

Westoba

SPRING 2005

first in our community

Westoba to Sponsor Marching Band Competition



Westoba Credit Union, in conjunction with the Travellers' Day Parade Association, has established a Marching Band Competition to coincide with the annual Brandon parade to be held June 11, 2005.

Marching bands are not new to the Brandon Travellers' Day Parade, as the parade committee has had bands march for a number of years; however the number of bands has decreased in recent years.

Wayne McLeod, CEO of Westoba says, "Marching bands add to the excitement and character of a parade. Our goal is to attract more bands to the Brandon parade, making this an annual event for the people of the Westman area to enjoy. We want people to get excited about watching the parade."

With 2005 being the 50th Anniversary of the Travellers' Day Parade, members of the parade committee couldn't be more pleased that Westoba will be working with them to create the marching band competition.

The competition will be open to all age groups and different band categories are being developed to allow all bands an opportunity to compete at their level. Cash prizes totaling \$6,000 and trophies will be awarded to category winners.

Brent Campbell, well known Brandon High School Band Instructor and International Jazz Educator and Director, is the Marching Band Project Coordinator for Westoba and all inquiries can be directed to him at 204-729-8099 or by mailing to Site 150 Box 18, RR#1, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 5Y1. See you at the Parade!



Westoba Credit Union members can now request financing through **CU DEALER FINANCE** at most automobile and RV dealerships in Brandon, Carberry and Killarney. After negotiating your deal on that special vehicle, you can simply indicate to the business manager at the dealership that you would like to finance the purchase through **CU DEALER FINANCE**. If you prefer, having the loan pre-approved at your local Westoba

branch is still an option. If you don't have an account with Westoba Credit Union, no problem. Arrangements are in place to provide you with a **CU DEALER FINANCE** car purchase. Rates are competitive (with both fixed and variable rate options) and terms are flexible. Life Insurance and Disability Insurance (payment protection) are also available for your loan. If you are thinking about purchasing a new or pre-owned automobile or RV, now's the time with **CU DEALER FINANCE**.

2005 INFORMATION MEETINGS AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

INFORMATION MEETINGS
Tuesday, **March 8** — Swan Lake
Thursday, **March 10** — Souris

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, **March 23**
Victoria Inn - Imperial Ballroom, Brandon
Advance tickets are available at all branch locations.



Westoba
Credit Union Ltd
First in Our Community

2004 Westoba Staff Retirees

MARIAN HESSE, with her friendly smile and genuine caring manner, was indeed a fixture of Westoba for 25 years, so members and staff alike will certainly miss her, having started with Westoba back in May of 1979, working at both 10th Street and 34th Street branch locations over the years. Retiring from "Westoba Life" and taking things a bit easier will give Marian an opportunity to spend more time with her husband of 45 years, Carman, and their 4 children and 6 grandchildren. Daughters Terry and Tracy live in Brandon, Debbie in Edmonton and son Brad in Coquitlam, so more time for travel and spoiling those grandkids will keep Marian busy as well as things down on the farm. A farewell supper held in Marian's honour gave many staff an opportunity to visit and extend their best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

After almost 50 years in the Financial Industry, **BETTY LOU FARGEY**, Branch Manager at the La Riviere Branch Office, retired in Sept 2004. Having worked with Westoba since 1990 in the La Riviere location and previously with the banking system in Calgary, Betty had acquired a mountain of knowledge and information in the financial field and was called upon by many for her expertise. Moving back in 1990 to the La Riviere area, where husband Murray was raised, they acquired many friendships in the area over the years. Murray's son and his wife and family of two live in Alberta, so this will allow them more free time for visiting and travel as well as give Betty an opportunity for more time towards her hobbies of reading, needlepoint and crafts. A lovely Come and Go Retirement Tea was held by Westoba and Staff to honour Betty for the many years of dedication to Westoba and community.

JIM SINCLAIR, Agricultural Credit Officer with Westoba Credit Union, officially retired December 31, 2004. Jim had been with Westoba for over 7 years in the Ag Department and his vast knowledge of the agricultural industry and rural Manitoba in general will be greatly missed by staff and members alike. A retirement supper and gathering of Westoba Staff was held in early January 2005 to honour Jim for his many years of dedication to Westoba and its members.

your credit union

Patronage Allocation for 2004

Over \$6.8 million allocated since 1995

Would you like some reasons why you should be a member of Westoba Credit Union? Well our membership can give you a MILLION reasons, as they will share in a 2004 Allocation of **\$1,000,000** recently approved by the Board of Directors.

Patronage allocations provide each member with an opportunity to share in the earnings of their credit union, while building strength in the credit union. In any business, it is important to have an adequate level of capital or ownership equity.

Since 1995, Westoba Credit Union has allocated to members almost \$6.8 million dollars in patronage. Westoba is committed to continued growth and a strong equity base in the future, as strong organizations have greater opportunities for development and

expansion, thus creating more autonomy and control.

Allocations are approved by the Board of Directors and are credited to the member in the form of Equity Shares to their individual Member Equity Plan, with the intent to accumulate until age 65.

Members are allocated a percentage of the interest paid on loans including lines of credit and a percentage of interest earned on savings and deposits, excluding RIFs and RESPs. The Member Equity program helps provide stability to earnings and yet allows the membership to share in the surplus earnings. Your increased patronage in loans and savings increases your participation in the Member Equity Plan and Patronage Allocation and makes Westoba Credit Union once again "First In Our Community."

New Managers

Wayne McLeod, CEO of Westoba Credit Union, is pleased to welcome the following new managers to the Westoba Team.

WEALTH MANAGEMENT - RICHMOND LOCATION

Karen McGillivray joined Westoba in June 2004 as our Wealth Management Specialist. In January, Karen was appointed to fill the position as Manager of the Wealth Management Centre located in the Heritage Co-op, Richmond Ave. in Brandon. Karen replaces Morgan Ulmer who has moved to Calgary, as her husband accepted a new position. Karen has an abundance of financial experience, having been in the financial industry for some 18 years. She lived in Calgary for approximately 10 years and has resided in Brandon since 1985. Having been born and raised in the Pilot Mound area, Karen is no stranger to southern Manitoba. Karen has two daughters



LA RIVIERE BRANCH MANAGER

Stacey Griffin comes to Westoba with over 10 years of financial experience, both in the credit union and banking industries. Born and raised on a grain and livestock farm in the Carman area, Stacey is right at home in the La Riviere farming community. She and husband Wade, who works full time with Agricore United, reside in the Darlingford area on their quarter section, raising cattle while enjoying rural life. Although the farm and full time jobs keep them busy, Stacey finds time to enjoy a local ladies curling league in the winter and has participated for the last four summers in Manitoba Marathon relays.



RESP: Registered Education Savings Plan

A great way to start saving for a child's education

A Credit Union Registered Education Savings Plan is the smart way to save for your children's future. A post-secondary education is critical in an increasingly competitive job market. The costs of higher education are increasing almost every year, so early planning is essential.

There are several investment options available, such as purchasing a GIC, setting up a convenient monthly deposit plan and mutual funds. RESPs can also be opened as either a single or a family plan. It's not only a great way for parents to start saving for their child's education, but grandparents, aunts, uncles and even friends can start a plan.

The earlier you start a plan the less costly it will be when the funds are needed. Your compound interest plan plus the availability of CESG (Canada Education Savings Grant) from the Government of Canada, will make your RESP grow quickly. The CESG is a Federal Grant paid directly to a beneficiary's RESP. It adds 20 per cent to the first \$2000 in contributions made into an RESP on behalf of an eligible beneficiary each year. This means the grant can be as much

as \$400 each year per beneficiary and over the years this could amount to a total of \$7200.00 added to a plan. Ask about details on how to apply.

Simply call or visit our Wealth Management Centre – Richmond

Location or a Westoba branch near you to get the answers to start your RESP. Westoba Credit Union can help you invest in your children's education and the future of our youth.

Membership Matters

Pre-authorized Contributions

Keeping you on the road to financial freedom

There's a simple strategy for keeping your investment plan on track over the long run, no matter how much financial markets zigzag in the short run.

The strategy is dollar cost averaging, and it's one of the benefits of setting up a Pre-Authorized Contribution Plan —PAC Plan — for your RRSP, non-registered investment account, or your child's RESP.

Set up a PAC Plan to buy the same dollar amount of mutual fund units every month. Your money naturally buys more fund units when prices are lower, and fewer units when prices are higher. Over the long run, this simple strategy tends to reduce the average price you pay for fund units, so you can enjoy higher potential gains.

Pay yourself first. Once your PAC Plan is set up, you automatically pay yourself first every month. Contribute as little as \$50 per month, or as much as your budget allows.

Maintaining your PAC Plan is far easier than saving for occasional lump sum contributions, and trying to guess the

best time to buy. You can relax, and watch your savings grow, a little at a time.

Westoba Credit Union, through Credential Asset Management, has access to a selection of mutual funds to meet your goals. The family of socially responsible Ethical Funds® is popular with the growing number of Canadians who want to know their money is working to advance the best social and environmental practices in Canada and around the world.

Another investment option is the Credential Select Portfolio Funds. Each of the funds contains an all-star line up of top name mutual funds, blended to match your investment style. Choose the one Credential Select Portfolio Fund that best matches your objectives, and you get a diversified portfolio with a single investment.

Contact an Investment Specialist at our Wealth Management Centre or through your local Westoba branch about setting up a PAC Plan to help you save for your future.

Mutual funds are offered through Credential Asset Management Inc. Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments and the use of an asset allocation service. Please read the prospectus before investing. Unless otherwise stated, mutual fund securities and cash balances are not insured nor guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated. ®Ethical Funds is a registered mark owned by Ethical Funds Inc. and is used under licence.

Preferred Share Dividend

The Board of Directors of Westoba Credit Union is pleased to advise members that Westoba Preferred Share investors received a 2004 dividend of

6%



first in your community

A BED FOR YOU - A BED FOR ME

In the Fall 2004 issue of our member newsletter, we announced our first installment of \$5,000 towards a \$10,000 commitment to the A Bed For You— A Bed for Me Campaign through the **Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation**. Westoba Credit Union is proud to complete that commitment with the final payment of \$5,000 made to the Foundation in early 2005. The new facility is indeed one to be proud of and through the continued support of individuals and corporate citizens such as Westoba and its members, we all will benefit for years to come.

ESPRESSO-CAPPUCCINO WINNERS

The CU@HOME and TeleService promotion "Warm Up To Convenience" has ended. The promotion was designed to educate members on the convenience of CU@HOME and TeleService. Members visited a branch, enjoyed a complimentary cup of hot chocolate and the users of the services automatically had a chance to win 1 of 6 Espresso/Cappuccino makers. The lucky winners were:

Jim & Carol Abernethy of Glenboro; Cam and Kathi White and Jennifer Wood, of Rivers; Peter and Sharon Garbutt of Forrest; Janice Louden, Robert and Candace Chandler, of Brandon. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who entered.

2004 LOONIE SCRAMBLE

Westoba Credit Union, in conjunction with the **Brandon Wheat Kings**, once again was proud to sponsor the "Westoba Credit Union \$500 Loonie Scramble" at the Wheat Kings game held Friday, December 3, 2004. There was an excellent response from our youth in entering the contest and attending the game. Seven lucky names were picked to participate in the scramble, which gave each of them the opportunity to scoop up as many of the \$500 in Loonies as possible from centre ice. Congratulations to the winners: **Dorian Black, Matthew Malyon** from Glenboro, **Mathew Jakubowski** from Neepawa and **Megan Woronchuk, Zack Phillips, Riley Boyd and Jessica Young** all of Brandon.

Loonie Scramble Participants



Also, Westoba's Fat Cat mascot was a big hit with all the kids at the Loonie Scramble and did a great job entertaining people.

THE REAL MANITOBA CREDIT UNION CALENDAR

Since the Real Manitoba Photo Contest began in June 2004, Credit Union members have flooded Credit Union Central of Manitoba with beautiful photographs — over 400 to be exact — hoping theirs would be chosen to adorn our unique made-in-Manitoba 2006 wall calendar. The lucky winners and the months in which their photo will appear are: **Cover:** Bernice Klippenstein, Manitou; **January:** Dave Benson, Wpg; **February:** Al Holmes, Winnipeg Beach; **March:** Louis Spakowski, Winnipeg; **April:** Kim Howatt, Manitou; **May:** Vic Schertow, Winnipeg; **June:** Christel Lanthier, Winnipeg; **July:** Paul Browne, Winnipeg; **August:** Ione Morash, Roblin; **September:** Patricia Reagh, Binscarth; **October:** Linda Boys, Rapid City; **November:** Guy Rivard, Elie; **December:** Dennis Lange, St. Joseph.

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry and congratulations to all the winners. Be sure to watch for the 2006 Credit Union Calendars — available at Westoba Branches in November 2005.



BRUXELLES BIG FIELD PROJECT RECEIVES DONATION

Linda Sundell (left), **Swan Lake Branch Manager**, presents a cheque for \$500 on behalf of Westoba Credit Union Ltd. to **Bruxelles Community Development Committee Chairperson, Linda Cabernel** (right). Their donation, along with cookbook sale proceeds from the Bruxelles Branch of Westoba Credit Union will be used towards the **Bruxelles Big Field Project**. Mrs. Cabernel, on behalf of the Development Committee, extended a big thank you to Westoba for their support to the community and the project.

Contact us...

*ATM Locations

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
 Wealth Management Centre –
 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
 Shilo* 765-6350
 Souris 483-6300
 Swan Lake 836-6500
 Bruxelles (sub branch) 526-6400
 The Pas * 627-6300

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

