



Stamps

by Larry McInnis

Credit unions in Canada are such a part of the country's fabric that they're taken for granted. In Quebec, especially, they are often used as alternatives to chartered banks.

In Quebec, a credit union is referred to as a "Caisse populaire." Their names often include their location, such as Caisse populaire Mercier, or some other relationship, such as Caisse populaire Christ-Roi, signifying its relationship to parishioners of a certain church.

The largest credit union in Quebec is not unlike a chartered bank in that it has branches throughout the province. Its corporate name is Federation des Caisses populaires Desjardins.

On Feb. 10, 1984, the United

States issued a 20-cent stamp (Scott 2075) showing a dollar sign and part of a coin to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Credit Union Act of 1934.

In the U.S., it is recognized that the first credit union was established Dec. 16, 1908, in Manchester, New Hampshire.

It was called La Caisse Populaire Ste. Marie. Nearly all the depositors were French-speaking.

The founder was Alphonse Desjardins.

It was old hat for Desjardins. He had founded the movement eight years earlier in Canada— in Quebec, actually.

The first credit union is said to have been started in Germany in the 1840s by Frederick William

Raifeisen.

It was based on Raifeisen's technique that Desjardins set up his "caisse".

Desjardins was honored with an 8-cent Canadian stamp issued May 30, 1975, (Scott 661) showing the dour, mustachioed pioneer. The stamp design was by Design and Communication of Montreal, without doubt taken from a photograph.

Desjardins was born into a poor family in 1854. By the tender age of 17, he was a journalist. He began reporting and publishing the debates of the Quebec legislature, now called the national assembly, but lost that right in 1890 because his sense of morality would not allow him to change the actual text of a powerful politician's intemperate remarks.

From 1892 to 1917, Desjardins was a Hansard reporter (recorder verbatim in the House of Commons).

In 1897, he recorded testimony of a debate on loan sharking, part of which involved the story of one person paying \$5,000 interest on a loan of \$150.

Three years later, in 1900, Desjardins founded Canada's first credit union in Levis, across the St. Lawrence River from Quebec City. It was his home town.

That first credit union is still in operation.

Desjardins was a Quebec nationalist to some degree. Although he worked as a civil servant in Ottawa for some 25 years, his credit union work in Quebec was to make French Canadians economically independent from other ethnic groups by keeping money in rural areas, developing "honesty, industrious habits, good conduct and thrift."

His interest in the plight of French-speaking North Americans was evident in his founding of the New Hampshire branch in 1908. He was not only a Canadian, but a Canadian Government employee at the time.

The concept caught on. Only two years later, in 1910, the

movement spread to the point that Massachusetts enacted a law regulating credit unions.

Desjardins died in 1920, aged 67, in Levis.

On June 26, 1934, the U.S. Congress approved the Federal Credit Union Act, "to make more available to people of small means credit for provident purposes through a national system of co-operation credit."

Every Canadian province has a credit union act, and it was not until 1953 that there was a federal statute, the Co-operative Credit

Associations Act.

The United States Postal Service acknowledged that Alphonse Desjardins was the founder of that country's first credit union in publicity releases when the stamp was issued in 1984.

That makes him the founder of the credit union movement in North America.

Letters

Letters are invited. Please send enquiries to the writer at P.O. Box 40, Beauharnois, Quebec, J6N 3C1.

Church Listing

Schreiber

Grace Baptist Church

Pastor: Rev. Jim Johnson. Phone 824-2402.

Sunday School: all ages- 10 a.m. Morning worship service: 11 a.m.

Sunday evening service: 7 p.m.

Bible Study and prayer: Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Nursery provided for all services.

Holy Angels Roman Catholic Church

New Pastor: Father Francis Pudicherry. Phone 824-2010.

Sunday Masses: Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 10 a.m.

Rosport, noon.

Confessions: Saturdays, 4-5 p.m. in Schreiber.

Pays Plat Prayer Group: Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

St. Andrew United Church

Minister: Ernie Hunt. Phone 825-3346 or 825-3396.

Morning Service and Sunday School are at 9:45 a.m.

Communion Service is the first Sunday of every month.

A nursery for infants is provided.

St. John Anglican Church

New Pastor, Bob Elkin. Phone 824-2771.

Holy Eucharist, every Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist every first, third and fifth Sunday.

Morning prayer every second and fourth Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Friday at 10:30 a.m. at Birchwood Terrace.

All welcome.

Terrace Bay

Community Church

Minister, Ernie Hunt. Phone 825-3346 or 825-3396.

Worship service is every Sunday morning at 11:15 a.m.

Church School is also at this time.

Communion service is every first Sunday of every month.

A nursery is provided. A warm welcome awaits all.

Lutheran Church

Pastor, Rev. Mark Moss.

We will be meeting every Monday night in the chapel at Birchwood Terrace for Evening Devotions at 7 p.m.

For more information contact: Rev. Mark Moss, 887-3020 (office), 887-2612 (home), Lloyd or Hilda Hiebert, 825-3897 or Cathy Withers 825-9495.

St. Martin of Tours

Pastor, Father Bernard Campbell. Phone 825-3231.

Confessions are on Saturdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Sunday Masses are on Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Birchwood Terrace, 1 p.m.

Terrace Bay Gospel Assembly

Pastor, Rev. Keith Milne. Phone 824-3436 or 825-9368.

Family worship is on Sunday at 11 a.m.

Friday night is YOUTH ALIVE at 7:30 p.m.

If you would like to include a message with your listing, contact the News at 825-3747.

CANADA DAY BED RACE

Terrace Bay, Ontario
Sunday, June 28th, 1987
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Come celebrate Canada Day in Terrace Bay by entering your group, business or organization in the Canada Day Bed Race. Challenges encouraged: Course 1 km. in length.

Racing Rules:

1. Bed must be 54" wide
2. Fitted with 54" standard mattress
3. One (1) set of wheels must be in fixed position - no size requirements
4. Bed must be occupied by one (1) person in sleeping attire and pushed by four (4) persons
5. Bed and bed pushers must cross finish line together.

Prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last place beds — also best dressed rider.

Contact Gary Callaghan at 825-3831 for further information

Entry forms may be dropped off at:

Terrace Bay Municipal Offices or
34 Parkway Place
no later than 25th June, 1987

CANADA DAY BED RACE

GROUP NAME

ADDRESS

CONTACT PERSON

PHONE NO.



THE SCHREIBER PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE PROUDLY PRESENTS

BILLY CAN "MEMORIES AND REFLECTIONS"

AT THE SCHREIBER COMMUNITY ARENA SATURDAY JUNE 27th



STAR OF MEMORIES & REFLECTIONS

Billy Can

DOORS OPEN AT 8 PM

ADMISSION \$7 PER PERSON

SORRY NO MINORS
AGE OF MAJORITY
CARDS REQUIRED

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF NEW CHAIRS FOR THE COMMUNITY HALL.