Financial Summary

As a federally registered not-for-profit charitable organization, the Huntsman is dependent upon financial support of members, universities, schools, private enterprise, government agencies, foundations, and donors to sustain its marine research, applied Little's public outreach, and education facilities and services. The governance and management teams of the Huntsman strive to ensure that operational revenues exceed expenses on an annual basis, that the balance of assets over liabilities remain strong, and that overall the organization remains financially viable going forward.

2013-2014 saw the Huntsman deliver its first surplus in 4 years, with revenues of $2,849,984 and expenses of $2,785,087. The surplus of almost $65,000 was an improvement of the deficit of approximately $1,477,000 the previous year. This was realized by a slight increase in revenue and a significant reduction in expenses. This trend is expected to continue in the coming years.

The balance sheet of the Huntsman also remains strong. Fiscal year 2013-2014 saw the organization with over $21 million in assets and about $3.6 million in liabilities, for a net balance of over $17 million.

Financial Summary Operating Fund

2013-2014 2012-2013

Revenues:
Convents and Courses 1,685,338 1,939,029
User Fees and Sales 1,021,899 1,130,072
NSERC Funding 8,530 25,494
Membership Fees and Donations 48,880 49,765
Other 57,424 87,620
$ 2,849,984 2,785,087

Expenses:
Applied Research 1,098,181 1,099,836
Education 496,770 595,873
Administration 419,276 495,894
Maintenance 235,940 303,625
Research Vessels 156,009 190,146
Residences & Other Rentals 200,900 263,070
$ 2,393,281 2,800,345

$ 656,703 (147,204,042)

Awards

- Jackie Nordström Employee of the Year
- Dean Parker 25 Years of Service
- Sandra Clark 10 Years of Service
- Brian Lord 5 Year of Service
- Genny Simard 3 Year of Service

Operations

The Huntsman Operations department includes a skilled team that oversees all land based facility maintenance as well as all of our marine research vessels, particularly the Fundy Spy. The past year was typical for the group – busy keeping water flowing smoothly, buildings working properly, and boats getting the job done.

The maintenance department has had a very busy off-season in the Fundy Discovery Aquarium. The major projects undertaken in the aquarium include the rebuilding of the tank display on the lower level, and the refurbishment of the 25 foot Tall Ship Range Tank.

Some of the other projects completed on campus include construction of access fencing, rebuilding of the south balcony in Anderson House, and overhauling of our 90hp water pumps. By doing this work in-house, the team saved well over $10,000 in contractor costs.

Huge kudos go to the Operations team for their dedication to the Huntsman during and after the ice storm of December 2013. Off the electrical power grid for almost 6 days, the team worked together with the Aquatic Services group to ensure that there was no loss of any stock in our facilities.
Aquarium

The Fundy Discovery Aquarium was a hub of activity with many events from birthday parties, board meetings, and workshops, to weddings and receptions. May and June are popular times for school groups and there’s always a pleasure to hear the chatter of large groups of children. The Aquarium hosted the Gingerbread Dreams decorating contest in December, giving away a Family Membership to the winner and prizes for all who attended including Algonquin Tea and Pool passes. Seasonal maintenance and repair work is performed throughout the winter season, and a great deal of work was accomplished to Gallery III, including the addition of a Salmon Exhibit and revamping the Specialty Tanks to include a Benthic, Estuary, Seashore, Fresh Water and two Salt Water exhibits. Behind the scenes upgrades and repairs were performed to many of the pumps and filters that keep your Aquarium exhibits healthy.

Also in the past year the Fundy Discovery Aquarium continued with its membership program, adding benefits of discounts at other attractions throughout Charlotte County and New Brunswick.

Public Education and Outreach

The focus in 2013 was on expanding the programs for elementary school students. The Ocean Discovery Program for Grade 6 is in its 7th year and with support for the Living Environmental Studies Foundation, was offered to all Grade 6 classes in the Anglophone South School District. A total of 38 programs were delivered in English to 822 students and 21 programs in French to 511 students.

“Creatures in Your Marine Backyard” for Grade 4 students was a new program 2013. A Huntsman staff member visited local schools with a touchpaw of marine animals. The Fundy Community Foundation provided funding for the hardworking staff to deliver the program. The program was delivered to 13 classes and 224 students.

Another area of expansion is the program options offered at the Fundy Discovery Aquarium. Schools now have the option of doing a hands-on curriculum connected program, along with a tour. Schools can bring a bus load of students and while some tour the Aquarium others can be in the lab.

More information on Hunterston outreach programs is provided through our education blog at http://hunterstoneducation.blogspot.ca

Universities

The Huntsman tradition of hosting university field course continued strongly over the past year. The University of New Brunswick Fall Marine Semester was run for the fourth time. This special program is offered every second year and had its full quorum of 15 students. Four two-week credit courses were also offered: University of Waterloo – Marine Mammals & Seabirds; University of Guelph – Marine Ecology & Oceanography; McGill University – Marine Mammals; and, University of Western Ontario – Marine Biology. These courses were all full and the continued support of these universities is greatly appreciated.

The highlight of the university year was an opportunity for the McIill course to dissect an Ocean Sunfish (Mola mola).

The fish washed up on back of the road. St. Andrews and was transported to the lower campus. The students dug a pit to bury the creature, but not before dressed in garbage bags and armed with “spat” scalps they had a fascinating look inside. The next highlight will be digging it up!

Bird Banding

The St. Andrews Bird Banding Station continues to monitor the fall-songbird migration with support from the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund. This is the 10th year of the partnership, although the program has been ongoing since 1989 – the longest running bird banding station in New Brunswick. This year a total of 286 birds of 35 species were banded. The station recorded its 100th banded species when a Northern Mockingbird was caught on September 7th. This species is recognized as an occasional visitor to the St. Andrews area.

An interesting result from last year is that the capture rate of 15.59 birds/100 net hours is the lowest in the 25 years of the project. Certainly a lot has changed over the years, including the habitat around the Huntsman. On the Upper Campus, spruce trees have grown up shading out the grass and juniper. Alder, birch, and yellow shade out the grasses and flowers on the Lower Campus. Bird species change with modifications in habitat. Some have increased such as Northern Waterthrush, Swainson’s Thrush, Northern Cardinal and Brown Creeper, but the general trend is down.

Lobster and Salmon Academies

The Huntsman continues its partnership with the Lobster Academy™ offering a one of a kind curriculum for seafood buyers. This multi-day training program, coupled with the Salmon Academy, is delivered by world class instructors at the top of their field and offers hands on and classroom education. The curriculum involves lectures, training, plant tours, food handling, preparation and food costing. These Academies are an innovative and one of a kind curriculum for seafood buyers.

Residences and Food Service

The past year saw the Residence and Food Service group continue its primary role and long tradition of being the home-away-from-home for visiting scientists and students. The year also saw a growth in this aspect of the Huntsman to also include professional development sessions, conferences and seminars, and even the occasional family reunion and wedding. All our visitors, however, came to the Huntsman to experience our understanding of comfort, convenience, and atmosphere. On the home front, we have continued our commitment to provide well-appointed living facilities, fine home cooked meals, beautiful setting, as well as our research, teaching, and aquaculture facilities.