



Ben Krawec inspects one of his finished products. It is important to make sure that each bicycle is up to par before being given to the migrant workers.

# KIND CYCLE

Photo and Story by Cassandra Davidson

"Kind Cycle always has been and I feel its purpose should continue to be to get bikes out to the migrant workers and to repair their bikes."

Kind Cycle is a not-for-profit organization that takes donated bicycles, repairs them, and then donates them to the migrant workers in Virgil, Ont.

A group of four to seven volunteers meet weekly for bike repair workshops, sell bicycles, and to fix the donated bicycles.

They also repair bikes for members of the community on a pay-what-you can basis.

"Monetary donations and the proceeds from bike sales go towards parts and tools," Ben Krawec explained, describing the group.

Krawec, 22, has been volunteering since November 2010 and took over a leadership role this past April.

He is currently enrolled in the Paramed-

ic program at Niagara College in St. Catharines, Ont.

Krawec said, "The purpose of selling these bikes is not to turn a profit, but to raise the funds necessary to buy tools and spare parts so that we can help more people."

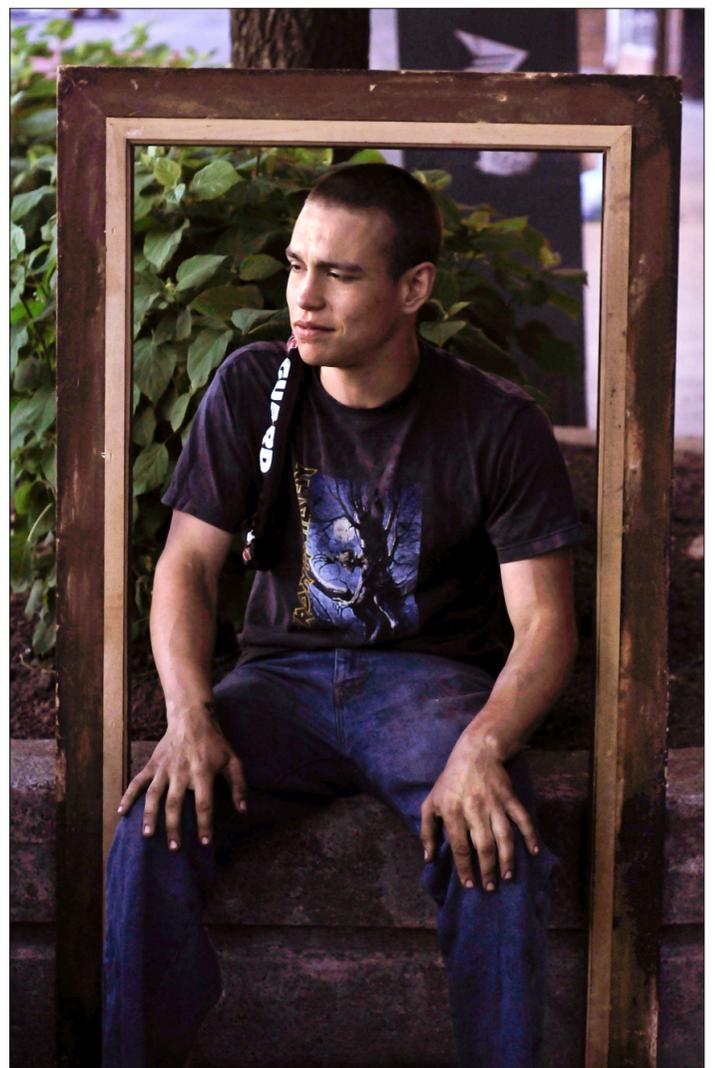
"Therefore, to expect someone living under the poverty line who needs a bike to get to a new job across town to pay the same as a wealthy person who is simply looking for a new toy is counter productive to the goals of the group."

A group of about four to seven volunteers meets everything Thursday at the OPIRG info shop.

Run through Brock University, the shop is located on 10 Summer St. in the heart of downtown St. Catharines.

For more information about Kind Cycle and O.P.I.R.G you can visit their webpage at

<http://www.opirgbrock.org/kindcycle>



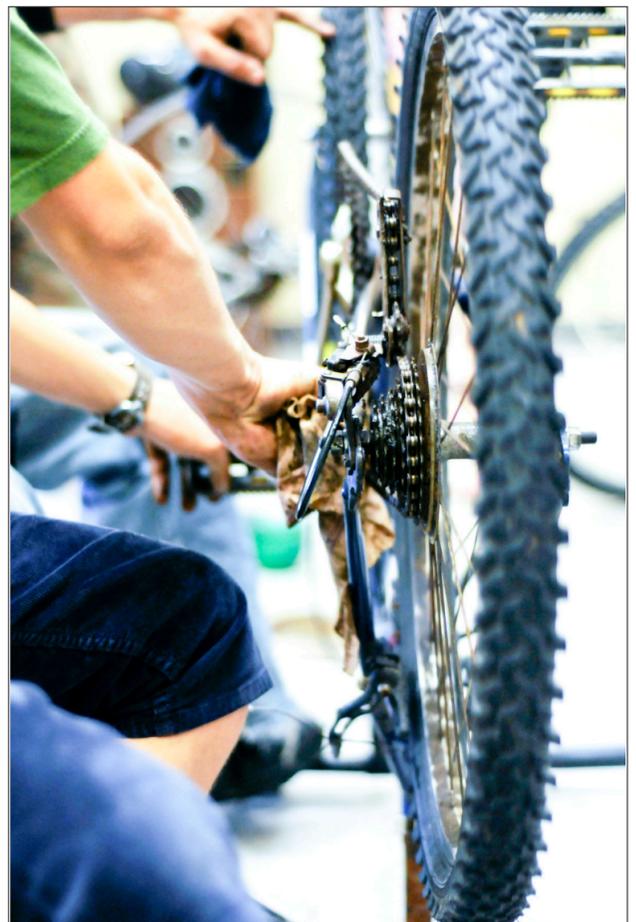
Kind Cycle is held every Thursday from 1pm-8pm, here Ben Krawec stops and rests on the way to his own bicycle.



Ben Krawec fixes a bike at Kind Cycle, a non profit organization located in Virgil, Ont.



Ben Krawec, co-ordinator of the Kind Cycle program inspects the rim of a donated bicycle.



On average, Kind Cycle has about four to seven volunteers.