



Muskoka Chautauqua

2021 Annual Report



Greetings from Muskoka Chautauqua



Our 100th anniversary celebration began in a year that was quite exceptional with all activities being planned and executed outdoors. We were delighted to welcome audiences, albeit somewhat restricted, to a spectacular array of concerts, visual arts, HotDocs film screenings, authors readings, lectures, and more in our pop-up Gallery and Theatre in the Woods and evenings under the stars.

We eagerly welcomed everyone including dignitaries, Indigenous elders, artists and grandchildren of the original founders to this safe, sacred, space for workshops, circles and conversations and place-based experiences. Our programming continues to be rooted in this sense of place and the rich heritage of the area. Our new historical walking tour and some of our writers help us share stories and provide insights into the characters who built the community more than a century ago.

The Toronto All-Star Big Band returned by popular demand at the waterfront, reminiscence of bygone days, for their 22nd consecutive year. Other mainstay favourites such as Beverlie Robertson and Po Cholly & Friends were joined by some new additions to the Festival including Craig Cardiff and the Morgan Childs Jazz Quartet. MuskokaOpera, under the leadership of Diane Adamson-Brdar, is another very significant part of Muskoka Chautauqua and the Festival.

How blessed we are to be surrounded by peace and beauty as we imagine what it must have been like here when Chautauqua first brought enlightenment, arts and entertainment to these beloved shores. A hundred years ago we were also just emerging from a pandemic and readying for the Roaring Twenties.

100th Anniversary celebrations will continue, hopefully with fewer restrictions, for our 2022 Festival culminating in a weekend of community family fun. Come and Chautauqua with us August 5-14, 2022.



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Charitable No. 889548593RR0001

Chair's Message

COVID-19 forced the planning for our 2021 into new and creative avenues. As the Board struggled with issues of health guidelines, safe presentations and artists' comfort levels, the program evolved into new horizons. This report elaborates on the excellent result of that work. The Board joins me in expressing our whole-hearted appreciation for all our volunteers who made 2021 such a success. It will be a pleasure to greet you at the various functions and events during the coming 2022 season.

- Glad Bryce

About Muskoka Chautauqua



Muskoka Chautauqua is a not-for-profit organization fostering arts and culture, culminating in a summer festival in the historic village of Windermere.

Muskoka Chautauqua is a community for the curious and the creative. Springing from a tradition that started 100 years ago, when the village of Windermere attracted North America's leading thinkers to its shores, Muskoka Chautauqua is one of the longest-running and more iconic cultural institutions in the region.

With more than 15 Chautauqua communities across North America, Muskoka Chautauqua is the only remaining Canadian chapter. After going dormant after the Great Depression, Gary Froude and Gayle Dempsey revived the concept in the late 1990's and officially relaunched Muskoka Chautauqua in 2004.

Muskoka Chautauqua continues to grow and evolve, with a goal of providing a breadth of diverse arts and culture programming to the residents and visitors of the Muskoka Lakes region.

Vision

To be recognized as a leader in the provision of inclusive, innovative and creative arts-based programming for enrichment and life-long learning, while contributing to economic and social vitality to enhance our communities.

Mission

To coordinate and support innovative multi-disciplinary and arts-based programs and organizations to inspire lifelong learning, personal growth, enrichment and renewal by celebrating creativity, the human spirit and Muskoka's unique heritage and natural environment.

Arts & Culture Festival: August 6-15, 2021



Home in Windermere

In 1921, Chautauqua landed on the shores of Windermere for its inaugural summer season in Muskoka. For the past few years we have been so pleased to again call Windermere Village the home of our summer festival.

The Village of Windermere has embraced our festival with open arms, and we have developed and grown wonderful relationships with many community partners.

This year we worked with the Windermere Women's Institute, the Windermere & District Lion's Club, the Windermere Family Fun Day committee as well as the Windermere History Project. It was wonderful to kick off the festival with the unveiling of our village map at a welcome event that included Mayor Phil Harding and Councillors Barbara Bridgeman and Peter Kelly. The festival concluded with a Family Fun Art Party that included all of our Windermere community partners and local families.



Throughout the Year

In addition to our flagship arts and culture festival in Windermere every August, Muskoka Chautauqua brings arts programming to the region throughout the year.

We continued to embrace partners, technology and digital platforms to ease the impact of the pandemic in our community and particularly for seniors who were feeling isolated and alone. We were inspired to deliver fall and winter virtual 'Start in Art' workshops with the YWCA of Muskoka and Muskoka Chautauqua artist Sean-William Dawson. One participant shared: "I have enjoyed it so much more than I could have imagined. Sometimes it was the one thing I looked forward to each week, given the pandemic. I would love to do it again."

Fall and Winter Coffee Houses were on hold during 2021 as the venue was either in lockdown or significantly restricted.

Finally, we participated again in Culture Days thanks to the innovative and on-line options which featured our self-guided heritage walk in Windermere village.



Thank You to Our Team

Board of Directors

Our board of directors plays a key role in shaping the direction and strategy of Muskoka Chautauqua. All directors are deeply committed to the value of arts, culture and heritage programming in Muskoka. We are grateful for their unwavering support and oversight.

Glad Bryce, Chair
Beverlie Robertson, Secretary
Anne Newberry, Treasurer
Diane Adamson-Brdar

Dr. Bernie Gosevitz
Jen Morgan Anderson
Susan Hindle
Sean William Dawson

Advisors

Marsha Skain
Leah Leslie

Founders/Administration

Gary Froude, Executive Director
Gayle Dempsey, Director of Development

Festival Team

Sean Dempsey, Executive Producer
Kate Woods, Marketing Coordinator
Emily Newton, Onsite Staff
Dale McIntosh, Onsite Producer
Ines Argiru, Onsite Producer

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 them.

Thank You to Our Supporters

In times like these, Muskoka Chautauqua is more thankful than ever for the generous support we receive. A very warm thank you to all of our artists, partners and donors.



HELLYER FOUNDATION

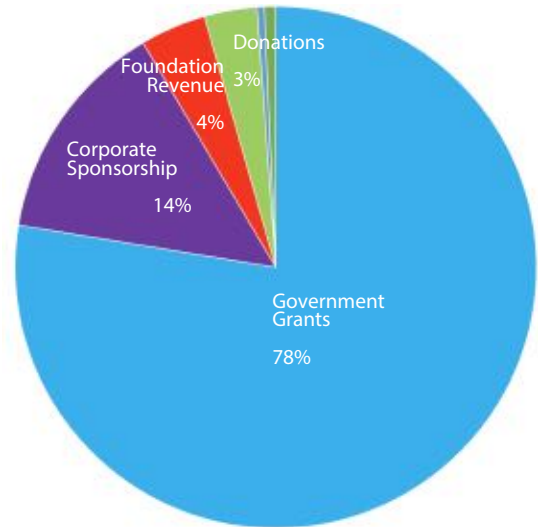
DON & KAREN LANG

JACKMAN FOUNDATION

2021 Financial Summary

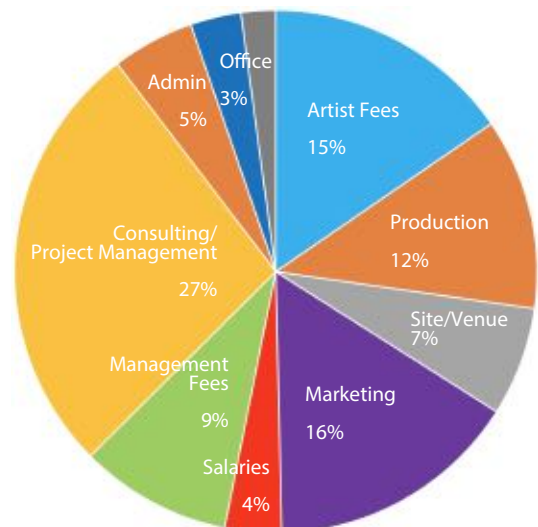
Revenues

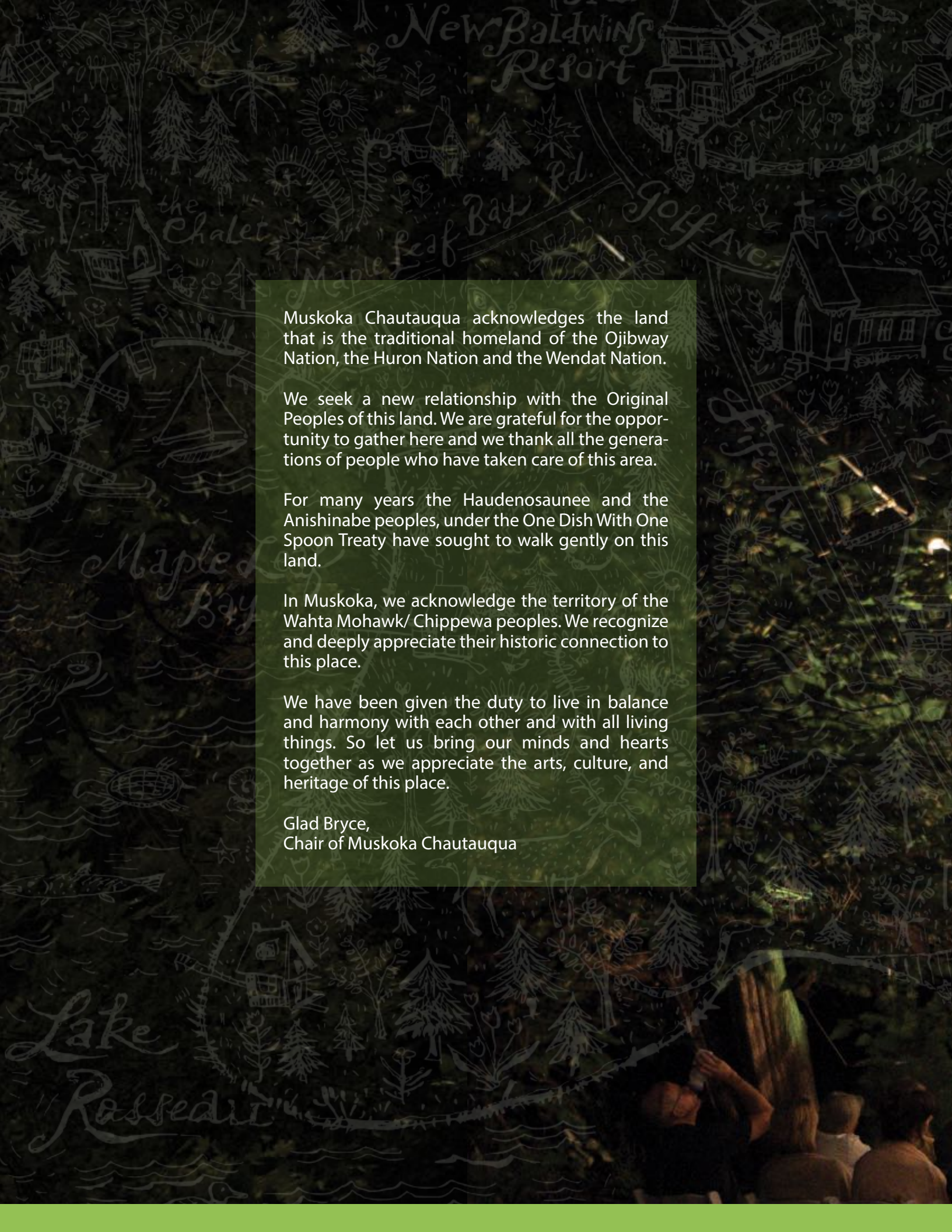
Government Grants	\$ 285,334
Corporate Sponsorship	\$ 51,122
Foundation Revenue	\$ 15,000
Donations	\$ 12,032
Ticket Sales	\$ 1,625
Investment Income	\$ 2,619
Total	\$ 367,732



Expenses

Artist Fees	\$ 51,126
Production	\$ 39,245
Site/Venue	\$ 22,328
Marketing	\$ 51,875
Salaries and Wages	\$ 11,616
Management Fees	\$ 31,200
Consulting/Project Management	\$ 89,740
General Administration	\$ 16,902
Office	\$ 10,417
Amortization of Capital Assets	\$ 7,095
Total	\$ 331,544





Muskoka Chautauqua acknowledges the land that is the traditional homeland of the Ojibway Nation, the Huron Nation and the Wendat Nation.

We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather here and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this area.

For many years the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinabe peoples, under the One Dish With One Spoon Treaty have sought to walk gently on this land.

In Muskoka, we acknowledge the territory of the Wahta Mohawk/ Chippewa peoples. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place.

We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and with all living things. So let us bring our minds and hearts together as we appreciate the arts, culture, and heritage of this place.

Glad Bryce,
Chair of Muskoka Chautauqua