



Beautiful Plains Credit Union UPDATE



"That's the SPIRIT of Community Pride!"

March 2012

CREDIT UNIONS CELEBRATE 75 YEARS IN MANITOBA



In addition to be the International Year of Co-operatives, 2012 is also a special year because it marks the 75th anniversary of the credit union movement in Manitoba.

The first financial co-operative in Manitoba was organized in 1937 by Father Arthur Benoit in the French farming community of St. Malo. Its citizens, like most farmers on the continent, were suffering during the Great Depression; Father Benoit brought them together to help each other financially. The first loan to a member—for \$56.50, repaid in \$2 monthly installments—financed the purchase of a cream separator.

Several months later, Norwood Credit Union was founded in Winnipeg.

Following their example, people throughout Manitoba, drawn together through common ethnic, religious, professional or geographical affiliations, began founding credit unions in ever-increasing numbers. By 1939 there were 19 credit unions in Manitoba, with combined assets of \$49,990 and 2,406 members.

Today the credit union movement in Manitoba is stronger than ever. Thanks to members like you, there are now 41 credit unions in the province, serving more than 580,000 members from 189 locations. The combined assets of the Manitoba credit union system now stand at nearly \$19.2 billion.

It's safe to say that the model Father Benoit helped launch in Manitoba is alive and well 75 years later.

Are You Covered?

If you own a house and still have an outstanding mortgage, you should ensure that you and your loved ones are protected. One of the best ways to do this is with mortgage life and mortgage disability insurance. In case of an accident resulting in death or disability, mortgage life and disability insurance can offer piece of mind.

According to the CIHI Directions ICIS, Canadian Institute for Health Information, Fall 2005, nine in 10 severe injuries occur outside of the workplace. If you suffer a severe injury outside of the workplace, worker's compensation does not cover you. Without worker's compensation would you have sufficient disability insurance coverage to cover your lost wages, and the additional expenses associated with the disability? Additionally, according to "Disability Insurance: Where Will the Money Come from If You're Disabled?" Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association, a six month disability could wipe out 10 years of savings, if you had saved 5% of your earnings each year. Are you prepared to lose 10 years of savings in 6 months due to a disability? If you answered no to either of the above questions please contact your local Beautiful Plains Credit Union Ltd. branch to discuss the coverage that you have on your mortgage.

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Did you miss the RRSP contribution deadline? Here's how to get a jump start on next year NOW

Recent surveys have suggested that many Canadians are turning their financial focus towards paying down debts and have put retirement savings on the back-burner.

That's not surprising considering the state of the economy in the last few years. Reducing debt is a more immediate satisfaction to financial woes, and while reducing debt is always a worthwhile endeavor saving for retirement should also remain a priority.

If you missed the recent RRSP contribution deadline, don't panic; now is a great time to get a jump start with your retirement savings for this contributing year.

One easy way your credit union has to offer is to set up a pre-authorized monthly RRSP contribution. Contributing to your RRSP on a monthly basis has a number of benefits:

- It's easier to budget a small monthly amount than annual lump sum payments. Even small payments can grow into substantial savings (plus less pain; you won't miss it as much)
- No scrambling next February to meet the contribution deadline
- Greater return: In the long run, contributions will earn more interest if deposited monthly or on a bi-weekly basis instead of just once a year
- Your money goes to work for you earlier, as you earn tax-sheltered interest income immediately.

If you would like to set up a monthly (or bi-weekly) RRSP contribution, or if you would like more information on RRSP's in general, please contact your local *Beautiful Plains Credit Union* branch to arrange an appointment to speak with one of our RRSP representatives.

Neepawa Branch: (204)476-3341

Glenella Branch: (204)352-4475.

BEAUTIFUL PLAINS CREDIT UNION LTD. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Beautiful Plains Credit Union Ltd. Annual General Meeting will be held Wednesday April 11, 2012 at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Neepawa. The evening will start with supper @ 6:30 pm followed by the presentation of the Beautiful Plains Credit Union Ltd. 2011 financial statement and election of directors to the Board of Directors of Beautiful Plains Credit Union.

For further information or tickets for the evening please contact either of your local Beautiful Plains Credit Union Ltd. branches in Neepawa and Glenella.

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Furthermore, in Manitoba in 2011, Canadian Premier Life Insurance Company, through Manitoba Credit Union's paid 56 mortgage life claims and 1258 mortgage disability claims to credit union members throughout the province, according to information provided by CRI Canada. Additionally, they have stated that the average mortgage disability claim lasted 7 months. This time period would wipe out more than 10 years of savings as stated by the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association above. Furthermore, studies show that nearly 50% of all mortgage foreclosures and bankruptcies are due to people suffering from a disability.

Don't become a statistic; contact your local branch of Beautiful Plains Credit Union Ltd. today to discuss your life and disability insurance options for your mortgage.

BPCU COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONTINUES WITH ANOTHER YEAR OF SUPPORT FOR LARGE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND EVENTS

2011 saw Beautiful Plains Credit Union continue with their tradition of strong community support. A wide array of community functions and organizations received support from Beautiful Plains Credit Union Ltd. in 2011, whether it was financial support or support of other types. Additionally, staff members of Beautiful Plains Credit Union Ltd. have contributed over 500 hours of volunteer time to various clubs, organizations, and events in the past year. Some of the events and organizations that received contributions from BPCU and the staff include:

- Neepawa Figure Skating Club
- Plumas/Lansdowne Ag Society
- Neepawa & Area Settlement Services
- Beautiful Plains Ag Society
- Neepawa Silver Spurs 4-H
- Neepawa Farmers Baseball
- Glenella Midnight Madness
- Neepawa 4-H Fat Stock Show
- Neepawa Sportsman's Dinner 2011
- Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute Youth Advisory Committee
- Neepawa & Area Heath Auxiliary
- NACI Tigers Football
- Neepawa Farmers Hockey
- Neepawa Gladstone Co-op Rotary Auction
- Neepawa Minor Hockey
- Masters Curling
- Neepawa and Area Lily Festival
- Annual Arden Crocus Festival
- MB 55+ Games
- Shane Hnidy Golf Tournament
- Central Plains Cancer Care
- Welcome Wagon
- MB Summer Games 2011
- Kaleidoscope Concert Series
- Journey for Sight
- Yellowhead Chiefs
- Neepawa Tigers Hockey
- Ducks Unlimited
- Lansdowne Recreation Committee
- Neepawa Natives
- Prairie Mountain Snow Drifters



BPCU General Manager Gord Sylvester presenting a \$1000 donation to members of the NACI Youth Advisory Committee. From left: Rachel Cluett, Chelsea Wehrhahn, Josh Jackson, Cassandra Wehrhahn and teacher advisor Bruce Menzies.

Photo Courtesy Kate Jackman-Atkinson of the Neepawa Banner.

Beautiful Plains Credit Union General Manager Gord Sylvester presenting Joan Popkes of the Beautiful Plains Medical Clinic board of directors with a \$500 donation to be utilized for the installation of automatic doors for the clinic.

Photo Courtesy Christine Waddell of the Neepawa Banner





BPCU Welcomes New Employees To Neepawa Branch

The staff, management, and board of directors of Beautiful Plains Credit Union would like to officially welcome Rhondda Verspeek, casual Member Service Rep. and Heather Landry, permanent part-time Member Service Rep. to the Neepawa Branch of Beautiful Plains Credit Union Ltd.

Credit union banking holidays for 2012

The following is a list of credit union holidays for 2012:

- January 2 (Monday) — New Year's Day Holiday
- February 20 (Monday) — Louis Riel Day
- April 6 (Friday) — Good Friday
- May 21 (Monday) — Victoria Day
- July 2 (Monday) — Canada Day Holiday
- August 6 (Monday) — Civic Holiday
- September 3 (Monday) — Labour Day
- October 8 (Monday) — Thanksgiving Day
- November 12 (Monday) — Remembrance Day Holiday
- December 25 (Tuesday) — Christmas Day
- December 26 (Wednesday) — Boxing Day

The Staff and Management of Beautiful Plains Credit Union would like to thank all our members who generously left Christmas Gifts for the staff to enjoy. They are all greatly appreciated.

Thank You!

BPCU Telephone Directory

Neepawa Branch 476-3341

Gord Sylvester 476-7800
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Glenella Branch 352-4475

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cturko@bpcu.mb.ca

BPCU Website
www.bpcu.mb.ca

**Internet Technical
Support**
1-888-230-2830

Telephone Banking
1-877-883-7078

Lost or Stolen Debit Card
1-800-567-8111
Outside Canada
1-306-566-1276



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