

Women's Community Co-operative 'A WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE'

November 2025

Lest We Forget: The 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month

On Remembrance Day, November 11th, Canadians come together to honour the courage and sacrifice of all who served their country in times of war, conflict, peacekeeping and since 1987, combat. Among them are the many women who played vital roles, both on the front lines and at home. During the World Wars, Canadian women served as nurses, soldiers, pilots, and factory workers, providing essential care and support under dangerous conditions. Known as the "Bluebirds," military nurses risked their lives tending to the wounded near battlefields, while thousands more worked in munitions plants and farms to keep the nation strong. Their dedication and bravery helped shape Canada's history and opened new opportunities for women in society and the military.

Today, women continue to serve proudly in the Canadian Armed Forces and in peacekeeping missions around the world. On Remembrance Day, we honour not only their service but also their leadership, resilience, and lasting impact on Canada's journey toward equality and peace. As Canadians pause for a moment of silence, women across the country stand among those who remember — as veterans, family members, and citizens, ensuring that the sacrifices of the past are never forgotten and that the hope for peace endures for future generations. THANKS to all those who gave up their freedom for ours. Stop for a silent moment at 11:00 AM and remember their sacrifice. Freedom is never free.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

Events Committee

Thank you to the Events Committee for the SPOOKTACULAR Halloween party!! There was tons of fun had by those who came to celebrate, especially those who dressed up in super creative costumes! It was such a difficult choice for the judges, but this year Melissa from 201 took the top prize for best costume and won a BOOTIFUL grocery store gift card! Congratulations Melissa!

The 50/50 draw was won by Marla Moore in unit 405! Congrats to you & to the number of raffle prize winners! Thanks for the laughter!

Next up, Christmas!! Stay tuned!

Worth Mentioning

Welcome to our newest member, Sunita in Unit 102! We hope you find much happiness here at Women's! Welcome to your new home!!

Please ensure that you do not have squirrels nesting on your balconies! They are cute, but they are destructive & could carry diseases! Remember too that although it is tempting, please do not feed the birds or squirrels!

We have had a couple of homeless individuals sleeping in the lobby lately and we've had to remove the mats. If you see someone, please call the police non-emergency line at 905-546-4925!

Neighbour to Neighbour

The 37th Anniversary get together was a great success! A beautiful tribute paid to all of the members here today, and all those who've passed through those doors we all call or have called, 'home'. The Power Point presentation of old photos brought back some wonderful memories of times gone by. The Board thanks everyone who came out to enjoy this time of fellowship, together!

Thank you to all of the members who were in attendance for the General Membership Meeting. Both the Pet Bylaw and Organizational Bylaw were updated and passed by the membership!

Next up, the AGM! Date and information to follow.

Construction Update

The project has been completed!! The parking lot construction and building of the new retaining wall and south end patio area was so worth the wait. Torham did an amazing job! Have you seen the outside patio off the Rec Room? It looks fabulous with the colored and solar lights and all the donated furniture! Thank you to the members & friends who helped!

Everything turned out beautiful & all of the funding was covered by a grant! We are blessed!!

Benefits & Credits Assistance: Are you eligible?

Income & support from ODSP

- ODSP provides monthly income support covering basic needs and shelter.
- ODSP also offers health & disability-benefits: prescription drugs, dental care, vision, medical supplies, transportation to medical appointments.
- Single, ODSP income support could be up to \$1,408/month for basic needs + shelter
- Health/Disability supports:
- Prescription drug coverage under the Ontario Drug Benefit for ODSP recipients.
- Dental coverage (basic services, sometimes additional if disability affects oral health) for recipients and family.
- Vision care, medical supplies, hearing aids, mobility devices, transportation for medical appointments if costs exceed a threshold.
- Special Diet Allowance: extra funds if you need a medically-required special diet.
- Employment supports: ODSP offers employment assistance and related benefits to help in finding/keeping a job.

Income & support from Ontario Works

- Prescription drugs, diabetic supplies, surgical supplies – mandatory benefits under OW.
- Medical transportation: help with cost of travel to medical appointments.
- Vision care: help with eye exams, eyeglasses
- Emergency dental care for adults: may be eligible through discretionary health-related items.
- Special diet allowance: extra funds if you have a medical condition requiring special diet.
- Training & employment support: If you are on OW, you may qualify for services/training to support employment.
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Additional notes

- If you are an adult recipient of OW and you are 65+ years old, there is an additional “Advanced Age Item” benefit added to OW payments.

For Seniors 65 and older - Provincial tax credits & grants

Here are some of the notable ones (you may need to file tax returns and meet specific eligibility).

- Ontario Seniors’ Public Transit Tax Credit: If you are 65+ you can claim up to \$3,000 in eligible public transit expenses and receive up to \$450 each year.
- Ontario Seniors Care at Home Tax Credit: For seniors aged 70+ (or whose spouse/common-law partner is 70+) to help with eligible medical expenses to support aging at home. Up to 25% of claimable medical expenses up to \$6,000 (so maximum credit ~\$1,500).
- Age Amount Credit (provincial non-refundable credit): For tax filers aged 65+; the amount is reduced as income rises.
- Other supports: Like the Ontario Trillium Benefit (OTB) — which combines energy, sales tax and property tax credits for low-to-moderate income Ontarians (including seniors).
- Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security Pension

There are other benefits such as:

- Canadian Dental Plan for people 18 and older up to 100% coverage
- The Disability Tax Credit for those with eligible disabilities
- Canadian Disability Credit (new this year): 18 to 64 and have a disability. Up to \$200.00 monthly

If you are in need of assistance with applying ‘online’ for any of these benefits or credits, I’d be happy to set up a time to meet with you in the meeting room, and submit your application online. All information would be held in strictest confidence!

Contact Diane Downey, Unit 605 for assistance.

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Handicapped Accessible Parking Symbol

There had been some questions and/or queries regarding the image used to depict the Handicapped Accessible Parking spots, so we would like to share some information and clarity surrounding the design. We hope that once you hear it, that it actually makes perfect sense!

The icon used in our parking lot is the newest symbol used under provincial, federal and international law and is known as the 'Dynamic Symbol of Access'.

Here's some information to help with the 'why does it look different'?

- The head tilts forward to showing movement and that the person is in control and moving through space on her own.
- The arm angles back to suggest motion and energy, even if she doesn't use her arms to move the chair. This shows her as active and engaged with the world around her.
- White angled lines in the wheel make it look like it's turning. They also make the design easier to use as a stencil for spray-painting. Having one clear version of the logo keeps things consistent and easy to recognize.
- The figure's style matches other standard human icons (like those in ISO 7001 – DOT pictograms), so it fits with familiar symbols and avoids confusion.
- The leg is moved slightly forward to create more space between it and the wheel, making the icon cleaner, clearer, and easier to read.
- That's it in a nutshell. We hope that explains things!

