

# ANNUAL REPORT

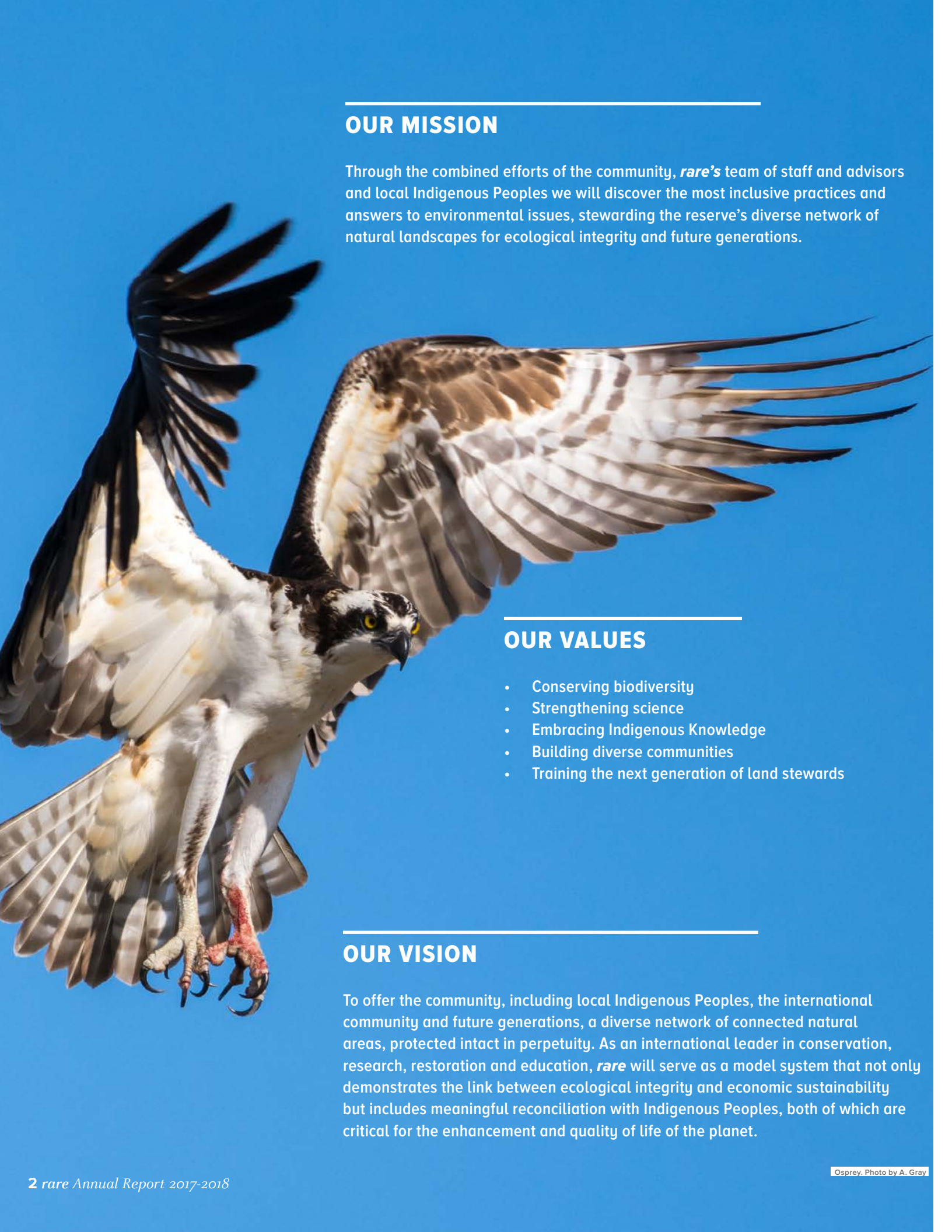
2017-2018



Red Squirrel. Photo by M. Weissmann







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## OUR MISSION

Through the combined efforts of the community, *rare's* team of staff and advisors and local Indigenous Peoples we will discover the most inclusive practices and answers to environmental issues, stewarding the reserve's diverse network of natural landscapes for ecological integrity and future generations.

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## OUR VALUES

- Conserving biodiversity
- Strengthening science
- Embracing Indigenous Knowledge
- Building diverse communities
- Training the next generation of land stewards

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## OUR VISION

To offer the community, including local Indigenous Peoples, the international community and future generations, a diverse network of connected natural areas, protected intact in perpetuity. As an international leader in conservation, research, restoration and education, *rare* will serve as a model system that not only demonstrates the link between ecological integrity and economic sustainability but includes meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, both of which are critical for the enhancement and quality of life of the planet.

# Dear supporters and friends,

This year our Annual Report is not only an evaluation of our work and a celebration of past accomplishments, but it also marks the beginning of our next five-year planning cycle. After staff sessions, we have now started to seek input from our advisors, volunteers, researchers, educators, Indigenous colleagues, artists and other partners. We envision extensive community input and the outcome will be documented in Strategy & Planning: 2020-2024.

It's particularly appropriate to start our next Strategy & Planning document with a year that also stands for clear vision. Never has the realisation of *rare*'s vision been more urgent. A landmark report published recently by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) gives humanity a 12-year ultimatum before we experience irreversible catastrophe.

Since the beginning, and continuing today, we have said that conservation is our priority and research is our priority program. But we didn't see them operating in isolation. We hoped, rather, to do what no other environmental organization was doing: we hoped to be a model that could be used around the world, demonstrating that it is possible to improve the environment and to mitigate damage humans do, while learning how to promote healthy biodiversity.

We began in our early years by acknowledging that there are many environmental sciences. Around the table at the Environmental Advisory Committee were geologists, archaeologists, biologists and practitioners with a variety of specialisations: plants, aquatics, birds, etc. We thought we were really diverse and we remain proud of the early Environmental Management Plan that catalogued species and habitats and made recommendations on practices to improve these lands we stewarded on behalf of the public. A period of intensive program development followed, and so the *Every Child Outdoors* (ECO) program was born. Conservation is what provided living laboratories and outdoor classrooms. The community understood this and funded it. All our work is connected in a *Chain of Learning* that continues to extend from the most senior teachers to the youngest students.

That allowed us to articulate better that we not only had all the so-called environmental sciences involved but that we were **cross-disciplinary**. The arts and social sciences had crept in around the edges since, intuitively, we knew they engaged people with the sciences and helped interpret their value. We began to talk about them and other fields as lines of inquiry, alongside the biological sciences, and key to understanding and improving the environment.

Along the way we also began to understand that **conservation** requires not only good underlying science, but also traditional knowledge. We learned that there is a real arrogance in assuming that "inclusion" means letting others into the way we do things. Having humility results in learning something new and better when we let others lead. Not only did this strategy create space for Indigenous resurgence and leadership, it also resulted in the formation of the *raresites* land securement team and the protection of more land in Waterloo Region/Wellington.

As we explored our connection to the land, our minds opened to those who have always believed this and lived in reciprocity with the Earth. Pilot programs not only integrated the arts into our land-based learning but also provided a firm foothold for Indigenous ways of knowing and being alongside the Western science that we had long been known for. We now call this practice of bringing together a variety of ways of understanding and living in the world, **braiding**. Learning what this means and attempting to live accordingly is something you will see as an overriding goal in the draft Plan that next comes to you.

We believe our values of conservation, research, education and different ways of knowing and being can shape more sustainable and resilient communities, starting with children and youth, and ultimately, result in a more sustainable planet.

Thank you for your support, and we hope to see many of you come along on our next adventures!



Dr. Stephanie Sobek-Swant

Executive Director

## REPORTING ON OUR GOALS

In Conservation & Connectivity; Strategy & Plans: 2015-2019, based on sessions held with community members, researchers, educators, practitioners and others who contribute to our work, we described our goals for the years ahead.

You can read the full version of Conservation & Connectivity; Strategy and Plans: 2015-2019 online at [raresites.org](http://raresites.org) under About Us. Please read on to learn about our progress toward these goals in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (September 1, 2017, to August 31, 2018).





# CONSERVATION

At *rare*, “conservation” is defined by our intention to be caretakers of the land and all the relationships within, including the biodiversity native to it. Conservation in this context is very different from “fortress conservation,” which is based on the belief that biodiversity protection is best achieved by creating protected areas where ecosystems can function in isolation from human disturbance. Humans have the potential and ability to enhance the environment when it is cared for and treated in reciprocity — which is the goal of conservation at *rare* — and something we encourage everyone to see as an inherent responsibility.



KPMG employees planting trees at the rain garden. Photo by A. Fraser

## CREATING AND ENHANCING POLLINATOR HABITAT AT SPRINGBANK

As part of a five year project, *rare* has developed a Pollinator Conservatory around our Community Gardens and our model of sustainable living, North House. The Pollinator Conservatory not only provides new and diverse pollinator habitat, but also contributes to education around pollinators and food production. Part of this is the North House Rain Garden, a component of wise residential landscape design which acts as a demonstration of sustainable storm water management for the community while also providing habitat for pollinators.

We thank the following partners for their kind support of this project: the Savvas Chamberlain Family Foundation; The Cambridge Sunrise Rotary Club; Rogers Day of Caring; KPMG; REEP Green Solutions; TD Friends of the Environment Fund; CRH-Dufferin Holcim; Whole Kids Foundation; Fiskars — Project Orange Thumb; Region of Waterloo Community Environment Fund; Tree Mobile; RBC Bluewater; and City of Cambridge. We hope to include even more partners as the project continues to flourish and grow!



Trillium Mutual building raised garden beds in our Education and Demonstration garden. Photo by T. Jarvis

## SPRINGBANK GARDENS

The gardeners at *rare* built 24 new raised garden beds in our Education and Demonstration garden with funds from Trillium Mutual. Rockway Mennonite Collegiate and Southwood Secondary School students lent helping hands to fill the new beds with soil.

In the 2018 season, record-breaking numbers of volunteers helped in the Food Bank Gardens. With over 1,400 hours of volunteer service, we grew and donated over 7,700 pounds to the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank and almost 500 pounds to the Food Bank of Waterloo Region.





*“As I was gardening at my friend’s home one summer day, I was approached by a man. At that time I had no idea how he would impact my life. Many months later as I saw him in passing, he mentioned that he volunteered at the **rare** Food Bank gardens. When he told me this, a seed was planted and then I too looked into volunteering.*

*Nothing prepared me for what I would see at the end of the trail: vast acres of gardens, rows of lush vegetables — a sea of green! I was reminded of my Gram’s garden and all the peonies that lined its perimeter. The **rare** gardens were lined with beautiful zinnias in all the colours that you could imagine. I was genuinely touched and moved by the serene feeling and beauty of this place.*

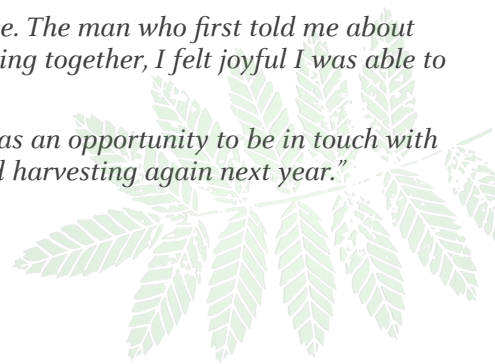
*As I came late in the season, the planting and weeding had already been done. Now it was time to harvest. To kneel and pick tomatoes, carrots, onions and kale was such a good feeling and I felt the organic earth at my hands.*

*Sometimes, we take fresh produce for granted when there are so many people who do not have any available in their daily lives. Knowing this fresh produce was going to the Food Bank felt right.*

*I was looking for a way to be a part of my community — and in harvesting I found my place. The man who first told me about the garden joined me the last day of harvest and we were able to harvest side by side. Working together, I felt joyful I was able to spend time with him and knew this was a place I would begin to make a difference.*

*I felt compassion and sacredness towards the people who would be fed by the gardens. It was an opportunity to be in touch with others who were doing the same work. I look forward to experiencing planting, weeding and harvesting again next year.”*

- Ruth, **rare** Community Gardener



## FEATURED DONOR



The Savvas Chamberlain Family Pollinator Conservatory was made possible through efforts and donations from a number of individuals and organisations, most notably the 5 year commitment of the Savvas Chamberlain family. Thanks to their generous funding, **rare** has been able to purchase the supplies required to create, enhance and maintain the existing pollinator habitat and will have the funding to continue to make improvements in the coming years.

*“One of the objectives of our foundation is to finance projects to preserve our local, provincial and national Canadian natural environment. We believe that preservation of our environment will benefit all sectors of our society. This project will lead to the preservation, survival and growth of pollinators in Waterloo Region.”*

- Christine Chamberlain, vice-president of the Savvas Chamberlain Family Foundation — the Savvas Chamberlain Family Foundation Pollinator Conservatory at **rare**.

## WHAT’S AHEAD?

Restoration and stewardship projects are an ongoing commitment for **rare**. These long-term landscape-scale changes need close monitoring and maintenance to identify successes and challenges. Invasive plant removal and channel improvement will continue at Bauman Creek. The Savvas Chamberlain Family Pollinator Conservatory will see further improvement of the Butterfly Trail and the North House Rain Garden. Opportunities for the community to learn and be involved in this work will continue through volunteer stewardship events, the expansion of the Turtle Rescue Project, and the Native Plant Propagation Project.

In the Food Bank Garden, the United Way Waterloo Region Communities Giving Circle Project will contribute funding and expertise to assist with educational opportunities at the gardens — ensuring a bountiful harvest and a pleasant experience for all. An ongoing partnership with Seeds of Diversity Canada will see more heritage vegetable varieties being grown, with seeds from these plants saved for future use. The resulting additional produce will be shared with the food banks.

# Managing Invasive Species

By Alissa Fraser, *rare* Conservation Technician

It has always taken the whole community to ensure that *rare's* motto — intact in perpetuity — will be a promise kept. Together with volunteer and community support, *rare* provides meaningful opportunities for environmental education and stewardship through its volunteer restoration activities. Individuals, corporations, clubs and non-profit organizations came together last summer and volunteered a whopping **643 hours** toward removing invasive plant species at *rare*! Hard-working University of Waterloo field course students dedicated an additional 210 hours. Thanks to everyone's dedication, the Land Management team tackled 13 invasive species: Common and European Buckthorn; Garlic Mustard; Greater Celandine; Himalayan Balsam; Common and Japanese Barberry; Lesser Periwinkle; Lily-of-the-valley; Day Lily; English Ivy; Phragmites; and Giant Hogweed. Many of these species are well-established and widespread throughout large areas of Waterloo Region/Wellington. They have persistent seed banks which require ongoing removal efforts to enhance and rehabilitate the unique native habitats of *rare*.

Giant Hogweed, an invasive plant that also poses a threat to human health, is a *rare* success story. Every year, *rare's* Land Management team and long-time volunteer John MacDonald search for and remove Hogweed plants from the *rare* reserve. The first survey of the entire reserve occurred in 2015 and 465 individual plants were removed. Hogweed matures between two to five years and is then capable of producing over 50,000 seeds per plant, dispersed long distances by water. Thanks to ongoing efforts, *rare's* population of Giant Hogweed has continued to decline; only 15 plants were found and removed in 2018. Dormant seeds may still be present in the soil, however, and because Hogweed often grows near rivers and streams, seasonal flooding carries a risk of bringing in new seeds. Vigilance is required to prevent re-infestation.

**6** *rare* review

Sadly, some invasive species have been brought to the property recently by garden waste dumped at trail heads, the side of the road, or over fences. If noticed before becoming well-established, these populations can be eliminated in a matter of years. Lesser Periwinkle and English Ivy in the Thompson Tract have undergone three years of removal and are almost completely eradicated. Unfortunately, as dumping continues, new invasive species have made their way onto the property — Japanese Knotweed and Purple Wintercreeper were recorded in 2018 for the first time and will be a priority for removal next year.

To properly dispose of invasive species, place them in a municipal black garbage bag, seal it and then leave it in the sun for several weeks to kill the plant matter. The bag can then be thrown in the garbage, or if your municipality incinerates their yard waste, the contents can be moved into a yard waste bag and set out for collection. Be sure to check if your municipality composts or incinerates their yard waste before using this approach. Another option, when possible, is to burn the plant matter until it is completely incinerated. Not all plant matter is safe to burn — e.g. burning poison ivy (a native plant) and inhaling the smoke can cause a rash to appear on the lining of the lungs, causing extreme pain and potentially life-threatening respiratory problems.

Some invasive species, such as Lesser Periwinkle, Lily of the Valley, Autumn Olive, Daylily, English Ivy, Goutweed and non-native honeysuckles are still sold at nurseries and garden centers. It is important to stay informed and not purchase these plants — for the health of the ecosystems! Some similar native alternatives you may consider purchasing include:

- Canada Anemone
- Wild Strawberry
- Partridgeberry
- Bunchberry



Giant Hogweed next to co-op student Nick. Photo by A. Fraser

- Woolly Blue Violet
- Trout Lily
- Michigan Lily
- Chokecherry
- Black Chokeberry
- Allegheny Serviceberry
- Gray Dogwood
- Common Elderberry
- American Highbush Cranberry
- Zigzag Goldenrod
- Sensitive Fern
- Ostrich Fern
- Wild Ginger
- Bush or Fly Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera* and *Lonicera canadensis*)

For more information, check out the Grow Me Instead Guide at:

[www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca).

If you're interested in learning more and joining the fight against the spread of invasive species at *rare*, check out our events calendar for 2019 volunteer dates. Or, gather some friends and/or co-workers to set up a volunteer work day with Land Management!





# RESEARCH

While *rare*'s goal is to steward its sites and ecosystems intact in perpetuity, for the community to enjoy, forever, in a natural state, it also promotes the lands as a living laboratory for research — including in-house monitoring programs and partnerships with other institutions, community-based scientists, artists and Indigenous Peoples. Research then informs restoration practices and education programs through a *Chain of Learning* that reaches even the youngest learners in a program called Every Child Outdoors (ECO), a model of active, hands-on, problem-based environmental learning, driven by inquiry in the out-of-doors.

We are a truly collaborative, multidisciplinary site where resources can be used most sustainably to tackle big questions as comprehensively as possible, and where ideas can soar in an environment that fosters cross-pollination involving different knowledge systems that come from diverse backgrounds including (but not limited to) the social sciences, humanities, archaeology, psychology and the arts. We bring together internationally-renowned experts, aspiring early-career researchers, artists and the larger community.



Families birdwatching during CBC4Kids. Photo by J. Quinn



Dr. Andrew Judge giving a tour of Minjimedan. Photo by C. Thompson

## A MILESTONE

Research at *rare* hit an exciting milestone at the end of 2018: 100 research projects and counting that list *rare* as a field site or partner. Research has always been an integral part of *rare*, and the completion of the ECO Centre's accommodations for visiting researchers, as well as the scholarship and bursaries program, have helped increase the capacity for students to study on the reserve. Twenty different projects were initiated at *rare* in 2018, the largest number of new projects in *rare*'s history. *Minjimedan*, a sustainable Indigenous Food Garden project created by the 2018 Ages Foundation scholarship recipient, Mkomosé (Bearwalker) — Dr. Andrew Judge, utilizes Indigenous knowledge frameworks to create a spiraling terraced garden that ignites all senses and inspires a revitalization of Indigenous food systems and land-based sustainability practices. As *rare* works toward meaningful reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island, our commitment continues to equally include and value Indigenous and Western knowledge systems and methodologies.





Spotting wildlife for the 2018 City Nature Challenge. Photo by J. Quinn

*"I've always loved working at **rare** because, while serving as an important conservation area, it also acts as a valuable research station. My colleagues and I are always able to gather interesting data from **rare**, while sparing the expense normally associated with field work, because **rare** is located so close to the University. Working at **rare** is a pleasure, and I look forward to doing it again next summer."*

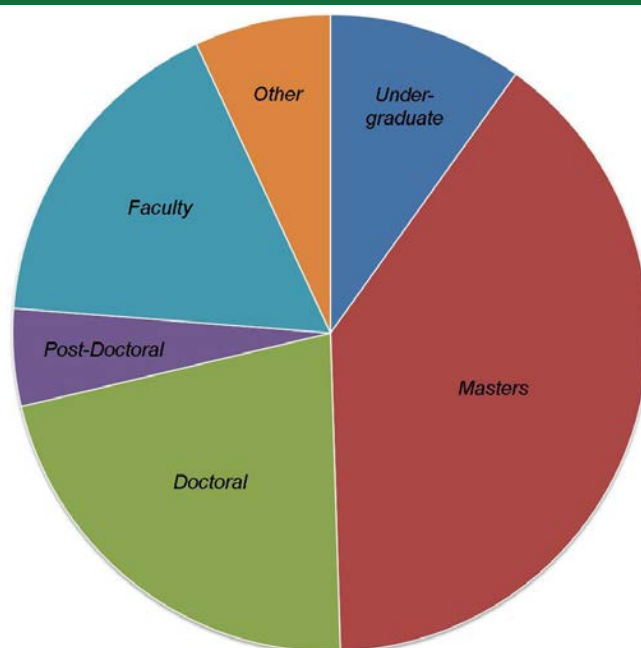
- Kevin MacColl, **rare** Researcher in Integrative Biology, University of Guelph

## FEATURED DONOR

Since 2009, **rare** has awarded more than \$55,000 to graduate students in support of their research, thanks to the Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation — Ages Foundation, and program sponsors since 2016. The Research Fellowship & Bursaries program drives **rare**'s research interests, and has continuously proven to be an important recruitment tool for attracting new and exciting research to **rare**. The stipends help successful candidates obtain the necessary resources to conduct and report on their research, ensuring not only that important environmental issues are being tackled in Waterloo Region, but also that information derived from the projects is shared with broad audiences.



Cambridge & North Dumfries  
**Community Foundation**



A breakdown of Research Degrees of **rare** Researchers since 2001.

## WHAT'S AHEAD?

Looking forward, we are excited to invite the community to our first new property in the Eramosa River Conservation Corridor with a bioblitz on July 26-27. Save the date and join us for a weekend of exploration!

We will continue to commit to our long-term monitoring plans, expand our vegetation sampling efforts to new habitats, and complete the third and final year of our post-restoration monitoring on Bauman Creek. We also welcome our first ever Postdoctoral Fellow to **rare**, Dr. Justin Gaudon, who will focus on building forest resiliency in the wake of the invasive emerald ash borer's devastation of local ash trees — see the next page for a short portrait of Justin and his work.





Indian Woods. Photo by A. Newell

# Introducing Justin Gaudon

By Jenna Quinn, *rare* Program Scientist — Research Priorities, Partnerships & Monitoring

We are excited to welcome forest entomologist and ecologist Dr. Justin Gaudon to *rare* and the University of Waterloo, as the Mitacs Elevate / Westfall Postdoctoral Fellow over the next two years. Justin recently completed his Ph.D. in Forestry at the University of Toronto, where he studied the biology and ecology of North American natural enemies attacking the emerald ash borer (EAB), an important invasive beetle that has severely impacted forests in Canada and the United States.

Justin will help *rare* restore forests that have been infested by EAB, and his specific goal over the next two years is to explore the link between plant and insect populations across different habitats. He will also compare vegetation sampling methods currently used as part of *rare's* long-term monitoring program to determine the most cost-efficient sampling protocols

for continued use, without sacrificing valuable information being collected about our forests. Justin's main project will link insects to specific vegetation and habitat characteristics, which will be particularly useful to predict insect abundance, diversity, and impact in a given area. For example, understanding the abundance and diversity of parasitic Hymenoptera, such as wasps, bees, ants, and allies, in relation to vegetation could provide a vegetation conservation target that can maintain and enhance parasitoid populations and diversity.

Overall, this will contribute to the establishment of forests that are resilient to non-native forest insects. Justin's work is especially valuable in response to numerous existing disturbances and emerging threats such as climate change and will ultimately help to ensure that *rare's* promise made to protect important greenspace in perpetuity is a promise kept.



Justin Gaudon



# EDUCATION

More than 18,000 students have gone through our school-based and youth environmental education program, called *Every Child Outdoors* or ECO, which delivers curriculum-based education programs for K-12 including specialized Mirrored Research programs — programs that allow students to “mirror” the research and monitoring activities conducted on the reserve.



Teachings at ECO Camp. Photo by E. Leslie

## EQUAL SPACE

The education department at *rare* works to provide equal space for scientific research, multi-disciplinary inquiry and Indigenous knowledge in the experience of the landscapes at *rare*. This past summer, we welcomed a new partnership with the University of Waterloo’s Student Art Innovation Lab, otherwise known as SAIL, to our Summer ECO Camp. SAIL visited *Every Child Outdoors* (ECO) Camp every week, leading campers in innovative art projects which provided them with an outlet to participate in artistic activities that used a variety of techniques. This partnership allowed the education department to support art-based learning in combination with environmental and Indigenous-based teachings. Indigenous-led teachings were held during each of the nine weeks of ECO Camp. These learning opportunities were offered by members of the community, including local Indigenous knowledge keepers, research fellows and staff members, providing insight into Haudenauonee and Anishinaabe knowledges from the perspective of these cultures. To read more about *rare*’s partnership, with SAIL, see page 12.

## FEATURED DONOR

Our donors make it possible to support *Every Child Outdoors* and extend the *rare Chain of Learning*, which builds knowledge and a sense of wonder and excitement from everyone involved — from the most senior teachers to the youngest students. The generous support of the Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation’s Kids to Camp Fund subsidized six children to attend Summer ECO Camp, to experience an entire community of support among Indigenous leaders, scientists, artists and land stewards at all levels. Through generous funding from TD Friends of the Environment in 2018, we are now looking forward to constructing a new outdoor teaching space in the spring of 2019. The space will consist of stone benches arranged in a circle, providing a new place for community to gather and learn. We would also like to thank Ken Dance for his continuous support in providing school bus subsidies assisting schools in transportation costs to participate in the ECO programs at *rare* and the Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation for their generous support.



**KITCHENER  
WATERLOO  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**

## MESSAGES FROM ECO PARENTS

*“I love that this camp is outdoors so my child is not cooped up in a building all day. Most of all it’s the education aspect. My child struggles to write at school yet you can’t stop him from journaling at camp and at the end of the week I hear about everything he did because he reads it to me.”*

*“This was our son’s first year at ECO Camp. He LOVED it. He loves to show us different plants and is always watching the birds and trying to name them. He is much more aware and appreciative of nature. It is a new interest for him as he never took notice of these things before. He even holds flowers in his hands more delicately now and studies them more closely.”*





Activities at ECO Camp. Photo by E. Leslie

## WHAT'S AHEAD?

The year 2019 will include continued transformation of ECO programs by inviting local Indigenous Elders and knowledge holders, having respectful dialogue around local Indigenous territory and land dispossession, treaties and wampum agreements. New school modules that support Indigenous art and land-based practices recently implemented at **rare** will be developed. Growing our capacity through new methodologies and modules makes use of the richness that different forms of inquiry can provide students as they create connections with the land at **rare**. We plan to work in a collaborative Spirit with community partners, local school boards and local Indigenous Peoples to determine both curricular and holistic community learning needs, as our programs and modules evolve to foster Indigenous resurgence and settler reconciliation themes.

In particular, we will be working closely with the Wolves Den, a grassroots Haudenosaunee youth camp from Six Nations of the Grand River, to encourage Indigenous knowledge sharing between on-reserve and off-reserve and urban Indigenous youth in Waterloo Region. Through this partnership, we hope to empower young Indigenous leadership and participation at **rare**.



To send in a donation, fill in form and cut here.



**Yes! I support conservation, research & education at *rare*!**

Enclosed is my gift of:

- ☐ \$100
- ☐ \$50
- ☐ \$25
- ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I'll help **rare** plan ahead by joining the **Bedrock Club** with a monthly donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be automatically withdrawn on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month (void cheque attached).



Charitable number 87761 5914 RR0001

### Donor Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address with City and Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email ☐ Yes, I would like to receive email updates from **rare**

### Payment Information

Please send cheques payable to: **rare Charitable Research Reserve**  
1679 Blair Road  
Cambridge, ON N3H 4R8

**OR**

Please charge my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ M/C ☐ A/E

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

ARSU2019

*rare* Annual Report 2017-2018 **11**



# Featured Educator: Chloe Blair

By Mackenzie Lespérance (*Smiling Water*), *rare* Indigenous Research Fellow & Chloe Blair



As *rare* becomes more deeply engaged in Settler reconciliation and Indigenous resurgence opportunities, our education department is becoming a place where multidisciplinary learning opportunities can thrive. By privileging Western and Indigenous knowledge systems equally, we are exposing our students to a higher quality education, equipping them with a greater capacity to learn and think for themselves and as a community. We believe that environmental sustainability is an attainable goal when we recognize and enact our inherent responsibilities in relation to one another, and to the environment through experiential learning.

These relationships have been magnified through a new and holistically fulfilling partnership developed last summer between our *Every Child Outdoors* (ECO) Camp and the Student Art Innovation Lab (SAIL). SAIL is a mobile community outreach art program developed by Associate Professor Tara Cooper out of the University of Waterloo. Through this multidisciplinary collaboration, 200 ECO campers were

able to experience unique and high-quality fine art activities designed to be environmentally friendly and inclusive of Indigenous values of the land. Two graduates and two undergraduate students from the University of Waterloo's Fine Arts Department designed these new modules, including two special activities developed by Indigenous scholar, Chloe Blair.

Chloe is a European-Algonquin artist and craftsperson working out of Waterloo. She holds a Bachelor of Art in Art History and Visual Culture from the University of Waterloo, but her true passion is nurturing and privileging Indigenous knowledges especially as it relates to art and environmental sustainability. Through her work with SAIL, she developed land-based artistic programming that encourages children and youth to explore the creative potential of nature. Chloe's programs adapt knowledge of invasive species with Indigenous foraging and crafting practices. In both modules, invasive species were identified, removed and used to create practical and biodegradable items such as bee



homes and paintbrushes. Chloe believes strongly that science and art are not mutually exclusive when having a relationship with the Earth. These

activities served as diverse teaching and learning tools for sustainable artistic and environmental practice, while centering Indigenous knowledges and values for the next generation of responsible land stewards.

We are immensely grateful for the new learning opportunities provided by Chloe and the SAIL team. We look forward to strengthening such partnerships in summer 2019!





# Thank you, volunteers!



Manulife volunteers in the Springbank Gardens. Photo by T. Jarvis

Thank you so much to all **rare** volunteers who contributed their time, energy and skills to guarantee a diverse network of connected natural areas are protected, intact in perpetuity. Whether it be the university student who devoted their personal time to ensure species monitoring was taking place, or the retiree who wanted to give back to their community by helping with ECO Camp programs, or the corporate group who spent a day harvesting in the Springbank Foodbank Gardens — we thank you!

At **rare**, we believe community involvement is the core of conservation. We recognize people as part of the environment and we love working with all volunteers towards responsible land stewardship. We are truly appreciative of the individuals and groups that make it a priority to give back and make it possible for us to accomplish all we do in a year. Each and every volunteer makes a far-reaching impact — we thank you for your invaluable contribution.

We want you to be a **rare** volunteer! Contact Laura Klein at [Laura.Klein@rarsites.org](mailto:Laura.Klein@rarsites.org) for more information.



Walk & Run family fun. Photo by Light & Love Photography

**THANK YOU** for the support of all participants, pledgers, sponsors, and volunteers who made the 2017 Walk & Run for **rare** a huge success! The eighth annual event raised over \$30,800 in support of **rare's** Turn the Map Green campaign.

Turn the Map Green is a grassroots effort to ensure the protection of **rare's** first three properties, comprising more than 900 acres of environmentally significant land. Every \$2 protects one square metre of the reserve and all the species that call it home.

On the very warm event day, 168 people participated — protecting over 15,400 square meters of land for future generations. Thank you to everyone who supported this event!

The 2019 date is set for **September 22** and we hope to see you there for our **tenth** annual Walk & Run for **rare**!

**Zeifmans**  
Ideas with impact



**Stantec**

**ONBELAY  
CAPITAL INC**

**MacNeil & Dodd  
Pharmacy**



**KPMG**  
cutting through complexity™

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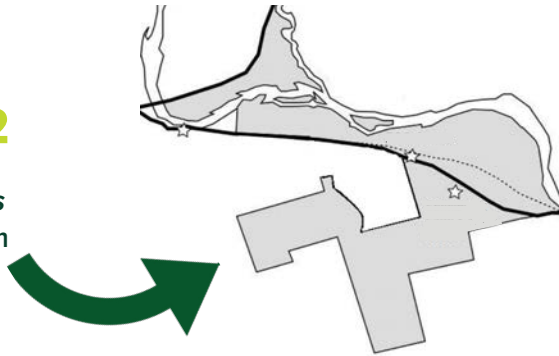
**The Waterloo Networking Company**



# YEAR AT A GLANCE

**59,437m<sup>2</sup>**

turned green as part of *rare's* Turn the Map Green campaign



for the  
**+4,000**  
species that call  
*rare* home



**2,600+**  
Donors

**4,700+**  
HOURS OF VOLUNTEER  
SUPPORT



Consisting of: **3,000+** volunteer hours at the Springbank Farm gardens and with the land management team, **540+** hours by citizen scientists and **300+** hours of helping hands at ECO programs.



*Corporations for Conservation*  
supporting *rare*

## RESEARCH



**4,000+**  
SPECIES  
DOCUMENTED AT  
*rare*



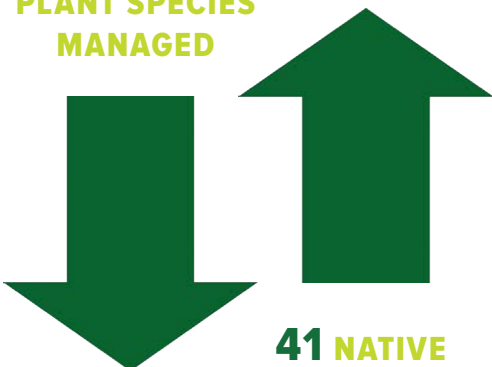
**22**  
NEW OR  
ONGOING  
RESEARCH  
PROJECTS



**7** PEER-  
REVIEWED  
PUBLICATIONS

## CONSERVATION

**13** INVASIVE  
PLANT SPECIES  
MANAGED

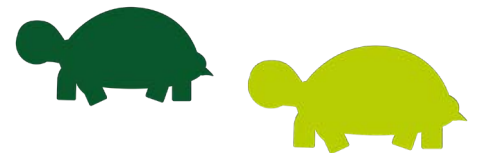


**41** NATIVE  
PLANT SPECIES  
PLANTED

**BIGGEST HARVEST AT  
SPRINGBANK FOOD BANK  
GARDENS**



**8,200+**  
pounds of fresh, organic produce  
donated to two local food banks



**1,025**

baby painted & snapping turtles  
released within 100 metres of their  
nest locations

## EDUCATION

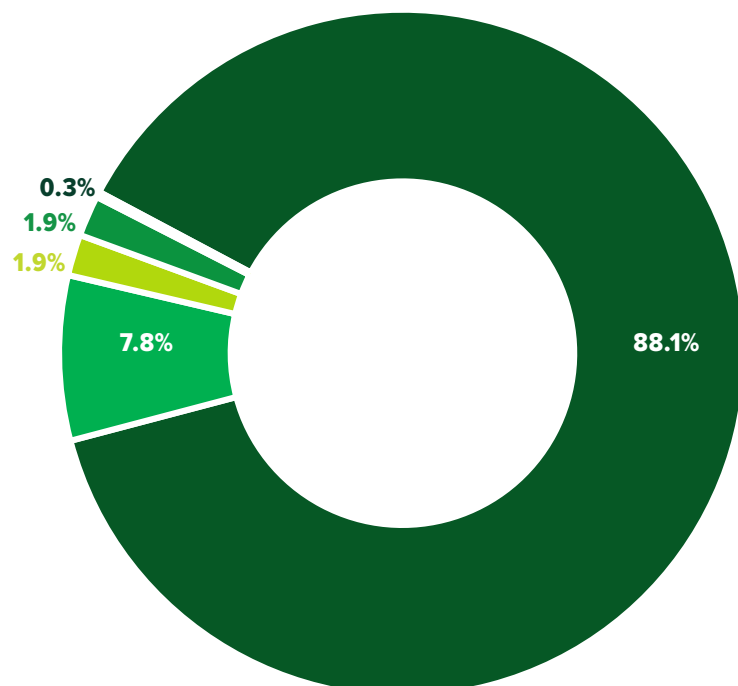
**1,800+**  
CHILDREN  
PARTICIPATING  
IN ECO CAMP/  
ECO PROGRAMS





# Financial Highlights

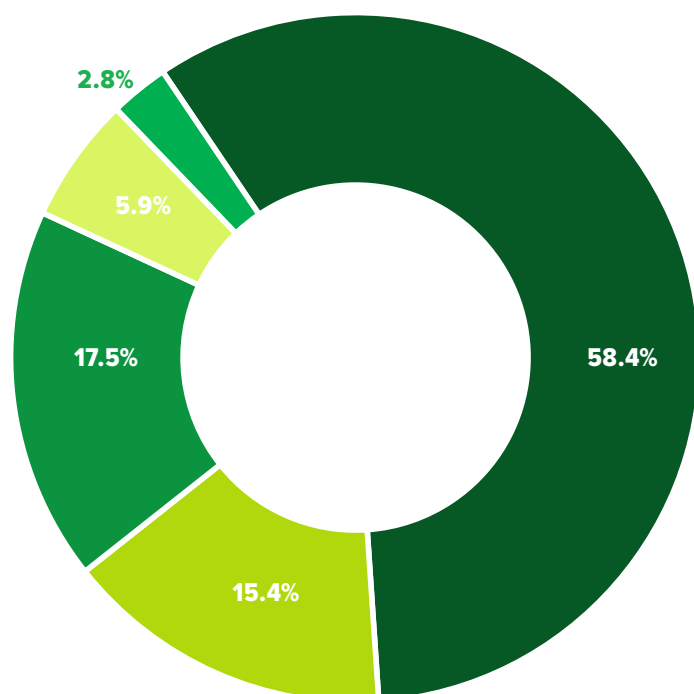
Year ended August 31, 2018



## STATEMENT OF REVENUE<sup>1</sup>

Donations and Grants	\$1,826,694
Government Programs	\$160,928
Program Revenue	\$40,136
Rental Income	\$40,045
Other Income	\$5,273
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,073,076</b>

■ Donations and Grants	(88.1%)
■ Government Programs	(7.8%)
■ Program Revenue	(1.9%)
■ Rental Income	(1.9%)
□ Other Income	(0.3%)



## STATEMENT OF EXPENSES

Conservation, Research & Education Programs <sup>2</sup>	\$915,226
Administration	\$241,899
Fundraising & Community Relations	\$275,058
Communications	\$92,673
Professional Fees	\$43,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,567,996</b>

**Excess of revenue over expenses**    **\$505,080<sup>3</sup>**

■ Conservation, Research & Education Programs <sup>2</sup>	(58.4%)
■ Administration	(15.4%)
■ Fundraising & Community Relations	(17.5%)
■ Communications	(5.9%)
■ Professional Fees	(2.8%)

## FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT AUGUST 31, 2018

Current Assets (Cash and Receivables)	\$1,147,685
Capital Assets: Land	\$5,957,174
Capital Assets: Buildings & Equipment	\$3,422,823
Current Liabilities (Payables)	(\$426,943)
Mortgage Payable	(\$4,160,600)
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$5,940,139</b>

### Notes

1. Inclusive of Operating and Capital Revenues
2. Includes cost of amortization (\$206,946)
3. Allocation towards anticipated future expense in following fiscal year



# Thank you, 2017-2018 supporters!

The following individuals, foundations, government agencies, organizations and businesses helped *rare* make an impact and work toward its vision in the last fiscal year (September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018). For a full list of all donors — considered Founders — to *A Natural Investment*, please see the list in our 2014/2015 report, available on request. As noted below, we welcome corrections so that the permanent donor wall, to be established at the end of the campaign, reflects you appropriately.

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Gray Tree Frog. Photo by M. Willson

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#### Notes

Please take the time to review your name on the list. Although every effort has been made to record it properly, sometimes mistakes happen and we want to get it right. If you see an error in your listing please let us know by contacting rare@raredsites.org or 519-650-9336.

Denotes Bedrock Club  
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Development & Communications Officer

### Mackenzie Lespérance (Smiling Water)

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The **rare Charitable Research Reserve** acknowledges and offers gratitude to all the original stewards of the land in which **rare** resides, within the Haldimand Tract, land granted to Indigenous Peoples in 1784 to recognise their support for the British in the American Revolution. Understanding that this land has been rich in diverse Indigenous presence since time immemorial, we would like to honour and respect the sovereignty of both First Nations in our area: the Onkwehon:we Peoples of Six Nations of the Grand River and the Anishinaabe Peoples of the Mississaugas of the New Credit. Nia:weh and Miigwech to these Nations who share their lands with us. We'd also like to acknowledge the Neutral people, for whom we have archeological evidence dating back 10,500 years.

Lastly, we acknowledge those Indigenous Peoples who currently live, work, play and learn in the urban landscape around us, such other self-identified and status First Nations, Métis and Inuit. We believe that, as a community, we need to learn about and uphold our role within treaties and natural law to honour our ongoing commitment to meaningful reconciliation with the Onkwehon:we Peoples of Six Nations of the Grand River and the Anishinaabe Peoples of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation on whose treaty and ancestral territory we live.





Mosses. Photo by L.J. Robson



# Annual Report 2017-2018

