

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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From the President

Late last fall, someone suggested that we hold an evening event featuring the Camino. Seemed like a good idea to me. Little did I know, that as a result of that one evening at Wintergreen, I would become completely enchanted with the idea of crossing Spain and joining thousands of other pilgrims on the long route to Santiago de Compostela.

Not only did I become enchanted with the idea, but I immediately started plotting and planning so that I could make the pilgrimage in July with my daughter, Zinta. And so we did. To say that the journey was life-changing (which is what everyone says about the Camino) is an understatement. I loved it. I laughed and sang every day. Ate beautiful food. Met amazing people. Rejoiced to spend nearly every waking moment outdoors, learning about the mountains of northern Spain with every step I took. Best of all, I came home determined to make some changes in my habits of being.

BioBlitz 2015

We came. We saw. We counted. Over 60 volunteers descended on Wintergreen's land for a 24-hour period in June. The Wintergreen BioBlitz was made possible by the generous support of the [TD Friends of the Environment Foundation](#).

The BioBlitz was coordinated by Anne Robertson of the Kingston Field Naturalists. She writes:

"Field observers spread over the property collecting information on everything from night time moths to early morning birds and from beautiful dragonflies to forest ferns. Participants observed several Grey Ratsnakes, Tiger Swallowtail Butterflies pollinating Wood Lilies, an Arrow Spiketail (a lifer dragonfly for



In April of 2016, we will begin our 10th year at Wintergreen. It is almost inconceivable that so much time has passed. Impossible to imagine how Wintergreen will continue to shape my life, and shape the lives of all who give their hearts to our work.

Here's to the next 10 years!

Rena Uptis, *President & Executive Director*

a professional naturalist!), a Luna Moth, Giant Leopard Moth and a Clearwing Moth. The Daisyleaf Moonwort and Rattlesnake Fern were new species for many. Three species of hawk were seen soaring about the same time: Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Several special sightings of unusual or species-at-risk or of particular interest were added to the tally. A patch of 50 Showy Orchis was found and endangered Butternut trees were seen. A Fisher, a mid-sized mammal, was observed in the late evening. A Five-lined Skink (our only lizard) was an exciting find as well. One Whip-poor-will, a threatened species, was heard calling."

Plans are now underway for BioBlitz 2016! Read more in the Annual Appeal letter.





The Beat Goes On...

It is said that the heartbeat of the drum is the heartbeat of Mother Earth. When we drum, we honour our ancestors, the land, air, water, and all living things. Last year we offered our first drum-making workshop, followed by an awakening ceremony and community drum circle. The same workshop was offered again this summer — with nearly twice as many people in attendance. Next summer (2016) we will offer drum-making workshops once again, expanding the programming to include a special day for children (8 to 14 years).

The teachings of Beverly Anger and Julie Vachon have been extremely meaningful to the attendees. We're delighted that Julie has also led several other workshops focusing on aboriginal knowledge. One of those workshops is upcoming in November, *On Death and Dying*, and will also involve Brian Goldman (host of CBC radio's *White Coat, Black Art*), moderated by Board Member Lawrence Scanlan.

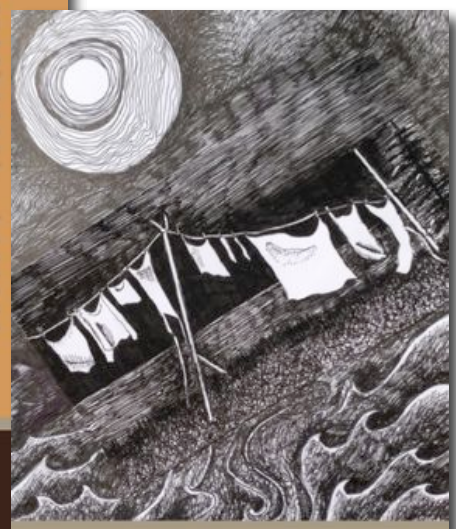
Hot off the Press

Just in time for holiday gifts – Wintergreen Studios Press is publishing a lovely selection of poetry and prose.

This book is a small collection of writing produced during Lorna Crozier's workshop, which was held in May of 2015. Each of the eleven poets in attendance contributed a piece for the chapbook. One of the poets, Melanie Craig-Hansford, also provided the cover art. This is Melanie's second literary contribution to Wintergreen Studios Press; she, along with Katharine Smithrim, published a book some years ago called *Prayers for Women Who Can't Pray*. Both, along with our other titles, are available through amazon.ca.

Lorna Crozier has published 17 books of poetry and a memoir. An Officer of the Order of Canada, she's been acknowledged for her writing, her contribution to literature, and her mentoring and teaching with five honorary doctorates, the most recent from McGill and Simon Fraser Universities. Her books have received several national awards, including the Governor-General's Award for poetry. *The Book of Marvels: A Compendium of Everyday Things* was declared one of *The Globe and Mail's* Top 100 Books and Amazon chose her memoir as one of the 100 books you should read in your lifetime. She has performed for Queen Elizabeth II and has read her poetry on every continent except Antarctica.

A beloved teacher at the University of Victoria for over twenty years and an instructor at Banff and Sage Hill, Lorna now flexes her teaching muscles at Wintergreen. She's taught there since 2010 and it's become a second home. Her first home is on Vancouver Island where she lives with writer Patrick Lane and two fine cats who love gardening as much as she does.



MOMMA'S PRAYER FLAGS

EDITED BY

LORNA CROZIER

Annual Appeal

7 September 2015

Dear Friends of Wintergreen,

We live in turbulent times. Now, more than ever, we need to recognize and respond to the Earth's limited carrying capacity. We need to collaborate with the Earth in every possible way – physically, socially, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. Many of Wintergreen's programs focus on how we can make a difference now and for future generations. We would not be able to offer the programs that we do without the support of our donors. It's that simple.

We are convinced that the cultural transformation we need is more likely to happen with champions – young and old – who are deeply connected to the natural world. This past spring, Wintergreen was host to the first BioBlitz held on our land. The BioBlitz is a world-wide movement where the general public, along with naturalists and scientists and biologists, come together to identify as many plants, animals, microbes, fungi, and other living organisms as possible in a 24-hour period, thus giving a snapshot of the biodiversity of the site. During Wintergreen's BioBlitz 2015, over 700 species and plants were identified. Our goal is to locate and identify over 1,000 species at Wintergreen during the 2016 event. And by identifying them, naming them, and learning about them, we will help cultivate the champions that will protect our natural resources at Wintergreen and beyond.

We are already making plans for a BioBlitz in June of 2016. This fall, we will invite the key professionals who will help

catalogue the living species we find. We intend to market the event broadly to the general public so that we have a mass of volunteers involved in this exciting event. Yet another task is to identify funding sources that will allow us to host this event without charge to the general public. And finally – this is the big one – we are planning to upgrade the laneway to Wintergreen to accommodate two-way traffic (imagine that!) also filling in some of the dangerous dips and making the road more navigable.

All donations to this year's Annual Giving Campaign will be applied directly to costs associated with BioBlitz 2016, and every donor will be issued a 2015 tax receipt. We hope you will consider making a one time – or better yet – a monthly contribution. Every member of our Board of Directors has already contributed to this campaign! **To contribute online, simply open our home page (www.wintergreenstudios.com) and click on "make a donation."**

Please seriously consider making a monthly donation to Wintergreen through Canada Helps. If 100 people donate \$20 a month, we will, by that sum alone, be able to complete the entire road upgrade! This means that we'll be able to accommodate hundreds of "bioblitzers" – both coming and going down the Wintergreen laneway.

With warmest thanks,

Katharine Smithrim,

Vice-President and 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

Lawrence Scanlan

Phil Abrami
Diane Black
Sara Beck
Karen Boese
Alexander Campbell
Jamie Campbell
Sharon Carr
Peter Coffman
Eric Collins
Brock Cooper
Louise Cooper
Mary Cooper
Lorna Crozier
Ken Cuthbertson
Kat Evans

Faye Ginies
David Hahn
James Hamilton
Christopher Hudson
Kristina Inrig
Lorrie Jorgensen
Anne Joss
Bruce Kauffman
Helen Lawler
Krystal Mack
Serena Manson
Lindy Mechevske
Gary Rasberry
Hayden Rasberry
Mark Reinhart

Nicholas Piovesan
Paula Robert
Lawrence Scanlan
Karen Smereka
Katharine Smithrim
Adam Turcotte
Helen Turnbull
Alfred von Mirbach
Rena Upitis
Zinta Upitis
Marion Watkins
Graham Whitelaw

Donors (in alpha order)

"I take every opportunity possible to come to Wintergreen. I used to just come for the workshops that attracted me, but now I come to anything and everything if I have space on my calendar!"

Susan Alexander
Laura Apol
Karen Boese
Alexander Campbell
Sharon Carr
Peter Coughlin
Melanie Craig-Hansford
Lorna Crozier
Julia duPrey
Pierre duPrey
Susan Fowler-Olding
Sarah Gibson Bray
David Hahn
Lawrence Hill
Barbara Hunt
Lorrie Jorgensen
Heather Lackner
Scott Lee
Barbara Linds
Julia McArthur
Maureen McGahey
Ruth McKinney
Serena Manson
Elizabeth Paulette-Coughlin
Donna Poirier
Lise Rochefort

Lawrence Scanlan
Lynn Shulha
Karen Smereka
Katharine Smithrim
Guy Thorne
Susan Thorne
Adam Turcotte
Helen Turnbull
Rena Upitis

Zigfrids Upitis
Wendy Warren
Marion Watkins
Susan Wismer



Contemplating the Camino

2015 Financial Summary

Balance Sheet (ending June 2015)

Total Assets:	\$503,281
Total Liability:	\$262,980
Total Equity:	\$240,301

Income Statement

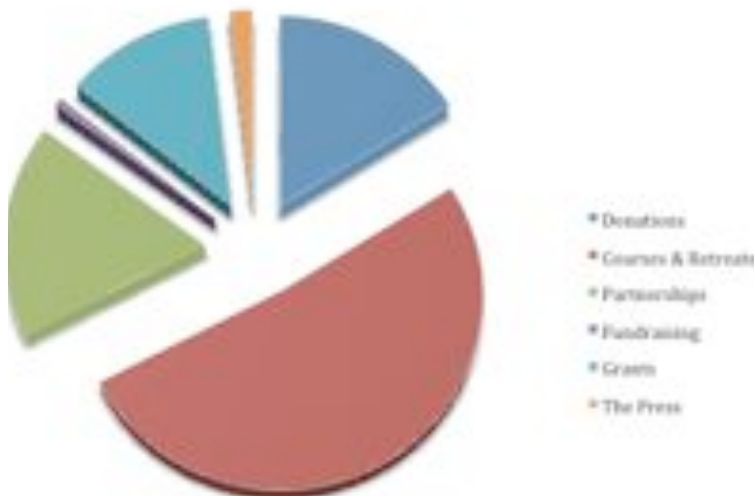
Total Income:	\$103,479
Total Expenses:	\$84,806
Net Income:	\$ 18,673



Donations & Income

Cash donations were not as strong in 2015 as in previous years, in large part because we did not host a major fundraising event (remember the *Red Boot Festival* in 2014)? Instead, by focusing our efforts on courses and retreats, we have increased the revenues for direct programming significantly. In 2014, courses and retreats accounted for 35% of our income. In 2015, this grew to 51%. Much of the growth is due to the indefatigable efforts of Karen Smereka, who serves not only as our Operations Manager, but spearheads much of the educational programming as well.

Income Sources



BioBlitz 2015

Along with the increases in programming and retreat revenues, we intend to increase the partnership and grant revenues over the next several years. To that end, we have altered our reporting system in keeping with other not-for-profits with annual revenues under \$250K, so that amortized expenses no longer appear on our income statement. We believe this will make us more competitive as we continue to apply for grants under the seasoned and generous leadership of Kristina Inrig, or Partnerships Director.

Another strategy will be to focus our grants and partnerships on our flagship programming – hence the emphasis on the BioBlitz in this year's Annual Giving Campaign and the expansion of the drum-making workshops – both of which connect us more deeply to the earth.

Who Comes to Wintergreen?

In keeping with our increased programming at Wintergreen, there have been fewer off-site events and more participants taking part at Wintergreen itself as shown in the table below. We continue to attract over 1,200 participants each year to Wintergreen and to the off-site programming events.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Concerts & Readings*	—	185	256
Open Houses & Tours	451	102	151
On-site workshops & events	414	91	147
Retreats**	—	187	140
Off-site workshops, events	172	625	206
Meetings/Conferences	216	78	107
Total	1253	1268	1007

* 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?

It is not an overstatement to say that without our volunteers, Wintergreen would cease to exist. During the past fiscal year (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) our volunteers contributed the equivalent of \$85,504 to Wintergreen by giving their time — to provide beautiful food, serve on committees, tend the gardens, volunteer their time for workshops, and otherwise contribute to our collective work. Of the 31 people who volunteered regularly at Wintergreen this year, 8 were new to Wintergreen, and 23 were returning from prior years, right back to the year that Wintergreen began.

What is Wintergreen Studios?

Wintergreen Studios is an 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.

