



Muskoka Chautauqua

2023 Annual Report



Greetings from Muskoka Chautauqua



Left to right: Jennifer Murphy (Director), Sean William Dawson (Director), Anne Newberry (Treasurer), Gayle Dempsey (Director of Development), Gary Froude (CEO), Glad Bryce (Chair), Leah Leslie (Director), Beverlie Robertson (Secretary) and Susan Hindle (Director).
Absent: Bernie Gosevitz (Director), Mallory Tingey (Director) and Dianne Adamson-Brdar (Director).

We have been so inspired and honoured as we continue our outdoor summer Festival in the charming village of Windermere, with our Theatre in the Woods, Gallery in the Woods, and pop-up Book Shop in the historical Village Hall. The freight shed at the waterfront and Christ Church Windermere are also special venues which have connected us with the rich history and sense of place this Village holds. Highlights included concerts at the wharf, Shakespeare in the church and the Toronto All-Star Big Band performance for the 24th consecutive year.

The heart of the festival took place on a beautiful, private cottage property, for which we are so grateful, where most of the performances, author's talks, lectures and the Hot Docs films were presented at the "Theatre in the Woods" and where the "Gallery in the Woods" served not only as an exhibition space but a place to meet for workshops and gatherings. The pop-up Book Shop hosted authors from near and far and offered a wide selection of literary works as well as an exhibition of the award-winning books from the Canadian Alcuin Society. It also featured a virtual presentation by Patrick Boyer and the Windermere History Project reminding us that Muskoka Chautauqua was known as Canada's Literary Summer Capital over 100 years ago.

With more than sixty activities and experiences, from our Opening Circle, which was inspired by our Ojibway friends, to our closing Family Fun Art Party, which was inspired by a long-standing community group, the Festival is settling into the important role it plays in animating the Village. It has been such a pleasure to work together with the local community groups and businesses, local and seasonal residents, volunteers, staff, artists, authors and performers in manifesting such an amazing vision. We are also grateful to our funders for helping to make all of this possible. Thanks to the Township of Muskoka Lakes and Canadian Heritage for helping to fund local artists as well as allow the festival to offer "pay what you wish" tickets and Reconnect Ontario for helping us attract visitors to the Festival and the area.

"It is important to mention the generosity of our Patrons and Partners. Their support allowed Muskoka Chautauqua to forge ahead with new relationships with academia. Secondary School education in Bracebridge and Gravenhurst, have future possibilities and OCAD University is offering field placements. The involvement of Windermere Village and Windermere House have provided an expanded future of Community Conversation. It also resulted in appropriate signage around the village and there is now a playground near the Village Hall planned. The Board is presently involved in updating the Strategic Plan for Muskoka Chautauqua. With these projections for 2024 it appears that in our reputation of being an iconic cultural institution shines brightly." - Glad Bryce, Muskoka Chautauqua Chair



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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.

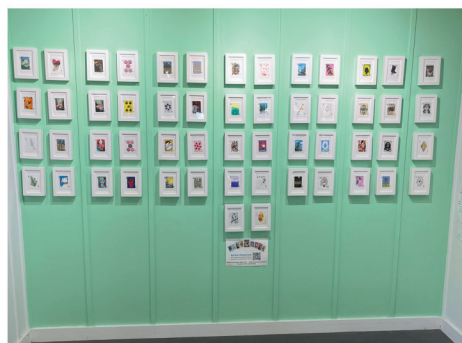
Vision

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 4-13, 2023



Home in Windermere

In 1921, Chautauqua graced the shores of Windermere, marking the beginning of its inaugural summer season in Muskoka. Over the past few years, Windermere Village has once again become the cherished home of our summer festival. Embraced warmly by the locals and cottagers alike, our festival has flourished within the vibrant community fabric.

This year, in collaboration with many community partners, sponsors, and dedicated individuals, we curated a series of events that celebrated the spirit of our community. From lively gatherings to meaningful discussions, we fostered connections and strengthened bonds with our partners and fellow residents.

The culmination of our festivities was marked by a memorable Family Fun Art Party, uniting Windermere's diverse community partners and local families in a joyous celebration of creativity and togetherness. This event not only showcased the richness of our community but also highlighted the collaborative efforts that make Windermere a truly special place.

Additionally, a recent Community Conversation held at Windermere House brought together over 80 individuals from the community and surrounding areas. This gathering served as a platform to discuss future plans for Windermere, reinforcing our commitment to inclusivity and collective visioning for the betterment of our beloved village.

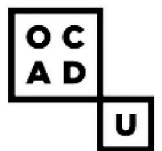
Throughout the Year

In addition to our flagship arts and culture festival in Windermere every August, Muskoka Chautauqua brings arts programming to the region throughout the year. Back by popular demand, all Fall and Winter Coffee Houses were held at The Muskoka Place Gallery and had great crowds, bringing music to the community!

Muskoka Chautauqua lent our hand bells to the students of TLDSB and they had such a positive experience that they decided to buy their own sets to keep for the students.

We were thrilled to have such strong local community partners including Windermere House, Windermere Women's Institute, Taylor Farms, Muskoka Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Muskoka Lakes Association, Windermere Lion's Club, Windermere Golf & Country Club, Don & Karen Lang, Explorer's Edge, Muskoka Tourism, Windermere Christ Church, Township of Muskoka Lakes.

Finally, we held successful partnerships with secondary and post-secondary institutions for both field placements and summer job opportunities for students with Trillium Lakelands District School Board, OCADU and Wilfred Laurier University. We look forward to working with them again in 2024!



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
Jennifer Murphy

Dr. Bernie Gosevitz
Jen Morgan Anderson
Susan Hindle
Sean William Dawson
Mallory Tlнгеy
Leah Leslie

Founders/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 and special thanks for their exceptional efforts. We could not do it without them!

Festival Team

Sean Dempsey, Executive Producer
Joan Bendon, Festival Director
Tori Grant, Event Specialist
Keaton Allan, Summer Student
Tessa Rawson, Summer Student
Kismet Tillson-Hunter, Summer Student
Dale McIntosh, Onsite Producer
Mary Ellen Shrimpton, Onsite Producer

Thank You to Our Supporters

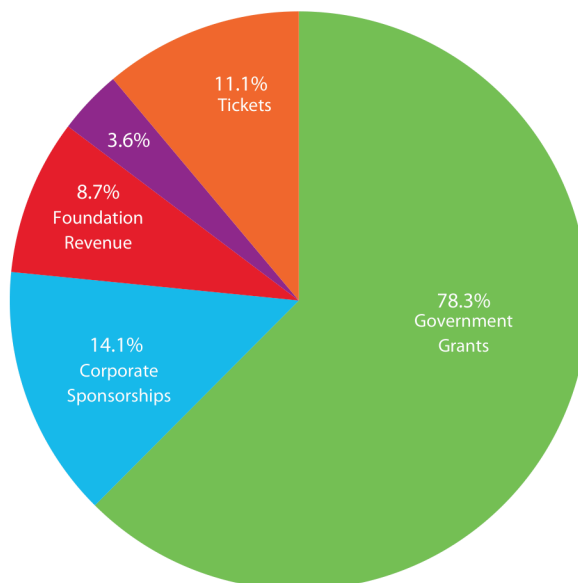
Muskoka Chautauqua is so thankful for the generous support we received to continue arts & culture programming in our community. A very warm thank you to all of our artists, partners and donors.



2023 Financial Summary

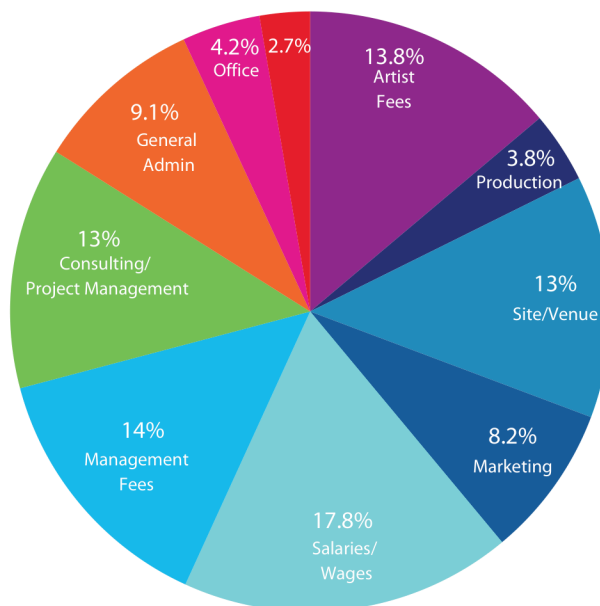
Revenues

Government Grants	\$186,325	62.4%
Corporate Sponsorships	\$ 42,350	14.1%
Foundation Revenue	\$ 26,000	8.7%
Donations	\$ 10,815	3.6%
Tickets	\$ 33,310	11.1%
Total Revenue	\$298,800	



Expenses

Artist Fees	\$ 42,575	13.8%
Production	\$ 11,660	3.8%
Site/Venue	\$ 40,275	13%
Marketing	\$ 25,504	8.2%
Salaries and Wages	\$ 54,895	17.8%
Management Fees	\$ 43,375	14%
Consulting/Project Management	\$ 40,004	13%
General Administration	\$ 28,006	9.1%
Office	\$ 12,995	4.2%
Amortization of Capital Assets	\$ 8,458	2.7%
Total Expenses	\$307,747	



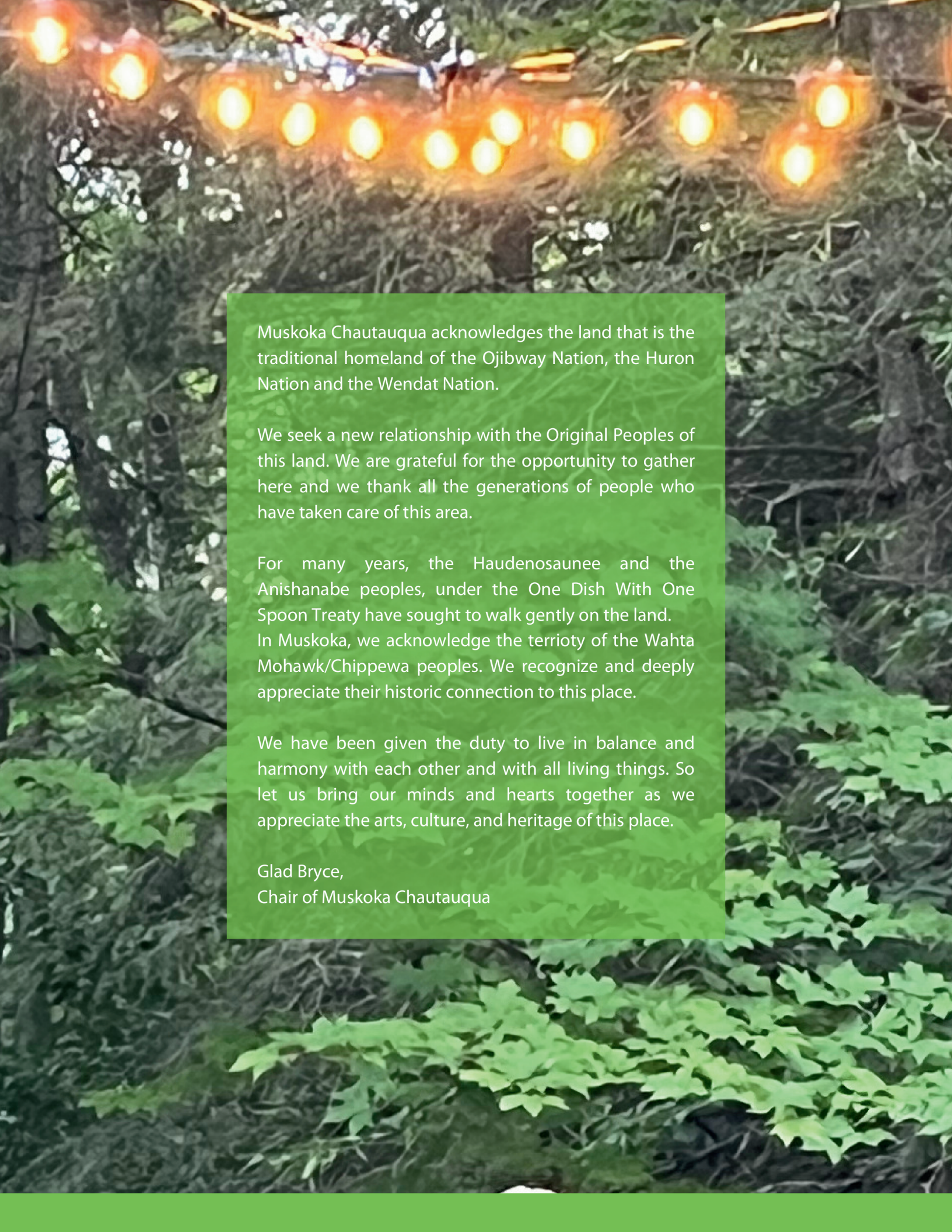
Donate

In order to ensure that Muskoka Chautauqua is able to continue providing engaging and enriching arts and culture programming in Muskoka that is accessible to everyone, tickets to some of our events in 2024 will be pay-what-you-can. Arts organizations like ours depend on the generosity of our patrons. Your donations cover the cost of artists and production, and makes programming accessible for all.

This year's festival will proudly employ over 60 artists, staff and production crew. We hope you'll join us in supporting them with your applause and your cheers and, where appropriate, your dollars. Donations of \$25 or more will receive a tax receipt.

[Donate Here](#)

If you are interested in sponsoring the 2024 Muskoka Chautauqua Arts & Culture Festival, please contact us at mci@artsinmuskoka.com.



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 Anishanabe peoples, under the One Dish With One Spoon Treaty have sought to walk gently on the 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