

Co-operative Spotlight

Co-op Week 2010

A celebration of
Saskatchewan co-operative sector
achievement

Special Co-op Week Edition!

Here at the offices of Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, we're feeling celebratory, and we decided to publish a special Co-op Week Edition of the Spotlight to highlight some Saskatchewan Co-op Week activities. There are all kinds of events taking place. Just to name a few:

CO-OPERATIVE MERIT AWARDS BANQUET

Awards will be presented Monday, October 18 in four categories to five individuals and one co-operative organization. Read more about this year's recipients in the Spotlight.

CO-OPERATIVE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

The International Co-operative Alliance flag will be raised in the Rotunda of the Legislative Building and an official proclamation of Co-op Week will take place on Monday, October 18 at 11:45 a.m.

CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL OF REGINA LUNCHEON

Following the Co-operative Flag Raising Ceremony, the Co-operative Council of Regina Co-op Week luncheon will take place from 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. at the Legislature.

For information on the Flag Raising or Regina Luncheon, contact Wayne Thrasher at 787-0190 or wayne.thrasher@enterprisesask.ca.

CO-OPERATIVE NETWORK OF SASKATOON LUNCHEON

Join us Wednesday, October 20 at noon at the Parktown Hotel. Mitch Diamantopoulos will be speaking about Quebec's Co-operative Resurgence. The cost is \$20 per person. **You can still register for this luncheon by calling SCA at 244-3702 or emailing sca@sask.coop by noon on Tuesday, October 19.**

31st Annual Co-operative Merit Awards Presented in 4 Categories

Each year, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Awards Committee selects recipients from nominations submitted by Saskatchewan co-operatives and credit unions. In 2010, six awards will be presented in four categories.



The **Lifetime Co-operative Achievement Award** is presented for long, varied and meritorious services by individuals in volunteer and/or elected positions within co-operatives and credit unions. This year, we are pleased to honour Neale Morton and Grant Tyson.



Neale Morton

Neale Morton has been an important leader in his community for over forty years. This includes long term membership in Melfort Co-operative Association Limited, Advantage Credit Union and Mountain Equipment Co-operative.

He has served eighteen years as a director of Advantage Credit Union (previously Melfort Credit Union) including six years as President. These years have been challenging ones and under his leadership, Advantage Credit Union undertook an expansion program growing to serve 17 communities. The mergers and expansions have established Advantage as a strong financial co-operative and a leader in Saskatchewan's credit union system.

This expansion was governed by strong principles that ensured all changes were:

- In the best interest of members;
- Financially beneficial to all parties;
- Included a community based governance model; and
- Ensured that the Board was strategically aligned and demonstrated trust and respect for each other.

Neale's positive attitude even when challenging and stressful decisions must be made ensures everyone's ideas are heard and considered and contributes to the consensus needed to move forward.

Neale was also active in his community. This included serving as an active volunteer for Meals on Wheels, serving on the board of the Melfort and District Museum, and leading a successful building campaign for the local Anglican Church.

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All About Co-op Week!

Co-op week is the opportunity for Canadian co-operative and credit union members to celebrate the fact that they have collectively helped to build this country and to recognize their continuing contributions at home and abroad.

Co-op Week is always celebrated during the same week as International Credit Union Day, which is the third Thursday in October of each year. Co-op Week 2010 will take place from October 17-23, 2010, with International Credit Union Day on October 21.

THE HISTORY OF CO-OP WEEK IN CANADA

Co-op Week has been celebrated by francophones throughout Canada since 1958. In 1981 celebrations were held among anglophone co-ops in the Maritimes and Saskatchewan. The event went national in 1982 with the encouragement of the Co-operative Union of Canada, a predecessor of the Canadian Co-operative Association.

Co-op Week appears to be a uniquely Canadian phenomenon. In the US, October is Co-op Month, and the International Co-operative Alliance and United Nations have an International Day of Co-operatives on the first Saturday in July.

International Credit Union Day, co-ordinated by the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), has been celebrated on the third Thursday of October since 1948.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 26 co-operatives on the recently published list of Saskatchewan's Top 100 Companies!
- There are approximately 9,000 co-operatives in Canada, providing products and services to 17 million members.
- Co-operatives exist in virtually every sector of the economy, from agriculture, retail and financial services to housing, child care, funeral services and renewable energy.
- Co-operatives have more than \$330 billion in assets, owned by their members and the communities they serve.
- Co-operatives employ 150,000 people and are led by 100,000 volunteer directors and committee members
- Canada has the highest per-capita credit union membership in the world: 33 per cent of Canadians are a member of at least one credit union.
- There are at least 2,000 communities with at least one credit union or caisse populaire and more than 1,100 communities in which a financial co-operative is the only financial services provider.
- Co-operatives, credit unions and caisses populaires give millions of dollars back to their communities in the form of sponsorships and donations.
- The co-op sector has deep roots in Canada. In the late 19th century, farmers in Quebec, Ontario and Atlantic Canada developed co-operative creameries and cheese factories to meet the needs of the growing dairy industry. Alphonse Desjardins founded Canada's first caisse populaire in Lévis, Quebec in 1900. And in the first decade of the 20th century, farmers in western Canada organized co-operatives in an effort to market their products.

Source: www.coopsCanada.coop

CMAP Recipients - Continued from Page 1

He also played an active role in health related issues serving as chair of the North Central Health Care Foundation, chair of a \$1 million fund-raising campaign to establish the new Parkland Care Facility and the creation of a legacy campaign for the health district.

Grant Tyson is a life-long co-operator and community leader. He began his community work early as a 4-H member from the ages of twelve to seventeen. He was also an active fast ball and slow pitch player for more than 30 years.



Grant Tyson

He served as an active member of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool for over thirty years serving as a local committee member and chair. Grant served on the board of Feudal Co-operative Association Limited for thirty-two years, retiring in 2004. This included nine years as president, between 1984 and 1993.

Under Grant's leadership he promoted the establishment of a Cardlock Fuel Service in Harris before it was a popular concept. He also played an important role in establishing the "C (Convenience) Store" in Perdue. Both these developments made an important contribution to the growth and stability of Feudal Co-operative Association Limited.

Grant has always promoted co-operative values and principles. He has actively supported the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program and holds a lifelong membership in the local credit union. Grant has always taken on every task asked of him without hesitation whether in a leadership or helping capacity. This includes doing what is needed to support his community and the viability of small towns, such as demonstrating support for a community store and the development of a new community centre. This included innovative fundraising activities such as a community farm project that operated on donated resources and labour with proceeds going to the building campaign.

Grant is married to Gail and they have three children; Trevor, Trina (Jaeger) and Tracy (Reed) as well as six grandchildren.

The **Co-operative Contribution Award** is presented to those who have inspired others as a role model, leader and mentor through the development and expansion of co-operatives and credit unions, and have increased awareness and understanding of co-operatives and co-op principles. This year's recipients are Myrna Bentley and Warren Crossman.



Myrna Bentley

Myrna Bentley joined the Co-operative Trust Company of Canada on October 15, 1974 as a Mortgage Officer. It was the beginning of a stellar career that quite possibly neither Myrna nor her employer could have predicted. Myrna's commitment to Co-operative Trust and its co-operative owners soon became apparent and by 1986 she was Vice-President, Mortgages.

In 1997, Myrna was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Co-operative Trust, bringing to this position her co-operative spirit, leadership capacity and business acumen. Recognizing that despite their ongoing success, Canada's financial co-operatives needed to be positioned to meet the unknown challenges of the future. To Myrna, this was an opportunity to build on past co-operative success and create a new and stronger organization able to meet the future needs of credit unions and their members.

In 1999, Myrna and former CEO of SaskCentral initiated a business case, based on the principle that co-operation with credit union centrals across Canada, would position credit unions as strong, full-service, domestic financial institutions better able to serve consumer and small and medium sized business enterprises. This concept was the basis of Concentra Financial.

Myrna undertook a national road-tour, personally meeting with shareholders, CEOs and strategic partners to garner the buy-in necessary for approvals. Treating the system as family, Myrna shared the team's vision of value proposition to all who would be affected. This resulted in a triple-win scenario for credit unions and centrals, shareholders and employees. The result was the launch of Concentra Financial in January 2005 with Myrna as its first CEO.

As CEO, Myrna was a dynamic leader and one who recognized that business success had many components including member-owners, customers, and employees. Concentra became a national leader in management and employment practices leading to national recognition as one of Canada's top 100 employers and for the seventh consecutive year, one of Canada's fifty best managed companies.

Myrna has also played an active role in the community supporting fundraising activities for the Saskatoon Breast Health Centre, serving as a director of the Women's Midlife Health Centre and served on the board Saskatoon Community Foundation since 2002. During this time she served as board chair and also chaired its annual Fundraiser Gala. Myrna is frequently called upon to share her insights and passion for leadership, including speaking engagements in Europe, Africa and Asia. Myrna is also making a significant contribution as the Co-operative Sector's representative on the Board of Enterprise Saskatchewan.

Myrna recently retired and is living in Saskatoon with her husband Brian. They have one daughter Meaghan.



Warren Crossman

Warren Crossman began his co-operative career when he joined Saskatchewan Wheat Pool (SWP) as a District Representative in 1976. Providing leadership and governance support to directors, delegates, local committees and members in three districts across Saskatchewan he was an active co-operator in every community where he lived. Warren promoted the co-operative business model for new ventures, encouraged co-operation amongst co-operatives, worked with many co-operative leaders and has become involved in countless co-operative initiatives. He has been an active promoter and leader for the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program for over 30 years.

In the 1990's Warren volunteered with the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) International Education Advisory Committee in Saskatchewan, promoting CCA's international development work. In 1999-2000 his interest in international development took him to Xinjiang Province, China where he assisted a CCA micro-finance program for women. He also participated in a CCA co-operative study mission in the Philippines. In 2010 he undertook a CCA agricultural assignment to start rice co-operatives in Cambodia.

Warren's strong interest in food security issues has taken him to Ethiopia and Kenya with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. He is the current and founding Chair of Food Secure Yorkton, a new regional food security initiative that seeks to connect local food producers and consumers.

In 2001, Warren left SWP to become CCA's Saskatchewan Region Manager. He led the initiative that restructured the Saskatchewan Region of CCA into an autonomous co-operative, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association (SCA). As its first Executive Director, Warren positioned SCA as a credible advocate for the co-operative sector.

Warren helped create and served as first Chair of the Prairie Hub, a prairie-based organization of Anglophone and Franco-phone apex organizations that assisted new co-operative start-ups. Under his leadership SCA's Co-operative Development Committee was established, promoting and supporting the development of co-operatives such as Prairie Lily Funeral Co-operative in Regina and Tisdale Home Support Co-operative.

Although Warren left SCA in 2008 to start farming, he remains active in the co-operative community as a member of Enterprise Saskatchewan's (ES) Co-operative Sector Team. His advocacy for increased support by government for emerging co-operatives contributed to the establishment of a new co-operative development partnership between ES and SCA. In 2009 he started Praus Consulting and now provides co-operative development and education services.

Warren and his wife Kathy farm near Yorkton growing heirloom vegetables, ancient grains and ornamental grasses as well as increasing plant biodiversity on their small-scale farm. They have two children, Marsha and Jeffrey.

The **Co-operative Enterprise Award** is presented for leadership, innovation and achievement in co-operative business and member service initiatives for the social and economic development of the co-operative sector. **Consumers' Co-operative Refineries Limited** is receiving the award this year.



Consumers' Co-operative Refineries Limited

"The most amazing and possibly the most important episode in the history of the consumer co-operative movement in western Canada was the development of Consumers' Co-operative Refineries Limited

(CCRL) at Regina. The story

is amazing because, under the desperate circumstances of the Depression, a small group of farmers with no experience and little money entered in the oil business, ultimately taking on the giants of the private oil trade. It is important because petroleum became the dynamo of the Co-operative Retailing System, the lucrative commodity that powered the system's expansion and sustained it down to the present day." (Brett Fairbairn: *Building a Dream*)

From its humble beginning in 1935, CCRL has undergone six major expansions and is currently in the midst of its seventh and largest - a \$1.9 billion gasoline-focused project to meet the growing needs of the Co-operative Retailing System (CRS) in Western Canada. Over CCRL's 75 years, production has grown from 500 to 100,000 barrels per day, with a target of another 30% increase by the summer of 2012.

Today, CCRL is wholly-owned by Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL), the central wholesale, manufacturing, marketing, and administrative entity jointly-owned by local retail co-operatives. In addition to meeting the petroleum needs of the CRS, CCRL has returned more than \$1 billion in patronage refunds to the member owner retail co-ops.

CCRL's 680 employees demonstrate co-operative and responsible values daily in their core principles that are always to take priority over production. These principles, in order of priority, are to:

- Ensure the safety of all personnel and the public at large.
- Ensure all equipment is of high integrity and is maintained and operated to mitigate safety risks.
- Ensure that the management of environmental affairs and responsible stewardship is always at the highest level.
- Ensure that quality products are provided by all CCRL work groups.

CCRL is quietly leading the way with meaningful environmental initiatives. In 1995 it entered into a proactive partnership agreement with Saskatchewan Environment to pursue numerous environmental improvements. Recent large and innovative projects include:

- A \$50 million Wastewater Treatment System, currently under construction, that will all but eliminate waste effluent from the refinery; and,
- A proposed \$100+ million greenhouse gas carbon capture and storage project (Aquistore) in which CCRL is a lead partner.

CCRL is also active in the community, as a long-time partner in education with McDermid School in Regina and a long-time active supporter of the United Way. In 2009 a CCRL employee was the top fundraiser in the Canadian Cancer Society's Jail and Bail campaign. CCRL has been a participant in the Regina Dragon Boat Festival since 1992 and supports a wide variety of amateur sports teams and events.

The **Co-operative Young Leaders Award** is presented to a young person for outstanding contribution to co-operatives and credit unions in Saskatchewan. Ben Chung is the recipient of the 2010 award.



Ben Chung

Ben Ngo-Ming Chung, at the age of 24, is a true co-operator, educator and global citizen. Born in Hong Kong and raised in Regina, Ben first attended the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program in the summer of 2000. He completed all three seminar levels and was chosen in 2003 as a Junior Staff member from amongst his peers, for his outstanding leadership skills. In 2004, Ben brought his knowledge and

enthusiasm for co-operatives to the role of Program Assistant, where he provided direction to new staff, and ensured that co-operative values are incorporated into the program. Ben continues to be a vocal advocate for co-operatives within SCYP and other areas of his personal and professional life. This past year Ben pledged to personally sponsor a youth to attend a summer seminar.

Ben is a teacher by trade and in 2007 graduated from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Education with a focus on Middle Years and Social Justice Issues. While at university Ben worked with a number of social justice organizations and also served as a leader of the Oxfam Canada Regina Campus Club. In 2007, Ben taught Grade 6 at Forest Grove School in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

In 2008, he volunteered for a six month international education program in Honduras and Canada with Canada World Youth (CWY). In 2009, he was invited to supervise a similar project in Nicaragua and Canada, where he was responsible for leading activities and programming for 18 Canadian and Nicaraguan youth. He continues to be employed with CWY and ensures that all his CWY participants, while visiting Canada, were trained in co-operative values. Ben has personally had a positive impact on hundreds of youth and has challenged them to build their self-confidence, engage and become active in their community and co-operative organizations.