



MARCH 2009



W. J. (Bill) Wardell  
President

## Environmental Sustainability & Our Part In It

**E**nvironmental sustainability has been a major focus of the management, staff and the Board these past few months.

Human-produced emissions such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide create rising temperatures, which result in reduced flows of glacial fed rivers, like the South Saskatchewan. In addition, we see increased storm severity, climate extremes, as well as severe drought. As a farmer, father, grandfather and a Co-op member, I am concerned that the present reliance on a fossil fuel economy is not environmentally sustainable. Rising carbon dioxide levels, primarily over the last 40 years, have led to carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere which is affecting our global climate in a negative way.

### Saskatchewan Greenhouse Gas Emissions Three Times National Average

Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions are three times the Canadian average and approximately 15 times the world average. Recent data shows current Saskatchewan greenhouse gas emissions to be approximately 70 tonnes per person. By comparison, Sweden - not a warm country - has greenhouse gas emissions of less than eight tonnes per person. Scientists the world over agree that greenhouse gas emissions on the planet must be reduced to approximately two tonnes per person by 2050 if the world is to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. Catastrophic harm may be experienced if global temperatures rise by more than 2°C, and it is obvious that we must begin working to reach this target immediately.

### Reducing Our Electricity Consumption

Electricity consumption accounts for one quarter of Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions. The province has electrical capacity to produce 3,500 megawatts per year,

of which 60% comes from coal-fired plants. It is therefore incumbent on all of us, and particularly on businesses like the Co-op, to do everything possible to reduce consumption of electrical power, so that the Province may reduce its reliance on electricity generated from coal, which is a major contributor to greenhouse gases.

Our staff and management are working diligently to reduce electrical consumption, increase conservation by better building maintenance and design, and by cutting consumption through efficient lighting, refrigeration and control systems in our facilities. Some of our initiatives are highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter.

As Co-op members, we may wish to promote discussion amongst our neighbours and communities to achieve energy savings by the possibility of forming car co-ops, installing solar hot water heating units and, in rural areas, considering geothermal, biomass, wind and solar energy production.

The Board has discussed with management the potential business opportunities for the Co-op in areas such as the sale and use of solar energy equipment for space heating purposes, geothermal energy units, and of solar photovoltaic technology. Improved electrical storage technology could soon be to a point where Saskatchewan, with maximum use of small scale renewable energy production, could move to close to 100% renewable energy. There may be an opportunity for the Co-op to consider being a leader in supplying our customers with that technology.

### Saskatoon Co-op's Mission Statement Promotes Social Responsibility in All Areas

The Saskatoon Co-op's Mission Statement directs the Board and members to act in a socially responsible manner. Environmental leadership, reducing consumption, and using our business and management skills to promote, market and educate our members with respect to diversified energy production potential are issues about which our

Board wishes feedback from our members. We should not act alone without the full and significant support of the membership, their ideas and their support. Our Co-op is uniquely situated in society, as it is part of a sophisticated business structure within the envelope of the larger Federated Co-op organization. We have access to important technical, marketing and other services. Our mandate is to run your business in a way that returns patronage refunds to members and retains capital reserves so that we might build and promote your business, while at the same time operating your business in a socially responsible manner.

This balance of community and co-operative entrepreneurship creates an opportunity where we can be effective community leaders in the challenges that face society with respect to global warming and environmental challenges. President Obama and our neighbours to the South are clearly focused on similar endeavours.

### How Do My Decisions Affect the Environment?

Each of us, as Co-op members and consumers, must ask ourselves why we belong to a Co-op. Why do we buy products and services from the Co-op rather than from some of our corporate competitors? Are we truly committed to making the Co-op one of the most successful businesses in our community, while at the same time operating at a high level of environmental and social responsibility?

When each of us makes a consumer purchasing decision, where and how we commit those dollars should be based on our evaluation of what contribution that business makes to ourselves as consumers and to our community, especially in the areas of environmental stewardship.

Members, please provide us with your ideas on how we might continue to reflect the stewardship values of the membership in regard to the environment for the long term benefit of our children and our grandchildren, while at the same time continuing to operate a vibrant and competitive business.



Gerard Muyres  
General Manager

## Saskatoon Co-op's Green Policies

**T**he management of Saskatoon Co-op understands the importance of establishing a plan and being an active player in the community when it comes to initiating and implementing "Green" policies. However, our social responsibility in this area must be a reasonable plan which will not negatively impact the financial position of our business or the value of our members' equity.

### Stonebridge Facility's Lower Impact Initiatives

Construction of our newest Gas Bar/ C-Store/ Car Wash is underway in the Stonebridge area of the city and is an example of our commitment to being environmentally friendly. Some examples include energy-efficient lighting, leak detectors and low maintenance landscaping. See the following page for a more complete list. Many of these ini-

tiatives are not new to our Gas Bar division but some are, and we will continue to look for ways to have as little impact on the environment as possible.

### Saskatoon Co-op Home Centres

The Home Centre Division participated in a program with SaskPower where customers were encouraged to return their old Christmas lights and receive a coupon for a discount on new energy-efficient LED lights. Much work was also put into finding information about and putting plans together on composting. This was done in an effort to help reduce the amount of product going to landfills. Staff attended the "Build Sask. Green" conference this past year and will attend in the future to look for new environmental initiatives that can be implemented at our Home Centres.

### Saskatoon Co-op Grocery Stores

The Food Division has taken on some new initiatives as well. Some of these include the intro-

duction of reusable check stand bags as well as a reusable hot/cold bag, the use of recycled plastic check stand bags and recycling plastic pallet wrap. We also held our first Earth Day promotion in April which included partnering with schools and community associations.

### Completing "Green Initiative" Assessment and Action Plan in 2009

In 2009, the management of Saskatoon Co-op will complete an overview on a "Green Initiative" by division and prepare a carbon footprint of the Marketplace Food Stores. This information will then be used to prepare an action plan as to what can reasonably be accomplished in future years in an attempt to further establish our organization as a co-operative partner in achieving socially responsible environmental goals.

We recognize the importance of protecting our surroundings and hope this helps bring to light some of the things your Co-op is doing, every day, to be responsible stewards of the environment.



# What Are We Doing for the Environment?

## At THE MARKETPLACE® Food Stores...

- All new Marketplace stores are constructed using energy-saving technologies that have been proven to beat the National Model Energy Efficiency Building code by 25%. This equates to an annual savings at each store of \$50,000/year in electricity costs and \$20,000/year in natural gas costs. That's a reduction of more than 1,000,000 pounds of CO2 emissions/store/year.
- All cardboard and paper is recycled through Cosmo Industries.
- Egg cartons returned to the store are sent to the food bank to be reused.
- Plastic is returned to the warehouse where it is baled and sent to Trex to be made into decking material.

## At the Stonebridge Gas Bar...

- 461 trees & shrubs will be planted, with smart irrigation using an advanced feedback-based control system.
- A state-of-the-art Control System that will save at least 25% in lighting related power costs.
- High-efficiency electronic ballast t8 fluorescent lighting.
- LED under-canopy lighting.
- Low-flow auto-activated faucets, ultra-low-flow toilets, waterless urinals, high-speed air hand dryers.
- Water reclaim system in the car wash.
- Water-based acrylic and latex based paints.
- Advanced R410a air conditioning system that is "right sized" to increase efficiency and which will not add to future ozone depletion.
- Flexible double-walled plastic underground piping.
- Fibreglass-reinforced plastic underground storage tanks.
- An advanced array of electronic sensors and inventory control technology to provide early warning of any sub-surface leakage.

## Throughout the Co-operative Retailing System...

- The CRS was one of the first marketers in Canada to offer low sulphur diesel fuel. By 1988, our sulphur content was among the lowest in the industry.
- In 2007/08 CRS retails collected over 55,000 used automotive batteries and over 137,000 over the past 4 years. That roughly equates to 100% of all batteries that we sold over the same period of time.
- In 2007 the CRS assisted in the recovery of 124,516 kg of crop protection products for safe destruction. Since 1998, over 1,000,000 kg of crop protection products have been collected and safely destroyed.

### Saskatoon Co-operative Association Limited Board of Directors

- W. J. (Bill) Wardell, President
- Valerie Pearson, Vice President
- Gordon Bédient
- Leslie Bernett
- Joy Crawford
- Milton Jiricka
- Judy Sokoloski
- Doug Surtees
- Grant Whitmore

These people have been chosen by the membership to guide the affairs of your co-operative. They can be reached by leaving your name and phone number at the Administration Office: 933-3801

- Since 2007, over 545,000 Co-op reusable shopping bags have been sold in the CRS. Assuming each bag will be used an average of 20 times per year, over a five year period, we will have eliminated the use of over 54,500,000 bags system wide.



## Environmentally-Friendly Paints

Your CO-OP™ Home Centres stock environmentally-friendly paint called "Breathe Easy". This technologically-advanced, environmentally-friendly paint releases no volatile organic compounds (VOCs). As regular paints dry, VOCs evaporate into the air, producing vapours and odours. Breathe Easy is a high-performing, 100% acrylic enamel available in low-gloss or semi-gloss sheen. It is safe to use in occupied buildings without disrupting the living environment with painting odours. It's a great choice for use in hospitals, care homes, schools, day cares and throughout your own home.



## Offering Farm Fuel Tank Upgrade

Saskatoon Co-op Agro offers a farm fuel tank upgrade program for their customers of bulk fuel. Many customers take advantage of this program, updating their old single-wall overhead gravity tanks to new non-gravity skid tanks or double-wall tanks. The features of non-gravity and double-wall fuel tanks greatly reduce the chance of environmental contamination.

## Oil & Tire Recycling Program

With Saskatoon Co-op's Westview Service Station recycling program through Envirotec, we have recycled 7,290 litres of oil, 440 kg of plastic containers, and 724 kg of oil filters in 2008. With our tire recycling program through Shercom we have recycled 2,996 tires from Jan. 1 / 04 to Dec. 31 / 08 (a total of 6,436 tires since inception of the program in Nov. of 1998).

## Choose Fair Trade Coffee...

### AND HELP FAMILIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Co-ops helping co-ops speaks to the core philosophy of the co-operative movement and its members. Coffee that has been Fair Trade Certified is purchased from co-ops of small coffee farmers for a guaranteed price. This system helps subsistence farmers become competent business people, teaching them to grow better beans at lower cost, and helping them gain access to credit. It rewards and encourages farming practices that are environmentally sustainable, including reduced pollutants, herbicides and pesticides, and organic growing techniques like crop rotation, composting and pesticides. Van Houtte Fair Trade Coffee is available at the Saskatoon Co-op Marketplace Stores, and at our C-Store locations. ??????????

### Members...Have You Moved This Year?

Members, we will be printing and sending out your equity statements at the end of June. If you have moved this year, please notify us of your new address.

## NOTICE OF Annual Meeting

# Saskatoon Co-operative Association Limited

Tuesday, April 21, 2009  
Commonwealth Ballroom  
Hilton Garden Inn

1st Avenue & 22nd Street, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

- 6:30 p.m. - Registration
- Meet Your Directors and Candidates
- 7:00 p.m. - Call To Order
- Elect Directors
  - Vote on Resolutions
  - Ask Questions
  - Learn About Your Co-op



ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO PARTICIPATE

## Call for Nominations to the Board of Directors

A co-op is about people helping people...it's a business with a difference. If you have some experience or interest in financial and business operations, enjoy working in groups, and care about the future development of Saskatoon Co-op, consider allowing your name to stand for nomination as a Director.

Official nomination forms and the supplemental by-laws are available at Greystone, Westview, and Attridge Marketplaces at the Customer Service Centres, and the Administration Office at 311 Circle Drive West.

For information, telephone the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Doug Surtees at 652-1724 or Saskatoon Co-op at 933-3801. Biographies to be included in the member registration kits must be received by March 31, 2009.

### Call for Resolutions

Members are invited to submit resolutions relating to the Saskatoon Co-op for consideration at the Annual Meeting on April 21, 2009. Resolutions will be dealt with in the same order they were received. For information, telephone the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee - Milton Jiricka at 931-7162 or the Co-op at 933-3801. Resolutions to be included in the member registration kits must be received by March 31, 2009.

Saskatoon Co-operative Association Limited



Annual Meeting  
April 21, 2009

TRAFALGAR

## A EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE



Ask our travel experts how to save hundreds of dollars on your next European River Cruise, the perfect way to see Europe.

For more information, contact:  
SASKATOON CO-OP TRAVEL



Westview  
1624 - 33rd St. W., Saskatoon  
(306) 933-3826 or 1-800-419-4512

Greystone  
2507 - 8th St. E., Saskatoon  
(306) 933-3888 or 1-800-667-8401