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***“We make a living by what we do,
but we make a life by what we give.”***

Winston Churchill

Introduction to the Service Awards

You will find in this booklet the nominees/recipients of the *2009 Co-op Service Awards*. This is the fourth year that the awards have been presented by COCHF so that housing co-ops in Waterloo Region, Brantford and Guelph can give recognition to their members and staff who have made a significant contribution to their co-op community, to the greater co-op movement, or 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. It is an opportunity for the co-op to show appreciation for their nominee's valued contribution that has made a difference.

Congratulations from COCHF to all of the nominees/recipients of the *2009 Co-op Service Awards*.

Recipients of the 2009 Co-op Service Awards

On the following pages are the co-op members and staff who have been nominated to receive a *Co-op Service Award* in 2009.

**Alison Bruce
Ron Comtois
Cary Hubbard
Rosemarie Jones
Brian Law
Mark Paul
Fran Power**

**Morla Ryan
Sprucewoods Board of Directors
Brian Wells
Florine White
Debbie Whitelaw
Ric Woods**

Alison Bruce

Nominated by Windfield Co-operative Homes, Guelph

Alison has been nominated for her dedication to her co-op and to the co-op movement. Alison is currently a Director on the Windfield Board, letter writer for the Board, Newsletter Editor, past COCHF Delegate and Alternate, and author of the co-op's Landscaping Guide. "Alison is a compassionate and caring member of our community and embodies at all times the co-op principles and the co-op philosophy. Alison is also a great and dependable Crossing Guard who safeguards our children and the children of the surrounding community."

Ron Comtois

Nominated by Cole Road Co-operative Community, Guelph

Ron is an original member of Cole Road having moved in with his two daughters in 1991. Ron has served on the Board several times, served as co-op Treasurer during the early years, and has maintained a steady involvement in the community - helping out wherever his talents took him. In 2008 he returned to the Board and served as President for the 2008-09 term. "His steady wisdom and experience have helped guide our co-op for almost 20 years. If you were to put a face to the co-op housing movement, it would be Ron's."

Cary Hubbard

*Nominated by Waterloo Co-operative Residence, Waterloo (WCRI),
and by Co-operative Staff Association of Central Ontario (CSACO)*

WCRI - Cary, the General Manager of WCRI, continually demonstrates her passion for the co-op movement not only through her engagement in numerous co-operative organizations, but also through the effort she puts in at WCRI to ensure the co-op remains fiscally, organizationally, and co-operatively sound. Through her experience and expertise in co-operative organizations, she provides leadership to the staff and guidance and inspiration to the Board. This past year, the WCRI board instituted a new membership motivational initiative called the Participation Initiative which rewards members for their contributions to the community. Cary has proactively sought out ways to strengthen this initiative by actively monitoring its progress and providing recommendations to smooth out the initiative for everyone.

CSACO - Cary has served on the CSACO Board for two years - one year as Corporate Secretary and one as President. She has brought an enhanced degree of professionalism to the association and shown a strong commitment to the co-operative sector. She also serves on the Boards of COCHF, the Ontario Student Co-op Association and (previously) on NASCO (National Association of Student Co-operatives).

Rosemarie Jones

Nominated by Beechwood Co-operative Homes, Waterloo

Rosemarie has served on the Board of Directors of Beechwood Co-op for a total of three terms, filling the roles of President, Vice President, and Corporate Secretary at different times. She also represented the co-op at the 2005 CHF Canada AGM in Edmonton. She has shown a strong willingness to defend the co-op's interests as a community and to make tough decisions when called upon to do so. She has also been a strong advocate for the role of staff in ensuring good management for the co-op.

Brian Law

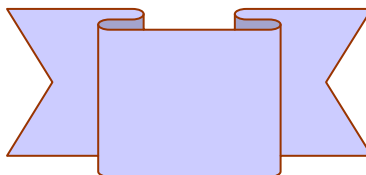
Nominated by Saorsie Co-operative Homes, Brantford

Since his retirement last year, Brian has volunteered numerous hours almost daily helping around the co-op. Jobs he has completed include painting vacant units and painting the inside hallways and stairwells of the buildings. For the last two spring seasons he has done the gardening around the entire co-op. He donated wooden planter boxes and filled them with flowers which have been placed at the main entrances to the co-op buildings. Last year Brian won the co-op's Garden Design Contest with his design, which included the co-op's logo, for a huge 20th Anniversary garden display. Brian helped build a retaining wall circle and planted the flowers. The members and staff appreciate all the time Brian has given to his co-op on a daily basis.

Mark Paul

Nominated by Central Ontario Co-operative Housing Federation

Mark Paul has been the manager of COCHF almost since its inception in 1992. Mark is very dedicated to the co-operative movement and never lets an opportunity go by where he can educate people and/or members about co-ops. He is a walking library when it comes to the information he can provide. Mark has spent many years in the larger co-op movement having served on CHF Canada's Ontario Council for 8 years. The current Board members of COCHF felt that Mark should be recognized for his outstanding dedication to our federation over these many years. Mark is an original member of Country Hills Co-op in Kitchener where he has lived for the last 20 years since moving to Waterloo Region.



Fran Power

Nominated by Clarion Co-operative Homes, Cambridge

Fran is a dedicated worker who goes above and beyond the call of duty as the staff person at Clarion. She is excellent at multi-tasking and has exceptional interpersonal skills. Even in times of crisis, she never ignores Clarion's needs and is still reachable for emergencies, even when she is on holiday. Fran is constantly upgrading her skills to benefit Clarion and brings valuable knowledge of the greater co-op world to her job with her past experience as a member of CHF Canada's Ontario Region Council and as a very active member of the co-op staff association (CSACO). Even with all these "extra-curricular" activities she still provides first-rate service to Clarion while remaining committed to the co-op housing movement as a whole.

Morla Ryan

Nominated by Bread and Roses Housing Co-operative, Kitchener

Morla Ryan has been a god-send to Bread and Roses Co-op ever since she joined the co-op in 1993. Some of her achievements include: serving on the board, gardening committee, social committee, garbage detail, putting flowers on the 6th floor windows, and patio detail. She did walk-arounds at midnight and was in charge of checking and closing the community centre. She was a key officer for the building helping out those who lost or misplaced their keys. She also has run a co-op food bank and has had a trading post in the 6th floor laundry room where she cleans and sorts and then displays clothing items for the taking. Morla started the idea of having garage sales to earn funds for various co-op committees. And, we must not forget her jewellery making for the Gay Pride Day tables in Victoria Park.

Sprucewoods Board of Directors

Nominated by Sprucewoods Housing Co-operative, Kitchener

Made up of a cross-section of all members in the co-op, the current co-op Board consists of eight very creative, intelligent, hard-working and compassionate people: **Nicole Hawkins, Patty McLeod, Tiffany Augusto, Norma Williams, Pauline Wright, Wendy Resendes, Pat Laurin and Amy Reynolds**. They have eagerly come together twice a month for Board meetings and delve into every aspect of a director's job with great enthusiasm. They consider each and every task with fairness and compassion as well as a great deal of business sense. They consider the "co-op" when making decisions that ultimately affect the co-op as a whole while trying to empathize with individual members with sensitivity. The Board successfully applied to the CMHC Retrofit and Renovation Initiative - an amazing opportunity to come together and take extra time and care (over and above regular Board meetings) and put together what they felt were the best possible requests to improve Sprucewoods.

Brian Wells

Nominated by Needlewood Glen Housing Co-operative, Waterloo

Brian Wells, or as he likes to be referred to as “Newf”, has lived in Needlewood Glen since 2004. Over the years he has always shown a consistent positive attitude regardless of what was asked of him with a friendly, giving and unselfish spirit that you can clearly see when you meet him. People come to Brian for information about cars, lawn equipment, where to buy certain items or how to fix certain items. He has helped members put up ceiling fans and check for basement leaks, organized a group of co-op kids to do a clean-up day with him and then took them out for ice cream. He has fixed the kids' basketball net for them and has fixed bikes for them. Brian gives from the heart.

Florine White

Nominated by Changemakers Co-operative Homes, Kitchener

Florine goes above and beyond regular volunteer duties with a smile. She is courteous, friendly and dependable - *always cheerful and says “Hi” to everyone she meets*. She has been an ongoing participant at Changemakers Co-op since she moved to the co-op in 1998. *Twice a week, sometimes more, she cleans the first floor which includes glass doors, bathrooms and floors.*

Debbie Whitelaw

Nominated by Cambridge New Hope Housing Co-operative, Cambridge

Debbie does a lot of work around Cambridge New Hope Co-op. She does this without being asked. Activities she has taken on include: conducting the co-op's 50/50 draw, gardening, cleaning of empty units, and regularly cleaning the co-op office. Debbie always has a smile and a cheerful face. She understands what co-op living is all about and is greatly appreciated by her co-op community and those who work with her.

Ric Woods

Nominated by Shamrock Co-operative Homes, Waterloo

Ric Woods is a long-term member of Shamrock, having been a member since 1990. Since the co-op's inception he has been very active in the co-op community. He took on the role of Chair for the Maintenance/Landscape Committee for many years. He has served on the Board of Shamrock and also was on the COCHF Board. Ric has a keen interest in educating new members on the Co-op Principles – he eats, sleeps, and breathes *Co-op Living*. A strong belief in good member-driven governance has led him to take on the review of all existing policies and procedures for the Shamrock Board. Ric is an outstanding member and Shamrock is enriched by his initiative, effort, and caring.

The Co-operative Principles

The co-operative principles are guidelines by which housing co-operatives put their values into practice.

1st Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership

Co-operatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2nd Principle: Democratic Member Control

Co-operatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In housing co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

3rd Principle: Member Economic Participation

Members contribute financially to their co-operative and share in the benefits of membership. A housing co-op does not pay a return on the members' shares and deposits – instead it sets aside reserves for the future and charges the members only what it needs to operate soundly.

4th Principle: Autonomy and Independence

Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. They follow the laws that apply to them, and their agreements with governments or other organizations. But, the members control the co-op.

5th Principle: Education, Training and Information

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, directors, and employees so they can play a full role in the life of the co-op. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6th Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7th Principle: Concern for Community

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities inside and outside the co-op. They help to improve the quality of life for others and they take care to protect the environment.



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