



NEWS AND VIEWS

MAY, 2007

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Report from the Executive Director

Upcoming Events

- The [Canadian Co-operative Association](#) will hold its Congress and Annual General Meeting in conjunction with the Newfoundland provincial association at St. John's, Newfoundland, June 27-29, 2007. There will also be an Executive Management Committee of Regions meeting on June 26 in St. John's. This will be a great opportunity to visit one of Canada's most interesting provinces.
- The [International Building Co-operative Futures Youth Conference](#) will be held in Guelph, Ontario, May 23-26, 2007. The 2006 ACCA Youth Program Comfort Award winner will be attending this conference.
- ACCA will hold its Annual General Meeting on May 30. Details on page 4.
- National Agriculture Awareness Conference, May 22-25. See page 8 for more information.

One new Board members – Terry Geib – was appointed at the March 19 meeting of the Board of Directors. She will replace Barry Ashton who recently retired from the Board.

I attended the Co-operators Annual General Meeting in Calgary.

Watch for the new 2007-2008 Alberta Farm and Ranch Directory, the 35th annual edition. We've increased the Agricultural Societies section and listed some new associations. The front cover will feature the equestrian sector.

ACCA has been very busy with respect to co-operative development. We (Chair Russell Wolf, Director of Co-operative Development Carol Murray, and myself) met with Ray Prins, MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka to explain the role of ACCA. We also met with Faye Rault, ADM, Rural Development, Agriculture and Food. She is very pleased with ACCA's work and definitely sees a role for our organization. Russell suggested that ACCA should be on a rural development task force committee and explained the benefits of continuing the relationship with Rural Team Alberta.

ACCA has submitted a recommendation to the Alberta Affordable Housing Task Force to provide co-op options as an affordable solution to the current housing challenge.

We have received a very positive response to our electronic newsletter and will continue to publish it monthly.

ACCA is moving its office to Stony Plain. Details will follow in the next newsletter.



Michele Aasgard, Executive Director



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ACCA Co-operative Youth Program

The Youth Program is well underway. We have received countless phone calls from people who are interested in the program, whether it be registering their children or wanting to sponsor participants. Registrations for the programs are arriving at the office. We had our “Staff Planning” weekend for those who volunteer to be counsellors for the summer and it was a tremendous success. We have over sixty great staff who took part in the weekend participating in different sessions such as team building, bullying, disclosures and effective presentations. Once again this year, Kevin “K-Dawg” Hontscharowicz organized the “Short Cut 2 Camp” fundraiser. Over \$6,000 was raised by these volunteers and others to see some of their fellow staffers shave their heads. The money raised will be used to send youth to the program. ACCA is proud and very grateful to have such great volunteers as part of the program. A big thank you also goes to those people who have donated items that were on our Wish List. We appreciate the support!



Team Building Exercise



Our shaved head volunteers:
Kevin Hontscharowicz, Lucas Anders,
Jeri-Lee O’Malley, (hair dresser) Jeff Schneider
Zoe Demers-Collings, Neal Fysh, Greg Tonn,
Ryan Armstrong, Eric Wick, Tyson Felt



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ACCA Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 30 at the Royal Glenora Club in Edmonton, beginning at 1:30 pm. Prior to the AGM, the 2007 Co-operative Merit Awards luncheon will be held beginning with registration at 11:00 am, followed by the luncheon at 11:30.

The Annual General Meeting will feature speakers in a series of topics. The three topic areas will give you insight into a few of the many programs that ACCA is working on. As only members of ACCA will be entitled to vote at the AGM, you are welcome to participate as an observer. The day is outlined as follows:

- Registration and Co-operative Merit Award Luncheon
- Welcome, Opening address and Greeting from the Canadian Co-operative Association
- Presentations in the following areas:
 - ACCA Youth Program
 - ACCA White Paper
 - Emerging Co-operative through the Co-operative Development Initiative
- ACCA AGM

The proposed agenda and the registration form are [available on the ACCA website](#). The registration fee for both the Co-operative Merit Award Luncheon and AGM is \$50; for the AGM only the cost is \$15. Registration deadline is Friday, May 18.

Alberta Credit Unions Continue to Experience Exceptional Growth and Profitability

At [Credit Union Central Alberta](#)'s annual meeting, March 30, the Alberta credit union system celebrated another record year of financial and operational results. Credit Unions' total assets reached \$12.8 billion at year end (October 31, 2006), which represents a growth rate of 17 per cent from the 2005 year end. The system's capital base experienced a strong increase of 10 per cent in 2006.



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Alberta Community Economic Development Network Cooperative



An [application for membership](#) of the Alberta Community Economic Development Network Cooperative is available on the ACCA website.

Community Economic Development is “action by people locally to create new economic opportunities, improve social conditions and environmental conditions on a sustainable and inclusive basis.” Community Economic Development initiatives include:

- Creating and supporting small businesses.
- Developing employability skills with people who are unemployed or underemployed.
- Creating innovative solutions for affordable housing for those at risk of homelessness.
- Creating opportunities for people with disabilities to find rewarding employment.
- Aboriginal communities working to develop local human resources and economies.
- Identifying and nurturing rural economic development opportunities.
- Developing individual and community assets.

Denyse Guy Named Recipient of Social Responsibility Award

Denyse Guy, Executive Director of the [Ontario Co-operative Association](#), has received the Gary Gillam Award for Corporate Social Responsibility. The award is jointly sponsored by [Credit Union Central of Ontario](#) and [Alterna Savings](#), and has been given annually since 1996. It recognizes and honours exemplary achievements in promoting social and community economic development through credit unions and co-operatives.

In receiving the award, Ms. Guy was recognized for her work in developing the Ontario Corporate Social Responsibility Network, her role in promoting CSR best practices between the credit union and co-op sectors, and as a driving force behind the Community EFFORT community economic development project.



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MEC Pledges One Per Cent for the Planet



[Mountain Equipment Co-op](#) (MEC) has announced its membership in [One Percent For The Planet](#) (1% FTP), an alliance of some 500 companies in over 20 countries that are committed to a healthier planet. Members of One Percent For The Planet commit at least one per cent of their revenues each year to supporting environmental causes. As a result of its membership, MEC will donate an estimated \$2.25 million to environmental causes in 2007 alone.

Joint CSR and Community Investment Forum

Take part in a growing movement of credit unions, co-operatives, community investment organizations and co-op developers working together to make a difference in their communities through the National Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Community Investment Forum. Learn more about the latest CSR and community investment initiatives, and take part in two or three days of stimulating dialogue, shared learning and networking. Visit www.csrforum07.com or contact Miruna Nichita miruna_nichita@cooperators.ca.



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The Alberta Emerald Foundation presents the
2007 Emerald Awards
Celebrating Environmental Excellence in Alberta

Wednesday, June 6, 2007, 5:30 p.m.
Jack Singer Concert Hall, EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts
205 8th Ave SE, Calgary

For tickets: www.emerald.foundation.ca
Or call Ticketmaster at (403) 777-0000

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Bronconnier".

Dave Bronconnier
Mayor, The City of Calgary
Honorary Chair, 2007 Emerald Awards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Kruhlak".

Ron Kruhlak
Partner, McLennan Ross LLP
Chair, Alberta Emerald Foundation

From grassroots organizations, to individuals, corporations and governments, Albertans are leading the way to making our province, country and world a better place to live. Join us at the Emerald Awards in celebration of environmental excellence in Alberta. For a complete list of the 2007 Finalists please visit www.emerald.foundation.ca.

***Alberta Emerald Foundation
Making Environmental Excellence an Everyday Occurrence***



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May 22-25, 2007

Have you ever seen a crowd stand up and cheer for farming? This phenomenon and others like it will be happening at the National Agriculture Awareness Conference. People from across Canada with a passion for agriculture will be coming together to learn while ...

“Celebrating Achievements ... Cultivating Opportunities”

Join us at the National Agriculture Awareness Conference

Anyone interested in agricultural education or awareness should register today. Learn new skills, share ideas and fuel your enthusiasm! The 2007 Conference will be “Celebrating achievements and cultivating opportunities” from May 22-25th in London, Ontario.

Keynote speaker, Michele Payn-Knoper will have the crowd on their feet and thinking about how you can best champion your cause. The conference is set to include workshops on crisis management,

volunteerism, consumer trends, agriculture in the curriculum, and much more . You are invited to choose from one of two full-afternoon “Travelling Seminars”, each set to visit unique agriculture and food venues. The conference also includes a great barbecue on a local farm and a formal banquet, both complete with entertainment.

Register and find out more on the Conference website www.naac-cnsa.ca or by contacting Ontario Agri-Food Education at (905) 878-1510.

Be our guest! Join us in Ontario at this dynamic conference...learn new skills, recharge your batteries, and connect with people from across the country with a passion for agriculture.

Jan Robertson, Ontario Agri-Food Education
Conference Chair



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Federated Co-Operatives Limited Appoints New Chief Executive



The Board of Directors of [Federated Co-operatives Limited](#) (FCL) is pleased to announce the appointment of Art Postle as Chief Executive Officer of FCL.

Mr. Postle was most recently the Senior Vice-President – Treasurer for FCL. He joined FCL in 1976 as Internal Audit Director, became Finance Manager in 1981 and Senior Vice-President – Treasurer in 1987. He received his Bachelor of Commerce Degree from the University of Saskatchewan and became a Chartered Accountant after articling with Deloitte & Touche, Chartered Accountants. He has served on the executive of a number of community organizations including the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Centennial Auditorium, the Rotary Club of Saskatoon Meewasin, Knox United Church and the Saskatoon Symphony Society.

“The Board of Directors is looking forward to working with Mr. Postle in continuing the success of the Co-operative Retailing System,” stated President of the Board, Glen Tully.

Mr. Postle’s appointment followed the retirement of Wayne Thompson on March 29, 2007, after 24 years as CEO.

FCL provides central wholesaling, manufacturing, marketing and administrative services to member retail co-operatives located throughout western Canada. These 281 autonomous retail co-operatives, which represent an estimated 1,200,000 individual co-op members, own FCL. Together, FCL and its member retail co-operatives form the Co-operative Retailing System (CRS). Through FCL, co-ops share in the ownership of Consumers’ Co-operative Refineries Limited (CCRL) in Regina, a plywood plant and sawmill in Canoe, BC, feed plants in seven western Canadian locations, and The Grocery People, an Edmonton-based grocery wholesaler and fresh produce supplier serving independent food retailers in four western provinces, the Yukon and Northwest Territories. CCRL’s refinery is integrated with a heavy oil upgrader which is co-owned by FCL and the Government of Saskatchewan and operates as NewGrade Energy Inc.



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Want to mentor an overseas visitor this summer?

The Canadian Co-operative Association is asking fourteen credit unions across Canada to host overseas credit union managers/loans managers this July. The visitors are in Canada as part of the seventh annual *Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due* women's mentoring program, a popular training program that provides overseas staff of financial co-operatives with a unique opportunity for professional development. This July 11-21, fourteen women from credit unions in the developing world will spend ten days with credit union women like themselves, receiving general leadership training and learning the ins-and-outs of managing a loans program.

CCA project officer Laurie Tennian is again asking credit union managers/branch managers/loans managers from across Canada to sign on to host and share their knowledge with the visitors.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with someone who has a similar career path but comes from a completely different background," she says. "We have found that smaller Canadian credit union operations are particularly suited to the overseas co-operator. Previous overseas participants made strong friendships among themselves and, with their Canadian hosts, and have adopted many of the ideas they gained while in Canada."

The success of the Mentoring Program can be seen in how it has influenced credit union policies and practices in countries as far away as Mongolia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Nepal, Ghana, Kenya and Uganda where past participants have already made changes to their loans programs, and instituted new office and reporting procedures.

In addition to job shadowing Canadian women managers/loans managers, the overseas visitors will receive training in Ottawa on Canada's credit union system and operations and will attend the World Council of Credit Unions Conference in Calgary before returning home.



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Host credit unions help program participants achieve their learning objectives by sharing knowledge and skills, and connecting them to credit union staff, policies and best practices. They also make their guests feel at home by greeting them on arrival, billeting them in private homes and introducing them to people, places and events in their community. Hosts will receive an information booklet to help guide them through their hosting duties. This year's Mentoring schedule is:

July 2–10 (Ottawa)	training program/orientation to Canadian credit union system
July 11	travel to host credit unions
July 12–20	credit union placements
July 21	travel to Calgary
July 23–August 1	CCA training and WOCCU Conference in Calgary
August 2	Depart Canada

If your credit union is interested in hosting a woman credit union professional for ten days this July please contact: Laurie Tennian at 613-238-6711 ext. 209; laurie.tennian@coopscanada.coop or visit: <http://www.coopscanada.coop/coopdevelopment/internationaldev/womensmentoring>

ACCA News and Views will be published at the beginning of each month. Please submit news items or information you would like to share to acca@acca.coop.

If you wish to have your name removed from our subscribers list, please send an email to acca@acca.coop.



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