



Casera Awards  
A Sincere Thank You  
Dividends Approved

Page 2



Spreading Goodwill  
Become a Director  
Member News

Page 3



Consider a Loan  
Small Business  
RRSP Deadline

Page 4

# credit union **Casera** NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF  
Casera Credit Union | January 2017



Casera's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18th, 2017 at Club Regent Casino Hotel and you're invited.

Registration and meet the candidates start at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

This year, there are three positions open on Casera's Board of Directors. Want to become a director? Find out more about the process on page 3.

Your vote is always important to Casera's future.  
**Please join us.**

## Casera Community Awards Handed Out

*On October 21st at Casera's Plessis Road branch, CEO Brent Thomas and President Robert Riddell presented Casera Community Awards to four exceptional community leaders and organizations.*

Presented with Community Leadership Awards were Carol Fletcher, a United Church Minister and active community developer, and Bernard Koley, a life-long volunteer with the Knights of Columbus. Receiving Community Enrichment Awards were Manitoba Mutts Dog Rescue, a network of foster families that care for abandoned, abused or surrendered dogs and cats, and Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps – 350 Transcona, a group dedicated to providing leadership and citizenship opportunities to youth.

This year's awards were handed out on International Credit Union Day, an event that CEO Brent Thomas said made the presentation even more noteworthy. "This is a special day," he remarked. "Credit Union Day is celebrated around the world, and one of the cornerstones of the co-operative movement is support for our communities."

The annual Casera Community Awards were created to help shine a light on the day-to-day service of those involved in building better neighbourhoods in Transcona and south St. Vital. As a result, the award program

offers Casera an opportunity to recognize individuals and groups who do great work for their communities.

"We recognize that many dedicated individuals and groups work hard, and at times without recognition, to make our community a vibrant place in which to live and work," said Thomas. "We're truly honoured to present the Casera Community Awards to this year's worthy recipients."

**Check out page 2 for news about 2017's Casera Community Awards.**



**L-R:** Brent Thomas, Casera CEO, Carol Fletcher, Bernard Koley, Lori Kalyniuk (on behalf of Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps – 350 Transcona), Cathy Doyle (receiving for Manitoba Mutts Dog Rescue), and Robert Riddell, Casera President.



Dreams are just great ideas waiting for financing.

Need a personal loan? Contact Casera today.

credit union  
**Casera**

1300 Plessis 204-958-6300 | 8-630 Kildare 204-958-6320  
720 St. Anne's 204-958-6600 | [www.caseraacu.ca](http://www.caseraacu.ca)  
talktous@caseraacu.ca





## Planning Underway for 2017 Casera Community Awards

*We will be presenting 2017 Casera Community Awards at our Annual General Meeting in April.*

If you would like to submit the name of a worthy person or organization from Transcona or south St. Vital, nomination forms are available online at [www.caseraacu.ca](http://www.caseraacu.ca) or any of Casera's neighbourhood branches. *Nominations close March 15th.*



## CEO's Desktop

Strategic planning is an essential part of Casera's success. The Board of Directors and senior management set the credit union's course three years in advance and follow the signposts inherent in the plan. We determine goals, identify milestones and work toward meeting them all. The work we put into planning is a key component of governance and has contributed to our year-to-year success.

Aiming for and managing financial growth is just one aspect of strategic planning, however. Casera has also recently updated its business continuity plan, a process that creates prevention and recovery systems to deal with potential threats to our operations. Some of the potential risks are by their nature uncommon in Manitoba — pandemics, civil disorder — but others, such as cyber attacks, fires and severe storms can pose a threat to our resources.

Assessing risks and planning to mitigate them helps ensure that our business will continue if we ever face a worst-case scenario. We're committed to protecting our staff, facilities and information technology. Having a comprehensive business continuity plan in place is an important and necessary part of our strategic planning process. When assessing risks with devastating consequences, our Board believes it's always better to be proactive than reactive.

Best Regards,  
**Brent Thomas**  
Chief Executive Officer

## A Sincere Thank You

*Congratulations to Our 2016 Long Service Award Recipients*



**Robyn Hiller**  
5 years



**Jayme Marien**  
10 years



**Jennifer Morrison**  
10 years



**Sharon Slater**  
20 years

## 2016 Dividends Approved

### Common Shares

- Casera's Board of Directors has approved a 2% share dividend to members holding Common Shares of Casera Credit Union on record for the 12-month period ending December 31st, 2016.
- Cash dividends will be credited to members' accounts by January 27th, 2017. The credit will be made to members' chequing/savings accounts for nonregistered funds, and credited to registered Surplus Share accounts for registered funds.

### Preference Shares

- Casera's Board of Directors has approved a 4% share dividend to members holding Preference Shares of Casera Credit Union on record for the 12-month period ending December 31st, 2016.
- Cash dividends will be credited to members' accounts by January 27th, 2017. The credit will be made to members' chequing/savings accounts for nonregistered funds and credited to registered Surplus Share accounts for registered funds.

*Since 1994, Casera Credit Union has returned over \$3.8 million in dividends to its members.*



**L:** Our staff decorated a tree in Transcona BIZ's Winter Wonderland. **R:** We also made hampers in support of the Christmas Cheer Board.

## Spreading Goodwill

*The holiday season is a special time at Casera. Our staff helped spread goodwill by participating in several community initiatives, including wrapping gifts at Kildonan Place in aid of Breast Cancer Research, putting together hampers in cooperation with the Christmas Cheer Board, and decorating a tree for Transcona BIZ and its Winter Wonderland which supports the Transcona Food Bank.*

## Member News

### FAT CAT® Winners

September – Jaydon Denomme

October – Evan Reimer

November – Austin Thomas

### RRSP Plan Holders

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.

### Casera Holidays 2017

January 2 .....	New Year's Day
February 20.....	Louis Riel Day
April 14 .....	Good Friday
May 22 .....	Victoria Day
July 3 .....	Canada Day
August 5.....	Casera Holiday
August 7.....	Civic Holiday
September 4.....	Labour Day
October 9 .....	Thanksgiving Day
November 13 .....	Remembrance Day
December 25.....	Christmas Day
December 26.....	Boxing Day

**WIN cash** by referring a friend to Casera. Draws are made quarterly with one member among all branches eligible to win \$100 cash. Contact your neighbourhood branch for details.



## Anniversary Celebration

On December 6th, our St. Anne's branch celebrated 10 years of success in south St. Vital. Thanks to our members for helping make our business grow.

## Make a Difference Become a Director

**Casera is seeking members with business acumen supported by many years of business experience to join its Board of Directors.**

There are three positions to be filled on Casera's board at the April 18th, 2017 Annual General Meeting. As a Director, you will work cooperatively with other Board members to monitor the credit union's operations for soundness and stability. You will also help establish the credit union's short-term business goals and long-term strategic direction. Together with the Board, you will be responsible for final approval of Casera's strategic plan, annual budget and operational plan.

Casera offers a comprehensive director-training program that focuses on the authority, responsibility and accountability of Directors. This training will help expand your understanding in the areas of audit and compliance, board and CEO performance, credit union operations, financial literacy, governance and ethics, leadership, regulatory environment, risk management oversight and strategic planning.

If you've been a member of Casera for at least a year and wish to explore this opportunity, please visit [www.caseracu.ca](http://www.caseracu.ca) > **About Casera** > scroll down and click on Become a Director to download a Nomination Package.

**Application deadline is March 3rd, 2017.**

**It's RRSP season.**

Contributions are tax deductible.  
Income earned is tax sheltered.



**Don't forget.**  
The deadline for contributions is March 1st, 2017.



1300 Plessis 204-958-6300 | 8-630 Kildare 204-958-6320  
720 St. Anne's 204-958-6600 | [www.caseracu.ca](http://www.caseracu.ca)  
talktous@caseracu.ca



# Consider an RRSP Loan

- 1 Maximize your annual contribution or add money to a plan with unused contribution room from preceding years.
- 2 An RRSP loan can be obtained for a period up to 24 months at preferred rates, and the balance can be paid off at any time without penalty.
- 3 Arrange for terms longer than 24 months at a higher interest rate.
- 4 Benefit from the tax advantage (the interest rate is conventionally higher than interest earned, but it's still worthwhile).

**Got an RRSP question? Let Casera's investment specialists help. Call, click or drop by your neighbourhood branch today.**



## Big Emphasis on Small Business

Thanks to high levels of service, credit unions are the financial institutions of choice for Canada's small- and mid-sized enterprises (SMEs).

A recent report from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) revealed that Canada's small businesses rank credit unions number one among financial institutions when it comes to things like financing, fees and account manager issues. But what sets credit unions apart from their bank competitors is one of the staples of the credit union model: service.

When asked to score credit unions and banks on a scale from 0 (worst) to 10 (best), SMEs gave credit unions an overall score of 7.2, well ahead of the first Big Five bank (Scotiabank, 4.8). Credit unions also led the way in service, with a score of 8.8, ahead of every other financial institution.

Among small businesses with five to 49 employees, credit unions' service score rose to 9.1 out of 10. Mid-sized businesses (50 to 499 employees) were even more taken with credit unions, giving them an overall score of 9.6, more than two full points ahead of the next closest financial institution.

That commitment to providing SMEs with industry-leading service is likely part of the reason why another CFIB report found that Manitoba and Saskatchewan credit unions had a 39.2 per cent share of the SME market in 2015, up 2.5 per cent from 2012 and well ahead of any of the big banks.

*Casera offers small business owners and entrepreneurs a wide range of business account services. If you're serious about business, talk to one of our commercial lending specialists. E-mail Donna Waslenko at [dwaslenko@caseracu.ca](mailto:dwaslenko@caseracu.ca) or Jason Klassen at [jklassen@caseracu.ca](mailto:jklassen@caseracu.ca).*

## Don't Let RRSP Deadline Sneak Up on You

*Holiday shopping is top of mind for most of us this time of year, but it's worth remembering that the Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) contribution deadline is also just around the corner. In fact, the deadline for the 2016 tax year is March 1, 2017.*

Contributing annually to an RRSP enables you to reduce the tax you pay on your current employment income. As well as being tax deductible, annual contributions to an RRSP will grow, tax-free, keeping you ahead of inflation and maintaining valuable purchasing power for your retirement years. All RRSPs share the same essential features of tax deductibility and tax deferral, but they vary regarding flexibility and control of investments, risk and return.

A wide range of investment choices exists for all types of investors — from the most aggressive (who buy mutual funds or choose to manage their portfolio through self-directed RRSPs) to those interested in guaranteeing their principal (who lean towards fixed-income plans), to beginners building an investment base.

If you've got questions about RRSPs, Casera will be happy to help you. Contact your neighbourhood branch today to discuss your RRSP options.



- Like us on Facebook
- Follow us @CaseraCU
- Follow us on Instagram
- Email us: [talktous@caseracu.ca](mailto:talktous@caseracu.ca)



1300 Plessis 204-958-6300 | 8-630 Kildare 204-958-6320  
720 St. Anne's 204-958-6600 | [www.caseracu.ca](http://www.caseracu.ca)