

# member

## ADVANTAGE

### STRATHCLAIR CREDIT UNION

Member Advantage newsletter is published quarterly to inform members about financial matters, their credit union and community.

Your comments and story ideas are welcome.

Send or bring them to:

### STRATHCLAIR CREDIT UNION

58 Main Street, Box 246  
Strathclair, MB R0J 2C0  
365-4700 • 365-4710(fax)  
Gen Mgr: T. Ron Hedley

426 Station Rd., Box 129  
Shoal Lake, MB R0J 1Z0  
759-2193 • 759-2835(fax)  
Mgr: Bill Preston

122 Main Street., Box 297  
Oakburn, MB R0J 1L0  
334-5568 • 234-5477(fax)

### OUR HOURS

Tues - Thurs 9AM - 4PM  
Fri 9AM - 5PM; Sat 9AM - 4PM

### THE BOARD

- Bill Nicholson
- Syd Robbins
- Richard Aikman
- George Anderson
- Dave Gill
- Gordon McDonald
- Floyd Robertson
- Taras Chwaluk
- Leo Clement

### WE OFFER

high-quality financial products and services at fair prices; financial products and services that are convenient and accessible; a strong network of credit unions staffed by people who are ethical, competent and well trained; a system of credit unions, united and acting as one towards common goals and purposes; a system directed by a motivated membership involved in the planning and policy-making process; integration with national and related co-op organizations.

## Strathclair enjoys Grand Opening

The Official Grand Opening of the Strathclair office took place on Friday, Aug. 7, 1998. There was a large crowd in attendance to enjoy the activities. Highlights of the event were:

- The release of the Strathclair Credit Union history book, *'Ever Onward To Serve.'*
- A delicious lunch of barbecued pork on a bun prepared by **Wally Dmyterko** and served by the Directors.
- The Great Credit Union Cash Caper.
- The Official Ceremonies, concluding with the ribbon cutting.

The ribbon cutting was conducted by **Roy Gamey** of Strathclair and **Carol Neufeld** of Winnipeg.

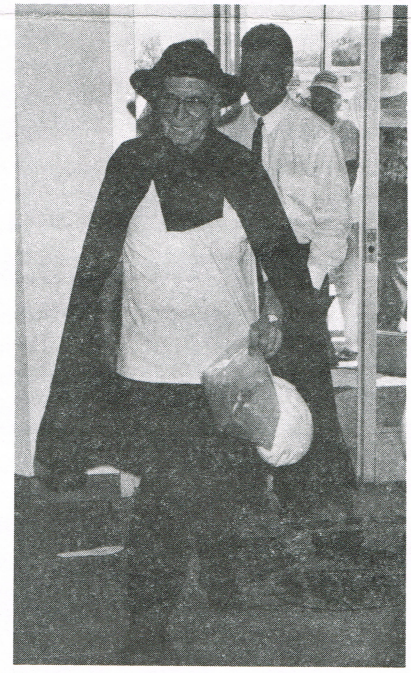
History books were sold throughout the day and are still available at any of our three branches. *'Ever Onward To Serve'* gives a complete account of our credit union from its opening in July, 1944, to the present. It contains a great compilation of pictures and articles that we are very proud of. Thanks to everyone who had a part in the creation of this book.

The *'Great Credit Union Cash Caper'* was an exciting contest with four winners chosen to participate. Each winner had certain number of seconds to run into the credit union vault to grab and bag as much money out of the \$500 in coin made available for each person.

The lucky winners were:

|                       |          |            |
|-----------------------|----------|------------|
| <b>Barbara Moffat</b> | \$305.50 | 12 seconds |
| <b>Jessie Glenn</b>   | \$168.50 | 9 seconds  |
| <b>Eva Brook</b>      | \$187.75 | 13 seconds |
| <b>Walter Glenn</b>   | \$140.75 | 15 seconds |

Coffee and donuts were served, and tours of the new building were conducted throughout the day. Guests were given a keepsake of either a leather bookmark or a key chain. We also had CKLQ radio broadcasting live from the building. With the weather co-operating and the guests in attendance, the event was very successful. Thanks to everyone for your support!



*"Bandit" Walter Glenn was one of the lucky Cash Caper contest winners.*

# Tid Bits

## CREDIT UNION/CO-OP WEEK

The accomplishments of Canada's 10,000 co-operatives, credit unions and caisses populaires will be celebrated during National Co-op Week, Oct. 11 – 17, and Credit Union Day, Oct. 15. Controlled by the people they serve, co-operatives and credit unions involve their communities and reflect their needs. Credit unions provide a financial service alternative that is 100% Canadian owned and locally operated while co-operatives have helped Canadians in areas such as consumer goods, housing and agriculture. A significant economic force, Canadian co-operatives and credit unions employ more than 135,000 people and have over \$100 billion in assets.

## CREDIT UNION SWEEPSTAKES

Credit union members across Canada will be eligible to win cash from \$18,000 in prize money Nov. 9 – Dec. 6. Credit Union Sweepstakes IV, sponsored by Member Card, will feature nine winners weekly. A Direct Payment purchase made with your Member Card Debit Card will enter you automatically. Your credit union can provide you with more details.

## Your credit rating: rights and responsibilities

Since a credit rating is what lenders use to determine your ability to meet financial and credit obligations, it is important to know your rights as a consumer. Provincial laws state these rights and establish what kind of information a credit bureau can collect and how this information can be used.

- A credit bureau is expected to act in a responsible manner. For instance, details about an individual's religion, race, friends, or personal habits cannot be used.
- A consumer has a right to know what is being reported about him or her, who is reporting it, and who has looked at his/her report in the past six months. In Manitoba, anyone wanting to check your credit rating must get your written permission (which may be part of a credit application form).
- A consumer also has a right to correct any wrong information. If a consumer does make corrections and still does not agree with the information on his/her credit record, it is the consumer's responsibility to prove the information is wrong by providing specific records to the credit bureau or to settle the disagreement with the company/individual providing the information. If a credit bureau will not change its records, the Consumers Bureau can sometimes help. It is located at 302-258 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, or call 945-3800 or (toll-free) 1-800-782-0067.
- If a credit record is accurate but the customer feels the credit rating is unfair, it is the consumer's responsibility to contact creditors to discuss the information they have placed on the record and to try to agree upon a way to improve the rating. Consumers should ensure that the credit bureau is appropriately notified.

If you have questions about credit ratings, your credit union can help. You may also obtain your personal credit file or update the file by mailing your request to Equifax Canada Consumer Credit Services, Consumer Relations, Box 190, Station Jean Talon, Anjou, Quebec H1S 2Z2 or faxing (514) 355-5672.

## Debit card use on increase

Debit card use increased from 6.3 million transactions in August, 1993 to 89 million in August, 1997, beating out spending by cheque or credit card, but not cash. But now, according to one survey, Interac Direct Payment spending has overtaken all other forms of payment when Canadians shop in grocery or department stores.

As debit card use increases, so does the need for personal control over yet another form of spending. Much has been written about controlling credit card use, but the jury is still out on debit cards. Technology may not mean that people spend more, but simply spend in different ways. Debit cards have one advantage over credit cards in that one does not rack up debt – once the money is gone from the account, there's none left to spend. However, some argue that debit cards allow for misspending as one may quickly access funds saved for the mortgage or other purposes.

There is no reason to believe that debit card spending will slow down in the near future. Electronic spending, whether credit cards or debit cards, is intended to make buying easier and Canadians seem to enjoy the convenience of spending without using cash.

## Manitoba credit unions prepare for the Year 2000

As the Year 2000 fast approaches, we're hearing more about the Year 2000 millennium "bug" and how it may jeopardize our daily lives if it's not challenged head-on.

Years ago, when computer memory was limited and very expensive, a two-digit code was commonly used for the year in a date field. This was fine until now as we enter a new century and millennium. If a computer system cannot recognize whether '00' represents

1900 or 2000, there is a significant risk that processing dates after 1999 may cause failures that range from minor inconvenience to catastrophic malfunctions.

The millennium bug can affect any device that sends or receives date information. Computers, and computer chips embedded in office equipment, voice mail, telephone systems, cash registers, elevators, heating, air-conditioning, alarm systems, televisions,

VCRs and a host of other devices, are also very susceptible.

To respond to the challenge, every Manitoba credit union has appointed a representative to the Manitoba credit union Year 2000 team. This team is currently implementing an action plan designed to provide a smooth transition into the next century. By taking the necessary action now we can help reduce the risk to our membership.

In addition, our business members are urged to take

steps to examine their own situations and prepare for the transition.

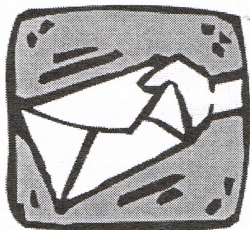
There are many publications on the market to assist you in understanding the Year 2000 millennium bug, as well as several Internet sites that you may want to visit, including: <http://www.year2000.com> (Peter de Jager), <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca> (Industry Canada) and <http://cfib.ca> (Canadian Federation of Independent Business).

## Direct Deposit a convenience

If you always have to wait for your government cheque to arrive in the mail, are worried about losing it, or have to stand in line to cash it, you might prefer the convenience of Direct Deposit offered by your credit union. Old age security, Canada pension, child tax benefit payments and other federal government payments are eligible.

Direct Deposit is safe, reliable, confidential and protected from any postal disruptions. Instead of waiting for your money to arrive in the mail, it can be in your account collecting interest from the moment it's issued. You can then access your funds at your credit union branch or at any automated teller machine across Canada.

Ensuring your money is always in your account on time makes financial planning easier and offers you peace of mind. Your



credit union can further help by distributing funds between your savings, chequing or other accounts.

Drop by your credit union to find out more about Direct Deposit.

Employers are also welcome to find out about Direct Deposit of payroll. Because the process is performed electronically rather than manually, the cost per cheque is less and there is no need to worry about cheque distribution. Direct Deposit of payroll is efficient for employers and convenient for employees.

## Take the stress out of Christmas shopping

Would you like to take the stress out of Christmas shopping? Starting early may be the simple solution. Not only will you avoid crowds and long waits in cashier lines, you could also save money.

When you shop early you can take time to pick out a suitable gift that falls within your budget. You can compare prices, look for sales and avoid the high cost of impulse shopping – which can easily occur when you buy at the last minute.

If you have some time

to be creative, you might consider some other ways to cut Christmas costs. You can make your own gift baskets, or even turn pine cones, bows, gingerbread cookies or candy into tree ornaments. If you go to garage sales, also keep your eyes open for tree ornaments.

You can save money as well by putting gifts in reusable paper gift bags or boxes instead of using expensive wrapping paper.

In addition, you might also want to check mail order catalogues which can offer unique and inexpensive gifts. However, take note whether the price is in Canadian or U.S. dollars and keep a record of any transaction.

One final suggestion: remember to check that any Christmas gift you purchase can be returned.



## MEMBER MEMOS

In support of the Shoal Lake Family Recreation Centre, SCU purchased six summer passes to give away for draws held the end of June. Each branch gave away two tickets: Strathclair: **Regan Hedley & Diana Glenn**; Shoal Lake: **Ian McMullan & Dustin Kucher**; Oakburn: **Amber Lazaruk & Leah Lazaruk**. We hope you all enjoyed the facility.

Don't forget to drop by on National **Credit Union Day on Thursday, October 15**. Each branch will be celebrating with coffee, donuts and door prizes.

Halloween is coming soon! We want all of the little ghosts and goblins to come 'trick or treating' to any of our three branches during normal office hours on Saturday, Oct. 31. We have special treat bags for you. See you then.  
**Happy Halloween!**

### FAT CAT draw

Our Fat Cat account has been very popular over the summer! We are very happy to see that it is encouraging our children to save their money. Our kick-off draw was made on Sept. 1. Lots of names were entered at each of our branches for the mini CD stereo systems. The lucky winners were:  
Strathclair – **Hannah Watson**  
Shoal Lake – **Kyle Kostesky**  
Oakburn – **Janine Wasilka**

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

The Strathclair Credit Union history book was recently released as part of our Grand Opening of the Strathclair office. The book, entitled 'Ever Onward To Serve,' provides readers with an interesting overview with many pictures of the past 54 years of the credit union. As with any recap of history, it was difficult to capture every detail of the extraordinary effort that was required to start up and operate a company for over 50 years. It is incredible what can be accomplished by people working together. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the previous directors, managers and staff involved in making this company grow into what it is today. Special thanks to **Eric Rapley** who spent countless hours putting the book together and to **Lex Pedersen** for her assistance in completing this project. A copy of the book may be purchased from our Strathclair, Shoal Lake and Oakburn branches. The price is \$10 with all proceeds donated to local organizations.

We will continue to have Fat Cat draws throughout the year. There will be a draw at each branch every two months. The next draw will be on Nov. 3. If you aren't already a Fat Cat account holder, come in and talk to us about joining.

## PRODUCT PROFILE

### NISA accounts

If your NISA is currently held by the Farm Credit Corporation, you have until Oct. 31, 1998 to transfer it to a financial institution of your choosing. Choose us!

Strathclair Credit Union has a lot to offer:

- We are an approved NISA agent.
- We offer a high rate of return on your NISA account – currently 5%.
- Your NISA account will be your monthly credit union statement.
- Your funds will stay right here, where they're reinvested into the community.

Come talk to us about NISA today!

### Did you know?

- Effective May 5, 1998, the Strathclair branch has new numbers: phone – 365-4700; fax – 365-4710.
- We now have **sit-down teller service** available at the Strathclair branch.
- We will be offering our special **Xmas Cash Loan program** again this season.
- You can save money every time you travel. Use your **Credit Union MasterCard** to pay for airline transportation, or a registered cruise or package at Canadian Travel Co-op. A 5% rebate will be automatically credited to your account. ("**Take 5" Travel Rebate**").

## UP CLOSE & PERSONNEL

We employed three students for the summer months through the Career Start Program. **Nathan Gerelus** was at the Strathclair branch, **Nicholas Gill** was at the Shoal Lake branch, and **Deenna Moffatt** was at the Oakburn branch. We enjoyed working with them and wish the best of luck as they continue their education this fall.

We have a new full-time staff member to introduce: Deirdre Peters is a full-time Member Services Representative at our Shoal Lake office to replace Tara McTavish's position. Deirdre recently moved to Shoal Lake from Gillam and was previously employed by Assiniboine Credit Union in Winnipeg. We are glad to have you with us, Deirdre!

**Lisa Brown** of Hamiota has been hired as our casual Member Services Representative. Lisa recently graduated from the Administrative Assistant Diploma Course at Herzing Career College in Winnipeg. Welcome to our staff, Lisa!

Congratulations to **Tobi and Craig Geekie** on the birth of their first baby, a boy. Morgan Spencer was born July 20, weighing 8 lbs 9 oz. We hope you are enjoying your new family at home, Tobi. We'll be glad to have you back in January.

