

The Convenience of Electronic Banking



Banking has come a long way since the days when everyone used to do their banking on their lunch hour. People would jockey for position as they passed through the branch doors, everyone wanting to be first in line.

Then banks started extending their hours, so people could get their money before work, on their lunch hour, or on the way home. The introduction of Saturday banking has helped ease the traffic flow during peak hours even more.

But by far the most convenient way to do your everyday banking is to use one of the many electronic banking machines which populate almost every street corner in the country.

Variety of Machines Offer Many Options.

Today, people can use full-service automated banking machine, cash-only machines, drive-through banking machines and passbook updaters, many of them accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. What you do depends on the type of machine you use.

Full-service automated banking machines allow you to deposit or withdraw funds, transfer money between accounts, or pay bills. Many banks also have self-service electronic machines that allow customers to update their own passbooks and obtain account balances. Some of these machines also enable customers to print out interim statements - particularly handy when you need to know if cheques have been cashed.

Drive Through Machines Popular

Drive-through machines, one of the newer additions to electronic banking in Canada, are proving to be extremely popular. These allow people to do 95 per cent of their banking at any hour of the night of day from the convenience of their cars. Drive-through machines appeal in particular to seniors and other people trying to avoid cold and icy conditions during the winter, as well as to those in a hurry.

At the other end of the spectrum is the simplest form of electronic banking - cash-only machines. These are found in a variety of locations including convenience stores, hospitals, airports, amusement parts and most recently, fast-food restaurants. The Royal Bank, for example, installed banking machines in six McDonald's highway restaurants in Quebec and Ontario early this year, marking the first time that cash-dispensing machines were available at any McDonald's restaurant in Canada.

Little Known Facts

Some people may not be aware that they're not limited to using their own financial institution's banking machines. Customers of any bank, trust company or credit union belonging to the Interac, Plus System and VISA share automated banking networks can use their cards to withdraw cash (up to normal cash limits) from any member institution's machine.

If you travel, it's also handy to know that your banking card can be used in other provinces and countries. The Interac network links the banking machines of virtually all the financial institutions in the country, and is one of the largest automated banking networks in North America. The Plus System is a U.S.-based international network of banking machines which enables consumers to obtain cash in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Colombia, Ecuador, Guam, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Anyone with an activated banking card can travel through life without worrying whether they can make it to the bank before it closes. Because in the age of electronic banking, the banks never close.

Are You A
Newcomer
To Oakville?

The Oakville Newcomers' Club welcomes you. A meeting is held every second Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm at Trinity United Church, 1250 McGraney Street. For further information, call 827-0866 or 829-0364.

HOUSING WITH A FUTURE

Since 1989, the River Oaks Group and its affiliated home building companies have been engaged in an extensive review of community building practices. Numerous consultants including planners, architects, engineers, environmental scientists and designers, as well as municipal economists, and others have been involved in this exciting process.

Over the last three or four decades, many communities in Ontario have been built according to building and engineering standards established in our best interest by engineers, politicians, and many others. What has become clear in the last while is that many of our communities have begun to look and feel alike, while the housing has become more and more unaffordable. Many people are now concerned that their children will have to move away in order to find housing when the time comes. They too are concerned that the house or neighbourhood they have invested in, may not be able to accommodate them when they grow older.

As "Green" or environmental issues have become more and more central in all of our lives, we have also begun to explore the effect of our housing and community building techniques on the quality of our water, air, soil, and health.

The River Oaks Group will soon be making applications in a number of municipalities that begin to incorporate some of these new ideas and principles that are the result of the exploration process. Our proposals will employ designs and materials that address environmental, social, economic, and other issues at many scales, from kitchen cabinets to sewer pipes, from composters to road salting.

We are quite pleased to be a part of this positive movement and are anxious to communicate to residents of River Oaks Group projects what is occurring in this field. For this reason we have decided to create a new column in the River Oaks Post call "Housing With A Future" and will appear in every issue. The column will contain articles on many subjects mostly to do with environmental implications of housing and community development. The articles will be written by a number of people expert in fields ranging from transportation to biology. Some of the articles will be written by Marvin Green of the River Oaks Group who will also edit the column. Mr. Green is involved in many of the projects where these ideas are finding expression and is committed to creating healthy, vibrant communities that we can afford to live in, maintain, and be proud of.

We hope that you will find the column interesting and informative and that it will generate discussion in the community. Please write to us with your comments and ideas for articles in this column at "Housing With A Future", P.O. Box 936, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 4A5.

R.O.A.R.
NEEDS
YOU!

Join our team of concerned residents. For further information please call 845-1567 or mail \$10.00 membership fee to P.O. Box 7300, Oakville, Ontario L6J 6L6