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***“The best way to find yourself is to
lose yourself in the service of others.”***

Mohandas K. Gandhi

Introduction to the Service Awards

You will find in this booklet the nominees/recipients of the 2010 *Co-op Service Awards*. This is the fifth year that the awards have been presented by COCHF so that housing co-ops in Waterloo Region, Guelph, and Brantford can 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 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. The award 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 2010 *Co-op Service Awards*.

Recipients of the 2010 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 2010.

Paige Applebaum
Kevin Asseltine
Pauline Busby
Steve Furino
Kathleen Furtak
Mick Gardin
Mike Norfolk

Francesco Robles
Judith Sainsbury
Mandy Tempest
Paula Verlegh
Sheri Weber
Michael Wiseman
Serena Zackary

Paige Applebaum and Mick Gardin

Nominated by Needlewood Glen Housing Co-op, Waterloo

Needlewood Board of directors would like to award two of their amazing youth a Co-op Service Award. Paige and Mick have organized exercising and dance routines to the younger youth at the Co-op which were performed at a talent show that they organized. They inspired the other youth at the Co-op to get involved. They also volunteer their time to help Co-op youth with reading skills. They are active members with the Co-op's Community Developer. They deserve to be recognized for their hard work and dedication.

Kevin Asselstine

Nominated by Clarion Co-operative Homes, Cambridge

Kevin was elected to the Board of Directors in 2009 and actively participated in all discussions and decision making. His attendance has been flawless and he comes prepared for meetings. Kevin has also become a key member of the Property Maintenance Committee. He is continuously looking for ways to improve our curb appeal. In the spring and summer months, Kevin can be found cutting grass, trimming trees and bushes and picking up garbage throughout the property. In the winter he shovels snow and salts sidewalks. Kevin has also taken on other projects such as unit inspections, fence repairs, maintaining tools and equipment and working alongside our maintenance person when needed. Kevin, we thank you for dedicating much of your time to making Clarion "More than just a place to live."

Pauline Busby

Nominated by Royal City Housing Co-operative, Guelph

Pauline Busby and her family moved into Royal City Housing Co-op in October 1996. Since that time Pauline has been a strong foundation of the Co-op. Her commitment over the years on the Board of Directors, the Member Selection Committee, the Maintenance Committee, as organizer of the seasonal clean-up days, and so much more, has strengthened and built Royal City Housing Co-op to the level it is today. Her depth of experience and loyalty to the community continues to guide Royal City Co-op as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary. This award serves as a token of our appreciation for all Pauline's efforts, hard work and direction over the years, and the work she continues to do today. Thank you, Pauline.



Steve Furino

Nominated by Beaver Creek Housing Co-op, Waterloo

Steve Furino has lived in Beaver Creek since 1994. He has been Treasurer and a guiding light on the Finance committee for most of those years. He designed all of our budget and financial forms. He inspired members to look to the future and contribute to a replacement reserve fund and he shaped our capital replacement plan. As a result, our co-op has well funded reserves and is financially healthy. Steve also created and fostered the Investment Committee. Steve has also been a leader in many initiatives, for example applying for funding for geothermal heating, furthering co-op housing development and being a strong advocate in political arenas. In all these actions Steve has consistently been an inspiring teacher and mentor to others at Beaver Creek.

Kathleen Furtak

Nominated by Cole Road Co-operative Community, Guelph

Kathleen has put many hours into the Landscape Committee at Cole Road Co-op. She has dedicated a lot of time and effort in the upkeep of our common areas, mowing the grass and landscaping. She also did an excellent job on our Community Garden. From preparing the ground and planting the seeds to weeding and watering, Kathleen was there when needed. She has also been an active member on our Board of Directors acting as Corporate Secretary this past year. Thank-you Kathleen for all your hard work and dedication to our community.

Mike Norfolk

Nominated by Waterloo Co-operative Residence, Waterloo

Mike has been exceptional in providing care for the members of WCRI. As one of the members has stated, "It is people like him that make it so evident that even just a small change in demeanour and tone can make the world of difference in making members feel like they matter for more than just the dollar signs they represent." He took the initiative to build a bike shed to increase the security of bikes. Also, he encouraged many members to help him do the gardens around WCRI.

Francesco Robles

Nominated by Central Ontario Co-operative Housing Federation

Francesco was a long time member of the Board of COCHF. For many of those years he was our Treasurer. Francesco is always insightful and had a knack for getting good deals for the Federation. He is a great negotiator and was instrumental in getting the Federation two great leases which allowed us to better plan our budgets. Francesco is also an instructor for the Federation and is currently working with some Co-ops on their 20/20 certification for mortgage step out. Francesco and his family have lived at Beechwood Co-op for several years.

Judith Sainsbury

Nominated by Co-operative Staff Association of Central Ontario

As a new member of CSACO, Judith quickly stepped into the role of Director on our board. She has now served for three consecutive terms, holding the corporate secretary position for the last two. In addition to the regular duties of her position, Judith took the lead in organizing our 2010 visioning session. Her energy and dedication has been integral to ensuring a successful event occurs later this month.

Mandy Tempest

Nominated by Bread & Roses Co-operative Homes, Kitchener

Mandy Tempest has lived at Bread and Roses Co-op for 17 years and has been a board member for 13 of those years. She has shepherded the co-op through many difficult decisions, and has been involved in the co-ordination of many of the building renovation projects over the last 15 years. She has been gracious and willing to dedicate countless hours to make these projects a success. She has served as Treasurer, and is currently President. She has also been instrumental in co-ordinating the building of a new playground and a rooftop patio garden.

Paula Verlegh

Nominated by Shamrock Co-operative Homes, Waterloo

From the moment Paula became a member of Shamrock Co-operative Homes in early 2003, with her two children, she demonstrated her belief in co-op philosophy. Paula has served as President of the Board for the past two years. Her leadership style is one of dedication and energy to problem-solving with the development of policies and procedures to ensure the smooth operation of the co-op. Paula also organized the Maintenance Room, with a careful inventory of stock and supplies, which resulted in financial savings and improved efficiency of resource usage. Paula co-ordinates most Maintenance Work Days, supplying equipment and food for participants. Paula is very deserving of this award. She is quiet, determined, and supportive; and is a role model for the other members of the co-op.

Sheri Weber

Nominated by Changemakers Co-operative Homes, Kitchener

Sheri has been a member of Changemakers Co-operative Homes since the nineties. During that time she has been on the Board several times and continues to interview potential members for the Member Selection Committee. Being a long term member Sheri has the ability to bring historic memories to the forefront when working on projects in the co-op. Sheri was very helpful last year in helping with the office while the Board was hiring new staff. Sheri is a single mom of three, has a dog named Dallas and works full time. She has made time for the co-op with her busy schedule and for that we would like to acknowledge her with the Service Award.

Michael Wiseman

Nominated by Cambridge New Hope Housing Co-op, Cambridge

All too often we forget that the young can volunteer their time too. Michael has volunteered his time to help his neighbours clean and garden their backyards, and all he asked for was a glass of water. He has also helped with other things as well. He has been a role model for the other youth in the Co-op and we would like to recognize him with this award. Thank you, Michael.

Serena Zackary

Nominated by Beechwood Co-operative Homes, Waterloo

Serena has served two terms on the Board including time as President and Corporate Secretary. She has represented the Co-op at three CHF AGMs and at COCHF meetings. Serena does member interviews and has previously been involved in landscaping and planning social events. Serena also volunteers her time at Worth a Second Look, a program affiliated with St. John's Soup Kitchen and the Working Centre. While volunteering there, she became aware that they had a surplus of used books that were regularly sent for recycling. She arranged to redirect them to the co-op, which now has a free book program for members and their children.

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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