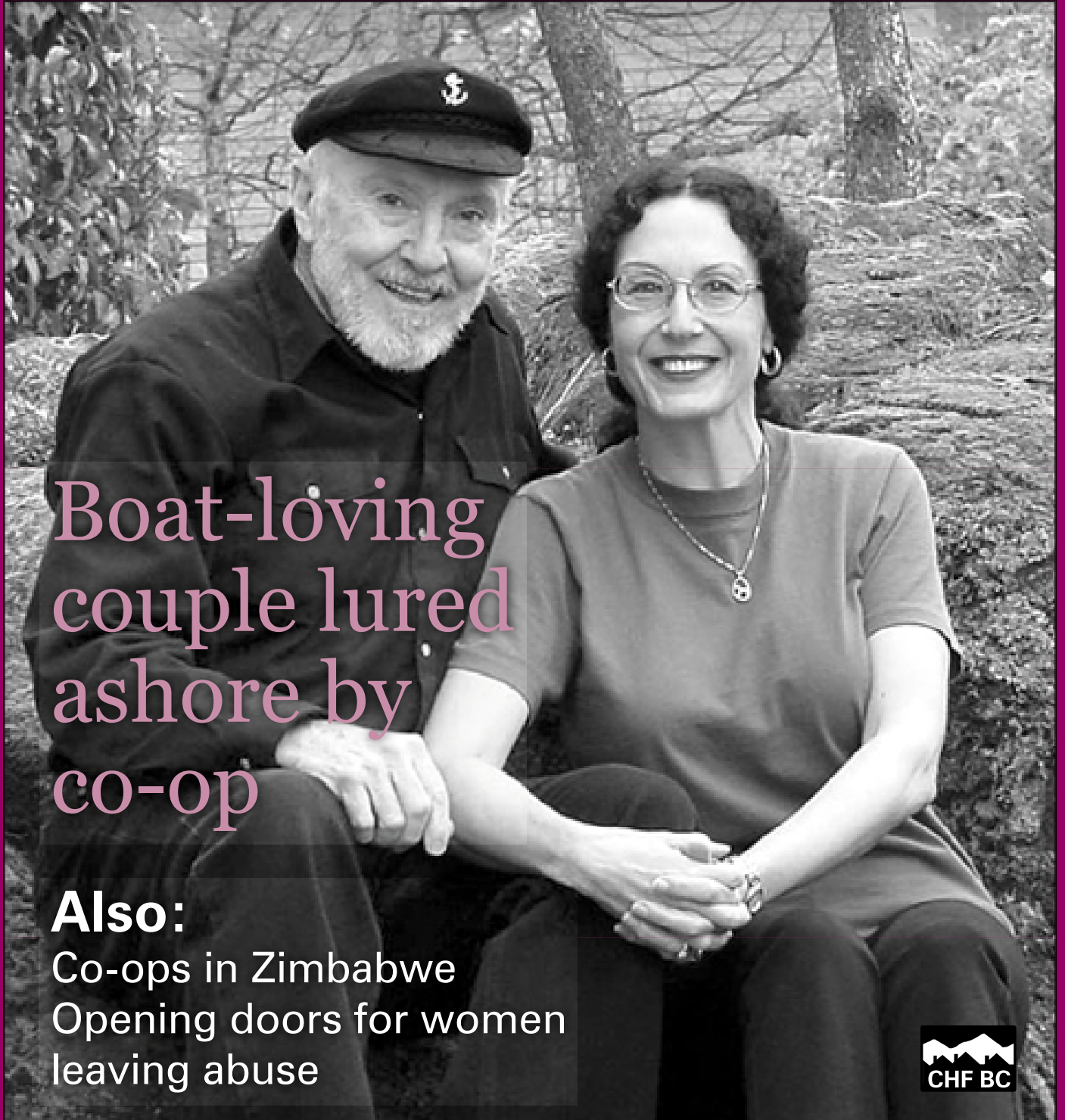


SCOOP

THE NEWSMAGAZINE FOR HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES IN BC



Boat-loving
couple lured
ashore by
co-op

Also:

Co-ops in Zimbabwe
Opening doors for women
leaving abuse



Fall 2004 \$3.00

Election campaign just the beginning

Most people focus on final party standings, close riding contests and popular vote percentages when they think of the last federal election. Not me. I think about the countless hours our volunteers and staff contributed to raise the profile of co-op housing during the campaign. And I think of how well prepared we are to raise that profile even higher during the term of this new government and into the next election.

Months before the election was called, CHF BC and CHF Canada started preparing to make a

difference in this campaign. We put the budgets and the people in place, and when the writ was finally dropped, we hit the ground running.

Of 39 candidates in key ridings, we met with 31 before election day. The result? We have relationships with MPs in government and opposition that will serve us well in the coming months and years.

That doesn't mean we can put our feet up and relax. In fact, the real work has just begun. Now's the time to work with the government

and opposition parties to make sure that the promises we heard during the campaign are translated into action.

We have to protect our co-ops—from cuts to their subsidies when mortgages roll over at lower interest rates, and from the leaks that still plague more than 50 of our member co-ops. And we have to make sure that every level of government invests in more new affordable housing—co-op housing—across Canada.

Are we up to it? From what I saw during the campaign, we're more than ready. Let's make it happen. ■

Savo Djuretic is president of CHF BC. He lives in City Gate Housing Co-op.



3rd annual Co-op Kids Art Contest

To celebrate Co-op Housing Day on October 23 as part of the annual Co-op Week celebrations, CHF BC is holding its third annual kids art contest. Submissions can be any medium (drawing, painting, photo, video, poetry, short story, etc.) on the theme "Why I love my co-op." To enter, send submissions to CHF BC at 200-5550 Fraser Street, Vancouver, V5W 2Z4 before the October 12 deadline. Art will be displayed and prizes awarded on October 23 at the Fall Education Conference.

Artwork by Terita Deare, 11, Terra Nova Housing Co-op, Co-op Housing Day 2003.

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- 19 International** The challenges are many to create housing co-ops in Zimbabwe, but so are the rewards, reports Kitty Molefe.
- 20 National** Merrilee Robson reports from CHF Canada's 2004 AGM, where BC co-ops, as usual, were a force for positive change.
- 21 News you can use** explains how to tackle problems with policies.

Co-op notices are now published separately.

Co-op notices are available at www.chf.bc.ca (in the 'Co-op Directory'), by calling 604.879.5111 (toll-free 1.866.879.5111) or by email to sevans@chf.bc.ca. You can get a free printed copy by visiting our offices at 200-5550 Fraser Street in Vancouver or 410-1105 Pandora Avenue in Victoria.

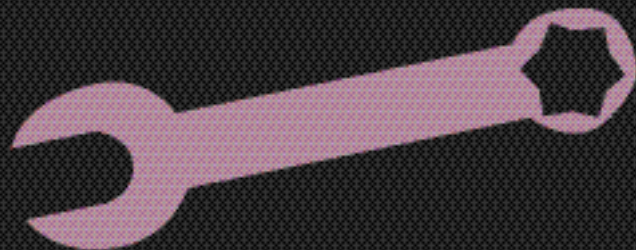
On the cover: Don and Gisèle Bentley trade in their seafaring way of life and lay down roots at Broadoaks Housing Co-op in downtown Victoria.



hot dates Mark your calendars for upcoming co-op housing events you don't want to miss. Mainland **5** Vancouver Island **14**.

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up front

LETTERS

Charles Square members celebrate with dance

Last spring, Charles Square Co-op near Commercial Drive in East Vancouver was the stage for *Co-opted*, a dance performance incorporating the works of eight performers and creators around the theme of home and shared space. Local dancers and Charles Square members Barbara Murray and Caroline Liffmann said “We wanted to bring art into our

home, to experience the spaces of our co-op in a different way.” Accompanied by storytelling and drumbeats, the dances spanned the outside gardens and the three levels of Charles Square’s courtyard, and were a hit with the co-op and many friends in attendance.

Terry Wishart
Charles Square Co-op
Vancouver

Are you proud of something at your co-op? Has your co-op used creativity and innovation to improve your home and community? Send a letter or email to *SCOOP* or log onto BC Talk at www.chf.bc.ca.



Above left: Charles Square members enjoying their summer garden party.
Right: Exploring the themes of home and shared space in *Co-opted*.
Photos courtesy of Terry Wishart.



hot dates

Come and get all fired up about co-op housing at these mainland events:

- Oct 5**
AHIP info session
(see page 16)
- 6**
Networking evening
(see page 7)
- 12**
Delegates' Forum
- 23**
Fall Education Conference
(see page 7) and
Co-op Housing Day
- Nov 3**
Privacy workshop
(see page 7)
- 16**
Opening Doors
transition house tour
(see page 10)
- 27**
Annual General Meeting (see page 22)
- Jan 10**
Delegates' Forum



CHF Canada's annual meeting

At CHF Canada's 2004 AGM in Quebec City, delegates passed resolutions to:

- press the federal government to introduce a new national, affordable housing program
- promote core management standards in co-ops
- help co-ops deal with the end of their operating agreements
- make it a priority to find a solution to the loss of subsidies for section 95 co-ops when their mortgages renew at lower interest rates
- adopt a statement of principle for barrier-free access in housing co-ops
- promote human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people

CHF BC co-sponsored the resolution on section 95 subsidy problems, and we'll be working hard on a campaign to find a solution. See page 20 for more on CHF Canada's AGM.



Opposite page, upper left: Some BC delegates at CHF Canada's annual meeting in Quebec City. Lower right: Mr and Ms CHF 2004 are "Ivanna Bump" (left) and BC's own "Chabelo".

Fall education events

**Networking evening:
Over- and under-housing
Wednesday, October 6
7:00 to 9:00 pm at
CHF BC Vancouver office**

How is your co-op handling the issue of too few or too many people living in a unit? Do you have a policy on over- or under-housing? How is it working? Come share ideas and experiences with other co-op members. We provide the facilitator - you provide the ideas. This event is for CHF BC members only at a cost of \$5.

**Privacy primer for
housing co-ops
Wednesday, November 3
7:00 to 10:00 pm at
CHF BC Vancouver office**

Is your co-op ready for the new *Personal Information Protection Act*? Your co-op must comply with this new provincial law. The good news is you don't have to start from scratch. You can use CHF BC's Privacy Tools for Housing Co-ops available on the Members' Section of www.chf.bc.ca. We'll talk about how you can adapt and implement these tools for your co-op. Fees are \$50 for members and \$150 for non-members plus GST.

**Fall Island Education Day
Saturday, November 6
Location to be announced
See page 14 for details.**

**2004 Fall Education Conference
Saturday, October 23
Executive Hotel and
Conference Centre
4201 Lougheed Hwy, Burnaby**

Be sure to bring a new member with you. Come share, learn and have fun at one or more of these workshops:

- Board of directors – basic
- Board of directors – advanced
- Opening doors: welcoming women leaving abusive relationships into co-ops NEW
- Minute taking and record keeping
- Policies that work
- Preparing a budget
- Prudent investing for housing co-ops
- Road map for co-op living – what new members need to know
- Successful repair projects
- Effective maintenance programs for co-ops

Check out the fall conference program or visit www.chf.bc.ca to register.

.....
Space is limited for these workshops and events, so register early by calling Stephanie at 604.879.5111 ext. 0 or email sevans@CHF.bc.ca.

BC delegate wins Mr. CHF contest

BC's own "Chabelo" – also known as Isabel Ramirez from Garry Point Housing Co-op in Richmond – won the title of Mr CHF 2004 in Quebec City!

The Mr and Ms CHF pageant is part of the annual Glamazon extravaganza organized by CHF Canada's Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) caucus. Anyone associated with co-op housing, regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, colour or ability, is eligible to compete for the Mr or Ms CHF titles. Ms CHF 2004 is "Ivanna Bump" of Kitchener, Ontario.

The winners' duties include one fundraiser each, promoting co-op housing and participating in the 2005 contest. This year's show raised \$3,400 for the Gilles Kagle Foundation and the CHFT Charitable Fund.

Co-ops march with Pride

The co-op housing float in the Vancouver Pride Parade just keeps getting bigger and better every year. This was the fifth year housing co-ops have been represented at the parade, and the third year that CHF BC and CHF Canada have worked jointly to put on this event. ►

This year our group numbered more than 20 enthusiastic volunteers, plus a float and the Carnival Marching Band from East Vancouver.

With this year's crowd estimated at 150,000, the Pride Parade is certainly one of Vancouver's biggest and most entertaining annual public events. Thanks to CD Contract, Edmonds Appliances and Phelps who sponsored our participation in this year's parade.

Burrardview celebrates tenth anniversary

Burrardview marked ten years as a co-operative community this summer with a full day of partying on June 26. Kids activities in the afternoon included a climbing wall,

bouncy castle, face painting and a hockey game. This was followed by a barbecue, karaoke and a dance party with a live band.

"Burrardview [members] benefit from the hard work and strong ideals of forward thinking Canadians who understood the importance of creating strong communities," says Sandee Doxtdator, a new member who appreciates her new home, nestled in the natural surroundings of Deep Cove. "Our original founders believed that everyone deserves to have access to decent affordable housing."

Canadians elect a minority Liberal government

After a very close fought campaign, the June 28 federal election resulted in a minority Liberal government. Nationally, the seat counts are Liberals 135; Conservatives 99; Bloc 54; NDP 19; Other 1. In British Columbia, it's Conservatives 22; Liberals 8; NDP 5; Other 1.

Joe Fontana, MP for London North Centre, is the new Minister of Labour and Housing.



Above left: This years Pride Parade attracted about 150,000 participants and volunteers from many BC co-ops. Above right: Burrardview members celebrated their co-op's tenth anniversary. Photo courtesy of Burrardview Co-op.



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on

THE NET

www.inticoop.com The official website of Inti Co-op in West Side Vancouver features photos, interviews with current members, and a bulletin board.

And the following three co-op websites have been nominated by the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto as finalists for its annual "favourite co-op website" award. They're really worth a look.

www.bleecker-street.com
www.charlesdarrowcoop.com
www.hazelburn.org

Have a website suggestion for our next issue?
 Email us at scoop@chf.bc.ca

BC is now represented in cabinet by five ministers—the highest number ever. New ministers include Ujjal Dosanjh (Health), David Emerson (Industry) and Raymond Chan (Multiculturalism). Stephen Owen moves to Western Economic Diversification and Sport. Jack Austin remains the government leader in the Senate. And MPs Hedy Fry and Keith Martin are parliamentary secretaries.

Thanks to everyone who worked during the campaign to support housing co-ops and to put more affordable housing back on the national agenda (see page 2 for details).

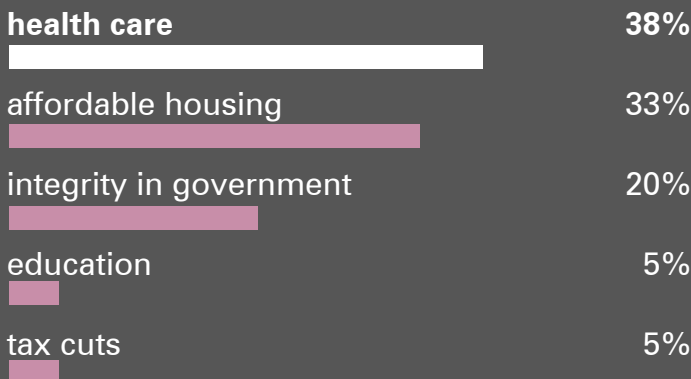
Seeking award nominations

The CHF BC Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award recognizes the special contributions of a CHF BC volunteer. Have you noticed someone working hard to strengthen CHF BC and the co-op housing sector in BC? Nomination forms are in the Member Resources area of www.chf.bc.ca or you can call 604.879.5111 (toll-free 1.866.879.5111) to receive a copy. The nomination deadline is November 1, 2004, and the award will be presented at CHF BC's Annual General Meeting on November 27. ■

CHF BC web poll

Here's what you had to say:

What [was] the most important issue for you in the federal election?



Be sure to visit www.chf.bc.ca regularly to check out our latest news, polls, and the useful resources and chat boards in the Members Section.

www.chf.bc.ca

Event notice

Opening Doors is co-hosting a “meet and greet” event in order for co-op members to meet staff from transition and second stage houses.

This event will be held at Monroe House, a second stage house in Vancouver, on November 16 at 7 pm. Food and beverages will be provided.

Contact Jelena Putnik for more information.

Opening doors

Welcoming women leaving abusive relationships into co-ops.

In past issues of *SCOOP*, at meetings and conferences, we have talked about how women leaving abusive relationships need safe, affordable, community-focused housing. We have also discussed how housing co-ops can help.

“Opening Doors” is CHF BC’s new education campaign to help make this happen. It includes posters and brochures to help inform women leaving abusive relationships about housing co-ops and to raise awareness in co-ops. These materials will be sent to co-ops and transition houses this fall.

Why “Opening Doors”? Our program is about co-ops opening doors to women and children leaving abuse by giving them priority to units, because most women don’t have an option to wait. As one transition house manager put it, “Many women in our shelter are caught between a rock and a hard place once their time here is up. If they can’t find

good affordable housing, many feel they have no option but to return. This shouldn’t have to happen.”

“Opening Doors” also means breaking stereotypes about women leaving abusive relationships. Many members and leaders in the co-op housing movement are women who have left abusive relationships. With support from living in a co-op they have been able to rebuild their lives and are active contributors to their communities. As co-op member Sylvie puts it, “I feel safe, secure and very happy for my family...being active in this community is a blessing! I am a board member and a [CHF BC] delegate.”

Finally, “Opening Doors” is about breaking the silence about abuse. By talking about it openly, we get rid of myths and misconceptions, and create a chance for real change to happen. Granville Gardens Housing Co-op recently held a workshop for its members on how they can open their doors to women leaving abusive relationships and support members that may be living with abuse. Participants left the meeting with information they plan to take to their board and other members. (p. 22) ►

***Opening Doors* has recently received a \$10,000 donation from BC Housing and \$6,000 from The Co-operators. These contributions, and others, totalling \$31,000 are making the education campaign and materials possible. Many thanks to our contributors, including:**



SFU publication tells stories of Woodward's squatters

View Court Housing Co-op member Rita Wong reviews *Woodsquat*

The struggle for social housing continues on many fronts. One recent effort – the squat at the Woodward's building that occurred from September 14 to December 14 of 2002 – is documented in *Woodsquat*, a recent issue of WEST COAST LINE (no. 41 fall/winter 2003/04), a journal of art, writing and cultural critique published by Simon Fraser University.

Consisting of interviews, speeches, poems, photographs, thoughtful analyses, firsthand accounts, comics, court depositions, police reports, and government memos, *Woodsquat* provides many lenses through which to evaluate both the strategies used to empower homeless people as well as the tactics used by the police against the squatters. *Woodsquat* is an impassioned cry for justice and a sober reminder of how much work still needs to be done in the struggle for accessible housing.

The publication reminds us that we are all on Native land, and how non-Natives can be considered squatters. In so doing, it encourages an analysis that links and integrates the struggle for housing with long-term efforts to decolonize. For instance, one of the squat's six demands pays particular attention to the needs of First Nations' people with regards to future development of the Woodward's building.

Reading the accounts of how squatters were brutally evicted and bullied by the police, I was heartened by how the squatters refused to be intimidated by force, rallying and increasing their numbers in response to police violence. When a building has stood empty so long, and homeless people empower themselves by organizing to make good use of it, they have a moral power that far outweighs the batons and handcuffs.

Woodsquat is a testament to the courage and will of the coalition of homeless people and housing activists who took over an empty building and transformed it into a vibrant community. As this publication makes clear, community involves conflict, communication, and ongoing attempts to work together. In reviewing the strengths and weaknesses that the people in the Woodward's squat experienced, we learn more about how to build a sustainable movement for social housing.

You can find *Woodsquat* in the library, local bookstores, or purchase a copy by contacting 604.291.4287 or wcl@sfu.ca. ■

The City of Vancouver has unveiled three design concepts for the future of the landmark Woodward's building. For more information, call the Woodward's hotline at 604-871-6198 or visit www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/corpsvcs/realestate/woodwards/index.htm

What's your opinion? How can we convince governments to invest more in affordable housing? Tell *SCOOP* what you think.

island scene

in the spotlight

Left: Don and Gisèle aboard their first floating home, *Sea Wing*.

Right: Toasting a West Coast sunset aboard *Windrift*.



Land lovers

Boater Don Bentley tells of being lured ashore by Broadoaks Co-op.

In May of 1972, Gisèle and I traveled from our home in Edmonton to Victoria on our honeymoon. I had been here before when I served in the navy, and I hoped Gisèle would like the place as much as I had so we could plan to move here some day. We had a wonderful time and decided to make the move.

The Swiftshure race was on at the time we were here so we got interested in the boating scene. We found out that many people lived aboard their boats full-time and we made a plan to return soon, buy a boat and live on it.

It took three years to settle our affairs in Edmonton, and on the first of May, 1975 we arrived in Victoria with all our worldly possessions in a 20-foot holiday trailer. We both found work right away; Gisèle at the hospital and I at Yarrow's shipyard. We had planned to buy a sailboat but fell in love with a 31-foot power cruiser called *Sea Wing*. We bought it and lived on board in West Bay Marina. *Sea Wing* took us

thousands of miles up and down the coast for 13 years.

In 1989, we decided we needed a bigger boat so we bought *Windrift*, a 41-foot power cruiser.

We now lived in high style with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a large main cabin with steering position and a command bridge above with ample entertaining space. We spent another ten years living on board. We now had more room to bring friends along and cruised the coast on every holiday.

Finally, in 1999, after 23 years afloat we decided to quit the boating life and live in a house. We were used to the close community life shared by all boaters so we thought living in a housing co-op would suit us. We applied for a unit at Broadoaks co-op and were accepted so we sold our boat and moved ashore. I am a retired electrician and skilled in all fields of building construction, so I got on the maintenance committee and looked after a lot of the work maintaining our 40 units. Gisèle served on finance and the board of directors during that time and is now on the social committee. We both are advanced amateur photographers so we keep the meeting room decorated with pictures of interest to our members.

island scene



We have found living in Broadoaks co-op to be very rewarding and feel our members are almost an extended family. We have an open house party in our unit every New Year's Eve and each year more and more of our co-op members come and join in the fun. You would be surprised how many people can squeeze into a little townhouse!

We are contented living here and appreciate the comfort and security of having affordable housing. I am now retired and Gisèle will soon retire from her job as a rehab assistant at the Royal Jubilee hospital. We look forward to many happy years in our nice co-op home. ■



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island dates

- Oct 5**
Vancouver Island Council Meeting, Howard Johnson Hotel, 4670 Elk Lake Road, Victoria, 7 pm
- 13**
AHIP info session (see page 16)
- 23**
Fall Education Conference, Vancouver (see page 7)
- Nov 6**
Island Education Day
- 27**
Annual General Meeting (see page 22)

island chip rates

These preferred rates for CHF BC member co-op operating accounts were effective August 1, 2004 and are subject to change.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Coast Capital (Vancouver Island) | 2.00% |
| VanCity | 2.193% |

CHF BC's Victoria office is located at 410-1105 Pandora Avenue. For info about Island services, contact Kerry Panter in CHF BC's Victoria office at 384.9444.

island news

Island Education Day

Vancouver Island's fall education event is set for November 6, 2004 with two half-day workshops:

Policies that work:

Policies play a big role in the smooth management of your co-op – from parking to painting to arrears collection. Your co-op has received CHF BC's new Co-op Policy Manual. This workshop will show you how to use it to:

- make changes to your co-op policies
- develop new policies that really work
- learn how to encourage member support throughout this process.

Good policies improve everyone's quality of life and promote sound co-op management. Bad policies make everyone miserable. No policies is a recipe for chaos. The choice seems clear. This workshop will give you the tools and the direction—the rest is up to you.

Membership terminations:

Getting a member to leave the co-op is both a difficult legal process and a stressful situation for the co-op community.

Whether it's termination of membership or termination of the occupancy agreement, it's absolutely necessary to follow the requirements of the Co-op Act and your co-op's Rules.

This workshop will focus on:

- the legal and procedural steps required to terminate memberships
- resources to make the process easier and fairer for everyone
- how to balance community and member rights.

For more information, or to register, call Kerry Panter at 384.9444 or kpanter@chf.bc.ca. Or register online at www.chf.bc.ca.

Island Director departs for Ottawa

Vancouver Island Director, Joe Johnson, is leaving for Ottawa where he has accepted a position with the Assembly of First Nations advising them on aboriginal housing. We wish Joe all the best in his new role promoting affordable housing. Since Joe was recently re-elected to a second term on the board of CHF BC, his departure means that there will be two Island positions to fill at our November 2004 AGM. ■



Letter from camp

SCOOP's Lucas Petter recounts his
"amazing experience" at Camp Rainbow

I've just returned from an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience at Camp Rainbow, a leadership camp on Lake Cowichan, where about 70 teens, ages 14 to 16, grew to feel like one big family as we got to know each other and learn about ourselves.

Mornings would begin with Wake & Shake — loosening up by dancing, singing and shaking our booties to a fantastic collection of cool tunes.

A clear favourite each evening was Reflections, when ten or twelve of us talked about personal matters, large or small problems, or how we felt about the day, without fear of being put down or excluded. Understanding counsellors, who were like awesome parents

open to talking about anything, contributed as well.

Monday's session on self-awareness taught us how to tap into our senses and feelings at any time. Then we formed five committees to plan daily activities, a weekbook, and a final banquet and dance. Two from each committee were elected for Town Council, which kept us informed about upcoming plans.

Tuesday's exercise really got us thinking. The lawn was divided into six "continents", with enough campers standing on each to represent realistic population ratios. A hundred tennis balls, representing resources such as food, lumber, and oil, were divided between the continents.

North America had only a few people but more tennis balls than they could handle, while half the campers made up Asia and Africa, but had very few tennis balls. It was all quite surprising and rather scary.

On Wednesday the girls and guys split up and talked about things like "how media portray the average teenager," and "being a teen in today's world." The girls had a very emotional forum, with many in tears. The groups then merged and asked the opposite gender some questions about life. Later in the evening, we sang songs and told scary stories around a bonfire on the beach.

Thursday was communication exercises. We listened to music while drawing, and had others interpret the artwork. We also tried different ways of talking, (p. 22) ►

Commercial services

Services for CHF BC member housing co-ops



Affordable Housing Investment Program
Plan. Invest. Grow.

AHIP participation growing

Eleven CHF BC member co-ops have now transferred funds into the Affordable Housing Investment Program (AHIP) bringing the balance to over \$1.5 million. This is a good start to an exciting new program.

We have organized two information evenings with the AHIP managers at Phillips, Hager & North, our investment advisors. Feedback from members who have attended previous sessions has been extremely positive.

Come to these free sessions to:

- learn about the range of products and services available through AHIP
- discuss investment options for your co-op's long-term replacement funds

- find out how to transfer your co-op's long-term investment funds to this new investment opportunity
- share ideas, questions and feedback with other CHF BC member co-ops.

The next scheduled information sessions are Tuesday, October 5 in Vancouver, and Wednesday, October 13 in Victoria.

For more information or to RSVP contact Julie Hunter at 604-879-5111 or jhunter@chf.bc.ca.



Home Depot Supply launches BC distribution centre

As we go to print, The Home Depot Supply's new distribution centre in the Fraser Valley is scheduled to open in September.

What does this mean to you?

- All orders over \$50 received by 5 pm local time are shipped the same day with next day delivery, free of charge!

- Overnight access to more than 5,000 items for all your co-op's maintenance, repair and operating needs, from brand-name appliance, electrical and plumbing parts to fixtures, light bulbs and janitorial supplies.

As a CHF BC member, you get a 3.5% discount on the catalogue prices on every order, no matter how small. Volume discounts are also available, as listed in The Home Depot Supply catalogue.

Your co-op is already registered with The Home Depot Supply. Call the team of professionals at 1.800.782.0557. They can help you set up your co-op's

commercial credit account, answer your questions, provide technical support, assist with project planning, and send out the latest catalogue.

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For more information, contact Julie Hunter at CHF BC Commercial Services, 604.879.5111 ext 138, toll-free 1.866.879.5111 or email jhunter@chf.bc.ca. ■

Nuts + bolts by Terry Wilson

Fixing clogged drains

Problem

Water won't drain out of a sink or bathtub; or it drains out too slowly; or the water won't flush out of a toilet. Something is stuck in the drainpipe.

Prevention

Use a hair trap: a tiny strainer that fits into the drain hole in your sink or tub. And in the kitchen sink, use the strainer type stopper that comes with that sink. Leave it in the drain, not on the kitchen counter. The most common stuff plunged out of kitchen sink drains include bag ties, spaghetti, macaroni, bits of paper, cellophane, unidentifiable greasy gunk, and one day – a popsicle stick.

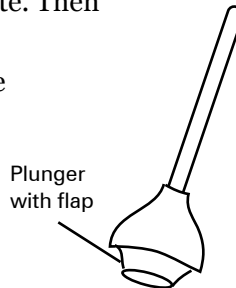
Drain cleaners contain a very strong acid. Used often enough, they will dissolve the drain pipe.

Another way to keep drains running freely is to put baking soda and vinegar into the drain, then put the stopper in tightly. Wait one minute. Then pour boiling water down the drain.

Plungers

There are five things you need to know to plunge any drain successfully:

1. **Get the right kind of plunger.** Most people have the wrong kind, so they're half beaten before they start. Get the one with a flap. These "flap" plungers also tend to be made of heavier rubber. They plunge strongly, whereas many others are of thinner rubber. These bend out at their edges, leak and lose plunging pressure.
2. **Rub a little petroleum jelly around the edge.** This creates a watertight seal.



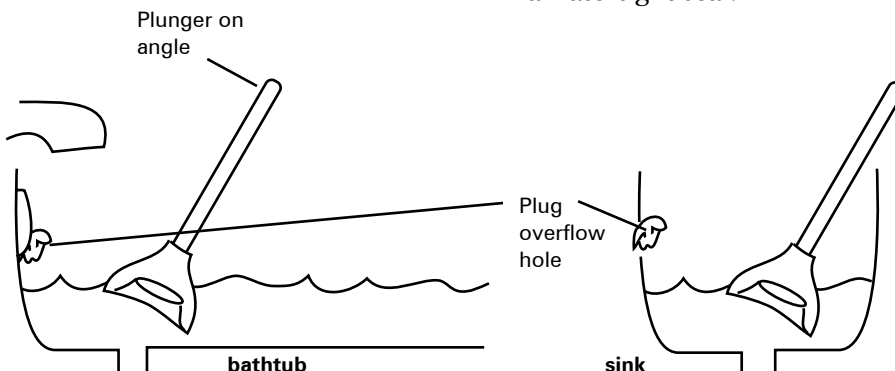
3. **Plug the overflow hole of the sink/tub with a damp rag.** Use a screwdriver or spoon handle to push the rag in tight. Leave a big piece of the rag hanging out.
4. **Put a few inches of water into the sink/tub.** Put the plunger into the water at an angle. Then squeeze the air out of the plunger with your hand. There should be no air in the plunger when you plunge.
5. **Plunge up and down vigorously, about ten times.** Finish with a hard pull up. You hope to pull the clogged gunk up the pipe and into the sink, then throw it away.

Terry Wilson was a member of Oikos Housing Co-op in Winnipeg from 1975 to 1990. Send your co-op maintenances tips to *SCOOP*.

chip rates

These rates for CHF BC member co-op operating accounts were effective August 1, 2004 and are subject to change.

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|--|--------|
| CCEC – variable | 1.45% |
| CCEC – fixed 12-month | 1.80% |
| Coast Capital (Vancouver Island) | 2.00% |
| Prospera (formerly Fraser Valley) | 1.15% |
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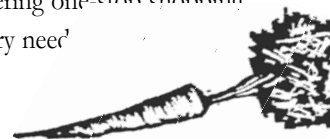
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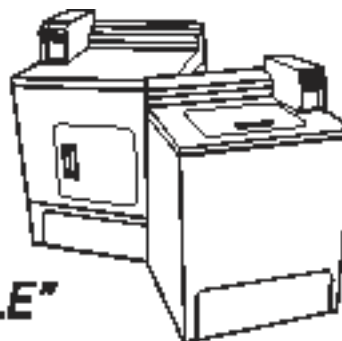
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Zimbabwe co-ops face challenges with Canadian support



Rooftops Canada started work in Zimbabwe in 1988 by sponsoring a national workshop on low cost housing. This led to helping one housing co-op in Bulawayo. Zimbabwean housing activists felt that a local organization was needed to provide technical and educational support. Rooftops Canada agreed and helped establish Housing People of Zimbabwe (HPZ) in 1991.

A series of programs followed to develop HPZ's capacity to deliver low-income housing projects and support the emerging co-op housing sector. Regional and national co-op housing unions now include 186 co-operatives with over 11,400 members. HPZ and the housing co-operatives achieved many milestones and piloted innovative programs until the Zimbabwean social, political and economic crisis started to spiral out of control in 2000.

“Over the past four years homelessness and destitution have rapidly increased,” says Barbra Kohlo, executive director of HPZ. “Zimbabwe has experienced severe food shortages and conflicts over land. Many people have left rural areas swelling the number of poor and homeless people in the cities.” Recent surveys indicate that 72% of urban people are below the poverty line. Households headed by orphans, widows, the elderly and the unemployed are the most vulnerable. Generally, salaries have not kept pace with an annual inflation rate over 400%.

During a recent visit to Canada, Barbra explained how housing co-ops in Zimbabwe are dealing with these harsh economic and political conditions. “The volatile economic environment has severely restricted housing development,” she says. “High costs and limited availability of building materials, transport complications, bank closings and job losses all affect ongoing and new projects. The bank holding the pooled savings of member housing co-ops is now under liquidation.”

Despite all this, there is still hope. In the past year HPZ managed to build 25 units for elderly and disabled co-op members in Mutare, and 24 more units were completed in other co-ops. A consortium of co-operatives representing 1,300 members is saving to buy water pipes in a large new housing development. HPZ is also working to fight the effects of HIV/AIDS on housing co-op members.

Part of HPZ success has come from improving its ability in government relations. Its focus on securing land and promoting affordable housing development standards will eventually bring benefits to low-income home seekers. ■

Kitty Molefe is the education co-ordinator at Rooftops Canada. For more information on HPZ or the work of Rooftops Canada contact Brad Lester at 416.366.1445 or brad@rooftops.ca.

BC delegates play major role in CHF Canada annual meeting

Delegates from BC were very visible at the annual meeting of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, held June 9 to 12 in Quebec City.

BC members handed out colourful pins to thank CHF Canada delegates for their support in helping reach a solution that will fix leaky co-ops. Posters with the thank you message covered the Quebec convention centre and AGM hotels.

CHF BC sponsored a resolution on mortgage renewals and Section 95 subsidy problems. It addressed the problems faced by Section 95 co-ops, who often receive reduced assistance when their mortgage is renewed at a lower rate. The resolution was adopted and CHF Canada will press the Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for a solution. BC will play a key role in the coming campaign.

A resolution directing CHF Canada to call on the Government of Canada to introduce a new national housing program was passed unanimously by delegates.

Tony Legare, a member of Le Coeur Housing Co-op in Vancouver, was returned as CHF Canada's regional director for BC/Yukon. Tony is CHF Canada's vice president. Joe Johnson, a CHF BC director from Victoria, is now the director representing the Aboriginal community. And Wes Hosler, Lore Krill Housing Co-op's treasurer, was elected to CHF Canada's Finance Committee.

Isabel Ramirez, from Garry Point Housing Co-op in Steveston, gained fame at the popular Glamazon drag show, talent contest and fundraising event. Isabel was crowned Mr. CHF 2004. ■

For more information on the AGM, contact your co-op's delegate or visit our website at www.chfc.ca/eng/chf/chfc_1-2004.htm. The 2005 CHF Canada AGM will take place in Edmonton, from June 15 to 18, 2005.

Merrilee Robson is CHF Canada's communications officer. You can reach Merrilee at 1.877.533.2667 (879.4116 in Vancouver) or mrobson@chfc.coop.



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1. Go to www.chf.bc.ca
2. Click on 'Members Section'
3. Fill in the registration form and send

CHF BC will email you your password within one business day. Keep your password handy whenever you log on in the future.

Tackling co-op policies

CHF BC sent the new Co-op Policy Manual to your co-op in April. By now, you may have looked at the manual or the handy online version called 'Policies on the web' at www.chf.bc.ca. 'Policies on the web' is interactive, so you can tell us what you think about each policy in the discussion area. Send your best policies to us. We'll post the best ones online.

How to change or make new policies for your co-op

- Identify priorities. Don't try to tackle all policies at once. Priorities may come from a members' meeting, a co-op committee, a board meeting, or staff recommendation.
- Think about it. Do you really need a policy? Co-ops can choke on too much regulation, so make sure it's important enough to bother.
- Assign responsibility to one person or a small group. This could be a policy committee or a few members of an existing committee.
- Write it. Start with the samples in the policy manual and change them to suit your co-op. Keep it simple, and don't mix procedures in with policy.
- Review it. The board should review policies before they're approved.
- Discuss it. Once a policy is approved, members are bound by the occupancy agreement to follow it, so members deserve a chance to have input before anything is made final.
- Approve it. In most co-ops, members have final approval of policies.
- Record it. Keep a complete, up to date set of policies in a central manual in a secure place. Members should have easy access to it, or have their own copy.
- Live by it. A policy that is not followed by members and enforced by the co-op is a waste of everyone's time and money. If you do plan to make and enforce a policy, be sure that it meets the test of a good policy—it should improve the management of the co-op and its members' quality of life.

Need help?

Post questions on policy on the web for feedback.

Call or email CHF BC for help. Attend the policy workshop at the Fall Education Conference or the Island Education Day. Ask CHF BC to deliver a portable policy workshop at your co-op.

A CHF BC consultant can work with your committee, board, or general meeting—as a resource person, to chair, or to facilitate.■

For more information about the Co-op Policy Manual or 'Policies on the web' contact Sue Moorhead at 604.879.5111 ext. 136 (1.866.879.5111 outside Greater Vancouver) or smoorhead@chf.bc.ca.

◀ p. 10

Opening doors

Your co-op can do the same. Workshops or presentations to co-ops are free and easy to arrange. Jelena Putnik, the Domestic Violence Education Project Director, can help you work out the best arrangement for your co-op, be it a workshop or presentation for your general membership, a committee, or your board. You may want to strike a special committee to look into the issue and report back to the co-op. The Domestic Violence Education Project will also be offering a workshop at the Fall Education Conference.

Working co-operatively, we can open doors to create the kind of communities we want for ourselves, our children and each other. For more information, contact Jelena at 604.879.5111 ext 146 or jputnik@chf.bc.ca ■

◀ p. 15

A letter from Camp Rainbow

such as back to back or from a distance. It became clear how little words have to do with communicating. Later, we had a talent show with hilarious improv, thoughtful poems, a skit about the environment, and several girls became our own “Canadian Idols”, singing so well.

Friday was our final day. We dressed up for a banquet followed by a dance that was such a load of fun, that it went later than planned.

Strength bombardment made our final Reflections special. Every member said the nicest things he or she had noticed about the others, so each received a whole bunch of compliments, making many of us cry from happiness.

A reunion in November is something to look forward to, plus I'd love to continue on to the Advanced Camp during spring break. In the meantime, there's always the phone and email so the “family” can keep in touch.

We'll always remember Camp Rainbow as another home, where one can get away from normal life and become a loving, confident leader, worthy of respect. ■

Lucas Petter is a member of Marina Housing Co-op, youth editor for *SCOOP* and grade 10 student at Prince of Wales Secondary.

For information about Camp Rainbow, visit www.ryes.org on the web or phone Peter Bruckmann at 604.662.3906.

November 27

AGM

Mark your calendars now!

The Co-operative Housing Federation of BC's Annual General Meeting will be held on November 27 at the Executive Inn in Burnaby. The cost is \$40 per person, GST included, and covers meeting, lunch and refreshments. To register, call 604.879.5111 (toll-free at 1.866.879.5111).

Annual General Meeting

November 27

11 am - 4 pm

The Executive Hotel and Conference Centre

4201 Lougheed Hwy, Burnaby

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Check it out!

Get information on this fall's premier co-op housing education events inside and watch for registration details coming to your co-op in September.

◀ *pp. 7 and 14*