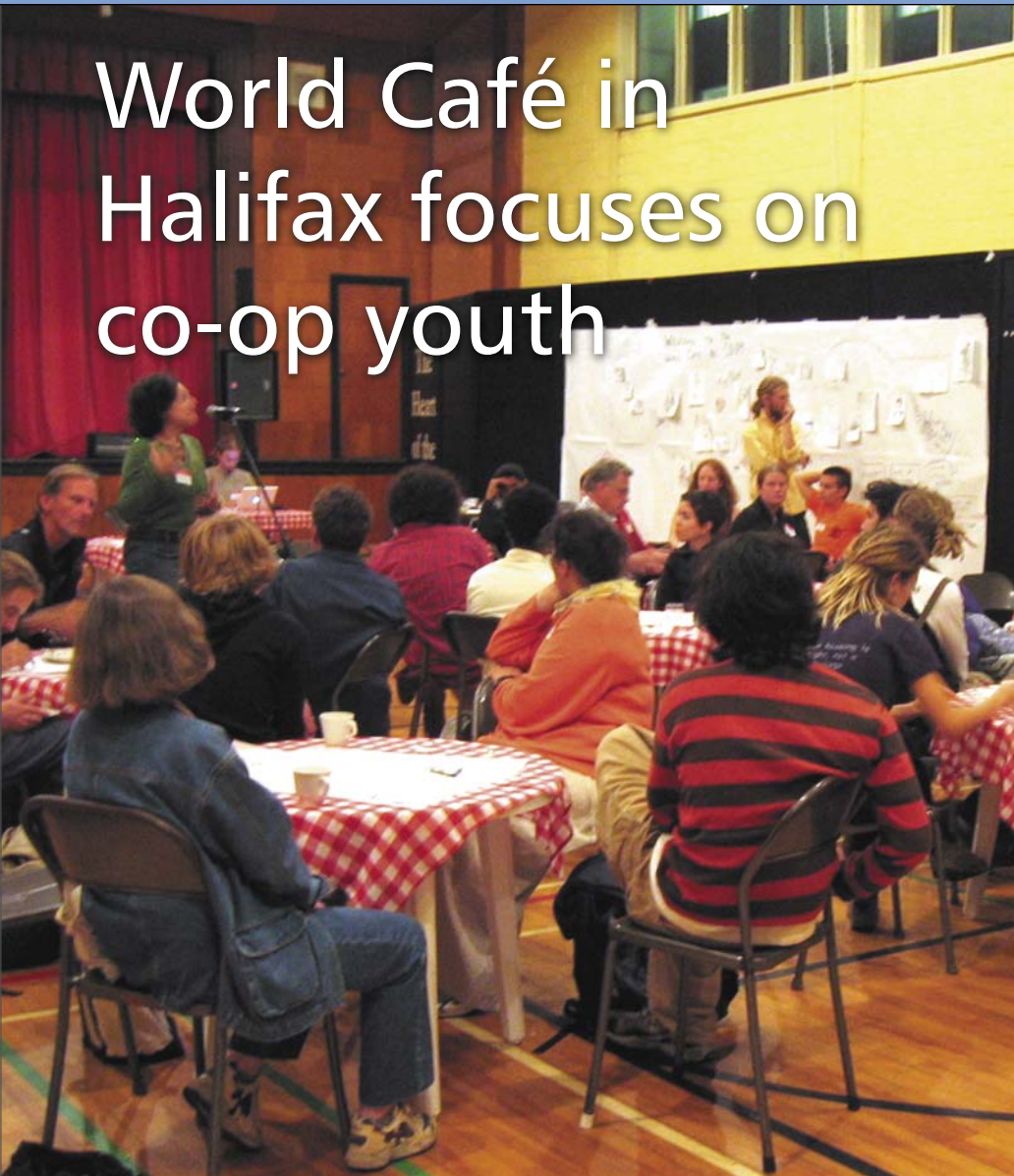


Newsbriefs

NOVA SCOTIA EDITION Fall 2005 – Volume 4, No. 2

World Café in Halifax focuses on co-op youth



Nova Scotia Co-op Council has the “MYDAS” touch

The Nova Scotia Co-op Council came together with the MYDAS (Mobilizing Youth to Deliver Advisory Services) Worker Co-operative and the Heartwood Centre for Community Development in Halifax to organize the city’s first World Café on September 26th, 2005.

World Cafés are community-building tools used throughout the world to bring community members together to converse about important issues and generate ideas and initiatives. In Halifax, **John Ure**, from the Heartwood Centre, a member of **O.V.O. Housing Co-op** and former director of the board for **Rooftops Canada**, led the Café discussion focusing on the question: “How do we get young people involved in the co-op movement?” [2] ▶

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Member profile

High Hopes Housing Co-op in Halifax celebrates being a community that spans many streets.

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Events

CHF Canada’s Fall Education Conference will take place on November 12 at the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth.

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Noteworthy

A message from Rolando Inzunza and Charles Court receives partial tax rebate.



◀ [cover]

About 40 people gathered in small discussion groups.

Rolando Inzunza, CHF Canada Regional Director for Nova Scotia, took part. “Co-ops are great for enabling people to learn new skills, grow as people and become more confident in general... Involving youth in the co-op movement also brings new and fresh ideas, energy, and hopefully a stronger future to the table.”

Rolando reported the evening to be a great success and an excellent brainstorming session with a lot of networking about housing co-ops and the co-operative movement. There are plans to host another co-operative World Café in the future. ☺



News bits from around the province

Charles Court member to educate others as a CHF Canada instructor

Bridget McConnell of **Charles Court Housing Co-op** recently completed instructor training with CHF Canada, in Orillia, Ontario. Bridget will be presenting workshops on behalf of CHF Canada, both at our education event in November and at various private workshops that co-ops may request. We are pleased to have Bridget as one of our educators and look forward to working with her.

NS co-ops face the end of operating agreements

Some Nova Scotia co-ops are nearing the end of their operating agreements. **Shiretown Housing Co-op** in Pictou, **Highland Housing Co-op** in Antigonish and **Kabuki Housing Co-op** in Halifax, are just three of the co-ops that are facing this problem. If your co-op is nearing the end of its operating agreement and you want to get together with other co-ops in the same situation, please contact **JoAnn Bidgood** at 902-423-7119 (1-866-213-2667) or jbidgood@chfc.ca.



Kenzie MacDonnell (2003) in **Kabuki Co-op's** award winning gardens. **Kabuki Co-op** in Halifax is just one Nova Scotia housing co-op nearing the end of its operating agreement.

O.V.O. reserves one unit for a co-op youth member

O.V.O. Housing Co-operative has set aside one of their units for the exclusive use of young members of the community. Artists, students and other young people who wish to live in a co-operative and experience the co-op spirit have taken advantage of this unique venture.

Co-op pioneer Charlie Paddock recovering at home

Charlie Paddock, one of the founding members of **South End Housing Co-op** in Yarmouth, is recovering at home from triple bypass heart surgery. Charlie was the Executive Director of University of St. Ann's Housing Society, during the founding stages of South End Housing Co-op. Charlie has worked hard for his co-op, and was instrumental in the amalgamation of South End with the three other co-ops in Yarmouth, forming what is now known as **Four Corners Housing Co-op**.

Hubtown celebrates 20 years

Hubtown Housing Co-op in Truro will be celebrating their 20th anniversary soon. They are planning a barbecue to mark this event. CHF Canada will be presenting them an award for 20 years of continuous membership.

If you have any news you would like published in our next Nova Scotia Newsbriefs, please contact **JoAnn Bidgood** at 902-423-7119 (1-866-213-2667) or jbidgood@chfc.ca.



Just one of nine co-op homes that belong to High Hopes Co-op in Halifax, where community spirit and co-operation reach great heights.

High Hopes Housing Co-op

When **JoAnn Bidgood**, Member Services Co-ordinator at CHF Canada's Nova Scotia Office attended a recent monthly meeting at **High Hopes Housing Co-op** in Halifax, she got a taste of the special flavour of this community. A member's cat had just had kittens. They needed homes and she wanted to share. JoAnn could see this was a sign of a co-op with a caring touch. "What an excellent example of co-operative giving! I don't know if she managed to find homes for all the kittens, but I'm sure she did."

High Hopes Housing Co-op is a 25-year-old housing co-op made up of 23 units on nine different properties within one kilometre of each other bounded by Agricola, Pepperell, Willow and Cedar Streets. Despite the physical separations, the members care about each other and when they hold meetings, they make efforts to make them social as well as business-like events. One of the personal touches High Hopes uses is a 'check-in'. At their monthly membership meetings, each member gives a brief up-date on their personal life, and any additions to their household.

Members of High Hopes' maintenance committee are painting all the houses that are part of their co-op. But they take their co-operative spirit beyond their homes. Many members of High Hopes are active in the co-op housing movement. At the 2003 CHF Canada annual meeting in Halifax, members **Maureen Coulter**, **Margaret Hoyle**, **Brian O'Neil** and **Mark Barton** pitched in to do the work needed, from jobs in the AGM Store and filling kit bags to helping out at the business meeting.

High Hopes held their AGM on October 2nd at the home of **Gail MacNeil**. **Rolando Inzunza**, CHF Canada Regional Director for Nova Scotia and JoAnn Bidgood, of the Halifax office, attended the meeting and enjoyed the social gathering that followed. ☺

Fall Education Conference November 12th, Holiday Inn Dartmouth

On November 12th, CHF Canada will host an education conference and co-op members will come together to attend workshops that focus on issues specific to Nova Scotia co-ops. Workshops include:

- Understanding the *Residential Tenancies Act*
- Dealing with conflict
- What is governance, and
- Puzzled by financial statements?

A lunch buffet will be served and Nova Scotia Regional Director, Rolando Inzunza, will give his report to the group.

Look for the registration program that was sent to your co-op in September. Register before October 21st and save \$10 on each full-day registration fee. If you have any questions, please call Karen Brodeur at 423-7110 or 1-866-212-2667 or Penelope Winter at 1-800-465-2752, ext.240.

Rolando Inzunza speaks up on co-op interests as Nova Scotia's new CHF Canada director.



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A message from Rolando Inzunza

Rolando Inzunza was elected as regional director for Nova Scotia this spring. A co-op member in **Kabuki Housing Co-op** for five years, Rolando was motivated to run for the position on the national board.

"I hope to bring the Nova Scotia perspective to the table, but I also want to look at the movement...as it exists within the province of Nova Scotia. I have a vision of a strong Nova Scotia housing co-op sector".

To apply this vision, Rolando hopes to help create an expanded committee of co-op volunteers that represents all Nova Scotia members. In keeping with CHF Canada's commitment to good governance in Nova Scotia by Nova Scotia co-ops, he believes a volunteer committee will provide the right kind of leadership.

With regular meetings, a committee of Nova Scotia co-op members can make sure CHF Canada knows what services and programs best suit Nova Scotia co-ops.

If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch with **JoAnn Bidgood** in the regional office at 902-423-7119 (1-866-213-2667) or e-mail jbidgood@chfc.ca.

Rolando will be speaking at the Education Conference in November and he looks forward to meeting as many Nova Scotia members there as can make it (see this issue for details on the Fall Education Conference).

Charles Court receives partial tax rebate

Charles Court Housing Co-op in Halifax was granted a 25% property tax rebate on their residential rate this year.

The Halifax Regional Municipality takes applications for the rebate once a year at the end of March, and advertises for submissions in the paper.

If your application gets accepted, you still need to reapply each year. The rebate can range from 15% to 100% of the regular rate.

In order to qualify for the rebate, Charles Court had to complete an application and a cover letter to explain why it qualified. They sent this to the municipality and it passed two more levels of approval with the Tax, Grants and Special Projects Committee and the Council before being granted the rebate.

Bridget McConnell is the Corporate Secretary of Charles Court. She credits Dave Emery and Barb Casey of Pathways Housing Services for letting the co-op know about this opportunity.

"Because of this rebate, we can now replace much needed windows and have work done to the exterior of our buildings."

To find out more on how your co-op can apply for this municipal tax rebate see information about By-law T-216 at <http://www.halifax.ca/>.