



MUSKOKA CHAUTAUQUA



Nurturing curiosity and creativity

2015 Annual Report

Muskoka Chautauqua
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Charitable No. 88954259RR0001

Greetings from Muskoka Chautauqua

Growing our community of curiosity and creativity

2015 was a year of change and growth for Muskoka Chautauqua.

It was the first year of a full season of artists-in-residence at Clevelands House, a program we were able to refine further, especially with the expertise of artists who have participated in other artists-in-residence programs around the globe.

The Chautauquafest Reading Circle weekend was another step toward our ultimate goal of providing an entire summer season of themed events. We're already on the map of the international Chautauqua Trail: we want to put Muskoka on the map as the world's most desired location for lifelong learning and cultural experience.

It was exciting playing host to Canadian music icons and artists Murray McLauchlan and Marc Jordan and having them so involved in our weekend themed The Music of Words.

Our Children's Program was a delightful experience for all and included a community mosaic installation that today resides to greet all at the doors of the Muskoka Chautauqua offices and Muskoka Place Gallery.

Our heartfelt thanks to the many organizations and individuals that supported us financially and through dedicated volunteerism.



2015 Board Chair Andrew Wagner-Chazalon (left) with Founders Gary Froude and Gayle Dempsey

“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.”

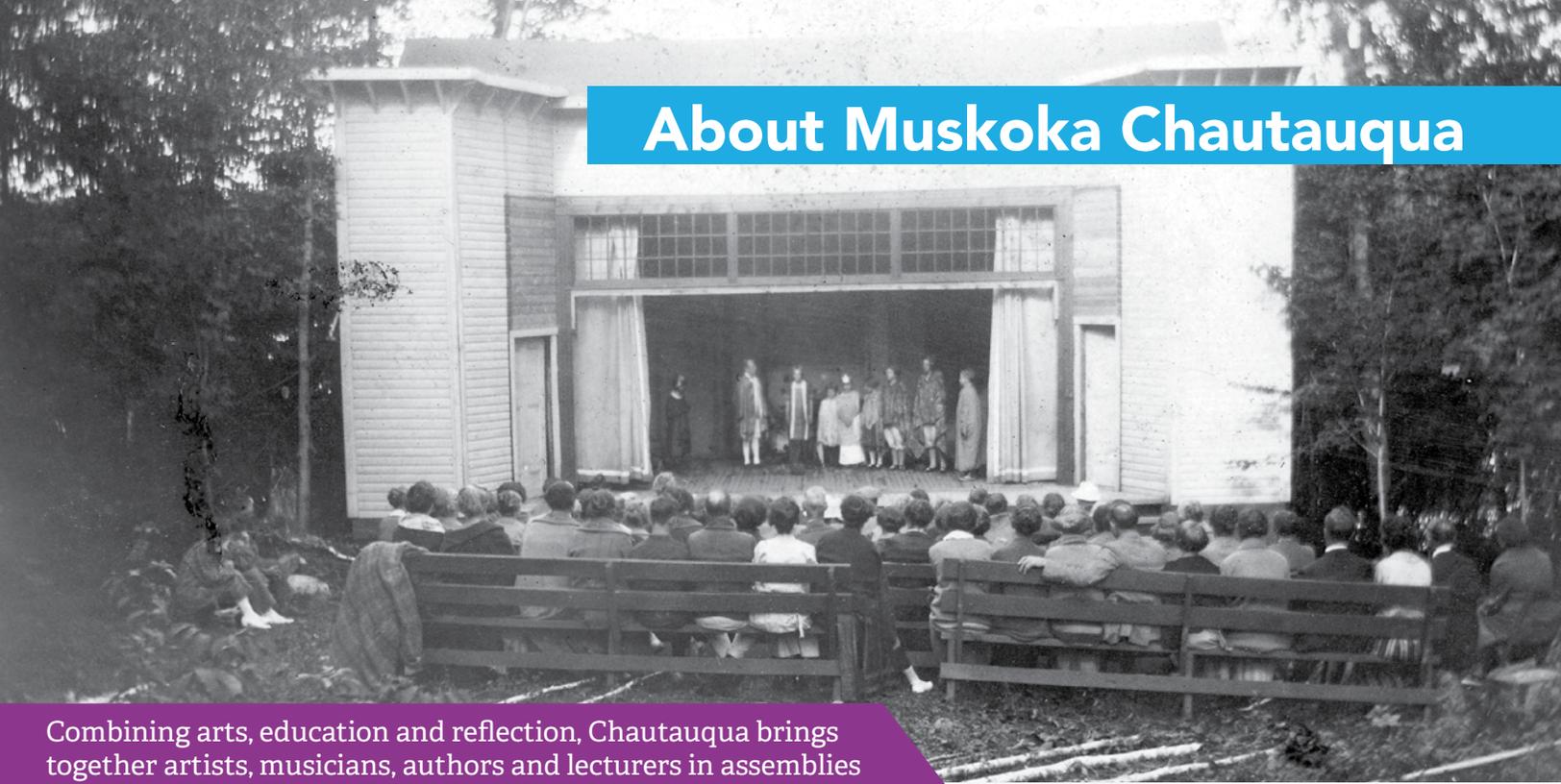
Andrew Wagner-Chazalon,
Chair, Muskoka Chautauqua Board of Directors

We made significant strides in 2015 and we are building on our learnings for 2016 as we expand our programming even further. Plus, we are looking ahead with great excitement to 2017, which marks 20 years of our arts-based programming, 100 years of Chautauqua history in Muskoka, Canada's 150th anniversary – and it will be the year that Muskoka Chautauqua for the first time hosts the Annual Meeting of the Chautauqua Trail.

We invite you to join us on our journey of cultural revival in 2016 and beyond.

10,875 Number of participants
in our 2015 programs

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 the only Chautauqua in Canada. In 1916 and 1917, 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.

\$1.8 Million Estimated economic impact of our 2015 programs

The Chautauqua Trail

Chautauqua Trail
A North American Cultural Renaissance

www.chautauquatrail.com



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 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 preservation, 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. The 33rd Chautauqua Trail Annual Meeting will be held at Tennessee’s Monteagle Sunday School Assembly, July 10-12, 2016, and we encourage our local members to attend.

Muskoka Chautauqua will be the proud host of the 34th Annual General Meeting in 2017 – the 100th anniversary of Chautauqua’s Muskoka beginnings – and preparations are under way now to host this first-ever Chautauqua Trail AGM in Canada.

2017 The Chautauqua trail
leads to Muskoka

2015 in Review

October 4, 2014: Local Colours. The Bethune House in Gravenhurst was overflowing with tourists. Members of the 45th Parallel Painters displayed samples of their magnificent artwork, while Beverlie Robertson of Brandy Creek Music and Publications entertained guests with Canadian and Chinese folk songs.

December 12, 2014: 2014 Homegrown Christmas Jam at the JW Marriott The Rosseau Muskoka Resort & Spa.



January 30, 2015: Muskoka Chautauqua Interview on the Weather Network. We started the New Year off right with a segment on The Weather Network's Look Live show. Gayle Dempsey spoke about the history and tradition of art and Chautauqua in Muskoka.

March 7-21, 2015: The Rosseau Art Tours and Water Colour Workshops were led by Gayle Dempsey as part of the JW Marriott's March break program. These activities also happen all year round.

April 2015: International Print Exhibition and Exchange celebrating the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Goat. Traditional printing methods were used.

May 9, 2015: 9th Annual Walking in my Mother's Shoes, a yearly celebration of the lives of our mothers in music, poetry, art and spoken word. Twenty-one women performed at the event, which also saw the unveiling of the Muskoka Chautauqua 2015 Reading List.

June 28, 2015: Flavours of Muskoka Chautauqua Signature Event. Attendees had a great time and the silent auction table generated more than \$3,000 of revenue that Scotiabank Port Carling matched.



June 2015: Glen Orchard Public School Arts program led by Greg and Susan Hindle.

June 29-September 2, 2015: Artists-in-Residence Program.

Muskoka Chautauqua provided an artist in residence to Clevelands House on beautiful Lake Rosseau from June 29 to September 2, 2015. Artists were featured from Monday to Friday each week. Eight artists took part, presenting a wide variety of media and styles. An hour-and-a-half long creative interactive art workshop was offered daily for about 16 children per day aged 7-12. Each Thursday, the artists guided the Muskoka Chautauqua Art Party at Clevelands House on the veranda.

Featured artists included Sean William Dawson, Taimi Poldmaa, Justine Gogua, Susan and Greg Hindle, Susan Terry (PEACE Camp), Texas artist Dianne Sonnenberg (Community Mosaics Art Installation), and First Nations artist Tracey Pawis.



We plan to expand this program to include more activities, artists, authors and thought leaders in 2016.

2015 in Review

July 1, 2015: Muskoka Chautauqua Canada Day Celebrations included self-guided poetry walks on the Clevelands House Trails, Mural Painting on the Veranda celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Flag of Canada, Historical Chautauqua boat cruises by Summer Watersports, cake in the lobby of the JW Marriott and fireworks by Muskoka Chautauqua at dusk in Wallace Bay.

August 9-August 12, 2015: 32nd Annual Chautauqua Trail Meeting, Chautauqua, New York. Attended by Gayle Dempsey and Andrea Binkley.



August 17-20, 2015: Muskoka Chautauqua presented the 6th annual OperaMuskoka



program, which featured The Bicycle Opera, vocal master classes with Jennifer Tung, violin master classes with Moshe Hammer, a Stars of Tomorrow concert (that was recorded by Cogeco Television and premiered on their cable channels in September) and a From Mozart to Gershwin concert of theatre and opera classics. OperaMuskoka wrapped up with a From Opera to Broadway concert with the Highlands Opera Studio.

With bikes
Bicycle Opera



General director Diane Adamson-Brdar said "our festival not only adds a valuable new cultural attraction to our town but provides a much needed public stage for young Canadian performers, many of whom have gone on from the Rene Caisse stage to performing with major opera companies in Canada, the U.S. and Europe."



Bicycle Opera performer



AUGUST 14-23 CHAUTAUQUAFEST

ChautauquaFest began with the Flatmuzik exhibit and wrapped with a multi arts presentation, Reflections. Details follow.



August 14-23, 2015: Flatmuzik exhibit by music icons Marc Jordan and Murray McLauchlan.

August 21, 2015: Muskoka Chautauqua Reading Circle Weekend Signature Event. Big band music, poetry, songwriting and novels took centre stage August 21-23 at the Chautauquafest arts festival.

The culminating event of Muskoka Chautauqua's calendar, the Reading Circle Weekend kicked off on Friday, August 21 with the **Toronto All-Star Big Band** performing at Cleveland's House. Saturday brought a full day of programming to Cleveland's House, with a series of workshops, discussions, and an evening concert. Poet Margot Lettner led **Words on a String**. Both a craft talk and a chance to read and talk about poetry, the workshop explored what makes a poem "sing" - how poets use sound, silence and rhythm to create meaning and style.

That afternoon, Lettner joined musicians and songwriters Murray McLauchlan, Marc Jordan and Beverlie Robertson for **The Music of Words**, a discussion of creativity moderated by Pamela Goldstein. All three are veteran musicians as well as authors, and discussed their own works as well as titles

they recommended for the annual Muskoka Chautauqua Reading List. They were followed by Halifax-based musician Dan MacCormack, who presented a workshop on how music and literature intersect. It's a subject he knows well: his solo album, *Symphony of Ghosts*, debuted in 2015 and is a musical interpretation of the novels of David Adams Richards.

August 23, 2015: The Reading Circle weekend wrapped up Sunday when MacCormack joined Gayle Dempsey, Robert McAlpine and Michael Moon for Reflections through poetry, paintings and harp music.

The comments of the observers in the final moments of the session expressed the deeper appreciation and meaning the event had for each person.

Robert read a poem to describe a piece of Gayle's art. Michael played the harp as Robert read a poem. Gayle spoke of a piece of her art - a picture that was both a poem and a drawing called "In-between."

Throughout the weekend attendees and resort guests were encouraged to visit The Mural (across from the resort office), depicting the original site of Muskoka Chautauqua almost 100 years ago; and to ask the office for copies of poetry and the map for the Poetry Walk which featured poems selected by Margot Lettner and displayed in various spots along the Cleveland's House Trails. On the waterfront, Chautauqua guests could experience our Chautauqua heritage in motion on historical cruises to the original site of Muskoka Chautauqua on Tobin Island, Lake Rosseau.



August 2015: The Alcuin Society Excellence in Book Design Awards display was previewed at the Reading Circle in August and was then displayed at the Muskoka Lakes Public Library for the month of September before being delivered to the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto for an Awards Dinner. After perusing the titles and listening to the comments, the library ordered some of the titles so that library patrons could take them home.



September 16 – October 8, 2015: A Northern Perspective exhibit by Taimi Poldmaa, featuring paintings of Lake Superior.

Coffee Houses

Our popular “Company of Good Cheer” coffee houses were packed each month and we are continuing this musical tradition in 2016 thanks to Beverlie and Charlie Robertson of Brandy Creek Music and Publications.

October 25, 2014
Hannah Shira Naiman with Arnie and Kathy Reid Naiman brought us Appalachian sounds on her clawhammer banjo.



November 29, 2014 Ian Reid with Tricia Brubacher.

December 27, 2014 Anne Walker, a multi media docu-musical about The Coulson Women’s Institute from 1927 to 2004.

January 31, 2015

Gathering Sparks (Eve Goldberg, Jane Lewis and Sam Turton), a folk super group entertained with their contrasting vocals, rich harmonies and so many instruments – acoustic guitars, resonator slide, piano, accordion, ukulele, banjo, percussion and more.



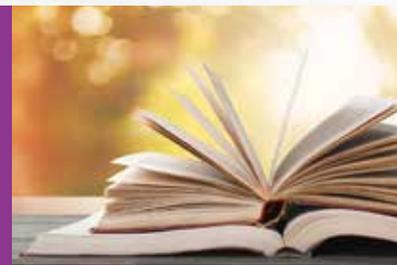
Ian Reid

February 28, 2015 Klaas van Graft, world traveller, troubadour, music pioneer with special guest Beverlie Robertson. Klaas van Graft spearheaded the famous music scene of the old village of the Yorkville music era, including performing at Yorkville’s first coffee house. He was also one of the driving forces behind the first Mariposa Folk Festival.

September 26, 2015, Mike Phillips and Grady Kelneck with special guest guitarist, Jamie Sherman.

2015 Reading List

- Talking Through Pictures: My Life in Songwriting, Marc Jordan
- The Thief’s Journal, Jean Genet
- The Beauty of the Husband, a Fictional Essay in 29 Tangos, Anne Carson
- The Ballad of Murray McLauchlan: Getting out of here Alive, Murray McLauchlan
- The Orenda, Joseph Boyden
- With Knowing Eyes Canadian Women in Song, Beverlie Robertson
- The Mayor of MacDougal Street: a Memoir, Dave Van Ronk with Elijah Wald



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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Port Carling Scotiabank donation to 2015 Flavours of Muskoka Chautauqua

Meet our People

Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors plays a key role in shaping the direction and strategy of Muskoka Chautauqua and all directors are deeply committed to the value of arts education.

We are grateful for their unwavering support and oversight.

Andrew Wagner-Chazalon, *Chair*
Brad Burgess, *Treasurer*
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Bernie Gosevitz
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Administration

Gary Froude, *Executive Director*
Gayle Dempsey, *Director of Development, Aboriginal and Arts Education*
Tori Wines, *Event Manager*

Volunteers

Our talented volunteers are many and varied and we would like to express our deepest appreciation for their exceptional efforts.

We would like to give special thanks to Anne Clement for her ongoing assistance.

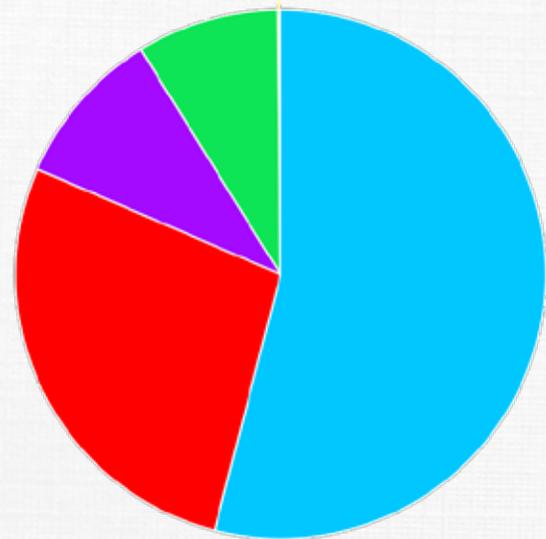


Volunteers at Opera Muskoka 2015

2015 Financial Summary

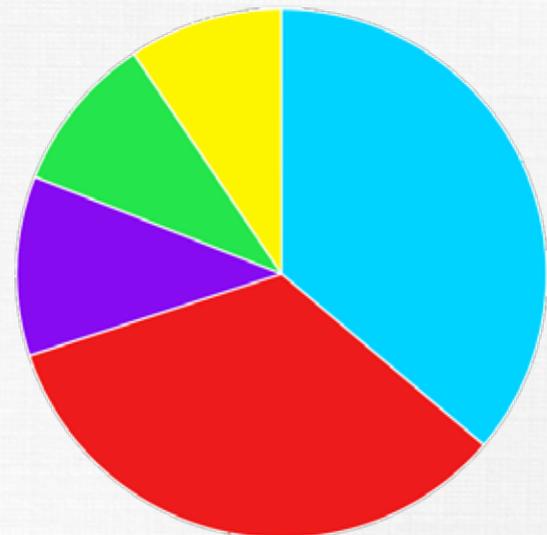
Revenues

Grants	\$71,024
Donations	\$36,169
Fundraising	\$12,708
Ticket Sales	\$11,368
Other	\$235
Total:	\$131,504



Expenses

Production	\$50,557
Compensation	\$47,254
Marketing	\$15,310
General Administration	\$13,454
Office Administration	\$13,126
Total Expenses:	\$139,701





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CHAUTAUQUA