

CFDI NEWS



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DECEMBER 2005

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

By Peter Whalen



"IT'S RIGGED!!" someone shouted, as tickets were being drawn and numbers called out. It was the close of the 2005 CFDI Holiday Party and presents were given by calling out numbers and someone stepping forward to claim

beautiful gift baskets designed and wrapped by Cristina Wong. Some also won poinsettias but all received the favoured *Tablerone* chocolate bar.

The party actually began when everyone received an attractive invitation via email announcing that this year's party would be held at a little restaurant called Esco-Pazzo Ristorante just south of Eglinton on December 8th. This caused days of speculation of who was coming and who wasn't. At one site, I even saw a sheet of paper taped to a desk requesting names to be written down so that head office could be advised with one shot!



Beyond the who's who, the next sequence was whether to take the subway or drive and where to park. For select car drivers in the know, Hospital Workers Co-op visitor parking seemed to be the place to dump the wheels and take a leisurely walk to the restaurant. I even heard someone got to park underground due to inside connections.



Many, did come by subway, not my favourite mode of transportation what with too much anxiety of getting off at the wrong station.

Esco-Pazzo Ristorante, almost invisible on Yonge St. welcomed about 80 of CFDI staff and guests. Most arrived by 7:30 pm and joined in to discover who we know and who we

don't. Conversations, laughter and even some shrill abounded. Catching up, always a favorite at such gatherings received competition from old meets new and new meets old with hugs and age old questions like 'Where do you work?', 'Do you like it?' 'Blah, blah, blah.'



The menu boasted five different selections leading one to believe we could be in a restaurant in Paris, London or New York, but yeah, we were in Toronto. How to choose, but choose we did and most at the table where I sat chose the Alberta beef. Though we waited two hours, raising appetites and impatience, once delivered, it was OOH and AAH, this is good... After the gifts, we stayed of course to indulge in the desserts. Platters of extravagant cakes and irresistible cream pies were delicately arranged. We convinced ourselves this is a once in a year eating binge and it was worth it. As Miranda Pinto convinced me while devouring a caramel crunch cake, 'This is a celebration'.



George, Eddie & Cristina – thanks for bringing us all together, for honouring us as a family sitting down together to celebrate, to express our pleasure and to just enjoy. Thanks for showing your appreciation and making it look so easy to pull together.

Best Wishes from CFDI...

The holiday season offers us a special opportunity to extend our personal thanks and very best wishes for the future. We can appreciate the demands that our clients can place on you, and appreciate all of the fine contributions and accomplishments you have made in your job.



And so it is that as the holiday season approaches, we would like to extend to you and your family our wishes for good health and good cheer throughout the New Year.

CFDI is a source of pride to us, and with people like you, we find going to work each day a rewarding experience.

We tip our glasses to you. From George, Eddie and Cristina, thanks again for a wonderful year. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

A story about a bus, a shopping trip and ordinary people from CFDI

By Cathy Archibald



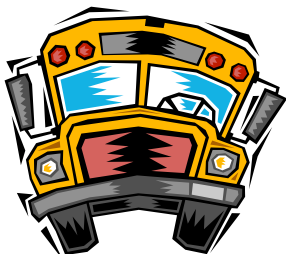
It was a beautiful summer morning. We arose with the sun in anticipation of shopping, shopping, shopping!

The first pickup was 5:15 am deep in Scarborough, then on to Central Toronto and finally Mississauga at 6:45 am. Wait! It's 7:30 and the driver forgot to stop in Mississauga, so back around and finally Mississauga pickup at 7:30 am! The windshield wipers barely work, the side window is seriously cracked and the bus is held together with duct tape. Not to be daunted, we loaded on the bus and away we went.

8:30 and we almost pass the exit to border crossing. One quick swerve and we're on the right track. We arrive at duty free, pop in for Tim's and some McDonald's for breakfast and head over to the border...line up not too long and those that weren't dozing were chattering away.

U.S.A. Border Patrol officer climbs aboard the bus to check our ID make sure we are all legal. Oops, three of us need special clearance so we pull over into the holding area and wait...and wait...and wait...and finally along comes another officer...we need to send the three back to Canada. And we wait...and we wait...and we wait.

We refund the money and pay for a cab across the border and we're on our



way...or are we? Look out the side window and the driver is hauling out jumper cables and hooking us up to another bus...no luck. (Did I mention the bus was held together with DUCT TAPE?) A border patrol truck pulls up, we hook up and just like that, we're on our way. It's now just past 11 am and we are back on the highway.

Some snoozing happens and before you know it and with only a couple wrong turns, we're at Mill Creek Mall – 45 minutes and we're to be back on the bus. Who can leave a mall in 45 minutes? Finally some stragglers return and we're back on the road. A few circles and we're at our next stop...and our next...and next. For those of us that are new to marathon shopping, we learned a few tips...bring your own food, wear comfortable shoes and know what you want and where you want to go.



Finally, it's 9:30 pm and we're waiting for a few people to return so we can start home. The driver has been on the road since 4 am. By the time we get to the border, through a few showers and many bugs...the driver can't see through the windshield and we are again pulled to the side.

Everyone and everything off the bus and through customs. Let's declare how much we spent while US Border officers are inspecting the bus and checking out our garbage.

Most of us made it through without paying. A few had to pay for items bought at duty free in the morning.

So, it's after 11 pm and we're back on the highway. We reach Mississauga in record time (and remember to stop) and then off to central Toronto, travelling very slowly through construction with only one lane of traffic getting through. An hour later and we're at our second drop point and another 30 minutes and we're home. We were the first to be picked up and the last to be dropped off and up almost 22 hours but we shopped, till we dropped and loved every minute of it!

NEW STAFF

Welcome aboard to:

- ❖ Lisa Clark, Taylor Creek Co-op
- ❖ Laura Collins, Atkinson Housing Co-op



- ❖ Andre Darmanin, ILGWU Co-op
- ❖ Jean Fong, Head Office
- ❖ Lola Kecaj, Comfield
- ❖ Alver Li, Maintenance (several projects)
- ❖ Connie Liong, Ellen McGreal Housing Co-op
- ❖ Tanya Luckhardt, St. Clare Multifaith Housing
- ❖ Jackson Ma, Comfield
- ❖ Anthony Panton, Tapscott Co-op
- ❖ Carlos Rios, Willmar Eighth Co-op
- ❖ Rob Ross, Atkinson Housing Co-op
- ❖ Marcus Vella, Atkinson Housing Co-op
- ❖ Delceter Warlow, Congress of Black Women
- ❖ Don White, Atkinson Housing Co-op
- ❖ Tina Wong, Head Office
- ❖ Charles Yang & Rola Li, Ellen McGreal Co-op



NEW BUILDINGS

CFDI currently has 27 projects including the following recently acquired sites:

- ❖ Art Burke Co-op
- ❖ Bazaar Non-Profit
- ❖ Bello Horizonte Non-Profit
- ❖ Nakiska Co-op
- ❖ Performing Arts Lodge, Toronto
- ❖ Taylor Creek Co-op
- ❖ Trellis Housing Initiative

ONCE UPON A SUMMER DAY...

By Peter Whalen

A small group of bandits under the assumed names of Beverley Campbell, Cathy Archibald, Margaret Davis, Rosamund Dorrington, Althea Miller and Chris de Poppe quietly and secretly put together a day of



sunshine and offered us their hospitality in the form of the company picnic. All we had to do was show up. We arrived at beautiful Serena Gundy Park at Leslie and Eglinton, in which the entrance involved walking over a wooden bridge with



swift flowing water rushing underneath. I felt like a child again entering a huge playground with expansive trees and wide open spaces. Our open space saw Margaret and Cathy orchestrating anyone who came in ear shot to moving picnic tables and putting up tents for shelter from the sun. Aleks and his wife Vanya seemed to be in charge of the tent erecting and I knew sooner or later it would all be figured out without a blueprint. Soon the place was buzzing with new arrivals, children scampering about and a blow horn announcing Dione's arrival (Oh that was me...). Jeffrey Tinglin did the barbecuing, mmm, and baked his famous cake, a one-of-those-look-forward-to-at-the-picnic-



things. BBQ Chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, salads and even Kentucky Fried chicken appeared. What appeared quickly disappeared! The children were entertained and cheered in tug-of-war, mystery hunts with prizes and squeals.

Speaking of prizes, the big kids (yes, those over 20) loved the draw for prizes and the quick exchange with someone else for something else. We finished with a group photo of the CFDI family and friends. It was a successful day, a great day – a day we will remember for the day before was a day of rainfall like no other. Ask Lisa Clark about that day. These events form the bond, the tie, the memories of 'I work for CFDI'. Thank you George, Eddie and Cristina. We know you are kids too. Otherwise, who would we follow??

STAFF PROFILE

Helen Rejminiak - Throughout the years, staff have come and gone, have stayed, have come and gone and come again. Helen Rejminiak is the come and gone and come again. Helen first appeared way back when at Hospital Workers Co-op as the assistant manager, moved on to Cawthra Co-op and disappeared. She reappeared a couple of years ago via The



Esplanade and Pears and is currently the administrator of Niagara Co-op and the assistant at Bazaar Co-op. She also lives in a co-op and sits on the member selection committee.

Helen, known to those close at heart as 'the maniac or Ms. Tic', is experienced in the co-op sector. She can remember the old ways, the simpler ways before SHRA. Helen, a shoot from the hip, black and white, right or wrong, kind of gal will, in the end, leave you laughing or maybe howling. Helen pulls no punches and appreciates being up front and direct in her dealings. One of her great joys is her granddaughter. Last summer's company picnic saw a 9 year old Helen walking around to everyone's agreement only to realize this is not Helen - this is her granddaughter. If you are in a social situation and Helen is with you, you will know it. If she isn't, you will more than likely wonder why not. Helen in your coming and going, remember sometimes to just sit still and enjoy the sitting still. Thanks for being who you are.

Be Better Equipped as a Manager

Community First Developments is planning on introducing a course on reading and understanding financial statements, what your budget means, and the new funding model for housing providers under benchmarking.

This course (given by Peter Whalen at the head office) is to be introduced early in 2006 and will be informal and easy to understand so that it will be practical and helpful for you and your board. If you are interested, please contact Cristina at the head office (Ext. 103 or email cristinaw@cfdi.ca). There will be room for a maximum of 5 people so it will be first come, first served. If there is a higher demand, additional sessions will be made available.

Schedule for Year 2006 Managers' Meetings

Meetings are from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and usually held at 15 Thorncliffe Park Co-op (15 Thorncliffe Park Drive, East York).

- ❖ January 26
- ❖ February 16

- ❖ March 16
- ❖ April 20
- ❖ May 18
- ❖ June 22
- ❖ July 20
- ❖ Aug - no meeting
- ❖ September 21
- ❖ October 19
- ❖ November 23
- ❖ December - no meeting



Meetings are **mandatory** and staff is expected to attend. Please advise your BOD of this meeting schedule so that they are aware of the importance of your attendance to these meetings.

Want to view more photos from the Summer Picnic and Annual Dinner?

Go to www.comfield.ca and log into the staff login page. Click on the staff login button and Presto!

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