

ISSUE 45 FALL 2018

A Rocha Annual Review

CANADA
A ROCHA
Environmental Stewardship

*Inspiring Hope,
Caring for Creation*



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In my hometown of Ninevah, there were fig trees, flowers, gardens, and grapes vines. When I am outside, I leave my problems behind and feel more alive. But it's hard because I live in a small apartment now. Therefore I love coming to A Rocha. It feels like I am in a family here. I am always met with a smile. I have learned about fertilizers and how to grow and eat nutritious food. I always feel sad to go home.

- 64 year-old A Rocha Farm-to-Families participant from Iraq



MISSION:

A Rocha invites children and adults into transformational encounters with creation, knowing that first-hand experience of the natural world elicits wonder, and wonder leads to caring. These encounters include summer day-camps for kids and gardening & nutrition programs for seniors, youth, newcomers & others with barriers to getting out in creation. We also host field trips for school children and internship programs for young adults.

We are grateful for funding from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, United Way of the Lower Mainland and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. These partnerships enable participation in education programs like Farms to Families for people who lack access to creation and community.

YOU:

We have something for everyone! Check out the education pages on our website to book a field trip for the young'uns or a workshop or nature excursion for the more mature:

arocho.ca/education



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MISSION:

Working from a watershed perspective with an eye to the thriving of human as well as non-human communities, A Rocha is committed to the conservation and restoration of the natural world. We partner with local landowners, municipalities and other stewardship groups to carry out conservation science research and habitat restoration projects in BC, Manitoba and Ontario.



At A Rocha we're all about hope. But hope can be hard to find in the face of sobering environmental news -- news that has led some to despair. Our conservation work is a way of putting hope into action, whether that's studying and improving habitat for 12 nationally designated Species at Risk or training future conservation scientists through our internship program. And our work is making a difference as we are committed to the health of a particular place and its people for the long haul. In BC, for example, stretches of the Little Campbell River will now have federal protection for the Salish Sucker (an endangered fish) due to our monitoring results. And thanks to our initiative to gather agencies and stewardship groups together, multiple levels of government are taking steps towards improving water quality so that First Nations might once again harvest shellfish from their traditional feeding grounds. I am encouraged by the fruit of long-term relationships and the collaboration of so many inspired people across the country.

- Christy Juteau, National Science Director

YOU:

Check out arocha.ca/conservation to learn about species studies and habitat restoration projects in BC, Manitoba and Ontario.



MISSION:

A Rocha's agriculture projects are good for the land and good for those who eat from it. We are connecting people directly to the land and to their farmers through endeavours like our Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) program in BC.



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Being part of A Rocha's CSA has changed how we eat. It is always such a treat when the growing season starts and the boxes are filled with leafy greens and garlic scapes. The boxes get heavier and heavier as the season progresses, ending with hefty squash and wonderfully spicy greens. The only downside is when the season ends and we have to go back to grocery store veggies, which have only half the flavour and goodness. Being part of the CSA connects us directly with the earth and the earth's cycles. It also humanizes the food we eat since we have gotten to know our farmers - Paul and Andy - and the wonderful interns who chat with us about the tastiness of the carrots as they help load our veggies in the car.

- Pam Martin, CSA member for the past 10 years



YOU:

Taste and see for yourself! If you live in BC's lower mainland, check out arocho.ca/csa or visit us at our Farm & Gift shop at the Brooksdale Centre. If you live elsewhere and have a hankering to try your hand at community gardening, check out our resources, free for the downloading, at arocho.ca/community-garden-network

Story Of Impact

Walter Loewen is a man of grace and gratitude. Those qualities led him to create a legacy of creation care for generations to come thanks to the very generous gift of a beautiful 220-acre property in East Braintree, Manitoba. Comprised of forests, meadow and a river valley, this wonderful site offers a unique combination of sensitive yet accessible wildlife habitat that makes it the perfect setting for connecting people to place.

Reflecting on what led him to this donation Walter had this to say, “My parents saw the land as God’s creation. Thanks to them I grew up being environmentally aware. But it was really Ellie, my wife, who was my inspiration. After we bought this property she said to me, ‘This is too fine. We need to share it.’”

And in honour of Ellie’s wishes and in celebration of their 66-year marriage, that’s exactly what Walter has done. He is quick to tout the specialness of this land, where nine different soil types and 16 ecological zones exist, making it ecologically unique in all of Manitoba.

When reflecting on the donation, Scott Gerbrandt, A Rocha Manitoba’s Director, commented, “Walter Loewen has been so committed to this land and the Loewens have stewarded it so well. A Rocha’s intention is to continue this legacy so that more people will experience God in this place.” Thanks to the generosity of the Drew Foundation, plans are underway to create the A Rocha Boreal Ecology Centre on site – a learning centre where students and visitors can engage directly with creation through conservation activities. Dreams include building additional lodging and a field station for an internship program, where young adults can live in community and gain hands-on conservation and environmental education skills. The hope is that the impact of this new centre will ripple out in the care of people and places across Canada and the world.



YOU:

Watch Walter Lowen and Scott Gerbrandt on the TV show 100 Huntley Street as they describe the exciting prospects for the new Boreal Ecology Centre:

arocho.ca/100huntleystreet.



MISSION:

A Rocha's environmental centres are places of inspiration and restoration. Each year over 6,000 people enjoy the warmth of the A Rocha community and the goodness of practical creation care. Whether folks come for just an afternoon of education or for a month or longer as a volunteer or intern, all depart with a greater understanding of their place in creation and how to care for it.



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Being part of an A Rocha Centre has been such a wonderful and enriching experience. Part of the wonderfulness has been seeing the diversity of people coming through, from kids on field trips to refugees learning about gardening to visitors on retreat. What's happening here is so holistic. The land is being cared for, but so are the people and in such tangible ways. My experience of that caring has been through the internship program, where I have grown to understand what true community looks like. We as interns live in close quarters, but this also means that we get the opportunity to know each other so much more personally and deeply. I have felt loved and welcomed here beyond words and look forward to bringing this sense of community and the skills I've gained in creation care back home.

- Breanne, conservation intern
from Alberta



YOU:

Come visit! You can stay overnight in our heritage guest house at our BC centre or visit for special events and programs at our Manitoba and Ontario centres. Check out how on the “where we work” pages of arocha.ca. And if you're over 18 (and under 100), check out arocha.ca/internships to learn more about a three-month residential internship in one of our program areas.

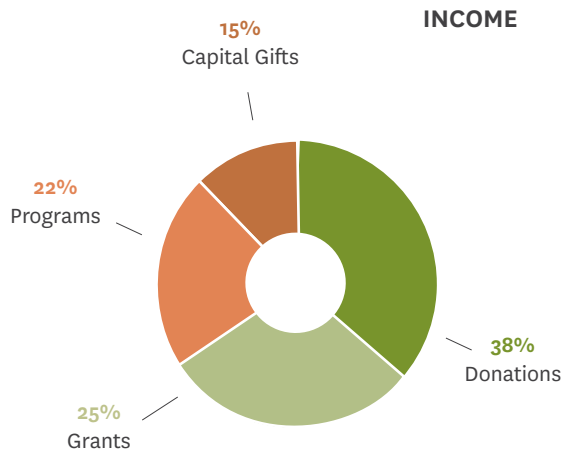
Financial Information

Report for fiscal year ending April 30, 2018

INCOME

2017-2018

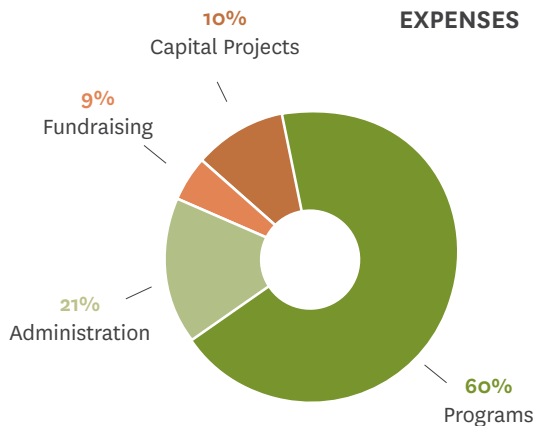
Donations (Individuals, Churches, & Corporations)	\$909,410
Grants (Foundations & Government)	\$588,589
Environmental Centre Revenue & Program Fees	\$524,589
Operating Subtotal	\$2,022,588
Capital Campaign Gifts	\$360,230
Total Revenue	\$2,382,817



EXPENSES & CAPITAL ASSET INVESTMENT

2017-2018

Programs (Conservation, Education, Sustainable Agriculture & Brooksedale, Hamilton & Pembina Valley Centre Operations)	\$1,394,218
Administration	\$487,007
Fundraising	\$199,209
Operating Subtotal	\$2,080,434
Capital Campaign & Improvements	\$234,320
Total Expenses	\$ 2,314,754 *



A Rocha Canada Conservation Foundation:

In addition to capital gifts, in 2017 the A Rocha Canada Conservation Foundation received gifts of \$290,000 towards the purchase of Brooksedale Cottage.

* This fiscal year includes additional amortized capital improvement expenses of \$77,830

Thank
You!

We are heartily grateful for the public, government and private funders and foundations that have supported our projects this past year. And we are equally grateful to the individual donors spread across Canada who live out an ethic of creation care in their lives and their giving to A Rocha. Thank you!



GET CONNECTED: [@AROCHACANADA](https://www.instagram.com/AROCHACANADA)



Join us in engaging thousands of people every year in the work of caring for creation. We can make a difference together! For opportunities to give through estate planning please contact our office.

CANADA
A ROCHA
Environmental Stewardship

INTERNATIONAL
A ROCHA
Conservation and Hope



Photography credits: All photos were taken by Alyssa Lortie except for the boy with the stick on the back page.

WWW.AROCHA.CA

**MAKE CHEQUES
PAYABLE TO:**

A Rocha Canada
1620 192nd Street
Surrey, BC V3Z 9V2
Canada

TO DONATE

T: 1.604.542.9022

W: arocha.ca/donate/

E: donorservices@arocha.ca

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