

Annual Report



2015-2016

Message from the Chair

20 years and still growing!

Green Venture has now entered its second decade working with the community to create a sustainable future. The grass is always greener at Green Venture, especially this year, as our front lawn has been planted with four native species grass alternatives. Walk on the results for yourself at EcoHouse; this is a great example of how we can help you make realistic, ecofriendly choices.

EcoHouse is a special part of the community, a destination, to showcase implementation and provide inspiration toward our seven

core program areas: Air Quality & Sustainable Transportation, Climate Change, EcoHouse, Energy Wise, Lawn & Garden, Waste Watch, and Wise Water Use. Discover our ecofriendly driveway complete with a Level II electrical vehicle charging station, now home to a CarShare plug in vehicle!

Sustainability and eco education in the community continues to be a core focus area for Green Venture. In Riverdale, we helped a neighbourhood come together to build their own community garden. In Gibson and Landsdale, we worked with a group of neighbours to revitalize and green an underused alleyway.

A priority over the past year has been making Green Venture a more resilient and sustainable organization. If you have been

opening our mailings, you will see that our funding model has changed. It will be through your thoughtful and appreciated donation that Green Venture will become more resilient to sustaining the programs which have been developed and to create future programs to implement sustainability in our communities.

This change was celebrated with our first gala event, UpRoot Hamilton, in October 2015. I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers for our success in 2015. It is the extreme enthusiasm, time, and dedicated effort of volunteers and fellow board members in a busy world which continues to complement the work of staff to make Green Venture a truly sustainable and recognized community organization.

Finally, we would like to thank our funding agencies for continuing to show confidence in Green Venture. Good progress has been made in the past year on creating a path toward sustainable funding support through individual donations. It was the support and

Our Vision. A community where individual and collective actions protect future generations by balancing our environmental, social, and economic needs.

vision of individuals which originally started Green Venture twenty years ago, and it will be the support and vision of people in the community who will keep the vision of Green Venture strong for future decades.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin Hunt
Chair, Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director

Green Venture volunteers, staff, board, and supporters work together to create positive change in Hamilton and the surrounding areas. It is a pleasure to work with a team so passionate about improving the quality of life in our community.

Whether it is educational programming at EcoHouse, neighbourhood projects like building gardens and greening alleyways, improving the energy efficiency of your house, or teaching you how to compost at home, we work with you to meet your environmental needs and answer your environmental questions.

This annual report highlights just a few of the many programs that we deliver here at Green Venture. Do you have an idea for an environmental program in your

Innovation. We continually learn how to best engage our community. We welcome and promote new ideas, technologies, and willingness to change.

neighbourhood? Please tell us about it. Feedback from the community helps us create impactful and meaningful programs.

Thank you for your continued support of Green Venture. We couldn't do our work without community members like you supporting us every step of the way.



Kathryn

Kathryn Enders,
Executive Director

2015-2016 Programs

Clean Air for Kids: Mobile Monitoring
Climate Change Hamilton
Davis Creek Volunteer Program
Riverdale Salad Bowl

Gala Alleyway Beautification
Depave Paradise
EcoDriver
EcoHouse Tours & Presentations
Enbridge Home Weatherization
Retrofit Program
EnerGuide Energy Auditing Services



RAIN Stormwater Management & Home Visits
Seedy Saturday Events
Tastebuds Edible Education Guide
Totally Transit for Kids and Older Adults
Vermicomposting
Rangers: Building Rain Gardens at Schools
UpRoot Hamilton and other community events



Our Board and Staff

Kevin Hunt, Chair
Velma Grover, Vice-Chair
Kayla Jonas Galvin, Secretary
Sheila O'Neal, Treasurer
Brian Charlton
Robert Korol
Mark Stirrup
Romeo Palombella
Duke Trifunovic
Melissa Alexander
Duncan Gillespie
Elizabeth Wren

Kathryn Enders, Executive Director
Michael Gemmell, Operations Manager
Virginia Stonehouse, Education Manager
Deirdre Connell, Program Manager
Dawn Cattapan, Communications Specialist
Ashley Keenan, Fundraising & Events
Coordinator
Michael Albanese, RAIN Home Guide
Elley Newman, Energy Support Staff
Brent Cooper, Certified Energy Advisor
Emmery Neuperger, Certified Energy Advisor
Mike Masney, Certified Energy Advisor
Alex Cuberovic, Maintenance and Education
Support Staff
Kimberly Dunlop, Education Support Staff
Scott Dobbin, Education Support Staff
Sarah Salise, Education Support Staff

People. Volunteers, staff, board members, funders, partners, community leaders and the public each play a vital role in fulfilling our mission. We work hard, always encourage one another, have fun, and celebrate our achievements.



Julia Shulist, Education Support Staff
Sapphire Singh, Education Support Staff
David Hart Dyke, Education Support Staff
Christopher McLeod, Education Support Staff
Susan Neudorf, Education Support Staff
Chelsea Curran, Education Support Staff
Ramsha Ahmed, Summer Student
Jessie Golem, Summer Student
Jade Collyer, Summer Student

GALA Alleyway Project

Alleyways, a defining feature of older urban neighbourhoods, offer easy access to homes and businesses with minimal car interference. Rather than developing alleys for the benefit of the community, they have become forgotten, underused, and abused public spaces. City staff has said illegal dumping, overgrown vegetation, and drainage problems top the list of complaints. Ward 3, which includes the Gibson and Landsdale Area (GALA) neighbourhood, has over 37 kilometers of alleyways.

Beautifying community spaces by adding green, public space not only renews the space, but has been proven to improve our community's water quality,



build neighbourhoods, increase bicycle and pedestrian connections and increase natural habitats for birds and butterflies.

In 2015, we teamed up with the GALA Neighbourhood Planning Team worked with residents to identify possible locations, consult the community to determine what



transformations would take place and finally to transform the alleyway. On September 26th, 2015, 40 volunteers and GALA residents came together to transform the Westmill Alley (running from Westinghouse Ave to Milton Ave, north of Barton St E) to include over 130 native species wildflowers and plants, benches, solar lighting, a mural by a local artist, birdhouses, and so much more!

Thanks to Hamilton Community Foundation, 541 Eatery and Exchange, Barton Village BIA, Beautiful Alleys, the Conserver's Society, the GALA Planning Team, Hamilton East Kiwanis Non-Profit Homes Inc., and Landsource Organix.



130

NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

40

VOLUNTEERS

1

ALLEYWAY

Partnership. Progress happens when individuals and organizations collaborate and learn together. We work with large and small businesses, governments, community-based groups and individuals to support and encourage change.

Riverdale Salad Bowl

In 2015, Green Venture helped Hamilton's Riverdale Community Planning Team design and build a Community Garden in the neighbourhood. This project, which has been gestating for several years, was brought to fruition thanks to some dedicated volunteer work, combined with coordination from Green Venture staff, and financial and in-kind support from the City of Hamilton.

Green Venture, with the support of the Hamilton Community Garden Network, helped design the prospective garden and arranged for installation of water, fencing, and the building of a tool shed by the City. Ground breaking for the 6, 400 square foot site occurred in May, and planting followed. An official opening was celebrated by over 150 residents on Aug 12, 2015. Green Venture also organized three





6,400

SQUARE FEET

30

GARDENERS

3

WORKSHOPS

information workshops throughout the year to promote the new garden to the community.

The Riverdale Community Garden is a series of communal beds, with approximately 30 residents taking turns to maintain and harvest.

A subcommittee of the Community Planning Team will be overseeing the garden in 2016.

Riverdale Community Planning Team Subcommittee chair Franca Rapino, has been a local leader for the project, said access to produce is important.

Practicality. We meet people where they live, work, and play. We design our programs and services to provide positive, measurable benefits to them and our community.

UpRoot Hamilton

On October 3rd, 2015 Green Venture hosted its first ever fundraising event, UpRoot Hamilton. 90 guests came out to EcoHouse to show their support, try some local food and drink, and celebrate 20 years of success. And what a success this first event was!

Despite the strong winds, rain and unseasonably cool temperatures, the community came out to celebrate 20 years of environmental outreach and education in the Hamilton community. Their donations will help keep Green Venture going strong for the next 20 years!

It was a lively event with local food from Eat Industries Inc, Wild Thyme Catering, Ya Man Caribbean Cuisine and Ramped Up Catering – all selected for their passion for local ingredients and the community. Conversations were

buzzing amongst the selection of local wine and craft beer as Hamiltonians chatted with friends, old and new.

Of course we couldn't resist the urge to talk about the environment! Patrons engaged in educational (and fun!) games on waste, water and living sustainably with our Education Manager Virginia. The heritage tour with Michael Gemmell was also extremely popular! Attendees had the chance to learn what makes EcoHouse such a unique location for Green Venture, with stories of the building's rich history and behind the scenes historical tidbits.

Our silent auction room was perhaps the busiest room of all. Local, environmental themed auction items were bid on and challenged, in a fun and interactive way.

A HUGE thank you to all who attended this event! The support from volunteers, staff, board members, and the community truly demonstrates what can be done when people come together. We are constantly inspired by the engagement, energy, and connectedness of this dynamic community.

Cheers Green Venture. Here's to 20 more fantastic years!

Respect. A gracious, optimistic approach to personal engagement helps us foster behavioural change. We are honest and acknowledge differing viewpoints without judgement.



\$3,000

RAISED

90

GUESTS

1

EVENING

Volunteers and Green Job Experience

In 2015-2016 Green Venture welcomed four interns; three of these interns from Niagara College's Environmental Management and Assessment program. Briar MacIntyre and Brendan Graham contributed over eighty hours each, assisting Green Venture in submitting six different grant applications. Briar and Brendan even helped sell fundraising tickets for the 2016 Stellar Cellar Wine Raffle. Danielle Manual, began work in May, and is focused on growing our fundraising and sponsorship program. And, Peter Harris contributed over 100 volunteer hours towards our Energy programs and EcoHouse research.

Green Venture also hosted a number of volunteer groups this past year, including a long-standing partnership with McMaster Student Union's Day of Service program. Six university

students came to EcoHouse one chilly October morning and assisted with garden closing and grounds work for the site. They also took in a sustainability tour of the property. In June 2015, in February 2016, and again in April 2016, Green Venture volunteers helped maintain nearby Veevers Park, as part of our municipal Adopt a Park commitment. Finally, over twenty dedicated volunteers helped make the 2016 Hamilton Seedy Saturday event a success in February 2016.

Including the volunteer work in the GALA Alleyway beautification project (40 additional

Equality. We support members of our community from all social, ethnic and economic backgrounds.

volunteers and 255 hours for that project alone), Green Venture utilised volunteer help from 86 different volunteers in 2015-16, with over 830 hours of volunteer time contributed. This represents over \$12,300 in in-kind contributions to our environmental work in 2015-16.

Green Venture was pleased to hire five students this past summer, courtesy of funding from the federal Canada Summer Jobs program. Our Green Gardeners, Jade Bolton Collyer, Jessie Golem, and Scott Dobbin, helped in maintaining and expanding the EcoHouse native species gardens, including the construction of a rooftop garden. Our Program Assistants, Ashley Keenan and Ramsha Ahmed assisted with energy programming, with school tours, and in organizing the Uproot Hamilton fundraising gala. We were very pleased to be able to offer Ashley and Scott additional part-time work in the fall of 2015 and winter 2016. Combined, these young employees represented nearly 2,200 hours of Green Jobs experience, valued at nearly \$40,000.

\$12,300

VALUE OF IN-KIND SERVICE

830

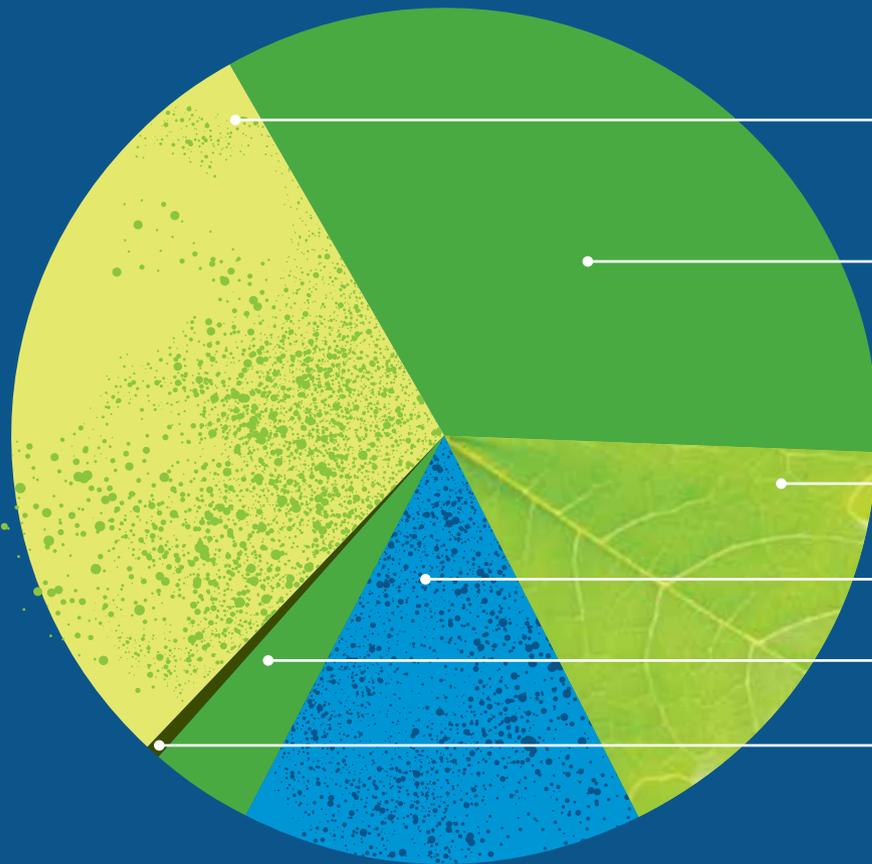
VOLUNTEER HOURS

86

VOLUNTEERS

Financials

	Audited 2015/2016	Audited 2014/2015
Revenue	\$ 451,872	\$514,997
Expense	\$ 453,938	\$502,374
Balance	\$ (2066)	\$12,623



MUNICIPAL **30%**

EARNED
REVENUE **34%**

FOUNDATIONS
AND GRANTS **17%**

PROVINCIAL **15%**

FEDERAL **4%**

DONATIONS AND
FUNDRAISING **0.3%**

Our Supporters

Green Venture graciously thanks the following funders and donors for their support during the 2015 reporting period:

MONTHLY DONORS

Brian Charlton
Kathryn Enders
Kayla Jonas Galvin
Melissa Alexander

DONORS

Bruce Allen
Ken Baigent
Darren Barlow
Margaret Carey
Dawn Cattapan
Gwenn French
Avril & Andy Gemmell
Duncan Gillespie
Magda & Kim Gold
Max, Brett, & Amy Gowling
Alison Healing
Kevin Hunt
Rebecca Jahns
Bob James

Gord McNulty
Andrew Staples
Mark Stirrup
Amy Sweetman
John Taylor
Heather Wilson
Pete Wobschall
1 Anonymous Donor

FUNDERS

Alice Jean Ainsworth Memorial Fund

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 107

CHML

City of Hamilton

Clean Air Hamilton

Conservator Society of Hamilton and District

Dougher Fund at Hamilton Community Foundation

Edith H. Turner Foundation

Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.

Green Communities Canada

Government of Canada – Summer Jobs

Hamilton Community Foundation

Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program

Intact Foundation

Ministry of Citizen, Immigration and International Trade

Niagara Community Foundation

Ontario Trillium Foundation

RBC Foundation

Social Planning & Research Council of Hamilton

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Green Venture

22 Veevers Drive, Hamilton, Ontario L8K 5P5

Tel: 905-540-8787 | Fax: 905-540-8882 | www.greenventure.ca