

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Working Group Year End Report
2005-2006

**The Ontario Public Interest Research Group
OPIRG McMaster**



Working group year end report

2005-2006



OPIRG McMASTER WORKING GROUP YEAR-END REPORT

ARTISTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Unfortunately, we didn't actually start doing anything this year other than feeling out McMaster artists for interest. This group was started (mid year in January). While we were a bit over-optimistic we do intend to do it next year, starting up at the beginning of the year and have it running by film fest time.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER ACTION GROUP

Community Volunteer Action Group is a working group that provides pre-established volunteer opportunities in the Hamilton community. Contacts are arranged and groups are formed, headed by a facilitator, to make the volunteer experience fulfilling and as stress free as possible. Student discussion, experiential learning and reflection are emphasized to motivate volunteers and provide lasting awareness of the changes that they are making and the social issues that affect various areas of the community. CVAG had 211 volunteers in term one and 203 volunteers in term two this year. With a total number of group visits to the agencies totaling at 492, and the total number of individual visits to agencies totaling at 3175, CVAG is out in the community making a difference!

Facilitators are responsible for acting as a liaison between the volunteer group and the agency; setting up training times, and arranging modes and routes

of transportation to and from the agency. The facilitators also lead the group in weekly discussion and reflection activities. There are 38 facilitators for our 31 placements.

CRAFT meetings are designed for facilitators to practice reflection techniques, discuss issues that are arising in their group, and gain support through any problems they might be having with their placement or their group. There have been a total of 8 CRAFT meetings, including 3 time slots for each of these meetings; totaling up to 24 meetings throughout the year.

We had three events for volunteers throughout the year. This includes most recently out end of the year coffee house, which featured an all you can eat ice-cream sundae buffet. The attendance for the coffee house was low, but considering the time of year and exams and final papers beginning, it was a great turn out.

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Working Group Year End Report
2005-2006

Groups run from September until early April. Planning for next year has begun, with the idea of committees being added to better divide up the responsibilities of the facilitators, as well as adding better support systems for new facilitators with a new mentoring committee. There will be four groups planning to volunteer throughout the summer. The remainder of the groups will start back up in September, beginning with the Clubfest and the annual volunteer fair, where new members can sign up and

discuss placements with past facilitators.

Short statistics:

- 31 groups of volunteers at agencies
- 38 facilitators (group leaders)
- total number of volunteers for term one; 211
- total number of volunteers for term two; 203
- total number of group visits to agencies; 492
- total number of individual visits to agencies; 3175

EAST EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

We've been keeping all of our students and participants up to date about events through word-of-mouth, sending emails to contacts and having them forward the info to their friends. Also, at each meeting student have been able to sign up for our mailing list. This has been helpful, because if student have needed clarification about meeting times, wanted to be noted for speaking spots, or just wanted to give us feed back, they could do so the easiest way; online. Also, these contact emails have been helpful in contacting student before and after meetings.

Second, all student discussions have been very successful. Students are always respectful and recognize one another. Also, we have encouraged students to introduce topics from class, personal experiences, family stories, news, etc. As you know already, our group has functioned with student faculties and research in mind. This has meant that students are able to present topics or themes from their interests and help perpetuate discussions to better understand the issues at hand and develop a variety of solutions. We have asked any student who wish to present information, articles, etc. to help us compile these resources to help develop contemporary, easily accessible resources that students can transfer amongst each other. Students have been able to ask us to forward information to them or ask us to help them touch base with other students, either in their program or with whom they have a common interests. I have attached all articles I have held personally.

Thirdly, our group has been able to make use of Research Aids. These have been people who have wanted to get more involved with the group and feel very passionately about the topics. The have helped us organize events, send emails to students (for example) from the same faculty or grade, etc. They have also been a source of positive energy and assistance in communicating problem within the group. These tasks have help maintain the level of trust and comfort within the working group through the semester.

Fourthly, given the limitation of our group, this being its first semester, we have decided to postpone the final two stages for the summer and next year. The basic idea is to have all students focus on working co-operatively to develop programs that can be instituted or adopted at the business, government, NGO, or grassroots levels. In doing so, students need time to understand the complexity of conflicts and sustainability, both in the

McMaster Community, GTA, Canada, and International context. Transferable and Transparent programs are our goal. The second is find means of expressing the programs. Seeing how our research will be focus on a variety of sources, it will take time and talent to have academic journals recognize the work of students. We are also working towards having local newspapers, websites, and magazines publish our research as well. This way it will not only document the works of McMaster Student, but allow student from many different communities to contribute to both micro and macro development projects. So, our working group and students will be continuing our efforts for the summer.

EAT LOCAL

-Food Issues events & meetings:

- June 16, 2005 ~ Intro Eat Local potluck #1 (10 people)
- July 2, 2005 ~ Organic strawberry picking trip (9 people)
- July 14, 2005 ~ Sprouting & fermenting teach-in (7 people)
- July 21, 2005 ~ Jam making workshop , made jam from the berries we picked (6 people)
- August 24, 2005 ~ Eat Local planning potluck #2 (12 people)
- Sept 14, 2005 ~ Pear preserving workshop , canned pears that were donated by the Hamilton Fruit Tree Project (3 people)
- Sept 16, 2005 ~ Nutrition potluck #1: shared information & ideas on nutrition (10 people)
- Sept 21, 2005 ~ Tomato & pickle preserves workshop , led by Melanie Golba from Plan B Organic Farm (6 people)
- Sept 30, 2005 ~ Herb potluck #1 : Herbal Tea Sampling & Discussion (3 people)
- Oct 23, 2005 ~ Herb Potluck # 2: Poultry making (5 people)
- Oct 13, 2005 ~ Hands-on fermenting workshop, learnt how to make lacto-fermented vegetables, kimchie (8 people)
- Oct 16, 2005 ~ Nutrition potluck #2: Cleansing & fasting
- Nov 13, 2005 ~ Nutrition potluck #3: Regional eating, seasonal eating & macrobiotics (15 people)
- Nov 18, 2005 ~ Herb Potluck #3: Making salves & herbs-babies-children
- December 6, 2005 ~ Whole grain pastry cooking event with Toronto chef (16 people)



Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Working Group Year End Report
2005-2006

- o January 9, 2006 ~ Food talk at Engineers Without Borders team-building day (1 OPIRG speaker, 40 attendees)
- o January 26, 2006 ~ Food issues workshop at the SAGE school's "Self-care Fair" (1 workshop leader, 52 kids)
- o February 10, 2006 ~ Eat Local planning potluck (9 people)
- o April 22, 2006 ~ EARTH DAY Potluck
- o April 28, 2006 ~ Earth Day EcoFest – Workshop on Food & the Environment (6 workshop leaders, 120 kids)
- o May 5, 2006 ~ Eat Local Dinner, Film & Food Market @ Melrose Church. Film title: Reinventing the World – Food (9 planners)

Other work done----

- 6 smaller event-specific planning meetings
- 14+ food security-related articles/links sent over the listserve

FOOD NOT BOMBS

- unfortunately very inactive this year, due to combination of lack of continuous volunteers/cooking space and general failings of contact person (me) to organize people

- there is still definitely a place for such a group/project in Hamilton, and there is interest, it is just near impossible to sustain that interest if nothing is currently on the go to get folks involved in

- would need to do a better job of collecting food that cannot be sold (so we are not hurting the business of 'good' stores/stands at the farmer's market)

- fnb supplies/materials are currently in the care of Aaron (freetheleeches@gmail.com) and The Sky Dragon Centre and consists of a giant pot, a bbq stove, some dishes, etc

- some contact has been made in the past with some of the downtown churches and shelters, to find when they think optimal serving times would be,

or to make use of kitchen space, or to help cook for those institutions

- possibility of using the 'gleaned' food for dinners, discussion, community event. especially in winter when its cold out in gore park

- past food has been donated from Buttrums @ market, Plan B, Weils Bakery, Global Village, individual donors. To be contacted: more market stands, grocery stores, restaurants, etc

- farmers market: best time should be near 6pm on Saturday, as market is closed until Tuesday

- many restaurants are closed Monday, or have less hours, so Sunday there may be food available upon request

- possible connection in future with eat local, especially the fruit tree project, which is a much more focused and organized take on fnb/gleaning (also much more successful and easier to pitch to 'non-political' folks)

GUATEMALA

Thursday, September 29 Does Canada support Human Rights or Gro\$\$ Profit?
CANADIAN MINING IN GUATEMALA

Sunday, November 27 Guatemalan Mudslide Relief Gala
Featuring: Guatemalan Update, Entertainment, Hair Show, Dancing, Wine and Cheese,
Silent Auction

Saturday, February 18th An Evening with Rufino Herrera – a Pioneer of Fair Trade and
President of FEDECARES (an association of small-scale coffee growers in the
Dominican Republic).

Thursday, March 9, 2006 welcoming back Leocadio Juracan from the Campesino
Committee of the Highlands ~ long-time defender of justice, equality and land rights in
Guatemala.

April 12 to April 23, 2006 PANZOS, 25 Years Later... A history of Canadian mining
investment in a Guatemalan village. An exhibition of photographs and paintings by the
Guatemalan artist ,Marlon Garcia Arriaga, demonstrating Canada's role in the
economic exploitation and repression of Guatemala.

1. SERIES OF EVENTS:

Thurs. April 13 An Opening Reception with Marlon Garcia Arriaga, Gary Santucci on
Spanish guitar, and Guatemalan food and refreshments.

Tues. April 18 "Historical Connections": Presentation with slides by Marlon Garcia
Arriaga, outlining Canadian involvement in Guatemala from pre-colonial period to
present.

Sun. April 23, "OPEN PIT MINING verses HUMAN RIGHTS in Sipakapa,
Guatemala" first-hand testimony from Juan Tema of Sipakapa, Guatemala - a
community affected by Glamis Gold.

Wednesday, May 3 Peaceful Protest at the Glamis Gold Annual Shareholders' Meeting.
Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street. West, Toronto
Glamis Gold Open Pit Mining versus Sustainable Development, Environment and
Human Rights for the Indigenous and Local Populations of Guatemala and Honduras.
The Sipakapa Declaration formally presented to the Glamis Gold meeting of
shareholders.

HAMILTON VEGETARIAN ASSOCIATION

Events for the year

Student Centre Tabling
Monday, October 17,
2005

First General Meeting
Tuesday, October 18,
2005
Attendees: 10

Vegan Potluck +
Peaceable Kingdom
showing
Wednesday, October
26, 2005
Skydragon
Attendees: 7

Meeting
Thursday, November
10, 2005
MUSC
Attendees: 6

Meeting
Tuesday, November 15,
2005
MUSC
Attendees: 3

Meeting
Thursday, November
24, 2005
MUSC
Attendees: 7

Meeting
MUSC
Tuesday, January 31st,
2006
Attendees: 4

Meeting



Tuesday, Feb 14, 2006
MUSC
Attendees: 5

Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 2006
Drop in at Bridges
Attendees: 3

An Evening of
Compassionate
Consumption [film
night by Peace and
Conflict Studies Society
(PACSS)]
Monday, March 13,
2006-04-27
TSH 120
Attendees: 75+
-Film viewing planned
by PACSS along with
panel discussion. HVA
president was guest
speaker for the panel.

Veganism 101 (in
partnership with SHEC)
Thursday, March 20,
2006
Bridges café
Attendees: 50+
-This was a great
success. HVA executive
Candace Osbourne-Bell
presented a talk about
veganism and sold her
new book with lots of
vegan recipes. Also, a
naturopathic doctor Dr
Jason Lee talked about
vegan diets and health.
HVA president as panel
speaker and got to plug
the group at the
evening.

Vegan Potluck
Wednesday, March 29,
2006
At the MUSC centre
Attendees: 5

MAKE IT FAIR

The academic year 2005-06 was a time of “hopeful signs” plus a little concrete progress. Efforts to get interviews with workers sacked for organizing in export processing zones (for podcasting through rabble.ca) was an example of the former. While we learned a lot about the process – thanks to the efforts of Tanya Rumble, mainly – we found that connecting with the workers and local NGOs with technical capacities would take more time.

Our collaboration with the Pisa University Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Peace remained strong, with that institution continuing to host the Make It Fair website. New information should be posted over the Summer, due to a new connection with a professor at New Mexico State University who happens to have very solid labour law enforcement data on the Dominican Republic; he is also passing along information on Central American countries.

Prof. Don Wells (in collaboration with Prof. Graham Knight) is working on an analysis of “corporate social responsibility” as it relates to the plight of garment workers. In a nutshell: little real-world impact. Their book project is going to generate interest for the 2006-07 academic year.

Also, in March '06, Jeff Ballinger addressed Prof. Nibaldo Galleguillos' class “Third World Politics”. Several

weeks earlier he spoke to a gathering of over 1,000 at the United Nations (photos here: http://www.unis-un.org/unisun/websites/flash_index.html). The conference, “Thirty Years of UN-UNIS: The Role of the Corporation in Today's World” will produce a 2-hour CD/video that may be used by Make It Fair.

Recruitment of volunteers is a “work in progress” – little work and little real progress. In January, specific project information was posted on the OPIRG-McMaster website, but no showings of interest. Maybe the tasks described were TOO specific? Most Working Group activity was carried out by “networking” strategies (such as finding the professor @ NMSU, through a contact at U. of Wisconsin). This will be intensified in 2006-07 because the data-collection required for Jeff's PhD dissertation matches the Make It Fair goal of labour law enforcement info gathering.

Assistance in anti-sweatshop organizing was provided to the McMaster Labour Code Cmte, Western University's Students Against Sweatshops, Ryerson's Working Students Org. and general organizing strategies discussed with the Campus Choice group.

An article was contributed to “PIRGspectives” which outlined the failure of corporate “CSR” campaigns to address workers' problems on the job.

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Working Group Year End Report
2005-2006

MEXICO

Fall 2005

Vow of Silence by Shekufeh raising over \$500 to support the Nauhtl women weavers of Tlamacazapa, Mexico

Wednesday, February 15 @ 9 p.m. Whitey and the Caucasians, a fundraiser performance at Bridges Vegetarian Café

March 23 @ 7 p.m. ITB Room 137 The Internationally Acclaimed Kanata Native Dance Theatre Native dance performances ranging from those of the Iroquois in the North to the Aztec in the South. Silent auction of Native and Mexican handicrafts and more... Proceeds support the Nauhtl women weavers of Tlamacazapa, Mexico and the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford. Co-sponsored by the Woodland Cultural Centre

Hand-woven baskets, recycled chip purses, quilts and more are sold at the OPIRG office. These plus all working group fundraisers are in support of Caminamos Juntos Para Salud y Desarrollo (Walking Together for Health and Development). Caminamos Juntos is a non-profit organization working in the impoverished, Indigenous community of Tlamacazapa, Mexico. The volunteers of Caminamos Juntos work primarily with the women of the community who are seeking out a future of hope for their children.

OPIRG McMaster is a co-sponsor of the Reweaving a Life Art Project.

The "Reweaving A Life" Art Project portrays the daily reality of the Nahua women of Tlamacazapa, Mexico, who are basket weavers living in acute poverty, both economic and spiritual, and who are caught in a complex web of social disintegration coupled with environmental toxicity and water shortage. Tlamacazapa is the largest Indigenous village in the state of Guerrero and one of the largest in Mexico. Life revolves around basket-making which provides their basic income. Working steadily, a woman can weave a large basket in three to four days, which will sell for a few dollars outside Tlamacazapa. Today, these Indigenous women of Tlamacazapa struggle to recreate a sense of worth and identity through a reweaving of perception of self and inner strength.

A group of nine women participants have opened their hearts and their homes in order to enable the production of a series of paintings, each portraying aspects of their lives and the coming social changes, with basket weaving as a consistent theme. The process of interacting with the artists and engaging in reflective processes about their lives, their work and their hopes is just the beginning of a unique journey for these women.

The paintings, done by Canadian and Mexican artists, will be exhibited publicly in both countries, along with the woven baskets. The exhibit will debut from September 22 to November 5, 2006 at the prestigious Museum of Popular Culture in Mexico City, which focuses on Indigenous culture and cosmology. Art as an expression of social injustice will allow citizens the opportunity to view and discuss the artistic interpretations of poverty, environment, water, gender, indigenous issues, and social change. As well as its educational value, the Reweaving a Life project most importantly seeks to enable a

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Working Group Year End Report
2005-2006

strong and courageous group of Indigenous women to place increased value on their work and on themselves as individuals.

An exciting development in this project is the invitation (dependent on the approval of funding) received from the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford, Ontario to bring 12 women weavers to Canada for the Planet IndigenUs Festival in August, 2007. The women weavers will be highlighted as Indigenous artists preserving an ancient craft. Following the Planet IndigenUs Festival, the women weavers will attend the Opening Reception of the Reweaving a Life exhibit in Hamilton before it moves on to other locations.

NONVIOLENCE NOW



Membership: This year Nonviolence Now's membership rose to 19 individuals, all of whom made contributions to workshop development, workshop presentation or were involved in organising/running awareness events.



NVN Members

Collaborative Event Participation:
1. *Hamilton Children's Peace Day (Hamilton Public Library)*: Along with several other community organisations, on November 12th members from NVN participated in this 1-day event by facilitating group activities for youth (Peace Superheros, Afghanistan Peace

Project). We were very pleased with the response of youth to our activities as there were many insightful comments from youth.

2. *Hungry for Change*: NVN was instrumental in organising this event, which took place in the Wentworth House on November 31st. Our role was primarily in contacting speakers for the event; putting together and short film compilation on global food

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Working Group Year End Report
2005-2006

insecurity; and providing volunteers for the event's set-up and clean-up. This was a very successful event as attendance was almost triple from the previous year.

3. *Projecting Peace (PACS Film Festival)*: NVN provided volunteers to help set-up, clean-up, sell tickets and act as contacts for the week-long film fest. This was truly a collaborative effort and we were quite happy with our ability to provide assistance to PACS.

**We were very happy in our participation in all three of these events and will be sure to contribute again in coming years.*

Regular Meetings and Group Dynamics: Meetings were very well attended this year, especially during second semester once more people joined the group. We also were much more effective in using the consensus model for decision-making and meeting structure. Minutes were taken at every meeting, and we shared the roles of "note-taker" and "meeting chair" on a regular basis.



School and Group Home Workshops:

1. *Hamilton Community Adolescent Network*: From February 7th to April 6th, we implemented the 6-session workshop series once a week on Tuesday nights at Lotus Residence. The participants were very responsive and our relationship with the facility staff improved a lot from last year. The only issue was arranging transportation to get to the workshops.

2. *Canadian Martyr's Elementary School*: Presentations to a grade 5 class from February 7th to April 6th were nothing but a positive experience. NVN facilitators developed a strong rapport with students and all activities were quite successful at generating discussion. The location directly across from McMaster also made it quite easy for volunteers to attend workshops.

Campus Workshops: We only held one workshop on campus as part of the Anti-Violence Network's Month without Violence in October. Attendance was limited but this provided a good experience for newcomers to present. The main focus of the workshop was Culture of Peace values and the concept of restorative justice.

Volunteer Training: At the end of January we held a 4 hour training session on a Saturday afternoon for new, incoming volunteers. This was a very effective way of getting everyone organised and on the same page. We made sure to get the participants to fill out evaluation forms and will be sure to consider their comments for next year. For the 2006-2007 school year, we would like to hold one of these sessions at the beginning of each semester.

Prepared by Harris Switzman, April 28, 2006

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- advertised to get members on OPIRG mailing list
- posted the group in the Hamilton Spectator
- started a coalition with Disability Action Network Group, so Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities can grow, and work with other groups in achieving equity, and justice for all people with a disability
- held first meeting at Second Cup, near McMaster University last Thursday, and three people attended
- am organizing a trip to an Internet business online meeting group for my members to network, and find non-conventional employment opportunities online
- plan on continuing my group throughout the summer, and fall

RADICAL CHANGE MACHINE

The group only had three formal meetings in the year, two in first term (November 8th and November 15th) with about 12 and 7 people attending, respectively, and one early in second term (January 15th), where there were 6. Outside of these meetings, I had several smaller talks and meetings with various interested parties, including Kevin McKay of the Skydragon, and students from Mac.

There was a lot of enthusiasm for the project initially, but the group was having a lot of trouble focusing on one idea, and people's opinions as to how the project should be framed were varied and divergent. I found our meetings to be very philosophical/ideological, without having any concrete focus or direction, which I think contributed to the lack of concrete work that occurred. I also admit to my own failure as the contact person to keep this group moving along - I realized early into the second term that I had taken on way too many projects this year, and wasn't capable of juggling them all, and unfortunately, this project was the one I had to sacrifice the most.

So, other than trying to establish and define our relationship to the work we want(ed) to do, and brainstorming topics for workshops and solutions to the problem of communicating with students and gaining support, this group did very little in the way of actual work on our projects goals. Once again, I stress that this is due largely, if not totally, to my disorganization, but I also noticed a significant decline in interested people as we progressed, and an inability to get past the theory and into the practice, that certainly contributed to our stagnation.

The kind of feedback I got from people about the idea was really helpful and promising, and I would really like to continue to pursue this project next year, keeping this idea as my top priority, and divesting myself of some of my other responsibilities, which will hopefully lead to more activity.

PEAK OIL TINKERS

I spoke at showing of End of Suburbia at MAC during the Global Citizenship conference. I did research on cargo bikes and cargo trailers. I did research on electric power assist and gas powered power assist. I worked on, but haven't finished a biking in Hamilton zine. I was contacted by a few people, one to give advice on a master of engineering student's winter cycling designs, another on peak oil research, and another from the Rainforest Action Network.

RECYCLE CYCLES

Recycle Cycles continues to operate out of the basement of Erskine Presbyterian Church at 19 Pearl St. N. We have become so much busier in the last year that we have had to expand into another room with one extra work station and an extra work bench. The rent has increased moderately as a result.

We have four really steady and reliable volunteers and about 4 or 5 more who come fairly regularly. Many more people come to the shop to use our tools and space to repair their own bikes. Sometimes we do the repairs for them in exchange for then cleaning bikes or the shop, but usually we to get people involved in learning to repair their own bikes.

On a typical night or Saturday morning we will have 8 or more people working on bikes at any one time. Often, because of this activity, we have not been able to get enough bikes done for resale during the regular hours.

For a few months now we have had a mechanics only night on Thursdays to allow us to catch up. We don't have regular meetings per say but every once in awhile we order pizza and drinks and sit around after closing time on Saturday and brainstorm.

We don't have any leaders per se, still operating on a loose consensus model. Many of the people who come to the shop now are in various recovery programs (alcohol & drugs).

One 10 year old comes regularly on Saturdays. That's about it for now. Have a good summer all of you at OPIRG.

TRANSPORTATION FOR LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



TLC participated in the Process for the York Boulevard Commuter Cycling Class Environmental Assessment, with a letter arguing for what became the preferred option put forward by city staff – i.e. reduce York from four lanes to two lanes with cycling lanes on both sides of York from the boundary at Burlington to Dundurn Street (April 2006).

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Working Group Year End Report
2005-2006

TLC also participated in the EA for Valley Inn Road, again arguing in a letter for what became the preferred option, i.e. closing the road to automobile traffic and replacing a bridge with a pedestrian and cyclist bridge over the mouth of Grindstone Creek (April 2006)

TLC is seeking pedestrian and cycling safety issues in the vicinity of McMaster University, efforts which intensified when a student was killed crossing Cootes Drive, Monday, Feb. 13, 2006. TLC calls for traffic calming measures around McMaster ensures TLC a spot for two members on a newly formed city committee initiated by Councillor Brian McHattie. A letter from TLC had originally prompted the



installation of pedestrian crossing lights at Cootes, the location of the fatality. The tragic death re-opens the issue of speeding vehicles, which, despite recommendations in the city-commissioned report calling for speed reduction strategies, was never implemented.

McMaster Innovation Park – TLC goes after McMaster seeking assurance that sustainable transportation infrastructure will be implemented to ensure safe,

sustainable transportation routes to this new facility on Longwood Road, and sends communications to the City and the McMaster Administration seeking key infrastructure for cycling, walking, and transit.

TLC is often the first to remind local cyclists about Critical Mass bike rides on the last Friday of the month, 5:30pm Hess and George Street.

TLC maintains an active listserv for members

TLC volunteers assisted Transit User Group (TUG) leaflet bus riders to engage local councilors on the issue of a threatened transit fare increase. The threat to raise bus fares is averted.

Still We Ride: Movie and Talk with co-director, sponsored by TLC, Thursday, November 24, 2005. Attendance 25

CYCLING IN HAMILTON: What are we waiting for? public event with guests Brian Applebee and Hart Solomon, City of Hamilton cycling staff. Tuesday, November 8, 2005.

TLC sells One Less Car bike frame stickers for \$1.00

Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Working Group Year End Report
2005-2006

TLC organizes a week of events celebrating CAR FREE DAY 2005

- Monday, September 19 - GUIDED BUS/HIKE TO WEBSTER'S FALLS (Dundas) – 2 people
- Tuesday September 20, WOMEN ONLY BIKE REPAIR WORKSHOP at OPIRG's RECYCLE CYCLES – est.15 people
- Wednesday, Sept. 21 HISTORICAL HARBOUR BICYCLE TOUR w/BRIAN HENLEY – est. 20 people
- Wednesday, September 21, FAMILY CAR FREE MOVIE NIGHT - a "drive-in" without the cars, free outdoor movie at the historic Gage Park bandshell. Est.100 people.
- Thursday September 22 - STREET PARTIES, everywhere! September 22 is CAR FREE DAY, (rained out!)
- Friday, September, 23 - CAR FREE SPECIAL CRITICAL MASS BIKE RIDE, est. 30 people
- Sunday, September 25 - CAR FREE COOTES - guided hike in Cootes Paradise Nature reserve with Ward One Councillor BRIAN McHATTIE – 4 people

TLC supports McMaster's decision to scale back shuttle bus service (servicing car parking in zones 6 and 7). TLC's emphasis was to link shuttle level of service to transit wait times.

TLC continues to push for changes to make the McMaster Front Entrance safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

TLC 'Thanks for riding' posters printed and posted around town.

TLC initiated a push for Hatt Street Bike Lanes in Dundas.

TLC organized a Sustainable Transportation Walk-About in Dundas, with the ward councillor, May 14, 2005 to discuss needed improvements.

TLC spokespeople were interviewed for media articles in both the campus and city media.

TLC maintains a web site at tlchamilton.org



OPIRG SUPPORT FOR OTHER PROJECTS

A sampling of the sorts of projects that OPIRG has financially supported through the Fall/Winter academic year. Please note that for most of these projects, OPIRG also assisted with publicity

- \$150.00 for student magazine "Insinyaat"
- \$100.00 for the Malar group which supports East Indian music and dance
- \$250.00 McMaster Campus Choice - an MSU club
- \$160.00 to AIDs organization
- \$500.00 for Pakistan Earthquake Relief
- \$200.00 for reconstruction of New Orleans
- \$150.00 for Student Take Action Network (Darfur)
- \$80.00 for bath tub project (supporting women and Children in shelters
- Sponsor Connecting Climate Change
- Living Wage Campaign - up to \$100.00 for photocopying, buttons etc.
- \$500.00 for Fruit Tree Project
- \$500.00 to Student International Health Initiative for Aboriginal Health Conference
- \$300.00 plus 4 fair trade gift baskets for Mac Science for Peace
- \$500.00 for Zero Impact Art Exhibit to support the Women's Centre of Hamilton
- \$200.00 plus 18 gift baskets for Peace and Conflict Students Society Film Festival
- \$100.00 for "Healthy Mind, Body Planet" tour
- \$200.00 for Bio-Diversity Native Species Garden
- "Standing on My Sister's Shoulders" film showing (Black History Month)
- Global Citizenship Conference table
- Supporting Art Gallery AIDS exhibit
- Fair Trade baskets, quilts, chocolate, purses, t-shirts, coffee and tea
- Bracelets and pins sold to support AIDS projects in Malawi
- Summer Career Placement Grant -
- Fair Trade Gift Baskets for Soul Food Fair, Leave the Pack Campaign (Campus Anti-Smoking Campaign), Human Rights and Equity, Fundraiser for AIDS in Africa and Woodland Cultural Centre, Women's Centre of Hamilton "Zero Impact" art show
- Helped organize (with the Hamilton Community Foundation and Mohawk College) a one day environmental conference for high school students from all Hamilton area high schools