

Spring 2013



Calling Lakes **ECHO**

Welcome our New Staff



Adele Heise grew up on a farm near Isabella Manitoba. Church was an important part of her upbringing. She still remembers attending a confirmation weekend at PCTC when she was 15.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Calling Lakes Centre!"

Being involved with adult education in formal and non-formal settings has been a constant through Adele's work life. Adele is a licensed Lay Worship Leader and leads services at her church, First United, and in several rural pastoral charges.

Adele and her husband, Brian McConkey, live in Swift Current and have three children; Ian is in Grade 11 and Michelle and Laura are finishing degrees at University of Regina.



Maureen Huot is an artist, writer and activist from Regina, SK. She has three sons; Luke, Cole and Zachary, and as they've grown she has found more time to devote to her passions.

She is a grass roots supporter of the arts and environment, an animal lover and an avid gardener which combines her love of nature with a sense of gratitude for the beauty found in all of Creation.

A graphic designer for the past 13 years, Maureen is a lifelong learner and brings a wealth of diverse skills to the position of Communications Coordinator.

"I am thrilled to be working in the picturesque Qu'Appelle Valley and contributing to the enriching experiences people have at Calling Lakes Centre."

OUR SPRING WISH LIST

INCLUDES: twin sized sheets and mattress covers, bathmats, curtains, pillows, white latex paint for interior and exterior, rug cleaner/shampooer and a (crossing fingers!) used golf cart.

Remember, we appreciate all your gifts: from valuable volunteer time and prayers to splitting some perennials with us once the snow is gone and spring is truly here! As always, thank you.



Calling Lakes Centre
...where the Spirit calls

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www.callinglakes.ca

<http://callinglakesfuture.wordpress.com>

www.facebook.com/CallingLakes.Centre



Looking to the Future



Spring is upon us and change is near. Like many of our congregations, **Calling Lakes Centre** has arrived at a place where radical change is imminent.

For over a decade, the Centre has experienced large operational deficits and has survived thanks to special gifts, loans, and the sale of property.

Also, as identified in our **Called to Renewal** fundraising campaign, our aging facility is in need of major renovations. So far, the net income from this campaign has been about \$50,000 and these gifts have already been used to decrease our debt load.

In November 2012, a **Calling Lakes Centre Visioning Event** was held. We brought in an outside facilitator and spent a day and half talking about why the Centre exists and discussing possibilities for the future. Participants included members of the board, Centre staff, two representatives from Saskatchewan Conference and one from General Council.

As a result of this event, the Board began to investigate several options for the future of the Centre, including:

- *Partnering with other United Church affiliated organizations such as Lumsden Beach Camp or St. Andrew's College*
- *Partnering with St. Michael's Retreat Centre*
- *Partnering with non-church organizations such as Saskatchewan Federation of Labour*
- *Building a combination housing/retreat Centre on our existing site*
- *Turning the land over to the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Note: this cannot be an option. Our acreage is too small for them to consider.*
- *Closing the Centre*

These options are all long-term and cannot be accomplished without planning and, for some, substantial fundraising. It is important to note that several of these partnership options could result in the Centre moving from its current location.

We recognize that Calling Lakes Centre has been an important part of many of your lives and we want to include you in our investigative process. The board invites you to send your comments and suggestions via:

- regular mail, Attn: Calling Lakes Centre Board;
- email us at board@callinglakes.ca
- our blog <http://callinglakesfuture.wordpress.com>

In the meantime, it is our hope that the Centre will continue to offer meaningful programming and gracious hospitality at its current location. Our need for both operational and capital funding remains.

As we move into the third year of our **Called to Renewal** campaign, we recognize that we are now living in a time of great uncertainty. There is the excitement about new possibilities and anxiety about the impact of change on both programs and staff.

We invite you to continue to give generously as we move through these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Shannon McCarthy
Chair of the Board of Directors

