



NCCU NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter of the Nevis Co-operative Credit Union

Volume 2 Issue 1

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NCCU hits the airwaves: TV and Radio

In a bid to educate the general membership and create more awareness of the critical role being played by the Nevis Co-operative Credit Union in the development of Nevis, your Credit Union has launched its **Members' Education Programmes** on Radio and Television. The first telecast of the informative half hour TV programme: **Credit Union In Focus**, to be hosted by NCCU's Secretary, Mr. Curtis Morton, was scheduled to be aired on Nevis Television (NTV) Channel 8 on Tuesday April 8.



Julet Chiverton
Producer - CU Capsule



Curtis Morton
Host - CU In Focus

the contribution that the Nevis Credit Union is making to the Nevis community. Mr. Morton is an accomplished broadcaster and interviewer, who intends to leave no stones unturned when he directs his probing questions to his guests, who would certainly be just as competent to provide answers. Further episodes of the TV programme promise to be equally informative, when senior staff and members of the Credit Union will be his guests.

The first guests on the programme were tipped to be President of the Credit Union, Mr. Steadroy Pemberton and General Manager, Mr. Sydney Newton. The programme will be aired twice monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m., with rebroadcasts on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays respectively.

weekly five minute information capsule to be presented by Ms. Julet Chiverton, NCCU's Administrative Officer, on Wednesday April 16. The radio programme: **Credit Union Capsule** will be aired on the Voice of Nevis (VON) radio on Wednesdays at 5:55 p.m. The same capsule will be aired on Choice FM on Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. and on Praise FM on Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

The objective of the radio programme is to inform and educate the members of the Nevis Credit Union and the general public, with a view of imparting knowledge about the Credit Union. The first episode will answer a simple yet important question: "What is a Credit Union? or What is the Difference between a Credit Union and other Financial Institutions?"

Plans were also underway for the first

The TV programme will seek to present information that will help the general public to understand and appreciate

Be tuned in, and you would be enlightened.

Sponsorship of Bonzo Ten/10 Cricket Competition continues

The Nevis Co-operative Credit Union was once again the proud sponsor of the Nevis Cricket Association (NCA)/Nevis Co-operative Credit Union (NCCU) Bonzo Ten/10 Knockout Competition, which bowled off in early March 2008. The Competition which promised to be an exciting contest saw the participation of eleven teams from across the island, vying for the title of champions. The competition was slated to run for four weeks, with the finals set for early April.

Participating teams are: All Stars (2007 Champions); Empire (2007 Runner Up); Highlights International; Four Seasons; Calypso Cricket Club; Jessups; Easterns; Brown Hill; SDA Jets; Tuberose; and Big Rock United.

As the people's organisation and a responsible corporate citizen, the NCCU views this sponsorship as our contribution to the development of the young men in our society. May the most disciplined team win!



NCCU's General Manager Sydney Newton (left) hands over a \$5,000 cheque to Collin Walwyn of the NCA



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EDITORIAL

Looking ahead with confidence

How do we measure success? People use different methods to measure success, but at the end of the day, it is the fact that they are better off than when they started that really matters. At the Nevis Co-operative Credit Union, we measure success by our numbers - our strength. Last year, when we held the 34th Annual General Meeting, the Supervisor of Co-operatives Mr. Edred Ward mentioned one fact that made many realise that we are on the road to success. He said the attendance was the highest ever.

What do those numbers mean to us at the Credit Union and to you the members? They tell us that we have experienced growth not only in shares and deposits and of course, our reserve capital, but also in members' participation. The numbers have a contagious effect in the sense that they also affect our resourcefulness and our ability to help those in need, and ultimately to help improve the living standard in our communities. That is the success we have enjoyed. Your Credit Union has grown proportionally and that is how we measure success.

We believe that Year 2008 will be no exception. The launching of our member education programmes through radio and TV is one sure way that we are on the right track. Members and the general public will get a clearer understanding of why we are the better option for them, as they face an uncertain future. We are in the business of empowering people to face the future with confidence. Once the members' education programme is established, we will be in a better position to receive those who had been withholding their participation. Be assured there is room for all of us at the Credit Union, as we strive to build a secure future for the next generation.

NCCU records another prof

The Thirty Fifth (35th) Annual General Meeting of the Nevis Co-operative Credit Union will be held on Monday April 28, 2008 at the Methodist Church Conference Centre, Chapel Street, starting at 6:30 p.m. Members will be pleased to know that the Society completed another profitable year of operation in 2007.

According to President Steadroy Pemberton, "the Credit Union recorded growth in the major areas of its business, in spite of the challenges encountered in meeting the financing needs of its members." He has pointed out that during the year ended December 31, 2007, the Board of Directors implemented various strategies aimed at raising additional funds to satisfy the high demand for mortgage loans, because members are saving less and seeking to borrow more.

Even as the Nevis Credit Union compares favourably with its peers throughout the region, there were a few hurdles that the competent team led by General Manager Mr. Sydney Newton managed to pass over with little or no turbulence felt by the general membership.



Steadroy Pemberton

Observed Mr. Pemberton: "The high cost of funds available rendered the outcome to our initiatives unproductive, which placed pressure on the society's cash resources, the evidence of which was a slight decrease in the end-of-year balances."

Pemberton continued by saying: "Notwithstanding the aforementioned challenges, the Board actively pursued the development of its human resource during the year by exposing every committee member and staff to the regional Credit Union Movement for the purpose of education, training, networking and the transfer of knowledge in Credit Unions' business, with a view to maintaining our high standard of performance."

In terms of real growth, as at December 31, 2007 there were 5,680 members or account-holders on the register of the NCCU, compared to 5,382 in 2006, representing an increase of 298 members or 6%. The President pointed out that active accounts qualify members for "participation in our human resource development programme throughout the year and decision making process at our AGMs,



Sydney Newton

Profitable year of operation in 2007

including election to the Board and Committees.”

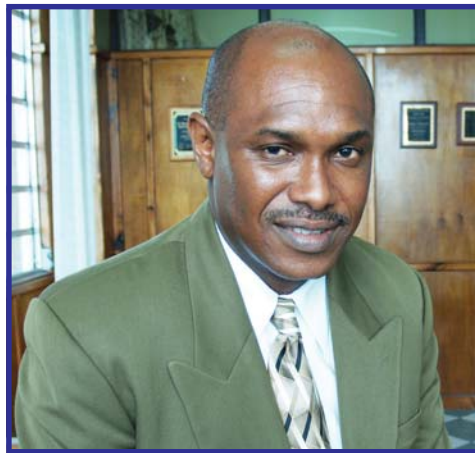
Our position as a leader in the Regional Credit Union Movement has afforded us greater recognition at home. The Nevis Island Administration’s Entrepreneurial Development Fund (EDF) continues to be administered by the NCCU in conjunction with the Small Enterprise Development Unit (SEDU) of the NIA, with the objective of providing micro and small business owners with technical and financial support for their businesses.

Your Credit Union also continue to manage the Affordable Housing Scheme Loan Portfolio of the Nevis Housing and Land Development Corporation (NHLDC). But the greatest achievement to date was realised when the NCCU enter into an agreement with the St. Christopher and Nevis Social Security Board (SSB) and the Nevis Island Administration to act as agent for the administration of the SSB-funded \$10 million Nevis Civil Servants Mortgage Loan Programme (NCSMLP).

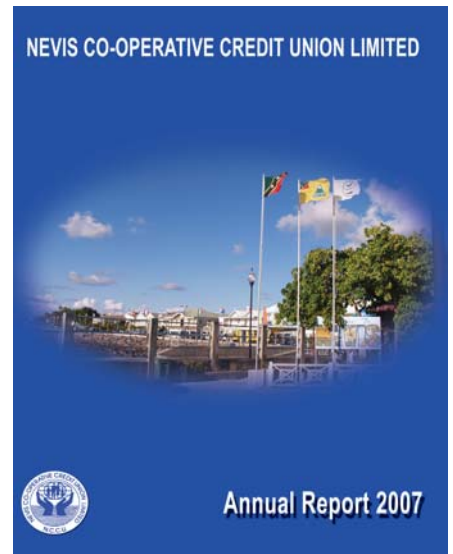
Commented Mr. Pemberton: “The implementation phase of the loan programme, which is intended to provide

housing for civil servants and non-established workers on Nevis, was launched during International Credit Union Week in October 2007, and the first disbursement was made in December. At December 31, 2007, five mortgages totalling \$735,202 were under management by the NCCU on behalf of the Social Security Board.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Vernel Powell, NCCU’s Treasurer has reported that there was average growth in the major areas of the operation for the year 2007. Gross income increased by \$509,588 or 13% over 2006



Vernel Powell



to reach \$4.6 million even though net income decreased by \$65,226 or 10% during the same period to a total of \$590,162.

Observed Mr. Powell: “This atypical performance was the result of increased business activity, which positively impacted income, and increased cost related to human resource development and security.”

If last year’s AGM is anything to go by, the 35th Annual General Meeting promises to be one of the best ever and all members are encouraged to attend and to be on time.

GET TO KNOW THE FACTS

International Credit Union Operating Principles, WOCCU, 1984

PRINCIPLE #2: SERVICE TO MEMBERS

■ Distribution to Members

To encourage thrift through savings and thus to provide loans and other services, a fair rate of interest is paid on savings and deposits, within the capability of the credit union. The surplus arising out of the operations of the credit union after covering the cost of finance, operating costs, provisions for loan losses and ensuring appropriate capital reserve levels, belongs to and benefits all members with no member or group of members benefiting to the detriment of others. This surplus may be distributed among members in proportion to their transactions with the credit union, as dividends on shares or directed to improved or additional services required by the members.

■ Building Financial Stability

A prime concern of the credit union is to build the financial strength, including adequate reserves and internal controls that will ensure continued service to membership.

■ Service to Members

Credit union services are directed to improve the economic and social well-being of all members.

The Two Sides of Borrowing

By
Loans Department

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW!!!!

Often, borrowing is perceived as a component of lending institutions which is designed to satisfy the borrower. **When a loan is disbursed it creates some measure of satisfaction to the recipient.** This transaction suggests that a need has been met, a goal has been achieved or a dream has been realised. Someone is indeed happy. Now, this brings us to the other side of borrowing.

Where does this transaction leave the lender? Of course, there is some degree of satisfaction in being instrumental in fulfilling a need. However, **until the loan is repaid, the onus is on the lender to prove that the loan was a good one.** This process takes careful monitoring and scrutinising in order to avoid delinquency. It is sometimes very difficult. If delinquency is determined, the collection process is immediately executed to minimise the risk of bad debts. All internal collection initiatives will be exhausted before external sources are utilised. The external collection process starts with the bailiff ends with either repossession or foreclosure. The inevitable outcome here is “total embarrassment”



Loans Department staff: (from left), Collette Hanley, Earther Scarborough, Georgette Hanley & Ken Williams

This side of borrowing is the negative one. It forces the lender to take action, sometimes legal ones. This process overshadows all the achievements and expectations of both parties respectively. **Borrowing will have a positive outcome, if both parties consider the two sides of borrowing and work towards making a “good loan”.** It brings a sense of satisfaction and completeness when this outcome is realised, and most importantly it dispels embarrassment.



MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

NCCU PIONEER PASSES



- Joined the Nevis Credit Union in 1973.
- Contributed towards the development of the Credit Union's physical infrastructure.
- Was an active member of the Credit Union.
- Was profiled, along with other pioneers during International Credit Union Week 2006.
- Passed away in January 2008.

MR. EUSTACE NISBETT