



Fall 2012

**Welcome Our
New Staff**

**Called to Renewal
Campaign 2011-13
Continues**



Calling Lakes **Echo**

Experiencing the “ground of being”

I was reading some words by Parker Palmer this morning and they got me thinking about why people come to Calling Lakes Centre. In his book “Let Your Life Speak”, Palmer wrote:

I had always imagined God to be in the same general direction as everything else that I valued: up. I had failed to appreciate the meaning of some words that had intrigued me since I first heard them in seminary — Tillich's description of God as the "ground of being." I had to be forced underground before I could understand that the way to God is not up but down.

Like Parker Palmer I have often looked up to find the Divine. I have hiked up mountain paths, climbed the rocks of the Canadian Shield and spent hours gazing at the endless prairie sky. These activities have resulted in a sense of awe at the wonder of creation and a deeper connection with the Spirit around me.

But in order to reach Calling Lakes Centre we must descend into a deep and ancient valley. It is a valley filled with beautiful lakes, winding rivers and rich, fertile land. It is a valley filled with the history of the people of the prairies: First Nations, fur traders, homesteaders, and new immigrants. It is a sacred valley where the Spirit calls us to the “ground of being.”

When we come to the Centre we often experience the Divine in the beauty and history of this amazing valley; but our most profound connection to the sacred usually comes when we explore the depths of our own being. Parker Palmer talks about being “forced underground.” He shares openly the humiliation of depression and the fuller sense of self that can grow from that pain. He tells us that in order to reach our Source, we must be willing to explore both the light and the shadow that is within each of us.

I know that my most profound experiences of sacred love have occurred when I have explored the depths of my own being. They have occurred when I have allowed myself to acknowledge my own shadow and been open enough to share it with others. These experiences have been accompanied by vulnerability and fear, and were possible only within the safety of trust and friendship.

I believe that people come to Calling Lakes Centre because it is a place where we are able to find the Divine in the land and in ourselves. It is a nurturing place where we have the space to both laugh and cry. It is a place where we can explore our whole being, knowing that we are held in the strength and love of community. It is a place that offers not only the glory of grass-covered hills and the wonder of the prairie sky; but also the depth of a spirit-filled valley.

Annette Taylor



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Please join us in
welcoming:



Called to Renewal Campaign 2011-2013



It is with great joy that we announce the continuation of our Called to Renewal Campaign! Calling Lakes Centre was formed sixty years ago to be a place of learning, relaxation and exploration; a home-away-from-home where everyone is welcomed and encouraged. Our years together have been filled with new friends, great ideas, deep ponderings and a fair share of wear and tear on our facilities.

The goal of the Called to Renewal campaign is to ensure that Calling Lakes Centre can continue to serve its important, established role on the prairies in a financially stable and ecologically sound way. Over the past few months we have received numerous donations, each of which we are deeply grateful for. It is imperative that we continue this momentum and build upon it to achieve our goals. We would like to invite you to look at our website and the many ways there are to help, which not only include financial donations, but also the creation of awareness that this is a critical issue. Help us provide a meaningful and dynamic future for Calling Lakes Centre and give generously! Thank you for all your support and continued prayers for success!

Our Wish List

Would you like to support Calling Lakes Centre in other ways? Here are some things we need:

- Pocket Rod Curtains - Maximum 64" wide
- Pocket Rod Curtain Rods - 52" wide
- Pillows (for beds)
- Single size mattress covers made of terry towel
- Full bib aprons
- Large heavy duty tea towels
- Shower curtains
- Single size bed quilts

We appreciate all your help whether it is through donation of items, money, or time. Thank you!

Angela Edmunds, Office and
Hospitality Coordinator (Interim)



Angela spends much of her time conversing with ladybugs as she feels they hold many keys to the secrets of the universe. Born and raised in central Saskatchewan, Angela now calls the Qu'Appelle Valley home. Together with her partner, Scott, they bought a charming house this past spring in the heart of Fort Qu'Appelle. Shortly after, they welcomed a new member to their family, Rhubarb, a delightfully friendly black lab. Angela is an avid organic gardener and a visual artist. Trained at the University of Regina, Angela holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film & Video Production and has been running her own independent production studio for four years. Film is only one medium Angela uses to explore her fascinations of the world. Her most comfortable spot is curled up in a chair with pen and paper, drawing.

Angela feels best when she's outside year round, whether it's hiking in the hills, cross-country skiing the trails or simply sitting in peace in her backyard. Angela is an active member of her new community. She is Gallery Committee Chair on the board of directors for the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts (QVCA) and the Program Director on the board of directors for the Saskatchewan Outdoor Environment Education Association (SOEEA). Angela is excited for what the future holds in the Valley and looks forward to meeting new friends from near and far at the Calling Lakes Centre!



Nicole Moon, Communications
Coordinator/DLM Program Admin

Nicole has an artist's soul and loves to explore the beauty and creativity in the world around her. She went to photography school a few years ago but decided it wasn't the right place for her. This led to a time of exploration to determine what it was she really wanted to do. Photography, drawing, painting, gardening, writing, poetry, sewing, reading and cats have all held deep passions within her heart during this time, although she sometimes failed to notice these callings. She has taken note, however, and has plans to include all these and more in her life journey and goal towards opening a new creative arts and spirituality retreat centre with her partner, Ryan. Working at Calling Lakes Centre is a big step for her towards achieving this goal as it is a great experience to learn everything behind the scenes.

She has lived in four provinces across Canada but has decided Saskatchewan may be the final stop. She enjoys filling her life with colour whether it's a bright finger painting on the wall or a long walk in a flower garden. Her favorite smells are freshly cut grass and the rain pouring down. All the cats in her life (four of them), bring her joy and guidance through all of life's many journeys and she couldn't imagine a day without them.