

Fall 2013



Calling Lakes **ECHO**

Calling Lakes Centre Fundraiser



A Gala Dinner for Calling Lakes Centre was held at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon on November 22. Entitled **“Sea Sick: When Oil and Water Don’t Mix”**, it provided an opportunity to hear Allanna Mitchell in person.

Allanna Mitchell is an acclaimed public speaker who has delighted audiences on five continents by bringing science to life. Her book, *Sea Sick: The Global Ocean in Crisis*, is an international best-seller that won the prestigious U.S.-based Grantham Prize for excellence in environmental journalism. Allanna also writes for the Observer.

A big thanks to Margaret McKechny who came up with the idea and chaired the organizing committee. Thanks to the committee as well for all of their hard work.

At the time of printing,
150 tickets had been sold.

OUR FALL WISH LIST

- ♥ twin-sized sheet sets (white)
- ♥ twin-sized quilts
- ♥ bathmats
- ♥ curtains
- ♥ pillows
- ♥ 70” round table cloths (plastic or cloth)
- ♥ white latex paint (interior or exterior)
- ♥ industrial rug cleaner/shampooer
- ♥ sturdy vacuum cleaner
- ♥ golf cart

We appreciate all your gifts:
from valuable volunteer time and prayers
to garden work and help with our large mailings.

As always, **thank you!**

Calling Lakes Centre
...where the Spirit calls

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An Urgent Message to Friends of Calling Lakes Centre (PCTC)

Over sixty years ago the people of Saskatchewan and Manitoba had a vision. A vision of a place where minds could be opened to new understandings, the soul could be nurtured by music, by friendships formed, the wide open skies, the prairie grasses. With fund raising, labour, and commitment, they built PCTC. Since then many lives have been transformed by Calling Lakes Centre (PCTC), a faith filled spiritual presence echoing through the ages.

The vision remains clear but time has taken its toll. The buildings are aging and every month seems to bring new and unexpected repair bills: water heaters, freezers, windows, and more. Programming and hosting revenues are uncertain as overall church membership declines. Consequently, we are experiencing large operational deficits and a mounting debt load.

The Board of Calling Lakes Centre is convinced there is a need for the gifts it offers into the future. To meet the challenges we cannot remain static. We have therefore been intentionally considering the following options:

- A joint project with Lumsden Beach camp to build facilities on their site;
- Building a new residential community on our existing site that would include both permanent residents and space for a retreat/educational centre;
- Consolidation of resources with another United Church facility, such as St Andrew's College;
- Partnership with non-church organizations to share the cost of building an educational/retreat facility;
- Providing programming in community (at churches and other retreat centres throughout the two conferences) instead of using our existing site.

The board recognizes the urgency of the current situation and on November 4th we met to decide on which option to pursue. The board has decided to move forward with a combination residential and retreat centre development. We will be doing more work on refining this option before taking it to meetings of our membership and our supervising conference.

On December 10th, the board will be meeting again to decide on our next steps and a timeline into the future. We recognize that the residential/retreat option is a multi-year project. We are committed to programming at the Centre until the end of 2014. But programming beyond that point will be dependent on the Centre's financial viability.

What do we need from our community?

- Donations to keep the Centre going as we move towards the future.
- Registrations for our upcoming programs (see enclosed calendar).
- Prayerful consideration, and your faith-filled commitment.

We dwell in an abundance of grace, freely given, may you know its blessing.

Margaret McKechney
Acting Chairperson ,
Calling Lakes Centre Board

