



Calling Lakes Echo

Spring 2011



Annette Taylor
Executive Director

Recently Calling Lakes Centre hosted a meeting of the Calling Lakes Interfaith Friendship Forum (CLIFF). This is a group who meet with the purpose of promoting understanding and acceptance amongst the diverse faith communities in the Fort Qu'Appelle area.

I was thinking about CLIFF as I read the scripture passages for this coming Sunday. In the gospel reading, the Pharisees are questioning a man who has been cured of his blindness by Jesus. The Pharisees say, "We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answers, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes" (John 9:29-30). Through groups like CLIFF, we seek to have our "blindness" cured. As we meet with people from different faith and cultural backgrounds it is our hope that we will experience the astonishing gift of having our eyes opened too.

Calling Lakes Centre is a place where people come to search, to learn, to be challenged, to rest and to find the Holy within and around them. It is a place where the Spirit calls. It is a place where leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds come to share their wisdom and their gifts. It is a place of experiential learning where everyone has the opportunity to both give and receive. It is a place where people's eyes are opened on a regular basis.

In a recent program at the Centre, Phyllis Tickle told us that we are in the midst of the "Great Emergence" and the Christian church, as we know it, is disappearing. She informed us that it would be another sixty or seventy years before the church's new shape is fully revealed. In the meantime we are faced with a time of change and uncertainty.

In times of change, places of learning, like Calling Lakes Centre, become even more important in the life of the church. As our local congregations feel the effects of dwindling attendance and the structures of our institution begin to shift, our clergy and lay leaders are experiencing an even deeper need for connection with the Holy. Like the blind man, we are seeking new vision; we are seeking to understand the astonishing ways in which the Spirit is moving in the 21st Century.

Come and join us as we learn how to be church in The Great Emergence.
Come and be a part of Calling Lakes Centre's eye-opening programs and retreats.
Come and help us celebrate 60 years of dedication to learning, growth and transformation.
Come and follow the *Call for Renewal* as we build for the future.

Annette Taylor

Called to Renewal (2011-2013)

A financial campaign to renew Calling Lakes Centre

Isn't it fantastic that a Centre dedicated to learning, growth and transformation has been a dynamic part of people's lives for sixty years!?

Beginning as the Prairie Christian Training Centre, located on an amazing property on the shores of Echo Lake, Calling Lakes Centre is living proof that community effort can accomplish miracles. Many, many people have heard the call of the Spirit during the past sixty years and responded with creativity, enthusiasm and hard work to establish, maintain and help the Centre grow into a place where people continually remark as they arrive on the site, "This is such a special sacred place. I feel safe here."

In 2011, the Centre's 60th Anniversary, we celebrate both Calling Lakes Centre's beginnings and its current dreams and challenges. Once again, the Spirit is calling to all of us who form the Calling Lakes community, each of us according to his or her ability, to respond with creativity, enthusiasm and hard work.

What might the Spirit be saying?

"My breath passes through this place, feel its touch."

"Thank you to the people who managed the Centre through the years as effectively as possible, often on a shoestring."

"There is much value here – spiritual and physical value. Don't let this value dissipate."

"Remember the Earth. Learn. Use new methods to save energy, to protect the prairie, to lessen the human footprint in this place."

Dreams and Challenges in 2011

On the one hand, the Centre cannot be sustainable, either financially or environmentally, unless financial resources are found for the following purposes.

The facilities need to be renewed and upgraded. The Centre needs sufficient financial reserves to eliminate its dependence upon credit. For future sustainability, the Centre needs to expand its current overnight accommodation so that it may house as many people as the meeting rooms and dining room can accommodate.

On the other hand, Calling Lakes Centre presently is a spirit-filled active education and retreat centre, a prairie treasure, that has been consistently supported by the faithful Friends of the Centre, UCW groups and congregations.

The Centre not only provides its own creative, innovative and inclusive programming, it serves a variety of organizations, including United Church groups and events.

Therefore the Board of Directors has authorized a three year financial campaign, beginning in 2011. This campaign is supported and encouraged by the Conferences of Saskatchewan and Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, recognizing both the importance of Calling Lakes Centre in the life of the United Church in the prairie region, and the necessity of using all our creativity, enthusiasm and hard work to achieve the goals of the campaign. And so, we invite you to be a part of our Call to Renewal and give generously!



Goals for the Financial Campaign

Phase 1

Financial Security

- debt reduction and establishment of a reserve fund **\$200,000**

Facilities Renewal, including:

- Roofs and shingles for guest halls
- Energy audit
- Insulation and new siding for all buildings
- New insulating windows for dining room
- Plumbing
- Interior renovations and upgrades, particularly for bathrooms **\$200,000**

Site improvements, including:

- Grading and drainage
- Gardens – herbs, flowers, some vegetables **\$30,000**

Phase 2

Develop plans for expansion

Green energy production, including:

- Solar array for main building hot water
- Installation of wind turbines or large solar arrays **\$170,000**

Phase 3

Facilities Expansion

- The vision for this phase is to construct a new building that would enlarge the available overnight accommodation and make it possible to provide a variety of accommodation choices (single, double, family, group) at a differing rates.

This phase will require significant expenditures exceeding a million dollars.

Prairie people heard the Spirit and responded to this great vision long ago.

May we hear anew the call of the Spirit for our time.

Help keep this prairie treasure alive and vibrant by responding to

The Call for Renewal



60th Anniversary Homecoming Days

As we celebrate 60 years of learning, growth and transformation for people and for the Calling Lakes Centre itself, you are invited to join us at the Centre for **Homecoming Days**. This will be a time of remembering, story-telling, playing and soaking in the unique atmosphere of this sacred place – where the Spirit calls.

Each day will include opportunity to join with others to focus your stories using a variety of methods – writing prose and poetry, visual arts, drama and music. There will also be free time to visit, to wander the grounds, to explore the Valley (perhaps enjoying the nearby golf courses) or to simply rest and relax. And don't forget the food – always a key part of a Centre visit.

Throughout Homecoming Days, our special guest musicians, Jim and Jean Strathdee, will offer music that will remind us of the deep significance of music and singing throughout the Centre's life.



A lively and talented band of leaders — Anita Warriner, Linda Anderson, Judy Swallow, Lesley Harrison, Keith Barber, plus other surprise guests — will help organize and facilitate our program and community times.

The evening of July 6th will be devoted to hearing and seeing story presentations. On July 7th you might attend the Centre's annual meeting at 4 pm, followed by a barbecue and a truly fantastic evening of music, "**We Cannot Keep from Singing**", where a variety of musicians who have gifted Calling Lakes Centre will offer their talents for a grand finale of celebration.

Homecoming Days is just too good to miss!
Mark it in your calendar and register early!

*** Notice new dates ***

Tuesday, July 5 (6 pm supper) to Thursday, July 7

Cost: \$250; Day only - \$75

You are invited!!



**Annual
General Meeting**

Thursday, July 7, 2011

4 pm

followed by a BBQ supper
and a

grand finale celebration
with a variety of musicians

**"We Cannot Keep
from Singing"**



Called by the Spirit

***60 Years
of
Calling Lakes Centre
History***

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of Calling Lakes Centre, Holly Schick is writing a history book, ***Called by the Spirit***. The book will be approximately 250 pages in length with about 100 photos. It will weave together the history of Calling Lakes Centre (based on information found in minutes, annual reports, correspondence, and conversations) with stories and memories written by many people, past and present.

Holly is still collecting stories and memories. These could be about special occasions in the Centre's life, staff past and present, programs you have attended or provided leadership for, what the Centre means to you, etc. The stories don't have to be long or written in any special format—just share what you remember.

If you have anything you would like to share please send it to Holly by e-mail at hlschick@sasktel.net or by mail c/o Calling Lakes Centre.

Please pass this information along to anyone you know who might have memories to share.

Pre-paid Order Form for

Called by the Spirit
Calling Lakes Centre History Book

Quantity _____ x \$30.00 = _____
(GST included)

Payment by: Cheque MasterCard Visa

Credit Card # _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email address _____

Congregation _____

Available summer 2012.

Ways To Donate to Calling Lakes Centre

There are several ways to support Calling Lakes Centre's ministry of learning and transformation:

On our Website:

- go to www.callinglakes.ca
- click on the "Donate Now" button on the left side of the screen
- choose which fund you'd like to donate to - "operating fund" or "Called to Renewal campaign"
- click "Donate" button and follow instructions

Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)

- contact the office to set up your automatic monthly donations for ongoing regular support of the Centre

Credit Card

- we accept both MasterCard and Visa (fill out and mail this portion)

Credit Card # _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

- or contact the office by phone

Cheque

- cheques are always welcome
- send a cheque by mail

Please provide the following information:

Name _____

Address _____ Community _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Calling Lakes Centre is a Registered Charity #107855165RR0001. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your generous support!



Calling Lakes
Centre

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Our Wish List

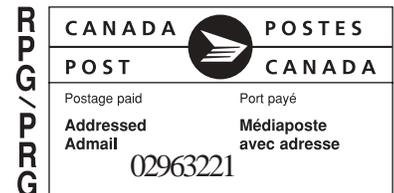
Another way to support Calling Lakes Centre is through donations of items we require to keep our facilities usable. At the present time we are in need of:

- ♦ comfy, gently-used, light, easy-to-move chairs for our lounges
- ♦ small bath towels, hand towels, or face cloths (new white only please)
- ♦ bedding - single sheets (flat and fitted) and pillow cases



A BIG THANK YOU to all who have already donated. We have enough bedding now for one guest lodge and some towels as well.

Thanks again!



RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
PORT DE RETOUR GARANTI

...where the Spirit calls