



STRATHCONA CREDIT UNION

NEWSLETTER

March 2003



BEWARE THE 24th OF MARCH

Strathcona Credit Union's computers in both offices and the banking system to which they are connected are being upgraded. Progress, however, has its price—our staff will not be able to use their computer system at all on March the 24th.

Both the offices will be open but business requiring access to the computer system (and that's a great deal of it) will not be possible.

As usual, we are always happy to see you in either of our offices, but please remember that on the 24th of March we cannot offer our full services.

RRSP SUGGESTIONS

The RRSP deadline to reduce 2002 taxation year income has already passed, but now is the time to be planning the use of your 2003 allowance.

Most financial experts say that sooner is better. If you have decided to contribute a certain amount to your RRSP over the next 12 months, the earlier in the year that you act on the plan, the more time your money has to earn tax deferred income.

Strathcona Credit Union wants to make following your plan as easy as possible and we have two suggestions for you.

Call the Credit Union today and ask to have payroll deductions made which will go directly into your RRSP with us. It's simple to set up and you don't have to think about it again until the next time you review your financial goals. The deductions can be stopped, increased, or decreased at any time.

On the other hand, if you wish to borrow to make RRSP contribution, which is often a financially advantageous strategy, we can also be of help. Special RRSP loans are available to Credit Union members at a rate of 4.75%. These loans require that the proceeds are deposited into a Registered Retirement Savings Plan with Strathcona Credit Union, that the money remains in that RRSP until the loan is repaid, and that that be within one year.

CENTRAIDE CONTRIBUTION

The Mouvement des caisses Desjardins has announced a global contribution to the charity Centraide of 1.6 million dollars donated by its personnel and institutions. This represents an increase of more that 15% over last year.

AN ECLECTIC INDEX

The most commonly stolen automobiles in the United States last year were the Toyota Camry (1st) and the Honda Accord. They were also the best selling cars in that year.

(Source: National Insurance Crime Bureau.)

The most often to be produced operas in North America this season (2002-2003) are La Bohème (27 performances) and La Traviata (19 performances).

(Source: Opera America.)

One in five adults in Quebec have not read a book in the last six months.

(Source: Association of Canadian Studies).

CURRENT RATES

PERSONAL LOANS	8.50 %
CONSOLIDATION LOANS	10.50 %
LINE OF CREDIT	7.00 %
MORTGAGES	
1 year term (open)	5.25 %
2 year term (closed)	5.00 %
3 year term (closed)	5.25 %
4 year term (closed)	5.50 %
5 year term (closed)	5.75 %
TERM DEPOSITS *	
6 months	2.00 %
1 year	2.75 %
2 years	3.25 %
3 years	3.75 %
4 years	4.25 %
5 years	4.50 %

* \$2,000 minimum. Rate subject to change without notice.

Monthly interest payment less 0.25 % (033)

Downtown : 514 937-5515
Fax : 514 937-9073

1-888-350-5111
scu@qc.aira.com

Kirkland : 514 426-5111
Fax / suburban : 514 856-5703

CONNECTING

As we mentioned on the first page of this newsletter Strathcona Credit Union will be updating its computers at the end of this month. Maybe you are thinking that you might like to connect to the Desjardins AccèsD system, too.

You can use your touch-tone™ telephone or Internet capable computer at home, or your mobile phone from just about anywhere else to do much of your banking with us.

1 800 CAISSES

Registration is simple and fast. Call 1 800 CAISSES (1 800 224 7737) and an operator will take you through the process in the language of your choice. For AccèsD Telephone service all that is needed is a Desjardins Multiservices card and a touch-tone™ telephone. Have your card with you when you call and, if possible, a recent statement so that you can give the operator your folio number, Strathcona's transit number and similar information. You will also be asked certain other questions to verify that you are, in fact, the rightful folio owner.

www.desjardins.com

The registration process for Internet registration is very much the same as described above. If you have computer access to the net, go to the Desjardins website at www.desjardins.com and follow the links to AccèsD to get all the details about the services offered and the registration process. The website has French and English versions.

A word of caution—the current interest rates on the Desjardins website are those recommended by that organization for its network, but each credit union or *caisse populaire* is autonomous in setting its own rates. Check our own website at www.strathconacu.com to confirm our rates. Also, to apply for a loan from Strathcona Credit Union, you must deal through one of our offices.

Whether you use your telephone or computer there is an impressive list of on-line services:

- Check balances in your folio(s) at SCU and other Desjardins institutions where you are a member,
- Print or hear a statement of your transactions,
- Pay your regular bills to over 1000 eligible organizations,
- Transfer funds between accounts and *caisses*,
- Pay your personal line of credit,
- Authorize postdated transfers up to 90 days in advance,
- Order personalized cheques.

If you want instant information on your accounts in all your portfolios from day or night, AccèsD may be the service for you. There is no registration fee and the use of the system is covered by the monthly service charge levied by Strathcona Credit Union. If you have any questions about the service, give us a call at either office.

www.strathconacu.com

While you are at the computer, check out our website at www.strathconacu.com. Our site contains our current interest rates, addresses and telephone numbers, back issues of the newsletter, and links to other interesting sites including the Desjardins site mentioned above. Our Email address, incidently, is scu@qc.aira.com.

We are offering these electronic services for your use if you find them to be helpful. We are still most pleased to handle your financial needs in all the traditional ways. Write or phone us at any of our numbers, send a fax, or drop in and see us—we'll always be happy to serve you.

