



Ontario
Co-operative
Association

CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT AWARD HALL OF FAME

2025 RECIPIENTS

This year's awards recognize contributions from individuals and organizations that represent three of our co-operative principles: Principle 5 – Education, Training, and Information; Principle 6 – Co-operation Among Co-operatives; and Principle 7 – Concern for Community.

Principle 5:

- Dedication to over 12 years to uplifting their co-op through mentoring, inclusive leadership, and community service – **Lacey Guest**, Terra Cotta Housing Co-operative
- Exemplifies unwavering dedication to education, training, and empowerment in the co-operative sector – **Sophie Taylor**, Peel-Halton Co-operative Housing Federation
- Demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to education, training, and empowerment across the co-operative sector – **Gay Lea Foods Co-operative**

Principle 6:

- Embodies the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and leadership – **William Prest**, Oshawa Community Credit Union
- Dedicated decades to strengthening their co-operative and the broader industry – **David Murtland**, ClimateCare Co-operative
- Demonstrates a steadfast commitment to community well-being, sustainability, and positive change – **Kate Pearce**, Kindred Credit Union

Principle 7:

- Dedicated service to their credit union and community – **Bob Trentadue**, Kingston Community Credit Union
- Integrates co-operative values into every aspect of its operations – **Meridian Credit Union**

2023 RECIPIENTS

This year's award recognizes and honours outstanding contributions to the co-operative sector.

- Outstanding Contribution to the Co-operative Sector – Ian Shewan
- Outstanding Contribution to the Co-operative Young Leaders program – Jeff McCallum

- Outstanding Contributions to Awareness, Diversity and Equity Building - Juliet 'Kego Ume-Onyido

2021 RECIPIENTS

This year's award recognizes and honours Champions of the Ontario Co-operative Movement.

- Individual Co-op Champion – Sara Bertens
- Organizational Co-op Champion – St. James Town Community Co-op

2019 RECIPIENTS

This year's award recognizes and honours those who have made a special contribution to the Ontario Co-operative Movement.

- Contribution to the Ontario Co-operative Movement (Organization) - FirstOntario Credit Union
- Contribution to the Ontario Co-operative Movement (Individual) - Kerr Smith, Gay Lea Food Co-operative
- Contribution to the Ontario Co-operative Movement (Individual) - Kelly Storie, La Siembra Co-operative

2017 RECIPIENTS

This year's award recognizes and honours those who have made a notable contribution to sustainability, as well as co-operative identity, both within and outside of their organizations.

- Co-operative Sustainability (Organization) – Libro Credit Union
- Co-operative Identity (Individual) – Simone Swail, CHF Canada, Ontario
- Co-operative Identity (Individual) – Michelle Christmann, Quinte Credit Union

2015 RECIPIENTS

This year's award recognizes and honours those who have made a special contribution to one of the strategic areas reflected in our organization.

- Advocacy & Government Relations (Individual) – Ian Shewan
- Co-operative Development (Individual) – Peggy Baillie
- Co-operative Education (Organization) – Gay Lea Foods Co-operative
- Co-operative Engagement (Organization) - TeamWerks Co-operative

2013 RECIPIENTS

This year's award recognizes and honours those who have made a special contribution to one of the strategic areas reflected in our organization.

- Advocacy & Government Relations (Individual) - Harvey Cooper, CHF Canada, Ontario
- Co-operative Development (Individual) – Hannah Renglich, Local Food & Farm Co-op
- Co-operative Engagement (Organization) – The Ottawa Co-op Network
- Co-operative Education (Organization) - Libro Credit Union

2012 RECIPIENTS

This year's award recognizes and honours those who have demonstrated the Spirit of the International Year of Co-operative (IYC) in their organization and beyond.

- Spirit of IYC (Large Organization, Local Impact) - Sudbury Credit Union
- Spirit of IYC (Large Organization, Provincial Impact) - The Co-operators
- Spirit of IYC (Small Organization) - Ys Owl MacLure Co-operative Centre
- Spirit of IYC (Individual) - Florence Carbray

1999 - 2011 CO-OPERATIVE INNOVATOR AWARD

This award recognizes and honours those who have contributed to a community through co-operative or credit union initiatives.

- **2011** - West End Food Co-op
- **2010** - PenFinancial Credit Union
- **2009** - Diane Kocet, The Toronto Electrical Utilities Credit Union
- **2008** - Carolyn Lemon, Common Ground Co-operative
- **2007** - The team of Robert P. Sicard, Glen Perschbacher and Bob Peden, UPI Energy LP
- **2006** - Robert Fairbairn, Espanola and District Credit Union
- **2005** - The Renewable Energy Co-operative
- **2004** - Options for Homes & Ed Hale, Ontario Sustainable Energy Association
- **2003** - Jim Judge, Farm Fresh Poultry Co-operative
- **2002** - Susan O'Neill, Sudbury Regional Credit Union
- **2001** - Vineland Growers' Co-operative & Aurele St. Jean, Temagami Food Co-operative
- **2000** - Phyllis Winnington-Ingram, Winnington-Ingram & Associates
- **1999** - Betty Ann Baker, Niagara Peninsula Community Resources & Niagara Food Innovations

1999 - 2011 NEW CO-OPERATIVE OF DISTINCTION AWARD

This award recognizes and honours a new co-op, less than five years in business or still in the formative stages, which has made significant social or economic contributions to the community.

- **2011** - AGRIS Solar Co-operative
- **2010** - BIAS FREE Co-operative
- **2009** - Ottawa Valley Food Co-op
- **2008** - River Village Co-operative Market
- **2007** - Quinte Organic Farmers Co-op
- **2006** - Positive Power Co-operative
- **2005** - Upper Canada Woods Co-operative

1999 - 2011 DISTINGUISHED CO-OPERATOR AWARD

This award recognizes and honours those who have contributed significantly to the success of co-operatives and/or credit unions across Ontario.

- **2011** - Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation & Michel Chénier
- **2010** - Clare Hayes, Sunderland Co-op & Barbara Czarnecki, Windmill Line Co-op
- **2009** - Stuart Steckle, Gay Lea Foods Co-operative
- **2008** - Gillian Eyre, Shoreline Co-operative Preschool & Claude Gauthier, GROWMARK, Inc.
- **2007** - Charles Desmarais, AGRIS Co-operative
- **2006** - Ontario Natural Food Co-op & Raymond Savage, La coopérative Regionale de Nipissing Sudbury
- **2005** - Bert Perriman, Waterloo Oxford Co-operative
- **2004** - Alexandra Wilson, Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada
- **2003** - Jack Morneau, Credit Union Central of Ontario
- **2002** - Nancy Auer, Toronto and District Parent Co-operative Preschools Corporation
- **2001** - Bill Chamberlain, North Wellington Co-operative Services
- **2000** - Blake Halliday, Kingston Community Credit Union
- **1999** - Harry Joosten, St. Willibrord Credit Union

1999 - 2011 CO-OPERATIVE YOUTH LEADER AWARD

This award recognizes young people (30 years of age or younger) who have made significant contributions to co-operatives and/or credit unions.

- **2011** - Céline Carrière

- **2009** - Tanya Gracie
- **2008** - André Brisebois
- **2007** - Sonja Carrière
- **2006** - Krista Duynisveld
- **2005** - Rikki-Kay Middleton
- **2004** - Sarah Groot
- **2003** - Krista Wydeven
- **2002** - Beth-Ann Hern
- **2001** - Cheryl Rae
- **2000** - Amanda Yetman
- **1999** - Tina Van Loon

1999 - 2011 CO-OPERATIVE YOUTH MENTOR AWARD

This award recognizes the commitment and achievements of individuals or organizations in mentoring youth and supporting their successes as young co-operative leaders.

- **2011** - Gary Seveny, Alterna Savings & Credit Union
- **2010** - Scott Piatkowski, Beechwood Co-operative Homes
- **2009** - Carlene Frimer, United Communities Credit Union
- **2008** - Gay Lea Foods Co-operative
- **2007** - Ruth Blackburn (posthumously), Superior Credit Union
- **2006** - Craig Stevens
- **2005** - St. Willibrord Credit Union
- **2003** - Jackie O'Hearn, Frank G. McLoughlin Co-operative Homes
- **2002** - Guido Chezzi, Northern Credit Union
- **2000** - GROWMARK, Inc.

1999 - 2011 CO-OPERATIVE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD

This award recognizes organizations within the co-operative sector which have demonstrated socially responsible business practices, and leadership in the implementation and promotion of sustainable social, economic, and/or environmental principles.

- **2011** - Science '44 Student Housing Co-operative
- **2010** - Caisse Populaire des Voyageurs, Inc.
- **2009** - La Siembra Co-operative
- **2008** - Guelph Campus Co-operative

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO OCA

This award recognizes and honours those who have contributed to the success of OCA and its membership.

- **2011** - JJ McMurtry and Brenda Gainer, Program Directors, Co-op Management Certificate Program
- **2009** - Professor Jack Quarter, The Social Economy Centre of OISE/UT
- **2008** - The Honourable Ted McMeekin
- **2007** - Larry Sadler, Ontario Natural Food Co-op
- **2006** - Sheena Lucas, Credit Union Central of Ontario
- **2005** - Frank Lowery, The Co-operators
- **2004** - Peter Cameron, Ontario Worker Co-op Federation
- **2003** - Russ Christianson, Rhythm Communications
- **2002** - Cathy Lang, C. Lang Consulting
- **2001** - Jim Hoyt, GROWMARK, Inc.
- **2000** - Brian Ashford, Gay Lea Foods Co-operative
- **1999** - Cathy Chamberlain, GROWMARK, Inc.

2009 - 2011 SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

This award recognizes the co-operative history, leadership or achievements of organizations or individuals in areas beyond the scope of other Spirit Award categories.

- **2011** - Penny Bethke, Campus Co-operative Residence (posthumously) & Dennis Deters, The Co-operators
- **2010** - John Ellis, Food Family Credit Union
- **2009** - Bernie Daly, GROWMARK, Inc., (posthumously) & the Canadian Alternative Investment Co-operative

1999 - 2007 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the Ontario co-operative and/or credit union movement and fostered co-operation among co-operatives. In 2008, this award was combined with the Distinguished Co-operator award category.

- **2007** - Leonard Mortson, Simcoe District Co-operative Services
- **2006** - John Tregunna, North Wellington Co-operative Services & Denis Bourdeau, La coopérative Agricole d'Embrun
- **2005** - Lloyd Crawford, Perth County Co-operative & Carol Brown, Organization for Parent Participant in Childcare and Education
- **2004** - Donald Altman, Metro Credit Union & William Demerling, Waterloo Oxford Co-op
- **2003** - Stanley Vanden Bosch, Agri-West Corporation

- **2002** - James Barr, The CUMIS Group & Brian Iler, Iler Campbell Barristers and Solicitors & Mark Goldblatt, Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada
- **2001** - John Strybosch, St. Willibrord Credit Union & Larry Gordon, Metro Credit Union & Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto
- **2000** - John S. Black, Huron Bay Co-operative & Don Ahrens, Gay Lea Foods Co-operative & Dr. Jack Craig, York University
- **1999** - Andrew Hebb, The Co-operators Group & Charles Diemer, Woodslee Credit Union & Jean Stevenson, Organization for Parent Participation in Childcare and Education