

Newsbriefs

MANITOBA EDITION Fall 2007 – Volume 7, No. 2



Cheryl Krostewitz (right) presents a thank you gift to Hannah Taylor of the Ladybug Foundation at CHF Canada's AGM in June.

Winnipeg's AGM gets rave reviews from participants and volunteers

CHF Canada's annual meeting in Winnipeg this June got a high rating in evaluations from participants. The social event at the Franco-Manitoba cultural centre stood out as a favourite part of the meeting. But it wasn't just members from across the country who had fun. Winnipeg volunteers count the experience as unforgettable too.

Cheryl Krostewitz of S.A.M. (Management) was on the planning committee and volunteered at the meeting. [2] ▶



1-2

Winnipeg AGM
AGM in June rates high with volunteers and participants alike.

3

Artemis Housing Co-op
Winnipeg co-operative a safe home for people living with HIV.

4

Noteworthy
Goodbye to Jocelyn, Agency transfer news, and Aboriginal nominations.

◀ [cover]

“It was my first AGM and definitely a wonderful experience that I would love to repeat. To me it was not just volunteering, it was a really big networking opportunity. No matter where they were from, people in co-ops seemed to have the same challenges we do,” Cheryl says.

Members from the Winnipeg area pitched in to welcome CHF Canada members from across Canada.

“It’s unbelievable how many good people came out. We had people with various physical challenges who helped in whatever capacity they could. I got so many positive comments - even from people who

didn’t know I was on the committee, so I think I got a lot of genuine feedback.”

Cheryl also chaired the social committee responsible for organizing the popular social night.

“I was a nervous wreck, but after the first bus rolled in at 8:00 p.m. I turned around and the place was packed. People stayed all night until the end; it was just great. I worked with some volunteers there I will never forget.”

Jeanne Smith, of **Carpathia Housing Co-op** and **Anita Durant**, from **Willow Park Housing Co-op**, were in charge of organizing the volunteers for the AGM.

“They deserve real kudos,” Cheryl says. “It is really hard and they did a great job of it.”

Though the entire experience was positive for Cheryl, one experience stands out.

“My highlight was meeting and getting to acknowledge **Hannah Taylor** from the Ladybug Foundation. She was such an inspiration. I felt so honoured to get up there and thank her.”

The AGM donated \$16,500 to the Ladybug Foundation – with \$4,500 coming from the social night and \$2,000 from jars passed around after she spoke. Delegates, federations and co-ops pledged more.

“It was so heartwarming and emotional; I don’t think anything in my life will hold a candle to it. Helping the homeless: in co-op housing, what better thing can you raise money for?”

“I’m sad that it’s over. The volunteers are exhausted but exhilarated too. I was almost wishing we could have it in Winnipeg next year....I guess I’ll have to go Toronto instead.” ☺



AGM volunteers gather for a barbecue social at Westboine Housing Co-op after the AGM.

Mark your calendars

Next year’s CHF Canada annual meeting will be held in Toronto, June 12-14, 2008. Watch for more information coming soon.



Small family co-operative a home for people with HIV/AIDS

Artemis Housing Co-operative in central Winnipeg was built as a co-op for people with AIDS/HIV and their friends and families. The co-op is part of Crossways in Common, a community support complex.

Artemis Co-op's current president is **Bob Hiebert**. "One of the biggest pluses for people living with HIV or AIDS is the sense of community found in a housing co-op, where members work together to manage their building and support one another."

Artemis was built in 1993 when **Gary Whynott**, a founding member who passed away from AIDS several years ago, heard that Crossways in Common was looking for partners. With other founding members, he suggested they add an HIV co-op. "Gary played a big part in getting the funds for it," Bob says.

But at first Artemis was only half-full. "A lot of the HIV people did not want to be associated with an address. It was pretty tough times there for a while and we decided to open it up to people with other illnesses too," Bob recalls.

Now first priority is still given to people with HIV, but those with other life-threatening conditions – such as cancer or heart disease – can also qualify. The third group Artemis considers is those who have no health problems. One member with a mental disability was welcomed because of his need for a safe environment.

The Crossways Centre building – home to Artemis Housing Co-op in central Winnipeg and people with HIV or AIDS.

"The thing is we must maintain at least 51 per cent of our co-op population as HIV/AIDS at all times; that's six of the 11 apartments."

Members must meet their own caregiver needs, but the co-op is supportive.

"We like to have a family atmosphere. We have an open-door policy – if your door is open, it's inviting anyone who is walking by to stop and say 'hi'."

Unfortunately, for a few years Artemis members kept their doors closed. Because units at Artemis are subsidized – a two-bedroom unit worth about \$690 goes for \$302 – the co-op is a good deal. Someone gave false information about his health status to get in. Now applicants must bring a doctor's letter that says they are HIV positive, or suffering from another life-threatening condition.

The co-op also had some co-op members who were selling drugs and shared their entry code and non-members stole co-op and member property.

"I hate to say it but we have been really burnt. There are people with HIV who are ex-drug users or even still using, so we had a little bit of a problem."

The co-op had to replace the entry code with a fob. "We have security cameras in our hallways and at the entrance. We have security on our elevator. It's a very safe place to live now." 📞

Legal assistance fund to help save co-op homes

Earlier this year, **Labourview Co-operative Homes** in Chatham, Ontario went to court to try to end the receivership imposed by their service manager. To help co-ops like Labourview that may need to go to court to protect member rights, CHF Canada will be collecting donations to a Legal Assistance Fund for housing co-ops. Watch for a letter about the Fund, coming to your co-op this fall

Call for nominations

CHF Canada is seeking nominations for the Director representing the Aboriginal Community, to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of **Kendra Brant**. In November, CHF Canada's Board of Directors plans to appoint a new director to serve until the June 2008 Annual General Meeting in Toronto.

To be eligible as a CHF Canada director, you must be:

- a member in good standing,
- a director, officer or employee of a member co-op
- 18 years of age or older.

For this Director position, you must also declare in writing that you are of North American Aboriginal ancestry.

Nominations must be received no later than October 30, 2007. For more information, please contact **Nick Sidor** at 1-800-465-2752 ext. 231, nsidor@chfc.ca

Services for Manitoba members

With Jocelyn's departure, CHF Canada has contracted with S.A.M. (Management) to provide temporary services to Manitoba members until her replacement is hired. Here's how to reach them :
Telephone (204) 947-5411
Fax (204) 947-5412
Please contact Cheryl Krostewitz by e-mail: cheryl@sam.mb.ca

Transfer to Agency progressing

Work is continuing on the planned return of co-ops developed under CMHC programs to federal jurisdiction and administration

by the Agency for Co-operative Housing. CMHC is reviewing financial and other information about the co-ops that were transferred to provincial administration in 1998, and will soon begin discussions toward the transfer of the co-ops to Agency administration.

Thanks to Jos

Jocelyn Peifer-Ross has left us to take on the position of manager, Corporate Affairs with Assiniboine Credit Union. Jocelyn has staffed our Manitoba office since it opened in 1999. Before joining our staff, she had earlier served on CHF Canada's Board of Directors as the Manitoba regional director. CHF Canada would like to thank Jocelyn and wish her well in her new career.



Publication information

Newsbriefs is published by the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada. Material may be copied. Please credit CHF Canada.

Story ideas, comments or questions? Call Merrilee Robson at 1-877-533-2667 or e-mail mrobson@chfc.ca.

Design and printing: EGO Creative Solutions design@egocreatives.com Cielo Print Inc. jim@cieloprint.ca

Contact information

National Office
311-225 Metcalfe Street,
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1P9
Tel (613) 230-2201
Fax (613) 230-2231
Toll-free 1-800-465-2752

Manitoba Office
Cheryl Krostewitz
Tel (204) 947-5411
Fax (204) 947-5412
Toll-free 1-888-591-3301
cheryl@sam.mb.ca

MemberGuard™

Come home to great protection and better value for CHF Canada members.

With MemberGuard, you can count on:

- a contents insurance program designed specifically for co-op members
- low monthly premiums to protect your household belongings, and
- OneStep® 24-hour claims service, seven days a week.



Call us today for your fast, no-obligation quote:
1-800-367-1963



The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada



IUS CONSUMER INSURANCE MANAGEMENT LTD.



CIBC

MemberGuard is a registered trademark of IUS Consumer Insurance Management Ltd. © 2007 IUS Consumer Insurance Management Ltd. All rights reserved.