



JEAN-ANN DEBRECENI

Cranbrook

Start Date: 1997

Acclaimed to next term: 2024

Meetings attended: 43 of 43

Merger meetings attended: 21

Committees:

Board of Directors – Chair
participates in all committee meetings

Compensation Paid (including stipend
and travel time): \$9,795.00

Expenses (including training and travel
costs): \$2,779.00

Career: Formerly a small business
owner – Retired; Head of the Costuming
Department at Fort Steele – Retired

Education: Small business courses
including Simply Accounting

Credit Union Director Achievement
Program (CUDA) program completed -
Levels A, B, C

Accredited Canadian CU Director

Directorships (personal): Past director
Cranbrook Community Theatre (CCT),
Cranbrook and District Foundation,
and Cranbrook Archives, Museum &
Landmark Foundation

Other Community Involvement: CCT
– theatre costuming and volunteering,
Key City Theatre volunteer

Credit union member since: 1965

MORE ABOUT JEAN-ANN...

Some learn about credit unions later in life, and others are born into the tradition. In Jean-Ann Debreceni's case, the latter is true, with both her father and father-in-law being early supporters of credit unions in Kipling, Saskatchewan.

As a small business owner, Jean-Ann knows the trials and tribulations of business and has experienced the stresses involved. For Jean-Ann, working with her local credit union meant the difference between receiving a generic big bank financial experience, which was less tailored to her unique needs, or a community credit union experience, which was a more tailored, local experience. Unlike the banks, Jean-Ann's credit union was more interested in seeing her succeed as a local business, working with her to produce financial plans that were better at meeting her financial needs as a local business.

If you ask Jean-Ann what makes credit unions different, she'd probably tell you that they "help members get ahead with their home, business and savings dreams." In other words, credit unions put their members first, approaching them on an individual basis, and not as just another number on a long list of clients.

With Jean-Ann's history, it should come as no surprise that she is a community builder. In 2017, she was awarded the Sustainable Community Builder Award, and, in 2019, was nominated for the Influential Women in Business Award in the Kootenays.

Like the other members of EKC's Board, Jean-Ann is committed to seeing her local community prosper and grow and is willing to step up where needed. She volunteers in various capacities with the Cranbrook Community Theatre, putting her creative mind to work as a costume seamstress for many plays performed over the years, and shares her love of gardening with her community as a contributing member of the Cranbrook Garden Club.

As an EKC Board Member since 1997, Jean-Ann is proud of the many firsts credit unions have accomplished, such as first financial institution to lend to a woman in her own name, first debit card service, first fully functional online banking service, and first loans based on borrower character, just to name a few.



Jean-Ann receiving the Sustainable Community Builder Award from Mayor Pratt