it and bring the party to them! That's exactly what we did this year with the Gala: Deconstructed, presented by Insurance Bureau of Canada.

Presented by



Our Gala: Deconstructed guests were treated boxes full of goodies, including a gourmet meal prepared by Thyme & Again, drinks from Big Rig Brewery and Dominion City Brewing Co, the first-ever "Watershed" magazine, brand new Ottawa Riverkeeper swag, and much more!

146
deliveries



Thank you to all Gala ticket holders, all of our Gala sponsors, auction donors and winners, the Gala committee, and everyone else who helped to make this unconventional Riverkeeper Gala such an amazing experience and smashing success.

\$ 260k
raised

Ottawa
RIVERKEEPER®

Gala

GARDE-RIVIÈRE
des Outaouais

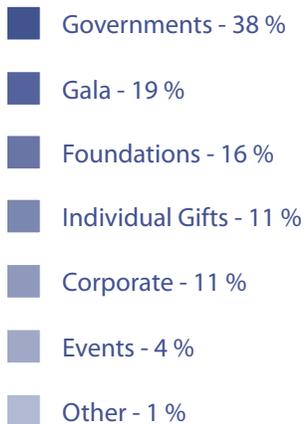
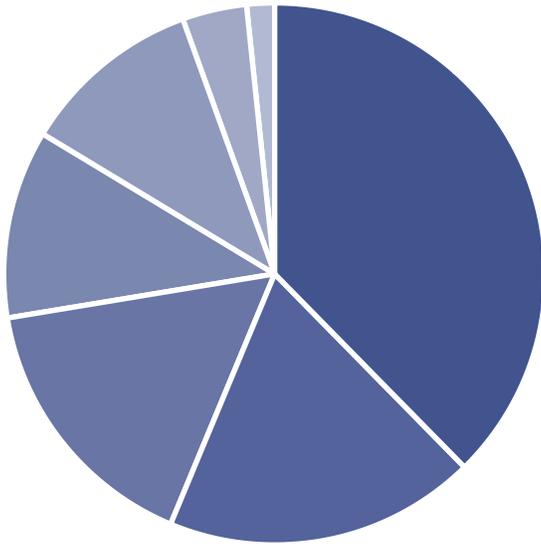
DE • CON • STRUC • TED
DÉ • CON • STRUIT



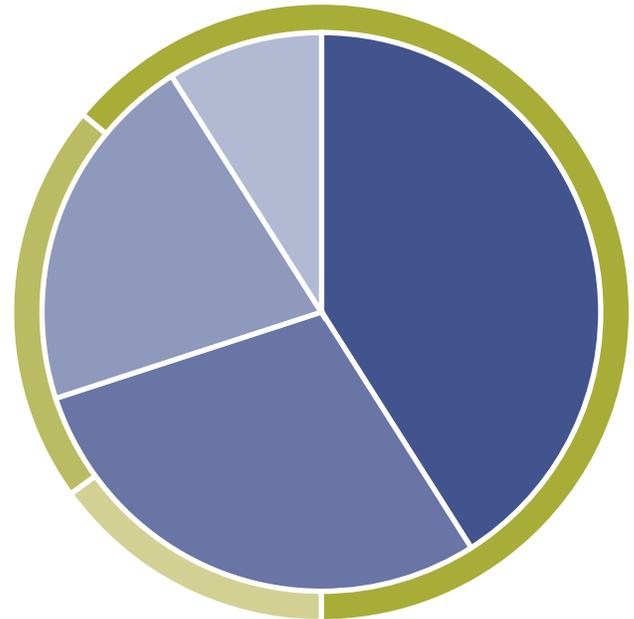
Former Governor General the Right Honourable David Johnston and Mrs Sharon Johnston are the latest in a growing list of inspiring and eminent individuals to accept the title of Honorary Riverkeeper.

Our Financials *For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020*

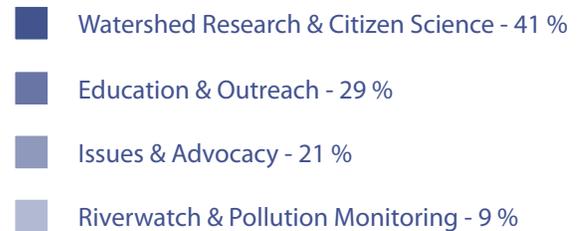
Income: \$1 456 448



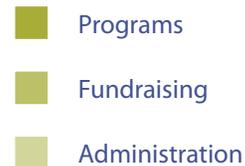
Expenses: \$1 326 160



Inner Circle



Outer Circle



Your Support

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020

\$ 100 000 +

Fiona McKean & Tobi Lütke
Government of Canada - Employment &
Social Development Canada
Government of Canada - Environment &
Climate Change Canada
The Ontario Trillium Foundation
RBC Foundation



Presenting RBC
with a framed map
of the watershed
in recognition of
their support for our
Watershed Health
Assessment and
Monitoring Initiative.

\$ 5 000 - \$ 9 999

Alterna Savings
Anonymous
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Labarge Charitable Foundation
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United Nations Association in Canada -
Green Spaces
Wall Space Gallery and Framing
Zibi

* Fund established at the Ottawa
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\$ 50 000 - \$ 99 999

Insurance Bureau of Canada
The Mosaic Company

\$ 25 000 - \$ 49 999

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Adobe Foundation
Adventure Canada
CN
Echo Foundation
HEXO Corp
Leacross Foundation
LUSH
Ottawa Community Foundation
Patagonia
T-Gear Foundation

\$ 1 000 - \$ 4 999

Anonymous (3)
Ashbury College
Beau's All Natural Brewing Company
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Biscotti
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\$ 10 000 - \$ 24 999

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Tim Hayman
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United Counties of Prescott-Russell

< \$ 1 000

We recognize and thank the over 700 donors
who contributed at this level

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Riverkeeper

Elizabeth Logue

Executive Director

Patrick Nadeau

Director of Donor Relations

Chloe Hillier

Director of Science and Policy

Larissa Holman

Operations Manager

Dave Rayner

Biologist

Katy Alambo

Database and Fundraising Coordinator

Ian Atwell

Digital Content Creator and Graphic Designer

Mark Bernards

Communications Manager

Matthew Brocklehurst

Executive Assistant

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Digital Storyteller and Partnership Development

Martin Lipman

Administrative Assistant

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Community Outreach Coordinator

Alejandro Prescott-Cornejo

Senior Manager, Youth and Education Programs

Naomi Sarazin

Events and Volunteer Coordinator

Katie Shafley

Youth Leadership Coordinator

Katya Smirnova

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Aaron Brisson

Caitlin Hayes

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Amanda Ryan

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Mission 100 Tonnes

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Gord Nixon



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Photos: Matrin Lipman