

ECOLOGY
OTTAWA



ÉCOLOGIE
OTTAWA

Annual Report 2008



Mobilizing community action for a greener capital city



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About Ecology Ottawa

Ecology Ottawa is a not-for-profit organization working to make Ottawa the green capital of Canada. We believe that Ottawa residents are concerned about issues such as pollution, waste and global warming, and that they want sustainable communities where clean air and water, public transit, renewable energy, recycling and green space protection take priority. We are working with residents and community organizations to ensure that these concerns are heard at city hall.

Ecology Ottawa is registered in Ontario, Canada as a not-for-profit organization, #1715290.



*Ecology Ottawa is
a not-for-profit
organization
working to make
Ottawa the green
capital of Canada.*

Our Thanks

We would like to thank the many individuals and organizations whose support helped make our second year of operation such a success:

Our financial supporters: Community Foundation of Ottawa, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Ontario Trillium Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the University of Ottawa and our many individual donors.

Other local sponsors of *The Ecology of Ottawa*: Bullfrog Power, On Your Marks Print & Design, Ceylonta, Hot Peppers, Shafali, The Muses, The Red Apron, The Table and VertDesign.

Our many volunteers, who gave over 2,300 hours of their time in support of Ecology Ottawa's public events and outreach, policy, research, publications and fundraising.

Message from the Chair

This past year has been one of phenomenal growth and stabilization for Ecology Ottawa. When 2008 began, the organization was only one year old. It had established itself as a strong new voice for environmental progress in Ottawa, but had yet to prove its ability to sustain itself and deliver on its promising beginnings. By year's end, it had secured a multi-year grant sufficient to maintain its staff and cover its core costs well into 2010. It had also produced a remarkable stream of incisive policy analysis and reports. Most importantly, it had stirred hundreds of new people across Ottawa to get involved in environmental action and advocacy in their homes, in their neighbourhoods and at city hall.

One of the key accomplishments of the year was the near doubling of Ecology Ottawa's volunteer base, from approximately 100 to 175. Ecology Ottawa is very much a volunteer organization, with volunteers playing core roles at every level—from organizational direction to fundraising, research and event planning. The energy and breadth of expertise contributed by our volunteers is indispensable.

It has also been a year of building and strengthening links with local partners, such as the Ottawa Coalition Against Mining Uranium, who we worked with early in the year to collect nearly 1,500 signatures for a petition opposing uranium exploration in our watershed. In the fall, The Sierra Club of Canada Ottawa Local Group joined us in producing the third in a series of report cards rating the voting records of Ottawa's mayor and city councillors on decisions that affect our air, land and water.

Ecology Ottawa's growing network of energetic volunteers, partner organizations and thousands of supporters who receive our e-mail action alerts is building unprecedented momentum within Ottawa's local environmental movement. Thank you to all our supporters for being part of this community mobilization to transform Ottawa into a truly green, sustainable city.

Sincerely,



Graham Saul, Chair



2008 Highlights

Education & Outreach

Greenprints: Policy proposals for a sustainable Ottawa

This series of two-page policy papers identifies concrete steps the City of Ottawa can take to decrease the city's negative environmental impacts in terms of waste, pollution and land use. Six *Greenprints* were released between April and October, covering: solar energy zoning; parking space limits; business and institutional recycling regulations; minimum density targets and zoning to curb urban sprawl; green building certification for municipal buildings; and tree protection regulations.

We alert Ottawa residents to key decisions being made at city hall and urge them to take action by letting councillors know their views.

The Ecology of Ottawa

This colourful, 20-page booklet and accompanying website help Ottawa residents understand the basics of how our city's ecosystems work, and how we are connected to them through our use of water, energy and other resources. With an emphasis on actions we can take to reduce our impact on the ecosystems we all depend on for clean air and water, the website provides links to key local resources to help readers make more sustainable choices.

Council Watch Report

This third annual report card, *Voting Green, Voting Grey: The 2008 Ottawa City Council Watch Report*, produced jointly by Ecology Ottawa and the Sierra Club Ottawa Local Group, graded the performance of the mayor and city councillors based on votes cast in council on matters of environmental significance to Ottawa.

Greening Ottawa's Festivals: A Survey Report

How Green is your Festival? summarized the results of a survey sent by Ecology Ottawa to 14 major local festivals to find out what steps they were taking to reduce the levels of waste, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental effects associated with their events.

Ecology Ottawa Updates

Ecology Ottawa continued to produce twice-weekly e-mail *Updates* throughout 2008, providing our more than 3,000 subscribers with up-to-date information on local environmental issues, events of interest and opportunities to get involved. Through this e-newsletter, we alert Ottawa residents to key decisions being made at city hall and urge them to take action by letting councillors know their views.

2008 Highlights

Events and Action

Sustainable Transportation Forum

In January, Ecology Ottawa organized a public forum on the future of sustainable transportation in Ottawa. Speakers included city councillors Christine Leadman and Alex Cullen, and representatives of the local groups Friends of the O-Train and Citizens for Safe Cycling. Over 100 Ottawa residents attended this lively discussion on the challenges and potential of sustainable transportation in Ottawa.

Protecting the Ottawa River watershed from uranium exploration

Ecology Ottawa, jointly with the Ottawa Coalition Against Mining Uranium, organized a petition calling on the City of Ottawa to ask the province for a moratorium on uranium prospecting and mining in the Ottawa River watershed. Approximately 1,500 signatures were presented to city council in February. Council subsequently passed a resolution to join other Eastern Ontario municipalities in calling for a moratorium on uranium exploration and mining in our watershed.



Establishing a presence at events across the city

Thanks to our enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers, Ecology Ottawa hosted information tables at 16 diverse local events throughout 2008, reaching hundreds of new people with educational materials and engaging an ever wider circle of Ottawans in our work to make the city more sustainable. These events ranged from those with an environmental focus (the Eco-Stewardship Fair) to those that attracted youth (the Hope Volleyball and Clean Air Basketball tournaments), music festivals (Ottawa Folk Festival and Ottawa Bluesfest) and general events that attracted a broad cross-section of people (the Great Glebe Garage Sale).

Ecology Ottawa Weekend

Organized in July, our first annual Ecology Ottawa Weekend included an open-air evening screening in Dundonald Park of the documentary *Who Killed the Electric Car?*, in partnership with Centretown movies. This was followed by a BBQ and family-friendly music event (originally set to take place the same weekend, but then rescheduled for September when Mother Nature did not oblige). These fun events provided an excellent opportunity to recognize Ecology Ottawa's dedicated volunteers, celebrate our successes and bring our message to new audiences.

2008 Highlights

Events and Action continued

Presentation on 2009 city budget

Ecology Ottawa made a presentation to city council in December on the environmental implications of the draft City of Ottawa budget for 2009. Our intervention pointed out that the city could honour its commitment to take action on climate change by deferring or cancelling costly road projects, and instead increasing funding for public transit, the Ottawa Cycling Plan, community gardens and the green box compost collection program. We urged our council to follow the lead of cities such as Toronto and Montreal, which are taking bold steps to invest in a sustainable future for their residents.

We urge our council to follow the lead of cities like Toronto and Montreal, which are taking bold steps to invest in a sustainable future.

Calling for a moratorium on road expansion

Concerned by the continual widening of roads for automobile traffic and under-funding of sustainable alternatives such as transit and cycling, Ecology Ottawa launched a petition to city council in July calling for a five-year moratorium on expanding or widening roads in the city. Over 1,300 Ottawa residents signed the petition, which was presented to city council in November, provoking a lively debate on transportation funding priorities at city hall.



“Paint the Town Green” Dinner and Art Show

To round out a very productive year, Ecology Ottawa held our second annual fundraising dinner in December. The dinner was preceded by an art sale featuring local artists who used the environment as inspiration or created their artwork using environmentally friendly materials. Several local food businesses contributed dishes to the meal, and guests were treated to live jazz music from a local band. Nearly 150 people attended this sold-out event, which was a resounding success as a fundraiser and community-builder.

Financial Statement as of December 31, 2008

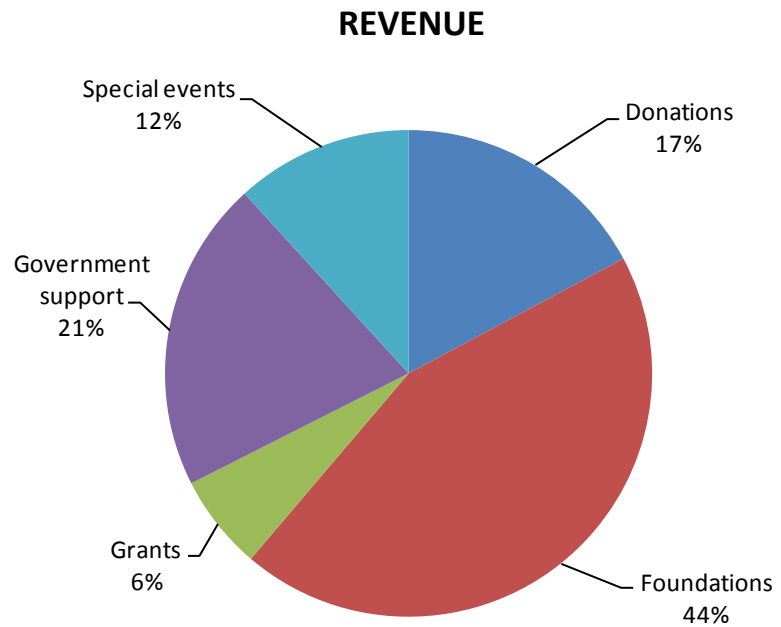
Statement of Financial Position

| | | Unaudited |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash | \$ 23,706 | \$ 16,207 |
| Accounts receivable | 7,966 | - |
| Prepaid expenses | - | 1,281 |
| | <u>\$ 31,672</u> | <u>\$ 17,488</u> |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 4,599 | \$ 1,088 |
| | <u>4,599</u> | <u>1,088</u> |
| DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS | | |
| | <u>11,843</u> | <u>4,305</u> |
| | <u>16,422</u> | <u>5,393</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Unrestricted funds, beginning of year | 12,095 | - |
| Excess of revenue over expenditures | <u>3,135</u> | <u>12,095</u> |
| Unrestricted funds, end of year | <u>15,230</u> | <u>12,095</u> |
| | <u>\$ 31,672</u> | <u>\$ 17,488</u> |

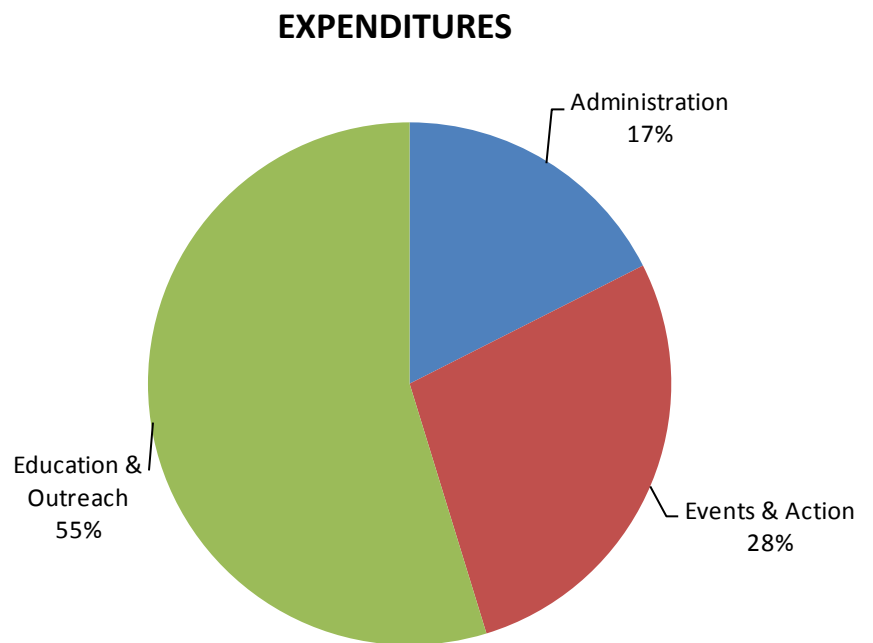
Financial Statement for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Donations | \$ | 15,197 |
| Foundations | | 38,940 |
| Grants | | 5,600 |
| Government Support | | 18,304 |
| Special Events | | 10,405 |
| | \$ | 88,446 |



| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Administration | \$ | 14,959 |
| Events & Action | | 23,647 |
| Education & Outreach | | 46,705 |
| | \$ | 85,311 |



Who we are

Steering Committee Members

Elizabeth Bernstein*,
Sabrina Bowman (ex-officio),
Mike Buckthought,
Roberto Cruz,
Erin Flynn,
Pam Foster,
Aaron Freeman,
Trevor Haché*,
Wendy Hadwen*,
Paul Hannon,

Maureen Hollingworth*,
Ashley Knapp,
Jamie Kneen,
Soha Kneen,
Dale Marshall,
Stefan Reinecke,
Graham Saul,
Erin Simpson,
Lori Waller (ex-officio),
Jo Wood

** These members also serve on the Board of Directors of Ecology Ottawa*

*We are working
with residents
and community
organizations
to ensure that
these concerns
are heard at
city hall.*



Other Working Committees

Council Watch

Events and Outreach

Policy

The Ecology of Ottawa

Who we are

Staff

Sabrina Bowman, Events and Volunteer Coordinator

Lori Waller, Environmental Research Associate

Consulting Services

Toby Brooks, Editing

Andrew Chisholm, Website

Roger Coady, Accounting

Caroline Raymond and Andrea Spraggs, Translation

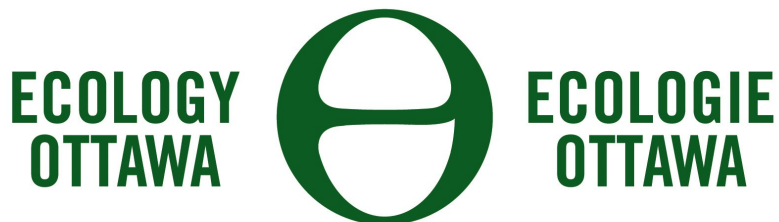
Colin White, Illustration



Interns and Summer Students

Donnie Northrup and **Caleb Chepesiuk** (summer student positions funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada)

Virginie Thibeault (internship arranged through Katimavik program)



www.ecologyottawa.ca
info@ecologyottawa.ca • 613-860-5353

Get involved with Ecology Ottawa, and help make Ottawa a more sustainable city! We encourage you to:

Sign up for our e-mail updates, at www.ecologyottawa.ca/take-action/sign-on/get-updates.php. We will send no more than two updates a month, providing information on local events and actions you can take to help protect Ottawa's environment.

Check out our calendar of events at www.ecologyottawa.ca/calendar to stay informed of outdoor activities, film screenings, workshops, public meetings and other opportunities to get engaged locally on environmental issues.

Volunteer your time with Ecology Ottawa. To find out more, send an email to volunteer@ecologyottawa.ca, or call 613-860-5353.

Make a donation. Ecology Ottawa is a legally registered, not-for-profit organization that relies on the financial support of people like you. Please donate online at www.ecologyottawa.ca/about/ or make cheques out to Ecology Ottawa, and send to:

Ecology Ottawa
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Ottawa, ON K1N 7E0

www.ecologyottawa.ca