

## What's new with your Board of Directors?

If you're interested in making a personal difference at FirstOntario, then why not run for election to our Board of Directors? Your Board of Directors work closely with FirstOntario's leadership team to help ensure we stay on a course for continued success.

This year we have 4 positions available. If you're interested in being elected to the Board of Directors, you can pick up a nomination package at your local branch or visit our website to download a copy.

**The nomination period ends on Monday, August 23, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. (EST)** so don't miss out! Just call 1-800-616-8878 if you have any questions.

## Family fun in the summer sun!

Summer is here and once again it's time for our Summer Fun Program. All FirstOntario branches are now selling discounted tickets for Canada's Wonderland.

You can also order discounted tickets for Ontario Place online. Just visit [FirstOntarioCU.com](http://FirstOntarioCU.com) and check out the community section for all the details of our Summer Fun Program.

## A first for Canada! Come chat with P.A.T.

FirstOntario is leading the way in Canada with an innovative banking machine revolution. In June, our new Personal Assisted Teller machine (P.A.T. for short) was introduced at our new Centre on Barton branch in Hamilton.

With live streaming video, you can see and speak with a live person through a banking machine who will help with your personal banking, including deposits, withdrawals, cashing cheques, bill payments and more. Most of the banking that you would normally do face-to-face can be done with P.A.T.

You'll see more P.A.T.'s soon as we open our new branches. We're also planning to launch P.A.T. in remote locations, separate from our branches. As we expand our P.A.T. network, we'll also be able to offer extended hours of operation for even more Member convenience.

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## Sandy Shaw honoured with Hamilton's Women of Distinction Award for 2010



Sandy Shaw

Congratulations to our very own Sandy Shaw. Besides supporting FirstOntario Credit Union as Chair to the Board of Directors, Sandy is also a dedicated social entrepreneur who has brought real change to the City of Hamilton. Sandy was recently honoured and awarded the Hamilton Women of Distinction Award for 2010 for her work in Social Development.

With expertise as a Planner and Research Specialist, Sandy Shaw's experience and drive has proven invaluable to many projects in Hamilton that have made a significant impact. Sandy conducted the first ever study of women and poverty in Hamilton. Her study was published and has been widely recognized. Sandy's background in Corporate Social Responsibility also allows her to facilitate partnerships between business, community groups, local Government and charitable organizations. Her tireless efforts in this area resulted in a community build with KaBOOM playgrounds to create a much needed playground for children living in one of the poorest communities in Hamilton.

More recently, Sandy has lent her efforts to helping FirstOntario launch our innovative Micro Loan Program in the Hamilton Community. Thanks for your hard work Sandy and congratulations!

## Stars among us

Port Plaza Branch Manager, Janice Cheel, recently received a great email from Member, Jana Boniferro telling us about the outstanding service she received from FirstOntario's Colleen Meunier-Bartus. Below are some of the kind words that Jana had to say about Colleen.

"... as soon as Colleen started with our file, we were impressed at how quickly she got back to us with answers to any and all questions we've had. She is the reason we stayed with FirstOntario and I hope she's recognized for the hard work and dedication! I'm sure you appreciate what an asset she is to your branch...It has been a pleasure and I can't wait to work with her again when our new home closes in July."

**Does someone at FirstOntario deserve star recognition for going above and beyond the call of duty?**

We're interested in hearing about your experience. Please share your experience with us. Just send us an email to [contact@FirstOntarioCU.com](mailto:contact@FirstOntarioCU.com).

Help us give our star performers the recognition they deserve. Your story could appear in our next newsletter.

## Make the most of your savings



With the downturn in the economy, savings rates rose as Canadian's realized the importance of saving and were more careful with their spending. Now with the strengthening economy, many Canadian's are again getting caught up in debt and saving less. By planning for regular savings you'll be in a much stronger position to deal with surprises, like a job loss or sudden house repair.

### Tips for keeping your savings on track:

- Make sure you create a budget and stick to it
- Arrange for pre-authorized savings from each pay cheque
- Try to have at least 3 months salary in savings
- Speak to a financial expert

A great way to make the most of your money is to deposit your savings into vehicles that will give you a higher interest rate, like a high interest savings account, Tax-Free Savings Account or investments like Market Index GICs.

A Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) is a handy tax shelter worth considering. The great feature of a TFSA is that interest you make on your money is tax-free. You can even hold some investments in your TFSA to help max out the return on your investment. You can also withdraw money with no penalty.

Each year, you can contribute up to \$5,000 to your TFSA. If you don't contribute the full amount each year, you can carry your contribution room forward. Also, money withdrawn can be carried forward and put back into your TFSA in future years. Keep in mind that if you have contributed the maximum amount for the year and you withdraw money, you are not allowed to replace this money until the following year.

A TFSA is perfect for long or short term investing and really is a must-have, just like an RSP. Since you start earning contribution room when you open a TFSA, it makes sense to open one, even if you can only deposit a small amount each month.

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## A first for Canada! Come chat with P.A.T.

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An image from a typical P.A.T. transaction

Using P.A.T. is simple. Just touch the video screen to begin and the live teller guides you through the rest. P.A.T. is as secure as using a banking machine or going directly into the branch.

New technology like P.A.T. will appeal to our younger Members while keeping the human touch that other generations love. This technology is a win-win for everyone.

P.A.T. is friendly, and very generous and for a limited time, our Members will have a chance to win bonus cash with every withdrawal made through our P.A.T. machine at the Centre on Barton branch located at 1299 Barton Street East.

**If you'd like to chat about P.A.T., we'd love to hear from you. Just give us a call at 1-800-616-8878.**

### Time to start your own business?

FirstOntario recently joined forces with four Community Partners and three Community Advisors to launch an innovative Micro Loan Program in Hamilton. This program is designed to help the Hamilton community prosper by encouraging an entrepreneurial spirit and promoting self-employment opportunities.

This new program provides Micro Loans to individuals who have a great self-employment idea, but may not be able to access traditional financing. Financial assistance in the form of a Micro Loan from FirstOntario is combined with support programs offered by participating community partners to help these individuals get their self-employment dream off the ground.

We are confident that this program will have a positive impact on the Hamilton community and we'll be evaluating this program as we consider bringing it to our other communities in the future.

#### Just contact one of our community partners for more details:

Immigrant Women's Centre	905-529-5209
Settlement and Integration Services Organization	905-667-7476
Today's Family	905-574-9344
Welcome Inn Community Centre	905-525-5824

## Supporting our young Members

### Co-operative Young Leaders

FirstOntario is very happy to sponsor young Member, Nathan Hammerling to take part in this year's Co-operative Young Leaders (CYL) Camp.

This summer camp not only teaches our youth how to become leaders and team players, they also learn to work co-operatively, solve problems and develop an increased sense of self-awareness. Have a great time Nathan!

### Game on!

FirstOntario is a strong advocate for youth in our communities and we're excited to announce that this year, we'll be supporting 6 local hockey teams in partnership with CUMIS, CUETS and Fiserv.

The teams we are supporting are for kids aged 9 to 13 across Hamilton, Niagara, St. Catharines, Welland, Stoney Creek and Oakville.

**FirstOntario**  
CREDIT UNION

## What's New

### Help protect our environment

If you're signed up for online banking, clicking on the new "View my statement" link will take you through a few easy steps toward a simple, paper-free way of viewing your banking statements online.

Once your banking statement is ready, you'll be able to view it whenever the mood hits. You'll also be helping our environment.

And if you don't have online banking? No worries. Signing up is easy. Just visit your branch.

### Free banking machines, more convenience

Yes, you can still get some things for free.

FirstOntario Members now have FREE access to over 2,400 banking machines across Canada and over 245,000 across the U.S.A. with THE EXCHANGE® Network. That's as many banking machines as any big bank offers without any of the service fees!

To find a free banking machine on THE EXCHANGE® Network near you, Just visit online at [the-exchange.ca](http://the-exchange.ca).

\* THE EXCHANGE. User licensed in Canada by FICANEX Services Limited partnership on behalf of Fiserv EFT.

**FirstOntario**  
C R E D I T U N I O N

### Make the most of your savings

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If building your savings through investing is more your style, a Dollar Cost Averaging plan may be a good idea for you. Dollar Cost Averaging is a way of investing that helps reduce market risk. Instead of investing a larger lump sum, you slowly buy smaller amounts with different rates of return. This way, you spread out the cost over several years which provides insulation against changes in market price.

#### How to start a Dollar Cost Averaging plan

1. Decide how much money you can invest each month and keep the amount consistent, otherwise your plan will not be as effective.
2. Select an investment you would like to hold for the long term. Five to ten years or longer.
3. Invest at regular intervals - weekly, monthly or quarterly. It's a good idea to set up for your payments to come out automatically.

Index-linked investments like FirstOntario's Market Index GIC work well with a Dollar Cost Averaging plan as they are sold on a regular schedule, with terms of 3 or 5 years and generally offer a better rate of return.

With a Market Index GIC your return on investment is based on the performance of the Stock Market index. Both Canada and the U.S. have seen the markets recover over 70% in value from where they were in March of 2009. It is realistic to expect that our markets will continue their upwards climb over a period of years. The historical trend has always been for the market to go up, despite bumps along the way.

**A Dollar Cost Averaging plan helps reduce market risk.**

### FirstOntario recognized for ground-breaking Community Assistance Program

At this year's annual gala and awards ceremony for Credit Union Central of Canada, FirstOntario was honoured to take home the National Credit Union Innovation Award for our ground-breaking Community Assistance Program.

We introduced this program in April of 2009 to help our communities weather the downturn in the economy. With this program, we work closely with those who have experienced a layoff to help them take control of their circumstances by providing free job hunting resources, putting them in touch with work-life and wellness services and helping them get back into the work force. We'd like to thank everyone for their support and recognition of this vital program.

**We're here to help. Visit your local branch, call 1-800-616-8878, or go to [FirstOntarioCU.com](http://FirstOntarioCU.com) today.**