

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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From the President

The front-page news on last year's report was the happy announcement that we were granted funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to develop and deliver environmental education workshops at Wintergreen and in locations throughout our region. We were excited to bring this work to teacher candidates at Queen's University, and to hear about how they, in turn, taught their students about daily habits that promote sustainable living.

We also showcased our sustainability resources at the first ever *Red Boot Festival*. We'll be hosting the event again this year on February 7, 2015, along with several of our community partners. The location is still to be determined – we're hoping to hold it at the new Tett Centre.

This year we'll be working hard to bring more winter activities to Wintergreen (well, Winterwhite is more like it, if last year's winter is anything to go by!). We hope to welcome you



to Wintergreen early in 2015, and throughout the year. Wintergreen thrives on your participation, and we have much to offer you. You can attend workshops, dinner concerts and other events hosted by Wintergreen. Or you can plan a wedding or a family reunion at Wintergreen, or just spend a night alone in a cabin in the woods. Imagine your pleasure, and we'll do our best to provide it.

With warm wishes,

Rena Uptis, *President & Executive Director*

Drum Making

For millennia in this land and others, the drum was known to be a means of healing. The heart beat of the drum is the heart beat of Mother Earth. When we drum, we reconnect to that sacred space, offer meditations and prayers for healing. We honour our ancestors, the land, air, water, and all living things.

This past July, we hosted our first drum making workshop, followed by a community drumming circle a week later. It was extraordinarily moving, and we are very pleased to announce that will be hosting another drum making workshop and drumming circle in the summer of 2015.



"I can't tell you
what joy I feel
when I walk
through the front
doors of the
lodge."

Powered by the Sun

Many readers will know that Wintergreen's facilities are powered by the sun (along with propane for a few devices ... such as the kitchen stove).

Over the past couple of years, it's become clear that we underestimated the power that we would need to run Wintergreen, especially in the winter months when the hours of sunlight are few. So this past November, we added another 1.8 kilowatts to our system –

power on a pole, we like to call it! The top photo on the left shows the photo-voltaic panels just after they were installed. The next photo down shows us tilting the panels closer to the sun for the summer months – like most things at Wintergreen, it was a team effort!

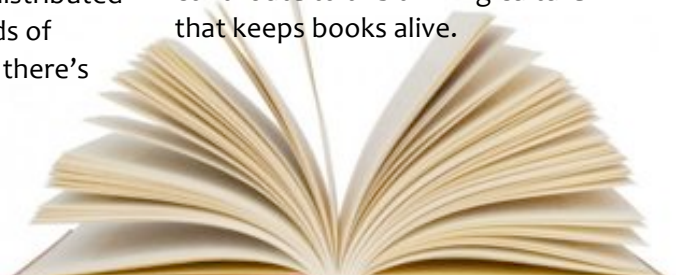
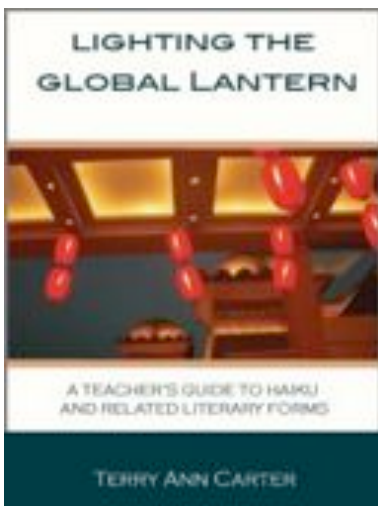
Are you a Book Club member?

It is said that the first documented "literature circle" in the United States was founded in 1634 by Anna Hutchinson, a Puritan settler. Hutchinson's group was eventually banned (one wonders why?), but apparently the group discussions continued in secret.

Two hundred years later, Margaret Fuller founded a bookstore-sponsored club in Boston. By the mid-1800s, book clubs were spreading throughout the Midwestern United States, thriving because of their social and intellectual appeal. Harry Scherman founded the Book-of-the-Month-Club in 1926, which distributed book selections to thousands of members by mail. And then there's

Oprah ... when she chose *East of Eden* as a "pick" in 2003, it sold 60,000 copies in an hour! So book clubs don't do any harm to book sales, that's for certain. Some estimate that even without Oprah, North American book club members buy over 60 million books a year. Why are they so popular? Because books are fun. Reading is fun. And the people in these book clubs have fun.

Why not come to Wintergreen with your book club? Call us to plan a weekend book club retreat, and contribute to this thriving culture that keeps books alive.



Annual Appeal

17 September 2014

Dear Friends of Wintergreen,

As the flowers drop their dreary heads and give way to fruits, and the leaves begin their waltz-like descent on the frosty breezes, we are drawn once more into nature's nourishing cycle. For those of you who have visited Wintergreen you will have felt firsthand the joy of working and living cooperatively with the earth. Through this cooperative relationship, we take steps to heal the earth and in turn realize how the earth heals us. Newcomers and well-seasoned visitors to Wintergreen often comment, "I feel so good when I am here." Each year, more and more people visit Wintergreen Studios. Through their experiences, they come to appreciate the benefits of sustainable living, to the earth and to themselves, and they join our growing list of faithful volunteers and donors.

We live in turbulent times, with an unstable climate, social and democratic unrest, and an uncertain economic future. Ours is a culture of overconsumption. The Earth's population is beyond what it can sustain. Now, more than ever, we need to take action to recognize and respond to the Earth's limited carrying capacity, and change our habits of mind and our living patterns. As a culture, we need to take steps to stop competing with the Earth and start collaborating with the Earth. Wintergreen's sustainable education and sustainable living platforms support a process of cultural transformation, new habits of mind, and positive social change; our programs recognize that we can no longer afford to be timid in our efforts to make a difference for future generations.

This past year, with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, we developed a series of workshops called *Simple Abundance*, as well as guided and self-guided sustainability tours of Wintergreen. In addition, workshops on natural building were supported by [TD Friends of the Environment Foundation](#). We reached nearly 600 people through these workshops and tours. Many were teacher candidates at Queen's, who will now pass on their knowledge to children in classrooms. Please feel free to further explore these workshops at www.wintergreenstudios.com/education/resources-for-teachers/.

With the help of our donors, we will continue to offering these workshops and sustainability tours without charge. Monies raised through the annual giving campaign will support our efforts to make these workshops more accessible to a larger population, now that our Ontario Trillium Foundation funding has come to a close.

We hope you will consider contributing to Wintergreen Studios. All donations will be applied directly to costs associated with offering educational programs. Donors will be issued 2014 tax receipts, and **every donation to the Campaign will be matched, dollar for dollar, by the Board of Directors.** Donors investing \$500.00 or more will receive tickets for two to any dinner event for the 2015 season in recognition of their contribution.

To contribute online, simply open our home page (www.wintergreenstudios.com) and click on "make a donation." You will be issued a receipt directly from Canada Helps (www.canadahelps.org). Please consider making a monthly donation through the site. If 10 people donate \$20 a month, we will, by that sum alone, be able to offer 8 workshops to local schools, reaching as many as 500 people in the process!

With warmest thanks,

Serena Manson, Founding Director

Charitable No. 834231417 RR0001



Volunteers (in alpha order)

Board of Directors

Rena Upitis, President

Katharine Smithrim,
Vice-President

Helen Turnbull,
Secretary-Treasurer

Serena Manson

Larry Scanlan

Phil Abrami
Sara Beck
Karen Boese
Alexander Campbell
Jamie Campbell
Jacky Chan
Eric Collins
Justin Connidis
Brook Cooper
Liz Cooper
Louise Cooper
Mary Cooper
Lorna Crozier
Ken Cuthbertson
Jennifer Davis
Kat Evans
Janice Finkle
Stephanie Sheri Foley
Tim Foley

Tim Fortington
Faye Ginies
David Hahn
Carolyn Hildebrandt
Lawrence Hill
Helen Humphreys
Kristina Inrig
Lorrie Jorgensen
Anne Joss
Mike Katuski
Bruce Kauffman
Laurie Loughlin
Krystal Mack
Serena Manson
Callista Markotich
Lindy Mechefske
Hayden Rasberry
Mark Reinhart

Sherrill Ritchie
Paula Robert
Molly Russell
Ahmed Said
Lawrence Scanlan
Heidi Schmidt
Jason Shulha
Karen Smereka
Katharine Smithrim
Adam Turcotte
Helen Turnbull
Alfred von Mirbach
Rena Upitis
Zinta Upitis
Marion Watkins
Sally Yeo

Donors (in alpha order)

Alison Ahara
Liz Bates
Sara Beck
Ulrike Bender
Anne-Marie Bennet
Eileen Beaudette
Ben Bolden
Brian Boese
Joan Bowie
Christa Bracci
Carl Bray
Jo-Anne Brady
James Brett
Shannon Brown
Terry Burns
Brian Burt
Alexander Campbell
Sandra Campbell
Sharon Carr
Terry Ann Carter
Chris Christensen
Eric Collins
Justin Connidis
Peter Coughlin
Ken Cuthbertson
Jane Cutler
Lorna Crozier
Gisele Dalbec Szczesniak

Brian Davis
Jennifer Davis
Mary Davis Little
Kim Donovan
Julia duPrey
Pierre duPrey
Sarah Emery
Mora File
Christine Fisher Guy
Michael Franks
John Freeman
Dorina Friedli
Hannes Friedli
Sarah Gibson-Bray
Claire Grady-Smith
David Hahn
Jeri Harmsen
Steven Heighton
Nicole Horlor
Betty-Anne Howard
Helen Humphreys
Barbara Hunt
Mary Anne Hunter
Juliet Huntly
Peg Irvine
Sue Irving
John Johnson
Lorrie Jorgensen

Bruce Kauffman
Heather Kembel
David Kemp
Scott Lee
Graham Lodge
Katherine Manley
Murdoch Matheson
Julia McArthur
John McDougall
Helen MacIntyre
Callista Markotich
Dave Markotich
Don Markotich
Melissa Markotich
Stephanie Markotich
John Meisel
Stephanie Milligan
Ruth McInney
Cathy McNutt
Sheila Menard
Wayne Miles
Elizabeth Morley
David Murphy Haglund
Holly Ogden
Ann Patteson
Elizabeth Paulette-Coughlin
Mark Peabody
Kathleen Piercy

Donna Poirier
Joanne Ransberry
Melinda Raymond
Leslie Reade
Lynda Reade
Marta Reczek
Cheryl Reid
Lawrence Scanlan
Birgit Scheichl
Sven Schlegel
Alexander Sellers
John Sinclair
Michael Sinclair
Karen Smereka
Katharine Smithrim
Angela Solar
Connie Taylor
Jo-Ann Thomas
Mary Teresa Truaisch
Helen Turnbull
Rena Upitis
Zigfrids Upitis
Martha Vosper Fenwick
Wendy Warren
Samara Warren
Marion Watkins
Wendy Wobeser
Brian Yealland

2014 Financial Summary

Balance Sheet (ending June 2014)

Total Assets:	\$474,055
Total Liability:	\$252,427
Total Equity:	\$221,628

Income Statement

Total Income:	\$143,375
Total Expenses:	\$137,889
Net Income:	\$ 5,486



Donations & Income

Donations continue to account for a significant part of the Wintergreen pie, and the “donations” section of the pie doesn’t even take into account the in-kind time that our volunteers bring to the enterprise (see last page for more about our volunteers).

We’re pleased that courses and retreats are a growing part of the pie, and that fundraising, based largely on the Red Boot, contributed significantly to the 2013-2014 budget year. We hope to increase the partnership revenues in the coming (2014-2015) year, and to bring in at least as much as last year through grant income. We expect that the Wintergreen Studios Press will continue to bring in some income, but with no new titles in 2014, and only one projected so far for 2015, this amount will not be significant. But it is important, nonetheless, because we fulfill part of our educational vision through our published works.

Income Sources



- Donations
- Courses & Retreats
- Partnerships
- Fundraising
- Grants
- The Press



Who Comes to Wintergreen? *

In 2011 there were just over a thousand visitors to Wintergreen; and for the past several years, that number has continued to hover at around 1,000. This year, however, our outreach activities were considerable, based in part on our funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Thus the off-site workshop numbers are

considerably higher than they have been in prior years. With our planned emphasis on winter activities, we hope to grow the numbers for the next year to over 2,000 participants, attracting more participants to Wintergreen itself in the winter months.

* These numbers reflect visitors from July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014.

Activity	2014	2013
Concerts & Readings	185	256
Open Houses & Tours	102	151
On-site workshops	91	147
Retreats	187	140
Off-site workshops, events	625	206
Meetings/Conferences	78	107
Total	1268	1007

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Website:

www.wintergreenstudios.com

*bringing
balance
back*

What do volunteers contribute?

Our volunteers are amazing. Some have been with us since Wintergreen was first launched as an idea in 2007 (that would include most of the board members!).

As part of our reporting to the Ontario Trillium Foundation this year, and in preparation for grant writing this past summer, we have kept careful track of the volunteer hours. Our volunteers who cooked, cleaned, built things, served on committees, gardened, provided music, and otherwise gave of their time and expertise, contributed \$84,689 to Wintergreen in kind. Of those volunteers, 25 were new to Wintergreen, and 28 were returning from prior years, with 12 of those 28 people having come on board as volunteers in our first year of operation, even before the lodge was built.

What is Wintergreen Studios?

Wintergreen Studios is a charitable education and retreat centre. Our sustainable off-grid facilities provide comfortable gathering places for meetings, workshops, and private functions. Guests learn new skills, engage in mindful living, and return to their homes and workplaces refreshed, and inspired to live more sustainably. Our activities encompass three sectors: education, culture, and the environment.

