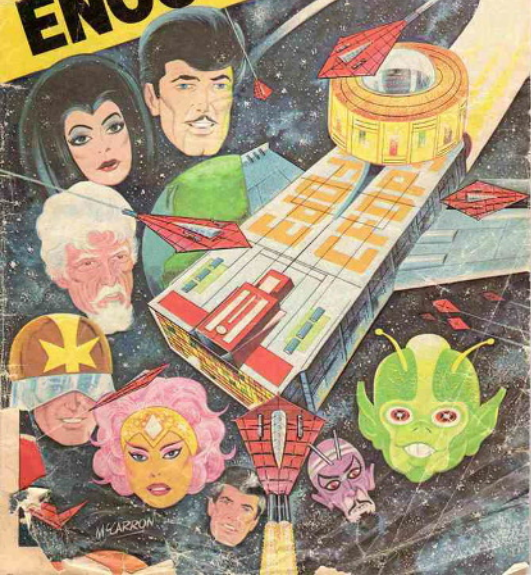


# CO-OP ENCOUNTERS





Co-operatives have been part of the fabric of life in the Atlantic provinces for well over a hundred years. The first consumer co-operative in North America was opened in Stellarton, Nova Scotia, in 1861. The first credit union on the continent was started in Rustico, Prince Edward Island in 1864.

Sir Wilfred Grenfell helped start co-operatives in Newfoundland and Labrador in the early 1900s. Some of our co-operatives are old, established businesses in their communities. Some opened their doors yesterday.

Some sell groceries and farm supplies, some provide financial services and insurance, some market fish or milk, some sell crafts or provide health care services.

In every case, co-operatives are people working together to provide themselves and their communities with goods and services through democratically owned and controlled organizations—a unique system of business.

Adventures  
in Co-operation

# CO-OP ENCOUNTERS

WRITTEN BY  
Stefan Haley

ART and COLOR BY  
Owen McCarron

**PRESSURE  
ALERT!**



REDUCING SPEED WILL  
FORCE THE OXYGEN  
GENERATOR TO USE  
MORE FUEL, AND THE  
WATER CONVERTOR  
MIGHT CUT OUT.  
IT'S DICEY



AYE AND  
IF OUR  
REDUCTION  
DOESN'T  
MATCH WARR  
WE'LL LOSE  
THE VERTICAL  
FLAPS AND  
WON'T BE ABLE  
TO LAND.



OH, NO!



WHAT'S  
WRONG NOW,  
TRENT?

WE'RE LOSING  
PRESSURE FAST,  
CAPTAIN SCOTT.  
WE CAN'T SUSTAIN  
SPEED.



THEN WE MUST  
STOP FOR REPAIRS.  
DRA? WE'LL NEVER  
GET THIS CRATE TO  
XONN AT THIS  
RATE



15 MINUTES LATER--

THION SPACE PORT

BUT WE NEED ONLY A FEW DAYS FOR REPAIRS. THIS SHIP IS DUE IN XONN IN TWO WEEKS. THE FOUNDATION INSISTED THAT--

I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN CIVIL DISTRESS IS HIGH ON THION AT THE MOMENT AND AN EDICT WAS PASSED TODAY PUTTING ALL ALIEN SHIPS IN COMPOUND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SIR, THE EQUUS EXPEDITION REQUESTS PERMISSION TO LEAVE. CAPTAIN CHEVALIER SAYS THE KITE-MITES SET DR GIRAC AND DR JANDOR ADRIFT IN SHUTTLEPODS WITH INDETERMINATE COORDINATES. HE FEARS THEY MAY--

COMPASSIONATE REASONS? HA!  
NEGENTHROPIC INTERVENTION HAS NO PLACE ON THION.  
PERMISSION DENIED!

YOU SEE, CAPTAIN SCOTT,  
WE KNOW HOW TO DEAL  
WITH CRANKS ON THION.



BUT GIRAC AND JANDOR  
ARE EXPERTS IN  
THEIR FIELDS--



SET ADRIFT WITH  
INDETERMINATE  
COORDINATES...  
THAT'S HORRIBLE!



I SUGGEST YOU  
PACK FOR A LONG  
STAY, CAP--

A LONG  
STAY? WHY YOU--

CAPTAIN...  
CONTROL  
YOURSELF



VERY  
INTERESTING.

EASY, CAPTAIN.  
YOU ARE STILL  
A GUEST ON  
THION.



ENJOY YOUR  
STAY AT THE  
HOSTEL.

THANKS





THIS WOULD BE A PUNCH IN THE NOSE... IF YOU HAD ONE!



STAND ASIDE, CAPTAIN. WE'LL HANDLE THIS MATTER.



PURELY ROUTINE... A LOCAL PROBLEM.



I'M SCOTT.

PAGING CAPTAIN SCOTT

PAGING CAPTAIN SCOTT



THE SPACE CENTRE HAS APPROVED THE REPAIRS TO YOUR SHIP CAPTAIN, BUT THE EDICT REMAINS IN FORCE. PLEASE NOTE YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO LEAVE, WITHOUT DELAY, ONCE THE EDICT IS LIFTED.



THIS IS CRAZY. THEY WANT US TO STAY... THEY WANT US TO GO. WHAT'S GOING ON?



THION... THE NAME MEANS "JEWEL OF THE UNIVERSE"... WAS ONCE THE GREATEST OF THE CITY-PLANETS. A CENTRE OF COMMERCE AND CULTURE.

BUSINESS FLOURISHED. ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS FLOCKED HERE TO WORK. THEN EVERYTHING CHANGED.





THE UNBRIDLED  
COMPETITION THAT  
MADE THION BLOOM  
BEGAN TO  
DESTROY IT.

THE RACES FOUGHT  
AMONG THEMSELVES AND  
WITH OTHER CITY-PLANETS  
THION HAS SUFFERED  
CIVIL STRIFE FOR OVER A  
CENTURY...NO END IN  
SIGHT, AND IT'S  
GETTING WORSE



THAT'S SAD, BUT I'VE HAD A LONG DAY AND I'M FEELING SLEEPY.

YAWN!



I THINK I'LL LOOK UP A FRIEND-- YOU REMEMBER BETTY SCORPIO, CAPTAIN? SHE'S BEEN STRANDED BY THE EDICT, TOO.

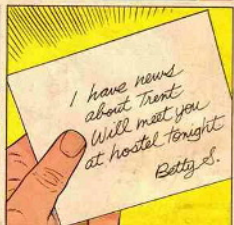
OF COURSE INVITE HER TO HAVE DINNER WITH US TOMORROW. WE MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY OURSELVES.



LATER THE NEXT EVENING--

NEARLY 24 HOURS-- AND NO WORD OF TRENT. I'M WORRIED, DONNA-- STAY WITH ME-- A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS HAVE...

RAISING CAPTAIN SCOTT



*I have news about Trent. Will meet you at hostel tonight. Betty S.*



LATER THAT NIGHT--

THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.

TRENT WAS WAITING FOR ME.

SOME GELSTIN AGITATORS BEGAN TO DEMONSTRATE. IT TURNED VIOLENT AND TRENT WAS KILLED BY RANDOM FIRE.

IT WAS TERRIBLE. I'M SO SORRY.



WE ALL ARE. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ON THION, BETTY?

ALMOST THREE WEEKS. WE WERE DUE TO LEAVE YESTERDAY WHEN THE EDICT WAS CALLED. NO ONE KNOWS WHEN IT WILL BE LIFTED.

I'M WONDERING IF IT WILL EVER BE LIFTED. I THINK WE COULD MAKE AN ESCAPE THE CROPS IS OLD BUT SHE WAS FIRST CLASS. WITH THESE REPAIRS, SHE'LL BE SPACE-WORTHY AGAIN. BUT WE'LL NEED A GOOD ENGINEER.



IT MAY BE DANGEROUS

THION IS DANGEROUS.

HERE'S MY PLAN...



SO... TOMORROW NIGHT AT TEN O'CLOCK--



THE NEXT NIGHT...



THE GUARD WILL CHANGE SOON. WE'LL HAVE TWO MINUTES TO CROSS THE TARMAC AND BOARD THE SHIP.



GO! GO!



I'LL CHECK THE OPERATING AND LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEMS...

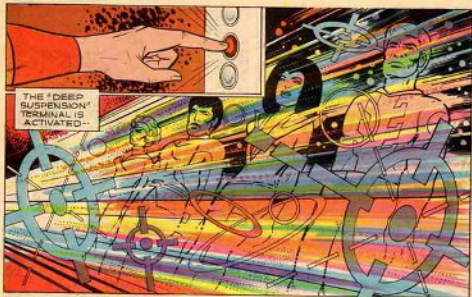
-- AND I'LL CHECK THE SCANNERS



WE DID IT!











THIS FINE OLD CRATE WOULD BE MORE LIKE IT. WE HAD A COMMISSION TO DELIVER HER TO THE SPACE FOUNDATION IN XONN. YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME WITH US.

XONN? THEN YOU HAVEN'T HEARD?



THE PLANET, XONN, WAS DESTROYED BY AN INVASION OF KITE-MITES THREE DAYS AGO. THIS SHIP IS NOW OFFICIALLY SALVAGE.



IT'S JUNK YOU MEAN. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

DON'T BE HARSH. THIS SHIP WAS ONCE AMONG THE BRAVEST IN THE UNIVERSE.



WE'LL SEE. THERE ARE SO MANY CREATURES...



...AND SO FEW SUPPLIES.



IT WAS NEVER ARMED. IT WAS SENT ON A VOYAGE OF PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOVERY BY SOME VERY DEDICATED PEOPLE.

IT WAS LOST MANY YEARS AGO... BEFORE MY TIME.



NOT TO WORRY. WE CAN PRODUCE FOOD USING THE SOLAR COLLECTORS AND SOME SIMPLE PROTEIN AND CELLULOSE CHAIN TECHNOLOGIES. I'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS.

IF THE PROFESSOR SAYS HE CAN DO SOMETHING, HE CAN DO IT!

BUT HER COMPUTER BANKS CONTAIN VALUABLE INFORMATION. THAT WAS WHAT THE XONN FOUNDATION WANTED. WE CAN'T SAVE XONN - BUT WE CAN SAVE OURSELVES.





I'M GLAD WE CAN BELIEVE SOMEONE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

BETTY'S BEING UNFAIR. THE SIGNAL GENERATORS WERE DAMAGED DURING BLAST-OFF AND STEVE FIXED THEM. I TRUST HIM.



I'M CAPTAIN HERE AND PROUD TO HAVE STEVE ON MY CREW. WE ALL HAVE SOME DECISIONS TO MAKE. PROFESSOR TRYST SAYS WE CAN USE THIS SHIP TO FIND A BETTER PLANET... FAR FROM THE STRIFE OF THIS PART OF THE UNIVERSE.

THIS SHIP WAS MADE TO SEARCH OUT CORRELATIVES. IT WAS PROGRAMMED WITH FUNDAMENTAL VALUES, AND SENT TO SEARCH FOR PLANETS WHERE THOSE VALUES WERE UNDERSTOOD AND USED.



WHAT VALUES, PROFESSOR?

EQUALITY, EQUITY, AND MUTUAL SELF-HELP. THESE VALUES WERE TREASURED BY THE BEINGS WHO BUILT THIS SHIP. THERE ARE TALES THAT CFPD3 WAS ABOUT TO COMPLETE HER MISSION NEAR A PLANET NAMED EARTH WHEN SHE WAS CAPTURED BY PIRATES. I'VE OFTEN DREAMED OF FINDING HER AND COMPLETING THAT MISSION. IT COULD LEAD US TO A BETTER WORLD. WHAT DO YOU SAY?



THIS WOULD INVOLVE ALL OF US, AND IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS. I THINK IT CALLS FOR A DEMOCRATIC VOTE.

DO YOU AGREE, PROFESSOR?



DEMOCRACY IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE VALUES THIS SHIP STANDS FOR.

WHAT ARE THOSE VALUES, PROFESSOR TRYST?



THIS WILL EXPLAIN, STEVE.

# EQUALITY

The belief that all beings are important because they are beings. All beings may not be equal in ability, intelligence, or other resources, but all beings should have equal access to resources and equal opportunity to control the forces that shape their lives.

Equality is a liberating concept through which all may aspire to excellence.

# EQUITY

Equity is the principle of fairness and justice. Beings respect and trust one another so that a sense of community may emerge.



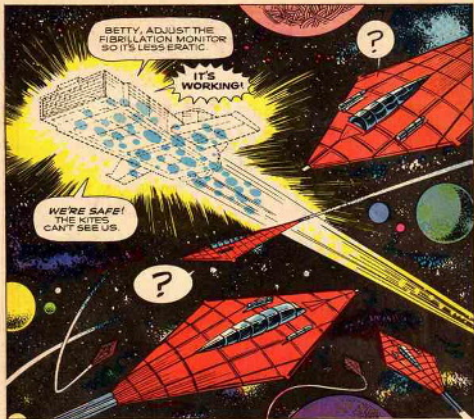
## MUTUAL SELF-HELP

Beings can be masters of their own destinies by working with others, rather than against them.



# RED ALERT





BETTY, ADJUST THE  
FIBRILLATION MONITOR  
SO IT'S LESS ERATIC.

IT'S  
WORKING!

WE'RE SAFE!  
THE KITES  
CAN'T SEE US.

?

?



ALL RIGHT, CREW--  
READY FOR THAT  
VOTE?

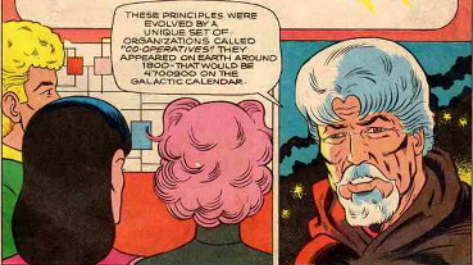


IT'S UNANIMOUS--  
WE'RE ALL WITH  
YOU, PROFESSOR--  
WHAT'S NEXT?

I'VE PROGRAMMED  
THE COMPUTER FOR  
THE CORRELATIONS  
OF THE BASIC VALUES  
OF CO-OPERATION--  
WHERE THOSE  
VALUES  
ARE FOUND.

# PRINCIPLES OF CO-OPERATION

1. Open and voluntary membership
2. Democratic control
3. Limited interest on shares
4. Return of surplus to members
5. Co-operative education
6. Co-operation among co-operatives



THESE PRINCIPLES WERE  
EVOLVED BY A  
UNIQUE SET OF  
ORGANIZATIONS CALLED  
"CO-OPERATIVES" THEY  
APPEARED ON EARTH AROUND  
1800- THAT WOULD BE  
4700900 ON THE  
GALACTIC CALENDAR.

## OPEN AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a co-operative is open to anyone who can use its services, regardless of race, creed, or political beliefs.



THIS RECOGNIZES THE EQUALITY OF ALL PEOPLE, AS EARTHINGS CALL THEMSELVES. THIS PRINCIPLE DOES AWAY WITH DIFFERENCES THAT KEEP PEOPLE FROM WORKING TOGETHER.

THEY SURE COULD USE THAT ON THION.

THEY SURE COULD.



THAT'S JUST LIKE US... AN EQUAL SAY FOR EVERYONE.


IT GIVES EVERY-ONE EQUAL ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES WE SHARE.

## DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

Every member of a co-operative has one vote in the affairs of the association, regardless of the number of shares they own. This means: one member, one vote.

## LIMITED INTEREST ON SHARES

Co-operatives limit the amount of interest they pay on shares to prevent the use of the co-operative for profit-making. Shares in a co-operative remain at face value. Some co-operatives pay no interest on shares.



I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT MEANS, PROFESSOR.

STEVE, IT MEANS THAT THE CO-OPERATIVE IS AN ASSOCIATION FOR SAVING MONEY, NOT MAKING IT. YOU MIGHT CALL IT "SERVICE AT COST". IT'S A PRINCIPLE OF NON-EXPLOITATION OR EQUITY. IT SAYS THAT MEMBERS SHOULD NOT PROFIT AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER MEMBERS, BUT SHOULD SHARE IN THE GOODS AND SERVICES THE CO-OPERATIVE PROVIDES.

OF COURSE. IF STEVE DOESN'T HAVE A VOTE, THE REST OF US COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIM.

## RETURN OF SURPLUS TO MEMBERS

The surplus earning of a co-operative is returned to members according to how much business they transact through the co-operative. All members receive the same **rate** of return; the amount of the return increases with their use of the co-operative.



ISN'T THAT THE GAME AS THE THIRD PRINCIPLE?

IN THE SAME SPIRIT, CERTAINLY. THIS ENCOURAGED MEMBERS TO USE THEIR ORGANIZATION AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE--

-- AND REWARDED THEM FOR DOING SO.



INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT: LOOK HOW IT HELPED US.

IT HELPED ME. I WANT TO LEARN MORE.

I THINK THE PROFESSOR WILL SEE TO THAT, EH PROFESSOR?


WELL--AH, YES.

## CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Co-operatives should keep members informed about the co-operative, encourage members to learn more about co-operation and co-operatives, and should provide opportunities for members and others to learn more about co-operatives.

## CO-OPERATION AMONG CO-OPERATIVES

Co-operatives should work with other co-operatives whenever possible, to strengthen the co-operative system, and increase benefits to all members.



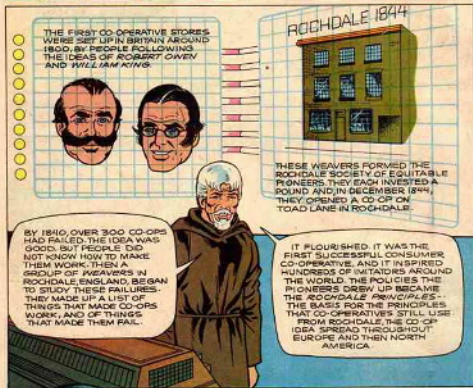
HUMANS CAN BE VERY LOGICAL. IT MAKES SENSE FOR PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER THROUGH CO-OPERATIVES, AND IT MAKES SENSE FOR THEIR CO-OPERATIVES TO WORK TOGETHER.



I LIKE THE SOUND OF THESE HUMANS.

I AGREE.

CAN WE LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM? HOW DID THEY ARRIVE AT THESE PRINCIPLES, FOR EXAMPLE?



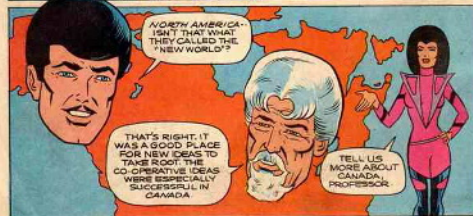
THE FIRST CO-OPERATIVE STORES WERE SET UP IN BRITAIN AROUND 1800, BY PEOPLE FOLLOWING THE IDEAS OF ROBERT OWEN AND WILLIAM KING.

ROCHDALE 1844

THESE WEAVERS FORMED THE ROCHDALE SOCIETY OF EQUITABLE PIONEERS. THEY EACH INVESTED A POUND AND, IN DECEMBER 1844, THEY OPENED A CO-OP ON TOAD LANE IN ROCHDALE.

BY 1840, OVER 300 CO-OPS HAD FAILED. THE IDEA WAS GOOD, BUT PEOPLE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO MAKE THEM WORK. THEN A GROUP OF WEAVERS IN ROCHDALE, ENGLAND, BEGAN TO STUDY THESE FAILURES. THEY MADE UP A LIST OF THINGS THAT MADE CO-OPS WORK, AND OF THINGS THAT MADE THEM FAIL.

IT FLOURISHED. IT WAS THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVE, AND IT INSPIRED HUNDREDS OF IMITATORS AROUND THE WORLD. THE POLICIES THE PIONEERS DREW UP BECAME THE ROCHDALE PRINCIPLES - THE BASIS FOR THE PRINCIPLES THAT CO-OPERATIVES STILL USE. FROM ROCHDALE, THE CO-OP IDEA SPREAD THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND THEN NORTH AMERICA.



NORTH AMERICA - ISN'T THAT WHAT THEY CALLED THE "NEW WORLD"?

THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS A GOOD PLACE FOR NEW IDEAS TO TAKE ROOT. THE CO-OPERATIVE IDEAS WERE ESPECIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN CANADA.

TELL US MORE ABOUT CANADA, PROFESSOR.



CANADA HAS ALL KINDS OF CO-OPERATIVES- CONSUMER, PRODUCER AND FINANCIAL. THE FIRST CREDIT UNION IN NORTH AMERICA WAS STARTED AT RUSTICO, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, IN 1864. THE FIRST CO-OP STORE IN NORTH AMERICA WAS STARTED IN STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA.

ATLANTIC CANADA HAS AN IMPORTANT CO-OPERATIVE TRADITION.



TELL US MORE ABOUT ATLANTIC CANADA.

DID THOSE CO-OPS START MORE CO-OPS, PROFESSOR?

NO, THEY DIDN'T. THEY FOLLOWED THE ROCHDALE MODEL AND KEPT TO THEMSELVES.

THE FARMER'S BANK IN RUSTICO WAS CLOSED IN 1894 BY A BANK ACT AND CREDIT UNIONS DID NOT BECOME LEGAL UNTIL THE 1930s.



HOW DID OTHER CO-OPS GET STARTED, PROFESSOR?

SOUNDS LIKE THEY HAD TROUBLE.




INDEED, THERE WERE PROBLEMS.

THERE WERE MANY FALSE STARTS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS. YOU SEE, STEVE, PEOPLE WANTED CO-OPERATIVES TO WORK, BUT THEY HAD TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE THEM WORK. THE CO-OP IDEA HAS WORKED WELL UNDER MANY DIFFERENT CONDITIONS, BUT, IN EVERY CASE, CO-OP MEMBERS HAD TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE THE CO-OP WORK UNDER THEIR OWN CONDITIONS.



WHAT MADE CO-OPS  
WORK IN ATLANTIC  
CANADA, PROFESSOR?

WHAT WERE  
THEIR  
CONDITIONS?



REMEMBER THAT CO-OPERATIVES  
ARE BASED ON SELF-HELP.  
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE. THE  
KEY TO THEIR SUCCESS WAS  
ORGANIZATION. THAT ORGANIZATION  
WAS ACHIEVED THROUGH EDUCATION,  
AND BY CO-OPERATIVES WORKING  
TOGETHER.




THOSE ARE  
CO-OPERATIVE  
PRINCIPLES,  
PROFESSOR.

ATLANTIC CANADA HAD A STRONG  
TRADITION OF COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT  
EDUCATION UNDER LEADERS  
LIKE FATHER JIMMY TOMPKINS  
AND FATHER MOSES COADY,  
BOTH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER  
UNIVERSITY IN ANTIGONISH.  
THEY SPREAD THE CO-OP IDEA,  
AND HELPED PEOPLE ORGANIZE  
CO-OPERATIVES AND CREDIT  
UNIONS.





BUT HOW DID  
THAT COME  
ABOUT?


THAT TOOK TIME, BUT THERE IS  
A LOGIC TO CO-OPERATION, WHICH  
SAYS THE ABILITY OF CO-OPS TO HELP  
PEOPLE GROWS AS MORE PEOPLE ARE  
HELPED DURING THE 1910s AND 1920s.  
MANY FARMERS IN ATLANTIC CANADA HELPED  
EACH OTHER BY MARKETING THEIR LIVESTOCK  
THROUGH A CO-OP OR SHIPPING CLUB. IN 1927,  
THESE CLUBS FORMED A CENTRAL OFFICE, WHICH  
HELPED THE CLUBS TO WORK TOGETHER.



HOW DID CO-OPERATIVES  
COME TO WORK WITH  
OTHER  
CO-OPERATIVES?



THE FARMERS, WHO BELONGED TO THE CLUBS,  
REALIZED THAT, IF THEY COULD HELP EACH OTHER  
BY SELLING THEIR PRODUCTS TOGETHER, THEY  
COULD HELP EACH OTHER, MORE BY  
BUYING THINGS TOGETHER. AT  
FIRST THEY BOUGHT FARM SUPPLIES--  
FERTILIZER, SEEDS, LIVESTOCK FEEDS.  
THEN THEY ADDED CONSUMER ITEMS  
LIKE TEA AND FLOUR. MANY CLUBS  
RE-ORGANIZED THEMSELVES AS  
CO-OPERATIVES.



EVENTUALLY THEY BECAME A SYSTEM OF  
CONSUMER AND PRODUCER CO-OPERATIVES,  
AND THEIR CENTRAL OFFICE BECAME A  
SERVICE, SUPPLY AND MANUFACTURING  
CO-OPERATIVE WITH LOCAL CO-OPS  
AS ITS MEMBERS.

WAS LEADERSHIP IMPORTANT, PROFESSOR?

I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU, SCOTT. IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT. TOMKINS AND COADY STARTED THE EXTENSION DEPARTMENT AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY, AND THEY, AND THEIR CO-WORKERS, PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE. W.H. McEWEN, A FARMER-ECONOMIST FROM WESTERN CANADA, HELPED DEVELOP THE REGIONAL CO-OPERATIVE, NOW CALLED CO-OP ATLANTIC. HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES PLAYED A PART.



AND THERE WERE MANY OTHERS-- ELECTED PEOPLE LIKE JACK WALSH, AND HIS BROTHER, WALDO, A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE. IT TOOK ALL KINDS OF LEADERSHIP AND OTHER ABILITIES TO BUILD THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN ATLANTIC CANADA.

MOVEMENTS-- IF THEY ARE WELL-BASED AND HAVE GOOD LEADERSHIP-- CREATE INSTITUTIONS. THE CO-OP MOVEMENT CREATED ALL KINDS OF THEM-- CONSUMER AND PRODUCER CO-OPERATIVES, CREDIT UNIONS, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELP LOCAL CO-OPS WORK TOGETHER.



"CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT"? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

HUMANS USE THE TERM "MOVEMENT" TO DESCRIBE THOSE WHO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH A CAUSE OR PURPOSE. MOVEMENTS ARE MADE UP OF IDEAS, ENERGY, HOPE AND VISION-- AND PEOPLE, OF COURSE.



IT DOESN'T SOUND VERY PRACTICAL TO ME, PROFESSOR.

WHAT IS A "CREDIT UNION"? YOU USED THAT TERM BEFORE.

DO THEY FOLLOW CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES?



"A CREDIT UNION IS A FINANCIAL CO-OP. ITS MEMBERS SAVE MONEY TOGETHER, AND LEND MONEY TO EACH OTHER. THEY HAVE THEIR OWN PRINCIPLES, WHICH ARE ALSO BASED IN THE VALUES OF EQUALITY, EQUITY AND MUTUAL SELF-HELP."



DO THEY FORM SYSTEMS LIKE CO-OPERATIVES DO?

INDEED. IN FACT, THE CREDIT UNION SYSTEM EVOLVED VERY QUICKLY. I SAID BEFORE THAT CO-OPERATIVES MUST ADAPT TO THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES.



CREDIT UNIONS PROVIDED AN ALTERNATIVE TO CHARTERED BANKS IN CANADA-- BUT THE BANKS WERE HIGHLY CENTRALIZED TO PROVIDE SERVICES. CREDIT UNIONS HAD TO FORM THEIR OWN SYSTEMS, WITH PROVINCIAL CENTRALS.


CO-OPERATIVE AND CREDIT UNION SYSTEMS HELP LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE, WHILE SUPPORTING A LARGE MEASURE OF CONTROL AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.



MOVEMENT AND SYSTEM  
THE MOVEMENT CREATES  
THE SYSTEM. THE SYSTEM  
HELPS THE MOVEMENT  
REALIZE ITS VISION  
OF A BETTER WAY. IS  
THAT HOW IT WORKS?

IN A WAY, STEVE. THE MOVEMENT  
AND THE SYSTEM ARE DIFFERENT  
THINGS. THEY EXIST AT THE  
SAME TIME, AND REPRESENT  
DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF  
CO-OPERATION.  
A QUESTION, CAPTAIN?

ARE THERE OTHER  
ASPECTS WE SHOULD  
KNOW ABOUT?



QUITE RECENTLY,  
CANADIAN CO-OPS AND  
CREDIT UNIONS BEGAN  
TO SPEAK OF THE  
"CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR."  
HUMANS SEE THEIR  
ECONOMY AS A CIRCLE  
DIVIDED INTO DIFFERENT  
PARTS, LIKE PIECES  
OF A PIE.



PUBLIC PRIVATE



BUT CO-OPERATIVES  
DON'T FIT EITHER  
SECTOR, PROFESSOR.

AT FIRST, THE PIE  
WAS DIVIDED LIKE THIS.  
SOME BUSINESSES WERE  
OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND  
RAN AS CROWN CORPORATIONS  
OR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT  
WAS THE PUBLIC SECTOR. OTHER  
BUSINESSES WERE OWNED  
PRIVATELY BY INDIVIDUALS  
OR GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS.  
THEY FORMED THE  
PRIVATE SECTOR.

THAT'S RIGHT. THEY  
FORM A UNIQUE SYSTEM  
OF BUSINESS BASED ON  
CO-OPERATIVE VALUES.  
MANY PEOPLE FELT THAT  
CO-OPERATIVES AND THEIR  
ACTIVITIES FORMED A  
SECTOR OF THEIR OWN.  
THUS...



MOST BUSINESSES ARE FOCUSED ON MONEY - ON CAPITAL AND PROFIT. THEY FOLLOW A **PROFIT RATIONALE**. CO-OPERATIVES ARE FOCUSED ON PEOPLE - AND FOLLOW A **SERVICE RATIONALE**. WE CAN SEE THIS MORE CLEARLY IF WE LOOK AT THE PURPOSE OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

## NATURE OF ORGANIZATIONS

**CO-OPERATIVES**

Essentially a union of people

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Essentially a union of capital



## PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATIONS

**CO-OPERATIVE**

To provide service and savings for members.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

To make a profit for investors

BUT, PROFESSOR, AREN'T PROFITS AND SAVINGS THE SAME THING?

THEY MAY SEEM THE SAME, BUT THEY AREN'T. CO-OP MEMBERS CREATE SAVINGS ON PRODUCTS THEY USE, BUT THEY CAN'T MAKE SAVINGS ON THINGS THEY DON'T USE. AN INVESTOR IN PRIVATE BUSINESS MAY NEVER USE THE PRODUCTOR SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE BUSINESS, BUT MAKES A PROFIT FROM THOSE WHO DO.

OFF IN THE DISTANCE, BEYOND THE DETECTION LIMITATIONS OF THE CPDPS, A STRANGE SPACE CRAFT IS CLOSING IN AND WILL SOON MAKE ITS PRESENCE FELT. IS IT THE THIOUS? PIRATES? PERHAPS E.T.? STAY TUNED.

I SEE YOUR POINT, PROFESSOR. BUT IF BOTH KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONS ARE CONTROLLED BY THEIR OWNERS, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

## OWNERSHIP OF ORGANIZATIONS

AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE.

### CO-OPERATIVE

Owned by those in the community who use the services provided

### OTHER BUSINESS

Owned by investors

A LOCAL CO-OPERATIVE OR CREDIT UNION IS CONTROLLED BY ITS MEMBERS. THEY ATTEND ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS...

## CONTROL OF ORGANIZATIONS

### CO-OPERATIVES

Democratic control; each member has one vote, regardless of the number of shares held

### OTHER BUSINESS

Control not equal; based on number of shares held by, or assigned to, an investor

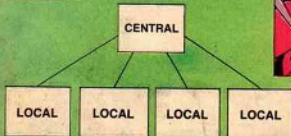
THEY REPRESENT THE MEMBERS DURING MONTHLY MEETINGS TO MONITOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION. THE BOARD MAY APPOINT COMMITTEES TO HELP WITH SPECIAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS.

I CAN SEE HOW MEMBERS PARTICIPATE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. BUT HOW DO THEY TAKE PART IN THEIR CENTRAL ORGANIZATIONS?

TO HEAR AND APPROVE REPORTS AND TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE, THEY VOTE ON MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS, AND ELECT SOME MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WHAT DOES THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DO?

DO ALL MEMBERS GO TO THOSE MEETINGS AS WELL?



I'M AFRAID THAT WOULDN'T BE VERY PRACTICAL--IT WOULD MEAN 70,000 HUMANS AT THE CO-OP ATLANTIC ANNUAL MEETINGS, FOR EXAMPLE.

NO, THEY USE REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURES. EACH CO-OP SENDS DELEGATES, AND THE DELEGATES FROM EACH ZONE ELECTS A DIRECTOR TO THE BOARD OF CO-OP ATLANTIC.



IT SOUNDS COMPLICATED.

DO THESE STRUCTURES PROTECT EQUALITY AND EQUITY?

THEY TRY TO, AND THEY ARE QUITE SUCCESSFUL.

SINCE THIS SPACE STRANGER STILL HASN'T DRIFTED INTO SCANNER DISTANCE, THE CPOPS IS NOT AWARE OF ITS PRESENCE-- AND THE CARGO IT CARRIES.

THEY WORK HARD TO EVOLVE CONTROL STRUCTURES THAT ARE BOTH WORKABLE AND FAIR.

## ALLOCATION OF SURPLUS

### CO-OPERATIVES

Surplus returned to members according to the business they do with the co-operative each year

### OTHER BUSINESS

Surplus distributed according to shares

## SHARES IN ORGANIZATIONS

### CO-OPERATIVES

Shares remain at face value and cannot be traded. When a member leaves the co-op, their shares are sold back to the co-op

### OTHER BUSINESS

Shares increase or decrease in value, and may be traded freely on the stock market

THE PATRONAGE REBATE SYSTEM DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUALITY AND EQUITY IN THE CO-OPERATIVES.

ANYTHING ELSE, PROFESSOR?

CO-OP SHARES ARE DIFFERENT, TOO BECAUSE THE CO-OP IS MEANT TO PROVIDE SERVICE AT COST. IT IS NOT MEANT TO BE A TOOL FOR PROFIT-TAKING.

I GUESS CO-OP MEMBERS ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT.

-OR ON THE SAME SHIP AND, SPEAKING OF SHIPS, LET'S PUT THIS ONE ON AUTO-COMMAND AND GET SOME REST. IT'S A LONG WAY TO ATLANTIC CANADA FROM STARBETA 777.

ATLANTIC CANADA COORDINATES COMING UP.

ANY MOMENT NOW, THIS SPACE CRAFT WILL BE WITHIN SECURITY RANGE OF CPOPS... CLOSER... CLOSER... NOW!



CAPTAIN!

THE TRACKER IS  
READING AN ALIEN  
VESSEL NEARBY!



IT'S A  
SHUTTLEPOD...  
AND IT'S  
SENDING A  
DISTRESS SIGNAL

WHAT SHALL  
I ANSWER?

THE CODE IS  
CLEAR  
OFFER OUR  
ASSISTANCE

RED ALERT

THE ALIEN IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO BOARD.

SIGNAL PERMISSION TO BOARD.

I'VE ACTIVATED THE DECOMPRESSION CHAMBER.

THE ECO-SCANNERS WILL CHECK THE POD AS IT ATTACHES, CAPTAIN.

...THREE...TWO...  
...ONE...  
LANDED!

THIS IS IT!

DECOMPRESSION IS COMPLETE.

IT'S  
DR. GIRAC  
OF THE EQQUS  
EXPEDITION!

NOT THE EQUITABLE  
QUEST FOR UNIVERSAL  
SERENITY?

SO WHO WERE YOU EXPECTING--  
*TOM SELLECK?*  
JUST A LITTLE EARTH JOKE.  
DR. GIRAC IT IS. I  
APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.





WE HEARD THAT YOU AND DR. JANDOR WERE SET ADrift WITH INDETERMINATE CO-ORDINATES.

THAT'S TRUE--

AS YOU CAN SEE.

I'M VERY WORRIED ABOUT POOR JANDOR.

INDETERMINATE COORDINATES WERE NEVER HIS STRONG POINT.

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO, DOCTOR?



IT WOULD TAKE A SMALL EXPEDITION

WE'RE HEADED TO A SMALL PLANET CALLED "EARTH" PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD OF IT?

BUT EGGUS IS IN SUCH

DISARRAY.

WE HEARD THAT ATLANTIC CANADA HAS A CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT AND A SYSTEM-- BUT WE'RE WONDERING WHETHER IT HAS A FUTURE?



CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT, SYSTEM AND FUTURE?

THAT WAS JANDOR'S DEPARTMENT.

HE WAS ALWAYS FOND OF

EARTH.



DOCTOR, I CAN SEE THAT YOU ARE VERY TIRED. A REST MIGHT HELP.

I THINK WE ALL NEED A REST. CONSIDER IT AN ORDER.

THE CO-OPS, AND ITS ORPHAN CREW, SPEEDS ON THROUGH THE UNIVERSE--



THE NEXT MORNING--

WE'VE CHECKED THE SHIP, CAPTAIN-- EVERYTHING'S GO.


GOOD. TRYSTAND AND GIRAC HAVE BEEN TALKING FOR AN HOUR. I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A KEEN CREW.



CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT CO-OPS IN ATLANTIC CANADA, DR. GIRAC?

WHAT'S THE LATEST?





THE LATEST IS THE *DIRECT CHARGE CO-OP*. AS YOU KNOW, A CONVENTIONAL CO-OP CHARGES THE GOING RATE FOR THE GOODS IT SELLS. IT RECOVERS ITS EXPENSES FROM MARK-UP AND RETURNS ITS SURPLUS TO MEMBERS ON THE BASIS OF PATRONAGE. THAT'S THE *ROCHDALE MODEL*.

NOW, THERE'S A NEW MODEL CALLED *DIRECT CHARGE CO-OP*. THESE CO-OPS SELL ONLY TO MEMBERS. THE MEMBERS BUY SHARES ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND PAY A SERVICE FEE TO COVER OPERATING EXPENSES. MEMBERS BUY GOODS AT VERY LOW PRICES.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES, DR. GIRAC?

IS IT EQUITABLE?

THE POINT OF A *DIRECT CHARGE CO-OP* IS TO MAKE FULL USE OF ALL FACILITIES. THAT'S WHY THEY ARE OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY. OF COURSE, ANYONE IN GOOD STANDING CAN BE A MEMBER--

--AND MOST *DIRECT CHARGE STORES* HAVE WAITING LISTS BY SERVING AN EXACT NUMBER OF MEMBERS, THE STORE EMPLOYEES CAN ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY--WITHOUT SPECULATION OR WASTE.

WE'VE SEEN HOW LOCAL CO-OPS AND CREDIT UNIONS WORK TOGETHER THROUGH CENTRALS. DO THESE CENTRALS WORK TOGETHER, TOO?

INDEED, PROFESSOR TRYST AND I HAVE BEEN ADDING INFORMATION TO THE DATA BANK. LOOK--

GOOD HEAVENS!

## **INTERPROVINCIAL CO-OPERATIVES LIMITED**

This organization (known as "IPCO" provides Co-op® and Harmonie® brand products to CO-OP ATLANTIC, and its sister centrals, United Co-operatives of Ontario, and Federated Co-operatives Limited, in western Canada.

## **CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETY**

A resource pool, and investment and leasing service, for credit union and co-operative centrals, and large producer co-operatives.

## **THE CO-OPERATORS**

A national co-operative insurance company – one of the largest multi-line insurers in Canada.



## **CO-OPERATIVE TRUST COMPANY OF CANADA**

Provides estate management, real estate, and special financial services to co-operators and co-operatives.

## **CO-ENERCO**


An energy corporation owned by co-operatives and the federal government.

## **CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE OF CANADA**

A national co-operative education, training, and resource co-operative, with branches right across Canada.

## **CO-OPERATIVE UNION OF CANADA**

Represents co-operative interests to government and elected representatives, and monitors the development of policy and national issues.



IT SEEMS LIKE  
A PRETTY COMPLETE  
SYSTEM.




THAT COVERS  
EVERYTHING.



HOW ABOUT  
IT,  
DR. GIRAC--  
IS THAT ALL?



IT WOULD BE  
IMPOSSIBLE TO COVER  
EVERYTHING, CAPTAIN.  
CANADIANS USE  
CO-OPERATIVES FOR  
ALL KINDS OF  
GOOD THINGS--  
COMMUNITY  
CENTRES,  
FARMERS' MARKETS,  
WOODLOT MANAGEMENT  
AND HOUSING.



OF COURSE--CO-OPERATIVE  
HOUSING GOT ITS START  
IN ATLANTIC CANADA  
IN 1938, WHEN THE  
FIRST BUILDING CO-OP  
WAS STARTED IN  
RESERVE MINES.



WE COME WITHIN  
THE EARTH'S SPHERE  
OF INFLUENCE IN  
15 MINUTES,  
CAPTAIN.

AND NOW, A NEW KIND  
OF CO-OPERATIVE--  
THE CONTINUOUS  
HOUSING  
CO-OPERATIVE--  
IS HELPING  
THOUSANDS OF  
FAMILIES.

ATLANTIC PEOPLES  
HOUSING LTD., AND  
OTHER RESOURCE  
GROUPS ARE HELPING  
PLAN AND FINANCE  
LOW-COST HOUSING  
ON A  
CO-OPERATIVE BASIS.






DR. GIRAC...THE CREW AND I  
HAVE DECIDED TO EVACUATE  
SHIP AND SETTLE IN ATLANTIC  
CANADA. CANADIAN HUMANOIDS  
ARE LIKE US.


I'M SURE YOU WILL  
FLOURISH IN A  
CO-OPERATIVE  
ENVIRONMENT,  
CAPTAIN.

A WONDERFUL  
OPPORTUNITY  
FOR A YOUNG  
LEADER LIKE  
YOURSELF, SCOTT.



DR. GIRAC, I OFFER YOU  
THE CFOP3 TO MOUNT  
AN EXPEDITION TO  
FIND DR. JANDOR.

WHY, I'D BE  
DELIGHTED,  
CAPTAIN. WITH  
A LITTLE CARE,  
THIS SHIP COULD  
SERVE ME WELL.



I THINK MY FRIEND, GIRAC  
AND I, WILL MANAGE  
QUITE NICELY.

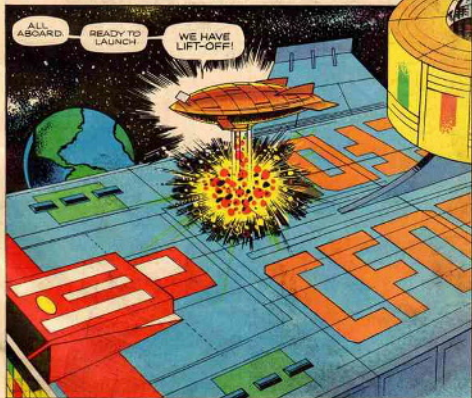


BUT, PROFESSOR,  
YOU MUST COME  
WITH US.

THANK YOU, STEVE,  
BUT NO. I HAVE  
LITTLE TIME LEFT.  
I WILL HELP GIRAC  
FIND DR. JANDOR AND  
REASSEMBLE THE  
BEGGUS PROJECT.

YOU COULD TAKE  
THE PORTABLE  
GALACTIC  
TRANSMITTER  
WITH YOU, AND  
SERVE AS OUR  
EARTH-BASE  
RESEARCH  
CENTRE.

OF COURSE  
WE WILL,  
PROFESSOR.





One week in June . . .

In 1979 Canadian co-operatives and credit unions created the Co-operative Future Directions Project. Its job was to

join co-operators across Canada in a voyage of discovery that would assess the role of their organizations in the social and economic life of Canada, promote a more cohesive co-operative system, and help shape a vision for the future of co-operation in Canada.

Nearly 50,000 Canadians took part in the co-op futures project—through networks, committees, subscriptions and meetings. One week in June 1982 over 500 of these co-operators met in Ottawa to discuss the findings of the project and to draft a vision for the future. This is their vision . . .

*Canadian co-operators share a vision of people working together to achieve their potential, to enhance their social and economic well-being, and to produce and consume what they need through democratic institutions that root social and economic power in local and community organizations. We recognize the interdependence of people, and of organizations; and the need for effective, comprehensive linkages. We pursue our vision through co-operatives—organizations based on equity, and self-help.*



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