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Introduction to the Service Awards

“We cannot all do great things but we can do small things with great love.”

Mother Teresa

In this brochure, you will find the nominees/recipients of the 2011 *Co-op Service Awards*. This is the sixth 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 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. The award is an opportunity for a co-op to show its appreciation for their nominee’s valued contribution that has made a difference.

Congratulations from COCHF to all of the nominees/recipients of the 2011 *Co-op Service Awards*.

Recipients of the 2011 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 2011.

Donna Adamson
Terry Campbell
Shawn Cantley
Henry Cimerman
Elita Dreher
Jim Ferguson
Doug Gottfried
John Kennedy
Samantha Leerentreld

Herman Leung
Doug MacPherson
Christine Partridge
Leanne Petrie
Larry Pryor
Bonnie Quackenbush
Fatima Sherifali
Heather Tonner
Bill Wharrie



Donna Adamson

Nominated by Drumlin Co-operative Homes, Brantford

Donna has been the Administrator of Drumlin Co-op for more than 21 years and has always shown an outstanding dedication and commitment to the co-op. Donna is a huge asset to Drumlin and an outstanding manager with extra effort she always puts into her job. In 2007 Donna was instrumental in obtaining a grant for a new co-op playground, and then in 2010 she helped the co-op get a major renovation and retrofit grant where she was responsible for planning, scheduling and managing the project. She worked with the contractors and members on a daily basis for the 3½ months to complete the work including the challenging winter weather. Donna always goes far beyond the call of duty and her professionalism and personality lend stability to the co-op.

Terry Campbell and Larry Pryor

Nominated by Bread and Roses Co-operative Homes, Kitchener

Larry Pryor and Terry Campbell are two of the most kind and helpful people Bread & Roses has in the co-op. Whatever is needed, they are available to do. As well as performing the unglamorous task of dealing with the co-op's garbage, recycling and green bins they are always there to help with a given task - whether it be setting up and taking down tables and chairs for meetings and functions, handing out flyers or helping to clean the maintenance room. Larry and Terry are there to help. This nomination is a thank you from Bread & Roses and an acknowledgement of all the hard work they do

Shawn Cantley

Nominated by Shamrock Co-operative Homes, Waterloo

Shawn Cantley moved into Shamrock in 2008 and has been very active since. He has been on the Board as well as the Maintenance Committee. He has taken on the role as volunteer part-time maintenance person and helps members with plumbing and hardware repairs. He has held a number of workshops on "Proper Use of Lawn Equipment" and does all the maintenance on all the lawn and snow equipment. He has demonstrated a great commitment to Shamrock Co-op.

Henry Cimerman

Nominated by Royal City Housing Co-operative, Guelph

Henry has been a strong foundation of his co-op community since the year 2000 and has served on the Maintenance Committee, Member Relations Committee, lends a hand on clean-up days, and is seen helping any member in need. When the staff sustained an injury, Henry stepped forward to oversee the replacement of windows and doors in the co-op, juggling trades' schedules with members' schedules, even making adjustments for the feeding and sleeping schedules of two co-op newborns, to get all the work done with minimal disruption. Royal City joins together in a hearty thank you to Henry for a commendable job done.

Elita Dreher, Christine Partridge, and Leanne Petrie

Nominated by New Generation Co-operative Homes, Kitchener

Elita, Leanne and Christine have proven over and over that they care about their co-op by working hard to get a new playground for the co-op and finding ways to raise money for the playground. Elita has lived in the co-op since 2006 with her son and for the past three years has served as the President. Leanne became a member in 2011 and has worked many hours fundraising for the new playground including collecting items for the garage sale and spending more hours organizing raffle prizes which raised more money. Christine moved to the co-op this year and immediately saw the need for a playground for the co-op children and has worked very hard in planning the many details for the fund raising garage sale.

Jim Ferguson

Nominated by Seven Maples Co-operative Homes, Waterloo

Jim and his family moved into Seven Maples Co-op in 1997. He has been an active member for the past 14 years serving on the Board and the Maintenance Committee. Jim goes above and beyond his membership by making sure the co-op is well maintained. He is the first person to be outdoors attending to work that needs to be done which in turn gets others out to help. Jim is always the "go-to-person" when a member has a concern with their unit. If no one else is around to take the proper steps to have the issue resolved, Jim will automatically step in and see the process through. Jim is a valuable asset to Seven Maples.

Doug Gottfried

Nominated by Beechwood Co-operative Homes, Waterloo

As an original member of Beechwood since 1994, Doug has been an exemplary member, not only for his ongoing contributions to the co-op, but also for his tireless efforts in promoting the values and benefits of being a member of a co-op community. He is currently the Chair of the Property Management Committee, in which he oversees both the spring and fall clean ups. Doug also ensures the co-op's regular seasonal maintenance contracts are current. Doug served previously as a director on the Board. Doug has never used his disability to avoid participation in the co-op. He is an inspiration to all of his neighbours.

John Kennedy

Nominated by Cambridge New Hope Housing Co-operative, Cambridge

John goes beyond what a volunteer should do. He is the first to lend a helping hand when needed. He cuts the grass and repairs the lawn tractor. He is always there to help the young children, and then proud to call all of them his “grandkids”. His nomination is Cambridge New Hope’s way to show it cares about what he does in the co-op.

Samantha Leerentreld

Nominated by Cole Road Co-operative Community, Guelph

Samantha Leerentreld has only lived in her co-op for two years, but within that short period of time she has become an active member and a pillar of her community. She is now serving her second year on the board. She was instrumental in the planning and implementing of Cole Road’s 20th anniversary party. She is actively involved in planning and helping with the social events in the co-op. She is a dedicated co-op member and is an example of what it means to have a co-op spirit. Samantha is a dedicated Board member.

Herman Leung

Nominated by Waterloo Co-operative Residence, Waterloo

Herman Leung has been a director at WCRI since summer 2010. He has been an outstanding member of the Board and WCRI community dedicating uncountable unpaid hours to the organizational needs in his role as President and past terms as Corporate Secretary. He has put himself into working directly with consultants and architects in planning the redevelopment of one of WCRI’s major properties. He is someone who sees things from start to finish, puts the needs of others before his own, and understands the uniqueness and importance of co-operative communities and social-purpose organizations. Those who have worked with Herman have felt inspired, humbled, and cared for.

Doug MacPherson

Nominated by Windfield Co-operative Homes, Guelph

Doug MacPherson has been a member of Windfield for 11 years. He is currently on the Board and has been the on-call and emergency contact person helping out others in need at Windfield. He helps with the furnaces, plumbing and putting in air conditioners. He has also helped the disabled members such as putting together a scooter.

Bonnie Quackenbush

Nominated by Co-operative Staff Association of Central Ontario

Bonnie Quackenbush has demonstrated a great commitment to the Staff Association's objectives. Her unrelenting efforts in planning and organizing regular social activities for the members have allowed members to foster relationships with one another, strengthen the network of co-op housing staff, and enhance the services the association is able to offer its members. Her energy and great spirits create a positive environment at our regular meetings. Her willingness to support the work of the Association exemplifies her commitment to strengthening our sector.

Fatima Sherifali

Nominated by Changemakers Co-operative Homes, Kitchener

Fatima has lived at Changemakers for eight years. During that time she has spent several terms on the Board and served on the Membership Committee. Fatima is always willing to lend a hand with our many functions and counts coin from the laundry machines for us every month. Fatima has an outgoing personality, a ready smile and kind words to whomever she meets. We are proud to have Fatima as our Service Award nominee this year.

Heather Tonner

Nominated by Clarion Co-operative Homes, Cambridge

Heather has been a member of Clarion for 4½ years. She has been an active member of Clarion and is always there to lend a hand with a smile. She takes part in planning and organizing co-op events, delivers co-op flyers and materials to members, participates in educational opportunities, and her meeting attendance is exceptional. She was instrumental in helping with the garage sale which raised almost \$600 for the proposed sports pad. She provides new members with a welcome package and a friendly face to help them settle into their new home. Clarion would not be what it is today if it were not for Heather and her many contributions to our community.

Bill Wharrie

Nominated by Beaver Creek Housing Co-operative, Waterloo

Bill Wharrie is a founding member of Beaver Creek. He still exemplifies the commitment and passion needed to live co-operatively being a good role model for others as he teaches by example. Bill has always been generous with his time and skills, whether helping repair something or rewriting by-laws. Bill always tackles projects with a community spirit. Bill is currently our treasurer, is busy building a maintenance data base and is always on call for office computer repairs. We are very blessed to have Bill's mentorship in his belief in democracy and dedication to co-operative living.

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.

The logo for COCHF (Central Ontario Co-operative Housing Federation) features the acronym "COCHF" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on an orange rectangular background. Below this, the full name "CENTRAL ONTARIO CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING FEDERATION" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font on a white background.

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