

From the Big Chair

There is an old saying “You never miss the water till the well runs dry.” This applies to all facets of life. Often times, we don’t take time to show appreciation or acknowledge what others have done or their contributions until it is too late – they may move, they may get sick or they may pass away. Often we don’t “take time to smell the roses and appreciate them.” The community of Unity is a community that offers a lot to its residents and neighbouring communities. The community offered a lot during what has been a trying year for everyone. Unity Credit Union would like to show our appreciation for those who are here, for what they do, today.

We start with all the health care workers who look after our well-being and did so even through the very trying last year and a half. We still needed to be cared for and so did our loved ones in their care. Thank you.

For the professionals in our community – the lawyers, accountants, chiropractors, dentists, optometrists, veterinarians, massage therapists and other specialty care givers. These people could have chosen to live and work other places and maybe even made more money. Fortunately for us they chose Unity, and in doing so provide services we all need regularly or at least periodically. It is so nice to deal with a “local” rather than going out of town to obtain the services these professionals provide. Thank you.

For the entrepreneurs and companies that have chosen to start or maintain businesses in our community. They provide us groceries, keep our pets happy, provide supplies to keep our homes, farms and businesses running smoothly. They make us look good from head to toe for the photographers. They provide us news and coverage of our events. They buy and sell our grain and commodities, survey properties, fill prescriptions. They provide convenience items when we forget to attend to these during regular business hours. They provide fuel, look after our technology requirements, brighten our lives with flowers and gifts and look after our children and other loved ones. They sell furniture, vehicles and our houses. They help us plan a vacation and help us at the end of our lives. They do all this and more and we just expect them to be there and have the supplies we need when we need them. Thank you.

For the tradespeople. They build, beautify, fix, unplug, install and do all sorts of things that we want and need done. Again, these people have chosen to remain in our community and when we need them late at night, on a cold day or just when

something no longer works, we sure appreciate them, but we should appreciate them everyday. Thank you.

For the hospitality, entertainment and fitness venues. They bring families and friends together, provide shelter and a place for us to eat, share beverages, swap stories and tell lies. They help keep us in shape or get us back into shape. Thank you.

For the service clubs and not for profit organizations. They do things, not for themselves, but for the good of the community to enrich it and the lives of those who choose to live here and to help welcome those who visit. Thank you.

For the educators. We move through life learning and growing, and these people play a key role in our early lives preparing us to succeed regardless of the direction our lives take. Thank you.

When you write a column such as this, someone may read it and say “What about me or my neighbor?”, so for everyone I missed, Helen Keller said, “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” Coming together makes a community thrive. Thank you to any and all who live and provide any type of service in our community. Just as important, thank you to all those who support all those who do any form of business or provide service in our community.

And now for the prepaid public announcement. Unity Credit Union also provides service to the community. In the simplest sense, we provide financial services. Most people may think of us as providing loans and taking deposits. From our point of view, we provide much more than that, but there are also the intrinsic benefits provided by Unity Credit Union that may be taken for granted or not realized. We appreciate being able to provide loans and investments to members but we want to remind you that we provide more than just financial services. If we were to “leave the community”, there would be many organizations, clubs and activities that would lose a sponsor, not receive a donation, lack support or be deprived of scholarships. The community would lose volunteers. Our staff volunteer in the community and to an extent are expected to get involved because we realize we rely on the local area to support us. We are extremely lucky to have a staff group that is ready and willing to help out so many causes and organizations in various capacities. Our staff earn money in the community and are encouraged to spend money in the community. By earning wages, and spending wages, we enhance the local economy. We are a

local organization that make decisions for the local area. Our decision makers, both directors and managers, are local people. They live in the area. They understand the area. They know how economic and environmental factors affect the area. They make decisions with a view of doing things in the credit union’s and the members’ best interests at heart. And finally, when we make money, we share the profits with you. As a financial co-operative, a guiding philosophy is to give back to the community we serve. Rewarding members through patronage is another form of giving back to the community. That is the end of the prepaid public announcement.

Unity Credit Union is proud to belong to the community. We support and appreciate all the other businesses and service providers in our area and wish them continued success as the province re-opens. We ask you to support these businesses to ensure that our community remains vibrant and strong for years to come. I would like to thank my staff for their involvement in the community. I thank the people of our community who are members and place their trust in us. To those who are currently not members, I ask you to consider supporting us for what we do, what we stand for and what we contribute to the community. If that is important to you, give us a call, stop in or email us to learn more!

Have a great summer!

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