



Solemn Land, Algoma, c. 1919
J.E.H. MacDonald (Canadian, 1873-1932)
Composite wood-pulp board, 21.6 x 26.7 cm
Gift by subscription, 1933
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto

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2016 Annual Report

October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016



MUSKOKA
CHAUTAUQUA

Nurturing curiosity and creativity

Muskoka Chautauqua
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www.MuskokaChautauqua.com
Charitable No. 88954259RR0001

Greetings from Muskoka Chautauqua

Growing our Community of Cultural Creativity

Muskoka Chautauqua embraced 2016 as a year of change and learning

With an abundance of creative and original content, 2016 was a solid year for Muskoka Chautauqua.

Our summer season kicked off with the Flavours of Muskoka Chautauqua event at the JW Marriott. The presence of Theatre Arcturus added to the strong performance orientation of this year's event.

A focus on weekly programming at Cleveland's House provided some wonderful encounters with the arts for local and seasonal residents and visitors alike. Highlights included Don Chretien, an Ojibwe artist who will be returning for his second year, and painters Greg and Susan Hindle, who have been participating in the Artist in Residence program since it began 2008.

The Toronto All Star Big Band's performance showcased young musicians, carrying forward a tradition in Muskoka for two decades.

The Muskoka Opera Festival contributed powerfully to the season once again. New to the festival this year was a staged performance of Eugene Onegin, sung by a number of talented up-and-coming performers, including some who had been influenced by Chautauqua and the Opera Festival when they were much younger – truly a rewarding case of seeing circles of influence come to fruition.

The monthly coffee house concerts at the Muskoka Place Gallery continue to be a quiet success, with a rock solid core audience who fill the venue – sometimes to capacity – and demonstrate the drawing power of quality shows in intimate halls.

“Muskoka Chautauqua is a group of people who celebrate creative talent in a gorgeous place, and encourage others to dive into their own creative side. We work to create a dialogue between creators and audience; to showcase the talents of creative professionals in all media; to tap into the latent talents in the audience; and to do all of it with a keen awareness that we're doing all of this in a place of stunning beauty.”

Andrew Wagner-Chazalon,
Chair, Muskoka Chautauqua Board of Directors

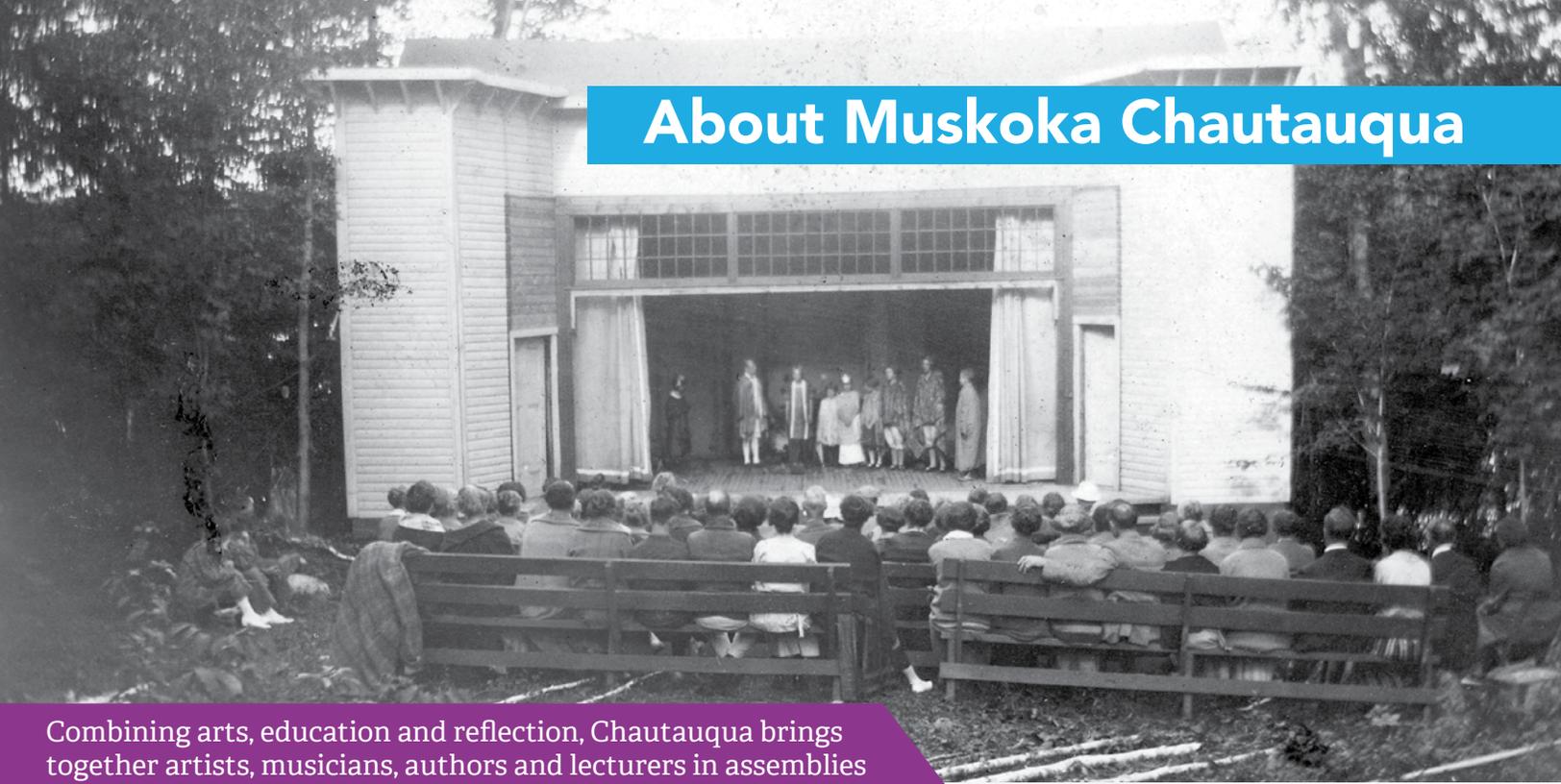


2016 Board Chair Andrew Wagner-Chazalon (left) with Founders Gary Froude and Gayle Dempsey

Number of participants
in our 2016 programs:

6,800

About Muskoka Chautauqua



Combining arts, education and reflection, Chautauqua brings together artists, musicians, authors and lecturers in assemblies across North America, but there is only one Canadian Chautauqua

Continuing a renaissance of education and culture

“Chautauqua” is an educational and cultural movement that built communities and supported individuals in the development of their full potential spiritually, intellectually, culturally and physically. The concept began in the late 19th century and spread throughout rural North America as hundreds of Chautauqua communities were established. By the mid-1920s, however, the movement began to recede due to the rise of the automobile, radio, and access to education.

Today, Chautauqua is experiencing a renaissance. There are more than 15 Chautauqua communities across North America on what’s known as the Chautauqua Trail, and the demand for authentic, cultural experiences and continued, lifelong learning opportunities is on the rise.

Our Muskoka Chautauqua in Port Carling, Ontario is one of two Chautauqua’s in Canada. In the 1920’s Muskoka was considered Canada’s literary capital with conferences held at Windermere House and Elgin House to provide study, sport and spiritual uplift. Just after World War 1, Canada’s first official Chautauqua assembly took root on Tobin Island on Lake Rosseau. The idea of Chautauqua was revived by Gary Froude and Gayle Dempsey in the late 1990s and the Muskoka Lakes Music Festival transformed into Muskoka Chautauqua officially in 2004.

Vision

To be internationally recognized as a leader in the provision of creative arts-based programming for entertainment and life-long learning that enhances and enriches our communities.

Mission

To design and deliver multi-disciplinary arts-based programs inspiring personal growth, enrichment and renewal by celebrating creativity, the human spirit, and Muskoka’s unique heritage and natural environment while contributing to the economic and social vitality of our communities.

\$999,306 Estimated economic impact of our 2016 programs

The Chautauqua Trail



Topping the International Trail

The Chautauqua Trail is a group of organizations and individuals committed to the communication and implementation of the Chautauqua concept of building community. This is done by supporting all persons in the development of their full potential intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically. The Chautauqua Trail facilitates interaction and communication among its members to further their growth and development.

“Muskoka isn’t just the backdrop for Chautauqua creativity: this Chautauqua is different from any other Chautauqua because it is in Muskoka, and we encourage that fact to influence all that we do.”

Andrew Wagner-Chazalon,
Chair, Muskoka Chautauqua
Board of Directors

Each year, one of the destinations on the trail holds an annual meeting to which all Chautauqua members are invited.

Muskoka Chautauqua will be the proud host of the 34th Annual General Meeting in 2017 – the 100th anniversary of Chautauqua’s Muskoka beginnings, and Canada’s 150th Anniversary – and preparations are under way now to host this first-ever Chautauqua Trail AGM in Canada. The meeting will be held in Port Carling, Ontario from October 12th-15th, 2017 and we encourage our members to attend.

2017 The Chautauqua trail
leads to Muskoka

2016 in Review

October 4, 2015: Muskoka Chautauqua presented Local Colours. The Bethune House in Gravenhurst was overflowing with tourists during the Local Colours event, which ran from 10am-4pm. Members of the 45th Parallel Painters displayed some of their magnificent artworks, while Beverlie Robertson of Brandy Creek Music and Publications entertained guests as they observed the artwork playing and singing Canadian Folk songs, as well as several popular Chinese songs. Some Chinese visitors sang along while others were interested in the instruments Beverlie brought with her. Over 500 guests of all ages attended the event, mostly from the Greater Toronto Area.



October 31, 2015: Kunle Chris playing guitar, harmonica, and talking drum. The singer-songwriter of folk and soul music rooted in West African stories and rhythms performed what he calls "music with no boundaries".

Decemeber 11, 2015: Muskoka Chautauqua hosted the 7th Annual Christmas Jam at the JW Marriott Resort. The private event hosted 40+ attendees, while hotel guests also listened in. Twelve performers were accompanied by eight musicians with hand bells.

July 1st, 2016: Canada Day Celebrations included Kids Celebration, Canada Day Cake, and fireworks at the JW Marriott Resort in Minett.



July 8th, 2016: Flavours of Muskoka Chautauqua at the JW Marriott Resort. Attendees enjoyed a gourmet graze along with wine and beer tasting. The event raised money for Arts Education and was matched by Scotiabank, Port Carling.



July & August, 2016: Artists in Residence and Pop Up Arts, Clevelands House, Minett. Muskoka Chautauqua featured hands-on multidisciplinary activities including performing arts, circus and visual arts with a different artist each week.

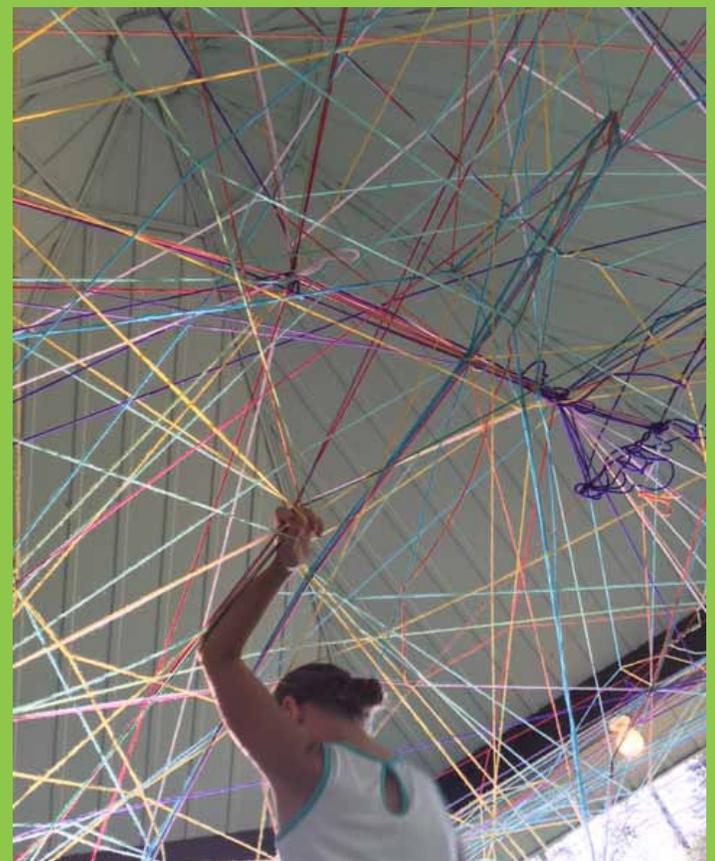
July & August, 2016: Chautauqua Reads book discussions took place Mondays at the Muskoka Lakes Library.

Artists in Residence

Muskoka Chautauqua provided an artist in residence at Clevelands House on beautiful Lake Rosseau from **July 4th – August 26th, 2016**. Artists were featured Monday through Friday each week, for eight weeks. Each artist provided his or her own medium, presenting a wide variety of media and styles. Daily workshops were offered for children. Each Wednesday, the artists guided the Muskoka Chautauqua Art Party on the veranda.

Featured artists included Peter Jarvis, Max Grunin, Don Chretien, Mitchell Pady, Mark Reinhart, Sean William Dawson, Greg and Susan Hindle, Patrick Mulvaney and Steve Houston.

We plan to expand this program in 2017.



2016 in Review

July & August, 2016: Tuesday Film Nights at the Muskoka Place Gallery. The highlight was Painted Land: In Search of the Group of Seven, which left standing room only.

August 17th - 19th, 2016: Muskoka Chautauqua Harp School: A three day harp program at the Muskoka Place Gallery including a recital, poetry reading and an art exhibition.



August 22nd - September 30th, 2016: The Alcuin Society Excellence in Book Design Awards was displayed at the Muskoka Lakes Public Library before being delivered to the Arts & Letters Club in Toronto for an Awards Dinner.

August 23rd - 25th, 2016: Muskoka Chautauqua and OperaMuskoka celebrated opera week with an opening reception, concerts, workshops, master classes and art exhibits. This year Daevyd Pepper, one of our Stars of Tomorrow graduates, produced and sang in our opening night opera, Eugene Onegin, (in Russian), with several local talents. Our Annual Stars of Tomorrow concert gives young singers an opportunity to develop and practise their art.



Coffee Houses

Our Coffee Houses were packed each month and we are continuing this "Company of Good Cheer" into 2017, thanks to Beverlie and Charlie Robertson of Brandy Creek Music and Publications.

November 28th, 2015: Dan McKinnon played to and sang with a full house with his Maritime charm.

January 30th, 2016: Ian Reid performed in front of 60 people at the Muskoka Place Gallery, with his guitars and a ukulele. His poignant and humorous storytelling warmed the room.



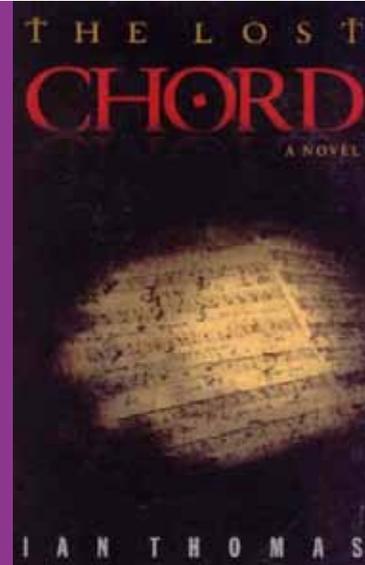
February 27th, 2016: Angie Nussey performed with Jamie Sherman at the Muskoka Place Gallery.

March 26th, 2016: Lotus Wight wowed a packed house with his harmoniconium and other unique instruments.

April 30, 2016: Coffee house featured Po Cholly, Beverlie Robertson & Angie Nussey in a program of traditional blues, Canadian folk music & original compositions for a full house

2016 Reading List

- All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
- Room by Emma Donoghue
- Late Nights on Air by Elizabeth Hay
- The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach
- The Art Fair by David Lipsky
- The Lost Chord by Ian Thomas



Thanking our Supporters

Muskoka Chautauqua appreciates the support of government granting agencies and individual donors and members in helping us bring arts and education to our region.

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Susan Murphy

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Gayle Nummelin

Mikayla Paro

Kathryn Posluns

Deanna Rumsey

Katherine Seybold

Carol-Lynne Smilsky

Mark Stivrins

Donald Thompson

Michelle Vincent

Robert Visentin

Karen Wade

Terrance Wolf

John Wright

Holly Veitch

Sandy McIntyre

Meet our People

Board of Directors

Our board of directors plays a key roll in shaping the direction and strategy of Muskoka Chautauqua and all directors are deeply committed to the value of arts education in Muskoka. We are grateful for their unwavering support and oversight.

Andrew Wagner-Chazalon, Chair
Beverlie Robertson, Secretary
Glad Bryce
Michael Jones
Jake Thomas

Patrick McCrudden, Co-Chair
Diane Adamson
Bernie Gosevitz
Douglas McIntyre

Advisors

Michael Lawley
Marsha Skain

Ellen Mann
Leah Leslie

Administration

Gary Froude, *Executive Director*
Gayle Dempsey, *Director of Development*

Volunteers

Muskoka Chautauqua is proud to have many volunteers and we would like to express our deepest gratitude for their exceptional efforts. We would like to give special thanks to

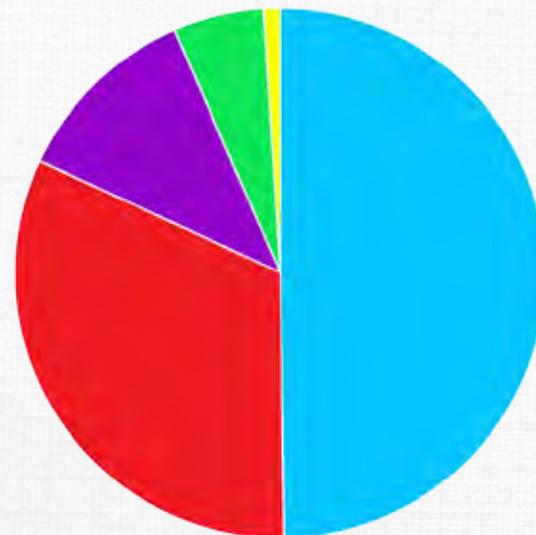


Port Carling Scotiabank donation to 2016 Flavours of Muskoka Chautauqua

2016 Financial Summary

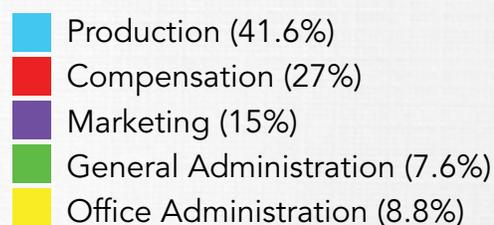
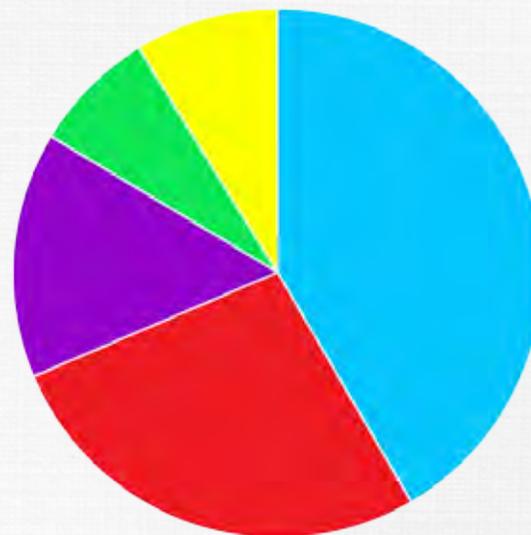
Revenues

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Grants | \$70,804 |
| Donations | \$46,126 |
| Fundraising | \$16,499 |
| Ticket Sales | \$7,813 |
| Other | \$1,387 |
| Total: | \$142,629 |



Expenses

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Production | \$61,742 |
| Compensation | \$40,347 |
| Marketing | \$22,497 |
| General Administration | \$11,146 |
| Office Administration | \$12,908 |
| Total Expenses: | \$148,640 |





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