



THE MONEY TREE

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the time to BUILD Your future is now!

And at Goderich Community Credit Union we have the tools to make it happen. If you want to construct a home, you'll need the proper tools. And that means more than a hammer and jigsaw. At GCCU we have the credit tools necessary to build your future now!

When looking to finance your dream home the credit choices and options available can be overwhelming. That's why it's best to spend time understanding what credit product best suits your needs before you borrow. You can count on GCCU for expert advice and attention to detail whether you're buying your first home, looking for a house to accommodate your growing family or downsizing to that little cottage.

Mortgage financing rates are at an all time low. Government incentives were introduced in this year's budget with RRSP withdrawals for the Home Buyer's Plan increasing from \$20,000 to \$25,000.¹ And there's something brand new available – a grant for eligible home buyers.² Come in and see us at GCCU. These changes may mean the time for you to purchase a home is now.

GCCU's expertise also includes recommendations surrounding existing debts. Take advantage of Goderich Community Credit Union's financial counseling and debt restructuring advice to customize a plan that best suits your situation. Whatever your needs, GCCU can help you reach your goals. We have the tools!

Our toolbox includes:

home equity Lines of Credit – Your All-in-One Account

For members with fluctuating incomes or short-term financing requirements, a Home Equity Line of Credit may be the answer, as it can be repaid at any time without penalty. And the unique features of the Home Equity Line of Credit make it the ideal All-In-One account.

- Completely open
- Linked to your chequing account
- Accessible by ATM or Debit/POS card
- Direct deposit of net pay or pension to your LOC reduces interest carrying charges

What's more, you can capitalize on federal government grants available for many renovations related to improving both your home or cottage. Use your Home Equity Line Credit to complete "energy efficient" upgrades and save money twice!³

Mortgage Loans

We have the mortgage to suit your needs! Alongside our Home Equity Lines of Credit we offer first and second conventional mortgages



as well as low down payment mortgages. Both open and closed mortgage terms are available with amortizations up to a maximum of 35 years.

Full range of Credit Options Available

At GCCU we offer a full range of credit products like our Car Loans that feature the same low rate for both new and used cars with financing up to 72 months. As well, our Lines of Credit start at Credit Union Prime + 1%.

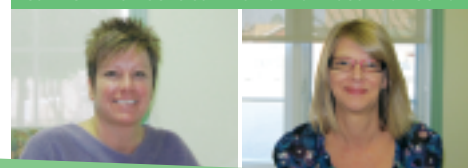
Most importantly, our loan advisors recognize that debt is a tool that should be structurally sound in relation to your whole financial picture. And with consumer debt rising, smart financing rather than more debt may be the solution. It's that kind of expert advice that makes membership at Goderich Community Credit Union worthwhile.

Compare below and see how much a Line of Credit can save you on a \$10,000 balance! You could save more than \$2,500 each year.

department store charge card*		Credit cards* (visa, MasterCard)		goderich Community Credit union	
rate	interest	rate	interest	rate	interest
28.8%	\$2,880	18.5%	\$1,850	from 3.25%	\$325

*Rates posted are for illustration purposes and GCCU posted rates are as of May 12, 2009; subject to change without notice. Some terms and conditions apply.

Our LOAn AdvISOr S sanDr a Hal l and Joanne Moore



1 FirSt-tiMe hOMe buYer S may be eligible to withdraw up to \$25,000 tax-free from their RRSP to use as a down payment; the funds must be repaid to your RRSP within fifteen years or reported as income.

2 hOMe buYer S may be eligible for a federal tax credit – a \$5,000 non-refundable income tax credit that will provide up to \$750 in federal tax relief.

3 hOMe renOVAtiOn tAx Credit S from the federal government of up to \$1,350 are available for your home or cottage.

What's new at GCCU!

SAve it up

Guess what? Your granny was right! If you take care of the pennies, the dollars will take care of themselves. At GCCU we've incorporated this age-old truth with new-age technology. Using your Debit/POS card, you can now round up your purchases to the nearest dollar, five or ten dollars.

is surplus amount will automatically be deposited into your savings account. It's a great way to increase your savings! Come in for a visit and we'll add this new feature to your accounts.



e-MAIL ALert Service

Members can now choose a dollar amount or type of transaction they wish to have confirmed and GCCU will automatically send e-mail notification when the specified transactions go through their account.

exChAnge netwOrK

We are working hard to finalize our connection to *The Exchange Network* and when completed our members will have access to more than

2,200 full-service ATMs across Canada without paying

surcharges! at means when you're out of town and you need money or access to your account information, you simply have to look for an ATM with the Exchange logo. They're everywhere.



Compared to using bank or white label ATMs that can cost you up to \$5.50 on a \$20 withdrawal, you'll be able to make deposits, withdrawals, transfers and balance inquiries at any Canadian Exchange machine for the same price as using a GCCU ATM at home. Be sure to take advantage of this great deal!

Your ATM card also gives you access to the Accel/Exchange Network in the United States. For listings and convenient maps for cities you visit, check out the handy ATM locators at www.the-exchange.ca.

AnnuaL gener AL Meeting

anotHer SuccessfUl Year!

Over 100 members came to their Credit Union's annual meeting held on Wednesday, November 26, 2008 at Saltford Valley Hall.

Below are some of the financial highlights for 2008:

- Capital Reserves increased to 8.97% guaranteeing an even stronger Credit Union and almost doubling the required regulatory requirement of 5%
- The Board declared a 2.75% dividend on members' savings and .50% on members' US savings
- The Non-Specific Loan Allowance Reserve was increased to ensure future protection, if required
- Community initiatives such as Relay for Life and Habitat for Humanity were cited

Additionally, three board members were re-elected by acclamation for three year terms:

- JOAnne br unK • r Ober t dur nin • er iC gOSse

Many thanks to our loyal members and dedicated staff! It's your unwavering support that makes GCCU a success.



Fr OM the deSK OF
Sandy Wilson, CEO

At the end of June, most Volvo employees will have received their termination packages. We at GCCU wish all the best to our friends and neighbours affected by this change. We're also here to help. So if you are experiencing financial setbacks and need assistance, come in and talk to us. Our qualified financial advisors understand the issues and may be able to offer valuable insight and advice during this difficult transition. At GCCU we continue to be optimistic regarding stimulus initiatives currently being discussed to encourage the future economic growth of our community. But until things turn around, remember that Goderich Community Credit Union is always in your corner.

Fr OM the deSK OF...

Kim McDougall,
LOAN MANAGER



Credit: A tOOL thAt MuSt be uSed wiSeLY

Credit card balances in Canada are up 47%, rising from \$36.6 billion in 2004 to \$53.4 billion in 2008. Write-offs this year alone in Canada will exceed \$800 million. These numbers are astonishing! But the real change is in our perception of credit cards. Once viewed as an emergency contingent, our credit cards have somehow become a licence to spend indiscriminately.

But make no mistake, credit cards are another excellent tool that when used wisely, can enhance your financial portfolio. By following a few simple guidelines, you can reap the rewards that come with credit card ownership.

- **variety isn't necessary:** You only need one credit card.
- **pay on time:** the average credit card interest rate is 18.5% and if you're late with payments the interest rate increases.
- **pay off the balance monthly:** Paying only minimum payments could mean it takes you over 33 years to retire your card debt.
- **don't "rob peter to pay paul":** Don't use one card to make payments on another.
- **be aware:** if you have a substantial balance, write down what you spent it on. if you can't remember 95% of the purchases, you may be a "card" addict. and if your income is reduced or your monetary circumstances change, you'll find yourself in financial hot water.

If you'd like to learn more about credit card ownership or need to talk about your debts, come in and see one of our loan advisors. We would be happy to help!

At Mdebit CAR d pin SeCur it Y guAr d YOuR CAR d

At M(debit) CAR d SKIMMing IS A gr OWing pr ObLeM Not just in large urban centres but in every community. Goderich Community Credit Union has security procedures in place which includes monitoring unusual activity. It remains important, however, that you review your transaction history often for irregularities and take steps to 'Guard your Card'.

tipS Fr OMint er AC And gCCu:

- Shield your Personal Identification Number (PIN) when processing transactions at an ATM or at a merchant.
- Never let your debit card out of your sight and allow only one swipe. Always take your card and transaction record with you.
- Check your statements, balances and transactions and contact us immediately with any discrepancies.
- If your debit card is lost, stolen or retained by an ATM, notify us as soon as possible.
- Do not disclose your PIN to anyone. Memorize it. Keep your card in a safe place and never lend it to anyone.
- When choosing your PIN, do not use obvious information or you could be liable.
- Conduct transactions when you feel secure.

Do not use an ATM or debit terminal if it looks suspicious. Call us and report your concerns. After hours call our 24-hour HOTLINE at 1.877.764.3693 (Canada/US) or 1.905.764.3693 (International) to immediately cancel your card. While Interac Shared Services are among the most secure in the world, debit card fraud can occur.



>>tax scaMAl ert

Warning: Investing in schemes that promise you tax-free withdrawals from RRSPs and RRIFs could result in the loss of your retirement savings.

When it comes to fraud there's no shortage of creative crooks out there trying to pilfer your hard-earned savings. The Canada Revenue Agency recently published an article on its website warning investors to beware of scams that promise tax-free withdrawals from their RRSPs and RRIFs. To learn more, visit the Canada Revenue Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca. And remember, at Goderich Community Credit Union we're here to help you sort through these issues. If you have further questions or concerns, your GCCU

advisors would be happy to meet with you.



ASK the exper t... with ShAnnOn bOSCh, financial aDvisor

Q: Is the TFSA for me?

A: A Tax Free Savings Account or TFSA is a type of registered savings account that allows taxpayers aged 18 and over to earn interest, other types of investment income and capital gains tax-free. And yes, they are for everyone, no matter

what age or stage of life. However, depending upon your specific needs and situation, the TFSA offers different benefits. Let's have a look at what they are...

FOR thOSe with SpeCiFiC, ShOr t-ter MGOALS

Under a TFSA, you are able to contribute up to \$5,000* annually. It is an excellent vehicle to shelter investment income from tax. However, the benefit doesn't stop there. The TFSA's liquidity feature also allows you to withdraw and replace funds in a subsequent year as required, without affecting your contribution room. Consequently, the TFSA is an ideal tool when saving for short-term goals. Keep a TFSA in mind when planning your next vacation, vehicle purchase or when saving for education expenses.

The TFSA is also the ideal account to generate funds for emergencies, home renovations or a down payment for a home purchase.

FOR thOSe with CONSer vAtive inCOMe GOALS

If you're a conservative investor who prefers savings accounts, GICs, bonds or other interest-bearing vehicles, you may also benefit from the TFSA. Unlike a non-registered account, investment income is tax-sheltered. As a result, having your funds in a TFSA means you'll improve your bottom-line at tax time.

FOR thOSe with penSiOn pLAnS

Help offset your RRSP contribution room lost through pension adjustments with a TFSA.

FOR r etireeS

Continue to grow your tax-free income under a TFSA! Because the TFSA has no upper age limit on making contributions, seniors benefit. And, you needn't collapse your existing plan, as with an RRSP, and move the funds to a retirement income option such as a RRIF, where the funds are gradually taxed. If you already have a RRIF, the TFSA can shelter withdrawals which are not required. And, the TFSA withdrawals and earnings do not affect means-tested programs such as OAS.

FOR hOMeOwner S And eMptY neSter S

If your plans for the future include downsizing, consider a TFSA to shelter the proceeds of your home sale from future taxation. Although a principal residence can be sold tax-free, bear in mind the proceeds, once reinvested in non-registered accounts, will generate tax on the earned interest.

FOR thOSe eAr ning A high inCOMe

If you're considered a high income earner who has maximized your RRSP contributions and you're searching for another investment vehicle, the TFSA will definitely help. Using TFSA's and RRSPs is not an "either-or" situation. The TFSA can offer valuable tax savings over and above what's achievable through an RRSP alone.

Your deposits are safe and secure with insurance provided by the Deposit Insurance Corporation of Ontario for up to \$100,000 for each RRSP and TFSA contract. If you have questions concerning TFSA's or any other investment program, please contact us. We are here to help!

*amount adjusted annually according to the rate of inflation

