

At Home with Casera

NEWSLETTER OF CASERA CREDIT UNION • WINTER 2007

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Southglen Branch Opens



Southglen is the third branch in Casera's network of neighbourhood credit unions.

On December 4th, the 'opening soon' sign came down and the doors swung open at Casera's new Southglen branch. Branch Manager Kathy Lemky and her staff welcomed a growing number of members and visitors to Casera's third Winnipeg location. By the end of the first week, the branch at 720 St. Anne's Road was stimulating a lot of interest in the community.

"So far, the branch has been accepted with open arms by the Southglen community and everyday we're opening new accounts as word continues to

get around," remarks Brent Thomas, Casera's CEO.

Southglen is the third branch in Casera's network of neighbourhood credit unions and is staffed by a team

of dedicated service providers. With all the features of a modern financial service outlet (including a drive-thru ATM) the new branch is open for business six days a week.

Members Receive 8% Dividend

Casera Credit Union's board of directors are pleased to approve payment of an eight percent share dividend to members holding common shares of Casera Credit Union on record as of November 30, 2006.

On December 14, 2006, payment of the cash dividend was credited to members' chequing/savings accounts for non-registered funds, and credited to RRSP/RRIF surplus share accounts for registered funds.

Casera Credit Union is pleased to have returned to members close to \$3 million dollars since 1994. Membership does indeed have its benefits.



CEO's DESKTOP

Over the years, our members have come to appreciate the staff they've dealt with personally through visits to the Plessis and Kildare branches. In the last several weeks, some of those familiar faces have moved to other positions within Casera Credit Union, including the new Southglen branch.

Because of our recent branch expansion and extension of some vital services, we've had the opportunity to promote a number of staff members and hire several others. These changes may not always be noticeable but we're proud to report that we've retained all our staff and complemented them with experienced and eager new employees.

The foundation of our credit union has always been its people. It's a testament to the hard work of our staff that we've managed to build a reputation for service that is not only professional, but friendly as well.

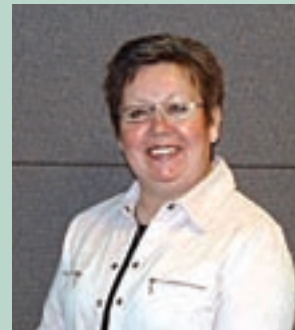
While many financial service providers are moving away from the in-person banking experience, we've moved forward by reaffirming our commitment to personal service. Whether you do business at the Plessis, Kildare or new Southglen branch, you'll always find a smiling face at Casera.

Regards,
Brent Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

Recognizing Long Service

Congratulations and sincere thanks to the following employees for their dedication and ongoing contributions to Casera Credit Union. They were recently commended with long service awards.

Becky Differ (5 years)
Serena Streilein (5 years)
Kim Tachan (5 years)
Kathy Lemky (10 years)
Sharon Slater (10 years)



Judy Wegner (20 years)

Diversity Builds Strong Boards



Have you considered running for the board of Casera Credit Union? The strongest boards are made up of people from different walks of life; a financial background is not required. It is important that the board reflect the community it serves.

A board has the responsibility of overseeing the general direction of the credit union. Boards do not become involved in the day-to-day operation of the credit union, but do establish its aims and objectives.

A comprehensive director-training program is available for new directors with an emphasis on understanding directors' authority, responsibility and accountability.

Being a director is a great way to give back to your community. If you're interested, please pick-up nomination papers at any branch location. Application deadline is February 15, 2007. For details call Brent Thomas at 958-6313.



Casera Holidays

January 1 (Monday)
New Year's Day
April 6 (Friday)
Good Friday
May 21 (Monday)
Victoria Day
July 2 (Monday)
Canada Day

August 6 (Monday)
Civic Holiday
September 3 (Monday)
Labour Day
October 8 (Monday)
Thanksgiving Day
November 12 (Monday)
Remembrance Day

December 25
(Tuesday)
Christmas Day
December 26
(Wednesday)
Boxing Day

RRSP Holders Alert

Your designation of a beneficiary by means of a designation form will not be revoked or changed automatically by any future marriage or divorce. Should you wish to change your beneficiary in the event of a future marriage or divorce, you will have to do so by means of a new designation.

Wake-up to RRSPs

It may be human nature to put things off until the last minute. But life is usually a lot easier if you get an early start on something – like your RRSP contribution.

Don't wait until the last few weeks to contribute to your RRSP. The best strategy is to make your RRSP contribution on January 1st for the current tax year, rather than waiting until the March 1st deadline the following year. Over the life of your plan, these extra 14 months of annual tax-free accumulation can translate into thousands of dollars more in tax-deferred retirement income.

Early contributions can also grow into a substantially larger nest egg, providing even greater RRIF purchas-

ing power upon retirement (a RRIF – Registered Retirement Income Fund is a retirement vehicle used to withdraw accumulated funds from RRSP saved for use upon retirement).

Another advantage of investing your money in January or February is the ability to deduct contributions for either tax year. Contributing early requires that you estimate how much you'll be able to contribute to your RRSP, based on the prior year's income. To find your limit, take a look at your Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) notice of assessment, sent to you after you file your annual income tax return.

For more information speak to one of our RRSP Specialists.



Member NEWS

AGM Advance Notice

Casera members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, April 17th, 2007 at the Club Regent Casino Hotel. Registration and 'Meet the Candidates' begins at 6:00 p.m., with the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Lucky Prize Winners

Member Appreciation Week

Family Fun Weekend – Jenn Nelson

Blue Bomber Tickets – Judith Johnson

BBQ – Dan Diachan

Casera Bag – Val Delaronde

Credit Union Day

Coffee Mug - Sharon Hay, Feleen Gittens

Sweater – William Pitz, J. Williams

Fleece Sweater – Daneka Nelson, Allison Stanwick

Fleece Blanket – Bill Gonzola, Nettie Hyrchuk

Gym Bag – Tyler Heiland, Bob Whittaker

Moose Tickets – Nick Mlynarovich, R. Gomulinski

RRSP Contribution Deadline

Remember, the closing date for RRSP contributions is Thursday, March 1, 2007.



Plan for the Road Ahead



Flexible Options.
RRSP Loans at Prime Rate.

1300 Plessis Road
Phone: 958-6302

8-630 Kildare Avenue East
Phone: 958-6320

E-mail: talktous@caseracu.ca

NOW OPEN

720 St. Anne's Road
Phone: 958-6600

www.caseracu.ca

Borrow to Contribute

What do you do if the RRSP deadline is fast approaching and you don't have the cash to make a contribution? Simple. Borrow it from Casera Credit Union.

While it's always preferable to use existing savings to contribute to an RRSP, it's better to borrow if you're short of cash than not to make a contribution at all. Skipping just one \$5,000 contribution may reduce the value of your RRSP by almost \$34,000 over 25 years, assuming an eight percent average rate of return.

Even if money is tight, borrowing to make an RRSP contribution makes good financial sense – provided you pay down the loan quickly.

While interest on RRSP loans is not tax deductible, there are enough tax advantages in RRSPs to make carrying short-term debt worthwhile. Not



only will you receive an immediate tax deduction for your contribution, your RRSP investment compounds on a tax-deferred basis for as long as it remains in the plan. In most cases the immediate tax saving, plus the tax-deferred growth inside an RRSP, will far outweigh the short-term interest costs of the loan.

Avoid the rush, meet with one of our financial service officers today.



Budgets for Students... Are they for Real?

According to a survey by Youthography (a marketing and communications consultancy aimed at young consumers), 83 percent of respondents were confident they had the information they needed to make smart financial choices but less than one third of students who had been shown how to create a budget said they implemented it completely. They claimed it was too strict, too hard to follow or they knew they needed a budget but the end product was 'totally unrealistic.'

The key to good budgeting is developing a budget that includes a sensible and accurate record of all income and expenses. Once you have that, you can determine what your spending priorities are and allocate your money accordingly. Leave room in your budget for the odd indulgence here and there so it's possible to stick to it over the long term.

PIN Numbers

Shield your PIN (Personal Identification Number) at all times. Criminals need both the PIN and the magnetic stripe information from a debit card to commit fraud.

A survey by the Interac Association confirms that while 92 per cent of Canadians recognize the importance of protecting their PIN, 60 per cent do not always shield their PIN if they think nobody can see them entering it. Incredibly, 37 per cent do not shield their PIN even if they believe somebody can see them entering it.



Three convenient branches with drive-thru ATMs:

1300 Plessis Road
Winnipeg, MB R2C 2Y6
Phone: 958-6300

8-630 Kildare Avenue East
Winnipeg, MB R2C 0P8
Phone: 958-6320

NOW OPEN

720 St. Anne's Road
Winnipeg, MB R2N 0A2
Phone: 958-6600

Full service financial solutions since 1951.

E-mail: talktous@caseracu.ca

www.caseracu.ca

Membership open to everyone.