

**10th Annual OSCA Conference,
October 15-17, 2010,
Toronto**



Co-op 2.0: Creating our Place in the 21st Century

The gathering this year is the 10th Annual OSCA Conference and so it is time to celebrate this important milestone in the life of the Co-operatives within the Ontario Student Co-operative Association. The overarching goal of this conference will be to assess and evaluate collectively three important issues:

- Where did the initiative for Co-operative Student Housing come from?
- Where do we stand now?
- Where are we going from here on onwards?

What are the societal, economic, cultural and political forces that gave the impetus for establishing student housing that adheres to the Rochdale principles of co-operation? Is the modern world in harmony with our efforts to live and work co-operatively, or has the actual context changed significantly? What challenges do we face today, as individuals and also as a collective and what are our responses to these challenges? Are our methods effective? Do we need to change? If change is inevitable, what is the right way to go about it? Is the very essence of managing a co-operative sustainable in the long run or do we need to morph into something new? Should we expect members of a student housing co-op to adapt to co-op living or should student housing co-ops adapt to members' changing expectations?

Even if we cannot find satisfactory responses to all these questions, it is worth exploring them: the process of comparing notes, exchanging ideas, discussing problems and suggesting solutions, not to mention sharing a few laughs in a like-minded, enthusiastic and dedicated group of co-ops ought to be most informative and enjoyable.

The Organizing Committee of the 10th Annual OSCA conference is looking forward to welcoming you at this event.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada and Alterna Savings Credit Union for their generous support.

Conference Program

Friday, October 15, 2010

Location: Tranzac Club

292 Brunswick Avenue

<http://www.tranzac.org>

7:00-9:00pm: Welcoming Party

Saturday, October 16, 2010

Location: University Women's Club of Toronto

162 St George Street

<http://www.uwconbloor.com>

9:00am: Breakfast

10:00am: Opening Session

Howard Adelman (Professor Emeritus, York University):

Dilemmas of Strategic Innovation in Co-ops: structures, financing, networking and sources of income

Cooperatives have historically been touted for their democratic structures and responsiveness to their members' needs and priorities. Less attention has been paid to the responsiveness of cooperatives to external and environmental changes such as shifts in the marketplace, in the financial environment and to the changing values of consumers. This talk will begin by placing the history of cooperatives within a larger context of a history of success and failure of cooperatives to environmental shifts. The talk will then focus on the history of the Campus Cooperative Residence Inc. and how it weathered such shifts from the thirties to the sixties. I will invite attendees to reflect on changes and challenges in the last forty years and how and whether the student residential cooperatives have responded to those challenges.

11:15am: Concurrent Sessions

Guillaume Barlet (President, Campus-Co-op and Chair, Conflict Resolution Committee, Campus Co-op):

Classification of Severe and/or Chronic Un-Cooperative Behavior and the Creation of Constructive Solutions Dealing with Member-to-Member Conflicts in a Student Housing Co-operative

The language of policies is replete with *officialese*: well-worn and yet never clearly defined. When left unchecked, such practice may lead to inappropriate and inefficient policies. A good example is the use of the term *Un-Cooperative Behavior*, used and over used within the context of behavioral policies of Student Housing Co-operatives. We will explore, discuss and experiment with using meaningful expressions. We will also propose a straightforward classification that will help Board members write policies, conceived to prevent and/or to resolve a vast majority of undesirable acts committed by members. Relevant parts of the Co-operative Corporation Act will be studied and explained in order to lay the foundation of such policy. Finally, the Conflict Resolution Committee of Campus Co-op will present its efforts to create a policy dealing with member-to-member conflicts. This policy is the result of a meticulous analysis of the current methods applied to resolve conflicts identifying the limitations and key problems preventing satisfactory resolutions to conflicts. The Committee will seek feedback from the conference participants regarding their respective experiences with this issue.

Keith Moyer (Program Manager, Communications and Co-operative Services, Ontario Region Office, CHFC):

Governance and the Board's Role in Sound Management

The co-op Board has the essential governance responsibility of ensuring that the co-op has good management in place. Though the Board is not directly responsible for day-to-day management, one of the Board's governance responsibilities is ensuring that all of the essential management tasks are being carried out and results are being achieved. In this workshop we will look at the five core management standards for housing co-ops and how the board supports and works with management staff to achieve those standards

12:00noon: **Lunch**

2:00pm: **Opening Session**

Darryl Reed (Associate Professor, Business and Society, York University and Aimee Blyth (Coordinator of the Seasoned Spoon Café at Trent University):

Student Cooperative Cafes and Food Service Providers

This presentation will examine student co-operative cafes and foodservice arrangements, especially as they relate to the promotion of sustainable food (local, organic, fair trade). The presentation will provide some examples of such co-operative (and other student-run and owned) initiatives and the types of problems that they tend to encounter in their efforts to provide sustainable food options. Also, the role of potential forms of support for increasing the viability of such initiatives, including inter-co-operation with other co-ops, will be examined.

3:15pm: **Concurrent Sessions**

Jennifer Hann (Department of Social Economy, OISE, U of T):

Non-financial Co-operatives in Canada 1955 to 2005

Co-operatives were born from a form of self-organizing by communities in economic need, with their foundation in rural communities. This presentation will provide a brief overview of trends in Canada's co-operative sector between 1955 and 2005, and will explore the rise of service co-ops (with an emphasis on housing co-ops) as a reflection of a shift to an urban environment. In spite of this shift, there is a conspicuous "rural tilt" among co-ops, more so than for Canadian society as a whole. What are the implications of the "rural tilt" in terms of the future of Canada's co-op sector? Will the members of large, predominantly rural co-operative businesses continue to identify with the relatively low-income urban dwellers who are the members of public service co-operatives? Will this duality pose a challenge to a sector unified by the Rochdale Principles? This presentation will lead into a discussion of broader questions related to the future of co-operatives. Can co-ops sustain their original founding principles once they grow into large, profit-making enterprises? Is profit making compatible with being a co-op? Are such developments inevitable? Are they desirable? What are the implications of this research for student residential co-ops?

Darryl Reed (Associate Professor, Business and Society, York University) and Bill Barrett (President, SUMAC Workers Cooperative, Guelph):

Inter-co-operative Co-operation in Fair Trade

This presentation will investigate the fair trade cotton market. More specifically, it will focus on a particular initiative to develop an entire value chain composed of co-operative enterprises (most of whose members are women) from cotton growing through spinning, weaving/knitting, garment manufacturing and distribution. Highlighted in this presentation will be: a) the potential role of Fair Trade in promoting inter-co-operation among co-operatives; b) the role of inter-co-operation among co-operatives in helping Fair Trade to live up to its own values (which overlap with co-operative values); c) some of the practical problems and tensions, as well as the benefits involved in inter-co-operation.

4:00pm-6:00pm: **Free Time**

6:00pm: **Communal Dinner**

Location: Masters Buffeteria

310 Bloor St West

www.mastersbuffeteria.com

Sunday, October 17, 2010

Location: University Women's Club of Toronto

162 St George Street

<http://www.uwconbloor.com/>

10:00am: **Breakfast**

11:00am: Open Discussion/Debate for all participants: Should we expect members of a student housing co-op to adapt to co-op living or should student housing co-ops adapt to members' changing expectations?

12:00noon: **Closing Remarks**

(brown-bag lunch will be provided for the road).

Biographies of the Presenters:

Adelman, Howard:

Howard Adelman recently completed a three year term as Research Professor at the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance at Griffith University in Brisbane after a two year term as a Research Fellow and then a Visiting Professor at Princeton University. Howard Adelman was previously a Professor of Philosophy at York University in Toronto from 1966-2003 where he founded and was the first Director of the Centre for Refugee Studies and Editor of *Refuge* until the end of 1993. He has written or co-authored and edited or co-edited numerous books, chapters in edited volumes, articles in refereed journals, and professional reports. The topics he has written about range from issues concerning refugees, the Middle East, multiculturalism, humanitarian intervention, membership rights, ethics, to early warning and conflict management.



In 1999, he and Astri Suhrke co-edited *The Path of a Genocide: the Rwanda Crisis from Uganda to Zaire*, New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Press. Professor Adelman has co-authored a book, *Rites of Return*, for Columbia University Press, due to appear in 2010 and is currently completing a co-edited volume with Pierre Anctil entitled: *Religion, Culture and State: Canada and Québec: Reflections on the Bouchard-Taylor Report* for the University of Toronto Press. His current book underway is tentatively called *Goldstone and Gaza: Human Rights and Just War Ethics*.

Howard Adelman was hired as the Summer General Manager of the Campus Co-op in 1957 and served in that position into the early sixties. He played an active role in expanding both Campus Co-op and introducing co-ops to other campuses beginning with the University of Waterloo.

Barlet, Guillaume:

Guillaume Barlet is the President of Campus Co-op and also the Chair of the Conflict Resolution Committee. He is working on his PhD at the University of Toronto studying meteorites and their connection with the early solar system. Originally from France, Guillaume came to Canada on his own at the age of 20. He became a member of Campus Co-op in September 2008 and has been on the Board, first as the North Division Rep, and now as an Alumnus Director. Apart from his passion for science, Guillaume has many other interests that include Politics and Theatre. He is the Director of a documentary about the history of the Mont Mégantic Observatory, the first modern astronomical observatory in Québec (1978). Guillaume considers Co-op a significant part of his intellectual experience and a great opportunity to acquire political and social skills outside his professional life.



Hann, Jennifer:

Jennifer Hann holds an Honours B.A. in History from York University. She is currently an M.A. candidate in the Adult Education and Community Development program at OISE/University of Toronto. As a history student, she became interested in the transformational potential of social movements, and in the ways groups of people organized themselves to effect changes in their communities and in the world. She began to explore the history of the Canadian co-operative sector through a project she collaborated on with Jack Quarter and Laurie Mook at the Social Economy Centre, University of Toronto, entitled "Non-financial Co-operatives in Canada, 1955–2005." Her other research interests include urban history and the social economy. Through volunteering at her local public library, she became interested in examining how libraries can strengthen their ties to neighbourhoods and communities. She is completing her thesis on the impact of the urban reform movement on the Toronto Public Library system.



Reed, Darryl:

Darryl Reed teaches in the Business & Society program at York University. He teaches a broad range of topics, among others community economic development, local development, development ethics, fair trade and cooperative studies. He is currently the president of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC), the professional organization in Canada for research on co-operatives.



Barrett, Bill:

Bill Barrett has been involved in the worker cooperative movement for a number of years and through a variety of initiatives. He is currently the President of the SUMAC workers co-operative in Guelph, which is the parent body of Planet Bean (a fair trade and organic coffee co-op) and WearFair (a fair trade and organic garment co-operative).



Moyer, Keith:

Keith Moyer is Program Manager, Communications and Co-op Services, with CHF Canada's Ontario Region, a position he has held for the last seven years. Before joining CHF Canada, he managed co-ops in Cambridge and Waterloo. He was on the founding board of the Social Housing Services Corporation and represented co-ops on a number of advisory groups during the period when housing was being downloaded from the Province to municipalities. Keith is a graduate of the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Environmental Studies in Honours Geography.



Blyth, Aimee:

Aimee Blyth has been obsessed with all things green, growing and edible, for years. Aimee is the coordinator of the Seasoned Spoon Café at Trent University. The Spoon is a cooperative café that serves local, organic food and offers educational opportunities for students and community members to learn about food issues. From 2006-2009 she took care of the two vegetable gardens at Trent University, a rooftop garden and a field garden totalling nearly an acre of intensively planted veggies. Aimee also holds a Masters degree in Canadian Studies from Trent University where she studied small-scale agriculture and local food markets. Her favourite vegetable is the beet.





Campus Co-operative Residence

Guelph Campus Co-operative

17 College Avenue West
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 1R7

Campus Co-operative Residence Inc.

395 Huron Street
Toronto, Ontario,
M5S 2G5



Science '44 Co-operative

397 Brock Street
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 1T3

Neill-Wycik Co-operative College

96 Gerrard Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5B 1G7



Waterloo Co-operative Residence

268 Phillip Street
Waterloo, Ontario
N2L 6G9

