

COCHF

CENTRAL ONTARIO CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING FEDERATION

presents...

The 2015 Co-op Service Awards



“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”

Mother Teresa

In this brochure, you will find the nominees/recipients of the 2015 *Co-op Service Awards*. This is the tenth year that the awards have been presented by COCHF on behalf of its member co-operatives. With these annual awards, housing co-ops in Waterloo, Kitchener, Cambridge, Guelph and Brantford give recognition to their members and staff who have made a significant contribution to their co-op community or to the greater co-op movement, or made a contribution to the larger community while demonstrating the co-operative principles and values.

Even though the award is presented by COCHF, these individuals have been nominated solely by their own co-ops. This non-competitive award is an opportunity for co-ops to show their appreciation for their nominees' valued contribution that has made a difference in their communities.

Congratulations from COCHF to all of the nominees/recipients of the 2015 *Co-op Service Awards*.

Recipients of the 2015 Co-op Service Awards

On the following pages you can read about the following co-op members and staff who have been nominated by their co-ops to receive a *Co-op Service Award* in 2015.

Angie Liddicoat

Caroline Carty

Catherine Winters & William Lindsay

Clifton Kadey

Ernie Simpson

Farial Hashimi

Gary Bonnell

Jason Peasgood

Larry Boshart

Peter Thurley

Sheri Weber

Theresa Sheltra

Tinus Zandbergen

Angie Liddicoat***Nominated by Beechwood Co-operative Homes, Waterloo***

For 20 years of dedication in helping to make Beechwood a great place to call home. Serving as an outstanding example of everything co-ops look for in a member. Angie is a constant a figure in the community, who is always ready to help no matter how difficult the task at hand. Angie has served on many committees and assisted with countless events. She is currently the co-chair of the maintenance committee.

Caroline Carty***Nominated by Fife Road Co-operative Homes, Guelph***

Caroline Carty joined Fife Road Co-operative Homes Inc. as our co-ordinator in January 2014, when the co-op changed management companies. Since Caroline joined us she has gone above and beyond her duties. As well as providing the Board with appropriate quotes and research to guide us, she has engaged the members. There is a fish tank, candies and toys in the office for the children, who often visit the office to say hello to her. The members have great confidence in Caroline and the board has found the members are more likely to talk to her if they encounter a problem and because of this and her tenaciousness in following up, our arrears have dropped significantly.

As all co-ops, we have concerns over our membership and participation. As such, she has organized different events around the co-op, even though it is not within her purview such as community barbeques, gardening contests to beautify the co-op, and clean-up days by the members. Caroline has also taken on the role of ensuring that the garbage (always a hot topic in co-ops) is clearly explained and monitors it on a regular basis to ensure that it is sorted properly.

Fife Road Co-op has benefited greatly by the addition of this great person. Nothing is too small or too great for her to attempt and our respect, confidence and friendship with Caroline are beyond anything we have encountered before.

Catherine Winters & William Lindsay***Nominated by Willowside Housing Co-operative, Kitchener***

The co-op is proud to honor two super volunteers – Cathy and Willy moved into the co-op's two apartment buildings, and were participating members from the start.

They both help to keep the co-op looking clean. From the start, the co-op could call on Willy to come and help whether it was yard clean-up; taking care of a spill that someone made but didn't take care of; and taking items to the proper dumpster when members drop them in the lobby. Cathy helps to take care of the recycling in building 243. She not only ensures that items are recyclable but washes out the bins; takes the pop can tabs off and when she has a collection she takes them to a charity that collects them. Our recycling system shines because of the dedication that Cathy puts in.

Cathy volunteers for the member's meeting socials and always bakes sweet treats; she's helping in the kitchen before the start of the event and there at the end washing up. Willy is top chef when it comes to the annual BBQ, and assists in setting up chairs and then bringing them in when the event is done. We feel strongly that volunteers like Cathy and William make us proud we live in our co-op.

Clifton Kadey***Nominated by Clarion Co-operative Homes, Cambridge***

Clifton Kadey resides with his wife Emily Kadey at unit #48 and has been a long-term participating member of Clarion Co-operative Homes since June 1 1993, attending all members meeting and all special events at the co-op. Clifton has recently become a director at the last Annual General Members meeting November 2014.

Clifton has been enjoying his retirement since moving in. He is one of the co-op volunteers who quietly and regularly help keep the co-op looking good. In his spare time, Clifton does property maintenance at the co-op; cutting the common area grass, picking up litter, and reporting any property or building maintenance problems to the co-op office. Clifton arranges to have the co-op's Canadian flag replaced when it becomes worn out by calling our local Federal MP.

Clifton Kadey is one of the friendly faces of the co-op. He knows almost everyone in the co-op to say hello. Clifton is proud of Clarion co-operative community and is always willing to learn more about co-operative living.

Ernie Simpson***Nominated by Westglen Co-operative Homes, Brantford***

Ernie and his family moved into the co-op earlier this year and right from the start he was out shoveling the snow in front of his unit and in front of his block. Whenever Ernie sees a task that needs to be done, he just does it. Ernie was respected by the time the AGM meeting came, and his fellow members nominated him. Even though this is Ernie's first experience on the board, he asks the right questions and gets the job done without any fanfare. The board is glad to have him as part of the team.

Farial Hashimi***Nominated by Cole Road Co-operative Community, Guelph***

The Hashimi family moved into our co-op in 2002 from Afghanistan. They were a well-respected and well-loved family in our co-op.

Farial was an active member of the co-op and the co-op community. She became our team leader in planning and organizing social events for the co-op. She took the lead in all of the co-op's parties and co-op clean-up days. She later was elected to our Board of Directors for two 2-year terms, where she became a keen and enthusiastic board member. She was also our minute-taker at the meetings.

Farial and her family moved out of the co-op in August of 2015. Farial's bright and warm personality is greatly missed. Her contributions to the co-op and her contagious enthusiasm cannot be replaced. She is known at the co-op as 'Sunshine.' Farial said at our last AGM that she will make the co-op proud because she will do her best and tell everybody that she lived in a co-op, but it is the co-op that is proud of her, and the wonderful person she has become. We wish her all the best and we miss her.

Gary Bonnell***Nominated by Beaver Creek Housing Co-operative, Waterloo***

Gary became a member of Beaver Creek when he moved in seven years ago with his wife Ruth, and their two children Cody and Megan. Gary is a very quiet in the background type of guy who goes about his tasks. His tasks however, have a great impact as he is one of our lawn-moving people and for the last several years is one of the men who put up the ice rink for the kids every winter. Gary has also been known to fix bikes and help with different construction projects around the co-op. Beaver Creek would like to acknowledge the work Gary does by nominating him for the service award.

Jason Peasgood***Nominated by Waterloo Co-operative Residence, Waterloo***

Jason is an exemplary President for the WCRI Board of Directors. Even though he finished his school terms at the University of Waterloo and had the opportunity to move elsewhere, he still continued to stay onsite at the residence as an active Board of Director in the WCRI community.

Jason does not contest for the leadership role when others want the position. He rises to the challenge when he believes leadership is required. One of Jason's main goals as a Board Director is to improve the monitoring process of the organization. Using his organizational strengths, he produced simple process diagrams that described when and in what order different elements of Board governance (such as policy review, strategic plans, executive monitoring) should be systematically reviewed. He has been active member of the HR Committee to ensure that the Board evaluates Executive Director objectively and professionally. As a Board Member, he is carefully planning to ensure and support a smooth succession for the next group of Board Members.

In the past, he dedicated time to keep an active presence at WCRI by hosting the Games Club and attending many of the WCRI community socials. At the socials, you will often see him tirelessly barbecuing food for everyone, making sure everyone is fed, without thinking about whether there is food left over for himself.

In social settings, Jason has helped clear many misconceptions that members had about the functions of the board. Since of the Board's work is not visible to the general members, he encourages them inquire more about the functions of the WCRI board. His friendly demeanor helps members become more interested in Board activities, and encourage them to run for Board positions in the future.

Larry Boshart

Nominated by Shamrock Co-operative Homes, Waterloo

Larry joined Shamrock Co-operative Homes Inc. in the spring of 2005, and since then he has become a pillar of our co-op community. Larry keeps busy with many co-op functions, and can always be seen at our events and milestones. He also keeps a careful watch over the property, and is a familiar sight around the site!

Larry serves the co-op everyday, in a variety of ways. First of all, as he serves as both co-chair and editor of the co-op's newsletter since March 2012, and a member of that committee for years before taking on official roles. Larry is a major contributor in a committee which helps to compile and format multiple member-submitted articles and columns to produce a bi-monthly newsletter that many of our co-op's members & staff look forward to reading every time it is published. Secondly, with his contributions as chairperson for the co-op's library since September 2013, again after a significant term as a member of that group. As Library Chairperson, Larry is in charge of scheduling volunteer shifts, handling newly donated items, and maintaining the co-op's impressive collection of books, movies, and music so that they are always ready to be signed out to members young & old. Finally, as the webmaster for the co-op's website, Larry revamped the website and has been in charge of keeping our digital presence updated and professional ever since.

Even with all of these commitments, Larry is always friendly and helpful, never dismissive or abrupt. It is a joy to live and work in the same community as Larry, and we would love to see his many contributions recognized with a Co-op Service Award from COCHF!

Peter Thurley

Nominated by Bread and Roses Co-operative Homes, Kitchener

Peter moved into the co-op in February 2014. Within two weeks of moving in, he had accepted an appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors. Subsequently, he was re-elected by members and appointed as Vice-President, serving until serious health issues forced him to step down. During this period, Peter also agreed to chair the co-op's ByLaw Committee. He developed an excellent policy on video surveillance, and led the process to amend the co-op's Occupancy Bylaw, skillfully merging the best elements of the co-op's existing bylaw with the CHF Model Bylaw. Peter is dedicated to helping his community and has made a huge positive difference at Bread and Roses.

Sheri Weber

Nominated by Changemakers Co-operative Homes, Kitchener

Sheri has been a member of Changemakers Co-operative Homes since the nineties. During her time here, she has been on the Board several times, assists with interviewing potential members for the Member Selection committee and is one of the parking officers. Being a long-term member, Sheri has the ability to bring our historical memories to the forefront when working on things in the co-op. Sheri is always willing to lend a hand and has even been known to barbecue for social events. She still makes time for the co-op with her busy work schedule and for that we would like to acknowledge her with the Co-op Service Award.

Theresa Sheltra

Nominated by Brighton Yards Housing Co-operative, Waterloo

Theresa has been an active member of the Brighton Yards community for 29 years. Over that period, she has given generously of her time and experience to both the co-operative and individual members. Theresa has served on a number of committees and takes on many projects, as recently as cleaning an empty unit in the beginning of October. She pitches in whenever help is needed, often noticing problems before anyone else does and doing whatever it takes to fix them. At 91 years of age, Theresa shovels snow, cuts the neighbors' grass, weeds the community gardens, picks up litter, and so much more. Over the years she has been a best friend to many of the pets who have lived here, always ready with love, affection and treats.

For the children of Brighton Yards, Theresa is the communal grandmother. She listens to their stories and asks about their day. She is always ready with a laugh, a hug and sometimes popsicles on a hot day. Last year the entire community held a celebration for her 90th birthday. A box filled with the handmade birthday cards from the children is her favourite gift.

Theresa is such a large part of who and what our community is; it is difficult to describe her contribution. For sure it would be much less without her.

Tinus Zandbergen

Nominated by Royal City Housing Co-operative, Guelph

Tinus with his wife, Carol Zandbergen, was one of the first to arrive to Royal City Housing Co-op. They moved in January 1992, and since then Tinus has been a strong foundation of our co-op community.

Tinus has committed hundreds of hours to the co-op serving on the Board of Directors and the Maintenance Committee. It is on the Maintenance Committee that Tinus has excelled helping with the seasonal clean-up days, BBQs, and so much more. His work has strengthened and built Royal City Housing Co-op to the level it is today.

Tinus is the guy who works quietly in the background always there to lend a helping hand. He is very generous with his trailer when there is something that needs hauled or picked up. Tinus has moved picnic tables, brush, loads of discarded items, tools, lawnmowers, snow-throwers, and anything else that needs to be moved. The co-op can count on Tinus and his trailer to be there to help.

As well, Tinus is the guy in the shed, checking over the tools, making sure the lawnmower is serviced and ready for use in spring, and the snow-thrower is in good repair before the snow flies. Tinus quietly goes about these important tasks keeping our machines in good order and ready for use.

Tinus has often been the guy behind the lawnmower or snow-thrower enhancing the co-op's curb-appeal in good weather, and keeping the co-op's walkways safely free of ice and snow in inclement weather. He goes about his work quietly; just gets the job done!

The co-op joins together in a hearty thank you for all the work Tinus has done over the years. This COCHF Co-op Service Award is well-deserved!