

# Église verte Green Church



## Activity Report 2012-2013

[www.GreenChurch.ca](http://www.GreenChurch.ca)

Centre canadien  
d'œcuménisme



Canadian Centre  
for Ecumenism

INFORMATION • DIALOGUE • RECONCILIATION



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## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

### A SMALL TREE THAT BEARS MUCH FRUIT

The year 2012-2013 was a success in spite of the small amount of resources at our disposal. Fourteen churches joined our network, bringing the number of member churches to 41; some 130 people attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Church Conference held in Drummondville, Quebec; more than 100 Green Church toolkits were sold; and traffic on our website continued to grow.

As presented in the budget, specific giving to the Green Church program has been generous, but is still not enough to hire several staff members. The Green Church program is operating within its means, and if it had more resources, it would bear much more fruit.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism for its support of the Green Church program, which it considers: “a relevant, stimulating and concrete program to encourage dialogue between Christian churches.” I would also like to thank Odette Laroche-Belval and the *Alonvert* team from the Diocese of Nicolet, who put so much effort into the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Church Conference.

As you read this annual report, you will be struck by this modern and innovative program, how attractive it is to young people, and how it leads to ecumenical collaboration.



**Norman Lévesque**

**Director of the Green Church Program  
and Assistant Director of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism**



## Mission of the Green Church Program

The Green Church program, offered by the **Canadian Centre for Ecumenism**, supports Christian communities in adopting eco-friendly best practices that will lead to environmental action and awareness, as well as in developing a Christian spirituality that is closer to Creation.

Christian communities are invited to integrate Creation care into their worship and teaching, and to adopt best practices such as recycling, energy efficiency and water conservation. They connect with environmental organizations and take part in awareness campaigns. Their activities are posted on our website.



## MISSION OF THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR ECUMENISM

The **Canadian Centre for Ecumenism** is a non-profit organization that serves the ecumenical movement. It is a bilingual centre for research, information and education about Christian unity and promotes prayer, dialogue and cooperation among Christians of many denominations. The Centre maintains relations with main centres for ecumenical initiatives in Canada and internationally. It also promotes good interfaith relations.

Since its founding in 1963, the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism has put forward innovative projects to make a positive contribution to the Church and to society.



## GREEN CHURCH PROGRAM MEMBER CHURCHES

### NEW GREEN CHURCHES (IN 2012-2013) (14 CHURCHES)

- **Abbaye Val Notre-Dame** (St-Jean-de-Matha, QC) *Catholic*
- **Bon Pasteur** (Drummondville, QC) *Catholic*
- **Église évangélique de St-Eustache** (QC), *Evangelical*
- **Évêché de Nicolet** (Nicolet, QC) *Catholic*
- **Missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception** (Montreal, QC) *Catholic*
- **Saint Andrew** (Halifax, NS) *United*
- **Saint-Barthélémy** (Montreal, QC) *Catholic*
- **Sainte-Bernadette** (Trois-Rivières, QC) *Catholic*
- **Sainte-Bernadette-Soubirous** (Montreal, QC) *Catholic*
- **Saint-Joachim** (Châteauguay, QC) *Catholic*
- **Saint John Brebeuf** (Montreal, QC) *Catholic*
- **Sainte-Marguerite-Bourgeoys** (Longueuil, QC) *Catholic*
- **Saint-Mathieu** (Montreal, QC) *Catholic*
- **Religious Society of Friends** (Montreal, QC) *Quaker*



Ste-Marguerite-Bourgeoys  
(Longueuil, QC)



Saint Andrew's United Church  
(Halifax, NS)



Église chrétienne évangélique  
(St-Eustache, QC)

## GREEN CHURCH MEMBERS REGISTERED PRIOR TO 2012 (27 CHURCHES)

- Archdiocese of Montreal (Montreal, QC) *Catholic*
- Beaconsfield United (Beaconsfield, QC) *United*
- Cedar Park United (Pointe-Claire, QC) *United*
- Centre Agapê (Quebec City, QC) *Catholic*
- Centre Emmaüs (Victoriaville, QC) *Catholic*
- Grand Séminaire de Montréal (Montreal, QC) *Catholic*
- Saint Columba House (Montreal, QC) *United*
- Montreal City Mission (Montreal, QC) *United*
- Monastère des Prémontrés (St-Constant, QC) *Catholic*
- Mont-Bruno United (St-Bruno, QC) *United*
- SIAF (Montreal, QC) *Catholic*
- Précieux-Sang (Répentigny, QC) *Catholic*
- United Theological Seminary (Montreal, QC) *United*
- Sainte-Anne (Chicoutimi, QC) *Catholic*
- Saint-Charles (Montreal, QC) *Catholic*
- Saint-Charles-Borromée (Quebec City, QC) *Catholic*
- Saint-Charles-Garnier (Kelowna, BC) *Catholic*
- Saint-Elzéar (Laval, QC) *Catholic*
- Saint-François-d'Assise (Montreal, QC) *Catholic*
- Saint-Gabriel's (Toronto, ON) *Catholic*
- Saint-Jean and Camino de Emaus (Montreal, QC) *United*
- Sainte-Maria-Goretti (Pointe-aux-Trembles, QC) *Catholic*
- Saint Mark (Dorval, QC) *Anglican*
- Saint-Martin (Laval, QC) *Catholic*
- Saint Peter (Town of Mount Royal, QC) *Anglican*
- Saint-Sauveur (St-Sauveur, QC) *Catholic*
- Summerlea United (Lachine, QC) *United*



Summerlea United Church  
(Lachine, QC)



## “GREEN CHURCH” INTERACTIVE MAP ON *GOOGLE MAPS*



© Google Maps

On August 1, 2013, there were 41 member churches. This year, 11 Catholic churches joined the program, and we were very happy to welcome an Evangelical church, a United church and a Quaker community. *Green Church's* presence now reaches to Nova Scotia as well as Ontario and British Columbia.

The program will expand geographically in 2014, with churches near Calgary, AB, Winnipeg, MB and Moncton, NB already expressing interest.

The expansion will also be ecumenical, since Orthodox, Evangelical, Pentecostal and Baptist churches will soon be joining.





## Second Green Church Conference — October 16, 2012

At St-Nicéphore Church in Drummondville, Quebec, 130 people from Roman Catholic, Anglican and United churches attended the 2nd Green Church Conference, with the theme “Inhabit the Earth.” They demonstrated their solidarity and pledged



to do more to make their respective communities aware of the need for environmental action. The participants represented a dozen regions of Quebec.

Two eminent speakers gave keynote addresses: Sister Esther Champagne, President of the *Regroupement pour la responsabilité sociale des entreprises (RRSE)*, and Steven Guilbeault, staff member in charge of the climate change file



at Equiterre. They each in turn showed how people can intervene at different levels to improve the future for the planet and its inhabitants. In the afternoon, participants were able to attend six interactive workshops.



The opening and closing ceremonies for the day were led by Nicole O'Bomsawin to the beat of the drum. The Abenaki anthropologist, from the Catholic tradition, used symbols from native spirituality to honour the Earth. These moments of introspection were nourished by Christian texts in praise of Creation.

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## IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES IN 2012-2013



### GREEN CHURCH WORKSHOP — MAY 24, 2013

On May 24, 2013, the Director of the Green Church Program travelled to Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec to present a Green Church workshop to the leaders of Christian Brother houses. The participants reported that they returned to their houses full of new ideas to try out.



### TALK ON «PAGES VERTES DE LA BIBLE » — MAY 30, 2013

On May 30, 2013, in Sainte-Thérèse, Quebec, the Director of the Green Church Program gave a talk to members of several Christian denominations on the environmental values contained in Holy Scripture.



### “CREATION CARE” RETREAT — JUNE 2 TO 7, 2013

From June 2 to 7, the Director of the Green Church Program led a retreat on our call to care for Creation, held at Manresa Retreat House, in Pickering, Ontario (near Toronto). The retreat house boasts beautiful wooded trails and a copy of the circular labyrinth from Chartres. The 35 participants were male and female missionary religious. For a one-week period, they explored stories from Scripture, liturgical prayers, church declarations and legends of the saints to discover a wealth of teaching on the environment.



## KEY RESOURCES

### GREEN CHURCH TOOLKIT

The Green Church program publishes a *Green Church* TOOLKIT for a small fee (\$6). The kit contains 11 sheets (double-sided) on the program's three aspects: spirituality, awareness and action.

The toolkit is available in paper form. Approximately 200 toolkits were distributed in the past year.



### RECYCLING INK CARTRIDGES

The ink cartridge, old cellphone and battery recycling program was carried on in collaboration with KO-REC-TYPE. **The program ended in summer 2013.** Some 600 cartridges were saved from landfill sites and reused.



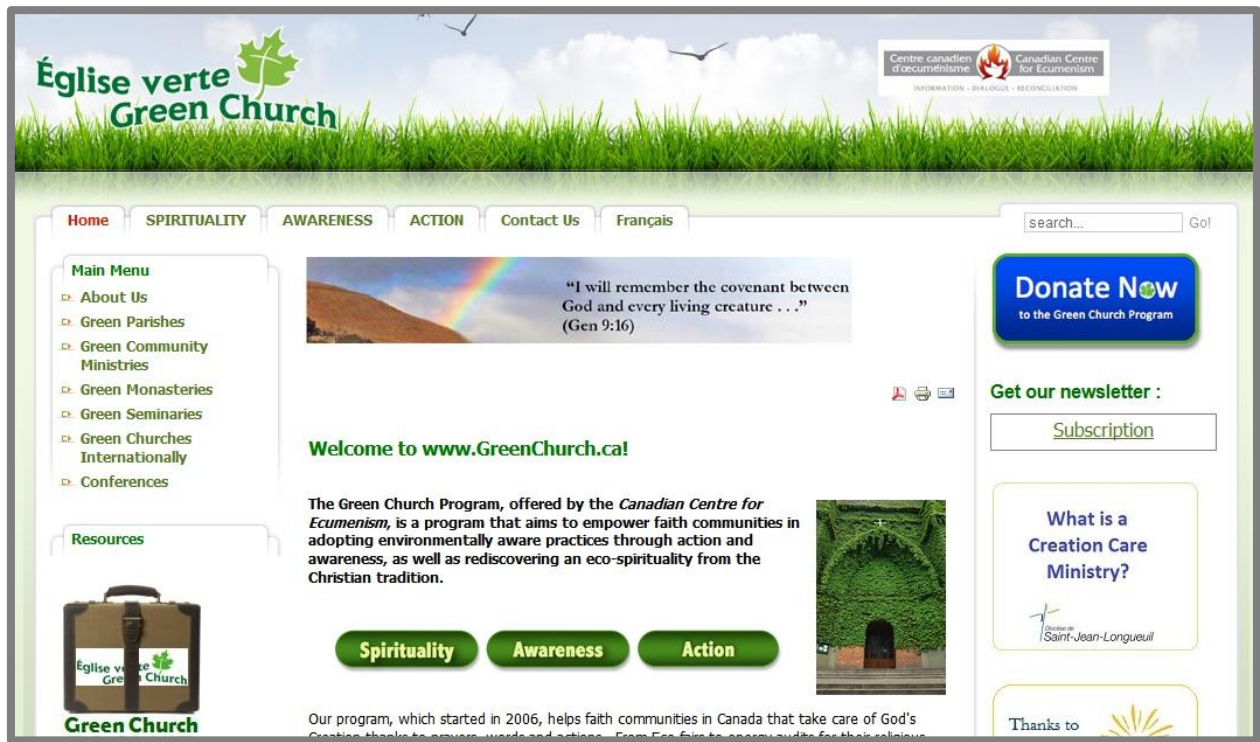
### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The monthly newsletter is always three paragraphs long, making it short, clear and to the point. It is received by close to 1,500 people. Certain church media have sometimes used paragraphs of interest in their own publications. The newsletter has been very successful and has increased traffic to the *Green Church* website.

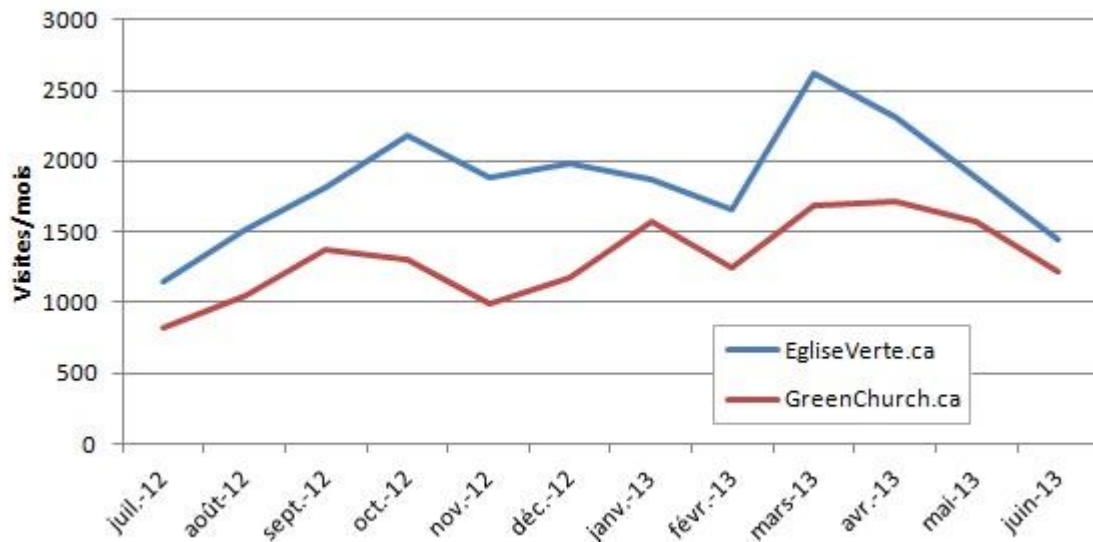




## WWW.GREENCHURCH.CA WEBSITE



## TRAFFIC TO THE WWW.GREENCHURCH.CA WEBSITE



Traffic to the website has increased considerably. There were 364 visitors in December 2010, and in March 2013, there were 2,600 visits to the site. This success is the result of distribution of information to churches as well as press releases.

## COMING SOON...

In 2014, the Green Church program will be promoting **Green Sanctuary Certification** in conjunction with the organization *Greening Sacred Spaces*. The certification tool will help Christian communities quantify their efforts, and the organization has already set up a registry on the Internet. On our side, we will provide distribution of the tools through our networks as well as translation of the materials into French.

The **3rd Green Church Conference** could be held in Quebec City in early 2015, and would be a bilingual and ecumenical event, as the first one was, in 2010. It is hoped that more conferences will be organized in other Canadian provinces.

We would like to fund-raise from the corporate sector in order to diversify our funding sources. A first step in this direction will be taken with a commitment from Provost Inc. to produce a new line of specially-designed **cleaning products** for churches, from which some of the profits will go toward Green Church activities.

A letter of invitation will be sent to all **Orthodox** bishops and to **Evangelical** associations so that a larger number of their churches will join the Green Church program. Special efforts will be made to stimulate participation from Christian communities outside major centres, because we think that churches from rural, forest and maritime areas can enrich the Green Church program in a myriad of ways. The Lord calls us to share all the Good News, even environmental, to the ends of the Earth.



## 2012-2013 BALANCE SHEET

### INCOME

Donations from religious orders	\$13,000.00
Profit from 2nd Conference	\$3,224.60
Donations from foundations	\$3,000.00
Sales of products	\$632.55
Talks, retreats, workshops	\$750.00
	<hr/>
	\$20,607.15

### EXPENSES

Salaries (plus benefits)	\$14,916.36
Webmaster	\$277.20
Office space (rent)	\$2,175.04
Promotional items	\$595.00
Travel	\$377.60
Internet and telephone	\$217.50
Office supplies	\$184.54
Printing	\$170.00
Website	\$149.59
Shipping and postage	\$64.00
	<hr/>
	\$19,126.83