

Westoba

WINTER 2004

first in our community

Westoba Credit Union collects \$9,000 for Manitoba Cattle Producers

All 18 locations of Westoba Credit Union held Credit Union Day and Anniversary Celebrations on Thursday, October 16. Beef on a bun was served for a minimum donation of \$2, with all proceeds going directly to the BSE Relief Fund established by the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association (MCPA).

An estimated 3,600 people attended the day resulting in collections of \$9,000. This donation was presented to the MCPA in Brandon on November 6 at a scheduled meeting.

Staff from each location wish to extend a big thank you to all who helped make our 40th anniversary celebrations a success.



Diners enjoy beef on a bun at Westoba's Swan Lake branch.

Holiday Closures

Westoba branches and TeleService will be closed to observe these holidays:

- **Christmas Day**, Thursday December 25
- **Boxing Day**, Friday December 26
- **New Year's Day**, Thursday January 1

Richmond Ave location and TeleService will be available Saturday, December 27.



Westoba
Credit Union Ltd
First in Our Community



As another year draws to a close, we at Westoba wish to acknowledge the importance of each and every one of our members. You are after all, our reason for being!

This past year has been very special for your credit union. On October 3, 2003 we celebrated 40 years in business. We thank you, our membership, for your support and patronage over the years and look forward to serving you for many years to come.

Many communities, some worse than others, have been affected by SARS, West Nile, BSE and other not so common events. Let us all strengthen our resolve during this special season to reach further than usual in our desire to make our part of the world a truly special place to be. Westoba is committed to doing our part in such an endeavor wherever possible,

remembering we are "First in Our Community".

The year 2004 is upon us. We look forward to whatever opportunities it holds. Our professional, knowledgeable staff remains committed to serving you in a manner you deserve and expect.

The Board, Management and staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a most joyous holiday season and the very best in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Dan Sutherland
Board Chair

Wayne McLeod
President and CEO



your credit union

Anniversary contest winners

Colouring & trivia contests spark great interest

Tapped out after the holidays?

Use your credit cards carefully

The holiday season brings with it more than its share of expenses. Therefore, it's not unusual for people to be experiencing a bit of a cash crunch this time of year. Unfortunately, everyday expenses don't disappear with the start of the new year, which leads some people to begin using their credit cards on a regular basis. A credit card can be a powerful tool, but like any tool it's important to know how to use it properly.

From the outset, if you carry a balance, it's a good idea to use a credit card with a low interest rate. Many people carry more than one credit card, and the interest rates can vary widely from one card to the next. A low interest card is the best choice in order to minimize your debt. What's more, check how the interest is charged. Some cards have interest-free grace periods while others don't.

It's also imperative to watch the spending limit on your cards. Just because you can put \$2,000 on your card doesn't mean you should. Keeping your balance within a range you can afford to pay off is critical. Late and missed payments can damage your credit rating — and that damage can be hard to repair. Remember, managing your credit cards properly can lead to a very happy new year!

Thank you to all who took the time to read our Anniversary edition of this newsletter. Congratulations to all kids who participated in the **Colouring Contest** and dropped off their pictures at the branches.



Congratulations to the following winners of the **Trivia Contest**.



1st Prize – Digital Camera
Dianne Lausman, Souris



2nd Prize – Palm Pilot
Linda Myers – Brandon



3rd Prize – DVD Player
Janet Demkey, Douglas

Brian Deutscher, VP Marketing and Human Resources, makes the presentation to the lucky winners.



Richmond Avenue location

Extended hours for your convenience

Richmond Avenue location in Brandon has been open since May. We understand everyone's lives are busy and you may not have enough hours in the day. Getting to a branch during the day may be impossible. The Richmond Avenue location offers extended hours, giving you more options to look after personal finances such as residential mortgages, consumer loans and

investment services.

This location is found inside the Heritage Co-op Marketplace in Brandon. Extended hours of service are Monday to Friday, 9:30 am to 8:00 pm and Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

At Right: Greg and Brenda Clark of Brandon were the lucky winners of an Elkhorn Resort Package given away during Richmond Ave.'s grand opening. Ray Howell, financial service representative, makes the presentation.



Membership Matters

Deposit Fraud: Are You a Victim?

Some friendly advice on how to recognize and avoid the latest in financial scams

Financial institutions, including credit unions have been the targets of financial scams for years, such as the former "Nigerian oil minister" who promises to transfer millions of dollars in new deposits. These ruses are fairly easily to detect and losses are rare. Lately though, these scams seem to be directed at individuals, not their financial institutions, and the accompanying story lines and methods have become more creative. Below are some examples of potential scams that could affect you.

Have you sold goods over the Internet? This new sales forum is a great way to get rid of that unused motorcycle or horse, and there are safe ways to settle the bill. Beware of situations where the buyer sends a \$5,000, 3rd party cheque payable to the buyer, but which he has endorsed over to you. You are expected to deposit the cheque, take the \$1,000 for your motorcycle, then send the bike and your own

cheque for \$4,000 back to the buyer. Trouble arises when that original \$5,000 cheque turns out to be counterfeit, and is later returned to be charged back to your deposit account. You are then out your motorcycle and the \$4,000 cheque which you paid.

Won any big prizes lately? This scam has the trickster telephoning or writing to inform you that a great prize has been won. The problem is that federal or state taxes must be paid before the prize can be collected. If you don't have the funds to pay the taxes, a solution is worked out where the cheque for the prize amount will be sent to you first, and all you have to do is deposit this prize money, and issue your own cheque for the taxes to be paid. Trouble arises when the prize cheque turns out to be counterfeit, and is returned to be charged back to your deposit account. You are

then out for the taxes you paid, plus you have to find a way to replace any prize money you might have already spent.

Has an old, forgotten investment suddenly become a big winner? With the many success stories around, many individuals have dabbled in the stock market by investing in a "penny stock" which was expected to take off in value. Unfortunately, most of these initial forays into the investment world result with a failure of the company and the stock becoming worthless. Beware of situations where you suddenly receive advice that this long investment has become very valuable. The "investment dealer" who contacts you will offer to sell your investments, however you will have to pay the applicable taxes. Trouble arises when the cheque you

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CREDIT UNION DAY AND 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS — OCTOBER 16, 2003

Westoba Credit Union branches held 40th Anniversary Celebrations to coincide with the annual Credit Union Day, October 16, 2003. Members who visited their branch on that day, to celebrate this significant milestone in the history of your credit union, were treated to cake and refreshments.



Left to right: Glen Tosh (Manager, Glenboro), Wayne Tomlinson (director), Ron Jefferies (past board member)



Music in Killarney



Staying warm inside the Ninette branch



Lineup outside the Rivers branch

DEPOSIT FRAUD

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receive from the investment dealer turns out to be counterfeit or altered. You are then out for the taxes paid, plus you have to find a way to replace any money you might have spent.

These types of scams are supported by cheques you receive which are often of very high quality, and in fact may be actual cheques drawn on a real company which have been altered as to payee. Scam artists have adopted new technology that allows them to “wash” and replace the names of the actual payees listed on cheques which may have been stolen. Contacting the bank where the cheque is drawn is not always a valid means of detection, as these cheques are drawn on actual companies that deal at those financial institutions. Quite often the only way to determine if the cheque is valid is to also question the originating company on which the cheque is being drawn. Your credit union can help you with such inquiries, where you have concerns. If you don't investigate a suspicious transaction such as this, or don't ask for help, you run the risk of being labeled a co-conspirator, not a victim.

Contact us...

Brandon Corporate Office
1020 Princess Avenue
Brandon, MB R7A 0P8

729-2050

Brandon – 10th & Princess *	729-2060
Brandon – 34th & Victoria *	729-2080
Brandon – 1st & McTavish *	729-2070
Brandon – Richmond Ave.*	729-2060
Carberry *	834-6300
Cartwright	529-5600
Glenboro	827-6300
Killarney *	523-5300

La Riviere	242-2777
Mariapolis	836-6510
Ninette	528-5400
Belmont (sub-branch)	537-6500
Pilot Mound	825-6300
Rivers	328-6330
Souris	483-6300
Swan Lake	836-6500
Bruxelles (sub branch)	526-6400
The Pas *	627-6300

*ATM Locations

TeleService

TeleService Representatives

Monday to Friday
8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Saturday
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Automated TeleService
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

571-2928
Toll Free 1-877-937-8622

