



Access CarShare in Ottawa and Quebec with roaming privileges

The co-op recently signed a roaming membership agreement with Vrtucar in Ottawa, which means members of the co-op can access a membership with Vrtucar for only \$50.

Vrtucar members also have driving privileges with CommunAuto in Quebec, so by joining Vrtucar, you will also gain access to vehicles in four Quebec cities (Gatineau, Quebec City, Montreal, and Sherbrooke).

Members who join Vrtucar through the roaming mem-

bership agreement will be billed by Vrtucar for trips made with that service.

The roaming membership option is a convenient way to gain access to a car while travelling to Ottawa or Quebec.

Vrtucar members can also join Grand River CarShare and Hamilton CarShare for a \$50 fee.

Members who are interested in taking advantage of roaming membership can get started by contacting staff.

KW Action Committee kicks off with great member interest

The new Kitchener-Waterloo Action Committee held its first meeting on April 11, with six members in attendance. Led by Youth Director Michael Druker, the committee discussed topics such as the upcoming festival season, and pet-friendly cars.

The KW Action Committee is modeled after the successful Hamilton Action Committee, which has been leading on-the-ground promotion of the co-op in Hamilton for the past two years.

The KW Action Committee is still looking for interested members who would like to help out with promotion of the co-op in KW. Anyone who would be interested in

volunteering their time for one committee meeting a month, in addition to other activities such as attending festivals, or distributing brochures, is asked to contact Member Services Coordinator, Matthew Piggott (matthew@grandrivercarshare.ca).

The committee still has to set a day of the week to meet each month, so there is still plenty of opportunity for interested members to get involved.

There are also volunteer opportunities on the co-op's other committees, including Communications, HR, and Finance, as well as the Cambridge Action Committee.



Cross-Cultural Training

Hamilton CarShare volunteers and staff recently completed a series of workshops on cross-cultural marketing training. Through the project, CarShare volunteers are learning how to more effectively communicate with immigrant populations. Pictured in front from the left is Matthew Piggott, Member Services Coordinator, Syam Chandra, Director, Stephen Sillett of Aiding Dramatic Change in Development, and Sharyl Spring, Hamilton Services Coordinator. In the back is presenter Dan Sheffield of CultureShift.

JANET MACLEOD PHOTO

CarShare offers "Living With Less Car" course at Conestoga College

CarShare director Taodh Burns has developed a new course for Conestoga College called "Living With Less Car", which will be offered starting April 19 as a continuing education course about how to survive in our society's fast-changing transportation universe.

The course will run at Conestoga College - Doon Campus on Tuesdays from 7pm-9pm.

"Living With Less Car" will show participants how to make the logical and societal transportation choices that are right for them, and yes,

how to save a little money too.

As a special feature of the course, students will be able to learn from one of the ten original members of Grand River CarShare, who still uses CarShare vehicles today, 13 years after the co-op was founded.

The cost for the course is \$99.

More information and enrollment details for "Living With Less Car" can be found on Conestoga College's continuing education website, at <https://portal.coestogac.on.ca>

Do you have extra insurance coverage through your credit card?

Do you currently pay your bills with credit card, or would you consider making the switch?

If you are, there are some credit cards that will provide you with additional insurance coverage at no extra cost to you. This is usually called Auto Rental Collision/Loss Damage Insurance and in most cases is a standard option if you have a VISA Gold or Mastercard Platinum card (the option also exists on other cards, call the office for more details).

What this coverage provides is additional insurance coverage if in the case of an at-fault accident. Coverage details do vary by card so it is your responsibility to be aware of the coverage provided by your credit card.

Some members have had the occasion to use this coverage in the past, and because of it have been able to maintain their memberships and save large amounts on repairs to a co-op vehicle after being involved in a collision.

As your Member Services Coordinator I am strongly

suggesting that you consider a card with this insurance option, and take some time to investigate whether your credit card does provide this coverage (or whether you would consider switching to one that does). Myself and other staff members use this coverage and would recommend it members of the co-op.

In the long term it is hoped that by using insurance coverage on a credit card that the co-op can reduce the number of claims made to its current insurance provider, and as a result, keep insurance premiums at their low rate. \$19/month is a great deal on insurance, and the co-op would like to keep it that way.

If you would like this additional coverage there is a form that needs to be signed, so please get in touch so this can be arranged.

For more information please call the office and staff would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

— **Matthew Piggott,**
Member Services Coordinator

CarShare open house in new office draws a dozen people

Grand River CarShare held its first open house on April 1, to celebrate one year in the new office.

Around a dozen people attended the event, including members, city councillors,

and people from the co-op's neighbouring offices at 290 King St. E.

If you still haven't seen the new office, drop in and say hello during office hours - now 10am-5pm Mon-Fri.

Make your CarShare trips count

Are you getting the best bang for your buck with your CarShare trips?

Adding a bit of extra time to your trip may allow you to complete some extra errands while you've got the car, such as picking up some grocer-

ies or returning your library books, or maybe a friend could use a lift somewhere.

Consider all things you need to do, and use a CarShare vehicle to help get your errands completed more efficiently.

Tips to avoid late fees - be mindful of other reservation times

To avoid hefty late fees and affecting other members, take note of other bookings scheduled close to yours in the reservation system before you head out.

If you know there's no room to extend your reserva-

tion, you'll be less likely to affect another member's day.

Another tip for avoiding fines - aim to return your car 5-10 minutes early to allow for time to fill out the trip log and clean up the car before the next member arrives.

Mention CarShare for referral credits

Tell your friends all about the co-op and earn driving credits when they join! Put information about CarShare in your email signature, or promote the co-op

on Twitter, or Facebook.

Blogging worked for one member recently, who got a \$25 referral credit when a new member mentioned seeing the post.

Directors

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Office Hours:
10am-5pm Thurs-Fri
Please call ahead to
book an appointment.

Next Meetings

Communications Committee
Thurs. April 14, 7pm, Hamilton office

Finance Committee
Thurs. April 14, 7pm, KW office
Thurs. April 21, 7pm, KW office

Board of Directors
Thurs. April 28, 6:30pm-8:30pm,
Cambridge, place TBD

Gas Surcharge

The Gas Surcharge for the month of April will be \$0.03/km, as per the Gas Surcharge Policy.