

COCHF

CENTRAL ONTARIO CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING FEDERATION

presents...



“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

Anne Frank

Introduction

You will find in this booklet the nominees/recipients for the 2008 Co-op Service Awards. The award is presented by COCHF so that housing co-ops can give recognition to their members or staff 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, these individuals were nominated by their own co-ops. It is an opportunity for the co-op to show appreciation for the nominee's valued contribution to their co-op community.

As you will read below, these nominees not only contribute to the good management of their co-op, but contribute as well to their co-op as a community of individuals and families who support one another and work together to better their lives.

Congratulations from COCHF to all of the nominees/recipients of the 2008 Co-op Service Awards.

Recipients of the 2008 Co-op Service Awards

The following co-op members and co-op staff have been nominated to receive a 2008 Co-op Service Award.

Melody Alderwick

Nominated by Bread and Roses Housing Co-operative, Kitchener

Melody has been a member of Bread and Roses since 2001. During that time Melody has participated and organized numerous events for members including meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Melody has been on the co-op Board since 2005 and updates members regularly on developments in the co-op. Melody has also donated countless hours as a member of the workout committee by helping to co-ordinate major repairs. She also, when needed, helps out with unit inspections and applicant interviews. When staff is away on holidays, Melody checks messages in the co-op office and deals with any urgent matters. She is always gracious with her gift of time and the co-op is very blessed to have her.

Donnie Berry

Nominated by Beechwood Co-operative Homes, Waterloo

Donnie has been a member of Beechwood since 1995. As a member of the co-op's Property Management Committee, Donnie has built up a deserved reputation as a member who is willing to do "anything". This has included: grass cutting, emptying garbage cans, unit inspections, and snow removal. Donnie has also served on the co-op's Board of Directors.

Patricia Blower

Nominated by Beaver Creek Housing Co-operative, Waterloo

Patricia consistently goes above and beyond in all of her contributions to the co-op. She has served on the Social Committee making sure that the co-op's parties and potlucks look beautiful. She helped the Pet Committee create a photo album of pets in the co-op so they can be identified. She serves on the Youth Committee and runs a weekly kids club. She greets and welcomes new members. She heads up Unit Inspections. She does all of this work with quietness, gentility and humour and when thanked always humbly responds that she is happy to help.

Florence Carbray and Scott Piatkowski

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

Florence and Scott, acting together on the CSACO Board over the past year have taken on the role of leader, trainer, and mentor for new Board members. They led the association through a by-law change that now enables CSACO to open its membership to employees of management companies that manage co-ops. This change created an opportunity for CSACO to work towards CHF Canada's goal of promoting excellence in co-op management. They have implemented the strategic goal of increasing membership by getting new members and reconnecting with previous members. Florence and Scott go above and beyond their roles by representing CSACO outside the association thus providing an information and communication flow which keeps CSACO involved in the greater co-op movement. Their individual level of commitment within the co-op sector significantly exceeds their work in the association and further exemplifies their true co-operative spirit.

Dan Charette

Nominated by Cambridge New Hope Housing Co-operative, Cambridge

Dan has been volunteering for Cambridge New Hope for almost five years in various landscaping, unit renovation, maintenance and community social projects. Recently he has averaged 10 hours (sometimes more) of his time per week to help his co-op community. He is an energetic outgoing and hard working individual who takes pride in his co-op. He is also involved with other volunteering in Cambridge such as the food bank and Southwood Community Centre. Dan is always helping out with enthusiasm.

Susan Cuttle-McNab

Nominated by Cole Road Co-operative Community, Guelph

Susan is a willing and active member of Cole Road who has lived in the co-op since 2005. Her contribution is special as she is always willing to step in and help get things done. She has served on the newsletter, Finance Committee, and Board. She is now the Treasurer, and for the past three years has been the delegate to the CHF Canada AGM. She is always eager to take training to improve her understanding of the co-op movement and to upgrade her knowledge of co-ops. Communities are built and maintained through active involvement by the members, and Susan is always keen to be involved in all aspects of her co-op community.

Irene Maxwell

Nominated by Silver Wood Housing Co-operative, Guelph

Irene has been the Property Manager at Silver Wood Co-op for the past three years. She has been instrumental in helping the co-op achieve a success story to come out of receivership - from tragedy and crisis to peaceful and productive. With Irene's help, the co-op has cut deficits, costs and vacancies. There were 17 vacancies when she started and vacancies are now into single digits. Her level headedness, empathy, knowledge, commitment, heart and faith have carried onto the co-op's attempt to build a better community. She has been able to communicate a vision to the members and to motivate them to follow. Irene is a valuable asset to the co-op and to anyone who knows her.

Gary Refuse

Nominated by Sand Hills Co-operative Homes, Kitchener

Gary has been a member of Sand Hills since 1993. He has been nominated by his co-op because he goes above and beyond what can be normally expected from a co-op member. His volunteering in the co-op has included: landscaping flowerbeds and gardens, removing bushes, cleaning sidewalks, trimming weeds, and painting the laundry room. Gary shows real concern for his community at all times. His contribution is without self interest as his example motivates others to get involved, and this has significantly improved the appearance of the co-op which has made marketing easier.

Pamela St. Denis

Nominated by Clarion Co-operative Homes, Cambridge

Pamela has lived in Clarion since 2003. She is always reliable, participates and goes the extra mile. She really cares about her co-op! She provides strong leadership, is a good listener, and helps give guidance to members. She has been on the Board for the last five years with two years as President, on the Personnel Committee and Phone Committee, has helped with the newsletter, conducted unit inspections, and participates in clean up days and other events. In other words, she helps out where ever needed.

Agnes Strupinska

Nominated by Emanuel Housing Co-operative, Kitchener

Agnes has worked for Emanuel Co-op for just over a year, and she has worked very hard for all the members to help them get the co-op up and running again after the co-op experienced difficult times. She worked very hard to get all of the units in a condition so new members could move in and housing charge arrears collected. Because of her hard work, Emanuel was able to get the financial assistance to keep the co-op operating and continuing to provide its members with a good place to live. Agnes keeps a positive attitude when things are looking like they are not going well, but she always says “come on you made it this far and have come a long way”. It is thanks to her that the members have been able to want to work to keep their co-op community.

Marjorie Thomas

Nominated by Royal City Housing Co-operative, Guelph

Marjorie Thomas has lived at Royal City Housing Co-op for the past 17 years. She has been an active member as evidenced by the many activities she has been involved with: But the list of achievements does not cover the kind of member Marjorie is – a strong committed co-op member and a kind, generous co-op neighbour. Some of the involvement in Royal City: second founding Director, Board secretary, Treasurer. Committees: Maintenance, Replacement Reserves, Finance, Arrears, Domestic Violence, Member Selection. Marjorie helped draft the co-op’s Domestic Violence By-law.

Ed Unsworth

Nominated by Shamrock Co-operative Homes, Waterloo

Ed has lived in Shamrock since 1990 and has been active in the co-op since the day he became a member. He currently sits on the Library Committee and Member Selection Committee. His participation does not end there – he is the right hand man for the Maintenance Co-ordinator where he works regularly from time to time on tasks such as tearing out carpets, removing stuff from vacant units, and cleaning units. He also does lawn cutting and cleans the locked garbage bin weekly. He is a phone call away when the office needs shelving installed or the garbage taken out. He truly is a valuable member of Shamrock and deserving of recognition for his exemplary service.



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