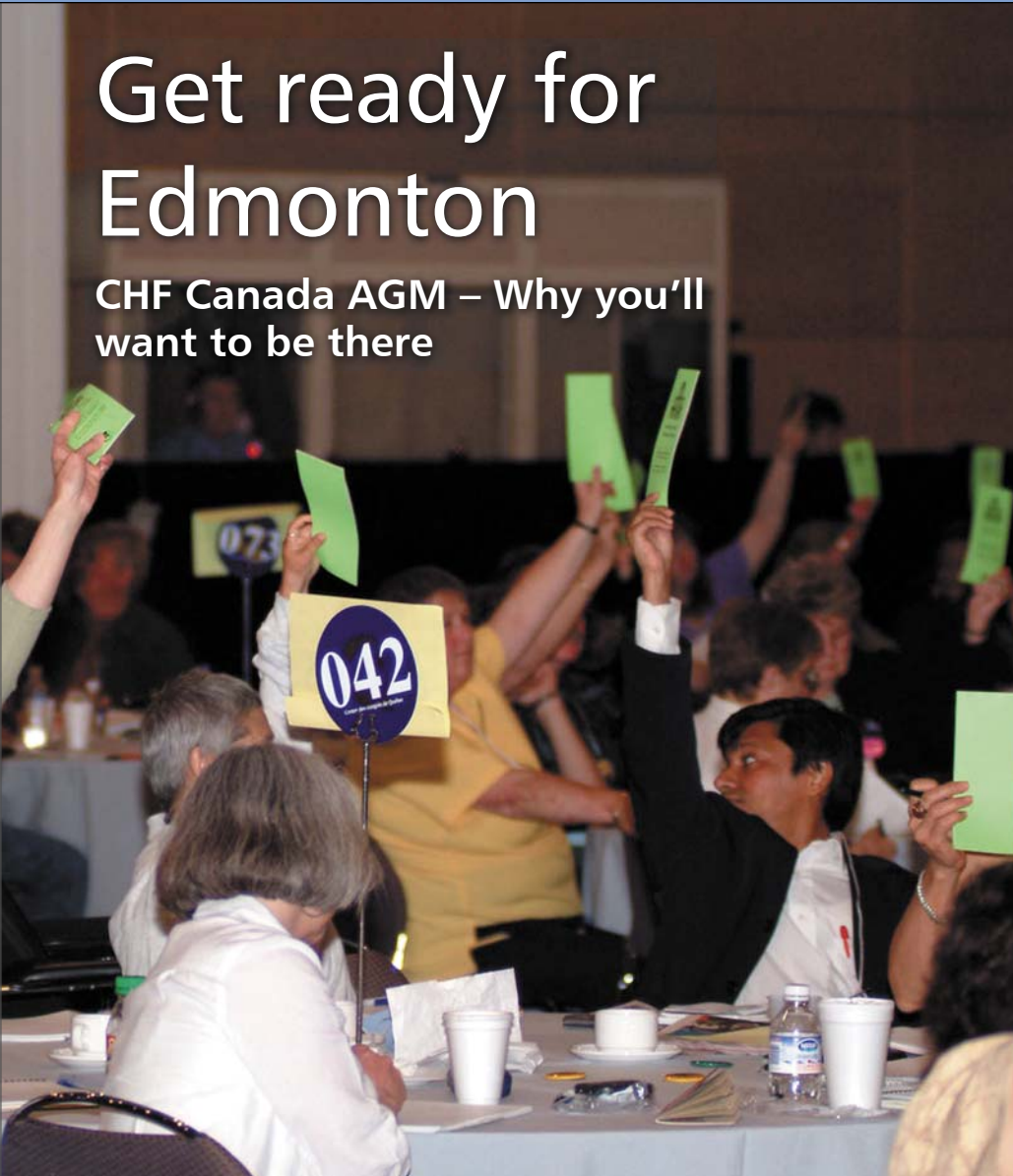


Newsbriefs

NOVA SCOTIA EDITION Spring 2005 – Volume 4, No. 1

Get ready for Edmonton

CHF Canada AGM – Why you'll
want to be there



**You won't want to miss
the CHF Canada AGM in
Edmonton, June 16-18.
Here's why:**

Bursaries for Nova Scotia co-ops

The Nova Scotia government is once again providing bursaries to allow housing co-ops from Nova Scotia to attend CHF Canada's annual meeting. Over the past two years, 40 housing co-operatives have used the bursary program to help send a member to CHF Canada's AGM. Thanks to the bursary program there is more representation from Nova Scotia housing co-operatives at the AGM. And it gives an opportunity for co-op members from Nova Scotia to meet members from housing co-operatives across the country.

To apply for a bursary, contact Karine Ethier, at 1-800-465-2752, ext. 239 or e-mail kethier@chfc.ca. [2] ▶

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Member profile

John Hugh MacKenzie Housing Co-operative in Halifax has been providing quality living in a co-op community for seniors since 1986. Find out more.

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Events

The Education Conference and election of Nova Scotia's regional director for CHF Canada's Board will be held on May 14 in Dartmouth.

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Noteworthy

Good news – Ongoing funding for Nova Scotia office, Meet the Nova Scotia Advisory Committee, Welcome to Karen Brodeur.



◀ [cover]

Laura Henderson, of **Wallis Drive Housing Co-op** in Pictou, Nova Scotia, was able to attend the AGM last year, thanks to the bursary program. Smaller co-ops also get lower registration fees. The meeting information package already mailed to your co-op contains information on alternative accommodations, including residences, bed and breakfasts, and less expensive hotels.

Special guest speaker – Stephen Lewis

When Maclean’s magazine named **Stephen Lewis** as their first Canadian of the Year in 2003, they said, “Stephen Lewis has a job no person in their right mind would envy, tasked with making indifferent governments and their seemingly uncaring citizens pay attention to a tragedy they have ignored for two decades. It is a wonder the United Nations’ special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa does not break under the stress. It is miraculous that against such long odds, he seems to be succeeding.” Housing co-ops will be inspired by his example.

New workshops

Two-thirds of the workshops in this year’s Member Education Forum are new. From sessions on how to make your co-op safer today to advice on planning for your co-op’s future – you’ll find workshops that will give you practical advice and maybe make you think about issues in your co-op in a whole new way. Information on

Democratic representation at the AGM. Board members **Ken Elliott (NB)**, **Theresa Smythe (SK)** and **Thom Shields (NS)** join hundred of members at the 2004 AGM in Quebec City. Thom’s position is up for election by Nova Scotia members at the Education Conference on May 14, see Events on p.5

Opposite page: A view from the front of **John Hugh MacKenzie Housing Co-op**.



registration and workshops has been mailed to each co-op and posted on www.chfc.coop.

Networking lunch

The experts on co-ops are the people who live and work in them. On Friday, June 17, we’ll provide a modest lunch (at a small cost) and convene tables of ten people each. We’ll talk about the hot topics that challenge housing co-ops and CHF Canada today. And you’ll get a written report on these sessions, after the AGM. Make sure you register for this special event!

Better business meeting

The national business meeting will be a one-day event, held on Saturday only. This is your chance to debate the resolutions on issues affecting your co-op and elect directors to represent you on the CHF Canada Board. And, because this year’s meeting is shorter, you’ll save on your delegate’s hotel and expenses.

Youth at the AGM

You can register a young member – age 16 to 25 – as an alternate for half the registration fee. Better still, you can register each additional youth as an observer for only \$50. This is a great opportunity to invest in your co-op’s future.

Learn from co-ops across Canada – and around the world

The AGM is always a great opportunity to share ideas with co-op members from across the country. At this year’s Member Education Forum, you can register for sessions with guests from the United States and Africa. Find out what lessons can be learned when we share with co-ops in other countries.

Interested? Registration packages have been mailed to all member housing co-ops. Or visit the website at www.chfc.coop and follow the links to the AGM information centre. ☎

John Hugh MacKenzie Housing Co-operative

John Hugh MacKenzie Housing Co-op is a Halifax housing co-op developed in 1986 for seniors. Members have found co-op housing a desirable alternative to the other housing choices available to seniors – home ownership, high-rise rental apartment buildings or public housing. Living in the co-op gives members security of tenure, a community atmosphere and easy access to many neighbourhood amenities.

The co-op has 42 units. The unique apartment building contains eight bachelor, 30 1-bedroom units and four 2-bedroom suites, all opening onto the large sky-lit common area in the middle of the building. The common area provides plenty of opportunity to socialize with neighbours and friends. The co-op has two units that are fully wheelchair-accessible.

The co-op has five floors and is located in a friendly neighbourhood near hospitals, grocery stores and the main shopping area of Halifax. There is an elevator, individual storage lockers, laundry rooms on each floor, and rented parking for thirteen vehicles. The co-op operates a library for members and has a crafts room, workshop facilities, meeting room and office, and exercise equipment in the library for use by the members.



Grace Janes, president of the co-op, says the co-op has a 'no pets' policy, but is considering a change so that members can enjoy the company of small pets. This is still in the planning stage, and any change will require approval of the membership.

Besides being near the hospitals, medical clinics, and grocery stores, the co-op is close to Halifax's famous Point Pleasant Park. The outside grounds of the co-op are always full of flowers, making a very attractive building. ☺

events

Spring Education Conference and Nova Scotia regional director election

*Saturday, May 14, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Holiday Inn, 99 Wyse Road (next to
the Angus L. MacDonald Bridge)
Dartmouth*


You won't want to miss the 2005 Spring Education Conference. It's a full day of workshops for co-op members, committees and boards, right here in Nova Scotia. Workshops include:

- Getting the most out of your management
- Keeping your co-op in good repair
- Hiring a bookkeeper or management company
- Running successful meetings

During the lunch hour, members will elect the CHF Canada Regional Director for Nova Scotia. **Thom Shields** was elected last year for a one-year term. Any member, employee or officer of a CHF Canada member in Nova Scotia may run for regional director. Interested? Contact **Nick Sidor** at 1-800-465-2752, ext. 231 or e-mail nsidor@chfc.ca. We'll also set time aside at lunch for a networking session on keeping units filled.

Registration includes lunch and refreshments at the breaks. A \$100 travel allowance is available for members who live more than 100 km away from Dartmouth. There are also discounts for the second person who registers from the same co-op.

Brochures have been mailed to each co-op. For more information, call us at 1-866-213-2667 or visit our website at www.chfc.coop and click on Regional Education events.


**Karen Brodeur joins
CHF Canada as the new
Co-op Services Officer for
Nova Scotia.**



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Good news – ongoing funding for Nova Scotia office

The Government of Nova Scotia has agreed to continue their financial commitment to our Nova Scotia operations for the next three years. With this support, CHF Canada will promote good governance and management in housing co-ops and work with co-ops in difficulty. CHF Canada would like to thank the Government of Nova Scotia for their ongoing support

Meet the Nova Scotia Advisory Committee

The following people are on our Nova Scotia Advisory Committee:

- Bridget McConnell
Charles Court (Halifax)
- Carol Jollymore
Rocky Road (Halifax)
- Leslie MacPhee
O.V.O. (Halifax)
- Colleen Gillis
Highland (Antigonish)
- Sandra Mackey
Shiretown (Pictou)

- Dianna Quinn
Albro Court (Dartmouth)
- Jean Saunry
Samson Court
(New Glasgow)
- Terry Dalby
Privateers (Liverpool)

The Committee talks about issues affecting housing co-ops in Nova Scotia and ways to improve communication among co-ops. To date they've met by conference call but will have a face-to-face meeting during the Education Conference on May 14.

The Committee held a social and networking event on February 12. Co-op members met to talk about co-op principles and ideas. Regional director **Thom Shields** gave an update on the CHF Canada Board meeting in Ottawa and members shared their stories. "It was an enjoyable afternoon," said CHF Canada's Member Services Co-ordinator, **JoAnn Bidgood**. "It is always nice to spend time with co-op people. We all share the same philosophy and have the desire to make things better for co-op members in Nova Scotia."

Welcome to Karen Brodeur

In January, **Karen Brodeur** became the Co-operative Services Officer for the CHF Canada Nova Scotia Office. A native Nova Scotian, Karen lived in Vancouver for 15 years and worked as a co-op coordinator and manager for **CANA Management Associates**, a co-op housing management service provider. Karen was also an active co-op member and served as president of her Vancouver housing co-op.

In her new role with CHF Canada, Karen's work involves helping Nova Scotia co-ops that are experiencing financial or organizational difficulties. She will co-ordinate with the Nova Scotia Department of Housing Services to help find solutions to the co-ops' problems.

Karen also delivers workshops and education in the region. "I know the importance of good management and good governance," she says.