

Your Co-op

Overall the Best Deal in Town

January
2009

Produce Expansion

The next time you roast potatoes or slice a pepper, think of the Co-op's produce department.

The seven-person team, lead by manager Joseph Magbual, prides itself on stocking the freshest, tastiest vegetables in town.

And it just got better.



After 28 years in Yellowknife, the Co-op's already popular produce section underwent upgrading this winter. The new fruit and vegetable stands create a more spacious, welcoming atmosphere for shoppers. The redesign also coincides with upgrades across the country.

"A bright, inviting department is the best way to attract customers. This is the best place to shop in town," he says.

Joseph knows shoppers appreciate the little extras his department provides, like exotic nuts, tropical juices and fresh cut flowers. But most people do not realize the role weather plays in keeping coolers and bins stocked.

Twice a year, daily shipments are halted or diverted near Fort Providence because freeze-up or break-up of the Mackenzie River makes it impossible for trucks to cross. As a back-up, produce

from Edmonton is flown in, a cost Joseph says is not passed onto the customer.

Joseph carefully calculates and recalculates his order sheets during those uncertain weeks.

"It is very tricky. You have to be smart. You can't bring in too much because some produce is more perishable than others, but you also don't want to run out."

Whether it is pomegranates, pumpkins or potatoes, Joseph promises to stock a product that is sure to please.

But he insists he can do more.

If you want to request a new fruit or vegetable, let Joseph know. He will check the item's availability with staff at the Edmonton warehouse. And if they have it, then you will too.





EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Hermy Jimenez likes to smile

What keeps him happy is polishing the Co-op's shelves and floors while knowing a golf game or trip to the Philippines is just around the corner.

After eight years as a janitor and grocery clerk, Hermy is one of the longest serving Co-op employees in Yellowknife.

He is also one of the hardest working.

Hermy puts in a full day's work as a diamond polisher before parking his blue Toyota Matrix for five evening shifts at the Co-op.

He is determined to provide a comfortable life for his wife and daughter.

"When you come from a poor country, you tend to work very hard," he says.

Hermy came to Canada from the Philippines after studying business at the age of 20.

He left his roots behind but brought with him his extraordinary work ethic.

There are other jobs with other perks, but Hermy says the Co-op is his employer of choice.

"I want a job that allows me to travel and do the things I love and [the Co-op] does that," he says.

Outside of work Hermy finds happiness swinging a driver on the golf course. He recently played an 18-hole game in southern B.C. and was delighted to find an all-grass course with very few bugs.

Back in Yellowknife, the soft-spoken Hermy loves sitting down to a plate of dinuguan (a flavourful Asian pork dish) and playing his favourite sport: basketball.

Given his work schedule, sleep is a luxury but he says with a smile, "I will work like this as long as I can."

You don't have to be a member

The Co-op Experience

A place for families, quiet lunches, borrowing a book and shopping, too!



Shhh... don't tell anyone, but if you want a quiet lunch, away from the fast food line-up or noisy downtown bistro, Joanne Lalonde and Bob Matthews have found the place for you. Yellowknife Co-op!

Don't believe it? It's true! They were at a table near the bakery recently, enjoying a quality sandwich and chocolate milk.

"I work at Canadian Tire and he's at 440 Squadron, so this is the perfect spot," says Joanne.

They're not alone. It's not unusual to find folks enjoying a snack in the Co-op, enjoying the sun shining through the big windows and breathing in the delightful smells that always waft from the bakery nearby. There's also free coffee, juice for the kids, and sometimes even a cookie or two to snack on.

This is just part of the Co-op experience. The kids' carts are always in motion on weekends as families stock up for another busy week. Kids love the fact

they can pick their own snacks and put them into their own carts or help mom and dad by pushing a little bit of the load.

The book lending centre is also growing in popularity as more folks leaf through the volumes for something good to read. That was especially important through October with the downtown library closed for renovations.

It's also a place where you're going to meet friends and neighbours. Nobody seems to mind if you're enjoying a chat as you catch up on the latest goings on or making plans for a pot luck dinner party. In our increasingly busy lives, it's nice to know there's somewhere to go where we can slow down, catch up and connect with everyone who's important in our lives.

We can't forget one of the most important parts of the Co-op experience: shopping! If you ask anyone who frequents the store, there's one very important thing that makes shopping here so memorable: being

able to get what you want. While other stores struggle with delivery, our Co-op managers do everything they can to ensure the shelves are stocked, freezers are full and the produce department has the freshest products available.

It's also nice to know that you have some control over what goes on in the store. Not subject to the whims of a far-away corporate manager, the Co-op is member owned and the staff takes great pride in doing all they can to meet members' expectations, whether it's a friendly smile at the cash register or a helping hand to get something down from a tall shelf.

And every year, members gather for an annual general meeting to discuss the past year and decide what's important during the next 365 days.

What an experience it is! Not a member? Join up and you can take advantage of the best deals in town!



Joanne Lalonde and Bob Matthews enjoy a quiet lunch in the Co-op.

to shop at the Co-op!



Adding to the Co-op Experience – the Sir John Franklin Jazz Band wowed members with some great music!

Even More Great Benefits of Membership

A voice in how the Co-op is run

Scholarships

Discounts at selected Yellowknife retailers

Your investment returned when you leave the Co-op



Member Referral Rewards

Members who get new members to join the Co-op family get a “signing bonus” of a \$20 gift certificate. Recent referrals have come from:

- Todd Slack
- Lorraine Sawdon
- Sarah Hunt
- Dean Bonia
- Linda Schulz
- Robert Ploughman

Grocery Packing Dates

- January 10 – Sir John Franklin SCUBA
- January 11 – Hot Shots Junior Men’s Basketball
- January 24 – Yellowknife Playschool
- January 25 – Yellowknife Family Centre

Check out our new, improved site!

www.ykcoop.com



Contact us

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www.ykcoop.com

Store Hours

Mon. & Tues.	9 am – 7 pm
Wed. to Fri.	9 am – 9 pm
Saturday	9 am – 7 pm
Sunday	10 am – 6 pm

Gas Bar Hours

Monday to Sunday 6 am – 11 pm

Department

Member Services Counter	237
Member Relations Manager	270
General Manager	221
Accounting Manager	224
Human Resources Manager	245
Bakery Manager	242
Bakery Cake Orders	232

Ext.

Department

Corporate Sales	269
Deli Manager	230
Front End Manager	226
Gas Bar Manager	235
Grocery Manager	238
Meat Manager	229
Produce Manager	228

Ext.