

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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From the President

My annual letter has traditionally focused on the year that has passed. This year I'm going to focus on the year to come.

For the first time in Wintergreen's history, we are extending our workshops to the winter season. From January 27–31, Lorna Crozier will facilitate a poetry retreat in the Wintergreen lodge. Imagine the woodstove crackling, with hot soups simmering, and bread warming in the oven. And imagine, too, the snow-covered trails and the tempting sauna... winter delights of all kinds.

The poetry retreat is part of a larger event called the *Red Boot Festival*, which will culminate in a gala at Memorial Hall, Kingston City Hall, on February 1, 2014. See our [website](#) for details; we'll be updating it regularly as the plans for the event unfold.

These events — as well as the ones that we have enjoyed this past year — would not be possible without our magnificent



volunteers and staff. I'd like to extend special thanks to Karen Smereka, our indefatigable Operations Manager, and Louise Cooper, our genius in the kitchen!

We hope to welcome many of you back to Wintergreen in 2014. And I look forward to seeing you at the gala on the first day of February.

Rena Upitis

President & CEO

Ontario Trillium Foundation Funding



An agency of the Government of Ontario.
Relève du gouvernement de l'Ontario.

In March 2013 we received funding for a year's worth of work on environmental education projects at Wintergreen and throughout parts of Southeastern Ontario. Since receiving the funding, we have

been developing and presenting environmental education workshops and tours at Wintergreen and at Queen's University. We're excited to have the opportunity to further our work in the areas of off-grid architecture, renewable energy, and local food production.

All of our workshops can be viewed under the "education" tab on the Wintergreen Studios website.



"I wish I could bottle the moments, and breathe again our laughter and our intensity."



Courses and Workshops

This year's workshops included courses on poetry writing, prose, and natural building techniques. Two of our seven workshops were cancelled due to low enrolment, and while this was a disappointing turn of events, the workshops that took place were exceptionally fine.

During the spring and summer months, we hosted two remarkable writers and teachers, both of whom are also

honorary patrons of Wintergreen. Lawrence Hill, author of the internationally acclaimed *The Book of Negroes*, held a spring workshop at the lodge, and Lorna Crozier, Canadian poet and cultural icon, rounded out the summer season with a poetry workshop in late August.

Weddings and Retreats ... and a Festival in the Making

Wintergreen hosted a number of retreats and conferences this year, on topics ranging from Building Community Power, to Greening Sacred Spaces (a workshop about using renewable energy for faith-based community buildings), to Professional Development for Studio Music Teachers. We are pleased that more and more groups are taking advantage of our facilities for these kinds of meetings. If you belong to a group that might like a few days of visioning (with pampering and delicious food), please contact us and we'll help customize an ideal retreat for your group. Book clubs, corporate groups, community groups, family reunions — any and all are possible!

And weddings, too. Two wedding receptions took place at Wintergreen this August. Beautiful people, beautiful weather (it never rains during weddings at Wintergreen), beautiful gardens, beautiful music... and with sustainable practices embodied throughout.

On the covering page, mention was made of the *Red Boot Festival*. The festival is in celebration of the art of living sustainably, and will include workshops, special events at Wintergreen, and a gala in Kingston on February 1 — save the date! And if you don't already own a pair of red boots, this is the year to get some. People wearing red boots to the gala will be automatically entered into a draw for something wonderful and RED!

Annual Appeal from the Vice-President

27 September 2013

Dear Friends of Wintergreen,

As the leaves begin to turn their colours along the paths of Wintergreen Studios, we turn to thank our donors for their sustaining generosity. Each year, new people join our faithful supporters in response to our annual giving campaign. Newcomers to Wintergreen this year include those who have attended private weddings, corporate retreats, and meetings, in addition to the workshops and dinner concerts planned by Wintergreen.

Wintergreen continues to offer learning opportunities in the fine arts, the performing arts, the outdoor arts, the domestic arts and the art of sustainability. Wintergreen stands as a testament to sustainable living, in a world where, as John Ralston Saul says, "A Big Mac is the communion wafer of consumption."* Those who come to Wintergreen sleep in toxin free buildings, eat fresh local (really local!) food, breathe clean air, do without the power grid, learn something new, and return to their homes refreshed and inspired. Even more important, they are also contributing to a world view that offers hope for our planet.

There are many ways you can support Wintergreen's work. You can attend workshops, dinner concerts and other events hosted by Wintergreen. You could hold a family reunion at Wintergreen, or you could propose a workshop you would like to offer. You can also serve as a

volunteer — look under the "Support our Work" tab on the webpage (www.wintergreenstudios.com).

If you are able, we hope you will consider donating financially to Wintergreen. All donations made to Wintergreen will be applied directly to costs associated with running workshops and educational programs. Donors will be issued tax receipts for the 2013 year, and every donation to the Annual Giving Campaign will be matched, dollar for dollar, by the Board of Directors.

Should you choose to contribute online, simply open our [home page](#) and click on "make a donation." You will then be issued a receipt directly from Canada Helps.

We will also acknowledge substantial gifts by offering you a taste of what Wintergreen has to offer. Donors of \$500 will receive three copies of a book published by Wintergreen Studios Press, an anthology of pieces written at Wintergreen and edited by Helen Humphreys. Donors contributing over \$1000 will be entitled to two tickets to our *Red Boot Festival* as well as three copies of the Humphreys anthology.

With warmest thanks,

Katharine Smithrim, Vice-President

**The Doubter's Companion A Dictionary of Aggressive Common Sense, p. 10.*



Board of Directors

Rena Upitis, President

Katharine Smithrim,
Vice-President

Helen Turnbull,
Secretary-Treasurer

Serena Manson

Larry Scanlan

Volunteers (in alpha order)

Wintergreen Studios has many able and willing volunteers. Beginning with the volunteer Board of Directors (listed to the left), right through to the volunteers who work in our gardens, cook in our kitchen, trim our wilderness trails, and serve on our committees, the people listed

below have enriched our work and our lives. Almost half of these volunteers have been offering their skills and time to Wintergreen since our earliest programming took place in 2008. Many of our volunteers are donors as well.

Thank you, one and all.

Philip Abrami
Jamie Campbell
Gerry Capelle
Eric Collins
Justin Connidis
Brook Cooper
Louise Cooper
Mary Cooper

Lorna Crozier
Ken Cuthbertson
Jennifer Davis
Jennifer Dickson
Tim Fortington
Stephanie Sheri Foley
Tim Foley
Faye Ginnies
Claire Grady-Smith
David Hahn
Miguel Hahn
Lawrence Hill
Helen Humphreys
Kristina Inrig
Akka Janssen
Lorrie Jorgensen
Mike Katuski
Bruce Kauffman
Krystal Mack

Serena Manson
Lindy Mechefske
David Murphy Haglund
Lynn Rainboth
Gary Rasberry
Hayden Rasberry
Paula Robert
Larry Scanlan
Birgit Scheichl
Billy Shipton
Patty Shipton
Karen Smereka
Katharine Smithrim
Adam Turcotte
Helen Turnbull
Rena Upitis
Zinta Upitis
Marion Watkins



Donors (in alpha order)*

Julia duPrey
Pierre duPrey
Angela Elster
Mary Farrar
John Freeman
Dorina Friedli
Hannes Friedli
Jordana Garbati
Mac Gervan
Alison Gowan
Claire Grady-Smith
David Hahn
Lawrence Hill
Kristina Inrig
Michael Inrig
Lorrie Jorgensen
Scott Lee
Laurie Lewis

Graham Lodge
Julia McArthur
John McDougall
John Meisel
Stephanie Milligan
David Murphy Haglund
Elizabeth Paulette-Coughlin
Donna Poirier
Lynn Rainboth
Gary Rasberry
Leslie Reade
Cheryl Reid
Paula Robert
Larry Scanlan
Vicki Schmolka
Carolyn Smart
Karen Smereka
Katharine Smithrim

Karin Steiner
Mary-Alice Thompson
Helen Turnbull
Rena Upitis
Zigfrids Upitis
Suzette Vos
Marion Watkins
Ingrid Whyte

Paul Banfield
Eileen Beaudette
Jo-Anne Brady
Karen Brown
Diana Brushey
Terry Burns
May Chew
Eric Collins
Justin Connidis
Melanie Craig-Hansford
Ken Cuthbertson
Brian Davis
Jennifer Davis

* List represents donations made between September 30, 2012 to October 1, 2013.



2013 Financial Summary

Balance Sheet (ending June 2013)

Total Assets:	\$493,293
Total Liability:	\$221,672
Total Equity:	\$271,621

Income Statement

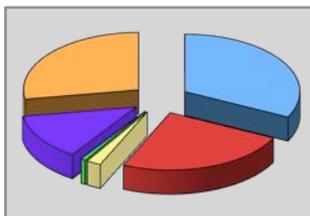
Total Income:	\$172,865
Total Expenses:	\$171,883
Net Income:	\$ 982



Donations & Income

Donations continue to account for a significant part of the Wintergreen pie: like most not-for-profit organizations, it is our donors that drive the Wintergreen enterprise. But even though we are not for economic profit, we are very much for social and environmental profit. With that in mind, we are very pleased with the smallest segment of the pie — the small green portion marked “fundraising.” This denotes money raised through the *Indiegogo* campaign to sponsor young writers to join Lawrence Hill for a spring writers’ workshop at Wintergreen. Through the *Indiegogo* campaign, we were not only able to host two remarkable young women to join us at Wintergreen, but we attracted new donors as well.

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; last year the number was closer to 900. This year we have had over 800 visitors to Wintergreen, but we have also held events at other locations, including several book launches for our 2012 and 2013 titles. We're also keeping track of the number of people

who attend Wintergreen workshops offsite, and we expect that these numbers will grow considerably next year, due to the work that we've undertaken in conjunction with the Ontario Trillium Foundation funding.

** These numbers reflect visitors from July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013.*

Activity	2012	2013
Concerts & Readings	292	256
Open Houses & Tours	158	151
Workshops	48	147
Retreats	235	140
Off-site Activities	—	206
Meetings/Conferences	181	107
Total	884	1007

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*bringing
balance
back*

Outreach

Our activities continue to be highlighted in local and regional publications. We have almost 500 "likes" on Facebook, and we're aiming for 750 by next year. The Twitter feed is also active.

We also enjoyed national coverage. In the dog days of summer, *The Globe and Mail* carried a reference to Wintergreen through a beautiful piece written by Lorna Crozier when she was teaching a workshop at the lodge.

On her morning walk on the first day of the workshop, Lorna returned with an idea. She closeted herself in the staff bedroom for a few hours, and appeared with the first draft just before lunch. Thanks to the wonder of our new highspeed Internet at the lodge, Lorna was able to send it off to *The Globe* that afternoon. And voila! It appeared in the Saturday edition on the Labour Day weekend—a late summer odyssey. See the article at

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/lake-of-the-blue-moon/article14056859/>

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.

