



Christian Credit Union Ltd. **DIFFERENCE**

Fall 2003

Edmonton Christian Schools' High School Campus Nears Completion

Due to an enrollment increase of 40% in the past 3 years, the Edmonton Society for Christian Education, known as Edmonton Christian Schools, embarked on an ambitious expansion of its facilities to accommodate the increase in students. 1,090 students are enrolled at Edmonton Christian Schools, which operates 3 campuses. Since 1999, Edmonton Christian Schools has been an alternative program under Edmonton Public Schools.

\$2.6 million in financing was approved to complete a retrofit of the High School campus including a new gymnasium, increased classrooms and student areas. Completion is scheduled for the end of September. Edmonton Christian Schools' future plans include the relocation of the North East campus. Through members' deposits, the Christian Credit Union is thankful it could play a part in expanding Christian education in Edmonton.



Invest Where You Can Make A Difference *Fall Deposit Campaign*

We have great news - we've had unprecedented loan demand. Both our personal loan and commercial/institutional loan portfolios have grown significantly over the past number of years, including this year. A significant part of this growth has been loans to Kingdom causes such as Christian churches, schools and homes for the elderly and disabled, which is approaching \$10 million. We provide discounted rates to these non-profit organizations.

To keep up with the increased loan demand, we have launched the "Invest Where You Can Make a Difference" deposit campaign. In addition to our already competitive rates, we are providing bonuses for deposits based on existing and new deposits. These bonuses, combined with profit sharing, provide an ultra-competitive rate when comparing with other financial institutions. In addition to bonus rates and profit sharing, Christian Credit Union deposits are 100% guaranteed by the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation.

The campaign includes term deposits, RRSPs, RRIFs, NISA and chequing and savings accounts and will be supported by national and local advertising, direct mail and telephone solicitation. Please help us to reach our goal of \$7 million in deposits by December 31, 2003. If you have deposits maturing at other financial institutions give us a call today.

INVEST WHERE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- \$10 Million in loans & commitments to Kingdom Causes & growing!
- Bonus rates available.
- Profit sharing.
- Deposits 100% Guaranteed.



For a **COMPETITIVE quote** to help build our **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

Call or Visit us Today!

Toll Free North America
1-877-426-0506

www.christiancu.ca

Christian Credit Union Ltd.



Edmonton - 10704 - 107 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5H 0W8 (780) 426-7165
Lethbridge - 1619 Mayor Magrath Drive South, Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 2R4 (403) 328-0711

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General Manager's Message



Peter Lindhout
General Manager

We have much to be thankful for. The Christian Credit Union is off to another great year. Some of the highlights are as follows.

By the time you read this, it is our hope that the zoning application for our new branch location near 137 Avenue and St. Albert Trail in Edmonton will be approved by City Council. Plans are well underway in developing a "wish" list for the new branch location. We appreciate the feedback of our members, both positive and negative.

Your comments and suggestions are being considered. The next steps will be working on the drawings, submitting plans for tendering and selecting a contractor. Subject to Board approval, the anticipated completion date is early Fall 2004.

You can read elsewhere in this newsletter that the Lethbridge branch is off to a wonderful start. Jake Appelhof, Branch Manager,

and staff are to be commended for their efforts. The recent BSE crisis has affected the Southern Alberta region negatively, and we wish our members the best in coping with this crisis.

This spring, at the Credit Union Central of Alberta's Annual General Meeting, the Christian Credit Union won the best Long Term Performance award for its Peer Group. This is the 5th year in a row the Christian Credit Union has won the award. This is a testament to the dedicated work of our staff and to you, our members, for your loyalty and support.

As mentioned previously in this newsletter, due to increased loan demand in all areas, we have launched "Invest Where You Can Make a Difference" Fall Deposit Campaign with an aggressive goal to raise \$7 million in deposits by December 31, 2003. Bonus rates, profit sharing and a 100% deposit guarantee, provide an ultra-competitive rate when comparing with other financial institutions. If you have money to invest, investments maturing at other financial institutions, or are considering transferring your day-to-day banking, please give me a call at (780) 426-7165 or toll free 1-877-426-0506.

Lethbridge Branch Doubles In Size

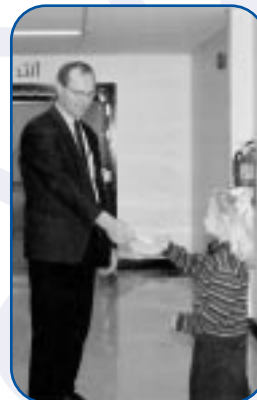
In just 5 months of operation, the Christian Credit Union's Lethbridge branch has increased its loans portfolio by 300% since the purchase of the assets of Dutch Canadian Savings and Credit Union. The new location, located at 1619 Mayor Magrath Drive South, has been growing in all areas.

Highlights in the first 5 months of operation include:

- An open house was held on May 1 & 2, 2003. Approximately 120 members and potential members attended the event held at the Lethbridge branch.
- The Lethbridge Loan Sale, which ran from May through August, provided interest rate discounts to members based on the number of products and services members had with the Christian Credit Union. The loan portfolio has increased by 300%.
- Deposits have increased by 200%.
- 950 members are experiencing the Christian Credit Union "Difference".
- 135 new accounts have been opened. Many members have taken advantage of the convenience of SWITCH. With member's authorization, the Christian Credit Union can SWITCH automated withdrawals and deposits at no fee. To take advantage of this service please contact your nearest Christian Credit Union branch.

We appreciate the support of all of our new and existing members in Lethbridge and surrounding area. If you are from the Lethbridge area, check out the Christian Credit Union Difference, by giving Jake Appelhof and his staff a call at (403) 328-0711 or log on to www.christiancu.ca.

LETHBRIDGE OPEN HOUSE DOOR PRIZE WINNER



Johanna Vandervlist, kindergarten student, presents \$500 Christian Credit Union's Lethbridge Open House door prize to Calvin Christian School's principal **William Grisnich**. Johanna won the prize for attending the Lethbridge branch's Open House on May 1 & 2 and chose Calvin Christian School as her charity.

HEADSTART® GRAND PRIZE WINNER



Annelies Katers, Member Service Representative, presents **Denae Amerongen** with a \$100 one-year term deposit in June, 2003. Denae was the grand prize winner in the Spring Fat Cat® & Headstart® deposit contest, winning the term deposit for correctly guessing the number of marshmallows. Denae is a grade 10 student at Edmonton Christian School.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!



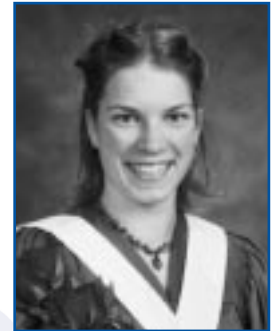
Jennifer Plantinga wins J.A.J. VanGinhoven Scholarship

Christian Credit Union board member, **Edward Vanderveen**, presented Jennifer Plantinga with the J.A.J. VanGinhoven Scholarship at Edmonton Christian School's graduation ceremony. Her name was chosen based on written submissions for the scholarship with the criteria being community involvement and career goals. Prior to winning the scholarship, Jennifer was awarded a \$1,000 work experience scholarship for outstanding job performance as an Edmonton Christian School "intern" during the 2002/2003 school year while working at the Christian Credit Union. Jennifer is attending King's University College in Edmonton, majoring in Business Administration.

The \$500 scholarship is provided annually to an Edmonton Christian School's graduate in honour of J.A.J. VanGinhoven, a strong supporter of Christian education and the General Manager of the Christian Credit Union from 1959 - 1987.

Parkland Immanuel Christian School's Scholarship Winner Cynthia Stikma

Cynthia Stikma was presented the Christian Credit Union scholarship at Parkland's graduation ceremony in May, 2003 by **Johannes Bosch**, secretary, Board of Directors. The \$500 scholarship is presented annually to a student based on academic standing and future goals. Cynthia is attending Grant McEwan Community College in Edmonton, enrolling in the Bachelor of Commerce and Management transfer program.



Notables

- The Christian Credit Union Edmonton branch would like to welcome **Grace Rietveld**, Commercial Credit Assistant. Grace brings many years of experience from another major financial institution and looks forward to assisting our members. We would also like to welcome **Michelle Struik**, part time Member Service Representative. Michelle attends King's University College in addition to working at the Christian Credit Union.
- We say goodbye to **Kim Sommerville**, Commercial Credit Assistant and Member Service Representative. Kim worked as an intern from the business program at King's University College in the winter of 2002. After her internship, she was hired on while she completed her final year of University. Kim and her husband Rob tentatively plan on returning to Calgary. Thank you Kim for your efforts!
- Christian Credit Union staff volunteered 2096 hours or 87 - 24 hour days worth of service to various church, school and community organizations in the past year. Volunteer activities were varied and diverse such as serving as elders and deacons of churches and board members of Christian schools to canvassing and driving single parents. Thank you to all the staff for their volunteer efforts in the community.
- Fat Cat® and Headstart® account holders who saved \$1.00 per month per grade received bonuses totaling \$1,837. The bonuses were matched by the Christian Credit Union and paid to various Christian Schools. Schools participating in the program are Edmonton Christian Schools, Parkland Immanuel Christian School, Edmonton and Trinity Christian School, Calgary. Congratulations to all the Fat Cat® and Headstart® savers.
- On another beautiful and sunny day, the 13th annual Christian

Credit Union Rehoboth Golf Tournament was held on June 7, 2003 at the Stony Plain Golf Course. Over \$19,000 was raised with a full slate of 144 golfers. Similar tournaments are held in Lethbridge and Calgary.



- Over 100 hits a week have occurred on the Christian Credit Union's web site www.christiancu.ca. The site, launched in the spring of 2003, provides links to on-line banking, community involvement, financial planning, services & accounts and current interest rates and much more. Check it out today!

Staff Profile: Teresa Vanderkooi



Teresa joined the Christian Credit Union on January 2, 2000. Her previous work experience includes running a day home while her children were small and working part-time in customer service for a major grocery store.

After starting as a Member Service Representative, Teresa was promoted to Office Supervisor at the beginning of 2003 replacing **Alice Nicholson**, who transferred to the Lethbridge branch. Teresa likes the challenge and the rewards of working at the Christian Credit Union and enjoys the atmosphere of friendliness and mutual respect.

Teresa and her husband Andrew, who owns a heating company, have been happily married for 21 years and have 3 teenage children. Teresa volunteers as Chair of the Counting Committee at West End Christian Reformed Church.

Protect Your Pin

Christian Credit Union members conduct, on average, over 25,000 MemberCard®Debit Card transactions each month. While these services are very secure, debit card fraud can occur. The most important thing you can do to keep your money safe is to follow these steps:

- Your debit card is the key to your account(s). Never share your Personal Identification Number (PIN) or lend your MemberCard®Debit Card to anyone, including friends or family.
- Memorize your Personal Identification Number (PIN). You can change your PIN at anytime by visiting the Christian Credit Union.
- When selecting your PIN, do not use obvious information such as addresses, birth dates or telephone numbers.
- Only conduct transactions when and where you feel secure.
- Use your hand or body to shield your PIN when conducting transactions. Always retrieve your card and transaction record.
- Check your statements to verify all transactions.
- If your MemberCard®Debit Card is lost or stolen, notify the Christian Credit Union immediately or after hours call 1-800-LOST-123.
- No employee of the Christian Credit Union will ever request that you provide them with your PIN.

Causes of debit card fraud are reviewed on an individual basis. In a proven case of fraud, you are protected and will not suffer any financial loss.



PLANNER'S CORNER

RENTING vs. OWNING

Conventional wisdom is that buying a home is always the best option. With housing prices increasing significantly throughout Canada over the past 3 years and mortgage rates at all-time lows, it's difficult to question this conventional wisdom. There are some factors to consider...

Jim Hummel, CFP

- **"Rent" to the bank in the form of interest.** Keep in mind that when you borrow money from the Credit Union you are "renting" the money until you pay it back. To illustrate:

\$150,000 mortgage at 4.90%, 1 year term, 25 year amortization

Total payment \$868.17 monthly

Portion of payment that is principal \$261.54

Portion of payment that is interest or "rent" \$606.63

Property taxes \$1,600 year \$133.33

Maintenance \$ 75.00

Total monthly costs of home ownership \$814.96

In this example, if a member can find a rental accommodation for less than \$815 plus utilities, it may be better to rent, especially when considering property taxes and the cost to maintain a residence (replacing roof or furnace, etc.)

- **Down payment.** Saving for the down payment continues to be the most difficult task for first-time home buyers, many of whom have student loan debt and other debt. Sources of down payment include savings, RRSPs and non-repayable gifts or loan from parents. One the best ways to save for a down payment is through an RRSP where you can take advantage of a tax break/refund (refer website link below*).
- **Personal considerations.** Speaking from personal experience, having rented for 12 years, it was time for my wife and me to purchase a home. Owning allows you to paint a wall a certain colour, hang as many pictures as you want or perhaps have a garden. The advent of marriage or family usually prompts the

decision to purchase a home.

- **Permanency.** Owning a home provides some degree of permanency. As a renter, you may be subject to rent increases and eviction notices. Young people who plan to travel or are unsure of career goals should consider renting. If circumstances change, and a 'forced sale' is required, real estate commissions can eat away at any increases in property value or result in a net loss.
- **Home as an investment.** Although recent gains in real estate values have resulted in excellent gains in the past 3 years, this has not always been the case such as the early 90's in Alberta. Some of our members who have moved from Ontario and B.C. over the years have experienced significant losses when selling their residences in those provinces.

Two positive considerations for home ownership are tax-free capital gains and forced savings. Any gains made on the sale of a principal residence are tax free, which can provide a significant tax shelter. Home ownership also forces the borrower to put away money every month to pay the mortgage payment. A portion of the payment does go to principal, resulting in a forced savings plan.

As illustrated, there are pros and cons to purchasing a home depending on your present circumstances.

*For more financial planning articles written by Jim, log on to www.christiancu.ca and click on Financial Planning. The site features over 25 financial planning calculators to help achieve your life planning goals.



Visit, call or write us at: **Christian Credit Union Ltd.**

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