All of Vaudreuil-Soulanges will be celebrating in 2009–2010, as our Caisse celebrates its 75-year jubilee with 75 years of active service in the community, 75 years of collective action and 75 brilliant years of cooperation.

Yesterday…
The region’s first Caisse populaire Desjardins opened in Rigaud in September 1934. Overseen by Aldéric Lalonde, Commander of the Order of Agricultural Merit, and in the presence of two notaries, Mr. Poirier and Mr. Guérin, as well as 24 additional signatories, the official foundation document was ratified. In the years that followed, other municipalities in the area followed in its footsteps, such as Saint-Polycarpe (President: Lucien Bourgon) and Pointe-des-Cascades (President: Félix Sévigny). In Vaudreuil, the local caisse was opened in the home of the parish beadle. In 1949, Caisse de Dorion opened for business in the town’s egg co-op, the Couvoir Coopératif.

In the early 1950s, the cooperative movement grew, carving inroads into Île Perrot and Saint-Zotique. In later decades, many other caisses took root just west of Montréal, in the area known at the time as the regional municipal county of Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

And Today
Caisse Desjardins de Vaudreuil-Soulanges was created on January 1, 2009, following the amalgamation of all the caisses in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region, thereby becoming one of the largest caisses in the province, with assets in excess of $1 billion. With more than 50,000 members served by over 240 employees at 12 service outlets, Caisse Desjardins de Vaudreuil-Soulanges is the culmination of all the financial cooperatives that have operated in this community over the past 75 years. And it is thanks to Desjardins members that this work can and will be carried on both today and into the future.
This year, our Caisse is celebrating 75 years of active service in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region. On September 16, 1934, a forward-looking group of farmers, notaries and other Vaudreuil-Soulanges residents founded the region's very first Caisse populaire Desjardins in Rigaud. Since then, the region has been home to numerous other caisses, from Saint-Polycarpe and Vaudreuil-Dorion, to L'Île-Perrot, Coteau-du-Lac and Les Cèdres, with more than 16 establishments opening in the 23 local municipalities.

These foundations were laid by visionary men and women who put their hearts and souls into creating and building the economic and cultural movement that is today’s Caisse Desjardins de Vaudreuil-Soulanges. It is these founding members—and indeed all our members—that I would like to salute today.

Looking back at our rich history, crafted by people of conviction whose collaborative efforts have enabled Desjardins Group to move with the times, we realize that today we have much to celebrate. And I hope that our generation will find ways to keep up these collective synergies so that one day, we too will be proud to have made our mark on the history of Desjardins in Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

Denis Lapointe
President
Board of Directors
Caisse Desjardins de Vaudreuil-Soulanges
The Ties That Bind Us

Desjardins Group’s history in Vaudreuil-Soulanges makes for quite a story for future generations. At the turn of the 20th century, Alphonse Desjardins wrote: “In 1900, I saw the kinds of restrictions being imposed on a certain class of people, not very well off; I saw the need to help these people survive.” Like Alphonse Desjardins, Aldéric Lalonde, Commander of the Order of Agricultural Merit and the first President of Caisse populaire de Rigaud, also wanted to assist farmers and small account holders create an economic force, based on cooperation, that would help them advance within their communities. We thus remember and honour the Lalondes, Bourgons, Patenaudes, Dutrissacs, Leroux, Besners, Villeneuves, Jeannottes, Montpetits and other important figures who served as caisse presidents and managers in the region. Through their valuable contributions, they helped pave the way for cooperation by forging strong ties that held promise for the entire Vaudreuil-Soulanges region and its future generations.

The cooperative movement has evolved over time. Today, as we deal with the major challenges facing us in our everyday lives, let us draw inspiration from our founders’ talent and determination in building our regional collective well-being.

Sylvain Bélisle
General Manager
Caisse Desjardins de Vaudreuil-Soulanges

Breaking ground for the construction of Caisse populaire Desjardins de Pincourt. Among those pictured is Claude Brabant, who was then the Caisse Manager.

The Caisse Over the Years...

1934 – September 16: The first caisse in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region opens for business under the name Caisse populaire Sainte-Madeleine-de-Rigaud.

1945 – April 17: Caisse populaire Saint-Polycarpe is created, with a counter opening up in Saint-Télesphore some years later.

1945 – November 24: A cooperative institution is founded in Pointe-des-Cascades.

1947 – January 4: Caisse populaire Saint-Michel de Vaudreuil is founded, with a service outlet opening subsequently in Saint-Lazare.

1949 – July 2: A few years later, Caisse populaire de Dorion opens for business.

1951 – March 31: Caisse populaire de L’Île-Perrot is founded.


1954 – September 11: Caisse populaire de Pincourt is founded.


1962 – May 19: The region’s tenth caisse is founded in Coteau-du-Lac.


1965 – May 22: Dalhousie Station is the next municipality to have its own financial institution.

1966 – November 12: The region’s 14th caisse is founded in Coteau-Station.


1984 – August 25: Amalgamation of caisses in Saint-Polycarpe and Dalhousie Station.

1986 – August 2: The new caisse created in 1984, Caisse populaire Desjardins de Saint-Polycarpe, amalgamates with Caisse de Saint-Clet to become Caisse populaire Soulanges.


2000 – June 1: Amalgamation of all the caisses in the Soulanges area: Coteau-du-Lac, Les Cèdres, Lac-St-François (Saint-Zotique, Coteau-Station, Coteau-Landing) and Soulanges (Saint-Polycarpe, Saint-Clet, Dalhousie Station). The new entity is known as Caisse populaire Desjardins des Seigneuries de Soulanges.

2001 – January 1: A new caisse is created from the union of the Pincourt and Île-Perrot caisses.


2004 – October 1: Amalgamation of Vaudreuil and Dorion caisses to become Caisse Desjardins Vaudreuil-Dorion.

2009 – January 1: All the caisses in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region are united under a single banner: Caisse Desjardins de Vaudreuil-Soulanges.