

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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From the President

This has been an amazing year of growth for Wintergreen in terms of the diversity and depth of our activities—and I'm not just talking about the gardens—but come to think of it, given the drought of this past summer, it's pretty amazing that our gardens thrived as they did! Tomatoes, chard, kale, carrots, and basil were particularly bountiful, although our squash plants suffered.

But while the zucchini languished in the summer's heat, our workshop participants toiled diligently, writing poems and stories, and creating a new building by combining cordwood (a Wintergreen signature style) with straw. We call it the *Beach House*, and you'll read more about it in the newsletter.

You'll also read about how *Wintergreen Studios Press* has grown. Since this time last year, we have added three titles to our book list, with two more books coming out in November.



Greens from the Wintergreen Garden

Perhaps the most telling sign of our growth is that we now have three part-time staff: Karen Smereka, who has been our *Operations Manager* for nearly two years, Claire Grady-Smith, who joined us as *Marketing and Communications Director* in January 2012, and Louise Cooper, who just this month accepted the position as *Kitchen and Housekeeping Manager*. It is very exciting to have these marvelously talented and dedicated people devoting their energies to Wintergreen.

Rena Uptis, *President & CEO*

Building a Bake Oven

At the end of the cordwood workshop in 2010, one of the participants casually suggested that Wintergreen could use a wood-fired bake oven. "Wouldn't pizzas we made ourselves be absolutely fabulous—perfect for Wintergreen?"

So in the spring of 2011, we started building said bake oven. The cordwood base, covered with a red slate counter, was completed in a month. We started the work on the firebrick in the fall, but the weather turned cool before we were able to complete the dome. This spring, we finished the firebrick, insulated the oven, covered it with concrete and jewels, and it's been cranking out the pizzas ever since.

Thanks to the volunteers who designed and built the oven: Lorrie Jorgensen, Dorina & Hannes Friedli, Phil Abrami, Buddy & Marilyn Crawford, Hayden Rasberry, Rena Uptis, & CJ Dalton.



Lorrie with the first pizza

"...best workshop atmosphere I've experienced. Such openness, trust, and acceptance. Perfect combination of leadership and location."

Courses and Workshops

This year's workshops included guitar technique, short story writing, cord-wood and straw bale construction, poetry, and fiction writing. We held six workshops ranging from three to six days in length.

During the summer months, we hosted four extraordinary writers: Steven Heighon, whose fiction stories are gritty and exciting; Helen Humphreys,

whose poetry and fiction have long been Canadian favourites; Patrick Lane, whose piercing poetry ignited creative sparks for weeks afterwards; and Lawrence Hill, author of the internationally acclaimed *The Book of Negroes*. The full workshop calendar for 2013 will be posted before 2012 is out.

Wintergreen Renewable Energy Co-op

The Wintergreen Renewable Energy Initiative was established in June 2011 to support local, renewable, and community-based energy projects. Members from the community, along with Wintergreen volunteers and staff, contribute to this initiative on a project-by-project basis. In August 2012, we voted to incorporate as a co-op, and that process is now underway. Currently we are awaiting approval from the Financial Services Commission of Ontario and seeking \$100 membership fees from an interested public to assist with set-up costs. For more information contact David Hahn at dhahn@rideau.net.

Wintergreen Studios Press

This year our Press, which falls under the auspices of Wintergreen Studios, has taken flight! In January we hired Claire Grady-Smith to be our Marketing Director, and she has been updating our website (www.wintergreenstudiospress.com) and social media sites, creating marketing plans for each book, and organizing book launches and events. She also assists with marketing our workshops and reading series as these activities overlap with those of a literary press. We've published our fourth and fifth books this year, and we are currently working on our sixth and seventh. We plan to start requesting submissions in relation to our new tagline "the art of sustainable living," which will bring the press more in line with the incredible work that the Studios and the Co-op are doing. These and other initiatives provide us with excellent cross-marketing opportunities as we steadily expand.



Annual Appeal from the Vice-President

22 October 2012

Dear Friends of Wintergreen,

What a year it's been at Wintergreen! We hosted four extraordinary Canadian poets and prose writers. Each one of them conducted workshops and gave public performances of their work. Beginning with Steven Heighton in June, followed by Helen Humphreys in July, Patrick Lane in August, and ending with Lawrence Hill in September, Wintergreen was graced with the generosity and wisdom of these fine people. We also ventured into a new building realm this summer, by combining straw bale and cordwood in a single building that we have named *The Beach House*. The frame was completed by Wintergreen's neighbour and heritage carpenter, Adam Turcotte, and then the walls were stuffed with straw and cordwood during an August workshop, led by Rena Upitis and Tina Therrien. Thanks to a generous donation by the TD Friends of the Environment, and the help of many capable volunteers, we expect to have the Beach House completely paid for by the spring!

We have an impressive company of artists, writers, and musicians lined up for 2013, and it is because of you, our donors, that we have been able to assemble such a rich and varied program. All donations made to Wintergreen will continue to be applied directly to subsidize workshops and educational programs. Every donor will be issued a

tax receipt. As has been our custom since Wintergreen was first established, every donation will be matched, dollar for dollar, by the Board of Directors.

We appreciate any support you may offer. Should you choose to contribute online, simply open our home page (www.wintergreenstudios.com) and click on "make a donation." You will then be issued a receipt directly from Canada Helps at www.canadahelps.org.

With warmest thanks,

Katharine Smithrim, Vice-President



The Nearly Completed Beach House, August 2012



Volunteers (in alpha order)

Board of Directors

Rena Uptis, President

Katharine Smithrim,
Vice-President

Helen Turnbull,
Secretary-Treasurer

Serena Manson

Larry Scanlan

Wintergreen Studios is blessed with many volunteers. Beginning with the volunteer Board of Directors (listed to the left), right through the volunteers who work in our gardens, cook in our kitchen, and serve on our programs committee, the people listed below have

enriched our work and our lives. Some of these volunteers have been offering their skills and time to Wintergreen since our early pilot programs in 2008.

Thank you, one and all.

Philip Abrami
John Alaers
Aaron Baxter
Julia Brook
Jamie Campbell
Valerie Chiykowski
Helen Coe
Louise Cooper
Buddy Crawford
Marilyn Crawford
Ken Cuthbertson
CJ Dalton
Jennifer Davis
Jennifer Dickson
Dorina Friedli

Hannes Friedli
Faye Ginnies
Claire Grady-Smith
David Hahn
Miguel Hahn
Christopher Hudson
Helen Humphreys
Kristina Inrig
Amanda Jahnke
Lorrie Jorgensen
Bruce Kauffman
Annemieke Little
Serena Manson
Teri-Ann McDonald
Lindy Mechefske

David Murphy Haglund
Gary Rasberry
Hayden Rasberry
Paula Robert
Larry Scanlan
Birgit Scheichl
Danny Shaddick
Karen Smereka
Katharine Smithrim
Adam Turcotte
Helen Turnbull
Rena Uptis
Zinta Uptis

Donors* (in alpha order)

Jo-Anne Brady
Diana Brushey
Justin Connidis
Sean Conway
Pierre duPrey
Angela Elster
John Freeman
Kate Freeman
Dorina Friedli
Hannes Friedli
Jordana Garbati
Mac Gervan
Sarah Gibson-Bray

David Hahn
Patrick Lane
Scott Lee
Barbara Linds
John Meisel
Stephanie Milligan
David Murphy Haglund
Elizabeth Paulette-Coughlin
Victor Rabinovitch
John & Phyllis Rae
Gary Rasberry
Leslie Reade
Larry Scanlan

Sandy Sellers
Karen Smereka
Angela Solar
Karin Steiner
Mary-Alice Thompson &
Paul Banfield
Helen Turnbull
Rena Uptis
Zigfrids Uptis
Ingrid Whyte

* List represents the period from October 2011 to September 2012.



2012 Financial Summary

Balance Sheet (ending June 2012)

Total Assets:	\$520,124
Total Liability:	\$245,005
Total Equity:	\$275,119

Income Statement

Total Income:	\$164,750
Total Expenses:	\$154,263
Net Income:	\$10,487



Building the Beach House

Donations & Income: Diversifying

One of our goals for this past year was to increase the types of income generated by Wintergreen's activities. We were successful in doing so: we now have partnerships with NGOs, community networks, corporate partners, as well as new research partnerships and funding. Our program income is increasingly well supplemented with rental income. And we continue to enjoy extraordinary—and necessary—support from our donors. But the most surprising income source this year was Wintergreen Studio Press—our new titles garnered unexpectedly fine sales and donations in support of their production.

Income Sources



"We are celebrating a number of new partnerships, which not only bring income to Wintergreen, but new professional networks as well."

Kristina Inrig
Partnership Development
Director



Who Comes to Wintergreen?

Last year was the first time that we kept track of the numbers of people coming through the doors of the Wintergreen lodge. To our surprise, we welcomed well over a thousand visitors in 2011 – and this year, there were almost as many. But while the numbers didn't change so much, instead of coming for an afternoon

or an evening, many of this year's visitors to Wintergreen stayed for days at a time – and came more than once. We'll have to find a new way to count for next year's report!

Activity	Attendees
Concerts & Readings	292
Open Houses & Tours	158
Workshops	48
Private Retreats	41
Group Retreats	164
Meetings/Conferences	181
Total	884

Outreach

Our activities and vision continue to be highlighted in local newspapers, such as *Kingston This Week* and *The Kingston Whig Standard*, as well as national magazines. We've also significantly increased traffic on our Facebook and Twitter feeds.

This year our biggest coup was a blurb about our retreat centre in *Via Rail's Destinations Magazine* in March and April.



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*bringing
balance
back*

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 inspired and refreshed. Our activities encompass three sectors: education, culture, and the environment.

