



Introduction to the Service Awards

You will find in this booklet the nominees/recipients for the 2007 Co-op Service Awards. The award is given by COCHF so that housing co-ops can give recognition to their members who have made an outstanding or exemplary contribution to their co-op, the greater co-op movement or the larger community.

Even though the award is presented by COCHF, it is most important to point out that these individuals have been nominated by their own housing co-op communities. It is the co-op's way of giving appreciation for the valued contribution made by the nominee.

COCHF recognizes that a housing co-op is a business that provides well managed and affordable housing to a diversified membership. However, a housing co-op is a community of individuals and families who support one another and work together to make their lives better. As you will see, these nominees not only contribute to the good management of their co-op, but contribute as well to their co-op as a community.

Congratulations from COCHF to all of the nominees/recipients of the 2007 Co-op Service Awards. Thank you for letting us share your contribution with others.

Recipients of the 2007 Co-op Service Awards

Tara Abdilla and Belinda Connelly

Nominated by Preston Heights Housing Co-operative, Cambridge

Preston Heights Co-op wishes to recognize Belinda Connelly and Tara Abdilla for their constant effort on the co-op's Maintenance Committee to work alongside the Co-ordinator and the members to help make our co-op run smoothly. Tara and Belinda continue to do what is asked of them to the best of their ability and for their diligent efforts to make Preston Heights a better place to live. Tara and Belinda truly believe in the Co-op Principles and try to make our members feel welcome and to lend a hand when needed. Preston Heights thanks Tara and Belinda for a job well done!

Elli Allen

Nominated by Bread and Roses Co-operative Homes, Kitchener

Elli Allen has lived at Bread and Roses Co-op since 1992 and for the past 15 years she has worked and volunteered in many areas. Elli helped start a clothing exchange which is in the laundry room

Many members are grateful that there is a place to take their unwanted items and get clothing for free when it is needed. She also has a Crochet Club which meets every Tuesday during the winter months. Here, Elli as well as many others, teach people to knit and crochet. It is also a wonderful social time where people of all ages can sit, talk and learn together.

Elli has taken care of the Community Centre, done walk-arounds to ensure the building is safe, is a member of the Maintenance Committee, works on the Gardening Committee, picks up garbage, is a member of the Emergency Committee helps clean vacant apartments and is always available to help anyone who asks. Elli Allen is a wonderful member who embodies the Co-op Spirit.

Dennis Bradshaw

Nominated by Westglen Co-operative Homes, Brantford

Dennis Bradshaw has been a member of Westglen for 16 years. His main influence on the co-op has been his service on the co-op's Board of Directors including being Board President. Through study and interest, Dennis learned how to properly chair meetings. The Board and member's meetings that he chaired are always well organized and orderly. People always had their turn to speak without interruption.

Another contribution to the co-op community, Dennis has been the postal Santa for several years. The little children dropped their letters to Santa in the mailbox on his doorstep and his replies were a delight to both the children and the parents.

Dennis has also been the co-op's representative to events of the larger co-op housing sector. He has served on the Board of COCHF and was the federation's President in 1998-99.

Amanda Cherry & Julie LaMarche

Nominated by Sand Hills Co-operative Homes, Kitchener

Sand Hills Co-op has had a high turnover for units in the past year, and both Amanda Cherry and Julie LaMarche have demonstrated their willingness to go above and beyond by conducting many interviews to help ensure that all of our units are occupied. Julie has been involved with the Member Selection Committee for many years, and has also volunteered her time conducting move out inspections for many years. Amanda served on the Board of Directors playing a critical role in the governance of the Co-operative. Both Julie and Cherry present a positive attitude about the co-op and display an exemplary commitment. They make themselves available for volunteer tasks as needed. They are welcoming and friendly to their neighbours, and promote community within the co-op.

Rick Clinch

Nominated by Shamrock Co-operative Homes, Waterloo

Rick Clinch has been a member of Shamrock since 2006. He sits on the co-op's Member Selection and Maintenance Committees. Even though Rick uses a wheelchair full-time, he organized the

Maintenance Room, made six rain barrels, and has attached a lawn mower to his wheelchair so he can cut the grass. Seeing Rick work around the co-op is a positive influence on all of the members and staff of Shamrock. He is an exemplary hard worker who goes far and beyond participation. Shamrock says “We are proud to call him a member”.

Bandula Karunanayaka

Nominated by Cole Road Co-operative Community, Guelph

Bandula Karunanayaka and his family moved into Cole Road in September 2004. Bandula has been an active participant since moving in, and he was elected to the Board of Directors after one year of membership. He is now in his second consecutive term on the Board and has served a term as Vice-President and then as President.

Bandula always displays a cheery and positive attitude, and when community projects such as clean up days are held, Bandula is always involved. He brings a positive, common sense point of view to Board decisions and always treats members equally and respectfully. He is a steady contributor to the co-op, getting things done quietly and efficiently.

Scott Long

Nominated by Country Hills Housing Co-operative, Kitchener

Scott Long has been a member of Country Hills since the co-op opened 20 years ago. He has been a Director and has held numerous other positions over the years. Scott has always been involved in helping to keep up the appearance of the co-op. It is not unusual to see him spend hours at a time cutting the grass in the common areas. During Spring clean-up, Scott takes his hedge trimmer and walks around the co-op. Scott is often consulted by staff and other new members for information on history and processes. He is friendly, approachable and usually knows the answers to help other co-op members. Scott is also one of the community volunteers who acts as an after-hours emergency contact.

Last Christmas, Scott decorated his van with Christmas lights and decorations and chauffeured Santa Claus around the co-op to visit all the children. The expression on the children’s faces during Santa’s visit when he stood there and knowing their names was heart warming and worth every minute of Scott’s effort to make a difference in his co-op community.

Lyn McGinnis

Nominated by Beaver Creek Housing Co-operative, Waterloo

Lyn McGinnis is a long term member of Beaver Creek. Since moving to the co-op in the early 90’s, he has shared his creative energies in many ways. He served as the newsletter editor for many years, and helped shape the newsletter into the dynamic format it has today. Never one to shy away from tough issues, he encouraged members to use the newsletter as a forum to raise concerns that were pertinent to co-op life. He was instrumental in developing the co-op’s web site and continues to play

a role in upgrading and improving it. He helped to organize the co-op’s significant photo collection into albums and ensures that they are available for co-op functions. Lyn has been an active member of the Social Committee for many years, and has delighted the co-op with his enthusiasm for social functions and community get-togethers. His energy and creativity seem endless. Lyn is a perfect example of the co-op principles of concern for community. He is part of the glue that holds the community at Beaver Creek together.

Fran Power

Nominated by Co-operative Staff Association of Central Ontario (CSACO)

Fran Power has been a CSACO member since 1994. She has held the positions of President, Corporate Secretary, and as a member of the Education Committee. Fran shows loyalty and co-operative spirit by going beyond her duties as President of CSACO. She has kept everyone well informed and makes things happen.

Fran has consistently and responsibly carried out any duty she has taken on. She has shown dedication and commitment to the association and the housing co-op movement. She currently holds the staff seat on CHF Canada's Ontario Region Council. She was instrumental in getting the various staff associations in Ontario to work together to strengthen the role of co-op staff in the sector.

Herb Ryan

Nominated by Cambridge New Hope Housing Co-operative, Cambridge

Herb has been a member of Cambridge New Hope since 2005. He has served as head of the co-op's Maintenance and Landscape Committees. His skills have enabled the co-op to save money on maintenance by acting quickly on work orders and always being willing to give a helping hand.

Herb also has a fun-filled character which makes him popular with all the members and he helps with fun-filled events for kids. He served as the "pig roaster" at the co-op's anniversary party.

Laurel Thody

Nominated by Clarion Co-operative Homes, Cambridge

Laurel Thody is a long-term, hard working and dedicated member of Clarion Co-operative Homes. She has lived at Clarion with her family since the co-op opened in 1992. Laurel is currently the chairperson of the Personnel Committee and a member of the By-law Review Committee. Laurel has previously served on the Board of Directors on several occasions and on numerous other committees. She has chaired meetings of the members and stepped up for various other volunteer jobs including interviewing and inspections.

Laurel is particularly valued for her very positive attitude and how she treats everyone with kindness and understanding. Laurel truly is a bright star that has made an incredible difference to the members and staff at Clarion Co-operative. Thank you, Laurel.