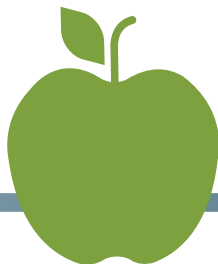


Kootenay Co-op
AGM 2011

- Vote for your Co-op Board of Directors -
In-Store Voting Starts Aug 23rd!

BOARD CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
ELECTION and AGM INFORMATION



As a member of the Kootenay Co-op, you are an owner! You have an important voice and an important vote that helps determine the future direction of your community natural food store.

In the past 2 years, we have worked hard to facilitate and encourage member participation, including:

- Confirming candidates in advance of the AGM to allow Board Candidate Statements to be circulated in advance of the election.
- A 'Meet the Candidates' forum to allow members to ask candidates questions in person (*this is happening on September 14th this year in the Touchstones lobby 7-8pm*).
- In-store voting to encourage greater democratic participation.
- And this year we are adding a Member Social to our AGM! A time for us to celebrate a year of good work with good food and good people...and lots of prizes! We hope you'll join us for this fun & casual event!

Read on for information about how to vote and who is running!



Voting Information

Voting: Ballots can be cast in the store at the Customer Service desk until 5pm on AGM day and will also be available at the AGM on Friday, September 23rd to be held at the Touchstones Art Gallery, Museum and Archives, 502 Vernon Street. All ballots will be counted at the AGM and the election results will be announced.

Voter Eligibility: Only the Co-op member whose name appears on our member record may cast the ballot. Identification may be required to confirm voting eligibility. As per Rule 14 of our Rules of Association, only persons who are members of the Co-op at least one calendar month prior to the election are eligible to vote. Therefore, only persons who are members on or before August 22 are eligible to vote in this election.

Meet the Candidates: If you would like to meet the candidates in person before casting your ballot, come out to our “Meet the Candidates” forum on September 14th, 7 - 8pm at Touchstones, in the lobby.

Annual General Meeting

Join us for an evening of democracy, information and celebration! The Kootenay Co-op AGM will be held on Friday, September 23rd at Touchstones Art Gallery, Museum and Archives, 502 Vernon St. Followed by our fall Members Social, with complimentary food and beverages. The AGM agenda will be circulated in the September Issue of On the Table and available on our website and at Customer Service.

- Candidate Profiles -



Bonnie Baker

From 1974 to 2006, my late husband and I farmed organically in the Slocan Valley. I was a founding member of Kootenay Organic Growers and established membership lists, sat on the Certification Committee and was active for 6 years. I have 2 memberships in the Co-op and began my association with it back when it was a buying club in the Slocan Valley in the 1970's. I was a volunteer at the store in Crescent Valley when we had no paid staff. So I have a long connection to this Co-op and love it to pieces. PS. I've also been on the Board from time to time over the years.



Abra Brynne

(Incumbent)

I have been a member of the Kootenay Co-op since I moved to the area with my young family in 1990. I worked as a staff member from 1991 until 2000 (with a year's break for schooling). Since leaving the Co-op staff, I have worked as a food systems consultant, drawing on the knowledge I gained while at the Co-op, and acquiring a great deal more. Through both paid and volunteer efforts, I have worked on standards development and revisions, and certification. I have worked, locally, regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally on efforts to understand and better support healthy food systems and communities. I enjoy practical work with clear outcomes but I have also learned that I have a skill for and enjoyment of working on policy and the regulatory regimes that so strongly impact our food systems.

I have two young adult children whom I adore and miss on a daily basis, now that they have flown the nest. For the past three years I have lived in Nelson and am enjoying trying to produce as much food on my small lot as I can.



Brian Kelsch

(Incumbent)

Though raised in North Vancouver, my Kootenay experience started with being born in Nelson 47 years ago. In 2006, after getting my life refocused in a horrendous ski mountaineering accident my wife and our two boys transitioned our lives from the big city of Vancouver and moved to Nelson. Presently I work as an Investment Advisor with a bias for Socially Responsible investment disciplines. My career started in 1990.

Long before having a family we have been passionate about what goes into our mouths and where that food comes from. People are at the crossroads of a growing fascination with food, its source and the wholeness of the experience. I see a swell of population refocusing on feeding their families in a conscious way. These are exciting times and revealing times with the connection of whole local food and the wellness of our community.

I see being a Board member of the Kootenay Co-op as a privilege and not a right. With my eclectic background in business, my passion for mountain travel and guiding, as well as our new found attempts at growing some of our own food at home while being committed to showing our children the wondrous choices we have in feeding ourselves, it's my hope I can contribute to all the goodness the Co-op continues to grow.



Michelle Laurie

Michelle Laurie is an independent consultant working in sustainable development, collaboration and learning. She has over twelve years of experience helping organizations and partnerships in Canada and internationally, communicate and improve the way they create and share knowledge. She brings innovative ideas to projects and processes and is well-known for creatively engaging with the communities she works with.

She holds a BSc in Geography from the University of Victoria (1999) and an Msc in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics in the UK (2003).

When not working, she can be found skiing, climbing and riding her mountain bike. More recently, she has been experimenting with gardening above 1000m as she lives in the alpine community of Rossland, BC. Michelle is passionate about learning, people and all things related to tasty, wholesome food!

She occasionally blogs at: www.michellelaurie.com



Susan Morrison

I have been a member of the Co-op for more than 25 years. Health and food is basic to our well-being and I've focused myself in this direction. My love of the creative process involved in growing, preparing, offering and eating good food has guided me as I've worked in the food industry as producer, restaurateur, camp cook and for a time, Co-op Deli Coordinator. Body/mind health also draws my curiosity. I've spent many years studying this area. As a long time yoga instructor and now as a Chi Kung instructor, I've been fortunate to share this knowledge with others. As a Co-op member, I'm proud of what we've created for the greater community. The directors, past and present, maintain our good legacy. I would like to contribute as best I can.



Leon Pigott

I live with my wife and our three children in the Slocan Valley. We moved to the areas almost 4 years ago.

I grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan immersed in cooperative values. My grandparents were leaders in the cooperative movement starting in the 1930's in Saskatchewan and both my grandfather and father served as directors of the local Co-op and wheat marketing pool.

Having grown up on a farm, I understand the challenges of producing food. One of my favourite things about the Co-op is its commitment to supporting local farmers and food producers. The economic, social and environmental benefits of having local food production are hard to overstate and this is one of the most important roles of the Co-op in our region.

I am a corporate and commercial lawyer and have been practicing law since 1994. In that time, I have worked with a lot of small and medium sized businesses and have accumulated experience that I would like to contribute to the success of the Co-op. I also have a business degree and have experience with finance and accounting.

I am excited about the possibility of becoming involved with the Co-op as the redevelopment of the store gets underway. I think this is a great step for the organization and would like the opportunity to contribute to this initiative as well as the ongoing business of the Co-op.



Paula Sobie

(Incumbent)

I live in Nelson and work as a consultant for SelfDesign, a distributed learning organization, and on projects related to our local food system. My background is environmental education and communications. In recent years my professional endeavors have included communications, farming, program design and network development. Some of my most satisfying work has shaped how our community has thought of and accessed food; this work involved the confluence of my passions, skills, and experience.

I have been a proud director for the Kootenay Country Store Co-op since 2009 and I am currently the Vice President of the board. I also actively participate in the Strategic Planning and the Membership Outreach committees. I am dedicated to the co-operative movement and am interested in leveraging the strength of our membership towards the continued formation of a community based on shared values and respect. Some of the attributes I bring to our board include seeing issues and events as part of systems, the ability to exercise good judgment and a willingness to provide my perspective. I am a team player working to nurture our collective voice and effectiveness.

I am particularly passionate about community and the role of food in our ecological and cultural identities. When I am not in the garden or the kitchen, I can often be found playing in the mountains or on the water of the Kootenays.

Come To The Kootenay Co-op AGM & Fall Social

Mark your calendar!
Spetember 23rd, 7 - 9:30pm
for
an evening of culture,
democracy *and* food!



Cast your Vote!

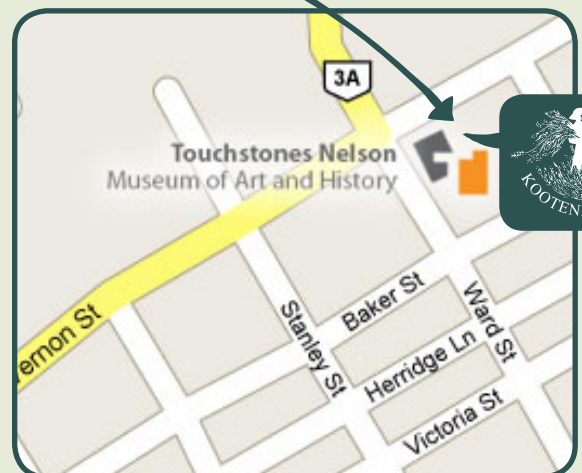
Enjoy the current art exhibit

Win prizes

Share beautiful food with us

Learn about our
Outreach programs

*Care to join us?
- Find us here





It's Co-op Election Time!

- *When food & democracy meet* -

Schedule of Events:

In Store Voting!

August 23rd-September 23rd
at the Customer Service desk

Meet the Candidates

September 14th, 7 - 8pm.
Touchstones Museum Lobby

• • •

Annual General Meeting and Co-op Fall Social

at

Touchstones Museum
502 Vernon Street, Nelson BC

September 23rd
7 - 9pm

9 - 9:30pm - *Time to eat!*
Door prize draws & social time

For more information, contact us at:
tel 250 354 4077, or info@kootenay.coop

