

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

October 2025

## A COMMUNITY IN THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving began as a celebration of the harvest and a time to give thanks for provision. Beyond the holiday, thanksgiving is about gratitude. About recognizing the good in our lives, whether it's food, shelter, family, community, or even the lessons gained through hardship. It invites us to pause and appreciate what we have, rather than focusing only on what we lack.

As women, many of which have faced adversity and many challenges, we are especially grateful for the gift of a safe home and the support of our co-op community. Our home represents more than walls and shelter; it is a place of comfort, healing, and strength. It is where we find belonging, where we can rebuild our lives with dignity, and where we continue to discover the courage to grow stronger.

The compassion, encouragement, and solidarity of our community remind us that we are not alone in our struggles. Every act of kindness shows us that we are supported and cared for and never forgotten. Together, these blessings give us hope, stability, and a deep sense of belonging. The foundation we need to move forward.

May this Thanksgiving be filled with peace, love, and gratitude. In this spirit of thanksgiving, may we continue to uplift one another and celebrate the gift of being part of a caring community.

## Events Committee

The Events Committee held an amazing 'end of summer' BBQ on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> and a number of members took part. Those who attended enjoyed delicious hamburgers & hotdogs (with chips & pop), along with loads of laughter and camaraderie! Let's hope there's time for another one! Thanks so much!

Halloween is coming next. Details for a Halloween Party coming soon! BOO!!!

## Construction Update! Phases 3 & 4

Phases 3 & 4 are ongoing. The depth of the concrete was almost double, taking twice as long to remove sidewalks & slabs. Although it is well underway with North & Main entrance closures, we are hopeful that the final will bring us years of enjoyment and safety.

Consider volunteering a couple of hours of your time to man the South End door this Wed. Thurs. or Friday, allowing PSWs, family & friends entrance.

Please use caution and stay safe!!

**CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION**

## JUST SO YOU KNOW!

First let's start by congratulating Rita Prior! Rita won the special 50/50 draw held at the Summer's End BBQ! This is Rita's first win in her 24 years as a member of Women's!!! Congratulations Rita!!

As promised, the 50/50 Committee have purchased some of the outdoor furniture for the outside of the Rec Centre at the South End of the building. As well, there have been a few donors who've donated some of the patio furniture and have helped to create a beautiful outdoor space for all of the members to use and enjoy! Thank you to those special members, neighbours and friends!

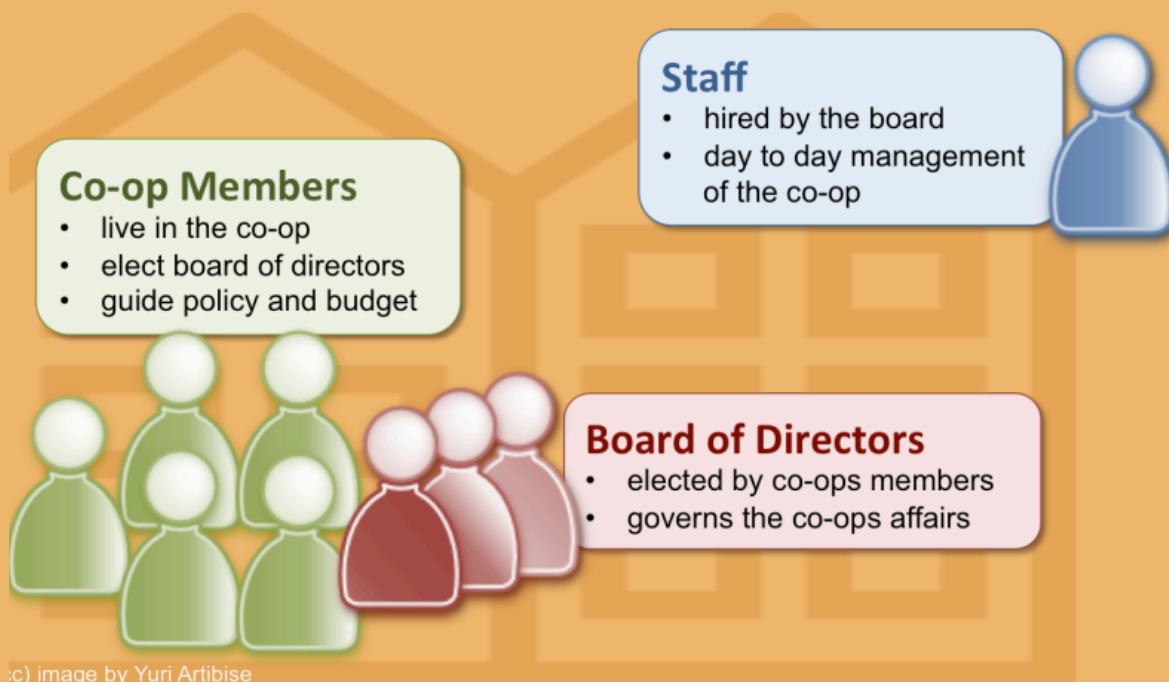
## Neighbour to Neighbour

Our 37th Anniversary will be celebrated in the Rec Centre on Sunday October 5 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Please bring your treasured photos, mementos or memorabilia and save room for cake!!

A General Members Meeting will be held on Wednesday October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Rec Centre! Please do your best to attend!

Our AGM will follow (hopefully in November) with a number of openings for the Board of Directors. If you're planning on running, please remember to prepare a Bio to share!

# The Structure of Co-operative Housing



In an Ontario housing co-operative, there isn't one single "boss". Control is democratic and distributed among the members, who elect a Board of Directors to oversee the co-op's operations and strategic direction. The Board is responsible for managing the co-op's business, which includes implementing policies and making significant decisions, with members holding ultimate authority through their vote.

Power and responsibility are distributed through the following structure:

**Members:** All residents who live in the co-op are its members. They control the organization and are responsible for its operations. Every member has the right to vote on major decisions, such as approving the annual budget, setting housing charges, and creating or changing rules and policies.

**Board of Directors:** The members elect a Board of Directors from the membership to handle the co-op's detailed management and day-to-day business. The board is accountable to the members and is responsible for decisions like approving new members and contracts.

**Staff/Property Manager:** Many larger co-ops hire staff, such as a property manager, to carry out the decisions made by the board. This includes tasks like managing finances, collecting housing charges, coordinating maintenance, and handling member issues.

**External parties:** A co-op's structure and operations are also influenced by external entities and agreements.

- **The Co-operative Corporations Act (CCA):** This provincial law governs co-op corporations in Ontario and sets out the requirements for membership, voting rights, and the responsibilities of the board of directors.
- **Funding agreements:** Co-ops that receive government funding are subject to operating agreements with their funders, such as the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) or a municipal Service Manager.

Essentially, the members hold the ultimate authority, but they delegate operational duties to an elected board and hired staff.

Remember, Board Members are only 'board members' at a meeting of the Board of Directors!!!

# Women's Community Co-operative



## 'A WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE'

*Toxic*

### How Gossip Becomes Toxic

Gossip is considered toxic because it usually harms trust, relationships, and even the person spreading it. Here are some reasons why:

Gossip erodes trust – When people gossip, it signals that what's said in confidence may not stay private. That makes others feel unsafe sharing honestly.

Gossip damages reputations – Gossip often exaggerates, distorts, or spreads half-truths, which can unfairly harm someone's character or credibility.

Gossip breeds negativity – It tends to focus on flaws, mistakes, or scandals. That negativity can poison the atmosphere of a friendship or a community.

Gossip creates division – Gossip pits people against each other, leading to cliques, isolation, or broken friendships.

Gossip backfires on the gossiper – People may begin to distrust or avoid the one spreading gossip, assuming they will be the next target.

Gossip distracts from growth – Instead of building solutions or strengthening relationships, gossip wastes energy on tearing others down.

At its core, gossip is toxic because it undermines respect and empathy—the foundations of healthy community.

This Thanksgiving, let us give thanks for the gift of neighbours — those who share in our lives, and let us lay to rest the need for gossip, choosing kindness and gratitude instead.



## Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

We are so thankful for all of you!



Thank you to those who have already reached out & who enjoy getting their colour-copy newsletter delivered directly to their inboxes monthly!