

The Millstream Pastoral Charge of The United Church of Canada

Community Profile 2015

The communities of the Millstream

The Millstream community is nestled along the beautiful Millstream River Valley in Southern New Brunswick. It is a series of small rural communities dominated by farms and woodland. This picturesque community has an easy-going atmosphere with an underpinning of hard-working residents that welcome newcomers and include them in their community and way of life.

The town of Sussex is within 10 minutes driving distance of the manse and is the centre for services to the Millstream and other surrounding areas. The population is approximately 4,300 in the town, but that number easily doubles when the nearby communities within a similar radius are considered.

Along with farming, the forest industry has also played a large role in this area's employment history. The Potash Mine has also been a large industrial employer and, with the second mine site being built, will continue to be so in the future. There are a number of other small industries and businesses in the Sussex area. There is a very active tourism association, as well as an active Chamber of Commerce. Service groups include Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Toastmasters, and a Sorority group, among others. There is a well-supported Library, 4-H groups and numerous Women's Institute groups. Sussex and area, with which the Millstream is associated, is an active community and relies on the contribution of volunteers to accomplish many things. When need arises, the community can mobilize quickly to come to the assistance of neighbours and others. Many of the communities have volunteer fire departments, the Millstream being no exception, and the area is policed by the RCMP.

The area is a hub to the three major centers in the province. It is within an hours drive to Moncton, Saint John, and Fredericton. All three of these cities have airports, shopping on a large scale, and all the amenities that cities offer. Saint John is home to the Saint John Regional Hospital which is the main treatment centre for the southern part of the province and has state-of-the-art services in all specialties. This close proximity also allows for boundless opportunity for education with universities and colleges in all three major cities.

Recreational opportunities abound in the Sussex area. Sports groups include hockey, skiing, baseball/softball, volleyball, tennis, badminton, basketball, and soccer for all ages. There are also strong school based sports teams. Sussex is home to a championship golf and curling club and a recently opened community fitness centre with indoor pool and walking track. There are two 24-hour fitness gyms, as well as a Curves gym for women. For those interested in cycling, the area offers some of the most scenic bicycle routes through rolling terrain. There is also a walking trail that stretches through the town along

side the river. Prominent features on the landscape are the numerous covered bridges, lending to the charm of the area.

As one of the surrounding and supporting communities of the Sussex area, the Millstream uses the facilities available there. Included among these is the Sussex Health Centre with 24-hour emergency service, ambulance service, family doctors, lab facilities, and specialty clinics. The area boasts schools, a small shopping mall, three grocery stores, a number of restaurants, and provincial community support services and other government agencies.

A very active community, the Millstream in its association with Sussex, is an inviting and fulfilling place to live. Away from the big city, yet part of it all.

Please use the following links to explore the area and some of the many facilities available.

Province of New Brunswick Websites:

- [Government of NB](#)
- [Province of NB Tourism](#)
- [New Brunswick Career Beacon](#)

Town of Sussex Websites:

- [Town of Sussex](#)
- [Sussex Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Sussex Downtown Business Association](#)
- [Sussex Health Centre](#)
- [Sussex Fire Department](#)
- [Kings County Family Resource Centre](#)
- [Sussex Regional Library](#)
- [Sussex Murals](#)
- [Favourites 590 CJCW](#)

Sussex Area Educational Websites

- [Anglophone South School District](#)
- [Sussex Elementary School](#)
- [Sussex Corner Elementary School](#)
- [Apohaqui Elementary School](#)
- [Sussex Middle School](#)
- [Sussex Regional High School](#)
- [Kingswood University](#)
- [Sussex Christian School](#)
- [Rothsay Netherwood School](#) (private boarding school within 30 minutes driving distance of Sussex; Grades 6 and up)
- [Touchstone Community School](#) (private elementary school within 30 minutes of Sussex; Grades K-5)

Sports, Fitness, and Recreation:

- [Poley Mountain Ski Resort](#)
- [Sussex Golf and Curling Club](#)
- [Potash Civic Centre](#)
- [Lifestyles Fitness Studio](#)
- [Princess Louise Park Show Center](#)
- [Snider Mountain Ranch](#)
- [4-H](#)
- [Sussex Artist Co-op](#)
- [8th Hussars Militia \(Princess Louise's\)](#)
- [Sussex Vale Quilt Guild](#)

Restaurants:

- [Off The Rail](#)
- [Gasthof Old Bavarian Restaurant](#)
- [Taste & See](#)
- [Sushi Jo's](#)

Sussex annual events:

- Sussex Farmer's Market (Fridays, May through October)-they have a facebook page
- [NB Antique Auto Club Inc. Flea Market](#)
- [Atlantic Balloon Fiesta](#)
- [Agricultural Fair](#)

Sussex and Area Websites of Interest:

- [The 8th Hussars Regimental Museum](#)
- [Agricultural Museum of NB, Inc.](#)
- [Barbour Foods](#)
- [Belleisle Gardens](#)
- [Moffett's Hardware](#)

Universities and Colleges:

- University of New Brunswick (Saint John and Fredericton campuses)
- Saint Thomas University (Fredericton)
- Yorkville University (Fredericton)
- Université de Moncton (Moncton)
- Crandell University (Moncton)
- Mount Allison University (Sackville)
- New Brunswick Community College (various locations)
- New Brunswick School of Art and Design (Fredericton)
- Oulton's College (Moncton)
- Eastern College (various locations)

The Ministry of the Millstream Pastoral Charge

The Millstream Pastoral Charge is home to four active points and one inactive church. Three of those points are located along the Millstream River Valley, as is our manse. Although small, the congregation is loyal, faithful and united in its vision for the pastoral charge. There are 65 active families supporting this pastoral charge. There is one service per Sunday, alternating each week between the four points. Each church has a set of Voices United, and we have included some music from More Voices although there are not copies of this resource in the churches.

There is a deep, strong faith among the members of our congregation. Acting as one unit, we build the charge together and move in a forward direction. There is a positive energy among the members of this pastoral charge that makes us ready to participate and take an active role in ministry. There is a range of ages of members and we need to continue to encourage young families to make church and church business a priority.

As members, we care for our minister as a person who is part of our community and one of our neighbours. We respect privacy and choices of others while offering a warm welcome and inclusion. There is an understanding and recognition that people from other places have other backgrounds and ways of doing things.

We have a well-maintained three bedroom manse with a large attached garage and a deck. There is an active manse committee that ensures things are taken care of. The manse is electrically heated. A completely furnished office is located in the basement, equipped with church owned photocopier and computer with fax capability and an unlimited internet usage/email account. The charge has also recently purchased a projector and screens for use on the charge. Although the office is in the manse, it is possible to get to the office without going through the living space of the house. A volunteer church secretary works two to three hours per week, on a regular basis.

This charge has a functioning M&P Committee that willingly provides positive feedback. There is open communication with the members and ministry personnel. Other groups supported by the charge include a bible study group, and the UCWs.

The administration comes from the Unified Board with elders representing the various points. There are a number of committees that meet as part of the Unified Board. The level of activity of each committee is a function of what can be done by a small charge and what needs to be done to support the ministry of the charge.

We are a self-sufficient charge, each church having their own local budget, with one joint charge budget for shared expenses. Revenue is primarily derived from weekly givings, special services, memorials, our Ways and Means Fund, and individual church fundraisers. Additional money comes from an interest-bearing T-Bill.

This is a growing area in population and community, with great potential for outreach. Each point has strong traditions and family connections. Since moving to one service a Sunday, the congregations have come together to become a strong, united, faithful pastoral family. We are committed to the challenge of drawing people to our congregation by reaching out to our communities. The following brief description of the history of each point on the charge provides a picture of the pastoral charge.

Wesley United, Berwick

This church has reason to believe it is the earliest congregation in the Millstream area. Records date back to 1845, and earlier in the 1800s, missionaries were active here. The first church building, built after 1830, was replaced and dedicated in 1860. It has been renovated several times and stands today in good repair, with well-kept graveyard behind. The building has a full basement, which housed the Sunday School for the charge, has a functional kitchen, and washrooms. This church has an old pump organ, but currently uses a keyboard. This is the central point for the charge and the manse is located beside this church.

Carsonville-Head-of-Millstream United, Carsonville

This is the oldest church building in the area, built in 1855. The pump organ, purchased in 1891, is still in use. There is also an electric keyboard. The congregation from the Head of Millstream became part of this fellowship in the 1950s. This church too has had a new foundation put under it, and an expanded entry-way.

Woodland United, Pearsonville

A former Presbyterian church, it became part of the Millstream charge in 1955, having been earlier part of the Springfield charge. Woodland boasts a 19th century pump organ. A well-kept graveyard is part of the beautiful setting of this church. It is the active point, not located in the Millstream, but very much part of our community.

Lower Millstream United, Lower Millstream

Originally part of the Sussex Presbyterian charge, this congregation began to meet in 1888. This church joined the Millstream charge at the year of union in 1925. It has an interesting interior with a cathedral ceiling and wood finished walls, providing beautiful acoustics for the upright piano. A fellowship hall was added in 1990, which includes a meeting space, kitchen and washrooms.

Mount Hebron United, Mount Hebron

Although no longer in regular use, this church is still a very important part of the pastoral charge. After the congregation was transferred to Berwick in the 1970s, an annual service had been held. Many former members and their descendants attended this yearly service. Built in 1886, this church has remained practically unchanged. The original oil

lamps and pump organ are still used, as electricity has never been supplied. The original atmosphere adds to its charm as a rural church. The community-run evening service held during the Christmas season draws many from far and wide into the warm building and spirit of the community.

Our strength might not be our numbers, but in how willing we are to pull together, undertaking some daunting projects. Our members have a diverse variety of talents, whether it be, organizing and volunteering at suppers, leading music, singing at events and seniors homes, talking with the elderly, or taking part in the church service. Committees of volunteers put their hearts and souls into each endeavor to lovingly maintain our churches and communities. There is certainly no shortage of determination or perseverance.

Position Profile

The position identified by the Joint Needs Assessment Committee is for part time ministry 50% - 60%.

Worship

- To conduct one services of worship per week
- To preach relating the scriptures to modern – day issues and concerns helping people live a Christian life in today’s society.
- To administer the sacraments, conduct weddings, funerals and baptisms
- To encourage lay and youth involvement in service
- To conduct seasonal worship (i.e. Christmas, Lent, etc.) as arranged in consultation with The Unified Board

Pastoral Care

- Provide pastoral care regularly in hospitals, nursing homes, and special care homes
- Provide pastoral care to the sick and shut-ins on the charge and provide care and counseling to families and or individuals in need.
- Visitation to others on the charge as time permits

Christian Education

- To offer confirmation classes, as well as baptism and marriage preparation as needed.
- To provide leadership and resource direction to members who assume positions of responsibility as well as lay members and volunteers.

As time permits

- To develop groups/workshops which will help us grow spiritually.
- To assist, encourage and support Christian education and development for all ages.

To have an active and visible presence in community activities, including social events,

outreach and justice issues.

Administration

- To provide a draft copy of the bulletin for Sunday Service and work collaboratively with the secretary.
- To be present and active at meetings of the Unified Board and Church committees.
- To ensure that all paperwork required by the United Church of Canada is completed properly and church records maintained.
- To prepare reports, correspondence and congregational letters as necessary.
- To have time management and computer skills.
- To meet with Ministry and Personnel Committee
- To attend Presbytery and Maritime Conference

Skills

- 1) Should be able to clearly communicate a message to the congregation. Must connect scriptures to modern-day life.
- 2) Should have the ability and desire to become a part of the community
- 3) Should have strong visitation skills both with sick and shut-ins and with people on the periphery of the charge
- 4) Must have time management and organizational skills.

Terms

Part-time Minister

Salary	Based on Salary and Allowance Schedule.
Hours of Work	20 to 24 hours/week.
Housing	Manse with cost of heating over \$500 paid by the Charge. Basic phone and internet service provided. Minister pays for personal long distance.
Travel Expense	To be paid upon submission of kilometers driven, @ current rate
Continuing Education	3 weeks/year, allowance @ current rate

Vacation Four weeks per annum, including 5 Sundays. To be coordinated and approved by the Ministry and Personal Committee and the Unified Board

Moving Expenses

Pension and Group Insurance as assessed

All other terms in accordance with The Manual

Secretarial assistance, defined as 2 to 3 hours per week

On ADP