

The Credit Union

For All Government Employees

mycreditunion.ca

Ontario Civil Service Credit Union Ltd.



The Current shopping cart

Quick Fix for as low as 6%*

Credit Cards vs. Our Consolidation Loan

The Credit Union 6.0%*	
Bay/Sears Card 28.8%	Royal/CIBC Visa 18.5%

* for qualified members
Posted rates as of October 21, 2004.
Rate subject to change.

Educate Yourself with GO Figure

The **GO Figure** Education Calculator makes it easy to approximate what your child's post-secondary financial costs will be so that you can set realistic goals and put an effective savings strategy in place for your child's future education.

GO Figure is a complimentary Online Resource Centre available to all of our members through our web site. Visit www.mycreditunion.ca, go to "planning tools", and click on **GO Figure**. Then simply click on the Education tab and take control of your finances today!

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The RESP deadline is December 31st. Take advantage of the annual tax-free grant for your children's education. Talk to The Credit Union about making your contribution today!



The Heat Is On!

How to lower your gas bills with a new high efficiency furnace

Worried about high heating costs this winter? If you've got a gas furnace that's over ten years old, you could be throwing 40 to 45 cents of each heating dollar right out the window! Old furnaces are, on average, only 55% to 60% fuel efficient while the new condensing gas furnaces are up to 97% efficient.

Install a new, energy efficient furnace and you should see the savings on your monthly bills right away. For instance, if your average winter heating bill is \$800, your new high efficiency furnace can reduce that bill by up to \$300 annually!

Conserve energy, conserve your hard-earned dollars

Buying a new furnace is a 20-year investment, so it's important to make the right choice. Paying a little more up front for a high efficiency furnace can lead to greater savings



in the long run. It also helps conserve Canada's natural resources and reduces harmful environmental emissions.

How can The Credit Union help? With a great low rate on a loan or line of credit so you can make home improvements, like upgrading your heating system and adding insulation before the snow starts to fly.

Lower your loan or line of credit rate with our new Rate Calculator. Apply online or in branch today!

(source: Natural Resources Canada)

The Credit Union Helps Member With "Life's Little Disasters"

When the unexpected happens, it's comforting to know you can call a real person and get a quick solution right over the phone. That's one of the many things Kim McCormack, a member from Penetang, values about The Credit Union.

Explains Kim, "**The weather was lousy this past summer and after a heavy rainfall my ceiling began to leak. I know how much damage water can cause. A few years ago water problems caused structural damage to my home and Kathy, the Orillia Branch Manager, came to my rescue. They've always been there for me when there's a little disaster.**"

Fast funds for a new roof

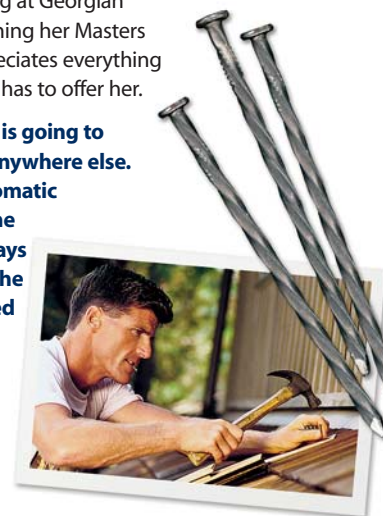
Kim had a contractor look at the problem and he said it was time for a new roof, a major expense she hadn't planned on. Kim called around for estimates then called The Credit Union.

"I already had a line of credit and I wanted to increase the limit. They understood what

I was going through and made it easy. I just pick up the phone and they know exactly who I am. There's nothing that beats the personal touch."

Kim has a hectic schedule working for the Mental Health Centre and Community Living, as well as teaching at Georgian College and finishing her Masters degree. She appreciates everything The Credit Union has to offer her.

"I know the rate is going to be better than anywhere else. They set up automatic deductions so the minimum is always paid. I know all the details are looked after. It's more peace of mind than I could have ever imagined."



Plan Ahead

FAQs about RESPS

With the increasing costs of post secondary education, RESPs are a very attractive way to save for a child's education. Here are some the most frequently asked questions I get about setting up an RESP and taking advantage of this annual education savings grant.

1. When is the contribution deadline?

You must make your annual contribution by December 31st each year.

2. Is there a limit to what I can contribute?

Yes. The annual maximum is \$4,000 per beneficiary, and a lifetime maximum of \$42,000.

3. Do I have to put in \$2,000 or can I contribute less?

You can contribute any amount as long as you do not exceed the annual maximum.

4. My child is 5 years old and I have never contributed to an RESP, have I lost out on 5 years of grants?

No, since 1998 as long as you were a Canadian resident room accumulates every year from birth to age 17. You can still only contribute the annual maximums, but will receive any un-used grant room.

Sue Wyseman and Jan Jamieson are available to provide complimentary financial planning services to all members. Sue can be reached at wyseman@mycreditunion.ca and Jan at jamieson@mycreditunion.ca or through member assistance at 416-314-6772 or toll free at 1-888-516-6664.

CU TIP

Gone "Phishing"?

Don't get hooked by this latest cyber crime.

Have you got a fishy e-mail that looks like it's from a financial institution or credit card company? One of the latest internet scams is called "phishing". Webopedia defines it as:

(n.) The act of sending an e-mail to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft. The e-mail directs the user to visit a web site where they are asked to update personal information, such as passwords and credit card, social insurance number, and bank account numbers. The web site, however, is fake and set up only to steal the user's information.

Remember, always be wary of any e-mail requests for personal information. Do not respond to them. Financial institutions and credit card companies do not request this type of information by email.

THE ACCESS FILE

Pay Bills Now! with TelPay

Connect through The Credit Union's home banking page or visit www.telpay.ca today to see who you could be paying online with a few quick clicks. From credit cards to utilities, insurance to taxes, TelPay® is Canada's largest independent processor of electronic payments. In Ontario alone, there are nearly 600 billers covered by this convenient service.

Set up with TelPay® today! Call toll free 1-800-827-6317 from anywhere in Canada. In Toronto, call 416-364-4354.



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* Auto insurance not available in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or British Columbia due to government-run plans.

THE OPS SPIRIT FILE



Encouraging and Recognizing OPS People who Participate in Volunteer Activities

Meet Kingston's Dynamic Trio

by Pattie Webb, Ministry of Transportation

From time to time, OPS Spirit will use this space to recognize OPS employees who generously give their time to participate in volunteer activities outside work hours.

Whether it is educating the public about arthritis or collecting books for a worthy cause – where there's a need, you will find this dynamic trio!

By day, Lori Brake, is a Traffic Operations Analyst with MTO – after hours she's a member of the St. John Ambulance Special Event Team. Lori was integral to the success of the OPS Spirit-Habitat for Humanity campaign in Kingston – volunteering her lunch hours selling tickets and running special events.

Wendy Stinson is a Geomatics Plan Technician with MTO who regularly canvasses for the

Multiple Sclerosis and Cancer Societies and organizes the annual Mother's Day Carnation Sale on behalf of the local MS Society.

When she is not participating at information fairs educating the public about arthritis or participating in charity walkathons such as the MS or Terry Fox events, Bonnie Sweet is an Administrative Assistant, Operational Services, MTO.

Lori, Wendy, and Bonnie set a true example of how OPS'ers give back to their communities. And the communities receive the best benefit of all – their devoted time, energy and enthusiasm.

The Credit Union

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