

The Devic Centre

Saskatoon's popular singer and actress Andrea Menard lists visiting the Devic Centre as one of her top five favourite things to do around Saskatoon in the *Saskatchewan Book of Musts*. She describes it as a place she goes to help her focus by walking the "rock-laden labyrinth out on the prairie for free. The smell of sage and the songs of the birds and the labyrinth walk itself reminds us that we are alive and worthy of great things."

The Devic Centre is a unique place of planned harmony created by Michael and Gisele Stodola. They make it freely accessible to anyone who wants to come. Options include walking the labyrinth, standing in the medicine wheel, strolling nature trails through native grass and woodland or sitting inside large geometric forms. The Stodolas also live on the quiet 40 acres of land near Pike Lake. Michael operates a small shop with a selection of books, crystals, and gemstones from all over the world. Menard also mentions visiting the shop and taking time to talk with Michael, "one of the treasures here."

Michael emphasizes that the Centre is for people to use. "People drive up, they park, they spend an hour or half an hour. When they feel energized and relaxed they go back to their daily routine. It's a sanctuary with no agenda, said Michael. "It's a place for people to learn and grow."

Michael explains that deva comes from the root word divine. It is a Sanskrit word for the divine presence or light in forms. It can be loosely interpreted as angel. In modern language it could be described as the consciousness of a place or thing.

Michael believes, as did most cultures, that forms can hold archetypes and energies that can stimulate individuals to live at a higher level of vibration. Pyramids, labyrinths, crystals and other geometric forms have been used for such purposes in many societies.

Stodola says a book by a shaman that he is reading said it best, in three sentences, "There's no stuff in the universe. It's all energy. Energy has consciousness."

"The mission of the Devic Centre, the intention, is to stimulate personal transformation," said Michael. He hopes that all those who visit "will be internally directed to their own higher purpose" and spread "this uplifting energy wherever they go."

"If the property can assist you, then our mission is served. In the meantime you can relax on our property. The devas will assist you. You will feel comfortable, relaxed and inspired."

The Cretan style, 7-circuit labyrinth offers a place for walking meditation and reflection. In the Middle Ages a labyrinth was placed in many churches. Walking it represented a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

There has been a resurgence in interest in labyrinths all over North America in the last 10 years. They create a space for walking meditation that can help link the spiritual and the physical.

Visitors can deal with their experience "from an intuitive perspective, a nature perspective, a science perspective. They can deal with it however they like. It's up to them. We don't presume to have any answers for anybody," said Michael. "That would be presumptuous."

The Devic Centre is open seven days a week. Advance notice to visit is always appreciated but not necessary. Call (306) 955-4332 or toll free at 1-866-955-4332. Description and maps at www.ablecrystals.com/center.html

