

member advantage



SPRING • 2007

Your Flin Flon Credit Union

supporting the community

Flin Flon Men's & Ladies' Senior Bonspiel

Your Flin Flon Credit Union was a proud supporter of the 2006 Flin Flon Senior Men's and Ladies' Bonspiel and was happy to provide the first event prizes to the winning teams.

Thank you to all participants for a great bonspiel, and congratulations to the winning teams:

LADIES' — Judy Maitland, Evelyn Meyer, Marlene Anderson and Irene Kozar.

MEN'S — Grant McLuckie, Al Brown, John Olineck and Darrell Nomeland.



Be there! Sunday, May 6



Your Flin Flon Credit Union is proud to be a local sponsor of the 2007 Flin Flon Supercities Walk for MS, which will take place on Sunday, May 6. The community's participation in this event clearly demonstrates the remarkable spirit and courage of those in our area who live with MS. The passion and energy of their friends and supporters has made the event a lively and entertaining way to spend an afternoon. The need in our community for education and support services for those living with MS is real. To register for this event or to contribute online, please visit our website at www.flinfloncu.mb.ca and click on the link in the News Section. Hope to see you there May 6!



The Orange Toad hosted a hugely successful event kick-off on January 24, with 25 walkers signing up



Flin Flon CREDIT UNION

We welcome your feedback and story ideas for the Member Advantage newsletter. Send or bring them to:

36 Main Street
Flin Flon MB R8A 1J6

Phone 687-6620 or 687-7106
Fax 687-5613

Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 am – 5 pm

Friday 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Saturday 9:30 am – 3 pm

GENERAL MANAGER

Diane Harris

STAFF

Joyce McDonald

Kory Eastman

Shirley Lee

Colleen Stallard

Lori Hvidsten

Katie McIntosh

Leslie Larocque

Giselle Barron

Mary Wiegiers

Visit our website!
www.flinfloncu.mb.ca

WE OFFER OUR MEMBERS

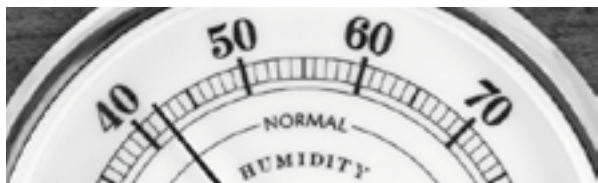
- high-quality financial products and services at fair prices
- financial products and services that are convenient and accessible
- a strong network of credit unions staffed by people who are ethical, competent and well-trained
- a system of credit unions, united and acting as one towards common goals and purposes
- a system directed by a motivated membership involved in the planning and policy-making process
- integration with national and related co-op organizations

Together
we can do it!

Too much or too little? Humidity can cause serious home problems

As a homeowner, it's important to do what you can to protect your investment and measuring the humidity in your home is one simple step you can take to do just that. The humidity level in your home may not seem like a big deal, but too much humidity can lead to the development of mold and other damage in your home, as well as contribute to allergies and other health issues. Conversely, too little humidity can cause discomfort, make it difficult to breathe and also damage furniture and other items inside your house.

To help address potential humidity problems, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has released a fact sheet designed to help homeowners diagnose humidity problems in their home. The fact sheet, which is available in printable form on the CMHC's website at http://www.cmhcschl.gc.ca/en/co/maho/yohoyohe/momo/momo_002.cfm, includes common symptoms of humidity problems and instructions on how to properly measure the humidity in your home.



	Too much humidity	Too little humidity
Typical Symptoms	Condensation on windows	Chapped skin and lips
	Wet stains on walls and ceilings	Scratchy nose and throat
	Moldy bathroom	Breathing problems
	Musty smells	Static and sparks
	Allergic reactions	Problems with electronic equipment
Long-Term Effects	Damage to the house and contents	Continuing discomfort
	Ongoing allergies	Damage to furniture and other items
	Other health problems	

Don't let fraudsters separate you from your money

You work hard for your money, but unfortunately there are those who work nearly as hard to take it away from you. Criminals and con artists are constantly trying to come up with new ways to defraud unsuspecting victims.

"People are getting taken by con artists and suffering severe losses," said Amaro Silva, the executive director of the Better Business Bureau for Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. In response, the bureau put together a list of the worst scams of the past year. Some of the scams on the list, such as identity theft and Internet fraud, are becoming fairly well known. But others are less widely reported. Here are some of the more notable schemes:

Bogus cheque / overpayment schemes

According to the BBB, this scam involves fraudsters who target people selling products through classified ads or online bulletin boards. The buyer (scammer) sends a cheque for a product or service for more than the negotiated price. The scammer then requests that the seller deposit the cheque and return the excess funds. The original cheque is typically stolen or fake, and by the time the victim has cashed and returned the excess funds, the scammer has made off with both the money and the merchandise.

Lottery scams

In these scams the victims are told they have won a large lottery prize and are often sent a cheque for a few thousand dollars worth of the winnings. They are then asked to pay back a small portion to cover taxes or processing fees before they can access their winnings. The victim sends money and never receives the winnings, while they discover the original cheque was either stolen or fake.

Directory scams

In these scams businesses are invited to submit their company contact information for publication in a business directory for distribution on a CD-ROM. By submitting the information, the business is actually unintentionally committing to paying an exorbitant advertising fee to be listed in a directory that is often only distributed to other advertisers.

Money wiring scams

Also known as the "Nigerian Letter Scam." Victims are told a variety of sad stories via phone, mail, e-mail or fax and asked to wire money to "help out." The fraudster typically promises to return the money with interest; however, once the money is wired, the fraudster disappears and the money is untraceable.

— The Better Business Bureau

Despite the obvious importance Many Canadians still without a will

Few would dispute the importance of having a will; after all, without one you have no way of ensuring that the things you hold dear go to the loved ones you want to receive them. And yet many Canadians still do not have a will.

In fact, a study conducted last year by Ipsos-Reid found that nearly half (46 per cent) of all married or common law couples — and the vast majority of singles (84 per cent) — do not have a will.

If you're one of the many who have been planning to write a will but have never got around to it, consider this: writing a will not only determines who will control your estate after your death and who will be the beneficiaries, it also helps to minimize estate expenses. Having a written will also spares surviving family members the burden of having to sort through all of your personal belongings during what will already be a very difficult time.

In Canada, if you die without a will, government legislation determines the distribution of your estate, meaning you'll have no control over what happens to your belongings and prized possessions.

Finally, parents with young children should always have a written will to ensure that the person of their choice is given guardianship of their children.



Buying used can save you money

Everyone likes to have a little extra money in their pocket, but saving money is often more difficult than it seems. But one tip that can save you plenty of money in the long run is actually quite easy to do and that's to buy used. Not everything, mind you, because we all like new things now and then — but here are some items thrifty shoppers should always buy used:

CARS — Not a big surprise, but one that bears repeating. Not only are automobiles one of the most expensive purchases many people will ever make (aside from a house), but they also depreciate extremely quickly. Research has shown that the average new car loses more than 12 per cent of its value in just the first year. Knowing this, savvy shoppers often buy cars with low mileage and only a year or two on the road and pocket hundreds — and sometimes thousands — of dollars in savings.

CHILDREN'S TOYS — Kids can be very fickle about their toys. Must-have toys just a few months old get relegated to the bottom of the toy box as soon as the next fad comes along. Popular toys can often be found at yard sales, in classified ads and on Internet auctions for just a fraction of their retail price. This also applies to video games, which can be quite expensive new but often drop in price by 50 per cent or more within months of release.

BOOKS — Forgetting for a moment that your local library gives you access to most books for free, buying used books is another way to save some money. Used book stores and yard sales are a great way to find plenty of books at drastically reduced prices.

COMPUTERS — Another big ticket item that depreciates quickly, computers are perpetually being replaced with newer and faster models. If you do your research and know what you're looking for, it's not hard to find a good computer at a very reasonable price that the owner has replaced with the latest and greatest.

CU MasterCard and CHOICE REWARDS invite you to a

BIG BBQ PARTY!

Every time you use your Flin Flon Credit Union CHOICE REWARDS MasterCard between April 1 and July 31, 2007, you'll be entered for a chance to **win a stainless steel BBQ, a deluxe patio set** and a **\$500 M&M Meat Shop gift card**. If you already enjoy the convenience of earning reward points with every purchase, continue to use your card during the contest period to be entered into the draw. If you don't already have a Credit Union CHOICE REWARDS MasterCard, now is the perfect time to get one. Most approvals take place within 24 hours of applying at the branch. Come in and visit us in-branch for full details.



Member Question ▼

Can I transfer money into my child's Flin Flon Credit Union Account (which has a separate member number) on CU@home Internet banking?

YES. Using the Member-to-Member transfer service, you can transfer funds from your account into other Flin Flon Credit Union accounts online. All you need is an active CU@home Internet service, and to sign the proper permission form at the branch. You'll also need the membership and account numbers of the person you wish to deposit to. Transferring money into your child's account — or any other member's — is as convenient as a mouse click. Just give us a call if you'd like more details.

Notice to Members ▼



Effective May 1, 2007:

In order to comply with national regulations, ATMs in the Acculink/Inter Credit Union ATM network — including Flin Flon Credit Union's ATM — **will no longer accept U.S. dollar cheques for deposit.** We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause for our members.

Young adults less likely than others to take advantage of investment advice

According to the results of a recent survey, young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 are less likely than older investors to use investment services.

The survey found that younger investors often do not seek the advice of a financial planner, despite the fact that those same young investors often have less knowledge and experience when it comes to investing than their older counterparts.

As a result, young investors often shy away from risks that might be appropriate for someone their age to take, thereby missing out on opportunities to maximize the growth of their portfolio.

If you're a young investor looking for more information and suggestions on how to best manage your money, visit the credit union today. We'd be happy to help provide you with the knowledge and resources you need to make the most of your investment opportunities. To arrange an appointment with a financial advisor, just call your Flin Flon Credit Union at 687-6620 or 687-7106.



Advice? Who needs it? 18-to-24 year-olds are more likely than older investors to be managing their investments entirely on their own.