

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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From the President - Wintergreen Turns Ten

On April 10, 2007, someone thought it would be a good idea to create a wilderness educational retreat centre. A week later, there was a name (yes, Wintergreen Studios), a website, and five brave souls who agreed to serve as the Founding Board of Directors. Now, a decade later, we're planning a series of celebrations to highlight Wintergreen's work and to expand our offerings and reach in the decades to come.

Each season, we will offer events and activities that feature the educational, cultural, and environmental foci of Wintergreen. We will bring new people to Wintergreen and welcome alumni back to meet others with similar interests through the seasonal events. Programs around the four seasons will raise awareness about Wintergreen's diverse contributions and potential, as well as drive our programs for the next five years. We hope to garner excitement, too, for our 10th Anniversary Campaign, which will take place during the entire 2017 year. Our plan is to secure grants to support key presenters and guests so as to make as many events as possible free to the public.



Here's what to expect in 2017:

WINTER: Stories that Sustain

Let's snowshoe down the trails, and then sit around the woodstove, telling stories about the past ten years at Wintergreen. We will record those stories, and share them in the fall in an anniversary publication.

SPRING: Land Art

Join us for a series of artistic endeavours along with explorations of the diversity and health of Wintergreen's land. Hear from writers who have taught at Wintergreen, take part in visual arts activities, and join us for our Annual BioBlitz.

SUMMER: Healing Earth

A community drumming circle, outdoor Yoga sessions, cooking workshops featuring food from our gardens, and guided hikes throughout the land will be among our summer events. We will focus on Indigenous teachings and embodied knowing.

FALL: The Path Ahead

The fall will feature the launch of Wintergreen Living, a collection of stories and practices that sustain and heal. During the Annual Natural Homes Tour, we will welcome back the many volunteers who helped build the Wintergreen Lodge and reveal the programs enabled through the 10th Anniversary Campaign.

So, here's to our 10th year. Join us as often as you can. We will do incredible things together.

Rena Uptis, President and Founding Director

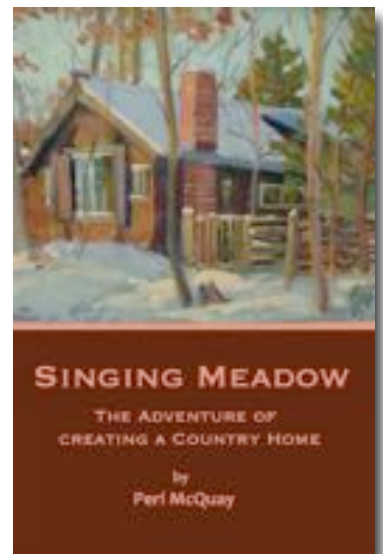
Our Board of Directors

Three of our five founding directors – Katharine Smithrim, Helen Turnbull, and Rena Uptis – remain as directors as we enter our tenth year. It is with sadness that we say good-bye to Serena Manson, whose term ended at the 2016 Annual General Meeting. We are delighted that Lawrence Scanlan, who joined the board in 2012, remains as an active and vital contributor. And this fall, we welcomed two new board members, Gerald (Gerry) Dimnik and Justin Connidis. Gerry is a senior

Information Technology leader with a passion for music and the arts, and has very recently completed his term as chair of the board, Orpheus Choir of Toronto. Justin is Counsel to Dickinson Wright LLP (Toronto office) and serves as an advisor to the [Wintergreen Renewable Energy Co-operative](#). Learn more about all of our board members on our website under the “[People](#)” tab.

Singing Meadow

After 30 years of living surrounded by nature as the guardians of the Foley Mountain Conservation Area near Westport, Ontario, Peri and Barry McQuay sought a new home for their retirement. *Singing Meadow: The Adventure of Creating a Country Home*, by Peri McQuay, chronicles Peri and Barry’s search for just such a home. Equal parts love story, nature study, and how-to guide, *Singing Meadow* is the inspirational account of how these two writers and naturalists remain true to their life-long commitment to both the wilderness and to social justice as they strive to meet the challenges of building a small energy-efficient home that will live in harmony with the rugged landscape of the Canadian Shield. Learn more about Peri and *Singing Meadow* on her [website](#), and [click here to order a copy](#) of the most recent Wintergreen Studios Press publication.



How the Light is Spent

We’re thrilled to announce that Gail Sidonie Sobat’s book of poetry, *How the Light is Spent*, has been selected as a semi-final entry for the Whistler Independent Book Awards for 2016. Published by our press in 2012, Gail’s heart-gripping meditation on love and loss, tempo and time, has now been chosen as one of three final entries. A great honour for Gail, and a thrill for our Press. Gail Sidonie Sobat’s work has been variously described as “beautiful... and concise... at times sexy, and always quite human.” Nominees for the [Whistler Independent Book Awards](#) have been selected because of the quality and publishing professionalism of their books in the fiction, non-fiction, crime fiction and poetry categories. Please join us in congratulating Gail – and [click here to order a copy of her book](#).

Annual Appeal

Dear Friends of Wintergreen,

My name is Gerry Dimnik, and I'm honoured to have been invited to serve on the board of directors of Wintergreen Studios. What an exciting time to join this dedicated team as we embark on our 10th anniversary celebrations!

Although I have a passion for music and arts, much of my education was in the physical sciences. As a result, the climatic transformation that is occurring at such a breathtaking pace is deeply troubling for me. Yuval Harari, in his recent book, *Sapiens*, speaks of 'the luxury trap' that has prevailed since the agricultural revolution, some 10,000 years ago. Harari says:

Today we can go to the supermarket and choose to eat a thousand different dishes. But whatever we choose, we might eat it in haste in front of the TV, not really paying attention to the taste. We can go on vacation to a thousand amazing locations. But wherever we go, we might play with our smartphone instead of really seeing the place. We have more choice than ever before, but what good is this choice, when we have lost the ability really to pay attention?

Wintergreen Studios helps us re-awaken our ability to pay attention. Many of Wintergreen's programs focus on how we learn to step outside 'the luxury trap' and make a difference now and for future generations.

It is remarkable that Wintergreen Studios has achieved ten years of success and continues to grow and shape people's understanding and behaviours as we learn to better

collaborate with the Earth. A wide range of engaging and significant events is being planned for this very special year. For example, building on the success of our prior BioBlitz events, the 2017 BioBlitz will be part of our spring celebration called *Land Art*. This year, instead of following the official BioBlitz rules — namely, identifying as many living organisms as possible in a 24-hour period — we're planning a "slow" BioBlitz, to be held over several days. The idea will be to mirror and honour the Slow Food movement. I believe this event will help us to re-awaken our ability to pay attention. Please visit our website to learn about the breadth and depth of the events and programs we are offering in the coming year (www.wintergreenstudios.com). We will be also be launching a 10th anniversary campaign in 2017, and I'll be writing to you about that in the spring.

We would not be able to offer the programs that we do without the support of our donors. If you are able, we invite you to support our work with your donation. If you prefer to donate on a monthly basis, you can easily do so through Canada Helps. All donations made to Wintergreen will be applied directly to costs associated with running educational programs, and all donors will be issued 2016 tax receipts. Your donation, this year, can be applied to our general fund, to the anniversary campaign, or to Land Art – BioBlitz 2017. **Should you choose 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).

With warmest thanks,

Gerry Dimnik, Director

Charitable No. 834231417 RR0001



Volunteers (in alpha order; July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016)

Board of Directors (2015-2016)

Rena Upitis, President

Katharine Smithrim,
Vice-President

Helen Turnbull,
Secretary-Treasurer

Serena Manson

Lawrence Scanlan

Phil Abrami
Kate Belmore
Diane Black
Sara Beck
Karen Boese
Jamie Campbell
Sharon Carr
Peter Coffman
Eric Collins
Justin Connidis
Lorna Crozier
Ken Cuthbertson
Faye Ginies
David Hahn
Kristina Inrig
Lorrie Jorgensen
Anne Joss
Bruce Kauffman
Joanie Lamoureux

Linda Ley
Mieke Little
Krystal Mack
Serena Manson
Lynn Rainboth
Gary Rasberry
Hayden Rasberry
Mark Reinhart
Kenny Reulland
Paula Robert
Matt Saunders
Lawrence Scanlan
Karen Smereka
Katharine Smithrim
Helen Turnbull
Alfred von Mirbach
Rena Upitis
Zinta Upitis
Marion Watkins
John Wright

Board of Directors (2016-2017)

Rena Upitis, President

Katharine Smithrim,
Vice-President

Helen Turnbull,
Secretary-Treasurer

Justin Connidis

Gerald Dimnik

Lawrence Scanlan

Donors (in alpha order; 2015 Calendar Year)

"Everything
about this place
inspires me. The
people, the
food, the setting.
And most of all,
a sense of
wellness, of
feeling in touch
with the planet
we call home."

*Susan Campbell, 2016
poetry workshop.*

Susan Alexander
Laura Apol
Paul Banfield
Jo-Anne Brady
Mary Lee Bragg
Sandra Campbell
Sharon Carr
Theodore Christou
Ashleigh Cluff
Peter Coffman
Justin Connidis
Peter Coughlin
Melanie Craig-Hansford
Brian Davis
Jennifer Davis
Julia duPrey
Pierre duPrey
Dorina Friedli
Hannes Friedli
Susan Fowler-Olding
Mac Gervan

Emilie Haglund
David Hahn
Barbara Hunt
Ian Kilborn
Michele Leering
Julia McArthur
John McDougall
Maureen McGahey
Ruth McKinney
Serena Manson
Lindy Mechevske
David Murphy Haglund
Elizabeth Paulette-Coughlin
Leslie Reade
Lise Rochefort
Lawrence Scanlan
Birgit Scheichl
Lyn Shulha
Karen Smereka
Katharine Smithrim

Ken Snowdon
Cheryl Sutherland
Mary-Alice Thompson
Adam Turcotte
Helen Turnbull
Kim Turnbull
Rena Upitis
Zigfrids Upitis
Verona Animal Hospital
Marion Watkins
Susan Wismer

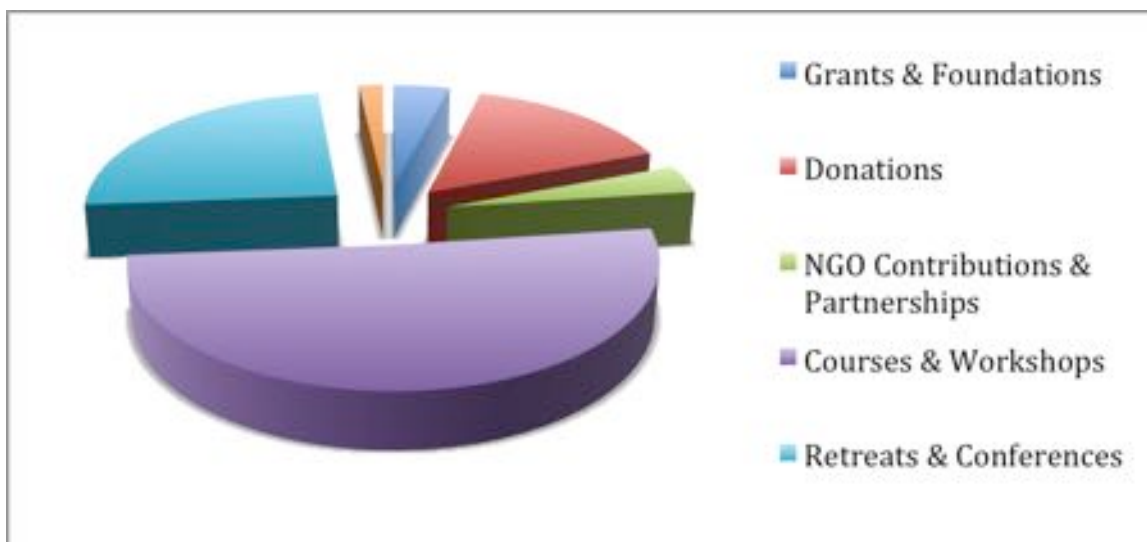
*... and six anonymous
donors*

2016 Financial Summary

Balance Sheet	2016	2015
Total Assets:	\$547,359	\$497,361
Total Liability:	\$284,569	\$262,890
Total Equity:	\$251,412	\$234,471
Income Statement		
Total Income:	\$ 99,223	\$103,479
Total Expenses:	\$ 82,283	\$ 84,806
Net Income:	\$ 16,940	\$ 18,673



Income Sources





Who Comes to Wintergreen?

We have been striving to increase our on-site programming at Wintergreen through retreats, meetings, workshops, and conferences. And we've been incredibly successful in our efforts. The numbers you see in the table below represent what we think of as "people days" (aka "participation opportunities"!). If someone comes for a single event on one day, that counts as 1. But when someone comes for a five-day event, then that counts as a 5. Most of the open houses, tours, and events, as well as the off-site offerings are single-day events, while our on-site workshops, conferences, and retreats generally take place over several days.

Activity	2016	2015	2014
Concerts & Readings*	—	—	185
Open Houses & Tours	440	451	102
On-site workshops & events	691	414	91
Retreats**	—	—	187
Off-site workshops, events	31	172	625
Meetings/Conferences	469	216	78
Total	1631	1253	1268

* Concerts & Readings are now included with on-site workshops and events.

** Retreats are now included in Meetings/Conferences

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Website:

www.wintergreenstudios.com

*bringing
balance
back*

What do volunteers contribute?

During the past fiscal year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) our volunteers contributed the equivalent of \$93,350 by sharing their time and talents. This figure is considerably higher than the year before (\$85,504).

Our volunteers prepare beautiful food, serve on committees, tend the gardens, teach during workshops, and otherwise contribute to our collective work. There were 38 people who volunteered at Wintergreen this past year, many of whom volunteered multiple times during the year. Of these, 9 were new to Wintergreen, and 29 were returning from prior years. Of the returning volunteers, 8 have been contributing to Wintergreen since 2007.

What is Wintergreen Studios?

Wintergreen Studios is a wilderness educational retreat centre. Our sustainable off-grid facilities provide welcoming 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.

