

Newsbriefs

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO EDITION Fall 2007 – Volume 2, No. 2

Southwestern Ontario co-ops at 2007 AGM



Julie Idzinga (President, Tolpuddle Housing Co-op) and **Julie Campbell** (Homestarts Inc.) at the podium accepting the award for best practices in co-op governance and management at the 2007 AGM in Winnipeg.



2

The 2007 AGM
20 members from 10 southwestern Ontario co-ops attended.

2

Fall Education Event
Mark your calendars for the Fall education event in London on Saturday, October 20.

3

Celebrating the summer
Co-ops in Southwestern Ontario had lots to celebrate this summer.

CHF Canada welcomed 20 co-op members representing ten Southwestern Ontario co-ops to the Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg this past June. CASO, the local staff association sent a delegate as well. **Roxanne Samms** was in Winnipeg representing **Genesis Co-operative Housing** in London. “The workshops provided a lot of great information but the opportunity to network with members from other co-ops was very important too.”

At just 16 years old, **Jillian Smith** was the youngest representative from Southwestern Ontario and attended as a youth delegate from **Native Inter-Tribal Housing Co-operative** in London. She is the third generation in her family to be a “co-oper” so she thought it was important to learn more about housing co-ops before she will be old enough to officially become a member. She enjoyed the discussions around sustainability and was inspired by **Hannah Taylor**, the 11-year-old founder of the Ladybug Foundation (www.ladybugfoundation.ca).

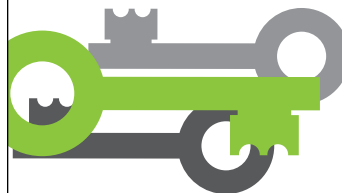
Co-ops in Southwestern Ontario can start planning now to attend the 2008 CHF AGM which will be held in Toronto June 12 – 14. Hope to see you there! ☺

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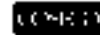
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Fall education event

Mark your calendars and don't miss out!



Southwestern Ontario's Fall Education Event Saturday, October 20 at the Four Points Sheraton (150 Wellington Street, London, ON). You'll find workshops on:

- Getting governance right
- Emergency preparedness
- Arrears management
- 2020 and the co-op principles
- Replacement reserve planning
- Effective members meetings

To find out more, visit our website (www.chfcanada.coop) or contact Denise McGahan at (519) 453-0999 or 1-800-644-3949.

Co-ops in Southwestern Ontario had lots to celebrate this summer!

AN ANNIVERSARY

Westminster Housing Co-op in London held a 25th Anniversary celebration on July 1st. The co-op children started the festivities in the morning with a parade. They decorated their bikes and rode them around the co-op so everyone could see their creations. Then they held a scavenger hunt. In the afternoon, guests, including **Gina Barber**, Board of Control on behalf of the City of London; **Irene Mathysen** London-Fanshawe MP; **Chris Bentley**, London West MPP, and **Julie Campbell**, CHF Canada Director, congratulated the co-op members. In the late afternoon, members shared a potluck dinner and listened to live music. They capped off the event with a fireworks display in the evening.

Members at Westminster Housing Co-op enjoy a barbecue buffet.



PLAYGROUNDS

Faethorne Place Housing Co-op in Sarnia celebrated the opening of a new playground for the children in their co-op in the spring. And on July 1st, **Genesis Housing Co-operative** in London celebrated the opening of their new playground. After an official opening of the playground in the afternoon, members shared a barbecue, followed by fireworks after dark.

Westminster Housing Co-op celebrates. Front row: Gwen Howard (Board of Directors) Irene Mathessyn (MP). Back row: Lyle Maloney (President, Board of Directors), Sandy Moreash (Board of Directors), Julie Campbell (CHF Canada Board of Directors), Gina Barber (Controller, City of London), Chris Bentley (MPP).





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Have your say Local Advisory Committee elections

Join us on October 20 to talk about a new way to give feedback to CHF Canada about the services your co-op needs. During the lunch break at the education event, members will be talking about proposed terms of reference for a local advisory committee. Seven people will be elected to form the first committee.

Interested in running for the committee or just learning more about it? Contact **Denise McGahan** at (519) 453-0999 or 1-800-644-3949.

London Co-op awarded \$1.82 million in development funds

Congratulations to **Twin Pine Village Co-op** in London, who received \$1.82 million to develop 26 units. These new units will be designed for low-income individuals who are 50 years and older and will add to the co-op's existing 84 units. The co-op received the funding through the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program. They also had a \$10,000 start-up grant from Canada Mortgage and Housing Canada (CMHC), and additional funding from the City of London and the London Affordable Housing Foundation, with some funds earmarked for four accessible units. The new buildings will form a square to create a central courtyard.

Bob Sexsmith, an original member of **Twin Pine Village** and the driving force behind the project says, "it was always a dream of ours that we would build a second co-op. Meeting all the requirements is a test on sometimes a daily basis. It's not for the faint of heart...but for me it's definitely worth it."

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's Director is seeking nominations for the Director representing the Aboriginal Community. This is to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of **Kendra Brant**. CHF Canada's Board of Directors will 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 also must 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

CHF Canada would like to thank Kendra Brant for her service to CHF Canada.