



# Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre



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*Your gifts to Indigenous ministry training, traditional ceremonies and reconciliation at Sandy-Saulteaux are a tangible sign of hope. Thank you for giving generously to a place where Indigenous and non-Indigenous people can learn, dream and grow together.*



## Transformative Hope

by Maggie Dieter, Keeper of the Learning Circle

In January I travelled from my home in Regina, Saskatchewan to the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre (SSSC) to begin my new role. On the road I saw swirls of snow particles picked up by wind gusts, dancing in the air. Accompanied by the bright sunshine, the immense blue sky, and prairie landscape the snow swirls were a sight to behold.

A few hours later I arrived at SSSC, another sight to behold. As I took in the surroundings, I noticed changes. The teepee had moved to a new location, there was a new shelter, and the fire pit area was different.

I thought about those who came to this location when it was known as the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre (DJSRC), as well as individuals who frequented what was known as the Francis Sandy Theological Centre (FSTC) just outside of Paris, Ontario.

Many who arrived at these sacred spaces would have come with a sense of vision and hope -- maybe even a dream! Others may have come in their quest for change and a place to grow.

The DJSRC and FSTC are gone now. They've been transformed. Something new has and is emerging, much like those snowflakes lying still on the land until they were given agency to take to the sky, once again, and do a new thing.

After the change, the anxiety and the grief that accompany transition, SSSC remains a place of learning, dreaming, and growing. It is a place to simply be and become. **This world, that God so loves, needs this place and more spaces like it.**

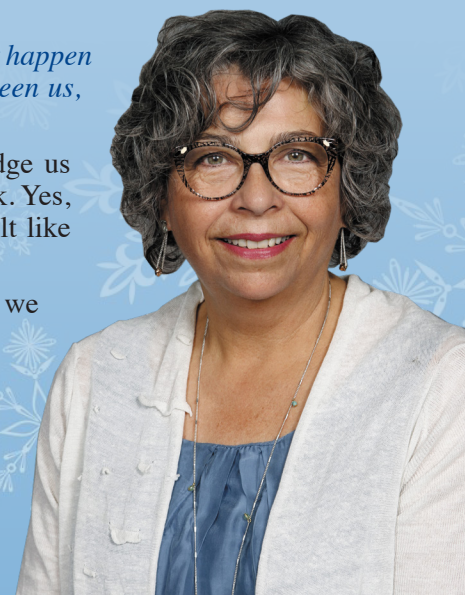
One evening after being with the students in the Learning Circle, I came across some words by Canadian writer Max Wyman, in *Perspectives*, Contemporary Theological Education, a Vancouver School of Theology publication:

*"It's clear that change on the scale the world needs now won't happen – can't happen – until we ratchet down the anger and the fear, dismantle the barriers between us, and rehumanize our lives together."*

In times of uncertainty and even despair, hope abides. Wyman's words nudge us toward the dance of healing and revitalization. SSSC holds space for such work. Yes, there have been many changes, yet the moment I stepped out of my car it felt like coming home.

May the Spirited Winds continue to propel us toward new possibilities that we cannot even imagine.

Maggie Dieter oversees SSSC's Indigenous Ministry Training Program. She is a graduate of the Francis Sandy Theological Centre (2001) and has a long history with Indigenous ministry and the United Church.





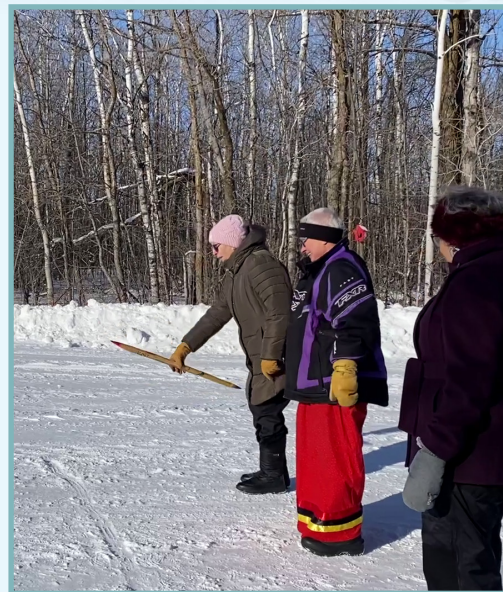
Kids and parents at a Return of the Buffalo retreat show off their snow snakes. Your gifts bring families together on the land in all seasons.

## Ancient Indigenous Winter Sport is Fun – and Healing – For All Ages

Return of the Buffalo is the name given to the work of fostering Indigenous family wellbeing at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. It means returning to the land, returning to Indigenous lifeways and returning to the teaching of respect for ALL our relations.

One day this winter, it meant returning to a traditional Indigenous game, that’s been played since long before Europeans arrived on Turtle Island. Families who’d come for a weekend away from the pressures of everyday life listened to Knowledge Keeper Melody McKellar introduce snow snakes. They decorated their own snakes then competed to see who could slide them furthest. Creative expression, physical activity and time on the land are more than just fun and games. They’re part of the healing journey.

Many of our guests since then have given snow snakes a try! Visit [sandysaulteaux.ca/snow-snakes/](http://sandysaulteaux.ca/snow-snakes/) for instructions if you’d like to play too.



Ministry training students at the Centre in January, took a break from the heavy topic of church history to play a friendly round of snow snakes.

## Learning About the Seven Sisters

In February, Knowledge Keeper Audrey Logan shared the story of the Seven Sisters and how she puts food on the table without ever stepping into a grocery store. This was the first of a four-part series we offered, covering practical garden and kitchen skills for working with sunchokes, sunflower, corn, squash, beans, tobacco, and... do you know who the seventh sister is? Watch Audrey’s presentation at [sandysaulteaux.ca/seeds-to-stew](http://sandysaulteaux.ca/seeds-to-stew) to find out!



## Upcoming Events

**Youth & Urban Ministry Learning Circle:** April 1 - 4

**Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals Learning Circle:** April 8 - 11

**Ceremony of Celebration:** June 7  
for ministry training graduate Brian George and Honoured Elders Terence Whiteye, Alma Ransom

**Mamawe Ota Askihk:** July 28 - August 1  
a spiritual gathering for land-based learning open to all ages

*For more events, including seasonal, women’s and family sweatlodge ceremonies, visit [sandysaulteaux.ca/events](http://sandysaulteaux.ca/events)*

# Donor Connections: Lewis & Marilyn Coffman



Lewis and Marilyn Coffman live in Paisley, Ontario. One of their greatest joys in life is their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They have been involved in the United Church for many years.

Through his church involvement, Lewis became friends with two graduates of the former Francis Sandy Theological Centre, Maggie Dieter and Lee Claus. "It is because of that friendship and our interest in supporting the Ministry in Indigenous congregations of the United Church that my wife, Marilyn, and I continue to financially support the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre," says Lewis.

*Will you join Lewis and Marilyn in giving to raise up Indigenous spiritual leaders? You can even make your gift in honour of a friend or leader who inspires you. Mail in the form at the end of the newsletter or [give online](#) and we can send a card to the person you chose to honour with your gift.*

## Thank you to everyone who's made a gift to Sandy-Saulteaux since our last newsletter!

Your generosity nurtures Indigenous leadership and move us all along a path to reconciliation.

Mary	Noreen Duncan	Twila MacNair	Ken & Willa Reddig	Lori Stewart
Kristie	Kiersten Dyson	Shelly & Richard Manley-Tannis	Matthew Wiens & Elizabeth Redekopp	Paul & Lynne Stott
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Lewis and Matilyn Coffman	Kimiko Karpoff	Robert Patton	Rob & Deb Smith	Winnipeg Beach United Church
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Winston Desjarlais	Susan Loeppky	Port Hope U.C.W.	St. Paul's United Church, Oxbow SK	Anonymous (25)
Caryn Douglas & Peter Kidd	Sandy MacGean	Irene Rainey & Tim Sale		
Bob Dueck	Lorraine Mackenzie Shepherd and Nancy Pinnell			

Along with these individuals and organizations, Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre is supported by our major funder, The United Church of Canada, through Mission and Service.



Return Undeliverable  
Canadian Address to:

**Sandy - Saulteaux Spiritual  
Centre**

Box 210  
Beausejour, MB  
R0E 0C0

**Yes, I support the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre!**

With a gift of:  \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make my gift monthly! Please contact me to set this up.

My gift is in honour of \_\_\_\_\_  
*(we will acknowledge this gift with the honouree or family if you provide contact information.)*

This is an unrestricted gift to the Centre or I wish to designate this gift to:

- Return of the Buffalo - fostering family well being
- Legacy Fund - an endowment to provide long-term support

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque made out to Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre.

I will donate by:  Visa     Mastercard

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

- I have included a gift to Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in my will.
- I am considering including Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in my will. Please contact me.
- I offer prayers for the ministry.



To donate online visit [www.sandysaulteaux.ca/donate](http://www.sandysaulteaux.ca/donate)

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**Thank you for your generosity**