



Beautiful Plains Credit Union UPDATE



"That's the SPIRIT of Community Pride!"

JULY, 2008

GORD SYLVESTER NEW GENERAL MANAGER OF BEAUTIFUL PLAINS CREDIT UNION

On April 22, 2008, Board President, Keith Jury, officially announced the hiring of Gord Sylvester as BPCU's General Manager. Gord brings with him a wealth of experience in the financial industry. After 25 years with CIBC, Gord joined BPCU in December, 2003, as Wealth Management and Business Manager. He is quoted in the Neepawa Press as saying, "I think we'll continue our vision of making a difference in the lives of our members and the community. That's the credit union mandate."

BPCU HAS BEST YEAR YET!!!!

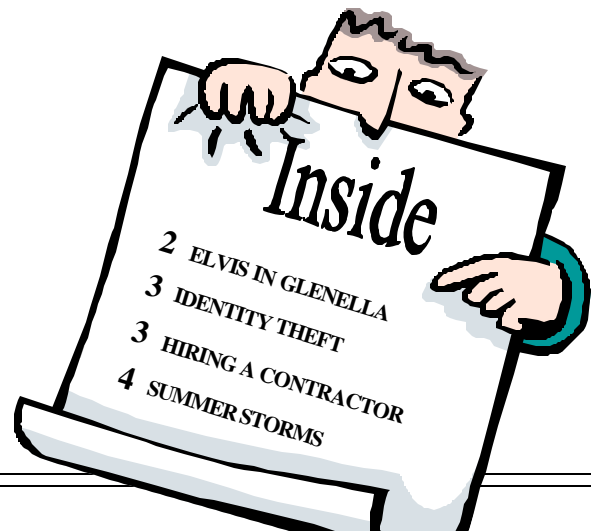
At this year's Annual General Meeting on April 10, 2008, three employees were presented service awards. General Manager, Greg Fleck presented awards to Warren McLeod, Loans Manger, and Carol Bannerman, Member Services Representative, for twenty years of service and to Marla Boyd, Member Services Supervisor, for five years. Greg Fleck commended them for their hard work and dedication to our members.

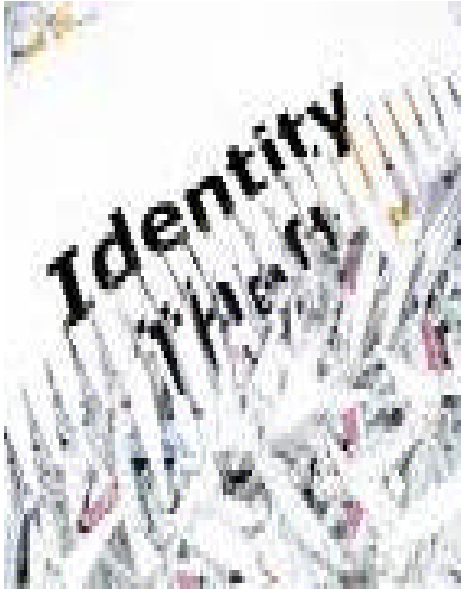
The Credit Union saw the most profitable year in our history. We have grown to nearly \$59 million in assets with a patronage pay-out of \$200,000.00 bringing the total patronage paid to members to \$2.2 million.

Directors Bruce Bremner; Kathy Drysdale; and Greg McConnell were each re-instated for another three year term .



RETIREMENT CELEBRATION AT LEGION HALL





Sensitive Documents — what you should keep and what you should shred

According to a 2008 report from Javelin Strategy and Research, 8.1 million North Americans were victims of identity theft in 2007, resulting in a combined loss of \$45 billion. While identity theft is often associated with phishing e-mails and other online trickery, the truth is most identity theft occurs the old-fashioned way — with crooks digging through trash looking for personal information.

So when it comes to sensitive paperwork, what should you keep and what should you shred? The Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario chapter of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) recently offered the following tips to help with the decision of what to shred, and when.

As a general rule, shred any documents that include social

insurance numbers, birthdates, PIN numbers or passwords. Leases, contracts or letters that are ready to be discarded should also be shredded. As well, pre-approved credit card applications, medical or dental bills, travel itineraries and used airline tickets should all head straight to the shredder once they're no longer needed.

Any documents that support tax returns should be kept in a safe, secure location for seven years — long enough to cover the six-year tax assessment period.

The BBB does advise consumers to keep any cancelled cheques and related receipts or documents for a home purchase or sale, renovations or other improvements to owned property.



Use Caution when Hiring a Contractor

Now that summer is here, homeowners may be considering making renovations to their home or cottage. If you're thinking of hiring a contractor to do the work for you, the Consumers' Bureau has some suggestions on how to avoid getting scammed.

To begin with, the bureau suggests getting three written estimates that outline the work to be done, the materials to be supplied, the specifications, the total cost and cost breakdown, the amount of deposit and the start and completion dates.

The bureau also offers the following suggestions:

- ☞ check references to verify the quality of the work and the contractor;
- ☞ don't sign a contract if there is something you don't understand;
- ☞ hold back 7.5 per cent of the cost for 40 days after substantial completion of the job to ensure no liens have been registered against your property by a supplier;
- ☞ be wary of ads with 1-900 numbers that promise guaranteed loans;
- ☞ ask to see a valid direct seller's license if approached by an individual going door-to-door selling home renovations or repairs;
- ☞ if a salesperson can't provide a license, write down the person's name and the name and address of the company represented, and contact the Consumers' Bureau (945-3800 or toll-free at 1-800-782-0067);
- ☞ read the whole contract before signing; and
- ☞ consider having a lawyer read through the agreement, especially for large projects.

Summer Storms Mean it's Time to Review your Property Insurance Needs

As we move into the warmer summer months, the potential for extreme weather and damaging storms increases. As many Manitobans unfortunately discovered last year, high winds, hail and flash flooding can cause significant property damage.

As such, this time of year is the perfect opportunity for homeowners to review their property insurance needs. Manitoba's Financial Institutions Regulation Branch recommends consumers work with their agent, broker or insurer to review what their insurance actually covers and whether there are any gaps in their current coverage. This will serve to prevent a situation where insufficient insurance coverage is discovered after the fact.



During this process, homeowners should consider the age and construction of their home, whether comprehensive coverage is needed, the amount of deductible they're comfortable with and whether they understand the costs, benefits and conditions associated with their policy.

It's also a good idea for homeowners to take inventory of their property, including the model and serial numbers of things like appliances, and then store the information outside of the home in a safety deposit box.

Finally, homeowners should advise their insurer of any major improvements to their property such as a new roof, kitchen countertops or appliances.

BPCU Telephone Directory

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Glenella Branch 352-4475

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BPCU Website
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**Internet Technical
Support**

1-888-230-2830

Telephone Banking
476-7220

Lost or Stolen Debit Card
1-800-567-8111
Outside Canada

CONGRATULATIONS !!!!!

2008 GRADS



Beautiful Plains Credit Union

Neepawa Branch
476-3341

Glenella Branch
352-4475

