



Yasodhara Ashram
YOGA RETREAT & STUDY CENTRE

2015

ANNUAL REPORT



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My second year as the president of Yasodhara Ashram offered intense learning and expanded thinking. Our Board set the initiative in 2015 for a “vibrant, thriving Ashram” and it happened! We welcomed many new and returning guests to courses, retreats and programs, had a full Family Week, a great Teen Program, a large Yoga Development Course as well as a bountiful harvest. Many Yasodhara Yoga teachers returned to refresh their understanding, while others dove into the Teacher Certifications for the first time. Long-time practitioners continued to step forward and commit deeply to the spiritual lineage through initiations. You — our members and donors — gave most generously toward our programs and to the building fund for the new Temple of Light. Thank you!



The new Temple symbolizes our commitment to work together to transcend our human differences, inviting those on all paths to find common ground. In 2015 we made strides toward manifesting the Temple — advancing from the exploration of design concepts to choosing the concept and beginning design development. We also engaged construction management and fabrication teams. As the Temple gained momentum, the spirit of the

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Temple came alive through our participation in interfaith dialogues with an environmental focus — from the Parliament of World Religions in Salt Lake City, to the Crown of the Continent meetings in Montana, to local Nelson interfaith reflections on the Pope’s encyclical on climate change.

I am more than ever grateful for Yasodhara Ashram — the beautiful land that generously nurtures us; the spiritual home that welcomes us to seek meaning and awareness; and the values and ideals that align our community with like-minded people throughout the world.

As a community the Ashram models a cooperative and respectful way of life. Our teachings, based on reflection and self-inquiry, help us as individuals to live our personal ideals. Uniting our internal and external worlds is a form of yoga, which means “union.” By bringing awareness and consideration to our relationships and to our environment, we can help change our world. I hope you join us in our 2016 theme, “Change Yourself, Change Your World,” and let’s see what happens! 🙏

Swami Lalitananda

SWAMI LALITANANDA

President, Yasodhara Ashram Society



ABOUT YASODHARA ASHRAM

Yasodhara Ashram is a yoga retreat and study centre founded in 1963 in Kootenay Bay, British Columbia. As a Canadian charity and a registered educational institution, our purpose is to stimulate open intellectual and spiritual inquiry, supporting the potential of transformation in each person. We offer a wide range of programs year round. We are also a residential community where we practice living what we teach.

The “Ashram” (which means spiritual home) offers effective teachings and beautiful retreat space to help people understand themselves and clarify their direction in life. Yoga, in this tradition, involves breaking free from limitations through reflection, inquiry and practices that expand awareness and open doors to potential.

At Yasodhara Ashram, we help people to evolve and lead fulfilling lives. We are convinced that a foundation of character building and awareness

can support those of all ages and backgrounds to courageously face personal transitions and serious global challenges. From inner strength and knowledge, positive change can arise.

We also extend beyond our 115 acres to our local and global communities. Locally we contribute leadership skills, conflict resolution and facilitation expertise. We volunteer time to community boards, the fire department and First Responders. We make donations toward services such as the ambulance and the school



lunch program. We also offer meeting space for local community groups and invite our neighbours to events and programs such as Family Week, the Teen Program and the Strawberry Social. We employ local people and contractors and support local farmers and artisans. The Ashram has been an integral part of the East Shore community of Kootenay Lake for more than 50 years.

Globally we reach out through offering workshops internationally. We invite schools

and like-minded organizations to join us for sustainability tours and work-study programs. We engage in spiritual ecology dialogues and interfaith conferences and develop academic partnerships. We participate in meaningful conversations and act on our ideals as a community to strengthen the whole.

The Ashram acts as a beacon of hope and light. Our goal is peace, a healthy future and a better world. 

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Yasodhara Ashram is a spiritual centre, registered educational institute and residential community. We offer learning and personal development opportunities including a range of courses and retreats varying in length from day visits to the three-month Yoga Development Course (YDC), Yoga Teacher Certification, Service & Study programs, the Young Adult Program and the Learning Residency program. Our teachers also travel to offer workshops off-site and to participate in gatherings and conferences. As well, we open our facilities to learn from others and to host educational and cultural events.

COURSES

Our courses emphasize self-discovery through reflection and practice in everyday life. The in-depth learning creates a path of liberation open to all. Our teachings help people build a strong foundation of character — the inner work necessary to face life's challenges and adapt to change.

2015 Highlights | Our third annual Family Week filled the Ashram once again in July with 31 adults and 35 children ranging in age from infants to 13-year-olds. Since its inception this program has been booked in advance with a waiting list, with many families returning each year. Swami Radhananda's annual course, Living the Practice, gathered together a large group in October, with 24 students practising individually and reflecting together. Our busiest season continues to be summer, when we offer a wide range of courses and guided retreats. Teacher certification courses in the spring and summer were attended by both new and renewing teachers.

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This year the Ashram awarded \$22,000 in bursaries and stipends to help young adults participate in our courses and programs.

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The Young Adult Program has been a staple of Ashram life for over

**20
YEARS**

SERVICE & STUDY (KARMA YOGA)

Our one-month Service & Study Program welcomes participants of all ages interested in experiencing life in a spiritual community, developing skills and studying yoga. These live-and-work programs focus on the practice of Karma Yoga, the yoga of action. Karma Yoga supports participants in learning how to work, how to work together and how to understand themselves in relation to others.



This program integrates the Young Adult Program for 18-30 year olds who come to the Ashram for Karma Yoga and personal development. The Young Adult Program has been a staple of Ashram life for over 20 years. We support young adults in deeply knowing themselves, clarifying their own values and gaining confidence in their abilities so they can create the life they want to live.

2015 Highlights | In 2015 a total of 68 people attended the one-month Service & Study (Karma Yoga) Program. This intergenerational program included 30 participants over the age of 30, plus 38 in the Young Adult Program. Many people extended their stays, integrating more deeply into the Ashram community.

We continue to find ways to make the program more effective, such as focusing the first week on the classes and training that lay a foundation for the rest of their stay.

This year the Ashram awarded \$22,000 in bursaries and stipends to help young adults participate in our courses and programs.

LEARNING RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Learning Residencies at Yasodhara Ashram are spiritual and career/life development opportunities. The Learning Residents enter different areas in the Ashram community and are provided room and board, weekly workshops and classes that cultivate self-inquiry and awareness, daily Hatha Yoga and reflection on work. Each Learning Resident determines an area for further study specific to their field and publicly presents their learning at the end of the program. They are tutored by mentors skilled in their area.

Learning Residents are eager to work with their hands and hearts. They learn skills such as preserving food and vegetables, cooking in our commercial kitchen and organic gardening.

6
participants
stayed from
4-9 months
consecutively.

2
Learning Residents
from 2014
returned to
become managers.

2015 Highlights | In 2015 we entered the third year of our Learning Residency Program. We had six participants who stayed from 4-9 months consecutively. Two Learning Residents from 2014 returned to become managers in Garden and Accommodations. Three Learning Residents intensified their self-development by participating in YDC 2016 and plan to stay on to lead in their areas for 2-5 months after the course. This trend to a multi-year involvement through a start in the Learning Residency Program benefits the Ashram and also deepens each participant's expertise, helping them develop leadership skills that are transferable when they leave. →





IT JUST MELTED AWAY

MONTREAL AUTHOR, SABINA WALSER, DESCRIBES HER RECENT ARTIST RETREAT EXPERIENCE WHERE SHE FOCUSED ON HER NOVEL.

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I needed a serious place. I've never been to a serious spiritual place like the Ashram for this length of time. I've done meditation retreats but not in a place like this where everyone carries the lineage forward, embodies and embraces it.

My editor had pointed out that the narrator in my novel needed to show more empathy towards the main character. Being here I realized I needed to show that empathy to myself. Only then could the writing be more organic and authentic. I can be so demanding of myself, so self-critical. That voice is not productive.

I thought I would show warmth toward the character by using words, by creating sentences — a very structural approach. But after awhile, the distance, the criticalness just melted away. It was an amazing process. I've been able to do what I need to do. I feel more sympathy for the character and for myself now — a gentleness. It has been truly profound.

”

ARTIST & PROFESSIONAL RETREATS

This program, which began as an experiment in 2013, is filling a need for those who want to be in a spiritual environment while working on artistic, personal or professional projects. The retreats, which range from two weeks to one month or longer, offer the benefits of community activities while giving participants needed privacy to concentrate on their projects.

2015 Highlights | In 2015 we had 14 artist and professional retreat guests, doubling our intake from last year. Guests expressed the benefits of dedicated time in a beautiful environment. Retreats included a focus on poetry, fiction and memoir; vocal improvisation and songwriting; academic work on PhD and Masters theses, research and educational program development. We were delighted to welcome such a pool of diverse talents and appreciated hearing about their experience through the Lunch & Learn series.

BUILDING COMMUNITY — REACHING OUT

Since the Ashram's inception in the 1960s, teachers have always travelled widely to offer programs across Canada and internationally. In 2015 teachers visited areas in North America and Europe to teach, dialogue and attend conferences.

2015 Highlights | In 2015 we made connections with our widely dispersed teachers and students, as well as with new audiences. Ashram teachers presented workshops across Canada, as well as in the US, Portugal and England. New venues included: The Healing Journey, a cancer support group in Toronto; SheEO, a women's business leadership organization in Toronto; a family bereavement group in Ottawa; and the Ontario Justice Education Network in Toronto.



A weekend residential workshop created an Ashram environment closer to home for people in Central Canada.

In 2015 representatives of Yasodhara Ashram also attended several conferences and gatherings: the InSpirit Festival in Penticton, BC, celebrating spirituality and the arts; the Kootenay Spirit Festival in Nelson; a yogathon fundraiser for MS in Castlegar; and a program for professional development for educators in Cranbrook.

Yasodhara Ashram was active in interfaith dialogues, including an interfaith group in Nelson that presented a series on the Pope’s encyclical on climate change; the Crown of the Continent dialogue in Montana for faith leaders taking action on climate change; and the Parliament of World Religions in Salt Lake City.

BUILDING COMMUNITY — INVITING IN

Yasodhara Ashram welcomes diverse perspectives and works to build community, locally and globally. We are eager to work together with others who have similar aims of promoting peace, environmental action and understanding among diverse spiritual traditions. Through these activities we enrich ourselves culturally, intellectually and spiritually and further our purpose of contributing to the healing forces in the world.

2015 Highlights | We invited our neighbours and surrounding communities to several festive events. In June 400 people came to our Annual Strawberry Social to enjoy local strawberries and to buy used books; the book sale raised \$700 for the local school lunch program. On November 30, we honoured the 20th anniversary of Swami Radha’s passing by inviting our East



40

Quebec exchange students from the Nelson Waldorf school were invited to the Ashram.

400

people came to our Annual Strawberry Social.

\$700

was raised from the book sale for the local school lunch program.

Shore neighbours to lunch. Many expressed appreciation for the Ashram’s role in the community.

The Ashram was also involved in various educational opportunities, including offering space for the Friends of Kootenay Lake for a free public workshop; hosting the Canadian Wildlife Federation’s group of teachers from Ontario, who noted that the Ashram is a rare community of people living sustainably; inviting the Nelson Waldorf school’s 40 Quebec exchange students to enjoy a bilingual yoga class, lunch and a sustainability tour; and hosting a retreat group of United Church women.

Throughout the year we valued our Lunch & Learn series whose presenters included a local herbalist and ayurveda practitioner; Learning Residents who offered highlights through reports and demonstrations; and Artist/Professional retreat guests sharing their writing, music, art or projects. 



SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Over the past 52 years the Ashram has evolved from an abandoned farmstead to a 115-acre ecological community. Blending with nature in a beautiful location of mountains and glacial-fed lake, the Ashram leads by example. We are a model community for sustainable living, making decisions that will support a healthy future.

The Ashram has long been at the leading edge of the movement to prevent and reduce environmental impacts. Awarded the FortisBC PowerSense Conservation Excellence Award in 2008 and the Environmentally Responsible Tourism Award from Tourism BC in 2009, we became carbon neutral in 2012 after an intensive awareness program.

Environmental action is an important part of our social responsibility, a practice of the yogic principle of *ahimsa* (non-injury). In these times of dramatic climate change, we take responsibility for our resources through planning. We also connect with like-minded individuals, groups and communities. We continue to explore new technologies for energy efficiency and to develop a resilient food system as well as community emergency planning and services.

As a diverse intergenerational community ranging in age from young adults to seniors, we work together and learn from each other in a spirit of service. We value inclusivity, foresight and generosity.



25%

=

13,750

meals out of
55,000 were
produced from
the garden, up
5% from 2014.



65%

of what we
consume was
grown on-site or
sourced locally.

FOOD FLOW

2015 Highlights | Our Food Flow system, which includes the growing, procurement, processing, preserving, cooking and consuming of what we eat, has steadily built over the past six years under strong leadership.

This year our garden produced approximately 25 percent of the food we eat — 13,750 meals out of the 55,000 we serve annually, up 5 percent from 2014. Ashram menus were based on what is available seasonally from our garden, with an additional 40 percent of what we consume coming from local farmers and orchardists.

One of our Learning Residents from 2014 returned to help manage the garden this year. We also had a skilled Learning Resident help with project management — creating templates for food flow reports and helping to update our food policies.

The garden's use of the hoop house improved over the past year, producing kale through a large part of the fall and winter. And our procurement process has become more efficient through records that allow us to know our needs and plan together with local farmers.

Having a professional chef who is dedicated to farm-to-table cooking and has strong organizational skills, along with professional staff and keen Karma Yogis, has stabilized the kitchen, which in many ways is the heart of the Ashram.

INFRASTRUCTURE & RENEWABLES

2015 Highlights | The Ashram engaged a local consultant to assess our domestic water system and learned that it meets our current domestic needs. The report is important in providing a baseline for future needs to deliver large amounts of water for fire safety as well as irrigation, and to upgrade the underground network. We determined our immediate goal for 2016 will be to assess and upgrade roof sprinklers on our buildings.

In line with our goal of becoming more energy self-sufficient, in December we purchased a pellet stove and a wood stove to reduce electrical costs. The pellet stove was installed in the library on the lower floor of Siva Hall, with vents to the rooms on the middle floor. This stove creates a warm, dry atmosphere that is good for both books and people. The wood stove, installed in Krishna Kutir, is also functioning well. Their performance and savings will be evaluated at the end of 2016.



Investing in photovoltaics could potentially reduce electrical consumption by almost

50%

We purchased a larger freezer to replace the ineffective one inside Mandala House and to increase our capacity to store both the food we grow and what we purchase locally during the growing season. The freezer was installed in the annex outside Mandala House and will be operational in 2016, allowing us to repurpose the current interior freezer space.

We actively researched the potential of photovoltaics at the Ashram by engaging a PV consultant. He produced a professional report on best locations for a large-scale array in the upper pasture, drafting the cost and payback time and eventual investment return. This project will be brought forward for further discussion once the Temple is complete. It's a large undertaking that has the potential to reduce electrical consumption by almost 50 percent. →







SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

OKANAGAN CHEF GIULIO PICCIOLI OF *ONE BIG TABLE* SHARES HIS PERSPECTIVE ON THE ASHRAM'S FULL CYCLE APPROACH TO FOOD PRODUCTION.

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I have seen many kitchens. I see the dining table as an opportunity to practice values that I believe are necessary to build a better world. But I have often questioned the effect that my little self has in facilitating change. Does it really make a difference what I choose if most of the world chooses differently? By the time I left the Ashram, I had a much more definite answer to that question.

Inspiration seeped from every corner of the Ashram. I first stumbled upon one of the root cellars while putting tools away, and I was blown away by its colourful intricacy and beauty. Then, it was a conversation with the Ashram's chef. I was inspired by his knowledge of the flavours from the local area and of its farmers, and the role the Ashram plays as it chooses organic practices, small farms, seasonal ingredients.

Sustainability, investing locally, re-using, recycling, conserving and evolving are not just words but choices that are being made in every single action. What it took to bring each meal in front of you is clear. The truth is that so much of what we think we can do for our health, for our mental wellbeing, and for the planet is not just thought about, but practiced at the Ashram day after day.

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TEMPLE REBUILD

The original Temple of Light arose from the lifelong dream of Swami Radha, the Ashram's founder — a dream that people from all spiritual paths could share common ground and recognize that our essence is one in the Light. The first Temple was completed in 1992. For 22 years it was the sacred meeting place for our community and a beacon of Light for spiritual searchers around the world. It was destroyed by fire in June 2014.

After reflection we began planning for the Temple rebuild. We understand that as the world becomes more and more hectic, fast-paced and competitive, it is of great importance to create spaces of quiet, light and hope. The Temple of Light will be designated for solace and open to all who desire to meet the sacred within. At once intimate and communal, cosmic and personal, the Temple will stand as a beacon of hope and unity in a world too often divided.

Drawing inspiration from the first structure, the new Temple will incorporate essential elements of the original, such as the dome with eight entries — symbolizing that no matter how we enter, we meet in the Light at the centre.

As well as being a spiritual symbol, we expect the Temple to convey the practical message of resilient design, with movement to green technologies and a reduction of the building's energy consumption. Patkau Architects were chosen as our architects in 2014 and design development began in 2015.

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WE HAVE TO MAKE THE EFFORT TO SEE THE DIVINE IN EACH OTHER, WHATEVER OUR NAME, COLOUR, RACE OR RELIGION. IT IS OUR GREATEST REWARD. WITHOUT FOCUSING ON THE DIVINE WE ONLY STRUGGLE FOR POWER. BUT HERE, IN THE TEMPLE, WE WANT TO BE TOGETHER IN THE LIGHT.

- Swami Radha

”

\$170,000
in individual
donations.

\$5,000
grant from Aviva
Community Fund
for the greening
of the Temple.

\$8,200
raised from the
art auction.

2015 Highlights | Our community is dedicated to building the next Temple of Light. The Ashram Board and residents agreed that the Temple would be the main focus of our resources until its completion. Throughout 2015 our communication, finances and fundraising were largely directed toward the Temple rebuild.

In the spring of 2015, the Ashram Board and residents agreed to the concept created by Patkau Architects — an opening lotus that features spectacular views of Kootenay Lake. From the design concept we moved into design development with a kick-off meeting with architects, engineers and the Ashram's internal team. In July, Alfred Horrie Construction (AHC) from Burnaby, BC was engaged as the construction management group who works with the architects and engineers to develop the most practical building approach and keep the project within budget. In December a preliminary draft budget and schedule were estimated with a more definite budget and timeline expected by the spring of 2016. →



FROM VISION TO REALITY

The Temple of Light is taking its next exciting step from vision to reality. Yasodhara Ashram has selected Spearhead Inc., a local manufacturing company, to construct the major components of the Temple. Chosen from a pool of international contenders, we are thrilled that the best choice is in our own backyard.

Located right across Kootenay Lake from us, what makes Spearhead so special is their use of leading-edge technologies which allow them to collaborate with the architects and construction team to produce precise digital models that link

directly to their digital fabrication machines. The Temple components will be prefabricated at their facility, ensuring both quality and efficiency.

Tara Primeau, project manager at Spearhead commented, “We have worked on several other sacred spaces including a synagogue in Palo Alto, California and a chapel in Hawaii. We feel honoured to be included in this inspired project and are sincerely looking forward to the next steps.”

In October we engaged Spearhead, a local Kootenay fabrication company, to build the main structure of the Temple. They will work in coordination with AHC and Parkau Architects to computer simulate the model, prefabricate the main structure, deliver and erect it.

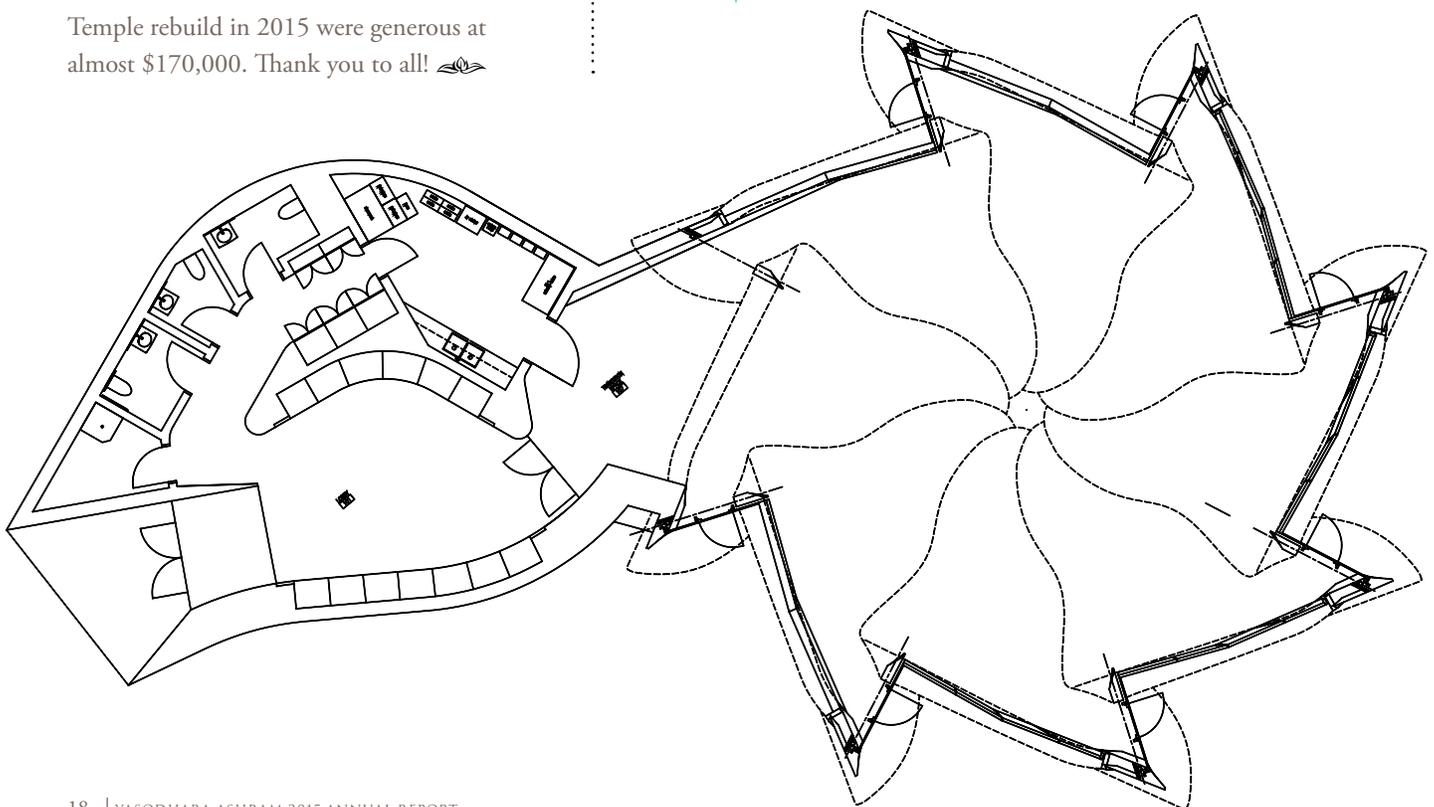
Communication about the Temple was ongoing in 2015 with a new website dedicated to the Temple rebuild launched in May and a public presentation to the local community in June, one year after the fire. The communication team generated interest in the innovative design through local newspaper articles, radio interviews and our monthly newsletter. An article was also featured in the Canadian Architect newsletter.

Fundraising was equally active. The “greening of the Temple” campaign received a \$5,000 grant from Aviva Community Fund. An art auction with works donated by local East Shore artists and friends of the Ashram raised \$8,200. Total individual donations toward the new Temple rebuild in 2015 were generous at almost \$170,000. Thank you to all! 🌿

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SPIRITUAL DIRECTION, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Founded by Swami Radha, a Western woman who studied in India in the mid 1950s, Yasodhara Ashram was the first ashram established in Canada. A “swami” is a renunciate in the yoga tradition who is dedicated to a life of selfless service. From Swami Radha’s dedication and courage, the Ashram grew into the flourishing centre it is today.

Swami Radha was ahead of her time in bridging Eastern practices to a Western context. Her approach encourages each person to enter a process of self-investigation and spiritual practice, to find their own path to a life worth living. The transformative tools she passed along are adaptable and effective in our changing, turbulent times.

Swami Radha is also a role model for women and established a lineage of women leaders. Swami Radhananda, president of Yasodhara Ashram Society from 1993 through 2014, now continues as Spiritual Director. Swami Lalitananda became president of the Society in 2014.

Yasodhara Ashram Society has been a Canadian charity since 1963 and has status as a private postsecondary educational institute in British Columbia.

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Swami Lalitananda | President

Alicia Pace | Vice-President

Rebecca Dale | Treasurer

Swami Samayananda | Secretary

Paris Marshall Smith | Director of
Community Outreach



SWAMI SIVANANDA RADHA
FOUNDER, YASODHARA ASHRAM



SWAMI RADHANANDA
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



SWAMI LALITANANDA
PRESIDENT

2015 Highlights |

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Over the year, Swami Radhananda gave initiations into deeper spiritual commitments to ten dedicated, long-term students of the work. She also consulted with the Board as needed to offer guidance based on her twenty-one years as president of the Society.

YASODHARA ASHRAM SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board continued to set a higher level mandate by keeping our attention on the organizational needs of the Ashram and the current trends in the world. We continued to inquire and experiment with timely ways the Ashram can evolve and remain sustainable regarding people, programs and finances. The Board-appointed financial committee updated our investment policy and looked ahead to financial needs for the Temple and the future of the Ashram.

MANAGEMENT

The “Thursday Group” includes Board members and long-term residents coming together to discuss major developments and to make decisions on proposals presented from various departments and hubs. The “Operations Group” meets weekly to schedule priorities for the work week. The “People-Operations Group” meets twice weekly to manage events, organize transitions and tend to any people-related issues. 🌸

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Over its 52-year history, Yasodhara Ashram has operated on the principle of renunciation — buying what we need when we need it, without overconsumption. Our growth has been slow and steady, building on a solid foundation. We have gradually invested in new buildings, upgraded existing ones, and developed infrastructure with green technologies.

Donations help support youth, elders and people on limited incomes to access the Ashram teachings and community. We make an effort to make our programs financially accessible — offering payment plans, course discounts, bursaries, scholarships and stipends.

One of the things that significantly affects our income is fluctuations in the number of participants in our courses. Longer programs, such as the three-month Yoga Development Course, have a significant influence on the annual financial health of the organization.



2015 Highlights | In 2015 we experienced an excellent financial year through a combination of increased revenues and lower than anticipated expenses. We continue to consciously adapt our programs to meet diverse needs and to ensure the Ashram's financial health.



\$96,000
investment in the
new temple.



\$51,500
on equipment
including several
computers, a used
pick-up truck, a
back-up generator,
and a log splitter.



\$1,400
on Timeless
Books reprints.

We saw an increase in both the number of people coming for courses and a corresponding increase in course revenues. We had 23 students in the YDC, one of whom received a bursary; this was a larger number than the preceding few years and had a positive effect on our overall income.

We also noticed an increase in guests coming for Artist & Professional Retreats and half-time Karma Yoga retreats. This seems to point to an interest in people using the Ashram as a space to explore their own projects within the structure and support of a spiritual community.

In 2015 we awarded over \$35,000 in course and program bursaries and almost \$21,000 in stipends and Learning Residency payments.

ASSETS

- Our biggest asset spend this year was our investment in the new temple at \$96,000.
- We also cleaned up our asset accounts and wrote off or sold about \$40,000 worth of equipment.
- Infrastructure and building changes totaled \$34,000 and include the new expanded freezer, the pellet and wood stoves, and bathroom renovations.
- New equipment spends totaled \$51,500 and included a new (used) pick-up truck, several computers, new back-up generators, a log splitter and various pieces of small equipment.
- \$1400 was spent on Timeless Books reprints. →

BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31, 2015	2015	2014
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	744,080	187,912
Amounts receivable	21,255	41,033
Inventory	141,540	176,599
Work in process	2,471	2,211
	909,346	407,755
Investments	793,813	987,852
Capital assets	4,851,236	4,717,245
Total Assets	\$6,554,395	\$6,112,852
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	46,136	44,356
Deferred revenue	42,131	35,502
Deferred revenue — PCTIA	3,800	-
Deferred insurance proceeds	1,933	19,433
Security deposits	200	1,309
Total Liabilities	\$94,200	\$100,600
MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Restricted net assets — external	313,622	252,951
Restricted net assets — internal	476,402	731,136
Unrestricted net assets	817,845	309,830
Invested in capital assets	4,852,326	4,718,335
	6,460,195	6,012,252
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	6,554,395	6,112,852



REVENUE

- Total donations were \$60,000 more than the previous year.
- Individual donors gave almost \$170,000 designated to the Temple Rebuild Fund and helped sustain general donations to the Ashram. We also received \$130,000 from the Friends of Radha Foundation, an associated charity.
- Greater course participation and outreach teaching increased total course revenue this year by \$86,000.
- Karma Yoga participation increased revenue by close to \$47,000.
- Long-term residents' contributions increased by approximately \$19,000.
- Property income increased \$12,000 as a result of higher occupancy of rental units and firewood sales.
- Downsizing the Bookstore (now called the Gift Store) resulted in decreased income of \$5000.

↑
\$60,000
more in donations
than the previous
year.

↑
\$54,000
increase in
Human Resources
spending.

EXPENSES

- Expenses in 2015 remained similar to 2014 with a \$3000 increase overall.
- The main increase was in Human Resources, which was up \$54,000 due to three new year-round staff.
- The main decrease was in Repair & Maintenance, where expenses were down \$40,000 mainly because we focused on the Temple without generating new projects.
- Foreign Exchange expense was high this year, up \$14,000 from last year due to the Canadian currency devaluation. 🌸

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

As at December 31, 2015

2015

2014

REVENUE

Sales	120,975	131,315
Cost of goods sold	(76,650)	(82,580)
Gross margin	44,325	48,735
Bequests	-	38,834
Course fees — Ashram	132,720	115,048
Course fees — PCTIA	95,923	64,270
Donations	629,079	609,131
Investment income	18,944	16,443
Memberships and miscellaneous	14,524	5,852
Property income	42,058	32,546
Retreats and residency	455,265	353,920
Ashram forests — related	2,650	75
Total Revenue	1,435,488	1,284,854

EXPENSES

Advertising and marketing	12,482	14,554
Audio, video and archiving	-	99
Bad debts	270	420
Bank charges and exchange	(15,607)	(3,865)
Credit card fees	12,123	14,262
Donations and gifts	4,107	7,070
Farm and grounds	22,559	16,638
Food service	154,646	149,801
Household supplies	20,374	31,764
Human resources	416,941	362,988
In-house design and production	16,814	13,962
Insurance and registration	8,573	8,552
Office and miscellaneous	23,700	29,084
Professional and consultant fees	87,811	99,074
Repairs and maintenance	72,075	114,599
Royalties	4,518	6,397
Telephone	11,327	11,192
Travel and living costs	17,300	8,299
Utilities	56,881	67,491
Vehicles	18,556	18,997
Total Expenses	945,450	971,378
Excess of revenue over expenses before other items	490,038	313,476
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(126)	29,546
Loss on sale of capital assets	-	(13,023)
Write-off of capital assets	(41,169)	(889,463)
Donation to Associate Charity	(800)	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	447,943	(559,464)



OUR FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

1. People come first. Our business is growing people.
2. Our business model is based on generosity and selfless service.
3. We invest in keeping the Ashram's work vital and accessible.
4. We focus on sustainability and resiliency, planning for future generations and the future of the planet.
5. We buy quality purchases and consider items' life cycles.
6. We use what we have first.
7. We do without; we are an Ashram, not a resort.
8. We support people and businesses in our community.
9. We work with trust and intuition.
10. We grow slowly rather than in big bursts.
11. We know that money teaches.
12. We stay engaged without attachment.
13. We don't borrow / mortgage.

DONOR PROFILE



GIVING BACK TO HELP OTHERS

GORDON MATCHETT JOINED THE MONTHLY DONATION PROGRAM IN 2015. HE REFLECTS ON MAKING THIS NEW COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE ASHRAM'S WORK.

Why do I give to the Ashram? It's simple. I've received so much from the community and the teachings. I find myself in a place where I can give back, so of course I will. I've recently landed in a new job — as CEO for the Take a Hike Youth at Risk Foundation — that takes me to the Kootenays every few months. Each time I am in the region, I take a couple of extra days to see my Ashram family and offer some selfless service.

I also know how much donations mean to the Ashram. Even my small monthly gift helps others have opportunities like I have had. Every time I return I'm super appreciative of the people who are at the Ashram — living, working and learning. Their commitment to keeping the Light going is palpable, and their offering makes it possible for me to slip right back into the warm embrace of the Ashram community and practices.

Support the Ashram; become a donor like Gordon. Donations of any size make a difference.



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Again this November we focused on participative planning and budgeting, with each department looking ahead, then all areas coming together to coordinate our overall direction.

For 2016 we agreed that the Temple of Light will continue to be our main direction of energy and finances, with construction underway in 2016 and completed by 2017.

We will continue our focus on organizational effectiveness. This means we reflect and adjust how we work together, make decisions and communicate, learning from our experiences. We are actively transferring institutional knowledge as a means to ensuring effective succession transitions.

The proliferation of wildfires in our area in 2015 plus the Temple fire in 2014 reinforced our need for fire prevention planning and incident response development. We will be increasing training, upgrading protective equipment and taking measures to ensure that we are a Fire Smart community.

The Communications, Fundraising and Programming team integrated with a focus called “the Evolve Initiative,” whose purpose is to keep the Ashram vibrant and thriving in a changing world. We will continue to review and create programming that speaks to diverse audiences as well as make our beautiful land and facilities available to like-minded groups who wish to hold their events here.

A new department, Collaborations & Partnerships, will offer events at the Ashram that combine our teachings with dialogue on world concerns, education and systems thinking. Conferences will also be researched to integrate healthy cross-pollination and to offer the perspective and teachings of yoga. 🌿

IN CONCLUSION

Our spiritual lineage empowers movement to the Light, based on practicality and a foundation of self-knowledge. Central to Yasodhara Ashram's health is the continuity of the lineage, which includes supporting the spiritual directorship of Swami Radhananda and all of those stepping forward into initiations of deepening dedication. This strong community of teachers offers from a place of generosity, bringing benefit to themselves, their families and their communities.

As a community, we are also in transition with an aging population, a rural setting that demands greater self-sufficiency, rising costs of energy and food. We are committed to planning for long-term sustainability and to offering what we learn to others as we learn it.

We understand that we live in times of instability with worldwide climate change, economic disparity, violence and displacement leading to human suffering. As an Ashram based on values of compassion, we feel these concerns deeply. We ask ourselves how we can give viable tools to help people.

Our goal is to give people ways to find quality and meaning in their lives. The tools that we have been given help us understand ourselves and achieve a degree of self-mastery. We want to help others move through life with less anxiety and more gratitude, to gracefully be able to navigate change. As people learn who they are and how they can work with their minds, letting go of old concepts and adapting to present circumstances, they grow in inner strength. And that inner strength extends outwardly to benefit the world.

We feel that with these tools and this motivation, Yasodhara Ashram is perfectly positioned to assist in a vulnerable and changing world.



Yasodhara Ashram
YOGA RETREAT & STUDY CENTRE

527 Walker's Landing Road
Kootenay Bay, British Columbia
Canada V0B 1X0
250-227-9224
1-800-661-8711
001-250-227-9224 (International)
yasodhara.org

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