

MOBILE LEARNING SESSIONS

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday • July 31, 2008

ACE Institute participants will have a choice between **two** tours of Canada's Capital Region cooperatives and caisses.

NOTE: Coaches will leave the Lord Elgin Hotel at 9 a.m. for both tours.

Mobile Learning Sessions

OTTAWA MOBILE LEARNING SESSION

Morning

Families Matter (www.familiesmattercoop.ca) is not only the name of this cooperative, but its vision. This new venture attempts to give people with developmental disabilities the choice of where they live. The co-op has created a partnership with the new McLean Co-operative Homes Inc. (www.mcleancoop.com) and Christian Horizons, a Support Service Agency (www.christian-horizons.org), to create units for Families Matter members with developmental disabilities. This is a cooperative project that may very well change the way services are delivered.

This project is considered by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services to be an innovative residential model. Annualized funds provide a permanent Community Integration Facilitator at McLean Co-op, ensuring successful integration of members with developmental disabilities into the housing co-op.

Noon

From regular responsibility audits to ethical suppliers to using reclaimed building materials, Mountain Equipment Co-op (www.mec.ca), a member-owned cooperative dedicated to outdoor pursuits and social duty, has been a North American leader in sustainability. The unique Ottawa location is a reconditioned building, the first retail store in Canada to comply with C2000 Green Building Certification. Learn more from the Ottawa store's sustainability officer, and browse the cooperative's offerings. Tourgoers will stop for lunch in the vibrant Westboro Village of Ottawa.

Afternoon

Young developmental workers who saw the injustices of the cocoa trade brought home an idea for a better system. They created La Siembra Co-operative (www.lasiembra.com) that gives fair prices to cocoa farmers and, more recently, cane producers. The cooperative has seen astounding growth and name recognition since 1999. ACE participants will hear from the enthusiastic member-owners of this Fair Trade worker cooperative, and visit a nearby retailer specializing in the cooperative's delicious chocolate, cocoa and sugar products.

Late Afternoon

Alphonse Desjardins is a hero among Canadian cooperators. He founded a caisses populaires movement that endures. A special exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (Musée Canadien des Civilisations) in Gatineau, Quebec (www.civilization.ca), a very short distance from Ottawa centre, highlights his contributions as well as other pioneers. The museum overlooks Ottawa River and Canada's Parliament Buildings, and is itself a work of art, created by Albertan Douglas Cardinal to reflect the sweeps and beauty of the natural world. Tourgoers are welcome to stay late or return to nearby Lord Elgin Hotel at 4:30 p.m.

There is no scheduled event for dinner.

ST-ALBERT/ EMBRUN

MOBILE LEARNING SESSION

Morning

The Embrun area is known for its dedication to the cooperative model for community services. The ACE tour will first visit St-Albert Cheese Co-op Inc. (La Fromagerie coopérative St-Albert Inc.) founded in 1894 (www.fromage-st-albert.com). It is hoped that ACE participants will be able to see the tail end of the day's production (cheese making happens very early), and talk to the plant's manager. Next door is the cooperative's boutique with some of the best Old White Cheddar.

Tourgoers will then visit the growing town of Embrun and look in on one business operated by la coopérative Agricole d'Embrun. The group will be joined by provincial cooperative leader Denis Bourdeau who will explain the history of the area and how it has become particularly cooperative.

Lunch

Stopping at the Embrun Chevaliers de Colomb hall to enjoy a buffet, ACE participants will hear from the local Caisses Populaires manager, a new youth cooperative and Cooperative Hydro Embrun. The energy cooperative is owned by consumers, the only of its kind in Ontario. The cooperative is able to provide power to its members at half the cost others pay just outside Embrun's boundaries.

Leaving the outskirts of Canada's Capital Region and heading into its heart, ACE participants will visit Conservation Co-operative Homes (www.conscoop.ottawa.on.ca), an early housing cooperative leader in sustainable living.

From limiting the number of parking spaces for members to capturing energy that might have been lost, the cooperative is a study in what works and doesn't. Meet the cooperative's board members and examine the building's innovations.

Late Afternoon

The coach will stop by the Lord Elgin Hotel for those who wish to end their tour. It will then continue on to the nearby Canadian

Museum of Civilization (Musée Canadien des Civilisations) in Gatineau, Quebec (www.civilization.ca). There, participants will meet the Ottawa ACE Mobile Learning Session group (see Ottawa tour), and stroll through the museum or its beautiful grounds. Tourgoers are welcome to stay late or return to the Lord Elgin Hotel at 4:30 p.m.

There is no scheduled event for dinner.

