



Ottawa RIVERKEEPER®
SENTINELLE Outaouais



Defending the Ottawa River,
Protecting our Communities

**OTTAWA RIVERKEEPER
ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

Table of Contents

About Ottawa Riverkeeper	3
The Ottawa River at a Glance	4
A Year on the River	5
River Mission	6
Riverwatch	7
Waterkeeper Swim Guide	9
Our Volunteers	10
Fundraising Events	11
Thank You	12
Financial Report	13

Board of Directors

- ◆ Geoff Green (Chair)
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Staff

- ◆ Meredith Brown, Riverkeeper and Executive Director
- ◆ Adele Michon, Director of Operations for Quebec
- ◆ Alexandra Brett, Director of Communications
- ◆ Brigitte Boudreau-Cassidy, Bilingual Volunteer Coordinator
- ◆ Mary Halliwell-Cyr, Coordinator, Finance & Administration
- ◆ Meaghan Murphy, Staff Scientist & Riverwatch Coordinator
- ◆ Ruth McKlusky, Manager, Partnerships & Donor Relations
- ◆ Chloé Montreuil-Spencer, Swim Guide Coordinator (summer student)
- ◆ Rachel Balderson, Research and Outreach Assistant (winter co-op student)

About Ottawa Riverkeeper

Ottawa Riverkeeper is a local grassroots charity dedicated to protecting the health and future of the Ottawa River and its tributaries. Since 2001, we have worked with individuals, community groups, and all levels of government to promote increased stewardship and collective action on issues that affect our ability to swim, drink, and fish in our local waterways. Ottawa Riverkeeper is a member of Waterkeeper Alliance, an international organization founded by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Mission:

Ottawa Riverkeeper is an independent voice for the Ottawa River, providing leadership and inspiration to protect, promote, and improve its ecological health and future.

We work collaboratively to:

- ◆ Distribute reliable and independent science-based information;
- ◆ Promote compliance with standards and protective regulations;
- ◆ Raise awareness, educate, empower, and inspire action; and
- ◆ Encourage responsible use of the river for the enjoyment and benefit of all.

Vision:

We envision an Ottawa River that is:

- ◆ Clean and healthy, provides safe drinking water, supports a diverse range of species, invites world-class recreation, and enables sustainable economic activity;
- ◆ Appreciated and recognized for its natural capital and diligently protected for the well-being of all;
- ◆ Proudly inherited by future generations that are motivated and inspired to respect it in perpetuity.

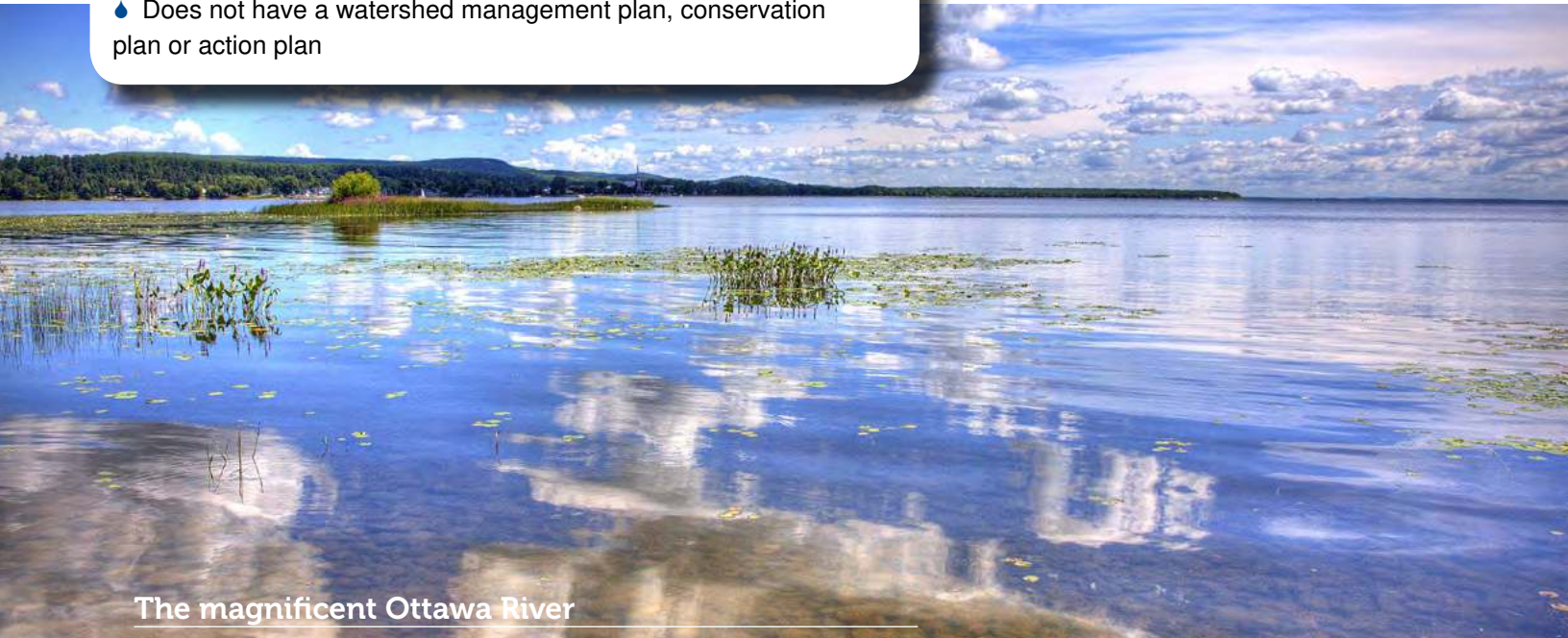
The Ottawa River at a Glance

Also known as Kichi Sipi in Algonquin and as Rivière des Outaouais in French, the Ottawa River:

- ◆ Is 1271 km long, making it the 8th longest river in North America
- ◆ Drains an area of 146,300 km², making its watershed larger than England
- ◆ Forms the border between two provinces: two-thirds of the watershed area is in Quebec, one-third in Ontario
- ◆ Is a source of drinking water for over 2 million people including every Member of our Canadian Parliament
- ◆ Is one of the most highly regulated rivers in Canada; major dams in this watershed produce over \$1 million worth of electricity per day
- ◆ Is spanned by 19 dams from its headwaters to its confluence with the St. Lawrence River at Montreal; none of these dams are equipped with ladders for migratory species such as American Eel or lake sturgeon
- ◆ Supports 96 species of fish, including 50 species-at-risk
- ◆ Delights hundreds of thousands of people each year who swim, fish, paddle, sail, and powerboat in its waters
- ◆ Is considered one of the top recreational fishing rivers in North America
- ◆ Does not have a single government agency responsible for its health and future
- ◆ Does not have a watershed management plan, conservation plan or action plan



The Ottawa River and its Watershed



The magnificent Ottawa River

A Year on the River

A message from your Riverkeeper and the Chair of our Board of Directors

Dear Friends of the River,

This year has been one of increased impact for Ottawa Riverkeeper. We are so proud of our teams' efforts to raise awareness of river issues, solve problems, and make our river a better place to swim, drink, and fish. Our success comes from building a network of diverse and dynamic individuals, organizations, businesses and families who are helping shape a positive future for our mighty Ottawa River. After all, it takes a watershed to protect a river.

At our first Riverkeeper Gala in May 2013, we introduced our watershed to the de Gaspé Beaubien family from Montreal. The young and energetic fourth generation inspired our three-year River Mission project to create a sense of shared responsibility for water protection in our own backyards. Looking back, it is amazing what we accomplished through the project in just one year. Most notably, we extended our reach and influence in the province of Quebec. We also welcomed Alexandra Cousteau and her film crew into our watershed to profile our many Riverwatchers and other volunteers working to protect and restore the Ottawa River and its tributaries.

Our Riverwatchers continue to dedicate their time to solving local water protection challenges. With leadership and training from Dr. Meaghan Murphy, we have established a citizen-science monitoring program throughout the watershed. Unfortunately, the program has revealed that untreated sewage is in our river – too much of it. But we are making progress there too. The Province of Ontario announced \$65 million to match the City of Ottawa's funding to reduce river pollution from combined sewers.

As we chart a course for the year ahead, with a focus on finding solutions and further influencing decisions that affect river health, we would like to thank our many partners, volunteers, and donors. Your generous support is making a difference and together we will make the Ottawa River the world's healthiest, most livable river flowing through a nation's capital.

In the River Spirit,



Meredith Brown
Riverkeeper and Executive Director



Geoff Green
Chair, Ottawa Riverkeeper

River Mission

We are on a mission to protect our river and are delighted to work with new, strong partners on a three-year project called River Mission. Initiated by the young, fourth generation of the de Gaspé Beaubien family, the project is a joint initiative between the de Gaspé Beaubien Foundation, Ottawa Riverkeeper, and Blue Legacy International, an organization founded by Alexandra Cousteau (granddaughter of the famous oceanographer). At our inaugural Riverkeeper Gala, the de Gaspé Beaubien Foundation announced an investment of \$490,000 toward River Mission - a significant investment in the future of our river!

Our River Mission team aims to raise public awareness about water issues and inspire individuals and decision-makers to take action to protect and restore their local waterways. As a first step, the team established a permanent position for a Director of Operations in Quebec. In September 2013, we hired Adèle Michon to assume the role.

The second step of our River Mission project was to bring the fourth generation of the de Gaspé Beaubien family onto the Ottawa River to experience first-hand its challenges and to meet the people who live and rely on the river. The trip was a great success for the young philanthropists. In February, we presented a film on their adventure entitled “We Should Tell Them” at our Film Festival (the film is now available online).

The third step of our project brought explorer and water advocate Alexandra Cousteau to the Ottawa River. In September 2013, Cousteau’s Blue Legacy team explored the river for critical threats. They also interviewed volunteers in both provinces and produced three short films that will officially launch in September 2014.

The River Mission project will culminate with the “2015 Ottawa River Summit”, bringing together key influencers, decision-makers, and citizens to determine an appropriate model of governance for our river and to find innovative solutions to our river’s challenges. To ensure broad participation in the summit, we have developed a strategy to engage people, raise awareness, and build public support for policy action.



© Blue Legacy/Oscar Durand
River Mission partners conducting water quality tests on the river with Ottawa Riverkeeper



© Blue Legacy/Oscar Durand
Alexandra Cousteau and Meredith Brown discussing water quality measurements during the shooting of Cousteau's documentaries



© LVJ, Benjamin Dickerson
Philippe IV de Gaspé Beaubien explains to a crowd of Ottawa Riverkeeper supporters why he and his cousins decided to invest in the Ottawa River



Philippe, Aidan and Louis-Alexandre de Gaspé Beaubien during their trip down the Ottawa River with Riverkeeper

Riverwatch

Riverwatch is a participatory program that identifies, connects, and engages environmental stewards (individuals and organizations) throughout the Ottawa River watershed to tackle local environmental issues affecting our rivers. As established and respected members of their communities, the stewards serve as environmental ambassadors. They monitor and report on waterway health and environmental issues as well as engage and educate their communities and municipalities on relevant watershed issues. In this way, the Riverwatchers help focus attention on water protection and motivate municipalities and individuals to act.

This year, with a new donation from Tides Canada, we were able to hire Dr. Meaghan Murphy to lead and train our volunteer Riverwatchers. With a knowledgeable and dedicated coordinator in place, the program has grown from 32 to 55 active members from Temiscaming to Montreal and has doubled its impact. Riverkeeper staff have supported the Riverwatchers by developing educational activities and resources to guide their work in the watershed.

Riverwatch Water Quality Testing Program

In spring 2013, as part of Riverwatch, we started a citizen water-quality monitoring program. The program has two goals: to educate the public about river health and to increase our knowledge of water quality changes throughout the watershed over time. Since the launch, the Ottawa Riverkeeper has trained 20 Riverwatchers to conduct monthly water quality tests at specific locations along the Ottawa River and some tributaries. The Riverwatchers have measured surface water temperature, water clarity, pH, dissolved oxygen, and nutrients (nitrate, nitrite, and orthophosphate). One of our Riverwatchers, Mike Ryan, created a map where watchers can post their results online.

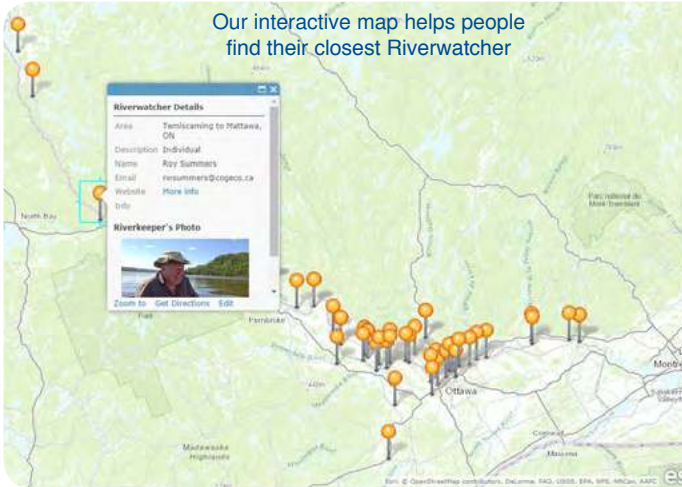
Both the training and testing have received significant media attention from the CBC, CTV, and local newspapers. In this way, the program has successfully raised awareness about Riverwatch and water quality along the river.



The first annual Riverwatch meeting was held in July at Pine Lodge on Norway Bay in Quebec



Water quality test kit



Our interactive map helps people find their closest Riverwatcher

Brewery Creek

In 2013, a small group of concerned citizens approached Ottawa Riverkeeper for help restoring their local river, Brewery Creek. The creek is a small arm of the Ottawa River that forms the island of Hull in Gatineau. Over the years, it has become a local dumping ground for trash and untreated sewage.

We encouraged these fearless leaders to form The Friends of Brewery Creek and become one of Ottawa Riverkeeper’s Riverwatch groups. We then worked with the group to design a citizen-based water monitoring project to test *E. coli* levels in the creek. Volunteers Sheila and John Jones collected water samples throughout spring and summer 2013. Results of the testing indicated that *E. coli* levels consistently exceeded limits for safe contact (swimming, paddling, splashing) at two of the four sites (85-100% of the time).

One of the barriers to protecting and rehabilitating the creek has been a community perception that there is nothing left in the creek that is worth saving. To counter this misperception, we teamed up with Friends of Brewery Creek and the Canadian Wildlife Federation to host a bioblitz in July, 2013 at Brewery Creek. The bioblitz brought together community members and experts to identify as many species as possible in the creek over a 24-hour period. Over the course of the event, we identified over 390 species including mussels, fish, dragonflies and more. The results, shared with the media and community, highlighted that Brewery Creek is an ecosystem rich in biodiversity and thus, worthy of protection.



The 2013 bioblitz on Brewery Creek brought together scientists and citizens alike



Our work helped gain a better understanding of the pollution from untreated sewage and illegal dumping in Brewery Creek.

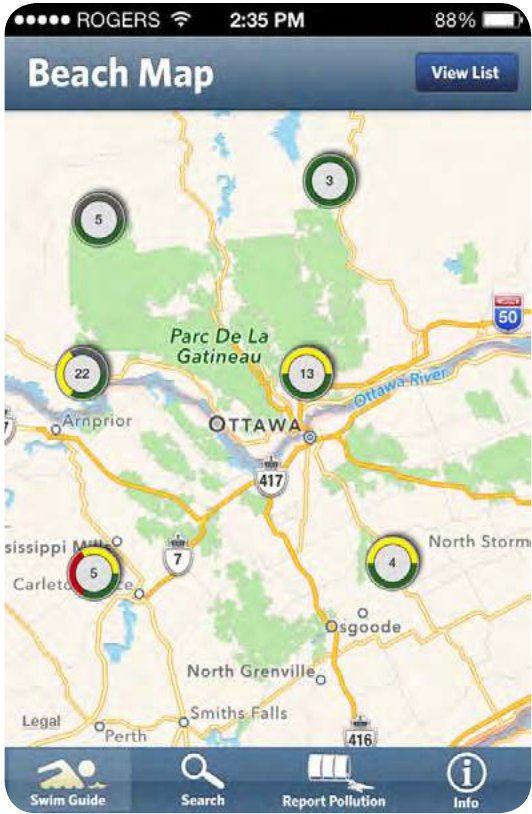
Waterkeeper Swim Guide

The Waterkeeper Swim Guide is a free app and website that locates your closest beaches and reports whether they are safe for swimming. Though the app covers beaches across North America, Ottawa Riverkeeper updates the information for beaches within our watershed. To assist with this task, Ottawa Riverkeeper hires a student every summer to act as our Swim Guide Coordinator.

Our focus in summer 2013 was to improve our reach in Québec. We added almost 100 Quebec beaches into the Swim Guide, created a French version of the Swim Guide website, and adapted our educational resources for a Quebec audience.

Furthermore, after monitoring water quality results from Quebec beaches, we brought attention to the fact that testing frequency varies greatly in the two provinces. Consequently, when beaches were closed in Ottawa due to sewage and stormwater runoff after a heavy rainfall, they typically remained open in Gatineau on the same stretch of river. With help from the media, we began warning people and recommending a 24 to 48 hour no swimming advisory after a heavy downpour. We also published an article titled “Is it really cleaner on the other side?” to raise further awareness.

In 2013 the Swim Guide had over 120,000 distinct users. We helped thousands of people find a clean, beautiful spot to swim and develop their relationship with water. Such experiences help remind people why this precious resource must be protected.



The Swim Guide free app helps people answer the simple question: Where can I safely swim today?



Our focus in 2013 was to improve our reach in Québec

Our Volunteers

Volunteers are at the foundation of all the work that we do, helping with events, administrative tasks, fundraising, translation, communications, water testing, education, and much more.

To direct these volunteers, we were fortunate to hire a part-time Bilingual Volunteer Coordinator, Brigitte Boudreau-Cassidy, with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Thanks to Brigitte, we have successfully recruited and engaged many francophones and increased our total number of volunteers.

Volunteers of the Year!

Throughout the year, we have had the honour of working alongside many amazing and skilled people. Each year we have the difficult task of choosing volunteers to receive the Dan Brunton Volunteer of the Year award:

♦ **Cathy and Rob Stewart** are Riverwatchers in Aylmer, Quebec that have served us since 2006. In 2009, Cathy was instrumental in helping us develop a partnership with the City of Gatineau. Rob and Cathy regularly volunteer at events and consistently demonstrate their commitment to the protection of the Ottawa River.

♦ **Paul Barrette** joined the team in 2013. Since then, the professional translator has helped Ottawa Riverkeeper develop into an increasingly bilingual organization. Paul also shares with us his great photography skills!

Thank you to everyone who has dedicated their time, energy and skills to working with Ottawa Riverkeeper on the protection of our watershed.



Long time Riverwatchers Cathy and Rob Stewart were awarded the Volunteer of the Year award



Paul Barrette's skills were so helpful that he was awarded the 2013 Volunteer of the Year award



Distinguished guests, sponsors and volunteers at our 2013 Riverboat Gala

Fundraising Events

Inaugural Riverboat Gala Sells Out

Presented by EY, the inaugural Riverboat Gala in May, 2013 was a great success, raising \$170,000 to support a swimmable, drinkable, fishable Ottawa River. Hosted by CBC's Evan Solomon, the fun-filled night on the Ottawa River featured amazing live performances from Juno-nominated Kathleen Edwards and Juno Award-winning Sam Roberts, as well as a memorable sunset cruise on the Ottawa River. Our special guests of honour, the former Governor of the Bank of Canada Mark Carney and his wife Diana Carney, received our first ever Honourary Riverkeeper Award. Proceeds from the Riverboat Gala enabled Ottawa Riverkeeper to purchase a patrol boat.



Magical ambiance at the Ottawa Riverkeeper 2013 Riverboat Gala

Wild & Scenic Film Festival: Informing, Inspiring and Igniting Solutions

More than 325 guests attended Ottawa Riverkeeper's second Wild & Scenic Film Festival (WSFF) in February, 2014 at Library and Archives Canada. The festival showed fascinating films about water issues around the world, and featured local content including Laurent Imbault's documentary "We Should Tell Them" and David Finlayson's underwater photographs. It also gave Riverkeeper Meredith Brown a wonderful opportunity to connect with citizens committed to a clean, healthy Ottawa River. The WSFF raised more than \$5,000 for Ottawa Riverkeeper initiatives, including water quality testing as part of our Riverwatch Program.



More than 325 guests attended our 2014 Wild & Scenic Film Festival

It Takes Clean Water To Make Great Beer!

Westboro and Hintonburg residents, local eateries, and craft brewers continued supporting Ottawa Riverkeeper's popular Brewery Market fundraisers in 2013. These third-party fundraisers, comprising four Brewery Markets that year, allowed participants to sample some of the region's finest craft beers and food delights in family-friendly Hintonburg Park. Outreach efforts at the 2013 Brewery Markets enabled Ottawa Riverkeeper to promote the organization and its efforts to protect the Ottawa River to more than 5,000 participants. We also received proceeds totaling \$5,700 in support of a clean, healthy Ottawa River.



Thumbs up for supporting a clean and healthy Ottawa river

Thank You

Ottawa Riverkeeper sincerely thanks you, our supporters. Whether you're an individual, family, business, club, or foundation, you are recognized, valued, and appreciated as a champion of a swimmable, drinkable, fishable Ottawa River.

The following is a list of generous supporters who contributed \$500 or more during our 2013 fiscal year (April 2013 - March 2014).

\$10,000+		
◆ Accenture	◆ HRDC/HRSDC	◆ Jean Van Loon
◆ Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	◆ Mining Association of Canada, The	◆ Mark Carney
◆ Community Foundation of Ottawa - Canyon Foundation	◆ Ottawa Brewery Market	◆ MP Lundy Construction (Ontario) Ltd.
◆ Cisco Systems Canada Co.	◆ Public Mobile Inc.	◆ Ottawa Triathlon Club
◆ City of Gatineau - Ville de Gatineau	◆ Telesat	◆ Patagonia
◆ Eric Baker Family Foundation	◆ Windmill Development Group	◆ Plasco Energy Group Inc.
◆ EY	◆ TD Friends of the Environment Foundation	◆ Students on Ice
◆ Fondation de Gaspé Beaubien Foundation		◆ Summa Strategies
◆ Media Style	\$1,000 - \$4,999	
◆ Mountain Equipment Co-op	◆ Canadian Museum of Nature	◆ Barry Sims
◆ Ontario Trillium Foundation	◆ Centraide United Way Ottawa	◆ Barry Stemshorn
◆ RBC Blue Water Project	◆ Character Creative	◆ City of Ottawa
◆ Telus – Ottawa	◆ Coleman Bright and Associates	◆ Councillor Katherine Hobbs
◆ The Dragon Fly Water Fund of Tides Canada	◆ David Spence	◆ CSIS Green Committee
	◆ Deloitte	◆ Eco-Energy Reserves Inc.
	◆ Frankton-Coffin Family Foundation	◆ Kenneth Abraham
	◆ General Dynamics Canada	◆ Mark Patry
	◆ Gluskin Sheff + Associates Inc.	◆ Rainbow Natural Foods
	◆ Google	◆ Regan Morris
	◆ Hendrick Farm	◆ Shirley and John Westeinde
	◆ Investeco Capital	◆ Stratos Inc.
	◆ Jacob Siefring	
\$5,000 - \$9,999		
◆ CIBC		
◆ i2 - Ideas & Issues Advertising		

Financial Report

(April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014)

Revenue		
◆ Revenue		
◆ Foundation Grants	\$387,107	
◆ Individual Donations	\$30,651	
◆ Corporate Donations	\$111,239	
◆ Government Grants	\$41,463	
◆ Riverkeeper Events	\$154,374	
◆ Amortization of deferred capital assets	\$7,609	
◆ Other	\$2,551	
Total Revenue	\$734,994	
Expenses		
Program Costs		
◆ Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$226,888	
◆ Education, Outreach and Events	\$63,176	
◆ Equipment Rental and Lab Fees	\$9,536	
◆ Travel	\$4,609	
◆ Communications	\$14,421	
◆ Sub-contracts	\$202,588	
◆ Office Equipment and Supplies	\$13,658	
◆ Professional Fees	\$16,772	
◆ Amortization of Capital Assets	\$12,575	
Total Program Costs	\$564,223	
Overhead & Administrative Costs		
◆ Rent	\$20,821	
◆ Insurance	\$1,560	
◆ Bank and Transaction Fees	\$2,053	
◆ Telecommunications	\$4,800	
◆ Professional Development & Membership Fees	\$3,025	
◆ Fundraising & Admin Salaries	\$29,120	
Total Overhead and Administrative Costs	\$61,379	
Totals		
Total Expenses	\$625,602	
Excess (deficiency)	\$109,392	

The excess of revenue over expenses is detailed in our audited financial statements that are available upon request. Naturally our projects cross fiscal years and any “excess” is absorbed to cover project expenses incurred in FY2015 and subsequent years. As all charities are required to do, we report additional financial information to the Canada Revenue Agency in our annual information return.

For more information please contact Meredith Brown, Executive Director at 613-321-1120 or mbrown@ottawariverkeeper.ca

The mission of Ottawa Riverkeeper is to provide leadership and inspire people to protect, promote and improve the ecological health and future of the Ottawa River.



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SENTINELLE *Outaouais*

Ottawa Riverkeeper / Sentinelle Outaouais
301-1960 Scott St.
Ottawa K1Z 8L8
Office: 613-321-1120
Pollution Hotline: 1.888.9KEEPER
www.ottawariverkeeper.ca
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