

---

# The Cosmo Communicator

---

Volume 32 Issue 6

www.cosmoindustries.com

June 2012

---

## Grant Habicht

*Cosmo Board Member from 1972 - 2012*



*Grant served on many different committees over the last 40 years and was an Officer of the Company, in the capacity of Treasurer, at the time of his passing. Using his eagle eyes, brilliant mind and sober second thought to keep Cosmo's financial records accurate and always auditor-ready, Grant also spent countless hours looking over various types of formal, legal, governmental or contractual documents to ensure Cosmo's interests were protected. His guardianship over these areas will be profoundly missed.*

*The debt we owe Grant is immeasurable. We are grateful for his service.*

## Spirit of Cosmo Founders Award Recipients

The "Spirit of Cosmo" is a highly stylized figure that blends hues which represents and reveals unexpected flashes of color that appear to be continuously changing, reminding the viewers of the importance of looking closely to find the unique gifts within, as the raised wing depicts a joyful expression of triumph over adversity. It captures in a uniquely beautiful way the ineffable nature and many layers of Our Place, where everyone belongs and which has become synonymous with the term "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street."

The Founders Award is presented in recognition of people who have made a huge difference in the lives of adults with intellectual disabilities and those who love them. This year, the recipients were **Grant Habicht and Eric Antonini**.

These two individuals have been associated with Cosmo since its beginning. Eric Antonini was our third president; his term was from 1975 to 1977. He was the first president to serve for 3 years, and he set the trend for those that followed. Grant Habicht was our fifth president; his term was from 1981 to 1983.

Over the years, Eric and Grant have served Cosmo in numerous  
*Continued next page*

capacities. These two amazing individuals had many things in common. The most remarkable of these connections is the fact that neither one had a family connection to Cosmo. They did not give their time and energy to provide a better place for a son, daughter or sibling. They gave freely of their time and **their energy because of generosity of spirit and willingness to serve a great cause; and Cosmo is so fortunate that they did.**

Eric was President when our paper collection program began. Grant was President when we assembled our first golf club. When I joined Cosmo in 1995, Eric was the President and General Manager of Cosmo Golf Canada and the previous year, 1994, was the first year that golf sales exceeded \$5 million.

While Eric built Cosmo Golf up from the inside, Grant assisted by providing clout from the outside. Grant was aware that there was a Federal Sales Tax exemption when product was built or assembled by individuals with disabilities and he was tenacious in pursuing this exemption. After two years Revenue Canada was worn down, by his mind for detail and by his tenacity, and finally agreed Grant was right. This provided us with a 12% advantage in the marketplace. Grant also provided the clout of the company he worked for to obtain the same freight rates, the same duty fees, that Bearing and Transmission were able to obtain with its much bigger buying power.

The GST put an end to the 12% tax advantage. However, by that time, Eric had things running well.

Cosmo Golf prospered until China started selling direct to our large customers.

Cosmo Golf showcased the abilities of our participants; it was a complete stereotype breaker. Over the years, Cosmo Golf brought \$75 million dollars to the economy of Saskatoon!

When Eric was president, Cosmo supported 200 participants; when Grant was president there were 270 participants. We now support over 400 participants.

At the time of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Eric wrote:

“Rather than dwell on specific events, I would rather relate how my time at Cosmo changed me, and my outlook on life. When I was approached to serve on the Board of Cosmo Industries, I remarked that I was completely ignorant about services for the handicapped, and that I did not think I could contribute in a satisfactory manner. I was asked to forget about the people aspect and to concentrate my talents and effort to providing business knowledge and experience to the Organization. This I was prepared to do. Fortunately for me, I was appointed to the Admission Committee as one of my duties, and a whole new way of life was laid out before me as each case for admission was presented. Within a short period, the volunteer hours spent at Cosmo became vital to my life and became a source of pleasure, in that, for the first time in my life I believed that I was truly helping others, and I became convinced that I was helping those persons in our society that absolutely deserved help.

So – in the final analysis, my contribution to Cosmo Industries has been repaid to me many times over the past 20 years and continues to make my life productive and satisfying.”

From the tributes and stories that were shared at Grant’s funeral, I know he felt the same way.



Eric Antonini—Spirit of Cosmo Award

Eric and Grant shared a concern for the well-being of staff. Eric oversaw the development of our initial personnel policies and procedures. When Grant was president, he used a change in funding to have the Board offer our staff a benefit package complete with Pension Plan. Both Eric and Grant wanted our staff to have the best package we could afford. This I know from personal experience as they have both worked to enhance the staff benefits we are able to provide during my tenure as Executive Director.

Recently, both have served as Trustees of the Pension Fund and as Trustees of the Top of the Rock Fund. In the former they have worked to benefit staff, and in the latter they worked to provide life enhancing opportunities for our participants.

-Peter Gerrard  
Executive Director

### Joel Birtles Recognized by Dad's Organic Market

At a staff meeting and bbq held on May 16, 2012, Joel's efforts and hard work at Dad's Organic Market were recognized, and he was presented with a "Valuable Employee" pin to wear on his uniform.

Joel started at Dad's Organic Market in October 2006 and is the second most senior employee at the Saskatoon store. Joel consistently receives compliments about his work ethic and the quality of work he does in the store. While at Dad's, Joel can be seen stocking shelves, taking out the garbage and recyclables, cleaning the coolers, preparing samples, stickering merchandise and helping the customers.

The store, located at 240A 1820 8<sup>th</sup> Street East, is currently undergoing major renovations and expansion and Joel has been working at Cosmo until renos are completed. The staff at Dad's and the customers are eager to have Joel return and resume his duties at the new and improved store.

Great job Joel on your outstanding performance at this placement!!

### Cosmo— A Community in Bloom

On Monday May 28th the Cosmo Horticulture club toured a wonderful greenhouse just outside the city. Mother Earth Greenhouse is a family run greenhouse just a few miles east of Saskatoon on the way to Clavet. It is where our horticulture volunteer, Linda Risling, works.

Linda was so kind as to invite us to the greenhouse for the day. We were amazed by what we saw there. Seven greenhouses filled with the most healthy and vibrant flowers and plants you have ever seen. We got to see the production greenhouse where staff and volunteers put together custom planters, hanging baskets and tend to plants. There is a huge blue parrot living in the greenhouse. She was a little ornery because she is protecting two eggs. They also have another feathered friend in that greenhouse. A robin who has made her nest in a hanging basket. They are pretty sure she will lay her eggs there soon.

There was a house full of geraniums, one for sun loving plants and one for shade loving plants. We saw vegetables, succulents and even a plant that smelled like buttered popcorn!

Mother Earth also has all kinds of exotic animals including several of the friendliest dogs you've ever met, emus, turkeys, exotic chickens, ducks and the biggest pot belly pig you've ever seen.

While we were there we enjoyed a nice lunch, transplanted some sage and picked out some flowers to bring back to Cosmo. Come check them out this summer. They are planted in the big barrels out front and on the patio.

A big thank you to Mother Earth Greenhouse for having us and donating the flowers, to Linda for leading our horticultural club and touring us and to Shirley MacLennan who volunteered to help us on the outing. What a great way to start off the summer.

-Marla Klaassen— Recreation and Lesiure

-Anna McCallum— Volunteer Coordinator

### Pennies for TeleMiracle

In March Canada's government announced its intention to withdraw the penny from circulation, saying it costs more to produce than its face value.

The Royal Canadian Mint will cease distribution of the one-cent coins in late 2012.

If you are wondering what to do with all the pennies you have collected on your dresser, bring them to Cosmo. We will count them, roll them, and add it to our annual TeleMiracle donation.

### Tea Cup and Saucer

Looking for donations of glass tea cups and saucers. They do not need to match. If you have any you would like to donate please drop them off at Cosmo  
Attention: Marla.

Thank you!  
*No coffee mugs please.*

### Looking for Something to Do this Summer?

Come to Cosmo and Volunteer. Many volunteer opportunities available to assist staff, visit with participants, play cards or board games etc.

Application is quick and easy.  
Scheduling is flexible.

Call Anna at 664-3158

## Cosmo takes part in United Way Day of Caring 2012

Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 was United Way of Saskatoon and Area's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Caring<sup>®</sup>. Day of Caring is a partnership between United Way, business and labour groups, and community non-profit organizations. It is an opportunity for participants to experience the rewards of volunteerism, and demonstrates the difference we can make in our community by working together.

The day began with a pancake breakfast hosted by Saskatoon and District Labour Council and United Way of Saskatoon and Area. George Keter of Affinity Credit Union, Day of Caring's presenting sponsor, brought greetings and words of thanks to our many volunteers.

This year, United Way organized 14 community projects in partnership with our corporate supporters and funded agencies. Cosmo teamed up with Correctional Service Canada for a wonderful barbeque at Pike Lake. Despite the threat of rain the day turned out to be just the right temperature with a nice breeze. Volunteers from Correctional Service Canada cooked our hotdogs over an open flame and served lunch for about 30 participants and staff. We all took part in baseball, singing, walks and visiting.

Thank you to United Way and volunteers for Correctional Service Canada for a great 2012 Day of Caring.

-Anna McCallum, *Coordinator of Volunteer Services*

## Cosmo takes part in BJM Green Day

Bishop James Mahoney High School took on a major commitment. Since they are the school with the green roof they felt it only fitting that they work towards becoming a truly green community. As part of this initiative, BJM organized a school - based, community involved, 'Green Day' on Thursday, May 31st. They worked with the neighbourhood elementary schools, local businesses and organizations and the greater community to educate each other, to be a major recycling depot for a day and create an ongoing tradition in the north end of Saskatoon.

Cosmo was on site with one of our recycling trucks and an information booth. Many students and citizens of Saskatoon had the opportunity to bring their paper to be recycled at Cosmo and to learn more about our organization. Many received a paper angel sticker to put on their vehicles.

Thank you to BJM for inviting us to this worthy event.

## Top of the Rock– Ladies Day at Ethos Salon and Spa

On June 20th two participants, Linda and Kathy, had a day of pampering at Ethos Salon. While Ethos usually comes to Cosmo, as they have been volunteering monthly to give free hair cuts and manicures for the past few years, we instead went to them. Their hip salon is in the Scotia Center downtown. There Linda was treated to fresh highlights and a cut and curl, while Kathy had a relaxing shampoo and scalp massage and style.

Then we went for lunch at the 2nd Avenue Grill where we had Shirley Temples, a spinach dip appetizer, lunch and decadent chocolate torte for dessert. We were so full but we still managed to make it back to Ethos for manicures. It was a relaxing and beautifying day.

Thank you to Ethos Salon for your continued support of Cosmo and to Top of the Rock for helping us with this great day!

-Marla Klaassen, *Recreation and Leisure Coordinator*  
-Anna McCallum, *Coordinator of Volunteer Services*



### New Staff

**Dallas Lynch**– Job Coach– Contracts  
**Nancy Cann**– Life Enrichment  
**Robin Chamberlain**– term Pathways  
**Elise Duong Dang**– casual  
**Blake MacGowan**– Job Coach– Contracts  
**Lourdes Carino**– casual  
**Keith Ollenberger**– Waste Reduction

### Staff Changes

**Xenia Sawchuk**– fulltime Life Enrichment  
**Wes Holder**– fulltime Recreation and Leisure Coordinator  
**Tianna Boddy**– fulltime Pathways  
**Maegen Urdal**– term Recreation and Leisure Coordinator  
**Karen Vanderloos**– fulltime Pathways

### Welcome Back

Linda Davidson

### Goodbye

Lori Sparling  
Sunny Taylor  
Sheila Vaadeland  
Tricia Karst  
Priyanka Yadav  
Rachel Johnson