

Cornerstone Credit Union History

The original Cornerstone Credit Union came into being on January 1, 2003 as the result of a merger between Yorkton Credit Union and Wynyard Credit Union.

Wynyard Credit Union was formed in 1941 when the Young Men's Board of Trade met to discuss the possibility of forming a Credit Union in Wynyard, Saskatchewan. In March of 1941 the Certificate of Incorporation was issued and Wynyard Credit Union was formed, making it the 57th Credit Union in Saskatchewan. Wynyard Credit Union was formed with the goal of "People helping people". At the end of December 1941 membership was at 81 members with assets totaling \$692.73. Over the years, Wynyard Credit Union grew steadily. In the late 1950's, the members of Dafoe-Kandahar Credit Union elected to amalgamate with Wynyard Credit Union. In 1990 the members of Lestock Credit Union did the same. In 1995 the Wynyard Credit Union built a brand new building at a new location, which is now home of the Wynyard branch of Cornerstone Credit Union.

Yorkton Credit Union was formed as part of a co-operative movement with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in December of 1943. During the next decade economic conditions in Saskatchewan improved steadily. After 10 years, membership had grown from the original few to 253 members. In 1961, Tonkin Credit Union amalgamated with Yorkton Credit Union, which was the first of several amalgamations to take place. In the late 1960's, Yorkton Credit Union began plans for automation and it was during this time that Credit Unions in Ituna, Kelliher, Dubuc and Rhein merged with the Yorkton Credit Union. A new building was built for the Yorkton Credit Union in 1993 that today is the home of the Yorkton branch of Cornerstone Credit Union. In 1994, Calder Credit Union joined forces by amalgamating with Yorkton Credit Union.

Since it's formation in 2003, Cornerstone Credit Union has welcomed the members of Wishart Savings and Credit Union after a decision to merge with Cornerstone Credit Union on November 1, 2003. In November 2004 the members of Theodore Credit Union also voted to join Cornerstone Credit Union effective January 1, 2005.

Gateway Credit Union History

Gateway Credit Union Limited was formed on January 1, 1998 through the merger of Archerwill Credit Union Limited and Rose Valley Credit Union Limited. Gateway Credit Union branches were located in Archerwill, Bjorkdale and Rose Valley.

Archerwill Credit Union opened an office in the Archerwill Co-op store in April of 1945. By the 10th anniversary, Archerwill Credit Union membership was up to

500 and assets were \$111,000.00. In 1963, the first building was built at a cost of \$15,765.75; this building was sold in 1981 to the RM of Barrier Valley and the Village of Archerwill. In 1982 a new building was opened, which underwent renovations in 2004 and today is the home of the Archerwill branch of Cornerstone Credit Union.

In May of 1983, the Bjorkdale branch was opened after a request from the community of Bjorkdale. A building was moved in from Turtleford, Sask. to house the branch. In 2000, a new building was built to house the Bjorkdale branch and the Village of Bjorkdale. This building is still the home of the Bjorkdale branch of Cornerstone Credit Union.

Rose Valley Credit Union was incorporated on November 23, 1954. The original building was renovated in 1999. Following the merger with Archerwill Credit Union in 1998, the Rose Valley branch experienced a large increase in size on May 5, 2000 when the Rose Valley Bank of Montreal business was purchased by Gateway Credit Union.

Tisdale Credit Union History

In 1943, Albert Wilson, then Manager of Tisdale Co-op, was very instrumental in generating interest in starting a credit union in Tisdale. He had been lending his own money to people so that they could purchase Co-op implements. It was his initiative that resulted in the organizational meeting on August 5, 1943. On September 21, 1943 Tisdale and District Savings and Credit Union, Limited was incorporated.

In May of 1946 Phyllis Robinson (Knuff) was hired as the first paid employee of the credit union, and in July 1947 Don Grant was hired as the first paid Manager of Tisdale Credit Union. In July 1977 Lloyd Caithcart was hired. As of January 1, 1978 he became the second manager of Tisdale Credit Union. On November 1, 1999, Tisdale's third General Manager Betty Bauhuis was hired. Betty remained in this position until Tisdale amalgamated with Cornerstone Credit Union and Gateway Credit Union, on January 1, 2008.

Until 1946, the Tisdale Credit Union operated (rent free) out of the Co-op office. In December 1950, Tisdale Credit Union began construction of a new structure on Main Street, where Tisdale Florists is now located. By 1963 they had outgrown the building and began looking for a space for a larger building. In 1965 the present location was purchased. Two adjacent lots were purchased in 1987, and in 1990 the building was expanded to its present size. A further renovation followed in 2001 when additional office space was required.